

Diary of Ebenezer Parkman, 1745

1745 January 1 (Tuesday). We began the Year with a Little Association at our House. Reverend Ministers [Messrs.?] Cushing, Stone and Smith came up and din'd with me, and Smok'd a Pipe. P.M. There were Two Things I wanted the Thoughts of my Brethren in the Ministry upon. My Circumstances in Westborough at this present Day -- as the Town are like to Violate and Destroy the Covenant and Contract which has hitherto been between us. And there are Two Meetings before us, to be within a few Days. A Precinct Meeting to be on the Thursday and a Town Meeting (which is to be partly at my Request) next Monday. I was not willing that there Should be Such Affairs as these transacting among us without acquainting my Friends about Me therewith and Consulting them thereon. This therefore I did. Another Thing was I found there was like to be some Difficulty arising if I ask'd Mr. Jenison¹ to preach for me, or if I Should recommend him to our North side or Countenance his preaching there as in Years past. Mr. Smith in particular had told me that for himself he Should not ask him -- and he conceiv'd that Mr. Cushing would refuse to likewise nor merely on account of his living from his Wife (which had but a bad aspect) but on account of other Conduct in divers respects. This was therefore talk'd over at my House and all present discover'd their sentiments and their Resolutions, which were that he ought to be refus'd, untill those Matters complain'd of were clear'd up -- and they engag'd to second and strengthen me if I found it needful to begin with him in a faithful Discovery of My Mind to him. But N.B. some unhappy Contrast between Mr. Smith and me at Table on the Score of Mr. Hall, and his Letter concerning the revival of Religion in Sutton inserted in the Christian History. At Evening before Mr. Cushing went away I sent my Desire to Mr. Jenison to come and sup with me, Which gave me Opportunity, as it did also Mr. Cushing to deal freely with him; and we improv'd it as we were able. And as far as was discoverable he took it well and was thankfull.

1745 January 2 (Wednesday). Thus the Year began with Difficult Dutys and Trials, and more follow'd immediately upon them for on the second I rode over to Upton according to my appointment and Message to them. Lieutenant Tainter (whose wife I visited as I went), Mr. Stratton of Waltham, his son Harrington and Mr. Grow, were my Company over. We din'd at Captain Sadlers.² It was Somewhat lowery a.m. but was clearer p.m. Mr. Weld and Mr. Dorr³ at Meeting. I preach'd on James 5.9, latter part. After Sermon Israel Taft junior who had before hand acquaint'd me with his Right to Church Privilege and his Desire of Baptism for his Child, having Stood up, with his Child ready, I laid his Desires before the Church who manifested their Consent to proceeding -- But Reverend Weld objected and after long debating Still insisted that this was one that had not made him Satisfaction etc. Reverend Mr. Dorr said he thought I ought to abide by our own Result, which granted Privilege. Several brethren would fain have drawn off but I besought them to tarry. Mr. Matthew Taft in particular, but he said he thought

¹William Jenison (HC 1724) had been dismissed by the East Parish of Salem in 1736. Thereafter he had taught in Lexington, Worcester, Lunenburg, and Westborough. Jenison was eccentric and intemperate, was not living with his wife, and was opposed "on account of other conduct in divers respects" (see entry for April 23). SHG7:371-374; Allen, *Worcester Association*, 28.

²John Sadler, a selectman of Upton.

³Rev. Joseph Dorr of Mendon.

it had as good be Wav'd for the present Seeing So much was Said. As to myself I conceiv'd that being the Young Man publicly acknowledg'd he was to blame in leaving Mr. Weld to hear Mr. Pain,⁴ and was willing to join in what the Brethren did in the Agreement with Mr. Weld previous to his Dismission, he ought to be restor'd and enjoy Privilege but since there was so much uncomfortable Debate and the Sun just sitting I chose to Wave it. And so I proceeded to Prayer, and dismiss'd the People. Mr. Dorr and Mr. Weld went down to Captain Sadlers where Mr. Weld manifested great Disquietment with our last Result as well as the former. But I would not tarry to contest with him. We return'd home. N.B. I supp'd at Neighbour Harringtons with Mr. Stratton and others.

1745 January 3 (Thursday). The First Precinct had their First Meeting, and chose Precinct Officers, and a Committee to treat with Me. By this Days Transactions all Enquiry whether the Town Submitts to the General Courts Act in dividing the Town is Superseded: for this is an actual Submission thereto and proceeding accordingly. This Day therefore I look upon the Contract between this Town and my Self to be Shock'd and Violated. God grant me wisdom proportionable to the Trial!⁵ My Ox bad. Eliezer Rice rak'd him. Sent for Mr. Daniel Garfield.⁶ On the 3 Mr. Daniel Forbush laid an Hearth in my New Study.

1745 January 4 (Friday). Bad Weather, yet Mr. William Caruth coming to call me to Visit Mr. Simon Howards young Child, I went over -- and having admonish'd them for their Neglect in not bringing it to Baptism, now the third Month -- I sent to all those Neighbours round about who could be thought to attend, who accordingly came; Several of the Church, viz. Mr. Nathan Ball, Mr. Livermore, Mr. Townsend,⁷ and others -- who all judging and Concluding that the Child⁸ would not live but was near its End, I baptiz'd it by the name of Solomon. After which we Commended it to God. Sang a Psalm and dismiss'd them with the Blessing. Not well when I got home went early to bed. Mr. Garfield came to look at my Ox which grows rather better. He rak'd him.

1745 January 5 (Saturday). Rose better. Mr. Lull here. I paid him L20 old Tenor. Mr. Stone here on his Journey to Worcester to preach there.

1745 January 6 (Sunday). A.M. on Consideration of the Very Weighty Affairs which in Divine Providence are before me with relation to this Town I preach'd on Mat. 6.25, and p.m. on Phil. 4.6. Mr. Jenison and Mr. Stratton din'd here. It was not difficult for the Congregation to perceive that my Subject pointed at the purpos'd Business before us on the Morrow. The Lord prepare my Heart!

⁴Probably the Rev. Seth Pain (YC 1726), who has been dismissed by Stafford, Conn., and became an Anglican. *DYG*, 334-335.

⁵See DeForest and Bates, *Westborough*, 131.

⁶Given as Gafield in *Westborough Vital Records*.

⁷Joshua Townsend.

⁸Neither the birth nor the death is recorded in the *Westborough Vital Records*.

1745 January 7 (Monday). I sat up till nigh two o'Clock this Morning in preparing for the Meeting (which was this Day) of the Town, and when the Town had been some Time together they sent a Committee, viz. Captain Eager and Captain Warrin to desire me to go to the Meeting House, which I did and deliver'd my mind to them, which being from a written Paper, See. It was a Matter that my Mind wrought in: and I endeavour'd in some measure, to Committ it to God the Fountain of all Knowledge and Grace and the supreme orderer and Disposer of all Events. At Eve I visited Captain Maynard and Mr. Jenison. There were several Neighbours -- Mr. Francis Whipple, Lieutenant Aaron Forbush, etc. N.B. The Town Meeting was adjourn'd to next Friday.

1745 January 8 (Tuesday). A Stormy Day, otherwise I should have been Expected to be at Southborough where some Ministers propos'd to meet in order to calling our Association together that a public Testimony may be drawn up against Mr. Whitefield.⁹

1745 January 9 (Wednesday). Still foul weather.

1745 January 10 (Thursday). [No entry.]

1745 January 11 (Friday). The Town met again about my Affairs. They granted Money at the Rate of £220 per Year for my preaching from June 5 to the 19th of October when the Town was divided into Two Precincts. Captain Fay and Captain Warrin were the Committee to inform Me, to which I return'd a Written Answer. And So now I am after these Things to be thrown upon a Precinct, or out of Doors -- our old Covenants and Contracts being nullify'd and dissolved -- and this without any Consent of mine, or Opportunity from either the Court or the Town to Shew whether I consented or not. At Eve came Captain Eager, Lieutenant Holloway, Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Livermore, Mr. James Ball, Mr. Jesse Brigham, Mr. Nathaniel Oake and Lieutenant Tainter and several of them had not heard the Paper which I read to the Town on the 7th. I did not read it for it was nigh Dark and they were Moving; but I gave them the Substance and enquir'd whether any one had a Mind to say anything about the Things which had been offer'd -- upon which Mr. Wheeler and I had a long Conference In which I prov'd the Necessity of Order, but especially of Reasonableness in Societys, and that what the Town had done had been opposite to both; and that especially by the breaking up of our Covenant I was become a great Sufferer. Constable Livermore paid me all.

1745 January 12 (Saturday). Mr. Othniel Taylor¹⁰ of Wor[ce]ster here. Tells me of great outcrys at Mr. Webbs¹¹ meeting at Boston last Wednesday Eve, at Mr. Whitefields preaching.

1745 January 13 (Sunday). Preach'd on Phil. 4.7. Very Moderate and pleasant Weather for the Season, and we had a pritty good Assembly, I Thank God. O that his word might do us Good as

⁹Parkman's name was among those ministers who expressed their approval of Whitefield's work in a letter to *The Boston Gazette or Weekly Journal*, Jan. 8, 1745.

¹⁰A young man who was later a conspicuous opponent of British rule.

¹¹Rev. John Webb of the New North Church.

it does the upright! O that We might have the Peace of God reigning in our Hearts! and that we may, might it please God to help us to Cast all our Care upon Him and in Every Thing make our Requests known to Him.

1745 January 14 (Monday). I rode to Mr. Grouts to pay him £16 Old Tenor for Thomas Winchester and I was in at Mr. Jeduthan Fays. P.M. Captain Maynard kill'd a sow for me assisted by Lieutenant Aaron Forbush and Nathan Maynard -- in order to his Carrying it down in his Cart to Boston. P.M. The Committee of the first Precinct, viz. Old Mr. Whipple, Deacon Newton and Lieutenant Thomas Forbush came to me to see whether I inclin'd to Stay in this Parish or no? To which I return'd this Answer that the Parish ought first to manifest whether they desire me to; and this might be Two ways first by public Vote, and then by suitable Provision etc. At eve John Hicks junior here and lodg'd.

1745 January 15 (Tuesday). Captain Maynard to Boston, having my sow in his Team, for the Market. Mr. Aaron Hardy of Grafton here at Evening who acquaints me that they are yet in great and increasing Troubles by means of Mr. Prentice's¹² Conduct and preaching; having no regard to the Result of the Council that sat there, and Says he never did come in with it. He informs me that Mr. Dutton was the most of last Week among them and that Mr. Prentice gave him a very high Commendation on the Lords Day after.

1745 January 16 (Wednesday). Mrs. Stevens¹³ of Grafton here being under Difficultys and wanting Advice on a Cause depending between her and Mr. Jacob Whipple¹⁴ of their Church.

1745 January 17 (Thursday). The world full of Mr. Whitefield (as I hear) who is now preaching at Boston.

1745 January 18 (Friday). [No entry.]

1745 January 19 (Saturday). Captain Maynard made but slender Returns for my Pork, but 11d. per pound at Boston. But we have more to Say on Town Affairs. N.B. North Side petition the Court again. See the copy.

1745 January 20 (Sunday). On Phil. 4.7 -- beg the word may be bless'd to my own soul as well as to the People. A raw Cold Day. Mr. James Balls wife din'd here. Mr. James Fay after several Sabbaths absence, came to meeting again.

1745 January 21 (Monday). A bad Snow storm.

¹²The Rev. Solomon Prentice had been rebuked by an ecclesiastical council at Grafton, Oct. 2, 1744, for his unreserved New-Light preaching. *SHG* 8:249-250. Pierce, *Grafton*, 173-178. On Jan. 22, 1745, Prentice asked to be dismissed from the Marlborough Association and that body consented. Allen, *Worcester Association*, 24.

¹³Hannah, Mrs. Israel Stevens.

¹⁴Son of Deacon James Whipple.

1745 January 22 (Tuesday). At the Request of Mr. Loring,¹⁵ Mr. Cook¹⁶ and Mr. Smith, divers ministers were to Meet at Marlborough in order to draw up and publish a Testimony against Mr. Whitefield. But I sent a Letter by Thomme to Mr. Stone directed to Mr. Smith containing my Reasons why I did not go. See the Letter. Thomme brought home a piece of White Cloth from Mr. Britons fulling mill, 10 yards and 3/4. The Committee of the North Precinct here again for my answer but was not ready. The first Precinct having done nothing to Effect yet. Deacon Newton and Captain Maynard here in the Evening.

1745 January 23 (Wednesday). At Deacon Newtons in the Evening, to Solemnize the Marriage of his Daughter Mary to Asa Brigham,¹⁷ now an inhabitant of Shrewsbury. N.B. Mr. Goodale¹⁸ of Marlborough awhile there. After supper I return'd.

1745 January 24 (Thursday). Reading Mr. Hubbards Absence of the Comforter,¹⁹ and diligently at my Preparations.

1745 January 25 (Friday). At Eve Mr. Whipple and Ebenezer Maynard here. A Cold Storm of Snow at Eve. Eli rode to Lieutenant Holloways.

1745 January 26 (Saturday). Mr. Millen²⁰ in his way to Mr. Morse's, [Rev. Ebenezer Morse of Boylston] in here. He inform'd me that all the association but Mr. Barrett and I met last Tuesday.

1745 January 27 (Sunday). Luke 12.15. P.M. repeated the last sermons on John 14.21. N.B. Mr. Josiah Walker of No. 4 of the Tannick Townships, din'd here.

1745 January 28 (Monday). Mr. Millen who had chang'd with Mr. Morse din'd with me.

1745 January 29 (Tuesday). I desire to remember the Wormwood and the Gall; and may my soul be humbled within Me! Nine Years have roll'd off Since the Lord was pleas'd to bereave me of the Desire of my Eyes by his holy Stroke! Jejun. and Consider. At Eve Neighbour Jedidiah How and Neighbour Daniel Hardy here. This Day an Ecclesiastical Council (as I have heard) Sitts At Hopkinton. Eli Forbush went home.

1745 January 30 (Wednesday). I rode to Ensign [Thomas] Newtons -- din'd at Mr. Ebenezer Rice's -- visited Mr. Nathaniel Whitneys Family -- Mr. Jonas Childs -- was at Lieutenant Tainters. (The School began by Mr. Jenison at the South School House.) Conferr'd with Mrs. Martha

¹⁵Rev. Israel Loring of Sudbury.

¹⁶Rev. William Cooke of Wayland.

¹⁷Son of David Brigham of Westborough. He became captain of the South Militia Company of Shrewsbury and later moved to Fitzwilliam. Ward, *Shrewsbury*, 236.

¹⁸Benjamin Goodale.

¹⁹Nehemiah Hobart, *The Absence of the Comforter Described and Lamented, in a Discourse on Lam. 1.16* (New London, 1717).

²⁰Rev. John Mellen (HC 1741), first minister of Sterling, Mass., 1744-1774; *SHG* 11:40-52.

Warrin (wife of Daniel) touching her Admission into the Church. I call'd also to talk with Captain Bakers wife who was desirous of the Same Privilege. Dr. Gott and Dr. Breck here whilst I was gone and din'd with my wife.

1745 January 31 (Thursday). Very Cold. Kept Close to my Studys. Mr. Jeduthan Fay made up with me. N.B. Mr. James Fay here and Stay'd out the Evening. Thus finishes another Month of God's Long Suffering.

1745 February 1 (Friday). More Moderate Air. Clear and pleasant for the Season though Somewhat Cold. Ebenezer Maynard came from Boston Yesterday. Brought up several Pamphlets against Mr. Whitefield -- of whom (and Fresh Provisions) he says, the Town is full. Two Essex associations Letters to the Ministers of Boston,²¹ and the Determination of the Association at Cambridge. Mr. Nathaniel Henchman²² of Lyn, his Letter²³ to Mr. Chase²⁴ of Lyn End against Mr. Whitefield. But have not yet Seen Mr. Foxcrofts Apology.²⁵ The world much divided. *Laudatur ab his Culpatur ab illis*. God grant us Wisdom, Grace and Peace!

1745 February 2 (Saturday). Pleasant Day though Somewhat Cold. Mr. George Smith the Taylor brought home a Great Coat which he had made for Ebenezer. His work 11/.

1745 February 3 (Sunday). On Luke 12.15. Repeat'd p.m. on Ps. 73.25. Mr. Jenison and Mr. Tainter and Mrs. Biglo. At Eve Lieutenant Tainters Sister Hastings here.

1745 February 4 (Monday). A Beggar whose Feet had been froze, and one Cutt wholly off, the other all the Toes, here, his Name John Green, his Home Hartford. I could not but Sympathize with him. The Lord make me thankfull for my Limbs and faithful in improving them to the Divine Glory. Brother Hicks and his wife here going to Cambridge. Mrs. Martha Warrin here further to Discourse concerning her Admission into the Church. At Evening Reverend Prentice of Grafton, and his Wife, with their son Solomon here. Supp'd with me and return'd to Mr. Winchesters in order to their going Home.

1745 February 5 (Tuesday). I visited Mr. Samuel Fays (Junior) Wife, who lyes Still in her Languishment. P.M. The First Precinct Met to See whether they would by a publick Vote manifest their Desire of my Continuing their Minister; which Vote pass'd by Every one present. Also money for Support till next June, and that the Precinct would take upon them the Obligations which the Town were under. N.B. A Considerable Number of the precinct were dissatisfy'd with the Warnings of the meeting, posted upon the Meeting House Door, which

²¹Caleb Cushing, *et al.*, *A Letter From Two Neighbouring Associations of Ministers in the Country...Relating to the Admission of Mr. Whitefield into Their Pulpits* (Boston, 1745).

²²(HC 1717), minister of Lynn, 1720-1761. *SHG* 6:192-195.

²³*Reasons Offered by Mr. Nathaniel Henchman...for Declining to Admit Mr. Whitefield into his Pulpit* [with an introductory note by Stephen Chase] (Boston, 1745).

²⁴Rev. Stephen Chase (HC 1728), minister of Lynnfield, 1731-1747, was also hostile to Whitefield. *SHG* 8:382-385.

²⁵Thomas Foxcroft, *An Apology on Behalf of the Reverend Mr. Whitefield* (Boston, 1745).

stood there on the Sabbath, and therefore did not care to be present -- but came to my House; or if they were at the Meeting House at any Time, retir'd from acting in the Affair. Messrs. Miller, Whitney, Jonah Warrin, Beriah Rice, Stephen Fay, etc. were of those who esteem'd the notification of the Precinct Meeting to be a Breach of the Sabbath.

1745 February 6 (Wednesday). Zipporah Wheeler²⁶ marry'd to Asaph Wilder²⁷ of Lancaster. Mrs. Baker here again in order to her joining in full Communion with the Church. A Committee from the first precinct to acquaint me with how far they proceeded at the late meeting -- and to Consult me about what Distance from a Meeting House I could be easy with meeting. Training, on the South side. Was Requested by Lieutenant Forbush (Captain Baker being at Court) to be with them at Captain Fays -- Pray with them and Dine among them -- which I did. Mr. Jenison was there also. N.B. A Young Man there who came from the Town of Preston in Connecticut who was much in Defence of Mr. Pain etc. The Proclamation was read to the Company by Lieutenant Forbush encouraging Men to 'List Volunteers in the Expedition to Cape Breton. But no one 'listed. N.B. Cornelius Cook²⁸ talk'd with but in Vain. At Eve in at Mr. Williams's. Conversation turn'd upon the Business of the Precinct tomorrow.

1745 February 7 (Thursday). [No entry.]

1745 February 8 (Friday). I Solemnly committed to God the Business and Affairs of the Precinct this Day -- and besought the Divine Direction in the drawing up my Thoughts which the precinct had desir'd Me to Send them. I drew them up and Sent them by Mr. Abner Newton (one of the Committee). N.B. Captain Maynards Company together afternoon and I pray'd with them. No one 'listed. The Precinct Met also this afternoon, by adjournment. N.B. Those who excepted against the Notification (as above) would not attend. At Eve Deacon Newton and Mr. Francis Whipple, Deacon Forbush, Mr. Abner Newton and others came to my House, and Deacon Newton Said that the Precinct had not appointed a Committee to wait upon me, for it was growing nigh Dark, but they desir'd their Moderator and Clark to come and give me an Account of what they had done, and they were now come accordingly. And then he desir'd Clark Whipple to read the Votes which had been pass'd that Day; who comply'd and read that the Precinct had voted £55 of New Tenor money (not Soldier money) to be my Yearly sallery from June 5 next -- and that in Case the Meeting House be mov'd about 3/4 of a Mile from Me, that then the Precinct pay me £500 old Tenor. Upon which they dissolv'd the Meeting. It appear'd to me to be of God that they were so ready to provide for me, as the last meeting they were so universal in their Desire of my Continuance.²⁹ At Eve Brother and sister Hicks from Cambridge who inform that Father Champney has been ill, but is better. That Mrs. Suse Champney³⁰ dy'd at Hingham, etc. etc.

²⁶Daughter of Joseph Wheeler of Westborough.

²⁷Son of the late Col. James Wilder, who had been a deacon of the Lancaster church.

²⁸Westborough's profane and cantankerous blacksmith.

²⁹See DeForest and Bates, *Westborough*, 131.

³⁰Susanna was a cousin of Parkman's first wife.

1745 February 9 (Saturday). Brother and sister went home to Sutton. Mr. Joseph Batchellor of Grafton here, Who agreed to take my Son Thomme a Prentice next April.

1745 February 10 (Sunday). Luke 12.15. Ps. 73.25. Granny Forbush³¹ din'd here. At Eve Thomas Winchester and Sarah Henry a Taylor, Stopp'd and lodg'd here. N.B. I propounded Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Warrin and appointed a Meeting to be next Thursday at Mr. Solomon Rice's in Upton. Cold Day.

1745 February 11 (Monday). Ebenezer who came home on Saturday last return'd to the School again this Morning. Thomas thrash'd Barley and Sarah Henry making a Coat for Ebenezer.

1745 February 12 (Tuesday). Thomas thrashing Barley. Sarah at work. P.M. Mr. A. Hardy of Grafton here.

1745 February 13 (Wednesday). Thomas and Sarah at Work. Visited at Charles Bruce's and Mr. David Brighams. Mr. John Oakes Wife here again in Order to her being propounded and having her Child baptiz'd, but am oblig'd still to delay gratifying her, not finding her acquainted with what is necessary to be known and understood of the main Principles of Religion. At night Thomas and Sarah went home.

1745 February 14 (Thursday). I rode to Mr. Solomon Rice's, at Upton and preach'd there on Rom. 8.7. The Lord add his effectual Blessing! N.B. Molly went with me. We design'd to have gone by Mr. Eliezer Rice's, but miss'd my way and went to Mr. Timothy Warrins -- and they being at Dinner, we din'd there. But I rode up to Mr. Eliezer Rice's because I had told him of my coming to his House to Day. When we return'd at Eve I visited Mr. Daniel Forbush's wife who was confin'd and greatly distress'd, and Expecting (at her Time) much Danger and Difficulty as her Circumstances are. Was also at Lieutenant Tainters, and Molly not well, but we (through Divine Favour) got home safe.

1745 February 15 (Friday). Town Meeting to see if the Town would make an Answer to the North side's second Petition to the General Court; and voted it, and Captain Warrin, Mr. Francis Whipple, and Deacon Newton to be the Committee. Mr. Daniel Warrin trimming my Orchard. N.B. My wife has been generally much indispos'd for a Month or Two past, and grows much more uncomfortable -- and is particularly very much so today.

1745 February 16 (Saturday). A Thaw. High South Winds; Misty -- the Snow gone. Ebenezer came home.

1745 February 17 (Sunday). On Luke 12.15 and p.m. on 1 Tim. 6.2 those words -- Partakers of the Benefit and therefrom repeated part of sermon on Eph. 3.8th, viz. from page 17 to page 24. Mr. Jenison, Mrs. Tainter and Mrs. Child din'd with us.

³¹Widow of Thomas Forbush of Westborough.

1745 February 18 (Monday). This Day The Committee from the Northside were with me to receive my determinate answer³² to their Message on December 10 to go over and be their Minister. Lieutenant Holloway and Mr. Collister³³ here, but Mr. Matthias Rice did not come. Those who were here gave me their Bond for Security of £12, 10 s. I dealt somewhat freely with them about their last Petition to the Court and warn'd them against Unrighteousness and against Divisions, but wish I had been more faithfull on the Affair of the Petition, notwithstanding that I had it over with them time after Time. Mr. Dan Warrin trimming my Orchards. A Number of hands cutting and Carting Wood for me, viz. Benjamin Whipple with a Yoke of Oxen made up my Team. Mr. Benjamin Fay with his Cart and 2 Yoke of Oxen, and Jonas Brigham with his Cart and 2 Yoke. The Cutters were Mr. Harrington, Dunlop, Edwards Whipple, Noah How, Sam Baker, Silas Pratt, Levi Brigham, [blank] White, Charles and Artemas Bruce, Moses Warren, and Samuel Bumpso. And they got to my Door 50 Load of Wood. N.B. At Eve Samuel Baker discours'd with me touching his admission into the Church, but not without some Disputing on Visible and Real Right to Special Ordinances. Ebenezer return'd to the School.

1745 February 19 (Tuesday). Fine Day. Sarah took Physick. P.M. both Mrs. Whipples here to visit my wife.

1745 February 20 (Wednesday). I rode to Mr. Matthias Rice's, and to Mr. Thomas Goodenows but neither of them at home, I convers'd a while with the women at each House, and then proceeded to Mr. Allen's,³⁴ Mrs. Allen continuing in a Very disquieted, disorder'd State. I also visited at Captain Eagers to discharge my Duty to both Parents and Children under their Sad Fall, their Daughter Oake having lain in already and got about again.

1745 February 21 (Thursday). My wife very hardly able to be about. Read Dr. Prestons Life.³⁵

1745 February 22 (Friday). Mr. Upham³⁶ of Sturbridge here -- din'd with us. Trundle Bedstead from Mr. Hows. Was Strenuous to have my preparations for the Sabbath in good Season, yet by Various hindrances much taken off.

1745 February 23 (Saturday). Mr. Matthias Rice here to take my Advice about a Preacher for the North Precinct. N.B. Our Conversation about Mr. Jenison, whom I could not recommend to them because of diverse Complaints in Neighbouring Towns. See January 1. Ensign Josiah Rice has been here to request my advice about his and others (Captives as they are Call'd)

³²Parkman declined the offer of the northside people in his "determinate answer" which is printed in Kent, *Northborough History*, 22-23. The northside committee reported Feb. 21, 1745: "we have accordingly applied ourselves to the Reverend Mr. Parkman, and he hath chose to Tack the Twelve pound Ten Shillings, and we have accordingly given bond to the said Mr. Parkman of L12.10s. to be paid by the first Day of May Nexte in sewing."

³³John McCollister.

³⁴Ephraim Allen of the northside.

³⁵Thomas Ball, *The Life of Doctor Preston* (London, 1641). John Preston (1587-1628) was the master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge University.

³⁶Ezekiel Upham.

petitioning the General Court again that they may be Excepted out of the North Precinct. Ebenezer came home. Thomme brought 49 lb. of cheese from Mr. Jabez Rice's.

1745 February 24 (Sunday). On Luke 12.15. P.M. on Isa. 5.4. Old Mr. Bellows and Granny Forbush din'd here.

1745 February 25 (Monday). Captain Daniel Ward of Worcester here. Further talk with Mr. Cornelius Cook who remains very disorderly and under bitter prejudices. Ebenezer at Home. Mr. Jenison gone to Watertown. The Committee appointed by the Town to make answer to the North precincts Second Petition to the General Court, went to Boston. I wrote by them to my Brother Parkman.

1745 February 26 (Tuesday). [No entry.]

1745 February 27 (Wednesday). Very Cold.

1745 February 28 (Thursday). Public Fast on Occasion of the Expedition to Cape Briton, as well as the Ensuing Spring. On Joshua 7.4.13. P.M. on Isa. 1.19.20. Mr. Jenison (Schoolmaster) was not at meeting, being not well.

1745 March 1 (Friday). Orders having Come to the Captains of the Companys in this Town last Night, to Beat up to Day again for Volunteers to go to Cape Briton the Companys were together, p.m. Colonel Nahum Ward and Lieutenant Willard³⁷ (from Lancaster) came. After prayer I went down to Captain Maynards, at his urgent Request. But no man 'listed in this Town. A.M. Mrs. Martha Warrin here -- took her Relation from her Mouth.

1745 March 2 (Saturday). At night came a storm of Snow; but not so bad as last Year just before Sacrament. The Lord give me strength and Assistance!

1745 March 3 (Sunday). Sacrament. Preach'd on 1 Tim. 6.2. Those Words, Partakers of the Benefit. Mr. Jenison did not Stay to Communion. Said he was not very well. I told him I expected him to have communicated. He din'd with me as did also Deacon Forbush and Deacon Newton. Deacon Fay did not. P.M. Repeated sermon on Isa. 1.20. At Night Very much Tir'd in Body, and much disquieted in my Mind, having had but too lifeless a Time of it. The Lord in much Mercy Pardon, and quicken me! N.B. Captain Tainters³⁸ (of Watertown) Daughter Rebecca here. N.B. Only Mr. Matthias Rice (of Men I think) from the Northside at Communion, though a pritty good Day for Stirring.

1745 March 4 (Monday). Though I have had Such a fine wood pile got me, yet I am very much without Loggs. Sent to Neighbour Ebenezer Maynard who came up, with his Brother Nathan and their Oxen and Sled, who, having Cut the Chief of them (and adding my Oxen) got me down

³⁷Moses Willard.

³⁸John Tainter.

3 Turns of Loggs. The Town met. Deacon Forbush and Captain Warrin came to me from the Town to desire me to pray with them. Mr. Whipple (after Prayer) came to me and deliver'd me a Letter from my Aged and venerable Mother (writ by my Kinsman Elias) complaining of too long neglect, and informing me of Sister Dorcas's³⁹ low State. N.B. Our Affair upon which the Committee went down from the Town to the General Court, labours much and goes from House to House, and is undetermin'd. Ebenezer went this morning again to South School, having been taught by me Last Week. N.B. Lieutenant Tainter talks with me about a Chaise that he has bought with some View to me.

1745 March 5 (Tuesday). I visited Mr. Thomas Billings and Family, and din'd with him. Visited also Mr. John Oake and Wife, talk'd with them again touching their owning the Covenant. Rode up to Mr. Asa Bowkers,⁴⁰ and thence I proceeded (Major Keys⁴¹ my Company from thence) to Mr. Cushings, His little Daughter Molly (a Second Molly) being bad with the Throat Distemper. As I return'd at Eve, I call'd at Captain Maynards, the Captain going to Boston Early tomorrow morning. N.B. Mr. Francis Whipple. N.B. Talk of Justice Baker⁴² (our New Justice) his judgment of the first Warrant for Precinct Meeting on this side the Town (which was issued out by Esquire Nahum Ward and directed to Constable Abner Newton) that was defective and all that has been done by Vertue of it (of Consequence) invalid. N.B. Brother Hicks⁴³ and Mr. Barnard⁴⁴ of Sutton din'd with my wife. By my Absence I could not see them. N.B. John Hicks junior has 'listed to go to Cape Briton.

1745 March 6 (Wednesday). Mr. Morse⁴⁵ of Shrewsbury here in his way home from Mendon etc. Mr. Dodge⁴⁶ of Brookfield here at the Same Time. And by and by Mr. Patteshall in his Journey from Killingley to Cambridge -- But he soon went off with Mr. Morse.

1745 March 7 (Thursday). Catechiz'd a. and p.m. at the Meeting House. 40 Boys, but 10 Girls. I know not whether the Private Meeting this afternoon might not be some reason for so small a number. N.B. Molly had a Ride to Cramberrying [*sic*] with Mrs. Thankfull Rice.

1745 March 8 (Friday). Fine Weather. I was induc'd to have Something done at Gardening. Mr. Jonas Warrin of Upton here to be Examin'd in order to his joining with our Church.

1745 March 9 (Saturday). Captain Maynard, who came up from Boston last Night, brings Me Brother Samuels Mournfull Letter of the Death of his Wife,⁴⁷ on Monday Eve last, about 6 o'clock. The Lord Awaken all of us to a due Sense of his holy Will! May He be very gracious to

³⁹Parkman's sister-in-law, Mrs. Samuel Parkman.

⁴⁰Of Marlborough.

⁴¹John Keyes of Marlborough.

⁴²Edward Baker, Justice of the Peace for Worcester County.

⁴³John Hicks, formerly of Westborough, Parkman's brother-in-law. Benedict and Tracy, *Sutton*, 660-661.

⁴⁴Isaac Barnard.

⁴⁵Rev. Ebenezer Morse of Boylston.

⁴⁶Francis Dodge.

⁴⁷Dorcas (Bowes) Parkman died March 14, 1745.

those more immediately Suffering under So Sore a Bereavement. And may we all be quicken'd to and assisted in all due preparation for our own Decease! Sister Dorcas had been long languishing and wasting, and much Confin'd from Publick Ordinances but I have learnt Nothing of the State of her Mind. N.B. Small pox Said to have been at Boston.

1745 March 10 (Sunday). Greatly Unprepar'd for public Service (as I am any Sabbaths) -- go to my work but very dully; my mind crowded with the Composing of my sermon. Preach'd a.m. on John 27.3, but could not do justice to so grand and important a Subject. P.M. Repeat'd the remainder on Isa. 5.4. Mr. Jenison din'd with us, as did old Mrs. Byles⁴⁸ and old Mrs. Whipple,⁴⁹ and Mrs. Rebecca Tainter of Watertown. Exceeding high Winds.

1745 March 11 (Monday). A Letter at Eve by Captain Maynard from Mr. Smith⁵⁰ of Marlborough again requesting me to preach his Lecture. N.B. Benjamin Whipple⁵¹ and Nathan Maynard⁵² here to desire that Some Neighbouring Minister might preach to their Society, which I very freely consented to.

1745 March 12 (Tuesday). I rode a.m. to Mr. Grouts, by whom I sent a Letter to Brother Samuel Parkman, Mr. Winchesters, Mr. Thomas Whitneys and Mr. Eleazer Pratts. Din'd at Home. Mr. Jonas Warrin here again on his Examination. See the Eighth Day. My Wife ill and in Pain from Day to Day, yet keeps about for the most Part. We are waiting the Will of the Sovereign God.

1745 March 13 (Wednesday). A Storm of Snow. My Wife grows very bad. No possibility of gratifying Mr. Smith in his Lecture: nor does he indeed Deserve it, having Twice Disappointed me, by engaging me to preach, without appointing the Lecture or Sending me Word, So that I went, once part of the way, and the other time wholly to the House expecting to preach, but behold! there was no Lecture appointed. But I am ready to forgive the Injury; and was very much upon going to Day were it not for my wife's Circumstances -- and the Storm. Yet I wrote a Letter to give him word and Committed it to Captain Maynard for Conveyance. My Wife gave us the Alarm. I hasted to old Mr. Maynards and got Nathan to go for Mrs. Forbush,⁵³ who was brought. Nathan went also for Divers other Women. We got as many together as were needed, before or by 12 o'Clock. By Gods Power and Mercy my wife was deliver'd of her Third but my Sixth Daughter, being my Ninth Living Child about 1/2 past 2 o'clock. The Glory be to God! May We who are the Instruments of its Natural be under God, of its Spiritual Birth! And may the Lord yet magnifie his Mercy to His Handmaid and recover her to Health and Strength again! Nor We be unmindfull of God's Goodness or of our Obligations to Him therefor! The Women assisting to Mrs. Forbush were the following -- viz. old Mrs. Whipple, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Maynard, Mrs. How, Captain Samuel Forbushs and Lieutenant Aaron Forbush Wife's. Our Eating was over before Night -- prayer also -- and Thomme began to carry Home the Women,

⁴⁸Widow of Captain Joseph Byles.

⁴⁹Mrs. Francis Whipple.

⁵⁰Rev. Aaron Smith.

⁵¹Son of Francis Whipple of Westborough.

⁵²Son of David Maynard, an early resident.

⁵³Widow of Thomas Forbush. She often served as midwife.

though some of them tarry'd in the Evening whilst others were returning. But Granny Forbush tarry'd all Night.

1745 March 14 (Thursday). My Wife and Infant Child very Comfortable. Pleasant, warmish Day after the Storm. Mrs. Forbush carry'd Home by Thomme. May others in the Town experience (where they need it) the like Mercy and Power of God that we have done!

1745 March 15 (Friday). Brother Hicks (who has been at Cambridge Some time and whom we concluded to have gone Home) return'd, and brings the Sorrowful News that my Honoured Father in Law Mr. Samuel Champney departed this Life on the eight instant and was bury'd on the thirteenth. May we mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for the End of this Man in peace! O what an heavenly mind; what Hours together Spent with God, what a Contempt of the World, what Concern for the true Interests of Religion and of the Land, what value for the truly Godly and pious -- was discernible in this worthy Person, above most! May I, and all nearly related have Grace to imitate his Excellent Example in those Respects!

1745 March 16 (Saturday). One Mr. Daniel Hubbard of Suffield here with Flax. Noah How came p.m. to raise up the west part of my red Fence which had been blown down by the late high winds, but he did not finish it.

1745 March 17 (Sunday). A.M. Preparatory to the Solemnity of Dedicating my young Child I preach'd on Ps. 51.15 and p.m. on Gen. 17.7. It was baptiz'd by the Name of Susanna. God grant his Covenant may be with me and mine. Messrs. Winchester of Brookline sons of old Captain -- din'd here. Mr. Jenison not at Meeting. Mr. Martin⁵⁴ preaches to the North Precinct.

1745 March 18 (Monday). Mr. Martin made me a kind visit, and din'd with me. Mr. Jonas Warrins wife from Upton here and examin'd. Divers neighbours to see my wife -- who, and the Child, are very comfortable and Strengthen apace. D.G.

1745 March 19 (Tuesday). Mr. Cushing here and din'd with me. N.B. The Committees of Each Precinct running the precinct Line. Captain Robert Goddard of Sutton, the Surveyor. P.M. I went to Deacon Tomlins,⁵⁵ who is under much Affliction and under many Temptations by reason of his being included in the North Precinct Line. I had much, and Earnest Discourse with the Deacon against the Baptists, whilst he entertain'd favourable Thoughts of their Tenets. I gave him affectionate Caution in such a Day of Temptation, and Strong Exhortation to Steadfastness, etc. His son Mr. Elisha Newton there -- who was my Company to Bezaliel Eagers. In returning Mr. Ithamar Bellows with me. At Eve Captain Maynard brought Captain Goddard to see me, who tarried all Night.

⁵⁴John Martyn, later the first minister of Northborough, 1746-1767.

⁵⁵Isaac Tomlin of Westborough.

1745 March 20 (Wednesday). Captain Goddard return'd to his work, in running the Line. I rode over to Visit Mr. Barrett⁵⁶ -- in my way I call'd at Mr. William Pierce's⁵⁷ -- Understanding that Mr. Dunlop had gone away clandestinely to Ship for Cape Breton. I visited his wife who was in great Distress for her Husband and two Sons. I din'd at Mr. Barretts. I return'd him his Henry vol. 5.⁵⁸ N.B. Major Jones there. In returning I call'd at Mr. Tainters where I view'd a Chaise which he had bought with a View to me, but I conceiv'd it too much worn, yet determin'd nothing.

1745 March 21 (Thursday). Preach'd at Shrewsbury Lecture, Preparatory to the Communion, on Cant. 1.4.

1745 March 22 (Friday). Could not get to writing my preparations for the Sabbath till this Morning, to any purpose; and then with too many Burdens, Cares and Avocations. Heavy Showers and extreme high Winds. I was not a little concern'd on the account of Such of the forces as have sail'd for Canso,⁵⁹ the place of Rendezvous.

1745 March 23 (Saturday). The Winds very high still; white flying Clouds. My old Barn so weak, and continually Cracking, is in Danger.

1745 March 24 (Sunday). A.M. on Gen. 17.7. P.M. on Ps. 91.1. Mr. Jenison and Granny Forbush din'd with me. Mr. Jenison Supp'd and lodg'd with me. N.B. Propounded Mr. Jonas Warrin and Lydia his wife, for full Communion. N.B. Mr. Dunlop with me after meeting with various Spiritual Distresses.

1745 March 25 (Monday). In the Morning walk'd with Mr. Jenison to Merchant Rices. Was at Captain Bakers⁶⁰ -- and at Abner and Deacon Newton's. This Last Consider'd me on account of the Towns being so long prevented being assess'd, and so the Rates for my Sallery and Support suspended -- he paid me 5£ old Tenor. N.B. One David Dunsmore of Wrentham here. Bought a very large Deer Skin of him. P.M. Mr. Thomas Goodenow and Mr. Elijah Rice's wife here. In the Eve Mrs. Hephzibah Maynard. Heard that Mr. Seth Rice is so oppress'd with being forc'd into the North Precinct that he has mov'd his Family and stock out of it, and Deacon Tomlin is also preparing to build in this Parish.

1745 March 26 (Tuesday). Heard that Ensign Josiah Rice has mov'd out of the North Precinct into this, by means of his Uneasiness. Mr. Willson came to work. Mending Hearths and Jamms. At his Instigation I sent Thome up to Mr. Hastings⁶¹ of Shrewsbury for Lime to whitewash but succeeded not.

⁵⁶Rev. Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

⁵⁷Of Westborough.

⁵⁸Matthew Henry, *Exposition of the Old and New Testaments* (London, 1710), 5 vols.

⁵⁹In northeastern Nova Scotia, opposite the shore of Cape Breton Island.

⁶⁰Edward Baker of Westborough.

⁶¹Daniel Hastings.

1745 March 27 (Wednesday). Rode to Mr. Samuel Fays to see his Wife again who is in her Confinement and expecting the Hours of Travail. Proceeded to Mr. Gershom Brighams and din'd at Mr. Joseph Knowltons: with whom I agreed to take his Son Nathan (who is about 11 Years of Age) for a Twelve Month, feeding, Clothing and instructing him. In returning home Colonel Williams⁶² of Marlborough in pursuit of a maid, overtook me, but could not visit his sister. N.B. Precinct Meeting to choose Precinct Officers. Mr. Belknap here with Me most of the afternoon. At Eve rain'd very hard. Mr. John Stow here. His Horse left him and tarried all Night.

1745 March 28 (Thursday). Mr. Stow finds not his Horse. I went to Mr. Barns and obtain'd of him to wait upon Mr. Stow with his Horse -- to Marlborough, but he chose to go o'foot. Windy and Cold. P.M. I visited Mr. Daniel Forbush's wife, who had been long Confin'd -- but Somewhat to my surprise found She was brought to Bed, and has a fine son. Visited Mr. Millers⁶³ son Solomon whose Leg was lately broke by a Log. Was at Mr. James Fays who went with me to see Mr. Timothy Warrin who had a few Days Since, a Fit of Nervous Convulsions: and had another ill Turn last Night.

1745 March 29 (Friday). P.M. Some Number of Women to Visit my Wife. Samuel Baker⁶⁴ here. Captain Maynard, with his Evening Post, came at Evening which was an unspeakable Hindrance to me.

1745 March 30 (Saturday). One Young, a Taylor, Travelling to Norwich, here. Our Young Child very sore Mouth. Ebenezer brought Samuel Bakers Relation.

1745 March 31 (Sunday). On Gen. 17.7. I am full of Hopes God was pleas'd to make the Sermon a Means of Good to the souls of Some. P.M. on 2 Cor. 6.2. Mr. Jenison, Mrs. Tainter and Mrs. Child din'd here. N.B. a most pious and Religious Proclamation for another Fast.

1745 April 1 (Monday). The School moves over to Lieutenant Holloways. Trouble in my neighbourhood respecting Sheep hurt by Doggs. As Ewe and Lamb of mine in all likelihood kill'd. Had we purpos'd to go to Cambridge but the Weather So Stormy in the Morning (Rain and Snow) that I was prevented. N.B. Mr. Jenison seems to be in some Frett on account of his missing the Employment of preaching on the North Side. Towards Night Thomas Winchester came, went to Work about the Fences and thereby began another half year with me, for the same Wages as last. N.B. Mr. Thomas Billings here.

1745 April 2 (Tuesday). I rode into my Neighbourhood to Captain Bakers, whom I improv'd to bring up Sundry Things for me from Boston: Whitewashing Lime, Sugar and Corks, Lime juice, etc. to Captain Fays, Mr. James Fays, Mr. Winchesters -- and got him to go up to Brother Hicks for me. At Eve Silas Pratt here.

⁶²Abraham Williams.

⁶³James Miller.

⁶⁴Son of Capt. Edward Baker.

1745 April 3 (Wednesday). I earnestly desire and request a Suitable Preparation for the Extraordinary Fast approaching! May the Lord prepare us all, this whole people to sanctifie it! Brother Hicks came here and went to Cambridge in order to put forward a settlement of Father Champneys Estate.

1745 April 4 (Thursday). Publick Fast on occasion of the Enterprize and Expedition against Cape Breton.⁶⁵ I preach'd on Joel 2.12.13. P.M. Repeat'd on 2 Cor. 6.2. Behold now, etc. O that God would accept this Fast and give Success or prepare us for what He may please to order out to be the Event! Mr. James Fay left me his mare at Eve for my Journey. My Wife got down to supper with us.

1745 April 5 (Friday). At 4 in the morning just when the Day broke I Set out for Cambridge and arriv'd there at 1/2 after 10. Din'd with my poor, afflicted, Bereaved Mother in Law, whom God graciously Sustains! P.M. at Mr. Remingtons⁶⁶ with Brother Hicks. But though we were both of us come down on purpose to attend the Business of Settling Father Champney's Estate yet no word would the Judge Speak upon any such Head. We were driven to the Shift of attending upon what might be done by Mr. Danforth⁶⁷ and were sent to Him. But it happen'd also that Mr. Danforth was not at Home nor in Town. I was forc'd again to go to Boston to him if I would speak with him. Brother Hicks Stay'd at Cambridge and I rode to Boston, put up at Mr. Larkins⁶⁸ of Charlestown. Visited my aged Mother, who through the tender mercy of God is yet in a measure of Comfort. N.B. Mr. Danforth I could not find this Evening. Mr. Whitefield preaching at Dr. Sewalls⁶⁹ but I could not wait upon the Exercise. Supp'd at Brother Alexanders but lodg'd at Sister Bettys with my Kinsman. Mrs. Sally Hill I conclude is a Bed but my Kinsman persists in opposition -- will not marry her, being otherwise engag'd, viz. to Mrs. Nabby White. I am full of Grief for his ruin'd state but can't help him. His Troubles still more and more retard and impede his engaging in Business, and he is as backward and undetermin'd as ever. N.B. Captain Hope, of New York, lodges there.

1745 April 6 (Saturday). After much Enquiry I found Mr. Danforth and receiv'd his Advice and Directions. A Variety of Things hinder'd my getting to Cambridge much before Noon. Brother Hicks and I din'd with Mother Champney and Sett out at least half after one, if it was not even Two o'Clock, and through God's great Mercy we were safe at my House before the Day light was gone. N.B. No news yet from our Fleet. Mr. Whitefield expounds every Morning at Boston, as well as preaches very frequently as heretofore. The Divisions on that occasion, I think, hotter

⁶⁵Gov. William Shirley issued a proclamation, Mar. 28, 1745, setting Apr. 4, 1745, as a day of general fasting and prayer throughout Massachusetts in connection with the forthcoming expedition against Louisbourg, Cape Breton. See *Boston Weekly News-Letter*, Mar. 25, 1745.

⁶⁶Jonathan Remington, a Judge of the Superior Court, died Sept. 30, 1745. Paige, *Cambridge*, 639-640.

⁶⁷Samuel Danforth of Cambridge.

⁶⁸Edward Larkins.

⁶⁹Rev. Joseph Sewall of the Old South Church.

than ever. The Lord have Mercy on us for his great Name's Sake. William Pierce⁷⁰ work'd with Thomas yesterday, putting up the remainder of the Stone Wall at the Lower Orchard.

1745 April 7 (Sunday). I Repeat'd on 2 Cor. 6.2. I receiv'd a bitter and ungrateful Letter from Mr. William Jenison.⁷¹ Am sorry especially that I should be disturb'd with it on the Lords Day. The Lord grant me a patient and forgiving Spirit! Brother Hicks who lodg'd here, din'd with me as did Mrs. Tainter⁷² and Mrs. Patience Woods.⁷³ At Eve Brother Hicks rode home, and Mr. Belcher Hancock,⁷⁴ who had preach'd at North Sutton, came, and lodged here.

1745 April 8 (Monday). Mr. Willson whitewashing a.m. No ploughing done by us yet though our Neighbours have, this fortnight. Captain Warrin has made me a new plough but we could not get it plated yet. Mr. Hancock returns to Cambridge. A fine Warm Day.

1745 April 9 (Tuesday). Return'd some Answer to Mr. Jenisons late tart Letter, and sent it by Benjamin Lull, junior. Such Contention fills me with Trouble -- but the Lord preserve and restrain me! By and By Mr. Jenison (not having receiv'd the Letter) came to my House about the Time that the Ministers began to assemble to the Association, which met here to Day. The Gentlemen that came were, Mr. Loring, who was Moderator. Messrs. Cushing, Gardner,⁷⁵ Barrett, Stone, Smith, Goss,⁷⁶ and Davis.⁷⁷ Mr. Martyn was also here present. Mr. Stone deliver'd a Concio on 2 Cor. 12.2. At Eve Mr. Martyn deliver'd a large Confession of Faith. Debates upon his being approbated. Mr. Gardner made objection. N.B. Mr. Barrett told us that a Westborough man, he could not tell who, but he thinks one that was griev'd by the Line of the Precincts or in the Name of Deacon Tomlin was over at Hopkinton to enquire of his Brother Morris⁷⁸ after Mr. Commissary Price,⁷⁹ in order to joining with the Church of England there. N.B. Mr. Jenison and I some Warm Contest in presence of Messrs. Cushing, Stone and Smith with reference to my Discourse with him January 1 and afterwards my Conversation with Mr. Matthias Rice on February 23. Mr. Jenison went away dissatisfy'd, but I requested him to come tomorrow (not only to Lecture but) to dine with us. N.B. Captain Maynard took 2 Horses, 3 at old Mr. Maynards⁸⁰ -- and one at Mr. Hows,⁸¹ and 3 Gentlemen, Mr. Goss, Mr. Davis and Mr. Martyn lodg'd at Captain Maynards.

⁷⁰William Pierce, Jr., of Westborough.

⁷¹Jenison was bitter because the Marlborough Association would not recommend him to fill the pulpit of the north precinct of Westborough.

⁷²Mrs. Simon Tainter.

⁷³Mrs. Solomon Woods.

⁷⁴(HC 1727), tutor at Harvard College. *SHG* 8:137-140.

⁷⁵Rev. John Gardner of Stow.

⁷⁶Thomas Goss (HC 1737), minister at Bolton, 1741-1771. *SHG* 10:175-185.

⁷⁷Rev. Joseph Davis (HC 1740), minister at Holden, 1742-1773. *SHG* 10:478-481.

⁷⁸Theophilus Morris, a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, was an Anglican missionary who had settled at West Haven, Conn., 1740-1742.

⁷⁹Roger Price was the rector of King's Chapel in Boston until Nov. 21, 1746. He later founded the Anglican Church in Hopkinton. See Henry W. Foote, *Annals of King's Chapel* (Boston, 1882-1896), 2 vols.

⁸⁰David Maynard.

⁸¹Hezekiah How.

1745 April 10 (Wednesday). Resum'd the Conference about Mr. Martyn. Mr. Gardner and he were advis'd to retire together. They did so and came in reconcil'd. *Deo soli gloria!* Mr. Davis preach'd the public Lecture on Ps. 51.17. Mr. Jenison at meeting and I invited him again to Dinner, and he came. P.M. We have further Debate, and were more successful and pacify'd. The Gentlemen who were with us, were of the opinion he had better wave his preaching any where, while he was in his present Circumstances though they also told him they Should not pretend to lay an Embargo (as he himself had phras'd it) or Barr him from it. I gave him my Distinction between the Common privileges of Christians and those more public and special acts of Preaching, etc., and I told him I would have him come to the Sacrament next Sabbath. He answered me that he could not Say whether he Should or not, but yet went away more compos'd. N.B. I had offer'd him that if he would withdraw his Letter to me he might burn my Reply to him. To return to the Association -- Mr. Martyn was further interrogated with regard to his disuse of the Tongues, the Sciences etc. In a word, he was approbated by a Certificate sign'd by every member. Old Mr. Axtell⁸² here but we could do nothing for him.

1745 April 11 (Thursday). Nathan Knowlton came to live with me. I visited old Deacon Tomlin who has not only rais'd him a New House in this Parish but this Day begins to move into it. I am Sorry to find the Deacon Shaken in Mind -- but is dispos'd to listen to any Defence of the Church of England, or Opinions of the Baptists. I gave him earnest Cautions, Exhortations and Instructions, and then proceeded to Ensign Rice's where I found a New Common Prayer Book and a New Book publish'd by the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Defence of the Church of England. Ensign was not at Home. I left my Counsel and Charge with his Wife and visited Neighbour Jeduthan How. Went next over to Brother Seths, with whom I also Seriously discours'd -- but I found him, through Grace, Stedfast. I understand that his Brother Josiah is preparing to raise a New House in our parish -- and being greatly Concern'd for him would not go home without seeing him, though he was far off, Carting Stones. To my great Sorrow found him leaning to the Church. He had been with Mr. Price at Boston, etc. I discharg'd my Duty to him with Some fervency and left him -- Committing this Cause to God. I call'd at Mr. James Maynards and at Eve return'd home.

1745 April 12 (Friday). Last night our Small Flock of Sheep Sett on by Doggs. A principal Ewe lay Dead, and mostly Eat up: her Lamb left to be brought up by Hand. A Weather also much bitt, that we much doubted of its Life. Thomme not well, and the Weather wet and Cold so that we defer his going to Mr. Batchellors at Grafton.

1745 April 13 (Saturday). Fowl Weather and Thomme not well.

1745 April 14 (Sunday). The Communion, and a bright good Day, yet the Earth too Damp and Cold for my wife who has not as yet us'd herself to the air to go out to meeting. I preach'd a.m. on John 17.3, and p.m. on Gal. 6.8.

⁸²Thomas Axtell of Marlborough had been a concern to the Marlborough Association before. Allen, *Worcester Association*, 19.

1745 April 15 (Monday). At 3 in the Morning Brother Hicks call'd me out of my Bed. We Set out a little before Sun Rise (N.B. I had Neighbour Benjamin Hows Horse) upon our Journey to Cambridge -- arrived before noon, din'd with Mother Champney, and went over to Mr. Danforth, Mr. Remington being incapable of any Business. According to Mr. Danforths Directions in the Methods of our Proceeding to Settle the Estate of our Deceas'd Father (Champney) we made Choice of the following Gentlemen to be prizers of the personal Estate, viz. Deacon Samuel Sparhawk, Captain Benjamin Dana, and Mr. Thomas Dana and the Message hereof and of our Desire that they would attend upon that Business tomorrow, was carry'd to them. At Mr. Morris's. N.B. Indignation and Contempt cast upon Mr. William Hobby⁸³ for his Vindication of Mr. Whitefield.⁸⁴ My Son Thomas went to Live with Mr. Joseph Batchelour of Grafton, Weaver. Ebenezer went up with him, in my absence upon my Journey to Cambridge.

1745 April 16 (Tuesday). The Prizers of the Personal Estate came, and view'd the Land, the House and Barn. I din'd with them in Brother Champneys Room. N.B. very unhappy Disagreements of Temper between Brother Champney and sister Lydia which had Subsisted for some Time, and were now foolishly and sinfully discover'd to my great Grief and Sorrow. My Brother and I were together in the Chamber looking over Brother Champneys Long accounts.

1745 April 17 (Wednesday). The Prizers of the Personal Estate at Mothers again, and Viewed Husbandry Tools, Wearing Apparell, Household Goods etc. We din'd in Mothers Room to Day, and with more composedness among those of the House. At Eve we laid Some Scheme respecting the Prizing the Real and made Choice of the following Gentlemen for that Purpose, viz. Captain Sharp, Captain Benjamin Dana (one of the other Committee of Prizers), Deacon Henry Prentice, Mr. Richard Gardner⁸⁵ and Mr. Thomas Sparhawk.

1745 April 18 (Thursday). Word was carry'd to Each of the last Mention'd Gentlemen; I was at Mr. Gardners and at Captain Sharps.⁸⁶ Broke fast at Mrs. Keggells at Boston. Visited my Aged and honor'd Mother. Had so many difficult Affairs upon Me that I could not go to Lecture. Sad News came to Boston to Day by an Express from Captain Knowls at St. Kitts directed to Commodore Warrin who is gone to Cape Briton of 7 or 8 French Men of War and 28 Transports arrived at Martinece, bound we know not whither. Din'd at Brother Williams.⁸⁷ N.B. Our Dear Kinsman Elias⁸⁸ was unemploy'd yet, but Seems now to be about resolving -- the Lord rouse him -- for human Help is Vain! I hastened to Cambridge at Eve in prosecution of our affairs there, Though to my great perplexity I miss'd of Mr. Danforth at Boston.

⁸³Minister of Reading.

⁸⁴William Hobby, *An Inquiry into the Itinerancy and the Conduct of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield* (Boston, 1745).

⁸⁵Richard Gardner of Cambridge.

⁸⁶Captain Robert Sharp of Brookline.

⁸⁷William Parkman of Boston.

⁸⁸Parkman's nephew, the son of Elias Parkman (d. 1741).

1745 April 19 (Friday). Mr. Danforth was come up to Cambridge last night, So that this morning we went on with our Business; and Three of the Prizers, viz. Captain Sharp, Messrs. Gardner and Sparhawk were Sworn. Brother Hicks and I endeavour'd to Expedite Matters by Measuring the Land as we were able, but having no Compass, we only carry'd the Chain upon the Lines, and deferr'd the exact Calculating to such Time as we could have a Surveyer. We din'd in Mother's Room. N.B. Captain Dana came at the Beginning of the work, which was Somewhat after 11 o'Clock a.m. Deacon Prentice came at 3 p.m. At Eve the Gentlemen endeavour'd to persuade Brother Champney to Apply himself to the work of the Season.

1745 April 20 (Saturday). Brother Champney refusing to take the Administration, Brother Hicks appear'd willing -- and I left my Consent, bid farewell and rode home. N.B. refresh'd me at Goodenows Tavern in Sudbury, kept now by one Mountgomery. N.B. Company'd some part of the way by Mr. Thomas Marsh⁸⁹ who is going to preach at Worcester. Found my Family well about 5 p.m. Gr. D.

1745 April 21 (Sunday). My Wife at Meeting again; the Lords Name be prais'd! Preach'd on Heb. 13.17, and p.m. on Gal. 6.8. Stopp'd the Church at noon. N.B. p.m. Dr. Gott came to sermon but went out as Soon as it was over. (See Church Records⁹⁰ for Stopping the Church at Noon.)

1745 April 22 (Monday). Ephraim Bruce⁹¹ Examin'd a.m. Recon'd also with Deacon Newton.⁹² N.B. Deacon Tomlin here requesting a few Lines to be drawn by way of Petition to the North precinct. N.B. Edward Whipple's Wife Examin'd.

1745 April 23 (Tuesday). Brother Hicks came up from Cambridge who tells me he has given Bonds for administering on Father Champneys Estate. I catechiz'd at the South Part of the Town, at the School-House. This was the first Time of my doing this. N.B. 51 Children. After Catechizing I visited the Widow Woods. N.B. I went there on foot, but rode Lieutenant Tainters Horse back. I had also din'd at his House.

1745 April 24 (Wednesday). Mr. Charles Bruce and his Wife here to be Examin'd. P.M. Ephraims Wife⁹³ also. Found her humble and penitent for her Youthful Sins and Follys.

⁸⁹Marsh was a deacon of the First Church at Mansfield, Conn. He was uneducated but was ordained by the Separatist Church in Mansfield, July 1, 1746.

⁹⁰"At Noon the Church was Stop'd to acquaint them with the Desire of Brother Samuel Fay junior to have not only his newborn Infant baptiz'd but a Child of about a year and half old, which had been neglected in this Time of their Great Trouble and Affliction, for which he was Sorry, and desir'd the Compassion of the Church which was freely extended to him and May God please to overlook the Sin of this Neglect. Accordingly p.m. Hannah and Ebenezer, of Samuel and Deliverance Fay baptized." Westborough church records, April 21, 1745.

⁹¹Son of Abijah Bruce.

⁹²Josiah Newton.

⁹³Mrs. Ephraim Bruce.

1745 April 25 (Thursday). Mr. Bacon⁹⁴ of Ashuelot here. Mr. Stone preach'd a Lecture to our Young Men from 1 Sam. 2.26. After Meeting came a Messenger from Framingham (one of the Hemingways) with the Sorrowfull Tidings of the Death of the Reverend and Worthy Mr. Swift⁹⁵ of Framingham, Who is March last finish'd his 66th Year. A man of good Abilitys, natural and acquir'd -- of a Sprightly Genius and delighting in Learning; a Valuable Pastor and an entertaining preacher, of great Goodness, affability and Courtesy and therefore Easy of access and pleasant to Converse with, was very Hospitable to all and none more affectionate to his Friends. He nevertheless met with much ill treatment among some of his ungrateful people, rigid Sticklers for the Church Discipline of Lay Elders, and disorderly New Lights, the Latter of which had even set up a Meeting House on purpose for Itineracy. The Troubles he was Exercis'd with in both his Flock and Family (of very different kinds indeed) might justly be conceiv'd to have given great advantage to his bodily Disorders which had prevail'd ever since he had an Apoplectick Shock a few Years past. Yesterday Morning When his End approach'd he had unusual appetite and would fain have some Cheese for his Breakfast, but that was conceiv'd hurtfull, and therefore they perswaded him to accept of Chocolat and a Toast. Whilst they were feeding with These he dy'd away at once, and reviv'd no more. Help Lord the Godly Man Ceaseth! The Righteous fall from among the Children of Men! When Such Usefull Men are taken away alas how weak are we! We have lost much of our Strength and our Glory when any of the Pillars Fall, the Fabrick shakes. Yet with God is the residue of the Spirit. May he grant us his almighty Influences that We may dispatch our Work and get ready for our own Summons, and raise up Successors and give Pastors after his own Heart!

1745 April 26 (Friday). In the Morning I rode up to Mr. Samuel Fay junior whose Young Child is to be bury'd to day. He was not at home. I pray'd with his wife and told them who were there of the reason of my withdraw. Mr. Cushing came to my House with whom and Mr. Stone I (on Mr. Pratts Horse) rode to Framingham to the Funeral of Reverend Mr. Swift. The Coffin not being ready we waited till 6 o'Clock before the Corps mov'd. Mr. Loring, Mr. Cushing, Mr. Gardner and Mr. Cook,⁹⁶ Mr. Stone and I were Pall Bearers. The Deacons etc. were under Bearers, the Brethren of Church walking before the Corps, Mr. Loring having pray'd before moving. It was a very mournful Time! There was So much mist and rain as made it uncomfortable, but Care was taken that all the Circumstances of the Funeral were very decent. The Grave was brick'd So high as to cover the Coffin with large flat Stones -- and there was provision for a Monument. We Supp'd at the Sorrowfull Widows. Mr. Loring, Gardner and Peabody⁹⁷ retir'd to draw up a Character.⁹⁸ Mr. Cushing and I rode home with Mr. Stone and lodged there.

1745 April 27 (Saturday). I came home, Mr. Cushing accompanying me. Could have little Time for my Preparations for the Sabbath having Ebenezer to hear. John Oake here. John Oake told

⁹⁴Rev. Jacob Bacon (HC 1731) was minister of Keene, N.H. (Upper Ashuelot), 1737-1747. *SHG* 9:18-21.

⁹⁵John Swift.

⁹⁶Rev. William Cooke of Wayland.

⁹⁷Rev. Oliver Peabody of Natick.

⁹⁸A notice of Swift's death appeared in the *Boston Evening Post*, May 13, 1745; reprinted in William Barry, *A History of Framingham, Massachusetts...* (1847), 112.

me that his Aunt Holloway was to do a message to me, viz. that the people over there desir'd me to go over next Tuesday to the raising their Meeting House, and they would have me be with them at 8 in the Morning to pray with them -- and his aunt not coming he did the message by her Order. I told him I was in Some difficulty for want of an Horse, my mare having lately foal'd. N.B. Thomas gone from my business from Thursday noon to Saturday night.

1745 April 28 (Sunday). With Some omissions, alterations etc. I repeated Sermon 2 Kings 2.14. P.M. preach'd on Numb. 27.16.17. Appointed the Catechetical Exercise to be next Wednesday.

1745 April 29 (Monday). At Deacon Newtons and other Houses in that Neighbourhood in preparing for Thomas's Journey tomorrow to get Lime. Letter from Mr. Stone that his Lecture is next Wednesday. I sent word round the Parish that the young women's Catechizing must be on Thursday. Mr. Breck⁹⁹ and his wife din'd with us.

1745 April 30 (Tuesday). The Morning Rainy. The Deacon Newton brought his Cart and Ox and Hogsheads for Lime yet Thomas declin'd going whilst it was So Wet. I kept the Deacons Oxen till the Weather was better. No body from the North Side to bring me an Horse or accompany me over to the raising the meeting House there. Nor any one person of the Multitude who pass'd by my House from the South, so much as call'd to See whether I were to go or could go or no. Mr. Patteshall¹⁰⁰ (who had preach'd at Worcester last Sabbath) din'd here. P.M. I rode over to the North side on my own Mare, notwithstanding the inconvenience of it, and the misting, uncomfortable Weather. For though I mislik'd many Things in their Conduct there, yet I found not enough to warrant my proclaiming War against them as my refusing to go to Day would do. I found Mr. Cushing and Mr. Morse there. Afterwards came Mr. Martin and Mr. Goss. The raising began about 10 a.m. and was finish'd about 4 p.m. without Hurt, through the Great Mercy and Goodness of God. To him be the Glory! At their Request I pray'd after the work was finish'd, and we Sung Ps. 127, first Stanza, Ps. 125, first half Stanza and Ps. 128 beginning. Their Entertainment was in the Frame. The people brought their provisions in great Plenty.¹⁰¹ Mr. Cushing crav'd and Mr. Martyn return'd. A number of us were at Captain Eagers¹⁰² after supper. In returning home Captain Baker in Company and we had some earnest arguings all the way, but kept and parted in peace.

1745 May 1 (Wednesday). I preach'd Mr. Stones Lecture on John 14.21. Rode Mr. Charles Bruce's Horse. Ebenezer went afishing at the great Pond this Evening, this being almost the very beginning of their Fishing this Season.

1745 May 2 (Thursday). I held my Catechetical Exercise again -- and preach'd to the Young Women on Ps. 25.7.

⁹⁹Rev. Robert Breck of Springfield, Parkman's brother-in-law.

¹⁰⁰Richard Patteshall (HC 1735), a Boston schoolmaster, preached at many places. He bitterly opposed the New Lights and attacked William Hobby for his defense of George Whitefield. Richard Patteshall, *Pride Humbled, or, Mr. Hobby Chastised* (Boston, 1745). SHG 9:558-560.

¹⁰¹Precinct records add "Allowed Jotham Bartlett £2 10 shillings for 2 barrells of cider for the raising."

¹⁰²James Eager.

1745 May 3 (Friday). Mr. Whitefield preach'd at Mill-River in Mendon the first instant.

1745 May 4 (Saturday). Mr. Belcher Hancock came and din'd with me, perswaded me to go in his Stead to North Sutton. Had Lieutenant Aaron Forbush's Horse. Got up to my Lodging, at Lieutenant Isaac Barnards just as the sun was Setting. N.B. Met my son Thomas going home.

1745 May 5 (Sunday). Preach'd at North Sutton at the House of Mr. Singletary¹⁰³ by the Great Pond on Eph. 3.8, last Clause, a. and p.m. Din'd at the Same House, and my Kinswoman Mrs. Susanna Fuller with me. After Exercises and refreshments I rode to Mr. Halls which was nigher than my Landlord Barnards and lodg'd there. N.B. One Mr. Sears of Millford on Rye in Connecticut there in the Evening.

1745 May 6 (Monday). Rode back. Went to Mr. Batchellors at Grafton though Thomme was gone to Westborough on a Visit. Very hot Day. Din'd at Mr. Prentice's. Mrs. Prentice (I find) was very much in Raptures last Night, and was Somewhat full, at times, to Day. At Westborough understood that from Mr. Hancock yesterday Mr. Whitney and wife with others sent over to hear Mr. Martyn,¹⁰⁴ not being able to bear Mr. Hancocks Doctrine.

1745 May 7 (Tuesday). Thomme return'd to his master Batchellours. Captain Forbush's wife here to be Examin'd. Ephraim Bruce towards Eve. Sent Mr. Eaton of Leicester his Bolton by Robert Horn junior.

1745 May 8 (Wednesday). Neighbour Edwards Whipple here to be Examin'd previous to his joining with the Church. Nigh Eve came Mr. Bacon of Ashuelot and lodged here. N.B. About supper receiv'd a Letter dated yesterday from Mr. Smith of Marlborough to preach his Lecture next Wednesday -- it being difficult to determine what Wednesday he Means.

1745 May 9 (Thursday). Mr. Bacon upon his journey home and I rode to Mr. Nathan Balls to see his son Ebenezer who was in a Languishing State. N.B. Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Ball told me that their Northernmost part, being disappointed by their Brethren of the Precinct, were proposing to unite with a Number of Familys in Bolton and build Still another Meeting House. N.B. Ephraim Bruce's wife here. P.M. her Brother Charles's wife. At Eve Edwards Whipple's wife -- all in order to their enjoying public privileges. N.B. Mrs. Winchester here at Eve.

1745 May 10 (Friday). My Wife to Marlborough on Nathan Maynards Mare to visit Mrs. Breck of Springfield.

1745 May 11 (Saturday). Captain Maynard (in his Team) brought me up 14£ Sugar and my Kegg of 3 Gallons of Rum from Boston. P.M. Mr. Millen¹⁰⁵ here. He discover'd to me that it was by

¹⁰³John Singletary had come from Haverhill. Benedict and Tracy, *Sutton*, 726-727.

¹⁰⁴John Martyn of the north precinct.

¹⁰⁵Rev. John Mellen of Sterling.

him that I sent Mr. Loring his Hubbards Absence of the Comforter.¹⁰⁶ At Eve came Brother Samuel Parkman from Hopkinton, bound up to Bolton and thence to Hartford. N.B. Ebenezer went to Lieutenant Tainters for his Chaise and brought it.

1745 May 12 (Sunday). I preach'd on John 17.3, a. and p.m. Propounded Edwards Whipple and wife for Church Communion. Charles Bruce and his wife for public Humiliation and owning the Covenant.

1745 May 13 (Monday). My Brother went on his Journey. I went divers places for an Horse to go down to Cambridge but in Vain, particularly was at Jesse Brighams, Thomas Goodeno, Matthias Rice's, and to Mr. Beeman's. Sister Hicks at our House at Evening from Sutton.

1745 May 14 (Tuesday). Try'd Jonas Brighams Horse in the Chaise, but he was too furious -- broke Whipple-Tree and threw me out, but without Hurt. D.G. But he was a good Horse in the saddle. I rode him to Cambridge. I stop'd at Colonel Wards to Condole under his great Afflictions. Stopp'd also at Mr. Pattersons in Sudbury with my wife's Kinsman Williams,¹⁰⁷ the school master there. Yet got to Cambridge Some time before Night. Mother Champney has had a very ill Turn and though much better than She was, especially last Friday, yet is very Weak and low.

1745 May 15 (Wednesday). In the Morning I went over to College -- was with Mr. Mayhew¹⁰⁸ particularly. But I return'd over to Mothers. Mr. Winthrop improv'd to Survey Father Champneys Lands, to prepare the Work for the Prizers, who all came. I din'd with them. N.B. Brother Champney now reports he did not take the Administration instead of Hicks. I rode to Boston Early -- broke fast at my Honor'd Mother's (who is in much Comfort, except her Trouble about her Negro, Pito, who gives her much Trouble). My Kinsman Elias (to my great Grief) is Still at home, unactive, Slothfull, disheartened and as far from engaging in any Business as ever. Mr. Checkley¹⁰⁹ the Public Lecture on John 4.14. After I din'd at Brother Alexander's. I visited Dr. Sewal, and there came in Dr. Chauncey,¹¹⁰ and afterward Mr. Gee. Mr. Whitefield the Subject, almost everywhere. Dr. Wigglesworths¹¹¹ Letter to him came out to Day. When I return'd to Mother Champneys at Evening the Prizers having done their Work, were gone home. At home, Mr. Devotion of Windham, his wife and wife's sister Visited my Family; came at Eve and Lodg'd.

¹⁰⁶Nehemiah Hobart, *The Absence of the Comforter Described and Lamented* (New London, 1717).

¹⁰⁷Abraham Williams, Jr. (HC 1744), of Marlborough. He later became the fifth minister of the First Congregational Church, Sandwich, Mass., 1749-1784. SHG 11:498-502.

¹⁰⁸Jonathan Mayhew (HC 1744), minister of the West Church of Boston, 1747-1766. SHG 11:440-472.

¹⁰⁹Rev. Samuel Checkley of the New South Church, Boston.

¹¹⁰Rev. Charles Chauncey of the First Church, Boston.

¹¹¹Edward Wigglesworth, *A Letter to the Reverend Mr. George Whitefield, by Way of a Reply to his Answer to the College Testimony against him and his Conduct* (Boston, 1745).

1745 May 16 (Thursday). Mr. Devotion¹¹² etc. detain'd at our House because of the Rain. Thomas Winchester went to Grafton, where a Fast is kept to Day, as there was also public Exercises both parts of the Day yesterday. The Rain was Such as might have hinder'd him from work Some Part of the Forenoon but not the rest of the Day. N.B. A Number of Ministers Met as an Association there -- Nor did Mr. Prentice wholly omitt to invite me, but I was under Engagement to be at Cambridge for that very Time. Thomme came home ill from Mr. Batchellors.

1745 May 17 (Friday). I went over to College in the Morning. At Mr. Hancocks Chamber where were Mr. Flynt,¹¹³ Mr. Mayhew and Mr. Nathaniel Gardner.¹¹⁴ Bought Dr. Wigglesworths Letter to Mr. Whitefield of Mr. Flynt, and borrow'd Tennents Examiner Examined,¹¹⁵ of Mr. Mayhew. On my Journey home I call'd at Dr. Robys,¹¹⁶ at Sudbury, and found he was not averse to taking up my Kinsman Elias to study Physic with him, upon which I wrote to my Kinsman and committed it to the Care of the Doctor. I din'd at Mr. Pattersons with my Kinsman Williams, the Schoolmaster there. Rode into Marlborough to See Sister Breck¹¹⁷ of Springfield who is ill yet at Dr. Gotts. At Home, Brother Hicks (who drove up his Oxen from Cambridge) and his wife who came up (also) from Cambridge, lodg'd with us.

1745 May 18 (Saturday). My Brother Samuel Parkman returning from Hartford to Boston touch'd here this morning (having lodg'd at Worcester). Presently after his taking Leave it Sett in for Rain, and p.m. was very Wet. Brother and sister Hicks went home Early.

1745 May 19 (Sunday). Repeated Sermon on Eph. 3.10 from page 18 to page 32, under that Text in Phil. 2.8, a.m. and Ex. 9, p.m. Appointed the Communion and Preparatory Lecture.

1745 May 20 (Monday). Sent Thomme down to Dr. Gott that he might be under his advice and Directions: he rode before his mother who visited her sister Breck to Day and carry'd her Child; and Thomme return'd home with Mrs. Sally Gott¹¹⁸ instead of his Mother.

1745 May 21 (Tuesday). Town Meeting to choose a Representative, but the Town were of the Mind to rely upon the Courts Goodness and would Send none considering the Towns New and heavy Burdens. Receiv'd from Mr. Edwards of Northampton Proposals for printing his Treatise of Religious Affections.¹¹⁹ Mr. Breck of Springfield came at Evening in his Chair and brought his Daughter Lois and lodg'd here.

¹¹²Rev. Ebenezer Devotion.

¹¹³Tutor Henry Flynt.

¹¹⁴(HC 1739), a Boston schoolmaster. *SHG* 10:366-368

¹¹⁵Gilbert Tennent, *The Examiner Examined, or Gilbert Tennent, Harmonious* (Philadelphia, 1743).

¹¹⁶Ebenezer Roby was the physician of Sudbury.

¹¹⁷Mrs. Samuel Breck, Parkman's wife's sister. [Walett should have said sister-in-law.]

¹¹⁸Sarah, daughter of Dr. Benjamin Gott.

¹¹⁹Jonathan Edwards, *A Treatise Concerning Religious Affections, in Three Parts* (Boston, 1746).

1745 May 22 (Wednesday). In the Morning about 8 o'Clock I rode to Mr. Williams's and marry'd his Daughter to Mr. Reuben Maynard of Shrewsbury. Immediately return'd back to Mr. Breck who was waiting for my Company to Marlborough. He and his little Daughter rode in his Chair and Mrs. Sally Gott and I in Mr. Tainters Chaise. We call'd to see Colonel William Ward. We din'd at Dr. Gotts p.m. From Mr. Smiths Fence my Mare broke loose and ran away with the Chaise. Soon oversett it. Scrap'd one Thill in Sunder, clear'd herself of her tackling and posted away for home, but was presently Stop'd by the Smith on the Hill. We gather'd up the broken Tackling, dragg'd the Chaise to Mr. Smiths, and I rode to Deacon Stevens's and got him to it to look upon it and make a new Thill. Thus I left the Chaise, and my wife and child rode with me on Horseback home at Evening.

1745 May 23 (Thursday). Mr. Breck and Mr. Smith came up from Marlborough. They din'd with me and after Dinner Mr. Breck preach'd my Lecture from 1 Pet. 3.15, a useful Sermon. May God Succeed it, and bless the Preacher. Not many North Side People at Lecture. N.B. Ebenezer Ball, in a Consumption brought low, was pray'd for. N.B. One Mr. Town of Oxford labouring under a Diabetes, and much enfeebled, was carry'd along in an Horse litter, some Framingham people assisting. Mr. Breck and Mr. Smith return'd to Marlborough. The former carrying off the works of the Author of the *Whole Duty of Man*,¹²⁰ for which he is to bring me all he has of Dr. Owen.¹²¹

1745 May 24 (Friday). Sent Ebenezer to Marlborough for the Chaise we left to be mended by Deacon Stevens,¹²² and after much worry and trouble with the unruly Mare, he got home with it.

1745 May 25 (Saturday). Neighbor Jedidiah How cutt 5 young Piggs for me. Captain Maynard here after his Journey to Boston -- a great hindrance to me in my preparations and I am rarely without great Perplexity upon such occasions. Edwards Whipple, and afterwards his Wife with their Relations.

1745 May 26 (Sunday). On John 17.3 a.m. After admitting Edwards Whipple and his wife into the Church, I administered the Lords Supper. N.B. the greatest Part of our Northern Brethren absent, to my great Grief. P.M. I consider'd the proneness of our Young People to run into great Extravagancys at the Election Time, and for some abatement of their ungodly Mirth I made an Essay on Luke 6.25.

1745 May 27 (Monday). [No entry.]

¹²⁰Richard Allestree, D.D. (1619-1681), the royalist divine, is generally held to have been the author of *The Whole Duty of Man*, which was first published in 1658 and went through more than thirty editions. The work Parkman refers to may have been his *Forty Sermons whereof Twenty-one are now First Published* (2 vols.; London, 1684).

¹²¹Over eighty works of John Owen (1616-1683), the English divine, were published. One had recently been published in America: *Eshcol: a Cluster of the Fruit of Canaan Brought to the Borders* (Boston, 1744).

¹²²Samuel Stevens.

1745 May 28 (Tuesday). [No entry.]

1745 May 29 (Wednesday). The first Election that I remember to have kept in Westborough. I read partly in my Family old Mr. Higginsons Election Sermon on the Cause of God and his People.¹²³ Had a good Dinner with my Family, rejoicing in the great goodness of God to his people in all the Memorable Works which He had wrought, and for that He continues to us our precious and pleasant Things -- and after Dinner we Sung part of the first 8 Verses of Ps. 78, Tate and Bradys Version. P.M. a number of Elderly men came to see me. Old Mr. Maynard, Mr. Whipple and his Brother Lambson of Ipswich. Upon the whole, I endeavour'd to keep the Day in humble gratitude to God, hearty Loyalty to the Government over me, and Communion with the Ministers in their General Convention, and in Cheerfull Satisfaction with my own House, charging and watching over all under my Care that good order and good Hours be observ'd which (for any Thing has come to my knowledge) were So.

1745 May 30 (Thursday). Thomas had gone to his Fathers and not being well return'd late this Morning -- yet had struck no stroke at Weeding till to Day. I rode again to Mr. Nathan Balls to see his son Ebenezer who grows worse. I visited Mr. Livermores¹²⁴ Family, one of whose Daughters of about 11 years of age has been much troubled with Fitts. N.B. I took some pains, as I had Opportunity to Enquire into the Reasons of the absence of Such a Number of the Northside Members from the last Communion. Mr. Livermore prevented by his Daughters Fitts. Mrs. Hannah Ball and divers others disquieted in their minds with their Differences. Mr. Jacob Rice Said he could not leave his House, it being the place where the North Assembly meets -- but there appeared to me no strength nor Validity in his Excuse.

1745 May 31 (Friday). Mr. Cushing and Mr. Morse came up from Boston; and they gave me Some Account of what had been done at the Election and at the Convention. In particular at the latter Mr. Clark¹²⁵ of Salem Village preach'd a Seasonable, Close sermon with regard to Mr. Whitefields Errors of mis-conduct -- and both he and his wife were present. The Collection was large, £290 Old Tenor. In the Convention Mr. Gee¹²⁶ and others made proposals of Subscribing the Platform and Confession of Faith; or Some other good Draught -- but it was rejected. Mr. Prince¹²⁷ no longer Clerk, but Mr. Turell¹²⁸ chose in his Room.

1745 June 1 (Saturday). My son Thomme much out of Health So that I sent him to Marlborough to Dr. Gotts that he might get suitable Directions and Druggs of him. Mr. Simon Goodard came here to ask whether his coming to Meeting here on sabbath Days would be disagreeable to Me? And in reply, I expressed to him in what Case and for what Reasons it would. His Father here presently after, but we had nothing upon his sons Errand.

¹²³ John Higginson, *The Cause of God and His People in New-England* (Cambridge, 1663).

¹²⁴ Jonathan Livermore of Westborough.

¹²⁵ Rev. Peter Clark of Danvers.

¹²⁶ Rev. Joshua Gee of Boston.

¹²⁷ Rev. Thomas Prince of Boston.

¹²⁸ Rev. Ebenezer Turell of Medford.

1745 June 2 (Sunday). On Sabbath Morning Mr. Breck¹²⁹ came up and preach'd for me all Day, a.m. on Ps. 130.3.4, p.m. Mat. 25.1-13. He return'd to his wife at Marlborough after he had Supp'd. N.B. he brought up the Agreeable News of our Forces having Succeeded in the Capture of a French Man of War of 64 Guns. To God to praise and Glory!

1745 June 3 (Monday). [No entry.]

1745 June 4 (Tuesday). Training in each part of the Town and beating up for Volunteers -- but none as yet enlist for this Recruit. P.M. I held my Catechetical Exercise to the Young Women.

1745 June 5 (Wednesday). A.M. Mr. Townsend¹³⁰ from the Northside here, and very full of Discourse. I visited Neighbour William Rogers junior's Wife who lies Sick. P.M. I rode (with my wife) over to the raisings on the west side of the River. Mr. Seth Rice an House and Ensign Josiah a Barn. N.B. Brother Hicks was here a.m. and brought up yesterdays Gazette¹³¹ containing a large and particular account of the Successes of both Army and Fleet.

1745 June 6 (Thursday). Preach'd at Mr. Bradish's¹³² on Isa. 66.2. Mr. Cook¹³³ there. N.B. another fruitless Attempt of Reconcilement with him.

1745 June 7 (Friday). Thomme for my Malt at Mr. Matthias's and brought it. Mr. Green here for a Pigg I sold him. Weigh'd [blank] .

1745 June 8 (Saturday). Thomme return'd to his Master Batchellor at Grafton.

1745 June 9 (Sunday). On John 17.3, and p.m. on Mat. 6.10. Received from Reverend Mr. Salter¹³⁴ of Mansfield (who stop'd at Captain Fays¹³⁵ in his journey home) Mr. Solomon Williams's¹³⁶ Sermon¹³⁷ on his Ordination and the Windham Associations Letter to the Several Societys in that County concerning Mr. Pain¹³⁸ etc. Mr. James Fay who brought these deliver'd me also a Book from Deacon Merriam¹³⁹ of Grafton, being Dr. Francke¹⁴⁰ against the Fear of Man.

¹²⁹Rev. Robert Breck, Jr., of Springfield.

¹³⁰Joshua Townsend.

¹³¹*The Boston Gazette, or Weekly Journal*, June 4, 1745.

¹³²James Bradish, an original settler of Westborough.

¹³³Cornelius Cook.

¹³⁴Richard Salter (HC 1739), minister at Mansfield, Conn., 1744-1787. *SHG* 10:404-409.

¹³⁵Capt. John Fay.

¹³⁶Solomon Williams (HC 1719), minister of the First Church in Lebanon, Conn., 1722-1776. *SHG* 6:352-361.

¹³⁷Solomon Williams, *Ministers of the Gospel* (New London, 1744).

¹³⁸Elisha Paine had been imprisoned in 1743 in Connecticut for preaching without a license. He is said to have founded the First Baptist Church in Harwich. The pamphlet Parkman mentioned is *A Letter from the Associated Ministers of the County of Windham* (Boston, 1745).

¹³⁹Joseph Merriam.

¹⁴⁰August Hermann Francke, *Nicodemus; or a Treatise Against the Fear of Man* (3d ed.; Boston, 1745).

1745 June 10 (Monday). At Mr. Hows in the Morning. At Mr. Ebenezer Nurse's to get an Horse to go to Ministers Meeting. Could not Succeed with him -- but did with Mr. Hezekiah Pratt.

1745 June 11 (Tuesday). I have discover'd that though Ebenezer performs his Tasks of Lessons, yet he has an inward heavyness and drops now and then a word how glad he Shall be to be at Work upon the place, how much better the place Should Soon be if he Should labour etc. I therefore took the Opportunity this Morning to talk with him, and I once More still gave him Liberty to Choose what Method of Life Should Suit his Genius best. I rode to Boston by the Way of Captain Barnards¹⁴¹ of Marlborough, to Association. The following were present. Messrs. John Prentice,¹⁴² Loring, Cushing, Cook, Barrett, Stone, Seccomb,¹⁴³ Smith, Goss, Marsh,¹⁴⁴ Morse, Millen; and Mr. Buckminster was voted in. Mr. Martyn also and Mr. Nathaniel Gardner,¹⁴⁵ Candidates were there. After Prayer arose a Sharp and Vehement insisting for my transcribing into the Association Book, the minutes of the Meeting¹⁴⁶ at Mr. Smiths in Marlborough, last January when a Testimony was drawn up against Mr. Whitefield, but which I Strenuously deny'd and gave my Reasons for my Refusal of it. It was desir'd that Mr. Stone would but he refus'd also; and though his Reason was that he had no more authority than anybody Else, he being Clerk only for that Meeting, yet when it was about to be put to Vote that he might be authoriz'd by the Association to do it, he still refus'd. I repeatedly offer'd, and entreated that I might resign the office of Clerk. I had now that the Burthen of it for 20 years, and it was Time Somebody else Should take a Turn. But it was not granted -- except by a Member or Two -- of which Mr. Marsh was chief, who several Times desir'd that a New Clerk might be Chose. After long Contest about recording those Minutes (it being of an out-of-Season, out-of-place Meeting, and when besides the Business of that Meeting, Two Members were admitted and one old Member dismissed) Mr. Barrett offer'd himself that if the Association Should appoint him to transcribe Mr. Stones Minutes into the Book, he would do it, which accordingly they did. Then Mr. Martyn (the Concionator not being present) deliver'd an Exercise on Mat. 16.27, which no one Member (I think) was Satisfy'd with, he therein advancing that there would be no rewards in the future world according to Mens Works, untill the General Judgment. But the Chief Subject of Conversation was Mr. Whitefield. Collections were unthought of (I Suppose) by the Moderator. They were never call'd for. After Supper at Mr. Goss's, Mr. Stone and I went home with Mr. Martyn and lodged there.

1745 June 12 (Wednesday). In the Morning before the public Meeting, there was a free Conversation with Mr. Martyn about his Sermon Yesterday, the Scheme being New and some passages offensive, to us all. Mr. Cook preach'd the Public Lecture upon Amos 8.11. In my returning I rode to Marlborough. Messrs. Barrett, Stone and Smith in Company. I visited Sister Breck who is yet at Marlborough.

¹⁴¹Robert Barnard was a miller and tavern keeper. Hudson, *Marlborough*, 313.

¹⁴²Rev. John Prentice of Lancaster.

¹⁴³Rev. John Seccomb of Harvard.

¹⁴⁴Thomas Marsh of Mansfield, Conn.

¹⁴⁵Nathaniel Gardner (HC 1739), a Boston schoolmaster. *SHG* 10:366-368.

¹⁴⁶See Allen, *Worcester Association*, 24.

1745 June 13 (Thursday). I got Mr. Benjamin How to work for me to Day in Changing the Doors of my Barn, and placing my Great Doors on the North. N.B. Ebenezer discovers by all his Conduct that he prefers Labour to Studying -- and though it grievously wounds me, yet I yield the point finally.

1745 June 14 (Friday). Ebenezer at work on the Smaller, South, Barn Doors. P.M. Mr. Miller here. Mr. Jenison (who has begun to keep school at Mr. Hezekiah Pratts, lodging at Mr. Williams's) came here p.m. and had some further talk, but yet seems to be resenting and goes away unquiet. Molly exercis'd much with Toothach goes to Hopkinton, to Mr. Barrett¹⁴⁷ to pull them out which troubled her. He pull'd Two.

1745 June 15 (Saturday). Mr. John Chamberlain having bought of the Maynards the West End of the House which he himself us'd to live in, this Day mov'd it, upon Wheels, beyond Captain Maynards nigh the River. P.M. Thomme return'd home again from Grafton being in such Pain and under So great Discouragement that his master¹⁴⁸ sends all his Things Home with him. God grant the Grace and Wisdom needed under every Trial!

1745 June 16 (Sunday). On John 17.3. P.M. on 2 Tim. 3.16. N.B. Mr. Jenison came in the Morning and also din'd with us. N.B. at Noon Time Mrs. Whitney went down the road near my Barn and there made a great Out Cry. N.B. Captain Baker (with my Consent obtain'd at noon) after the Public Exercises of the Day desir'd the Congregation to stop, and warn'd his Company to come together tomorrow Morning at 9 o'Clock.

1745 June 17 (Monday). I visited Mr. Hezekiah Pratts Child sick of a fever. Both Companys met to Show Arms and beat up for Volunteers, but I was with neither of them. Captain Maynard indeed came to my House to ask me but I was not at Home. N.B. Mr. Benjamin Burnap of Hopkinton here and din'd with us. N.B. David Warrin of Marlborough here, with a Message from Mr. Smith, who had again still asked me to preach a Lecture for him, and which by our Agreement was to have been tomorrow, but it So falls out that their Military Companys are then to meet, and therefore the Lecture is wav'd. N.B. Thomas Winchester gone part of today, as he was half of Saturday, p.m. of Friday helping Mr. Chamberlain, and p.m. Thursday last, at his Fathers raising.

1745 June 18 (Tuesday). Last Night a Night of Thunder and Lightning and Rain. My Wife not well. Thomas began to Mow the Garden and Fore Yard. Mr. Salter and his wife on their Journey home, came and lodg'd here. Their Horses had broke from them at Sudbury and Mr. More (Son of Deacon) waited on them hither with Two, who also return'd with the Evening. Mr. Salter brings Sad News from the Fleet and Camp at Cape Briton. Captain Smithhurst¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁷Rev. Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

¹⁴⁸Joseph Batcheller, the weaver of Grafton.

¹⁴⁹Smithhurst captained the *Prince of Orange*, a vessel of 16 guns. *The Boston Gazette, or Weekly Journal*, 11 June 1745.

missing in the Country Galley, and 140 Land soldiers cutt off in their Attempt on the Island Battery. Yet God has deliver'd 3 French Sail into our Hands, Two 36-Gun-Company-Ships from France and a Quebeck Sloop with Flour and Peas.

1745 June 19 (Wednesday). A Young Man, one Laffland from Landlord Wards in Marlborough, brought Mr. Salters Stray Horses, and they proceeded upon their Journey. I rode with them as far as Captain Bakers. N.B. Reckon'd with Samuel Baker. P.M. Hard Thunder and heavy Rain. Towards Eve came Mr. Benjamin Goddard to talk with me about what is the Duty of a Christian that in his Conscience did Seriously judge that the Constant Preaching he sits under is not edifying, if So much as Safe. My Wife rather Worse.

1745 June 20 (Thursday). My Wife ill yet. Sent to Dr. Gott. P.M. the Doctor came. Left divers Medicines both with regard to her Fever and pains in her Limbs, and likewise for her Sore, pained Breast. God grant us to make a good Improvement of his holy Corrections! My Family divers of them continue not well, Several of the Children as well as their Mother. My concern at present great for Thomme yet he is Stirring about a little, but growing no better (I think) in the Main. Mr. Joseph Batchellor here and we finish'd with regard to Thomme.

1745 June 21 (Friday). I rode over to see Deacon Tomlin who lies ill. He answer'd me with great readiness respecting his State, and said he had such Hope, and such scripture ground for his Hope that he was not afraid. I gave him some Cautions, -- Strait the Gate -- few etc. -- the many deceiv'd -- the Heart deceitful -- the wiles of Satan -- our own Sin -- particularly warn'd him respecting Covetousness and loving the world -- wanting to Live longer, how long soever we live. Pray'd with him and recommended him to the Grace of God. Neighbour Abner Newton¹⁵⁰ din'd with me, told me he heard that a Young man at Mill River was kill'd by the Lightning the Day before yesterday -- as was another at Woodstock or Pomfret last Monday Night in his Bed. Mr. Jenison here, and pleasant.

1745 June 22 (Saturday). Mrs. Hannah Rice (wife of Noah) from Sutton, here with 3 Children and din'd with me.

1745 June 23 (Sunday). On 2 Tim. 3.16. P.M. on Hos. 6.3.

1745 June 24 (Monday). A very Spreading report that Mr. Whitefield is to preach at Grafton tomorrow. I visited Deacon Tomlin who lyes utterly insensible, breaths as if he was in a Sleep but cannot be wak'd, nor has Spake ever since about Sundown last Evening. Tis conceiv'd is in a dying State. Mr. Benjamin Burnap came to me at the Deacons. He has gather'd a Number of Subscriptions (under mine) for Mr. Edwards to Religious Affections. Old Ensign Newton here.

1745 June 25 (Tuesday). Early in the Morning to the House of Death, the late Deacon Tomlins, who deceas'd last Night. *Jejun. Priv. Speciatim propter Reverendi Domini Whitefield Approquinationem: ut de Voluntate Dei gravis sim; ut nosque De Displiceani nec*

¹⁵⁰Son of Thomas Newton.

Quomodocumque opus eius impediam sed Sapientiam et Directionem omnem quae necessaria Set praesertim hoc Tempore, a Deo Fonte et Patre Luminum et Largitionem, obtineam.

1745 June 26 (Wednesday). Deacon Tomlin was bury'd. Thunder Showers. At the request of the Widow -- principal Heir and Executor, I stop'd at the House after the Funeral to read the Last Will and Testament of the Deceased. N.B. The Will disquieted the Daughters. Deacon Fay rode home with me and I show'd him Something that I had drawn up with regard to Mr. Whitefield. Mr. Whipple and his wife at my House at Eve.

1745 June 27 (Thursday). Mr. Thomas Billing here. Neighbour Rogers Suffers Damage by Doggs among his sheep. People report here for the Fruits of my Garden. Cherry and Currants. Thomas and Ebenezer mow Bushes instead of Grass, by Reason of the Cloudiness of the Weather. Nor have we done anything at Haying for several Days.

1745 June 28 (Friday). Thomas work'd for Mr. Chamberlin till noon, when Ensign Bruce came along with him home, having press'd him in his Majesty's Name to go up to the Western Frontiers. Somewhat Surpriz'd at Such a sudden and unexpected Turn, I had my Horse, left my Studys and Business and rode with the Ensign over to the Captain, who after a great deal of arguing told me that it was done out of Favour and regard to me, for that unless the young man be Secur'd he would soon Escape, and neither the King nor I Should have any Benefit from him. But I could not but Conceive that if that had been the Case the Affair would not have been carry'd on with all manner of Tokens of carrying him off, and no private hints given me of the Design, but every way oppressive to me under the Weight, nor merely of my private, but of publick Business. I mention'd over the Young men of the Neighbourhood that might better have been pitch'd upon than Thomas -- and though I was willing to bear my part -- a public Calamity yet could by no means conceive it to be my place to suffer as yet in this way. We broke off with his assuring me he should be releas'd upon his promising him to Stick to my Business and not run away if there Should be further Occasion for young men and Necessity obliging them At Length to take him. I din'd there. P.M. The Company train'd and beat up for Volunteers -- but without success. In the North Company Captain Maynard pressed his own son or young man Merodach, [*illegible*] Lieutenant Forbush's son Noah and Ensign Rice's son Joseph. The last hir'd Silas Pratt to go in his sons stead. N.B. An Exceeding, great Storm of Thunder and Lightning (which rose among us) prevail'd as it pass'd into the East and the brightest rainbow follow'd. N.B. I saw Deacon Mirriam of Grafton going to Concord with an Horse for Mr. Whitefield. N.B. At Evening Joshua Winchester was press'd. He was of them I nam'd when I mention'd over the Neighbourhood but I added I thought it might not do to take one out of that but I did not remember that they had one Son already in the Kings service, viz. Samuel gone to Cape Breton: for then I should have endeavour'd to have him excus'd.

1745 June 29 (Saturday). Thomas went to Captain Bakers and home. After a while came his Mother, disquieted that I (as she said) was the means of having Joshua press'd. Ebenezer carry'd home Mr. Tainters Chaise which has stood in my Barn now some Time. Very letting Weather as to our Hay -- so frequent showers and Shines. P.M. another Thunder Storm, but

chiefly went away South. After which there was Still a great and dismal one which went from the North East to the South East but did not come up over us.

1745 June 30 (Sunday). On Hos. 6.3, former part. P.M. 1 John 3.23, former part. For this last I us'd an Exercise on the Catechism which I had deliver'd to Young Women. Eli Forbush din'd here. N.B. He and Jonathan Bruce being press'd to go to Westward to guard the Frontier desir'd prayers for them. I was very much tir'd and worried with my Services to Day which were somewhat long. Memorandum. Mr. Whitefield preaches at Grafton to Day and Some number of my Southern Neighbours are gone to hear him. Thomas Winchester at his Fathers and went to hear Mr. Whitefield.

1745 July 1 (Monday). Thomas Winchester got off from going out a solider. His Brother Joshua also got off as did divers others. But the seven that appear'd and that went this Morning from Captain Bakers to Colonel Wards in order to their going up to Colonel Hoddard of Northampton, were there. Jonathan Bruce, James Bradish, Ephraim Whitney, James Miller, Jonas Warrin, Elijah Rice and Eli Forbush. These out of Captain Maynards Company were Two only, viz. his own son, his only child Stephen, and Silas Pratt who went in the Room of Ensign Rice's son Joseph. N.B. I wrote a Letter in Eli's behalf to Mr. Edwards of Northampton. P.M. I rode down to Mr. Matthias Rices to get an Horse to go to Cambridge, but did not succeed. Went also to Mr. Seth Rice's and got one. Mr. Whitefield, I hear, preaches at Grafton to Day, a.m. and at Upton p.m.

1745 July 2 (Tuesday). My Daughter Molly accommodated with Captain Fays Horse rode to Cambridge with me. My Wife rode with me as far as Mr. Amsdens, whom I obtain'd to carry her (and her child) to Marlborough to see Sister Breck who was extreme urgent to have her be with her in her affliction and Confinement. N.B. Mr. Whitefield preach'd at Dr. Gotts and my wife heard him. An Hot Day. Molly and I rested at Lieutenant Biglo's at Waltham. Got to Mother Champneys just before a great storm of Thunder and Rain. N.B. Mother Champney in a Comfortable State of Health to what she has been.

1745 July 3 (Wednesday). This Morning going over to Cambridge met Mr. Matthias Rice, who inform'd me that our Forces had taken CAPE BRITON and that there was all manner of Joy thereat. The Exercises came to the Governor this morning early, and presently the Bells were rung, Guns fired, etc. Commencement was render'd the most gladsome Day. Everybody was full of the welcome story and wishing one another Joy. Was chiefly at Mr. Hancocks and at Sir Peabodys Chamber. N.B. Mr. Swift¹⁵¹ of Acton his indecent Vociferation concerning my not being present at Mr. Smiths January 22 to bear my Testimony against Mr. Whitefield. I din'd in the Hall. N.B. Poor Mr. Samuel Coolidge¹⁵² -- his Distractions and Deliriums -- pluck'd out of the presidents Chair in the Meeting House and dragg'd out on the Ground by a negro, like a Dead

¹⁵¹Rev. John Swift, Jr.

¹⁵²Samuel Coolidge (HC 1724), the former schoolmaster at Westborough and other places, who had become a public charge. *SHG* 7:326-331.

Dogg in presence of all the Assembly. Most piteous Sight! Molly din'd at Mr. Danforths.¹⁵³ Mr. Rand¹⁵⁴ of Sunderland has left his people. Mr. Breck gives me word from my wife that Mr. Smith (who had engag'd to last Lecture when he came with Mr. Breck to my House) could not preach my Lecture. Lodg'd at Mother Champneys.

1745 July 4 (Thursday). Molly and I rode to Boston. Broke fast at Brother Alexanders. Visited my Mother who is weak and sick. Mr. Gay¹⁵⁵ of Hingham preach'd the Lecture on 1 Sam. 14.6.7.13. Din'd at Mrs. Thomas Hubbards. Mr. Niles,¹⁵⁶ Mr. Webb, Captain Dupre and others din'd also. N.B. My Kinsman at Dr. Delhonds¹⁵⁷ but is not well contented there. At Mrs. Thomas Stoddards and paid her about 12 pounds old Tenor. Return'd to Cambridge at Eve. N.B. Roxbury illuminated. Colleges illumin'd. Bonfire. Bell ringing, Drum beating, etc. most of the Night.

1745 July 5 (Friday). It was Somewhat misty, but Molly and Mr. John Sparhawk¹⁵⁸ in Company we rode as far as Mrs. Bekky Walkers in Waltham, when Molly being indispos'd we Lit and stay'd the making and Eating of Chocolat. We got up so seasonably to Westborough that I preach'd my Lecture at the usual Time in the afternoon, on John 4.24. My wife return'd from Marlborough a.m.

1745 July 6 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1745 July 7 (Sunday). Sacrament. On 1 John 4.11. P.M. Ps. 89.15. N.B. Somewhat more of the Northside at Communion than Some seasons of late, for I had wrote a Letter to Mr. Martyn before last Sabbath to notifie them. Yet some Number were absent.

1745 July 8 (Monday). Read Lowman on the Revelations.¹⁵⁹

1745 July 9 (Tuesday). Catechetical Exercise to young Women on the Eternally unchangeableness and wisdom of God.

1745 July 10 (Wednesday). An Hott Day. Ensign Bruce (who went up to Fort Shirley to bring back his son Jonathan) return'd -- and informs that last Friday about 10 a.m. Mr. William Phipps was kill'd by the Indians about 30 Rods from the Garrison at [Putney] (nigh which lives Mr.

¹⁵³Samuel Danforth.

¹⁵⁴The Rev. William Rand left Sunderland because he disliked the preaching of George Whitefield, while many of his congregation evidently sympathized with the evangelist. John M. Smith, *History of the Town of Sunderland* (Greenfield, 1899), 61. Rand is believed to have written an address of the Hampshire County clergy to Whitefield which appeared in *The Testimony of the North Association in the County of Hartford* (Boston, 1745).

¹⁵⁵Rev. Ebenezer Gay.

¹⁵⁶Rev. Samuel Niles (HC 1699), minister of the Second Church of Braintree, 1711-1762. *SHG* 4:485-491.

¹⁵⁷Louis Delhonde, the Boston physician.

¹⁵⁸Rev. John Sparhawk of Salem.

¹⁵⁹Moses Lowman (1680-1752), a non-conformist English divine, wrote *A Paraphrase and Notes on the Revelation of St. John* (London, 1737).

Nehemiah How who went from Grafton) and his Body was treated inhumanly, Scalp'd, his Heart taken out etc.

1745 July 11 (Thursday). Another Hot Day. Conformable to a Request from Reverend Stone of Southborough in behalf of Mr. Moses Fay and his wife of Said Town I went down there to a private Fast. Mr. Loring,¹⁶⁰ Barrett,¹⁶¹ Stone,¹⁶² and Smith¹⁶³ also at Mr. Fay's. N.B. Mrs. Fay had been languishing more than Seven Years and not at Meeting in that Time though she has had six Children, and now suppos'd to be in a Consumption; her Case therefore calling for Pity and Prayers. Mr. Stone offer'd up the first Prayer. I preach'd on Ps. 65.2. Mr. Barrett pray'd and Mr. Loring preach'd p.m. on Isa. 45.22. A good Savoury Sermon which may the Lord bless to all Souls! Supp'd at Mr. Stones. I return'd at Evening. N.B. Mr. Smith inform'd me that Brother Breck was gone home, but a Number of Books which were all by Dr. Owen, he had bargain'd away to him, for which he had receiv'd and carry'd home with him Dr. Hammond.¹⁶⁴ Compare this Conduct with Mr. Brecks Engagement to Me May 23.

1745 July 12 (Friday). Hot Weather Still. Heard that Deacon Fisher¹⁶⁵ was lately kill'd at Ashualot by the Indians, and a post in this Day gone along to the Governor with the sad news of it.

1745 July 13 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1745 July 14 (Sunday). A.M. on 1 John 4.11. P.M. on Eph. 6.13 to 18.

1745 July 15 (Monday). Mr. Jenison was here with divers important pieces of public News, in the Public Papers, in special our Loosing the Battle in Flanders near Tournay. N.B. Mr. Aaron Hardy of Grafton here, and is full of uneasiness about Mr. Prentices preaching.

1745 July 16 (Tuesday). [No entry.]

1745 July 17 (Wednesday). Isaac Newton of Southborough here, from Fort Shirley. Becky¹⁶⁶ and Molly rode to Sutton. Brother Hicks from Cambridge to Sutton.

1745 July 18 (Thursday). In the Singular good Providence of God Lieutenant Tainter this Morning Sent us a large Quarter of Lamb. Otherwise we Should have been unprovided for any special Entertainment at our Table to Day, which was THANKSGIVING on Account of the late Success at Cape Briton, on which Occasion I preach'd on Isa. 25.1.2.9. N.B. Mr. Prentice and his

¹⁶⁰Rev. Israel Loring of Sudbury.

¹⁶¹Rev. Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

¹⁶²Rev. Nathan Stone of Southborough.

¹⁶³Rev. Aaron Smith of Marlborough.

¹⁶⁴A work of Samuel Hammond, the English non-conformist divine (d. 1665).

¹⁶⁵Josiah Fisher, one of the original proprietors of Upper Ashuelot, was killed and scalped by the Indians, July 10, 1745. Philip A. Fisher, *The Fisher Genealogy* (Everett, 1898), 74-75.

¹⁶⁶Rebecca Hicks, daughter of John Hicks of Sutton, was Parkman's niece.

wife went a while agoe along with Mr. Whitefield and his wife in their Journey to Northampton and are not return'd. A Number of Grafton at Meeting with us. Mr. John Collar and Deacon Cooper¹⁶⁷ and his wife din'd with us. At the Request of our Young Men Some while Since I appointed a Lecture to them to be in about 2 Hours, which I attended and preach'd on Rom. 2.4, latter part.

1745 July 19 (Friday). Thomas and Ebenezer began at the Meadow. At Night there was Exceeding loud Cracks of Thunder and Sharp Lightning.

1745 July 20 (Saturday). Thomas and Ebenezer at the Meadow. Rain p.m. Becky and Molly return'd from Sutton. Thomas sow'd Turnips.

1745 July 21 (Sunday). Repeat'd on Eph. 6.13, and 1 John 3.23. Mrs. Wheeler didn'd here. It is my Grief that the North side are in so broken and unflourishing state.

1745 July 22 (Monday). Ebenezer having been somewhat poison'd by his working in the Meadow last week, goes not today with Thomas, but Reap'd Rye. I rode to Marlborough to Mr. Woods and return'd their Occasional Paper 3 vols. At Deacon Stevens's and paid him 10 shillings for mending Lieutenant Tainters Chaise May 22 last. I went to Mr. Smiths but he and his wife, old Mr. Loring and Sister Breck were gone down to Mr. Jonathan Lorings,¹⁶⁸ to dine there but I din'd at Dr. Gotts. After Dinner the Doctor and I rode to Mr. Lorings. They had not din'd. I was oblig'd to Sit down with them Mr. Loring insisting, when as I had heard he was (though unreasonably) disgusted with me. My Design in going to Marlborough was very much, this to wait on Sister Breck to our House, but she was not to be perswaded. I return'd with Mr. Smith etc. to his House and thence home.

1745 July 23 (Tuesday). Thomas at the Meadow. Ebenezer at the Rye. P.M. I preach'd at Mr. Sam Fay juniors on Heb. 12.5. Mrs. Fay not having been at publick worship for more than 2 years. Very few attended -- it being so busy a season.

1745 July 24 (Wednesday). Cornelius Biglo Sick of a Fever. I visited him, and dealt plainly with him. At divers Neighbours. Visited also Mr. Daniel Forbush's wife who is confin'd again by weakness and illness. Din'd at home. Thomas at the Meadow. Ebenezer at the Rye. Towards Night Mrs. Maynard had my mare to ride to Mrs. Miles¹⁶⁹ at Shrewsbury. At Eve I help'd Ebenezer in his unloading Hay and Carting in a Turn of Rye.

1745 July 25 (Thursday). [No entry.]

1745 July 26 (Friday). Mr. Breck on his Journey from Springfield to Marlborough. I resented his Conduct in trading away Dr. Owens Books to Mr. Smith.

¹⁶⁷Samuel Cooper of Grafton.

¹⁶⁸Son of Rev. Israel Loring. Jonathan lived in Marlborough. Hudson, *Marlborough*, 410.

¹⁶⁹Wife of Deacon Samuel Miles. Ward, *Shrewsbury*, 368.

1745 July 27 (Saturday). Mr. Breck and his wife came up from Marlborough and lodg'd here.

1745 July 28 (Sunday). Mr. Breck a.m. on Luke 12.48, and p.m. on Gal. 6.14.

1745 July 29 (Monday). Rain. Mr. Breck and his wife detain'd by the wet weather. N.B. Stephen Maynard return'd last night from Fort Shirley. Mr. Breck and I walked down to Captain Maynards.

1745 July 30 (Tuesday). Mr. Breck and his wife undertook their Journey. My wife (favour'd with Mr. Benjamin Hows Horse) and I rode to Worcester with them -- and we din'd at Dr. Brecks. N.B. Mr. Fessenden¹⁷⁰ there after dinner. P.M. We return'd, but tarried Some little Time at Colonel Chandlers and drank a Dish of Tea with Madam Chandler.¹⁷¹ She inform'd me that there were about 40 French persons old and Young dispos'd of in their Town. Mr. Cushing So busy Carting Hay I Saw him not, either going or returning. N.B. Mrs. Sarah Whipple took Care of our Sucking Child.

1745 July 31 (Wednesday). I visited Mrs. Grow who was Sick, and Idin'd there. Visited Mrs. Harrington and Mr. Jonas Child and his wife, who wanted very much an Opportunity to discourse with Me about the grant Interests of their Souls. N.B. Mr. Whitney came in. I would rejoice to have this glorious work promoted, and do lament it is So behind hand.

1745 August 1 (Thursday). I went to Shrewsbury. Preach'd the Lecture on Mat. 13.39. Few at Meeting. Return'd at Eve.

1745 August 2 (Friday). Thomas brought home 3 Load from the Meadow and got in one Load of Home Hay.

1745 August 3 (Saturday). Thomas brought home the last Load from the Meadow although it has been very wett and troublesome stirring in the Meadow this Season. At Eve Loud Cracks of Thunder and Sharp Lightning. Through God's great Goodness we were preserv'd and Safe.

1745 August 4 (Sunday). Rainy. A. and p.m. on 1 John 3.23. Heavy Rains which caus'd a great Flood. N.B. James Dunlop from Cape Briton here, as I also daily hear of their Returning.

1745 August 5 (Monday). Din'd at Deacon Newtons on Salt Fish. P.M. rode to Southborough to Mr. Thomas Hudson. Paid his wife 15 shillings old Tenor, Interest of £50 for one Quarter. Mr. Hudson not being at Home. Mr. Stone not at Home. Return'd at Eve.

¹⁷⁰Stephen Fessenden (HC 1737), the second lawyer to practice in Worcester. *SHG* 10:169.

¹⁷¹Wife of Col. John Chandler.

1745 August 6 (Tuesday). Read Thoughts on Religion¹⁷² and a Letter to a Baptist concerning Some Important Discoverys in Phylosophy and Theology -- an Entertaining Piece. N.B. Great Loss of Hay among our Neighbours by the Flood.

1745 August 7 (Wednesday). My Little Daughter Sarah ill. At Mr. Matthias Rice's to talk with him about our North Precincts delaying to pay their £50 though I have waited upon them 3 months and paid Interest because of their Neglect. He told me he would go to Lieutenant Holloway and Endeavour that he Should come and See me, or do what might serve me. Was at Mr. Beemans¹⁷³ -- at Levi Brigham's, who has newly got to keeping House at old Mr. Brigham's. At Eve found Mr. Gay¹⁷⁴ of Suffield and his wife here, being on their Journey Home. Brother Hicks here and his Son John from Cape Briton.

1745 August 8 (Thursday). The Company went off. Thomas went to mowing at Mr. Beemans, but return'd without being able to do any thing the Waters were so high. Neighbour Stephen Maynard here and gave me a Narrative of his Excursion in the public service at Fort Shirley and of the good Behaviour of their Captain (Ephraim Williams junior) towards them. At Eve Mrs. Winchester here.

1745 August 9 (Friday). Thomas works at his Fathers. Ebenezer and the Two Boys clearing. Mr. Abner Newton here and paid me £20 old Tenor.

1745 August 10 (Saturday). Thomas at his Fathers. Mr. Thomas Goodenow here. Gave him a Letter from me to Mr. Martyn.

1745 August 11 (Sunday). On Acts 20.21, and on Luke 18.21.

1745 August 12 (Monday). Ezekiel Dodge¹⁷⁵ a Freshman of Harvard College here.

1745 August 13 (Tuesday). I rode to Harvard Association, by Marlborough. Was at Mr. Smith's Early, but he refus'd to go, though he was at the appointment of the Meeting and was himself the appointed Lecturer; his main Objection was rais'd from this, that Mr. Seccomb¹⁷⁶ had ask'd Mr. Whitefield to preach, and he had accordingly preach'd at Harvard. But though Mr. Smith and Several others were not there yet there was a considerable Number and Mr. Trowbridge¹⁷⁷ and his wife from Groton. Conciar absent Mr. Loring repeated a sermon on Eph. 5.25, last Clause, and gave himself for it among the Collections [?]. Mr. Stone's seem'd to be so much in Favour of Crying out that I could not help making my Remarks on it, how differently it would

¹⁷²Probably [Blaise] Pascal, *Thoughts on Religion, and Other Subjects* (London, 1704).

¹⁷³Eleazer Beeman of Westborough.

¹⁷⁴Rev. Ebenezer Gay, Jr. *SHG* 10:171-175.

¹⁷⁵Ezekiel Dodge (HC 1749), later minister of Abington, 1750-1770. See Benjamin Hobart, *History of the Town of Abington* (Boston, 1866), 96-98.

¹⁷⁶Rev. John Seccomb of Harvard.

¹⁷⁷Rev. Caleb Trowbridge of Groton.

have been taken from some others (Ex. gr. from me) if Such Collection had been brought by them.

1745 August 14 (Wednesday). A Number of us went with Mr. Seccomb to his Island¹⁷⁸ with great pleasure. Mr. Stone deliver'd an Excellent Sermon at the Public Lecture on Tit. 2.14. N.B. Our Conversation on a Certain Meeting propos'd by some ministers to be at Boston September next to subscribe the Confession of Faith; but we determin'd nothing, unless to let it very much alone -- wait and see. Mr. Barrett my Company to Marlborough. Supp'd at his Kinsman Barretts. Home late.

1745 August 15 (Thursday). Hearing that Mrs. Tomlin (widow) was not well I visited her at Evening.

1745 August 16 (Friday). Mr. Smith came up from Marlborough a.m. P.M. preach'd my Lecture on John 14.19.

1745 August 17 (Saturday). Brother Hicks here, on his journey to Cambridge. Rain p.m.

1745 August 18 (Sunday). Rain in the Morning -- but So held up afterwards that we had a Comfortable Day. I preach'd on Isa. 25.9. Mr. Nathaniel Parker¹⁷⁹ of Newton with us at Communion -- and here at noon time but did not dine with us. Deacon Fay and Deacon Forbush din'd here. P.M. Repeated sermon on Luke 12.21. Have great reason to mourn over my Dullness and want of Spiritual Taste etc.

1745 August 19 (Monday). Mr. Parker of Newton here -- his Discourse very much of one Bird,¹⁸⁰ a preacher among them.

1745 August 20 (Tuesday). Catechetical Exercise to young Women. Thomas to Mr. Beemans for a Load of Hay, of him. At Night Thomas went to his Fathers to work some Days for himself.

1745 August 21 (Wednesday). A.M. Captain Bass of Dorchester and Mr. Daniel Henshaw of Boston here. Mr. Martyn also. The last din'd and Spent the afternoon with me. He told me that he draw the Last Petition which our North side put in to the Court, but he did not know how the Case was Circumstanced but as he took it from Lieutenant Holloways mouth. We had some discourse of Changing after a while.

¹⁷⁸Rev. Mr. Seccomb "built a substantial summer cottage, as a place of pleasant resort," on Grape Island in Bare Hill Pond. Henry S. Nourse, *History of the Town of Harvard* (Harvard, 1894), 187.

¹⁷⁹The proprietor of a saw mill.

¹⁸⁰Samuel Bird was expelled from Harvard College, May 11, 1744, because he was "notoriously guilty of the most intollerable impudence, Arrogance and Contempt of Superiours, and especially of Ministers of the Gospel." He already had New-Light tendencies. He came minister of Dunstable, 1747-1751, and later of the White Haven Church, New Haven, *SHG* 11:359-364,

1745 August 22 (Thursday). I visited Captain Forbush's wife who had been in some Spiritual Concern and Distress. Ebenezer went p.m. to Sutton to look up my Young Cattle which had not been heard of for some time.

1745 August 23 (Friday). Mr. Simon Goddard here -- he brought me 2 Pamphlets to read, one of which was Mr. Shurtleffs Letter concerning Mr. Whitefield.¹⁸¹ P.M. Mr. Abraham Knowlton who din'd with us.

1745 August 24 (Saturday). Mr. Simon Goddard here again. I rode to Hopkinton on Mr. Edwards Whipples Horse. N.B. Ebenezer return'd from Sutton without any News of my Cattle. Thomas Winchester return'd at Eve from his Fathers.

1745 August 25 (Sunday). Mr. Barrett preach'd here on Tit. 2.11, The Grace of God. I preach'd at Hopkinton a. and p.m. on Song. 1.7.8. N.B. Mr. David Snowden of Boston there.

1745 August 26 (Monday). I return'd from Hopkinton. Thomas at my work again. Mr. James Fays son James Sick. N.B. Mr. Fay came yesterday to Westborough meeting a.m. but because Mr. Barrett preach'd he went to Grafton p.m. and desir'd prayers for his son there. Noah How p.m. sealing my new Closet (or little study). Mr. Thomas Hudson at Eve.

1745 August 27 (Tuesday). Catechiz'd the Children a. and p.m. at the Meeting House. Mr. Peabody¹⁸² going to a Fast at Worcester din'd with me. Noah How at work at my new Study still. Mr. Whitney here to ask my Mind about Mr. Hales¹⁸³ preaching next week at some House on the Road as would best accommodate -- to which I consented. N.B. Mr. Ball and Mr. Wheeler here. Ebenezer was ill, bad cold etc.

1745 August 28 (Wednesday). Thomas at Grafton a.m. hunting for my young Cattle, but in Vain. Very hot Season.

1745 August 29 (Thursday). Visited Mr. Daniel Forbushs wife who lyes Sick, but has her Senses. I not only convers'd with her but read part of Mathers Dead Faith¹⁸⁴ etc.

1745 August 30 (Friday). [No entry.]

1745 August 31 (Saturday). Brother Hicks here and Mrs. Peggy Whittemore din'd with us. It has been Sorrowful to hear of So many of those who have return'd from Cape Breton who have sicken'd and dy'd.

¹⁸¹William Shurtleff, *A Letter to Those of his Brethren in the Ministry Who Refuse to Admit the Rev. Mr. Whitefield into Their Pulpits* (Boston, 1745).

¹⁸²Rev. Oliver Peabody of Natick.

¹⁸³Rev. Moses Hale (HC 1734), later minister of the First Congregational Church of West Newbury, 1752-1779. SHG 9:407-408.

¹⁸⁴Samuel Mather, *Dead Faith Anatomized* (Boston, 1740).

1745 September 1 (Sunday). On Isa. 25.9. P.M. repeated Sermon on Ps. 106.5 on Spiritual Joy. Acquainted our Congregation that there would (God willing) be a Sermon tomorrow at Stephen Fay's at 11 o'Clock.

1745 September 2 (Monday). My wife and I rode to Stephen Fays. Mr. Hall was there, and many people. Mr. Hall preach'd on Mat. 6.10. Thy Kingdom Come. Mr. Winchester¹⁸⁵ a Candidate for the Ministry and preacher at Sutton was there also. N.B. an Handsome Entertainment after the Exercise. Mr. Hall on his Journey to Concord. N.B. Thomas Winchester (by agreement) went off. This I consented to, because my Two sons and Nathan Knowlton Suffic'd for my present Business and it was upon Condition that Thomas Should help me the month of April instead of this month: and as to his lost Time, he is to make it up in Cyder making and Thrashing. Moses Pratt had my Oxen to cross his Ground in Shrewsbury.

1745 September 3 (Tuesday). Having heard that one of Reverend Mr. Smiths little Daughters¹⁸⁶ was dead, I went (though not sent for) to the Funeral. Mr. Loring was there and pray'd. A very grievous Loss to the poor bereav'd Parents. The Lord be almightily present with them and Sustain them! Rode with Mr. Loring to his sons. Mr. Peabody return'd from Worcester, and tells me that Mr. Nathaniel Gardner is Chose their Pastor. N.B. Mr. Loring's great Concern at hearing of the Choice of Mr. Gardner at Worcester: and he wrote a Letter to Mr. Prentice¹⁸⁷ of Lancaster while I was present, to induce him to Converse with others in the Neighbouring Ministry about it. Mr. Josiah Brown the bearer as he was also of another from me to beseech Mr. Prentice to preach to our northside at their approaching Fast. I return'd from Sutton to Cambridge. I carry'd to God those Important Articles -- and the Particular State of Some of the Flock, more Especially the Condition of Mrs. Abigail Forbush (wife of Daniel) who lyes most dangerously ill, if yet alive; and that of James Bradish junior (if he be among the Living) very Sick and low, at Deerfield; The Contests also raised by Mr. James Fay and his Brother Stephen, chiefly on account of my disapproving of their going to other Towns, to Meeting on Lords Days. N.B. The Last of them last night in a great Flame, on sudden, about this Matter, but Came to me to Day to acknowledge his unguarded Passion and indecency at that time. Besides these, the Case of my Family, my wife, Children -- the Ministry -- the Land, the Nation and Protestant Interests abroad, call for Concern and [*illegible*] Prayers. Upon the Whole I solemnly Reviewed my Engagements and Resolutions to be the Lords, relying upon the Merits and Reassurances of the Lord Christ alone for Pardon and acceptance with God and the Aids of the Divine Spirit to enable me to adhere to and fulfill them. And May the Lord most mercifully watch over the future part of my (Short) Life, and prepare me for His whole will! Amen.

1745 September 4 (Wednesday). Visited Mr. Daniel Forbushs wife, but she had not her Reason. Visited Mr. James Fays family -- much uncomfortable Complaint of me and my improving the Neighbouring Ministers, Mr. Barrett Especially. N.B. Stephen Fay came and return'd as far as

¹⁸⁵Jonathan Winchester (HC 1737), later first minister of the First Congregational Church of Ashburnham, 1760-1767. *SHG* 10:264-265.

¹⁸⁶Anna, daughter of the Rev. Aaron Smith of Marlborough, died Sept. 1, aged 4.

¹⁸⁷Rev. John Prentice.

his house with me; and just before parting flew into a dreadful passion with me that I did not Consent to his going away to other Towns on the Lords Day: and immoderately rak'd up by [my?] Strict Charge given him about Mr. Elisha Paine. It griev'd me heartily to see him in such an high Ferment, but the Lord have Mercy on us and pardon us for his Name's Sake!

1745 September 5 (Thursday). *Jejun. Priv. Vide Natalitia*. Stephen Fay here acknowledging his indecent Temper and Manner last Night, but stands to the Things that he Spoke. The Lord Shew him his Error!

1745 September 6 (Friday). At Eve Mr. Bezaleel Eager came from Mr. Billings with his Earnest request to have [me] go over to see his sick Children. I went and found his little son, his only Son, very high to Death, and Two little Daughters sick. Return'd at about ten and one-half to my Family. Their sickness is Fever and Flux¹⁸⁸ which greatly prevails in Shrewsbury and many children are taken away.

1745 September 7 (Saturday). Moses Pratt return'd my Oxen Safe after their journey and work.

1745 September 8 (Sunday). On Acts 20.21, and Ps. 89.47 p.m. on Occasion of Mr. Daniel Forbushs wifes Death last night. The Lord make us sensible of the worth of our opportunitys since our Time is so short, and the advantage of Reason and understanding so invaluable.

1745 September 9 (Monday). I rose early and went to Mr. Joseph Rice's at Marlborough. Took up £50 Tenor of him to pay Mr. Hudson of Southborough and then attended Funeral of Mrs. Forbush. At Mr. Williams's after the Funeral.

1745 September 10 (Tuesday). In the Morning rode to Southborough to Mr. Hudsons and took up my Bond. N.B. Mr. Edy and his wife at Mr. Hudsons. N.B. Mr. Stone gone to Harwich. After my Return, my wife and I went to the Funeral of Two of Mr. Billings's¹⁸⁹ Children¹⁹⁰ -- his little Son and a little Daughter who sabbath was Sennight went hand in hand to the House of God now lay in one Grave in one Coffin. They were buried by the New Meeting House, the first that have been buried in that place.

1745 September 11 (Wednesday). N.B. Mr. Wolcott¹⁹¹ of Salem and his wife at Bezaleel Eagers. Ebenezer and Thomme went to Grafton and brought down our young Cattle from Mr. David Batchellors. At Eve Mr. Ebenezer Rice and his wife here but I could not converse with them only directed them when to come to me. Mr. James Ball, Laurence and James Rice were here, and brought me a Paper sign'd by eleven persons of the North precinct Shewing that they were against their Brethrens appointing the Fast approaching in order to call and settle a minister. A Fast, they acknowledge, there is reason for and they are ready to join in one, but not for the

¹⁸⁸Excessive fluid discharge from the bowels.

¹⁸⁹Thomas Billing or Billings of Westborough.

¹⁹⁰Nathaniel d. Sept. 8; Mary, Sept. 9; and Jane, Sept. 15.

¹⁹¹John Wolcott (HC 1721), a gentleman and merchant, who served as a Representative, Justice of the Peace, and High Sheriff of Essex County. *SHG* 6:590-591.

Calling a Minister. N.B. I had so much hindrance that I could not without Difficulty prepare a Sermon.

1745 September 12 (Thursday). Fast on the North Side. Mr. Cushing¹⁹² Sent a Letter that the Sick and Dead among them prevented his Coming. Mr. Morse¹⁹³ Sent a Letter also that not only was there most distressing Sickness among his Neighbours, but he himself was Sick; nay and desir'd a Fast might be kept among them, next Week. Mr. Prentice of Lancaster neither Came nor sent why. Mr. Goss¹⁹⁴ came. Show'd him the paper I receiv'd last night. A.M. I pray'd and Mr. Goss preach'd on Lev. 44. P.M. Mr. Goss pray'd and I preach'd on 2 Chron.15.2. O that God might make it a Day of Atonement and Reconciliation, and that He would please truly to humble, direct prepare and Bless the precinct! We were entertain'd at Captain Eagers. At Evening came a Committee (viz. Messrs. Livermore, McAllister, Townsend and Matthias Rice) to take Advice of the Ministers -- and the Dissatisfy'd also came and brought their reasons against joining in the Fast. We heard much, yet deferr'd the matter to another Time when the other Ministers might be present: viz. next Monday come sennight and to meet then at Lieutenant Holloways, at 12 o'Clock. N.B. Captain Fay my Company coming and going. N.B. News of the Mohawks Threatening.

1745 September 13 (Friday). Mr. Smith of Marlborough sent David Warrin to me, informing me that his wife was ill and he desir'd Earnestly to Change next Sabbath. P.M. went to Mr. Ebenezer Johnsons of Southborough to see his wife who was very sick and low, and Mr. Stone at Harwich was at Mr. Jacob Amsdens as I return'd home. N.B. Thomas Winchester at work for me both yesterday and today, making Cyder.

1745 September 14 (Saturday). Thomas making and Ebenezer boyling Cyder. In all, have made 16 Barrells and boyl'd about 10. Mr. Smith came here, and I went to Marlborough. Thomas return'd home.

1745 September 15 (Sunday). Mr. Smith preach'd here on John 1.11. I preach'd at Marlborough on Luke 12.15. I baptized Mr. Samuel Shermans son Jacob. I return'd at Evening.

1745 September 16 (Monday). Was at the Funeral of another of Mr. Billings Children and Mrs. Billings ill. N.B. A Story had got about of a Dream of Mrs. Billings, and which I took the Freedom to enquire into and which She confirm'd, viz. that She Saw a man bring the Coffin of her youngest Child into the House, upon which She took on; but presently there came in another Man with a large Coffin, and said to her that She had not need to take on for her Child for here was a Coffin for herself also, for she Should die next. N.B. Mr. Hale who lives near the new burying place (tis said) saw a large Coffin (as well as a small one) in the air just over the Burying place last Tuesday Evening immediately after the burying Mr. Billings Two Children -- but I reply'd that we have a more Sure word of Prophecy etc. Mr. John Oake and Mr. Jesse Brigham

¹⁹²Rev. Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

¹⁹³Rev. Ebenezer Morse of Boylston.

¹⁹⁴Rev. Thomas Goss of Bolton.

have Each of them a Child very bad of the Distemper, both which I visited and pray'd with. N.B. Dark riding home through the woods at Night from Brighams, nor was it without Danger -- but God was pleas'd to Preserve and Conduct me. Captain Fay told me that a Negro man from Mendon was committed to gaol last night for murthuring his Mistress.

1745 September 17 (Tuesday). I visited Eunice Bradish a.m. she lying Sick. Messengers one after another of the Deaths and sickness among us. Mr. Brighams¹⁹⁵ and Oakes¹⁹⁶ Children dy'd last Night. Mrs. Billings very bad. Mrs. Dinah Goddenow taken last night, but better today. Mr. Ebenezer Rice's wife here to be Examin'd. Mrs. Thomas Kendal (that formerly liv'd with me) here to See me. Mr. Joseph Batchellor of Grafton, with Mr. Francis Whipple, here.

1745 September 18 (Wednesday). I went to the Funeral of Mr. Jesse Brighams Child, a little Daughter of about 3 and ½. From thence I went to the Funeral of Mr. John Oakes eldest Child between 2 and 3. By the way I visited Mrs. Billing also, who was very ill yet -- and pray'd with her. N.B. Mr. Whipple accompany'd me when I went and return'd with me. Mrs. Daniel Goodenow was in great Distress, the night before last in such agony, that by means of the Trouble of her Mind under a sense of Gods Judgments and her own Hardness of heart.

1745 September 19 (Thursday). A Public Fast on Occasion of the Warr lately Declar'd against the Indians, both at the Eastward, and Westward, and great Apprehensions that the 6 Nations, The Iroquois, viz. Mohawks etc. who have been from Early Times in Alliance with us, would break forth against us. A.M. I preach'd on 2 Chron. 20.12. P.M. on Heb. 6.7.8. May it please God to accept the Solemnity and bless and prosper his holy Word for our awakening and saving Benefit!

1745 September 20 (Friday). Mr. Wheeler here to desire to be put into a way to appear before the Ministers next Monday at Lieutenant Holloways. I told him if he had anything of Weight he might write it.

1745 September 21 (Saturday). My honoured Mother this Day 85 years old. The Lord yet sustain and preserve her! etc.

1745 September 22 (Sunday). Preach'd on Two very moving Subjects, viz. a.m. on 2 Cor. 3.15. P.M. Heb. 6.7.8. O that the word may not be as Water Spilt on the Ground!

1745 September 23 (Monday). Wrote to my Mother and Brother Samuel. Din'd at Lieutenant Holloways, with Mr. Prentice of Lancaster and Mr. Cushing; afterwards came Mr. Morse; but Mr. Goss was gone to Brookfield to see his Father who is sick. After Mr. Prentice had pray'd, The Committee appointed to wait on the Ministers for their Advice came in, viz. Messrs. Livermore, Townsend, McAllister, Jacob and Matthias Rice, and by word of mouth express'd the Desire of the Precincts. There came in also Mr. Wheeler, Ball etc. who were dissatisfy'd with

¹⁹⁵Persis Brigham d. Sept. 17.

¹⁹⁶Hannah Oake d. Sept. 16.

proceeding at the present to settle a minister. After hearing both sides at large, they withdrew and the ministers conferr'd one with another. We look'd as impartially as we could into each part of the Case, and drew up and sign'd our Advice to them which was also read to them. But when Mr. Wheeler heard it, he was not a little Disturb'd. Several of us in the Ministry address'd them with earnest Exhortations, Cautions etc. We Supp'd there -- my Mare broke out of the Pasture there and ran home to her Colt. I rode Lieutenants Mare home. It was after Midnight when I got home, and my Family o'Bed.

1745 September 24 (Tuesday). Greatly Troubled at the Slender success of our Advice last night. Captain Maynard going to Boston. I sent Letters by him to Reverend Messrs. Webb¹⁹⁷ and Eliot¹⁹⁸ respecting the meeting of ministers this week at Boston to subscribe Confessions of Faith. At Eve Mr. Ebenezer Rice here to be Examin'd. I began a Letter to the Committee of the North Precinct -- in which I would fain qualifie their Tempers so far as to be Condescending to their Brethren and induce them to proceed with moderation in their Affairs. Catechiz'd young Women. Preach'd to them on Mat. 13.39.

1745 September 25 (Wednesday). Besides finishing my Letter to the Committee I wrote affectionately to the dissatisfy'd party if possible to Calm them a little under their uneasiness and Caution them against the evils to which they are now in great Danger -- especially against prostituting and sacrificing the Interests of the Soul to Temporal etc., being afraid, from Some discourse from them that they are in Danger of turning to the Church of England. At Eve Stephen Fay here with his uneasiness Still, for my reproofs at the Time of Mr. Elisha Pain and for my Saying at his Brother Fays that his [Stephen's] wife had acknowledged to me that her disaffection to Me and my ministrations was from a wrong Spirit which was true. See her talk with me, May 3, 1744.

1745 September 26 (Thursday). Divers poor Sickly Soldiers from Cape Breton here, bound for Suffield -- whom I endeavour'd to refresh and they went on their way. Mr. Martyn came, din'd with me and preach'd my Lecture on John 8.23 those words Ye are of this World. A reasonable and Excellent Sermon. May God make it usefull and Effectual to all of us! After Lecture many people were here. Captain Eager, Lieutenant Holloway. I deliver'd my Letter to the Committee to Mr. Livermore, McAllister and Matthias Rice (three of them) and manifested my hearty Concern for them and my Fears lest these Trials which some of their Brethren (viz. the Dissatisfy'd) were brought into, would be too hard for them, and this I had the more reason for when they themselves told me that they heard that Mr. (Commissary) Price is design'd to preach a Lecture in a short time in Mr. Wheelers Chamber. As to Mr. Martyn, I found that Captain Eager etc. were desirous of his coming over and preaching for me on Communion Day. I plainly intimated to him my Concurrence therewith, and desire of it. His answer left it at uncertaintys for a while, but at length he consented I might depend upon Seeing him, God willing, next Saturday p.m. Messrs. James and Stephen Fay and their wives here, and had a long Conference with me about their Uneasiness. They judg'd that Seeing Ruths Offence

¹⁹⁷Rev. John Webb of Boston.

¹⁹⁸Rev. Andrew Eliot of Boston.

against me (May 3, 1744) was private, I ought not to have divulg'd it. I Reply'd that if She had not done it herself I Should not made [*sic*] the Reply that I did at James's that She confess'd to me that her Disaffection to me was from a wrong Spirit. They said she had not done it, for they never knew of what was done or said at the Time refer'd to; she had not told them. I return'd that by their telling me that she was dissatisfy'd with me, and expressing themselves as they did I could not but take it that She had, for that was the principal if not only Time wherein she had manifested dissatisfaction and disaffection to me. But I added that if she had not I misapprehended them, and I was Sorry that I said a word about it; and I desir'd James and his wife to take notice of it; but I hop'd they would not be so unwise as to Make any Noise about these Things, but prudently Conceal them. Lydia Said I had pray'd them at their House not to mention what at that time I said of Ruth, and they did not intend to, but She drop'd something of it before she was aware. Stephen very much insisted and entreated I would humour him so much as to let him see what I had writ about his wifes Discourse with me. After some time refusing I gratify'd him (with her Consent) and putting the others into another Room, I read my Journal of that time to them but she Seem'd not to Remember much about it. I said many things to them of the unreasonableness of their Disgusts, before they went away; and of my Grief to have persons that profess'd to be such Friends of the Interest of Christ to do So many Things for the Clogging and hindering it.

1745 September 27 (Friday). Very heavy Rains last night and this Morning. Mr. Thomas Goodenow here. He informs me of his infant's illness and requests me to go over and baptize it; but I was unwilling Considering that we should not be likely to have any Number of person together it being so near night, but especially I was not able to be out in the Evening and expose my Health -- but I deferr'd the matter till tomorrow. We would God willing, See how the Child would be then, and what would be best to be done.

1745 September 28 (Saturday). I went over to Mr. Thomas Goodenow's and baptiz'd his Infant Child. By the Name of [*blank*].¹⁹⁹ Brother Ephraim Allen, Matthias Rice etc. were present. It appear'd to those who were there that the Child was in Danger of Death. After that Baptism I visited Josiah Cutting who is taken sick of Fever and Flux, and grows very bad.

1745 September 29 (Sunday). I expected Mr. Martyn last night, but he came no further than Lieutenant Holloways. He was at Communion with us and the Generality of the Northside, there being no Meeting there to Day. I preach'd on 2 Cor. 3.14, and administered the Sacrament. Mr. Martyn, Deacon Fay etc. din'd with me. Mr. Martyn p.m. on Song 5.16, last Clause, This is my Friend, O Daughters of Jerusalem. The Lord bless what has been done this Day for our Saving Benefit! Mr. Martyn lodg'd here: and his Conversation not disagreeable.

¹⁹⁹ Aaron, son of Thomas and Persis Goodanow, born Sept. 17, 1745; died Sept. 29; Westborough VR, 53, 240.

1745 September 30 (Monday). Was at the Burial of Mr. Thomas Goodenows Infant Child,²⁰⁰ and afterwards visited Josiah Cutting (at Mr. Jesse Brighams) who grows worse. Mrs. Brigham and their son Timothy under the same Distemper.

1745 October 1 (Tuesday). Fast at Hopkinton on account of the sorrowful Divisions and Separations among them. Mr. Loring and Mr. Hall there, but Mr. Messinger,²⁰¹ who was sent to also, did not come. I began with Prayer a.m. and Mr. Hall preach'd on Mat. 6.12. Mr. Loring p.m. both pray'd and preach'd. His Sermon on Mat. 5.4. May it please God to accept this Day! and have Compassion on his People! We all lodg'd at Mr. Barretts. N.B. Mr. Commissary Price held a Lecture among his people to Day also; and I had reason to suppose that Mr. Joseph Wheeler of Westborough was with Mr. Price and solliciting him to preach a Lecture at his House.

1745 October 2 (Wednesday). We were desirous to return home, but the Church being, by agreement together for a Conference, importun'd us urgently to tarry and be present with them at the Meeting House and Mr. Loring open'd their meeting with prayer. Their Conference rose to no purpose. We left them and they soon dispers'd. We din'd and parted. I return'd home (having Lieutenant Aaron Forbushs Horse upon this Journey) though very much griev'd that such a season for reconcilment was lost. At my House found Elihu Lyman²⁰² of Northampton (a young graduate of Yale College) and with him Mrs. Esther Edwards, on a Journey to Boston. And by and by came also Mr. Sergeant of Stockbridge and his wife, on their return home from Boston.

1745 October 3 (Thursday). Our Company went off. N.B. Mary Graves, now Garfield, here confessing her Fornication and desiring a Line to Mr. Cushing if I was willing she should Make her public Humiliation there, Seeing She had dwelt in Shrewsbury about 3 years: which I consented to. P.M. Mr. Francis Whipple here. He in Conversation inform'd me that this Precincts Committee were to meet tomorrow Evening.

1745 October 4 (Friday). I wrote to the Precincts Committee that when they call a Meeting again they may insert a Clause relating to the Precincts hearing my answer to their Messages of February last.

1745 October 5 (Saturday). Last Night Mr. Daniel Warrin of our North precinct brought a sad message of Dr. Gotts Wife being at the Point of Death and his Desire to see me. I therefore left my Study and Preparations and rode to Marlborough, where was a sorrowful sight. Mrs. Gott was alive and sometimes seem'd to have some Understanding but was hardly able to Speak a Sentence: and but Rarely so much as a Yes. I stay'd and din'd there, and at the Doctors Desire pray'd with Mrs. Gott, but the Doctor was hurry'd up to Westborough to Mr. George Smiths wife, and to Mr. Jacob Rice -- the last being sick and very bad of the Distemper. N.B. Captain

²⁰⁰ Aaron Goodenow or Goodanow d. Sept. 29.

²⁰¹ Rev. Henry Messenger of Wrentham.

²⁰² Elihu Lyman (YC 1745). *DYG* 2:49-50.

Ward of Worcester at the Doctors Mr. Chandlers wife being very bad of a Nervous Fever. P.M. I was at Reverend Mr. Smiths -- and in my return Home was at Mr. Matthias Rice's where Benoni Baily was Sick of the Common Distemper.

1745 October 6 (Sunday). I preach'd on the Subject of Taking away the Vail, but us'd the 16th and part of the 17th verse [of 2 Cor. 3] for my Text: and by Reason of my many hindrances was forc'd to use Some parts of my Sermons on Col. 1.21, from page 14. Lydia Cutting din'd with us. N.B. Old Mrs. Cheney²⁰³ of Cambridge here, after Exercises.

1745 October 7 (Monday). I Catechiz'd at the South End, at the School House -- upward of 40 Children. Mrs. Tainter²⁰⁴ kindly ask'd me to Dinner, which I readily accepted of. N.B. Mr. Tainter²⁰⁵ of Grafton there and Mr. Nathaniel Whitney. Finishing the Subscriptions among us for Mr. Edwards of Northampton on Religious Affections. When I came home I found Sir Williams²⁰⁶ from Sudbury here, and afterwards came Brother Hicks. The latter lodg'd here.

1745 October 8 (Tuesday). My wife rode to Marlborough p.m. to see Mrs. Gott, who is yet alive. Ebenezer and Nathan Knowlton (with some help of Ebenezer Maynard) made a Load of Cyder. Lieutenant Hezekiah Ward of Southborough here. Finish'd Missons Voiages into Italy.²⁰⁷ -- After reading out Lowman on the Revelations.²⁰⁸ I have for some time been reading his paraphrase of such of the Notes as can be profitable, in my Family.

1745 October 9 (Wednesday). Mr. Charles Roberts of Sutton, came for a Load of Cyder, for which he promis'd to pay me in six weeks.

1745 October 10 (Thursday). In the Morning I rode up to Shrewsbury Fast, which was on occasion of the Mortal Sickness among them (the Fever and Flux). Mr. Hall was to have been there but he came not. My part was to perform the forenoon service since I could not be there in the afternoon. I preach'd on 1 Pet. 5.6. At noon I took leave, Mr. Morse being with Mr. Cushing. I hasted to Mr. Francis Whipples in Westborough and preach'd at the Private Meeting there on Isa. 66.2.

1745 October 11 (Friday). Ebenezer with the help of Neighbour Ebenezer Maynard makes Cyder.

1745 October 12 (Saturday). Ebenezer got home the Cyder. [blank] Barrells. N.B. Mrs. Gott dy'd last night.

²⁰³Mrs. Benjamin Cheney.

²⁰⁴Mrs. Simon Tainter.

²⁰⁵Simon Tainter, Jr., who had lived in Westborough.

²⁰⁶Abraham Williams (HC 1744).

²⁰⁷Francois Mission, *A New Voyage to Italy* (2 vols.; London, 1695).

²⁰⁸Moses Lowman, *A Paraphrase and Notes on the Revelation of St. John* (London, 1737).

1745 October 13 (Sunday). On Cor. 3.16.17. John 13.17. N.B. Under the former repeated sermon on Col. 1.21, page 25 to 31.

1745 October 14 (Monday). Early to Mr. Grouts to look at some Beef -- he came to look of one of my own Cows to pass his Judgment. I took his advice and determin'd on my own. My Wife and I rode to Mrs. Gotts Funeral. Mr. Smith though at the Funeral, was not well and could not Pray. I was oblig'd (though it was so sudden) to pray. We return'd at Eve. N.B. Captain Hapgood²⁰⁹ of Shrewsbury bury'd to Day also. N.B. Colonel Ward said, of Captain Hapgoods repenting that he had talk'd so much against New Light People etc.

1745 October 15 (Tuesday). I rode to Association at Stow. As I went I call'd at Mr. Matthias Rice's (Mr. Francis Whipple being with me) and borrowed £8 Old Tenor of Mrs. Rice otherwise my Journey to Boston must have been stop'd, for though I had £10 in my Pocket, my occasions call'd for as much more. From Marlborough I had Mr. Smiths Company to Stow. Besides us Mr. Prentice, Loring, Barrett,²¹⁰ Stone, Seccomb, Swift²¹¹ and Goss there. Mr. Swifts Concio though Short, yet pritty well done. Mr. Ephraim Allen came with a Letter from our North Precinct to Messrs. Prentice and Cushing and Me, desiring us to Consult the Association what they had best do about Candidates for them, Seeing the Committee which they had chose to wait upon those Gentlemen as the Precinct had nominated would not go: and whether they might proceed to Call Mr. Martyn? The Association did not Care to do nor Say any thing till they had receiv'd Satisfaction from Mr. Martyn respecting his Sermon at Bolton, and he not being now present the affair was deferr'd till tomorrow morning.

1745 October 16 (Wednesday). Mr. Martyn came and after some Debate he receded from the sentiments deliver'd in his sermon at Bolton, and sign'd a Paper drawn up to that Purpose, and upon that the Association wrote a Letter to our North precinct they had nothing to say why they might not proceed with respect to Mr. Martyn if the Committee etc. refus'd to wait upon the other Candidates nominated. N.B. Mr. Smith who was to have preach'd the Public Lecture was not well, and requested Mr. Loring to preach for him; which was accepted, and he preach'd from those words [blank] Pet. [blank] The Precious Blood of Christ. It was so late before we broke up that it was night by that I got to Mr. Loring's; and Mr. Seccomb being my Company in My Journey to Weston he induc'd me to lodge at his Father Williams.²¹² But Mr. Williams was gone to Hatfield. Thomas Winchester Made Cyder a Day and Half, and gott in Corn a Day and half.

1745 October 17 (Thursday). Proceeded on my Journey to Cambridge. N.B. Contest between sister Lydia and Brother Hicks, the administrators. I refus'd to engage in it: and hasten'd to Boston, but 'twas too late for Lecture. My Brother Samuel gone to Plymouth. My Mother wondrously Sustain'd by God and Comfortable. Blessed be God for this great Favour! but my

²⁰⁹Thomas Hapgood d. Oct. 5, 1745. Ward, *Shrewsbury* 306.

²¹⁰Rev. Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

²¹¹Rev. John Swift, Jr., of Acton.

²¹²The Rev. William Williams of Weston was father-in-law of the Rev. Mr. Seccomb.

sister Esther very low and confin'd to her Bed. I din'd at Judge Sewals²¹³ where was also his Brother Mitchel Sewal, and after Dinner Dr. Chauncy and Mr. Rand came. At Sister Eliza's who (with her Daughter) was sick. Lodg'd there with Parkman. My Mare at Mrs. Keggells.²¹⁴ N.B. The Negro that murder'd his Mistress at Mendon, was hanged, and Mr. Campbell preach'd the Lecture at Worcester.

1745 October 18 (Friday). At Mr. Webbs. Din'd with Mr. Eliot. P.M. gratify'd my Curiosity at the Chiming of the Ring of Bells at Dr. Cutlers²¹⁵ Church -- view'd the Bells -- the Organs, Vestry etc. At Eve at Brother Alexanders. Took Solemn leave of sister Esther commending her to the Infinite Mercy and Grace of God, and return'd to Cambridge in good season.

1745 October 19 (Saturday). Return'd to Westborough. Din'd at Mr. Cooks²¹⁶ at Sudbury, where was also Mr. Marsh²¹⁷ of College. N.B. Thomas Winchester work'd for me last Tuesday and Wednesday in making Cyder and gathering Corn. N.B. About 40 Barrells of Cyder this Year, 10 of them boyl'd. 30 now in Cellar. Found my Family in Peace and Safety. Blessed be God for all his Benefits!

1745 October 20 (Sunday). Repeated Sermon on Ps. 112.3, and O that God would make it the Day of his Power with us, and us his Willing People upon it! The Sickness creeps in upon us in this Parish. The Lord prepare us to meet with Him in the way of his Judgments!

1745 October 21 (Monday). Visited Mr. Samuel Fay junior who lyes sick of the Distemper: and Mr. Gershom Brighams Family who have all been so sick of the Same, and has bury'd one Child whilst I was absent: Mrs. Brigham and the remaining Child, now sick. Visited Abigail Knowlton who is sick also.

1745 October 22 (Tuesday). I visited Mrs. Martha Warrin who lyes weak and low and some measure under the Distemper.

1745 October 23 (Wednesday). My Wife and I were at the Funeral of Mr. Gershom Brighams other Child. We visited Mr. Daniel Warrin of Shrewsbury who had several Convulsion Fitts of late, and was much concern'd. We also visited Mr. Samuel Fay junior who (with Several of his Children Sick likewise but himself) lyes very bad. When I came home found Mr. Mighel²¹⁸ here (See the Catalogue of Harvard Scholars 1704). He had been at my house and lodg'd here while I was on my late Journey to Boston -- and now lodg'd again. Captain Warrin I understand has agreed with him to keep our School.

²¹³Stephen Sewall (HC 1721), Justice of the Superior Court of Judicature, later Chief Justice of Massachusetts. *SHG* 6:561-567.

²¹⁴Mrs. Abel Keggell, Mrs. Parkman's cousin.

²¹⁵Rev. Timothy Cutler, D.D., Anglican minister of Boston.

²¹⁶Rev. William Cooke of Wayland.

²¹⁷Perez Marsh (HC 1748).

²¹⁸Samuel Mighill (HC 1704), an itinerant schoolmaster. *SHG* 5:255-256.

1745 October 24 (Thursday). Mr. Mighel din'd here: bought 3 Weathers of me for 5 shillings per Head and paid me for them. P.M. I visited Susanna Ball who lies very bad of the Distemper, and Mrs. Wheeler who is ill of a plaister. My Boys have been much employ'd in Husking -- for I was dissatisfy'd with late night Huskings.

1745 October 26 (Saturday). Ebenezer plough'd Stubble Hills and had Nathan Maynards Oxen with mine, Nathan having my Mare a.m. to grind Apples. P.M. Deacon Thomas Greenwood of Newton here.

1745 October 27 (Sunday). A.M. on Cor. 3.17 latter part. P.M. on Ps. 2.8 on Occasion of the Return of our Ambassadors from the Treaty at Albany with the 6 Nations of Iroquois Indians. I took Occasion also to Mention God's wonderfull Mercy to Us, who were heretofore but a few generations back Heathen -- but us in Special in this Place it being nigh Seven Times 3 Years that God has waited upon us, Since our first incorporating into a church state. N.B. Mr. John Sparhawk²¹⁹ from Shrewsbury here: din'd and lodg'd here.

1745 October 28 (Monday). I would thankfully mention the Loving Kindness of the Lord towards us in Sparing us untill this Day, now 21 years since the founding of this Church and my Ordination over it. O may the Blood of Jesus Christ cleanse me from all sin! and quicken me to new Care and Faithfullness. The fore Part of the Day I spent Separately. P.M. I was oblig'd to wait upon Captain Maynard and his Company in Arms with whom I pray'd, and before night I eat [*sic*] at Captain Maynards House. The Lord pardon my many Defects in my holy Ministry! and quicken and assist me hence forward -- that the Blood of Immortal Souls may not be laid to my Charge!

1745 October 29 (Tuesday). Ebenezer clearing the back Yard of the Chips muck and manure which has lain in some Thickness from Year to Year there. Wondrous pleasant and Moderate Weather for the Season. Mrs. Anna Rice here. We finish'd reading Mr. Lowman on the Revelation in the Family, and began the Bible again, at Evening.

1745 October 30 (Wednesday). Wrote to Brother Sam Parkman by Mr. R. Banks. Began the New Testament in the Morning Family Reading.

1745 October 31 (Thursday). I was in Strong Expectation of Mr. Seccomb to preach a Lecture which I appointed for my Young Men, but he came not. Mr. Cushing came and I prevail'd upon him to preach to them which he did from Rom. 7.9. At Eve Deacon Andrew Rice of Marlborough and his wife here. N.B. Mr. Aaron Hardy was here in the Morning for advice relating to his being dismiss'd from Grafton Church, they being ready to give him both Dismission and Recommendation notwithstanding his not being in good Terms with themselves. I advis'd in the Negative.

²¹⁹The schoolmaster.

1745 November 1 (Friday). Ebenezer work'd for Noah How -- had the Oxen with him: Noah sowing Rye. At Eve Mr. Winchester here. My wife gone to Mr. Ebenezer Maynards, his wife in Travail and had another son.²²⁰

1745 November 2 (Saturday). Noah How work'd here, hewing Timber for a shed over my East Door.

1745 November 3 (Sunday). A.M. on 2 Cor. 3.18. P.M. Repeated on Col. 1.12. Giving Thanks, etc. Mr. Rand²²¹ preach'd on the North Side. Mr. Bradish²²² and Patience Wood²²³ din'd with me. Somewhat Cold, yet Pleasant Day. But O that God would enable us by his holy Spirit to see Things truly, as exhibited in the Glass of his Word! The Things of God and Christ, the Things of our Souls and an Eternal World!

1745 November 4 (Monday). Wrote to Mr. Hall of Sutton to preach a Lecture for me next Friday. In the Morning (which was very Cold) I rode over to Mr. Balls (in my way went into Lieutenant Holloways, where was Mr. Rand). Suse Ball very low and distress'd. Fever, Flux and Canker. The Flux abates but the Canker eats. Was at Mr. Livermores, Mr. James Ball's, at Mr. Wheeler Senior and thence to Mr. Josiah Bowkers, to the Funeral of one of his Children,²²⁴ another being very bad. After Funeral, went to see Captain Eager²²⁵ who is unwell. Supp'd there. Mr. Abner Newton there and rode home with me. Rainy Evening.

1745 November 5 (Tuesday). Young Women Catechiz'd. I deliver'd an Extemporaneous Exercise on one of the answers: viz. of original Sin. At Eve Brother Hicks, who brought us some Wheat and lodg'd here. Visited Abraham Batchellor who lies sick at Captain Maynards.

1745 November 6 (Wednesday). Ebenezer Splitting Hills [*sic*]. Mr. Benjamin Burnap here. Lieutenant Holloway also, who informs us that Mr. Bowker has lost another Child and Captain Eager is worse. Lieutenant desir'd me to attend the Funeral of Mr. Bowker's Child²²⁶ at 2 p.m. which I did. N.B. Receiv'd by Brother Hicks a Letter from Mr. Hall that he could not preach my Lecture next Friday but he desir'd my assistance at a Fast in Sutton (on account of the Sickness) next Wednesday.

1745 November 7 (Thursday). Ebenezer ploughing and Sowing Wheat. The Sowing by Neighbour Ebenezer Maynard.

1745 November 8 (Friday). Was oblig'd to preach my Lecture myself. Repeated from 2 Cor. 5.1. N.B. did not know that I had repeated this Sermon before. N.B. Ebenezer plough'd in Rye.

²²⁰Malachi Maynard.

²²¹Rev. William Rand of Sunderland.

²²²James Bradish, an original settler.

²²³*Walett*: Mrs. Solomon Maynard.

²²⁴Damaris Bouker or Bowker d. Nov. 2, 1745.

²²⁵James Eager.

²²⁶Prudence Bouker d. Nov. 2, 1745.

1745 November 9 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1745 November 10 (Sunday). Sacrament. Preach'd on 2 Cor. 3.18. N.B. Mr. Joseph Batchellor from Grafton at Communion. Though I was not without fears that he would be objected against. Deacon Fay,²²⁷ Mrs. Billings,²²⁸ and Mrs. Caruth at Dinner here. Too few of the North side at Meeting. N.B. I publickly warn'd people who were wont to go away home on sacrament noons without returning again, that they beware of so ill a practice. P.M. I repeated Exposition on Mat. 13.14, from Luke 13.24.

1745 November 11 (Monday). Catechiz'd at Lieutenant Holloways. In the Exercise time came Mr. Goss and Mr. Martyn. I visited Captain Eager who is still confin'd by sickness.

1745 November 12 (Tuesday). The First (and which was a very Considerable) Snow Storm.

1745 November 13 (Wednesday). Notwithstanding the weather was rugged yet I ventur'd up to Sutton to the Fast on account of the Sickness there. It was almost noon when I got there. Exercise was begun. I turn'd into the nearest Pew to the Door, after Mr. Hall had pray'd, and preach'd from 1 Thess. 5.19. At Eve Mr. James Fay²²⁹ at Mr. Halls. Mr. Prentice not very well, return'd with Mr. Fay: but I tarry'd at Mr. Halls.

1745 November 14 (Thursday). Through Gods Mercy, was very Comfortable though I had ben not without Fears of Rheumatic Turns! I rode to Sister Hicks's²³⁰ (Brother being at Cambridge), thence to Grafton, Deacon Whipples²³¹ and Mr. Prentices. Found Mr. Prentice very ill of his Disorders (the Piles) his wife also much indispos'd. N.B. Dissentions among the Brethren in Grafton that used to adhere to Mr. Prentice, a Number (Ebenezer Wadsworth at their Head) take in with the Canterbury Men lately among them. N.B. Ebenezer hous'd the Cattle last night in the Barn.

1745 November 15 (Friday). My great Sow strangely disordered. Sent for Captain Forbush who help'd her. Dr. Gott here. N.B. Abraham Batchellor lyes Sick Still at Captain Maynards.

1745 November 16 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1745 November 17 (Sunday). All Day on John 6.12, on gathering up the very Fragments of Time. May [God] give those (though weak) Endeavours his Effectual Blessing! Mr. Rand preach'd to the North side, and came here at Evening. Lodg'd here. A worthy man! Could earnestly wish he might be resettled and in these parts as it might please God.

²²⁷Capt. John Fay.

²²⁸Mrs. Thomas Billings of the north precinct.

²²⁹Son of Capt. John Fay.

²³⁰Mrs. John Hicks of Sutton.

²³¹James Whipple of Grafton.

1745 November 18 (Monday). Mr. Rand was so good as to Stay and dine with me, but then left us. Town Meeting to grant money for the School though we have been for a long time without any. At Eve Nathans Father came and told me they were now somewhat put to it for Boys Help and desir'd me if I could Spare him to release his son, which I did, and he went home with his Father. And may God be gracious to him!

1745 November 19 (Tuesday). I visited Mr. Bowman who is sick: and went to see Ebenezer Miller²³² who has return'd from Fort Shirley Feeble and Weakly. Was at Lieutenant Tainters at Eve. N.B. Dr. Gott had din'd with me to Day -- he bountifully added £30 (Old Tenor) to what he had before given to my Daughter Sarah.

1745 November 20 (Wednesday). Lieutenant Tainter and Mr. Harrington kill'd a Cow for me which weigh'd nigh 360. Brother Hicks and his Two sons John and Joshua here in their return from Cambridge. Brother lodg'd here. I was much indispos'd in the Evening and Night.

1745 November 21 (Thursday). Mr. Bowker bury'd a Third Child²³³ with the Same Distemper. I attended on the Funeral and visited Captain Eager at Eve. His pains are abated but his Fever weakens him much. Colonel Williams and Dr. Gott etc. there. I also visited Abraham Batchellor who still continues sick.

1745 November 22 (Friday). Sent for early in the Morning to go to Mr. Grouts Three of his Children being bad with the Throat Distemper, viz. Mehitable, Jonathan and Sarah. Sarah was in an exceeding Dangerous State. Receiv'd a Letter from Mr. Pierpoint²³⁴ of New Haven and at Eve a sorrowfull one from Brother Samuel Parkman, dated Yesterday, to inform me of the Dying Circumstances (as they conceiv'd) of our Dear sister Esther; and that Brother Alexander desir'd him to write to me. I was therefore Expected to go down as soon as possible. But I determin'd to tarry over the Sabbath apprehending that I should then be seasonable for her funeral.

1745 November 23 (Saturday). Sent Ebenezer to Mr. Grouts to See how they did; who return'd me word that Sarah dy'd last night about 9 o'Clock. Thomme to Mr. Cooks²³⁵ to get the Mare Shod -- and we prepar'd for my Journey to Boston.

1745 November 24 (Sunday). A.M. on John 6.12. P.M. on Mic. 6.9. At Eve my wife and I rode to Mr. Grouts distract'd Family, Sarah Dead and Two more ill. Concerning Sarah there was Testimony of her dying very hopefully. The Glory to God who has shown his Great Grace to Children!

1745 November 25 (Monday). I rose at 4 o'Clock. Mr. Abraham Batchelors Brother, Amos, and his sister Porter were my Company an Hour before sunrise upon my Journey. Cold and Rough

²³²Son of James Miller of Westborough.

²³³Dority Bouker d. Nov. 19, 1745.

²³⁴James Pierpont, Jr.

²³⁵Cornelius Cook, the Westborough blacksmith.

riding. Did not stop at Cambridge but proceeded to Boston -- to Brother Alexanders and found his wife Alive notwithstanding all my bad news and sorrowfull Expressions. Put out my Horse at Cousen Proctors, and Lodg'd at Brother Alexanders.

1745 November 26 (Tuesday). Wrote to my wife by Deacon Amos Rice of Brookfield, that I was well etc. except somewhat of a sore throat. Din'd with my aged mother. But at Night I grew so bad of it that I was in great Trouble. Something of a Fever accompany'd it -- and I had an ill night. N.B. Lay at Brother Alexanders -- but it was a sick House without me, for besides Sisters low Condition, Mr. Walker continues in his Confinement by the Gout there, and Alexander Kelland lyes very low there, in a Consumption.

1745 November 27 (Wednesday). My Throat bad, but the Weather so moderate that I accepted Brother Samuels Invitation to go to his House and reside there. Was out no further than to Mr. Stoddards and Mr. Thayers, lodg'd at Brother Samuels my sore Throat increasing -- but no Canker that I perceive.

1745 November 28 (Thursday). Having heard that Mr. Gee²³⁶ has been trouble with a sore Throat, I sent for him, who accordingly came and gave me his advice to use a Tea of Mullen, Cullenbine and Sage which I did at Night, and hope that this and other means, accompany'd with divine Blessing, had a good Effect. Brother Sam p.m. to Cambridge on my Mare. At Eve Brother William, Brother Alexander and our Kinsman Hearsy and wife to see me. Lodg'd at Brother Samuels.

1745 November 29 (Friday). Stormy. Mr. Parker of Grafton was so good as to carry up my Horse to Westborough. Mr. Ebenezer Maynard at Brother Samuels -- where I still lodg'd.

1745 November 30 (Saturday). Bright Day. Got abroad. Din'd at Mr. John Salters -- lodg'd at sister Bettys. N.B. She is not only under much feebleness of Body, but under great Distress of mind; complaining much of an Hard Heart etc.

1745 December 1 (Sunday). Mr. Vinal²³⁷ was engag'd to preach to Day for Mr. Gee, So that though I had been oblig'd to preach for him the first Time I should be in Town, yet now I was at Liberty and chose to go to Mr. Checkleys,²³⁸ where I had the Benefit of being at Communion (after his sermon on Isa. 50.10). Din'd with him and preach'd p.m. on John 1.11. At Eve deliver'd a sermon to my mother and Brethran and divers other Relations on Gal. 2.20. O that God would accompany with his Blessing. Lodg'd at sister.

²³⁶Rev. Joshua Gee of Boston.

²³⁷William Vinal (HC 1739), later minister of the First Congregational Church at Newport, R.I., 1746-1768.

SHG 10:412-415.

²³⁸Rev. Samuel Checkley.

1745 December 2 (Monday). A.M. Visited Mr. Gee -- din'd at Mr. Webbs.²³⁹ N.B. he made a present on one of Mr. Dickinsons Familiar Letters.²⁴⁰ P.M. at Mr. John Brecks. At Eve at Mr. Foxcrofts²⁴¹ -- first saw one of the Philadelphian Fire-places. Was with my Honour'd Mother also. Lodg'd at sister Bettys with Parkman.

1745 December 3 (Tuesday). Neighbour David Maynard junior brought my mare to me at Brother Samuels with an Affectionate Letter from my Wife. Din'd at Brother Alexanders. P.M. I rode to Cambridge, was at Mr. Rands²⁴² -- lodg'd at Mother Champneys, and thank God I am so Comfortable after my late Illness!

1745 December 4 (Wednesday). Rode Home. Mr. McAllister and Mr. Priest my Company some part of the way. Would Bless God that I find my Tabernacle in Peace, Especially in such a Time of Calamity as this, especially among some of my Neighbours. N.B. More of Mr. Grouts Family taken ill of the Throat Distemper, and Two of Mr. Winchesters.

1745 December 5 (Thursday). Public Thanksgiving. On Rom. 12.1. O may we be truly sensible of the Divine Benefits and of our Obligations to Him therefore! that we might present ourselves a living Sacrifice etc. which is our Reasonable Service!

1745 December 6 (Friday). Visited at both Winchesters and Grouts. Having receiv'd a Petition from Mr. David Crosby in Worcester Gaol that there might be a Contribution here for him, I Yesterday desir'd the Deacons of the Church and the selectmen of the Town to meet at my House this Day. And they accordingly came; but they all declin'd our complying with Said Petition. N.B. Mr. Wheeler and James Ball here, and were full of Grievance and perplexity about the proceedings of the North Precinct. N.B. Had the sorrowful News of the Sudden Death of Mr. Joseph Rice of Marlborough, who was going last Tuesday to [illegible] but dy'd before he got home.

1745 December 7 (Saturday). Sarah Henry came last night, and works here this Day, making a pair of Leather Breeches for William.

1745 December 8 (Sunday). Repeated the Remainder of Sermon on Rom. 12.1. Mrs. Kelly and her sister Dunlop and Mr. Jonathan Bellows wife din'd here. At Eve visited Mr. Seth Rice's little Daughter lying at the Point of Death.

1745 December 9 (Monday). Great Concern upon my Heart respecting our Northern Brethren who this Day meet to Elect a Minister. The Lord grant them Grace and direction and overrule their spirits to do what may be for the Divine Glory and for their own truest peace and Welfare!

²³⁹Rev. John Webb.

²⁴⁰Jonathan Dickinson, *Familiar Letters to a Gentleman upon a Variety of Seasonable and Important Subjects in Religion* (Boston, 1745).

²⁴¹Rev. Thomas Foxcroft.

²⁴²John Rand (HC 1748), later minister at Lyndeborough, N.H., 1757-1762. See D[ennis] Donovan and Jacob A. Woodward, *The History of the Town of Lyndeborough* (n.p., 1906), 614-615.

Old Mr. Maynard here to have some alterations made in his will. N.B. Mr. Seth Rice's little Daughter Hannah (of 2 and 1/2) dy'd last night.

1745 December 10 (Tuesday). At the Funeral of Mr. Seth Rice's Daughter. At Eve visited Abraham Batchellor who is on the Recovery. At Eve also Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Jedidiah How were at my Home. Mr. Wheeler very full in informing me what their North Precinct had done Yesterday. That about 30 Voters were present -- that 20 chose Mr. Martyn and 10 were against him; and he said a number more, though not Voters yet of interested persons joined in the opposition. Mr. Wheeler would fain have me, write a Letter to Mr. Martyn to inform him how the Case is Circumstanc'd that he may not be abus'd with a false Representation. But I utterly declin'd it -- especially could not from hearing only one Side. He ask'd me what I had against his doing it (or to that purpose). I told him no one could hinder writing to him, if he Should do it in a suitable Manner. He pull'd out a paper in which he said a number of them had drawn up something of that kind, and would fain have me look of it to See whether I could approve of it; but I utterly declin'd it and refus'd so much as to look of it. But he seem'd much taken with my yielding that he himself and those who join'd with him against the Vote might write to Mr. Martyn to inform him of it.²⁴³ Open, but dull, cloudy Raw Weather. Heard that Boston was rejoic'd with the Return of the Governour from Louisburgh, and thence the Joy Spreads over all the Province.

1745 December 11 (Wednesday). I Visited at Moses Winchesters where Betty Chamberlin was ill of Sore Throat -- at James Fays, where Silas Pratt was ill of a Fever; and Mr. Grouts whose Children were much better: at Mr. Williams's also whose Wife continues ill. N.B. In my going today had some Earnest Talk with Justice Baker on the Affair (which our committee are now gone to Boston upon) respecting the Petition of the North side to the General Court last year, to be freed from paying my Salery from June 5 to October 20.

1745 December 12 (Thursday). North side Committee for waiting on Mr. Martyn with their Call, not going over to Bolton yesterday when the appointment was (for they refus'd to go over because Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Ball and other opposers would go over with them) went over to him to Day. Very Moderate, pleasant Weather.

1745 December 13 (Friday). Molly rode to Grafton, to see whether her Gown was done at Mr. Batchellors.

1745 December 14 (Saturday). Lieutenant Aaron Forbush kill'd a Pigg which weigh'd 114 for me. At Eve Jacob Rice.

1745 December 15 (Sunday). I had chose to repeat Old Sermons last Sabbath that I might be both in Season with my Preparations and might Deliver the whole of what I Should have to say upon the Subject in one Day, but though I had provided a Matter of 16 pages yet I could not finish the Subject without waiting upon the Sabbath, the Things which occur'd to my Mind

²⁴³See Kent, *Northborough History*, 23-24.

were so needfull and as I thought would be so usefull that I could not omitt them. My Text was Rom. 6.13, middle Clause. In the Close I was very fervent, the Lord grant it may not be in Vain! As to the Weather, Cold Day.

1745 December 16 (Monday). Mr. Wheeler here all the afternoon. Selectmen met and having receiv'd Order from the Council Board that the Town Should be assess'd, issued Orders accordingly to the Assessors for that Purpose. Cold Weather.

1745 December 17 (Tuesday). Mr. Cushing din'd with Me and spent the afternoon with me. Ebenezer today (*Ah! Quantum mutatus ab Expectatione nostra*) work'd with Daniel How in the Cedar Swamp in making Shingles.

1745 December 18 (Wednesday). As we have had a fine Moderate Season except the last Three Days, So of no Snow since that which fell November 12. But now comes a fierce storm, Cold, Windy, Snow.

1745 December 19 (Thursday). P.M. I rode over to talk with Deacon Newton about his Success at the General Court in the Affair of my last Years Sallery. At Eve came my Kinsman Hearsey from Boston and lodged here.

1745 December 20 (Friday). Mr. Hearsey goes to Oxford to wait on his wifes Aunt Griffin. Old Mr. Maynard Signs and Declares another Last Will and Testament. Lieutenant Aaron Forbush and Edwards Whipple the Witnesses. Snow. Ebenezer sledds Wood. N.B. Old Mr. Maynards Sledd.

1745 December 21 (Saturday). Lieutenant Tainter here. He bemoans the Condition of his Brother Thomas Harrington at Waltham.

1745 December 22 (Sunday). Cold, cloudy Day. I preach'd a.m. on Heb. 9.27. P.M. I repeat'd from Col. 3.4, the Introduction but fill'd up the Exercise with the first part of sermon on Phil. 1.21, the first 12 pages. O that since it is settled by the Decree of Heaven that I must die I may So realize that my Life may be a truely Christian Life -- that for me to Live may be Christ and to die Gain!

1745 December 23 (Monday). Captain Maynard here and informs me that the soldiers are not likely to return from the Frontiers, according to their Expectations. That therefore he does not expect to see his son much before spring. Would be glad (being there is now opportunity) if I would write him a Line -- which Request I readily comply'd with.

1745 December 24 (Tuesday). Daniel How thrashing Rye with Ebenezer. Thomas Winchester came and Thrash'd a.m. and p.m. kill'd Two Piggs which weigh'd about 100 apiece. Deacon Forbush to Worcester with his Daughter Hannah to keep Mr. Jenisons House.

1745 December 25 (Wednesday). Thomas Winchester Went to Boston with the Two Piggs on my Mare. I borrow'd Mr. Williams's Mare and rode (though not sent for, yet a bright Comfortable Day inviting and hearing that a number of Ministers were to be there) to Grafton Fast. I arriv'd just at 12 yet forenoon Prayer was not much more than half done. I sat in Mr. Prentice's Pew. Mr. Bliss and Mr. Hall were the Ministers that were come to Assist. Mr. Bliss preach'd on Heb. 4.16. At noon at Mr. Prentice's. Mr. Hall pray'd p.m. and Mr. Bliss preach'd again. His Text Mat. 5.16. Stay'd to Supper. Mr. James Fay requested that Mr. Bliss might preach at his House tomorrow at 11 o'Clock. I did not sett myself against it, but permitted it, but did not give much Encouragement that I should be there myself, having divers Things before me that would be like to hinder me. At coming away had Some Talk with Mr. Prentice respecting his Disgust with me which arose (and as I conceive continues) from my Sermon at a Former Fast there, but he said that was all over with him. What he waited for was that I would come out -- boldly for the Cause of God and let him come freely into my Pulpit and then He Should be free to ask me into his. I told him it was necessary to regard my people (by this Time Mr. Bliss came to us) and I know well that my people would be greatly disgusted and I did not think it wise or prudent to give way to it. I ask'd Mr. Bliss to my House. N.B. Mr. Hall agreed to preach a Lecture to my Young People this Day fortnight. I call'd at Cornet Shermans and at Abraham Temple's. From Temple's Mr. Abner Newton was my Company to Westborough. Found my Tabernacle in Peace, and myself comfortable though it was a Cold Evening. To God be the Glory! and may [t]here be an abiding Influence of what I have heard!

1745 December 26 (Thursday). Though it was last night a most Clear and bright Night yet this Morn was thick Cloudy, and anon it snow'd; and it prov'd a Stormy Day. Wrote Mr. Bliss a Letter and sent it to Captain Fays by my son Thomme. N.B. Mr. Williams here while I wrote it. P.M. Justice Baker here, enquiring after a Colt, which he thought might probably strole away last night after me as I pass'd by his House, but I saw none.

1745 December 27 (Friday). When the Storm Clear'd away last night the Wind rose very high. It was a Night of Strong Gusts that rock'd and Shook the House very much, but God Mercifully preserv'd us and upheld our Dwelling. It prov'd a Windy and Cold Day. Ebenezer and Thomme thrash'd Rye. Brother Hicks from Cambridge lodg'd here last Night. P.M. Mr. Matthias Rice and Mr. Thomas Goodenow here. They told me that Mr. Wheeler had said among them [the Northside People] and particularly to Mr. Livermore that he was advis'd by an Angel to turn among them; and also in what he did in going over to Mr. Martyn (at the Time that their Committee went to Carry his Call) that it was the Angel of the Church in Westborough. I reply'd that Mr. Wheeler was here, but that I refus'd to meddle with their Affair: nor did then see Mr. Wheelers Paper not a word of it nor know I what was in it. And this I now repeated to them, that I did not desire to have Concern with their Affairs nor to meddle with them. At Eve Thomas Winchester return'd from Boston -- got 12 *d* per pound for the Pork and brought up 1/2 Bushel Salt, but it being Rainy while he was in Town he went to none of my Friends as I had appointed him to.

1745 December 28 (Saturday). Thomas broke out Flax a.m. P.M. he went home. Moderate, pleasant Day. Ebenezer winnow'd some Rye. Thomme I sent to Mr. James Maynards, he being Collector for the Parish.

1745 December 29 (Sunday). A.M. on Heb. 9.27, and p.m. Repeat'd on Mat. 13.39. It being the Last Sabbath of the Year I was Desirous to Meditate on the Last Day [of] Each Mans Life, and the Last Day of the World. May it please God to make the word Savingly Efficacious to our Souls! I endeavour'd to impress these Serious Things upon my Family -- and may God be pleas'd to accompany what I have done with his Blessing!

1745 December 30 (Monday). A tedious Snow Storm. Adhere to a Custom I am in of Reading Lowth in the Morning. Have not yet finish'd Fullers Church History, but keep on in it. P.M. Old Mr. Maynard, Old Mr. Whipple and Captain Maynard here.

1745 December 31 (Tuesday). Storm continues. At my preparations for the Sabbath. At Night Very high Winds. Might it please God of his abundant Mercy to grant a suitable Sense of the Transitoriness of Time! humble Me for and through the Blood of his Dear son, pardon the sins of the Year past, and of my whole Life! And O might I be ready for the Close of my Life, as well as the Close of the Year!