

**The Salem Witchcraft Trials: A Legal History**  
**By Peter Charles Hoffer**

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The Salem Witch Trials: A Day-by-Day Chronicle of a Community Under Siege by Marilynne K. Roach Paperback \$22.62. In Stock. Ships from and sold by Amazon.com. FREE Shipping on orders over \$25. Details. A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience (Pivotal Moments in American History) by Emerson W. Baker Paperback \$13.87. In Stock. Ships from and sold by Amazon.com. Researching the Salem Witch Trials is easier than it used to be. Most of the primary source materials (statutes, transcripts of court records, contemporary accounts) are available electronically. Useful databases include HeinOnline Legal Classics Library (see Trials for Witchcraft before the Special Court of Oyer and Terminer, Salem, Massachusetts, 1692; The Salem Witchcraft (Clair, Henry St., 1840); and "Witch Trials," 1 Curious Cases and Amusing Actions at Law including Some Trials of Witches in the Seventeenth Century (1916) ), HeinOnline World Trials Library, HeinOnline Law Journal Library The Salem Witch Trials were a series of witchcraft cases brought before local magistrates in a settlement called Salem which was a part of the Massachusetts Bay colony in the 17th century. When Did the Salem Witch Trials Take Place? One major factor was that in 1684, King Charles II revoked the Massachusetts Bay Colony's royal charter, a legal document granting the colonists permission to colonize the area. The charter was revoked because the colonists had violated several of the charter's rules, which included basing laws on religious beliefs and discriminating against Anglicans.