

*Examination of Sarah Good
(as Recorded by Ezekiel Cheever)*

March 1, 1692

HATHORNE: Sarah Good, what evil spirit have you familiarity with?

GOOD: None.

HATHORNE: Have you made no contract with the Devil?

GOOD: No.

HATHORNE: Why do you hurt these children?

GOOD: I do not hurt them. I scorn it.

HATHORNE: Who do you employ, then, to do it?

GOOD: I employ nobody.

HATHORNE: What creature do you employ, then?

GOOD: No creature, but I am falsely accused.

HATHORNE: Why did you go away muttering from Mr. Parris's house?

GOOD: I did not mutter, but I thanked him for what he gave my child.

HATHORNE: Have you made no contract with the Devil?

GOOD: No.

Mr. Hathorne desired the children, all of them, to look upon her and see if this were the person that had hurt them and so they all did look upon her and said this was one of the persons that did torment them. Presently they were all tormented.

HATHORNE: Sarah Good, do you not see now what you have done? Why do you not tell us the truth? Why do you thus torment these poor children?

GOOD: I do not torment them.

HATHORNE: Who do you employ, then?

GOOD: I employ nobody. I scorn it.

HATHORNE: How came they thus tormented?

GOOD: What do I know? You bring others here and now you charge me with it.

HATHORNE: Why, who was it?

GOOD: I do not know, but it was some you brought into the meeting house with you.

HATHORNE: We brought you into the meeting house.

GOOD: But you brought in two more.

HATHORNE: Who was it, then, that tormented the children?

GOOD: It was Osborne.

HATHORNE: What is it that you say when you go muttering away from persons' houses?

GOOD: If I must tell, I will tell.

HATHORNE: Do tell us, then.

GOOD: If I must tell, I will tell: it is the commandments. I may say my commandments, I hope.

HATHORNE: What commandment is it?

GOOD: If I must tell you, I will tell: it is a psalm.

HATHORNE: What psalm?

After a long time she muttered over some part of a psalm.

HATHORNE: Who do you serve?

GOOD: I serve God.

HATHORNE: What God do you serve?

GOOD: The God that made heaven and earth (though she was not willing to mention the word God).

Her answers were in a very wicked, spiteful manner, reflecting and retorting against the authority with base and abusive words, and many lies she was taken in. It was here said that her husband had said that he was afraid that she either was a witch or would be one very quickly the worse. Mr. Hathorne asked him his reason why he said so of her, whether he had ever seen anything by her.¹ He answered no, not in this nature, but it was her bad carriage to him. "And indeed," said he, "I may say with tears that she is an enemy to all good."

¹In other words, had he seen her do anything that might lead him to believe that she was a witch?

Samuel Abbey and Mary Abbey against Sarah Good

June 29, 1692

Samuel Abbey of Salem Village, aged forty-five years or thereabouts, and Mary Abbey, his wife, aged thirty-eight years or thereabouts, depose and saith that about this time three years past, William Good and his wife Sarah Good, being destitute of a house to dwell in, these deponents, out of charity, they being poor, let them live in theirs some time, until that the said Sarah Good was of so turbulent a spirit, spiteful, and so maliciously bent that these deponents could not suffer her to live in their house any longer and was forced for quietness sake to turn she, the said Sarah, with her husband, out of their house. Ever since, which is about two years and an half ago, the said Sarah Good hath carried it very spitefully and maliciously towards them. The winter following after the said Sarah was gone from our house, we began to lose cattle and lost several after an unusual manner, in a drooping condition, and yet they would eat, and your deponents have lost after that manner seventeen head of cattle within two years, besides sheep and hogs, and both do believe they died by witchcraft. The said William Good on the last of May, [that] was twelve months [ago], went home to his wife the said Sarah Good, and told her what a sad accident had fallen out. She asked what. He answered that his neighbor Abbey had lost two cows, both dying within half an hour of one another. The said Sarah Good said she did not care if he, the said Abbey, had lost all the cattle he had, as the said John Good told us. Just that very day that the said Sarah Good was taken up,¹ we, your deponents, had a cow that could not rise alone, but since presently after she [Good] was taken up, the said cow was well and could rise so well as if she had ailed nothing. She, the said Sarah Good, ever since these deponents turned her out of their house, hath behaved herself very crossly and maliciously to them and their children, calling their children vile names and hath threatened them often.

¹Arrested.

*Henry Herrick and Jonathan Batchelor
against Sarah Good*

June 29, 1692

The deposition of Henry Herrick, aged about twenty-one years: this deponent testifieth and saith that in last March, [that] was two years [ago], Sarah Good came to his father's house and desired to lodge there, and his father forbid it, and she went away grumbling and my father bid us follow her and see that she went away clear, lest she should lie in the barn and by smoking of her pipe should fire the barn. And said deponent with Jonathan Batchelor seeing her make a stop near the barn, bid her be gone, or he would set her further off, to which she replied that then it should cost his father Zachariah Herrick one or two of the best cows which he had.

And Jonathan Batchelor, aged fourteen years, testifieth the same above written, and doth farther testify that about a week after, two of his grandfather's master cattle were removed from their places and other younger cattle put in their rooms and since that several of their cattle have been set loose in a strange manner.

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Samuel Sibley against Sarah Good

June 29, 1692

Samuel Sibley, aged about thirty-four years, testifieth and saith that I being at the house of Doctor Griggs that night after that Sarah Good was examined, and Elizabeth Hubbard said, "There stands Sarah Good

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