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ARTIFACTS FROM ELIZABETH HOW HOMESITE ON DISPLAY AT THE SALEM WITCH MUSEUM

SALEM—Artifacts discovered on the Ipswich property once owned by Elizabeth and James How are now on display at the Salem Witch Museum. Elizabeth How (alternatively spelled Howe) was one of the 19 innocent people hanged during the Salem witch trials. She died on July 19, 1692, along with Sarah Good, Rebecca Nurse, Susannah Martin, and Sarah Wildes.

While the recovery of seventeenth century artifacts is always remarkable, the discovery of items connected to a victim of the Salem witch trials is exceedingly rare. Only a handful of personal items from the individuals executed during the 1692 witch hunt have been preserved over the generations.

The site was first discovered by Tammy Goss in 2005 during construction of the Goss' new home on Linebrook Road in Ipswich, Massachusetts. Pieces of redware pottery were found approximately 2-3 feet below surface level while digging the basement for the new structure. Further excavation of the site resulted in the discovery of several additional artifacts including items from the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries and a number of bricks consistent with the size of those produced in the mid-1600s.

Thanks to Tammy's methodical research and perseverance, it was conclusively determined that this was property owned by the How family. The homestead was first built by James How around 1658, and was inhabited by his and Elizabeth's daughters Mary and Abigail until 1717. Hows remained living on the adjacent property for the next several generations.

In 2008, the Ipswich Historical Commission funded an archeological dig which exposed the chimney base and further corroborated the location of the site. Though the impracticality of the archeological dig eventually halted its progress, a Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer determined, "there is no doubt that a seventeenth-to-eighteenth century site has been located and documentary research conducted by the homeowner strongly suggests an association with Elizabeth How."

Items now on display at the Salem Witch Museum include a clay pipe, a pewter spoon, a glass bottle neck, pewter buttons, a buckle, and shards of glass (likely from a window).

These artifacts were donated by the Goss family in memory of Tammy, whose passionate curiosity and tireless determination led to the authentication of the site and preservation of these important items.

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