

Dr. Joshua Smith (1719-1756) of Shrewsbury

Joshua Smith, son of Benjamin and Hannah Smith, b. May 4, 1719. *Vital Records of Newbury, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: The Essex Institute, 1911), 1:480.

His sister Abigail was b. Dec. 18, 1723. *Ibid.*, 477.

Smith died on Jan. 20, 1756, at the age of 37.

He and Sarah Prentice, entered their intention to marry, May 17, 1741; Henry S. Nourse, ed., *Birth, Marriage and Death Register, Church Records and Epitaphs of Lancaster, Massachusetts, 1643-1850* (Lancaster, 1890), 29.

Sarah, bapt. Mar. 11, 1716, dau. of Rev. John and Mary Prentice of Lancaster (Harvard 1700); her sister, Mary, mar. Rev. Job Cushing (Harvard 1714) of Shrewsbury.

Children of Joshua and Sarah Smith: Benjamin, May 23, 1742 (stillborn); Sarah, June 1, 1743; Joshua, Mar. 21, 1745; Lewis, May 4, 1747, lived 5 days; John Prentice, Oct. 3, 1748; and Benjamin, Jan. 22, 1752).

His widow mar. Col. Timothy Brigham of Southborough, Apr. 12, 1759.

1740 July 3 (Thursday). Mr. Webb Lecture on Rev. 3.1.2. I din'd at Brother Alexander's. My Wife at Brother Samuels, and with her din'd Dr. Smith of Shrewsbury.

1740 July 19 (Saturday). ...I rode to Shrewsbury.

1740 July 20 (Sunday). In the Morning I walk'd with Dr. Smith to See Solomon Hapgood, second son of Captain Hapgood who was very bad of the Throat Distemper.

1740 August 10 (Sunday). Dr. Smith of Shrewsbury here p.m. and supp'd with me. He had been to See Mr. Bradishes Family, Three of which had the throat Distemper. Beriah Rice had also a Child sick of the Same.

1740 August 13 (Wednesday). I rode over to see Neighbor Beriah Rice's Child which had the Throat Distemper but was better. P.M. Dr. Smith here. I was inform'd that Mr. Simon Goddard of Shrewsbury has lost a Third Child of the awful Disease.

1740 August 17 (Sunday). At Noon I receiv'd a Letter from Mr. Ebenezer Morse to request me to preach at Rutland this Day sennight.... At Eve I sent an answer by Dr. Smith who had been to See Two more of Mr. James Bradish's Children Sick of the Throat Distemper. Scil. Jonas and Joseph.

1740 August 20 (Wednesday). Mrs. Rachel Bowker visited us, and Din'd here, as did Dr. Smith likewise.

1740 December 22 (Monday). Dr. Smith, Master Townsend and Mr. Hezekiah Pratt here. Dr. Smith din'd with us.

1740 December 24 (Wednesday). Dr. Smith here having again been to Mr. Townsends whose Wife and eldest son Sick. I visited Mr. Townsends Family and Neighbour Barns.

1742 June 20 (Sunday). I preached at Shrewsbury.... N.B. Mrs. Robins (Mrs. Cushings sister) and Mrs. Abigail Smith (the Doctors sister) dined with us.

1742 June 21 (Monday). Broke fast at Dr. Smiths.

1744 January 10 (Tuesday). Dr. Smith here and din'd with us.

1744 February 16 (Thursday). Dr. Smith here with Mr. Bucknams sermons.¹

1744 June 19 (Tuesday). Rode to the Association at Shrewsbury.... Was also at Dr. Smiths being much Concern'd for Mr. Jonathan Livermores wife who I understand is in a wasting state.

1744 December 31 (Monday). In my return home Mr. John Chandler was my Company as far as Eager's. We met Dr. Smith, his wife and others going to Worcester upon an action of the Doctor's against the wife of Mr. Caleb Johnson for Depriving him of a Note given to the Doctor by her Husband.

1746 September 9 (Tuesday). I attended the Funeral at Mr. Chamberlins. N.B. Dr. Smith there, their Daughter Betty being ill. He brought Ebenezers Hatt from Mr. Cushings.

1746 November 13 (Thursday). I rode up to Colonel Ward, who was too generous to ask anything for his Chair to Boston. Was also at Dr. Smiths as I return'd.

1747 March 12 (Thursday). When we parted Mr. Morse for Medfield, Mr. Martyn to go and preach at Shrewsbury first Parish, and I went to Marlborough to Mr. Williams's to see my son Thomas, who seems well contented as yet; to Dr. Gotts where I din'd -- to Deacon Andrew Rice's to change several Bills, and call'd only at the Door of Dr. Smiths, he not being at Home.

1747 May 12 (Tuesday). P.M. my wife and I rode over to Mr. Martyns. Dr. Smith there.

1748 January 11 (Monday). Sent for Captain Maynard -- who consented to go with me if I would venture, at least he would go with me as far as Shrewsbury. It was a rugged Day -- The Snow deep, the air somewhat sharp, the wind blew about the Snow -- but we ventured to Shrewsbury. Mr. Cushing and Dr. Smith with their Wives were going [to funeral of Rev. John Prentice]. I was exceedingly well wrapped up, and we ventured with them.

¹Rev. Nathan Bucknam of Medway published *Ability to, and Fidelity in the Ministry...Preach'd at Shrewsbury...October 26, 1743* (Boston, 1743).

1748 April 21 (Thursday). Mr. Eliezer Rice's Wife continues so very ill. I visited her again. Dr. Smith there.

1748 April 22 (Friday). At Eve Dr. Stanton Prentice and Dr. Smith called here. Understand that Mrs. Wheeler who lies ill over at Lancaster is in way of Recovery.

1748 July 10 (Sunday). N.B. Mr. Cushing from home, many Shrewsbury people were at meeting here. Dr. Smith and his wife and Sir Cushing din'd here.

1748 July 19 (Tuesday). Visited Mr. Jonathan Rogers's wife who is very ill of a Fever. Dr. Smith there.

1748 August 22 (Monday). And at Shrewsbury was at Mr. Edward Goddards for Cheese, at Dr. Smith's -- where was Mr. Cushing Cornet Hayward and Mr. Jonathan Green.

1749 April 9 (Sunday). N.B. Mary Garfield of Shrewsbury (of about 22) fell into fitts in the Meeting House, was carry'd out and remov'd to my House. Her fitts were repeated in the Evening. She had some Number of them. Her mother and Two Brothers here; Mrs. Garfield and son Moses here with Mary over night. My son Ebenezer went about 9 at Night to Dr. Smith -- but he would not come.

1749 April 10 (Monday). Mary Garfields fitts are not only Histeric but convulsive -- increas'd to strong Convulsions. At length her Father came. They undertook to get her home.

1749 August 2 (Wednesday). When I return'd in the Eve found that Billy had been brought home lame from the Meadow, for he had been with his Brothers there -- and Silas Rice had accidentally cutt his Legg with a Scythe.

1749 August 3 (Thursday). Early to Dr. Smith to come and Dress Billys Legg which he comply'd with. N.B. The Doctor's Discourse against Original Sin.

1749 August 21 (Monday). I rode to Shrewsbury a.m. Colonel Ward ask'd me into his House, and I smoak'd a Pipe. N.B. He is full of their Affair with Dr. Smith which is to come before their Church to Day.

1749 September 5 (Tuesday). Mr. Cushing and Mr. Davis came and we rode together to Southborough, Association Fast. Mr. Loring, Mr. Smith and Mr. Millen were all that came besides the foremention'd. I was oblig'd to preach a.m. Text was Jer. 8.5. P.M. Mr. Millen preach'd on Rom. 2.28.29. A variety of Cases at Evening -- Mr. Cushings relating to Dr. Smith, Mr. Loring about general Petitions for and against Church Meetings, etc.

1749 October 11 (Wednesday). Mr. Whipple, one of the Delegates of the Church, came and accompany'd me to Shrewsbury. Captain Baker the other Delegate came afterwards. There met at Colonel Nahum Wards the following Churches. Mr. Loring, Mr. Williams's of Weston. Mr. Gays of Hingham, Southborough, second of Bradford, and first of Westborough. We waited all the forenoon for the old South in Boston and the first Church in Cambridge, but they came not.

After Dinner we form'd into Ecclesiastical Council. Mr. Loring was chose Moderator. Mr. Williams and I were chosen Clerks. Then proceeded to the Meeting House. Moderator pray'd and we had an Hearing of the Cause -- the Complaint was by Mr. Isaac Stone against Dr. Joshua Smith, touching Original Sin. N.B. Mr. Balch pastor of a church in Bradford, and of the Council, was observ'd to turn Advocate for Dr. Smith.

1749 October 12 (Thursday). In the Morning to Shrewsbury. Debating in Council, yet passing several Votes -- went not from Colonel Wards all Day. Lodg'd there also. N.B. Messrs. Gay and Balch dissented from the rest.

1749 October 13 (Friday). Hard at it -- all Day -- the Result was read by Candle Light, at Colonel Wards. N.B. Mr. Balch and his Messenger went off for Bradford in the Morning. Mr. Gay and his Messenger drew off before voting the Result and were absent at the Reading of it. I pray'd after reading the Result. Return'd at Eve in Company with Mr. Stone and Esq. Liscomb of Shrewsbury, and Esq. Baker and Mr. Whipple of this Town. N.B. the Council was adjourn'd without Day.

1749 October 25 (Wednesday). Dr. Smith here. Major Keyes also. A.M. Sorry the Doctor is Still in So disturb'd a Temper. May God be pleas'd to open his Mind, and dispose him to receive the Counsel which has been given him!

1750 November 8 (Thursday). N.B. Mr. Hutchinson sent his Desire (By Letter last Night) to me to preach his Lecture to Day: but I could not go, being oblig'd to look after my workmen, and to wait for a message concerning the Funeral of Mr. Daniel Warrin; not knowing but it would be to Day; Mr. Beemans being also appointed to be tomorrow, So that I Should have little Time to prepare for the Sabbath. Nor could I well go because of Lame Leg, which was bruised yesterday, and I suppose have got Cold in it. Besides that my Horses are smooth, whilst the Roads are slippery.

1750 November 16 (Friday). With much ado Study at all[?], my Legg So very bad.

1750 November 17 (Saturday). Dr. Gott call'd and dress'd my Legg. Dr. Smith also came here, by Billys Means at Mr. Whipples.

1750 November 18 (Sunday). So bad with my Legg in the Morning that it was with Difficulty I rode to Meeting.

1750 November 23 (Friday). My Legg somewhat easier. Dr. Smith voluntarily called to see me at Eve. We have Some Discourse about his Affair which was laid before the Council at Shrewsbury last Year.

1750 November 30 (Friday). Billy as he was cutting Wood at the Door, cut his ankle. The wound was Somewhat Cross-wise, and bled very much. It was in the Forenoon and when his Brothers who were able to do any Thing were gone from home.... We try'd Puff Ball to Stopp the Bleeding, but to no purpose. After some Time, the Blood running fresh Still, we took off the Bindings, and fill'd the Sore with Sugar -- but neither did this Succeed. We Sent about Noon for

Mrs. Hephzibah Maynard. Both the Captain and his Wife came. It Seem'd to be Stanch'd for a while, but flow'd again. He had now bled So much that we were much Concern'd at the Event. Thomas was groaning with the Tooth Ach and wanted to go to Dr. Smith to get his Tooth drawn out. I therefor hasten'd him, though it was past Evening, to bring the Doctor to Billy. We having also try'd scrapings of Tann'd Leather and Scorch'd Cotton, and still fresh Puddles appear'd. N.B. Several Times when it was open'd, the Blood Spurted out as in Phlebotomy. While Thomas was gone and tarried long, our Fears arose higher, for Billy had lost so great a Quantity of Blood that he began to turn pale and we did not know but that it was still running. I ardently committed him and his Case to God who is a present Help in Time of Trouble. After a while the Blood ceas'd, as we conceiv'd, nor did any more appear throughout the Night. Blessed be God for his Sparing Mercy! Thomas did not come till past Nine o'Clock, and no Doctor with him; but got his own Tooth out, or rather part of it, for it broke in the Jaw. Molly is also in great Anguish with Tooth ach So that with my own Lameness, we have no Small Trouble in the House. But would humbly wait on God. My wife watch'd with Billy.

1750 December 1 (Saturday). Billy Somewhat chearful though we dare not let him Stir for fear of his Bleeding again. We let him lie in the Blood, which we now hope is Stopp'd.... P.M. Ebenezer rode to Dr. Gotts on Billy's Case.

1750 December 2 (Sunday). Dr. Gott being ill, his son Benjamin came and dress'd Billy's Leg, which (through Gods Mercy) was effected without any more bleeding. In the Public Service (to which I went somewhat late, 7 minutes after Eleven when I got here) read Lev. 8th. Preach'd on Ps. 23.4, a. and p.m. Din'd at Esq. Bakers. N.B. Walk'd up, rode back. N.B. Astonishing Accounts of Mr. Benjamin Lawrence's cruelty to his Boy Seem confirm'd. P.M. read John 20. Of both the Chapters which we read, I gave some brief Exposition.

1750 December 3 (Monday). A pleasant Day -- The little Snow which has lain a while on the Earth wastes away, and the Roads dirty and hollow. Billy bears the Dressing his Leg very well, is Sensible of but very little Pain.

1750 December 8 (Saturday). N.B. Mr. Cushing had stopp'd to visit Mr. Daniel Hemingway who was Sick at Doctor Smiths. I call'd there also at Mr. Cushings Desire -- lodg'd at Mr. Cushing.

1750 December 9 (Sunday). Preach'd at Shrewsbury....

1750 December 10 (Monday). At Dr. Smiths -- Mr. Heminway better.

1751 June 17 (Monday). Ebenezer So out of Health that he goes to Day to Dr. Smith, is blooded and took Physick.

1751 June 24 (Monday). Dr. Smith at Eve.

1751 June 25 (Tuesday). My Wife growing very Lame, I waited on her to Lieutenant Bezaleel Eagers, where She was blooded by Dr. Smith.

1752 January 13 (Monday). A very Cold, Windy Day -- feel very poorly -- faint and weak. An ill Night.

1752 January 14 (Tuesday). My daughters Molly and Lucy were last Wednesday at Mr. Martyns, and heard their Disgust at my not having been to see 'em for so long time. They pitched upon to Day for us to go, and they would stay at home for us -- but though it was a most agreeable Day and fine slaying, yet I was so very ill that I could by no means go. Mrs. Parkman and Molly went. I grew so ill, so faint, feverish, etc. that I sent for Dr. Chase, who came.

1752 January 15 (Wednesday). I had a Night of Sleep, and yet had a Morning and Forenoon of Sinking Faintness and Illness. Sir Forbush from Waltham dined with me, and I dined somewhat agreeably. P.M. a little better, yet am exceeding low. At Eve marry'd Ebenezer Miller, but through much Difficulty.

1752 January 16 (Thursday). Another Comfortable Night (through Divine Mercy) yet very faint Morning. I perceive I go down Hill apace. Though Dr. Chase is very faithful and very generous, yet he is young and I am not content without further advice. Sent for Neighbour Pratt, that he might go to Dr. Scammell; he came but could not go for the Doctor. He went to Deacon Newton and he consented and went. He returned at Evening without him, but brought a portion of Rhubarb corrected with oyl of Cinnamon. Memorandum. I consumed Number 1.2.3.4.5.6. of Journals from February 19, 1719 through to April 1723 containing numberless puerilities and better destroyed than preserved.... At Eve Dr. Chase here and advises to take the Rhubarb *ut Supr.*

1752 January 17 (Friday). Was not quite so faint. Took the rhubarb, it worked once. Dr. Chase here, Mr. Isaac Harrington.... A more comfortable Day in general (through Divine Goodness.)

1752 January 18 (Saturday). Exceeding low and faint at first waking which was long before Day and continued so till I got up, and some time in the morning about 11 a.m. came Dr. Scammell. He says I have no Hectick, advises to Bitters and nutritious Diet, but forbids all Volatiles. I sent for Dr. Chase but he was gone out of town. Dr. Scammell to Colonel Nahum Wards and returned p.m.... In general I was better through the Day than I expected. D.G.

1752 January 19 (Sunday). A bright Day, but too Cold and searching for me to go abroad. Mr. Jacob Cushing preached for me, a. and p.m. on Job 22.24. He read Numb. 31 and 1 Cor. 5. I was in some Comfort -- yet weak and feeble.

1752 January 20 (Monday). Somewhat stormy in some parts of the Day; yet such the goodness of Brother Stone that he came to see me in my lowly, feeble state. Dined here, he also prayed with me. At Eve Captain Eager and afterwards Justice Baker, Mr. Hastings of Watertown and his wife and others to see me. Was very feverish, weak and faint. N.B. Justice Baker prayed with me -- the Lord accept the offering!

1752 January 21 (Tuesday). Through God's great Mercy I had a considerable comfortable Day.... P.M. my wife and I rode out to Deacon Newtons and to the Widow Newtons. Felt so

comfortable that I greatly rejoiced. The Glory to God. May I obtain the Grace suitably to improve it!

1752 January 22 (Wednesday). Was not in general so well as yesterday. May I wait the Will of God! N.B. Dr. Smith and Granny Forbush here.

1752 January 23 (Thursday). Cold Snowy Day. Mr. Martyn, Mr. Cushing and his wife visited me and dined with us.... I had had but a poor night and forenoon, but was better p.m. and Eve. D.G.

1752 January 24 (Friday). Through the divine Goodness I enjoyed much comfort. O for grace to improve my Strength to divine Glory! for I find myself extremely prone to wax cool again though I have been deeply Concerned and very fervent.

1754 February 16 (Saturday). Having Sent a Letter by my Son Thomas yesterday to Mr. Cushing to desire him to Change, he came here and I rode there. N.B. was Shav'd by Dr. Smith at his House.

1755 April 23 (Wednesday). Call'd for my Account with Dr. Smith as I return'd at Eve.

1755 September 25 (Thursday). I made a Visit to Mr. Seth Rice's. He was not at Home. He is gone to Dr. Smiths. His Family greatly distress'd for him, being grown worse of late -- pain'd in Body as well as discompos'd in Mind. Dr. Smith came there. We rode together to see Lieutenant Stephen Maynard who is Sick of a Fever. His Son Antipas also Sick and the Family in much Trouble. Pray'd with them.

1756 March 9 (Tuesday). N.B. Dr. *Crosby* here to confer about the late Dr. *Smiths* Account.

1757 March 29 (Tuesday). Messrs. Cushing and Maynard Executors of late Dr. Smiths will, Settle Account with me.