Judge Sewall's Apology is an interesting book, based on extensive research and Sewall's own very detailed diaries. The Salem witch trials of 1692 form a key part of the narrative, but the scope of the book is much broader in its dealing with the "growth of the social infrastructure of colonial New England and the increasing secularization of its culture—with a shift from rural to urban values, in fact, and from traditional, almost medieval, ways of thinking to characteristically modern ones." Judge Samuel Sewall presided at these trials, passing harsh judgment on the condemned. Through this unsung hero of the American conscience—a Puritan, an antislavery agitator, a defender of Native American rights, and a Utopian theorist—we are granted a fresh perspective on a familiar drama. Salem Witch Judge: The Life and Repentance of Samuel Sewall. Eve LaPlante. 4.0 out of 5 stars. Paperback. $14.99 Prime. Also the experience of one man is not forming the American Conscious especially since he is a wealthy white man with political clout. However, the book was a great read, a history book disguised as a novel and a whole chapter on this man's hatred of wigs, literal wigs that made it quite enjoyable. Read more. The Salem Witch Trials have been covered in academic works, plays, and movies; they are fascinating examples of mass religious delusion and judicial error, and it is commendable that we do not let them go. The trials didn't last long; the public quickly turned away from this mistaken view of religion and justice.