

COLLECTIONS

OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

VOL. V.—FIFTH SERIES.



BOSTON:
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY.
M.DCCC.LXXVIII.

MEMBERS DECEASED.

Resident, Honorary, and Corresponding Members, who have died since the publication of the List of Members in the last volume of the Collections, April 1, 1878; or of whose death information has been received since that date.

Resident.

Hon. George T. Bigelow, LL.D. | Hon. Benjamin F. Thomas, LL.D.

Honorary and Corresponding.

Erastus Smith, Esq. | William Cullen Bryant, LL.D.

[x]

DIARY
OF
SAMUEL SEWALL.

1674-1729.

VOL. I.

1674-1700.

Satterday night. A suspected Indian is put in Prison. It seems were in Arms last Sabbathday at Dedham, somway knowing of Meadfield Mill being burnt. People are much perplexed.

Tuesday, Sept: 15. Take leav of Mr. Bond and give him Mr. Oakes's Artillery Sermon to read at Sea, stitched in Marble paper. Sails in Mr. Smith.

Tuesday, Sept: 15, 1685. Mr. Barns tells me the Governour of Carolina is come to Town this day for his health: is so weak that stumbled at a pebble and fell down. Name, West. Mr. Willard speaks to the 7th Comāndment, condemns naked Brests: and seems to be against the Marriage of First-Cousins.

Thursday, Sept: 17. News comes to Town of the rising of the Negros at Jamaica. Proves nothing answerable to the Rumor.

Generall Court having Voted that care be taken to see that all Persons are furnisht with Arms and Amunition according to Law because of Indians, that Wonolanset have £10. given him to apease, [him] because he alledges some of his carried away contrary to safe Conduct, and for his late Service; that the West end of the Town-House be secured with Lead at the Country's Charge, ~~and~~ adjourned to the 2^d Wednesday in October at one of the Clock. Tim: Prout made surveyor genera' in Mr. Stoddard's Room, to look after stock of Powder &

Mr. Dudley, Saltonstall, Buckley, to say whether they will accept their Commissions as Majors.

Sabbath-day night, Sept: 20. 1685. Watch with Isaac Goose, and Cous. Nath. Duñer. Sam. Clark steps on Board his Brother's Ship, intending a Voyage to Sea, having no work in the Shop.

Note, Sabbath-day, Sept: 20. Mr. Jn: Baily preaches with us all day: Mr. Willard at Watertown. In the Afternoon from those words of Job, Till my Change come. Doct. Death a very great Change.

Monday, 7: 21. Shewed Mr. Tho. Chiever, Schoolmaster, in the Evening, what had received from Jamaica concerning Zadori. [a stranger from Hungary.]

Tuesday, 7: 22. 1685. Jn: Gardener came in late last night; this morning the News he brings runs throw the Town, viz. that James late D. of Monmouth was beheaded on Tower-Hill on the 15th July last. Argyle drawn, hanged and quartered. Neighbour Fifield brought me the News, who had it from the Cryer of Fish.

Mr. Nowel and Moodey called here, having been to see sick father Porter, this morn 7: 22.

7: 22. This day Mr. Morgan, his Lady and Family arrive from Barbados intending to dwell here for some time.

By the same Ship word is brought of the death of Mr. Henry Higginson of the Small Pocks.

7: 22. In the Afternoon I visit Father Porter, and Mr. West late Governor of Carolina, who comes hether for cure of the Dry Gripes.

Wednesday 7: 23. Cous. Nath. Duñer and I ride to Milton Lecture. Before Lecture, I went to Anthony Gulliver and got him to go with me to Penny-Ferry and shew me the Marsh [he] was to buy of Mr. Gardener. He owned that he hired the Marsh 6 Acres of my Father at fifty shillings and would see me paid; seemed to say he hired it for his Son. Dined at Mr. Thacher's.

Wednesday night, Sept: 23. Mr. Clutterbuck Arrives from New-Castle and brings word that he saw Argile's head cut off June the last; and the certain Newes of the Death of Monmouth about the middle of July. Dissenters in the North released, and Scotland in quiet.

'Tis remarkable that Clutterbuck should from Ocular Testimony contradict diametrically the Rumors that were spread in Town Friday was Señight and strongly propagated, said to come by Clutterbuck: which was a meer Lye.

May 19. Mr. Moodey preaches both parts of the day, in the afternoon partly a funeral Sermon on the suddenness of Mrs. Redford's lamented death. Great Rain in the Afternoon.

May 20. Ride to Newbury. I treat Mr. Danforth, Cook, Hutchinson, Moodey, &c. with Salmon at Capt. Serjeant's. I lodge at Newbury.

May 21. Ride to Ipswich in Company Capt. Sergeant, Mr. Mayo, Plaisted. It seems Cous. Hobart of Hingham was buried this day. Sent Joaņa Gerrish home. Lodge at the Widow Apleton's with Major Eps.

May 24. Friday. Walk to Argilla,¹ and visit Madam Symonds, who sits up in her chair, but is weakly.

May 25. In our way home divert to Col. Apleton's, who keeps house by reason of a Sore Legg. The day is very hot, which makes us almost faint by that time we reach Lewis's; there refresh very Comfortably. Got home seasonably and found my family well, except Sarah, blessed be God.

Wednesday, May 29, 1695. Election. Stoughton 71 Danforth 79. Winthrop 74. Pynchon 41. Gedney 74. Cook 69. Hathorn 58. Pike 48. Hutchinson 70. Brown 55. Corwin 70. Foster 64. Russell 66. Sergeant 49. Addington 78. Phillips 76. Perce 69. Sewall 77. Voted but for 18. at first. Col. Saltonstall had 39. as 1693, and was left out.

Plimouth. Bradford 57. Lothrop 64. Thomas 59. Saffin 59.

Main[e], Wheelwright 71. Frost 72. Mr. E^m Hutchinson 34. in stead of Major Hook, deceased.

¹ Argilla was the name of an estate formerly belonging to Deputy-Governor Samuel Symonds. In his will (printed in "The Ancestry of Priscilla Baker") he gives his widow £12 annually, to be paid out of his farm called Argilla, also the east end of his dwelling-house at Argilla. Felt's "Ipswich," p. 163, says of Symonds that "his farm at Argilla has been long noted." March 18, 1718-4, Timothy Thornton had one quarter of Argilla in fee. — Eds.

Sagadahock, Lynde 50.

Vagum [at large?], Shrimpton 28. Thacher 32.

Thacher had 46. when voted for Plimouth, yet there lost it.

Voters, Depts. 56, }
Councillors 26, } 82. Note. Every One of the Council living, was there; but the Lieut. Governour did not vote.

Friday, June 14. The Bill against Incest was passed with the Deputies, four and twenty Nos, and seven and twenty Yeas. The Ministers gave in their Arguments yesterday in Writing; else it had hardly gon, because several have married their wives sisters, and the Deputies thought it hard to part them. 'Twas concluded on the other hand, that not to part them, were to make the Law abortive, by begetting in people a conceipt that such Marriages were not against the Law of God.¹

Mr. Secretary treats the Lieut. Governour, Council, Ministers; Major Townsend and Mr. Bromfield, at James Meers's. Mr. Allen in returning Thanks, mentioned the passing of this Act, and that relating to Ministers.

At night, reading in course in the family the Eleventh of the Revelation, it brought fresh to my mind what I had

¹ As might be inferred from the text, this law (chap. 2 of Acts of 1695-6) placed in the list of forbidden marriages that of a man with his wife's sister or with his wife's niece (either her brother's or sister's daughter). It does not in terms forbid the corresponding marriage of a woman with her husband's brother or nephew.

We have the authority of Ellis Ames, Esq., for the statement that no other statute was passed upon this subject until after the Revolution. Chap. 69 of 1785 was enacted to regulate marriage and divorce, and the above prohibition was then dropped. The law has since remained unchanged, and we have failed to learn that the act of 1785 caused any public discussion. Few indeed of the present generation here have any suspicion that such marriages were ever unlawful or questionable: yet in other countries to-day ecclesiastical scruples continue to maintain the prohibition. In England, where many painful instances have occurred, almost annually a motion in Parliament is made for the repeal of this unjust and absurd law. — Eds.

said to Mr. Mather a pretty while agoe, that if we could pass the Law against Incest, might help to finish our Testimony.

June 16, 1695. Lord's Day. Mrs. Willard is brought to bed about noon, and her Daughter Eunice baptised. Four Males baptised; Robert, John, John, William. Mother goes to Church in the afternoon, and so is at the Baptisme. Last night were comfortable Showers after much dry wether.

Friday, June 21. My dear Mother Hull tells me of Capt. Daviss Invitation, and bids me to remember to be at the Meeting. Mr. Willard preaches excellently. At home, at prayer, we read the 16. of the Revelation; I spake somthing to the Sixth Vial, but little thought how presently those awfull Words, Behold I come as a Thief! did concern me and my whole family: And then, and at prayer with my Wife in the Chamber, was wofully drowsy and stupid. About one at night, Jane comes up with an unusual Gate, and gives us an account of Mothers Illness, not being able to speak of a considerable time. I went to Capt. Daviss and fetched some Treacle Water and Syrup of Saffron; Dame Ellis made a Cake of Herbs to try to strengthen Mothers Stomach. In the morn Roger Judd is sent to Cambridge for Dr. Oliver, mother chusing to speak with him and no other. When he comes he advises to a Plaister for the Stomach, which is aplied; and a Potion made of Bezar [Bezoar] to be taken in Syrup of Saffron and Treacle water; of which took once or twice. About 8. or 9. I call'd Mr. Willard at her desire, who prays with her. Finding the room free once, and observing her very great weakness; I took the oportunity to thank her for all her Labours of Love to me and mine, and ask'd her pardon of our undutifullness; She, after a while, said, God Pity 'Em; which was the last prayer I heard her make. About six I ask'd if I should call Mr. Willard, (for had said to him that he should come again if he could). As far as I could

perceive, she said, Not so soon. But I called, or sent; yet could not discern any attention to the prayer, her disease had prevail'd so far, and a little before Sunset she expired, to our very surprising Grief and Sorrow. Roger Judd was here about noon, and said, that when some in the next room spake about who should Watch, my dear Mother answer'd, She should need no Watchers, she should be above at Rest.

June 24. About Seven aclock, my dear Mother is entombed. Bearers, Mr. Danforth, Russell, Cooke, Elisha Hutchinson, Addington, Sergeant.

July 7. Gov! Bradstreet is seised again with his old pains.

July 15. I discourse Capt. Sam! Checkly about his taking Sam. to be his Prentice. He seems to incline to it; and in a mañer all I mention it to encourage me. The good Lord direct and prosper.

July 12, 1695. Kept a Day of Prayer in secret Respecting my dear Mother's death; and Sam's being to be placed out, &c.

July 21. Madam Symonds of Ipswich dies.

July 23. Council at Charlestown: Was at Watertown this day Sennight.

July 26, 1695. Poor little Mary falls down into the Cellar of Matthias Smith's house, and cuts her head against the Stones, making a large orifice of more than two inches long; 'twas about 6 post meridiem. The Lord sanctify to me this bloody Accident.

July 30, 1695. Mr. Cook and I ride to Cambridge, there with Mr. Justice Danforth to hold the Court.

Judith Shepard of Charlestown is Tried for her Life for firing the house of Mr. Richard Foster; clear'd by the Jury; but bound in a Bond of an hundred pounds to answer for other Crimes at the next Superiour Court and to be of the good Behaviour. Trial held so long that 'twas nine aclock ere we got out of the Meetinghouse; and then dark and like to rain, so lodg'd at Mr. Danforth's.

Fifth-day, May 7, 1696. Col. Shrimpton marries his Son to his wife's Sisters daughter, Elisabeth Richardson.¹ All of the Council in Town were invited to the Wedding, and many others. Only I was not spoken to. As I was glad not to be there because the lawfulness of the intermarrying of Cousin-Germans is doubted; so it grieves me to be taken up in the Lips of Talkers, and to be in such a Condition that Col. Shrimpton shall be under a temptation in defence of Himself, to wound me; if any should hapen to say, Why was not such a one here? The Lord help me not to do, or neglect any thing that should prevent the dwelling of brethren together in unity. And, Oh most bountifull and Gracious God, who givest liberally and upbraidest not, admit me humbly to bespeak an Invitation to the Marriage of the Lamb, and let thy Grace with me and in me be sufficient for me in making my self Ready. And out of thy Infinite and Unaccountable Compassions, place me among those who shall not be left; but shall be accepted by Thee here, and Taken into Glory hereafter. Though I am beyond Conception Vile, who may say unto Thee, What doest thou? Thou canst justify thy self in thy proceedings. And O, Lord God forgive all my unsuitable deportment at thy Table the last Sabbath-Day, that Wedding Day; and if ever I be again invited (Invite me once again) help me entirely to give my self to thy Son as to my most endeared Lord and Husband. And let my dear Wife and all my children, partake in this privilege, and that not as Umbrâs, but on their own account.

May 11th 1696. Joseph falls down and breaks his forehead so as bleeds pretty much.

May 11th 1696. Town-Meeting to chuse Assembly-men,

¹ Much interesting information about the Shrimptons and their connections is given in General Sumner's History of East Boston. It may be noticed that Mrs. Shrimpton married, thirdly, Simeon Stoddard; and her niece, wife of Samuel Shrimpton, Jr., married, secondly, David Stoddard, son of Simeon: thus in two families successively maintaining the same relationship to each other. — Eds.

134. there; Mr. Eyre had 88. Major Townsend 85. Capt. Byfield 82. Mr. Oliver 74. Mr. Tho. Brattle had 67. Left out Mr. Bromfield, Thornton, Frary.

May 12, 1696. Cous. Duñer, Mr. Eyre, Bromfield, went with me to Mr. Increase Mather and acknowledged that his Preaching the Lecture once or twice was very pleasing to us, and that we were thankfull for it, and desired more; that He would please to preach in course, as being as diffusive a way of doing good, as any in our Little Israel. He treated us with Respect and some Encouragement, I hope.

Fourth-day, May 13, 1696. Mr. Willard, Capt. Wyllys, Capt. Frary, and Mr. Sheaf met at my house about the difference between said Frary and Mr. Perry; Wyllys, Sheaf and I told him plainly that it had been well the matter had been issued by their mutual Confession to each other at their privat Meeting, as was once intended. He persisted and said he knew certainly that what he had sworn was true; I told him the less was said of that nature, the better twould be, it was so long agoe; and if Mr. Eliot was possess'd, Mrs. Eliot his Mother must be his Tenant; whereas the father's Will made him her Servant, and nature too, he being under age; and the Scripture saith the Heir under age differs little from a Servant.¹

¹ We have not been able to explain this matter satisfactorily, but we surmise that it related in some way to lands. Theophilus Frary married the sister of Captain Jacob Eliot; and the widow and children of the latter were then alive. Eliot died intestate, but the children divided the lands by agreement, in Suff. Wills, lib. 14, f. 396. Frary was guardian of the youngest son, Benjamin. Aug. 27, 1696 (Suff. Deeds, lib. 17, f. 349) Joseph Eliot, as oldest son of Jacob Eliot, deceased, released to Seth Perry all his interest in said Perry's message lying at the southerly end of the town between lands of Captain Ephraim Savage and of Samuel Veazy.

These lands were all on the south side of Boylston Street, between Washington and Tremont Streets. We have found no deed of any earlier Eliot to Perry or Veazy, and we presume that these lots, which were clearly part of the original Eliot lot, had been sold without a deed recorded. Hence we suspect at this time there was some question about title, and finally a release from the oldest heir, Joseph Eliot. — Eds.