

Accidental Gunshot Kills Elizabeth Harrington, November 16, 1737

We have the following sorrowful Relation from Westboro' in the County of Worcester.

That on the 16th ult. Mr. *Joshua Harrington*, (late of Watertown, and who had removed with his Family into Westborough, but three Weeks) was gone on an Errand to as Neighbour's House, when his Servant Boy, *Eben. Chubb*, (in his 15th Year) was *carrying* a Gun (up Chamber upon his Arm, which, it can't be said how, went off, and shot his Mistress, Mr. *Harrington's* Wife, in the Head, a little above the Ear on the left Side; at which she immediately fell, and dy'd. The Boy ran to the nearest Neighbours, crying and informing what he had done – leaving only two little Children, the Eldest but about three Years old, in the House. The poor Father returning was met by the little Children Hand in Hand, crying to him that *Ebbe'* had kill'd their Mother. The Coroner's Inquest sat on the Body and brought in their Verdict *Accidental Death*. She was a Woman of a religious Character, 27 Years of Age last March; a portly comely Person; Daughter of Mr. *Samuel Trewsdale* of Newton. Her Funeral was attended by many, and with an apparent Sense of so peculiarly awful Dispensation of divine Providence.

It is remarkable that the Gun abovesaid cannot be made to stand upon the Cock, had been try'd 7 or 8 Times in the Day but could not be got off, was snap'd at the Door as the Lad was going up into the Chamber with it, nor had it any Priming.

Boston Gazette, Nov. 28-Dec. 5, 1737 (Issue 934), [3]. Elizabeth Trusdall mar. Joshua Harrington, June 17, 1731 (*Vital Records of Newton, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* [Boston: New-England Historic Genealogical Society, 1905], 305).