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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THOSE WHO ATTENDED
HARVARD COLLEGE
IN THE CLASSES 1761–1763
WITH BIBLIOGRAPHICAL AND OTHER NOTES

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NATHAN STONE

Nathan Stone, the second minister of the First Congregational Church of Dennis, was born on September 30, 1737, a son of the Reverend Nathan (A.B. 1726) and Judith (Fox) Stone of Southborough. He kept the Westborough school before he went to college, where he lived in Old Stoughton with Bowen '62 and Bowen '63. He volunteered to inform against the users of profanity, served as a monitor, held a Hollis Scholarship, and received £10 from the Elder James Penn legacy, which was in the custody of the First Church of Boston. For his M.A. he prepared to argue that The World will not be Annihilated in a Final Conflagration.

During his undergraduate years Stone kept the Needham school during vacations, and after taking his first degree he supplied the Lynn pulpit for a time. In July, 1764, he was called to what was then the East Parish of Yarmouth, where he was ordained on October 17. On that occasion, Ebenezer Parkman (A.B. 1721) reported:

Mr. Stone's Dismission from the Church in Lyn was read and he was admitted into the Church of East Yarmouth. He exhibited a Confession of Faith—all were satisfied and every thing being prepared, we repair'd to the Meeting House—There Every thing was very Orderly, quiet and Solemn. Mr. Smith [A.B. 1735] of Marlborough began with prayer. Mr. Stone the Father preached. . . . Mr. Green [A.B. 1746] pray'd and gave the Charge. Mr. Isaiah Lewis [A.B. 1723] pray'd after the Charge: I gave the Right Hand of Fellowship. Young Mr. Stone . . . gave the Blessing.¹

In the ordination sermon his father warned him that if he departed from the doctrine enunciated in his confession of faith, the congregation would be quite justified in dropping him.²

Stone had an understanding with Molly, alias Mary, daughter of the Reverend Job (A.B. 1714) and Mary (Prentice) Cushing of Shrewsbury, and when their plans were ripe, the church of East Yarmouth appointed two of its deacons to accompany him to the wedding, which took place on October 17, 1765. They had three children, of whom Nathaniel was graduated at Harvard in 1795.³ Molly died in April 1790, and on February 7, 1794, the Parson married Hannah, daughter of Nathaniel and Desire (Bourne) Clapp of Scituate. The minister of East Yarmouth was a man

Of temper humble, mild, and kind,
To hospitality inclin'd, ⁴

and this was reflected in the peace of his parish, which in 1793 became the town of Dennis. There he died on April 26, 1804, and his widow, on July 11, 1815. A portrait belongs to Mrs. Gus Friend of Dennis, by whose kindness it is reproduced in this volume.

² Nathan Stone, If Ministers Deny Christ (Boston, 1764), p. 29.
³ For the children see J. Gardner Bartlett, Simeon Stone Genealogy (Boston, 1926), pp. 159-160.
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