

A JOURNAL

_____ for _____

The town of Fairfield.

OR

An exact & impartial Account

of the most

Material TRANSACTIONS

From the first Settlement thereof

— till the —

PRESENT TIME.

By 

Facsimile of original title page drawn by William Wheeler in 1780 for his Journal.

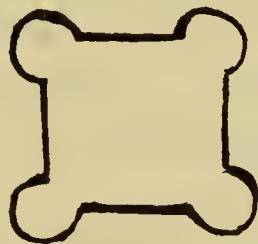


1630-1772

[The first page includes genealogical notes on the Wheeler family, which have been arranged in the "Family Index."]

The first Wheeler that came into America settled in Concord (Massachusetts) about the year 1630. He had several sons & one of them came to Black Rock and at the old Lot built a stone house with a flat roof of Plank on which he mounted two four-pounders,—one pointed towards the Mouth of the Harbor & the other at an Indian fort situated at the head of the harbor, now known by the name of Old Fort.

This place the Fairfield Indians had built for their defence against some of the interior tribes with whom they were perpetually at War. It was composed of Palisades joined together & at each corner a room was built out with port-holes like the following figure:



It contained about an acre of land & was garrisoned by about 200 Indians fond of War & often solliciting the Old Indian for leave to destroy the English. Once they obtained it on condition of pulling up a large neighboring White Oak Tree—

Well, to work they went & stript off its branches, but still the trunk baffled their utmost endeavours.

“Thus” says the Old Sachem, “will be the end of your War—you may kill some of their papooses, but the old plaguey Stump t’other side of the great Waters will remain & send out more branches—”

It happened one time that 6 of the Mohawk tribe, being closely pursued by the Fairfield Indians were secreted by one

of the Waklins of Stratfield under some sheaves of Flax, & being directed homewards, were the occasion of the long Amity that subsisted between that tribe and the English.—

Many remains of the Indians are daily discovered, as Stone arrows, hatchets, etc. In Greenfield is a Samp Mortar made in the solid rock, containing nearly half a Bushel.

A pot has been seen in Weston of Stone & a stone bottle was found very curiously made, holding about half a pint, at Black Rock some years since. A great part of their food seems to have been Oysters, Clams &c. by the vast beds of Shells that are frequently dug out of the Earth.

My Grandfather had (I learn from tradition, there being no journals left of those times) many brothers & sisters, 14 in all.

Hannah, the youngest, was a very intelligent person—about 18 years of age. She was courted & expected to be married to Ringfield a Captain of a ship who gave her a gold ring, 3 pair of green silk stockings &c, but he being gone for so long, she was courted & married by Sam Wheeler.

On the day of their marriage, a Ship appearing taken for Ringfield by the Bride, she burst into tears & declared she would not be married, & half dressed hid in a hole in the back kitchen of my grandfather who, with horsewhip in hand, dragged her out, but she ran around him as he attempted to strike.—

They finally concluded to dispatch a boat to see who commanded said ship. Finding it was not Ringfield (who was lost) she was married, but never could the Capt. be erased from her mind, as (I am told by a person who was eye witness) she used frequently at 75 years of age to weep over his presents.

1740 & 1741

was the Hard Winter. The Ground, covered with Snow to the tops of the fences for 40 days. It did not thaw the least on the sunny side of the House.

Waklin, original form of present Wakelee and Wakeley name.
Sergeant Samuel Wheeler was son of Deacon Isaac Wheeler.

A snow fell about the middle of December which filled the roads & buried a pair of Oxen at the old fort, owned by Sam. Gold. They were found by their breathing holes. **The** harbour continued frozen from that time till the middle of May— Capt. Bostwick & Capt. Dimon were loading for the West Indies. Dimon sailed as winter set in. Bostwick was ready, but delaying one night, was froze in & had to cart hay to his stock for 3 months. When going out of the Sound, he found Dimon returning.

(From sketch of Mrs. Jonathan Wheeler.) She was remarkable for storytelling. In her father's days she said the Sound was froze over and her father went half way to Long Island when it began to break up. He being an active man, sprang from one cake to another till he got ashore. It used to be so cold as to freeze cattle's mouths up & they would have to get a teakettle of hot water to thaw them out. It used in winter time to freeze people's voices, and in the Spring when a thaw came there would be all kinds of noises heard in the air.

1753

In June & July the bloody Flux raged to such a degree that 2 or 3 were buried in Fairfield daily (of the dysentry)

1758

March 22—Earthquake in New England.

1763

The dry summer—begun very early—everything parched up—
Old pasture spring dug.

1767

August—Two Indians were whipt & stood in the Pillory for stealing a child & leaving it in the fields

1768

Isaac Frazier, a noted thief, was hung at Fairfield.

1771

July—The Lightning struck Stratfield meetinghouse & killed uncle John Burr & ripped open the Shoes of his brother Ozias that stood near him & killed likewise David Sherman.

1772

March 7—Snow storm. (this month seven large snowstorms—the 2nd day of April snow higher than the fences.

Sept. 2—In the evening 2 black clouds appeared in the South-West & North-West, & one seemed to come & meet them directly over Fairfield from the North East—at half past Eight it began to thunder incessantly. The flashes of Lightning, which seemed to set the room in a blaze, were about a minute's distance from each other, accompanied with bursts of Thunder like the whole broadside of a Ship, making the Earth to tremble and at the same time lifting one of our family from the seat at the side of the house onto her feet. At the same time the room was filled with a sulphurous smell.

(Struck Abel Wheeler's house twice and his signpost once—It was a tavern where much vice was seen) Abel Wheeler got up, it struck him down; then they all stood up & were struck down—The Lightning ran in streams all through the Rooms, broke all the lower windows, but hurt none of the people.

Down rushed the Rain, impetuous as if the floodgates of heaven had been opened.

Many thought it was the World's last Session & trembling sat, expecting every Breath to be the last for 3 long hours; but at 1/2 past 11 it ceased.

They all agree that the Storm tonight has been the hardest one that e'er this Land has seen. It must as nigh as we could guess Strike 90 times about this Place. A Barn was struck & burnt in Town.

Revolutionary War

“And seald is now each life that could have told” Byron—Lara.

I have always regretted that I did not keep a journal of the War which began in 1775, being then 13 years of age, whereas I began to write 1780. (Autobiographical sketchbook, from which indented entries are quoted.)

1774

June—Boston Port shut up—Connecticut people contributed for their relief.

1775

April 19—War between Britain & America began.

1776

Independency declared.

1777

April 24—Eighteen Sail landed at Compo 2,500 Men who marched up thro Greenfield & North Fairfield to Danbury, stayd there one night, destroyed the Stores of Provision. Our people collected & Gen. Arnold built a breastwork in Ridgefield & with 250 men stopt the whole army for 15 minutes. On our side lost Col. Gould & a considerable number more were killed.

I perfectly remember the expedition of the enemy to Danbury (1777) & was at work in my father's garden when our people met them at Ridgefield where a temporary breastwork was thrown up of rails & behind which 250 patriots were posted under the command of Gen.

Arnold who sustained the fire of the whole British army (2200 picked men) for 15 minutes till the flank guards came round the corner of the house that stood by the side of the road where they were engaged—

Arnold, mounted on a horse, rode up to the breastwork and encouraged our men to fight until his horse was shot dead under him—the soldier that shot the horse running to take Arnold, he while dropping, snatched his pistol from the holster and brought him to the ground with “Damn you, take that!”

My wife had a greatuncle (David Patchin) an experienced marksman at shooting pigeons every fall, who was used to such sport as this, having been in the old French war,—when under Abercrombie. His righthand man (as he has often told me) was shot down twice in one day & then he had seven shots when he took as he said as good sight as ever he did at pigeons,—the last time at one that came round the corner of the house about 3 rods distance. He saw him drop, & then, under cover of the smoke of the whole volley which the British poured in upon them, retreated, & when that left him, skulked behind a rock where the balls struck spat! spat! spat! in the manner of hail; but soon under cover of more smoke, he came off safely ...

The place where they retreated was a cleared spot through an orchard,—no cover—& there Col. Gould of Fairfield was shot & was buried next day with the honors of war, three volleys being fired over his grave ... (He married my mother’s sister.)

The firing was distinctly heard at Black Rock from Ridgefield and caused many melancholy sensations—

Gen. Wooster endeavored to attack them in their rear, but his men would not come on, & there he was killed, being near 70 years of age.

“To the immortal memory of the Generals Warren, Montgomery, Mercer, Herkimer, Nash, Wooster, and all the renowned heroes that ever bled & died in the defence of their country”—was a toast given about that time that is now fresh in my memory.

1779

April 25—A boat load with 8 or 10 men landed against Old Fort at the head of Black Rock harbor in the night & marched up to Gen. Silliman’s & took him & his son William through the broken place in the beach to Long Island, then in possession of the enemy. They were piloted by one of our own (Tories). As they passed over the beach, the oid 12 pounders at the battery three times distinctly in a calm night made the windows of my chamber shake. We were soon out, expecting the next moment to be a prisoner, but sending to the battery we learned the cause. The next morning the tracks of 8 men were discernible; 2 traced to the house of Ezra Wheeler, the next neighbor, who was

tried for life before Putnam (then cantoned at a wood in Redding for the convenience of fuel in winter)—he was liberated.

July 7—At 7 in the morning, the fog clearing off, the enemy's fleet, just returned from plundering New Haven, appeared. Three guns announced an alarm—everyone busy in moving or throwing their things out of doors. About 11 o'clock 1,600 regular troops landed at the foot of the bar on town beach. Isaac Jarvis commanded the battery at the point of Grover's Hill, Black Rock, who, as soon as the British turned to go up the beach lane, fired a 12-pounder with ball & grape-shot, & kept it going till it was so hot you could hardly bear your hand thereon.

As they approached the parade, a field piece let go a ball & grapes through them.

I was at that time on Toilsome Hill, having been just above with my father to drive cattle to our woodland, to keep them from the enemy. As we arrived at Black Rock, it was with no pleasant sensation we heard the firing back towards Barlow's-plain, & seemed to be in danger of being hemmed in—this, however, we prevented by taking the upper bridge.

Black Rock people soon assembled on Grover's hill, among whom were several females, where we could see the enemy marching up. A continual cracking from near Round-hill was kept up the remainder of the afternoon & sometimes from a field-piece.

The first building that appeared on fire was the guard-house at Kenzy's point; next one at Barlow's plain. You might from Black Rock see the fire shine through the windows & presently the fire on the outside.

At night the British placed guards round the town which were plainly seen by the burning houses,—while many a column of Fire from the flaming buildings & frequent flashes of Lightning from a western cloud with discharges of cannon & musquetry formed a Prospect the most Gloomy & comfortless imaginable to the poor inhabitants who, many of them sheltered only by the Canopy of Heaven, without a second Suit to their backs, or a Penny in their Purse, beholding from a Distance the fruit of all their toil & labor expiring in a Cloud of smoke & cinders.

April 25—Ezra Wheeler's brothers Josiah and Abraham, as Tories, had their estates confiscated subsequently, but Ezra Wheeler remained in Black Rock and served as a member of the battery guard in 1779.

The town burnt all night—a cloud seemed to remain fixed in the west, from which issued frequent flashes of lightning; this, joined to many a column from the flaming buildings & frequent discharges of cannon & musketry on the British guard placed around the town; the poor inhabitants, with no shelter, with no clothing but what they had on; wives separated from their husbands & exposed to the indecencies of an infuriated soldiery, rendered truly diabolical by the spirits they found in plenty in the town,—formed a scene altogether so shocking that Fairfield will never see again, nor her present silken sons & daughters can form any conception of.

There were some instances of great bravery among the inhabitants of Fairfield. A Mr. Tucker fired from his shop on the parade at the whole army only a few rods distant, & was wounded by them in the shoulder & taken prisoner. Mr. Parsons fired from a chamber into the road & killed a British officer; then running out the back door made his escape. The enemy coming into the house, found an old negro bed-ridden; they said it was him, he declared it was not; they put the bayonet into him & burnt the house, next day my brother saw him about half burnt up & a beam lying on him.

Parsons, after this taking a prisoner, was conducting him away when he was taken prisoner himself.

Joseph Gold, a very old man & feeble, going off, stopped at a spring to drink; they commanded him to stop; he would not; they shot him.

Several women stayed in town to save their houses; but were so frightened, they said they would never again stay.

Jonathan Bulkley, living on the Green, stayed, got a protection from General Tryon & saved his house & three adjoining houses.

July 8—A Row-Galley, mounting an 18-pounder of brass, lay $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the Battery, & fired upon it, sending some shot over the hill; & the Battery firing on them, & hallooing with a speaking trumpet to turn their broadside towards them & they would give it to them.

Isaac Jarvis commanded at the Battery. Had he been a coward, 10 more houses would have been burnt; Squire's, Burr's, Silliman's, Holbertons, Fowler's, Chauncy's, Widow Wheeler's, Ichabod Wheeler's, E. Wheeler's, Bartrams.

About noon the enemy returned on board at Kenzy's Point, & were pursued through the burning houses by enraged inhabitants, and at Sandy Lane the roar of the small arms was continued like the roll of a drum.

Our people would have paid them as they were embarking, had they not levelled all the stone walls near the shore where our men might get behind, & drew up their armed vessels to keep off the Americans.

It is said the Fairfield people fought much better than they did at New Haven or Norwalk, which was burnt soon after.

About 40 of the enemy were found dead & 8 or 10 of ours. No doubt



MAP OF FAIRFIELD, 1779

When the British burned Fairfield this map was made for or by Lieutenant Lawru of the invading army,—hence the military accuracy of the details of gun-range and position of troops,—and hence also the many inaccuracies in the topography of the hinterland—unfamiliar, of course to a British observer.

This manuscript map is reproduced by courtesy of Louis F. Middlebrook, author, and of The Essex Institute, publisher, from "Maritime Connecticut in the American Revolution, 1775-1783."

many were wounded & carried off with them, for about a fortnight after, when on guard at the point, I observed the remains of one washed out of the sand where they had buried him.

Eighty dwelling-houses, besides barns, stores, etc. were consumed. A Presbyterian meeting-house, Episcopalian Church & a Court-house, Green's Farms with their meeting-house, & Mill River (Village) were burnt at the same time.

Eleven houses were left standing, some of them extinguished by our people who followed close at the heels of the English, & afforded a refuge to the poor inhabitants from a hard succeeding winter, the most terrible but one (1740) ever seen since the settlement of New England.

The severe cold quieted in some measure our fears from an attack, & made the enemy in New York tremble in their turn for fear our men should march on the ice & attack them—& affording us a long season of excellent sleighing.

Thus graciously did a kind Providence favour & defend us from an unrelenting foe, till they were tired out by the contest.

The Sabbath after, Mr. Eliot preached (from 'Our holy & our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee, is burned up with fire; and all our pleasant things are laid waste') at Holland Hill* where Fairfield people assembled, not daring to meet near the shore for fear of being taken prisoners, so fearful were they—& long after, they could hardly sleep in their beds.

My father had a place for his silver tankard & some silver therein, in a stonewall. Many a time he has gone in a dark night with his gun to see if no enemy's boat came over the beach.

Sometimes very few guards at the Battery or anywhere else. Strange that the enemy did not burn us in the four long years that the war lasted after this time. I listed as a soldier in the Guard (Upper Wharf) from May 16th till July 7th, when Fairfield was burnt, being 16 years of age. We had a double fortified 3 pounder, which sent a shot over a boat of the enemy's, sounding at the broken place of the beach."

About a fortnight after the Fire, I was drafted to go upon Guard a fortnight in town. We kept Guard upon the Beach & Kinsey's point,—3 sentrys at each place. One night as we were on Guard, we heard a Boat row, &

* William Wheeler's recollection seems here at variance with the Parish register which states that the church service of July 11th after the burning of Fairfield was held at the house of Deacon Bulkley—which was one of the few houses near the Green left standing. Services on subsequent Sundays were held at Deodate Silliman's and other houses.

July 8—The silver tankard, hidden by Captain Ichabod Wheeler, is now in the collection of the Historical Society in Fairfield.

ran to the Shore & lay on the Beach ready for them, but it went to Greens Farms & landed there. News soon come to Town and as they fired the Cannon to make an alarm, one poor fellow was so affrighted that he dropt down.

Alarms almost every night, some of them false. With driving away our cattle & carting away furniture occupied us the rest part of the year. One morning we saw 30 ships off the Harbor.

1780

Jan.—A vast quantity of light snow fell & a strong N.W. Wind blew it incessantly for 3 or 4 days thicker than a snow storm & drifted so hard that sleds, loaded, came over the tops of the fences.

The Harbor was froze so hard that loads of wood went on the Channel, the Ice being $\frac{1}{2}$ foot thick.

Capt. Parks cut out from the upper Wharf in 14 days. Ducks, Geese, &c laid out on the land. Joseph Bartram came across the Sound at Whitestone after his escape from the old Jersey Prison Ship.

The winter of 1780 was much the severest that had occurred in 40 years, the Snow filled the roads from side to side, & the air was proportionately keen. In one of the coldest nights of that dreary winter, 7 captives having got out of the Ship (one of them, Ebenezer Bartram, our neighbor, had his toes frozen) waited on the ice for about 40 more. They not coming, they took to their heels, amidst a shower of bullets which were fired from the surrounding guardships, & made for the land.

When they arrived on Long Island they came to a house where they were dancing & went in.

A British officer present sent off for a guard to secure them & placed himself at the door to obstruct their retreat, but their comrade, a huge Irishman, with one blow felled him to the floor.

They then set off in the night once more, but the air was so extremely piercing, sad necessity obliged them to stop at another house where only an old man & his wife occupied the fire. To this they made directly

The name Joseph Bartram may be mistaken for Ebenezer, his brother; cf. following note and entry, 1781.

without ceremony. The inhabitants were shy, but when they got warm, the Americans told them they were going to New York.

“No” said the old man, “I know who you are,—you are prisoners from the ship, but fear nothing. The officer you saw has gone for a guard, but cannot be back in two hours,—have something to eat.”

Having partook of some refreshment, he piloted them to a Stack where they staid till the search was over, and then retired to a Barn where the Old man fed them all next day, & the succeeding night sent his son to show them where they could cross the Sound which they did, steering by the stars—

They never could hear of their friend the Old man afterwards, whom it would have delighted them to reward.

While in Prison, their allowance was scarce enough to keep body & soul together—their bedclothing was so scant that onehalf had to walk in their shirts while the rest slept, & those that were delicate perished. In those long & dismal nights they were enveloped in total darkness, being allowed no candles.

(Related to me by T. Bartram, brother of the Captain.)

March 18—Capt. Fry & Lieut. Willard & twenty soldiers went to Town, having been here 46 days. (Garrison of the Fort.)

March 27—I begun to study Latin Grammar with Mr. Eliot.

I began my studies & so large a portion of the town consumed, the Cats & Rats took to the houses that remained in great numbers. Our master put down his hand to stroke one of the rats, thinking him to be poor Horace, his favorite dog.

When the town was burnt, some were for dismissing their Pastor that they could not pay him, but he courageously told them that he would continue with them even if they gave him nothing.

He was a fine scholar in the Latin tongue and a very social & merry in company—his salary was 420 dollars per Annum.

(This Year there was not any Rain from the 19th of May till the 7th of August.)

April 21—Taking up a Crib, we killd 50 Rats.

May 19—Dark Day—Candles were lighted, & fowls went to roost. The Darkness was greater to the Eastward & less to the Westward. The Clouds appeared of a yellow colour like brass.

July 16—Capt. Whitney’s Vessel was carried off from Mill River & himself murdered coming out of the Cabbin.

Capt. (Nehemiah) Whitney at Mill River was sleeping unsuspectingly in his Cabin. Hearing a noise on deck & coming up, he was knocked down & killed. This, though a slight affair contributed to keep up that continued state of fear & alarm which lasted (excepting the hard winter) for several years. What increased the danger more was a number of Tories from every town who could pilot (and often did) the enemy into every place they pleased to come.

Newtown was more particularly famous for these wretches,—the Whigs from Fairfield went & took their fowls & turkeys by force (in a mob) & brought them home.

Greenfield Hill was a place among others where a Liberty Pole was set up & the throng drank confusion to King George & hurra for Liberty!

The Tories by night cut it down—The Whigs set it up again & plated it with iron as high as they could reach, but the Tories with a ladder sawed it off above the plates.

Aug. 17—Capt. (Caleb) Brewster returned from one of his customary cruises & brought news that they had killed Gorham Smith of a party that attempted to take their Boats & lost one of their own taken prisoner.

About this time a large number of Privateers from 4 to 12 Guns of the Enemy's & ours are cruising in the Sound & take almost every unarmed Vessel that enters it—and when opportunity offers, plunder on both sides—

It was customary for the enemy to come from L. Island in Whaleboats (sharp at each end and manned with 8 to 10 oars) These, under cover of night, might be drawn up into some unfrequented nook while the rascals plundered & if pursued they could crawl off & soon be out of gunshot. Sometimes they would bring British goods and among them a species of velvet called Corduroy, from which this was long called the Corduroy trade.

Captain Caleb Brewster of Black Rock with 3 whale-boats about midway of the Sound against Fairfield, met 3 of the enemy's boats, when an engagement commenced. The boat that opposed Brewster had a small piece & was leeward; there was a fresh gale & Brewster reserving his fire till within 8 or 10 rods of Hoyt, poured in a broadside & then another & boarded; there was a large Irishman in the enemy's boat, who walked several times fore and aft, brandishing his broadsword till Hasselton, a mighty fellow from the State of Massachusetts, snatched it from him & cut his throat from ear to ear; he died immediately.

Capt. Brewster being wounded was several times struck on the back with the steel rammer of a gun by Hoyt. On board of Hoyt's boat all but one were killed or wounded. In Brewster's boat 4 were wounded—one (Judson Sturges) mortally.

Another of our boats had a swivel (gun) which killed 2 men at one shot in another of the enemy's boats & they immediately surrendered: the enemy's third boat escaped.

Capt. Brewster was also at the capture of Thomas, who commanded a privateer of the enemy mounting 14 guns, & manned with 35 men. Our vessel had about 70 men. The enemy hailed & ordered them to bring to.

"Aye, aye, presently."

"Bring to, I say."

"Aye, aye,"—and running their bowsprit across them about amidships, the sailing master, Hezekiah Gold exclaimed, "Strike, strike, damn you, or I'll sink you to hell!"

Of the enemy 9 were killed & 5 wounded, not one of ours was hurt; they were taken off Stratford-point & carried into Black Rock; they had taken 2 row-boats bearing the Continental flag that morning & had the men in their hold.

1162747

Sept. 27—The Sun appeared like a Gold Ring.

Oct. 29—2 Rainbows appeared in a Cloud & those vanishing 2 more appeared.—

Nov. 21—8 boats & 100 men under Major Talmadge went to Long Island.

Nov. 23—Returnd, having burnt 400 tons of hay, took a fort with 50 men & got some plunder.

Nov. 28—Came to Mill River 20 Men—took 3 sheep & an Ox & cut the throats of 2 more which they left.

Dec. 9—60 Men landed at Compo—The mail was taken from Stratfield.

1781

Feb. 1—A Boat of the Enemy's dragged across the Beach.

Feb. 18—A Boat came to Mill River & took 2 of the Inhabitants Prisoners, but 2 more Boats coming in, they left theirs & ran into the woods, & the People from Town went down & took Samll Osborn & another.

March 1—This week the Enemy burnt 2 houses & a Barn,—one of them belonged to Dr. Hill.

- March 4**—They burnt 2 tide mills on Mill River belonging to the Perrys, their party consisted of 30 in 4 boats.
- March 18**—Men on Long Beach saw a Boat with something piled up like goods & fired 3 rounds.
- March 22**—A Boat came to Mill River & plundered 2 houses & took 2 prisoners.
- March 26**—Eben Bartram Junr. came in a flag from the Prison Ship at New York.
- April 18**—Capt. Slater fell in with 7 of the Enemy's whale-boats. He fired at them (& they at him) with 6 men & 2 swivels till he got into Newfield. The guards at the upper Wharf fired upon the Boats twice with the Cannon when they went off.
- May 16**—2 of the enemy's Brigs drove Capt. Sturges in & went off by Stratford Point, fired ashore & killed Cattle,—went to Mill River & took off 37 sheep & 15 lambs of Thaddeus Burr's at Kinsey's point, with 4 horses. 4 of our people collected & fired upon them as they went off & they left 7 cattle dead on the shore.
- May 31**—At Daybreak, 4 of the Enemy's armed Vessels landed at Compo 200 (men) where they drove on board a number of Cattle, Sheep & Swine, & burnt the Guard House. Our folks drove them off at noon with the loss of one man killed & 2 wounded.
- June 27**—Near this time a great number of Whale Boats go to Long Island to plunder.
- July 11**—3 French frigates,—one of them 44 Guns, & a Brig, & a Sloop came off against this Harbor, got some pilots & went to Long Island.
- July 12**—They returned, having effected nothing.
- Aug. 25**—2 Sloops & a Brig having taken a Guard at West Haven, coming off by Stratford point, the Brig overset and the Hatches being open, immediately sunk—2 of the Prisoners were drowned with some of the hands. Capt. David Hawley took her Shrouds & rigging off—

March 26—Ebenezer Bartram, Jr.—cf. entry, 1780.

her Masts were seen some time at low water till an easterly storm took them away—

The two prisoners drove ashore about 9 days after, near the place where they were captured.

Sept. 1—A great flight of pigeons—30 dozen taken at once.

Nov. 6—Off “The Cows” a vessel upset—6 men drowned.

Dec. 7—A Schooner concernd in illicit trade came in—Capt. Jarvis made her a prize.

1782

Jan. 31—19 Slays came at once to trade. Salt is 4 Dollars a Bushel.

March—7 persons went from Black Rock to Inoculation.

May 1—A privateer of 8 guns takes many Vessels on this shore—Capt. Hobby stove his Vessel.

May 14—David Patchin’s house struck.

June 24—Mr. Edwards’ wife drowned. Capt. Parks with 10 Guns & 21 men fird at a boat with 10 men—it is thought they killed most of them—off Black Rock.

Let the noise of War no more be nam’d
There is a Peace once more proclaim’d.

Four Years at Yale

1781-1785

After 17 months' preparatory discipline (4 books of Virgil, 4 of Tullys Orations in Latin, & four evangelists in Greek, being then required) I entered Yale with about 100 men—being the largest class that at that time ever entered—in the year 1781, under the administration of Ezra Stiles, S.T.D., an aged man, who when abroad wore a large white wig, & used an eyeglass, being near-sighted.

Him to honor (raining or not) we must never approach nearer than ten rods without pulling off our hats; & five rods for a tutor.

The first year after entrance they are called Freshmen—Second year Sophomores—Third Year Juniors—Fourth year Seniors. After four years they take the first degree A.B. or Bachelor of Arts—sometime after they take the second degree A.M. or Master of Arts.

If a scholar be absent from prayers, which commence at the ringing of the bell morning & evening at six o'clock, *non audivi campanum, habui amicum, or habui special negotium*—which is received as an excuse if it does not occur too often—if it does, he is fined.

They recite three lessons a day at morning, noon & evening.

At meal time in the morning everyone at the ringing of the bell runs with a tea dish—at noon with a knife & fork, & at supper with a spoon. Their food is often indifferent, but cheap (then) only \$1.25 a week.

Their hours of relaxation are from 6 till 9, from 12 till 2, & from 5 to 6.

There are three weeks' vacation in January—3 weeks in May—& six beginning in September. Each room in College is furnished with two studios—(or closets) where the students keep their books & pursue their studies.

And as every place furnished some temptation, there is always some female of easy virtue in Town that the Scholars are acquainted with. At the period of my residence there was two—Mima Wedger & Sal Umberfield.

Mima was about 15, well looking, small & a good figure—I have often heard her from her window as I passed on to College from the long wharf.

Sal was a tall brunette—the Scholars called her “Copper Bottom”—

My father when I was young took great pains to instill into me a hatred of such characters and a proper respect for virtuous females & in this he succeeded fully—

Perhaps no person had a greater antipathy than myself to immodest females of this sort—A young lady whom I tenderly loved lost all command of herself—but the temptation did not succeed.

1781

Sept. 12—The first public Commencement that had been for
7 years—

Sept. 13—I was examin'd & entered—Our Class contains
100—the largest ever known.

Expences fitting for College	£	s.	d.
2s per week to Mr. Eliot 65 weeks	6/	10/	0
An English Tully	1/	0/	0
65 weeks board at E.S at 7 sh	22/	15/	0
Total Expence	30/	5/	0

YALE COLLEGE is 100 feet in length & 30 in breadth built with
Brick 3 story high & has 32 rooms & as many apartments in ye Cellar.—
Near it stands ye Chappel where divine service is performed.

D. Ezra Stiles is the present President—

The idle Scholars have many tricks to evade their not over-attentive
instructors as English leaves, Extracts, etc.

If you have playd, excuse will save you
For you may answer non paravi
If that won't do it will avail it
To have a friend to say non valet.

Mr. Atwater our Tutor at his departure made us a Speech to thank
us for a hat we presented to him.—

Some of ye Scholars use us very severe in sending us at errands
above a mile in length.—

At ye 1st entrance of a Freshman into this College, he is sure to
be ordered up & disciplin'd or as the Sophimores term it Trimming

They endeavour to find some occasion of animadversion against them
which they are not long in quest of as he is generally too free with
his Superiors—runs in at the Gate before them—sets without leave—
or something—

After he has committed the Crime they assemble a dozen good
Voices & summon him with a stamp & a step up to my Room—

He entering trembles & is discomposd & 'tis ten to one commits a
greater offence than the other.—perhaps he forgets to make a bow,
then they all fetch a stamp, asking him what he meant to enter so
without bowing,—if he bows to one, the rest are affronted & ask him

if he likes that one better than all the rest—if he bows in an awkward manner they take great pains to shew him—keeping him bowing for half an hour almost to the floor.

They ask him what he was ordered up for, “for insulting the Sophs”—Well what did you insult them for”—

I say you did, don't contradict me, tell me now whether you did or not.—I don't think I did—That is not my question you are obliged to answer all questions, answer me immediately—I didn't mean to—Did you ever do anything without a meaning—

If he confesses they tell him there is 4 parts to a confession—1st to confess ye Crime—2nd to be sorry for it—3d to ask forgiveness & 4th to promise Reformation—

Sometimes a verbal, sometimes a written confession answers.

If he is obstinate they put ye fists in his face, keep him constantly turning around to see those that are behind him—blow tobacco smoke in his face, make him hold a candle, toe a crack, bow to his shadow & when his back is turnd they are continually going in and out to trim him for not bowing,—two or three talking to him at once while he all passive obedience & non-resistance is obliged to stand mute & answer only to the questions they ask him—

In short a Soph is absolute & despotic as ye great Mogul—

The freshmen in ye turn revenge upon them sometimes falling down & breaking ye bottles & they have leave to drink at every corner.—

A few nights since I put round sticks on ye stairs which two of them stepping on, they rolld over & tumbled them headlong to the bottom.—

We pun upon ye word Sophimore, deriving it from ye Greek Sophos & Moros i.e wise fools.

They will silence a common Man in a few Minutes that he shall not have a word to say.—

A few days ago as they were trimming me—Says one—I would trim you if I was not sick—Don't you love to be trim'd—

—No Sir—

—Are you glad I am sick—

—No sir—

—There's one lie says he—

—No sir—

—There's two—

—I didn't mean to lie—

—There's three, for you cannot do anything without a meaning.

FRESHMAN LAWS

Every Freshman after his admission into this College is obliged to conform himself to the following Laws instituted for the preservation of decency & good order.—

It is ye special duty of ye Seniors to teach ye freshmen ye usages & customs of College & they may order them to attend when they think fit.—

Every freshman shall attend, answer, & behave submissively.—

The Senior shall not detain them more than 5 minutes after study time unless by permission—

The freshmen are forbidden to wear their hats in ye front door yards of ye President's or Professor's houses or within 10 rods of ye President or 5 rods of a Tutor, nor in College Yard till May vacation—

No Freshman shall wear a Gown or walk with a cane, nor appear out of his Room without being fully drest—And whenever a Freshman speaks to his Superiors or is spoken to he shall keep off his hat till he is bidden to put it on—nor shall a Freshman play with ye upper Classes without being askd.—

A Freshman shall rise when a Tutor enters the Chappel & stand till he is seated.—

If any Superiors are behind them at any gate or door within 3 rods they shall stop without a signal to proceed.—

In passing up or down stairs or throu' any narrow passage they shall give them the bannister side of the stairs—

They shall not run in College Yard or up or down Stairs or call to anyone in or out of a College window.—

They shall not whistle, eat, kick, jump, hop, dance, or sing in any of ye streets of N. Haven.

They must knock at a chamber door & leave it as they found it open or shut, & shall not speak till spoken to & answer all questions, nor stay nor sit without leave.—

They shall always rise when a Superior enters the room nor sit in his presence till permitted.

These rules obtain within the limits of New Haven.

1782

March 29—Mastris secundus was rusticated till ye 10th—40 Scholars made a ring & shouting tore off ye clapboards of ye old College as high as they could reach & broke ye windows broke open ye Buttery & stole ye liquors for which 4 were expelld, 4 made confessions & 8 were admonished—one was readmitted.

April 23—We have got 10 Martin boxes hung up to College big enough to contain 100 Martins

This year ye Freshmen as usual hir'd a negro to clear out ye Yard & gave him 40s.

June 17—begun Mathematics—

June 27—I came home & staid a week.

N. Haven July 22—The Senior Examination was Friday—

Hooker had the English Oration Wait Ives & Noyes ye Dialogue—Honeywood ye Latin farewell oration—he addressed ye President first, then ye Professors, then ye Tutors, then his own class & then College in general & bid farewell to them all.—

Our class have begun to study Hebrew once a day, speaking all at once & keeping time.—

The President is our Preceptor who is short sighted and often deceived by one person's answering *adsum* for several Absentees.—

The Dr. says ye true pronounciation of *y* is acquir'd by beginning it with wrong & of *n* by speaking as if you had a fishbone in ye throat.

1783

Oh the Charming Month of May
In a new Livery when we see every
Bush & Meadow Tree & Field

Oh the Charming Month of May
When the Breezes in the trees
Full of Blossoms fresh & Gay.

June 8—To * * * * *

Pardon me Madam for my rudeness
In thus intruding on your goodness
Tis the first time that I appear
In paper dress as I do here
Present myself & gently bow
And kindly ask how do you do
Letters to Man at first were given
The greatest blessing of kind heaven
Tis thus that friends converse with friends
Tho movd to Earths remotest ends
Oft hand in hand we've trod the Green
With sprightly air & lively mien
And may kind Heaven grant my Prayer
To save thee still thou lovely fair—

Thou art all fair without defection
 The brightest image of perfection
 Calm as eve'ning hours
 Sweet as morning flowrs
 Fair as the silver Moon
 Bright as the noonday Sun
 Chaste as the lonely Dove
 Soft as the melting kiss of Love
 Could I behold thee face to face
 Enjoy one look, one kind embrace
 Wouldst thou vouchsafe one smiling kiss
 I might with angels vie in bliss—
 But hark I hear the nightly bell
 That bids me take my leave—farewell
 I am, my Love, with all my pow'rs
 Forever & entirely yours.

- June 16**—About this time I broke out with the Measles, suffering no damage but weak eyes.
- July 10**—Begun to live at Mr. Bleakleys by the Long Wharf—
- Aug. 14**—In the evening Mr. Beecher's house, N. Haven was struck with Lightning— The Lightning for 10 minutes was one continued flashing, giving a quivering light about as bright as Moonshine.
- Sept. 7**—Mr. Wales preached the farewell sermon to the Seniors from Luke 12th & 48th.
- Sept. 10**—Commencement— The night before the Scholars had a quarrel with the Sailors & 6 of them were knocked down but they soon beat & followed some of them up on the commons where they took 2 & belaboured them well with their canes.
- Sept. 11**—Vacation begins—Rehearsing Alexander & the BusyBody—
- Oct. 9**—The highest tide that ever was seen in these parts. It floted the upper bridge.
- Oct. 17**—We composed & Bulkley spoke an address to the Actors of Alexander at E's.
- Dec. 2**—I wrote on the negative of this Question "whether Polygamy be just."

1784

- March 26**—I returned to College having been lame
About this time the Scholars presented a petition to know
what was become of the Quarter bill money.
- April 2**—We had a private anniversary.
- April 10**—T. B. having diluted the ashes of burnt hay in
water, marked his hand the 2 first letters of his name,
then pricking the place till the blood came, it so entered
the skin that he could erase but one of the letters, even
by a blister.
- May 4**—I wrote a Latin Composition for the premium upon:
Non possum equidem non ingenio prima concedere sed
tamen ipsum diligentia etiam ex tarditate excitat.
- May 31**—B. made up his affairs with E.
- June 4**—B & F. admonished for going away 1½ day before
Vacation. Perkins is the tutor to our Class. Moni-
tors—Bidwell, Newton, Cook, & Pitkin.
- Aug. 14**—four days next week are appropriated to speaking
for the premium (A small book given by the Tutors).
- Sept. 12**—9 weeks Vacation—3 for building the Hall We
speak our own Compositions.

1785

- March 4**—Sham Earthquake
President appointed Tousey, Dickinson & myself to make a
Dialogue, but his absence prevented it.
- June 4**—
- From College walls
And musty halls
Where nought can please the taste
Where water from
The hose come
For breakfast still is placed,
I begin this scrabble
As well as I'm able
Written in haste.
Our class is at home
Nor are they yet come

Except 10 or 12 that are here
 Nor Stiles nor Wales
 Nor anyone else
 Except the Tutors appear
 No reciting
 No meeting
 No studying for knowledge
 All walking
 All talking
 Or worse, doing nothing—
 For there's no king in college, etc.

Friday evening 8 o'clock. The time for us to declare Independence being almost arrivd, we pass our time merrily away in expectation of the happy event, living like Kings, with 3 rounds of Punch a day,—morning, noon, & evening—

We have variety of all sorts of music, both vocal and instrumental, & sometimes the Ear is filld, charmd, & delighted by the joint chorus of Martins' Singing Schools, Bagpipes, Clarionets, Fifes, Flutes, Fiddles, Drums, & Trumpets—Good Night.

July 19—Examination of our Class for the Diploma commenced—

At 2 P.M. The Tutors & Sirs, with Mr. Wales as the head, began to examine us privately in the Chappel—in Greek $\frac{1}{2}$ the afternoon—an intermission of $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour—in Horace & Tully de Oratore till Sunset.

The next day (Wednesday begun at 8 in the morning)—English grammar, Geography, Mathematics, Rhetoric, Logic, Algebra, Conic Sections, Geometry, Trigonometry, Navigation, Philosophy, Astronomy, History, Metaphysics & Ethics, & finished at 12, then the Tutors & 12 Sirs retir'd to a room in College for about 15 minutes & found us all worthy except B. F. T. & H.

Then we marched alphabetically with Tutor Baldwin as our Head to the Library where he made a short address to the President displaying our numbers & good behaviour in the most advantageous light—

Then the President pronounced, sitting, a most excellent Latin Oration, bidding them a final farewell, wishing them all manner of blessings thro' Life.

At half-past one, we sat down to an agreeable dinner in the hall with the President, Tutors & Graduates, which ended with a suitable portion of old Madeira.

After Dinner, we sang to the tune of Boston, the 133 Psalm, C. M.

At 3 P.M. the usual exercises began—Philosophical Oration by Beebe,—Anthem,—A Dispute by Ellsworth & Hale,—A Dialogue by Noyes, Ely, Eels, & Taylor,—Anthem,—Valedictory oration in Latin by Graves—

We were favored by a numerous & brilliant assembly of Ladies.

Sept. 14—Commencement—Two Barrels of Wine in 2 public rooms free to all Comers & Goers.

EXPENSES at COLLEGE

		£	s.	d.
Freshman Year	{ In Books etc. Clothes, Wood Board Quarter Bills &c }	29/	6/	0
Sophomore		25/	0/	0
Junior		31/	3/	8
Senior		32/	19/	0

After four years' strict study I was sent into the world but little fitted for a busy & crooked world as this is & will be—

A Scholar who hath learnt to squeak
 Four books of Latin, one of Greek
 Through Rhet'ric, Logic, Locke can stammer
 Or any mood or tense in Grammar
 Popt on the world with such a cramming
 Doth know the least of man or woman—
 Is less equipt for shifts & twists
 Than any outcast that exists.

Notes

By courtesy of the Secretary of Yale University, is printed the following roster of the Class of 1785 with which William Wheeler was graduated.

1785

*Samuel James Andrews	*1832	*Barnabas Bidwell; M.A. and Wil-	
*Jeremiah [Mix] Atwater; M.A.	*1832	liams 1797; LL.D. Brown 1805;	
*Joseph Badger	*1846	M.C. 1805-1807	*1833
*David Lewis Beebe; M.A. 1789	*1803	*Tillotson Blakesley	*181-
*William Pitt Beers	*1810	*Solomon Blakslee	*1835
*David Belden, 1787	*1832	*Peter Bulkley	*1808
*Ebenezer Belknap	*1842	*Frederick Butler; M.A.	*1843
*Caleb Clap	*1787	*Henry Sherburne Langdon; M.A.	*1857
*Abraham Lynsen Clarke; M.A. 1791	*1810	*Jonathan Leavitt; M.A.	*1831
*James Bayne Clarke	*1842	*Micah Jones Lyman	*1851
*Enos Cooke	*—	*John McClellan	*1858
*John Devotion	*1810	*Matthew Marvin	*1842
*Abraham VanHorn DeWitt	*1820	*Charles Mather	*1853
*John Dean Dickinson; M.C. 1819-		*Return Jonathan Meigs; Chief Just.	
1823, 1829-1831	*1841	Supr. Court Ohio 1803-1804; Just.	
*Joseph Drake	*1794	Supr. Court Upper La. 1805-1806;	
*Roger Eells; M.A.	*1790	Judge U. S. District Court Mich.	
*John Ellsworth	*1791	1807; U. S. Senator 1809-1810;	
*Richard Ely; M.D. Conn. Med.		Gov. Ohio 1810-1814; Postmaster-	
Soc. 1814	*1816	Gen. U. S. 1814-1823	*1825
*Reuben Fairchild	*1788	*Phineas Miller; M.A.	*1803
*Simeon Field; M.D. (Hon.) 1817	*1822	*Daniel Nash	*1836
*Abel Flint; M.A. and Brown; D.D.		*Roger Newton; M.A.;	*1789
Union 1818	*1825	*Matthew Noyes; M.A.;	1839
*Hezekiah Goodrich; M.A. 1792	*1812	*Zachariah Olmsted; M.A.	*1831
*Russell Goodrich; M.A.	*1837	*Benjamin Perkins	*1841
*William Graves; M.A. 1801	*1813	*Samuel Perkins; M.A.	*1850
*Pearley Grosvenor	*1787	*Timothy Pitkin; M.A.; LL.D. 1829	
*Levi Hackley, 1786	*1786	M.C. 1805-1819	*1847
*David Hale; M.A.	*1822	*Nathan Rossiter	*1835
*Joshua Henshaw	*1840	*Elihu Platt Smith	*1795
*David Higgins; M.A.	*1842	*Robert Spelman	*1803
*Dyar Throop Hinckley	*1847	*Thomas Stedman	*1838
*William Hubbard; M.A.	*1789	*William Taylor; M.A.	*1841
*William Gold Hubbard	*1846	*Abraham Tomlinson	*1820
*David Hull	*1834	*Thomas Tousey	*1844?
*Enoch Huntington; M.A.	*1826	*Decius Wadsworth; M.A.	*1821
*Samuel Huntington; also Dart-		*William Wheeler	*1845
mouth 1785; M.A.; Chief Just.		*Ezekiel Williams; M.A.	*1843
Supr. Court Ohio 1804-1808;		*Timothy Williams; M.A. 1799	*1849
Gov. Ohio 1808-1810	*1817	*Gideon Woodruff	*1847
*Isaac Ives	*1845	*Joel Wright	*1797
*Caleb Johnson; M.A. 1791	*18—		

By courtesy of the Librarian of Yale University, the contemporary records have been consulted. The *Tragedy of Alexander* and the comedy of *Busybody* (two separate plays) were given by the Linonian Society in 1783. There are several references to "Wheeler" in the minutes of the Society, one of the most interesting organizations in academic history.

The Collegian at Home

Fairfield and Black Rock Notes—1783-1785

1783

Aug. 14—A little before this, Capt. Eliot's Schooner sunk at sea.

Capt. Eliot commanded the Sloop when she sunk at sea in which N. (Nathaniel Silliman) was. They manned the boat & rowed to a little distance to see if she would sink (some doubting it) when she went down,—there appeared a large hole like a cellar.

In the boat were 6 persons with canvass stretched around above the side to keep off the waves about a foot high; they were in it 6 days & nights, when they arrived at Guadaloupe and laid down on the sand under a high bank, where when N. awaked, he sprung up to run into the sea, supposing the bank to be a high wave—

Among the number was Miah Perry, afterwards the richest merchant of Fairfield and the oracle of four more of his brothers who were rich, happy, and respected,—this distress curing Miah of all inclination for the sea.

Nov. 5—Mr. Dwight ordained at Greenfield.

Nov. 7—Wyat's wife dyed.

Nov. 29—Three-quarters past 11 in a still night we felt 2 small shocks of an Earthquake.

1784

Harbor froze from the 1st of Jan. till the 10th of March.

Hundreds of people down in a tide to catch scallops by cutting holes in the ice.

Nov. 5—Dr. Timothy Dwight, later president of Yale.

Nov. 7—Huldah (Wheeler) Mason Wyat, daughter of Abel and Rebeckah (Whitew) Wheeler. Her first husband was Salathiel Mason; her second, **Joseph Wyat of Newport, who later moved to Northcastle, N. Y.** Of her four children, Alice and Joseph Wyat died in infancy. Rachel and Sally, children of her first marriage, survived her and inherited much of her Black Rock property which had belonged to her father. Rachel Mason married in 1803, John Maltbie, keeper of the lighthouse.

The name of Huldah Mason is included in the list of the guard at the Black Rock Battery in 1779. She was then nineteen years old, and may have served as commissary to the garrison.

Sept. 11—As 3 persons were coming round from Stratford point in a pilot boat laden with shells, the wind being N.E. raised such a shock off the point that she overset. The men remained on the masts for $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour when a wave washed them all off,—but T. Hill happening to seize an oar, held it fast in his hands before him till he reached the shore, and it bore him safe without swimming. The other 2, viz. Lieut. Hawley and Josiah Penfield, were drowned. Hawley was found among the rocks with his face bruised. The scene was hardly supportable to his Wife under the double loss of husband & brother.

1785

Jan. 15—We begun to get ship timber for our Sloop

May 16—Some curtains & a carpet defiled in the Town House.

May 17—Mourning Bride & Busy Body acted in the Town House, Fairfield—A man being buried when the play was acted, they would not let them toll the Bell, which raised some disturbance.

May 25—Holberton's wife died.

May 17—"Busy Body" was the comedy which had been presented by the Linonian Society in New Haven in 1783 as an afterpiece for the more serious drama of "Alexander." Several of William Wheeler's classmates at Yale and "Linonian brothers" were resident in Fairfield.

Sept. 11—Hannah (Penfield) Hawley, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Lewis) Penfield, married (1) Lieut. Gideon Hawley of North Stratford, whose death is here recorded. Her second husband was Ezekiel Lovejoy of Stratford. Her brother, Josiah, was seventeen at the time of his tragic death.

May 8—Capt. Thomas Holberton's first wife, Ruth (Wilson) Holberton, daughter of Robert Wilson. Their daughter, Ruth, married Capt. Job Bartram.

The Sentimental Schoolmaster

1785

Aug. 19—Capt. Holburton arrived after a voyage of 12 weeks

Aug. 20—The thief Johnson received 20 of the 35 lashes due him,

Sept. 10—Died Peter Squier

No more within his native Town to dwell
To all its train he bids a long Farewell
One gentle grasp, one sighing, sorrowing tear
And joys & friends forever disappear
 Ye, beauteous Youth, the fairer sex
 Permit me to address you next—
 Pale, cold & still before you lies
 The once-lov'd object of your eyes—
Ye can't forget
His lively Wit
 Our scenes of Love & Play
Whole hours we sat—
In pleasant Chat
 We past the time away.
But now the hand of Death hath laid him low
Nor canst one look nor canst one smile bestow
 Mortal attend & drop a tear
 Over the poor bones that moulder here
To-day the lot was mine
To-morrow may be thine.

Sept. 12—Dr. Beach's Singing School at Blackrock ends.

Oct. 1—Capt. Thorp & Capt. Wasson arrived from the W. Indies. About this time a Schooner of 50 tons bottom upwards with her Sails standing was discovered off Newfield. A week after, being stripped of everything, she drifted to L. Island.

Sept. 10—Peter Squier (1765-1785), son of Captain John and his (third) wife, Lydea (Taylor) Jarvis Squire. His sister, Lydea, became the first wife of John Wheeler, brother of the diarist.

Dec. 1—My School at Blackrock ends.

Dec. 5—Begun school at North Fairfield (Weston)

—for 45 shillings per Month for 3 months. Here I became enamoured to a high degree with * * but though young I entertained an idea which is now part of my creed, that a light Purse & Matrimony would be but sorry companions—

But the last farewell was melancholy enough, as I stole all pensive & solitary along the gloomy road edged by thick woods in a darksome night, while the Whippoorwill's frequent notes saluted my ear like the tolling of the bell as we follow a friend—

The remembrance even now depresses, and the unbidden tear is ready to start—

What were her sensations I know not—not less, I expect,—for the passion was reciprocal—

She lived in the Youth and the Youth in the fair
Their pleasure was equal & equal their care.—

Dec. 28—I went to J. Osborn's Wedding.

Dec. 29—Continued at Capt. Seeley's—

When David was stricken in Years
And loaded with sickness & cares
That preyed on his form
Nothing was found so fit to rouse him
As a fair maid to lie in his bosom
And keep his body warm—
And Solomon, the wisest man,
This maxim for to teach us
At one time had to warm *his* bed
A thousand of the species.

1786

Aug. 18—A case between Ezra Williams & his wife Huldah.

Aug. 27—Widow Godfrey of Greens Farms denyd her Publishment.

Sept. 15—Wm. Robinson's Wedding attended by 60 spectators.

Sept. 16—Capt. Smedley arrived. Enos Cook arrived.

Sept. 22—Capt. Gould from West Indies.

Sept. 15—William Robinson married Abigail Smith of New London.

- Oct. 10—Launched the Sloop *Sally*—bottom up.
 Oct. 23—Capt. Holburton married to Mary Wakeman.
 Oct. 29—Snow 2 in. deep. N. Burr's child died.
 Nov. 1—Sailed Capt. Smedley in a brig & Capt. Wasson on
 a sloop, both bound for the West Indies.
 Nov. 8—Arrived Capt. Bartram. He had 13 hhds of Molasses
 stove by salt shifting in the hold.

Baptized this year 53	Married 8 couples
Died 9	Entered the church 6
	No Wheat nor Cider.

1787

- Feb. 21—Meeker Murrain fell overboard. Near this time
 W. Bulkley & Mrs. Robbins catch the Smallpox &
 both die.
 March 22—Capt. Smedley gave Butler a thumping.
 March 26—Shipt on board our Sloop 25 horses & our 2 Gibbes
 & 7 horned Cattle.
 March 30—Sailed Sloop *Sally*—Andrew Bulkley Master.
 April 3—Mr. Eliot this day & the next received 230 skains at
 his spinning frolic. J. Penfield by making a selection
 at the Ball put our side Jordan into no petit pet.
 April 7—D(aniel) Osborn's and Mary (Bartram)'s Synar-
 throsis.
 April 19—A proper Gambol

At a dancing one Night sir I happened to be
 Such skipping & hopping was there
 The old Women as sprigh as young girls of 15
 Such fun I ne'er saw I declare

- April 22—Very cold. Much ice froze in harbor
 I evah ni eht tsal 4 sraey 2000 selim & 257 syad tneps retfa
 eht slrig. Secnad 40.

April 3—Jordan probably meaning Ash Creek. James Penfield (1761-1842) married in 1786 Mary Tucker who may have been his "selection" at the Ball! At this time James, Ephraim, and David Penfield were living at the house near the Mills across Ash Creek.

- May 28—The bones of an Infant found under Mr. Lewis' house, supposed to have been murdered 60 years ago. Groans and strange noises were heard before that time.
- June 11—Our Sloop arrivd with 30 Hs Rum.
- July 5—J. held on by the Pollypod.
- July 22—I went to hear Higby preach—His text was "Yet a little more Sleep."
- Aug. 30—About this time we went to Norwalk in our Sloop.
- Sept. 15—Sloop saild the 2nd time for Boston.
- Sept. 19—Line Storm. A mill at Stamford carried off whole and Norwalk bridge floted.
- Sept. 20—Struck up to Trooping & Indian mimicry at Night, joined a Boree of 2 score couple from which at 2 I made myself scarce & joined a 3rd Shakefoot, at the finis of which Mr. fourlegs was found in Mr. Hinman's yard absent & no tidings of his Excellency having arrived, his burden snored.
- All Black Rock invited to John Perry's & Lois Wheeler's wedding.
- Oct. 12—Jos. Davis boy died in Convulsions of a Wound he received a fortnight before by falling off a table with a pair of sheers he had in his hand which fractured his skull. Near this time I went to L. Island with Brush in a whaleboat.
- Oct. 13—Brig *Greenfield* saild—Joseph Bartram passenger
- Nov. 15—Capt. Brewster's wife & child fell in the Creek
- Nov. 20—Our Sloop returnd, in her came passengers,—Capt. Sena (?) and Lady & 2 daughters who had been to Leghorn.
- Dec. 12—Died at Weston Z.H.—his death was occasioned by Sleeping on the ground (after spending a night with a beloved female) where a shower fell upon him.
- Dec. 30—Capt. Nat. Silliman arrived from Carolina having been absent 15 months.

Sept. 20—*Boree*—a rustic dance. (The other terms invite exegesis.)

Oct. 13—Joseph Bartram was lost at sea in December, aged twenty-seven. He was the son of Ebenezer and Mary (Burr) Bartram.

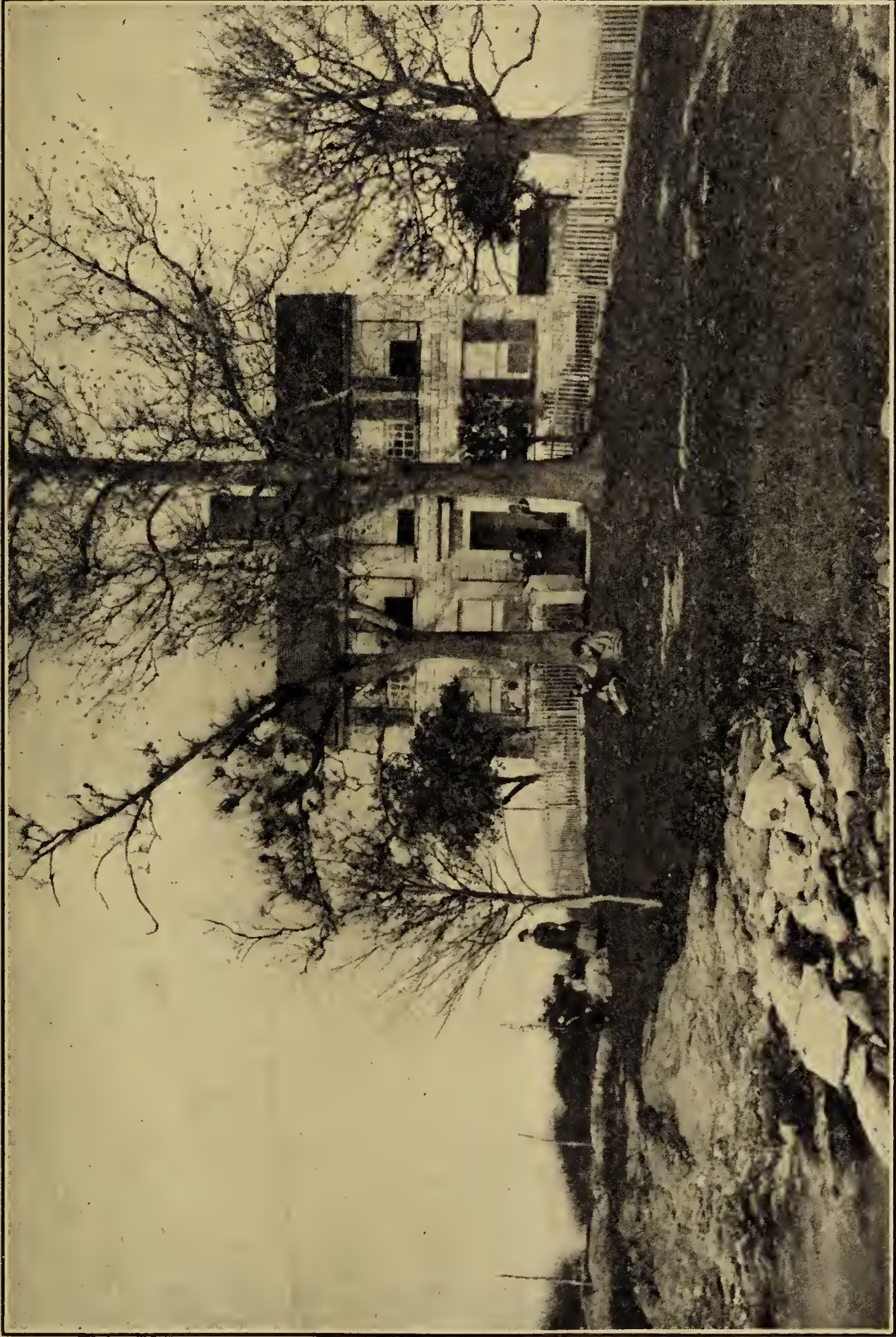
1788

And now the Earth which every Year
Sails round the Sun's resplendent Sphere
Again sets Sail—may all her Crew
In health & Joy the Voyage pursue.

- Jan. 19—Hard rain & frozen ground—every bridge from Deacon Hills to the Stores floted.
- Jan. 25—Dickinson's schooner drove ashore
- Feb. 15—Dickinson had 15 barrels of Beef floted away.
- Feb. 22—19 males & 12 females danced at Burrs.
- Feb. 26—Sailed for N. Haven with the *Sally*.
- March 4—3 of us dropt 105 wt Flax.
- March 7—A letter from Brewster supposed to be lost.
- March 22—18 negroes liberated by some of their color at Mill River.
- March 23—Died Capt (Joseph) Silliman at 8 P.M.
- May 15—Searching for N. Burr.
- May 23—Curtain hoisted.
- June 18—R. Fairchild at North Fairfield killed by lightning.
- June 20—Died Capt. Jarvis.
- July 15—Eliphalet Olmstead came to work.
- Aug. 19—The hardest gale that has been for many years— at 1 o'clock a Sloop & Schooner went on shore— The south side of all the trees, the leaves are dead, some suppose by the spray of the Sea which blew over like a Fog from the Sound to Penfield's Mill. Corn is laid flat & Fruit is chiefly blown off—Many trees bloomed out afterwards. The Gale reached 100 miles up country, in some places shifting from the SE to the NW & twisting of trees 9 inches in diameter—it moved Carson's house about 6 feet.
- Oct. 17—A fire ball passed over with great swiftness followed by a Report like heavy Cannon.
- Nov. 20—Several families arrived from Tory Canaan, their

June 18—Reuben Fairchild, classmate of William Wheeler and son of Captain Robert Fairchild.

June 20—(Capt. Isaac Jarvis of Revolutionary fame.)



1768—The Isaac Jarvis-David Penfield homestead (10)
(Photographed 1869)

good godfather George the 3d ceasing food, a native of the place, one Poverty, crowded them out.

Nov. 29—Ezra Wheeler moved to Weston.

Dec. 11—Died of the Dropsy, Billy Squier aged 3

1789

Feb. 16—Begun Black Rock School

Apr. 5—I set out for Red Hook. (N. Y.)

June 10—John's house raised

Oct. 9—Stone & Lewis' advent. Majority of the country complain of colds.

Nov. 2—Married Capt. Nathan Lewis to Miss Rachel Stone.

Nov. 4—Died Mrs. Hull, aged 93 years, 8 months.

A Schooner overset & 2 men on the wreck between the Cows & point.

Married this year 16 couples	Christened 31	Died 8
in Mr. Eliot's congregation.		

1790

June 10—My house raised. 30 x 25 feet.

Expences of the House

	£	s.	d.
Digging Cellar	0	9	0
For framing	1	13	0
Stoning cellar	1	9	0
8000 4z nails	0	16	0
1300 8z "	0	7	0
Window frames	2	7	6
Sashes	4	3	6
5000 shingles	3	16	0
Nails & brad	3	3	0
Lath	1	12	0
Putty	0	17	0
Glass	4	5	11
Brick	2	0	0
Tile	0	3	0

Dec. 11—William (son of Ebenezer and Mary (Wheeler) Squier, 1784-1788).

Building chimney	2 / 12 / 0
7 6 B shels	0 / 12 / 0
Manteltrees	0 / 13 / 6
3500 Lath nails	0 / 11 / 4
100 feet plank	0 / 8 / 0
Spanish brown	0 / 6 / 0
White lead	1 / 6 / 0
Oil	2 / 7 / 10
White oak boards	0 / 14 / 9
Clear boards	1 / 8 / 3
Merchantable Do.	1 / 10 / 11
Floor plank	3 / 6 / 0
4 pair hinges	0 / 14 / 0
Joiner's wages	11 / 11 / 0
Buttention's painting	3 / 8 / 0
Plastering	2 / 12 / 6
	<hr/>
Total	61 4 0

Covered & Lower rooms finished, besides what I have done myself. Board of the people unreckoned.

Boards for Chambers	2 / 8 / 0
Room paper	1 / 16 / 0
10 gallons oil to paint house	3 / 0 / 0
Lime for one chamber	0 / 15 / 0
1½ bush. hair 2/3 plaistering	0 / 14 / 3

(This house, a "saltbox," stood on the corner of what is now Ellsworth and Brewster Street. The house and the land on which it stood were deeded to William by his father, Capt. Ichabod Wheeler, August 9, 1790.)

1792

Feb. 2—Married John Wheeler to Lydia Squier.

Oct. 13—Warm, calm sky & clear.

In the evening a bright Northern Light over the whole northern half of the hemisphere, flashing (like smoke arising from a fire)—rising from a cloud in the N. and meeting in the Zenith in the moment.

Feb. 2—Daughter of Captain John and Lydea (Taylor) Jarvis Squier.

Oct. 14—Gov. Hancock, attended by 4 ship kernels, came to town to take up the Bones of his Aunt & carry them to Boston, agreeable to her desire, but found the Coffin rotten.

1793

Jan. 3—Began Staples Hill School for £50 a year.

I began Staples free school for 166 dollars per year to board myself—kept only 5 months—it being removed to Weston by act of Assembly, the donor being Staples of Weston. It was there called Weston Academy.

He (Staples) was a man of singular sentiments—believing that mankind by a strict course of temperance might arrive to the age of the antediluvians, not indeed in one life, but in several generations,—his seed he put out to receive for one bushel at the end of the year one and one-quarter, by which extreme parsimony he acquired great riches.

His close way of reasoning & living, his black Dubby did not altogether relish, for in his last sickness he cut down the Walnut wood Staples had saved for the Academy, saying: “Massa soon die and ought to have a good fire”—for which, being wrathful, he sold poor Dubby for life.

Feb. 2—Died of Small Pox the natural way, Capt. David Wheeler’s wife, & was buried in the Home Lot.

Feb. 10—Dug up & buried in Stratfield Burying Ground.
30 inoculated at the house.

Penfield’s Mill chok’d up & the Millstone thrown off.

Feb. 18—Selectmen gave Liberty for inoculation at Sam Sherwoods for 20 persons.

Feb. 20—SELECTMEN MET TO RECONSIDER THE VOTE but would not, though they had been imposed upon by Sam by misrepresentation.

Oct. 14—This entry solves a problem for Fairfield antiquarians who have long been interested in the reason for Mrs. Hancock’s continued interment in the old Burial Ground. Her tombstone reads “This stone/ Erected/ by Thaddeus Burr/ & Eunice Burr/ to the memory of their dear friend,/ Mrs. Lydia Hancock;/ Relict of the Honble Thomas Hancock, Esq./ of Boston/ Whose remains lie here Interred/ Having retired to this Town from/ the calamities of War, during the/ Blockade of her native City in 1775./ Just on her return to the reenjoyment/ of an ample fortune/ On April 15, A.D. 1776./ She was seized with the apoplexy and/ closed a life of unaffected Piety/ universal Benevolence and extensive Charity./ Governor Hancock and his “4 ship kernels” apparently decided not to carry out their pious intention.

Feb. 2—Lois (Chauncy) Wheeler, daughter of Robert and Hannah (Wheeler) Chauncy.

March 1—The Selectmen met and gave liberty for 28, making 50 more to be inoculated (at Jeremiah Jennings) who had been exposed by J. J.'s boy having as some said the Small pox, others the chicken pox.

March 5—Vote for inoculation to commence today & last till the first of April & to begin again Oct. 1st & last till the Annual Town Meeting. (Whole Town inoculated—11 died of the inoculation).

March 7—I was inoculated—in 6 days felt the symptoms—shivering & headache & low spirits, the 9th day had a dozen pock break out—headache, very dull, & finished breaking out the twelfth day. They turnd successively & I had 70 pock in all. Walked out every day but one (a stormy day). Employed no doctor.

March 27—Begun school again.

(Of) Number Inoculated, Died	Between 20 & 40	1
	10 & 20	0
	Under 10	3
	Above 90 years of age	1
	Above 60	2
	Between 40 & 60	4

Inoculated from the Infant of 2 days old up the Age of Ninety & both had it light.

People had the symptoms unusually severe, some for 5 days—Cold & hot by turns, shivering, trembling, Headache, Low Spirits, Numbness, & a burning Fever.

Some had hard symptoms & but few pock.

A sore arm was generally a Sign of few Pock.

Some few had Sore Arms 3 Inches in Diameter.

All kinds of experiments in Diet were tried—Bacon, Flip, Wine, Bitters, Saffron, etc. were employed in many Inoculations.

Those without Physicians proceeded as well as those with. Good Nurses the most Essential Point.

Inoculation almost universal in the Old Society in almost

every house, a very few excepted, 10, 12, & 17 in a family at once, very general in Greens Farms, Greenfield,—& Stratfield about half. Doctors' fees reduced from 2 to 1 Dollars by the Favour of Dr. Holbert. People in general had it pretty moderate. Those without Salt the Easiest.

Caught the Small Pox the Natural Way—5—of which but one lived.

April 20—Mr. Thos. Hull arrived from the W. Indies.

May 29—Died James Sayre after 4 days sickness of the scarlet fever—This Disease seems generally to go through a family when it begins—The Crisis is generally on the 3d day.

Aug. 3—Capt. Barley Sturges movd his house on rollers to the corner near the middle wharf.

Sept. 26—Mr. Taylor a cooper came to the Bartrams—People universally troubled with Colds,—Symptoms, Headache, sore throat, a lassitude, etc.

Oct. 4—Hull's Schooner 70 tons this day by 8 hands was unloaded because of a leak,—judgd a dangerous vehicle over the great pond. N.B.—she had not been grav'd since last spring.

Oct. 29—A snow storm—The dryest fall I believe ever was known; scarce any rain for several months—many wells dry.

Nov. 14—St. Pumpkin's Day

A little before this, Capt. Amos Hubbell's brig, loaded with salt (returning from the W. Indies) near L. Island, sprung a leak; the Salt dissolving & both Pumps choaking, she sunk, but soon after rose that part of her quarter where they left her . . . 2 hands bailing were drowned, the rest having their boat made ready on the quarter-deck, rushed it out of her wake & got in with a few bisket & 200 oranges & no water—after 5 days they

May 29—James Dennie Sayre, aged sixteen, son of Rev. James and Sarah (Dennie) Sayre.

Aug. 3—This house became the home of David Penfield.

Oct. 4—*grav'd*—Scraped and cleaned of barnacles.

were picked up near the Virginia shore riding before a northeaster.

The brig being old and rotten, was condemned by a Carpenter before she sailed.

Nov. 26—Hubbell's ship launched & Silliman Bibbins, a Boy, fell 10 feet from between Decks into her Hold and was taken up bruised & speechless.

His skull was crakd, His senses wrecked,
When first he was extracted thence
But Wood's trepan, And skilful hand
Restored his strength, his speech & sense.

Dec. 5—Dimon Hill, ae 24, after dancing, waiting on a Female home, wet his foot, and not drying it before he left her, he was taken and lived only 7 days.

1794

Began Black Rock School for 40 Dolls.

Feb. 21—News arrived that Ebenr Sturges, Hez. Nichols & a boy of J. Sturges (all of this town & belonging to Allen Nichols' vessel) were dead of the W. India fever.

March 24—Capt. Squier arrivd from Boston—on his Passage from the W. Indies he found a Brig adrift (about 130 tons) & carried it to Boston. . . She belonged to Baltimore. The Captain being washed overboard in a Gale of Wind, the remaining Crew being destitute of provision got on board of another Vessell.

March 28—Express came with Embargo on all W. Indiamen. The consequence of the seizure of our vessels in British Ports. (Held till May 25th.)

March 29—Finished School. Baldwin, Esq. of Greenfield died at New Haven having been sick of a fever but 4 days. Those that attended him at Death were variously

Feb. 21—Hezekiah Nichols (1773-1794), son of Hezekiah and Ann (Penfield) Nichols, and brother of Allen Nichols.

The boy (son of Judson Sturges) was Henry J. Sturges, and the place of his death, Kingston, Jamaica. He was thirteen years old.

Ebenezer Sturges (1752-1794), son of Hezekiah and Abigail (Dimon) Sturges.

affected, some with Dizziness, others with Numbness, puking, etc.

April 12—W. Sheffield, Saml Squires, & Taylor families left Black Rock.

April 19—Died Mrs. Jennings of an acute fever.

May 11—Died of an apoplectic fit of 2 hours, James Penfield.

May 14—Fairfield Courthouse raised.

May 22—Died L(othrop) Lewis' wife.

June 13—Returned home after an absence of 2½ years, Nehemiah Burr, Jr.

July 8—John Wheeler's store raised

Aug. 23—Died Rebeckah Burr of the Dysentery.

Aug. 24—Died Loretta Silliman.

Sept. 13—Died Philo Burr. 7 persons sick with dysentery.

1795

March 5—Widow Wheeler's exit.

Extract from the annals of folly— A subscription is opened to give Penfield 90 pounds to destroy his Mill and open the Creek for the accommodation of Eels, Clams and old Shad!!! Amen.

June 22—died Amos Wilson's wife of the Lockjaw

June 27—Capt. David Barlow movd from the point Newfield to my house.

July 12—A Black of J. Sturges drowned in Mill River, crabbing on the Sabbath.

April 19—Abigail (Burr) Jennings, born 1736, daughter of John and Catherine (Wakeman) Burr, wife of Deacon Moses Jennings. She was William Wheeler's aunt. The date given on her monument is April 18th.

May 11—James Penfield, senior (1732-1794), son of Peter and Mary (Allen) Penfield, managed the Penfield mills on Ash Creek. He was brother of Samuel Penfield, keeper of the Sun Tavern, and both suffered great losses from the British invasion.

May 22—Ellen (Burr) Lewis, first wife of Lothrop Lewis, aged thirty-seven.

June 13—Possibly the occasion of the search mentioned May 15, 1788. He was about twenty years old.

Aug. 23—Rebeckah, daughter of Ozias and Sarah (Nichols) Burr.

Aug. 24—Loretta, daughter of Captain Nathaniel and Chloe Silliman, aged three.

Sept. 13—Philo, son of Ozias and Sarah (Nichols) Burr.

March 5—Abigail, daughter of Jeremiah Oakley and widow of Nathan Wheeler (son of Capt. Jabez and Charity (Beach) Wheeler).

June 22—Eleanor Lacy (1768-1795) first wife of Amos Wilson.

This week, 6 men on their way from York to Boston, passed through this Town, who had been 4 years in captivity at Algiers, chained together as sail-makers.

The money they earned more than their daily task purchasing spirits made their Master drunk, & after being 5 days at sea with only 2 lb. bread & a little Beef in a small sail boat, almost famished, they were taken up by a Portuguese man-of-war.

They saw Benjamin Gould, formerly of this place there who was on a Plantation. His Friends had not heard of him for 15 years.

Many Americans died there last year, among whom was Capt. Sandford of Milford, who had been a slave there for 20 years.

Near this time a man died at Millriver with the Yellow Fever which he caught in New York.

Sept. 10—Near this time died Esther Thorp of the yellow Fever, supposed to have caught it from her father who died a week before & caught it from the man before-mentioned.

Sept. 27—The Yellow Fever rages more now than ever in New York. People are leaving that city by hundreds, the vessels and stages are full.

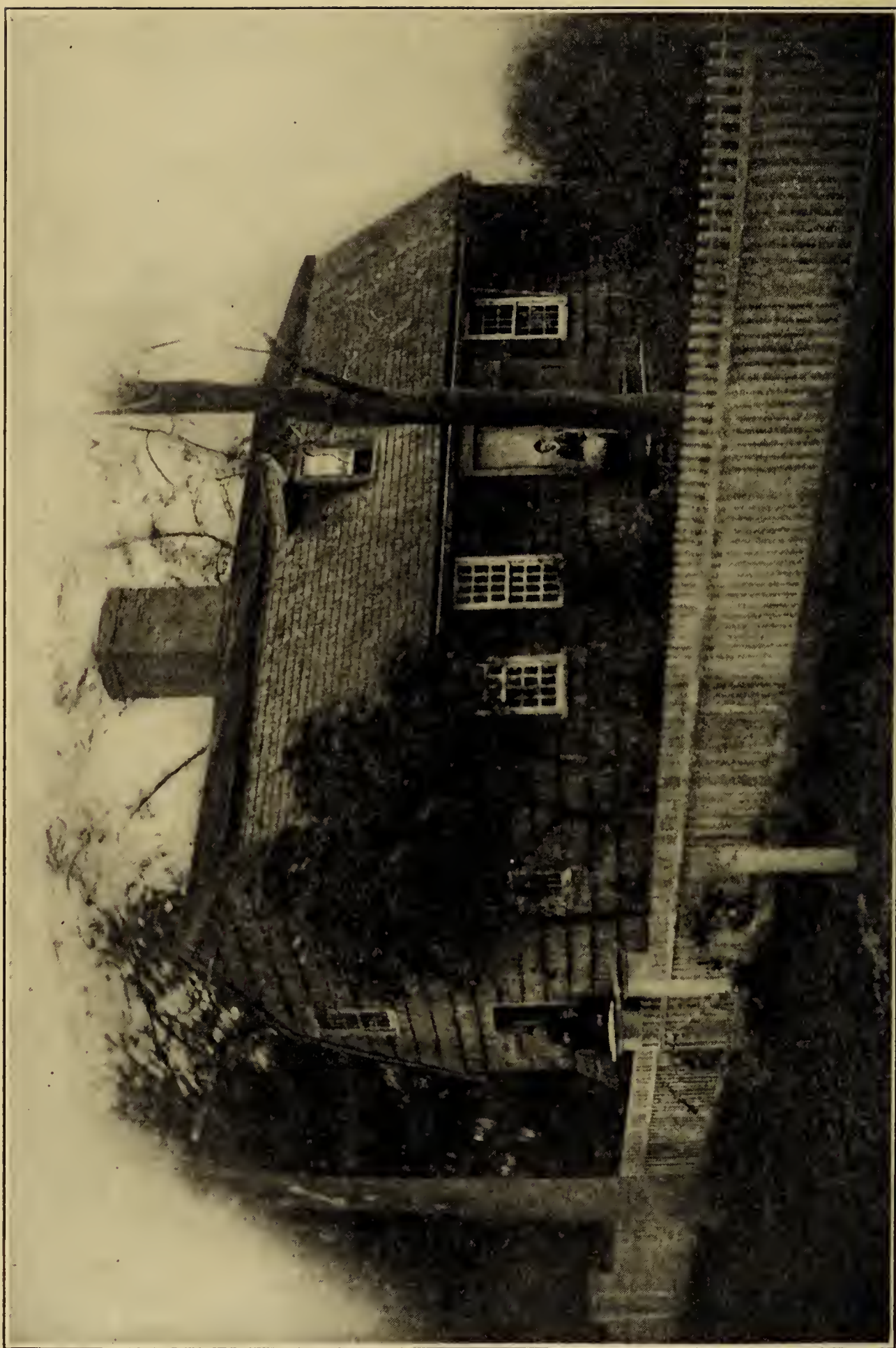
Cherry Street ($\frac{1}{2}$ a mile in length) is entirely empty. Very little business done—20 or 30 buried in a Day—As soon as they die they are carried to the Grave by a waggon covered with tarrd canvass.

Communication prohibited between that City & Philadelphia, Newhaven, & Newfield.

By the report of the Committee of Health there died last week 159.

Sept 29—Aboard of the *Dolphin*, C. B. Commander (Caleb Brewster).

Sept. 10—Esther, daughter of Capt. Eliphalet Thorp who died Sept. 1st, aged fifty-six years. Capt. Thorp's sudden death resulted in a curious mortgage, made out by Capt. Joseph Squire, Sept. 3, 1795, "whereas Eliphalet Thorp, decd. did article & indent with sd. Joseph Squire to build a certain vessel & to launch said Vessel afloat in the Water; & whereas sd Vessel is now ready & into the water & whereas sd. Thorp after a very short sickness about 48 hours since died intestate"



1766—The Joseph Silliman homestead (7)
(Photographed 1873)

Oct. 5—News of Captain (Nathaniel) Silliman being found murdered in Spain (where a privateer carried him May 9th) the 18th of June at 8 in the evening by the guard, robbed of his watch & buckles.

N. S(illiman) came often to my father's to relate his ocean stories, among others he told of a captain from Connecticut river who swore he never was afraid of anything whatever but he being three days sail from the W. Indies, as they set the second watch in the night, they saw a man forward whom they hailed who answered not—then they called all hands & the Capt. on deck and they had one more than the Brig's crew—

who could the stranger be?

none durst approach for some time, then said N. (his large black eyes glistening) the poor Capt. was afraid—at last one, more bold than the rest, went up to him, and behold—it was a Negro run away from his master, who had secreted himself in the hold forward, & being almost famished, came on deck to get something to eat. . .

This same N. Silliman, after going 14 voyages was murdered.

Oct. 6—General rendezvous of rust at Reading. (Training Day) Carson outrun— Standard shot to pieces.

Oct. 10—'Tis computed that 10,000 bushels of Oysters will be caught in the Gut of Stratford this fall—500 were taken in a day.

Oct. 17—15 Hhd. of run (i.e. smuggled) Rum found at Derby by N. Rowland.

Nov. 6—Moved!!

Nov. 13—Holberton married to Bathsheba Peet.

Dec. 1—Bees in search of honey—Winter comes in like a lamb—No bad paymaster at last— Winters more moderate than formerly—Wheeler's Ship seized as a Smugler a few days since at New York.

Hardly a child escapes the hooping cough.

Dec. 9—Launched a sloop (10 tons) with 15 men, on two slushed logs from the graving banks where she had been driven by a most violent storm the day before. Which storm reachd as far as Portland—in Massachu-

Oct. 5—Nathaniel, son of Capt. Joseph and Christiania (Hubbell) Silliman, born 11 Aug. 1763.

setts the most severe there that ever was known and did 15,000 dollars damage.

See another year is gone
Quickly have the seasons past
This we enter now upon
Will to many prove their last.

1796

- Jan. 11**—Very moderate weather & no snow but one small storm till today when old hoary Winter lets us know he is in earnest
- Jan. 15**—Sailed a Sloop with 50 Germans who are to be sold for their passage (10 Guineas) They were cast away at Southampton (L.I.) in a Brig about a week before; two days previous to which one of the Company was delivered of a Child whose father died of a cold caught in the Storm.
- Jan. 17**—Sailed a Ship built for N. York by Hull & Lyon Newfield
- Jan. 18**—Sailed for W. Indies Dav. Barlow
- Jan. 21**—Snow level 8 inches—Winter has been so moderate that two crops of apples have been gathered, the last of the size of grapes from some trees.
- Jan. 23**—Two brothers tried for murder of a brother by the Grand Jury—found unworthy of a trial
- Feb. 1**—About this time several people have paralytic shocks, owing to the sudden changes in the Atmosphere—Several unbristled Swine have the measles.
- Feb. 12**—Sailed Capt. Tabur for Bedford, with 800 bush of Corn—Bank of 100,000 Dolls talkd of at Millriver.
- Feb. 19**—James Smedley is in Town—Three boys inoculated for the Small Pox at Capt. Squier's A piece in the Telegraph on Millriver bank.
- March 12**—A Dunning Sermon—"Unloose your Purse-Strings"
- March 14**—Benedict attempting to serve an Execution on N.

Burr, had his arm broken by a hoe—News of his son's death in W. Indies

March 15—E. Bartram at home.

March 17—Foggy, Thunder, heavy Rain, violent driving snowstorm & severe cold all in 24 hours

Ducks are all ashore— Why?— Powder is 12. per lb.

John Wilson's Barn blown down on 5 horses—one Meeting-House window blown in— Geese plenty as black ducks & ducks innumerable: Near this period a boy 12 years old of E. Burrs has his skull broke by a horse & a perforation therein the size of a Dollar, he was trepanned, never lost his senses, & is likely to do well.

March 31—Recd. a letter from James Squier

April 18—In 25 days from St. Bartholomew (via Bermuda) arrived the *Anson*, Capt. Dvd. Barlow.

June 4—Capt. Barlow movd from my house.

June 23—Of the Measles died Betty Brewster—her death had been expected some days, when the day before her decease an Ulcer breaking and discharging, much relieved the respiration and indicated a hope of recovery.

July 6—Several persons arrive from N. York, sick with the Yellow Fever.

Sunday, July 17—Great quantities of wheat got in.

July 25—Moses Sturges (fidler in chief) in a scuffle with Eb. Bradley, a rake of 19, received the length of a pen knife through his ribs. (about this date) In a few weeks he recovered.

Sept. 2—The dryest Summer that has been for 17 years, the leaves of corn in some places are dead. Potatoe mongers hardly get their feed— Roads appear to be burnt— Apples, of which there is great plenty, fall early, ripe but not full grown—Rain plenty back but none here since harvest till this Day. Very healthy with cool Breezes.

Sept. 8—The Shop of D. Deforest (Newfield) about ten in the evening was discovered to be on fire, & Shelton Edwards,

March 14—Nehemiah Burr, Jr. (?).

June 23—Elizabeth Burr Brewster (1792-1796), daughter of Capt. Caleb Brewster.

a boy who kept store, with three bruises on his head, his throat cut, dead, & a bed thrown over him, & 100 dollars in banknotes with 200 in silver missing, but no Goods.

A bottle of wine, some tea, & a Shoemaker's hammer were found on the counter—

Printed handbills were dispersed everyway next morning.

Sept. 9—Two of their Nighest Neighbors—J. J. a noted Swearer, Gambler, wife-abuser, etc. of Greenfield, and J. C., ditto, a noted Whoremaster, Polygamist, one that outrun everything but Justice, these two boarded together, were suspected that night, and cross examined next day.

A bloody shirt was found, their evidences (C.'s wife and a girl's) disagreed, they were out $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour when the deed was committed—

$1\frac{1}{2}$ yd. of cloth, bloody, was found at a distance from the house—J. washed the blood from the Corpse.

Business stagnates & Attention is excited to the highest pitch.

Sept. 10—Funeral sermon at the boy's father (North Stratford). Mr. Sly of North Stratford, a man aged, respectable & religious, unacquainted with C., came for no other purpose to Newfield than to relate a Dream in which this boy appeared staggering & told him that he was killed by a hammer, the name of the person that killd him he told, which Sly forgot.

Twice did he dream the same with the appearance of the Murderer whom he said he could distinguish among a thousand.

Sly being introduced to J. said "That is not he"; accidentally seeing C. and a number more—"That certainly is the man," & approaching him exclaimd, taking hold of his hand, "God forgive you, you have murdered the boy!"

C. almost black in the face said "Perhaps you are mistaken." Sly seemd almost crazy—Tears running off his chin.

Sept. 8—The Deforest store stood at State & Water Streets, Bridgeport. The brothers, David & John Deforest, were ruined by the robbery, but David subsequently made a fortune in South America and returned to Connecticut, settling in New Haven. Orcutt says that no one was convicted of the murder.

Oct. 24—The bones of the Schoolhouse divided.

Oct. 30—J. Squier married to E. Wakeman.

Nov. 22—E. Dimon cut his throat.

Dec. 30—The Wetmores broken—Merchants

1797

Jan. 9—Began school at Black Rock for 9 Dollars a Month.

Feb. 10—Capt. Allen Nichols touched in here—had his cargo taken from him by the French in Guadeloupe.

Bankruptcy the prevailing epidemic among Merchants more universally than ever (probably) was known here before.

Cause—Fires, Fall of Provisions, & Capture of American property by the French.

March 7—Died at Greenfield Deacon Hill, aged 98 years.

March 18—Finished school. . .

April 9—In divine service P.M., J. Smith's house near the meetinghouse caught fire & was burnt with all that was in it—in three days he had another covered gratis.

Same day, Ira Jones, printer, Norfield, nearly expired by a large dose of Laudanum taken the night before.

April 14—Good Friday—Fast— Thomas Bulkley broke his arm by riding over a cow.

April 22—Raised my barn.

May 27—An African having broke his ankle by a cart overturning thereon as he rode therein, Dr. Spalding cut it off & he died immediately.

Aug. 21—Began school Black Rock.

Pigeons of which at this season 20 years ago one might take 20 Dozen in a morn, seem entirely to have deserted us.

A Tax laid on notes, deeds, etc. by Congress,—gradually drawing our nose to the Grindstone— Posterity, suffer it not,—as we fought for our liberty, so must ye— 'Tis time to begin!

Oct. 30—James Squire, son of Capt. John and Lydea (Taylor) Jarvis Squire, married Eunice Wakeman.

Dec. 30—Broken=bankrupt. Prosper Wetmore & Bros. (Prosper, Victory, Robert & William) were merchants in the China & West India trade in Bridgeport and New York City.

Oct. 3—Two Regts. meet on the bog parade, North Stratford. 3 men in one company faint away by the heat, only standing still, in a long valley with trees surrounding it.

Nov. 16—Thomas Bartram married to Sarah Burr.

Died at New York Capt. Wasson with the Yellow Fever—A goat on board had the same and the hair came off. Annabel cut a piece out of his throat; his drink (after it was stich'd) ran out. He stuck a Spindle through his Gullet first.

He was a soldier at the Capture of Cape Breton, he was nearly 76 years of age, sensible & industrious, not very indigent—His motive for such an action I know not—He was alone at the time—he lived only a few days & died sensible & penitent.

Dec. 1—About this time a daughter of J. B. trades out at Newfield, 15 pounds (pretending to be another woman) on credit.

Dec. 25—A negro of Gen. Abel by the splitting of a gun, blows off three fingers.

1798

Mar. 5—Mrs. Thorp, having cut her finger slightly, mortification succeeded. 3 Doctors attended—it was cut off with a chizzel & the finger not touching the black, it rather broke than was cut. She recovered.

Aug. 9—Thermometer at 97.

1799

May 5—Died my Mother

May 9—Uncle Wakeman Burr found dead in a Lot, supposed to die in a fit.

May 24—Died about 1 the following night, my brother John's wife in an apoplectic fit.

Nov. 16—Sarah, born 29 March, 1771, daughter of Nehemiah and Sarah (Osborn) Burr.
Nov. 16—Capt. John Wasson, 1754-1797. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph and Rebecca (Squire) Bartram.

May 5—Deborah (1730-1799), daughter of John and Catherine (Wakeman) Burr, wife of Ichabod Wheeler whom she married, 1752.

May 9—Wakeman Burr (1743-1799) was her brother.

- Aug. 22—Married John Wheeler to Catharine Holberton.
 Oct. 20—An excessive gale moved J. Wheeler's store 50 feet along, carried my father's batteau 7 or 8 rods.

1800

- Jan. 11—Barlow Sturges raises his tavern flag.
 March 16—A Sloop caught fire by Lime Slacking.
 This week Mrs. Wakelee, aged 90, had fire in the afternoon snap on her, burnt to death—got as far as the door.
 Nov. 22—Married Eleazar Edgington to Miss Patience Wheeler.

1801

To Mr. Reader— We are entered upon a new Century—
 Ah, what changes will happen before this 100 shall run out.

Old Book, long before that time you must expire—but how?—
 Perhaps cut out, leaf by leaf for shaving paper—perhaps used up as a wrapper, or maybe burned all at once, or—
 oh ignominious fate!—devoted to Cloacine. Be that as it will, live as long as you can,—So I go on again.

- Jan. 11—Died Abraham Parrit's wife.
 Feb. 10—A case before Dr. Allen, Esq. John Wheeler sued Barlow Sturges for damage done in wheat by geese where the fence was insufficient— 'Twas proved that the geese went around by water & over his fence, therefore the plaintiff recovered Damage & Cost.
 Feb. 19—Died Thaddeus Burr.

Aug. 22—John Wheeler's first wife was Lydea, daughter of Capt. John and Lydea (Taylor) Jarvis Squire. Catherine, his second wife, was daughter of Capt. Thomas and Ruth (Wilson) Holberton.

March 16—Tabitha, widow of Zebulon Wakelee.

Nov. 22—Patience, daughter of Capt. David Wheeler. Her husband's name appears elsewhere as Edgerton.

Jan. 11—Ruhamah, mother of Rhoda (Parrit) Wheeler, wife of the diarist. William Wheeler married Rhoda Parrit 13 April, 1800.

Feb. 19—Thaddeus Burr, the distinguished resident of Fairfield, at whose home during the Revolution John Hancock married Dorothy Quincy. He was distantly connected with the Thaddeus Burr who later lived in Black Rock (see *Families*).

March 27—A storm of 14 Days.

May 27—Died Capt. Samll Squier, respectable as seaman, merchant & magistrate.

July 24—Two stores (Perry's & Osborn's) raised at Black Rock.

Aug. 29—Died Daniel Osborn, Jr.

Sept. 23—Married Capt. Sellers to Mrs. Lucy Sanford.

Oct. 10—Measuring for a road to Greenfield

Nov. 30—Died of a hectic fever, Mrs. Lucy Sellers.

Number of inhabitants in Black Rock: Capt. Squiers 7 Burrs 4— Sillimans 2— Gold 4— J. Bartram 4— Sturges 3— Chancy 2— H. Osborn 5— J. Wheeler 2— W. Wheeler 3— Brewster 7— C. W. 2— Mrs. Bart- (ram) 1— T. Bartram 4— J. Wheeler 6—Total 56 (57?)

1802

March 4—A continued storm of 12 days except one—Nor sun, Moon, nor blue sky appeared.

July 27—Died Andrew Rowland, Esq.

Aug. 22—Fairfield Bridge fell with a Load of Boards—Turney had his leg broke & bruised in a shocking manner. Fairfield town paid him 200 dollars.

Dec. 20—Town meeting—road from Wm. Wheeler's to Read's established. For one acre & 30 rods of my land & 138 rods of fence only 80 dollars allowed. Formerly for village road by Read's 122 dollars.

1803

Jan. 23—Married Barnabas Bartram & Deborah Squier.

Feb. 22—Died at Bridgeport, Daniel Young.

Oct. 10—This road now upper Brewster Street.

July 27—Judge Andrew Rowland (1737-1802), graduate of Yale, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Governor Fitch.

Dec. 20—This road, formerly Church, now lower Ellsworth Street.

Jan. 23—Barnabas, son of Ebenezer and Mary (Burr) Bartram, married Deborah, daughter of Ebenezer and Mary (Wheeler) Squire. To her for her "care and services" Capt. Ichabod Wheeler, her grandfather, deeded his house.

March 5—In a pleasant night, 4 miles from Boston, Capt. Woodhull turning a boat over, fell backward overboard—A seaman soon went in the Boat after & almost recovered him when his oar broke—the Seaman was not taken up till next morning.

March 11—Moved 50 feet on Rollers Mr. Riley's store.

April 1—About this time came Mr. Riley from Staten Island to take possession of John Wheeler's house, store &c, for which he gave 2500 Dollars.

We now expect that Black Rock will flourish as a place of trade, as there are 6 stores now built & 5 wharves & 4 vessels.

The Families are James Squiers, Nehemiah Burrs, Christiania Sillimans, Job Bartrams, Hezekiah Osborns, Barlow Sturges, Wolcot Chaunceys, Terence Rileys, Ebenezer Bartrams, (Charles Wakeman a black) N. Adams, Caleb Brewsters, William Wheelers, Ichabod Wheelers, Widow Woodhulls, John Wheelers, Samuel Reads, David Wheelers & Chauncey Wheelers, 16 (19?) families & 15 dwellinghouses, & 54 inhabitants besides those by Mr. Reeds, exclusive of about 20 boarders.

April 23—Saturday night at Burrs ware, E. Patchin & Chauncey Wheeler trying to fish, the boat sunk—

They hung on by the poles for an hour when Wheeler attempting to swim to this side was drowned. Three hours or more afterwards, Patchin, just alive, was taken off by a boat from the upper wharf.

Thus expired the father of 9 children. He was on board of the *Alliance* frigate in the American war & came to the relief of Paul Jones when engaging the *Serapis* Man-of-War.

He had been in many dangers at sea, and off Branford swam ashore three-quarters of a mile from a vessel owned by Capt. Hobby, which was very soon after taken possession of by the enemy, who poured several volleys of shot upon

March 5—Abraham Cooper Woodhull of Brookhaven, L. I., married in 1782 Eunice, daughter of Seth and Mary (Burr) Sturges.

them while swimming & likewise while climbing a steep bank.

He was a man brave from nature, indefatigable in exertions for the support of his family, for which the deepest recesses of the Earth, neither cold, heat, nor fire nor water could ever deter him while alive.

—Ye for whom he excavated the Earth & pierced the solid rock & hazarded his health, limbs, & life to procure that most useful of all fluids for you & your families—the Orphans & Widow claim the hand of Charity & benevolence,—generously throw in your mite.

No man was more witty than he—& Melancholy must have screwd up that face to an extreme degree which a touch of his brilliant mirth could not relax. Some failings he had— Charity, over these draw the veil of Oblivion.

May 20th—Road from Wm. Wheelers to S. Reads opened & mended.

July 17—B Bibbins' house struck.

Dec. 2—Died Ebenezer Squier.

Dec. 3—Moved to my house Lewis Goodsell & family to build a vessel.

1804

April 27—Died Deacon Daniel Osborn.

May 10—Died Seth Sturges—about a week before, having a cold, he was taken delirious in the night, went out in his shirt, & staid out some time, which occasioned his death.

June 12—Died Hannah Wheeler.

July 3—Lewis Goodsell & family left my house.

July 25—Danll Lacy, blowing a rock near, this day, the charge went off & hurt his hand very much.

April 23—Chauncy, son of Capt. David and Lois (Chauncy) Wheeler. His occupation, so poetically described, may need interpretation in these days of reservoirs and plumbing. He was a well-digger.

Dec. 2—Ebenezer (1754-1803), son of Capt. Joseph and Mehitable (Burr) Squier, married 29 June, 1776, Mary Wheeler, sister of the diarist. She is later mentioned as "Sister Squire."

May 10—Seth (1737-1804), son of Seth, Sr. He married Mary, daughter of Peter Burr. Three of their sons, Benjamin, Barlow, and Gershom, and one of their daughters, Eunice Woodhull, lived in Black Rock for longer or shorter periods of time.