

Elizabeth Parkman (1738-1739)

1738 December 28 (Thursday). At about 4 in the morning Mrs. Forbush call'd me up with great earnestness to gather some women together. It was very Cold, and I ran on foot to sister Hicks and to old Mrs. Knowlton -- sent to Mrs. Maynard and rode to Mrs. Byles, all which came together by Daybreak. We were in the Article of Distress. About Seven o'Clock my Fourth Daughter was born. An exceeding Small Child and great doubt whether it would continue alive. But my wife in a good State, through the wondrous Goodness and Mercy of God. A Cold Day. Sent Ebenezer Maynard to Dr. Gotts, and to call Mrs. Mary Sherman to Nurse.... Nurse watch'd.

1738 December 29 (Friday). Mrs. Forbush carried home by Ebenezer.... Martha Maynard watch'd.

1738 December 30 (Saturday). My wife in great Pain. Mrs. Maynard here. At Evening my wife exceedingly pained under her Breasts -- thought to be the Coming of her milk. Molly Lee and the Nurse watch'd.

1738 December 31 (Sunday). Cold, p.m. Snowy. Concluded the Year with Rev. 20.12 and Discourse before the Baptism of my Daughter Elizabeth God hath Sworn on Mal. 3.17. [Malachi 3:17: "And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him."] My Wife Easier to Day. Rebecca Hicks watch'd. As I have renewed my Engagement unto God and given up my Self and mine to Him, So, on the other Hand, God himself hath Sworn that they that Fear Him Shall be His in the Day that He will make up his Jewells. And O that We might be of that number! And that this Dear Infant in particular may be a rich Jewell in the Cabinet of God! In finishing the Year God enable me to have a reallizing thought of the finishing of all Things, and that Great Day of the Eternal Doom for all both Small and Great, that I may be found ready for it whenever it Shall break forth!

1739 January 3 (Wednesday). Hannah Maynard watch'd, as Lucy Forbush did with Nurse last Night.

1739 January 4 (Thursday). My Wife makes no great Haste in Recovery, but the Child is very weak and feeble yet, and the sore Mouth has been prevailing upon it for some time. Abiel Allen watch'd. Cold Season.

1739 January 5 (Friday). My Wife very faint and weak, fainting in going from the bed to the Table. Ruth Hicks watch'd. Cold continues.

1739 January 6 (Saturday). My Wife feeble. Childs Sore mouth continues Bad. Rebecca watch'd.

1739 January 7 (Sunday). At Eve Rebecca Tainter tarried and watch'd. My wife somewhat more comfortable. The Child in doubtful State by its Sore Mouth. N.B. Publick Prayers for the Child.

1739 January 8 (Monday). Child very bad. Mrs. Maynard watch'd.

1739 January 9 (Tuesday). The Child extreme bad, especially the latter part of the Day.... P.M. and Evening we thought the Child was dying -- took nothing for many Hours, a Ghastly pale overspread the Visage and appear'd choak'd up; sometimes was Seemingly gone for some while together. We pray'd for it p.m. All night distress'd about it and expecting its last Gasp. Nurse and my Daughter Molly sat up with it.

1739 January 10 (Wednesday). Through the Great Mercy of God the Child is alive this morning -- and Continues -- the sore mouth abates -- peels and clears off.

1739 January 11 (Thursday). The Child somewhat better. Martha Maynard Watch'd.

1739 January 12 (Friday). Nurse Watch'd.

1739 January 13 (Saturday). Sent for to visit Captain Warrin's Wife who was deliver'd of a very large Child this morning, but herself in a very low distressing Condition. Abiel watch'd.

1739 January 14 (Sunday). A Morning of great Trouble! The Childs soreness of Mouth had return'd for Two or Three Days, but we did not judge it in immediate Danger. There was nothing of this discover'd in the first of the Morning. But about nine o'Clock I was call'd down from my Study with the Alarm that the Child was dying! About 10 She ceas'd to breath! The will of the Lord be done! I preach'd on Rev. 20.12. [And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.] O that we might have a due sense of the Divine Mind Concerning us!

1739 January 15 (Monday). Deacon Newton kindly came and brought Two Bottles of wine and offer'd to go to Marlborough upon what Errands would be Necessary to be done there. Ensign Maynard went to Mr. Cushings. Ebenezer Maynard dugg the Grave. The Snow exceeding Deep, by which means it was very difficult to break away to get wood, for 3 Fires and one so long all night as well as Day, had wasted wood at a very great Rate. [The reference here may be to a fire to thaw the ground where the grave was dug.] Yet we got a Supply.

1739 January 16 (Tuesday). Mr. Cushing and his Wife came to the Funeral of my Infant Elizabeth. The Weather was moderate. The Neighbours in very considerable Numbers, attended. I desire to interr my Dead in the Faith of the new Covenant and of the glorious Privilege of the Resurrection to Eternal Life. N.B. Nurse was bearer. No Friends from Marlborough. N.B. Mr. Cushing and his Wife could not go to the Grave. Jotham cut wood a.m.