

Research Project

Research and give a class presentation on one of the following themes:

1. The actual Salem Witchcraft Trials, drawing from such sources as Cotton Mather's summary of events and testimonies of the trials in his 1692 account, *The Wonders of the Invisible World*, ("The Trial of Bridget Bishop" is a good excerpt to use from this source) and other available accounts of court proceedings.

If time permits, include some background on the 15th, 16th and 17th witchcraft hysteria in Europe of which the New England hysteria was an extension; also, the "witch manuals" that were published in the 16th century) The following is an excellent Web site for general background on witchcraft and include comments on *The Crucible*.

Medieval Sourcebook: Witchcraft Documents (15th Century)

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/witches1.html>

2. The nature of the Puritan theocracy in Massachusetts, with attention to defining how the court system worked in this type of government
3. The McCarthy Senate hearings in America in the 1950's, including Miller's involvement in these hearings