

Examination
of Libel at Salem village
24. Mar. 1691

Mr. Hathorn. What do you say (speaking to one affected) have you seen this woman and you?
Yes, she beat me this morning
Asgail. Have you been hurt by the woman?
Yes
Ann Putman in a grievous fit cried out that
she was beat.
Godly Men, here are two An. Putman the child of
Asgail Williams complains of your cursing them
What do you say to it
N. I can say before my Eternal father I am innocent, &
God will clear my innocence
Here is never a one in the Assembly but desires it, but if
you be guilty, May God discover you
Then Hen. Kenny rose up to speak
Godm. Kenny what do you say
Then he entered his complaint
& further said that since this Merg came into the
house he was seized with an amazed condition
Here are not only these but, here is a wife of Mr. Tho.
Putman who accuses you by credible information &
that both of lumping her to iniquity, & of greatly hurt-
ing her.
N. I am innocent & clear & have not been able to get
out of doors these 3. or 4. days.
Mr. Putman, give in what you have to say
Then Mr. Edward Putman gave in his relate
of this true Godly Merg
I never affected no child never in my life
You see these accuse you, is it true
No.
Are you an innocent person relating to this with-
out me. Putman, who is seized with a fit, you are saying
the Black man with you, did you not bid my wife
God & dye — How oft have you eat & drunk, you know
What do you say to him
O Lord help me, & spread out his hands, & the
afflicted were grievously vexed
Do you not see what a solemn condition these
are in, when your hands are large the persons are
afflicted
Then Henry Wallcut (who often testified that he
had seen her but never said, say or did say that
she affected him or his wife or child) & also
Mr. Hubbard with the like circumstances, testi-
fiedly accused her of having them
Here are these 2. grown persons now accuse you, do you say you?
Do you see these afflicted persons, & hear them accuse you
The Lord know I have not hurt them. I am an inno-
cent person.
It is very awful to all to see these agonies & you an old
Prophet thus charged with contracting with the Devil by
the acts of it & yet to see you stand with dry eyes when
there are so many who
You do not know my heart
You would do well if you are guilty to confess & give
Glory to God
I am as clear as the child unborn
What uncertainty there may be in apparitions I
know not, yet this with me strikes dead upon you
that you are at this my present charged with fa-
miliar spirits: this is your Godly person they speak
to: they say now they see these familiar spirits come
to your Godly person now what do you say to that
I have none sir

you have company & give glory to God. I do
pray God clear you if you be innocent, & if
you are guilty discover you. And therefore give me
an upright answer: have you any familiarity
with these spirits?
No, I have none but with God alone.
How came you sick for there is an odd discourse
of that in the mouths of many
I am sick at my stomach
Have you no wounds?
I have none but old age
You do know whether you are guilty, & have familiarity
with the Devil, & now when you are here present to
see such a thing as these lifting a Black man whis-
pering in your ear, & bid about you what do you
say to it
It is all false I am clear
Possibly you may apprehend you are no witch, but
have you not been led aside by temptations that way
I have not
What a sad thing it is that a Church member here &
now one of Salem, should be thus accused and
tormented
This poor fit into a grievous fit, & cried out a sad
thing sure enough. And then many more fell into
lamentable fits.
Will we have not you had visible appearances more
than what is common in nature?
I have none nor never had in my life
Do you think these suffer voluntary or involuntary
I cannot tell
That is strange every one can judge
I must or need
They accuse you of hurting them, & if you think it is
voluntary, as I divine, you must look
upon them as murderers
I cannot tell what to think of it
Afterward when this was somewhat mended on
the said I do not think so: she did not under-
stand aright what was said
Well then give an answer now, do you think
these suffer against their wills or not
I do not think they suffer against their wills
Why did you never visit these afflicted persons
Because I was afraid I should have fits too
Upon the notion of this fit followed upon the
complaints abundantly & very frequently
Is it not an unaccountable case that when they
you are examined these persons are afflicted?
I have got no body to look to but God
Again upon stirring & about the afflicted persons
were seized with violent fits of torments
Do you believe these afflicted persons are bewitched
I do think they are
When this witchcraft came upon the stage there was
no suspicion of Tituba (Mr. Parris's Indian woman)
the people much love to that child Betty Parris, but
it was her apparition led the mischief, & why
should not you also be guilty, for your apparition
doth hurt also.
Would you save me only, I will save self —
she held her Neck on one side, & accordingly so
were the afflicted when
Then Authority requiring it Sam. Parris read what
he had in character taken from Mr. Tho. Putman's
wife in her fits
What do you think of this.

(Examination of [Rebecca Nurse](#))

[March 24, 1692]

The examination of [Rebekah Nurse](#) at Salem Village
24. mar. 1691/2

[Mr. Harthorn](#). What do you say (speaking to one afflicted)
have you seen this Woman hurt you?

Yes, she beat me this morning

[Abigail](#) . Have you been hurt by this Woman?

Yes

[Ann Putman](#) in a grievous fit cryed out that
she hurt her.

[Goody Nurse](#) , here are two [An: Putman](#) the child &
[Abigail Williams](#) complains of your hurting them

What do you say to it

N. I can say before my Eternal father I am innocent, &
God will clear my innocency

Here is never a one in the Assembly but desires it, but if
you be guilty Pray God discover you.

Then [Hen: Kenny](#) rose up to speak

[Goodm: Kenny](#) what do you say

Then he entered his complaint & farther said that since this
[Nurse](#) came into the house

he was seizd twice with an amaz'd condition

Here are not only these but, here is the wife of [Mr Tho:](#)

[Putman](#) who accuseth you by credible information &
that both of tempting her to iniquity, & of greatly hurting her.

N. I am innocent & clear & have not been able to get
out of doors these 8. or 9. dayes.

[Mr Putman](#): give in what you have to say

Then [Mr Edward Putman](#) gave in his relate

Is this true [Goody Nurse](#)

I never afflicted no child never in my life

You see these accuse you, is it true

No.

Are you an innocent person relating to this Witchcraft.

Here [Tho: Putmans](#) wife cryed out, Did you not bring
the Black man with you, did you not bid me tempt

God & dye How oft have you eat and drunk y'r own damaon

What do you say to them

Oh Lord help me, & spread out her hands, & the
afflicted were greviously vexed

Do you not see what a solemn condition these

are in? when your hands are loose the persons are afflicted.

Then [Mary Walcott](#) (who often heretofore said she had seen her, but never could say or did say that she either bit or pinched her, or hurt her) & also

[Eliz. Hubbard](#) under the like circumstances both openly accused her of hurting them

Here are these 2 grown persons now accuse you, w't say you?

Do not you see these afflicted persons, & hear them accuse you.

The Lord knows I have not hurt them: I am an innocent person

It is very awfull to all to see these agonies & you an old Professor thus charged with contracting with the Devil by the effects of it & yet to see you stand with dry eyes when there are so many w'et --

You do not know my heart

You would do well if you are guilty to confess & give Glory to God

I am as clear as the child unborn

What uncertainty there may be in apparitions I know not, yet this with me strikes hard upon you that you are at this very present charged with familiar spirits: this is your bodily person they speak to: they say now they see these familiar spirits com to your bodily #[spirits com to your bodily] person, now what do you say to that I have none Sir:

If you have confess & give glory to God I pray God clear you if you be innocent, & if you are guilty discover you And therefore give me an upright answer: have you any familiarity with these spirits?

No, I have none but with God alone.

How came you sick for there is an odd discourse of that in the mouths of many --

I am sick at my stomach --

Have you no wounds

I have none but old age

You do Know whither you are guilty, & have familiarity with the Devil, & now when you are here present to see such a thing as these testify a black man whispering in your ear, & birds about you what do you say to it

It is all false I am clear

Possibly you may apprehend you are no witch, but have you not been led aside by temptations that way

I have not

What a sad thing it is that a church member here &
now an other of Salem, should be thus accused and charged
[Mrs Pope](#) fell into a greivous fit, & cryed out a sad
thing sure enough: And then many more fell into lamentable fits.
Tell us have not you had visible appearances more
than what is common in nature?
I have noe nor never had in my life
Do you think these suffer voluntary or involuntary
I cannot tell
That is strange every one can judge
I must be silent
They accuse you of hurting them, & if you think it is
not unwillingly but by designe, you must look
upon them as murderers
I cannot tell what to think of it
Afterwards when this was som what insisted on
she said I do not think so: she did not under-
stand aright what was said
Well then give an answer now, do you think
these suffer against their wills or not
I do not think these suffer against their wills
Why did you never visit these afflicted persons
Because I was afraid I should have fits too
Note Upon the motion of her body #[had] fitts followed upon the
complainants abundantly & very frequently
Is it not an unaccountable case that when #[they]
you are examined these persons are afflicted?
I have got no body to look to but God
Again upon stirring her hands the afflicted persons
were seized with violent fits of torture
Do you beleive these afflicted persons are bewicht
I do think they are
When this Witchcraft came upon the stage there was
no suspicion of [Tituba](#) ([Mr Paris's](#) Indian woman)
she profest much love to that child [Betty Paris](#) , but
it was her apparition did the mischief, & why
should not you also be guilty, for your apparition
doth hurt also.
Would you have me bely my #[your] self --
she held her Neck on one side, & accordingly
so were the afflicted taken
Then Authority requiring it [Sam: Paris](#) read what
he had in characters taken from [Mr Tho: Putmans](#)
wife in her fitts
What do you think of this
I cannot help it, the Devil may appear in my shap.

(Reverse) This a true account of the sume of her
examination but by reason of geat noyses
by the afflicted & many speakers, many things
are pretermitted

Memorandum

Nurse held her neck on one sid & [Eliz. Hubbard](#)
(one of the sufferers) had her neck set in that
posture whereupon another Patient [Abigail Williams](#)
cried out set up [Goody Nurses](#) head the maid's neck
will be broke & when some set up [Nurses](#) head
[Aaron wey](#) observed that [Betty Hubbards](#) was im-
mediately righted

Salem Village March. 24'th 1691/2
The [Rever't Mr Samuell parris](#)
being desired
to take in wrighting the Examination
of [Rebekah Nurse](#) hath Returned
itt as aforesaid

Upon heareing the afores'd and seeing what wee then did see
together with the Charge of the persons then present --
wee Committed [Rebekah Nurse](#) the wife of [fran's Nurce](#) of
Salem village unto their Majest's Goale in Salem as
p[er] a Mittimus then given out, in order to farther Examination
[*John Hathorne](#)] Assis'ts
[*Jonathan. Corwin](#)] Assis'ts

(Essex County Court Archives, Salem -- Witchcraft Vol. 1, No. 72, Massachusetts Supreme
Judicial Court, Judicial Archives, Massachusetts State Archives. Boston, MA.)