

## Dysentery

1757 January 1 (Saturday). I was So closely engaged in my preparations for the Sabbath approaching (this being Saturday) that I had not Opportunity to employ my Self as I had desired and purposed. My many, unavoidable and pressing Cares which my Numerous Family oblige me to, having very much prevented (but neither can I clear my Self of the Charge of Sloth and Negligence) my preparing my Sermons in the Earlyer part of the Week. Nevertheless I endeavoured in enlarged Devotions, and in divers parts of the Day, gratefully to acknowledge the unmerited Goodness of God to Me, as throughout my Life in general, So in the Course of the Last Year in Special to Me, to my Family, and to my People. How wondrous the Sparing Mercy of God to me and Mine in a peculiar Manner in the Times of great Distress in the Summer; and afterwards so sore Visitation by the wasting Sickness! I would therefore praise the Name of God for His undeserved Favour to *Me Personally* in sustaining me under and recovering Me from the Sore sickness, I was my Self Exercised by; viz. *Fever, Jaundice* and *Rheumatism*: And for His distinguishing Lenity to *my Family* that So few of them had the Dysentery; and that those who had it, yet were Supported and carried through it; And though that awful Distemper did So sorrowfully rage amongst us in this Parish for a While, and carried off many of the Flock, yet that in the Middst of wrath the Lord was pleased to remember Mercy, and has Spared and restored So many! O may God grant that we maybe truely humble, Penitant, thankful, Circumspect and faithful! And now since He has been pleased to grant that a New Year Commences, may I, may we all, have Grace to Live to the Glory of our Adorable Healer and Preserver! May All the Events before me, whether my Appointed Time be longer or shorter, be under the Ordering of infinite Wisdom and May I and Mine be ever Prepared for the whole Will of God! I desire ever to repose my self in Him!

1775 September 19 (Tuesday). I went to Ministers Meeting at *Marlborough*. I was chose Moderator and prayed. The Conversation was upon the General Distresses, viz. by the Warr, and by the terrible *Dysentery*. N.B. In *Marlborough* Four have been buried in a Day; three times this has occurred, and nineteen have been buried in a week. The Ministers were agreed to recommend our keeping Fasts in our respective Parishes.

1775 September 26 (Tuesday). *Johns* Chest was brought by Mr. *Phelps* from *Lancaster*. I rode up to Mr. *William Nurse's*, to see his Daughter *Zerviah* who has the *Dysentery* -- prayed there.

1775 October 8 (Sunday). After the Exercises Capt. *Maynard* acquainted me with the very sorrowful Tidings of the Death of the Reverend Mr. *Amos Adams* of *Roxbury*; that he dyed at *Dorchester* last Thursday, of the *Dysentery*; and was buried yesterday. I how the righteous Perish from the Earth! Are taken away from the Evil to come! May God pity us! the mournful Widow -- -- Parents, Children -- Brothers and Sisters -- and in special my Daughter [i.e., daughter-in-law, William's wife] *Lydia*. O how grievous this [Breach?] to the Flock he used to feed, now doubly distressed and Scattered!!!

1775 October 18 (Wednesday). I visit also Mr. *Joshua Hicks* whose Affliction has been very great by the late sickness -- he, his Wife, and all their Children, being 8 of them were Sick of the

Dysentery, and at a time. Six of their Children dyed: and Mrs. Hicks was still feeble and weak. May God be praised that any were saved! May His holy Dispensation[s?] be so Sanctified to them that they may have Cause, and an Heart to bless His Name.

1776 July 4 (Thursday). I rode up to Mr. *Joseph Harringtons* to see his Child, and prayed with her. She has the Dysentery.

1776 September 23 (Monday). Send a Letter per Mr. *John Beeton* to my son *Alexander* at *Chelsea, New York*. Received one this same forenoon from Him at *Chelsea*, in which he informs that he has been sick 3 weeks of the Dysentery; but is better.

1777 March 16 (Sunday). In the morning came Mr. *Elijah Hardy* and informs that Since Day light his Brother *Constantine* dyed -- but it was by means of the *Dysentery* setting in with the *Small Pox*. Another, and very worthy, member of this Church hereby taken away from us! Help, Lord!

1777 September 30 (Tuesday). Visit Capt. *Benjamin Fay* who is very ill of Fever, Dysentery and Gravel. Discoursed and pray'd with him.

1778 October 19 (Monday). Rode the *Stoneham* Horse to Mr. *Gleasons*, his Wife being Sick (a Dysentery).

1778 November 6 (Friday). Toward night (being earnestly sent for) I went to see Mrs. Sarah (wife of Mr. Ebenezer Maynard) who was very ill of Dysentery etc. Prayed with her and the Family.