

CHARGES AGAINST STEPHEN BACHILER

1. A charge against Mr. Bachiler of giving a sermon tending seditious to the derogation of her majesty, Queen Elizabeth's government.

Mrs. Eleanor, Mrs. Eleanor Stephen Bachiler here.

I come here today to join your discussion of my legacy - not to correct your report or change your mind but to simply provide input that will allow these good people to make an informed choice about my legacy. I seek not your approval, nor have I ever sought man's approval.

Mine is a heavenly work and God has long ago accepted my work.

First, try and get a perspective of my times where the church and the government, at all levels, were one. The Throne, which at one time was a God guided institution, in my time, was a very secular institution, filled with self serving men, not at all under God's direction. This set up a contest early in my life that caused me to be branded a malcontent and opposed to the Queen. Now as to your charge about the sermon.

Answer Remember any discussion of the Queen was considered seditious. For 18 years I pastured as Vicar of the church at Wherwell in Hampton peaceably - and when I was ejected by the rulers a number of my parishioners went with me under Puritan auspices.

2. A case in star chamber in which Mr. Bachiler, his son Stephen, and John Bate (son of the vicar at Wherwell) were accused by George Wighly, Minister, of writing a libelous poem ridiculing him.

Mrs. Eleanor, Mrs. Eleanor, let me explain!

Answer: I was cited in Star Chamber as uttering in a sermon very "lewd" speeches tending seditious to the derogation of Her Majesty's (Elizabeth's) government.

My sermon was in response to Elizabeth passing an act against the Puritans which gave the authorities the right to imprison the Puritans for failure to attend the Anglican Church. The court described my sermon as "lewd." But let it be known my sermons were based in the Scriptures, and were not independent of them. I was steadfast in my faith and refused to compromise.

3. Sir Robert Paine, Sheriff of Hampton and Church Warden at Newton-Stacy, said Stephen Bachiler, a notorious nonconformist, misled some of the parishioners; demolished a consecrated chapel, neglected the repair of the Parish Church, and opposed those who said he should repair the church at his own expense, and showed contempt of the canons (members of a clerical group living according to rule) and the bishop.

Mrs. Eleanor, Mrs. Eleanor, let me explain!

Answer: When I opposed the Bishops of the established church it was considered opposition

against the Crown.

(The church and state being one, if I opposed the church I was breaking the laws of the realm)

I opposed this and was strongly in favor of separation of church and state. This led to much trouble for me.

4. Within four months of his arrival in New England Mr. Bachiler came under "suspicion" of having independent ideas and was forbidden to exercise his gifts as a pastor, except those who came from England with him, for his "contempt for authority and until some 'scandals' be removed".

Answer: Again it was considered "scandalous" to conduct worship in any way not approved of by the rulers.

5. He stood against the teacher and assistant pastor, Mr. Timothy Dalton, causing a split in the church between Mr. Bachiler's followers and those of Mr. Dalton.

Answer: *Mrs. Eleanor, this requires considerable explanation.*

- Mr. Winthrop, although the church in Hampton was not under the church of England, had authority by law in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, to enter into Mr. Dalton's charges against me.

- Mr. Dalton was Gov. Winthrop's cousin, and all those who opposed me had come to New England with Mr. Dalton as his followers from England. Please note my parishioners stood with me because they knew me.

- There was deep enmity between myself and Mr. Dalton and our followers. This led up to the charge of proposed adultery. I had founded the church at Hampton. I was the pastor and Mr. Dalton was trying to undermine me - to get rid of me so he could take over as pastor. And during this time my house was burned down - with the loss of all my papers and books, as well as my other belongings. I certainly suspect arson.

- I denied the charge - but Winthrop said has written that I confessed. (Winthrop said "while taking communion") according to Mr. Dalton's report to Winthrop. But no woman came forth to present charges. It is believed they were trumped up.

- I wrote, in a letter to Winthrop, concerning this matter "The impulsive cause (of the charge Mr. Dalton presented against me) was "wrath and revenge".

- Consider what Dow said me! Dow said I was obstinate. He was tenacious and would not compromise his convictions - could that be misconstrued as obstinacy?

- Some of my problems were caused because I opposed the arbitrary rule of the Massachusetts Bay Colony oligarchy (A form of government in which the ruling party belongs to the few.)

- Though we were not always in agreement the relationship between John Winthrop and myself appeared friendly.

- In England I was friends with an Adam Winthrop and his wife. The Governor's father was John, Sr. Adam was the Governor's grandfather. I thought highly of the Governor's wife. I called her "my ancient true friend."

- Winthrop said nothing to indicate he was dissatisfied with the established church.

6. Mr. Dalton said, and reported the same to governor John Winthrop, that told her husband

that Mr. Bachiler had made a proposal of adultery to her. And that Mr. Bachiler denied it, he later confessed to. As a result Mr. Bachiler was to be excommunicated for two years.

Answer: This was a new low for my enemies making the charge alleging a proposal of adultery. This charge was made by Timothy Dalton against me to Governor Winthrop - even Winthrop stated that until this charge was made (Mr. Bachiler was then 80 years old and loved his wife Helena, then 47 (23 years younger than he, and described as a “comely” woman), whom he described as “my deare helper and yokefellow”) there was no personal criticism every discovered against his morals, and no breath of scandals had ever touched his character. Please note Winthrop’s account is all that remains of this incident. There is no mention of it in court records, no letters apart from Winthrop’s, nothing in the Massachusetts archives, or church records.

REVEREND STEPHEN BACHILER

- We have no records of Stephen Bachiler's birth, but it is said it was at Wherwell, Hampton, England.

- The first we find concerning him is his entry to St. John's College at Oxford University in 1581, at the age of 21. Oxford was small and fairly new at the time, and quite poor, but evidently considered a fine institution of learning.

- Among the scholars at St. John's during Mr. Bachiler's time there was Henry Cromwell, an uncle of Oliver Cromwell who later became the Lord Protector of England. Henry Cromwell was father-in-law of Sir Oliver St. John, who became Cromwell's Lord Chief Justice of England.

- At the time Mr. Bachiler was at Oxford it was a very hive of Puritanism. The Regius Professor of Divinity was Lawrence Humphrey, an ardent Lutheran, and John Harmer, one of Queen Elizabeth's scholars, was Regius Professor of Greek. Thomas Kingsmill, another Puritan, was head Professor of Hebrew. Edward Cracocke was professor of Divinity. The most renowned scholar of the day, an Oxford man, John Rainoldes, was head and front of the puritan arm of the church.

- Mr. Bachiler graduated from St. John's in 1585/86. Apparently the time between 1585/86 and 1587 was spent in preparation for his life-work. On the date last named the death of Edward Parret, Vicar of Wherwell in Hampshire made a vacancy. Mr. Bachiler was presented with the place by William West, Lord De La Warr, and became Vicar of Wherwell Abbey, which was dedicated to St. Peter and the Holy Cross.

- Wherwell Abbey was founded by Elfrida, 2nd wife and Queen of the Anglo-Saxon King of England, Edgar "The Peaceable," in penitence for bloodshed. After Edgar's death she murdered King Edgar's son, by his first wife, Edward, who had succeeded his father as king; so that her son by Edgar, Ethelred II might be King in Edward's stead, and was successful in obtaining her goal.

- Tradition tells us she was then sorry for her sins, and on her way to London, as she came to the Gates of Salisbury, the people of Salisbury shut the gates and threatened to stone her. She, therefore, went to Amesbury and there in a nunnery did penitence, and in old age, came to Wherwell and founded the Abbey in 986 A.D.. She became its first Abbess. One day, looking into the river Test, which flows through Wherwell, she fell in and drowned.

- In the Cartulary of Wherwell, in possession of Joshua Iremonger in 1743, it is touchingly put; "And in the place, which by the inhabitants is called Wherwell, founded the Church of the Holy Cross beseeching Christ, that He who was wounded on the ever memorable cross, shed His blood for the redemption of the human race, might deign to grant her (Alfrida) the pardon purchased by His death, His wounds and by the shedding of His blood, rich in graces. In the year of our Lord 1002, the 15th of December, died the Lady Alfrida of Pious memory, Queen of Edgar the peaceable, formerly King of England."

- Wherwell remained an important and peaceful place for years, but the life of the Abbey came to a sudden end. King Henry VIII quarreled with the Pope, threw over the supremacy of Rome, and dissolved the Monasteries in 1540 A.D.. The Abbey and its work was finished.

- On the Priory side of the wall by the Priory Church gate, there is a stone with the following inscription:

Anno Domini 1649

"Here was the monastery of Wherwell, erected by Queen Ethelred"
(Alfrida, mother of King Ethelred II)".

Demolished by the overactive zeal or Avarice of King Henry VIII, and of its last ruins here buried, there yet remains this monument."

- No trace of the Abbey building remains now, but the Church of which Mr. Bachiler was Vicar, replaced the original Abbey on the site of the original Abbey. His church was wrecked by fire in 1856, and replaced with the present church of St. Peter and the Holy Cross.

- In 1540 the whole of the Manor Lands was sold to Sir Thomas West, Lord De La Warr (ancestor of William West, Lord De La Warr, who presented Mr. Bachiler with the Vicarage of Wherwell.), and it remained in the De La Warr family till 1695. I assume the De La Warr's built the church where Stephen

Bachiler pastored, replacing the ruined Wherwell Abbey.

-The reason I have gone into detail on the history of the church at Wherwell is that the original Abbey was founded by a direct ancestress of Captain Christopher Hussey, who married Stephen Bachiler's daughter Theodate.

- At the church of St. Peter and the Holy Cross at Wherwell there is a list of all the Vicars from the time of the Reformation. For 1587 to 1605 it reads:

Bachiler, Stephen - Transferred to Newton - Stacy,
Later emigrated to New England

For 1605 to 1633 it reads:

Bate, John - Brother -in-Law of above.

- It would seem Mr. Bachiler married his first wife, Ann, the mother of all his children, between 1587 and 1589, and probably at Wherwell, where the children: Nathaniel, Deborah, Stephen, Theodate, Samuel, and Ann, were born. But the records for births, marriages, and deaths were destroyed in the fire in 1856.

Mr. Bachiler, still a pastor at Wherwell (1593) was cited in Star Chamber for having uttered in a sermon at Newbury very lewd speeches tending seditiously to the derogation of Her Majesty's government.

"Mrs. Eleanor, Mrs. Eleanor - Stephen Bachiler here.

"I have come here today to join your discussion of my legacy - not to correct your report or change your mind, but to simply provide input that will allow these good people to make an informed choice about my legacy. I seek not your approval, nor have I ever sought man's approval. Mine is a heavenly work and God has long ago accepted my work."

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“Now as to your charge about the sermon. Remember any discussion that disagreed with the Queen was considered seditious.” For 18 years I pastored as Vicar of the Church at Wherwell in Hampton peaceably - and even when I was ejected by the rulers a number of my parishioners went with me under Puritan auspices.

A case in Star Chamber in which Mr. Bachiler, his son Stephen, and John Bate (son of the Vicar at Wherwell) were accused by George Wighley, a Minister of writing a libelous poem ridiculing him.

Mrs. Eleanor, Mrs. Eleanor, let me enlighten you on this one!

I was cited in Star Chamber as uttering in a sermon very “lewd” speeches tending to the derogation of Her Majesty’s (Elizabeth’s) government.”

“My sermon was actually in response to Elizabeth passing an act against the Puritans which gave the authorities the right to imprison the Puritans for failure to attend the Anglican Church. The court described my sermon as “lewd.” But let it be known my sermons were based in the Scriptures, and were not independent of them. I was steadfast in my faith and refused to compromise.”

- Star Chamber was formerly an English Court of civil and criminal jurisdiction of Westminster. It had jurisdiction over forgery, perjury, riots, maintenance, fraud, libel, and conspiracy, and could inflict any punishment short of death. This court was abolished in 1640. Its process was summary and often iniquitous, especially in the times of King James I, and his son, Charles I, and jurors were punished for finding verdicts against the Crown. The court approximated the methods of the Spanish Inquisition in extracting testimony.

- On the death of Queen Elizabeth in 1603, James VI of the House of Stuart (son of Mary Queen of Scots) ascended the English Throne as James I. On January 10, 1604, the famous Hampton court conference was held, in response to probably 1,000 clergymen (no doubt Mr. Bachiler was one of them) who sanctioned a petition to King James, which greeted him upon his ascendancy to the English throne – a petition which urged the King to

to reform the crying abuses of the established church, and besought him to allow Puritan pastors to continue their “prophesying and preachings” undeterred by the persecutions of their Bishops.

- This greatly angered King James, who had had difficulty in Scotland with the Scottish Puritans (called Presbyterians), and he responded with his threat against the Puritans to Mr. Reynolds (Oxford), the Puritan leader, “I will make them conform or I will harry them out of the Kingdom!”

- One good thing came out of the Hampton Court Conference. James accepted a proposal by one of the old Puritans that the Bible then used differed too much from the original Hebrew, Chaldee, and Greek, and should be re-written.

- James ordered that the most learned scholars at Oxford and Cambridge Universities work on translating a new Bible from the original languages. This resulted in the King James Bible (the authorized version still used today)

- The Puritans, however, had not been using the Old English Bible, but, rather, the Geneva Bible, which had been translated by John Knox, which was first published in 1560, just after Elizabeth had ascended the throne.

- (It is interesting to me that Stephen Bachiler’s son-in-law Christopher Hussey’s great-grandmother, Bridget Bowes (wife of Thomas Hussey; daughter of Richard and Elizabeth (Aske) Bowes) was sister of Margery Bowes who became the wife of John Knox.)

- The next year (1605) the king’s threat was carried out against Stephen Bachiler. Winthrop said Mr. Bachiler suffered much at the hands of the Bishops.

- Mr. Bachiler embraced the “Puritan Doctrine”: against the union of church and state, and was considered a liberal Puritan, zealous of human rights.

- A case in Star Chamber reveals that Mr. Bachiler still resided in Wherewell in 1614. George Wighley, a minister, and an Oxford graduate, accused

Stephen Bachiler, his son Stephen (who matriculated at Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1610) and John Bate, of Wherwell and others of libeling by means of verses ridiculing him. In the course of the complaint, Wighley quotes John Bate as saying he would keep a copy of the poem “As a monument to his cousin’s wit.” the said Stephen Bachiler, the younger, who is in truth his cousin”. As a result, Stephen Bachiler, the younger, was expelled from Oxford, as the author of libelous verses.

- Sometime before 1632, some of the parishioners at Barton-Stacy, in Hampshire, which is a few miles east of Wherwell, listened to Mr. Bachiler’s sermons, for we find that Sir Robert Paine petitioned the council, stating that he was Sheriff of Barton-Stacy that year and was also chosen church warden of Barton-Stacy, and that some of the parishioners misled by Stephen Bachiler, a notorious inconformist, had demolished a consecrated Chapel at Barton-Stacy, neglected the repair of the Parish Church and maliciously opposed petitioners’ intent) that he should repair the church at his own expense), and executed many things in contempt of Canons and the Bishop.

Mrs. Eleanor:

“When I opposed the Bishops of the established church is was considered opposition to the crown. (The church and State being one, if I opposed the church I was breaking the laws of the realm). I opposed this and was strongly in favor of separation of church and state. This led to much trouble for me. I neglected neither preaching the Word or parishioners. Never-the-less the burden of the opposition continues to build against me.

- A suit was brought against John Bate, son of the Vicar, thus establishing the basis of family connections between Bate, Bachiler, and Ann (daughter of Mr. Bachiler, widow of Rev. John Sanborn, who married secondly Mr. Henry Atkinson 1631/2), among others. Also giving evidence that Stephen Bachiler’s first wife, Ann, mother of all his children, was very possibly sister of Vicar John Bate, Mr. Bachiler’s successor at Wherwell. Copy of this suit was found in English records (court of requests) and we have a copy of it, thanks to Mr. George Sanborn - Sanborn genealogist.

- There are gaps in the English career of Mr. Bachiler. It would appear he lived at Wherwell for most of the years from his induction there as Vicar in 1587 until 1614, and that he then resided in Barton - Stacy from 1614 to 1631 shortly before his departure for New England.

- The “Plough Company” which was formed some time during 1629/30, was made up of a group of dissenters. They named Mr. Bachiler their pastor. The “Plough Company” applied for a land grant in Maine. This effort was spearheaded by Richard Dummer, who is often called a “kinsman” of Mr. Bachiler. Richard Dummer, in a letter to Nathaniel Bachiler, (son of Stephen) addressed him as “cussin”.
- Richard Dummer’s first wife was Stephen Bachiler’s step-daughter, being a daughter of Rev. Thomas Mason and his wife Helena, who married Mr. Bachiler as his third wife after Rev. Mason’s death. She is the one who accompanied him to New England.

- Mr. Bachiler made arrangements to leave England. He sold his properties in Barton-Stacy and apparently lived briefly at South Stoneham, Hampshire; for that is the residence he gave for himself and Helena when he applied to go to Flushing, Holland, for two months to visit his “sons and daughters.” This request was made 23 June 1631. Previously his daughter, Theodate and her husband, Christopher Hussey were dispatched to New England. Mr. Bachiler’s daughter, Deborah Wing, widow of John Wing who was a Puritan pastor in Holland until he returned to England to die, may have returned to her old home in Holland - where her two brothers, Stephen and Samuel, were Puritan ministers.

- From “planters of the Common Weatlth we learn that Mr. Bachiler, his wife Helena, and three Sanborn Grandsons - John, William, and Stephen , sailed on the ship “William and Francis”, which left London 9 March 1632. After a very difficult passage of 88 days, they arrived in New England 5 June 1632. (A description of such a journey found in “the Winthrop Fleet of 1630”).

- Upon their arrival they proceeded to Saugus, (now Lynn), Massachusetts, where his daughter, Theodate, and her husband, Christopher Hussey, resided, and saw their son, Stephen, for the first time.

- Mr. Bachiler began to preach, but in less than four months, he came under “suspicion” of having independent ideas, which he was not willing to yield to the dictates of others. The General Court passed the following order, 3 October 1632; “Mr. Bachiler is required to forbear exercising his gifts

as pastor and teacher publicly or privately, unless it be to those he brought with him, for his contempt for authority and until some scandals be removed.”

Mrs. Eleanor: Again it was considered “scandalous” to conduct worship in any way not approved of by the rulers.

When I opposed the Bishops of the established church it was considered opposition against the Crown.

(The church and state being one, if I opposed the church I was breaking the laws of the realm)

I opposed this and was strongly in favor of separation of church and state. This led to much trouble for me.

- After five months the prohibition was removed and he was free to gather a church in Massachusetts.

- Mr. Bachiler went on to preach in the Massachusetts Bay colonies including Ipswich, Yarmouth, and Newberry. At Ipswich he was granted 50 acres of land, but he did not stay there long. During 1637/8 he settled for a time in Yarmouth, which was about one hundred miles from Ipswich. At the time he was 76 years old and went all the way on foot in a very hard season.

- Dow, in his Book “History of Hampton, N.H.” gave this description of Mr. Bachiler:

“He was a tall and sinewy man, with prominent features, especially his nose, a very dark complexion, coarse black hair in his younger days, white in age, mouth large and firm, black eyes, features long rather than broad, a strong clear voice, rather slow of motion and speech, simple in dress, obstinate and tenacious of his opinions to a marked degree, a powerful preacher drawing largely from Scripture, impressing his hearers with the uncommon power and sanctity of his sermons, strong in his friendships, and in his hates.”

- In Newberry he received a grant of land in 1638. It was soon after this that the General Court gave him liberty to begin a plantation at Winnicunnet. It was at the request of Mr. Bachiler that the name of Winnicunnet was changed to Hampton. Soon after going to Hampton he sold his land in Newbury, and in 1639, as pastor at Hampton, he was granted 300 acres of land for a farm, in addition to his house-lot.

- The church Mr. Bachiler organized at Hampton is now the oldest congregation in New Hampshire, and the second oldest continuous church fellowship in the United States.

- The first year at Hampton they worshipped in a structure of logs. Next, they had a plain frame building, 40' x 22', without chimney or stove, with a pulpit and seats which probably had no backs, where men and women sat apart.

- In the Spring of 1639 the first settlers of Hampton were joined by others who were from Norfolk and Suffolk, England. Their leader was Rev. Timothy Dalton. He was a Cambridge graduate ejected from his Rectory of Woolverstone for non-conformity, who had come to New England in 1635.

- Mr. Bachiler was the founder and pastor at Hampton, and soon after his arrival in Hampton, Mr. Dalton was accepted as assistant pastor and teacher. And there began to be differences between the two men which led to an open break. They were as far apart as the poles. Mr. Bachiler was old, educated, controversial, versed in polemical discussion, and wedded to his own ideas.

- Mr. Dalton was younger, less cultivated, equally obstinate, and determined to uphold the tenets of Governor Winthrop. He was loyal to the Massachusetts doctrines. Winthrop showed no dissatisfaction with the Church of England.

- Things came to an open break - a split between Mr. Bachiler's followers and those of Mr. Dalton. Mr. Dalton indicated it was Mr. Bachiler's doing, because Mr. Bachiler caused the breach.

- Mr. Dalton claimed that the husband of a woman reported to him that Mr. Bachiler made a proposal to commit adultery with his wife. This was noted by Governor Winthrop in his journal under the date November 12, 1641. The Governor wrote that Mr. Bachiler was about eighty years old at the time, and was then married to "A lusty comely woman" (Helena), and that he denied the charges and "complained to the magistrates" concerning the slander against him, but later confessed his guilt, and was excommunicated for two years.

- Mr. Bachiler:

“This requires considerable explanation. Governor Winthrop, although the Church in Hampton was not under the Church of England, had the authority by law in the Massachusetts Bay colonies, to enter into Mr. Dalton’s charges against me.”

Mr. Dalton was Governor Winthrop’s cousin and all those who opposed me had come to New England with Mr. Dalton as his followers from England. Please note my parishioners stood with me because they knew me.”

“There was deep enmity between myself and Mr. Dalton and our followers. This led up to the charge of proposed adultery. I had founded the Church at Hampton. I was the Pastor, and Mr. Dalton was trying to undermine me- to get rid of me so he could take over as pastor (some believe that was his purpose in coming to Hampton). And during this time my house was burned down - with the loss of all my books and papers, as well as my other belongings. I certainly suspect arson.”

“I denied the charge - but Gov. Winthrop has written that I confessed. (Winthrop said, “while taking communion”) according to Mr. Dalton’s report to Gov. Winthrop. But no woman came forth to press charges. It is believed they were trumped up.”

“I wrote a letter to Gov. Winthrop concerning this matter, telling him “The impulsive cause (of the charge Mr. Dalton presented against me) was wrath and revenge.”

“Consider what Dow said of me! Dow said I was obstinate. I am tenacious and will not compromise my convictions! Could that be misconstrued as obstinacy?” “Some of my problems were caused because I opposed the arbitrary rule of the Massachusetts Bay Colony oligarchy (A form of government in which the ruling party belongs to the few).”

“Though we were not always in agreement, the relationship between John Winthrop and myself appeared friendly. In England I was friends with the Governor’s parents, Adam Winthrop and his wife. And I think highly of the Governor’s wife. I called her “My

ancient true friend.”

“This charge of proposed adultery was a new low for my enemies. This charge was made by Timothy Dalton against me to Gov. Winthrop - even Gov. Winthrop stated that until this charge was made (I was then 80 years of age, and loved my wife, Helena, (who was then 47), and no personal criticism was ever discovered against my morals, and no breath of scandal had ever touched my character.”

“Please note Gov. Winthrop’s account is all that remains of this incident. There is no mention of it in court records, no letters apart from Gov. Winthrop’s, nothing in the Massachusetts archives, or church records.”

- During the spring of 1647 Mr. Bachiler left Hampton and removed to Strawberry Banks (now called Portsmouth.) Shortly after, he wrote a letter to Governor Winthrop:

“It is no news to certify that God hath taken from me my dear helper and yoke-fellow “(Helena)”, and whereas, by approbation of the whole plantation of Strawberry Bank, they have assigned an honest neighbor, a widow, to have some eye and care towards my family, for washing, baking, and other such common services.”

“It is a world of woes to think what rumors detracting spirits raise up, that I am married to her, or certainly shall be, and cast on her such aspersions without ground or proof, I do not see how I shall possibly subsist in the place to do them service -”

- Mr. Bachiler’s usual good sense seemed to have deserted him. He married her - probably to silence the gossipers. Her name Mary Magdalene Bailey, widow of Robert Beedle, a fisherman/farmer, by whom she had two children, a daughter Elizabeth, and a son Christopher. She was 60 years younger than Mr. Bachiler, who was around 87. The exact date of the marriage is unknown, because he performed the ceremony and failed to publish it - an omission for which he was fined ten pounds, later lowered to five pounds.

-Mary began to have an affair with their next door neighbor, George Rogers, and having been found out was subsequently sentenced by the Georgiana, York County Court, to be flogged with forty stripes save one and branded

with the letter “A”, at the first Kittery town meeting six weeks after the birth of her child by George Rogers.

- The court also ordered Stephen Bachiler and Mary, although they had both asked for a divorce and were denied, to live together as man and wife; and if either deserted the other, the court would order that the Marshal would apprehend them and take them to Boston to be kept till the next quarter court of Assistance, when consideration would be given for a divorce.

-(This is the same court, by the way, to which Mr. Bachiler appealed for his back wages as pastor in Hampton, after he was excommunicated. The appeal was decided in his favor.)

- Mr. Bachiler had encountered many things in his life, but never anything like this. He wanted to be rid of this woman. He returned to Hampton and prepared to return to England. Political affairs in England had changed. The Commonwealth had been established and Oliver Cromwell had become Lord Protector of

England in 1653. It has been said that Mr. Bachiler and Cromwell had been friends. In any case, his friends were now at the head of affairs in England. His son-in-law, Christopher Hussey, helped fit him for the journey back to England in 1654.

- In June 1654, the court ordered Thomas Hanscom, 31 “Not to live with Mary Bachiler”. Further investigation reveals Mary’s plight. At the October 1651 adultery trial both she and Mr. Bachiler sought divorce, but were denied it. By this time Hanscom was living with Mary, and her legal husband was in England, where he remained until his death. Mary had found an attractive man from the Hanscom ship-building family, but was barred from legally marrying him. Finally after telling the court Mr. Bachiler had taken another wife in England (which is not so), and she needed her freedom to re-marry for assistance in raising her ailing children, and to conserve her estate, Mary was granted the divorce in 1656, ironically, just seventeen days after Mr. Bachiler was buried in the church yard of All-Hallows Staining, in London, 31 October 1656. He died in the home of Robert Barber.

- In 1657 she married Thomas Turner, and became a respectable, successful, church-going woman, active in community affairs.

- A book written in 1910 states that Mary Magdalene Bailey Beedle Bachiler Turner was the woman upon whom Nathaniel Hawthorne patterned Hester Prynne in his book "The Scarlet Letter". The evidence is strong that Hester Prynne was a character derived from Hawthorne's extensive knowledge of the history of Kittery in colonial Times.

- Mr. Bachiler was not faultless, and no more than we are, but he was courageous and dedicated and uncompromising for that which he believed. He believed the Word of God, and in the separation of Church and State.

- I was telling a friend of Gary Sutton's, a minister of the Gospel about Mr. Bachiler and he replied, "We need more men like him today."

-No one who speaks God's truth will be without persecution in one form or another. Whether Mr. Bachiler is guilty of the charges brought against him by man, only God knows - and it is to God he must answer - as with all of us. God is the Righteous Judge - the God of all truth, and nothing is hidden from Him.