

Sarah Ahhaton's Adultery Trial – 1668

Whereas Sarah Ahhaton, an Indian squaw, is now in prison for adultery, and there being several considerations about it wherein much difficulty appears, it is ordered that this case be heard by the General Court. . .

The Court. . .sent for the said Sarah Ahaton out of prison. Being at the bar and hearing what was produced against her. . .relating to the confession of committing adultery with Joseph an Indian [and] whether on what has been heard. . .she should be put to death, it was resolved in the negative. . .

It is further ordered that the said Sarah Ahhaton shall. . .stand on the gallows after the lecture in Boston with a rope about her neck one hour, and that then the marshal general shall cause her to be taken down and returned to prison, and committed to the Indian constable of Natick, who on a public day. . .shall severely whip her, not exceeding thirty stripes, and that she pay all charges for the prosecution. . .Her whipping [is] to be deferred until after the time of her delivery if she be with child as is reported.