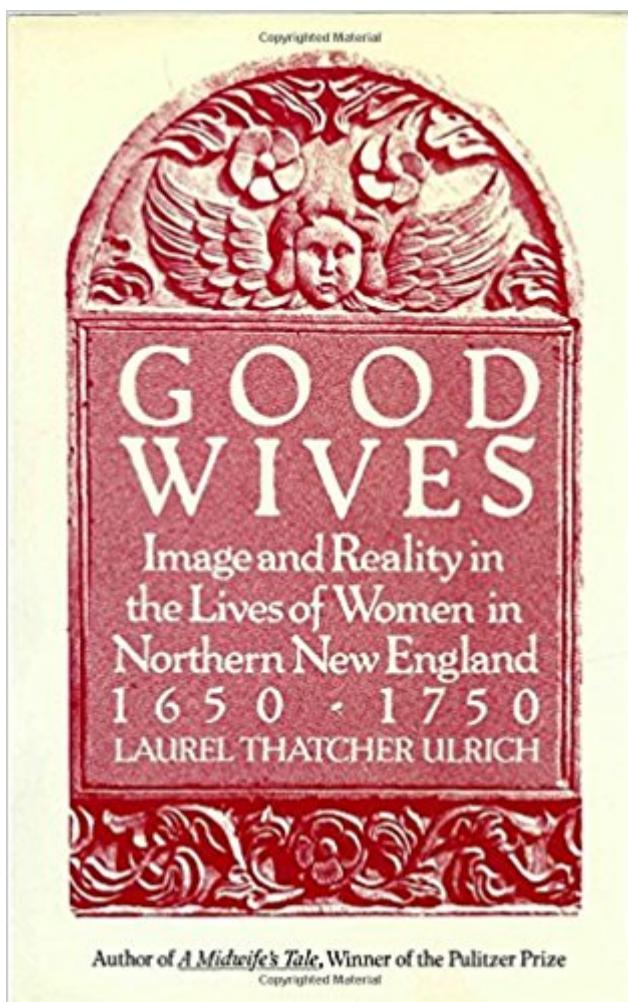


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Good Wives: Image And Reality In The Lives Of Women In Northern New England, 1650-1750



Synopsis

This enthralling work of scholarship strips away the abstractions to reveal the hidden--and not always stoic--face of the "goodwives" of colonial America. In these pages we encounter the awesome burdens--and the considerable power--of a New England housewife's domestic life and witness her occasional forays into the world of men. We see her borrowing from her neighbors, loving her husband, raising--and, all too often, mourning--her children, and even attaining fame as a heroine of frontier conflicts or notoriety as a murderer. Painstakingly researched, lively with scandal and homely detail, *Good Wives* is history at its best.

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Customer Reviews

"[Ulrich] makes a modern reader understand what it would have been like to have been born female in early New England...a truly remarkable achievement." -- Mary Beth Norton, Cornell University A gravestone in northern New England proclaims that a woman was "Eminent for Holiness...Prudence, Sincerity...Meakness...Weanedness From ye World...Publick-Spiritedness ...Faithfulness & Charity." "A major addition to our historical understanding of women in colonial New England...a path-breaking depiction of wives and mothers." -- Kathryn Kish Sklar, S.U.N.Y., Binghamton

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Anyone interested in this period of American history, particularly in the details of women's lives, can appreciate this book. The follow-up to "Martha Ballard; Diary of a Midwife," it deserves an honored place on my historical bookshelf. "Goodwives" is a book that I pick up from time to time, just reading and re-reading sections, as it is less compelling and more academic than "Midwife." In other words, not exactly a book I couldn't put down - but enjoyable nonetheless.

I expected rather more from the other reviews. Some interesting information, but in general I had a hard time keeping awake while reading it.

I really liked this book. It was an easy and very interesting read. I like history, but get a little bored with text-type books that just focus on wars and dates. This book takes you back in that time period by using examples of real people (concentrating on women) and situations so it makes it easy to put yourself in that era and understand what life was like. I feel that no matter what your age or sex you will get something out of this book.

Fascinating account of women's lives during colonial period. Ulrich is a master at research and writing. Loved Midwife's Tale also. Hope she publishes more works like these.

So interesting. Give you a great overview of the sphere of a woman's influence and experiences.

I purchased this book as a requirement for class and this is a good book. It shows how women during the colonial era lived and how they took care of their families as well as neighbors in the community.

I found this to be an excellent source for some curious, sometimes gritty details about the lives of women in pre-colonial America. It was exactly what I was looking for in researching my new project. It's well-organized, accessible, and more readable than many of the academic works I've read. Highly recommended.

Great historical account of women's lives in that era.

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