

Fires - House and Barn

Included are references to fires that burned houses, barns, shops, meeting houses, court houses, fences, fields, etc. These include fires set by Indians and by the British.

1723 August 9 (Friday). Returned to Worcester. We call'd to See Captain Jones but he was not at home. Here I had the Information by a Dispensation of Providence in the Burning of the House of Captain Keys¹ of Shrewsbury with 3 of his Sons and Two workmen finishing the house in it. It broke out about Midnight.

1724 August 6 (Thursday). I rode round to Boston but did not get there till Lecture was over. The News was Malden Emerson's² House was Burnt last Friday Night.

1726 April 23 (Saturday). We were in a sad Commotion by the Hills being fir'd. Robert was Exceeding unfortunate to burn the Brush after long uneasiness through my fears of his persuasions. I gave him leave to set fire to the most Distant Heap and the last in the wind, but the Leaves were drie and the wind fresh so that it put us to great Labour to carry it. It burnt about 20 Rod of my fence and would have Consum'd without a period if I had not receiv'd Neighbor David Maynards Help, and been very Diligent my Self. But before Neighbor Maynard came, it raged to such a Degree that we grew so hot and faint as Severall times to give up and Robert³ Lay'd himself down in an Expiring posture, till quickened by a New Resolution. It got Lead upon the Fence before Help came. Through Divine favour we put a stop to it to our great Joy att about noon. It continued to burn indeed, but not to run and Spread. We were oblig'd to have an Eye over it continually, and I was not, many times, without fear of its catching again because Towards night there were great Gusts of Wind, Thunder and Lightning and very little if any Rain. This was the more terrible as happening in the middst of my Preparation for the Sabbath. But God was very Gracious.

1736 April 26 (Monday). David ploughed the lower part of the south Side, a.m., sledding stones, burning Brush etc. p.m.

1736 June 22 (Tuesday). David Carting Rails from Ministerial Swamp which Lieut. Holloway etc. got for me in the Spring. He found many both Posts and Rails were burnt and utterly marred by the Fires in the Spring. N.B. <word crossed out> By Information Capt. Forbush Set the fires there. It proves a great Damage to me.

1737 March 19 (Saturday). A.M. To Dr. Gott's, but a short space with Mrs. Hannah.... Capt. Brigham informed of the Death of President Wadsworth, the Night before last, also lately Part

¹Captain John Keyes (1675-1768). The three sons were Solomon, John and Stephen. The carpenter's apprentices were Abiel Bragg and William Oakes. See *The Boston News-Letter*, Aug. 15, 1723.

²Reverend Joseph Emerson (Harvard 1717) of Maiden. *Boston News-Letter*, Aug. 6, 1724. *Sibley*, VI, 170-175.

³Robert Henry, Parkman's hired hand.

of Northampton Meeting-House fell and wounded many, in time of Divine Service, and the Burning of Young Colonel Chandler's House at Woodstock, and three persons consumed in it, scil, Mrs. Wright, her son and a man who was asleep with him.

1737 September 24 (Saturday). N.B. Fire raging in the Bushes on the west side of Powder Hill, drie by the Drought and the Frost and the Wind very high. Brother Hicks alone there, till I assisted him, and we succeeded. D.G.

1737 October 16 (Sunday). N.B. The Congregation disturbed P.M. by the burning of Mr. David Brigham's House but when people gathered in again, and were composed, I went on with the rest of my sermon. A very sorrowful Providence! a great Loss! but I trust them and all of us to profit by it, that our Hearts may be taken off from temporal transitory Enjoyments.

1738 May 3 (Wednesday). Watkins burning Brush all Day on the Hill and in the Low Ground as well as on the south side.

1739 April 12 (Thursday). Powder hill on Blaze, in a dry Time and an high Wind. The Fire broke out of Brother Hicks's Ground and burnt me up all the Fence upon the South and the north and north East, although the wind was very strong at South and south West.

1742 July 31 (Saturday). Heard that a Barn of Mr. Gleson of Sudbury was burnt by the Lightning last Night in which was a good Quantity of English Hay and Grain: and that Four Cattle were killed at Framingham.

1743 July 21. From Westborough, that on the 21st of last Month, a Barn in that Town was set on Fire by the Lightning, and entirely consumed, with about fifteen Loads of Hay in it. (*New York Weekly Post-Boy*, Aug. 15, 1743, p. [3].)

1744 February 29 (Wednesday). Heard that Roxbury new, handsome Meeting House was burnt down last sabbath by means of a stove in Judge Dudleys Pew.⁴

1744 April 17 (Tuesday). Heard to Day the sorrowful News of the Burning of Mr. Emmersons⁵ House at Nessitissett⁶ lately.

1744 May 7 (Monday). Thomas picking up and burning Bushes.

1744 November 11 (Sunday). P.M. We had a Contribution for Mr. Jedidiah Biglo of Grafton whose House was burnt down October 9.

⁴Paul Dudley, Justice of the Superior Court of Judicature. Walter E. Thwing, *History of the First Church in Roxbury* (Boston, 1908), 142.

⁵Rev. Daniel Emerson (HC 1739), first minister of Hollis, N.H., 1743-1793. *SHG* 10:359-364. See *The Boston Gazette, or, Weekly Journal*, April 24, 1744.

⁶Nessitisset was the West Parish of Dunstable, Mass., later incorporated in 1746 as Hollis, N.H.

1746 February 18 (Tuesday). I made a Visit to Captain Morris, who return'd with me to his sisters (Mrs. Barretts) with which we din'd. N.B. Their Sister Barrett's (Widow) House in an high wind took fire on the Roof -- but by the help of the School Boys was Discover'd and Extinguish'd.

1746 September 2 (Tuesday). Mr. Daniel Maynard of Marlborough informs me that Captain Moses Rice is gone down the Road from Boston, a post from Deerfield to inform that Hoosuck (or Massachusetts Fort) was lately Burnt and Destroyed by the Indians.

1747 April 7 (Tuesday). Mr. Bacon⁷ from Ashuelot (upper) came and lodg'd here. He brings the sorrowful News that a Number of Indians the night after the Sabbath was Sennight came to Mr. Shattucks Fort,⁸ and fir'd it. They burnt down the Fort at Number 2 or great meadows⁹ -- and burnt an House of Colonel Josiah Willard. That their Town as well as the other Ashuelot¹⁰ were broke up and come off -- as was Winchester also. That Captain Melvin¹¹ and 26 men went out after the Indians, and discover'd 14 and packs of about 20. That Captain Stephens¹² with 50 men had been gone about 3 Weeks and no news of him but twas hop'd he was at No. 4.

1747 December 12 (Saturday). N.B. We have the sorrowful News that the Town House in Boston was burnt last Wednesday.

1748 January 28 (Thursday). A Public Fast on account of the Judgment of God upon us in the Continuance of the War. The perplexity of the province Affairs and the burning of the Courthouse.

1748 March 14 (Monday). Had one Lockhart's company from Marlborough to Waltham. Went to see Mr. Warham Williams and lodged there. It was raw cold 'til evening and then snowed. N.B. Fire burnt in the floor of Mr. Williams's study, but was discovered as we sat in the lower room under it, and was soon put out.

1748 April 13 (Wednesday). N.B. Heard the sorrowful News yesterday of Mr. Bridghams house at Brimfield, burnt to the ground and little saved.

1748 July 8 (Friday). Heard of Mischiefe done by the Indians at Lunenbourg -- burning the Garrison and several persons.

1749 January 8 (Sunday). At noon likewise one of the Chimneys took fire.

⁷The Reverend Jacob Bacon of Keene, N.H.

⁸Daniel Shattuck's garrison house was within the limits of the present town of Hinsdale, N.H.

⁹No. 2 township, sometimes known as Great Meadows, was incorporated as Westmoreland, N.H., in 1752.

¹⁰Lower Ashuelot was incorporated as Swanzey, N.H., in 1753.

¹¹Eleazer Melvin.

¹²Phinehas Stevens.

1749 April 24 (Monday). N.B. It grows a very dry Time. Very high winds. The Fires raged last Night and this at Hopkinton.

1749 April 26 (Wednesday). N.B. Brother Hicks here from Cambridge. He confirms the sad news of Mr. J. Davenports House as being burnt in Watertown on the 24th and of other Burnings in divers Towns.

1749 September 20 (Wednesday). [Boston.] N.B. a Cold Night. Bells rung for Fire.

1750 January 22 (Monday). My Wife and I rode to Worcester to See Brother Breck. Find him Somewhat better. Din'd there. P.M. at Mr. Maccartys. He rode with me to See Mr. Joshua Biglo whose House and Two Children were burnt last Saturday morning: at which he and his wife were much Scorch'd and confin'd to their Beds. At their request I pray'd with them.

1750 March 12 (Monday). P.M. rode up to our Meeting House the Precinct being met there for the choice of Officers, and I desir'd to know their minds respecting Two Requests I had Receiv'd -- one from Revd. Mr. Maccarty in behalf of Mr. Joshua Biglo in Worcester whose House was burnt, and another from Revd. Mr. Stone in behalf of the widow Richards of Southborough, who was lately burnt out also.

1754 January 13 (Sunday). P.M. read Heb. 7, and preach'd on Lev. 10.6 latter part on occasion of our Contributing for the Relief of Alpheus Newton and his Wife, lately burnt out; which Contribution was this afternoon, and may God accept the offering of his people and sanctifie His holy Dispensations.

January 3. We hear from Westborough, that on the 17th Instant, in the Night, the House of Mr. Alpheus Newton of that Town, was consumed by Fire, with many Provisions and Stores, viz. English Grain, Beef, Cyder, Roots, &c. hardly any Thing being saved; but thro' the Divine Goodness no Lives were lost. It is not known how the Fire happened.

Boston Evening Post, Dec. 31, 1753, issue 957, p. 2.

Note: Parkman preached on Lev. 10.6 (see manuscript sermon).

1754 March 22 (Friday). Mr. Hill of Sherbourn brought me a Letter from Mr. Morse of Shrewsbury requesting a Contribution for the Relief of Mr. Asa Hill of Shrewsbury who was lately burnt out.

1754 March 24 (Sunday). Read to the Congregation a Letter from the Reverend Mr. Morse of Shrewsbury requesting a Contribution for one Mr. Asa Hill who was lately burnt out. Left it with Deacons and Committee to advise upon. I thought it agreeable to Christian Principles, and that Meekness and Mercifulness which I had been recommending in the Day preceding, to Consider Mr. Smith's Case as well as my own; and being perswaded that Mr. Barkers Coming up here (as may be expected on the Ensuing Day) will be in Vain, I desir'd my son Thomas to prepare and go

with a Line to Mr. Smith and take an Horse (if Mr. Smith desir'd also) and go away now in the Night to Boston and stop Mr. Barkers Coming to prevent needless Charge.

1754 April 21 (Sunday). Acquainted the Congregation that I perceiv'd it was the mind of those I had Convers'd with that it is not adviseable to have among us, a public Contribution for Mr. Hill of Shrewsbury (who was burnt out and whose Request was read some Sabbaths ago) not only because of our Circumstances here, but Mr. Hill has receiv'd pritty full Supplys; and it is not expected from us, all Things considered. But yet if any persons are still So inclined as to Contribute Money or Necessarys of Life, they may use their Discretion.

1754 May 2 (Thursday). I preach'd at Lieutenant Tainters, by his Desire, the sermon and on the Text I preach'd from when Neighbour Newtons House was burnt, viz. Lam. 3.22.23.

1754 May 6 (Monday). Here [*sic*] the Woods at Wachusett are much on Fire in this terrible Drought, and 'tis thought they approach nearer. The burnt leaves by means of the strong Winds reach even hither.

1754 May 11 (Saturday). Last Night Watertown New Meeting House burnt.

1755 March 31 (Monday). N.B. at Eve a great Light as of Some Burning. It appear'd in the North East.

1755 April 1 (Tuesday). News that the Burning last night was Captain Thomas Amsden's House in Marlborough. Suspected to be by his son in Law Dr. Robinson.

1756 February 15 (Sunday). Read 1 King 8 to v. 23. Preached on Heb. 12.29, repeating what I had heretofore delivered on that Text, but with Alterations and Additions. The Occasion was Several, late remarkable Judgments of God, not only Malignant Fever among our selves, but very Observable Desolations of great Citys abroad, by Fires and Earthquake. Ex. gr. *Constantinople*, in which last Sept. 25,000 Houses and above 800 Persons were destroyed.

1756 February 25 (Wednesday). One James *Allen*, a French man, who has been burnt out, at Hopkinton, was with me at Framingham, to desire the Charity of our Congregation.

1756 March 21 (Sunday). N.B. read the Petitions of James Allen of Hopkinton for a Contribution among us. He had been burnt out, and lost his Goods, though the House was not his. I read two Certificats concerning him; one from Simpson Jones Esq., the Other from Rev. Mr. Barrett. I read also the Petition of *Robert Cook*, for a Contribution for him to assist him in building an House. Having read these Petitions I desired the Deacons of the Church and the Committee of the Precinct would meet and advise what is best to be done.

1756 April 4 (Sunday). Read p.m. Mat. 15 and (after the Baptism of a Child) had a Contribution for *James Allen* of Hopkinton who was lately burnt out.

1756 April 14 (Wednesday). I was at Mr. *Eliezer Rices*: he agrees to burn the Ministerial Meadow tomorrow, by leave of providence.

1756 June 29 (Tuesday). Mr. *Jotham Death* also here; he had left a Letter begging a Contribution for him, he having been sorrowfully burnt out.

1756 December 6 (Monday). Neighbour Rolf's House, I hear, narrowly escaped being burnt.

1757 October 19 (Wednesday). Mr. Moses Twitchel came to burn up Bushes, which Should ha' been done last Year, but he proves not well.

1759 January 9 (Tuesday). Capt. *Wood* and I rode to visit Mr. Barrett and his son; They and theirs having gone through a variety of Changes, especially the Death of one Negro man (*Scipio*) and sickness of another (*Titus*) but great Mercys intermixed; their House saved from Burning -- but especially young Mr. Barrett a son lately born *John*.

1759 November 18 (Sunday). Acquainted the Congregation with the Desire of Mr. Ebenezer Sadler of Grafton to have a Contribution here for him, he having been burnt out.

1759 December 30 (Sunday). At Eve read to the Congregation a Letter from Mr. Jonathan Morse of Shrewsbury, who was lately burnt out; containing his Request for a Contribution. N.B. It was recommended by Mr. Cushing.

1760 March 19 (Wednesday). I rode up to Worcester to get a Letter of Administration from Judge Chandler. Met him on the Road. He tells me the News of the Dammage done to the Train of Artillery at Boston by Fire yesterday.

1760 March 20 (Thursday). N.B. The news reaches us of *a great Fire in Boston* this Morning at 3 o'Clock.... Mr. Daniel Forbush in the Night calls and confirms the sad Tidings of the Fire. May God Sanctify it to the sufferers and all round about! Fires have broke out there three Nights running. I wish it mayn't be by some evil Instrumentality.

1760 March 21 (Friday). Further Accounts Still of the dreadful Conflagration in the Dear Place of my Birth. Blessed be the Lord who preserves Me and my Houses! Whilst I earnestly pray for the divine Compassion to the Destitute and Distressed! O what a Changing World this is! The Lord prepare me and mine for what He designs next!

1760 March 22 (Saturday). N.B. Smoke rises in the East, and Some people fear there is Still destructive Fires in *Boston*.

1760 April 3 (Thursday). And on Account of the Contribution for the sufferers by the late Fire in Boston, I used part of Sermon on Lev. 10.6.

1760 April 25 (Friday). N.B. Mr. Beatons sets a Fire which unhappily runs and burns up part of the Fence between him and Neighbour Barnabas Newton. But Some Number of Hands gather together and get the mastery of it. To God be Glory!

1762 August 17-18. We hear from Westborough, that at Midnight, between the 17th and 18th Instant, the Dwelling House of Mrs. Dorothy Thurston, of that Town, Widow, was consum'd by Fire: It is not known by what Means it began; her Son first discovered it, being wak'd bt the Smoke in the Chamber where he lay, and alarmed the rest of the Family, who are escap'd the Flames, but have saved very little of either Goods or Cloaths.

Thro' the Goodness of Divine Favour, we have had since our last fine refreshing Rains, so that we hope the destroying Fires which had prevail'd, in several Parts of the Country, and done great Damage, have been extinguished.

New-York Gazette, Aug. 30, 1762, p. [2]

1764 September 4 (Tuesday). We hear that Brother Brecks Barn was burnt by Lightning last Thursday Night.

1765 April 11 (Thursday). This morning we perceived Mr. Haskills (Black smith) Shop was burnt down. It broke out about an Hour before Day. The Lord Sanctify it to them.... After Catechizing I rode down to Mr. *Haskills* to Sympathize. Deacon Tainter was with me. But Mr. Haskill was not at home. He was in the woods and People were generously getting Timber for him. Which I greatly rejoice in.

1765 April 18 (Thursday). Had a Contribution for Deacon Charles Woods of [*blank*] whose House was burnt on [*blank*].

1765 May 30 (Thursday). [Boston.] Dr. *Chauncy preached*, on Act. 8.5. In the midst of the sermon, a Cry of Fire.

1765 October 7 (Monday). Billy at the Corn Barn. Thomas and John burning brush, digging Stones p.m. Jonas helps p.m.

1767 February 5 (Thursday). Deacon Tainter brings sad News of a Fire in Boston the night before last, which broke out at a Bakers nigh the Mill Bridge and ran down each side the Mill Stream: So that the wind being [NW?] my Brother Samuels Interest has doubtless suffered.

1767 February 7 (Saturday). At Eve my Son Baldwin and Daughter Parkman.... Have by B. a true Account of the Fire. Brother Samuel and Loyd escaped.

1767 February 8 (Sunday). Capt. Benjamin Fays old House burnt.

1767 May 22 (Friday). Visit at Capt. Fays on consideration of the sorrowful Burning of their old House, it having been very useful to them and much was lost in it.

1767 October 16 (Friday). Mr. Townsends (Smith's) Shop on Fire this morning about 2 o'Clock -- but was timely discovered and put out.

1768 August 28 (Sunday). Read the Brief for a Contribution to relieve the People of *Montreal* who were burnt out last April.

1769 January 27 (Friday). A young man from Hopkinton, one Joseph Gay, bears a Message to me from Mr. Barrett, that there has occurred among them a sorrowful Burning last Tuesday Night when the House of Mr. James Mellen was Consumed, but the Letter is lost. He is going also to *Chauxit*, with the like.

1769 February 17 (Friday). At Eve *Mr. John Wood* here, with his own and his Fathers Accounts. His Kinsman *Mr. James Mellen* of Hopkinton came with a Petition for a Contribution, as a Sufferer by the late Burning of his House, Signed by Rev. Messrs. *Barrett* and *Prentiss*.

1771 April 25 (Thursday). N.B. *Mr. Ithamar Bellows's* House was burnt down to day; The Fire broke out from a Crack in the Oven -- about 9 o'Clock a.m. They saved their Meat chiefly, but lost a great Quantity of Corn -- great part of their household Goods -- Apparel, Linnen etc. A very sorrowful Loss! May the Lord sanctifie this Dispensation to them, and to us all!¹³

1771 April 30 (Tuesday). Sent by *Mr. Merriam* of Grafton, a Letter to *Mr. Williams* at Boston Printer, An Account of the late Burning among us.

1771 June 9 (Sunday). N.B. *Mr. Joseph Ward* of Bellingham here. Dined -- lodged -- tells me he was lately burnt out.

1771 September 30 (Monday). *Mr. James Kendall*, who says he is of *Monadnock No. 7*, and was burnt out 2 sabbaths past.

1772 January 6 (Monday). *Rev. Fessenden* of *Walpole New Hampshire* and his Wife here and dine with us. Leaves a Petition for Contribution (having been burnt out in Nov. last).

1772 January 11 (Saturday). *Mr. Jonathan Lamb* of *Hardwick* came with *Mr. Daniel Warrin*. Acquaints me with his House being burnt.

¹³"On Thursday sen'night the Dwelling House of *Mr. Ithamar Bellows*, of *Westborough*, was consumed by Fire, together with most of the Furniture and about 100 Bushels of Grain. The compassionate, generous neighbours, are in great forwardness in their work to get up another building, for the unhappy sufferers." *Boston Evening-Post*, May 6, 1771, p. 2.

1772 March 17 (Tuesday). My wife told me they had narrowly escaped burning last Saturday Evening by the Fire blazing out under my Study Hearth.

1772 April 24 (Friday). A Petition of Mr. *Samuel Smith* of Grafton for Contribution, he having suffered by Fire.

1773 January 15 (Friday). Sermonizing. Hear sorrowful News of what occurred yesterday at Mr. *Smiths* School. *Asa Fay*, Son of Ensign *Jeduthun*, resisting, Striking and abusing the Master. Also this afternoon a Fire began to rage in Mr. *Smiths* Chamber, at Mr. Jonathan Grouts -- but was seasonably put out.

1773 January 28, 29, 30 (Thursday, Friday, Saturday). Hear that the widow *Martyns* Mill was burnt on the 29th by a pot of Coals left in it. The Lord Sanctifie!

1774 August 17 (Wednesday). P.M. a great Fire broke out in Capt. Maynards Stubble of his Rye Field, Some of his men burning Brush there. The Wind was high, which caused the Fire to rage and prevail. I rode to the plain and alarmed them from the words Capt. Maynard Spoke to me. Many gathered, but through divine Favour the Fire was stopped. There arose also a Thunder storm and an heavy Rain; and which continued into Night.

1774 November 20 (Sunday). Read the *Congress Proclamation* and the *Salem* Petition for Contribution on behalf of the sufferers there by the late Fire.

1775 April 20 (Thursday). Deacon *Merriam* having been to *Concord* last Eve, returns this morning, and relates that the K's Troops had been there, and did much Mischief -- at the magazine in Special; to Flower, Ordnance, Ammunition, Houses (Several set on Fire), a number on both sides Slain. But the Regulars returned to *Boston*. A Number of Dead Bodies, chiefly of them (as was conceived) Scattered in the Road. We are waiting for further Accounts.

1775 April 22 (Saturday). Among many Stories which we hear, we understand that *Marshfield* is burnt. The Times are more and more Calamitous.

1775 June 2 (Friday). [Boston.] In the Morning *Richard Cary* Esq. came to *Swan's* and took me to his House to *Breakfast*. Performed Family Prayers at each place. N.B. going down on the Ferry Wharf, had the doleful Prospect of the garrisoned, [devoted?] Town -- and several Men of War. It was said that some of our People from *Chelsey* burnt a Building at Noddle's Island -- and were otherwise endeavouring to annoy the Kings Forces. I saw the *Somerset* fire Several times at them.

1775 June 18 (Sunday). News flys all abroad that a Body of Regulars have gone over to *Charlestown* yesterday P.M. An hot engagement at *Bunker's* Hill there: and *Burned* [the Town] and the *Meeting House* in Special. An awful Judgment of the Great God upon us! May the Lord pity the immediate sufferers! And prepare us for what *We our selves* may be called to undergo.

1775 June 20 (Tuesday). Samuel returns at midnight from *Cambridge* and informs me his goods etc. which were left in Charlestown are burnt by the Regulars, also 4 feather Beds of Mr. Loyds.

[1775 July 12 (Wednesday)]

At Eve (after a very wonderfull Appearance of [torn]

Blessing of Rain) I went back to the two [torn]

Appartments at Mr. *Rhoads*, where I found my [torn]

Parkman (Son of *Nathaniel*) who is a seafaring man [torn]

to sea again. He was now come from *Cambridge*, and [relates?]

that our provincial Soldiers have been to *Nelsons* Island, drove off Cattle, burnt Stacks of Hay -- etc.

1775 October 29 (Sunday). After Meeting I asked in Mr. *Joseph Breed*, one that was burnt out at Charlestown, and lives at *Ensign Snows*.

1776 February 15 (Thursday). Mr. *Gale* came and delivered me a *Brief* for a Contribution for his son in Law, Mr. *Nichol* of *Munson*, whose House, goods, etc. were burnt last December.

1776 February 17 (Saturday). *Mindwell Batherick*, whose Cloths etc. were burnt in an House at *Westminster* -- and needs Charitable Assistance.

1776 March 20 (Wednesday). At night, about 9 o'Clock an extraordinary Light, as of a great Burning, appears in the East. We are full of Fears what it may be. But we hope in the Goodness of God.

1777 March 3 (Monday). At night the dining-Room Chimney took Fire and burnt out freely; but no Harm.

1777 March 20 (Thursday). We dined at Mr. *Whitneys*. Mr. *Sumner* and Mr. [blank] *Fairbank* (called at *North Shrewsbury*) were there. The latter preached on *Isa.* 28.16 -- "Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation, a Stone" etc. Mr. *Whitneys* Chimney took Fire and the Roof was kindled, but soon extinguished.

1777 April 30 (Wednesday). Hear that Regulars have burnt *Danbury*.

1777 December 16 (Tuesday). Miss *Molly Harrington* here -- Exam -- She informs me that Rev. *Taylor* of *New Fane* has lost his House by Fire, and Saved but little of his Goods. May it be Sanctified and duely improved!

1778 May 24 (Sunday). N.B. Read a Petition of Deacon *Fay* of *Southborough* requesting a *Contribution*, he having lately Suffered by the Burning of his House and much of his substance. N.B. This Petition came first to our Select Men.

1778 September 7 (Monday). Bad News that the *British Soldiers* have burnt *Bedford* in *Dartmouth*.

1779 April 16 (Friday). Hear that a girl has set Fire to Mr. Kendal's House at New Salem, the same that fired Mr. Fessenden's at Walpole. She is committed to Jail.

1779 September 19 (Sunday). We had a Contribution for the Relief of Mr. Artemas Bruce, of New Fane, whose House was lately burnt.

1780 January 26 (Wednesday). Ephraim Parker being at work for me in dressing Flax for me, brings in a quantity of it on a Pole and hangs it before the Fire to drie it. I had a good deal of Reluctance at it, remembering that Capt. Gouge's House at Hopkinton was, some years ago, burn't down by Flax taking Fire.

1780 January 27 (Thursday). As the Flax aforesaid hung before the Fire, notwithstanding the Distance it was placed at, a Coal was snapped out from the Fire, and began immediately to burn in it, which had it occurred last night, while we Slept, what would have been the Event! All hearty Thanks to our great Preserver!

1780 April 26 (Wednesday). In going to Meeting p.m. was informed that Mr. Whitney's House of Northborough was burnt down this very noon. I preached on Ps. 107.43 and took occasion frequently to apply it to the present Occurrence, so surprising and affecting! May the Lord sanctifie it to the Sufferers and to us all!

1780 April 27 (Thursday). In the Morning, I rode over to see the Ruins, and sympathize with those who are bereaved. I found the sad Cause to be, Mrs. Whitney made a Fire in her Oven, that morning, sat in her Food to be baked for Supper; but the Fire, while the People were at Meeting in the forenoon, kindled in the Kitchen Chamber, and was discovered by Mr. Samuel Allen in the time of the last prayer. Many goods in the lower rooms, the Church plate etc. were saved, but the Library and Papers, which were of great worth: 4 feather Beds, all their Cloths and Linnen, except what they had on, Corn, Cyder, Sauce, etc. etc. burnt. Mr. Sumner came also and carryed various Things. I went in to see Mr. Jonas Badcock, whose Hair, Face and Hands were much Scorched, Swelled and blistered by the Flames. I dined at Mrs. Briggs's where Mr. Whitney and his Family had repaired to.... The people meet this afternoon to see what they can do toward assisting.

1780 April 30 (Sunday). On consideration of the burning of Mr. Whitney's House, I preached (with alterations repeated) on Lam. 3.22-23 both a. and p.m.... Appointed contribution for Rev. Mr. Whitney next Sabbath. At noon conferred with Selectmen as well as Deacons about the Contribution.

1780 July 21 (Friday). N.B. A Fire prevailed a while in the Hill Nigh Wood's Field, but did not much Dammage, though a dry Time and somewhat Windy.

1780 July 28 (Friday). P.M. About a quarter after two o'clock, God was pleased to remember us in Mercy and sent Rain, together with Thunder and Lightning. To His Name be Glory! Mr. Biglow went home about 4 p.m., and Elias to reaping again. At eve heard that Mr. Abraham Bond's Barn was burnt by the Lightning.

1782 January 30 (Wednesday). Extream Cold. I could not ride abroad to visit as designed. Was mercifully *preserved* from *Fire* in my study at Evening. Thanks be to God therefor!

1782 February 11 (Monday). P.M. *Paul Knowlton* Esq. came to see me, and give me an Account of the late Burning at *New Fane* (where he lives); and he says, that In the Morning of the 2d of this Month was discovered that the House, and every Thing that was in it, of Mr. *Henry Sartel*, were reduc'd to Ashes. He, himself, his wife and five Children were burnt; their Bones and the Bones of their Dog were found -- and that Rev. *Taylor* preached an excellent Sermon next day from Luk. 13.2.4.5 which the Hearers will try to get Printed. May God Sanctifie such an awakening Dispensation!

1782 March 5 (Tuesday). Am informed (but no word was mentioned there of it) that last night a Mobbish Rabble burnt nigh Col. *Wheelocks* an *Image* which had been carried about, with great Contempt etc.

1782 August 31 (Saturday). N.B. Am informed that Neighbour Caleb Harrington having Set Fire to some part of his Meadow, it ran and spread.

1782 September 1 (Sunday). N.B. The Fires are prevailing in the Meadows below us, and many are kept from Meeting to stop, and quench and guard it.

1782 September 24 (Tuesday). I went down to my Island to view what work had been done to clear the Brook, and what Dammage the Fires have done in the Meadows.