

Cover Jacket Text *for*

**THE NAKED QUAKER**  
**True Crimes and Controversies from the Courts**  
**of Colonial New England**  
*Diane Rapaport*

*Inside front jacket flap:*

REGIONAL / HISTORY US \$19.95

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 of 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.

Diane Rapaport is a historian and former trial lawyer who, by drawing on these court records, has 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. Accounts include “Witches and Wild Women,” “Coupling,” “Tavern Tales,” and “Sunday Meeting.” The title story concerns 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. 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.

*Inside back jacket flap:*

DIANE RAPAPORT, a former trial lawyer, has made a new career as an author and speaker, bringing history to life with true stories from early New England court records. Her articles for *New England Ancestors*, some of which appear in *THE NAKED QUAKER*, have earned three “Excellence in Writing” awards from the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors. Her first book, *New England Court Records: A Research Guide for Genealogists and Historians*, received three 2007 Benjamin Franklin Awards from PMA, the Independent Book Publishers Association. She lives in Lexington, Massachusetts.

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ADVANCE PRAISE *for*

**THE NAKED QUAKER**

“We 21<sup>st</sup> century citizens seem to pride ourselves on inventing vice, but as the true (and frequently peculiar) stories in *The Naked Quaker* reveal, we’ve got nothing on our raucous ancestors! You’ll enjoy reading this book as much as your favorite, guilty-pleasure tabloid, but will look eminently more respectable doing so!”

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

“Diane Rapaport's *The Naked Quaker* is a marvel of New England storytelling. Highly entertaining and grounded in the best scholarship, it leaves a new and lasting impression of true crimes and other incidents in the colonial period.”

—D. BRENTON SIMONS, President and CEO, New England Historic Genealogical Society, and author of *Witches, Rakes & Rogues*

“Diane Rapaport's use of early court records is ingenious. With careful reading of these overlooked archives, she brings life to dozens of little known individual stories. Read together, they add dimension to our understanding of the rigors of daily life in colonial New England.”

—MEGAN SNIFFEN-MARINOFF, Harvard University Archivist

“Lawyer Rapaport's decade of sleuthing in colonial court records brings to light fascinating new information about witchcraft, sexuality, and slavery in early New England.”

—EVE LAPLANTE, author of *Salem Witch Judge* and *American Jezebel*

“Rapaport puts an entertainingly human face on an incomprehensible world where swearing could land you in jail and illicit sex could get you enslaved. No one taps into the human comedy in court records better.”

—MELINDE LUTZ SANBORN, FASG, Editor of *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* and *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*

“*The Naked Quaker* lays bare Colonial justice through the colorful tales of a woman accused of witchcraft because chickens died after she passed by, a man named Bacon charged with stealing pigs, a semi-literate sailor whose sentence for illegally selling wine included serving as a constable . . . . Court TV is no match!”

—LAURIE BECKELMAN, President, Women's National Book Association

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