

WITCHES AND POP CULTURE PRESENTED BY JAFFREY LIBRARY FRIENDS

Witches historically have incited controversy, fear, and even admiration. On September 3, 2015 at 6:30 pm, the Friends of the Jaffrey Library offers “Witches, Pop Culture, and the Past” presented by Robin DeRosa, Professor of English and Interdisciplinary Studies at Plymouth State University. Funded in part by a grant from the New Hampshire Humanities Council, the program is co-sponsored by the Jaffrey Historical Society and will take place in the Jaffrey Civic Center, 40 Main street next to the Jaffrey Library.

“In 1692, nineteen people were executed in Salem, MA and hundreds imprisoned during a witch hunt we still discuss today,” says Professor DeRosa. In some venues in Salem, one can still hear the echoes of the cries of raucous spectators shouting “Hang her!” DeRosa explains that when Salem tells its witch stories, history, tourism, and performance collide, and “truth,” both moral and macabre, vies with spooky thrills for its authentic place in history.

Robin DeRosa is an Early Americanist with a special interest in how we produce “history” through narrative and popular culture. Her research includes work on the Salem Witch Trials in American memory, postmodern redefinitions of the tourist, and simulated environments in contemporary media. Her recent books include: “The Making of Salem: The Witch Trials in History, Fiction, and Tourism” and “Simulation in Media and Culture: Believing the Hype.” “Witches, Pop Culture, and the Past” is free and open to the public. For information on the Friends’ programs and book sales, as well as library events, go to www.facebook.com/JaffreyLibrary,