

Diary of Ebenezer Parkman, 1754

1754 January 1 (Tuesday). Through the Tender Mercy and Longsuffering of God I see the Morning of another New Year, and am at Brookfield. Esquire Howard had Sent a Message to me Yesterday, and this Morning came himself to invite me and my son Ebenezer who is with me, as well as Mr. Forbush¹ and his Wife, to a New Years Dinner. It prov'd a fine Day, which with good Company, and fine Eating, made it a chearful Time. Thanks be to God for his great Goodness in which He is rich unto all! May it be a truely happy New Year! Captain Wit² and I rode from Esquire Howards up to Mr. Abraham Smiths to talk with him about his place, with a view to my son Ebenezer's living there. At Eve return'd to Mr. Forbush's.

1754 January 2 (Wednesday). Am upon the Business of Mr. Smiths place. Mr. Forbush and Lieutenant Gilbert³ accompany us, as Mr. Smith shews us his Bounds. But the Snow being on the Ground we can't See the Soil. At Eve Mr. Benjamin Ruggles,⁴ preaching now a Days at New Braintree came to Mr. Forbushs. I preach'd an Eve Lecture at the Meeting House there on Luke 29.10. Mr. Ruggles pray'd. N.B. This was the first Time Mr. Forbush got out since his Fall. May God make his word effectual for our saving Profit! Mr. Ruggles lodg'd with me at Mr. Forbushs.

1754 January 3 (Thursday). It was an exceeding fine Day Yesterday, but to Day a Storm. Ebenezer and I rode to Lieutenant Abraham Hows; din'd at Mr. Smiths; at Eve was at Captain Witts.

1754 January 4 (Friday). Rain. Agree with Mr. Smith. Take a Deed of him and give him a Bond, to give him a Deed of my House, and nine acres and 1/2 of Land in Westborough. Late in the Day leave Brookfield and rode to Mr. Eatons⁵ in Leicester -- were well refresh'd there, and though it was wet at Evening proceeded to the Reverend Mr. Goddards⁶ and lodg'd there. Through the divine Favour am also in good Comforts of Body, although my mind has been exceedingly agitated in my trading with Mr. Smith fearing whether it will be suitably improv'd by him and turn to his good. But whilst I am thus concern'd for him pay him a great Price for his and sell my own but at very low rate. His Wife also very backward to sign.

1754 January 5 (Saturday). Wet, uncomfortable riding from Leicester home. Call'd at Mr. Maccartys.⁷ Din'd at Mr. Cushings.⁸ Arriv'd in Safety, and found our Dwellings in Peace. D.G.

¹Parkman's son-in-law, the Reverend Eli Forbes.

²Ebenezer Witt.

³Benjamin Gilbert of Brookfield.

⁴Benjamin Ruggles (Yale 1721) had been minister of Lakeville, 1725-1753. Because of an insufficient salary, Ruggles asked for and received his dismissal. He was called to the town of New Braintree where he served, 1754-1782. Dexter, *Biographical Sketches*, pp. 255-56, and *Sibley*, VII, 46-650.

⁵The Reverend Joshua Eaton of Spencer.

⁶David Goddard of Leicester.

⁷The Reverend Thaddeus Maccarty of Worcester.

⁸Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

1754 January 6 (Sunday). Rain. People came late to Meeting. Omitted reading a.m. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Rom. 6.21. P.M. read Heb. 6. Deferr'd the Contribution because of the Rain.

1754 January 7 (Monday). I made a Visit to my old Neighbour and Friend Captain Maynard to acquaint him with what I had done with Mr. Abraham Smith and take his Advice. Seeing likewise when I parted with Mr. Smith and saw how lost his Wife was, I told him that if I could do better, and his Wife should grow no easier, I Should still desire to throw up; I therefore relating the matter to Captain Maynard, ask'd both him and his Son whether they would b[u]y my whole (old) place, in Case Smith would release the Bargain; but they declin'd it, but especially refused the House. Captain Wood⁹ of Hopkinton brought a Letter from Mr. Barret¹⁰ requesting me to assist there at a Fast by reason of the malignant Fever, which exceedingly rages and proves very mortal in Holliston, and begins to rage in Hopkinton. N.B. Ten lay dead in Holliston last Friday. Mrs. Prentice¹¹ was bury'd on Saturday last, but Mr. Prentice is recovering. For want of Help, So many being Sick and Dead, they draw some Corps to their Graves on Sleds.¹² N.B. Mr. Griffin here.

1754 January 8 (Tuesday). A.M. visit Mrs. Fay once more, but now take Solemn Leave of her. P.M. marry'd Phinehas Maynard to Dorothy Rice.¹³ Exceeding fine Weather.

1754 January 9 (Wednesday). It rain'd hard; but I rode to Hopkinton found Messrs. Stone and Smith with Mr. Barret. Mr. Fish came also. Mr. Barret pray'd a.m. and Mr. Stone preach'd on Rev. 6.8. N.B. about 20 pray'd for. The rain prevail'd so that we all lodg'd there. At Eve Dr. Wilson among us; who tells us that in this Fever there is much of pleurisy and peripneumony.

1754 January 10 (Thursday). Bright morning -- visit Captain Wood and his Brother Lieutenant John Wood who has the fever. I pray'd with him. Mr. Fish¹⁴ went to a Fast to Day at Mill-river in Mendon. In my return home call'd at John Kelley's to get Loggs for some choice Floor Boards -- din'd at Mr. Daniel Hardys. At Eve Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin here, and Mr. Daniel Forbush. They offer a Motion for a Fast here.

1754 January 11 (Friday). At Eve Deacon Forbush here. He observably breaks and wears away. Lieutenant Holloway here also.

⁹John Wood,

¹⁰The Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

¹¹Mary, the wife of the Reverend Joshua Prentiss of Holliston. This town was very hard hit in this epidemic, and Prentiss wrote an account of the sickness there. See Mass. Hist. Soc. *Collections*, 1st Ser., III, 18-20.

¹²Modern authorities regard this as another outbreak of diphtheria, which was a problem in various parts of New Hampshire and Massachusetts. See John Duffy, *Epidemics in Colonial America* (Baton Rouge, [1953]), pp. 125-126.

¹³These were both Westborough people: Phinehas was the son of James Maynard, and Dorothy (or Dority) the daughter of Seth Rice.

¹⁴The Reverend Elisha Fish of Upton.

1754 January 12 (Saturday). Mr. Samuel Fays (junior) wife dy'd, and I hope in Christ. Mr. Griffin of Oxford here.

1754 January 13 (Sunday). I read part of Judg. 6. I spent so much time in my Preparations for the Afternoon that I could not prepare for the forenoon only a brief Introduction of the Repitition [*sic*] of Sermon on Rom. 6.21 from page 37 to 46, but from Jam. 1.15 last Clause. To this I was induc'd the rather because of my last repetition Concerning the unprofitableness and Shamelessness of Sin, have appear'd to be acceptable and useful, and I heard it wish'd that there might be more: and again I was induced hereto also because of the Mortality in Neighbouring Towns. P.M. read Heb. 7, and preach'd on Rev. 10.6 latter part on occasion of our Contributing for the Relief of Alpheus Newton and his Wife, lately burnt out;¹⁵ which Contribution was this afternoon, and may God accept the offering of his people and sanctifie His holy Dispensations.

1754 January 14 (Monday). Rain a.m. Clear'd up p.m. went to the Funeral of Mrs. Deliverance Fay, wife of Mr. Samuel Fay junior. Rode Alpheus Newtons Horse. After burying at Deacon Newtons and Mr. Francis Whipple with us, counting the Money gather'd yesterday, and it amounted to 44£ 15 shillings and 6d old Tenor.

1754 January 15 (Tuesday). Exceeding pleasant, warm and bright till Eve; but then Rain. I was at Eve reckoning with Mr. Ebenezer Rice at his House while Daniel Williams and his Squaw, who are come from Dudley to wigwam among us, came, at my sending for, to See me, but I saw them not.

1754 January 16 (Wednesday). Rain. Ebenezer comes over, in trouble for his little son, who is sick: and they fear'd of the Throat Distemper; but tis hop'd otherwise. Two of Mr. Baldwin's prentices (Jones and Wyman) here. They go to lodge at t'other House.

1754 January 17 (Thursday). I receiv'd a Letter from Mr. John Parkman of Cowes in the Isle of Wight.

1754 January 18 (Friday). Much Company interrupting especially at Eve. Mr. Timothy Warrin in Defence of Samuel Bumpso, so far as to prevent his going to Jayl, if getting posts and Rails next March might Satisfie on an Execution and Note of last October the third follow'd by continual Ingratitude, negligence and unfaithfulness. One Mr. Moon of Lebanon here, tells me Dr. Eliot¹⁶ of Killingworth is dead.

1754 January 19 (Saturday). [No entry].

¹⁵The Westborough Church Records, Jan. 13, 1754, reveal that Newton's house was burned down "in the Night between the 24th and 25th of December last."

¹⁶This reference is puzzling, for the Reverend Jared Eliot of Killingworth, who also served as a physician, lived until 1763. Two of his sons who also practiced medicine there died in 1741 and 1747.

1754 January 20 (Sunday). Read Judg. 6, from number 25. Preach'd all Day on I Cor. 15.25. Read p.m. Heb. 8. N.B. had the Sorrowfull news of the Death of Reverend Mr. David Goddard of Leicester. He expir'd yesterday at his wife's House in Framingham, after a very short illness of a violent Fever which prevails in Framingham. He preach'd last Sabbath at Southborough, and was taken ill the next Day. N.B. I was desir'd by Deacon Forbush to think of a Fast here. After the Exercises I stop'd the Church and propos'd it. The Deacon aforesaid manifested his Desire again -- but I could not without Difficulty obtain of the Brethren to Speak their Minds about it, and yet when I put it to Vote, it was voted unanimously as far as I could discern.

1754 January 21 (Monday). Mr. Ephraim Woods of Southborough here. Mr. James Ball -- I paid him what I ow'd him. 12£ old Tenor. Mr. John Fay brought a Letter from Mr. Stone¹⁷ to desire my assistance at the Fast among them Thursday. At Eve Lieutenant Tainter brought wool and Cards which he had bought for us at Boston.

1754 January 22 (Tuesday). After a considerable Space of fine Moderate weather comes an Exceeding Cold Day -- bright but high Winds and Sharp Air that can Scarcely be sustain'd. Mr. Benjamin Goddard came to desire me to go to the Funeral of his Brother (Reverend David) tomorrow, at Framingham.

1754 January 23 (Wednesday). Mr. Joseph Bruce here on occasion of his son in Law Child his Thigh broke. I sent a Line by him to Mr. Francis Whipple containing my Desire to have a Clause inserted in the Warrant for the next Town Meeting relating to their Arrears. I went to the Funeral of the Reverend Dr. David Goddard of Leicester; who was bury'd from his Wife's House in Framingham. The Reverend Mr. Read¹⁸ pray'd. He and the Reverend Messrs. Stone, Bliss¹⁹ and Bridge,²⁰ with Dr. Ebenezer Hemingway²¹ were the other Bearers. Mr. Ebenezer Goddard lies very bad of the same Fever. News also came that Mr. Benjamin Goddard, who was with me yesterday, was taken sick as soon as he got home; and for the Time is very ill. May a gracious God fit us for His holy will! In the Eve the Mare I rode, Stray'd away from Colonel Buckminsters²² where we turn'd in to warm us, and drew up some account of Mr. Goddards Death; which was committed to Mr. Bliss to carry Mr. Kneeland at Boston to publish.²³ I lodg'd at the Colonel's.

1754 January 24 (Thursday). It snow'd in the Night and Morning, but I walk'd up to Dr. Hemingways who lent me his Horse to Southborough -- found mine at Mr. Andrew Newtons, and proceeded to the Fast in Southborough, on occasion of the sickness. Mr. Stone pray'd first. I preach'd from Mat. 24.44. Mr. Smith pray'd after sermon, then we sang part of Ps. 37. Mr.

¹⁷Nathan Stone of Southborough.

¹⁸Solomon Reed of Framingham.

¹⁹Daniel Bliss of Concord.

²⁰Matthew Bridge of Framingham.

²¹Ebenezer Hemenway was a physician of Framingham. Clair A. H. Newton, *Ralph Hemmenway . . . and his Descendants* (Naperville, Ill., 1932), I, 16.

²²Colonel Joseph Buckminster, a leading citizen of Framingham.

²³This news item appears not to have been published.

Bridge pray'd after singing -- for we had but one Exercise. In returning home (Lieutenant Tainter my Company) comply'd with Lieutenant Nathan Brigham's earnest Desire to turn in and see his son Nathan, who lay very sick of the Fever, and pray'd with him.

1754 January 25 (Friday). At Evening which I much depended upon for Studying, came Mr. Benjamin Tainter and his Wife to make us a Visit, therein waiting upon her Father, Mr. Josiah Woods from Summers; and soon after came his Brother and they tarried and Supp'd here. Mr. Samuel Fay junior here this Eve also. Billy thrash'd with Ebenezer.

1754 January 26 (Saturday). Lieutenant Ward din'd here. A fine Day. Hands at work helping Alpheus Newton frame. Billy thrashing with Ebenezer.

1754 January 27 (Sunday). Read Judg. 7. A.M. on 1 Cor. 15.25. P.M. read Heb. 9, and preach'd on 1 Cor. 15.26. Appointed Wednesday next to be a Day of Solemn Fasting and Prayer on Consideration of the Malignant Sickness in Neighbouring Towns; we having also many Evils among ourselves -- and that God would please to revive his Work here.

1754 January 28 (Monday). Dr. Perkins²⁴ of Framingham informs me that Mr. Benjamin Goddard,²⁵ who was with me last Tuesday, dy'd last Night. Alpheus Newton's House rais'd. Captain Eager ask'd me to go up, and I did so. Some refreshment at Deacon Newtons²⁶ by Captain Eager. Mr. Hezekiah Rice came to request me to go to Mr. Goddard's Funeral. N.B. some Discourse with Deacon Newton and Mr. Francis Whipple about my addressing the Town for the remains of my Sallery in the Year 1744. N.B. James Eager brings a Message from Mr. Jonathan Greene.

1754 January 29 (Tuesday). I visited Mrs. Dodge, wife of Mr. Jabez Dodge. Also a Lad ([*blank*] Childs) at Mr. Hezekiah Pratts, he having broke his Thigh Bone. I went to the Funeral of Mr. Benjamin Goddard. Mr. Cushing not sent for. I reprov'd them for their Neglect. N.B. Colonel Nahum Wards private Talk with me about Mr. Cushing. N.B. Mr. Jeduthun Baldwin and [*blank*] Cutler from Brookfield.

1754 January 30 (Wednesday). This Day was observ'd as a Day of Humiliation and Prayer by this Parish.²⁷ I began with Prayer. No minister comes though I had sent to most of those round about, it being a dark, stormy Day. Mr. Stone²⁸ came in Prayer Time. He preach'd on Ps. 39.4. Mr. Cushing came also in prayer Time. In time of the last Prayer a.m. came Mr. Barret.²⁹ Neither did any other come. P.M. Mr. Barret pray'd. Mr. Cushing preach'd on Hos. 4.7.

²⁴Richard Perkins (Harvard 1748), a physician, was the son of the Reverend Daniel Perkins of Bridgewater and the brother-in-law of the Reverend Matthew Bridge of Framingham.

²⁵Of Shrewsbury.

²⁶Josiah Newton of Westborough.

²⁷This fast was held "on Account of a Malignant Mortal fever raging in many Neighbouring Towns." Westborough Church Records, Jan. 30, 1754.

²⁸Nathan Stone of Southborough.

²⁹The Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

Captain Brigham, Deacon Burnap³⁰ and Mr. Ephraim Wood Supp'd here. O that God would graciously accept our Offerings; pardon our sins, revive His Work and remove from His People His sore Judgments. Preserve us still in this Day of Evil, and prevent Spiritual Judgments falling upon us! May the Goodness of God to us lead us to repentance and prevent our abusing His Mercy.

1754 January 31 (Thursday). I rode over to Mr. Jonathan Greens. In going by Captain James Eagers swamp I perceiv'd there was a great Number of men getting shingle for Abner Newton. I din't at Lieutenant Holloways. Mr. Green and his wife both gone from home. Visited Mr. Martin. His wife and Daughter confin'd by illness. Call'd at Ensign Rice's who was gone to Boston. N.B. She desires me to talk with her Husband for Azuba.

1754 February 1 (Friday). Mr. Timothy Warrin here, on Sam Bumpso's Account. He brings Sam's Gun here; which I take and give up Sams Note to Mr. Warrin. Wrote to Mr. Cushing to Change next Lords Day and sent it to t'other House -- but it did not go.

1754 February 2 (Saturday). Mr. Clafflin here, and though I ow'd him but Twenty odd Shillings yet at his Request I gave him a Note of above four pounds (old Tenor).

1754 February 3 (Sunday). Fowl Day. Read Judg. 8, and for sermon had prepar'd on Psalm 51.11 in chief part for one Sermon, but considering our present threatned Circumstances with relation to the Fever, which now spreads much in Southborough and very mortally, I took and altered some old sermons on Ps. 119.120, and deliver'd the substance of them a. and p.m. Read p.m. Heb. 10 to number 18. At Eve I was not well.

1754 February 4 (Monday). Had a poor night; and was ill all Day. Have symptoms of Distemper.

1754 February 5 (Tuesday). Feel but poorly, yet hope I am better. Ebenezer kill'd 5 Swine. One of 13 Score, a sow of nigh 11 Score, and three pigs of 5 or 6 score. Three of those swine he sent to Mr. James Allen of Boston, Tayler, per Lieutenant Maynard. At Eve came here Foster from Holliston and lodg'd here. Mr. Clafflin went off last Night.

1754 February 6 (Wednesday). Mr. Foster puts his Horse into my Chair and rode with Lucy to t'other House. They return at Eve, and Mr. Foster leaves us. I sent Billey over to Mr. Jonathan Green with Sufficient silver to pay his Demands of Samuel Bumpso, viz. £6.11.0, old Tenor. I recover slowly. P.M. Mr. Ebenezer Maynard Treasurer here; and gave him Receipts agreeable to his Mind, respecting instead of what was given to Collector Grow.

1754 February 7 (Thursday). I went down below to Day and din'd with the Family. Blessed be God! Lieutenant Tainter here. Settled my accounts with him. Had I been well I should have endeavour'd to preach to Day at Mr. Grows. But in divine Providence am prevented but desire

³⁰Benjamin Burnap of Hopkinton.

to have my Heart with my Brethren that Seek the Lord there. May God graciously assist them and accept their Offering!

1754 February 8 (Friday). Through divine Goodness grow better but am interrupted with divers Visitants. Colonel William Ward din'd here. P.M. Mr. Ammiel Weeks of Brookfield. Mr. Cornelius Biglow much engag'd in gathering and bringing Money and Notes. Snow. Mr. Hezekiah Maynard from Marlborough from Mr. Smiths³¹ to desire my Help at a Fast there next Wednesday.

1754 February 9 (Saturday). Mr. Biglow here again. I let him have Sam Bumpso's Gun for 7£ old Tenor, he promising that if either I, or Sam or Mr. Timothy Warrin repay him this Money, we may have it again.

1754 February 10 (Sunday). Winds very high in the Night. I ventur'd to the Meeting though Cold. A.M. read Judg. P.M. read Heb. 10.19 to the End. Preach'd on Ps. 51.11. Mrs. Beeman din'd here. Mr. Joslin and Mr. Ithamar Bellows Wife and Several Children in that Corner of the Town, Sick; and tis fear'd of the Distemper. My son Ebenezer not at Meeting, he having cutt himself lately.

1754 February 11 (Monday). Ebenezer here at Eve. He seems Somewhat Sick of the Bargain with Mr. Smith of Brookfield and yet does not appear Willing to Throw it up. He hopes I will Send for no more Indian Corn from the Other House.

1754 February 12 (Tuesday). Another Very Cold Tuesday. Sent by Mr. Ephraim Sherman to Boston -- for Mr. Fleets Paper as well as Mr. Kneelands.³²

1754 February 13 (Wednesday). Went to the Fast at Marlborough though it was very Cold. Overtook Lieutenant Tainter who was going likewise, and he return'd with me at Eve. Mr. Stone preach'd a.m. on 1 K. 8.37 to 40. Mr. Gardner³³ pray'd p.m. and I preach'd from Ps. 119.59. May God hear in Heaven forgive and Bless his people for His Name's Sake! As we return'd at Eve in the Cold, we visited Mr. Jacob Amsden,³⁴ who Seems to have met with a great deal of Trouble and Affliction which may God Sanctifie to him for his Spiritual and Eternal Good!

1754 February 14 (Thursday). Lucy rode with Ebenezers Wife to See Mrs. Martyn³⁵ and Mrs. Molly her Daughter who, we hear, are not well yet. Lucy brings me at Evening a most bitter Letter from my Brother Martyn, full of Misrepresentations and hard Reflections. God grant him to See his Errors and retract them! But Darts foreseen may be better warded off. I confess I have been full of fears Time would come when our Peace would be broke up. I was early premonish'd what I might Expect from him; and have all along been watchfull and upon my

³¹The Reverend Aaron Smith of Marlborough.

³²Thomas Fleet published *The Boston Evening-Post*; Kneeland, *The Boston Gazette*.

³³The Reverend John Gardner of Stow.

³⁴Of Westborough.

³⁵Wife of the Reverend John Martyn of Northborough.

Guard -- and have been very far from Willingly giving the least Ground of Offence. Have always defended him when I have heard any Word to his Disparagement, and been ready always to give him a good Character; or oblige him in any Thing in the World that lay in my Power, or any of his: and would Still Serve him with my whole Heart. I therefore look upon this as a sore Frown of Heaven: and do beg of God to Sanctifie it to me; and Since it bodes exceeding ill with regard to the Interest of Religion among us, I would heartily mourn and grieve for it. May God avert the Omen! These Things came upon me a little the more heavily because I had in the Day preceeding receiv'd an undesirable Letter from Mr. Abraham Smith of Brookfield, in which he tells me he shall come down with his Family the beginning of next Week if he does not hear from me and it contains also some Threatenings. I went over presently to Ebenezer p.m. but he was gone to help Mr. Daniel Maynard drive to Marlborough the Cattle he had bought of my Son (the Oxen I gave him) for 75£ old Tenor -- but Ebenezer Came over in the Evening. I visited old Mrs. Rogers who is sick.

1754 February 15 (Friday). Thomas and Lucy ride Ebenezer's Mare to Brookfield and they carry a Letter from me to Mr. Abraham Smith to prevent his coming and if he pleases throw up the Bargain: Ebenezer being much against going there, though he was So much for it before: Says he would give Smith 50£ rather than not throw up. P.M. I borrow'd Lieutenant Forbush's Horse and visited Mr. Chamberlins, Ithamar Bellow's, and Mr. Joslins Family, because of their Sickness -- and old Mr. [*sic* in Walett] Garfield who is very bad tis fear'd of a Malignant Fever. N.B. Mr. Chamberlin with me from House to House.

1754 February 16 (Saturday). Having Sent a Letter by my Son Thomas yesterday to Mr. Cushing to desire him to Change, he came here and I rode there. N.B. was Shav'd by Dr. Smith³⁶ at his House. A Somewhat Cold Time but I got up safely, and rested Comfortably, D.G.

1754 February 17 (Sunday). I thought it very Seasonable to preach on Mat. 24.44, a. and p.m. considering the Sickness had entered into the Town of Shrewsbury and Mr. Benjamin Goddard had dy'd there and others had been taken ill of it. But it happened likewise to be the Next Lords Day after the Funeral of the Honourable Edward Goddard³⁷ Esquire (and but a little while since the Death of his aged Wife) at Framingham: but his son Edward and Family now desir'd Public Prayers. O that I myself might be ready for my own Decease! At Eve I return'd home.

1754 February 18 (Monday). Wrote some proposals and offers to my son Ebenezer which I sent by Lieutenant Tainter, having understood that both son and his wife were under Discouragement. Lieutenant Tainter has taken fruitless pains with Mr. Grout for an Horse for my Wife to ride to Boston upon. And although I depended upon my son Ebenezer to go down with his Mother instead of Thomas who is gone to Brookfield; and that he might wait upon his Father Harrington respecting our Trading with Mr. Smith. Yet he also throws it by. Lieutenant

³⁶Joshua Smith of Shrewsbury,

³⁷Goddard, a prominent citizen, held numerous town offices, was a justice of the peace, and a member of the Council of the province. Temple, *Framingham*, p. 566.

Tainter therefore strikes in and proposes to go with my Wife in my Chair, with my own Mare. This therefore

1754 February 19 (Tuesday). They undertake, a.m. But p.m. was the most violent Storm of Wind and Rain, So that I was exceedingly concern'd about 'em. But they (as I heard afterwards) got safely to Colonel Buckminsters and lodg'd there.

1754 February 20 (Wednesday). Lieutenant Forbush brought me his Horse on which I rode to old Mr. Nathaniel Hudsons³⁸ Funeral. He was in his 85th Year according to his Children's Reckoning. I went from the House of Mourning to visit old Mrs. Garfield who lies very bad of the Pleuretick Fever which has been of late very Mortal in Neighbouring Towns. Mr. Grove and Mr. Joseph Woods din'd with me, and Mr. John Brigham's wife here all the afternoon.

1754 February 21 (Thursday). My Son Thomas return'd from Brookfield last night to t'other House without Lucy, but with Mr. Abraham Smith. P.M. I went over to Mr. Smith and spent the afternoon there. I return'd home at Evening not a little troubled that after all my Endeavours to gratifie my son, both he and his wife are not willing to Venture to go to Brookfield, but however my son does gratefully acknowledge what I wrote to him by Lieutenant Tainter. My Thoughts are deeply engaged on these Matters. We talk'd of Recanting the Bargain with Mr. Smith, who seems willing if we might both of us be just as we were before we began -- and I thought to take him but left it untill the next Morning. Finish'd a Letter to Mr. Martyn in Answer to his of the 12th.

1754 February 22 (Friday). A very fine Day. My Wife return'd from Boston while I was gone to the Funeral of old Mrs. Garfield, widow of the late Mr. Benjamin Garfield. N.B. Mr. Smith din'd with me. Tells me the meaning of his Talk yesterday (of our recanting upon Such Terms as to have both of us in the same State as we were when we began), was that I pay him what Damages he sustains if he does not go forward -- which I refus'd to comply with but would willingly recant for both his and my sons sake, if he saw Cause. This he rejected, and went to Sudbury to see his Parents. My son Thomas rode to Marlborough with him.

1754 February 23 (Saturday). Mr. Smith was to have return'd that he might go home to Brookfield but did not.

1754 February 24 (Sunday). Read Judg. 12. Text Ps. 51.11. P.M. read Heb. 11 from number 17, and Repeated Exposition (with Alterations) on Mat. 9.12, accommodating it to the Present Time of Sickness -- for though we are very much spar'd in this place through Gods great Mercy, with regard to our Bodys, yet are we under sore spiritual sickness. May God grant us to be sensible of it and perswade us to repair to the Lord Jesus Christ for Healing!

³⁸Of Marlborough.

1754 February 25 (Monday). Roger Bruce work'd here p.m. in Clearing. Mr. Abraham Smith came p.m. and his Father with him. They Spent the Eve here, and then return'd to lodge at t'other House. Dr. David Barnes,³⁹ Schoolmaster came and lodg'd here.

1754 February 26 (Tuesday). Went over to my sons, the Smiths being there; and find 'em much against having their Line to run to the North so far as the Settle. They want a Notch behind the Barn to take in the low Ground Behind the Barn. We all din'd at my sons. P.M. we find we cannot agree about the Line there having been nothing Said in the written Bargain about this nor by Word of Mouth only that it Should go as far East as the West End of the Barn and I conceiv'd nothing but that he would Choose to go North; except that likewise I insisted that my Land should not be cut into bad forms and notches. We therefore broke wholly off -- writ it and sign'd it. So old Mr. Smith took his Leave and went home, parting in peace. But his son stayed and when I was going away he ask'd me to walk down to the Barn which I comply'd with. And no sooner were we come to the East End of the Barn than Mr. Smith started a new Proposal for the Line of his 7 Acres -- and to include the Barn for his Over plus -- this I hearkened to; but not being well, and much worry'd would Say nothing to, to Night. Mr. Smith tarry'd and lodg'd there. In my way home visited Mr. Dodge and his wife and Neighbour Hezekiah Pratt and his new Wife. N.B. Roger Bruce Clear'd to Day, and lodges here.

1754 February 27 (Wednesday). A Stormy Night and Morning. Roger went off. My son and Mr. Smith came here. My son appear'd Willing to go to Brookfield and offers to go if I can trade with Mr. Smith still. Provided I will give him a Deed of Such as comes to the proportion of a Thousand Pounds in our Bargain, and will let him have the use of my remaining part for Two Years free of Interest. Hereupon Mr. Smith and I reviv'd our Bargain and settled it, and wrote and sign'd it and he is to come down next Week with his goods. John Dunlop here and wants to let himself to me.

1754 February 28 (Thursday). Ebenezer goes to Brookfield with Mr. Abraham Smith. Mrs. Parkman to t'other House, She not having been there ever since Peach Time till now. Such is her Encumbrance by the Children and Business of the Family. Mr. Bartlett⁴⁰ of Sutton here and tells me that Mr. Edmund Greenleaf of Newbury dy'd about a fortnight agoe. May God please to teach me to number my Days so as that I may apply my Heart to Wisdom!

1754 March 1 (Friday). Roger Bruce, John Dunlop with two more Hands with him, viz. Richard Kelly and Joseph Chaddock, come and Clean next to Captain Maynards Swamp. Thomas brought about 30 Rails with Ebenezers Team from the Ministerial Lot.

1754 March 2 (Saturday). Thomas brings a Load of Goods from t'other House -- storm of Snow.

³⁹(Harvard 1752). Barnes was ordained later this year at Norwell (Second Church in Scituate). Hudson, *Marlborough*, p. 317. In Nov. 1753, Westborough was presented at the Court of General Sessions in Worcester for not having maintained a school for over a year. Feb. 5, 1754, the Westborough selectmen testified before the court that a school master had been hired. The town was dismissed after "paying costs."

⁴⁰Richard Bartlett.

1754 March 3 (Sunday). Read Judg. 13. Preach'd on Jer. 31.23, a. and p.m. Widow Woods din'd here.

1754 March 4 (Monday). I went over to t'other House, a.m. Ebenezer and I measur'd the Lines of the Piece of Land mark'd out for Mr. Smith. P.M. I pray'd with the Town at their Meeting and receiv'd at Eve another uncomfortable Letter from my Brother Martyn.⁴¹ This Paper War with this Gentleman is the Grief of my Heart: it being the most peculiarly happy thing for ministers in the Same Town to be well united, and the most grievous when tis otherwise. Witness Woburn and Sutton nearer home.

1754 March 5 (Tuesday). I visited Mr. Jonathan Bellows who is sick and din'd there. Went to Southborough to carry Mr. Stone a little money for the Newton Meadow, but Mr. Stone was gone to Boston -- left 8£ old Tenor with his wife and return'd. Billy begins the Accidence⁴² again. Mr. Abraham Smith and his Wife are come from Brookfield to t'other House.

1754 March 6 (Wednesday). Thomas waited on his Sister, Ebenezer's Wife, with my Chair and Mare, though in heavy Roads, to her Father Harringtons at Watertown. Mr. Hutchinson⁴³ preach'd my Lecture from John 12.23, and may God Himself add a Blessing.

1754 March 7 (Thursday). [No entry.]

1754 March 8 (Friday). Snowy. Captain Timothy Brigham here. Brought the Journal of the House of Representatives.

1754 March 9 (Saturday). Thomas return'd to t'other House last night and came here with Mr. Smith and Mr. Jeduthun Baldwin who is come from Brookfield with a Chair from Mr. Forbush to carry us his Mother. P.M. Captain Timothy Brigham returns here, and I pay him £5.5/ for Reverend Mr. Stone.

1754 March 10 (Sunday). It was appointed last Sabbath to have the Communion to Day -- But because of the Extremity of the Season, Snow, Rain etc. the Sacrament was put by. I read Judg. 14 and for a. and p.m. Exercises expounded and improv'd the Chapter and especially number 14. Deacon Forbush and Lieutenant Thomas Weeks of Weston din'd with us. Ebenezer is observ'd to be very down.

1754 March 11 (Monday). Precinct Met for Choice of Officers -- No Prayer ask'd. Ebenezer comes at Eve -- tells me that Mr. Abraham Smith notwithstanding all his Bargain with me and giving me a Deed of his Place, has actually mortgag'd it to Mr. Aaron Boardman of Boston. He is this Day gone on my sons Mare to See his Father at Sudbury and to return tonight.

⁴¹John Martyn of Northborough. The editor has not discovered in this diary, in local histories or in church records any clue relating to the cause of this dispute between Martyn and Parkman.

⁴²A book containing the rudiments of grammar. Probably one of the famous Latin grammars of Ezekiel Cheever.

⁴³Aaron Hutchinson of Grafton.

1754 March 12 (Tuesday). I made a Visit to Mr. Smith to enquire into his Conduct. Colonel William Ward⁴⁴ here with whom I advis'd respecting Mr. Smiths Treatment of me. I rode to Mr. Bradishs to See his Wife, and to Mr. Ithamar Bellows. A fine Day overhead, but exceeding bad Road -- snow, Mud etc. Billy brought over four Sheep and [*blank*] Lambs from t'other House. Mr. Jeduthun Baldwin here from Sudbury, returning to Brookfield. Told him I was very sorry that when Mr. Forbush⁴⁵ and he knew of Mr. Smiths Mortgaging his Place to Mr. Boardman yet that they did not prevent his moving his Family hither, or Send one word of it.

1754 March 13 (Wednesday). Ebenezer rode (on Mr. Smiths Stallion) to his Father Harringtons at Watertown where his Wife has hitherto continued. And Billy is over at tother place taking Care of his Brothers Cattle. Mr. Edwards Whipple here at Eve. Acquaints me with Base Coin stirring; Some of it passed by Mr. John Dunlop, but chiefly by Abraham Rice of Brookfield, and Moses Pannell of Colrain, who are principally Suspected.

1754 March 14 (Thursday). I visited in the South part of the Town. Din'd at Mr. Harringtons. Was at Mr. Bowmans, both Twitchells, but especially went to see Mr. Dunlop who is sick. Lieutenant Maynard and others are gone to Brookfield to Abner Rice's to detect the base Coiners. Receiv'd an affectionate Letter from Brother Samuel Parkman on the Death of Captain T. Davis.

1754 March 15 (Friday). Ebenezer return'd home at Eve with his Wife and Child in my Chair. My Wife visited Mrs. Smith at t'other House.

1754 March 16 (Saturday). John Dunlop here (after his Journey to Brookfield) tells me the New Coiners are Two sons of the late Mr. Thomas Newton⁴⁶ formerly of this Town; and they made the Money at Hunting Hills⁴⁷ beyond Deerfield. Company are here every Day, and not a few -- which is a great Interruption to me. Mr. Daniel Forbush here about making Satisfaction to Reverend Mr. Barret.

1754 March 17 (Sunday). A bright Day, though raw Cold North wind. Read Judg. 15. Preach'd a.m. on Judg. 14.14. Administered the Lords Supper. Deacon Forbush and Mrs. Brigham (Gershoms Wife) din'd with us. P.M. repeated with Alteration Exposition on Mat. 8.21.22. God grant we may be quickened to cast off all procrastinations and Delays and apply ourselves to the Work of God, as we are respectively called thereto!

1754 March 18 (Monday). I went over to Mr. Smith and talk with him -- and inasmuch as he pretends that Mr. Boardman of Boston is ready to take off the Mortgage, he must go to him

⁴⁴Ward of Southborough was a justice of the peace. Hudson, *Marlborough*, p. 460.

⁴⁵Parkman's son-in-law, the Reverend Eli Forbes of Brookfield.

⁴⁶Thomas Newton, Jr., had moved to Sunderland in 1742; he was in Deerfield in 1756. The editor has not determined the identity of the other Newton counterfeiter. Ermina N. Leonard, *Newton Genealogy* (DePere, Wisconsin, 1915), pp. 74-75-

⁴⁷The plantation called Huntstown became the town of Ashfield in 1765.

forthwith and do it, otherwise it will be too late for this Year. I think it also a great Wrong and hardship that Mr. Smiths Horse is kept in my Barn since our Hay is So Short and it is difficult for me to go for Supply otherwise. Visited at Mr. Whipples, both Houses. Mr. Edwards Whipple talks of helping me get Timber for a Kitchin. Ebenezer and his wife and Child here at Eve. Thunder and Lightening. They lodge here.

1754 March 19 (Tuesday). Mr. Smith to Boston to see what Mr. Boardman will do. Wrote to my Brother Samuel to assist me; that I may not be deceiv'd. Desir'd Lieutenant Maynard to receive from my Brother an Account of their Proceedings. Din'd at Mr. Amsdens. Mr. Abijah Gale gives me Dimensions for a Leanto. Visited Mrs. Twitchell after the Death of her Mother. Return'd by t'other House. Mrs. Smith very dull -- though neighbours come to see her yet she removes into another room and shuts the Door that she may be alone. I went in to take leave of her, and found her under Discouragement. Lieutenant Tainter brought saw'd stuff for Barn Doors. N.B. much Noise about Abner Rice and his Brother in Law Moses Pannell being apprehended, and one Newton likewise. All brought before Colonel Chandler,⁴⁸ for making money -- and are committed to Jayl.

1754 March 20 (Wednesday). Greatly engag'd and troubled in my Mind about Mr. Smiths Conduct, and much perplex'd what Course to take: to throw up will tend much to the ruin of Mr. Smith however he has brought it upon himself in giving me so great Reason for it: on the other Hand to go on is exceeding Dangerous: and it will soon be too late for my son to go to Brookfield. May the Lord influence my Mind and Heart and direct me what Course to take. Visit Captain Forbush's Wife, mourning for the Loss of her sister Sawin.

1754 March 21 (Thursday). Esquire Baker came here kindly to tell me that he heard Smiths Land in Brookfield was under an attachment and that there were several Executions out against him. Catechiz'd at the Meeting House, a. and p.m. N.B. I have the Congregation a quickening Word last Lords Day to send their Children. And a.m. I had 51 Boys. P.M. it snow'd yet 23 Girls. Mr. [blank] Park of Sutton din'd here. Lieutenant Tainter and a Number besides with their Teams brought a great Stone for the principal step at the Front of the Meeting House. My wife but poorly -- may God fit us for His Will! At Eve Mr. Ebenezer Rice here. I wrote a Line to Mr. Abraham Smith to apprize him that I must be oblig'd to tell the Select Men of his Coming.

1754 March 22 (Friday). Sent by Ebenezer to Mr. Whipple⁴⁹ Town Clerk Information of Mr. Smith and his Family being in my House -- to be Communicated to the Select Men. N.B. my Paper return'd because the Wife's and Daughters Names were not inserted. Mr. Hill of Sherbourn brought me a Letter from Mr. Morse⁵⁰ of Shrewsbury requesting a Contribution for the Relief of Mr. Asa Hill of Shrewsbury who was lately burnt out. Mr. Stone's son Nathaniel here and din'd with us. At Eve I was with Deacon Newton, another of the selectman, and gave him a Paper which had the Names of Mr. Smiths Wife and Daughter but did not leave it.

⁴⁸John Chandler of Worcester.

⁴⁹Francis Whipple.

⁵⁰The Reverend Ebenezer Morse of Boylston.

1754 March 23 (Saturday). In the Morning I went to Esquire Baker and consulted him on the Smith Affair and wrote and left with him (another of the select Men) an information in Writing certifying when Mr. Smith his Wife and Daughter came into Town. N.B. last Night Mr. Daniel Forbush came here from Brookfield and tells me that Mr. Smith was come up from Boston, and brought up a Letter (which he also delivered me and which was from Mr. Andrew Boardman of Boston) informing me that he Should Send up Mr. Barker on Monday to transact the Affair of taking off the Mortgage from Smiths Brookfield Land. Mr. Smith came here and I immediately [*sic*] Sent for Esquire Baker who came. They din'd here. A warm Debate ensued. I insist for security besides a Deed if we go on; Seeing Mr. Smith has So deceiv'd me, in the Matter of the Former Deed. Captain Baker thinks it very Reasonable and Necessary. Smith resists it. When the Esquire was gone I offer to leave it to 3 indifferent Men. N.B. I receiv'd another Letter from Mr. Boardman attested by him to be the Copy of what he had sent by Mr. Smith. This came by the help of my Brother Samuel.

1754 March 24 (Sunday). A.M. read Judg. 16 and the Expository remarks upon it were our forenoon Exercise. P.M. read James 2 and by reason of my perplexing Difficulties with Mr. Smith repeated Exposition on Mat. 5.38, and part of 39. At Eve receiv'd a Letter from Mr. Smith, dated yesterday, in which he intimates his rejecting Still my proposal of a Bondsman. Read to the Congregation a Letter from the Reverend Mr. Morse of Shrewsbury requesting a Contribution for one Mr. Asa Hill who was lately burnt out. Left it with Deacons and Committee to advise upon. I thought it agreeable to Christian Principles, and that Meekness and Mercifulness which I had been recommending in the Day preceding, to Consider Mr. Smith's Case as well as my own; and being perswaded that Mr. Barkers Coming up here (as may be expected on the Ensuing Day) will be in Vain, I desir'd my son Thomas to prepare and go with a Line to Mr. Smith and take an Horse (if Mr. Smith desir'd also) and go away now in the Night to Boston and stop Mr. Barkers Coming to prevent needless Charge. And he went away accordingly about a quarter after 12 in the Night.

1754 March 25 (Monday). Thomas return'd: Mr. Smith not accepting my Offer. I went to Esquire Bakers to Consult him again upon my present Affairs; and to desire that the Select Men would defer their Warning Mr. Smith out of Town and especially if Some of his Friends would give Security respecting the Infant now expected; which he comply'd with, and at my Request he sent one of his Sons to Mr. Bezaleel Smith with a Note from me to have him come to Me or to his Kinsmans; and he came. N.B. Captain Maynard and Mr. Benjamin How look out a place in my Land by the Meeting House to set stables. I went over to see Mrs. Smith. She says now that she is willing to sign a Deed. But her Husband I find in the Same Disposition as he was, and increasing in self Vindications and Resentments. Asks me to let his Goods remain in my House, while he carrys his Family to his or her Fathers, to which I consent, but will not be answerable for them. N.B. His dread of Lying as he and I stood in the Road talking in the hearing of his Cousen Bezaleel. I return'd home. N.B. Mr. Ebenezer Maynard brought me a Load of Posts from the Ministerial Lot, and carry'd 'em to the Island. Mr. Batheric, Noah Forbush and my son Ebenezer Splicing Rails at the Ministerial Lott. At Eve Mr. Smith comes here and brings Mr. Barker. We effect no thing -- but increase sin and Trouble. The Lord shew Mercy! and extend

forgiveness! Tis a Day of sore Temptation. May God most gracious Help! Mrs. Smith sent me a Letter in which She complains of great unkindness -- which verily I never shewed her but the Contrary.

1754 March 26 (Tuesday). Mr. Barker came with Mr. Smith. N.B. Mr. Barker tells me Mr. Smith at the Time when he (Barker) went up to take a Mortgage of him did not acquaint him that he had given me a Deed, but said he was under Obligation to me -- whereas Mr. Smith has told me he did inform Mr. Barker that he had given me a Deed. Mr. Barker returns to Boston without effecting any Thing; for neither are the Conditions of my Bond fulfilled nor is there any security. N.B. Mr. Bezaleel Smith here and Confronts Abraham with respect to the different Account he has given of the Sum which the place in Brookfield is mortgaged for. Noah Forbush not well: does no great matter of Business to Day.

1754 March 27 (Wednesday). Mr. Ebenezer Rice levys an Execution on Mr. Abraham Smith to the value of an hundred Twenty odd Pounds old Tenor in behalf of one of the Hitchcocks in Springfield. My wife was over there to see Mrs. Smith who takes but little Notice of her. P.M. I rode down to Colonel William Ward and got him to take Mr. Andrew Newtons Deed that it may be acknowledged. Went to Mr. Ephraim How of Marlborough and paid him Six Pounds Old Tenor Interest.

1754 March 28 (Thursday). Went over to t'other House and talk'd with Mrs. Smith. Her Husband is gone to Boston again, that he may obtain a Power of Attorney for Colonel Chandler or somebody else that may take up the Mortgage for Mr. Boardman, and by what he has Said I apprehend he designs also to go to his Mother that she may sign his Deed; he had also sent to Brookfield to have the Land there measur'd. His wife manifests Satisfaction and Reconcilement with me and her Consent at least, if not Desire also to have me go to their Fathers. I rode to Mr. Smiths Father in Sudbury and lodg'd there, but the man himself was not at home: was gone to Boston. The Woman was almost overwhelm'd with Trouble about her son before I began. N.B. Mr. Bezaleel Smith there and had sufficient Ground to confirm what I said.

1754 March 29 (Friday). Left a Letter for Mr. Amos Smith at his House, rode to Mr. Francis Wheeler's and din'd there. He gave me from under his Hand and witness'd that the Child which might be born of his Daughter in Westborough Should not be a Town Charge. I call'd at Lieutenant Dakins, who favoured me with a pint of Hotspur Peas; but especially was desirous to acquaint [*sic*] me with their present Difficultys with Mr. Loring and their purpose to have a Council. I call'd at Mr. Lorings⁵¹ in Marlborough -- receiv'd of him his Chandlers History of Persecution.⁵² Was at Mr. Benjamin Woods's.⁵³ Paid him 30/ old Tenor in full of all Demands. At Eve return'd home in Safety. D.G.

⁵¹Jonathan Loring was the son of the Reverend Israel Loring of Sudbury.

⁵²Samuel Chandler translated the following work by Philippus van Limborch, *The History of the Inquisition*, 2 vols. (London, 1731). Chandler also published *The History of Persecution, in four Parts* (London, 1736).

⁵³A leading citizen of Marlborough.

1754 March 30 (Saturday). Have had so many avocations that I could not prepare more than one sermon.

1754 March 31 (Sunday). Mr. Smith came up from Boston last night, but has not been to either of his Fathers, nor Seen his Mother. Read Judg. 17. Preach'd on Ps. 51.11. P.M. read James, and repeated on Mat. 8.34. N.B. The Deacons and Committee who met last Thursday to Confer about Mr. Asa Hills Case, as mention'd last Lords Day, made me no Return.

1754 April 1 (Monday). Richard Kelly works here. Noah Forbush here still at Shoework. Ebenezer plough'd [in my Garden and split] the Indian Hills at my New Barn -- and carry'd out some Muck from the stables. P.M. Mr. Abraham Smith and his Brother Francis Wheeler here. Mr. Nathaniel Green Coroner, with an Assistant here after Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith and I return our writings which had past and reciprocally burn our Agreement and give mutually Full Discharge. Mr. Green I suppose arrested or seiz'd him and they went all off together. I fear the Event with poor Smith. The Lord pittty, convince and forgive him! and may I be in a proper Frame towards him. May God forgive me wherein I have offended in my trading with him!

1754 April 2 (Tuesday). My wife went over to t'other House. Mr. Smith having given I know not what Satisfaction to the Officer, Green, is there till this Morning probably by reason of Mrs. Smiths being so near her Time, growing ill last night they had the midwife: But when they had din'd they all rode away -- viz. Mr. Smith and wife, and Child, and her Brother Francis Wheeler, for Sudbury. Richard Kelly setts up, and mends, Fence at the Island, and prepar'd Beds in the Garden two long Beds for Hotspur Peas. Mr. Simon Tainter junior, who fell into a Fit yesterday, is greatly recover'd to Day.

1754 April 3 (Wednesday). Wrote to Mr. Hutchinson⁵⁴ to change next Sabbath.

1754 April 4 (Thursday). Public Fast. A.M. on Jer. 12.2. P.M. on Ez. 18.30, latter part. Improv'd Some parts of Sermon on Jer. 31.18, namely from page 6 to 15.

1754 April 5 (Friday). I visited Mrs. Williams (Mr. Samuels wife) who has of late lost a number of Relations, and some of them very near and dear to her, at Sherbourn, by the mortal fever that has rag'd among them. N.B. Mr. Abraham Smith at the other House to answer to Mr. Ebenezer Rice, sheriff. He lodg'd (as I heard) at Lieutenant Bruce's. N.B. Mr. Ephraim Bruce here, and tells me that Mr. Smith had told Such Things at their House, as if true, he Should be greatly Disaffected to me for: but when I came to understand what they were, it was even astonishing that ever a professing Christian Should pervert and misrepresent the Truth so. Particularly that when our Agreement to throw up all our Bargain, was So clear, and in presence of his Brother Wheeler as well as other he Should so exceedingly misrepresent the plain and express'd Terms thereof. Thus when it was propos'd that we Should throw up all, it was expressly mention'd that a Bag of Feathers which he sent to my Daughter Forbush (of 50£ weight at 7/6 old Tenor per pound, but was thrown in for 10£ in our Bargain) should be given in

⁵⁴Aaron Hutchinson of Grafton.

-- and this was the least he could do Since he lay expos'd to an action in Law for Breach of Covenant and for Damgages by his presumptuousness coming into my House; Yet Mr. Smith tells 'em at Bruce's that this was not mention'd till after Signing the mutual Discharges; and that though he told me he had forgot that Article, yet I was so unfair and hard as to refuse to Consider it.

1754 April 6 (Saturday). Receiv'd an insulting Letter from Mr. Smith, but God grant me Wisdom, Meekness and Patience. I rode to Grafton. Mr. Hutchinson in his New House, though very unfinish'd.

1754 April 7 (Sunday). Preach'd at Grafton a. and p.m. on Ps. 51.11.

Mr. Hutchinson here on Job and on [blank]. In returning at Eve call'd at Mr. Winchesters.

1754 April 8 (Monday). Captain Maynard and Lieutenant Bruce run the North Line of the Island, and set up Stakes.

1754 April 9 (Tuesday). Receiv'd a joyful Letter from my son Forbush that on the Night before last (the night after the 7th) my Daughter Mary was delivered of a Daughter, and both Mother and Child well. All glory be to God our Saviour and Deliverer. May He perfect begun Mercy! Richard Kelly at work again on John Dunlops Account. He setts up the Fence on the Line before mention'd. My Wife to Mr. Harringtons and brought seven Dollars which I borrow of him to pay the Reverend Mr. Stone for Newton Meadow.

1754 April 10 (Wednesday). Kelly at work here: and finishes for John Dunlop. Lieutenant Forbush Setts out 90 Apple Trees South west of the Barn -- 70 out of my own Nursery and 20 from Mr. Whitney. Showery p.m. P.M. a Cow which Ebenezer had of Mr. Abraham Knowlton and which I have had to keep a while, was Mir'd in the Swamp which I took up a few Years ago, near the Cedar Swamps; but we got her out again alive. Before Welch⁵⁵ in Boston Jayl is hang'd (the Day for his Execution being tomorrow) another barbarous Murder is Committed, and by another Irishman.⁵⁶

1754 April 11 (Thursday). Rode to Mr. Daniel Mathis's to a Fast kept there on Account of his Sciatica and Discouragements. Mr. Stone⁵⁷ was there, but no Minister besides. I preach'd a.m. on Ps. 51.11, and pray'd both before and after Sermons. Left Mr. Stone to carry on the

⁵⁵William Welch, also known as George Kelly, was tried and convicted of the murder of Darby O'Brien "in November last by stabbing him in the Belly." *The Boston Weekly News-Letter*, March 14, 1754. Welch was executed in Boston, April 11, 1754.

⁵⁶"Last Saturday in the Afternoon Two Men at the South End having some Dispute about cording Wood on a Wharf, one of them struck the other on the Head with one of the Sticks, so that he fell down Speechless and expired soon after. The Man that gave the Blow surrender'd himself up to Justice, and, after Examination, was committed to Prison: The Jury of Inquest have found it wilful Murder." *The Boston Weekly News-Letter*, April 11, 1754.

⁵⁷Nathan Stone of Southborough.

remaining Exercises: being oblig'd myself to hasten to my own Catechetical Exercises to Young Men. About 24 persons attended: I deliver'd Number 5 which is from page 17 to 22.

1754 April 12 (Friday). To my great Sorrow Mr. Abraham Smiths Goods which Mr. Ebenezer Rice seiz'd on an Execution, were sold at Vendue at Captain Maynards. Billy work'd part of the Day at Mr. Nurse's.

1754 April 13 (Saturday). Mr. Moses Morse plough'd my Stubble at the Island, with 4 Oxen and his large Plough. At Eve my Kinsman Mr. Daniel Needham⁵⁸ came from Norwich and is travelling to Salem. He is much out of Health.

1754 April 14 (Sunday). Read Judg. 18. Preach'd on Ez. 18.30, repeating with alterations and additions Sermon on Jer. 31, from page 15 to the End. P.M. Read Jam. 5, preach'd on 1 Thess. 4.17, last Clause, and chiefly made use of Sermon on Ps. 17, ult. The Happiness of Heaven from the Company: Especially of the glorious God Himself -- from page 73 to 82. The Reason of my using old sermons to Day (though I made great Alterations) was I was preparing on a difficult Text, viz. Rom. 5.12, and by means of many Interruptions as well as the Subject I could not accomplish my Preparations. N.B. My Kinsman was so ill that he went not to Meeting at all.

1754 April 15 (Monday). Mr. Nathan Maynard plough'd my Island stubble with Mr. Nurse's and his own Oxen. My Kinsman still but poorly, but behaves as a Christian. Sent his Horse to Mr. Bathericks to be kept.

1754 April 16 (Tuesday). My Kinsman goes on his Journey. Rode to Shrewsbury Ministers Meeting at Mr. Cushings. Mr. Stone, Morse, Mccarty,⁵⁹ Buckminster,⁶⁰ and Davis⁶¹ there. Mr. Buckminster the Concio on 2 Cor. 2.15.16. Mr. Martyn not there to Day. Mr. John Brigham's wife came to us.

1754 April 17 (Wednesday). Mr. Martyn and Mr. Smith came to Association. Mr. Davis preach'd on 1 Cor. 16.13. We went in a Body to see Colonel Ward,⁶² at his request, he being in a low State of Health. I pray'd with him. His Daughter also ill. Mr. Millen⁶³ my Company home, but he goes to Hopkinton. Mr. John Child and his Lad and Dr. Jenison lodge. I Sent my Mare to Captain Bakers and Dr. Jenisons⁶⁴ to Deacon Newtons.

⁵⁸Parkman's oldest sister, Mary, had married Daniel Needham.

⁵⁹Thaddeus Maccarty of Worcester.

⁶⁰Joseph Buckminster of Rutland.

⁶¹Joseph Davis of Holden.

⁶²Justice Nahum Ward of Shrewsbury died a few weeks later, May 7, 1754.

⁶³The Reverend John Mellen of Sterling.

⁶⁴William Jennison, who did not have a college education, studied medicine with Dr. Stanton Prentice of Lancaster. He began to practice medicine in Mendon in May, 1753, but "afterwards engaged in trade." Bond, *Watertown*, II, 802.

1754 April 18 (Thursday). Mr. Child glazes my sons shop. Dr. Jenison to Leicester. Lieutenant Hezekiah Ward din'd. P.M. Mrs. Molly Martyn. Unusual Cold Weather.

1754 April 19 (Friday). Exceeding Cold. Ebenezer's weak Cow brings a Calf. The Cold is more Severe, and the Ice thicker than I think I have ever known it.

1754 April 20 (Saturday). The Weather moderated considerably, yet 'tis Cold. An unusual Time! Mr. Greenwood⁶⁵ of Sutton, from the General Court calls and takes the Journals of the House of Representatives which he had lent me; and acquaints me with the proceedings of the Court.

1754 April 21 (Sunday). Read Judg. 19. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Rom. 5.12. Read p.m. 1 Pet. 1. Acquainted the Congregation that I perceiv'd it was the mind of those I had Convers'd with that it is not adviseable to have among us, a public Contribution for Mr. Hill of Shrewsbury (who was burnt out and whose Request was read some Sabbaths ago) not only because of our Circumstances here, but Mr. Hill has receiv'd pritty full Supplys; and it is not expected from us, all Things considered. But yet if any persons are still So inclined as to Contribute Money or Necessarys of Life, they may use their Discretion.

1754 April 22 (Monday). Thomas rides to Hopkinton upon my Mare. He desires to use some severity with Mr. Israel Walker who keeps him out of his Money from one Year to another. He was to have return'd the same Day but did not.

1754 April 23 (Tuesday). Thomas return'd -- does nothing with Mr. Walker.

1754 April 24 (Wednesday). My wife makes a Visit to Mr. Martyns p.m. and return'd at Eve.

1754 April 25 (Thursday). Mr. Barrett⁶⁶ preach'd my Lecture of Ps. 24.8. N.B. Captain Wood⁶⁷ came with him, who also, and Dr. Brigham of Marlborough din'd with us.

1754 April 26 (Friday). Mr. Jacob Foster here in his Way to Brookfield. Alpheus Newton disquieted with my Sheep.

1754 April 27 (Saturday). Trouble with my Creatures breaking in to Neighbour's Meadows.

1754 April 28 (Sunday). Read Judg. 20 to number 25. Preach'd on 1 Cor. 15.24.27.28, a. and p.m. P.M. read 1 Pet. 2. May God pardon our sins and graciously accept us! My Neighbour Williams's Wife ill of the Fever (as it is Suppos'd) which so many of her Relations have dy'd of at Sherbourn.

⁶⁵Daniel Greenwood. Benedict and Tracy, *Sutton*, p. 653.

⁶⁶The Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

⁶⁷John Wood.

1754 April 29 (Monday). Thomas help'd me at the Garden a.m. Catechiz'd Children at the Meeting House both a. and p.m. Visited Mrs. Williams in the Morning and prayed with her. Was at t'other House at Eve. Gave Lieutenant Maynard a Note to Mr. Bigelow of 8£ Lawfull Money. Mr. Foster came back from Brookfield but goes to his Brother Twitchells to lodge. N.B. We were almost wholly out of Hay.

1754 April 30 (Tuesday). Mr. Foster came here and rode with me to Mr. Jonas Brighams who moves a Barn from the East side of the Road to the back of his House.

1754 May 1 (Wednesday). I visited Mrs. Williams and pray'd with her. She is very bad and grows much weaker. Visited Mrs. Barrett of Hopkinton who is Sick. Return'd at Evening.

1754 May 2 (Thursday). I preach'd at Lieutenant Tainters, by his Desire, the sermon and on the Text I preach'd from when Neighbour Newtons House was burnt, viz. Lam. 3.22.23. My wife went with me. Before I got home Mr. Eleazer Williams meets with an Horse to Visit his Mother. I went and pray'd with her; she is hastening away apace, and was Sensible. Discours'd like a good Christian. Gave her Testimony to the Truth of the Christian Religion and to the Expediency and usefulness of waiting upon divine Ordinances. Mr. Williams desir'd me to return again in the Morning --

1754 May 3 (Friday). Which I did -- but his Wife was a Corps laid out. She departed after Day break this Morning. Mr. Eleazer Whitney brought me forty Rails, ten of them being beyond the Number I expected, and not Splic'd. Still exceeding dry Weather. Mr. John Freeland Taylor makes a Coat of Blue Broad Cloth for Thomas. This Day is a week since Mrs. Williams was confin'd -- She was at Lecture yesterday was Sennight.

1754 May 4 (Saturday). Mrs. Williams bury'd. May God Sanctify this breach! Mr. Freeland here till he went to Mrs. Williams Funeral.

1754 May 5 (Sunday). I have been preparing upon the Doctrine of Original Sin, comparing Mr. John Taylor,⁶⁸ Dr. Watts (Ruin and Recovery),⁶⁹ Turretine,⁷⁰ Van Mast., Mr. Willard⁷¹ etc. and cannot finish in season what I propos'd. Therefore on this Consideration and on Consideration of the Extraordinary Drought preach'd a.m. on Jer 14.22 and p.m. on Occasion of the Death of

⁶⁸John Taylor, *The Scripture Doctrine of Original Sin Proposed to Free and Candid Examination* (London, 1740). Other editions followed.

⁶⁹Isaac Watts, "The Ruin and Recovery of Mankind," *Discourses, Essays, and Tracts on Various Subjects*, VI (London, 1753), 177-320. The Ruin and Recovery evidently did not appear as a separate imprint.

⁷⁰This was probably Francisus Turretinus, *Compendium Theologiae Didactico-Elencticae* (Amsterdam, 1695). Parkman owned this volume. See Diary, Nov. 21, 1747.

⁷¹Samuel Willard, D.D., minister of the Old South Church and Vice-President of Harvard College, was the author of numerous works. The editor has not discovered a work with reference to original sin in the title. Many of Willard's writings were collected by Joseph Sewall and Thomas Prince and published as *A Compleat Body of Divinity in Two Hundred and Fifty Expository Lectures* (Boston, 1726).

Mrs. Williams and another of Mr. Nathaniel Whitneys Brothers and [*sic*] I preach'd on Job 14.14. The public Reading was Judg. 20, from number 26, a.m. and p.m. was 1 Pet. 3.

1754 May 6 (Monday). Here the Woods at Wachusett are much on Fire in this terrible Drought, and 'tis thought they approach nearer. The burnt leaves by means of the strong Winds reach even hither. Mr. Jonas Twitchell works for me, carrying out Dung -- my sons Ebenezer and Thomas also hard at it. Have Ebenezers Cart and Oxen and my Mare for the Team: and borrow Deacon Newtons Cart. Mr. Bigelow and Timothy Warrin here at Evening. Mr. John Freeland finishes Thomas's Coat and goes home.

1754 May 7 (Tuesday). Our sheep continue troublesome to Alphy Newton and Mr. Francis Whipple comes to me on his Account. The Shower of Rain though but Small exceeding comfortable and reviving.

1754 May 8 (Wednesday). Warmer Weather. Many People are planting to Day. I walk'd up to Lieutenant Fays and to Ensign Fay's. Hear that Colonel Nahum Ward dy'd Yesterday. A great Loss to his County!

1754 May 9 (Thursday). Held a Catechetical Exercise to Young Women, of which forty one attended. At Eve was at old Mr. Maynards.

1754 May 10 (Friday). Ebenezer's Mare which I have now the Care of, is kept at Mr. Bonds whilst Ebenezer has mine to work -- that I may help him what I can. His Father Harrington here. Lucy came from Brookfield with Mr. Baldwin last night. I rode up to Shrewsbury to the Funeral of Colonel Nahum Ward. A very great number of people attended -- many Gentlemen from Neighbouring Towns -- except Ministers, there being no Minister from the Neighbouring Towns or Parishes but my Self. Mrs. Patty in a low Condition. I supp'd with the Bearers and other Gentlemen at the Widows. Justice Baker and Lieutenant Fay my Company home. N.B. We had a very refreshing Rain gently distill'd most of the Afternoon. A Seasonable Blessing this exceeding dry time.

1754 May 11 (Saturday). My Cattle break in to the Meadows So often it gives great Disquietment. Mr. Nathaniel Whitney in particular greatly offended, and in intemperate Anger, which gave me much trouble. Last Night Watertown New Meeting House burnt.

1754 May 12 (Sunday). Read Judg. 21. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Rom. 5.12. P.M. read 1 Pet. 4. Showery. We praise God for this Great Blessing. May it please God to pour out abundantly His Holy Spirit! and may Doctrine distill as the Rain, and Knowledge flow down among us!

1754 May 13 (Monday). A most mercifull growing Season! P.M. Mr. Baldwin came from Sudbury.

1754 May 14 (Tuesday). [No entry.]

1754 May 15 (Wednesday). Mr. Hezekiah Pratt plough'd at the Island. I was at t'other House. Ebenezer has begun to plant one piece. I was at Mr. David Maynards with old Mr. Green. N.B. I wrote to Colonel Chandler concerning my Collection of Poems and sent him the Paper of Subscriptions.⁷² Wrote also to Mr. Forbush of Brookfield. These were sent by Elisha Jones. Mr. Baldwin and John Woods begin to work at the Meeting House. They undertake the Pulpit in the first place. Frequent Showers of Rain, rendering it a wonderful season, thanks be to God! O that Grace might Spring in our Hearts! Mr. Nathaniel Whitney here and seems very Calm. I read him a paper containing Several Offers which I make him. To which he makes me no Reply.

1754 May 16 (Thursday). Showery this Morning also. Lucy lodg'd at t'other House. I went into the Neighbourhood to get somebody to plough or harrow my Ground, but without Success. I was at Mr. Daniel Warrins -- but he offer'd a Bushel of Indian Corn. N.B. I had din'd at Lieutenant Tainters with Master Hezekiah Coolidge⁷³ who came the Day before Yesterday to keep School, and keeps at the School House. Mr. Baldwin here at Eve, and asks Leave to Spend a little Time with my Daughter Lucy.

1754 May 17 (Friday). Still Showery. Mr. David Maynard junior with his son David and a Team, ploughs by the Barn.

1754 May 18 (Saturday). Very rainy.

1754 May 19 (Sunday). Read Ruth 7. Preach'd on Rom. 5.15.18 a. and p.m. Read [1] Pet. 5.

1754 May 20 (Monday). Town Meeting to See whether the Town will Send a Representative. They vote not to. Billy must furrow out for ploughing; he has Benjamin Rice to help him; but they prove insufficient -- forc'd to get Mr. Jonathan Forbush to hold plough and we plant part of the piece by the Barn. Mr. Hezekiah Coolidge visits me and lodges here.

1754 May 21 (Tuesday). Greatly fatigued and disappointed about Oxen to plough my further Field at the Island. I Seek to above half a score Neighbours in Vain. We are also out of Rye, and when I was about to go out p.m. Mr. Isaac Johnson of Southborough came to desire me to go and see his Father in his last Minutes (as they apprehend), Mr. Stone being gone with his Wife to Mr. Martyns. It was exceeding difficult for me to go, yet I went. Return'd at Eve.

⁷²Parkman's hopes of publication of his poems, which have been lost, never did materialize. [Additional note: Parkman proposed "*a Collection of the most ingenious celebrated English Poems, collected from divers Poets of the greatest Fame*"; *Boston Gazette*, July 24, 1753. Parkman's Commonplace Book (Massachusetts Historical Society), 44, contains a list of poems that, while undated and appearing between copies of letters dated 1779, probably represents the poems that he hoped to have printed in the early 1750s.]

⁷³(Harvard 1750). He was the son of a tavernkeeper and selectman of Sherborn. At Harvard, Coolidge had been punished for fighting, card-playing, and gambling. After making his humble confession and graduating, he kept the Roxbury Grammar School for a time. At Westborough he frequented taverns and gambled, and was soon dismissed from the school. *Sibley*, XII, 539-540.

1754 May 22 (Wednesday). Lieutenant Gilbert of Brookfield here. N.B. my Horse was kept last Night by Mr. Batherick. Lieutenant Thomas Forbush plough'd for me. Abner Warrin wash'd 5 of my sheep, which were all that were wash'd. P.M. my son Forbush here. He goes at Eve to t'other House. Deacon Haynes⁷⁴ of Sudbury brings a Letter to our Church for a Council.

1754 May 23 (Thursday). Billy has Eben Rice to help him furrow and plant: and they almost finish.

1754 May 24 (Friday). [No entry.]

1754 May 25 (Saturday). Mr. Israel Hearsy⁷⁵ from Boston here going to Oxford to See his Wife. I rode to Southborough (at Mr. Stone's⁷⁶ Desire by Mr. Ebenezer Rice).

1754 May 26 (Sunday). I preach'd at Southborough on Eph. 5.14, a. and p.m. Mr. Stone here, on Nahum 1.2. Return'd home at Eve. I lodg'd at his House.

1754 May 27 (Monday). Andrew Newton Sign'd and seal'd and deliver'd another more fairly drawn Deed, and his Wife also in presence of Messrs. Biton and Lock, their near Neighbours. Din'd at Mr. Bridge's⁷⁷ in Framingham on part of a large Turtle or Tortoise. Showery -- yet rode to Captain Livermore's⁷⁸ at Waltham and lodg'd there.

1754 May 28 (Tuesday). Visited Mrs. Williams (widow of the late Reverend Mr. Williams)⁷⁹ and Mr. Cushing⁸⁰ and his Wife. Proceeded on my Journey to Cambridge (having been refresh'd at Watertown at Mr. Benjamin Hastings) din'd at Brother Champneys late⁸¹ in the Day -- Rain prevented my going to Boston. At Eve at President Holyokes⁸² -- and at Mr. Spragues. Lodg'd at sister Barretts: Sister Lydia⁸³ being there also, but my Mare (Ebenezers) was kept at Brother Champneys.

1754 May 29 (Wednesday). Early to Boston. Put up my Mare at Mr. Procters. Dr. Mayhew⁸⁴ the Election sermon on Mat. 25.21. Din'd at Brother Samuels and went to the Convention p.m. Dr. Sewal Moderator and Pray'd. At Eve at Brother Samuels my Brother William also. Sweet Conference together about our Affairs, which are in Common. I lodg'd there.

⁷⁴Josiah Haynes.

⁷⁵The husband of Parkman's niece, Tabitha.

⁷⁶The Reverend Nathan Stone.

⁷⁷The Reverend Matthew Bridge.

⁷⁸Samuel Livermore.

⁷⁹Warham Williams of Waltham had died, June 22, 1751.

⁸⁰The Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

⁸¹Parkman's brother-in-law, Samuel Champney of Cambridge.

⁸²Edward Holyoke of Harvard College.

⁸³Parkman's sister-in-law, Lydia Champney.

⁸⁴The great Jonathan Mayhew.

1754 May 30 (Thursday). Conference with my Brethren and Messrs. Oliver and Briant⁸⁵ at Mr. William Winters office upon settling what our honoured Mother had given us, and we agree with the Executor, or Eldest Brother. Broke fast at Olivers.⁸⁶ Return'd to Convention and attended the public meeting. Mr. Williams⁸⁷ of Long Meadow preach'd on Exod. 25.8. The Collection follow'd. I din'd at Dr. Sewalls.⁸⁸ Present Messrs. Flynt,⁸⁹ Niles,⁹⁰ Williams (that preach'd), Townsend⁹¹ of Needham, Byles,⁹² Quincy (Edmund)⁹³ -- p.m. at Mr. Prince's,⁹⁴ and at Mr. Foxcrofts.⁹⁵ Supp'd at Cousen Edward Langdons -- and lodg'd at Brother Parkmans. Return'd Mr. Pierpoints Letters to Mrs. Derricut.

1754 May 31 (Friday). Variously employ'd still in Town. Din'd at Mr. Stoddards. At Eve rode to Brother Harringtons in Watertown and lodged there.

1754 June 1 (Saturday). Set out Early in the Morning from Brother Harringtons. Stop'd at Mr. Woodburns⁹⁶ Tavern in Waltham, and wrote a Letter by him to Brother Samuel Parkmans. Cross'd Charles River and went to Captain Josh Fullers. Proceeded up to Natick. Refresh'd at the Reverend Mr. Badgers;⁹⁷ visited Mrs. Peabody:⁹⁸ and Mr. Hezekiah Coolidge having invited me to his Fathers in Sherbourn, promising to come up with me -- I therefore rode there; but he was not at Home. It was said he was gone to his Uncle's, Major Coolidge. It was about noon when I left Mr. James Coolidges and proceeded to the Majors -- but neither was he there. I din'd there, and hastened to Colonel Buckminster's. From whence Dr. Wilson⁹⁹ of Sherbourn rode with me some miles -- and gave me an account of Some of Coolidge's late Conduct at Coltons Tavern in Cambridge -- his gaming etc. In Southborough a storm rising (after I left Mr. Stones) I was oblig'd to stop at Lieutenant Brigham's. Arriv'd in Safety and found my Family well. D.O.M. Gratis.

1754 June 2 (Sunday). Read Ruth 2 and 2 Pet. 1. Repeated sermon on Jer. 8.4.5, a. and p.m. Captain Storer of Boston in his Journey from Connecticut attended with us, and din'd here. He lodg'd at Mr. Ebenezer Rice's.

⁸⁵ Joseph Bryant had married Parkman's niece, Elizabeth Parkman.

⁸⁶ Edward Brattle Oliver, who had married Parkman's niece, Esther Parkman.

⁸⁷ Stephen Williams.

⁸⁸ The Reverend Joseph Sewall of the Old South Church.

⁸⁹ Tutor Henry Flynt of Harvard College.

⁹⁰ The Reverend Samuel Niles of Braintree.

⁹¹ The Reverend Jonathan Townsend.

⁹² Mather Byles of Boston.

⁹³ (Harvard 1722). "Squire" Quincy, the great landowner and office-holder of Braintree and Boston.

⁹⁴ Thomas Prince of the Old South Church.

⁹⁵ Thomas Foxcroft of the First Church in Boston.

⁹⁶ Samuel Woodburn.

⁹⁷ Stephen Badger. [Additional note: (1726-1803), Harvard 1747, the last of the missionaries to the Native Americans of Natick; *Sibley*, 12:104-08.]

⁹⁸ The widow of the Reverend Oliver Peabody of Natick.

⁹⁹ John Wilson (Harvard 1741) practiced for a time among the Indians at Natick and then settled in Hopkinton. *Sibley*, XI, 96-97.

1754 June 3 (Monday). Mr. Nurse's Piggs (being unyolked), root up great part of my Field by the Barn to our great Grief.

1754 June 4 (Tuesday). [No entry.]

1754 June 5 (Wednesday). Preach'd my own Lecture on 1 Cor. 11.31 to page 10. Read the Letter from the aggrieved Brethren at Sudbury -- and left the Affair to further Consideration. After Lecture Came Justice Liscom¹⁰⁰ to acquaint me that old Mr. Johnson¹⁰¹ is dead and Mr. Stone being gone to Harwich, the survivors desire me to attend the Funeral next Saturday. N.B. Inform'd concerning Brother Abijah Gales Conduct towards Mr. Isaac Amsdens wife; and desire he would stay from the Communion till the Cause can be heard. At Eve came Messrs. Williams and Breck of Springfield and lodge here. Lieutenant Tainter took my Billy with him to lead the Horses to his Barn.

1754 June 6 (Thursday). The Horses fetch'd by Billy, and the said Springfield Gentlemen leave us. N.B. Mr. Ebenezer Rice repeatedly request he may cutt two or three large Trees for Timber in the Ministerial Lott -- I advis'd yesterday with several of the selectmen, and to Day with Esquire Baker. I am not so free to sell any stick off from that Lot; but Mr. Rice tells me they are such Trees as are not likely to be of so great profit and Service any other way. It was also desir'd that Mr. Marly were appriz'd of it, that there might be no Disquietment, even although he has verbally declar'd he Should not trouble himself about the Ministerial Rights. But Mr. Rice said he could not have Time to go over to Mr. Martyns¹⁰² or Captain Eagers about it. Whereupon I told him he had heard what anyhow the Case was; he must use his Discretion. He said if he did cut 'em he would pay all Damages that Should ensue, every manner of the Way.

1754 June 7 (Friday). [No entry.]

1754 June 8 (Saturday). Ensign Whipple of Grafton brought a Letter from Mr. Hutchinson about their Difficultys and desiring Help.

1754 June 9 (Sunday). Sacrament. Read Ruth 3, 2 Pet. 2. Preach'd on Isa. 9.6, his Name Wonderful. P.M. on Rom. 6.1.2. After the Exercises the Church stop'd upon the Sudbury Affair. Voted not to Send. But those who were for sending and were the minor part, were in some Chafe, especially M. Grow and Lieutenant Bruce. Esquire Baker and Mr. Whipple earnestly for it. However there was no withstanding so evident a Vote.

1754 June 10 (Monday). My son Thomas help'd me. Had Mr. Williams's Cart and Oxen to carry out the ashes to the Island Field. My sons plough'd with my Mare and Lieutenant Forbush's

¹⁰⁰Samuel Lyscomb of Southborough.

¹⁰¹William Johnson of Southborough.

¹⁰²The Reverend John Martyn of Northborough.

plough. P.M. Messrs. Chamberlin and Joseph Wood, with Two or Three sons apiece, hoed what was to be hoed at the Island.

1754 June 11 (Tuesday). Rain. Yet I rode to the School House and Catechiz'd the Children there, at 4 p.m.

1754 June 12 (Wednesday). Mr. Martyn came here in order to go with me to Grafton. No word nor Lisp of either Side respecting the Epistolary Acrimony. At Grafton we join'd with Messrs. Cushing and Hall¹⁰³ in hearing the Matters of Difficultie between a Number of the Church and Mr. Hutchinson,¹⁰⁴ who they conceive, was chargeable with Falsehood in saying that the Selectmen had agreed and determin'd to move Mr. Arnolds Shop and at Such a Time -- when they had not. See the Minutes of the Council. Mr. Carter,¹⁰⁵ Father in Law to Mr. Hutchinson there. Mr. Hall at Eve went home. The rest of us lodg'd there.

1754 June 13 (Thursday). Mr. Hutchinsons Confession new drawn -- we were at the Meeting House Twice. The Church accepted by a Majority of those present. I pray'd at the Conclusion. After Dinner we parted. Mr. Martyn and I rode to Westborough together but no word of our own Troubles. Call'd at Winchesters -- and at Captain Bakers. When I came home marry'd Cornelius Biglow junior to Sarah Miller.¹⁰⁶ Billy to School at the School House. Mr. Hezekiah Coolidge Master.

1754 June 14 (Friday). Captain Bakers¹⁰⁷ Company together in pursuance of Beating Orders to go to the Eastward; I pray'd with the Company. Captain Timothy Brigham of Southborough and others here after the Company was dismiss'd.

1754 June 15 (Saturday). The Busness [*sic*] of the Week and the Circumstances of my Family prevent my making the fully of my Ordinary Preparations for the Sabbath. Mr. Jonah Warrin here Early and desires me to write a Letter to his son Samuel which I gratify'd him in. Receiv'd a Letter from Daniel Millen to be Communicated.

1754 June 16 (Sunday). Read Ruth ult. Preach'd a.m. on Isa. 9.6 -- shall be call'd Wonderfull. P.M. read 2 Pet. 3. Repeated on Mat. 22.37.38. Stay'd the Church and read the Letter from Daniel Miller and the request was answer'd.¹⁰⁸

1754 June 17 (Monday). Sundry Neighbours, viz. Mr. Jonathan Warrin, Daniel Hardy, Phinehas Hardy, Solomon Woods, and Ebenezer Rice junior, Samuel Harrington, Jonathan Bond, Moses Nurse's Boy little Ebenezer came and gave a lift in Weeding my little Field by the Barn. The Precinct Met (among other Things) to See whether Mr. Jonathan Forbush Should retain his

¹⁰³David Hall of Sutton.

¹⁰⁴Aaron Hutchinson.

¹⁰⁵Margery Carter of Hebron, Conn., married the Grafton minister.

¹⁰⁶The daughter of James Miller of Westborough.

¹⁰⁷Edward Baker of Westborough.

¹⁰⁸Daniel Millen of Holliston had requested assistance in a council to be held July 2.

Right in the Meeting House Seating, if he Conveys his Right in the Pew which he drew for me, equal to what he would have had if he had done nothing about said Pew. They sent for me -- upon Esquire Bakers informing me in the midst of them that the Money for the Pew must be immediately paid, I insisted to have a just Title convey'd to me I would See to the answering it -- Upon its being intimated that they wanted the money forthwith and maybe I could not pay, I answer'd that although this precinct, as a precinct had paid me their Dues (that is, with regard to Sallery) yet this Body, namely as Members of the Town were yet indebted to me; and that as much or more than the Pew came to. Lieutenant Bruce answer'd Sharply, and coarsely, asking me with great Anger Why I Up[b]raided them with this? Whereas I spake of my just dues only when forc'd to it, and with all Meekness in my just Defence. But I soon retir'd from them and would not stay to contend with them.

1754 June 18 (Tuesday). The Association met here, viz. Merrers. Cushing, Martyn, Stone, Smith, Maccarty. Lieutenant Tainter kill'd one of my Lambs. Captain Baker sent a side of Lamb. Mr. Ebenezer Rice's Wife sent a dozen and half of Biskett -- French Turnips, Potatoes and Salletting. As for the Exercises and the Conversation see the Association Minutes. Mr. Maccarty lodg'd at Esquire Bakers; the rest lodg'd here. The Horses were sent 1 to Esquire's, 1 to Lieutenant Tainters, 1 to Mr. Nurse's and Two to Mr. Pratts.

1754 June 19 (Wednesday). Mr. Maccarty pray'd at the public Lecture and Mr. Cushing preach'd on 3 John 4. Mr. Hutchinson, here and Mr. Hezekiah Coolidge din'd here. Mr. Hutchinson and I confirm'd an Agreement to Change next Lords Day.

1754 June 20 (Thursday). Catechetical Exercise to Young Men, Number 6 from page 22 to page [blank]. N.B. That I might not hinder the Carpenters at the Meeting House, I took the Young Men to my own.

1754 June 21 (Friday). Having heard that Messrs. Harrington and Daniel Forbush and some others were disquieted with what I mention'd of late at the Precinct Meeting concerning the Towns arrears with me, I went to see 'em and talk with them and did so, and made a Visit likewise at Mr. Nathaniel Whitneys. Am growing Feeble and out of Health.

1754 June 22 (Saturday). Another Letter from the agriev'd Brethren in Sudbury, which I am the more sorry for as they Seem to have some bad Design in it; or at least it will be like to have a bad tendency among us, some of the Brethren of our Church being in some Ruffle already about their Affair. But its coming now when I am going out of Town, and there will be no other Lords Day in which it can be done, I thought it best to acquaint Deacon Newton with it, that he might tell the Church -- but I wrote what I said to him and left it with him, telling him with all that the Letter was at the Churchs Service, being left with my wife for them if they Should desire to have it. Then I rode to Grafton.

1754 June 23 (Sunday). Preach'd at Grafton on Rom. 12.28. If it be possible etc. Mr. Hutchinson at Westborough. I baptiz'd a Daughter of Mr. Andrew Adams, and a son, Abner, for Mr. Charles Bruce. Rainy Day, but at Eve it increas'd, but especially was violent in the Night.

Yet Mr. Hutchinson return'd home which I could not. Mr. Hutchinson preach'd on Gen. 3.22.23.24. Heb. 11.4.

1754 June 24 (Monday). Great part of the forenoon rainy, but I set out for Westborough. At Captain Bakers found that he and Francis Whipple were disquieted with me about the Sudbury Letters not being read, whereas Deacon Newton was told that it was at the Churchs service. N.B. Deacon was at the Squires, and I think own'd that I told him where they might have the Letter -- but he said he had promis'd me he would Say nothing but what I had writ. I offer'd to warn a Church Meeting this Day to be towards Night, and to hire a man to do it if that would satisfie; but it was not accepted. I left 'em ruffl'd. P.M. saw Mr. Abraham Smith with his Father ride upwards.

1754 June 25 (Tuesday). This Day the Churchs are to meet at Sudbury for Council. Mr. Campbell¹⁰⁹ of Oxford, and Deacon Davis here on their way thither. N.B. Mr. Nathaniel Whitney's Discourse of Sudbury Affair. Jonah and the Storm. Send Mr. Nurse my Chair to carry his Wife to Salem.

1754 June 26 (Wednesday). A very menacing Letter from Mr. Abraham Smith, threatening to prosecute me for telling him he was a Lyar and had told a Lie.

1754 June 27 (Thursday). Mr. Adams at work making a pair of Great Doors for the Barn. Sent an answer to Mr. Smiths Letter, but Mr. Phinehas Rice of Grafton. Was over at t'other House.

1754 June 28 (Friday). Mr. Adams finishes that work. Mr. Samuel Livermore junior here, going to Cold Spring. I wrote by Mr. Livermore to Mr. Forbush on the Smith Affair. Mr. Phinehas Rice brings me another blustering Letter from Mr. Smith.

1754 June 29 (Saturday). I was in a poor feeble, relax'd State, but got through my Preparations somewhat Seasonably and largely. D.G.

1754 June 30 (Sunday). Read and expounded for the a.m. Exercise 1 Sam., chapter 1. P.M. read 1 John 1, and preach'd on Rom. 6.3.4. Forenoon Exercise finish'd Somewhat before 12. Although I was Still but in a weak State yet had today Some Appetite to my Dinner which I have not had for some time. Stay'd the Church at Eve and related to them what I had done about the Sudbury Letter, and so endeavour'd to remove all misunderstandings among them about that Affair, and I said that if any one of them had any Thing to offer there was Opportunity but no Body Spake. So the Church was dismiss'd with Blessing, and I desir'd that those who were appointed Delegates to the Holliston Council would Seasonably attend that service.

1754 July 1 (Monday). Messrs. Martyn and Maccarty and their Wives here p.m. Neighbour Eleazer Williams plough'd at the Island, and Mr. Benjamin Tainter hoed. Send Two Calves to be

¹⁰⁹The Reverend John Campbell.

kept at t'other Place: Mr. Tainter assisted in getting them over and took my Mare to keep at his own Pasture.

1754 July 2 (Tuesday). My Mare was brought from Mr. Tainters: and Lieutenant and I rode to Holliston. Neither heard nor saw any Thing of Esquire Baker, the other Delegate. At Mr. Daniel Mellens who had call'd us, we found the Reverend Messrs. Bucknam¹¹⁰ and Bridge,¹¹¹ and their Delegates, viz. Esquire Adams¹¹² for Medway first Church, and Esquire Haven,¹¹³ Deacon Pike¹¹⁴ and Ensign Stone¹¹⁵ for Framingham. We got together by about 10 a.m. so that we settled all our Preparatory Busines respecting the Churchs Committee who were ready with us to attend upon the Council when we should be form'd -- we form'd -- (though I earnestly besought I might be excus'd leading in the Work, and try'd a Vote for Mr. Bucknam), yet I could not escape. Mr. Bucknam chose Scribe and sent a written Message to Captain Littlefield to attend if he pleas'd. These Things before Dinner. P.M. Mr. Mellen gave us a long and too confus'd Account of his Case. At Eve were in our Debates -- Could find no Method to proceed in: both Esquire Adams and Esquire Haven went home. We remain'd wholly incapable of drawing up anything, till we dispers'd. I only, lodg'd at Mr. Mellens. Lieutenant Tainter at Captain Littlefields. I was in a most feeble, weak, trembling State through the Night and had but little sleep. But (Mr. Mellen lodging with me)

1754 July 3 (Wednesday). In the Morning I had some Discourse with him which open'd a Way for us to proceed in -- I wrote -- it took; with Mr. Bridge's Help it was ripen'd -- and we had a result which succeeded (D.G.). Mr. Mellen Consented. The Ministers din'd at Mr. Prentice's. P.M. went to Lecture. I pray'd before sermon. Mr. Bucknam preach'd on 1 Sam. 4.13, for his Heart trembled for the Ark of God. After Sermon the Church was Stop'd and our Result was publickly read by the Scribe. Mr. Mellen renewed his Acceptance, Submission etc. The Church also voted their Concurrence. And Mrs. Mellen publickly consenting was also restor'd by the Church to Charity and privileges -- all which gave us great Joy and cause of Praise to God. We left 'em cheerfully and Lieutenant Tainter and I rode to Southborough. I wanted to Consult Mr. Ezra Tailor on the Smith Affair. Found him at Captain Timothy Brighams, and read him the Letters which had pass'd between us. He said he would go and See Smith next Monday or Tuesday, with Mr. Ebenezer Rice. Lieutenant Tainter rode Home. I lodg'd at Mr. Stones being afraid to ride in the Evening Air. Had but a poor Night.

1754 July 4 (Thursday). Lowery till 8 or 9. I return'd home when it clear'd up in Safety, except my feeble state. My wife tells me that 16 Hands came Yesterday forenoon and hoed the rest of my Corn over.

1754 July 5 (Friday). Am not altogether So faint and feeble. Can Study part of my Time.

¹¹⁰Nathan Bucknam of Millis.

¹¹¹Matthew Bridge of Framingham

¹¹²Elisha Adams.

¹¹³Joseph Haven, selectman and representative.

¹¹⁴Moses Pike was a prominent office-holder. Temple, *Framingham*, p. 670.

¹¹⁵Hezekiah Stone.

1754 July 6 (Saturday). Mr. Jason Haven,¹¹⁶ a Senior sophister here; din'd with us. Sent an Answer to Mr. Smiths second Letter by Primus -- Mr. Phinehas Rice's Negro. P.M. I attended the burying of Mr. Thomas Twitchells Infant.

1754 July 7 (Sunday). Read and gave large Exposition of 1 Sam. 2. P.M. read 1John 2. By the Extra Business of last Week was able to prepare but one Exercise -- therefore p.m. repeated Exposition on Mat. 11.29.30, delivering two Exercises in one. Mr. Gershom Brighams wife din'd with us. At Eve read to the Church the late Result of the Council at Holliston.

1754 July 8 (Monday). Went to t'other House; my son Ebenezer began to mow between the House and Barn. Brought over Ebenezer's Mare for Mr. Ebenezer Rice to go down with Mr. Ezra Taylor to Abraham Smith of Sudbury. At Eve Mr. Jason Haven came and lodg'd here. Thomas mow'd Bushes p.m.

1754 July 9 (Tuesday). Mr. Haven to Framingham. Thomas mow'd at the Island. Billy mow'd p.m. Mr. Forbush and his Wife and Child with their Friend Deacon Cutler and his Wife came from Brookfield to t'other House last Night, and this Day here, with Mrs. Brown (Mr. Zechariah Browns Wife) broke fast and din'd here. P.M. Mr. Forbush to Cambridge and the rest of the Company left us except My Daughter and her Child. Master Coolidge and I rode over to Mr. Eliezer Rice's to See the Ministerial Meadow, and find that some of the Grass is now fit to be mow'd.

1754 July 10 (Wednesday). Expected Mr. Stone to preach my Lecture but he did not come. I preach'd myself on 1 Cor. 11.31. Thomas and Billy at the Island part of the Day.

1754 July 11 (Thursday). Mr. Phinehas Hardy here about the Affair of the Pew; and he seems inclin'd to have me resign the matter to Mr. Jonathan Forbush that he may take the Pew and Pay the Money. I visited Captain Forbush and other Neighbours as far as Jonas Twitchells. N.B. came home on Foot. Thomas and Billy mowing and raking at the Island.

1754 July 12 (Friday). Mr. Arnold of Grafton here, and obtains of me a Copy of Mr. Hutchinsons Second Paper (or Confession). Thomas and William mowe and make Hay at the Island, and Lieutenant Tainter Carts up a few Cocks of it. It is So Cloudy Weather and now and then Sprinkles of Rain, that the Hay does not make as we could wish. Mr. Baldwin Strikes me up an Extempore Gate before my House. Plants in fore yard.

1754 July 13 (Saturday). Thomas finish'd mowing at the Island. Dull weather a.m. brighter p.m. I hiv'd a Swarm of Bees my Self, my sons both of them gone to the Island.

¹¹⁶(Harvard 1754). Haven became the minister of Dedham, 1756-1803.

1754 July 14 (Sunday). Read 1 Sam. 3. Mr. Forbush preach'd for me on 1Cor. 11.29. I administer'd the Lords Supper. P.M. read 1 John 3. Mr. Forbush preach'd on Eph. 5.8. They went to their Father Forbush at Evening.

1754 July 15 (Monday). Went to the Ministerial Meadow and found there Messrs. Jonas Twitchell and John Rogers mowing. Rody Smith was gone to Captain Maynards for Rum but mow'd the rest of the Day. My son Thomas got in a Jagg from the Island and then mow'd at the Meadow p.m. P.M. I rode with Mr. Forbush to Waltham and lodg'd at Mr. Isaac Brown's.

1754 July 16 (Tuesday). Set out from Mr. Browns early; broke fast at the Reverend Mr. Adams's¹¹⁷ at Roxbury. We proceeded to Mr. John Barkers at Boston, whom Mr. Abraham Smith I Suppose has dependence upon to testify against me; but who in Discourse, tells me he was astonish'd at Smiths Impudence that Night he was at my House, and the next morning likewise, than ever he was in his Life; and says he doth not remember that he so much as once heard me express my Self towards Smith in any unbecoming manner. To this Mr. Forbush was Witness. Thence we went to Dr. Pyncheons¹¹⁸ and din'd there. Spent the Chief of the p.m. at Brother Samuels, Captain Storers, and Mr. Kneelands.¹¹⁹ We return'd as far as to Mr. Adams's and lodg'd there. At home Thomas and Billy rak'd at the Meadow a.m. P.M. prov'd rainy, and at night a great Storm of Thunder and Lightning and Rain.

1754 July 17 (Wednesday). Commencement. Mr. Forbush and I set out early from Mr. Adams's and went to Cambridge. Mr. Forbush took his second Degree. I din'd in the Hall. We lodg'd together at Sister Barretts having left our Horse and Chair under the Care of Brother Champney. Thomas and Billy, and Rody Smith rak'd at the Meadow, and on 18 Neighbour Eliezer Rice, Hezekiah Pratt and Edwards Whipple brought three Load of Hay from the Meadow.

1754 July 18 (Thursday). Subscriptions for my Collection of Poems promoted by Mr. Forbush who got a Number of them among his Acquaintance and others, and at Mr. Hancocks¹²⁰ Chamber, Mr. Tucker¹²¹ and Mr. Webster¹²² subscrib'd. Din'd at Mr. Appletons¹²³ where I also mention'd the Collection. N.B. Mr. Walker Merchant of Boston there, with whom I have much Conversation. Mr. Forbush and I rode up to Mr. Woodward's of Weston, and lodg'd there.

1754 July 19 (Friday). We Set out early from Mr. Woodward's, and broke fast at Mr. Isaac Baldwins. N.B. Jeduthun there. We fish'd in the pleasant Pond beyond the Garden. Mr. Forbush took Ebenzers Mare which Baldwin rode down, and rode to Abraham Smiths to talk with him, as well on his own as on my Account. Baldwin rode home with me in the Chair. Found all well and Comfortable. D.G. Neighbour Eliezer Rice brought home another Load of

¹¹⁷ Amos Adams (Harvard 1754) served Roxbury, 1753-1775.

¹¹⁸ Joseph Pyncheon, the physician of Boston and Springfield. *Sibley*, VIII, 90-95.

¹¹⁹ Samuel Kneeland, the printer of Boston.

¹²⁰ Belcher Hancock, the tutor at Harvard.

¹²¹ The Reverend John Tucker (Harvard 1741), the minister of Newbury. *Sibley*, XI, 78-91.

¹²² The Reverend Samuel Webster of Salisbury.

¹²³ The Reverend Nathaniel Appleton of Cambridge.

Hay from the Meadow. Thomas and Billy work'd part of the Day for Neighbour Eliezer Rice, and part of the Day at the Meadow. N.B. Mr. Jonas Twitchell work'd 2 half Days for me.

1754 July 20 (Saturday). Thomas and Billy at the Meadow. Mr. Forbush went to Upton. I rode to Shrewsbury and prevail'd with Mr. Cushing to go in my stead to Worcester: Mr. Maccarty having obtain'd of Mr. Forbush to supply his Pulpit; but if I would undertake it, he would Supply mine.

1754 July 21 (Sunday). I preach'd at Shrewsbury for Mr. Cushing on Acts 3.19, a. and p.m. N.B. read a.m. the Chapter of the Text. P.M. read Mat. 18. Mr. Fish¹²⁴ preach'd for me in the room of Mr. Forbush. I return'd home at Eve. Molly and her Child gone to Deacons.

1754 July 22 (Monday). Thomas and Billy at Work at the Meadow. Ebenezer carted one Load of Hay from thence. I went to Neighbour How's. Billy breaks out with Poison. Mr. Forbush and Wife to t'other House and lodg'd there.

1754 July 23 (Tuesday). I rose Early and went to Esquire Bakers and to the Fays for Teams to fetch home Hay. They agree to go p.m. But by noon it began to rain, and rain'd exceeding hard the rest of the Day. Mr. Forbush and his Wife and Ebenezer's Wife rode to Mr. Martyns, but the former return'd here at Eve and lodg'd here. Thomas went over a.m. to work for Ebenezer.

1754 July 24 (Wednesday). Thomas work'd part of a.m. for me. P.M. late he went to Ebenezer to hoe for him. Jonathan and Joseph How came to hill for me, the former but a little before noon. N.B. greatly put to't for plough and for Horse -- sent Billy to t'other Place for my own Mare. Thomas Stay'd to Plough which was one of the Reasons of his being late to Ebenezer. Billy works with Difficulty because he is so much poison'd. Mr. Forbush and his Wife and little Daughter leave us to go to Brookfield. Fair Weather, but can do Nothing about my Hay at the Ministerial Meadow -- Some of which is in Cock, and some of has lain over the storm in swarth.

1754 July 25 (Thursday). Thomas and William bring home two small Jaggs of Hay from Ministerial Meadow, which make Six small turns from thence and is all of the South side of the Brook. N.B. Neighbour Eliezer Rice assisted -- for which my sons work'd for him. Our Kinswomen Mrs. Sally Brigham and her sister Mrs. Betty Gott¹²⁵ came to See us -- but return'd to Marlborough at Eve.

1754 July 26 (Friday). Thomas and Billy hoed at the Island Field.

1754 July 27 (Saturday). Thomas and Billy hoed a.m. P.M. Thomas mow'd in Newton Meadow.

1754 July 28 (Sunday). Read 1 Sam. 4, and made the Exercises of both a. and p.m. from thence. Rain'd hard. Read p.m. 1 John 4. Daniel How din'd here.

¹²⁴Elisha Fish of Upton.

¹²⁵Sarah and Rebecca, daughters of the late Dr. Benjamin Gott, were Parkman's nieces.

1754 July 29 (Monday). Fair. Thomas mow'd Bushes a.m., and in Newton Meadow p.m. N.B. Mr. David Batchellor and Brother Hicks din's here. P.M. Visit little Elijah Rice who is Sick. Captain Maynard at Eve invited me to dine at his House tomorrow, a number of military Gentlemen having bespoke a Dinner there -- and he Suppos'd his Honour (as he call'd Captain Baker but I thought he meant Colonel Williams) had Spoke to me of it, but no one had. Captain said if I would come he would find me a room etc.

1754 July 30 (Tuesday). At about 11 a.m. came Colonel Williams and with him Mr. Smith, Captain Uriah Eager, and two other officers with them, and the Colonel invited me to dine with him to Day. He said he had depended upon Captain Baker to invite me, having given him Order, to do it, or else the Captain had said he would, but he was gone over to Bolton. I walk'd over as far as Mr. Nathan Maynards in the middle and heat of the Day, but from thence had his Mare, which I also rode home upon. I din'd with Colonel Williams, Major Willard, and the other Officers of this Regiment, at Captain Maynards. The Design of their Meeting was to Consult about a general Meeting of the Regiment -- agreeable to the Governor's Proclamation. Messrs. Cushing (who came from the Funeral of Mr. Morse's Child), Stone and Smith, there. After 4 o'Clock (the Hour I appointed) I attended the Catechetical Exercise to Young Women at the Meeting House. N.B. Mr. Baldwin went yesterday to Brookfield, and Elisha Jones, one of his Prentice's, work'd for my son Ebenezer during the Absence of his Master. At Eve deliver'd Mary Latiner a Receipt from Mr. Abraham Smith of her Debt to Said Smith, but it was writ as from Mr. Richard Barns. Thomas mows and rakes at Newton Meadow; but those who clear'd there left many Bushes unpick'd up, by which means it is very slow and bad mowing.

1754 July 31 (Wednesday). Before the Rain came heavy, I ran up to Mr. Elijah Rice who came with his Team and got in nine Cocks of Hay from my Newton Meadow but presently the storm came on and it was a very rainy Day. I had agreed yesterday with Mr. Stone to preach his Lecture to Day but the Rain prevented. But Mr. Baldwin came from Brookfield p.m.

1754 August 1 (Thursday). Joseph Bowman and Richard Kelly reap'd, bound up and with Mr. Timothy Warrins Team Carted in my Rye -- Thomas and Billy helping them. My Wife rode to Deacon Forbush etc.

1754 August 2 (Friday). Thomas can make but very Slow Work at the Meadow it being bad to Mow -- Billy helps him. At Night Mr. Solomon Stow brought me from Mr. Kneeland 6 of Clark on Infant Baptism.¹²⁶

1754 August 3 (Saturday). Thomas and Billy work at the Meadow.

1754 August 4 (Sunday). Read 1 Sam. 5. Preach'd on 1 Sam. 4.22. P.M. read 1 John 5. Preach'd on Isa. 9.6. Mr. Foster din'd here.

¹²⁶Peter Clark, *A Defence of the Divine Right of Infant Baptism* (Boston, 1752). Earlier, Clark had published *The Scripture-Grounds of the Baptism of Christian Infants* (Boston, 1735).

1754 August 5 (Monday). Thomas and William at the Meadow Still. At Eve came one Mr. Jonathan Fuller of Oxford, and brought in a Chair my Neece Mrs. Tabitha Hearsey, who is in great Affliction by reason of her Husband -- she is returning to him at Boston at least to See what his Pleasure is about her Goods which were allow'd her at their Parting. She has also her Daughter Hannah.

1754 August 6 (Tuesday). My Kinswoman etc. pursue their Journey. The Lord conduct and defend her! Being nigh out of Cyder I rode to Mr. Harringtons for supply. Thomas and Billy mow and rake a little at the Newton Meadow: and Neighbour Moses Nurse brings up a Load of Hay from thence. Mrs. Prentice,¹²⁷ I hear, at Grafton, and that her Exhortings have Success.

1754 August 7 (Wednesday). Thomas and Billy still at the Meadow.

1754 August 8 (Thursday). Thomas and Billy at the Meadow this Day also. Neighbour Moses Nurse Carts a large Load of Hay from thence. Mr. Thomas Twitchell Examin'd.

1754 August 9 (Friday). Thomas and Billy went to the Ministerial Meadow and Mow'd the North Side of the Brook, and rak'd up about 9 Cocks, and left about as much more.

1754 August 10 (Saturday). Thomas and Billy were going to the Meadow to rake the rest which they left Yesterday, and to bring it home but it prov'd a rainy Day. Mr. Bond brought a Load of Boards from Mr. Jonathan Forbush's Mill; the Boards of those Loggs which I had last Winter of Mr. John Kelley of Hopkinton.

1754 August 11 (Sunday). Read 1 Sam. 6. Preach'd on Chapter 4.22. Mr. Foster din'd here. P.M. read 2 John. Preach'd on Rev. 1.18. May God add his Special Blessing!

1754 August 12 (Monday). Thomas and Billy went in the morning to the Ministerial Meadow to look after the Hay which they lately Cut there -- but they were drench'd by that time they rak'd up the Rest of the Hay -- a very Heavy Rain.

1754 August 13 (Tuesday). I rode to Mr. Thomas Chaddocks, who being ill had desir'd Prayers. N.B. Mr. Samuel Wood late Miller of Upton there. Visit at Gashitts also. When I return'd at Eve Mrs. Hephzibah Maynard here. Desires me to try what I can do to reconcile Abijah Gale and Isaac Amsden.

1754 August 14 (Wednesday). N.B. Thomas with Ebenezer's Team and Help brings home the last Load of Hay from the Ministerial Meadow. Thomas goes p.m. to help Ebenezer but is not well. I visited Ensign Mathis of Southborough and came home by Isaac Amsdens, Esquire

¹²⁷Mrs. Solomon Prentice was one of that fanatic band of "immortals" in the vicinity. [Additional note: See Ross W. Beales, Jr, "The Ecstasy of Sarah Prentice: Death, Re-Birth, and the Great Awakening in Grafton, Massachusetts" *Historical Journal of Massachusetts* 26:2 (1997): 101-23.]

Liscombs, and Mr. Abijah Gales, calling at those places; and endeavouring what I could a Reconcilement.

1754 August 15 (Thursday). Lieutenant Tainter plaistering at the Sides of the Pulpit, din'd here. Mr. Thaddeus Gale here about his Brothers Affair. Mr. Jonathan Bond comes from Boston with a Letter from Mr. Joshua Winter informing me that my Neece Mrs. Lydia Davis at Halifax dyed of a Dropsie July 3 last. Mr. Jonas Twitchell here to be Examin'd.

1754 August 16 (Friday). Sent Billy over to help his Brother Ebenezer in his Harvest and haying.

1754 August 17 (Saturday). Very Rainy Day. Concern'd about Billy who went from his Brother's to Mr. Hows -- and thence he went out upon the Great Pond a fishing, and did not return to them till Even, till Dark -- and not to us till

1754 August 18 (Sunday). Next Morning -- when he came Safely. Read 1 Sam. 7. Preach'd on Rev. 1.18 a. and p.m. Read third John. Mr. Foster etc. din'd here.

1754 August 19 (Monday). Sent to Mr. Barret by Mr. Daniel Hardy to desire his Company to Ministers Meeting to morrow morning at Mr. Martyns. At Eve Suse to t'other House. Read Universal Magazine.¹²⁸ Let Mr. Thaddeus Gale my Chair to go to Worcester.

1754 August 20 (Tuesday). Association at Mr. Martyns. No Mr. Barrett: but he sent me a Letter that he would endeavour to come at Eve or tomorrow Morning. Those who attended were Messrs. Cushing,¹²⁹ Stone, Smith¹³⁰ and Davis.¹³¹ The Conversation was chiefly with Mr. Davis about his Contract with his People and his Satisfaction with it. We all lodg'd at Mr. Martyns. N.B. Mr. Martyn much out of Health.

1754 August 21 (Wednesday). Mr. Barrett came not -- I was oblig'd to preach the Public Lecture. Text was Heb. 11.6. Major Keys and Sir Foster¹³² with us. May God grant to all of us a Right and part in that better Country! and may we seek it in a proper Manner! N.B. Conversation after Dinner about Mr. Morse's Letter to me about Mr. Silas Brigham -- it was advis'd that I let the Matter run and not meddle with it, till more be done by Mr. Morse¹³³ at Shrewsbury Church. When I return'd with Mr. Foster Stop'd at t'other House where was my Wife and we drank Tea there.

1754 August 22 (Thursday). I sent Billy to work with his Brother, but being not well he return'd home. Early in the Morning I rode to Lieutenant Fays on my son Thomas's Affair. The Painter

¹²⁸*The Universal Magazine*, begun in London in 1747, continued to be published for the rest of the century.

¹²⁹Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

¹³⁰Aaron Smith of Marlborough.

¹³¹Joseph Davis of Holden.

¹³²Abiel Foster (Harvard 1756), later became the minister of Canterbury, N.H.

¹³³The Reverend Ebenezer Morse of Boylston.

at the Meeting House having Colour'd the Pulpit 3 Times over return'd to Billerica from whence he came to us last Monday Eve. Dull Cloudy Weather. Prevents Ebezers Busness in his Hay. P.M. made a Visit to Mr. Williams on the account of the great Changes and Sudden, in his Circumstances for though he lost his Wife so lately, he is out-publish'd to another. At Eve Mr. Phinehas Hardy Treasurer for the Precinct, came to reckon, and he receiv'd a Receipt from me in full of what the Precinct had voted Except the Deficiency in Mr. Bigelows Rates but including the Deficiency in Bruces. Mr. Baldwin finishes his work at the Meeting House. The Pulpit and the fronts of the Galleries, Ministerial Pew and Deacon's seat. Likewise Three Pews for particular persons, viz. Deacon Newtons, Mr. Bonds, and Esquire Bakers. Mr. Adams is building Three more.

1754 August 23 (Friday). Mr. Baldwin and his 'prentice comes to work for me -- to plain and Joint Boards for Chamber floor -- and a number of Small Jobbs. Sent Billy to Ebenezer.

1754 August 24 (Saturday). Mr. Baldwin and his 'prentice are here at work. Mr. Thaddeus Gale return'd my Chair (See on the 19th). His Father and Captain Elisha Jones Din'd here. P.M. Great storm of Rain. I rode to Southborough at Eve and Mr. Stone came here.

1754 August 25 (Sunday). Mr. Stone and I 'chang'd. I preach'd at Southborough on Heb. 11.16, baptiz'd Edmund the Son of [blank] Moors -- and Mr. Stone preach'd on Rev. 3.18, and baptiz'd Mr. William Pierce's Daughter Mary. We each of us return'd home at Eve.

1754 August 26 (Monday). Mr. Baldwin and Elisha Jones went off. Trooping at the North End.

1754 August 27 (Tuesday). My Wife and I rode to the South part of the Town to visit Mr. Grow and his Wife who were Sick and Mrs. Mary Stewart -- likewise Mr. Bowman and Mr. Thomas Twitchell. Return'd home at Eve. While we were gone Mr. Martyn here. N.B. Mr. Baldwin went to Brookfield. Billy helps Ebenezer.

1754 August 28 (Wednesday). Mr. Martyn and his Wife came and din'd with us, and he came to preach my Lecture which he did though my asking him was but implicit and not direct -- but he seems to be reconcil'd -- but we act an odd part towards one another -- afraid of lipping the least word of our uneasiness. He preach'd on Gal. 2.20, a very good sermon -- May God give his Blessing! I am much oblig'd to his Wife for her pains to have us reconcil'd. But my thoughts were much engag'd upon the Situation of the Affair. Our Conduct is as if nothing had happen'd. I am concern'd at the Frame we must needs be both of us in, especially as the Communion in their Church as well as ours hastens. But I have very much discharg'd my Duty, I think, in my last Letter to him: and I am taught by the Word and by the Example of Christ to be free to forgive even innumerable Trespasses: I learn that 'tis the Glory of a Man to overlook a transgression, and that Charity Covers a Multitude of sins. As to his making me Satisfaction for such undeserv'd Insults, though I ought to claim it, yet I conceive I had better forego my own personal Right than endanger the Public Peace and the Success of our Ministry -- on these Considerations and dreading the grim Mischiefs of our being at Variance, I deny myself and yield the matter of making Demands of him, or shewing any Resentments, Earnestly begging of

God Grace, Direction and forgiveness to Each of us. And O that we might have Fellowship one with another and that the Blood of Christ would Cleanse us from all sin!

1754 August 29 (Thursday). Billy is Still helping his Brother Ebenezer who is about his Hay yet.

1754 August 30 (Friday). Mr. Baldwin return'd from Brookfield and lodges here. Retir'd and Somewhat devoted -- but alas! how Imperfectly!

1754 August 31 (Saturday). Billy help'd his Brother Yesterday and to Day, and he is now almost done Haying.

1754 September 1 (Sunday). Read 1 Sam. 8. Preach'd on Rev. 1.18, and found it best to deliver my whole preparation though I was oblig'd to Speak the faster and to continue somewhat longer than usual. Administer'd the Lords Supper, took in 3 persons into the Church. P.M. read Rev. 1. Repeated on Mat. 12.33.34.35. Administered Baptism to Several Children and appointed Catechizing at the East part of the Town. Deacon Forbush and Sir Foster din'd here. Mr. Baldwin here at Eve and lodg'd here. O that God would grant us all to understand, and be confirm'd in, be influenced by, and have a Right to the Benefit of the Resurrection of Christ from the Dead!

1754 September 2 (Monday). Visited the Widow Thurston whose Son Samuel lies Sick. Was at Mr. Grow's again, that Family being Still under Affliction by Sickness. Visited also Mrs. Harrington lame by a Fall from her Horse; and Ensign Miller, whose paralytic Disorders increase upon him much.

1754 September 3 (Tuesday). Catechiz'd at Mr. Joslins -- about 19 Children. Had visited the good old Mr. Bradish. After Catechizing Mr. Joslin went with me cross the Woods to Mr. Jabez Snow's -- Mr. Snow with me to Mr. Abraham Beeman's. Was also at Mr. Adams's where they fill'd my Ears with Complaints (I mean the Mother and Daughter) against the Gales, against whom they had been, and were like to be again Summon'd to Court as Witnesses: but I was not willing to meddle with their Affair.

1754 September 4 (Wednesday). Sir Haven was here yesterday, and lodg'd at my sons last night. Was here again today and din'd with us. I have been in a great deal of deep Concern about how to dispose of Billy. He Seems not willing to resume his Books except I can keep him wholly to 'em -- which our present Circumstances forbid. His Mothers Consent to Learning for him, is hard to obtain. It grieves me much to give him up -- But as he was yesterday Clearing at the Island Pasture, So there he goes to Day. P.M. Mr. Jonathan Forbush here again about the Pew which he drew for me -- is not willing to give me a Title to it except the Precinct will let him have the Same privilege in the Meeting House as if he had not drawn it, since he drew it, as they all knew, for me, but appears desirous of it himself. Lieutenant Bruce comes here to conferr about building the Pews, and I agree with him to provide a Stick of Timber for My Part of the Foundation. I discern So much of the minds of persons about this Matter of the Pew that I am very much dispos'd to give it up, though there are So many Reasons impelling to keep it.

Such Tokens of Ingratitude are very grievous -- But how much it is the Lot of Ministers in these days! May God himself be pleas'd to look with Pity on his own Cause!

1754 September 5 (Thursday). Billy clearing at the Island part of the forenoon. P.M. Showery. My Wife and I walk'd together to Mr. Williams',¹³⁴ to Celebrate his Marriage to Mrs. Eleanor Gould.

1754 September 6 (Friday). Sir Foster brings Sir Dana¹³⁵ here -- who is come up from Marlborough, where he keeps School. Billy cutts Stalks.

1754 September 7 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1754 September 8 (Sunday). Read 1 Sam. 9. Preach'd on Phil. 3.10. P.M. read Rev. 2. Judge Ward here, but goes to Mr. Nurse's.

1754 September 9 (Monday). Lieutenant Forbush being about to Sell Some Land to Mr. John Beeton, Blacksmith, he comes to acquaint me with it and asks me what I would my Self have for the Straitning or accommodating of my Lines. I go with him and agree where.

1754 September 10 (Tuesday). Lieutenant Ward here with his Instruments, and he with Mr. Nathaniel Whitney Measure this Piece of Land where my House Stands and the Lines agreed upon Yesterday. Robert Morton of Mendon here, with his Box, Glass and Prospects; and he Shews us his Sights, gratis. Master Richard Martyn¹³⁶ brought his Sister Molly here, and left her to Stay with us a little while.

1754 September 11 (Wednesday). Receiv'd the last Volume of the History of the Foundling¹³⁷ from Mr. Samuel Livermore by Mr. Samuel Harrington. At Eve came Dr. Perkins, and Mr. Hezekiah Coolidge and lodg'd here. Mr. Jeduthan Baldwin brought back Ebenezer's Mare which he himself had rid to Weston when he finish'd his Work and left us.

1754 September 12 (Thursday). General Muster of Colonel Williams Regiment. 5 Southern Companys at Mendon with Grafton Troop: 8 Companys of Foot and one Troop at Westborough. I pray'd with Captain Bakers Company at the Meeting House. Had Captain Baker's Horse to ride over to the Field which was in Captain Maynards Pasture. Dr. Perkins and Mr. Coolidge rode with me. We proceeded to Captain Maynards -- my Sons House was taken up by Dr. Brigham¹³⁸ for twenty Marlborough men. The Battalion was not form'd till some time in the afternoon. There were many Spectators. The Reverend Messrs. Cushing, Martyn, Stone, Smith, Morse, Hutchinson there. The first of whom pray'd with the Regiment at about 4 p.m. and when the

¹³⁴Samuel Williams of Westborough.

¹³⁵Samuel Dana (Harvard 1755) was later the minister of Groton, 1760-1775.

¹³⁶The son of the Reverend John Martyn of Northborough.

¹³⁷Probably Samuel Silence, pseud., *The Foundling Hospital for Wit* No. 1-6, (London 1743-1749).

¹³⁸Samuel Brigham, the physician of Marlborough.

Colonel had read his Proclamation he soon dissolv'd the Battalion and the Companys march'd out of the Field. I din'd with the Colonel and the Ministers (except Mr. Hutchinson) who went to Lieutenant Fays, where, Captain Baker ask'd me to dine with him -- but I requested he would contrive to dine with the Colonel and other Officers, for I should not be able to refuse them. Lieutenant Maynard had also bespoke me before Captain Baker; and I found it would greatly incommode me to go so far. N.B. Rumours about the Indians. Dr. Perkins, Mr. Asaph Rice and Mr. Baldwin, together with Mrs. Molly Martyn lodge here.

1754 September 13 (Friday). Dr. Perkins and Mr. Rice and Mr. Baldwin, as also Mr. Hezekiah Coollidge return home. N.B. Sent Mr. Badgers Family Companion¹³⁹ home by Mr. Coollidge. P.M. my wife carry'd Mrs. Molly Martyn as far as my other House where her Brother is to come for her. I went to Lieutenant Forbush's, and he and his wife sign'd me a new Deed of this Land where my House stands with the additions, and Judge Ward took their acknowledgements. Mr. John Beeton receiv'd a Deed likewise of an Acre joining to mine.

1754 September 14 (Saturday). Frost last night. Beeton begins to Clear his Land. P.M. I rode to Shrewsbury and Mr. Cushing here. Very Cold Eve. I was Shav'd at Mr. Job Cushings. Bears are about very thick -- many are kill'd.

1754 September 15 (Sunday). I preach'd at Shrewsbury a.m. on Acts 3.19.P.M. on 2 Tim. 2.3. Mr. Cushing preach'd at Westborough on [blank] and on [blank]. We both return'd at Eve.

1754 September 16 (Monday). This being the fifth Day Old Stile I separated myself in some peculiar manner for Recollection and Devotions. O that God would pardon my brokenness and many Miscarriages! *Vid. Natal.* [In the Natalitia the following under the date Sept. 5, "old Stile."] I would bless God with my whole Soul for his adorable Patience and Longsuffering and in Special that I have been preserv'd through another Year, though I have been So utterly undeserving, nay provoking to Him! I endeavour'd (in Some very broken manner) to acknowledge the Divine lenity and Goodness, and to humble my Self for my great Defects and unfaithfulness. I would also devoutly committ my Self the uncertain residue of my frail Life, humbly begging of God to make me faithfull in my Great Work, and enable me to Save my own Soul as well as those that hear me! And whereas the Care of my Family lies with a peculiar Weight upon my Spirits, I would most earnestly beseech of God to enable me to Cast this Care upon Him, who cares for His own!

1754 September 17 (Tuesday). Mr. Abijah Gale came while we were in family Exercise -- read a Summons to me to go up to Court to Day -- and threw down his money. Being thus oblig'd to go, p.m. I went to Worcester -- to Mr. Maccartys¹⁴⁰ -- to Colonel Chandlers -- lodg'd at Mr. Maccartys. N.B. Colonel Cushing and his Wife also there. N.B. Several Gentlemen are taken ill -

¹³⁹*The Family Companion for Health: or . . . Rules which . . . will . . . keep Families free from Diseases, and Procure them a Long Life* (London, 1729).

¹⁴⁰The Reverend Thaddeus Maccarty.

- Mr. Trowbridge,¹⁴¹ who is the King's Attorney -- Colonel Chandler is also ill, but crawls about a little.

1754 September 18 (Wednesday). I attended Court. Din'd at Captain Stearns's¹⁴² with the Judges: Judge Sewal¹⁴³ not well. N.B. Messrs. Joseph Green,¹⁴⁴ Nathaniel Bethune,¹⁴⁵ Isaac Winslow,¹⁴⁶ and [blank] Wheelwright din'd with us. N.B. They Subscribed for my Collection of Poems. P.M. came on the Cause, upon which I was Summon'd, viz. of Isaac Amsden¹⁴⁷ plaintiff against Abijah Gale¹⁴⁸ Defendant; for that the Said Abijah assaulted the Plaintiffs Wife, attempted to discover her Nakedness and to have Carnal Knowledge of her Body -- I was put under solemn Adjuration and was ask'd what I knew of the Cause Depending and especially Whether I had met with anything from Mrs. Amsden that was contrary to the Oath which She had taken? My answer was to this Effect -- That it was Surprizing to me to be summon'd, having had no Knowledge of the Case, till of late, Sometime Since the Prosecution or Complaint before Mr. Justice Liscomb that I know now no otherwise than by Report and Conversation as any other Neighbours might do. That from what was Said to me at my summoning I had no reason to Suppose any thing would be desir'd of me at this Court more than to be present to hear the Cause (being Mr. Gale's Pastor) and to give my Testimony of him which I could freely do, and did so, viz. that for any Thing I had ever known of him he was of unblemish'd Reputation till this Affair: and I might Say much the Same of Mrs. Amsden who was brought up in my near Neighborhood, and was of good Character among us. This Answer of mine was upon Colonel Brattle's interrogating me as upon Oath whether I knew anything of this Cause, or had heard this Woman Say any Thing different from what She had now Sworn? And this was also urg'd by the Chief Justice Sewal; to which therefore I further reply'd that I had indeed made Mrs. Amsden a visit and did put Some Questions to her, but I was not prepar'd to Say what her answers to me at that Time were: and that I could not think it fit or just for me to utter what was so brokenly and imperfectly remember'd -- So that I was not ripe to Say any thing of the Particular Expressions She us'd. When the Judge ask'd me whether I remembered that it was Opposite, or Contrary to her Oath? I answer'd that as I remember'd it was what did not carry the Matter so far as the Complaint She has made upon Oath -- but I was not Ripe for offering any More of it. The Colonel chew'd upon that that I said I was not ripe -- that I ought to say what 'twas -- but I told him I would not be impos'd upon. For I conceiv'd it wrong to utter what was So unshapen in my Mind -- and I said I perceiv'd that Mrs. Amsden at the Time of my Discourse with her was in such a Surprize and flutter that I did not know whether what She had answer'd was her real Mind -- and She was So uneasy at my putting these sorts of Questions to her that I thought it best not to proceed, and therefore desisted -- so that I conceiv'd it unjust

¹⁴¹Attorney General Edmund Trowbridge.

¹⁴²Thomas Sterne of Worcester.

¹⁴³Justice Stephen Sewall of the Superior Court of Judicature.

¹⁴⁴The Reverend Joseph Green (Harvard 1746) of Marshfield. *Sibley*, XII, 28-30.

¹⁴⁵(Harvard 1734). A Boston merchant. *Sibley*, IX, 386-389.

¹⁴⁶(Harvard 1727). A prominent businessman of Boston, who was later a Mandamus Councillor. *Sibley*, VIII, 333-339.

¹⁴⁷Of Southborough.

¹⁴⁸The innkeeper of Westborough.

for me to declare what I apprehended She did, under these Circumstances, Say. The Jurys Verdict came in against Gale; for it appear'd there was an Assault. It was late in the Eve -- lodg'd at Mr. Maccartys again. N.B. Colonel William Ward in Jayl.

1754 September 19 (Thursday). My Mare got out of Mr. Maccartys Pasture, but was found by Mr. Othniel Taylor, about two Mile and half off. Weather very hot. Was at Colonel Chandlers Office. Colonel deliver'd Me two Deeds, viz. Hezekiah Hows and Andrew Newtons, to me. Paid him 15/ old Tenor for both and lodg'd two more, viz. from Lieutenant Forbush and Richard Barns. I call'd at Mr. Dyars -- din'd at Dr. Crawfords.¹⁴⁹ N.B. his son William at Learning. I stop'd at Captain Jenisons and wrote a Letter to Mr. Edwards at Stockbridge. Return'd home safe at Eve. Mr. Stone of Southborough had been to See Me. A Bear Was Seen by my son Thomas passing through my Land just below the Burying place, and went Cross the Road. N.B. Talk'd with Mr. Isaac Amsdens Wife about what she said to me at their House etc. See loose papers.

1754 September 20 (Friday). Mr. Nathaniel Whitney was here and I gave him Some Account of what I utter'd upon oath at the late Superior Court. Lieutenant Forbush here at Eve tells me of his Cattle being once and again in my Island -- and to Day in the Corn.

1754 September 21 (Saturday). Lieutenant Forbush now Setts the Fence between Beriah Rice and me in the Meadow.

1754 September 22 (Sunday). Read 1 Sam. 11. Preach'd on Acts 1.9. P.M. read Rev. 4. Repeated Exposition on Mat. 12.36. Read publicly the Petition of Mr. Thomas Gleson¹⁵⁰ of Oxford and desir'd the Congregation that if any one had any thing to offer he would come and See me this week.

1754 September 23 (Monday). Mr. Stratton¹⁵¹ of Waltham came to See me.

1754 September 24 (Tuesday). My wife dipps little John into Cold Water to cure him of his Ricketts.

1754 September 25 (Wednesday). Lieutenant Forbush kindly came and kill'd a fatt Calf for me. My Wife and I rode in the Chair to visit aged Widow Hannah Rice¹⁵² and took little John with us. Call'd at Captain Maynards in returning home. Lieutenant Tainter carry'd down the Calf to Boston. Lieutenant Brigham of Southborough and his Wife here. N.B. He shew'd me an Instrument sign'd by his Children by which he was empower'd to take up and dispose of the Land which they had, otherwise, Right to from the Rights of Edmund Rice. John was dipped again.

¹⁴⁹Robert Crawford, the physician.

¹⁵⁰Gleason had been "burnt out" lately.

¹⁵¹Joseph Stratton.

¹⁵²Mrs. Jacob Rice.

1754 September 26 (Thursday). John was dipp'd again, and we cease for a while. I had a Message last Eve from Mr. Cushing to preach his Lecture today, but it happen'd to be a Day appointed for the Catechetical Exercise to young men -- which I attended -- had 23. Mr. Foster came here after School, but return'd again.

1754 September 27 (Friday). Billy cutt up part of the Corn by the Barn.

1754 September 28 (Saturday). Mr. Isaac Amsden of Southborough here to ask me whether I had not talk'd with Ezra Taylor about what his Wife Said to me at Major Howards on the 19th. I told him what it was and that I wrote it down that same Eve, and with all that I was ready to shew it [to] him, but he answer'd that twas no matter, or to that purpose. P.M. Joshua Lock and his wife here, and offer'd a Confession of their Fornication. But it was very imperfect -- he also was not willing to own the Covenant. Said he was by principle of the Church of England -- did not care to be examin'd Strictly -- his wife might own the Covenant and have the Child baptiz'd here. It was also late in the Day -- therefore I did not proceed to gratifie them at this time.

1754 September 29 (Sunday). Read 1 Sam. 12. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Acts 1.9. P.M. read Rev. 5. Mr. Stratton of Waltham din'd here. Appointed a Contribution for Mr. Thomas Gleson of Oxford (by Mistake I said Dudley) to be next Lords Day p.m.

1754 September 30 (Monday). An unusual dry Time. Our well So low that we can't without much difficulty dip the Buckett. Messrs. Batherick, Abijah Gale, Adams and Kimbal, Carpenters are at Work at the Meeting House building the seats in the Womens Gallery.

1754 October 1 (Tuesday). Was up at 4, morning, and Saw the Eclipse: and before Light took up a large, well-fill'd Hive of Bees. Mr. Jonas Twitchell work'd for me in clearing the Newton Meadow. Sent home to Mr. Samuel Livermore junior the fourth Volume of the Foundling; by the Hand of Mr. Joseph Stretton of Waltham. A.M. exceedingly perplex'd for want of money to pay my just Debts and especially for Spinning. I went to Ensign Fay to borrow, but very much in Vain. We are also out of Cyder, and I sought to him for present Supply; which I answer'd my End in -- but remain in great difficulty on the other Account.

1754 October 2 (Wednesday). Mr. Jonas Twitchel at Work to Day also, clearing at my Meadow. William waits upon his Mother to Mr. Martyns, and Lucy undertakes to wean little John. Ebenezer here at Eve and has my Chair and Mare to go with his Wife and son to their Father Harringtons. Mrs. Miller (Ensigns Wife) here to bring me word that if I would have Cyder of him I must fetch it tomorrow or not at all, whereas not being warn'd of it my Barrells are not soak'd, nor do I know whether I can have either Man or Team, so that although I want it much, and dont know but that I must go without if I have it not of him, yet I must Send him denyal. And this is also the Third Message which I have had of this kind, which because so Sudden I have been forc'd to deny. N.B. Received a Letter from Brother William Parkman dated July 10 last: brought by Dr. Crosby. N.B. Mr. Simon Tainter now of Sutton coming in to my Door fell down

upon the Floor in a Fit -- I Suppose Epileptic -- but after a while came to, and he proceeded with his Wife and Child to their Father Bruce's.

1754 October 3 (Thursday). Sent Billy to Mr. Garfields for pursely Water¹⁵³ for little John, and bagg of Apples from Mr. Joseph Knowlton -- which he brought. I preach'd at Lieutenant Tainters on Hos. 2.8.9. May it please God to add his effectual Blessing! When I came home found Mr. Ball¹⁵⁴ of Grafton here, who had carry'd Mr. Bliss's¹⁵⁵ Stackhouse¹⁵⁶ for me. Mr. Fay brought a Barrell of Cyder.

1754 October 4 (Friday). In the latter part of the Night and Morning Some refreshing Showers, but clear'd off afterwards So that I rode over to Mr. Martyns and brought home my Wife. No word pass'd about our Epistolary Contests. At Evening came Mr. Benjamin Tainter with his Wife, his own Mother, and his Wife's Father, Mother and Brother. N.B. Thomas lodges at t'other House to my great Grief and Trouble, as there are Several young Women like to lodge there, and Mr. Foster is gone to Holiston to See his Father who we hear is Sick.

1754 October 5 (Saturday). Putt to much Difficulty to draw Water out of our Well. Mr. Hall¹⁵⁷ of Sutton and his Daughter Hale here. Mr. Abijah Gale here to know what I thought was expected of him by the Church.

1754 October 6 (Sunday). Read 1 Sam. 13. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Mark 16.19, and Sat on the Right Hand of God. P.M. read Rev. 6. Mrs. Woods, Mother in Law to Mr. Benjamin Tainter, din'd here. Mr. Ephraim Bruce's Wife had a fit and was brought in here at noon. P.M. we had a Publick Contribution for the Relief of Mr. Thomas Gleason of Oxford.

1754 October 7 (Monday). Lieutenant Tainter, Messrs. Jonathan Forbush, Eleazer Whitney, Thomas Twitchell, Amariah Thurston, with several Lads, Daniel Grout and Joseph Harrington came and cutt up my Corn at the Island, and Mr. Ebenezer Forbush with his Team brought it in. They made 4 Load of it and had done by noon. Four of them stay'd to dine. It was our purpose to have husk'd in the afternoon (for some persons said they Should choose it rather than in the Eve) and a few Neighbours were Sent to, but none came but old Mr. Maynard. So then we sent again, desiring they would come in the Evening, but neither did there come any but a few Boys who ran away home again. N.B. Mr. John Hicks of Cambridge and his Wife and little son Jonathan here, going to Sutton. Mr. Abijah Gale here at Eve with a Paper of Acknowledgement.

1754 October 8 (Tuesday). To Day some of my own Family who did not use to husk, put their Hands to it. Deacon Newton came in the Morning to assist in Counting the Contribution-Money. We found it to be £9.6.10 old Tenor. Noah Forbush part of p.m. husking -- a number

¹⁵³Purslane, a low, succulent herb.

¹⁵⁴Nathaniel Ball.

¹⁵⁵The Reverend Daniel Bliss of Concord.

¹⁵⁶A work of the English divine, Thomas Stackhouse.

¹⁵⁷The Reverend David Hall.

more came in the Evening, viz. Thomas Hardy, Alpheus and Abner Newton, Charles Rice and Ebenezer Rice junior -- very frosty Night, they did not stay to husk the whole.

1754 October 9 (Wednesday). Mr. White, Painter from Billerica to Paint the Pulpit. Thomas and Billy husk. Joshua Lock here again about his and his wifes Confession etc. I endeavour to show him briefly the absurdity of his turning to the Church of England, unless he had better acquainted himself with the Controversie. Daniel Goddard¹⁵⁸ of Shrewsbury here to ask my Advice about his Learning Latin. He goes away disgusted because of my defending Mr. Cushing.¹⁵⁹ Mr. Fish of Upton and his Wife dine here. He preaches my Lecture on John 3.14, a moving and profitable Discourse! May God add his Blessing. Mr. Hicks of Cambridge and his Wife and son from Sutton came and lodge here. Mr. White the Painter with Mr. Francis Whipple, Spend some Time in the Evening here. Thomas and Billy, and 3 Rices (Merchants Sons) husk in the Evening.

1754 October 10 (Thursday). Mr. Hicks etc. return to Cambridge.

1754 October 11 (Friday). Hear that Mr. Whitefield¹⁶⁰ is at Boston. My Wife visits Mrs. Amy Maynard.¹⁶¹

1754 October 12 (Saturday). Mr. White finishes his painting the Pulpit etc. Brushes over my Chair, gratis -- dines with me -- returns home to Billerica.

1754 October 13 (Sunday). The Pulpit etc. are not dry. We make a convenient Station for preaching and Communion Table before the Deacons Seat. Many Shrewsbury people here -- Mr. Cushing being gone a Journey. Mrs. Amy Maynard grows worse. Read 1 Sam. 14 to number 23. Preach'd on Mark 16.19. Administered the Lords Supper. P.M. read Rev. 7, and having Spent my Preparations in the forenoon I repeated Sermons on John 11.24. Deacon Miles¹⁶² and his Wife, Mrs. Foster¹⁶³ of Holliston and her Daughter Twitchel¹⁶⁴ din'd here. At Eve I visited and pray'd with Mrs. Maynard, and My Wife watch'd with her.

1754 October 14 (Monday). Visited Deacon Newton to Settle with him for the Year past respecting my Note given him. P.M. Mrs. Judith Bellows here in a peculiar Domestic Difficulty, but deferrs opening the particulars to a Visit which She prays me to make with them. Mrs. Foster (the Schoolmasters Mother) with divers others here.

¹⁵⁸The son of Edward Goddard. He evidently did not pursue his interest in higher learning.

¹⁵⁹Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

¹⁶⁰The great George Whitefield.

¹⁶¹Mrs. Ebenezer Maynard.

¹⁶²Samuel Miles of Concord. [Additional note: This may have been Deacon Samuel Miles of Shrewsbury, son of Deacon Miles of Concord.]

¹⁶³Mrs. Jacob Foster.

¹⁶⁴Mary Foster married Moses Twitchell of Westborough.

1754 October 15 (Tuesday). Sent the second Volume of the New Universal Magazine to Captain Storer at Boston per Mr. Ebenezer Rice. Mr. Davis came this way for my Company to Southborough. Rode down there to Ministers Meeting. Messrs. Barrett, Martyn, Seccomb,¹⁶⁵ Smith -- were the rest that attended. See the Minutes of the Association. At Eve our Conversation was upon the Qualifications for Communion at the Lords Table. N.B. Mr. Stone is Strongly in the Sentiments of Mr. Stoddard.¹⁶⁶

1754 October 16 (Wednesday). Mr. Martyn preach'd on Luke 9, ult. Many useful and awakening Thoughts on the great Evil and Danger of Apostacy -- May God sett them home upon my own Heart! N.B. when we return'd to Mr. Stones, Mr. Davis a terrible Fit -- shaking etc. N.B. Mr. Martyn desires me to Change next Sabbath to which I Consent. I return'd home by t'other House and Call'd to see Mrs. Amy Maynard, who grows worse.

1754 October 17 (Thursday). Rainy Day. A.M. my Wife and I went to See Mrs. Mainard and found her much worse. She thinks she shall dye -- she prays audibly, though with low voice; very importunately, and pertinently. I can't tell whether She was aware that she Spoke So loud as to be heard by others. I receiv'd also her Testimony to the Gospel and the Ordinances thereof. Pray'd with her and left her in a very solemn manner. P.M. Catechiz'd at the School House.

1754 October 18 (Friday). Lieutenant Tainter and Solomon Miller brought home 6 Barrells of Cyder from Ensign Miller, at 20/ per Barrell. Went (by special Desire) over to Mrs. Maynards again, She being, as they think, dying. We endeavour'd to Commend her departing Soul to God by Prayer -- but I left her breathing.

1754 October 19 (Saturday). Mrs. Maynard dy'd about 10 o'clock last night.¹⁶⁷ She is much Commended.

1754 October 20 (Sunday). I walk'd over to t'other House and thence rode over to Mr. Martyns and preach'd there a. and p.m. on Ps. 119.60. I read some Passages of the Psalm a.m. but did not read. Mr. Martyn preach'd a.m. on Eph. 5.8.9. P.M. on Ps. 57. He did not read either a. or p.m. We each return'd at Eve.

1754 October 21 (Monday). A.M. Mrs. Amy (or Emma) Maynard was buried. Some Number of persons din'd here, among which Captain Maynard; it being inconvenient for them to go home after the Funeral because there was to be a Precinct Meeting at 1 o'Clock. It was to Vote me Support and Wood. And when they came together they Voted to do as they did last Year -- and Lieutenant Tainter came to acquaint me with it. I sent them a Line by him: which although it

¹⁶⁵ John Seccomb of Harvard.

¹⁶⁶ Solomon Stoddard, *An Appeal to the Learned. Being a Vindication of the Right of Visible Saints to the Lords Supper, though they be Destitute of a Saving Work of God's Spirit in their Hearts: against the Exceptions of Mr. Increase Mather* (Boston, 1709).

¹⁶⁷ [Additional note: Amee, wife of Ebenezer Maynard, died Oct. 18, 1754; *Westborough Vital Records*, 246.]

did not induce them to alter their Vote, yet a Number of them were induc'd to subscribe Wood by the Cord -- and it amounted to 20 Load. This was brought me by Mr. Ephraim Bruce, and he said it was freely and heartily done. So that I made no further Difficulty. My Brother Samuel Parkman from Boston waits on Reverend Mr. Gay¹⁶⁸ of Hingham here, and lodge. They are going to Leicester, to the Ordination of Mr. Joseph Roberts.¹⁶⁹

1754 October 22 (Tuesday). Came the Reverend Messrs. Barrett and Eliot¹⁷⁰ and with them Deacon Barret of Boston and his son, and Mr. Thayer of Boston also -- and they din'd here. N.B. Deacon Barret ill and with his Brother returns to Hopkinton. The rest to go Leicester. P.M. came Mr. Joseph Briant from Stoneham and lodges here.

1754 October 23 (Wednesday). Mr. Briant to Leicester. Sent by him Lieutenant Nathan Brigham's Deed to be recorded at Colonel Chandlers Office. At Night Mr. Solomon Baker brought up from Mr. Kneeland one of Mr. Edwards Enquiry¹⁷¹ etc. Price 4/6, Lawful Money. The Reverend Joseph Roberts's Ordination at Leicester.

1754 October 24 (Thursday). Messrs. Eliot, Thayer and Young Barrett from Leicester -- only call'd at the Door in their Way to Hopkinton. P.M. Went down to see Mr. Jonathan Bellows and wife; but he was not himself at home. I discours'd with his Wife according to her particular Case, and pray'd with her and Such as were in the House. N.B. Dr. Chase¹⁷² was with me and he visited at Mr. Ithamar Bellows's their Daughter Elizabeth having the Rheumatism. I talked freely with the Doctor concerning his own Conduct; and wish a Blessing!

1754 October 25 (Friday). A very Rainy Day. N.B. Some Number more of Bears kill'd among us and on the Confines. The Whitneys have kill'd and assisted in killing 4 or 5 within a very few Days. Tis Said about 20 have been kill'd in this Town.

1754 October 26 (Saturday). A Cool Morning after the Storm. My Wife goes on in plunging little John in Cold Water. The Reverend Mr. Bliss of Concord here in his way to Upton.

1754 October 27 (Sunday). John dip'd again. Read 1 Sam. 14 from number 24. Preach'd on John 1, number 16, a. and p.m. N.B. Jane Smith (Sister of Rody) fell into a fit in the Time of afternoon sermon, was carry'd out, and carry'd to my House; there She remain'd in her Fitt for four Hours. A sorrowful Spectacle!

¹⁶⁸Ebenezer Gay.

¹⁶⁹Joseph Roberts (Harvard 1741) had preached at various places. He served Leicester, 1754-1762. *Sibley*, XI, 65-68.

¹⁷⁰Andrew Eliot of the New North Church in Boston.

¹⁷¹Jonathan Edwards, *A Careful and Strict Enquiry into the Modern Prevailing Notions of that Freedom of Will* (Boston, 1754).

¹⁷²Thomas Chase, the young physician of Westborough.

1754 October 28 (Monday). Mr. Henry Barns, Merchant in Marlborough, here. Is about to set up the Pot Ash Business in Hopkinton. Messrs. Bliss and Fish here and din'd with us. P.M. Was at Lieutenant Forbush's.

1754 October 29 (Tuesday). Brother Samuel Parkman here in his Return to Boston, but I was not at home. At Eve Mr. Foster who lodg'd here. Mr. Samuel Fay junior acquaints me with Mr. Billings Case and Request.

1754 October 30 (Wednesday). Mr. Fay last night was so importunate to have me visit Mrs. Billing that to Day I went. Din'd at Captain Bezaleel Eagers. I found Mrs. Billings Case to [be] very deplorable both in Body and Mind. Pray'd with her. At Eve came Messrs. Hezekiah Pratt with a Yoke of Oxen, Solomon Baker with a Plough and with 2 Yoke. Mr. Eleazer Williams, Joseph Baker -- and my sons Ebenezer and Thomas.

1754 October 31 (Thursday). I made a Visit to Mr. Eliezer Rice and to Mr. James Maynard. The former was not at home.

1754 November 1 (Friday). Brother Hicks¹⁷³ came p.m. and lodg'd. At Eve Mr. David Taylor of Concord with Letter requesting a Council on his Difficultys.

1754 November 2 (Saturday). Brother Hicks after Dinner returns home. Mr. Whitney came with his Cart to bring me Turnips for Winter according as I had bespoke. I expected Mr. Henry Barns's Wife and her Mother in their way to Hopkinton, but they did not come. However my other avocations enough.

1754 November 3 (Sunday). Read 1 Sam. 15. Preach'd a.m. (repeating) Mat. 12.36.37. P.M. read Rev. 9. Preach'd on John 1.16. Many Southborough People at meeting here Mr. Stone being gone to the Cape.

1754 November 4 (Monday). I wrote to Mr. Bows of Bedford about Mr. David Taylor's Request. Mr. Abraham Beeman and his Wife here to be examin'd.

1754 November 5 (Tuesday). A very rainy Day. We have reason to fear little John is much troubled with Worms as well as Rickets: and is much oppress'd having very labouring Breath. May God teach us to profit by his holy Hand upon us.

1754 November 6 (Wednesday). Ebenezer has an Husking p.m. My Wife and I took John into the Chair and rode to Lieutenant Tainters -- were well entertain'd and return'd.

1754 November 7 (Thursday). I rode to Upton and preach'd Mr. Fish's Lecture on Ps. 51.11. Return'd at Eve. N.B. a smart Assault by Long Kelly at Mr. Dunlops, respecting the Church of England; which made me late home.

¹⁷³Parkman's brother-in-law, John Hicks of Sutton.

1754 November 8 (Friday). A Second Appointment to Shovel the Gravel at the back of my House, but it was Cold and Dark, and but Two Came, Mr. Beeton and Jonathan Grout. They stood it till 9 o'Clock. Mr. Foster¹⁷⁴ came over; and lodg'd here. Sent by Lieutenant Tainter of Boston. N.B. He kill'd one of my steers, or rather one of his which he changes for one of mine that was a Rogue. He kill'd it at his House and brought me a Side of the Meat, the Hide, Tallow and Offal, and borrows half of the Meat to spend in his own Family. N.B. The Quarters he brought here were 90 and 86.

1754 November 9 (Saturday). A very Cold Night the last -- and this morning. Mr. Jonathan Fuller junior of Sutton call'd to see me. Mr. Jonathan Forbush brought some Wood we being in a Straight, he brought also several Presents besides. Mr. Dodge Came with Money for a Token of Love to me. A cool Night again.

1754 November 10 (Sunday). Read 1 Sam. 16 and gave Observations upon it for the Exercise a.m. Read p.m. Rev. 10. Preach'd once more on John 1.16. Stop'd the Church at Eve, on the Account of Mr. Abijah Gale's Acknowledgement which was read and accepted, and he restor'd¹⁷⁵ -- and on Account of Mr. David Taylor of Concord, late of Bedford, who wrote to this Church for Assistance under his present Distress: Voted.

1754 November 11 (Monday). Was at t'other House. Bid Farewell to Mr. Dodge and his wife who are moving to Framingham. Mr. Foster goes to keep School North Side. Mr. Daniel Adams examin'd at Eve. Mrs. Winchester here.

1754 November 12 (Tuesday). I rode to Concord alone. N.B. Mr. Stephen Prentice¹⁷⁶ of Grafton on the Road with me as far as Bruce's Tavern, very Troublesome. Captain Baker who was the appointed Delegate having Sent me word he could not go. At Mr. Taylor were the Reverend Messrs. Dunbar,¹⁷⁷ Martyn and Smith, each having a Delegate, viz. Deacon Putnam, and Messrs. Josiah Fosset and [blank] Kidder, who were present at the Hearing of Mr. Taylors Cause. There came also from Bedford, Deacon Lane and Mr. Abbot, who were of Singular Service in informing and letting us into the Controversie. We found Mr. Taylor very desirous to have us hear not only the Difficultys which repeatedly withstood it, that being of Civil Nature and had been fully heard, and Settled in a Course of Law, which had run through the Courts. We conceiv'd it would be best to have something drawn up for Mr. Taylor to offer the Church of Bedford, which if it express'd a sutable [*sic*] Christian Frame in him, would be most of all likely to induce them to grant him a Dismission to Concord first Church, and put an End to the Contention; at least

¹⁷⁴Jacob Foster, the schoolmaster.

¹⁷⁵"A Paper was read to the Church (being Stop'd at Evening) Sign'd by Abijah Gale containing his acknowledgment of acting foolishly and imprudently with the wife of Isaac Amsden of Southborough; and the Church voted Satisfaction with what he offer'd." Westborough Church Records, Nov. 10, 1754. See Diary for Sept. 17-19, 1754.

¹⁷⁶The brother of the Reverend Solomon Prentice, who had been dismissed by the Grafton church. Pierce, *Grafton*, p. 551.

¹⁷⁷Samuel Dunbar of Canton.

what subsisted between Mr. Taylor and the Church of Bedford. This was therefore what we bent our Minds to. One and another try'd to draught Something -- and we discours'd with Mr. Taylor to perswade him to it, but it seem'd in Vain -- it Grew late and we retir'd to rest -- the Bedford Committee returning home. Mr. Whitefield preaches at Upton. I sent him a Letter on three Heads -- the last of them requesting he would go to poor Smithfield.

1754 November 13 (Wednesday). After frequent importunate Sollicitations I undertook to draw up Something for Mr. Taylor to make application with to the Church in Bedford: little imagining that it would succeed; yet it did, through the divine Favour, and as we had earnestly requested the Committee from Bedford to return again, So they came and Mr. Taylor having Sign'd the Address to their Church, They freely came in to it, and each of them engag'd to use their best Influence to have it succeed with the Church. Whereupon we gave Thanks to God, din'd, adjourn'd without Day, and parted with Joy. I rode to Marlborough and lodg'd there.

1754 November 14 (Thursday). When I return'd home, understood that though there was an appointment of Hands to come yesterday p.m. to level my Bank on the Back of the House, yet none came to the work but Mr. Kenny, and towards night Noah Forbush.

1754 November 15 (Friday). Very rainy last Night and this Morning but p.m. Clear. Visited Mr. Jonah Warrins Daughter Sarah who is much disorder'd in the Mind. Mr. Warrin told me he deliver'd my Letter into Mr. Whitefield's Hands, and that he saw him read in it.

1754 November 16 (Saturday). Old Mr. Maynard cleaning the Meeting House, din'd here.

1754 November 17 (Sunday). Read 1 Sam. 17 to about 31.10. Preach'd on Col. 1.16.17. P.M. read Rev. 11 and by means of the Business of last Week was oblig'd to repeat Sermon on Acts 16.29.30. At Eve Mr. Jeduthun Baldwin here.

1754 November 18 (Monday). Rain -- especially the latter part of the Day -- at Night the Storm increas'd greatly. Mr. Baldwin lodg'd here to night also, being prevented by the storm returning.

1754 November 19 (Tuesday). Mr. Baldwin left us, it being a bright Day. Neighbour Moses Nurse plough'd Indian Hills for me in order to Sow Rye. At Eve Ebenezer here. N.B. Mr. Jonah Warrin being in great Distress for his Daughter Sarah, came for me. And I went. She had attempted Several Times to destroy her Self; but now was Somewhat calm and conversible. Dr. Brigham¹⁷⁸ here. I pray'd with them. The Doctor in returning din'd with us.

1754 November 20 (Wednesday). Mr. James Fay and his wife came to see me. I visited Mr. Daniel Forbush's Child under a grievous Scald, and pray'd with him. N.B. his Discourse about Mr. Whitefield, and of my Conduct with regard to him. At Lieutenant Tainters at Eve.

¹⁷⁸Samuel Brigham, the physician of Marlborough.

1754 November 21 (Thursday). Ebenezer went to Brookfield after our young Cattle. He rode my Mare. Moses Nurse with 2 Yoke of Oxen, and my Billy helping, plough'd, sow'd Rye and harrow'd it in. Held a Catechetical Exercise to Young Women. At Eve Ebenezer and Samuel Forbush each with a Yoke of Cattle, Noah Forbush with my sons Oxen and a Drag, Elijah Rice, Moses Nurse and his Cousen Daniel and Abner Newton, came and plough'd a drew down Gravel from the back of my House. N.B. Much to't for want of Wood.

1754 November 22 (Friday). The Friend at a Pinch, Lieutenant Tainter brought a Load of Wood. Mr. Jacob Foster here -- gives up his School, and bids farewell to Westborough -- tells me Mr. Benjamin Webb¹⁷⁹ is to keep in his Stead at North End.

1754 November 23 (Saturday). Last Night is froze hard. Billy having harrow'd yesterday with Ebenezer's Oxen at the Island at Night went home with them. He this Morning return'd here with them, and Carted out Muck into the Garden and Grass Ground. Thomas help'd him a.m. but was ill p.m. Lieutenant Tainter another Load of Wood. P.M. Mr. Gleason of Oxford here. At Eve Mr. George Bruce of Mendon here. Had been serving a Writ on Richard Barns, who it is fear'd is hastening into Ruin. Ebenezer return'd.

1754 November 24 (Sunday). Very Cold Night, the last. Read 1 Sam. 17, from number 32. Preach'd on Rev. 5.9. At Dinner were besides Ebenezer and his Wife, Mr. Hezekiah How, and Mrs. Lydia Cutting. P.M. read Rev. 12, and by reason of my difficult Circumstances (especially being oblig'd to help yesterday in Carting out Muck) was oblig'd to repeat an old Discourse. It was an Expository Exercise on Mat. 12.42. Omitted to appoint the Communion to my great Sorrow.

1754 November 25 (Monday). Storm of Snow. My Stray'd Steer brought home by Ebenezer.

1754 November 26 (Tuesday). Wrote to Mr. John Parkman in the Isle of Wight. Sent it by Mr. Jonathan Bond to the Care of my Brother Samuel Parkman in Boston. Mr. John Chamberlins Wife here from Stockbridge. She relates the sorrowful Story of the Indians besetting their House and killing two of her Children. At Eve Mr. Daniel Warrin, Collector, here. Tells me the Treasurer, Phinehas Hardy, is advis'd not to give him Orders to pay me any Money till two Notes, viz. for 2£ each, on account of the Pew, are Satisfy'd for -- and yet the Precinct know that I am ready to pay them if they will but give me a Title to the Pew. They are especially Esquire Baker and Deacon Newton, who Mr. Warrin mentions are advising in the Manner aforesaid, and therefore although my Dependence upon receiving Money of the Collector now, is greater than usual, and my Necessitys more pressing, yet he gives me little ground of Hope that I can be supply either as presently or plentifully, as my Straits require.

1754 November 27 (Wednesday). Cold Day. Winds high; Snow blowing about. Billy must needs go a Hunting, having long begg'd this Favour.

¹⁷⁹(Harvard 1743). *Sibley*, XI, 326-327.

1754 November 28 (Thursday). Thanksgiving. I preach'd on Ps. 150, numbers 1 and 2. N.B. appointed the Communion to be on the Next Lords Day -- having omitted to do it last Lords Day -- but gave Opportunity for any one to object if there were any that desir'd to. Ebenezer and his Wife with us. May we have a truly grateful sense of the divine Benefits and of our infinite Obligations therefor!

1754 November 29 (Friday). My Wife Saw Deacon Newton and call'd him in to talk with him concerning his Advice to the Treasurer as mention'd on the 26th. I also went down to him, and in my Discourse with him highly resented it. At Eve Mr. Solomon Woods here.

1754 November 30 (Saturday). Have a great deal of Trouble in my Mind and much Discourse with my Wife about Deacon Newtons Conduct; ever since my Conference with him Yesterday forenoon.

1754 December 1 (Sunday). With much adoe my Mind was brought into some Composedness. Omitted reading both a. and p.m. Preach'd on Rev. 5.9, a.m. On Acts 16.29.30 p.m. N.B. was oblig'd to deliver a great part of the latter Exercise without any Writing -- the former part was a repetition of Sermon on the Text. N.B. Mrs. Chamberlin of Stockbridge, and Deacon Forbush din'd here. Mrs. Chamberlin lodg'd here.

1754 December 2 (Monday). Sent for Mr. Jonathan Forbush and acquainted him with what I had met with respecting the Pew. Agreed with him that he should pay for and build and improve the Pew as long as I liv'd -- but at my Decease he shall return it to my Family and give them Legal Conveyance of it, they repaying him the price he pays and for the building it; and indemnifying him with respect to his Seat in the Meeting House elsewhere. This is consents to [*sic*] -- upon Supposition he outlives me, but does not bind his Heirs thereto if he decease first. This he also declar'd in the hearing of my Wife. N.B. Mrs. Chamberlin here. N.B. Town Meeting to Call in Town Debts; at which my son Ebenezer very hardly gets his Bill for boarding the Schoolmaster, Mr. Foster, granted. Is forc'd to abate from 35/ Old Tenor to 30/ per week.

1754 December 3 (Tuesday). My son Forbush here. My wife goes with him to Boston on Mr. Jonathan Forbush's Mare, and he takes Mrs. Chamblerin's which She was otherwise to have rid on. Mrs. Chamberlin remaining Still with us. N.B. Mr. Jonathan Forbush brought me my promissory Notes from the Treasurer Hardy given for the Pew, and so ends that Affair. Only now my son Forbush heard his Brother Jonathan declare (as yesterday in the hearing of my Wife) concerning giving up the Pew to my Heirs if he outlives me. N.B. Mr. Phinehas Rice of Grafton here and wants copys of the Papers against Mr. Hutchinson.

1754 December 4 (Wednesday). In the Morning had some Discourse with Treasurer Hardy concerning the Taking away the Pew from me in that violent manner. Mrs. Chamberlin left us to go to Captain Forbush's. Though it rain'd I rode over the North End and preach'd Mr. Martyns Lecture. Text Rom. 7.9. I return'd at Eve. My son Thomas has been lathing his Shop. Mr. Gale having finish'd the work he had to do there in preparing for the Mason.

1754 December 5 (Thursday). Bright and pleasant. I preach'd at Mr. Grow's, on the Same that I did Yesterday: Lieutenant Maynard, 3 Howes, Mr. Daniel Warrin (over the River) and Mr. Phinehas Maynard Set up Stables on my Land back of the Meeting House.

1754 December 6 (Friday). I wrote to Mr. Hutchinson concerning Mr. Rice's Desiring Copys etc. See on the third, and I sent it per Mr. Ezekiel Brigham of Grafton. My wife with my son Forbush returned in Safety. Blessed be God!

1754 December 7 (Saturday). Mr. Forbush to Brookfield.

1754 December 8 (Sunday). Read 1 Sam. 18. Preach'd on Rev. 5.9, a. and p.m. Read p.m. Rev. 13.

1754 December 9 (Monday). Brother Hicks and his Daughter Hannah here. Lieutenant Maynard etc. finishing their Stables.

1754 December 10 (Tuesday). Visit Mr. Eleazer Pratts, Mr. William Nurse's, Mr. Smiths, Mr. Reuben Maynard's Family.

1754 December 11 (Wednesday). Mr. Adams and his wife here at Even. Sold 11 Sheep to Mr. Simon Tainter. Persis Fay Spins here.

1754 December 12 (Thursday). Precinct Meeting to call in Debts and especially to See what they are indebted for the Meeting House. They grant 281£ old Tenor.

1754 December 13 (Friday). The Earth has been open for some time, but now Snow -- p.m. Rain. At Eve came Brother Hicks and Daughter Hannah and lodged here.

1754 December 14 (Saturday). Bright Morn, Brother Hicks and Daughter proceed on their Journey home. I rode up to Grafton. Directed Mr. Hutchinson to call at Captain Bakers and desire him to keep his Horse -- which he did.

1754 December 15 (Sunday). Preach'd there a. and p.m. on Rom. 7.9. N.B. Consulted with the Deacons Whipple and How, Major Willard and 2 sons and Mr. Brooks and his son, about baptizing Mr. Hezekiah Taylors, and Mr. Jonathan Rolf's Child -- and requested their Minds concerning my giving Copys of their papers which were given in to the Ministers concerning Mr. Hutchinson: and they were generally of the Mind that it was best to wave it for the present -- nay and not to gratifie anyone that would be likely to disturb their peace till the Church's Consent to it shall be obtain'd. P.M. I baptiz'd the following Children -- Hannah, of Hezekiah and Abigail Taylor; Lucy, of Aaron and Elizabeth Brigham; Elizabeth, of Jonathan and Abigail Rolf. At Eve came to see me Messrs. Arnold, Isaac Harrington, and Stephen Prentice. Mr. Hutchinson return'd, having preach'd on Rom. 10.10, and John 12.46.

1754 December 16 (Monday). The Wind very high -- called at Mr. Arnolds and at Mr. Brooks's in my Return home. When I came home found here my Cousen Sadler who came here yesterday noon to See me. At Eve Lieutenant Tainter and his Wife here at Supper.

1754 December 17 (Tuesday). P.M. Lieutenant Tainter came and waited on my Kinswoman Sadler to Ensign Mathis's at Southborough. N.B. Vendue at the Meeting House, at which are sold the Remnants of the Boards, Plank etc. now the Carpenters and joiners have finish'd their Work. Visited Deacon Newton who is ill, but mending.

1754 December 18 (Wednesday). The Reverend Mr. Wellman din'd here. I have receiv'd the whole six of Mr. Edwards's Enquiry. Rainy.

1754 December 19 (Thursday). Visited Sarah Warrin who is yet out of order. Hannah Gold who lately lay in at Mr. Williams of a base born Child. My Wife walked to the other House to see my Daughter in law, who is under some peculiar bad Circumstances and over runs her Time.

1754 December 20 Friday). Vendue of Remnants of Boards etc. at the Meeting House. I went a little while. Very Cold Night.

1754 December 21 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1754 December 22 (Sunday). Read a.m. 1 Sam. 20. P.M. preach'd on Eph. 1.7, each part of the Day. P.M. read Rev. 14. Widow Beeman, Persis Fay Still live here.

1754 December 23 (Monday). Lieutenant Griffin here going to Boston.

1754 December 24 (Tuesday). Visited Mr. Jonathan Bellows and his wife in order to compose their Strife. N.B. Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin there and much disquieted with Mrs. Bellows. When I return'd home Mr. Martyn and his wife here and din'd here.

1754 December 25 (Wednesday). Joseph Bowman came from Boston having done Several Errands for us, and call'd me up between 2 and 3 in the Morning. After Day exceeding Rainy.

1754 December 26 (Thursday). At Eve Ebenezer came over for his Mother, his wife growing ill. About 10 o'clock at Night a Daughter was born to them. D.G.

1754 December 27 (Friday). My Wife has not return'd from the Groaning. P.M. I took my Daughter Sarah into the Chair and rode over to See My Daughter Eliza and her new born Babe. Left my Wife Still to tarry another Night, their Maid being not Sufficient and their Nurse not yet with them. N.B. 5 Bushels of Oats of Solomon Miller at 8/ old Tenor.

1754 December 28 (Saturday). Sent Billy over to help his Brother in the forenoon. P.M. Mr. John Chamberlin of Stockbridge here. Brings my volume of Chubbs Tracts¹⁸⁰ from Mr. Edwards. He informs me that Mr. Edwards is very weak and brought down by the Fever and Ague, which has follow'd for some months past, and that the Captain Cuncauput is return'd, a great many of the Stockbridge Indians, perhaps two Thirds of them are gone from the Town. N.B. Mr. Eleazer Williams brought a Load of Wood.

1754 December 29 (Sunday). Read 1 Sam. 21. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Acts 9.6 carrying on the Subject begun from Acts 16.29.30, but p.m. in Application endeavouring to stir up Conviction and Humiliation Shewing the Evil Nature of Sin. I us'd from page 2 to page 12 of Sermon on Job 33.27. Mr. John Chamberlin of Stockbridge din'd here. N.B. my Son and Daughter gave Thanks for the little Token of the Divine Goodness to them. But what a Damp it is to my Joy that they have not lain hold on God's Covenant for themselves or their Offspring! The Lord give me an heart Seriously to reflect upon it!

1754 December 30 (Monday). My Wife and I rode over in the Slay to visit our Children and dine there. Return'd at Eve home. N.B. My Daughter in Some comfort, Blessed be the Lord who heals her! and the Child in a hopefull State. It was represented very Small, but by its Weight appears near middling (as they Speak) and though they had many Thoughts to call it Mary, yet agree to call it Elizabeth.

1754 December 31 (Tuesday). A considerable storm of Rain and Snow. We are in Some Difficulty for want of Wood. Mr. Jeduthun Baldwin came here last Evening. He goes to Worcester this Morning in his Journey to Brookfield. Three of my Sons having lain with Noah Forbush at t'other House, we fear have taken a Troublesome Distemper, and are using Some Means to drive it out if they have, and another which they have probably infected with them. Thus Ends this Year, in which we have in General had through Divine Mercy much Health of Body, but not a few Straits, Cares, and Difficultys. God be pleas'd to sanctifie them and prepare us for what we have yet to conflict with especially our final Departure out of this State which has many Scenes of Sin and Trouble.

¹⁸⁰Thomas Chubb, *Three Tracts* (London, 1727) or *A Collection of Tracts on Various Subjects* (London, 1730).