

Province of the
Massachusetts Bay

Edmundo Regni. Annae Reginae Decimo

(136)

An Act to Reverse the attainders of George
Burroughs and others for Witchcraft.

Forasmuch as in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred ninety
two, several Towns within this Province were Infested with a horrible
Witchcraft or Possession of devils; And at a special Court of Oyer and
Termined holden at Salem in the County of Essex in the same year
1692. George Burroughs of Wells, John Procter, George Jacobs, John
Willard, Giles Core and --- his wife, Rebecca Nurse, and Sarah
Good all of Salem aforesaid. Elizabeth How of Ipswich; Mary Eastey,
Sarah Wild and Abigail Hobbs all of Topsfield, Samuel Wardell, Mary
Dartier, Martina Carrier, Abigail Talbot, Anne Turner, Rebecca
Eames, Mary Post and Mary Lacey all of Andover, Mary Bradbury
of Salisbury, and Dorcas How of Beverly there severally indicted
convicted and attainted of Witchcraft, and some of them put to death, others
lying still under the like Sentence of the said Court, and liable to have
Executed upon them.

The Influence and Energy of the Evil Spirits so great at
that time acting in and upon those who were the principal accusers -
and Witnesses proceeding so far as to cause a Prosecution to be had of
persons of an own and good reputation, which caused a great Disaffection
and a Stop to be put thereunto until their Majesty's pleasure should be
known therein. And upon a representation thereof accordingly made
Her late Majesty Queen Mary the Second of Blessed Memory by
Her Royal Letter given at Her Court at Whitehall the fifteenth of
April 1693. was graciously pleased to approve the care and Circum-
spection therein; and to Will. and require that in all proceedings ag-
persons accused for Witchcraft, or being possessed by the devil, the
greatest moderation and all due Circumspection be used, so far as
the same ^{maybe} without Impediment to the ordinary Course of Justice.

And



And some of the principal Accusers and Witnesses in these
dark and severe prosecutions have since discovered themselves to be
persons of profligate and vicious Conversation.

Upon the humble Petition and List of several of these persons
and of the Children of others of them whose Parents were Executed

Be it Declared and Enacted by His Excellency the Governour
Council and Representatives in General Court assembled and by
the Authority of the same That the several Convictions Judgements
and Attainders against the said George Burroughs, John Docter,
George Jacob, John Willard, Giles Core and Core, Rebecca
Nurse, Sarah Good, Elisabeth How, Mary Eastly, Sarah H
Abigail Hobbs, Samuel Wardell, Mary Parker, Murtha
Carrier, Abigail Falkner, Anne Foster, Rebecca Eame
Mary Post, Mary Lacey, Mary Bradbury and Dorcas
and every of them Be and hereby are Reversed made void
to be null and void to all Intents, Constructions and purposes, wh-
ever, as if no such Convictions, Judgments or Attainders had ever
had or given. And that no penalties or forfeitures of Goods or
 Chattels be by the said Judgments and Attainders or either of them had
or Incurred.

Any Law Usage or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding
And that no Sheriffs, Constable, Goalers or other Officers shall be
Liable to any prosecution in the Law for any thing they then Lawfully
did in the Execution of their respective Offices.

Made and Pass'd by the Great and General Court
or Assembly of Her Majestys Province of the
Massachusetts Bay in New-England held at Boston
the 17. day of October. 1711.

