

## Sarah Green's Salivation, 1760

1760 February 19 (Tuesday). I visited Mr. Joseph Greens Daughter Sarah<sup>1</sup> who is in a languishing Condition. Prayed there.

1760 March 20 (Thursday). In my way home Visited *Sarah Green* who has strangely fallen into a salivation,<sup>2</sup> and it is now the 22nd Day of its working. Prayed with them, and made haste home to have my Wife go with me to Capt. Woods Funeral.

1760 April 4 (Friday). I rode up to Mr. Joseph Greens to see their Daughter and prayed there.

1760 June 18 (Wednesday). P.M. in returning I visit Mr. Greens Daughter who remains in a strange Condition.

1770 July 19 (Thursday). Broke fast at Mr. Adams's at Roxbury and prayed with the Family there -- went to Boston. Delivered the Case of *Sarah Green*, Signed by Justice Whipple, Dr. Crosby, and by me, to Dr. *Stiles*.

From Franklin Bowditch Dexter, ed., *The Literary Diary of Ezra Stiles, D.D., LL.D., President of Yale College* (3 vols.; New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1901), 1:75-76:

[Nov.] 7 [1770]. Case of S. G. of Westborough in C<sup>o</sup>. Worcester, Mass. as I rec<sup>d</sup> it from Mr. Parkman, Pastor, Dr. Crosby the physician that attended her: she being about twelve years of age: —

1759. End Nov. or beg. Dec. S. G. aet. 12, wet her feet in gath<sup>g</sup> cranberries & Dr. Crosby treated her as hav<sup>g</sup> the Jaundice till spring.

1760 *March*. Dr. Greenleaf gave her 5 gr. Calomel & Jalap, which worked once only: & a day or 2 after another potion w<sup>c</sup> did not work, & that week after she began to spit, & in few days Saliva plentiful; cartharticks used for eight days not preventing it.

*May 8, she ceased making Water*. Dr. Ball called in & the Salvi<sup>a</sup> increased. (April, began to have hysteric Fits, 18 or 20 a day.) Upon urine ceas<sup>g</sup>, her mouth closed till Even<sup>g</sup> or till bed time “& after all was still & quiet, she would open her mouth & could eat: the rest of the time she found ways to get spoon victuals thro' her Teeth. She soon lost feeling in her feet, & could not stand alone.” Thus she continued and had fits every night till “April 22, 1761, when Dr. Wheat of Boston sent her powders & Pills,” w<sup>c</sup> she took a week before her spitting abated. “She had spit about a Gallon a day for the greatest part of the Time; about 3 qu<sup>ts</sup> a day for a while before Dr. Wheat was applied to.” May 15, more powders & spit<sup>g</sup> abated. *May 20* or

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<sup>1</sup>Sarah, dau. of Joseph Jr. and Mary Green, b. May 18, 1748; m. Benjamin Rice of Northborough, Nov. 25, 1773 (*Vital Records of Westborough, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* [Worcester, MA: Franklin P. Rice, 1903], 55, 162.

<sup>2</sup>*Oxford English Dictionary*: “Secretion or discharge of saliva: *esp.* the production of an excessive flow of saliva by administering mercury.”

thereabouts *her spitting ceased*. May 22 “*made about a Tea spoon full of Water*, which daily increased to about a Jill once in 24 hours.”

May “23d day *she opened her Mouth* & took her powders & spoke tho’ after a broken Fashion. Her feet gathered strength about the same time & she went by the help of a chair. 27<sup>th</sup> day went alone & by the help of somebody to lead her *Went out abroad*. She has now a tolerable appetite, but her fits follow her in the Even<sup>g</sup> without much alteration from what they have been hereto fore.”+

N.B. Since the aforementioned 1<sup>st</sup> of June, 1761, her fits have left her & she has gradually recovered a tolerable State of Health: is able to attend public Worship & to pform the common ord<sup>y</sup> Business of a family.

We whose Names are hereunto anext have all along been well acquainted with the aforementioned case & can attest to the Truth of the foregoing Relation.

W. —May 1770

Eb<sup>f</sup> Parkman, Pastor  
Francis Whipple, Justice of the Peace  
(the nearest neighbor to the above S. G.)

+this wrote 1761

Sam<sup>l</sup> Crosby Physician