

David Sanford (1737-1810), Yale 1755

Franklin Bowditch Dexter, *Yale Graduates*, 2:376-78.

For an ecclesiastical council that was called in 1777 because of the differences in Sanford's church, see E. O. Jameson, ed., *The History of Medway, Mass., 1713 to 1885* (Medway, 1886), 125-26. Sanford's critics charged that "(1) He denies imputative guilt; (2) He denies imputative righteousness; and (3) He makes God the author of sin." According to Jameson, "One of the sisters was not edified by the manner in which he taught the doctrine of free-will; and the other found the alteration of the covenant a stumbling-block"; *ibid.*, 125. For the report of "A Council at West Parish, Medway, Mass., November 11-12, 1777," see *ibid.*, 125-26.

1779 June 23 (Wednesday). Mr. Fitch visits, to tell me he is engaged to Change with Mr. Sanford next Sabbath, but will change the 11 of July.

1781 November 6 (Tuesday). But towards Evening came Deacon Hawes, Messrs. Eli Whitney, and Joseph Harrington to ask me to procure Mr. *Sanford* of *Medway* to preach here. And after them came Capt. *Morse* and Capt. *Fisher* upon the Same Errand. I told them I did not know him, and must See and talk with him, before I could ask him. Capt. *Fisher* wrought himself into an immoderate Heat. May God forgive!

1781 November 12 (Monday). *The Town Meeting* to consider my Sallery and Wood. I committ the Matter to God and desire to resign to His sovereign Will! Breck came from the Meeting and informs me that Capt. *Fisher* was inveighing against me in a long and bitter Invective charging me with *Tyranny* in that I would not suffer the people to hear Mr. *Sanford* -- whereas I had only Answered that I hoped they would not impose on me the Hardship of asking a man to preach for me that I had never seen, and heard was Erroneous. I went to the Meeting House, and endeavoured to reply. The moderator was Ensign *Aaron Warrin* who related what the Town had voted, viz. 35 Cord of Wood, but as to Addition to my yearly Sallery (which was another Article in their Warrant) The Town did not grant it. To which I replied that I had not asked any addition, but I depended upon their making the 55£ *good*, as is promised in the *Call*. Altercations arose again about Mr. *Sanford's* preaching but Capt. Maynard asked the Moderator whether that was in the Warrant? which was a Check, and I took leave.

1781 December 14 (Friday). Mr. *Brigham*, *Sophy* and the Child, go in a Sleigh to *Shrewsbury*. I wrote to Mr. *Sumner* about Mr. *Sanford* and had an Answer at Eve.

1782 January 16 (Wednesday). When I came home found Mr. *Sumner* and his Wife. I discoursed with him about Mr. *Sanford* and of his Doctrines.

1782 March 29 (Friday). P.M. came in Mr. *John Forbes* of *Otter Creek*: and with him Capt. *Fisher*, who brought me a Letter (*writ by him* I Suppose) from Mr. *Daniel Adams*, Dated to day, to be communicated to the Church. He also bears a Message to me from the Rev. Mr. *Sanford* of *Medway*, that he designs to make me a Visit next Tuesday, to remove Some Misapprehensions he supposes I labour under concerning him.

1782 April 1 (Monday). Mr. *Daniel Grosvenor* came a.m. to see me -- dined with us and Spent the chief of the p.m. here. N.B. Mr. *Sanford* and his Visit tomorrow were the Subject as he was so Soon expected here. Mr. G. assured me from what he had himself met with from both Mr. S____d and from Mr. Sp____ng, that neither of them (continuing Such) Should with his Consent, enter his Pulpit. And he knew and was sure, that his Father Hall (who had the minutes of what was Said at *Roxbury*, and Signed by himself and Mr. *West* of *Dartmouth*) would not, if Said Gentlemen remained the same: and those Minutes he would endeavour Soon to Send me.

1782 April 2 (Tuesday). Looked for Mr. *Sanford*, all day -- but he did not come.

1782 April 16 (Tuesday). The *Ministers Meeting* was at *Our House*. Mr. *Bridge* was not here, the rest came. Mr. *Newell* brought his Lady. I prayed -- I delivered Some parts of my Sermon on *Heb. 6.12*. Mr. *Whitney* made the concluding prayer. In our Conversation I gave Some Account of my Trouble from those who were of so importunate Curiosity to have Mr. *Sanford* preach here.

1782 May 18 (Saturday). My Son *Ebenezer* leaves us to go to *Ashburnham*. I sent a Letter by him to Mr. *Cushing* concerning him, and concerning Mr. *Sanford*.

1782 May 31 (Friday). Dr. *Hall* returning from *Boston* calls here. I talk with him about Mr. *Sanford*. Says that Mr. *Sanford* is of Opinion that is [*sic*] the Author of Sin, as He is of Poison in a Serpent.

1782 August 15 (Thursday). I went to Mr. *Daniel Stockwells*, who earnestly accosts me, requests me to ask Mr. *Sanford* to preach here, though I never Saw him in my Life, but have heard by many, of his *unsoundness*, and have had so many written Testimony of it.

1782 September 18 (Wednesday). Miss *Eliza Beales* was here, at *Breakfast*. N.B. our Discourse was of Mr. *Sanford*.