Witches on the Web

My own primary source research has been mostly focused on witchcraft trials in New England. Here are some online resources that I have found particularly useful:

Useful and informative sites about Salem and "witches" of New England:

Excellent Primary Source Resource at Virginia's Electronic Text Center: http://etext.virginia.edu/salem/witchcraft/index.html

The Real Witchcraft Papers at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA: http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/score/cruc/salem/papers.html

National Geographic's Salem Presentation: http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/97/salem/

There was also a "witch" in Hadley MA: Mary Webster: http://faculty.uml.edu/bmarshall/Mary%20Webster.htm

A witch in Amesbury: Susanna North Martin: http://www.rootsweb.com/~nwa/sm.html
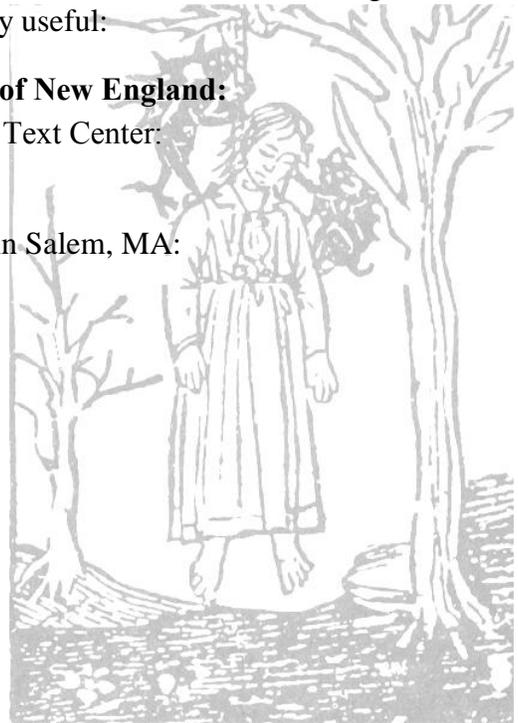
Mary (Bliss) Parsons on the Web

A few years ago, I worked with Historic Northampton and UMass Amherst's Center for Computer Based Instructional Technology (CCBIT) to create a website focusing on the Mary (Bliss) Parsons Case called "The Goody Parsons Witchcraft Case: A Journey to 17th Century Northampton" at: http://ccbit.cs.umass.edu/Parsons   All of the original documents about the trial are available in both original and transcribed versions.

We also collaborated with Northampton area teachers, who created curriculum units for their students. You can see some of their projects here: http://ccbit.cs.umass.edu/parsons/goodyparsons/

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Resources for American Literature Beginnings to the Civil War on the Internet

I have developed a list of good historical resources on the internet for my students in American Literature: Beginnings to the Civil War. This link provides an annotated bibliography of links to good websites on American history of this period:
http://faculty.uml.edu/bmarshall/sourcesdigitaldocument.html
Following are some highlights of the sites that I think are most useful for teachers:

The National Archives Education Center http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/
The National Archives provides excellent help for teachers including lesson plans and handouts specifically focused on using primary documents in the classroom.

Making Sense of Evidence http://historymatters.gmu.edu/browse/makesense/
This web site is an excellent resource covering a variety of document types, from maps to photographs to letters to diaries and more. Scholars suggest the kinds of questions you should ask of a primary source, and also how to evaluate an internet primary source.

Library of Congress American Memory Project http://www.loc.gov/index.html
This is an excellent source of primary resources from throughout the history (and pre-history) of the United States. You can click on a "topic" to view collections, or go to "Browse," where you can choose a time period, type of document, or geographic area. The collections include both images (artwork, photographs, maps) and reproductions of historic documents. The search mechanism can be challenging, but allows you to delimit by date. African American and Native American collections are particularly strong here. You will find a wide array of exhibits based on themes, individuals, and time periods; the exhibits can make it easier to provide context for documents, or to find a good grouping of documents on a particular issue.

American Antiquarian Society   http://www.americanantiquarian.org/index.htm
Located in Worchester, Massachusetts, the AAS has huge holdings in American cultural artifacts. The website offers several online exhibits on interesting topics.

Making of America   http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moagrp/
From the site: "Making of America (MoA) is a digital library of primary sources in American social history from the antebellum period through reconstruction. The collection is particularly strong in the subject areas of education, psychology, American history, sociology, religion, and science and technology. The collection currently contains approximately 9,500 books and 50,000 journal articles with 19th century imprints." It reproduces the original pages, providing both the images and the text-searchable versions.

Please feel free to e-mail me with questions: bridget_marshall@uml.edu You can learn more about my teaching and research here: http://faculty.uml.edu/bmarshall

If you're interested in the "Digital Document" assignment that I designed for my own students to get them to use primary sources, you can see a quick write-up, as well as handouts and samples of student papers here:
http://faculty.uml.edu/bmarshall/alalinkspage.html

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