

THE SEVERAL

DEPOSITIONS

OF

Edward Costen, Richard Stedman, John Sweetapple, Mary Peytoe, Elizabeth Mason, and Mary Costen;

Relating to the Affair of

MARY TOFT,

Of *Godalming* in the County of *Surrey*, being deliver'd of

Several Rabbits :

As they were taken before the Right Honourable the Lord *ONSLOW*, at *Guildford* and *Clandon* in the said County, on the Third and Fourth Days of this instant *December* 1726.

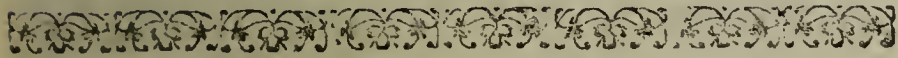
L O N D O N ;

Printed for *J. Pemberton*, at the *Buck* in *Fleet-street*, over-against *St. Dunstan's Church*. 1727. (Price 4d.)





DEPOSITIONS.



The Deposition of *Edward Costen.*



Edward Costen of *Godal-*
ming in the County of
Surrey, Framework-Knit-
ter, maketh Oath, That about
one Month ago *Joshua Toft* of
A 2 Go-

Godalming aforefaid, Clothworker, came to this Deponent, and asked him, this Deponent, if he could fell him any Rabbits; and that this Deponent fold him two Rabbits of about a Month old at twice, to wit, one Day next after another, for which this Deponent had of him Three Pence each. And this Deponent further faith, That at the time the faid *Joshua Toft* came for the laft Rabbit that he had of this Deponent, he asked this Deponent if he had any more; and this Deponent replied, he had one dead, and that it died in the Night: and that then the faid *Toft* asked where it was, to which this Deponent faid, he had thrown it
 away:

away : to which the said *Toft*
replied, if you had not thrown
it away, it would have done as
well for me as a live one.

Edward Costen.

*Jur' apud Guldeford in Com' Surr'
tertio die Decembris Anno Dom'
1726. coram*

Onflow.

The



The Deposition of
Richard Stedman.

Richard Stedman of Godal-
 ming in the County of
 Surrey, Weaver, maketh Oath,
 That Joshua Toft of Godalming
 aforeſaid, Cloathworker came to
 this Deponent's Houſe, and en-
 quired for Rabbits; to which
 this Deponent's Son ſaid he had
 ſome, but he thought them too
 ſmall;

small ; to which the said *Toft* replied, small or what they wou'd he must have them ; and that this Deponent's Son went and fetched two young Rabbits of about five Weeks old, and he the said *Toft* bought one of them at that time, being *Saturday*, this Day Fortnight ; and on the *Monday* then next following, he came and bought the other, and that he killed them each as soon as he bought them in the Presence of this Deponent ; and at taking away the first, he the said *Toft* said, you need not let any body know it, for I don't know but I may have occasion for the other ; and accordingly had the other for Two-Pence, because

cause it was very poor and
small; and this Deponent saith
that one of the said Rabbits
was black, and the other grey.

Richard Stedman.

*Jur' apud Guldeford in Com' Surr'
tertio die Decembris Anno Domi'
1726. coram*

Onslow.

The



The Affirmation of
John Sweetapple.

JOHN Sweetapple of Godal-
ming in the County of
Surrey, Currier, being one of the
People commonly call'd Qua-
kers, solemnly affirmeth, That
Joshua Toft of Godalming afore-
B said,

said, Clothworker, came to this Affirmant on the seventh or eighth Day of *October* last, and asked to buy Rabbits; and that this Affirmant then sold him a black Rabbit, above half grown: And that the said *Toft* came again to this Affirmant after his Wife was gone to *Guildford*, and asked this Affirmant if he had any Rabbits; to which he said he had, but they were small: to which the said *Toft* said, he must have them, be what Size they would. And this Affirmant then sold him two Rabbits, one black and one grey; and this Affirmant took out the Entrails of them before *Toft* took them away. And this Affirmant further

her faith, That the said Toft
old this Affirmant, that he was
then going to *Guildford* with
hem.

John Sweetapple.

*This Affirmation was taken at
Guildford in the County of
Surrey the third day of De-
cember, Anno Dom' 1726.
before*

Onflow.



The Deposition of
Mary Peytoe.

MARY Peytoe, the Wife
of *John Peytoe* of *Godalming*
in the County of *Surrey*,
Husbandman, maketh Oath,
That *Joshua Toft* of *Godalming*
aforesaid, Clothworker, came to
this

this Deponent to buy Rabbits about five Weeks ago, and that this Deponent then sold him one or two of about six or seven Weeks old. And that at several times in about ten Days then next, this Deponent sold the said *Toft* seven or eight Rabbits more of about six or seven Weeks old; and in particular, this Deponent sold him two of the Rabbits, which he killed and paunched in this Deponent's Presence, and said he must carry them to *Guildford*: which said two Rabbits this Deponent so sold him the same Day that the Wife of the said *Joshua Toft* went to reside at *Guildford*. And this Deponent saith, That she gave him one Rab-

Rabbit of a sandy Colour for
his Wife.

The Mark of
Mary X Peytoe.

*Fur' apud Guldeford in Com'
Surr' tertio die Decembris
Anno Dom' 1726. coram*

Onflow.

The



The Deposition of
Mrs. *Mason*.

MR S. *Mason* maketh Oath,
That whilst *Mary Toft*
lodg'd at her House, which was
about three Weeks, that there
was no Rabbits dress'd at her
House, or carry'd to *Mary Toft*
to eat; and that she heard the
said *Mary Toft* say, that she
could not eat a Bit of a Rab-
bit,

bit, was she to have a Thousand Pounds for so doing. The Deponent further saith, That *Mary Toft's* Husband had frequent Conference with his Sister, who attended his Wife.

The Mark of
Mrs. *Eliz. X Mason.*

*Fur' apud Clandon in Com'
Surr' quarto die Decembris
Anno Dom' 1726. coram*

Onslow.

The



The Deposition of *Mary Costen.*

MARY Costen of Godal-
ming in the County of
Surrey, Widow, maketh Oath,
That about a Month ago she
was hired to *Mary Toft*, the
Wife of *Joshua Toft* of Godal-
ming aforesaid, Cloathworker,
as a Nurse, and that she tended
C her

her as such till the time the said *Mary Toft* went from *Guildford* to *London*; and that the Husband of the said *Mary Toft* came often to see his Wife, and that he was often with his own Sister: And this Deponent further saith, That to the best of her knowledge she never saw any Rabbits brought to her the said *Mary Toft* to eat whilst she was at *Guildford*, nor any dress'd in the House, and verily believes there was not any dress'd for or eat by her the said *Mary Toft* during that Time: And further saith, That she, this Deponent herself, saw the said *Mary Toft* delivered of Seven Rabbits of different Colours whilst she was at *Guildford*, all which came from

from her in several pieces, and not whole : And that this Deponent heard that a black one came from her at *Godalming*. And this Deponent further saith, That as often as the said Husband came to *Guildford*, this Deponent never saw him dejected, or any ways concerned for his Wife's Misfortune : And also saith, That during her attending the said *Mary Toft*, she never heard her or her Husband desire that any Minister might be sent for to pray by her : And this Deponent further saith, That she does not know that the said *Mary Toft* was restrained from any Diet at any time whilst she tended her ; And that the said *Mary Toft* generally fed on

salt Beef, and drank sometimes
 strong Beer, and sometimes
 small, and sometimes Wine :
 And this Deponent also saith,
 That during all the said time she
 never heard Mr. *John Howard*
 prescribe any particular Diet for
 her the said *Mary Toft*; but
 hath heard the said Mr. *Howard*
 tell the People that came to see
 her the said *Mary Toft*, that
 he did not debar her of eating
 any thing. And this Deponent
 further saith, That about nine
 a-clock this Morning Mr. *How-*
ard's Apprentice, one *Mel-*
lersh, came to the Gate of *Mun-*
sted Farm in the Parish of *Go-*
dalming, and enquired for this
 Deponent, and there told her
 that he had heard from his Ma-
 ster

ster and her Dame, and that the Rabbit was alive Yesterday, and that he had heard my Lord *Onslow* was to send for her, and he would have her stand by the Truth. To which this Deponent said, she would, if the King was to send for her, and that she would not do an ill thing for a Lap-full of Guineas.

The Mark of
Mary X Costen.

*Jur' apud Clandon in Com' Surr'
quarto die Decembris Anno Domi'
1726. coram*

Onslow.

And

And this Deponent further saith, That to the best of her remembrance, she never saw the said *Mary Toft* deliver'd of any Guts belonging to the seven Rabbits she saw her deliver'd of as above.

The Mark of
Mary X Costen.

F I N I S.

*Since the taking of these Depositions
Mr. St. Andre has thought fit to
publish the following Advertisement
in the Daily Journal of Dec. 9. 1726.*

HAVING contributed, in some measure, to the Belief of an Impostor, in a Narrative lately published by me, of an extraordinary Delivery of *Rabbits*, performed by Mr. *Howard*, Surgeon, of *Guildford*; and having been since instrumental in discovering the same; so that I am now thoroughly convinc'd it is a most abominable Fraud: I think myself obliged, in strict regard to Truth, to acquaint the Publick thereof; and that I intend, in a short time, to publish a full Account of the Discovery, with some Considerations on the extraordinary Circumstances of this Case, which misled me in my Apprehensions thereof; and which as I hope they will, in some measure, excuse the Mistakes made by myself, and others, who have visited the Woman concerned therein, will also be acceptable to the World, in separating the Innocent from those who have been guilty Actors of this Fraud.

December 8. 1726.

St. ANDRE.

Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is arranged in several paragraphs and is mostly obscured by the low contrast and grain of the scan.

2025