

Consumption

OED: "Originally: abnormality or loss of humours, resulting in wasting (extreme weight loss) of the body; such wasting; (*obsolete*). Later: disease that causes wasting of the body, *spec.* tuberculosis. Now chiefly *historical*."

1727 May 31 (Wednesday). [Boston.] I was also at Captain Kings where Mr. Joseph Parsons¹ was with Mrs. Porter. I invited him to lodge with me. Accordingly he did. He told me sorrowfull News of Mr. Samuel Coffins² being far Spent in a Consumption and his Life dispair'd of.

1739 September 6 (Thursday). [Boston.] Din'd at Brother Samuels. N.B. His son Samuel very low in Consumption.

1742 May 25 (Tuesday). At Boston My Brother Alexander sick of a Fever. As is Cousen John Parkman -- and his sister Elizabeth also languishes in a Consumption.

1742 June 27 (Sunday). Received a Message from Isaac How³ of Hopkinton who was in a low Consumption, desiring a visit.

1744 May 7 (Monday). Visited Several Sick, viz. Amos Whitney,⁴ who was ill of a Rheumatism, Eli Forbush,⁵ Sick of a pleurisy, Jonathan Tainter in the Wastes of a Consumption, and daily (as tis thought) growing Worse. He has been propounded in order to admission into full Communion but has been a Journey since for his Health and it has prov'd too Much for him.

1744 July 18 (Wednesday). I went to Mr. Francis Whipples to take him with me to Mendon but he could not go. I proceeded to Lieutenant Tainters to see poor Jonathan who is very low in his Wasting and Consumption and not like to continue, yet Say, but little only that he is pritty much in the Dark, yet would hope in the Mercy of God. After prayer and Some Instructions I rode to Mendon.

1744 July 23 (Monday). My Wife rode with me to see Mr. Samuel Fay, junior, his Wife who has lain confin'd for nigh 11 months, and Jonathan Tainter who is in a deep Consumption.

1745 May 23 (Thursday). Mr. Breck and Mr. Smith came up from Marlborough. They din'd with me and after Dinner Mr. Breck preach'd my Lecture from 1 Pet. 3.15, a useful Sermon. May

¹(Harvard 1720). Minister of Bradford, 1726-1765. *Sibley*, VI, 393-396.

²Brocklebank Samuel Coffin (Harvard 1718) of Newbury. *Sibley*, VI, 234.

³Isaac How of Hopkinton

⁴Son of Nathaniel Whitney.

⁵Eli Forbes (HC 1751), later minister of Brookfield and Gloucester.

God Succeed it, and bless the Preacher. Not many North Side People at Lecture. N.B. Ebenezer Ball, in a Consumption brought low, was pray'd for.

1745 July 11 (Thursday). Another Hot Day. Conformable to a Request from Reverend Stone of Southborough in behalf of Mr. Moses Fay and his wife of Said Town I went down there to a private Fast. Mr. Loring,⁶ Barrett,⁷ Stone,⁸ and Smith⁹ also at Mr. Fay's. N.B. Mrs. Fay had been languishing more than Seven Years and not at Meeting in that Time though she has had six Children, and now suppos'd to be in a Consumption; her Case therefore calling for Pity and Prayers. Mr. Stone offer'd up the first Prayer. I preach'd on Ps. 65.2. Mr. Barrett pray'd and Mr. Loring preach'd p.m. on Isa. 45.22. A good Savoury Sermon which may the Lord bless to all Souls! Supp'd at Mr. Stones. I return'd at Evening.

1745 November 26 (Tuesday). [Boston.] Din'd with my aged mother. But at Night I grew so bad of it that I was in great Trouble. Something of a Fever accompany'd it -- and I had an ill night. N.B. Lay at Brother Alexanders -- but it was a sick House without me, for besides Sisters low Condition, Mr. Walker continues in his Confinement by the Gout there, and Alexander Kelland lyes very low there, in a Consumption.

1746 April 5 (Saturday). N.B. din'd at Mr. Patersons at Sudbury. Mr. Cook's¹⁰ wife very low -- thought to be in a Consumption. The Lord prepare her for his holy Will!

1748 March 18 (Friday). [Boston.] Visited Mrs. Betty White (Mr. Joseph's daughter) who is wasting away in a consumption. I went up to the burying place and what a multitude even of our own family are there in the Congregation of the Dead.

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.

1760 June 5 (Thursday). A rainy Day, yet I ventured to ride home. Mr. *Wellman* my Company. We dined at Coll. Buckminsters. N.B. My Friend Mrs. *Dench* there. Mr. Morse, who had been to see his Brother (who was lately come from Europe, and in a Consumption) dined with us and accompanied us above Mr. Stones.

1765 May 22 (Wednesday). [Boston.] Visit Cousen Nathaniels Daughter *Sarah* who is in a Consumption.

1768 August 24 (Wednesday). Went a.m. to visit Mr. Daniel *Miller* who remains low in a Consumption. Conversed and prayed with him.

⁶Rev. Israel Loring of Sudbury.

⁷Rev. Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

⁸Rev. Nathan Stone of Southborough.

⁹Rev. Aaron Smith of Marlborough.

¹⁰The Reverend William Cooke of Wayland.

1771 October 1 (Tuesday). Mr. Bangs of Hardwick came from Mr. *Stones of Southborough* to Mr. Hannaniah Parker with a message to me, which Mr. Parker sent by his daughter to go to them in great Trouble by dangerous sickness. Whereupon I rode down at Evening, found Miss *Judith* very low of Cholic, Strangury etc. and Miss *Joanna* ill of Throat Distemper. *Quilla* their Negro Women, also, very low of Consumption. Prayed with them -- but went with Dr. Parker to Col. Brigham and lodged there.

1773 June 22 (Tuesday). In my way home [from Sudbury] was requested to go in and See Mr. *Thomas Biglows* Daughter, Mrs. *How* in Consumption -- and prayed with her.

1773 December 21 (Tuesday). *Jonathan Maynard* goes to his Aunts Funeral, viz. Mrs. *Abihail's*, the Wife of his uncle *Jotham*, a woman for whom I had great Regard; She was Daughter of Mr. *Ephraim Allen*, and was our Maid for Sometime; She bore me and mine much respect, and ever glad to entertain us. She dyed of a Consumption last Saturday. As She was a serious, religious Woman, I hope she is gone to eternal Rest and Glory. O that I might be ready to follow!

1774 November 23 (Wednesday). I rode over on Mr. Newtons Horse, to Northborough Lecture. Preached on Ps. 23.6. Few at Meeting. Visit Rev. Mr. Patten at Mrs. Martyns, riding for his Health -- but is far gone in a Consumption.

1775 January 3 (Tuesday). Attended the Funeral of *Eleazer Beeman*, Son of Mr. *Abraham Beeman*, who dyed on the last Sabbath morning; nigh 18 years of Age: of a Consumption.¹¹

1775 June 21 (Wednesday). Rode over to Mr. *Whitneys*. Dined there. Mr. *Sumner* preached the Lecture from *Hag. 2.7*. I prayed after sermon. In returning called to See Mr. *John Kelly*, who is very low in a Consumption. At his Fathers Desire and his own, I prayed with him.

1775 September 25 (Monday). I Went also to Capt. *Jonathan Fays* to see his Daughter *Joanna* who sadly languishes in Consumption.

1775 November 1 (Wednesday). [Concord.] I am informed that the Rev. Mr. *Joseph Emmerson* of *Pepperrell* is dead: And that Mr. *Swift* of *Acton* is almost gone in a Consumption.

1776 April 26 (Friday). Deacon *Wood* here in the Morn to request me to go to his Brother *Joseph's* Child's Burial -- but I am bespoke already -- for p.m. I attended the Funeral of Mr. *Ab. Gale's* Child, *Elisha* of nigh 11 Months, which dyed yesterday of a Consumption. I prayed there.

1776 October 28 (Monday). I visited old Mr. *Eleazer Pratt* again, and prayed with him. Also old Mr. *Nurse*. Was at Mr. *Childs* and Mr. *Reuben Maynards*. Dined at Capt. *Brooks's* (though unexpectedly) with Mr. *Grosvenor*. N.B. A Sick Lad of Capt. *Kimbals* his Name *Elijah*; his Age 7, his Disease a Consumption. We prayed together.

¹¹Eleazer Beeman, son of Abraham and Miriam, b. Mar. 11, 1757; d. Jan. 1, 1775. *Westborough Vital Records*, 15, 228.

1777 May 7 (Wednesday). The Scenes Shift: My Principal Hog has languished for some time, in a Consumption, and he has this day (as we suppose) dyed, to our considerable Loss and Disappointment -- but was not found.

1781 October 10 (Wednesday). Visited *Patty Lamb* in her Consumption, at Mr. *Daniel Warrins*.