DIARY

OF

SAMUEL SEWALL.

1674–1729.

Vol. II.

1699–1700–1714.
only Sworn. Past 8. at night adjourn’d to 9. next morning.

About 150.£ received for Constable Fines.

March, 17. Gen’l Court rises.

March, 22. Council for Nomination of Officers appointed this day; but the Govr came not to Town; Secretary acquainted us from his Excellency’s Letter, that twas adjourn’d to Friday, Mar. 23. at 3 p. m. Friday, Mar. 23. About 10. m. Maxwell comes to my house and warns me to meet his Excellency in Council at 3 p. m. About an hour after comes again, and warns me to meet the Govr presently. After some other Business, the Govr nominated Mr. Tho. Brattle a Judge of the Infer. Court in the room of Col. Foster; this pass’d in the Negative.¹ All was over before the Arrival of the Time appointed for the Council.

Seventh-day, March, 24. 1711 Mr. Corwin, Mr. Attorney and I set out for Plimouth about 1 p. m. Got to Weymouth a pretty while before Sun-Set; I lodge at Cousin Hunt’s.

March, 25. 1711. Hear Mr. Peter Thacher of Weymouth, who prays and preaches well; though he had been at Boston to see his new-married Sister, which might occasion his preparations to be less full. Sup at Mr. Thacher’s.

March, 26. proceed to Plimouth, Joshua Kibbe waiting on me. From Cushing’s with Mr. Attorney, who kept the Sabbath at Hingham. Din’d at Bairstow’s. Were met by the Sheriff a little on this side Cook’s; got to Plimouth before 5. Quarter’d at Witherrill’s. March, 27. Major

¹ After Brattle’s rejection, the Governor nominated, for the fourth justice of the Common Pleas of Suffolk, Samuel Lynde, April 2. He was rejected, and the Council added: “It is their unanimous opinion That the three surviving Justices, being a Quorum according to the Law, are legally qualified to hold the said Court, and ought to hold the name accordingly, that the service of the Queen or subjects be prejudiced for failure thereof.” Finally, June 11, 1711, Thomas Palmer was nominated and confirmed. — End.

Walley, who lodgd at Cook’s, comes to us seasonably. Open the Court.

Martij 28. mihi natalis, in Aedes intravi et ibidem Preces effodi.

March, 29. Col. Byfield argues the Case of Prohibition; between Mr. Attorney and him, about three hours were taken up, from 11 to 2. Indian man charg’d with Ravishing an Indian Girl of 3 years old, was brought off, the principal Evidence being dead. Col. Thacher came to us; I gave him a Consolament to Mr. Lothrop. Artillery Sermon of Dr. Mather; to Mr. Little, and Mr. Sheriff Consolations. To many Question about marrying ones Wives own Sister.

Sixth-day, March, 30. Set out about 8. m. baited at Bairstow’s, dined at Cushing’s. Mr. Corwin rode away alone, and went out of his way towards Bridgewater; but got to Cushing’s. Baited at the half Moon at Miller’s, came all together into Town; found all well. Laus Deo. God is the more to be acknowledged because I had more misgivings than at some other times.

Second-day, April, 2. Mr. Walter is chosen to Preach the Artillery Sermon. At a Council, the Govr Nominates Mr. Sam. Lynde to be a Judge in stead of Col. Foster. I desir’d time of Consideration as Col. Foster us’d to doe. Council is adjourn’d to the 19th of April.

April, 3. I dine with the Court at Fullin’s. Mr. Attorney treats us at his house with excellent Pippins, Anchovas, Olives, Nuts. I said I should be able to make no Judgment on the Pippins without a Review, which made Company Laugh. Spake much of Negroes; I mention’d the problem, whether should be white after the Resurrection. Mr. Belt took it up as absurd, because the body should be void of all Colour, spake as if it should be a Spirit. I object what Christ said to his Disciples after the Resurrection. He said twas not so after his Ascension. April, 4. Wadlin comes in from Salt-Tertulia [Tortugas],
in whom comes Mr. Josiah Willard, who has been twice taken. Used civilly at first by the Privateer; but suffer’d hardship in Prison at Martinique. After, was going to Barbades, was taken, Stript, and us’d Roughly.

Capt. Jr. Rainsford and Pulciyer are dead.

April, 13. Dr. Mather visited me, I return’d his little Book out of which I reprinted the Case of Conscience against a man’s marrying his Brother’s [?] sister. He went into Chamber and pray’d with my wife and family, particularly for Joseph, who was there. Joseph returns to Cambridge in the afternoon.

About 5. p. ñ. Richard Hobby, Son of Capt. John Hobby, a desireable youth of about 13 or 14 years old, was kill’d with the overthrowing of a Cart upon him near the N[orth] Meetinghouse.

April, 15. Mr. Pemberton is indisposed as was administering the Lords Súper. Had so much of a Fever as to keep him at home in the afternoon, by which means Mr. Holyoke was alone.

April, 19. 1711. Council, present his Excellency the Govr.

Winthrop
Elihaa Hutchinson
S. Sewall
Isa. Addington
Pet’r Sergeant
John Walley
Penn Townsend
Joseph Lynde
Ez Hutchinson
Andrew Bechar
Ed’r Bronfield
Nathiel Norden.

1 This seems to be Josiah Willard, born 1681, H. C. 1698, for many years Secretary of the Province. The Willard Memoir, p. 99, says: “After leaving college, Mr. Willard became a tutor at that institution, pursued his studies in divinity, and began to preach; but, on account of an unresolvable difference, he soon relinquished the profession. He travelled abroad, to the West Indies and Europe; and, at one time, commanded a ship in the London trade.” — Eds.

2 In Bishle’s Catalogue we find the following title: “An Answer of Several Ministers in and near Boston, to that Case of Conscience, Whether it is lawfull for a Man to Marry his Wife’s own Sister?” pp. 6, 8vo.


The Govr. Nominated Mr. Saml. Lynde for a Judge of the Inferior Court; which pass’d in the Negative. I observ’d but one for him; and that was Cap’ Norden in a mean way; as far as I could hear, he said he knew nothing against him. The Browns of Attleborough, Reboth, Swansey pleaded before the Govr. and Council about Wills and Lands bequeathed in Narrangaset. I enquired what we had to do, to judge of Lands in the Narrangaset Country? Mr. Secretary said, I was in the right. However, the Petition was dismiss’d, upon the head of the young men having offer’d equal Terms of Accommodation.

April, 20. 1711. Mr. S. Gerrish goes to Wenham.

April, 21. Plenty of Swallows. Note. Hannah Gerrish was taken very sick last night.

April 22. Lords Day, B. Gray calls me up at 1. at night: I find poor little Hannah Gerrish in an Agony; I went to Prayer; afterwards B. Gray read the 5th Rom. I found the Chapter so full of Comfort that awhile after I read it over again. About 6. m. Mr. Wadsworth came and pray’d with little Hānāh. Mr. Gerrish her Father came home at ½ hour past Nine: put up a Note in the Afternoon, which Mr. Pemberton read coming out in his Gown.

April 23. I was call’d up between 2 and 3 at night, but my little Hānāh Expire before I got thither. However, She had the Respect of one visit after death. She Expire about ½ hour after 2 at night. The Lord prepare me for my great Change.

Third-day, April, 24. Hānāh Gerrish is buried. Bearer, Gillam Phillips, and Benj. Gray: white Scarvs. Was put into the Tomb just before Sun-set, several of the Council, Dr. Cotton Mather, Mr. Wadsworth, Cotman there. Note. This day, about noon, John Kent of the Island had his Barn burnt by Tabacco, and Six oxen and four calves in it, and a Goose bringing young ones. The Oxen were heard to roar afar off: but the Flame was so rapat, the