

Cattle

1736 November 1 (Monday). *David* p.m. preparing for putting up Stanchills for the Cattle.

1736 November 20 (Saturday). *David* and *John Rogers* put up *stanchells* for my Cattle.

1736 November 29 (Monday). Storm of Snow. This Evening was the first of our housing all the Cattle.

1737 November 11 (Friday). We first tyed up our Cattle in the Barn.

1738 April 21 (Friday). P.M. Plough'd in Barley, with only my Cattle.

1740 January 15 (Tuesday). Great Storm of Snow. High winds and very Cold. Very difficult for my Boys to tend the Cattle and get Wood.

1740 April 3 (Thursday). Much perplex'd in the morning about our spring work, the Care of it crowding upon me at a very uncomfortable Rate. After having been other where with no success, as I walk'd to Neighbor Hezekiah Pratts (who I sought to come with his Oxen and draw off the Stones from Ground which we wanted to break up for Planting) I had many musings touching the Conduct of God's Providence in the world, especially where even his own work was more immediately at stake -- but I was enabled to refer and rest matters with God. Mr. Pratt came -- after him Mr. Daniel Forbush with Two Yoke of Cattle, and they drew off the stones. This they did a.m. David Baverick also came and rigg'd up the Fences; So that my Business was like to get along -- for which I thank God that so I might attend to his service without so much distraction.

1740 April 12 (Saturday). Jonathan and Benjamin Tainter came with Three Cattle and plough'd Stubble and Split Hills.

1740 May 6 (Tuesday). Four Young Cattle turn'd up into the woods.

1740 September 12 (Friday). Ensign Forbush sent his Son and a Yoke of Cattle, Sergeant Bruce a Son and a Yoke of Cattle and Captain Warrin his Oxen, and plough and Harrow to plough and harrow [*sic*]my rugged Ground on the South Side.

1740 September 26 (Friday). Sam Bumpso came on the 24 and pinch'd up my Thrashing Floor. Mr. Thomas Billings came for Lieutenant Holloway and Sow'd nigh Three pecks of Rye upon my New Ground on the South Side. And the Cattle were brought from the woods.

1740 October 5 (Sunday). Greatly afflicted with the Cattle breaking into the Corn....In the middle of the Night was call'd out of my Bed because the Cattle had broke into the Corn.

1740 October 9 (Thursday). In great perplexity in the fore part of the Day by Reason of the Cattle and Hoggs breaking in upon my few Apples, tossing about the piles of Stalks, etc.

1740 October 15 (Wednesday). When I came home I had the Sorrowful Sight of the Mischief done by my Cattle breaking in upon my Corn which lay husk'd in the Barn, for I could have no Convenience to carry it up. The Disaster respecting the Corn was so much the more trouble some as my Corn was exceeding Short having but half the Field and what there was was exceeding poor and mean and soft. P.M. James Bradish so kind as to give me the cutting of Three Load of Wood, and the Carrying up the good Corn which I had in the Barn, which the Cattle did not get over to (but to the Soft Corn only). N.B. The good Corn carry'd up from the Barn was 14 or 15 Basketts -- and this was the biggest part of my Corn this Year.

1740 November 12 (Wednesday). N.B. on the 12th Mr. Eliezer Rice here and took away my young brindled Cow, with Calf, and a young Steer coming 4, according to bargain for his Cattle. I am indebted to him 7.10.0 overplus.

1740 November 13 (Thursday). Storm of Snow, very Cold, and the Meeting House very cold and uncomfortable.... It continues to Snow, and is a very Difficult, Cold Time. My Cattle out yet.

1740 November 14 (Friday). Snowy and Cold. Could not Succeed to get my Barn fitted for my Cattle.

1740 November 15 (Saturday). Very Cold. Got up Six of my Cattle.

1740 November 17 (Monday). Cattle got into the Barn. Eve Stormy.

1740 December 17 (Wednesday). A very Violent and tempestuous Storm of Snow, and we very Short of Wood. But through Gods great Mercy we are all in Health. John Hicks sent to help us in cutting up what wood we had, etc. and help tend the Cattle, and lodg'd here.

1742 April 24 (Saturday). Thomas Winchester and John Rogers with the Cattle broke up the lower part of the Field on the South side.

1742 July 31 (Saturday). Heard that a Barn of Mr. Gleson of Sudbury was burnt by the Lightning last Night in which was a good Quantity of English Hay and Grain: and that Four Cattle were killed at Framingham.

1742 September 7 (Tuesday). N.B. Ebenezer rode to Grafton to look up some of our young Cattle which had Strayed from Sutton: found but Two out of Five.

1742 September 8 (Wednesday). Mr. John Rogers upon my Mare rode after the remainder of young Cattle. Found them but did not bring them.

1742 September 9 (Thursday). John Hicks brought home my young Cattle from Grafton.

1742 November 24 (Wednesday). Mr. Samuel Fay junior had my Cattle to go to *Boston*.

1742 November 29 (Monday). Bright Day. But No wood but what we could pick up -- and no Cattle came home from Mr. Fays till Eve.

1744 November 7 (Wednesday). We ty'd up our Cattle in the Barn. Grows Cold.

1744 November 9 (Friday). N.B. My Young Cattle, viz. Three young Heiffers, which Lieutenant Tainter drove up to Cold Spring for summering, in the forepart of the Year, were all missing when the Drovers came in. But Lieutenant undertook a Journey after them on the sixth instant, and this Evening brought in Two of them, the Third as tis judg'd dy'd in the Woods Some time agoe; the Carcase was found but was greatly corrupted etc. Lieutenant has been out 27 Shilling, and there remained 10 shilling for the Herdsman; in all the Charge amounted to 37 shilling.

1745 August 22 (Thursday). Ebenezer went p.m. to Sutton to look up my Young Cattle which had not been heard of for some time.

1745 August 24 (Saturday). N.B. Ebenezer return'd from Sutton without any News of my Cattle.

1745 August 28 (Wednesday). Thomas at Grafton a.m. hunting for my young Cattle, but in Vain.

1745 September 11 (Wednesday). Ebenezer and Thomme went to Grafton and brought down our young Cattle from Mr. David Batchellors.

1745 November 14 (Thursday). N.B. Ebenezer hous'd the Cattle last night in the Barn.

1746 March 24 (Monday). When Thomas Winchester was lately with me we agreed upon Thursday next to break up the Ground, round about the Settle, and have bespoke plough and Cattle, 4 Yoke accordingly but forgetting this appointment yesterday, I appointed the Same Day to be Lecture to Young Men. So perplexing is it to have the Affairs of the Ministry and of a Farm to manage together.

1746 March 29 (Saturday). Broke up Ground again at the Same Place with the Same Number of Cattle, by the Same Hands as yesterday -- till noon. West yard broke up.

1746 June 10 (Tuesday). Rainy. My Cattle grow very troublesome by breaking in upon my Corn, whilst Ebenezer and Thomme were gone a fishing. Mr. Eliezer Rice hobbled my Ox which was the Ringleader in the Mischief.

1746 July 22 (Tuesday). My Interruption great by Cattle breaking into my Corn.

1746 August 2 (Saturday). The Rye Cutt yesterday to be turn'd and taken up. Considerable Hay lies in swarth at the Meadow -- and what to be reap'd So that I have no little Care upon me to interrupt me though I can do none of the Labour. Cattle and Hoggs often breaking in. How many Times my Soul is oppress'd in this manner!

1746 September 23 (Tuesday). We were going to plough with Lieutenant Forbush's Cattle but I sent them back again: and Ebenezer to Sutton.

1746 November 18 (Tuesday). Pleasant moderate weather. Some of our Cattle have been hous'd but we are not yet ready for the Rest.

1746 November 20 (Thursday). Ebenezer and Thomme build a new Hoval at the East End of the Barn. The Cattle were all hous'd.

1746 December 31 (Wednesday). But have been of late more than ordinarily fill'd with perplexing Cares and important Business -- as particularly my Bond with Mr. Jesse Rice of Marlborough; the weighty Affairs of my settlement with this Precinct; the Sickness at Mr. Whipples; the troublesome Affair, and great Disappointment about my Pork; but especially a Daily anxiety about my Cattle my Hay being very Short and my Stock much increas'd. My Corn also Much Shorter than Ordinary; which was caus'd me to ride much more than I should have done, and yet without success.

1747 January 6 (Tuesday). At my House found Timothy Warrin and Eliezer Rice about my Cattle, and I sold 'em to Neighbour Warrin for 44£ and a Days Work ploughing Stubble in the Spring. He gave me Bond to be paid September 29 with Interest -- but I engag'd that if he would pay me by March 10 there should be no Interst at all. He promis'd also to bring me a Load of Rails from Mr. Harringtons.

1747 February 17 (Tuesday). N.B. Sad Thieving of Cattle and sheep of late by Jonathan Willard and [blank] Cutting of Shrewsbury.

1747 April 16 (Thursday). At home whilst I was at Lancaster, a large promising Steer coming 2 years old, for which I had lately got a mate of Mr. David Maynard, was drown'd at a meadow where my Young Cattle went to feed.

1747 May 4 (Monday). So rainy our Cattle did not go to Sutton.

1747 May 5 (Tuesday). Mr. Jonah Warrin had my mare for his son and they drove up my young Cattle (seven of them) to Sutton.

1747 September 4 (Friday). N.B. my Young Cattle are brought Home from Sutton, except a Young Steer.

1747 November 3 (Tuesday). Brother Hicks and I reckon'd, about my Cattle which he had kept in the Summer and I pay'd him 33 shillings old Tenor for keeping Six: and we reckon'd also on account of the Cow that calv'd at his House, whose Calf he kill'd and whose milk he had till Ebenezer fetch'd the Cow home and he allow'd me but 3£ for both the Calf and the milk, but I yielded to anything he would propose least we should by Some Means or other get angry, which would be worse than all the Controversy was worth. I dreaded the dangerous Minute!

1747 November 30 (Monday). A Cold, windy, but bright Day. I am not a little concern'd about my keeping such a large Stock of Cattle for though I have sold a Cow and one of the last Spring Calves yet have we 18 Horn Cattle besides our Horses and Sheep, and I fear my Hay will be short for them all. I therefore walk'd out toward Evening to see if I could either buy Hay or promote the Sale of Some of them or get some kept through the Winter. I went to Mr. Elijah Rice's and to Mr. Tennys. Call'd at the Shoemaker Garfields and at Neighbour John Chamberlins.

1747 December 12 (Saturday). Very Cold. Old Mr. Maynard came repeatedly and chop'd wood for us at the Door, Ebenezer not being able to handle an Ax to any purpose -- but he tends the Cattle.

1747 December 18 (Friday). A very Severe night we have pass'd through, but God's Mercys are new this morning which is bright without Clouds, and silver'd by the Icicles everywhere shining and the Trees glistening. But it is still Cold. As the Day gets up the Wind rises. 'Tis as much as we can do to take Care of ourselves and the Children, provide for and Tend the Fires, and the Cattle. But our Eyes should be to the Lord our never failing Support.

1748 February 9 (Tuesday). Snowed again. A parcel of wood being left in the swamp cutt yesterday We went and sledded up with 3 Cattle 7 Turns. Thomas Rogers assisted.

1748 May 3 (Tuesday). Sent 8 Cattle by the Whipples etc. to Nitchewag, under the Care of Mr. Silas Wheeler.

1748 July 23 (Saturday). I rose early and went to Captain Bakers to desire him to Cart for me -- Since my Hay was now ready: but (though he went to Stephen Fay's to get his Cattle for it) he could not. I proceeded to Lieutenant Tainters. He agreed to go to Day if Captain Baker went to Day -- but he chose to deferr it till Monday. I had considerable of work in my Hay to do at Home, though it be Such a Day in the Week -- but in providence Mr. Dunlop was passing from Marlborough, and I laid hold on him. Ebenezer and he got in 2 Load of Hay that was at Home -- and then went to the Meadow to rake what was left and to bring home 1 Load of Hay. He did the Latter but omitted the former.

1748 October 1 (Saturday). P.M. Mr. Edwards Whipple brought home my young Cattle which came from Nichewoa....

1749 January 8 (Sunday). Very Cold Day. No Nathan. Tending the Cattle at this extreme season very troublesome to me, having been so very unus'd to it -- but my little Billy has been some help. At noon came Cornelius Cook (by desire) to take Care of the Cattle.

1749 January 23 (Monday). Lieutenant Forbush was here and he was the first who mention'd to me any Dissatisfaction of his own, with my public Reading of the holy Scriptures in public. Captain Forbush and Daniel Hardy also offer'd something in my hearing of the like nature. I endeavour'd further to Vindicate it -- and we had fervent argument upon another Point likewise. Scil. the Beginning of the Sabbath. I was griev'd to find such a Disposition to Objecting and finding fault -- for Lieutenant Said he believ'd we Should not only come to reading the Scripture, but to reading Prayers, for we were got to reading our Notes, whereas our Charge was to preach -- not read. No word in the Bible that we should read, as for singing, he said I had preach'd about it some Time ago and recommended the Duty very much, and that they should all have their Psalm-Books -- but now we were going (he thought) to turn it out of the worship, by degrees, for we had got to singing but one Stave. I answer'd that this was only in extreme Cold Day, or while they were so short that we needed to redeem time, and to Satisfie such people as had most frequently been very uneasy that they could not get home to their Cattle sooner. And therefore it was exceeding unreasonable to complain of that. May the Lord pity and pardon us, for his names sake!

1749 March 25 (Saturday). Daniel is preparing and bespeaking Cattle, that we may have a Team to break up.

1749 March 27 (Monday). I went abroad very Early because of what we had before us. Was at Mr. Nurse's where I had a plough, and at Ebenezer Rice's. With the following Team and assistance we broke up the ground next to the Swamp. Besides Daniel with my own Oxen, Neighbour John Rogers with his, Neighbour Tomlin with his, and Nathan Maynard with theirs; to which add Neighbour Benjamin Hows. P.M. Nathan Maynard drew off, and Stephen Maynard came to work in his room with another Yoke of Oxen, so that we had p.m. 12 Oxen and turn'd it over pritty well. Mr. Tomlin and Stephen Maynard gave in their work and their Cattle -- Neighbour Rogers was very moderate in his Demands.

1749 April 28 (Friday). Mr. Walker of Nichewoag, who took Care of my Cattle last Year, was here. Agreed to give him 45 shillings for the Care of the Cattle, and 20/ for his pains after one of them could not get up (by 8 miles) At the Time of Driving up.

1749 May 9 (Tuesday). Five of my Cattle were driven by Mr. Francis Whipple etc. to Nichewoag. Ebenezer assisted as far as Shrewsbury.

1749 June 3 (Saturday). Our Hearts are pained for the parch'd Earth and wither'd Grass. I understand that some people are oblig'd to turn their Cattle into their mowing ground.

1749 July 26 (Wednesday). Three of Mr. Barns's Cattle very troublesome one Night after another and now get into the Corn.

1749 September 16 (Saturday). Young Cattle out of the Woods.

1749 October 7 (Saturday). Visited Mr. Frink as we came off. I was at Mr. Feltons to see whether some of my stray Cattle are not there: but am not enough acquainted with my marks to know them.

1749 October 9 (Monday). P.M. rain. Ebenezer to Rutland after the stray Cattle.

1749 November 22 (Wednesday). Early in the Morning Stormy; but afterwards it clear'd off, and very Cold.... It proves exceeding Cold at Night. My little Son William putt up the Cattle and meated them himself though so very Cold.

1749 November 23 (Thursday). Josiah Lock (at my Request) is here to help my Billy in tending the Cattle and cutting Wood; and lodg'd here.

1749 December 6 (Wednesday). Neighbour Hezekiah How and Neighbour Daniel Warrin assist my son in killing 3 Swine, one weighing above nine, another above 7, another almost 4 Score. Foreseeing I must give some of my Corn to my Cattle and Horses by reason of the shortness of Hay, I chose to kill my Pork early though it be small -- have laid up the more Beef.

1750 January 11 (Thursday). When I came home found Lieutenant Tainter here (who was here also to see me last night, endeavouring then in vain) to speak with me about keeping some of my Cattle, and to Comfort me under my Circumstances with hopes of what may be done by the precinct for my remove.

1750 January 12 (Friday). Mr. Simon Tainter of Grafton here, but he did not take any Cattle as I expected.

1750 February 5 (Monday). The Weather clears up very Cold, and it grows a distressing Time among people, respecting their Cattle; Hay being So very Short, there is reason for much Concern, -- but must Confide in God.

1750 February 16 (Friday). Thomas, through divine Goodness, able to tend the Cattle, But is not free of pain and Indisposition.

1750 May 16 (Wednesday). Ebenezer and Billy went up to Brother Hicks's with 5 Young Cattle.

1750 June 5 (Tuesday). A Day to be remember'd -- as for my Accepting the Call of the Town in the Year 1724. So now for my undertaking to begin the World again on the South Road -- a Number of Neighbours came to Clear and plough down the Knoll which I purpose to build on. It was very much owing to Lieutenant Bruce, and accordingly a.m. there was a number to clear the ground, Scil. Neighbour John Rogers, Thomas Frost, and Abraham Beeman, besides my own Ebenezer and Joseph, and p.m. a considerable Number with their Cattle to plough and levill it.

Lieutenant Bruce and Oxen, Mr. Timothy Warrin with Oxen both his own and his Brother Daniels, Mr. John Rogers with Oxen, which with my own oxen made up Ten. Other Hands were Ephraim Bruce, Ebenezer Forbush, Neighbour Cook, Eleazer Williams, Timothy Warrin, Samuel Harrington, Simon Tainter, Abner Newton, Junior.

1750 June 8 (Friday). P.M. a Number of Neighbours went to my Knoll, with Two Yoke of Cattle besides my own, and with Shovels, Hoes and Barrs to levell it further. They were chiefly Mr. Charles Rice, Lieutenant Thomas Forbush, Lieutenant Bruce, Lieutenant Tainter, Mr. Grow, Bowman, Harrington, Simon Tainter Junior, Jonathan Forbush, Charles Bruce, Ephraim Bruce, Adams, Rogers (with oxen), Timothy Warrin, Abraham Bond, Samuel Forbush junior, [blank] Miller, Eleazer Williams, Abner Rice, and Daniel Forbush junior with a Cart and Oxen.

1750 September 10 (Monday). Mr. Hutchinson rode with me to make Some Enquiry after five of my Cattle which lye about Still in that Neighbourhood. We went to Charles Brigham Esq., from thence I went to Captain Drurys and Mr. Aaron Hardys, as I return'd home.

1750 September 14 (Friday). Esquire Baker brought down my Cattle (which had run in Grafton) from Esq. Brighams who had put 'em into his Pasture.

1750 September 15 (Saturday). Lieutenant Tainter brought home from the woods, a Steer which he had kept all winter, and driven up to Sommers for Summering; and this as well as the keeping of Several Cattle for me last Winter was I suppose Gratis.

1750 October 5 (Friday). Ebenezer has been Carting Apples etc. No corn gather'd yet. But we suffer'd great Dammage by the cattle; of them 12 in Number broke out of the Cow Yard last night -- were in the Corn, among the Apples, Cabbages etc.

1750 December 15 (Saturday). Ebenezer and Thomas variously employ'd about the Cattle, Firing etc.

1751 January 22 (Tuesday). The early Morn began with Storm....We have reason to fear there is much Dammage done by this terrible Storm. I hear already of the Desolation of Mr. Daniel Forbush's Barn which was blown down to Day when the Cattle were in it, and he himself gone to Boston.

1751 February 13 (Wednesday). I rode to Hopkinton to See Mr. Barret in his Sickness -- find he is much better. I din'd there. The Desolations in Hopkinton by the great Storm much greater than among us. Mr. Barretts, Mr. Price's, and 10 or 11 Barns more in that Town blown down. Mr. Barretts Cattle, and his Negro Man also in the Barn at that Instant.

1751 March 6 (Wednesday). Ebenezer takes Care of the Cattle, gets wood, and is busy'd about various Choars.

1751 November 15 (Friday). P.M. Mr. Claffland work'd for me; is making an Hovell for my Cattle.

1751 December 6 (Friday). Billy writes a Days, and helps a little about the Cattle etc.

1752 January 7 (Tuesday). Ebenezer has Mr. Barns's Cattle and Sled and sleds Logs to the saw-mill.

1752 May 11 (Monday). Lieutenant Tainter and Mr. Samuel Harrington drive Cattle into the Woods at Leicester. They take 3 of mine, 4 other Young Creatures of Mine cannot be found this morning that they might go.

1752 September 28 (Thursday). At Eve Mr. Samuel Harrington here, and acquaints me that he has brought home one of the three young Cattle that were turn'd into the Woods last Spring. The other two are missing, viz. a Three Year old Heifer and a Two Year old. They were under the care of one Mr. John Curtis of Leicester, upper part.

1752 October 3 (Tuesday). N.B. I was without an Horse because Billy was gone to Mill, and I suppos'd Ebenezer to be gone to Leicester to look up the young Cattle which are missing: but the Cattle at Home were so unruly that he went not -- but by that Time I got there it was too late.

1752 October 4 (Wednesday). My Son Ebenezer went this Morning up to Leicester Woods to look up our stray Cattle.

1752 October 6 (Friday). N.B. Ebenezer return'd last night from Leicester and the lost Cattle are brought home.

1752 November 23 (Thursday). The Coldest Morning hitherto. The Earth is now froze hard. P.M. Snows hard.... My Affairs Somewhat perplex'd. My son has not come to me since his Journey to Brookfield and winter is come upon us before I am ready -- No place to put up my Cattle o'nights, how cold or Stormy Soever. No small Wood at the Door, but some Pine which being lately cut down is unfit to burn. But my wife went to See old Mrs. Dorcas Forbush and get Lieutenant (her son) to let his Team go, and Samuel Forbush now prevail'd with to bring up a Load before Night. May the Lord look on my very Afflicted State and appear for my Help and Relief as he has numberless Times done!

1752 November 25 (Saturday). N.B. This is the first Night of our tying up Cattle in my New Barn. We now put up three Cows.

1753 January 2 (Tuesday). Mr. Daniel Adams and my son Thomas are at Work upon a Floor in my Barn for my Cattle.

1753 January 3 (Wednesday). N.B. 4 more Cattle brought from my other place to keep at this new Barn. Weather very Cold.

1753 January 4 (Thursday). A Storm of Snow. Mr. Adams and Thomas Still. All the Plank laid but the floor not finish'd. We put up 7 Cattle.

1754 February 14 (Thursday). I went over presently to Ebenezer p.m. but he was gone to help Mr. Daniel Maynard drive to Marlborough the Cattle he had bought of my Son (the Oxen I gave him) for 75£ old Tenor -- but Ebenezer Came over in the Evening.

1754 March 13 (Wednesday). Ebenezer rode (on Mr. Smiths Stallion) to his Father Harringtons at Watertown where his Wife has hitherto continued. And Billy is over at tother place taking Care of his Brothers Cattle.

1754 May 11 (Saturday). My Cattle break in to the Meadows So often it gives great Disquietment. Mr. Nathaniel Whitney in particular greatly offended, and in intemperate Anger, which gave me much trouble.

1754 September 20 (Friday). Lieutenant Forbush here at Eve tells me of his Cattle being once and again in my Island -- and to Day in the Corn.

1754 November 21 (Thursday). Ebenezer went to Brookfield after our young Cattle. He rode my Mare. Moses Nurse with 2 Yoke of Oxen, and my Billy helping, plough'd, sow'd Rye and harrow'd it in. Held a Catechetical Exercise to Young Women. At Eve Ebenezer and Samuel Forbush each with a Yoke of Cattle, Noah Forbush with my sons Oxen and a Drag, Elijah Rice, Moses Nurse and his Cousen Daniel and Abner Newton, came and plough'd a drew down Gravel from the back of my House.

1755 July 4 (Friday). N.B. Mr. Beeton broke up his acre joining to me. He had 16 or 18 Cattle.

1755 August 13 (Wednesday). Having heard that my Young Cattle in the woods, had stray'd from their Keeper, I wrote several Letters and Advertisements about them.

1755 August 20 (Wednesday). Hear that Some of my young Cattle that had Stray'd away, are come to my Sons.

1755 September 3 (Wednesday). N.B. I went to Mr. Jonathan Wilders enquiring after my Young Cattle which have stray'd but Mr. Wilder was not at home. When I return'd to Mr. Mellens he came to me, and told me my Cattle he believ'd were at his Neighbours and promis'd he would take Care of them.

1756 April 16 (Friday). The storm prevails, and one of my young Cattle missing -- the Evening Dark, it can't be found.

1756 June 7 (Monday). Am sollicitous to get a Pasture for my Young Cattle, they being now very troublesome.

1757 June 1 (Wednesday). Daniel Wyman, 'prentice to my son Baldwin, came here last night, from Sudbury; and lodged here. This morning Billy and he drove my Bell-Cow (of Cambridge breed) to their Master Baldwin: And they are to take my Young Cattle with *Ebenzers* along with them to Brookfield.

1757 June 14 (Tuesday). Mr. Batherick here. I read to him the Agreement I had written, and we both Signed it. He informs me of the great Difficulty in watering the Cattle. Offers to try for a Well over at the lower side of the Pastures, if I will Send an Hand -- which I agree to.

1757 June 15 (Wednesday). *Amon* goes to t'other House and works there in digging a Well to water the Cattle, which he tells me at night they have accomplished.

1757 November 4 (Friday). N.B. *Nathan Kenny* worked here -- ploughed -- had a Yoke of Deacon Bonds Cattle.

1758 May 8 (Monday). Am willing my Sons and Cattle Should work for Others that they may for me. Especially This is necessary in breaking up, and therefore Billy goes with my Sons steers to work for Neighbour Zebulon Rice to Day.

1758 May 10 (Wednesday). Ensign Harrington, Mr. Zebulon Rice, and Mr. Tainter with their Cattle and Hay to keep them and with Mr. Williams's and Capt. *Woods* Oxen(twelve, including my Sons)and Deacon Tainters plough broke up Some mossy and wild Grass Ground on the North East End of the Island next to Capt. Maynards Land. They dined here, with Mrs. *Dench* and *Buckminster*, but these last p.m. returned to Framingham.

1758 August 29 (Tuesday). Mr. *Zebulon Rice* helped me. He worked partly in the Ministerial Meadow, and partly in my Newton Meadow also. Capt. Wood with his Team brought home two load from the Ministerial -- and both Captain and Neighbour Zebulon from 4 p.m. mowed in Newton Meadow. N.B. the Captain gave me his work. The Hay was so mean he reckoned the Cattle would never eat it. Since therefore the work was worth nothing, he would have nothing for it.

1758 September 15 (Friday). Visit Mr. E. Rice. N.B. a great Addition to his Trouble is Mr. Thomas Frosts Cattle break in upon the Apples and Rowing. I went to him, and he promised to take effectual Care of them.

1758 September 26 (Tuesday). Much troubled with Cattle etc. breaking into my Corn at the Island.

1758 December 25 (Monday). Mr. Morse comes with two Teams with Rails from his place. One of the Teams but 3 Cattle.

1759 January 31 (Wednesday). Variously taken up in setting Things to rights in my Barn. N.B. by Reason of my Boys being in school I am obliged to take care of our few Cattle in the Day.

1759 May 4 (Friday). Alex. and Enoch Rice with two Yoke of Cattle, viz. Mr. Zebulun Rice's and Capt. Woods -- and Mr. Nurse's large plough, plow part of my stubble.

1759 May 14 (Monday). Mr. *Richard Kelly* comes to work for me. *Alexander* gets a Yoke of Deacon *Bonds* Cattle and a Yoke of Mr. *Warrins*, and they harrow the Ground at the Island and behind the Meeting House.

1759 August 31 (Friday). Troubled with Cattle in the Field.

1760 February 15 (Friday). Attended the Funeral of Joseph Brigham. Viewed the Place where the Lad had his Death's Wound. He jumped from a Parcel of Hay on the South Scaffold of the Barn, upon the Mow in the Bay, which being hollow underneath by the pulling away Hay for the Cattle; and Hay having been taken away from the Top of the mow, it was become thin, he fell through, and his Head, most probably, Struck against the Ground cil before where the Cattle stood; his Head when his Father came to him being under the Cill, and Blood came out of his Right Ear.

1760 April 10 (Thursday). P.M. I went over to t'other House -- what with the Horses Mr. Rice has taken and the Horse, Cattle and Sheep which Mr. Parker has brought my Barn is over stocked and my Hay flies apace.

1760 April 18 (Friday). Benjamin Warrin with a yoke of Cattle p.m. to harrow etc.

1760 April 29 (Tuesday). N.B. Elisha Forbush with a Yoke of Cattle helps in getting out our Muck and ploughing the orchard.

1761 March 26 (Thursday). P.M. Mr. Daniel Adams makes a partition in my Barn to keep strangers Horses from my Cattle.

1765 January 7 (Monday). Efforts of northern Neighbours to break the Road that way -- by driving Cattle, Riding, etc.

1765 April 2 (Tuesday). Breck with Mr. Nathan Maynards Cattle and Mine, brings Timber and Hay from T'other House. Calves come home.

1765 May 9 (Thursday). Mr. Zebulun Rice has kept my Cattle in his Work till his Hay is done; having denied Mr. Nurse the Use of them though he had exerted himself So much for me and now resigns them when they go to Grass: But I must hear his Reasons, admit what is ingenuous and over look what is otherwise.

1765 August 21 (Wednesday). I have word that Capt. Maynard pays 50 L for Billy -- therefore my Cattle are preserved and Thomas goes with them and my Mare to Thad. Fay's and brings me 300 of Bricks.

1765 December 6 (Friday). Breck closes up a Shelter for Cattle.

1765 December 11 (Wednesday). Billy and Breck *return to Townshend*; and John goes with them to bring back my mare.... I was obliged to tend the Cattle etc. -- John being gone -- and got Cold.

1766 March 15 (Saturday). So tedious stirring I am forced to Send for Thomas Arnold from Mrs. Johnsons, to help John in watering the Cattle and getting Wood for Tomorrow.

1766 August 26 (Tuesday). The like Team except Mr. Grouts (who gave me his work yesterday), Joseph Bond came in his stead -- crossed again in the same Field, but did not finish it. Lt. Baker gave his own and his Cattle's work.

1766 September 4 (Thursday). N.B. Mr. *Barnabas Newton* with a Yoke of Oxen, Levi Rice, with one Yoke, Caleb and John with my own Cattle and *Nathan Kennys* -- finished the Crossing my new Field.

1766 October 2 (Thursday). Therefore I write again to Billy; about my preaching there: and concerning my Cattle; and *Breck* and *Samuels* Sheep. When they must be brought home; or what be done with them.

1766 October 8 (Wednesday). John went 'o foot to Townshend for my Cattle.

1766 November 17 (Monday). In some Difficulty about our Cattle, because the Barn was not in order to receive them and the Hay Covered with other stores.

1766 December 22 (Monday). Many Neighbours breaking Roads through the snow, with Cattle and Sleds.

1766 December 30 (Tuesday). The storm confined and binds up the Hands of men. Difficult Watering our Cattle. They go to Capt. Woods Brook. But we have many Tokens of divine Goodness and The Cold does not prevent my studying.

1767 February 17 (Tuesday). Sam. Brigham comes from Capt. Maynards to take Care of my Cattle while John is gone.

1767 June 1 (Monday). [Mrs. P_____ informs me that on the 26th ult. Mr. *Putnam* of Pomfret was here: on the 27th Ebenezer returned home with 5 Cattle....]

1767 June 2 (Tuesday). Breck returns to *Ashby* and takes with him a Cow and two Young Creatures. Jonas Kenny goes with him and drives Mr. Nurse's Cattle to Billy.

1767 August 19 (Wednesday). Mr. *Dana* and *Polly* to *Boston*. Temple and John with 10 Cattle plow in the further Field. Nathan Kenny and Josiah Newton help 'em.

1767 November 23 (Monday). N.B. Lt. *Baker* brings a Load of Wood with my Cattle in his Team; it being difficult stirring in the snow. *This Day he begins his Year of getting my Wood*. N.B. Lt. *Baker* tells me Mr. *Beeton* refused to let him go through the place which I sold to Capt. Maynard, although I have reserved the Liberty of Passage through it, for Team or Teams: and it is expressed in my Deed to Maynard. This may breed Trouble.

1768 August 8 (Monday). It is a Time of Trouble and Loss with me by the frequent Rains. Several Acres of Rye reaped and exposed not only to the Weather, but Cattle, my Oxen and Cows have unhappily broke in upon the Stukes and torn them to Pieces.

1769 March 17 (Friday). He returns home to Brookfield having been gone a great while, ever since last Monday was sennight; with Cattle, and Pork, to Boston.

1769 October 23 (Monday). I went up to Deacon *Woods* upon a Variety of Small Affairs, and to See Mr. *Johns Wife*, who has newly lain in, in her Husbands Absence. At Eve he returns from Colrain, with a drove of Cattle and a Flock of Sheep.

1769 November 29 (Wednesday). John is poorly and confined; none but Elias to tend the Cattle etc.

1770 January 15 (Monday). John being confined, having taken another Portion of physick, and the Bucket of the Lower Well having dropt in, the Cattle (17 Head) were drove to the ponds in the South Pasture; but it was very icy and Slippery under the Snow, so that the *Pied Coww* (as She is called), somewhat heavy with Calf, fell in to the water, and her hinder parts were covered. We were alarmed. Mr. Edmund Chamberlin helped her out. The most of the Cattle were afraid to go to drink. Was obliged to go to Neighbour Arnolds for assistance to get up the Bucket. John Arnold succeeds in it, and in fastening it on the Pole. It is with considerable Exertment that my two Boys, this cold Day, get their work done.

1770 April 23 (Monday). Much afflicted by the breaking in of Cattle through the stables into my Rye Field.

1770 April 25 (Wednesday). Much perplexed about Cattle and sheep breaking in upon my Rye Fields. Am obliged to confine my sheep in the Barn and give 'em Hay, great part of the Time.

1770 May 14 (Monday). We rose early to send off Ebenezers young Cattle, which I have kept for some time for him: Mr. Newton and Thomas Bond going with Cattle to Brookfield, but though they had sent me word they Should go before Day, and we got up before half after two,

and as Soon as the Cattle had eat a Small meating of Hay, Joseph hurried away to Mr. Newtons but a little after Break of Day, yet they were gone, and gone some time, before he got there, so that he returns home with them.

1770 May 23 (Wednesday). In the night Mr. Nurse with his Waggon load of Goods -- and puts up his Cattle in my Barn.

1770 September 24 (Monday). But my Neighbour Nurse's Interest was somewhat endangered; it called my attention, because (as I hear) he is gone to *Ashby* for my Cattle, as well as to look after his own.

1770 September 28 (Friday). Neighbour *Nurse* returned from *Ashby* last night, and drove home 3 of my young Cattle. A red, yearling steer is still missing.

1771 May 2 (Thursday). Was much indisposed -- Great Trouble by Cattle breaking in from the stables, and from Mr. Arnolds part of the Fence against my west Field.

1771 May 3 (Friday). Cattle troublesome.

1771 May 9 (Thursday). His Errand he obtains, viz. to drive up *Alexanders* Cow and Calf and with them a Shoat which I have given him. He goes off with them -- and my Son *Elias* to assist him. *Joseph* and the other *Elias* go with the Team to Mr. *Forbes* Saw Mill and brings home Boards, Slabbs etc. P.M. They go with the Team to the Interval, and gather off what the River, when high, had brought upon my mowing Grounds. They bring home two Jaggs of various stuff.... Met Brother *Brown* in his Return from *Leicester*, whither he had been to drive up young Cattle to pasture. 18 of them.

1771 October 3 (Thursday). My Fields are exceedingly infested with Creatures -- both Cattle and Hoggs, both my own and my Neighbours.

1771 October 8 (Tuesday). This Day was appointed to cutt up, cart and husk my Corn, but it had rained in the Night, was cloudy this Morn, and drizzly Sometimes in the Day that we deferred the Corn gathering but my Fields are more and more invaded by my own Cattle. A very great Affliction to me.

1771 October 9 (Wednesday). It was So great a Storm Night and Morn that we could not husk. Cattle and Hogs very troublesome.

1771 October 10 (Thursday). My Fields are so infested with Cattle and Hogs that we were forced to go and begin to Cut up the Island Field -- but the Rain beat them off of my Corn.

1771 October 14 (Monday). Lt. *Baker* has bought a Pair of young Cattle for me of 4 past, which cost me 70 L old tenor.

1771 December 6 (Friday). The Snow-Storm has been very Vehement. The Snow is so difficultly passed through, by reason of the Drifts that neither can my biggest Boy get to Mill though he tryed with my Horse; nor could the Cattle get to any Water to drink.

1772 May 13 (Wednesday). A Number of my Cattle were driven to Brookfield by Messrs. *Newton* and *Bond*; and my Brookfield *Elias* goes with them to assist in driving.

1772 October 29 (Thursday). N.B. My Young Cattle were drove home from *Coi's Hill*, by Neighbour *Newton* and Six yearlings of Son *Baldwins*.

1772 November 25 (Wednesday). Lt. *Baker* has been bountiful -- in fattening a Cow and bringing her back from his Pasture -- in allowing me the use of his Cyder Mill etc. in making [6?] Barrells of Cyder, gratis -- with other kindnesses -- for which may God reward him! especially in Spirituals -- but I am much grieved that my whole drove of Cattle (16) have lain a great deal, when they were turned out a Days, on his Clover etc. to his great Hurt. May God forgive the wrong and Ingratitude in this! I admire his Patience and Meekness, in freely overlooking it.

1773 April 19 (Monday). We undertook to break up what we have been wont to call the Middle Pasture. Assisting my Young Man with my 4 Cattle were Mr. Barnabas *Newton* with a Yoke of Oxen, Neighbour *Nathan Kenny* with Do., Neighbour *Nathan Maynards* Son *Nehemiah* with Do., Mr. *Ebenezer Maynards* and Mr. *Joseph Bonds*: in all 14 and Capt. *Jonas Brigham's* large Plough. "*Manus ad Stivam, Oculus ad Caelum!*"

1773 April 21 (Wednesday). Break up again. The Help was Lt. *Harrington* with a Yoke of Oxen, Mr. *Nathan Kenny* with Do., Mr. *Silas Hill's* Do., Mr. *Joseph Bonds* Do. Just before noon Mr. *Thomas Frost* work with his Cattle -- So that with mine there were still 14 Cattle at the Work.

1773 May 18 (Tuesday). This morning *Elias* of Brookfield with his Horse Load of Rye (4 Bushels) left us, and *Jonathan Maynard* with 5 of my Cattle to go to Brookfield to be pastured at my Son *Baldwins*.

1773 July 2 (Friday). My Cattle very disorderly caused my riding to Mr. *Thomas Bonds* and Mr. *Levi Warrins* to try to change away an unruly Ox.

1773 October 12 (Tuesday). Wrote to my Son *Baldwin* about my Cattle, and to *Alexander*.

1773 November 15 (Monday). In returning home I called at Mrs. *Martyns* and wrote to me son *Baldwin* at Brookfield, about my Cattle there.... Dined at home, but presently rode to Mr. *Thomas Bonds*, who is about to go to *Brookfield* to drive down Cattle.

1773 November 17 (Wednesday). Capt. *Baldwin* Sends my Cattle home, viz. three -- My Steer of 4 years past, and two heiffers. Six yearlings of his also are drove here to be kept for him the winter ensuing. *Issachar Bates* and *Isaac Baldwin* came with them and lodged here.

1774 February 10 (Thursday). Bright, but so windy as to blow up Roads. Neighbour Joseph Bond with Team of five Cattle trys, with my Team also, to fetch wood from Brigham Lot. My Son *John* goes to chop, and young *Nathan Maynard* with him; but it was so tedious they broke off about noon; with Difficulty got two Jaggs part of the way; but they brought but one home though they joined all the Cattle to make one Team.

1774 February 22 (Tuesday). They that went for wood yesterday, So broke the way, and made it fit to Sled in; and the Cutters cut So much more than was brought home; that therefore Lieut. *Baker* in his generousness sent his Team and Man again to Day, also to sled Wood for me; and Neighbour *Newton* in his Goodness likewise, sent his Team and Man to sled up, what was left and what another Number of Cutters cutt, viz. Mr. *Keene*, *John Fay* hired, *Stephen Maynard* hired, *Nathaniel Chamberlin* hired, and *Phinehas Brigham* (son of Widow *Hitty*). To the Teams, add my own of 3 Cattle, and p.m. Dr. *Hawes'* Steers instead of the Mare, and my son *John* drove. *Breck* also procured Mr. *Joseph Bond* to come with his 5 Cattle. They all went 3 times each -- therefore brought 12 Load to day.

1774 April 25 (Monday). I went up to Mr. *Newtons* about the driving up my son *Baldwins* and my own young Cattle, to Brookfield.

1774 April 26 (Tuesday). Sent up the Cattle to Mr. *Newtons* before Sun rise, but the Drove, to my Disappointment, was gone.

1774 April 27 (Wednesday). They sat out for *Boston*; and I send *Elias* with the Cattle. *Ben Clark* goes part of the way to help drive; but missed his Way in coming back from *Shrewsbury*, and did not get home till nigh night.

1774 December 31 (Saturday). So deep and drifted is the Snow that Hezekiah Haden, with 10 Cattle in his two Teams, and though helped by neighbours as he trys to pass the Roads, that he gets no further towards *Boston* than Dr. *Parkers* in Southborough, he returns back.

1775 April 19 (Wednesday). Mr. *Joseph Bond* with his Cattle, [*illegible*] *Lamb*, with *Nathan Maynards*, Deacon *Woods* Oxen with my own, plowed the rest of the Mid field.

1775 May 18 (Thursday). *Elias* goes part of the Way with Mr. B. *Newton* to drive Cattle to *Leicesters* to *Alexanders* Pasture: one Cow, Two that are called two year olds, and three Yearlings.

1775 November 10 (Friday). We have news of an Attempt made by the Regulars yesterday at *Lechmores* Point, in Order to take off Some Cattle from thence; but that the Americans drove 'em off; but they carryed away Some Cattle, and they have killed two men.

1775 November 30 (Thursday). [*blot*] *Samuel Williams* had so fairly agreed to go to cutting to day, but he went not. But *Nat. Chamberlain* went and cut there, and *Nathan Maynard* junior

went with my Cart and Oxen, and a small pair of Cattle of his own, to the Lot, and brought two Load home, but not quite a Cord.

1776 January 13 (Saturday). My own Cart being Mended by Mr. Nurse, Chamberlain with *Ben* went with the same Cattle as yesterday and brought one Load.

1776 February 7 (Wednesday). Went to Mr. *Nurse's* also to reckon with him for mending my Cart and shoeing my Sled. 24/ for one; 4/6 only for the other -- 5/ also for Bows and soals for Cattle.

1776 April 4 (Thursday). My Son *Alexander* goes home. N.B. I have prepared the [Way?] with him for pasturing Some Young Cattle, if I shall Stand in need.

1776 October 5 (Saturday). Mr. [blank] [Gleason and?] his Wife of *Leicester* (nigh to my son *Alexander*) were here and dined after us. Wrote by them to *Kezia* about sending home my Cattle.

1777 January 15 (Wednesday). Messrs. Nathan Maynard junior and Nathaniel Chamberlin went to the ministerial Lot and cutt wood for me. Elias went with 3 Cattle (as men speak) and sledded home two load.

1777 May 12 (Monday). This Morning I send Six young Cattle to Mr. *Baldwins* Pasture at *Cois Hill* at *Brookfield*, under the Care, for driving, of Benjamin *Bowman*, and Nathan *Champney*. *Sangor* helps part of the way.

1777 November 2 (Sunday). N.B. Great *Killing of Cattle* at squire *Bakers* to day.

1777 November 3 (Monday). P.M. late, was at Deacon *Woods*; and at Eve at squire *Bakers*. N.B. Cattle killed yesterday, which are to be sent to *Worcester* for the Supply of the Army, with the other Necessarys of Life, as now at this time, General *Burgoynes* Army are expected to be on their road to *Boston*.

1777 November 5 (Wednesday). *Elias*, on *Brecks* Mare, undertakes to go up to *Cois Hill* to drive down my young Cattle.

1778 January 6 (Tuesday). *Elias* goes to *Brookfield* to drive down Cattle and Sheep.

1778 January 8 (Thursday). *Elias* returned from *Brookfield* but today only from Capt. *Curtis's* at *Worcester*. He drove home my steer, and with him four of my Son *Baldwins* young Cattle: and Nine of my son *Forbes's* sheep, Eight from Mr. *Jonas Brewers*, and one from Mr. *Daniel Forbes*.

1778 May 15 (Friday). I was taken up the most of the Day with variety of Petit Affairs, of the *Garden*, and of the *Cattle*. Our daily Trouble for Some time has been, *Alexanders* Cow: but to day Mr. *C. Harrington* delivered her and us: for he drew from her a fine Calf.

1778 May 16 (Saturday). Mr. *David Stow of Grafton* here and dines. I give him Salt for the sheep, and Rum against the washing of them. To my great Regret I was continually taken up with the Small Affairs of the Garden, the Cattle, etc. etc.

1778 October 8 (Thursday). N.B. *Elias* went to *Coi's Hill* in *Brookfield* for my Cattle.

1778 October 9 (Friday). *Elias* returned with the Four Cattle which he went for, viz. a Cow for Beef, a large Steer and two younger ones.

1778 November 14 (Saturday). The weather is now grown so cold and the feed gone, we give the cattle dry meat and house the Cows and Calves.

1778 December 26 (Saturday). An extraordinary tedious Time. Cold, blowing, snowing. How invaluable the Mercies I enjoy. I am through great goodness, in health, Habitation, Cloths, Food, Fewel: my son and Timothy etc. tend the Fires, the Cattle, get Wood and Water etc. But how many are at this time exposed to terrible *Hardships*, both by land and Sea! May God extend pity to the miserable poor -- to Sailors, to Soldiers, to Teamers abroad and their destitute Families at home!

1779 February 22 (Monday). I give way to Timothy's cyphering, though (besides his taking Care of the Cattle) there are many things to be done.

1779 April 2 (Friday). My son and Daughter Baldwin left us to go to Brookfield. A Marvellous Day for Warmth. Col. Baldwin says if I send my Cattle to his pasture they shall fare as well as his will.

1779 April 26 (Monday). I was much taken up in trying (though fruitlessly) to get an Horse for *Elias* to go with the Cattle to Brookfield.

1779 April 28 (Wednesday). The Sheep were so disorderly I was forced to go to my Friend, Squire Baker, to request him, again to take the Sheep to pasture, and to assist me in getting my young Cattle to Brookfield, both which he consents to.

1779 November 5 (Friday). *Elias* went early to Brookfield for the rest of my Cattle at Coit Hill.

1779 November 6 (Saturday). *Elias* returned with the Cattle, and had a good Journey. N.B. He paid Landlord Jones of Worcester 2 Dollars for pasturing one yearling. He asked a Dollar per week.

1779 November 27 (Saturday). *Elisha Parker* came when I was about paying *Ephraim*, but a Controversie arose concerning *What was the Usual Custom at this time of the great Alteration of Money within these few weeks*. *Ephraim* would take no less than £60 for the Two Months. I was not willing to give any more than 55. But I was obliged to borrow the money of my son

Breck, and they all went to the Shop, where Breck gave Ephraim the whole Sum he required, viz. £60, and so he went to his brother Elisha's with the Cattle on the Cart to carry his Chest and things there, promising to come and make up the Time, viz. 5 Days that yet remains next week and onward.

1779 December 27 (Monday). This evening came William Winchester to live here. Mr. Nehemiah Maynard came with him. N.B. His father Mr. Nathan Maynard sat by and heard. I told Mr. Maynard that I would do what I could conveniently and reasonably in teaching and influencing him in Reading, Writing and Cypering, according as his Business in taking Care of the Cattle, Cutting the Wood etc. would give opportunity and as his Capacity should admit it. This was in answer to what Mr. Maynard delivered me as Mrs. Winchester's Errand to me by him.

1780 January 1 (Saturday). People are chiefly employed in making Roads, providing for the Fires, taking Care of Cattle, etc. But the Lord pitty the poor and exposed!

1780 January 5 (Wednesday). Through Divine Favour this was a bright, pleasant Day. Both my Sons and my Steers join with a number of the Street Neighbors with Cattle and Shovels to break the Roads. Tis difficult to compute the Heighth or Depth of it. I am almost ready to conclude that there has not been so much Snow upon the Ground at a Time ever since the GREAT STORM in year 1717.

1780 January 25 (Tuesday). Elias leaves his Studys and helps those who are breaking the Roads with a yoke of Cattle.

1780 January 26 (Wednesday). Squire Baker is so engaged in breaking Roads that he has got Elias and a yoke of my Cattle, on the Road again.

1780 January 27 (Thursday). Elias is gone again with the Cattle today to break and shovel the Road. Mr. Andrews and Mr. Gale, generous to them, have got to the crotch of the Road, below Mr. William Wood's. The northern Neighbors have tryed to plough their Road today.

1780 March 27 (Monday). I was obliged to get Josiah Brigham to tend my Cattle in the Morning.

1780 March 29 (Wednesday). William grows worse, takes physic of Dr. Stimson, who called to see us and dines here.... Suse goes to her Fathers, Breck takes care of the Cattle for me. Eph. Parker was here at Evening. I try to have him live here, but I cant succeed.

1780 April 8 (Saturday). Fresh Troubles with the Doctor Cattle and Sheep on the Rye, notwithstanding all the pains used yesterday to make the Fence Secure and strong. 4 times today.

1780 April 15 (Saturday). Josiah Brigham returns from an Excursion to purchase Cattle: he has been as far as to Fitz William and has brought two Cows, one has a Calf, t'other with Calf. They

are put into my Barn to keep. Breck has now four Creatures there, his Horse and 3 cows besides the young Calf.

1780 April 17 (Monday). Was at Mr. Newton's about driving young Cattle to pasture at Coi's Hill.

1780 May 8 (Monday). William Winchester left us to go to Ashburnham. I wrote by him to his Mother. I gave him 10 Dollars, Mr. Barnard's Sermons to young people and on the Earthquake, and furnished him with various Things to accommodate him for his Journey. May God grant him Health and Grace! I have now neither Man nor Boy -- but Billy Spring to tend Cattle and Sheep.

1780 May 20 (Saturday). I am concerned for my Neighbor Thad. Warrin, who is so behindhand in his Business. I have offered him my Cattle and plow -- and I have said so much to him to persuade him that he uses them today.

1780 June 2 (Friday). Though it is Friday, I seem obliged to go out and look after my Affairs. My Cattle begin to be unruly. I went to Mr. Isaac Parker's to see what he would do about working for me instead of his Br. Ephraim, some of whose Time remains to be made up, and to make some Agreement with him to take my Young Oxen to keep.

1780 June 7 (Wednesday). In much perplexity about my Cattle which are missing; nor have they been seen ever since some time Yesterday; late in the day they are brought home.

1780 August 23 (Wednesday). I am too much taken up with my Farm Affairs, particularly to have my Fences repaired, that my Cattle may have Feed, and cant attend much to my Studys.

1780 October 1 (Sunday). N.B. To my sorrow, my Oxen have been breachy at Mr. Isaac Parker's and let in Cattle with them, into his Cornfield.

1780 November 3 (Friday). As night came on, Elias with Letters from Br. Breck from Springfield. He brings home five young Cattle from Coi's Hill. The two largest Steers have been taken out of Pasture by Alexander some time ago.

1780 November 15 (Wednesday). Capt. John Woods moves and his Wife and Children except Ben who is to live with me. Capt. Wood gave me a Barrell, almost full of Cyder. N.B. Ben is to live with me for the sake of getting Learning -- to Satisfie me, for Instruction, Board, Washing and Lodging, he must tend my Cattle, and cut wood, needful chores, go of Errands etc. and he must tarry with me till next April.

1780 December 4 (Monday). A great Disappointment arose by means of nine young Cattle of Squire's which broke in upon and destroyed a great part of my Straw which was designed for several uses: Harrington lays up a part of it on the Hovel and Cart Shed -- but, the Cattle very troublesome, and a sad interruption to me after they had been driven away, [sic]

1781 February 23 (Friday). A very difficult Season with us by reason of the Weather -- So much Rain mixed with the Snow -- Water in the Barn, East Bay. Cattle troublesome -- some of them got loose. No Boy but *John Wood* who was insufficient for the Service of Cattle and Wood.

1781 February 27 (Tuesday). *Breck* to *Boston*. I have no Boy this Morning. I, unhappily, was exercised various ways. *Breck* [blot]ed was kind and before he Sat out the Cattle. *Josiah* came with another Load of Wood for [blot] drew water for my Cattle and turned them out to drink: *Pamela* took Care of two young Lambs, the Calf etc. About 3 p.m. came *Ben* to my Relief.

1781 April 19 (Thursday). Mr. *Allen* left us; I settled with *Baldwin* (by *Brecks* assistance) for pasturing my young Cattle last year.

1781 November 26 (Monday). Mr. *Brigham* is desired by Several to take their Sons to instruct them. He has already his Brother *Josiah*. Ensign *Aaron Warrin* wants his son *Abijah* should come (and he is come to day); Lieut. *Jonathan Grout* is earnest to have his son come; *Benjamin Bowman* is expected to come to live with me this Winter to look after my Cattle and chop Wood, hoping to get Learning withal: and Mr. *Thaddeus Warrin* is here and requests that his *John* may come to Mr. *Brigham* to School -- all which coming upon me with without our being prepared for it, is too difficult.

1781 December 4 (Tuesday). *Benjamin Bowman* came to live here to take Care of my Cattle, chop Wood, make the Fires, etc., and to learn to write, Cypher.

1781 December 6 (Thursday). *Benjamin Bowman* says he would live here on the following Terms, He will take Care of my Cattle and cutt my Wood etc. if he may board here, and learn to write and cypher.

1782 January 12 (Saturday). *Bowman* is so indisposed that he goes home to his Fathers; and the *Brighams* take Care of the Cattle and Wood.

1782 March 1 (Friday). The Scholars, *Jonathan Grout* and *Abijah Warren* tend the Cattle and cut Wood.

1782 March 4 (Monday). *William Grout* came to live here a while, to tend my Cattle and cutt wood; that he also may learn to Cypher.

1782 March 15 (Friday). *William Grout* much unwell, yet is able to tend the Cattle etc.

1782 April 23 (Tuesday). *Thatcher* comes at 4 p.m. yet it is too wet weather to do much -- tends the Cattle etc.

1782 April 30 (Tuesday). I went to Squire *Bakers* about pasturing my Cattle, and Succeeded.

1782 May 14 (Tuesday). I rode to Squire *Bakers* about my Cattle's Summering; that is, *when* they must go.

1782 September 19 (Thursday). I paid Mr. *Newton* Nine French Crowns (or the Value of *Ten Dollars*) more, towards his keeping my Cattle last year.