

To the Honorable Generall Court Assembled at Boston 109
May twenty fourth 1696
The humble petition of Elizabeth proctor widow and Rehears
of John proctor of Salem desired Humbly sheweth
that in the year of our Lord 1692 when many persons in
Salem and in other towns there about were accused by some evil
disposed or strangely influenced persons, as being witnesses or
for being guilty of eating with meat my sd husband John
proctor and my self were accused as such and we both my sd
husband and my self were for fear perjured against that we
were condemned but in that sad time of darkness before my said
husband was executed it is evident some body had contrived with
and brought it to him to sign where in his whole estate is disposed
of not having regard to advantage in weighing me with me
before knowing with him; but for it please you to order by his
providence that although the sentence was executed on my sd husband
and yet through gods great goodness to your petitioners I am yet
alive; since my husbands death the sd will is proved and approved
by the judges of probate and by that kind of disposal the whole
estate is disposed of; and although god hath granted my life yet
those that claim my sd husbands estate by that which they call
will will not suffer me to have and enjoy of the estate either
upon the account of my husbands contract with me before marriage
nor yet upon the account of the dowry which as I humbly conceive
both belong or ought to belong to me by the law for they say
that I am dead in the law and therefore my humble request and
petition to this Honorable Generall Court is that by an act of this
Honorable Court as god hath contented my life and through gods
goodness without fear of being put to death upon that sentence you
would be pleased to put me into a capacity to make use of the law
to recover that which is right by law I ought to have for
my necessary support and support that as I your petitioners am
one of his majesties subjects I may have the benefit of his laws
for humbly praying that god would direct your honors in all things
to do that which may be well pleasing to him I subscribe
your Honors humble petitioners

Elizabeth proctor
widow

Read 10th June 1696 in Council