

Cocks and Cocking

1738 August 9 (Wednesday). Eliezer Rice and John Rogers carted Hay from the Meadow. Two Load apiece. Moss Mowing in the Morning and raking and Cocking the rest of the Day. At Night the Carters got in my Rie into the Barn, almost wholly.

1739 July 31 (Tuesday). Fine Weather. Mr. Biglo reaping. At Evening I walk'd to the ministerial Meadow. Found that there were 4 Stacks of Hay, 3 Load in Cock and about as much in Swarth and that all the South part of the Meadow was mowed.

1739 August 8 (Wednesday). Mr. Biglo came to Work again. Were oblig'd to open the Hay that was made up on Saturday -- about Two Load -- but there came up a storm of Rain to Day and we could not get it in, and although it was cock'd up yet, being weedy and Leavy Stuff it would not Save it Self.

1739 August 13 (Monday). We opened the Hay that had lain through Several Storms last week and rak'd it up, and having no Team to get it in we Cock'd it up.

1739 August 18 (Saturday). Mr. Jonah Warrin brought me home Two Small Turns of Hay from the ministerial Meadow. And I got Mr. Aaron Forbush to putt into Stack a parcel of Cocks which Mr. Pratt had left for Some Time in the Meadow. Elaezer Williams with a Team came and got up a Load from the low Ground at home and Mr. Warrin and he got up what was mowed by Charles Bruce.

1740 July 26 (Saturday). Mr. Biglo went again to mow the north side of the Meadow. Tom Rak'd at Home. N.B. Neighbor Daniel Warrin came to work, but I had engag'd help Sufficient, and my Business being near finish'd I let him have his Choice to go or Stay upon which he went home. Mr. Aaron Forbush came between 10 and 11 a.m. with his Team and got in Two Turns of Hay. Mr. Biglo afternoon came and help'd rake and Cock the Hay at Home.

1740 July 30 (Wednesday). Mr. Whipple brought home 3 Turns of Hay from the Meadow, which finish'd the Bargain with him, and he brought up 8 or 9 Cocks from the Low Ground at Home, the rest being too Wett.

1740 July 31 (Thursday). A Clear good Hay Day. We open'd and Spread what the Storms had Soak'd and recock'd it by the help of Neighbor Daniel Warrin who help'd me from noon till 4 o'Clock p.m. We pol'd in Some leavy Hay from the New Ground on the East Side of the upper Garden. At Night a Thunder Storm. The Two little Boys rak'd yesterday and today at the Meadow what Mr. Biglo mow'd, and Aaron Forbush junior (who went about the middle of the afternoon) cock'd it, about 28 Cocks.

1742 July 30 (Friday). Signs of Rain in a dry Time. Mr. *Biglo* and *Pierce* reaping my Rye and *John Rogers* at the Meadow with *Thomas*. They brought home one Load but got mired with the next, broke the Axle tree, and therefore left the Load and raked and Cocked the rest.

1746 August 23 (Saturday). Ebenezer brought home about 7 Cocks of Hay from the Meadow, which was all that was worth bringing since the Storm -- the Rest lying out in swarth -- and 'its grown too late to cut any of the North-side of the Brook, the Grass is so dead. So that we now finish at the Meadow for this Year.

1747 July 16 (Thursday). My Boys work'd at Home. They Cutt the Barley. A great deal of Hay in Making. P.M. a thunder Storm arose which drew out all Hands of us to work. Bekky and I pol'd in what was round the Barn and near at Hand. The Barley in part rak'd and Cock'd, the rest left in Wind-rows. A part of our Hay we were forc'd to leave spread around. And Neighbour Batherick did not pretend to go to the meadow till the Afternoon, if he went then; So that doubtless the great Quantity of Hay there is wash'd. But the Storm went chiefly to the South. We had not a great deal of Rain. Another Thunder storm in the Evening went mostly South also. This working in the Hay worry'd me not a Little -- But I hope I got over it.

1747 July 17 (Friday). Mr. Dunlop and Mr. Martyn Pratt came to reap Rye for me. P.M. Joseph Grout came to reap also. They got the Southside down and Load in, the other part was Shock'd in the Field. Ebenezer and Thomme are getting the Barley into a Stack, with Joseph Grouts Help. Great likelihood of Thunder storm, but it went over. Mr. Batherick rakes and Cocks the South part of the Meadow.

1747 August 3 (Monday). A Very refreshing Shower in a very dry Time, but Mr. Batherick had got my Hay in Cock, except 4 Cocks before the Rain came.

1748 July 25 (Monday). Mr. Samuel Harrington with Cart and one Yoke of Oxen, and Benjamin Tainter with the Like Carted Hay for me from the Meadow. Harrington 2 Turns 13 Cocks each, and once with 14. Tainter with 13 Cocks all 3 Turns: Ebenezer 13 Cocks 2 Turns and his last turn being in the Dark was but 11 Cocks. N.B. The Cocks in general large. A great Kindness this of my Neighbours. The Lord reward 'em for it.

1748 August 2 (Tuesday). After 3 p.m. Noah How and Merodach Devereux mow'd the remainder of my meadow, viz. the North Side of the Brook. At 4 the Same afternoon Captain Maynard who sent Jonathan, a little Hay, about 10 Cocks which I had rak'd into winrow.

1749 June 23 (Friday). Daniel mows over much Ground for only a Cock or Two of Hay.

1749 July 8 (Saturday). Rain in the Morning. Clear'd off afterwards So that Ebenezer and Thomas hoed Rye into the Indian Hills -- but could not meddle with the Hay that lies out both in Cock and Swarth.

1749 October 17 (Tuesday). Nathan Maynard help'd me in raking our Husks into Heaps and Cocking them before the Threatening Storm.

1751 August 8 (Thursday). Ebenezer and Thomas Carted Two Load of Hay from the Meadow to the New Stack Yard which was mow'd last Saturday was sennight, and was made up the Friday following -- being drench'd by the Storms of Rain. Enough for Some Number of Cocks was left finally, and lost. Yet I suppose Mr. Samuel Hardy (who had the work in his Hands) took what Care he could but it prov'd a very wet Season.

1751 September 4 (Wednesday). Mr. Biglo Sent his Son Cornelius to cutt Stalks at the Island. P.M. a number more of Lads came, Viz. Joseph and James Bowman: Samuel and Joseph Harrington, Thomas Hardy, and Daniel Grout, who cutt the rest of the Stalks at the Island and Pik'd up those which were cutt in the forenoon by about 5 o'clock p.m. At Evening reckon'd with Mr. Samuel Hardy, for his cutting and raking and cocking Hay at the ministerial Meadow, and instead of 8£ old Tenor which he took it for, I allow'd him nine; and this even although, by Divine Providence there was a Considerable Quantity was never rak'd at all, and Some Loads which were Carted home, or stack'd at the Meadow, were so wash'd with heavy Rains that it was of but little Value.

1752 July 22 (Wednesday). Aaron Warrin mows, rakes, and Carts from Ministerial Meadow. I walk'd there, and to Mr. Greens. Rode his Horse to Mr. Knowltons. His son Henry works in the Meadow p.m. Aaron Warrin got home one Jagg of 11 Cocks -- ventures into the Meadow with the Team for Second and getts mir'd, boggled and belated -- came home with 8 Cocks in the Rain and Dark -- and is sick in the night o'bed. Ebenezer Forbush brings me 12 Cocks from the Rie Meadow and Joseph Bruce helps unload it.

1752 July 25 (Saturday). Aaron and Billy to the meadow. Thomas goes there with the Team and carrys home to the other House, a stout Load of Hay from the Meadow. Lieutenant Bruce kindly brought me the last Load from Mr. Rice's Meadow, and this was a large Load of 18 Cocks. So that I have now got all my part of that Hay and my mind greatly reliev'd.

1754 July 12 (Friday). Thomas and William mowe and make Hay at the Island, and Lieutenant Tainter Carts up a few Cocks of it. It is So Cloudy Weather and now and then Sprinkles of Rain, that the Hay does not make as we could wish.

1754 July 24 (Wednesday). Thomas work'd part of a.m. for me. P.M. late he went to Ebenezer to hoe for him. Jonathan and Joseph How came to hill for me, the former but a little before noon. N.B. greatly put to't for plough and for Horse -- sent Billy to t'other Place for my own Mare. Thomas Stay'd to Plough which was one of the Reasons of his being late to Ebenezer. Billy works with Difficulty because he is so much poison'd.... Fair Weather, but can do Nothing about my Hay at the Ministerial Meadow -- Some of which is in Cock, and some of has lain over the storm in swarth.

1754 July 31 (Wednesday). Before the Rain came heavy, I ran up to Mr. Elijah Rice who came with his Team and got in nine Cocks of Hay from my Newton Meadow but presently the storm came on and it was a very rainy Day.

1754 August 9 (Friday). Thomas and Billy went to the Ministerial Meadow and Mow'd the North Side of the Brook, and rak'd up about 9 Cocks, and left about as much more.

1754 August 10 (Saturday). Thomas and Billy were going to the Meadow to rake the rest which they left Yesterday, and to bring it home but it prov'd a rainy Day.

1755 July 12 (Saturday). Mr. Jonas Twitchell comes and rakes and Carts about 10 Cocks of Hay from the Island. N.B. Mr. Nurse's Team.

1755 July 25 (Friday). Had Mr. Zebulun Rice's Teams, manag'd by his son Adam; and Mr. Twitchell loaded up all the upland Hay; which was safely brought home. About 10 Cocks. Mr. Thomas Twitchell came and work'd a while, but having rak'd about 1/2 dozen Cocks, and the Weather growing thick, they both broke off about 10 o'Clock and went home. It prov'd a very rainy Day.

1755 July 29 (Tuesday). Mr. Thomas Twitchell and Jedidiah Woods rak'd, cock'd, pol'd and Carted the rest of the Hay that was now ready at the Newton Meadow being 3 Load. Had Ebenezers Team for one and Mr. Nurse's gratis for the other. Towards Night went to see the Ministerial Meadow which is now brown but I have No body to cut it.

1757 July 9 (Saturday). Thomas with the Boys got in two or three Cocks of Hay from the Island: but it was with great Difficulty, having no Team.

1757 July 15 (Friday). A.M. Amon mowed to make up for the lost time by the Rain on the 12th p.m. At noon he was not well and went home.... It proves very rainy. My little matter of Hay is out in the Wet. 4 or 5 Cocks made up. The rest was mowed this morning.

1759 July 25 (Wednesday). Two turns more of that Hay got in by Neighbour Eleazer Williams with his Team. Cock'd part of it my self; nor could help being much taken off in this difficult season for Help.

1760 August 5 (Tuesday). Though it was Showery I walked over to t'other House, to See the Hay Mr. Parker has got in. He tells me that except a few Cocks lately got in, he finished haying, tomorrow will be a fortnight Since.

1764 July 4 (Wednesday). Deacon Tainter came with an Horse and ploug[h]ed my Field and dined with us. P.M. Capt. Wood, Messrs. Zebulon Rice, Kendal and B. Tainter hoed for me.... Several Neighbours of the Hoeers, got in 7 Cocks of Hay.

1764 July 17 (Tuesday). Jonas Kenny helps Breck get home a Load from the meadow. And they get in several Cocks beyond the Meeting House.

1764 August 2 (Thursday). Richard Barnes junior mows a.m. along with Breck in the Meadow for me. P.M. they rake and Cock till 4 when a Storm of Thunder and Rain beats 'em off.

1764 August 3 (Friday). Richard again. They get in several Load of Hay.

1766 July 3 (Thursday). Caleb mows the Balks round the Orchard and round the Island Field, and rakes and Cocks such of it as will do.

1767 June 27 (Saturday). Temple mows the rest of my large pasture -- and it all affords but nine Cocks -- and it is so dry he carries it into the Barn; even that which he mowed in the Morning.

1773 June 25 (Friday). Have a peculiar Favor in divine providence by a good Crop of Clover between the Garden and meeting House-Road. Three of our common Loads between 60 and 70 Cocks.

1774 July 11 (Monday). *Asa*, though laid by on the 9th p.m., yet is at his business again today. He is mowing the rest of the Clover between the Garden and the Road. I assisted in opening the Cocks which had stood over the Sabbath.

1776 July 31 (Wednesday). Breck helps in Raking and carting home a few Cocks from the Brook.

1780 July 19 (Wednesday). Elias has been so out of health, that he has not been able for Several days to work. But today he went a while to the Interval and there being part of a Load of Hay in Cock there, he mowes 3 or 4 Cocks, and with my Team he brought it home: and p.m. he went to the Island, where Mr. Biglow is reaping, and (Mr. Biglow pitching it) Elias brought home a Load of Rye of 12 Shock and 1 Sheaf.

1780 August 16 (Wednesday). Benj. Wood and his Brother John came here to be set to work. I employed Benj. in mowing in my Newton Meadow. John hoed a little with Billy Spring in Beeton Field -- It was but of trifling Value. P.M. Ben mowed a while, and the lesser Boy reaped and cocked -- but they were all beat off by Rain, Thunder and Lightening.

1782 August 7 (Wednesday). Memorandum. Col. *Wheelock* has agreed with Mr. *Brigham* to mowe and get my New Swamp for one Load of the [Hay?] and that I shall have the rest of the Hay when he has cocked it.