

Cotton Mather [FRS](#) (/ˈmæðər/; February 12, 1663 – February 13, 1728) was a [Puritan](#) clergyman and author in [colonial New England](#), who wrote extensively on theological, historical, and scientific subjects. After being educated at [Harvard College](#), he joined his father [Increase](#) as minister of the [Congregationalist Old North Meeting House](#) in [Boston, Massachusetts](#), where he preached for the rest of his life. He has been referred to as the "first American [Evangelical](#)".^[2]

A major intellectual and public figure in English-speaking colonial America, Cotton Mather helped lead the successful [revolt of 1689](#) against Sir [Edmund Andros](#), the governor of New England appointed by [King James II](#). Mather's subsequent involvement in the [Salem witch trials](#) of 1692–1693, which he defended in the book *[Wonders of the Invisible World](#)* (1693), attracted intense controversy in his own day and has negatively affected his historical reputation. As a historian of colonial New England, Mather is noted for his *[Magnalia Christi Americana](#)* (1702).