

Bridget Bishop

Complaint Against
Bridget Bishop and Others

Salem, April the 18th, 1692

There being complaint this day made before us by Ezekiel Chevers and John Putnam, Junior, both of Salem Village, yeomen, in behalf of their Majesties, for themselves and also for their neighbors, against Giles Cory and Mary Warren, both of Salem Farms, and Abigail Hobs, the daughter of William Hobs of the town of Topsfield, and Bridgett Bishop, the wife of Edward Bishop of Salem, sawyer, for high suspicion of sundry acts of witchcraft done or committed by them upon the bodies of Ann Putnam, Marcy Lewis, and Abigail Williams, and Mary Walcott, and Elis Hubert of Salem Village, whereby great hurt and damage hath been done to the bodies of said persons abovesaid, therefore craved justice.

You are therefore in their Majesties' names hereby required to apprehend and bring before us Giles Cory and Mary Warren of Salem Farms, and Abigail Hobs, the daughter of William Hobs of the town of Topsfield, and Bridgett Bishop, the wife of Edward Bishop of Salem, tomorrow about eight of the clock in the forenoon at the house of Lt. Nathaniel Ingersalls in Salem Village in order to their examination relating to the premises abovesaid, and hereof you are not to fail.

Dated Salem, April 18th, 1692

John Hathorne Jonathan Corwin	}	Assistants
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To George Herrick, Marshall of the County of Essex

You are likewise required to summon Margaret Knight, Lydia Nichols, Elisabeth Nichols, and Elezabeth Hubert, Jonathan Putnam, and Hepzibah Rea and John Hewes, all and every one of them, to appear before us at the abovesaid time and place to give in what evidence they know relating to the abovesaid or like cases depending.

Salem, April 18th, 1692

Examination of Bridget Bishop
as Recorded by Ezekiel Cheever

The examination of Bridget Bishop before the worshipful John Hathon and Jonathan Curren, Esq^{rs}.

Bridget Bishop, being now coming in to be examined relating to her accusation of suspicion of sundry acts of witchcraft, the afflicted persons are now dreadfully afflicted by her, as they do say.

(Mr. Hathon) Bishop, what do you say? You here stand charged with sundry acts of witchcraft by you done or committed upon the bodies of Mercy Lews and Ann Putnam and others.

(Bishop) I am innocent. I know nothing of it. I have done no witchcraft.

(Mr. Hathen) Look upon this woman and see if this be the woman that you have seen hurting you.

Mercy Lewes and Ann Putnam and others do now charge her to her face with hurting of them.

(Mr. Hathen) What do you say now you see they charge you to your face?

(Bish.) I never did hurt them in my life. I did never see these persons before.

I am as innocent as the child unborn.

(Mr. Harh.) Is not your coat cut?

(Bish.) Answers no, but her garment being looked upon, they find it cut or torn two ways. Jonathan Walcoate saith that the sword that he struck at Goody Bishop with was not naked, but was within the scabbard, so that the rent may very probably be the same that Mary Walcoate did tell that she had in her coat by Jonathan's striking at her appearance.

The afflicted persons charge her with having hurt them many ways, and by tempting them to sign the Devil's book. At which charge she seemed to be very angry, and shaking her head at them, saying it was false. They are all greatly tormented (as I conceive) by the shaking of her head.

(Mr. Har.) Goody Bishop, what contract have you made with the devil?

(Bish.) I have made no contract with the devil. I never saw him in my life.

Ann Putnam saith that she calls the devil her God.

(Mr. Har.) What say you to all this that you are charged with? Can you not find in your heart to tell the truth?

(Bish.) I do tell the truth. I never hurt these persons in my life. I never saw them before.

(Mercy Lewes) Oh, Goody Bishop, did you not come to our house the last night, and did you not tell me that your master made you tell more than you were willing to tell.

(Mr. Har.) Tell us the truth in this matter. How come these persons to be thus tormented and to charge you with doing?

(Bish.) I am not come here to say I am a witch, to take away my life.

(Mr. H) Who is it that doth it, if you do not? They say it is your likeness that comes and torments them and tempts them to write in the book. What book is that you tempted them with?

(Bish.) I know nothing of it. I am innocent.

(Mr. Harth.) Do you not see how they are tormented? You are acting witchcraft before us. What do you say to this? Why have you not an heart to confess the truth?

(Bsh.) I am innocent. I know nothing of it. I am no witch. I know not what a witch is.

(Mr. H) Have you not given consent that some evil spirit should do this in your likeness?

(B) No, I am innocent of being a witch. I know no man, woman, or child here.

(Marshall Herrick) How came you into my bed chamber one morning, then, and asked me whether I had any curtains to sell?

She is by some of the afflicted persons charged with murder.

(Mr. Harth.) What do you say to these murders you are charged with?

(B) I am innocent. I know nothing of it.

Now she lifts up her eyes and they are greatly tormented again.

(Mr. Har.) What do you say to these things here, horrible acts of witchcraft?

(Bish.) I know nothing of it. I do not know whether [there] be any witches or no.

(Mr. Har.) Have you not heard that some have confessed?

(Bish.) No I did not.

Two men told her to her face that they had told her. Here she is taken in a plain lie.

Now she is going away, they are dreadfully afflicted. Five afflicted persons do charge this woman to be the very woman that hurrs them.

This is a true account of what I have taken down at her examination according to best understanding and observation. I have also in her examination taken notice that all her actions have great influence upon the afflicted persons and that have been tortured by her.

Ezekiel Cheever

Examination of Bridget Bishop as Recorded by Samuel Parris

The examination of Bridget Bishop at Salem Village, 19 April, 1692.

By John Hathorn and Jonath. Corwin, Esqrs.

As soon as she came near, all fell into fits.

Bridget Bishop, you are now brought before authority to give account of what witchcrafts you are conversant in.

I take all this people (turning her head and eyes about) to witness that I am clear.

Hath this woman hurt you? (Speaking to the afflicted.)

Eliz. Hubbard, Ann Putnam, Abigail Williams, and Mercy Lewes affirmed that she had hurt them.

You are here accused by 4 or 5 for hurting them. What do you say to it? I never saw these persons before, nor I never was in this place before.

Mary Walcott said that her brother Jonathan struck her appearance, and she saw that he had torn her coat in striking, and she heard it tear.

Upon some search in the court, a rent that seems to answer what was alleged was found.

They say you bewitched your first husband to death.

If it please your worship, I know nothing of it.

—She shook her head, and the afflicted were tortured.

—The like again upon the motion of her head.

Sam: Braybrook affirmed that she told him today that he had been accounted a witch these 10 years, but she was no witch. The Devil cannot hurt her.

I am no witch.

Why, if you have not wrote in the book, yet tell me how far you have gone?

Have you not to do with familiar spirits?

I have no familiarity with the devil.

How is it, then, that your appearance doth hurt these?

I am innocent.

Why you seem to act witchcraft before us by the motion of your body, which

seems to have influence upon the afflicted?

I know nothing of it. I am innocent to a witch. I know not what a witch is.

How do you know, then, that you are not a witch?

I do not know what you say.

How can you know you are no witch, and yet not know what a witch is?

I am clear. If I were any such person you should know it.

You may threaten, but you can do no more than you are permitted.

I am innocent of a witch.

What do you say of those murders you are charged with?

I hope I am not guilty of murder.

Then she turned up her eyes, and the eyes of the afflicted were turned up.

It may be you do not know that any have confessed today, who have been examined before you, that they are witches.

No. I know nothing of it.

John Hutchinson and John Lewis in open court affirmed that they had told her.

Why look you, you are taken now in a flat lie.

I did not hear them.

Note: Sam: Gold saith that after this examination he asked said Bridget Bishop if she were not troubled to see the afflicted persons so tormented. Said Bishop answered no, she was not troubled for them. Then he asked her whether she thought they were bewitched. She said she could not tell what to think about them. Will Good and John Buxton, Junr', were by, and he supposeth they heard her also.

Salem Village, April 19, 1662.

Mr. Sam'l Parris, being desired to take in writing the examination of Bridget Bishop, hath delivered it as aforesaid. And upon hearing the same and seeing what we did then see, together with the charge of the afflicted persons then present, we committed said Bridget Olliver.

John Hathorne

Indictment of Bridget Bishop

The jurors for our Sovereign Lord and Lady the King and Queen, present that Bridget Bishop, alias Oliver, the wife of Edward Bishop of Salem in the County of Essex, sawyer, the nineteenth day of April, [1692] . . . and divers other days and times as well before as after, certain detestable arts called witchcraft and sorceries, wickedly and feloniously hath used, practiced and exercised at and within the Township of Salem in the County of Essex aforesaid, in, upon, and against one Mercy Lewis of Salem Village in the county aforesaid, singlewoman, by which said wicked arts the said Mercy Lewis . . . was and is hurt, tortured, afflicted, pined, consumed, wasted and tormented, against the peace of our said Sovereign Lord and Lady the King and Queen, and against the form of the statute in that case made and provided.

Witnesses

Mercy Lewis	Nathaniel Ingersoll
Mr. Samuel Parris	Thomas Putnam, Junr
Mary Walcott	Ann Putnam, Junr
Elizabeth Hubbard	Abigail Williams

[Three additional indictments, similar in form, were returned against Bridget Bishop. They named as victims Abigail Williams, Elizabeth Hubbard, and Ann Putnam, Jr. The same group of witnesses appear in all four indictments, but in the second indictment the following witnesses are also listed: John Bligh and Rebekah his wife, Samuel Shattuck and Sarah his wife, William Bligh, William Stacey, and John Londer.]

Testimony of William Stacey

William Stacey of the Town of Salem, aged thirty six years or thereabouts, deposeth and saith that about fourteen years ago, this deponent was visited with the smallpox. Then Bridget Bishop did give him a visit, and withal professed a great love for this deponent in his affliction, more than ordinary, at which this deponent admired [i.e., wondered]. Some time after this deponent was well, the said Bishop got him to do some work for her, for which she gave him three pence, which seemed to this deponent as if it had been good money. But he had not gone not above 3 or 4 rods before he looked in his pocket where he put it, for it, but could not find any.

Sometime after, this deponent met the said Bishop in the street going to mill. She asking this deponent whether his father would grind her grist, he put it to the said Bishop why she asked. She answered, because folks counted her a witch. This deponent made answer, he did not question but that his father would grind it. But being gone about 6 rod from her, the said Bishop, with a small load in his cart, suddenly the off wheel plumped or sunk down into a hole upon plain ground, that this deponent was forced to get one to help him get the wheel out. Afterwards, this deponent went back to look for said hole where his wheel sunk in, but could not find any hole.

Sometime after, in the winter, about midnight, this deponent felt something between his lips, pressing hard against his teeth, and withal was very cold, in so much that it did awake him, so that he got up and sat upon his bed. He at the same time seeing the said Bridget Bishop sitting at the foot of the bed, being to his seeming (it was then as light as if it had been day) or one in the said Bishop's shape, she having then a black cape and a black hat, and a red coat with two eakes [?] of two colors. Then she, the said Bishop or her shape, clasped her coat close to her legs and hopped upon the bed and about the room, and then went out, and then it was dark.

Again, some time after, the said Bishop went to this deponent and asked him whether that which he had reported was true, that he had told to several. He answered that it was true, and that it was she, and bid her deny it if she dare. The said Bishop did not deny it, and went away very angry and said that this deponent did her more mischief than any other body. He asked why. She answered, because folks would believe him before anybody else.

Sometime after, the said Bishop threatened this deponent, and told him he was the occasion of bringing her out about the brass she stole. Some time after, this deponent in a dark night was going to the barn who was suddenly taken or hoisted from the ground and threw against a stone wall [and] after that taken up again and throwed down a bank at the end of his house.

Some time after, this deponent met the said Bishop by Isaac Stone's brick kiln. After he had passed by her, this deponent's horse stood still with a small load going up the hill, so that the horse striving to draw, all his gears and tacking flew in pieces, and the cart fell down.

Afterward, this deponent went to lift a bag of corn of about 2 bushels, but could not budge it with all his might.

This deponent hath met with several other of her pranks at several times, which would take up a great time to tell of.

This deponent doth verily believe that the said Bridget Bishop was instrumental to his daughter Precilla's death about two years ago. The child was a likely, thriving child, and suddenly screeched out and so continued in an unusual manner for about a fortnight, and so died in that lamentable manner.

Sworn, Salem, May the 30th, 1692,

before us

John Hathorne }
Jonathan Corwin } Assistants

June 2^d, 1692

Testimony of Samuel Gray

Samuel Gray of Salem, aged about 42 years, testifieth and saith that about fourteen years ago, he going to bed well one Lord's Day at night, and after he had been asleep some time, he awakened. And looking up, saw the house light as if a candle or candles were lighted in it, and the door locked and that little fire there was, raked up. He did then see a woman standing between the cradle in the room and the bedside, and seemed to look upon him. So he did rise up in his bed, and it vanished or disappeared. Then he went to the door and found it locked, and unlocking and opening the door, he went to the entry door and looked out, and then again did see the same woman he had a little before seen in the room, and in the same garb she was in before. Then he said to her, in the name of God, what do you come for? Then she vanished away.

So he locked the door again and went to bed. And between sleeping and waking, he felt something come to his mouth or lips, cold, and thereupon started and looked up, and again did see the same woman with something between both her hands holding before his mouth. Upon which she moved, and the child in the cradle gave a great screech out, as if it was greatly hurt, and she disappeared. And taking the child up, could not quiet it in some hours. From which time, the child, that before was a very likely, thriving child, did pine away and was never well, although it lived some months after, yet in a sad condition, and so died.

Some time after, within a week or less, he did see the same woman, in the same garb and clothes, that appeared to him as aforesaid. And, although he knew not her nor her name before, yet both by her countenance and garb, doth testify that it was the same woman that they now call Bridget Bishop, alias Oliver, of Salem.

Sworn, Salem, May 30th, 1692

before me

Samuel Gray

John Hathorne, Assistant

Testimony of Samuel and Sarah Shattuck

Sam^l Shattoch, aged 41 years, testifieth, that in the year 1680, Bridget Oliver, formerly wife to old Goodman Oliver, now wife to Edward Bishop, did come to my house pretending to buy an old lhd which, though I asked very little for, and for all her pretended want, she went away without it. And sundry other times she came in a smooth, flattering manner in very slightly errands, we have thought since on purpose to work mischief.

At, or very near, this time, our eldest child, who promised as much and understanding, both by countenance and actions, as any other children of his years, was taken in a very drooping condition. And as she came oftener to the house, he grew worse and worse. As he would be standing at the door (he) would fall out and bruise his face upon a great stepstone, as if he had been thrust out by an invisible hand, oftentimes falling and hitting his face against the sides of the house, bruising his face in a very miserable manner.

After this, the abovesaid Oliver brought me a pair of sleeves to dye, and after that, sundry pieces of face, some of which were so short that I could not judge them fit for any use. She paid me 2 d. for dyeing them, which 2 d. I gave to Henry Williams which lived with me. He told me (he) put it in a purse among some other money, which he locked up in a box, and that the purse and money was gone out of the box, he could not tell how, and never found it after.

Just after the dyeing of these things, this child (was) taken in a terrible fit, his mouth and eyes drawn aside, and gasped in such a manner as if he was upon the point of death. After this, he grew worse in his fits and, out of them, would be almost always crying. That for many months he would be crying, till nature's strength was spent, and then would fall asleep and then awake and fall to crying and moaning, that his very countenance did bespeak compassion. And at length we perceived his understanding decayed so that we feared (as it has since proved) that he would be quite bereft of his wits. Forever since, he has been stupefied and void of reason, his fits still following of him. After he had been in this kind of sickness some time, he has gone into the garden and has got upon a board of an inch thick which lay flat upon the ground, and we have called him. He would come to the edge of the board and hold out his hand and make as if he would come, but could not until he was helped off the board. Other times, when he has got upon a board as aforesaid, my wife has said she has offered him a cake and money to come to her, and he has held out his hand and reached after it, but could not come till he had been helped off the board. By which I judge some enchantment kept him on.

About 17 or 18 months after the first of this illness, there came a stranger to my house and pitied this child, and said, among other words, we are all born, some to one thing and some to another. I asked him, and what do you say this child is born to? He replied, he is born to be bewitched and is bewitched. I told him he did not know. He said he did know, and said to me, you have a neighbor that lives not far off that is a witch. I told him we had no neighbor but what was honest folk. He replied, you have a neighbor that is a witch and she has had a

falling out with your wife and said in her heart your wife is a proud woman, and she would bring down her pride in this child.

I paused in myself and did remember that my wife had told me that Goodwife Oliver had been at the house and spoke to her to bear Henry Williams that lived with us, and that she went away muttering and, she thought, threatening, but little before our child was taken ill. I told the aforesaid stranger that there was such a woman as he spoke of. He asked where she lived, for he would go and see her if he knew how. I gave him money and bid him ask her for a pot of cider. Away he went, and I sent my boy with him, who after a short time both returned, the boy's face bleeding. And I asked what was the matter. They told me the man knocked at the door, and Goody Oliver came to the door and asked the stranger what he would have. He told her a pot of cider. She said he should have none and bid him get out, and took up a spade and made him go out. She followed him and when she came without the porch she saw my boy and ran to him and scratched his face and made it bleed, saying to him, thou rogue, what dost thou bring this fellow here to plague me. Now this man did say, before he went, that he would fetch blood of her.

And ever since, this child hath been followed with grievous fits as if he would never recover more, his head and eyes drawn aside so as if they would never come to rights more, lying as if he were in a manner dead, falling anywhere, either into fire or water, if he be not constantly looked to, and generally in such an uneasy and restless frame, almost always running to and fro, acting so strange that I cannot judge otherwise but that he is bewitched, and by these circumstances do believe that the aforesaid Bridget Oliver, now called Bishop, is the cause of it. And it has been the judgment of doctors such as lived here, and ferrugriers[?], that he is under an evil hand of witchcraft.

Saml Shartuck and
Sarah Shartock

affirmeth upon the oath they have taken to the truth of what is abovewritten.

Attest, Stephen Sewall, Clerk

June 2d, 1692

Testimony of Richard Coman

Richard Coman, aged about 32 years, testifieth that sometime about eight years since, I then being in bed with my wife at Salem, one fifth day of the week, at night, either in the latter end of May [or] the beginning of June, and a light burning in our room, I, being awake, did then see Bridget Bishop of Salem, alias Oliver, come into the room we lay in, and two women more with her, which two women were strangers to me, I knew them not. But said Bishop came

in her red paragon bodice and the rest of her clothing that she then usually did wear. And I, knowing of her well, also the garb she did use to go in, did clearly and plainly know her.

And testifieth that as he locked the door of the house when he went to bed, so he found it afterwards, when he did rise. And quickly after, they appeared. The light was out, and the curtains at the foot of the bed opened where I did see her. And presently came and lay upon my breast or body, and so oppressed him that he could not speak nor stir, no not so much as to awake his wife, although he endeavored much so to do it.

The next night they all appeared again in like manner, and the said Bishop, alias Oliver, took hold of him by the throat and almost hauled him out of the bed. The Saturday night following, I having been that day telling of what I had seen and how I suffered the two nights before, my kinsman William Coman told me he would stay with me and see if they would come again, and advised me to lay my sword athwart my body. Quickly after we went to bed that said night, and both well awake and discoursing together, in came all the three women again. And said Bishop was the first, as she had been the other two nights. So I told him, William, here they be, all come again. And he was immediately struck speechless, and could not move hand or foot. And immediately they got hold of my sword and strived to take it from me, but I held so fast as they did not get it away.

And I had then liberty of speech, and called William, also my wife and Sarah Phillips that lay with my wife, who all told me afterwards they heard me but had not power to speak or stir afterwards. And the first that spoke was Sarah Phillips and said, in the name of God, Goodman Coman, what is the matter with you. So they all vanished away.

Sworn, Salem, June 2d, 1692. Before me

John Hathorne

Testimony of John Londer

John Londer of Salem, aged about thirty two years, testifieth and saith that about seven or eight years since, I then living with Mr. John Gedney in Salem and having had some controversy with Bridget Bishop, the wife of Edw. Bushop of Salem, sawyer, about her fowls that used to come into our orchard or garden, some little time after which, I going well to bed, about the dead of the night felt a great weight upon my breast, and awakening, looked, and it being bright moonlight, did clearly see said Bridget Bushop, or her likeness, sitting upon my stomach. And putting my arms off of the bed to free myself from that great oppression, she presently laid hold of my throat and almost choked me. And I had no strength or power in my hands to resist or help myself. And in this condition she held me to almost day.

Some time after this, my mistress, Susannah Gedney, was in our orchard, and I was then with her, and said Bridget Bishop being then in her orchard, which was next adjoining to ours, my mistress told said Bridget that I said or affirmed that she came one night and sat upon my breast, as aforesaid, which she denied and I affirmed to her face to be true and that I did plainly see her. Upon which discourse with her, she threatened me.

And some time after that, I being not very well stayed at home on a Lord's Day. And on the afternoon of said day, the doors being shut, I did see a black pig in the room coming towards me, so I went towards it to kick it, and it vanished away. Immediately after, I sat down in a narrow bar and did see a black thing jump into the window and came and stood just before my face, upon the bar. The body of it looked like a monkey, only the feet were like a cock's feet, with claws, and the face somewhat more like a man's than a monkey. And I ~~being~~ being greatly affrighted, not being able to speak or help myself, by reason of fear, I suppose. So the thing spoke to me and said, I am a messenger sent to you, for I understand you are troubled in mind, and if you will be ruled by me you shall want for nothing in this world. Upon which, I endeavored to clap my hands upon it, and said, you devil, I will kill you. But [I] could feel no substance, and it jumped out of the window again, and immediately came in by the porch, although the doors were shut, and said, you had better take my counsel. Whereupon, I struck at it with a stick, but struck the groundstill and broke the stick, but felt no substance. And that arm with which I struck was presently discriabled. Then it vanished away, and I opened the back door and went out. And going towards the house end, I espied said Bridget Bishop in her orchard, going towards her house. And seeing her, [I] had no power to set one foot forward, but returned in again. And going to shut the door, I again did see that, or the like creature, that I before did see, within doors, in such a posture as it seemed to be going to fly at me. Upon which I cried out, the whole armour of God to be between me and you. So it sprang back and flew over the apple tree, flinging the dust with its feet against my stomach. Upon which I was struck dumb, and so continued for about three day's time, and also shook many of the apples off from the tree which it flew over.

[Reverse] John Lowder appeared before us this 2 day of June, 1692, and on the oath that he had taken, did own this testimony to be the truth before us, the Jurors of Inquest.

Bridget Bishop, alias Oliver, on her trial denied that she knew this deponent, though the orchard of this deponent and the orchard of said Bishop joined and they often had differences for some years.

Testimony of John and William Blye

June 24, 1692. John Blye, Senior, aged about 57 years, and William Blye, aged about 15 years, both of Salem, testifieth and saith that being employed by

Bridgit Boshop, alias Oliver, of Salem, to help take down the cellar wall of the old house she formerly lived in, we, the said deponents, in holes in the said old wall belonging to the said cellar found several puppets made up of rags and hogs' bristles, with headless pins in them with the points ourward, and this was about seven years last passed.

Testimony of John Cooke

John Cooke, aged about 18 years, testifieth that about five or six years ago, one morning about sun rising, as I was in bed before I rose, I saw Goodwife Bishop, alias Oliver, stand in the chamber by the window. And she looked on me and grinned on me, and presently struck me on the sides of the head, which did very much hurt me. And then I saw her go out under the end window, at a little crevice about so big as I could thrust my hand into.

I saw her again the same day, which was the Sabbath Day, about noon, walk across the room. And having at the time an apple in my hand, it flew out of my hand into my mother's lap, who sat six or eight feet distance from me. And then she disappeared. And though my mother and several others were in the same room, yet they affirmed they saw her not.

John Cooke appeared before us, the Jurors of Inquest, and did own this to be his testimony on the oath that he hath taken, this 2 day of June, '92.

Testimony of John and Rebecca Bly

John Bly, Senior, and Rebecka Bly, his wife, of Salem, both testify and say that said Jno. Bly bought a sow of Edwd. Bishop of Salem, sawyer, and by agreement with said Bushop was to pay the price agreed upon unto Lt. Jeremiah Neale of Salem. And Bridgett, the wife of said Edward Bushop, because she could not have the money or value agreed for paid unto her, she came to the house of the deponents in Salem and quarrelled with them about it.

Soon after which, the sow having pigged, she was taken with strange fits, jumping up and knocking her head against the fence, and seemed blind and deaf, and would not eat, neither let her pigs suck, but foamed at the mouth, which Goody Hinderson hearing of, said she believed she was overlooked, and that they had their cattle ill in such a manner at the eastward when she lived there, and used to cure them by giving of them red ocre and milk, which we also gave the sow. Quickly after eating of which she grew better, and then for the space of near two hours together she, getting into the street, did set off jumping and running between the house of said deponents and said Bishops as if she were stark mad. And after that, was well again. And we did then apprehend or judge, and do still, that said Bishop had bewitched said sow.

Testimony of Susanna Sheldon

The deposition of Susannah Sheldon, aged about 18 years, who testified and saith that on the 2 June, 1692, I saw the apparition of Bridget Bishop, and immediately appeared two little children and said that they were Thomas Green's two twins, and told Bridget Bishop to her face that she had murdered them, in setting them into fits whereof they died.

Testimony of Susanna Sheldon Against Bridget Bishop and Others

On the fourth day, at night, came Goody Olliver, and Mrs. English, and Goodman Corie, and a black man with a high crowned hat, with books in their hands: Goody Olliver bade me touch her book. I would not. I did not know her name. She told me her name was Goody Olliver, and bid me touch her book now. I bid her tell me how long she had been a witch. She told me she had been a witch above twenty years. Then there came a stretched snake creeping over her shoulder, and crept into her bosom.

Mrs. English had a yellow bird in her bosom, and Goodman Corie had two turtles hanging to his coat, and he opened his bosom and put his turtles to his breast and gave them suck. Then Goodman Corie and Goody Olliver kneeled down before the black man and went to prayer. And then the black man told me Goody Olliver had been a witch twenty years and an half. Then they all set to biting me and so went away. The next day came Goodman Corie [and] Mrs. English, in the morning, and told me I should not eat no vittles. I took a spoon and put one spoonful in my mouth, and Goodman Corie gave me a blow on the ear and almost choked me. Then he laughed at me and told me I would eat when he told me I should not. Then he clenched my hands that they could not be opened for more than a quarter of an hour. Then came Phillip English and told me if I would touch his book he would not bite me, but if I refused then he did bite me, and went away.

The sixth day, at night, came Goody Olliver and Mrs. English, Goodman Corie and his wife. Goodwife Corie presented me a book. I refused it and asked her where she lived. She told me she lived in Boston prison. Then she pulled out her breast and the black man gave her a thing like a black pig. It had no hairs on it, and she put it to her breast and gave it suck, and when it had sucked one breast she put it to the other, and gave it suck there. Then she gave it to the black man. Then they went to prayer to the black man. Then Goody Olliver told me she had killed four women. Two of them were the Fosters' wives, and John Trask's wife, and did not name the other.

Then they did all bite me and went away. Then the next day came Goody Corie [whom] choked me and told me I would not eat when my dame bid me, but now I should eat none.

Testimony of the Reverend Mr. John Hale

John Hale of Beverly, aged about 56 years, testified and saith that about 5 or 6 years ago, Christian, the wife of John Trask (living in Salem bounds bordering on the aforesaid Beverly), being in full communion in our church, came to me to desire that Goodwife Bishop, her neighbor, wife of Edw. Bishop, Jun., might not be permitted to receive the Lord's Supper in our church till she had given her, the said Trask, satisfaction for some offences that were against her, viz., because the said Bishop did entertain people in her house at unseasonable hours in the night to keep drinking and playing at shuffleboard, whereby discord did arise in other families, and young people were in danger to be corrupted. And that the said Trask knew these things, and has once gone into the house and finding some at shuffleboard had taken the pieces they played with and thrown them into the fire, and had reproved the said Bishop for promoting such disorders, but received no satisfaction from her about it.

I gave said Christian Trask direction how to proceed farther in this matter, if it were clearly proved. And indeed, by the information I have had otherwise, I do fear that if a stop had not been put to those disorders, said Edward Bishop's house would have been a house of great profaneness and iniquity.

But as to Christian Trask, the next news I heard of her was that she was distracted. And asking her husband, Trask, when she was so taken, (he told) me she was taken distracted that night after she [came from] my house when she complained against Goody Bishop.

She continuing some time distracted, we sought the Lord by fasting and prayer, and the Lord was pleased to restore the said [Trask] to the use of her reason again. I was with her often in [her] distraction (and took it then to be only distraction, yet fearing sometimes some [thing] yet worse), but since I have seen the fits of those bewitched at Salem Village, I call to mind some of hers to be much like some of theirs.

The said Trask, when recovered, as I understood it, did manifest strong suspicion that she had been bewitched by the said Bishop's wife, and showed so much averseness from having any converse [with] her that I was then troubled at it, as hoping better of Goody Bishop at that time, for we have since [learned]. At length, said Christian Trask fell [?] again in a distracted fit on a Sabbath day, in the forenoon at the public meeting, to our public disturbance, and so continued, sometimes better, sometimes worse, unto her death, manifesting that she [learned] under temptation to kill herself or somebody else.

I enquired of Margt. King, who kept at or nigh the house, what she had observed of said Trask before this last distraction. She told [me] Goody Trask was much given to reading and search[ing] the prophecies of scripture.

The day before she made that disturbance in the meeting house, she came home and said she had been with Goody Bishop and that they two were now friends, or to that effect.

I was off praying with and counselling of Goody Trask before her death, and not many days before her end, being there, she seemed more rational, and

earnestly desired Edw. Bishop might be sent for that she might make friends with him. I asked her if she had wronged Edw. Bishop. She said, not that she knew of, unless it were in taking his shuffleboard pieces when people were at play with them and throwing them into the fire. And if she did evil in it, she was very sorry for it, and desired he would be friends with her or forgive her. This was the very day before she died, or a few days before.

Her distraction (or bewitching) continued about a month, and in those intervals wherein she was better, she earnestly desired prayers. And the Sabbath before she died, I received a note for prayers on her behalf, which her husband said was written by herself, and I judge was her own handwriting, being well acquainted with her hand.

As to the wounds she died of, I observed 3 deadly ones: a piece of her windpipe cut out, and another wound above that, through the windpipe and gullet to the vein they call jugular. So that I then judged and still do apprehend it impossible for her with so short a pair of scissors to mangle herself so, without some extraordinary work of the devil or witchcraft.

Signed, 20 May 1692, by John Hale

To several parts of this testimony can witness Majr. Gedney, Mr. Paris, Joseph Herrick, junr., and his wife, Thomas Raiment and his wife, John Traske, Marget King, Hannah, wife of Colonel Baker, litlegible Miles, and others.

As also, about the said Goody Bishop: Capt. William Raiment, his son Wm. Raiment, about creatures strangely dying. James Kettle, and the abovesaid Jos. Herrick and Tho. Rayment about sundry actions that have the appearance of witchcraft.

Death Warrant Against Bridget Bishop

To George Corwin, Gent^m, High Sheriff of the County of Essex.

Greeting.

Whereas Bridgett Bishop, alias Olliver, the wife of Edward Bishop of Salem in the County of Essex, sawyer, at a special court of Oyer and Terminer held at Salem the second day of this instant month of June for the Counties of Essex, Middlesex, and Suffolk, before William Stoughton, Esq^r, and his Associate Justices of the said court, was indicted and arraigned upon five several indictments for using, practicing, and exercising on the nineteenth day of April last past, and divers other days and time before and after, certain acts of witchcraft in and upon the bodies of Abigail Williams, Ann Putnam, Jun^r, Mercy Lewis, Mary Walcott, and Elizabeth Hubbard of Salem Village, single-women, whereby their bodies were hurt, afflicted, pined, consumed, wasted, and tormented contrary to the form of the statute in that case made and provided.

To which indictments the said Bridgett Bishop pleaded not guilty and for trial thereof put herself upon God and her country, whereupon she was found guilty of the felonies and witchcrafts whereof she stood indicted, and sentence of death accordingly passed against her as the law directs.

Execution whereof yet remains to be done.

These are therefore in the name of their Majesties William and Mary, now King and Queen over England &c. to will and command you that upon Friday next, being the tenth day of this instant month of June, between the hours of eight and twelve in the forenoon of the same day, you safely conduct the said Bridget Bishop, alias Oliver, from their Majesties' jail in Salem aforesaid to the place of execution, and there cause her to be hanged by the neck until she be dead, and of your doings herein make return to the clerk of the said court and pscept.

And hercof you are not to fail at your peril.

And this shall be your sufficient warrant. Given under my hand and seal at Boston the eighth day of June in the fourth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord and Lady William and Mary, now King and Queen over England &c.,
Anno Dom. 1692.

Wm. Stoughton

Execution of Bridget Bishop

June 10th, 1692

According to the within written precept, I have taken the body of the within named Bridgett Bishop out of their Majesties' jail in Salem and safely conveyed her to the place provided for her execution, and caused the said Bridgett to be hanged by the neck until she was dead and buried in the place. All which was according to the time within required. And so I make return by me.

George Corwin, Sheriff

Nehemiah Jewett to Stephen Sewall of the Committee Chosen by the General Court to Make Restitution (1711)

Mr. Sewall,

Sir, I thought good to return to you the names of several persons that were condemned and executed that not any person or relations appeared in the behalf of, for the taking off the attainder, or for other expenses. They I supposed were