

Charges of Catherine Branch against Elizabeth Clawson, Mercy Disbrow, and Goody Miller, 1692. Samuel Wyllys papers, Connecticut State Library. Adapted from the transcription by the Connecticut State Library.

Catherine Branch, aged seventeen years or thereabouts, testified and said that sometime this last summer she saw and felt Goodwife Clawson and Mercy Disbrow afflict her—not together but apart—by scratching, pinching, and wringing her body and further said that Goodwife Clawson was the first that did afflict her, and afterwards Mercy Disbrow, and after that sometimes one of them and sometimes the other of them and that in her affliction, though it was night, yet it appeared as light as noon.

Sworn in Court Sept 19: 1692, attested by J Allyn, Secretary

Case of Goodwife (Elizabeth) Seager, testimony of Robert Sterne, around 1662-1665. Samuel Wyllys papers, Connecticut State Library. Adapted from the transcription by the Connecticut State Library.

Robert Sterne testifies as follows: "I saw this woman, Goodwife Seager, in the woods with three more women, and with them I saw two black creatures like two Indians, but taller. I saw likewise a kettle there over a fire. I saw the women dance round these black creatures and while I looked upon them one of the women, Goodwife Greensmith, said, 'Look who is yonder!' and then they ran away up the hill. I stood still and the black things came towards me and then turned to move away." He further said, "I know the felons by their clothes, having observed such clothes on them not long before."

Case of Katherine Harrison, testimony of Rebecca Smith, 1668. Samuel Wyllys papers, Connecticut State Library. Excerpted and adapted from the transcription by the Connecticut State Library.

Rebecca Smith, aged about 75, testifies as follows: that ... Goodwife Gilbert, the wife of Jonathan Gilbert... had a black cap, which she had lent to Katherine Harrison, and that Katherine Harrison desired to have the cap, but Goody Gilbert refused to sell it to Katherine.

Afterwards, Goodwife Gilbert wore the cap, and when she had the cap on her head, her shoulders and head were much afflicted. After the cap being pulled of, Goody Gilbert said she was well again. A certain time afterwards, Goody Gilbert wore or put on the cap again and she was afflicted as before; the cap being pulled off again, Goody Gilbert again said she was well. Thus being afflicted several times, it was suspected to be by witchcraft. Afterwards, Rebecca Smith, heard the cap was burned.

Case of Katherine Harrison, testimony of John Welles. Samuel Wyllys papers, Connecticut State Library. Adapted from the transcription by the Connecticut State Library.

When my father lived in the house where Joseph Wright lives, some evenings our cows were late before they came home, and my mother sent me to see if I could meet them. I went once or twice, but the second time I was sent I went about halfway across the street and could go no further. My legs were bound (I thought) with a napkin, but I could see nothing. I looked toward the cattle that were in the street by Goodman Nots' shop and I saw Goodwife Harrison rise up from a cow that was not her own with a pail in her hand and made hast home, and when she was over her own stile, I was loosed. This was about 7 or 8 years ago.*

This was owned and acknowledged by John Welles before me, Samuel Wyllys, June 29, 1668

* a piece of cloth/fabric