

I am choosing to not let today become history without acknowledging that 333 years ago today, Ms. Bridget Bishop was accused of being a Witch in Salem, Massachusetts. She was tried, found guilty and on this day in 1692, died at the fate of the gallows. Back in England, accused witches were burned at the stake. But, the young colony attempted at being more 'humane' than their relatives across the pond.

This young puritan town (Salem) in the colonies was at the conception of a mass hysteria concerning witches in which innocent women (and a few select males), were killed. Much of the accusations were made up by children and some adults. Some of whom recanted and sought restoration decades after the Salem Witch Trials concluded. Confessing that it was completely 'made up' and even 'acted out' in court during the trials. What a travesty. Innocent lives, such as Mrs. Rebecca Nurse, a 71-year old woman (who was of the first several thousands of settlers to come to the new world), would die. Simply because lies were told and taken as truths.

A solemn reminder that making up stories, untruths, and rumors, can damage people's lives. History does repeat itself. Maybe not in hanging accused 'witches' from gallows, but it does repeat itself in other forms at the crux of the principle of the matter at hand. A little white lie can destroy a relationship or reputation. A rumor, meant as humor and fun, can develop into a rampant disease that destroys everything in its path.

