

## Rev. William Cook(e) (1696-1760) of Wayland (East Sudbury)

Harvard 1716.

1726 April 12 (Tuesday). I rode down to Association at Marlborough. Present, Mr. Swift, Mr. Breck, Mr. Prentice, Mr. Loring, Mr. McKinstry, Mr. Cushing, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Cook, Mr. Barrett, Mr. Burr and myself. Mr. Swift opened the Association with prayer, and Mr. Thomas McKinstry proposed a Matter between himself and one of his parish, in which he requested our Sentiments and advice concerning the best Manner of Managing it. He had preach'd a Sermon from these words in Eph. 5.20: "Giving Thanks alwayes for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." In which Sermon he maintained that we ought to give Thanks to God not only for Prosperous but Even Adverse Dispensations. One Putnam (and Sundry others Combining) had been Set Against, and Still manifested uneasiness at Such Doctrine and this man was Resolute to make a stir about it. He had alwayes been Discontented with Mr. McKinstry but now Charges him as inorthodox. We therefore wrote a brief Declaration according to Mr. McKinstrys Request in This Wise. Application being made to us the Subscribers, conven'd at Marlborough April 12, 1726, by the Reverend Mr. John McKinstry, Setting forth that he had delivered certain Doctrine as follows, viz., that the Children of God ought to give thanks to God at all Times for all his Providence to us, Whether they be prosperous or Afflictive, and the Doctrine was Dissatisfactory to some of his Brethren. Our Opinion hereupon being Desired we freely Declare that we judge said Doctrine to be agreeable to the Sacred Scriptures and Sentiments of the most Judicious Expositions of Orthodox Divines. Sign'd by Ebenezer Parkman, John Swift, Robert Breck, John Prentice, Israel Loring, Job Cushing, John Gardner, William Cook. Having din'd, Mr. Axtil of Marlborough Desir'd advice of the Association in his Case, who for irregular Behaviour and Discourse with respect to one Tabitha Rice (who had laid a Child to his son), and the Church, likewise in Managing the Affair, was suspended. But his Infirmity of understanding rendered him incapable of the plainest Counsell and Direction which from Everyone given him. Mr. Cook also Proposed a Cause between Two of his Parish who were uneasy with one another in a Bargain they had made about some Land. But some other Business Engaging me I took little notice of it, Seeing it was not in my Power to advantage it any manner of way. Association Breaking up, I rode with Mr. Barrett as far as Mr. Eagers of the Town where my Horse broke, but Lighting upon Mr. McCollisters Son upon a Horse I rode home. My Beast was Safe at my own Barn. Brothers Champney and Hicks were to see us.

1726 July 4 (Monday). I rode away to Mr. Brecks, who acquainted me with what was done last association. Especially referring to Mr. McKinstrys Cause, and Mr. Barretts with Mr. How. Thence I rode to Mr. Woods. Thence to Mr. Cooks where I din'd on fry'd Pigeons.

1726 September 13 (Tuesday). I rose very Early, sometime before Day, and more than 1/4 before sunrise was mounted on my horse and rode to Shrewsbury. With Mr. Cushing I went to Lancaster where Ministers were Associated. Several persons were here besides the members: Mr. Andrew Gardner, Mr. Cook, Mr. Trowbridge, Mr. Frink, Brintnall, Samuel Willard, etc. What was of greatest moment that I remember was advice to Mr. McKinstry concerning the Management of his Cause.

1726 October 25 (Tuesday). I rode to Marlborough, it being Ministers Meeting.... I rode with Mr. Cook and Mr. Frink and Sister Hicks to Sudbury. I lodg'd at Mr. Cook's.

1736 April 5 (Monday). Mr. Cook of Sudbury has lost Two Children by the Mortal sickness and divers others of his Children are sick,<sup>1</sup> but in an hopeful way.

1736 June 11 (Friday). I was at Madam Brecks Funeral. As I was going came in Mr. Baxter, of Medfield, Mr. Peabody, and Capt. Buckminster from the Ordination of Mr. Bridgham of Brimfield. I dined at Coll. Woods's with Mr. Prentice, Mr. Loring, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Cook, Barrett, Stone and Frink. Pall-Bearers were Messrs. Swift, Prentice, Loring, Cushing, Gardner, Cook, who were the Six Eldest Ministers; Corps Bearers were Deacons and Principal Persons of the Church. All the ministers had Gloves and were invited back to the House after Burying. I return'd at Eve.

1739 March 1 (Thursday). Rode over to Cambridge and to College.... Stop'd by Mr. William Williams about Harvard affair, and by Brother Breck in Sudbury. Visited Mr. Cook and his Kinsman<sup>2</sup> who has receiv'd a renewed call to Marlborough.

1739 August 21 (Tuesday). Finding myself Still better I undertook my Journey [to Boston]. Stopp'd a while at Mr. Amsdens, at Mr. David Hows, at Mr. Cooks, at Dr. Robys, at Woolsons from where I had Captain Samuel Chandler's (of Woodstock) Company -- and at Mr. Benjamins at Waterton.

1739 August 24 (Friday). On my Journey I met with Captain Samuel Chandler according to Appointment at Captain Saltmarshes. We call'd at Mr. Warham Williams's at Waltham. We din'd at Mr. Woolsons, Call'd at Mr. Cook's -- and at Marlborough. Made it late home.

1744 August 14 (Tuesday). See Association Records for Mr. Barretts Concio on 2 Cor. 5.20 etc. N.B. Mr. Gardner an Excellent prayer in the Evening with the Family. N.B. Mr. Cook came among us. Mr. Smith rode my mare to Mr. Cooks.

1744 October 9 (Tuesday). My Wife and I with our little son William rode to Sudbury in Madam Sartels Chaise. We got down about 12. It was the Time of the Ministers Meeting at Mr. Cooks.

1744 October 16 (Tuesday). Din'd at Brother Parkman's.... But as to the Affair of Westborough Petitioners, there is little room for me to Say any Thing because our People are grown so jealous that there is my Design in being at Boston so much at this Time, viz. that I may undermine them etc. -- whereas this journey was appointed on Occasion of the Ministers Meeting at Mr. Cooks.

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<sup>1</sup>Neither the Sudbury Vital Records nor the Wayland Vital Records record the deaths. The Sudbury Vital Records list four children of William and Jane (Sewall) Cooke (m. Mar. 20, 1723): Jane, b. Jan. 26, 1724; Margaret, b. Sept. 7, 1725; William, Sept. 6, 1727; and Katherin, b. Feb. 6, 1734, all of whom married. The gap between the births of William and Katherin suggests unrecorded births.

<sup>2</sup>Samuel Cooke, later minister at Arlington, Mass.

1745 January 22 (Tuesday). At the Request of Mr. Loring, Mr. Cook and Mr. Smith, divers ministers were to Meet at Marlborough in order to draw up and publish a Testimony against Mr. Whitefield.

1745 April 26 (Friday). Mr. Cushing came to my House with whom and Mr. Stone I (on Mr. Pratts Horse) rode to Framingham to the Funeral of Reverend Mr. Swift. The Coffin not being ready we waited till 6 o'Clock before the Corps mov'd. Mr. Loring, Mr. Cushing, Mr. Gardner and Mr. Cook, Mr. Stone and I were Pall Bearers.

1745 June 11 (Tuesday). I rode to Boston by the Way of Captain Barnards of Marlborough, to Association. The following were present. Messrs. John Prentice, Loring, Cushing, Cook, Barrett, Stone, Seccomb, Smith, Goss, Marsh, Morse, Millen; and Mr. Buckminster was voted in.

1745 June 12 (Wednesday). Mr. Cook preach'd the Public Lecture upon Amos 8.11.

1745 October 19 (Saturday). Return'd to Westborough. Din'd at Mr. Cooks at Sudbury, where was also Mr. Marsh of College.

1746 February 19 (Wednesday). I rode to the Ordination of Mr. Matthew Bridge at Framingham.... Mr. Cook of Sudbury pray'd.

1746 April 5 (Saturday). Return'd home. N.B. din'd at Mr. Patersons at Sudbury. Mr. Cook's wife very low -- thought to be in a Consumption. The Lord prepare her for his holy Will!

1747 October 24 (Saturday). It rained, yet I set out determining to ride as I could bear and as the storm Should permitt, though it were no further than the Next Town.... Din'd at Mr. Cooks in Sudbury -- called at Mr. Darlings and reached home in some Comfort....

1749 June 21 (Wednesday). I rode to Sudbury to Association Fast. But few there. Only Mr. Stone, Mr. Smith and Mr. Davis. Afterwards came Mr. Garder. Not even Mr. Cook there.

1751 March 28 (Thursday). Din'd at Dr. Chauncy's, where also din'd Judge Sewall, Mr. Cook of Sudbury and Mr. Peabody of Roxbury.

1760 June 17 (Tuesday). I went to ministers Meeting at Shrewsbury -- which was but thin. Messrs. *Barret*, Martyn, Stone, Smith and Morse being absent. But Mr. Loring there. He wanted Advice concerning his Changing with Mr. Eliab Stone, a Young Gentleman who keeps school in Sudbury and preaches for Mr. Cook -- but he has not been examined.

1760 November 13 (Thursday). When I came home heard the News of Mr. Cooks, of Sudbury, Death. Alas! How frequently these Breaches occur! May I take the Solemn Warning and Stand ready!

1760 November 17 (Monday). Had many Thoughts of going to *Sudbury*, to Mr. Cooks Funeral, but It is far down upon the Road to Boston, whither I ought to go if I had Money -- but am not furnished; neither have I any Horse. There are many Ministers nigher (I Suppose 15). I am not

sent for, So that it can't be a Disappointment nor is there need of Me. However, it proves too difficult Weather, Snow storm, for me to turn out and therefore I must discharge what Duty I can at Home.