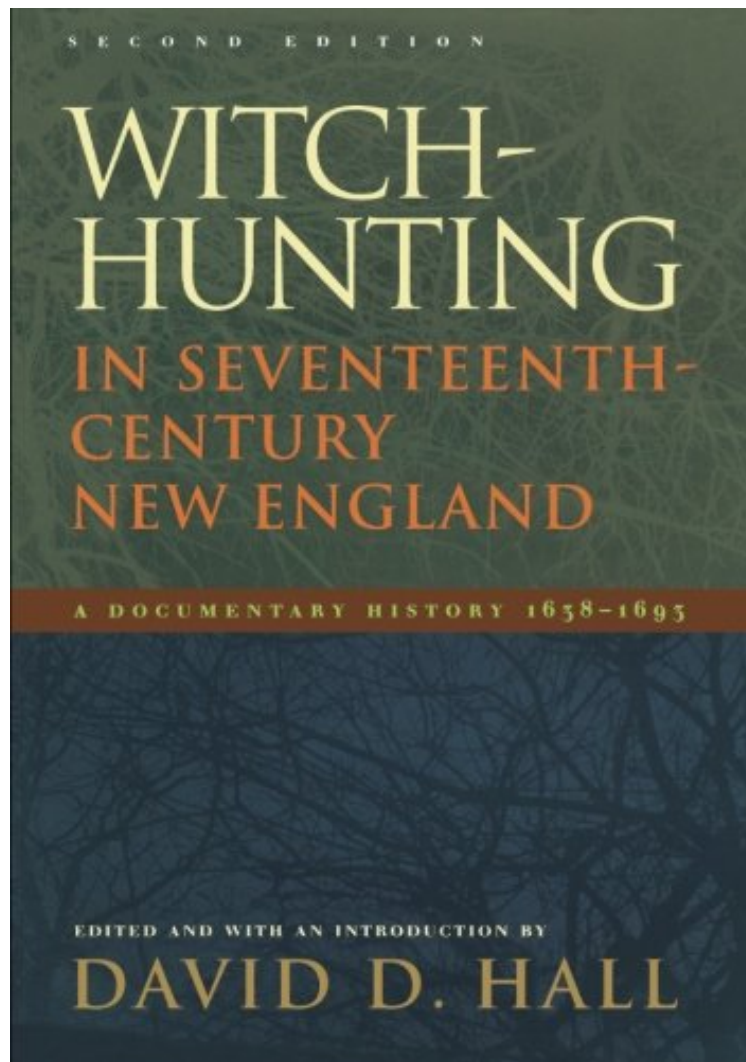


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Witch-Hunting in Seventeenth-Century New England: A Documentary History 16381693, Second Edition

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Witch-Hunting in Seventeenth-Century New England By funner things This book contains information about Salem, but also other instances of witchcraft. Apparently, there were

relatively few instances when the populace strongly suspected the presence of witches. There were enough instances over time that demonstrated that witchcraft was an ongoing concern. However, the outbreaks were isolated and few were executed--much better situation than fear of witches in Europe, especially Germany. The book also provides the reader with a clear sense of living in New England. Life was much harder than depicted in stories and pictures of Puritans.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. the book's excellent and useful to any student of the Anglo-American witch ...By JosephThis is the edition of this book that I purchased, although I've also posted a review on a more recent edition of the book since that's most likely to be seen (I think). In short: the book's excellent and useful to any student of the Anglo-American witch trials who would like to go beyond Salem. My only complaint is that the font choice is poor and the book's readability suffers a bit.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great source for early 17th century witchcraft in New EnglandBy Jo Ann ButlerThis book contains the most complete transcripts of early 17th century New England witchcraft investigations I've seen, and is invaluable as I work on a novel about the 1662 Connecticut witchcraft outbreak. However, it is not meant to be a complete investigation of the 1692 Salem outbreak and contains little about that episode, but informs readers where that information may be found.

This superb documentary collection illuminates the history of witchcraft and witch-hunting in seventeenth-century New England. The cases examined begin in 1638, extend to the Salem outbreak in 1692, and document for the first time the extensive Stamford-Fairfield, Connecticut, witch-hunt of 1692-1693. Here one encounters witch-hunts through the eyes of those who participated in them: the accusers, the victims, the judges. The original texts tell in vivid detail a multi-dimensional story that conveys not only the process of witch-hunting but also the complexity of culture and society in early America. The documents capture deep-rooted attitudes and expectations and reveal the tensions, anger, envy, and misfortune that underlay communal life and family relationships within New England's small towns and villages. Primary sources include court depositions as well as excerpts from the diaries and letters of contemporaries. They cover trials for witchcraft, reports of diabolical possessions, suits of defamation, and reports of preternatural events. Each section is preceded by headnotes that describe the case and its background and refer the reader to important secondary interpretations. In his incisive introduction, David D. Hall addresses a wide range of important issues: witchcraft lore, antagonistic social relationships, the vulnerability of women, religious ideologies, popular and learned understandings of witchcraft and the devil, and the role of the legal system. This volume is an extraordinarily significant resource for the study of gender, village politics, religion, and popular culture in seventeenth-century New England.

About the AuthorDavid D. Hall is Bartlett Professor of New England Church History at the Harvard Divinity School. His books include *Puritans in the New World: A Critical Anthology*; *Worlds of Wonder, Days of Judgment: Popular Religious Belief in Early New England*; and *Antinomian Controversy, 1636-1638: A Documentary History*, published by Duke University Press.