

in Lisbon, October 25, 1704. His mother was Martha, daughter of Lieutenant Joseph and Dorothy (Parke) Morgan, of Preston, Connecticut; he was thus the first cousin of Joseph Morgan (Y. C. 1723).

He studied medicine and began practice in his native town, in that part incorporated in 1786 as the town of Lisbon. He became distinguished both in medicine and surgery, performing most of the capital operations in that part of the Colony. He continued to practice extensively until near the close of his life; he died July 7, 1794, when nearly 90 years of age. His estate was inventoried at only £50.


He married Lydia Pierce in 1728, who died January 7, 1729-30, leaving one daughter. He then married, July 23, 1730, Mary, second daughter of Dr. Caleb and Ann (Leffingwell) Bushnell, of Norwich, who bore him six sons and one daughter, and died February 7, 1795, in her 87th year. Their eldest son, Joseph, was an eminent physician in Norwich, and the progenitor of a line of physicians; the third son, Dr. Elisha Perkins, became famous as the inventor of the Metallic Tractors.

Dr. Perkins is described by Dr. James Thacher, his contemporary (born in 1754), as "possessed of brilliant talents and distinguished for scientific pursuits, and for undissembled piety, patriotism, and benevolence."

He was a Deacon of the church in Lisbon from 1756 until his death.

AUTHORITIES.

- | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <i>Caulkins</i> , Hist. of Norwich, 2d ed., 443, 634. | <i>Morgan Family</i> , 27. | <i>N. E. Hist. and Geneal. Register</i> , xiv, 113-14. | <i>Norwich Jubilee</i> , 284-5. | <i>Savage</i> , Gen-
eal. Dict., iii, 396. | <i>T. L. Shipman</i> , MS. Letter, May 20, 1847. | <i>Thacher</i> , Amer. Medical Biography, i, 421. |
|---|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|--|---|



EBENEZER SILLIMAN, sixth child and third son of Robert Silliman, and grandson of Daniel Silliman, of Fairfield, Connecticut, was baptized in Fairfield, September 21,

1707. His mother was Sarah, daughter of Cornelius Hull, of Fairfield.

He studied theology, and was called in January, 1731, to settle over the Second Church in Greenwich, and in June, 1732, to succeed the Rev. Samuel Russel, in Branford. As late as November, 1735, the Fairfield East Association of Ministers advised the church in Danbury to apply to him as a candidate; in May, 1729, they had commended him to the church in Reading.

He had, however, before this become engrossed in business as a lawyer in his native town, and as early as October, 1730, was sent as deputy to the General Assembly. Having served in this capacity for fourteen sessions (in the five last as Speaker of the House), he was elected in May, 1739, a member of the House of Assistants, and so continued until 1766, when he forfeited his place by consenting to administer to Governor Fitch the unpopular oath required by the Stamp Act. During these years he was much employed in public business; for instance, from May, 1743, to 1766, he was a Judge of the Superior Court of the Colony; in October, 1750, he was commissioned as Major of the 4th Regiment of Militia; in October, 1755, he was appointed one of the two delegates from Connecticut to a meeting of Commissioners from the Colonies at New York, to decide on matters in reference to the prosecution of the French War.

On his rejection as one of the Assistants, he resumed (October, 1766) his place in the Lower House, and was for most of the rest of his life a Deputy, and Speaker at the sessions of May and October, 1773, and in May, 1774.

He died on his large estate, Holland Hill (so named from a tradition that the first Silliman in this country came from Holland), in Fairfield, October 11, 1775, aged 68.

He married, October 8, 1728, Abigail, daughter of Jonathan Selleck, Jr., and Abigail (Gold) Selleck, of Stamford, Connecticut. She died March 6, 1772, at the age of 65. A son, Gold Selleck Silliman, was graduated here in

1752, and became the father of Professor Benjamin Silliman, of the Class of 1796. Four other sons and two daughters survived their parents.

He next married, late in July, 1773, Abigail, daughter of the Rev. John Williams (Harv. 1683), of Deerfield, Massachusetts, author of the "Redeemed Captive," and widow of the Hon. Benjamin Hall, of Wallingford, Connecticut. She died in Deerfield, December 3, 1781, aged 73 years.

An obituary notice in the Connecticut Journal dwells upon his great humanity and kindness, and the fact that "his whole deportment in public and private life was attended with a certain gravity and dignity peculiar to himself."

His epitaph describes him, as "distinguished by a clear understanding, a sedate mind, and dignity of deportment," and as "well versed in jurisprudence, learned in the law, and religiously upright."

From the fact that he was chosen in May, 1743, to replace Rector Williams on the bench, when the latter was superseded on account of his New-Light proclivities it may be inferred that Judge Silliman was in sympathy with the party which passed the act of May, 1742, and was pledged to repress religious radicalism.

At least two letters of his are extant in print :—

One dated November 27, 1749, on hay-making, in Jared Eliot's *Essays upon Field-Husbandry* (Boston, 1760, pp. 69-71), and reprinted in the *Connecticut Gazette* for July 5, 1765; and one written on behalf of the General Assembly to the Speaker of the Rhode Island Assembly, dated June 25, 1773, and printed in the *Rhode Island Colony Records*, vii, 231.

AUTHORITIES.

Conn. Journal, Nov. 1, 1775. *Hollister*, Hist. of Conn., ii, 653. *Kilbourne*, Hist. of the Kilbourn Family, 40. *Linsley*, Hist. Discourse at Greenwich, 1866, 27. *Savage*, Geneal. Dict. iv, 97. *Stuart*, Life of Trumbull, 51, 86-92.