

Trial of Bridge Bishop (1692)

Bridget Bishop was the first woman to be executed for witchcraft during the Salem witch trials. Although her trial had the semblance of a traditional legal system with witnesses and judges, the nature of the evidence—spectral visions and courtroom performances by witnesses—and the circular, damning questioning from the judges reveal the fragility of colonial governmental structures, especially during the uncertain years of England's Glorious Revolution. The transcripts also reveal the vulnerability and lack of freedom for widows such as Bishop in the strictly patriarchal towns of Puritan New England.

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Bridget Bishop
Executed, June 10, 1692

(Examination of Bridget Bishop, First Version)

The Examination of Bridget Byshop at Salem Village 19. Apr. 1692 By John Hawthorn & Jonath: Corwin Esq's

As soon as she came near all fell into fits Bridget Byshop, You are now brought before Authority to Give acco. of what witchcrafts you are conversant in

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

Hath this woman hurt you speaking to the afflicted.

Eliz: Hubbard Ann Putman, Abigail Williams & Mercy Lewes affirmed 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 Walcot said that her brother Jonathan stroke her appearance & she saw that he had tore her coat in striking, & she heard it tare.

Upon some search in the Court, a rent that seems to answeare what was alledged was found.

They say you bewicht your first husband to death.

If it please your worship I know nothing of it.

She shake her head & the afflicted were tortured.

The like again upon the motion of her head.

Sam: Braybrook affirmed that she told him to day that she 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, & 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, the eyes of the afflicted were turned up

It may be you do not know, that any have confessed to day, who have been examined before you, that they are Witches.

No. I know nothing of it.

John Hutchinson & John Lewis in open Court affirmed that they had told her

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

I did not hear them.

Note Sam Gold saith that after this examination he askt s'd Bridget Byshop if she were not troubled to see the afflicted persons so tormented, said Byshop answered no, she was not Troubled for them: Then he ask't her whither she thought they were bewitcht, she said she could not tell what to think about them. Will Good, & John Buxton jun'r was by, & he supposeth they heard her also.

Salem Village Aprill the.19'th 1692 mr Sam'l parris being desired to take into wrighting the Examination of Bridget Bishop, hath delivered it as aforesaid. And upon hearing the same, and seeing what wee did then see, together with the Charge of the afflicted persons then present: Wee Committed said Bridget Olliver -

**John Hathorne*

(Examination of Bridget Bishop, Second Version)

The examination of Bridget Bishop before the Worshipfull John Harthon and Jonathan Curren esq'rs

Bridget Bishop being now coming in to be examined relating to her accusation of Suspicion of sundry acts of witchcrafts the afflicted persons are now dreadfully afflicted by her as they doe say.

(Mr Harthon) Bishop what doe you say you here stand charged with sundry acts of witchcraft by you done or committed upon the bodyes of mercy Lews and An Putnam and others.

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

(Mr Har) Looke upon this woman and see if this be the woman that you have seen hurting you. Mercy Lewes and An Putnam and others doe [doe] now charge her to her face with hurting of them.

Mr Harthon What doe 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 Harth) is not your coate cut

(Bish) answers no but her garment being Looked upon they find it cut or toren two wayes Jonathan walcoate saith that the sword that he strucke at goode Bishop with was not naked but was within the scabbord so that the rent may very probablie be the very same that mary walcoate did tell that she had in her coate by Jonathans stricking at her apperance

The afflicted persons charge her, with having hurt them many wayes and by tempting them to

sine to the devils Booke at which charge she seemed to be very angrie 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) good Bishop what contract have you made with the devill

(Bish) I have made no contract with the devill I never saw him in my life. An Putnam sayeth that shee calls the devill 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 doe tell the truth I never hurt these persons in my life I never saw them before.

(Mercy Lewes) oh goode 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 comes 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 doe not they say it is your likenes that comes and torments them and tempts them to write in the booke what Booke is that you tempt them with.

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

(Mr Harth) doe you not see how they are tormented you are acting witchcraft before us what doe you say to this why have you not an heart to confese the truth

(Bish) 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 evill spirit should doe this in your likenes.

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

(Marshall Herrik) how came you into my bed chamber one morning then and asked me whether I had any curtains to sell shee is by some of the afflicted persons charged with murder

(Mr Harth) what doe you say to these murders you are charged with

(B) I am innocent I know nothing of it

now shee lifts up her eyes and they are greatly tormented again

(Mr Har) what doe you say to these things here horrible acts of witch craft.

(Bish) I know nothing of it I doe not know whither be any witches or no

(Mr Har) no 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 shee is taken in a plain lie now shee is going away they are dreadfully afflicted 5 afflicted persons doe charge this woman to be the very woman that hurts 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.*

(Reverse) Examination ag't Bishop

(Indictment v. Bridget Bishop, No. 1)

Anno Regni Regis et Reginae W[illm et] Mariae nunc Angliae &c Quarto:

Essex Ss

The Jurors for our Sovereigne Lord & lady the King & Queen p'esents that Bridgett Bishop als Olliver the wife of Edward Bishop of Salem in the County of Essex Sawyer the Nyneteenth Day of April in the fourth Year of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lord and Lady William and Mary by the Grace of God of England Scotland France & Ireland King & Queen Deffenders of the faith &c and Divers other Dayes & times awell before as after. certaine Detestable Arts called Witchcraft & Sorceries.wickedly.and feloniously hath used Practised & Exercised, at and within the Towneship of Salem in the County of Essex afores'd in upon.and ag't one: Mercy Lewis of Salem Village in the County afors'd singlewoman by which said wicked Arts the said Mercy Lewis -- the s'd Nyneteenth Day of April in the fourth Year aboves'd and divers other Dayes and times as well before as after, was & is hurt Tortured Afflicted Pined, Consumed, wasted: & tormented ag't the Peace of our said Sovereigne Lord And Lady the King & Queen and ag't the forme of the Statute in that Case made & provided

Wittnesses

Mercy Lewis

Nathan'll Ingersoll

Mr Sam'll paris

Thomas puttnam Jun'r

Mary Walcott

Ann puttnam Jun'r

Elizabeth Hubbard

Abigal Williams

(Reverse) Billa vera

*John Rucke foreman in the name of the Rest of the Grand Jurie

(Reverse) Bills ag't Bishop No (1)

(Indictment v. Bridget Bishop, No. 2)

Anno Regni Regis et Reginae Willim et Mariae nunc Angliae &c Quarto

Essex Ss

The Jurors for our Sovereigne Lord & Lady the King & Queen pr'sent that Bridgett Bishop alsOlliver the wife of Edward Bishop of Salem in the County of Essex Sawyer -- the Nyneteenth day of April in the fourth year of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lord & Lady William & Mary by the Grace of God of England Scotland France & Ireland King & Queen Defend'rs of the faith &c and Divers other dayes & times as well before as after, certaine Detestable Arts Called Witchcrafts & Sorceries. wickedly and feloniously hath used Practised & Exercised at and within the Township of Salem in the County of Essex afores'd in upon and ag't one Abigail Williams of Salem Village in the County of Essex afores'd singlewoman.. by which said wicked Arts the said Abigail Williams the Nyneteenth Day of April afores'd in the fourth Year aboves'd and divers other Dayes and times as well before as after, was, and is tortured Afflicted Pined Consumed wasted & tormented ag't the Peace of our Said Sovereigne Lord & Lady the King & Queen and ag't the forme of the Statute in that Case made and Provided

Wittnesses

Abigail Williams

Mr Sam'll paris sworne

Nathan'll Ingersoll sworne

Thomas puttnam sworne

Mercy Lewis

Ann Puttnam Jun'r Sworne

Mary Walcott sworne

Elizabeth Hubbard sworne

Jno Bligh & Rebecka

his wife sworn

Samuel Shattock and Sarah his

wife sworne

William Bligh sworne

William Stacey sworne

John Loader sworne

(Reverse) Billa vera *John Ruck foreman in the name of the Rest

(Indictment v. Bridget Bishop, No. 3)

Anno Regni Regis et Reginae Willim et Mariae nunc Angliae &c Quarto

Essex Ss

The Jurors for our Sovereigne Lord & Lady the King & Queen pr'sent that Bridgett Bishop als Olliver the wife of Edward Bishop of Salem in the County of Essex Sawyer -- the Nyneteenth Day of April -- in the fourth year of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lord & Lady William & Mary by the Grace of God of England Scotland France & Ireland King and Queen Defend'rs of the faith &c and Divers other Dayes & times as well before as after, certaine Detestable Arts, called Witchcraft & Sorceries, Wickedly and feloniously hath used Practised & Exercised, at and within the Township of Salem in the County of Essex afores'd in an upon and ag't one Elizabeth Hubbard of Salem Village in the County afores'd single-woman -- by which said wicked arts the said Elizabeth Hubbard the s'd Nyneteenth Day of April -- in the fourth year aboves'd and divers other dayes, and times as well before as after was & is hurt tortured Afflicted Pine Consumed, wasted, and tormented ag't the Peace of our s'd Sovereigne Lord & Lady the King and Queen, and ag't the forme of the Statute in that Case made and Provided.

Wittnesses

Elizabeth Hubbard

Mercy Lewis

Mr Sam'll paris

Nathan'll Ingersoll

Thomas puttnam

Ann puttnam Jun'r

Mary Walcott

Abigail Williams,

(Reverse) Billa vera *John Rucke formane in the name of the Rest

(Indictment v. Bridget Bishop, No. 4)

Anno Regni Regis et Reginae Willim et Mariae nunc Angliae &c Quarto:

Essex Ss

The Jurors for our Sovereigne Lord & Lady the King & Queen pr'sent that Bridgett Bishop als Olliver the wife of Edward Bishop of Salem in the County of Essex Sawyer the Nyneteenth Day of April -- in the fourth year of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lord & Lady William & Mary By the Grace of God of England Scotland France & Ireland King & Queen Defend'rs of the faith &c and divers other Dayes & times as well before as after. certaine Detestable Artes called Witchcraft & Sorceries, Wickedly and felloniously hath used Practised & Excercised at and within the Township of Salem, afores'd in upon ag't one Ann puttnam of Salem Village in the County afores'd singlewoman by which said wicked arts the said Ann puttnam the s'd Nyneteenth Day of April in the fourth Year aboves'd and divers other Dayes & times as well before as after was & is hurt, tortured. Afflicted Pined Consumed wasted & Tormented ag't the Peace of our said Sovereigne Lord & Lady the King and Queen and against the forme of the Statute in that Case made & Provided

Wittnesses

Ann Puttnam Jun'r

Mr Sam'll paris

Nathan'll Ingersoll

Thomas puttnam

Mercy Lewis

Mary Walcott

Abigail Williams

Elizabeth Hubbard

(Reverse) Billa vera *John Rucke foreman in the name of the Rest

(Reverse) Bills ag't Brid't Bishop alias Olliver Found by the Grand Inquest Folio 966

(Deliverance Hobbs v. Bridget Bishop et al.)

Deliverance-Hobbs . Exam'ed May. 3. 1692 . Salem prison

Q. w't have you done since whereby there is further trouble in your appearance?

An. nothing at all.

Q. but have you nott since bin tempted?

An. yes S'r, but I have nott done itt, nor will nott doe itt

Q. here is a great change since we last spake to you, for now you Afflict & torment againe; now tell us the truth whoe tempted you to sighne againe?

An. itt was Goody Olliver; shee would have mee to sett my hand to the book, butt I would nott neither have I. neither did consent to hurt them againe.

Q. was that true that Goody Wilds appeared to you & tempted you?

An. yes, that was true.

Q. have you been tempted since?

An. yes, about fryday or Saturday night last

Q. did they bid you that you should nott tell?

An. yes they tould me soe.

Q. but how farr did thay draw you or tempt you, & how farr did you yeild to the temptation? but

doe not you acknowledge that [that] was true that you tould us formerly?

An. Yes.

Q. and you did sighne then att the first, did you Nott?

An. Yes, I did itt is true.

Q. did you promiss then to deny att last what you said before?

An.yes, I did & itt was Goody Oliver Alias Bishop that tempted me to deny all that I had confessed before.

Q. doe you nott know the man w'th the Wenne?

An.noe I doe nott know whoe itt is; all that I confessed before is true.

Q. Whoe were they you named formerly?

An.Osburne, Good, Burroughs, Olliver, Wiles, Cory & his Wife, Nurse, procter & his Wife.

Q. who were w'th you in the chamber? (itt being informed that some were talking w'th hir there.)

An.Wilds and Bushop or Olliver, Good & Osburne, & they had a feast both of Roast & Boyled meat & did eat & drink & would have had me to have eat and drunk w'th them but I would not; & they would have had me signed, but I would nott then not when Goody.Olliver came to me.

Q. Nor did nott you con [torn] children in your likeness?

An.I doe nott know that I did.

Q. What is that you have to tell, w'ch you canott tell yett you say?

(Reverse) Delive' Hobs her Examination & testimony ag't procter & wife & others. Bridget Bishop

(William Stacy v. Bridget Bishop)

William Stacy of the Towne of Salem aged, Thirty Six years or thereaboutes Deposeth and Saith:

That about fourteene years agone this Deponant was visited with the Small Pox, then Bridget Bishop did give him a visitt, and withall Professed a great Love for this Deponant in his affliction. more than ordinary, at which this Deponant admired, some time after this Deponent was well, the said Bishop got him to do some work for her. for which she gave him three pense, which seemed to this Depo't as if it had been good money: but he had not gone out above 3 or 4

Rods before he Looked in his Pockett where he put it, for it, but could not find any sometime after this deponent met the said Bishop in the Street agoeing to Mill; she askeing this Deponant 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 Depo't 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 Wheels Slumped or Sunk downe into a hole upon Plain ground, that this Depon't was forced to gett one to help him gett the wheele out afterwards this Depon't went Back to look for said hole where his wheele sunk in but could not find any hole some time after in the winter about midnight this Deponent felt something between his lips Pressing hard ag't his teeth: and withall was very Cold in somuch that it did awake him so that he gott up and sat upon his beed: he at the same time seeing the said Bridgett Bishop sitting at the foot of his bed: being to his seeming, it was then as light as if it had been day: or one in the said Bishops shape: she having then a black cap & a black hat, and a Red Coat with two [Eakes] of two Coulers: then she the said Bishop or her shape clapt her coate close to her Leggs & hopt upon the bed and about the Roome and then went out: and then it was Dark: againe: some time after the s'd Bishop went to this Depon't and asked him whither that which he had reported was true. that he had told to severall: he answered that was true & that it was she, and bid her denigh it if she dare, the said Bishop did not denigh it and went away very angry and said that this Dep't did her more Mischief: than any other body he asked Why: she answered because folks would believe him before any body Elce: some time after the said Bishop thretnd this Deponent: and told him he was the occasion of bringing her out about the brass she stole: Some time after this Dep't in a dark night was goeing to the Barn who was suddenly taken or hoisted from the Ground & threw ag't a stone wall after that taken up againe a throwed Down a bank at the End of his house: some time after this Deponent mett the said Bishop by Issaac Sternes Brick Kill: after he had Passed buy her: this Deponents Horse stood still with a small load goeing up the hill so that the Horse striving to draw all his Gears & tackeing flew in Peices and the Cart fell downe. afterward this Deponent went to lift a Bagg of Corne of about 2 bushells: but could not budge it with all his might:

This Deponent hath mett with severall other of her Pranks at severall times: which would take up a great time to tell of

This Deponent doth verily beleive that the said Bridget Bishop was Instrumentall to his Daughter Prisillas Death: about two years agoe, the Child was alikely Thriveing Child. And suddenly Screaked out and soe continued in an usuall Manner for about. a fortnight & soe dyed in that lamentable manner

Sworne Salem May the 30'th 1692 before us.

**John Hathorne)*

) Assis'ts

**Jonathan. Corwin)*

Jurat in Curia June. 2'd 1692 (Written on side of paper) William Stacey

(Samuel Gray v. Bridget Bishop)

Samuell Gray of Salem Aged aboute 42 yeares Testifieth and sayth that about fourteen years agoe he goeing to bed well one Lords Day at night, and after he had beene asleep some time, he awakened & looking up, saw the house light as if a candle or candles were lighted in it and the dore locked & that little fire there, was Raked up he did then see a woman standing between the Cradle in the Roome and the Bed side and seemed to look upon him soe he did Rise up in his bed and it vanished or disappeared then he went to the dore and found it locked.and unlocking and Opening the dore he went to the Entry dore and looked out, and then againe did see the same Woman he had a little before seene in the Rome, and in the same garbe she was in before, then he said to her in the name of God what doe you come for.then she vanished away soe he Locked the dore againe & went to bed and between sleepeing & wakeing he felt some thing Come to his mouth or lipes cold, & there upon started & looked up & againe did see the same woman with some thing betweene 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 takeing the child up could not quiett it in some howres from which tyme, the child that before was a very likely thriveing Child did pine away and was never well, althow it Lived some moneths after, yet in a sad Condition and soe dyed, some tyme after within a weeke or less he did see the same Woman in the same Garb and Cloaths, that appeared to him as aforesaid, and althow he knew not her, nor her name before, Yett both by her Countenance & garb doth testifie that it was the same Woman that thay now Call Bridget Bishop Alias Oliver of Salem

Sworne Salem May 30'th 1692

Before me

**Samuell Gray*

**John Hathorne Assis't*

(Reverse) Sam'll Grays Evedence Bridgett Bishopp

(The Rev. John Hale et al. v. Bridget Bishop)

John Hale of Beverly aged about 56 yeares [torn] & saith that about 5 or 6 years ago e Christian the wife of John Trask (living in Salem bounds bordering on the abovesaid Beverly) beeing in full comunion in o'r Church came to me to [de] sier that Goodwife Bishop her Neighb'r wife of Edw: Bishop Jun'r might not be permitted to receive the Lords Supper in our church till she had given her the said Trask satisfaction for some offences that were against her.viz be-cause the said Bishop did entertaine people in her house at unseasonable houres in the night to keep drinking and playing at shovel-board whereby discord did arise in other families & young people were in danger to bee corrupted & that the s'd Trask knew these things & had once gon into the house & fynding some at shovel-board had taken the peices thay played with & thrown them into the fyre & had reprooved the said Bishop for promoting such disorders, But received no satisfaction from her about it.

I gave s'd 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 doe fear that if a stop had not been putt to those disorders s'd Edw. Bishop's house would have been a house of great prophainness & iniquity.

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

She continueing some time Distracted wee sought the Lord by fasting & prayer & the Lord was pleased to restore the s'd [Trask] to the use of her reason agen. I was s'th her often in [her] distraction (& took it then to bee only distraction, yet fearing sometimes somw't worse) but since I have seen the fitts 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 shee had been bewitched by the s'd Bishop's wife & showed so much aversness from having any conversation that I was then troubled at it hoping better of s'd Goody Bishop at that time for wee have since [torn] At length s'd Christian Trask [was] agen in a distracted fit on a Sabboth day in the forenoon at the publ[i]ck meeting to o'r public disturbance & so continued sometimes better sometimes worse unto her death, manifesting that shee under temptation to kill her selfe or somebody else.

I enquired of Marg'rt Ring who kept at or nigh the house, what shee had observed of s'd Trask before this last distraction shee told [mee.] Goody Trask was much given to reading & search the prophecys of scrip[ture].

The day before shee made that disturbance in the meeting [house she[e] came home & said shee had been w'th Goody Bishop & that they two were now friend or to that effect.

I was oft praying w'th & counselling of Goody Trask before her death and not many days before her end being there shee seemed more rationall & earnestly desired Edw: Bishop might be sent for that shee might make friends with him, I asked her if shee had wronged Edw. Bishop shee said not that shee knew of unless it were in taking his shovel-board pieces when people were at play w'th them & throwing them into the fyre & if she did evill in it she was very sorry for it & desired he would be friends with her or forgive her. this was the very day before she dyed, or a few days before.

Her distraction (or bewitching) continued about a month and in those intervalls wherein shee was better shee earnestly desired prayers & the Sabboth before she dyed I received a note for prayers on her behalf w'ch her husband said was written by her selfe & I judge was her owne hand writing beeing well acquainted with her hand.

As to the wounds she dyed of I observed 3 deadly ones; apeice of her wind pipe cutt out. & another wound above that throww the windpipe & Gullet & the veine they call jugular. So that I then judge & still doe apprehend it impossible for her w'th so short a pair of cissars to mangle her selfe so without some extraordinary work of the devill or witchcraft

signed. 20. may 1692 by

**John Hale.*

To severall parts of this testimony can witness Maj'r Gidney. Mr Paris Joseph Hirrek Ju'r & his wife Thomas Raiment & his wife John Traske Marget King, Hanah wife of Cornell Baker, Miles & others.

As also about the s'd Goody Bishop Capt W'm Raiment, his son W'm Raiment about creatures strangely dying. James Kettle, & the abovs'd Jos: Hirreck & Tho: Raiment about sundry actions that [have] the apearance of witchcraft.

(Reverse) Deposition 16 John Hale

(Samuel and Sarah Shattuck v. Bridget Bishop)

Sam'll Shattock aged 41 years testifieth that in the year 1680.

Bridged Oliver formerly wife to old Goodman Oliver: now wife to Edward Bishop did Come to my hous pretending to buy an old hh'd wc'h tho I asked verry little for: & for all her pretended want She went away w'th out it: & Sundry other tymes she came in a Smooth flattering maner in very Slighty Errants: we have thought Since on purpos to work mischief: at or very near this tyme o'r Eldest Child who promised as much health & 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 hous he grew wors & wors: as he would be standing at the door would fall out & bruise his face upon a great Step Stone as if he had been thrust out by an invisible hand: often tymes falling & hitting his face in a very miserable maner: after this the abovesaid Oliver brought me apair of sleeves to dye & after that Sundry peeces of lace Some of w'ch were Soe Short that I could not judge them fit for any uce: she p'd me 2 d for dying them w'ch 2 d I gave to Henery Willms w'ch lived w'th me he told me put it in a purse among som other money w'ch he locked up in a box & that the purs & money was gon out of the Box he Could not tell how: & never found it after just after the dying of these things this child taken in a terrible fit; his mouth & Eyes drawne aside and gasped in Such a maner as if he was upon the point of death; after this he grew wors in his fits; and out of them would be allmost allways crying that for many months he would be crying till natures strenght was spent & then would fall a sleep and then awake & fall to crying & moaning: that his very Countenance did bespeak Compassion; and at length wee p'rceived his understanding decayed Soe that wee feared (as it has Since proved) that he would be quite bereaft of his witts; for Ever Since he has bin Stupified and voide of reason his fitts still following of him; after he had bin in this kind of Sickness Som tyme he has gon into the garden & has got upon a board of an inch thick w'ch lay flat upon the ground & wee have Called him; he would Com to the Edge of the board & hold out his hand & make as if he would Com but Could not till he was helped of the board; other tymes when he has got upon a board as aforesaide my wife has Said She has ofered him a Cake & mony to Com to her and he has held out his hand & reach't after it but Could not Com till he has bin help't of the board; by w'ch I judge som inchantm't kept him on about 17 or 18 months after, the first of this Ines there Came a Stranger to my hous & pittied this Child and Said among other words wee are all borne Some to one thing & Som to another; I asked him & w't doe you Say this Child is borne too he replied he is born to be bewitched and is bewitched I told him he did not know; he said he did know & Said to me you have a neighbor that lives not far of that is a witch: I told him wee had noe neighb'r but

w't was honest folke; he replyed you have a neighb'r that is a witch & She has had a falling out w'th yo'r wife & Said in her hart your wife is a proud woman & She would bring downe her pride in this Childe: I paused in my selfe & did remember that mye wife had told me that goodwife Oliver had bin at the hous & spoke to her to beat Henry Willms, that lived w'th us & that she went away muttering & She thought threatning: but little before o'r child was taken ill; I told the aforesaid Stranger that there was Such a woman as spoke of; he asked where she lived for he would goe & see her if he knew how: I gave him money & bid him ask her for a pot of Syd'r away he went & I Sent my boy w'th him who after a short tyme: both returned; the boys face bleeding & I asked w't the matter they told me the man knock't at the door & goody Oliver Came to the door & asked the Stranger w't he would have he told her a pot of Cyd'r she saide he sheuld have none & bid him get out & took up a Spade & made him goe out She followed him & when She came w'th out the poarch She saw mye boy & ran to him & scratched his face & made it bleed: Saying to him thou roague w't dost thou bring this fellow here to plague me; now this man did say before he went: 't he would fetch blood of her And Ever Since this Child hath bin followed w'th greivous fitts as if he would never recover moor: his hed & Eyes drawne aside Soe as if they would never Come to rights moor lying as if he were in a maner dead falling any where Either into fier or water if he be not Constantly looked too, and generally in Such an uneasie and restles frame allmost allways runing too & fro acting soe Strange that I cannot judge otherwise but that he is bewitched and by these circumstances doe beleive that the aforesaid Bridged Oliver now Called Bishop is the Caus of it and it has bin the Judgem't of Docters Such as lived here & forreigners: that he is under an Evill hand of witchcraft

*Sam'll Shattock
& Sarah Shattock*

affirmeth upon the oath they have taken to the truth of w't is above written Jurat in Curia June 2'd
92

*Attest *Steph: Sewall Cler*

(Reverse) Eved. Against Bridget Bishop p Sam'l Shaddock & wife

(John Louder v. Bridget Bishop.)

John Louder of Salem Aged aboute thurtey two Yeares Testifieth and sayth that aboute seaven or Eight years since I then Liveing w'th Mr John Gedney in Salem and haveing had some Controversy with Bridgett Bushop the wife of Edw'd Bushop of Salem Sawyer aboate her fowles that used to Come into our orchard or garden. Some little tyme after which, I goeing well to bed; aboute the dead of the night felt a great weight upon my Breast and awakening looked and it being bright moon; light did clearely see s'd Bridget Bushop -- or her likeness sitting upon my stomake and puting my Armes of of the bed to free myselfe from that great oppression she presently layd hold of my throat and allmost Choked mee and I had noe strenth or power in my hands to resist or help my selfe; and in this Condition she held mee to almost day, some tyme after this, my Mistress Susannah Gedney was in our orchard and I was then with her. and said Bridget Bushop being then in her Orchard w'ch was next ad-joyneing to ours my Mistress told s'd Bridget that I said or affirmed that she came one night & satt upon my brest as afores'd which

she denyed and I affirmed to her face to be true and that I did plainely see her. upon w'ch discourse with her she Threatened mee. And some tyme after that I being not very well stayed at home on a Lords day and on the afternoon of s'd day the dores being shutt I did see a black pig in the Roome Coming towards mee soe I went towards itt to kick it and it vanished away

Immediately after I satt down in an Narrow Bar and did see a black thing Jump into the window and came & stood Just before my face, upon the bar the body of itt looked like a Munky only the feete ware like a Cocks feete w'th Claws and the face somewhat more like a mans than a Munkiey and I being greatly affrighted not being able to speake or help my selfe by Reason of fear I suppose, soe the thing spake to mee and said I am a Messenger sent to you for I understand you are trobled in mind, and if you will be Ruled by mee you shall want for Nothing in this world upon which I endeavored to clap my hands upon itt, and sayd You devill I will Kill you. but could feale noe substance and itt Jumped out of the window againe. and Imediatly Came in by the porch althow the dores ware shutt. and sayd you had Better take my Councill, where upon I strook at it with a stick butt strook the Groundsill and broak the stick, but felt noe substance, and that arme with which I strook was presently disenabled, then it vanished away and I opened the back dore and Went out and goeing towards the house End I Espied s'd Bridget Bushop in her orchard goeing to wards her house, and seing her had no power to set one foot forward but returned in againe and goeing to shutt the dore. I Againe did see that or the like creture that I before did see within dores, in such a posture as it seemed to be agoeing to fly at mee, upon which I cryed.out; the whole armor of god be between mee and you. soe itt sprang back and flew over the apple tree flinging the dust w'th its feet against my stomake, upon which I was struck dumb and soe Continued for aboute three days tyme -- and also shook many of the apples of, from the tree w'ch it flu over:

(Reverse) John louder apearid before me this 2. dy of June 1692 and one the oath that he had taken did owen this testimony to be the truth before us the Jarris of Inquest

Jurat in Curia

On her tryall Bridget Bishop alias Oliver denied that she knew this deponent though the orchard of this depon't & the orchard of said Bishop Joined & they often had difference for some yeares together

(Reverse) Evidence ag't Br. Bishop. Jno Loader

(John Bly, Sr., and William Bly v. Bridget Bishop.)

June 2'th 1692 Jno Blye Senior aged about 57 years & William Blye aged about 15 years both of Salem Testifieth and sayth that being Employed by Bridgitt Bushup Alies Oliver of Salem to help take downe the Cellar wall of The owld house she formerly Lived in wee the s'd Deponants in holes of the s'd owld wall Belonging to the s'd sellar found Severall popitts made up of Raggs And hoggs Brusells w'th headles pins in Them. w'th the points out ward & this was about Seaven years Last past

Jurat Curia

(Reverse) papers ag't B: B: no. 16 John Bly and Wm Bly Court Oy'r & Term'r held at Salem 2'd

June. 92 poppets Oliver

(Richard Coman v. Bridget Bishop.)

Richard Coman aged aboute 32 years Testifieth that sometime aboute Eight yeares since: I then being in bed with my wife at Salem . one fift day of the Weeke at night Either in the Latter end of May the Begining of June. and alight burning in our Roome I being awake, did then see Bridget Bishop of Salem Alias Olliver come into the Roome wee lay in and two Women more with her. w'ch two Women ware Strangers to mee I knew them not.but s'd Bishop came in her Red paragon Bodys and the rest of her cloathing that she then usually did ware, and I knowing of her well also the garb she did use to goe in.did clearely & plainely know her, and testifieth that as he locked the dore of the house when he went to bed soe he found it after wards w'n he did Rise; and quickly after they appeared the light was out, and the Curtaines at the foote of the bed opened where I did see her and presently came And lay upon my Brest or body and soe oppressed him that he could not speake nor stur noe not soe much as to awake his wife althow he Endeavored much soe to do itt; the next night thay all appeared againe in like manner and she s'd Bishop Alias Oliver tooke hold of him by the throate and al-most haled him out of the bed the Satterday night followeing; I haveing benne that day telling of what I had seene and how I suffered the two nights before, my Kinsman Wm Coman told mee he would stay with mee & Lodg with mee and see if thay would come againe and advised mee to lay my sword on thurt my body.quickly after Wee Went to bed that s'd night and both well awake and discoursing together in came all the three women againe and s'd Bishop was the first as she had benne the Other two nights, soe I told him; Wm heer thay be all Come againe & he was Immediatly strook speechless & could not move hand or foote and Immediatly they gott hold of my sword & strived to take it from mee but I held soe fast as thay did not gett it away; and I had then Liberty of speech and called Wm also my wife & Sarah phillips that [lay with] my wife. who all told me [afterwards they heard] mee, but had not power to speak [or stur] afterwards An the first that spake was Sarah phillips and said in the name of god GoodmComan w't is the Matter with you, soe thay all vanished away

Sworne Salem June 2'd 1692.

Jurat in Curia

Before mee

**John Hathorne*

(John Bly, Sr. and Rebecca Bly v. Bridget Bishop.)

John Bly sen'r and Rebecka Bly his wife of Salem, both Testifie and say that s'd Jno Bly Bought a Sow of Edw'd Bushop of Salem Sawyer and by agreement with s'd 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 mony or vallue agreed for, payd unto her, she [came] to the house of the deponents in Salem and Quarrelled w'th them aboute it soon after which the sow haveing piged, she was taken with strange fitts Jumping up and knocking hir head against the fence and seemed blind and deafe and would not Eat neither Lett her pigs suck but foamed at the mouth,

which goody hinderson heareing of sayd she beleived she was over-looked, and that thay had theire cattle ill in suck a manner at the Eastward when she lived there, and used to cure them by giveing of them Red Okar & Milk. which wee also gave the sow. Quickly after eating of which she grew Better.and then for the space of neere two howres together she getting into the street did sett of Jumping & running betweene the house of s'd deponents and s'd Bushops as if she ware stark mad; and after that was well againe and wee did then Apprehend or Judge & doe still that s'd Bishop had bewitched s'd sow

Jurat in Curia
(Reverse) John Bly and wife

(Mary Warren v. Bridget Bishop and Nathaniel Cary [?])

Mary Warren aged 20: yeares or thereabouts testifyeth & saith That severall times after the Nyneteenth day of April last when Bridgett Bishop als Olliver who was in the Gaol at Salem she did appear to this depon't tempting her to signe the book & oft times during her being there as afores'd the s'd Bridgett did torture & afflict this depon't & being in Chanies said tho: she could not do it, she would bring one that should doe it which now she knowes to be Mr [Cary] that then came & afflicted her,

Sworne before us the 1. day of June 1692

**John Hathorne*
**Jonathan Corwin*
Assists

(Susannah Sheldon v. Bridget Bishop)

The Deposition of susannah shelldin aged about 18 years who testifieth and said that on this 2 June 1692 I saw the Apperishtion of Bridgit Bishop.and Immediatly appeared to little children and said that they ware Thomas Greens two twins and tould Bridget Bishop to hir face that she had murdered them in setting them into fits wher of they dyed

(Reverse) Susanna Sheldon Evid ag't Bridgett Bishop

(John Cook v. Bridget Bishop.)

John Cooke aged about 18 years Testifieth that about five or six yeares agoe 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 & Grinn'd on me & presently struck me on the Side of the head w'ch did very much hurt me & then I Saw her goe Out under the End window at a little Creviss about So bigg as I Could thrust my hand into I Saw her again the Same day w'ch was the Sabath Day about noon walke & Cross the roome & having at the time an apple in my hand it flew Out of my hand into my mothers lapp who State Six or Eight foot distance from me & then She disappeared & though my mother & Severall others were in the Same room yet they affirmed [they affirmed] they Saw her not

John Cooke appeared before us the Jarris of inqwest and did owne this to be his testimony one the oath that he hath taken: this 2: dy of June. 92

Jurat in Curia

(Reverse) John Cooke Witnis

(Susannah Sheldon v. Bridget Bishop, Mary English, Phillip English, Giles Corey, and Martha Corey)

on the foarth day at night Came goody olliver and mrs English and good man Core and ablak man with a hi crouned hatt with books in their hands goody olliver bad mee touch her booke i would not i did not know her name shee told mee her name was goody Ol-liver and bid me touch her booke now I bid her tel mee how long shee had been a witch shee told me [shee told mee] S had been a witch above twenti years then their Came a streked snake creeping over her shoulder and crep into her bosom mrs. English had a yelo bird in her bosom and good man Core had two tircels hang to his Coat and he opened his bosom and put his turels to his brest and gave them suck then good man Core and Goody oliver kneeled doune befour the blak man and went to prayer and then the blak man told mee goody olliver had been a witch twenti years and an half then they all set to biteing mee and so went away the next day Came good man Core mrs english in the morning and told mee i should not eat no vittals i took a spoon and put on spoonful in my mouth and good man Core gave me a blow on the ear and all most choaked mee then he laughed at mee and told mee i would eat when he told mee I should not then he Clenched my hands that they could not be opened for more then a quarter of an our then cam phillip english and [and] told mee if i would touch his booke hee would not hit mee but i refused then he did bite mee and went away

the sixth day at night Came goody olliver and mrs english good man Core and his wife goodwy Core S profired mee a booke i refused it and asked her whear she lived shee told mee she lived in boston prisson then shee puled out her brest and the blak man gave her a thing like a blake pig it had no haire on it and shee put it to her brest and gave it suck and when it had sucked on brest shee put it the other and gave it suck their then she gave it to the blak man then went to praira to the blak man then goody olliver told mee that shee had kiled foar women two of them wear the fosters wives and john trasks wife and did not name the other then they did all bitt mee and went away then the next day Came goody Core choaked mee and told mee i would not eat when my dame bid mee but now I should eat none

(Reverse) susanna sheldon ag't oliver English & his wife Core & his wife good -- bucklie & her daughter & boston woman

(Elizabeth Hubbard v. Bridget Bishop and Mary Warren)

now whilst i was righting thes lines thar came in mary waring and another woman with hur whch woman mary waring shap said was goodey oliver and that woman came in hur sheft

(Reverse) Elizab Hubbard ag'st Mary Warrin

(Physical Examination of Bridget Bishop, Rebecca Nurse, Elizabeth Proctor, Alice Parker, Susannah Martin, and Sarah Good, No. 1.)

1692 Salem June 2'd aboute 10 in Morning

Wee whose names are under written being Comanded by Capt George Corwine Esq'r Sherriffe of the County of Essex this 2'd day of June 1692 for to vew the bodyes of Bridgett Bishop alias Oliver Rebecah Nurse Elizabeth procter Alice parker Susanna Martine Sara Good

The first three, Namely: Bishop: Nurse: procter, by dilligent search have discovered apreternathurall Excresence of flesh between the pudendum and Anus much like to Tetts & not usuall in women & much unlike to the other three that hath been searched by us & that they were in all the three women neer the same place

*J Barton Chyrurgen

Alice pickering
her marke

Jane Woolings
her marke

Marjery Williams
her marke

Anna Stephens
her marke

Elizabeth Hill
her marke

Elanor Henderson
her marke

Rebecah Sharpe
her marke

Lydia Pickman

*Hannah Kezer

Sworne in Court June 2'd 1692

*Attest * Step: Sewall Cle*

(Physical Examination, No. 2.)

(Reverse) Salem aboute 4 afternoon June 2'd 1692 .

We whose names are Subscribed to the w'th in mentioned, upon a second search about 3 or 4 houres distance, did find the said Brigett Bishop alias Oliver, in a clear & free state from any p'eternaturall Excresence, as formerly seen by us alsoe Rebecah Nurse instead of that Excresence w'thin Mentioned it appears only as a dry skin without sense, & as for Elizabeth procter which Excresence like a tett red & fresh, not any thing appears, but only a proper [procedeulia Ani.] & as for Susanna Martine whose breast in the Morning search appeared to us very full; the Nibbs fresh & starting, now at this searching all lancke & pendant which is all at pr'sent from the w'th in Mementioned subscribers and that that piece of flesh of Goodwife Nursess' formerly seen is gone & only a dry skin nearer to the anus in another place

Rebecah Sharpe

marke

the marke of Elizabeth Hill

Lidia pickman

Elanor Henderson

her marke

**J Barton Chyrurgen*

Alice pickring

marke

**Hannah Kezer*

Marjery Williams

marke

Anna Stephens

Jane Wollings

marke

Sworne in Court June 2'd 1692

(Reverse) Jury of Womens Return

(Death Warrant v. Bridget Bishop)

To George Corwin Gent'm high Sherriffe of the County of Essex Greeting

Whereas Bridgett Bishop alsOlliver the wife of Edward Bishop of [Salem] in the County of Essex Sawyer at a speciall Court of Oyer and Termin[er held at] Salem the second Day of this instant month of June for the Countyes of Esse[x] Middlesex and Suffolk before William Stoughton Esq'r and his Associates J[ustices] of the said Court was Indicted and arraigned upon five severall [Seal]I[ndictments] for useing practiseing and exercisein[g] [on the Nyneteenth day of April] last past and divers other dayes and times [before and after certain acts of] Witchcraft in and upon the bodyes of Abigial Williams, Ann puttnam J[un'r] Mercy Lewis, Mary Walcott and Elizabeth Hubbard of Salem village singlewomen, whereby their bodyes were hurt, afflicted pined, consu[med] Wasted and tormented contrary to the forme of the Statute in that Case [made

and] provided To which Indictm'ts the said Bridgett Bishop pleaded no[t guilty] and for Tryall thereof put her selfe upon God and her Country, where[upon] she was found guilty of the felonies and Witchcrafts whereof she stood Indicted and sentence of Death accordingly passed ag't her as the Law directs, Execution whereof yet remaines to be done These are theref[ore] in the Name of their Maj'ties William and Mary now King & Queen [over] Eng-land to will and Comand you That upon fryday next being the Tenth day of this instant month of June between the houres of Eight and twelve in the afternoon of the same day You safely conduct the s'd Bridgett Bishop alsOlliver from their Maj'ties Gaol in Salem afores'd to the place of Execution and there cause her to be hanged by the neck untill she be de[ad] and of your doings herein make returne to the Clerk of the s'd Court and pr'cept And hereof you are not to faile at your peril And this shall be [your] Sufficent Warrant Given under my hand & Seal at Boston. the Eig[hth day] of June in the fourth Year of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lord and [Lady] William & mary now King & Queen over England &c Annoq'e Dm 1692;

**Wm Stoughton*

June 10th -- 1692

According to the Within Written precept I have taken the body of the within named Brigett Bishop of their Majes'ts Goale in Salem and Safely Conveighd her to the place provided for her Execution and Caused the s'd Brigett to be hanged by the neck until Shee was dead [and buried in the pla] all which was according to the time within Required and So I make Returne by me

George Corwin Sheriff