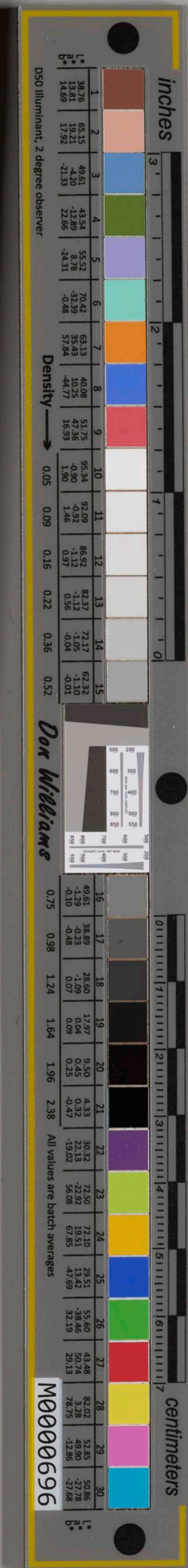


The Deposition of Bray Wilkins of Salem Village aged about eighty & one²³ years with reference to John Willard of sd. Salem, lately charged with witchcraft, when he was at first complained of by the afflicted persons for afflicting of them he came to my house greatly troubled, desiring me with some other Neighbours to pray for him: I told him I was then going from home, & could not stay, but if I could come home before night I should not be unwilling, but it was near night before I came home, & so I did not answer his desire, but I heard no more of him upon that account. Whether my not answering his desire did not offend him, I cannot tell, but I was jealous afterwards that it did. A little after my wife & I went to Boston at the next Election, when I was as well in health as in many years before, & the Election Day coming to my brother Lt. Richard Way's house, at noon there were many friends to dine there, they were sat down at the table, Mr. Lawson & his wife & several more, John Willard came into the house with my son Henry Wilkins before I sat down, & sd. Willard to my apprehension lookt after such a sort upon me as I never before discerned in any, I did but step into the next room, & was presently taken in a strange condition, so that I could not dine, nor eat any thing, I cannot express the misery I was in for my water was sodainly stopt, & I had no benefit of nature, but was like a man on a ~~water~~ rack, & I told my wife immediately that I was afraid that Willard had done me wrong, my pain continuing & finding no relief my jealousie continued. Mr. Lawson & others there were all amazed, & knew not what to do for me: There was a woman accounted skillfull came hoping to help me, & after she had used means, she asked me whether none of those evil persons had done me damage. I said, I could not say they had, but I was sore afraid they had, she answered she did fear so too, as near as I remember. I lay in this case 3 or 4 days at Boston, & afterwards with the jeopardy of my life (as I thought) I came home, & then some of my friends coming to see me (& at this time John Willard was run away) one of the afflicted persons Mary Lewis came in with them, & they asked whether she saw any thing. she said yes, they are looking for John Willard but there he is upon his Grandfather's Belly (& at that time I was in grievous pain in the small of my Belly) I found my self continued so in grievous pain & my water much stopt till sd. Willard was in chains, & then as near as I can guess I had considerable ease, but on the other hand in the room of a stoppage, I was vexed with a flowing of water, so that it was hard to keep my self dry. On the 5. July last talking with some friends about John, some pleading his innocency & my self & some others accusing the contrary, within about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour afterwards that I had said it was not I nor my son Benj^r Wilkins, but the testimony of the afflicted persons, & the judge concerning the Murder of my Grandson Dan: Wilkins that would take away his life if any thing did, & within about $\frac{1}{4}$ hour after this I was taken in the same distress & misery my water being turned into real blood, or of a bloody colour & the old pain returned excessively as before which continued for about 24. hours together



Arroyo Williams Region
Aug 5 - 1968

