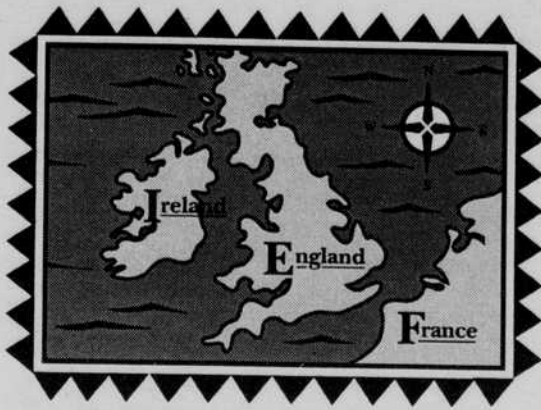




Celtic lands circa 800 A.D.

BRET FURTWANGLER | GRAPHICS EDITOR

IN BRIEF

Historical holiday: A tour of Halloween's origins

Halloween's origins date back 2,000 years to the Celtic festival of Samhain, celebrated in what is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and Northern France. Nov. 1 marked the end of summer harvests for the Celts. On Oct. 31, they believed the ghosts of the underworld would cause mischief.

The priests would honor the event with bonfires, and the Celts gathered in costumes and made animal sacrifices. They used the bonfire to light hearth fires to protect themselves from the upcoming winter.

By A.D. 43, the Romans had occupied most of the Celtic lands. The modern-day notion of bobbing for apples might stem from the Roman celebration of Pomona, the goddess of fruit and trees. Her symbol is the apple.

By the 800s, Christianity was spreading rapidly through the Celtic lands and Pope Boniface designated Nov. 1 "All Saints Day" to pay respects to saints and martyrs. This celebration was named All-hallowmas and the night before it "All-hallows Eve."

The American custom of "trick-or-treating" probably dates back to England and the All Souls Day Parades where poor citizens would travel from house to house begging for food. Families provided pastries in exchange for prayers for their dead relatives. Eventually, children began "going-a-souling" and visited

neighborhood houses for food, ale and money.

In the later 19th century, millions of immigrants brought All Hallow's Eve traditions to America. Americans imitated English and Irish immigrants by dressing in costumes.

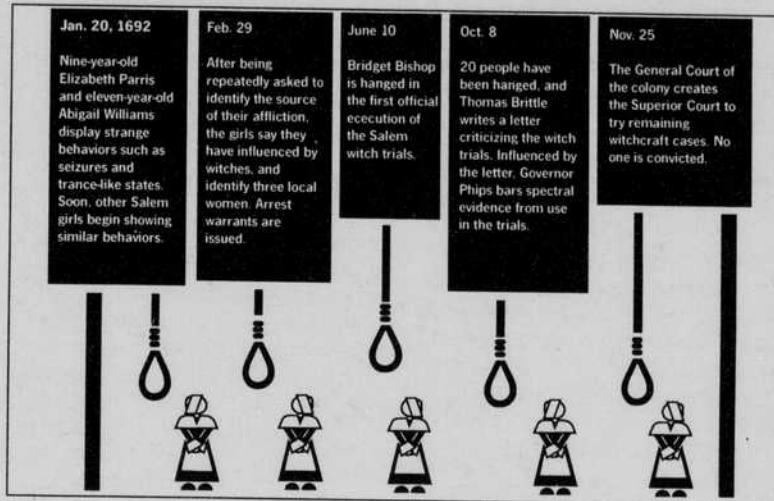
In the 1950s, Halloween night was plagued by vandalism and was geared toward children to limit the destruction. Families tried to prevent "tricks" by providing children with "treats."

Today, Americans have turned the Celtic festival into the second-largest commercial holiday, spending an estimated \$6.9 billion annually on decorations and treats.

Source: www.historychannel.com

For the complete story, visit www.dailymerald.com.

— Colleen McClure



Source: www.salemweb.com/memorial
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Trials: Witchcraft's relations to religious structure unclear

Continued from page 6B

Silver Ravenwolf. These authors discuss the idea that true witches do not believe in Satan.

Buckland says it is doubtful that the people accused of witchcraft were actually witches in the religious sense. Buckland's views are echoed in the Witches' Voice, an online publication.

"What was described in the documents of the trials is not now, and never has been, the belief or

practice of the 'Craft of the Wise,'" wrote Wren Walker, chairwoman for the Witches' Voice.

Today, some people view the Puritan religious ideology as fanatical.

"Perhaps the Puritans have left us with this way of looking at the world that avoids complexity, and I think that can lead to dangerous ends," Reis said.

Heather Crabtree is a freelance reporter for the Daily Emerald

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