

## **Dr. Samuel Leslie Scammel (d. 1753)**

*SHG* describes him as an English immigrant (d. 1753) who arrived in 1738. Lived in that part of Mendon, now Milford. Minister was Amariah Frost. Married to Jane Libbey.

*Children:* Samuel Leslie, b. 1739, who studied physic and surgery under Dr. Wheat of Newton and Boston and Dr. John Corbett of Bellingham, whose daughter, Bethiah, he married, Jan. 3, 1760; practiced physic in Milford, died at Bellingham, 1805, age 66. Alexander, b. 1744, Harvard 1769, died of wounds shortly before the surrender of Cornwallis.

*Historical Magazine*, n.s., 8, No. 3 (Sept. 1870), 129.

1749 April 20 (Thursday). N.B. Forbush here -- wants opportunity to talk with me, and with my wife that all Grounds of Offence in his acquaintance with Molly and his Conduct about her may be removed. Being in a low State of Health, he is going over to live at Dr. Scammells.

1749 August 30 (Wednesday). Visited Mr. Beriah Rice's Children sick of the Throat distemper, visited Mr. Jonas Child who is sick. There I saw Dr. Scammell. Got him to Look on Mrs. Grice and give Directions. She had a Fit while the Doctor was here -- and much Trouble afterwards.

1749 August 31 (Thursday). Forbush came in the Morning (according to Agreement last night to carry Mrs. Grice back to Boston) he being about to return to College, and Lieutenant Tainter offer'd his Horse (if we could not do better with her) to draw her to Boston. The Doctor had said to Me, that she could by no Means be fitt to keep here, but get her to the place from whence she came. I found She grew ill-humour'd, and us'd indecent Language -- abusing my Kindness to her -- So that I was oblig'd to put on a stern Air; and with a Resolute Mind got her from her Bed. My Horse follow'd after to assist if there be need. Thus I bid adieu to her who had been so great a Vexation to me.

1750 January 4 (Thursday). Fast at Upton in order to Calling a Minister; and that they might be better prepar'd for that, to renew Covenant as a Church.... I rode to Mill-River with Mr. Frost, and one Mr. Bointon. We call'd at Captain Tylers and Dr. Scammells. I lodg'd at Mr. Frosts; and Mr. Bointon kept my Horse. A Cold Night.

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

1752 January 14 (Tuesday). I grew so ill, so faint, feverish, etc. that I sent for Dr. Chase, who came.

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, 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; 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.... At Eve Dr. Chase here and advises to take the Rhubarb *ut Supr.*

1752 January 17 (Friday). Was not quite so faint. Took the rhubarb, it worked once. Dr. Chase here, Mr. Isaac Harrington.

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. Scammell to Colonel Nahum Wards and returned p.m.... Mr. Jacob Cushing 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.... I was in some Comfort -- yet weak and feeble.

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 and afterwards Justice Baker, Mr. Hastings 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.... 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 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.

1752 July 27 (Monday). Somewhat poor Night -- am stiff and in pain this Morning. So that I don't stirr about without Difficulty.

1752 July 28 (Tuesday). A poor Night again with pain.

1752 July 29 (Wednesday). Exceedingly poorly -- Know not how to go to my intended Journey.

[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.... 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.

1752 August 17 (Monday). But a poorish Night, yet my wife tended me. Wrote by Deacon Newton to Dr. Scammell [my wife wrote just before Day].... Less pain a.m. Eat something of Dinner.... 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.... 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!... 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.... Divers Visitants, of persons in Town and otherwise. P.M. Mr. Martyn he pray'd with me.... Ebenezer came and watches.

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. 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.... 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.... 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. 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.... 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.... The Thumb of my left Hand seiz'd this morning. We presently put on a 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 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.

1752 August 29 (Saturday). A very good Night last, for sleep. D.G. Yet its followed with a Day of faintness.

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. 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.

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 recommending a Remedy which he had taken with Success.... 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 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.

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.

[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.

1752 September 15 (Friday). 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. 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.

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). 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.

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 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 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.

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.

1778 August 3 (Monday). *Drury Fairbank* in a Languishment and going over to Dr. [Scammel?], calls at the Shop.