

Measles

August 1719 Cambridge, 1719 August 24. Blessed be the name of the Lord that I am Continued unto this very Day. Nevertheless all my Backslidings from his Testimonies are commissions of So many great and heinous Sins as I have been guilty of. The Mercy of God is Still lengthened out unto me and I receive the favours of life and Health and as I hope enjoy the day of Grace and Opportunity of getting good for My Immortall Soul....

And October in the Year 1714 I was visited with a Low fit of Sickness beginning with a fever and attended with the Meazells, and after that with great weakness and Infirmities as also great pain, which Set me upon thinking upon what would be the Estate, the Condition of My Soul after my Dissolution, which was apprehended by all to be Nigh, often in My Mind repeating the Psalmists words Blessed is he whose Transgression is forgiven whose Sin is Covered, Heartyly wishing and praying that My many and great Iniquities might be all so pardoned and washed away in the Blood of the Lamb of God that taketh away the Sin of the World, promising allso that if God would in his great Mercy Spare my Life I would Spend it more to the Glory and praise of his great Name through his grace assisting me; and God was pleas'd to look upon my Affliction and my Pain and to remember me in my Low Estate, and the Lord Raised me from my Bed of long Sickness and Languishing renewing allso my Strength So that in the Latter end of December I went to School again and continued So doing till by the Often persuasions of the Reverend Mr. John Webb and My Brother William My Father Sent Me to Harvard College Cambridge where I was admitted on August 22, 1717....

1729 April 15.

Divine Benignity and Providence

1. Recovery from a very Dangerous Fit of Sickness, and of near, if not altogether 4 Months Continuance, at the Time of the Meazles rageing in this Country. I was taken in October -- had a Fever, then the Meazles -- then languished as aforesaid. But the Lord was gracious and redeemed my Life from Destruction.

1740 January 6 (Sunday). Mr. Miller, lately recover'd from the Meazles din'd with us.

1740 January 9 (Wednesday). Nurse Sherman was carried Home by Ebenezer, not to Marlborough the Meazles being thick there and about there but to Grafton.

1740 January 10 (Thursday). Meazles at Ensign Maynards.

1740 January 14 (Monday). Mr. Beman came to call me to visit Matthias Rice who was sick of the Meazles, and I ventur'd to go.

1740 February 8 (Friday). Ensign Maynard the Meazles. I visited him. Sister Lydia keeps at Hicks's.

1740 February 12 (Tuesday). Visited Old Mr. Fay -- he, his wife and Family being Sick of the Meazles.

1740 February 14 (Thursday). Thence I rode up to Mr. Thomas Wards in Westborough and to Lieutenant Holloways whose Youngest Child was very bad after the Meazles. Captain Eager came from thence with me, whose son was Sick also of the Same Distemper.

1740 February 22 (Friday). Samuel Bumpso and Ezekiel Pratt came to clear in the Swamp. David having the Meazles.

1740 March 4 (Tuesday). P.M. Mr. Jonathan Barns from Marlborough to bring the Request of that people that I would assist them in their Fast next week, which they had appointed on account of the Sickness among them, the Meazles and the Throat Distemper, as well as on account of their remaining under the Frowns of Divine Providence in so unsettled Circumstances.

1740 March 6 (Thursday). Catechiz'd at the Meeting House a.m. and p.m. but not so full numbers of Children as usual, on account of the Meazles, which are in many Houses.

1740 March 19 (Wednesday). I rode to Worcester. Meazles at Mr. Burrs, his wife Sick thereof.

1740 March 26 (Wednesday). My wife was taken sick of the Meazles. Extreme Pain in her Teeth.

1740 March 29 (Saturday). My wife very ill yet, but the Meazles are turning as we judge. Suse Rogers very ill. Mrs. Tainter came and watch'd with my wife.

1740 April 1 (Tuesday). I visited Suse Rogers who lay in a very low Condition. N.B. her Testimony of the Hope she had in her Death, a very Remarkable Declaration of her Custom and Manner of Life, when She was but young, whilst she liv'd at Mr. Storers and whilst she liv'd at my House, withdrawing her Affections from the world, giving her Self to a Life with God and earnestly begging ever[y] Night and every Day an Interest in Christ, especially improving Sabbath mornings and Evenings for Retiring to Spend some Time with God and to begg this of him. This She said was her continual practice especially whilst she dwelt at my House. As to dying She hop'd she was ready, and was willing because she hop'd she had not sought God in vain (for He is a Mercifull God) (or to such purpose); but if [it] should be his will that She should live and recover, that She might serve and glorify him still in the world She was desiring of it (but left the Matter quietly with God). But O what would become of her if she should live, and Should nevertheless forget these purposes of Serving God. O wo unto her, wo unto her if she should! As to her dear Infant She had given it to God before it was born; She gave it up to him when it was born and I give it up to him now, Said She, and Should be glad to do it in (his holy) (the Ordinance of) Baptism. Thus she continued her speech, though but a whisper, through her great weakness, for some length of Time, telling me She thought she should not live over another Night. The appearance of the Grace of God in her occasioned our Thanksgiving to God for her. Dr. Gott was at my House in the mean Time to see my wife, who he judg'd had the Canker in her throat. In the Afternoon the storm of Snow prevail'd greatly; and in the middst of it Mrs. Edwards of Northampton, sister to Mrs. Pierpont of New Haven came to see us, a young man from her Nei[gh]bourhood accompanying her. They had neither of 'em had the Meazles, and

were much afraid: but I kept 'em in a Separate Chamber as safely as I could that they might be wholly easy.

1740 April 10 (Thursday). My Daughter Molly Sick of the Meazles.... Lucy with the Measles.

1740 April 12 (Saturday). Ebenezer the Meazles.

1759 February 4 (Sunday). Read *Ezra 2, Act. 2*. Preached still, a. and p.m. on 2 Cor. 4.18. O that the Solemn Thoughts of ETERNITY might make us all truly Serious! We daily hear of the Spreading of the Meazles in divers Towns -- and frequently of the Deaths of grown persons, by them. Ex. gr. Mr. *Noah Rice of Sutton*. N.B. My little *John* went to meeting again. D.G.

1759 February 5 (Monday). Hear more of the *Meazles* -- fear this Distemper is come into this parish. May God be pleased to prepare us for His Sovereign Pleasure!

1759 February 10 (Saturday). N.B. Master Bowman returns from Cambridge because of the Meazles. He informs me that *sister Barretts Daughter Hannah* (of about 21) dyed of the Meazels, and is buried this week, and that Coll. *James Minot* of Concord is Dead also.

1759 February 16 (Friday). Noah Hardy is Supposed to have the Meazles at the Widow Newtons.

1759 February 21 (Wednesday). *Noah Forb.* under the Meazles though I find he is much recovered.... Visited at Mr. Jonah Warrin's, his Wife being weak and Molly lately ill.

1759 February 27 (Tuesday). Ebenezer Rice junior is supposed to have the Meazles. It is also at Capt. Woods and Widow Newtons.

1759 March 2 (Friday). I visited at Capt. Woods: John Wood and Daniel *Shay* having the Meazles: at Neighbour Zebulun Rice's, his son Enoch being ill -- and at the Widow Newtons, Rachel, Lydia and Josiah having the Same Distemper. P.M. my wife visits Neighbour Nurse.

1759 March 5 (Monday). As far as I can gather, all that are now sick of the Meazles in this parish are upon the Mending Hand. Blessed be God!

1759 March 13 (Tuesday). P.M. visited at Mr. David Maynard, a number of the Children being ill of the Meazles. Was at Mr. Nurse's returning as well as going. Prayed at each of the Houses.

1759 March 14 (Wednesday). When it ceased snowing I rode up to Mr. Zebulun Rice's, Several of his Children having the Meazles.

1759 March 15 (Thursday). P.M. Visit Messrs. *Daniel* and *Timothy Warrins* Familys, there being a great Number in each sick of the Meazles. Eleven in both. I prayed with each Family.

1759 March 20 (Tuesday). Was prevented going to See sundry Familys, who have the Meazles, by the heavy Rains.

1759 March 21 (Wednesday). It was heavy and wettish Weather, but I rode out to Visit divers Familys that have, or have had, the Meazles, viz. Mr. Beetons, Widow Smith where I dined, Messrs. Jonathan Fay, Phinehas Hardys, Joseph Bruce's. I visited also Mr. *Reuben Maynard*. Mr. William Nurse, Mr. Nat. Whitney, Monsieur *LeBlanc*.

1759 April 11 (Wednesday). *Billy* came home. Came from Brookfield yesterday, and from Worcester to Day. He coughs as one that has the Meazles and thinks he took the Distemper at his Brother *Parkmans*, he having been there several Times while the Children were coughing and ill of it.

1759 April 12 (Thursday). *Billys* Meazles come out thick. He keeps Chiefly on the Bed, but went out twice. Dr. Crosby here and looks on him as well as my wife. *Samme* has his Fit of Fever and Ague likewise.... *Suse Newton* comes to watch. I have a very poor Night my Self, with Care and Concern, tending *Billy*, yet have good help of *Persis Rice* and *Suse Newton*. I could not lye till Morning *but*

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.... 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 May 10 (Thursday). N.B. Contests in Council. Mr. *Webb* and *Fish* very Opposite to Sundry others. The latter breaks out with the Meazles and goes home.

1759 May 13 (Sunday). N.B. I publicly acquainted the Church in general with what we did at Sutton; and both the Church and Congregation with the Association Fast at Shrewsbury next Wednesday. Sundry Upton people here, Mr. *Fish* being confined by the Meazles.

1759 May 14 (Monday). *Suse* breaks out with the Meazles and keeps her Bed.... My *Samme* and *Sophy* have each of them their Fit of Fever and Ague.

1759 May 15 (Tuesday). *Suse's* Meazles come out full. She keeps her Bed, but, through Mercy, is not extreme bad.

1759 May 16 (Wednesday). *Suse's* Meazels *turn* as it is vulgarly termed.

1759 May 17 (Thursday). I also visited Mrs. Bowman again, she being in a very hazzardous Condition. Mr. Bowman drooping, several of his Children have the Meazles: I dined there, and prayed with 'em. N.B. Mr. Ephraim Wards Wife here. *Suse* Sits up, and is (through divine Goodness) considerable comfortable.

1759 May 22 (Tuesday). Visit Mrs. Bowman who is in a low Condition still, and prayed with her. Mr. Bowman has the Meazles.

1759 June 5 (Tuesday). My wife and I at Lt. Rolfs who is sick: and his Family have the Meazles.

1759 June 11 (Monday). Mr. *Moses Wheat* came with Chair and Horses; and my Daughters *Baldwin, Sarah* and *Susan* rode with him and his *sister* to Capt. Maynards, where having dined, they went to Capt. *Allens* at Shrewsbury. Cousen Maynard went not with them for she was taken ill of the Meazles. I visited Lt. Rolfs Son who is very ill.

1759 June 12 (Tuesday). I carryed my Wife over to see her Cousen *Maynard* who is confined by the Meazles.

1759 June 13 (Wednesday). I rode to Southborough. *Dined at Mr. Stones*. Sundry of his Children have the Meazles, viz. Miss *Mary, Joanna, Thomas* and *Peter*.

1759 June 24 (Sunday). *John* broke out with the Meazles yesterday; to Day is pritty full -- has a Fever. Is confined to the Chamber and bears it patiently. I desire to committ this matter to God relying upon His infinite Goodness and mercy to my Children who are exposed to be exercised with the Distemper.

1759 June 25 (Monday). John keeps his bed -- the Meazles being all over him and a Fever attending -- but no bad symptoms.

1759 June 26 (Tuesday). John so much better that I carryed him down below. Dr. Crosby dined here.

1759 June 29 (Friday). Visited at Mr. Eleazer Williams, his oldest Daughter ill and languishing, and 3 or 4 others sick of the Meazles, and prayed there. Visit Joseph Harrington who is sick of a Fever and prayed there.

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.

1759 July 4 (Wednesday). My Wife did not return last Night from *Marlborough*. My little *Sophy* broke out thick with the *Meazles*. *Samme* somewhat but not perfectly: the rest are about House.

1759 July 6 (Friday). Divers of the Children have purgings. *Samme* has also signs of Canker. He sleeps very much. *Sophys* Meazles were in splotches and Spread over her yesterday. To Day she is better but is confined to her bed. Sarah is chiefly upon the Bed, breaks out in a Measure and So does Alex -- but neither of them fully. The latter has a great Cough. *Hannah* also Somewhat more broke out, yet the Distemper is to no ripeness with her.

1759 July 7 (Saturday). We have a sick House. May God be gracious to us. *Hannahs* Meazles fully out, and she is very touchy and troublesome. P.M. Cousen Maynard kindly Visits us and helps her Aunt in tending the Sick. Mrs. Newton comes at Night, and these two watch with them.

1759 July 20 (Friday). The Family at home were in some Comfort, except the drooping of some of those who had the Meazles. Sarahs Relicks of the Distemper breaks out in a bad finger. Samuel is weak and pale. John has something of Fever and Ague: and Hannah has sore Eyes.

1773 January 21 (Thursday). *Elias* was not well accepted at School yesterday by reason of their fears of the Meazles. For Mr. *Reed* has had the Distemper since he preached here; and *Elias* may have taken the Infection. He therefore Stays at home to Day.

1773 January 22 (Friday). Mr. *Reed* returning to *Abington*, calls here; green from the Meazles.

1773 January 26 (Tuesday). *Elias* having, as we think, escaped the Infection of the Meazles, goes to School again.

1773 February 14 (Sunday). I hear that the Meazles have broke out among us. The Lord help us to prepare to Meet Him in the Way of His Judgments!

1773 March 23 (Tuesday). A.M. Visit Mr. Barnabas Newtons Family. His wife lay in when She had the Meazles: and 4 Children visited also.

1773 August 30 (Monday). Visit Benjamin *Tainter* junior who is grievously exercised with Fits. His Case is very Sad. May the Lord shew Pity! Prayed there. Dined with them also. Mrs. Rebecca Warrin came to See us. She tells me her youngest sister *Lydia*, who married a *Williams* in *Uxbridge*, dyed lately, of the Meazles. The Lord Sanctifie it to all Survivers!

1777 November 29 (Saturday). But a Number of Capt. *Maynards* Children, having the *Meazles*, I hope are well provided for, though I know not how my son *Alexanders* Family is, being visited with that Distemper, himself being gone a Journey after [*illegible*] [not?] returned yester Day.

1777 December 30 (Tuesday). It being more moderate, I rode over to Visit Capt. *Maynard* and his Family, they have been exercised with sickness, with the Meazles, a number of them and Geoffry falls into a *Waste*. I dined there.