

### Diary of Ebenezer Parkman, 1755

1755 January 1 (Wednesday). A true Sense of the Divine Dispensations would (methinks) fill my Soul with an holy astonishment at the Liberty and Goodness of God which is still protracted: and His Longsuffering is amazing towards So worthless and unfruitful a Creature. O that I might be rous'd and quicken'd! and O that God would vouchsafe after all, to pardon and Sanctifie me; and that He would please to direct and assist me in the great incumbent Dutys -- that I may improve my Time, Serve the Souls of men, and Save my own soul as well as those that hear me! It was very Cold, yet Billy went to Ensign Woods the Clothier and to Allens Mill.

1755 January 2 (Thursday). Very Cold -- but Billy to Johnsons Mill. I have almost Every Day Deep Concern for both the Spiritual and Temporal Welfare of my Children especially my dear son Ebenezer. Would humbly lift my Soul to God on this Account and beg Grace to Committ my whole Cause to Him, who I know will do what is wisest and best. In That I would repose myself.

1755 January 3 (Friday). The Aged Judge Ward here and din'd with us.

1755 January 4 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1755 January 5 (Sunday). Read 1 Samuel 22. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Ps. 39.6. Read p.m. Rev. 16. On this Day my little son Samuel was observ'd to look Yellow.

1755 January 6 (Monday). More Notice taken of Samme's Yellowness, yet plays about and is brisk. At Eve Mr. David Maynard junior here and gives me account of the unhappy Condition of his Brother Mason, who has lain for some time in Worcester Jayl.

1755 January 7 (Tuesday). Traded away sled sides to Lieutenant Stephen Maynard and brought [*sic*] 1000 shingles of him.

1755 January 8 (Wednesday). Samme, though he sits at Table with us and plays about, grows very Yellow from Day to Day -- to our Surprize he does indeed in some Measure fail in his Appetite.

1755 January 9 (Thursday). At Captain Forbush's, heard that Mr. Daniel Hastings dy'd on the 7th having had the Mumps and took Cold. It was very Surprizing -- may God sanctify it to us, as well as to his own Relations! He dys in the midst of his Glory and gaiety -- was just going to be married -- but that very Day his Thoughts perish.

1755 January 10 (Friday). Mr. Solomon Stow brought me 5 sheets of Tin (price 5/ a piece Old Tenor) for my Chamber Floor, next my Hearth.

1755 January 11 (Saturday). Exceeding High Gusts in the Night -- my old Barn is in great Danger, but God is our preserver; to Him I committ myself and my substance.

1755 January 12 (Sunday). [No entry.]

[The remainder of the diary for January, 1755, and the entire month of February, 1755, have been lost.]

1755 March 1 (Saturday). Lieutenant Maynard with two Stout Teams, brought 6 Load of Wood. P.M. I attended the Funeral of Mr. Joseph Farr of Southborough, Mr. Stone being gone to Boston. I proceeded to Mr. Stones having agreed to change with him. He came home before Night -- but so tir'd he tarried at Home.

1755 March 2 (Sunday). In the Morning he rode up to Westborough and preach'd here. I preach'd at Southborough on Zech. 1.5 and John 12.35, occasion'd by the late Death of the Venerable Mr. Stone<sup>1</sup> of Harwich Aet. 88. At Eve I return'd home -- call'd to see Mr. Ephraim Bruce's Child which he told me Yesterday had a Pin Stuck across the Throat -- but now they can't tell what is come of it -- they suppose it Swallow'd.

1755 March 3 (Monday). Although it was Town Meeting Day, yet I went away Somewhat Early to Visit Mr. Zebulun Rice -- call'd at Mr. Grouts and Mr. Phinehas Hardy's. Mr. Zebulun Rice gone to Town Meeting at Upton -- his Wife also from Home. Visit Mr. Ebenezer Miller and Mr. Moses Warrin din'd at the House of the Latter. N.B. My Wife indispos'd.

1755 March 4 (Tuesday). A great Storm of Snow. I would have gone over to the Funeral of Captain James Eagers Wife, if it had not been so exceeding stormy: and it is doubtful whether they will be able themselves to attend it. N.B. This Day 38 Year ago, old Stile, The Great Snow Storm.

1755 March 5 (Wednesday). I preach'd the Lecture from 1 Cor. 11.20. At Eve my Wife and I went up to Captain Bakers<sup>2</sup> to the Marriage of Mrs. Betty to Mr. Jonas Wilder of Bolton. Stay'd to supper and made it late Home. Very Cold.

1755 March 6 (Thursday). N.B. My Wife much indispos'd from Day to Day.

1755 March 7 (Friday). Captain Benjamin Wood of Hopkinton dines here. He gives me further Account of the perplext state of their Church. Snows again.

1755 March 8 (Saturday). Lieutenant Tainter comes up from Boston but leaves his Whirrey at Waltham by reason of the deep Snows. My Watch useless.

1755 March 9 (Sunday). Read 1 Sam. 28. Preach'd a.m. Isa. 9.6. The mighty God. Administer'd the Lords Supper. P.M. Read Rev. 22, and preach'd on number 22. Had an Exceeding great Weight upon my Spirits last night especially concerning my own state and Frame. Had a great

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<sup>1</sup>The Reverend Nathaniel Stone (Harvard 1690) had served Brewster (Harwich), 1700-1755.

<sup>2</sup>Edward Baker of Westborough.

Relief in my Mind as to my sermons (their being prepar'd Seasonably) having Spent the week very much in Work -- and got them done before the Sabbath. D.G.

1755 March 10 (Monday). Colonel Williams, Colonel Brigham and Major Ward met here -- they are going to Mendon to give out Commissions there.

1755 March 11 (Tuesday). My Wife and I rode p.m. to See Lieutenant Bruce, who was lately very ill. Sent my Watch by Mr. Moses Brigham to Mr. Moses Peck at Boston.

1755 March 12 (Wednesday). I rode to Mr. William Nurse's expecting to hear Mr. Cushing there but the Meeting which was appointed to be there to Day was put by; the Snow being So deep and very uncomfortable Travelling. Mr. Ebenezer Nurse went with me. Visited the Widow Whitney, and at Mr. Eleazer Pratts. The Field Officers return from Mendon at Eve.

1755 March 13 (Thursday). Heavy Rains the last Night: Smoaky Air to Day and rain frequently yet hearing Mr. Ebenezer Rice was confin'd by illness I went up to See him, and endeavour'd to discharge my Duty with tender Affection to him.

1755 March 14 (Friday). Mr. George Bruce Sheriff call'd here. He had been with an Execution against Jonas Bradish, who is Bondsman for Mr. Ebenezer Rice. It gives me much Grief, as Mr. Rice has behav'd himself So ingenuously among us. Mr. Bruce acquaints me that Mr. Dorrs<sup>3</sup> Family at Mendon is in great Affliction by the illness of Mrs. Katy, at her sister Tafts<sup>4</sup> in Braintree. It is far from a New Observation that this World is full of Changes, nor is it Strange that we are So unaffected with them.

1755 March 15 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1755 March 16 (Sunday). Exceeding Cold Morning. Read a.m. 1 Sam. 28. Preach'd on Rev. 22.17, a. and p.m. Several persons more than our own Family at Dinner. P.M. appointed a Church-Meeting for the Choice of a Deacon or Deacons to be next Thursday come sennight at 1 o'Clock p.m. In the Evening began my Preparations for the Fast.

1755 March 17 (Monday). Sett'l'd my Accounts with Mr. Ebenezer Rice.

1755 March 18 (Tuesday). [No entry.]

1755 March 19 (Wednesday). Mr. James Bowman again asks my advice about a School Master.

1755 March 20 (Thursday). Public Fast. Preach'd on Mat. 24.12. After the Exercises Captain Fay warn'd his Company to meet tomorrow to beat for Voluntiers.

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<sup>3</sup>The Reverend Mr. Joseph Dorr.

<sup>4</sup>Katherine was the daughter of the Reverend Mr. Dorr. Her sister, Mary, married Moses Taft (Harvard 1751), the minister of Randolph, 1752-1791.

1755 March 21 (Friday). Messrs. Samuel Hardy and Simon Tainter here on the Affair of Mr. Tainters Debt to me for the sheep he bought of me. P.M. the Company Met.

1755 March 22 (Saturday). Mr. Martyn Sent his Son Richard with a Letter (in Soft Stile) complaining of my not visiting them -- to which I return'd a like answer: but as he also acquainted me therein that he could not change with me next Sabbath (being previously engag'd to Mr. Cushing) I was oblig'd to prepare as well as I could to preach at home.

1755 March 23 (Sunday). Read (and Expounded as usual) 1 Sam. 30. Preach'd on Mat. 24.12 but p.m. was oblig'd to repeat an old Sermon. It was on Heb. 3.13.

1755 March 24 (Monday). Lucy ill with Swelling in her Mouth, Face.

1755 March 25 (Tuesday). My Wife and I rode over in my Chair to Mr. Martyns. Carry'd the Preceptor<sup>5</sup> Volume 1, and din'd there, it raining hard p.m. and at Eve we tarry'd and lodg'd there. N.B. No word with him of the angry Letters of Last Year to this Day.

1755 March 26 (Wednesday). Bright Morn. We return'd, call'd at Ensign Rice's, and (both going and returning) at Mr. Masons. Call'd also at Captain Maynards, din'd at Ebenezers. P.M. I rode to Mr. William Nurse's and heard Mr. Cushing, on Contentment.

1755 March 27 (Thursday). This Day the Church Met to choose Deacons. I prepar'd somewhat to deliver on that Occasion, but it was brief and broken. N.B. Mr. Whitney and Deacon Forbush are concern'd, and talk with me before the Meeting about Lieutenant Tainter, who they Say, would be like to be voted for, for one were it not for Something which divers Brethren have heard from him about his paying me (one way or another) a matter of 16 or 17£ upon the Score of the North sides Rates which Should have been paid me in the Year 1744: but which is not so accepted by me. I open'd the Meeting with Prayer. Read Acts 6 to 7, and 1 Tim. 3.8 to 14 and deliver'd what I had prepared. Brother Whitney chose by 19 out of 25 -- then try'd for another, but the Votes were scattering, viz. 6 for Lieutenant Tainter, 6 for Mr. Francis Whipple, 6 for Mr. Jonathan Bond, the rest were for Esquire Baker, Jonathan Forbush junior, Daniel Forbush and David Maynard junior. We try'd again -- but still no Choice: they were 12 for Lieutenant Tainter, 10 for Mr. Bond, 4 for Mr. Whipple. Try'd again also in Vain; there being now 12 for Mr. Bond, 11 for Lieutenant Tainter -- 2 for Mr. Whipple and one for Jonathan Forbush junior. We try'd once more and Mr. Bond was chose by 16 votes -- only 6 for Lieutenant, the rest for Whipple and Jonathan Forbush junior. Both Mr. Whitney and Mr. Bond modestly refus'd, but their answer was desir'd to be deferr'd to this Day fortnight to which Time the Meeting was adjourn'd. The Disposal of the Lot is of the Lord. At Eve Mr. Jacob Sweetzer of Rutland here, and lodg'd -- his Horse at Mr. Nurse's. Billy brings home sad News of Betty Bimelock (Indian) Murdering her Child about six weeks old.

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<sup>5</sup>Robert Dodsley, *The Preceptor: Containing A general Course of Education*, 2 vols. (London 1748). A preface to this work was written by Dr. Samuel Johnson.

1755 March 28 (Friday). Mr. Sweetzer left us before Breakfast and before the Storm which came on when the Day got up.

1755 March 29 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1755 March 30 (Sunday). Read 1 Sam. 31. Text Isa. 9.6. The Everlasting Father. P.M. no reading. The Exercise was from Rev. 1.3 in which I deliver'd an Extract from Mr. Lowman on the whole Book of Revelation.<sup>6</sup> N.B. Mr. Jonah Warrin in Distress about his Daughter Sarah again, came to me at noon and desir'd public prayers. N.B. One Mr. Sheldon of Litchfield in Connecticut at Meeting p.m. At Eve I visited Sarah Warrin and pray'd with her.

1755 March 31 (Monday). I visited Sarah Warrin again. The Difficultys in my own Family very great on account of our being kept out of Money and Wanting many necessarys -- but Desire to keep up my Spirits, hoping in an infinitely Mercifull and gracious God. My Wife lame by the Humors falling into a Blister on one of her Legs, on which she was endeavouring to make an issue. N.B. at Eve a great Light as of Some Burning. It appear'd in the North East.

1755 April 1 (Tuesday). Wrote out 12 Principal Articles of Religion for the Benefit of Candidates for Communion. News that the Burning last night was Captain Thomas Amsden's House in Marlborough. Suspected to be by his son in Law Dr. Robinson.<sup>7</sup> P.M. Captain Fays Company call'd together to beat for Volunteers at the Desire of Captain Speakman of Boston. N.B. Mr. Henry Burns of Marlborough here.

1755 April 2 (Wednesday). It rain'd, had no Horse to go to the Fast Exercises at Mr. Jonah Warrin's till accidentally my Daughter in Law came with her Child. The Roads bad and it rain'd so that she did not go (as she design'd) -- therefore I took her Horse and went. I pray'd first; Mr. Fish<sup>8</sup> preach'd on Luke 19.10. He pray'd p.m. and I preach'd on Phil. 4.11. Sarah Warrin in So ill a frame that before we began the Exercise I could not get it out of her that she desir'd that what we were undertaking, or concurr'd in it -- however she did tarry with us. And at Eve desir'd to talk with Mr. Fish -- and when I took leave she ask'd me to remember her as being, if not under Conviction yet under Temptations. My Daughter Eliza return'd home at Eve with her Child.

1755 April 3 (Thursday). A brighter Day. I preach'd at the widow Newtons on Numb. 23.

1755 April 4 (Friday). [No entry.]

1755 April 5 (Saturday). [No entry.]

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<sup>6</sup>Moses Lowman (1680-1752) was an English non-conformist divine who published *A Paraphrase and Notes on the Revelation of St. John* (London, 1737).

<sup>7</sup>Jeremiah Robinson had married Eunice Amsden.

<sup>8</sup>The Reverend Elisha Fish of Upton.

1755 April 6 (Sunday). Read 2 Sam. 1. Preach'd on Isa. 4.6. P.M. no reading. O that I might have the Grace to submit myself to the Glorious Prince of Peace! and that a perfect Reconcilement on each part might be accomplish'd! not only submit myself but induce Others!

1755 April 7 (Monday). Lucy much out of order -- breaks out in her Face.

1755 April 8 (Tuesday). Lucy and I ride to Marlborough to consult Dr. Brigham about her. She is blooded -- we din'd there. I went to Captain Daniel Barns's<sup>9</sup> and paid Mr. Barns the full of my Account there; which was about 6£ old Tenor. Visit Mr. Smith<sup>10</sup> -- and also Mr. Ephraim How and pay my Interest there. We return home at Eve; find our Tabernacle in Peace. D.G.

1755 April 9 (Wednesday). I rode down to Mrs. Belknaps who lies Sick -- found her in an Excellent Frame as to her Spiritual Frame, pray'd with her -- Said what I possibly could to her Husband to induce him to Reflect on himself. Din'd at Chamberlins. N.B. their bitter Complaints of Mr. Jonathan Bellows's. At Eve Mr. Baldwin here -- and lodg'd here. My Mare was kept at the Squire's.

1755 April 10 (Thursday). In the Morning Mr. Whitney gave his Letter to the Church, containing his Denyal. Catechizing a.m. about 28 young Men attend the Catechetical Exercise. P.M. Church meeting by Adjournment to receive the Answers of the Elected Deacons. Mr. Bond after a modest refusal, and the Church insisting on their Choice, submitted. Mr. Whitneys refusal (in writing as aforesaid) was read but the Reason which is couch'd in it, not satisfying the Church we adjourn'd to this Day sennight after Lecture.

1755 April 11 (Friday). [No entry.]

1755 April 12 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1755 April 13 (Sunday). Read 2 Sam. 2. Preach'd on Mat. 5.4, and therein deliver'd one of my former Expository Exercises with Alterations Accommodating it to a Scheme I have now in Hand, viz. the manner of the Souls Preparation and coming into Christ. P.M. read Gal. 1, and preach'd from number 15.16. O what a great important and glorious Work this of bringing the Soul to be acquainted with and united to Christ is! May I myself be one of those who happily experience this -- but alas! My Great Darkness and Perplexity!

1755 April 14 (Monday). Mr. Samuel Hardy and Mr. John Rogers work here setting up Fence at the Island a.m. and Digging stones behind the Meeting House p.m.

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<sup>9</sup>Also a deacon in Marlborough.

<sup>10</sup>The Reverend Aaron Smith of Marlborough.

1755 April 15 (Tuesday). Mr. Cushing and I rode over to Hopkinton to Ministers Meeting at Mr. Barretts. It was very thin: none but Mr. Stone more. N.B. Mr. Barretts Troubles a.m. with his Peoples very great. Deacon Millen with Some Questions.

1755 April 16 (Wednesday). Mr. Stone preach'd an Excellent Sermon from Rom. 6.17. After Lecture Deacon Millen came and left a Paper of Questions for the Association to Solve. N.B. Mr. Prentice<sup>11</sup> of Holliston and his new Spouse, came and din'd with us. N.B. before we broke up, we that were of the Association had Some serious Discourse with Brother Barrett upon the late Complaints against him -- which may God bless and render Effectual! Mr. Cushing my Company home. I ask'd both Mr. Cushing and Mr. Stone to preach my Lecture tomorrow, but in Vain.

1755 April 17 (Thursday). My Lecture on Ezek. 5.5 to 9. N.B. Mr. Eliezer Rice asks that his Children might be baptiz'd on his Wife's Account which is readily consented to. N.B. The Church stop'd according to Adjournment. Mr. Whitney persisting in his Refusal the Church proceeded to choose another Deacon. First tryal was scattering. 13 for Brother Tainter: 11 for Brother Jonathan Forbush junior, 1 for Brother Francis Whipple and 1 for Brother David Maynard junior -- try'd a second Time -- still too Scattering. 14 for brother Forbush, 13 for his Father Tainter again: 2 for Brother Whipple -- try'd a Third Time: and then Brother Forbush was chose, viz. 15 out of 29, 11 of which were for Lieutenant Tainter, 2 for Mr. David Maynard and one (if I mistake not) for Mr. Whipple. Adjourn'd to next Monday come sennight 2 p.m. Deacon Bond and his Wife here after meeting.

1755 April 18 (Friday). My Wife to Marlborough on Ebenezers Mare, and tarrys over Night.

1755 April 19 (Saturday). My Wife does not return a.m. by reason of the Rain: but it Clearing away p.m. She came in Safety. N.B. her Kinswoman, Dr. Brighams Wife, a third Child, the oldest not 3 years old till next August. N.B. Brother Hicks here in his Journey from Cambridge home. N.B. a Child of Mr. Robert Keys nigh Wachusett missing Some Days.

1755 April 20 (Sunday). A.M. read 2 Sam. 3. Preach'd on Gal. 1.15.16. Administered the Lords Supper. P.M. omitted Reading. The Sermon was formed out of Number 130.131 of Expositions on Mat. 7.15-21. Ministers Meeting, the Lecture and Family Cares preventing my preparing anew for this Exercise. But my Soul in deep Engagement on my State and Frame. May God most gracious pity, pardon and accept me through the Merits of the great Redeemer. Deacon Bond waited at Communion.

1755 April 21 (Monday). Mr. Samuel Hardy came to Clearing. He takes the work between the Pasture Fences to clear for a Dollar. P.M. Reverend Mr. Hall of Sutton here, going to Boston on account of Troubles he meets with by means of Mr. Elisha Putnam and Duncan Campbell Esquire. N.B. Mr. Keys's Child not found, though some Hundreds of men were Yesterday and to Day in Search after her. A dozen went who belong to our Congregation.

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<sup>11</sup>The Reverend Joshua Prentiss married Margaret, the daughter of Nathaniel Appleton of Cambridge, Jan. 9, 1755.

1755 April 22 (Tuesday). I visited at Mr. Zebulun Rice's, Captain Fays, Mr. Whipples, Mr. Eliezer Rice's and Mr. Pratts.

1755 April 23 (Wednesday). This Morning my Wife, accompany'd by Deacon Forbush Set out on her Journey to Brookfield. She had Ebenezer's Mare to ride on. I borrow'd old Mr. Charles Rice's to ride to Shrewsbury, to preach Mr. Cushings Lecture -- din'd there -- but Mr. Cushing<sup>12</sup> of Waltham being on a Visit to their Parents I conceiv'd it would be more agreeable for him to preach and therefore I requested him to -- he comply'd and preach'd on Luke 12.43. N.B. Discourse with Mr. Thomas Smith who went to a Wise-Man (Mr. Williams Wood a blacksmith in Scituate nigh Providence) to know where Mr. Keys's lost Child might be found. Call'd for my Account with Dr. Smith as I return'd at Eve.

1755 April 24 (Thursday). Catechiz'd both parts of the Day at the Meeting House -- 35 Boys -- 28 Girls.

1755 April 25 (Friday). Mr. Moses Nurse with his Plough and 4 Oxen, assisted by Deacon Bonds Son Thomas and a Yoke of Oxen and from 4 o'Clock p.m. Barnibus Newtons Oxen broke up Some Grass Ground for me on the Island.

1755 April 26 (Saturday). Alpheus Newton was to have come and Sowed Wheat for me, but disappointed me. Poor Mr. Samuel Coolidge,<sup>13</sup> brought up by Lieutenant Tainter, 2 or 3 Days ago, is in Town, that if he may be able he may keep School.

1755 April 27 (Sunday). Read 2 Sam. 4. Preach'd on Josh. 7.13. P.M. read Isa. 8, and preach'd on number 20 against the foolish and wicked practice of going to Cunning Men to enquire for lost Things. And may God succeed what has been Said! Poor Mr. Coolidge was very distracted last night. Lieutenant Tainter tarries at home with him to Day.

1755 April 28 (Monday). The Church met by Adjournment to receive Brother Jonathan Forbush juniors Answer -- he desir'd to be excus'd, but his Reasons not Satisfying the Church, he submitted. Wrote a Letter to my Wife at Brookfield in Answer to hers by Deacon Forbush. Deliver'd mine to Mr. Francis Whipple who designs to Lambstown<sup>14</sup> tomorrow. N.B. I very affectionately let the Church know (at their meeting to Day) that my Difficultys and Burdens are inexpressibly great, So that I was unavoidably forc'd to omitt many Things in my ministerial Work which I would most gladly perform -- many Schemes and Designs for their Souls Good, I was forc'd to drop -- and I could not but greatly lament it for their sakes as well as my own. I let 'em know that it was very much against my Inclination to be uttering Complaints -- I was averse to putting Memorials to the Precinct. I therefore apply'd to Them as the Lord's People praying

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<sup>12</sup>The Reverend Jacob Cushing was the son of Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

<sup>13</sup>Coolidge (Harvard 1724) had a checkered career as librarian at Harvard, sometime preacher and schoolmaster. See Diary, Sept. 8, 1744, and July 3, 1745.

<sup>14</sup>Lambstown plantation had become the town of Hardwick.



they would advise some way or other for my Relief. However at least to let me have their fervent Prayers to God for me. And thus left it.

1755 April 29 (Tuesday). Visit Lieutenant Forbush -- and Captain Forbush. N.B. took him aside and talk'd with him closely, and may God render it Effectual! N.B. Mrs. Lucy Forbush (Ebenezers Wife) fell backward from her Horse before my House. I in part saw her -- ran to her help -- directed her into my House till she might revive and recover -- she complains very much of her Hand aking extremely -- Captain Tyler of Mendon with me. She recover'd so as to go home.

1755 April 30 (Wednesday). Mr. John Rogers comes with his Oxen and Plough -- splits hills by the Barn and sows Wheat. Billy with my Mare helps him.

1755 May 1 (Thursday). In the Morning I went to Mr. Jonah Warrins<sup>15</sup> -- Sarah, his Daughter, exceedingly Set to destroy herself, being requested by him though against her Inclination, I pray'd. N.B. She ran away into the Woods, and all hands after her. Neighbour Alpheus Newton a.m. sowed and plough'd in some more Wheat and some Peas at the Barn Orchard.

1755 May 2 (Friday). In the morning Captain Baker brought me a Letter from Mr. Forbush and my Wife (at Brookfield) urging me to go up there, and informing me that Mr. Benjamin Lull of the Manor of Peace would meet me Monday or Tuesday next at Brookfield. P.M. rode up to Mr. William Nurse's, on my own Mare, there got Daniel Nurse's, and left mine. Rode to Mr. Noah Brooks's and lodg'd -- at their earnest Request.

1755 May 3 (Saturday). Rode to Brookfield. Din'd at Mr. Roberts<sup>16</sup> at Leicester. N.B. Dr. Upham<sup>17</sup> Company from Mr. Eatons.<sup>18</sup> Found my wife and Mr. Forbush<sup>19</sup> and his in Health.

1755 May 4 (Sunday). My People destitute (for I could not get up to Brookfield soon enough for Mr. Forbush to go to Westborough). I preach'd at Brookfield a.m. on Rev. 22.16 and p.m. on Ps. 110.3. Many of the other part of Town at Mr. Forbush's meeting, Mr. Harding<sup>20</sup> being absent, and his people in great Disquietment.

1755 May 5 (Monday). My Wife and I, with Mr. Forbush and his, at Dinner at Mr. Benjamin Adams's. P.M. Mr. Forbush and I rode to Esquire Fosters and to Mr. Henry Dwights -- and Captain Buckminsters.

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<sup>15</sup>Of Westborough.

<sup>16</sup>The Reverend Joseph Roberts.

<sup>17</sup>Jabez Upham, a physician of Brookfield.

<sup>18</sup>The Reverend Joshua Eaton of Spencer.

<sup>19</sup>The Reverend Eli Forbes (or Forbush), Parkman's son-in-law.

<sup>20</sup>The Reverend Elisha Harding of Brookfield, who was dismissed by his congregation a few days later, May 8, 1755. Salary difficulties were behind this controversy. *Sibley*, XI, 561-562.

1755 May 6 (Tuesday). Preach'd a Lecture for Mr. Forbush from Judg. 14.14. After Lecture came Mr. Lull to Mr. Forbush. Supp'd late at Lieutenant Abraham Hows, my wife, and Mr. Forbush, and his wife there also. Mr. Lull lodg'd at Mr. Jabez Ayre's.

1755 May 7 (Wednesday). Mr. Lull came and we made an agreement about his Pearl-Hill Lot in Townshend, and reciprocally gave Notes of Sixty five pounds Lawfull Money to stand to our agreement -- then we rode up to the Town, an Ecclesiastical Council sitting to Day on the Affair of Mr. Hardings Dismission. I return'd with Mr. Forbush at Evening.

1755 May 8 (Thursday). My Wife and I Set out for home. Din'd at Captain John Browns in Leicester, and lodg'd at Mr. Cushings.

1755 May 9 (Friday). We came home Safely, and our Tabernacle and all in it in peace. D.G.

1755 May 10 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1755 May 11 (Sunday). Read 2 Sam. 5. Preach'd on Gal. 1.15.16. P.M. read Tit. 2, and preach'd on number 12, delivering an old Sermon out of a set of sermons from page 34.

1755 May 12 (Monday). We heard at Eve that this Morning the Spouse<sup>21</sup> of Brother Smith of Marlboro died -- and somewhat suddenly. An heavy stroke!

1755 May 13 (Tuesday). [No entry.]

1755 May 14 (Wednesday). Colonel Williams<sup>22</sup> came from the Reverend Mr. Smith to desire me to attend the Funeral of his Wife tomorrow.

1755 May 15 (Thursday). This Day 2 o'Clock p.m. was last Lords Day appointed to be the Time for the Catechetical Exercise to Young Women: but the Funeral aforesaid prevented it. I took very effectual Pains to Notifie the Young Women in the several parts of the Parish of it. And my wife and I rode down in the Chair to Marlborough. We stop'd and din'd at Colonel Williams as did Messrs. Cushing and Martyn<sup>23</sup> and their wives. The Bearers at the Funeral were the Reverend Messrs. Loring<sup>24</sup> and Cushing, Gardner,<sup>25</sup> Martyn, Goss<sup>26</sup> and I. Mr. Cushing pray'd, Mr. Loring having a Cold. We return'd safe home at Evening.

1755 May 16 (Friday). Catechetical Exercise to Young Women -- 29 present. At Eve Mr. Ebenezer Cutler of Grafton requested me to go in the Morning to See his Son Ebenezer who is ill in Body and disturb'd in Mind.

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<sup>21</sup>Martha Smith, wife of the Reverend Aaron Smith.

<sup>22</sup>Abraham Williams of Marlborough held many town offices and was a justice of the peace.

<sup>23</sup>The Reverend John Martyn of Northborough.

<sup>24</sup>Israel Loring of Sudbury.

<sup>25</sup>John Gardner of Stow.

<sup>26</sup>Thomas Goss of Bolton.

1755 May 17 (Saturday). Mr. Williams Wife has Fitts -- he lends me his Mare and I rode to See the foresaid young man. Call'd at Mr. William Nurse's, and agreed with him to preach (by divine leave) at his House next Thursday. Din'd at Mr. Cutlers. At Mr. Bezaleel Smiths and at Mr. Eleazer Pratts in my return home.

1755 May 18 (Sunday). Mr. Martyn preach'd for me a.m. on Job 31.14. P.M. on [*blank*]. I preach'd for him a. and p.m. on Rev. 22.17. After the Exercises I visited Captain James Eager, who languishes in Jaundice, etc.

1755 May 19 (Monday). Town meet to choose a Representative -- they Chose Mr. Francis Whipple.

1755 May 20 (Tuesday). Was at the Funeral of Samuel Lyscomb, of Southborough, Esquire. N.B. a.m. was at Marlborough -- at Mr. Woods, and at Mr. Smiths. Din'd at the House of Mourning.

1755 May 21 (Wednesday). Was at Captain Bakers, at Eve and married Mr. Jonathan Adams<sup>27</sup> and Mrs. Hephzibah.<sup>28</sup> N.B. Mr. Forbush from Brookfield here.

1755 May 22 (Thursday). Preach'd at Mr. William Nurse's on Isa. 66.2. Mr. Cushing and Mr. Hutchinson<sup>29</sup> there.

1755 May 23 (Friday). [No entry.]

1755 May 24 (Saturday). Was at the Funeral of Mr. David Mathis of Southborough. Ebenezer rode to Brookfield to look of Mr. Harding's Place, or desire the refusal of it. N.B. old Mr. Graves, Deacon Amsden and Deacon Woods desir'd me to preach at Southborough tomorrow, Seeing Mr. Forbush would preach for me, and Mr. Stone<sup>30</sup> was gone to Hardwick.

1755 May 25 (Sunday). Preach'd at Southborough. A.M. on Rev. 22.14, and p.m. on Gal. 3.10. Cursed is Everyone etc. Mr. Forbush for me on [*blank*]. I went in the Morn and return'd at Eve. N.B. In Southborough they had a Contribution for me.

1755 May 26 (Monday). At Eve came Mr. Breck<sup>31</sup> of Springfield and lodg'd here.

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<sup>27</sup>Of Shrewsbury.

<sup>28</sup>The daughter of Squire Edward Baker.

<sup>29</sup>Aaron Hutchinson of Grafton.

<sup>30</sup>The Reverend Nathan Stone of Southborough.

<sup>31</sup>The Reverend Robert Breck, Jr.

1755 May 27 (Tuesday). Mr. Breck, Mr. Whipple (the Representative of this Town) and I set out for Boston. Din'd at Mr. Woodward<sup>32</sup> at Weston. Lodg'd at Brother Samuels at Boston. N.B. Mr. Charles Frost<sup>33</sup> of Falmouth lodges there also.

1755 May 28 (Wednesday). Mr. Checkley<sup>34</sup> preach'd the Election Sermon on Zeph. 1.15. A Day of Darkness. I din'd at Mr. Secretary Willards<sup>35</sup> where also din'd old Mr. White<sup>36</sup> of Gloucester, old Mr. Niles<sup>37</sup> of Braintree, Mr. Wigglesworth<sup>38</sup> of Ipswich, Messrs. Nathaniel<sup>39</sup> and Daniel Rogers,<sup>40</sup> and Mr. Hemingway<sup>41</sup> of Townshend. P.M. Made a Visit to Colonel Mascarene<sup>42</sup> where my kinswoman Hersey<sup>43</sup> lives -- and attended the Convention of Ministers. Mr. Prince<sup>44</sup> Moderator and Dr. Mayhew<sup>45</sup> Scribe. Visited my Kinswoman Olivers Family, but he was not at home. Poor old Scipio (one of my Brother Alexanders Negro Men) very low. Instructed and prayed with him. Visited my sister Rebecca,<sup>46</sup> at the North End; and lodg'd at Brother Williams.

1755 May 29 (Thursday). Convention Lecture by Mr. Joseph Parsons of Bradford, on Mat. 5.14.15.16. Din'd at Mr. Mathers, where also din'd a great number more, viz. Messrs. Job Cushing, John Gardner, Parsons, Abbot,<sup>47</sup> William Balch,<sup>48</sup> Bradstreet,<sup>49</sup> etc. P.M. Visit my Kinswoman Langdon<sup>50</sup> lately widow'd, and the Deacon her Father in Law attended the Conversation a little while [but Mr. Lowel desiring me to go to smook a Pipe with Dr. Chauncy,<sup>51</sup> I comply'd. N.B. The Conversation chiefly of Mr. Biles<sup>52</sup> and his wife in their violent squabbles. No word of our own Disgusts. I think this visit was on the 28th.] At Eve Brother Samuel and I visited Deacon Grant. Both return'd to his House, and there arose an unexpected Contest between him and me about Clark the Separate who had exhorted in Boston a few Years Since

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<sup>32</sup>The Reverend Samuel Woodward.

<sup>33</sup>(Harvard, 1730). Frost was a wealthy merchant and landowner, justice of the peace and representative of Falmouth, Maine. *Sibley*, VIII, 715-717.

<sup>34</sup>Samuel Checkley of the New North Church.

<sup>35</sup>Josiah Willard, Secretary of Massachusetts.

<sup>36</sup>The Reverend John White.

<sup>37</sup>The Reverend Samuel Niles.

<sup>38</sup>Samuel Wigglesworth, the minister of Hamilton.

<sup>39</sup>The Reverend Nathaniel Rogers of Ipswich.

<sup>40</sup>Daniel Rogers, the minister of Ipswich.

<sup>41</sup>The Reverend Phineas Hemenway.

<sup>42</sup>Jean Paul Mascarene of Boston. See *New Eng. Hist. and Gen. Register*, X (January, 1856), 143-147.

<sup>43</sup>Mrs. Israel Hearsey.

<sup>44</sup>Thomas Prince of the Old South Church.

<sup>45</sup>Jonathan Mayhew of the West Church in Boston.

<sup>46</sup>Parkman's sister-in-law, Mrs. Alexander Parkman.

<sup>47</sup>The Reverend Hull Abbot of Charlestown.

<sup>48</sup>The minister of Groveland.

<sup>49</sup>Simon Bradstreet, the minister of Marblehead.

<sup>50</sup>Parkman's niece Mary was the widow of Edward Langdon.

<sup>51</sup>Charles Chauncy of the First Church in Boston.

<sup>52</sup>The Reverend Mather Byles of the Hollis Street Church. A modern authority says "that Byles's humor was enough to make a wreck of any woman." *Sibley*, VII, 479.

and was lately in Falmouth. Mr. Charles Frost present and join'd with him, very sanguinely. I Soon held my Tongue: and let it go off.

1755 May 30 (Friday). Set myself to hire Money in order to Purchase of the Reverend Mr. Harding of Brookfield for Ebenezer: but in vain. Visited Colonel Saltonstall at his Brother Cooks -- he is exceeding low, and much distress'd. Pray'd with him and commended him to God. Visited Mr. Foxcroft -- din'd with my Kinsman Winter. Mr. William Winter and I go to old Mr. Owen Harris to hire money, but the attempt there also was without any success. Visited Mr. Sutton who Shew'd me a mathematical Bellows. N.B. at the 3 Horse Shoes enquired after Francis Fogery -- or Allagajo -- could not find nor hear of Him -- but there was Bartholomew -- and Captain Lane an Interpreter. Lodg'd at Miss Dudley's.

1755 May 31 (Saturday). A great Frost last night. Undertook my Journey home and I arriv'd well; found my Family in Peace. D.G. N.B. I din'd at Mr. Isaac Brooks in Waltham and rode most of the Journey home alone. Call'd at Dr. Robys,<sup>53</sup> and at the Widow Darlings.

1755 June 1 (Sunday). Read 2 Sam. 7. Preach'd on Ps. 68.1, a. and p.m., and p.m. read Ps. 66. N.B. Mention'd to the Congregation Judge Saltonstalls<sup>54</sup> Sickness, before Prayer.

1755 June 2 (Monday). Lucy and I rode to t'other House and din'd there. Mr. Eliezer Rice goes to Boston to See his Son Silas at the Camp, and at his Request I wrote a few Lines of Instruction and Caution to the Youth. I visited at Mr. David Maynard juniors and talk with him about his getting Timber for a Kitchin, which he says he will forward. N.B. Whilst I was gone last week Mr. Phinehas Hardy brought 3 Posts for my Kitchin. Mr. Freeland at work here, turning a Coat for Billy.

1755 June 3 (Tuesday). Rode over to Deacon Bonds; at Eve Mr. Baldwin here.

1755 June 4 (Wednesday). I preach'd my Lecture on Ps. 68.1. Very hot weather -- and follow'd with Thunder.

1755 June 5 (Thursday). Mr. John Rogers and Rody Smith digging Stones. Billy brought over Rails from t'other Place, and carry'd out Ashes to the Cook Field, and laid 'em on the New-broke ground. Thomas has been drooping for Several Days -- today Seems worse. P.M. went to Mr. Daniel Forbush to the raising of a New House. Went in to Ensign Millers -- who grows weaker with his Paralytic Shaking.

1755 June 6 (Friday). My Son Thomas has Fever and Ague.

1755 June 7 (Saturday). Judas [Jonas?] Rice here and paid Thomas and me in behalf of his Brother Asaph.

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<sup>53</sup>Ebenezer Roby, the physician of Sudbury.

<sup>54</sup>Colonel Richard Saltonstall.

1755 June 8 (Sunday). Read 2 Sam. 8. Preach'd on Gen. 49.10 latter part. Administer'd the Lords Supper. P.M. read Isa. 44 and preach'd on number 5. N.B. my old Neighbour Mrs. Elizabeth How din'd with us.

1755 June 9 (Monday). Went over to the Funeral of Captain James Eager,<sup>55</sup> who dy'd last Saturday Morning in the 69th year of his age. My Company chiefly in going and returning was Captain Baker and his wife. N.B. My Kinsman Bryant of Stoneham, going to Grafton, call'd here. I would Seriously reflect upon my own Speedy Departure. O that God would fasten and ripen the Impressions upon Me!

1755 June 10 (Tuesday). Rody Smith work'd with Billy in hoeing Corn. Mrs. Prentice and with her one Mrs. Logan, gong to Charlestown, call'd here. I perceive they are plung'd very deep into Errors; and Yet Seem exceeding Spiritual, heavenly and Purify'd -- at least Mrs. Prentice.<sup>56</sup> 'Tis Said they are Nicolaitians, and yet Perfectionists. O the infinite Mischief done by such to the Church of God which they profess to have the most fervent Affection to! May God grant 'em a Discovery of the Evil; and may I and all others be preserv'd from their Mischievous Reveries! My Kinsman Briant call'd here in his Return.

1755 June 11 (Wednesday). Thomas Still lies by, with the Fever and Ague.

1755 June 12 (Thursday). Was at Captain Fays Training -- I din'd at his House; and he din'd all the Company and all that Came, on free Cost. N.B. I Spoke to the Company to avoid Intemperance and Disorders.

1755 June 13 (Friday). Mr. Kenny and his son Nathan I hir'd to hoe my Corn with Billy. P.M. Mrs. Winchester here, and requests me to write a Letter to her son John Chamberlin at Stockbridge, which I gratify'd her in. She also gave us a melancholly Account of the Conduct of Mrs. Prentice and her Party.

1755 June 14 (Saturday). Mr. Batheric Shews himself one of a mutinous Spirit against Military Officers -- this was in some Conversation I had occasionally with him near the Meeting House.

1755 June 15 (Sunday). Read 2 Sam. 9. Preach'd on Isa. 44.5, a. and p.m. Lieutenant Bruce's wife ill: was pray'd for.

1755 June 16 (Monday). Variously hinder'd from visiting Mrs. Bruce. Chiefly was disappointed of what I expected from Mr. Bruce, an Horse to ride on to them.

1755 June 17 (Tuesday). My Son Ebenezer's Wife, with her young Child, and my Daughter Lucy rode in my Chair to Brookfield. Rode to Mr. Martyns and with him to Bolton, to Ministers

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<sup>55</sup>An early settler of Westborough who had served as selectman.

<sup>56</sup>Mrs. Solomon Prentice of Grafton, at other times known as an "immortal."

Meeting -- Messrs. Cushing, Seccomb and Morse all that were at Mr. Goss's besides us. N.B. Mr. Morse perswaded in his Mind that God will remarkably bring down his Enemies and gave us a Concio to that Purpose. My Daughter Elizabeth and Lucy rode to Brookfield in my Chair. Lodg'd at Mr. Goss's.

1755 June 18 (Wednesday). Mr. Stone and Mr. Mellen<sup>57</sup> came. I having never preach'd at Bolton, was urg'd to preach the Lecture, Seeing Mr. Barrett<sup>58</sup> who was appointed to do it was absent, and it being a remarkable Juncture of the Forces marching to Providence to take Ship there, and many moving westward, and the Preparations ripening apace for the Expedition against Crown Point, I preach'd on Josh. 7.4.13. P.M. Mr. Martyn and his Wife were my Company back as far as their House, where, because of the Storm (of Rain) prevailing I Stop'd and lodg'd.

1755 June 19 (Thursday). I return'd home. Attended a Catechetical Exercise to Young Men (about 24 of them) and afterwards visited Mrs. Bruce in her illness.

1755 June 20 (Friday). Ebenezer finishes Weeding. Billy comes home Sick from thence.

1755 June 21 (Saturday). Dr. Willson<sup>59</sup> of Hopkinton having visited Mr. Daniel Warrin, return'd and din'd here.

1755 June 22 (Sunday). Read Sam. 10. Preach'd a.m. on Eccl. 12.13. P.M. read Isa. 46, and preach'd from number 8. N.B. made Some use of 2 pages of Sermon on Tit. 2.6, viz. part of page 15, all 16, and part of 17. Deliver'd also 12 Articles of Religion which I recommended to Young People especially. N.B. a great number of Bills for Prayer and Thanks -- but p.m. I happen'd to forget to take Notice of two of them that were put up then. They were Lieutenant Bruce's for his Wife; and Mr. Eliphalet Adams on occasion of the Death of his Mother: Lieutenant Bruce came into my House, and the Storm abroad was great, Thunder, Lightening, and Rain. Yet the Storm of Brother Bruce's Passions was more grievous; uttering many bitter and grievous Things; neither could I at all lay his Passionate Heat by anything I could Say. He went away talking and in a Rage, notwithstanding it was the Sabbath, and the Storm which Should have Struck Terror, into each of our Hearts. I could not Suffer him to go away in Such a Frame. I put on my Great Coat, and went to the Meeting House, ready to declare it was not with Design that I omitted the Note, but through forgetfulness -- as I went I Spake to him at the Stables to Mollifie him -- and entreated him and all others that were there to go into the Meeting House; but neither of them did. When I got into the Meeting House I was Somewhat out of Breath by my running through the Rain. There were many more in the Meeting House (probably) than I expected: Yet I then conceiv'd it best for the prevention of further Mischief to declare that it was through my Infirmary and no otherwise that his Case was Neglected: I also mention'd to them the Reason of my coming to Speak of it to them, viz. the violent Anger which

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<sup>57</sup>The Reverend John Mellen of Sterling.

<sup>58</sup>The Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

<sup>59</sup>John Wilson, the physician.

he was in, and continued in, though I did all in my Power to Compose and Satisfie him: and that he assur'd me he would never bring me any Papers (to desire Prayers) any more. When I return'd from the Meeting House, he being Still at the Stables, I Stop'd there again and there labour'd to pacifie him: but all was in Vain. So that I left him with telling him that I had done and Said enough (and indeed it was too much) I would not trouble my Self any more. This was a just Chastizement from God upon me, for my own Sloth and Negligence! the Lord be mercifull to me a Sinner! Mr. Elizer Rice's Wife Stop'd here because of the Storm and Supp'd with us.

1755 June 23 (Monday). I made it my Business to Visit Mrs. Bruce. But went to Mr. Adams's first, because he was poor. N.B. I Sent by the widow Beeman to Mr. Eliphalet Adams, that it was only through forgetfulness that his Case was omitted in the Prayer. I visited the Widow Beaman also. As to Lieutenant Bruce, he now receiv'd me civily -- no word of yesterday; only when I parted while I had him by the Hand I told him I would not have any Difficulty between him and me, and he answer'd Smiling, "with all my Heart." At Eve was at Captain Maynards. Lieutenant Maynard pitches upon Friday for Breaking up for Me. N.B. My Daughters Elizabeth and Lucy not return'd yet. Alpheus and Abner Newton a.m. draw off Stones from the Ground behind the Meeting House, with Six oxen. 2 Yoke Abners, and one Yoke Neighbour Zebulun Rice's.

1755 June 24 (Tuesday). Rode out to the Southward on the Affair of my Breaking up -- and went to Mr. Jonah Warrins to See his Daughter Sarah, who yet remains under Disorders: To Deacon Bonds (whose wife lies in) and I din'd there: to Ensign Millers and had Some free discourse with him upon Original Sin, divine Decrees etc.: to Captain Fays who is to lead in my Team next Friday, but he was not at Home. I find tis wish'd I had not troubled myself So much about Lieutenant Bruce's Anger last Lords Day.

1755 June 25 (Wednesday). My Wife and I, after Lucy came home with the Chair (N.B. she and Elizabeth came from Brookfield Yesterday) rode to See Lieutenant Bruce's Wife; and went to Mr. Timothy Warrins Raising of one Barn and removing another. Did not get home till late. N.B. Billy, though drooping began to Mow a little. Thomas has his Fits of Fever and Ague yet. Dr. Joshua Smith extremely ill.

1755 June 26 (Thursday). Mr. Benjamin Tainters Wife being in Travail, and like to expire sends in all haste to me to visit here. I rode there, and pray'd with her. After a few Pains more She was deliver'd of a Son. We gave Thanks to God, and at her Desire we Sang Gods Praise; Singing Ps. 116.1-7.

1755 June 27 (Friday). We broke up about an Acre and half, behind the Meeting House. Our Team was of 20 Oxen. Captain Fay with 4. Lieutenant Brigham with 4. Deacon Bond 2. Lieutenant Tainter 2. Mr. Zebulun Rice 2. Ensign Miller 2. Mr. Samuel Hardy 2. My son Ebenezer 2. The Men who came were Captain Fay, Lieutenant Brigham, Lieutenant Maynard, Isaac Miller, the Lads were Thomas Bond, Joseph Rice son of Mr. Ebenezer Rice and had Lieutenant Maynards Plough. Lieutenant Maynard also at his Cost hir'd Mr. John Rogers p.m. to



work for me among them. At Eve Captain Maynard Sent Quarter Veal and Several Pounds of Butter -- all this was given freely.

1755 June 28 (Saturday). Both Thomas and Billy not well.

1755 June 29 (Sunday). I read 2 Sam. 11, and preach'd on Eccl. 12.13. P.M. read Ps. 51.17 before the Fast, fearing least I Shall be absent from here on that Solemnity. N.B. I read the Same Ps. publickly. And gave Notice at Eve to the Congregation that it was uncertain whether I Should be at home the ensuing Fast by reason of what I had engag'd before I knew anything of the Fast. Mrs. Mercy Chamberlin from Stockbridge here and lodges here.

1755 June 30 (Monday). Set out a little before Sun rise on my Journey to Groton; leaving Billy ill of (I Suppose) the Fever and Ague. Broke fast at Mr. Martyns, and call'd and baited at Mr. Goss's -- din'd at Mr. Seccombs -- supp'd and lodg'd at Mr. Trowbridge's.<sup>60</sup> It rain'd hard great part of the p.m. and was long detain'd by it -- partly at Mr. John Stone's in Groton -- and I stop'd at Captain John Stevens's (late of Townshend, now in Groton). N.B. Mr. Lull there before me. N.B. The New Meeting House in Groton, a Superb Edifice and cost the Town above 13000 [1,300?] £ old Tenor.

1755 July 1 (Tuesday). Set out from Groton with Captain John Stevens Esquire, and rode to Townshend. Mr. Lull goes to Lieutenant Taylor in Townshend for the Plott of the Land which Mr. Lull would give me in Equivalence for the 70 acres which I lost; and he tells me that it lies on Pearl Hill about 2 1/2 Miles from Lunenbourg Meeting House. Captain Stevens and I din'd at Mr. Hemenways. P.M. when Mr. Lull and Lieutenant Taylor (whom Lull had chose for his Arbitrator) came, and we set to the Business. But instead of the Lotts being on Pearl Hill as abovesaid, and as Lull had always told me, it was found in the Plott to be probably five Miles farther off, being 7 or 8 Miles from Lunenbourg Meeting House, and therefore I was dissatisfy'd with it. It was therefore agreed that Lull Should not only give me a Deed of his third Division, but of his Sixth also, and if they Should appear to be both of them more than an Equivalence for the 70 Acre Lot and My Dammages and Disappointment -- also my Expences, which Mr. Lull Should have born in finding the Bounds of the 100 Acre Lott, then I engag'd by writing to pay as the Arbitrators Should judge. I also gave him from under my Hand to Quitt my Claim to the 70 Acres as Soon as I Should have my Equivalence for it in the Judgment of the Arbitrators. Said Lull accordingly gave me a Deed of the Said 2 Divisions, one containing 62 Acres and the other 35 Acres, which Captain Stevens took the Acknowledgement of. And we agreed that Since we could not view them to Day -- and So not this Journey -- The two Gentlemen above Said Should take a Time and View them and Judge of them when they could with best Convenience. I pay'd Captain Stevens 24/7 for this Day. I lodg'd at Mr. Hemingways -- but it was my great Grief that Mr. Lull went away uneasy because I would not be[ar] my Part of the Charge (not only of Viewing the Lotts when they Should be found but likewise) of looking them up. Thus this troublesome Day finish'd. May God please to discover what was amiss, and forgive it!

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<sup>60</sup>The Reverend Caleb Trowbridge of Groton, Mass.

1755 July 2 (Wednesday). Set out (from Mr. Hemenways<sup>61</sup>) and went to Lieutenant Taylors; who rode with me to Lunenbourg. Visit Mr. Stearns.<sup>62</sup> Meet with Mr. William Jones (Brother of Captain Elisha of Weston) who tells me he can assist us in finding the Lotts, and their Bounds which I have of Lull. Din'd at Reverend Mr. Harringtons at Lancaster. Arriv'd at Mr. Martyns before Night but tir'd and unprepar'd to preach to my own people. Lodge there.

1755 July 3 (Thursday). Publick Fast on Occasion of the Expeditions to Crown Point etc. Mr. Martyn preach'd for me; and I for him. My Text Ps. 51.11. May it be accompany'd with a divine Energy to the Eternal Salvation of all of us! Mr. Martyn preach'd a.m. on [blank]. P.M. on [blank]. I came home at Evening. Billy, as well as Thomas, laid up with the Fever and Ague. My Wife tells me that Mr. Hezekiah Pratt and 14 others came last Tuesday p.m. and hoed my Corn.

1755 July 4 (Friday). Mr. Twitchell mows for me near my House, part of the Day and gives it. Captain Codman of Charleston was poison'd lately by a Negro. My Son Thomas has his Fitts yet, and Billy grows worse. May God prepare us for his Sovereign Will! At Evening Mr. Baldwin here. N.B. Mr. Beeton broke up his acre joining to me. He had 16 or 18 Cattle.

1755 July 5 (Saturday). Mr. Baldwins Horse had got away in the Night; an Horse of Value; So that he is in Perplexity for Some Time this morning, but after a while finds him in the Burying Place.

1755 July 6 (Sunday). Read 2 Sam. 12. Preach'd on Isa. 65.24, a. and p.m. on Occasion of the Reduction of Chignecto, and Several other Places by Land by General Monkton, Winslow etc. and the Taking Several French Men of War by Admiral Boscawen on our Seas.

1755 July 7 (Monday). Mr. Jonathan Bellows's wife here complaining of Messrs. Belknap and Chamberlin; at Eve They here inveighing against her.

1755 July 8 (Tuesday). Mr. Samuel Hardy mow'd here at home for me. My wife and I rode to t'other House and din'd there. Both Thomas and Billy their Fitt of Fever and Ague.

1755 July 9 (Wednesday). Little John taken ill -- vomits, is feverish etc. I rak'd Hay which Mr. Hardy mow'd. N.B. Mr. John Brighams wife here and complains to me of the Church of Shrewsbury. I reprov'd her for her Disquietment with Mr. Cushing; and shew'd her Duty towards the Church.

1755 July 10 (Thursday). Samuel Harrington junior comes and mows instead of Mr. Moses Twitchell. Mr. Jonas Twitchell also Comes and mows.

1755 July 11 (Friday). Great Rains -- all Hay making Suspended -- Indian Corn generally very low. Many persons here and interrupting me. Mrs. Winchester here about her Daughter

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<sup>61</sup>The Reverend Phineas Hemenway of Townsend.

<sup>62</sup>The Reverend David Stearns.

Chamberlins going to live at her Uncle Jonathan Brown's in Watertown in her Circumstances -- both Pregnant and languishing; they being much displeas'd with it. At her Request I write a Letter to her son at Stockbridge.

1755 July 12 (Saturday). Mr. Jonas Twitchell comes and rakes and Carts about 10 Cocks of Hay from the Island. N.B. Mr. Nurse's Team.

1755 July 13 (Sunday). By Means of both my Sons Illnesses I have been so taken off from my studies that I was oblig'd to use some old Preparations part of the Day. A.M. read 2 Sam. 13, and gave in place of a Sermon, a long Exercise in Exposition. P.M. read Heb. 10 and preach'd on number 22. Mrs. Martyn Sick.

1755 July 14 (Monday). My Wife visits Mrs. Martyn p.m. Thomas his Fitts, Billy a little better.

1755 July 15 (Tuesday). My Wife and I rode to Boston. Call'd at Mr. Stone's, who was gone. We din'd at Colonel Buckminsters. N.B. Mr. Barrett of Hopkinton with us. We put up the Mare and Chair at Procters, and walk'd to Brother Samuels where we lodg'd. All our Friends are as well as usual. D.G.

1755 July 16 (Wednesday). My Brother Samuel rode with me to Cambridge, it being Commencement. N.B. Brother Champney is involv'd in Mr. William Fletchers Ruin. N.B. No Boston Scholar in the Class who take their first Degree to Day. I was almost melted with the Heat. Return'd to Boston at Night, my Brother Samuel with me; and my wife being at his House, I lodg'd there again.

1755 July 17 (Thursday). Made several Visits among my Relations and Friends, particularly to Mr. John Osborn, a relation of my former Wife's. I attended the public Lecture. Young Mr. Checkley<sup>63</sup> preach'd -- his Text Ps. 20.7. He had importun'd me to preach, but I refus'd -- din'd at Mr. Foxcrofts.<sup>64</sup> Mr. Conant<sup>65</sup> and Dr. Rogers of Ipswich din'd there also. I went to See Mr. Oxenbridge Thatcher, who had my Kinswoman Hearsys Case in his Hands: and he shewed me her Petition to the Governor and Council: assuring me he should do his utmost that she might be divorc'd. Nigh sunseting we set out on our Journey -- Reach'd Captain Thomas Prentice's (in time past of Lunenbourg and Lancaster) and we lodged there.

1755 July 18 (Friday). We din'd at Mr. Bridge's<sup>66</sup> in Framingham, call'd at Mr. Stone's, and at Lieutenant Bruce's: Mrs. Bruce being yet alive, and at 9 or 10 at night arriv'd at home -- our House in safety (except Thomas and Billy's illness) D.G.

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<sup>63</sup>The Reverend Samuel Checkley, Jr., minister of the Second Church of Boston.

<sup>64</sup>The Reverend Thomas Foxcroft.

<sup>65</sup>Sylvanus Conant, the minister of Middleborough.

<sup>66</sup>The Reverend Matthew Bridge.

1755 July 19 (Saturday). About break of Day came Mr. Forbush and Mr. Joseph Manning from Cambridge, and went to bed here. Mr. Joseph Woods brought a Complaint sign'd by Ebenezer Chamberlin and Mary (wife of Ithamar) Bellows; against Judith, wife of Jonathan Bellows. N.B. Lieutenant Bruce here and acknowledg'd he did amiss on June 22 and what he said was writ and sign'd.

1755 July 20 (Sunday). Read part of 1 Cor. 11 from number 17. Preach'd again sermon on Heb. 10.22, a. and p.m. Administer'd the Lords Supper. Deacons Bond and Jonathan Forbush junior and Mrs. Mary Stewart din'd here. P.M. read Ps. 139.

1755 July 21 (Monday). Visited Mrs. Bruce and Mrs. Martyn. They are both of them better. N.B. din'd at Mr. Bruce's. N.B. Mr. Jonas Twitchell denys me, though he had led me along in Dependence upon him for mowing.

1755 July 22 (Tuesday). Read Mr. Hopkins's History of Housatunnoch.<sup>67</sup> Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlins Wife here, and appears dissatisfy'd at my Lenity to Mrs. Judith Bellows: but hope she went away easy with my just Vindication.

1755 July 23 (Wednesday). Mr. Moses Twitchell came and mow'd for me. Part of the Day the remainder of the upland at the Island, and part in the Meadow near to it. Mr. Joseph Rice's wife and Joshua Lock's, came to See me but my Business in my Hay was so urgent I desir'd to be excus'd -- and went to my raking. N.B. There was no Hand could be hir'd, and both my sons, Thomas and Billy incapable of any Labour at all.

1755 July 24 (Thursday). In the Morning came Mr. Moses Twitchell to mow again -- he undertakes to mow what remains to be mow'd (and which is the Chief of it) of my Newton Meadow, for two Days Work, to which I readily Consent. A.M. I visited Mrs. Judith Bellows. A most amazing scene open'd, when I enter'd into Examination of her and her Daughter Comfort. Mrs. Bellows constantly and very Solemnly Denys that she herself knows what became of the Things which Comfort stole from Belknaps: or that Comfort came by them in a dishonest way. Affirms that what she says is as true as that the Heavens are over her Head and the Earth under her Feet. Comfort with great sorrow and shame confesses She did take the Things in the Way complain'd of: and hopes and prays She shall never be left to such sin and folly again. She says that her Mother did know of it -- know as much as She did of it: and knows what became of them. She can't Say her Mother did burn them but very seriously and solemnly declares that her Mother told her She had burnt them, and can tell what her Mother said at the same time; and that was this, "But I will never be such a fool as to acknowledge it as You have done." Upon which the Mother added many bitter Reproaches; -- persisting in denying what Comfort had affirm'd. I interrogated Mr. Bellows Strictly, whether from all that he had seen and heard about it, he did believe his wife had burnt the Things? He answered that he did. There arose very

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<sup>67</sup>Samuel Hopkins, *Historical Memoirs, Relating to the Housatunnuk Indians* (Boston, 1753). This appeared later in different form as *An Abridgement of Mr. Hopkins's Historical Memoirs* (Phila., 1757), and *An Address to the People of New-England* (Phila., 1757). The Philadelphia imprints were by Benjamin Franklin.

terrible Contradictions, and exceeding bitter Charges against him -- so that I was oblig'd to turn to the Children and enquire of them -- as, whether (since Mrs. Bellows complain'd bitterly of her Husbands beating her etc., whether) they had either of them seen their Father Strike their Mother? unless as He had Said he had been forc'd to do. This was prefac'd with Something very Solemn to them and expressing the great unhappiness of Such a Case etc. -- They answer'd that they never had. The Woman oft times rose to Such transports of Rage, and behav'd so furiously that I was necessitated to rebuke her Sharply -- (having us'd all manner of gentle Methods with her before), and was not able to do anything to any good purpose with her. To my great sorrow and grief left her: with serious Advice and Charge to the poor Man and his unhappy Children. May God of his infinite mercy and Goodness restrain, convince and recover her! P.M. held a Catechetical Exercise to Young Women. 30 Present. Joseph Chaddock kindly help'd me p.m. in Hilling and securing the upland Hay. Mr. Moses Twitchell lodges here.

1755 July 25 (Friday). Had Mr. Zebulun Rice's Teams, manag'd by his son Adam; and Mr. Twitchell loaded up all the upland Hay; which was safely brought home. About 10 Cocks. Mr. Thomas Twitchell came and work'd a while, but having rak'd about 1/2 dozen Cocks, and the Weather growing thick, they both broke off about 10 o'Clock and went home. It prov'd a very rainy Day. N.B. The Reverend Mr. Fish here, he having put a Bone out of Joint and been to a Bone-setters. We agree to Change next Sabbath, God Willing.

1755 July 26 (Saturday). Mr. Solomon Prentice here. He din'd with us. I talk'd closely with him of his Wife's pretence to Immorality: he gives in to it, and thinks She is, as She declares, in the Millennium State. I also enquir'd strictly into their Sentiments and Practices respecting their Conjugal Covenant. He utterly denys Every Thing of uncleanness, Fornication or Adultery among them. P.M. I rode to Upton, Deacon Forbush in Company. Mr. Fish<sup>68</sup> came here.

1755 July 27 (Sunday). I preach'd on Joel 3.13 a.m., on Mat. 13.39 p.m. I tarried there all night. Mr. Fish return'd home. O that the God of infinite Grace and Goodness would grant Success! but more especially that I might, myself, feel the Power and Efficacy of the Word of God and do Every Thing as reallizing Eternity.

1755 July 28 (Monday). I rose very Early and Brother Forbush and I return'd to Westborough. Lieutenant Tainter and a Young Man of his hiring -- and two Boys also under him, in all four Hands, came and hill'd for me. There were also Ensign Harrington, Mr. Eleazer Whitney, Ezra Baker, Ebenezer Rice junior for Barnebas Newton, and William Bowman -- nine in all -- and they ended by baiting Time. Mr. Thomas Twitchel raking for me in the Newton Meadow, and Lieutenant Tainters two Boys help him. Both Thomas and Billy drooping yet; and their Fitts follow them. Thomas's Yesterday and Billy's to Day.

1755 July 29 (Tuesday). Mr. Nurse going to Dr. Willson, I sent Billy with him. And he endur'd the Journey without Injury. Brought a Letter from Doctor to Me -- with Medicines particularly a Vomit. Cortex-Elixir Vitri. and a Saline Infusion. Mr. Thomas Twitchell and Jedidiah Woods

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<sup>68</sup>The Reverend Elisha Fish of Upton.

rak'd, cock'd, pol'd and Carted the rest of the Hay that was now ready at the Newton Meadow being 3 Load. Had Ebenezers Team for one and Mr. Nurse's gratis for the other. Towards Night went to see the Ministerial Meadow which is now brown but I have No body to cut it.

1755 July 30 (Wednesday). Great Rains, a.m.

1755 July 31 (Thursday). Neighbour Nurse very ready to help and oblige me in my little Husbandry. One Mr. Marshal of Somers, a Separate Teacher here. P.M. I rode in the Chair to Mr. Thomas Twitchells. Carry'd Sarah and Susan to get Gowns made. Went to Mr. Richard Kelly to get him to reap my Rye. We had a dark ride home, in the Chair, not without Considerable Danger.

1755 August 1 (Friday). Only Breck and I to rake Barley. Thomas and Billy yet ill.

1755 August 2 (Saturday). Solomon Baker came in the Morning and with Mr. Nurse's Team got in my Barley: being but half a Load of it.

1755 August 3 (Sunday). Read 2 Sam. 13, from number 19, and preach'd on the Same. P.M. read Ps. 20 and preach'd from number 7. May this be a most Seasonable Word! Both Thomas and Billy at Meeting a.m. but Billy had a fit p.m.

1755 August 4 (Monday). Mr. Richard Kelly and Mr. John Freeland came to reap for me: but it rain'd so hard they were prevented. They din'd with us. P.M. 3 hours they went to it and reap'd till night. I gave 'em 14/ old Tenor. Mr. Zebulun Rice work'd p.m. in taking out a Summer at my Stable which was broke, and put in One or Two others instead of it to bear up the Scaffold. N.B. Deacon Bond and Alpheus Newton help'd in Pitching off the Barley and Hay -- and Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin in Pitching it on again, to its place.

1755 August 5 (Tuesday). Mr. Moses Twitchell Mows for me at the Ministerial Meadow, and Mr. Daniel Warrin a.m. I visit old Captain Forbush: and Mrs. Bruce who is still sick. Was at Mr. Jonas Twitchells. He had given me Encouragement that he would work for me and he had told me he Should very gladly pay his Rates this Way -- but when it came to, disappointed me. He allow'd he had said to me that he thought I might depend upon him. This was the Reason of my saying any thing to him. The Collector also having told me that this man would help me, I ask'd him now to help me but so much only of tomorrow as to bind and shock up my Rye (being but an acre and quarter of it) but he answered me indecently -- So that I left him; and was much offended with him. Went to Mr. Rody Smiths, who was also to have work'd for me; but neither could I get him. N.B. I din'd at Mr. John Rogers. Mr. Batheric and Ebenezer Forbush reap'd the piece which the Reapers Yesterday had left. I call'd to see my Children at t'other House. Neither Ebenezer nor his Wife, nor youngest Child, have been well of late. At Evening Messrs. John Rogers and Rody Smith assisted by John and Silas Frost, gather'd up and bound my Rye, and Neighbour Rogers came with his Team and brought it home. This was done gratis. Mr. Moses Twitchell lodg'd here.

1755 August 6 (Wednesday). Rode to Deacon Bonds, Mr. Jonah Warrins and to Mr. Barachias Morse's. P.M. Mr. Moses Twitchell, Jonathan Bond junior and Levi Warrin rake in the Ministerial Meadow. Billy and Lucy rode over to Mr. Martyns<sup>69</sup> and return'd at Eve. Billy no [sic] fit to Day.

1755 August 7 (Thursday). Can't get any Body to Cart my Hay from the Ministerial Meadow, though I have taken a great deal of Pains. P.M. preach'd at Lieutenant Tainters on Mat. 13.39. My wife, Thomas and Billy there. N.B. Mr. Francis Gardner<sup>70</sup> keeps school at the School House.

1755 August 8 (Friday). My Son Ebenezer went with his Team, and Moses Nurse with his, to the Ministerial Meadow, and brought thence a Load apiece of my Hay. But did not get home with it till nigh 10 o'Clock. At Eve Rain. Mr. Ebenezer Millers Wife was here and Examin'd.

1755 August 9 (Saturday). Thomas and William are Somewhat better and Stronger. Blessed be God for it!

1755 August 10 (Sunday). Read 2 Sam. 14. Preach'd on Ps. 20.7. P.M. read Ps. 119, parts 7.8.9. Repeated Sermon on Ps. 119, number 54.

1755 August 11 (Monday). Deacon Bond tells me the News is confirm'd of General Bradock's Defeat and Death. A most Sorrowfull Stroke! may God of his infinite Mercy Sanctifie it to this Sinfull Provoking People! and be mercifull to His Servant Shirley<sup>71</sup> and the Forces with him; that they may not be dismay'd when they Shall hear of it! Barachias and Seth Morse came and mow'd in the ministerial Meadow.

1755 August 12 (Tuesday). Seth Morse (having lodg'd here) works again for me, and Neighbour Moses Nurse fetch'd home one Load from the Ministerial Meadow. P.M. Mr. Francis Gardner made us a Visit.

1755 August 13 (Wednesday). Barachias and Seth Morse work for me -- they get home 3 Load, 2 Load by half after 12. P.M. they rake and bring home another Load at Eve. Those were brought by our own Team: Ebenezers Oxen and my Mare. Having heard that my Young Cattle in the woods, had stray'd from their Keeper, I wrote several Letters and Advertisements about them.

1755 August 14 (Thursday). Old Mr. Maynard makes another Will. Lieutenant Maynard brought me present of Fish from Mr. John Breck of Boston -- and himself presents me a Load of Hay out of the Meadow on Rutters Brook. 'Kias and Seth mow at the ministerial Meadow again and this is the last, which they accomplish a.m. but because it was cloudy and they could not

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<sup>69</sup>The Reverend John Martyn of Northborough.

<sup>70</sup>(Harvard 1755). He became the minister of Leominster, 1762-1814.

<sup>71</sup>Governor William Shirley of Massachusetts was a lieutenant-general and commander-in-chief of British forces in America at this time.

rake up what they had mow'd; they return'd home and p.m. reap'd my Wheat by the Barn, and got it in. N.B. Mr. John Chamberlin of Stockbridge here, and wants to hire part of my t'other House for his Wife, that She may ly in there: but I am not free for lest it Should hinder the Sale of the House. Am oblig'd to ride about to get a Team to Cart home my Hay. Receive a kind Letter from Mr. William Winter of Boston giving me a Clear Account of the Death of General Bradock and the Defeat of the Forces with him on the fatal July 9th past, in their Expedition to Ohio.

1755 August 15 (Friday). 'Kias reaps for Ebenezer a.m. and for me in carting home Hay p.m. Seth work'd for me all Day. Had Mr. Pratts Team to bring home one Load, and with Mr. Samuel Fay juniors Oxen they brought home another. And this finish'd my Haying for this Year. Those Young Men agree to have 17/ per Day -- I am indebted to them for 9 Days £7.13.0 Old Tenor. N.B. Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin here again about Mrs. Bellows, urging for Church-Meeting.

1755 August 16 (Saturday). Billy reaps a few Oates. Rain p.m.

1755 August 17 (Sunday). Read 2 Sam. 15. Preach'd on Isa. 42.23.24.25 on account of the Defeat etc. Sir Gardner din'd here. P.M. read latter part of Deut. 27.26. I acquainted the Church (in hearing of the Congregation) that I had receiv'd a Complaint against Judith, wife of Jonathan Bellows -- and appointed a Church Meeting to hear it, tomorrow come Sennight, at 2 p.m., and all concern'd must look upon themselves bound to attend.

1755 August 18 (Monday). Mr. Dunlop came to thrash my Wheat -- finds it too damp. Thrashes only the out Sides of the Sheaves and leaves them to be dry'd. He with Billy reaps Oates. Ensign Harrington here a.m. Mr. James Flagg of Upton p.m. At Eve sent a Letter to Mrs. Bellows.

1755 August 19 (Tuesday). I rode to Marlborough. Din'd at Mr. Smiths.<sup>72</sup> Hear that Dr. Breck<sup>73</sup> was in Marlborough over the Sabbath, and went out of Town but this Morning to return home, and has not come to See his Sister. At Deacon Tainters and at Mr. Henry Barns's -- Improve him to help me to a Chap for my old Place. Return home in the Eve.

1755 August 20 (Wednesday). Mr. John Freeland Taylor comes to work here to make me a Jacket and pair of Breeches. Mr. Dunlop also comes to take Care of my Wheat, drie and thrash some of it. Hear that Some of my young Cattle that had Stray'd away, are come to my Sons.

1755 August 21 (Thursday). Mr. Freeland at work here. My oldest Steers come home. Very Cloudy Weather, unfit for the In-gatherings. Mrs. Judith Bellows here -- also Mr. Joseph Rice's Wife. Thomas and William Somewhat worse again.

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<sup>72</sup>The Reverend Aaron Smith.

<sup>73</sup>Samuel Breck, the physician of Springfield, was the son of the late Reverend Robert Breck of Marlborough.



1755 August 22 (Friday). Mr. Freeland still here. My son grow [*sic*] somewhat better.

1755 August 23 (Saturday). Mr. Freeland finish'd his work for me; and Something for Thomas. He ask'd me but 26/ old Tenor for all he had done, this Turn, for me -- and having din'd he left us.

1755 August 24 (Sunday). Read 2 Sam. 16. Preach'd on Isa. 42.23.24.25, both a. and p.m. May God grant us Grace to attend to both his Word and Providence!

1755 August 25 (Monday). The Church met today on account of Mrs. Judith Bellows (wife of Jonathan Bellows) being Complain'd of by Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin and Mrs. Mary Bellows<sup>74</sup> (wife of Ithamar Bellows). Before Meeting, Mr. Batheric gave me fresh Trouble about Singing (in the assembly) triple Time tunes; and would have Me lay this before the Church, but I told him we had so much Business today, it was not likely there would be Time for it. Lieutenant Tainter Carry'd to Boston 2 hind Quarters of Veal for me to some Friends there -- Mr. Solomon Woods kill'd it -- and took a Quarter for him and Lieutenant Tainter in token of Gratitude to them both.

1755 August 26 (Tuesday). [No entry.]

1755 August 27 (Wednesday). Remarkable Plenty Pidgeons -- the Neighbours take them in their Netts in great Numbers.

1755 August 28 (Thursday). Public Fast on Account of Gods Frown upon us in the Expedition to Ohio, and Still to Supplicate divine Favour in the Other Expeditions -- viz. to Niagara and Crown Point. And O that we had a Spirit of Prayer that we might Cry aloud to God for His infinite Mercy -- as our Necessity is! For in Him may we Confide, and in His Name go forth against our Enemies.

1755 August 29 (Friday). Mr. Martyn and his Wife to my great Pleasure at all other Times, but now to my great Interruption, made us a visit. Deacon Bond 'Listing orders.

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<sup>74</sup>The following appears in the Westborough Church Records, Aug. 25, 1755- "The Church met (having been timely warn'd) to hear a Complaint Sign'd by Ebenezer Chamberlin and Mary (Wife of Ithamar) Bellows, and bearing Date July 18 last, against Judith (Wife of Jonathan) Bellows, all of them Members of this Church, setting forth in substance, that the Said Judith hath walk'd very Disorderly and Contrary to the Rules of the Gospel—In particular respecting her Daughter Comfort, who has confess'd her taking away certain Things from a Neighbour feloniously and that her Mother would not let her return said Things when She would have done it: and that said Comfort also declar'd her Mother had burnt them. The Complaint exhibited further that said Judith was guilty of False speaking about those Things etc. After prayer the Complaint was read, and the Partys respectively, and the Witnesses, were fully heard—the Church voted, 1. Respecting the first part of the Complaint that altho we cannot say She is guilty of Burning the Things referred to in the Complaint, yet we find upon all that has been Said, that She has Conducted in a very Evil Manner respecting her Daughter under her Guilt; and in that whole Affair respecting Said Things, and 2. Voted, as to the Second part of the Complaint, namely, her False speaking, that it is Supported. This was voted universally. The Pastor read those votes to said sister Judith, and solemnly laid the Evil before her, and Call'd her to Repentence . . ."

1755 August 30 (Saturday). I had not time to prepare any more than one Sermon for besides the Interruptions of Company I was much disquieted with toothach.

1755 August 31 (Sunday). Read 2 Sam. 17. Preach'd on Luke 2.25. The Consolation of Israel. Administered the Lord's Supper. Deacon Burnap and his Brother Daniel at Communion with us, Mr. Barrett being at Boston. Deacon and his Wife and Daughter Hitty were at Dinner here, also Mrs. Chamberlin of Stockbridge, who is Come to board at my sons. P.M. I repeated Sermon on Eph. 1.3, to page 12. Took in also the 7th and 8th articles -- and the Reflections in the Close of all.

1755 September 1 (Monday). Mrs. Chamberlin Sends for Mrs. Forbush, and women are gather'd for her Help. N.B. My Son has the Trouble and fatigue, though unable to undergo it.

1755 September 2 (Tuesday). Rode (with Mr. Martyn and Stone) to Chauxit: the Association meeting at Mr. Mellen's.<sup>75</sup> I deliver'd a Concio on Gal. 1.15.16. Lodg'd at Mr. Mellen's.

1755 September 3 (Wednesday). The ministers (most of us) went to Mount Wachusett. Mrs. Mellen and her Sister Robbins with us and Mrs. Mellen had a Fall from her Horse but recover'd. We refresh'd ourselves on the Top of the Mount, Having carry'd up Bacon, Bread and Cheese, Rum. In Descending from the Summitt we stop'd a little and Sang a Stanza to the Praise of the Great Creator. N.B. A great multitude of persons happen'd to go up to the Mount to Day. We saw many Horses at the Bottom, and at Mr. Keys's. N.B. I went to Mr. Jonathan Wilders enquiring after my Young Cattle which have stray'd but Mr. Wilder was not at home. When I return'd to Mr. Mellens he came to me, and told me my Cattle he believ'd were at his Neighbours and promis'd he would take Care of them. N.B. my Mare was very lame by reason of her loosing one of her fore shooes, which exceedingly incommoded me, and retarded the whole Company. This Man had such Benevolence, Compassion and Generosity that he took off one of his own Horse's shooes, and sav'd and Straiten'd the Nails to put them into mine, which he so fasten'd on that it held me till I got to Westborough: a nobleness that was notic'd by all, and may he be suitably rewarded for it! A Number of us in returning homeward visited the Mine<sup>76</sup> -- digging by Mr. Christian Angel -- a German from Ypres a Town on the River Rhine. Messrs. Cushing, Martyn, Stone and I lodg'd at Mr. Morse's:<sup>77</sup> but I was greatly fatigu'd and had but little Sleep.

1755 September 4 (Thursday). Mr. Stone and I din'd with Mr. Martyn at his House. When I return'd found that Mrs. Chamberlin (at my Sons) was deliver'd of a son on the 2nd, and

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<sup>75</sup>The Reverend John Mellen of Sterling.

<sup>76</sup>It was at about this time that various shafts were sunk into a hill in Sterling in anticipation of finding some mineral of value. *A Brief History of Sterling* (n.p., 1931), pp. 60-61, comments: ". . . Christian Angel a miner from Sweden was the principal workman." Specimens of ore were found to be without value and the mine was abandoned. Fragments found in the twentieth century include plumbago, nickel, sulphates of copper and iron, garnets and carbonite of iron.

<sup>77</sup>The Reverend Ebenezer Morse of Boyslton.

yesterday, Mr. Willard Wheeler carry'd a Letter from me, to Captain Stevens of Groton, Signifying my acquiescence in his dropping the Arbitration between Lull and me: and Lieutenant Taylors Plan of 3rd Division in Townshend.

1755 September 5 (Friday). [No entry.]

1755 September 6 (Saturday). At Eve Mr. Stone came here, Mr. Buckminster<sup>78</sup> being to preach for him.

1755 September 7 (Sunday). I rode to Mr. Martyns, leaving Mr. Stone to preach for me. Mr. Martyn was gone to Mr. Morse's, Mr. Morse to Mr. Davis, and Mr. Davis to Rutland for Mr. Buckminster. I preach'd on Isa. 42.23.24.25, and on Gal. 1.19.16 former part. Return'd soon after Exercise because Mrs. Chamberlin was in a very low and dangerous Condition.

1755 September 8 (Monday). Visit Mrs. Chamberlin who is reviv'd a little. I am again endeavouring to carry on the tilling my now broke Land, by providing for the harrowing of it.

1755 September 9 (Tuesday). Visit Mrs. Bruce who is yet very low -- visit Mrs. Gale; din'd at Mr. Jabez Snows. Visit Mrs. Judith Bellows -- but find her much the same. Went to the other Familys in that Corner to get em to help me to Timber for my Kitchin.

1755 September 10 (Wednesday). Harrow my new Ground; with 8 Oxen, viz. my sons, and Lieutenant Forbush, Samuel Forbush, and Mr. Rogers's. Mr. Rogers and John Frost were the Men that manag'd it. Mr. Benjamin Nichols work'd for me in Clearing at the Newton Meadow. Mrs. Lock here with her Confession. Mrs. Whipple and her sister and Mrs. Pratt made a Visit; Each with a Cheese. Nichols lodges here. Lieutenant Tainter kill'd a large Calf for me and carry'd part to Boston.

1755 September 11 (Thursday). Many of the Soldiers of Captain Woods Company march being on their Journey to Crown Point. I held a Catechetical Exercise design'd to Young Men -- but there were only 3 Youths came besides my sons Thomas and William. Nichols at work for me in Clearing etc. Captain Wood and Lieutenant Bond here as they went off. I deliver'd Lieutenant Bond Mr. Meads Almost Christian<sup>79</sup> for the use of those who go with him and into the Expedition from this Place. Esquire Charles Brigham here at Eve -- I assist him in Making Return to Colonel Pollard of the Committment of poor Silas Rice.

1755 September 12 (Friday). It is a very dry Time; Water very low, and many low Grounds that at ordinary Times are wet, are now hard: and it is very hot like July. Mr. Nichols clearing still.

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<sup>78</sup>Joseph Buckminster of Rutland.

<sup>79</sup>Matthew Mead, *The Almost Christian Discovered: or, the False Professor Tryed and Cast* (Boston, 1730). Another edition was published in Boston in 1742.

1755 September 13 (Saturday). Mr. Gardner<sup>80</sup> of Stow having been at Windham brought from thence a copy of an Express from Albany that our Camp at Lake Sacrament was beset by French and Indians last Monday -- and Men are very earnestly pushing along -- many come to hear the Express.

1755 September 14 (Sunday). I read 2 Sam. 18. Preach'd on Luke 2.25 -- and p.m. because of the Recruits for Crown Point I preach'd on Ps. 18.34, first part and us'd with variations, omissions and additions Sermon on 2 Tim. 2.3 from Page 11.

1755 September 15 (Monday). Training Day -- to See who would List, or if not Sufficient offers, then to press for Crown Point. I din'd with the Officers at Mr. Ebenezer Rice's. N.B. Another Post from Albany who informs there was a Smart Engagement last Monday but that our people drove off the Enemy, took their General, and slew (as I think) 1000 of them besides, to the Loss of 130 (as judg'd) of our own; and Colonel Ephraim Williams,<sup>81</sup> Colonel Titcomb<sup>82</sup> of Newbury, among the last. About 60 of ours wounded -- and General Johnson<sup>83</sup> himself has a Ball lodg'd in his Thigh. May God be glorify'd for what has been thus far done, and prepare us for further Favours!

[The following is from the Natalitia, dated Sept. 5, 1755.]

Scarce any one has ever had greater Cause to bless and praise God and yet what Heart so Stupidly Senseless and ungratefull! and who that have Such Reason to grieve and mourn for Sin and wickedness, among all that profess to have any apprehensions of their Conditions, is So remote from this Duty! (My Flight is only to Jesus who gives both Repentance to Israel and Remission of Sins! O for the Spirit of Christ to qualifie me; and the Merits of Christ, His Righteousness, and his Sacrifice; for acceptance with God! My infinite unworthiness does not drive me to Despair, while the Sacred Scriptures assure me that the Blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin; and He ever lives to make Intercession for His People -- and among them are Some of the Chief of Sinners.)

1755 September 17 (Wednesday). Mr. Nichols came to Work -- he thrash'd Rye -- Billy with him. N.B. Many Men who have enlisted for the 2nd Regiment of Recruits for Crown Point meet at Captain Fays to be viewed by the Muster Master Captain Josiah Richardson, but he came not -- so that their assembling was in vain.

1755 September 18 (Thursday). Mr. Nichols cleans up Rye and remainder of Wheat which Dunlop thrash'd, and mow'd Bushels in the New broke up Land. I catechiz'd at Mr. Joslins. After Catechizing came Mrs. Judith Bellows and was far from penitent. I told her I was offended

<sup>80</sup>The Reverend John Gardner.

<sup>81</sup>Of Stockbridge.

<sup>82</sup>Moses Titcomb had played an important role in the capture of Louisburg in 1745. John J. Currier, "*Ould Newbury*" (Boston, 1896), pp. 464-473.

<sup>83</sup>Sir William Johnson, the superintendent of Indian affairs. Johnson's account of the campaign in New York appeared in *The Boston Weekly News-Letter*, Sept. 18, 1755.

with her myself -- and this for two Things -- namely, her ill Carriage to her Husband, and her not adhering to the Truth. As to the first, She had the assurance to Challenge me upon it. I therefore apply'd to Mr. Joslin who Soon confronted her, particularly with her Conduct that very Day that I had been at their House the time before Last. Mrs. Joslin also join'd with her Husband in it. Yet She remain'd incorrigible. I visited Mrs. Bruce and pray'd with her. Her Case is now fear'd to be desperate. When I return'd home met Brother Hicks<sup>84</sup> and his Daughter Hannah here. N.B. He has been perplex'd at Boston, by Mr. Elijah Collins, by means of a Bond of Mr. Oliver Wards in which Brother Hicks was also jointly bound. They lodg'd here. N.B. one of their Horses Sadly lame.

1755 September 19 (Friday). Brother Hicks and his Daughter endeavour to go home; but the lame Horse is very lame this morning. N.B. We have been much troubl'd by ten Hogs of Captain Samuel Forbush, which get into my Corn Field. Nicols still at work for me -- mows bushes in the design'd Rye Field.

1755 September 20 (Saturday). Nicols a.m. builds Some stone Wall in the Lane behind the Meeting House.

1755 September 21 (Sunday). Read 2 Sam. 19. Preach'd on Luke 2.25. Sir Gardner din'd here. Read p.m. 2 Cor. 3, and preach'd on number 6, designing to begin again to Read the New Testament. I insisted on that Expression in the number, repeating my first Exposition with additions.

1755 September 22 (Monday). In the Morning Mr. Jeduthun Baldwin here -- he came last Night -- is going to Crown Point -- and takes leave accordingly. N.B. He tells me the Negro Man and Negro Woman who murder'd Captain Codman<sup>85</sup> of Charlestown, were Executed last Thursday, at Cambridge.<sup>86</sup> The Man was hang'd, and was afterwards to be hang'd in Irons on Charlestown Neck: the Woman was burnt to Death, a frightfull Spectacle!<sup>87</sup> May all hear and fear! especially to be punish'd Eternally in the Flames of Hell! May my own Soul be suitably affected with the Thought!<sup>88</sup> Our Parish met to Day to grant my Support, as they call it. I sent in a Memorial, that considering the Troubles [of] the present Time (by the War) I was willing to take up with what

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<sup>84</sup>John Hicks of Sutton.

<sup>85</sup>John Codman.

<sup>86</sup>Aug. 19, 1755, "Phillis, a Negro woman, and Mark, a Negro Man, Servants to the late Capt. Codman . . . were found Guilty of poisoning their Master." The woman was sentenced to be "burnt to Death," the man to be hanged. *The Boston Weekly News-Letter*, Aug. 21, Sept. 18, 1755. A Boston broadside of 1755 called attention to the "untimely end" of these miscreants.

<sup>87</sup>[Additional note: Abner C. Goodell, Jr., *The Trial and Execution, for Petit Treason, of Mark and Phillis, Slaves of Capt. John Codman, Who Murdered Their Master at Charlestown, Mass., in 1755; for which the Man Was Hanged and Gibbeted, and the Woman Was Burned to Death, Including also, some Account of Other Punishments by Burning in Massachusetts* (Cambridge, Mass., 1883.)

<sup>88</sup>Chief Justice Stephen Sewall (Harvard 1760) handed down the death sentence to two slaves, Phyllis and her husband, who were convicted of poisoning their master. Phyllis was to be burnt to death. *SHG* cites the *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society* 20:142. This may be the case to which Parkman referred, July 4 and September 22, 1755. *SHG*, 6:561-67.

they did for me, as to sallery and Wood, last Year, if they would do it chearfully -- but that I could not, with less. In Return they Sent me a Committee (Mr. Grow and Ephraim Bruce) with their vote in the following words viz. "(thirdly) Voted and granted to the Reverend Mr. Parkman our Minister for his Support for the Current Year the Sum of thirty two Pounds Lawfull Money including his Firewood." Sign'd by Thomas Forbush Moderator. This I did not well understand. The Committee Said the Precinct meant to make my whole sallery and Support to be in old Tenor £460. I told em I did not know what my Sallery was, if there [was] needed so much support to make it up that Sum. They said I had better go to the Precinct or write to them. I chose this latter -- and accordingly wrote to them desiring them to let me know what they Suppos'd I meant by Support for I conceiv'd my Sallery was 55£ Lawfull Money. The Committee carry'd my writing to the people. I remark'd also to the Committee that this was not So much as they did last Year for there was here no Subscription for the wood. They went, but the meeting broke up without doing any thing further -- either an answer to me -- or about the Wood.

1755 September 23 (Tuesday). Brother Hicks here, going to Boston again on the Affair of Elijah Collins: it being left to Arbitration. N.B. We are exceedingly troubl'd by Captain Forbushes Hogs at my Cook Field -- 10 of them and have been in nigh 10 Times. I got Mr. Ebenezer Forbush to mend my Fence -- and yet they got in. I went to the Captain's and they promis'd to Shutt them up.

1755 September 24 (Wednesday). I went to Mr. Whipples to See how my Slit work Boards etc. lay -- Solomon Baker brought a Load -- all the Braces were missing and some other sticks. Was at Mrs. Hitty Rice's, and din'd with her. To Day there is a Muster of Soldiers for Crown Point, at Captain Maynards -- the Muster Master being Captain Josiah Richardson of Sudbury.

1755 September 25 (Thursday). I made a Visit to Mr. Seth Rice's. He was not at Home. He is gone to Dr. Smiths.<sup>89</sup> His Family greatly distress'd for him, being grown worse of late -- pain'd in Body as well as discompos'd in Mind. Dr. Smith came there. We rode together to see Lieutenant Stephen Maynard who is Sick of a Fever. His Son Antipas also Sick and the Family in much Trouble. Pray'd with them. N.B. Josiah Lock, of the Same Family, Set out to go to Crown Point.

1755 September 26 (Friday). A Great Frost last Night. Mr. Thomas Stoddard promoted to be a Captain of a Company going to Crown Point, was here and his son Boardman with him. N.B. I Sent home the Three Universal Magazines<sup>90</sup> by him, which I borrow'd of Esquire Steel<sup>91</sup> of Leicester. Exceedingly encumber'd and Disappointed with respect to my design'd Kitchin -- no Timber comes from Joslins as I expected -- and my Field which I broke up in June -- can't get the Fencing Stuff. My Son Ebenezer, instead of bringing Stuff here as I expected, goes to work for

<sup>89</sup>Joshua Smith, the physician of Shrewsbury.

<sup>90</sup>Published in London beginning in June, 1747. Booksellers in Boston often advertised it for sale.

<sup>91</sup>Thomas Steel (Harvard 1730) was a businessman who served as town clerk and representative. In 1756 he was appointed judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Worcester County. See Washburn, *Leicester*, pp. 179-180, and *Sibley*, VIII, 783-785.

Mr. How without saying a word to me of it, which greatly disappoints and troubles me. Brother Hicks returns from Boston and lodges here. Another Frosty night.

1755 September 27 (Saturday). Call'd away at Night to visit Elijah Rice's Wife (who now live within Upton Bounds). She had been deliver'd of one Child, which was living; but there was another of which She could not be deliver'd. They had Mrs. Forbush and Mrs. Clark -- and had Sent to Dr. Greenleaf.<sup>92</sup>

1755 September 28 (Sunday). I tarried till after midnight -- got home between one and two o'Clock -- was but poorly Capable of preaching. Yet I went through the Service of the forenoon reading 2 Sam. 20. Preach'd on Luke 2.25. P.M. read part of the Chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew. Read with some alterations and additions Number 2 of my Expositions. More than 16 Requests for Prayers -- about half of them respecting those who went to Crown Point. Contribution for Mr. Jesse Maynard of the northside.

1755 September 29 (Monday). Deacon Jonathan Forbush junior here. We Counted the money gather'd Yesterday -- found it £21.3 7 1/2 old Tenor.<sup>93</sup>

1755 September 30 (Tuesday). I visited the Widow of the late Thaddeus Gale, and Mr. Abijah Gale mourning for his Brother. Also visited Mr. Abraham Bond and Mrs. Hannah Warrin mourning the Loss of their Father. Visited Mrs. Bruce again, who now revives a little.

1755 October 1 (Wednesday). My Daughter Forbush came down last night to t'other House, and with her Mr. Joseph Manning; they came here today. Mr. Manning and I visited Lieutenant Stephen Maynard who is Grown better, but he has two Children Sick. N.B. Mr. Hezekiah Pratt and Mr. Kenny (for Mr. Nurse), dug stones for the Wall behind the Meeting House, and this was gratis.

1755 October 2 (Thursday). Mr. Abijah Gale and Mr. Batheric came and began to Frame a Kitchin for me, on the Back of my New House.

1755 October 3 (Friday). Mr. Alpheus Newton begins to dig a Cellar way for my Kitchin. Mr. Dunlop and Mr. Beeton and his Boy work at levelling the Ground where the Kitchin is to stand. Messrs. Gale, Batherick, Grow and Zebulun Rice at the Frame. An Hot Day. Mr. Edwards Whipple (with the Assistance of my Son William and Steers) brought a Load of Boards and Eight Braces.

1755 October 4 (Saturday). Messrs. Gale, Grow, Rice and Batheric work at the Frame.

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<sup>92</sup>Daniel Greenleaf, a physician of Boston.

<sup>93</sup>This contribution was "for the Relief of Mr. Jesse Maynard who was lately burnt out." Westborough Church Records, Sept. 27, 1755.

1755 October 5 (Sunday). Read 2 Sam. 21. Preach'd on Jer. 7.23, a. and p.m.<sup>94</sup>

1755 October 6 (Monday). Mr. Ebenezer Forbush dug in my Cellar way for the new Kitchin. Messrs. Gale, Zebulun Rice, and Batheric at Work on the Frame. Towards Night we Rais'd -- No Hurt -- Thanks to God. N.B. No Mr. Grow to Day.

1755 October 7 (Tuesday). Our Well affords very little Water. My sons Wife and Daughter Susanna ride to Watertown with my Mare in the Chair. Messrs. Gale and Batheric at Work in rectifying the Frame and preparing the Principals -- which are not yet put on. The Reverend Mr. Cushing here and din'd with me. Desires me to preach at a Private Fast at Shrewsbury next Tuesday on account of Mr. Samuel Wheelock<sup>95</sup> who is in a gloomy, delirious State, and lately cut this [*sic*] Throat, but not mortally.

1755 October 8 (Wednesday). No Body at Work. Disappointed about sowing my Field, north west of the Meeting House: Can't get up the Wall nor Rail-Fence.

1755 October 9 (Thursday). Lecture on Eph. 1.3. N.B. Mr. Grow work'd a.m. Mr. Manning with my Daughter Forbush at Eve from Cambridge and Boston. My Kinsman William Bowes Parkman generous in sending Me another Pamphlet concerning Affairs in America. This is the Present State of North America -- of the Discoverys of the English and French Claims Rights and Possessions etc.,<sup>96</sup> and therewith he sent me a Letter handsomely written. A great Trouble to be straitened as to Water. My Wife daily in Pain and her Life much afflicted, as her Time approaches.

1755 October 10 (Friday). Messrs. Gale, Grow, Rice. Still finishing the Frame of my Kitchin and various things about it. Ensign Harrington a Load of stones, from his own Home, to Stone my Cellar Way.

1755 October 11 (Saturday). Gale and Rice a.m. My Daughter returns here at Eve from her Father Forbushes. Very Cold night and a.m. likewise.

1755 October 12 (Sunday). There was a great Frost last Night: A Cold Day for this time of the Year. Read a.m. 2 Sam. 22. Preach'd on Hag. 2.7, those words -- The Desire of all Nations. Mr. Manning, Deacon Forbush, Sir Gardner and Mrs. Chamberlin (who has now got abroad again). P.M. omitted Reading -- preach'd on Exod. 17.12, latter part and 13 with reference to the Expeditions against the French and Indians. N.B. My Daughter Forbush was dismiss'd from our Church to Brookfield 2nd Church. Mr. Manning Still with us. My Wife so indispos'd she Stays at home p.m.

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<sup>94</sup>In the Westborough Church Records, Oct. 5, 1755 Parkman wrote, "Abigail, heretofore Maynard, now Lock (the wife of Joshua Lock) made a Confession of the Sin of Fornication, and was restored to Charity. She also own'd the Covenant and Grace, her Dauter, was baptiz'd."

<sup>95</sup>The son of a deacon of the same name. It was he who died in Shrewsbury, April 8, 1756, although it is not ascertainable that this was a case of suicide. Ward, *Shrewsbury*, pp. 465-466.

<sup>96</sup>[Ellis Huske], *The Present State of North America* (London, 1755). A Boston reprint followed in 1755.



1755 October 13 (Monday). Rain. The Rain increases till it is a very Wet time. Mr. Manning and my Daughter Forbush here. Draw near as to Wood.

1755 October 14 (Tuesday). Rain Still a.m. About noon It began to Clear So that I undertook my Journey to Mr. Samuel Wheelocks in Shrewsbury to assist in the Exercises of a Fast there on the Account of his Melancholly. The assembly (which there was) met at Lieutenant Stones. Prayer was over before I got there, and the last Syllables of the Psalm were singing when I went in. Yet Mr. Cushing would not excuse me from Preaching. Text was Rom. 11.33. N.B. Although Mr. Wheelock would not Suffer the Exercises to be at his House, neither could I obtain to see him before I went to meeting. Yet after we had done, he sent his son to desire me to go to him and Pray with him: only with this Caution that nobody must go with me. I went and pray'd with him, but could hardly keep him with me. He thinks there is no Such Sinner as he is -- that he has Committed the Sin unto Death; and this was the Reason why he was against the Exercises -- because it is added "I do not say You Shall Pray for it." My Visit to him was Short. Mr. Cushing, his Wife and I stop'd at Mr. Braggs<sup>97</sup> (They went first and waited for me). There we had Some refreshment -- which I needed, for I had had a very wet and worrying Journey. I return'd home before I slept; my Wife's Circumstances forbad my Staying. My Daughters, Forbush and Lucy and Mr. Manning went over to Mr. Martyns and lodged there; though they were also Sopp'd with the Rain. N.B. It was Training to Day, at Lieutenant Brighams, but his Invitation was too late for me to attend it. I was pre-engag'd to go to Shrewsbury.

1755 October 15 (Wednesday). Mr. Manning p.m. brought Lucy from Mr. Martyns; Molly remains there, but he lodges at t'other House. I wrote by him to Mr. Lull in which I desire him to Send his Deed of Townshend Rights, to be acknowledged and Recorded; and to accept of Mr. William Jones of Lunenburg to be one of our Arbitrators instead of Captain John Stevens of Groton. Daughters Eliza and Susanna from Watertown.

1755 October 16 (Thursday). My Son Thomas finishes the digging of a Cellar Way from the Kitchin. Mr. Benjamin Tainter brings me 4 Barrells of Cyder, gratis -- one Barrell from his Father, another from Mr. Daniel Forbush, a Third from Ensign Harrington and one from Mr. Solomon Woods. All Gratis. Little John Sav'd from Drowning. Bill had dug an Hole in Neighbour Barnabas Newtons meadow in the Time of Drought, which was now fill'd with Water; into this John fell and Samuel pull'd him out. *D. Grates plurimas!*

1755 October 17 (Friday). Before it was quite light in the Morning Lieutenant Tainter came and brought a Load of Wood fearing we Should Suffer -- whereas Timothy Warrin had brought a Load last Eve. My Sons Thomas, and William undertake to gather our Corn, but it rains hard before they got home one Load. My Wife in Pains, expecting her Hour for which the Lord mercifully prepare us! Her Pains continue at Times, yet we go to Bed -- we lie till after midnight -- when She grew so ill that I fetch'd Mrs. Forbush -- and then Mrs. Baker, in the meantime Sending along 3 Mrs. Rices.

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<sup>97</sup>Ebenezer Bragg, an early resident of Shrewsbury, was a carpenter.

1755 October 18 (Saturday). Ebenezer brought his Wife in the Morning -- and Messrs. Phinehas Hardy and Batherick came to work on my Kitchin Roof (boarding and Shingling). About 9, or between 9 and 10 o'Clock a.m. my wife was deliver'd of her ninth, and my fourteenth living Child: her fourth, and my Seventh Daughter -- a perfect Child and Well; and especially my Wife in great Comfort. Blessed be the Name of God! May we have a due Sense of the divine Mercy (So utterly undeserv'd) and may we have Grace to Walk accordingly! I threw by the Preparations which I was making, as Soon as the Child was born, and set myself to prepare on Gen. 22.14, though under many Disadvantages. The Women din'd here with us, and then went home o'foot Except Mrs. Forbush who was waited on by William with an Horse. Rachel Pratt watches.

1755 October 19 (Sunday). Read 2 Sam. 22 from number 26. In preaching I went on with the Repetition (with Some Alterations) of Sermon on Eph. 1.3. Mrs. Chamberlin din'd with us. P.M. Read Mat. 2. Preach'd on Gen. 22.14, and baptiz'd my New-born Daughter, Anna Sophia. May a gracious God pardon us and accept our Offerings! Mrs. Pratt (wife of Neighbour Hezekiah) watches.

1755 October 20 (Monday). Very Rainy. Messrs. Edwards and Benjamin Whipple din'd here. N.B. The last is become a Separate at Lambs Town. I had Some free Talk with him upon it. At Eve my wife has Pains in her Breasts and Smart in her Nipples to a great Degree. These forebode ill. Mr. Zebulun Rices Daughter Abigail draws her Breast. My Daughter Lucy watching.

1755 October 21 (Tuesday). Deacon Forbush is Stoning my Kitchin Cellar Way. Sarah Watch'd. My Wife got up on the 21.

1755 October 22 (Wednesday). Thomas and William cutt up and bring in 3 Turns of Corn from the Cook Field. A great Frost last Night. My Wife distress'd with her Nipples. She got up, but she grows weaker by Reason of the Childs sucking her when her Nipples are So Sore.

1755 October 23 (Thursday). Cold, Bleak Season. Messrs. Phinehas Hardy, Zebulun Rice and Edwards Whipple here Shingling my Kitchin Roof. Am straitned for Wood, being near out this Cold Weather.

1755 October 24 (Friday). A Number of Soldiers from Lake George -- whom I interrogate of their state and understand there is a great Force of Canadians at the Narrows.

1755 October 25 (Saturday). Storm of Rain and Snow -- and We without Wood except Some Timber of Ebenezer Rice which he had condemn'd and given me.

1755 October 26 (Sunday). Read 2 Sam. 23. Preach'd on Hagg. 2.7, a. and p.m. Sister Forbush din'd here. O that God would bless the Exercises to my own Saving Advantage! and to the Eternal Good of all the hearers!

1755 October 27 (Monday). Deacon Forbush again at the stoning my Cellar way. Mr. Thomas Twitchell tends him. Receiv'd Letters of the 13 and 16 from Mr. Jeduthun Baldwin at Lake George. Other Letters are come also; all Signifying that the Army is not like to proceed against Crown Point this Winter.

1755 October 28 (Tuesday). Mr. Grow finishes the Covering of my Roof. Mr. Nurse puts on the Iron of the Wheel-barrow made by Mr. Edwards Whipple for me. Mr. Martyn and his Wife here and dine with us. They carry home my little John. Cornelius Biglow junior (who was here upon some Cooper Business) din'd here.

1755 October 29 (Wednesday). The Cold Air we have had produces Snow. A Considerable storm. My Daughter Susanna goes over to Mr. Martyns. In the Night I had a Turn of distressing Pain. God be thank'd I am out of Hell! May these Trials be Sanctify'd to me for my thorough awakening that I may flee from the dreadful Wrath which is to come!

1755 October 30 (Thursday). The storm of Snow continues and increases. It prevents Deacon Forbush coming to finish my Cellar Way: It prevents also the Young Women coming to the Catechetical Exercise appointed to be to Day. Receiv'd a Letter from Mr. John Parker of Southborough, now at Lake George.

1755 October 31 (Friday). Mr. Hall<sup>98</sup> and his Delegate here, in their return from a Council on Mr. Reeds<sup>99</sup> affair at Framingham. Mr. Putnam,<sup>100</sup> Candidate, here, on his Journey to Pomfret. The Weather Fair, but every Thing wears a Winter Hue. I hear Mr. Eliezer Rice is return'd home from Lake George.

1755 November 1 (Saturday). Storms again. A Sorrowfull Time. Many have not gather'd Corn, nor made their Cyder.

1755 November 2 (Sunday). Read 2 Sam. 24. Preach'd on Isa. 9.12 latter part and number 13, a. and p.m. Mr. Eliezer Rice, Mr. Ithamar Bellows and William Dunlop, return'd Thanks for their safe Return home from the Service.

1755 November 3 (Monday). Mr. Stone and Colonel Timothy Brigham here in their Journey to Woodstock Council. Mrs. Judith Bellows din'd here. She Spends a great Part of the p.m. here -- but is not convinc'd she has been in an Error. Mr. Daniel Warrin Collector here and reckons -- pays £14.10.1 old Tenor, but has after this about 120£ to pay. Thawy Weather.

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<sup>98</sup>The Reverend David Hall of Sutton.

<sup>99</sup>The Reverend Solomon Reed of the Second Church of Framingham, a fervent New- Light preacher, had salary problems, and the next year departed for other pulpits. *Sibley*, X, 398-400.

<sup>100</sup>Aaron Putnam (Harvard 1752) served the First Church of Pomfret, Conn., 1755-1802.

1755 November 4 (Tuesday). Dull Heavy Air. Visit Jonathan Bond who is Sick of Pleuretick Fever. Receiv'd Lieutenant Maynards account which I have sought for these Ten Months.

1755 November 5 (Wednesday). A Fine Morning -- warm and bright -- p.m. Cloudy. Jonathan Bond worse.

1755 November 6 (Thursday). Am Sent for to Visit him -- accordingly I went -- he is Still delirious and his Fever changes to be Nervous. N.B. Mr. Eliezer Rice came to see me and gave Some Account of Affairs at the Camp at Lake George.

1755 November 7 (Friday). Deacon Forbush and Mr. Thomas Twitchell are Stoning my Cellar Wall, but do not finish it. Mr. Zebulun Rice p.m. hews Sleepers -- and Mr. Eleazer Pratt Sets em into the Gains.

1755 November 8 (Saturday). I wake with Some Serious Impressions of the Sparing Mercy and Long suffering of God towards Me and the Church I am related to: and desire to be deeply humbled on consideration of my Ingratitude, unprofitableness, and unfaithfulness. Would Spend what time can be spar'd from my preparations and unavoidable Cares of my Family etc., in Serious Reflections and Humilliations. And O that I had a Spirit of Grace and Supplications -- and that God would have Mercy on me and grant Forgiveness through the Blood of Jesus Christ of my numberless and great Offences -- and quicken and assist me in my whole future conduct! N.B. This is 31 Years since my Ordination. Mr. Thomas Twitchel here again and finishes the Stoning of my Cellar Way.

1755 November 9 (Sunday). Read 1 K. 1. Preach'd on Rev. 3.2, and in the Close p.m. I warmly represented to the people the Pressures I was under and Obstructions in the Work of the Ministry. See the Notes. May God grant Me relief and may we all do our utmost to strengthen the Things etc.

1755 November 10 (Monday). A very Rainy time. My Son Ebenezer has neither gather'd his Corn nor made his Cyder: and its So with divers others.

1755 November 11 (Tuesday). Rain a.m. P.M. Billy works at Mr. Nurse's in cutting Turnips. At Eve Nathan Kenny, and Solomon and David Maynard husk'd out the rest of our Corn. At Eve also Mr. Whitney and his Wife with their Brother Child return from the Funeral of his Sister Liscomb, who has dy'd Somewhat Suddenly. A valuable and gracious woman, one that when she was among us, conducted with much decency and Discretion and a good Friend to the ministerial Interest here. May God teach us all rightly to improve this and every Such sorrowfull Providence!

1755 November 12 (Wednesday). I went over to t'other House in my way to the North End. Ebenezer was cutting up his Corn: his Brother Thomas and Mr. John Frost help him. He informs me that my Mare was in an ill Situation on Lords Day Morning, being Cast in her Fetters and a great Rail in between them, and She had lain till She was almost Spent, when he discover'd her.

I rode upon her to visit Mrs. Beeman who is Sick at her son Bruce's. I went also to Mr. Martyns, where is my little son John Still. Call'd to See Ensign Josiah Rice who is still lame in his Foot. Billy work'd a.m. for Mr. Nurse. Bright and Pleasant Weather.

1755 November 13 (Thursday). Fair again. Billy with Mare and Steers work'd for Mr. Nurse all Day. Thomas for Ebenezer, who finishes getting in his Corn. Catechetical Exercise to Young Women, about 26 Present. N.B. What they Said the Proofs of were the Answers to the 22, 23, and 24 Questions. And they must begin next time both Young Women and Young Men at the 25th Question.

1755 November 14 (Friday). Rose Early and visited Jonathan Bond. Brought home Mrs. Bonds Oxen and Billy and Nathan (Kenny) plough with them and my Steers at the Cook Field. Mr. Nathaniel Whitney brought a Barrell of Cyder, and he the brought one from Mr. Grout. These were gratis. At Eve came Isaac Miller with Two Barells of Cyder more which were also gratis. One from Deacon Jonathan Forbush and the other from Ensign Miller, who also Sent me a large Piece of Beef and a parcel of Apples. May God reward His Servants and grant me Grace to make a proper Improvement of the Benefits I receive!

1755 November 15 (Saturday). With many avocations am able to prepare but one sermon, Since this one obliges me to much Reading.

1755 November 16 (Sunday). Read 1 Kings 2. Preach'd a.m. on Mat. 16.24. Mrs. Joanna Forbush<sup>101</sup> (wife of young Deacon) din'd here. P.M. read Mat. 6. Repeated the Exposition on number 23. N.B. an unusual multitude of Notes put up, desiring Prayers and Offering Thanks etc.

1755 November 17 (Monday). Mrs. Hannah Ward (Daughter of Lieutenant Hezekiah) din'd here.

1755 November 18 (Tuesday). This Morning about a Quarter past 4 We were all wak'd up by a very Terrible Earthquake.<sup>102</sup> The shock Seems to me to be as great and to last about as long as the great Earthquake, October 29, 1727, but the manner of Shaking I think is different -- That more horizontal, this partly Vertical. My Children rose and gather'd into my Chamber, where we gave Thanks to God for our Preservation, and begg'd His Mercy towards us. We heard another shock at 28 Minutes after 5. The Air was Clear, the moon bright, and a great Frost. God grant us grace rightly to improve His holy Dispensation! and prepare us for what is yet before us!

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<sup>101</sup>Mrs. Jonathan Forbush, Jr.

<sup>102</sup>This earthquake was felt on both sides of the Atlantic. The effects in Boston were described at length in *The Boston Weekly News-Letter*, Nov. 20, 1755, and *The Boston Gazette, or Country Journal*, Nov. 24, 1755. For the controversy over the causes see Eleanor M. Tilton, "Lightning-Rods and the Earthquake of 1755," *New England Quarterly*, XIII (March, 1940), 85-97.

1755 November 19 (Wednesday). I rose early -- rode to Southborough and preach'd Mr. Stone's Lecture at 10 a.m. on Isa. 9.12.13. Din'd there (N.B. his Mother Thatcher<sup>103</sup> there) and he rode with me and preach'd my Lecture at 2 p.m. on Eccl. 8.11. May God bless these Exercises to our, and to his people's Saving Good!

1755 November 20 (Thursday). Mr. Wellman<sup>104</sup> and his Wife came -- they din'd here. Ebenezer has Billy part of to Day to help him.

1755 November 21 (Friday). Billy to Ebenezer.

1755 November 22 (Saturday). At Eve about half after Eight was another Earthquake and which very much Surpriz'd me. Yet it was not above a third so long or strong as that last Tuesday morning. May God grant the impressions may be increas'd and abiding!

1755 November 23 (Sunday). Read publicly Hab. 3. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Ps. 18.7. Administered the Lords Supper. Both the Deacons din'd here -- also Mrs. Chaddock and Mrs. Mercy Chamberlin. P.M. My Wife went to Meeting. D.G. Rain a.m.

1755 November 24 (Monday). Catechiz'd at the Meeting House a. and p.m. At Eve Mr. Joseph Stratton of Waltham and his Daughter Harrington, and give me Account of the Surprizing Effects of the Earthquake. Lieutenant Forbush desires me to go to Upton Fast on the 27th.

1755 November 25 (Tuesday). At Captain Forbushes -- ride his Horse to Lieutenant Brigham's, whom I visit, he being still confin'd by illness -- din'd there. P.M. visit Eliz Biglow -- who is sick of a Fever. N.B. Thomas and Billy at their Brother Ebenezer's who has a Husking to Day.

1755 November 26 (Wednesday). Samuel Forbush carts out muck for me. Mrs. Molly Martyn dines here: She returns home at Evening.

1755 November 27 (Thursday). I rode over to Upton Fast. On Occasion of the Earthquake. Mr. Zebulun Rice accompany'd me (on the 24 at Evening Lieutenant Burnap of Hopkinton here in Mr. Barretts<sup>105</sup> Name to desire me to assist at a Fast there, next Thursday, but Lieutenant Forbush was first). I began with Prayer. Mr. Hutchinson preach'd (an Hour and Half) on Deut. 5.29.P.M. Reverend Mr. Dor<sup>106</sup> pray'd and I preach'd -- taking for my Text Isa. 5.25, and read also Chapter 9.12.13, and I pick'd my Discourse partly out of that of mine on Isa. 9.12.13, and partly from that on Ps. 18.7, with Some additions and alterations. May God freely pardon what has been amiss, hear our Prayers and accept our Humilliations and Thanksgiving: and may the Word prove Savingly beneficial! I return'd at night.

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<sup>103</sup>The Reverend Mr. Stone's mother-in-law, the widow of the Reverend Peter Thatcher of Middleborough.

<sup>104</sup>The Reverend James Wellman of Millbury.

<sup>105</sup>The Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

<sup>106</sup>Joseph Dorr of Mendon.

1755 November 28 (Friday). A fine Morning. My Wife and Lucy are gone over to Mr. Martyns. At Eve they return and bring home my little John.

1755 November 29 (Saturday). Billy so out of Order that he is incapable of any Business.

1755 November 30 (Sunday). Read 1 Kings 3. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Isa. 5.24.25. But am heartily griev'd it was So defectively -- especially as it was the finishing the Subject, and there can be no Opportunity for ever Supplying what has been omitted. May God forgive me my many Miscarriages and Omissions! Miss Mary Steward, Miss Patience Woods and Miss Grace Ball din'd here.

1755 December 1 (Monday). One Mr. Stimpson of Hopkinton here and din'd with us.

1755 December 2 (Tuesday). Lieutenant Tainter here and din'd with us. He is so good as to come and see whether we had any service to be done at Boston, as his Custom has been, but I would not at this time trouble him with anything. I am heartily thankfull to God for the affectionate Kindness of this Good Man, who whether he is at home or goes abroad he is ever caring for us. This is to be noted before Thanksgiving.

1755 December 3 (Wednesday). Ebenezer came with two Barrells of Cyder which is all that I design to have of him more this Year -- in all 3 Barrells. He says he has one more Cheese to make Still.

1755 December 4 (Thursday). Public Thanksgiving. Preach'd on Ps. 150, number 2. May God give Success! Master Gardner din'd with us and Mr. Elijah Warrin and his Wife and their little son, here at Eve and supp'd with us. She and her son lodg'd here.

1755 December 5 (Friday). Mr. John Martyn junior here at Breakfast time. P.M. Mary Latiner here and Examin'd. Also Joseph Bowman.

1755 December 6 (Saturday). It was very Cold, but having appointed to Change with Mr. Wellman I Set out upon my Journey a.m. Call'd at Captain Bakers and deliver'd him a Paper containing a brief Memorial to be laid before the Town next Monday, when they are to meet to bring in Town Debts; desiring them to pay Me what they owe Me. N.B. Captain Baker Said he would use his Best Endeavour to have it Succeed. I therefore repose my Affair under God in his Care. Din'd at Mr. Hutchinsons. Lieutenant Tainter came to me there and din'd with us. Met Mr. Wellman on the Road from Sutton to Grafton. I lodg'd at Mr. Wellmans, Lieutenant Tainter at his Sons.

1755 December 7 (Sunday). I preach'd at Sutton for Mr. Wellman, and he for me at Westborough. My Text a.m. was Gal. 1, part of 15 and part of 16. P.M. it was Heb. 11.16. A fine Day, as to Weather; might God grant us divine Refreshment and Joy from His Word and

Ordinances! I baptiz'd Moses Son of Deacon Chase,<sup>107</sup> and having Consulted Mr. Wellman about it, who requested it, I appointed an Exercise in the Evening at Mr. Jonathan Fullers, where accordingly [I] preach'd to a crowded Assembly from Luke 12.36.37. N.B. After Exercise came in two Soldiers -- one of them had Plans of the Forts lately built by our Forces. Fort William and Henry and Fort Edwards. I lodg'd at Mr. Samuel Trasks.

1755 December 8 (Monday). Rode to Mr. Charles Richardsons who copy'd the Plans which I borrow'd last night, for me. Mr. Wellman and Lieutenant Tainter came, and we all din'd there. P.M. Lieutenant and I return'd home, calling at Mr. Wellmans where I borrow'd Henry on the Historical Books of Old Testament<sup>108</sup> and at Mr. Hutchinsons with whom both I and Mr. Wellman are somewhat disquieted that he would not change with Mr. Wellman and go to Westborough in his Stead. I arriv'd safely through God's Mercy, in the Evening. Thus I have perform'd this long design'd Journey for the Sake of my dear Kinswoman, Mrs. Fuller (who is about 82). And may God himself visit, Support and bless them and at last receive them to Himself!

1755 December 9 (Tuesday). Soldiers are continually returning from Albany.

1755 December 10 (Wednesday). Mr. Nathaniel Whitney here at Eve and tells me the Town Meeting on the 8th did nothing upon my Paper which I sent and was (he said) presented, by Captain Baker. But he tells me that Lieutenant Tainter takes off the Force of any Such Petition, for he says that he has paid 20£ old Tenor towards that Debt -- and Harrington has some pounds more: so that there is very little remaining now. In answer to which I assur'd him (Mr. Whitney) that no Body had to my Knowledge paid a Farthing of that Debt but Messrs. James Ball, and Jacob Rice, and Captain Maynard. Unless Lieutenant Tainter charg'd for keeping a Creature or two the Winter following the Drought. But yet he never said so to me; nor is there any Thing behind in my account with him except for some few Things which Lieutenant has bought at Boston for us, this Year: for as for last Year I discharg'd all Debt to him Unto the Day when I gave him a Note to the Collector of 15£ old Tenor. Mr. Whitney added that Lieutenant Tainter told him as above, yesterday.

1755 December 11 (Thursday). Levelling the Bank of Sand which was dug out of my New Cellar Way.

1755 December 12 (Friday). Last Night it snow'd, which has been Somewhat rare -- it being an extraordinary open Season. Am preparing again upon Mat. 16.24. May God assist me in it.

1755 December 13 (Saturday). Much interrupted by the Coming of Captain Thomas Stoddard from Fort Edward. He tells me he supposes Mr. Bowes, late of Bedford, one of the Chaplains in the army, to be by this time dead, he having been struck suddenly with numb palsey, and

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<sup>107</sup> Abel Chase.

<sup>108</sup> Matthew Henry (1662-1714), a noted English dissenting minister, wrote *Exposition of the Historical Books of the Old Testament* (London, 1708).



speechless when he was with him, as he came down upon his Journey. May God grant that I may myself be always ready! Since we know not the Day nor the Hour. O that I might wait for my Lord!

1755 December 14 (Sunday). Captain Stoddard having lodg'd here, his son in Law, Mr. William Boardman came from Marlborough this Morning (from Boston Yesterday) to wait upon him. They tarried with us over the Sabbath. Reverend Mr. Bowes<sup>109</sup> Death is Several Ways confirm'd. I read 1 K. 4. Preach'd on Mat. 16.24. P.M. read Mat. 7, and on Occasion of Mr. Bowes Death, repeated the remainder of what I began on Occasion of Deacon Newtons sudden Death last February, viz. from Deut. 32.29. N.B. Deacon Bond, Mr. Cornelius Biglow and others return'd. N.B. After Meeting Captain Maynard came in to see Captain Stoddard -- and took home his Horse. Which I took in very kind, good Part of him and wish it might please God So to Change his Heart as that he might be reduc'd to some Freeness and sweetness again.

1755 December 15 (Monday). Captain Stoddard and his son Bowman [Boardman?] left us for Boston. At Eve Lieutenant Tainter return'd from below -- I had writ by him to Brother Sam Parkman but he brought me no answer -- and thus it has been divers times, that though I write it is to no purpose.

1755 December 16 (Tuesday). Rain, and high Winds: as the Day advanc'd the Gusts were very Strong. The stormy winds fulfill the Almighty Authors Words. May God deliver Me from the Whirlwinds and Tempests of Gods Eternal Wrath!

1755 December 17 (Wednesday). Bright and Clear. In the great Storm yesterday Captain Maynards etc. Stables were wholly turn'd over so as to stand upon the Roof. At Eve Lieutenant Tainter here and I had some Talk with him about his having said that he had paid me some considerable Part of the North side Debt. And we had some considerable altercation but parted in Love and Peace. A Frosty Night which we have not had of a great while, nor anything severe.

1755 December 18 (Thursday). Dr. Brigham<sup>110</sup> (who has been Doctor of Colonel Browns Regiment of Recruits to Lake George) din'd here. Sent 4£ 5/ old Tenor to Mr. Benjamin Nicols. At Eve Mr. Zebulun Rice at work putting up Partition in my Cellar. Mrs. Judith Bellows here, but as unrelenting, Self-vindicating as ever.

1755 December 19 (Friday). Billy not well, but thrashes Rye.

1755 December 20 (Saturday). Many deep and Serious Thoughts of my Personal and family Circumstances both relating to present and future Life.

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<sup>109</sup>Nicholas Bowes (Harvard 1725) had been the minister of Bedford, 1730-1754. After being dismissed he taught school and served as chaplain at Fort Edward. He died at Western (now Warren) on his way home in December, 1755.

<sup>110</sup>Samuel Brigham of Marlborough.

1755 December 21 (Sunday). Read 1 K. 5, and gave an Exercise upon it. P.M. read Mat. 8 to number 13. Deacon Forbush, Mrs. Foster and Mrs. Chaddock din'd here.

1755 December 22 (Monday). Rode Mr. Nurse's Mare to Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlins to see his son who is dangerously ill. I din'd there. Dr. Brigham also. At Mr. Jonathan Bellows -- Mrs. Bellows extremely Clamorous. At Mr. Snows where I talk'd with Comfort Bellows in the hearing of Mrs. Snow and her son and Daughter. At Mr. Amsdens, Bruce's -- Bathericks. N.B. Breck (the first time) went to Mill.

1755 December 23 (Tuesday). Pleasant Day, but grows Somewhat Cold. Mr. Edward Marrit<sup>111</sup> of Cambridge here. At Eve Lieutenant Forbush who having writ something for Mrs. Judith Bellows, wanted to apprise me of it (for she had clean worried him out to do it) but said he did not think would do much good. Mr. Daniel Warrin here and paid me 10£ old Tenor. Lieutenant Tainter, here and we retir'd and talk'd over our whole Affair, concerning the Northside Debt to me and what he had done towards it. He brought me from Esquire Baker, my Paper which I put in to the Town, with the Record on the back of it, of the Towns refusal to do anything about it. Lieutenant Tainter (now first of all) acquainted me with the Articles which he had given me with Design in his own Heart, towards defraying the Northside Debt; Except that he had hinted to me somewhat of his keeping a Cow for me the winter after the Drought, and which at the Time, as I remember I manifested my Dissent to. Through divine Restraints we kept from being angry -- supp'd together and parted in peace.

1755 December 24 (Wednesday). A Great Frost: and the Day proves an exceeding Cold Day. Am disappointed of all Carpenters coming, and by these Means my design'd Kitchin remains unclos'd, and my Cellar consequently greatly expos'd to the Frost notwithstanding all I have done in making a Partition between the New Part and the old. We now batten and Partition and carry down Coals, and all little enough; for the Frost is very great. Master Gardner, having been to Boston, brought me Several Letters, among which one from my worthy Friend Simon Frost<sup>112</sup> Esquire of Kittery, who inclosed Mr. Benjamin Lulls Deed of the 70 Acres; which Judge Frost had got recorded for me at Portsmouth. My Son William much indispos'd.

1755 December 25 (Thursday). The Frost has got very much into the House: But the wind not so high abroad. Blessed be God for my preservation and many Comforts -- and I would praise Him. My Heart is in some Measure tender -- I hope choosing and yielding to Him. Had some serious Thoughts on the Day, as kept by many in Commemoration of our Lords Nativity. And I desire to be one with all of them that are one with Christ, and who avoid the Superstitions and Excesses of this Day, and Serve the Lord in sincerity. May I and mine have part in the glorious Logos<sup>113</sup> who was made Flesh and dwelt among us! At Eve Dr. Joshua Smith here -- receiv'd the

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<sup>111</sup>Marrett was a tailor who later served as selectman of Cambridge and as a captain of militia. Paige, *Cambridge*, p. 605.

<sup>112</sup>Justice of the Court of Common Pleas.

<sup>113</sup>See John I, 1-18.

News Paper in which have a frightfull Account of the terrible Earthquake at Cadiz and Seville; but especially Lisbon, St. Woes and Agazira. O may we learn Righteousness! fear God and give Glory to Him: and in peculiar since we are so mercifully Spar'd!

1755 December 26 (Friday). Somewhat moderater. My Son Ebenezer came and with Thomas's Help kill'd two Swine; which were but Small, one 126, the other 119, our Corn having been so cut off by the Frosts, both late in the Spring and early in the Fall. The Negro Gosport, Mr. Gardners Servant here, and din'd here. At Eve I walk'd to the widow Newtons and reckon'd with her -- gave her a Note to Constable Forbush and reckon'd with Mr. John Beeton -- Paid him 20 shillings old Tenor for Captain Drury<sup>114</sup> of Grafton, and gave a Note for the Shop work to the Collector Forbush. N.B. Several Returning from the adjournment of the Town Meeting came in to my House -- viz. Deacon Jonathan Forbush junior, Messrs. Solomon Woods and Benjamin Tainter -- afterwards Ensign Harrington. Tis observable that Ensign Harrington never said one word of his having paid me any of that Debt: though so much has been Said by others of his having declar'd he had. Some of them cut out my pork. All of them supp'd with me. Our Discourse was partly of the awful providences of Late in the Earthquakes -- and likewise of unhappy Controversie of the Town with me, who refuse to pay their just Debt to me, or to settle with me. N.B. receiv'd a Letter from Mr. Charles Richardson of Sutton inclosing the Plans of the Forts lately built by the Army.

1755 December 27 (Saturday). After a considerable time in which the Ground has been open, it Snows.

1755 December 28 (Sunday). Read 1 King 6, preach'd a.m. on Mat. 16.24. P.M. on Occasion of the Earthquake and Inundation at Cadiz, Seville and especially at Lisbon preach'd on 1 Pet. 4.7, repeating the first Sermon on that Text, with divers alterations and additions, and may God forgive my great Deficiency, and add His efficacious Blessing! N.B. after Meeting at Eve two Soldiers returning from Oswego, viz. James Johnston of Shirley, the other Timothy Canniston of Pepperrells Regiment here and desir'd Refreshments, which we chearfully gave 'em.

1755 December 29 (Monday). A.M. a great Heap of stones sledded from the West End of my Kitchin to make part of the Wall from the Well to the Barn. At Eve reckon'd with Barnabas Newton.

1755 December 30 (Tuesday). Very Cold Morning. Billy is ill with a Flux and confin'd most of the Day, to the House. P.M. Mr. Martyn made me a Visit. At Eve I walk'd up to Mr. Zebulun Rice's.

1755 December 31 (Wednesday). Captain Wood, return'd from Albany, was here with his Brother Jonathan in their Journey home; feeble and weak yet; and complains of Dizziness -- but we are much rejoic'd to See him again, and so well as he is, we having heard he was Dead. Thus this Year ends with nothing peculiar accomplish'd against Niagara or Crown-Point -- the building

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<sup>114</sup>Thomas Drury.

of Some Forts -- but the Troops are exceedingly wasted by Sickness and by their great Fatigues and hard Fare. We must now wait the Will of God in what is to follow. And may God fit me and mine for His holy Pleasure!