



A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History)

By Emerson W. Baker

Download now

Read Online ➔

A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History) By Emerson W. Baker

Beginning in January 1692, Salem Village in colonial Massachusetts witnessed the largest and most lethal outbreak of witchcraft in early America. Villagers--mainly young women--suffered from unseen torments that caused them to writhe, shriek, and contort their bodies, complaining of pins stuck into their flesh and of being haunted by specters. Believing that they suffered from assaults by an invisible spirit, the community began a hunt to track down those responsible for the demonic work. The resulting Salem Witch Trials, culminating in the execution of 19 villagers, persists as one of the most mysterious and fascinating events in American history.

Historians have speculated on a web of possible causes for the witchcraft that stated in Salem and spread across the region--religious crisis, ergot poisoning, an encephalitis outbreak, frontier war hysteria--but most agree that there was no single factor. Rather, as Emerson Baker illustrates in this seminal new work, Salem was "a perfect storm": a unique convergence of conditions and events that produced something extraordinary throughout New England in 1692 and the following years, and which has haunted us ever since.

Baker shows how a range of factors in the Bay colony in the 1690s, including a new charter and government, a lethal frontier war, and religious and political conflicts, set the stage for the dramatic events in Salem. Engaging a range of perspectives, he looks at the key players in the outbreak--the accused witches and the people they allegedly bewitched, as well as the judges and government officials who prosecuted them--and wrestles with questions about why the Salem tragedy unfolded as it did, and why it has become an enduring legacy.

Salem in 1692 was a critical moment for the fading Puritan government of Massachusetts Bay, whose attempts to suppress the story of the trials and erase them from memory only fueled the popular imagination. Baker argues that the trials marked a turning point in colonial history from Puritan communalism to Yankee independence, from faith in collective conscience to skepticism toward moral governance. A brilliantly told tale, *A Storm of Witchcraft* also puts Salem's

storm into its broader context as a part of the ongoing narrative of American history and the history of the Atlantic World.

 [Download A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the Am ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the ...pdf](#)

A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History)

By Emerson W. Baker

A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History) By Emerson W. Baker

Beginning in January 1692, Salem Village in colonial Massachusetts witnessed the largest and most lethal outbreak of witchcraft in early America. Villagers--mainly young women--suffered from unseen torments that caused them to writhe, shriek, and contort their bodies, complaining of pins stuck into their flesh and of being haunted by specters. Believing that they suffered from assaults by an invisible spirit, the community began a hunt to track down those responsible for the demonic work. The resulting Salem Witch Trials, culminating in the execution of 19 villagers, persists as one of the most mysterious and fascinating events in American history.

Historians have speculated on a web of possible causes for the witchcraft that started in Salem and spread across the region--religious crisis, ergot poisoning, an encephalitis outbreak, frontier war hysteria--but most agree that there was no single factor. Rather, as Emerson Baker illustrates in this seminal new work, Salem was "a perfect storm": a unique convergence of conditions and events that produced something extraordinary throughout New England in 1692 and the following years, and which has haunted us ever since.

Baker shows how a range of factors in the Bay colony in the 1690s, including a new charter and government, a lethal frontier war, and religious and political conflicts, set the stage for the dramatic events in Salem. Engaging a range of perspectives, he looks at the key players in the outbreak--the accused witches and the people they allegedly bewitched, as well as the judges and government officials who prosecuted them--and wrestles with questions about why the Salem tragedy unfolded as it did, and why it has become an enduring legacy.

Salem in 1692 was a critical moment for the fading Puritan government of Massachusetts Bay, whose attempts to suppress the story of the trials and erase them from memory only fueled the popular imagination. Baker argues that the trials marked a turning point in colonial history from Puritan communalism to Yankee independence, from faith in collective conscience to skepticism toward moral governance. A brilliantly told tale, *A Storm of Witchcraft* also puts Salem's storm into its broader context as a part of the ongoing narrative of American history and the history of the Atlantic World.

A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History) By Emerson W. Baker Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #451148 in Books
- Published on: 2014-10-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.50" h x 1.40" w x 9.30" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover

- 416 pages

 [Download A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the Am ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online **A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History)** By Emerson W. Baker

Editorial Review

Review

"His rock solid historical work and lively, engaging prose made this book both an indispensable contribution to scholarship and a delight to read. I suspect that this is *the* book on Salem witchcraft for this generation." -- Scott D. Seay, *Christian Theological Seminary*

"...[A] cogent, readable, and comprehensive analysis of the literature on the Salem witch trials.... His emphasis on the choices made by individuals - to take action or remain passive - makes this work a welcome addition to our attempts to understand the significance of the Salem events of 1692." --*Journal of American History*

"Of many books about the Salem witch-trials, only a few really matter. This is one of them. Combining deep learning and clear-sighted good sense, *A Storm of Witchcraft* retells a story that has long managed to be familiar yet puzzling and misunderstood. Emerson Baker's masterly dissection of events is both genuinely original and utterly persuasive, not least because the importance of political circumstance, legal expediency and personal relationships seems obvious once it is pointed out. Baker reminds us that witchcraft was above all a religious crime, which took on terrifying significance at a time of extreme danger in New England's history. But his analysis of Salem's causal roots and painfully enduring ramifications does more than just demystify the trials: it illustrates universal truths about human emotions and their place in modern society." - Malcolm Gaskill, author of *Witchfinders: a Seventeenth Century English Tragedy*

"Baker, professor of history at Salem State College, places the trials in the larger context of American and English history, examining not only their prominent place in our collective memory, but also what made them so different from other witch trials of the era. Baker convincingly demonstrates that the trials were a pivotal point in American history and presents the mass hysteria surrounding them in very poignant terms." - *Publisher's Weekly*

"This extraordinarily researched, expertly written, and convincing study is suitable for and will appeal to a wide audience." --*Library Journal*

"By almost any measure, Emerson W. Baker's new history, *A Storm of Witchcraft*, is a masterpiece. Few volumes pass the exacting standards needed to be described as such. Baker's does.... Anyone interested in the Salem witch trials and the shaping of the nation should treat themselves to this book." --*Maine Sunday Telegram*

About the Author

Emerson W. Baker is Professor of History at Salem State University. He is the author of *The Devil of Great Island: Witchcraft and Conflict in Early New England*, and co-author of an award-winning biography of Sir William Phips.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Angel Garcia:

What do you concentrate on book? It is just for students as they are still students or the item for all people in the world, the actual best subject for that? Just simply you can be answered for that concern above. Every person has diverse personality and hobby per other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great and also important the book *A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History)*. All type of book can you see on many solutions. You can look for the internet solutions or other social media.

Edward Crosley:

A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History) can be one of your starter books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to set every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing *A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History)* however doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource info that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information may drawn you into brand new stage of crucial contemplating.

Monika Cunniff:

You could spend your free time to see this book this reserve. This *A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History)* is simple to bring you can read it in the playground, in the beach, train and also soon. If you did not get much space to bring typically the printed book, you can buy the e-book. It is make you simpler to read it. You can save the actual book in your smart phone. Consequently there are a lot of benefits that you will get when one buys this book.

Mildred Timm:

That guide can make you to feel relax. This kind of book *A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History)* was colourful and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book *A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History)* has many kinds or style. Start from kids until young adults. For example *Naruto* or *Detective Conan* you can read and think you are the character on there. So , not at all of

book are usually make you bored, any it offers you feel happy, fun and relax. Try to choose the best book to suit your needs and try to like reading in which.

Download and Read Online A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History) By Emerson W. Baker #QVMT2KYNLFG

Read A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History) By Emerson W. Baker for online ebook

A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History) By Emerson W. Baker Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History) By Emerson W. Baker books to read online.

Online A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History) By Emerson W. Baker ebook PDF download

A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History) By Emerson W. Baker Doc

A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History) By Emerson W. Baker Mobipocket

A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History) By Emerson W. Baker EPub

QVMT2KYNLFG: A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History) By Emerson W. Baker