

Diary of Ebenezer Parkman, 1775

1775 January 1 (Sunday). I desire humbly to bless the Great almighty Author of my Being, and my most merciful Preserver, for His astonishing Goodness and Longsuffering towards me, that He has Sustained me through another year, and granted me to see the Light of this Morning -- not only of *New-Year's Day*, but a *Sabbath-Day*! A Day of the son of man; and a Day of Grace! I am wonderfully favoured with Health and Ease, and many Enjoyments pertaining both to the Life that now is and that which is to come. But I am under the Sore Frown of Heaven by the Displeasure of very many of my dear People, for my refusing to intermeddle with their civil Transactions when they Signed a Covenant *July 4th* last. The Lord Sanctifie this great Affliction, and grant me Wisdom to improve it! Preached a.m. on Ps. 73.26. Master *Jenison* dined here. P.M. on 1 *Thess.* 5.19 to p. 9. Which may God graciously accompany with His Blessing! I stopped the Church after Exercises -- to consult them upon *When* they would have a Church meeting to consider the Cases of Several Delinquents, viz. of *Eunice Rice* and *Samuel Fay*: also to hear a Paper which I have received from a Number of Brethren, and See what the Church would do upon it. I acquainted them also that [*illegible*] the Church did not see cause to accept of the Confession which the said *Eunice* had made, and on the other hand she would not consent to what the Church had drawn up for her; and they had Sent a Committee to her, who reported that she *would* abide by what she had sent already, I had therefore collected out of hers Such parts as might perhaps give satisfaction, if the rest of it were omitted. This I offered to read, that if they liked it, they might send it to her etc. But Mr. *Batherick* Said he did not want to stay in the Cold to hear it. Several Others the like. However, there was a further Number of Others still (as Brother *Daniel Forbes*, *Thomas Bond*, and divers [with?] them, so that I conceived it to be a greater Number than the former) desiring that it *might* be read, I read it. But nothing further was done about it. I asked the Church what Day they inclined to have the Church meeting upon? It was agreed that tomorrow come sennight Should be the Day, and at one o'Clock precisely. But no provision was made for notifying those Delinquents. May God be pleased to prepare me for His Will!

1775 January 2 (Monday). Am chiefly reading Dr. I. *Mathers seasonable Testimony*, of the Authority of Synods or Councils etc.<sup>1</sup> and other such Tracts on *Church Government*, the *Power of Elders*, and *Privilege of Brethren* etc. I saw Mr. Ebenezer Chamblin junior who I have heard was dissatisfied with me; and endeavoured to remove his Disgust -- but I found he harped (as others do) on my disobliging the Town, by denying to join with them in their Covenant, on *July 4*. This I find has grievously disaffected them. May God be pleased to direct me to some Expedient for Reconciliation! We had uncommon Trouble to day in breaking a way to the Ministerial Lot. *Breck* was much fatigued, and went but once with the Team. *Asa Ware* stayed to cut.

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<sup>1</sup>Increase Mather, *A Seasonable Testimony to Good Order in the Churches of the Faithful* (Boston, 1720). Evans 2149.

1775 January 3 (Tuesday). Attended the Funeral of *Eleazer Beeman*, Son of Mr. *Abraham Beeman*, who dyed on the last Sabbath morning; nigh 18 years of Age: of a Consumption.<sup>2</sup> At Eve came Mr. *Grosvenor* from *Grafton*, and Mr. Joseph Harrington with him. The latter invites me to the Marriage of his Sister *Lydia*, proposed to be at his House tomorrow, at 1 P.M. The latter lodges here.

1775 January 4 (Wednesday). *Breck* goes to *Boston* in my Sleigh. I wrote to Mr. *Moore*, and sent it to the white Horse Boston. Mr. *Grosvenor* carries me in his sleigh to Mr. Joseph Harringtons. A Company came there with a Bridegroom and Bride: Daniel Chamberlain and Lydia Harrington. I married them. We dined and supped there. I rode home in one of the Sleighs, which conducted the New Married to Mr. *Chamberlain's*. Neighbours bring 4 Load of Wood. Mr. *Phinehas Hardy* and son, *Thomas Twitchel*, *Jonathan Grout*, *Benajah Brigham*.

1775 January 5 (Thursday). Mr. *Job Carly* came with my son Brecks Mare, recovered (as he judges) from her illness. He asks 4 Dollars and half, for what he has done. Which (my Son being absent) I paid him. I am a good deal employed in reading various Authors upon Power of Elders, and of synods, or Councils etc. At Eve Dr. Hawes. Sermon.

1775 January 6 (Friday). [No entry.]

1775 January 7 (Saturday). My Son *Breck* returned from Boston just after Midnight. And *Samuel* came before night from Boston.

1775 January 8 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on Ps. 73.26. P.M. on 1 *Thess.* 5.19 to page 20, inclusive. Dr. *Jenison* of *Mendon* and Miss *Suse Brigham* dined here. The Doctor here after Meeting and Supped and lodged here. Deacon *Samuel Miles* of *Shrewsbury* here; but goes away at *Eve*. May God bless what has been delivered for my Saving Benefit, and of all that heard it!

1775 January 9 (Monday). The Doctor leaves us. *Samuel* goes to *Brookfield*. P.M. was a remarkable Church-meeting; about not only Mrs. *Eunice Rice* and Brother *Samuel Fay*; but the paper which *Eleven Brethren* had signed, requesting the Church to bear solemn Testimony against the *Convention* of the Year before last, *their Piece*, of *Observations* etc. and the Associations Piece against *Bolton* etc. N.B. Capt. *Jonas Brigham* moved that before we begin, the Church would choose a *Moderator* and Clerk. The Pastor replied that *he* was the *Standing Moderator* by Vertue of his *Office*, as Pastor and Elder: that in his Ordination he was constituted so; and took the *Oversight of them in the Lord* etc. I had not much more Trouble about that matter. Only I think that *Joseph Harrington* and *Benjamin Tainter* were for having a Moderator and Clerk chose. But *Squire Whipple* manifested his Disquietment at Capt. *Brighams* Conduct, and conceived it to be too insulting to the Pastor etc. Some others also of this mind. It at

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<sup>2</sup>Eleazer Beeman, son of Abraham and Miriam, b. Mar. 11, 1757; d. Jan. 1, 1775. *Westborough Vital Records*, 15, 228.

length went over. Adjourned to this Day Month, 1 P.M. At Eve Mr. *Gale* came in. Read him my Letter to Capt. *Silas Bailey*. At Eve also Mr. Hutchinson returning from Carlyle.

1775 January 10 (Tuesday). My Son *Forbes* and his Wife came from Cape Ann, but last from Mr. *Brooks's* at *Medford*. Their Daughter *Coffin* brought forth a Daughter (whom they have called *Polly*) on December 30 last. To God her Deliverer be Glory and Praise! May the Child be new-born and an Instrument of the divine Glory! They lodge here. My Daughters Trouble in her Breast somewhat mitigated, by Methods used by Friend *Pope* of *Boston*. Thanks to the Supreme Healer!

1775 January 11 (Wednesday). My son and Daughter set out for Brookfield, and *Elias* goes with them with an Horse to accompany them part of the way -- as far as to Capt. Curtis's at Worcester. P.M. Mr. *Stone* of *Southborough* came with heavy Tidings of the Death of the venerable Father, *Gardner*, of *Stow*, yesterday morning about 3 o'Clock; and with a Message from the Widow and Children to Me requesting that I would attend the Funeral on Friday afternoon. Help Lord! the Godly cease! The Prophets, do they live for ever? O that God would prepare me, who must soon follow! Mr. *Stone* dines with us. P.M. leaves us. At Eve *Samuel* returns from *New Braintree*.

1775 January 12 (Thursday). *Samuel* setts off for *Boston*; and it soon rains. I hear that probably my Son and Daughter *Forbes* got no further than Alexanders last night. P.M. came Mr. *David Spafford* and paid me 10£ lawful Money. I rode to *Marlborough*. *Reuben Bellows* was kind enough to pilot me through the difficult Paths of Snow. Brother *Smith* in a broken, Weak, distressed Condition. I lodged there.

1775 January 13 (Friday). A very cold morning. Brother *Stone* came [to] Mr. *Smiths*, according to appointment, but he was so overcome with the Cold that for a while he refused to go any further. After a little space We undertook the difficult Ride. We called at Mr. Jonathan *Lorings*, whose son *Israel* was confined by means of the Fall of a Tree lately, upon him, and had broken one of his Arms. We dined at the House of Mourning. The Children were all there with their Consorts, except Dr. *Samuel* and his, and attended the Interrment, but the Old Gentlewoman was too infirm to go out. It was my Part to pray, and to be the Eldest Bearer. The rest were Rev. Messrs. *Stone*, Swift, Bridge of Sudbury, Johnson of Harvard, and Abraham Wood of [blank]. No Gloves, nor any other Token was given, agreeable to the advice of the Continental Congress's Advice. May it please God most deeply to impress us with His Almighty Grace, Support us under the heavy weight of this sorrow, Sustain His aged Handmaid especially and prepare us for our Departure! Mr. *Stone* and I lodged there.

1775 January 14 (Saturday). That I might stay at *Stow*, Mr. *Newell* is to supply my Pulpit; but does it by Sending Mr. *Jer. Barnard* of [blank]. At Eve I went to Mr. *Newells*, who is at home. N.B. I drew up some Account of the late Rev. Mr. *Gardner*, for the press.<sup>3</sup> I lodged at Mr. *Newells*.

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<sup>3</sup>*Boston Evening Post*, Jan. 23, 1775, Issue 2052, p. [3].

1775 January 15 (Sunday). I preached at *Stow*, on Occasion of the Death of the late Rev. and aged Mr. *John Gardner*, from 2 *Tim.* IV.6.7.8. Which O that God would please to succeed to the whole Audience, to the bereaved Flock and Family, but to the *Ministers* present, in peculiar -- of them there were three, besides the speaker, viz. Rev. Messrs. *Flagg* of *Chester*, Fr. *Gardner*, and *Newell*. At Eve I returned to Mrs. *Gardners* and lodged there.

1775 January 16 (Monday). I returned home to *Westborough*, and in safety. Blessed be God for Such Preservations and of my Family in my Absence! And O that I might suitably improve this Longsuffering of God towards me. All the venerable Persons who joined together in Association on June 5, 1725, are now dead, but I only, who was the youngest, weakest and unworthiest. N.B. In my way home called at Mr. *Lorings*, who gave me 6 M.S. sermons of his Fathers; at Miss *Betty Eagers*, who is Sick; at Dr. *Curtis's*, where I dined; at Mr. *Smiths*, who is not better, as I conceive; and fear he will not continue long. I called also at Mr. *Edmund Brighams*. Arriving at home I found Mr. *Thomas Kendal* here, who had been at *Cagnawaga*, and last from *Dartmouth* College. He came. Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ informs me that Mr. *Jer.* Barnard preached for me yesterday a.m. on Act. 16.30.31, P.M. on Joh. 14.23. Mr. Barnard went to Bolton. Mr. *Kendal* tarrys with me.

1775 January 17 (Tuesday). *Breck* to *Lancaster*. I Converse on Indian Matters.

1775 January 18 (Wednesday). Spend my time a great deal with Mr. *Kendal*, about the Indian Circumstances. *Breck* returns -- *John* with him. Mrs. *Eunice Rice* here; but I could do nothing with her to effect. She will do no otherwise than she has done.

1775 January 19 (Thursday). Mr. *Kendal*, after Dinner, leaves us to go towards *Boston*. He carries a Letter from me, to be conveyed to Rev. *Gordon* of *Roxbury*.

1775 January 20 (Friday). [No entry.]

1775 January 21 (Saturday). *Breck*, *Sophy* and *Hannah* have a Sleigh ride to Mill-River with Master *Jenison* and *Jonathan Fay*, who is up here in the Vacancy.

1775 January 22 (Sunday). Preached a.m. from *Rev.* 2.1, chiefly on Christs walking in the midst of the golden Candlesticks -- occasioned by the Death of Venerable Mr. *Gardner* of *Stow*. P.M. on 1 *Thess.* 5.[19?] from p. 21 with many Omissions to p. [blank].

1775 January 23 (Monday). Mr. *Thomas Twitchel* paid £26.8.7 old Tenor which was in full of what was due to me on his Rate -- being in the whole £245.13.11 O.T. *Elias* went with my Sleigh to Mr. *Goddards* at *Shrewsbury* and carryed 9 Bush. of Rye in part of pay for Boarding and teaching. *Breck* etc. return at Night from Mill River, and Master *Jenison* and *Fay* lodge here. My Daughter *Hannah* complains much of her Arm, hurt against a Tree which the sleigh ran near to, in their way to Mill-River last Saturday.

1775 January 24 (Tuesday). *Hannah's* arm is much swelled and grows very troublesome. I was at Deacon *Woods*: but he was not at home. Mrs. Winchester was there. I visited old *Lieut. Forbush* and dined there. Mr. Ebenezer's Wife is confined by an Asthma. Visit also Old Mrs. Sarah Forbush under her Cancer. Returning home found a Company of Framingham Folks; Mr. *Gleason* and his wife, and her Brother William Brown and his Sister *Ruhy*, with a Daughter of Major *Farrars*, who dined here. They have been to *Leicester*; and inform me that *Alexander* has been ill of a bad Swelling in his Throat, which has taken him off from his Business for about a month. At Eve came old Mr. *David Maynard*, and afterwards Deacon *Wood*. They tell me they have been, and Mr. *Tainter* with them, to See Mr. *Samuel Fay*, who, they find, is very much disturbed with me, that I don't make my son Breck pay him for his dead Mare, or turn him out of Doors if he will not. Such was the unreasonableness of his Conversation with them and that he would not come to meeting till he had Satisfaction.

1775 January 25 (Wednesday). *John* went away early in the Morning for Lancaster. *Hannah* has a bad Arm. Sent for Dr. *Hawes*; who came. *Breck* Sends up Dr. *Ball*. Both Doctors dine here. I finish Lord *Sommers'* Book of the Judgment of whole Kingdoms and Nations on the Power of Kings and Rights of Peoples.<sup>4</sup>

1775 January 26 (Thursday). *Hannah* Somewhat easier, but her Arm is bad. Last Eve received an agreeable Letter from Mr. *Joseph Ward*, lately a School-master at *Boston*, containing Some hopeful News from *England*.

1775 January 27 (Friday). Lt. Baker here. I read him Mr. *Wards* Letter. We have some Discourse together. He professes to be my Friend: condemns his Brother *Brighams* Conduct etc. Dr. *Haws* visits *Hannah* and dresses her Arm. The appearance is a little better. Ben. Clark is Sent over to Dr. *Balls* a Second time for more Unguent. Polychrist and to Mr. *Bass's* etc. for sundrys.

1775 January 28 (Saturday). Hear that the Small Pox has broke out at *Hopkinton* on Capt. *Thomas Mellen's* Wife: also that it is in several places in *Mendon*. May the Lord prepare us for His holy and Sovereign Pleasure concerning us! Dr. *Hawes* came, but it was not till the Business of the Dressing etc., were over. P.M. Master *Waters* here, at his going off from keep School in this Town. Says he has reason to believe that Mr. *Fish* did not draw up the paper sent in to our Church and Signed by Eleven of our Brethren.

1775 January 29 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on Ps. 73.26. Master *Jenison*, *Jonathan Fay* and Miss *Suse Brigham* dined here. P.M. preached again on 1 *Thess.* 5.19. May God graciously add his Blessing thereon! The Doctor here.

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<sup>4</sup>[John Somers, baron, 1651-1716], *The Judgment of Whole Kingdoms* (12th ed., Boston, 1773; Evans 13,632). An eleventh edition appeared in Philadelphia, 1773 (Evans 13,023), and another twelfth edition in Newport, 1774 (Evans 13,631).

1775 January 30 (Monday). Rode up to Popple Hill to see Mr. Adonijah Rice who is very ill. Prayed with him. Dined at Squire Whipples. Visit also Messrs. Solomon Baker, Edmund Rice, John Crooks. Mrs. *Spring* and her Children lodged here. Dr. *Hawes* attends on *Hannah* every day of late.

1775 January 31 (Tuesday). I visited old Mrs. *Bruce* who is ill. Conversed with her as one hopefully in Christ. Prayed with her -- but I refused to dine there. I made what haste I could home; but arrived not, being on foot, till my Family had din'd. Read Mr. *Lathrop's* Thanksgiving Sermon,<sup>5</sup> as I have likewise Mr. *Webster's*:<sup>6</sup> both of them very Spirited; and, the former especialy, a very useful Discourse. I *wrote to him*, upon it.

1775 February 1, 2 (Wednesday, Thursday). Am further looking over such Books as I have concerning Consociation of Churches -- and Particularly Dr. S. *Mathers* Apology;<sup>7</sup> and make some Remarks thereon. At Eve (of the 2d) my Son Samuel has sent The Kings Speech to both Houses of Parliament and their Answers<sup>8</sup> -- with the Protests of 9 Lords -- which proceedings now seem to Settle the sad Destiny of the Colonys, and especially of unhappy *Massachusetts*. May God most gracious and merciful look with tender Pity on us! O that He would prepare us for the awful Event! Breck went to Mr. *Samuel Fays*, and tryed to make up with him. Had Deacon *Wood* to assist him in it -- but in Vain.

1775 February 3 (Friday). *John Fay* kindly helps Asa Ware in killing 3 young Swine. Capt. *Jonas Brigham* send [*sic*] his son Edward for me to Visit his young Daughter *Persis* who is very ill of an *Asthma*. I went -- Sympathized, conversed and prayed with them. May a gracious God prepare the Damsel for His holy will! and Sanctifie the Affliction to all of them!

1775 February 4 (Saturday). I am preparing to preach. The public Distresses are heavy. Mr. Andrews and Dr. Hawes dined here. *Persis Brigham* dyed last night.<sup>9</sup>

1775 February 5 (Sunday). I was going to preach when Mr. *Hezekiah Taylor* came -- and he preached on *Joh. 6.44* a. and P.M. Which may God bless to all! He lodges here. Mrs. *Maynard* dined here.

1775 February 6 (Monday). Mrs. P \_\_\_\_\_ went with me to the Funeral of *Persis Brigham*. Master Jenison finished his School last Saturday; is here, and Jonathan Fay this Evening. Wrote to Mr. Joseph Ward, School-master at Boston.

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<sup>5</sup>Samuel Webster, *The Misery and Duty* (Boston, 1774). Evans 13,758. ???

<sup>6</sup>John Lathrop (1739-1816), *A Discourse Preached December 15th 1774* (Boston, 1774). Evans 13,370. Possibly 13,371 or 12,829.

<sup>7</sup>Samuel Mather, *An Apology for the Liberties of the Churches in New England* (Boston, 1738; Evans 4275).

<sup>8</sup>Possibly Evans 42,841, the speech of Nov. 30, 1774.

<sup>9</sup>*Persis*, daughter of Capt. *Jonas* and *Persis Brigham*, b. Apr. 23, 1764; d. Feb. 3, 1775. *Westborough Vital Records*, 27, 231.

1775 February 7 (Tuesday). Sent my Letter to Mr. *Ward* at Mrs. *Holbrooks* by Mr. *Joseph Harrington*. Wrote to Mr. *Quincy*, and Sent it by *Ripley*, who came from *Brookfield*, and brings me a Letter from Mr. *Forbes* etc., who writes of his ill Reception when he and his Wife went home from Cape Ann, that her Breast is no better -- that he has asked a *Dismission* -- and I perceive that he is greatly discouraged. *Ripley* to Cambridge after he had dined. P.M. a Town Meeting here on a great Variety of Affairs. *Elias* is at home with me. Dr. *Hawes* here, but *Hannah* better.

1775 February 8 (Wednesday). Master *Jenison* (who finished his school last Saturday) leaves the Town to day, and returns to his Fathers. The state of Public Affairs more and more gloomy. At Eve Mr. Daniel *Forbes* and Mr. *Batheric* here to discourse on Ecclesiastical Disputes -- the Power of Councils etc.

1775 February 9 (Thursday). I rode into the South. Called at Mr. Seth Morse's -- at Deacon Bonds, who has sold and given the Deed of the Land joining to me on the North, viz. Ten Acres of Pine and Rocky Hill; to Caleb Harrington, for 230£ old Tenor. I was at Mrs. Kendalls. Went to see old Mrs. Grow: and dined there. Called at Lt. *Harringtons*, where I found that Mrs. *Suse* (*Eli's* Wife) Seems not to be willing to come to our Communion unless it be as a member of Mr. *Walley's* Society in *Bolton*. I visited old Mrs. *Woods* at Mr. Daniel Forbes's. Discoursed and prayed with her and Mr. [blank]. At Eve when I return have *Elias* to hear both in Virgil and Greek Testament.

1775 February 10 (Friday). As the Provincial Congress is now sitting at *Cambridge* upon the most important Affair that ever came at any time under Consideration of this people, and we are under the most painful Uncertainty about the Event, May it please our most gracious God, who is the wonderful Counsellor, to grant Wisdom to His Servants according to the Arduousness of the Affair before them!

1775 February 11 (Saturday). At Eve received from Rev. Mr. *Lathrop* of *Boston*, a Letter and his Sermon, occasioned by the Massacre on March 5, 1770.<sup>10</sup> About 9 o'Clock was called to go to Mr. *Isaac Lambs* Wife, who is thought to be dying. She had her senses -- was in great Earnest for Mercy. Prayed with her. 'Tis feared she will not live to the Morn.

1775 February 12 (Sunday). Preached a.m. and P.M. on *Joh. 5.40*. O that God would add His Blessing. Mr. *William Bowman*, Cousen *Davis*, and Miss *Abigail White* dined here. At Eve I went to See Mrs. *Lamb*, who though alive, is delirious. I prayed with them, and returned.

1775 February 13 (Monday). Mr. *William Bowman* in his way home to *Brookfield* at Breakfast. Relates Some of his uncle *Forbes's* Troubles. P.M. was *Church Meeting* by Adjournment. The Committee which was Sent to Mrs. *Eunice Rice*, made Report. She came to Town, and by Desire, to *Meeting* -- gave us leave to take out of her Confession Such Sentences as we would

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<sup>10</sup>John Lathrop (1739-1816), *Innocent Blood Crying to God from the Streets of Boston* (Boston, 1771; Evans 12,094).

have to be omitted. We did so. Voted in the Church that this would be satisfactory. She also consented to it when it was read to her. Agreed that She Should be propounded next Lords Day. The Committee from Mr. Fay reported that he was greatly offended with me that I kept my Son *Breck* etc. It was put to Vote -- but no Hand up. I made a Short speech before We went upon the Paper of 11. Some Debates ensued -- but nothing was done -- but adjourned to a fortnight. P.M. Mr. *Waters* waits upon Miss *Patty* and *Hannah Fish* here. The young women lodge here. *Mrs. Hannah Lamb dyes.*<sup>11</sup>

1775 February 14 (Tuesday). This Day (as I understand) my dear son *Forbes* has a Church-Meeting at *Brookfield*, by Adjournment that they may give Answer to his Request of Dismission. May the Lord be graciously present with him and them, and grant an Issue to His Glory! P.M. Capt. *Edm. Brigham's* Company train. Misses *Fishes* went home. Mr. *Waters* accompanys. At Eve Mr. *Thomas Stone* came -- lodges here.

1775 February 15 (Wednesday). Mr. *Stone* to *Southborough*. I drew up *Six Reasons* for my being offended with the aggrieved or disquieted Members in *Bolton*. Attended the Funeral of Mrs. *Lamb*, wife of Mr. *Isaac Lamb*: of 19 last August. A Sorrowfull Burying! At Eve came Mr. *Jonathan Forbes* to talk with me about his Duty. Lt. *Baker* came also. *Forbes* gave way that I Should be with *Baker*, but before we broke off, he went away. N.B. In Conversation with Lieutenant I communicated what I have Writ in Six Articles, against the Disquieted in *Bolton*; bearing Date of Yesterday. He Seemed to be very much of my Mind in some parts of it, particularly their Pitching upon that part of the Council to ordain Mr. *Walley*, who were known to be of their Mind, and had prejudged the Case. N.B. Mr. *James Godfrey* and his Wife, Cousen *Davis* with their Babys, Mr. *Joseph White* and his sister *Abigail*, came P.M. in a Sleigh -- *Suse Brigham* here also. Miss *Abigail White* Stays here over night.

1775 February 16 (Thursday). She dines here. Towards night *Breck* and *Sophy* in the sleigh with her to Capt. *Maynards* And she returned on foot to Mr. *Godfreys*, her Brothers home. I visited Mr. *Nathan Kenny* who is confined still, and prayed with him.

1775 February 17 (Friday). My anxiety for the public safety engages my Mind and Heart in preparations on the sorrowful Subject, from *Isa.* 22.12.

1775 February 18 (Saturday). *Elias* goes with Three Legs of Pork to Mr. *S. Allens* for Bacon. He goes also to Mr. *Caleb Rice's*, where he hears that young Mr. *Thomas Stone*, when he went home from hence, on the 15th, was taken very ill. The provincial Congress at *Cambridge*, adjourns to March.

1775 February 19 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on the subject of 1 Thess. 5.19 but nam'd for my Text of this Exercise Ps. 78.40 from page 41 to the End of page 46. P.M. I considered the present dark and distressing Times, and therefore I preached on *Isa.* 22.12 to page 10. Mrs. *Joanna Fay* Sick. Received a Letter (dated the 10th and 11th) from Mr. *Quincy*, on our Political

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<sup>11</sup>Isaac Lamb mar. Hannah Williams, 23 June 1774; *Westborough Vital Records*, 176. Death not in *WVR*.



Affairs. My Thoughts are much engaged on our public state. My Daughter Hannah went out to Meeting. Blessed be God for His great Goodness therein!

1775 February 20 (Monday). Visit Mrs. *Joanna Fay*, who has a Fever and Canker. Prayed there. Visit *Joseph Grout* junior -- discoursed and prayed with him. At home a Number of young Women, viz. *Betty Bevil*, *Bulah Jones* and her sister, came here. *Hannah* rides with them to Mr. *Morse's*. N.B. Mr. Edmund Chamberlin here, and excepts against the Churches accepting Mrs. *Eunice Rice's* Confession, because it has not the name of the Sin expressed in it: Adultery. Mr. Phinehas Gleason here, much affected with these awfully threatening Times. N.B. Town Meeting on many Accounts, viz. whether they shall pay Minute Men; Contribution to Relief of Boston etc.

1775 February 21 (Tuesday). By reason of Loss of sleep, I have little stomach, and am feeble. Wrote a letter to Mr. *Adams of Roxbury*. Mr. *Johnson of Bolton* here, and dines with us. P.M. Town Meeting and Training. Deacon *Wood* came in to see me. I went to the Town Meeting and Spake to them on the Head of their Contributing to the Relief of *Boston*. Encouraging and exciting them to it, willing to set an Example my self, but apprizing them that Since I knew of a Number of poor People whom I should desire to communicate to, I might have the Favour to be my self the Distributor of my own Alms. I earnestly recommended their exerting themselves to obtain Military skill, Arms, Ammunition etc., to improve their Time Well when they have T. Meetings and Trainings -- to endeavour after Unity and Harmony (for I perceived there were Jarrs) -- Exhorted to put away Sin, to be the true Disciples of Christ and do their utmost to prepare for the Will of God concerning them, Wishing them to have the divine Counsel etc. etc.

Benjamin Clark's Father came here and lodges. Master *Fisher Ames* came from Brookfield. Informs that the Church which Mr. Forbes ministers to have sent for a Council of 3 Churches, viz. the other two in the Town, and that of Spencer, to meet the next Week or the Week after, to Consider the Affair.

1775 February 22 (Wednesday). Mr. *Ames* goes to *Dedham* etc. I wrote by him to Mr. *Gordon*. Mr. *Clark* returns to *Ashburnham*. Wrote by him to Mr. *Cushing*. Went to Mr. Samuel Fays. Took Deacon *Wood* with me. Old Mr. *Whitney* came to us. Mr. *Fay* was not at home. We waited, but he did not come. We came away. N.B. Mr. *Whitneys* Conversation on the Road was extremely contradictory. Sometimes in flat and plain Terms. It was with reference to the Petition of the 11 Brethren, and the *Bolton* Affairs. Mr. *Jonathan Forbes* was here at Eve. He brought 44 lbs. of Cheese, at 2/2 old Tenor per pound. Gave him an order to Constable *Martin Pratt*, of £4.15.4 old Tenor. He discourses with me about his own and his Wife's joining to the Church.

1775 February 23 (Thursday). I give my Self as much as I can to my preparations. My Mind and Heart are filled with apprehensions of our Political State. May God Himself Pity His People!

1775 February 24 (Friday). Our public state is more and more deplorable -- according to the general Tenor of our public Intelligence, and what the Provincial Congress have drawn up

before their adjournment. Unless the God of infinite Mercy and Power undertake for us, and change the Hearts of men, how can we escape the Ruin which threatens? Last Eve Received a Letter from Mr. *Adams* of *Roxbury* certifying the Genuineness of the *Conventions Observations*.

1775 February 25 (Saturday). Mrs. *Ruth Godfry* here, dines with us.

1775 February 26 (Sunday). A. and P.M. on Isa. 22.12. I beseech God might graciously to accompany my weak Endeavours with His Almighty Blessing! Mr. Seth Woods, Mrs. R. Godfry and Suse Brigham dined with us.

1775 February 27 (Monday). Deacon Wood informs me that his Sister *Mellen* dyed last Saturday nigh night, very Suddenly, when she had not wholly recovered from the Small Pox: and was buried after the Exercises Yesterday.

Our Church met by Adjournment. The Business on which we met may be Seen in the Records. After the Affair of Mr. S. Fay, I Spake to the Church for some time; and at different times, urged the *unseasonableness, groundlessness, unprofitableness* of holding Meetings at such a Day as this is, concerning *Church Government* etc. -- but the Request of Mrs. *Susan Harrington* was the *most troublesome* -- for although I condescended to Admitt her as one that had joined with the Church of *Bolton* while it was in good Order, and on consideration that she had walked soberly and Orderly (for ought we knew); her Lot also being cast among us; yet this [my?] Benevolent Charity was refused. A Number of Persons insisted upon her being admitted according to her Petition. I put it to Vote, expressing previously how, and how *only*, I could receive her; it passed *Affirmatively*. N.B. Capt. *Brigham, Tainter, Joseph Harrington, and Eli Whitney*, were peculiarly Difficult. When I challenged the Rights of Conscience for my Self, and that I should administer to Mrs. Harrington in the manner I had expressed, *Eli Whitney* rose up and said, "there was no Conscience in it." I took no other Notice of it at that time, than to say, that what I should do, would be out of Conscience. But I spoke to him after Meeting. I hope he said so, only in the way of *Arguing* and debating the Matter. I could not avoid adjournment because of Mr. S. Fays Affair. It was to the first Monday in April.

1775 February 28 (Tuesday). Cousen Joshua Hicks dined here. P.M. Ensign Aaron Warrin here, about his son who boards with us. Thus ends another Month. May God Sanctifie to me the Swift Flight of Time! that I may be ready for the Close.

1775 March 1 (Wednesday). *Sophy* and *Hannah* go to Capt. *Edmund Brighams*, and to Mr. *Gales*. Mr. *Stone* -- likewise Mr. *Whitney*, visit me, and dine here. The former acquaints me with the Request from old south Church in *Boston* to *Southborough* Church to assist in Council, concerning the Removal of Rev. *Bacon*. Mr. *Whitney* desires to Change; but I am not at Liberty by reason of Mrs. *Eunice Rice's* Affair. At Night our Girls return, accompanied by Capt. *Brigham*.

1775 March 2 (Thursday). *Breck* to *Worcester* to Sell his Mare. Returned with her at night. *Sophy* watches with Mrs. Maynard (wife of Mr. *Nathan junior*). She is very ill of a Fever.

1775 March 3 (Friday). Mr. *Charles Lawrence* of *Ashby* came. Dined here. He paid me £100 old tenor and gave me a note of Hand for twenty two pounds ten shillings old tenor more, to be paid in a month. Upon which I gave him a Deed of my 35 Acre Lot (or the 37 Acres and 80 Poles) in *Ashby*: and went with him to Squire *Whipples*, before whom I acknowledged it. Squire Whipple informs me that Mr. *Forbes* is dismissed from Brookfield. N.B. I delivered the money immediately to *Breck* to be sent to *Samuel*.

1775 March 4 (Saturday). Mr. Thomas Bond here. I owe him £4.13.0 old tenor for Beef, but he gives me a Dollar of it, and takes an order for only 48/.

1775 March 5 (Sunday). A.M. on *Isa.* 22.13.14. P.M. repeated (with additions suited to the Town Meeting tomorrow) Sermon on Prov. 11.30. N.B. I was exercised with an extraordinary Hoarseness.

1775 March 6 (Monday). Visited Mrs. Maynard (wife of Nathan junior) very ill of Fever. Prayed with her. Capt. Benjamin Fay and Mr. Batherick came with the Towns Request to go and pray with them at their Meeting. I complied, and after prayer gave them a brief Exhortation with my hearty wishes -- according as these remarkable Times are.

1775 March 7 (Tuesday). Visit old Mrs. *Bruce*, who is exceedingly Swelled with Dropsie. Prayed with her. P.M. Training. N.B. had no word from Mr. Nath. *Whitney* about the private Meeting which should have been at his House to day. So that I did not go. I Suppose there is none. Perhaps he is disgusted by reason of what was transacted at the late Church Meeting, at which the Church voted young Mrs. Harringtons Request, which implied their holding Communion with the *Walley* society at *Bolton*; but I declared my not being able to administer to her under that Character.

1775 March 8 (Wednesday). I rode to *Shrewsbury* to Mr. Sumners Lecture to the Minute-Men under the Command of Capt. *Job Cushing*. Dined at Mr. *Sumners*. Mr. Peter Whitney there. Mr. *Sumners* Text was *Josh.* 22.22. The Lord God of Gods etc. I prayed after sermon. Returning home I called at Mr. Gleasons, where were *Joseph Harrington*, *John Harrington*, *Joseph Bond*, and a number more, who rode with me part of the way home. N.B. Cousen Maynard having watched with the Sick woman, came here in the Morning to Breakfast -- also dined here.

1775 March 9 (Thursday). Read Dr. *Jer. Dummers* Defence of the N.E. Charters.<sup>12</sup> We hear from Lancaster by Mr. *Joseph White*, that my son *John* has been sick -- but walks about again.

1775 March 10 (Friday). Visit Mrs. Maynard who is still very Sick. Pray with her. Went also to See Neighbour *Nathan Kenny*. Spent some time separately, but was much interrupted by

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<sup>12</sup>Jeremiah Dummer (1681-1739), *A Defence of the New-England Charters* (Boston, 1721; Evans 5576; also Boston, 1765; Evans 9960). *SHG* 4:454-68.

teaching *Elias* -- also by (otherwise) a kind Visit of Mrs. *Dolly* Rice. Town Meeting to Choose a Representative for the Congress at Cambridge, instead of Capt. *Maynard*.

1775 March 11 (Saturday). My son and Daughter *Forbes* with their black Girl came. Mr. Daniel *Forbes* junior came also with them. They also dined here, and (except the last) lodge here.

1775 March 12 (Sunday). I had engaged to change with Mr. *Whitney*, but Mr. *Forbes* being here I rode early to *Northborough* and prevented Mr. *Whitneys* coming. I preached there a.m. on *Isa.* 22.12. P.M. on v. 13.14 with the 12th. At Eve returned home. Unhappily found that there was disquietment with Mr. *Forbes's* forenoon sermon. The Text was *Job* 2.10. When he was going to meeting in the afternoon Several persons stopped him by the Well: viz., Capt. *Brigham*, Mr. *Andrews*, Dr. *Hawes*, Select men; and many more. Besides which *Joseph Harrington* and *Ebenezer Chamberlin junior* had been with him here in the House to talk with him. A multitude gathered at the Well. On his promising to explain himself from the Desk they would consent to his going into the Meeting House, except Some, who went home. It was conceived he was faulty in saying that God is so the *primary Cause* of the Evils we suffer, as that we are not to dwell upon and find So much fault with second *Causes* or *Instruments* etc. etc. My Family were in the Eve in much Trouble on Account of what had Occurred. The P.M. Text was [blank].

1775 March 13 (Monday). Mr. *Forbes* and my Daughter Set out on their Journey to *Boston*, designing to go to Mr. *Pope*, to consult him on her Sad Case, of her Breast. *Gin*, their Negro Girl, rides in Mr. *Elisha Forbes's* Waggon. Capt. *Ben. Fay* here, and is in Disquietment with me, that I refuse to hold Communion with Mr. *Walleys* Church. Goes away So, notwithstanding all my Endeavours to Satisfie him. He being of the Committee to go in the Churchs name to Mr. *Samuel Fay*, I gave him an Extract from the Church Records for their Direction. Mr. *Belknap* another of the Committee came -- they go upon their Errand.

Several Companys train -- Capt. *Morse* Sends to ask me to let 'em train on my Clover: but they went into Neighbour *Newtons* Field, south of the Noon House. Capt. *Edmund Brighams* Company as well as the other, Shew Arms. N.B. I send to Mr. Daniel Gilbert of Brookfield his Book of the Judgment of Kingdoms and Nations etc. per Mr. *Daniel Forbes* junior. Mr. *Belknap*, at his Return from Mr. *S. Fay*, calls here, and Acquaints me that the Committee had no Success with him, that he continued resolute he would not come to meeting unless we would find him an Horse instead of what he had lost.

1775 March 14 (Tuesday). *Breck* goes to *Boston*. *Elias* is so indisposed that he can do nothing at his Lessons, either yesterday nor to day.

1775 March 15 (Wednesday). *Elias* indisposed for Study -- but is about and goes to Mill with a Team, with about 9 Bush. of Rye, and 8 of Indian Corn. Mr. *Bradshaw* came from his Fathers at *Stoughtonham*. Mr. *Fisher Ames* from *Dedham*, and brings, together with a Letter from Mr.

*Gordon* of Roxbury, his Thanksgiving Discourses,<sup>13</sup> and above 20 Books and Pamphlets. One of which is *Scudder's* daily walk etc. Those young Gentlemen, after drinking Coffee, Set out on their Journey towards Brookfield etc.

1775 March 16 (Thursday). *Public Fast* (agreeable to the Recommendation of the Congress) on Consideration of the Times, and the Season of the Year. A.M. delivered to p. 7, with various Alterations and additions, Sermon on 1 K. 8.57 and P.M. carried on the Discourse, upon this Text, and the two next v. 58, 59, with new Composition. May it please a Merciful and gracious God to Shew Mercy, and hear us in our Confessions and Supplications and bless the word to us! N.B. Mrs. *Eunice Rice's* Confession was read to the Congregation and she was restored to Charity. I would render Thanks that this is got over without Quarrell. After I was gone out of the Meeting House, Deacon *Bond*, the Town Clerk (previously requesting me that he might have Opportunity for it) read a Paper from a Number of Committees of Correspondence at and near Boston etc.

1775 March 17 (Friday). The *Town Met* upon the Affair contained in the Paper last men[tioned?]. Nigh the Evening came a Number of the Committee of Correspondence, viz. Messrs. Daniel Forbes, Joseph Baker, Thomas Bond, and Joseph Harrington; to invite me to a Lecture to be preached at Worcester on the 28th instant to the County Congress. Mr. Harrington tarries in the Eve and talks with Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ on the uproar against Mr. Eli Forbes last Lords day. Breck returned from Boston. He came Via Concord, and brought his Brother Williams Daughter Lydia, though the roads are very Snowy.

1775 March 18 (Saturday). Mrs. Surcombs Negro, *Caesar*, here with an Indian Woman whom he calls his Wife. She said her former name was *Betty Speen*. After their Eating some Dinner, they left us to go to *Amasa Maynards* but have little Reason to think they did.

1775 March 19 (Sunday). A.M. on Heb. 12.2. P.M. on Judg. 11.35 to p. 5. Deacon Bond, old Mrs. Kelley, Miss Suse Brigham dined with us. The Lords Supper was administered. N.B. Mr. Batheric, and Eli Whitney went out. Old Mr. *Whitney*, Capt. *Jonas Brigham*, Benjamin Tainter and Ebenezer Chamberlin junior were not at Meeting. But I am informed that Mrs. *Susan Harrington* (Eli's Wife) was at Communion and yet I suppose it was on Account of her non-Admission, that Six members above mentioned absented themselves.

1775 March 20 (Monday). Training of the Minute Men. People are variously tossed in their Minds about the public state. My Son Baldwin came from Brookfield and lodges here. He tells me his Wife is in a comfortable State now, though so often under great Infirmary.

1775 March 21 (Tuesday). He goes to *Boston*. I rode to Southborough. One *Theodore Turner* accompanys me part of the way. He was enquiring after *Asa Ware*. I dined at Mr. *Stones*. Lt. *Lyscombe* of Brookfield there, and defends the People there in the Dismissing Mr. Forbes. He

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<sup>13</sup>William Gordon, *A Discourse Preached in the Morning of December 15th 1774* (Boston, 1775). Evans 14,070. ????

says it was owing to Mr. Forbes's desiring it, whereas he believes 3 4th of the Parish had rather he would have stayed. And that it was Mr. Forbes's Request that the Causes and Reasons might not be Searched into. In my returning home I called to see old Mr. *Gale*, confined to his Bed, by the Rheumatism. Prayed with him: also old Mrs. Forbush under her Cancer: and prayed with her.

1775 March 22 (Wednesday). Dr. Hawes goes to the Provincial Congress at Cambridge. A Second Letter from my Son Forbes at Boston, that his Wife has gone through a Second Dressing by the hard Plaister and "by appearance these two have en[crusted?] the Schirrous Tumor about 1/4 of an inch. This dead mass must be separated from the live Flesh by digestive lenient Dressings before another hard Dressing is applied: which will require a Week or ten Days."

1775 March 23 (Thursday). Write to Mr. *Cushing* by Mr. Joseph Perry of Ashburnham and inclose Mr. Lawrence's Note of 3£ lawful Money and leave it at Dr. Hawes for him. Visited old Mrs. Bruce, under the Dropsie, and her Grandson *Asa* Sick of a Fever -- prayed with them. Mr. *Caleb Harrington* raises an House near the End of my Beeton Field.

1775 March 24 (Friday). In preparation for an intended Journey to *Boston*, was at Deacon *Woods* for some of his Wife's Assistance. Received another Letter from Mr. *Forbes*, dated the 20th (the Day before the last, which was the 21st) that "moment" whilst She was actually "under the painfull Operation of the 2d *hard Plaister*, and is as full of pain as She can well bear, though She endures (he writes) with more patience and fortitude than I feared. The Doctor says all Things work very kindly, and he doubts not with the Blessing of God he shall be able to effect a Cure: but will require some time, at least two Months. At present she is extremely agitated. Last Night she had no sleep, and this Night (Sabbath 2 o'Clock) She has been much worse -- but by the help of an Anodyne she gets a little sleep -- hope She will be supported and carryed through -- I am encouraged, but verily Sir, it is hard Work -- and we hope in God." "Six o'Clock in the Morning. We have got through the Night. It has been pritty distressing, though through the great Goodness of God mine and your dear *Molly* has had several refreshing Naps of Sleep, and is now Comfortable -- and does not expect to have any more of these hard Plaisters for a Week or ten Days, and I hope the worst is past. However, Sufficient to the Day is the Evil thereof."

1775 March 25 (Saturday). My son William came from Concord.

1775 March 26 (Sunday). A.M. on Ps. 119.106 but went on with sermon on Judg. 11.35. P.M. on Heb. 12.2. Mrs. Maynard dined here.

1775 March 27 (Monday). My Son William and his Daughter Lydia here, but intends to return to Concord to day. Mrs. P \_\_\_\_\_ and I undertake our Journey to Boston. We had Mr. Tainters Horse and Chaise. Called at Mr. Stones and desired him if he should be sent for by those concerned, to attend the Funeral of old Mrs. *Bruce*, who dyed on the 26th, aged 88 and

one Day.<sup>14</sup> We called at Col. Buckminsters and were well refreshed. At Brother *Browns*, at Mrs. Goddards, at Capt. *Brewers*. Put up and lodged at Mr. Adams's at Roxbury.

1775 March 28 (Tuesday). We ride into *Boston*, though 'tis Said the Small Pox spreads. Went to Mrs. *Holbrooks*. Put up at Bracketts: hastened to Samuels to see Mrs. *Forbes*. She was under the lenient Plaister -- was calm and easy. I saw the sore dressed. Mr. Forbes, Samuel and I dined at Squire *Shaws*, being invited there to eat *Moose*, which was brought from *Goldsborough*. P.M. Visit my Brother and prayed with him -- Mr. Coverly, Cousen *Oliver*, Capt. *Bradford*, who is Sick -- Mrs. *Tyler*, who has had a fit of Sickness, and is grown sober -- visit also sister *Rebecca* and her Neeeces, *Jarvis's*. Lodged at Samuels.

1775 March 29 (Wednesday). Went to Mr. *Hicks's* Printing Office; presents me with a Register. Viewed the K's Troops marching up School street, and went up to their parade. Visit Mrs. *Surcomb*. Dined at my Kinsmans, *Elias*, in *Cornhil*, his Wife had newly laid in. P.M. Visit Dr. *Mather* -- return to Samuels. Mrs. *Forbes* has Comfort, and is cheerfull. We lodged there.

1775 March 30 (Thursday). In the early Morning there was a noise of 4 Regiments marching out of Town, under Earl *Piercy*. And because every body was ignorant of the Design, all were full of Conjectures. The most imagined they were bound to *Concord*, to disperse the Congress sitting there, or to Challenge the Stores, laid up in the Court House. But after a short Space, the Mistery was disclosed. They turned toward Dedham, and after about 5 mile march to *Jamaica Plain*, they returned. Went to Mr. Quincy's, and to Lecture. Mr. *Lathrop* preached on Heb. 12.16. *Esau* sold his Birthright. N.B. Dr. *Mather* delivered me a letter from himself concerning the Troubles in Westborough. Dined at *Samuels*. P.M. we left Boston. Stopped at the House of Mr. Daniel Whitney -- and having visited my Cousen Loyd (who boards at Capt. *Barnards*), lodged there (at *Whitneys*). N.B. his F. Capt. *Daniel Whitney* dyed about 5 weeks agoe.

1775 March 31 (Friday). Sat out from Mr. *Whitneys*. The Horse was so very dull that we did not get home -- but dined at Deacon *Browns*; called at Col. *Buckminsters* and the Evening being Cold, we lodged at Mr. *Stone's*. Thus Ends another Month. The Lord teach me true Wisdom.

1775 April 1 (Saturday). We were informed at Mr. Stones that Mr. *Sumner* preached a Military Lecture at *Marlborough* last Thursday. We called at Mr. *Gales* partly to bear a Message from Mrs. *Surcomb* concerning her *Caesar*, who had left his Mistress's Horse there, and was upon Charge; partly to see old Mr. *Gale* and his wife; and to receive also a present of fine Carrotts. About 10 a.m. we arrived at home and found all well. D.G. N.B. *Breck* and *Sophy* went last Thursday to *Marlborough* Lecture. The Text, Ps. 144.1. Mr. *Fish* has preached at *Worcester*, last Tuesday. 8 Ministers present, but neither Mr. *Sumner*, nor Mr. *Peter Whitney*. The Text, I hear, was Ps. 11.3.

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<sup>14</sup>Not in *Westborough Vital Records* or in *Southborough Vital Records*. Her husband, Lt. Bruce, died Dec. 2, 1774, "nigh 81" (death not in *WVR*).

1775 April 2 (Sunday). Preached a. and P.M. on Ps. 119.106, but used the sermons on *Judg.* 11.35 and finished those Discourses. Miss Suse Brigham and Miss Abigail Woods dined here. Received a paper Signed by Deacon *Bond* requesting in behalf of many, that the Church Meeting, which was adjourned to tomorrow, might be deferred till Tuesday, because two Companys are appointed to Train tomorrow. I acquainted the Church with it, and that therefore I should expect them on Tuesday at 1 o'Clock P.M. instead of Monday. It was consented to.

1775 April 3 (Monday). *Training* of two of the Companys. The *Minute Men* and the (more Elderly) *Alarm Men*. P.M. Master *Cornelius Waters* made us a Visit. He has preached. He shewed me his Certificat Signed by the Association South of us. Ten of them. He lodges here.

1775 April 4 (Tuesday). Having lately received from Mr. *Moore*, I wrote to him and Sent it by *Breck* to *Ammadons* in *Mendon*. Mr. *Waters* left us. P.M. was Church-Meeting. The Weather Cold -- and Snowed, so that I was very uncomfortable during all the time of the Meeting, which was protracted to such length that we were glad when it was over. The principal Things that were done, were voting to admonish and suspend Mr. *Fay*: and hear two papers which the Brethren had drawn up, of the Nature of *Resolves* -- but which were so crude and unripe -- but brokenly writ, and neither signed nor dated -- that we did not act any thing upon them. In this Meeting I read Dr. *Samuel Mathers* Letter to me. I was weary of Such Meetings, and there was a motion to dissolve, but the vote to *adjourn* again, prevailed. Adjourned to this day 3 Weeks. Our Troubles Seem to increase, and from no cause that I know of, but deep prejudice, and misunderstanding. Which unhappily, a great number Seem to be very Strangely under the power of. May a gracious God pity us, and especially His own dear Cause and Interest among us! I beg the gracious presence of God with me under so grievous Tryals. May I be Shewn why I am thus Sorely corrected and chastized. May I be directed what to do, may I be assisted and supported; may I be in God's own Time delivered! But I can't but be affected to see my dear Brethren of the Church, Such a Number of them, of So contentious a Disposition, with one who would fain be at Peace with them. Ps. 120.7. May God grant 'em to see what they do, and give them a better Mind! Mr. *Thomas Adams* of Medfield came, late in the Evening and Snow storm; Cold; brought a Number of Books with him: Lodges here.

1775 April 5 (Wednesday). A Winter scene. Mr. *Adams* tarrys and endeavours to change divers Books with me. He gives me The Modern Edition in Quarto of Mr. *Thomas Nortons* Translation of *Calvins Institutions*, for *Whistons* Theory of the Earth, and *Hasselquists* Travels into the Levant: and the first Volume of *Weemse's* Works (to complete my set); for which I let him have Dr. *Edw. Hyde* on Christ and his Church 4to and the famous Book of *Bertram* of the Body and Blood of Christ. We also lend reciprocally several other Books. N.B. He gave me Mr. *Barrys* Reviving Cordial<sup>15</sup> -- to make up for the brokenness of *Calvins Institutions* in Folio Latin.

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<sup>15</sup>James Barry (fl. 1660), *A Reviving Cordial for a Sin-Sick Despairing Soul* (5th ed.; Boston, 1774; Evans 13,134).



1775 April 6 (Thursday). Mr. *Adams* leaves us. P.M. Mrs. *Hitty Brigham* here to desire me to write a Letter for her to her son *Moses*<sup>16</sup> at Dartmouth College.

1775 April 7 (Friday). *Theodore Turner* came from *Wrentham*, and engages *Asa Ware* to go and live with the Widow *Ware* for a Year, at the wages of 120£ Old Tenor. P.M. one of my Cows, having got her Horn in the Hay Rack which stands abroad, an Ox came and hooked her; upon which she wrenched off the Horn, and left the Pith naked. A Letter from Mr. *Cushing*.

1775 April 8 (Saturday). Fresh alarming News of more regular Forces coming from *England*, and the Distresses of *Boston*; So that people are moving out of Town. *John Fitch Wight*, a youth, came from *Norwich* and lodges here. Mr. *Nathan Fisher* comes at 11 o'Clock at Night very much affrighted by what Dr. *Hawes* (who has come from the Provincial Congress at *Concord*) relates to him of the public Troubles.

1775 April 9 (Sunday). I have not begun again to read the scriptures publicly by reason of Some of the people, who are disquieted with it. Preached on *Heb. 12.2*. N.B. Young *Wight* went to *Hopkinton* in the Morning. P.M. On *Gal. 1.3*, Sermon 1, accommodating the Discourse to the present Times, which are more and more distressing. May the Lord prepare us for His holy Will! A Letter from my son *William*.

1775 April 10 (Monday). We are full of disquieting Apprehensions about the Speedy arrival of four Regiments more of royal Forces. *Training*. Miss *Suse Brigham* continues here making stays. Write to Mr. *Moore* and to *William* -- to Mr. *Forbes* and Mr. *Cushing*.

1775 April 11 (Tuesday). I went to Dr. *Hawes* in the morning going to the Congress, and talked with him with great Seriousness. Went to Lt. *Bakers*, and other Houses of the Street. Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ to Capt. *Maynards*. I engaged Mr. *Whipple* to grind another Load of Grain. Mr. *Marrit* of *Woburn* called to see me, having been at Mr. Benjamin *Tainters* for his Money, but in vain.

1775 April 12 (Wednesday). This Day was designed to be Lecture Day at *Southborough* and Mr. *Fitch* to preach to the Minute Men. Our Minute Men were invited, and Mr. *Barnabas Newton* and Joseph *Harrington* joining together propose to give them an early Dinner. To which Entertainment Mr. *Newton* had asked me: But it proved a stormy Day, both Snow and Rain, inasmuch that Mr. *Bond* and Mr. *Wheelock* came from Mr. *Newtons* to me, and Capt. *Edmund Brigham* likewise, to consult and conclude concerning the putting it by for to Day, and renewing the Appointment to be at some other time. Received a large and pertinent Letter on the Times, from Mr. *Quincy*.

1775 April 13 (Thursday). Hearing that Mrs. *Flagg* of *Boston* was come up to *Gales* after *Caesar* (her Mother *Surcombs* Negro) and was detained there by the storm, I rode down there, in the

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<sup>16</sup>Moses Brigham was born May 31, 1753, the son of Moses and Mehitabel (Grouy) Brigham; Westbrough Vital Records, 27.

Morning; but she and two sons with her (*Thomas* and *Richard Surcomb*) were gone. Therefore I visited in the South East Corner. Was at Mr. *Snows*, widow *Bellows's*; and then (which was my chief Design) went to see Mr. *Ezra Baker* who is sick of a Fever. Discoursed and prayed with him. Dined there also. Was at Mr. *Bellows's* -- at *Ebenezer Chamberlins*, and at *Artemas Bruce's*.

1775 April 14 (Friday). *Suse Brigham* making Stays here yet.

1775 April 15 (Saturday). A Letter from Mr. *Forbes* (by *Ripley*, who is come to us from *Boston* and *Cambridge*) that on the 13th the Remainder of the Cancer in my Daughters Breast came out in a *Body*, near of the Bigness and Shape of a Sheeps Kidney -- the Breast in an healing way. All Praise and Thanks to the glorious God our Healer! *Ripley* tarrys with us.

1775 April 16 (Sunday). Preach a.m. on *Mat.* 16.16 but go on with the Discourse on *Heb.* 12.12. *Ripley* and *Suse Brigham* with us. P.M. on *Rev.* 1.7 to p. 8. Which may God be pleased to bless to all of us!

1775 April 17 (Monday). *Ripley* leaves us to go to *Brookfield*. The Minute Men were entertained at Mr. *Barnabas Newtons*. By his Invitation I was there with them. They were invited by *Southborough* Soldiers to join with them to Day, as a Sermon was to be preached there. They accordingly marched there. I rode to the Exercise, and Mr. *Fitch* preached on *Ps.* 144.1. To general good acceptance. *Marlborough* minute Men were there in Arms also. The Ministers were handsomely escorted to and from the Meeting House. Two sergeants came after the Exercise and presented Mr. *Fitch* with upwards of Four Dollars for his Services, which he received, and they hastily returned to them that Sent them. Mr. *Stone* and I walked out to see the Company's. I came home in safety. D.G.

1775 April 18 (Tuesday). I could not go to Ministers Meeting at *East Sudbury*. I had no Horse. *Breck* goes his Journey upon his, to *Boston*. But it was also a very stormy and wet forenoon. My Son could not set out till 2 P.M. At Eve I walk'd to Deacon *Woods* to borrow Oxen for plowing.

1775 April 19 (Wednesday). Mr. *Joseph Bond* with his Cattle, [*illegible*] *Lamb*, with *Nathan Maynards*, Deacon *Woods* Oxen with my own, plowed the rest of the Mid field. I with Mrs. *Wood*, in her Chair, rode over to *Northborough* expecting Lecture -- but the world was full of Alarms -- the Regulars (twas Said) had marched last night, and were gone to *Concord* -- had killed six men at *Lexington* -- posts were flying to rally the Minute Men every where. Dined at Mr. *Whitneys* as did *Rev. Jacob Rice* and his Wife. There was no Lecture. I took a Copy of the Express, Signed by *Thomas Gardner*, and \_\_\_\_\_ *Palmer* -- Committee, viz. *Watertown*, Wednesday morn 9 o'Clock. Was at Mrs. *Bass's* -- but we hastened home. Our Minute Men under Capt. Edmund *Brigham* had marched. Capt. *Seth Morse* with his Men marched. *Asa Ware* was with them. May the Lord of Hosts go with them and grant them Salvation! The *Grafton* men passed along in the Eve. Mr. *Grosvenor* stops and lodges. A watch of 5 Men

through the night at the Meeting House. We are anxious and distressed for the Events at *Concord*. *In the [Moment?] (of Trouble) may the Lord be Seen!*

1775 April 20 (Thursday). Deacon *Merriam* having been to *Concord* last Eve, returns this morning, and relates that the K's Troops had been there, and did much Mischief -- at the magazine in *Special*; to Flower, Ordnance, Ammunition, Houses (Several set on Fire), a number on both sides Slain. But the Regulars returned to *Boston*. A Number of Dead Bodies, chiefly of them (as was conceived) Scattered in the Road. We are waiting for further Accounts. *Elias* came this Morning from Mr. *Goddards* -- yesterday from *Brookfield* on foot. Mr. *Grosvenor* rides down the Road with Resolution to See what he can, of the Present State. The Select Men are at the Meeting House, preparing and distributing ammunition. I catechized Boys (though but 16) a.m. Dr. *Langdon* calls to see me in his Return from *North Kingston* and dines here. P.M. Catechized little Girls -- only 5 came. It is a Day of so great Trouble that it swallows up People's Thoughts. Men are marching down toward *Concord* [again?]. The News we have is very *penetrating*. At Eve came Mr. *Thomas Whitney*, who had rid down as far as *Charleston*. He has Seen the Sad Effects of hot Assaults and Skirmishes. The Account that the Roads for a great way were strowed with dead Men, is confirmed.

1775 April 21 (Friday). In the Morning *Breck* came home, having rid in the Night. Relates that he met with Difficulty in getting out of *Boston* -- was Stopped and searched three times -- his sword and Pocket Pistol were taken away -- but with much Trouble and after going back into Town and obtaining a [illegible] from Coll. *Hamilton*, they were restored. He went to *Cambridge*. Saw the great Multitudes that were gathering. He saw Mr. *John Hicks* of *Cambridge* buried without Ceremony -- and four men who were slain there, were buried in one Grave. Capt. *Maynard* came to See me and relate to me the Remarkables he saw of the Contest Yesterday. Men are continually marching.

1775 April 22 (Saturday). *Ripley* comes in the Morning from *Brookfield* on Mr. *Forbes's* Horse, I wrote by *Ripley* to Brother *Champney* at *Cambridge*, designing to find *him* out, for we know not where he is. *Breck* has informed that he went out of *Boston* with his Wife, but knew not where he was going. *Woodstock* and *Pomfret* Men are hastening down. P.M. *Adam Rice* and a Number with him from the Parish of *Amhirst*, were here, hastening down. Mr. Bowman of *Oxford* here -- wants to Change but I am pre-engaged. He was designed for *Boston* to get out a Friend from thence, but we hear that none are suffered to go out or go in to the unhappy Town. He returns to go back to *Sutton*. Mr. *Grosvenor*, we hear, tarrys at *Cambridge*, with his people of *Grafton*. At Eve come a Number of *Pomfret*, viz. *Edward Craft*, *Ephraim Herrick*, *Abner Allen*, and *Jonathan Sangor*, of Capt. *Zebadiah Ingols* Company, and lodge here. The Company stay at Deacon *Woods*. Among many Stories which we hear, we understand that *Marshfield* is burnt. The Times are more and more Calamitous.

1775 April 23 (Sunday). The said Soldiers, having eat Breakfast here, left us; and two more came, viz. *Appleton Osgood* and *Joseph Bowman* from the Same Town, and had Breakfast among us. I rode to *Northborough*. At the Widow *Martyns* a multitude from *South Hadley* marching to *Cambridge*. I gave them (the soldiers) a Serious Exhortation and Caution.

Preached a. and P.M. on *Prov.* 18.10. May a gracious God add His efficacious Blessing! Mr. *Whitney* preached for me a. and P.M. on *1 Cor.* 7.29.30. In my returning at Eve I went to Mr. *Bass's* who having come up lately from *Cambridge* might be able to advise me as to the Method of getting my Son Samuel and his Wife and Children, or my *Brother*, out of *Boston*. But he assured me there was no Such Thing could be done; as to go in or come out. N.B. Mrs. *Spring* and her Children lodge here ever since her Husband went to *Cambridge*. Neighbour B. *Newton* who went down with a Wagon with necessarys for the People who are gone with all haste (by the Will of God) to the Resistance against the King's [*illegible*] Parliament, Forces, returned this Evening.

1775 April 24 (Monday). I have bought a Kegg of *Rum* of Lieut. *Baker* of Nine Gallons. A Company from New *London* march by -- another from *Hartford* ride by towards *Cambridge*.

1775 April 25 (Tuesday). Mr. Gad *Williston* of *Springfield* at Breakfast. I wrote to the *Westborough* Companys at *Cambridge*. *Breck* receives Orders from the Captain to go to the Minute Company. Mr. *Daniel Breck* comes from *Springfield* with a Letter from Brother *Breck*. He lodges here. As do Sergeant *Cushman* and *John Mead*, Soldiers of *Coventry*. *Suse Brigham* went away.

1775 April 26 (Wednesday). The Soldiers join their Company. At the Request of the Officers of the *Mansfield* and *Coventry* Companys I prayed with them. *Breck* leaves us to go to *Cambridge*. Mr. *Daniel Breck* goes with him. Wrote by him to *Samuel*. A *Windham* Company march by. Spent some Time in *Extraordinary Devotion* by reason of the public Troubles. May God graciously hear and Answer! Watches are kept Every night at the Meeting House. Mrs. *Spring* and her Children are still here.

1775 April 27 (Thursday). *Sophy* keeps *Brecks* shop her Self; neither did any body Lodge in the Store last night. Many Country Soldiers return back. We hear that to Day the Leaders are trying who, among the many Thousands assembled, will be *Volunteers*, and enlist; for as much as if there Should not appear enough that enlist, they must proceed to *press*. *Boston* (we hear) is shutt up, and their Army Secured.

1775 April 28 (Friday). The last night was very restless to me, viewing the increase of our Troubles -- *Boston* close shut up, and the inhabitants in the utmost Danger. Not a [*illegible*] for my Son and Brother etc. In the morning walked up to Lt. [*Bakers?*] to Speak with *Aaron Warrin*, son of Deacon *Jonas Warrin* of *Upton*. Agreed with him to live with me and do my work six months for 75£ old Tenor. He begins to Day -- and I am to let him have a few Things out of my sons Shop pritty Soon; also Some Money once in a while, if he shall need it (when he has earned it) and he is not to disappoint me. A Small Company of Soldiers from *Norfolk*, which I wait on with Drink before my Door. At Eve come Mr. *Loyd*, his Wife and three Children, *William*, *Samuel Parkman*, and *Sally*, going to *Branford*. No Watch at the meeting House to night. *Sophy* has a Letter from *Breck*, that he inclines to 'list, but has not. He thinks to return home. N.B. An Admirable Company from *New Haven*, under Capt. *Benedict Arnold*, have marched down. But many Soldiers are daily returning home to *Connecticut*.

1775 April 29 (Saturday). Mr. *Loyd* etc. tarry with us. A number of Soldiers returning to Ashford are refreshed here. Numberless Reports -- many of which are groundless. But we conceive my Son and Daughter *Forbes* are at Capt. *Coffins* at *Gloucester*. P.M. *Breck* returned home, and was well.

1775 April 30 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on *Isa.* 45.22 but carryed on the subject on *Heb.* 12.2. P.M. on Rev. 1.7 with alterations to the Times. N.B. Miss *Suse Brigham* came last night, which made the ninth person besides my own Family -- so that we are to day 18. May the word and Providence of God be accompanied with his holy Spirit for our thorough awakening and preparation for His holy will!

1775 May 1 (Monday). A most admirable spring Season. Thanks to God! [*blot*] *Public Distress increases*. The Inhabitants of *Boston* are getting out of it, but with great Difficulty. Mr. *Loyd* leaves his Wife and three Children here, and the Chaise they came in, and goes to try to get into *Boston* that he may get out his Goods and Effects. I wrote by him to Mr. *Thomas Bailey* (who has the Care of my Brother) recommending it to him to remove him to his Son *Bradshaws* at *Stoughtonham*. I gave Mr. *Loyd* 50/ to pay *Edes* and *Gill* for the News. Afterwards heard they had moved out of *Boston*.

1775 May 2 (Tuesday). Prec. and Jejun. From Day to Day fresh Accounts of the Troubles at *Boston* etc. One *Asa Cheney*, of the Provincials, a Soldier at *Roxbury* belonging to *Medfield* Company, was accidentally shot by the Gun of another last Friday, and dyed next Morning. Mrs. *Spring* goes with her Children, to live at home.

1775 May 3 (Wednesday). Rev. Mr. *Gordon* of *Roxbury* is here with us at Breakfast. Informs me that his Wife and her Maid are gone to *Philadelphia*: his Library is carryed to Mr. *Welds* of *Attlebury*. He comes from *Worcester* this Morning, and is returning to *Roxbury*. *Connecticut* and other soldiers are continually coming back from *Cambridge* and *Roxbury*. Some that have enlisted come home to prepare themselves to join the Army for Continuance in the Service.

1775 May 4 (Thursday). My Neighbour *Spring* returns home, but is to go to *Cambridge* again. *Sophy* rides to *Northborough* to improve Mr. *Bass* in getting a Letter to my son *Samuel*. Mr. *Mellen* here. He informs me that a News Paper is published at *Worcester*.

1775 May 5 (Friday). *Ripley* from *Cambridge* here. Certifies that my Daughter *Forbes* at *Cape-Ann*, recovers apace. He goes to *Brookfield*. I sent by him my subscription for *Worcester News Paper*.

1775 May 6 (Saturday). Mr. *Spring* returns to *Cambridge*. My son *John* came from *Lancaster*. Is an Invalid. *Asa Ware* came for his Note of Hand from me for 10£ lawfull money -- [therefore?] being [*blank*] £ which I remain indebted to him -- and [*blank*] £ for *Breck* for which he gives me Credit in my Account. Mr. *Fitch* calls here in his way to *Shrewsbury*.

1775 May 7 (Sunday). I preached on *Heb.* 12.2 and administered the Lords Supper. Capt. *Brigham* and Mr. *Tainter* were at Meeting but went out. Mr. *Batheric* not at meeting a.m. but came P.M. So did Mr. *Daniel Forbes* (he comes from *Shrewsbury*). Was at Meeting P.M. Mrs. *Maynard* dines here, as does *Crosby* (from College). P.M. I went on with the Repetition of Sermon on *Gal.* 1.3. May the Lord Himself Pity and Pardon us, and bless His holy Institutions to us!

1775 May 8 (Monday). Mr. *Fitch* returns from *Shrewsbury*; Mr. *Sumner* preached (as I conclude) for Mr. *Mellen*. Mr. *Mellen* went to *Hopkinton*. P.M. Came Mr. *Eli Whitney* to see me, and invite me to the raising of his Barn tomorrow; which considering the great Duty of preparing for the Fast, I Should have soon excused my self from attending upon it, but this Token of Respect from Him, at this time, is very engaging.

1775 May 9 (Tuesday). In the morning came my Son *Baldwin* from Mr. *Gales* Tavern, whither he came last night from *Cambridge*. N.B. I gave him 25/ old Tenor, to be delivered to Mr. *Isaiah Thomas*, Printer at *Worcester*, for his *Spy*. *Moses Brigham* is about to return to *Dartmouth* College; improve therefore the Opportunity by him, to write to Mr. *Cushing* of my Cousen *Loyds* Consent to the proposal made by my Daughter to *take* her *Nabby*, of 9 years old, to live with her. Mr. *Isaac Pratt* of *Worcester* and his Wife came in to see us and dined here. P.M. I rode to Mr. *Nathaniel Whitneys*, agreeable to his son's invitation when they raised a Barn of 65 feet long; and without any Disaster; Blessed be God! Plentifull Entertainment after work, And in peace; no lisp of any Jarrs. May God be praised for this also!

1775 May 10 (Wednesday). *Elias* works with *Aaron* in the Planting, as he has been chiefly assisting him in the Business of the season, since he came from *Brookfield*. *William Bradford*, my Young Kinsman, came from Dr. *Willsons* of *Hopkinton*, having come from *Boston* last Saturday on Foot with Capt. *John Tyler* of *Boston*, and brought me a Letter from his Father, of their very distressed Condition -- and that he, [*blot*] etc., intend, if possible, to go to *Bristol*. He brings also another Letter from my Son *Samuel* of the 6th, in which he says, "I can form no Idea of the Distress of the people of that Town, and the Amazing Difficulty of obtaining Permitts to get into the Country." May God most gracious and Mercifull look upon their Afflictions, and grant His almighty Grace to prepare them for His holy Will!

1775 May 11 (Thursday). *Publick Fast*, recommended by the Congress, on Account of the present Distresses; and the Meeting of the *General Congress* at *Philadelphia*. In the morning Several Teams, that had carryed Goods to *Grafton* or further, were returning; one of the drivers was Mr. *John Coburn* of *Brookline*. I committ to him my son *Samuels* Letter, to be delivered to *Breck* at *Cambridge* least *Breck* has missed of the Letter, which *Samuel* depends upon his receiving. I met with too many Interruptions in my studys to be able to finish the Preparations I endeavoured to make for this peculiar and important Fast. I was desirous indeed to preach one part of the Day on 1 *Pet.* 5.6. But I found it necessary to preach on it, both parts of the Day. May God graciously accept the *Humiliations*, the *Supplications* and [*Instructions?*] and Pity and relieve His People. *John* droops: is too poorly to go to Meeting.

1775 May 12 (Friday). [No entry.]

1775 May 13 (Saturday). I rode down through our South East Corner to *Hopkinton* to Dr. *Wilson*. Called at Capt. *Clarks* to See him. He has been confined to his Bed by reason of a Fall - in which his Hip bone was greatly injured. Mrs. *Cotton* also was not well. I dined there. Young *Stimson* took Capt. *Clarks* Horse and rode to one Mr. *Alexanders* to bring up *William Bradfords* Bundle, which was Supposed to be brought there from *Charlestown* with Goods of [Capt.?] *John Tyler* of *Boston*. But it was not there. Went to Mr. *Fitch's*, and he to *Westborough*. Visit at Mr. *Barretts* where is Mr. *Bowen*, his wife and Child, who with Difficulty have escaped out of *Boston*. Lodged at Mr. *Fitch's*.

1775 May 14 (Sunday). Preached at *Hopkinton* a. and P.M. on *Judg. 2.10.11.12*. I baptized *Lawson*, of *Samuel* and *Hannah Haven*. N.B. Mr. *William Blair Townshend* was there, having removed from *Boston*, to *Cambridge* first -- and afterwards to *Hopkinton*. At Eve I returned home unhurt through divine Goodness, and may God forgive what was amiss and be pleased to bless my poor Labors! Mr. *Fitch* went home. He preached a.m. on *Heb. 10.24*, P.M. on *Exod. 15.18*. He Baptized *Elisha*, of *Abijah* and *Susanna Gale*, and *Aaron* of *Joseph* and *Ruth Harrington*. When I came home found my Daughter in Law, *Sally*, and her Son *Samuel* here. Also *Edward Procter* who waited on her. A Letter also from my son (*Samuel*) concerning his Troubles and Difficultys-- what goods are got over to *Charlestown*, and a Team to bring them up; etc.

1775 May 15 (Monday). Young *Procter* returned to *Charlestown*, in the Chaise he came up in. Capt. *Amariah Williams* and Mr. *Turner* of *Mansfield* returning from the Army, dined here. Mr. *James Godfry* rides to *Cambridge* on *Brecks* Mare for him to ride home upon.

1775 May 16 (Tuesday). Mr. *Joseph Wheeler* of *Harvard* at Breakfast with us. He is on his Journey to *Providence*.

1775 May 17 (Wednesday). *Breck* came home this morn, from *Cambridge*. Arrived about 1/2 after two o'Clock. He relates another Disaster by the accidental going off of a Gun. A *Stockbridge* man was killed by a fellow soldier. I visited Miss *Lois Burnap*, who lies at Lt. *Bakers*, under the unhappiness of a Broken Bone. Mr. *Bacon*, late Pastor of the *old South* at *Boston*, was here and dined. He is riding to *Connecticut*. By *Thomas's* Massachusetts Spy (which *John* returning from *Oxford* through *Worcester*, brings) we have an Account that *Ticonderogo* was lately taken out of the Hands of [the Regulars?], by *Connecticut* men.

1775 May 18 (Thursday). *Elias* goes part of the Way with Mr. *B. Newton* to drive Cattle to *Leicester* to *Alexanders* Pasture: one Cow, Two that are called two year olds, and three Yearlings. *William Bradford*, with a Letter to *Alexander*, concerning him, goes also.

1775 May 19 (Friday). There being no News of *Billy Bradfords* Bundle of Cloths etc. which was got out of *Boston* when he came out; and therefore I send *Elias* to Capt. *Tyler* and Mr.

*Alexander of Hopkinton* to see whether they had received it -- who send word that they had not. *Elias* borrowed of John Barrett, Davidsons Virgil Vol. 2. *Elias* returned at Eve.

1775 May 20 (Saturday). After long looking for Mr. *Loyd*, to day he came, and brought with him his Daughter *Nabby* (about 9 Years) and it makes my Family Somewhat numerous, to have the *Loyd* Addition (which are them Selves now Six) and John is still with us, drooping and almost unstrung. I am strictly employed in my preparations as these unhappy Times bespeak.

1775 May 21 (Sunday). Though I Spent much time on my Subject, and wrote a good many Pages, yet it was not So done as to be prepared to Preach it. I therefore took another Discourse, viz. on Ps. L, read a few of the first, a middle and final v. P.M. went on with the Same which (being the *[illegible]* for the Seasonableness thereof) I hope God will make profitable!

1775 May 22 (Monday). Town Meeting to choose a Member for the Provincial Congress: and to Choose a Committee of Correspondence. Mr. *Loyd*, his Wife, his Children (3 of them *Billy*, *Sammy* and *Sally*) left us to see whether they could journey upwards to *Leicester*.

1775 May 23 (Tuesday). I attended the Church-Meeting. See Church Records. N.B. Neither of the Papers which had been presented at the former meetings, but a new one of to Day, and never brought me before, but delivered me in the Time of the Meeting, containing 3 Articles -- all which were exceptionable, but as the present Torrent of Liberty is irresistible, I was obliged to condescend, [and] for Peace Sake, and to avoid a Rupture among us, Should be acted upon. The *First*, was phrased so as I thought could do no harm, and therefore with Remark upon it, it was suffered to pass. The *Second*, I Shewed my Sense of, and how Churches and particularly Members ought to proceed -- but it passed as the Framers of it pleased. The *Third* I shewed was against Platform and the Generality of the Writings of the Fathers of the Congregational way etc. and therefore I dissented -- pleading the unreasonableness of binding Ministers to do what was not [only?] against their Consciences -- that they may be assured I would not be obliged thereto. But it passed as they would have it. N.B. Brother *Tainter* made a motion to have the Votes recorded and read to the Church before they broke up -- which Motion I opposed and Resented. Several of the Church vindicated me, and resisted the Motion as groundless and injurious: neither could Mr. *Tainter* make any Defence. The Meeting was dissolved. May God forgive what has been displeasing in His Sight! and Commend Peace to this dear Flock -- through the Merits of Jesus Christ!

1775 May 24 (Wednesday). *John* undertakes to ride to *Lancaster*; *Breck* to *Medford*. I visited *Joseph Grout*, who is exceeding low -- dined there. Called to see Miss *Lois Burnap*, confined by Lameness Still. While I was gone *Alexander* came here, and brought his little Brother in law, *Ebenezer Brown*, who goes home to Deacon *Browns* at *Framingham* under the Care of the Mr. *Elisha Forbes*.

1775 May 25 (Thursday). My Wife and Daughter in Law walked to Mr. *Seth Morse's*. At Eve *Breck* came home: brought *Billy Bradfords* Bundle from Capt. Barnards of *Watertown*.



1775 May 26 (Friday). Mr. *Putnam* of *Pomfret*, in his way home, calls here. A very serious religious Man. *Alme Deus, teus prefice ubique Gregi!* Miss *Kezia Adams* came from *Holliston* and lodged here.

1775 May 27 (Saturday). Mrs. *Allen* of *Shrewsbury* and her son *Lewis* here. Miss *Kezia Adams* P.M. after Coffee returns to *Holliston*. I wrote by her to Mr. Thomas Adams for Bostons 4 fold state and Mason on self-Knowledge.

1775 May 28 (Sunday). Preached a. and P.M. on Rev. II.5. Before we entered the Meeting House P.M. we had news by two soldiers from Cambridge that there was yesterday P.M. and this morning, an Engagement of our people with the Regulars at *Hog Island*. Mrs. *Spring* and her Children lodge here.

1775 May 29 (Monday). Further Account of what Occurred at *Hog Island* and *Noddles Island* by our people from *Chelsey*, and Towns round about.

1775 May 30 (Tuesday). Sat out for *Watertown*, where the *Provincial Congress* is to sit. I had *Jonathan Maynards* Horse. Stopped at Mr. *Stones* and refreshed. Mr. *Leonard* of *Woodstock* and Several others overtook me. I dined at Mr. *Mat. Bridges*. Called at Mr. *Woodwards* -- drank Coffee at Mr. *Jacob Cushings*. I was at Eve greatly perplexed for Lodging. Went to Capt. *Tainters* at *Watertown* where I was kindly welcomed and entertained.

1775 May 31 (Wednesday). Rev. Dr. *Langdon* preached before the Congress at *Watertown*, on Isa. 1.26. A large Collection of Ministers. Our Convention (as our Dining was also) at *Coollidge's* Tavern on the South side of the Bridge. Dr. *Langdon* was chose Moderator. The Treasurer, Dr. *Eliot*, was not present: the Affairs of the Moneys, the Distribution of the Collections, and all the Accounts of the Funds, were deferred to another Time. The Congress having Shewn us great Respect, in providing for us, their President Dr. *Joseph Warrin* dining with us etc., the Convention chose a Committee to draw up an Address to them, and it was Sent by them. They were Dr. *Cooper*, Mr. [C?]hute, *Williams* of *Sandwich*, and *Bridge* of *Chelmsford*. Mr. *Cooke* was confirmed Preacher for the next Year. Dr. *Langdon* was chose his Second. The Convention Book of Accounts was delivered to Mr. *Maccarty*, to keep till Dr. *Eliot* (who is at present Shut up in *Boston*) may be able to receive it.

Old Mrs. *Hunt*, widow of the late Mr. *Samuel Hunt*, caused some body to ask me (as I was passing by) to be called in to her House, renewing old Friendship, with much endearing Regards. I again lodged at Capt. *Tainter's*. The Times are more and more alarming. May God most gracious Prepare His People for His holy Will!

1775 June 1 (Thursday). The Convention by the kind indulgence of the Congress, were favoured with the Meeting House, but that we might the less incommode them in their important Business, our Meeting was at 8 o'Clock in the morning. Mr. *Stevens* preached on *Mat. 24.46.47*. May it be followed with divine Blessing! After Exercise a Number of Ministers met together to ripen a Proposal made for Supplying the Army for Some time gratis, with Preaching by *Rotation*

(as it was termed) but I could not attend it. I was obliged to go to *Cambridge*. But before I went, I made Opportunity to Speak with an Officer who came Express from *Ticonderoga*, or thereabouts, with a Message to the Congress concerning the royal Forces at St. *Johns* and other Stations in *Canada*, purposing to make an Attempt to retake the Forts which the *Connecticut* People had Seized. I also Saw Mr. *Thomas Adams* of *Medfield*, who brought me Several Books according to agreement, viz. Bostons 4 fold State; *Mason* of Self Knowledge,<sup>17</sup> Life of Mr. *Whitefield*.<sup>18</sup> Dined at *Cambridge* at my Kinsman *Barrett's*. I hastened to the Camp, where a Number of the *Westborough* People were in Tents. I was also at Capt. *Wheelock's* Chamber, where were divers of the Officers of his Company besides, and several *Westborough* Neighbours. Was at Dr. *Langdon's* -- and thence I went to *Head Quarters* and saw Mr. Secretary *Ward*. I spoke of a *Pass* as I was going down to *Charlestown Ferry*, but he said there was no need. Yet I was Stopped by the Guards one time after another before I got into that Town. But there I met with an ingenuous young man, Mr. *Caleb Swan*, a friend of my son *Samuel* who greatly assisted me in sending a Letter to my son and getting a Return from him. He also did his utmost that I might lodge Comfortably at his F's House, though he could not as he desired, the Family and Goods being removed. I Slept there. Memorandum. I took a Walk to the North, over the Bridge, and down long Wharf, much affected with the Sorrowful Sight of empty Houses and solitary Streets!

1775 June 2 (Friday). In the Morning *Richard Cary* Esq. came to *Swan's* and took me to his House to *Breakfast*. Performed Family Prayers at each place. N.B. going down on the Ferry Wharf, had the B Prospect of the garrisoned, [devoted?] Town -- and several Men of War. It was said that some of our People from *Chelsey* burnt a Building at *Noddle's Island* -- and were otherwise endeavouring to annoy the Kings Forces. I saw the *Somerset* fire Several times at them. There was also firing from other Parts of the Harbour, as if a Number of Vessels were come in. Mr. *Hopkins* the Ferry-man, who took last Evening my *Letter* directed to my Son (and which was inspected by a person appointed for that Purpose) brought me an *Answer* at Capt. *Goodwins* where my Horse had been put up. From *Charlestown* came up to *Cambridge*. Dined at Capt. *Wheelocks* Chamber. Rode to Mrs. *Hicks* to Sympathize with her and her Children. Called upon Brother *Champney*. Hastened up to *Watertown*, but was Stopped again by a Guard. Was providentially relieved by Col. *Thomas Gardners* being at Hand, and gave Me a *pass*. N.B. I was in no wise aware of needing any, till I came to the place. I rode to Capt. *Barnards* in *Watertown*, and thence to Mr. *Bridge's* in *Sudbury*, where I lodged.

1775 June 3 (Saturday). N.B. In returning home, I wrote to Mr. *Jonathan Loring* for *Beards* Theatre of Gods Judgments, and left it to the Care of Capt. *Cyprian How* of *Marlborough*. Called to see Mr. *Smith* who is in a poor, dull and sorrowfull Condition. Came home in safety. Thanks to God who has protected and preserved both me and mine! But Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ has been poorly and had a fever. *Hannah* also is laid by with the like Disorder. My Son *Cushing* came -- lodged here.

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<sup>17</sup>The first American edition of John Mason (1706-1763), *Self Knowledge*, was not published until 1789 (first Worcester edition; Worcester, 1789; Evans 21,942).

<sup>18</sup>John Gillies (1712-1796), *Memoirs of the Life of...George Whitefield* (New York, 1774; Evans 13,298).

1775 June 4 (Sunday). He preached for Me on *Gen. 25.34* and P.M. on *Joh. 5.28.29*. Dr. *Joseph Joslin* dined here, and P.M. went to meeting with us, asking the Prayers of this people for him going into the Army (he says as Surgeon) and was dressed accordingly. He goes from us at Evening to *Grafton*. He gave me an half Crown sterling as his Contribution to the Minister. I gave it to Mr. Cushing. At Evening *Breck* returned from his Journey, in which he went to *Cape-Anne*, and saw his Sister *Forbes*, who is (through Gods Goodness) recovering apace. He relates that our Provincials have lately taken 400 Sheep from *Deer Island*.

1775 June 5 (Monday). My Son *Cushing* leaves us, in Order to go to *Ashburnham* but goes first to *Shrewsbury*; and takes with him *Nabby Loyd*, to live with them. As my Wife and Daughter were confined with sickness and had the Doctor with them Yesterday, so the like to day. Near Night came in, Mr. *Loyd* from his Fathers or Brothers in *Blandford*. He lodges here.

1775 June 6 (Tuesday). Mr. *Loyd* went from us to go to *Cape-Anne*. My Daughter *Baldwin*, attended by *Ripley* and *Eli Forbes*, came. They are going to *Cambridge* and *Gloucester* (or *Cape-Anne*). Mr. *Joseph Collidge* [*sic*] and his Wife, who have got out from *Boston* and live commonly at *Woburn*, came to see my Daughter *Sally* and her little Samuel. They dine with us. P.M. My Daughter *Baldwin*, *Ripley* and *Eli Forbes*, take leave and pursue their Journey. Mr. *Coolidge* in one Chaise, and *Breck* and *Sally* in another attempt to go to *Lancaster*, but the Axletree of Mr. *Coolidge's* Chaise broke. They fell, and returned and lodged here. Capt. *Thomas Mellen* of *Hopkinton* called to see Me.

1775 June 7 (Wednesday). Mr. *Coolidge* and wife, *Breck* and *Sally*, with the little Boy, after Dinner, go to *Lancaster*: But I Sat out for *Shrewsbury* a.m. on a visit to good Deacon *Miles*. I dined at Mr. Solomon Bakers and rode his Horse. Found the poor Deacon in his Cage -- he was free of Speech -- spoke many Sensible, becoming and religious Things. Dr. *Crosby* was with me, who ventured to let the Deacon out, and I prayed with him. I discoursed with his Children; Saw some of the Tokens of his Mischievousness: and plainly discerned Deliriousness. He went quietly into his Confinement again. O the Value of Reasoning Powers! Praise to God for mine! May God grant the Grace to improve what I am indulged with! Called to See Mrs. Knowlton -- Mr. Gershom Brighams Family: and would have seen Mr. *Samuel Fay* if he had been at home, or near the House, and took Dr. *Crosby* with me; but neither Mr. *Fay*, nor Wife, nor any body else, there.

1775 June 8 (Thursday). I visited at Lt. *Bakers* on consideration of the Great and unusual Trouble the Family was of late exercised by. It was this: On Thursday, the first Day of the Month, Mrs. *Baker* and a Number of the Children, after eating their Breakfast of Bread and Milk, were strangely affected; were taken with *Vomiting* and *Purging*; and with some of them it continued through the Day. Nor can they, any of them give any Account of what was the Cause, or what could Ail 'em. Mrs. *Baker* has also lately lost her Brother *John*, Mr. *John Death*, in the Army; on which Account I sympathize with her. Miss *Lois Burnap* is yet there, lying under Lameness. *Breck* and *Sally* return from *Lancaster*.

1775 June 9 (Friday). I have read the Memoirs of Capt. *Roger Clap* of Dorchester,<sup>19</sup> and who was for some time Captain of Castle *William*. A memorable Example of primitive Piety. Might such a spirit be reviv'd in this degenerate Age! Wrote to Mr. *Moore* after long Silence, and Sent it to Grafton for Conveyance.

1775 June 10 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1775 June 11 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on Isa. 65.1, but carried on the Discourse on *Heb.* 12.2. P.M. Delivered part of the Discourse on Ps. 62.8 to p. 6, inclusive. At Eve read to the Family most of the fervent Preface of Mr. R. *Baxter* to his Call to the unconverted,<sup>20</sup> which may God bless to us! While we were at Exercise came the Clerk of a large Company of Soldiers, from *Hartford*, with the Complements of Coll. *George Pitkin* and his Desire that I would go up to Deacon *Woods* where the Company was arrived, and pray with them. I went accordingly and complied with the Colonel's Desire. I invited him to lodge at our House out of the Noise, but he thought it best to lodge there that they might make less than otherwise they would be like to. We lodged four.

1775 June 12 (Monday). In the Morning Col. *Pitkin* again sent his Clerk with the like Request, the Company being Paraded before the meeting House. I went, and for Convenience of speaking stood on the steps of the Front Door. May the God of infinite Goodness and Pity hear our Supplication! It appeared to be a brave, well ordered Company of an 100. Their Musick was by two Drums, two Fifes and a Trumpet. The Lord of Hosts prosper them and return them with Joy! *Elias* I was obliged to send to *Leicester* with William *Bradford's* Cloths, they having lain too long at Capt. *Maynards* for Conveyance.

1775 June 13 (Tuesday). *Elias* returned. P.M. I conformed to Mr. *Jonathan Grouts* request to be at his House on Occasion of Raising a large *Barn*. At Eve signed an agreement with sundry Neighbours to go to *Worcester* by turns to fetch the News Paper weekly. [I?] Read Dr. *Watts* on the Name, *Son of God*, in his Book of useful and important Questions Concerning *Jesus the son of God*. [Notation at bottom of page: I think it was this Morning that I began to read the Bible again, in the Family.]

1775 June 14 (Wednesday). [No entry.]

1775 June 15 (Thursday). Capt. *Benjamin Fay* brought me the News Paper which comes now from *Worcester*, by vertue of the agreement above said. My Son *William* brought his son *Billy* and his Daughter *Suse* to stay with us a while in these threatenng Times. P.M. he left us. P.M. Mr. *Loyd* came from *Watertown* and brought his Daughter *Betty*. They tarry with us over night. At Eve came Mr. *Moore* and his Brother *Davis* from *Oxford*, and lodge here.

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<sup>19</sup>Roger Clap (1609-1691), *Memoirs of Captain Roger Clap* (Boston, 1766; Evans 10,261; and Boston, 1774; Evans 13,199).

<sup>20</sup>Richard Baxter (1615-1691), *A Call to the Unconverted* (Boston, 1702; Evans 1037; plus subsequent editions, 1717, 1720, 1731).

1775 June 16 (Friday). My Son *Samuel* came from *Charlestown*, having got out of *Boston* in Disguise as a Fisherman, and went to *Marblehead* and *Salem* -- from whence to *Charlestown* to take Care of Some Goods sent over there, and arrived here about a Quarter after One o'Clock this Morning. P.M. Capt. *Maynard* sends for me to go to his new Cleared Land, to treat with me about turning the high Way towards Mr. *Nurse's*. My Son *John* first bleeds at the Nose; at night he *Spits Blood*; or rather Coughs up, in considerable quantitys, *Blood*; and it holds him for some time; so that it was alarming to us! He has 4 or 5 turns of this by the Morning. We are greatly concerned for him.

1775 June 17 (Saturday). I went early to Dr. *Hawes* -- him we improve to relieve *John*, if under God he may. Mr. *Moore* being (D.V.) to preach, tomorrow, I read Dr. *Watts's* Useful and important Questions concerning *Jesus* the Son of God. Rev. Mr. *Bowman* comes from that part of the Army which is at *Roxbury* where has been as a Chaplain. Dined with us.

1775 June 18 (Sunday). News flies all abroad that a Body of Regulars have gone over to *Charlestown* yesterday P.M. An hot engagement at *Bunker's* Hill there: and *Burned* [the Town] and the *Meeting House* in Special. An awful Judgment of the Great God upon us! May the Lord pity the immediate sufferers! And prepare us for what *We our selves* may be called to undergo. Mr. *Moore* preached and prayed both parts of the Day. A.M. the Text was *Jer. 17.7*, P.M. *Mat. 15.8*. My son *John* was so weak and low that *Breck* went for Dr. *Willson*, who came, and Dr. *Hawes* consulted with him. Dr. *W.* dines here. We have asked public Prayers to Day; May it please God to hear and grant a gracious Answer! Towards Eve further News by Lt. *Baker* from below -- was that our People were forced to give way by reason of their want of Ammunition, Powder especially, and they were in want of Provisions also. My Son *Samuel* thought it wisest to [go] this Evening and ride to *Charlestown* Neck, to look after Goods which he had sent there from *Boston*. He rode as far as *Southborough*, where he Met his Father *Shaw* o'foot. He took him up into his Chaise, and returned here; and lodged with us.

[Notation at bottom of page: This Night We have 19 to lodge and 6 Horses in the Pasture.]

1775 June 19 (Monday). He sat out again, but left Brother *Shaw* here. Mr. *Moore* also left us. The News this Morning is, that our People in resisting have had a Number wounded -- viz. Capt. *Samuel Wood* of *Northborough*, *Thomas Kenny*, and *John Twitchel*. My son *John* is very weak and low. The Lord be Gracious to him!

1775 June 20 (Tuesday). *Aaron* watched with *John* last night, and is blooded himself by Dr. *Hawes* this morning. *John* very weak and low. The Association (which has now continued 50 Years) Met here, though my House is full of Trouble. Viz. Rev. Messrs. *Stone*, *Smith*, *Goss*, and *Bridge*. There were also Rev. Messrs. *P. Whitney*, *Jacob Biglow*, *Jonathan Newell*, and *Jacob Rice*. The 3 former of these were admitted into the Association and signed the Articles. N.B. Mr. *Shaw* dined with the Ministers and still tarrys with us. *John* is very low. May a gracious God look upon him! *Samuel* returns at midnight from *Cambridge* and informs me his goods etc. which were left in *Charlestown* are burnt by the Regulars, also 4 feather Beds of Mr. *Loyds*.

1775 June 21 (Wednesday). Rode over to Mr. *Whitneys*. Dined there. Mr. *Sumner* preached the Lecture from *Hag. 2.7*. I prayed after sermon. In returning called to See Mr. *John Kelly*, who is very low in a Consumption. At his Fathers Desire and his own, I prayed with him. My Son *John* is poor and weak, but has not bled much to Day. Thanks be to God herefor! Brother *Shaw* and our Daughter *Sally* rode to *Worcester*. They returned at Evening.

1775 June 22 (Thursday). Mr. *Thomas Russell* of *Boston* Taylor, here. He and Family are come to live at *Deacon Woods*. P.M. Mrs. *Philips*, Wife of Capt. *Philips* of *Boston*, now newly of *Grafton*, and her son and Daughter, called to See Mr. *Shaw*, *Samuel* and *Salley*. They drank Coffee with us. Miss *Polly Jenison* from *Mendon* visits us and lodges here. *John* had a little Respit, but is very low.

1775 June 23 (Friday). Squire *Shaw* left us to go to *Watertown*, *Salem* etc. He rode with Mr. *Russell* in Mr. B. *Newtons* Chaise. *John* has another turn of Spitting of Blood, a.m. and grows faint upon it, [and] his Feet and Leggs are Cold, and his Case is more and more hazzardous.

1775 June 24 (Saturday). All our Case is gloomy -- but *John* continues alive. The Public state is Dark. Mr. *Nathan Fisher* who was in the late Action at *Charlestown*, is full of Thanks to God for his preservation -- and the rest of *Westborough* Company. *Breck* who went to *Newport* a few days since, and carryed Dr. *Stiles* his *Watts* on the *Glorys of Christ*,<sup>21</sup> returned, and brings Me the Doctors Discourse at the Installment of Mr. *Hopkins*.<sup>22</sup> Mr. *Levi Wilder* is with *Breck* and lodges here.

1775 June 25 (Sunday). *John* very low, but Slept quietly. Mr. *Beriah Ware* watched. Preached a.m. on *Isa. 65.1*, "I said, behold me," etc. [torn] *Moses Wheelock*, *Thomas Bond* and *Nathan Fisher* gave [torn] publickly for their Preservation in the late Battle at *Charlestown*. I preached again on *Ps. 62.8* to p. 13. I received a Paper from the Congress, concerning the Sanctification of the sabbath, which I read publickly and gave some Exhortation upon it. Appointed the Communion and Lecture. Mr. *Wilder* dined with us, and at Eve went home to *Lancaster* with Message to *Johns* Doctor, Dr. *Wilder* to come and See him.

1775 June 26 (Monday). *Deacon Fay* of *Southborough* bears a Message from Mr. *Stone* to assist at a Fast next Thursday. Dr. *Wilder* from *Lancaster* visits *John*, who seems to be a little better. Thanks to God for it! The Doctors *Hawes* and *Wilder* confer together on my sons Case. May God give success thereto! P.M. My Son *Samuel* goes in his Chaise to Mr. *Russells*, Waiting on his Wife and sister *Hannah* there. I went up also at Evening.

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<sup>21</sup>The first American edition of *Isaac Watts* (1674-1748), *The Glory of Christ as God-Man*, appeared in 1795 (Boston, 1790).

<sup>22</sup>*Ezra Stiles, A Discourse on Saving Knowledge: Delivered at the Instalment of the Reverend Samuel Hopkins...Newport, Rhode-Island...April 11, 1770* (Newport, 1770; Evans 11,871).

1775 June 27 (Tuesday). *John* has Slept well, last night, and for Several Nights, but is exceeding Weak and low: A Small Cough continually attends him also. Read Dr. *Stiles's* Discourse on saving Knowledge. A very learned, Sensible, judicious work. May God grant me Grace to profit by it! Capt. *Wheelock* is here, and gives me some Account of the Charleston Fight, agreeing with Fisher.

1775 June 28 (Wednesday). Expected Mr. *P. Whitney* to preach my Lecture but he did not come. I preached my Self. Text *Isa.* 55.2. After the Blessing, Deacon *Bond* stood up and Desired the people to stay -- whereupon he read a Paper from the Congress respecting the Assuming Government and Calling a General Assembly etc. *Ripley* waits on my Daughters *Forbes* and *Baldwin* who are come from *Cape Ann* -- and they lodge here. We are again 19 in Family, a Number of which are infirm, viz. besides *John*, *Hannah* and *Ben* [?].

1775 June 29 (Thursday). I rode to *Southborough* to a Fast there. Mr. *Bascomb*, of *Murryfield*, providentially there, began with prayer, Mr. *Peter Whitney* preached on Ps. 37.3.4.5.6 v., shewing in his Application great Warmth with respect to the Times. Mr. *Stone* prayed P.M. and I preached on *Isa.* 63.9.10. May a gracious God in His great Mercy pardon the Sins of our holy Things, and accept our Humiliations and Supplications, bless the word delivered and make it Savingly profitable to us! Returned [at Evening?]. In my Way called to See and Stirr up Mr. and Mrs. *Haskill* to their Duty etc. My Son *Samuel* and his Wife sat out for *Newbu[torn]* he designs to go as far as *Pownalborough*. My Son *Cushing* came; and he lodges here [torn] in Coming, was to see his mother *Cushing*, who has been ill for Some time: and to see his Brother *John Parkman*, who Still lies in a weak and low state. N.B. My little Grandson *Samuel* is put out to Nurse at Mrs. *Springs*.

1775 June 30 (Friday). Have heard the sorrowful News that Dr. *Samuel Mather*, having removed his Goods and his Library to *Charlestown*, all are Consumed in the terrible Conflagration of the 18th. My Daughter *Forbes* goes to *Mendon* in search of her Doctor, *Pope*: her Breast has Twinges, and she wants some of his [illegible] salve. *Ripley* attends upon her, but Mrs. *Baldwin* abides here with us. Mr. *Cushing* returned -- to go homewards. N.B. I understand that Mr. *Morse* of *Shrewsbury* is dismissed from his People for his *Tory* Principles; also Mr. *Hill* of *Shutesbury*, and Mr. *Whitney* of *Petersham*. Mr. *Harrington* of *Lancaster* is said to Stand on very Slippery Ground; as Mr. *Goss* is already (as many say) dismissed. All these, it may be observed, are Class-mates.

1775 July 1 (Saturday). I went in to my nearest Neighbours Mr. *Caleb Harrington* who has now set up *House-keeping* there, his Wife being come and a sister with her. Rev. *Joseph Willard* of *Mendon* going to change with Mr. *Whitney* of *Northborough*, calls and dines with us. P.M. My Daughter *Forbes* and *Ripley* return from *Mendon*. *John* is but weak and low; he fears he looses Ground. My Daughter *Hannah* also droops and is poorly from Day to Day. I meet with other Discomforts, which together with my own inward Frame make me very heavy.

1775 July 2 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on *Rev.* 2.3. Administered the Lords Supper. *Ripley* and Daughter *Forbes* were at the Communion. We had Capt. *Jonas Brigham*, Mr. *Batheric*, and Mr.

*Tainter* there to day, though they have been absent twice before. I have let them alone, conceiving that they were (though unreasonably) out of Frame, which I have endeavoured to sweeten another way than by formal Dealing with them. Mrs. *Maynard* dined here. P.M. repeated a Sermon on *Isa.* 55.2, last Clause, with various alterations suiting it to the present unhappy Circumstances. Read another Paper which was a Copy, from our Provincial Congress, of what was Sent from the Congress at *Philadelphia*, Signed *John Hancock* President, Recommending a Fast through out all the Colonies, on July 20th. May God Himself who is infinite Wisdom, be graciously pleased to prepare us for all that He Shall See meet to call us to! *Hannah* out of Health.

1775 July 3 (Monday). My Daughters *Forbes* and *Baldwin*, assisted and accompanied by *Ripley*, undertook their Journey to *Brookfield*. Mr. P. *Whitney* having changed with Mr. *Willard* (as abovesaid) and returning home, calls here. P.M. Mrs. *Harrington* (Lieutenant *Samuels* Wife) made us a friendly Visit: especially on the account of *John*, in his low Condition.

1775 July 4 (Tuesday). Those that tend upon *John* don't need to Sit up through the Night, but lye by him, and rise two or three times in the night to hand him what he wants. Lt. *Baker* kindly here.

1775 July 5 (Wednesday). Neighbour *Caleb Harringtons* Mother, and his Wife, visit us. N.B. wrote, and Sent by Lt. *Baker*, to Rev. *Gordon, Roxbury*. P.M. Rev. Mr. *Adams* of *Roxbury* came in to See us. He lodges here. I hear that 8 Hundreds of Gunpowder passes by. I am informed it is manufactured here *in America*: and is a present [for?] the *General Cause*, by a worthy Gentleman of *Philadelphia*.

1775 July 6 (Thursday). Mr. *Adams* proceeds in his Journey, though I know not Whither. *Sophy* and *Suse Brigham* go to Mr. *Phinehas Hardy's* on a Visit, in Compliance with repeated Requests. Mr. *John Kelly's* wife comes to desire me to go to old Mr. *Higgins* who is very ill. P.M. I went there, but he was unable to converse. Knowing his Humor, I read to him some Passages out of the Book of Common Prayer: [and?] by Desire I prayed. I also called at the other Houses on the Road. At Eve I understood that *John* has had a poor afternoon -- was Sick, and restless. Mr. *Adams* returned here from *Grafton*, and again lodges here.

1775 July 7 (Friday). Mr. *Adams* leaves us to return to *Medfield*. P.M. my Son *William* came from *Concord* to see us and his Children. *John* is somewhat revived again. *Hannah* is much out of Health: and we are at a loss what to do for her. Dr. *Hawes* being frequently here to See *John* takes Care of [her?].

[1775 July 8 (Saturday)?]. Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_s task heavy in tending the Sick etc. [torn] my Son *William* is greatly impressed with the [torn]oubles -- is affected with his Situation [torn]mewhat infirm in Body, especially in Mornings. Endeavour to support him. He returns home. I have



had no letter or Message, but see in the News Paper that *My Brother William is Dead!* that he dyed at *Stoughtonham* -- but *when* or *how*, is not specify'd.<sup>23</sup>

1775 July 9 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on Isa. 65.1, but carry on the Discourse on Heb. 12.2. P.M. preached on *Act. 26.22*, which with additions arising from the Occasion, my Brothers Death, may God bless to me and to all the Audience!

[1775 July 10 (Monday)?]. John is better, yet very weak. But *Hannah* is worse -- has the *Rash*, as the Doctor Judges. Her Head and Face are much affected. One of her Teeth was drawn. [torn] Mr. *Higgins* is dead!<sup>24</sup> N.B. Town Meeting to See whether the Town will consent that the Province proceed so far in taking upon them the Government as to Send a Representative to the [designed?] General Assembly. [torn] goes home to her Fathers.

1775 July 11 (Tuesday). I [illegible] at Mr. *Higgins's* Funeral. His Christian Name was *Thomas* -- his son says he was 92 last March, having been born in the year 1683. I prayed at the House, and then prosecuted my Journey towards *Stoughtonham*. Dined at Mr. *Fitch's*, *Hopkinton*. Heard there that my Friend Capt. *Thomas Clark* dy'd lately. Called at Rev. Prentice's, at Mr. [illegible] *Marsh's*, and at Mr. *Enoch Adams's* in *Medfield*. Stopped at Mr. *Thomas Adams's*, and returned him his *Baumgarten* [torn]man Nature and Education of Children. Lodged [torn] *Adams's*; and was thus far well. D.G.

[1775 July 12 (Wednesday)]

[torn]ted with Mr. *Thomas Adams*, and Saw his Daughter *Han* [torn] is remarkable for her *Memory* and progress in her [torn] *Latin*. I went on to Mr. *Paysons* at *Walpole* [torn]ating a Fourth Son at College.) I arrived at [torn]n's Mr. *Samuel Bradshaws* *Stoughtonham*, to mourn with [torn] Loss of their Father. My sister in Law (my [torn]) and my late Kinsman *Nathaniels* Widow [torn]ouse of Mr. *Rhodes*, where my Brother dy'd. [torn] at my Cousen *Bradshaws*. N.B. Their Daughter *Sarah* is Still in very infirm and pain [torn] At Eve (after a very wonderfull Appearance of [torn] Blessing of Rain) I went back to the two [torn] Appartments at Mr. *Rhoads*, where I found my [torn] Parkman (Son of *Nathaniel*) who is a seafaring man [torn] to sea again. He was now come from *Cambridge*, and [relates?]

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<sup>23</sup>"At Stoughtonham, Elder William Parkman, late of Boston," *Essex Journal*, July 7, 1775. The *Continental Journal* of October 3, 1776, advised "All Persons that are indebted to or that have any Demands on the Estate of Willkiam Parkman, late of Boston, Cabbinet maker, deceased, are desired to bring in their Accounts to Thomas Bayley, Administrator.

<sup>24</sup>Not in *Westborough Vital Records*.

that our provincial Soldiers have been to *Nelsons* Island, drove off Cattle, burnt Stacks of Hay -- etc. I lodged at that House. Hear that my Cousen *Bowland*, his Wife and Children are about 3 miles off. By information I find that my Brother arrived at Mr. [torn] in *Stoughtonham*, May 12. He removed to Mr. [torn] the 16: that on the 26 he was taken ill; and on June [torn] was interred on the 29 in his 90th year, hav[torn] 19 (Old Stile) 1685).

1775 July 13 (Thursday). Rose early, and having prayed with Such as could attend, I sat out soon after 4 o'Clock in the Morning. Rode a good part of the way to Mr. Paysons before sunrise -- to Justice *Adams* -- breakfast at Mr. Thomas *Adams'* -- borrow of him *Burton* on Melancholy, and The View of human Nature in Select Historys. Called to See Mr. *Jonathan Townsend* -- Mr. *Adams* and Lady, of *Roxbury*, at his Brother *Enochs* -- at Mr. *Ezek Marsh's*, Mr. *Prentice's* at *Holliston*. Missed my Way (and therewith Dinner) in *Hopkinton*. Went to See Dr. *Bond* at [torn] who refreshed me and my Horse. Went in to Capt. *Thomas Mellen* torn] -- [illegible] oated at Mr. *Fitch's* -- at Mr. *Barretts* -- arrived at home before sun-setting. Mr. *Penuel Bowen*<sup>25</sup> was here to see me; but returned home to *Southborough*.

1775 July 14 (Friday). My Friend *Quincy* of Lancaster, now, came from his Son *Edmunds* (*Stoughtonham*) [illegible] lodged here, a most agreeable Meeting, and I hope profit[torn]. N.B. Squire *Whipple* has obliged me so much as to take my Turn this week to bring the News Paper from *Worcester*. See in the Spy, the Address of the Virginian Burgesses to the Earl of *Dunsmore*, on the great and important Controversie between *Great Britain* and the Colonies.

1775 July 15 (Saturday). Mr. *Quincy* left us to go to *Lancaster*. I expected Mr. *Cornelius Waters* of *Sutton* to [preach?] for me tomorrow -- but he came not to me [torn].

1775 July 16 (Sunday). Mr. *Waters* not coming I was obliged to p[torn] Except that I had before, viz. on *Isa.* 55.3, a. and P.M. [torn] these peculiar Times. I made many alter[torn] be fervent! May the Divine Power accompany [torn]

1775 July 17 (Monday). *Hannah* has for a good while been ill; but now her Disorders are increased, and her Case is become very Piteous. I went to the aged Widow *Sarah Forbush*; who is grown dropsical, besides the trouble of her Cancer. Conversed, examined and prayed with her. Send the *Doctor* to *Hannah*. *Breck* Sends two Teams to *Marblehead*, and P.M. Sets out himself. We are informed that Neighbour *Moses Nurse*, who went to *Salem* with his Team, last week, has met with Some Disaster.

1775 July 18 (Tuesday). *Hannah* So bad in the last Night that at about 2 (in the Morn) *Elias* went for the Doctor -- who came. *Hannah* but very poorly. Mr. *Russell* carries his Wife to *Watertown*. We hear Mr. *Moses Nurse* has met with a sad Disaster at *Malden*, fell from his Waggon, and One of the Wheels went over his Body. And that a Number of our Soldiers are sick. Mr. *Edmund Rice* is extreme bad. At Evening I was desired to go to [illegible] *Gale's*

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<sup>25</sup>Penuel Bowen (1742-1788), Harvard 1762, second minister of the New South Church, Boston, 1766-1772; later removed to South Carolina and became an Episcopalian.

Tavern, where he lay. But I was So very much indisposed, that I could not cease long from going to the little House -- And besides this I had no Horse. Rev. *Hall* of Sutton returning from the Army called here, and I prevailed with him to pray with us under our Afflictions: which may God graciously hear and Answer!

1775 July 19 (Wednesday). Mr. *Edmund Rice* dy'd<sup>26</sup> last Night at Mr. *Gale's*, in his Way home to his Family. May God please to Pity his Family, his Parents, and Sanctify it to *all Others*, especially the Soldiers; and to those who are Sick in a peculiar Manner. My Son *Samuel* and his Consort returned from *Newbury*; and he had been to *Pownalborough*. Mr. *Edwards Whipple* came to desire me to attend the Funeral of Mr. *Rice* tomorrow. I was very infirm -- had a lax Body and grew weak and faint with it.

1775 July 20 (Thursday). *General, Continental Fast*, on the Account of the *American Distresses*, and Civil War commenced. I preached a.m. on *Isa. XIV.8.9* and read v. 20, 21. P.M. made an Exercise from my former Sermons on *Isa. XXVI.20.21*. May God most gracious and Merciful hear our fervent protracted Supplications and accompany the word with a Blessing; Pardon the Iniquities of our holy Things, and grant us Relief! Attend the Funeral of the late Mr. *Edmund Rice*. My son *Samuel* waited on me with his Chaise.

1775 July 21 (Friday). A.M. Visited Several Sick soldiers who being Sick were come up to their Parents and Friends, viz. *Daniel Hardy* junior and *Henry Marble*, *John Fay* (Capt. *Jonathans* son) - his sister *Joanna* also languishes, Spitting Blood: went to Mr. *Joseph Grouts* to see his son, Still very low. Mr. *Fitch* of *Hopkinton* dined with me. Desires to Change but am pre-engaged to Mr. *Stone*. Mrs. *Pigeon* of *Newt[on]*, who resides at *Coll. Wards* at *Southborough* and her Daughter, Miss *Patience*, made a Visit here; principally to see my son *Samuel* and his Wife. *Breck* is gone to *Worcester*.

1775 July 22 (Saturday). We were Surprized about 9 or 10 o'Clock a.m. with *Johns Bleeding* again. The Blood came up by a little Cough, as it did before. He was himself alarmed -- "must bid the world Adieu!" -- said he. Yet P.M. he was more comfortable inasmuch that Mr. *Stone* coming to change with me, I ventured to leave him. But I did not go to *Southborough*. Mr. *Fitch* went there, and I to *Hopkinton* and lodged at Mr. *Fitch's*.

1775 July 23 (Sunday). I preached a. and P.M. on *Isa. 63.8*. P.M. baptized *Mary* Daughter of *John* and *Hannah* [*Clemens?*]: held up by Mr. *Nathan[iel?] Pike*, the Father being in the Army: and *Elijah*, Son of *Seth* and [*blank*] *Gashet*; and also read a Paper directed to me, signed by Mr. *Fitch*, appointing a Lecture at the Widow *Pierce's*, with design to have her Daughter admitted into the Church. I returned home after the Exercises, but to my Sorrow found that my dear *John* had bled a good deal about Midnight (or this Morning rather) and to a greater Degree than that lately and thus he did this Evening. May the Lord support him and prepare him for his holy will! Mr. *Stone* preached a.m. on 1 Cor. [9?].26, P.M. on Jud. 22.22. He returned home.

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<sup>26</sup>Edmund, son of Edmund and Hannah, b. Feb. 27 1757; *Westborough Vital Records*, 8. Death not recorded

1775 July 24 (Monday). My Neighbour *Nurse* whose *Waggon* loaded with salt, ran over him when at *Mendon* in his late Journey from Salem home, the 14th instant, is got home: and this Morning went to see him. A wonderful preservation. To God be Glory! *Samuel* to *Hopkinton* to *Wm. B. Townsend*. Mr. Pet. *Whitney* here, and his sister *Briggs*. He prays with [*torn*] *John* being very low. *Sally* and *Hannah* [*ride in Chaise?*] to Capt. *Maynards*

[*Note*: The diary ends abruptly here, with the succeeding pages to August 9 apparently no longer extant.]

1775 August 9 (Wednesday). Memorandum [on a loose piece of paper]. *Mary Crosby*, widow of *Robert Crosby*, late of *Boston*, Sea man, came to work here. She was Daughter (as she says) of Mr. William Pratt, House Wright, whose Wife was formerly M[rs.?] *Hitty Gill*, Daughter (or Grand Daughter) of Deacon Gill, nigh Clarks ship-yard, in ship street, Boston. The said Mrs. *Crosby* is about 53 or 54 Years old. When She went from my House to go to Boston See here after [*viz.* Nov. 27, 1777].

1775 August 21 (Monday). [*illegible*] me that Mrs. *Martyn* is sick. I found young *Belknap* in a very Piteous Condition -- under a nervous Fever, and partly Delirious. I supped there. Prayed with him and the Family; returned home late. Mr. *Beriah Ware* is kind enough to watch here again.

1775 August 22 (Tuesday). *John* is low -- but able to converse. Thanks to God! Mr. Noah Hardy brought me from Mr. Mart. Pratt £49.13.1 in old Tenor. I visit at *Springs, Townsends*, widow *Brighams* son *Phinehas*, and at Capt. *Ben. Fays*. Prayed with the three last. At Eve *Levi Wilder* going to *Mendon*, is here, but does not tarry. *Breck* watches with *John*. N.B. We have been greatly at a loss about my Nephews son [?] *Boston*: but this Eve saw a Letter of his to [my Son?] *Samuel* by which I see he is safe, though he may be under Confinement. to straits; compared with his former Cir[*torn*]. Young *Belknap* dyed at 11. [*torn*]emely low, tarries through the Days and nights with great Difficulty [*torn*]ister *Martyn* who I find very ill of a Fever. Prayed with her. [*torn*] Mr. *Whitney* -- he was not at home. N.B. [*Madam Minot?*] I saw with [*torn*] *Martyn*. She gave me account of her Fright when the Regulars [*torn*] *Concord* to seize the stores there. I visited old Ensign *Josiah* [*torn*] of the Distemper which is [*illegible*]. Prayed with him. Called [*torn*] [*illegible*] old Mrs. *Kelly*. *John* has so great a purging [*torn*] him self to night.

of any yet. Purging has fool-

him all night. Attended the Funeral of *Asa Bell*-

Sorrowful Time. The Lord look upon us in

But prepare us for His holy Will!

Mr. Nathan Townsends Child, *Aaron*, of 14 Months and a fortnight, dies.<sup>27</sup>

is still alive, though it is wonderfull that he has had two

*Breck* and *Aaron*. Breck Bed

Johns Room, for the better Convenience of tending him

of *Oxford* returning from the Camp at Roxbury

a Letter from Mr. M[*torn*] there still.

occupied than [*torn*] Teams loaded

to Watch

[*torn*] little Sleep

pass by further side.

to my son *Ebenezer* by [*torn*] *Belknap* junior

*New Braintree*

1775 August 26 (Saturday). ...fifteen hundred Miles or more. They are about 130 men with several Waggons, to carry their packs and necessaries. Attended the Funeral of Mr. Townsends little *Aaron*.

1775 August 27 (Sunday). *John* is much as he was. *Aaron* and *Sophy* have watched [with] him. He sometimes bleeds [out?] the Nose. I preached a.m. on *Heb.* [21].2, last Clause. P.M. I formed an Exercise out of what was delivered May 11, 1760 from 2 Sam. 23.5, concerning the *Covenant of Grace* (See Sermon on *Isa.* 55.3), with alterations and Additions which were accompanied with much Fervency and Solemnity. May the Lord add His special Blessing! N.B. Cousen Maynard dined with us. *John* is very faint and At Eve Seems as if he could not continue. Says he longs to die. I told him he had need have Assurance that it will go well with him. He answers that he had. I added, that he must know, [*illegible*] grand Conditions of the Covenant of Grace, Faith and Repentance. He replied, that he had. [St.?] Maynard kindly watches [again] [*torn*] Parker with him. We look for the awful Time of J[*torn*]

1775 August 28 (Monday). The Dispensations of God are wonderful. *John* is yet [*torn*] though he had no sleep last night. N.B. Last Evening c[*torn*] sons *Ebenezer* from *New Braintry*

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<sup>27</sup>Aaron, son of Nathan and Sarah Townsend, b. June 12, 1774; d. Aug. 25, 1775; *Westborough Vital Records*, 98, 254.

[Alexander?] [from?] to see poor *John* -- who is in the Valley of the Shadow of [torn] Mrs. P \_\_\_\_\_ who continually tends upon *John* [torn]. *Alexander* returns to Leicester. Ebenezer walks with me [torn] [*marginal notation*: his Sister, *Bond*, who is at Capt. Wheelocks, and Mr. *Beriah* *Ware* who is sick at Deacon Woods [*illegible*] also to s[torn] of Mrs. *Hemmingway* [at Boston?] wife and Child are at Ashburnham -- burys [*illegible*]. Mr. Benjamin *Bradshaw* and his [Brother *Nathan*?] cam[torn] being full, they leave us, and go further. Ebenezer [watch?]es with *John* who is yet worse. Mr. *Loyd* [*illegible*] [torn]. N.B. Mr. *Jonathan Forbes* here and examined. I [*illegible*] him on what terms I was willing to admitt him, [torn] he was Satisfyed with my manner of Administration [and] [torn] Custom of this Church as it had been heretofore. [torn]ing the late proceedings. To which he consented [torn]peared to [torn]onsenting to what the Church had [*illegible*] [torn].

1775 August 29 (Tuesday). *John* has [torn] yet [*illegible*] [torn] times as if [torn] newly wak'd. [torn] Rain detain [torn]th us. Br[torn] to keep Hou[torn]ome [torn] no sleep [torn]. Ben Clark not well.

1775 August 30 (Wednesday). [torn]

P.M. my Neighbour Caleb Harrington and his Wife being ill of the common Distemper, Ebenezer and I went to see them. Wrote to Mr. Cushing. *John* is so bad at Night that it is doubtful whether he will live till Morning. *John Warrin* (son of Mr. Timothy) watches. Calls us up about 3 in the Morning.

1775 August 31 (Thursday). *John* can get no Rest -- wants to be moved often, but is less able to move himself -- worries through the Night. I wrote to Mr. *Quincy* and Sent him one of F. *Brecks* Shrewsbury Sermons;<sup>28</sup> by Mr. *Loyd*, who, and my son Ebenezer leave us to go to their respective Homes or Abodes. *John's* Visage alters -- is apprehensive that Death is not far off. Says that in his sleep he saw an Angel of Light coming to him. I told him that no stress could be laid on these Things: but that he must rely only on Such Evidences as the [*illegible*] infallible word of God setts before us. P.M. Mr. *Daniel Chamberlain* and his Wife were here to be examined. I asked him whether he was satisfyed with the Discipline and Customs of this Church, that is, as I had administered, and had continued all along for these 50 years past, and till the [torn] Church Meetings about *Bolton* Quarrells, and about the Elders [torn]gative; which I did not [*illegible*] he Should concern himself [torn] But if he did I must make a Business of Shewing him [*illegible*] which must convince any rational unpre[torn]ic'd [*illegible*] ungrounded and causeless the late Disgusts among us [torn] been. He replied that it was none of his Mind nor [torn] to meddle with those Disputes, and that he was satisfyed [torn]th the Administration -- was willing [*illegible*] with this Church as *Congregational*. Upon which I opened to him how we were So: founded on [torn] of God under which we used [the Church Covenant?] the Platform, for the sub[torn] of it, (I mentioned the Exceptions to be made) the Results [torn] the general Custom of the Churches, agreeable to the writings [torn] [venerable?] Fathers of the

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<sup>28</sup>Robert Breck (1682-1731), *The Surest Way to a People's Happiness and Prosperity. A Sermon at Shrewsbury...June 15. 1720* (Boston, 1721; Evans 2207).

Congregational Scheme. Such [torn] *Cotton, Higginson, Hubbard, Mathers*, etc. I shewed him that they [torn] for the Power the Elders have, of *Negative* etc. I let him [torn] that these were our Congregational Discipline and what [torn] [alwayes?] practise[d?] upon. He said [torn] [not minded?][torn]; and desired to [torn] which therefore [torn] with.

1775 September 1 (Friday). *John* was so low in the Night that I rose a little after 2 o'Clock this morning. Can do but little in my study as the Troubles of my Family increase, for *Breck* is also confined, and my Avocations and Interruptions by various means increased. My Neighbour *Harringtons* Wife grows worse. N.B. Another Company of Soldiers, an hundred under Command of Capt. *Robert Cluggedge* from *Bedford*, on the upper part of *Pensylvania*, marching, and waggons attending them. The Junior Mr. *Levi Brigham*s Wife, from *FitzWilliam*, comes in, having Sprained her Ankle. *Elijah Brigham* here also. The latter Stays and watches with *John*. N.B. *John* having got some Sleep, has been somewhat more Comfortable this afternoon, so that I read to him some part of *Scudders* daily walk. And in the Eve was better. Thanks to God.

1775 September 2 (Saturday). *John* has Slept sometimes; but 3 times has bled at the Nose. *Richard Aspinwall*, an Invalid of *Cressop* [torn] Company, came in and gave me Account of the Country he and these last Companys came from. He himself from [M] *illsburg* on [torn] *Ohio*. Lt. *Joseph Baker* calls, and informs me [torn] this Morning 4 o'Clock, deceased the Rev. Mr. *Bridge* [of] *Framingham*; came up from the Camp last Mon[day] and dyed of the Distemper. May the Lord Sanctifie [torn] me that I may be ready also! in such a Way and su[ch] Hour as we [think?][torn] the son of man comes [torn] May [torn] *Ministers* watch -- be faithful, fruitful, and found so [torn]. But O that God would Pity the bereaved Flock and Family, the [sor]rowful Widow especially to Support and Comfort her, and the Children [torn]. O what a bitter Cup this of *Death*! I went to [see?] [torn] Neighbour *Caleb Harrington* his wife and Children bad with the Dis[torn]. I prayed with them. N.B. was Sent for, because Mr. H. gr[torn].

1775 September 3 (Sunday). A very wet Day. Such had been the Avocations of the [torn] that I could [torn] forward my preparations [several lines torn].

*John* [torn].

1775 September 4 (Monday). *Nathaniel Chamberlain* has watched with *John*, who still continues at the very Gate of Death, yet is upheld. N.B. One Mr. *Isaac Wybird* and his Wife, newly out of *Boston* and going to *Grafton*. I enquire concerning my Kinsman *Elias*, who has not got out of *Boston* himself but was last week, accompanying to the Ferry his Father and Mother (*Coverly*) in their going to *Charleston*. My Son *William* came from *Concord* -- and towards Night returned. I visited a Number of sick -- viz. Mr. *Elijah Hardys* Wife and Child sick of the Camp Distemper. Prayed with them and dined there. Called at Deacon *Woods*, his *Matty* ill -- Miss *Nabby Woods* -- Mr. *Jonathan Forbes* with a Fever -- at *Ensign Fays*, his Wife and Daughter *Sarah* -- at Neighbour *Harringtons* -- visit old Mrs. *Sarah Forbush* and prayed there. Went also to Mr. *Solomon Bathericks*, who has a Fever. No body comes to watch. Mrs. P. sits up.

1775 September 5 (Tuesday). *John* has had a worrying, restless night. *Breck* who has been confined for 8 Days, goes to his shop to day. I visited Mr[s?]. *Belknap* who is very bad; as is Mr. *Joseph's* Child. Prayed with them as I did at my Neighbour *Harringtons*. Their Child nigh Death. P.M. visit at *Deacon Woods* to see *Matty*. Mr. *Ware* ill of a fever [illegible] the same House. Prayed with them. Called at Mr. *Springs*. [torn] little Son much recovered: before this time Mr. *Caleb Harringtons* Child has departed;<sup>29</sup> and Mrs. P. laid it out. [torn] *Brigham* (who has lived here ever since last [blank]) watches with *John* to night.

1775 September [6?] (Wednesday). [torn] remains in the like low Condition, but sleeps somewhat [torn] in the late times. Mr. *Jonathan Forbes* Wife here on Examination. [torn] Life of Mr. *Whitefield* by Dr. *John Gillies*. My Son *John* h[torn] had [torn] Rest (as *Eli Harrington* that watched [torn]) but yet I think he looses Grou[torn] [weaker?] than ever I knew him [torn]uick, and attended with a trembl[torn] when he lifts them up [torn] I prayed. I took leave; and [borrowing?] [torn]Horse rode over to see Mrs. *Martyn* before she dyes. When I arrived there Mr. *Whitney* was praying. After prayer I endeavoured to Converse with her, but it was difficult because She could hardly hear what was Said; and through her own weakness she Could Speak but very little; and therefore I could discover very little of her state or Frame. N.B. her son *Michael* was there; and her Sister *Witt* was also come to See her. Note further that Mrs. *Whitney* yesterday brought him another Daughter. I bid Adieu to Mrs. *Martyn* with Solemnity. I returned at Eve: Hear that Madam *Woods* (as She has been commonly called) heretofore wife of my old, generous Friend, Coll. Benjamin Woods of *Marlborough*, dyed lately of an Apoplectic fit, or a Disorder of that kind; and was buried yesterday.<sup>30</sup> O that God would prepare me for Sudden Death!

1775 September 8 (Friday). Mrs. P \_\_\_\_\_ watched with *John*, and rose at 4 in the Morning. He continually decays, yet lives. Who knows what God designs? Mr. *Asa Rice* of *Northborough* brought me a Letter from Capt. *Michael Martyn* Acquainting me that his [honoured?] Mother departed this Life this Morning 2 o'Clock, that her Funeral is to be tomorrow at 1 o'Clock, and that it is desired I would attend as a Bearer. Mr. [Stone?] to whom Mr. *Rice* was going with the like Message [illegible] and they both dined with us. P.M. I attended the Funeral of Mr. *Joseph Grouts* youngest Child.<sup>31</sup> When I returned [found] *Bowen* and his wife, also Miss *Nancy Wilder*, here. [torn] *Bowen* takes a Saddle of my son *Johns* Make. [Paid?] I suppose 10 Dollars. At Eve came Mr. *Phinehas* [*Forbush?*] to inform me that his son *Elijahs* Child is dead and [torn] had appointed tomorrow P.M. for the funeral -- whereas [torn] sent them word by Lt. *Hazzleton* and also distinctly by [torn] promised they would faithfully bear it to [torn] for to morrow after noon [torn] they must not appoint the burying [torn] for it was dead as they came along, sent the like by Dr. *Ba*[torn]. I told [torn]

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<sup>29</sup>Caleb Harrington of Waltham mar. Sarah Miller, 3 May 1774; *Westborough Vital Records*, 166. Although the birth and death of this child are not recorded in the *WVR*, the births of eight subsequent Harrington children are recorded.

<sup>30</sup>Not in *Marlborough Vital Records*.

<sup>31</sup>Lucy, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Grout, was b. July 6, 1774; d. Sept. 7, 1775; *Westborough Vital Records*, 241.



She being [torn] Woods -- discoursed and prayed with her. *Moses Brigham* watches with *John*.

1775 September 9 (Saturday). *John*, though he seemed to the Watcher, to have had a tolerable Night, yet he had grievous Turns of Coughing; and he thought it is probable he should die in one of those Fits of Coughing (but yet no bleeding for some time). *Moses Brigham* singularly kind in procuring and fetching his Mothers Chaise and Horse for me to ride to Northborough. *Hannah* rode with me to Mrs. *Martyns* Funeral. Rev. Messrs. *Smith, Morse, Goss, Sumner, Whitney*, and I were Bearers. It was also my part to pray. May I be duly impressed with it, and have Grace to improve it! *John* so bad that not only *Stephen Maynard* but Mrs. P \_\_\_\_\_ also watches this night, it having been conceived that a little after noon he was struck with Death, was delirious and in [torn] Sweats.

1775 September 10 (Sunday). *John* lives

Preached a.m. on Ps. 43

the Cup which my F. hath given me to drink etc.<sup>32</sup> to p. 10 with some part of Sermon on Mat. 26.39, viz. p. 13.14. Which O that I might suitably apply! I am now brought to the Tryal. Neighbour *Newton* comes to watch. *John* ceased to breathe at 10 Minutes past 10 o'Clock at night. An End! behold, an End is come!<sup>33</sup>

1775 September 11 (Monday). Neighbour *Newton* and his wife were here with the Corps through the last night, laying it out etc. We are preparing for the sorrowful work of burying. Mr. *Fisher* makes the Coffin, and Mr. *Thaddeus Warrin* undertakes to dig the Grave. I writ[torn] a Number of Letters to my Children. Mr. *Newton* carries Messages to *Brookfield*. Capt. *Maynard* to *Concord*.

1775 September 12 (Tuesday). I [visit?] divers of the Sick, viz. Mr. *Jonathan Childs* wife. Prayed with her. Dined there. [torn] Miss *Sally Pierce* and prayed with her. At Mr. [illegible] Townsends [torn] *Belknap* dyed last Night.<sup>34</sup> A gracious good Woman, a great Loss! [torn] *Ebenezer* came. [illegible], an Indian Boy from Mr. *Forbes's*, with him. [torn] drooping, and has a bad Cough. Fear what the Event may be.

1775 September 13 (Wednesday). [torn]ning attend the Funeral of Mrs. *Belknap* so far as to go to the [torn] pray there. My Son *Ebenezer* went with me. Mr. *Forbes* [torn] (having been to Dr. [Pope?] at *Mendon* about her Breast) came, as did *William* [torn] and Daughter *Lydia*. *Alexander*, his Wife and young Child -- *Samuel* with his [torn] -- Mr. *Whitney* came also and dined with us. Mr. *Stone* came [torn] before [the procession?]. The following young Men were Bearers [torn] *Uriah Brigham* [torn] *Thomas Stone*, *Benjamin* [Tainter?] junior, *Jonathan Fay*,

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<sup>32</sup>John 18.11: "Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into thy sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?"

<sup>33</sup>Death not recorded in the *Westborough Vital Records*

<sup>34</sup>Not in *Westborough Vital Records*.

*Samuel [torn]* and *Stephen Maynard*. Thus we go through the mournful work of [*torn*]ing our Dead. May God almighty Support and comfort us! And [*torn*] I be *Ever* mindful of and preparing for my own Decease! [*torn*] *Forbes* and his Wife and [*illegible*] [marginal notation: their sister *Baldwin*] But *Ebenezer* went to Deacon *Bonds*. B[*torn*] and his Wife and Daughter (though Evening) sat out for home. *Alexander [torn]* and Child left us for *Leicester*, and *Samuel [illegible]* greatly obliged to Capt. *Maynard [illegible]*

the and same which

his Wife also was exceeding kind in Coming, and not only taking her Aunts Care in the Kitchin upon her, but *labouring [illegible]* there -- (though there were Mrs. *Spring*, Mrs. *Hannah Warrin*, Mrs. *Mary Crosby*, and *Suse Brigham* (there) besides). When therefore I saw that her son, Samuel Brigham, was dropt from being a Bearer, I was surprized and grieved. My Daughter Baldwin tarrys with us.

1775 September 14 (Thursday). Mr. *Forbes*, his Wife and [*illegible*] left us and are going to *Cape Ann*. *Ebenezer* goes home. N.B. wrote by him to *Samuel Brigham* and Sent him the *Allens Alarm*,<sup>35</sup> which I had given my Son *John Breck* and *Elijah Brigham* are gone to [Harwich?] I am informed that *Jabez Snow*, the grandson of Ensign Snow, is dead.<sup>36</sup> I visited *Molly [Warrin?]* and prayed with her. She is very [*illegible*] and [exceedingly to be pittyed?].

1775 September 15 (Friday). Mr. Levi [Warrin?] [*illegible*] to tell me that his [*torn*] is dead. Capt. *Edmund Brigham [illegible]*

his uncle Thomas's

Widow (she was [*illegible*]) dyed this Morning.

1775 September 16 (Saturday). I was taken ill with [grip?]-- which obliged me to [deny?] going to the Buryal of Mrs. Mary Warrin

I to get Mr. *Fitch* of

Mr. *Nathaniel Whitney*

The poor Woman was her Birth.

She was in her 56th year. She had but low attainments but

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<sup>35</sup>Joseph Alleine (1634-1668), *An Alarm to Unconverted Sinners* (Boston, 1703; Evans 39,390). There were at least eight subsequent editions before 1775.

<sup>36</sup>Jabez, son of Jabez, Jr., and Hannah Snow, b. Mar. 31, 1770; d. Sept. 13, 1775; *Westborough Vital Records*, 94, 253.

seemed      desired to be Saved by

shaw

Esq. and his Lady, on their Journey to *Brookfield*.

too poorly to [enjoy their?] Company or attend upon

1775 September 17 (Sunday). Have had a poor Night.

I could a

and P.M. on *Job* 23<sup>37</sup>

know of. I thank God for the Assistance of His Holy

O that I might be      and prepared

Mr. *Grosvenor* came from

to day, and called to See us. Tells us that

very ill with Dysentery      Another

viz. Mr. *Joseph* [Belknaps?] only Son of about 9 months old.<sup>38</sup>

1775 September 18 (Monday). Attended the Burial of the Said Child

Called to

common Distemper      that      prevails much there

Visited

Squire *Shaw* and Lady Sat out for *Brookfield*.

1775 September 19 (Tuesday).

Carryed *Suse*

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<sup>37</sup>Job 23 begins, "Then Job answered and said, Even to-day is my complaint bitter: my stroke is heavier than my groaning.")

<sup>38</sup>Joseph, son of Joseph and Esther Belknap, was bapt. Nov. 27, 1774; *Westborough Vital Records*, 16. Another son Joseph was bapt. May 17, 1778; *ibid*.

*Brigham* home to her Father. Paid *Suse* three Dollars.

I went to Ministers Meeting at *Marlborough*. I was chose Moderator and prayed. The Conversation was upon the General Distresses, viz. by the Warr, and by the terrible *Dysentery*. N.B. In *Marlborough* Four have been buried in a Day; three times this has occurred, and nineteen have been buried in a week. The Ministers were agreed to recommend our keeping Fasts in our respective Parishes. In returning, I called to see Old *Coll. Williams* who has lost his Wife, son *William* and his Daughter *Abigail*, by Death;<sup>39</sup> also their Maid, and a Traveller -- all five of them dyed there of late, and a young Child Sick at this time. Sorrowfull [Dispensations?] indeed! I went in also to see old Mrs. *Beeman*, who is very feeble, yet can go about. *Breck* returned from *Norwich*. One Gilbert with him, who carries a Letter from me to Mr. *Moore*.

1775 September 20 (Wednesday). Visit Mr. *Joseph Green*, Sick of the Distemper, and prayed with him and the Family. While I was there a Messenger came for me to hasten to Mr. *Elijah Hardys*, they feared their son *Ephraim Brigham* was dying -- went, and not only Ephraim but two other Children besides were very ill. I conversed with Ephraim and prayed with the Family.

1775 September 21 (Thursday). Visit Mr. *Ithamar Bellows* Wife and Grand child, exercised with the Distemper, and prayed with them. Was at Mr. Ebenezer *Chamberlain* juniors. At Eve Mr. *Daniel Chamberlain* and his Wife were here with their Relations. At parting I told them that I should admitt them (with the Churchs Consent) into the Church as it had been from the Beginning and no otherwise (that is, with no regard to the late Vote passed about *negative* etc.) and asked them whether they [*torn*] so? They answered that they did and expected no otherwise. Mr. Jonathan Forbes came also with [*his?*] [*torn*].

1775 September 22 (Friday). *Breck* to *Lancaster* about *Johns* Affairs. [*torn*] [yesterday morning] dyed Mr. *Elijah Hardys* Daughter *Hannah*, past 6 years old;<sup>40</sup> [*torn*] dyed his son *Ephraim Brigham* in his 11th.<sup>41</sup> This Day they were [buried?] in one [grave?] and in one Coffin. I attended, and prayed -- though it was very rainy. [*torn*] of their Children still, little [*Prudence?*], of nigh 6 years, is also thought to be dying. [*torn*] the God of infinite Compassion Show them His [*torn*] and Mercy! Hear that Mr. *Solomon Miller* [*torn*]ld of Six years lies dead:<sup>42</sup> and that Mr. [*Fishers?*] Family are greatly distressed. That Miss[*torn*] of 22, has expired; and divers others of them [*crossed out*] are sick.

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<sup>39</sup>Elizabeth, wife of Col. Abraham Williams, d. 9 Aug. 1775, in 71st year; *Marlborough Vital Records*, 400. William d. 1 Aug. 1775; *ibid.*, 401. Abigail, dau. of Col. Abraham and Elizabeth, d. 28 July 1775, in 40th yr.; *ibid.*, 400.

<sup>40</sup>Hannah, dau. of Elijah and Martha Hardy, b. June 20, 1769; d. Sept. 20, 1775; *Westborough Vital Records*, 57, 241.

<sup>41</sup>Ephraim Brigham Hardy, son of Elijah and Martha Hardy, d. Sept. 20, 1775; *Westborough Vital Records*, 241.

<sup>42</sup>Loas, dau. of Solomon and Mary, b. Oct. 12, 1769; d. Sept. 23, 1775; *Westborough Vital Records*, 75, 247.

1775 September 23 (Saturday). [*torn*] the Funeral of Mr. *Solomon Millers* Daughter *Lois*, and [*torn*]. Called to See old Mrs. *Grow*. Breck returned from Lancaster. My Daughter *Hannah* is very much out of Health -- has a sore Mouth.

1775 September 24 (Sunday). Preached a. and P.M. on *Mat. 25.39*, last Clause. Hear that a fourth Child of Mr. *Elijah Hardy* is dead.<sup>43</sup> At noon time I stopped the Church and proposed to turn our next [Lecture?] into a Fast. They freely voted it. P.M. laid it before the Congregation, and they all, Church and Congregation, [*illegible*] lifted up their Hands.

1775 September 25 (Monday). Went to the Funeral of Mr. *Elijah Hardys* little Daughter *Prudence* who dyed last Saturday, of nigh 5 Years old; of the same Distemper. Prayed and Exhorted etc. I Went also to Capt. *Jonathan Fays* to see his Daughter *Joanna* who sadly languishes in Consumption. Mr. *Phinehas Gleason* makes me a visit. *Elijah Brigham* lodges here.

1775 September 26 (Tuesday). *Johns* Chest was brought by Mr. *Phelps* from *Lancaster*. I rode up to Mr. *William Nurse's*, to see his Daughter *Zerviah* who has the Dysentery -- prayed there. Ebenezer Chamberlain here. N.B. his disparaging Rev. Mr. *Stone*, and exalting Mr. *Fish*.

1775 September 27 (Wednesday). According to the Agreement of Church and people, we kept this Day as a *Day of Fasting and Prayer*. A.M. I opened the Solemnity with Prayer. Mr. *Stone* preached an excellent Sermon on Job 1.21. P.M. Mr. *Stone* prayed, and I preached. Text was *Rev. 6.8*. May god be pleased to pardon, hear and accept us! N.B. Mr. *Simon Bellows'* Child, *Mary*, of 3 years was buryed this Morning -- but I could not attend upon it.<sup>44</sup> I hear that old Mr. Ebenezer *Chamberlain* prayed at the House of mourning.

1775 September 28 (Thursday). Old Mr. *Batherick* came requesting earnestly that I would visit his son *Solomon's* wife, *Miriam*. I went -- found her greatly exercised in Mind -- very humble -- says she is wil[ling?] *to be damned if God* requires it. Prayed with them and composed [them?] in some Measure. Thence proceeded to *Southborough Fast*. Mr. *Stone* prayed. Mr. *Smith* preached on Ps. 146.4[?]. P.M. Mr. *Bowen* prayed. I preached on *Micah* [6.?]. O that it might be to the divine Acceptance! and that God would pardon the Iniquitys of our holy Things! In my returning I called at Mr. *Ithamar Bellows* to see his Wife, [and prayed?].

1775 September 29 (Friday). Mr. *James Foster Condys*<sup>45</sup> here and dined with us. *Breck* returned from *Providence*, whither he went on the 27th. I rode up to Mr. *William Nurse's* hoping to see *Zerviah* but She expired before I got there.<sup>46</sup> Prayed with the survivors. Mrs. *Cotton* and her Neice, Miss *Polly Clark*, waited on by young [*Billy?*], were here, and tarried over night. Lent

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<sup>43</sup>Prudence, dau. of Elijah and Martha Hardy, b. Jan. 26, 1771; d. Sept. 23, 1775; *Westborough Vital Records*, 58, 241.

<sup>44</sup>Molly, dau. of Simeon and Rebecca Bellows, b. July 20, 1773; d. Sept. 25, 1775; *Westborough Vital Records*, 18, 229

<sup>45</sup>Son of Jeremiah Condys, Harvard 1726 (1709-1768), minister of the First Baptist Church of Boston.

<sup>46</sup>Zerviah, sister of Daniell Nurs, d. Sept. 29, 1775; *Westborough Vital Records*, 249.

*Elijah Brigham* my *Salmons Geography*. Visit Mrs. *Miriam Batherick* again and prayed there, and Miss *Ann Maynard* at Mr. *Parkers* and prayed. Sister *Cushing* came to see us in her way home from *Southborough*.

1775 September 30 (Saturday). Mr. *Ithamar Bellows'* Wife dyed yesterday -- about 49 years old.<sup>47</sup> She is buried to day. I attended and prayed. Was not well. Went to bed early, unable to attend Family Exercises.

1775 October 1 (Sunday). Through divine Goodness was better. Went to meeting. Preached a. and P.M. on *Isai*. 55.4. Used the notes on the first part of the verse, having been so much taken up in the week past that I could make no new preparations. I administered the Lords Supper. Old Mrs. *Kelly*, Mrs. *Maynard* and *Suse Brigham* dined here. A Letter from Mr. *Moore* of the 19th ult. that he had the Camp-Distemper.

1775 October 2 (Monday). *Elias* goes to School to Mr. *William May*, who keeps at the *Whipple* School-House. Attended Miss *Zerviah Nurses* Funeral. She was nigh 36. A Messenger called to inform me of the Death of that worthy Man, Col. *Timothy Brigham* Yesterday, though previously Some time, indisposed, yet he dyed suddenly, and to all about him unexpectedly<sup>48</sup> Help, Lord! the godly man ceaseth! *This* especially is a very great Loss -- to dear Brother *Stone* more peculiarly. I am desired to go there tomorrow.

1775 October 3 (Tuesday). I rode down to *Southborough*, on the mentioned sorrowful Occasion. Dined at Mr. *Stones*. P.M. repaired to the House of Mourning. I was obliged to pray before the Interrment. A large and respectable Assembly were gathered. I prayed [that this Sad Oc]casion might not go over without Some special and saving Benefit by it. Squire *Whipple* my Company back. Dr. *Fre[torn]* fell in with us, and coming from *Cambridge* this morning he informed us of the Treachery of Dr. *Church* who was confined last Evening there. When I came home found my dear Kinswoman *Procter*, with her Husband, from *Lincoln* here. They lodge here.

1775 October 4 (Wednesday). *Hannah* rode with me to See Mrs. *Miriam Batherick* still Sick. Mr. *Procter* and his Wife, Mr. *Noah Hardy*, *Elijah* and *Edward* [*Brigham?*] dined here. Mr. *Hardy* payed me (in old tenor) £74. [A]ll of what Mr. *Martin Pratt*, late Constable, was to collect of the [*torn*] Rates. Old Mrs. *Kelly* came with her grand daughter [*torn*] *Beeton*, who is under Awakenings and wanted to talk with me. [*torn*] *Procter* and his Wife desire me to read my late Brothers and their [*torn*] Will, and are dissatisfied with the scanty provisions [*torn*] in it for them.

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<sup>47</sup>Ithemer Bellows mar. Ruth Johnson of Southborough, int. May 23, 1773; *Westborough Vital Records*, 123. Ruth, wife of Ithamar Bellows, d. Sept. 29, 1775; *Westborough Vital Records*, 229.

<sup>48</sup>Timothy Brigham d. Oct. 1, 1775; *Southborough Vital Records*, 159.

1775 October 5 (Thursday). My Kinsfolk are here with me. Mr. Procter makes an Extract from [torn] Brothers will. Do something (though but too little) in my preparations. [torn] Rumour increase concerning Dr. Church.

1775 October 6 (Friday). My Kinsman and his Wife leave us to go to *Weston*, to visit [torn] How there. Hear Mrs. *Miriam Batherick* dyed <sup>49</sup> to day about 12 o'Clock [?] Sudden [?] to go to old Mrs. [Grow?]. Went and prayed with her, being exceeding bad, in lying in [very] disagreeable Condition.

1775 October 7 (Saturday). In the morning I went to Mr. *Andrews's* he having Sent for me to see a stranger, who was attempting to go home from the Army, ill, but who lay *sick* there. His Name was *Daniel Barber* of *Symsbury*. Discoursed and prayed with him. Visited also and prayed with the Widow *Martha Warrin*, who is sick of a Fever, at Mr. *Daniel Warrins*. P.M. attended the Funeral of Mrs. *Miriam Batherick* (wife of *Solomon Batherick*)<sup>50</sup> and she seems to be much lamented. Towards night came Mr. *May* to see us.

1775 October 8 (Sunday). I went on a. and P.M. with *Isa*. 55.4 from page 95 to 106, with variations and Additions, according to Times and Circumstances. After the Exercises Capt. *Maynard* acquainted me with the very sorrowful Tidings of the Death of the Reverend Mr. *Amos Adams* of *Roxbury*; that he dyed at *Dorchester* last Thursday, of the *Dysentery*; and was buried yesterday. I how the righteous Perish from the Earth! Are taken away from the Evil to come! May God pity us! the mournful Widow -- -- Parents, Children -- Brothers and Sisters -- and in special my Daughter [i.e., daughter-in-law, William's wife] *Lydia*. O how grievous this [Breach?] to the Flock he used to feed, now doubly distressed and Scattered!!!

1775 October 9 (Monday). Mr. William *Blair Townsend*, with his Son, came to See me and they dined here. P.M. they left us and I visited the Sick -- viz. *Ann Maynard*. Capt. Jonas *Brigham's* wife, and Mr. *Daniel Barber*, at Mr. *Andrews's*. Discoursed and prayed with each.

1775 October 10 (Tuesday). Write to Mr. *Cushing* by *Moses Brigham* going to [torn]mouth College. Attended the Funeral of old M[torn]borah *Grow* who dyed on the 8th. Aets. 90.<sup>51</sup> One Miss *Patience Richardson* of *Lancaster* came to trade with [torn] is at Coffee P.M. as is Master *May*, and both lodge here. Am inf[torn] that Mr. *Barber* above mentioned, dyed this afternoon.<sup>52</sup> Died at [blank]. [torn]. Received a Letter from Brother *Grindall Rawson* of *East Haddam*.

1775 October 11 (Wednesday). Our Company leave us but Miss *Richardson* not till after Dinner. Mr. *Andrews* here and will have me go to the burying place and shew where the Grave for Mr. *Barber* had best be dugg. *Breck* P.M. goes to *Brookfield*. I went on f[oot?] to Mr. *Andrews's* to

<sup>49</sup>Not in *Westborough Vital Records*.

<sup>50</sup>Solomon Bathrick mar. Miriam Beeman, *int.* May 9, 1772; *Westborough Vital Records*, 121. Levi was b. Sept. 29, 1772.

<sup>51</sup>Not in *Westborough Vital Records*.

<sup>52</sup>Not in *Westborough Vital Records*.

attend the Funeral of the *Barber* abovesaid. He was almost 2[2] Years old. There was a Brother from the Camp, and a Friend that came from his Father at *Symsbury*; attending the Solemnity. At night a very great storm of Thunder, Lightning and Rain.

1775 October 12 (Thursday). Mrs. [*Hemmingway?*] (wife of Mr. *Hemmingway*) a Tayloress, works here. I had Opportunity to [be more steddily in my study than for some?] time. Breck returns from Brookfield.

1775 October 13 (Friday). Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ rode (which has not been for a long time) as far as Mr. *Gleasons*, on Some Necessary Affair of the Family. Mr. *Whitney* of *Northborough* here -- tells me his Mother *Lamb* is dead and buried. She was about 64 years old.

1775 October 14 (Saturday). Miss *Ann Maynard* is Still Sick of a Fever; I was obliged to visit her. I prayed with her. Mrs. *Batherick* also is Sick -- I went to see her, and prayed with her. Mrs. *How* (Jonathans Wife) is sick at Mr. *Solomon Bathericks*, I went in to See her; and prayed with her likewise.

1775 October 15 (Sunday). I went on a.m. with what I before [last?][Lords Day] on Isa. 55.4, viz. those words and Commander of the People, but added as the present times required. At noon understood that Deacon *Storer* of *Boston* with other Company were travelling. *Breck* Spoke with them. I did not. They wanted to hire a Room or two for Deacon and a Friend. I thought it incredible that Such a man would ride about thus on the Lords Day. P.M. on Ps. C.1.2. Which may god graciously succeed! Deacon *Miles* of *Shrewsbury* at Meeting and was here after the Exercises: but too evidently *insane*.

1775 October 16 (Monday). I visit Capt. Jonathan Fay's Daughter *Joanna* and pray with her. I dined there. N.B. Deacon *Storer* of Boston and Mr. Joseph *Barrell* with him, are Seeking House-room in this Town. Went also to see young Joseph Grout, who is Still very low. Called at 3 other Houses. Endeavoured to keep it in mind to urge *something* of the Grand Affair.

1775 October 17 (Tuesday). Visit old Mrs. *Forbush*, where is her Kinswoman Mrs. [*torn*]*hard* of *Framingham*. I prayed with them. Visit Mrs. [*torn*] (*Jonathans wife*) who is very bad. Prayed there. [*torn*] Mr. *Bathericks*, his Wife being Sick -- and prayed there. [*torn*] went to see Mrs. *Ann Maynard*, who is ill yet. Breck and Hannah to Concord, Ben. Clark to *Cambridge*. P.M. Cousen *Sally Brigham* and her son Edward came to us, but [*illegible*] at Eve. I went up to see Mrs. *Clark*, one of the strangers who had lately lain in, her Child ill, and to Mrs. *Wheelocks* [*torn*] a Child of about 20 Months, being extreamly bad, of worms and purging.

1775 October 18 (Wednesday). Hear that Mrs. *Wheelocks* Child dyed about 10 o'Clock last night.<sup>53</sup> [*torn*] rode to *Upton* to Visit Mr. *Fish* and Family in their Affliction. He was not at home. Their Daughter *Deborah* Sick, [*illegible*] recovering. I dined there. Miss *Betty Peterson* is with them and gives me an Account of what her Mother met with at Mr. *Luke Stone's* at *Boston*. I

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<sup>53</sup>Polly, dau. of Moses and Lydia Wheelock, d. Oct. 17, 1775; *Westborough Vital Records*, 256.



visit also Mr. *Joshua Hicks* whose Affliction has been very great by the late sickness -- he, his Wife, and all their Children, being 8 of them were Sick of the Dysentery, and at a time. Six of their Children dyed: and Mrs. Hicks was still feeble and weak. May God be praised that any were saved! May His holy Dispensation[s?] be so Sanctified to them that they may have Cause, and an Heart to bless His Name. At Eve called upon Master *Waters*, who lodges at Mr. *Jonah Warrins*. Mr. *May* here -- lodges.

1775 October 19 (Thursday). Am reading Dr. *Nathaniel Whitakers* Confutation<sup>54</sup> of Mr. *Wise* in his Vindication of the *Cambridge* Platform.

1775 October 20 (Friday). Capt. *Wheelocks* Child buried. I was there and prayed. I am lame by Striking my Leg against the rough End of a Stake, and cannot go to the Grave. At Eve *Breck* and *Hannah* returned (in the Rain) from *Concord*. They have been also to the Camp at *Cambridge* at prospect Hill in Charlestown, and at *Roxbury* were at General *Wards* Head Quarters. They went as far as *Dorchester* to See our people's Tents there. N.B. Mr. *Solomon Batherick* here to be examined.

1775 October 21 (Saturday). We have been informed that 10000 *Hanoverian* Troops are Coming to assist the Kings Forces. But the great Storm to day may founder, or scatter them. "The Lord Sitteth on the Floods, and Him the stormy Winds obey."

1775 October 22 (Sunday). Preached at *Northborough* a. and P.M. on *Isa.* 63.8. Mr. *Whitney* preached here, a. and P.M. on 1 Cor. 11.31. We both, respectively, returned at Eve.

1775 October 23 (Monday). Visit Capt. *Wheelocks* sick Child. P.M. come my son *Samuel* who informs that his Wife had a Daughter last Tuesday the 17th. Praise to the [torn] Great Deliverer in time of Trouble! One Mr. *Chapman* with [torn] who lodged here. I have a very sore Leg, having hurt [it] against a stake at Mr. *Samuel Forbush's* on the 17th.

1775 October 24 (Tuesday). Was sent for to Capt. *Jonathan Fays* to see *Joanna*: but She expired just before I got there.<sup>55</sup> I prayed with them. Mr. *Chapman* goes to *Hopkinton*, where he lives. Wrote to [Mr. Joseph?] *Ward*, aid de Camp etc. Received from Mr. *Forbes* [illegible] [£3?]. Mr. *Levi Wilder* came: and lodged here. My Leg bad.

1775 October 25 (Wednesday). I visit Mrs. *Lydia How* and prayed with her. Mr. *Wilder* and my Daughters *Sophy* and *Hannah*, after Dinner, set out [to] got to *Worcester*, and [illegible] designing for *Leicester*.

1775 October 26 (Thursday). I Catechized the Boys a.m. at the Meeting House: but was obliged to adjourn the Catechizing of the Girls till next [Monday?] by reason of the Funeral of *Joanna*

<sup>54</sup>Nathaniel Whitaker (1730-1795), *A Confutation of Two Tracts* (Boston, 1774; Evans 13,768).

<sup>55</sup>Joanna, dau. of Jonathan and Joanna Fay, b. July 26, 1760; *Westborough Vital Records*, 40. No record of death.

*Fay* which I attended upon and prayed at. *Sophy* and *Hannah* returned from Leicester. My sons Samuel and Mr. (Engineer) Baldwin, came from *Cambridge*. In Sending a Letter to Mr. *Forbes*, I wrote to the Care of Capt. *Foster* of Brookfield, but it should have been Capt. *Foster* of Gloucester. This mistake I fear may expose it to Hands which I would not have it fall into. Daniel Chamberlains Child dyes.

1775 October 27 (Friday). I payed Mr. *Baldwin* 15£ old Tenor by a public Bill of 2£ Lawful Money. He and *Samuel* left us to go to *Brookfield*. My Son *William* came from *Concord*. Dined here. P.M. returned. Mr. *Fish* of *Upton* comes in to See us, in his Way home from *Concord*. And dines here. At Eve Master *Waters* here. Asked him to preach for me, if he can, next Sabbath.

1775 October 28 (Saturday). Had very little Opportunity for Study. A.M. divers Avocations. As soon as I had dined and shaved rode in the Rain to Mr. *Ebenezer Chamberlains* to attend the Funeral of his son *Daniels* Child.<sup>56</sup> Prayed -- discoursed, exhorted -- and rode back but could not come into my Study: my Wife's Niece, *Gilbert*, with her Husband, was here. They went from us to Capt. Maynards.

1775 October 29 (Sunday). I preached a.m. on Isa. 55.4. P.M. on Prov. 28.14. Mr. Joseph Gilbert and his Wife dined here. After Meeting I asked in Mr. *Joseph Breed*, one that was burnt out at Charlestown, and lives at Ensign *Snows*. N.B. Deacon *Wood* asked me at noon, whether I would baptize Mrs. [C]larks Infant. I answered that I would speak with her.

1775 October 30 (Monday). Went to [torn] *Nathan Maynards* for Winter Apples. He freely ga[torn] me a Bag full. Catechized the Girls P.M. but [?] Towards night walked up to see Mrs. *Clark*. [torn] *Forbes* here. I gave him a *Certifcat*; that he might particularly [torn]ommunion with the Church at *Shrewsbury*

1775 October 31 (Tuesday). [torn] *Ware* came and I payed him 10£ with the Interest 6.4d Lawful Money. [torn]ok up my Note which I have him on Apr. 20 last. [torn]ife and *Hannah* ride to Capt. *Jonas Brighams*.

1775 November 1 (Wednesday). Rose early and sat out for *Concord*, to hear Dr. *Langdons Dudleian Lecture*.<sup>57</sup> When I got to Mr. *Gershom Biglows* [the] Sunbeams first appeared: At Coll. Weeks at 8 o'Clock. [Prayed?] with his Sick Daughter in law -- extreme [torn] the temper and they have lately [buried two] Child[ren] [torn] [same.] I got into *Concord* about [torn] *Minots* [torn] to meeting at [torn]. A fine Anthem for a conclusion. Dined with the Doctor at his House. Where as I had conceived there was to be a public Dinner. Dr. Winthrop and his Lady, Mr. *Lawrence*, Mr. *Bridge* etc. dined there. After Dinner I headed a paper for Subscriptions and

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<sup>56</sup>Daniel Chamberlain m. Lydia Harrington, Jan. 4, 1775; birth and death of child not in *Westborough Vital Records*.

<sup>57</sup>Samuel Langdon (1723-1797), *The Co-Incidence of Natural with Revealed Religion* (Boston, 1776; Evans 14,822).

subscribed for two Books. I am informed that the Rev. Mr. *Joseph Emmerson of Pepperrell* is dead: And that Mr. *Swift of Acton* is almost gone in a Consumption. I went to my son Williams and lodged there. I have taken Cold, and go to Bed indisposed.

1775 November 2 (Thursday). Have a bad Cold, yet designed to go and See Mr. *Swift*, but my Horse was taken lame, and prevented me. I rode up to Coll. *Weeks* and dined there. His Daughter in law yet alive, at their request I went in -- Discourse but very little. *Prayed* with her. Called at Miss Mary Shermans -- brought Assemblys Confession of Faith. Arrived at home some time before Night: but my Cold very irksome.

1775 November 3 (Friday). Very much Oppressed last night and to day with my Cold -- my Throat is very sore, and am confined. May God sanctifie it!

1775 November 4 (Saturday). *Aaron Warrins* time which he has to make up for his Absence, from my Business will not to be out till next Monday noon (as I conceive); but he is earnestly desirous to go home to day. I paid him 3 Dollars only. He left off work at 3 P.M. and went to *Up [torn]*. At Eve came Mr. *David Flagg* of North *Shrewsbury* with a Letter of the 2d from Rev. Mr. *Morse*, requesting [*blot*] be at his House next Tuesday, on Consideration of a Counc[*torn*] in that parish at that time. But I wrote Answer [*blot*] not -- by reason of great Indisposition. Mr. *Bowen* came -- and lodged here, to my Comfo[*torn*].

1775 November 5 (Sunday). Mr. *Bowen* preached a. and P.M. on Ps. 4.6.7. I we[*torn*] Meeting; prayed after the Sermons, and Officiated in [*torn*] *Solomon Batherick* and admitting him into the Church. I also mentioned to the Church the Affair of Such Persons as have come out of Boston and by vertue of their Right, desire Baptism for their Children, though they can't obtain Certificates from their Pastors: and had no [Objection?]. N.B. *Billy How*, a scholar of Mr. *Goddards School*, dined [*blot*]. Both Mr. *Bowen* and he lodge also. N.B. a Letter from M[*torn*] W[*torn*].

1775 November 6 (Monday). *Ha [torn]h us a.m. [torn] Mr. Bowen* after Din[*torn*]. P.M. [*torn*] *Ebenezer Ch [torn]* to inform me of the Death of [*Reuben Bellows?*][*torn*] [*Child?*] [*torn*] last year Warm Discourse upon [*torn*] year and their withholding my [*Support?*].

1775 November 7 (Tuesday). It was so rainy, and no Horse sent me as was agreed, therefore I conclude there was no Expectation of me, and I did not go to the Funeral of Mr. *Reuben Bellows's Child*:<sup>58</sup> but attended to the Bus'ness of my Study -- which may God be pleased to direct and Succeed!

1775 November 8 (Wednesday). This Day (but according to old stile the 28th of October), *one and fifty years ago*, the Church of Christ in *Westborough* was founded, and I, though unworthy, was ordained the Pastor. This I endeavoured to take a religious, grateful Notice of, a.m.

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<sup>58</sup>Death not in *Westborough Vital Records*. Reuben's marriage not in *WVR, Southborough VR.*. Other children of Reuben and Elizabeth are recorded, starting 1776.

*Thanking and praising* God for His great Goodness and longsuffering, *humbling* my self deeply before the Lord for my Great Defects and Miscarriages, and on Consideration of the holy Frowns of God upon me in the Course of the last year, Especially by the withdraw of my people's Affection from me, Religions dwindling and decaying, withholding from me Support, Wood etc. except the Slender sallery, granted in the beginning -- and the sore Displeasure of God in the Death of my dear son *John*: On Consideration also of the Public Calamitys -- Petitioning and Pleading *Pardon* through the Merits and Mediation of Jesus Christ -- Resolving, by the Grace of God to endeavour after New-Obedience and [Faith?]. P.M. Mr. *Fitch* of [Hopkinton?] dined here and preached for me on *Heb.* 9.14. Master [Waters?] dined here and was ready to preach if Mr. Fitch had not come. After the Exercises came to my House, one in the Garb of a [Minister?], and with Recommendations from Mr. Shaw of Nantucket, and Mr. [Tuttle?] of [Wells?], to Charity: but Mr. Fitch gave such Account of him that I would not lodge him, but sent him to Deacon *Woods*. His Name was *Charles Warnsdorff*, a Saxon. Squire *Shaw* and his Lady came at [9] at night, from *Brookfield* and lodged here.

1775 November 9 (Thursday). Mr. *Shaw* and Lady are with us still; dined here. P.M. Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ and I in the *Shaw* Chaise, rode to Mr. *Hannaniah Parkers*, to his Wedding. It proved a very rainy time, and we were detained there, till into Evening (though not more than [blot]). Mr. *Parker* was married by me, to Mrs. *Hephzibah Warrin*, Daughter of Capt. *Stephen Maynard*, and widdow of the late Mr. *Joseph Warrin* of *Brookfield*. N.B. Miss *Sally* and Miss *Nancy Wilder* came [blot] about 3 P.M. and tarry over night, as doth also Squire and [torn].

1775 November 10 (Friday). Miserable [Warnsdorff was?] hereabouts, and is [torn] to be in Drink. Mr. *Shaw* etc. are here and dine with us: But towards Eve the two young women go from us to *Southborough*. We have news of an Attempt made by the Regulars yesterday at *Lechmores* Point, in Order to take off Some Cattle from thence; but that the Americans drove 'em off; but they carryed away Some Cattle, and they have killed two men.

1775 November 11 (Saturday). Squire *Shaw* and his Lady leave us, and go on their Journey towards *New-bury* -- but aim at *Cambridge* to day.

1775 November 12 (Sunday). Preached a.m. (with some alterations) Sermon on *Mat.* 26.29. Administered the Lords Supper. Master *William May* and Master [Th.?] *Rice Willard*, Mrs. *Maynard* and *Suse Brigham* dined here. P.M. went on with my Subject on *Ps.* 130.1. May God accept and bless my poor Offerings and Labours!

1775 November 13 (Monday). I walked to old Lt. *Forbushs*, his Wife being not well -- rode from thence to Mr. *Rumbly's*, who lives at Mr. *Haskills* -- thence to Mr. *Andrews'* -- his son *George* being Sick of a Fever. Exhorted, prayed and dined there. Called at Mr. *Daniel Warrins*, his Mother in Law lies there sick and lame yet, and her son *Daniel* ill of a Fever. N.B. The Town Met, among many other Things, to see what Addition they Should make to my Sallery, and whether they Should provide my Wood. At Eve came the Captains *Benjamin Fay*, *Stephen Maynard* and Mr. *Batherick*, a Committee from the Town to acquaint me that the Town had

granted £11.13.4 addition and 6.13.4 for my Wood, for this Year. At Eve also came Masters *May* and *Willard*.

1775 November 14 (Tuesday). Mr. *Thomas Fairweather*, his Wife and Child[ren?], are returning to Oxford. The News is, that more Troops are come and coming -- and more still are expected. That *St. Johns* on Lake *Champlain*, is taken. P.M. I visited Mr. *William Pierce* of Hopkinton ill by a Fall. Prayed with him. At Eve Mr. *Abraham Bond*, having been kicked by a [stallion?] and his Leg broke, is carryed along home in a Cart. Received a Letter from Cousen *Bradford* of the 10th dated at *Warren*, Rhode Island. She informs me that her Husband is gone a Voiage, perhaps to Messasipi.

1775 November 15 (Wednesday). A.M. my Son *Ebenezer* came from the Camp at *Roxbury* where his son *Elias* is; He is detained here by the storm -- and lodged here.

1775 November 16 (Thursday). My Son left us, to go home. Old Mr. *Nathaniel Whitney* came [in?] to warm himself and after some friendly Communication and Serious Refections on the Times and the Causes of our Calamities, he said the Affairs of the Church were as bad as those of the State upon which [there?] followed many uncomfortable and grievous [Contradictions?], in which he manifested strong Prejudices, groundless Jealousies, and a very bitter spirit.

1775 November 17 (Friday). [No entry.]

1775 November 18 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1775 November 19 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on *Ps. 130.1.2*. P.M. on *Isa. 55.5* to the end of p. 124. The widow *Judith Bellows* dined here. Mr. May here after Meeting -- and tarried over night. May God grant us the Grace to cry to Him out of the Deeps of our Present both *private* and *public Distresses!* and may we be excited to prize and improve the outward Advantages we enjoy by means of Grace; -- the Calls of God by His Word and Providences to His Glory and to our own eternal Benefit! Received from my son Cushing Mr. *Ortons* sermons to the Aged.<sup>59</sup> Began to read it. They are very Natural and profitable. May the Blessing of God accompany my use of them!

1775 November 20 (Monday). Visit again *George Andrews* junior and prayed with him. Visit also Mr. *Abraham Bond* under his broken Bones. Prayed with him also. To this day was the Adjournment of Town Meeting about the Town-Debts, and to provide for the Poor.

1775 November 21 (Tuesday). Deacon *Wood* and Neighbour B. *Newton* came and killed my old Cow for me. A Cow that had been more mischievous that ordinary. Weighed 320. Mr. *Moses Brigham* here, lately come from Dartmouth College. Borrows *Monis's Grammar*<sup>60</sup> and *Leusdens*

<sup>59</sup>Job Orton (1717-1783), *Discourses to the Aged* (Boston, 1774; Evans 13,510).

<sup>60</sup>Judah Monis (1683-1764), *Dickdook Leshon Gnebreet. A Grammar of the Hebrew Tongue* (Boston, 1735; Evans 3931).

Hebrew Psalter. P.M. Miss *Eunice Fish* here -- at the Shop and at Coffee. Master Peter Stone was here also.

1775 November 22 (Wednesday). Isaac Forbush has worked for me 5 Days at 1/4 Dollar per day and came early this morning and killed a shoat for me. [asks reasonably and behaves?]. A soldier, one of the Riflemen, a German, who says his Name is *John Parkman*, came in to see me. At Eve Mr. *Bowen* called and refreshed. He had been trying to [blot] [this?] Town; but can't succeed. He took leave to go home, but thought fit to stay, and lodged here.

1775 November 23 (Thursday). *Publick Thanksgiving*. Preached on Ps. 101.1, mainly a *new* [blot] by reason of many Interruptions, too imperfect and broken a Compos[*torn*]. May God graciously accept our Offerings, and forgive the Iniquitys of our [blot]ing! Master [May?], and [Mrs. *Spring*?] and her Children here at the late[blot] others were [blot] did not come. [blot] above [blot] all, lodged here.

1775 November 24 (Friday). Mrs. *Spring* and her Children tarry till towards Evening. I visited again poor *George Andrews* -- his Nerves are very much affected. Conversed and prayed with him. His Case is very dangerous. May God prepare him for the Event!

1775 November 25 (Saturday). P.M. Capt. B. Fay came, earnestly requesting me to go immediately to old Mr. Nathaniel Whitney, who has Convulsion Fits. I was closely engaged in preparing a sermon for tomorrow, but was obliged to leave it. I went -- found him so convulsed as to be incapable of Speaking plainly. He had his senses and could walk about. I prayed with him. Returned at Eve. Mr. *John Overlock* from *Ashburnham* came with a Cow and two young Creatures to be kept here this Winter.

1775 November 26 (Sunday). Mr. *Overlock* leaves us to go, being Sent for, to the Army, he being a soldier and obliged hastily to repair there. I had prepared in part to preach on another Text, but by the providence of God was prevented. Therefore preached a. and P.M. on *Isa.* 55.5 from p. 125 to p. 134, with what is in some loose papers, as Continuation of p. 130. Which may God bless to us! Mrs. *Ruth Godfry* dined with us. At Night Breck went to Mr. *Andrews's* and watched with *George*.

1775 November 27 (Monday). Am Reading Mr. *Job Ortons* Discourses to the Aged. May God grant me to profit by this useful Book! P.M. as I was going out of the House to visit Mr. *George Andrews*, came a young man, a Messenger from thence, praying earnestly that I would hasten to him, as they thought he was dying. I went -- he was revived -- Talked with him, instructed, cautioned, and prayed with him. *Hannah* droops again.

1775 November 28 (Tuesday). Read Mr. *Ortons* Sermons. P.M. visit old Mr. *Whitney* who is Paralytic. I saw one of the Fits come on, by the turning and twitching of his Mouth and his Eyes, rolling up, to one side (his right), but his whole Body was affected -- and he was incapable of any thing, for a Short Space -- But then came to; and Seemed rational again. As I went in, Deacon *Warrin* of *Upton* was at Prayer. After some time of conversing with the Sick, and on the

Providences of God, to the Company, they requested me to pray. I complied -- and endeavoured to improve the Opportunity for Spiritual profit. Received a Letter from Mr. *Bowen*, that he has removed to [Mr.?] *Taylor*s (or rather Coll. *Taylor*s) and settles there. Wrote an Answer the Same Eve.

1775 November 29 (Wednesday). Rev. Mr. *Hall* of *Sutton*, calls herein his way to [blot]. Samuel *Williams* here to agree about Cutting Wood for me [blot] to cutt for Six shillings per Cord; and one shilling per Cord [blot], and I *have told him to go to work* at that Rate.

1775 November 30 (Thursday). [blot] Though Samuel *Williams* had so fairly agreed to go to cutting to day, yet he went not. But *Nat. Chamberlain* went, and cut there, and *Nathan Maynard* junior went with my Cart and Oxen, and a small pair of Cattle of his own, to the Lot, and brought two load home, but not quite a Cord. N.B. I bought 50 weight of Tallow of Lt. *Joseph Baker*, rough, at 2/6 old tenor and Breck buys 30 lbs. Do. It is tryed up in the Kitchin. *Suse Brigham* visits here. Another Month has rolled off, and my Life so much the Shorter!

1775 December 1 (Friday). *Breck* buys for himself and me, a Quantity of rough Tallow of Lt. (or Capt.) *Joseph Baker*; and with my Team carts it home, and my people in the Kitchin go to trying it up. I am indeed my self otherwise employed. May God graciously assist me in my Great Work! At Night came Mr. *Benjamin Hicks* of *Sutton*, who tells me that a great many of the soldiers are returning home, their time being out to day.

1775 December 2 (Saturday). Mr. *Hicks* goes on his Journey. In the Kitchin Trying Tallow. P.M. in going to Southborough visit George *Andrews*. Mr. *Stone* came here. At Mr. *Stones* was Mr. *Moses Gill*. Quilla, the Negro Woman, very bad and consuming. I lodged at Southborough.

1775 December 3 (Sunday). Preached at Southborough on *Isa.* 63.8 a. and P.M. May God be graciously pleased to forgive the Iniquitys of my holy Services and add His Special Blessing! Mr. *Gill*, Mr. *Bowen* and wife dined there. I returned home at Eve: but visited and prayed with George *Andrews*.

1775 December 4 (Monday). *Breck* goes, and [three?] Teams are to go also to *Providence*. Seventeen men enlist to go to the Army. Capt. *Maynard* here about a place to erect a new stable behind the Meeting House, on my Land. On certain Conditio[ns I cons?]ent.

1775 December 5 (Tuesday). Capt. *Maynard* raises a Stable at the Corner in my Land on the back side of the Meeting House. At Eve my Son *Samuel* and his Wife, with little son and Daughter came in their Chaise. They came from Mr. *Forbes'* House in *Brookfield*; but only from *Alexanders* in *Leicester* to day. Mr. *Daniel Forbes* junior brought their Goods; He brought also for me, Mr. *Eli Forbes'* *Chambers Cyclopedia* in 2 Vols., and Scots Supplement 2 vols. N.B. Mr. *Peter Whitney* and Mrs. *Rebecca Warrin* had been here and din'd with us. Dr. *Hawes* and Wife and Mr. *Waters* also here at Coffee P.M. The latter consents to preach for me.

1775 December 6 (Wednesday). Besides reading the excellent L[torn]ned [Omiiron?] I am taking a Taste of the *Cyclop* [torn]. It is a Library. Mr. *John Fessenden* came at last and brought me part of my last years Sallery -- viz. £15.12.9 Lawful Money. At Eve I visited at Mr. Thad. *Warrins*.

1775 December 7 (Thursday). *Breck* returned from *Providence*, and his Teams [torn].

1775 December 8 (Friday). Jejun.

1775 December 9 (Saturday). In the Kitchin they are still [torn] rough Tallow. The Recruits from this T[torn]. They go off to day.

1775 December 10 (Sunday). Mr. *Cornelius Waters* p[torn] for me on *Joh.* 8.36 and P.M. on *Luk.* 13.3. I [baptized?] my Son *Samuels* Daughter *Sarah*. Mr. *Waters* lodged here. N.B. shews me his *Call* which the People of *Ashby* have given him; and he consults me upon it.

1775 December 11 (Monday). Mr. *Waters* leaves us. Mr. *Bowen* comes from *Northborough*, and brings a Letter from Mr. *Moore*, dated the 9th from *Roxbury*. He dines with us. Dr. *William Jones* from *Grafton* here.

1775 December 12 (Tuesday). A very cold Season. *Nat. Chamberlain* goes to the Ministerial Lot with Mr. *Joseph Bonds* Oxen added to mine and brings one Load of Wood, but it is so rough going that he goes not in the afternoon; but *Joseph Cullock* thrashes Rye P.M. At Eve came Mr. *May* and lodged here. I am reading Dr. I. *Mathers* History of Wars with Indians.<sup>61</sup>

1775 December 13 (Wednesday). Went to Widow *Williams's*. *John Warrin*, her Grandson, is Sick. P.M. *Ripley* from the College at *Concord*. He went to Mr. *Haskill* (one of the school-Committee) to enquire concerning the School keeping. He returned here and lodged with us. *Breck* goes with a Waggon to *Waltham*.

1775 December 14 (Thursday). I wrote by *Ripley* to my son *William*. Samuel first takes to days Paper. I read Dr. *Increase Mathers* History of Indian Wars, published 1676.

1775 December 15 (Friday). Great Numbers of Oxen and Hogs are killed from time to time at Capt. *Bakers* -- many also at Deacon <Capt.> *Woods*. *Breck* at night returns from *Waltham*, with slender, next to no Load of Earthen Ware.

1775 December 16 (Saturday). Many [torn] Successes of the provincial Forces by Sea in taking [torn] to *Boston* with stores and Provisions for the Kings Troops -- and of taking *Montreal* etc.

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<sup>61</sup>Increase Mather, *A Relation of the Troubles Which Have Hapned in New-England, by Reason of the Indians There* (Boston, 1677; Evans 238). Did Mather publish a history in England in 1676?



1775 December 17 (Sunday). Preached a. and P.M. on *Rom. 3.24*. May God prosper the word delivered! Mr. *May* dines here: he is here after meeting at Eve. Tarrys over night. N.B. Capt. *Baker* had been here in the Morning to inform me of his being obliged to have Hands at work to day in cutting out and Salting and barrelling up Pork, which must otherwise spoil. At which I expressed my Sorrow, and told him I must leave it to him to judge of the Necessity of his doing this Thing. N.B. Receive a [large?] Letter from Mr. *Forbes* of *Gloucester*, dated Nov. [23?].

1775 December 18 (Monday). A Cold season for [torn] poor Soldiers. *Breck* weighs the Tallow which we had of [Capt. Joseph?] *Baker*; the rough was 3100 lb. Now the tryed Tall[torn]mounts to [blank].

1775 December 19 (Tuesday). Mr. *Thomas K[torn] al*, who has preached of late at [Jersey?], was here and dined with us. He designs to go to the Camp: I therefore P.M. rode with him as far as to Mr. *Dan. Warrins*, whose Wife's Brother *Daniel* is in a Languishing state. I instructed and prayed with him. Mr. *Warrin* tells me that *Daniel* wants to have a sermon preached there; his Mother has been long confined. N.B. Sad News from [torn]ster of 3 Youths, two of them *Chandlers* who came from Boston [viz.?] *Franklin* and one *W [torn]* Scating upon a pond the Ice broke and they w[torn] drowned. May God please to Sanctifie this awful Dispensation! Of these See more hereafter. My Son *Samuel* Sat out in his Chaise to go to *Woodstock*.

1775 December 20 (Wednesday). Dr. *Crosby* here and dines with us. He bears a message from Mr. *Sumner* and his Wife, requesting me to make them a visit, *She* being in a wasting and dangerous Condition. He informs me also of the State of Mr. *Morse's* Parish, and the Sad Contest which Subsist between him and them.

1775 December 21 (Thursday). A very extreme Cold season. P.M. my Son *Samuel* returns from *Woodstock* but to day from *Oxford*, with some Goods, which he has bought of Mr. *Dexter* at *Woodstock*, but not such [assortment?] or Such a Quantity, as he expected.

1775 December 22 (Friday). [No entry.]

1775 December 23 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1775 December 24 (Sunday). A very Cold tedious Snow storm. Few at Meeting. Our Exercises were short. Preached a.m. on *Rom. 3.24*. P.M. on *Eccl. 3.14*. Occasioned by the Death of Several persons in an awful and sudden manner. Three Youths, viz. *Franklin Williams*, son of *Jonathan Williams* Esq. from *Boston*, and *Francis* and *Benjamin Chandler*, sons of Col. *Chandler* of *Worcester*, about 13 years old, were lately drowned at *Worcester*. They were skating on the Ice, which broke and let them into the Water. So that they all perished. Also Mr. *Benjamin Babbit* of *Brookfield*, being on a journey home, was Suddenly taken ill at *Northbridge*, dyed the next night and was buried there. Also *Abel Woods*, Son of the late *Solomon Woods* of this place, was mortally (as its feared) wounded by a Ball at *Letchmores* Point, and prayers are desired for him here. Such Sad disasters are solemn Warnings to all Survivors. At Eve we read

the latter part of Dr. I. Mathers *Exhortation* to the Inhabitants of New England in the year 1676.<sup>62</sup> All which may God sanctifie to us for our awakening!

1775 December 25 (Monday). Read *Eleazer Mathers* (of *Northampton*) Word to the Present and Succeeding Generations in New England from 1 King 8.57.<sup>63</sup>

Read also old Mr. *Richard Mathers* Life and the accounts of Several others of the Antient Ministers in Dr. *Cotton Mathers* Magnalia.

1775 December 26 (Tuesday). Exceeding Cold, So that I can't go out to visit as I designed. Miss *Nanny Beeton* was here to take Advice under her Spiritual Distresses. Read further Accounts [published?] formerly of the Indian Wars, especially with K. *Philip* and his *Narragansetts*. Read also the Accounts of Settling *Montreal* by the French; the Description etc. in the London Magazine for 1760.

1775 December 27 (Wednesday). Mr. *May* having lodged here, was willing to wait upon me to *Shrewsbury*, that I may see Mrs. *Sumner* as I have been requested, She being in a low, wasting Condition. We dined there. Discoursed with her -- prayed with her also. N.B. Their Daughter *Sally* was yesterday Sadly wounded and burnt by Ashes and Embers flying up into her Face by means of Water Spilt upon them. In returning we called at Mrs. *Allens* where was sister *Cushing*. We return at Eve. Mr. *May* tarrys to Night also.

1775 December 28 (Thursday). Mr. *May* goes to his School. *Stephen Maynard* comes to acquaint me that his Brother *Davis's* new-born son was dead, and that I was desired to attend the burying of it to day.<sup>64</sup> Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ and I went a.m. and called to see old Mrs. *Kelly* at her son *Beetons* where was also her Kinswoman Mrs. *Ayres* from *Boston*. We dined at Capt. *Maynards* -- thence to the House of Mourning. Our Kinswoman *Davis* is but weak and low yet. We rode in the Same Carriage (a kind of Coach) in which the Corps and chief Mourner were carried. At Eve I was called to visit Mr. *Artemas Bruce's* little Daughter, *Polly*, of about 6 years, who is very bad of Canker, Fever etc. Prayed with them and returned before Nine. *Elias* drove the sleigh.

1775 December 29 (Friday). One of Mr. *Adonijah Rice's* Twin Daughters of 4 years old, her Name *Submitt*, was buried in the South burying place, though it dyed in *Northborough*, and I suppose Mr. *Whitney* attended and prayed at the House of Mourning.<sup>65</sup> Mr. *Daniel Tilden*, adjutant in Col. *Benedict Arnolds* Regiment calls here as on his Way to Lebanon, and informs

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<sup>62</sup>Increase Mather, *A Serious Exhortation* (Cambridge, 1671). Evans 162. Boston, 1678; Evans 254.

<sup>63</sup>Eleazer Mather (1637-1669), *A Serious Exhortation* (Cambridge, 1671; Evans 162; also Boston, 1678; Evans 254).

<sup>64</sup>Not in *Westborough Vital Records*. The vital records include birth of the following children to Isaac and Anna Davis: (1) Phinehas, Sept. 12, 1772; (2) Joseph, Feb. 28, 1774; (3) Anna, June 19, 1777; (4) Isaac, Sept. 23, 1779.

<sup>65</sup>Death not in *Westborough Vital Records*. Submit, twin dau. of Adonijah and Hannah Rice, b. 5 Oct. 1771 (p. 90).

that Capt. *Broughton* carried into *Cape Ann* the Day before yesterday, a Brig which was going from *England* to *Boston* with Ordnance stores: and went out again immediately after another Vessel, supposed to be her Companion. P.M. Mr. *Bowen* here a little while. *Sophy* rides to Deacon *Batchellors* and Mr. *Grosvenors* at *Grafton*.

1775 December 30 (Saturday). My Son *Samuel* returns at Eve from *Newbury* and *Cambridge*. N.B. Ben. Warrin here and Examined.

1775 December 31 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on *Rom.* 3.24, and may a divine Blessing accompany these Endeavours! I preached P.M. on *Ecc.* 3.14, repeating what I delivered 7 Years ago on this Text; but now with additions Suited to the Closing of this remarkable year in which there have been many extraordinary Providences War, Frost, Drought, Sickness, Mortality -- 35 or 36 among ourselves and 9 Ministers. See my Almanack, and my Sermon for the Names of the Ministers. At Eve Mr. *May*. He read *Judge Hale's Great Audit*<sup>66</sup> and part of the Good Stewards Account, and prayed. Thus Ends this Year!

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<sup>66</sup>Matthew Hale, *The Great Audit, or Good Steward*