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*"We 21st century citizens seem to pride ourselves on inventing vice, but as the true (and frequently peculiar) stories in *Naked Quaker* reveal, we've got nothing on our raucous ancestors!"*

--- Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, co-author of *Trace Your Roots with DNA*, co-founder of Roots Television, and Chief Family Historian of Ancestry.com

THE NAKED QUAKER

True Crimes and Controversies from the Courts of Colonial New England

by Diane Rapaport

Lawyer and historian Diane Rapaport extracts tantalizing tales from the pre-Revolutionary court records for her new book, **The Naked Quaker: True Crimes and Controversies from the Courts of Colonial New England**. Twenty-five true stories—amusing, poignant, shocking—bring history to life.

Chapters include *Witches and Wild Women*, *Coupling*, *Parents and Youth*, *Tavern Tales*, *Slaves and Servants*, *Neighbor vs. Neighbor*, *Sunday Meeting*, *Frontier Justice*, *Offshore Antics*, and *Lawyers and Judges*. In the title story, a Quaker woman walks into Puritan Sunday meeting and drops her dress 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 highway robber threatens his victim: "I will take you by your eyelids and make your heels strike fire!" A mysterious woman wields "enthusiastical power" over married men, who break the law to follow her.

The word "Puritan" conjures up dour images of 17th-century New Englanders. We rarely think of Puritans as people who had fun, or sex. Our ancestors used different words, but human nature was not so different 350 years ago.

To request a review copy of **The Naked Quaker**, or for more information, contact the author (Diane Rapaport, 781-698-7884, diane@dianerapaport.com), or the publisher, Commonwealth Editions (Webster Bull, 978-921-0747, websterb@commonwealtheditions.com).

DIANE RAPAPORT is a former trial lawyer who has made a new career as a writer and speaker. Her first book, **New England Court Records: A Research Guide for Genealogists and Historians**, won 2007 Benjamin Franklin Awards (Independent Book Publishers Association) for Best History Book, Best Reference Book, and finalist for Best New Voice in Nonfiction. Diane's "Tales from the Courthouse" column for *New England Ancestors* magazine is a three-time winner of Excellence in Writing awards from the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors. She lives in Lexington, Massachusetts.

The Naked Quaker: True Crimes and Controversies from the Courts of Colonial New England

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