

Breck, Robert (1682-1731)

Breck, Robert: "In Honour of my worthy and Reverend Father in Law and excellent Friend I call'd him Breck," Jan. 29, 1749. 1682-1731. HC 1700; SHG 4:515-18

Loring, Israel. *Ministers must certainly and shortly die. A sermon preached at Marlborough, Feb. 7. 1730/31. (Since a little enlarg'd.) Occasioned by the death of the Reverend and learned Mr. Robert Breck, late Pastor of the Church of Christ there; who expired Jan. 6. 1730/31. In the 49th year of his age.*

1723 August 14 (Wednesday). We reach'd Marlborough at the Close of the Day. We met with Mr. Breck in the Street. He asked me into his house and to Lodge with him, but that would obstruct our getting down Time enough for Lecture the next Day. We Thank'd him for his Expressions of Kindness, remounted and rode along for Sudbury. It was too late to gain the Town.

1724 January 1 (Wednesday). To Day it was very Stormy or I should have (according to appointment) visited Mr. Breck.

1724 January 2 (Thursday). Fair Pleasant Weather invited me to Visit Mr. Breck. I rode my Landlords horse. The Conversation was very instructing and very Pleasant. We Sat up very late discoursing of many Things miscellaneously. I read Edifying Letters of the Jesuits, Missioners to the East Indies; after I was a bed.

1724 January 3 (Friday). Mr. Breck oblig'd me to offer the morning Sacrifice. After Sundry Colloquys we took a Walk to Merchant Woods'. I borrow'd the Spectator of him (volume 9). I din'd at Mr. Breck's. After a Dinner, a Pipe, and Some Discourse, of Mr. Ickyl's Seat at Stow, of Westborough, etc., I repair'd home.

1724 January 10 (Friday). In the Morning I rode to Marlborough. After Dinner (upon Roast Beef) with Mr. Breck, and our Concerting Measures upon Changing, Mr. Breck rode away for Westborough.

1724 January 11 [?] (Sunday). I preach'd all Day at Marlborough from 1 Sam. 16.7. In the Evening Mr. Breck returned.

1724 January 12 (Monday). In the Forenoon Mr. Breck and I rode to Stow to Mr. Gardners and over to See Mr. Ickyls Seat. We arrived again at Marlborough about Seven, Evening.

1724 August 13 (Thursday). I rode to Marlborough Lecture. Mr. Cushing preach'd. After Lecture Mr. Gardiner of Stow came to Mr. Brecks.

1724 August 21 (Friday). I stopt at Merchant Woods at Marlborough. He walked with me to Mr. Brecks. Mr. Breck I found ill. I lodged here. Early to Westborough in the morning (22) to prepare for the Sabbath.

1724 August 25 (Tuesday). I rode Early in the Morn to Marlborough. Mr. Breck ill yet.

1724 October 2 (Friday). I came up to Westborough. I din'd at Mr. Williams' (Weston). I asked him to preach my Ordination Sermon. He made Some Provisos. I left him now by 3/4 past 3, But got up to Mr. Brecks by Daylight in. He was very ill. He invited me to tarry with him tonight, but I had appointed to meet our Church at my Lodging and therefore left him.... I got a very bad Cold and Sore Throat, But

1724 October 6 (Tuesday). I had my Landlords Horse to Ride to Marlboro to See Mr. Breck. I acquainted him with our Management and with Mr. Rice and his Concern, etc. Mr. Breck said he did not Expect that he should be with us, however he had no thought of any such thing as Excepting against Mr. Rice.

1724 October 12 (Monday). I return'd to Westborough. Mrs. Wood at her house discours'd about Some Methods for the people in their provision for Ordination. In the Evening came a Committee to treat with my Landlord about providing, etc. There was much Caring about bringing up my Goods. Memorandum. I formed Letters (by the Towns Desire) to be Sent to Severall Churches, (viz. Boston to Mr. Webb, Framingham Mr. Swift, Marlborough Mr. Breck, Lancaster Mr. Prentice and (a Letter from myself to ask him to preach), Sudbury Mr. Loring, and Mendon Mr. Dorr). These were drawn up on the 9th Day.

1724 October 28 (Wednesday). This was truly the Greatest Day I ever Yet Saw -- The Day of my Solemn Separation to the Work of the Gospel Ministry and my Ordination to the Pastorate in Westborough. The Solemnity came on and proceeded in the manner following. In Order to the gathering the Church, a Covenant was prepar'd before hand; read, and consider'd by the Candidates for Membership, and was Sign'd. N.B. An Ecclesiastical Council was form'd, and they having got all Things ready (as they apprehended) proceeded to the Meeting House. N.B. Reverend Mr. Swift was Sent to, but he was detain'd by Sickness in his Family. Nevertheless the Church sent two Delegates, viz. Colonel Buckminster and Captain Goddard. Reverend Mr. Breck was also Sent to, but he was himself so ill (of the Strangury) that he could not attend. Those ministers being Absent, the Council, with Consent, Admitted and requested Reverend Mr. Williams of Weston to Assist. Being come to the House of God, the Reverend Mr. Dorr of Mendon open'd the Solemnity with Prayer. The Reverend Mr. Prentice of Lancaster preach'd a Suitable Sermon from 2 Cor. 12.15. Afterwards The Reverend Mr. Williams of Weston aforesaid pray'd and gather'd the Church. There were 12 besides the Pastor Elect, who sign'd the Covenant and answered to their Names in the Assembly. The Reverend Mr. Prentice gave the Solemn Charge. The Reverend Mr. Loring of Sudbury the Right Hand of Fellowship. The Ordain'd appointed the Psalm (part of the 68th) and gave the Blessing. I wish Every Day throughout my Life, may bear a Suitable proportion to this Day! That I may be Strong in the Grace which is in Christ Jesus, and that I may grow then into the Glory of God and the Edification of His Church! Amen!

1726 February 14 (Monday). I rode to Marlborough to Mr. Brecks. We walk'd to Mr. Woods. I paid up my account with Mr. Woods. We went into Mr. Amsdens and Mr. Thomas came in. My Full purpose was to return home, but Mr. Breck was so very Urgent with me, Since I had not been there for the Space of 3 months, that I tarried there all night.

1726 February 15 (Tuesday). After Dinner Mr. Breck appointed to go to his Daughters with me. I went to Mr. Edward Rice's Shop and there, taking leave of Mr. Breck, I rode to Williams's To see Mrs. Williams....

1726 March 7 (Monday). Mr. Cushing came in the morning to Me. We went over to Mr. Keyes's, where we had a strange Report about Mr. Breck's going to Merchant Wood's.

1726 March 8 (Tuesday). Mr. Williams of Marlborough here to ask me to preach Mr. Brecks Lecture next Thursday.

1726 March 10 (Thursday). This morning, though not very good weather, I went to Marlborough to Lecture, But Mr. Cushing both pray'd and preach'd notwithstanding I was sent to, for I was not very well and I was glad I could persuade him. His Text was Mat. 11.12. We went down to Mr. Woods and it became very Stormy and rain'd hard. Mr. Thomas was with us with many of his diverting amusements and adventures in London. Mr. Woods presented me a Girdle. Mr. Cushing Lodg'd with me at Mr. Brecks.

1726 March 11 (Friday). Captain Brigham came in and gave us all an Invitation to Dinner with his Troop the last Tuesday of this Month. When we had din'd we left Mr. Brecks.

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..

1726 May 3 (Tuesday). Mr. Breck came to see me. Robert plough'd again till towards night, when (after I had been with Mr. Breck to Mr. S. Maynards) I rode with Mr. Breck to Shrewsbury where we lodg'd.

1726 May 4 (Wednesday). We walk'd to Mr. Cushing's house and thence to Mr. Smith's (who kept our Horses last night) where we [were] decently Entertained. We returned to Mr. Wards to Dinner after which Both Mr. Breck and Mr. Cushing rode with Me to My house at Westborough. They parted a little before night.

1726 May 16 (Monday). Robert Went to Work at Mr. Oliver Wards, whose Mother, Record Ward was this Day Buried. I was at the funerall all 4[?] p.m., and then My Wife and Child I carried with me to Mr. Brecks Who we found was not Well, and did not go to Meeting yesterday in the Afternoon. We lodged here.

1726 May 27 (Friday). Call'd at My Wive's uncle Champagne's and Every now and then Stopt in the Road to fix the Child. We parted at Livermores, where Mr. Breck, Mr. Woods and Rasto call'd us, and we rode (after Severall Hesitations for Mr. Breck and on account of the Child) to David Hows where we tarry'd Several Hours. Notwithstanding (coming by the Farms in Marlborough) we reach'd home before Day Light in.

1726 July 4 (Monday). I rode away to Mr. Brecks, who acquainted me with what was done last association. Especially referring to Mr. McKinstry's Cause, and Mr. Barretts with Mr. How.

1726 July 6 (Wednesday). Commencement.... I was desir'd by Mr. Barrett to Meet here with our Association upon Mr. McKinstry's Cause, But no body came. Mr. Breck led me to Sir Saltonstalls Chamber where there being little Company I had most Quiet. It was a very rainy Time which kept the Town full of People, full of Jollitys and no one knows what.

1726 August 5 (Friday). Leaving Sister Ruth very ill I rode as far as Captain Brintnalls where I waited for his Son some time, but not coming I hasted to Marlborough. I din'd at Mr. Woods. Was at Mr. Brecks -- for there was no little need of Resting, it was so exceeding hot. Thence (Gladly) home.

1726 August 21 (Sunday). Many Marlborough people, Mr. Breck I concluded to be absent.

1726 October 11 (Tuesday). Mr. Breck and Two of his Deacons (Rice and Keyes) came to our House. Mr. Breck lodg'd with us.

1726 October 12 (Wednesday). I rode with Mr. Breck to Sutton where was form'd an Ecclesiasticall Council by the Desire of Mr. McKinstry, the Pastor of the Church of Sutton and the aggriev'd Part of the Town and Church upon occasion of their Differences. The Council consisted of 7 Churches, viz., Framingham, Marlborough, Lancaster, West and East

Sudbury, Weston and Shrewsbury, The Pastors and Delegates. The Reverend Mr. Swift of Framingham, Moderator; The Reverend Mr. Prentice of Lancaster, Clerk. The Public Hearing Lasted for this Day till nine at night. Ministers were Entertain'd and lodg'd at Mr. McKinstry; the Delegates in the Town.

1726 November 14 (Monday). I rode to Marlborough. I met Mr. Cushing a little before we Came to Mr. Brecks. We were Disappointed in our Visit to Mr. Breck, He being gone to Boston.

1726 November 27 (Sunday). We were Inform'd that Mr. Breck Yesterday buried his Youngest Child. It dy'd very Suddenly.

1726 December 7 (Wednesday). From hence I rode to Marlborough. I went down to Mr. John How's (who I heard had my Heiffer) first with Two Young Men, Nathaniel Oak and Joshua Goardin, and then with Mr. Ward (who had kept the Creature all Summer and winter Last) to prove it mine, if they were able to give Testimony. They said (upon Seeing her) that they were not only able but ready, if call'd thereto, to give oath it was mine. But these all not satisfying Mr. How we went over to Mr. Woods and Chose him and Mr. Jedediah Brigham to Determine between us. Upon hearing us it fell with full Consent to me and I gave Mr. How 10 Shillings for keeping her. After this (it being Somewhat after nine o'Clock) I went to Mr. Brecks where I Lodg'd.

1726 December 8 (Thursday). Mr. Breck walked with me to Mr. Woods's. Here was Old Mr. How of Hopkinton who told over the Manner and Methods of Mr. Barretts coming into Hopkinton and Settling there. Mr. Woods went up with us to Mr. Brecks where we din'd upon a Turkey. When Near night I came away, but meeting Mr. Jacob Amsden I went in with him into his Father Behmans, and thence I came home with Mr. Amsden.

1726 December 20 (Tuesday). Mr. Breck sent home my Political State 12 volumes, and a Pamphlet, by his son Mr. Robert and young Rice of College.

1727 January 31 (Tuesday). I rode to the South part of Marlborough (call'd Stony Brook) to Dr. Bellus's, to see Mr. Willard, and here was his Kinsman that had been up with me. I tarried here till near night and then rode up to Mr. Brecks.

1727 February 1 (Wednesday). Mr. Willard and his Kinsman, the Chearful Captain came while we were at an Excellent Dinner on Roast Turkey, etc., at Mr. Brecks. Near Sundown I was very Eager and Earnest to come home. Mr. Breck urged Exceedingly to stay but I resisted his most pressing Importunity and took my leave. I mounted and my Business leading Me down to Mr. Woods's, Messrs. Willards would walk thither. Mr. Wood treated us handsomely and we all Sang the more chearfully. Here I rose up not a few times to return home but Captain Willard hung upon Me and would by no means let me have my way. Mr. Jonathan How (the Tavern keeper) came up from Boston while we were at Mr. Woods's and having several Haddock I bought one for my Wife; and we returned to Mr. Brecks, where We had Sad and Melancholly News of a Young Man Mr. Simon Bradstreet that last friday fell down very suddenly on Mr. Greenwoods wharf at Boston and next

morning dyed. The News Letter had given an account of the very Surprizing and most Sudden Death of Mr. Samuell Hirst A.M. of Harvard College, who not long Since fell down Dead on the long wharf at Boston, being in perfect Health (to appearance) the moment before. And one Lewis Sometime publisher of the Boston Gazette, the same afternoon was taken with an Apoplectick fit and dy'd in Two Hours. O that I may also be ready, and that all Young Persons might fear and prepare, Since So many die in full strength, etc., to Demonstrate to us that in an hour that we think not our Lord cometh! I lodged at Mr. Brecks tonight also.

1727 February 2 (Thursday). In the morning Jonathan How came and invited us to a fish dinner. Accordingly we all went up to his house and Din'd with him on Haddock. Here his Brother Hezekiah of Westborough happen'd very Lukily, whom I implor'd to carry home my Fish and some necessarys. When we came from Mr. Hows, we parted with Mr. Breck and rode to Mr. William Jonson's and thence up to my house....

1727 March 7 (Tuesday). In the morning I rode to Marlborough. Din'd at Mr. Woods (with Deacon Wilder). I went with Mr. Breck to his house and (it storming hard) I remained here all night.

1727 March 8 (Wednesday). The storm continued, but yet after dinner I removed. Mr. Breck went with me to his Son Williams (his daughters lately lying in). Thence I returned home.

1727 April 21 (Friday). Sometime after Sun down Lieutenant Forbush came and requested me to go down to See his Wife who they thought was drawing near her End and wanted to See Me. I went down. When I Entered I Said Mrs. Forbush I am Sorry to See you So ill; I am come at your Desire; which way can I become the most Serviceable to you?...

However, upon some account or other it Seems Old Mr. Forbush is displeas'd and though at the most awfull time when every thought was profoundly Serious and solemn Yet he thinks fit to [*illegible*] upon us in a sad passionate manner upon the last Sentence, spoken thus. Sir, We are grown folks.... Mr. Forbush, I am astonish'd at such an interruption at such a season, when I come upon my Commission and Charge to minister in the name of God to a Servant of his ready to leave to world, etc., etc. Says he, If I had been in your place I would not have asked Such Questions. I reply'd in defence of them. He Said Mr. Breck would not ask Such. I answer'd I was not now to enquire what Mr. Breck would ask, but I was able to affirm that the most Learned, the most pious and the most Judicious ministers would.

1727 May 16 (Tuesday). I went down to Marlborough. I acquaint Mr. Breck with my trouble with Mr. Forbush. He said though he was known to be the plainest and bluntest Man, yet he wondered at his extream Ignorance, unguardedness, etc.

1727 May 29 (Monday). Early in the morning I rode to Mr. Brecks upon my Journey to Boston, but the weather being various he detain'd me till after dinner when I left him

1727 June 2 (Friday). I din'd at Father Champneys. At Mr. Learned's was Mr. Cheney of Brookfield and his wife; and thither came Breck from College. We all rode up within the bounds of Marlborough together where I parted from my Company. I got home seasonably.

1728 January 30 (Tuesday). I rode to Mr. Behmans, and thence (with Mr. Wheeler) to Marlborough. At Mr. Williams, Mr. Breck was, and immediately asked me whether I had heard the Earthquake about 3/4 of an hour before (it being then after Two o'clock). I had not heard anything of it. It was heard and felt also by most persons. The Sound was great, and, with many, a shake was distinctly perceiv'd. Some were ready to say that it was heard every day for 4 or 5 days last past. Unto the Lord from whom cometh our help. I had something of Difficulty in my trading with Mr. Williams. I lodg'd at Mr. Brecks. We discours'd upon the Signs of the Times. We rode to Mr. Woods. A wedding was Solemnized at Mr. Brecks. Samuel Eday was joined to Elizabeth Bellows. I was compell'd to bear Some part.

1728 March 25 (Monday). Mr. Coolidge and I rode to Marlborough.... I lodg'd at Mr. Brecks. I took advice of Mr. Breck touching our Affairs at Westborough.

1728 September 4 (Wednesday). This morning after breakfast we rode from Colonel Buckminsters to Marlborough and din'd at Mr. Woods. Thence Mr. Weld and I went first to Mr. Brecks door but he being gone to the foresaid council we went with Mr. Park to his Lodgings. With Mr. Park there was Sir Kent, Schoolmaster at Framingham. Near Sunset we parted and I Came home.

1729 April 15. About five months agoe I set down some account of the more remarkable Mercies of God to Me in the Course of His Providence in and Since that my memorable dangerous Sickness when I was a Young School Boy; Having made Some (though I confess very imperfect) Record of what went before, in a little Book bearing Date August 24, 1719, and Several other Dates from thence, but in a great deal of Confusion, and with too many other marks of my puerility, when I Scribbl'd them however honest and upright my intention was to have Some Remembrances of those (to me) important Things by me; Having of late experienc'd So much of the divine Goodness as gives me new and the greatest Reason forever to esteem and admire the various Expressions thereof to me, and every way to manifest my greatfull Returns to my unspeakable Benefactor for what He has, in infinite Tenderness done for Me, I have here transcrib'd a Sort of Catalogue or Memorandum of those abovesaid Mercies to God to Me, have carry'd it along with what I have received Since.

Divine Benignity and Providence

32. February 17, 1729/30. In my great Weakness, the Reverend Mr. Campbell of Oxford visited me, and persuaded me to ride. We rode to Marlborough and then proceeded to Cambridge. My Wife also went with me but it was, above all, a kind and merciful God who sustain'd me. The Glory to His Name! The 19th Day was Fast at Westborough on my account.

N.B. The affectionate Regard which the Reverend Mr. Breck show'd me in the Exercises at the Fast which was kept at Westborough on the foresaid occasion: in particular in his Sermon which was from that Text Phil. 2.27. "For indeed he was sick" etc. Reverend Cushing also assisted in the Fast.

1730 February 19. This Day was observed at Westborough in a Religious manner with Fasting and Prayer on the account of my remaining Infirmities. The Reverend Mr. Breck and the Reverend Mr. Cushing managed the Exercises. The former preach'd from those words in the Epistle to the Philippians 2.27, For indeed he was Sick, etc. I was my Self at Cambridge and Endeavour'd to hold Communion with them. How I employ'd my Self in hinted in the Minutes in Loose Papers. O that God would hear and forgive and Do, for his own name's Sake.