

Daily Life In Salem

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Daily Life for Men

It was against the law not to attend church. Men and women sat on opposite sides through long services.

Individual differences were frowned upon.

Farming

- Beside being the heads of families, men also worked on their farmed land. In a Puritan town, each family had a plot of land in the town, along with a portion of land in each of the designated farming areas. This land was taken over by the boys once the father passed away.

Jobs

- Men labored to support their families, primarily as a farmer, cleric, tradesman, fisherman.
- Men as well as women and children had very little time for leisure and down time.

Restrictions

- The Puritans generally disapproved of many activities, like music, dancing, etc, but people would dance and make merry at weddings, christenings, and other social occasions.
- Men were expected to do military training, and this included sports like wrestling and boxing.

Growing up

- Children rarely played, as toys and games were scarce. Puritans saw these activities as sinful distractions so most boys became apprentices at young ages to learn skills for their future jobs.

Women General

- -all women in Salem were puritan and legally had to attend church
 - in church women could not sit on same side as men
 - women were not allowed to speak or offer prayer in church
 - women could not attend town meetings
 - nor could they voice opinion about town decisions

Women General Cont.

- -women could not divorce men or they would be cast out
- women would usually marry around 18

Women's Jobs

- -raise the kids and teach bible lessons
 - cook clean sew and teach their daughters to weave and sew
 - provide a Puritan household to raise children

Women's Jobs Cont.

- -provide medical care for husbands and children
 - teach children to read and write
 - be an obedient wife
 - help other women deliver babies

Why women?

- -people believed that women's souls were weaker than men's because they had weaker bodies than men
- believed it helped the devil enter women's souls easier
- made them easy targets to get accused of witchcraft

Children

- Clothing
- School
- Religion
- Roles in Society
- Home life
- Effects of Society

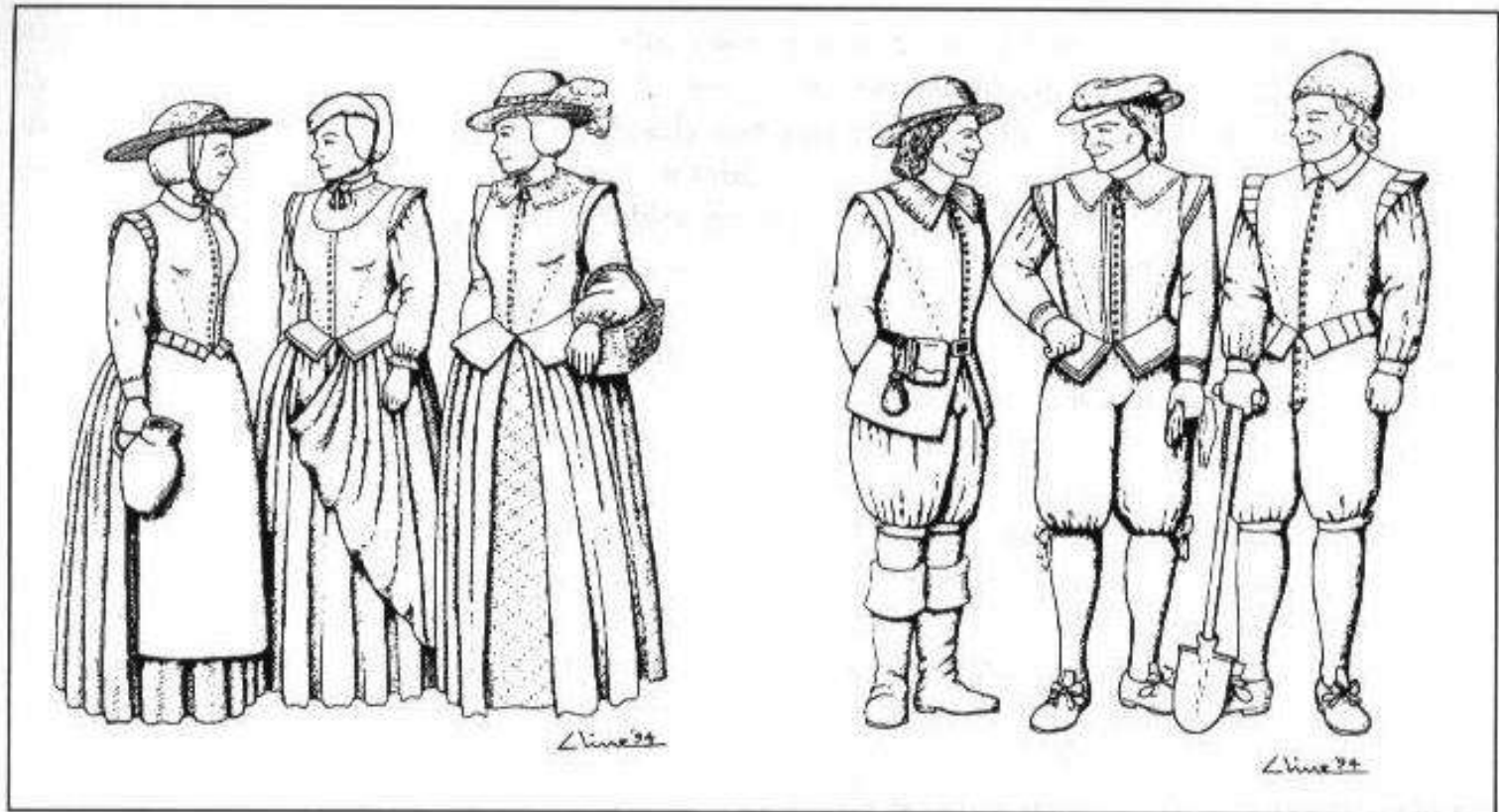
Children Clothing

- Common misconceptions
 - Very large collars and cuffs
 - Only black and white clothing
 - Buckles on Shoes, hats and belts



Children Clothing Cont.

- Wore same thing as the adults
- Many colors (red, blue, brown, green, yellow)
- Many patterns, variety in clothing



Schooling

- Original settlers in Salem very educated
- By 1692 most education was not thorough
- Education focused on Religion
- Being taught correct religious doctrine would result in good citizenship
- Taught that only devotion to God would save them from hell

Religion

- Very important in society
- Children involved every week
- All Sundays children went to 3 hour sermons
- Any child who slept, talked or showed any impatience would be beaten by the minister
- After a few hours another sermon was held

Role in Society

- Only toddlers were able to play
- Seen as irreligious for teenagers and adults
- Girls and boys had different roles
- Girls learned household skills
 - Cooking, cleaning, sewing, childcare
- Boys were very active
 - Physical sports, hunting, learning occupations
- Girls grew very resentful

Home Life

- Much like roles in society
- Very few games- seen as sinful
- Reading was important
 - Most houses only had bibles
- Boys had outlets for imagination
 - Apprenticeship, farming, whittling
- Girls could only stay at home and help cook
 - Created frustration

Effects of Society

- Girls were very stressed and angry
 - Had no free time or freedom of expression
 - Wanted way to get back at society
 - Jealous of boys and children
 - Started to accuse people of witchcraft to get revenge
 - Started Salem witch trials

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