

## APPENDIX.

ANNO R R<sup>o</sup> ANNÆ ANGLIÆ & C. SECUNDO.PROVINCE OF THE  
MASSACHUSETTS BAY.

AN ACT FOR	} L. S. }	REVERSING THE
ATTAINDER OF ABIGAIL		FAULKNER & OTHERS.

WHEREAS Abigail Faulkner, wife of Francis Faulkner of Andover in the County of Essex, Sarah Wardel Wife of Samuel Wardel of the same place, Elizabeth Procter, Wife of John Procter of Salem Village within the said County. In the Court of Oyer and Terminer and Goal Delivery holden at Salem Village within the said County of Essex in the year One Thousand Six hundred ninety two, were arraigned convicted and attainted of Felony for practising Witchcraft, who have now humbly petitioned this Court, That the said Attainders may be set aside and made void.—

Wherefore be it Declared & Enacted by his Excellency the Governour Council and Representatives in General Court Assembled, and by the Authority of the same,—

That the said Several convictions, Judgements and Attainders of the said Abigail Faulkner, Sarah Wardel, Elizabeth Procter and every of them be, and are repealed, reversed, made and declared null and void to all intents, constructions and purposes whatsoever; as if no such convictions, Judgements or Attainders had ever been had or given. And that no Corruption of blood, pains, penalties or Forfeitures of Goods or Chattels be by the said convictions and Attainders or any of them incurred. But that the said persons and every of them be and hereby are reinstated in their just Credit and reputation Any Law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding

Boston July the 26<sup>th</sup> 1703. This Bill having been read three several times in the House of Representatives—Pass'd to be Enacted

JAM<sup>s</sup>. CONVERSE *Speaker*,—

This Bill having been read three several times in Council, Pass'd to be Enacted July 27<sup>th</sup>

Is<sup>s</sup>. ADDINGTON *Sec'ry*.—

Die prædict. By his Excellency the Governour

I Consent to the Enacting of this Bill

J. DUDLEY.

The foregoing act had a curious history, which will appear in part from the document which follows—reproduced from the original.

[Mass. Archives. CXXXV., 122-123.]

*In the House of Representatives, July 20th, 1703*

In answer to the petitions of Abigail Faulkner, and sundry of the Inhabitants of Andover, in the behalf of sundry persons in and late of s<sup>d</sup> Town, & elsewhere, who in the year 1692 were Indicted, accused, and Condemned, & many of them executed for the crime of Felony by witchcraft. And whereas it is Conceived by many worthy and pious Persons that the Evidence given against [many of] the s<sup>d</sup> Condemned persons was weak and insufficient, as to Taking away the lives of sundry so condemned, &c.<sup>a</sup> Wherefore it is thought meet and it is hereby

*Ordered*, That a Bill be drawn up for Preventing the like Procedure for the future, and that no Spectre Evidence may be hereafter accounted valid, or sufficient to take away the life or good name of any Person or Persons within this Province, and that the Infamy, and Reproach, cast on the names, and Posterity of the s<sup>d</sup> accused, and condemned Persons may in some measure be Roll'd away.

Sent up for concurrence

JAM<sup>s</sup>. CONVERSE, *Speaker*.

*(Endorsed)* Order for bringing in a bill to reverse the attainder of Abig<sup>a</sup>. Faulkner, &c<sup>a</sup> of witchcraft.

The document thus sent to the Council did not receive its sanction without some modifications. The words "many of" inserted above in brackets appear as an addition to the original written in the margin by the Secretary of the Council—Addington: and instead of the resolution "ordered" etc. in the paper as it emanated from the House, the following was substituted, appearing in the handwriting of Governor Dudley himself, on a separate paper, viz.:

*Ordered*, "That a bill be brought in to acquit Mary (*sic*) Falkner and the other present petitioners severally of the penaltys to which they are lyable upon the said Convictions and Judgments in the said Courts and Estate them in their just Credit and reputation as if no such Judgment had been had.

"In Council, July 21<sup>th</sup>, 1703, agreed to. Die pdict. Agreed to."

The records indicate that this action originated with the Council, but this document shows that it was founded on the previous motion of the House. The latter branch agreed to the order of the Council on the same day, 21 July, 1703, and the bill was read a first and second time on the 22d, and on the 23d a third time and passed and sent down for concurrence. On the 27th, the Engrossed Bill for reversing the Attainers, &c. passed in the House of Representatives, was read and agreed to be enacted. *Council Records*.

This private act was the only law of the kind which can be found in all the legislation of Massachusetts.

A few years later, the "cry of the oppressed" seems to have reached the ears of those in authority. Numerous petitions were sent in and in a sermon before the General Assembly, Nov. 3d, 1709, Cotton Mather himself delivered the following remarkable utterances:

"In two or three too Memorable *Days of Temptation* that have been upon us, there have been Errors committed. You are always ready to Declare unto all the World, *That you Disapprove those Errors*. You are willing to inform all Mankind with your DECLARATIONS:

*That no man may be Persecuted, because he is Conscienciously not of the same Religious Opinions, with those that are uppermost.*

And; *That Persons are not to be judg'd confederates with Evil Spirits, meerly because the Evil Spirits do make Possessed People cry out upon them.*

Could any thing be proposed further, by way of *Reparation*, [Besides the General Day of *Humiliation*, which was appointed and observed thro' the Province, to bewayl the Errors of our Dark time, some years ago:] You would be willing to hearken to it."

The following document shows what was done, in the following year, etc.

[Mass. Archives: cxxxv. 169.]

*To y<sup>e</sup> Hon<sup>d</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Court Sitting.*

WE whose names are subscribed, In Obedience to yo<sup>r</sup> Hon<sup>s</sup> Act at a Court held y<sup>e</sup> vlt of May 1710: for our Inserting y<sup>e</sup> Names of y<sup>e</sup> severall psons who were Condemned for witchcraft in y<sup>e</sup> year 1692. & of y<sup>e</sup> damages they susteined by their prosecution.

Being mett at Salem y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup>. 1710. for y<sup>e</sup> Ends aforesaid upon Examination of y<sup>e</sup> Records of y<sup>e</sup> severall psons Condemned: Humbly offer to yo<sup>r</sup> Hon<sup>s</sup>. the Names as Follow to be Inserted for y<sup>e</sup> Reuersing of their Attainers:

Executed	{	Elizabeth <sup>T</sup> How; Georg <sup>S</sup> Jacob, Mary <sup>T</sup> Easty, Mary
		Parker, Mr George Burroughs: Giles Core & his wife.
		Rebecca Nurse. John Willard. Sarah Good. Martha <sup>A</sup> Carrier, Samuel Wardell. John Procter: Sarah Wild
Condemned & not Executed	{	M <sup>rs</sup> Mary Bradbury. Abigail <sup>A</sup> Falknor. Abigail <sup>T</sup> Hobs.
		Ann <sup>A</sup> Foster. Rebecca <sup>A</sup> Eams, Dorcas <sup>B</sup> Hoar. Mary <sup>A</sup> Post
		Mary <sup>A</sup> Lacey. <sup>1</sup>

And haueing heard y<sup>e</sup> Seuerall Demaunds of y<sup>e</sup> Damages of y<sup>e</sup> afores<sup>d</sup> psons & those in their behalf, & upon Conference haue soe Moderated their Respective demaunds y<sup>t</sup> we doubt not but y<sup>t</sup> they will be Readily Comply<sup>d</sup> w<sup>th</sup> by yo<sup>r</sup> Hon<sup>s</sup> which Respective demaunds are as follow. Elizabeth How 12£ Georg Jacob. 79£. Mary Easty. 20£. Mary Parker. 8£. M<sup>r</sup> Georg Burroughs. 50£. Giles Core. & Martha Core his wife 21£ Rebecca Nurse 25£. John Willard 20£. Sarah Good. 30£ Martha Carrier. 7£ 6s. Samuel Wardell & Sarah his wife 36£ 15<sup>s</sup>. John Procter, & Procter his wife 150£ Sarah Wild. 14£. M<sup>rs</sup> Mary Bradbury, 20£ Abigail Falkner 20£ Abigail Hobs. 10£. Ann Foster. 6£. 10<sup>s</sup>. Rebecca

The letters above lines appear to refer to towns where the persons belonged: T, Topsfield; S, Salem, and one Salisbury; A, Andover; W, Wells; B, Beverly.

Eams. 10£ Dorcas Hoar, 21£ 17<sup>s</sup>. Mary Post. 8£ 14<sup>s</sup>. Mary Lacey. 8£ 10<sup>s</sup>  
the whole amounting unto. 578£ 12<sup>s</sup>

Yor Hou's most Humble Serv<sup>ts</sup>

JOHN APPLETON  
THOMAS NOYES  
JOHN BURRILL  
NEH: JEWETT

Octo<sup>r</sup>. 23: 1711 Read. and accepted in the House of  
Representatives Sent up for Concurrence

JOHN BURRILL *Speaker* ,

Oct<sup>o</sup> 26, 1711

In Council Read and Concurred

IS<sup>a</sup>: ADDINGTON *Sec<sup>ry</sup>*

[On same paper, but stricken out.]

Y <sup>r</sup> Acco <sup>t</sup> of yo <sup>r</sup> Scruants. Charges	£
3 dayes a peic ou <sup>r</sup> selues & horses . . . . .	4.0.0
Entertainment at Salem, M <sup>r</sup> Pratts: . . . . .	1-3-0
Major Sewals attendance & sending notifications to all con- cerned . . . . .	1-0-0
	6-3

From this document it appears that a Committee was appointed early in 1710 on the subject. They met at Salem in September of that year and concluded their labors after a session of three days. Their report was not made to the same General Court by which they were appointed, but that of the next political year; when it was read and accepted in the House of Representatives, sent up and concurred in by the Council. No law was enacted in either of those years in accordance with the ideas suggested, and although some payments of money appear to have been made to various parties interested—it will hardly be maintained that judgments of attainder could be reversed by the simple acceptance of the report of a Committee by any legislative body or bodies whatever.

The subsequent action of the legislature is indicated by the following collections from their journals which I have made with great care.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS, ETC.

1717. 20 June. A Petition of *Philip English of Salem*, praying Consideration and allowance for a great part of his Estate, taken from him (as was said) by lawful authority in the late sorrowful time of the Witchcraft. Sent down from the Board. Read there. Read.

1717. 20 November. A Petition of *Philip English*, praying as entered the 20<sup>th</sup> of June last, Read again, and *Ordered*, That Mr. Speaker Burrill,

Mr. Isaiah Tay and Jonathan Remington, Esqrs; with such as the Honourable Board shall appoint, be a Committee to consider of the said Petition and all the Papers relating thereto, and report what they think proper to be done in answer thereto, to this Court at their next Session. Sent up for Concurrence.

1718. 7<sup>th</sup> February. The Petition of *Philip English* which was pass'd upon in this House the 20<sup>th</sup> of November last. Sent down from the Board pass'd on there, viz: In Council, Feb. 7, 1717. Ordered, That the Committee be continued, and that they make report as above at the Session of this Court in May next. Sent down for Concurrence. Read and Concurred.

1718. July 3. The Petition of *Philip English* pass'd upon in this House the 7<sup>th</sup> of February last. Sent down from the Board pass'd on there, viz: In Council, July 3, 1718. Ordered that the Committee on this Petition be continued, and that they make Report to this Court at their Session in Autumn next. Sent down for Concurrence. Read and Concurred.

1718. November 8. The Report of the Committee of both Houses, continued the 3<sup>d</sup> of July last, on the Petition of *Philip English*. Sent down from the Board pass'd on there, and is as follows, viz. In obedience to the Order within mentioned, having had several Meetings on the Affair at which the Petitioner, and sundry Evidences have given their Attendance, & were heard & Examined, and the Petition, & the Papers relating thereto with the Representation of the Damage & Loss being duly consider'd, the Committee are humbly of Opinion, It is reasonable upon the whole that the Petitioner be allowed & paid out of the Publick Treasury Two Hundred Pounds in full Satisfaction for what he may have sustained and suffered as set forth in his Petition, Account & Papers, which is humbly submitted by *Thomas Fitch* per Order of the Committee. In Council, *Novemb.* 8<sup>th</sup>, 1718. Read & Accepted. Sent down for Concurrence.

1718. November 10. The Report of the Committee on the Petition of *Philip English*, entered the 8<sup>th</sup> Currant. Read again. And *Voted* a Concurrence with the Board thereon.

1718. November 11. An Accompt of the Expenses of the Committee on Mr. *Philip English's* Affair, amounting to 1<sup>l</sup> 12<sup>s</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> laid before the House for allowance.

*Resolved*, that the Sum of Thirty Two Shillings and Two Pence be allowed and paid out of the Publick Treasury, to the Honourable *Thomas Fitch*, Esq; Chair-man of the said Committee, to Discharge the said Accompt. Sent up for Concurrence.

June 27. 1723. "A Petition of *Thomas Rich* of *Salem*, only Surviving Child of *Martha Corey*, alias *Martha Rich* of *Salem* deceased, praying the Compassionate Consideration and Commiseration of this Court for the great Losses the Petitioner met with in the Year 1692. for the Reasons in said Petition at large Enumerated, &c. Read, and Committed to the Committee for Petitions

And *Ordered*, That Capt. *Eyes* be added to the Committee for the Consideration of this Petition."

June 29. 1723. "On the Petition of *Thomas Rich*, The Committee reported. That in consideration of the Loss the Petitioner might sustain by being deprived of the Goods mentioned in the Petition together with the many Illegal Actions of the Sheriff and his Officers respecting the Persons charged as Witches, They are humbly of Opinion That the Sum of £50 be allowed and paid out of the Publick Treasury to the Petitioner *Thomas Rich*, in full Recompence of what Damage might accrue to him thereby.

Read and accepted. And accordingly, *Resolved*, That the Sum of *Fifty*

*Pounds* be allowed and paid out of the Publick Treasury to the Petitioner *Thomas Rich*, in full satisfaction for the Losses he may have sustained as at large set forth in the Petition.

Sent up for Concurrence."

The next sharp reminder of their neglected duty came from the pulpit.

Rev. ISRAEL LORING, Pastor of a Church in Sudbury, in his *Election Sermon*, May 25th, 1737, on the Duty of an Apostatizing People to remember from whence they are fallen, and repent, and do their first Works, revived the subject with boldness and vigor. Setting forth ways and means by which civil rulers may set forward the work of reformation among a people and promote the Interest of Religion, after referring to a growing neglect of public worship and increasing sin of drunkenness, he proceeds:—

"There is one Thing more which I would recommend to the serious Consideration of this Great and General Court; and that is, Whether there is not a great Duty lying upon us, respecting the Transactions of the Year 1692, when not only many Persons were taken off by the Hand of publick Justice for the supposed crime of Witchcraft; but their Estates also ruined, and their Families impoverished. None dispute the Integrity of those, who were then concerned to act and judge most in those matters. But it was a dark Day with them; they walk'd in the Clouds, and could not clearly see their way, as to the Mystery of Iniquity then working. All orders of Persons have since seen Reason to condemn the Rules of the whole Process as fallacious and insufficient to distinguish the Guilty from the Innocent.<sup>1</sup>

What the Sense even of our Predecessors, and those who were then upon the Stage of Action was, in relation to this Affair, may be in some measure learned from a Proclamation for a General Fast, emitted *Decemb.* 17, 1696, four Years after; in which is contained this Direction for publick Prayers, *viz.* 'that God would shew us what we know not, and help us wherein we have done amiss, to do so no more: And especially that whatever Mistakes on either Hand have been fallen into, either by the body of this People, or any order of Men, referring to the late Tragedy raised by Satan and his Instruments, thro' the awful Judgments of God: He would humble us therefor, and pardon all the Errors of his Servants and People that desire to love his Name; and be atoned to his Land.'

"Now tho' the loss of Parents cannot be made up to their surviving Posterity, yet their Estates may; And the Question is (if it be not beyond all Question) whether a Restitution is not due from the Publick to them, and we are not bound in Justice to make it. Hereby Infamy may be taken off from the Names and Memory of such as were Executed, and who it may be did not in the least deserve it; as well as a Reparation made to their children for the Injuries done them; who remain to this Day among us in mean, low and abject circumstances. It is now something more than forty Years since these sad Things were done among us; but length of time is no Argument that God is not at this Day, among other Things, contending with us for these; since he punished *Israel* with Famine three Years for a Sin of misguided zeal committed forty Years before that, 2 *Sam.* xxi. 1, 2." *sermon, etc., pp.* 51-53.

"<sup>1</sup>See the Rev. Mr. HALE's accurate and judicious Discourse concerning Witchcraft; shewing how Persons guilty of that Crime may be convicted; and in which the Means used for their discovery are discussed both negatively and affirmatively, according to Scripture and Experience."

Although the earnest words and suggestions of this pious clergyman do not appear to have aroused any active sympathy in the legislature whose members he addressed—a movement was set on foot in the following year, when a Committee of the House of Representatives was appointed—whose origin appears in the subjoined letter, and its enclosure:<sup>1</sup>

The land-fever was perhaps at its height in that period of Massachusetts history, and “granting a township” the most natural expression which the legislature could give of justice or gratitude or both.

There is a singular coincidence to be noted here in considering the action of the legislature, and the movements of those who had influence with the authorities. The proposition to make restitution to the victims of Witchcraft was instantly followed by an effort to reward the Mather family; and it is difficult to avoid the reflection that the partisans of that family may have been stimulated to action by the proposal to do some justice, though late, to the memories of the sufferers, and to gratify their descendants by a substantial recognition. Certainly the names of the Mathers have been at all times inseparably connected with the history of the Witchcraft Delusions of Massachusetts.

<sup>1</sup> This letter was found by WILLIAM P. UPHAM, Esq., of Salem, among some miscellaneous papers filed with the Town Records of that City. John Higginson was Town Clerk in 1738. Major Samuel Sewall and Mitchell Sewall were sons of Stephen Sewall, Clerk of the Courts in the Witchcraft trials.

Boston Dec. 9, 1738.

Gent<sup>rs</sup>.

Inclosed is a vote of ye house passed yesterday I think unanimously relating to ye Dark affair in 1692, they being very desirous of making restitution by Granting a Township or paying in money—& I am directed by ye Comittee to desire you two Gentlemen would immediately look over those Records & give us an Acc<sup>t</sup>. who was ye Sufferers & by inquiring also who has Rec<sup>d</sup>. any money particularly how much Mr. English has Rec<sup>d</sup>. & whether considerable yet due to his heirs. We pray you would be speedy & earnest in your inquiries & give us an acc<sup>t</sup>. as soon as possible because we would fain have something done before ye Court rises—You will be not only doing a great good but very much oblige ye whole Court & particularly

Yo<sup>r</sup>. humb. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. SEWALL

*By order of ye Comittee.*

Mitchel Sewall } Eq<sup>rs</sup>. [Salem.]  
& Jn<sup>o</sup>. Higginson }

[Enclosure:] *In the House of Rep<sup>tes</sup>* Dec<sup>r</sup>. 8, 1738.

On a motion made and seconded by divers Members Ordered that Maj<sup>r</sup>. Sewall, Mr. Fairfield, Mr. Norton and Mr. Danforth be a Com<sup>tee</sup> to get the best Information they can into the circumstances of the persons & families who suffered in the Calamity of the times in & about the year 1692, and have not received any Restitution or Reparation for their Losses & Misfortunes; that the Committee lay the same before the Court as soon as may be.

1738, December 12. A Memorial and Petition of the Reverend Mr. *Samuel Mather* of Boston, Clerk, setting forth the publick and eminent Services of his venerable and honoured Grandfather and Father in the Cause and Interest of the Province in many Instances and on Divers Occasions, as particularly therein enumerated, both in civil and religious respects, praying this Court would please to make him an allowance for the said Services, that so he the Memorialist may be excited and encouraged to Apologize for the Libertics of New England, and thereby will arise some standing and perpetual Memorial of the good deeds of his worthy Ancestors, and the Gratitude of their Country for them. Read and *Ordered*, that the Petition be considered on Friday the 15th current.

December 20. The Petition was read again with another Petition of sundry others of the Descendants of the Petitioner's Grandfather presented the last Session. and *Ordered*, that *John Read* and *Richard Saltonstall*, Esqs. and Mr. *Sumner*, be a Committee to inquire into the Facts and Services therein mentioned, and Report what in their Opinion may be proper for the Court to do therein.

December 29. *John Read*, Esq. from the Committee appointed the 20th current on the Petition of the Rev. Mr. *Samuel Mather*, made the following Report: viz:

The Committee upon the Petition of the Reverend Mr. *Samuel Mather*, considering that the Reverend Dr. Increase Mather not only served his particular Church as their Minister faithfully and the College as their President with Honour, but the Province as an Agent in procuring the present Charter, to the good acceptance of his Country; and that his Son the Rev. Dr. Cotton Mather and grandson the Petitioner his successor in the same Church and Ministry have not behaved themselves unworthy of such an Ancestor, and have never had one Foot of Land granted to either of them as we can learn, are therefore of Opinion that notwithstanding the Gratification of two hundred pounds given him as alledged it may be proper for this Court to grant a Farm of five hundred Acres of the unappropriated Lands of this Province to the Heirs of the said Dr. *Increase Mather*, as a Memorial of his personal Worth and publick Services, and report accordingly; which was read and the Question was put, *Whether the Report be accepted?* It passed in the Negative, and *Ordered*, that the Petition lie on the table.

1739, 22 June. A Petition of the Rev. Mr. *Samuel Mather*, praying the Consideration of the Court on Account of the publick and extraordinary Services of his Ancestors, as entered the 12th and 20th of December last; and a Petition of *Maria Fifield*, *Elizabeth Byles*, and others, Heirs of Dr. *Increase Mather*, praying the Consideration of the Court on account of their Father's publick Services.

Read, and the question was put, *Whether the Petitions shall be committed?* It passed in the Negative.

Then the Question was put, *Whether any Grant shall be made the Petitioners?* It passed in the Negative, and *Ordered*, That the Petitions be dismissed.

1738-9. January 26. "*Ordered*, that *Benjamin Browne*, Esq. and Captain *Timothy Johnson*, be added to the Committee appointed the sixth current,<sup>1</sup> to get the best Information they could into the circumstances of the Persons and Families who suffered in the Calamity of the Times in and about 1692, and have not received any Restitution or Reparation for their Losses and Misfortunes."

1739. June 30. On a motion made and seconded by divers members,

<sup>1</sup>I have found no such proceeding at that date: perhaps this date was an error, as the committee was appointed on the 8th December.



*Ordered*, That the Committee to consider the Case of the Sufferers in the troublesome Times Anno 1692, be allowed till the next Fall Session to report thereon.

1739-40. January 5. The Committee appointed by the House of Representatives to inquire and get the best Information they could into the Circumstances of the Persons and Families who suffered in the Calamity of the Times in or about the Year *sixteen Hundred Ninety two*, and have not received any Restitution or Reparation for their Losses and Misfortunes, &c. reported thereon. •

Read and *Ordered*, That the Consideration thereof be referred to the next *May* Session, that the Committee may more fully inform themselves concerning that Affair.

The matter does not seem to have been taken up at the *May* session, but at the third session of the same Legislature, Governor Belcher devoted a paragraph of his Speech to it, and added (for the first time) a reference to the sufferings of the Quakers as entitling them also to consideration in the way of Reparation and Restitution.

Sabbati Die 22 Novembris, A. D. 1740, His Excellency's SPEECH was read, and is as follows, viz.

(*Extract.*) "This Legislature have often honoured themselves in a kind and generous Remembrance of such Families, and of the Posterities of such as have been sufferers, either in their Persons or Estates, for, or by the Government, of which the publick Records will give you many Instances; I should therefore be glad, there might be a Committee appointed by this Court, to inquire into the Sufferings of the People called *Quakers*, in the early Days of this Country, as also, into the Descendants of such Families, as were in a manner ruined, in the mistaken Management of the terrible Affair, called *Witchcraft*: I really think, there is something incumbent on this Government to be done, for retrieving the Estates, and Reputations of the Posterities of the unhappy Families, that so suffered, and the doing it (tho' so long afterwards) would, doubtless, be acceptable to Almighty GOD, and would reflect Honour upon the present Legislature.

OLDMIXON, in the preface to the 2<sup>d</sup>. Ed<sup>n</sup>. (1741) of his *British Empire in America*, refers to this subject as follows:

"The great *Foible* of the *New England* History is the Story of the Witches, which Mr. Neal has in no manner countenanced; and *New-England* must be no more charged with it, since the Assembly there have now under Consideration, by the recommendation of Governor *Belcher*, the Means of giving Satisfaction to the Posterity of the Sufferers, by a Mistake, as it is called; as also to those of the Quakers, Fellow Sufferers by a Mistake alike fatal. This proceeding of Governor *Belcher* and the Assembly has set the Reputation of this Colony right, in the Opinion of all good *Britons* and good Protestants." p. ix.

1740, December 5th. *Voted*, that Col. *Brown*, Mr. *Fairfield* and Capt. *Johnson*, with such as shall be joined by the Honorable Board, be a Committee to consider that Paragraph in his Excellency's SPEECH, relating to the People called Quakers and the Affair called *Witchcraft*, and report what they judge proper for this Court to do thereon. Sent up for concurrence.

1741. April 25. *John Jeffries*, Esq. brought down a vote of Council, viz: In Council, April 25th, 1741, *Voted*, That the Committee appointed the fifth of December last, to consider of that paragraph of His

Excellency's Speech relating to the *Quakers*, and the affair called *Witchcraft*, do make their report at the next *May* Session. Sent down for Concurrence. Read and Concur'd.

1741. July 23. *Voted*, That Mr. *Cushing*, Mr. *Fairfield*. Major *Osgood*, Capt. *Cheevers*, and Capt. *Lawton*, with such as shall be joined by the Honorable Board, be a Committee to enquire who were formerly Sufferers as *Quakers*, or on Account of *Witchcraft*, and what Satisfaction has been made by this Court to such Sufferers, and report what in their Judgment may be proper to do thereon. Sent up for Concurrence.

1743. 1, t June. *Voted*, That Capt. *Choate*, Mr. *Gardner*, and Col. *Epes*, with such as the Honorable Board shall appoint, be a Committee to inquire who were formerly Sufferers, as *Quakers*, or on Account of *Witchcraft*; and what satisfaction has been made by this Court to such Sufferers; and report what in their Judgment may be proper to do thereon. Sent up for Concurrence.

1749. June 17. A Memorial of *Thomas Newman*. *Abia Holbrook*, Jun. and *Elias Thomas*, Agents for their respective Relatives, the surviving Children and Grand-Children of *George Burroughs*, formerly of *Falmouth*, in the County of *York*, Clerk. deceased; representing the unparallel'd Persecutions and Sufferings of their said Ancestor, and praying some Recompence for the great Losses sustained in that unhappy Affair.

Read and *Ordered*, That Mr. Speaker, [*Joseph Dwight*, Esq.] Mr. *Hubbard*, Col. *Choate*, Mr. *Daniel Pierce*, and *Thomas Foster*, Esq. with such as the Honorable Board shall join, be a Committee to take the case of the Memorialists under Consideration, and report what they judge proper for this Court to do thereon. Sent up for Concurrence.

"In Council, Read & Concurred & Samuel Danforth, John Quincy, Ezekiel Cheever, & John Otis, Esq<sup>rs</sup> are joined in the affair."

[Mass. Archives, CXXXV., 172.]

To His Honour SPENCER PHIPPS Esq<sup>re</sup>. Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief in and over his Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, and to the Honourable the Council and the Honourable the House of Representatives in General Court assembled.

The Memorial of THOMAS NEWMAN, ABIA HOLBROOK and ELIAS THOMAS agents for their respective relatives, the surviving children and Grandchildren of George Burroughs formerly of Falmouth in the County of York and province aforesaid, Clerk, deceased. As a Supplement to the prayer of their Memorial and petition humbly presented to His Excellency Governor Shirley and the Honourable His Majesty's Council, and this Honourable House of Representatives, on the thirty first day of May last.

Most humbly suggesteth:

That their said Memorial and petition setting forth the awful and miserable condition of the unhappy children and descendants of the Reverend Mr. George Burroughs who as therein set forth had his blood shed, and was one of the most deplorable victims cut off in the fatal catastrophe in the year 1692.—Was by the Honourable Court referred to the Consideration of a Committee of both Houses in June last to report what might be proper for the Court to act thereupon, but so it seems it hath fell out that the Honourable Mr. Danforth Chairman of the said Committee hath not as yet called them together so much as once to act thereon even to this day, as some of the Honourable Committee themselves were pleased with real concern to signify to your said petitioners.

Your Memorialists therefore most humbly supplicate (they having been put to great expense already) that their said Memorial and petition may be again brought forward, Read and Acted upon before the final

Rising of this Court, that so a stop may be put to the cry of the long oppressed sufferers.

And your Memorialists as in Duty bound shall ever pray &c.

*Boston March 28. 1750.*

THOMAS NEWMAN  
ABIA HOLBROOK JUN.<sup>r</sup>  
ELIAS THOMAS

In the House of Representatives March 28, 1750. Read and ordered that the Committee within referred to, be directed to sit forthwith, consider the petition to them committed and report as soon as may be.

Sent up for concurrence

THOMAS HUBBARD Spk<sup>r</sup> *pro Tempore.*

The entry on the Journal of the House is varied in its mode of expression, as follows:

1750. March 28. "*Ordered*, That the Committee of both Houses appointed in *June* last, to consider the Petition of *Thomas Newman* and others, be directed to sit forthwith, and report as soon as may be. Sent up for Concurrence."

On the next day, March 29, 1750, it was further "*Ordered*, That Major *Lawrence* and *Nathanael Oliver*, Esqrs; be of the Committee on the Petition of *Thomas Newman* and others, in the Room of *Joseph Dwight* and *John Choate*, Esqrs. who are absent."

But nothing was done and "the cry of the long oppressed Sufferers" seems to have been stifled: at any rate it was heard no more in the high places of legislation.

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.