

Susanna Rootes—an ancestor of yours who was accused of being a witch

So Grandkids, you're going to visit Salem, Massachusetts, which is in New England, near Boston. Nearly 400 years ago some of the first immigrants from England settled here. Did you know that you are related to some of them? We know a little bit about them, but there's much more to be discovered. Maybe you can uncover some more facts during your visit.

First, let's get to know **Bethiah Rootes** (about 1641-1714). Her parents were **Josiah Rootes** and his wife **Susanna**. People in those days were easily spooked by strange events and neighbors who acted differently from the others. They even thought that some people were "witches" who could do bad things, and that a way to stop this was to get rid of those witches. In 1692, more than 60—including **Susannah Rootes**—*were accused of being witches and put in jail. Many were tried and put to death. Fortunately, Susannah and a few others were released from jail, when leaders finally realized that they were doing cruel things to innocent people.*

Bethiah grew up and married **John Lovett** (about 1636-1727), who had come from England with his parents, **John Lovett Sr.** (1610-1686 and **Mary Grant** (1615-1695). John Sr. was a leader in establishing a church. Besides farming, he worked for a cooper. He John and Bethiah worked hard to clear land for farming in Beverly, across the river from Salem. They had eight children. Native Americans ("Indians") still lived nearby, and they didn't like how the settlers took their land. So there was lots of fighting and fear of Indian attacks. John Lovett and some of their sons took part in some of those wars. Some Lovett family members were killed.

There was not enough farmland near Salem and Beverly to support all the children and grandchildren. So by 1725 or so, some Lovetts had moved to other states like Maine, Connecticut and Vermont. Some had become seamen. Later some studied to become teachers or church pastors .

See if you can find out...

Can you locate Salem and Beverly on a map? What states does "New England" include?

Why did people leave England to settle in and near Salem?

How did they get to the U.S.?

John Lovett Sr., besides farming, worked for a cooper. He was also a highway surveyor. He was a town Selectman. Can you learn what these terms mean?

What did "witches" do to cause people to accuse and prosecute them like that?

How are you related to Susanna Rootes? (Hint: see the family tree on the next two pages.)

Susanna (Susannah)
(-)
Joshiah (or Josiah) Rootes
(-)

seventh great grandparents

Bethiah Rootes
(1641-1714)
John Lovett Jr
(1636-1727)

sixth great grandparents

Samuel Lovett
(-1727)
Prudence Dodge
(-)
Married 5 March 1700/1

fifth great grandparents

Noah Lovett
(1704-)
Deborah Hodge
(-)
Married 9 September 1736

fourth great grandparents

David Lovett
(1746-1809)
name unknown
(-)

third great grandparents

Joseph Lovett
(1772-1859)
Sally Jeprison
(1770-1860)

second great grandparents

David Lovett
(1808-1881)
Betsey Huston
(1811-1841)
Married 21 May 1835

great grandparents

Rev. Frederick Talcott Lovett
(1836-1916)
Lovina Sidula Crouch
(1840-1910)
Married 12 June 1867

grandparents

Rev. David Winslow Lovett
(1871-1941)
Alvanora Robinson Brown
(1880-1978)
Married 30 June 1902

parents

Elsie Miriam Lovett
(1905-2006)