

## DESCENT FROM JOSEPH POPE AND HIS WIFE BATHSHUA (FOULGER) POPE, ACCUSERS OF MARTHA COREY, REBECCA NURSE, AND JOHN PROCTOR IN THE SALEM WITCH HYSTERIA OF 1692

Joseph Pope (1650-1712), m.1679 Bathshua Foulger (1652-1726); parents of Nathaniel Pope 1679-1711, m.1703 Priscilla Chatwell (1679-1756); parents of Sarah Pope (b.1703), m.1726 Samuel Meacham (1703-1769); parents of Enos Mechum (1740-1811), m.1763 Rachel Kibbe (1741-1827); parents of Isaac Mechum (1780-1826), m.1804 Mehitabel Rounds (1785-1850); parents of Randall S. Meacham (1813-1887), m.1833 Harriet J. Burt (1809-1896); parents of (William) Chauncey Meacham (1840-1907), m.1860 Wrexavilla Rorapough (1839-1910); parents of Alice L. Meacham (1872-1943), m.1896 Milton A. Wavle (1870-1948); parents of Rexa Lorie Wavle (1898-1972), m.1917 George Franklin Webber (1896-1980); parents of Donald Milton Webber (1918-1976), m.1937 Laura Lucille Carpenter (1920-1990); parents of David Milton Webber (1938-2008), m.1959 Joy Ann Balint (living); parents of (David) Jay Webber (living), m.1984 Carol Ruth Wimble (living); parents of Sarah Christina Webber (living), m.2011 Matthias James Leyrer (living); parents of Ida Lucille Leyrer (living)



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In 1692, Joseph Pope testified re John Proctor who was executed: "aged forty one years or thereabouts Joseph Pope testefyeth and Saith that on the s'd day this deponent heard John Proctor Say that if mr Parish would let him have his Indian hee the s'd Procter would soone Drive the Divell out of him and farther Saith not." Additional minutes from Apr 11 1692: "And John procter of Salem farmes being then personally present was by A.bigail W.illiams and A.nna P.utnam Charged with severall acts of Witchcraft by him Committed on the person of Mrs pope the wife of mr Joseph pope and Others, who ware at s'd tyme accordingly afflicted apparent to all, likewise Marcy Lewis and I got charged s'd John procter at s'd tyme upon w'ch Jno procter & his wife and S.sarah C.loyce ware all Committed to prison per advise of the Councill." And "...also the said Abigail W.illiams & Ann Putname then testified that they say this Eliza: Proctor & her husband John Proctor severall times afflicting of Bathshua Pope the wife of Joseph Pope of Salem Yeoman, at which times the said Bathshua Pope was seized with violent fits."

"What a sad thing is it, that a church-member here [Rebecca Nurse, in Salem Village], and now another of Salem, should thus be accused and charged!" Upon hearing this rather ambiguous expression of the magistrate [John Hathorne], Mrs. Pope fell into a grievous fit.

Mrs. Pope was the wife of Joseph Pope, living with his mother, the widow Gertrude Pope... She had followed up the meetings of the circle, been a constant witness of the sufferings of the "afflicted children," and attended all the public examinations, until her nervous system was excited beyond restraint, and for a while she went into fits and her imagination was bewildered. She acted with the accusers, and participated in their sufferings. On some occasions, her conduct was wild and extravagant to the highest degree. At the examination of Martha Corey, she was conspicuous for the violence of her actions. In the midst of the proceedings, and in the presence of the magistrates and hundreds of people, she threw her muff at the prisoner; and, that missing, pulled off her shoe, and, more successful this time, hit her square on the head. Hers seems, however, to have been a case of mere delusion, amounting to temporary insanity. That it was not deliberate and cold-blooded imposture is rendered probable by the fact, that she was rescued from the hallucination, and, with her husband, among the foremost to deplore and denounce the whole affair. But, when a woman of her position acted in this manner, on such an occasion, and then went into convulsions, and the whole company of afflicted persons joined in, the confusion, tumult, and frightfulness of the scene can hardly be imagined, certainly it cannot be described in words. (Charles W. Upham, *Salem Witchcraft; with An Account of Salem Village* [Boston: Wiggin and Lunt, 1867], Vol. II, pp. 64-66)

"(By and by, both of them cried out of Goodman Procter himself, and said he was a wizard. Immediately, many if not all of the bewitched had grievous fits.)

"Ann Putnam, who hurt you? — 'Goodman Procter, and his wife too.'

"(Afterwards, some of the afflicted cried, 'There is Procter going to take up Mrs. Pope's feet!' and her feet were immediately taken up.)

"What do you say, Goodman Procter, to these things? — 'I know not. I am innocent.'

"(Abigail Williams cried out, 'There is Goodman Procter going to Mrs. Pope!' and immediately said Pope fell into a fit.)"

(From Samuel Parris's report of the trial of John Proctor)

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