

## News and Newspapers

Ebenezer Parkman learned “news” from many sources. For example, one could search for “heard” and learn about much more that was new information. This file, however, is limited to his references to “news” and “newspapers.” Parkman’s references to news, at least in the case of the death of King George (June 11, 14, August 18, 19, 1727), suggest his entries were sometimes added some days after the event. Note, too, that he sometimes notes that news is “confirmed.”

1723 August 11 (Sunday). We had News by a Post that rode through the Town to day that a Number of Indians were coming to Scout from Canada to those out Towns under the Command of one Captain Nathaniel.

1723 August 15 (Thursday). [Boston.] We Miss’d of being at Lecture, but I walked up to Mr. Edwards’s Shop to hear the News, and see my Friends.

1724 August 6 (Thursday). I rode round to Boston but did not get there till Lecture was over. The News was Malden Emerson’s<sup>1</sup> House was Burnt last Friday Night. Four Men taken at Rutland, 3 kill’d and one Captur’d.<sup>2</sup> There was one more wounded.

1724 August 23 (Sunday). Preach’d all Day. Tit. 2.12. News that Captain Harmon<sup>3</sup> had slain 5 or 6 Score Indians at Norridgewock with Sebastian Ralle<sup>4</sup> the Old Jesuit and brought in his and 26 or 27 Scalps besides and Delivered Three Captives from the Enemy. Among those that were Slain of the Indians Bummageem was one. His wife and Two Sons were taken Captive and brought to York and Piscataqua. And in all we lost not a Man but an Indian, a Cape Fellow. Deo Opt. Max. Gloria Triumphi. Captain Harmon (it is storied) found an Iron Chest with the Jesuit which had many Letters in it, Some from Gentlemen at Boston (O Horrids) Betraying our Country.

1727 January 4 (Wednesday). Thence I went to Deacon Greens<sup>5</sup> printing house and paid him for my years news, etc, etc.

1727 February 1 (Wednesday). The News Letter had given an account of the very Surprising and most Sudden Death of Mr. Samuell Hirst A.M. of Harvard College, who not long Since fell down Dead on the long wharf at Boston, being in perfect Health (to appearance) the moment before. And one Lewis<sup>6</sup> Sometime publisher of the Boston Gazette, the same afternoon was taken with an Apoplectick fit and dy’d in Two Hours. O that I may also be ready, and that all

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<sup>1</sup>Reverend Joseph Emerson (Harvard 1717) of Maiden. *Boston News-Letter*, Aug. 6, 1724. *Sibley*, VI, 170-175.

<sup>2</sup>*Boston News-Letter*, Aug. 6, 1724. The three men who perished were James Clark, Joseph Wood and Uriah Wood. Eleazer Ball was wounded. The name of a boy captured is unknown. Blake, *Rutland and the Indian Troubles*, pp. 10-11.

<sup>3</sup>Colonel Johnson Harmon.

<sup>4</sup>Father Sebastian Rale, head of the Jesuit mission at Norridgewock, Maine. See James P. Baxter, *The Pioneers of New France in New England* (Albany, 1891)

<sup>5</sup>Bartholomew Green (1666-1732) of Boston, printer of the *Boston News-Letter*.

<sup>6</sup>Thomas Lewis (c. 1695-1727).

Young Persons might fear and prepare, Since So many die in full strength, etc., to Demonstrate to us that in an hour that we think not our Lord cometh!

1727 March 15 (Wednesday). We had very joyfull news from my Brother John.<sup>7</sup>

1727 May 31 (Wednesday). [Boston.] I was also at Captain Kings where Mr. Joseph Parsons<sup>8</sup> was with Mrs. Porter. I invited him to lodge with me. Accordingly he did. He told me sorrowfull News of Mr. Samuel Coffins<sup>9</sup> being far Spent in a Consumption and his Life dispair'd of.

1727 June 11 (Sunday). King George dy'd at his Brother Ernest's Palace at Osnaburg.

1727 June 14 (Wednesday). The sad News of the Kings Death arriv'd at Richmond and George II was proclaim'd at Leicester House.

1727 August 18, 19 (Friday, Saturday). I had the News of the Kings Death.

1736 September 13 (Monday). Being in great Concern about Brother *Elias's* Family, his wife and only son especially, whom I left dangerously ill (See Sept. 4) and hearing nothing but by Jesse Maynard which was that *Elias* was not *Dead*, but that he was nigh or altogether as bad as ever, I took my Horse and rode to *Marlborough* to see if there was any Letter at the *Colonel's* for me, or any News from College or *Boston* by Mr. *Caleb Rice* or by *Marlborough* preacher; but hearing nothing of them to relieve my oppressed Mind (except what I met with from Deacon [Feveryear?<sup>10</sup>] and Cous. *Langdon*<sup>11</sup> whom I met at *Sudbury*) I proceeded to *Cambridge* (not without some Desire also (I confess) to see somebody else). From *Cambridge* I proceeded still, to *Boston* where my Brother received Me with great Joy and Thanks for my tender Sympathy and Concern for them in their Distressing Troubles.

1736 October 22 (Friday). Dr. Gott Shewed me Mr. James Pierponts Letter of the 21, giving the Melancholly News of the Sudden Death of Mr. *Nathaniel Breck*<sup>12</sup> (Madam Pierponts Father) who was drowned the Night before, as he was attempting to pass over the Swing Bridge in *Boston*. A very sorrowful accident!

1736 November 10 (Wednesday). Received a Letter from Brother Samuel per Mr. Josiah Rice informing that Mrs. H\_\_\_\_\_ B\_\_\_\_\_ had been better, but took a Vomit last Friday, and since that time was not better. This was Sad News at the Preparation for the Thanksgiving.

1737 September 25 (Sunday). Mr. Pierpont came to us this morning, having come from Boston but a little before sunset last eve'g. N.B. News that the vessel in which his Goods were had

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<sup>7</sup>Parkman's brother-in-law John Tyley.

<sup>8</sup>(Harvard 1720). Minister of Bradford, 1726-1765. *Sibley*, VI, 393-396.

<sup>9</sup>Brocklebank Samuel Coffin (Harvard 1718) of Newbury. *Sibley*, VI, 234.

<sup>10</sup>Grafton Feveryear of Boston's Second or "Old North Church"; Worthley, *Inventory*, 58.

<sup>11</sup>Edward Langdon.

<sup>12</sup>Nathaniel Breck d. Oct. 20, 1736. Robert J. Dunkle and Ann S. Lainhart, comps., *Deaths in Boston, 1700 to 1799* (2 vols. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1999), 1:110.

struck upon Martha's Vineyard, but had got off again: he (as he can) pursues his journey to see in what condition they are at New Haven.

1738 January 5 (Thursday). Received the melancholly news of the Death of Madame Chandler, who deceased on [blank].

1738 March 14 (Tuesday). N.B. Lieutenant Holloway<sup>13</sup> brought News from my mother, Brother, etc., with Flower, etc.

1739 February 5 (Monday). N.B. Upon the Sorrowful News we had receiv'd by Edwards Whipple<sup>14</sup> of the Extreme illness of our sister Lydia Champney at Cambridge, Brother Hicks and his Wife went down, but the circumstances of my Wife did utterly forbid me.

1739 February 22 (Thursday). Sorrowfull News at Eve by John Hicks junior of Sister Lydia Champneys extreme Ill State.

1740 January 31 (Thursday). [Boston.] N.B. Sorrowful News of Mr. John Adams's<sup>15</sup> (My old Friend) Death and of Mr. Ebenezer Hancock<sup>16</sup> of Lexington.

1740 August 27 (Wednesday). Commencement.... Sorrowful News of the Death of Mr. Stoddard<sup>17</sup> of Chelmsford, who dy'd in his Well.

1740 November 2 (Sunday). News that Mother Parkman was ill, Brother Elias worse, etc.

1742 May 17 (Monday). N.B. News from *Grafton* that Mr. *Philemon Robbins*<sup>18</sup> preached there yesterday and Twenty or More persons fell down with Distress and Anguish.

1742 July 29 (Thursday). Capt. Goddard called to acquaint me with the Sorrowful News of the Death of the Rev. and worthy Mr. *James Stone*<sup>19</sup> of Holliston, who dyed yesterday and to be buried to day. O that God would make this providence awakening to Me and to all, especially in the Ministry round about! O that we might take Heed to the Ministry which we have received of the Lord to fulfill it! for Blessed is that servant etc.!

1742 August 4 (Wednesday). Ebenezer went to Framingham upon Ensign Maynards mare to enquire after mine. No Certain News.

1742 August 9 (Monday). No clear News of my Mare, but Sorrowful News from my Mother, of her illness and danger.

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<sup>13</sup>William Holloway of Westborough.

<sup>14</sup>Of Westborough.

<sup>15</sup>Parkman's classmate at Harvard.

<sup>16</sup>Rev. Ebenezer Hancock (HC 1728), minister at Lexington, 1734-1739. *SHG*, 8:427-429.

<sup>17</sup>Rev. Samson Stoddard (HC 1701), minister of Chelmsford, 1706-1740. *SHG*, 5:119-122.

<sup>18</sup>Philemon Robbins (1709-1781), Harvard 1729, minister at Branford, Connecticut, 1733-1781; *SHG*, 8:616-27.

<sup>19</sup>James Stone (1704-1742), Harvard 1724, minister at Holliston, 1728-1742; *SHG*, 7:442-44.

1744 March 17 (Saturday). N.B. a most sorrowful piece of News at my Return. One Daniel Campbell who in Years past used to keep Maylems Stables at Boston, was lately murther'd at Rutland by (as tis Suspected) Edward Fitzpatrick who is apprehended accordingly and Imprison'd at Worcester.<sup>20</sup>

1744 April 17 (Tuesday). Heard to Day the sorrowful News of the Burning of Mr. Emmersons<sup>21</sup> House at Nessitissett<sup>22</sup> lately.

1744 October 10 (Wednesday). [Boston.] N.B. The Sorrowful Shocking News by Brother Samuel of Cousen Elias's<sup>23</sup> Fall into uncleanness with Mrs. Sally Hill. The Lord Sanctifie this sore Trial for our deep humbling!

1745 March 15 (Friday). Brother Hicks (who has been at Cambridge Some time and whom we concluded to have gone Home) return'd, and brings the Sorrowful News that my Honoured Father in Law Mr. Samuel Champney departed this Life on the eight instant and was bury'd on the thirteenth. May we mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for the End of this Man in peace! O what an heavenly mind; what Hours together Spent with God, what a Contempt of the World, what Concern for the true Interests of Religion and of the Land, what value for the truly Godly and pious -- was discernible in this worthy Person, above most! May I, and all nearly related have Grace to imitate his Excellent Example in those Respects!

1745 March 29 (Friday). Captain Maynard, with his Evening Post, came at Evening which was an unspeakable Hindrance to me.

1745 April 4 (Thursday). Publick Fast on occasion of the Enterprize and Expedition against Cape Breton.<sup>24</sup>

1745 April 6 (Saturday). [Cambridge.] N.B. No news yet from our Fleet.

1745 April 18 (Thursday). Sad News came to Boston to Day by an Express from Captain Knowls at St. Kitts directed to Commodore Warrin who is gone to Cape Briton of 7 or 8 French Men of War and 28 Transports arrived at Martinece, bound we know not whither.

1745 April 26 (Friday). Mr. Cushing came to my House with whom and Mr. Stone I (on Mr. Pratts Horse) rode to Framingham to the Funeral of Reverend Mr. Swift.... Mr. Loring, Gardner and Peabody retir'd to draw up a Character.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>20</sup>“On Friday Night last, one *Daniel Campbell* of Rutland, was found barbarously murder'd in his own Land, at a small Distance from his House: it appear'd by all probable Circumstances that he was strangled. A Person who liv'd in the House with him is committed to Goal on a strong suspicion of his perpetrating the Murder.” *Boston Gazette*, Mar. 20, 1744, p. 2.

<sup>21</sup>Rev. Daniel Emerson (HC 1739), first minister of Hollis, N.H., 1743-1793. *SHG* 10:359-364. See *The Boston Gazette, or, Weekly Journal*, April 24, 1744.

<sup>22</sup>Nissitisset was the West Parish of Dunstable, Mass., later incorporated in 1746 as Hollis, N.H.

<sup>23</sup>*SHG* 10:223-24.

<sup>24</sup>Gov. William Shirley issued a proclamation, Mar. 28, 1745, setting Apr. 4, 1745, as a day of general fasting and prayer throughout Massachusetts in connection with the forthcoming expedition against Louisbourg, Cape Breton. See *Boston Weekly News-Letter*, Mar. 25, 1745.

1745 June 2 (Sunday). On Sabbath Morning Mr. Breck<sup>26</sup> came up and preach'd for me all Day, a.m. on Ps. 130.3.4, p.m. Mat. 25.1-13. He return'd to his wife at Marlborough after he had Supp'd. N.B. he brought up the Agreeable News of our Forces having Succeeded in the Capture of a French Man of War of 64 Guns. To God to praise and Glory!

1745 June 5 (Wednesday). N.B. Brother Hicks was here a.m. and brought up yesterdays Gazette containing a large and particular account of the Successes of both Army and Fleet.

1745 June 18 (Tuesday). Mr. Salter brings Sad News from the Fleet and Camp at Cape Briton. Captain Smithhurst<sup>27</sup> missing in the Country Galley, and 140 Land soldiers cutt off in their Attempt on the Island Battery. Yet God has deliver'd 3 French Sail into our Hands, Two 36-Gun-Company-Ships from France and a Quebeck Sloop with Flour and Peas.

1745 July 12 (Friday). Heard that Deacon Fisher<sup>28</sup> was lately kill'd at Ashualot by the Indians, and a post in this Day gone along to the Governor with the sad news of it.

1745 July 15 (Monday). Mr. Jenison was here with divers important pieces of public News, in the Public Papers, in special our Loosing the Battle in Flanders near Tournay.

1745 August 24 (Saturday). N.B. Ebenezer return'd from Sutton without any News of my Cattle.

1745 September 12 (Thursday). N.B. News of the Mohawks Threatening.

1745 November 25 (Monday). Did not stop at Cambridge but proceeded to Boston -- to Brother Alexanders and found his wife Alive notwithstanding all my bad news and sorrowfull Expressions.

1745 December 6 (Friday). N.B. Had the sorrowful News of the Sudden Death of Mr. Joseph Rice of Marlborough, who was going last Tuesday to [*illegible*] but dy'd before he got home.

1746 January 11 (Saturday). Lieutenant Tainter here -- he brought the Journal which contains Father Patrick Graham, Almoner and Confessor to the Young Pretender, his Letter to Father Benedict York, giving an account of their proceedings, successes and Designs.

1746 April 24 (Thursday). Some bad News also from our own Family at Westborough That a few Days agoe my Young Cow (whose Calf was newly kill'd for the sake of the Milk) was a few Nights agoe drown'd in Mr. Barns's Swamp.

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<sup>25</sup>A notice of Swift's death appeared in the *Boston Evening Post*, May 13, 1745; reprinted in William Barry, *A History of Framingham, Massachusetts...* (1847), 112.

<sup>26</sup>Rev. Robert Breck, Jr., of Springfield.

<sup>27</sup>Smithhurst captained the *Prince of Orange*, a vessel of 16 guns. *The Boston Gazette, or Weekly Journal*, June 11, 1745.

<sup>28</sup>Josiah Fisher, one of the original proprietors of Upper Ashuelot, was killed and scalped by the Indians, July 10, 1745. Philip A. Fisher, *The Fisher Genealogy* (Everett, 1898), 74-75.

1746 April 25 (Friday). Mr. John Brown<sup>29</sup> from Cambridge here and lodg'd here. Tells us the sorrowfull News of upper Ashuelot besett by the Indians, and several Houses there in Flames. May God be mercifully present with them and save them and especially with Mr. Bacon<sup>30</sup> in this distressing time.

1746 May 14 (Wednesday). More sad news from the Frontiers -- the Indians have wounded Several persons at Colerain and Husack, and led away Captive Deacon Brown and another man from lower Ashuelot.

1746 June 2 (Monday). Frequently bad news from the Frontiers. Many people from Wrentham etc. riding to upper Ashuelot to the aid of the women.

1746 June 20 (Friday). Sorrowfull News that Benjamin Tainter is either kill'd or Carry'd away Captive, by the Indians who have besett Massachusetts Fort at Hoosuck.

1746 June 22 (Sunday). [Worcester.] N.B. Colonel Chandler, who came up last night, confirms the News which Mr. Marsh brought that the Duke of Cumberland is Slain in Battle against the Rebels at Inverness.

1746 June 25 (Wednesday). Frequently bad news respecting our poor Englishmens Sufferings in the Indian Wars. We hear of another Skirmish at No. 4, and that a Trooper Shot himself with his own Pistol.

1746 July 2 (Wednesday). At Commencement. Along with the Governor were Admiral Warrin<sup>31</sup> and Sir William Peperell. Every Body rejoic'd at the refreshing News of the Defeat of the Rebels in Scotland, and the Taking the young Pretender Prisoner. P.M. the Joyfull News Confirm'd by another vessell with Duplicates of the Letters lately receiv'd by the Governor respecting a Squadron of English Men of Warr and Troops about to sail from England for Canada Expedition. Thus God mixes Mercy with Judgment, and makes us, though unworthy, to rejoice one Commencement after another. At Evening again heard something sorrowfull so Checker'd our State. A Lad was drown'd as he went into Water to Day.

1746 July 3 (Thursday). [Boston] Receiv'd one of Mr. Edwards's Books at Mr. Green's<sup>32</sup> for which I pay'd 28 Shillings Old Tenor.

1746 August 14 (Thursday). News of the King of Spains Death.

1746 August 15 (Friday). More sorrowfull News from No. 4 that besides 2 men Shot by the Indians, one at No. 4 another at Northfield our Troopers Horses most of them kill'd. Mrs. Caruth and her son here and din'd with us: Mrs. Hayward<sup>33</sup> and Mrs. Billings,<sup>34</sup> all of them want their Dismissions from our Church. Towards Evening with Joy (viz. Mr. Ebenezer Phillips of

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<sup>29</sup>John Brown, Jr. (Harvard 1741), was later the minister at Cohasset, 1747-1791. *Sibley*, XI, 12-17.

<sup>30</sup>The Reverend Jacob Bacon.

<sup>31</sup>Pepperrell and Warren had just returned from Louisburg.

<sup>32</sup>Timothy Green.

<sup>33</sup>Mrs. Simon Hayward.

<sup>34</sup>Mrs. Thomas Billings.

Southborough) I saw a Number of our Westborough Troopers return from No. 4 -- but on foot, their Horses being of them that were lost in the late Encounter. They handed me a paper containing an Account of Several Particulars -- which I Soon copy'd -- and afterwards Sent Mr. Kneeland.<sup>35</sup>

1746 September 29 (Monday). Mr. Whitney here and informs that Some Vessel is come in to Boston which certify that it is a French Fleet that was discov'd and that they are turn'd in to an Indian place not far from Annapolis. Mr. Martyn here p.m. Towards Eve I was at Neighbour Eliezer Rice's who brought up the News -- he Confirms it, and that the people of Boston are very courteous to soldiers.

1746 October 8 (Wednesday). Neighbour David and his Sister Hannah went to Boston at Eve by whom I sent to Mr. Greens for Mr. Edwards's Books on Religious Affections which I so long ago subscrib'd for.

1747 March 2 (Monday). Sad News from Annapolis, but Time will certifie us.

1747 April 7 (Tuesday). Mr. Bacon<sup>36</sup> from Ashuelot (upper) came and lodg'd here. He brings the sorrowful News that a Number of Indians the night after the Sabbath was Sennight came to Mr. Shattucks Fort,<sup>37</sup> and fir'd it. They burnt down the Fort at Number 2 or great meadows<sup>38</sup> -- and burnt an House of Colonel Josiah Willard. That their Town as well as the other Ashuelot<sup>39</sup> were broke up and come off -- as was Winchester also. That Captain Melvin<sup>40</sup> and 26 men went out after the Indians, and discover'd 14 and packs of about 20. That Captain Stephens<sup>41</sup> with 50 men had been gone about 3 Weeks and no news of him but twas hop'd he was at No. 4.

1747 May 5 (Tuesday). N.B. Most sorrowful News from Brookfield, Captain Buckminsters<sup>42</sup> Negro Girl having murder'd her Bastard Child last Lords Day.<sup>43</sup>

1747 May 11 (Monday). After which we went down to Captain Maynards -- where was (among others) Captain Buckminster of Brookfield. News of the Mohawks taking 6 Scalps near Crown Point.

1747 May 15 (Friday). Brother Hicks towards Eve from Cambridge. Confirmation by the News papers of the dreadful Earthquake at Lima.

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<sup>35</sup>Samuel Kneeland, the printer at Boston, and publisher with Timothy Green, Jr., of *The Boston Gazette or Weekly Journal*.

<sup>36</sup>The Reverend Jacob Bacon of Keene, N.H.

<sup>37</sup>Daniel Shattuck's garrison house was within the limits of the present town of Hinsdale, N.H.

<sup>38</sup>No. 2 township, sometimes known as Great Meadows, was incorporated as Westmoreland, N.H., in 1752.

<sup>39</sup>Lower Ashuelot was incorporated as Swanzey, N.H., in 1753.

<sup>40</sup>Eleazer Melvin.

<sup>41</sup>Phinehas Stevens.

<sup>42</sup>Thomas Buckminster.

<sup>43</sup>[Additional note: "We hear from *Brookfield*, that on the third Instant, in the Evening, a Negro Woman belonging to Capt. *Thomas Buckminster*, was deliver'd alone of a Bastard Child, which she put into the Fire and cover'd over with Coals and Ashes, and it was almost entirely consumed when discovered." *Boston Evening-Post*, May 11, 1747, Issue 613, p. [2].]

1747 June 13 (Saturday). News of more Spoil on our Enemys by the Mohawks.

1747 June 20 (Saturday). Mr. Whipple our Representative who came up to Day tells us that a Post is gone down to Boston with News from the Mohawks that 3000 French and Indians have come over the Lake. This will put us into new Distresses by pressing out our men again at this busy season.

1747 July 1 (Wednesday). [Cambridge.] Remarkable and Joyfull News again this Third Commencement. What we have now is that the Admirals Anson and Warrin had destroy'd 11 Sail of French Men of Warr, and it comes with such Tokens of probability that most Gentlemen believe it. N.B. What We had last Year was the Defeat of the Rebels by the Duke of Cumberland: and what we had the Year before was the Taking of Cape Breton.

1747 August 9 (Sunday). Repeated sermon on Heb. 9.27, on occasion of my hearing that Mr. Thomas Ward late of Westborough is deceas'd. He dy'd last Thursday morning at Plainfield; the messenger that brought the News to Captain Maynard was at meeting with us. Refreshing Showers p.m. Some Thunder and Lightning also in a Time of Dryness, especially in Some Places.

1747 October 24 (Saturday). Found my Dwelling in Peace -- though bad News round -- for Mrs. Chamberlin (Johns wife) lost her Pocket Book in Boston with all her money of her Marketing (10 or 12£). But this was a Small thing compared with the accident at Grafton last Thursday, when Mr. Boynes was about to blow up a Rock in a Well of Mr. Charles Brighams the Train took fire by his picking of the Rock -- Mr. Prentice's son Solomon was greatly wounded and his Leg despaired of. Several others were much hurt yet one man who was in the well, along with Mr. Boynes escaped.

1747 October 25 (Sunday). Mr. Martyn here in the morning going up to Grafton to preach there. Mr. Stephen Frost for him. N.B. News that Solomon Prentice is Dead.

1747 December 12 (Saturday). N.B. We have the sorrowful News that the Town House in Boston was burnt last Wednesday.

1748 January 12 (Tuesday). The Funeral Obsequies of Reverend Mr. Prentice Solemnized... Judge Wilder by Request was with the Bearers at the Drawing up of Character and took the Care of transmitting it to the Printer.<sup>44</sup>

1748 January 25 (Monday). My wife had returned safely from Boston last Saturday Night, brings me News that my Brother Alexander is in a poor State of Health and my sister Willard but feeble and lives alone much broken and decayed. Nabby also (Elias's wife) in but a weak and low condition.

1748 March 8 (Tuesday). Called at Merchant Rice's (he having newly been to Mr. Fleet<sup>45</sup> for me about my news)....

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<sup>44</sup>An obituary for John Prentice (1682-1748; Harvard 1700) appeared in the *Boston Weekly News-Letter*, Jan. 14, 1748, p. 2; his death was also noted in the *Boston Gazette*, Jan. 19, 1748, p. 3.



1748 March 18 (Friday). As I hastened out of Town I called at Mr. Bagnal's about my watch and at Mr. Fleet's and began anew for his Paper.

1748 April 13 (Wednesday). N.B. Heard the sorrowful News yesterday of Mr. Bridghams<sup>46</sup> house at Brimfield, burnt to the ground and little saved.

1748 May 10 (Tuesday). Read the Chief part of the Independent Advertisers<sup>47</sup> that have come out. Borrow'd of Mr. Martyn.

1748 May 27 (Friday). Mr. Kneeland told me I Should not need to say anything to his Brother Green about paying for the Journal, for I was not (he said) in the pay List. Was at Rogers and Fowls and receiv'd several Favours from Mr. Rogers.

1748 June 15 (Wednesday). Bad News from many Towns that it is very Sickly, in Boston especially -- one if not more meeting Houses shutt up Some sabbath past.

1748 June 19 (Sunday). [Marlborough.] Bad News from the Frontiers. Last Thursday 10 men assaulted by a great Body of Indians between Hinsdells Fort and Fort Dummer. Three kill'd and Seven Captivated. We hear also that Colonel Stoddard<sup>48</sup> of Northampton is dead at Boston. Mrs. Colson likewise (hitherto Abigail Boardman) dead at Boston.

1748 June 21 (Tuesday). More Mischief by the Indians. The last News is from Kenderhook, 5 out of 7 English kill'd.

1748 July 19 (Tuesday). Dr. Smith there. Very sorrowfull News from the westward -- of nineteen of our men passing between Hensdalls and Fort Dummer<sup>49</sup> but 2 are come in.

1748 July 24 (Sunday). Flying News that Joseph Bowker was kill'd by the late Body of Indians between Hensdells and Fort Dummer.

1749 January 16 (Monday). Sudden News from Dr. Gott, by Sir Henchman that Sally must go home.

1749 January 17 (Tuesday). Sorrowful News of the Death of Mr. Daniel Cooks son, at Newton, his only Child, who was here not long since with his designed Father in Law, Reverend Mr. Cotton.

1749 April 26 (Wednesday). N.B. Brother Hicks here from Cambridge. He confirms the sad news of Mr. J. Davenports House as being burnt in Watertown on the 24th and of other Burnings in divers Towns.

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<sup>45</sup>Thomas Fleet, the printer of the *Boston Evening-Post*.

<sup>46</sup>The Reverend Mr. James Bridgham.

<sup>47</sup>A weekly paper established Jan. 4, 1748, in Boston by Gamaliel Rogers and Daniel Fowle. It continued to be issued through Dec. 5, 1749.

<sup>48</sup>Colonel John Stoddard.

<sup>49</sup>Within the present town of Brattleboro, Vt.

1749 July 9 (Sunday). Bad News of Mr. Abraham Williams<sup>50</sup> of Sandwich being lost.

1749 July 11 (Tuesday). News of Mr. Abraham Williams that he preach'd at Concord last Lords Day.

1749 July 12 (Wednesday). At Night Daniel Hastings return'd and brought me very Sorrowful News of Mollys being very Sick and nigh to Death (if yet alive) and desiring earnestly to see me.

1749 October 22 (Sunday). Rainy -- yet rode over to Mr. Martyns, we having agreed on the 20th to change on this Day.... Mr. Martyn has news of his mothers being ill.

1749 December 3 (Sunday). N.B. Besides Neighbour James Maynards going over to the Church of England, we hear sorrowfull News from Hardwick of some Number of those who went from this town (Mr. James Fay<sup>51</sup> etc.) Separating from the Church there and setting up John Roberts<sup>52</sup> late of Grafton, for their Preacher if not Teacher: and some among ourselves hankering to go after them.

1750 April 21 (Saturday). Brother Hicks here from Cambridge and brings me the very Sorrowfull News of the Death of my Reverend and valuable Pastor, Mr. Webb of Boston. May God Sanctifie this Dispensation to me, to the Bereaved Flock at the New North in Boston, and to the bereaved Colleague, and Family in particular! We have great reason to mourn and grieve for the Interest of Religion in this Day when such Sound, pious, usefull Men are, one after another removed from us. O that God would have mercy on us when So many Sad Aspects appear!

1750 May 28 (Monday). From Mr. Nurse's, Sent by Mr. Samuel Fay to Mr. Kneeland,<sup>53</sup> an Account of Mr. Jonas Child.

1750 May 31 (Thursday). Every Day confirms and increases the sorrowful News from Weston.

1750 July 31 (Tuesday). News came in the Morning that Mr. Newton dy'd about Midnight, last.

1751 January 17 (Thursday). N.B. Mr. Rice's Young Man (Dudley) and his wife's brethren, had been at the Great Pond, though foul Weather: and caught a great Number of fine Fish -- the Pickerell, Some of them very large. They made me an handsome Present of 3 large ones.

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<sup>50</sup>Parkman had been concerned about his nephew's being lost spiritually (see diary for April 13, 1749), but here made reference to the fact that Williams had been reported lost at sea in 1749. The newly ordained minister survived, however, and served Sandwich until his death in 1784.

<sup>51</sup>Son of the late Captain John Fay of Westborough. Stephen Fay, who had settled in Hardwick in 1746, was a founder of the Separatist Church, Congregational, in Hardwick, in 1750. Deacon Fay was named as a Tory in 1775 by the Hardwick Committee of Correspondence. George H. Johnson, *One Branch of the Fay Family Tree* (Columbus, O., 1913), p. 25.

<sup>52</sup>Roberts was not a college graduate but a lay-preacher or exhorter. There is no record that the Separatist Church of Hardwick had a settled minister. In 1761 Roberts and some others of the Congregation voted to move to Bennington, Vermont, and there they formed the first church in the state of Vermont. Paige, *Hardwick*, pp. 225-230.

<sup>53</sup>Samuel Kneeland, publisher with Timothy Green of *The Boston Gazette and Weekly Journal*.

1751 January 18 (Friday). The first fair Day ever Since this Day Sennight. This Day, Ebenezer and his Brother Thomas go a Fishing at the Great Pond (mov'd by yesterdays News about Fishing).

1751 March 13 (Wednesday). [Worcester.] N.B. News that Colonel Samuel Willard<sup>54</sup> of Lancaster was struck last night with the Numb Palsey.

1751 July 8 (Monday). N.B. Mr. Martyn Show'd me the Advertisement which is publish'd by my Direction of Proposals to print a Collection of Poems, etc.<sup>55</sup>

1751 July 29 (Monday). My Brother who is setting Glass at my New House, and my Two workmen there, dine at Deacon Newtons. Ebenezer and I dine at the New House. When they return from Dinner they bring sorrowful News that little Peter is dead.

1751 October 23 (Wednesday). Sorrowful News of Two Young Women, Daughters of Mr. William Brewer<sup>56</sup> of Shrewsbury, who were drown'd yesterday at Lancaster as they were going to visit a Relation.

1751 December 8 (Sunday). At the Close of it read from passages in the Boston Gazett or Weekly Journal No. 1655.

1751 December 19 (Thursday). Sent by Mr. Jacob Whipple of Grafton to Mr. Thomas Fleet, printer, concerning my Young Horse. See his Paper of Last Monday.<sup>57</sup>

1751 December 29 (Sunday). Ebenezer return'd from Boston last night -- and brings News that Brother Samuel Parkman is ill of a Fever.

1752 February 6 (Thursday). The sorrowful news of Mr. Peabody's<sup>58</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.

1752 February 18 (Tuesday). Sent letters to my Brethren at Boston and an advertisement to put my other house and place upon sale.

1752 March 25 (Wednesday). 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.

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<sup>54</sup>Willard was a leading citizen, a justice of the peace, and judge of the Worcester County Court of Common Pleas, and Lancaster's representative for many years.

<sup>55</sup>*Boston Gazette*, July 2, 1751, Issue 1633, p. [2].

<sup>56</sup>Abigail and Elizabeth Brewer were drowned "in a saw mill pond" in Lancaster. Ward, *Shrewsbury*, p.245.

<sup>57</sup>Thomas Fleet was publisher of *The Boston Evening-Post*. The issue of Dec. 9, 1751, contained the following advertisement: "To be sold, a good Draught Horse. Enquire of the Printer."

<sup>58</sup>The Reverend Oliver Peabody of Natick.

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.

1752 March 30 (Monday). Prepar'd Something in reply to Benevolentius in the last Boston Gazette.<sup>59</sup>

1752 March 31 (Tuesday). And Sent a Letter to Mr. Kneeland, for the Press, -- in Vindication of Captain Dickerman.

1752 April 30 (Thursday). Mr. Winchester from Boston and his Wife from Cambridge bring News of Colonel Brattle's Lady's<sup>60</sup> Decease by the Small Pox.

1752 June 12 (Friday). Dr. Samuel Brigham and his Wife here, and din'd with us, as did Mr. John Green<sup>61</sup> of Boston, printer.

1752 July 2 (Thursday). Publick Fast on the Account of the Small pox and other Malignant Distempers at Boston and divers other Towns. N.B. We had no proclamation, but read what is inserted in the Boston Gazette.

1753 January 5 (Friday). Mr. Jeduthan Baldwin from Brookfield at Eve, and brought us comfortable News of the Welfare of my Children there. D.G.

1753 January 13 (Saturday). About Sun setting Lieutenant Tainter and my Wife arriv'd in Safety [from Boston].... N.B. Sorrowful News of the Sudden Death of the Reverend Mr. Ellis Gray<sup>62</sup> of Boston, being Suddenly Seiz'd with a Numb Palsie last Lords Day morning and dy'd the Same Day, to the inexpressible Surprize and Grief of the whole Town.

1754 January 23 (Wednesday). In the Eve the Mare I rode, Stray'd away from Colonel Buckminsters where we turn'd in to warm us, and drew up some account of [Rev.] Mr. [David] Goddards Death; which was committed to Mr. Bliss to carry [to] Mr. Kneeland at Boston to publish.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>59</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 he 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 correspondent, "Benevolentius," argued that Parkman was mistaken. *Boston Gazette*, Mar. 24, 1752. The March 31 issue of the paper did not contain Parkman's response, and there are no known copies of the next two issues.

<sup>60</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.

<sup>61</sup>John Green.

<sup>62</sup>The minister of the New Brick Church died at the untimely age of 37.

<sup>63</sup>The death of David Goddard (1706-1754; Harvard 1731) was overshadowed, at least in the public prints, by news of the death of his father, Edward Goddard of Framingham, *Boston News-Letter*, Feb. 28, 1754, p. 2, and the *Boston Gazette*, Feb. 26, pp. 2-3.

1754 January 20 (Sunday). N.B. had the Sorrowfull news of the Death of Reverend Mr. David Goddard of Leicester. He expir'd yesterday at his wife's House in Framingham, after a very short illness of a violent Fever which prevails in Framingham. He preach'd last Sabbath at Southborough, and was taken ill the next Day.

1754 January 23 (Wednesday). News also came that Mr. Benjamin Goddard, who was with me yesterday, was taken sick as soon as he got home; and for the Time is very ill. May a gracious God fit us for His holy will!

1754 February 12 (Tuesday). Another Very Cold Tuesday. Sent by Mr. Ephraim Sherman to Boston -- for Mr. Fleets Paper as well as Mr. Kneelands.<sup>64</sup>

1755 March 27 (Thursday). Billy brings home sad News of Betty Bimelock (Indian) Murdering her Child about six weeks old.

1755 April 1 (Tuesday). News that the Burning last night was Captain Thomas Amsden's House in Marlborough. Suspected to be by his son in Law Dr. Robinson.<sup>65</sup>

1755 August 11 (Monday). Deacon Bond tells me the News is confirm'd of General Bradock's Defeat and Death. A most Sorrowfull Stroke! may God of his infinite Mercy Sanctifie it to this Sinfull Provoking People! and be mercifull to His Servant Shirley<sup>66</sup> and the Forces with him; that they may not be dismay'd when they Shall hear of it!

1755 August 13 (Wednesday). Having heard that my Young Cattle in the woods, had stray'd from their Keeper, I wrote several Letters and Advertisements about them.

1755 August 14 (Thursday). Receive a kind Letter from Mr. William Winter of Boston giving me a Clear Account of the Death of General Bradock and the Defeat of the Forces with him on the fatal July 9th past, in their Expedition to Ohio.

1755 December 25 (Thursday). At Eve Dr. Joshua Smith here -- receiv'd the News Paper in which have a frightfull Account of the terrible Earthquake at Cadiz and Seville; but especially Lisbon, St. Woes and Agazira. O may we learn Righteousness! fear God and give Glory to Him: and in peculiar since we are so mercifully Spar'd!

1756 January 19 (Monday). We have the sorrowful News of the Death of *Miss Anna Chamberlin*.

1756 January 20 (Tuesday). A Very fine Day, but I am yet Confined to my Chamber. Several Friends visited me. Mr. *Smith* of Marlborough, Dr. *Willson* from *Hopkinton* and after the

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<sup>64</sup>Thomas Fleet published *The Boston Evening-Post*, Kneeland *The Boston Gazette*.

<sup>65</sup>Jeremiah Robinson had married Eunice Amsden.

<sup>66</sup>Governor William Shirley of Massachusetts was a lieutenant-general and commander-in-chief of British forces in America at this time.

Funeral of Miss Anna Chamberlin, Mr. *Stone*, who informs me that Mr. Chamberlin did not come to the Grave, because it was concluded that *Nathaniel* was dying.

1756 February 11 (Wednesday). Wrote to Messrs. *Edes* and *Gill* for their News Paper. This I did at the Desire and Cost of three of my Neighbours, viz. Messrs. Nat. Whitney, Daniel Forb. and Zebulun Rice.

1756 February 13 (Friday). Thomas Drury (by whom I sent to Messrs. *Edes* and *Gill*) returns without having delivered my Letter, or seeing the men.

1756 September 2 (Thursday). Sorrowful News that *Oswego* is taken, and Consequently both a great Interest lost, and the Enemy exceedingly strengthened. The Lord look upon His people in much Mercy under this Sore Rebuke! And may we be prepared for what God will do next! And Sad News of one *Harrington*, his Stabbing *Larnard* at Watertown. God be praised for restraining Grace to Me and Mine!

1756 September 30 (Thursday). The Sorrowful News from the Army is confirmed, of the multitudes which have dyed by Sickness, and of the great Slaughter made lately by the Indians upon a Scout of our Men that were going from one fort to t'other. We hear that they consisted of 44 or 5; and all were shot down but 4, who escaped to the Fort. May God awaken us under Such repeated and heavy Frowns!

1757 July 21 (Thursday). Am greatly rejoiced on Account of the divine Favour in bringing the British Fleet safe to *Halifax*.

1756 October 7 (Thursday). N.B. News of a great multitude of French and Indians consisting of many thousands, coming against our Forts and Frontiers.

1756 October 11 (Monday). This morning we have the sorrowful News that Neighbour *John Rogers* is dead; and that Neighbour *Bathericks* youngest Daughter *Lydia*, Aets. 5, dyed also this Morning.

1757 February 4 (Friday). News from the Lake of another Exploit of Capt. Rogers.

1757 February 9 (Wednesday). Mr. Martyn and I went over to see Mrs. *Spikeman* (who dwells in Dr. Gotts House) news having arrived to her that Capt. Spikeman was killed by the Enemy in a late Encounter, at Lake George or Champlain.

1757 May 3 (Tuesday). Hear the Sorrowful News that *Jamaica* is taken by the French.

1757 August 8 (Monday). News flies thick and fast of the Troubles at the Forts. May God prepare us for all Events!

1757 August 9 (Tuesday). News by Posts very frequently. The Hearts of all Seem much moved.

1757 August 13 (Saturday). News that *Fort William Henry* is taken.

1757 August 19, 20 (Friday, Saturday). There Seems to be no certain News of any thing but the dismissing the lower Companys that have marched up the Road; the Roads being full of Confusions. General *Winslow* is gone up, and has given Orders for the soldiers Return who belong this way and Eastward.

1757 October 23 (Sunday). On account of the Sorrowful News of the Hurricane which disperses our Fleet in the Eastward and the French taking *Hanover*, I repeated Sermon on Ps. 51.18.

1757 October 27 (Thursday). Being repeatedly disappointed of *Edes* and *Gills* paper I Sent 'em a Letter by Mr. *Elisha Brigham*.

1757 November 19 (Saturday). We have the Sorrowfull News of the Death of *Amos Whitney* (Son of Mr. Nathaniel *Whitney*) at Fort Edward.

1758 April 16 (Sunday). Read 2 Chron. 61, Luk. 22 to v. 39; preached a.m. on Exod. 31.12.13. Improved chiefly the Exercise on [that?] Text -- but with frequent alterations. The Occasion was, I spent my Time chiefly in preparing a Discourse on Isa. 57.1.2, which I delivered on occasion of the Sorrowful News of the Death of my much esteemed Brother in the Ministry, the Rev. learned and pious Mr. *Jonathan Edwards* -- March 22, last who dyed at *Nassau-Hall*, being lately removed from *Stockbridge* to be President of that College. An inexpressible Loss! The Lord Sanctify it to me for my greatest Quickening! The Lord Pity His Churches, the again so Suddenly bereaved College and Family -- especially His Mournful Handmaids *Edwards* and *Burr*!

1758 July 3 (Monday). News of Some success of our Forces against Cape Briton. Thanks be to God!

1758 July 5 (Wednesday). We observed this Day as a Day of Fasting and Prayer in this Parish on Account of the present, immediate Crisis of our Affairs, especially at Cape *Briton*.... N.B. Thanks also were presented to God for the Favors already granted to His people particularly at Cape *Briton*; the good news from the Westward of the army being in good Health and Spirits. That there is Such general Health in the Land, and wonderfull prospect of Plenty.

1758 July 10 (Monday). Some agreeable News from Day to Day, of the Successes of the English Forces both in the westward, and at Cape Briton. D.G.

1758 July 12 (Wednesday). More remarkable News from Eastward and Westward. But tis Sorrowful to hear that Lord *How* is Slain by the Enemy.

1758 July 13 (Thursday). News from Brookfield that my Daughter Baldwin is brought to Bed and has a Son, and both Mother and Child comfortable. To God most gracious be Glory and Praise! It was on the 10th. But Mr. Barretts Boy Ishmael comes with a Letter to inform that Mr. Samuel Barrett junior's wifes Daughter of about 4, is dead -- and they have sent for me and my son *Thomas* to assist at the Funeral tomorrow.

1758 July 18 (Tuesday). [Boston.] This was the first Time that my Daughter [Sarah] was ever there.... N.B. Most sorrowful News at Eve of the Defeat of our Forces in attempting *Ticonderoga*, on the 8th instant; and 2000 slain, on our side.

1758 July 21 (Friday). Devote my Self to dispatch my Business; and having dined at Mr. *Winters* (my Horse kept two Nights at Mr. Lowders, the other kept wholly at my Brothers Stable) and paid Sundry Debts (L 9.7.0 Old Tenor to Mrs. Stoddard: Mr. Winter in full: for my News at Fleets in full etc.), we took Leave and rode up to Brother Harringtons at Waterton and lodged there.

1758 July 23 (Sunday). Sad News that *Joseph How*, Son of Mr. Benjamin How, who went out under Capt. Maynard, has dyed by Sickness in the Army.

1758 July 31 (Monday). At Eve had News from Brookfield that Ebenezer His Wife lay in the 20th Instant and has a Boy. She is also in much Comfort for the Time, but *Molly* (who was delivered on Wednesday last) has a Girl; which is poor and weak, and not like to live. She Sends for me to come: wants I Should go up to morrow morning -- but my Affairs do not allow of it. Thus we Sing of Mercy and Judgment.<sup>67</sup> May God grant the Grace necessary to each of my Children, as their Circumstances are! And prepare us all for His Sovereign Will!

1758 August 8 (Tuesday). [Brookfield.] I sat out, and my son Ebenezer with me, to ride part of the way, to come home. But Capt. *Wolcott* and his wife met us, with News from Mr. Forb. that he was coming home. One Mr. Forsey had travelled part of the way from Albany with him; but at Kenderhook he missed his Watch and turned back to look it; but it was thought he would be here by the middle of the Afternoon. I therefore went back with them in Company, to my Daughters and we dined there.

1758 August 16 (Wednesday). News that Cape Briton is given up to the British Crown.

1758 September 18 (Monday). Heard the Sorrowfull News of the Death of Mr. *Porter* of Sherbourn and that he is to be buried to Day.

1758 October 11 (Wednesday). P.M. Mr. Joseph Miles of Shrewsbury here; he being in a very gloomy State. His Wife is with him. They have News that their Father, old *Deacon Miles* of Concord is dead. May not only Relatives, but all survivors make a right use of Such a Providence!

1758 October 18 (Wednesday). Sad News that Mr. *Solomon Woods* is dead.

1758 October 24 (Tuesday). William *Dunlop* here being newly come from the Lake and brings me fresh news from my *Billy*.

1758 November 30 (Thursday). Returned home at Eve; and find all in Comfort. D.G. I Said, *all in Comfort* -- but I am to Except the sorrowfull News we have of the Death of my dear Kinsman, my Brother *Samuels* only Son, *William Bowes Parkman*, who dyed on the 22d. May God most

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<sup>67</sup>Psalm 101:1, "I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O Lord, will I sing."



gracious please to Sanctify this Breach to all of us! But especially Support my poor Brother under this distressing Bereavement. And may both his and my own Children have Grace to think Seriously of the Vanity of Life, and prepare for their own Death.

1758 December 27 (Wednesday). We are full of the News from the *Ohio* -- giving Thanks that *DuQuesne* is in our Hands, though we mourn on account of French Cruelty there.

1759 January 1 (Monday). At Evening I had comfortable, Spiritual Conference with Mr. Nathaniel *Whitney*. May God bless it to each of us; and quicken us to make more such Opportunities! He pays 20/ O.T. for his News paper.

1759 January 11 (Thursday). Mr. Zebulun Rice at Eve. Pays for his News Paper from Edes and Gill; 20/ old Tenor.

1759 June 9 (Saturday). At Eve came My Daughter Baldwin accompanied with Master *Moses Wheat* and his sister Miss *Hannah Wheat*.... N.B. They bring sad News of Cousen Winter's being at the Point of Death, being given over, in great measure, by the Physicians.

1759 July 30 (Monday). Was at Deacon Bonds to get him to hoe for me -- and there heard the News of our Forces in the River St. Lawrence having landed in the Isle de *Orleans* -- and the Army under General Amherst passing over the Lake and landing without much Opposition. D.G.

1759 August 7 (Tuesday). At Evening Mr. Benjamin *How* comes here with yesterdays News Paper, that I may read it, it being full of remarkable News, of our taking *Niagara* Fort, and Ticonderoga. To God be all Glory!

1759 August 11 (Saturday). P.M. Mr. Fessenden here. He now lodges at Mr. Daniel Forb. Keeps School at Ensign Harringtons. Joyful News of *Crown Point* deserted to the English.

1759 September 4 (Tuesday). We are Surprized with Sad News from the Fleet and Army in *Canada* River -- that many of our People are Slain in their Attempt and that General Wolf has raised the seige, designing to give up for this Year.

1759 September 7 (Friday). Better News last night from the River concerning *Quebeck*.

1759 October 3 (Wednesday). Send by the Deacon a Letter to Mr. Draper, Printer, an Account of the Death of Rev. Mr. Rice of Sturbridge. For tis pity he Should be altogether un-noticed -- and yet there is no one of the Gentlemen who were his Bearers that has done any Thing to preserve his Memory or record his Decease.<sup>68</sup>

1759 October 13 (Saturday). We have the Joyfull News that *Quebeck* is taken by the English; which we impatiently long to have confirmed.

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<sup>68</sup>The death of Caleb Rice (1712-1759; Harvard 1730) was noted in the *Boston News-Letter*, Oct. 11, 1759, with the author describing Rice as "a worthy, useful Man, whose Death is much lamented in those Parts"; on Rice, see *SHG* 8:774-75.

1759 October 16 (Tuesday). Mr. *Benjamin How* at Eve brings yesterdays News, confirming it that *Quebec* is ours. N.B. A Great Day of rejoicing in Boston. Mr. Cooper preaches.

1759 November 19 (Monday). Mr. *Goddard* of *Grafton* and his Wife came to the Door and informed me there was sorrowful News brought to Grafton by *Samuel Wetmore*, viz. that *Thomas Parkman*, my son, was dead. I Sent a Line to *Lieut. Forb.* praying him to go and See what the Particulars from *Wetmore* are. Who went accordingly.... N.B. News that Mr. *Noah How* is dead also.

1759 November 22 (Thursday). Mr. Gale. *Jabez Snow*. Alexander brought a Letter which came from *Jonas Child* dated Still-Water Nov. 14, 1759 Superscribed to his Father Mr. *Joseph Bruce* of this parish in which was this Paragraph following, viz.

“I would also inform of the sorrowfull News of the Death of *Thomas Parkman* who died the twenty Third of October with a fever. He had been sick about fourteen Day. He walkt abroad the Day before he dyed, and his Death was Somewhat unexpected. Our Captain got a Coffin made and chose *Nathan* and *Samuel Watkins* and *David Stow* and my self for his Bearers. He dyed here at Still-Water, and was buried in a very decent manner. This you may inform his Father for Truth.”

1759 November 24 (Saturday). Mr. Gale and *Jabez*, Mr. *Ebenezer Rice* and his son and Brother *Adonijah Rice* and others are returned home, but News that *Eliphalet Adams* is Dead.

1759 December 11 (Tuesday). N.B. That Mr. *Goddard* of *Grafton* who brought me the News of *Thomas's* Death Nov. 19, is this Day buried at Cambridge.

1759 December 15 (Saturday). Sorrowful News of the Death of Mr. *Thomas Ball* of *Brookfield*, at *Waltham*, by the Wheel of his Cart running over him. May God prepare me for sudden Death! Besides the Account given by Mr. Gale who din'd with us, my Son *Baldwin* (who returned from Boston, and came nigh sunseting) confirmed it; and Said he saw the Corps.

1760 January 26 (Saturday). I rode (on a Horse Capt. Wood Supplied me with) to *Hopkinton* and dined at Mr. *Barretts*. Mr. *Barrett* rides to *Westborough*. No News has transpired from *North Sutton* -- but I am very uneasy by reason of my Fears of what will be the unhappy Event. But the Lord is at the Head of His Church, and not only most Supremely, but most wisely rules all Things.

1760 February 9 (Saturday). P.M. Mr. *Ebenezer Wheeler* brings the Thursdays Paper Extraordinary by which it appears that there are Insurrections in Old France, urging Peace with England -- and remarkable Speech from the British Throne, expressing the Goodness of God to the Nation in the Remarkable successes of the Last Year. D.G.

1760 February 10 (Sunday). On Consideration of the News from Europe preached on Deut. 32.15 with some Alterations.

1760 March 26 (Wednesday). Mr. Zebulun Rice brings me my News papers in which I find the Deplorable state of our Metropolis: and particularly that the House of my late Brother Alexander is consumed among 348 Others, of one sort and another. And that therefore my Cousen Oliver is burnt out. May God be gracious to them and to the rest of the poor distressed, and destitute sufferers!

1760 March 19 (Wednesday). I rode up to Worcester to get a Letter of Administration from Judge Chandler. Met him on the Road. He tells me the News of the Dammage done to the Train of Artillery at Boston by Fire yesterday.

1760 March 20 (Thursday). N.B. The news reaches us of *a great Fire in Boston* this Morning at 3 o'Clock.

1760 March 30 (Sunday). P.M. read the Governors *Brief* for a Contribution for the distressed in Boston.<sup>69</sup> I read also (in public) a Paragraph in the Thursdays News Letter, informing to whom the Collections are to be sent.

1760 May 19 (Monday). P.M. Mr. William Winter and his Daughter came to See us. And lodged here.... Mr. Winter brings sorrowful News concerning *Quebeck*.

1760 June 20 (Friday). At night Mr. Ebenezer Cutler came from Boston and brought the News of my Cousen Bradfords being Safely brought to Bed, and has another Daughter.

1760 June 25 (Wednesday). Susanna rode with me to Mr. *Martyns Lecture*. I preached on Isa. 12.3. N.B. dined there and We returned at Eve. N.B. We are all so rejoiced at the News from Quebeck that I could not but take Notice of it in my Sermon. It is that our people had made So Successfull a Sally out upon the Enemy as drove them away from their Entrenchments so that the Seige was effect[ual?]ly raised.

1760 September 13 (Saturday). Find in the News Paper of the 11th the Death of Honorable Judge *Sewall* after about 10 Days Confinement in the 57th Year of his Age. He was the very Glory of this Province; and I don't know but that Universally esteemed so. I had the Happiness of Acquaintance with him from early Youth. We were not only Classmates at College but school-mates. And he did me the Honor to invite me with a Singular endearingsness to his House: telling me, I knew he took a particular Pleasure in my coming to See him. It is a most heavy Loss! The Lord sanctifie it to the Land -- to the Surviving Judges, to the rest of our Classmates; and in a peculiar Manner to unworthy Me! O might I Suitably reallize my own Decease! Isa. 3.1.2.3. "For behold the Lord. The Lord of Hosts doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah --the Judge -- the Prudent -- the Honorable Man -- the Counsellor -- and the Eloquent Oratour."

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<sup>69</sup>Massachusetts, Governor. *By His Excellency Thomas Pownall, Esq; ... A brief. It having pleased Almighty God to permit a fire to break out in the town of Boston, on the 20th instant ... Given at the Council-chamber in Boston the twenty-fourth day of March, 1760...* (Boston: Printed by John Draper, printer to his excellency the governor and the honorable his majesty's Council, 1760).

1760 September 18 (Thursday). [Worcester.] N.B. The joyfull News arrived of the British Forces taking *Montreal* on the 8th Current. *To God all Glory!*

1760 October 22 (Wednesday). [Concord.] My Business being chiefly with Master *Minot* and therefore I put up *there*. Supped at the Doctors. N.B. They have News that *Mrs. Monis dyed* last night.

1760 October 25 (Saturday). Mr. Daniel Forb. dines here. N.B. He brings a News Paper in which is advertized a blue Great Coat with Velvet Cape, lent about last Election time and Supposed to be left at some Friends House; which it is desired may be returned to the owner. This I suppose is Mr. *Eliots* and which he supposed he had lent to me -- the Evening after I had preached for him -- but I know nothing in the World of it.

1760 November 13 (Thursday). When I came home heard the News of *Mr. Cooks*, of Sudbury, Death. Alas! How frequently these Breaches occur! May I take the Solemn Warning and Stand ready!

1760 December 9 (Tuesday). Sad News of Jacob Garfields being broke out.

1760 December 10 (Wednesday). Deacon Tainter dined here. Fresh News that Jacob Garfield has the Small Pox at Capt. Maynards. Mr. Fessenden came from the Very House, and informs here that it is now beyond all Doubt. May God please to pity the poor Youth -- all immediately concerned; and all of us!

1761 January 3 (Saturday). Have so missed of my News Papers that I am left to common Rumours about the Death of the King etc., but I prepare upon the Presumption that it is true.

1761 January 6 (Tuesday). About 2 in the morning widow Newton rouses me with the News of a Safe Deliverance and the Birth of a son, of extraordinary Size and Fatness. To God be all Honour, Praise and Thanksgiving!

1761 January 21 (Wednesday). Adam Rice carries money to Boston to Pay Edes and Gill for the News. And Mr. Daniel Forb. goes to Boston to pay Mr. Draper for his.

1761 February 10 (Tuesday). Sent 50/ old Tenor to Edes and Gill and L 26.14.4.2 to Scott and Gill (old Tenor) for Mr. Forbush and for Ebenezer.

1761 March 19 (Thursday). Perceive by the News Paper that our valuable Kinsman Mr. *John Breck* of Boston is dead. May God graciously Sanctifie it to us!

1761 April 28 (Tuesday). Rode to Marlborough Ministers Meeting.... N.B. Conversation chiefly on the Conduct of the Boston Ministers at the Installment of Mr. *Cummings*, and the Animadversions thereon in the late Newspapers. Mr. Stone drew up something for us, by way of *Exculpating* (as its called) but it dropped.

1764 July 27 (Friday). Send to Messrs. Fleets at Boston, for last Years Evening Post -- etc. per Hand of Mr. *Jedidiah Bass* of Grafton.

1764 September 8 (Saturday). Mr. Wood sends my Mare home in the morning. N.B. Lt. Lock, at my Desire, sends a Letter to Messrs. Edes and Gill to change the Place of the News Paper -- from Johonnots to Mrs. Clarks.

1764 September 11 (Tuesday). John brings news from Mill (where he goes again to Day) that the Man who had the Small Pox at Bartlets is dead and was buried last sabbath.

1764 November 15 (Thursday). We have the sorrowful News of the Death of Mrs. *Prudence Hardy*, about 56 years old. A sorrowful Stroke! The Lord sanctify it to us! Especially to her Husband and Children. And Aged Mother Byles.

1765 April 25 (Thursday). And then comes Mr. John Wood with News Papers etc.

1765 August 31 (Saturday). At Eve Mr. Morse brought me a Letter from Mr. Quincy informing me in many particulars which before I could not come at, concerning the late outrages at his Honour's. He incloses also Drapers Paper, of Thursday last. I am prone to think that Nothing in New England of this kind, has equalled this Occurrence.

1765 September 13 (Friday). Brother Hicks dines here. He has commenced an Action against Judge Danforth and wants to look into the News Letters of the Year 1746 for Something relative to the Case, viz. of an assessment of the Partners in Land Bank. We walk over the Mr. Nurse's, who is come up from Marblehead and brings News of great rejoicings in Boston for fresh advices from London about the Change of the Ministry, and likelihood to recover from our Fears about our Privileges.

1765 October 7 (Monday). At Eve Mrs. Ranger and Polly Forbes from Boston. Sad News of little *Dorcas Loyds* Death.

1765 November 30 (Saturday). The last Monday's Paper informs me of Death of my dear Kinsman Mr. *Ephraim Langdon*, usher of the North Latin school, at Boston. May God sanctifie this Death! and especially to his sorrowfull Mother, and to his only sister (Mrs. Eliot) nor would I forget Venerable Master *Wiswall*, to whom Mr. *Langdon* was no small Support. May God grant me to be my self, ever in Readiness!

1765 December 4 (Wednesday). We have not only Sorrowfull News of the Death of Mr. *Cornelius Cook*, once of this Town; but of the sad Condition of Several of his sons -- That *Daniel* is hanged, and that *Thomas* has been condemned and has broke Jayl. It occasioned sorrowfull Reflections on Such vicious Lives!

1766 May 14 (Wednesday). Am glad to read the Critical Review of Mr. Hutchinsons History of the *Massachusetts*.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>70</sup>This is probably "From the Critical Review, for January, 1766," in the *Boston Evening-Post*, May 12, 1766, Issue 1600, Supplement [1].

1766 May 17 (Saturday). P.M. Mr. Zebulun Rice came and brought me a Print which was from Boston entitled "Glorious News" -- viz. of the "*Repeal of the Stamp-Act.*" For which may we have Grace to enable us to give praise in a suitable Manner to God for it.

1766 June 13 (Friday). Sarah to Southborough yesterday, and brings News that Capt. *Jonathan Ward* is Sick: but to day we hear he is Dead.

1766 August 5 (Tuesday). Sad News of Mr. John Garfields being hurt by a Cart, which going over him broke one of his Thighs and one of his Arms.

1766 December 23 (Tuesday). Deacon Tainter returns from Boston -- brings the Sad News of Elder *Halseys* and Mr. *Nat. Procters* sudden Deaths. May I be ever ready!

1767 January 8 (Thursday). Am informed that Old *Judge Ward* is dead. May it be useful to Me; and Every Instance of Mortality serve to quicken me to prepare for my own Departure!... At Eve Messrs. *Moore* and *Cushing* with my Daughters, return from *Westminster*.... They bring us the bad news that Mr. Harrington of Lancaster has had a bad Fall on the Ice and broke one of his Leggs which prevented his going to Walpole Ordination -- and that Mr. *Bridge* of Sudbury hast lost his New-born son; which probably has prevented his Grand father Smith's going to that ordination also.

1767 January 16 (Friday). Receive the sorrowful News of *Judge Russels* Death in *England*, Nov. 24, AEtatis 54. *Breck* comes from Townsend. Deacon Tainter brings sad news from Watertown of the *Death of Samuel Coollidge*. May God Sanctifie it to Me and all others!

1767 January 22 (Thursday). And I can't but lament the Death of that eminently learned Man, the Rev. Mr. President *Clap* at *New-Haven*, the 7th instant, the News of which I received to Day. May the Lord Sanctifie this Loss! Loss, I say, for though he had resigned his Office of President yet might he have proved very useful and Serviceable otherwise. May it especially quicken me to Prepare for my own Departure!

1767 February 5 (Thursday). Deacon Tainter brings sad News of a Fire in Boston the night before last, which broke out at a Bakers nigh the Mill Bridge and ran down each side the Mill Stream: So that the wind being [NW?] my Brother Samuels Interest has doubtless suffered.

1767 April 2 (Thursday). Have the News of the Act for incorporating *Ashby*.

1767 April 6 (Monday). Drew up some Account of Deacon *Tainter*,<sup>71</sup> and delivered it to Mr. Daniel Whitney of Watertown, to carry it to a printer.

1767 May 2 (Saturday). Mr. *Barthol. Kneeland* assists about the Character [of John Martyn, minister of Northborough, who died April 30] and takes the Care of the Printing it.<sup>72</sup>

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<sup>71</sup>*Boston Evening-Post*, Apr. 13, 1767, p. 3.

<sup>72</sup>A notice of the death of John Martyn (1706-1767; Harvard 1724) appeared in the *Boston News-Letter*, May 7, 1767.

1767 July 4 (Saturday). At *Gibson* in *Fitchburg* have the joyful News that my Daughter is o'Bed. The Child was born yesterday p.m. Thanks to God! I hastened up to them and arrived some time before night and found both Mother and Child in Comfort, and every one in Joy. Lodged at *Billy's*.

1767 November 26 (Thursday). Am taken up pritty much with Variety of Papers from England, as well as our own News Prints. Divers of them sent me by Mr. *Moore* and Mr. *Mein*. I write to Mr. *Mein*, to Samuel and to Mr. *McAlpine*, by Lt. Baker, who with Mr. *Jamison*, goes to Boston.

1767 December 3 (Thursday). N.B. I have received from Mr. *Mein* at Boston, Eight Magazines for Mr. *Forbes*: with a Letter for me concerning the Boston Chronicle That I am entered a subscription for it etc.

1767 December 7 (Monday). Lt. Baker brings the sad news that Sarah Baker dyed between 3 and 4 this Morning.

1767 December 31 (Thursday). At night came Mr. Daniel Nurse with News Papers etc. from Boston; but the Cold so severe he is almost froze.

1768 March 19 (Saturday). Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ and John came home from Boston, and have had a good Journey. Thanks be to God! but sorrowful News that my Friend Holbrook is Sick.

1768 March 21 (Monday). Read *Chronicle*, and other Papers.

1768 April 14 (Thursday). After Exercise have confirmed News of the Death of Mr. Abner Whipple at Rockingham.

1768 April 27 (Wednesday). News of the Birth of a Grand son, viz. *Frederick Louis*.

1768 June 22 (Wednesday). N.B. The News is very sorrowful from England. A direct Answer being demanded whether we will comply with the Acts of Parliament concerning our Trade and the Customs.

1768 July 5 (Tuesday). News Papers at Eve, which inform that the General Court is dissolv'd.

1768 September 30 (Friday). We have daily Sorrowful News of our public Affairs -- that two Regiments are come to Boston from Hallifax under Lieut. Col. *Dalrymple* -- that the Governor and Council are in Contests about the posting these Troops. His Excellency insists that they Shall be quartered, partly in the Town, as well as part of them at Castle William.

1768 October 7 (Friday). Deacon Moses Weld was my Company to Sturbridge.... Deacon Weld kindly conducting me as far as Capt. *Wolcotts*: where I find Lowder, the Post-Rider who delivers the News, both written and Oral.

1768 December 14 (Wednesday). Hear the sorrowfull News of the Death of Mr. *John Curtis* (son of Capt. *Curtis*) of *Worcester* by a Cart, on *Waltham* plain last night. Mr. *John Wood* comes at Eve and confirms it, having come from thence and seen the Corps. O what a Warning to be always ready! The Lord grant me His Grace!

1768 December 26 (Monday). Mr. *Hall* of *Sutton* going to Boston, calls and dines here. I write by him to Messrs. *Mein* and *Fleming* to continue the Chronicle another Year.

1768 December 31 (Saturday). Mr. *Hall* of *Sutton* only calls to inform me he had delivered my Letter to *Mein* and *Fleming* for the *Continuance of the Chronicle*, and other Letters to my Son *Samuel* etc. but brought nothing for me.

1769 January 6 (Friday). Capt. *Benjamin Fay* has at my Desire paid Messrs. *Mein* and *Fleeming* for last Years Chronicle, wrapping and directing it to me, and for an Almanack -- for which I gave him 57/ old Tenor.

1769 February 1 (Wednesday). P.M. Mr. Ebenezer Lilly of Dudley brings me two Letters.... By this Mr. *Lilly* I send a Bundle, of shirts etc., to Samuel and a Letter to Mr. *Holbrook*, being very desirous to know how he does, and where he is. But My News Papers are brought, and inform me that he dyed last Friday; and he was, I suppose, buryed yesterday. May I make a good use of this providence and prepare to follow! The Lord pity His bereaved Handmaid, Support, and carry her through these very sore Tryals.

1769 February 22 (Wednesday). Send my last Years Boston Chronicle to Mein and Fleeming, by Mr. Thomas Whitney: and Mrs. P \_\_\_\_\_ Sends back a Muff to Mrs. Winter.

1769 April 7 (Friday). Sorrowful news from Shrewsbury of Miss *Bridget Cushings* being very ill, her Case desperate and has Sent several Times for my Daughter *Sarah* to go to See her. *John* goes up with her; and leaving her *there*, he returns.

1769 June 1 (Thursday). [Boston.] While we were together [at the ministerial convention] News came that President *Holyoke* dyed this morning.

1769 November 7 (Tuesday). Wrote by Mr. *Elijah Hardy* to Mr. Procter and Mr. Mein about the Chronicle. That it Should be sent to Procters no more etc.

1769 November 18 (Saturday). We have the Sorrowfull News of the Death of the Rev. Mr. *Silas Biglow*, pastor of the Church in *Paxton*, of about 29 years. Was just going to be married to Miss Sarah Hall of Sutton. A most heavy Stroke! The Lord Sanctifie it! And repair the Breach!

1769 November 13 (Monday). Send by Mr. Daniel Nurse to Mr. Meins and Flemings Printing Office for the Chronicle, though I cease sending to Procters for it, the Other *Westborough* Papers are left there.

1769 December 7 (Thursday). Wrote to Mr. Fleming, printer, to desist sending Mr. Daniel Forbes's paper, etc.



1769 December 29 (Friday). Mr. Stone and I drew up some Account of Mrs. Loring, to be sent to Mr. Draper.

1770 January 5 (Friday). I now receive the *Boston Gazette* of Messrs. *Edes and Gill*, having drop'd the *Chronicle*.

1770 February 23 (Friday). Deacon *Cheney* of *Ashburnham* here.... He also acquaints us that there was yesterday a dreadful Riot at Boston. The Mob besett Mr. William Jacksons House: that a Gun was shot from the House and a Lad was killed. Upon which a Soldier rushed into the House and seized a Young man with the Gun in his Hand. My Kinsman *Elias* was wont to live there: but can't yet know whether it was he or no.

1770 February 24 (Saturday). At Eve Breck came from Boston. He rectifies the News about the Mob on the 22 and informs that it was *Richardsons* House was beset -- that it was he that killed the Lad, and was committed to Jayl.

1770 March 19 (Monday). Mr. Forbes tells us that Ebenezer has called his last Son *Benjamin*. Brings the uncomfortable News of Alexanders shop being broke open while he was at Westborough etc., that he had lost about 30 yards of Cloth, and was in pursuit of the Thief who was gone into Connecticut.

1770 June 10 (Sunday). We have very Sorrowfull News, of the grievous Fall and Elopement of Mrs. *Eunice* Rice (Wife of *Joseph Rice*): and we have an Account of the much to be lamented Death of Mrs. *Martha Green* (heretofore our dear *Patty Clark*), the wife of Dr. *Peter Green*, of *Harvard*, in Child bearing.

1770 July 18 (Wednesday). Commencement is enlivened with News that the Custom-Acts being repealed. Mr. President *Locke* gave thanks publicly -- yet it blew over as premature.

1770 October 2 (Tuesday). *Sophy* came home from Capt. *Maynards*.... She brings the Sorrowful News that the famous Mr. *Whitefield* dy'd last Sabbath Morn at *Newbury Port*.

1770 October 4 (Thursday). Having received the Monday Public Papers of this week, I have writ a Letter, containing Some Remarks and Observations thereon, and on the Courts Refusing to go upon any Business while they are forced to Sit at Cambridge. Not determined to whom to Send it.

1770 October 15 (Monday). In Drapers last Paper is an account of the Death of dear Brother and old Friend, the Rev. Mr. *Joseph Green* of *Barnstable*. It is Said universally lamented. It was on the 4th instant in the 70th Year of his Age. Help, Lord, the Godly Man ceaseth! O that God would please to prepare me to follow!

1770 November 23 (Friday). N.B. By the News Paper I find my dear Kinswoman Mrs. *Elizabeth Langdon*, is Dead; aged 82. To be buried from her Daughter *Eliot's*. I dont remember any other of my first Cousens are now living, on either my Fathers or Mothers Side. Neither did I ever see

either of my Fathers or Mothers, Brothers of sisters, but Cousen Langdons Mother, who was my mothers Sister *Susanna*. I once saw my Fathers Uncle *Deliverance*, who was of Salem; Father of Mrs. Curwin, wife of Rev. Mr. *George Curwin*. I also Saw old Mr. John Trask, my grandmother Parkmans Brother. O that I might be suitably impressed with this Death, that I may be ready also!

1770 November 29 (Thursday). Called at Biglows in returning -- and at Warrins. Little news of my Sheep.

1771 April 30 (Tuesday). Sent by Mr. *Merriam* of Grafton, a Letter to Mr. *Williams* at Boston Printer, An Account of the late Burning among us.<sup>73</sup>

1771 May 31 (Friday). Took Directions from Mr. *Quincy* (and Mr. Benjamin Kent was present and assisted) in the Affair of *Jones* abovesaid. I went to Mr. *Edes* to have him advertised.

1771 August 16 (Friday). Am lonely also, my wife tarrying So long, am full of Fears that all is not well among them. Still I am pained and disrested -- but I attend to my preparations -- and can look after my domestic Affairs. No News from *Ashburnham*.

1771 September 3 (Tuesday). N.B. In the News Paper the sad account of *John Sennett's* Bestiality.

1772 March 6 (Friday). I find by the Public Prints that Mr. *David Cutler* of Boston, an old Neighbour of Mr. *Pierpoints*, is dead. The Reflection on the Remove of the Inhabitants of that one street (Union Street) by Death, Since my Remembrance, is very affecting. Lord make me know my own End etc.

1772 March 14 (Saturday). P.M. Deacon *Plymton* with me. He brings Mr. *Lorings* will for me to read. I prepared Something of Character to be published in the News Letter.<sup>74</sup>

1772 April 29 (Wednesday). Breck informs that My Kinsman *Nathaniel Parkman* dyed last Saturday Night or sabbath morning and that my Brother is more and more lost and broke. The Lord Sanctifie His holy Hand! And extend Compassion to the Widow and fatherless! Sorrowful News increases. Am informed that Lt. *John Martyn* dyed this morning. The Lord be gracious to the bereaved and comfort them!

1772 August 31 (Monday). [Worcester.] Mrs. Maccarty acquainted me with the sad News of Complaints at *Holden* against Mr. *Davis*, and that he had made a Confession of Some imprudent Behavior but nothing Vile.

1772 September 13 (Sunday). Have the Sorrowful News that Cousen *Nanny Davis* was yesterday delivered of a Child: a Son! May God grant her true Repentance!

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<sup>73</sup>Ithamar Bellows' house burned on Apr. 25, 1771.

<sup>74</sup>The death of Israel Loring (1682-1772; Harvard 1701) was widely noted in the Boston and other newspapers. The *Boston News-Letter*, Mar. 19, 1772, printed an obituary that was reprinted in the *Boston Gazette*, Mar. 23, 1772.

1772 November 9 (Monday). Hear that Mr. *Fitch's* son *Elijah* is dead. I dined at Mr. *Nathaniel Whitneys*. Was at Mr. *Jonathan Grouts*. *John* meets me to give me the Sorrowful News from *Rochester*, that *Suse* was nigh Expiring last Evening and a Man was come on Purpose to acquaint me with it. I hastened home -- found here a man who came *Express*, with a moving Letter from Mr. *Moore*, writ at 4 p.m. yesterday, and the Bearer, Mr. *Eleazer Barrow*, sat out when the sun was about 1/2 an hour high; and arrived here before two this afternoon; informing that my Daughter had been delivered above a fortnight before; has a Daughter -- but her self was taken very ill last Saturday, and grew so bad the Doctors judged last Evening that She would not live till morning; and I was desired to hasten to her.

1772 November 21 (Saturday). Rose early. Mounted before Mrs. *Simpson* was up. Rode to Mr. *Bucknams* and broke fast there, acquainting with the joyful Tidings of their *Daughter Luscombe's* safe *Deliverance* etc. We went to Mr. *Joseph Lovells* and he accompanied us through the chief Difficultys in the perplexed Road to *Holliston*. Dined at Mr. *Prentice's*; who has received the sad news of the Death of his only Brother *Caleb* at *Cambridge*.

1772 December 10 (Thursday). Towards Night Sent to *Edes* and *Gill* an Account of Squire *Woods* Wife and of her Death.

1772 December 15 (Tuesday). Rode to *Hopkinton* and dined at the House of Mourning. My dear Brother, the Rev. Mr. *Samuel Barrett*, was interred. He finished his 72d year the Day before he expired.... I committed a Paper to Capt. *Samuel Barrett* of *Boston*, containing some Account and Character of the Deceased -- having first read it to the Ministers, Dr. *Wilson* and Mr. *Samuel Barrett* of *Boston*.<sup>75</sup>

1772 December 24 (Thursday). The several News Papers Shew our Political state to be very Sorrowful. The Day is very dark with us after the best Excuses and Palliations.

1773 January 15 (Friday). Sermonizing. Hear sorrowful News of what occurred yesterday at Mr. *Smiths* School. *Asa Fay*, Son of Ensign *Jeduthun*, resisting, Striking and abusing the Master. Also this afternoon a Fire began to rage in Mr. *Smiths* Chamber, at Mr. *Jonathan Grouts* -- but was seasonably put out.

1773 April 16 (Friday). At Eve Mr. *Henry Quincy* and Lt. Baker who gives Account of his *Great Ox*, [marginal notation: *Drapers* Paper for Apr. 8 says, the largest fat Ox ever Seen in America] which he sold at *Boston* for 50 L lawful money, He weighed alive 2501 neat. Measured from his Nose to his Rump, 12 feet 2 inches. 9 feet [illegible] round: 5 feet, 11 inches high. 5 feet from top of Weathers to Br[illegible].

1773 April 28 (Wednesday). Gave 50/ to Mr. *Thomas Whitney* going to *Boston* to pay *Edes* and *Gill* for my News-Paper.

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<sup>75</sup>An obituary for Samuel Barrett (1700-1772; Harvard 1721) appeared in the *Boston News-Letter*, Dec. 17, 1772, p. 3.

1773 May 1 (Saturday). Sorrowful News of the Death of *John Arnold* (well known among us) by the fall of a Tree a few days ago, at *Heneker*. O that this solemn Warning might be improved suitably by all of us! By me especially, that I may be always ready! Lord, make me know my End! O that young people, his Acquaintance in special, who are gay and walk in the Vanity of their Minds, might be awakened to Repentance and prepare for Sudden Death!

1773 May 30 (Sunday). Sad News from Brookfield of the dying State [*torn*] *evi Rice*. A message is come to Mr. *Forbes* to hasten home. [*Torn*]y God be with the Distressed, and be a present Help in time of Trouble!

1773 August 25 (Wednesday). And I perceive by the Public Papers that my generous Friend Mr. *Richard Surcomb* is dead! The Lord sanctifie this Dispensation to Me, that I may prepare for my own Departure! The Lord extend also His Pity to the Desolate Widow, and to Mrs. Flagg the Daughter of the Deceased!

1773 December 10 (Friday). Mr. *Samuel Wesson* of *Worcester* (or the *Gore*) came, earnestly requesting I would search among the News Papers of the Year 63 for an Act in favour of Canada Soldiers, granting lands etc. He finds it, but not to his Expectation. He lodges here.

1773 December 18 (Saturday). The world is filled with the News from *Boston* of the Tumultuous rising, and destroying many Chests of *Tea*, Sent by the *East India Company*.

1774 May 13 (Friday). Mr. *Bradshaw* came from *Boston*.... My Daughter in Law *Elizabeth* with him.... N.B. Received by them the papers of yesterday containing the Act of Parliament for blocking up the Harbour of Boston -- and which is to take place on *June* 1 next. Also containing General *Gage's* Appointment of *Governor* in the room of Mr. *Hutchinson*. May God most gracious behold our state! Rev. Mr. *Jedediah Jewets* Death pastor of the first Church in *Rowley*. May the Lord sanctify it to survivors!

1774 May 26 (Thursday). Paid Edes for the News paper.

1774 June 4 (Saturday). Sad news from *Boston* of the Troubles of the people there by means of the apprehension, they have of the Forces expected to block them up.

1774 June 8 (Wednesday). By the newspapers find that Boston Harbour is now blocked up by the Kings Ships.

1774 June 27 (Monday). Deacon *Bond* came and delivered me 4 Papers of the public affairs relative to Signing a Covenant etc. I copyed the Covenant with alterations.

1774 June 28 (Tuesday). *Thomas Bond* here about the *Boston* papers, Covenant etc. Read him my Draughts: he Seems to fall in with them. He carrys back those I borrowed.

1774 July 1 (Friday). N.B. All those Expressions in the public News Papers which are further irritating to Authority are my continual Grief, but I would willingly, heartily, promote what ever is lawful, constitutional and consistent with Wisdom and prudence under our unhappy

Circumstances, and that is our Duty under our Christian Obligations to undertake for our Relief, and for the Restoration of our privileges and Liberties, that we may again enjoy under God our wonted Peace and Harmony with Great Britain.

1774 July 4 (Monday). *Holland* goes to *Shrewsbury*. *Elias* goes, but returns that he may go to work, and doth go p.m. tending Hay. Mr. *Whitman* of *Providence* and Daughter, also Dr. *Throops* and her sister *Nightingale* with them, called here. *Town Meet* on the Affair of signing some Draught, for the public Relief. Old Mr. *Whitney* and Capt. *Jonas Brigham* are sent to me to desire me to go and assist 'em, by prayer and advice. Went and prayed. After prayer the Moderator (Mr. *Daniel Forbes*) requested me to communicate to them my Thoughts, if I had prepared something etc. I told him I had made no formal Draught: but read the Introduction and some other parts of my Remarks on the Covenant from *Boston*. Also what I wrote at Bottom of the Letter signed *William Cooper*. Sundry persons urged my tarrying and advising them with respect to what their own Committee had drawn up, but I answered that *I did not care to meddle with it*; for I conceived it was not *safe* for me to do it, Safe either *for me* or for *them*, especially by reason of the *Governors Proclamation*. I craved the Liberty to retire; not but that I was heartily ready and willing to improve my small Abilitys to my utmost in their service. It was asked me whether I would read their paper if it were Sent Me. I did not refuse to do that in [onelay?] for them and I said I had no desire or Intention to offend any one of them all, not the least; but intreated, and challenged the Liberty of Briton and a New Englandman: and I prayed they would not be hasty in signing every thing; I could not advise to signing any Thing Seeing there was no immediate Necessity; Boston itself had not and their meeting was adjourned to the 19th. I conceived they would know better how to conduct if they waited a while, and had better perhaps till after the proposed *Congress*. I observed that there was not such an *Alternative* as was mentioned in the Covenant, viz. of Suffering Blood-shed or slavery, unless we would withdraw Commerce with Great *Britain*; for by the News from *Newport* it appeared that their Messengers to the *Congress* would propose a *general Address and Supplication* to the King from all the Colonys jointly. Before I retired I openly declared, for the Ease and satisfaction of all their minds, that I had signed no paper of Address or Recommendation of the late Governor and that I could not but take it ill that numbers of persons had been ready to take up a Reproach against their Neighbour.

1774 July 20 (Wednesday). I perceive by the public papers that Mr. *Samuel Hunt* formerly our Neighbour at *Boston*, Aged 85; and that Sir *William Johnson*, of *Johnson-Hall*, above *Albany*, and Superintendant of Indian Affairs; are dead. May it please God effectually to admonish me of my own Dissolution!

1774 August 12 (Friday). Have received the News Paper, *Edes and Gill*, which informs that May 20th last, the King gave his Consent to the Acts of Parliament which take away our principal civil privileges, viz. an act for better regulating the Government of the Province of Massachusetts Bay and New England. And an Act for impartial Administration of Justice therein. May God Sanctifie to us this heavy stroke! and help us rightly to improve such privilege and Libertys as remain!

1774 September 2 (Friday). At Eve we have most sorrowful News that Hostilitys have commenced at *Cambridge*, and that Six of our people are killed; that probably Some at least may

be of *Westborough*. *Joshua Chamberlin* stood next (as it is related) to one that was slain. We have many Vague accounts and indeed are left in uncertainty about Every Thing that has occurred. *Sutton* soldiers -- about 250, pass along by us -- but after midnight are returning by reason of a Contrary Report. Mr. *Zech. Hicks* stops here. Breck is employed in the night to cast Bullets. A Watch at the Meeting House to guard the Town stock etc. Some Towns, we hear, have lost much of theirs, as *Dedham, Wrentham* etc.

1774 November 18 (Friday). Mr. *Elisha Goddard* of *Sutton*, come from Boston, says that yesterday a Vessel from *England* brought News that there was a *new Parliament*.

1774 November 19 (Saturday). Sophy came home from *Lancaster*. Mr. *Joseph White* came with her and dined here. The News from thence is, that Mr. *Harrington* is in great Perplexity from the apprehensions that Some of the Members of *Chauxit* will offer them Selves to partake with them tomorrow at the Communion, when if they be not admitted a number will be offended, and if they are, Some will be like to withdraw. May the Lord Himself interpose!

1775 January 14 (Saturday). N.B. I drew up some Account of the late Rev. Mr. *Gardner*, for the press.<sup>76</sup>

1775 January 26 (Thursday). Last Eve received an agreeable Letter from Mr. *Joseph Ward*, lately a School-master at *Boston*, containing Some hopeful News from *England*.

1775 January 27 (Friday). Lt. Baker here. I read him Mr. *Wards* Letter.

1775 April 8 (Saturday). Fresh alarming News of more regular Forces coming from *England*, and the Distresses of *Boston*; So that people are moving out of Town. *John Fitch Wight*, a youth, came from *Norwich* and lodges here. Mr. *Nathan Fisher* comes at 11 o'Clock at Night very much affrighted by what Dr. *Hawes* (who has come from the Provincial Congress at *Concord*) relates to him of the public Troubles.

1775 April 20 (Thursday). Deacon *Merriam* having been to *Concord* last Eve, returns this morning, and relates that the K's Troops had been there, and did much Mischief -- at the magazine in *Special*; to Flower, Ordnance, Ammunition, Houses (Several set on Fire), a number on both sides Slain. But the Regulars returned to *Boston*. A Number of Dead Bodies, chiefly of them (as was conceived) Scattered in the Road. We are waiting for further Accounts. *Elias* came this Morning from Mr. *Goddards* -- yesterday from *Brookfield* on foot. Mr. *Grosvenor* rides down the Road with Resolution to See what he can, of the Present State. The Select Men are at the Meeting House, preparing and distributing ammunition. I catechized Boys (though but 16) a.m. Dr. *Langdon* calls to see me in his Return from *North Kingston* and dines here. P.M. Catechized little Girls -- only 5 came. It is a Day of so great Trouble that it swallows up People's Thoughts. Men are marching down toward *Concord* [again?]. The News we have is very *penetrating*. At Eve came Mr. *Thomas Whitney*, who had rid down as far as *Charleston*. He has Seen the Sad Effects of hot Assaults and Skirmishes. The Account that the Roads for a great way were strowed with dead Men, is confirmed.

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<sup>76</sup> An obituary for John Gardner (1695-1775; Harvard 1715) appeared in the *Boston Evening-Post*, Jan. 23, 1775.

1775 May 1 (Monday). I gave Mr. *Loyd* 50/ to pay *Edes* and *Gill* for the News. Afterwards heard they had moved out of *Boston*.

1775 May 4 (Thursday). Mr. *Mellen* here. He informs me that a New Paper is published at *Worcester*.

1775 May 5 (Friday). *Ripley* from *Cambridge* here.... He goes to *Brookfield*. I sent by him my subscription for *Worcester News Paper*.

1775 May 9 (Tuesday). In the morning came my Son *Baldwin* from Mr. *Gales* Tavern.... N.B. I gave him 25/ old Tenor, to be delivered to Mr. *Isaiah Thomas*, Printer at *Worcester*, for his *Spy*.

1775 May 17 (Wednesday). By *Thomas's* Massachusetts *Spy* (which *John* returning from *Oxford* through *Worcester*, brings) we have an Account that *Ticonderogo* was lately taken out of the Hands of [the Regulars?], by *Connecticut* men.

1775 May 19 (Friday). There being no News of *Billy Bradfords* Bundle of Cloths etc. which was got out of *Boston* when he came out; and therefore I send *Elias* to Capt. *Tyler* and Mr. *Alexander* of *Hopkinton* to See whether they had received it -- who Send Word that they had not.

1775 May 28 (Sunday). Before we entered the Meeting House P.M. we had news by two soldiers from *Cambridge* that there was yesterday P.M. and this morning, an Engagement of our people with the Regulars at *Hog Island*.

1775 June 13 (Tuesday). At Eve signed an agreement with sundry Neighbours to go to *Worcester* by turns to fetch the News Paper weekly.

1775 June 15 (Thursday). Capt. *Benjamin Fay* brought me the News Paper which comes now from *Worcester*, by virtue of the agreement above said.

1775 June 18 (Sunday). News flies all abroad that a Body of Regulars have gone over to *Charlestown* yesterday P.M. An hot engagement at *Bunker's Hill* there: and *Burned* [the Town] and the *Meeting House* in Special. An awful Judgment of the Great God upon us! May the Lord pity the immediate sufferers! And prepare us for what *We our selves* may be called to undergo. Mr. *Moore* preached and prayed both parts of the Day. A.M. the Text was *Jer. 17.7*, P.M. *Mat. 15.8*. My son *John* was so weak and low that *Breck* went for Dr. *Willson*, who came, and Dr. *Hawes* consulted with him. Dr. *W.* dines here. We have asked public Prayers to Day; May it please God to hear and grant a gracious Answer! Towards Eve further News by Lt. *Baker* from below -- was that our People were forced to give way by reason of their want of Ammunition, Powder especially, and they were in want of Provisions also. My Son *Samuel* thought it wisest to [go] this Evening and ride to *Charlestown Neck*, to look after Goods which he had sent there from *Boston*. He rode as far as *Southborough*, where he Met his Father *Shaw* o'foot. He took him up into his Chaise, and returned here; and lodged with us.

1775 June 19 (Monday). He sat out again, but left Brother *Shaw* here. Mr. *Moore* also left us. The News this Morning is, that our People in resisting have had a Number wounded -- viz. Capt. *Samuel Wood* of *Northborough*, *Thomas Kenny*, and *John Twitchel*.

1775 June 30 (Friday). Have heard the sorrowful News that Dr. *Samuel Mather*, having removed his Goods and his Library to *Charlestown*, all are Consumed in the terrible Conflagration of the 18th.

1775 July 8 (Saturday). I have had no letter or Message, but see in the News Paper that *My Brother William is Dead!* that he dyed at *Stoughtonham* -- but *when* or *how*, is not specified.<sup>77</sup>

1775 July 14 (Friday). N.B. Squire *Whipple* has obliged me so much [*torn*] take my Turn this week to bring the News Paper from *Worcester*. See in the *Spy*, the Address of the Virginian Burgesses to the Earl of *Dunsmore*, on the great and important Controversie between *Great Britain* and the Colonies.<sup>78</sup>

1775 November 10 (Friday). We have news of an Attempt made by the Regulars yesterday at *Lechmores Point*, in Order to take off Some Cattle from thence; but that the Americans drove 'em off; but they carryed away Some Cattle, and they have killed two men.

1775 November 14 (Tuesday). Mr. *Thomas Fairweather*, his Wife and Child[ren?], are returning to Oxford. The News is, that more Troops are come and coming -- and more still are expected. That *St. Johns* on Lake *Champlain*, is taken.

1775 December 14 (Thursday). Samuel first takes to days Paper.

1775 December 19 (Tuesday). N.B. Sad News from [*torn*]ster [i.e., *Worcester*] of 3 Youths, two of them *Chandlers* who came from Boston [viz.?] *Franklin* and one *W* [*torn*] Scating upon a pond the Ice broke and they w[*torn*] drowned. May God please to Sanctifie this awful Dispensation! Of these See more hereafter.

1776 January 9 (Tuesday). We had bad news concerning the younger *Timothy Warrin*, that it was feared the moving him to *Watertown* proved too much for so sick a man; and that he was near his End.

1776 January 18 (Thursday). Sorrowful News from *Quebeck* -- General *Montgomery* Slain.

1776 January 19 (Friday). But *Billy* comes from *Concord* -- with The Heavy News, and Letter from my dear son *Forbes!* Of my most dear Child *Mary's* Departure on the 16th at Eve, between 9 and 10 o'Clock! O Lord, Help!

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<sup>77</sup>“At Stoughtonham, Elder William Parkman, late of Boston,” *Essex Journal*, July 7, 1775. The *Continental Journal* of October 3, 1776, advised “All Persons that are indebted to or that have any Demands on the Estate of William Parkman, late of Boston, Cabbinet maker, deceased, are desired to bring in their Accounts to Thomas Bayley, Administrator.

<sup>78</sup>*Massachusetts Spy*, July 12, 1775 (Vol. 5, Issue 229, p. [2]).



1776 February 20 (Tuesday). N.B. am informed that *Isaiah Thomas* Printer of the *Spy* at *Worcester*, is disenabled; his Printing Office etc. seized.

1776 March 9 (Saturday). N.B. *Tainter* is deficient as a Post -- neither rides himself nor Sends any one for the *Papers* -- so that we go without.

1776 March 18 (Monday). When I returned home in the Evening Every Mouth was open to relate to Me the News of the Day from *Boston*. Scil. that the Regulars evacuated the Town yesterday, and that at or about noon a Regiment of Provincial marched in.

1776 March 19 (Tuesday). My Son *Samuel* early this Morning Sat out for *Boston*. I impatiently wait for further Confirmation of the News from thence.

1776 April 27 (Saturday). For a while we have been destitute of a News Paper; but now do receive again.

1776 May 2 (Thursday). P.M. My Son *Alexander* returned from *Boston* -- the News that 30000 Troops are coming -- 3 Destinations, viz. *New York*, *Virginia* and *Quebec* -- and *small Pox* at *Brookline* etc.

1776 May 6 (Monday). We are informed that a Number of great Ships are come near to *Boston*, and many thousand Troops on board of them.... Confirmation of the News so far as induces my son *Samuel* to hasten to *Boston* this afternoon.

1776 May 7 (Tuesday). The News that a great Fleet of Men of War and Transports, are come nigh to *Boston*, abates and revives --but in this fluctuation the Hearts of many are aking, and cry to God.

1776 May 9 (Thursday). Fresh News of Fleets and Armies.

1776 May 14 (Tuesday). News Subsides -- but I hear that our people are at work in fortifying.

1776 May 22 (Wednesday). We have Alarming News from *Quebeck*. God prepare us for His sovereign will!

1776 June 18 (Tuesday). News of two Transports with 196 Troops on board, taken Sabbath Evening by our Privateers, and carried into *Boston*.

1776 June 23 (Sunday). Have the affecting News of Mrs. *Nurse's*, Mr. *William Nurses's* Wife's Death, this Morning. A woman of great Steadiness and Prudence in her Family; and beloved of all: leaves her Husband in a poor, broken Condition -- his Memory especially Shattered etc.

1776 June 26 (Wednesday). Mr. *Whitney* and Mrs. *Hammock* visit us. He relates Sad News from *Canada*, of our Forces being driven from their Posts. May God prepare us for all Events!

1776 June 28 (Friday). Bad news frequently arriving -- especially from *Canada*.... N.B. Agreed with Mr. *Benjamin Tainter* junior to Supply me with the *Worcester* News Paper Every Friday, for 10/ Lawful Money per Year.

1776 September 4 (Wednesday). Every body is full of the News from *New York*. Capt. *Morse* having been last night here and requested I would write a Letter for him to *Henry Marble*, from whom he had received a notable one; which he brings to me, I wrote an answer and sent it by his Son *Abner*.

1776 October 18 (Friday). Visited old Mr. *Chamberlain*, called at his Son *Ebenezer's* likewise by reason of the News that *Joshua* is taken prisoner by the Regulars at N.Y.

1776 October 21 (Monday). Undertook a Journey to *Ashburnham*, where I have not been for a Number of years. Was forced to Stop at Beetons for Horse-shooing. Bad News from Lake *Champlain* by *Stephen [Badlem?]*, Captain of the Artillery, that our Fleet is shattered.

1776 October 22 (Tuesday). P.M. prosecute my Journey, and meet with Mr. *Paul Langdon* from *Winchester*, who confirms the bad News from the Lakes, that our Forces by Sea are defeated. A Letter has come from General *Gates* to Capt. *Alexander* to hasten his militia forthwith. Arrive at *Ashburnham* at Eve. Found My Children, and theirs well. D.G. But I was troubled with a Pain in my back. May the Lord pity me! But especially May the Lord pity His People in the great Distress!

1776 October 25 (Friday). I took leave of my Children and *Sophy* accompanys me as far as *Lancaster*; we had a comfortable Time of it.... On the Road overtake One *Morse* and his sister in Law, from Otter-Creek: he relates the same bad News.

1776 December 27 (Friday). We have the Sorrowful News that on the 13 instant the famous *General Lee* is taken Prisoner at *Baskenridge* in *New Jersey*. A very affecting Providence!

1777 January 5 (Sunday). At Noon Deacon Wood delivered me a paper containing an Account of a Battle at *Trenton* (New Jersey) Dec. 16 last, by General *Washington* with 300, and General *Howe's* Forces, of 1600. The latter were routed.

1777 January 16 (Thursday). We have the News of another Victory which General *Washington* has obtained over the Regulars 3 miles from Prince Town, in the *Jersys*; 500 killed and taken prisoners; *January* 10.

1777 February 13 (Thursday). Mr. *Fisher* begins the Course to fetch the *News Paper* from *Worcester*.

1777 May 5 (Monday). News of a British Fleet in the Bay.

1777 July 3 (Thursday). By the News-Paper some encouraging Accounts from N.Y., *Jersies* etc.

1777 July 13 (Sunday). On consideration of the Sorrowful News that our People have evacuated *Ticonderoga*, I chose that Text in *Isa.* 8.17, but after proper Introduction and with various Alterations, I used the last sermon on *Micah* 7.7.

1777 July 14 (Monday). Many Confirmations of the sad News (of Tych\_\_\_\_\_).

1777 July 22 (Tuesday). Mr. *William May* brings me somewhat more Account of the *Evacuating Ticonderoga* -- that it was most probably by *Treachery*. At night we hear a Post is come for our Militia to march to *Providence*. And Sad News from *Otter Creek*.

1777 August 1 (Friday). P.M. Neighbour [Benj.?] *How* brings Roots etc. N.B. His News Paper in Vindication of Surrendering of *Ticon*.

1777 September 20 (Saturday). Abundance of News about a great Battle in the N.W. and many Slain -- but tis as [*torn*] uncertain.

1777 September 21 (Sunday). Did not finish my preparations and on Consideration of Several Deaths, especially <of [dear Classmate?] Pemberton> (I see also in one of the *Boston News-Papers*, an Account of the Death of my Brother *Johns* Widow, Mrs. *Abigail Parkman* at *Ipswich* in her 80th Year), I preach on *Heb.* 6.12 a. and p.m.

1777 October 20 (Monday). N.B. The *wonderful News* of Success against the Kings Forces in the N.W.

1777 October 22 (Wednesday). N.B. The News of Gen. *Burgoin* and his Army's surrendering to General *Gates*, is confirmed every where.

1777 September 24 (Wednesday). The Sad News of Lord *Stirlings* Defeat at or near *Iron Hill*, 15 miles from *Philadelphia*, confirmed.

1777 October 25 (Saturday). We hear there has been great Rejoicing at *Boston* on Account of the Success of our arms in the West. Mr. Benjamin How brings me one of the Thursday Papers, which confirms the Articles of *Convention* (so its called) between the two Generals.

1777 November 7 (Friday). [*illegible*] *Lambson* himself went to *Worcester* -- and in my stead [*torn*] with the Printer for the remainder of the Year's Papers.

1777 November 15 (Saturday). We are disappointed in the *Worcester Spy*: no body goes for it.

1778 February 2 (Monday). *Elias* rides to *Holden* to one Mr. *Samuel Grant's* who has advertized an Heiffer, which he had strayed.

1778 March 7 (Saturday). I write by him, to Mr. [*Haswell?*] Printer at *Worcester* that I cease taking his News Paper, having sent my Pay for it by Capt. [*Fisher?*].

1778 March 12 (Thursday). Mr. *Nathan Maynard* junior goes to Mr. *Haswell*, the Printer for the News Papers, and in my Name, with my Money pays him and settles with him to this Day; *I now ceasing to receive the Massachusetts Spy*.

1778 May 5 (Tuesday). Preached at Mr. *Levi Warrens* on 1 *Cor.* 15.57 previous to the burying of old Mrs. *Woods*, whose Funeral I attended, and prayed -- that is, at Mr. Daniel Forbes's: and gave an Account of her Death, for publication, to Col. *Wheelock*.<sup>79</sup>

1778 May 22 (Friday). Sorrowful News of the Sudden Death of Mr. [blank] *Knowlton* of Shrewsbury by a Barrell of [blank] rolling upon him.<sup>80</sup>

1778 May 27 (Wednesday). It is a Day [of?] Joy on Consideration of the Privileges we enjoy -- but it is a Day of Darkness [*illegible*] on Account of the [War?], which continues and distresses us. For, There have arrived Some bad News of the kings Troops Surrounding and taking a Regiment of our Soldiers at Warren-Point.

1778 June 25 (Thursday). In *Worcester* Mr. *Cunningham* shewed me Mr. Carpenters Letter to Mrs. Spooner. I went in to See the 3 Men: in the Jayl *Ross*'s Brother *Timothy*, and *Lucy McDonald* (who was with Child by *Ezra*) were there. The Criminals are very penitent and behave well. I questioned them concerning the first Beginnings of the [work?] proceedings? They Said Mrs. *Spooner* began them.... I dined at Mr. *Stearns*'s, the Lawyer's, Mr. *Maccarty* and Mr. *Isaiah Thomas* also.

1778 July 1 (Wednesday). Mr. *Edwards* of *Boston*, Cabinet Maker, came in and was at Breakfast, then goes on his way to *Worcester*. News confirmed, of a Battle in the *Jersies*.

1778 July 19 (Sunday). N.B. News by an Hand-Bill, that a *French* Fleet of 16 Men of War, with 12,000 Men, are come to the Capes of *Delaware*; Monsieur *Gerard* o'board, as *Plenipotentiary* from the King of *France* to the Congress -- and that War between G.B. and F. is proclaimed. Capt. *Elderkin*, who dined here, had Copy of an Hand-Bill etc. which contained Information thereof.

1778 July 21 (Tuesday). N.B. Col. *Ezekiel How* informed me that a Post was gone down from Head Quarters with bad News of great Destruction by the Enemy lately, at *Susquehannah*.

1778 July 28 (Tuesday). N.B. Last night a Number of the Subscribers from *Worcester Spy*, meet at the Meeting House, and enter into a New Agreement.

1778 August 11 (Tuesday). News from *Rhode Island* that our Forces are much increased there, and have entered upon it.

1778 August 19 (Wednesday). This morning it holds up and *Sophy* goes with Mr. *Cushing* to A[shburn]ham[?] Billet of the News, from Capt. *Elderkin*.

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<sup>79</sup>*Massachusetts Spy*, June 18, 1778, p. 3.

<sup>80</sup>Not in *Shrewsbury Vital Records*.

1778 August 22 (Saturday). Sorrowful News of the Death of *Samuel Andrews* at *Valley Forge, Pensylv.* in the Continental service, of a putrid Fever. May God Sanctifye it to the Father, Surviving Brothers and sisters!

1778 August 30 (Sunday). We have been very much alarmed with bad news from *Rhode Island*; but at Evening a more favorable Account.

1778 September 7 (Monday). Bad News that the *British* Soldiers have burnt *Bedford* in *Dartmouth*. Dr. *Hawes* at Eve.

1778 October 6 (Tuesday). Elias returns from *Cambridge* and has been also to *Boston*. But what we are somewhat Surprized with is, he rides home *Brecks* Mare, which was found in a Pasture at [blank] by *Gershom Hill* the Molatto from Squire Bakers, who going down below, *Breck* furnished with an Advertisement.

1778 December 4 (Friday). Mr. Forbes also offered that if I would take one of the Boston newspaper, he would pay for a year. May God reward his Benevolence and Generosity!

1778 December 11 (Friday). Sad news from Otter Creek and Cherry Valley.

1778 December 23 (Wednesday). Hear the sorrowful news of aged, pious Master Minot's death. The Righteous are taken away from the Evil to come,<sup>81</sup> but we that remain lose much in losing their Prayers. The Lord sanctifie this Death to the surviving widow and Son; and to me under the Loss of such a worthy Friend!

1779 January 5 (Tuesday). N.B. Breck agrees with a Post to bring Newspapers etc.

1779 January 12 (Tuesday). Have the Surprising News of the awful Death of Benj. Andrews of Boston Esq. who last [blank] shot himself through the Head by a Pistol, which he was handling, and not aware that it was loaded. Lord, what is Man!

1779 January 19 (Tuesday). By reason of Breck's agreeing with a post to ride this Road, I have the Benefit to read two of the Boston Newspapers; Saturdays and Mondays, which arrive here on Tuesday evening.

1779 January 28 (Thursday). We have the sad news that Mr. Peter Adams, heretofore of this Town (son of the late Mr. Eliphalet Adams) was suddenly killed by the Falling of a Tree, at New Guildford N. H. May God sanctifie so awful a Dispensation to all Survivors, and in particular to the mournful Widow (who was Susanna Pratt of this place) and her Orphan Children!

1779 June 11 (Friday). We have bad news of a Fleet supposed to be British, on our Coast, and some other Evil Tidings.

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<sup>81</sup>Isaiah 57:1, "The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth *it* to heart: and merciful men *are* taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil *to come*."

1779 June 29 (Tuesday). P.M. the News Papers which contain Gen'l Lincoln's Victory over the British Forces in South Carolina. To God be glory!

1779 July 1 (Thursday). N.B. Thomas's Spy comes again to the Shop for a Number of the Neighbors.

1779 July 15 (Thursday). We have the Sad News of the British Forces invading New Haven, Fairfield, Stratford etc.

1779 July 16 (Friday). The news from New Haven is confirmed.

1779 July 20 (Tuesday). Newspaper from Boston, but am chiefly impressed and taken up with the weighty, important Things, which relate to my Dissolution and an eternal World. It is wonderful that I am no more affected with them.

1779 July 21 (Wednesday). Mr. John Pidgeon came in his way to Brookfield, and lodges here. He brings fresh news of our Success against the Enemy in recovering the Fort on Hudson's River, which they had lately taken from the States, and fortified more Strongly, which is called Stoney Point, near King's Ferry: May God grant to His people a suitable Frame of Mind upon Such Occasions!

1779 August 5 (Thursday). Elias goes to Worcester for Mr. Isaac Parker to bring the Newspapers.

1779 August 25 (Wednesday). The sad news from Penobscot is confirmed.

1779 October 23 (Saturday). Sorrowful news from Cambridge of the Drowning of a young Student at fresh Pond in Cambridge yesterday. His name was Charles Cutter, a soph-more. The Body not found at nine this morning. May the Lord sanctifie it to all, especially his own Classmates and Friends.

1779 October 28 (Thursday). Elias goes to Worcester in the Room of Mr. Elijah Brigham to fetch the Spy in his stead. He brings it, and contains Mr. Daniel Adams' Caution to all people not to trust his Wife.<sup>82</sup>

1779 October 29 (Friday). Mrs. Grout (wife of Mr. Joseph) came to the Door, upon her Reading the Publication in yesterday's Spy. Spoke of the great Reason her poor Sister has to refuse to live with Adams any more.

1779 November 11 (Thursday). Elias goes to Worcester to the Execution of Robert Young, who was condemned and hanged for a Rape on Jane Green of Brookfield.

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<sup>82</sup>*Worcester Spy*, Oct. 28, 1779. Daniel Adams's notice, dated Oct. 19, 1779, reads: "Whereas Perces, the wife of me the subscriber, has absented herself from me and family, and refuses to return to her duty, although often requested by myself and other, and I am apprehensive she may run me into debt. These are therefore to caution all persons against trusting her on my account for I will not discharge any debt she may contract from and after this time."

1779 November 12 (Friday). Have news of the poor Criminal's Behavior yesterday. Mr. Maccarty preached.

1779 November 22 (Monday). N.B. At Squire Baker's was assured that Mr. D. Adams did verily sign what was last published in the Spy: retracting what was published before.<sup>83</sup>

1779 December 15 (Wednesday). Newspapers from Boston and Worcester.

1779 December 17 (Friday). Breck to Sutton in the Sleigh to get Paper. Succeeds but in part.

1779 December 27 (Monday). Visit Mr. Farrar's Wife who is sick, dined at Mr. John Maynard's, called at Mr. Gershom Brigham's and begin to take Thomas's Spy of him -- went in to Mr. Samuel Fay's, but neither he nor his Wife at home -- arrived safe at home.

1780 January 22 (Saturday). A newspaper of Dec. 30 is the Last.

1780 February 6 (Sunday). Have head the sorrowful news of the Death of our Brother of the Association -- the Rev. Thomas Goss of Bolton by a Fever. The Lord sanctifie this Providence to me, to the mournful Widow, the bereaved Children, to the Association of which he was a Member, but especially the Church of which he was Pastor, and to the whole people of Bolton! That now they may be directed into methods of Peace, and the new Church especially may be wholly settled and edified.

1780 March 9 (Thursday). N.B. A number of Westborough combine to take again the Worcester News.

1780 March 10 (Friday). I agree with Breck to pay half the Price of Thursday's Worcester paper.

1780 May 26 (Friday). N.B. The *American Academy of Arts and Sciences* formed, constituted And Made a Body politic and Corporate by an act of the General Assembly of this State, at their present Sessions. The Names of the Members are published in todays Spy. It is matter of Joy to me! But it was also of Surprise, as I cant trace its Conception nor Author, nor Fantors;( ? ) the characters, Qualifications, Duty, Immunitys, and Emoluments.

1780 June 9 (Friday). But the sorrowful news is from the Harbour of Cape Anne, that Mrs. Forbes departed on Monday night last, in Child bed. She had been delivered of a Dead Child about two Hours before. A sad loss to my poor Son-in-law! The Lord sustain him! and pity the Motherless Children, for there are pritty many of them -- hope they will all find Mercy!

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<sup>83</sup>“Whereas the subscriber through my own weakness and imperfection, have inadvertently advertised and cried down Perces my wife in the three preceding papers, these are therefore to give public notice, that I am convinced of my imprudence in so doing, am very sorry for my conduct, and for the injury done her, desire her forgiveness and do now recall the former inconsiderate publication.”

1780 June 15 (Thursday). No certain news yet that Charlestown, South Carolina, is taken, but reasons to fear it is, are greatly increased. Sad accounts from the West on Mohawk River. May it please God to extend Pity and Compassion to them, as their case may be and fit us in these parts, for His Sovereign Will!

1780 July 5 (Wednesday). Old Mr. Daniel Hardy, who went to Brookfield yesterday a.m. returns from there today about three p.m. By him came news not only from My Daughter Baldwin, but that she has had Letters of June 15 from her Husband and Br. Ebenezer.

1780 July 21 (Friday). Paul Biglow comes with Joshua Twitchell and Fortunatus Miller. The two latter being Deserters: to see Gen'l Washington's Proclamation of Pardon to such: And P. Biglow would for a large Reward, go in Miller's stead.<sup>84</sup>

1780 October 29 (Sunday). N.B. The Sad News from the North West is confirmed. Mischief done at Royalton, Schoharie etc.

1781 March 26 (Monday). Mr. *John Fay* to desire me to attend the Funeral of his Child tomorrow. Mr. *Amasa Maynard* Sent to desire me to attend the Funeral of one of his Children tomorrow. But, what was obstructive of both a Messenger arrives from E. *Sudbury* with a Letter from Mr. *Bridge* informing that his honoured Father *Smith* expired on yesterday Morning about 7 o'clock, and is to be buried *tomorrow* at 3 p.m. This Sorrowful News caused me to send to those forementioned Neighbours and desiring them to provide otherwise for their Funerals.

1781 April 3 (Tuesday). While I was desirous to try to get to Mr. *Hardy's* -- but while I was thinking what to do, News arrived that he was *dead*. I did not hesitate, but immediately went to the House of mourning -- conversed with the Widow and the Friends there; and prayed with them. Mr. Hardy expired about 8 or 9 this morning, of a Pleurisy: was 45 this last March 1, but was not apprehensive Death was nigh.

1781 April 27 (Friday). News that Col. *Williams* of *Marlborough* is very ill. Mrs. P. goes p.m. to See him, and Mr. *Brigham* waits on her.

1781 May 2 (Wednesday). *Breck* returns from *Boston*. He takes *Draper* and *Folsoms* News Paper: which is on Mondays.

1781 June 6 (Wednesday). I sent by Col. *Wheelock* Some Account of Mr. *Stone*,<sup>85</sup> to the Care of Mr. *Summer*.

1781 June 27 (Wednesday). *Elias* would have gone upon his Journey to *Northampton*, but it was too wet weather. P.M. Capt. Fisher came and after general Discourse of the News, and particularly of the Troubles of the British Factorys in the East Indies by *Heideralli Kan* with a great Army against *Ascot*, and other places on *Coromandet Coast*; and was going after, he

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<sup>84</sup>Washington's proclamation, dated May 31, 1780, appears in the *Massachusetts Spy*, vol. 10, issue 476, June 22, 1780, p. [1].

<sup>85</sup>Obituaries for Nathan Stone (1708-1781; Harvard 1726) appeared in the *Boston Gazette*, June 11, 1781, and the *Massachusetts Spy*, June 21, 1781.



broached his Exceptions against my late Sacrament Sermons on the Guilt of unworthy Receiving the Lords Supper....

1781 July 13 (Friday). Mr. *Grosvenor* came to me in the Morning. We read the Will again. Mr. Williams requests us to write the Character of his Father for the Press.

1781 July 17 (Tuesday). Am employd in the Biographical Dictionary. Six famous *Gregory's*. *St.* and *Pope Gregory* or the Great -- [*Nazianzen* -- *Nyssen?*] -- *James*, the Mathematician, *David*, and *James*. P.M. came Mr. *Ebenezer Grosvenor* from *Marlborough*. I gave him something of a Character of Col. Williams for the Press -- but it was too defective and incorrect.

1781 July 28 (Saturday). I have not to this day any News concerning *Elias*, but that he was Seen well at Brookfield in his Way to Northampton.

1781 August 19 (Sunday). I preached at *Northborough*.... We have the sorrowful News from the Camps, of the unhappy and Sudden Death of *Charles Hudson*, who was upon a scout, being Seen by some of our own Men, and Mistaken for the Enemy, shot at them and killed the foresaid young man.

1781 October 2 (Tuesday). At *Eve Squire* read a remarkable Hand-Bill containing fresh and important News of Successes in the south against the British Forces by Sea and Land. God grant it may prove true and that we may be prepared for a compleat Deliverance!

1781 November 8 (Thursday). At night we had by the News Paper the joyful Account of the Surrender of Earl *Cornwallis* and his Army at *York Town*, the Shipping *Virginia*, on Oct. 18 -- which causes great Joy and Thanksgiving to God, etc. etc.

1782 January 27 (Sunday). Sorrowful News of the Death of the Widow *Rhoda Maynard*.

1782 February 28 (Thursday). *Breck* returns from *Boston*, brings me a Letter from my old Friend Mr. *Quincy*: But sorrowful News from my Son *Samuel*, his wife being very ill of a Fever. A Letter from him of her low state. May God most gracious extend Compassion!

1782 May 16 (Thursday). *Breck* goes to *Worcester* for the News papers: But The Stormy, wet, dark Weather continues from Day to Day: Yet Good News from *England* of the hopeful Signs of Accommodation -- that the *Parliament* is more disposed to Peace. D.G.

1782 August 14 (Wednesday). I wrote also to *Mrs. Adams* a like Notification, and left it to my Son *Brecks* Care to send it by Mr. *Joseph Harring*[ton?] who goes to day for the News paper.

[1782 October 11 (Friday).] N.B. Sad News of House-breaking; and Sundry Thieves imprisoned.

1782 December 5 (Thursday). [*In Parkman's hand:*] At *Eve* [*illegible*] *Warrin* [*illegible*] the News Paper [*illegible*]....