

COTTON MATHER

Child prodigy, Puritan minister, writer, speaker, clergyman, and theologian



By Rebekah Oliver

BIRTH AND DEATH:

Cotton Mather was born in Boston, MA. (Bay Colony)

He was born on February 12, 1663. He died February 13, 1728 (Also in Boston). He lived to be 65 years old and died because of an illness.

COTTON MATHER'S CHILDHOOD:

He had 9 siblings and lived with his parents, Increase Mather (his father), and Maria Cotton (his mother). His father was a prominent citizen of Boston, and the president of Harvard. He was well educated and learned Latin and Greek. Cotton attended Harvard at the young age of 12.

WHAT IS COTTON MATHER FAMOUS FOR?

Cotton Mather is famous for his research in plant hybridization. He was an influential puritan minister, and helped the case for the Salem witch trials by writing a letter persuading them to use caution in the use of spectral evidence. (The testimony in which a witness claims that the accused did them harm in a dream or vision).

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT COTTON MATHER:

Cotton Mather was a very literate person, and wrote many books. More than 400, to be exact. Some of his famous quotes are: “Our opportunities to do good are our talents.” and “There may be some so very ignorant, they know not how to pray.” Cotton found the variolation method of inoculation as a way to prevent smallpox contagion. (He found this out from one of his slaves!)

THE GENRE COTTON MATHER WROTE IN, AND SOME INTERESTING WORKS HE WROTE:

The genre Cotton Mather wrote in was History and Autobiography. His writings were a wide range of interests. Some include: A book of essays *Political Fables* (Published in 1692), *Psalterium Americanum* (where he set Psalms to music, published in 1718), and *The Angel of Bethesda* (a medical manual published in 1722).

TO SUM IT UP:

Cotton Mather was an important puritan and played many roles in America as a helpful leader and skillful writer. He was clever and had many brilliant ideas. Pictures of some of his books:

