

**Lesson #15 U.S. History
Families Come to America**

May flower Compact

In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereigne Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britaine, France and Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc. having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and honour of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northerne parts of Virginia, doe by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civill body politick, for our better ordering and preservation, and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enacte, constitute, and frame such just and equall laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meete and convenient for the generall good of the Colonie unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape-Codd the 11. of November, in the year of the raigne of our sovereigne lord, King James, of England, France and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fiftie-fourth. Anno Dom. 1620.

Signers:

**John Carver
William Bradford
Edward Winslow
William Brewster
Issac Allerton
Myles Standish
John Alden
Samuel Fuller
Christopher Martin
William Mullins
William White
Richard Warren
John Howland
Stephen Hopkins**

**Edward Tilley
John Tilley
Francis Cooke
Thomas Rogers
Thomas Tinker
John Rigdale
Edward Fuller
John Turner
Francis Eaton
James Chilton
John Crackston
John Billington.
Moses Fletcher
John Goodman**

**Degory Priest
Thomas Williams
Gilbert Winslow
Edmund Margeson
Peter Browne
Richard Britteridge
George Soule
Edward Leister
Richard Clarke
Richard Gardiner
John Allerton
Thomas English
Edward Dotey**

Beginning of Colonial Self-government

Families Come to America

The Mayflower was a 180-ton cargo ship with three decks. It was about 25 feet wide and 100 feet long and normally had a crew of 25-30 men and carried 130 passengers if needed and a passenger vessel. However, its main function was as a cargo ship that could carry one hundred and 180 one-ton barrels. There was over three miles of rope used to allow the ship to sail.

July the journey began and turned back because of leaky ship. Did leave in September by that time the members had sold their homes and needed to leave for safety. William Bradford kept a journal and the first half of trip was calm. The second half turbulent and one member was washed overboard. He was saved and because of that rescue there are 2 ½ million today that are descendants of that John Howard. Joseph Smith and Humphry Bogart are two of his descendants.

The 102 passengers and the crew lived in tight quarters with low ceilings. The ship made landfall in New England waters and the current and wind made the sailing south difficult and the ship master refused to continue the journey to Virginia colony. The Saints (Separatist from Holland and England) and strangers (Investors people) agreed to sign a compact on their government until they could have a new document that gave them the authority to settle in New England from the King. A covenant or compact? That document was read at every meeting for the next 72 years in the colony. Half of the 102 died the first year.

The Mayflower returned to England in April 1621 empty to the displeasure of the investors. In April of 1621 the Natives population and colonist held a feast. There was a mutual benefit to each group. The Separatist needed help in how to live in the New England environment and the Natives needed an ally since they had been hit with a plague before the Separatist arrived. There was a power struggle going on in the native population.

New England were the only group of colonies that paid off their debt to English businessmen.
Puritans:

Hierarchical view of society

Individuals do not automatically start with rights – difference in wealth and power encourage mutual dependencies

Democracy tantamount to anarchy

Politics are subservient to religion

Sermons berated group for failing to preserve idealism of church

Matthew 5:14-16

“...city that is set upon a hill...”

Winthrop

“...shall be as a City on a hill...”

Puritans saw sin 1st – Adultery

2nd - Witchcraft

6th - Murder

Europe Hammer of the Witches *Malleus Maleficarum* by a German Monk

Condoned torture to get confessions – no confession was proof of Devil's hold

Worked in groups at night (witches Sabbath) – sign of goat in 5-pointed star

Supernatural Powers:

Transform – black animals

Spells and potions

Change love to hate

Cause storms and other disasters

Bring on illness

Evil Eye

Test:

Water Test = float witch

Pin test = pain

Stool Test =

Touch Test =

Witches in Colonies worked alone – women who worked outside traditional roles

Connecticut 1647 – 1768 had 37 accused women and 10 were executed

Example of one:

A Henry Styles accidentally discharged his rifle killing one Thomas Alleyn. The court found Lydia Gilbert (Thomas's neighbor) guilty of the murder by witchcraft.

1688 Boston hung a witch

English witches did not fly. Those in the rest of European did fly as did colonial witches

Not until the 1939 film *Wizard of Oz* did witches begin wearing Black until then they wear bright colors

Power vacuum no Royal governor / Catholic / Indians = government in chaos

There were between 1620 and 1650 some 17 dialects spoken in New England many were in English language that were difficult to understand.

Colonies had 3,000 plus churches with 18 different denominations

Historical Background of Salem:

1688 Glorious Revolution

1689 Royal Governor ejected from colony

1692 King had still not appointed new governor

Women were believed to be more susceptible to the Devil

Accused guilty and had to prove innocence

Fear of Dark

Witch Trials

1661 10% of people owned 21% of town

1680 10% of people owned 62% of town

1699 Boston hung a woman for witch craft

New England – 344 women accused in colonies before Salem

16 executions

93 indictments

Salem Witch Trials

20 executions in Salem of the 141 indictments

19 hanged

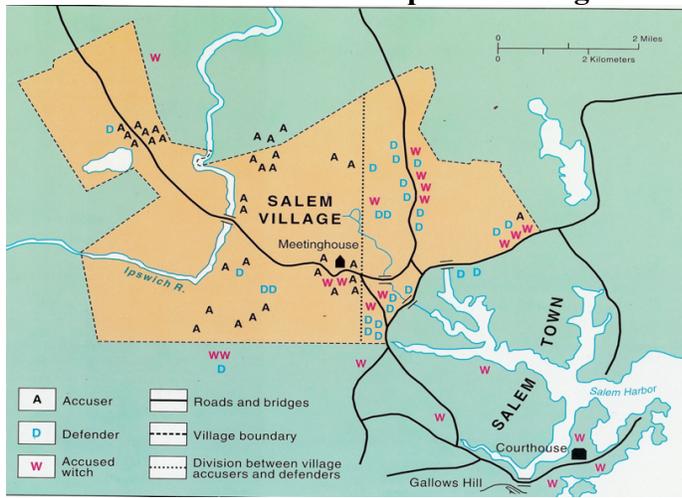
1 pressed to death to get confession

2 dogs killed

4 died in prison

50 confessed

150 accused – last pardon was given in 1957



Salem Towne (Porter's)

Made laws

Going down economically

Good soil

and

Salem Village (Putnam's)

Were denied permission to build church

Were going up economically

Made only 46 indictments of 141

Less fertile soil

Events in Salem:

Tituba from West Indies - 1/3 Black – fortune telling for the children

Judge ignored ban on spectral evidence (spirits resembling)

Profiles of witches:

Middle age women / married and often without children (sons) or brothers

Midwives

High record of litigants

Social mobility and often downward when accused

Reputation for abrasiveness and quarrelsome

Profile of accusers:

Young girls went on to accuse others in different towns

Ipswich Bridge – end of trials

Giles Corey pressed to death for not making statements of guilt. The rocks place until he died. He saved his family property.

Ann Foster denied at first then confessed and told of her flight. Her daughter and granddaughter also believed in the Devil work.

The Puritan mindset may have played a part in confessions. They were true believers and may have believed the Devil did have his hold on them. Ann Foster's confession did not match the facts – night and day were mixed-up. Told of the meeting at noon but then flew and saw the Moon.

Minister's knew evidence was weak and did not protest to loud until accused came from middle and upper class. The new Governor called a temporary adjournment and later dissolved the court after 52 more trials of those already accused with 49 acquittals. There were all set free.

There were 24 communities effected Andover had more witches accused than Salem

Reasons:

1. Divided Community

2. Religion

3. Geography

4. Life Style

5. Wealth

6. ergot fungus – hallucinations

7. Hysteria

8. Vulnerable times – Catholics, Indians, Property lines, Court cases, government in flux at the time.

New Governor William Phips wife accused and case was tossed out for no direct connection.

Some suggest that it was caused by a fungus on the grains that caused hallucinations.