

Dr. John Pitcher (1736-1794) of Rochester

1772 November 9 (Monday). *John* meets me to give me the Sorrowful News from *Rochester*, that *Suse* was nigh Expiring last Evening and a Man was come on Purpose to acquaint me with it. I hastened home -- found here a man who came *Express*, with a moving Letter from Mr. *Moore*, writ at 4 p.m. yesterday, and the Bearer, Mr. *Eleazer Barrow*, sat out when the sun was about 1/2 an hour high; and arrived here before two this afternoon; informing that my Daughter had been delivered above a fortnight before; has a Daughter -- but her self was taken very ill last Saturday, and grew so bad the Doctors judged last Evening that She would not live till morning; and I was desired to hasten to her.

1772 November 10 (Tuesday). Early in the Morning Mrs. P_____ and I sat out on single Horses, for *Rochester*....

1772 November 13 (Friday). In the morning *Suse* seems refreshed with her Anodyne. But she is very weak and low. P.M. 4 o'Clock she is very bad. She tells her Mother, she thinks she shall soon leave us: and she looks as if Death was nigh. She desires me to go aside and pray for her. We are in Distress and our Hearts wounded. I cry to God most high -- to God who performs all things for us! O that God would vouchsafe to hear our Ardent supplications! But may God prepare us for His own sovereign Will! We are waiting the important Event. Dr. *Pitcher* has been here daily. Dr. *Perry* of *Dartmouth* is now sent for, as is Dr. *Toby*, but though we sit up till late, yet they do not come. I write by one *Ward Nye* of *Douglass*, to my Son *Breck*, how very low his sister is.

1772 November 14 (Saturday). My dear *Suse*, though very low and has had no sleep last night, is yet alive! The Doctors *Toby*, *Perry* and *Pitcher* came and consult -- judge it a very doubtful and hazzardous Case. She has now an inflamatory Fever. By 10 a.m. it is high. We expect she will be worse in the afternoon. My Heart is full -- But God is our Refuge. Walked to Neighbour *Josephus Hammonds* to See little *Sukey*. Mr. *Moore* and I dined there. When I returned found the Physic *Suse* had taken worked well, and instead of the Fever Fitts increasing, it abated and She was more calm and easy. Blessed be God for His great Goodness to her and us! Old Mr. *Perry* came to See us. The whole Neighbourhood are very kind and greatly affected. May God reward them!

1772 November 18 (Wednesday). *Suse* is a good deal livelier and has some more strength.... My Daughters Fever attends her, and although Mr. *Moore* counts as many Pulsations as yesterday (viz. 120 in a minute) yet She is evidently better and gathers Strength a little. Blessed be God! P.M. Mr. *Moore* and I walked to Dr. *Pitcher's* to See his Physical Library; but he was not at home. At Eve he was here. *Suse*, we hope, better.

1772 November 19 (Thursday). This Morning Mrs. *Moore* is more free from Cough, from Fever and Distress, and can help her self at another Rate than heretofore. Mr. *Moore* and I dined, by Special Invitation, at Dr. *Pitcher's*. At Eve my Daughters State more hopeful.

1772 November 20 (Friday). *Suse* has had fine rest last night: the best night she has had Since her sickness. We were greatly encouraged to undertake our Journey home. We rose early, and Sat out before Sun rise.