Apparently at the behest of the Indian Commissioners in Boston, Abigail Williams Sargeant Dwight was asked to give an account of her involvement in the boarding school for Indian girls and young women at Stockbridge, there having arisen discontent among the Indians, frustration in Edwards over mismanagement of the school, and suspicion among locals over the mysterious burning of the school in February 1752. The portion of the account that survives relates her part in the affair from January 1752 to March 1753.

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MS, one folio leaf, n.d. [c. 1752], frag., Mass. Historical Society, Sedgwick Papers, MS N-851.2, Box 3. Incomplete at beginning and end.
ABIGAIL DWIGHT'S ACCOUNT OF THE STOCKBRIDGE FEMALE INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL

pass'd in aft after I received a Copy of y^e Corporations Vote which July 1751 respecting Be a female Boarding School - & desireing me to undertake y^e Charge of there instruction & maintenance a Copy of which vote y^e Hon^b Andrew Olver Esq anuary was pleas'd to transmit to me in June 1752 -- I had heard of it some months Before -- therefore had it proposed to our Indians in a Body wether they a y^e Rev^d Mr Edwards had recomended it to me to Send a Numb^r of y^e girls abroad for a few months to learn y^e English Language, & manners, in & as it might make it more Convenient & Eligable in setting up y^e School to have a few of em, thus prepared to be a lead to y^e rest &c -- in decem^b 1751 two of y^e y^e Gen^n of y^e Gener^l Courts Committe Being present -- this Committe I understood Had directions to inspect every Prudential relative to y^e two Boarding Schools I proposed to have y^e Indians Called together Both y^e Stockbridge [-] tribe & they y^e Mohauks & y^e should confer with em on y^e Head of [ ] of & that they y^e design of y^e should Communicate fully to em. Corporation together with y^e design of + Govrment respect Indian Children & those Gen^n thot it very proper & indeed there Buisiness -- accordingly treated with y^e Mohauks [-----] & Stockbridge
indians — who Expected there Children should also have ye offer at least a few of em
ye Stockbridg indians made many objection — &c &c — &c &c &c — &c ---
finally agreed of there Childn should go abroad — which accordingly I prepar
& sett forward with all ye Expedition I could — ye mohauks [ ] Sending there
Children — But said if ye female House was Built & when it was they would Send
Some of them — one women Brought me her dauier for [ ] which I took & kept
a month — she was Contented — improv well in reading & Business But was taken
Sick at a months end and went Home — they were often with me Both Stockbridge
In — & mohauks to know when ye female school House was to go up — wanted
done 1752
much to have it — Said there School Chldren should Come — in aprill I
wrote to Andrew Oliver Esq. in answer to his letter of march — & Excepted ye [ ]
of ye scool — & proposed to go on ye Buisness as Son as ye House was got
in readiness — — But from one unhappy Circumstance or other — ye Building
has been neglected not only from month to month
even
but from year to year ever since to this day — which has renderd it utterly
impossible for me & I apprehend any one Else so much as to give Being
to ye School — of So much importance to ye whole Scheme of indian
affairs — However Being unwilling to Neglect any thing ye Could Be thought
proper for me to do under these disadvantages — I proposed to Cap’ M Ke
& M’ A— to recomd — to ye mohauks to lend a few of there Children
to be taken in to my House — **But for a trial** — but instead of **Mrs** Ashley Said — She Could teach ‘em as well as I — & I Suppose they
gave her full Credit — Cap- K. use®— his utmost endeavours
through **y**° Sumer — & fall to incourage ‘em to leve there parent
& **y**° parent to part with there Children — But to no purpose — they
Say’d it was time anou" when **y**° House was Built & **y**° **Mrs** Ashley
Could teach em. — they did not love to leve Home untill they were a
little more use’d — to **y**° English — upon this Cap M K— very Earnestly
recomended to me to **Come** go to **y**° Boarding School & instruct **y**° Children
there — Cultivate an aquaintance with ‘em. & thot **y**° might Be not only
in[g] a very probably Step toward Lay a foundation for Setting up this School
But **y**° only way as He supposed in which any person Could gain a
willingness in there minds to accept of it att all in Such Sort as should
finally turn out to any tollerable advantage att all — well on good advice I
about **y**° 20 went to **y**° Boarding School — there took my lodgings — on **y**° Brook[?] of Jan
**y**° people one & all made me a very Hearty welcome — sent 10 Children to me to Be
taught to read &c Beside 2 married women I gave Constant attendance & spent
my whole time untill **y**° 9th of febrauary when **y**° House was Consumed By fire when Ab’t
home 18 return for a week — spent most of my time untill **y**° 12 of march — the **y**° Col went
who together with me spent **y**° whole of our time there untill **y**° 23° of may then
returned Home – instructed 10 to 12 Children from y° first of my going there [   ]
in January to y° 10 of aprill when y° onquago famelys went of – which included all
y° Ch Indian Pupils Except 8 ° of y° Coneingo tribe which I gave dayly
attendane too untill I came – away – y° Stockbridge indians [   ] y° Chil-
y° dren of Stockbridge I h agreeable to vote of y° honbl Commissioners in rec’d
their letter I sent for Benjamin there Chief – Communicated to Him the
Commissioners last vote – talked very largely on y° affair – He Say’d
many things uppon y° whole Say’d – He was unwilling to send his own Child
therefore Could not recomend it to His Bretheren of y° Town to send
any of theirs – I [-]told im I was far from Being willing
to Be a Hindrance to y° afair if I could not Leave it [-] quer’d
not wether He would Chuse to have somebody other person impolyed & sent by y°
Commisioners – as He had profesed a great likeing to y° thing – He say’d no
other if they sent 10 persons He would not take one step toward promoting of [it?] [MS dam.]
I asked Him if He Could not trust there Children with there [   ]
[   ] Schoolmaster – provided they were employed He Say’d no – for y°
same reason He would not promote it Now – He would not promote it
in any shape – He further Say’d – y° thing He liked well had Hoped
great & good things would Come of it – but there so much Noise & Contention[?]
in y° town – y° He Could not act without making differently & untill
these jumbles were settled He Could nor would do nothing att all &
y't it was all owing to y't & nothing Else — y't 10 or 20 Children might stood
ready to Delver em selve up to Be Schoold if He Could Say ye word
Notes

1 Possibly shorthand for “some.”