

Billing, Edward, 1707-1760

Diary of the Rev. Edward Billing of Cold Spring (Belchertown, Mass.) and Greenfield, Mass., 1743-1756.

1 vol. manuscript 14 cm

Interleaved in Nathaniel Ames' *An Astronomical Diary or an Almanac...1743-1752; 1754-1756* and *Shepherd's Poor Job*, 1753.

Diary of a 'New Light' minister who served at Belchertown, Mass., between 1740 and 1752. The diary affords insights into the controversy over the Half-Way Covenant which led to his dismissal; records his negative views about separatism and Arminianism; and sheds light on his relationship with Timothy Dwight of Northampton, Mass. Billing was present in October 1749 at the death of David Brainerd. Good source for ministerial economics. Includes a great deal of information on the early history and settlers of Belchertown and Greenfield. Full of nostrums, recipes, and remarkable provinces. Includes accounts of skirmishes and military activity during the French and Indian War.

See T. Packard's *History of Churches & Ministers...* (Boston, 1854), pp. 174-76; Sibley's *Harvard Graduates*, vol. IX: 22-28.