

# Naumkeag Settlers to Salem Shippers



## Classroom Resource Guide

The Education Department at The House of the Seven Gables is pleased to offer this packet to help you prepare your students for their visit to our site. We encourage both preparation and follow-up to make your visit a meaningful learning experience.

### Contents:

Description of On-Site Activity	Page 1
Background Information	Page 1
About the Characters	Page 2
Suggested Activities	Page 4
Vocabulary List	Page 5

## **Description of On-Site Activity**

In addition to a specialized tour of The House of the Seven Gables, students will view an audio-visual presentation in which they will be introduced to three young people from the seventeenth century. Among the concepts covered will be work, recreation, food preparation, dwellings, and clothing. Students will be able to compare and contrast the lifestyles of a young settler from 1637, the young son of one of Salem's wealthiest merchants during the 1670s, and an indentured servant from 1678. In addition to the presentation and tour, students will actively participate in the food, work, and fun of this early period.

## **Background Information for Teachers**

Salem's written history begins in 1626, when Roger Conant, a salter, arrived with a group of approximately twenty people at an abandoned Native American settlement. The Native Americans called the area Naumkeag, which means "good fishing" or "fishing place." Conant and his people, under the sponsorship of a group of investors called the Dorchester Company, established a fishing station, and hoped to later establish a larger plantation. The abundant waters off Salem Harbor supplied both their own food needs and provided codfish, which they dried and salted to trade with England.

In 1627, the settlers learned of the bankruptcy of the Dorchester Company, and soon after came under the governance of the New England Company. From 1628 to 1629, John Endicott asserted his authority as Governor over Conant's settlement. Governor John Winthrop, who arrived on the ship *Arbella* in 1630, brought with him additional settlers, as well as the first official charter of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Winthrop shifted the colony's center to Boston, which soon became the seat of government.

In addition to economic opportunity, the new settlers sought religious freedom. They were known as Puritans because they wanted to purify the Church of England. They wished to simplify the creeds and ceremonies of the church, and followed strict religious discipline. Salem's Puritans differed religiously from the Plymouth "**Pilgrims**," or "Separatists," who left

England to support complete religious separation from the Church of England.

Before the end of the seventeenth century, the tiny fishing village of Naumkeag had grown into the thickly-settled, bustling seaport town of Salem. Wealthy merchants along the eastern shores of America, like John Turner I who built the mansion now known as The House of the Seven Gables, had established the Triangle Trade with **England** and the **West Indies**. The fishing station established in 1626 by Naumkeag settlers had grown into the vibrant shipping community of Salem by the 1670's.

### **About the Characters**

In the audio-visual presentation, students will “meet” three children, Jehodan Palfrey, John Turner II, and Joan Sullivan, real people who lived in Salem in the seventeenth century. We have based our scripts upon both actual biographical data and general research of seventeenth century lifestyles.

**Jehoden Palfrey** was the daughter of Peter Palfrey, one of the original settlers who arrived with Roger Conant in 1626. Jehodan's name, like the names of many Puritan children, comes from the Bible (*Jehoaddan*, the mother of King Amaziah, is mentioned in II Kings 14:2 and II Chronicles 25:1). Peter Palfrey and his first wife, Edith, were listed as members in good standing at the First Church in Salem in 1636, the same year their children Jehoden and Jonathan were baptized. Palfrey was a prominent citizen, having been appointed to the land committee in 1631, chosen to confer with Governor Winthrop about a public stock in 1632, and granted a two hundred acre plantation at the mouth of Bass River in 1635. He and three other men, including Roger Conant, established a company for traffic in furs around 1631. Jehoden Palfrey married Benjamin Smith on March 27, 1661, and died on November 5, 1662. There is no record of her brother Jonathan's marriage or death, but three Palfrey boys who carried on the family name in the next generation are generally assumed to have been his sons.

**John Turner II**, born September 12, 1671, was heir to one of the largest fortunes in Salem. We may assume he was born in the house now known as The House of the Seven Gables, built by his father in 1668. John Turner I was a successful merchant: the owner of five sailing vessels and part owner

of nine more at his death in 1680. It appears as though he operated a very successful shop on the grounds of The House of the Seven Gables. The value of his estate is equivalent to a millionaire's fortune today, listing goods, warehouses, houses, land and ships. John Turner II, one of the characters featured in the presentation, followed in his father's footsteps. He also lived in The House of the Seven Gables and operated a mercantile shop on the grounds. John II also served in the military and took an active role in the civic affairs of his day. He married Mary Kitchen in May of 1701, and the couple had a large family. John Turner II died on March 4, 1741, and left a very large estate to his heir, John Turner III.

**Joan Sullivan** was an Irish maidservant in the Turner household. Joan Sullivan was *indentured* to John Turner I, which meant that she, or her guardians, had tenured her service to Turner in exchange for room and board. In 1680, John Turner I sold her indenture to Thomas Maule for nine pence, and a year later, she filed a petition with the Court of Essex County. Sullivan complained that her new master beat her, and made her break Fast days and the Sabbath. In his testimony, Maule accused Sullivan of stealing money and complained of her inability to speak English. Though Maule was fined in the past for breaking the Sabbath and was rumored to be a liar, he and his wife were dismissed of the charges brought by Joan Sullivan. Evidence suggests neither Sullivan nor Maule was entirely blameless.



### **Suggested Activities**

#### **Before your visit:**

- Review the attached vocabulary list.
- Help students identify Salem, the West Indies, and England on a world map and help them visualize the trade routes that developed during the seventeenth century.
- Read aloud one of Kate Waters' children's books - *Samuel Eaton's Day*, *Sarah Morton's Day*, and/or *Tapenum's Day*. These stories help children to visualize life in seventeenth century Massachusetts.

#### **After your visit:**

- Establish a time line on the walls around your classroom. Elicit student drawings, as well as written facts, to post at each date of note.

- Have students create a first-person journal entry from the point of view of a seventeenth century child. Encourage them to weave in as many historical and lifestyle details as possible, based on what they learned from their program and tour.
- Help students make a simple toy similar to those enjoyed by children in the Colonial era. Instructions for a whirling toy appear on a separate sheet at the back of this Guide.

## Vocabulary

**Bodice** – a laced outer garment similar to a vest worn by women and girls in the seventeenth century

**Breeches** – loose-fitting, below-the-knee length pants worn by men and boys in the seventeenth century

**Card** – a wire-toothed brush used to disentangle fibers, like wool, before spinning into yarn (**Carding** is the act of brushing the tangled wool)

**Chamber** – a room

**Chamber pot** – a container used as a toilet at night

**Codfish** – a type of large, non-oily fish plentiful in New England and easily dried for preservation. Cod was one of the first products exported from Massachusetts to other parts of the world.

**Coif** – a close-fitting cap worn on the head by women and girls in the seventeenth century

**Doublet** – a garment similar to a close-fitting, short coat worn by men and boys in the seventeenth century

**Fish flakes** – racks for drying fish outdoors

**Hall** – the main room in a 17<sup>th</sup> century house

**Herb** – plant used as flavoring, as medicine, or for fragrance

**Hose** – long, heavy stockings worn by both women and men, girls and boys in the seventeenth century

**Indenture** – period of time, usually seven years long, during which a person was required to work for his or her master. Indentured servants were different from slaves because they might eventually become free. Many people in the seventeenth century became indentured servants to pay for their voyage to the Colonies.

**Mortar and pestle** – a vessel and tool used for crushing/grinding substances like spices or herbs

**Pelt** – the skin of an animal with the fur/hair still on it

**Petticoat** – underskirt worn by girls and women in the seventeenth century. Often, several petticoats were worn layered for warmth.

**Pilgrim** – one of the settlers of Plymouth Colony; an individual who separated himself or herself from the Church of England

**Puritan** – a person who wanted to purify the Church of England. Many of the earliest settlers of Salem were Puritans.

**Samp** – cooked cornmeal mush, similar in consistency to oatmeal or cream of wheat

**Shift** – long, shirt-like garment, a combination blouse and undergarment, worn by women and girls in the seventeenth century

**Teague** – three-handled mug

**Ticking** – the woven cotton or linen fabric covering of a mattress or pillow