

SALEM PRESS

Published & Distributed by Grey House Publishing

For Immediate Release

September 26, 2024

Contact: Jessica Moody, VP Marketing
(800) 562-2139 x101
jmoody@greyhouse.com

Salem Press Announces *Defining Documents in American History: The Salem Witch Trials*

The *Defining Documents in American History* series, produced by Salem Press, offers a closer look at important historical documents by pairing primary source documents on a broad range of subjects with essays written especially for the series by expert writers, including historians, professors, researchers, and other authorities in the subject under examination.

This established series now includes fifty titles that present documents selected to illuminate specific eras in American history—including the Great Migration, the Constitution, and Civil Rights—or to explore significant themes and developments in American society—The Free Press, Prison Reform, Slavery, and Workers' Rights.

This volume presents thirty-one primary source and historical documents including book excerpts, court opinions, debates, and interview letters, to name a few. From Joan of Arc's trial and subsequent death sentence in 1431 to the Hollinwell Incident, witchcraft accusations have been present in society for centuries. The carefully selected documents included in this volume provide historical context and insights into the Salem witch trials.

The material is organized into four sections, each beginning with a brief introduction that examines the importance of the topic through a variety of historical documents.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The European Background• New England and The Salem Witch Trials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Post-Witchhunt Era• Modern Takes
--	---

The documents contained within these sections provide an overview of the historical context and significance of witchcraft accusations, exploring the Salem witch trials of 1692-1693 as well as the surrounding events and their influence on modern day echoes of hysteria.

Each Historical Document is supported by a critical essay, written by historians, teachers, and researchers, that includes a Summary Overview, Defining Moment, About the Author, Document Analysis, and Essential Themes. An important feature of each essay is a close reading of the primary source that develops broader themes, such as the author's rhetorical purpose, social or class position, point of view, and other relevant issues. Each essay also includes a section entitled Bibliography and Additional Reading that provides suggestions for further readings and research.

Appendixes in this book include:

- **Chronological List** which arranges all documents by date;

- **Web Resources**, an annotated list of websites that offer valuable supplemental resources;
- **Bibliography** lists of helpful articles and books for further study

About the Series

The *Defining Documents* series provides in-depth commentary and analysis on the most important primary source documents in the United States and the world. *The Defining Documents* series is perfect for students, those researching a particular era, or anyone interested in world history. Visit www.salempress.com for more information about additional titles in this series.

FREE ONLINE ACCESS

Libraries and schools purchasing the printed version of any Salem Press title get complimentary online access to that title on our new online database, <https://online.salempress.com>. Combining Salem's Literature, History, Health, Science and Careers titles, students and researchers can now access all of their Salem content in one comprehensive site. Any school or library with print reference content in Salem Press' database is entitled to online access to that content. This access is an inherent part of our product.

Defining Documents in American History: The Salem Witch Trials

Pub. Date: September 2024

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-63700-768-6 | One Volume, 333 pages | \$175.00

Editor: Michael Shally-Jensen, PhD