

WITCHES IN CONNECTICUT

The following is from "The Witchcraft Delusion In Colonial Connecticut" and was sent in by Norris Whitlock. The "goodwife Whitlocke" referred to is assumed to be the wife of John Whitlock who died in Connecticut in 1659.

"Aprill 26th 1654

Bethia Bundish, of the age of sixteene or thereabouts, maketh oath, as they were going to execution of goodwife Knapp, who was condemned for a witch by the court & jury at Fairfield, there being present herselfe & Deborah Lockwood and Sarah Cable, she heard goodwife Staplyes say, that she thought the said goodwife Knapp was no witch, and goodwife Gould presently reproved her for it."

"Witnes

"Andrew Warde,

"Jurat' die & anno prdicto,

"Coram me, Ro Ludlowe.

"The plant' replied that he had severall other witnesses wch he thought would cleere the matters in question, if the court please to heare them, wch being granted, he first presented a testimony of goodwife Whitlocke of Fairfield, upon oath taken before Mr. Fowler at Millford, the 27th of May, 1654, wherein she saith, that concerning goodwife Staplyes speeches at the execution of goodwife Knapp, she being present & next to goody Staplyes when they were going to put the dead corpes of goodwife Knapp into the grave, severall women were looking for the markes of a witch upon the dead body, and severall of the women said they could finde none, & this depont said, nor I; then came one that had searched the said witch, & shewed them the markes that were upon her, and said what are these; and then this depont heard goodwife Staplyes say she never saw such in all her life, and that she was pswaded that no honest woman had such things as those were; and the dead corps being then presently put into the grave, goodwife Staplyes & myselfe came immediatly away together unto the towne, from the place of execution.

Goodwife Barlow of Fairfield before the court did now testify upon oath, that when Knapps wife was hanged and ready to be buried, she desired to see the markes of a witch and spake to one of her neighbours to goe wth her, and they looked but found them not; then goodwife Staplyes came to them, and one or two more, goodwife Staplyeyes kneeled downe by them, and they all looked but found ym not, & said they saw nothing but what is comon to other women, but after they found them they all wondered, and goodwife Staplyes in pticular, and said they never saw such things in their life before, so they went away.

The wife of John Tompson of Fairefeild testifyeth upon oath, that goodwife Whitlock, goodwife Staplyes and herselfe, were at the grave and desired to see ye markes of the witch that was hanged, they looked but found them not at first, then the midwife came & shewed them, goodwife Staplyes said she never saw such, and she beleevved no honest woman had such."

Source: R477