

Dr. John Wilson (1721-1776) of Hopkinton

SHG, 11:96-97.

Born in Framingham, eldest son of James and Deliverance (Bridges) Wilson. Family moved to new town of Hopkinton when he was four.

Between taking his two degrees, he read medicine with some physicians. Served with his father at Louisbourg in 1745; practiced medicine on the Indians of Natick.

Settled in Hopkinton where he married, January 4, 1750, Elizabeth, daughter of the late attorney general John Overing.

“he remained the simple country doctor, serving the town as Selectman and Moderator as well as physician. Occasionally he obliged by preaching for neighboring ministers and conducting funeral services.” (97)

When he died in 1776, he left his widow and two children:

John Overing, b. Mar. 18, 1756, m. Nancy Dench
Mary Ann, b. Feb. 22, 1754; mar. Dr. John Mawney.

“His estate was substantial, including, besides the ‘Doctor’s shop,’ a gristmill and a sawmill.”

1752 July 2 (Thursday). N.B. Dr. Willson of Hopkinton here at Eve.

1752 August 16 (Sunday). A very melancholly Sabbath! I had an exceeding poor Night. Feverish, profusely Sweating, and extreme faint. Yet the Lord upheld me till the Morning, and my pains are much abated.... Lieutenant Tainter watch’d at home. I was somewhat reviv’d in the Day, But this Day was peculiarly Dark as there was no Preacher. Dr. Willson was to have come, but he was prevented by several Patients. There was a Meeting at our Meeting House a.m.

1752 August 23 (Sunday). By the Morning some Relief. A portion of Rhubarb also which I took last Night works to Day, and I am easier of pain, but reduc’d to be very weak and faint. A Melancholly Sabbath! a Second Disappointment by Dr. Willson, whom I earnestly sent Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin to, last Thursday, and had return by the Same on Friday Eve that he would certainly come unless some Case of Life or Death occurred. But the people watch’d till it was late, and then some went to the North End etc. and some attended at the Meeting House the Deacons carrying on both a. and p.m.

1752 September 2 (Wednesday). Somewhat dull and heavy. Yet Mr. Stone and his Wife and Mr. Forbush from Brookfield and my Daughter, were here to see me and din’d with me. Near Night came Dr. Willson and Deacon Burnap from Hopkinton to see me also. Little Samuel brought home from Weaning.

1754 January 7 (Monday). Captain Wood of Hopkinton brought a Letter from Mr. Barret requesting me to assist there at a Fast by reason of the malignant Fever, which exceedingly rages and proves very mortal in Holliston, and begins to rage in Hopkinton. N.B. Ten lay dead in Holliston last Friday. Mrs. Prentice was bury'd on Saturday last, but Mr. Prentice is recovering. For want of Help, So many being Sick and Dead, they draw some Corps to their Graves on Sleds.

1754 January 9 (Wednesday). It rain'd hard; but I rode to Hopkinton found Messrs. Stone and Smith with Mr. Barret. Mr. Fish came also. Mr. Barret pray'd a.m. and Mr. Stone preach'd on Rev. 6.8. N.B. about 20 pray'd for. The rain prevail'd so that we all lodg'd there. At Eve Dr. Wilson among us; who tells us that in this Fever there is much of pleurisy and peripneumony.

1754 June 1 (Saturday). I din'd there, and hastened to Colonel Buckminster's. From whence Dr. Wilson of Sherbourn rode with me some miles -- and gave me an account of Some of Coolidge's late Conduct at Coltons Tavern in Cambridge -- his gaming etc.

1755 June 21 (Saturday). Dr. Willson of Hopkinton having visited Mr. Daniel Warrin, return'd and din'd here.

1755 July 29 (Tuesday). Mr. Nurse going to Dr. Willson, I sent Billy with him. And he endur'd the Journey without Injury. Brought a Letter from Doctor to Me -- with Medicines particularly a Vomit. Cortex-Elixir Vitri. and a Saline Infusion.

1756 January 20 (Tuesday). A Very fine Day, but I am yet Confined to my Chamber. Several Friends visited me. Mr. *Smith* of Marlborough, Dr. *Willson* from *Hopkinton* and after the Funeral of Miss Anna Chamberlin, Mr. *Stone*, who informs me that Mr. Chamberlin did not come to the Grave, because it was concluded that *Nathaniel* was dying.

1756 January 24 (Saturday). We hear of the Deaths of Several at Marlborough; viz. Mr. *Joseph Morse*, Lt. *Jedidiah Brigham's* Wife -- but in our own Town dye Mr. *Elisha Ward*, another son of Coll. *William Ward*. A Sorrowful Stroke! May we make proper Reflections upon it! *Nathaniel Longley Chamberlin* was buried; and his Father still confined from this Funeral also, by reason of the low state of the Family. His Wife and daughter *Mary* very bad, and the youngest child taken ill and cleaves to her Father. A Mournful House! Mr. *Stone* of Southborough So indisposed he could not be there -- hear that the *Doctor (Willson)* prayed at the Funeral.

1756 January 31 (Saturday). I got an Horse at Mr. Nurse's and visited the South East Corner, particularly *Mr. Belknaps Wife*. Dr. *Willson* and I dined there: Mr. *Chamberlins* Wife near her Departure, yet knows me. I took final Leave of her. All the Children Still confined -- two of them in a relapse. I visited also *Mary Bellows* junior who is very low and in a dangerous State. I prayed with them at each House. A very sorrowful time! May the Lord in the midst of Wrath Remember Mercy!

1756 February 5 (Thursday). We hear the Doctors *Willson* and *Brigham* are Sick. Dr. *Chase* also complains much of Fever and Canker. 1756 May 15 (Saturday). I borrowed Mr. *Pratts* Horse and rode to Hopkinton but Mr. *Barrett* was gone to Boston. I was about to ride to

Southborough and went as far as Dr. *Wilson's*: There I found Mr. *Barrett*; with whom he returned to his House, But I could not perswade him, though the Sun was Some heighth, to ride to Westborough this Eve. N.B. my finding Mr. Barrett at Dr. *Wilson's* was the more to be remarked because if I had not I should not only have had the Difficult Journey, through unknown Roads to me, to Southborough, but when I Should have got there Should have been disappointed, Mr. Stone being gone to *Harwich*.

1756 June 5 (Saturday). Dr. Wilson and I rode over to Mr. James Maynard to See his Daughter Betty.

1756 July 12 (Monday). This was a dark Morning with me on account of the Increase of the Oppresing pain in my Breast, and the Increase also of my Fever: My abhorrence of Food, and my Weakness add to my Distress. But may God enable me to resign my self wholly to him! I sent for Dr. *Chase*, who came -- gives me [*Confectio Alkermes?*], etc.... Deacon Jonathan Forb. here p.m. I was so very low that (upon his having mentioned his going to Hopkinton upon his Busness) I prayed him to go to Dr. Willson for me: which he resolved to do.

1756 July 13 (Tuesday). Dr. *Wilson* came. He judges a vomit (of Panacea Antimony) best -- and perswades me to take it. He stays to See the Operation. N.B. I went down below to dinner and sat at Table (part of the Time). Took my vomit about 4 p.m. It worked Slowly, but according to Expectation, both up and down. And I took an Anodyne before I went to sleep, committing all to God!

1756 July 14 (Wednesday). In the morning was faint and weak indeed! Neighbour Zebulun Rice (who was here at the time of the working of my physic) came kindly to see me this morning. Dr. *Chase* came, and Seems somewhat offended that I had not told him of my Sending for Dr. *Wilson*. I gave him my Reasons. He then chearfully administered of his Druggs. The Widow Biglow came to work here, making stays for *Sarah* and Suse. Mr. Barrett came to see me and dined here. P.M. Mr. Martyn and his Wife also. Mr. Barrett prayed. I gave Mrs. Martyn to understand that I wanted some express manifestation of her Husbands reconciliation to me since *those terrible Letters* etc.

In the Night Mr. Phinehas Hardy brought up for me a Special supply of Wine, Figgs, Raisins etc.

1756 July 15 (Thursday). I had but a faint Night notwithstanding -- much pained in my Knees, as well as Back. Fear I am falling into Rheumatism. Am faint to Day, appetite depraved. Am Confined to the Chamber. Mr. Noah Rice and his son Bacon here from Commencement. Likewise Mr. Hall. Mr. Wellman the last dined here; and brought me Theses and Questiones. Capt. Baldwin dined here also. He is going to Brookfield. Thomas and Billy begin to hill the Corn at the Island, and finish it. At night Came Mr. Robert Breck of New Haven College and his sister, Mrs. Lois, with Rev. Mr. Josiah Whitney of Pomfrat, from Boston in their way to Springfield and lodged here. Dr. Chase to see me a.m.

1756 July 16 (Friday). In the morning, though poor and weak and somewhat Rheumatic in my Knees, I went down below to Breakfast and prayer with the Company and Family. Dr. Chase just stept in, judges my Fever abated in some Measure, and yet I am many ways grievously

Exercised; my right Knee, my right Eye -- I find it necessary to put on a Blister at Night, that if it may please God I may have Ease from my Rheumatick Pains. Coll. Williams of Marlborough came in at Eve. Deacon Bond also visited me; likewise Lt. Thomas Forbs. wife. I am humbly waiting the will of God especially His gracious manifestations for the Refreshment of my inner Man. Little *Sophy* ill also.

1756 July 17 (Saturday). My Blister was well drawn, but the Effects are, apparently, but Small on the Side of Success, as yet. The Pain in my right Knee is very afflicting. A favour that little *Sophy* is playfull again. Lt. Tainter brings a Load of Wood, and kills a Calf for us. Our Orchard field was Sowed yesterday when My sons began to plough and Hill the Indian Corn there, and to day partly work there (Thomas but a Spell, a.m.) and secure part of the Hay in [of?] the Home Lot. N.B. I went down to dinner with my Family, but it was with great Difficulty, my stomach being much against the Food, which yet was very good and entertaining to all who were in any Health. O may I see, and be conformed to the Hand of God upon Me! P.M. to my great Joy came my Brother *Samuel Parkman* from *Boston* to see me, and Mr. Forb. with him. Towards Eve Mr. *Barrett* came, and Mr. Forb. is to go to Hopkinton. Mr. Barrett and my Brother lodge here.

1756 July 18 (Sunday). Mr. Barrett preached here, a.m. on Ps. 73.26, last Clause. P.M. on Ps. 17.14, those words, "who have their Portion in this Life." I sat with them at Dinner but could not go to Meeting. Dr. Chase here; leaves me some Lavender only; I having many sorts of Drops and Drugs already. Rheumatism abates so little that I put on another Blister on (the same) Left Arm. My Eyes are still Strangely affected -- the Balls and up above them in Pain. N.B. Mr. Barrett read the Proclamation for a Fast and Mr. *Jotham Death's Letter, desiring Contribution*. Mr. Barret left us at Eve. N.B. Mr. Williams kept his Horse.

1756 July 19 (Monday). Notwithstanding my Blisters, my Rheumatism increases -- Seizes the thick part of my right Thigh. I am also more feverish -- can't bear to sit at Dinner, yet try, and worry it out. God be merciful to me a Miserable sinner, under His holy Frowns! Son *Forb.* returns from Hopkinton or his Fathers, and sets out for Brookfield. Mr. Moses Twitchel mows at Newton Meadow. Billy mows at the Island. Thomas a while. P.M. My Brother Samuel left us and went to Hopkinton. P.M. Mr. Asaph Rice visits me.

1756 July 20 (Tuesday). Through the Divine Goodness I had a more comfortable Day -- freer of Pains, and from the Nauseating Food. I eat better, but did not venture down to dinner with the Family. Mr. John Frost, employed by Mr. Moses Twitchell, works for me in the Newton Meadow. Dr. Chase steps in. P.M. Esq. Baker came to See me, as did Mr. *Smith* of *Marlborough*, who prayed with me. Mr. Francis Whipple and Neighbour *Eliezer Rice* came likewise. The last agrees to Serve me in Carting my Ministerial Meadow Hay. I feel better this p.m. than I have done a good while. I would heartily praise God for it!

1756 July 21 (Wednesday). Had not so comfortable Night -- a.m. less lively, and more feverish than yesterday. Such is the will of God that I have my ups and downs. Yet as to my Circumstances many Things are chearful. Mr. Twitchell works for me in taking Care of the Hay. Mr. Barachias Morse and Francis Pierce mow in the Ministerial Meadow, but especially fourteen Hands, great and small, came and hilled my New Field of Corn behind the Meeting House. They

were Lt. Tainter, and his son Benjamin (with their lad Enoch Biglow), Ensign Harrington, Messrs. Solomon Woods, Zebulun Rice, Jonathan Grout, Amariah Thurston, Joseph Pratt, James Bowman junior, Isaac Miller, Eli Whitney, Elisha Forbush, John Forbush, Joseph Bond. I would take a grateful Notice of this Favour in Providence. Nigh Evening came Mr. *William Crawford*. This was to my great Ease and Comfort. Sent his Horse to Neighbour Barny Newtons, to be kept. Two Load of Hay home from Newton Meadow. My Wife very much exercised with pains, daily. The Doctor staped in to Day also. I married Samuel junior to Abigail Forbush. Dr. Wilson visited me and with him Deacon Burnap.

1756 July 22 (Thursday). *Publick Fast* on Account of our undertaking against Crown Point. Mr. *Crawford* preached a.m. on Hos. 6.6. I went to Meeting -- D.G. And prayed after sermon. P.M. I prayed before sermon. Mr. *Crawford* preached on *Deuteronomy 23.9*. I hope I got no Cold, nor received any Harm. The Lord hear and accept the Addresses; pardoning our many Offences; and may the word delivered have a proper Effect!

1756 July 23 (Friday). Messrs. Barachias Rice and Martyn Pratt came to work in Ministerial Meadow. Thomas and Billy go to raking in Newton Meadow. Mr. *Crawford* returned home. I feel but poorly still -- can't read or write any Time together but hope I grow stronger in the Main. D.G. Mrs. *Bulah Bent* of Marlborough came to see us and dined here. She rode with me in my Chair (mended by Neighbour Zebulun Rice) to the Funeral of Mr. Richard Barns's Child, which I attended, though with much Difficulty. Mrs. *Bulah* tells me I may improve her Meadow and welcome. When I returned home, found Mr. Stone and his Wife here. This was a refreshing Visit. He prayed with me before he left me. Thomas and Billy brought home a Jagg of Hay from Newton Meadow with Neighbour Abner Newtons Team. Neighbour Morse lodges here.

1756 July 24 (Saturday). Neighbour Morse and Neighbour Martyn Pratt work in Ministerial Meadow till about 5 p.m. Neighbour Eliezer Rice carts home 3 Load from thence. Thomas and Billy work at the Meadow also, but a shower beat them all off Sun two hours high.

1756 July 25 (Sunday). I felt not so well as Some Days I have. But considering the doleful state of the Flock when there is no Minister, I ventured out both a. and p.m. Repeated a.m. sermon 1 on Jer. 31.18. P.M. repeated sermon 1 on Mat. 12.20. Having taken all the ways to favor and strengthen my self that I could, I was not overmuch worried or Spent with the services. But I cant say I took no Cold, for at night I was Seized again with Rheumatic Pains, chiefly my right Arm and right Knee. But the Will of the Lord be done! May his Word which we have heard savingly profit us! And May these Providences so afflictive and trying, prove Spiritually advantagious, through the divine Concurrence!

1756 July 26 (Monday). Have had a sad Night, being exercised with strong Pain, especially in my right Knee. Put on a Blister this Morning -- but may I, above all, look to God for Relief! For I am in *His Hands*, to smite or heal. Thomas and Billy mowed in Ministerial Meadow, and p.m. *Capt. Wood* of *Hopkinton* and His Wife, made me a kind Visit.

1756 July 27 (Tuesday). Am Somewhat relieved in my Knee, but am grievously Seized in my Right Shoulder, and my Right Hand -- it swells and is very useless. Another Blister improved. A very dark time! But such is the holy and sovereign Will of God!

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. But it is the Lord! P.M. *Moses Twitchel* and Noah Hardy mow in Newton Meadow.

1756 July 29 (Thursday). Had a yet more distressing night Still, in profuse sweating, and faintness -- had little sleep -- so that I am brought low. Dr. Chase here; he leaves me a portion of *Rhubarb* which I am in doubt about taking. My Wife still very lame. Billy is poisoned and can do no Work.... A little after noon I took the Rheubarb, and it worked about 3 times -- hope it had a good Effect.... Toward Night Dr. *Wilson* called in to see me. It was most seasonable and agreeable, for I had tryed to send for him this very Day. He advises to take *Elixir Camphoratum*, 20 or 25 Drops, Early Morn, and 11 a.m. N.B. Esq. *Baker* brought the Doctor for his son *Joseph*; So that riding this way he called in.

1756 July 30 (Friday). Very heavy Rains -- especially a.m. I had not such Colliquative Sweat last Night, as the Nights before, but perhaps owing to thinning the Bed-Cloths: and am apprehensive my Rheumatism is still making progress into other Joints. Each Heel is Somewhat affected as well as my left Knee -- at night my right Foot most. Brother Forb. came to bring me a Remedy for my Rheumatism, viz. *Piony-Oak* to be steeped in West India Rum. 4 Spoonful per Day. P.M. his Son Daniel and several Others visit me. They enquire about the Nature of *Moral Assurance*. Probably they have reference to Mr. Forb. late sermon which gave some of them Disgust. N.B. Mr. *Asaph Rice* sends me word that he can't come the Next sabbath but will endeavour to the Sabbath after.

1756 July 31 (Saturday). Great Rains this Morning also, and hold to p.m. My right foot full of pain. Right Shoulder, and right Hand, remain lame, weak and pained. My left Knee, which was full of pain yesterday easier to Day. D.G. I am able, with much striving, and distressing Pain to rise from the Bed, and walk a little -- this I have almost every Day. I am so weak I dare not draw another Blister. I begin to take of the Elixir *Camphoratum*. Capt. *Maynard* made me a kind Visit. *Mrs. Biglow*, stay-Maker, having finished her Work and received her Pay, p.m., returned home. The Pain of my Foot and of my right Hand is So increased that we are forced to venture another Blister. This is the 6th Since my illness began.

1756 August 1 (Sunday). I am, through divine Mercy, Somewhat easier, and can, though with Pain and difficulty, walk about the room. There was a Small Assembly, but no body to preach. Sent 'em Judge Hale's *Great Audit*, which they read a. and p.m. The Doctor Called in here both a. and p.m. May God have Compassion on us, and shew us His Goodness in His own Time! May He be as a little Sanctuary to us who are at home, as well as His Goings be Seen in His Temple! N.B. Not a few are detained at Home with me: My Wife who is full of Pains and Smart in her Feet; Billy, who is poisoned; and Sarah who is greatly indisposed to Day: These, besides divers little ones. N.B. I begin to anoint pained spots and Joints with *Marshmallows*.

1756 August 2 (Monday). Am Seized in my left Knee and especially my left Foot. This gives a great Addition to my sorrow. The Lord Support me under this grievous Evil! And fitt me for

what I have yet to undergo! My right foot is somewhat easier. D.G. But my Right Hand is worse -- so that I write any Thing with great Difficulty.

Seth Woods, from *Jonas Bradish*, reaps in my Rye Field. P.M. Capt. Benjamin Wood, of Hopkinton Sent his son with a present of Rum, Veal, etc. Mrs. Rolf, and Mrs. Lucy Forb. visit: the latter Shaved me.

1756 August 3 (Tuesday). My Right Hand still swelled and pained, my left Knee and Foot are also so bad that I can very Scarcely take one step; till near Night -- when I walked a little. No Doctor, though he (Dr. Chase) said he'd come yesterday. I'm much the same. My Rheumatism is uncorrected to this Day: but I wait the divine Will! Messrs. *Martyn* and *Stone* here, going to *Uxbridge* on their *Woodstock Affair*. *Jonas Bradish* comes p.m. with a Team and gets in my Rye which *Seth Woods* and my sons had reaped -- Mr. Rolf with him. N.B. Old Mrs. Whipple and Mr. Jos. Greens Wife, and Mrs. Harrington here the Afternoon.

1756 August 4 (Wednesday). Am still in much the Same Condition (except that my Shoulder is easier). My Hand etc. No Doctor comes. At Evening comes Lt. Tainter from Boston with various Supplys for me. And N.B. Lieutenant gave Mr. Jos. Stratton of Waltham a Note from me for 50£ of Money, Old Tenor which he promises to deliver for me, next Week to Mrs. Stoddard at Boston.

At Night Messrs. *Martyn* and *Stone* return home from *Uxbridge*.

1756 August 5 (Thursday). I am Still in the same grievous State of Pain and Weakness. The Medicine recommended from Rev. Mr. *Fishes*, viz. *Piony Oake Steeped* in West India Rum, I begin to take to day -- the Dose 1 spoonful 4 times a day. My Wife also takes it. Mr. *Martyn* and his Brother *Monis* visit me; as does Mr. *Smith* of Marlborough and dine with us. The 2 former p.m. visit their Uncle *Bradish*. Mr. *Smith* prayed with me. My Left Hip begins to be pained.

1756 August 6 (Friday). My Left Hip grows worse. I had a bad night and morning. P.M. Mr. *Putnam* of *Pomfret* here. Sharp Thunder and Lightning at Night.

1756 August 7 (Saturday). I rise in a poor, low, pained state. My left Hip Bone and the great Bones on which I sit, are full of Pain. We go on with the *Piony-Oak* -- waiting for Gods Blessing! A.M. Mr. *Whitney* shaves me, and though I am in danger of taking Cold, yet I hope it is to my Comfort. At Eve it rains. N.B. *Billy* desired to work at Mr. *Nurse's*, that *Nathan Kenny* may help him, and accordingly goes there till the Rain, and then returns.

1756 August 8 (Sunday). I had reason to hope for help from Mr. *Asaph Rice* who I hope has been examined and approbated. Or that if he did not come personally, Mr. *Fish* would come in Stead: but neither of them came and we were again sorrowfully destitute. A.M. I Sent them Mr. *Willison* of *Dundee*, on the Sabbath from page 114. P.M. I sent Mr. *Trails* Sermon on Heb. 10.23. This was at the Request of Lt. Tainter and a Number with him. N.B. the former brought the Book. Old Deacon Forb. and Master Gardner dined here. There was a considerable Assembly in the *after*, as well as *forenoon*. May God accept their Offerings! And in His Pity

remember me! I enjoyed a Measure of Comfort till my *Left Hand*, which had been preserved to me hitherto, began to be seized. Towards Eve, my Wrist swelling and burning, I anointed with *Marsh Mallows* Ointment but it Soon grew So very bad that I was forced to apply another Blister.

1756 August 9 (Monday). Last Night was the most restless, distressing and Sleepless, of any I have had yet. May God Sanctify this time especially to me! But in the Morning I was much easier. D.G. My Blister drew and run at an Extraordinary rate; and I had (through the Goodness of God) a comfortable Day in General. P.M. Deacon Forbush and his Wife; Rev. Cushing, Mrs. Molly Martyn and Mrs. Molly Holy Oake, Mr. Nurse and his Wife besides Several Others, came to see Me. Nathan Kenny helped Billy thrash Rye.

1756 August 10 (Tuesday). I had a Somewhat easy and agreeable Night; but yet the Morning was gloomy -- my Spirits low; my stomach with Burden and Burning. My Right Ankle outside Bone is Sore and Pained. In the Afternoon I was more easy and lively. A.M. Messrs. Whipple and Samuel Fay junior here going to Boston. I committ the New Chrystalling my Watch to the Care of Mr. Whipple, and to Mr. Fay to bring it up. Mr. *McAllister* and his Wife made me a Visit and dined with us. A very Christian and kind Visit!

1756 August 11 (Wednesday). In the main a considerable comfortable Day -- less pains. Walk in the yard, and as far as the Gate. Read more to day than any for a great While. Billy reaps Oats. *John* goes to School.

1756 August 12 (Thursday). Mr. Samuell Fay junior returns from Boston -- brings me some more West India Rum to steep Piony Oake in; for I Still resolve to proceed, by the will of God to take it further, though it is as yet a matter of Doubt whether it has been of expected service to me or not. I have not so much of Pain in my Limbs to day, as weakness, and general Debility. Yet I find my Heart too apt to cool, and turn to Earthly Things.

1756 August 13 (Friday). I walk a little further abroad to day. Dr. Chase here -- tells me I am welcome to all he has done for me. *Sarah* and *Suse* undertake to go to Mr. *Martyn's*: they return at Eve Well. They tell me Natty Martyn, tis feared, grows bad.

1756 August 14 (Saturday). It was too heavy Weather for me to go out: and I am somewhat worse by my Rheumatism but especially by a *sore Throat*. Mr. Daniel Forb. dined with us. N.B. He undertakes my Kitchin Hearth -- to get the Stones, bring and lay 'em. P.M. came Mr. Fish of Upton instead of Mr. Asaph Rice, who is approbated to preach and is to preach for him tomorrow. My sore Throat increases much at Night.

1756 August 15 (Sunday). Mr. *Fish* preached on *Rom.* 8.8 a. and p.m. Mr. Gardner and Dr. Crosby dined here. Mr. Fish left us after Evening Service. My sore Throat continues.

1756 August 16 (Monday). Thomas goes over to help Ebenezer. N.B. he was there all last Week. I Send *Billy* there also. Brother Hicks going down again upon his *Collins* Affair. Old Major *Keyes* of *Shrewsbury* comes to see me, and dines with us. It is both entertaining and usefull to hear the Accounts of the Antient People who knew and heard the first Settlers, many of

them and Saw their Circumspection and Strictness. May We be followers of them who through Faith and Patience do inherit the Promises! My Rheumatism is not now so troublesome as my sore Throat, and the general Weakness of my Limbs. Breck and John go to School to Mr. Gardner as far as Mr. *Jos. Green's*.

1756 August 17 (Tuesday). I have taken Sweet Oil and Honey, and it has some what relieved my Throat. I ventured to ride out in the Chair, my Wife with me, as far as Lt. Forb. and p.m. again we took a ride for the Sake of riding -- called at Mr. Nurse's -- and went to the Island, and so home -- hope it will prove useful.

1756 August 18 (Wednesday). Had not a very good Night, yet was it followed with a pritty good Day, being more easy in my Limbs, freer in my Throat, and lively in my Spirits. Was able, through divine Goodness to do Somewhat in Sermonizing. Mr. Rolf here, and has my Mare to go to Worcester, to return to Night. N.B. Thomas came home from his Brothers this Morning but Billy remains there still.

1756 August 19 (Thursday). Very hot: had but an indifferent night. Pains in my Right Hand and in some other Limbs, still; but I hope growing better. No *Mr. Rolf*; yet we want to send to Mill; I understand he is gone to t'other House. *Jonathan Bond* junior here. Mr. Zebulun Rice dined with us.

1756 August 20 (Friday). Dr. Crosby came here with Mrs. Upham, Wife of Dr. Upham of Brookfield. Mr. *Isaac Baldwin* (Father of Capt. *Jeduthun*) came to see us and to ask our Approbation of his son *Jeduthuns* proceedings with our Daughter *Lucy* -- and he accordingly addressed us both on that Occasion. I was not So well to day as Yesterday, my Limbs being much pained yet.

1756 August 21 (Saturday). *Baldwin* came in the Morning from Coll. Williams. He breaks fast with us. And Sets out for *Brookfield*. 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*. I went to meeting both parts of the Day, and prayed after p.m. sermon. Thanks be to God! Master Gardner dined with us. But O that we might be Sensible how wounded and diseased our Souls are, and might repair to God in Christ for the great Mercy of Healing which our souls need! Mr. Rice lodged here.

1756 August 23 (Monday). Mr. Rice left us. Mr. Hezekiah Pratt gives me a Note of 12£ Old Tenor which will be payable Dec. 25 Next; this he Offers me for the remains of my Old Cyder Mill. P.M. My Wife and I rode out, and visited at several Houses -- viz. Deacon Forb., Deacon Bonds, Mr. Jonah Warrins. Billy goes again to Ebenezers to work for him.

1756 August 24 (Tuesday). Mr. Stone came here on purpose to endeavour to get me with him to Ministers Meeting. I accordingly went with him. The Meeting was at Mr. Cushings; and I arrived there in a Measure of Comfort, except my Right Hand, Shoulder and Ankles, which had

Still Pain in them. Through divine favour I was able to attend the Concio (it was Mr. Stone's on Eph. 4.4) and the Conversation etc. but retired to Bed early -- lodged at Mr. Cushings.

1756 August 25 (Wednesday). I rose early. My Feet and Ankles weak and lame. I went to the Public Lecture and heard Mr. *Smith*, who preached on Act. 2.42, a very seasonable, useful Sermon. May God bless it to both Ministers and People. P.M. I rode with Messrs. Stone, Smith and Seccomb to Mr. *Martyns*. N.B. Mr. Martyn has carryed down his Son *Natty*, to Marlborough to Dr. *Dexter's*, who gives great Encouragement concerning the Sore, that he Shall effect the Cure of it. I returned home in safety. D.G. N.B. Ebenezer got in the last of my Oates and finished his own Haying.

1756 August 26 (Thursday). Am Sorry that one of my Swine, while I was gone, did Mischief in my Neighbour *Beeton's Field*. I viewed his Fence; and found that by measure the Rails, between which the Hog got in, were 14 Inches apart. P.M. *Daniel Miller* came here under Grievance, for my Talk about him representing him as *ridiculous* if not also *Scandalous* -- Upon which I sat before him the great Indecency of Christians being careless of their Garb and Appearance when they come to the House of God: and in particular of his coming bare foot and bare legged etc. etc.

1756 August 27 (Friday). I was not So well as of late. My Shoulder and Hand were as Usual, Pained, and the latter Swelled: but my Knees were feeble, and I fear the Distempers Settling upon me: but I am never the less the chief of the Day employed in my Study -- reading, thinking, writing. *Capt. Fay* to See Me. Several women P.M. Billy was again with Ebenezer but p.m. went with him to the great Pond with a Team and got a Load of Sand for the Floor.

1756 August 28 (Saturday). P.M. Mr. Gardner here. At Eve came Rev. *Weld*, late of Upton, and lodged here. N.B. I sent his Horse to Neighbour *Alpheus Newtons*.

1756 August 29 (Sunday). Mr. *Weld* preached a. and p.m. on Luk. 2.25, those words -- *The Consolation of Israel*. I went to Meeting all Day and prayed after the last Sermon. I am evidently Stronger in Body, but Some of my Limbs are weak. May I be a Sharer among those to whom the Lord Jesus Christ is So glorious a Consolation! Mr. *Weld* at Eve left us to go to Mr. *Ebenezer Fisks* in Grafton.

1756 August 30 (Monday). Ebenezer came and earnestly requests I would help him to get the *Gilbert Place* in Brookfield near Mr. Forb. but it grieves me I am under such an incapacity to gratifie him herein. He also talks about Alexanders living with him till he is 14. But this was not ripened. Powerfull, plentiful Rains after great Dryness.

1756 August 31 (Tuesday). Rainy morn. Mr. *Campbell* here; he and a Number of Ministers meet at Mr. *Stone's* to day about their *Woodstock* affair; especially to make Some Reply to the Result of a late, large Ecclesiastical Council which was called by Mr. *Stiles* and the Church with Him. N.B. Mrs. Thankful Rice dined with us.

1756 September 1 (Wednesday). Neighbour Barnabas Newton breaks up a Field on the South of the Road before my House. Mr. *Daniel Forb.* brings large Stones and lays, in part, my Kitchin

Hearth. He dines with us. As does Mr. Webb of *Uxbridge* who is returning home from Mr. *Stone's*; he being one of those concerned in the *Woodstock* Affair. I consult him about my Wild Piony Remedy.

1756 September 2 (Thursday). A Frost last night; but don't See that it has done any hurt. Mr. Forbush does not come to finish my Hearth, it being private Meeting at his House. Sorrowful News that *Oswego* is taken, and Consequently both a great Interest lost, and the Enemy exceedingly strengthened. The Lord look upon His people in much Mercy under this Sore Rebuke! And may we be prepared for what God will do next! And Sad News of one *Harrington*, his Stabbing *Larnard* at Watertown. God be praised for restraining Grace to Me and Mine!

1756 September 3 (Friday). I remain for Some Days in much the Same State of Body. Pained in my Right Shoulder and Right Hand, when I go to use them and my Hand remains Swelled. My Knees also are feeble when I go up Stairs or down. I beg Grace patiently to wait the Will of God as to my Perfect Recovery. *Perfect Recovery!* Then the Soul will be restored, which may God of His infinite Mercy grant! My Daughter in Law dines here, and She brings little *Ebenezer* and *Molly*. Young *Larnard*, Stabbed by *Harrington* the Night before last, is dead and *Harrington* committed. *Billy* begins to cutt Stalks, afraid lest the Frost Should spoil 'em.

1756 September 4 (Saturday). Mr. *Reddington* of *Toland*, on his Journey from Haverhil gives me a melancholy Account of the Condition of Coll. *Saltonstall*, with Reference to his Estate, Disease, Reputation, etc. Rev. Mr. Campbell of Oxford calls to See me and dines. Mr. *Daniel Forb.* brings more stones and finishes the Hearth. We have confirmations of the taking *Oswego*, and also of *Port Mahon*. May God look down upon His own Cause and People and appear for them in His own Time and Way -- but it is now exceeding Dark and Gloomy!

1756 September 5 (Sunday). I have taken a late Cold and am much oppressed with it: was full of Hopes through the Week, of Preaching to Day, and therefore was fully prepared, as to Sermons composed; but now when the Day is come am so hoarse, and many ways so indisposed that I was all the Morning in great Concern what to do -- till Mr. *Cushing* (So God was pleased in his good Providence to Order it) appeared in Sight -- for he having got Mr. *Crawford* to preach for him, was come to help me; for which I was heartily thankfull. He preached a.m. on *Joh. 15.14*. P.M. on *1 Pet. 4.18*. At Eve he returned home, purposing to visit Mr. Edward Wilson in his Way, Mr. W. being dangerously sick.

1756 September 6 (Monday). My Kinsman *Winter* in his Journey from *Middleton* in Connecticut, home; called here: he had in Company, one Mr. *Wiswall*, and Mr. *John Sweetzer* junior and his Wife. They were not perswaded to tarry all night but pursued their Course to Coll. *Buckminster's*. Brother *Harrington* from Watertown here, but goes to lodge at *Ebenezers*.

1756 September 7 (Tuesday). I rode down to See Mr. *Stone*, and dined there. He was engaged in the difficult Affair of digging his Well deeper: had Mr. *Boynes*, who was blowing the Rocks. N.B. I returned by Mr. *Snows* whom I want to have work at my Kitchin, to finish the Outside at least, which is not yet done: he was not at home. I returned at Eve. N.B. my Chair being much disabled, I asked Mr. *Stone* for his (who consented) for my Wife to go to Boston.

1756 September 8 (Wednesday). P.M. my Wife and I rode to Several of the South Neighbours, viz. Ensign Harringtons, Ensign Millers, and Serj. Forbush's. My Cold notwithstanding continues; nor is my right Arm well.

1756 September 9 (Thursday). Mr. *Smith* here and dines with us. He comes to Speak to me about my wifes going to Boston that if She does not go next week nor the week after, he may have Mr. Stones Chair, the Body of it, to go to Cape Ann: This we consent to (if he will return (Providence favoring) So as that She may go the beginning of the Subsequent). But if he shall be prevented by Providence returning as he proposes, then he would have me hire a Chair in Marlborough which he will pay for. He particularly Mentions Capt. Joseph *Hows*.

1756 September 24 (Friday). Dr. *Willson* here and dined with me. A Young Man whom he is instructing, with him; one *Ommedon* of Mendon.

1757 January 20 (Thursday). More moderate. I walked to Mr. Rolfs, and to Lieut. Forbush's. P.M. Dr. Wilson has been to See Nathaniel *Knowlton*, and calls here.

1758 June 9 (Friday). More than ordinary Cold. Mr. Maccarty and his Brother Bridge of Worcester here in returning home from Boston by Hopkinton. P.M. Dr. *Willson* also here. Great and Sad Interruptions to me in my Studys.

1758 July 5 (Wednesday). We observed this Day as a Day of Fasting and Prayer in this Parish on Account of the present, immediate Crisis of our Affairs, especially at Cape *Briton*. Mr. *Smith* came first, and it grew so late that I engaged him to preach a.m. Mr. *Cushing*, *Barrett*, *Martyn*, *Stone*, *Goss* and Mr. *Seccomb* came also. Mr. *Martyn* prayed a.m. Mr. *Smith* preached on 2 Cor. 5.11, "Knowing the Terrors of the Lord we perswade men." P.M. Mr. *Goss* prayed, Mr. *Cushing* preached on Ezek. 13.5, "Ye have not gone up into the Gaps" etc. There were several others here besides the Ministers and who Supped with us. Viz. Mrs. *Cushing* and her sister *Smith* -- Miss *Mary Stone* (who tarrys with us for a few Days) and Dr. *Wilson*. There was, in general, a good attendance of the people, and many from Neighbouring Towns. May God most gracious accept our Offerings! Be reconciled and leave a Blessing. N.B. Thanks also were presented to God for the Favors already granted to His people particularly at Cape *Briton*; the good news from the Westward of the army being in good Health and Spirits. That there is Such general Health in the Land, and wonderfull prospect of Plenty.

1759 April 13 (Friday). rose at ½ after 3 (though I took a Nap below). My Wife was expected to have a Well Day -- but it proved otherwise, for though She was got up, yet was She very ill. At 3 and ½ p.m. she is aguish and it holds her to half after 5, and then comes on a Fever which continues into Night, to my great Distressing. I visited and prayed with Mr. Nurse, who grows worse; and says he is almost out of Hope of any Cure. *Billy* has the Meazles full -- and keep[s] his Bed all Day. All Things work kindly with *him*. *Samme* also is so well as to run abroad. Deacon *Tainter* from *Boston* -- brought my Wife a Bottle of *Madera*. At Eve Mr. Whitney, Mr. Wood, Mr. Daniel Forb.'s Wife here. Capt. *Wood* also -- who offers to go or send to Dr. *Wilson*. [I am?] writing to Dr. *Crosby* of it, to night, to be sent early tomorrow morning to him; I consented. And now O that God would be pleased to Sanctifie these sorrowful providences to

me! Would He be pleased to extend His gracious Pity to His poor Hand-Maid, and grant her Relief to soul and Body for His Name's sake! Priscilla Rice and Lydia Newton watch.

1759 April 14 (Saturday). Thomas goes with my Letter to Dr. Crosby, while Captain Woods goes to Dr. Willson. And they both came. They dine with me, and retire to consult together. Dr. *Willson* much inclines to give her a Vomit, yet She is So very weak it looks as if She could not Survive it: they conclude upon it and that Dr. Crosby come here to Meeting tomorrow, and in the morning administer it, and tarry to see it work. To my Surprize my eldest Brother came to See me at time of signal Distress. But he knew not of Mrs. P_____ 's illness when he sat out from Home. He is upon a Journey to Connecticut. My Wife has her Fit, both of Ague and Fever very strong; and she is extremely weak. *Billy* gets up and walks -- but keeps the Chamber. A great and noticeable Favour that he has the Distemper so moderately. But *Samme* is poorly -- So checkered is our State! May the Lord look upon us and be mercifull to us as He uses to do to them that fear His Name! Mrs. Bond watches.

1759 April 15 (Sunday). My Wife is exceeding Weak and low. It looks as if she would not survive it. She tells me in the morning She thinks it will be too hard for her. This sabbath morning is therefore very gloomy and sorrowful. My interruptions, Cares etc. have prevented my preparing any more than one sermon. Dr. Crosby came. Administered the vomit. It worked as many times again as the Doctor talked of -- a matter of Sixteens times. Read publicly *Neh.* 1. Preached on *Hos.* 9.12. My Brother keeps sabbath with us. The Doctor dines here. Read p.m. Acts 11. Repeated on 1 *Cor.* 6.9.10, some selected passages. My Neighbour Nurse being grown worse, at Eve my Brother and I made him a Visit and prayed with him. He was exceeding full of pain in his Back so as that he cryed out aloud. *Patty Dunlop* watches.

1759 April 16 (Monday). I rode with my Brother as far as Shrewsbury, and we dined at Capt. *Allen's*. *Persis Rice* so indisposed, She goes home. *Jemima Maynard* is in her stead to help my Daughter Sarah. Her Mother has a fit every Day; and is in a low state. *Billy* rides to Mr. *Dunlops* to carry *Patty*. Mr. *Dunlop* works in my Garden. Widow [Woods?] watches. *Jemima Maynard* comes to work here. On the 16 Brother *Hicks* and his Wife from Cambridge here and lodge here. N.B. He is unreasonably set against Mr. *Wellman*, is very bitter -- declares he is a man that will not Stand by the Truth. My son *William* and *Jemima* were in hearing. I checked him smartly; and desired him to Say no more of these Affairs.

1759 April 17 (Tuesday). *Billy* leaves us to go into the Service. *Alexander* goes with him to help him on his way, as far as Shrewsbury. N.B. I gave him six Dollars; and he gave me a province Note of 8£ L.M. or 60£ Old Tenor. My Wife has her Fitts of Ague and Fever -- but I hope She is not so bad as heretofore. *Samme* has the Fever and Ague. Visit Mr. Nurse and prayed with him. Cousen *Maynard* here -- N.B. my ride to Mr. *Jonathan Fay* for money. Mr. *Woodward* and his wife ride to *Sutton* -- but they did not alight -- for I was not at home -- but met them near Capt. *Woods*.

1759 April 18 (Wednesday). Disappointed and perplexed about ploughing. Can't get any done yet. Was at Capt. *Maynards* to reckon with him, but he was not at home. My Wife though somewhat feverish, yet escaped her Fit. Widow *Newton* watched last night again. Dr. Crosby here late at night.

1759 April 19 (Thursday). I rode to Hopkinton. Went by Deacon Burnaps who took his Horse and rode with me through the worst of the Woods towards Dr. *Wilson's*, where my Business chiefly lay. I dined there. N.B. The Doctor generously gave me what ever he had done for me or mine. Mrs. *Henrietta Overing* is going to Rhode Island -- goes from the Doctors this Afternoon.... My Wife had a Fit to Day.

1759 April 20 (Friday). Though She had no Fit to Day yet She lies in a Weak faint State, and was not up but a little while, during the Bed-making etc. *Samme* lies by with another Fit of Fever and Ague.... Jemima watched last night.

1759 April 21 (Saturday). My Wife will not be perswaded but that She goes down Hill yet. Dr. *Crosby* called in here. I visited Mr. *Nurse* and prayed with him. There is a New Appearance upon his Tumor: where it has Sometimes of late oozed out a little Blood, as from a push; there is now a turning out of the Flesh about a large as a Womans Nipple. Sarah watched last night.

1759 April 22 (Sunday). My wife I hope is somewhat better, though she is yet very weak, and sits up but very little. She has had no fit for several Days: And Sarah tended upon her in the Night. And now this Night *Thomas* waits on her.

1759 April 23 (Monday). The Widow Forbush brought little Hannah to see us.

1759 April 25 (Wednesday). Though I sent to Mr. Hutchinson to come and preach my Lecture to Day he came not. N.B. He rode by the Door; and (notwithstanding Mrs. P_____ 's Sickness) did not call; but according to his Custom, Sent me his Message from the Shop, that he was pre-engaged.... Widow Betty Rogers helps us.

1759 April 27 (Friday). P.M. my Brother P_____ returns from Middletown, in Good Health, and Comfort, through the great Goodness of God and finds us far Otherwise than he left us, for whereas my Wife was then very weak and low, now she is greatly recruited and daily gathering Strength. To God all Glory.

1759 April 28 (Saturday). My Brother early pursues his Journey home. Deacon Tainter comes from Boston, and has gratified my Wife with bringing her some Oysters.... *Samme* has Still the Fever and Ague.

1759 May 3 (Thursday). A.M. came my son and Daughter Forb. with their Daughter *Molly*.... Mr. Forb. rides to Dr. Wilson to get him to go chief Surgeon in Brigadier Ruggles's Regiment.

1759 May 4 (Friday). My wife so much better that She rides in a Chair to Neighbour Nurse's. I had been there in the morning and prayed with him.

1759 June 27 (Wednesday). Dr. Charles Pyncheon of Springfield here at Mr. Forbush's request that something might be done about Dr. Wilson's going Surgeon of the first Battalion under Brigadier Ruggles.

1759 July 2 (Monday). My Children much indisposed -- tis probable some of them have the beginnings of the Meazles. I visited Lieut. Forbush who as also his son *Ebenezer* is confined by sickness. I Should have gone to Hopkinton to see whether Dr. *Wilson* has a Mind to go Surgeon in the Army, according to the Desire of Dr. *Pyncheon* that I would; but it prov'd a very rainy Day.

1759 September 23 (Sunday). Read the 2 last Chapters of *Esther*, and *Rom. 4*. A.M. repeated Sermon on *Act. 2.37*. The Application of the Subject. P.M. on *2 Tim. 4.3*, former part. N.B. Mrs. Maynard, Mrs. Hannah Rugg, Mrs. [blank] and Patty Dunlop dined here. N.B. Mr. Fessenden went yesterday to keep the School at the North End. N.B. Shortened the Intermission to an Hour and Half. *Sarah* so ill I wrote by Deacon Burnap for Dr. *Wilson*.

1759 September 24 (Monday). Dr. *Wilson* came -- dined here. Finds *Sarah* bordering on Consumption. He gives her a Vomit which works while he is here.

1759 September 28 (Friday). *Sarah* is worse. I understand She can not lie on her left side without Pain and Difficulty. A great Deal of Company -- Cousen Maynard here and dined with us. Dr. *Wilson* who thinks some of the Symptoms are mitigated -- yet we fear She pines more and more. P.M. sundry women came to see her, viz. Mrs. Mary Bellows, Mrs. Pratt, Mrs. Nurse. And Mrs. Bowker of Symsbury and her two sons. P.M. also came Cousen Bradford of Boston and my Daughter *Suse*, to our great Rejoicing. In the Eve Deacon Tainter.

1759 September 29 (Saturday). We are more and more disheartened about *Sarah* -- yet She her self does not seem to think She is so bad as we fear She is. Extremely fine forenoon; Mrs. *Bradford's* Chair being tackled for her and *Nabby* to go to *Shrewsbury* We got *Sarah* into it, and I drove a little way with her, I hope without Hurt. My eldest Brother (on his Journey to Worcester whither he has been summoned as proprietors Clerk of the District of Spencer) came to us, to keep sabbath here.

1759 September 30 (Sunday). I read publickly the first Chapter of *Job*, and delivered for the forenoon Exercise a Discourse on *Job* and on this Book. We desire the Prayers of the Church and Congregation for *Sarah*, who is very low, though we hope not worse. Our Kindred aforesaid, are with us. P.M. read *Rom. 5*, preached on *Gen. 1.27*, and may God Himself be pleased to add His Blessing! My Heart much moved for my dear Daughter -- especially for her Spiritual state and her Eternal Condition.

1759 October 1 (Monday). Mr. Abijah Gale came to work -- prepares Stuff for the Sealing my Kitchin etc. My Kinswoman, Mrs. Bradford and her sister, leave us to go to Boston. My Brother goes to Worcester; to the Adjournment of Superior Court there; and returns at Eve. My Daughter *Sarah* is much as She was. I rode to t'other House, and to Mr. Phinehas Maynards to get Beef and send by him a Letter to Mr. Lull of Ware River. P.M. Visit Old Mr. Fay etc.

1759 October 2 (Tuesday). Capt. Wood, young Mr. Crossman of Hopkinton and Mr. Nathaniel [Dean?] go to view my old Place. A.M. My Brother returns to Boston. P.M. I preached at Mr. *Samuel Grow's* on *1 Pet. 14.6*. Alexander brings home 3 Barrells of Cyder.

1759 October 3 (Wednesday). Deacon Tainters sisters, *Hastings* and *Whitney*, call here. Send by the Deacon a Letter to Mr. Draper, Printer, an Account of the Death of Rev. Mr. Rice of Sturbridge. For tis pity he Should be altogether un-noticed -- and yet there is no one of the Gentlemen who were his Bearers that has done any Thing to preserve his Memory or record his Decease.¹ At Eve I went up on some Business to Capt. *Wood's* -- Saw there Mr. *Samuel Fay* junior who tells me his wife is brought to Bed. I put him in mind of his Duty (to bring his Children to Baptism) and pray him not to delay any longer. He seems not to like my speaking to him -- yet it was chiefly retired -- and in soft Terms.

1759 October 4 (Thursday). Sarah has a bad Day. God prepare both her and us for His holy Will! I am reading Sir *Edwyn Sandys* Europa speculum. An excellent Work!

1759 October 5 (Friday). Dr. Wilson here. He judges the Symptoms with Sarah are abated and that therefore there is more hopes.

1759 October 6 (Saturday). Dr. Gott from Boston. Din'd here. P.M. his Sister here. Three Barrells of Cyder; one of which I disposed of to Mr. or Mrs. Nurse.

1759 October 7 (Sunday). Omitted reading a.m. because I am going on with Observations on the Book and first Ch. of Job, which was read last Lords Day. Dr. Gott at Meeting but did not dine here. Mrs. Willis (a widow woman, mother of Mr. Pratt of Hopkinton) and Miss Mary Bradish did. P.M. I read Rom. 6. Preached on *Gen. 1.27*. I was well all Day -- but at Night was Seized with Tooth-Ach and put on a Blister.

1759 October 8 (Monday). Was pritty much confined by Reason of the Ague in my Face. Sarah rides in the Chair whenever the Weather allows. Her sister Baldwin rides with her. We are not able to judge of her Case, only that She remains low. Deacon Tainter brought her up from Boston a fey Oyster in the shells -- these she Eats with a good Relish when almost Nothing besides. Two of the Parish Committee viz. Lieut. Brigham and Mr. David Maynard to see whether I would have any Thing put into the warrant for a precinct Meeting. I prayed 'em to put in the Article of setting my Sallery which they consented to.

1759 October 13 (Saturday). We have the Joyfull News that Quebeck is taken by the English; which we impatiently long to have confirmed. Dr. Wilson here and dined with me. He says, Sarah, upon the whole, is better. He visits Mr. Isaac Johnson of Southborough who has a sore Hand.

1759 October 14 (Sunday). I felt but poorly but I forced the best Leg foremost and went to the House of the Lord that we might praise Him for His wonderful Works which He has wrought for His people. Did not read a.m. because it had been read already and I was still making observations upon it, viz. Job 1. P.M. though I had partly prepared on another subject (the Loss of the Image of God) yet I threw it aside to deliver something upon the Great and Joyful Occasion of taking *Quebeck*. What I delivered was on 1 *Chron. 29.11.12.13*. Indeed with New Introduction and frequent Alterations. By Reason of my Illness I omitted reading publicly p.m.

¹See SHG 8:775 for a reference to Parkman's notice in the *Boston News-Letter*, Oct. 11, 1758, in which he described Rice as "a worthy, useful Man."

I don't know but twas too hard for me. At night by [*sic*] right Arm below my elbow was Rheumatic. I put on another Blister. May God be gracious and merciful to me!

1759 October 17 (Wednesday). Am Worse, as to the Fever which attends me, and Pains in my Limbs; [betokening?] Rheumatism. I send Alexander to Dr. Wilson at Mr. Isaac Johnsons -- but he has gone. I grow worse still at Night -- lay on a great Blister on my left Arm.

1759 October 18 (Thursday). The worst Night I have had yet -- Fever, pain in my stomach, causing Difficult Breathing. Have some sense of the Dealings of God with me. D.G. I look to Him through Jesus Christ. Alexander goes to the Doctors early -- comes with him before Noon. P.M. he gives me a vomit -- Epicac. mixt Turbith. Worked 5 Times up with Nothing downward. Deacon Tainter and son with Team, Capt. Wood and Neighbour Zebulun Rice, Joseph and Jonathan Grout gathered and brought up my Island Corn, and with Others to Assist husked it out.

1759 October 19 (Friday). Had a very bad Night last, the worst of any yet, this sickness. It was by reason of the Fever, and a most terrible oppression at my stomach, which gave me great pain in drawing my Breath -- held me for 2 Hours in the Dead of Night, but either by taking a Portion of Polychriston, or putting on Rie Cakes, to my [Face?], or rather by the merciful Hand of God with them, I was greatly relieved, and about one o'Clock could lie on my right side and went to sleep for some time. But still it was a tedious Night. This morning Alexander went again to Dr. Wilson to acquaint him with what had occurred, and to desire another Visit. Deacon Tainter here a.m. I write to young Mr. Dorr, to desire him to preach for me next Lords Day; and Deacon undertakes to carry it. I feel exceeding poorly to Day, and wait the Will of God! The Doctor came, judges with me that there are Pripneumonic sumptions. He takes away about 5 ounces, or not more he thinks than 6, of Blood. Orders a Blister on my left side, and leaves me to take plentifully of Volatiles. [60?] Drops every three or 4 ho. He desires Counsel -- Dr. Morse of Sutton -- and Dr. Hemingway of Framingham. I obtained Neighbour Hezekiah Pratt to go for the former. No body goes for the latter. I somewhat dreaded the Night -- but

1759 October 20 (Saturday). Through the divine Mercy I had considerable rest, though fever, pain etc. The Peripneum. symptoms much abated. D.G. And feel somewhat comfortable. Deacon Tainter brings Letter from Mr. Dorr that he is engaged for next Lords Day. But will come the soonest he can. P.M. Dr. Morse and Dr. Wilson here and dine. Neighbour Pratt with them. The Doctors retire and consult: they advise to go on in the Course I am in, except if the Symptoms of Peripneum. return, to renew Bleeding. Mr. N. Whitney here. Mrs. Lucy Forb. kindly helps us p.m. But the main matter Is God with Me!

1759 October 21 (Sunday). A sorrowful Sabbath yet I felt somewhat Comfortable for one so ill. No meeting at this Meeting House. *Suse* rides with *Alexander* in our old Chair to Mr. Martyn's Meeting. He preached on Heb. 6.1-9 and on Mat. 13.44. O might I and each of us who are detained from the Sanctuary have our Hearts there, and enjoy communion with them that we may also have a Blessing thence. Not a good Night and Sarah poorly.

1759 October 22 (Monday). Mr. *Barrett* and Dr. *Wilson* dined here. Mr. *Martyn* came p.m. I felt stronger and livelier to Day. D.G. Mr. Barrett pray'd with us. N.B. The Doctor informs that

Master Nathaniel [*sic*] Stone of Southborough is sick. *Sarah* is not quite so ill as yesterday. N.B. our Changes!

The Precinct met upon the Affair of settling my Sallery, or doing as they used to. I wrote a paper -- but was obliged to break it off abruptly. Sent it by Deacon Bond -- told him to let them know if they Should proceed again to Vote against my Request, it would look to me as if they took me at a great Disadvantage, being I was now sick and unable to hold any Contest -- had rather in that Case they would adjourn that there might be a more fair Opportunity. Yet at night came in a Number who told me what they had done, and that it was as last Year, viz. 500£ old Tenor and I take Care of getting my Wood my self. The men were Messrs. Phinehas Hardy (who was moderator of the Meeting), David Maynard and Brother Ebenezer Maynard, Cornelius Biglow, Richard Barns, and D. Batheric. Deacon Tainter had striven to get my Corn Field behind the Meeting House together but others would not exert themselves as he -- he got one Load to the place for husking -- but Rain came upon it in the Night.

Upon the whole, I desire to take a humble Notice of the holy Hand of God upon me and my Circumstances. Do endeavour to possess my soul in patience, and committ my self to him that judgeth righteously.

1759 October 23 (Tuesday). I had a poor Night, feverish etc. A poor Day followed. Could read or write but very little. At Night my wife sent by Deacon Tainter to Boston. *Sarah* mends again. D.G.

1759 October 24 (Wednesday). Another feverish, disquieted Night. Mr. *David Witt* of Brookfield here and informs that Last Saturday Night Mr. Forb. returned home. Mr. Samuel Williams made me a visit p.m. He seems concerned about his soul. At night came my Kinswoman Mrs. Wilkins of *Sonhegan* and two of her sons: John and Daniel. We were so ill and so full we could not without Difficulty lodge them. Mrs. Wilkins lodged here but I sent her sons to Capt. Woods. My Kinswomans Company, though Joyfull to me, proved too much for me. I had a very feverish and uncomfortable night. Both the Young Children were ill and troublesome in the Night -- I mean Hannah and Jeduthun.

1759 October 25 (Thursday). Mrs. Wilkins and her sons broke fast here and then went up to Grafton to go to Meeting there. Lucy, Alexander and John to Mr. Martyns Meeting, it being *Publick Thanksgiving for taking Quebeck*, but I am as a broken Instrument and sorrowfully laid by! But I endeavour to Praise God with all my Heart. May the Lord be pleased graciously to accept out Offerings. And may we never forget our Obligations. O when shall the strong Holds of [*satan?*] in our souls be destroyed and when shall we obtain complete victory over our spiritual Foes! O Glorious Con[queror?] and Saviour hasten that illustrious Time! At Eve Nahum *Eager* came to See his Mistress, Baldwin.

1759 October 26 (Friday). I have had a better Night of Sleep -- and yet have so sweated *etc.* that I rise this Morning both fe[e]ble and trembling. Mr. Batheric and his son here to cut up the rest of my Indian Corn, behind the Meeting House. Mr. Smith came to see me, dined here -- prayed with us. Dr. *Wilson* to see me. From what I feel to Day, I am more in fear of a relaxtion and that it may not soon go off. At Evening was a Strange Sight. Esq. Baker came to see me, with Mr.

Nathaniel Whitney. The Squires coming is the more observable because he has not made me any Thing of a Visit, these several Years. Mr. Phinehas Hardy here in order to his going to Mendon for Mr. Dorr to preach next sabbath.

1759 October 27 (Saturday). Through the divine Goodness I feel better this Morning than I have a good while. D.G. I Send by Mr. Phinehas Hardy, a Letter I wrote yesterday to Mr. Dorr junior to come and preach for me to morrow. P.M. they came; and Mr. Dorr lodges here. My Daughter Sarah is better -- but I am my Self very much at a Stay; being feverish and weak.

1759 October 28 (Sunday). The Sabbath is the Queen of Days: May it ever be my souls Delight! I bless God that though I can't go to meeting my self here is a Servant of God to preach in my Stead, and therefore both my Family and Flock may have the Benefit of Gods Word. Mr. *Dorr* preaches a.m. and p.m. on Mat. 3.1.2. Capt. Maynards Wife dines here. I feel but poorly Still, but I pray God who has heretofore relieved me, to grant his divine Compassions towards me! I sat up too late this Evening and had but a poor Night -- but especially by reason of the little Children *Hannah* and *Jeduthun*, that are very troublesome, having bad Laxes. Mr. Dorr lodges here.

1759 October 29 (Monday). Mr. Dorr left us. Persis Rice assists my Wife and dines here. Mr. Zebulun Rice in the Name of the Committee lay in with Mr. Dorr to come and preach again if they need. P.[M.] Messrs. Fish and Manning visit me. The former prays: the Latter delivers me a Letter from Mr. Forbush inclosing his Letter to his people at the Time that I preached the Lecture in Brookfield. Mr. Biglow brought 6 Barrells which he has made for me. At Eve Rev. Mr. Campbell but pursues his Journey downward.

1759 October 30 (Tuesday). Deacon Tainter at Evening tells me *Nahum Ball* (son of the late Mr. James Ball) AEt. 29 dyed yesterday. I am still poorly.

1759 October 31 (Wednesday). Master Fessenden -- he tells us young Mr. *Nathaniel* [*sic*] *Stone* of *Southborough* is dead -- a most sorrowful stroke! The Lord support my dear Brother under this heavy Dispensation! I am still feverish and confined to the House: and have not comfortable Nights. Mr. Cordwell, his wife and Miss Ruth Hicks here.

1759 November 1 (Thursday). This Day (though I feel not well nor strong) I stepped out of the Door into the Yard, for I would fain use my Self to the air again. P.M. Mrs. Maynard kindly visited us -- and not empty.

1759 November 2 (Friday). Mr. Nathaniel Stone's Funeral, as I hear. Alexander goes to Marlborough and returns. At Eve Mr. Asher Rice was here. I made Enquiry into his Attendance on divine Ordinances in the Church where he lives -- tells me he does not go to the Communion and that 3 of his Children are unbaptized. But he Strongly asserts his own Innocence, and desires I would write to Rev. Eaton that his Cause may be heard. Mr. Zebulun Rice and after him Deacon Tainter came here to see whether I thought it probable that I Should preach next sabbath -- for otherwise it was proposed to send for young Mr. *Dorr* again. My Answer was, I hoped to my self.

1759 November 3 (Saturday). Mr. Asaph Rice here, dined with us -- but I could not persuade him to help me to morrow, in any part of service. It was so great a storm I could not at all take the Air abroad, and I was filled with much fear, what I Should be like to do.

1759 November 4 (Sunday). After a great deal of deep Concern (especially considering that I am not quite so well as yesterday), and repeatedly committing the Matter to God, I went out to Meeting. Fearing there would be but one Exercise I preached a.m. on Eccl. 7.29. But Venturing in the afternoon I gave that which otherwise would have been the forenoon Exercise, viz. the IId Ch. of Job. N.B. I read to the Assembly the Resolve of the Honorable his Majesty's Council, and the Declaration "and Vote of the Convention of Ministers last May respecting the Disorders at Ordinations" which I followed with my own solemn Testimony against said Disorders, and gave Caution and Exhortations.

After Meeting in the Evening and Night had some rheumatic Twinges in my right Hand and several other Joints, but they did not prevail.

1759 November 5 (Monday). I rise considerable Comfortable -- Blessed by God. Mr. Batherick about his last year Rates. Mr. Jonah Warrin comes with his Cart and brings me at least half a Dozen Bushel of Turnips -- for a present to me. May God reward him! Mr. Asher Rice again.

1759 November 6 (Tuesday). Capt. Wood, at my Sending for, came here a.m. on various Affairs. Daniel How brings a Letter from *Thomas at Still-Water* dated Oct. 12. And from *Billy at Crown Point* Oct. 16. Blessed be God for their Welfare! May they have Grace to improve it! Mr. Benjamin Tainter dined here. P.M. Mr. Mellen and his Wife here going to Hopkinton and to Sherbourn Ordination. Mr. Asaph Rice, on his Return to Berwick, here. N.B. Mr. Jonathan Fay makes me unhandsome return of my Urgent Message to him, for money, now almost five Months after the Time is up. As to me I have but a feverish, uncomfortable Day -- yet I can through Gods Goodness attend to considerable of my work. The Air has been too cool for me to go abroad. I desire to committ my Self to God. But how astonishingly Stupid my Vile Heart is!

1759 November 7 (Wednesday). The Boys go to husking to t'other House. Mr. *Locks* Ordination at Sherbourn. May almighty Grace be given him in Christ Jesus. P.M. Mrs. Maynard comes and takes my wife with her to ride to Mr. Dunlops. When they were gone came Mrs. *Wood*, who waits on her Mother *Rice*, to see us. At Eve came Mr. Whitney and Mr. Zebulun Rice. The Bus'ness Seems to be, to persuade me not to think of asking the Precinct to make any Addition to my Support this year, notwithstanding that Meat, Grain, Labour etc. are so exceedingly advanced in their price.

1759 November 14 (Wednesday). I send a Letter to Cousen *Coarser* on the Death of her only sister, by Mr. Daniel Forbush's Wife. Alex spends the Chief of the Day in trying to get a Cart and Oxen to bring over the rest of my Corn from t'other House, but returns disappointed and Grieved. P.M. Capt. Wood and his Wife came and with them Dr. *Wilson* and his Wife and young Mr. *Barrett* and *his*.

1760 January 17 (Thursday). *Billy* returns to *Brookfield*. *Alex* goes with him to *Worcester* with my mare. Capt. Wood invites me and my wife to dine at his House with Mr. Barrett and Dr.

Wilson. We went. Dined well and pleasantly with those Gentlemen, and agree to Change with Mr. Barrett, Next Lords Day come sen' night.

1760 September 12 (Friday). Visit and pray with Mr. Williams. His Hand looks terribly.... Dr. Wilson has visited Neighbour Williams and thinks he will dye.

1760 September 15 (Monday). I visited Mr. Williams under his terrible Sore. N.B. *Seth Rice* being there I could not tarry long to any good purpose. P.M. I visited Abner Warrin who is Still lower, and there are Slender Hopes of him. Dr. Morse of Sutton, Dr. Willson and Dr. Crosby there together in Consultation; and conclude his Case next to Desperate.

1760 October 4 (Saturday). When I came home found my Wife ill, confined, and Dr. *Willson* with her. She had a great Cold, Cough and faintness. The Doctor took a Pint of Blood from her. N.B. hear that Mr. Fessenden is to preach at Shrewsbury tomorrow.

1760 October 10 (Friday). Dr. Wilson there and comes home with me to dine with me; my Wife is Still but weakly.

1760 November 6 (Thursday). Dr. Wilson of Hopkinton visits me. But I was forced to leave him to go to the Catechetical Exercise to Young Women.

1760 December 18 (Thursday). Though it was a Snow Storm Mr. Barrett and Dr. Willson came from Capt. Woods towards Eve to See me.

1761 January 15 (Thursday). P.M. Dr. Crosby visits my wife, troubled with Hemorrhoids and but faint. Dr. Wilson comes (from his visit to Abner Warrin) to See us.

1764 September 24 (Monday). Mr. John Woods little Polly being very ill I visited there and prayed and Dined there with Dr. Wilson and Mr. Bowen who studys Physic with him. They came here afterwards.

1765 January 29 (Tuesday). I laid hold of an Opportunity to ride with Mr. *Davidson* of Grafton, in his Sleigh to the Warrins -- especially to visit Timothy who has been very ill of late; but he was gone to Dr. Wilsons; and Jo. Joslin with him.

1765 February 22 (Friday). Visit Mr. *Ebenezer Brigham* again and pray with him. Many there. I conversed with him with much Fervency, and it seems to succeed in some Measure. D.G. Dr. *Ball* and *Fales* there, and Expect Dr. *Wilson* and *Dexter*: but it looks as if in vain.

1765 June 14 (Friday). Lucy has had a very poor Night and is very low this Morning. Vomits very much. I send for Dr. Hawes, who comes. He determines to consult Dr. Wilson to Day upon her Case; for he is to meet him at Ensign Snows.

1765 June 15 (Saturday). Lucy was Somewhat better yesterday p.m. and Slept pritty well the last Night, till about Break of Day -- but then grew very ill again; Vomits frequently this morning. Dr. Hawes again -- and She ceases to Vomit -- is revived when She gets up.

1765 September 9 (Monday). Mr. Barrett had come here, and Dr. Wilson with him.

1766 July 9 (Wednesday). My Wife and I had Dr. Hawe's Chair to Hopkinton to Visit Brother Barrett. Dine there. Cannot return home because of Mr. Barrett and his sons going to Dr. Wilsons Raising a new back part to his House. He induces me to go and I Sup there: but we lodge at Mr. Barretts.

1766 July 21 (Monday). My Daughter Sarah poorly. Miss Betty Gott here, and lodges.

1766 July 23 (Wednesday). Sarah much indispos'd.

1766 July 24 (Thursday). *Publick Thanksgiving for Repeal of the Stamp Act*. Preached on Ps. 124.6.7.8. Miss Betty Gott dined with us. N.B. Sarah so poorly, and *Suse* at Boston, Mrs. P _____ makes no great Provision.

1766 July 25 (Friday). Sarah droops more and more, So that we Send for Dr. Wilson, who comes -- dines here.

1766 August 2 (Saturday). N.B. Dr. Willson takes *Sarah*.

1766 August 7 (Thursday). I rode with *Sarah* to Dr. *Wilson*s, further to consult him upon her Case. We dined there.

1766 August 21 (Thursday). Got Mr. *Bakers* Chair for my Wife and Sarah to ride to Dr. *Wilson*, on the Account of *Sarah*'s Breast. At Eve Mrs. P. returns -- informs that Sarahs Breast has broke, and the Doctor has lanced it also. She is left to board at Capt. *Clarks*.

1766 September 7 (Sunday). Mr. Cushing and Mrs. Maynard dined here: as did Dr. Wilson and Jos. Joslin who Visits Sarah, and opens her Breast again.

1766 September 21 (Sunday). I preached at *Hopkinton*.... At Eve I rode to Capt. *Clarks* to see my Daughter, who grows better (through the Goodness of God), called at Dr. *Wilson*s, and came home.

1767 October 21 (Wednesday). Dr. *Wilson* dined with us. N.B. I last night paid him 4 Dollars.

1767 December 10 (Thursday). Mrs. Mor[se?] sends for me to visit her Child that is Sick of the Throat Distemper. Went -- dined there -- the Doctors, *Wilson* and *Hawes* there. We prayed together, the Child being very ill. The Father is gone to *Marblehead*. No body moves for a *Fast*. I therefore spent the chief part of the Day in Exercises of Humiliation and supplication since we are under such awful Tokens of the divine Displeasure, both by the Mortal sickness and the grievous Dissentions among us. O that we might have some proper Awakening sense of our sins and of Gods holy Judgment!

1769 March 23 (Thursday). Rode to Hopkinton by Mr. Bradish's to See his Aged mother -- at Mr. Belknaps. Went to Dr. Wilsons to pay him. I owed him according to his account 20£. He took 15£ and gave me Receipt in full.

1770 July 10 (Tuesday). P.M. we rode to Hopkinton. Called to see Dr. Wilson.

1770 December 19 (Wednesday). Rode to Mr. Ithamar Bellows to See him and his Wife in their Lameness and Confinement. Find her very bad with her Leg. Doctors Wilson and Hawes there. We all dined there.

1771 January 12 (Saturday). Was called away to visit Mr. *Jabez Snow* junior who is in a Dangerous sickness. Went with Mr. *Abraham Beeman* there. Dr. *Wilson* has the Care of him, and gives me account of him. (N.B. Mr. *Stone* was sent for last-night, at midnight, and came.) I dined with them. Prayed with the sick man.

1771 February 21 (Thursday). At Deacon Woods. See there Doctor Wilson, Dr. Joslyn and others.

1771 July 1 (Monday). I rode to Mr. *Snow's* to see his Wife who is very low -- being in great Distress with her Throat -- scarce able to swallow the thinnest Liquid. Prayed with them. Dr. Wilson, Hawes, Joslin came, and they expect Dr. Flynt.

1771 October 23 (Wednesday). I went from Capt. Clarks to Dr. Wilsons, and So from thence to Mr. Stone's to attend the Funeral of his Daughter.

1772 April 8 (Wednesday). Lieut. Baker and I p.m. rode over to Lieut. *Martyn*, he being brought very low; consuming away. Dr. *Wilson, Ball*, Joslyn etc. there in Consultation.

1772 July 14 (Tuesday). Sat out early for Cambridge. Breakfast at Coll. *Buckminsters*. Am informed that Miss *Henrietta Overing* at Dr. Wilsons, Hopkinton, was lately married to Mr. [blank] Jones and is brought to bed of 2 Children.†

1772 December 15 (Tuesday). My dear Brother, the Rev. Mr. *Samuel Barrett*, was interred. He finished his 72d year the Day before he expired.... I committed a Paper to Capt. *Samuel Barrett* of *Boston*, containing some Account and Character of the Deceased -- having first read it to the Ministers, Dr. Wilson and Mr. Samuel Barrett of Boston.

1773 June 29 (Tuesday). Rode to *Hopkinton* through our East Corner. Called at a Number of the Houses. *Bellows* (new married), *Baker, Belknap*. Thence to Dr. *Wilson*s -- but my principal Design (as to visiting) was to Capt. *Clarks*, who had lately lost his Wife.

1775 May 10 (Wednesday). *William Bradford*, my Young Kinsman, came from Dr. *Willsons* of *Hopkinton*, having come from *Boston* last Saturday on Foot with Capt. *John Tyler* of *Boston*

†Edward Jones of Providence int. Henneritta Overing, May 6, 1772; Hopkinton VR, 309.

1775 June 18 (Sunday). My son *John* was so weak and low that *Breck* went for Dr. *Willson*, who came, and Dr. *Hawes* consulted with him. Dr. W. dines here. We have asked public Prayers to Day; May it please God to hear and grant a gracious Answer!

1776 July 14 (Sunday). Early (having the widow *Hills* Horse), I rode to *Hopkinton*.... After Meeting visit Dr. *Wilson* who is very ill. Seems partly delirious. Prayed with him. Fear he will not continue.