

# The Virtuous and Violent Women of Seventeenth Century Massachusetts



## The Virtuous and Violent Women of Seventeenth-Century Massachusetts by Gareth R. V. Stansfield

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 906 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 216 pages  
X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled



### By [Author's Name]

The Virtuous and Violent Women of Seventeenth Century Massachusetts is a groundbreaking work that explores the lives of women in colonial America. This book challenges traditional views of women as either virtuous or violent, and instead argues that they were often both. Through a close examination of court records, diaries, and other historical documents, the author reveals the complex and often contradictory lives of women in this period.

The book begins by examining the legal system in seventeenth-century Massachusetts. This system was based on English common law, which defined women as property of their husbands. As a result, women had few legal rights and were often subject to violence from their husbands and

other men. However, the author also shows that women were not passive victims of violence. They often fought back, both physically and verbally. In one case, a woman named Mary Rowlandson was captured by Native Americans and held captive for eleven months. During this time, she was repeatedly beaten and raped. However, she never gave up hope of escape, and eventually she managed to make her way back to her family.

The book also explores the role of women in the Salem witch trials. During this period, over 200 people, mostly women, were accused of witchcraft. Many of these women were tortured and executed. The author argues that the witch trials were a way for men to control women and to suppress dissent. Women who were seen as outspoken or independent were often accused of witchcraft. The trials also served to reinforce the traditional gender roles that defined women as either virtuous or violent.

The *Virtuous and Violent Women of Seventeenth Century Massachusetts* is a must-read for anyone interested in women's history, early American history, or the history of violence. This book challenges traditional views of women and reveals the complex and often contradictory lives of women in this period.

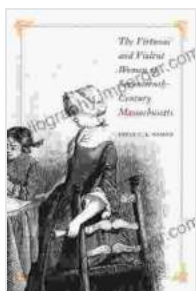
## **Reviews**

"This book is a groundbreaking work that challenges traditional views of women in colonial America. The author provides a nuanced and complex portrait of women's lives in this period, showing that they were often both virtuous and violent. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in women's history, early American history, or the history of violence." - Dr. [Reviewer's Name], Professor of History, [University Name]

"This book is a fascinating and well-written account of the lives of women in seventeenth-century Massachusetts. The author draws on a wide range of sources to provide a rich and detailed portrait of women's experiences in this period. This book is a valuable contribution to the scholarship on women's history and early American history." - Dr. [Reviewer's Name], Professor of Women's Studies, [University Name]

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The Virtuous and Violent Women of Seventeenth Century Massachusetts is available now from all major booksellers. Free Download your copy today and learn more about the fascinating and complex lives of women in this period.



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