

having been condemned for receiving ten Shillings on a certain Time of the Devil. As late as 1722, the Ninth of George the Firft, a Cafe occurred at Little Dean, in Scotland, where a Captain David Rofs was Judge. But a Girl was burnt at Glarus, in Ireland, in 1786!

The Experiment of cafting into the Water occurred as late as 1785. According to a report in a Northampton Paper, a poor Woman named Sarah Bradshaw, being proceeded againft for Witchcraft, was thrown into a Pond. She immediately sank to the Bottom; and thus the Wretches who acted as Executioners were fatisfied she had been falſely accuſed. This occurred at a Place called Mears Afhby.

1665.

The Cafe of the Briſbayne Poſſeſſion and prophecy is one of the moſt odd on record. This ſingular Cafe of Witchcraft was one of the earlieſt recorded of the Village of Arkham, Maſſachuſetts. Its Uniqueneſs was due in Part to the celeftial Events that ſerved as Evidence againſt the Accuſed, and to the general Nature of the Charges. That Arkham ſhould later become the Site of ſo many other unuſual Cafes was ſurely not foreſeen at that Time.

There lived in Arkham at that time a Witch Finder named Orin Wormtree, rivaling Matthew Hopkins in Zeal if not in notoriety, who brought various Charges of Witchcraft and Murder againſt one Ezekiel Briſbayne, a ſucceſſful Farmer in whoſe Paſtures it was rumoured that Witches' Meetings were held. More ſpecifically the Charges were that “upon the Night of the 13th Day of September 1665 and upon ſeveral other Days and Times prior to that Day, Ezekiel Briſbayne did, at his Farm of the Village of Arkham, in Effex,

Massachusetts, by the Practice of devilish Arts, commonly called Witchcraft and Sorcery, most fiendishly serve, as Host to the Devil and a Multitude of his Servants, partaking and urging others to partake of the Devil's Sacraments." Also that Brisbayne "did maliciously and feloniously practise and exercise on" a Townsman, who "sickened and languished, and not long afterward, by the aforefaid black Arts, did die." And, most notably and strangely, that "in the last Summer of 1665, on the Night of the Eclipse of the Moon, Ezekiel Brisbayne did use Sorcery on a young Man, Nathaniel Harrison, such that Nathaniel Harrison's Spirit took Flight from his Body, and Ezekiel Brisbayne entered the Body in Spirit and took Possession of it, and that while in the Body of Nathaniel Harrison, Ezekiel Brisbayne did perform several divers heinous Acts, including the Murder of a young Woman, being Prudence Adams." This last Charge of Possession is highly remarkable and nearly unique in the Annals of New England Witchcraft.

Brisbayne was accordingly summoned before the Essex County Court in Salem, where Orin Wormtree prosecuted the Case against him. Wormtree urged on Dozens of Witnesses against Brisbayne, amounting to an impressive Body of Testimony. Neighboring Farmers vowed that they had seen Brisbayne at Night conversing with "Spirits that appeared in the Shape of Frogs, and winged Creatures," and that from his Pastures on some Nights came the Sounds of strange Music, and "strange Lights and Fire Light." Many Townspeople testified that Brisbayne's Gaze had "Power in it," and several Women told of being held spellbound by a Glance from his Eyes. Young Nathaniel Harrison told of Events on the Night of the Lunar

Eclipse, saying that after several Conversations with Brisbayne in Town, he was lured to Brisbayne's Farm by his Host's unusually strong Powers of Persuasion. At the Farm, Harrison saw a young Girl from Town, Prudence Adams, bound Hand and Foot and placed at the Center of "a Devil's Circle and Seal." There were nearby two large Swords, Harrison testified, with which Brisbayne murdered the Girl, after which Harrison testified that Brisbayne took Possession of his Body."

"Brisbayne's Body fell lifelessly down," testified Orin Wormtree, "and his Spirit entered the Body of Nathaniel Harrison." Wormtree charged that in the Body of Harrison, Brisbayne mutilated the Corpse of Prudence Adams, and then ran amok through Arkham, terrifying local Citizens with mad babbling and "obscene, evil Oaths." Townspeople testified to having seen Nathaniel Harrison running wild on the Night of the Lunar Eclipse, after which he was not seen at all for several Days. He was found by a Farmer on the Bank of the Miskatonic River nine Days later, bedraggled and unconscious. When revived by a Doctor, Harrison professed to remember Nothing of what he had done after witnessing the Murder of Prudence Adams until being revived.

The Accused was called upon by the Clerk to hold up the right Hand, and the substance of the Charges was reiterated. Brisbayne pleaded Guilty, and offered moreover and without Coercion a large Confession, disconcerting Orin Wormtree and frightening many Spectators. He confessed to "Familiarity with the Devil," who he claimed appeared to him in the Form of "the black Goat with a Thousand Young," attended by "Frog Creatures and winged Spirits."

They had first visited him many Years previously, and since that Time he had served and worshipped them, leading "the Devil's Sacrament" and offering Sacrifices to them" at Night on his large Farm. Brifbayne then told of a Prophecy his Familiars had delivered to him, which ran thus: "The Brifbayne Line will come to a bloody End. When the Child becomes the Man, the last Brifbayne Son will destroy his Father." He confessed to having possessed the Body of Nathaniel Harrison through the Practice of Witchcraft, and declared that "the next Time the Moon was right he would work his Spell again." This frank Avowal and Lack of Penitence threw the Court into an Uproar, and Orin Wormtree demanded the harshest Penalties.

Before pronouncing the Sentence, the Court ordered Brifbayne's Body searched for "Devil Marks," as was often done, and on his Wrist was discovered a "Devil's Circle and Sign." After all this compelling Evidence was delivered, the Sentence of the Court was, that Brifbayne should be hanged. Orin Wormtree presided at the Execution, and Brifbayne died pronouncing Curses against him, and vowing that no Prophecy would claim the Brifbayne Line. Brifbayne's Wife and two Sons were compelled to flee Arkham, leaving the Family's Farm abandoned, which, thereafter, terrified and indignant Townspeople burned. Brifbayne's Body was thrown onto the Pyre, and Wormtree scattered the Ashes to the four Winds. Thus the Affair ended."

1669.

Some time previous to the May Term of the General Court of Connecticut, Katharine Harrison, of Wetherfield, was arrested, charged with the Crime of Witchcraft, and imprisoned. How long she