History Week 3

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Author Note

Salem Witches Trial

Salem Witch Trials

In 1692, the idea of witchcraft was common in the streets of Salem, Massachusetts that led to numerous executions. Even now, historians have different and often conflicting views when it comes to the interpretation of the judicial proceedings of these accusations that later came to be known in the history books as the Salem Witch Trials.

Some factors contribute to the historical context of their trials. For one, these trials were fueled by the Native American Wars of the 17th century. Feminists say that these wars were the result of the patriarchal oppression that was common in those days. They cite the argument that all the witches were female, and not even one male was executed in these trials. Some scholars even accuse the cold weather as an invisible factor that contributes to this trend of max execution. Lastly, some scholars think that mass hysteria is the contributing factors in these trials.

A question that often comes to mind as we view these factors that how does the interpretation of these factors differs from the historical narrative. This is since those days were highly stress days due to the role of rigid religious doctrines that were often too much for the girls which often resulted in physical symptoms. Since there were no scientific advances in those days, their conditions were viewed as though they were influenced by an evil spirit.

To conclude this argument, these trials have numerous interpretations that are cited by different experts due to their diverse educational backgrounds. But all the experts agree on one thing, that these trials were highly biased and were all against women. Also, these trails were a result of a lack of scientific advances and education, and to some extent, boredom.

# References

Davidson, J. W. (2000). Chapter 3: The Visible and Invisible Worlds of Salem. In M. H. Lytle, *After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection* (pp. 52-74). McGraw-Hill.