

Fish and Fishing

1723 August 6 (Tuesday). Prayers and Breakfast Ended we took pleasant walks to See the Farms those Gentlemen had in the Town. While the Colonels and Lieutenant Lee were further Engaged about their Particular Country Managery, Mr. Winthrop, Mr. Flagg and I walk'd to a fine Brook and Fish'd. We Caught Salmon-Trouts, etc. These were very well taken; and we din'd richly on them, Colonel Minot himself dressing them.

1726 April 28 (Thursday). It was between 10 and 11 when I got home. Bass and Shadd sent to us.

1726 May 18 (Wednesday). I rode to Boston. My Mother not well. My Brother John Tyley return'd from Honduras, having been taken by Ned Low the Pirate. Towards Evening I went back to Charlston for my Horse at Boylsons, where I met Mr. Cotton of Newton and a Company of his Neighbours, Mr. Ephraim Williams, etc., who had all been out afishing. I rode with them to Cambridge and then parted to go to Father Champneys where I lodged.

1727 February 1 (Wednesday). Mr. Willard and his Kinsman, the Chearful Captain came while we were at an Excellent Dinner on Roast Turkey, etc., at Mr. Brecks. Near Sundown I was very Eager and Earnest to come home. Mr. Breck urged Exceedingly to stay but I resisted his most pressing Importunity and took my leave. I mounted and my Business leading Me down to Mr. Woods's, Messrs. Willards would walk thither. Mr. Wood treated us handsomely and we all Sang the more chearfully. Here I rose up not a few times to return home but Captain Willard hung upon Me and would by no means let me have my way. Mr. Jonathan How (the Tavern keeper) came up from Boston while we were at Mr. Woods's and having several Haddock I bought one for my Wife; and we returned to Mr. Brecks, where We had Sad and Melancholly News of a Young Man Mr. Simon Bradstreet that last friday fell down very suddenly on Mr. Greenwoods wharf at Boston and next morning dyed.

1727 February 2 (Thursday). In the morning Jonathan How came and invited us to a fish dinner. Accordingly we all went up to his house and Din'd with him on Haddock. Here his Brother Hezekiah of Westborough happen'd very Lukily, whom I implor'd to carry home my Fish and some necessarys. When we came from Mr. Hows, we parted with Mr. Breck and rode to Mr. William Jonson's and thence up to my house, Messrs. Willards being with me. They lodg'd with us.

1738 February 10 (Friday). Ensign Maynard brought up divers Things from Boston for me. N.B. Oysters, Salt Fish, etc.

1738 February 11 (Saturday). Ensign Maynard din'd with us upon Salt Fish, etc.

1739 July 2 (Monday). The Gentlemen, viz. Mr. White, Mr. Pomroy, and Mr. Jarvis went afishing at the River by Neighbor Hows.¹

1740 May 27 (Tuesday). Molly rode with me to Cambridge. I went by Southborough. Colonel Woods Company from Sudbury. Din'd by him on Fish at Thomas Harringtons. Before night at Father Champney's.²

1740 July 1 (Tuesday). We din'd at Brother Elias's. P.M. Mr. Halyer and my Kinsman Elias perswaded me to go off into the Harbour to fish. We got aground by the Castle and did not get up home till 2 o'Clock next morning. A very Pleasant Time. We caught 13 tom Codd. Had Mr. Langdons Boat.

1742 May 8 (Saturday). Finished planting our Fields. Mr. *Deming*³ came; at the my Request he stayed with us. Mr. Jenison came in the Eve designing to preach for me if I wanted Help. Providence cast in a fine parcel of Pond Fish, by Jonathan Rogers.

1744 August 7 (Tuesday). As I was riding over upon this visit Captain Forbush met me and acquaint'd me that a man was kill'd last night by his Cart near Ensign Bruce's in this Town.... The man was of Sutton, one Mr. Samuel March of about 29 or 30 Years, originally from Newbury. His poor mournfull widow, the Daughter of Captain Sibley of Sutton was there, with her Father and Some Number of Sutton Friends along with them. The Lord Sanctifie His holy dispensation in peculiar to them and to his Mate (Mr. Holbrook) who was upon the Road with another Team just before Mr. March; but O that God would also enable all of us to make a Suitable Improvement of So awakening a Providence, and Convince us that we know not the Hour! For as Saith Solomon man also knoweth not his Time: as the Fishes etc. and as the Birds, etc. So are the sons of men Snared in an Evil Time, when it cometh Suddenly upon them. Eccl. 9.12.

1745 May 1 (Wednesday). Ebenezer went afishing at the great Pond this Evening, this being almost the very beginning of their Fishing this Season.

1745 August 5 (Monday). Din'd at Deacon Newtons on Salt Fish.

1746 June 10 (Tuesday). Rainy. My Cattle grow very troublesome by breaking in upon my Corn, whilst Ebenezer and Thomme were gone a fishing.

1747 March 19 (Thursday). Mrs. Maynard (James's wife) brought a great Rarity to us, 8 fine fish out of their Brook, chiefly (if not all) Pickerell and Somewhat large.

¹Hezekiah How lived close by the Assabet River, the present boundary between Northborough and Westborough.

²Samuel Champney, Sr., of Cambridge.

³David Deming (1681-1746), Harvard 1700, minister at Cromwell, Connecticut, 1703-1711; Needham, 1713-1714; Medway, 1715-1722; supply minsiter, Lyme, Connecticut, 1723-1730, and North Lyme, Connecticut, 1736; *SHG*, 4:518-19.

1747 April 16 (Thursday). Din'd at Mr. Goss's (his wife gone from home) -- call'd to Mr. Martyns (who was gone afishing).

1748 March 19 (Saturday). As I returned home I called at Mr. Dix's (who married Sarah Bond) and was well entertained with smelts and he bountifully sent up several dozen to my wife.

1748 July 8 (Friday). [Boston.] Mounted from Mr. Olivers, who and 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.

1749 May 29 (Monday). My Kinsman Nathaniel (on Mr. James Bowman's Horse) Set out with me for Boston. We din'd at Mr. Farrars in Framingham after a turn of Fishing in his River -- lodg'd at Captain Tainters at Watertown -- my Kinsman being much worn with the Journey thus far.

1749 June 22 (Thursday). Brother Hicks from Boston. Sorrowful Accounts of the Prevalence of the Drought. From Different Parts of the Province we hear that the Fish die in the Rivers through the Scantiness and heat of Waters.

1750 November 26 (Monday). Billy brought 46 pounds of Salt Fish from Mr. Jonah Warrins.

1751 January 17 (Thursday). N.B. Mr. Rice's Young Man (Dudley) and his wife's brethren, had been at the Great Pond, though foul Weather: and caught a great Number of fine Fish -- the Pickerell, Some of them very large. They made me an handsome Present of 3 large ones.

1751 January 18 (Friday). The first fair Day ever Since this Day Sennight. This Day, Ebenezer and his Brother Thomas go a Fishing at the Great Pond (mov'd by yesterdays News about Fishing). They return to Dinner.

1751 February 11 (Monday). Rainy. Ebenezer a.m. goes a Fishing at the Great Pond.

1751 April 13 (Saturday). Drizzly Morning. Broke away afterwards. Ebenezer goes a Fishing till noon.

1753 January 12 (Friday). Exceeding pleasant Day. Fear 'tis a weather breeder. William and many more go afishing at the great Pond -- they catch a great Number of Pickerell.

1754 July 19 (Friday). We Set out early from Mr. Woodward's, and broke fast at Mr. Isaac Baldwins. N.B. Jeduthun there. We fish'd in the pleasant Pond beyond the Garden.

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

1754 August 18 (Sunday). Next Morning -- when he came Safely.

1755 August 14 (Thursday). Lieutenant Maynard brought me present of Fish from Mr. John Breck of Boston -- and himself presents me a Load of Hay out of the Meadow on Rutters Brook.

1757 March 25 (Friday). A.M. I borrowed Mr. Nurses Mare and rode to Mr. Eliezer Rice's -- break fast there on fresh Fish.

1759 February 12 (Monday). Mr. Er. Rice, having been a fishing on the great Pond and taken 11 Pickerill, Sent me six handsome ones -- besides 2 fine Heads of Cabbage, and a Quantity of Carrotts.

1759 March 30 (Friday). P.M. Granny Maynard here. She brings a great number of Fish of various sorts (36) which we [were?] caught in their Brook.

1759 April 28 (Saturday). Deacon Tainter comes from Boston, and has gratified my Wife with bringing her some Oysters.

1759 October 8 (Monday). Sarah rides in the Chair whenever the Weather allows. Her sister Baldwin rides with her. We are not able to judge of her Case, only that She remains low. Deacon Tainter brought her up from Boston a fey Oyster in the shells -- these she Eats with a good Relish when almost Nothing besides.

1760 May 27 (Tuesday). To Cambridge. Visit Brother *Champney*.... Master Fessenden had invited me Strongly to their House, but was gone a Fishing both he and his Brother Wright. Proceeded to Boston.

1764 October 15 (Monday). [Barnstable.] A.M. Mr. Green conducts me to the Fish-Flakes etc. Mr. Mayhew, who went on the 13th to East Yarmouth, to preach for young Mr. Stone, returns. Dine there, and p.m. went to Hianas. N.B. a place of fine Oysters. Eat of them at one Mr. *Hallet's*. We return to Mr. Greens, at Eve; and lodge there. An Agreeable Excursion.

1764 October 19 (Friday). Take affectionate Leave, and hasten to Barnstable, where we arrive in the Rain, at Mr. Greens and lodge there. N.B. an exceeding large Lobster for supper, bigger than (I think) I ever saw.

1768 April 16 (Saturday). P.M. went to See Mrs. Martyn who is mov'd to her son *John's*. The last came to me with his Fathers *Cane*, and Said, "Sir, The Heirs present you with this." I received it gratefully. Visit Mr. *Michael's* Wife, who has lately lain in, and visit at Mr. Richards, whose Wife expects every Hour. Returned to Lieutenants. Supped there on fresh Fish (from Boston I suppose). Mr. Whitney with me. An agreeable repast.

1768 September 12 (Monday). [Parkman had gone to Rochester where his daughter, Susannah, and son-in-law, Jonathan Moore, lived.] Lt. Winslow and Mr. Haskill merchant were very obliging in assisting and procuring a sloop, for a sayling out in the Harbour. There went out with us old Mrs. Wing, and her Daughter Clark. After the sayling, Several of us went out a fishing, and we have a fine supper of *Tautaug*s.

1769 May 3 (Wednesday). We went after Meeting to Mr. *Martyns*, his Mother gone to Harvard. He entertains us with Salmon.

1773 August 3 (Tuesday). Messrs. Frost and Fish and Delegates are going to the Council at *Bolton*, but they did not call at my House. By Invitation I dined at Mr. *Springs*, on *Pickerell*.

1776 October 26 (Saturday). In the Morning went to Capt. *Greenleafs* (where Mr. *Quincy* lodges) and received a Volume of Sir *William Temple's* Works, which I have borrowed of Mr. *Quincy*, and promise to Send him that judicious *Writers Essays*. I thence went to Mrs. *Wilders*, who regaled me sumptuously. Made an early Dinner on *Salmon* etc. Left *Sophy* there with the young Ladies.

1779 November 18 (Thursday). Deacon Doliber sends me a Present of Fish.

1780 May 19 (Friday). At eve went to Supper at Breck's, on agreeable Haddock.