

Witch Trial of Sarah Averill Wildes (1634-1692)(2)(William Averill 1)

Part 2.

INDICTMENT V. SARAH WILDS.

Anno Regis et Reginae Will^m et Mariae nunc Angliae & Quarto

Essex ss. The Juro^{rs} for our Sovereigne Lord and Lady the King and Queen Prsents That Sarah Willes wife of John Willes of Topsfield Husbandman the Twenty Second day of Aprill in the forth Year of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lord and Lady William and Mary by the Grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King and Queen defenders of the Faith &° and divers other dayes and times as well before as after, certaine detestable Arts called Witchcrafts and Sorceries wickedly and Felloniously hath Used Practised and Exercised at and within the Towneship of Salem in the County of Essex aforesaid in upon and against one Marcy Lewis of Salem Villiage Single Woman by which said wicked acts the said Mercey Lewis the Twenty Second Day of Aprill aforesaid in the forth Year aboues^d and divers other dayes and times as well before and after, was and is Tortured Afflicted Pined Consumed wasted & Tormented and also for Sundery orther Acts of witchcraft by said Sarah Willes committed and done before and since that time ag^t the Peace of our Sovereigne Lord & Lady the King and Queen and ag^t the form of the statute in that case made and Provided.

Witnesses

Marcy Lewis

Ann Putman

Mary Wolcott.

[Reverse] No (1)

Essex Institute MSS.

ANN PUTNAM V. SARAH WILDS.

The Deposition of Ann Putnam Jun^r who testifieth and saith I have ben afflicted ever sence the begining of march with a woman that tould me hir name was Willds and that she came from Topsfeild but on the 22 April 1692 Sarah Willds did most grievously torment me dureing the time of hir examination and then I saw that Sarah Willds was that very woman that tould me hir name was willds and also on the day of hir examination I saw Sarah willds or hir Appeince most grievously tortor and afflict Mary Walcott, Mircy lewes and Abigail willia[ms] and seuerall times sence sarah Willds or hirs Apperance has most grievously tortured and

afflicted me with variety of tortures as by pricking and pinching me and almost choaking me to death.

Anne Putnam Jun^r declared: y^e above written: evidence: to be truth: before y^e Jury of inquest: June: 30th 1692 upon oath.

[Reverse] Ann Putman.

Essex Institute MSS.

MARY WALCOTT V. SARAH WILDS.

The Deposition of Mary Walcott aged about 17 years who testifieth and saith that in the begining of Aprill 1692 there

came to me a woman which I did not know and she did most grievously torment me by pricking and pinching me and she tould me that hir ||name|| was wilds and that she liued at Topseil[d] and she continewed hurting me most grievously by times tell the day of hir examination which was the 22 day of Aprill 1692: and then I saw that sarah wildes was that very same woman that tould me hir name was wildes and sarah wilds did most grievously torment me dureing the time of hir examination for when ever she did but look upon me she would strick me down or almost choak me to death: also on the day of hir Examination I saw sarah Wilds or hir Apperance most grievously torment and afflict mercy lewe[s] Abigaill Williams and Ann Putnam Jun^r. by stricking them down and almst Choaking them to death also severall times sence sarah willds has most grievously tormented me with variety of tortor and I verily beleive she is a most dreadful witch

Jurat in Curia

Mary Walcot declared to y^e Jury of inquest: that y^e above written evidence is y^e truth: upon oath: June 30th 1692

[Reverse] Mary Wolcot.

Essex Institute MSS.

NATHANIEL INGERSOLL V. SARAH WILDS.

The Deposition of Nathaniell Ingersoll agged about 58 years and Thomas Putnam aged about 40 years who testifieth and saith that wee haueing been conuersant with seuerall of the afflicted parsons as namely Mary Walcott Mercy lewes Abigaill Williams and Ann Putnam jr we have often seen them afflicted and hard them say that one gooddy wilds of Topsfeild did tortor them: but on the 22 April 1692 being the day of the Examination of Sarah wilds of Topsfeild: the affore mentioned parsons were most grievously tortured dureing the time of hir Examination for if she did but look on them she would strick them down or allmost choak: them and if she did clinch hir hands or hold hir head asid the afflicted Parsons aboue mentioned ware i[n] like maner tortured: and seuerall times senec wee have seen th[e] afore mentioned parsons tortured and have seen the mark in ther flesh which they said sarah wilds did make by tortoring them and wee beleue that sarah Wilds the Prisoner att the barr has seuerall times Afflicted and tormented the afore named parsons by acts of wicthcraft.

Jurat in Curia

[Reverse] Na: Ing^soll

Tho. Putman.

Essex Institute MSS.

JOHN WILDS FOR SARAH WILDS.

John Wiells testifieth that he did hear y^t Mary the wife of Jno Reddington did raise a report y^t my wife had bewitched her and I went to y^e saide Jno Reddington and told him I would arest him for his wife: defaming of my wife but y^e said Reddinton desired me not to do it for it would but waste his estate and y^t his wife would a done wth it in tyme and y^t he knew nothing she had against mye wife—after this I got

(Cont'd Page 4)

my brother Averill to goe to y^e said Sarah Reddinton and my sd Bro^r told me y^t he told y^e said Sarah Reddington y^t if she had anything agst my wife y^t he would be a means and would help her to bring my wife out: and y^t y^e said Sarah Reddinton replied y^t she knew no harm mye wife had done her: y^t

EPH^m WILDS FOR SARAH WILDS.

The testimony of Ephraim Wildes aged about 27 or thereabouts testifieth and saith that about fouer 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 ueriy willing I should have hare but after some time I had a hint that Goodeey 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 on-ly from what Goodiey Redington had saide and afterwards I left the house and went no more and euer since she bene ueriy angriey with me and now she will reward mee.

Ephraim Wildes.

EPH^m WILDS FOR SARAH WILDS.

This may inform this Honored Court that I Ephraim Wildes being constabell for topsfield this yere and the Marshall of Sallem coming to fetch away my mother he then shered me a warrant from authority directed to the constabel of topsfelld wherein was William Hobbs and Deliverence, his wife with many others and the Marshall did then require me forthwith to gow and aprehend. the bodyes of William hobs and his wife which acordingly I did and I have had sereous thoughts many times sence whether my sezing of them might not be some case of here thus a cusing my mother thereby in some mesure to be revenged of me the woman did show a ueriy bad spirit when I seized: on might allmost se revenge in har face she looked so malishosly 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 cused for she hath awlwais instructed me well in the christian religion and the wais of God ever since I was abell to take instructions and so I leve at all to this honred Cort to consider of it.

Ephraim Wildes.

ELIZABETH SYMONDS V. SARAH WILDS.

The Depotion of Elizabeth Symons aged about 50 years.

Whoe testifieth and saith that about twelue ||or thirteene|| yeares sence their ||abouts|| being in Company with my Mother Androus, after a Lecter in Topsfeild my mother and I ware agoeing to giue Goodwife Redington a Visiat and as wee went wee ouer tooke Goodwife Wilds and my Mother tell into discourse about a syee that my Brother John and Joseph Androus had borede of Goodman Wilds for one day: and my mother tould Goodwife Wilds how John and Joseph Androus ware trobled about gitting home a Load of hay then good wife Wilds replied and said all that might bee and I know nothing of it. then my mother replied and said to her whie did y^e threaten them and tould them thay had better a Let it aLone then she did threaten my mother and tould her that she would make her proue it and then my mother Coaled to mee and bid mee bare Witnes Elizabeth what she saith, and then she did Looke bake apon mee and Emedatly I did fale into such a trembling condition that I was as if all my joynts did knoke together so that I could hardly goe a-

Long, and the night foling ||after|| I was a bed I did see something stand betweene y^e Wale and I. I did see something stand theire and I did Looke apon it a considradabell time so Long that I was afraid to Ly one that sid of y^e bed and asked my husban to Let mee Ly one y^e other sid of y^e bed and he did, and then I did feele it come apon my feete as if it had bin a Cat and crope up t[o] my breast and Lay apon mee and then I could not moue nether h [torn] nor Foot nether could I speeake a word I did strue to cale to m[y] husban but I could not speake and so I Lay all night, and in y^e moring I could speeake and then I tould ||my husban|| thay talke of y^e old w [torn] but I thinke she has ride mee all this night and then I tould [torn hus] ban ho[w] it had bin with mee all y^e night. we had a Lec [torn] once a month in Topsfeild and y^e next Lectter day after y^e first above named, as I was sitting in my seate Goodwife Wilds Coming by y^e end of y^e seat I sat in I was Emedatly taken with such a pay[n] in my bake that I was not abell to bare it and fell doune in ye seea[t] and did not know wheaire I was and some pepall tooke me up an[d] caried me out of y^e meeting house but I did not know nothing of i [t] tell afterwards when I came to my selfe I did wonder how I come theire up to M^r Hubbard house and when I did come to my selfe an[d] a great many pepall come about mee to aske mee what was y^e matter with mee

Goodwife Wilds come and stood at y^e End of y^e tabell and I replied and said theire she is and my mother bid mee goe and scra [torn] her but I could not sture, and so I haue con-
tined at times Ever senc som times with paynes in one plase and som times in another plase soe ||as|| I haue not bin abell to doe any thing in my fameliey at seur [torn] times I haue bin at y^e Docters but thay cannot give mee any thing that doe mee any good this is in short of what I can say being heire in y^e heart of what I can speeake too. I am veriy Willing to Come and ateste to all aboue wrighteen and if y^e Lord giue mee streanke but at present I am not abell to come.

Jurat in Curia.

[Reverse] Elizabeth Symons
ag^t Sarah Wiles
to be Sumoned
Abraham Reddington sen.
Joseph Bixbey Jun^r

Essex Institute MSS.

JOHN GOULD V. SARAH WILDS.

The Depotion of John Gould aged about 56 yeares or theire about. Testifieth and saith that some time sence whether it be fivteen or sixteen yeares agoe I am not serting but it take it to be theire abouts sister Mary Redington tould mee as she was Coming from Salam with her Brother Redington that Goodwife Wilds did strue two or three times to pul her doune of her horse one time she did strue to pul her doune in a brooke but she did set her selfe with all her strenke she could and did git out of y^e brook and soone after she was got out of y^e brooke she said that Goodwife Wilds did pul her doune bakwords of her horse and held her doune so as she Could not helpe her selfe tell her Brother Redington and sarg^t. Edmon Townes did come and helper, and my sister did desier mee to come and wright what she could say how Goodwife Wilds did afflicte her for she would Leafe it in wrighting so as it might be seene when she was dead and I did goe doune to wright it once or twice but when I was redy to wright it sister was taken so as she could not declare any thing. also sister Mary tould mee that when Johanthan Wilds

(TO BE CONTINUED)