

Dr. Asaph Rice (1733-1816), minister of Westminster

Asaph Rice (1733-1816), Harvard 1752 (*SHG*, 13:289-92), was the son of Beriah and Mary (Goodnow) Rice of Westborough. After graduation he taught school, tried his hand at the "practice of Physick," worked with Eli Forbes at a mission, and then served as minister of Westminster.

1746 February 3 (Monday). Eli Forbush here. Letter from Mr. Jenison. Deacon Forbush, Beriah Rice -- all upon the Same Thing, viz. to have me teach Eli and Asaph Rice.

1747 February 4 (Wednesday). Eli Forbush and Asaph Rice came at Eve to Lodge and board here.

1747 February 7 (Saturday). Eli and Asaph recited to me therefore.

1747 February 14 (Saturday). Mr. Jenison leaves the School again this Morning to go over to Mr. Jones's to preach there tomorrow. So that Eli and Asaph are oblig'd to recite to me.

1747 February 15 (Sunday). Mr. Joseph Knowlton, Mrs. Tainter and Mrs. Miller din'd here as well as Eli and Asaph.

1747 February 16 (Monday). Rainy, as it was all night. My wife very full of pain. This Morning I sent Ebenezer for Mrs. Forbush. Eli was not here last night but came in the forenoon. Asaph recited to me there being no Schoolmaster. P.M. they were both dismiss'd and they went to Captain Forbush's.

1747 February 17 (Tuesday). Eli and Asaph went to Captain Forbushs yesterday but today return'd and din'd with us.

1747 March 1 (Sunday). Mrs. Sybil Child, Mr. Jonathan Forbushes wife and Eli and Asaph din'd with us.

1747 March 8 (Sunday). Deacon Fay, Eli and Asaph din'd here.

1748 August 9 (Tuesday). Asaph Rice here -- afterwards Dodge of College.

1749 May 10 (Wednesday). Molly went to Cambridge with Mr. Beriah Rice and his son Asaph.

1749 November 16 (Thursday). N.B. Asaph Rice last night brought up a Letter from Cambridge to Sister Lydia in which inform'd that Brother Champney lost a Daughter.

1749 December 19 (Tuesday). My wife and I rode over to visit Mr. Beriah Rice's Family. Asaph is now confin'd to his Bed.

1749 December 20 (Wednesday). At Mr. Rice's Desire I wrote a Letter to President Holyoke concerning Asaphs confinement....

1751 March 14 (Thursday). Have heard to Day and yesterday of Several sudden Deaths -- but when I got home (instead of finding Mr. Martyn and his wife, to dine with me, as I expected) found Forbush from College there, who came up with Tidings of Asaph Rice's illness at College.

1754 September 12 (Thursday). Dr. Perkins, Mr. Asaph Rice and Mr. Baldwin, together with Mrs. Molly Martyn lodge here.

1755 June 7 (Saturday). Judas [Jonas?] Rice here and paid Thomas and me in behalf of his Brother Asaph.

1756 April 6 (Tuesday). Mr. *Asaph Rice* dined here.

1756 July 19 (Monday). P.M. Mr. Asaph Rice visits me.

1756 July 28 (Wednesday). Had a very distressing Night. The Blister has little apparent Effect. Dr. Chase to see Me. He sends me *Balsam Polychris*. Send to Mr. *Asaph Rice* per Ensign Harrington. Begin to be seized in my Left Knee.

1756 July 30 (Friday). N.B. Mr. *Asaph Rice* sends me word that he can't come the Next sabbath but will endeavour to the Sabbath after.

1756 August 8 (Sunday). I had reason to hope for help from Mr. *Asaph Rice* who I hope has been examined and approbated.

1756 August 14 (Saturday). P.M. came Mr. Fish of Upton instead of Mr. Asaph Rice, who is approbated to preach and is to preach for him tomorrow.

1756 August 21 (Saturday). P.M. came Mr. Asaph Rice -- and he lodged here. My Pains and Weakness in my Limbs continue much the Same.

1756 August 22 (Sunday). Mr. *Asaph Rice* preached all Day, on *Ps. 41.4*.

1757 November 8 (Tuesday). Mr. Asaph Rice here p.m.

1757 November 21 (Monday). Mr. Asaph Rice here. Tells me he is going to look out a place to settle in, in the Practice of Physick. Thinks of Braintree.

1758 February 24 (Friday). At Eve Mr. *Asaph Rice* who is our School-Master, and keeps at Capt. Fays, came to See me. It much perplexes me to have such visits.

1758 March 12 (Sunday). N.B. a Considerable Number of Communicants of other Churches with us, viz. Capt. Jacob Foster and wife, Ensign Asa Brigham and his Wife and Wife's sister Warrin, Mr. Asaph Rice, Mrs. Abigail Whitney.

1758 March 15 (Wednesday). Mr. Asaph Rice is going to Boston to buy Druggs in order to set up the practice of Physick here among us; and I Send by him the Money which Mr. Cutler left for Mr. *Stone*: for I concluded that Since I have heard nothing from him about his Lecture, it will not be this Week.

1758 March 21 (Tuesday). Mr. Asaph Rice Supped with me.

1758 April 1 (Saturday). Mr. *Asaph Rice* consents to preach for Mr. Barrett but desires me to change with him -- accordingly p.m. I rode to Hopkinton and lodged there.

1758 May 28 (Sunday). Mr. Thomas Mather, son of Mr. Mather of Boston, practitioner of physick, came here this morning, having been to Lancaster, from Mendon, after his Horse which has run away from him. At Eve Dr. Mather went with Dr. Rice to Capt. Woods.

1758 July 7 (Friday). My Son *Thomas* (poor Youth!) gives me fresh Trouble by leaving both his own Business, which is much demanded, and my own, which is much behind Hand, especially my Hoing; Alexander being ill with Rheumatism but no perswasions are of any Avail. Indeed his going away is with better Company than the wild and profligate: yet 'tis at least ill Tim'd and (I fear) to vain purposes. He goes to *Hopkinton* and borders of Framingham, with Mr. *Asaph Rice*.

1758 July 30 (Sunday). N.B. My Wife's Breast so bad that I sent Thomas for Dr. Hemingway -- who came. Dr. Rice here likewise.

1758 August 1 (Tuesday). My wife in great Affliction and pain with her Breast and am concerned for *Molly's* Infant; nor am I without tender Sympathy with those in the Wilderness -- but otherwise it was a Day of Gladness with me for the Divine Goodness to my Children at Brookfield. I invited Capt. Wood, and his wife and Dr. Rice to Dinner. Only Mrs. *Wood* Came.

1758 August 2 (Wednesday). Dr. *Hemingway* came in the morning and opened my Wife's Breast. Dr. Rice was also present. It was no more than a blood-letting, as to the Doctors part. My Wife bore it with a good Spirit. Its issue was corrupt Matter and Blood. The Doctors went to Breakfast with me. Dr. *Hemingway* asked me 40/ old Tenor. I gave him 4 Pissarenes, which was to his Content.

1758 August 11 (Friday). N.B. Mr. Joseph Dorr junior who was to have preached for me last Lords Day Sent a Letter that he had a Boil so situated that he could not come. My Wife sent to Deacon Tainter to provide somebody: he went to Mr. Asaph Rice, who went to Mr. Martyn and *he* to Mr. Stone who came and preached here.

1758 August 14 (Monday). Capt. Wood Sent me a good Quarter of Veal -- but his Wife being gone to see her sister Oake, I had the Captain and Dr. Rice to dine with me.

1758 August 24 (Thursday). N.B. Sarah rode to Marlborough -- Dr. Rice in Company.

1759 April 10 (Tuesday). Dr. *Asaph Rice* from Berwick here.... At Eve Mrs. *Pratt* (wife of Neighbour Hezekiah) and she tarrys to Watch. The Doctor concludes my Wife's illness will turn to Fever and Ague. *Samme* is also ill. It Seems to be Fever and Ague.

1759 November 3 (Saturday). Mr. Asaph Rice here, dined with us -- but I could not perswade him to help me to morrow, in any part of service.

1759 November 6 (Tuesday). Mr. Asaph Rice, on his Return to Berwick, here.

1761 April 1 (Wednesday). Mrs. Rugg, formerly Hannah Pratt, here. P.M. Dr. Asaph Rice from Brookfield going to Portsmouth.

1764 November 27 (Tuesday). Dr. Rice at Even.

1764 December 6 (Thursday). Mr. Fessenden came from Gloucester and he, and Dr. Rice having dined here, he left us again to return there.

1764 December 8 (Saturday). Although I am in expectation of Mr. Asaph Rice to preach tomorrow, yet I kept my self as steddily Employed in my preparations as I could.

1764 December 16 (Sunday). Dr. Rice and Master Cushing dined here.

1764 December 18 (Tuesday). I preached a Lecture to Young men, from *Mat. 22.37.38*. After Lecture Mr. Asaph Rice and Master Cushing here with Mr. Bowman. There also came Mr. Jonathan *Moore*, Mr. [blank] *Town* and Dr. *Throop* from Oxford. They Sung and Supped (as well as the first 3 and Mrs. Maynard and Mr. Caryl, drank Tea here).

1764 December 19 (Wednesday). Lt. *Baker* sent a Sleigh for me with those Gentlemen above named, to go up to their House to Breakfast and I take Leave of Mr. and Mrs. *Bowman*, who, waited upon by two Deacons, and expecting others, from *Oxford*; attended also by Mr. *Asaph Rice*, Master *Cushing*, my son William, Daughter *Sarah*, and sundry Relations [blank], remove home.

1765 April 16 (Tuesday). Mr. Asaph Rice from Mr. Morse's; and dines with us.

1765 June 19 (Wednesday). Mr. Fessenden dined here. P.M. He and I went over to Capt. Maynards. While I was there Mr. Josh. Biglow from Westminster came with a Request from the Church there, that I would go there to be moderator of a Meeting for the Choice of a Minister, next Monday 3 p.m. and he delivered me a Letter from Mr. Asaph Rice, Candidate, to come; and with his own Desire, that I would change with him next Lords Day. Having weighed these, I consented (with Submission to Providence).

1765 June 22 (Saturday). I rode to Westminster.... Dined at Mr. *Morse's*, where was Mr. *Asaph Rice* going to *Westborough*. P.M. called at Mr. Millens but he was gone to Worcester. Arrived at Capt. Daniel *Hoar's* at Evening but very Wet.

1765 June 23 (Sunday). Mr. Asaph Rice preached for me -- on [*blank*]. I preached at Westminster,

1765 June 24 (Monday). Repaired to the Meeting House. Waited till 4 o'Clock. I perceived that the whole Number of the Church was 33. N.B. Mr. Marsh and one more member never came. Minutes of the last Church Meeting read by Deacon Miller, their Moderator, by which it appeared that they had chose and sent for me to be Moderator in the Affair now before them. Prayer was made for divine Assistance. It was then enquired whether the Church Stood *right* and were *ripe*, to proceed to the Choice and Calling of a Gospel Minister among them. Upon its being intimated that they were (and after I had answered Deacon *Holden*, and given some Character of Mr. A. Rice), it was asked whether there was any Objection against the Churches going on etc. This was repeated -- and it was the 3d Time; and no Objection was made. Then their votes were called for -- 28 Votes. Every Vote that was brought, was for Mr. *Asaph Rice*. Then a Committee was chose to acquaint him with it -- and the same are to acquaint the Select Men, that the Town may come together. After prayer and Blessing the Meeting was dissolved.

1765 August 14 (Wednesday). I rode over to Mr. Martyns Lecture. Dined there. Mr. Harrington preached on Rom. 10.4. N.B. his Wife there, as were Mr. Morse and his Wife, and Daughter -- and Dr. Rice.

1765 September 25 (Wednesday). Mr. Asaph Rice brings Letter Missive from the Church in Westminster requesting Assistance in his Ordination. He dines with us. P.M. leaves us.

1765 December 26 (Thursday). This Day is appointed for the *Marriage of Rev. Mr. Asaph Rice*, to Miss *Polly Morse*. I am invited and my wife also (as well as my Daughters) but I dare not venture, under so much indisposition and Pain. Dr. *Throop* and Master Cushing wait on *Sarah* and *Suse* in a Sleigh, to Mr. *Morse's*. May God grant the Bridegroom and Bride to be espoused to Jesus Christ! And the whole Company to have true, and increasing Joy!

1766 September 12 (Friday). At my Return home found here, Mr. *Whitman* of *Hartford* and his Wife.... They lodge here, as did Mr. Asaph Rice and his Wife.

1768 November 2 (Wednesday). [Ashburnham – ordination of John Cushing.] All that were sent to for this Ordination came. There was neither Pastor nor Delegates (I suppose) absent. I was chose Moderator and prayed at the Opening of the Council. The Church of *Ashburnham* were very unanimous and fervent for Mr. *Cushing*. One Mr. *Foster* had a Difficulty with the Church; but he was by no means willing to clogg the Ordination. He was not a member of that, but of *Lunenburg* Church, but we put him and the Church into a way of Peace. Mr. *Cushing* gave a Confession of his Faith, which was read before the Council and Church; and it was accepted. In public Mr. *Farrar* prayed, Mr. *Jacob Cushing* preached on *Gal. 1.11.12*. I gave the Charge, Mr. Asaph Rice prayed after the Charge, and Mr. *Morse* the Right Hand. May God accept us, and command His Blessing!

1769 March 29 (Wednesday). I rode to North Shrewsbury to See Rev. *Asaph Rice* under his great Affliction. I first rode to Capt. *Maynards* and took with me Master *Caleb Rice*, who has put by his school for to Day. At *Lt. Martyns* Mr. *Whitney* offers to be our Company. I went to Mr. *Jacob Rice's*, and eat and refreshed there. They call me, and we stand along to Mr. *Morse's*,

where Mr. *Rice* keeps. Mr. *Morse* and his wife are gone from home: he returns, and we dine together. They relate the History of the *Amputation*, and of the strange *Sympathy* with the Hand, after it was Separated; against all my Infidelity. Mr. *Rice* is in a hopeful way; and he is also learning to write with his left Hand.

1770 September 25 (Tuesday). Mr. *Asaph Rice* makes me a visit, and lodges here.

1770 September 26 (Wednesday). I lend Mr. *Rice* one Vol. of the Morning Exercise. After Dinner Mr. *Rice* leaves us to visit his Aunt *Hardy* under her Cancer.