

5 The Examination of Bridget
Byshop at Salem Village
19th Apr. 1692

By John Hathorn & Jonath: Cowen Esqrs

As soon as she came near all fell into fits

Bridget Byshop, You are now brought before
Authority to give acc^o of what witchcraft you
are conversant in

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

Halt this woman lest you speaking w^o affect.
A. ~~She is~~ Ann Putman, Abigail Williams,
& Mercy Lewis affirmed she had lent them.

You are here accused by 4. or 5. for lusting
them, what do you say to it?

I never saw these persons before, nor I never
was in this place before.

Mary Walcott said she had lent her brother Jonathan
some her appearance & she saw that she had
had her hair cut in finking, & she heard it was

upon her some search in the Court, a suit had
been to enquire what was alledged was found.

They say you bewitched your first husband
to death.

If it please your worship I know nothing of it.

She shake her head & the afflicted were tormented.

She like again upon the motion of her head.

Jam: Braybrooke affirmed that she told him
to day that she had been accounted a witch
thye 50 years, but she was no witch, the
Devil can not hurt her.

I am no witch.

Why if you have not wrote in the book, yet
till me how for 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 cast thye?

I am innocent.

Why you seem to act witchcraft before
me by the motion of your body, which
cannot be done without
some power 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 a witch is.

I do not understand 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 true 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 maisters you are
charged with?

I hope, I am not guilty of Murder.

Then she turned up her eyes, & they 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 Jones in open
Court affirmed that they had told her

Why look you, you are taken now in a
lie.

I did not hear them.

Note Jam: Gold saith that after this examination he
asked s^r Bridget Byshop if she were not troubled w^o fit
the afflicted persons so tormenteth, said Byshop answered
no, she was not troubled for them: that she could not
whether she thought they were bewitched, she said she could
not tell what it meant, & she said she had
burden just was by, & he supposed they mean her affe^o.

Salem Village April the 19th 1692

Mr Sam^l Harris being desired to take into
Warranting the Examination of Bridget
Byshop, hath delivered us as aforesaid
and upon hearing of same, and seeing
what was done thereon, together with
the charge of the afflicted persons to
proceed; Wee committed the said
Byshop

John Hathorne



