

## Dr. Ebenezer Dexter (1729-1769) of Marlborough

He was a son of Rev. Samuel Dexter (Harvard 1720); see *NEHGR* 8:249-50.

1756 August 25 (Wednesday). N.B. Mr. Martyn has carried down his Son *Natty*, to Marlborough to Dr. *Dexter's*, who gives great Encouragement concerning the Sore, that he Shall effect the Cure of it. I returned home in safety.

1759 April 5 (Thursday). My Wife keeps her Bed. Patty *Dunlop* comes to help us. Sarah returns, but goes back to Mrs. Forbush's at Night. Dr. Dexter was called in to see my Wife. Dr. Chase also had been here.

1760 September 5 (Friday). In returning home we met Mr. Caleb Sawyer of Leominster and reads a summons to us to appear at the Superior Court at Wor'ster which was to our sorrow. Stopped a little at Deacon Rice's; where we were kindly invited to dine, it being noon: but Mr. Martyn was rather inclined to dine at his Brother Witts in Marlborough and would have me go with him. He had also sent his son Richard before him to give Notice of our Coming. We therefore rode there. But Mrs. Witt was from Home; and the wealthy old Gentleman, though he had been at Court for a great many Years, yet had never learnt to invite us to dine with him; nor to ask us whether we had any need of Eating, at that time o' Day; though he must of necessity know that our ride had been long Since we could have been refreshed: He Seemed to avoid all Such Questions. Therefore hungry, disappointed and ashamed, we were obliged to remount our Horses, and ride up into Town to Search for Something that might relieve our Appetites. We stopped at Dr. *Dexters*, and it So happened that they had not dined; but desired we would accept of a Dinner with them. We needed no great Courting. We dined there heartily. Thence we visited Mr. Smith. Arrived Safe at Evening.

1765 February 22 (Friday). Visit Mr. *Ebenezer Brigham* again and pray with him. Many there. I conversed with him with much Fervency, and it seems to succeed in some Measure. D.G. Dr. *Ball* and *Fales* there, and Expect Dr. *Wilson* and *Dexter*: but it looks as if in vain.

1766 July 28 (Monday). I visit Mr. Snows young Child, which is dangerously ill. Prayed with them. Dr. Dexter there.

1766 August 30 (Saturday). John goes to Marlborough with a Bag of Wool for Billy -- to be left at Merchant Barns's for Conveyance, and a Letter to Mr. John Dexter, praying him to look again for Mr. Smiths Book *Mason of self-Knowledge* -- but returns this word, that he can't find it.

1767 April 29 (Wednesday). Messenger from Mr. *Michael Martyn* to have me go over. They fear his Father will not live out the Night. Mr. Wheelock lends his Horse and I went. Found Mr. *Martyn* extreme bad -- just knew me and called me by my name, but has been delirious ever since yesterday noon. A most sorrowful House! Dr. *Dexter* at night -- gives him over. We prayed. I went to Bed.

1767 April 30 (Thursday). Was called up between one and two. He expired about 1/2 after two. Surprizing, Shocking providence! He was taken ill but last Friday -- dressed to go to Meeting last Lords Day -- but was notable. He was delirious by Tuesday noon and continued so (as was conceived) till he dyed. May we be deeply humbled under the mighty Hand of God! In the Morning I returned home.

1768 September 11 (Sunday). Preached a. and p.m. at *Rochester* on 2 Cor. 3.17.18.... Deacon Dexter visits us at 8 o'Clock.

1769 May 3 (Wednesday). Dr. Flynt came from Dr. Dexter, and says the latter will hardly live through the Night.

1769 May 6 (Saturday). Dr. Dexter was buryed at Marlborough.

1769 July 3 (Monday). Rode to Marlborough principally to visit Brother *Smith* under his distressing Trouble by Pain and Faintness at his Stomach.... Visit Mrs. Dexter and Dr. Curtis who lodges there.

1772 February 18 (Tuesday). Visit the Springs. At Dexters bought Some Exceeding good Boards for kitchin Window Shutters.

1774 October 3 (Monday). At *Dedham*, put up at Rev. *Jason Haven's*: who went with me to Honorable Mr. *Samuel Dexters*.

1775 December 21 (Thursday). P.M. my Son *Samuel* returns from *Woodstock* but to day from *Oxford*, with some Goods, which he has bought of Mr. *Dexter* at *Woodstock*, but not such [assortment?] or Such a Quantity, as he expected.