

Diary of Ebenezer Parkman, 1748

1748 January 1 (Friday). I would heartily bless God for His Sparing Mercy and Goodness! Having spent part of the Day in Rest and Exercises of Religion and Abstinence (See Memoirs etc.), Lieutenant Perez Rice of Sutton came to acquaint me with the Desire of Captain Fay to see me. I comply'd and went. Found him very low and scarce capable to Converse, could get only a word or two and then he would drop into sleep presently -- I prayed and soon I took leave and bid him farewell, he reply'd Farewell -- and we could hear a few words more such as, "God bless you, Support you, Succeed you" -- (and may God be pleased to hear this dying prayer! Oh might we all be ready for such an Hour!) I went from there to old Mr. Samuel Fays (after I had eat something with 'em at Dinner) -- Had some talk with Mr. Fay about the old Disgusts, and prayed we might come to a thorough Reconcilement. Talked with Jeduthun and his wife about their Delays. N.B. Jeduthun put into my Hand, at coming away, a Token of his Regard in Two Bills amounting to 20/6 Old Tenor, saying withall, that he could not come to help me get wood nor assist me as others, and would therefore pray me to accept that. So slow riding it was near night when I got home, the weather being thick fogg, southerly wind and warm.

1748 January 2 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1748 January 3 (Sunday). On Mathew 14.4 to 12. Although I had prepared as much as might have served for Two Exercises yet I chose to deliver the whole in one, though I was the longer and spoke the faster. P.M. Repeat'd on Psalm 90.9 last Clause.

1748 January 4 (Monday). This day the precinct met together by adjournment upon the affair of the depreciating of the Bills of Credit in which my Sallery was paid. I went to the Meeting House myself, being desired by the Meeting. Mr. Miller was the person the Moderator sent. I read Two papers which I had drawn up to lay before them, and after a few words I returned. Lieutenant Forbush together with Captain Forbush and Ensign Bruce informed at eve, that they had considered the depreciating of money according to the Act of the General Court, and had allowed me 12£ 10 shillings per cent, that is 27£ and conceiving that this would not suffice they had chosen a Committee to Consider of my papers and make report to the precinct Committee for raising Meeting that they might raise another Meeting to see what the precinct will do further, they not being able to do any more now by vertue of the present Warrant. Said Committee for Considering my papers are Captain Warrin, Mr. Miller, Deacon Newton, Mr. Whipple, and Mr. Abner Newton. And thus this Day went over, on which so much seemed to be depending. However, there seemed to be good humour and respect. N.B. The Day was a very Cold Day, yet many attended the Meeting. N.B. Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin Collector here and paid me 34.4.9 old Tenor.

1748 January 5 (Tuesday). Snow Storm. Went to Captain Maynard's to see Jeremy Goodhue the cooper who is sick there. Heard that Captain Fay is Dead. About 8 or 9 in the evening came Rody Devereux to call me to go and see Goodhue who is grown far worse. He soon after I spoke to him, got into a very peculiar Frame, expressing in a wondrous Tone, his Experiences at Ipswich, his Behavior since, and his present hopes and assurances. I felt he was somewhat

delirious. I rather thought so by his praying Lord whilst I was at Prayer (at his Desire), and continuing to pray when we had done.

1748 January 6 (Wednesday). Rained last night, and a Thaw ensues. Thunder and Lightning. Dr. Gott here after his visiting Goodhue.

1748 January 7 (Thursday). In the Morning Mr. William Goodhue of Holliston was here to desire me to go down to Captain Maynard's, his Brother would be glad to see me. I complied and the Special Reason of his sending for me was to assist him in Making his will. His Senses were sound -- he confirmed what he said to me t'other night of his Experiences of the Divine grace at Ipswich, and was earnest in his Defence of the late work of God in the Land. My taking Minutes of his Will detained me till past Noon and was obliged to dine there. After prayer I returned home and drew the will. At eve I went to him again and completed it. Having prayed with him again at Captain Maynard's earnest Desire, I came home. Forbush from College here, he tells me he keeps School in Town to make up some of Mr. Jenison's Time.

1748 January 8 (Friday). Snowy again. N.B. sent Mr. Stow the original of Result of Council at Narragansett by Mr. John Bent of Framingham. Mr. Jeduthan Fay here to Desire me to attend the Funeral of Captain Fay today. He dined with us, and then both my wife and I went. It was a large Funeral, and Twas very sorrowfull to bury such an old Friend, such a pious, useful, good tempered man, and the principal Deacon in the Church. The Lord awaken us to be in readiness ourself. I am told by the Deacon's Son James that they could not discern that he was any clearer about his Spiritual state till he dyed, than he was when I was with him. Such was the Sovereign will of God!

1748 January 9 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1748 January 10 (Sunday). A.M. and p.m. on Occasion of the Death of Deacon Fay I preached on Gen. 25.8. Mr. James Fay and his mother, the Widow dined here. N.B. At noon received a letter from the Honorable Judge Wilder¹ informing me of the Death of their Reverend and dear Pastor Mr. John Prentice and desiring my assistance at the Interment of his Remains next Thursday. An heavy stroke this, upon not only that Town but this part of the Country! The Lord Sanctifies it to all of us, and to me in Special! Snowed and Stormed especially at Night and I was concerned about my journey to Lancaster.

1748 January 11 (Monday). Sent for Captain Maynard -- who consented to go with me if I would venture, at least he would go with me as far as Shrewsbury. It was a rugged Day -- The Snow deep, the air somewhat sharp, the wind blew about the Snow -- but we ventured to Shrewsbury. Mr. Cushing and Dr. Smith² with their Wives were going. I was exceedingly well

¹Joseph Wilder, a deacon of the Lancaster church.

²Joshua Smith, the physician of Shrewsbury.

wrapped up, and we ventured with them. Stopped at Deacon Jonathan Keyes,³ Mr. Morse's,⁴ and at Moore's⁵ (in Chauxitt). Arrived at the House of sorrow in the evening where I lodged. Mr. Gardner of Stow there, having preached there the day before, Captain Maynard lodged at Colonel Oliver Wilder's. N.B. Disquietment among Mr. Prentice's children by reason of their Father's will.

1748 January 12 (Tuesday). The Funeral Obsequies of Reverend Mr. Prentice Solemnized. Mr. Loring prayed. Mr. Loring, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Stow, Mr. Seccomb, Mr. Mellen⁶ and I were Bearers. (Were favored with moderate weather. A considerable number of Ministers.) The Church and Congregation (males) walked before the corps. Mr. Thomas Prentice made a short Speech after covering up in the grave. The Parish bore the Expenses of the Funeral so far as 200£ old Tenor. Judge Wilder by Request was with the Bearers at the Drawing up of Character and took the Care of transmitting it to the Printer. A most Sorrowfull and Mournful Time! The Lord repair the wide Breach! and comfort all the Bereaved and grant them to study peace and Love! Lodged there again.

1748 January 13 (Wednesday). In Returning today, dined at Mr. Morse's and (though it snowed) we tarried and attended his Lecture. I preached on John 17.4. N.B. Colonel Nahum Ward,⁷ Mr. Cushing, and Mr. Maccarty⁸ with us. Captain Maynard and I called at Mr. Cushing's and at evening returned home, through God's mercy in Comfort and safety and found our Familys in peace. D.G.

1748 January 14 (Thursday). Read Mr. Joseph Stevens's⁹ Sermons preached at Charlestown and Cambridge and reviewed my College Almanacks and Journals -- with great Sorrow and Shame.

1748 January 15 (Friday). Captain Forbush here and objects against his Cousin Cooks enjoying Baptism for his Child.

1748 January 16 (Saturday). Moderate and pleasant. Mrs. Rice (Eliezar's wife) had my mare to Mr. Beeman's. N.B. Captain Forbush's wife here and objected against Mrs. Cooks enjoying special privileges.

1748 January 17 (Sunday). It Snowed this Sabbath also. I preached a.m. on John 12.35, on the Death of Reverend Mr. John Prentice of Lancaster. N.B. for a character of him I took the original of what was delivered to Judge Wilder to be printed. But O might we all who survive Consider our remaining Advantages, and have Grace to improve 'em whilst the Lord is pleased

³Of the north precinct (Boylston) of Shrewsbury.

⁴The Reverend Mr. Ebenezer Morse of Boylston.

⁵Deacon Joseph Moore.

⁶The Reverend Mr. John Mellen of Sterling.

⁷The magistrate of Shrewsbury.

⁸The Reverend Mr. Thaddeus Maccarty of Worcester.

⁹Joseph Stevens, *Another and Better Country even an Heaven: in Reserve for all True Believers* (Boston, 1723).

to continue them. May we also have proper apprehensions of those Dark Days that threaten us! I delivered the whole of my preparation in one Exercise, for though 'twas very long I could not divide it. And preached p.m. on Mathew 26.20, and intimated to the people that it was a Repetition. And may God be pleased to remember this His gracious promise for our Support in these Cloudy Times: and when such a number of Ministers have been within this six months taken away from us! When we came home at Evening it snowed very hard and was very Windy and Cold -- the Night a Windy, Cold Night.

1748 January 18 (Monday). And such a Day followed as the Night was which rendered it a tedious Time. I kept close to my Study all Day, read Dr. Increase Mather's Order Of The Churches In New England vindicated,¹⁰ Mr. Jeremiah Burroughs of Gospel remission.

1748 January 19 (Tuesday). Brother Hicks came from Cambridge.

1748 January 20 (Wednesday). Brother Hicks went home. Mr. Martyn came and dined with us. Tarried till evening when Captain Eager came to wait on him home. N.B. Mr. James Fay has been here and brought me a piece of black shalloon from Mr. Harwood¹¹ of Hardwick and Mr. Edwards's sermon on the Death of Mr. Brainerd.¹² At eve Mr. Daniel Forbush¹³ was married to Mrs. Mary Parker of Shrewsbury.

1748 January 21 (Thursday). A fine Day. My wife set out for Boston on Captain Forbush's horse. Little Alexander was carried at Night to Mrs. Amy Maynard.¹⁴

1748 January 22 (Friday). Although I was much concerned last Night about my wife's Journey, I was much less anxious to Day it being a very fine, warm Day. Mr. [blank] Woods¹⁵ of Summers was here with Deer Leather and dined, I bought a Large skin for which I gave him 13£ old Tenor.

1748 January 23 (Saturday). A somewhat Cold Day, but conceiving it to be my Duty to use my best endeavor to get to Lancaster, I first rode to Mr. Cushing's, dined there and obtained of Mr. Cushing to send his son Jacob along with me who accordingly was my Fellow-traveler. The Snow was so deep before we got to Deacon Jonathan Keyes that I was obliged to dismount several Times, my Mare worrying sometimes pritty much to surmount or get through the Banks. Mr. Morse came to Westborough, and Mr. Stevens¹⁶ went to Mr. Morse's. We arrived at Lancaster by Daylight.

¹⁰*The Order of the Gospel, Professed and Practiced by the Churches of Christ in New-England, Justified* (Boston, 1700).

¹¹John Harwood.

¹²Jonathan Edwards, *True Saints, when Absent from the Body, are Present with the Lord* (Boston, 1747).

¹³Son of Deacon Jonathan Forbush of Westborough.

¹⁴Mrs. Ebenezer Maynard.

¹⁵Probably Deacon James Woods of Somers, Conn.

¹⁶Benjamin Stevens (Harvard 1740). Later the minister of Kittery, Maine, 1751-1791. *Sibley*, X, 539-539.

1748 January 24 (Sunday). It Snowed all Day. I preached a. and p.m. on John 12.35. On the Death of their late worthy pastor. May the Great Shepherd of the Sheep, the Chief Shepherd, Compassionate their State, hear and accept their humble Supplication in their late Test (Last Thursday), provide for their guidance to a Resettlement and may they walk while they have the Light -- Darkness may not come upon you. N.B. A sorrowful Accident this morning. My Mare Slunk 2 Colts.¹⁷

1748 January 25 (Monday). Dr. Stanton Prentice¹⁸ has been very kind in looking after my Mare. Breakfasted there -- before I left Lancaster, Dr. Stanton came over to his Mother's to take Leave and I perceiving that there was disquietment among them on account of Mr. Prentice's Will, gave 'em an Earnest Friendly Exhortation. Cushing and I rode to Mr. Silas Brigham's at the Mills and dined there. Mr. Brigham rode with me home, we called at Mr. Morse's and at Mr. Cushing's. My wife had returned safely from Boston last Saturday Night, brings me News that my Brother Alexander is in a poor State of Health and my sister Willard but feeble and lives alone much broken and decayed. Nabby also (Elias's wife) in but a weak and low condition.

1748 January 26 (Tuesday). [No entry.]

1748 January 27 (Wednesday). Sarah Henry at Work here making Billy a Bannian.¹⁹

1748 January 28 (Thursday). Snowed. A Public Fast on account of the Judgment of God upon us in the Continuance of the War. The perplexity of the province Affairs and the burning of the Courthouse. I preached on Heb. 12.29 a.m.; p.m. on Romans 11.26 repeating the latter part of sermon on 1 Thess. 1.10. Sarah Henry lodges here.

1748 January 29 (Friday). A Day to be remembered. Twelve Years ago my dear wife Mary died, may I never lose the sense of God's holy Dispensation toward me and mine, but I was not able to devote this Day as I would have inclined to by reason on my unavoidable Engagement in preparing for the next Sabbath. Sarah Henry takes my plush coat to pieces in order to New line it. P.M., Ebenezer to Marlborough to get him a great coat cut out and pay Deacon Andrew Price the full of the Interest of my Bond to him and brought it home. I am now again out of Debt (a few Dribbles, etc. excepted), and my obligation to my own Children.

1748 January 30 (Saturday). Sarah Henry.

1748 January 31 (Sunday). Preached on John 12.35 a. and p.m. It was a bright Day which we have not had for public Assembling this very great While. But may we see the Glorious Sun of [illegible] and delight in the Lord. Tis of no small consequence to us that we improve the Light while we are indulged with it, for our contempt of it will provoke God to send a dreadful Darkness upon us and this Land has Reason to fear it. Mrs. Dunlop dined here.

¹⁷[Additional footnote: That is, miscarried. *Oxford English Dictionary*: Of calves: Cast prematurely.]

¹⁸Physician of Lancaster. Son of the Reverend Mr. John Prentice.

¹⁹A loose flannel gown, jacket, or shirt.

1748 February 1 (Monday). Went to the Funeral of Mr. Jonathan Fay's young Child. Dined at merchant Rice's. Sent by Mr. Abner Temple for 3 volumes of Pools Synopsis from Boston. My wife went to Marlborough on Mr. Nathan Maynard's Mare, and returned at Eve. Sarah Henry at work here. Town Meeting falls through for want of a third selectman. At Eve I rode over to Neighbour How's. Mr. Wellman²⁰ came and lodg'd here. He is going down to get Mr. Chase's²¹ sermon at his Ordination printed. Wants my Right Hand.²²

1748 February 2 (Tuesday). Mr. Wellman left us. Mr. Bezaleel Eager brought Mrs. Bekky Gott. Mrs. Dunlop in spiritual Troubles here and dined with us. Ebenezer preparing Timber for a Slay. This Day Twelve Years my dear wife was buried. I remember the wormwood and the gall and my Soul is humbled within me -- but the Continual interruptions of Company prevented my Retirements.

1748 February 3 (Wednesday). Mr. Dunlop and Ebenezer thrash Barley. At Night came Joseph Biglo for Sarah Henry (who was making a Great Coat for Ebenezer) and carried her away. Mr. Jenison here from Worcester Supped with us but did not lodge.

1748 February 4 (Thursday). Mr. Dunlop and Ebenezer thrashed Barley. My wife and I went to the private meeting at Mr. Grouts. I finished the discourse I began at Captain Baker's, on Mat. 7.13.14. Snowed hard when we returned home.

1748 February 5 (Friday). Forbush here at Eve, and lodged here.

1748 February 6 (Saturday). The Extremest Cold Day, I think that we have had this winter. Mr. Henchman came for Mrs. Bekky Gott²³ and carried her home.

1748 February 7 (Sunday). Cold Day. On Matt. 14.13.14. John 5.28.29. Mrs. Tainter and Forbush dined here.

1748 February 8 (Monday). Bright and Comfortable. Nineteen persons came to get wood for me, viz. Mr. Grow, Harrington with his team, Daniel Forbush, Ebenezer Miller, Samuel, Daniel and Phinehas Hardy, Zebulon Rice, Tim Warrin, Joseph Grout, junior, Samuel Baker and Benjamin Willson, Benjamin Tainter for James Bradish, Martyn Pratt, Robert Dunlop, Jonathan

²⁰The Reverend Mr. James Wellman of Millbury.

²¹The Reverend Mr. Stephen Chase of Lynnfield.

²²[Additional note: Stephen Chase (1705-1778), *The angels of the churches. A sermon at the ordination of the Reverend Mr. James Welman, in the Second Parish in Sutton: October the 7th. 1747. Published at the desire and expence of a number of Reverend ministers and other gentlemen present, unto whom it is humbly dedicated.* Boston: Printed by J. Draper, for D. Gookin, over against the South Meeting-House in Marlborough-Street., M,DCC,XLVIII. [1748]; Evans 6110. Parkman's "right hand" was not printed, although the charge by Campbell of Oxford was printed, [30-31].]

²³The daughter of Dr. Gott of Marlborough.

Forbush, Solomon Woods, John Kelly for Beriah Rice, William Pierce. N.B. We had Mr. Richard Barr's oxen to go with mine to make up a second Team and they brought up to the Door about 30 loads. N.B. They cut it in Mr. Barr's swamp. Mr. Phinehas Hardy went to him to know his mind, besides my message to him to come up to me, by my Billy. By both which we had free leave.

1748 February 9 (Tuesday). Snowed again. A parcel of wood being left in the swamp cutt yesterday We went and sledded up with 3 Cattle 7 Turns. Thomas Rogers assisted. Mr. Davis²⁴ of Holden here on his Journey to Boston. Ebenezer p.m. making a Slay. At Mr. Hows.

1748 February 10 (Wednesday). I rode to Mr. Garfield's²⁵ and settled with him. To Mr. Benjamin How's.

1748 February 11 (Thursday). Snowy Day. Ebenezer at Mr. How's still upon the slay. Captain Daniel Ward of Wor[ce]ster here.

1748 February 12 (Friday). Ebenezer at Mr. How's. Mr. Peam Cowel²⁶ of Boston came. N.B. Lieutenant Ward of Southborough here, I paid him in full of 24£ old Tenor, for 6 yeards of Blue Broad cloth which my wife bought of him at Boston. Mr. Ebenezer Maynard brought up a variety of Things for us -- Sugar, Molasses, Chocolate and a Box from Brother Samuel Parkman's containing 3 volumes of Synopsis Criticorum and a Black Coat which Brother offers to sale for 10£. Mr. Cowell lodged here.

1748 February 13 (Saturday). Mr. Wellman here, on his Journey to Sutton. Ebenezer at Mr. How's again. Interruption by Company prevented my preparing a second sermon.

1748 February 14 (Sunday). I preached a.m. on John 5.28.29. P.M. Considering the Affair of Tomorrow I repeated sermon on Phil. 4.7. Mr. Cowell and old Mrs. Whipple at dinner. O might the Peace of God ever reign in our Hearts!

1748 February 15 (Monday). Mr. Ebenezer Rice here in the morning with Mr. Cowell. Mr. Cowell left us to go to Boston. N.B. The Precinct met to make answer to my Two last Papers sent in to them and to see whether they would build New meeting House within 30 Rods of the Burying place. Affairs of such weight and Consequence (as I humbly apprehend) read[?] the direction and influence of Heaven which may God's people obtain! Molly and Lucy to Mr. Martyns.

²⁴The Reverend Mr. Joseph Davis.

²⁵In Shrewsbury.

²⁶Parkman's niece, Elizabeth, married Peam Cowell.

1748 February 16 (Tuesday). Deacon Whittemore²⁷ and John Hicks junior here in the morning, they having lodged at Captain Maynard's last night. Mr. Stone²⁸ going to Oxford and Cushing (Jacob)²⁹ here. These last dined here. Sent home Mr. Cushing's Calmet, Volume 1.³⁰ Snowed p.m. Ebenezer at Howe's.

1748 February 17 (Wednesday). The snow storm continues.

1748 February 18 (Thursday). I would have gone over to Mr. Martyn's to preach his last sermon but could not get there. Sometimes shines and sometimes snowy, cold, and snow deep. Ebenezer finished the Slay.

1748 February 19 (Friday). Ebenezer went to Mr. Johnson's mill.

1748 February 20 (Saturday). A Very great storm of snow. The greatest that has come, perhaps these seven years. Now 31 years since the Great snow.

1748 February 21 (Sunday). Few at Meeting. On John 5.28.29. P.M. repeated latter part of Sermon on Phil. 4.7. Lieutenant Tainter and his daughters Sarah and Elizabeth dined here. Some that were at meeting in the forenoon came not in the afternoon. Mr. Francis Whipple who read the psalm came not: or Captain Maynard where as it was better coming when the way was broke. But 'tis a very tedious Time.

1748 February 22 (Monday). A fine Day though the snow is deep. Lieutenant Tainter came and killed me an Hog. Weighed 245. P.M. had a great deal of Discourse with Lieutenant about the sorrowful Divisions in our precinct. I observed it the rather because: Captain Maynard came, but understanding that Lieutenant Tainter was here would not come in. N.B. Dominique Dyer, a young Frenchman of Chandelieu, here.

1748 February 23 (Tuesday). Snowstorm again, and snowed fast for great part of the Day. A great Body of Snow on the Earth: the Ways are very much blocked up: little Stirring but Neighbour Ebenezer Maynard here most of the afternoon. Discourse was chiefly concerning the precinct's late proceedings particularly with reference to my Affair. He tells me that Yesterday was the Day appointed for the Committee and Surveyor for finding the center of the precinct to attend that Business.

1748 February 24 (Wednesday). It being a pleasant Day though the snow was deep, I attempted to ride over to the South Road. Called at Neighbour Pratt's and Mr. Williams proceeded to Captain Baker's, dined there. We had no small conversation, (But in Harmony)

²⁷Samuel Whittemore of Cambridge.

²⁸The Reverend Mr. Nathan Stone of Southborough.

²⁹(Harvard 1748). The son of the Reverend Mr. Job Cushing of Shrewsbury who later became the minister of Waltham, 1752-1809.

³⁰One of the works of the French theologian, Augustin Calmet (1672-1757).

about the Precinct's Affair. He showed me the papers of their later proceedings. One paper was the Report of the later Committee (viz. Deacon Newton, Captain Warrin, Mr. Whipple, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Abner Newton) which the precinct would receive but in part, but were ashamed to let me know some articles of. They exhibited therein that they were uneasy that I did not give them a Discharge for or else. N.B. Squire Baker's earnest Advice to discharge the Town, though they do not pay me, and by no means to sue, endeavor to recover from the Town in a Lawful way the Debt for my service four months and 15 Days before the Town was divided: again they were uneasy at the vote of the precincts in which they promised me 500£ in Case etc. and that I preach old Sermons. This last I have not met with any man til now that would discover to me, nor own. When I left the Squire I went to Deacon Newton's. Talked over the same things. N.B. The Deacon not pleased with any proposals of Discharging the Town, so well as with my suing the Town. He says a just War must be upheld. I remarked to him my unhappy Praemunire: it being impossible to please them either way. And viewing the Case and its grim aspect upon our dearest Interests I very solemnly said, The Lord look down upon us in Mercy etc! It was evening, and, calling at Mr. Ebenezer Rice's (where came Dominick Dyer) and at Neighbour Pratt's (of whom I got a Leather Apron for Billy) I returned home.

1748 February 25 (Thursday). The deep Snows prevent my going to Worcester to preach Mr. Maccartys Lecture though tis fine Weather overhead. At Evening Ward was here and lodged.

1748 February 26 (Friday). Ward went home after morning prayer but before Breakfast.

1748 February 27 (Saturday). Thomas came up from Marlborough to stay over the Sabbath.

1748 February 28 (Sunday). A.M. on Matt. 14.15-18. P.M. on Acts 26.8. Dominick dined here.

1748 February 29 (Monday). Bright a.m. Thawy toward Eve. Rain at Night. Mr. Jonathan Forbes, Junior, came and brought 2 pound of Flax from his Mother and gave me his part towards 400£ salary, viz. 35 shillings over and above what he had paid the collection (Old Tenor).

1748 March 1 (Tuesday). It being a fine pleasant Day, my Wife rode with me in the New Slay, to visit old Mrs. Crouch, at Mr. Rogers's. I find the snow very deep.

1748 March 2 (Wednesday). Thomas returned to Marlborough fitted out with a new pair of Shoes, a New Silk Handkerchief -- 35/ and a Linen Ditto 9/.

1748 March 3 (Thursday). Mr. Wellman of Sutton came and preached my Lecture. His Text, Mat. 5.6. My son Ebenezer has been indisposed and done Little for several Days -- having a sore throat, etc., but is a little better.

1748 March 4 (Friday). Mr. Wellman bought 3 Volumes of Pools Synopsis Criticorum of me viz: on the Haggiographa and on the New Testament³¹ (I having duplicates of them) for £3.15, New Tenor, and he carried away one of them with him.

1748 March 5 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1748 March 6 (Sunday). On Song. 2.4, latter part. Sacrament. The two Deacons and widow Thompson dined here. P.M. on Acts 26.8, on the Resurrection. May God grant that we may all be really under and experience the happy Benefits and Comforts of Christs Banner and may We be Confirmed in the Great Doctrine of the Resurrection and our Hearts and Lives be influenced always thereby!

1748 March 7 (Monday). I prayed at the Town Meeting. Mr. Bowman and Billings being the persons sent by the Town to me to request it. N.B. After Prayer I stood on the Stairs and addressed the Town with an Exhortation to Peace and Righteousness, and concerning my own affair, I intimated how long and how patiently I had waited for my Dues from them and prayed that they would take such motions as might prevent my being obliged to use Disagreeable measures to recover those arrears. I afterwards sent a paper, by old Mr. Whipple, to the Moderator to be lodged with the Town Clerk containing the Drift and Design of what I had said. Heard that Mr. Asa Bowker's wife (a worthy woman!) dyed yesterday at Shrewsbury of a cancer. And that Mr. John Brainard, brother of the late Mr. David, preached for Mr. Martyn, designing to have come to me if he could have got here, but the snow is so deep, no Horse (I suppose) can pass between here and Mr. Eagers Tavern.

1748 March 8 (Tuesday). I walked out in the Morning on the Snow to visit divers of my Neighbours -- was in at Mr. David Maynard, Junior's, at Mr. Eliezer Rice's, where I tarried some time. At Mr. Jonathan Whipple's, but most of them were from Home. At Mr. Stephen Fay's (which was a main End of my going Out). N.B. His Dissatisfaction with Sallerys and Rates: At Mr. Samuel Bakers: Called at Merchant Rice's (he having newly been to Mr. Fleet³² for me about my news) -- At Deacon Newton's who told me that they did not read to the Town the paper which old Mr. Whipple carried from me to them on the 7th, but they acknowledged it to be the Drift of what I had said -- and it was in the Clerks hands. I went to see Moses Nurse who was in a weak and feeble condition and 'tis feared consumptive. N.B. The Day was so bright and pleasant and the sun so warm that I had bad slumping in the snow some times.

1748 March 9 (Wednesday). Ebenezer took the sleigh and carried 8 bushels of barley for malt to Mr. James Woods of Marlborough. I went to see old Mr. Crouch; and neighbor John Rogers giving both to him and his wife solemn warning of their delaying Repentance and Humiliation. Snow melts a great pace. Captain Maynard brought me a sorrowful letter from Brother Parkman with the heavy tidings of the death of my dear Brother Alexander on the 6th at

³¹Matthew Poole, *Synopsis Criticorum aliorumque S. Scripturae interpretum*, 4 vols. (London, 1669-76). Additional editions followed.

³²Thomas Fleet, the printer of the *Boston Evening-Post*.

evening of a bilious cholic. Oh that God would by this Providence which is so near me prepare me for own turn.

1748 March 10 (Thursday). [No entry.]

1748 March 11 (Friday). [No entry.]

1748 March 12 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1748 March 13 (Sunday). On John 11.23.24.25. On occasion of the Death of my Dear Brother Alexander. God grant I may have true and living faith in the Resurrection and in Him Who is the Resurrection and The Light that I may have in part in the Resurrection of the Just!

1748 March 14 (Monday). I was somewhat late in the morning before I set out upon my journey. Called at Captain Warrins to meet Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin, the collector. Was also hindered a little at Mr. Jacob Amsden's. Had one Lockhart's company from Marlborough to Waltham. Went to see Mr. Warham Williams³³ and lodged there. It was raw cold 'til evening and then snowed. N.B. Fire burnt in the floor of Mr. Williams's study, but was discovered as we sat in the lower room under it, and was soon put out.

1748 March 15 (Tuesday). I rode to Justice Harris's on account of a piece of all wool cloth I had sent him to be dress'd: and called at Mr. John Hunt's where was Mr. Thomas Marsh³⁴ of College. Dined at Mother Champney's, p.m. at College. Stormed Hard -- I attended Prayer at the Chappell. Put up my Horse at Deacon Whittemore's, lodged with Mr. Hancock³⁵ at College.

1748 March 16 (Wednesday). It had hailed and snowed in the night. I attended morning Prayers in the Chappell. Broke fast with Mr. Hancock. Dr. Breck³⁶ came there and was going to Boston. I had his company. N.B. His account of a late difference between him and Mr. Maccarty: which led me to resent his whispering to Mr. Abraham Williams what had passed between Mr. Campbell³⁷ and me about him -- the grand Haretick Williams whereas I had reference to what he personated at commencement. I visited Dr. Parkman in his affliction -- his wife remaining in a very languishing condition. Dined at my eldest Brothers. Visited Sister Willard,³⁸ and my newly widowed Sister Beckky and my bereaved niece Esther. Lodged there. N.B. Mr. Edward Brattle Oliver³⁹ there. N.B. Kept my Horse there.

1748 March 17 (Thursday). Mr. Welsted preached the public Lecture on the Royalty of God our Salvation from (I think) Ps. 10.16. Dined at Brother Samuels at evening at Dr. Parkmans, it

³³The minister of Waltham.

³⁴The tutor at Harvard College.

³⁵Belcher Hancock, the Harvard tutor.

³⁶Samuel Breck, the physician of Worcester.

³⁷The Reverend Mr. John Campbell of Oxford.

³⁸Parkman's sister, Susanna, the widow of Captain Josiah Willard.

³⁹Parkman's niece, Esther, married Oliver later in the year.

proving raining I could not go to the South End -- spent the Evening at Captain White's and at Mr. Eliot's.⁴⁰ Lodged with my Kinsman. His wife very weak and languishing in danger of death and very full of distress, being afraid to die.

1748 March 18 (Friday). Visited Mrs. Betty White (Mr. Joseph's daughter) who is wasting away in a consumption. I went up to the burying place and what a multitude even of our own family are there in the Congregation of the Dead. The Lord make me ready for my turn which hastens! Visited my sister Willard. N.B. Sisters discourse with me about her daughter Sarah and my Ebenezer. Was at Cousin John's. N.B. He offered me silver enough for a spoon for my daughter Sarah at £3 Old Tenor an ounce and to give me the making which I accepted of and paid him £4.13.0 for one and on consideration that Dr. Gott had given her about 56/ several years ago, I ordered it to be marked as his gift to my child. I dined at Mr. Stoddard's p.m. As I hastened out of Town I called at Mr. Bagnal's about my watch and at Mr. Fleet's and began anew for his Paper. At Sister Beckky's, where was Mr. E.B.O. who presented me a considerable quantity of brown biskitt -- and at Mr. Snow's (who married Mrs. Susanna Sharp)⁴¹ where I bought me a large blue handkerchief for 58/ and hastened to Mother Champney's where I lodged.

1748 March 19 (Saturday). As I returned home I called at Mr. Dix's⁴² (who married Sarah Bond) and was well entertained with smelts and he bountifully sent up several dozen to my wife. Was at Mrs. Beckky Walkers and I dined at Mr. Paterson's⁴³ at Sudbury. Called also at Mr. Darling's.⁴⁴ Very heavy riding and breaking through the deep snow from Marlborough home but arrived well and found my house in health and peace. Blest be God!

1748 March 21 (Monday). A Precinct Meeting by adjournment both about answering my two last papers, and concerning building a Meeting House but it dropped through and they did nothing. But before they dispersed, and were gone home I understood that another meeting was agreed to and that they designed nothing about any grant of money for me wherefore I stopped Captain Warrin and Lieutenant Forbush at the road and insisted that something relating to a grant of money to me be inserted in the Warrant. They consented and sent their minds to the rest of the committee by Mr. Nathaniel Whitney and Mr. Stephen Fay.

1748 March 22 (Tuesday). This morning Ebenezer set out upon a designed journey to Connecticut after flax and was to have gone with Mr. Samuel Baker but when he was at Esquire Baker's he understood there were several men, come down with flax, who gave a most discouraging account of the river and that there was no room to expect any flax on this side under 4 shillings the pound. He therefore returned home, and my wife and I rode over to the said Esquire's and we (the Esquire and I) bought a Bagg of 200 weight -- their price was 5/ per pound but they threw in 40 S in the whole Bagg and 3 pound and 1/2 of over plus weight. So

⁴⁰The Reverend Mr. Andrew Eliot of New North Church.

⁴¹The daughter of Captain Robert Sharp of Brookline.

⁴²James Dix of Watertown.

⁴³James Patterson.

⁴⁴Thomas Darling of Framingham.

that we did not give quite $\frac{4}{9}$ the pound. After this Esquire Baker and I went to Deacon Newton's to obtain his consent to put into the Warrant for the designed Meeting the abovementioned article about a grant. Deacon Newton would consent to it if I desired it, but not of his own motion -- his reason was that the block must be removed out of the way (meaning that the 82.10-0 of arrears must be first sued for) or he could not go forward. There ensued warmer talk than ever I had had with Deacon Newton. I urged him to consider how unreasonable it was that he would not do his present duty for the support of the ministry in this Precinct, because somebody else did not do their duty some years ago: and that they should quarrell with me not for suing and straining upon them in the Law, but because I was charitable and compassionate and would not. My Wife went to Mr. Abner Newton's while the Esquire and I were at the Deacon's. I went to her and dined there but Mr. Newton was gone to Boston and we dined with his wife. Spent some hours there and heard her tell of her husband's dissatisfaction about my preaching old sermons. I perceived that Mr. Francis Whipple had been among them. I gave her many Reasons for my Doing it. She mentioned nothing else, we parted in peace. Called at Mr. Samuel Williams where was Neighbour Eliezer Rice. Mr. Williams brought on discourse about the precinct's present circumstances and especially with regard to my Sallery and the building a Meeting House. N.B. Neighbour Rice offered to pay me before that very night the sum which the Town was indebted to me if I would give him the power which I have to recover it in a Court of Law. But I refused to accept of it. We returned home at eve in safety.

1748 March 23 (Wednesday). Early came Mr. Jonas Brigham to call me to Mr. Charles Woods' child (Phoebe) of about 3 years old in dying Circumstances. I went though very difficult passing through the snow banks. Called to see Neighbour Rogers and Neighbour Barns. Snow Storm came up before I got home. P.M. Mr. Ebenezer Maynard here. I gave him as treasurer receipt for 220£ for last year's Sallery, instead of the receipt given last July 21 to Mr. Benjamin Fay.

1748 March 24 (Thursday). Lieutenant Tainter here -- he acquainted me with the foolish and mischievius conduct of a number of young men on March Meeting night at his house (about 10 or 11 of them) he being gone on a journey at that time: and he wanted my advice. I advised him to keep it as private as he could but to go and discourse with the youngsters themselves and with their parents. I refused to know who they were till he should take these steps and if these steps were not successful it would then be time enough to expose them.

1748 March 25 (Friday). Ebenezer now built the boxes at the front of the house and sowed them with parsley, radishes, and cabbage. But though the ground is bare a little before house and particular spots yet it is very deep in general. At eve came Brother Hicks and lodged here.

1748 March 26 (Saturday). Brother Hicks went home. Ebenezer cutting down timber for Posts at ministerial lot.

1748 March 27 (Sunday). I was much indisposed yet went through the exercises after my Fashion. A.M. on Matt. 14.19 to 21. P.M. Heb. 9.27, Latter clause -- improved then in some passages out of sermon on Eccl. 11.9, latter part, viz. pages 3, 4, 5, and 12, 13, with alterations

and inverting the order of the articles as was most agreeable. After the last exercise read the Act of the General Court against profane Cursing and Swearing, and gave reasons why it was not read last Lord's Day nor the Lord's Day before. At eve I was much out of Ease. Only prayed in the family and Ebenezer read the 25th of Saint Matthew. I was often aguish or as if I had taken Cold.

1748 March 28 (Monday). Lent my Mare to Neighbour Barns to go to Marlborough and his young man brought her back by noon, at which time I rode to Mr. Charles Wood's on occasion of the funeral of one of his children (Phebe). A warm day, snow wastes apace.

1748 March 29 (Tuesday). A very fair warm pleasant Day. In the morning I assisted Ebenezer in sledding down several Load of wood and conceive that such a stirring myself might be useful to me under my present Indispositions. N.B. Mr. Ephraim Sherman here and told me he was going over to Mr. Martyn where a subscription which I reckoned up to be £45 15/ Old Tenor for the printing his sermon on October 25 last. Jacob Garfield here to be examined in order to his receiving Holy Baptism. N.B. I received an admonitory letter from the Reverend Mr. Stone of my mistaking the time of the Committee of ministers meeting at his house which I conceive was to be on the 16th but was on the 9th and a new appointment made to meet at Mr. Smiths on Association morning at 8 o'clock.

1748 March 30 (Wednesday). I rode over to Mr. Martyns. Though the snow was much gone in open ground here and there, yet in the woods it was very deep. I found it very difficult passing on the east side of Liquor Hill, and from the new Meeting House in the lane to Mr. Martyn's brook. I dined there but his wife gone to Groaning. He went with me over to Mr. Lulls and was one of the witness of his wife's signing of the several deeds which her husband had given me of land in Townsend. Returned at evening, air smoaky and warm. The snow flows off apace.

1748 March 31 (Thursday). Warm and pleasant. Went down a little way into the ministerial lot with Mr. Batchellor who wants stave timber of me. P.M. Mr. John Rogers at length comes to confess his fornication. The Lord grant him Repentance unto Life!

Month after month my life consumes away!

Lord! Make me timely learn by what I may

Be always ready for the extremest day!

1748 April 1 (Friday). A Warm Day -- but little snow to be seen in open Land, and what remains mercifully wastes apace. May this month be spent to God's Glory! Mr. Jonathan Bellows, pressed to go out a soldier and upon his march, here to desire prayer. Ebenezer putting up Fences and getting Riders.

1748 April 2 (Saturday). Last Evening the Weather changed very much and became Cold; and the morning Cold. It may sett the springing grass back -- but all Eyes wait on God who is the mercifull preserver of both man and beast. Ebenezer sowed some peas.

1748 April 3 (Sunday). On Mat. 14.22.23. P.M. Heb. 9.27. Captain Willard⁴⁵ of Grafton and his sister the widow How, dined here. N.B. I publickly appointed a Catechetical Exercise to Young Women to be next Tuesday at 2 p.m. Not knowing that that is the time, by warrant, for the precinct meeting.

1748 April 4 (Monday). Dr. Gott here. Wrote by him to Mr. Martyn not to come over (as proposed) on Tuesday to visit us, but to come on Thursday, and prepared to preach at the private meeting at Lieutenant Tainter's. P.M. I walked to Captain Maynard's and thence over to Mr. Seth Rice's on purpose to visit his mother and wife. N.B. I sent word about that the appointed Catechetical Exercise is put by. My wife rode to Deacon Forbush's.

1748 April 5 (Tuesday). An Important Time! When this precinct met upon the affair of my sallery and a new Meeting House -- Mr. Grout and Lieutenant Tainter being sent to me to desire me to Pray with them. I went after prayer. They passed no vote about the former article respecting me, but they desired the Committee of the Precinct would at evening come and Confer with me, and enquire of me what I thought my Circumstances would require, and I could chearfully go on in the work of the Ministry with -- and so adjourned that affair to the 18th Instant. And accordingly at evening the said Committee (4 of whom, viz. Edward Baker, Esquire, Captain Warrin, Lieutenant Forbush and Mr. Benjamin Fay) came to me and insisted upon my saying what would suffice maintenance. Note well, they said the precinct would Expect that if the Precinct should comply and make a grant of what I should say would suffice for the Year Currant, then I should give 'em a Receipt in full. I answered that I was averse to saying anything of a particular Sum -- but they insisted that I would. I replied that I insisted on it that the Precinct would Explain their Expression (in their Votes at the Contract) wherein they say that the "Yearly sallery 55£ New Tenor money so called, not Soldier money, so called" and as to the Present State of Things -- what I would have. I said there was a very different manner of Maintaining the Gospel -- There was what would barely do it; there was also what would do it with some handsomeness and Decency; and there was a manner of doing it with a Generousness, when persons were in their Hearts enlarged unto Bountifullness. I did not therefore care to proscribe, nor go about to set a summ. However, upon their further insisting, for they said they must make some Report to them that had sent them, I told them I could offer thus much to their Consideration, that as all the Necessarys of Life had so exceedingly risen as they had for several years past especially, I humbly conceived that it would take double or nigh it (in Denomination of Bills) to do the same as used to be done. Esquire Baker answered that then they understood me that it would not take 440£ old Tenor to have the same done which 220£ used to do. I answered that it could not take less than 400£. Mr. Fay understood me that if the precinct should vote that summ, yet I could not do the whole work nor should go on Chearfully. I replied to this that if they should vote that I would endeavor (as God should

⁴⁵Benjamin Willard.

please to enable me) to go on with all parts of the work and would go on cheerfully -- at least would try this year -- and if it would well do I should, I hoped given God the Glory and them all suitable Thanks, and if it did not so, I would let them know. But it growing late, I told 'em that I would take the matter into Consideration, and they should have Some Return from me when they should sit again. This Concluded the present Conference. As to the other important matter upon which the precinct met today, viz. The Meeting House, they voted that a New Meeting House should be built upon the South Great Road, a little below the Burying place.

1748 April 6 (Wednesday). Lowery. Ebenezer has been ploughing a little in the Days past, and now a little 3 yearling calves sick, probably with what they eat abroad yesterday. Very growing season and the gras appear very pleasant. Mr. John Rogers's wife here, and examined.

1748 April 7 (Thursday). Mr. Martyn (whom I expected to visit me today and go with me to the Family Meeting) sent me a line that he could not come. I preached at Lieutenant Tainter's on Gen. 17.7, to the end of page 12. My wife was with me. After Exercises Captain Baker discoursed with me about our precinct Transactions with me and respecting the 500£ vote in special. My wife and I visited Neighbour Eliezer Rice's wife (who is sick) at Evening.

1748 April 8 (Friday). Mr. Dunlop works in my Garden, sows parsnips etc. Ebenezer splitting Hills.

1748 April 9 (Saturday). Ebenezer sledding off Stones from the Field by the House, a.m. P.M. ploughed there and took up Flax. Neighbour John Rogers here. I gave him what fervent Cautions and Exhortations I could. O that God would give his Blessing!

1748 April 10 (Sunday). On Mat. 14.24 and Heb. 9.27. Mr. Berriah Rice's wife dined with us. N.B. Mr. John Rogers and wife propounded in order to their Humiliation, etc.

1748 April 11 (Monday). Mr. Dunlop again works for me in the Garden. Ebenezer ploughing stubble. Mr. Wellman came p.m. N.B. our reading Dr. Gauden's *Hieraspistes*.⁴⁶

1748 April 12 (Tuesday). Mr. Wellman (having lodged here) rode with me to the Ministers Meeting at Marlborough early in the Morning. I went so early because of an appointment made at Southborough by the other members of the Committee to meet at 6 o'clock this morning to finish our Report. But they did not come in season nor did Mr. Loring come till nigh 11 o'clock today. So that we could accomplish but very little before Dinner and the association Exercises came on. See the minutes of the Association.⁴⁷ At Eve a most unhappy occurrence! It was this, Mr. Jenison had sent a letter to Mr. Smith⁴⁸ to be communicated to the association,

⁴⁶John Gauden, *Hieraspistes: a Defence, by Way of Apology, for the Ministry and Ministers of the Church of England* (London, 1653).

⁴⁷Among other things Mr. Morse of Boylston told the ministers he had not had any salary for more than a year. Allen, *Worcester Association*, p. 28.

⁴⁸Aaron Smith of Southborough.

and he came himself. As the Moderator (Mr. Loring)⁴⁹ began to read the letter, came in his son Jonathan.⁵⁰ Mr. Buckminster,⁵¹ perceiving that there was in the room one who did not belong to the association (viz. said Mr. Jonathan Loring) and knowing our practice not to read letters or transact association business while any stranger was present, stepped up to the Moderator and put the question to him, whether it was fit to go on till his son was retired. Mr. Jonathan Loring, mistaking him and not knowing our custom, flew into a sudden and violent passion with him -- reproached him bitterly. Mr. Davis⁵² offered to speak -- Mr. Loring fell upon him also. Insulted the whole association at very intolerable Rate, nor did his own worthy and venerable father escape, who could do nothing to Effect in stilling him. But we saw how grievous and wounding it was to the good man, and for his sake we could not but forebear the Resentment which Jonathan deserved. We hardly ever saw such an Evening, any of us in all our lives. Mr. Jenison's letter was voted to be read tomorrow morning. Yet was it afterwards read to a number that remained to lodge at Mr. Smith's -- because of Mr. Jenison's frequent and strong insisting -- his plea that he was to go to Watertown early in the Morning. I lodged at Mr. Smith's but my horse was kept at Mr. Samuel Wards.

1748 April 13 (Wednesday). Mr. Jenison sent another letter to the association and demanded a Categorical answer. There was much debate about whether he should be answered and how.⁵³ Mr. Cushing preached the public Lecture on 2 Pet. 1.10. N.B. Mr. Mills⁵⁴ late of Bellingham there. N.B. Heard the sorrowful News yesterday of Mr. Bridghams⁵⁵ house at Brimfield, burnt to the ground and little saved. P.M. Letter to Mr. Jenison drawn up by Mr. Morse and after many readings, voted. Mr. Loring goes from us to Grafton to preach there tomorrow. Mr. Cushing chose moderator in his room. Mr. Wellman rode home with me.

1748 April 14 (Thursday). Mr. Wellman went home. Mr. Barrett was to have preached my Lecture but he disappoints me, as he has done several Times, and I was obliged to preach myself. Text, Gen. 17.7, latter part. After Meeting the Committee of the Precinct at my Desire came So that I might have a Word of Conference with them. James Bradish and Mary Whitney were married. Ebenezer ploughed in the forenoon.

1748 April 15 (Friday). Mr. Campbell of Oxford came and lodged with us.

1748 April 16 (Saturday). Mr. Campbell left us.

1748 April 17 (Sunday). Sacrament, on Song 2.4. P.M. Hos. 6.6, made the Chief of the Exercise from Sermon on John 17.3, from page 12 to page 22.

⁴⁹Israel Loring of Sudbury.

⁵⁰Jonathan Loring (Harvard 1738) was a lawyer of Marlborough. *Sibley*, X, 288-289.

⁵¹Joseph Buckminster of Rutland.

⁵²Joseph Davis of Holden.

⁵³The Association records note "A Contemptuous letter of Mr. William Jennison was treated with the neglect it deserved." Allen, *Worcester Association*, p. 28.

⁵⁴Jonathan Mills (Harvard 1723), the minister of Bellingham, 1727-1737. *Sibley*, VII, 239-241.

⁵⁵The Reverend Mr. James Bridgham.

1748 April 18 (Monday). This was the Day of the Adjournment of the precinct meeting on the affair of my sallery at which I had great hopes the people would have considered my Circumstances Committing the matter however to the Glorious God to do his pleasure. I drew up a paper of answer to the Committee's request to me in behalf of the precinct that I would say what I would have to support my Family? This paper I gave 'em, and it was read to the precinct. Yet they did nothing -- adjourned again to the last Monday in Next Month. It was very provoking to me that they should trifle with me and abuse me at this rate, and this under colour of the most slender pretence which was this -- that "They had not a Discharge for their part (which they had paid) of the 82.10 whereas it was expressly inserted in my paper of Reply to the Committee this Day -- as a Postscript to it -- (but I understood afterward that it was excepted against because it was said "this precinct." This precinct not having a Being at That Time). Whereas no Quibble could be more trifling than this, What I had written in said P.S. being only to intimate my sense of what I was ready to do, respecting those who now make up this precinct, not as if they were to be considered as Precinct in the Instrument of Discharge, but Inhabitants of the Town. But I saw that Anything would serve 'em to shift this unacceptable Business off. Divers of the Committee came in here after the adjournment. Deacon Newton, Esquire Baker and Mr. Benjamin Fay who acquainted me with the adjournment. I was in some Chagrin and hastily stepped aside and wrote and signed a paper by itself assuring them of my readiness to give full Discharge. God grant me patience, Humility, Resignation to his holy Will and grace to improve the Frown of his providence upon me!

1748 April 19 (Tuesday). I visited at Captain Forbushs and Neighbour Cooks on account of the difference subsisting between the women. Was at Lieutenant Forbush. N.B. Am told a Committee is seen in the Morning. Very warm Weather.

1748 April 20 (Wednesday). Catachized at the Meeting House a. and p.m. N.B. There were about 8 girls besides my own. They were Lavinia Baker, Susanna Newton, Hephzibah Rice, Persis Crosby, Jemima Maynard, Ruhamah Pratt, Rachel Pratt, Jemima Brigham. I hope the warm admonitions etc., especially in the forenoon were not without some Effect. The Lord bless these means for their highest good! A very warm day -- and it proves a very dry Time. Noah How works here.

1748 April 21 (Thursday). Mr. Eliezer Rice's Wife continues so very ill. I visited her again. Dr. Smith there. N.B. Read Plutarch's Life of Marc. Marcellus. Noah How and Ebenezer mend Fence.

1748 April 22 (Friday). Killed a Pigg that weighed 7 score and 19 pound. I stuck it myself. Noah How and Ebenezer dressed it. Noah and Ebenezer upon the Fences. At Eve Dr. Stanton Prentice and Dr. Smith called here. Understand that Mrs. Wheeler who lies ill over at Lancaster is in way of Recovery.

1748 April 23 (Saturday). Mr. Eleazer Pratt here to desire me to attend the funeral of Mr. Francis Whitney who was taken suddenly ill the Day before yesterday -- was soon after

insensible -- and yesterday p.m. deceased. The Lord sanctify such sudden strokes! I went accordingly though, it being Saturday, I went not quite to the Grave.

1748 April 24 (Sunday). A.M. on Mat. 14.25.26.27. P.M. On Hos. 6.6, but repeated Sermon John 17.3, from page 23 to 28. Deacon Woodberry⁵⁶ of Sutton on his journey from the General Court dined here. O, that God would grant to us the true, influential, affective Knowledge of Him! That we may both know God and be and do accordingly. N.B. Very refreshing, merciful Rain last night after a very dry Time.

1748 April 25 (Monday). Frost this Morning. Ebenezer mending Fence on the lower South Side. Major Keyes⁵⁷ here p.m. to visit me.

1748 April 26 (Tuesday). [No entry.]

1748 April 27 (Wednesday). My Colt came home of himself from Mr. Grouts.⁵⁸ Noah How brought a plough which he had made for me at Ebenezer's Desire, though we had one of Captain Warrin's make. P.M. Mr. Barns here.⁵⁹ I told him his new Fence had come in upon me about the North East corner of my new piece of woodland. We agreed to review our marks and plotts. Very sweet refreshing Rain. N.B. Ebenezer planted Beans and Cucumbers in the back yard -- But may my mind and Heart be turned from Earthly things and be suitably prepared for the Solemnity approaching!

1748 April 28⁶⁰ (Thursday). Public Fast. I preached all Day upon Hos. 6.6, composed on the occasion though for the Exercises on the last Sabbaths from this Text I repeated as before is said. N.B. A number of Gentlemen at Meeting who sat in Captain Maynard's and other seats. May God accept our offerings and teach us the true, influential Knowledge of Him!

1748 April 29 (Friday). I went to Captain Maynard's and understood that Dr. Joseph Pyncheon⁶¹ was one of the Gentlemen that Kept Fast with us, but he was gone upon his journey homeward. Mr. Martyn came to see me. I went down to the woodland, joining on to Mr. Barns, and Mr. Martyn and Ebenezer with me. I called also my Neighbour Stephen Maynard and we all saw that my marked Tree was cutt down and laid into Mr. Barns's New Fence. Mr. Martyn dined with us.

1748 April 30 (Saturday). I have sent a letter to Mr. Smith about our changing (He had mentioned it at the Time of the Minister's Meeting without Determining what Day). I rode to Marlborough, calling at Judge Ward's⁶² to consult him about my Plott which he had drawn of

⁵⁶Benjamin Woodberry.

⁵⁷John Keyes of Shrewsbury.

⁵⁸Joseph Grout.

⁵⁹Richard Barnes.

⁶⁰[Additional note: given as 29 in the published version.]

⁶¹The physician of Springfield.

⁶²William Ward of Southborough, a justice of the peace.

my land joining to Mr. Barns, and he discovered to me that Mr. Barns had not trespassed etc. Was at Mr. Smith's, but as to our changing, tomorrow is appointed to be a Sacrament Day with them. At Dr. Gott's. There I obtained Mr. Wilson⁶³ to preach for me tomorrow. Mr. David Warrin shod my Colt. Dr. Gott gave the shoes; Mr. Loring paid for the work and engaged to treat the workman. Went to see my son Thomas. Mr. Williams not at home. Returned at Eve to Westborough.

1748 May 1 (Sunday). Mr. Wilson preached for me. A.M. on Mat. 16.26. P.M. 1 Thess. 4.14. He returned to Hopkinton at eve.

1748 May 2 (Monday). Joseph Bowker came to work for me for 4 months, Wages 50£, Old Tenor. Ebenezer and he brought my Cow (with her Calf) that had been kept at Lieutenant Tainter's. I walked over to Mr. Whipples. N.B. Mr. Silas Walker of Nichewog there. Mr. Whipple was so kind as to lend me his Horse to ride to Mr. Joseph Knowltons. I visited his Wife and pray'd with her. Visited Elijah Bellows⁶⁴ Sick of a Fever and pray'd with him. A Thunder Storm arose and kept me there and at Mr. Whipples till it was late in the Evening.

1748 May 3 (Tuesday). Sent 8 Cattle by the Whipples etc. to Nitchewag, under the Care of Mr. Silas Wheeler. Captain Warrin sent his sons Nahum and Jonathan with two Yoke of Oxen and Hay to keep 'em, to plough for me. Sent by Captain Maynard to Boston. P.M. my Team also ploughing. N.B. Mr. Jonathan Green⁶⁵ here, and desires me from his Mother Wheeler to take the Care of getting the Bible given by Mr. Wheeler to our Church, let it Cost more or less; he tells me he has money lying by him for that use.

1748 May 4 (Wednesday). Lieutenant Ward here. Mr. Whitney also. N.B. Had very free Talk and with some Earnestness about the Backwardness of people throughout the Land to Support their Ministers. Mr. Martyn came with his wife to see us -- and din'd with us -- Spent the p.m. here and went home at Eve. I griev'd that so little was Said of the State of Religion in our own Flocks. He brought me Mrs. Wheelers earnest Request to visit her.

1748 May 5 (Thursday). Joseph and Ebenezer are ploughing and mending Fence. The Weather from Day to Day so Cloudy and cold and sometimes Rains that we declin'd planting Indian Corn. A.M. Visited Mr. Eliezer Rice's Wife, who now grows better.

1748 May 6 (Friday). The Weather forbids planting Still. My Hay I think is now wholly done but had some Kindly from old Mr. Maynards. Lieutenant Holloway here -- we talk'd of his sister Wheeler who is at Lancaster still.

⁶³John Wilson (Harvard 1743), a physician of Natick, who settled in Hopkinton in 1750. The doctor occasionally preached in nearby pulpits. *Sibley*, XI, 96-97.

⁶⁴A son of Eleazer Bellows.

⁶⁵Green's wife, Sibyl or Sibil, was the daughter of the late Joseph Wheeler.

1748 May 7 (Saturday). We planted some of the Ground. Isaac Amsdens Child dy'd in bed with them Suddenly last night.

1748 May 8 (Sunday). On Mat. 14.28 to 31. P.M. on Heb. 9.27. John Rogers and his wife restor'd to Charity,⁶⁶ and his wife Baptized. O that God would keep alive the Impressions made this Day; and might they be Saving! Heard Mrs. Wheeler is better. Gave public Notice of the Funeral of Isaac Amsdens Child to be tomorrow morning 8 o'clock. N.B. I wrote to Mr. Martyn at noon, and sent it this Eve after meeting by Mr. James Ball to let him know of this Funeral -- we having agreed to go tomorrow morning over to Lancaster to see Mrs. Wheeler before she dyes; but now I may not hinder his going, though I be prevented myself by the Funeral aforesaid (Though I fear whether some Evil mayn't come of it, that I have written upon the Lords Day.)

1748 May 9 (Monday). Funeral of Isaac Amsdens Child at 8 a.m. After Prayer there rode over to Mr. Martyns who was not gone to Lancaster. I din'd there, and p.m. I return'd home, he concluding to go over to see Mrs. Wheeler tomorrow morning.

1748 May 10 (Tuesday). Read the Chief part of the Independent Advertisers⁶⁷ that have come out. Borrow'd of Mr. Martyn.⁶⁸

1748 May 11 (Wednesday). Preach'd Mr. Stone's Lecture at Southborough on Song 2.4. Visited old Mr. Johnson, and was exceeding plain with him. Return'd home at Evening.

1748 May 12 (Thursday). My wife and I rode to Sutton and din'd at my Cousen Fullers,⁶⁹ and Trasks.⁷⁰ Preach'd the Lecture on Rom. 6.13. After Lecture Mr. Wellman rode with us first to Mr. Singleterrys,⁷¹ where we were kindly entertain'd and refresh'd, and then to Mr. Halls⁷² -- where was Mr. Aaron Hutchinson (of Connecticut) Preacher at Grafton, who had preach'd the Lecture this Day for Mr. Hall. We all lodg'd at Mr. Halls. N.B. Mr. Hall had had a Church Meeting on account of the Separatists among them.

1748 May 13 (Friday). Mr. Hall and his Wife, Mr. Wellman and Mr. Hutchinson went with us down to Brother Hicks, who also came to show us the way to his House. We all din'd there. In the Afternoon Brother Hicks and his wife mounted and rode with us as far as to Deacon Hall's,⁷³

⁶⁶In the church records Parkman noted "John Rogers and Elizabeth his Wife offered their humble Confessions of the Sin of Fornication, and were restor'd—the Latter own'd the Covenant and, was baptiz'd herself and then their Children Persis and John were also baptiz'd."

⁶⁷A weekly paper established Jan. 4, 1748, in Boston by Gamaliel Rogers and Daniel Fowle. It continued to be issued through Dec. 5, 1749.

⁶⁸The Reverend Mr. John Martyn of the north precinct of Westborough.

⁶⁹Jonathan Fuller.

⁷⁰Samuel Trask had come with Jonathan Fuller to Sutton from Salem.

⁷¹Amos Singletary was a justice of the peace and a representative of Sutton.

⁷²The Reverend Mr. David Hall of Sutton.

⁷³Percival Hall was a founder of the Sutton Church. He was a representative of Sutton.

whither we all went. My Spouse and I parted from the rest of the Company at Deacon Halls and we rode, with Mr. Hutchinson accompanying to Deacon Whipples⁷⁴ in Grafton, where this Gentleman lodges. Our Conversation was chiefly on the Melancholly Subject of the Separations -- both at Sutton and at Grafton. Mr. Hutchinson show'd the Ministers who were together today his Credentials -- sign'd by the Clerk of the South Association in Hartford. We Stopp'd at Winchesters so long as to Eat. We found our Habitation in Peace. D.G. In special our little Alexander who has been weaning ever since Monday Night.

1748 May 14 (Saturday). Joseph and Ebenezer building Stone Wall on the South side of the Road before and below the Barns. The Face of the Creation is Wonderfully beautify'd and forward. Might the work of Grace flourish in my Soul no less!

1748 May 15 (Sunday). On Mat. 11 the 31 verse ad finem. P.M. Hos. 6.3.

1748 May 16 (Monday). I rode to Lancaster to see Mrs. Wheeler. Mr. James Ball went with me. I visited Judge Wilder likewise. Was at Madam Prentice's⁷⁵ but she was gone to Boston. Expected to see Mr. Abraham Williams who preaches there, but he was gone to Leominster. Was at Dr. Stanton Prentice's. He gave me an imperfect Scudders daily walk.⁷⁶ Return'd home at Night. Found the Missionary Strong at my House, both he and Mr. Spencer had been at Boston. They had been to the Commissioners to acquaint 'em that there was no Encouragement to go up with Mr. John Brainerd to the Indians on Susquehannah River. He lodg'd here.

1748 May 17 (Tuesday). Mr. Strong left us to go to Northampton. Town Meeting to choose a Representative, but they conclude not to send. N.B. Mr. James Ball and Mr. Jacob Rice pay their part to the old Arrears, and paid nigh double in denomination. At Eve came Mr. Cotton⁷⁷ of New Town.

1748 May 18 (Wednesday). Mr. Cotton left us.

1748 May 19 (Thursday). Rainy. Mr. Cushing preach'd my Lecture on John 6.51. N.B. I was Sleepy at Meeting, the Lord forgive this sin!

1748 May 20 (Friday). At Mr. Whipples with my wife at the Raising of his Barn.

1748 May 21 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1748 May 22 (Sunday). Sacrament. A.M. on Song 1.12. P.M. Repeated on John 5.6. Took in all the paragraph.

⁷⁴James Whipple.

⁷⁵The widow of the Reverend Mr. John Prentice.

⁷⁶Henry Scudder, *The Christian's Daily Walk in Holy Security and Peace* (London, 1637). There were many English editions.

⁷⁷The Reverend Mr. John Cotton of Newton.

1748 May 23 (Monday). Was at Deacon Newtons -- din'd there. Mr. Buckminster here p.m.

1748 May 24 (Tuesday). In the Morning I asked in Honourable Joseph Pyncheon and the Reverend Mr. Jones,⁷⁸ who broke fast with me and I set out with them on my Journey to Cambridge, but I turn'd away to Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlins the Collector. N.B. Thunder stop'd me at Mr. Mixtows⁷⁹ in Southborough. Call'd at Captain Buckminsters⁸⁰ in Framingham. N.B. Din'd at Wolsoms with Colonel Ward, Dr. Pyncheon and Mr. Jones. Rode to College with Colonel Ward. Lodg'd at Mother Champneys who lives at Brother Barretts House in Cambridge Town old -- left my Horse with Brother Champney.

1748 May 25 (Wednesday). Rode to Boston. Mr. Lewis⁸¹ of Pembroke preach'd to the General Assembly on Isa. 22.21. Din'd at Brother Samuels. At Convention p.m. N.B. Mr. Williams⁸² of Weston Moderator. No Boston ministers at Dr. Sewals but Mr. Byles⁸³ only: who was therefore chosen Clerk. A Letter from Major Abbot⁸⁴ of Providence born by Deacon Belknap, to desire further assistance from the Convention, in supporting preaching among them. I heard the very heavy Tidings of the Death of the Reverend and worthy Mr. Joshua Gee, Senior Pastor of the Old North, a minister of primitive Stamp. *Alme Deus! Tales prefice ubique Gregi.* I went to see Dr. Parkmans Wife who remains in Very low and weak Condition, but is not worse. I lodg'd there with them.

1748 May 26 (Thursday). At Convention Dr. Wigglesworth⁸⁵ preach'd on Eph. 4.11.12. The Collection amounted to nigh 300£ Old Tenor. I din'd at Mr. Wellsteads.⁸⁶ Mr. Solomon Williams⁸⁷ and President Clap⁸⁸ give me account of Mr. Aaron Hutchinson now at Grafton. Mr. Chase's Sermon at Mr. Wellmans Ordination is now come out of the Press.⁸⁹ Bought Brother Alexanders Hatt for 8£ Old Tenor. Reverend Mr. Gee bury'd. Dr. Sewall pray'd before the Corps were mov'd. I walk'd with Mr. Lowel⁹⁰ of Newbury. Ministers, except the associated ministers of the Town had not Gloves: Yet the Church and Congregation gather'd plentifully to bear the Charge but it was very much expended on the numerous Family. After I had some free and warm Discourse with Mr. Loring, and hope I have Some Special Interest in his prayers. N.B. Something was Said by Dr. Parkman about my preaching to his wife this Eve -- but he went to

⁷⁸Isaac Jones (Yale 1742), the minister of Warren, Mass., 1747-1784. Dexter, *Biographical Sketches*, p. 715.

⁷⁹Benjamin Mixter or Mixer.

⁸⁰Thomas, son of the late Colonel Joseph Buckminster.

⁸¹Daniel Lewes (Harvard 1707), the minister of Pembroke, 1712-1751. *Sibley*, V, 334-337.

⁸²The Reverend Mr. William Williams.

⁸³Mather Byles of the Hollis Street Church.

⁸⁴Daniel Abbott, Jr., of Providence.

⁸⁵Edward Wigglesworth, D.D., the Harvard professor.

⁸⁶The Reverend Mr. William Welstead of the New Brick Church.

⁸⁷(Harvard 1719). The minister of Lebanon, Conn., 1749-1769. *Sibley*, VI, 352-361.

⁸⁸Thomas Clap (Harvard 1722), the President of Yale College, 1740-1764. *Sibley*, VII, 27-50.

⁸⁹Stephen Chase, *The Angel of the Churches* (Boston, 1748).

⁹⁰The Reverend Mr. John Lowell.

Dorchester to see his Child (had my Horse in Captain Whites Chair). Nobody spoke to me at Evening about it and I was very deeply engag'd in my mind about some other Things, So that twas too late to begin an Exercise. Captain White and his Lady were there, and I lodg'd there.

1748 May 27 (Friday). Mr. Kneeland⁹¹ told me I Should not need to say anything to his Brother Green⁹² about paying for the Journal, for I was not (he said) in the pay List. Was at Rogers and Fowls and receiv'd several Favours from Mr. Rogers. Din'd with sister Rebecca⁹³ and my Neece Mrs. Oliver. Bought my Brothers Hatt for 8£ Old Tenor and they presented me with my Fathers Cane, of Whales Tooth. Had Mr. Peam Cowells Chair for my Neece (Betty Parkman) who was ready to ride with me. We rode as far as to Mr. Cottons at Newtown. There we were kindly entertain'd and lodg'd. Mr. Jones of Western there.

1748 May 28 (Saturday). We pursued our Journey. I was sometimes very sick at my Stomach by means, as I suppose, of drinking Tea (I believe Green) for Breakfast. We call'd at Dr. Robys⁹⁴ and were refresh'd. I grew better. It being a very hot Season (as it has been also all this Week) we stopp'd at Mr. Darlings, and din'd, and rested Two Hours I believe. Got Home in season and Safety, Blessed be God! My Family also in peace.

1748 May 29 (Sunday). I repeated a. and p.m. on Acts 1.7. In prosecution of my Scheme on the last Judgement and now consider'd the Time when etc.

1748 May 30 (Monday). This Day the Parish met upon adjournment Concerning my Support among them. They pass'd a vote in the following words viz. Voted and granted to the Reverend Mr. Parkman our minister the Sum of one Hundred and fifty Two pounds ten shillings old Tenor -- This with what they had heretofore granted was to make up 400£ Old Tenor -- for his Support this Currant Year, provided Mr. Parkman will give the said precinct a full Discharge from the Time said Precinct began their Contract with him for his Service in the Work of the ministry among them untill the fifth Day of June 1748. Josiah Newton Moderator. And then sent Two persons, viz. Mr. Samuel Williams and [blank] to desire me to go up to the meeting House that they might Speak with me personally. Upon which I went up. When the opportunity was prepared for me to speak, I desir'd the precinct, in order to my fulfilling the Condition abovesaid to give me (according to what was inserted in the Warrant for this meeting) some direct and plain answer to my reasonable Request last December (for so long this affair had been depending, which request was) that they would explain their Expression in their Votes of February [blank] 1744/5, wherein they Say that they will give me 55£ New Tenor Money so called etc. Upon my making this motion Several seem'd to be disgust'd; and even some that I suppose were friendly and were the means of obtaining to Day's vote, and some were ready to throw it up, or would have it re-consider'd. We had Some warm debate about that Explanation which the then Moderator (Deacon Newton) and the Clerk (Mr. Francis Whipple) had given me

⁹¹Samuel Kneeland, the printer of Boston.

⁹²Bartholomew Green and Kneeland were the publishers of *The Boston Gazette and Weekly Journal*.

⁹³Parkman's sister-in-law, Mrs. Alexander Parkman.

⁹⁴Ebenezer Roby, the physician of Sudbury.

(by desire) that Evening after the Vote was made. N.B. When the Paper I had lately given the present Committee of the precinct (who were appointed to treat with me) was referr'd to and the words were recited from it which (as I conceive) the said Moderator and Clerk in February 1744/5 deliver'd me as the meaning of the vote which had been pass'd that Day, immediately Captain Warrin was in a great Heat, and express'd himself indecently -- saying that That was a Corrupt Thing, pointing said to Paper. I therefore referr'd to myself to the very words of the Moderator and Mr. Whipple -- but though they said much the same things as heretofore in showing the Interpretation of the foremention'd voted, yet they now add that they did not hereby intend that the Precinct would keep up the Value of money according to Gold or silver; but that it Should be according to the Determination of the Court. And when they had said this divers others struck in, and Insisted that That was the true intent and meaning. Whereupon I reply'd that being Sensible I could recover nothing but what was written in the Votes how ambiguous Soever, I desir'd it might be wav'd for the present (for it was almost dark and the people seem'd uneasy that they might go home) and I would have the precinct to take a Time to settle our agreement; and concerning their Vote of today for supply this year Currant, I openly declar'd that I accepted of it upon the Condition therein inserted, and that I could do no otherwise, through the Necessity of my Case. No sooner was this Spoke, than new Displeasures arose -- but I went to a window and wrote what I had said (viz. My Consent to the vote upon the Conditions therein express'd) on the paper of the Vote itself. Then the Moderator dissolv'd the Meeting. N.B. When I propos'd Corn and other Necessarys of Life to be a standard, if they did not like to have Gold and Silver, Brother Williams answer'd that then if there Should come ever so dreadful a Scarcity and if Corn Should be many pounds a Bushel I would have it of them to the full notwithstanding. I was griev'd at this answer and I hope my Reply was satisfying. N.B. Lieutenant Tainter and Mr. Eliezer Rice in a Contest, about something which the former affirms I said. Scil. that (on Consideration of the Difference among the people) I was ready to throw up the Precincts Votes without any lfs and and's. Where as I told him it was upon Supposition that they would do Something else as good in the Stead thereof. It was a grief to me to find there were so many Disquietments and I was especially Sorry that when the people had granted as much as I expected (if it went not so much as was properly due) that I must accept it in such a manner as looks to them unkind and as if I was Still bearing upon them. Weeding Corn over.

1748 May 31 (Tuesday). Cousen Betty and I rode to Captain Bakers, to Deacon Newtons and to Lieutenant Tainters. We din'd (upon Lieutenants Invitations yesterday) at the House of this Latter, for I catechiz'd at the South School House. At Eve in returning Home I overturn'd the Chair between old Mr. Maynards and my own House. Dr. Breck and his Brother Cooley here while I was gone to Catechizing.

1748 June 1 (Wednesday). It has been the dryest Time we have known for a great While, but at night and

1748 June 2 (Thursday). In the morning were refreshing Showers of Rain. A great Mercy and Blessing! A.M. I walk'd over to Eliezer Rice's -- his Father in Law Bootman there. Mr. Breck⁹⁵ here, in his Journey to Springfield, and lodg'd here. Lent Neighbour Rice my mare for him to ride to Sutton tomorrow morning, with his Father in law and others. Joseph and Ebenezer Cabbage Plants etc.

1748 June 3 (Friday). Bright Day, Mr. Breck left us. Mr. Leavitt⁹⁶ of Sommers here and din'd. Neighbour Jonathan Rogers here again and I took pains with him in examining him for some Hours. Ebenezer and Joseph carting fencing-Stuff. Receiv'd a Proclamation for a Fast on account of the Drought, dated June 1 the very Day the Rain came.

1748 June 4 (Saturday). Mrs. Joanna, wife of Jonathan Rogers here to be Examin'd. P.M. Divers Gentlemen from Grafton going over to Mr. Martyn in order to obtain a Church Meeting. They were, Captain Willard, Mr. Brooks⁹⁷ and Mr. Simon Tainter.⁹⁸ I sent my Desire to Mr. Martyn to Change Tomorrow (as I had done to Mr. Smith without success) but the Return was that Mr. Morse was already there to Change with him.

1748 June 5 (Sunday). A.M. on Mat. 15.1.2. P.M. on John 6.45. And they shall all be taught of God. Repeating some parts (the Heads much chang'd) of Sermon on John 17.3. I began with page 33 Article 6 and then deliver'd the propertys beginning with the second. N.B. Omitted the Object in page 35. Us'd Some of the Hints of Application and added some other. Propounded Jonathan Rogers and his wife.

1748 June 6 (Monday). At Evening took a Ride in the Chair with Cousen Betty, and my Daughter Lucy beyond the Pond. Ebenezer and Joseph have been very much upon the Fences, riding etc. Mr. Bootman⁹⁹ of Beverly here.

1748 June 7 (Tuesday). Ebenezer and Joseph undertook to kill a Fatt Calf for me.

1748 June 8 (Wednesday). Mr. Cook¹⁰⁰ here, Settled our accounts and paid him for his work.

1748 June 9 (Thursday). In the Morning (being Publick Fast because of the Drought) came 2 Chairs. Mr. Gay¹⁰¹ of Suffield and his Wife, his Brother also and Mrs. Ballentine with her little Daughter from Horns¹⁰² at Southborough. Mr. Gay preach'd for me both parts of the Day on 2 Chron. 7.14. After Early Supper and Prayers they left us to prosecute their Journey as far as

⁹⁵The Reverend Mr. Robert Breck, Jr., of Springfield.

⁹⁶The Reverend Mr. Freegrace Leavitt (Yale 1745), the minister of Somers, Conn., 1748-1761. Dexter, *Biographical Sketches*, II, 43-44.

⁹⁷Ebenezer Brooks.

⁹⁸Simon Tainter, Jr., the son of the Westborough deacon.

⁹⁹Numerous Bootmans, Butmans, and Buttman lived in Beverly.

¹⁰⁰Cornelius Cook, the blacksmith.

¹⁰¹The Reverend Mr. Ebenezer Gay.

¹⁰²Robert Horne.

Shrewsbury. I was very much griev'd that we were So turn'd aside from serious Meditation and that so much was done in Entertainments beyond the Nature of a Fast. The Lord forgive us that in our Fast we find pleasure!

1748 June 10 (Friday). Mr. Martyn here in his Way to Grafton, to hold a Church Meeting there. Mr. Lull and Townsend here going to see Jonathan Rogers who is Sick. A very hot Day. Ebenezer and Joseph who began their half-hilling on the eighth follow it again to Day.

1748 June 11 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1748 June 12 (Sunday). Deliver'd the sermons which I had design'd for the Fast, Scil. on Jer. 14.22.

1748 June 13 (Monday). Visited Neighbour Jonathan Rogers who is sick of a Fever. Training of North Company. Rain at Night. I pray'd with them and din'd at Captain Maynards. Ebenezer and Molly and Betty rode to Colonel Wards.

1748 June 14 (Tuesday). Mr. Cushing, Mr. Morse, Mr. Davis and I rode to Hopkinton to the Association. No Concio. The Report of the Committee was read, but Mr. Smith and Mr. Mellen did So except against our Declaring ourselves respecting Doctrines that there was a great deal of Debate. At Supper a little Clash between Mr. Smith and Me how our People in Westborough were disturb'd at my not accepting (as 'twas reported) the 400£ which they voted me, and that 'twas understood I design'd to leave 'em.

1748 June 15 (Wednesday). Mr. Loring ask'd advice concerning his dismissing members to Mr. Solomon Reeds Church in Framingham. I preach'd the Public Lecture on 2 Cor. 3.18. After Dinner we return'd to Consider the Report of the Committee and passing over what related to declaring our principles, we concurr'd pritty well in all the rest. In particular came into Resolves and votes about guarding our Pulpitts; and to send some of our Members to Cambridge and to the South East Associations, that we might have their Concurrence if it might be, or know their Minds and Methods touching Examining Candidates. As to Mr. Abraham Williams who had begun to preach, it was thought best to let him alone for the present. In returning home (Mr. Cushing my Company) I call'd to see old Mrs. Graves. Mr. Cornelius Biglo sick, and hear of divers others taken ill. But through God's Goodness found my own Family in peace. N.B. Ebenezer and Cousen Betty Parkman set out this Morning for Boston. Molly went with them in the Chair to Marlborough. Bad News from many Towns that it is very Sickly, in Boston especially -- one if not more meeting Houses shutt up Some sabbath past. Some Number of Ministers ill.

1748 June 16 (Thursday). Visited Neighbour Jonathan Rogers who is very bad. P.M. preach'd to young people on 1 John 2.15. Few at Meeting. After Exercise much Communication with serious Mr. Bradish. Sent by him to have Mr. Cook come to me tomorrow. Helped Joseph pole in the Yard and Garden Hay.

1748 June 17 (Friday). Mr. Cook came -- after much Discourse I Said to him "If you do agree that Since the Conversation and Assistance of the Brethren that were together upon our Affair (Mr. Bradish, Mr. Belknap and Mr. Chamberlin, at Mr. Cooks House Some Time ago), we wholly lay aside the Difference which Subsisted at that Time; and if you will Endeavour by the Grace of God to watch over yourself, and to walk as becomes the Gospel of Christ, then I consent to administer the Ordinance of Baptism to their Child." To this he answer'd that he did not consent thereto -- and we parted this Time in peace.¹⁰³ P.M. I rak'd Hay for a good while with Joseph (N.B. a.m. he work'd for Neighbour John Rogers) between the House and Barn. Mr. Mellen of Chauxit here. Cherrys and Currans [*sic*] begin to be prey'd upon.

1748 June 18 (Saturday). Thunder and Lightning. At Eve I rode to Marlborough. Met Mr. Smith on the Road.

1748 June 19 (Sunday). Bad News from the Frontiers. Last Thursday 10 men assaulted by a great Body of Indians between Hinsdells Fort and Fort Dummer. Three kill'd and Seven Captivated. We hear also that Colonel Stoddard¹⁰⁴ of Northampton is dead at Boston. Mrs. Colson likewise (hitherto Abigail Boardman) dead at Boston. I preach'd at Marlborough on 2 Cor. 3.15. P.M. 10.14.18. N.B. Mr. Jenison and Dr. Gott at meeting a.m. and not p.m. I return'd to Westborough at Eve. N.B. Dr. Gotts exceptions (made at his House before Colonel Williams¹⁰⁵ and Mr. Jenison) against the passage in sermon on 10, 15 page 7. "Faith Springs from the Love, Unbelief from the Hatred of God."

1748 June 20 (Monday). Visited Neighbour Jonathan Rogers again, who we think is growing better.

1748 June 21 (Tuesday). My Wife and I rode over to Mr. Martyns, to the raising of their New House. Ruth and Hannah Hicks¹⁰⁶ came to see us. Thomas Rogers borrowed money, 40 shillings. More Mischief by the Indians. The last News is from Kenderhook, 5 out of 7 English kill'd.

1748 June 22 (Wednesday). Catechetical Exercise on the Third Commandment. After the Exercise I went to Mr. Amsdens to the raising of his New House. My Wife not well and therefore could not go with me. N.B. Mr. Gale, Father of Thaddeus there.

1748 June 23 (Thursday). Mr. Martyn in his way to Grafton Church meeting brought his Daughter to see us. She din'd here and tarry'd till Evening, till her Father return'd from Grafton. Neighbour Barns bought a Barrell of boil'd Cyder. £3.10.0. P.M. marry'd Abijah Gale to Abigail Amsden. N.B. Mr. Amsden and Mr. Gale present, with many young people. Mr. Amsden excepted against that passage in the marriage Covenant, Obey him. This was clear'd up from

¹⁰³Abigail, the daughter of Cornelius and Eunice Cook, was not baptized until Aug. 17, 1748.

¹⁰⁴Colonel John Stoddard.

¹⁰⁵Abraham Williams of Marlborough.

¹⁰⁶Daughters of Parkman's brother-in-law, John Hicks of Sutton.

Eph. 5.24. My wife very ill all Day. Mr. Martyn at Evening. Sorrowful account of the broken state of Grafton -- very nigh to breaking up the Church.

1748 June 24 (Friday). Exceeding Hott dry Season. Joseph and Ebenezer mowing and raking. P.M. came Mr. Stephen Fay with a Warrant from Captain Edward Baker Esquire with which he press'd Joseph Bowker, my Young Man, into the service! I went over to the Captain to see if nothing could be done to release him. The Captain said he would do his utmost: and accordingly Sent his son to try to hire Robert Cook,¹⁰⁷ and he should offer him 50£. Nay not come without him if 60£ would procure him. I am afraid of the Temptation of too great Anxiety -- but I beseech God to enable me to put my Trust in Him! and Committing all to Him, to be at Rest! Joseph went to Lieutenant Tainters who I am perswaded would do what in him lies. Two or Three Things made this impressing feel the worse. Its falling out at this Season, when I cannot get any Body in his stead; and it being on Friday when I was more disturb'd: (It was So exactly when Captain Baker press'd Thomas Winchester) And when they want but one Man out of the whole Town. My Daughter Mary not return'd from Marlborough till this p.m. Dr. Gotts young man, Breed, and Mrs. Sally Gott rode up with her in Mr. Lorings Chair, but Breed and Sally return'd. N.B. They inform me that Mrs. Smith was lately seiz'd with a Lethargy -- and her Friends from Cape Ann are Sent for.

1748 June 25 (Saturday). Still exceeding Hot, but was oblig'd to turn out and Pole Hay both Yesterday and to Day also. Joseph Bowker is oblig'd to go to the Frontiers and accordingly left us. May God be his Guardian and his Helper, and return him in Safety! The Interruptions I have had prevent my preparing more than part of an Exercise for tomorrow.

1748 June 26 (Sunday). Another very hot Day and the Earth exceeding Dry. Unless the Lord have Mercy on us the Event must needs be very terrible. A.M. on Mat. 15.3-6. P.M. repeated sermon on 1 John 2.15 latter part. N.B. Mr. Daniel Forbush¹⁰⁸ brought me the very Sorrowful Tidings of the Death of sister Hannah¹⁰⁹ on the twenty third at 5 in the Morning. An unspeakable Loss to my Brother and his Family; and to us all! She was a very worthy person and a great Blessing among us. My Brother was marry'd to her when I was so young, that she has always seem'd as a Blood Relation. The Lord Sanctify the wide Breach to my dear Brother and his Children. And since we are all so frequently Smitten, O that we might be more and more in Readiness! Lord make me know my End! O might I be as one that waits for his Lord!

1748 June 27 (Monday). The Heat Continues. Ebenezer began hilling. Wrote to Brother William on occasion of his Wife's Death. Mr. Maynard made us a Visit and brought Mr. John Nichols of Boston and his Spouse. Mr. Barns and his man fetch'd away the Cyder which he bought on the twenty third.

¹⁰⁷The son of Cornelius Cook of Westborough.

¹⁰⁸The son of Deacon Jonathan Forbush.

¹⁰⁹Parkman's sister-in-law, Mrs. William Parkman of Boston.

1748 June 28 (Tuesday). Visited Neighbour Jonathan Rogers. Mr. Jason Whitney here and desires me to write to Colonel Ward about recalling Joseph Bowker; and I comply'd with it, and Sent it by him. A very great Dew and some distant Thunder last night, and Somewhat Cloudy this morning also, yet it clears off and is hot and Dry. P.M. after Some Time of distant Thunder, there came up a great Storm here, and we had several very hard Claps of thunder accompany'd with sharp Lightning and Some very refreshing Showers of Rain. Blessed be God! Towards Eve Captain Warrin was here to discourse with me. Our subject was those disagreeable Contradictions we had at the precinct meeting May 30th last.

1748 June 29 (Wednesday). The Great Mercy of God is magnify'd in the Refreshing Showers again. Cloudy all Day. Rain'd most of the afternoon.

1748 June 30 (Thursday). I greatly expected Mr. Martyn to preach my Lecture but to my considerable Disappointment he did not come. I preach'd from 1 Cor. 11.24, last Clause -- but was oblig'd to repeat my old sermon 2 on Luke 22.19. I was requested to stop the Church that the Deacons might acquaint them with the Deficiency of the Contributions to Supply the Communion Table. N.B. I Spake to the Congregation just before the Blessing, to the following purposes. "In my present peculiar Circumstances I am obliged to acquaint the Inhabitants of this Precinct that my Help being taken away I must depend upon you to help me. I must depend upon you respecting my Temporals, if you would have me attend to your Spirituals." After meeting Lieutenant Tainter here, and spake Comfortably of Sending Help, but though others were here no one else Spoke a word of it. I desire to rest in Gods Providence. N.B. Mr. Jason Whitney brought a Letter from Colonel Ward¹¹⁰ to Captain Baker about recalling Joseph Bowker as I suppose. A bright good Day. Ebenezer mowed a.m. round the Great Field, and partly round the old Well etc.

1748 July 1 (Friday). Bright Day. Air cooler much than of late. Thomas Rogers came to hilling along with Ebenezer the forenoon for Josephs work for his Brother John. I was oblig'd to turn out and tend Hay, and pole from some distance for notwithstanding what I said yesterday nobody came to work for me. Some rain towards Eve. Deacon Sparhawk¹¹¹ of Cambridge came to see us and lodg'd here.

1748 July 2 (Saturday). Deacon Sparhawk return'd to Cambridge. Mr. Townsend¹¹² here, acquaints me that Mr. Martyn was ill on Thursday and had 8 Hands Come to work for him.

1748 July 3 (Sunday). Sacrament. By reason of my great Difficulties and incumbrances, I was oblig'd to go on in repeating sermon on Luke 22.19 but did it from 1 Cor. 11.24. P.M. deliver'd an Exposition of Mat. 25.7.8. One Mrs. Margaret Chadduck din'd here. Thomme came up last night and kept Sabbath with us.

¹¹⁰Nahum Ward of Shrewsbury.

¹¹¹Samuel Sparhawk.

¹¹²Joshua Townsend of the north side.

1748 July 4 (Monday). Mr. Samuel Harrington kindly came and hoed for me, and Samuel Forbush came for Lieutenant Tainter. It rain'd a while -- but they were not much beat off. Thomme though he was not well, yet plough'd for them great part of the Day. N.B. Thomme tells me that this master thinks he might be excus'd more from out door work if his Indentures were thrown up. N.B. Ebenezer by going down into the Well to hook up the Buckett, took Cold and was Sick at Eve. The Discharge by Vomit a great Favour. A Storm of Thunder, Lightning and Rain at Night.

1748 July 5 (Tuesday). Rose very early by Candle Light, and soon Set out upon my Journey to Cambridge. Stopp'd at Mr. Cooks and got a Shooe put on my Colt (which I now first rode to Boston); at Mr. Chamberlins and receiv'd 25£ New Tenor, hastened to Mr. Bridge's¹¹³ who was gone before me but his wife there. I din't at Watertown, at Captain Tainters.¹¹⁴ Stop'd at Saltmarshs, by reason of Mr. Nichols and his Spouse, Mr. John Gerrish and his Spouse, Messrs. Marsh¹¹⁵ and Nathaniel Gardner¹¹⁶ of College there. I rode to Cambridge to see my honour'd mother in Law at Brother Barretts. Visited Brother Champney -- but lodg'd, and my Horse was kept at Deacon Sparhawk. N.B. On the fifth Deacon Newton Sent Timothy and Mr. Charles Rice sent Charles to help us in hilling our Corn. On the seventh he sow'd the South field with Rie.

1748 July 6 (Wednesday). Attended Commencement. Was chiefly at Sir Wards¹¹⁷ and Sir Cushings.¹¹⁸ Din'd in the Hall. The afternoon prov'd very rainy and into Night. The Presidents Oration was a Lamenting of the disadvantages and Disrepute which Learning was fallen under in these Times, and Satyrical Invective against those who were the Sad Causes of our gloomy state. N.B. Neither the Governor nor the Lieutenant Governor present. The former gone his journey to Albany. I lodg'd at Mother Champneys.

1748 July 7 (Thursday). Samuel Sparhawk junior brought my Horse in the Morning and I rode to Boston. I stop'd at Proctors and would have been glad to have had my Horse kept there this Visit. And I made it my Business to go and see bereaved Brother William to mix my Tears with his and his Childrens. But I din'd at Mr. Olivers, and my Horse was taken care of there. P.M. at the Auction of Dr. Colmans¹¹⁹ Books -- bought 7 folios: 4 quartos and 4 octavos. Supp'd at Mr. Olivers -- was to have lodg'd with my Brother but was (to my grief) too late; turn'd in the Doctors and lodg'd with him, his wife continuing in a low Condition.

1748 July 8 (Friday). Very early went over to my Brother. Had a good Morning with him. And visited also his son John. Hasten'd to Dr. Colmans to pay for my Books. My Kinsman Hearsey help'd me move them to his House. Din'd at Mr. Cowells. Mounted from Mr. Olivers, who and

¹¹³The Reverend Mr. Matthew Bridge of Framingham.

¹¹⁴John Tainter.

¹¹⁵Perez Marsh (Harvard 1748).

¹¹⁶(Harvard 1739). A Boston schoolmaster and teacher of French at Harvard College. *Sibley*, X, 366-368.

¹¹⁷Artemas Ward of Shrewsbury.

¹¹⁸Jacob Cushing, the son of the Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

¹¹⁹The Reverend Mr. Benjamin Colman.

his Spouse were very generous and bountiful in Special by a very handsome Hatt for my Alexander as well as Pickled Oysters, Mackrell, fine Biskitt for my wife. I sett out between 3 and 4 o'Clock. Mr. Thomas¹²⁰ of Marlborough my Company. Stop'd at Mr. Edward Harringtons in Watertown to see Mr. Ebenezer Bullard¹²¹ who lyes languishing and pray'd with him, and it Seem'd as if the Conversation was (by Divine Blessing) made profitable. We stop'd again at Mr. Darlings though it was late. Heard of Mischief done by the Indians at Lunenbourg -- burning the Garrison and several persons. Got home somewhat after Midnight; and was in a Measure of Comfort -- my family also well. Thanks to God.

1748 July 9 (Saturday). Not only tired with my Journey but interrupted with Company both a. and p.m. Mr. Hall and Mr. Wellman here a.m. and broke their fast here. Mr. Rawson¹²² din'd here in his way to Chauxitt. N.B. heard there was an Alarm last night at Chauxitt, which was answer'd as low as Marlborough.

1748 July 10 (Sunday). Preach'd a. and p.m. on Mat. 20.6 to page 6 and from page 32 to the End. N.B. old Mr. Eleazer Bellows had dy'd Somewhat Suddenly and was bury'd in the Course of the last week. N.B. Mr. Cushing from home, many Shrewsbury people were at meeting here. Dr. Smith and his wife and Sir Cushing din'd here.

1748 July 11 (Monday). My Daughter Mary rode with me to the South East Corner of Town. I visited all the Familys there. Din'd at Mr. Chamberlins -- and Cathechiz'd at Mr. Joslins. N.B. some difference among them about the place where I should Catechize. N.B. Thomme went to Worcester for his master with Two Horses to get Rie. Billy rode with him to Dr. Brecks. Letter from Mr. Edwards¹²³ about his publishing Life of Mr. David Brainerd.

1748 July 12 (Tuesday). Rainy Day. Just before night I rode to the Southside of the Town as far as Mr. Dunlops. Call'd at Several Familys -- but made no great Stay at either, though it has been long since I was in that Neighbourhood. Thomme and Billy return'd from Worcester.

1748 July 13 (Wednesday). Tended Hay part of the forenoon and rode as far as Ephraim Bruce's p.m. Visited at Mr. Millers, Mr. Daniel Forbush, Solomon Woods (by whom I sent for my still at Deacon Drowns at Boston) and Mr. Bowmans. N.B. Thomme left us.

1748 July 14 (Thursday). Sarah Henry at work here.

1748 July 15 (Friday). Mr. Dunlop came and reap'd in my Rye Field. Ebenezer assisted him. At Eve he went to Marlborough to carry Thomme a Jacket of Home made Cloth, and a Pair of Breeches of Camlett -- and to buy him a sickle.

¹²⁰William Thomas.

¹²¹The step-son of Mr. Edward Harrington.

¹²²Grindall Rawson (Harvard 1741), later the minister at Ware, 1751-1754, and at Yarmouth, 1755-1760. *Sibley*, XI, 58-64.

¹²³Jonathan Edwards published *An Account of the Life of the late Reverend Mr. David Brainerd* (Boston, 1749).

1748 July 16 (Saturday). Ebenezer return'd. He reap'd, and various Jobbs took up the Day. I am greatly hindred [*sic*] and my Cares and Perplexitys many. Daughter Mary drooping from Day to Day -- and my wife much indispos'd.

1748 July 17 (Sunday). On Mat. 15.9.10.11. P.M. on Col. 3.20 but was oblig'd to make very free use of sermon on Eph. 6.1.2.3. Mrs. Chaddock and Mr. Martin Pratts wife din'd here. I was much tir'd at Night.

1748 July 18 (Monday). Mr. Dunlop came and reap'd a.m. and Samuel Burnap so came gratis and mow'd. Rain part of the Day. They got in one Load of Rye before the Rains. Mr. Dunlop went away p.m. after reaping a while. They all (of 'em) got down the Rie. I visited Mrs. Tomlin and Neighbour How, and at the same time endeavour'd to inform my neighbours of the Design a Number on the Southside have to mow my meadow tomorrow (if it be fair) and therefore I shall need Rakers. Forbush (who keeps School at Mr. Joslins) here, and the Rain prevailing, he lodg'd here.

1748 July 19 (Tuesday). Rainy Night and Morning. No expectation of mowing. Visited Mr. Jonathan Rogers's wife who is very ill of a Fever. Dr. Smith there. Very sorrowfull News from the westward -- of nineteen of our men passing between Hensdalls and Fort Dummer¹²⁴ but 2 are come in. Mr. Hall of Sutton, his wife and son David din'd here.

1748 July 20 (Wednesday). Six Hands mow'd in my ministerial meadow -- viz. Mr. Bowman, Mr. Pratt, Phinehas Hardy, Solomon Woods, Jonathan Forbush and Zebulon Rice. I waited on them both a. and p.m. at the Meadow and endeavor'd they Should have every Thing for their Comfort that I could. Deacon Whipple¹²⁵ of Grafton brought Mr. Wainwright and they din'd with us.

1748 July 21 (Thursday). I rode about for Rakers -- but only Benjamin Whipple (for Mr. Tomlin) went. I went from Mr. Barns (after visiting Mr. Rogers) to Mr. Cooks, Mr. Nurse's, Mr. Pratts, to Mr. James Maynards.

1748 July 22 (Friday). I rode out in the morning as I think it is my Duty, considering my Circumstances, first to Mr. Nurse's for Some shooing of my Colt then to divers Neighbours to look up Rakers. N.B. Merchant Rice can't go himself, but Sends a Bottle of Rum (nigh a Quart) to encourage them that did. Amos Whitney, Jonathan Devereux (from Captain Maynard) and Mr. Beriah Rice's Son Timothy, together with my Ebenezer rak'd in the Meadow. P.M. there went divers others viz. Mr. Jonas Child and Jonathan Grout and near night Mr. Eliezer Rice lent a Hand. N.B. Some uncomfortable Discourse with Neighbour Eliezer Rice in the forenoon about the precincts agreement with me about my annual Stipend. I had an afternoon of great Labour and worry among my Hay at Home.

¹²⁴Within the present town of Brattleboro, Vt.

¹²⁵James Whipple.

1748 July 23 (Saturday). I rose early and went to Captain Bakers to desire him to Cart for me -- Since my Hay was now ready: but (though he went to Stephen Fay's to get his Cattle for it) he could not. I proceeded to Lieutenant Tainters. He agreed to go to Day if Captain Baker went to Day -- but he chose to deferr it till Monday. I had considerable of work in my Hay to do at Home, though it be Such a Day in the Week -- but in providence Mr. Dunlop was passing from Marlborough, and I laid hold on him. Ebenezer and he got in 2 Load of Hay that was at Home -- and then went to the Meadow to rake what was left and to bring home 1 Load of Hay. He did the Latter but omitted the former. I was ill at Eve.

1748 July 24 (Sunday). I had a bad Night and rose so indisposed this morning that could hardly imagine I should go to meeting -- but though I was very lax in my Body much pain'd and faint, yet considering how the people would be Scatter'd and the Lords Day thrown away if there was not a minister, I ventur'd to the Public Prayer, was short -- the Exposition on Mat. 20.12.13 was about 34 minutes long. P.M. I attempted again repeated (from Col. 3.20) Sermon of the Duty of Children from page 9 to the End. Flying News that Joseph Bowker was kill'd by the late Body of Indians between Hensdells and Fort Dummer.

1748 July 25 (Monday). Am still but weak and pain'd. Flux attending me from Day to Day. Mr. Samuel Harrington with Cart and one Yoke of Oxen, and Benjamin Tainter with the Like Carted Hay for me from the Meadow. Harrington 2 Turns 13 Cocks each, and once with 14. Tainter with 13 Cocks all 3 Turns: Ebenezer 13 Cocks 2 Turns and his last turn being in the Dark was but 11 Cocks. N.B. The Cocks in general large. A great Kindness this of my Neighbours. The Lord reward 'em for it. I visited Thomas Rogers who is sick. A letter subscribed Eli Forbush,¹²⁶ desiring free Liberty to discourse with Molly without giving Offence.

1748 July 30 (Saturday). Ebenezer grows so bad with the poison that he can do nothing.

1748 July 31 (Sunday). On Mat. 15.14 and Mat. 25.46 former part. Thomas Rogers thought to be near his End. At Eve both my wife and I visited Thomas Rogers and pray'd there. He was not able to give any answer or I suppose understanding any thing -- convulsive motions increas'd greatly -- and after we came away, perhaps an hour or Two, he dy'd. A great loss to his parents who have set much by him, and depended much upon him. He was 19 and half -- a very lively, active and mannerly Youth: but I can say little else. The Lord sanctifie this providence both to the parents and the Neighbourhood, especially our young people.

1748 August 1 (Monday). I got Neighbour Hezekiah How and Abraham Batchellor to help in with Hay at home a.m., Ebenezer being unable to do anything.

¹²⁶The son of Deacon Jonathan Forbush. Eli (Harvard 1751) changed his name to Forbes and was ordained at North Brookfield June 3, 1752. He married Mary Parkman, Aug. 5, 1752. Pierce, *Forbes and Forbush Genealogy*, pp. 33-36.

1748 August 2 (Tuesday). Thomas Rogers bury'd. Hot Day, the Corps very offensive -- many attended, of old and young -- after prayer as the Corp stood abroad I had a brief address to the Youth. Lucy rode with me to the Funeral -- visited Mrs. Williams¹²⁷ who is ailing, in our return. After 3 p.m. Noah How and Merodach Devereux mow'd the remainder of my meadow, viz. the North Side of the Brook. At 4 the Same afternoon Captain Maynard who sent Jonathan, a little Hay, about 10 Cocks which I had rak'd into winrow.

1748 August 3 (Wednesday). Neighbour Baverick mow'd the last of my Grass at home, and gave me half the Day. I pay'd him 10 shillings old Tenor for the other half. A.M. I rode to most of the houses as far as Mr. Joseph Knowltons in order to get somebody to rake what was mow'd yesterday at the meadow and, to cart it home. Mr. Knowlton sent two sons to rake this afternoon.

1748 August 4 (Thursday). Mr. Gershom Brigham carted home one Load of the Meadow Hay with my Team. Phinehas Maynard helping him pole and Load -- and Phinehas Maynard with Ebenezers Help got home the last. The Drought very great -- notwithstanding some Sprinkling at Eve. N.B. The Neighbours very kind to Mr. Rogers Since the Loss of his son in mowing, Raking and Carting his Hay both at home and his meadow -- hay in which I much rejoice.

1748 August 5 (Friday). Hezekiah Bellows, about 14 years old, came and gave me a Days work, raking and Carting at home. Ebenezer mowing the Flax ground over, the Flax coming to nothing nor any of it pulled. At Eve Lieutenant Ward¹²⁸ and Mr. Chapin¹²⁹ of Grafton here.

1748 August 6 (Saturday). Ebenezer to Marlborough for our Malt, at Mr. James Woods's. The pastures exceedingly burnt up. Captain Maynard assisted Ebenezer in getting in the last Load of Hay.

1748 August 7 (Sunday). A.M. on Mat. 15.15 to 20th. I Spake to the Congregation to take some more special Care to prevent Disorders at Noon Time and in returning home at Evening that the Sabbath might not be profaned especially by young people; and that in particular Injury might not be done in thy Neighbourhood. If there was any Tithing Men present I recommended it to Such in a peculiar Manner, Their having been complain one Time after another. Mrs. Child (Jonas's wife) din'd here. P.M. on Prov. 22.6. The former part of the Sermon without writing, the rest partly from sermon on Eph. 6.4, page 5 to 11, adding the Applicatory Heads in page 32.

1748 August 8 (Monday). One Mr. Skinner of Needham here. Tells me of the Alarm from Nichewoag on Saturday; and the mustering yesterday at Worcester to go out. P.M. I rode as far as Mr. Bezaleel Eagers, and understood the matter more Clearly. Signs of Rain go over -- the Drought very Great.

¹²⁷Mrs. Eleazer Williams.

¹²⁸Hezekiah Ward.

¹²⁹Benjamin Chapin.

1748 August 9 (Tuesday). Refreshing Showers of Rain in the Morning. Thanks be to God. Clear afternoon. Asaph Rice¹³⁰ here -- afterwards Dodge¹³¹ of College. Wrote to New Haven -- to be sent to Boston for Conveyance.

1748 August 10 (Wednesday). [No entry.]

1748 August 11 (Thursday). Mr. Wainwright¹³² sent me word he could not preach my Lecture being pre-engaged to preach for Mr. Hall of Sutton. I preach'd myself Repeating sermon on 1 Cor. 11.16 to page 8. N.B. it was Mr. Cushings and Mr. Martyns Lecture and otherwhere also. N.B. Letters from Joseph Bowker from Fort Pelham.

1748 August 12 (Friday). [No entry.]

1748 August 13 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1748 August 14 (Sunday). Sacrament. I Spent the whole of my Preparations on Mat. 15.21 to 28, though I stood some time above an Hour. P.M. on Parents Duty repeating Sermon on Eph. 6.4, from Prov. 22.6. At night much tir'd.

1748 August 15 (Monday). I rode to the South Road; to Deacon Newtons in particular and borrow'd 20£ old Tenor of him, to accommodate my wife in her going down to Boston. Din'd at Captain Warrin's, where Jonathan Rogers's Child lay sick. Call'd at Mr. Amsdens. Proceeded to Marlborough to Mr. Williams¹³³ and got my Saddle pad new stuff'd in and in other respects Mended -- which he did gratis. He told me of Thomme's being out too late some nights, complain'd of his being too much acquainted at Uriah Amsdens.¹³⁴ He said something of throwing up the Indentures -- but that went over. Call'd at Dr. Gotts.¹³⁵ Mr. Smith¹³⁶ gone to Cape Ann. Call'd at Lieutenant Beemans¹³⁷ who is sick. My Neighbour Jacob Amsden with me there -- but he left me and went back to the Doctors having forgot something. This disappointed me of an opportunity I intended to make of free Discourse with him.

1748 August 16 (Tuesday). Early I visited old Mr. Rogers. Then proceeded to Ministers meeting at Holden. N.B. overtook Mr. Reed¹³⁸ of Framingham and Mr. Ebenezer Goddard¹³⁹ with him. At Mr. Davis's there was Mr. Frink,¹⁴⁰ who wanted we should read his papers -- but our Affair of

¹³⁰Son of Beriah Rice.

¹³¹Ezekiel Dodge (Harvard 1749).

¹³²John Wainwright (Harvard 1742).

¹³³Abraham Williams, Parkman's brother-in-law.

¹³⁴The son of Abraham Amsden of Marlborough.

¹³⁵Benjamin Gott, the physician of Marlborough.

¹³⁶The Reverend Mr. Aaron Smith of Marlborough.

¹³⁷Abraham Beaman of Marlborough.

¹³⁸The Reverend Mr. Solomon Reed of Framingham.

¹³⁹The son of Edward Goddard, a prominent citizen of Framingham.

¹⁴⁰The Reverend Mr. Thomas Frink had been the minister of Rutland and Plymouth (Third Church). At this

the Report of the Committee to the Quarter: about Degeneracy took up our Time after we had heard Mr. Mellen's¹⁴¹ Concio from Rom. 9.15 (which Exercise of his disgusted the most if not every one that heard it) and the Collections. The Several Articles of said Report were come into beyond Expectation -- and all but Mr. Mellen consented to 'em as they now stand.

1748 August 17 (Wednesday). Mr. Harrington¹⁴² (who has received a Call from Lancaster) preach'd the public Lecture on Mat. 12.26. Every idle word etc. Mr. Maccarty came when meeting was ended. Mr. Frinks papers were read according to his request last night before he went away. At Mr. Davis's before Dinner came upon the Table, Opportunity was taken to talk with Mr. Mellen; during which Time Mr. Maccarty and Mr. Harrington were desired to be in the other Room -- but Mr. Maccarty was highly affronted. Pursuant to our above Report the Association agreed to set about the Reading the Scriptures in Public -- and to begin a Course of Fasts next April. I return'd home. Abraham Batchellor sick. Mrs. Patty Ward and Mrs. Molly Martyn¹⁴³ here.

1748 August 18 (Thursday). I went to see Mrs. Wheeler. In my way I visited Mr. Martyn (whose Daughter with Mrs. Patty Ward lodg'd here last night). N.B. The Talk of Joshua Townsend who was desirous to be baptiz'd, but full of Murmurs against Mr. Martyn -- that they are oppress'd etc.

1748 August 19 (Friday). [No entry.]

1748 August 20 (Saturday). Mr. Wellman¹⁴⁴ came from Sutton and din'd here. I rode up to his Parish and Stopp'd at Mr. Isaac Barnards -- they were very Courteous and I lodg'd there.

1748 August 21 (Sunday). I preach'd at Sutton on 2 Cor. 11.3, a. and p.m. Din'd at Captain Carters, but after Meetings I repaired to my Kinsmans Mr. Jonathan Fuller, and Supp'd at my Cousen Samuel Trasks. N.B. Mr. Fullers Daughter Moreton and her Daughter Moreton, also there -- and was exceeding glad to see a woman of whom I had heard so much: Mrs. Moreton being the person Mr. Clark¹⁴⁵ of Salem Village wrote his printed Letters about Infant Baptism to. I lodg'd at Captain Carters.

1748 August 22 (Monday). In returning from Sutton I first visited Captain Robert Goddard¹⁴⁶ -- had Mr. John Hollands Company to Worcester. I carry'd home Mr. Hedge's Henry, the Volume

time he was living in Marlborough. In 1753 he was made the minister of Rutland District which later became the town of Barre.

¹⁴¹The Reverend Mr. John Mellen of Sterling.

¹⁴²The Reverend Mr. Timothy Harrington (Harvard 1737) had been the minister of Lower Ashuelot (Swansey, N. H.), 1741-1748. He served Lancaster, 1748-1795. *Sibley*, X, 188-195.

¹⁴³The daughter of the Reverend John Martyn of the north precinct.

¹⁴⁴The Reverend Mr. James Wellman of Millbury.

¹⁴⁵The Reverend Mr. Peter Clark of Danvers had published *The Scripture-Grounds of the Baptism of Christian Infants* (Boston, 1735).

¹⁴⁶He lived in that part of Sutton that became Millbury.

on Evangelists and Acts¹⁴⁷ -- but Mr. Hedge not at home. Visited Mr. Maccarty -- din'd at Dr. Brecks.¹⁴⁸ My Studdy Lock to Johnsons to mend the Key. At Colonel Chandlers.¹⁴⁹ And at Shrewsbury was at Mr. Edward Goddards for Cheese, at Dr. Smith's¹⁵⁰ -- where was Mr. Cushing Cornet Hayward and Mr. Jonathan Green. Heard that My Daughter Molly accompany'd by Mr. Wellman had been at Colonel Wards and with Mrs. Patty,¹⁵¹ was gone to Mr. Morse's. But they return's at Night.

1748 August 23 (Tuesday). Mr. Wellman went home to Sutton.

1748 August 24 (Wednesday). Engag'd early in my preparations on Public Reading the Scriptures.

1748 August 25 (Thursday). Catechiz'd the Children at the Meeting House. Colonel Ward and Mr. Cushing call'd at Noon as they were going to Mr. Benjamin Fays to a meeting of Officers and desir'd me to give 'em my Company. Mr. Martyn and his wife made us a visit today also. N.B. Mr. James Whipple and Mr. Noah Brooks here for advice about their Grafton difficultys. I waited upon the officers after my catechizing. Ensign Bruce made Lieutenant and Mr. Miller Ensign. Also Mr. Bezaleel Eager made Lieutenant of the North Company.

1748 August 26 (Friday). Visit old Mrs. Crouch, Adams and Beeman. Captain Baker lent me 30£ old Tenor.

1748 August 27 (Saturday). Though I was far avanc'd as well as deeply engag'd in my preparations, I was glad to have the help in providence Sent me, for Mr. Frink came.

1748 August 28 (Sunday). Mr. Frink preach'd for me all Day. A.M. on Mat. 5.29.30 and p.m., Mat. 5.14. Two serious warm discourses. May God give his Blessing!

1748 August 29 (Monday). Mrs. Parkman and Lucy early to Boston. Mr. Frink to Marlborough where his family is at present. P.M. Mr. Buckminster, his wife and child -- and lodged here -- Abigail How¹⁵² lives here this week.

1748 August 30 (Tuesday). Mr. Buckminster to Framingham. Visited Mrs. Thankfull Maynard¹⁵³ who is sick. Dr. Gott here. Held a Catechetical Exercise -- preach'd on Joel 3.13, a Repitition.

1748 August 31 (Wednesday). Visited Mrs. Maynard and Mrs. Rogers. The Drought continues and is now become very distressing.

¹⁴⁷One of the works of Matthew Henry (1662-1714), the English nonconformist minister.

¹⁴⁸Samuel Breck, the physician of Worcester.

¹⁴⁹John Chandler, Jr., the prominent office-holder of Worcester.

¹⁵⁰Joshua Smith, the physician of Shrewsbury.

¹⁵¹The daughter of Colonel Nahum Ward of Shrewsbury.

¹⁵²The daughter of Hezekiah How of Westborough.

¹⁵³Mrs. Stephen Maynard.

1748 September 1 (Thursday). Went out with Lieutenant Hezekiah Ward to look up some Common Land, towards the Cedar Swamps. Visited widow Thurston, Grow and Harrington. Din'd at Home. Sir Isaac Newton on Daniel.¹⁵⁴ Everywhere Complaints of want of Water.

1748 September 2 (Friday). Mr. Biglo here clearing out my well, and paid him 10 shillings old Tenor for his work only part of the forenoon. Mr. Israel Stevens of Grafton here and din'd with us. A very reviving Rain -- through the Mercy of God! after long and distressing Drought. At Eve Mr. Abner Newton here about some Boards he wants of me. Mr. Elihu Spencer designed Missionary to the Mohawks here, and brought a Letter from Mr. Edwards of Northampton. He lodg'd here.

1748 September 3 (Saturday). Three Letters from my wife informing that on Tuesday last Mother Champney was seiz'd with the Numb Palsey, could not speak nor did know any Body, was alive and that was all: and that on Thursday morning She dy'd -- but was uncertain when she would be bury'd. She has been a most loving, kind Mother to me. I hope she receives a glorious Reward. She was very Timorous but desir'd to trust in Christ. May God please to Sanctifie her Death to me and mine, and to all more nearly connected! I wrote by Mr. Spencer to Mrs. Parkman -- the happy Showers this Morning detain'd him a little, but he set out for Boston. Ebenezer went over to Mr. Martyns for the portmantle which my wife has Sent up in his chair.

1748 September 4 (Sunday). I preach'd on 1 Thess. 5.17 a. and p.m. Earnestly recommending the Duty of Public Reading the holy Scriptures. Mrs. Fay (Samuel junior's wife) din'd here.

1748 September 5 (Monday). Fine Showers again last Night, and rain'd Plentifully this morning. Blessed be God who has permitted me to finish my 45th Year and to see the Light of this Morning. *Vide Natalitia*. [The following is recorded in the *Natalitia* for September 5, 1748.] I observ'd this Day (in some Measure) religiously -- by retiring and going through (in a broken imperfect manner) various acts of Devotion, viz. Praise and Thanksgiving, Confession, Petition, Resignation etc. Besides what respected my Self, my Family and my people, there was a great and important Affair which I had to Spread before the Lord this Day; Scil. The Sitting of the Council at Grafton tomorrow; their Affairs being very peculiarly Difficult, and lying much upon my Heart, as I have been unavoidably oblig'd to have their Matters with me from Time to Time. The Lord therefore be pleased to prepare my Heart, and all the Council, and grant to us all, Such Wisdom and Direction as We need! point out what their Case and the present State thereof is; and Shew us what is best Method for the Church thence to take both with respect to the Separation, and with regard to their Re-settlement of the Gospel Ministry among them. May God be pleas'd to impart to us what to Say to them And incline and dispose their Hearts to receive it and conform to it! That so there may be some happy Event of the Councils Meeting at this Time!

¹⁵⁴*Observations upon the Prophecies of Daniel and the Apocalypse of St. John* (London, 1733).

1748 September 6 (Tuesday). Waited some Time for Mr. Martyn, but at Length I went without him. Deacon Newton¹⁵⁵ and Brother Nathaniel Whitney, from Mr. Grouts accompany'd me to Grafton, we being warned to Meet there to sit in Council upon their affairs, by adjournment. Mr. Loring (who is Moderator) came, but brought no messenger. Mr. Goddard¹⁵⁶ of Leicester came not, nor any Delegate, so that we did not sit as a Council. We neither acted, nor dissolv'd. But the Church of Grafton had, by vote, desir'd several Neighbouring Ministers to come and join with the Elders of the Council to hear their Affairs. We therefore had the Church together and Reverend Messrs. Martyn, Hall of Sutton, and Eaton¹⁵⁷ of Leicester being with us we formed, and Chose Mr. Loring Moderator, and the same meet to choose their Clerk -- and the Church was adjourn'd to tomorrow 9 a.m. to the Meeting House.

1748 September 7 (Wednesday). We met at the Meeting House. Mr. Hall (according to Turn) pray'd. Such of the Separatists as had any Things to offer, who had not opportunity heretofore, were call'd; and while the Moderator was attending upon one or Two who presented themselves, a Certain Woman (Mr. David Wadsworths Wife) from behind cry'd out and came up the Great Alley crying out "O Dear souls in the Name of my great Lord and Master, have a Single Eye etc." With much ado the Moderator Still'd her. Dr. David Batchellor¹⁵⁸ openly declar'd himself a Separatist; and the rather because we had resisted (as he judg'd) the Ordinance and will of the Lord in not suffering that sister to go on with her message. We din'd at Deacon Whipples. P.M. the ministers call'd in several of those who had been wont to clogg the church in dealing with the Separatists, and conferr'd with them -- viz. Mr. Abner Stow, Joseph Batchelour, Gideon Baker and several others. At length the whole Church and all the people were call'd in: and Deacon Merriam¹⁵⁹ was interrogated. Mr. Eaton pray'd, before the Church was dismiss'd at Night.

1748 September 8 (Thursday). Mr. Davis of Holden being by providence among us, pray'd in the morning. The Weight of forming the Result was thrown upon Me. I retir'd and (with some assistance in one sentence from Mr. Hall, and in the Exhortation from Mr. Martyn) I drew it up. It was voted unanimously. Mr. Loring preach'd a Lecture on Mat. 5.4, and after Lecture I publish'd the Result to the Congregation. The Church stop'd and voted their acceptance of the Result about 4 or 6 Dissenting. But Deacon Merriam voted. After dining we Dissolv'd and Return'd home. At home found my wife and daughter Lucy from Cambridge together with Brother and Sister Hicks¹⁶⁰ who came from thence with them and they lodg'd here.

1748 September 9 (Friday). Brother and sister Hicks to Sutton. I went to see Captain Warrin and his wife who are very bad -- and their son Jonathan likewise ill. Visited also Captain

¹⁵⁵Josiah Newton of Westborough.

¹⁵⁶The Reverend Mr. David Goddard.

¹⁵⁷The Reverend Mr. Joshua Eaton of Spencer.

¹⁵⁸[Additional note: Batchellor is not listed among Grafton's physicians in Frederick Clifton Pierce, *History of Grafton, Worcester County, Massachusetts, from Its Earliest Settlement...to the Present Time, 1879...* (Worcester: Chas. Hamilton, 1879), 372-75; nor is he elsewhere given that title in Parkman's diary.]

¹⁵⁹Joseph Merriam.

¹⁶⁰Mr. and Mrs. John Hicks of Sutton.

Maynards Family, Six of which are ill, viz. Stephens wife and son John -- Rody Smith, and Josiah Lock, Hepzibah Crosby and Hepzibah Rice. Mr. Edwards Whipple brought home my brindled Cow, from Nichewoag Cutt. A Great Frost last night. Prisoners broke Jayl last night at Worcester. A vile Woman and a man -- both committed for Theft.

1748 September 10 (Saturday). A great Frost again last Night. Asa Rice came p.m. from Mrs. Wheeler requesting me to visit her. I went. She was very low. Took very Solemn Leave of her - return'd to Mr. Martyns and lodg'd there.

1748 September 11 (Sunday). I preach'd for Mr. Martyn and he for me. My Text Heb. 9.27 former part. His Text John [blank]. I return'd at Eve.

1748 September 12 (Monday). Captain Warrin¹⁶¹ dy'd last Night. An heavy Loss! He was a worthy Man. The Lord sanctify it to us all! Lieutenant Ward survey'd a piece of Land nigh the Cedar Swamps for me. Neighbour David and Nathan Maynard Chain Men. Mr. Bliss¹⁶² of Concord here. He and Lieutenant Ward din'd here. I rode down to see Mrs. Amsden¹⁶³ who is Sick. Went to the House of Death, Captain Warrins, pray'd with the sick there, and the sorrowing Neighbours that were there together. At Eve sent to Boston by Asa Brigham.¹⁶⁴

1748 September 13 (Tuesday). In the morning at Captain Maynards. Mr. James Eager came to inform me that Mrs. Wheeler¹⁶⁵ dy'd last Night and I was desir'd to attend the Funeral tomorrow. My Wife and I to Captain Warrins burying. While we were at the House of Mourning Message from Mrs. Amsden that she was near her End. After prayer and the Corps moving out to go to the Grave I went down to Mr. Amsdens -- and pray'd there she being exceeding low. Return'd and met the Mourners as they were on the Road home. Left 'em the solemn Charge of David to Solomon 1 Chron. 28.9. Visited Mrs. Rogers and pray'd with them. Sarah Henry at work on a Coat for Ebenezer.

1748 September 14 (Wednesday). My Wife and I rode over to Mrs. Wheelers burying. We first went to Mr. Martyns, and din'd there. Mr. Martyn rode with us to the House of Mourning. Though I was ask'd to pray on that occasion yet I repeatedly desir'd Mr. Martyn to perform it in my Stead but he as often refus'd. Tis a very desolate House and the Hand of God is observable! In how short a Time, from remarkable prosperity, to this sorrowful Desolation! God grant the surviving Children and all of us to see what the Great God has done. Rain at mounting to return. Mr. Batheric came to work but was soon call'd off to make a Coffin for Mrs. Amsden.

1748 September 15 (Thursday). I went to Marlborough though it was something showery. In returning I attended upon Mrs. Amsden Funeral. N.B. at Dr. Gotts to Day there was brought one John Brigham of 22 Years, whose arm he himself had shot with a Pistol, and tis thought it

¹⁶¹Daniel Warren.

¹⁶²The Reverend Mr. Daniel Bliss.

¹⁶³Mrs. Jacob Amsden.

¹⁶⁴Son of neighbor David Brigham.

¹⁶⁵The widow of Joseph Wheeler.

must be cut off. Mr. Batheric¹⁶⁶ at work here upon the shed at my North Door, and Sarah Henry at work here.

1748 September 16 (Friday). Mr. Batheric here again -- Sarah Henry still. I visited Daniel Warrins Son Daniel and was at Mr. Knowltons. Visited Lydia Bellows Sick at Ensign Rice's.

1748 September 17 (Saturday). Sarah Henry. Visited Mrs. Warrin and the Lads there who are sick yet. Dr. Greenleaf¹⁶⁷ there. I have been, I think Every Day this week abroad. I have however some Preparations for the Sabbath. But

1748 September 18 (Sunday). I chose to go on with the Parental Duty from Prov. 22.6, as I deliver'd it before from Eph. 6.4, a. and p.m. reserving what I had writ upon Mat. 25.46 to another Time. N.B. We this Day began the public Reading of Scriptures. A.M. after Prayer, before singing I read the first Chapter of Genesis and p.m. the first Chapter of Matthew.

1748 September 19 (Monday). I was up extreme early -- prepar'd a Deed which Neighbour Hezekiah How sign'd delivered Me of the Right to his fifth Division of Common Lands without the Cow Common. I rode to Marlborough, to Mr. Eleazer How and traded with Benomi Bailey for a second Hand Saddle -- for which I am to give him 4£. I din'd at Mr. Smiths¹⁶⁸ -- attended the Proprietors Meeting, but neither Lieutenant Ward, nor those I am to border upon being there I did not present my Plott. Went to Mr. Joseph Williams about Benomi's Saddle but Mr. Williams had lent it. I return'd home having the Second Volume of Dr. Doddridge's Family Expositor¹⁶⁹ of Mr. Smith and I immediately began it in my Family.

1748 September 20 (Tuesday). Lecture to Young Men on Ps. 90.5, After burying Mr. Thaddeus Gales youngest Child and dining at Mr. Warrins. Sarah Henry finish'd a blue Jacket for me. Mr. Buckminster and wife here in Lecture Time.

1748 September 21 (Wednesday). Ebenezer to Worcester and return'd at Night.

1748 September 22 (Thursday). Ebenezer to Worcester again return'd at Night. Great Showers at Night. Visited at Ebenezer Rice's and Mr. Charles Rice's. Examin'd Benjamin Tainter¹⁷⁰ at Mr. Ebenezer Rice's.

1748 September 23 (Friday). [No entry.]

1748 September 24 (Saturday). Thomme brought the Saddle I bought of Benomi Bailey.

¹⁶⁶Daniel Batherick of Westborough.

¹⁶⁷Daniel Greenleaf, a physician of Boston. James E. Greenleaf, *Genealogy of the Greenleaf Family* (Boston, 1896), pp. 206-207.

¹⁶⁸The Reverend Mr. Aaron Smith.

¹⁶⁹Philip Doddridge, *The Family Expositor; or a Paraphrase and Version of the New Testament, with Notes* (London, 1739).

¹⁷⁰The son of Deacon Simon Tainter.

1748 September 25 (Sunday). Read a.m. the second Chapter of Genesis and preach'd on Prov. 22.6. P.M. Read second Chapter of Matthew and preach'd on Mat. 25.46. Southborough people at meeting. Mrs. Liscomb¹⁷¹ and Mr. Moses Johnsons wife¹⁷² din'd with us. Great Frost Night after Night.

1748 September 26 (Monday). Mr. Townsends wife being Sick, her Father Rogers (as her mother had done some time ago) requested me to go and see her; it was also her express Desire and sent over to Day She being in a low Condition So that p.m. I rode over there, calling at Mr. Martyns both going and coming.

1748 September 27 (Tuesday). Mr. Barns¹⁷³ here, and I took the Opportunity to go down with him to that part of the Meadow east of my Improvements -- and it being the most unprofitable (not worth mowing), but within my Fence, and what old Mr. Barns in his Life Time had consented in presence of Witnesses Should be my property, and settled it so by the Bound-mark on the Nole Close by it, Yet inasmuch as the Said old Mr. Barns mention'd Bounds up as far as the Corner of my Field, I told his son that for the Ease of my own Mind I would give him Ten Shillings as a Consideration for that Land which would be included within even that Line which a Bound from thence (From a Tree near the Corner of my Field) would include -- Notwithstanding that the Affair was all wholly settled as aforesaid by old Mr. Barns in the presence of Witnesses, and he could have no Demand at all upon me. But then he should not oblige me to run the Fence from the marked Tree upon the Nole to the North East Corner, on the Side of the Ridge and in the hollow, as a Straight Line would carry it, but Should allow me to make my Fence on the Top of the Rigdge [*sic*], though it be Somewhat rounding, but it would be so much better for both him and me. To all which Things he freely consented, and I accordingly gave him the Ten Shillings. N.B. Mr. Martyn here in his way to Grafton Church Meeting, in which tis propos'd to suspend some of the Separatists. My Daughters Molly and Lucy went over to Mr. Martyns. Ebenezer gathering Winter apples. Mr. Mede here. Mr. Martyn here at night. He informs me the Church in Grafton have passed a Vote to suspend 24 members (Men and Women) and appointed a Fast. N.B. Troopers entertain'd this Evening at Mr. Benjamin Hows in this Town. Mr. Martyn told me the Church of Grafton had appointed a Fast, and desir'd my Assistance with others.

1748 September 28 (Wednesday). Visited Mrs. Warrin, who tis hopeful is on the Recovery; as is Jonathan likewise: but Nahum was in great Extremeity and Nigh his End when I went there. I pray'd with them -- and after some solemn and Serious Discourse took leave: but before I mounted, word came out that Nahum was just gone. I went in again, and saw him give up the Ghost. N.B. Mr. Jonas Warrins Exhortation and Admonition to me, as God was now taking away both Sheep and Lambs out of my Flock. I took it kindly -- thank'd him, and do pray God to bless it to me. N.B. The Same Mr. Warrin deliver'd to me the request of the people in Upton to go

¹⁷¹Mrs. Samuel Lyscom of Southborough.

¹⁷²Of Southborough.

¹⁷³Richard Barnes.

over and preach to them, at such Time as I could best attend it. Soon after I came home Mr. Abraham Williams¹⁷⁴ came with a Packet from New Haven -- containing besides the Commencement Papers, a Letter from Mrs. Pierpoint¹⁷⁵ and therewith a silver Snuff Box, the gift of Mrs. Pierpoint to my Daughter Sarah. On the Said Box were engraven the Arms of the Pierpoints with that instructive and quickening motto PIE REPONE TE, which is the Same as are worn by the Duke of Kinstone. May God reward her abundantly in Spiritual Blessings from all her Love to me and mine! He left us, though it rain'd, to go to Marlborough.

1748 September 29 (Thursday). A.M. at the Burial of Nahum Warrin¹⁷⁶ (so far as to be at the House and Pray and Exhort). May this Death be a further warning to us! Especially to our Young People! Mr. Martyn and his Wife din'd with us. He preach'd my Lecture on Ps. 89.7 with special reference to the Lords Supper. Towards Night came Mr. Fuller of Sutton who marry'd my Kinswoman, and his son in law Mr. Isaac Putnam, and they lodg'd here.

1748 September 30 (Friday). My Kinsmen proceeded in their Journey toward Salem. Moses Warrin came for me to visit his Mother¹⁷⁷ who grows worse again: at Evening I was there. When I return'd found Mr. Breck¹⁷⁸ of Springfield and Mr. Ballantine¹⁷⁹ of Westfield, on their Journey to the Ordination (next week) of Mr. Gad Hitchcock.¹⁸⁰ They lodg'd here.

1748 October 1 (Saturday). Cold Day. Mr. Breck and Ballantine proceeded for Boston. Dr. Gott din'd here. P.M. Mr. Edwards Whipple brought home my young Cattle which came from Nichewoag: and receiv'd a Letter from the Church of Rutland to go to Council there. My many avocations greatly perplex me. May the Lord graciously Commiserate all my state!

1748 October 2 (Sunday). I was in very dull and Lifeless Frame especially a.m. Read the third Chapter of Genesis in the Assembly. Repeated sermon on 1 Cor. 10.16 from page 9 to page 15. Administer'd the ordinance of the Lords Supper. Divers Southborough people here. Deacon Forbush sick. Mr. Jonathan Whipple Waited in his stead; and he and the widow Woods din'd with me. P.M. read the third of Matthew. Preach'd on Mark 9.44, carrying on the subject of the Grand Result of the Last Day.

1748 October 3 (Monday). Ebenezer carting apples to Mr. Hows¹⁸¹ mill. Aaron Warrin hir'd into the House to make Shooes. Mrs. Josselyn here with a quarter of young Mutton. She din'd with us. At Evening in a Private Manner Rebecca Hicks¹⁸² was marry'd to Mr. Elijah Warrin. We had a small supper. They lodg'd here. God grant they may be both espoused to one Husband,

¹⁷⁴Abraham Williams, Jr., of Marlborough.

¹⁷⁵Mrs. James Pierpont of New Haven.

¹⁷⁶Son of Daniel Warren.

¹⁷⁷Mrs. Daniel Warren.

¹⁷⁸The Reverend Mr. Robert Breck, Jr.

¹⁷⁹The Reverend Mr. John Ballantine.

¹⁸⁰(Harvard 1743). The minister of Hanson, 1748-1803. *Sibley*, XI, 231-236.

¹⁸¹Neighbour Hezekiah How.

¹⁸²The daughter of John Hicks of Sutton.

the Lord Jesus Christ! And may we all be ready for the midnight Cry, and the Coming of the Bridegroom!

1748 October 4 (Tuesday). Aaron Warrin works here. My wife began to still Cyder, having borrow'd a large Iron Pott of Mr. Eliezer Rice for that Purpose. P.M. I rode to Mr. Daniel Warrins to see his brother in law Abraham Bond who is sick at a Fever. Was at Mr. Knowltons who was very kind favouring me with Rie meal and a Quarter of Mutton which I brought home with me for we had great need of them being in hopes of divers Hands tomorrow to gather and husk my Corn -- and had no Body that I could send so far to mill as Mr. Drury's.

1748 October 5 (Wednesday). My Wife stilling. Aaron Warrin at work. Benjamin Tainter only came to gathering Corn a.m. Some others p.m. viz. Neighbours Edwards Whipple, Joseph Green junior, Thomas Whipple, Mr. Elijah Warrin. I visited Deacon Forbush who is ill but not bad, has Erysipilas Fever. Several Hands came in the Evening to Husk, but it had rain'd so in the afternoon that they had gather'd but part of the Corn, and the Company chose to come again. There were about eleven.

1748 October 6 (Thursday). I visited the widow Warrin who is very low, as it likewise Jonathan Warrin. My wife and I rode over to Mr. Martyns. I preach'd his Lecture on Song 2.4. At Eve Rain. Some Number of Hands dropp'd in till into the Evening and some of them had gather'd more Corn, but the south Field yet to gather. But neither did they incline to husk this night. I taught 'em something about singing. Aaron Warrin here.

1748 October 7 (Friday). Rainy. Aaron Warrin makes a pair of shoes for Bekky. Rainy. Disappoint'd of gathering the rest of my Corn. A Letter from the Church of Grafton, signed by Deacon Merriam, desiring me to assist in a Fast there, in concurrence with Reverend Messrs. Hall and Maccarty on the 13th instant. Towards Evening Storm clear'd off.

1748 October 8 (Saturday). Ebenezer gathering more of winter apples. The Bridegroom (Mr. Elijah Warrin) came at Eve.

1748 October 9 (Sunday). Preach'd all Day on Mat. 25, 46 former part. May God most merciful and gracious add his almighty Blessing to render the word Effectual to the awakening of every one! Read a.m. fourth of Genesis. P.M. the fourth of Matthew. Mr. Daniel Forbush's wife din'd with us. The Widow Warrin dy'd last night. This is the Third out of the Four who were Sick in that (now) very desolate House.

1748 October 10 (Monday). Aaron Warrin at Work in making Shoes. The Bridegroom and Bride having kept Sabbath here together were preparing to go to Sutton when Brother Hicks came, Supposing me to be going to Cambridge. But because of Mrs. Warrins Funeral, and because of the other sick persons among us I deferr'd it. Brother Hicks and his Children went from us. P.M. at the Funeral. N.B. several young men turned away from the procession and came up to help Ebenezer in gathering my Corn, viz. Abraham Batchellor, Phinehas Maynard

and several more. 32 persons assisted in Husking. Finish'd the work by about 10 o'Clock. After Supper we Sung latter part of Ps. 4 and pray'd before the Company went off.

1748 October 11 (Tuesday). Preparing a sermon a.m. on Jer. 3.15 for Grafton Fast. P.M. I din'd with the South Company Officers -- Lieutenant Bruce¹⁸³ had the Command by Means of Captain Bakers¹⁸⁴ being engag'd as one of the Referrees upon the Case of Messrs. Nurse¹⁸⁵ and Cook.¹⁸⁶ The other Referrees Captain Eager¹⁸⁷ and Lieutenant Hezekiah Ward the other Two. In my returning home at Eve went in to old Mr. Maynards to See Neverson Warrin (son of Daniel from Watertown) who is very ill and much Swell'd and convuls'd. He was about House in the forenoon, but has not been well this fortnight.

1748 October 12 (Wednesday). Was call'd up as soon as 'twas Light to go down to Neverson Warrin, who dy'd while I was present. He was in his Eleventh Year. Mr. Hezekiah Pratt afforded me the help of his Boy Cornelius Cook and his Team to get up the Corn from the barn. Ebenezer and Cornelius hard at it all Day. Aaron Warrin making Ebenezer a pair of German Pumps Monday and to Day. Mr. Daniel Bond here from Watertown and bought me a Specimen of 3 Sorts of Cornet Bright Apples. My wife p.m. rode over to Mr. Seth Rice's.

1748 October 13 (Thursday). Rainy morning. Mr. Ballantine came. It held up and I left him to go to Grafton Fast. I sat in the Pulpit sometime waiting for Mr. Hall and Maccarty. At length I began with Prayer. Mr. Maccarty came and preach'd from Hebrew. Follow Peace etc. We were entertain'd at Serjeant James Whipples. P.M. Mr. Hall pray'd and I preach'd from Song 1.7.8. At Evening return'd. Mr. Edwards Whipple accompany'd me. We call'd at Mr. Winchesters¹⁸⁸ -- Mr. Goddard¹⁸⁹ of Grafton there, who with Mrs. Winchester was in Defence of Separatists.

1748 October 14 (Friday). Neverson Warrins Buryal. My Interruption very great.

1748 October 15 (Saturday). Jonathan Warrins Buryal. Deaths so oft -- we had need take warning. At Evening came Cousen Samuel Proctor from Boston, his Brother Joseph his Company but went to Captain Maynards.

1748 October 16 (Sunday). A.M. repeated on Eccl. 9.12. P.M. preach'd on Act 16.29.30. Read a.m. the fifth of Genesis and p.m. the fifth of Matthew. Both Proctors din'd and supp'd here, but Mr. Joseph would lodge at Captain Maynards. He left a Bill which we found to be 40 shillings old Tenor.

¹⁸³Abijah Bruce.

¹⁸⁴Edward Baker.

¹⁸⁵William Nurse.

¹⁸⁶Cornelius Cook.

¹⁸⁷James Eager.

¹⁸⁸Benjamin Winchester.

¹⁸⁹Benjamin Goddard.

1748 October 17 (Monday). The Proctors sett out for Sutton. Ebenezer began to make our late Cyder. I rode to Mr. Josselyns who kindly lent me 20£ old Tenor. I proceeded on my Journey to Watertown. Rain'd at Eve. Was at Cornet Brights to see his Pippins and other rich Fruit. I design'd for Cambridge but it rain'd so hard I turn'd back to Mr. Daniel Bonds and lodg'd there.

1748 October 18 (Tuesday). In the Morning I visited Mr. Storer. Went to Cambridge to Brother Champneys -- din'd there. We went over to sisters Lydia and Barrett. Read Mothers Will in which gives her Cloths to sister Hannah and makes sister Lydia Executrix, but She Refuses to Stand or have the will till she knows what the Debts amount to. I rode to Boston. Put up at Proctors.¹⁹⁰ Was at Mr. Fletchers who paid me 140£ old Tenor for Brother Champney. Lodg'd at Brother Samuels.

1748 October 19 (Wednesday). Broke fast at Hearsys.¹⁹¹ Din'd at Cowels.¹⁹² Visited my Neece Lydia Tyley now Davis.¹⁹³ Was at Mr. Olivers -- his Father and Mother etc. there. At Eve at Mr. Owens and at Mr. Quincys.¹⁹⁴ Lodg'd at Brother Williams.

1748 October 20 (Thursday). Mr. Barnard¹⁹⁵ of Marblehead the public Lecture on Rom. 5.12. Din'd at Dr. Sewals: who shew'd me Mr. Moorheads¹⁹⁶ Letter in Defence of himself against Mr. Buckminster.¹⁹⁷ P.M. at Deacon Bouteneau's Garden. At Eve rode over the Neck with Mr. Dunbar. I proceeded to Cambridge. Visited Deacon Sparhawk whose Wife is much disordered. Lodg'd at Brother Champneys.

1748 October 21 (Friday). The Heirs of Mother Champney together and we made Computations among ourselves and agreed. Sister Lydia took administrations (not in form of Law) and gave us Security. I din'd at Brother Barretts.¹⁹⁸ After I had drawn the writings I smok'd a pipe with Judge Danforth¹⁹⁹ for his approbation. Past 3 p.m. I undertook my Journey. Got to Mr. Bridge's²⁰⁰ at Framingham and lodg'd there.

1748 October 22 (Saturday). Mr. Bridge rode with me as far as Mr. David Bruce's -- talk'd with his wife (heretofore Hannah Pierce) being under the Frowns of the Southborough Church. I

¹⁹⁰Parkman's niece, Mrs. Samuel Proctor.

¹⁹¹Another niece, Mrs. Israel Hearsey.

¹⁹²Another niece, Mrs. Peam Cowell.

¹⁹³Robert Davis.

¹⁹⁴Edmund Quincy.

¹⁹⁵The Reverend Mr. John Barnard.

¹⁹⁶John Moorehead, minister of the Arlington Street Church (Presbyterian), Boston, 1730-1773.

¹⁹⁷The Reverend Mr. Joseph Buckminster of Rutland. Someone of the Rutland church complained that the Reverend Mr. Moorehead "has lately done great Mischief in this Place, by making Separations and Contentions among us." He "continues his wicked dividing work; and as we hear, intends to administer the Lord's Supper to his separate Company next Sabbath." *Boston Evening-Post*, Supplement, Sept. 19, 1748.

¹⁹⁸Parkman's brother-in-law, John Barrett.

¹⁹⁹Samuel Danforth of Cambridge.

²⁰⁰The Reverend Mr. Matthew Bridge.

din'd at Colonel Williams²⁰¹ at Marlborough. P.M. found my family in Peace. D.G. Rebecca Gott²⁰² came to live here on the 20th instant. Ebenezer finish'd making Cyder, in all 18 Barrells.

1748 October 23 (Sunday). Preach'd a.m. on Acts 16.29.30. P.M. on 10.31 but repeated part sermon on John 3.36. Mr. Samuel Crosby and Mrs. Tainter din'd here.

1748 October 24 (Monday). Mr. Graves²⁰³ Messenger from the Church of Southborough here without Mr. Stone,²⁰⁴ his eldest son being ill of the Throat Distemper. Captain Baker and Ensign Miller came (as Delegates of our Church) and we went to Rutland. On the way din'd at Mr. Cushings,²⁰⁵ and stopp'd again at Captain Biglo's.²⁰⁶ Got up in Comfort and lodg'd at Mr. Buckminsters. The Council was call'd on account of uneasiness and irregularitys among some of the Brethren, particularly Messrs. Samuel Stone, and Simon Davis. John Stone also and Jones were join'd therein; and on account of the Conduct of a Number of Ireland²⁰⁷ people who were members of the Church in Rutland; but without Dismission or acquainting the Church with it, drew off and join'd with others who Sett up another Assembly in the Town by the assistance of Mr. Moorhead.

1748 October 25 (Tuesday). The Council was form'd. I was their unwritten Moderator. Mr. Hall of Sutton was Clerk. We went to the Meeting House a.m. I opened the Meeting with prayer. We read the Paper of Grounds of uneasiness which Samuel Stone had exhibited to the Church some time ago. Great Debate whether that Paper should be the beginning of our Business in Hearing. Mr. Buckminster chiefly took up the Time. Mr. Williams²⁰⁸ of Weston pray'd when we broke up this session at Night.

1748 October 26 (Wednesday). Mr. Campbell²⁰⁹ pray'd at the opening the forenoon session. Mr. Samuel Stone chiefly this forenoon, with his Friends. We were again in hearing p.m. giving fair opportunity to the Irish etc. to answer if they pleas'd. Evening Mr. Hall pray'd, when we had adjourn'd to Mr. Buckminsters where we sat again the Same Night till very late -- Reading over, debating and Voting -- and appointing a Committee to draw up a Result. The Committee were the Reverend Messrs. Williams, Hall and Eaton.

1748 October 27 (Thursday). We were not ready with the Result till late p.m., for another Affair arose before us -- viz. a Quarrell between Captain Edward Rice and Deacon Eleazer Ball. A Number of the Council went to the Meeting House to assist the Church in reconciling those Brethren -- but in Vain. At Evening about Sunsett we went to the Meeting House and publish'd

²⁰¹Abraham Williams, Parkman's brother-in-law.

²⁰²Daughter of Dr. Benjamin Gott of Marlborough.

²⁰³Joseph Graves.

²⁰⁴The Reverend Mr. Nathan Stone of Southborough.

²⁰⁵The Reverend Mr. Job Cushing.

²⁰⁶Joseph Bigelow, a selectman of Shrewsbury.

²⁰⁷Ulster Presbyterians.

²⁰⁸William Williams.

²⁰⁹John Campbell of Oxford.

our Result partly by Daylight and partly by Candle. N.B. Captain Baker and Ensign Miller were dismiss'd to go home. The Church voted Acceptance of the Result. The Stones thank'd us for our Pains and promis'd to Consider of what was done, and in the Mean Time to return to Mr. Buckminster's administrations.²¹⁰ But this was not the Conduct of the Irish. We were late up with the Affair of the Captain and the Deacon.

1748 October 28 (Friday). And Next Morning but without Effect though we sat upon it p.m. also; and till toward Night. The Council appointed a Committee to hear it, viz. Mr. Campbell and myself, with Colonel Larnard, Mr. Brown of Leicester, and Esquire Baker, and then we adjourn'd without Day. It was so late and Misty that Mr. Buckminster and others from Time to Time earnestly requesting it, I stay'd; and Mr. Williams and I visited Mr. Frink in the Evening. I would not utterly forget the important Transactions of this Day 24 Years ago when I was solemnly Ordain'd. The Lord Grant me forgiveness of my many Defects; and make me Wise and Thankful!

1748 October 29 (Saturday). A very rainy Night and Morning. But Mr. Buckminster went to Westborough and both Mr. Williams and I stay'd at Rutland.

1748 October 30 (Sunday). I preach'd at Rutland a.m. on 2 Cor. 3.14.15. Mr. Williams p.m. on Phil. 1.9.10.11. Mr. Buckminster at Westborough on [*blank*]. Sundry people came to Mr. Buckminster at Eve. Mr. Frink, Captain Howard etc.

1748 October 31 (Monday). Mr. Williams and I (who had all this Time lodg'd together) rode together to Holden. Old Mr. Clark my old irish Neighbour Scourg'd us. Call'd at Mr. Davis's.²¹¹ Mr. Williams to Lancaster. Mr. Phelps my Company to Shrewsbury. I visited Mr. D. Warrin of Shrewsbury and his wife who were very sick and low, the latter especially. Got to my Family in safety -- blessed by God for his great Goodness! But we are under Affliction by my wife's Lameness, which came only by a little Scratch in her Ankle. Found Mr. Pierpoint from New Haven at my House.

1748 November 1 (Tuesday). Mr. Pierpoint to Boston. Visited Mr. John Rogers's daughter Suse who is sick. Dr. Gott etc. here.

1748 November 2 (Wednesday). Visited Captain Maynard²¹² who is still confin'd by sickness. At Mr. Hows. Ebenezer a Load of Pine.

1748 November 3 (Thursday). Visited Mr. D. Warrin and his wife again -- and Mr. Samuel Crosbys son, and din'd there. P.M. to the private meeting at Lieutenant Tainters -- on Mat.

²¹⁰The Presbyterian minister of Boston, John Moorehead, had charged that Buckminster was not orthodox in his Calvinism. This council found him orthodox and called the Presbyterians "unchristian and disorderly." *Sibley*, X, 34.9.

²¹¹The Reverend Mr. Joseph Davis of Holden.

²¹²John Maynard.

26.14. N.B. My Daughter Mary with me. Supp'd there with divers Men and Women from Waterton and Waltham.

1748 November 4 (Friday). Very Cold Morning. Rain p.m. Ebenezer making a Bee-House.

1748 November 5 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1748 November 6 (Sunday). On Jer. 3.15 all Day. N.B. I have been wont to take some Notice of the first Sabbath after October 28 (the Day of my Ordination A.D. 1724) to treat of some Ministerial or other proper subject; but was detain'd from home last Sabbath. No preaching at Grafton. Mr. Isaac Richardson²¹³ who was to have preach'd there to Day having been taken sick and dy'd. Captain Willard²¹⁴ din'd here.

1748 November 7 (Monday). Neighbour Rogers here and tells me his little Daughter is something better. At Captain Maynards at Evening.

1748 November 8 (Tuesday). Neighbour Rogers assist'd my son in killing a Cow (brindled which I some Years ago bought of Mr. Aaron Forbush). P.M. I rode to Mr. Bathericks and Mr. Cooks.

1748 November 9 (Wednesday). At Eve Mr. Abner Newton and wife made us a Visit; and this Eve also came Mr. Cotton²¹⁵ of Newtown who informs me that his Daughter Cheney was married last Thursday to the Honourable Joseph Pyncheon Esquire.

1748 November 10 (Thursday). Mr. Cotton for Newton. N.B. his son and Mr. Cook, his Neighbour at Newtown, with him. Mr. Grow and Batherick at work a.m. on my back porch. They din'd here, as did Reverend Mr. Stone,²¹⁶ Two Tainters and their Kinswoman Joanna Tainter²¹⁷ of Watertown. Mr. Stone preach'd the Lecture on Phil. 2.8. I Stopp'd the Church to read the Rutland Result and a Letter from Lancaster. N.B. Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlain brought me two living Ducks to keep. At Eve Mr. Nathaniel Whitney here to ask me whether if they should gather but a small part of the Money due to me from the North Side, among them in their South Neighbourhood, I would give a Receipt in full? (They having heard from Lieutenant Tainter that I would.) I told him I was not ready to make any direct answer to it.

1748 November 11 (Friday). [No entry.]

1748 November 12 (Saturday). [No entry.]

²¹³(Harvard 1726). An itinerant schoolmaster, who preached occasionally at various places. *Sibley*, VIII, 92-95.

²¹⁴Benjamin Willard of Grafton.

²¹⁵The Reverend Mr. John Cotton of Newton.

²¹⁶Nathan Stone of Southborough.

²¹⁷The daughter of Captain John Tainter.

1748 November 13 (Sunday). Read the ninth of Genesis and preach'd on Mat. 22.37.38. Administer'd the Lords Supper. Deacon Newton, old Mrs. Tomlin and Mrs. Patience Woods din'd here. P.M. read ninth of Matthew. Preach'd on Mat. 25.46, last part. Deacon Newton requested the Church before the Congregation to excuse him from the service of Delegate, and nominated Brother Baker, but no sooner was the Matter propos'd than Ensign Bruce objected and said it was not according to Custom to propose such Things before the Congregation. I gave him the Reason -- viz. it was So late and Cold -- but immediately I stopp'd the Church, and then dispatch'd it. I perceiv'd afterwards that Lieutenant had some Disgust with the Captain about their Military proceedings.

1748 November 14 (Monday). Mr. Batherick here to work upon my shed, or back porch. At Eve I visited Captain Maynard who has of late grown Worse.

1748 November 15 (Tuesday). Bright fine Day. Captain Baker and Ensign Miller accompany'd me to Lancaster to the Installment of Mr. Timothy Harrington.²¹⁸ We din'd at Mr. Nathan Balls. I lodg'd at Colonel Willards.²¹⁹ Mr. Maccarty²²⁰ my Bedfellow.

1748 November 16 (Wednesday). The Council form'd at Captain Willards. Mr. Hancock²²¹ Moderator and pray'd. Mr. Harrington was examin'd by Mr. Loring respecting his principles. Mr. Storer²²² pray'd publickly. Mr. Hancock preach'd on 1 Cor. 9.19. Mr. Loring²²³ gave the Charge, Mr. Gardner²²⁴ pray'd after it; and Mr. Appleton²²⁵ the right Hand of Fellowship. Were entertain'd at the Colonels and at his son's. At Eve visited Madam Prentice²²⁶ and the Doctor,²²⁷ but lodg'd as Last. Mr. Trowbridge²²⁸ of Groton lodg'd with me.

1748 November 17 (Thursday). Went to Mr. Martyn and his wife, at Mr. Townsends; and we all and a Number more din'd at Mr. Goss's.²²⁹ Mr. Martyn and his wife in their Chair my Company homeward as far as their House. Found my family safe at Evening. N.B. I understand that Esquire Baker is about buying at Bolton.

1748 November 18 (Friday). Mr. Charles Rice here. Tells me Lieutenant Ward has laid out his Land for me, that he has 16 acres upon that plain. Ebenezer digging a Vault.

²¹⁸The minister of Lancaster, 1748-1795.

²¹⁹Aaron Willard of Lancaster.

²²⁰The Reverend Mr. Thaddeus Maccarty of Worcester.

²²¹John Hancock of Lexington;

²²²Seth Storer of Watertown.

²²³Israel Loring of Sudbury.

²²⁴John Gardner of Stow.

²²⁵Nathaniel Appleton of Cambridge.

²²⁶The widow of the Reverend Mr. John Prentice.

²²⁷Stanton Prentice, the physician of Lancaster.

²²⁸The Reverend Mr. Caleb Trowbridge.

²²⁹The Reverend Mr. Thomas Goss of Bolton.

1748 November 19 (Saturday). A very bright moderate Day. The Earth open yet, and a fine Opportunity to provide for Winter. N.B. Mr. Stephen Maynard brought me from Major Henchman, a New Folio Bible which the late Mr. Joseph Wheeler presented to the first Church in Westborough to be at the Dispose of the Pastor thereof for the time being. The price I understand in 20£ old Tenor. At Eve came Mr. Bridge of Framingham. Mr. Buckminster²³⁰ is to preach for him. Mr. Maccarty to go to Rutland, Mr. Martyn to Worcester and tis propos'd I Should preach for Mr. Martyn.

1748 November 20 (Sunday). Mr. Bridge on Eccl. [*blank*] and on [*blank*]. I rode over to the North Side and preach'd a. and p.m. on John 5.28.29. Baptiz'd Elizabeth of Jonathan and Sibyl Green. Return'd at Eve. Mr. Bridge supp'd with us and then left us to go home.

1748 November 21 (Monday). I rode down to Mr. Cooks Shop. Was inform'd there that it was proprietors meeting at Marlborough, but I could not go, it being precinct meeting here, about my Support (So they are pleas'd to call it again) and they voted 180£ old Tenor, to be added to the 220£ which they call my Sallery. Justice Baker brought the Return to me of it and said it was chearfully voted. And they have voted also to build another Meeting House. N.B. Mr. Buckminster here.

1748 November 22 (Tuesday). Ebenezer to Sutton to assist in bringing Rebecca Warrin to her own Home at Upton. My wife and I went to see old Mrs. Brigham who is sick; and call'd to see Several others. Moderate Season. At Eve Sir Henchman²³¹ and Mr. John Brigham of Sudbury (whose Arm Dr. Gott cutt off) Supp'd with us. Rebecca Gott to Marlborough.

1748 November 23 (Wednesday). Rain. Thomas came home. A variety of presents from my Neighbours. But by means of the pressure of Family Cares, and many hindrances by my Circumstances, my mind was greatly confus'd -- could make but little way in my preparations for the approaching solemnity.

1748 November 24 (Thursday). I was in a great Deal of Confusion, and my Soul greatly bowed down, so that I was very unprepar'd for the solemnity of the Thanksgiving, and yet through the kind assistance of a gracious God I was mercifully carried through. But I desire to humble myself before the Lord for my backwardness and unpreparedness; and may the Blood of the Great Saviour make Atonement! I preach'd on Ps. 17.43. O might I have the Grace wisely to observe the divine Dispensations towards the Children of Men, and might I come to understand and not only Speculatively, but Experimentally and sensibly the Loving Kindness of the Lord! We invited Mr. Daniel Warrin (of the other precinct) and his wife and desir'd him to bring not only his wife but his Children to our House but none of them came. Rebecca Warrin was at our Table. At Eve Thomas Winchester was marry'd to Mary Pratt.²³²

²³⁰Joseph Buckminster of Rutland.

²³¹(Harvard 1747).

²³²Of Grafton.

1748 November 25 (Friday). Mrs. Brigham grows worse -- her son Levi came in the Morning to call Me. I went -- convers'd with her, and pray'd (as I did also when I visited her on the 22). N.B. Mr. Benjamin Carryll here with the Petitions of his Brother in Law David Woodwell for a Contribution that he may be able to redeem his Daughter from the Hands of the Indians. At Eve came Mr. Jonathan Green and Mr. James Eager, sons in law to the late Mr. Joseph Wheeler, and approving of the Bible which Major Henschman had provided and sent, they presented it to the First Church in this Town according to the Tenor of the Testament of the Deceased; which I thankfully receiv'd of them in behalf of the Church.

1748 November 26 (Saturday). A very fine pleasant Day. The Earth yet open. Sir Henschman brought up Bekky Gott. He and I walk'd to Captain Maynards; the Captain lying Still in a weak and low Condition. Molly rode yesterday to Mr. Warrins -- returns to Day.

1748 November 27 (Sunday). Read Gen. 11 and preach'd on Mat. 25.46, latter part. P.M. read (the first Time in the Great Bible) Mat. 11. and repeated Some of my brief Sketches on the Mediator from Heb. 12.24. N.B. A Nuisance from the Gallery over my Pew -- Tobacco Spittle druling down upon my Daughter Mollys Hand. Read to the Congregation the petition of David Woodwell of Hopkinton. Molly and I visited old Mrs. Brigham at the Eve.

1748 November 28 (Monday). Mr. Chapin²³³ from Grafton din'd here. Shews me a Letter which they had prepar'd to send to Mr. Hutchinson:²³⁴ he wants to have the Neighbouring Ministers also to write to him; whereas I conceiv'd 'em to be fervent enough themselves he insisted upon it -- but I finally refus'd. P.M. Mr. Martyn here.

1748 November 29 (Tuesday). Held a Catechetical Exercise: only instead of explaining the Catechism I deliver'd 'em another Sermon on Joel 3.13 (put ye in the Sickle), without reading that or any other Text previous to it. A.M. at Lieutenant Tainters to see him in his Lameness.

1748 November 30 (Wednesday). My wife attempted to ride with me -- but she alighted at Neighbour John Rogers's. I went to see Mrs. Brigham²³⁵ before She dy's, and prayed with her. Rode over to Mr. Martyns and din'd there. Return'd at Evening.

1748 December 1 (Thursday). I rode over to Upton. Forbush²³⁶ went with me. We din'd at Jonas Warrins. Preach'd a Lecture on John 3.36, and baptiz'd Two Children, one of them the Child of Moses Wood, the other of Samuel Wood, their wives being Members of the Church. Was at Captain Sadlers²³⁷ his wife (who is my kinswoman) was very urgent to have me tarry all night, for it began to rain. But I chose to get as near home as possible. It was very dark and rainy before we got to Mr. James Bradish's. Then we lodg'd.

²³³Benjamin Chapin.

²³⁴Aaron Hutchinson, who was to become the minister of Grafton.

²³⁵Mrs. David Brigham.

²³⁶Eli Forbush, or Forbes.

²³⁷John Sadler.

1748 December 2 (Friday). Return'd home. I have heard of some Frolicks of late at Merchant Rice's. On the Trooping night, and last Friday night. I (before I went home) rode up to Mr. Rice's and (taking him aside) talk'd with him and warn'd him. He assur'd me there Should be no more Frolicks of Young People at His House. I understand that Mrs. Brigham dy'd yesterday.

1748 December 3 (Saturday). Tis now a very alter'd Air. Cold and Windy. Molly and Lucy rode together and Bekky Gott rode with me to the Funeral of Mrs. Brigham. This is now the Ninth Death that has been in this Parish of Late. May God make me sensible of my own Frailty and Mortality! My Thoughts have been of late greatly discompos'd, and I don't know that I have ever felt so inwardly sunk and disheartened and unable to sustain my Infirmity. What has brought me into this has been my inability to do for my Children, when they come to be of age. My son Ebenezer in particular. All my schemes and Designs respecting him fall to the Ground. He has chose to be a Farmer, but I have not a Farm to give him that is handy or desirable (No other than that at Townshend). Nor has he strength of Body to drudge and bring to a place. My Family is so large as to need what I have at home and more too. But I beg grace to enable me to cast my Care upon God who Careth for us.

1748 December 4 (Sunday). Read Gen. 12. Preach'd on Mat. 25.46 last Clause. Old Mrs. Whipple, Bekky Warrin din'd with us. P.M. Read Mat. 12. Sermon on Ps. 2.6 and made use of some Preparations which I had deliver'd to young women. A Colder season than of late, by much.

1748 December 5 (Monday). Rose very Early and though it was very Cold went over to Mr. Martyn, who is going to Cambridge, with Letters to Deacon Whittemore (who Sends me word he has got me a Chair) and to Sister Lydia Champney. I both breakfasted and din'd at Mr. Martyns -- for after I had taken leave I was met and detain'd on the Road by Captain Amsden; I had also forgot something or at least omitted to speak of something which I was desirous Mr. Martyn should do (respecting bringing up the Chair, if the Affair was fully Clear and I must have it) So I return'd and din'd there. P.M. returning home I visited Captain Maynard who is recovering. Old Mr. Joseph Green with me, in difficulty about his Spiritual state. I visited Mr. Samuel Bakers wife who is very weak and low. Visited at Mr. Williams's in the Evening. When I came home found Mr. Wellman²³⁸ here, on his Journey to Concord to the Ordination of Mr. Lawrence.²³⁹

1748 December 6 (Tuesday). Mr. Williams prosecuted his design for Concord. Cold Day. Old Mr. Green here again in Spiritual Troubles. After telling me his Condition he earnestly ask'd me whether I thought there was any Hope for him? The Lord pity his miserable State, but I conceive him to be over timorous, and born down with his scruples. Went with Mr. How a while to look up the Bounds of the Ministerial Lot next to him and Me, especially the West End.

²³⁸The Reverend Mr. James Wellman of Millbury.

²³⁹William Lawrence (Harvard 1743), the minister of Lincoln, Mass., 1748-1780.

1748 December 7 (Wednesday). Another bright Cold Day. I expected that the Young Men of the private society would have come to cutt wood, for so they had appointed to do -- but there came only the Eight following. Daniel How, Benjamin Tainter, Timothy Newton, Rody Smith (or Devereux), Jonathan Bruce, Moses Warrin, Phinehas Maynard, and Aaron Warrin. At Eve my wife and I were at Captain Maynards.

1748 December 8 (Thursday). My Wife and I went over to Neighbour Hows to the Marriage of their son Noah to Mary Walker, and we Supp'd there.

1748 December 9 (Friday). [No entry.]

1748 December 10 (Saturday). Mr. Martyn sent Thaddeus Fay²⁴⁰ to desire me to change tomorrow. The same Lad brought me several Letters -- one from my Brother Parkman bewailing the Death of his son John Parkman,²⁴¹ goldsmith who was well last Sabbath, but being seiz'd with a Fever, deceas'd yesterday. May God Sanctify the frequent, sorrowful Breaches upon that Family! and may we all who are related, be shown wherefor the Lord contends with us! and be exited to an actual Readiness for our own Turn! Another Letter from Deacon Whittemore of Cambridge in Answer to mine of the fifth informing me what he had done about a Chair.

1748 December 11 (Sunday). I preach'd at the North side on Heb. 9 27, a. and p.m. to page 20th. Return'd home at Eve. Mr. Martyn preach'd to my people on Acts 9.11, and Rom. 12.18. He tarried and lodg'd here.

1748 December 12 (Monday). Mr. Martyn return'd home. Joseph Bowker din'd here. I reckon'd with him and paid him all. Rainy.

1748 December 13 (Tuesday). Rain a.m. Clear'd off p.m. So that I Set out on a Journey to Boston. Call'd at Mr. Stone's -- his wife ill. Proceeded to Framingham. Mr. Bridge²⁴² and wife from Home. By means of one Isaac Clark I was conducted to Mr. Thomas Stone's who marry'd Mrs. Betty Andrew of Cambridge -- and by this Time it was So far in the Evening that I lodg'd there. N.B. Said Isaac Clarks wife daughter of Mr. Stone separated from her husband, and residing there.

1748 December 14 (Wednesday). Drizly -- but I pursued my Journey. Din'd at Captain Tainters at Watertown. Went to Deacon Whittemores to see what he had done about a Chair: it Rain'd harder, yet I went to Charleston and over the Ferry in the Dark and Rain with my young Horse that had never been in a Boat before. Hasten'd up to my Kinsman Olivers -- Supp'd at Captain Davenport Walkers, but lodg'd at Olivers and had my Horse kept there. Was not well, being kept up late after so much fatigue.

²⁴⁰The son of Gershom Fay.

²⁴¹The son of Parkman's eldest brother, William.

²⁴²The Reverend Mr. Matthew Bridge of Framingham.

1748 December 15 (Thursday). After a Night of Disorder, and tempestuous Storm of Wind and Rain, wak'd early. Shav'd at Mr. Mallow's. Had Some Contest with Major Henchman for his not sending any Return to my repeated Letters. He resented my last. I took it again. Public Lecture by Mr. Wellsted²⁴³ on Ps. 51.11 or 12 of our Need of the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Din'd at Brother Samuels. Visited Mrs. Mary Bennett (who was so good as to make me a present of Tea) -- visited my poor Mourning Niece -- but the prizers were there. After visits to my other Relations -- Supp'd at Olivers, my Two Brethren also there. N.B. Talk in private with my Brother Parkman; concerning the Grounds of the Reproachful Storm in most people's mouths of his Conduct towards his sons widow, and especially the very night of the Funeral. I rejoice to hear him declare his Innocence. Lodg'd at Olivers; my Horse kept here Still. N.B. Old Mr. S. Clark the Builder bury'd and Mr. Joseph White's widow (sister Hannahs sister) dy'd.

1748 December 16 (Friday). Din'd at Brother Samuels -- did not see Dr. Parkman though I was at his House yesterday -- not having Time to Day to go to the North End. Saw sister Lydia Champney in the street in Boston, I being on my Horse and coming out of Town. At Cambridge call'd at Brother Champneys. Lodg'd at Deacon Whittemore's.

1748 December 17 (Saturday). In the Morning and my Horses Lampsas²⁴⁴ burnt by Mr. William Morse. The Deacon and I at Mr. Ebenezer Bradish's about the Chair. Have deliver'd the Deacon 60£ old Tenor for it. Left Cambridge about 11 a.m. Din'd at Mr. Nathaniel Harrington's. Mr. Bridge and his wife gone to a Funeral and could not see him going or returning to know whether he designs to preach my Lecture to Young Men. Was at old Clark Johnsons at Evening. Mr. Eleazer Bellows my Company Home. My Family Well. To God be Glory!

1748 December 18 (Wednesday). Preach'd a. and p.m. on Rom. 1.18, repeating some part of Sermon on Tit. 2.11, Scil: from page 19 to 33, though with divers omissions, Additions, Transpositions and alterations.

1748 December 19 (Monday). Rain. Kitty Grout here making a New, cloth-colour'd Riding Hood for my Wife, and altering my Wife's Scarlet Riding Hood for Molly.

1748 December 20 (Tuesday). Kitty Grout.

1748 December 21 (Wednesday). I had reason to look for Mr. Bridge to preach my Lecture to the young people, but he came not. Mr. Martyn and his wife came. I got him to preach. His Text Mat. 22.5. They Stay'd into Evening.

1748 December 22 (Thursday). Kitty Grout went home a.m. Molly rode with me over to Mr. Martyns and Mr. Martyn rode with me to Harvard. N.B. we din'd at Mr. Townsends -- went up to Lancaster -- and I proceeded with Mr. Martyn to Mr. Ebenezer Beeman's, and buying Bricks

²⁴³William Wellsted of the New Brick Church.

²⁴⁴Lampas, or lampers, is an inflammation and swelling of the roof of the mouth of a horse.

of him, I bought a few with him. We lodg'd at Mr. Seccombs.²⁴⁵ N.B. Mrs. Seccomb a Fitt at Eve.

1748 December 23 (Friday). We left Mr. Seccombs and came to Mr. [blank] Keys's, and I made some proposals to him about his taking my son Ebenezer to learn the Business of a Gunsmith, which he accepted of. We din'd late at Mr. Goss's. It was Evening when Molly and I return'd home. Here was Mr. Caleb Upham who is our Schoolmaster; he supp'd and lodg'd here.

1748 December 24 (Saturday). Mr. Upham to his School at Mr. Hezekiah Pratts. Finish'd reading in the Family Dr. Doddridge Family Expositor²⁴⁶ Volume 2 and next morning began it again.

1748 December 25 (Sunday). Read Genesis 15. Gave some brief Expository Hints. Preach'd on Mat. 25 last Clause of 10.46. Mr. Upham, Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Steward din'd. P.M. read Mat. 15 and my Exercise was an Exposition of the latter part of it. Mr. Upham here after meeting -- tarry'd to Supper and lodg'd here.

1748 December 26 (Monday). A very pleasant Day. I rode out p.m. as far as Mr. Ebenezer Rice's and Deacon Newtons -- finished reading Εικωυ Βασιλικη Δεμτερα or the Portraiture of King Charles the second.²⁴⁷ Ebenezer thrashing Rye.

1748 December 27 (Tuesday). The weather greatly alter'd to Cold and Windy, though bright. Ebenezer thrashing.

1748 December 28 (Wednesday). I visited Lucy Pratt (heretofore Whipple) in her Mourning for the Loss of her husband Moses Pratt at Hardwick. I was also at Mr. Eleazer Bellows's, at Mr. Daniel Warrins in Shrewsbury; and at Mr. Crosbys; Deacon Miles's,²⁴⁸ and din'd there. At Mr. Joseph Miles's²⁴⁹ to bespeak the making a Cart; went over to Mr. Benjamin Willards at Grafton and bespoke Joshua Winchester²⁵⁰ to come and live with me next season -- was at his Fathers -- from thence went to Mr. Nathaniel Whitneys to see his son Olivers, who was lately hurt by a Tree. At my Returning home in the Eve, receiv'd a Letter from Mr. Upham inclosing a piece of Poetry which he stiles the Choice. N.B. our people begin to stir in getting Timber for a Meeting House.

1748 December 29 (Thursday). Wrote a brief answer to Mr. Upham. P.M. Deacon Newton came and we reckon'd and I paid all and his son Silas's account likewise by a Note to the Collector Mr. Daniel Hardy. N.B. Mr. Caryl from Hopkinton here to see whether we had done anything in Contributing for the Redemption of his Brother Woodwell's Daughter out of

²⁴⁵The Reverend Mr. John Seccomb of Harvard.

²⁴⁶Philip Doddridge, *The Family Expositor* (London, 1739).

²⁴⁷Εικωυ Βασιλικη Δεμτερα, *The Portraiture of his sacred Majesty, King Charles, II* (London, 1694).

²⁴⁸Samuel Miles of Shrewsbury.

²⁴⁹A brother of Deacon Miles.

²⁵⁰The son of Benjamin Winchester of Grafton.

Captivity -- whereas this was one part of Deacon Newtons Business with me, to acquaint me that the Deacons and Committee of the Precinct did advise to my publickly proposing it, to our Congregation next Sabbath. I was sorry we were so late; for other Congregations round about had collected already, and they now (who were concern'd) were receiving it, that our Bills may be Exchang'd into Silver. This afternoon it began to snow there having been no Snow, if to cover the Ground, yet not to lye this Year till now. At Night the storm increas'd.

1748 December 30 (Friday). Considerable Cold Storm of Snow. My Care at present is to provide for my sons going off to Harvard to live with Mr. William Keyes to be a Gun Smith. Ah wretched Harvard to which I had design'd him! But this will be I hope, *non invita Minerva*.

1748 December 31 (Saturday). Extremely high Gusts of Wind last Night. But through God's Mercy we are all well this Morning. Proves a very Cold blustering Day. Thus through the tender Mercy of God I have finish'd another Year. Blessed be his glorious Name! But when I look back and see what I have done in this further Measure of divine Forbearance, alas! What reason for Grief and shame that I have been so unprofitable; having brought so little Glory to the name of God -- done so little for my own Soul, and been so Slenderly Beneficial unto others! May God be pleas'd to grant me true holy Mourning and Sorrow; and may I by Faith be enabled to repair to and depend on the atoning Blood of the son of God which Cleanseth from all sin! May I have part in the Merits of his Righteousness and Obedience when my own is so defective; nay, have none at all! And O that the glorious High Priest who ever lives to make Intercession might allow and enable me to come to God by him -- and notwithstanding all my infinite unworthiness Save me to the Uttermost. Amen.