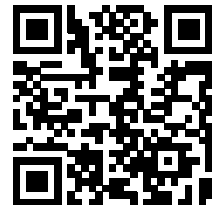


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# Witchcraft Accusations in Salem



In the late 1600s, the \_\_\_\_\_ witch trials were a series of hearings and prosecutions of people accused of \_\_\_\_\_ in colonial Massachusetts. The trials resulted in the execution of twenty \_\_\_\_\_, most of them women. The Salem witch trials are a notable example of mass \_\_\_\_\_ and injustice. During this time, fear of the supernatural and belief in the devil's \_\_\_\_\_ were widespread. Accusations of witchcraft often stemmed from personal \_\_\_\_\_, jealousy, and fear.

The initial accusations began in the small village of Salem when a \_\_\_\_\_ of young girls claimed to be possessed by the devil. These girls accused several local \_\_\_\_\_ of witchcraft. The village's Puritan beliefs and strict religious views fueled the fear and \_\_\_\_\_. As more people were accused, the panic spread beyond Salem to other \_\_\_\_\_ in Massachusetts.

The accused witches were often people who were seen as different or who did not fit into the \_\_\_\_\_ norms. This included the poor, the elderly, and those who were outspoken. The trials were marked by a lack of \_\_\_\_\_ and the use of dubious methods to determine guilt, such as "spectral evidence," where the \_\_\_\_\_ claimed to see the spirits of the accused harming them.

The Salem witch trials eventually ended when the \_\_\_\_\_ of Massachusetts, influenced by his own wife's accusation, ordered a halt to the trials and released many of the \_\_\_\_\_. The events of the Salem witch trials have since been used as a powerful \_\_\_\_\_ tale about the dangers of isolationism, religious extremism, and the breakdown of due process in a society driven by \_\_\_\_\_.

- accusers
- society's
- presence
- governor
- vendettas
- group
- witchcraft
- women
- fear
- communities
- people
- cautionary
- evidence
- suspicion
- hysteria
- Salem
- prisoners