

Dr. Samuel Breck (1723-1764)

Harvard 1742; *SHG* 11:131-32.

b. May 17, 1723, second son of Rev. Robert (HC 1700) and Elizabeth (Wainwright) Breck of Marlborough

SHG suggests that he was living with his brother-in-law Benjamin Gott of Marlborough at the time of his admission to Harvard.

Settled in Worcester; was keeping school and preaching in Sheffield (EP, Dec. 29, 1750); next year bought house in north parish, now Great Barrington.

Died at Springfield, April 23, 1764.

1738 June 29 (Thursday). My wife and Brother Samuel Breck rode with me to Marlborough, the weather being cool, cloudy and pleasant, and we din'd at Dr. Gotts.

1738 July 1 (Saturday). Brother Samuel Breck return'd from Marlborough.

1738 August 14 (Monday). Brother Samuel Breck (who came from Springfield last week) brought up Sister Gott here.

1738 November 29 (Wednesday). Brother Samuel Breck came up to see us, and tarried.

1738 December 1 (Friday). Snowy Day. Brother Samuel Breck went to Marlborough.

1738 December 19 (Tuesday). Brother Samuel Breck came up from Marlborough and lodg'd here. With him came sister Gott and Mrs. Bulah Bent, and after them came Captain Williams.

1738 December 20 (Wednesday). Brother Samuel rode away upon his Journey to Springfield.

1739 January 18 (Thursday). Brother Samuel Breck came from Springfield and went to Marlborough.

1739 February 12 (Monday). N.B. Sent to Mr. Williams a Letter touching the Harvard Affair and to Brother Samuel Breck at College and to Brother Samuel Parkman at Boston all by Samuel Baker.

1739 December 5 (Wednesday). Brother Samuel Breck,¹ and Gad Hitchcock came from Springfield, after having had the Meazles up there.

1739 December 6 (Thursday). Breck and Hitchcock rode off very Early.

¹Parkman's brother-in-law, the physician of Springfield, Mass.

1740 April 16 (Wednesday). Brother Samuel Breck visited us.

1740 June 24 (Tuesday). At Eve came Brother Breck² from Springfield, and with him Brother Samuel Breck,³ who was upon his Journey from College to Springfield. The Scholars being dispers'd by reason of the prevalency of Throat distemper at Cambridge for which Reason the Commencement is also deferr'd for Six weeks.

1740 August 22 (Friday). Brother Samuel Breck came, being on his Journey from Springfield to Cambridge.

1740 August 23 (Saturday). Brother Samuel went on his Journey to Cambridge.

1740 October 17 (Friday). Brother Samuel Breck⁴ brought up my wife from Marlborough, who had been there ever since Mr. Whitefields preaching there.

1742 March 9 (Tuesday). P.M. Brother Samuel Breck⁵ here from Springfield. N.B. his Message from Brother *Breck*⁶ respecting Mr. *Buel*.⁷ He proceeded to Marlborough.

1742 March 18 (Thursday). At Eve Brother Samuel Breck at my House.

1742 March 19 (Friday). Br. S. went off for Springfield.

1742 August 28 (Saturday). Brother *Samuel Breck* came from *Springfield* and brought a Melancholly Letter concerning himself from Brother *Breck*. The Lord grant us Grace suitably to humble our selves under the Frown of his Providence and grant the wisdom that may be profitable to direct in so difficult a Case! Brother went to Marlborough.

1742 August 30 (Monday). Brother Samuel Breck here, but towards Evening took Leave.

1744 May 1 (Tuesday). Dr. Gott and Brother Samuel Breck came up from Marlborough and din'd with Me. My Wife walk'd with her Brethren to visit Captain Maynard.⁸ Rainy p.m. Thomas is broke off. Brother Samuel tarried over Night and Hay being Short Sent his Horse to old Mr. Maynards. Brother Breck upon his Journey to Springfield purposing to buy and settle in Worcester, there being now no Settled Physician there.

²Rev. Robert Breck, Jr.

³(HC 1741). Later a surgeon of Springfield.

⁴Mrs. Parkman's brother.

⁵Parkman's brother-in-law, Samuel Breck (1723-1764), Harvard 1742; *SHG*, 11:131-32.

⁶Parkman's brother-in-law, Robert Breck, Jr. (1713-1784), Harvard 1730, minister of Springfield, 1736-1784; *SHG* 8:661-80.

⁷Samuel Buell (1716-1798), Yale 1741, ordained as a minister-at-large, 1742; itinerant, 1742-1745; minister at East Hampton, Long Island, 1746-1798; *DYG*, 1:664-69.

⁸John Maynard.

1744 May 23 (Wednesday). At Eve Dr. Breck came. N.B. The Doctor has bought at Worcester and begins to build there.

1744 May 24 (Thursday). Mr. Breck and his Brother went to Marlborough.

1744 June 12 (Tuesday). P.M., Dr. Breck from Worcester here, but he went to Marlborough at Evening.

1744 June 20 (Wednesday). After Dinner I rode to Worcester (accompany'd by Reverend Mr. Davis⁹ of Holden). Visited Dr. Breck but my Special Design was to make a Visit to the poor prisoner.¹⁰

1744 August 22 (Wednesday). I rode up to Worcester Court -- from Mr. Cushings had Dr. Stanton Prentice's¹¹ Company. Visited Mr. Burr and Dr. Breck.¹² Mr. Solomon Prentice came there and we went together to the Court -- where I attended the forenoon. I din'd at Mr. Burrs with Mr. Loring¹³ of Marlborough and Dr. Breck.

1744 September 12 (Wednesday). Visited Captain Forbush¹⁴ but the Doctor being there, and it appearing later than I thought for I did not make any long stay. Brother Samuel Breck was there also with Dr. Gott. Dr. Breck din'd with us.

1744 December 30 (Sunday). [Worcester.] At Eve I was a while at the Colonels, and there came Justice Lee and others -- but I retir'd to Dr. Brecks whom I had not visited since he brought his Wife to that Town and I lodg'd there.

1745 January 30 (Wednesday). Dr. Gott and Dr. Breck here whilst I was gone and din'd with my wife.

1745 July 30 (Tuesday). Mr. Breck and his wife undertook their Journey. My wife (favour'd with Mr. Benjamin Hows Horse) and I rode to Worcester with them -- and we din'd at Dr. Brecks.

1746 January 29 (Wednesday). Ante Meridiem: Recollections and Humilliations and [*illegible*] But was grievously interrupted by Dr. Gotts Mother (Mrs. Fairfield), Sally Gott and her Brother Benjamin as likewise Dr. Breck, all coming in a stormy Time (Raining hard) to see us, and I could not keep my Retirement.

1746 January 30 (Thursday). They all lodg'd here. Dr. Breck to Boston.

⁹Rev. Joseph Davis (HC 1740), first minister of Holden, 1742-1773. *SHG* 10:478-481.

¹⁰Edward Fitzpatrick.

¹¹Physician of Lancaster.

¹²Samuel Breck, physician of Worcester.

¹³Jonathan Loring, a lawyer.

¹⁴Samuel Forbush.

1746 February 23 (Sunday). Preach'd at Worcester.... At Eve at Dr. Brecks and lodg'd there. In the Night the Wind rose exceeding high.

1746 March 20 (Thursday). Wrote to Mr. Breck of Springfield, in Reply to his of February 28, which was in return to Mine of August 23 last. Inclos'd it to Dr. Breck of Worcester for Conveyance.

1746 June 22 (Sunday). Got to Worcester about 7 o'Clock.... Din'd at the Colonel's. Supp'd at Dr. Brecks.

1746 July 4 (Friday). N.B. John Hicks junior and Mrs. Molly Whittemore here before us. They went to Sutton. After them came Dr. Breck and Mr. Colton Schoolmaster at Springfield, who at Eve proceeded to Worcester.

1746 August 25 (Monday). As to my wife, she set out after 3 o'Clock and propos'd to lodge at Worcester tonight; Dr. Breck and his Wife to be Company as far as Mr. Devotions in Windham. May they have a prosperous Journey by the will of God!

1746 September 11 (Thursday). Captain Maynard here to inform me from Dr. Breck that his Sister and my son were well last Friday was Sennight at Hartford: and he tells me he Saw a Copy of a Letter Sign'd by Mr. John Norton late preacher at Hoosuck Fort^o which informs that the French and Indians besieg'd their fort, slew Thomas Knowlton and captivated all the rest.

1746 September 16 (Tuesday). After dinner I rode up to Shrewsbury designing to go to Dr. Brecks, with expectation of meeting my wife there; but she had come to Worcester last night (from Springfield) and was now so forward as almost to Captain Hows in Shrewsbury.

1746 December 30 (Tuesday). Dr. Breck here and din'd as he did Yesterday also whilst I was gone from home.

1747 February 10 (Tuesday). P.M. I Rode to Worcester.... Went to Dr. Brecks. We spent the Evening chiefly at Mr. Fessendens. Lodg'd at the Doctors.

1747 February 11 (Wednesday). After Breakfast the Doctor and I rode to Mr. Hedge's.

1747 June 10 (Wednesday). Captain Baker accompany'd me to Worcester.... I design'd to have return'd home this Eve, but my Daughter Molly was not well. She lodg'd at Colonel Chandlers but I lodg'd at Dr. Brecks. N.B. Mrs. Breck lately lain in of a Daughter.

^oReverend John Norton (Yale 1737) was serving as chaplain to the soldiers in various forts in western Massachusetts. At Fort Massachusetts, within the present township of Adams, Norton was taken captive, Aug. 20, 1746. He later published the narrative of his captivity and release. John Norton, *The Redeemed Captive* (Boston, 1748). See Dexter, *Biographical Sketches*, 587-88. Was this related to John Norton, *Narrative of the Capture and Burning of Fort Massachusetts by the French and Indians, in the time of the War of 1744-1749, and the Captivity... Written at the Time by One of the Captives* (North Adams, Mass., 1933; originally published 1748)?

1747 August 23 (Sunday). I preach'd at Worcester... After Exercises I went over to Dr. Brecks but Supp'd and Lodg'd at Mr. Maccarty's.

1747 August 24 (Monday). After Breakfast Mr. Maccarty and I went over to Dr. Brecks. N.B. Changed my Two octavo Volumes of Baileys Dictionary with the Doctor for his Folio of the Same Work and gave him 45/ old Tenor Difference.

1747 October 7 (Wednesday). We were Somewhat disturb'd by a Crew of Indians with a Violin last night while we were o'Bed. But through Divine Mercy I rose well and rode (alone) to Mr. Samuel Brecks in North Sutton.

1748 March 16 (Wednesday). Broke fast with Mr. Hancock. Dr. Breck 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. Campbell and me about him -- the grand Haretick Williams whereas I had reference to what he personated at commencement.

1748 May 31 (Tuesday). Dr. Breck and his Brother Cooley here while I was gone to Catechizing.

1748 July 11 (Monday). N.B. Thomme went to Worcester for his master with Two Horses to get Rie. Billy rode with him to Dr. Brecks.

1748 August 22 (Monday). In returning from Sutton I first visited Captain Robert Goddard -- had Mr. John Hollands Company to Worcester.... Visited Mr. Maccarty -- din'd at Dr. Brecks.

1749 April 13 (Thursday). Mr. Abraham Williams here. Tells me he has a Call at Sandwich -- argues against the Duty of Fasting -- calls it dressing up Religion in frightful Figures to terrifie Men -- Says getting a Neighbour to kick ones shins or thrash one with an Horsewhip will do as well etc. He is going to Worcester to demand of Dr. Breck the Legacy his grandmother Breck left him.

1749 April 20 (Thursday). Dr. Breck and his Wife came to see me. Doctor had unhappily turn'd over his Chair in coming and hurt one of his Hands: he was sick at Dinner and rose from the Table.

1750 January 16 (Tuesday). Hear that Dr. Breck is very ill.

1750 January 21 (Sunday). At noon receiv'd a Letter from sister Breck of Worcester of the Doctors illness.

1750 October 1 (Monday). Dr. Breck at my House while I was from Home.

1750 October 12 (Friday). Sent Billy on the Mare to Worcester with a Letter to Brother Samuel Breck about his Servant Girl but without Effect, he not accepting my offer for her.

1750 December 29 (Saturday). Brother Samuel Breck here and din'd with us. He keeps School and practices at Sheffield.

1751 March 13 (Wednesday). Lodg'd at Mr. Maccartys. N.B. was in great Grief and Trouble by means of the bitter Lamentations and Complaints about Dr. Breck.

1751 March 14 (Thursday). Was with Mr. Putnam (as I was yesterday with Mr. Doolittle, and Mr. Waters) on the Affair of Dr. Breck.

1751 May 7 (Tuesday). Dr. Breck here and din'd with us.

1753 January 26 (Friday). Mr. Hall of Sutton here, and informs that Brother Samuel Breck was lately at his House, came from Rhode Island through Upton -- was going to Worcester -- and from thence home.

1755 August 19 (Tuesday). I rode to Marlborough. Din'd at Mr. Smiths. Hear that Dr. Breck was in Marlborough over the Sabbath, and went out of Town but this Morning to return home, and has not come to See his Sister.

1761 February 4 (Wednesday). Squire Jabez Ward dines (after his Fashion) here. He informs that Dr. Breck of Sheffield has lost his eldest Son by the Small pox.

[1764 April 23: According to the Breck genealogy, he died in Springfield after a bridge over which he was riding collapsed.]

1765 June 4 (Tuesday). Rode over to Mr. Martyns and dined there. N.B. prepared an Account of Dr. Brecks Credit etc., inclose it, with the Will in a Letter for Brother Breck and leave it at Lt. Martyns and go my self to Marlborough and leave Word at Coll. Williams that Mr. Breck may know what I have done.

1765 May 29 (Wednesday). In the Early Morning at Mrs. Brecks to Speak with Brother Breck of Springfield, concerning Dr. Samuel Brecks Effects, and the administration etc.

1781 May 29 (Tuesday). P.M. Mr. *Samuel Breck* of *Northampton* in his Way to *Boston*, came to see us.