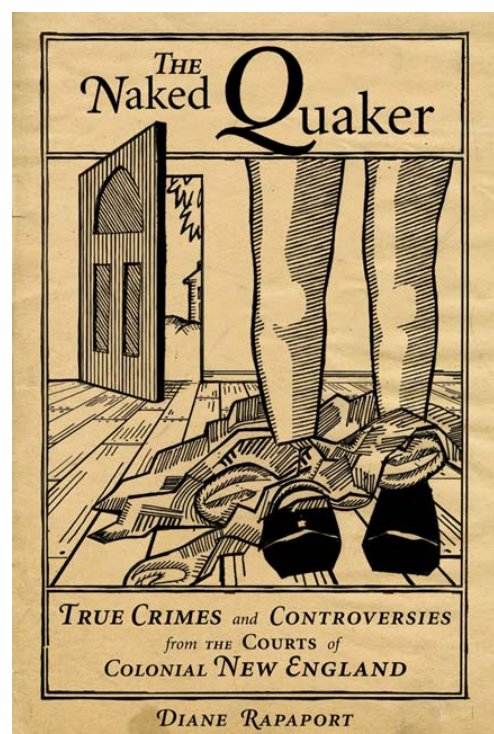


Published October 2007 by Commonwealth Editions



Author **Diane Rapaport** created an award-winning column for *New England Ancestors*, the journal of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Some of the twenty-five true stories in *The Naked Quaker* were previously published there; others are new to this volume. They are gathered in ten chapters:

1. Witches and Wild Women
2. Coupling
3. Parents and Youth
4. Tavern Tales
5. Slaves and Servants
6. Neighbor vs. Neighbor
7. Sunday Meeting
8. Frontier Justice
9. Offshore Antics
10. Lawyers and Judges

### **A lawyer and historian scours the court records of early New England to reveal the daily underside of Puritan life.**

On court days in colonial New England, folks gathered from miles around to listen as local magistrates convened to hear cases. In the abundant records from these hearings, we experience the passions and concerns of ordinary people, often in their own words, more than three centuries after the emotion-charged events that brought them to court.

The title story involves a Quaker woman who walked into Puritan Sunday meeting and dropped her dress in front of the gathering, to protest actions of the colonial authorities.

*The Naked Quaker* takes us into the lives of our ancestors, revealing how they behaved and spoke. A woman carries a skillet to her neighbors each morning to “borrow fire,” because her family did not or could not afford to keep its hearth fire burning overnight. A man, angered by the actions of another, threatens him with words seldom heard today: “I will take you by your eyelids and make your heels strike fire!”

The word “Puritan” conjures up dour images of seventeenth-century New Englanders. We rarely think of Puritans as people who had fun, or sex. But while our ancestors used different words, human nature was not so different 350 years ago.

#### **THE NAKED QUAKER**

ISBN 978-1-933212-57-9, 160 pages, 6 x 9 hardcover, \$19.95 list price

Commonwealth Editions, 266 Cabot Street, Beverly, MA 01915

Tel. 978-921-0747 • Fax 978-927-8195 • [www.commonwealtheditions.com](http://www.commonwealtheditions.com)



**Diane Rapaport** is an award-winning author and former trial lawyer who lives in historic Lexington, Massachusetts. She writes the popular “Tales from the Courthouse” column for *New England Ancestors* magazine and lectures for historical and genealogical programs. Her first book, *New England Court Records: A Research Guide for Genealogists and Historians*, was published in 2006 by Quill Pen Press. For more information, visit [www.DianeRapaport.com](http://www.DianeRapaport.com).