Episode 10: Rebecca Nurse

Source List

Content note: This episode discusses imprisonment, execution, the deaths of children, and a forced body search of an elderly woman.

Court records and eyewitness accounts, 1692–1706

- Salem Witch Trials Documentary Archive, University of Virginia. "SWP No. 94: Rebecca Nurse Executed July 19, 1692": the March 23, 1692 warrant; the March 24, 1692 examination recorded by Samuel Parris; the statement of Israel and Elizabeth Porter, Daniel Andrew, and Peter Cloyce; the petition signed by 39 neighbors; depositions of Ann Putnam Sr., Ann Putnam Jr., Mary Walcott, Elizabeth Hubbard, and Sarah Holton; the testimony of John and Rebecca Putnam Sr.; the statement of John Tarbell and Samuel Nurse; Rebecca Nurse's June 28, 1692 petition on the physical examination; and the July 4, 1692 statements of juror Thomas Fisk and Rebecca Nurse, as preserved by Robert Calef.
- Deodat Lawson. A Brief and True Narrative of Some Remarkable Passages Relating to Sundry Persons Afflicted by Witchcraft, at Salem Village (Boston, 1692). Excerpt in SWP No. 94.
- Salem Witch Trials Documentary Archive, University of Virginia. "SWP No. 045: Mary Esty Executed, September 22, 1692," including her petition to the judges.
- Salem Witch Trials Documentary Archive, University of Virginia. "SWP No. 033: Sarah Cloyce."
- Salem Witch Trials Documentary Archive, University of Virginia. "SWP No. 063: Sarah Good Executed July 19, 1692."
- Robert Calef. More Wonders of the Invisible World (1700), in Samuel G. Drake, ed., The Witchcraft Delusion in New England, vol. 3 (1866). Project Gutenberg.
- Increase Mather. Cases of Conscience Concerning Evil Spirits Personating Men (1693; presented to ministers October 1692).
- Ann Putnam Jr. Public confession, read in the Salem Village church August 25, 1706. Text as printed in Charles W. Upham, Salem Witchcraft (1867), vol. 2.

Histories and scholarship

- Daniel A. Gagnon. A Salem Witch: The Trial, Execution, and Exoneration of Rebecca Nurse. Westholme, 2021.
- Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum. Salem Possessed: The Social Origins of Witchcraft. Harvard University Press, 1974.

- Mary Beth Norton. In the Devil's Snare: The Salem Witchcraft Crisis of 1692. Knopf, 2002.
- Emerson W. Baker. A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience. Oxford University Press, 2015.
- Bernard Rosenthal et al., eds. Records of the Salem Witch-Hunt. Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Charles W. Upham. Salem Witchcraft, 2 vols. 1867.

Background and reference

- Salem Witch Museum. "Rebecca Nurse Homestead."
- History of Massachusetts Blog. "Proctor's Ledge Memorial."
- Clio. "Proctor's Ledge": the Gallows Hill Project's January 2016 confirmation of the execution site.

Apologies and exonerations

- Salem Witch Trials Documentary Archive, University of Virginia. "SWP No. 173: Reversal of Attainder and Restitution (1710–1750)": the 1711 reversal and payments to families.
- First Church in Salem. Reversal of Rebecca Nurse's excommunication, 1712.

Later portrayals and memorials

- John Greenleaf Whittier. Inscription for the Rebecca Nurse monument, Nurse family cemetery, Danvers, Massachusetts. 1885.
- Arthur Miller. The Crucible. 1953.
- City of Salem. Proctor's Ledge Memorial, dedicated July 19, 2017.

Support resources

- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (United States and territories). Call 988, text 988, or use the online chat.