

# Narratives of the Witchcraft Cases, 1648-1706 (Classic Reprint)

George Lincoln Burr

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The first of the illustrations is a facsimile of the first page of the original manuscript of Cotton Mather's narrative of the case of Mercy Short, A Brand pluck'd out of the Burning. For the privilege of printing both the facsimile and the text we are indebted to the American Antiquarian Society, in whose library at Worcester the manuscript is preserved, and to Mr. Clarence S. Brigham, librarian of the society. The facsimile is slightly reduced.

The second plate is intended to elucidate the question whether More Wonders of the Invisible World was written by Robert Calef the elder or by his son Robert Calef the younger. Most writers hitherto have attributed it to the younger Calef; Professor Burr may be regarded as having settled the question (pp. 291-295) in favor of the elder. The plate shows facsimiles of the following:(1) from the Mather-Calef paper of 1694-1695 (see p. 306, note 1), the last three or four lines of Mather's text, with the marginalia of Robert Calef at the side, and the first three or four lines of Calef's marginalia beneath - lines unquestionably penned by the author of More Wonders; (2) from the letter written to Lord Bellomont by that author, accompanying a copy of the book (see p. 292, note 1, below), the first three lines and the last, with signature;(3) from the appraisers' report of 1693 (ibid.), the signature;(4) from the coroner's verdict of 1696, the signature;(5) from the arbitrators' report of 1697, the first three or four lines and the signature - all these of the elder Robert; (6) from the selectman's report of 1717 (?), the lines showing it the elder Robert's as a selectman of Roxbury, with the lines at the end and the signature; (7) signature of Robert Calef the younger, 1708; (8) signature of Robert the younger, 1719, with the words adjoining it in the receipt.



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