

**THE WITCHCRAFT  
DELUSION IN COLONIAL  
CONNECTICUT, 1647-1697**

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The witchcraft delusion in colonial Connecticut, 1647-1697 by John M. Taylor

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**JOHN M. TAYLOR**

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# THE WITCHCRAFT DELUSION IN COLONIAL CONNECTICUT

1647-1697

BY

JOHN M. TAYLOR

Author of "Maximilian and Carlotta, a Story of Imperialism," and  
"Roger Ludlow, the Colonial Lawmaker"



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"Connecticut can well afford to  
let her records go to the world."

*Blue Laws: True and False* (p. 47).

J. HAMMOND TRUMBULL.





## FOREWORD

**T**HE true story of witchcraft in old Connecticut has never been told. It has been hidden in the ancient records and in manuscripts in private collections, and those most conversant with the facts have not made them known, for one reason or another. It is herein written from authoritative sources, and should prove of interest and value as a present-day interpretation of that strange delusion, which for a half century darkened the lives of the forefathers and foremothers of the colonial days.

J. M. T.

Hartford, Connecticut.

## TWO INDICTMENTS FOR WITCHCRAFT

"John Carrington thou art indited by the name of John Carrington of Wethersfield—carpenter—, that not hauing the feare of God before thine eyes thou hast interteined ffamilliaritie with Sattan the great enemye of God and mankinde and by his helpe hast done workes aboue the course of nature for wch both according to the lawe of God and the established lawe of this Commonwealth thou deseruest to dye."

Record Particular Court, 2: 17, 1650-51.

"Hugh Crotia, Thou Standest here presented by the name of Hugh Crotia of Stratford in the Colony of Connecticut in New England; for that not haueing the fear of God before thine Eyes, through the Instigation of the Devill, thou hast forsaken thy God & covenanted with the Devill, and by his help hast in a preternaturall way afflicted the bodys of Sundry of his Majesties good Subjects, for which according to the Law of God, and the Law of this Colony, thou deseruest to dye."

Record Court of Assistants, 2: 16, 1693.

A WARRANT FOR THE EXECUTION OF A WITCH \* AND  
THE SHERIFF'S RETURN THEREON

To George Corwin Gentlm high Sheriff of the County of Essex Greeting  
Whereas Bridgett Bishop als Olliver the wife of Edward Bishop of  
Salem in the County of Essex Sawyer at a special Court of Oyer and  
Terminer ——— (held at ?) † Salem this second Day of this instant  
month of June for the Countyes of Essex Middlesex and Suffolk before  
William Stoughton Esq. and his Associates Justices of the said Court  
was Indicted and arraigned upon five several Indictments for using  
practising & exercising on the ——— † last past and divers others days  
——— † witchcraft in and upon the bodyes of Abigail Williams Ann  
puttnam Jr Mercy Lewis Mary Walcott and Elizabeth Hubbard of  
Salem Village single women; whereby their bodyes were hurt afflicted  
pined consumed wasted & tormented contrary to the forme of the statute  
in that case made and provided To which Indictmts the said Bridgett  
Bishop pleaded not guilty and for Tryall thereof put herselfe upon God  
and her Country ——— † she was found guilty of the ffelonyes and  
Witchcrafts whereof she stood Indicted and sentence of death accord-  
ingly passed agt her as the Law directs execution whereof yet remains  
to be done These are therefore in the name of their Majties William  
& Mary now King & Queen over England & to will and command you  
that upon Fryday next being the fourth day of this instant month of  
June between the hours of Eight and twelve in the forenoon of the  
same day you safely conduct the sd Bridgett Bishop als Olliver from  
their Majties Goale in Salem aforesd to the place of execution and there  
cause her to be hanged by the neck until she be dead and of your doings  
herein make returne to the Clerk of the sd Court and precept And hereof  
you are not to faile at your peril And this shall be sufficient warrant  
Given under my hand & seal at Boston the Eighth of June in the ffourth  
year of the reigne of our Sovereigne Lords William & Mary now King  
& Queen over England Annoque Dm 1692

WM. STOUGHTRON

\* Original in office of Clerk of the Courts at Salem, Massachusetts.  
Said to be the only one extant in American archives.

† Some of the words in the warrant are illegible.