

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

Transcription by the Connecticut State Library:

cathoran branch aged seventeene years or theare abouts/ testifieth and saith that som time this last somer shee saw {good}/ {wif} and felt good wife closen and marcy disbrow afflict/ hur not together but apart by scraching pinching and wringing/ hur body and further saith that good wife {cason} \clason/ was the first/ that did afflict hur and affter wards marcy disbrow and/ after that somtimes one of them and som times \the other/ {crossed out} of them/ and {crossed out} in her affliction: though it was night yet it appearing/ as light as noone day sworn in court septr 19: 1692 attest J Allyn secyr/

Adapted for teachitct.org, a CT Humanities program:

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.

Transcription by the Connecticut State Library:

Robt Sterne Testifies as/ followet[h]./ I saw This woman Goodwife Seage/ in the woods w[i]th three more wome[n]/ and wit[h] them {these} I saw two/ black creatures like two Indians/ but taller I saw likewise a Kettle/ there over a fire, I saw the wome[n]/ dance round these black Creatures/ and whiles I looked upon them one/ of the women G Greensmith sai[th]/ lookr who is yonder and then they/ ran away up the hill. I stood still/ and the black things came towards/ mee and then turned to come/ away: He further sait[h] I know the/ F[a]lons by their Habits or clothes/ haveing observed such clothes on/ them not long before:/

Adapted for teachitct.org, a CT Humanities program:

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.

Transcription by the Connecticut State Library (excerpted):

Rebeckka Smith aged about 75 theares testefieth as followes/ that ... Goodwife Gilbert the wife of \Jonathan Gilbert/ ... had/ a black Capp which shee had lent to Katherin Harrison, and Katherin/ Harrison desired {desired} to have the saide capp, but Gooddy Gilbert/ refused to sell it to Katherin, after Goodwife Gilbert wore the saide/ capp and when shee had the capp on her head her shoulders and head was/ much afflicted, after the capp beinge pulled of, Gooddy Gilbert saide/ she was well, again \a certain time/ after Gooddy Gilbert wore, or put on the saide/ Capp: then shee was afflicted as before; the saide capp beinge/ againe pulled of Gooddy Gilbert againe saide shee was well, thus/ beinge afflicted severall times, it was suspected to be by witchcraft/ after the saide Rebecca Smith, herd say the capp was burned./

Excerpted and adapted for teachitct.org, a CT Humanities program:

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.

Transcription by the Connecticut State Library:

when my father lived in the house where Joseph/ wright liveth some evenings our cows were late/ before they came hom and my mother sent me/ to see if I could mete them I went once or twice/ but the second time I was sent I went about half/ way crosse the street and could goe no further/ my legs were bound to my thinking with a nap/ kin but could se nothing I looked foward {for}/ {ward} the cattle that were in the street by good/ man nots shop and I saw good wif harrison rise/ up from a cow that was non of her owne with/ a pail in her hand and made hast home and/ when she was over her own stile I was loosed/ June 29:1668/ This was about 7 or 8 years ago John welles/ / This was owned and acknowledged/ by John wells before me Samll welles/

Adapted for teachitct.org, a CT Humanities program:

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