

## Dr. Stephen Ball (1735-1798)

born Dec. 21, 1735, son of James and Sarah (Harrington) Ball of Northborough  
married, May 23, 1765, Mary Fairbanks of Lancaster

Mary d. Mar. \_\_\_\_, 1782 (Northborough VR, 126)

1782 February 27 (Wednesday). The Funeral of Dr. *Balls* Wife. Elias goes to attend upon it. May God Sanctifie the Bereavement to the poor Doctor; but newly Snatched from Death himself!

Mary, wife of Stephen, died March \_\_\_\_, 1782. Northborough VR, 126.

died Oct. 17, 1798

1760 March 11 (Tuesday). My Wife and I rode in my Sleigh to see Deacon Tainter who, tis to be hoped, is in an healing Way. Dr. Crosby and Dr. Ball were there, and we saw both Leggs Dressed.

1760 October 26 (Sunday). Dr. *Ball*, late in the morning, called at the Door, to desire me to visit Neighbour Seth Morse's Child, which he thought would dye before Noon or to come when meeting was over. I had no Horse; and it was too late; I went not.

1761 March 19 (Thursday). I visit Mr. *Aaron Nurse*, who droops and has had Dr. Ball with him.

1764 July 24 (Tuesday). One o'Clock a.m. Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ returns. *Mrs. Bowman has a Son*. She was delivered by Dr. Ball, not without Instrument.

1764 September 8 (Saturday). *Lydia* has been with us for some Days; but is now not well and goes to Dr. Ball to be blooded.

1765 January 16 (Wednesday). I visit Ebenezer Brigham (who lives at the Joslin place) having heard he was ill. Discoursed with him. Instructed and prayed with him. Dr. Balls young man, *Fales*, came. I dined there.

1765 February 19 (Tuesday). It is so bad riding on Horseback, that I went in my sleigh to see Mr. Ebenezer Brigham who is very bad again; and especially has terrible sores, like Cancers, upon his Hands. I dined there.

1765 February 22 (Friday). Visit Mr. *Ebenezer Brigham* again and pray with him. Many there. I conversed with him with much Fervency, and it seems to succeed in some Measure. D.G. Dr. *Ball* and *Fales* there, and Expect Dr. *Wilson* and *Dexter*: but it looks as if in vain.

1765 August 22 (Thursday). My Wife and Daughter Baldwin ride to Dr. Balls, to consult him about her Case.

1765 August 31 (Saturday). P.M. *Lucy* and *Suse* in Capt. Woods Chair, ride to Dr. Balls.

1767 March 27 (Friday). Mr. Brewer comes for me to go to Mr. Temple's. They desire baptism for their Child. A Number of people were gathered. I proposed it to them. They consented and advised to it. We prayed but the Child Expired. The Doctor (*Ball*) declaring it to be dead, I desisted from Baptizing, but we prayed again. And having offered a few words in Exhortation I returned home.

1767 April 1 (Wednesday). Capt. *Baker* of Bolton comes with an Horse for me to go to Deacon [Simon Tainter]. Find him very low; Dr. *Darling* and Dr. *Ball* there and do all that in them lies - - but strive in vain to put up his Bowels into place. Excrements (as tis conceived) are voided at his Mouth. Prayed with him.

1767 April 2 (Thursday). My dear Friend and Brother Deacon *Simon Tainter* dyed! He expired about 11 o'Clock a.m. May God sanctify this Death in a peculiar Manner to Me and Mine. Though my good Deacon is gone, yet God, who is All-sufficient, lives and is unchangeable for ever.

1767 May 15 (Friday). Am sent for to go to Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlins junior -- his Wife being in Travail and can't be delivered -- went -- found she was delivered but the Child dead. Prayed. Dr. Ball accompanied me back.

1767 June 18 (Thursday) At my Return, found at my House my Daughters *Parkman* and *Baldwin*. One had been to Watertown, the other at Dr. Balls.

1767 June 19 (Friday). My Daughters attempted to journey yesterday, but returned by reason of the Rain. This morning they set out; but my Daughter *Baldwin* proposes only to Dr. Balls.

1767 June 24 (Wednesday). Visit at Mr. Temples -- and thinking my Daughter *Baldwin* is at Dr. Balls, or to be heard of there, I went there; but she was gone home with her sister *Parkman* to Brookfield.

1768 April 16 (Saturday). I rode to Mr. Thomas Temple's to see his Child; and prayed. Went to Dr. Ball's where I din'd and Mr. Whitney likewise.

1768 May 15 (Sunday). Hear that my Daughter *Baldwin* is at Dr. Balls; being poorly again.

1768 May 16 (Monday). I got Deacon Woods Chair and rode over to Dr. *Balls*. Found my Daughter there, and went with her to Mr. *Whitneys*, and dined there.

1769 June 5 (Monday). I visit poor *Garfield*, from whom one Testicle has been extracted by Dr. *Ball*. He is more humble and penitent, and asks me to pray with him. Which I complied with. And am greatly rejoiced at any Signs of his Penitence.

1769 September 18 (Monday). Went to Dr. *Ball* and got his Chaise for *Sarah* to go to *Boston*.

1769 November 14 (Tuesday). Mrs. *Arnold* in Labour. Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ is gone to her. Her Husband is gone for Dr. Ball, but her Distress dispatches *John* after them to make greater Haste. She is delivered before the Doctor comes.

1770 November 27 (Tuesday). I rode to Northborough. Received of Capt. Maynard 70/ old Tenor. Paid Dr. *Ball* for his Chaise 56/3 Old Tenor.

1770 December 18 (Tuesday). P.M. The Church met on 1. Levi Warrins Case. He gave two papers, one was signed by himself and wife: the other was a Certificate from Dr. Ball. N.B. Nine out of 28, vote that we proceed to their Admission. They were Mr. Daniel Hardy, David Maynard, Capt. Benjamin Fay, Capt. Jonas Brigham, B. Taynter, Seth Morse, Thomas Twitchell, D. Adams, and Mr. A. Gale.

1771 January 16 (Wednesday). Visit old Mr. *Jonah Warrin* under the impairs of his Health and his Daughter in Law, Mrs. *Deborah Warrin*, who is sick. Dr. *Ball* there. Prayed with them.

1772 April 8 (Wednesday). Lieut. Baker and I p.m. rode over to Lieut. *Martyn*, he being brought very low; consuming away. Dr. *Wilson*, *Ball*, Joslyn etc. there in Consultation.

1772 October 23 (Friday). Ventured to make a Visit to Mrs. Fay. Found the Ensign not well, but his Wife delirious. Their Daughter, Mrs. *Rhoda* Maynard, much overcome. I conversed as I could, but was not asked to pray. However, Several of the Young Persons Said they hoped I would not forget them. Dr. *Ball* there and informs me that the Council at Holden is over, and that Mr. *Davis* is dismissed.

1772 December 18 (Friday). Call to See Mr. Samuel Hardy's Wife, who has lately born him a Son. The Doctors Company in returning.

1774 April 3 (Sunday). But what a Surprize were we thrown into by hasty Riding, etc. for the Doctors, for me etc. Mrs. *Morse* unhappy Woman! has cutt her own Throat with a Razor! about 1/2 an hour before meeting was done. I hastened to the House of Distress. Saw the horrid wound -- about 2 inches long. Dr. Hawes tells me the Wind-pipe is cut about half through. She is alive and to appearance Sensible. Sits pretty still while the Doctor Sews up the Gashes. But I say very little to her, as she under the Operation least it should Set her a Bleeding. Dr. *Ball* came to Assistance. Many people were gathered in to behold the Sorrowful Spectacle. Mr. *Morse* requested me to pray. I found she was not against it "with respect to Mr. *Morse* and the Children, but it could do her no good," as she expressed it. I prayed, when they had done what was necessary in the Sewing and Dressing. The Doctors tarry all night, as well as several to watch her. But I returned to my Family.

1774 November 29 (Tuesday). I made a Visit to Miss *Sarah Gale* who languishes under an Astmatick Cough and other Disorders. Instructed and prayed with her. Dined at Mr. *Gales*. Dr. *Ball* also there.

1775 January 23 (Monday). My Daughter *Hannah* complains much of her Arm, hurt against a Tree which the sleigh ran near to, in their way to Mill-River last Saturday.

1775 January 24 (Tuesday). *Hannahs* arm is much swelled and grows very troublesome.

1775 January 25 (Wednesday). *Hannah* has a bad Arm. Sent for Dr. *Hawes*; who came. *Breck* Sends up Dr. *Ball*. Both Doctors dine here.

1775 January 27 (Friday). Dr. *Haws* visits *Hannah* and dresses her Arm. The appearance is a little better. *Ben. Clark* is Sent over to Dr. *Balls* a Second time for more Unguent. *Polychrist* and to Mr. *Bass's* etc. for sundrys.

1776 March 21 (Thursday). P.M. Dr. *Ball* here. I visited *Abel Woods* who is Still confined by his Wound at Mr. *Tim. Warrins* -- instructed and prayed with him. He is in an hopeful way of Recovery. I drank Coffee at Dr. *Hawes*.

1776 May 8 (Wednesday). Mr. [*Caleb?*] *Harrington* goes to Dr. *Balls* for *Hay*. My Team goes, and *Chamberlain* goes also. They bring 400 lb., 2 for each of us.

1777 June 10 (Tuesday). *Hannah* is very weak, but her Cough not so violent. Mrs. *Wood* rides for her Health, and came here; She is so good as to take up *Hannah* into the Carriage, and they rode to *Beetons*.

1777 June 11 (Wednesday). Sent *Elias* for Dr. *Ball*; who came, and Dr. *Hawes* is here with him, to consult about *Hannahs* Case. My Daughter rode a little way, a.m.

1777 June 22 (Sunday). I returned at Eve by Dr. *Balls* for my Daughters *Baldwin* and *Hannah*; both of them but weak and low.

1777 June 24 (Tuesday). Dr. *Ball* visits my Invalids and dines here.... Not only I, but a Number more of the Family were taken ill, about 1 o'Clock a.m.

1777 June 27 (Friday). My Kinsman *Lovering* goes on his Journey to *Westfield*. The Two Doctors here. *Hannah* Blooded. 1778 August 10 (Monday). Lit also at Mr. *Jos. Knowltons* whose Wife is much better -- was at Mr. *Gershom Brighams* -- but especially I hastened to Mr. *Broad*, who though alive, yet is very low. The Bleeding has Stopped; but is now dropping. I pityed, instructed, prayed with him -- hastened Mr. *Rider* (who lives there) for Dr. *Ball*. When I got home, Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ inclined to go to him.

1778 September 2 (Wednesday). At 9 a.m. attend, and pray at, the Funeral of Mr. *Broad*. Aets. 25. N.B. His Mournful Widow falls into Travel. The women are with her, and Dr. *Ball* is come.

1778 September 3 (Thursday). Mrs. *Broad*, I understand, has been delivered of a son, but it was dead -- and to day it is buried; I attended and prayed.

1778 October 22 (Thursday). About 3 in the morning we were alarmed by *Breck*; *Suse* being in Travel. About Sunrise a little Daughter was born; and both Mother and Child in an hopeful State. All Glory to God the Deliverer! May His Goodness be perfected! The Company of Women, with *Dr. Ball* broke fast here -- with Mr. B. Bradshaw, who with Cousen [*illegible*] *Brigham* dined here also.

1781 April 13 (Friday). It has been a Night of Distress with dear *Suse* -- but God all-sufficient was almightily present, and a Child was born 15 minutes after One o'clock. To His glorious Name be all Glory and Praise! This Morning we all rejoiced. They needed to rally only the two Mothers and the two nearest Neighbours, Mrs. *Lamson* and Mrs. *Harrington*. *Dr. Ball* was the Instrument in the Hand of God: and Successfull, through His Concurrence.

1781 July 26 (Thursday). *Sophia* is ill. *Dr. Ball* is come, and Several Women are here, viz. Sister *Brigham*, Cousin *Maynard* and two nearest Neighbours *Lamson* and *Harrington*. A Daughter born.... N.B. *Dr. Ball* tells me he has brought 5 Children into the world this Week.

1781 September 11 (Tuesday). *Dr. Ball* was here to See *Sophy*, who is but weakly. He informs me of the sorrowful *Conflagration at New-London* last Thursday. Wrote to *Elias*, and got *Dr. Ball* to carry it to *Monro's* for Conveyance.

1781 October 8 (Monday). Mr. *Brigham* goes to *Bellingham*, to look after a Debtor, *Arnold*, a Quaker.... I was Sent for by the Widow *Brigham* -- I went -- her Throat is much Sweld: prayed with her. *Dr. Ball* and her Nephew *Grout*, attend on her.

1782 February 27 (Wednesday). The Funeral of *Dr. Balls* Wife. *Elias* goes to attend upon it. May God Sanctifie the Bereavement to the poor Doctor; but newly Snatched from Death himself!

Nahum, son of Stephen and Mary, born Feb. 7, 1782. Northborough VR, 14.  
Mary, wife of Stephen, died March \_\_\_\_, 1782. Northborough VR, 126.