

HOUSE No. 164

By Mr. Rudsten of Boston, petition of Daniel Rudsten for adoption of resolutions by the General Court reversing the indictments, convictions and attainders obtained in Salem against George Burroughs and others who were charged with witchcraft in the year one thousand six hundred and ninety-two. Constitutional Law.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty.

RESOLUTIONS TO REVERSE THE INDICTMENTS, CONVICTIONS AND ATTAINDERS FOR WITCHCRAFT OF GEORGE BURROUGHS AND OTHERS.

1 *Whereas*, In the year sixteen hundred and ninety-
2 two, at a special court of oyer and terminer held at
3 Salem in the county of Essex, George Burroughs of
4 Wells; John Procter, George Jacobs, John Willard,
5 Giles Core, and his wife , Rebecca Nurse
6 and Sarah Good, Ann Pudiator, all of Salem; Eliza-
7 beth How of Ipswich; Mary Easty, Sarah Wild and
8 Abigail Hobbs, all of Topsfield; Samuel Wardell,
9 Mary Parker, Martha Carrier, Abigail Faulkner,
10 Anne Foster, Rebecca Eames, Mary Post, Mary
11 Lacey and Elizabeth Johnson, Jr., all of Andover;
12 Mary Bradbury of Salisbury; Dorcas Hoar of
13 Beverly; Susanna Martin of Amesbury; Margaret
14 Scott of Rowley; Wilmot Redd of Marblehead; and
15 Bridget Bishop of Salem Village; were severally in-
16 dicted, convicted and attained of witchcraft, and

17 Sarah Osburne of Danvers was indicted for the same
18 offence but died in prison before her case came to
19 trial; and

20 *Whereas*, Such indictments, convictions and at-
21 tainers still remain a matter of record as to the
22 aforesaid persons; and

23 *Whereas*, The members of the general court in the
24 year sixteen hundred and ninety-two did attempt to
25 atone for the wrongs that had been done to some of
26 the aforesaid persons, but there being some question
27 whether the said members fully accomplished the
28 purpose attempted; and

29 *Whereas*, The members of the present general court
30 in recognition of the humanity and moral courage of
31 the citizens of Massachusetts of the year sixteen
32 hundred and ninety-two in undertaking to atone for
33 the wrongs they had committed, and in order that
34 no cloud of doubt remain on their atonement, and in
35 the hope that the delusion of witchcraft in any form
36 may never descend upon the commonwealth again;
37 therefor be it

38 *Resolved*, That the several indictments, convic-
39 tions, judgments and attainers for witchcraft against
40 the aforesaid persons obtained in the special court of
41 oyer and terminer at Salem in the county of Essex,
42 in the year sixteen hundred and ninety-two, and not
43 heretofore reversed and declared null and void, be
44 and hereby are declared to be null and void to all
45 intents, constructions and purposes whatsoever, as
46 if no such indictments, convictions, judgments and
47 attainers had ever been returned or entered.