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*Jonathan Boucher
Governor of the Province of Massachusetts Bay
1790-41*

SIBLEY'S HARVARD GRADUATES

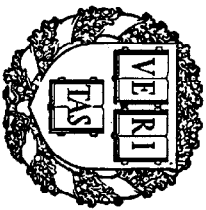
VOLUME IV • 1690-1700

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF
THOSE WHO ATTENDED
HARVARD COLLEGE

IN THE CLASSES 1690-1700
WITH BIBLIOGRAPHICAL AND OTHER NOTES

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CLASS OF 1926



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WORKS

Various legal papers of Read are preserved in the court files of Connecticut and Massachusetts. The M. H. S. has a number of miscellaneous papers and letters, some of which are in the Winthrop MSS. and not listed in the general catalogue. Some of his writings have been printed in the following places: 6 *Coll. M. H. S.* v (Winthrop Papers); *Law Papers*, III (*Coll. Conn. Hist. Soc.* xv); *Talcott Papers*, II (*Coll. Conn. Hist. Soc.* v); Edmund F. Slattery, *John Checkley* (Prince Society, 1897), II, 38-44; Jeremy Belknap, *History of New Hampshire* (Boston, 1792), III, 359-65; George B. Reed, *John Read* (ed. 1903).

His only printed work is A LATIN GRAMMAR. . . . Boston, 1736. pp. (2), 34, 20. AAS, BA, CHS.

JOHN SOUTHMAYD

JOHN SOUTHMAYD, minister and public servant, was born at Middletown, Connecticut, August 23, 1676,¹ the son of William Southmayd, a sea captain and shipowner of good estate. His mother, William Southmayd's first wife, was the daughter of Giles Hamlin. At college John served two terms as monitor, but was constantly in trouble and spent more on sizings and commons than did more serious students.² At the settlement of his father's estate a few years later the court calculated the cost of his "having been kept at learning" at 81/3. He took no second degree.

The town of Waterbury invited Southmayd to preach there after his classmate John Read had refused to stay: "November 2d: 1699: the town mad choyce of . . . a cominity to treat Mr. John southmeat funder in order to that work of the ministry." They were unable to come to an agreement for some time because of the town's distressed condition, flood-swept and exposed to Indians.⁴ This did not prevent his marrying Susanna, daughter of William and Phebe Ward of Middletown, in 1700. His double share of the estate of his father, who died in 1702,

¹ Joseph Anderson, ed., *The Churches of Malabarck* (New Haven, 1892), p. 187.

² An anecdote of his college days is printed in the sketch of his classmate, Hugh Adams.

³ *A Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records, Hartford District* (Hartford, 1904-06), II, 116.

⁴ Details of the negotiations are to be found in Henry Bronson, *History of Waterbury* (Waterbury, 1858), pp. 215-6.

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enabled him to remain and attend to the spiritual needs of unfortunate Waterbury, which could not pay an adequate salary. Two years later he refused an increase of 5*l*, but the town, not to be outdone in generosity, voted him 10*l* in labor. It likewise forfeited his house against the Indians, every man setting a portion of the stockade. The town was wise in taking such precautions to keep a good minister, for a neighboring family was broken up by the savages a few years later.

Finally, on May 30, 1705,⁵ Mr. Southmayd was ordained over a church of twelve men, on a salary of 60 to 70*l* in provisions and labor, and a settlement of 115*l*, his house in full title, and an interest in the township. From time to time as the financial condition of the town improved and the currency depreciated, additional grants were made.⁶ A typical agreement provided that his salary should be paid in these commodities:

Whet five shillings pr busel ry at 3s per busel indian corn at two shillings six pens per besel: porke at three pens per pound all to be good and marchantabul: befe and flaxe and other pay to be at a prise as mr Southmaid and the party consumed shal agree: also mr southmad shal not be abligt to take aboue one thurd part of his rat in indian corn and if any man se cauns to pay any part of rat in mony it shal be accepced at two thirds.⁷

Mr. Southmayd was truly the shepherd of his flock, a Puritan minister at his best. One boy who grew up in the Waterbury over which he presided could say that he never heard a profane word in the town.⁸ As the only educated man in Waterbury he was of great service to the proprietors, and acted as town clerk from 1721 to his death. One wonders if he originated the peculiar provisions for seating the congregation, by which one year of age and 4*l* of wealth were considered equal in determining precedence.

In 1738, "being under great Difficulty and Infirmity of Body . . . and being Quite discouraged as to getting well and finding that a sedentary life" was "very Destructive" to his "health and being very far advanced in years," he asked and received his dismission.⁹ Perhaps impending difficulties had something to do

⁵ Anderson, p. 188.

⁶ *Proprietors' Records of the Town of Waterbury* (Marratuck Hist. Soc. 1911), passim.

⁷ Bronson, p. 217.

⁸ Anderson, p. 195.

⁹ Bronson, p. 218.

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with his eagerness to resign, for he had claims against the town for unpaid obligations which he submitted to a council for arbitration. At its suggestion he offered to accept 100^l and the use of the "little pasture" for life in return for his claims. The town agreed "by a full vote," but before the payment fell due, certain Anglicans resisted because of their objections to paying rates to a Congregational minister, and plunged Waterbury into religious strife. Mr. Southmayd let the 100^l go rather than prolong the quarrel, and with an unusual show of Christian spirit offered no resistance to the founding of an Anglican church.

For seventeen years Mr. Southmayd was the outstranding layman and the most useful inhabitant of Waterbury. He continued his old services as town clerk and recorder and clerk of the proprietors; he had the care of letting out the school funds, taking security, overseeing the mortgages, keeping the notes and bonds that the town obtained, drawing up legal papers, and serving as town treasurer. In 1740 the town sent him to the General Assembly, where for four years he served on important committees; and in his 78th year returned him again. From 1741 until his death he served as a justice of the peace or of the peace and quorum. Having outlived all of the original proprietors, his wife, and all of his children but his daughter Esther, he died on November 14, 1755. His estate was large, for he had bought much land besides that given him by the town and colony,¹⁰ and inventoried almost 2000^l, apparently in 'lawful currency,' which was then worth about eight times as much as 'old tenor.' His library was worth only 9/6s 4d. He disposed of his slaves in this wise:

My negro man Sampson and my negro Girl Fillis, if they be faithful, careful and industrious in helping to bring up my Grandchildren, William, Samuel, Anna, John and Daniel Southmayd, till the youngest be twelve years of age, then they may be free and live with any of my children they shall choose, or any other person, and if they live with any of mine and should live to be a charge the charge to be levied out of my estate, except it shall appear that those they have lived with have been considerably profited by them.¹¹

Besides Esther, mentioned above, he had four children: Daniel, who died at Waterbury January 12 or 19, 1754, in his

¹⁰ *Public Records of Colony of Conn.* 1717-1725, p. 33.

¹¹ Bronson, p. 221.

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37th year; John, who died there February 2 or 28, 1742/3, in his 33rd year; Susannah, born in 1704, married Thomas Bronson, and died August 13, 1741; and Anne, married Joseph Bronson and died August 12, 1749, aged 43 years.

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His account book for the building of the second meeting-house, 1727-1729, is printed in *Ancient Burying-Grounds of the Town of Waterbury* (Marrattuck Hist. Soc. 1917), pp. 266-76.

ANTHONY STODDARD (I)

ANTHONY STODDARD, minister and physician, was born August 9, 1678, the son of the Reverend Solomon Stoddard (A. B. 1667) of Northampton and his wife Esther, daughter to the Reverend John Warham. Stoddard Senior, as the college records call this Anthony because he was one place ahead of his cousin and classmate, was notable during his first two years at Cambridge for breaking college laws and windows, but during the last two years he lived out and caused less trouble. He left college after graduation and did not take his second degree until 1715.

After studying theology with some of the divines of Boston and with his father, Anthony in 1700 received a call to settle at Woodbury, Connecticut. On August 13 the town voted him a salary of 70^l and firewood, and to give him land and build him a parsonage, "hee providing nayles and glass." The property was to be his and his heirs for ever if he remained in the ministry there for six years. "It was Voated and agreed that the above-said Specices for mr Stoddard's yearly mayntenance bee leyed at the prices following: wheat at 4s 6d per Bushell; pork at 3d per lb; Indian Corn 2s 6d per Bushell; pease three shillings per Bushell. And these prices for this yeare the Town will not vary from for the future Extraordinary providences interposing being Excepted."¹

On October 20, 1700,² Stoddard married Prudence Wells of Wethersfield. The town shortly thereafter laid out the parsonage land and built the promised house, surrounding it with palisades and making it the most commodious garrison of the

¹ William Cothren, *Ancient Woodbury* (Waterbury, 1854), p. 136.

² *N. E. Hist. Gen. Reg.* xx, 124.

1768" In the recent Yale Yearbook, 1768 Southmayd of the class of 1761 is marked as having died in 1811. This was given on the written authority of a person of credibility; but it is nevertheless a "false fact." The same man is found on the Harvard Yearbook, among the "Honorees of 1768," & lest you should be misled by our error, I send you this correction. Tr. I was grandson of Rev. John Southmayd of Waterbury, Conn. was born in Waterbury, Conn. — is supposed to have studied Law, — went into the Army probably as a physician, & died in the year 1779, somewhere in the neighborhood of Lake Champlain. This information I have from Judge Bennet Bronson, of Waterbury, Conn. [Removes his letter Feb 9, 1848]