

## Ezekiel Cole

1742 December 28 (Tuesday). N.B. a remarkable meeting at Mr. Harwoods (upon the Borders) last night. Great awakenings there and several Children of Mr. William Nurse and one of Mr. James Fay much wrought on. N.B. An Indian Youth one [blank] Cole, greatly carry'd out at those Meetings. Some of Westborough people that were present greatly question'd their regularity and Soundness, particularly Mr. Eliezer Rice. May the Spirit of Truth lead us and guide us into all Truth for his Name's Sake! Grant us by all Means the Blessing and preserve us from the Evil!

1744 May 9 (Wednesday). Heard that Ezekiel Cole's Case was try'd yesterday at our County Court at Worcester, and that he was fin'd etc.

1746 November 14 (Friday). At Eve Mr. Noah Brooks of Grafton here -- being in much perplexity and Difficulty not knowing what was his Duty respecting their approaching Sacrament. Since he and others had complain'd of Ezekiel Cole for his preaching and the Church had condemn'd him as disorderly, yet had lately voted him forgiveness if he would reform, notwithstanding they have had no Signs of his Repentence -- nay have reason to fear he has had not Conviction of his offence.

1756 December 17 (Friday). Cold Snow Storm. Mr. *Hall of Sutton* on his Journey home, turns in and tarrys with us. He purposes to me this Question, Whether a Child baptized by *Ezekiel Cole*, shall be baptized again? N.B. *Cole* has acknowledged his sin and folly in professing to be ordained and to act as a Minister: and the Father of the Child desires it might be baptized notwithstanding all that was done by Cole; yet it is allowed that *Coles* Ordination was as good as *Wadsworth's* and the rest of the Separate Teachers, who have baptized many; So that the Conduct about this Instance of *Cole's*, though but a single one (for the Other which he baptized was dead), would be of considerable Influence whether one way or t'other.

I told him I believ'd that if the Case was mine I Should baptize the Child, at least under those Circumstances.

### **Grafton Church Records, February 17, 1742 (p. 78):**

Feb<sup>y</sup> 17.

Ezekil Cole. Ezekil Cole an Indian Youth Ow<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Cov<sup>t</sup> was Baptiz<sup>d</sup> & Rec<sup>d</sup> to full Comunion

### **Grafton Church Records, February 17, 1742 (p. 37):**

Feb<sup>y</sup> 17. 1742. Ezekil Cole an Indian about 21. or 22 years old. was Baptiz<sup>d</sup> & Rec<sup>d</sup> to full Com[m]union as also Hannah Willard, Silence Holbrook, And Eunice Foster, were Rec<sup>d</sup> w this Chh on Lect<sup>t</sup> day

### **Grafton Church Records, November 28, 1742 (p. 50):**

Ezekil Coals. Acknowledgment.

I Ezekil Coal do Acknowledge that I was wholly out of the way of my Duty & Over born by Temptation, w<sup>n</sup> I thought it my Duty to Whipp Benj<sup>a</sup>: Willards Child, So as I did. But I hope the Lord has brôt me to See the Evil of itt; & now I would Earnestly ask forgiveness of God & this Chh & Congregation beging that y<sup>y</sup> would forgive me, & Pray that y<sup>e</sup> Lord <sup>^</sup>God would for=  
=give me; and lift up y<sup>e</sup> Light of his Countenance upon Me and Lead me in y<sup>e</sup> way to Evlasting Life.

March 8<sup>th</sup> 1743/4

Voted by the Chh here to Accept the above Acknowledgm<sup>t</sup> and Reicve S<sup>d</sup> Ezek. into full Charity again

**Grafton Church Records, February 13, 1743 (p. 111):**

Grafron Feb<sup>y</sup> 13. 1743. At One Clock PM: the Chh being Mett According to adjornment

Other affairs permitting

1. Bro<sup>r</sup> Ezekil Cole Came before the Chh, & acknowledg<sup>d</sup> he had been rash & unchristian, in charging y<sup>e</sup> Pastor with Preaching Damnable Doctrine and Said he was Sorry there for, and ask<sup>d</sup> forgiveness of Pastor & Chh who accordingly manifested their forgiveness
2. Bro<sup>r</sup> Ezekil Cole also acknowledged his fault for going a Guning On the Publick Thanksgiving Day ap=  
=pointed for the Kings Deliverance in the Late Battle On the River Mayne in Germany  
Asked forgiveness of God and y<sup>e</sup> Chh y<sup>e</sup> Chh Satisfyed

**Grafton Church Records, April 23, 1746 (p. 144):**

Grafton April 23. 1746 the Chh Appointed to meet att the Meeting house 1'Clock PM. Accordingly att time & place appoint<sup>d</sup> the Chh Mett after the Meeting was open<sup>d</sup>

2. Read, And took bro<sup>r</sup> Hardys Reasons Under Consideration. and debat<sup>d</sup> y<sup>r</sup> on, and as to the first part of his Reasons Viz. M<sup>f</sup> Prentices Deneying y<sup>e</sup> Result, Act<sup>d</sup>, thereon. att the Last Meeting, as to the 2<sup>d</sup> part of his reasons. y<sup>t</sup> Relat<sup>d</sup> to Exhorters. Refer<sup>d</sup> that to be Consid<sup>d</sup> Under the Comp<sup>t</sup> ag<sup>t</sup> Bro<sup>r</sup> Coal for publickly preaching & teaching which is also with y<sup>e</sup> Councils.

4. Read. Taintors as to y<sup>e</sup> first. part. Act<sup>d</sup> upon at y<sup>e</sup> Last Meeting. y<sup>e</sup> Latter refer<sup>d</sup> to y<sup>e</sup> Case of Coal: —

5. Read Capt. Willard, Ebenezer Brooks and others y<sup>r</sup> Complaints ag<sup>t</sup> bro<sup>r</sup> Ezekeil Coal for taking upon Publickly to teach & preach, as they Recieve itt.

1. Propos<sup>d</sup> (after much discourse upon itt). Whither bro<sup>r</sup> Coal. did not appear to y<sup>e</sup> Chh. under his present Circumstances, and only with his present Qualifications to be Justifiable in publickly preaching and teaching pass<sup>d</sup> Negative

2. Propos<sup>d</sup> whither the Chh wont look upon Such of their brethren Offenders who for the future Shall Invite Ezekeil Coal, publickly to teach & preach in their houses, or Else where or Countenance him ther in. while he Remains under his present Circumstances on Account of Qualifications y<sup>r</sup> for. pass<sup>d</sup> Affirmat

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3. propos<sup>d</sup> that in as Much as we apprehend our Brethren who have Invited Said Coal; did not mean to do itt as a publick preacher, and upon their refraining inviting Or Countenancing of him (in this way) for the time to Come We now forgive them & restore y<sup>m</sup> to our Charity Pass<sup>d</sup> Affirmat

then propo.s<sup>d</sup> to chose 3. breth<sup>n</sup> to discouse with Said Coal, and about his preaching & to Endeavour to know off him, what his aim & Desighn is in preaching as he dos, & whither he be determin<sup>d</sup> So to proceed, where Ever he may be ask<sup>d</sup> before he has any other Qualifications. y<sup>r</sup> for than now he has, & in Case y<sup>e</sup> Com<sup>tee</sup> can't have an oppertunity to dis=  
=course with him, he be desired to refrain Coming to y<sup>e</sup> Next Sac<sup>t</sup> with us. — pass<sup>d</sup> in Affirmat

And David Wadsworth Benj<sup>a</sup> Harwood & Tho<sup>s</sup> Parker. Chossen. who discours<sup>d</sup> with him and bro't his Answer in Writing, which is also lodged with y<sup>e</sup> Councils. —————

then Propos<sup>d</sup> that in asmuch as bro<sup>r</sup> Fletcher did not attend this meeting in Case, the difference between himselfe & M<sup>r</sup> Cuttler untill y<sup>e</sup> Next Sac<sup>t</sup> day he be desired to Refrain coming y<sup>r</sup> unto. pass<sup>d</sup> Affirmat

**Grafton Church Records, October 29, 1746 (pp. 147-48):**

The Chh was appoint<sup>d</sup> to meet at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house Octob<sup>r</sup> 29.<sup>th</sup> 1746. 1'Clock PM. to Cons<sup>r</sup> of any matters of Uneasyness Subsisting in y<sup>e</sup> Chh. Viz. the affair. of

Hardy & others, y<sup>t</sup> of Coal. & that of Cuttler and  
 fletcher Accordingly att time & place apoint<sup>d</sup>  
 And proceed<sup>d</sup> to Consider of y<sup>e</sup> Case of Hardy, Stevens  
 and Taintor & pass<sup>d</sup> the Votes y<sup>r</sup> on. propos<sup>d</sup> in  
 the Meeting May. 12. 1746. which See in y<sup>r</sup> place  
 then pass<sup>d</sup> to Consider the affair of Coal. but Could  
 do nothing but adjorn the Meeting to Nov<sup>r</sup> 3. 1746  
 8. 'Clock AM; the Chh. Mett at time & place  
 According to adjornm<sup>t</sup> af<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Meeting Open<sup>d</sup>  
 And Propos<sup>d</sup> that provided Our bro<sup>r</sup> Coal Should [Reassume?]  
 his Late practice of publickly preaching & Exhorting  
 which he (as we think) unwarrantably & Unscipura=  
 =bly Sett up, to the Dissatisfaction of Many of the  
 Chh, the Chh. Must Call him to account ther for

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In Order to deall with him as an Offender  
 But in Case he y<sup>e</sup> S<sup>d</sup> Coal desist and practice  
 So No More to the offence of his Brethren; then  
 the Chh, do Overlook, and pass by what he has done  
 therin, (hoping he is Come to a Better Mind)  
 and Accordingly we do Receive him to our  
 Charity; Solemnly warning & Cautioning our  
 S<sup>d</sup> bro<sup>r</sup> Coal, against Such practice for the time  
 to Come Seing y<sup>e</sup> ill & hurtfull tendancy y<sup>r</sup> off  
 in time pass<sup>d</sup> pass<sup>d</sup> Affirmat  
 Which Vote & that of Dismissing y<sup>e</sup> affair  
 of Cuttler & Fletcher pass<sup>d</sup> at y<sup>e</sup> Same time  
 was Very offensive to Many. Espechally Such  
 As were not att y<sup>e</sup> Meeting when they pass<sup>d</sup>  
 And they never Left trying Untill they gott  
 them both Reconsider<sup>d</sup> which was done att  
 a Meeting January 26. 1746  
 And Some because the Votes above were pass<sup>d</sup> &  
 others because they were Reconsider<sup>d</sup> made so a  
 great Uneasiness and Cause<sup>d</sup> many to be absent  
 the Next Sac<sup>t</sup> day: So that on  
 Decemb<sup>r</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 1746. the Chh was appoint<sup>d</sup> to Meet  
 at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting at 2'Clock. PM. to know of y<sup>m</sup>  
 what were the Dissatisfactions among them.  
 that Occasion<sup>d</sup> So many to be absent: on the  
 Last Sac<sup>t</sup> day. Accordingly y<sup>e</sup> Chh met as ap=  
 =point<sup>d</sup> af<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Meeting open.<sup>d</sup> And then the  
 breth<sup>r</sup> offer<sup>d</sup> y<sup>r</sup> Reasons One and ano<sup>r</sup> by word  
 of Mouth. Some of which I took down in writing

1 as follows. Viz Dea. Cooper, Because the affair of Bro<sup>r</sup> Fletcher & Cuttler was pass<sup>d</sup> over as  
 2 it was. Leiut. Drury. with y<sup>e</sup> Votes about Coal  
 And y<sup>t</sup> about Fletcher & Cuttler

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3. Noah Brook: with the Votes about Coal & Fletcher  
 4. Benj<sup>a</sup> Harwood with y<sup>e</sup> Vote about Fletcher And  
 Many other things Viz Doct. I Deliver.  
 5. And<sup>w</sup> Adams with y<sup>e</sup> Votes the Chh pass<sup>d</sup> Relating to  
 the breth<sup>n</sup> y<sup>t</sup> heard Coal preach and y<sup>e</sup> Votes  
 about Fletcher; and Coal & Doct. I Deliver  
 6. Eben<sup>r</sup> Wadsworth with y<sup>e</sup> Votes about Coal, and  
 the breth. that heard him, and y<sup>e</sup> Doct. I deliver  
 And the Vote, about Fletcher.  
 7. Ens: Pratt many things Viz y<sup>e</sup> Votes about Coal  
 and that about Fletcher:  
 8. Edw<sup>d</sup> Cobb. Nothing but because his wife was  
 not well & it was Exceeding Rainy.  
 9. Neh. Bachellor, Because of y<sup>e</sup> Vote pass<sup>d</sup> that he  
 thot, bore against Illiterate persons Exhorting  
 also Dissatisfied with y<sup>e</sup> foundation of y<sup>e</sup> Chh. is  
 Settled upon. & the Doc<sup>t</sup> I Deliver.  
 then bro<sup>r</sup> Stevens propos<sup>d</sup> he might have a Re=  
 =hearing of his reasons in y<sup>e</sup> Chh for his absenting  
 from Comunion with y<sup>e</sup> Chh at y<sup>e</sup> Lords table  
 pass<sup>d</sup> Affirmat  
 then y<sup>e</sup> Meeting adjorn<sup>d</sup> to Monday 12. January  
 att 12 Clock S<sup>d</sup> day. which from thence was  
 adjorn<sup>d</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Instant. 12. 'Clock and at y<sup>e</sup> time of y<sup>e</sup>  
 S<sup>d</sup> adjornm<sup>t</sup> publick Notice was given thus Viz  
 that if y<sup>e</sup> Major part of y<sup>e</sup> breth<sup>n</sup> living in town  
 ware not pressent that y<sup>e</sup> Meeting might be open<sup>d</sup>  
 by 1. 'Clock, I Should take y<sup>e</sup> Liberty to go about  
 my other busines, but at  $\frac{3}{4}$  past One, but  
 8 of y<sup>e</sup> breth<sup>n</sup> appear<sup>d</sup> but before 3. Clock was  
 pressent. 25. or 26. When y<sup>e</sup> Meeting was Open<sup>d</sup>  
 And the Chh. proced<sup>d</sup> to take Reasons of Such as w<sup>r</sup>  
 not at y<sup>e</sup> Last Sac<sup>t</sup> why there were not;

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As to the first Letter which we Rec<sup>d</sup> from Some  
 brethren of the Chh of Christ in Stow; It was  
 read (att a Meeting of the Chh Notified for that End

at the Meeting house in Grafton on the 22. of Aug<sup>t</sup> 1735.) before the Chh and after Some time it was put to vote whether the Chh would Send to Brother Rice Not to go to the Comunion att Stow, for the Reasons alledged, & passed in y<sup>e</sup> Negative att<sup>tt</sup> Solomon Prentice pastor

And

As to the Second Letter which we Rec<sup>d</sup> that was also read before the Chh at a meeting appointed for that End at my house on the 31. of Octob<sup>r</sup> 1735. And after Some time it was put to vote whether the Chh would admit of a public hearing of the Case as it had been represented, for Several reasons it passed in y<sup>e</sup> Negative att<sup>tt</sup> Solomon Prentice pastor:

10. Capt. Willard because of the Votes about Coal & Fletcher, and my denying I came in with the Result of the Late Council,

11. Eben<sup>r</sup> Brooks, because of y<sup>e</sup> Votes about Coal & my denying to read a former Vote Except [y<sup>y?</sup>] wod. Reconsid<sup>r</sup> itt;

12. Jacob Whipple (1) because y<sup>e</sup> Chh. is Not Settled upon a good foundation (2) they pass<sup>d</sup> Such Votes in the Chh. which I think bare against y<sup>e</sup> Word of God, Such as private persons preaching and Exhorting; (3) it appears to me M<sup>r</sup> Prentice preach<sup>d</sup> Contra to y<sup>e</sup> truths of God (4) because Memb did not receive ano<sup>r</sup> by Acts of faith (y<sup>r</sup> shod be Ruling Elders.

13. Rob<sup>t</sup> Flegg the Votes about Coal: and Fletcher

14. Ens: Hall the Votes about Coal, & Fletcher

15. Benj<sup>a</sup> Willard the Votes about Coal, & Fletcher

16. Jos. Goodell with y<sup>e</sup> foundation of y<sup>e</sup> Chh. because persons are not taken into y<sup>e</sup> Chh. upon Due Examination persons must be introduce<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> by faith

17. Mark Bachellor Not Well is Ready to Submitt to y<sup>e</sup> x Major Vote in y<sup>e</sup> Chh = Which if all had been y<sup>r</sup> had not been this Disturbance & disquietment:

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then propos<sup>d</sup> to Cons<sup>r</sup> bro<sup>r</sup> Stevens Reasons. with the Evidences and after much Said propos<sup>d</sup> whither y<sup>e</sup> Chh. Would reconsider the Vote they pass<sup>d</sup> March 28 Last past, Relating to M<sup>r</sup> Prentice<sup>s</sup> denying the Result. but pass<sup>d</sup> Negative Unanimously How Ever, after Some were tyr<sup>d</sup> and gone, it was

propos<sup>d</sup> whither the Chh. be of y<sup>e</sup> Mind bro<sup>r</sup> Stevens has prov<sup>d</sup> that Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Prentice deny<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Result in Word. And itt pass<sup>d</sup> Affirmat then propos<sup>d</sup> no paper of Evidence Sighn.<sup>d</sup> by persons not present Except Sworn too, be accept<sup>d</sup> or Read in the Chh. for time to Come, Extraordinarys only Accept<sup>d</sup> pass<sup>d</sup> Affirmat then y<sup>e</sup> Meeting adjorn<sup>d</sup> to 26. Instant 9 'Clock AM. precisely. Accordingly at time & place y<sup>e</sup> Chh mett them Meeting open<sup>d</sup> & proceeded to take y<sup>e</sup> Reasons of Delinquent breth<sup>n</sup>

8. Benj<sup>a</sup> Chapin with y<sup>e</sup> Votes about Coal, and Fletcher  
9. Silas Witherbye Coals preaching & Some [y<sup>t</sup>?] heard him  
And Votes pass<sup>d</sup> about him relating to recieving of him with out Acknowledgm<sup>t</sup>.

then Dea. Whipple propos<sup>d</sup> we ask advice of Some Ministers before we proceed any farther  
Capt. Willard 2<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Dea. Leiut. Drury. also. Ens. Pratt thinks best to go back to y<sup>e</sup> affair of Coal & Fletcher.  
then propos<sup>d</sup> in the Chh whither they will Send for Five Ministers for advice upon affairs of difficulty and Differences Subsisting among us, which have been laid before y<sup>e</sup> Chh. as Reasons why they Cant Com=  
=municate together at y<sup>e</sup> Lords table. Then y<sup>e</sup> Meeting adjorn<sup>d</sup> ½ hour. pass<sup>d</sup> Affirmat Generally

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PM. 2'Clock Chh mett.

20. Joseph Whipple Reasons for Non Comunion w<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Chh Viz  
I dont look upon it According to my Understanding of y<sup>e</sup> word, that y<sup>e</sup> Chh is Settle<sup>d</sup> upon y<sup>e</sup> foundation of Gods word; but rather upon humane tradition (2 I am not Satisfied with y<sup>e</sup> administration of y<sup>e</sup> Word (as being y<sup>e</sup> pure Gospel of Christ: then proceed<sup>d</sup> to Reconsider the Votes about Coal, and about Fletcher with which So many had manifest<sup>d</sup> y<sup>m</sup> Selves Uneasy: which perhaps Answer<sup>d</sup> No other End, than to make as Many Uneasy as were be fore or. upon this Ebenezer Wadsworth  
Neh: Bachellor & Jacob Whipple Ask<sup>d</sup> a Dismission from this Chh.

Then propos<sup>d</sup> to dismiss the affair of Ezek. Coal to y<sup>e</sup> advise of Ministers the Chh may Send to for advice.

Propos<sup>d</sup> to Send unto Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Crocker of Taunton 2. Rev. M<sup>r</sup> White of Hardwick. 3. Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Messenger of Wrentham

4. Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Porter of Bridgewater; 5. Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Martyn of Westboro, then propos<sup>d</sup> the 3<sup>d</sup> Teusday of Feb<sup>y</sup> Next, at 10'Clock. AM. be the time for the Meeting of these 5.

Ministers for advice. pass<sup>d</sup> affirmat.

then y<sup>e</sup> Meeting adjorn<sup>d</sup> to Feb. 2. 9'Clock AM:

thence because it was very Stormy & bad Stiring and but few of y<sup>e</sup> Chh Came adjorn<sup>d</sup> to Thirsday Fb<sup>y</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 9 'Clock. AM.

21 at which Meetting Tho<sup>s</sup> Axtell J<sup>unr</sup> ofer<sup>d</sup> his reasons for Non Comunion with y<sup>e</sup> Chh Viz because he thot the Chh not in a fitt posture to have the Sac<sup>t</sup> of the Lords Supper administer<sup>d</sup> because it was not a Chh of Ct. in his opinion, therfore he desired a dismission from itt;

Then I propos<sup>d</sup> the Necessity, Either of altering y<sup>e</sup> time for y<sup>e</sup> Meeting of y<sup>e</sup> Ministers the Chh Sent too for advise or to Send to other Ministers Nearer Because thro y<sup>e</sup> Extremity of y<sup>e</sup> Season & travailing it Seem<sup>d</sup> Impracticall those Vot<sup>d</sup> to Send too, Could Come if Sent too;