

Mercy Maynard and Essex

1749 January 28 (Saturday). Mercy Maynard watch'd. [Hannah Parkman had given birth to a child on January 27.]

1756 September 21 (Tuesday). N.B. I visited Old Mr. *Maynard*, who is not well and I took Opportunity of discharging my Duty to his Daughter *Mercy*, who, though unmarried, is big with Child.

1756 October 6 (Wednesday). N.B. Old Mr. Maynard and his Children in much sorrow intermixed with their Joy. Neighbour *Nathans* Wife is brought to bed and has a Son -- but *Mercy* likewise and the Latter has a black one. Thought to be by Mr. *Masons Essex*. A most grievous and Sore Evil! God grant her Repentance and her Wicked Companion also: and Support the wounded Relatives, and give to each of that Grace which may be sufficient for them!

1756 October 18 (Monday). I visited Mr. Ebenezer Maynard whose youngest Son is Sick. And made a Visit to poor, Miserable *Mercy Maynard*, and find her in Some Penitent Way, which may God please to forward and ripen!

1772 January 15 (Wednesday). N.B. Capt. *Howard* of *Canada* gave me some Account of Mercy Maynard, who lives, and has done for some years, at his House.

1774 October 21 (Friday). Mr. *Howard* of *Canada* in *Windham*, who has been a kind Friend to the unhappy *Mercy Maynard*, called here to see me.

Source: Diary of Ebenezer Parkman (ms., American Antiquarian Society). Mercy Maynard was born on March 4, 1725, the youngest of David and Hannah Maynard's eleven children. There are no other references to Essex in the Parkman diary or in other records with which I am familiar.

Mercy Maynard was the 11th and last child of David and Hannah (Waite) Maynard, born on March 4, 1724/5. Her mother died on March 16 – hence, one might imagine, the choice of her name.

Her father may have married, secondly, Jemima Brigham, February 6, 1732/3. But whether or not her father remarried, Mercy had lost her birth mother and was raised either by her older sibling and servants or by a stepmother.

Mercy's sister Martha (born Aug. 7, 1710) married, first, Hezekiah Tomlin, June 18, 1747; he died Sept. 29, 1749. She married, second, Daniel Mason of Concord (the intention was recorded on Nov. 9, 1752 in the Westborough Vital Records).