

## Dr. Daniel How (1719-1797) of Andover

Son of Dr. Israel How (d. 1740), first physician in Andover.

Daniel, son of Israel and Marcy How, b. May 1, 1719 (*Andover VR*, 213).

Dr. Daniel How d. Nov. 1, 1797, a. 78 y. 5 m. (*Andover VR*, 472)

Daniel How was described as "Famous Dr. for Crazy people," C.R. 2, *Andover VR*, 472.

**Note:** The entries below are only a few concerning the mental illness and suicide of Sarah (Mrs. Seth) Morse.

1774 March 14 (Monday). In the morning Mr. *Levi Warrin* came for Dr. *Hawes* in all haste, who went with greatest speed to Mr. *Seth Morse's* wife and then came for me to go to her, being in a despairing condition and had taken some *Coperas*. She says what was delivered in the sermon yesterday, was directly to her. She had now no Business to stay here any longer -- no Desires of Good etc. I discoursed and prayed with her -- but she was little altered.

1774 March 29 (Tuesday). P.M. I went to See Mrs. *Morse*. Her Doctor from *Andover*, Mr. *Daniel How*, was there. Mrs. *Morse* was much the Same.

1774 April 3 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on Act. 26.20. from middle of p. 27 to middle of p. 34. P.M. Went on with sermon on *Heb.* 2.1 but made Sundry additions especially in the Close. May God Succeed my poor imperfect Labours for both my own and the people's Saving Benefit! But what a Surprise 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.

1774 April 23 (Saturday). An earnest Message in the morning to hasten to Mr. *Morse's*. It was feared she was dying. Her real Frame could not be known. I prayed with her. Alas for her deplorable Condition! I returned to my studys. She expired about 11 a.m.

The Provincial Congress, June 14, 1775, passed the following resolve, in regard to Dr. How:-

"Whereas the committee are informed that Dr. How of Andover is prepared to receive insane patients and is well skilled in such disorders, resolved that Daniel Adams, a lunatic now at Woburn, be carried to the town of Andover and committed to the care of Doc. How and the said Dr. How be hereby desired to take proper care of the said lunatic at the expense of this colony."

It is possible that the reputation of this physician may have had something to do with the subsequent selection of Andover as the place of retreat for the patriot James Otis, when his mind became clouded and deranged.

Sarah Loring Bailey, *Historical Sketches of Andover* (Boston, 1880).

How “is prepared to receive [insane patients,] and is well skilled in such disorders.”

*The Journals of each Provincial Congress of Massachusetts in 1774 and 1775* (Boston, 1838),  
566 (June 14, 1775)

How also had the care of John Wiswall (Harvard 1749); SHG 12:520.

Checked all SHG indexes.