

Diary of Ebenezer Parkman, 1752

1752 January 1 (Wednesday). Through the amazing Patience and Longsuffering of God, I am permitted to begin another New Year. Blessed be His glorious Name! May God be pleased to continue his great Mercy and Goodness, choose out our Changes for us, and prepare both me and mine for all His holy Will! This last Night and this Morning were intense Cold. I think I scarce ever was more sensible of the frostiness of the Air at any Time whatsoever. The Lord extend his pity to the poor, and whoever are in Distress at this so uncommon season! Ebenezer came over with a side of Beef, being part of our Chamberlin Cow. Mr. Whitney<sup>1</sup> was here and said something of the Difficulty last Lords Day, showing himself to be one of those who was in some measure dissatisfyed about the Sudbury affair; but after hearing what I had to say, he was so easy as to say no more about it.

1752 January 2 (Thursday). At Deacon Newton's<sup>2</sup> a.m. The Deacon did not begin with me, but I with him about the uneasiness in the Church about the Sudbury affair; and being the private Meeting was to be at his House this Afternoon I would have him tell the Brethren when they are there -- that I was perswaded they mistook my Design that Sabbath, but however, since I now know their minds, and that their inclination was to have had opportunity to pass a vote -- if it were to do again, I would not do as I did. Least the Deacon should mistake my meaning I sent Billy with a note -- at Eve came the Deacon, as if I had unraveled by my paper what I had spoke by word of mouth. With him came Captain Baker, Lieutenant Tainter, Lieutenant Bruce,<sup>3</sup> Mr. Francis Whipple, Mr. Daniel Hardy, and after them Lieutenant Bruce and Mr. Batheric.<sup>4</sup> By what they said I was so convinced of my omitting to deliver some things concerning my Conference with Captain Richardson etc. that I believed my Conduct at that Time when I dismissed the Church appeared exceptional and as if I bore upon their privilege. I told 'em it must needs be through such omissions that I was sorry -- they all listened satisfied but I had a night of oppressing Thought, and sinking Faintness at my Heart, which was very distressing. Mr. Isaac Harrington here to tell me my piggs were at Mr. Thomas Axtell's.

1752 January 3 (Friday). It was still exceeding Cold. Messrs. Harrington, Jonathan Forbush and Eleazer Whitney brought each of them a Load of wood, as they went to the meadows for Hay. Judge Ward<sup>5</sup> dined here and Zachary Hicks who lodged at t'other House was here also.

1752 January 4 (Saturday). Cold. Ebenezer to Mr. Thomas Axtell's with a Whirry and brought home my piggs which had been so long lost; he having shut them up and fed them as his own.

1752 January 5 (Sunday). Read Numb. 29. Preached on Job 33.27. P.M. read 1 Cor. 3 and preached on 1 Cor. 2.2. Church stayed on the Holliston letter. I spoke somewhat for their

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<sup>1</sup>Nathaniel Whitney, a selectman of Westborough.

<sup>2</sup>Josiah Newton.

<sup>3</sup>Abijah Bruce.

<sup>4</sup>David Batherick.

<sup>5</sup>Justice Nahum Ward of the Worcester County Court of Common Pleas.

Satisfaction and they voted smoothly. Had a night of Deep Concern about my Spirit and Eternal Condition.

1752 January 6 (Monday). A variety of Interruptions. Sent Billy to Ebenezer that he may improve the sledding. Mr. Beeton here and very helpfull. At Eve Batherick and Bumpso.

1752 January 7 (Tuesday). A.M. at the other House -- Mr. Daniel Bond of Watertown with Ebenezer. Ebenezer has Mr. Barns's Cattle and Sled and sleds Loggs to the saw-mill. P.M. Parish met and one article, but at no motion of mine, is my wood for the year Currant passes in the Negative. Messrs. Samuel and Daniel Hardy a Load of wood [*illegible*]. Lieutenant Tainter dined here; and was very helpful to get me an Horse for my Journey to Holliston. Had his Mare which he had delivered to Justice Baker for him; and he provided him another. I rode to Hopkinton and lodged at Mr. Barrett's.<sup>6</sup>

1752 January 8 (Wednesday). Captain Baker and Lieutenant Tainter called me at Mr. Barrett's and we rode to Captain Littlefield's in Holliston. All the Churches met there; and p.m. we formed into a Council and went into the Hearing of the Partys. Mr. Bucknam<sup>7</sup> was chosen Clerk. We were up till past midnight. The first Church in Medway and Framingham.

1752 January 9 (Thursday). In the Council, we still go on in hearing the partys till Evening, but adjourned at noon to Mr. Mellen's where we dined and spent the afternoon, and began our Debates and Votes of Council there in the Evening. I was very faint and worn.

1752 January 10 (Friday). We proceeded in our Debating, but we understood that by means of some unseasonable Discovery of the votes of the Council last night, Deacon Mellen was much dissatisfied, and at Eve he came into the Council and indecently vented his Disgust and was sharply rebuked for it. My spirits were roused with this, but in general I was much worried and waited. Mr. Bucknam and I lodged together at Captain Littlefield's throughout the time of the Council.

1752 January 11 (Saturday). The Council has been very unanimous. Finish our Result and publish it before Dinner. The Church and the other partys retire while we dined. Return and manifest their Gratitude and acceptance. Except Mr. Mellen who desires a little Time to think of the first articles. We return home -- calling at Mr. Barrett's a short space where I was informed that as to the Fast at Lieutenant John Woods (to which I was desired to come and assist) Yesterday, Mr. Stone<sup>8</sup> of Southborough preached, and they had but one Exercise.

1752 January 12 (Sunday). Read Numb. 30, and 1 Cor. 4. Preached on John 12.35. Acquainted the Church in the face of the Congregation that I was not prepared to lay before 'em what the

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<sup>6</sup>Samuel Barrett.

<sup>7</sup>Nathan Buckman of East Medway (Millis).

<sup>8</sup>Nathan Stone.

Council at Holliston had done, but I hoped I should be enabled by another Lords Day -- for I had not an whole copy of the Result, but expect one from Mr. Bridge<sup>9</sup> of Framingham.

1752 January 13 (Monday). A very Cold, Windy Day -- feel very poorly -- faint and weak. An ill Night.

1752 January 14 (Tuesday). My daughters Molly and Lucy were last Wednesday at Mr. Martyns, and heard their Disgust at my not having been to see 'em for so long time. They pitched upon to Day for us to go, and they would stay at home for us -- but though it was a most agreeable Day and fine slaying, yet I was so very ill that I could by no means go. Mrs. Parkman and Molly went. I grew so ill, so faint, feverish, etc. that I sent for Dr. Chase,<sup>10</sup> who came. N.B. The Vagrant Baker dined here: and I gave him some friendly admonition, he seemed to thank me and to take it kindly. Mr. Thomas Axtell of Grafton here about his keeping of my piggs. He leaves it to Mr. Phinehas Hardy to judge between us.

1752 January 15 (Wednesday). I had a Night of Sleep, and yet had a Morning and Forenoon of Sinking Faintness and Illness. Sir Forbush from Waltham dined with me, and I dined somewhat agreeably. P.M. a little better, yet am exceeding low. At Eve marry'd Ebenezer Miller,<sup>11</sup> but through much Difficulty.

1752 January 16 (Thursday). Another Comfortable Night (through Divine Mercy) yet very faint Morning. I perceive I go down Hill apace. Though Dr. Chase is very faithful and very generous, yet he is young and I am not content without further advice. Sent for Neighbour Pratt, that he might go to Dr. Scammell;<sup>12</sup> he came but could not go for the Doctor. He went to Deacon Newton and he consented and went. He returned at Evening without him, but brought a portion of Rhubarb corrected with oyl of Cinnamon. Memorandum. I consumed Number 1.2.3.4.5.6. of Journals from February 19, 1719 through to April 1723 containing numberless puerilities and better destroyed than preserved.<sup>13</sup> As Mr. Jonah Warrin brought a Load of Wood on the seventh at Evening and on the eleventh Day Mr. Sam Harrington another, this Day Mr. Samuel Hardy and James Miller junior brought each of them a load as they went to the meadows for hay. At Eve Dr. Chase here and advises to take the Rhubarb *ut Supr*. N.B. Forbush receiv'd a call from Brookfield and is here at Eve.

1752 January 17 (Friday). Was not quite so faint. Took the rhubarb, it worked once. Dr. Chase here, Mr. Isaac Harrington. Billy to Horns mill. At eve Captain Eager. A more comfortable Day in general (through Divine Goodness.)

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<sup>9</sup>Matthew Bridge.

<sup>10</sup>Thomas Chase, Westborough's young physician.

<sup>11</sup>Ebenezer Miller of Upton married Hannah How.

<sup>12</sup>Samuel Scannell, the physician of Milford.

<sup>13</sup>It is regrettable that Parkman destroyed these early years of the diary, kept while he was at Harvard College and before he accepted the call to Westborough.

1752 January 18 (Saturday). Exceeding low and faint at first waking which was long before Day and continued so till I got up, and some time in the morning about 11 a.m. came Dr. Scammell. He says I have no Hectick, advises to Bitters and nutritious Diet, but forbids all Volatiles. I sent for Dr. Chase but he was gone out of town. Dr. Scammel to Colonel Nahum Wards and returned p.m. Captain Maynard<sup>14</sup> visited me. Mr. Jacob Cushing<sup>15</sup> came to assist me tomorrow and lodged here. In general I was better through the Day than I expected. D.G.

1752 January 19 (Sunday). A bright Day, but too Cold and searching for me to go abroad. Mr. Jacob Cushing preached for me, a. and p.m. on Job 22.24. He read Numb. 31 and 1 Cor. 5. I was in some Comfort -- yet weak and feeble. Mr. Cushing went to the other House with my Children to lodge there.

1752 January 20 (Monday). Somewhat stormy in some parts of the Day; yet such the goodness of Brother Stone that he came to see me in my lowly, feeble state. Dined here, he also prayed with me. At Eve Captain Eager<sup>16</sup> and afterwards Justice Baker,<sup>17</sup> Mr. Hastings<sup>18</sup> of Watertown and his wife and others to see me. Was very feverish, weak and faint. N.B. Justice Baker prayed with me -- the Lord accept the offering!

1752 January 21 (Tuesday). Through God's great Mercy I had a considerable comfortable Day. Mr. Bridge of Framingham here. P.M. my wife and I rode out to Deacon Newtons and to the Widow Newtons. Felt so comfortable that I greatly rejoiced. The Glory to God. May I obtain the Grace suitably to improve it!

1752 January 22 (Wednesday). Mr. Francis Whipple a large load of wood. N.B. Mr. Williams here. P.M. Mr. John Martyn junior and his sister, my son Ebenezer and Daughters Molly and Lucy here. I rode out again as far as Mr. Claffands. N.B. Lieutenant Tainter carry'd to Boston a Calf for me which he killed the Eve before last. Was not in general so well as yesterday. May I wait the Will of God! N.B. Dr. Smith<sup>19</sup> and Granny Forbush<sup>20</sup> here.

1752 January 23 (Thursday). Cold Snowy Day. Mr. Martyn, Mr. Cushing and his wife visited me and dined with us. Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin brought a Load of Wood. Mr. Pratt very kind. Mr. Cushing prayed with me. I had had but a poor night and forenoon, but was better p.m. and Eve. D.G.

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<sup>14</sup>Parkman's old friend, Captain John Maynard.

<sup>15</sup>Jacob (Harvard 1748), the son of the Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury, became the minister of Waltham in 1752. Ward, *Shrewsbury*, p. 254.

<sup>16</sup>James Eager of the north precinct.

<sup>17</sup>Edward Baker of Westborough was a justice of the peace.

<sup>18</sup>Joseph Hastings, a selectman.

<sup>19</sup>Joshua Smith, the physician of Shrewsbury.

<sup>20</sup>The widow of Deacon Thomas Newton. [Additional note: Walett meant to describe her as the widow Thomas Forbush.]

1752 January 24 (Friday). A stormy Day -- snowing all Day. Through the divine Goodness I enjoyed much comfort. O for grace to improve my Strength to divine Glory! for I find myself extremely prone to wax cool again though I have been deeply Concerned and very fervent. At Eve Lieutenant Tainter from Boston where he had marketed a poor calf for me -- brought me Madera for Bitters.

1752 January 25 (Saturday). Had another good Day (through the great Mercy of God!). P.M. Mr. David Maynard<sup>21</sup> brought Dr. Samuel Gardner<sup>22</sup> (the School-Master) to board here.

1752 January 26 (Sunday). Mr. Jacob Cushing going yesterday to Southborough that to Day he might preach for Mr. Stone. Mr. Stone was so kind as to come up this morning and preached all Day for me, two seasonable sermons on Isa. 27.9, and I had the Liberty to the House of the Lord again for which I would praise his Name with rejoicing. Mr. Stone read a.m. Numb. 3. I read p.m. 1 Cor. 6. N.B. Judge Ward was at Meeting here. He and widow Child<sup>23</sup> (besides the above mentioned) dined with us, who (with my own Family, all of them together) make a considerable Company. Mr. Stone returned to Southborough this Evening -- the Lord graciously reward him for his Labor of Love and bless his endeavors among us! especially to me who am now immediately concerned in it.

1752 January 27 (Monday). The School begins at Mr. Hezekiah Pratt's, and Billy and Sarah attend it. Mr. James Miller junior brings a Load of Wood.

1752 January 28 (Tuesday). Brother Hicks and his son John here. They are going down to Cambridge to old Mr. Hicks's<sup>24</sup> Funeral. Mr. Whitney here with 10 chairs which he has bottomed for me, Two arm chairs and 8 others. Mr. Eliezer Rice here, he desires to discourse with me and asks Mr. Whitney to go along with us. He asks a Church Meeting again and I immediately grant it. I say all I can safely to him for reconciliation. He says there is nobody that takes any care of his Soul, (referring, I suppose, to his absenting himself from meeting without anybody minding it, for which reasons might be given). N.B. He asked whether we should not strive to forget as well as forgive -- when there had been nothing ripened so far as forgiveness. I asked him whether he was sorry for his passed Conduct and would endeavour after true affectionate regard to me hence forward? but he made me no answer to it. He goes away temperately. My Daughter Molly came and lodged here in order to my riding abroad with her Mother to Marlborough if I be able -- but the weather proves too rough and Cold.

1752 January 29 (Wednesday). This Day 16 year Was a most gloomy time when I lost my former wife. I would remember the wormwood and the gall, and my soul has reasons to be humbled within me. But how gracious God has been in preserving and sparing me so long!

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<sup>21</sup>Parkman's old friend, one of the original settlers of Westborough.

<sup>22</sup>(Harvard 1746). Gardner, the son of the Reverend John Gardner of Stow, kept school at various places before settling as a physician in Milton. *Sibley*, XII, 27.

<sup>23</sup>Mrs. Jonas Child of Westborough.

<sup>24</sup>Zechariah Hicks, a carpenter of Cambridge, died Jan. 27, 1752, aged 94. He was the father of John Hicks of Sutton. Paige, *Cambridge*, p. 580.

May God grant me His Grace to enable me to improve his long suffering! Mr. Smith<sup>25</sup> came from Marlborough to see me, and brings a young lady with him, one Mrs. Lydia Coit of Boston. Their coming prevented our going abroad to Day also. They dined here and tarried till nigh night when it snowed and the storm increased. At Eve Mr. Williams and Mr. Batherick here. N.B. the errand which the latter acquaints me with from Daniel Bond of Watertown concerning Mrs. Elizabeth Harrington. Ebenezer here likewise. N.B. Messrs. Daniel and Jonathan Forbush, Martin Pratt, and Elijah Rice, brought each of them a load of wood, and Mr. Edwards Whipple ditto.

1752 January 30 (Thursday). Messrs. Charles Bruce and Eleazer Whitney, each a Load of Wood, Mr. Edwards Whipple came with his mare, and putting her into my slay drove my wife and me to his House, and we dined there. I read Dr. Souths sermon on January 30, there. Mr. Walker has made me a pair of Boots. We went to Mr. Eliezer Rice's, he was not at home, but I discoursed with his wife, she having lately lost her mother by sudden Death. Ebenezer drove our slay home.

1752 January 31 (Friday). Cold Weather, yet through God's Goodness I am very comfortable and able to read and write again. Dr. Gardner goes to Marlborough after school and I sent a message by him to Mr. Jacob Felton; and a letter from Mr. Josiah Swan<sup>26</sup> at Lancaster about Eusebius which I bought of his mother in his name some years ago. Thus I finish the first month of this year, in which I have gone through both deep affliction and memorable mercy. May God afford his Grace that I may walk in newness of life.

1752 February 1 (Saturday). Mr. Eliezer Rice was here and brought me a written request for a Church Meeting. Brother Hicks lodged at t'other house last night, here today.

1752 February 2 (Sunday). Read Numb. 38 and preached on Job 33.27, last clause. P.M. read 1 Cor. 7 to number 24 omitting the rest. Stopped the Church and read the Holliston result and Neighbour Eliezer Rice's request for Church Meeting. At Eve was very much worried and tired, but I bless God He has enabled me thus far, May His Grace be perfected!

1752 February 3 (Monday). Rain. I attended the Church Meeting at which Mr. Eliezer Rice gave a paper containing his opinion about Original Sin. I made some reply to it which the Church was desired to show their minds whether he should enjoy the priviledge of baptism for his child. No hand was lifted up.<sup>27</sup> N.B. Dr. Gardner returned from Marlborough last Eve to t'other house.

1752 February 4 (Tuesday). Cold and blustering weather. The season is still severe. Read second volume of Secret History of Europe. Mr. Grow here and brought me £12, 12 shillings, Old Tenor. Never were the times more difficult with me than now respecting money when I

<sup>25</sup>The Reverend Aaron Smith. The matter concerned the future marriage of Elizabeth and Ebenezer, Jr.

<sup>26</sup>Swan (Harvard 1733) had been the minister of Dunstable, 1738-1746. He was now keeping school in Lancaster. *Sibley*, IX, 331-332.

<sup>27</sup>There was some debate over Rice's petition and Parkman opposed it. Westborough Church Records, Feb. 3, 1752.

owe so many and have so little to pay 'em with. This troubles me chiefly that I should be so unrighteous especially when not only a professor but a preacher of Righteousness. Lord deliver me out of this snare!

1752 February 5 (Wednesday). Dr. Gardner would find Horse while I find slay to ride to Mr. Martyn's. His horse proves too untractable. We put in my Mare. It is cloudy and cool and nigh Eve but we got over comfortably and lodged there. N.B. Mr. Martyn has bought Ridgely etc.<sup>28</sup>

1752 February 6 (Thursday). We feared a Storm but have a very fine Morn. Return home. N.B. Sir Forbes<sup>29</sup> has received a call from the town of Waltham and he is come up. Captain Baker was here in the morning to acquaint me that the private meeting is appointed to be at his house today and yet that he must unavoidable be at Worcester -- therefore requests me to be in his stead. I accepted and preached there -- Jer. 6.16 from page 13 on. Lieutenant Tainter came home with me. The sorrowful news of Mr. Peabody's<sup>30</sup> Death which was confirmed,

1752 February 7 (Friday). next morning; and t'is said that he is to be buried this Day. Help Lord! May this Death be sanctified to Thee in particular that since I live I may live unto the Lord. Mr. John Witt of Brookfield lodged at my other house last night and is here and meets Sir Forbes today here.

1752 February 8 (Saturday). Mr. Ebenezer Harrington<sup>31</sup> of Framingham and his wife here.

1752 February 9 (Sunday). Read Numb. 34. Preached on Rom. 14.8. P.M. read 1 Cor. 8. Preached on 1 Cor. 1.30, using mostly the first sermon on 2 Cor. 12.2. N.B. Daniel Hastings dined here and went at Eve to the other house.

1752 February 10 (Monday). My Wife this Day 35 years old. I went over to the other house. Daniel Hastings there. He assisted Ebenezer in killing two swine, one nigh fourteen, the other near thirteen score. P.M. Carryed Molly over to take her mother's place whilst my Wife and I rode in the slay to Grafton. Mr. Hutchinson<sup>32</sup> just gone to Sutton. Tarried with Mrs. Hutchinson til nigh night. In returning at Eve it was cold. Called at Mr. Winchesters<sup>33</sup> and at Mr. Benjamin Fay's<sup>34</sup> and the presents made us did well reward us for our trouble.

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<sup>28</sup>Thomas Ridgely, D.D. (c. 1667-1734), a nonconformist English divine, was the author of several works, none of which was published in America. The work mentioned here may have been *A Body of Divinity: wherein the Doctrines of the Christian Religion are Explained and Defended*, 2 vols. (London, 1731, 1733).

<sup>29</sup>Forbes did not accept this call but later in the year was ordained at North Brookfield.

<sup>30</sup>The Reverend Oliver Peabody of Natick.

<sup>31</sup>A Framingham selectman.

<sup>32</sup>Aaron Hutchinson of Grafton.

<sup>33</sup>Benjamin Winchester of Westborough.

<sup>34</sup>The son of the late Captain John Fay of Westborough.

1752 February 11 (Tuesday). My Wife and I rode to Marlborough and carried the child, Mr. William Winter and his Wife and his Wife's Sister at Colonel Williams<sup>35</sup> -- the ladys are fleeing to Worcester from the smallpox which is now in Three familys in Boston. I went to Mr. Jacob Felton's. My wife and I dined at Colonel Williams. Visited Mr. Smith and Dr. Samuel Brigham<sup>36</sup> who has married our Neece Mrs. Nanny Gott.<sup>37</sup> Mr. Smith and Mr. Stone came to us at the Doctor's in the Eve. We lodged there.

1752 February 12 (Wednesday). Cold Day. We dined at Esquire Brigham's, the Doctor and his wife and his Brother Uriah and his wife being there also. P.M. In returning home called at Mr. Jacob Amsdens -- found our habitation in peace. To God the Glory!

1752 February 13 (Thursday). Read Sydenham on smallpox.<sup>38</sup>

1752 February 14 (Friday). [No entry.]

1752 February 15 (Saturday). The School finishes at Mr. Pratts. Masters David Maynard junior and Jacob Rice here p.m. to pay Dr. Gardner.

1752 February 16 (Sunday). Mr. Martyn<sup>39</sup> and I had agreed to change if it was not foul weather or very cold, but it proved so very sharp a morning and was so very slippery that I despaired of his coming out; and therefore although I depended much upon changing I did not venture to go, but turned my mare home that my children might come in the slay to Meeting. However in case Mr. Martyn should be o'mind to come I remember 1.) We had agreed that if it looked doubtful whether the other would set out, yet he that was so disposed should stir early and give the other sufficient time. 2.) I know I could take his horse and ride as far as my other house and there take one of my own. (And Thirdly) I put myself into all the preparation I well could by reading over my Notes which I designed to deliver to his people, skirting, etc. but we were all of us sure, by what he has said in times past, that it was too slippery for him to ride. Yet at more than half after nine o'clock, Mr. Martyn came -- and understanding that I was not dressed, nor did expect to go, he was so moved that if I had not used, not only entreatys but force, he would have gone back. I took his horse as I had purposed and rode to my other house, where I left him and took Ebenezer's mare and proceeded to the north side. Got to Meeting in good Season and broke off in season likewise. A.M. read the chapter of my text, viz. Jer. 31.18.19.20 which I preached on both parts of the Day. P.M. read 1 Cor. 4. Baptized Eli son of Thomas and Persis Goodenow. I tarried not a great while after Meeting before I returned to

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<sup>35</sup>Abraham Williams, the prominent office-holder of Marlborough, was Parkman's brother-in-law. Hudson, *Marlborough*, p. 470.

<sup>36</sup>The son of the prominent Marlborough citizen, Samuel Brigham, Sr.

<sup>37</sup>Anna, the daughter of Dr. Benjamin Gott of Marlborough, married Brigham, Jan. 9, 1752. Hudson, *Marlborough*, p. 373.

<sup>38</sup>Thomas Sydenham, the English physician, was the author of numerous medical works in Latin and in English. The reference here may have been to Walter Lynn, *An Essay towards a . . . Cure in the Small Pox . . . and a Review of Dr. Sydenham's Works* (London, 1714).

<sup>39</sup>John Martyn of Northborough.



my other house, for I was much afraid of the evening cold. Mr. Martyn and Dr. Gardner came to me there; and after some refreshment we parted -- but it proved a very sorrowful day to me to see Mr. Martyn so extremely raised for I did not in the least refuse to go; nor was it so late but that I got there in proper season and although he found me at home, yet there was much reason for it, it was also the first time that he had ever come to me thus; whereas I have time after time been at his house before he was in any readiness at all, yet I showed no resentment. No, not when he was lingered and delayed so long that he has made it altogether too late, quite!!, when he began the Divine Service for me. But I fear what this will prove the beginning of! *Deus avertat omen!*

1752 February 17 (Monday). Stormy morning. Dr. Gardner lodged over at t'other house -- gone p.m. with Molly and Lucy to Mr. Stone's<sup>40</sup> of Southborough. I rode to Mr. Pierce's to see two children sick of the throat distemper.

1752 February 18 (Tuesday). Sent letters to my Brethren at Boston and an advertisement to put my other house and place upon sale. Mr. Pierce's youngest child which I saw last evening is dead; another very bad and two more are taken sick. Dr. Gardner left us and went to Marlborough. Mr. Grow brought £8.10.0 Old Tenor. The weather foul; Snow, Rain, Snow, etc.

1752 February 19 (Wednesday). The weather is become very Fine, but it setts the snow aflowing. Mr. Martyn and his wife came to see us -- dined here; Mrs. Nabby Baker made Mrs. Martyn a gown here. P.M. I went to the funeral of Mr. William Pierce's child. Sir Forbush here, being come from Waltham and goes today upon his journey to Brookfield. N.B. I sent £10 Old Tenor to Jeduthun Baldwin per Mr. Samuel Harrington. Mr. Martyn and his Wife returned home at Evening.

1752 February 20 (Thursday). Mr. Haven and his sister Patty lodged at t'other house, and came here a.m. as did Captain Waters<sup>41</sup> of Sutton and his wife. Dr. Chase and his wife and Mrs. Newton. These last all went away before dinner. Mr. Haven and his sister dined here. N.B. His answer to the South Church in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.<sup>42</sup> The Waters flow exceedingly. N.B. Molly brought Breck here, who has canker in his mouth, yet plays about in the house and abroad. N.B. An odd kind of note -- Mr. Grows from Mr. Thaddeus Gale for money which I do not owe.

1752 February 21 (Friday). Bright and moderately Warm but very windy. Low grounds, especially hollows exceedingly filled with waters, the snow disappears apace.

1752 February 22 (Saturday). Mr. William Pierce's little son Aaron buried but by reason of the storminess of the weather I could not go to it. This child also died of the throat distemper.

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<sup>40</sup>The Reverend Nathan Stone.

<sup>41</sup>Jonathan Waters.

<sup>42</sup>Samuel Haven (Harvard 1749) became the minister of the South Church of Portsmouth, N. H., 1752-1806. *Sibley*, XII, 382-392.

1752 February 23 (Sunday). Read Numb. 35. Preached a.m. on Thom. 14.8. P.M. read 1 Cor. 9, and took some notice of the providence of God which has ordered these two Chapters to be read the same day. Preached on Rom 6.21. We took into the Church Messrs. Jonathan Bond and Eleazer Whitney, Mary Bond, Margaret Chaddock, and Lydia Twitchell.<sup>43</sup>

1752 February 24 (Monday). Billy to Mr. Allen's Mill and to Mr. Woods' fulling Mill with a pair of blanketts to be full'd. Came home so late p.m. that I could not go to Mr. Pierce's to see his son William who is sick. In the morning I went to Mr. Ebenezer Rice's and talked with his wife about her drinking which she denies herself guilty of.<sup>44</sup>

1752 February 25 (Tuesday). The weather grows very springlike. I went to Mr. Pierce's. William is so bad 'tis doubtful whether he will live or no. Mr. Edward Willson here. Wrote to Mr. Prince<sup>45</sup> of Boston per Mr. Hall<sup>46</sup> of Sutton.

1752 February 26 (Wednesday). Although I sent to Mr. Hutchinson to come and help me in my lecture today, yet I was obliged to preach it myself. Text 1 Cor. 1. Used the notes on 2 Cor. 12.2 with a new plan and many alterations and additions. And oh that the Blessings of God may accompany the serious things that were spoken for the highest good of all! That we may both be in Christ and have the great Happiness and Comfort of well grounded Evidence that we are so! N.B. Samuel Bumpso and an hand with him, viz. Elijah Hardy clearing behind the Meeting House. A.M. they dined here. And Sam took a small turn at the same work after lecture.

1752 February 27 (Thursday). Samuel Bumpso and with him Charles and Abner Rice and Constantine Hardy came and cleared the bushy land behind the Meeting House. My sons Ebenezer and Thomas also came and helped. N.B. Sam and Constantine dined here. P.M. Mrs. Nabby Baker<sup>47</sup> here and my wife took opportunity to take discourse with her about some reports with regard to my son Ebenezer courting her.

1752 February 28 (Friday). Sam, Charles and Abner cleared again. Sam dines here. The others go home. Mr. Hall of Sutton here, bought Two Cloth for Thomas of him. Ebenezer was here at eve.

1752 February 29 (Saturday). Sam Bumpso brought a parcel of Apples here from Mr. Jonathan Fay's and from Mr. Grout and dined with us but did not work. Mr. Winchester comes from Boston here. Smallpox doth not spread as t'was reported. May the Lord Pitty his People! Thus

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<sup>43</sup>These new members had been dismissed from other towns as follows: Jonathan Bond and Lydia Twitchell from Watertown; Eleazer Whitney from Waltham; Margaret Chaddock from Hopkinton; Mary Bond (wife of Jonathan) from Mendon. Westborough Church Records, Feb. 23, 1752.

<sup>44</sup>Anna, the daughter of Charles Rice of Westborough married Ebenezer Rice of Southborough, March 23, 1743. This couple made their home in Westborough but were evidently not admitted to the church.

<sup>45</sup>Thomas Prince of the Old South Church.

<sup>46</sup>Parson David Hall.

<sup>47</sup>Abigail, the daughter of Squire Edward Baker, later married John Martyn, Jr., of Northborough.

has the Lord carried us through the tedious Winter and the changes of it. Blessed be His Name for all his Goodness to Us!

1752 March 1 (Sunday). We begin not only with a Sabbath but a Sacrament day. I read the last chapter of Numbers. Preached on John 1.41, a. and p.m. It was a rainy day and but few women at communion. P.M. read 1 Cor. 10. Oh that God would please to bless these happy seasons to all our Souls -- to my own in particular! Deacon Forbush<sup>48</sup> and Mr. Thomas Kendal<sup>49</sup> dined with us. Deacon Burnap<sup>50</sup> of Hopkinton with us, Mr. Barrett<sup>51</sup> not well.

1752 March 2 (Monday). Town Meeting. I was at Captain Maynard's a.m. but returned seasonably to pray with the freeholders at their assembly. Captain Forbush and Mr. Grout were their messengers. A great deal of company at my house all p.m. and Eve -- among the rest Mr. Joshua Townsend<sup>52</sup> -- who was extremely full of Talk, and unmannerly with his Hatt, which since he us'd to be our Schoolmaster I took the more Notice of and as decently as I could, hinted to him. N.B. Reckon'd with Messrs. How and Daniel Garfield, who bought a steer of me last fall. Mr. Grow here and paid me so much in Money and Notes as amounted to above 68£ Old Tenor. Sam Bumpso with Jonathan Grout and Abner Rice clear'd part of a.m.

1752 March 3 (Tuesday). Rainy. Mr. Forbush here from Brookfield.

1752 March 4 (Wednesday). I rode to Mr. Stones; I went by the way of Deacon Matthias Rice's,<sup>53</sup> who is confin'd by Illness; is doubtless delirious but Shews great Distress of Mind. I pray'd with him. It rain'd yet I proceeded to Southborough, din'd at Mr. Stones. Preach'd his Lecture on Rom. 14.8. I return'd (in the Rain) at Eve. Call'd at Mr. Amsdens. N.B. Exceeding hollow and miry Roads.

1752 March 5 (Thursday). Am Reading old Mr. Niles of Braintree against Mr. Briant.<sup>54</sup>

1752 March 6 (Friday). The Adjournment of Town-meeting brought much Company and Interruptions Particularly Mr. Kelly<sup>55</sup> of Hopkinton (of the Church of England) here. Mr. Bezeleel Eager brought Me (from Mr. Davis<sup>56</sup> of Holden) Mr. John Taylor of Original Sin.<sup>57</sup> At

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<sup>48</sup>Jonathan Forbush.

<sup>49</sup>Thomas Kendall of Suffield, Conn., had married Susanna Tainter of Westborough.

<sup>50</sup>Jonathan Burnap.

<sup>51</sup>Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

<sup>52</sup>See Parkman Diary, Dec. 12, 1726.

<sup>53</sup>Of Marlborough.

<sup>54</sup>Samuel Niles, *A Vindication of Divers Important Gospel-Doctrines . . . against the Injurious Reflections and Misrepresentations . . . of the Rev. Lemuel Briant's* (Boston, 1752).

<sup>55</sup>Richard Kelley.

<sup>56</sup>Joseph Davis.

<sup>57</sup>*The Scripture Doctrine of Original Sin Proposed to Free and Candid Examination* (London, 1740). There were subsequent English editions.

Eve came Mr. Grout, Lieutenant Tainter and Mr. Samuel Harrington, who propose to assist me in getting Timber for a Barn, also to help me in breaking up Land for an Orchard.

1752 March 7 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1752 March 8 (Sunday). Read Deut. I, and 1 Cor. 11. Text a.m. Rom. 6.21. P.M. Rev. 2.2 -- hope there were Some good Impressions: but all is with God.

1752 March 9 (Monday). Went in the Morning to t'other House. Thence to Mr. Francis Whipples to See him under his broken Bones -- but they were newly sett, and he was asleep, I refus'd to have him 'waked. I was at Mr. James Maynards but he was not at home. P.M. Pray'd at the Precinct Meeting. Private Baptism was desir'd for an infant Child of Mr. Solomon Woods -- I took the opportunity of the people's being together to go into their Meeting and consulted (such of the Church as were there) upon it. There appeared an hearty Concurrence. I propose tomorrow, 11 a.m. to do it. N.B. Captain Maynard here and talks with me about buying my old place.

1752 March 10 (Tuesday). A.M. very cold. Catechiz'd at the Meeting House. 27 Males: 15 Girls. Rode to Mr. Woods after Catechizing and din'd there, the Child very dangerously ill. P.M. in Presence of a number of the Church and others I Baptiz'd it -- the Name was Patience. I introduc'd the administration with Some short Exercise on the Work and Duty of a Parent on such Occasion -- and after the Exercise we sung part of the 143 Ps. Concluded with the Blessing. Artemas Ward Esquire there and came home with me. It Snow'd very Hard and the Ground soon cover'd. Wrote by Esquire Wards<sup>58</sup> Brother Thomas Trowbridge<sup>59</sup> of Groton, to John Stevens Esquire of Townsend about the Plott of Lott Land.

1752 March 11 (Wednesday). Mr. Forbush from Waltham, here; and wants immediate advice about Brookfield.

1752 March 12 (Thursday). In the Morning having thought of Mr. Forbush's Case with regard to Brookfield Proposals, I rode over to Mr. Martyns whither he was gone to meet a Brookfield Messenger, Mr. Cutter; and I din'd there. Mr. Forbush prepar'd his answer, which had some Conditions inserted respecting Wood and Sallery -- and he sent it by Mr. Cutter. P.M. I rode to Marlborough accompany'd by Forbush who is returning to Waltham. I pay'd Mr. Felton 22£ 5 shillings old Tenor and obtain'd of Mr. Ephraim How to pay him the rest, as he Should want it. I return'd home by Deacon Matthias Rice's who is grown much better.

1752 March 13 (Friday). Mr. Thomas Axtell here, and with him Mr. Aaron Hardy. Mr. Axtell here many Hours -- he din'd here -- with much Ado we came to an agreement. I engag'd him 4 Bushels of Indian Corn for what he had given my Piggs. At Eve I rode to See Mr. Moses Warrins

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<sup>58</sup>The future major general and commander-in-chief.

<sup>59</sup>Artemas Ward married Sarah, the daughter of the Reverend Caleb Trowbridge of Groton, July 31, 1750.

Wife in her low Condition and apprehended to be dying -- but she reviv'd. N.B. had Widow Newtons Mare. Lieutenant Tainter from Boston, when I got home.

1752 March 14 (Saturday). Impossible for me to prepare Two Sermons this Week, have so many Impediments and Interruptions. My mind much exercis'd with it.

1752 March 15 (Sunday). Deut. 2. Read a.m. and preach'd on Rom. 6.21. P.M. read 1 Cor. 12. Preach'd on the Death of Louisa Queen of Denmark, King George's Youngest Daughter and improv'd Sermon on Ps. 39.8. N.B. Widow Child din'd here.

1752 March 16 (Monday). The Reverend Mr. Wellman<sup>60</sup> and Mr. Amos Case din'd here. Sent by Mr. Wellman to Mr. Prince at Boston, and by Mr. Case to Mr. Wilkins<sup>61</sup> of Souhegan.

1752 March 17 (Tuesday). Storm of Rain and Wind.

1752 March 18 (Wednesday). Storm continues -- increases -- a considerable Snow -- and very Cold.

1752 March 19 (Thursday). Forbush from Waltham again, and wants further Advice. P.M. I preached to Young People from Mat. 18, number 19, 20. At Eve Mr. Abijah Gale here.

1752 March 20 (Friday). Sent to Boston by Mr. Jonas Bond of Sutton; and bought 7 Yards Tow Cloth of him. P.M. Mr. Noah How and his wife here to be examin'd -- but I am oblig'd in Conscience to put them by and request them Still to take further Pains. We hear that the Small Pox greatly Spreads in Boston.

1752 March 21 (Saturday). Snow'd a.m. Rain'd p.m. but at 3 p.m. rode to North Sutton. N.B. Ebenezer and William went to Mr. Daniel Matthews with our Barley to be Malted. N.B. Mr. Greenwood of Sutton rode with me at Evening to Mr. Wellman's.

1752 March 22 (Sunday). I preach'd there on Rom. 8.7. Mr. Minott<sup>62</sup> Schoolmaster din'd with me. At Eve I rode up to See my Kinswoman Mrs. Fuller<sup>63</sup> who through God's Goodness is yet alive and was able to be at Meeting p.m. There came Mr. Holman and Mr. Fish -- they follow'd me with Questions for the Explanation of the Sacred Scriptures till 10 o'clock. I lodg'd at Cousen Trasks,<sup>64</sup> and Master Minott with me. N.B. No Proclamations till to Day. I baptiz'd a Child of William Wait. N.B. Mr. Wellman preach'd at Westborough on Gen. 19.14, and Ps. 19.11.

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<sup>60</sup>James Wellman of Millbury.

<sup>61</sup>Daniel Greenwood, of the north parish of Sutton. [Additional note: This footnote might refer to the "Mr. Greenwood" in the entry for Mar. 21.]

<sup>62</sup>Timothy Minot, a Concord schoolmaster and occasional preacher.

<sup>63</sup>Mrs. Jonathan Fuller.

<sup>64</sup>Samuel Trask was an adopted son of Jonathan Fuller of Sutton. Benedict and Tracy, *Sutton*, p. 735.

1752 March 23 (Monday). My Kindred full of kind Endearments. But we must part. My Kinsman Trask rode with me to Grafton. I proceeded to Mr. Hutchinsons where was Mr. Wellman and we din'd together. In returning home I made a Visit at Mr. Moses Warrins, whose wife is low and weak yet, but is somewhat better. When I came home understood that Captain Witt and Mr. Barns of Brookfield had been here to see Mr. Forbush but he was not here. They seem determin'd to have him at Brookfield. N.B. Mr. Wellman tells me that Cousen Nat Parkmans Wife at Boston has the small pox.

1752 March 24 (Tuesday). My Wife went to t'other House and return'd at Eve. Captain Witt etc. here again but it still happens to be when I am absent. Mr. Forbush comes to me still to advise with me in the weighty Case before him: For Brookfield do not accept his Conditions, but do make further proposals to him, which are such as make the Matter no better than it was before.

1752 March 25 (Wednesday). Dr. Samuel Gardner to see us (having lodg'd at t'other House) and din'd here. We hear the Small Pox So spreads that they begin to inoculate in Boston. May God in infinite Mercy Shew his Compassion to the Distress'd Town.

1752 March 26 (Thursday). Publick Fast on occasion both of the Small Pox and the Season. I preach'd a.m. on 2 Sam. 24.14. In my preparations I Spent my Time upon the forenoon sermon. P.M. preach'd on Zech. 12.10, to page 7, and made Some Additions according to the Business of the Day. A rainy Day, yet considerable many People out: I wish it might be to Some good Purpose. N.B. Not only Mr. Seth Rice went out of Meeting from the forenoon sermon, but Mr. Robert Bradish also. N.B. My Daughter Lucy has stay'd at home from Public Worship several Days -- she has now an ague in her Face, and has been pritty much troubl'd with it.

1752 March 27 (Friday). Exceeding rainy Day.

1752 March 28 (Saturday). Mrs. Lucy Bowker here a.m. Mr. Winchester from Boston and brings us account that now the Small Pox prevails there very much. I am dissatisfy'd with Mr. Prince's misimprovement of the Materials etc. which I Sent him about Mechoachan.<sup>65</sup>

1752 March 29 (Sunday). Read Deut. 3 and 1 Cor. 13. Preach'd on Rom. 6.21, last Clause, a. and p.m.

1752 March 30 (Monday). Prepar'd Something in reply to Benevolentius in the last Boston Gazette.<sup>66</sup>

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<sup>65</sup>Sometimes spelled mechoacanna. Any of several plants of the morning-glory family with roots used as cathartics.

<sup>66</sup>The *Boston Gazette or Weekly Journal*, Dec. 17 and Dec. 24, 1751, contained an article entitled "The Cure of Cancers," taken from the *Gentleman's Magazine* for July, 1751. Parkman became involved in a dispute over the nature of phytolacca, poke-weed, and mechoacan. A note from Parkman appeared in the issue of Feb. 18, 1752, in which the Westborough minister asserted "That at New Haven he made a Business of discoursing with Capt. Dickerman; who told him, it was Mechoacan that he used for his Cancer in his Cheek." Another

1752 March 31 (Tuesday). Kill'd a young Sow to Send to Boston, but sold it to Mr. John Beeton, Smith; weigh'd 152. Mr. Beeton to Boston. Sent by him to invite Mr. Stoddard to come up to us this Small Pox Time. Sent by Mr. Richard Kelly the like to Brother Samuels Children and to Dr. Parkmans Widow -- to this last because: She had writ to my Daughter Molly that she had rather come here than go to Weymouth. And Sent a Letter to Mr. Kneeland, for the Press, -- in Vindication of Captain Dickerman.

1752 April 1 (Wednesday). Rode to Mr. Gashetts about a breaking up Plough, but he was not at home. In my way I call'd at Mr. Bonds -- Mr. Martyn Pratts, Chaddocks, Dunlops, Charles Bruce, Bowmans, Harringtons etc. N.B. Ebenezer here when I return'd and took home his Mare. Ebenezer brought about 1/2 a Load of Swamp Hay from Eliezer Rice, who he had gratify'd with part of a Barrell of Cyder.

1752 April 2 (Thursday). Ebenezer here again to bring his Mare, and take Care of the Hay brought last Evening -- Rain. I rode to Mr. Grouts -- See Mr. Phinehas Hardy, Endeavour'd to obtain his son Constantine. Was at old Mr. Whipples. Mrs. Hitty Burnap was here and is gone to t'other house.

1752 April 3 (Friday). Mr. Claffland came to digg Stones, but being alone I ran to 3 or 4 near Neighbours for an Hand but in Vain. He was forc'd to return home again. N.B. he was to have brought Mr. William Pierce, but Mr. Pierce was gone to hewing Timber in Mr. Sherbourns Lott for my Barn. For (by Lieutenant Tainters and Mr. Harringtons Means chiefly) a Number of Hands have freely gone and got a considerable Part of the Great Timber -- and this Day Lieutenant Harrington brought Two Load of it to place, and Joseph Grout brought another Load -- in all 22 Sticks -- which is all the Large Timber for the Barn except Two posts, which another person is to provide. A Singular Smile of divine Providence. May God reward them for their Bounty and grant me grace to make a good use of it to divine Glory! The three Carters din'd here with us. P.M. My wife to See Mr. Edwards Whipples.

1752 April 4 (Saturday). The Weather has been very Cold; and the Nights frosty for Some time. This Morning very Cold. Mr. Winchester returns from Boston -- as does Mr. Kelly who was at my Brother Samuels and deliver'd my Letter -- but he brought me no Return. Mrs. Hitty Burnap is Still over at t'other House. P.M. Mr. Whitney here.

1752 April 5 (Sunday). Read Deut. 4. Preach'd a.m. on Mal. 4.1. P.M. read 1 Cor. 14. Preach'd on Mark 9.44 repeating sermon on Heb. 9.27 from page 28 to 36.

1752 April 6 (Monday). Mr. Claffland and Mr. Pierce came and dugg Stones out of the Ground I design to break up for an Orchard. Mr. William Rogers junior work'd with Ebenezer at holing

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correspondent, "Benevolentius," argued that Parkman was mistaken. *Boston Gazette*, March 24, 1752. The March 31 issue of the paper did not contain Parkman's response and there are no known copies of the next 2 issues.

posts. Constantine Hardy came to live a little while with us. Mr. Batherick, being disquieted that we sung Mear Tune Yesterday.

1752 April 7 (Tuesday). Mr. Pierce and Elijah Rice work for me partly in digging and drawing Stones, and partly in building Stone Wall at the Front Corner next to the Road. Mr. Harrington came with 4 Oxen, Mr. Simon Tainter came with his Fathers Team with 4 Oxen and brought Mr. Gashetts Plough, Mr. Grouts Son came with 4 Oxen, Mr. Pratt came with a Yoke of Oxen, and all these with my own join'd to them made up a team to break up, and follow'd it all Day -- they broke up a Piece of Ground for a Garden Spott -- and a Field in which I purpose to plant an Orchard, but it not being wholly compleated, they agree to come again all of them (but Mr. Grouts Son) tomorrow morning and finish the Work. Mr. Pierce stays and lodges here. N.B. Mr. Joseph Hagar from Waltham here with a Letter from Captain Livermore<sup>67</sup> concerning Mr. Forbush. Mr. Eliezer Rice here and asks for a Copy of the Votes of the Church respecting him. Merodach Baladan Smith<sup>68</sup> was married to Abigail Bruce.<sup>69</sup>

1752 April 8 (Wednesday). The Breaking up Team came again this Morning and finish'd their Work. Mr. Ebenezer Nurse's came with his son Moses, viz. 4 Oxen, instead of Mr. Grouts. N.B. Mr. Pratt gives his man Cornelius's Work t'other Day in my Cellar and his oxens work yesterday and this morning, but asks pay for one Day for himself. Mr. Nurses Team with Moses tarrys all the forenoon. Mr. Pierce and Elijah Rice at the Stone Wall to Day. My Son Ebenezer first begins to plough for sowing at the old place. I rode to Grafton Lecture and preach'd on Rev. 22.16. Return'd at Eve. Ebenezer here at Eve and rode home his Mare. N.B. Talk'd of his taking the place to the Halves etc.

1752 April 9 (Thursday). Billy is forc'd to go to plough at t'other House. Neither Ebenezer nor Constantine Hardy came to Lecture. Mr. Hutchinson preach'd it, from Luke 22.15.16. I wrote to Sir Forbush at Brookfield concerning the Contents of Captain Livermore's Letter from Waltham.

1752 April 10 (Friday). Receiv'd Two Letters per Mr. Winchester from Brother Samuel Parkman, dated the third Instant -- one of them writ by Billy Bows, who with his sister Nabby and Cousen Sarah Tyley were inoculated on the second. As soon as I had read I burnt both the Letters. N.B. Mr. William Rogers and his wife apprehended and carry'd before Justice Liscomb<sup>70</sup> for Stealing (as it is suspect'd) Flax out of Mr. Jonas Brighams Barn, and at Night the Man was committed to Jayl.

1752 April 11 (Saturday). Mr. Richard Kelly brings Word from my Brothers that yesterday the Pox was come out favourably upon Billy etc.

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<sup>67</sup>Nathaniel Livermore.

<sup>68</sup>Merodackbaladin was the son of Jonathan Smith of Marlborough. Hudson, *Marlborough*, p. 446.

<sup>69</sup>The daughter of Lieutenant Abijah Bruce.

<sup>70</sup>Samuel Lyscomb of Hopkinton, a justice of the peace.



1752 April 12 (Sunday). Read Deut. 5. Preach'd on John 1.41. P.M. administer'd the Lords Supper. Read 1 Cor. 15 and with alterations etc. deliver'd the first of the sermon on number 22. My Mind wrought tumultuously through the last Night from a deep Sense of my Negligence, Slothfulness and unfaithfulness -- But I humbly make my Flight to the Glorious Redeemer, relying and depending on his Merits and Righteousness for Pardon and Acceptance with God. N.B. Deacon Newton sick of the Throat Distemper. I call'd Brother Tainter to officiate in his Room, which he did. At Eve I visited the Deacon and found him very ill.

1752 April 13 (Monday). Old Mr. Dunlop came to work in my New Garden, to dig out the Roots which the plough has left, and prepare it for the Rake. His son John also wrought for me. They both came late. John Singled Flax. At Eve at Deacon Newtons -- Justice Baker there also -- now a bad Fever and is an ill man. N.B. Mr. Maccarty<sup>71</sup> came to my House and lodg'd here.

1752 April 14 (Tuesday). Thomas and Molly ride to Cambridge to see their Aunt Lydia.<sup>72</sup> Thomas rode on Mr. Samuel Fay's Beast: Molly on her Brother Ebenezers. I had word from Deacon Newtons that he was worse. Mr. Maccarty, and afterwards Messrs. Cushing,<sup>73</sup> Martyn and Buckminster<sup>74</sup> rode to Ministers Meeting at Hopkinton but I was oblig'd to stay and visit Deacon Newton, but he not being (as I conceive) altogether so bad as others apprehended, I rode to Hopkinton where I was through the Day and over Night. N.B. The Affair of Father Loring<sup>75</sup> took us up the Chief of our Time; except what Deacon Mellen<sup>76</sup> and his son Daniel had. N.B. The Night exceeding Cold.

1752 April 15 (Wednesday). The Morning unseasonably Cold. The Ground Froze at an unusual rate. N.B. Mr. Maccarty lodg'd at Commisary Price's.<sup>77</sup> He preach'd the public Lecture from Jos. 24.24. After Exercise Mr. Bridge of Framingham discover'd to me what he heard of Some of the Conduct of Deacon Millen at a certain neighbouring Ministers House, with regard to the late Council at Holliston, calling 'em Numbskulls and Villains etc. whereupon I took opportunity and talk'd with him, and acquainted him with the Vote of the Council there "that he Should not speak again in the Council except he first make an acknowledgement of his bad Conduct Etc." As to Mr. Loring it was resolv'd that 2 or 3 of the Association make him a Visit and discourse with him upon his great Disgust with us, and that Messrs. Cushing, Barrett and Parkman go to him, and a Day was agreed upon -- but I objected against my going, and propos'd Mr. Martyn; but it was not freely accepted. My own private Affairs are at this Time in my new Circumstances, too much incumber'd to pretend to go abroad. Messrs. Cushing, Martyn and Maccarty came home with me. Mr. Dunlop has work'd in my New Garden, in digging up Roots, and subduing it; this is now the third Day. Deacon Newton, I hear, is somewhat better.

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<sup>71</sup>The Reverend Thaddeus Maccarty of Worcester.

<sup>72</sup>Lydia Champney was the sister of Parkman's first wife.

<sup>73</sup>Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

<sup>74</sup>Joseph Buckminster of Rutland.

<sup>75</sup>Israel Loring of Sudbury.

<sup>76</sup>Henry Mellen of Hopkinton.

<sup>77</sup>Roger Price of Hopkinton.

1752 April 16 (Thursday). Was oblig'd to do something in the Garden myself. Sow'd a few seeds etc. Am Preparing on the Eighth Commandment. At the Funeral of Mr. Bezaleel Smiths Child.

1752 April 17 (Friday). Thomas and Molly return'd from Cambridge. Thomas had drop'd his great Coat from his Horse in Roxbury -- and did not find it. Mr. Winchester from Boston informs that many die of the Small Pox there, and Some Number of those who were inoculated: particularly we hear that Mr. Robert Breck being inoculated, is dead.

1752 April 18 (Saturday). Mr. Bezaleel Smith and Mr. Eleazer Pratt brought Girts for my Barn from Mr. Reuben Maynards, that Neighbourhood having join'd together and got 'em.

1752 April 19 (Sunday). A.M. read Deut. 6. Preach'd on Exod. 20.15. P.M. read 1 Cor. 16. Deliver'd again the second Sermon on 1 Cor. 15.22. Stop'd the Brethren and read another Letter from Sudbury agriev'd Sign'd by Josiah Haynes and Samuel Dakin. Dated March 26, 1752, and it was left to Consideration.

1752 April 20 (Monday). In the Garden again. Am reading Dr. Youngs Sermons volume 2<sup>78</sup> borrow'd of Mrs. Barrett of Hopkinton.

1752 April 21 (Tuesday). Early in the Morning to Mr. Clafflands, Warrins, and to Mr. Bonds, to get Teams to fetch Rails from Rody Smiths and Elijah Rice's. Visit old Mrs. Dorcas Forbush.<sup>79</sup> P.M. Catechiz'd at the School House. 37 Boys and Girls. After the Exercise was at Mr. Grows and Harringtons.

1752 April 22 (Wednesday). It has been very Cold, especially the Mornings very frosty -- but today the Sun is very Warm, and is the most Spring-like Day we have had this Spring. Mr. Bond brought 35 Rails from Rody Smiths, and Mr. Simon Tainter 50 from Elijah Rice's. Daniel Hastings of Watertown dines with us. Mrs. Parkman is gone to reckon with Patty Pannell and paid her all that was due.

1752 April 23 (Thursday). Mr. Edward Wilson came, and at last finished the Topping out of my Chimney -- had Cornelius Cook for a Tender. Another very warm Day. I was oblig'd to go to Mr. Jonathan Forbush's for another Bushel of Lime. Was put to Difficulty for Clay to plaister the inside. Try'd at Widow Newtons Clay-Pitts without Success.

1752 April 24 (Friday). Ebenezer brought over a Load of Clay from Mr. Hows hither; Mr. Willson came again, to plaister the Chimney; and Cornelius Cook tended. They work'd from a little before noon till Evening -- paid Mr. Willson 40/ old Tenor in part. Hot Still, even like in Summer.

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<sup>78</sup>Edward Young (1643-1705) was a Fellow of Winchester College, Rector of Upham and Dean of Salisbury. The work mentioned here was probably *Sermons on Several Occasions*, 2 vols. (London, 1702, 1703). Another English edition appeared in 1706

<sup>79</sup>The widow of Thomas Forbush.

Ebenezer return'd home after Dinner. P.M. I rode to see old Mr. Rogers who is thought to be near his End. A Letter etc. from Mr. Forbush at Brookfield.

1752 April 25 (Saturday). Mr. Phinehas Rice of Grafton returns from Boston. Informs that it is a most sorrowful Time. Mr. John Gardner,<sup>80</sup> Brazier, Son of the Reverend Mr. Gardner of Stowe is dead, but tis doubtful whether Mrs. Breck is deliver'd. N.B. remarkable Hot Weather for Some Days but towards Eve of this, chang'd.

1752 April 26 (Sunday). Read Deut. 7. Preach'd on Exod. 20.15. P.M. read 2 Cor. 1. Deliver'd the third Sermon on 1 Cor. 15.22, but from Rom. 5.12 with some alterations. After Exercises we attended the Funeral of old William Rogers, who was thought to be in his 82nd Year. May God Sanctify it to our aged people of whom we have some Number yet living.

1752 April 27 (Monday). Mr. Joseph Gambel work'd for me, and p.m. he employ'd John Frost to help him -- but would have it all to be set down, but a days Work. Near Night I marry'd Joseph Far and Eunice Bradish. Ebenezer brought in the Morning a Load of Posts and plough'd at the Island the Ground that was plough'd this Time Twelve Month, and lay Fallow.

1752 April 28 (Tuesday). Ebenezer plough'd there again, and harrow'd it p.m. with Mrs. Newtons Harrow. He had done before Night. Exceeding difficulty [*sic*] to get any Body to Cart Rails which I have bought of Rody Smith and Elijah Rice. The Ground by my new House design'd for a pasture lys open to the Flocks of Sheep. A Letter from Mr. Josiah Swan about Eusebius.

1752 April 29 (Wednesday). My Business abroad all lys Still, except, what I can do in Gardening. Chief of my Reading is the Free-Thinker.<sup>81</sup>

1752 April 30 (Thursday). Made return of Marriages to Mr. Francis Whipple, whom I Saw at Mr. Williams. I din't at old Mr. Rice's. A Dry Time -- Signs of Rain, but they Seem to fail and go over. It may put us in mind of our Conduct towards God with many Signs of Graciousness in our Profession, but very barren and unprofitable in our Hearts, and in our Conversation. Mr. Winchester from Boston and his Wife from Cambridge bring News of Colonel Brattle's Lady's<sup>82</sup> Decease by the Small Pox.

1752 May 1 (Friday). Through the great Goodness of God we have had a rainy Night, and it showers this Morning to the great reviving of the Earth. Granny Forbush is gone by, to Mr. Stone's, his wife being in Travail. In the Mount, may the Lord be seen! The Day proves chiefly a rainy Day; though it rains not hard, yet, it wetts steddily. Mr. Joseph Gambel diggs in my Garden p.m.

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<sup>80</sup>John Gardner.

<sup>81</sup>*The Free-thinker, or Essays on Ignorance* was first published serially in London, March 24, 1718, to July 28, 1721. Collected editions in 3 volumes appeared in London in 1733 and 1739.

<sup>82</sup>William Brattle (Harvard 1722) married Katherine, the daughter of Governor Gurdon Saltonstall on Nov. 13, 1727. The Brattles lost five daughters and a son to the throat distemper (probably diphtheria), and Mrs. Brattle was ill with the same disease. She recovered only to succumb to smallpox April 28, 1752. *Sibley*, VII, 10-23.

1752 May 2 (Saturday). It was too cloudy to view the Eclipse which occurs to Day. At about Sunsetting Mr. John Rogers brought 6,000 of Shingles.

1752 May 3 (Sunday). Read Deut. 8. Preach'd on Deut. 5.19. P.M. read 2 Cor. 9. Preach'd on Phil. 1.27, A Sermon which was first deliver'd in the Year 1725, now with many alterations and additions. At Night, 9 o'clock came Mr. Ezra Taylor of Southborough to desire me to go to the Funeral of Mr. Jonathan Brewer<sup>83</sup> of Framingham who Yesterday Morning cutt his own Throat with a Sickle.

1752 May 4 (Monday). I din'd at Mr. Stone's at Southborough. His Wife (who had newly lain in) was exceeding Weak and low. P.M. I attended the Funeral of Mr. Brewer at Framingham. A most Solemn Time! Mr. Barrett there also, and pray'd. N.B. Mr. Bridge<sup>84</sup> gone to the Ordination of Mr. Haven<sup>85</sup> at Portsmouth: and Mr. Stone to the Funeral of the Widow of old Mr. Daniel Newton. N.B. Whilst I was gone to Framingham Mr. Martyn came to our House and had 28 lbs of Sugar which I got for him at Mr. Ebenezer Rice's at 22£ old Tenor per Hundred.

1752 May 5 (Tuesday). Mr. Solomon Baker with my Cart, but his own Oxen brought me 40 Rails from Rody Smiths: and Mr. Simon Tainter 45 from the same. The former of those was gratis: for the Latter Mr. Tainter ask'd 15/ old Tenor. My Wife went to Mr. Jonas Brighams, and met Patty Pannell there. Mr. Zebulon Rice here, and we agree upon the Time of beginning to Frame my Barn. Mr. George Bruce of Mendon and Mr. Hall of North Sutton here.

1752 May 6 (Wednesday). Richard Kelly work'd here instead of John Dunlop. He setts up the Fence from the Meeting House, Northwest. I visited the Widow Rogers who is going to leave us: and the Widow Hannah Rice, Sister of that Mr. Brewster, bury'd on the fourth.

1752 May 7 (Thursday). Richard Kelly work'd again (for John Dunlop) in Setting up Fence for me etc. Cornelius Cook (on Mr. Hezekiah Pratt's Account) work'd for me in carting out some Muck and ploughing at my Island.

1752 May 8 (Friday). Mrs. Mary Johnson, Stay-maker, came to work here. Old Mr. Joseph Sever<sup>86</sup> of Framingham came to me about the Cancer in his Leg, that he might know how to use Mechoachan or Poke Weed. He din'd here. Mr. Phinehas Hardy setts up Fence for me: and he and his son Elijah (together with my son William) Planted the Grounds at the Island.

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<sup>83</sup>Brewer, who was in his 64th year, had lived in Framingham since 1717. Temple, *Framingham*, p. 481.

<sup>84</sup>Matthew Bridge of Framingham.

<sup>85</sup>Samuel Haven (Harvard 1749) had been reading theology with Ebenezer Parkman, keeping school and preaching in numerous pulpits in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. He was ordained in the South Church of Portsmouth, May 6, 1752. *Sibley*, XII, 382-392.

<sup>86</sup>Joseph Sever or Seaver, a long-time resident, had been a town officer.

1752 May 9 (Saturday). Mr. Robert Claffland, with my Oxen and a Yoke of Mr. Jonah Warrins, brought 50 Rails from Mr. Elijah Rice's. P.M. Mr. Warrin himself with the Same Team, brought 50 more. Mr. Forbush here -- goes to preach at Southborough.

1752 May 10 (Sunday). Read Deut. 9. Preach'd on Deut. 5.19. P.M. read 2 Cor. 3. Repeated with many Alterations another sermon on Original Sin (from Rom. 5.12) in the Discourses on 1 Cor. 15.22. O that God would please to add his special blessing!

1752 May 11 (Monday). Was early at Mr. Whipples. Lieutenant Tainter and Mr. Samuel Harrington drive Cattle into the Woods at Leicester. They take 3 of mine, 4 other Young Creatures of Mine cannot be found this morning that they might go. Perswaded Mr. Edwards Whipple to Send his Boy with 22 of my Braces for My New Barn, Saw'd at Mr. Maynards Saw Mill. Mr. Zebulon Rice and Samuel Bumpso came; and they began to Frame my Barn. I went over to Mr. Hows and din'd there. Mr. David Maynard assisted with my son Ebenezer in cutting Principals.

1752 May 12 (Tuesday). Mr. Zebulon Rice and Samuel at the Frame. There came also Mr. Phinehas Hardy and Mr. Simon Tainter, and gave me a Day's Work at it. There has been some prospects of Rain; but the most was a Fog or Mist and went off the Cold Raw Weather. Mr. Stephen Maynard here, but without his Account that we might reckon, though I have taken unwearied pains to obtain it. Mr. Batheric and Benjamin How with Ebenezer hew the Principals and Thomas brings 10 of them over.

1752 May 13 (Wednesday). Mr. Zebulon Rice, and Messrs. Phinehas Hardy, Simon Tainter and Samuel Bumpso work at the Frame, and to Day came likewise Mr. Jonah Warrin. Receiv'd a Letter from Brother Parkman, dated April 28 or 29. I visited Deacon Newton<sup>87</sup> who is much recover'd. My son Ebenezer brought 10 more Principals. My Wife went to Marlborough. At Night came a Young Man Odoavdo Thomas for Mrs. Molly Johnson, but she went not with him.

1752 May 14 (Thursday). This Morning came Mr. Zebulon Rice, and Mr. Simon Tainter. Afterwards came old Mr. Charles Rice, and Mr. Jonathan Forbush to the Frame. Mrs. Molly Johnson left us at Evening.

1752 May 15 (Friday). Mr. Zebulon Rice at the Frame. Added to him afterwards were, Mr. Batherick, Mr. Grow -- old Mr. Graves, and Mr. Simon Tainter -- who work'd and din'd with us. In the afternoon by the help of a Sufficient Number of Hands (about 70 Great and Small) we rais'd the Barn. 30 feet long and 28 wide -- and through the Goodness of God there was no Evil Accident. I had provided only for about a Score, yet I hope no one went away without some refreshment. It was only Cake and Cheese and Butter etc.

1752 May 16 (Saturday). Billy works at t'other House so that I am alone to take Care of things and put all to rights after the Raising. Wet myself and then took Cold.

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<sup>87</sup>Josiah Newton.

1752 May 17 (Sunday). Sir Forbush preach'd for me a. and p.m. on Jam. I, 5. May God be pleas'd to Add to his Graces and accomplishments and make him an happy Instrument of Saving Good to Many Souls! May he be abundantly fitted and prepar'd for the very awful and Solemn Charge he will (God willing) in a short Time receive! At Night I was very much indispos'd.

1752 May 18 (Monday). In the Morning much better. Blessed be God! The Day was lowery and Misty. A great Favour after much drie Weather. Town Meeting. Chose Esquire Baker<sup>88</sup> representative.

1752 May 19 (Tuesday). Wettish Weather, but no great Matter of Showers. Visit old Mrs. Dorcas Forbush. Messrs. Bliss<sup>89</sup> and Hobby<sup>90</sup> at the Door, in their Journey to another Sutton Council.

1752 May 20 (Wednesday). The Reverend Mr. Fish<sup>91</sup> and his wife here p.m.

1752 May 21 (Thursday). Samuel Forbush carted Two Load of Boards, Oake and Pine from Mr. Maynards Mill. Disappointed of the help I expected I undertook to preach my Self the Lecture preparatory to the Lords Supper -- from 1 Cor. 11.26. Having no Watch I preach'd too long. Solemnized the Marriage of Mr. Daniel Adams<sup>92</sup> to Mr. Daniel Hardys only Child, at Mr. Hardys. The Weather Exceeding Cold. N.B. Our Kinswoman Mrs. Sally Brigham<sup>93</sup> here and din'd with us.

1752 May 22 (Friday). Sir Forbush Sends his Chest (containing a number of Valuable Books which I have sold him, viz. Hammond,<sup>94</sup> Saurin,<sup>95</sup> Edwards<sup>96</sup>) by one Ball to Brookfield.

1752 May 23 (Saturday). I find it impossible under my incumbrances to prepare two Sermons in a Week, in the Manner I conceive they ought to be compos'd and written. But I have, I hope, Some sincerity towards God in what I have done.

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<sup>88</sup>Edward Baker was a frequent office-holder of Westborough.

<sup>89</sup>Daniel Bliss of Concord.

<sup>90</sup>William Hobby of Reading.

<sup>91</sup>Elisha Fish of Upton.

<sup>92</sup>Daniel Adams of Shrewsbury married Abigail Hardy of Westborough.

<sup>93</sup>Mrs. Parkman's sister, Sarah Gott, married Uriah Brigham of Marlborough, July 12, 1750. Hudson, *Marlborough*, p. 373.

<sup>94</sup>A work by the English divine and Canon of Christ's Church Oxford, Henry Hammond, D.D. (1605-1660). None of his numerous writings had been published in America.

<sup>95</sup>Jacques Saurin (1677-1730), a celebrated French Protestant preacher, had been the minister of a Walloon church in London, and after 1705 a minister in The Hague. His work had not appeared in an American edition.

<sup>96</sup>Some writing or writings of the great Jonathan Edwards of Northampton. [Additional note: This may be a reference to the English minister, John Edwards (1637-1716), several of whose works Parkman owned or borrowed.]

1752 May 24 (Sunday). Read Deut. 11. Preach'd on Mat. 1.21. Somewhat long but I chose to deliver it all (that I had prepar'd) at once. Administer'd the Lords Supper. Mrs. Molly Johnson here with us. P.M. read 2 Cor. 5, and on Consideration of a number of persons being rais'd from Sickness, and brought to the divine Worship again, Not less than 6 within these 8 Days, I preach'd Eph. 5.20. After Sermon read Letter Missive from Brookfield, second parish respecting Mr. Eli Forbush's Ordination.

1752 May 25 (Monday). Messrs. Batheric, Phinehas Hardy and Daniel Adams work'd on the Covering my Barn. Mr. Gashitt Sollicits me to go with him to Mr. Ross Wymans<sup>97</sup> to bind Henry Gashitt, which we did -- din'd at Wyman's. P.M. visited Mr. Cushing who was not able to preach yesterday. When I return'd, found Mr. Martyn and his wife here; and that Mr. Stone and Madame Thatcher<sup>98</sup> (his Mother in Law) had been here likewise, having come before Dinner. Mr. Forbush to Brookfield.

1752 May 26 (Tuesday). Mr. Adams all Day. Mr. Batheric p.m. I went to Mr. Rogers and talk'd with him about the Narrowness of the Shingle which I have had of him. N.B. Mr. Edmund Greenlead of Newbury call'd at the Door, in his Journey to Sutton.

1752 May 27 (Wednesday). The General Election is at Concord, because of the Small Pox at Boston. At Mr. Martyns Importunity I din'd at his House. I rode home in Mr. Martyns Chair which I borrow'd for Ebenezer to go to Watertown. Ebenezer and Thomas plant our South Field over again, it having been rooted up by young Piggs. At Eve it rain'd: Billy did not return from his play at Mr. Martyns. I rode to Mr. Jonah Warrins and brought home my Molly and Mrs. Molly Johnson (who is still at Work here) but Lucy lodg'd there. At Night came old Mr. Fuller of Sutton, in his return home from Middleton and lodged here. N.B. Mr. Winchester from Boston; he has left my Watch still with Mr. Atkinson.

1752 May 28 (Thursday). Mr. Fuller goes home. The We[?]

1752 May 29 (Friday). Ebenezer brought Mrs. Eliza Harrington to dinner here. She was not well. They rode to Watertown in Mr. Martyns Chair. Tis thought he courts her. I earnestly pray that God may be Guardian and Director of my Dear Son in this important Matter before him!

1752 May 30 (Saturday). I was not So well as usual: and have Such a Weight of Care and Trouble but chiefly on account of my Ministry and Great Account that I am much Sunk.

752 May 31 (Sunday). Was much indispos'd last night and to Day. The Weather Cold and Rainy. I notwithstanding went to Meeting both Parts of the Day. A.M. read Deut. 12. Gave some Observations. Preach'd on the eighth Commandment from Eph. 4.28, first part. P.M. read 2 Cor. 6, and although I had preparations for the p.m. sermon yet such person or persons as the

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<sup>97</sup>A blacksmith of Shrewsbury.

<sup>98</sup>The Reverend Nathan Stone of Southborough had married Mary Thacher, daughter of the late Reverend Peter Thacher of Middleborough, May 16, 1751.

Discourse would more immediately concern, being absent by the Rain I deferred it -- and preach'd on 1 Cor. 15.22, latter part! being sermon 6 from page 28 to 33. N.B. Mr. Eli Forbush and Mrs. Hannah Fish dismiss'd.<sup>99</sup>

1752 June 1 (Monday). Am weak and feeble, yet keep about. The Parish met to Day in order to Petition the General Court to Establish all their Legal Acts, notwithstanding their Misstep at first setting out (which I'm told was by reason of Justice Wards giving them a defective Warrant for their first parish Meeting). N.B. Mr. Grows account of a slanderous Report of the Frolicking of my sons but I perceive it arose from a Family that were affronted because their Son was not invited to the Wedding of Abigail Hardy. Being so weak and feeble I sent Thomas to Mr. Martyns that he must prepare to preach at Brookfield on next Wednesday. Sister Lydia Champney came up with Ebenezer from Cambridge.

1752 June 2 (Tuesday). Deacon Forbush and Lieutenant Tainter accompany'd me to Bezelleel Eagers, where we were join'd by Mr. Whipple, to go to Brookfield. I was very weak and faint, but hop'd I should be better by riding. Mr. Martyn and his Delegates join'd us likewise. We din'd at Sergennts at Leicester and got up to Captain Witts in Brookfield before Night.

1752 June 3 (Wednesday). Mr. Eli Forbush's Ordination. A most important Day with one whom I am nearly concern'd for! May God be almightily present with him, and his grace sufficient for him! But it is a Comfort that there is no Objection likely to arise. Captain Ayres<sup>100</sup> does not join, but he does not oppose. We did not form into a Council till it was late in the Day, because the pastors and Deligates of Several Churches did not come Seasonably: and when they came, Several Pastors were unwilling to perform any of the public Service. Mr. Forbush gave the Council to their universal Satisfaction an Account of his Principles; and his Views in undertaking the Ministry. N.B. The Confession of his Faith, contain'd an humble Declaration of his own Hope: and it was to acceptance. N.B. When Mr. Forbush's Call was read, the Church declar'd that the meaning of those Words "While he shall continue in the Work of the Ministry" did mean, as long as he had the pastoral Care of them, and not merely as long as he was able to preach. In public Mr. Jones<sup>101</sup> of Western began with Prayer. Mr. Martyn preach'd in my stead; his Text [*blank*]. I gave the Assembly an Account of our Proceedings in Enquiring into the Qualifications of the Candidate, and the regular steps which the people had taken in ripening Matters thus far. To satisfie them all likewise we went over them again, from each party transacting. I gave the Charge. This was the first Time I ever perform'd this Service: and did it Memoriter. Mr. White<sup>102</sup> of Hardwick pray'd after the Charge. Sung last part of Ps. 118. I hear

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<sup>99</sup>"Parkman entered in the Westborough Church Records, May 31, 1752: "The Church was Stop'd and Voted Dismission of Mr. Eli Forbush to the work of founding and Settling a Church in the North East Part of Brookfield, or to the Church there, if there be one gather'd; in order to his being ordain'd the Pastor thereof. And the dismission of Mrs. Hannah Fish (heretofore Hannah Forbush) to the Church in Upton."

<sup>100</sup>William Ayers or Ayres of Brookfield.

<sup>101</sup>Isaac Jones (Yale 1742), the minister of Western (now Warren) Mass., 1744-1784. Dexter, *Biographical Sketches*, p. 715.

<sup>102</sup>David White (Yale 1730), the minister of Hardwick, Mass., 1736-1784. Dexter, *Biographical Sketches*, pp. 419-420.



there was much order and Decency among the people afterwards. May God accept our Offerrings, and may the Ordain'd especially have Grace to keep the Solemn Charge! Nor may any of us ever forget these solemn actions! Through Gods great Goodness, my feeble Body was sustain'd and carry'd through in a measure of Comfort. So that my Evening was pleasant. N.B. Mr. Breck<sup>103</sup> of Springfield -- Mr. Pynchon<sup>104</sup> of Brookfield there.

1752 June 4 (Thursday). I rode over to Brookfield Town when the Company was gone with Deacon Forbush to visit Lieutenant Aaron Forbush under his terrible Cancer. [N.B. We call'd in to see Captain Ayres.] The sore which Lieutenant is distress'd by has altered him extremely -- but he is much Supported. I lodg'd at Dr. Pynchons,<sup>105</sup> but the Doctor not yet return'd from Court.

1752 June 5 (Friday). I preach'd to Lieutenant Forbush on Mat. 24.44, which may God please to Bless to us all! N.B. I din'd with Mr. Harding<sup>106</sup> at Captain Buckminsters<sup>107</sup> -- return'd at Evening with Captain Witt and his wife to their House and lodged there.

1752 June 6 (Saturday). Captain Witt rode with me to See Mr. Jedidiah Hows Family. We din'd there.

1752 June 7 (Sunday). I preach'd at Brookfield for Mr. Forbush and he at Westborough for me. My Text a.m. Heb. 13.17. P.M. Rom. 6.13. An Hot Day. At Eve I was very faint -- was forc'd to lie down -- could not attend family prayer -- but Committ myself to God.

1752 June 8 (Monday). Was more comfortable through the Goodness of God. Undertook my Journey Home. Witt accompany'd me till one Mr. Walker of Brookfield first Parish met us, and then he was my Company to Mr. Eatons<sup>108</sup> of Leicester. This Man was in much Spiritual Trouble, and wanted to open his Mind to me, and therefore devoted himself to wait upon me. Wish I may have given him any Suitable Direction and Instruction and may God grant his Blessing! N.B. Admonish'd George Harrington for his being in Drink, as we went up to Brookfield last Tuesday, and may God succeed it! Very hot Day. I could reach no further at noon than Mr. David Goddards, where I din'd. At Worcester talk'd with Mr. Sergeant of Leicester joiner about making an handsome sett of Chest Drawers, for Molly. At Mr. Maccartys and although the Ministers Meeting draws nigh yet I thought it not wise to stay, having been gone so long from home. I rode as far as Mr. Cushings, and a Thunder storm with heavy rains coming up. I lodg'd there.

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<sup>103</sup>The Reverend Robert Breck, Jr., of Springfield.

<sup>104</sup>Joseph Pynchon of Brookfield.

<sup>105</sup>Dr. Joseph Pynchon (Harvard 1726), the physician of Springfield and justice of the Hampshire County Court of Common Pleas. *Sibley*, VIII, 90-92.

<sup>106</sup>Elisha Harding (Harvard 1745), the minister of the First Congregational Church of Brookfield, 1749-1755. *Sibley*, XI, 561-562.

<sup>107</sup>Thomas Buckminster of Brookfield.

<sup>108</sup>The Reverend James Eaton of Spencer.

1752 June 9 (Tuesday). Return'd home in the Morning. Found (through God's Goodness) my Tabernacle in peace. Mr. Forbush preach'd for me last Lords Day, and baptiz'd Two Children. The first was Eli, the other Mindwell.<sup>109</sup> I am inform'd that last Friday, 17 Hands came a.m. and wed my Corn. They were those following -- Mr. David Maynard and 2 sons, Mr. Eliezer Rice and his son -- Messrs. Nathan Maynard and Hezekiah Pratt. Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin and son -- Mr. Joseph Woods and Son. Mr. Joslins Boy -- Lieutenant Tainter and Grandson -- Mr. Harringtons 2 sons -- and a Son of Ensign Miller.

1752 June 10 (Wednesday). Great Rains. Mr. Forbush din'd here. My Heart with the Association though bodily absent.

1752 June 11 (Thursday). I din'd at t'other House with my Children, sister Lydia and Mrs. Molly Johnson.

1752 June 12 (Friday). Dr. Samuel Brigham and his Wife here, and din'd with us, as did Mr. John Green of Boston, printer. Hear that Cousen Peam Cowell is dead by small pox.

1752 June 13 (Saturday). Billys Hair cutt off. Mr. Winchester returns from Boston and brings confirmation of Cousen Cowell's Death. He brings my Watch from Mr. James Atkinson, but with the Chrystal broke.

1752 June 14 (Sunday). A.M. but feeble and weak. Yet went to meeting and perform'd the Services both a. and p.m. Nay, in the forenoon went through a double Service, for I not only deliver'd the sermon which I prepar'd for last Lords Day p.m., but added as much more; and it being upon Usury (Text Eph. 4.28) I exerted myself to the utmost, and deliver'd both at once. Read Deut. 13. P.M. I deliver'd a sermon on James 1 (which I made and deliver'd before I was ordain'd, viz. September 1724) but with many alterations as indeed were very necessary. N.B. read 2 Cor. 7. Was exceedingly worry'd and fatigu'd; with my forenoon sermon especially. Poor Night.

1752 June 15 (Monday). Mr. Stone<sup>110</sup> and his Delegates going to a Council at Woodstock. Mr. Phinehas Hardy 300 Boards. This Morning early Mrs. Newton takes Mrs. Molly Johnson to her House. I Din'd at t'other House. Sister Lydia lives almost wholly over there. Ebenezer has met with several Checks upon the Field of Indian Corn on the south side of the Road. The piggs rooted it up a while ago so that he was forc'd to plant the chief of it over again: and now as soon as it is come up again a Flock of Sheep has broke in upon it and crop'd it down. P.M. Billy in the Rain went as far as to Mr. Seth Hudson<sup>111</sup> for Tobacco Plants.

1752 June 16 (Tuesday). After a rainy Night, a rainy Morning, and continues wet all Day.

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<sup>109</sup>Eli was the son of Jonas Brigham; Mindwell was the daughter of Samuel Forbush of Upton. Westborough Church Records, June 6, 1752.

<sup>110</sup>Nathan Stone of Southborough.

<sup>111</sup>Of Marlborough. Hudson served as a lieutenant in the militia and at one time commanded Fort Massachusetts. Hudson, *Marlborough*, p. 399.

1752 June 17 (Wednesday). Doubtful what the weather might prove, yet (late in the morning) came Mr. Jonah Warrin, Daniel Adams, Batherick and Claffland to covering my Barn. I rode over to Mr. Martyns and din'd there. Preach'd his Lecture on Rev. 22.16. Return'd home at Eve. May God follow the weak endeavours of the Day with his Special Blessing. May my own Soul have the Light and Comfort of that glorious Morning Star.

1752 June 18 (Thursday). Messrs. Adams, Claffland and Pierce at work on the Barn.

1752 June 19 (Friday). Adams and Claffland closing the Barn. At Eve I fell on one corner of the Corn Barn and greatly wounded myself.

1752 June 20 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1752 June 21 (Sunday). Lame and poorly: I went to meeting -- read Deut. 14. Preach'd on Eph. 4.28. P.M. read 2 Cor. 8, and preach'd on James 1.22, a Sermon which I have chose to make from this Text rather than preach the second of those I began with last Lords Day.

1752 June 22 (Monday). Mrs. Parkman to t'other House. Ebenezer to Watertown and Cambridge.

1752 June 23 (Tuesday). I rode to Lieutenant Tainters. Din'd at Mr. Whitney's -- was at Mr. Grouts, and most of the Houses on this Side.

1752 June 24 (Wednesday). Lieutenant Tainter came and brought an Horse, plough and Lad to plough my Island. Mr. Williams also plough'd, Ebenezer Rice junior led, and Eleven Hands hold - viz. Messrs. Grow, Harrington, Jonathan Forbush and Daniel Grout, Joseph Baker, William Stone, James Bowman, Jonathan and Thomas Bond, Abner Warrin came and half hill'd my Corn at the Island; and they finish'd by half after 9 a.m. P.M. came Jeduthun Baldwin. Took up both my notes with him, by giving him one that is of 60£ old Tenor. P.M. Rain.

1752 June 25 (Thursday). Rainy Day.

1752 June 26 (Friday). Lieutenant Bruce here, about the Land at the Island. The Reverend Mr. Hall of Sutton and young Master Minot here. Mr. Phinehas Rice (of Grafton) from Boston brings me Dr. Nathaniel Williams late of Boston, his Method of Practice in the Small Pox.<sup>112</sup>

1752 June 27 (Saturday). I understand that Ebenezer return'd last night from Cambridge and Watertown and has brought up a Lad from Cambridge to dwell with him, viz. John Barrett, junior. It was bright a While in the Morning and Ebenezer begins to mow a little, but it proves very rainy p.m.

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<sup>112</sup>*The Method of Practice in the Small-Pox, with Observations on the Way of Inoculation* (Boston, 1752).

1752 June 28 (Sunday). Through my Indispositions and Infirmitys of Body, and the many Cares and Troubles which perplex my mind, I prepar'd for only a.m. This was, once more on Eph. 4.28. N.B. read Deut. 15. P.M. read 2 Cor. 9. Repeated much of Sermon 1 Cor. 15.22, from page 33 to the bottom of page 38, from John 10.10, latter part. It was a Time of very great Rain, Thunder and Lightning. N.B. Sister did not come from t'other House.

1752 June 29 (Monday). A very Clear Day. Mr. Martyn came here -- and (slenderly) din'd with us. At Eve Sent a Number of Letters to Boston, committing them to the Care of Mr. Winchester unseal'd -- viz. to Mr. John Breck, Mr. William Winter, Mr. John Phillips, junior, and to Brother Samuel Parkman.

1752 June 30 (Tuesday). Fair, hot -- N.B. Billy assisted a Drover (one Boardman of Exeter) with a Flock of Sheep and went so far with him as put us in great Consternation. I visited old Mrs. Dorcas Forbush and borrow'd Lieutenant's Horse to ride after Billy. Went as far as Mr. Elisha Wards and found him there. He had been as far as Mr. Jonathan Strattons. In returning we din'd at Lieutenant Bruce's. I sent Billy to the other House to help his Brother this Afternoon.

1752 July 1 (Wednesday). Billy at t'other House helping his Brother Ebenezer at night returns. Sister Lydia rode here with my Daughter Molly, and din'd here. At Eve return'd to t'other House. The Weather very hot.

1752 July 2 (Thursday). Publick Fast on the Account of the Small pox and other Malignant Distempers at Boston and divers other Towns.<sup>113</sup> N.B. We had no proclamation, but read what is inserted in the Boston Gazette. However there was So much Said of there being no Proclamation in the County of Worcester, and that in several parishes there would be no Meeting, as at our North End; at Shrewsbury etc. that I doubted of an Assembly (some number did go to work and came not at all: some came from their work in their Sweat and Dirt). I therefore threw aside my design'd sermon for the forenoon, and took that on 1 Pet. 5.6 which I deliver'd. But there was So considerable a Congregation that I took Heart, and p.m. preach'd on 1 Kings 8.37.38, and may God please to add his Blessing! N.B. Dr. Willson<sup>114</sup> of Hopkinton here at Eve.

1752 July 3 (Friday). Mr. Batherick mow'd a.m. part of the Island. Deacon Forbush assisted in the Underpinning the Barn posts.

1752 July 4 (Saturday). Alpheus Newton<sup>115</sup> gave an half Day, mowing at my Island -- and the great likelihood of foul Weather made me conceive it to be my Duty, part of the p.m. to assist my son William in raking. If the rain should come upon that sort of thing, it would be of very

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<sup>113</sup>A study of the extent of smallpox at this time may be found in John Duffy, *Epidemics in Colonial America* (Baton Rouge, [1953]). pp. 57-61.

<sup>114</sup>John Wilson or Willson, the physician.

<sup>115</sup>The son of Abner Newton.

little value: but this was the Chief of the English Hay I should have to trust to. And I was fully apprehensive that I should not be able to prepare more than one sermon for the sabbath.

1752 July 5 (Sunday). Read 2 Cor. 10 a.m. Omitted reading, p.m. Administer'd the Lords Supper. P.M. preach'd on the Same Text, but us'd much of the sermon on 1 Cor. 15.22, viz. part of page 39 and from page 41 to 45. N.B. Sister Lydia Champney<sup>116</sup> not at meeting though Communion Day.

1752 July 6 (Monday). Mr. Martyn Pratt work'd for me a.m. and Cornelius Cook for Mr. Hezekiah Pratt till past 10 o'Clock a.m. We got our Hay from the Island -- it amounted to one good Load -- and we secur'd it in the Barn.

1752 July 7 (Tuesday). [No entry.]

1752 July 8 (Wednesday). I thought it most adviseable personally to see and talk with Mr. Beriah Rice about the Meadow, and therefore rode over to Upton. Din'd at Mr. Rice's. Did not buy the Meadow, but hir'd the Grass for this Year for 20/ old Tenor per Load. Visited Mr. Fish and call'd at Captain Sadler<sup>117</sup> -- was mistaken in my Road home -- came by Boons and Kellys.

1752 July 9 (Thursday). Mr. Claffland and Daniel Adams mow'd in the Ministerial Meadow, the Weather hot, and very tedious to hard labourers -- but now is the principal Season of Vigourous Engagement. P.M. came up a violent Storm. Thunder and Lightning. N.B. Mrs. Mary Steward visited us and left a present in silver (50/ old Tenor) in new linnen Cloth for Shirts for several of my little Children, and in some Rie meal, to the Value of near 5£ old Tenor.

1752 July 10 (Friday). Mr. Samuel Williams with my Mare, and with Billy to lead, plough'd among my Indian Corn: and Mr. Eliezer Rice came with plough, Horse and Boy and plough'd likewise, but there were but few Hoers -- only Mr. Edwards Whipple and his Boy which made me go to Mr. Clafflands and get Robert to help. The Men broke off about 1/2 after 10 a.m. The Boys, viz. Robert Claffland, Moses Sever and my Billy, hoed all Day, but did not finish the work. N.B. Sow'd Rie, which I had of Mr. Hezekiah Pratt, at the Hilling. This work was gratis, as was Alpheus Newton's also, who mow'd at the Island a.m. Mr. Jonathan Bellows (upon hire) mow'd and rak'd at the Meadow, and Mr. Eliezer Rice help'd him rake p.m. changing work with us. N.B. Mr. Eli Forbush here, and paid me 10 Dollars for Books which he has had.

1752 July 11 (Saturday). Rak'd Hay at the Island. Billy finish'd the Hilling there. P.M. Mr. Aaron Nurse help'd us get in a Load of Hay from the Island. It was very hot and tedious to me to bear - - but I think it my Duty to do what in me lies having so large a Family and so little help. At Eve rode to Grafton and Mr. Hutchinson<sup>118</sup> came here.

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<sup>116</sup>Parkman's first wife's sister.

<sup>117</sup>John Sadler of Upton.

<sup>118</sup>The Reverend Aaron Hutchinson.

1752 July 12 (Sunday). Preach'd at Grafton on Ps. 4.7, a. and p.m. Return'd home at Night. [N.B. Mr. Forbush and my Daughter Molly were publish'd at Westborough.] Mr. Hutchinson return'd home likewise. We met at Mr. Abraham Temple's whose young Child is in a Miserable Condition, and has been so from its Birth, by a Tumor on the Back.

1752 July 13 (Monday). John Kelly of Hopkinton work'd for me instead of Mr. Martyn Pratt. The forenoon I sent him to work for Mr. Eliezer Rice. P.M. he work'd (with my sons Thomas and William) in raking and Carting home Hay from the Meadow -- they got home Two Load this p.m.

1752 July 14 (Tuesday). Rode about for Labourers to work in the Ministerial Meadow, and to take to the Halves the Grass of Mr. Beriah Rice's Meadow which I have hir'd. Succeeded with Joseph Bruce to take half of this latter. Was at Messrs. Daniel Forbush's and Harrington's: at Ensign Millers, Messrs. Phinehas Hardys and Grouts -- the last two consent to help me next Week, to mow in the Ministerial Meadow.

1752 July 15 (Wednesday). Rode out again a.m. to get Labourers but have little success.

1752 July 16 (Thursday). I rak'd Hay and Barley p.m. at the other place, and return'd home at Eve.

1752 July 17 (Friday). Sermonizing -- Except the Time when I was interrupted by Mr. Obadiah Newton who came p.m. to make me a Visit. My Wife gone to Captain Maynards. Benjamin Hastings of Waterton brought her home at Eve.

1752 July 18 (Saturday). At my Preparations. Joseph Bruce and I step'd down to view Mr. Beriah Rice's meadow.

1752 July 19 (Sunday). Read Deut16. Preach'd a.m. on Mat. 1.21. P.M. read 2 Cor. 11. Preach'd home at Eve on Job 7.9, made up of several parts of sermon on John 5.28.29 (as See upon the first page). Benjamin Hastings<sup>119</sup> and Anna Tainter<sup>120</sup> of Watertown din'd with us.

1752 July 20 (Monday). Rode early to Mr. Dunlops to offer them some of Mr. Beriah Rice's Meadow, Seeing Mr. Dunlop had urg'd he might have part. Return'd and visited Mrs. Twitchell. Went over to Mr. Martyns and din'd there. Return'd at Eve. Mr. Batheric joins with John Bruce and they mow in the Rice Meadow.

1752 July 21 (Tuesday). In the Morning walk'd to the Ministerial Meadow, hoping to find a Number of Hands there, but there was only Mr. Phinehas Hardy mowing there. I went to Mr. James Maynards to get a Hand to be with him, but succeeded not -- to Mr. Joseph Green junior and prevail'd. He mow'd p.m. I din'd at Mr. Edwards Whipples p.m. I went down into Chauncy Meadows and passed through the Rice Meadow. My undertakers there who rake to Day what

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<sup>119</sup>Hastings married Mary, the daughter of Deacon Simon Tainter of Westborough, April 14, 1726.

<sup>120</sup>The daughter of Captain John Tainter of Watertown.

they mow'd Yesterday, complaining much of it. Consulted Lieutenant Forbush about it. N.B. Lieutenant Forbush complains to me of my strictness in Examining Candidates for Admission into the Church. N.B. My Wife to Mr. Martyns -- but return'd home at Night.

1752 July 22 (Wednesday). Aaron Warrin mows, rakes, and Carts from Ministerial Meadow. I walk'd there, and to Mr. Greens. Rode his Horse to Mr. Knowltons. His son Henry works in the Meadow p.m. Aaron Warrin got home one Jagg of 11 Cocks -- ventures into the Meadow with the Team for Second and getts mir'd, boggled and belated -- came home with 8 Cocks in the Rain and Dark -- and is sick in the night o'bed. Ebenezer Forbush brings me 12 Cocks from the Rie Meadow and Joseph Bruce helps unload it.

1752 July 23 (Thursday). Morning Cloudy, doubtfull Weather -- but Aaron goes to the Meadow again. P.M. I rode down to Messrs. Daniel and Timothy Warrin, to get them to Cart for me some of the Hay from the Rie Meadow.

1752 July 24 (Friday). Aaron and Billy at the Meadow -- Two Jaggs of Hay. The Warrins Daniel and Timothy brought, each of them, a Small Load of Hay from Mr. Beriah Rice's Meadow. Aaron at Eve goes to his Fathers.

1752 July 25 (Saturday). Aaron and Billy to the meadow. Thomas goes there with the Team and carrys home to the other House, a stout Load of Hay from the Meadow. Lieutenant Bruce kindly brought me the last Load from Mr. Rice's Meadow, and this was a large Load of 18 Cocks. So that I have now got all my part of that Hay and my mind greatly reliev'd.

1752 July 26 (Sunday). I was much impeded by a Cold yet it did not hinder my public speaking, but my Limbs are much pain'd and my Stomach deprav'd -- but I desire humbly to place my Confidence in God. Read Deut. 17 and preach'd on Mat. 1.21. P.M. read 2 Cor. 12. Preach'd on Prov. 3.9. May God please to add his Blessing!

1752 July 27 (Monday). Somewhat poor Night -- am stiff and in pain this Morning. So that I don't stirr about without Difficulty. Thomas and Billy rak'd a Load of Hay which Aaron mow'd and carted it to t'other Barn. My wife to Ensign Millers to Mr. Harringtons and Lieutenant Tainters -- borrows his Chaise for some of us to go to Watertown on Mollys Account. Sister Hicks and her Daughter Hannah at t'other House.

1752 July 28 (Tuesday). A poor Night again with pain. A.M. to Mr. Ebenezer Rice's to get Mr. Dunlop to reap, he having long disappointed me, yet it is Winter Rie and suffers. Mr. Jonathan Bellows reaps from about 11 a.m. till night -- and p.m. Mr. Dunlop and Short Richard Kelly come from Mr. Ebenezer Rice's and reap. My son Billy also reaps. Sister Hicks etc. are still at t'other House. Mrs. Hannah here at Evening and lodges here.

1752 July 29 (Wednesday). Exceedingly poorly -- Know not how to go to my intended Journey. Sister Hicks and her Daughter dine here. N.B. Mr. Parsons<sup>121</sup> of Newbury calls at the Door when we are at Dinner but he will not come in. About 4 p.m. my Daughter and I undertook a Journey in Lieutenant Tainters Chaise.

[There are no entries in the diary for the period August 1-15, 1752.]

1752 August 16 (Sunday). A very melancholly Sabbath! I had an exceeding poor Night. Feverish, profusely Sweating, and extreme faint. Yet the Lord upheld me till the Morning, and my pains are much abated. N.B. Ebenezer is published to Mrs. Elizabeth Harrington. Lieutenant Tainter watch'd at home. I was somewhat reviv'd in the Day, But this Day was peculiarly Dark as there was no Preacher. Dr. Willson was to have come, but he was prevented by several Patients. There was a Meeting at our Meeting House a.m. They read Dr. Watts<sup>122</sup> on Job 23.3.4. But all the Meeting p.m. was at my House, 5 persons besides my own Family -- who pray'd and Read and sung.

1752 August 17 (Monday). But a poorish Night, yet my wife tended me. Wrote by Deacon Newton<sup>123</sup> to Dr. Scammell<sup>124</sup> [my wife wrote just before Day]. Ebenezer gets in the last of my Island Hay, and the Flax. The Deacon carries his Daughter Sarah to the Doctors. Less pain a.m. Eat something of Dinner. N.B. Mr. Pierce of Stow his wife and Mrs. Martyn din'd here. P.M. I was very full of pain in my right Knee. N.B. In Deacon Newtons return from Dr. Scammell, I find the Doctor will have it that I have the Gout as well as Rheumatism. Captain Maynard here at Evening. Mrs. Lucy Bowker makes a Coat for Alexander gratis -- and watches with me.

1752 August 18 (Tuesday). Another very feverish, Sweating, faint Night the last. Several Neighbours to See me. Somewhat freer of pain. William Woods watches.

1752 August 19 (Wednesday). The best night that I have had since I was Sick. Blessed be God! Sister Lydia and my Daughter Forbush here, din'd and Spent p.m. with us. N.B. Mr. Abiel Richardson here. Mr. Nurse a generous present of Salt Pork. A great Frost abroad. My pains shift from Limb to Limb. John Frost watches.

1752 August 20 (Thursday). A.M. pritty good night, but the Pain rises in my left Knee. Several of our Neighbours go into Boston. Divers Visitants, of persons in Town and otherwise. P.M. Mr. Martyn he pray'd with me. Mrs. Baker here -- my wife discourses with her about Patty Pannells Tattle. Ebenezer came and watches.

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<sup>121</sup>The Reverend Moses Parsons of Newbury (Byfield Parish), 1744-1783.

<sup>122</sup>One of the numerous writings of Isaac Watts. [Additional note: "Sin and Sorrows Spread before the Lord," Sermon VI in *Sermons on Various Subjects, Divine and Moral: with a Sacred Hymn Suited to Each Subject* (5<sup>th</sup> ed., 2 vols.; London: Printed for E. Matthews, R. Ford, and R. Hett, 1734), 1:113-51.]

<sup>123</sup>Josiah Newton.

<sup>124</sup>Samuel Scammell, the physician of Milford.



1752 August 21 (Friday). Not so comfortable Night as lately. My left Knee and Foot full of Pain. I wrote to Dr. Scammell by Captain Tyler.<sup>125</sup> Alas! how dull and discouraging! I am so wasted, that there appears to me Danger of consuming away. But I would humbly confide in the infinite Goodness of God. Thomas watches.

1752 August 22 (Saturday). A pritty good Night for Sleep, and yet this morning full of pain chiefly in my left Hip, Shoulder and Foot. Great Frost last Night. Dr. Scammell came while I was at Dinner. P.M. pains increase exceedingly especially in my left Shoulder. May God almighty sustain me and prepare me for his sovereign Will. My little Samuel a Twelve Month old. May he be born again in the Blessed Spirit of God! The Evening and night were most distressing with pain that ceased not, no not in any Situation whatever, a Circumstance which I have not, I think, at any Time had till now. I put on a Blister upon the upper part of my arm -- which by Divine favour gave me

1752 August 23 (Sunday). By the Morning some Relief. A portion of Rhubarb also which I took last Night works to Day, and I am easier of pain, but reduc'd to be very weak and faint. A Melancholly Sabbath! a Second Disappointment by Dr. Willson, whom I earnestly sent Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin to, last Thursday, and had return by the Same on Friday Eve that he would certainly come unless some Case of Life or Death occurred. But the people watch'd till it was late, and then some went to the North End etc. and some attended at the Meeting House the Deacons carrying on both a. and p.m. N.B. they read Dr. Watts on Col. 3.3.<sup>126</sup> N.B. Mr. Bradish pray'd with me in the Evening, and my Daughter Forbush watches. It proves a Night of Fever, faintness and frequent waking.

1752 August 24 (Monday). Freer of Pain, but very weak and feeble. N.B. ventur'd to Shave not having been shav'd since my Confinement till now. Rain. Mr. Daniel Bond here, complaining of my son Ebenezer. N.B. he went to Ebenezer last Saturday to warn him before Two Witnesses not to marry the person he was publish'd to. Child carry'd away to be wean'd at t'other House. Deacon Newton pray'd at Night.

1752 August 25 (Tuesday). Last Night was exceeding tedious not for pains so much as Faintness, especially towards Morning I was exceeding low. My Wife watch'd. The forenoon was of apiece with the Morning. My wife stills a miscellany of Meat, Herbs, Roots, seeds etc. by the Doctor's Direction. But my Eye and Heart are to God to Show Mercy. Dr. Chase waits upon his Father here. P.M. I was more lively and comfortable. D.G. Very free of pain -- a better Evening and Night.

1752 August 26 (Wednesday). My wife tends me o'nights and supply's me with Breast-Milk. Rain'd hard last night. The Thumb of my left Hand seiz'd this morning. We presently put on a

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<sup>125</sup>Nathan Tyler of Mendon.

<sup>126</sup>[Additional note: "The Hidden Life of a Christian," Sermon IX, X in *Sermons on Various Subjects, Divine and Moral: with a Sacred Hymn Suited to Each Subject* (5<sup>th</sup> ed., 2 vols.; London: Printed for E. Matthews, R. Ford, and R. Hett, 1734), 1:175-225.]

Blister to my Wrist. Days of deep Affliction and Distress, though now and then intervals of Comfort. May the Lord look upon me and be gracious to me! P.M. Captain Forbush and divers others here. I sent for Justice Baker who came to confer with him about Sending to Mr. Minot<sup>127</sup> of Concord to come and preach next Lords Day. My Hand grows much worse.

1752 August 27 (Thursday). So that I had a Night of greivous Trouble and Exercise till the Morning. My Hand somewhat easier in the Day, and I was more comfortable and lively. But these days are Days of Darkness and sorrow. Mrs. Molly Brigham (Gershom's wife) brought some bak'd Bear with Sauce which I could Eat of though I have a more deprav'd appetite and have eaten next to no Meat these Two Days. Mr. Baxter visits me and pray'd with me. He tells me Noah Hows has been with him about his Baptism. Mrs. Hepzibah Maynard visits me. A.M. Mrs. Rachael Rice and her son Abners Wife here, but no particular Notice was taken of the latter one way nor another. At Night my Hand still very sore and much swell'd, yet not so as to prevent my sleeping. But a Blister a little below my Knee has more prevented my walking in the room, thereat almost any Time of late.

1752 August 28 (Friday). Somewhat broke off my Rest by Company too late here last Evening. Yet the Day was not very bad. Walk but little because of my Blister aforesaid in my left Hand remains much swell'd, but not very painful. Mrs. Dolly Rice here, and nigh Eve came my Daughter Forbush and sister Lydia and lodge here.

1752 August 29 (Saturday). A very good Night last, for sleep. D.G. Yet its followed with a Day of faintness. Mr. Beeton carries a Letter for me directed to Lieutenant Taylor<sup>128</sup> of Townshend. Mr. Joseph Woods din'd here. Towards Night sister Lydia and my Daughter went back.

1752 August 30 (Sunday). Another tolerable Night for sleep, yet remain faint and weak only my appetite is Somewhat better. I am humbly waiting the will of God. But it is Another Melancholly, sorrowful Sabbath. A meeting is held at the Meeting House, but few attend it. The School-Master, Mr. Jonathan Ward reads a. and p.m. Dr. Watts on Ps. 42.2.<sup>129</sup> At Dinner we had Deacon Forbush and old Mr. Bradish. At Eve Mr. Eliezer Rice desirous of Dr. Scammell (if he Should come here) for his Young Child. The Nights are Cold and frosty.

1752 August 31 (Monday). I had a very Good Night -- but am weak and faint in the Day. Kind Letter from the Reverend Brother Morse<sup>130</sup> recommending a Remedy which he had taken with Success. Mr. Francis Whipple tells me he publish'd my son yesterday at the North Meeting House. Thus have I been carry'd through this Month of deep and distressing Sickness and Pain. May it please God to engage my whole Soul in holy Gratitude and Praise to Him who has been

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<sup>127</sup>Timothy Minot, schoolmaster and supply preacher.

<sup>128</sup>Daniel Taylor. See Ithamar B. Sawtelle, *History of the Town of Townsend* (Fitchburg, 1878), pp. 154-155.

<sup>129</sup>[Additional Note: "Appearing before God," Sermon XIII, XIV in *Sermons on Various Subjects, Divine and Moral: with a Sacred Hymn Suited to Each Subject* (5<sup>th</sup> ed., 2 vols.; London: Printed for E. Matthews, R. Ford, and R. Hett, 1734), 1:267-322.]

<sup>130</sup>Ebenezer Morse of Boylston.

my only Saviour, my Refuge and Support! And might it please him to perfect the begun Mercy in my thorow Restoration and Recovery!

1752 September 1 (Tuesday). I have Somewhat comfortable Nights, and my Appetite is somewhat reviv'd, yet I am faint and weak, and have an inward Fever attending me, I suppose continually. I humbly wait the Divine Will. I am inform'd that divers Bears are about, and that one lay in my Field at the other Place lately, and has done Damage in the Corn.

1752 September 2 (Wednesday). Somewhat dull and heavy. Yet Mr. Stone and his Wife and Mr. Forbush from Brookfield and my Daughter, were here to see me and din'd with me. Near Night came Dr. Willson and Deacon Burnap from Hopkinton to see me also. Little Samuel brought home from Weaning.

[There are no entries dated September 3 to September 13, 1752 because of the change in the calendar.]

1752 September 14 (Thursday). I remain feeble, yet I hope recruiting by slow Degrees. Mr. Forbush Studys here to Day, being about his preparations for the Sabbath -- Billy has been about the Stalks, which he having cut, he is gathering and Piking as he is able. By Reason of the late Frosts the Bushes are so Brown'd that the Year is advanc'd into the Fall even more than in proportion to the alteration of the Date. Rain at Evening.

1752 September 15 (Friday). Mr. Forbush takes Leave and goes to Brookfield, appointing to return 4 Weeks from next Monday. P.M. Mr. Martyn here and Mrs. Winchester. At Eve I wrote a Letter to Dr. Scammell, Deacon Newton the Bearer.

1752 September 16 (Saturday). This being the 51st Day in Old Style I would consider as being my Birth Day; and Bless God who has so wonderfully preserv'd me, and graciously born with me through such a long Space as 49 Years. Vide Natalitia.

[Under the date of September 5, 1752 the following appears in the Natalitia.]

I attended in Some poor, broken manner upon like Exercises with those which have been wont to employ me on these Days. But am now under the holy Frowns of a righteous God afflicting and chastizing me by the Remains of illness, pains and weakness, which may it please God to Sanctifie and remove! And Blessed be His glorious Name, that in the Midst of Wrath he has remembered Mercy; and that I am in Some Measure reliev'd and hope I am in a Way of Recovery. If it shall please Him to restore me to His service, May my Life be devoted to Him and to His Glory at another Rate than ever heretofore! But desire humbly to yield myself to the Sovereign Will and Pleasure of the most high! I will, by his Grace enabling Me thereto bear the Indignation of the Lord for I have sinn'd against Him.

[The entry for September 16, 1752 continued in the diary.]

My Thumb on my left Hand begins to be in Pain; and it increas'd more and more. P.M. Mr. Joseph Manning comes from Concord and informs me that Mr. Minot, to whom I sent to preach for me tomorrow cannot come, it being Sacrament Day there. Deacon Newton brings me Directions and a little vial from Dr. Scammell.

1752 September 17 (Sunday). Nobody to preach Still. How Melancholly, how Solitary! They read at the Meeting House Dr. Watts on Rom. 1.16.<sup>131</sup> Mrs. Tainter and Mary Biglo dine here. My hand exceeding full of Pain. At Night I put on a (Ninth) Blister.

1752 September 18 (Monday). My Hand much easier. D.G. Young Mr. Minot and Mrs. Bekky Hall<sup>132</sup> dine here, in their Return to Sutton. As did Mr. Daniel Forbush who is laying the Front Door Stone. P.M. I wrote to the Reverend Mr. Haven of Portsmouth concerning my Townshend Interest -- sent it per Mr. Joseph Manning. Ensign Millers Wife here.

1752 September 19 (Tuesday). Ebenezer waits upon his Aunt Lydia to Cambridge in Sergeant Maynard<sup>133</sup> of Shrewsbury's Chair. Mr. Manning with them. Mr. Wellman<sup>134</sup> din'd here. Billy goes to t'other House to take Care of Things and Creatures etc. there. Mr. Samuel Morris of Dudley here.

1752 September 20 (Wednesday). The Weather being clear and Warm I ventur'd to walk out abroad; and the air was balmy and refreshing. Blessed be God for His great Goodness to me in raising me from so low and afflicted a State to so much Ease and Comfort.

1752 September 21 (Thursday). My Wife went over to t'other House. The Reverend Mr. Price of Hopkinton now from Worcester, here, to make me an offer about Books of his I had Spoke to him of; but he spent the Chief of his Time with me in vindicating the Church of England. At Eve Mr. Newton -- and divers others here to see me. Mr. Winchester brought a kind Letter from my Brother Samuel Parkman and several Presents, therewith. I walk'd abroad again.

1752 September 22 (Friday). My son Ebenezer came up from Watertown last Night and brought his Bride, Mrs. Elizabeth Harrington, the Daughter of Mr. Joseph Harrington of Watertown, with him, for they were marry'd yesterday p.m., and Mr. John Rogers came with the Team loaded with her Goods. May God please to make 'em an happy pair! A.M. Mr. Samuel Harrington being here I took the Opportunity to ride a few Rods on his Horse. P.M. Thomas came with a Chair and drove me over to See the New-Married and I din'd with them. He also brought me back before Night; so that I receiv'd no harm as I hope.

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<sup>131</sup>[Additional note: "A Rational Defence of the Gospel," Sermon XV, XVI, XVII in *Sermons on Various Subjects, Divine and Moral: with a Sacred Hymn Suited to Each Subject* (5<sup>th</sup> ed., 2 vols.; London: Printed for E. Matthews, R. Ford, and R. Hett, 1734), 1:302-58.]

<sup>132</sup>Rebecca was the daughter of the Reverend David Hall of Sutton.

<sup>133</sup>Simon Maynard was one of the founders of the Shrewsbury Church.

<sup>134</sup>The Reverend James Wellman of Millbury.

1752 September 23 (Saturday). One Smith of Medfield here, enquiring about the Remedy for Cancers, his Father in Law, one Mr. Hammond having one, which has already destroyed one of his Eyes and now eats his Cheek. Wrote to Mr. Martyn to preach here tomorrow if Mr. Frink<sup>135</sup> preaches for him. The return was that he must preach at Marlborough. I wrote also to Mr. Cushing having been inform'd that Mr. Swan<sup>136</sup> is to preach for him: the return was that tomorrow will be their Sacrament, but that he will not prevent Mr. Swans coming to us. Billy brought over divers of our Goods from t'other House.

1752 September 24 (Sunday). Through the great Goodness of God to me I went to His House, and was enabled to perform divine service both a. and p.m. but omitted Reading: I preach'd a.m. on Mic. 7.9. P.M. (my son Ebenezer appearing Bridegroom) I preach'd a.m. on 1 Chron. 29.19.<sup>137</sup> Nor was I at Eve Extremely overcome. Blessed by God for His great Goodness and Mercy to me! O that I might never forget His Benefits! and might it please Him to perfect the recovery -- that the Soul may be restor'd and have Eternal Life. N.B. Mr. John Martyn junior din'd with us.

1752 September 25 (Monday). I am not any thing (apparently) worse for the Exercise Yesterday: but my Knees are still weak, and my Left Hand is not without some Pain and stiffness. Noah Hardy came to plough my Stubble at the Island: but Billy was so late in bringing the Team from t'other House that they did little in the forenoon. P.M. they kept to the Work. The School has been kept several Days at Mr. Eliezer Rice's.

1752 September 26 (Tuesday). It is in General a very dry Time: very little Water in our Well -- but there were considerable Showers of Rain last Night. P.M. Deacon Newton here and gives me a distinct account of their late proceedings at the Superior Court.

1752 September 27 (Wednesday). Bears are rife about: another is kill'd in Town. As to myself, I hope I gather Strength in the Main, but it is Slowly. I can read and write longer than I could a while agoe. I desire to be heartily thankful to God for us. May I have the Grace to make a due Improvement of it! I almost daily endeavour something in my Preparations for the Sabbath. Billy goes to Mill to Captain Drury's.<sup>138</sup> Write to my Brothers. P.M. Mr. Winchester.

1752 September 28 (Thursday). Constantine Hardy ploughs with my Team the rest of my Field at Cook Island. At Eve Mr. Samuel Harrington here, and acquaints me that he has brought home one of the three young Cattle that were turn'd into the Woods last Spring. The other two are missing, viz. a Three Year old Heifer and a Two Year old. They were under the care of one Mr. John Curtis of Leicester, upper part.

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<sup>135</sup>Thomas Frink of Rutland.

<sup>136</sup>Josiah Swan, formerly the minister of Dunstable, and now a schoolmaster of Lancaster.

<sup>137</sup>[Additional note: 1 Chron. 29.19, "And give unto Solomon my son a perfect heart, to keep thy commandments, thy testimonies, and thy statutes, and to do all these things, and to build the palace, for the which I have made provision."]

<sup>138</sup>Thomas Drury of Grafton.

1752 September 29 (Friday). A Number of men were here who had been hunting Bears which they See the Tracks of in many places about us. Mrs. Hephzibah Maynard to see me.

1752 September 30 (Saturday). I feel Some pains in my left Shoulder, and Hand, and my Knees are weak. After a considerable Drought there comes a great and plentiful Rain.

1752 October 1 (Sunday). It prov'd very rainy and confin'd me at both a. and p.m., a sore Frown of God's holy Sovereign Providence that I am thus chastiz'd. I design'd to have preach'd again upon Mic. 7.9, but am forbid. May I have Grace to utter my Text my Self! Dr. Watt's sermon 18 of volume 1 read (on Rom. 1.16). The Weather clears up about 4 or 5 p.m.

1752 October 2 (Monday). I rode to Mrs. Newtons (who had handsomely invited me to her House as soon as I Should get abroad again) and I din'd with her. P.M. I went to Deacon Newtons and borrow'd of him 18 Dollars with a View to my Paying Mr. Felton of Marlborough. When I return'd home Mr. Martyn came to see me.

1752 October 3 (Tuesday). I prepar'd my Self to go over to Mr. Martyns, but not having an Horse, I went not. In order to get an Horse I walked to Mr. Nurse's and thence to old Mr. Maynards. I proceeded further to my t'other House. N.B. I was without an Horse because Billy was gone to Mill, and I suppos'd Ebenezer to be gone to Leicester to look up the young Cattle which are missing: but the Cattle at Home were so unruly that he went not -- but by that Time I got there it was too late. I rode to Mr. Richard Barns, and made him an offer of Two Thirds of the Lands which I bought of him, if he would procure and pay the Money which remains due by me to Mr. Felton but he would not accept my offer; not though I repeated it over and over. I din'd with my Children at t'other House and Mr. Grow with us. I return'd home before Night, I hope in safety, though it was windy and somewhat searching to my poor crazy Limbs.

1752 October 4 (Wednesday). A fine Day. Mr. Daniel Forbush brought me Mr. Samuel Harringtons Horse for me to go and See his Wife who lyes in a low Condition. I went and found her in a gracious Frame, and though very weak in Body yet I am full of Hopes for her Recovery. N.B. Captain John Tainter<sup>139</sup> There. Mr. Harrington sent his son with a Load of Wood to my House. At noon I rode to my other House and by Lieutenant Maynards urgent Invitation I went to their House, Colonel Ward being there to give out Commissions to several Officers in the New Troop lately rais'd out of Shrewsbury and this Town. Mr. Cushing<sup>140</sup> there and we had an handsome Entertainment. My Son Ebenezer went this Morning up to Leicester Woods to look up our stray Cattle. His wife rode home with me and thence she rode to her Brother Bonds to tarry a Day or Two there. N.B. Mr. John Oake,<sup>141</sup> who has so long been under a terrible Evil of Cancer, was bury'd this afternoon.

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<sup>139</sup>Of Watertown. The brother of Deacon Simon Tainter of Westborough.

<sup>140</sup>The Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

<sup>141</sup>Of Westborough.

1752 October 5 (Thursday). A fine Day -- p.m. I rode to Lieutenant Bruce's and reckon'd with him and his son Ephraim. I am still weak in my Knees and my left arm is somewhat Lame.

1752 October 6 (Friday). Another fine Day. I rode to Mr. Jonas Brighams<sup>142</sup> to see his sister Mrs. Deborah who has been ill for some Time. Thence I went to Marlborough. Settled with Mr. Jacob Felton, paying him the Money which I took up of him last Year to pay Mr. Richard Barns for 4 acres of Land which I bought of him, adjoining to my old Place. Din'd at Colonel Williams's. Was at Mr. Smiths<sup>143</sup> and Dr. Brighams.<sup>144</sup> Return'd at Eve. N.B. Ebenezer return'd last night from Leicester and the lost Cattle are brought home. Lieutenant Tainter brought a Load of Wood and a Barrell of Cyder.

1752 October 7 (Saturday). A Storm of Rain arose towards Night, which grew impetuous.

1752 October 8 (Sunday). It continued Stormy and rain'd all Day. But I could not bear that the people Should be again Destitute. I wrap'd my Self up exceedingly, had an Horse brought to my Door, and rode to the Meeting-House Door; by which means I attended and perform'd the Public Worship both a. and p.m. My Text Mal. 7.9. N.B. I still omitt the Reading; and as to naming what Tune to sing, I acquainted the Congregation that the more special End which I had in going into that Custom having been, Some time Since, answer'd I should leave it to him that should sett the Tune to sing what he should think proper. I desire to bless God that at Evening I find no inconvenience by going out to Day. May God accompany the Word with the special Energy of His Holy Spirit -- and especially make it profitable to my own Soul; that I may bear the Indignation of the Lord! I have the utmost Reason to because I have sinn'd against Him.

1752 October 9 (Monday). This Day was appointed and agreed upon by Lieutenant Tainter and others to gather my Corn at the Island, but the storm continues; and nothing can be done although there is reason to fear it will rot.

1752 October 10 (Tuesday). The storm ceases a.m. but I am not able to attend the Association at Rutland to Day. Mrs. Martyn din'd with us. P.M. came her brother Marritt<sup>145</sup> of Cambridge. My Daughter Forbush<sup>146</sup> here and prepares to go to Cambridge.

1752 October 11 (Wednesday). The Weather Doubtfull and no Money for my Daughter's Journey -- but at length the Air was clearer; and Esquire Baker came and lent me some Gold. Molly came but depended on her Brother Mr. Daniel Forbush to go with her, who did not come as expected. She went to his House. After the middle of the Day they Set out from hence to Cambridge and Boston. P.M. Mrs. Witt, my wife's Niece, and here sister Betty, came to us; but return'd to Marlborough.

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<sup>142</sup>The son of David Brigham of Westborough.

<sup>143</sup>The Reverend Aaron Smith of Marlborough.

<sup>144</sup>Samuel Brigham, a physician of Marlborough.

<sup>145</sup>Amos Marrett was the older brother of Mrs. John Martyn of Northborough.

<sup>146</sup>Mary Parkman had married the Reverend Eli Forbush or Forbes of Brookfield.

1752 October 12 (Thursday). Billy goes with my Team to Mr. Tainters for a Load of Cyder, and brings home a pair of Guinea Fowls from Mr. Daniel Forbush's and 30 Rails from Mr. James Millers junior. Mr. William Rogers works for me, clearing about the East Part of the Barn Land for though it is fair yet my Corn is not fit to gather. Mrs. Lucy Bowker here p.m. cutting out several Garments for the little Boys. Mr. Elijah Rice of Shrewsbury here, with a Note from Mr. Nathaniel Livermore of Weston.

1752 October 13 (Friday). A Fair and pleasant Day for our Harvest. D.G. Lieutenant Tainter, Mr. Jonathan Forbush, Joseph Bowman and Isaac Miller cut up my Corn; and my Son William with my Team to Cart it; and afterwards Mr. Harrington with his Team; So that they got it all home before noon. Lieutenant Tainter, Joseph Bowman and Isaac Miller din'd here. Mrs. Lucy Bowker lodg'd here last night and is at work here to Day, making several of the Garments which She Cutt out Yesterday. Instead of Brother Samuel who was expected to come up on my Mare, my Brother William came. Brother Samuels Daughter Nabby being dangerously ill. P.M. a number of Hands husk'd out my Corn. Old Mr. Maynard and his sons, Ebenezer and Nathan, old Mr. Rice, Joseph Bowman, Isaac Miller, Mr. Bonds 2 Sons, 2 from Mr. Jonah Warrins, Daniel Grout, Constantine Hardy and some others, made up the Company. The Husking was over by that the Evening came: but they tarried so long as to thrust the Husks into the Barn. N.B. the Widow Newton and Mrs. Molly Johnson here. My Brother went over to the other House and lodged there.

1752 October 14 (Saturday). Billy with assistance putts the remainder of the Husk'd Corn into the Barns. It was so Spoil'd with the Drought and with the Frost that there is but here and there a good Ear among it. But God is holy and Sovereign. My Brother with me again. Rain p.m.

1752 October 15 (Sunday). I had not prepar'd, by Means of my Indispositions and Avocations (partly; and partly I fear through my too great Negligence -- which may God in infinite Mercy forgive through Jesus Christ!). I took a Text conformable to the general Subject which I had been of late upon, viz. the eighth Commandment -- honouring the Lord with our substance: the Text was Ps. 11.7 and I us'd my Expositions of Mat. 6. P.M. I repeated Sermon on John 17.3 to page 12. N.B. My Brothers Expressions (denoting Assurance) in the Morning before we went to Meeting. N.B. he din'd at Deacon Newtons.

1752 October 16 (Monday). Though under Pains and Infirmitys and the Day Cloudy, p.m. and Mr. Fish of Upton here, yet I visited the Widow Pierce: She is very bad, yet no great Signs of Repentence. Her Case very Deplorable! God be Mercifull to her! My Brother returns to Boston.

1752 October 17 (Tuesday). I am troubl'd with Rheumatic Pains Day by Day; especially in my left Arm.

1752 October 18 (Wednesday). Mr. Hezekiah Pratt has brought up my Mare from Boston and left my Daughter there.



1752 October 19 (Thursday). I preach'd the Lecture. I make a Practice of delivering Sermons on these Occasions, which I have heretofore deliver'd for I cannot, under my Encumbrances and Difficultys, prepare fully, even so much as for the Sabbaths. What I deliver'd to Day was on Hos. 6.6. Neither my Son Ebenezer nor Thomas were at Meeting; and but few others.

1752 October 20 (Friday). P.M. Mr. William Pierce acquaints me that his Mother is dead. At Eve Rain. Mr. Daniel Forbush brings up in his Cart, Brass, Pewter, etc. from Boston for my Daughter.

1752 October 21 (Saturday). A Bright Morning after a Stormy Night. O might I enjoy the like Favour in Spiritual Respects! I was not very well, but it being a bright good Day I ventur'd out to the Funeral of the Widow Pierce of Hopkinton. This prov'd a very great Interruption to my Studys -- so that (to my great Grief) under my Infirmitys and Difficultys I can get but one Sermon ready for the Sabbath.

1752 October 22 (Sunday). Preach'd on Heb. 9.25, and administer'd the Sacrament on the Lords Supper. P.M. I repeated Sermon on 1 John 3.23. Mrs. Emma Maynard din'd with us. May God be magnify'd that we have again this Solemnity!

1752 October 23 (Monday). I din'd early at home, and Catechiz'd at Mr. Joslins. 13 Children, Boys and Girls together. May God seal the Instruction!

1752 October 24 (Tuesday). I visited old Mr. Samuel Fay<sup>147</sup> -- and Mrs. Harrington, they having desir'd Prayers last Lords Day. The first of them recovers to his usual State; the other languishes. My left Arm grows more Rheumatic Day by Day.

1752 October 25 (Wednesday). I din'd at home, but p.m. rode over to see Mr. Martyn, not having been there of a very great while: yet my pains were Successless: They both, Mr. Martyn and his Wife were gone to Southborough. I soon return'd -- it was well I did: my little son Breck was carry'd home lame from School by Mr. Eliezer Rice -- tis fear'd his Leg is broke. May God Sanctify!

1752 October 26 (Thursday). Breck is no easier. Storm of Rain. Mr. Aaron Nurse with my Billy puts up my Husks from the Barn Floor. N.B. Uncommon Storm of Wind and Rain in the Night.

1752 October 27 (Friday). Breck's Leg no better: from the Discoverys I could make no Bone is broke, or put out of Joint, but I conceive the Tendons are strain'd, and perhaps the Ligaments at the Ankle. Mr. Grout, and old Mrs. Maynard at my Desire, came to See Breck, being feverish and not able to stir his Leg. I Sent by Mr. William Nurse for Dr. Brigham, who came, and I hope his anointing and bathing him was beneficial. Sent Billy to Mr. Joseph Goodale at Grafton for a pair of Chair Wheels, the time Sett being more than up. At Eve he returns, but without 'em.

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<sup>147</sup>Samuel Fay, Jr., nephew of the late Captain John Fay of Westborough.

N.B. Ebenezer brought over part of the Young Cow which he kill'd yesterday -- the whole Creature weigh'd 16 Score wanting one Pound. N.B. Mr. John Beton brought a Pair of Andirons for my Daughter Forbush, weigh'd 36 at 4/ per pound. N.B. one of our Guinea Fowls carry'd off in the Night by Some Animal of Prey.

1752 October 28 (Saturday). My sons wife din'd here and tarried the Afternoon. Mr. Grout came kindly to See Breck, who is much as he was yesterday. I have been so interrupt'd in my studys by Brecks Lameness that I have not been able to touch any sermon for p.m. tomorrow -- to my great sorrow and Grief.

1752 October 29 (Sunday). A very Cold Day, and I have So much Pain in my left Arm, especially have in the Nights distressing Trouble with it, that I am much concern'd about the Event; yet I ventur'd to Meeting both Parts of the Day. Preach'd a.m. on Heb. 9.15. P.M. I went on with a further Exercise about Alms etc. from Mat. 6.4 repeating my Expository Attempts on that Pasage from page 6 to 10.

1752 October 30 (Monday). The Reverend and Learned Mr. Clark<sup>148</sup> of Salem Village here, in returning home from Sutton, where he, with two more ministers, Mr. Dor<sup>149</sup> and Mr. Hobby,<sup>150</sup> had been assisting Mr. Wellmans Church and some agriev'd Brethren to a reconcilment and tis to be hop'd with some success. One Mr. Bartlett was with him and they din'd here. P.M. Mr. Moses Warrin<sup>151</sup> and his wife here and were examin'd.

1752 October 31 (Tuesday). Mr. Forbush came last Night to the Other House, and hither this Morning -- but hastens away to Boston (his wife being still there) and carrys with him John Barrett; he has Mr. Martyns Chair and my Mare. Ebenezer makes an Husking this Evening. I am but lame yet in my left Arm. And we are much put to 't for Wood, but we have some Loggs and we pick about and get one Thing and another. Yet it is difficult because the season is unusually Cold, and I am so infirm. But I desire to trust in the careful faithfull Providence of God!

1752 November 1 (Wednesday). A fine Day. I rode abroad though my Arm is upon many Occasions thrown into great Pain. Was at Esquire Baker's; visit Mrs. Harrington and din'd there -- at Deacon Forbush's, Elijah Rice's -- visit Mr. Pierce's Family -- his Wife and son Seth sick -- the latter very bad. Mr. Pierce was my Company home, and I had some free conversation with him. N.B. Lieutenant Tainter brought me a Load of Wood. Mr. Moses Warrin another.

1752 November 2 (Thursday). Messrs. Elijah Rice and Martyn Pratt break out and swingle Flax. And Charles Rice and John Frost digg stones. P.M. At Mr. Bradish's, Private Meeting. N.B. There were few there, even though I waited long for their Coming. It arose from a Mistake

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<sup>148</sup>Peter Clark of Danvers.

<sup>149</sup>Joseph Dorr of Mendon.

<sup>150</sup>William Hobby of Reading.

<sup>151</sup>Moses, the son of Daniel Warrin of Westborough, had married, Jan. 24, 1751, Persis, the daughter of Seth Rice.

about New and Old Style. We pray'd and Sung, but the design'd Sermon was omitted. When I return'd home Mr. Martyn was here. He had been to see his son, Mr. John who is now sett up a Corier<sup>152</sup> among us, and begins to work. N.B. Dr. Brigham came to see Brecks Leg, which he can't yet go upon.

1752 November 3 (Friday). Billy went with the Team and brought home from Mr. Jonathan Fay's, his present a Barrell of Cyder which Ebenezer Nurse presents me, and further Lieutenant Tainter brought a Barrell of Cyder which Mr. Bowman has given. I desire thankfully to acknowledge to Goodness of God in stirring up the Minds of His People to bestow thus bountifully upon me who am so unworthy. My wife went to Mr. Joseph Batchellors in Grafton. Mr. Ephraim Sherman (come from Boston with his Team) din'd with me.

1752 November 4 (Saturday). My son Ebenezer draws Stones with my Team, for underpinning the Barn and Billy assists him. Mr. Forbush and his wife tarry at Boston or Cambridge yet.

1752 November 5 (Sunday). A very pleasant Day. I preach'd a. and p.m. on Heb. 9.15. N.B. Ebenezer and his Wife went home to the Other House to Dinner. Old Mrs. Whipple din'd here. After the Exercises p.m. I Stop'd the Church and read a Draught of a Letter which I had prepar'd to Send in my own Name to the Committee of the aggrieved Brethren in the West Church in Sudbury. But it was desir'd they might have some Time to take it into Consideration before they discover'd their Thoughts upon it.

1752 November 6 (Monday). Messrs. Biglo and Claffland came a.m. to underpinning my Barn. P.M. we all go to the Burying of Mr. William Pierce's son Seth, his wife and Two more sons sick of the Same Fever.

1752 November 7 (Tuesday). Messrs. Biglo and Claffland at work here again, underpinning the Barn and making a Stage or Causey to go into the stable Door. They also face the Well. I visit Mrs. Pierce and her sons. N.B. I was at Justice Bakers to get him to pay Captain Chandler of Worcester for me 20£ Old Tenor and he tells me he will do it.

1752 November 8 (Wednesday). Mr. Forbush and his Wife came from Boston, where my Daughter has been, now a long Time providing for her keeping House. They lodg'd at t'other House, as did Mr. [blank] Taylor of Brookfield from Captain Witts with a Team for Mrs. Forbush's Goods.

1752 November 9 (Thursday). Mrs. Nabby Baker making and altering Gowns for Lucy. She, with Mr. Taylor,<sup>153</sup> Mr. Bartlett<sup>154</sup> of Sutton din'd here. My Daughters Goods which are here,

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<sup>152</sup>Corier (or coriar) was an obsolete form of currier, meaning one engaged in the trade of dressing and coloring leather.

<sup>153</sup>James Taylor of Sutton.

<sup>154</sup>Richard Bartlett.

loaded up in Mr. Taylors Cart: and he goes to t'other House to lodge. Mr. Forbush etc. here with us, and both dine and lodge here -- which is a Rarity!

1752 November 10 (Friday). After Mr. Forbush etc. had din'd here they went to Upton to visit Mr. Fish<sup>155</sup> and his Wife, though there was great likelihood of Rain.

1752 November 11 (Saturday). Rain a.m. Mr. Forbush and his wife return'd from Upton p.m.

1752 November 12 (Sunday). Mr. Forbush preach'd a. and p.m. A.M. on Isa. 64.6, that Clause "And we all do fade as a Leaf." P.M. on Rom. 16.7 -- "Who were in Christ before me," insisting chiefly on those words, "who were in Christ." N.B. My Daughter was not well and did not go to Meeting.

1752 November 13 (Monday). So great Rain p.m. especially that we little expected Company. Yet at Eve came a number of persons from Brookfield, viz. Captain Witt, Messrs. Bartlett and Abraham How. The two former lodged here. Mr. How lodg'd at Captain Bakers. Several Persons came also to t'other House -- viz. Jeduthan Baldwin, who rode in a Chair for Mr. Forbush and my Daughter, and one Mr. Smith. Two others also who lodg'd at [blank]. Mrs. Nabby Baker here making and altering Gowns for my Daughter Lucy.

1752 November 14 (Tuesday). Early in the Morning Mr. Forbush and his Wife, with the Company who came to wait on them together with a Number from us, My Son Ebenezer and his Wife, Thomas and Lucy -- Messrs. Daniel and Jonathan Forbush and their Wives, took leave of us for Brookfield, designing to dine at Sergeants<sup>156</sup> at Leicester: the weather Fair, and Everyone, through Mercy, in Health. Lucy is gone with her sister to tarry with her this Winter. May God be gracious to them, and give them a prosperous Journey by the Will of God! and may their Joys be never diminish'd! I visited Mrs. Pierce and her Children that are sick. P.M. Antoine Cussac, a Deserter from the French Forces at Chignecto, or from Crown Point, here. At Eve I marry'd Mr. Francis Harrington<sup>157</sup> and Mrs. Deborah Brigham,<sup>158</sup> at her Brother Jonas's, and I supp'd there.

1752 November 15 (Wednesday). Ensign Josiah Rice made me a present of a pair of Turkeys and a Bag of Turnips. N.B. Billy, and Mrs. Molly Bond<sup>159</sup> are all that keep House at my other House.

1752 November 16 (Thursday). Publick Thanksgiving. I preach'd on Ps. 50.22. O that we might truely offer praise, so as that we may indeed Glorifie God! and so order our Conversation that we may all See and enjoy the Salvation of God! N.B. Mr. Edwards Whipple who has been wont

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<sup>155</sup>The Reverend Elisha Fish.

<sup>156</sup>Jonathan Sargent kept a tavern in Leicester. Emory Washburn, *Historical Sketches of Leicester* (Boston, 1860), p. 391.

<sup>157</sup>Of Worcester.

<sup>158</sup>The daughter of David Brigham of Westborough.

<sup>159</sup>The daughter of Jonathan Bond.

to set the Tune, having set 100 new at the first singing, Mr. David Batherick was so displeas'd that at the Next Singing he rose up and Set a Tune that would please himself better, and thus likewise at the last Singing, to the great Disturbance of many. At Evening came Messrs. Williams, Francis and Edwards Whipple, Nathan Maynard and Mr. Jonathan Ward,<sup>160</sup> the Schoolmaster to visit me.

1752 November 17 (Friday). Mr. Nathan Sergeant of Leicester who has been at Work for me in making some Joiners Ware for my Daughter Forbush in his way to Boston din'd here.

1752 November 18 (Saturday). The Turkey Cock was Stole away by a Fox as we suppose.

1752 November 19 (Sunday). On Ps. 11.7, a.m., and when I nam'd that Psalm to be Sung expressly desir'd Mr. Edwards Whipple would Set the Tune, and added that considering how awful those Words are, may no one presume, on what Pretence So ever to interrupt the Sacred Worship. P.M. repeated Sermon 308 to 310, on 2 Cor. 3.15 in one Exercise. And may God please to faster and ripen the Impressions which arise hereby!

1752 November 20 (Monday). Rainy. No one but Billy and Molly Bond to keep House and take all the Care of the Stock etc. at t'other Place. At Eve came Several Brethren of the Church to See me (and it was agreeable to my Desire Signify'd to Deacon Forbush) and converse about the Sudbury Affair. They were Lieutenant Tainter, Ensign Miller, and Mr. Whitney: afterwards came Deacon Forbush. They were of opinion that there was no need of the Churchs acting any Thing formally about it. The Authors of the Sudbury Letter had requested Nothing but that we would consider of our own Conduct, which it no doubt behoves us to do: Let the Pastor of this Church if he pleases do So much as inform one of them that their Letter has been laid before us. Those Brethren aforesaid made some Business of discoursing about Brother Bathericks Conduct on the late Day of Publick Thanksgiving. They agreed that Deacon Forbush Should go and talk with him -- and if he should appear unconvinc'd of his Error, they conceiv'd it must be laid before the Church. But if he was Sensible, and would do so no more, this being discover'd to the Pastor, they were willing it should be passed over. Left Arm so Painful I put on a Blister.

1752 November 21 (Tuesday). Esquire Baker here. Informs me that he has paid Captain Chandler of Worcester 20£, 13.4, Lawful money, for me. It being for 1000 Clabboards which I bought of him last year. He Signifys to me at the Same Time that Captain Chandler express'd uneasiness at my long Delay. I gave Esquire Baker a note til the first of next April. Sometimes rainy. The Weather exceeding windy -- Sour -- and therefore So uncomfortable that I am much confin'd whereas I had otherwise gone to t'other House to See how Billy Conducts there, or to Mr. Pierce's seeing another, Francis, lies now Sick among them -- Five, in all, now Sick. May God be mercifull to them. At Eve came Mr. Marrit of Cambridge, and smok'd a pipe with me, but he lodg'd I suppose at Justice Bakers.

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<sup>160</sup>The son of Hezekiah Ward of Westborough.

1752 November 22 (Wednesday). North West Wind very Cold this morning -- Tis the Day appointed for the Ordination of Mr. Jacob Cushing<sup>161</sup> at Waltham. May he be strong in the Grace which is in Christ Jesus! Am debar'd the pleasure of Waiting upon it, but may God be with me in my Solitude! Mr. Joseph Goodale and his Wife, from Grafton, for Boston din'd here. Billy from t'other House informs me that his Brothers return'd from Brookfield last Night. Billy rides p.m. to Mr. Joseph Batchellors at Grafton.

1752 November 23 (Thursday). The Coldest Morning hitherto. The Earth is now froze hard. P.M. Snows hard. Mrs. Persis Warrin, wife of Moses Warrin, here. At Eve, he himself -- both of them that I might gather Minutes from them for their relation to the Church. My Lameness in my left Arm very troublesome. Can't pull off or put on my Cloths. My Affairs Somewhat perplex'd. My son has not come to me since his Journey to Brookfield and winter is come upon us before I am ready -- No place to put up my Cattle o'nights, how cold or Stormy Soever. No small Wood at the Door, but some Pine which being lately cut down is unfit to burn. But my wife went to See old Mrs. Dorcas Forbush<sup>162</sup> and get Lieutenant (her son) to let his Team go, and Samuel Forbush now prevail'd with to bring up a Load before Night. May the Lord look on my very Afflicted State and appear for my Help and Relief as he has numberless Times done!

1752 November 24 (Friday). The morning bright, and the whole Earth round us in its Winter White. As to me although I am not able to dress my Self in my upper Cloths, yet I thank God I feel so well in my Stomach and am able to read, write, Study, go to the Door; and So far look after my Affairs. My Confinement however, gives me many Disappointments. May I have the Grace to exercise the Patience call'd for!

1752 November 25 (Saturday). But may God be pleas'd to grant me a Suitable Frame of Temper under all his Dealings with Me and Mine! At Eve came Three of our Young Kinswomen, viz. Ruth, Hannah and Elizabeth Hicks<sup>163</sup> from Salem and Cambridge in their return Home to Sutton; and lodge here. N.B. This is the first Night of our tying up Cattle in my New Barn. We now put up three Cows.

1752 November 26 (Sunday). Our Kinswomen keep Sabbath with us. I preach'd on Ps. 11.7, a. and p.m. At Eve our Kinswomen went home with Ebenezer. O that we might be truly righteous that we might have the reward and be blessed with the Righteous!

1752 November 27 (Monday). A bright pleasant Day. I walk'd up to Mr. Ebenezer Rice's to reckon with him; but he was not at home. I visited Sarah Newton<sup>164</sup> lately cur'd of a Polypus<sup>165</sup> in her Nose: Din'd there (at Deacon Newton's) but the Deacon not at Home. At Mr. Nurse's also. In the Eve Ebenezer was here, and we had some talk of our Settling our Affairs -- his

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<sup>161</sup>Jacob (Harvard 1748), the son of the Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury, served the First Congregational Church of Waltham, 1752-1809. *Sibley*, XII, 252-257.

<sup>162</sup>Widow of the late Thomas Forbush.

<sup>163</sup>Daughters of John Hicks of Sutton, Parkman's brother-in-law.

<sup>164</sup>The daughter of Abner Newton.

<sup>165</sup>A polyp, a mass of swollen mucous membrane.

Labour on the place as taking it to the halves etc. I gave him Two Ridgling Piggs of last Spring, over and above, but we defer the Exact Settling.

1752 November 28 (Tuesday). Our Kinswomen, who have been a Night or Two past as t'other House, return hither and go over to Upton, designing from thence Home to Sutton. The Weather frequently wet: the Day in general Dark, windy and uncomfortable. My Arm I think is somewhat better through the Favour of God, but my Wife dull, disconsolate. May God Himself, Support, Strengthen and Comfort her!

1752 November 29 (Wednesday). I was at Mr. Biglo's and convers'd with Captain Ephraim Littlefield of Holliston there, concerning the present state of the Church there. I din'd at Mr. Elijah Rice's. Went from thence (in the Rain) to Mr. Pierce's. Mr. Barrett<sup>166</sup> there, praying with the sick. I also pray'd with them before I came away.

1752 November 30 (Thursday). Rainy, but Mr. Hutchinson<sup>167</sup> came and din'd with me, and preach'd the Lecture on Heb. 13.20. After Sermon Moses Warrin and Persis his wife were admitted into the Church, also Amy Mainard Wife of Ebenezer Mainard. N.B. This was done agreeable to a proposal of it made to the Church and consented to last Lords Day. They were admitted before the Congregation because the Day was So Short, and Dark Night soon coming on. Furthermore, the Brethren were stop'd to see what they would incline to do about the Sudbury Affair. Their Minds were, to let it drop, so no Vote was pass'd about it. N.B. I ask'd the Churchs Minds respecting my appointing or desiring a Person to sett the Psalm, and they voted that they were Satisfy'd with what I had done in it, particularly with my having desir'd Brother Edwards Whipple to Sett the Psalm. I moreover requested that they would Shew their Minds respecting the Tunes which we had usually Sung -- Triple-time Tunes were especially intended, viz. Mear Ps. 100 new etc. They voted Satisfaction thereupon. At least I conceiv'd there was a Vote, because nobody objected against it: but otherwise, I am not altogether clear in it, that there was a Majority of Hands.<sup>168</sup> N.B. Mr. Silas Brigham here; and I gave him an Extract from the Reverend Mr. Morse's Letter about him.

At the Close of this Month I would take Notice of the great Goodness of God in that I enjoy Such a Measure of Ease and Comfort as I am favour'd with; having good Appetite to my Food and in my Breast, Strength and Vigor, Notwithstanding that in my Limbs I have Sometime; the Blister I lately us'd upon it having reliev'd me but a little. But my Family Cares are heavy and Perplexing, and especially the deep and distressing Concern for my Everlasting well-being, and that of my dear Wife, Children; and to these I would not fail to add my dear Flock. O what shall I do that this greatest of all Interests may be Secur'd! and that true, Spiritual Religion may indeed flourish among us! Blessed be God that we are still permitted the invaluable Privileges of the

<sup>166</sup>Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

<sup>167</sup>Aaron Hutchinson of Grafton.

<sup>168</sup>In the Westborough Church Records, November 30, 1752, Parkman entered: "The Brethren also voted that they were Satisfy'd in the Pastors having desir'd Brother Edwards Whipple to Set the Tune; and in the Tunes which we have been wont to Sing in this Congregation. N.B. These last Votes were occasion'd by Some late Disturbances in our Singing."

Means and Season of Grace, notwithstanding my great unprofitableness; and our indifferency in Matters of Religion in general. O that God would please to pour out His Spirit upon us; and that I might especially myself experience the happy Effects of it!

1752 December 1 (Friday). The Rain continues Still. Billy goes to School to Day to Mr. Jonathan Ward at Mr. Eliezer Rice's. Samuel Bumpso Bushel Turnips. P.M. Sun breaks out. I improv'd the Day in Study, prayer and Self Reflection. At Eve Mr. Batherick here. Tells me he is sorry for what he did on the late Day of thanksgiving, and that he will do so no more.

1752 December 2 (Saturday). Ebenezer and his wife watch'd at Mr. Pierce's last night. It remains an House of great Distress. Ebenezer Pierce is now taken ill. Mr. Hezekiah Pratt a Load of Wood, when we were much Strained. Mr. Grout another.

1752 December 3 (Sunday). Having finish'd both my Sermons last Night, my Mind is happily freer to Day. Thanks be to God who has enabled me thus far. I preach'd a.m. on Isa. 9.6, first Clauses. Administer'd the Lord's Supper. Deacon Forbush din'd with us. P.M. on 1 Cor. 6.9.10, the unrighteous etc. Shall not inherit the Kingdom of God. This finishes the eighth Commandment. N.B. Deacon Forbush dines with us. The Weather Comfortable, a great Favour considering how late in the Year. O might I suitably profit by the services of this Day! Behumb'l'd for all my unrighteousness, and repair to and copy after Jesus the righteous, and escape the punishment of the unjust!

1752 December 4 (Monday). Mr. John Martyn<sup>169</sup> bore me a Message from his Father desiring me to preach his Lecture next Wednesday. The Town Met to Day at the North Meeting House, to consider and provide Money to pay Town-Debts. N.B. We this Day gave out the Last of the Corn in the Corn-Barn (which was the Island Corn) Nor is there any left of all the Indian Corn that I rais'd here, excepted a few Ears in the Garrett which were trac'd up. Billy gets out Corn for our Eating, at t'other House. At Evening Snows -- in the Night the storm prevails, and by Morning the Snow is pritty deep. But God protects and guards Supplys and comforts us.

1752 December 5 (Tuesday). A very Winterlike Morning. The Day bright by 10 a.m. but Cold. I examin'd Some Number of Authorities yesterday and to Day on the ninth Commandment and am writing Something of an Exposition of it. Read also Stackhouse's Body of Divinity.<sup>170</sup> It grows exceeding Cold.

1752 December 6 (Wednesday). Messrs. Martyn Pratt and Elijah Rice, get out Flax. Neighbour Eliphalet Adams also. N.B. Mr. Jonathan Forbush brought me about 254 feet of Plank which he had sav'd for my stable and Cow House. N.B. It was So Cold I did not venture to go over to preach Mr. Martyns Lecture to Day. I desire to be humbled under the Frowns of God's Providence whereby I am detain'd and prevented.

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<sup>169</sup>The son of John Martyn, the minister of the north precinct.

<sup>170</sup>Thomas Stackhouse, *A Complete Body of Divinity . . . Extracted the best Ancient and Modern Writers* (London, 1729). A second edition was published in London in 1734.



1752 December 7 (Thursday). Rainy, and raw Cold. Lieutenant Tainter and his son Simon, and Neighbour Eleazer Williams kill'd an Hog for me of 253. I catechiz'd at the Meeting-House, but had only Two Children besides 4 of my own. Lieutenant at Evening. Salted up my Pork.

1752 December 8 (Friday). Lieutenant Tainter assisted my son Ebenezer in killing and dressing a Cow, at t'other House. I visited Mr. Pierce's Family. Ebenezer Pierce extreme bad. N.B. Mr. Whipple's Mill-stone from Hopkinton.

1752 December 9 (Saturday). Cold Searching Winds, and very uncomfortable Weather to poor Rheumaticks. Lieutenant Hunt<sup>171</sup> of Concord, Brother in Law to Deacon Merriam<sup>172</sup> of Grafton, here; chiefly on the Affairs of Acton, from whence he wants to be dismiss'd. The uneasiness which he and others have with Mr. Swift,<sup>173</sup> much the Same with the Sudbury Brethren with Mr. Loring.<sup>174</sup>

1752 December 10 (Sunday). Extreme high Winds last night. A Cold, uncomfortable Air, though bright. I preach'd a.m. on Exod. 20.16. I had prepar'd what I conceiv'd to be Sufficient for both Exercises, but that I might not be So long in the Exposition of this Commandment as I was of the last, I strove hard, and deliver'd the whole in one. P.M. I form'd an Exercize from 2 Cor. 5.11, first part. N.B. I deliver'd all that related to the Chapter and what was peculiar to the tenth of the Text, without writing. And for the Body of the Subject us'd Sermon on Heb. 9.27, from page 21 to 28, and 37, 38. And O that the Exercise might prove awakening and instructing unto all of us!

1752 December 11 (Monday). The Parish met and made the like Grant of 60£ Lawfull Money, as last Year; and voted to finish the pulpit, ministerial Pew, Stairs, Gallery Floors, and Breast work.<sup>175</sup> Ebenezer brought over 3 Quarters of the Cow, he with Lieutenant Tainters help kill'd last Week -- the 4 Quarters weigh'd 18 score wanting one part.

1752 December 12 (Tuesday). My sons wife goes over to her Brother Bonds to stay a few Days. I walk'd up to Mr. Charles Rice's. Reckon'd with Merchant Rice and I am this Day indebted to him about 12£ old Tenor. Cousen Samuel Trask here.

1752 December 13 (Wednesday). Visited at Mr. Pierce's. Ebenezer somewhat reviv'd had desir'd me to come. I was at Dinner with them. Was p.m. at Mr. Bonds and at Mr. Warrins.

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<sup>171</sup>Simon Hunt.

<sup>172</sup>Joseph Merriam, one of the pioneers of Grafton, married Ruth Hunt of Concord. Pierce, *Grafton*, p. 532.

<sup>173</sup>John Swift, Jr.

<sup>174</sup>Israel Loring.

<sup>175</sup>At this precinct meeting they also voted "to sell the pews; the highest payer in the two years they were building to have the first choice. Chose a committee to mark out the pews and to dignify and set a price upon each pew. Voted that the pew room on the floor next to the walls, and the room where the four hind seats should be, shall be called Pew-Room." DeForest and Bates, *Westborough*, p. 137.

1752 December 14 (Thursday). Heard of the Sudden Death of Venerable and aged Mr. Hancock<sup>176</sup> of Lexington. May God be pleas'd to show me convincingly and Effectually that I must also put off this my Tabernacle! At Evening marry'd Joseph Bruce to the Widow Child.<sup>177</sup>

1752 December 15 (Friday). A very Cold Morning after a Cold Night. Mrs. Molly Martyn din'd with us. She came over on foot, and p.m. goes up to Justice Bakers. Ebenezer Pierce dy'd about noon in his twenty second Year, accounted the most hopeful in the Family.

1752 December 16 (Saturday). The Season becomes very Cold, and we are so unhappy as to have but a Small Woodpile: but I desire the Grace suitably to depend upon the kind Providence of God, who has always taken Care of me.

1752 December 17 (Sunday). I provided very sufficiently for each part of the Day, especially for such a Short, Cold Day -- but I was afraid my Expositions of this Commandment would take up too many Exercises, and therefore strove hard to do as last Lords Day, even though I had now more pages than then, and deliver'd it all in the a.m. on Exod. 20.16. P.M. repeated Sermon on Mat. 25.46, on the Extremity of Hells Torments. O that God might please to accompany it with his Special Blessing!

1752 December 18 (Monday). At the Funeral of Ebenezer Pierce. A Sorrowful Time! This Death Seems to be much lamented. Many more attended it than I expected because of the fears of the people are under of being seiz'd with the Same Fever. Mrs. Pierce and their Daughter Hannah lies sick yet. O might these Providences issue in the divine Glory, and their, and all our highest Good! And especially may our young people be Suitably awaken'd, and abiding Impressions be made upon them hereby! Alexander to School to Captain Maynards.

1752 December 19 (Tuesday). My Wife and I rode over to Mr. Martyns -- din'd there, and tarry'd till almost Evening. Mr. Martyn has lately bought a Variety of New Books. I borrow'd of him Martins Philosophical Grammar.<sup>178</sup> At Evening we stop'd at t'other House, and talk'd with Ebenezer<sup>179</sup> about his Circumstances and Manner of living there, and gave him what Encouragement I could. I feel a great deal of deep Concern for both his Temporal and Spiritual Good. May God direct me what to do for him, for the Securing both, but especially the latter! N.B. Lieutenant Tainter brought a Load of choice Walnut Wood. My Sons Father in Law, Mr. Joseph Harrington, on his Journey to Connecticut call'd here, while we were absent.

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<sup>176</sup>John Hancock died Dec. 5, 1752.

<sup>177</sup>Sibyl (Cibel, Sibel) was the widow of Jonas Child of Westborough.

<sup>178</sup>Benjamin Martin, *The Philosophical Grammar; being a View of the Present State of Experimented Physiology, or Natural Philosophy* (London, 1735). Another edition was published in London in 1738.

<sup>179</sup>Ebenezer, Jr., who had married Elizabeth Harrington of Watertown, Sept. 21, 1752, was living in the old parsonage located on the hill where the Lyman School now stands.

1752 December 20 (Wednesday). Mr. Hezekiah Pratt and Mr. Aaron Nurse assisted in Killing my other Hog. Weigh'd 9 Score and Six Pounds. At Eve Mr. David Maynard assisted in Cutting it out. Mr. Samuel Harrington a Load of Wood.

1752 December 21 (Thursday). I went over to t'other House. My 3 sons are trimming over the New swamp the Ground being open and froze. I din'd there. I gave Ebenezer my Yoke of Oxen, and Two Young Heifers coming Two: also a last Year Calf. Alpheus Newton brought Two Load of Wood. Mr. William Rogers cutt up a Parcell of Wood at the Door, which was a Considerable Kindness. Cousen Winchester here.

1752 December 22 (Friday). A Cold Day. Old Mr. Dunlop din'd here. Billy at t'other House. They kill'd one of the Ridgling Shoats which have been some Trouble to us. Ensign Rice sent another Turkey Cock to t'other House -- price 20/ old Tenor.

1752 December 23 (Saturday). Raw Cold. Ebenezer brought over in the Team 4 Sticks for Sleepers to lay my Barn Floor, and he hung my Small Door on the South Side of the Barn. Mr. David Goodenow here. He brings a Petition (drawn up by Mr. Martyn) Sign'd by himself requesting a Charitable Contribution for him.

1752 December 24 (Sunday). Preach'd on Exod. 20.16 a. and p.m. Mrs. Grow din'd here. N.B. I had Some Discourse with Mr. Richard before I consented to baptize his infant Child. He assures me his wife and he are well reconcil'd, and he promises to walk orderly and soberly as becomes a Christian. P.M. after the Exercises, immediately before giving the Blessing, I read Mr. Goodenows Petition for a Contribution. I desir'd the Deacons of the Church and the Committee of the Parish to meet at my House tomorrow Eve, that I may have their Thoughts about it.

1752 December 25 (Monday). I rode to Mr. Amsdens to Mr. Thaddeus Gale's son Jacob who lies Sick. N.B. Dr. Robinson<sup>180</sup> of Marlborough there. Din'd with him at Mr. Amsdens Table. N.B. Instead of Resentments with Mr. Gale, who has been of a long Time represented by Mr. Grow as offended Mr. Gale came to me and thank'd me for my Visit etc. and then presented me with a double Toasting Iron requesting I would come again and See them. At Eve Deacons Forbush and Newton, Lieutenant Bruce and Mr. Phinehas Hardy (who with Deacon Newton made up a Majority of the Precinct Committee) met here at my Request publicly yesterday, to confer and give me their Thought, what would be best to be done with regard to the Contribution which Mr. David Goodenow had petitioned for. Mr. Grow was also here. They, upon the whole, could not advise to it by Virtue of that Petition, the reason they gave was, he did not appear humble, and blaming himself for his poverty, but the Contrary, and rather casting Blame where he ought not. And they Thought it left that I Should write to him.

1752 December 26 (Tuesday). Deacon Newton returns to me this Morning further to strengthen what was Said last Night. P.M. Deacon Newton carry'd a Letter from me to Mr.

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<sup>180</sup>Jeremiah Robinson, who did not have a college education, married Eunice, the daughter of Thomas Amsden of Marlborough. Robinson practiced medicine in Marlborough for many years.

Goodenow -- he went also to Mr. Martyns. My wife to old Mr. Rice's at Widow Newtons -- I went to her at Eve. At Eve Ebenezer here and brings me an Hat which he brought from Mr. Doolittle's. Had still some further Discourse with Ebenezer about his Circumstances -- occasion'd by his own Desire to know how he must be settled. Mr. Israel Walker here in the Evening desirous that I would take Boards of him to pay Thomas for a Saddle, or at least in part.

1752 December 27 (Wednesday). Deacon Newton here to give me account of his Journey to the North Side; and Says he saw but little alteration, by his Discourse, with Mr. Goodenow. I read Martyns Phylosophical Grammar. Ebenezer brought 4 more Sleepers for my Cow-House floor. My Wife to Captain Maynards.

1752 December 28 (Thursday). Mr. Joseph Harrington (my Brother in law) here -- Supps with me but goes to Mr. Bonds to lodge.

1752 December 29 (Friday). A Severe Storm of Snow. At Eve Sundry Men here; particularly Three of the Committee laying out the Pew Ground in the Meeting House who have been upon that Business to Day. They were Mr. Grow, Lieutenant Bruce, Mr. Jonathan Bond. The other Two of the Committee are Messrs. Francis Whipple and David Maynard junior.

1752 December 30 (Saturday). Billy face remains So broke out that it is very Sore, but goes up to Mr. Winchesters in Grafton. John Maynard tertius brings a piece of Beef. It may be noted and remember'd that I have receiv'd from the people above an hundred Valuable Presents and kind Assistances, which I have writ down, Since August 3, when I began to be confin'd by Rheumatism. I desire to take a grateful Notice herefor. Would bless God who has inclin'd and open'd their Hearts hereunto. May God be pleas'd to reward them abundantly for all their Bountys, and give me and mine the Grace to make a right use and Improvement of them!

1752 December 31 (Sunday). I preach'd on Deut. 32.29, a. and p.m., but could not finish my design as to a full and large Application and especially dilating in the Meditations on our Last Day of Life, and on the Last Day of the World: but must leave it to another Time. However, I went into Some brief Hints hereof to the people, and endeavoured more peculiarly to exercise myself therein in the Evening when the Year was closing up