

Bears

1726 January 7, 8 (Friday, Saturday). I bought a Bearskin Muffler. Mr. Rice was with me about keeping his Man.

1736 November 2 (Tuesday). N.B. A Young *Bear* in Mr. Cushings Pasture and crossed the Road but a little behind Mr. *Stone* and me as we rode up. He was pursued and shot.

1751 August 23 (Friday). N.B. Mr. Charles Rice (who came and hoop'd our Bear-Barrell [*sic*], and does various Chores at different Times) with divers others who came likewise, fitted a Draught-Pole for the Well.

1752 August 27 (Thursday). So that I had a Night of greivous Trouble and Exercise till the Morning. My Hand somewhat easier in the Day, and I was more comfortable and lively. But these days are Days of Darkness and sorrow. Mrs. Molly Brigham (Gershom's wife) brought some bak'd Bear with Sauce which I could Eat of though I have a more deprav'd appetite and have eaten next to no Meat these Two Days.

1752 September 1 (Tuesday). I am inform'd that divers Bears are about, and that one lay in my Field at the other Place lately, and has done Damage in the Corn.

1752 September 27 (Wednesday). Bears are rife about: another is kill'd in Town.

1752 September 29 (Friday). A Number of men were here who had been hunting Bears which they See the Tracks of in many places about us.

1754 September 14 (Saturday). Bears are about very thick -- many are kill'd.

1754 September 19 (Thursday). A Bear Was Seen by my son Thomas passing through my Land just below the Burying place, and went Cross the Road.

1754 October 25 (Friday). A very Rainy Day. N.B. Some Number more of Bears kill'd among us and on the Confines. The Whitneys have kill'd and assisted in killing 4 or 5 within a very few Days. Tis Said about 20 have been kill'd in this Town.

1759 August 31 (Friday). Troubled with Cattle in the Field. Bears are rife -- One killed yesterday.

1759 September 6 (Thursday). N.B. Bears are rife. We Dined upon a very fine Piece brought me last Night by Neighbour Jonathan Grout.

1759 September 10 (Monday). A Bear near by: half a Score and more are hunting it in Capt. Maynards Swamp, and across my Ground.

1759 September 11 (Tuesday). Lt. Jonas Brigham kills a Bear, of which he Sends me an handsome piece.

1759 September 12 (Wednesday). N.B. hear of Several Bears Seen to day in different parts of the Town.

1759 September 25 (Tuesday). A Bear was seen about noon a little below my House at Mr. Samuel Forb's Field.

1764 August 24 (Friday). Hear Capt. Brigham has killed a great Bear.

1765 May 31 (Friday). We Broke fast at the Alms House -- and were going to Mr. *Holbrooks* (where my Mare was kept) to mount, when Mr. *Surcomb* came, and engaged us to return to his House. We were obliged (irresistably) to go -- but it was not to our Loss. He and his Wife loaded us with presents -- Tea, Bread, Wine, Cane Spirits, Bear [Beer?] -- to carry home with us. May God reward such Kindness and Bounty!

1779 March 4 (Thursday). Mrs. P _____ disposes of Baize Lining to Ebenezer, and with the money, and some additions (that of 34s) purchases [*blank*] yards of Bear Skin to make him (Elias) a Straight-bodied coat. (Designed Lining of a New Red homespun Camblet gown for Elias.)

1780 October 10 (Tuesday). Hear much of *Bears*. One is killed by Capt. Jonas Brigham, and others. Weighed 300.