

Cold Spring (Belchertown), 1760

Justus Forward (1730-1814), Yale 1754, was minister of Cold Spring (Belchertown), 1756-1814.

1760 February 24 (Sunday). Stopped the Brethren of the Church to read a Letter from the Church in *Cold Spring* Signed by Rev. *Justus Forward*. No Vote to Comply. Nor Reason given though the Church were repeatedly desired.

Westborough Church Records, February 24, 1760 (p. 112):

_____ 24. A Letter from the Church in *Cold Spring* Signed by Rev. *Justus Forward*, dated *Jan. 16*, last; was read: It being, for substance, to acquaint us, that there were Difficultys arisen among them, which they could not Settle among themselves; and to desire our Assistance in Council etc. But when it was put to Vote, whether the Church would comply with the request of Said Letter, it was not a Voted - but few Hands appearing. - The Pastor requested the Brethren to let him know *why* they did not Vote - no answer being given, he repeated his Request; that he might know what Reason to send, in answer to the Letter. But none was rendered.

N.B. The Letter was directed to Me as Pastor *of the Church*, not of the *first Church* etc. It was also requested *one Delegate*. But I can't tell that those were the Reasons.

1760 March 5 (Wednesday). Having received a Letter from Squire *Pain*, Probate Register, inclosing a Bond for me and Bondsmen to sign; I went up to Capt. Wood, and Squire Baker to Consult about it. While I was there Capt. *Nathaniel Dwight* of *Cold Spring* came here; and being Sent for by him I returned home. He urges my going to the Council to be there next Week -- but I give him little or no Encouragement.

1760 September 22 (Monday). Rode to Southborough to talk with Mr. Stone about Cold Spring. He had read his Letter to the Church, and they had refused -- but when I told him the Urgency of the Case; and especially Coll. *Lincoln* (who happened to come very Seasonably) Setting in with me; for he had come lately through Cold Spring, and Saw somewhat of their Necessity; he was gained over to resolve to lay it before his Church again, and to go if the Church Should consent. He also called at Coll. *Brighams* to warn him to get ready for the Journey.

Westborough Church Records, September 14, 1760 (p. 116):

The Church at *Cold-Spring* has again writ to this Church desiring our Assistance in Ecclesiastical Council there. Their letter was read to the Church - but the Affair was left to Consideration.

1760 September 12 (Friday). Letters from Mr. Forward and Mr. Forb. to go to Council at *Cold Spring*.

1760 September 14 (Sunday). To Day I likewise read a Second Letter from the Church at *Cold Spring*, desiring a Council there. This Request was left to Consideration.

Westborough Church Records, September 14, 1760 (p. 116):

The Church at *Cold-Spring* has again writ to this Church desiring our Assistance in Ecclesiastical Council there. Their Letter was read to the Church –but the Affair was left to Consideration.

1760 September 24 (Wednesday). P.M. Church Meeting on Cold Spring Affair -- although the Meeting was appointed at this Time partly in Order to have a fuller Meeting than on Lords Day, it being then a rainy Time, yet there were but 16 of us together. We proceeded, and Voted Compliance. See Church Records. I also acquainted the Church that one Reason why I desired 'em to meet on a week Day was to acquaint them that they must provide for my going as to an Horse to ride on. This I left them (after the Blessing) to Settle among them Selves.

Westborough Church Records, September 21, 1760 (p. 116):

This was the Day in which the Affair of *Cold-Spring* Should have been transacted - The Church was Stopd - but there were not So many at the Meeting as if it had been a fair Day - and theref. the Brethren were askd whether they were o' Mind to go on now, or would defer the transacting the *Cold-Spring* Affair to another Time? - There was in the Votes a Tie - The Pastor was therefore obligd to adjourn - and this was done to next Wednesday 3 p.m.

Westborough Church Records, September 24, 1760 (p. 116-17):

One motive to adjourning the Church meeting was the Hope of more to attend: yet it so fell out that there were less - But the Bus'ness could not be deferrd any longer. The Request of the Church in *Cold-Spring* was Voted to be complyd with, unanimously. Voted that the Number of Delegates be 2. Voted that Brother *Edwards Whipple* be one. It was proposd to reconsider the Vote aforesaid (that the Number be two) - This was Voted; and that the Church is Satisfyd with Sending *one* Member on this Occasion.

1760 September 29 (Monday). I undertook my Journey to Cold Spring -- but I was very unfit for it by reason of a great Cold -- and My Wife and all my Children were also oppressed with Colds and much indisposed. I called and took Mr. Edwards Whipple, the Churchs Delegate, along with me. Called at Mrs. Cushings. Mr. Whipple and I dined at Capt. *Stearns's* (My Dinner was gratis - and I Suppose the Entertainment for my Horse was also -- for they were very generous). We arrived at Mr. Forb.'s in Brookfield in Comfort our selves -- but Daughter's Breast very bad, and little *Eli* very ill. Mr. Whipple lodged at Mr. Thomas *Hardy's*. I visited at my son Ebenezers but lodged (and my son Baldwin with me) at Mr. Forbush's.

1760 September 30 (Tuesday). My Son Forbush's Child so very ill; my Daughter also so bad with her Breast, that Mr. Forb. does not go to Cold Spring. Mr. Whipple and I go. Called at the Widow Cutlers and at Lulls. Arrived safe at Cold Spring, and dined though late there, at Mr. Forwards. The Council formed in the Eve. I was chose Moderator and prayed. Lodged (with Mr. Stone of Southborough) at Mr. Forwards.

1760 October 1 (Wednesday). The Council repairs to the Meeting House. Mr. Stone prays. [*Marginal notation*: Capt. Fuller, Lt. Fuller and Mr. Wilkins Sworn by Col. Timothy Dwight.] We hear and Examine Capt. Dwights Evidences -- and Mr. Forwards Defence and Remarks thereon. I lodged as before. N.B. The Council was in a great Deal of deep Concern by Reason of 1.) Capt. Dwight and his Party not so joining with the Church in Calling the Council, as we had been informed. 2) The punctuallness of the Evidence against Mr. F. But Mr. F. has prepared a great Number of Affidavits from many of the Company who were under Capt. Fuller to the Contr. Adjourned to Mr. Forwards; where the Council sat at Evening.

1760 October 2 (Thursday). The Council sat again at the Meeting House. Mr. Forward, who was in his Vindication and Defence last Evening goes on with the Same to Day. N.B. as Mr. Wilkins's Affidavit was rejected yesterday, because drawn up by Capt. Dwight, so [many?] brought by Mr. Forward to Day, were, on the same Account. All is Dark and distressing. We move to both Partys to agree. We adjourn to promote it. Capt. Dwight etc. make proposals which are ripened by Degrees -- N.B. Sat at Eve at Capt. Dwights -- and before we go to bed, though it was past Midnight, finished and Signed by each Party so that we Sung Praise to God (Dr. Watts's Version of 133 Ps.). Prayed and adjourned to Mr. Forwards tomorrow morning 8 o'Clock.

1760 October 3 (Friday). We Copyed the Agreement -- left an Extract from our Minutes concerning Mr. Forwards Character -- and adjourned the Council without any particular Day: as in the agreement is requested. N.B. Two of Mr. Forwards Witnesses who had Sent their Affidavits Sworn before justice *Epes* arrived from Middletown or Danvers, last night, but too late for us to improve because of the Agreement. But this Morning they discover so much to one and another though they were not formally examined, as makes the generality Conclude that Capt. Fullers Evidence and those who were with him against Mr. Forward, were of little worth. So that Mr. Forwards Character is relieved very much and I hope will be wholly recovered. N.B. Had a Letter from Mr. Forbush yesterday, that his little son dyed the Day before: And his Wife's Breast has been lanced by himself. To day he came up to *Cold Spring*; but we were come from Mr. Forwards -- waited for him at Deacon Lymans.

1764 July 4 (Wednesday). Lt. Graves of Cold spring here; and his Wife. Uneasiness with Mr. Forward continues.

1765 February 27 (Wednesday). P.M. at Mr. *Wheelocks*, when Capt. Nat. *Dwight* of *Belchers* town (formerly *Cold Spring*) came to me under their great Difficultys and brought Letter of the Council to re-convene. He lodges here.

1765 February 28 (Thursday). I found that Capt. *Dwight* had Letters for all the Churches to which the Members of the Council at Cold Spring in the year 1760, belonged, and that he had one for Mr. *Stone*. I therefore thought it best to confer with Mr. *Stone* about it, and therefore rode with Capt. *Dwight* to *Southborough*. But Mr. *Stone* was gone to preach at *Framingham*. We were therefore obliged to go there if we would See him. We dined at Mr. *Bridge's*. Mr. *Stone* preached on *Luk. 13.34*. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem thou that killest etc. Came back to Mr. *Stones* and I lodged there. Capt. *Dwight* at Coll. *Brighams*. But Coll. *Brigham* was with us at Mr. *Stones* in the Eve, when Consulting what to do.

1765 March 1 (Friday). Being at *Southborough*, and Col. *Brigham* and Capt. *Dwight* being at Mr. *Stones*; having heard *Captains* Story of their Troubles, I wrote a letter which I sent by him to Mr. *Eaton of Spencer*, another member and Scribe of our Council, to know whether there was not a Vote passed by our then Council, limiting the Time of its Continuance etc. I return home. Captain with me and dines here.

1765 April 10 (Wednesday). Mr. *Stone* here and dines with me. P.M. we write a letter to Mr. *Eaton* and both of us sign it, to Mr. *Eaton* about the *Belchers* Town Affair.

1765 March 30 (Saturday). I Sent *John* to Mr. *Howes* with a Letter I have lately received from Mr. *Eaton of Spencer*, upon the *Dwight* Affair.