

Maternal Mortality: Some Data from Westborough

by Ross W. Beales, Jr.

On Monday, November 15, 1725, the Rev. Ebenezer Parkman was called to see Isaac Tomlin's wife Mary who "was in Travail and in terrible Fits." Her fits continued "in a very awfull and Ghastly manner," and the "Infant was Dead at the Birth." Mary Tomlin died the next day, "a Sore Trial to the Young Man, Who in such a mann'r Lost his First wife and Child." The published vital records for Westborough list the deaths of Martha Tomlin (January 21, 1722) and Mary Tomlin (November 16, 1725), but only Parkman's diary reveals the extent of the tragedy: two stillbirths and two maternal deaths. While maternal deaths can be reasonably inferred from the vital records by linking the birth of a child and the death of its mother, the examples of Martha and Mary Tomlin were typical in that stillbirths, at least in Westborough, were rarely recorded in the official records.¹

This table lists maternal deaths in Westborough, but family tragedies were not contained by political boundaries, and the status of one's family conferred no exemption. Parkman's daughter Susanna, the wife of the Rev. Jonathan Moore of Rochester, gave birth to a daughter, Anna Sophia, on October 19, 1772, and died on November 30. Parkman's daughter-in-law, Sally, the wife of his son Samuel of Boston, gave birth to a son, John, on January 25, 1782, and died on March 7. Parkman's son-in-law, the Rev. Eli Forbes of Cape Ann, lost his second wife after a stillbirth on June 5, 1780. (Mary [Parkman], Forbes's first wife, died from breast cancer on January 16, 1776.) Breck Parkman visited Holliston on June 12, 1792, and found that his brother Elias's wife, Alethina, "just got to Bed and uncomfortable with a Son who they call Elias" (June 12, 1792); he learned of Alethina's "Sudden Death" four days later.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines maternal deaths as the "annual number of female deaths from any cause related to or aggravated by pregnancy or its management (excluding accidental or incidental causes) during pregnancy and childbirth or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy." The six-week period does not, of course, encompass all pregnancy-related deaths; a "late maternal death" is "the death of a woman from direct or indirect obstetric causes, more than 42 days but less than one year after termination of pregnancy."² The death of Parkman's daughter, Anna Sophia Brigham, certainly fits this definition. As her brother Breck wrote, "My Sister Anna Sophia Brigham having been in a very poor state of Health ever since the Lay in which was in April last has been on the decline till it has thrown her into a Consumption of the Blood and Nerves. Every means was try'd for her relief but nothing answers the purpose. She was sensible this would be her last sickness.

¹The *Vital Records of Westborough, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* (Worcester, MA: Franklin P. Rice, 1903), 90, 106, record stillbirths for Abigail [*sic*] and Zebulun Rice, Sept. __, 1755, and Sarah and Edwards Whipple, Sept. 17, 1768.

²<https://www.who.int/data/gho/indicator-metadata-registry/imr-details/4622> (accessed May 16, 2021).

She indured her pains and Sickness with a great degree of patience and resignation to the divine will. She grew lower and lower till Wednesday 26th of this month. She died 20 minutes past 12 at noon in full hope in a glorious eternity and left us to lament the great Loss we have Sustained. Mr. Brigham very disconsolate” (Nov. 26, 1783).

The survival of a child after its mother’s death raises an important question: who was to nurse the infant? In an article on “Nursing and Weaning in an Eighteenth-Century New England Household,” I wrote: “There is virtually no evidence of paid wet-nursing in Parkman’s diary. Indeed, even if the Parkmans had been able to afford wet-nurses, it is doubtful that they would have been used. New England culture clearly supported the nursing of one’s own children.”³ I did suggest that there were two instances, albeit ambiguous, when there might have been long-term wet-nursing. In addition, there was what can be termed “exchange” or “courtesy” wet-nursing during a family crisis or for the convenience of the birth mother. Parkman’s daughter, Susanna Brigham, had a miscarriage on July 27, 1777, and eight days later Jonathan Batherick “perswades Suse to take his Infant of a fortnight old, to Suckle it: and p.m. it is brought, Mrs. Batheric being very low” (Aug. 4, 1777). Abigail Batherick survived, but there is no record of how long her child was nursed by Susanna Brigham.

At least fifteen of the infants survived their mothers’ deaths and would have required nourishment. Nothing in the records indicates how they were fed, although we might hypothesize that relatives or neighbors who had a “good Breast of Milk” (to use a phrase common in advertisements for wet nurses in the Boston newspapers) assumed the burden. Whether or how they were paid or otherwise compensated cannot be answered.

Abbreviations

Concord VR: Concord, Massachusetts, Births, Marriages, and Deaths, 1635-1850 (Concord: The Town, [1894]).

Grafton VR: Vital Records of Grafton, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849 (Worcester, MA: Franklin P. Rice, 1906).

Hardwick VR: Vital Records of Hardwick, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850 (Boston, 1917).

Manchester Vital Records: Vital Records of Manchester, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849 (Salem, Mass.: The Essex Institute, 1903).

Marlborough VR: Vital Records of Marlborough, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849 (Worcester, MA: Franklin P. Price, 1908).

Mendon VR: Vital Records of Mendon, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850 (Boston, Wright & Potter, 1920).

NVR: Vital Records of Northborough, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1850 (Worcester, MA: Franklin P. Rice, 1901).

Roxbury VR: Vital Records of Roxbury, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849 (Salem, Mass.: The Essex Institute, 1925), Volume 1-Births.

Shrewsbury VR: Vital Records of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849 (Worcester, MA: Franklin P. Rice, 1904).

Southborough VR: Vital Records of Southborough, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849 (Worcester, MA: Franklin P. Rice, 103).

Sudbury VR: Vital Records of Sudbury, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850 (Boston, 1903).

WVR: Vital Records of Westborough, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849 (Worcester, MA: Franklin P. Rice, 1903).

³Ross W. Beales, Jr., “Nursing and Weaning in an Eighteenth-Century New England Household,” *Families and Children*, ed. Peter Benes (The Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife, *Annual Proceedings 1985*; Boston: Boston University Scholarly Publications, 1987), 54.

Mother	Mother's Death	Mother's Age	Child's Birth (and Death or Survival)
Baker, Sarah (Newton), wife of Solomon	Feb. 14, 1764	32 ⁴	Mindwell, b. Jan. 1, 1764; d. Jan. 1, 1764.
Barns, Mary, wife of Richard, Jr.	June 8, 1796	43 ⁵	David, b. May 16, 1796. Survived.
Bathrick, Abigail, wife of Jonathan	Aug. 3, 1786 ⁶	?	Eli, b. July 4, 1786. Survived.
Brigham, Anna Sophia (Parkman), wife of Elijah	Nov. 26, 1783	30 ⁷	Elijah, b. Apr. 21, 1783. Survived. Breck Parkman: 1783 November 26 (Wednesday). My Sister Anna Sophia Brigham having been in a very poor state of Health ever since the Lay in which was in April last has been on the decline till it has thrown her into a Consumption of the Blood and Nerves. Every means was try'd for her relief but nothing answers the purpose. She was sensible this would be her last sickness. She indured her pains and Sickness with a great degree of patience and resignation to the divine will. She grew lower and lower till Wednesday 26th of this month. She died 20 minutes past 12 at noon in full hope in a glorious eternity and left us to lament the great Loss we have Sustained. Mr. Brigham very disconsolate.
Brigham, Hephsebeth, wife of Antipas	Mar. 11, 1789	28 ⁸	Persis, Mar. 9, 1789. Survival unknown.

⁴Sarah, dau. Josiah and Ruhama Newton, b. Oct. 31, 1731 (*WVR*, 79); m. Solomon Baker, June 20, 1758 (Parkman diary). Mindwell was her third child.

⁵Mary (or Polly) Bennett may have been born in Worcester, May 8, 1753 (undocumented date, Ancestry.com). This may have been a late first marriage for her or possibly a re-marriage. She m. Richard Barns, Jr., Aug. 24, 1794 (*NVR*, 77). Barns's first wife, Anna (Batherick), d. Dec. 11, 1792 (undocumented date, Ancestry.com).

⁶Jonathan Batherick m. Abigail Battle (birth unknown), May 17, 1769, in Mendon (*WVR*, 120), or May 17, 1770 (*Mendon VR* 245). Eli was their seventh child (including a stillbirth).

⁷Anna Sophia, dau. Ebenezer and Hannah Parkman, b. Oct. 18, 1755 (*WVR*, 82); m. Elijah Brigham, Sept. 21, 1780 (*ibid.*, 193). Elijah was their second child.

⁸Hephzibah, dau. Edmund and Sarah Brigham, b. July 29, 1760 (*WVR*, 26); m. Antipas Brigham, Jan. 24, 1780 (*ibid.*, 130). Persis was their sixth child.

Brigham, Sally, wife of Elijah	Mar. 21, 1787	37 ⁹	Sally, b. Jan. 20, 1787. Survived. 1787 January 19 (Friday). Mrs. Brigham in travel. Send for Doctor Ball. 1787 January 20 (Saturday). She is delivered of a daughter about 2 oClock a.m. 1787 March 21 (Wednesday). Mrs. Sally Brigham, Consort of Mr. Elijah Brigham, having got to bed 20th January, has been languishing of a fever and Consumption ever since. This morning 40 minutes past 9 expired -- to the great grief of her husband and all about her. She was esteemed in her health not only for her virtue, but as one the first beauties of her age.
Brigham, Sarah, wife of Edmund	May 27, 1769 ¹⁰	34 ¹¹	Lyscom, b. May 19, 1769. Survived. 1769 May 28 (Sunday). At Eve I rode down to Mr. <i>Edmund Brighams</i> to See his wife who is extreme bad. She was delivered last Tuesday, and having taken Cold, a Fever setts in and rages. Discoursed and prayed. 1769 May 29 (Monday). Mr. Breck and I set out together for Boston though it was wet weather. I turned aside to visit Mrs. <i>Brigham</i> again, but she is so far gone that she can't speak, nor understand me (by any thing that I perceive). She begins to have the ghastly Visage of Death. Many persons are there; I prayed by her: and took leave.
Butler, Deborah (Adams), wife of Joel	Mar. 3, 1794	26 ¹²	Jeremiah, b. Feb. 15, 1794. Survived. Breck Parkman: 1794 March 4 (Tuesday). Mrs. Butler wife of Joel Butler dies of Consumption

⁹Sally Lambert, b. Feb. 26, 1750 (undocumented date and last name, Ancestry.com), or Sally Hamock of Northborough m. Elijah Brigham, Apr. 20, 1786 (*NVR*, 81). Persis was their only child.

¹⁰This is the date in the *Vital Records of Westborough*, 232, although Parkman's diary indicates that she died on May 29 or later.

¹¹Sarah Lyscom, dau. of Samuel and Hannah, b. Dec. 27, 1734 (*Southborough VR*, 52); m. Edmund Brigham, Nov. 2, 1757 (*ibid.*, 97). Lyscom was their seventh child.

¹²Deborah, dau. Isaac and Sarah Adams, b. Feb. 4, 1768 (*WVR*, 9); m. Joel Butler, Sept. 28, 1789 (*WVR*, 115). Jeremiah was their third child.

Child, Mary, wife of Joshua	Apr. 14, 1766	39 ¹³	No record of name or death of child. 1766 April 13 (Sunday). At Evening before Sun setting went over (being Sent for) to Mr. <i>Joshua Childs</i> , to his Wife, newly delivered and both Mother and Child very low. Prayed there. Returned about 9. 1766 April 16 (Wednesday). Mrs. Child being dead, I was sent for to attend the Funeral at one o'Clock, but not coming home, nor hearing of it, till it was too late, I did not go.
Fay, Anna (Harrington), wife of Joel	Mar. 13, 1798	30 ¹⁴	No record of a birth but the birth intervals suggest the possibility.
Fay, Martha (Mills or Miles), wife of Benjamin	July 19, 1761	42 ¹⁵	Charles, b. May 31, 1761. Survived, but died July 20, 1762.
Forbush, Abigail, wife Daniel	Sept. 7, 1745	[33?] ¹⁶	Elisha, b. Mar. 28, 1745. Survived. 1745 September 8 (Sunday). On Acts 20.21, and Ps. 89.47 p.m. on Occasion of Mr. Daniel Forbushs wifes Death last night. The Lord make us sensible of the worth of our opportunitys since our Time is so short, and the advantage of Reason and understanding so invaluable.
Garfield, Mrs. Jacob	Sept. __, 1749	?	1749 July 31 (Monday). Din'd at Deacon Newtons. P.M. I visited Mr. Bradish and thence rode to Mr. Garfields. His son Jacob and Wife had been desirous of Special Privileges, and had been at My House, when I was from Home. I now enter'd into Examination of her first, because of her

¹³Mary, dau. of David and Grace Hinds, b. Aug. 18, 1726 (*Shrewsbury VR*, 53); m. Joshua Childs of Worcester, June 2, 1748 (*ibid.*, 137). They had nine children between 1749 and 1764.

¹⁴Anna Harrington, Jr., b. Aug. 29, 1767 (*Grafton VR*, 65), dau. of Samuel and Anna; m. Joel Fay, Sept. 4, 1788 (*ibid.*, 202). They had four children between 1789 and 1796; her death on Mar. 13, 1798 (*ibid.*, 333), may have resulted from complications of childbirth, but there is no documentation for such a hypothesis.

¹⁵Martha Miles, dau. of Samuel and Sarah Miles of Concord, b. Mar. 6, 1719 (*Concord VR*, 98); m. Benjamin Fay, Dec. 27, 1739 (*WVR*, 185). Charles was their eleventh child.

¹⁶Abigail Severns of Newton m. Daniel Forbush, Nov. 1, 1734 (*WVR*, 205). This may have been Abigail Stevens, dau. of Joseph and Joanna of Roxbury, b. Mar. 31, 1712 (*Roxbury VR*, 330). Elisha was their eighth child.

			<p>Circumstances (being near her Time) and then afterwards of him but briefly concerning Some Objections which would be like to be rais'd against him. But he was Soon So plain as to tell me that if What I had had from him at My House and now (when indeed we had but a few words) did not Satisfy me, he should not trouble me any more, he should go other where, Intimating (as I apprehended) that he design'd to go over to Mr. Price at Hopkinton, and hereby manifesting as he has done by several Things besides that his Mind was upon External Privilege and administration rather than upon inward Benefit or Qualification.</p> <p>1749 September 9 (Saturday). Visited Neighbour William Rogers -- heard Mrs. Garfield was very bad, therefor[e] went forward and visited her nigh her End.</p> <p>1749 September 11 (Monday). At the Funeral of Mr. Jacob Garfields wife.</p>
Gleason, Azuba, wife of Phinehas	Apr. 19, 1770	? ¹⁷	<p>Stillbirth, Apr. 19, 1770.</p> <p>1770 April 19 (Thursday). Went a.m. to See Mrs. <i>Gleason</i> who is extremely low. She has been delivered and the Child is dead. Could converse very little with her. Prayed with her. She looks almost like a Corps already. I dined there.</p> <p>1770 April 20 (Friday). Hear that Mrs. <i>Gleason</i> dyed last night, whereas I was otherwise to have attended the Funerall of her infant Child.</p>

¹⁷Birth and marriage not found. The Gleasons had at least seven children between 1755 and 1766. There may have been an eighth child, as Parkman "Attended the funeral of a young Child of Phinehas Gleason" (Oct. 25, 1768).

Lamb, Hannah (Williams), wife of Isaac	Feb. 13, 1775	19 ¹⁸	<p>No record of the child's survival.</p> <p>“Hannah, wife of Isaac Lamb dies this day having been brought to Bed and something of a fever attending her. Aged about 19 years” (BP, Feb. 13, 1775).</p> <p>1775 February 11 (Saturday). About 9 o’Clock was called to go to Mr. <i>Isaac Lambs</i> Wife, who is thought to be dying. She had her senses -- was in great Earnest for Mercy. Prayed with her. ‘Tis feared she will not live to the Morn.</p> <p>1775 February 12 (Sunday). At Eve I went to See Mrs. Lamb, who though alive, is delirious. I prayed with them, and returned.</p> <p>1775 February 13 (Monday). <i>Mrs. Hannah Lamb dyes.</i></p> <p>Breck Parkman: 1775 February 13 (Monday). Hannah, wife of Isaac Lamb dies this day having been brought to Beds and something of a fever attending her. Aged about 19 years.</p> <p>1775 February 15 (Wednesday). Attended the Funeral of Mrs. <i>Lamb</i>, wife of Mr. <i>Isaac Lamb</i>: of 19 last August. A Sorrowfull Burying!</p>
Maynard, Amy (Dodge), wife of Ebenezer	Oct. 18, 1754	33 ¹⁹	<p>Jabez, b. Oct. 5, 1754. Survived.</p> <p>1754 October 11 (Friday). My Wife visits Mrs. Amy Maynard.</p> <p>1754 October 13 (Sunday). Mrs. Amy Maynard grows worse.... At Eve I visited and pray’d with Mrs. Maynard, and My Wife watch’d with her.</p> <p>1754 October 16 (Wednesday). I return’d home by t’other House and Call’d to see Mrs. Amy Maynard, who grows worse.</p>

¹⁸Hannah, dau. Eleazer and Marcy Williams, b. Aug. 6, 1755 (*WVR*, 108); m. Isaac Lamb, June 23, 1774 (*WVR*, 176).

¹⁹Ann (or Ame), dau. of Jabez and Marje Dodge, b. Feb. 26, 1721 (*Manchester VR*, 42); m. Ebenezer Maynard, Feb. 15, 1743 (*WVR*, 143). *Shrewsbury VR*, 144, call her Ameer and give Jan. 15, as date of marriage. Jabez was their sixth child.

			<p>1754 October 18 (Friday). Went (by special Desire) over to Mrs. Maynards again, She being, as they think, dying. We endeavour'd to Commend her departing Soul to God by Prayer -- but I left her breathing.</p> <p>1754 October 19 (Saturday). Mrs. Maynard dy'd about 10 o'clock last night. She is much Commended.</p>
Maynard, Hannah (Waite), wife of David	Mar. 16, 1725	[45?] ²⁰	Marcy (Mercy) b. Mar. 16, 1725. Survived.
Maynard, Lucy, wife of Nathan	May 18, 1773	43 ²¹	<p>Stillbirth, Feb. 24, 1773.</p> <p>1773 February 9 (Tuesday). Visited Mr. <i>Nathan Maynards Wife</i> who is very ill, and in peculiarly distressing Circumstances. Discoursed and prayed with her.</p> <p>1773 February 15 (Monday). Visit and pray with Mrs. <i>Lucy Maynard</i>.</p> <p>1773 February 24 (Wednesday). Mr. Nathan Maynards wife has been delivered of a dead child. I visited and prayed with her. Exhorted the Children etc. at her Desire.</p> <p>1773 May 10 (Monday). Visit Mrs. <i>Maynard</i> again who lyes in a very low and distressed Condition yet -- discoursed and prayed with her. May I Suitably consider who makes me to differ!</p> <p>1773 May 18 (Tuesday). Mrs. Lucy Maynard (wife of Mr. Nathan Maynard) after 13 years Suffering of Pain and illness, and in the 45th Year of her Age, dies, about noon, hopefully in Christ. A Pattern of Patience and Meekness. May God sanctifie this Breach!</p>

²⁰Last name (Waite) and date of birth, 1680, undocumented, Ancestry.com. Marcy or Mercy was their eleventh child.

²¹Lucy Whipple, dau. Francis and Abigail Whipple, b. Jan. 1, 1730 (*WVR*, 106); m. Moses Pratt of Hardwick, Nov. 10, 1747 (*ibid.*, 218). Moses Pratt d. Dec. __, 1748 (*Hardwick VR*, 316). Lucy (Whipple) Pratt m. Nathan Maynard, Jan. 1, 1751. Lucy and Nathan Maynard had five children, 1751-1767.

Maynard, Sarah, wife of Ebenezer	Dec. 8, 1773	[44?] ²²	Phinehas, b. Oct. 23, 1773. Survived. 1773 December 8 (Wednesday). Those Gentlemen left us. <i>Nehemiah Maynard</i> comes to acquaint <i>Jonathan</i> with <i>his Mothers Death</i> . An awful sudden, Sorrowful Bereavement! May God be very gracious to my dear Neighbour to Support and direct him, and take Care of the numerous Company of little ones! The last, but about six Weeks old.
Maynard, Thankful, wife of Stephen	Dec. 29, 1757	37 ²³	Thankful, b. Dec. 26, 1757. Survived. 1757 December 31 (Saturday). I arrived in Comfort at my own House, and found my Tabernacle in Peace. Blessed be God! But it was far otherwise at my Friend <i>Maynards</i> -- viz. Lieutenant <i>Stephen's</i> , for this afternoon he buried his Wife, <i>Thankfull</i> ; Daughter of Deacon Newton who dyed in Child Bed on the 29th. This is the 7th person that has dyed in that House in little more than 13 months. And the Loss of this last is great among us, as She was a Woman that feared the Lord and had many Excellent Qualifications. The Lord Sanctifie it to him and his Children. To Me also and to mine!
McCollister, Jennet or Janet, wife of John	1729 ²⁴		Twins Hannah and Mary, bapt. May 19, 1729. Mary Survived; Hannah unknown.
Parker, Abigail, wife of Hannaniah	Mar. 13, 1774	43 ²⁵	Sophia, b. Nov. 23, 1773. Survived (but died July 31, 1777). 1773 November 26 (Friday). I visited Mr. <i>Hannaniah Parkers</i> wife, who had newly lain in, and was poorly. Prayed there and went also to see Mr. <i>Thomas Frost</i> .

²²Ebenezer Maynard's second wife was Sarah Knights of Lancaster, July 16, 1756 (*WVR*, 181). She may have been the daughter of Daniel and Sarah Knights, b. Jan. 24, 1729 (*Sudbury VR*, 83). Phinehas was their tenth child.

²³Thankful, dau. of Josiah and Elizabeth Newton, b. _____, 1720 (*WVR*, 79); m. Stephen Maynard, Nov. 26, 1741 (*WVR*, 190). Thankful was their eighth child.

²⁴Said to be buried in Howard Street Cemetery, Northborough: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/170655474/janet-mcollister> (accessed June 7, 2021).

²⁵Abigail, dau. Hezekiah and Abigail (Perry) Ward, b. July 23, 1730 (*Southborough VR*, 78); m. Hannaniah Parker, Dec. 2, 1755 (*ibid.*, 145). They had at least seven children before Sophia's birth. A gap between the birth of Harvey, Oct. 9, 1759 (*ibid.*, 67), and the birth of Winslow, Aug. 3, 1765 (*WVR*, 82), suggests the possibility of another birth that I have not found.

			<p>1773 December 1 (Wednesday). Mr. <i>Whitney</i> and his Brother <i>Lambert</i> came to See me (Mrs. P_____ was gone to visit Mr. <i>Hannaniah Parkers</i> Wife).</p> <p>1773 December 27 (Monday). Visit Mr. <i>Hannaniah Parkers</i> Wife who is dangerously Sick, and prayed with her.</p> <p>1774 January 3 (Monday). Visit Mrs. Parker again and pray with her.</p> <p>1774 January 17 (Monday). Visit Mrs. <i>Parker</i> again and prayed with her.</p> <p>1774 February 11 (Friday). Though it is So very bad Stirring by reason of the deep snow, yet I rode to Mr. <i>Parkers</i>, whose wife is still living, but in a low Condition. Discoursed with her, found she had comfortable Hope through Grace, yet not clear. Prayed with her and the Family under their great Affliction.</p> <p>1774 February 28 (Monday). Visited and prayed with Mrs. <i>Parker</i>, who gives up Hope of temporal Life, but has, She trusts, good Hope, through Grace, of Life immortal.</p> <p>1774 March 13 (Sunday). Mr. D. <i>Batherick</i> informs me that Mr. <i>Hannaniah Parkers</i> wife dyed about 11 o’Clock a.m. She has lain in a low state about 4 Months. The Lord Support and direct his bereaved Servant, Shew Mercy to the Children, and make us all to know our End!</p>
Piper, Mary (Whitcomb), wife of John	Mar. 12, 1776	? ²⁶	<p>Mary, b. Mar. 7, 1776. Survival unknown.</p> <p>1776 March 10 (Sunday). At Even went to see Mrs. <i>Piper</i>, newly brought to bed, and is very low; prayed with her in her Distresses.</p>

²⁶John and Mary Piper, who had been members of the church in Templeton, came to live in Westborough (Parkman diary, Apr. 29, 1774). Mary was their fifth child (three born in Templeton, two in Westborough). Parkman noted that “her Father *Whitcomb* and one of her Brothers” attended the funeral (Mar. 14, 1776).

			<p>1776 March 11 (Monday). A.M. went to see Mrs. <i>Piper</i> again. She is in a dangerous state.</p> <p>1776 March 12 (Tuesday). Capt. <i>Wheelock</i> early, Suddenly, hastily calls me to Visit Mrs. <i>Piper</i> as being near her End. I rode speedily (before Breakfast -- nay before Family Prayer), found her groaning as in very great Distress. Prayed with her, Commending her Case to God, most gracious and compassionate.... Mrs. <i>Piper</i> dyed about noon, about 42 and an half.</p> <p>1776 March 13 (Wednesday). P.M. was at Squire <i>Bakers</i> first, and then to Mr. <i>Pipers</i>, Sympathizing with him under his Bereavement.</p> <p>1776 March 14 (Thursday). I attended the Funeral of Mrs. <i>Piper</i>. N.B. her Father <i>Whitcomb</i> and one of her Brothers were there.</p>
Rice, Persis (Newton), wife of Eliezer	Oct. 10, 1746	33 ²⁷	<p>Francis, bapt. Mar. 30, 1746 (<i>WVR</i>: incorrect date of May 30). Funeral, June 16, 1746.</p> <p>1746 June 16 (Monday). P.M. I went to the Funeral of Mr. Eliezer Rice's Child.</p> <p>1746 September 27 (Saturday). At Eve Mr. Whipple came for me to go and see Mrs. Persis Rice (wife of Eliezer) who is ill of the Same Distemper (Fever and Flux) which is so Common among Children.</p> <p>1746 October 1 (Wednesday). Sent for to Mrs. Rice who grows very bad. N.B. her, and her Husbands Mutual Forgiveness. N.B. her declaring how Easy and comfortable is her View of Departing till I put Some Close Questions about her Faith, Love to God etc. Upon which she seem'd to be much damp'd and Confus'd: Yet maintain'd a strong Hope.</p>

²⁷Persis, dau. Thomas and Record Newton, b. Apr. 19, 1713 (*Marlborough VR*, 140); m. Eliezer Rice, Dec. 23, 1731 (*WVR*, 189). Francis was their sixth child.

			<p>1746 October 3 (Friday). P.M. Mr. Abner Newton here and acquaints me that his Sister Rice is yet alive, though as they apprehend, is dying, and desires Me to visit her once More. I went.... As to Mrs. Rice I found her in the Valley of the Shadow of Death, and as she said freely, ready and willing to Depart. She gave her Testimony to the usefulness and Expediency of our attending upon Divine Ordinances. Said that God had graciously manifested his Mercy to her since she came to that Bed. I mix'd some Caution with my Consolation notwithstanding. But she fully expected Soon to be remov'd to Glory. After Prayer I gave Exhortation to all present -- and particularly to the Children.</p> <p>1746 October 5 (Sunday). Mrs. Rice is yet alive.</p> <p>1746 October 6 (Monday). Mrs. Rice was thought to be dying about Noon, but Reviv'd.</p> <p>1746 October 7 (Tuesday). I visited a.m. Mrs. Rice who is Somewhat better. Two of their Children taken sick. Their little Thimme very ill: but is at his Uncle Seth's.</p> <p>1746 October 9 (Thursday). Rain. Hear that Mrs. Persis Rice is Dead.</p>
Rice, Rachel (Coolidge), wife of Seth, Jr.	Jan. 5, 1766	34 ²⁸	<p>Moses, b. Dec. 24, 1765. Survived.</p> <p>1766 January 8 (Wednesday). Mr. Tainter, with his Father and his wife, came with their Sleigh again; and waited on us to the Funeral of Mr. <i>Seth Rice</i> junior his Wife, who dyed in Childbed. Mr. <i>Martyn</i> prayed.</p>
Rice, Sarah, wife of Elijah	Nov. 21, 1760	40 ²⁹	<p>Sarah, bapt. Oct. 26, 1760. Survived.</p>

²⁸Rachel, w. Seth, d. Jan. 5, 1766, a. 34 y. 6 m. 20 d. (*NVR*, 147). Moses was her third child.

²⁹Mary, dau. Daniel and Martha Shattuck, b. Aug. 8, 1720 (Worcester births in *Colls. Worcester Soc. of Antiquity*, 12 [1894], 230); m. Elijah Rice, May 24, 1744 (*WVR*, 205). Sarah was the seventh child of Sarah and Elijah Rice. Sarah Rice was pregnant with twins in her fifth pregnancy, one of whom, Sarah, survived. As Parkman wrote, "Call'd away at Night to visit Elijah Rice's Wife (who now live within Upton Bounds). She had been deliver'd of one Child, which was living; but there was another of which She could not be deliver'd" (Sept. 27, 1755). Sarah was baptized in the Westborough church, Nov. 30, 1755, but died in May 1759 ("P.M. ride with my Daughter Forb. to her Brother Forb. and thence to the Funeral of Mr. Elijah Rice's Child Sarah of about 3 and ½" (EP, May 4, 1759). The death of Sarah Rice, the mother, appears in the *WVR*, 252, but only the month and year are recorded.

			<p>1760 October 26 (Sunday). I also baptized a Child of Mr. <i>Elijah Rice's</i>.</p> <p>1760 October 30 (Thursday). Visited Mr. Elijah Rice's Wife; who has been delivered and yet lives, and has some liveliness.</p> <p>1760 November 11 (Tuesday). I rode up to Mr. Phinehas Hardys and dined there, in my way to Mr. Elijah Rice's, whose wife I visit in her very low Condition; but expresses her self as a good Christian, with a good Hope through Grace, and gives her Testimony to Religion. I prayed with her, and took Solemn Leave of her.</p> <p>1760 November 18 (Tuesday). Mrs. Rice (Elijah's Wife) Sends for me. They think She will not continue. I rode on Neighbour Newtons Beast there. Found her very low -- but willing, and Choosing to die. Prayed with her -- and again took leave.</p> <p>1760 November 22 (Saturday). Mr. Elijah Rice comes with the heavy Tidings that his Wife is Dead --that She dyed yesterday about an Hour before Sun Setting -- in her Senses, in Faith and Calmness. May <i>We</i> dye as the righteous! In order to which May we live as they!</p>
Rogers, Susannah (Cutting), wife of John	Apr. 2, 1740	36 ³⁰	<p>Susanna, b. Mar. 25, 1740; d. Apr. 1, 1740.</p> <p>1740 March 29 (Saturday). Suse Rogers very ill.</p> <p>1740 April 1 (Tuesday). I visited Suse Rogers who lay in a very low Condition. N.B. her Testimony of the Hope she had in her Death, a very Remarkable Declaration of her Custom and Manner of Life, when She was but young, whilst she liv'd at Mr. Storers and whilst she liv'd at my House, withdrawing her Affections from the world, giving her Self to a Life with God and earnestly begging ever[y] Night and every Day an Interest in Christ,</p>

³⁰Susannah, dau. of Zechariah and Elizabeth Cutting of Watertown, b. Aug. 1, 1703 (*Watertown Records Comprising the Third Book of Town Proceedings and the Second Book of Births Marriages and Deaths to the End of 1737...* [Watertown: Press of Fred G. Barker, 1900], 36); m. John Rogers, Dec. 26, 1738 (*WVR*, 142).

			<p>especially improving Sabbath mornings and Evenings for Retiring to Spend some Time with God and to begg this of him. This She said was her continual practice especially whilst she dwelt at my House. As to dying She hop'd she was ready, and was willing because she hop'd she had not sought God in vain (for He is a Mercifull God) (or to such purpose); but if [it] should be his will that She should live and recover, that She might serve and glorify him still in the world She was desiring of it (but left the Matter quietly with God). But O what would become of her if she should live, and Should nevertheless forget these purposes of Serving God. O wo unto her, wo unto her if she should! As to her dear Infant She had given it to God before it was born; She gave it up to him when it was born and I give it up to him now, Said She, and Should be glad to do it in (his holy) (the Ordinance of) Baptism. Thus she continued her speech, though but a whisper, through her great weakness, for some length of Time, telling me She thought she should not live over another Night. The appearance of the Grace of God in her occasioned our Thanksgiving to God for her.</p> <p>1740 April 2 (Wednesday). I rode down the road with Mrs. Edwards as far as Mr. Ebenezer Newtons of Southborough hithermost Corner -- and returning I visited Sarah Bradish at Mr. Amsdens, Thomas Bruce's wife, Abijah Bruce, Abigail Bruce, who were sick and Suse Rogers who is yet alive.</p> <p>1740 April 3 (Thursday). Suse Rogers departed this Life about one o'Clock in the Morning.</p>
<p>Thurston, Sarah (Townsend), wife of Samuel</p>	<p>Sept. 12, 1766</p>	<p>21³¹</p>	<p>Sarah, b. Sept. 5, 1766. Survived.</p> <p>1766 September 12 (Friday). P.M. I am Sent for hastily to go to Mr. Samuel Thurstons Wife, being in a Dying State. I found her Departing -- yet She seemed to have her senses so far as to consent to prayer. I prayed -- and She soon expired.</p>

³¹Sarah, dau. of Joshua and Mercy Townsend, bapt. Aug. 25, 1745 (*WVR*, 98); m. Samuel Thurston, Oct. 24, 1765 (*WVR*, 212).

Tomlin, Martha (Newton), wife of Isaac, Jr.	Jan. 21, 1722	23 ³²	Stillbirth, Jan. 21, 1722. 1725 November 15 (Monday). I was call'd out to see Mrs. Tomlin who was in Travail and in terrible Fits. She continued in them in a very awfull and Ghastly manner. The Infant was Dead at the Birth. 1725 November 16 (Tuesday). Mrs. Tomlin dy'd, a Sore Trial to the Young Man, Who in such a mann'r Lost his First wife and Child.
Tomlin, Mary, wife of Isaac, Jr.	Nov. 16, 1725	[21?] ³³	Stillbirth, Nov. 15, 1725. 1725 November 15 (Monday). I was call'd out to see Mrs. Tomlin who was in Travail and in terrible Fits. She continued in them in a very awfull and Ghastly manner. The Infant was Dead at the Birth. 1725 November 16 (Tuesday). Mrs. Tomlin dy'd, a Sore Trial to the Young Man, Who in such a mann'r Lost his First wife and Child.
Warrin, Mary, wife of Daniel	Jan. 18, 1739	? ³⁴	Submit, b. Jan. 13, 1739; d. Feb. 7, 1739. 1739 January 3 (Wednesday). Call'd to see Captain Warrins Wife who is exceeding low and weak. 1739 January 13 (Saturday). Sent for to visit Captain Warrin's Wife who was deliver'd of a very large Child this morning, but herself in a very low distressing Condition.

³²Martha, dau. Thomas and Record Newton, b. June 1, 1699 (*Marlborough VR*, 139); m. Isaac Tomlin, Jr., Sept. 20, 1721 (*ibid.*, 291); d. "in 24th year" (*WVR*, 254).

³³Mary Jonson m. Isaac Tomlin, Jr., Feb. 9, 1724 (*WVR*, 174). Two Mary Johnsons were born in Marlborough and were in the age range to have married Isaac Tomlin, Jr.: Mary, dau. of William and Hannah, b. Dec. 4, 1696, and Mary, dau. of Jonathan Jr. and Mary, Oct. 2, 1704. I have assumed that the latter married Tomlin.

³⁴Mary Witherbey m. Daniel Warrin (his second wife), May 23, 1727 (*WVR*, 222). Submit was their sixth child.

			<p>1739 January 17 (Wednesday). At Evening I visited Mrs. Warrin who was exceeding Slow and nigh unto Death. Could not Speak to me for some time, but at length reviv'd and discours'd a little. N.B. Took my Leave of her.</p> <p>1739 January 19 (Friday). N.B. Mrs. Warrin dy'd last Night.</p> <p>1739 January 20 (Saturday). Mrs. Warrin Buryed. N.B. I baptiz'd the Infant at the House before the Corps were mov'd.</p>
Warrin, Rebekah, wife of Daniel	Oct. 2, 1720	37 ³⁵	Silas, b. July 28, 1720. Survived.
Warrin, Abigail (Whipple), wife of Thaddeus	Oct. 8, 1762	28 ³⁶	Submit, bapt. Sept. 26, 1762, but d. before Aug. 22, 1773 when a second Submit from Thaddeus's second marriage was bapt.

³⁵Rebecah Garfield, dau. of Joseph and Sary, b. Sept. 24, 1683 (*Watertown Records Comprising the Third Book of Town Proceedings and the Second Book of Births Marriages and Deaths to the End of 1737...* [Watertown: Press of Fred G. Barker, 1900], 53); m. Daniel Warrin, Feb. 26, 1712 (*ibid.*, 45).

³⁶Abigail, dau. of Francis and Abigail Whipple, b. July 6, 1734 (*WVR*, 105); int. Thaddeus Warrin, Aug. 18, 1759 (*WVR*, 218). Submit was their second child.