

The Examination of John Willard. 18. May 1692

The afflicted in most miserable file upon his
his examiners drawing near

After several of them were recovered, he lookt
upon them, & they again fell into fits, whilst
the warrant & returne was reading

Jesiah H. Bostwick
Mar. 13, 1729

Here is a returne of the warrant that
you were fled from Authority that is an acknow-
-ledgment of guilt, but yet notwithstanding
we require you to confess the truth in this
matter.

I shall, as I hope, I shall be assisted by
the Lord of Heaven, & for my going away
I was affrighted, & I thought by my will-
-drawing it might be better, I fear not but
the Lord in his due time will make me
as white as snow.

What do you say? why do you burst thus?
It is you, or your appearance.

I know nothing of appearance.

Is this the man?

Several of the afflicted said yes.

They charge you, it is you or your appearance.

I know nothing of appearance, & the
Lord of Heaven will clear me.

They charge you, not only with this, but
with dreadful murder, & I doubt not if
you be guilty, God will not want evidence.

Elizabeth Hubbard testified that he afflicted her, &c.

When he lookt upon her & she fell into a fit.
Mary Lewis testimony read.

If you desire mercy from God, then you must
confesse & give Glory to God.

As to sins I am guilty of, if the ministers
ask me I am ready to confesse.

If you have revolted from God you are
a dreadful sinner.

Mary Warren cryed out, oh he bites me

Ann Putman cryed out much of him

Open your mouth, don't bite your lips.
I will stand with my mouth open, or I will
kiss it shut: I will stand any law, if you
will tell me how.

Ann Putmans evidence read
Do you hear this evidence read?

Yes, I do hear it.

Susan Sheldons testimony read
What do you say to this murdering &
bewitching your relations?

One would think (said he) that no
creature except they belong to hell from
their Cradle would be guilty of such things.

You say, you will bewitch your Grandfather
because he prays that the Kingdom of
Sathan may be known down

The examinant began a large oration
we do not send for you to preach.

Ben. Withers testified for all his natural affections
he abused his wife much & broke plates
about her in beating of her

you had need to keep of your good affections

These are a great many eyes tocht, I
could desire my wife might be called

Peter Perfect testified that he with his own
mouth told him of his beating of his wife.

It seems very much one of your confidence to
ability to speak, should be no more so covaging
then to run away: by your running away
you tell all that what you are afraid of

The examinant called upon Aaron why
you say you have been very cruel to poor creatures.

Aaron why if I might speak I will, I can
say you have been very cruel to poor creatures.

Let some persons goe to him

Ann Putman said she would go
He said he had not that person but another come.

John Pribian cryed out Oh! he cuts me.

Susan Shelden said there is the black man
whipping in his ear, & he should not enquire
what do you say to this?

As I heard nothing, nor see nothing.

Susan Shelden tried to come near him
but fell down immediately, & he took hold of
his hand with a great deal of do, but she
continued in her fit crying out, O John
Willard, John Willard &

What was the reason you could
not come near him?

The black man stood between us.

They cannot come near any that are accused.
why do you say they could not come near any
that were accused: you know Nicholas Abbot
they could talk with him.

Mary Warren in a great fit carried to him
& he supporting his hand upon her arm was well
propertly.

why said he was it not before, so with
Informant Shelden?

Because said the slander by you did not
chase your hand before.

The like said the confessor & others.

They all or more testified that the dead
those that he had murdered were now
about him.

Do you think these are Bewitcht?

Yes, I verily believe it.
Will shew they have accused it is found true
on of why should it be false in you?
sup: Shelden & Mary Warren testify that now &:

Ann Putnam's evidence read
Do you hear this evidence read?
Yes, I do hear it.

Susan Sheldon's testimony read
What do you say to this murdering &
Bewitching your relations?

One would think (said he) that no
creature except they belong to hell from
their cradle would be guilty of such things.

You say, you will bewitch your grandfather
because he prays that the Kingdom of
Sathan may be thrown down.

presently.

Why said he was it not before, so with
Sufannah Sheldon?

Because said the grand jury you did not
Clasp your hand before.

The like said the confablers & others.
They all or most testified that the dead
those that he had murdered were now
about him.

Do you think these are Bewitchments?
Yes, I verily believe it.

Well others they have accused it is found true
on & why should it be false in you?
Suf: Sheldon & many women testify that now he

All the afflicted in more miserable sort when he came in, except John Judian.

When the warrant was read, he looked upon severall & they fell into fits.

Here is a returne of the warrant that you were fled from Authority that is an acknowledgement of guilt, but yet notwithstanding this we require you to confesse the truth in this matter.

I shall, as I hope, I shall be assisted by the Lord of Heaven, & for my flying ~~away~~ going away I was affrighted & I thought by my withdrawing it might be better, I fear not but the Lord in his due time will make me as white as snow.

What do you say? why do you trust them, it is you or your appearance?

I know nothing of appearance.

Was this the man?
severall said yes.

They charge you, it is you or your appearance.

I know nothing of appearance, & the God of Heaven will clear me.

Will they charge you not only with this but with dreadfull murders, & I doubt not if you be guilty, God will not suffer evidence to be wanting.

Eliz. Husband testified against him & he looked upon her, & she fell into a fit.

Mary Lewis testimony read.

If you desire mercy from God, then confesse & give glory to God.

So as for mine I am guilty of if the Miracles aske me I am ready to unspitt.

If you have ^{thus} revolted from God you are a dreadfull sinner.

Mary Warren cryed out, Oh he bites me.

Ann Putnam cryed out much of him.

Open your mouth, don't bite your lips.

I will stand with my mouth open, or I will keep it shut, I will stand any how, if you will tell me how.

An: Putnam's testimony read.

Do you hear this evidence read?
Yes I do hear it.

Suz: Sheldon's testimony read.

What do you say to this murmuring and Bewitching your relations?

One would think (said he) that no creature except they belong to his rodde

would be guilty of such things.

You say you would bewitch your Grand-father because you, or your appearance shall be proved that the Kingdom of Satan may be thrown down.

He offered large talk.

We do not send for you to preach.

Benj: Wilkins gave in evidence of his unnatural usage to his wife.

You had much need to boast of your afflictions.

There are a great many by: word, I would desire my wife might be called.

Peter Prepost testified that he with his own mouth told him of his beating of his wife.

He urged Aaron way to speak.

Aaron way thereupon said if I must speak, I will, I can say you have been very cruel to poor creatures.

Let some person go to him.

Ann Putnam said she would go.

He said it not that person but another come.

John Judian said cryed out he cuts me.

Suzan: Sheldon said these is the black man whispering in his ear, & he should not whisper.

What do you say to this?

st. I heard nothing nor see any thing.

Suzan: Sheldon cryed to come to him, but fell down immediately.

What is the reason she cannot come near you?

They cannot come near any that are awayed.

Why do you say so, they could come near Nehemiah Abbot, the children could talk with him.

Mary Warren in a great fit caryed to him, & he clapping his hand upon her arm, she was well presently.

They all or most of the afflicted testified that he beats those that he hat murdered were now about him.

Do you think these are Bewitched?
yes, I really believe it.

well then they have awayed it is found true that they are the guilty persons, why should it be false in you?

Suzan: Sheldon & Mary Warren testified that now his appearance comes from his body & afflicts them.

How do you think of this, how comes it to pass?
It is not from me, I know nothing of it.

If you can find in your heart to confesse it is possible
a man & woman & a kindred telling you

John Willcutt
& Examination.

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All the afflicted in most miserable fits when he came in, except John Indian.

When the warrant was read, he looked upon Jewell & they fell into fits.

Here is a returne of the warrant that you were fled from Authority that is an acknowledgment of guilt, but yet notwithstanding this we require you to confesse the truth in this matter.

I shall, as I hope, I shall be affixed by the Lord of Heaven, & for my flying away I was affrighted of I thought by my withdrawing it might be better, I fear not but the Lord in his due time will make me as white as snow.

What do you say? why do you hurt them, it is you or your appearance?

I know nothing of appearance.

Was this the man?

Jewell said yes.

They charge you, it is you or your appearance.

I know nothing of appearance, & the God of Heaven will clear me —

Will they charge you not only with this but with dreadfull murders, & I doubt not if you be guilty, God will not suffer evidence to be wanting.

Eliz. Hubbard testified against him & he looked upon her, & she fell into a fit.

Mary Lewis testimony read.

If you desire mercy from God, then confesse & give glory to God.

So as for sins I am guilty of if the Minister aske me I am ready to unfeign.

If you have ^{thus} revolted from God you are a dreadfull sinner

Mary Warren cryed out, Oh! he bites me

Ann Putnam cryed out much of him

would be guilty of such things.

You say you would bewitch your Grand-father because you, or your appearance shall be proof that the Kingdom of Satan may be thrown down.

He offered large talk

We do not send for you to preach

Benja. Wilkins gave in evidence of his unchristianlike usage to his wife

You had much need to boast of your afflictions

There are a great many like him, I would

desire my wife might be called

Peter Prepost testified that he with his own mouth told him of his beating of his wife

He urged Aaron Wey to speak

Aaron Wey therefore said if I must speak, I will; I can say you have been very cruel to poor creatures.

Let some person go to him

Ann Putnam said she would go.

He said let not that person but another come

John Indian said cryed out he will me

Susan Sheldon said there is the black man whispering in his ear, & he should not whisper

what do you say to this?

st. I heard nothing nor see any thing.

Susan Sheldon tried to come to him, but fell down immediately.

What is the reason she cannot come near you?

They cannot come near any that are afflicted.

Why do you say so, they could come near

Nehemiah Abbot, the children could talk with him

Mary Warren in a great fit caryed to him, & he clapping his hand upon her arm, she was well presently.

They all or most of the afflicted testified that the death throgs that he cast must needs were

Open your mouth, don't bite your lips
I will stand with my mouth open, or I will
keep it shut, I will stand any how, if you
will tell me how

An: Putmans testimony read.

Do you hear this evidence read?

Yes I do hear it

Suz: Sheldons testimony read.

What do you say to this murdering and bewitch-
ing your relations?

One would think (said he) that no creature
except they belong to this world

now about him.

Do you think they are bewitched.

Yes, I really believe it.

Well then they have accused it is found true
that they are the guilty persons, why should
it be false in you?

Suzan: Shelden & Mary Warren testified that
now his appearance comes from his body &
afflicts them.

How do you think of this, how comes it to pass?
It is not from me, I know nothing of it.

If you can find in your heart to confess it is possible
you may & therefore believe your

S. I cannot confesse nor can I do not know
well but if these things are true Heaven and
Earth will rise up against you.
I am as innocent as the child that is now
to be borne.

Can you pray the Lords prayer?

Yes

Let us hear you.

He stumbled at the threshold & said
Maker of Heaven & Earth

He began again & said

It is a strange thing, I can say it at an-
other time. I think I am bewitcht as
well as they, & laugh

Agg Again he said

Again he said, & cryed with this
is a strange thing I cannot say it

Again he said & said

Well it is these wicked ones that do so over-
come me.

Joseph Lea gave in testimony that last

night he was he hoped he should be free,
he had a hard heart, but he hoped he should
confesse.

Well say what you will confesse

I am as innocent as the child unborn.

Do not you see God will not suffer you to
pray to him? Are not you sensible of it?

Why it is a strange thing?

No it is no strange thing that God will not
suffer a wizard to pray to him. There
is also the jury of Inquest that will bear
hard against you — therefore confesse.

Have you never wifht harm to your
neighbours?

No never ~~in my life~~ since I had a being.

Well confesse & give glory to God, take
counsell whilft it is offered

I desire to take good counsell, but if it was
the last time I was to speak, I am innocent

John Richard Garrison

Warrington
ag^t William
I have been thinking of you
very much lately & wondering
how you are getting on
Do you ever see the
Boston Herald? I hope
you will be able to
write me soon

the book that I
was about to
do you think they are
yet I really believe it
will show they have
that they are the
it is to be
I hope to see
you soon