

COLONIAL CHURCH HISTORY IN WESTBOROUGH

*In Colonial times, a town could not be incorporated until it had built a Meeting House for religious and government purposes and had secured a Puritan minister. At that time, there was no separation between Church and State. To vote, one had to be a member of the Church.

*Reverend Ebenezer Parkman was born in Boston on September 5, 1703. He was admitted to Harvard College when he was 14. After graduating in 1721, he taught in Newton.

*In 1723 Reverend Parkman began to preach and answered the call for a new Puritan minister in Westborough. He had competition from another candidate, and at the 1724 spring Town Meeting, he was selected to be the preacher of Westborough's church. However, Reverend Parkman did not confirm his appointment for several months, causing some concern among his congregation.

*Reverend Parkman was ordained at the Congregational Church on October 28, 1724, at age 21. There were 12 members in the Puritan Church when it was officially established in 1724.