

**AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS**

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Parkman Family Papers, 1707-1879

LOCATION(S):

Mss. boxes "P"
Mss. octavo vols. "P"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

7 manuscript boxes; 13 octavo volumes

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

For portions of Ebenezer Parkman's diary that have been published, see Harriette N. Forbes' *The Diary of Ebenezer Parkman...* (Westborough, Mass.: Westborough Historical Society, 1899.) and Francis G. Walett's *The Diary of Ebenezer Parkman, 1703-1782* (Worcester, Mass.: American Antiquarian Society, 1974.). An excellent biographical sketch of Rev. Ebenezer Parkman is in Clifford K. Shipton's *Sibley's Harvard Graduates*, v.6 (Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1942.), p. 510—27. For information on the Parkman family in Westborough, Mass., consult Heman Packard DeForest and Edward Craig Bates, *The History of Westborough Massachusetts* (Westborough, Mass.: Published by the Town, printed at the University Press, Cambridge, 1891.).

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

The source for much of the family papers is unknown. Portions of Ebenezer Parkman's diary and other manuscripts were given to the American Antiquarian Society in July 135 by Charles Breck Parkman of Westborough, great-grandson of the clergyman (see AAS donation book, 1830-1814, p. 94). Ebenezer Parkman's diary for 1738-1748 was a gift of Judge William E. Fowler of Westborough, July 23, 1931. The diaries for the years 1736 and 1742 were purchased from Charles Lloyd, Rare Books, in April 1985. The diary for 1773—1778 was loaned by the Westborough Historical Society in 1915. A portion of Ebenezer Parkman's diary, the Breck Parkman diary, Ebenezer Parkman's account book, genealogical material, and miscellaneous papers were given to AAS by Mrs. George Parkman Denny of Milton, Mass. (see AAS correspondence, May 22, 1945). William Parkman's Bible was given by Helen W. Johnson (Mrs. Charles L. Johnson) in 1949. Some family papers and many of the ecclesiastical papers of Ebenezer Parkkman were received by AAS as part of the William Lincoln collection.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

The collection consists primarily of the diaries, sermons, essays, ecclesiastical papers, and correspondence of the Rev. Ebenezer Parkman (1703-1782), pastor of the town of Westborough, Massachusetts, from 1724 to 1782. Also included are papers (mostly correspondence) of other members of his family for the years 1707 to 1829, and some genealogical material on the Parkman family from about 1620 to 1879.

Ebenezer Parkman, son of William Parkman, a shipwright, was born in Boston on September 5, 1703. Soon after graduating from Harvard College in 1721, he became the first settled minister in the town of Westborough in central Massachusetts, faithfully serving the community from the day of his ordination, October 28, 1724, until his death on December 9, 1782. Parkman married (1) Mary Champney (1699-1735/6), daughter of Samuel and Hannah Champney of Cambridge, in 1724, and (2) Hannah Breck (1717-1801), daughter of the Rev. Robert Breck of Marlborough, in 1737. Through his own marriages, those of his numerous brothers and sisters in the area, and those of his sixteen children who were married, Parkman's family relations extended throughout much of New England. The Ebenezer Parkman diaries held by the American Antiquarian Society, housed in six octavo boxes, contain entries for the years 1723-1728, 173, 1738—1761 (except i1741, Feb.-Dec. 1753), and 1764-1778 (except most of 1772, 1773, 1774). (Other portions of the diary are located at the Massachusetts Historical Society.) In 1899, the Westborough Historical Society published portions of the diary for 173 and 1778-1780. The American Antiquarian Society in 1974 published the first part of *The Diary of Ebenezer Parkman* (covering the years 1719-1755), edited by Francis Walett. Typescript copy for the years 1723-Jan. 1724 is included with the original in this collection. There is also a list of known diaries and their locations, compiled by C.K. Shipton. The diary provides valuable information on people and events in and around Westborough in the eighteenth century. Parkman discusses topics ranging from the Great Awakening, the French and Indian War, and the American Revolution, to more routine matters such as births, death, marriages and family life, ministerial activities, religion and religious controversies, morals, health and medicine, farming, and the weather.

In addition to the clergyman's diaries, the collection contains his account book for the years 1766-1782, which includes itemized lists of expenses as well as receipts, and the names of merchants and laborers with whom he did business. There is one manuscript box containing Ebenezer Parkman's unpublished sermons, fragments of sermons, and religious notes, 1724-1781. The sermons are chronologically arranged by date of first delivery and they frequently include notations on location and date of later delivery. Parkman numbered his sermons (last is number 2021), and from the broken sequence, it appears this is but a fraction of the total number of sermons he wrote. Another box contains the clergyman's ecclesiastical papers, his writings, extracts and notes on readings, and notes on sermons and orations delivered by others. The ecclesiastical papers include Parkman's notes on church meetings and issues, "relations" or confessions or faith for church members, and papers concerning his activities on various councils of ministers, held in Rutland (1736), Upton (1744), Leominster (1758), Westminster (1762), and Bolton (1771). Miscellaneous writings of Parkman, 1718-1771, include such items as essays, autobiographical reflections, and a small volume entitled "The Memoirs of Mrs. Sarah Pierpont

(1710-1753), which Parkman edited from her diary. Contents of this box are chronologically arranged, except the relations, which are alphabetically arranged. See contents list for location of items. (Correspondence of Ebenezer Parkman is included in the manuscript box of family correspondence.)

The diary of Ebenezer Parkman, Jr. (1727-1811), son of the Westborough minister, is contained in one octavo volume, with brief entries (one page per month) and covers the following dates: June 1, 1779-June 27, 1781, when the writer served in the Revolutionary War in the New York and New Jersey area; November 15, 1782-May 30, 1784, with entries for New Braintree and Westborough, Mass.; and March 23, 1792-September 24, 1793, with entries for Brookfield, Mass. Ebenezer Parkman, Jr. was a sergeant in Col. Jeduthan Baldwin's Regiment of Engineers during the Revolutionary War. Diary entries for his war service mention troop movements and operations in Peekskill, Fishkill, and New Windsor, New York, and Morristown, New Jersey. He was discharged May 15, 1781, at Fishkill. Diary entries after 1781 contain information on births, deaths, marriages, family life, local events, and the weather, in connection with Parkman's activities as schoolmaster for the towns of New Braintree and Brookfield.

The diary of Breck Parkman (1748/9-1825), another son of the Westborough minister, is contained in one octavo volume and includes entries for the years 1775, and 1778-1802. Entries for 1775 mention early Revolutionary War activity, such as troop movements in Boston, and battles of Lexington and Concord, as well as the writer's own activity in the Westborough militia. Later entries contain information on Breck Parkman's activities as one of Westborough's prominent merchants. Entries are made for family matters, trade and labor accounts, local events, journeys, and the weather.

The Parkman family genealogy consists of one octavo traycase containing: (1) records of the Parian, Breck, and Brigham families (1635-1850); (2) "A Genealogy of the Family of Parkman, Down to the Year 1801, by Breck Parkman," which has been extended to about 1850; and (3) "Parkman Genealogy," 1879, no author, which lists manuscript data for Parkman, Breck, and Brigham families, 1631-1879. There is also one manuscript box of Parkman family correspondence, 1735-1829, and one folder of 17 items, which included miscellaneous family papers, financial records, and documents, 1707—1800, all chronologically arranged. The correspondence includes for the most part topics of a personal nature, relating to family matters and activities. Principal correspondents include Ebenezer Parkman, Breck Parkman, Elijah Brigham, Josiah Brigham, and Eli Forbes. There are three letters of Edmund Quincy (1703-1788), a prominent Boston merchant, to Ebenezer Parkman, concerning political affairs at the time of the Revolution. One folder contains 114 letters of Israel Loring (1682-1772), a Sudbury minister, although it is not known why these have been preserved with the Parkman family papers.

The "Natalitia" volume of Ebenezer Parkman contains brief (generally, one or two page) memoranda written by Parkman on the occasion of his birthday and usually assessing his spiritual state and relationships to God. There are no entries from 1735 through 1742, except for 1740. The entries start in 1727 and continue through the year of his death.

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT

Parkman Family Papers, 1707-1879
CONTENTS LIST

Manuscript Octavo Volume	Date	Contents
1	June 1723- September 1728	Ebenezer Parkman diary (contains Parkman's notes re: John Adams' (-1740) lecture on poetry)
2	January 8- December 1736	Ebenezer Parkman diary
3	1738-1740; 1742; 1743-1748	Ebenezer Parkman diary (fragment for Dec. 21-31, 1742, is a photocopy of originals held by the Massachusetts Historical Society)
4	1749-1755 (except Feb.- Dec. 1753)	Ebenezer Parkman diary (1749 and 1755 are photocopies of originals held by the Massachusetts Historical Society)
5	1756-May 1761	Ebenezer Parkman diary
6	June 14, 1764- July 13, 1771; July 25, 1775- August 15, 1777; November 10- 21, 1792	Ebenezer Parkman diary
7	June 15, 1773- October 1778 (except July 25, 1775-August 31, 1777)	Ebenezer Parkman diary
8	1766-1782	Ebenezer Parkman account book
9	1779-1784; 1792-1793	Ebenezer Parkman, Jr., diary
10	1775; 1778-1802	Breck Parkman diary
11		Parkman Family Bible, London, 1599
12	1635-1879	Parkman Family genealogy, 3 parts in 1 volume
13	1727-1782	Ebenezer Parkman "Natalitia"

Manuscript Box	Folder		
1			Ebenezer Parkman's sermons, 1724-1781, chronologically arranged by date of first delivery (7 folders); includes sermon, 5 July 1778, written on occasion of the execution of Bathsheba Ruggles Spooner (1745-1778)
2			Ebenezer Parkman's ecclesiastical papers, writings, extracts, and notes on readings
	1		Notes on church meetings and issues
	2		Relations (confessions of sins) for members of Westborough church, alphabetically arranged
	3		Notes on proceedings of ecclesiastical councils: Rutland (1736); Upton (1744); Leominster (1758); Westminster (1762); Bolton (1771-1777)
	4		Writings of Ebenezer Parkman, 1718-1771. Includes autobiographical notes and memos, confessions, a lecture on the human mind, the charge delivered at the ordination of Elijah Fitch, and the memoirs of Mrs. Sarah Pierpont
	5		Extracts and notes on readings, notes on sermons and orations delivered by others, 1712-1779
3			Parkman family papers, correspondence, miscellaneous
	1	No date	Correspondence
	2	1735-1769	Correspondence
	3	1770-1779	Correspondence
	4	1780-1789	Correspondence
	5	1792-1799	Correspondence
	6	1800-1809	Correspondence
	7	1812-1829	Correspondence
	8	nd, 1750-1767	Israel Loring, Correspondence
	9	1707-1800	Documents, financial records, miscellaneous
4			Transcriptions by Eleanor Adams
5			Transcriptions and research by Francis G. Walett
6			Transcriptions and research by Francis G. Walett
7			Transcriptions by Ross Beales