

# Package ‘salem’

January 14, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Provides Access to Salem Witchcraft Data

**Version** 1.0.1

**Description** Data related to the Salem Witch Trials

Datasets and tutorials documenting the witch accusations and trials centered around Salem, Massachusetts in 1692. Originally assembled by Richard B. Latner of Tulane University for his website <<https://www2.tulane.edu/~salem/index.html>>. The data sets include information on 152 accused witches, members of the Salem Village Committee, signatories of petitions related to the events, and tax data for Salem Village.

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**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**URL** <https://elinw.github.io/salem/>, <https://github.com/elinw/salem/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/elinw/salem/issues>

**Depends** R (>= 4.1.0)

**Suggests** dplyr (>= 1.0.0), ggplot2, knitr, rmarkdown, sf, stats, tidyverse

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.3

**Collate** `` accused\_witches.R" `` cent17th.R" `` committee\_list.R"  
`` compensation.R" `` ergotism\_symptoms.R" `` forfeitures.R"  
`` long\_doc\_name.R" `` salem\_village.R" `` tax\_comparison.R"  
`` parris\_social.R" `` salem\_region.R"

**NeedsCompilation** no

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accused\_witches      *accused witches*

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### Description

A dataset containing list of accused witches, the month of accusation, whether they were executed and, if so, what month.

### Usage

`accused_witches`

### Format

A data frame with 152 rows and 8 variables:

**Accused.Witch** Name of accused

**Residence** Town of residence

**Month.of.Accusation** Month of accusation as number

**Month.of.Execution** Month of execution as number. Missing for those not executed.

**Sort** ID from original data set

**Month.of.Accusation.Name** Month of accusation as ordered factor

**Month.of.Execution.Name** Month of execution as ordered factor. Missing for those not executed.

**executed** Indicator of whether the accused was executed

### Source

<https://www2.tulane.edu/~salem/Accused%20Witches.html>

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cent17th	<i>Names and link segments</i>
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## Description

A dataset based on data about the accused found <http://17thc.us/primarysources/accused.php?id=1&pg=1>

## Usage

cent17th

## Format

An object of class `data.frame` with 156 rows and 17 columns.

## Details

containing a comprehensive list of names from the records if the Salem Witchcraft Trials and the correspondent stub indicating the page name associated with them.

**table** Source table

**Name** Name of those who were condemned during the trial

**Marital Statuses (if female) (source)** The marital status of those condemned if they were female with the source

**1. evidence of forfeiture (source) 2. Article seized** The evidence they had for forfeiture, the source in which they had and if they had article seized or not for those who were condemned

**Legal statuses (source)** their legal status in which this case is condemned and their source

**Attainder reversed** if the declaration of the attainders were reversed or not for the condemned

**Comments** Any comments made for those who were condemned

## Source

<http://17thc.us/primarysources/accused.php?id=1&pg=1>

committee_list	<i>Committee list</i>
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### Description

A dataset containing list of Salem Village Committee members 1685-1698. Given in long format, with one row per member per year. In 1688 there were only 4 members; in all other years there were five.

### Usage

```
committee_list
```

### Format

A data frame with 69 rows and 5 variables:

**Committee.Members** Name of committee member

**Social** Their social position (3 groups)

**Petition** Did this person sign either the pro- or anti-Parris petition in 1695

**Sort** ID from original data set

**Year** Year of membership

### Source

<https://www2.tulane.edu/~salem/Committee%20List%20Data%20Set.html>

compensation	<i>Compensation A data set containing the amount of compensation awarded in 1711. Order for payment of damages by Governor Joseph Dudley, December 17, 1711</i>
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### Description

Compensation A data set containing the amount of compensation awarded in 1711. Order for payment of damages by Governor Joseph Dudley, December 17, 1711

### Usage

```
compensation
```

### Format

A data frame with 19 rows and 6 variables:

- name** Name of those compensated
- pounds** Pounds part
- shillings** Shillings part
- pence** Pence part
- total** Total amount converted to pence
- gender** Male, female or couple

### Source

<http://swtdocuments.pem.org/documents/15/>

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ergotism\_symptoms      *Ergotism symptoms*

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### Description

A dataset containing the ergotism data presented in Spanos and Gottlieb (1976) Table 1. The dataframe records the symptoms possible symptoms of ergotism reported about 22 individuals.

### Usage

`ergotism_symptoms`

### Format

A data frame with 22 rows and 20 variables:

- name** Name of the sufferer
- rsw\_volume** Volume number of RSW
- rsw\_page** Page number
- vomitting** Vomitting
- diarrhea** Diarrhea
- livid\_skin** Livid skin
- permanent\_contractures** Permanent contractures
- pain\_in\_extremities** Pain in extremities
- death** Death
- temporary\_muscle\_stiffness** Temporary muscle stiffness
- convulsions** Convulsions Cases Spanos and Gottlieb considered uncertain are coded missing.
- ravenous\_appetite** Ravenous appetite

**perceptual\_disturbances** Perceptual disturbances Cases Spanos and Gottlieb considered uncertain are coded missing.

**apparitions** Apparitions

**sensations\_of\_hot\_and\_cold** Sensations of hot & cold

**skin\_sensations** Skin sensations

**stomach\_pain** Stomach pain

**choking\_sensations** Choking sensations

**inability\_to\_speak** Temporary inability to speak

**total** Total number of symptoms

## Details

Spanos and Gottlieb, with one exception (E. Keysar), drew the data from depositions in the *Records of the Salem Witchcraft* collection. Details of data collection are provided in the article. The data set indicates the volume and page of the individual report. J. Doritch is also mentioned in volume 2 page 179 of *RSW*.

The article is an attempt to compare the actual symptoms reported to a list of symptoms of ergotism. For each variable a 1 indicates that the symptom was reported, while a 0 indicated it was not reported. They conclude that "We examined these 112 depositions looking for behavior that, even in a broad sense, might possibly represent symptoms of convulsive ergotism."

## Source

Spanos, N. P., & Gottlieb, J. (1976). Ergotism and the Salem Village Witch Trials. *Science*, 194(4272), 1390–1394.

**forfeitures**

*forfeitures* A data set containing list of forfeitures for those who were condemned, escaped, and stood mute during trial.

## Description

forfeitures A data set containing list of forfeitures for those who were condemned, escaped, and stood mute during trial.

## Usage

forfeitures

**Format**

A data frame with 30 rows and 6 variables with the name Person\_condemned:

- legal\_status** Legal status at time of forfeiture
- Name** Name of those who were condemned during the trial
- marital\_status** The marital status for females
- forfeiture** The evidence that a forfeiture was ordered
- reversed** Was the declaration of the attainers was reversed

The source has some Key Tables which are: for the 1703 and 1711 acts reversing some of the witchcraft attainer see Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Act and Resolves, Public and Private, of the providence of the Massachusetts Bay, 21 vols. (Boston, 1869-1922), VI, 49-50 (1703 act), VI, 71-72 (1711 act). SWP-Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum, eds., *The Salem Witchcraft Papers; Verbiage Transcript of the Legal Documents of the Salem Witchcraft Outbreak of 1692*, 3 vols. (New York, 1977). Calef-Robert Calef, *More Wonders of the Invisible World* (London, 1700), excerpted in George L. Burr, ed., *Narratives of the Witchcraft Cases, 1684-1706* (New York, 1914), 293-393. Brattle-Thomas Brattle, "Letter," Oct. 8, 1692, in Burr, ed., *Narratives, 169-190*. Hale-John Hale, *A modest Inquiry Into the Nature of Witchcraft* (Boston, 1702), in Burr, *Narratives, 399-432*. Gage-Thomas Gage, *the History of Rowley* (Boston, 1840).

**Source**

Brown, David C. "The Forfeitures at Salem, 1692." *The William and Mary Quarterly*, # vol. 50, no. 1, 1993, pp. 85-111. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/2947237?seq=1](http://www.jstor.org/stable/2947237?seq=1), 10.2307/2947237

long_doc_name	<i>Names and link segments</i>
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**Description**

A dataset containing a comprehensive list of names mentioned in the records of the Salem Witchcraft Papers and the correspondent stub indicating the page name associated with them.

**Usage**

```
long_doc_name
```

**Format**

An object of class `data.frame` with 3884 rows and 2 columns.

**Details**

There are 139 separate pages which mention a total of 1392 unique names. 857 individuals were mentioned once. The maximum number of mentions is 85 (John Hathorn, who served as Salem's Magistrate).

**link** Source table

**name** Name of person mentioned

**Source**

<https://salem.lib.virginia.edu/category/swp.html>

parris\_social

*The social positions of pro-Parris and anti-Parris individuals***Description**

A dataset containing a list of individuals who signed pro-Parris and anti-Parris petitions and their social positions

**Usage**

```
parris_social
```

**Format**

A data frame with 189 rows and 5 variables:

**Name** Name of the individual

**view** Stance on Parris

**Sex** Sex of the individual

**Identification** The social position of the individual (five groups)

**Sort** ID from original data set

**Source**

<https://www2.tulane.edu/~salem/Pro-Parris%20Data%20Set.html>

salem\_region

*Simple Features data for Salem***Description**

A dataset containing map information for the three counties represented in the accused\_witches data set (not including present-day Maine locations) in simple features format. It also includes associated data on accusations. This data should *never* be used to analyze accusations. The data is based on modern town boundaries from the Massachusetts Document Repository. Some simple cleaning has been done to facilitate basic mapping. Specifically, the names Salem Town and Salem Village are used rather than the modern Salem and Danvers. Additionally, a field, TOWN\_LABEL is attached to the largest area for each town or community.

**Usage**

```
salem_region
```

## Format

A simple features data frame with 437 rows and 28 variables:

**geometry** Simple Features geometry

**TOWN** Name of town in upper case letters

**TOWN\_ID** ID of town

**TYPE** Type of municipality C = City or T = Town

**ISLAND** Indicator for islands. Note that many towns have multiple polygons

**COASTAL\_PO** YES for ocean polygon within town limits, NO otherwise

**FOURCOLOR** Codes allowing shading of all towns with 4 symbols

**FIPS\_STCO** FIPS for state and county

**CCD\_MCD** US Census town code

**FIPS\_PLACE** FIPS town code

**FIPS\_MCD** FIPS State & County & Census Town Code concatenated

**FIPS\_COUNT** FIPS County

**ACRES** Area in acres

**SQUARE\_MIL** Area in square miles

**SHAPE\_Leng** The perimeter in meters

**SHAPE\_Area** The polygon area in square meters

**n\_accused** Total accused

**February** Number accused in February

**March** Number accused in March

**April** Number accused in April

**May** Number accused in May

**June** Number accused in June

**July** Number accused in July

**August** Number accused in August

**September** Number accused in September

**October** Number accused in October

**November** Number accused in November

**TOWN\_LABEL** Town name to be used for labelling

## Details

Complex analyses require the sf package, but simple mapping can be done using ggplot2.

FIPS refers to the Federal Information Processing Standard

## Source

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-municipalities>

salem\_village

*Salem\_village***Description**

A dataset containing tax list of everyone who appeared on the tax assessment rolls for 1690, 1695, and 1697. This is a "a good, though imperfect, indicator of the village's adult male population" plus some widows (and excluding young men who were not independent).

**Usage**

salem\_village

**Format**

A data frame with 137 rows and 5 variables:

**Name** Name of taxpayer (may be a family)

**Petition** Did this person sign either the pro- or anti-Parris petition in 1695

**Church.to.1696** Was the person a member of any church through 1696

**Sort** ID from original data set

**Details**

May be merged with the *tax\_comparison* data set based on name matching, but care should be taken to review and make judgements about matching.

**Source**

<https://www2.tulane.edu/~salem/Salem%20Village%20Data%20Set.html>

tax\_comparison

*Tax list data for Salem***Description**

A dataset containing tax list data for Salem, MA, 1681-1700. Payments are in shillings (converted from original records). Petition refers to Pro-Parris, Anti-Parris and No Signature. Data are in long format with one record per person per year, while the original data was in wide format with a variable for each year. May be merged with the *tax\_comparison* data set based on name matching, but care should be taken to review and make judgements about matching. This data set includes more years of tax records than *salem\_village*.

**Usage**

tax\_comparison

**Format**

A data frame with 200 rows and 5 variables:

**Name** Name of the tax payer

**Petition** Stance on Petition

**Year** Year of payment

**Tax** Tax paid

**Sort** ID from original data set

**Source**

<https://www2.tulane.edu/~salem/Tax%20Comparison%20Data%20Set.html>

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