

Grain

1726 February 7 (Monday). We got out a parcell of grain that was so full of Tares it was Scarce fit for use.

1726 March 30 (Wednesday). No whither can one turn but the Calamity of the times are felt, Everyone Complaining and Lamenting. My Neighbor Clark though a foreigner I could not but Commiserate, and I actually did put forth Myself to my utmost to succour him Every Way, By Grain, Hay, keeping Creatures, Money, etc. O Miserere Deus! Corn was Sold at Oxford for 8 shillings per Bushel, and in other places.

1726 July 30 (Saturday). The frequent showers so Engaged Everyone about his Corn and Hay that it was no Easy matter to Obtain Help. It was with great Difficulty I got Neighbor Clark and his son to Shock my grain, which having layn long in the Field in all weathers and a threatening storm nigh, I was Restless till the Grain my Chief Dependance was upon [was] Secur'd. Shall I note here the Answers given by Two persons that my wife remark'd when she sent to Neighbor Clarks for assistance. Neighbor Clarks grain was upon Spoil and he was reaping it. He had Many (I think Ten) load of Hay that had been very long in cock in the Meadows and must be Tho't to be rotting. Himself lame in his hand, besides his common lameness in his Leggs. His Son, who was all his Help, had hurt his ancle, and therefore he directed the messenger to ask Neighbor Maynard who had his own, his sons David, Jesse, Josham, Jonathan and Ebenezer's Help, though one or Two of the last were not like the others. His Business in Good forwardness. He [Maynard] Replys when my Grass and Corn will move into my Barn without hands I'll leave it to Help Mr. Parkman -- not before. The Messenger returns to Neighbor Clark. He answers what shall I do? My own is really Suffering and Everything is backward for want of a Team, for I have none and can get none, But he is Labouring for our Souls and why Shall I refuse? and came away.

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.

1744 March 21 (Wednesday). Captain Forbush here, and told me that Considering the Town had not granted sufficiency for my Support he would send me a Bushel of English Grain, Wheat and Rye.

1747 August 4 (Tuesday). At Eve Mr. Beriah Rice came (when we were short enough as to grain) with a Bushell of Indian Corn and a Bushell of Rice.

1749 July 1 (Saturday). An Hot and very drying Day. Corn curls pritty much. Every Thing looks very languishing but English Grain.

1756 January 20 (Tuesday). N.B. Received a second Letter from Mr. Charles Richardson about Grain, whereas I have sent a Letter of my mind to him some time since.

1756 November 16 (Tuesday). Billy has his Brothers Oxen and a Yoke of Mr. D. Hardy's, and Nathan Kenny helps him in ploughing; and in harrowing in Rye, in the field behind the Meeting House. Mr. Aaron Nurse sows the Grain.

1758 August 16 (Wednesday). Much Grain and very much Hay in suffering State.

1758 August 25 (Friday). A good Day for Hay and Grain. D.G. Joseph Harrington having lodged here, goes to work in the Ministerial Meadow; and Adam Rice with him.

1759 May 1 (Tuesday). Mr. *Pratt* came again a.m. to Sow and plough in Grain and Flax in my Orchard.

1759 November 7 (Wednesday). At Eve came Mr. Whitney and Mr. Zebulun Rice. The Bus'ness Seems to be, to perswade me not to think of asking the Precinct to make any Addition to my Support this year, not withstanding that Meat, Grain, Labour etc. are so exceedingly advanced in their price.

1765 July 2 (Tuesday). No Body to mow -- Thomas being too ill and does not pretend to come. Besides, it proves rainy.... N.B. I have been obliged to send for Grain to Boston. 1 Bush. per Mr. John Wood.

1765 July 3 (Wednesday). Sent for more Grain per Mr. *Moses Nurse*.

1771 April 12 (Friday). Deacon *Wood* and *Benjamin* came here in the morning to adjust the Affair abovesaid. I am forced to yield up Benjamin except that he works for me to day -- and Deacon takes my Team with him to Mill -- with 14 1/2 Bushels of Grain.

1772 June 20 (Saturday). Alexander came from *Leicester*. N.B. He takes with him three Bush. of Indian Corn. I hear there is an extraordinary Scarcity of Grain, especially in upper and new Towns.

1772 July 2 (Thursday). Met with Mr. *Reuben Pratt*, who confirms what we have heard of the Straits and Difficultys people in New Towns are exercised with for want of Grain.

1775 April 11 (Tuesday). I engaged Mr. *Whipple* to grind another Load of Grain.

1778 June 11 (Thursday). Mr. *Rug* was here again in Quest of Grain to Support his Family. I was not able to do much for him, Yet could not but Pity him and his unhappy Wife and Children. May the Lord be gracious to Each of them.

1780 February 10 (Thursday). The plan for going to Cambridge is so ripened that I can't defeat it. The affair is chiefly Breck's, who loads a sleigh with Grain etc. and loads up with Rum -- has provided two Horses as well as the Sleigh.

1780 July 27 (Thursday). My Affairs are in a very uncomfortable situation. Mr. Biglow reaps, is too old and feeble to do much -- there is a great part of the Field of Rye yet remaining. No body offers to assist, though divers talked of it. The late Grant of the Town was *for my present Necessity* but the Money cant be raised and paid and a Man or Men provided till the Grain and Grass are lost. The Newton Meadow is untouched and no help provided. In this critical Junction, Elias would fain break off from work and rest himself, intending tomorrow to go to Brookfield and then to Springfield: though there is no man that can by any means possibly be obtained: When Mr. Biglow finishes the Reaping, there can be nobody to cart it home. Elias reaped part of the Day. I walked up to Mr. Warrin's and acquainted him with my present State. He sent his son John. I went to Mr. Kenney, who sent his son Joel -- those Boys reaped p.m. Capt. Morse came in to see me. No Hope from him of any Help. Capt. Fisher agrees to go and cut my new Swamp, and he is to allow me as he finds is just. The Drought is become very intense. The Corn suffers very much, and all Vegetables. An holy Frown of God! May we be suitably affected with it, and prepared for the Divine Will! Elias carted home about 11 Shock of Rye at evening.

1781 June 20 (Wednesday). Mr. *Nathan Biglow* of *Ashburnhan* came for Mr. *Cushing* to get Grain. I sent a Bushel and half.