

RECORDS

OF

SALEM WITCHCRAFT,

COPIED FROM THE

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.

VOL. I.



PRIVATELY PRINTED FOR
W. ELLIOT WOODWARD, ROXBURY, MASS.
MDCCCLXIV.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1864,
by W. Elliot Woodward,
in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States
for the District of Massachusetts.

TO HER,
ONE OF THE
"WITCHES OF NEW-ENGLAND,"
WHO BEWITCHED ME IN MY YOUTH,
AND WHO HAS SINCE BEEN
MY HEART'S SUNLIGHT,
AND THE ANGEL OF MY HOME;
TO OUR BOYS, HARLOW AND CLARENCE,
AND THE LITTLE CLARIBEL,
WHO HAVING GONE BEFORE WE MAY NOT SEE, BUT WHO,
WE HOPE, STILL LOOKS UPON US WITH LOVING EYES,
BY THE HUSBAND AND FATHER,
WHOSE NAME MAY NEVER APPEAR UPON ANOTHER
TITLE PAGE,
THESE VOLUMES ARE
AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED.



PREFACE.

SOME years ago while examining the documents and other mementoes of the "Salem Witchcraft," so carefully preserved in the Archives of Essex County, Massachusetts—on being informed that only detached portions had ever been printed and thus made accessible to the public—it occurred to me that no more acceptable contribution to the library of the American collector could be made than a volume which should embody these records, and, at the same time, place them beyond the contingency of destruction or loss.

The original intention was, first to procure copies of the records, and then in *that golden future of leisure* to which all men look, to offer them to the public with suitable comments and annotations; but the increasing and never-ending cares of an occupation which gives no respite in

the present and promises none in the future, warned me that if the public were ever to see these documents, through any effort of mine, I must forego this cherished purpose.

Accordingly, after long keeping, I placed the sheets in the hands of the printer as they came from the transcriber, and they are now presented without addition or diminution, *verbatim et literatim*, copies of every one of the original papers at present existing; and, now, as I look at the ponderous volumes, I am rather happy than otherwise that I have not added to them by attempting to do what each reader can, perhaps, better do for himself.

To Hon. Ashel Huntington, Clerk of the Courts, and to the Commissioners of Essex County, I desire here to tender my thanks for the kindness and liberality with which they placed at my disposal every facility for the execution of my purpose. Such men receive no honor from office—they reflect honor on the positions which they hold.

How well Mr. Munfell has done his work is plainly to be seen, so far as general appearance is concerned; but the painstaking care with which the ancient orthography and punctuation, or rather the lack of this last have been followed, can only

be appreciated by those who have compared the volumes with the original records.

With no more of explanation or apology the volumes are submitted with the hope that to at least a few students of American History, they will prove not altogether unacceptable.

W.

Mt. Pleasant,
Roxbury, Mass., Sept. 12, 1864.



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Putnam on the 19th April. 1692 being the day of her examination, but as soon as she began to confesse the left of affecting of us. and I belev in my heart y^e Abigail Hobbs was a witch and that she has often affected both me and the abouelaid perions by acts of witchcraft.

Eliz Hubbard owned the truth of ye abouelaid written evidence To y^e Jury of Inquest vpon oath Sept. 10 1692.

Warrant vs. Sarah Wilds & al.

Salem Aprill. the 21th. 1692.

There Being Complaint this day made (before vs) by Thomas Putnam and John Buxton of Salem Village Yeomen, in behalfe of their Majesties, for themselves and also for severall of their neighbours Against William Hobs husbandman Deliv^e his wife, Nehemiah Abot junior weaver, Mary Eafly. the wife of Isaac Eafley and Sarah Wilds the wife of John Wilds. all of the Towne of Topsfield or Ipswich and Edward Bithop husbandman and Sarah his wife of Salem Village and Mary Black A negro of Leut Nath Putnams of Salem Village also. And Mary English the wife of Philip English Merchant in Salem for high Suspition of Sundry acts of witchcraft done or Committed by them Lately vpon the Bodys of Anna putnam and Marcy Lewis belonging to the family of y^e abouelaid Thomas Putnam complain^t and Mary Walcot y^e daughter of Capt Jonathⁿ Walcot of sd Salem Village and others, whereby great hurt and damage hath becom

done to ye bodys of laid perions abouenamed therefore craued Justice.

You are therefore in their Majesties names here by Com-required to Apprehend and bring before vs William Hobs husbandman and his wife Nehemiah Abot Jun^r weaver Mary Eafly the wife of Isaac Eafly and all the rest abouenamed tomorrow aboute ten of the clock in the forenoon at the house of Leut Nath^l Ingerfalls in Salem Village in order to their examination Relating to the premises abouelaid and here of you are not to faile.

Dated Salem. April 21th 1692.

JOHN HATHORNE } Affits.
JONATHAN CORWIN }

To George Herrich Marhall of Essex: and any or all of y^e Constables in Salem or Topsfield or any other Towne.

Examination of Sarah Wilds.

The examination of Sarah Wilds at a Court held at Salem Village 1692.

by the wop = John Hathorn & Jonathan Corwin.

The Sufferers were feized with you

the accused came into the Court

Hath this woman hurt you?

Oh she is vpon the beam.

Goody Bibber that never saw her before says

she saw her now vpon the beam & then

said Bibber fell into a fit.

What say you to this are you guilty or not?

I am not guilty. Sir.

Is this y^e woman speaking to ye afflicted
Thay all, or most, said yes, & then fell into fits.
What do you say, are you guilty
I thank God. I am free.

Hear is a clear evidence that *you have*
been not only a Tormenter but that
you have caused one to *signe the*
book, the night before last. *What*
you say to this?

I ever saw the book in my life and *I never*
saw these persons before.
Some of the afflicted fell into fits
Do you, deny this thing that is
All fell into fits & confirmed
that the accused hurt them
Did you never consent that *these should*
be hurt?

never in my life.
She was charged by some *with*
with hurting John Hemcks mother
The accused denied it.
Capt How gave in a relation and
confirmation of the charge before made.
She was ordered to be taken away &
they all cryed out she was upon the
Beam & fell into fits.

Examination of W^m Hobbs.

The Examination of
William Hobbs at the Same Court.
Hath this man hurt you?

Several answered yes.
Goody Bibber said no.
What say you, are you guilty or not?
I can speak in the presence of God safely as
I may look to give account another day
that I am as clear as a new born babe.

Clear of what?
Of witchcraft
Have you never hurt theie?

No.
Have you not consented that they should
be hurt?

Abigail Williams said he was going to Mercy
Lewes and quickly after said Lewes was seized with
a fit.

Then said Abigail cryed he is coming to Mary
Walcot and said Mary presently fell into a fit also.

How can you be clear when the children
saw something come from you & afflict
these persons?

Then they fell into fits & halloo'd
Justice red greatly.

er wife before you God wa
open her mouth and she ha
fession and you seem to
before us.

I am clear of any witch.
What do you call it, an over look *ing of*
thern? you look upon them & they are
hurt none of them.
Then they all fell into greet fits again

When were you at any publick Religious meeting
Not a pretty while

Why so?

Because I was not well: I had a diftemper.

that none knows.

Can you act witchcraft here & by casting your
eyes turn folks into fits.

You may judge your pleasure my lovl is clear.

Do you not see you hurt them by your look

No. I do not know it.

You did not answer to that question

dont you overlook them?

No. I dont overlook them

What do you call that way of looking vpon

perions and striking them downe?

You may judge your pleasure.

Well but what do you call it?

It was none of I.

Who was it then?

I cannot tell who they are.

Why they say they see you going to hurt perions

& immediately hurt perions.

Abig: Williams said he is going to hurt Mercy

Leweln and immediately id Mercy fell into a fit and

divers others

Can you now deny it?

I can deny it to my dying day.

What is the reason when you go away when *there*

is any reading of the Scripture in your *family*

He denyed it.

Nathl Ingerfol & Tho Haynes *testified*

that this Hobbs daughter had told them *so*

As soon as your daughter Abigail & aft
to day your wife confessed they left torturing
& so would you if you would confes: can you
still deny that you are guilty?

I am not guilty.

If you put away Gods ordinances, no wonder
that the Devil prevails with you to keep his coun-
sell. Have you never had any apparition?

No. Sir.

Did you never pray to the Devil that your
daughter might confes no more?

No Sir.

Who do your worship?

I hope I worship God only.

Where?

In my heart

But God requires outward worship

not worship him in publick nor

worship him in my heart

worship him in your family

amily speak the truth

not given the Devil advant

you thereby?

He was silent a considerable space

then said yes

Have you not known a good while *how*

that your daughter was a witch

No. Sir.

Do you think she is a witch now

I do not know

Well if you desire mercy from God own

the truth

four yers agoe there was som likly hode of my haueing one of Goody Simonds dafter and as the maid towld me hur mother and father were uerley willing I thould haue but after some time I had a hint that Goodey Simonds had formerly said she beleued my mother had done her wrong and I went to hare and toch Marke how that is now dead who dyed at the Eastward: along with me and before both of us she denied that euer she had eney grounds to think any halme of my mother only from what Goodey Redington had saide and afterwards I left the houle and went no more and euer since she bene uerley angriey with me and now she will reward mee.

Ephraim Willdes.

Eph^m Wilds for Sarah Wilds.

This may inform this Honored Court that I Ephraim Willdes being constabell for topsfield this yere and the Marhall of Sallem coming to fetch away my mother he then shered me a warrant from authority directed to the constabel of topsfeld wherein was William Hobbs and Deliverence his wife with many others and the Marhall did then require me forthwith to gow and aprehend. the bodyes of William hobs and his wife which accordingly I did and I have had fereous thoughts many times fence whether my fezing of them might not be some cafe of here thus a culing my mother thereby in some melure to be revenged of me the

woman did shew a uerley bad spirit when I lezed: on might allmoste revenge in har face she looked so malisholly on mee as fore my mother I neuer saw any harm by har upon aniey such acout neither in word nor action as she is now a cufed for she hath awlways instructed me well in the chritian religion and the wais of God euer since I was abell to take instructions and so I leve at all to this honred Cort to confider of it.

Ephraim Willdes.

Warrant v. Phil. English and al.

To The Marhall of the County of Essex or his Lawfull Deputy.

You are in theire Majesties names hereby required to Apprehend and bring before us Phillip English of Salem, merchant, Sarah Murrell of Beverly and Dorcas Hoare of Beuerly widow all in the County of Essex,, on Munday next beign the second day of the month of May next ensuing ye date here of, aboute Eleven of ye clock in ye forenoon at the houle of L^t Nathaniell Ingerfalls in Salem Village in order to theire Examination Relateing to high Suspition of Sundry acts of witchcraft donne or Committed by them upon ye Bodys of Mary Walcott Marcy Lewis Abigail Williams Ann Putnam and Elizabeth Hubbert and Susannah Sheldon: viz: vpon some or all of them belonging to Salem village or farmes whereby great hurt and damage hath benne donne to ye Bodys of id perions according to complaint of Capt Jonathan Walcott and Serjent Thomas

