

THE  
WITCHES

OF  
HUNTINGDON,

Their Examinations and  
Confessions ; exactly taken by

his Majesties Justices of Peace for that Coun-  
ty. Whereby will appeare how craftily  
and dangerously the Devill tempteth and  
seizeth on poore soules.

The Reader may make use hereof against  
Hypocritic, anger, malice, swearing, Ido-  
latry, Lust, Covetousnesse, and other grievous  
sins, which occasioned this their downfall.

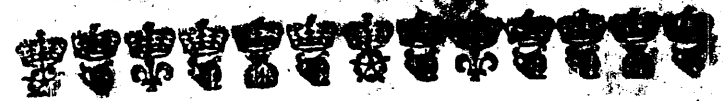
---

*Professio res stulta est nequitie modus. Seneca.*

---

July 7<sup>th</sup> LONDON,

Printed by W. WILSON, for RICHARD  
CLUTTERBUCK. 1646.



THE  
VVITCHES  
OF  
HVNTINGDON,  
Their Examinations and Confessions  
exactly taken, &c.

*The Examination of Elizabeth Weed of great Catworth in the County of Huntingdon, Widow, taken upon the last day of March, 1646. before Robert Bernard, and Nicholas Peasley, Esq. two of his Majesties Justices of the peace for this County.*

**S**He saith, that about one and twenty yeares since she being saying her Prayers in the evening about bed-time, there did appeare unto her three Spirits, one in the likenesse of a young man or boy, and the other two of two Puppies, the one white and the other black: and that which was in the shape of a young man did speak unto her, asking her, if shee would renounce God and Christ; shee answered, shee would. And the Devill then offer'd her, that hee would doe what mischief she should require him; and said she must covenant with him that he must have her soule at the end of one and twenty yeares, which she granted. And saith, that he came to her about a week after, about ten of the clock in the night, with a Paper, and asked her whether she were willing to seale the Covenant, shee said she was, then he told her it must be done with her bloud, and so pricked her under her left

arme, and made her bleed in the place: a great lumpe of flesh did rise, and hath increased ever since, and he scribled therewith. And being demanded what light was there, she answered, none but the light of the Spirit, and presently he came to bed to her, and had the carnall knowledge of her, and so did divers times after, and faith, the other two Spirits did then, and at other times come into her bed also, and sucked upon other parts of her body where shee had Teats. Being demanded the name of the lesser Spirits, shee faith the name of the white one was *Lilly*, and the blacke one *Priscill*; and that the office of *Lilly* was to hurt man, woman, or coilde; and the office of *Priscill* was to hurt Cattel when she desired. And the office of the man-like Spirit was to lye with her carnally, when and as often as she desired, and that hee did lye with her in that manner very often; and that the Spirit *Lilly*, according to the Covenant, did kill the child of *Mr. Henry Bedells* of *Carworth* aforesaid, as shee this Examinee desired him to do; and that shee wisht him to doe the same when she was angrie; but doth not well remember for what: and faith, that about two or three dayes before that, shee sent the same *Lilly* to the said *Henry Bedells* commanding him to kill him, who returned and said hee had no power: and confesseth shee sent her said Spirit another time to doe some hurt to *Edward Musgrave* of *Carworth*, aforesaid, who likewise returned answer, he had no power: And that shee sent her Spirit *Priscill* to kill two horses of the said *Edward Musgraves*, and one of *John Musgraves*, and to kill one Cow of *William Musgraves*, and one Cow of *Thomas Thorpe* of the same Towne; which was done accordingly. And being demanded when the one and twenty yeares would be out, she answered about *Low-Sunday* next, to the best of her remembrance, and being further demanded what was the reason, shee did duly resort to Church to Sermons, & also to the Ministers house to repetition, which *Mr. Poole* the Minister being present did affirme; shee faith, shee was well pleased with his preaching, and had a desire to be rid of that unhappy burthen which was upon her. And further shee faith not.

Signum

Elizabeth Weed.

R. OB. BERNARD.

The

The Examination of *John Winnick* of *Mollsworth* in the said County, Labourer, taken upon the 11. day of April, 1646. before *Robert Bernard Esquire*, one of His Majesties Justices of the Peace for this County.

Hee faith, that about 29. yeares since, the 29<sup>th</sup> yeare ending *Halfe* Midsummer last past, he being a *Barchellour*, lived at *Thropton* with one *Bute-man*, who then kept the Inne at the *George*, and withall kept Husbandry: this Examinee being a servant to him in his husbandry, did then loose a purse with 7 s. in it, for which he suspected one in the Family. Hee faith that on a Friday being in the barne, making hay-bottles for his horses about noon, swearing, cursing, raging, and wishing to himselfe that some wise body (or Wizzard) would helpe him to his purse and money again: there appeared unto him a Spirit, blacke and snaggy, and having pawes like a Beare, but in bulk not fully so big as a Coney. The Spirit asked him what he ailed to be so sorrowfull, this Examinee answered that he had lost a purse and money, and knew not how to come by it againe. The Spirit replied, if you will forsake God and Christ, and fall down & worship me for your God, I will help you to your purse and mony againe: This Examinee said he would, and thereupon fell down upon his knees and held up his hands. Then the Spirit said, to morrow about this time of the day, you shall find your purse upon the floor where you are now making bottles, I will send it to you, and will also come my selfe. Whereupon this Examinee told the Spirit he would meete him there, and receive it, & worship him. Whereupon at the time prefixed, this Examinee went unto the place, and found his purse upon the floore and tooke it up, and looking afterwards into it, hee found there all the money that was formerly lost: but before he had looked into it, the same Spirit appears unto him and said, there is your purse and your money in it: and then this Examinee fell downe upon his knees and said, my Lord and God I thanke you. The said Spirit at that time

time brought with him two other Spirits, for shape, bignesse, & colour, the one like a white Cat, the other like a grey Coney: and while this Examine was upon his knees, the Beare Spirit spake to him, saying, you must worship these two Spirits as you worship me, and take them for your Gods also: then this Examine directed his bodie towards them, and call'd them his Lords and Gods. Then the Beare Spirit told him that when he dyed he must have his soule, whereunto this Examine yielded. Hee told him then also that they must suck of his body, to which this Examine also yielded, but they did not sucke at that time. The Beare Spirit promised him that he should never want victualls. The Cat Spirit that it would hurt cattel when he would desire it. And the Coney-like Spirit that it would hurt men when he desired. The beare spirit told him that it must have some of his blood wherewith to seale the Covenant, whereunto this Examine yeilded, and then the beare Spirit leapt upon his shoulder, and prickt him on the head, and thence tooke blood: and after thus doing, the said three spirits vanisht away. The next day about noone, the said Spirits came to him while hee was in the field, and told him they were come to suck of his body, to which he yielded, and they sucked his body at the places where the marks are found, and from that time to this, they have come constantly to him once every 24. hours, sometimes by day, and most commonly by night. And being demanded what mischief he caused any of the said Spirits to do, he answered never any, onely hee sent his beare Spirit to provoke the Maid-servant of Mr. *Say* of *Molmesworth* to steale victualls for him out of her Masters house, which she did, and this Examine received the same.

The marke of  
*John Winnicke.*

R. O. BERNARD.

The

The examination of Francis Moore, taken before Nicholas Pedley Esq;  
one of his Majesties Justices of Peace for this County, the ninth day of  
April. 1646.

This Examine saith, that about eight yeares since he received a little blacke puppy from one *Margaret Simson* of great *Carworth*, which dog the said *Margaret* had in her bed with her, & took it thence when she gave it to the Examine: The Examine further saith, that the said *Margaret* told her, that she must keep that dogge all her life time; and if she cursed any Cattell, & set the same dog upon them, they should presently dye, and the said *Margaret* told her that she had named it already, his name was *Pretty*.

And the said Examine further saith, that about the same time one goodwife *Weed* gave her a white Cat, telling her, that if she would deny God, and affirme the same by her blood, then whomsoever she cursed and sent that Cat upon, they should dye shortly after. Whereupon this said Examine saith that shee did deny God, and in affirmation thereof shee prickt her finger with a thorne, whence issued blood, which the Cat presently licked; and the said good-wife *Weed* named the Cat *Tissy*. And the said Examine further saith, that one *William Foster*, about sixteen yeares since, would have hanged two of her children for offering to take a piece of bread; and for that cause about fixe yeares since shee cursed the said *William Foster*; whereupon the white Cat went to him, and he immediately fell sick, and lying in great paine for the space of seven or eight dayes, and then dyed: but being demanded what the Cat did to him, or what shee bid it doe, the saith she remembers not. And shee further saith, that about five yeares since, shee keeping Cowes in the field, a Cow of *Edward Hulls* went into the graine, shee cursed her, and set *Pretty* on her, and she swelled and dyed shortly after; and after that a Cow of one *Peter Brownes* went into the Corne, and shee likewise cursed her, and set *Pretty* on her, and she dyed within two

B

or

or three dayes after : and she further saith, that she killed the said Dog and Cat about a yeare since ; and yet after that the like Dog and Cat haunted her familiarly : and when she was apprehended, they crept under her cloathes, and tortured her so that she could not speake, to confesse freely, and more she saith not.

The Marke of

*Frances Moore.*

*Ni. Pedley.*

The Information of Peter Slater of Little Catworth in the said County, Shepheard, taken upon oath, before Robert Bernard Esq; one of his Majesties Justices of Peace for this County, upon the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April. 1646.

This Informant saith, That his wife dying about one and twenty yeares since in Child-bed, and one *Frances Moore* being suspected for a Witch, & in custody: He went to her upon Friday last, and asked her, if she did his wife any harme? she answered she did, by cursing her. And he saith, his wife did of a sudden change and dye, after she had lain in a week; and that a little before this Informants wife was brought to bed, the said *Frances Moore* falling out with her, said, she hoped shee should never be untwin'd, as this Informant hath since called to minde.

Signum

*Peter Slater.*

ROB. BERNARD.

The

The Information of William Searle of little Catworth, Yeoman.  
taken upon oath the said day and yeare.

This Informant saith, he was present when *Frances Moore* did confesse her selfe to be a Witch, and that shee had done much harme; and amongst other things, that she sent her Spirit *Pretty* to this Informants Capons, who did kill them: and hee saith, that she comming to bake a loafe at his house about three or four yeares since, being denyed, the Capons did fall a fluttering, and would never eate after. Also saith, that about the said time, she having a Hogge in his yard, some of his servants set a Dog on the same; for which she said she would bee revenged; and the next day one of his Hogs dyed.

Signum,

*William Searle.*

ROB. BERNARD.

