Delegate Name: Stephanie Shtainer

Character Assignment: Abigail Faulkner

Committee: Salem Village, 1692

School: Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School

I, Abigail Faulkner, am the daughter of Reverend Francis Dane, wife of Francis Faulkner and mother to his children. Francis’s father relinquished his estate in Andover to my husband in 1675, the year we married, and then inherited the remaining portion of the estate the year his father died in 1687. Unfortunately, my husband has become quite ill as of late, and is burdened with convulsions and memory-loss, which often leave him puzzled. Therefore, I have become the primary caretaker of the estate and have the responsibility of managing the property. I am currently pregnant with my eighth child and am due to have the baby early next spring.

My father, Reverend Francis Dane, has served as Andover’s minister for more than forty years. He has condemned witch accusations in the past and is not a believer of witchcraft. My niece, Elizabeth Johnson Jr., was arrested for witchcraft on August 10 of this year where she confessed to using a poppet to bedevil others. I was arrested the following day and taken to Salem, where I was inspected by John Hathorne, Captain John Higginson, and Jonathan Corwin. I was accused of witchcraft by Ann Putnam, Mary Warren, and William Barker Sr. Mr. Barker accused not only me, but my sister Elizabeth Johnson Sr. of tempting him to sign the devil’s book; Reverend George Burroughs was named as our ringleader.

I refuse to confess on the counts of witchcraft. I do not have any preternatural powers that an ordinary human being does not possess. It must be the devil that is plaguing the girls afflicted with fits. I feel sorry for the girls that are afflicted, but it is the devil who does it in my form.