



The Ames Tavern in Dedham, Mass.

OUR CELESTIAL HOME: The Ames Almanack, of Dedham, Mass., 1726-1775

When Sun doth rise the Stars do set,
Yet there's no need of Light,
God shines a Sun most glorious,
When Creatures all are Night.

The very Indian Boys can give
To many Stars their names,
And know their Course and therein do
Excel the English tame.

English and Indians none inquire,
Whose hand these Candles hold,
Who gives these Stars their Names, himself
More bright ten thousand-fold.

~“Of the Heavenly Bodies” (1643)
by Roger Williams

Publishing in British America began in Massachusetts in 1640 with *The Bay Psalm Book*. During that period, and immediately after, the focus and emphasis of American authors was on religious subject matter. It was only by and about the time of Cotton Mather's death in 1728 that New Englanders, having by then settled in theologically, felt sufficiently freed to direct their literary interests and endeavors in other directions. Among the very first of American publications not strictly theological was the almanac, or as it was spelled back then “almanack.”

We in our own day, no doubt unreflectingly, take for granted and are so used to *instant* news and information. Yet how very different it was living in colonial America in the early to late 18th century; when magazines were unknown,¹ and even newspapers were a rarity to most people. In their place and along with the Bible, it was the *annually* issued almanac that brought Americans together on the printed page. The original aim of almanacs was to provide astronomical and astrological information (the two were taken for granted as inseparable) to guide its users, particularly farmers (which most colonial Americans were), through the up coming year. As time went on, this practical and matter of fact application of the almanac was expanded to include bits of news, moral and religious proverbs, snippets of poetry, and later as well jests and humor. In a world where people and great societal events were relatively few and infrequent, God and Nature took center stage, with humanity as their audience. Founded and building on this assumption and cosmological outlook, almanacs provided an unusual emotional and psychological sense of stability and order to people's attitudes toward life, the seasons, and the universe. All was well because God was in charge; with Nature, including the weather, invariably behaving in such a way as to further His divine plan and purpose. The almanac author, for his part, contributed to this positive outlook by injecting his own wise, albeit terse, instruction and characteristically cheerful thoughts and musings. In this way, the almanacs helped to foster and instill the predisposition toward happiness, peace and prosperity that came to be an assumed as inherent and necessary adjuncts to our accustomed way of life. Although almanacs are much too like manuals to ever have been adequately satisfying as literature, yet as repositories of both the

¹ The first such came out in 1741. They were, from Boston, Andrew Bradford's *The American Magazine*, and, from Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin's *The General Magazine*. Both folded after a brief run of a few months.

morally good, the practically useful, and the amusing they no little helped to shape American character at its root.

Some the greatest scientific advances and discoveries occurred in the span from the 1650s to 1750s, and which later generations, at best, could only equal in significance. And among the key differences between the sensibilities of this earlier time versus the latter modern period is a sense of humility and submission to God; combined with an insistence on gracefulness and elegance in anything done – qualities glaringly absent or at least comparatively lacking in post mid-18th century attitudes and sensibilities. Yet with the growth and expansion of populations, settlements, and economies, global exploration, and the continuing advance of industry and the sciences, more selfish interests and ambitions began to take center stage; so that by the time of the American Revolution, the spiritual and cultural world that gave birth to the almanac in America had become already outdated; with, as to be expected, the nation having outgrown its intellectual cradle and nursery.

The initial appearance of an American almanac was at Harvard. This was “An Almanac calculated for New England” (1639) by William Pierce, a mariner and shipwright among the Pilgrim settlers, and which was continued to be issued in annual runs by subsequent editors for several decades. By 1676, Boston came out with its own almanac; Philadelphia in 1677; New York in 1697, and Rhode Island and Virginia theirs in 1728 and 1731 respectively. John Tully of Saybrook, Connecticut, “the astrologer of New England,” put out his from 1687-1702, and that was distinguished for its first bringing comic humor to the genre. In 1728, James Franklin launched *The Rhode-Island Almanack*, and this was followed five years later in Philadelphia by his more famous brother’s *Poor Richard’s Almanack* (1733-1758).²

Yet in 1725, three years prior to James Franklin’s volume, there appeared the first installment (i.e., the 1726 issue) of the best of all early American almanacs, namely *Astronomical Diary and Almanack* by Nathaniel Ames of Dedham,³ Massachusetts. Some might be surprised to hear it denoted best; as if we had forgotten or overlooked *Poor Richard’s*. Yet Moses Coit Tyler, one of the most astute and erudite historians of early American literature, wrote: “Indeed, Ames’s Almanac was in most respects, better than Franklin’s, and was probably, the most pleasing representative we have of a form of literature that furnished so much entertainment to our ancestors, and that preserves for us so many characteristic tints of their life and thought.”⁴

Before we begin discussing of the Ames almanac, it is necessary to sort through the different “Nathaniel Ames” in order to avoid any confusion; with the attaching to each of them a Roman numeral is my own device to help aid in their identification.

Nathaniel Ames [II] (1708-1764), physician and tavern keeper, was the first to put out the Ames Almanac, and did so for 39 years, i.e., from 1725 to 1764.⁵ He and Benjamin Franklin came to know each other and were a mutual inspiration; the first for his ideas in putting out an almanac, the second for his attainments in the study of electricity and implications of such for the heavens. Following Ames [II]’s death in 1764, his son Nathaniel Ames [III] (1741-1842) issued the almanac for another ten, and when it saw its last issue in 1774. This second Ames, we also hear, helped to dress the wounded at Lexington and Concord. As well, we might remark, Ames [II] also had another son by a second marriage, Fisher Ames (1758-1808); who became a most enthusiastic proponent of the Federal Constitution; was later U.S. Congressman from Mass., including being one of the most prominent of the Hamiltonian Federalists.

Ames [II]’s father, Nathaniel Ames [I] (1677-1736), was a medical doctor, deeply versed in mathematics and astronomy, and it was from him that *16 year old* Ames [II] received the necessary instruction on the stars and the planets for putting out the first edition of the Ames almanac in 1725; indeed,

² Of note, Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, and U.S. Constitution signer Roger Sherman (of Connecticut) published an almanac 1750-1760; as also did, much later, African-American scientist and surveyor Benjamin Banneker, 1792-1797. David Rittenhouse, the “ingenious” Philadelphia astronomer and mathematician, put out several of his own and contributed to other almanacs in the period from 1773 to 1785.

³ Located eleven miles from Boston.

⁴ *A History of American Literature During the Colonial Period, 1607-1765* (1878), pp. 122-123.

⁵ Almanacs usually were published just at the end of the year preceding their title date, or else into the first weeks of the title date.

it is understood he in some material measure assisted the son in the undertaking. Thereafter, Ames [II] himself became an expert in matters planetary and celestial in his own right; while the father (up until his death in 1736) continued in the background as a quiet, yet powerful, influence.

The next thing we will want to address is the question of what made the Ames Almanack so special, so as to receive both the emulation of Dr. Franklin and an ardent encomium from Coit Tyler. The difficulty with this is one is at a loss to know quite where to begin. Ames biographer and later editor of a 1891 edition of the almanacs, Samuel Briggs, states: "If variety is, (or was,) the Spice of Life, no one can pick up an Ames Almanack without being convinced that both father and son were thoroughly seasoned with this most agreeable zest. Their works, humble though they be, give assurance of acute observation, a thorough familiarity with the general literature of the clay, and a knowledge of what was for the general good of the greatest number."⁶

Among the first duties of an Almanac maker of that day was to be fully versed in both astronomy and astrology; it being one the primary purposes of such books to help prognosticate the weather based on a reading of the stars and planets. Although even then such monthly predictions of the weather tended to be taken with a grain of salt, Ames [II] was fervent and adamant in a fundamental belief in astrological principles. While most of us (perhaps) are inclined to view astrology as *no* science, technically there are potentially sound reasons for its possible validity. For astrological predictions are based on accumulated records of events happening at certain junctions, oppositions, and forward and retrograde motions of planets (the latter as they appear in given constellations); so at some level *there is* a certain amount of empirical method to it. The great misconception is the idea that stars or planets themselves necessarily *cause* events or behaviors, and it is only on that level of interpretation astrology risks endangering anyone with insanity.⁷ Ames' own attitude toward astrology varied and changed as the decades went by. At first, astrology was presented as a safe and harmless guess; gradually transforming into a form of playful amusement that conceded the unreliability of such forecasts; so that at last they became, in addition, occasions for mini-sermons for a given month. Thus in the 1729 issue, under February, we are told:

"Boreas's chilly breath attacks our Nature
And turns the Presbyterian to a Quaker."

Which brings us to a second salient aspect of the Ames Almanack, and that is as a vehicle for news, poetry and humor. Perhaps the most striking thing about Ames [II] is his being something of a cross between a New England divine and a New York jolly fellow (such as the Knickerbockers much later became famous for.) Mention are made of "Jack Frost" and "Old Nick;" though in the Ames view of things "Nick" was anything but a saint. With a free and easy juxtaposition, he fills his issues with pious proverbs, classical verse (both his own and sometimes quotes from or references to that of other poets and writers),⁸ earthy aphorisms (usually pertaining to moral instruction), didactic dialogues, humor, and occasional pithy nonsense -- all as sustenance and spice designed to enliven and accompany the more dry meteorological matter.

At times, it seems Ames himself would have liked to have become a more regular poet, but that there was no money in it. Nonetheless and as it was, he was an amateur or occasional poet with few or none better. In the early installments he wrote couplets for each month. Then beginning in 1730 these jingles grew into six line stanzas; till at last these twelve stanzas were sometimes constructed into one long poem. Here, from the 1730 issue, are two of the longer stanzas.

MARCH.
Cunkeechah Netop? what News you speak to me?
Muffy good news; what? you no Stommonee?

⁶ The *Essays, Humor, and Poems of Nathaniel Ames, Father and Son, of Dedham, Massachusetts, from their Almanacks 1726-1775* (1891), pp. 398-399.

⁷ Thomas Aquinas, for his part, believed heavenly bodies can accidentally affect human actions, yet insisted that they could not *control* them.

⁸ Among these latter are Shakespeare, Milton, Sir Richard Blackmore (evidently Ames [II]'s *most* favorite), Dryden, Pope, Samuel Butler, William Thomson, Addison, and William Shenstone.

By by come Elwipes much as me can wish
Me Tink nuxt Week den me shan heb it Bish
Where is Tat prace you speak to me? Me ashk it
Me tink some Pokes he cann his Lame Namaskitt.⁹

Which is followed in MAY with

Aurora's Winged Choristers Prepare
To Chant forth Anthems in Harmonious Air
And Mounting Lark Day's Herald gets on Wing
And bids each Bird choose out their bough to Sing:
The Daz'ling Sun sends down Prolific beams,
And Rarifies the Earth with piercing Gleams.

Last we might note, the Ames' were among the first in America to have appealed to the public to *recycle*; in their case for rags to be brought in to be made into paper for the colony at large.

The following then are sundry selections drawn from Samuel Briggs' most commendable *The Essays, Humor, and Poems of Nathaniel Ames, Father and Son, of Dedham, Massachusetts, from their Almanacks 1726-1775* (1891).¹⁰

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## 1726

*NOW* seventeen hundred & Twenty Six the Sun,  
Hs annual course since *CHRIST* his birth hath run.  
Strange Revolutions in this time have been,  
In divers Lands, Kingdoms and Countries seen.  
Some Years were happy, some with Wars perplex,  
And *GOD* knows who shall Live unto the next.

~\*~

This Eclipse of the Moon happens so near the Great Benevolent *Jupiter*, the Effects 'tis hop'd will not be ill.

### JANUARY.

Our Northern Climes in shiv'ring Cold remain  
Till Glorious Phoebus shall return again.

More Snow than Lillies.

### FEBRUARY.

Cold Weather still on us attends  
We feel it at our Finger's ends.  
Who out of Fortune's smiles do run,  
All men their Company will shun.

### MARCH.

Now comes the Spring, Sol by his splendid Rays

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<sup>9</sup> Which editor Briggs translates: "The aborigine having saluted Netop (Englishman) with an inquire of surprise, continues: What news you speak to me? mighty good news; what? don't you understand me? By-and-by Alewives (a sort of fish) will come, as much as I could wish. I think next week then I shall have them sure. Where is the place, you ask me? I answer, I think some folks call its name Namasket (river.)"

<sup>10</sup> Available in .pdf at: <https://archive.org/details/essayshumorpoems00ames>

Turns gloomy Nights into bright shining Days.

Expectations of Peace.

APRIL.

Nature, that wealthy Dame, now briskly Pours  
Upon the Earth her Fresh and Fruitful Shower  
Some in Dissembling have such Art,  
Are Saints in Show — Devils in Heart.

MAY.

The wing'd Musicians now do Sing  
To entertain the welcome Spring.

JUNE.

Now Sol from Cancer sends his Rays  
Which makes with us the longest Days.

JULY.

The Husbandman walks o'er his fertile Fields,  
Which many charming Pleasures to him yields.

The Author [Nathaniel Ames II] born 22. July 1708.

AUGUST.

Lend them that want: th' Almighty fav'reth such  
And in short time repays them twice as much.  
There ne'er was any Age so clear  
But in her Face some Faults appear.

SEPTEMBER.

Phoebus with the Celestial Scales doth now  
An equal weight to Days and Nights allow.

OCTOBER.

Now some before cold Boreas fly  
And many Thousands fall and Die.

Christopher Columbus found out the New World Oct. 11, 1492.

NOVEMBER.

No Art preserves from Age: devouring Time  
Makes every thing (nay, the whole World) resign.

DECEMBER.

The Year is past away, our Glass doth run.  
And while we speak, the present Minute's gone.

~\*\*~

Twice in a Century (Old Indians say,)  
Our Land abounds with Bears & Beasts of Prey;  
Whereof some do embrace Proud Neptune's Waves  
And with the Scaly Tribe swim to their Graves;  
Others Retreat towards the Frigid Zone,  
And dwell in Desert yet to us unknown;  
They'll come, no more from whence they do retire,

Until a Jubilee of Years Expire.

~~~~~\*\*\*~~~~~

1727

“Swift Winged Time Feather’d with Flying Hours,
Whose Hungry Jaws all Things on Earth Devours,
And when the space of a few Years and Days
Shall be expir’d, we all must go our ways
To our long Home, where all in Silence mourn.
From whose dark shores no Travellers Return,
Where Mean and Great on equal Basis stand.
No Servants there obey, nor Lords Command.”

~*~

That which is got by Fraud and Knavery
Shall be a Curse unto Posterity.

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Ingenious Reader.

Your kind accepting my poor Endeavours, and the general Reception my Almanack found (with you) the Year past, hath Encouraged me to present you with One for the year to come, which I have Endeavour’d to furnish with Matter fit for such a work. I have at the desire of several of my Readers, Inserted the Moon’s Rising & Setting in the Sixth Column of this Almanack, which I hope will be kindly Accepted, and I doubt not but you will find my Calculations to Agree with Observation.

As to what I have predicted of the Weather, it is from the Motions & Configurations of the heavenly Bodies, which belongs to Astrology: Long Experience testifies that the Sun, Moon and Stars have their Influence on our Atmosphere, for it hath been observed for Seventy Years past, That the Quartile & Opposition of Saturn & Jupiter produce Wet Seasons; and none will deny but that the Sun affordeth us his benign Rays & kind influence, and by his regular Motion causeth Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter; and if the Moon can cause the daily Ebbing and Flowing of the Tide, and has the vast Ocean subject to her government, she can certainly change the Air which is Thin, and Tenuous. In fine, The Stars of Heaven give us such a Noble Idea of the Infinite Power, Wisdom & Glory of God, that they Invite our Thoughts to Soar among the heavenly Glories. Thus wishing the Contemplation thereof may afford Praise to the Infinite Creator and Contriver of them all.

I remain A Friend to all Lovers of Urania,<sup>11</sup>  
N. AMES.

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1729

OCTOBER.

The Tyrant Mars old Saturn now opposes
Which stirs up Feuds and may make bloody Noses.

NOVEMBER.

Now what remains to Comfort up our Lives
Is cordial Liquor and kind loving Wives.

¹¹ Muse-goddess of astronomy.

DECEMBER.

The Chrystal streams congeal'd to Icy Glass
Become fit Roads for Travellers to pass.

Christmas is nigh — The bare Name of it
to Rich or Poor will be no Profit.

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### 1731

From hence you carping *Momus* hence be gone,  
To your deserved center *Acheron*  
Keep court with *Pluto*, in the Stygian Lake,  
Whose sordid Tongues do black Aspersions make  
Your lot & portion black *Tartarum* yields;  
You have no right unto th' Elysian fields.  
Whose viperous Tongues abuse the Sons of Art,  
When knowledge they to th' blear-eyed World impart.

~~~~~\*\*\*~~~~~

1732

Ingenious Reader.

The method of this *Almanack* is not alter'd therefore it needs no Explanation: only the Verses over each Monthly Page do not properly appertain to the Months, and some perhaps may say, not to the *Almanack* neither: But I hope they will acknowledge that the consideration of the Distances, Places, Motions, Center, and Magnetism of the Heavenly Bodies, and how inviolably they obey the Laws of some Omniscient Contriver, in their exact Revolutions, according to their several Periods, is sufficient to lead my Thoughts this way to admire the Omniscient Mind: whose All-disposing Providence not only guides the Rolling Worlds, as they Plough the Liquid Aether, but also the light Dust of the Ballance, and the Thousands of Atoms that wander up and down in a Sun-Beam, which are all under his Cognizance.

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### 1733

JANUARY.

What feeble Accents falter on my Tongue?  
When I but think how ancient Poets Sung;  
Who lavish'd Art, to magnify the Fame  
Of silly gods which their own hands did Frame  
My Muse inspir'd with Nobler Themes defies  
Such Old, forsaken, Threadbare, Grecian Lies.

The Winter's milder than last year.  
Your Hay will last, what need you fear?

~\*~

MARCH.

To see how Thousands of New Worlds were made,  
And how the Basis of this World was laid,

How Chaos yielded to the powerful Word,  
And moving Spirit of the MIGHTY GOD,  
Who Silenc'd Discord, and establis[h]'d Peace;  
The Elements Eternal jangle cease.

Art thou back-bited?  
Rejoice, if guiltless,  
If guilty, amend.

~\*~

JULY.  
The Eye delighted with a Wondrous Scene,  
Of Colors, and among the rest the Green  
That's painted on the Grass, for niter Blew,  
And Yellow Sulphur, casts that Pleasant Hue,  
The Fertile Vales with Crystal Streams supply'd.  
Which Cool the Air, and quench the Thirst beside.

Love is a frantick Frenzy,  
That so infects the minds of men  
that under this taste of Nectar  
they are poisoned with the Water of Styx.

AUGUST.  
Of Man and Beast: whose pearly Drops supply,  
The wing'd Musicians that inhabit nigh.  
The spacious Seas in Equilibrio Stand,  
Or in a due proportion to the Land,  
For lo they serve for many uses more  
Than to Convey the Ships from Shoar to Shoar.

SEPTEMBER.  
And from the Dark and Gloomy Vaults below  
The Surface of the Earth, great Riches flow.  
The Subterraneous Streams concrete to Mines  
Which serve in deep Medicinal designs.  
His Voice the Air with Harmony inspires  
From the sweet warbling of the winged Choirs.

OCTOBER.  
The Scaley Tribe amidst the Liquid Seas  
Nor Stormes, nor driftings fear, they Sail with ease  
O'er all His Works that Sublinary be.  
He cast a Saphire Glittering Canopy,  
Thunder and Lightning, Rain and painted Bow  
The spangling Stars, nay glaring Comets too  
Adorn the Ample Theater below.

~\*\*~

That this Earth and the other Worlds that dance their destin'd Ring about the Sun, (the Center of our System) shall not always continue in a State of Order & Regularity, as at present, is evident not only from the Word of God, but also from all the Phoenomena of Nature; which as with one Voice declare the great Catastrophe of our System; The quantity of Light and Heat in the Sun is daily diminishing by reason of its perpetually emitting Millions of Rays that never return to it any more. This Earth on which we live by

reason of its Eccentricity, as it moves Periodically round the Sun, approaches nearer the Sun every Year, and according to such a Motion, the Earth in Time would be joined to the very Body of that stupendous Luminary. Should Time continue, universal Nature would gradually degenerate into its ancient State of Chaos, and the whole material World would be blended into one promiscuous Mass. But these things could not be accomplished till an inconceivable number of Years were finished. We cant in reason think that this World will continue till it is thus worn out with Time; for it is easy to conceive how this Earth and all things in it, may be burnt up by the near approach of a vast Comet, as it comes red hot from the Sun. There are Twenty one in number of these Comets, and as they pass thro' the Planetary Regions they may most certainly approach to the Planets themselves, both in their Ascent to & Descent from the Sun, and so cause Shocks, Deluges & Conflagrations in these Worlds. And as the Planets (of which this Earth is one) pass through their Atmospheres they lend them benign or noxious Vapour according to the Designs of Providence. The most eminent and remarkable Comet that ever appeared to the World, is that which appeared to us Anno 1680, whose return is expected Anno 2255. It is supposed by the most learned Astronomers that this very Comet in its Aphelion past through so much Cold & Darkness, that its Atmosphere derived a vast Trail of Vapours, and meeting with this Earth at the beginning of Noah's Flood was the Cause of the same. And with good Reason it is supposed that this Comet being heat so Hot in its Pherihelion, that in its Ascent from the Sun meeting with this Earth 'twill cause the great Conflagration. Dr. C[otton]. Mather speaks of Sir Is. Newton's computation of the Heat of this Comet 1680, thus "Its Heat in its Pherihelion was near 2,000 times greater than that of red hot Iron. A Globe of red hot iron of the Dimensions of our Earth (by his computation) would scarce be cool in 50,000 Years. If then this Comet cooled a 100 times as fast as red hot Iron, yet since his heat was 2,000 times greater than that of this Earth he will not be cool in a Million of Years." The Nodes of this Comet being so nigh the Annual Orb of this Earth that it may approach even to the Earth itself. What Horror & Consternation will this wicked World then be in, when they shall behold this vast Comet like a baneful torch, blaze & roll along the unmeasurable Aether, bending its course directly to this Earth with a Commission from Heaven to burn it up!

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1734

INTERLINED WISDOM AND HUMOUR.

JANUARY.

Now if the Swamps should catch on fire
They'd burn the Snow and all the mire.

FEBRUARY.

Let men Obey the Laws and Women their Husbands,
Rulers are men before GOD and Gods before men.

JUNE.

The Flea Catchers are in great hast.

JULY.

Rich men without Wisdom and learning are called
Sheep with Golden Fleeces.

AUGUST.

Old Saturn is got so sullen, he will go no further forwards.
Where Silly Quacks are most respected,
There honest Doctors are neglected.

SEPTEMBER.

Ignorance has the most confidence.

OCTOBER.

It is better to have a man without money than
money without a man.

NOVEMBER.

Bravery in apparel is nothing worth if the
mind be miserable.

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**1735**

The Heighth & Depth, the Length & Breadth  
Of the Corporeal Frame,  
What Thought can Reach, or who can teach,  
By Numbers that have Name.  
When we survey these Azure Fields above,  
We find a Space Eternally to Rove.

~\*~

JANUARY.

Tis Cold my Friends: The dull and tedious Nights  
Old Batchellors and Widowers invites  
To Marry, now in hast — Women be  
Fram'd with the same Parts of the Mind as we.  
They are the best of Goods or worst of Evils,  
Resembling bright Seraphims or —

FEBRUARY.

As youthful Lovers wish those Hours away,  
That are between their Mistresses and they,  
So many wish for the Auspicious Spring,  
Whose smiling Birth shall many Blessings bring,  
When Nature's Face by Sol shall be renewed  
And Boreas's frigid blast shall be subdued.

MARCH.

The Winged Travellers,<sup>12</sup> that soar elate  
With Pleasure gliding through the liquid Air;  
Guided by Instinct or some secret Fate  
Unto their Northern Rendezvous Repair.  
Their Captain (foremost) leads the feather'd throng,  
And knows what Ports to light at all along.

APRIL.

Now Auster's Breath dissolves the Winters Snow  
Which on the barren Hills so long has lain,  
Which makes the Silver murmuring Rivulets flow.  
And Fertilizes every Sunny Plain.  
The Plants sprought forth, the Grass again is green  
The Fields will quickly yield a pleasant scene.

JUNE.

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<sup>12</sup> [Footnote in original.] Wild-geese.

Arcadian Muses now inspire the Swains,  
With Songs of Love while on the grassy Plains,  
Their Sheep and Goats do graze, and wanton Lambs  
And Kids, run Frisking round their bleating Dams.  
The Fields (like the Elyzian Fields above)  
Are fill'd with Harmony, with Mirth and Love.

~\*~

INTERLINED WISDOM AND HUMOUR.

JANUARY.

Kind Reader, now perhaps you may  
Have Weather fit to Spend your Hay.

FEBRUARY.

The falling Snow lights on the Ground  
Which makes the Earth look White all round

MARCH.

— Just wak'd from Sleep  
The minute Frogs begin to peep.

At this Time of the Year *Namasket River* is a Market Place.

~\*~

MAY.

Three Things breed Jealousy.  
A mighty State, a rich Treasure  
and a fair Wife.

JUNE.

He that is an Enemy to Beauty, is Foe to Nature.

JULY.

Lyons are known by their Claws,  
Cocks by their Combs, and Envious Men  
by their manners.

~\*~

SEPTEMBER.

Hatred is blind as well as Love.

~~~~~\*\*\*~~~~~

1738

Had Adam stood in Innocence till Now,
And his blest Sons had deign'd to hold the Plough
No Labour had fatigu'd, nor Time had spoil'd
His Youth: but Spring had ever blooming smil'd,
No Lust for Pelf, nor Heart distressing Pain
Had seiz'd the Miser, nor the rural Swain:
Nor Vice as now with Vertue ne'er had vi'd
And Heaven's Omnipotence is self defy'd.
Nor *Lawyers*, *Priests* nor *Doctors* ne'er had been

If Man had stood against th' Assaults of Sin.
But oh. He fell! and so accurs'd we be
The World is now oblig'd to use all Three.

~~~~~\*\*\*~~~~~

1738

Kind Reader,

By what follows I would not have you think that I am a Superstitious Bigot to Judicial Astrology. But so far as Astrology is built on the Effects and Influences of the heavenly Bodies on our earthly Bodies, which Effects and influences, being observed by us, so far (I think) Astrology has a rational and phylosophical Foundation. This Earth is one of the Planets in the Solar System, and doubtless they all have a mutual Dependence upon, and Co-operation with one another.

The different Degrees of Heat and Cold, surprizing Resurrection of the Plants in the Spring, the Beauties of Summer, Fruitfulness of Autumn, and Barrenness of Winter, is the Consequence of the different Directions, Quantities and Impulses of the Sun's Rays, which fall under a mathematical Calculation. The Full Moon faces the World with so grand and serious a Look, that even Shepherds, and Plowmen, old Women, &c., are not ignorant of its Effects. For the other five Planets, as they are in Respect of us, of less Lustre and Glory, so their Vertues and Influences are not so commonly known, though very great and admirable. No doubt but their Radiations act upon us according to the strictest Laws of Nature though we are ignorant thereof. How their Influence is communicated is uncertain: if by an Effluvia emitted, then the Force of their Percussion (like all other Impulses) is as the Sine of the Angle of Incidence. But we must note the Effect and from thence search for the Cause, and argue not from Reason, but from Sense and sensible Experiments: hence when the Moon is Perige the Tides are increased, but still they will be further increased, if at the same time she be in Conjunction with *Saturn* or *Venus* (as well as the Sun). Hence *Saturn* or *Venus* in Conjunction with the Moon is not only a Sign, but a Cause of the observed proportionable Augmentation of the Tide.

Astrology was at first gathered by the Ancients collecting from Histories of the several Nations of the World the most Eminent and notable Changes that hapned therein in Respect of Sects, Empires, Kingdoms, Wars, Famine, Deluges, etc., together with the Changes of Air in Respect of Heat, Cold, Moisture, &c., with the exact Time of such Changes, and the true Postures of the Constellation and Planets: as also the Eclipses and Comets preceding the same. Now to pursue such a method I would observe two things:

I. And First, the Winter past was with us, even to *South Carolina*, as cold and severe as any in the memory of this Age: and by the *Weekly News Letter* we were inform'd of a remarkable Destruction of Fish and Water-Fowl in many Places: Which say *Ptolemy*, *Coley*, *Lilley*, &c. are the Effects of Eclipses in the Watery Triplicity, in the which *Trigon* the two last (and indeed very remarkable) Eclipses were celebrated. One who published an Almanack last Year for *Rhode Island*, by what he pick'd out of these (or some such like) authors ventured to tell the Destruction of Fish and Fowl, which, as I mentioned before, came to pass.

II. Secondly. There appeared a small Comet last *February* (and I think there was but small notice taken of it) it had a direct and swift motion and presently disappeared. It was first seen in the last Face of the Sign *Pisces*, which is of a watry nature: what Floods and Inundations followed is fresh in the memory of every one. So much for what is past.

There will be a remarkable Eclipse of the Sun for the Year to come. *Mercury* is Lord of the Ascendant in the Time of the Eclipse, which portends much pilfering and stealing, if not robbing on the High-way. But I had no need to have recourse to Astrology, for such a prediction is Easily drawn from other Phaenomena. I would not have those who are troubled with the Itch of Stealing, think to excuse themselves by laying the Fault upon *Mercury*, for a worse than he tempts them to such villainies. The following lines I recommend to them as a monitor to prevent the use of the Halter.

You that Defraud or Steal do of the Devil borrow.  
And ere you Pay the Debt, 'will cost you Grief & Sorrow;  
He's Surety for his Loan, your Souls they stand as Bail,

And if of true Repentance you should chance to fail,  
He'll for no formal writ of *Scire Facias*<sup>13</sup> wait.  
When Death the Summons brings the Surety he will take;  
And you must pay the Cost in Everlasting Pain,  
And have the Principal eternally remain  
Uncancell'd and unpaid: after a Million Year  
The Debt will be as big as when you first came there:  
You may weep Floods of Tears, and Cheat and Steal no more;  
You never can Repent unless you do restore:  
For where Men can and won't, Repentance is a Sham,  
One Six-Pence so retain 'd most certainly will damn.

~~~~~\*\*\*~~~~~

1741

FEBRUARY.

— Nobility of Blood

Is but a glitt'ring and fallacious good;
The Noble Man is he whose noble Mind
Is fill'd with inbred Worth, unborrow'd from his Kind.
The King of Heaven was in a Manger laid
And took his Earth but from an humble Maid:
Then what can Birth on mortal Man bestow.
Since Floods no higher than their Fountains Flow?
We who for Name and empty Honour strive,
Our true Nobility from him derive.

MARCH.

Your Ancestors, who puff your Mind with Pride,
And vast Estates to mighty Titles ty'd
Did not your Honour, but their own advance;
For Vertue comes not by Inheritance:
If you tralin'ate [sic] from your Fathers Mind
What are you else but of a Bastard kind?
Do as your great Progenetors have done
And by your Virtues prove your self their Son.

~~~~~\*\*\*~~~~~

## 1744

### APRIL

To be Good is to be Happy; Angels  
Are happier than Men, because they're better.  
Guilt is the Source of Sorrow; 'tis the Fiend,  
Th' avenging Fiend, that follows us behind  
With Whips and Stings; the Bless'd know none of this,  
But rest in everlasting Peace of Mind,  
And find the height of all their Heav'n in Goodness.

~\*~

---

<sup>13</sup> [Edit. "You should make to know."]

JUNE.

All are not right who think themselves are true;  
If an Opinion of one's Self would do,  
Then *Turks* are right in Faith and Practice too.  
Tho' Conscience be a Judge, he's oft unjust,  
Brib'd by ten thousand secret springs of Lust,  
Then farewell all rash Sentences of Man,  
For GOD's eternal Word alone shall stand.

~~~~~\*\*\*~~~~~

1753

JANUARY.

Now all amidst the Rigours of the Year,
In the wild Depth of Winter, while without
The ceaseless Winds blow Ice, be my Retreat
A rural sheltered solitary Scene;
Where ruddy Fire, and beaming Tapers join,
To cheer the Gloom.

FEBRUARY.

Dread Winter spreads his latest Grooms,
And reigns tremendous o'er the conquer'd Year.
How dead the vegetable Kingdom lies!
How dumb the tuneful! Horror wide extends
His melancholy Empire. Here fond Man!
Behold thy pictur'd Life; pass some few Years,
Thy flow'ring Spring, thy Summer's ardent Strength,
Thy sober Autumn fading into Age,
And pale concluding Winter comes at last,
And shuts the Scene.

~~~~~\*\*\*~~~~~

### 1754

---Those Stars that twinkling Lustre send  
Are Suns, and rolling Worlds those Suns attend,  
-----For Heaven's eternal King,  
Who bid this Universe from Nothing spring,  
Did at his *Word* bid num'rous Worlds appear.  
And rising Worlds the all-powerful *Word* did hear.  
The Stars shall drop, the Sun shall lose his Flame,  
But Thou, O, God, forever shine the same.

~~~~~\*\*~~~~~

APRIL.

The breath of Spring dissolves the Mountain's Snow,
Which trickling down, with murm'ring Music flow.

Th' approaching Sun darts forth his chearful Rays,
And vocal Woods resound with warbling Lays.
The sportive Lambs skip o'er the verdant Plain
And joyful Birds their tuneful Voices strain.

MAY.

All Nature laughs, the Groves are fresh and fair.
The Sun's mild Lustre warms the vital Air,
Whilst southern Climes his sable Absence mourn
We feel with Joy the youthful Spring's Return.
The blooming Trees their grateful Fragrance yield.
And od'rous Flow'rs paint the smiling Field.

~*~

SEPTEMBER.

The Apples now on loaded Branches shine.
Whose grateful Juice vie's with the generous Wine.
Leave Rum for Sots; and with a modest Sneer,
Let Farmers boast the Virtues of their Beer;
Their Barley hous'd, the Year's with Plenty crowned
The falling Fruits and Berries paint the Ground;
And lavish Nature laughs & strows her stores around.

OCTOBER.

The Sun grows low, the Summer Heats decay,
And all her Pride and Beauty fades away:
The cold Boreal chilling Rain returns,
Stript of her fading Pride all Nature mourns;
The Trees no more their wonted Verdure boast,
But weep in dewy Tears, their Beauty lost.

NOVEMBER.

Some few by Temp'rance taught, approaching slow
To distant Fate by easy Journeys go
Gently they lay them down; as ev'ning Sheep
On their own woolly Fleece's softly sleep
Still quitting Ground by unperceiv'd decay.
And steal themselves from Life, and melt away.

~~~~~\*\*\*~~~~~

1755

Whether the tall Inhabitants of *Jove*,  
And kindred Worlds that round one Center move,  
With as are in a fallen State, or no?  
Or sin and pray, as we poor Mortals do,  
Are Mysteries too great for us, (as yet) to know,  
Doubtless these Strangers altogether join  
To laud one Author, infinite, divine.

~\*\*~

DECEMBER.

Who 'ere presum'd, till Franklin led the Way,

To climb the amazing Highth of Heaven,  
And rob the Sky of it's tremendous Thunder;  
And leave the Clouds, with Winds and Tempests fraught,  
But Breath enough to shake the trembling Trees,  
And rock the Birds that pirsch upon their Boughs.

~\*~

INTERLINED WISDOM AND HUMOUR.

JANUARY.

How easy they are who are freest of care.

FEBRUARY.

The Times are bad because Men's Minds are so.

MARCH.

Innocence is not always a Security from Punishment.

Happy would be the Times, if all would strive to mend their Lives.

APRIL.

Many complain of bad Times, but take no care to become better  
Themselves.

A good Day to some, but ill for others.

~~~~~\*\*\*~~~~~

1761

Great Alexander, who the World had won.
Sat down and wept when all his Work was done.
AMHERST with Glory triumphs o'er his Foes,
And rests for want of Countries to oppose.
CANADA conquer'd! Can the News be true!
Inspir'd by Heav'n what cannot Britons do.
The News with Haste to listning Nations tell.
How *Canada*, like ancient *Carthage*, fell.

~~~~~\*\*\*~~~~~

**1763**

JUNE.

Friend! ask not Bodies doom'd to die.

To what Abode they go?

Since Knowledge is but Sorrows Spy,

'Tis better not to know;

To live uprightly then is sure the best

To save ourselves, and not to damn the rest.

~~~~~\*\*~~~~~

INTERLINED WISDOM AND HUMOUR.

MAY

...The Man is dead to the World who is separated from Money.

~*~

SEPTEMBER.

Virtue is praised more than followed.
To some Men their Country is their shame; and some are the Shame
of their Country.

~~~~~\*~\*~\*~~~~~

**1764**

Old *Nick's* a Fool, and so bewitch'd to Sin,  
That he has overshot himself again:  
To set the Devil-driven Savages on us,<sup>14</sup>  
They'll work our Weal, tho' he but aim'd to curse.  
They'll make a Train of nodding Virtues rise:  
And be a School to keep a People wise;  
And noble Heroes form and exercise.  
AMERICA! thy Int'rest understood,  
There are blest Omens of thy future Good:  
What though the Lancit the vital Fluid spills.  
It keeps the Body free from greater Ills.

~~~~~\*~\*~\*~~~~~

1765

[In this issue, Nathaniel Ames Jr., III, with trepidation, takes charge of the almanac following his father's death in July 1764.]

FEBRUARY.

O Grant me Pow'r, by thy instructive Rays,
To Thee and Virtue, tune some worthy Lays;
Exalt my Youth with true Poetic Fire.
To grace the Works of my departed Sire!
With Tho'ts like *Milton*; *Pope's* smooth moral Song;
The *Dean's* [Swift] deep Wit; or Lord of Satyr, [Edward] *Young*;
The soft Distress of [William] *Shenstone's* rural Theme;
Cervante's [sic] Mirth; or [James] *Hammond's* tender Scene.

~*~

NOVEMBER.

How Happy's He! whose guiltless Mind,
Is to his native Fields confin'd;
Bless'd with his State, and craves no more
Than Heav'n allow'd his Sires before;
No Care by Day disturbs his Breast,
At Night he steeps his Brows in Rest.

¹⁴ [Edit. Evidently a reference to the uprising of Pontiac of 1763-1766.]

DECEMBER.

If Life you want, undash'd with Woe,
Serene enjoy the instant Now;
If Fortune smiles, enjoy the Ray,
And smile her very Gloom away;
Let Tempests sweep and Billows roar,
The Storm of Life shall soon be o'er.

~**~

INTERLINED WISDOM AND HUMOUR.

...

It is better to wear a homespun Coat, than lose our Liberty.

...

It's time to think of raising Hemp & Flax, if we've a Mind to save a Tax.
News from afar, of distant War, Many Schemes prove abortive.

Any Winds that come now you may denominate March Winds.
Some literary Performances usher'd into Light and soon disappear.
New England Luxury cannot be supported unless more of her Commodities [sic] are exported.

~~~~~\*\*\*~

**1766**

JANUARY.

Columbian Genius hear our prayer:  
O! let us all with lustre rise  
Beneath thy tutelary care:  
Retain our dear bought liberties;  
Let not the voice of Native freedom sound  
Alone in realms which Albion's shores surround.

~~~~~\*\*\*~

1767

INTERLINED WISDOM AND HUMOUR.

...

A wise man's soul couches at the root of his tongue, but a fool's is ever dancing on the tip.
Vice rules where gold reigns.
Far from court, far from care.
Good deeds live, all things else die.

Almanack says spring, but Jack Frost says winter.
Mercury has been very busy among the planets and will produce some thing very astonishing among old women and politicians.

March 18. STAMP ACT repealed.

Let's drink to Pitt, the English pearl;
May he shine yet, tho' made an Earl.

Ill will speaks good of no one.

Cool words scald not the tongue.
To prove a friend, experiences teaches.

One deed is worth a thousand speeches.
Every bean has its black.

....

Truth may be blam'd but will ne'er be sham'd.
A lye stands upon one leg, truth upon two.
Pride will have a fall.

Where virtue fails, a bribe prevails.
Let not your tongue cut your throat.
Thunder and lightning purge the air, as a fever does the human body.
The world loves to be imposed on by extravagancies, and always will as long as three-quarters of it are fools.

None is truly great that is not truly good.
Haughty words breed strife.
He that now neglects his hoe, must in winter suck his paw.

Poverty is to be laughed at when it is the consequence of vice, prodigality, or neglect of one's calling; for it fills our streets with robbers, money-makers, quacks, and pettifoggers.

A bean with freedom is better than a sugar plumb in prison.
The gods of war and eloquence, combine to fill the gaps of sense.
Virtue is the beauty of the soul.
A fine growing season — for horns.
Wilful waste makes woful want.
Let your tongue avoid rash speaking: they that speak without care suffer without pity.

To defend the christian religion is one thing, and to knock a man on the head for being of a different religion is another.

Content is a jewel of the highest esteem, not to be bought with money, but gained by virtue.
Silence is the safest course for a man to take that mistrusts his own judgment.
He is not good who does not wish to mend.

A plodding old knave gains publick esteem but soon is unmasked.
Better suffer a great evil than do a small one.
Trade and Commerce make any place happy and rich.
If you can't bite, never show your teeth.

Rather go to bed supperless than rise in debt.
Possession is riches; trade and commerce enable us to possess any thing.
That place is richest and most happy where there are fewest useless men.
Give to them that want.
Immodest words admit of no defence.

~*~

To be genteel is not to be reserved or haughty, but to make your company as easy and agreeable as possible — 'tis the overflowing of universal love: an affected speech or behaviour may be politeness.

Conversation is the chief blessing in this life — with friends.
With Christmas cheer let's banish care.
Our bad lives mend quite to the end.

~~~~~\*\*\*~~~~~

## JANUARY.

When our Forefathers firm maintain'd the cause  
 Of true Religion, Liberty and Laws,  
 Disdaining down the golden Stream to glide,  
 But bravely stem'd Corruptions rapid Tide,  
 Shall we, by Indolence, supinely doom  
 To Sweat and Toil the Nations yet to come?

## FEBRUARY.

What! shall a Tyrant trample on the Laws,  
 And stop the Source whence all his Pow'rs he draws!  
 His Country's Rights to foreign Foes betray.  
 Lavish her Wealth, yet stipulate for Pay!  
 To shameful Falsehoods venal Slaves subborn [sic],  
 And dare to laugh the virtuous Man to scorn!  
 Deride Religion, Justice, Honour, Fame,  
 And hardly know of Honesty the Name!

## MARCH.

Lives there a Wretch whose base degen'rate Soul,  
 Can crouch beneath a Tyrant's stern Controul?  
 Cringe to his Nod, ignobly kiss the Hand,  
 In galling Chains that binds his native Land?  
 Purchas'd by Gold or aw'd by slavish Fear,  
 Abandon all his Ancestors held dear!

## APRIL.

Tamely behold that Fruit of glorious Toil,  
 The People's Charter made the Ruffians Spoil?  
 In Luxury's Lap, lie screen'd from Cares and Pains,  
 And only toil to forge the subjects Chains?  
 Hear, unconcern'd, his injur'd Country groan,  
 Nor stretch an Arm to hurl them from the Town?

## MAY.

In Peace, shall War, her horrid Front up rear,  
 And martial Vices draw the virtuous Tear,  
 Shall stern Oppression stalk along the Land,  
 Nor royal Pity our just Cry command?  
 Can we to Reason make a just Pretence,  
 No pow'rful Aid invok'd for our Defence?

## JUNE.

Hear then, just Heav'n, our most fervent Prayer,  
 New-England's Weal be thy peculiar Care!  
 Defend her Laws, her Worship chaste and pure!  
 And guard her Rights while Heav'n and Earth endure  
 O! let not ever, fell tyrannic Sway,  
 His blood-stain'd Standard on her Shores display.

## JULY.

When scepter'd Tyrants mount the trophi[e]d Car,  
 And scatter Havock from the Wheels of War;  
 Curst by Mankind, they lance the Lightning's Flame,

And sink in Virtue, as they rise in Fame.  
Far nobler he, who sheaths the murd'rous Blade,  
And clothes his Mountains with the Olive's Shade.

AUGUST.

Whose patriot Wisdom civil Life refines.  
Whose Radiance warms and blesses as it shines,  
Such Britain's Prince, whose placid Beam displays  
The milder Glories of unsullied Praise:  
'Tis his to break Oppression's galling Chain,  
And fix o'er India Freedom's gentler Reign.

SEPTEMBER.

See! Where on Canada's untutor'd Youth  
Already beam the Rays of Heav'n born Truth!  
See! plume crown'd Chiefs each social Blessing taste,  
And rising Towers adorn th' illumin'd Waste;  
See! cultur'd Meads their golden Fruits display,  
Where rang'd the hunter Savage as his Prey!

OCTOBER.

No more the Sachem views Kiwasa's Form,  
Frown in the Cloud, or mutter in the Storm,  
Religion's beams the darksome Mists dispel,  
Where Ign'rance broods in Superstition's Cell,  
Ev'n there shall Science spread her hallow'd Store,  
And Art's fair Empire grace Ontario's Shore.

NOVEMBER.

Some future Locke with Reason's keenest Ray,  
Pierce the rich Font of intellectu'l Day,  
The subtil Ties of Complex Thought unbind,  
And fix each Movement of the varying Mind.  
Some second Newton trace Creation's Laws,  
Through each Dependance to the sov'reign Cause.

DECEMBER.

Some Milton plan his bold impassion'd Theme,  
Stretch'd in the Banks of Oxallana's Stream,  
Another Shakespear shall Ohio claim,  
And boast its Floods allied to Avon's Fame.  
There too shall Sculpture warm the featur'd Stone,  
And Canvas glow with Beauties not its own.

~\*~

INTERLINED WISDOM AND HUMOUR.

...

True Religion is true Reason.  
A chearful mind and thankful Heart is the most grateful offering to Heaven.  
Unity is a better Guard than military.

...

Who would sell his Birth Right for a Mess of Soup, or risque his Constitution for a Sip of Tea.  
Let us keep Master of our own Consciences and Purses, and no Matter what Prince we are under.

~~~~~\*\*\*~~~~~

1775

AUGUST.

Stand forth the Champions of your Country's cause,
Nor fear the traitors aided by their laws,
Exalt the shady buckler to the war.
Aided by heav'n, no human prowess fear,
For those who, in the front of battle, dare
Fight hand to hand, and bear the brunt of war.

SEPTEMBER.

But rarely fall — Though dastards skulk behind,
The fate they shun still haunts the cow'rdly kind.
What mind can well conceive, or tongue relate,
The ills unnam'd that on the truant wait?
To shun his fate when from the field he flies,
Pierc'd from behind th' inglorious coward dies,
When prone he lies, and gasping on the ground,
What shame to see behind the gaping Wound!

Who can serve five hundred masters faithfully when they are three thousand miles off...

OCTOBER.

But firm to Earth let ev'ry warrior grow,
Strain his large limbs, and low'ring eye the foe,
To mighty deeds let each his arms extend,
Nor dread the balls that breast-high muskets send
Our practis'd huntsmen, sure of flying game.
Ne'er fight in phalanx when they've surer aim.

NOVEMBER.

No dazzling arms our steady marksmen hold.
No heavy panoply, or casque of gold
But sure as death, the trusty piece he bears,
And fears no wild, or powder'd son of Mars.
Make ready then — and fierce begin the fray!
But pause awhile — and hear what sages say,
Deep read in history, who know mankind,
The arts and stratagems sly courtiers find.

A List of Subjects Taken Up for Consideration in Various Issues of the Ames Almanack.

- * Physics, gravitation, Sir Isaac Newton (1740)
- * The possibility of extra terrestrial life (1748, 1749)¹⁵
- * The age of the universe (1739)
- * Astrology (1738, 1764)
- * Poetical essay on the microscope (1741)
- * Comets (1743)

¹⁵ And where it is deduced that the denizens of Jupiter are giants.

- * The aurora borealis (1731)
- * Geology, bodies of water (1745)
- * The solar system and the Copernican-heliocentric method (1733, 1734, 1750, 1751, 1759)
- * Stars and galaxies (1735, 1751)
- * “An Essay on Conjuraton and Witchcraft” (1747)
- * Unbridled Religious enthusiasm versus reason (1744)
- * The Julian (old-style) and Gregorian calendars (1753)
- * “A Thought upon the past, present, and future state of North America” (1758)
- * Regimens for good health, diet, exercise, hygiene, including “Of Air” (1740, 1752, 1754, 1755, 1759, 1764)
- * On tobacco (1764)
- * “An account of the several Provinces in North America” (1756)
- * “Of different Coins” (1761)
- * “Of the Small Pox” (1761)
- * “A Page for the Ladies” (1762)
- * “Of Raising Flax” (1763)
- * The accession of Canada by the British; contemplated as an extension of New England (1763)
- * “An Introduction to Agriculture” (1764)
- * On fruit punch (1764)

And various writings on the French and Indian/Seven Years War during those years that conflict was transpiring.

~*~

Articles from the editorship of Nathaniel Ames [III]

- * Eclipses (1766)
- * “Save Your Money, and you save your Country!” (1768) an exhortation to spend on local and domestic manufacturers
- * “An Indian Story” (1769)
- * “An Essay on Physick” (1770)
- * A quite lengthy poem “Porsenna in Pursuit of the Kingdom of Felicity” (1771)
- * Regarding a dwarf (1772)
- * “How a Nation may be ruined and reform’d” (1773)
- * Small pox (1775)
- * Ames’ farewell, his last almanack (1775)

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