

Diary of Ebenezer Parkman, February 13-April 1, September 20-November 24, 1737

Francis Walett: “The original of the diary from Sept 1728 to Jan. 1740 has evidently been lost. Fortunately a portion of this (February 1737 to November 1737) was published by the Westborough Historical Society in *The Diary of Ebenezer Parkman . . .*, ed. by Harriette M. Forbes (Westborough, 1899).¹ The present editor has been completely dependent upon the transcription of Mrs. Forbes, and only minor changes of form in her text have been made. This has meant, essentially, writing out abbreviated words as has usually been done throughout the diary. Some material from Mrs. Forbes' notes has been incorporated in this work, and numerous other references added.”

Additional Note: This version incorporates both Forbes's and Walett's footnotes, with the author of the various notes indicated by last name.

1737 February 13 Sunday). by the means thereof. That we may be *awares* and have our Eyes open our minds *apprehensive now*, and not have the first thorow sense of those Things in the midst of the unhappy Experience of them.

1737 February 14 (Monday). I put off my Journey by means that it was Town Meeting.

1737 February 15 (Tuesday). I rode to Concord. Mr. Flagg² of Grafton my Company, from Biglo's in Marlborough. Mr. Whiting³ and his wife had rid out. Capt. Joseph Buckley Spent the evening with us. I had conversation an hour or two with Mrs. Israel Whiting, lodged here.

1737 February 16 (Wednesday). Lieut. Trowbridge came to Mr. Whiting's and was my Company to Watertown. Lodged at Father Champney's⁴ at Cambridge.

¹Harriette M. Forbes, ed., *The Diary of Rev. Ebenezer Parkman, of Westborough, Mass., for the Months of Feb., Mar., Apr., Oct. and Nov., 1737, Nov. and Dec. of 1778, and the Years of 1779 and 1780* ([Westborough,] 1899), 9-47. The original may be found at:

https://books.google.com/books?id=udV_8ntfbBUC&printsec=frontcover&dq=forbes+diary+of+ebenezer+parkman&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjM3-isw6PaAhVRLKwKHbSHBIEQ6AEIjzAA#v=onepage&q=forbes%20diary%20of%20ebenezer%20parkman&f=false

²**Walett:** Eleazer Flagg.

³**Forbes:** Rev. John Whiting, of Concord, died May 4, 1752, aged 71. He was pastor of the church for 26 years, a man of wealth, learning, influence and talents” – “a gentleman of singular hospitality and generosity.” His second wife, whom he married in 1731, was the widow of Dr. Jonathan Prescott. He was the grandson of Hon. Thos. Danforth, deputy-governor.

Walett: Rev. John Whiting of Concord.

⁴**Forbes:** “Father Champney” was Samuel Champney, of Cambridge, born March 8, 1666-7 and died in March 1745-6. Mr. Parkman's first wife was his daughter Mary, who was baptized May 21, 1699, married July 7, 1724, and died Jan'y 29, 1735-6.

“Sister Hicks” and “Sister Lydia,” often mentioned in the Journal, were two younger sisters of the first Mrs. Parkman. Rebecca, born in 1703, married John Hicks, while Lydia, born in 1705, was unmarried and seemed to have made her home part of the time in the minister's family.

1737 February 17 (Thursday). Rode to Boston. My mother⁵ a still in a measure of Comfort thro' the Blessing of God. I could not be seasonable for lecture. N.B. At Mr. Increase Sumner's⁶ in the morning. N.B. Capt. Foot⁷ and Sister Elizabeth⁸ and Mrs. Mary Tilestone took a ride with me in a double Slay at evening to Capt. Robert Sharp's⁹ at Brookline, and Brother Elias¹⁰ came to us upon my Horse, after supper there. At 10 o'clock they returned in the Slay but I tarried. N.B. The discovery of my Inclinations to Capt. Sharp and to Madame. By their urgent Persuasions I tarried and lodged there. N.B. Mrs. Susanna Sharp.¹¹

1737 February 18 (Friday). I rode to Father Champney's and thence to Westborough. N.B. Mr. Tilestone and Capt. Wm. Roby of Boston my Company from Watertown to Sudbury.

1737 February 19 (Saturday). Engaged in my preparations. N.B. I cast a handful or two of Salt into my Pump.

1737 February 20 (Sunday). On Luke 16.13. P.M. repeated Sermon on Heb. 12.1. At evening visited Mr. Stephen Fay¹² who was very low, etc.

1737 February 21 (Monday). The small matter of Salt which I cast into my Pump on the 19th wonderfully loosened the Spire though it had been hard frozen for a long time (See Downs') and to our Joy and Pleasure had the use of the Pump again. Very pleasant weather.

⁵**Forbes:** Among the Epitaphs on Copp's Hill is the following: "Here lyes buried the body of Mrs. Elizabeth Parkman, the virtuous and pious consort of Mr. William Parkman, aged 85 years and 7 months, Apr. y^e 13th, 1746."

⁶**Forbes:** Mr. Increase Sumner was son-in-law of Capt. Robert Sharpe, having married his daughter Sarah, a year or less before this date. She, as well as "Mistress Susanna," was a cousin of Susannah Boylston, the mother of Pres. John Adams.

Their son Increase, born in 1746, was Governor Increase Sumner of Massachusetts.

⁷**Walett:** Probably Captain John Foote of Amesbury, Mass.

⁸**Walett:** Mrs. Elias Parkman.

⁹**Forbes:** Capt. Robert Sharpe was a prominent citizen of Brookline. He owned all the land from the corner of School and Washington streets on the north side to a line above Park Street extending across Harvard Street to the Longwood Marshes, above the Aspinwall lands and below the present Stearns lands. His house was standing until about thirty years ago, never painted except the window frames, which were white. He was a man of wealth.

Mistress Susanna was born May 29, 1716, -- so, was a maid of twenty-one summers at this time. She afterwards married Thomas Snow, of Boston.

Walett: A Prominent and wealthy resident of Brookline.

¹⁰**Walett:** Elias Parkman of Boston.

¹¹**Walett:** The daughter of Captain Robert Sharp whose hand in marriage Reverend Parkman was seeking.

¹²**Walett:** The son of Captain John Fay. He survived this illness and later became a prominent citizen of Hardwick, Mass. Johnson, *Fay Family Tree*, pp. 26-27.

1737 February 22 (Tuesday). A number of Hands came to get wood. Mr. Grout¹³ with his Team, Mr. Tainter¹⁴ with his and Mr. Harrington¹⁵ with his, Mr. Grow,¹⁶ Daniel Hardy, Dan. Forbush,¹⁷ Elias Rice, Noah Rice,¹⁸ James Fay,¹⁹ James Bowman, Zebulon Rice, Solomon Rice, John Rogers, Timothy Warren, Jonathan Forbush, jun., Thomas Winchester, David Baverick, Ebenezer Nurse, Simon Tainter, jun. and Samuel Bumpso.

1737 February 23 (Wednesday). Very stormy. Rain and Wind, especially very Windy in the Night. N.B. Sister Hicks²⁰ another son, born a little before night.

1737 February 24 (Thursday). Had sent to Mr. Prentice of Grafton²¹ and very much depended upon him to preach my Lecture, but he failed. I repeated Sermon on Heb. 7.25. A very cold day

¹³**Walett:** Joseph Grout.

¹⁴**Forbes:** Simon Tainter, and his son Simon, Jr., were always good friends of Mr. Parkman. The father in his will styles himself "gentleman" and bequeaths his "silver cup," valued in the inventory at £1, 6s. 8 d., to his grandson Simon. He died in 1763 and Mr. Parkman writes in his journal under date of April 2: "My dear friend and brother, Deacon Simon Tainter Dyd! He expired about 11 A.M. May God Sanctify this death in a peculiar manner to me and mine. Tho my good deacon is gone, yet *God* who is All-Sufficient lives and is unchangeable." And April 5 he writes: "I read Isac. 51. Preached A. M., on the occasion of the Sorrowful Death on I Thess. 4-18, read also 14, but could not handle that." "His duty," says the Boston Evening Post – in a piece probably written by Mr. Parkman, "was manifested by his high regard to the house of God, his constant attendance there, his esteem of the ordinance and ministers thereof.

"His deeds of *Charity* were unstinted, his heart and hands being ever open, to relieve and help, and to supply the necessitous, who now deplore the loss of such a friend and father."

Simon, Jr., was born in 1715.

Mr. Parkman's later Journals are full of instances of Dea. Tainter's kindness to him – breaking in an unruly mare, killing, with his son's help, cattle or hogs, inviting him and his wife to dinner, when "they had dressed a very large Pigg to entertain us," sending him fresh meat and wood, a bottle of Madeira, or a few oysters from Boston, selling divers sorts of edibles for Mrs. Parkman in the Boston markets, ploughing, sowing and reaping, and helping him in a thousand ways, and the pastor writes: "I hope he does all sincerely and as to the Lord, for I am utterly unworthy, but this conduct must quicken me to endeavor to deserve it. May God reward him with Abundant Special Blessings."

He lived on Mt. Pleasant Street, in the house now known as the Wadsworth house.

Walett: Deacon Simon Tainter.

¹⁵**Walett:** Samuel Harrington.

¹⁶**Walett:** Samuel Grow.

¹⁷**Walett:** Son of Deacon Jonathan Forbush.

¹⁸**Walett:** Son of Thomas Rice.

¹⁹**Walett:** Son of Captain John Fay.

²⁰**Walett:** Rebecca (Champney) Hicks, Parkman's first wife's sister.

²¹**Forbes:** Rev. Solomon Prentice – ordained as minister of the Grafton Church in 1731. "He became," says Rev. Peter Whitney, "what was called in that day a zealous new light, or more properly, a raving enthusiast." He died in 1773, leaving a will in which he provided that his wife Sarah, is to live in his house, and have all his household goods and furniture and indore movables; his riding chair and horse which is to be well kept for her, summer and winter, and replaced if he fails; her firewood cut at her door; as much cider as she shall have occasion to use in the house; full and free liberty to put up a friend's horse or horses, to hay in winter and grass in summer, when they come to visit her, &c. All to be provided by Solomon, Jr., for her sole use and benefit during her natural life. £15 to be paid her annually by my sons.

-- very slippery -- few at Lecture. Heard by Cousen Winchester that Sister Ruth Champney at Cambridge was sick.

1737 February 25 (Friday). A very cold day again. Ensign Ward of Marlborough here to obtain my Evidence of what the Association which met at Framingham Oct. 16, 1733 judged concerning Mr. Kent.²² At eve I gave my Testimony, confirmed by an Oath before Justice Keyes.²³ Ensign Ward being there present.

1737 February 26 (Saturday). At eve came Dr. Thyery but he would go and lodge at Ensign Maynard's.

1737 February 27 (Sunday). A.M. on 2 Cor. 13.14. Sacrament. Dr. Thyery and Deacon Fay and his wife dined with me. P.M. on Mat. 7.3.4.5. Dr. Thyery at eve, but was called away to visit Stephen Fay.

1737 February 28 (Monday). The weather was very Raw Cold. The Wind was north and very bleak. I visited Mr. Beeman's²⁴ Family and Mr. David Brigham. The Dauter of the former and the Wife of the Latter were ill.

Monsieur Thyery came to my house P.M. and I had some Expectations of Mr. Prentice of Grafton, and his wife to visit me, but they did not come. The Doctor spent the evening and good part of the night with me, but presently after he got to Bed came Simon Tainter jun. upon a most urgent message from Stephen Fay,²⁵ to have the Doctor visit him forthwith. Howbeit he

Mr. Parkman was acquainted with Mr. Prentice before he came to Grafton, and with two other ministers signs a paper recommending him to the gospel ministry "when it shall please God to engage him in it and heartily pray he may prove a blessing to the churches." This was in 1731.

Mr. Prentice built for himself a house in Grafton, which after his death was occupied by Rev. Aaron Hutchinson, and later by Rev. Daniel Grosvenor; Mr. Parkman doubtless was a frequent visitor to each of its owners. It was moved from its first location and now forms the front of Mr. Henry Prentice's house on Oak Street, having come at last again into the family of the Rev. Solomon.

Walett: Reverend Solomon Prentice (Harvard 1727), minister of Grafton, 1731-1747. *Sibley*, VIII, 248-257.

²²**Walett:** Benjamin Kent (Harvard 1727), minister at Marlborough, 1733 to 1735, was dismissed and tried as a heretic.

²³**Walett:** Captain John Keyes of Shrewsbury.

²⁴**Forbes:** The Beeman family lived on the Flanders road. David Brigham's house stood about 60 yards east from where the Hospital now stands. His farm comprised about 500 acres. His house was burned Oct. 16, of this year (see entry for that day). He rebuilt the house with the help of his son Jonas, who after his father's death lived in it.

Walett: Ebenezer Beeman of Westborough.

²⁵**Forbes:** Stephen Fay, in spite of this severe illness, and lack of attention on the part of Dr. Thyery, lived many years. He was the son of Capt. John Fay and was born May 5, 1715. He lived in Westborough until 1743 when he moved from town, and later became one of the first settlers of Bennington, Vt. He built the first tavern west of the Green Mts., a house which had a stirring history during the Revolution. He had five sons in the Battle of Bennington, and Peter Fay, of Southborough, tells the following touching account of his learning after the battle that his oldest son John had been instantly killed by a ball through the head.

"A messenger was sent to bear the solemn tidings to Capt. Fay as gently as possible. He told him he had something bad to tell him concerning one of his sons. The Capt. instantly asked him:

would not rise till he had taken several naps. I did not get to bed till past Three o'clock. N.B. Town Meeting to add to the Seats in Meeting House.

1737 March 1 (Tuesday). It had been very Icy and now by a snow upon the Ice and it was very Slippery and Troublesome riding. I rode to Mr. Cook's²⁶ to fix my Horse. Called at Capt. Forbush's.²⁷

1737 March 2 (Wednesday). Sister Lydia rode down to Cambridge with me. N.B. We sat out somewhat before 10 A.M., rode double, yet got to Father Champney's at Cambridge promptly at 5 P.M. N.B. Mr. John Jarvis was returning from his journey to Marlborough, whither he had been to wait upon Mrs. Hannah Breck,²⁸ who made a visit yesterday to her sister Mrs. Gott²⁹ in her illness.

From Father Champney's I rode to Roxbury, called at Mr. Increase Sumner's. Thence I rode to Boston, waited upon my mother, and then went and Supped at Brother Elias's. N.B. Mr. Bowman the wharfinger and his wife at Supper with us. My Horse sent to his Stables. Lodged at Brother Elias's.

“Did he disobey orders? Or desert his post?”

“No.’

“Did he falter in the charge?”

“No, worse than that. He is dead,’ was the answer.

“Then it is not worse,’ exclaimed the father. ‘Bring him in, that I may once more gaze on the face of my darling boy.’

“And when they brought him in, covered with dust and blood, he called for water and a sponge, and with his own hand bathed the disfigured features; declaring at the same time that he had never experienced a more glorious or happy day in his life.”

²⁶**Forbes:** Cornelius Cook, the blacksmith, was living at this time in the house still standing on the corner of East-Main and Lyman streets. This house was deeded to Cook, by his father-in-law, Thomas Forbush, in 1732, with four acres of land, for £4. 5s. Cornelius was the father of the famous Tom Cook. (See Aug. 27, 1779.)

He had eight other children: Jonathan, the oldest, was the father of Molly Cook, almost as well known for her eccentricities as her uncle Thomas.

Walett: Cornelius Cook, the blacksmith of Westborough.

²⁷**Forbes:** Capt. Forbush was Samuel Forbush, and he lived in the house now standing on the corner of Lyman Street and the Turnpike. The house has been enlarged since his day, but is probably the oldest in town. For many years it was used as a tavern. Samuel Forbush was a brother of Thomas, both of them being among the original settlers of Westborough.

Walett: Samuel Forbush.

²⁸**Walett:** The daughter of the late Reverend Robert Breck of Marlborough who married Reverend Parkman of Westborough, Sept. 1, 1737.

²⁹**Walett:** Sarah Breck, also a daughter of the Reverend Breck, married Dr. Benjamin Gott of Marlborough in 1728.

1737 March 3 (Thursday). Mr. Mather³⁰ Lectured on [*blank*] against Covetousness. Dined at Brother Samuel's.³¹ P.M. visited Mrs. Pierpont,³² Mrs. Hannah being at Marlborough. Mr. Pierpont also had taken a Journey to New Haven. Towards night I rode over to Roxbury. N.B. Mrs. Sumner ill.³³ I proceeded to Capt. Sharp's.³⁴ By Capt. Sharp's strong Solicitation I tarried all night. N.B. Mrs. Susan not very willing to think of going so far in the Country as Westborough, etc., etc., etc.

1737 March 4 (Friday). I rode to Father Champney's. Thence I went over to the Town. N.B. Mr. Jonathan Monnef. Junior at Father Champney's. I returned P.M. from Town and went again to Capt. Sharp's. N.B. Capt. Sharp and Madame gone to the Funeral of a Relation at Roxbury. I tarried whilst the Capt. and his Spouse came home. Arguments which be fruitless with Mrs. Susan. I returned to Father Champney's between 8 and 9 in the Evening.

1737 March 5 (Saturday). Sister Lydia was willing to go up again to Westborough with me if the weather would allow. Upon her mentioning her carrying up some other Coloured clothes than her black, and our putting off our Mourning it (by Degrees) moved me very much and my Passions flowed almost beyond Controll, till I was obliged to retire away. Every matter was most exceeding Sorrowful to me. The weather was very discouraging to Sister Lydia's Design, nor could she in prudence venture tho I tarried for her till 11 when I sat out. It rained and I had a very wet troublesome Journey. I rode over the new Bridge in Sudbury and went to Capt. Clark's³⁵ of Framingham. The Waters flow abundantly, Ice rots away, the Snow melts again, the Rain beats and the Storm strong. Capt. Clark very urgent to have me stay, but I was resolute to get as far as I could. I called at Mr. Stone's³⁶ at Southborough, and about nine at night reached home. D.O.M. Gratia.

³⁰**Forbes:** Probably Rev. Samuel Mather, son of Cotton Mather. He was the fourth pastor of the dynasty of the Mathers over the Old North Church. In 1765, he was living in Moon St., and Gov. Hutchinson took refuge in his house when his own elegant mansion was sacked by a mob.

He died June 27, 1785, aged seventy-six, and is buried on Copp's Hill, in the Mather Tomb with Increase and Cotton.

Walett: Reverend Samuel Mather of the Old North Church, Boston.

³¹**Walett:** Samuel Parkman of Boston.

³²**Walett:** Mary, the widow of Reverend James Pierpont (Harvard 1681) of New Haven. She was the daughter of Reverend Samuel Hooker of Farmington, Conn., and the granddaughter of Reverend Thomas Hooker, the first minister of Hartford. Parkman was very fond of Mrs. Pierpont and she appears in the diary numerous times. After her death, Nov. 1, 1740, Parkman wrote a long eulogy which he intended to publish but did not. The manuscript is in the library of the American Antiquarian Society. See Sibley, III, 222-230. **Note:** Walett is mistaken. This was Sarah Pierpont, wife of James Pierpont, Jr.

³³**Walett:** Mrs. Increase Sumner.

³⁴**Walett:** In Brookline.

³⁵**Forbes:** Capt. Isaac Clark, of Framingham, was a noted man in his day. He commanded a company of troopers which was out in Father Raile's War in 1725, and one his one hundredth birthday rode horseback to and from Col. Trowbridge's. He lived to be one hundred and two, and died in 1768. His gravestone says: "His offspring that descended from him was two hundred and fifty-one."

Walett: Isaac Clark.

³⁶**Walett:** Reverend Nathan Stone (Harvard 1726), first minister of Southborough, 1730-1781. *Sibley*, VIII, 99-105.

1737 March 6 (Sunday). Repeated Sermon on Acts 2.37.38. Dr. Thyery at meeting.

1737 March 7 (Monday). Dr. Thyery visited me and dined with me. I prayed with the Town before their Elections. Mr. Prentice of Grafton visited me, and note well that the Day I went from home last week both he and his wife came to see me, just after we were gone. A very fine pleasant Day.

1737 March 8 (Tuesday). Cloudy. Some Snow. N.B. Many of the People gone to Sudbury about Housenonic Rights.³⁷

1737 March 9 (Wednesday). The water everywhere exceeding high. Visit Mr. Sam Fay, and Stephen Fay.

1737 March 10 (Thursday). The Winds more than ordinarily violent. A Barn was blown down in Framingham. A man narrowly escaped drowning at Framingham River. The water being so deep, the Current so strong and the Winds so impetuous.

1737 March 11 (Friday). Divers Neighbours (Mr. Maynard, Mr. Grout, and Mr. Chas. Rice), here in the Evening. Catechizing, but only 4 boys, beside my own. No catechizing P.M. No children came.

1737 March 12 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1737 March 13 (Sunday). A.M. on Matt. 7.6 and P.M. repeated Sermon 46 being the 4th on Act 2.37.38.

1737 March 14 (Monday). I visited Stephen Fay, Capt. Fay and old Mr. Rice.³⁸ David went away.

1737 March 15 (Tuesday). Early in the morning to Mr. Whipples,³⁹ etc. At noon I was extremely indisposed. Faint etc. Storm, snow. P.M. Dr. Thyery was here, I grew better. D.G.

³⁷**Walett:** The development of Housatonnuc townships was a matter of interest to numerous people in central Massachusetts. Reverend Parkman later purchased a share in the area that became Sheffield.

³⁸**Forbes:** Probably Thomas Rice, who was at this time eighty-three years old. He had formerly lived on the same road as the Fays, in the house which had earlier served for many years as a garrison, and near which occurred the sad tragedy of 1704, when two of his sons and two of his nephews were carried into captivity, while his youngest little boy was killed by the attacking Indians.

Thomas was one of the original settlers of the town and one of its most prominent citizens. He served in the Legislature, and did his best to promote the welfare of the Church and town during a long life. He died in 1748.

The house of Mr. Frank V. Bartlett now stands on the site of his old home. This place he had sold, and Abner Newton was living there in 1737, when his dwelling-house was entered in the night-time by Hugh Henderson, who paid the penalty of his crime with his life in November, as recorded in the Journal for that month.

Walett: Thomas Rice, an original settler of Westborough.

³⁹**Walett:** Francis Whipple of Westborough.

1737 March 16 (Wednesday). Dies. Humill. and Proc. Secret. See my own Memoirs. At eve, Mr. Whipple. N.B. An ewe that was gored very ill -- fine pleasant Day. Roads extremely hollow. Some of the oldest persons declare they scarce ever knew the Earth to have been so frozen as this winter.

1737 March 17 (Thursday). A.M. Storm of snow. Rain. Trouble with my sick ewe. Mr. Whipple to Boston.

1737 March 18 (Friday). P.M. I rode to Marlborough to Colonel Wood's.⁴⁰ Eve at Dr. Gott's.⁴¹ Mrs. Gott had been very ill, but is recovering. *Mrs. Hannah Breck with her*, but I spent my time with the men, scil. the Dr. Coll. and Mr. Daniel Steward.⁴² Late in the Evening Deacon Woods⁴³ came to request me to visit a young woman at his House (Dauter of Mr. Samuel Stow)⁴⁴ apprehended to be at the Point of Death. I went, prayed with her etc. I lodged at Colonel Wood's.

1737 March 19 (Saturday). A.M. To Dr. Gott's, but a short space with Mrs. Hannah.⁴⁵ At my Request, she had (she assured me) burnt my Letters, Poems etc. P.M. Funeral of Capt. Eleazer How.⁴⁶ Capt. Brigham⁴⁷ informed of the Death of President Wadsworth,⁴⁸ the Night before last, also lately Part of Northampton Meeting-House fell and wounded many, in time of Divine Service, and the Burning of Young Colonel Chandler's⁴⁹ House at Woodstock, and three persons

⁴⁰**Walett:** Colonel Benjamin Woods.

⁴¹**Forbes:** Dr. Benj. Gott, a young physician in Marlborough, had married Sarah, daughter of the Rev. Robert Breck. Hannah was a younger sister, at this time being twenty-one years old. Her father had been a good friend of Mr. Parkman, when he first came to Westborough, and was a remarkable man. He was ordained pastor when twenty-two. "As to his learning," says a writer in the News Letter for January 21, 1731, "I suppose it will be no offence to say, there were few of his standing that were even his equals. He was such a master of the learned languages that he could, and did, frequently, to the capacity of his family, read a Chapter of the Hebrew Bible into English, and the Greek was still easier to him. Pride, hypocrisy and affectation were his aversion; and covetousness was what he was a perfect stranger to. His temper was grave and thoughtful, yet cheerful at times, especially with his friends and acquaintances, and his conversation entertaining and agreeable."

Mr. Parkman and Mistress Hannah were married September 11, 1737 – all her objections finally overcome. A piece of her wedding dress, and her wedding slippers are still treasured by Mrs. Tuckerman. The dress is a heavy, white gros grain silk – the bodice evidently made with many rows of stitching, between which were run strips of cane.

The slippers are of brocaded silk – a green ground with figures in yellowish white and various shades of red – the heels are high, covered with the silk, and they are lined with a coarse linen.

⁴²**Walett:** Benjamin Gott of Marlborough.

⁴³**Walett:** Daniel Stewart of Marlborough.

⁴⁴**Walett:** There was no Deacon Woods in Marlborough at this time. James Woods was elected in 1741 and served many years.

⁴⁵**Walett:** Mary Stow died March 20, 1737.

⁴⁶**Walett:** Hannah Breck of Marlborough whom the Rev. Parkman was courting.

⁴⁷**Walett:** Of Marlborough. The commander of a company of militia.

⁴⁸**Walett:** Nathan Brigham of Marlborough.

⁴⁹**Walett:** President Benjamin Wadsworth of Harvard College.

⁴⁹**Walett:** Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Chandler, Woodstock's first representative to the Gen-eral

consumed in it, scil, Mrs. Wright, her son and a man who was asleep with him. I returned home. At eve, Dr. Thiery at my house in great Urgency going to Boston for Drugs, to relieve Stephen Fay, no persuading him to the Contrary although the Roads are extreme bad, the night Dark etc. N.B. A piece of Cotton Linnen of 12 yards from Mr. Caruths.

1737 March 20 (Sunday). On Matt. 7.7.8. P.M. on Matt. 7.9.10.11.

1737 March 21 (Monday). I visited Stephen Fay -- was at the Capt.'s, find Thyery is not a man of Truth or Probity. At Cousin Winchester's etc.

1737 March 22 (Tuesday). Rain and Cloudy. Visited old Mr. Ward's⁵⁰ Family, reckoned with Mr. Josiah Newton. Rainy -- came home in the Night and in the Rain.

1737 March 23 (Wednesday). Cold northerly wind. P.M. visited old *David Monanaow*,⁵¹ Indian, he tells me he was 104 last Indian Harvest. Says the name of *Boston* was not *Shawmut* but *Shanwawmuck*. Channcy Pond was called *Nawgawwoomcom* and *Marlborough*, [blank]. N.B. Mr. Seth Rice⁵² here about this time to discourse with me on the life of his sister Thankful. I visited Mr. D. Brigham's⁵³ family, and old Capt. Byles.⁵⁴

1737 March 24 (Thursday). Froze hard again last night. Cold windy day.

1737 March 25 (Friday). I rode to Marlborough, din'd with Mr. Hovey at Mm. Madame Fish's. Spent the afternoon at Dr. Gott's -- was at the Colonel's, but returned to Doctor's. Mr. Hovey there with a Bass Viol. N.B. Mrs. H___h B___k at the Doctor's still. Our conversation of a piece with what it used to be. I mark her admirable Conduct, her Prudence and wisdom, her good manners and her distinguishing Respectfulness to me which accompany her Denyals. After it

Assembly of Conn. Clarence W. Bowen, *Woodstock An Historical Sketch* (New York, 1886), p. 47.

⁵⁰**Walett:** Probably Thomas Ward, an original settler of Westborough.

⁵¹**Forbes:** After King Philip's War, some of the Marlborough Indians who had been taken prisoners and confined on the islands in Boston harbor, returned to their old homes.

"Among those who returned," says Rev. Dr. Allen, of Northborough, "was David alias David Munnanaow, who joined Philip and, as he afterwards confessed, assisted in the destruction of Medfield. This treacherous Indian had, it is said, a slit thumb, which circumstance led to his conviction. . . .

"His wigwam was on the borders of the pond near the public house long known as Williams' Tavern, where he lived with his family many years and died in extreme old age."

The last members of David's family still made their homes in the field by the pond, within the memory of many persons now living. Until very lately, an extremely old chestnut has been pointed out as the tree under which these Indians had their wigwam. It was called the Wigwam Tree. At last, like old David himself, it has succumbed to old age.

Walett: Sometimes spelled Munnanaow and Munnanaow. He fought with King Philip but afterwards returned to his home in Marlborough.

⁵²**Walett:** Seth Rice and his sister Thankful were 2 of the children of Edmund Rice, an original settler of Westborough.

⁵³**Walett:** One of Parkman's neighbors.

⁵⁴**Walett:** Captain Joseph Byles of Westborough.

grew late in the Evening, I rode home to Westb., through the Dark and the Dirt, but cheerfully and comfortably (comparatively). N.B. My Family all abed.

1737 March 26 (Saturday). I had appointed to ride to Grafton in order to changing with Mr. Prentice tomorrow, but it proved so very Rainy all day that it was unpracticable.

1737 March 27 (Sunday). Fair and pleasant Day. Matt. 7.12 A.M., but P.M. repeated Sermon II, Acts 2.37.38. N.B. Mr. Silas Brigham⁵⁵ and Mr. Eleazer Pratt⁵⁶ of Shrewsbury had desired me to baptize their Children. Accordingly, in my manner I desired the Children might be brought forth to Baptism. But only one appeared. I looked about till I conceived that something had befallen the other or those concerned with it. I proceeded and baptized Mr. Pratt's (which was the Child that was brought) when the prayers were over we proceeded to the last Singing; in the Time of the last Singing Mr. Brigham and his Child came in. After the Blessing and when I was down in the Alley going out, Mr. Brigham asked me whether his child could not be baptized. I ans'd, it could not now. My Reasons are these. Besides that, when I am spent with the foregoing Services, it is too much to expect me to repeat over them again. Besides that, such a custom indulged would involve us in great irregularity and Difficulty, but this administration for my known Friends would have forced me to make it a custom, and besides the impatience of many of the Congregation to get away home, being they live 4, 5 or 6 miles off. Besides those Reasons, I would urge that is was so very sudden upon me that I could not judge which way I could vindicate it if I should proceed. Again, by the suddenness I was too much confused to have my Power at command to perform the Devotions; nor was I furnished therefor (Eccl. 5.1.2). So that it would have been nothing short of horrible Presumption for me to have done it. Lydia Cutting not well.

1737 March 28 (Monday). *Lydia*⁵⁷ worse, having a bad Ague in her face and it threw her wholly by; but it was so ordered in Providence, that Deborah Ward came to see us and she served us.

⁵⁵**Forbes:** Mr. Silas Brigham, so unfortunately tardy this Sunday morning – had married Mindwell Grout, and the baby Jemima born four days before this, was their first child. She married Constantine Hardy.

Mr. Eleazar Pratt lived near Wild Cat Swamp, and was afterwards set off to Westborough. His baby, Sarah, was nearly six months old, and he hardly deserved so much more credit as Mr. Parkman would seem to give him, for he had his good wife Ruhamah to get the baby attired in its best frock, with the deftness which the care of three older children had given her.

Poor Silas Brigham, and poor Mindwell! How they must have worried, and how flushed his young face must have been when he marched down the aisle, after all the hurry, to have his pride in his first-born so humbled by the Minister's censure.

The Church Records say under date of April 3, 1737: "Jemima of Silas and Mindwell Brigham baptized by Rev. Mr. Prentice of Grafton."

Walett: Of Westborough. The child was Jemima, born 4 days before. On April 3, 1737 the child was baptized by Reverend Prentice of Grafton.

⁵⁶**Walett:** Eleazer and Ruhamah Pratt lived in a part of Shrewsbury later added to Westborough. Their child, Sarah, was six months old.

⁵⁷**Walett:** Lydia Champney, the sister of Parkman's first wife.

Adjournment of Town Meeting. N.B. Brother Hicks⁵⁸ had been chosen Constable, but gets off by virtue of a Commission to be Deputy Sheriff. (David Baverick diets here).

1737 March 29 (Tuesday). Very Rainy. Lydia worse, considerable Fever. Benj. How with David at his work and din'd with us. Neither of them to be persuaded to go for Dr. Gott for Lydia. Jonathan Rogers came to go, but we did not send.

1737 March 30 (Wednesday). *Lydia* somewhat better, very fine weather.

1737 March 31 (Thursday). *Publick Fast*. I preached on Isa. 1.9. N.B. Mr. Abraham Amsden of Marl. here to desire me to attend the Funeral of his Brother *Thomas'* only Son,⁵⁹ a youth near 21, and very hopeful, who died after a short illness of but a few Days. O that I and that the people of Westb., at least some of them might be of that small Remnant which God has left of truly Godly Ones! and O that we might have Grace to Demean and to acquit ourselves as such; and that it might please God to keep off His Judgments that this Land may not be made as *Sodom* and like unto *Gomorrhah*, but that the Div. Mercy might be afforded to us as we need it and that Glory may yet Dwell in our Land!

1737 April 1 (Friday). I rode down to Marl. to the Funeral of Joseph Amsden's.⁶⁰ Many youth present and seem to be affected. O that there might be abiding impression on their souls! and upon all of us. This is the second Death in that near Neighbourhood of youth in Flower and Glory within a very little while. N.B. This Joseph Amsden was one of the Bearers of the other, scil, the young woman that Dyed at Deacon James Wood's on the 19th of last month. After Burial I returned to Capt. Amsden's to afford him what consolation I could under his melancholy circumstances. N.B. Coll. Woods with me. N.B. Capt. Nathan Brigham gave further accounts of the Fury of the Mob at Boston⁶¹ -- assaulting the Town House etc. At Eve, I was at Dr. Gotts, Mrs. H___h was thought to be gone up to Mr. Week's⁶² or Capt. Williams,⁶³ with design to lodge there, but she returned to the Doctors. And she gave me her Company till it was very late. Her Conversation was very Friendly, and with divers expressions of Singular and Peculiar Regard. *Memorandum. Oscul:* But she cannot yield to being a step mother. I lodged there, and with great satisfaction and Composure.

⁵⁸**Walett:** John Hicks, Parkman's brother-in-law by his first marriage.

⁵⁹**Walett:** Joseph, who had died the day before.

⁶⁰**Walett:** Abraham and Thomas, as well as Captain Isaac, were sons of Isaac Amsden, an early resident of Marlborough.

⁶¹**Forbes:** From Boston News Letter for April 1, 1737: -- "On Thursday Night the 24 instant, the middle Market House in this Town, together with several Butchers' Shops near the same, were cut, pulled down and entirely demolished by a number of persons unknown: and several posts of the North Market House were also sawn asunder the same Night."

In consequence of which Gov. Phipps issued a proclamation offering a reward of one hundred pounds for the detection of any of the ringleaders.

⁶²**Walett:** Supply Weeks of Marlborough.

⁶³**Walett:** Captain Abraham Williams of Marlborough married Elizabeth Breck, sister of Hannah Breck.

Memorandum. Ebenezer⁶⁴ has begun to learn his 2. Accidence⁶⁵ and now makes a business of it.

[Note: There is a gap in the diary between April 1 and September 20.]

1737 September [20?]. [*Blank*] which were upon their journey to Connecticut came to see us, dined with us and prevented us (altho Sister Lydia and Mrs. Bekky were gone already as Earnest of our Going) till so late in the P.M., then the Rain coming also that we were utterly disappointed.

1737 September 21 (Wednesday). We rode to Cousen Winchester,⁶⁶ but they being gone and their neighbours also to Worcester, we struck along up to Mr. Prentice's at Grafton. N.B. Their son Nathaniel's finger had been wounded, the Top of one of his Fingers being cut off. N.B. Mrs. Sartel⁶⁷ of Groton here. Called at Capt. Fay's as we returned home in ev'g.

1737 September 22 (Thursday). Visited Capt. Eager's wife⁶⁸ who had been some time sick.

1737 September 23 (Friday). John Clung⁶⁹ so urgent for his money (bec. of his journey to Pennsylvania[]) that I was obliged to ride about to gather it, till I succeeded at Treasurer Newton's.

1737 September 24 (Saturday). Message from John Hamilton⁷⁰ under condemnation for Burglary requesting that I would visit him. N.B. Lydia sick and my wife⁷¹ burthened with the Business of the Family. N.B. Fire raging in the Bushes on the west side of Powder Hill, drie by the Drought and the Frost and the Wind very high. Brother Hicks alone there, till I assisted him, and we succeeded. D.G.

1737 September 25 (Sunday). Mr. Pierpont came to us this morning, having come from Boston but a little before sunset last eve'g. N.B. News that the vessel in which his Goods were had struck upon Martha's Vineyard, but had got off again: he (as he can) pursues his journey to see

⁶⁴**Walett:** Parkman's first son, born Aug. 20, 1727.

⁶⁵**Forbes:** The 2. Accidence was a small book containing the rudiments of grammar.

⁶⁶**Walett:** Elizabeth Champney, cousin of Parkman's first wife, was the second wife of Benjamin Winchester of Framingham.

⁶⁷**Walett:** Probably a relative of Sarah Sartele (Sartell or Sawtell) who married Reverend Solomon Prentice of Grafton in 1732.

⁶⁸**Forbes:** Capt. Eager was one of the first settlers in that part of Westborough which afterwards became Northborough. His house was the first built on the New Connecticut Road, between Sam'l Goodenow's Garrison and the Town of Worcester. It was the first tavern opened in the place. He died in 1755.

Walett: James Eager of Westborough.

⁶⁹**Walett:** Should be McClung.

⁷⁰**Walett:** Otherwise known as Hugh Henderson, at that time in jail in Worcester awaiting execution.

⁷¹**Walett:** On Sept. 1, 1737, Hannah Breck, daughter of the late Reverend Robert Breck of Marlborough became Ebenezer Parkman's second wife. Hannah was 21, some 13 years younger than Reverend Ebenezer. She bore him 11 children and survived him nineteen years. She died in 1801 at the age of 81.

in what condition they are at New Haven. A.M. I repeated on 1 Chron. 26.9. P.M. I preached on 1 Pet. 3.7.

1737 September 26 (Monday). Mr. Pierpont and his wife left us. I with my wife accompanied them to Shrewsbury. I still continued with them as far as Worcester and dined with them at Capt. Howard's. P.M. having taken leave of those Excellent Friends, I rode to Mr. Burr's,⁷² not finding him at home, I hastened to the Prison to see the Criminal. Among other Questions, I asked him his true Name? He answered Hugh Henderson. He acquainted me with his Birth and Baptism etc. He was much concerned and distressed about his state, and ready to confess himself a great Sinner, etc. I prayed with him. He requested I would come and see him again. I hastened to Shrewsbury and with my wife, returned in the evening. N.B. John McClung took leave of us.

1737 September 27 (Tuesday). We took up our Flax. We supp'd at Brother Hicks's.

1737 September 28 (Wednesday). I was much indisposed with Headache.

1737 September 29 (Thursday). Lectured on 1 Sam. 15.22. At eve Mr. Jarvis came from Boston.

1737 September 30 (Friday). [No entry.]

1737 October 1 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1737 October 2 (Sunday). Sacrament. Ps. 63.8. Repeated on Is. 53.1. Patience Forbush⁷³ came again.

1737 October 3 (Monday). Catechised at the Meeting House. Judge Dudley⁷⁴ on his return from Springfield made us a visit, and dined with us. Lydia Cutting left us.

⁷²**Forbes:** Rev. Isaac Burr was settled over the Old South Church in Worcester in 1725. Mr. Chas. E. Stevens writes: "No portraiture of his person or mind survives; no characteristic anecdote is on record and nothing testifies of his ministry save its continuance for a fifth of a century in a generally peaceful way." Mr. Burr lived on the south corner of Main and Pleasant streets. His house was afterwards moved to Blackstone Street, where it stood until a few years ago. The little sketch of it made for Mr. Caleb Wall's Reminiscences of Worcester, by "an accurate and experienced artist," as he writes, is the only picture of this house in existence.

Walett: Reverend Isaac Burr of Worcester.

⁷³**Walett:** Daughter of Deacon Jonathan Forbush of Westborough.

⁷⁴**Forbes:** Paul Dudley, afterwards Chief Justice of the Province, at this time a judge of the Superior Court, born in 1675, died in 1751. He was the son of Gov. Joseph Dudley, of Massachusetts. He studied law in London. He bequeathed £100 (about \$666) to Harvard College for the support of an annual lecture, called, from its founder, the Dudleian lectures. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society, and wrote on natural history and against the Church of Rome.

Seven years after this visit to Mr. Parkman, Judge Dudley had the famous "Dudley parting-stone" erected in Roxbury, where it still stands, with the inscriptions which has guided so many travelers for more than a hundred and fifty years,

"The Parting Stone. 1744. P. Dudley."

1737 October 4 (Tuesday). Mr. Jarvis, Sister Lydia⁷⁵ and I rode to Cambridge. Mrs. Susé Champney⁷⁶ there. Mr. Jarvis lodged with me at Father Champney's.⁷⁷ N.B. I rode down to Mr. Dana's Tavern⁷⁸ about my Wife's Trunk.

1737 October 5 (Wednesday). Early this morning we rode to Mr. Dana's again, and saw the Trunk in good order, in the Team to be transported up, and then we proceeded to Boston. Dined at Brother Elias's. My honored Mother in good health. D.G. I returned to Cambridge. Found Mrs. Susé Champney there still.

1737 October 6 (Thursday). N.B. I set out from Cambridge before Day -- got to Harrington's before sun rising from there first at sunrise, but did not get up to Westb. till nigh one. Visited

And on one side, "Dedham and Rhode Island," on the other, "Cambridge and Watertown."

He had been Speaker of the House and member of the Executive Council. Judge Sewall writes of him: "Thus, while with pure hands and an upright heart he administered justice in the Circuit thro' the Province, he gained the general esteem and veneration of the people."

The town of Dudley is named "in token of respect to William and Paul Dudley."

Walett: Paul Dudley (Harvard 1690), later Chief Justice of Massachusetts. *Sibley*, IV, 42-54.

⁷⁵**Walett:** Lydia Champney.

⁷⁶**Walett:** Susanna Champney, cousin of the first Mrs. Parkman.

⁷⁷**Walett:** Samuel Champney, Sr., father of Parkman's first wife.

⁷⁸**Forbes:** Dana's Tavern stood near the centre of the town of Brookline and was a famous hostelry for many years. It was a large gambrel-roofed house and stood until 1816, when it was destroyed by fire.

A story of the old tavern is given in *Historic Sketches of Brookline*, by Harriet F. Woods, in which Tom Cook (see *Journal*, Aug. 27, 1779) figures as chief actor.

She writes: "There was a notorious thief, well known in Brookline and the adjoining towns by the name of Tom Cook. He had many eccentricities, among which was a habit of stealing from the rich to give to the poor. In horse-stealing he was especially expert. He was frequently arrested, convicted and sentenced to short terms of imprisonment at the 'Castle' (now Fort Independence), that being then the common prison for all offenders in Boston and vicinity.

"On one occasion Tom stole a goose from a countryman's wagon, which was under the shed at Dana's Tavern; not, however, with generous designs for any of his poor protegés, but for the satisfying of his own appetite. But as an uncooked goose would be about as unsatisfactory as no goose at all, Tom resorted to the old schoolhouse, -- school not being in session, to cook and devour it."

Squire Sharpe's house was nearest to the schoolhouse, and Squire Sharpe was a grandson of Capt. Robert, and a nephew of Mistress Susanna.

"The Squire, with his *sharp* eye on the interests of the town, discovered a smoke arising from the schoolhouse chimney, and as 'where there is smoke, there must be fire,' he proceeded to reconnoitre and caught Tom in the very act of roasting the goose. Laying the strong hand of the law upon him, he made him confess where he got the fowl and march back with it under his own escort to the Tavern, and, before the assembled inmates of the bar-room, gave him his choice to take then and there a public whipping, or be tried and sent to the Castle. Tom considered briefly and *decided to take the whipping*.

"The countrymen agreed, and flourished their long whips upon him with such vigor, that Tom's appetite for roast goose was abated in a summary manner, and the punishment proved more effectual than his various sojourns at the Castle."

Walett: Jonathan Dana kept a tavern near the center of Brookline.

Hannah Bond, who lay sick at Capt. Forbush.⁷⁹ After that dined at Home. Young men came to gather my Corn. Set them to work.

Went to the private meeting at Mr. Townsend's⁸⁰ and preached on 2 Pet. 1.10. Visited Hannah Bond again. About 18 or 20 hands husked out all my Corn. N.B. In my absence Winter Apples gathered in.

1737 October 7 (Friday). Mr. John Pratt brought home my cyder which he had made.

1737 October 8 (Saturday). Mr. Pratt brought home the remainder of my cyder. Susa Cutting came.

1737 October 9 (Sunday). I repeated my Sermon IV upon Is. 53.1 from John 10.26. P.M. Sermon II on 1 Sam. 15.22 from Ps. 40.6.8.

1737 October 10 (Monday). Visited Mrs. Dantforth⁸¹ who is in a languishing state. Was also at Mr. Hayward's⁸² and at Mr. Lock's.⁸³

1737 October 11 (Tuesday). Visited Mrs. Rogers⁸⁴ who is sick, Hannah Bond and old Mrs. Pratt.⁸⁵ N.B. overtook some Travellers on Foot with their Muskets: one of them very unmannerly and saucy. P.M. Mr. Tozer⁸⁶ and his wife here. Old Mr. Rice⁸⁷ visited us. John Clung here.

1737 October 12 (Wednesday). I went to Worcester to see Hugh Henderson, found him in much the same distressed state that I left him in, but I hope more knowing and acquainted with his Condition and with his Duty. N.B. Mr. Burr at the Goal with me. I prayed with him, a multitude attending. He earnestly desired me to see him again and wishes over and over that I would preach to him.

N.B. When I called at Mr. Cushing's⁸⁸ as I went up, Coll. Woods was there, on his return from Rutland. As I returned in the evening, there rose a storm of Lightning and Rain. Mr. Lock came and carried in Corn.

⁷⁹**Walett:** Captain Samuel Forbush of Westborough.

⁸⁰**Walett:** Joshua Townsend of Westborough.

⁸¹**Walett:** Mrs. John Danforth.

⁸²**Walett:** Simeon Hayward.

⁸³**Walett:** Joshua Lock.

⁸⁴**Walett:** Mrs. John Rogers.

⁸⁵**Walett:** Probably Mrs. John Pratt.

⁸⁶**Walett:** Richard Tozer of Westborough.

⁸⁷**Walett:** Edmund Rice, an original settler of Westborough.

⁸⁸**Walett:** Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

1737 October 13 (Thursday). John Clung (who lodged here last night) carried in more of the Corn from the Barn. Paid John the whole and he bid farewell. At evening Brother Hicks helped in more Corn.

1737 October 14 (Friday). Jonathan Rogers got in Pumpkins, and the remainder of the Corn.

1737 October 15 (Saturday). Noah How helped in with Turnips and some of the Potatoes.

At eve old Mr. Rice, Mr. Jarvis came up.

1737 October 16 (Sunday). Mat. 3.1-4. John 16.8. N.B. I was called away between 8 and 9 in the morning to see old Capt. Byles, who was very bad with his Throat and at night I visited him again. N.B. The Congregation disturbed P.M. by the burning of Mr. David Brigham's House but when people gathered in again, and were composed, I went on with the rest of my sermon. A very sorrowful Providence! a great Loss! but I trust them and all of us to profit by it, that our Hearts may be taken off from temporal transitory Enjoyments.

1737 October 17 (Monday). Rainy. Various Company all day and at evening. N.B. Mr. James Fay dined with us. N.B. Mr. Wheeler⁸⁹ distressed in Conscience for H. Henderson. Capt. Williams from Marlboro.

1737 October 18 (Tuesday). Visited Capt. Byles who is grown exceeding bad again. Visited the wife of William Rogers Jr. and proceeded to Mr. Brigham's to see their Desolations. A Sorrowful Sight! I desire heartily to sympathize. Returned to Capt. Byles.⁹⁰ He dyed this evening. N.B. Mr. Jarvis went to Boston in the morning. N.B. Mr. Jonathan Forbes⁹¹ at my house in the Evening and after him Messrs. Ed and Benj. Goddard.⁹²

1737 October 19 (Wednesday). Mr. Brigham's son David fetched away divers things which we lent them in their necessity. Nathan Maynard P.M. digging Potatoes.

1737 October 20 (Thursday). Funeral of Capt. Joseph Byles. My Spouse, Mrs. Richard Burrough and my Dauter Molly all there with me. The deceased was a bright example of Diligence and Industry in his calling, Constancy at the House of God, diligent attention to the Worship and Word preached: Truth and Faithfulness to his word and exact Honesty in his Trading. To which

⁸⁹**Walett:** Joseph Wheeler.

⁹⁰**Forbes:** Capt. Joseph Byles had married Rebecca Forbush, the sister of Jonathan, Samuel and Thomas Forbush. He lived on the south side of Chauncy Pond. He was one of the "first inhabitants."

⁹¹**Forbes:** Dea. Jonathan Forbes b. in Marlborough in 1684 – married in 1706, when he was a young man of twenty-two, a woman twice married, with a family of four children. At this time he was living near the present town reservoir. He was the first one of the family to write his name Forbes – his older brothers, Samuel and Thomas, and their descendants, being always known by the name of Forbush. The Massachusetts Gazette of March 31, 1768, says: -- "His life was exemplary; his departure in the firm hope of a glorious immortality; his progeny numerous."

Walett: Deacon Jonathan Forbush was one of the first to change the name to Forbes.

⁹²**Walett:** The Goddards were from Shrewsbury.

add a singularly manly Heroic Spirit. Visited old Mrs. Pratt at Eve. Capt. Eager came home with us.

1737 October 21 (Friday). Closely engaged in my preparations. At eve Brother William Parkman came from the Council at Concord, which had voted Mr. Whiting⁹³ unfit to sustain the holy ministry and advised the church of Concord to dismiss him, which they complied with. N.B. Mr. Francis Pierce here -- finished with him about his Boards. N.B. My Brother left us. Dr. Gott called in. P.M. I rode to Shrewsbury and met with Mr. Burr at Mr. Cushing's.⁹⁴ I proceeded to Worcester and stopped at the Goal at the Grates to speak with the Prisoner and to put him in mind of the preparations needful for him to make in order to his keeping his *Last Sabbath*. I lodged at Mr. Burr's.

1737 October 23 (Sunday). Early in the morning began to write my address to the Prisoner. A.M. on Eccl. 11.9, a crowded assembly, poor Hugh Henderson present. P.M. on Job 3.36. A very great congregation, it being in their apprehension the last Sabbath Sermon the poor Criminal is to hear. At evening called at Mr. Eaton's⁹⁵ and at the Sheriff's,⁹⁶ who went with me to the Prison. I interrogated the Prisoner what was the occasion of his coming to this country -- whether he had discovered and acknowledged all that was fit and proper for him to reveal? Whether he had any confederates? A great number flocked in the Goal when at his Request I prayed with him. I left him between 8 and 9. By that I went to Mr. Cushing's where I intended to lodge. They were all in Bed wherefore, though cold, I proceeded home to my own House.

N.B. Mr. Jarvis came up last night in a chair.

1737 October 24 (Monday). Mr. Burr left us early in the morning. P.M. Mr. Jarvis, my wife, Mrs. Bekky and I rode to the Great Pond to Capt. Warren's,⁹⁷ and Capt. Forbush's. N.B. Supped at Capt. Forb.

⁹³**Walett:** Reverend John Whiting, minister of the First Church in Concord, 1712-1737.

⁹⁴**Forbes:** Rev. Job Cushing, the first minister of Shrewsbury, pastor of the church there from 1723 to his death in 1760. He was the father of Col. Job Cushing -- also of Rev. John Cushing, who married in 1767 Mr. Parkman's daughter Sarah. She lived to be eighty-two years of age and died in 1825. Mrs. Tuckerman writes of this daughter Sarah, as follows: -- "My grandmother married Dr. John Cushing, of Ashburnham, who taught school in Westborough the year after he graduated from Harvard College. He boarded in the minister's family, and when he was ordained, at the age of twenty-four, he came back and carried off the daughter as his bride. This was in 1768. She was a remarkably bright and capable woman, judging from the family traditions. There were seven children in that large family younger than she, and she had so much to do that her mother could not spare her the time to go to school when it was kept at intervals. But she was ambitious to learn, and her father helped her all he could. She taught herself to write by copying letters with a piece of chalk on the barn floor, for paper and ink were precious in those days, and not to be unduly wasted."

The house where the Rev. Mr. Cushing lived stood east of the Shrewsbury Town Hall.

⁹⁵**Walett:** Joshua Eaton (Harvard 1735), the first lawyer to settle in Worcester and later the first minister of Spencer. *Sibley*, IX, 533-538.

⁹⁶**Forbes:** The first sheriff of Worcester County was Daniel Gookin, who held the office until 1743. He was a son of Gen'l Daniel Gookin. (Worc. Hist.)

⁹⁷**Walett:** Daniel Warren.

1737 October 25 (Tuesday). Mr. Jarvis and Mrs. Bekky Burough left us. I rode to Hopkinton Association. All that came besides were Mr. N. Stone and Mr. S. Prentice. Mr. Barrett⁹⁸ concio on 1 Pet. 4.11. If any man speaketh.

1737 October 26 (Wednesday). Public Lecture by Mr. Sol. Prentice on Job 12.35, first part. N.B. I had a very Sudden Turn of Sharp Pain in my Side after Dinner, but thro Mercy, I recovered.

Mr. Prentice went home with me and lodged at our House.

1737 October 27 (Thursday). Rode with Mr. Prentice to Grafton and preached his Lecture on Jude 10.21. Returned to Westboro at night. N.B. The Governor has reprieved Hugh Henderson for a month at the request of Mr. Burr and Mr. Prentice.

1737 October 28 (Friday). Ah! what sad grounds of Severe Reflection upon myself for my wretched negligence and unfaithfulness! How great need of renewing and fixing my Resolutions of Reformation. But especially of crying unto God for pardon of what is past and Grace of assist and quicken me henceforward!

1737 October 29 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1737 October 30 (Sunday). All day on Job 3.36. Rain A.M. High winds at even. N.B. Mr. Chamberlain⁹⁹ din'd with us.

1737 November 1 (Tuesday). Visited Mr. Danforth.

1737 November 2 (Wednesday). [No entry.]

1737 November 3 (Thursday). Stormy.

1737 November 4 (Friday). Very cold.

1737 November 5 (Saturday). I rode to Southboro'. Met Mr. Stone by Capt. Warren's. Very cold. Mr. Peabody¹⁰⁰ and Mr. Moquet¹⁰¹ of Framingham here.

1737 November 6 (Sunday). Preached at Southborough, on Job 3.36 A. and P.M. At eve, Colonel Ward¹⁰² and his wife came in to Mr. Stone's. N.B. The Coll. exceptions against that passage in my forenoon sermon, p. 2 -- *too Small for the Divine Oracle to have been exprest about either.*

⁹⁸**Walett:** Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

⁹⁹**Walett:** Ebenezer Chamberlain of Westborough.

¹⁰⁰**Walett:** Reverend Oliver Peabody of Natick.

¹⁰¹**Walett:** Francis Moquet, an innkeeper. Temple, *Framingham*, pp. 642-643.

¹⁰²**Walett:** Colonel William Ward of Southborough.

1737 November 7 (Monday). At Mr. Tim Brigham's.¹⁰³ Mr. Stone brought Mrs. Parkman to his House, we dined there, after which I rode to visit old Mrs. Morse¹⁰⁴ at Marlboro', confined by her Broken Bone, and in great distress of mind, whilst Mr. Stone went with my wife up to Dr. Gott's. There we tarried all night.

1737 November 8 (Tuesday). Called at Capt. Williams, and at Mr. Eb. Beeman's on our way home. P.M. Funeral of one of Mrs. Seth Rice's Daughters¹⁰⁵ who dyed by a Quinsy. Rain. N.B. The Floor of the Room at Mr. Rice's broke under us.

1737 November 9 (Wednesday). Stormy.

1737 November 10 (Thursday). I rode to Mr. Wheeler's, called at Mr. Danforth¹⁰⁶ as I went, but dined at Mr. Wheeler's. N.B. Mr. Thos. Ward at Mr. Nathan Balls's. I was at Mr. Lawrence's,¹⁰⁷ and at Mr. Gershom Fay's¹⁰⁸ and at Mr. McCollister's.¹⁰⁹ N.B. Disappointment about Swine notwithstanding my long Dependence.

1737 November 11 (Friday). We first tyed up our Cattle in the Barn. My oxen were at work for Mr. David Brigham's to cart stones for their chimneys. I was at Mr. Grout's about Beef.

1737 November 12 (Saturday). Fine warm day.

1737 November 13 (Sunday). John 3.36 and P.M. on John 16.8. Capt. Eager sick.

1737 November 14 (Monday). Brother Hicks went to Cambridge upon my Horse.

1737 November 15 (Tuesday). Trooping and Training -- prayed with the foot before Dinner and dined with the officers of both Horse and Foot -- prayed with the whole Body at Eve. N.B. Capt.

¹⁰³**Walett:** Timothy Brigham was a distinguished citizen of Southborough, being town treasurer and selectman for many years.

¹⁰⁴**Walett:** Widow of Joseph Morse.

¹⁰⁵**Walett:** Ruth Rice died Nov. 7, 1737, age about 18 months.

¹⁰⁶**Walett:** John Danforth of Westborough.

¹⁰⁷**Walett:** Benjamin Lawrence of Westborough.

¹⁰⁸**Walett:** Gershom Fay, Jr., the nephew of Captain John Fay lived in that part of Westborough that later became Northborough.

¹⁰⁹**Walett:** John McCollister.

Eager detained by his sickness and Lieut. Baker¹¹⁰ also absent. N.B. I wrote to Worcester by Capt. Moses Rice,¹¹¹ being I could not visit the Prisoner.

1737 November 16 (Wednesday). Brother Hicks came up with Sister Willard.¹¹²

1737 November 17 (Thursday). Mr. Tainter came to me before Sunrise and informed me of a most Sudden and awful accident in their neighbourhood. That the wife of Mr. Joshua Harrington (who came up with his Family to Dwell among us, but this Day three weeks) was Shot in the head last evening, a little before Sundown, by a servant named Ebenezer Chubb in his 15th year, and she dyed upon the Spot. Mr. Tainter was going for the Coroner. *Public Thanksgiving*. Preached on Lev. 3.1. After the publick exercises, the Coroner's Inquest sat on the body of Mrs. Harrington and their verdict was *Accidental Death*.

1737 November 18 (Friday). My wife and Sister were with me at the funeral of Mrs. Harrington.

1737 November 19 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1737 November 20 (Sunday). Sacrament. John 16.8, repeated. Mat. 10.29.30 P.M. N.B. Mrs. Trewsdale¹¹³ of Newton, mother of Mrs. Harrington, above mentioned, dined with us.

1737 November 21 (Monday). I rode up to Worcester to see Hugh Henderson again. Was sorry to find he had tried to make his escape by filing the Goal¹¹⁴ door. We talked more of other matters, and kept longer off from the main point of his case than heretofore. I'm more put to it to judge of his Frame. Mr. Burr came to me, requested me to preach to him on Wednesday. Hugh desired it of me, and several of the people repeatedly and urgently insist and plead for it. I prayed with the prisoner and took leave at about seven o'clock. N.B. His Discourses of the Jury, not going by the laws of God and the Country in Condemning him, having but

¹¹⁰**Forbes:** Lieut. Edward Baker was one of Mr. Parkman's first friends in Westborough, for he and James Eager had been the committee who brought him the news that he had been called to be the town minister. He was always prominent in town and church affairs, and chairman of the committee which built the old Arcade.

He lived on Main Street, on the Pollard place, where his son, Squire Baker, afterwards had his home. He had ten children, of whom one, Joseph, born in 1736, was "the Squire."

His house was moved and is now part of Mrs. Gleason's house.

He died in 1763, and his stone still marks his last resting place in the old burying ground, although that of Persis his wife has long since disappeared.

Walett: Edward Baker, an original settler of Westborough.

¹¹¹**Walett:** Keeper of a public house in Worcester.

¹¹²**Walett:** Parkman's sister, Susanna, wife of Captain Josiah Willard of Salem.

¹¹³**Walett:** *Newton Vital Records* indicate that Elizabeth Trusdall married Joshua Harrington in 1731.

¹¹⁴**Forbes:** The goal or jail where Hugh Henderson was confined stood on the west side of Lincoln Street, a short distance from Lincoln Square. It was a building forty-one feet by eighteen. "The prison part," writes Caleb Wall, "was eighteen feet square, made of white oak timber set with studs, four inches thick and five inches broad, and floored, roofed and ceiled with two-inch planks spiked together. A stone dungeon was underneath. The north end of the structure, finished as a dwelling, afterwards became part of the old 'Handcock Arms.'" Probably at this time it was the dwelling-house of the jailer, Luke Brown.

Circumstantial Evidence. As to Newton, he offered him all reasonable Satisfaction etc. But he added, that he was guilty, and his many sins had provoked God to anger etc.

I called at Mr. Cushings and supped there. Thence I rode home.

1737 November 22 (Tuesday). Deacon Miles of Concord here to bring the Request of the Church that I would assist in the Fast they have appointed in order to the Calling another Minister.

1737 November 23 (Wednesday). The wife and younger son of Mr. Increase Ward very bad. I visited them and old Mrs. Pratt A.M. P.M. I rode up to Worcester at the Request of the Criminal and others to preach to him. There were so many at the Goal that we were obliged to go to the Meeting-House. I preached on 1 Tim. 1.15. Supped (with Mr. Campbell) at Deacon Haywards.¹¹⁵ We visited the Prisoner. He spoke of having a solemn warning taken from his mouth, but chose to have it deferred to the morning, but prayed I would be early. We lodged at Mr. Burr's.

1737 November 24 (Thursday). I went to the Prisoner as early as I could, and Mr. Burr was with me to assist in penning down what the Prisoner¹¹⁶ had to deliver by way of Confession and

¹¹⁵**Forbes:** Daniel Haywood, one of the first deacons of the Old South Church in Worcester. He kept the first tavern in that town – he, his son, and grandson keeping for nearly a hundred years a hotel on the site of the Bay State. This old hotel is still standing in Worcester, having been moved years ago to the southeast corner of Salem and Madison streets.

¹¹⁶**Forbes:** The sad story of Hugh Henderson we learn from these dying confessions, which, together with a poem on his untimely death, were published as a broadside and sold as a warning to all youth.

He was of Scotch-Irish descent and came to Massachusetts about 1735, and for two years indulged his wicked practices, when he was arrested and convicted of breaking and entering the house of Abner Newton, of Westborough, who lived at this time in the old Thomas Rice garrison. (See note for March 14, 1737.)

Four indictments were found against him, two for burglary and two for larceny, and he was tried, convicted and sentenced to be hanged on one for burglary. The Court was the Superior Court of Judicature sitting at Worcester in September, with the following named judges on the bench: Benj. Lynde, Paul Dudley, Edmund Quincy, Jonathan Remington and Richard Saltonstall.

In the following extracts from the Confession, we can detect Mr. Parkman's pen:

"The Confession and Dying Warning of Hugh Henderson Who was executed at Worcester in the County of Worcester, Nov. 26, 1737, Signed by him in the Presence of four of the Ministers, the Morning of the Day of his Execution.

"I, Hugh Henderson, otherwise through my wickedness called John Hamilton of about 28 or 29 Years of Age, was born in Armagh in the Kingdom of Ireland, received Baptism in the Manner of the Presbyterians and was brought up by my uncle, who was obliged to give me suitable Learning, but did not; which Neglect, together with my own Neglect of learning the word of God afterwards, was a great reason of my taking to such wicked Courses as have brought me to my unhappy, untimely End.

"I began with smaller Sins, while I was Young: with but stealing Pins: against which I received warning oftentimes, but persisted in it, and was very disobedient, till I increased further in Sin."

Then follows warning to various classes of people and confession of various sins, and the confession ends:

"Having given this Warning, I desire to commend myself to the Charity and Prayers of all God's People for me, and that You would lift up your Hearts to God for me, for the Pardon of my Sins, an interest in Christ, and that I may be sanctified by the Spirit of God: But above all I commend myself to the infinite Mercy of God, in my dear Redeemer, begging and beseeching that through the Merits of His Blood, I may this Day be with Him in Paradise."

Warning to the World before his Execution. In it I was as punctual and strict as I could be in inserting his own words as near as I could, and when any others were used. It [*here this portion of the diary ends*].

"Hugh Henderson

"Signed with his Mark."

A True Copy Examined

"Per Ebr. Parkman."

The poem is entitled:

"A Poem occasioned by the Untimely Death of Hugh Henderson alias John Hamilton who was hanged at Worcester for House Breaking, Nov. 24, 1737" – and an extract therefrom reads:

"The Scene we did but lately view

Too well evinces this is true –

A man with healthful Vigour bless'd

The Morn of life but hardly past,

Compelled to leave the pleasing Light,

And *stretch away* to endless Night;

Because regardless of his Peace,

He chose the flowery Path of Vice."

The uncle receives his deserts in the poem as follows:

"But when he met with no Restraint,

And found his Uncle was no Saint,

In Vice's pleasing Steps he ran."

The N. E. Weekly Journal, Dec. 6, 1737, says:

"On the day of his Execution the Rev. Mr. Campbell of Oxford preached to the Prisoner and a great assembly, a very suitable sermon on I Peter 4-5. The Prisoner was exceedingly moved and in such Anguish of soul that the Expressions of it in the face of the congregation, in crying and moans, in prayers and tears and passionate gesture there were even to disturbance.

"At the place of execution, after the Rev. Mr. Hall of Sutton had prayed, the prisoner with great earnestness desired all that were present to hearken well to what was going to be read to them, and to mind to take the warning contained in it, after which he put up a most importunate and pathetic prayer himself which manifested more of knowledge of religion, sense of his own state and humble faith and hope in God, than anything that has been received from him before."

So was ended this sad chapter in the history of Worcester County -- her first execution!