



## Our Company Increases Apace: History, Language, and Social Identity in Early Colonial Andover, Massachusetts

By Elinor Abbot

SIL International. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 275 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.0in. x 0.8in. This book is the first book in over thirty-five years on the early history of Andover, Massachusetts, founded in 1646 and one of the oldest towns in New England. It explores in depth the events that led to the towns split in 1710 England. It explores in depth the events that led to the towns split in 1710 into the North and South Parishes. In a departure from previous works on Andover, this study brings anthropological and linguistic perspectives to bear on the records, offering a new interpretation of the towns early history and the settlers relationships with one another. Abbot follows the colonists from Britain to the Bay Colony through journals, marriage records, court cases, and other documents including the witchcraft trial transcripts of 1692. Combining text and analysis, she notes shifting factions and changing uses of English social identity terms such as country, blood, and company. The author argues for a reassessment of the key role of the company in particular, as both a unit of colonization and an enduring basis for social identity in early New England towns. Richard Godbeer, Professor of History at...



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