

#606 Salem Rebellion, Salem Witchcraft – The Boston-Salem *Rebellion* of the Mathers in conjunction with the 1688 Glorious Revolution, part 2, Puritans and Parliament vs. the Kings of England



The Reverend Increase Mather. Increase Mather (*left*) was the son of Richard Mather, who brought his family over to New England in 1635. Increase was born on June 21, 1639, and was given his name because of “. . . the never-to-be-forgotten increase, of every sort, wherewith God favoured the country about the time of his nativity.” He graduated from Harvard College (now Harvard University) in 1656. It is important to remember that the 1650’s were the years of the rule of Oliver Cromwell in England, King Charles I having been beheaded by the Puritans in 1649 at the latter part of the English Civil War. The monarchy of England was restored in 1660 under Charles I’s son, Charles II. Authority continued to be divided

between the King and a largely Puritan-supported Parliament. Charles II died in 1685, and his brother became King James II. James II, a Roman Catholic, wanted to restore Catholicism and absolute monarchy to England. Most expected James II’s protestant daughter, Mary, wife of protestant King William III of the Netherlands, to become Queen after James II’s death. But when James II had a son, the people of England realized the danger of England becoming permanently Roman Catholic. They demanded that King James II abdicate, and leading members of Parliament invited William III of Orange and Mary II (King James II’s daughter) to invade England, restore English liberties, and sit on the throne.

In the meantime, Increase Mather had married Maria Cotton in 1662. [Cotton Mather was born in 1663.] Increase became acting president of Harvard in 1685. That same year, the Roman Catholic brother of Charles II would become King James II of England. Politics and Puritan religion were closely related during Increase Mather’s lifetime, but his first direct involvement with politics resulted from Roman Catholic King James II’s decision to restructure the colonial government of New England.

The Dominion of New England. In 1686, James II would create what was called the Dominion of New England, actually loosely *unifying* the colonies of New England, but under the more direct control of the king, and in the process revoking the charters of the New England colonies, including that of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. [The story is that the new government of the Dominion of New England was so angered by Connecticut’s failure to cooperate with the new regime that it actually sent armed men to take physical possession of the colony’s charter. According to legend, Connecticut colonists hid the document within the crevice of an old oak tree.]



Hiding the original charter in the oak

Key Understanding: *The Mathers would lead the opposition to the Dominion of New England. The English Civil War and strife between the English kings and a Parliament usually supported by the Puritans dominated the political scene during the lifetime of Increase Mather. The Dominion of New England would be created by King James II, revoking the charter of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. In Massachusetts, the Mathers would lead the opposition to the Dominion of New England.*

*1 Samuel 15:23 (KJV) **FOR** [1688-1692 Mather] **REBELLION** [in conjunction with the Glorious Revolution/English Bill of Rights of 1688-1689] **IS AS THE SIN OF** [1688-1692 Boston-Salem] **WITCHCRAFT**, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*

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