

บทที่ 4
นักเขียนอเมริกันกลุ่ม
“Personal and Autobiographical Writings”

แซมมวล ซีวอลล์ (Samuel Sewall, 1652-1730)

ประวัติ

แซมมวล ซีวอลล์ เดินทางไปบอสตันตั้งแต่อายุ 9 ปี ปี ค.ศ. 1671 จบการศึกษาจากมหาวิทยาลัยฮาร์วาร์ด แต่งงานกับฮันนา (Hannah) ซึ่งมาจากครอบครัวที่ร่ำรวย แรกเริ่มซีวอลล์ตั้งใจจะบวชเป็นพระ แต่ต่อมาชีวิตได้หักเหไปโดยเขาได้เป็นผู้พิพากษาศาลฎีกาในช่วงปี ค.ศ. 1692-1728 และในช่วง 10 ปีสุดท้ายของชีวิต คือ ปี ค.ศ. 1717-1728 ซึ่งวอลล์ได้เป็นหัวหน้าศาล (chief justice) ที่แมสซาชูเซตส์ ปี ค.ศ. 1692 ซีวอลล์ได้ร่วมพิพากษาให้แขวนคอผู้ถูกกล่าวหาในซาเล็ม (Salem) ทั้งหญิงและชายรวม 19 คนว่าเป็นแม่มดหมอผี แต่ต่อมาพบว่าคนเหล่านั้นเป็นผู้บริสุทธิ์ ซึ่งทำให้ซีวอลล์รู้สึกผิด 5 ปีต่อมา คือ ในปี ค.ศ. 1697 เขาได้สารภาพผิดต่อสาธารณชนที่โบสถ์โอลด์ เซาท์ (Old South Church) และ 1 วันของทุก ๆ ปี ซีวอลล์จะสวดมนต์และอดอาหารเพื่อเป็นการสำนึกบาป



● การพิพากษาคดีแม่มดที่ซาเล็ม

ซีวอลล์เป็นผู้ที่สามารถผูกมิตรกับอินเดียนได้และยังเป็นคนสนับสนุนเสรีภาพ โดยได้เขียนต่อต้านการมีทาสในนิวอิงแลนด์ ในผลงานชื่อ *"The Selling of Joseph"* ดังตอนหนึ่งว่า

"Liberty is in real value next unto life; none ought to part with it themselves or deprive others of it, but upon most mature consideration.... There is no proportion between pieces of silver and liberty."⁷

ลักษณะงานเขียน

แซมมวล ซีวอลล์ เป็นผู้ที่มีความสามารถในการผสมผสานศาสนากับคุณค่าทางโลก (values of this world) ผลงานของเขามักจะอยู่ในรูปแบบที่กความทรงจำ

ผลงาน

- Diary เป็นบันทึกตั้งแต่ ปี ค.ศ. 1673-1729
- The Revolution in New England Justified
- The Selling of Joseph
- A Memorial Relating to the Kennebeck Indians

ตัดตอนจาก Diary

April 29, 1695. The morning is very warm and Sunshiny; in the Afternoon there is Thunder and Lightening, and about 2 P.M. a very extraordinary Storm of Hail, so that the ground was made white with it, as with the blossoms when fallen; 'twas as big as pistoll and Musquet Bullets; It broke of the Glass of the new House about 480 Quarrels of the Front; of Mr Sergeant's about as much; Col. Shrimpton, Major General, Govr. Bradstreet, New Meetinghouse, Mr. Willard, & c. Mr. Cotton Mather dined with us, and was with me in the new Kitchen when this was; He had just been mentioning that

⁷Stanley M. Vogel and Ella M. Murphy, *An Outline of American Literature Volume 1 - Colonial Origins to the Civil War*, (Boston, Mass, 1961) p. 20.

more Ministers Houses than others proportionably had been smitten with Lightning; enquiring what the meaning of God should be in it. Many Hail-Stones broke throw the Glass and flew to the middle of the Room, or farther: People afterward Gazed upon the House to see its Ruins. I got Mr. Mather to pray with us after this awful Providence; He told God He had broken the brittle part of our house, and prayd that we might be ready for the time when our Clay-Tabernacles should be broken. Twas a sorrowfull thing to me to see the house so far undon again before twas finish'd.

Jan. 13, 1696. When I came in, past 7. at night, my wife met me in the Entry and told me Betty has surprised them. I was surprised with the abruptness of the Relation. It seems Betty Sewall had given some signs of dejection and sorrow; but a little after dinner she burst out into an amazing cry, which caused all the family to cry too; Her Mother ask'd the reason; she gave none; at last said she was afraid she should goe to Hell, her Sins were not pardon'd. She was first wounded by my reading a Sermon of Mr. Norton's, about the 5th of Jan. Text, John vii: 34 . Ye shall seek me and shall not find me. And those words in the Sermon, John viii: 21, Ye shall seek me and shall die in your sins, ran in her mind, and terrified her greatly. And staying at home Jan. 12 she read out of Mr. Cotton Mather, Why hath Satan filled thy heart, which increas' her Fear. Her Mother ask'd her whether she pray'd. She answer'd, Yes; but feared her prayers were not heard because he Sins not pardon'd.

The Lord bring Light and Comfort out of thid dark and dreadful Cloud, and Grant that Christ's being formed in my dear child, may be the issue of these painfull pangs.

Dec. 25, 1696. We bury our little daughter. In the chamber, Joseph in course reads Ecclesiastes 3d a time to be born and a time to die--- Elisabeth, Rev. 22. Hanah, the 38th Psalm. I speak to each, as God helped, to our mutual comfort I hope. I order'd Sam . to read the 102. Psalm. Elisha cooke, Edw. Hutchinson, John Baily, and Josia Willard bear my little daughter to the Tomb.

Jan. 14, 1697. Copy of the Bill I put up on the Fast day; giving it to Mr. Willard as he pass'd by, and standing up at the reading of it, and bowing when finished; in the Afternoon.

Samuel Sewall, sensible of the reiterated strokes of God upon himself and family; and being sensible, that as to the Guilt contracted upon the opening of the late commission of Oyer and Terminer at Salem (to which the order for this Day relates) he is, upon many accounts, more concerned than any that he knows of, Desires to take the Blame and shame of it, Asking pardon of men, And especially desiring prayers that God, who has an Unlimited Authority, would pardon that sin and all other his sins; personal and Relative: And according to his infinite Benignity, and Sovereignty, Not Visit the sin of him, or of any other, upon himself or any of his, nor upon the Land: But that He would powerfully defend him against all Temptations to Sin, for the future; and vouchsafe him the efficacious, saving Conduct of his Word and Spirit.

Jan. 14, 1701. Having been certified last night about 10 o'clock of the death of my dear Mother at Newbury, Sam. And I set out with John Sewall, the Messenger, for that place. Hired Horses at Charlestown: set out about 10 o'clock in a great Fog. Din'd at Lewis's with Mr. Cushing of Salisbury. Sam. And I kept on in Ipswich Rode, John went to accompany Bror from Salem,. About Mr. Hubbard's in Ipswich farms, they overtook us. Sam. And I lodg'd at Moon-shine. Jany. 15th Sam. and I set forward. Brother Northend meets us. Visit Aunt Northend, Mr. Payson. With Bror and sister we set forward for Newbury: where we find that day appointed for the Funeral: twas a very pleasant Comfortable day.

Nathan Bricket taking in hand to fill the Grave, I said, Forbear a little, and suffer me to say That amidst our bereaving sorrows We have the Comfort beholding this Saint put into the rightfull possession of that Happiness of Living desir'd and dying Lamented. She liv'd commendably Four and Fifty years with her dear Husband, and my dear Father: And she could not well brook the being divided from him at her death: which is the cause

of our taking leave of her in this place. She was a true and constant Lover of Gods Word, Worship, and Saints: And she always, with a patient cheerfulness, submitted to the divine Decree of providing Bread for her self and others in the sweat of her Brows. And now her Infinitely Gracious and Bountiful Master has promoted her to the Honor of higher Employments, fully and absolutely discharged from all manner of Toil, and Sweat. My honoured and beloved Friends and Neighbors! My dear Mother never thought much of doing the most frequent and homely offices of Love for me; and lavished away many Thousands of Words upon me, before I could return one word in Answer: And therefore I ask and hope that none will be offended that I have now ventured to speak one word in her behalf; when she her self is become speechless. Made a Motion with my hand for the filling of the Grave. Note, I could hardly speak for passion and Tears.

Jan. 24, 1704. Took 24s in my pocket, and gave my Wife the rest of my cash £ 4.3-8, and tell her she shall now keep the Cash; if I want I will borrow of her. She has a better faculty than I at managing Affairs: I will assist her; and will endeavor to live upon my Salary; will see what it will doe. The Lord give his Blessing.

April 3, 1711. I dine with the Court at Pullin's. Mr. Attorney treats us at his house with excellent Pippins, Anchovas, Olives, Nuts. I said I should be able to make no Judgment on the Pippins without as Review, which made the Company Laugh. Spake much of Negroes; I mention'd the problem, whether (they) should be white after the Resurrection: Mr. Bolt took it up as absurd, because the body should be void of all Colour, spake as if it should be a Spirit. I objected what Christ said to his Disciples after the Resurrection. He said twas not so after his Ascension.

April 11, 1712. I saw Six Swallows together flying and chipping very rapturously.

May 5, 1713. Dr. Cotton Mather makes an Excellent Dedication-Prayer in the New Court-Chamber. Mr. Pain, one of the Overseers of the Work wellcom'd us,

as the Judges went up Stairs. Dr. Cotton Mather having ended Prayer, The Clark went on and call'd the Grand-Jury: Giving their Charge, which was to enforce the Queen's Proclamation, and especially against Travailing on the Lord's Day; God having return'd to give us Rest. I said, You ought to be quickened to your Duty, in that you have so Convenient, and August a Chamber prepared for you to doe it in. And what I say to you, I would say to my self, to the Court, and to all that are concern'd. Seeing the former decay'd Building is consum'd, and a better built in the room, Let us pray, May that Proverb, Golden Chalice and Wooden Priests, never be transfer'd to the Civil order; that God would take away our filthy Garments, and cloath us with Change of Raiment; That our former Sins may be buried in the Roins and Rubbish of the former House, and not be suffered to follow us into this; That a Lixivium may be made of the Ashes, which we may frequently use in keeping ourselves Clean: Let never any Judge debauch this Bench, by abiding on it when his own Cause comes under Trial; May the Judges always discern the Right, and dispense Justice with a most stable, permanent Impartiality; Let this large, transparent, costly Glass serve to oblige the Attorneys alway to set Things in a True Light, And let the Character of none of them be *Impar sibi*; Let them Remember they are to advise the Court, as well as plead for their clients. The Oaths that prescribe our Duty run all upon Truth; God is Truth. Let Him communicate to us of His Light and Truth, in Judgment, and in Righteousness. If we thus improve this House, they that built it, shall inhabit it; the days of this people shall be as the days of a Tree, and they shall long enjoy the work of their hands. The Terrible Illumination that was made, the third of October was Twelve moneths, did plainly shew us that our God is a Consuming Fire: but it hath repented Him of the Evil. And since He has declar'd that He takes delight in them that hope in his Mercy, we firmly believe that He will be a Dwelling place to us throughout all Generations.

Saturday, Feb. 6, 1714. My neighbor Colson knocks at our door about 9 or past to tell of the Disorders at the Tavern at the Southend in Mr. Addington's house, kept by John Wallis. He desired me that I would accompany Mr. Bromfield and Constable Howell thither. It was 35 Minutes past Nine at Night before Mr. Bromfield came; then

we went. I took Aeneas Salter with me. Found much Company. They refus'd to go away. Said were there to drink the Queen's Health, and they had many other Healths to drink. Call'd for more Drink: drank to me, I took notice of the Affront to them. Said must and would stay upon that Solemn occasion. Mr. John Netmaker drank the Queen's Health to me. I told him I drank none; upon that he ceased. Mr. Brinley put on his Hat to affront me. I made him take it off. I threatened to send some of them to prison; that did not move them. They said they could but pay their Fine, and doing that they might stay. I told them if they had not a care, they would be guilty of a Riot. Mr. Bromfield spake of raising a number of Men to Quell them, and was in some heat, ready to run into Street. But I did not like that. Not having Pen and Ink, I went to take their Names with my Pensil, and not knowing how to Spell their Names, they themselves of their own accord write them. Mr. Netmaker, reproaching the Province, said they had not made one good Law.

At last I address'd myself to Mr. Banister. I told him he had been longest an Inhabitant and Freeholder. I expected he should set a good Example in departing thence. Upon this he invited them to his own House, and away they went; and we, after, went away. The Clock in the room struck a pretty while before they departed. I went directly home, and found it 25 Minutes past Ten at Night when I entered my own House.

Monday, Feb. 8, Mr. Bromfield comes to me, and we give the Names of the Offenders at John Wallis's Tavern last Satterday night, to Henry Howell, Constable, with Direction to take the Fines of as many as would pay; and warn them that refus'd to pay, to appear before us at 3 P.M. that day. Many of them pay'd. The rest appear'd; and Andrew Simpson, Ensign, Alexander Gordon, Chirurgion, Francis Brinley, Gent. and John Netmaker, Gent., were sentenc'd to pay a Fine of 5s each of them, for their Breach of the Law entituled, An Act for the better Observation, and Keeping of the Lord's Day. They all Appeal'd, and Mr. Thomas Banister was bound with each of them in a Bond of 20s upon Condition that they should prosecute their Appeal to effect.

Capt. John Bromsal, and Mr. Thomas Clark were dismiss'd without being Fined. The first was Master of a Ship just ready to sail, Mr. Clark a stranger of New York, who had carried it very civilly, Mr. Jekyl's Brother-in-Law.

Oct. 18, 1717. My wife grows worse and exceedingly Restless. Pray'd God to look upon her. Ask'd not after my going to bed. Had the advice of Mr. Williams and Dr. Cutler.

Oct. 19, Call'd Dr. C. Mather to pray, which he did excellently in the Dining Room, having Suggested good Thoughts to my wife before he went down. After, Mr. Wadsworth pray'd in the Chamber when twas suppos'd my wife took little notice. About a quarter of an hour past four, my dear Wife expired in the Afternoon, whereby the Chamber was fill'd with a Flood of Tears. God is teaching me a new Lesson; to live a Widower's Life. Lord help me to Learn; and be a Sun and Shield to me, now so much of my Comfort and Defense are taken away.

Oct. 20, I goe to the publick Worship forenoon and Afternoon. My Son has much adoe to read the Note I put up, being overwhelm'd with tears.

Feb. 6, 1718. This morning wandering in my mind whether to live a Single or a Married Life; I had a sweet and very affectionat Meditation Concerning the Lord Jesus; Nothing was to be objected against his Person, Parentage, Relations, Estate, House, Home! Why did I not resolutely, presently close with Him! And I cry'd mightily to God that He would help me so to doe!

March 14, 1718. Deacon Marion comes to me, sits with me a great while in the evening; after a great deal of Discourse about his Courtship—He told (me) the Olivers said they wish'd I would Court their Aunt (Mrs. Winthrop). I said little, but said twas not five Moneths since I buried my dear Wife. Had said before 'twas hard to know whether best to marry again or no; whom to marry.

Oct. 15, 1718. Visit Mrs. Denison on Horseback; present her with a pair of Shoe-buckles, cost 5s 3d.

Nov. 1, 1718. My Son from Brooklin being here I took his Horse, and visited Mrs. Denison. Sat in the Chamber next Majr Bowls. I told her 'twas time now to finish our Business: Ask'd her what I should allow her; she not speaking; I told her I was willing to give her Two and Fifty pounds per annum during her life, if it should please God to take me out of the world before her. She answer'd she had better keep as she was, than give a Certainty for an uncertainty; She should pay dear for dwelling at Boston. I desired her to make proposals, but she made none. I had Thoughts of Publishment next Thursday the 6th. But I now seem to be far from it. May God, who has the pity of a Father, Direct and help me!

Nov. 28, 1718. I went this day in the Coach; had a fire made in the Chamber where I spake with her before, November the first: I enquired how she had done these 3 or 4 weeks; Afterwards I told her our Conversation had been such when I was with her last, that it seem'd to be a direction in Providence, not to proceed any further; She said, It must be what I pleas'd, or to that purpose. Afterward she seem'd to blame that I had not told her so November 1.... I repeated her words of November 1. She seem'd at first to start at the words of her paying dear, as if she had not spoken them. But she said she thought twas Hard to part with All, and have nothing to bestow on her Kindred. I said, I did not intend any thing of the Movables, I intended all the personal Estate to be to her. She said I seem'd to be in a hurry on Saterdag, November 1, which was the reason she gave me no proposals. Whereas I had ask'd her long before to give me proposals in Writing; she upbraided me, That I who had never written her a Letter, should ask her to write. She asked me if I would drink, I told her Yes. She gave me Cider, Apples and a Glass of Wine: gathered together the little things I had given her, and offer'd them to me; but I would take none of them. Told her I wish'd her well, should be glad to hear of her welfare. She seem'd to say she should not again take in hand a thing of this nature. Thank'd me for what I had given her and Desired my Prayers.... Mr. Stoddard and his

wife came in their Coach to see their Sister which broke off my Visit. Upon their asking me, I dismiss'd my Coach, and went with them to see Mr. Danforth, and came home by Moon-shine. Got home about 9 at night. Laus Deo.

My bowels yern towards Mrs. Denison: but I think God directs me in his Providence to desist.

April 1, 1719. In the morning I dehorted Sam. Hirst and Grindal Rawson from playing Idle Tricks because 'twas first of April; They were the greatest fools that did so. New England Men came hither to avoid anniversary days, the keeping of them, such as the 25th of Decr. How displeasing must it be to God, the giver of our Time, to keep anniversary days to play the fool with ourselves and others.

May 26, 1720. About midnight my dear wife* expired to our great astonishment; especially mine. May the Sovereign Lord pardon my Sin, and Sanctify to me this very Extraordinary, awful Dispensation.

May 29, 1720. God having in his holy Sovereignty put my Wife out of the Fore-Seat, I apprehended I had Cause to be asham'd of my Sin, and to loath my self for it; and retired to my Pue.... I put a Note to this purpose: Samuel Sewall, depriv'd of his Wife by a very sudden and awfull Stroke, desires Prayers that God would sanctify the same to himself, and Children, and family. Writ and sent three; to the South, Old, and Mr. Coleman's church.

* Having cooled in his feelings toward the widow Denison in November, 1718, the undaunted Sewall began, the following August, to court the widow Abigail Tilly. Two months later, in October, 1719, they were married. However, after seven months, Abigail suddenly died in the night, as the diarist records.

อธิบายคำศัพท์

คำศัพท์

Fast day

sensible

stroke

relate

Unlimited Authority

conduct

ความหมาย

วันอดอาหาร

รู้สำนึก

เขียน ในที่นี้หมายถึง การถูกลงโทษจากพระเจ้า

เชื่อมโยง

อำนาจของพระเจ้าที่ไม่มีขีดจำกัด

การประพฤติปฏิบัติตน

สาระสำคัญ

บันทึกของ แชมมวล ชิวอลล์ ได้แสดงให้เห็นความเชื่อในศาสนาอย่างเคร่งครัดของ
คนในยุคนั้นรวมทั้งเป็นบันทึกเกี่ยวกับความสนใจในศาสนา สังคมและธุรกิจของชิวอลล์
ในการบันทึกชิวอลล์ใช้ภาษาที่ง่ายต่อการเข้าใจ