3. The Good Manners Checklist[1]

✣ *Eleazar Moody*

The following rules for proper behavior, first reprinted in the colonies in 1715, were derived from English guides popular in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Moody's version appeared in 1772 in Boston. The fact that such lists were offered indicates that parents in those times must have felt the need for authoritative support in the task of instructing their offspring in the "right" way to behave. ■

When at Home

1. Make a bow always when you come home, and be immediately uncovered.[2] (w/o headgear)

2. Be never covered at home, especially before thy parents or strangers.

3. Never sit in the presence of thy parents without bidding, tho' no stranger be present.

4. If thou passest by thy parents, and any place where thou seest them, when either by themselves or with company, bow towards them.

5. If thou art going to speak to thy parents, and see them engaged in discourse with company, draw back and leave thy business until afterwards; but if thou must speak, be sure to whisper.

6. Never speak to thy parents without some title of respect, viz., Sir, Madam, etc.

7. Approach near thy parents at no time without a bow.

8. Dispute not, nor delay to obey thy parents' commands.

9. Go not out of doors without thy parents' leave, and return within the time by them limited.

10. Come not into the room where thy parents are with strangers, unless thou art called, and then decently; and at bidding go out; or if strangers come in while thou art with them, it is manners with a bow to withdraw.

11. Use respectful and courteous but not insulting or domineering carriage or language toward the servants.

12. Quarrel not nor contend with thy brethren or sisters, but live in love, peace, and unity.

13. Grumble not nor be discontented at anything thy parents appoint, speak, or do.

14. Bear with meekness and patience, and without murmuring or sullenness, thy parents' reproofs or corrections: Nay, tho' it should so happen that they be causeless or undeserved.

1. Among superiors speak not till thou art spoken to, and bid to speak.

2. Hold not thine hand, nor anything else, before thy mouth when thou speakest.

3. Come not over-near to the person thou speakest to.

4. If thy superior speak to thee while thou sittest, stand up before thou givest any answer.

5. Sit not down till thy superior bid thee.

6. Speak neither very loud, nor too low.

7. Speak clear, not stammering, stumbling, nor drawling.

8. Answer not one that is speaking to thee until he hath done.

9. Loll not when thou art speaking to a superior or spoken to by him.

10. Speak not without Sir, or some other title of respect.

11. Strive not with superiors in argument or discourse; but easily submit thine opinion to their assertions.

12. If thy superior speak anything wherein thou knowest he is mistaken, correct not nor contradict him, nor grin at the hearing of it; but pass over the error without notice or interruption.

13. Mention not frivolous or little things among grave persons or superiors.

14. If thy superior drawl or hesitate in his words, pretend not to help him out, or to prompt him.

15. Come not too near two that are whispering or speaking in secret, much less may'st thou ask about what they confer.

16. When thy parent or master speak to any person, speak not thou, nor hearken to them.

17. If thy superior be relating a story, say not, "I have heard it before," but attend to it as though it were altogether new. Seem not to question the truth of it. If he tell it not right, snigger not, nor endeavor to help him out, or add to his relation.

18. If any immodest or obscene thing be spoken in thy hearing, smile not, but settle thy countenance as though thou did'st not hear it.

19. Boast not in discourse of thine own wit or doings.

20. Beware thou utter not anything hard to be believed.

21. Interrupt not anyone that speaks, though thou be his familiar.

22. Coming into company, whilst any topic is discoursed on, ask not what was the preceding talk but hearken to the remainder.

23. Speaking of any distant person, it is rude and unmannerly to point at him.

24. Laugh not in or at thy own story, wit, or jest.

25. Use not any contemptuous or reproachful language to any person, though very mean or inferior.

26. Be not over-earnest in talking to justify and avouch thy own sayings.

27. Let thy words be modest about those things which only concern thee.

28. Repeat not over again the words of a superior that asketh thee

Notes

Document I

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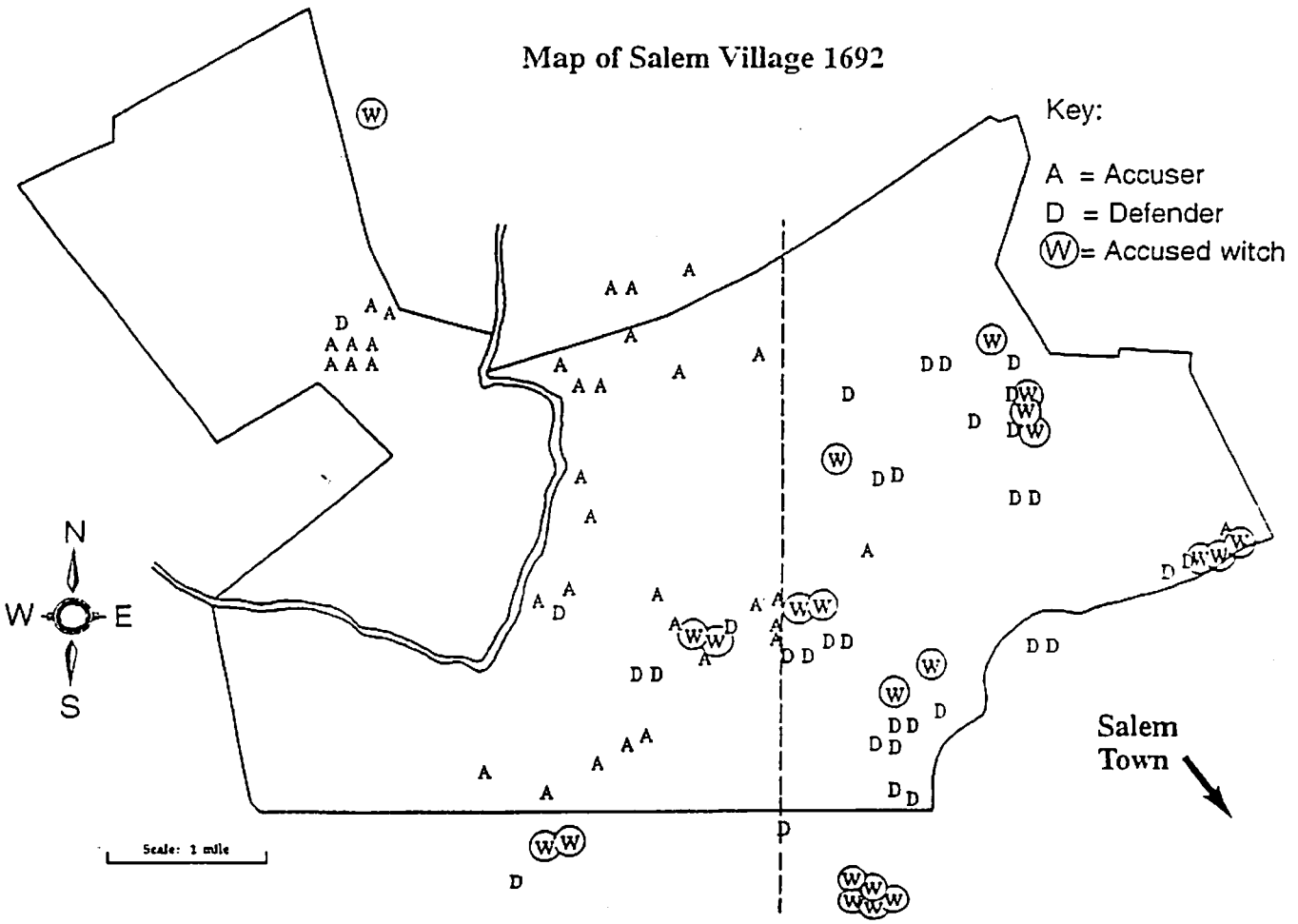

Document J

Source: Boyer et. al., *The Enduring Vision*, 1992.

A sharp distinction emerged between the port's (Salem Town) residents...and outlying farmers (Salem Village). Prior to 1661 the richest 10 percent of Salem residents owned 21 percent of the town's property, but by 1681 the richest tenth possessed 62 percent of all wealth. (Salem Village) was divided between supporters of the Porter and Putnam families. Well connected with the merchant elite, the Porters enjoyed political prestige in Salem Town and lived in the village's eastern section, whose residents farmed richer soils and benefited somewhat from Salem Town's prosperity. In contrast, most Putnams lived in Salem Village's less fertile western half, had little chance to share in Salem Town's commercial expansion, and had lost the political influence that they once held in town.