

### Husking, Husks, Huskers

1738 October 9 (Monday). At Night 10 or a Dozen young men and Lads Husk'd part of my Corn.

1738 October 17 (Tuesday). Mr. Tainter here at Eve with Lads who Husk'd more of my Corn but did not finish it.

1739 October 4 (Thursday). P.M. John Oake, James Geoffrey, James Eager and Samuel Allen gather'd that part of the Corn by the old House and with Jotham and Stephen Maynard and Noah How husk'd it out in the Evening.

1739 October 9 (Tuesday). Captain Forbush with his Team, Timothy Warrin and John Rogers came p.m. to get up and husk'd Corn.

1739 October 23 (Tuesday). Neighbor Maynards, Whipples, Forbushs etc. Lads Husking.

1740 October 9 (Thursday). Husk'd at Eve, but my wife not well.

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.

1742 October 4 (Monday). About 16 or 18 Hands husked out my Corn.

1744 October 1 (Monday). Nei[gh]bours Young Men came and Husk'd.

1745 October 24 (Thursday). My Boys have been much employ'd in Husking -- for I was dissatisfy'd with late night Huskings.

1746 November 7 (Friday). 'Rody and Jonathan Devereux help'd my sons husk at Eve, but twas very Cold.

1746 November 11 (Tuesday). At my own house and Barn Elizer Rice and 4 or 5 more are Husking, it being very moderate Weather.

1747 September 29 (Tuesday). At Evening husk'd. I know not of more than a small Number, and we provided accordingly, but there came (as I think they were counted) 34. Yet God was pleas'd to bless out Provision and he[?] had Considerable left. N.B. they finish'd at 10 o'Clock. Sang latter part of Ps. 4 in Tate and Brady. Through the Bounty of Providence a good Crop.

1748 October 4 (Tuesday). Was at Mr. Knowltons who was very kind favouring me with Rie meal and a Quarter of Mutton which I brought home with me for we had great need of them

being in hopes of divers Hands tomorrow to gather and husk my Corn -- and had no Body that I could send so far to mill as Mr. Drury's.

1748 October 5 (Wednesday). Several Hands came in the Evening to Husk, but it had rain'd so in the afternoon that they had gather'd but part of the Corn, and the Company chose to come again. There were about eleven.

1748 October 6 (Thursday). Some Number of Hands dropp'd in till into the Evening and some of them had gather'd more Corn, but the south Field yet to gather. But neither did they incline to husk this night. I taught 'em something about singing. Aaron Warrin here.

1748 October 10 (Monday). P.M. at the Funeral. N.B. several young men turned away from the procession and came up to help Ebenezer in gathering my Corn, viz. Abraham Batchellor, Phinehas Maynard and several more. 32 persons assisted in Husking. Finish'd the work by about 10 o'Clock. After Supper we Sung latter part of Ps. 4 and pray'd before the Company went off.

1749 October 11 (Wednesday). At Eve I return'd home, there being a great Number of young Men husking my Corn this Evening.

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

1750 October 12 (Friday). Three Sons and Two Daughters, with Patty Pannell husk Corn in the Barn this Eve, and Except Molly, they Stay till Eleven o'Clock.

1750 October 23 (Tuesday). Association Fast at Bolton, but I could not go by reason of the work which is doing at my new House, and expect Huskers at Night, but it was put by.

1750 October 24 (Wednesday). P.M. at the New House desir'd Rody Smith to ask Mr. Barns to come and husk to night. A Number were ask'd, but there were but six only who came, scil. Neighbour Benjamin How and his Brother Daniel, Neighbour John Frost and Samuel Forbush, Cornelius Cook and John Pratt.

1750 October 26 (Friday). Joseph Winchester and Jonathan Smith husk'd with my sons at Evening till 10.

1750 October 29 (Monday). Neighbour Rogers husks with my sons in the Barn this Evening.

1750 November 21 (Wednesday). Thomas a.m. carts wood; p.m. husks.

1750 December 3 (Monday). Ebenezer and Thomas husking p.m.

1750 December 7 (Friday). My Sons finish'd husking.

1751 October 15 (Tuesday). Lieutenant Tainter with his Team (a Load of Wood, Quarter of Lamb and a present of Salt Pork) to cut up and Cart home my Island Corn. Joseph Grout junior with his Team, my William also came with our own -- 8 Load of Cutt up Corn were brought home. Old Mr. Rice and his sons (3 of them) and his son-in-law with a small number more, came in the afternoon and Evening and husk'd -- till about Nine o'Clock at Night -- a very Cold Evening.

1751 October 16 (Wednesday). My Corn was laid expos'd where there was no fence, so that I rose Early to look after it.... Mr. Jonathan Bellows came and work'd for me to Day, in taking Care of the Husks, building up the Corn Bin etc. N.B. Ephraim Bruce, Barnabas Newton and Jonathan Bellows. P.M. Sent Billy into the Whipple Corner for help in Husking. Nobody came till about 4 p.m. when Mr. Samuel Fay junior, Mr. Joseph Green junior, and four Ladds -- Viz. Abner and Francis Whipple and two sons of Mr. Fay aforesaid came and husk'd.

1751 October 23 (Wednesday). Ebenezer design'd to have an Husking this afternoon but being belated in his Invitations was oblig'd to defer it.

1751 October 24 (Thursday). P.M. 25 Hands help'd Ebenezer husk. N.B. Baldwin, John Woods and Sam. Bumpso went.

1752 October 13 (Friday). P.M. a number of Hands husk'd out my Corn. Old Mr. Maynard and his sons, Ebenezer and Nathan, old Mr. Rice, Joseph Bowman, Isaac Miller, Mr. Bonds 2 Sons, 2 from Mr. Jonah Warrins, Daniel Grout, Constantine Hardy and some others, made up the Company. The Husking was over by that the Evening came: but they tarried so long as to thrust the Husks into the Barn.

1752 October 14 (Saturday). Billy with assistance putts the remainder of the Husk'd Corn into the Barns. It was so Spoil'd with the Drought and with the Frost that there is but here and there a good Ear among it. But God is holy and Sovereign.

1752 October 26 (Thursday). Mr. Aaron Nurse with my Billy puts up my Husks from the Barn Floor.

1752 October 31 (Tuesday). Ebenezer makes an Husking this Evening.

1754 October 7 (Monday). Lieutenant Tainter, Messrs. Jonathan Forbush, Eleazer Whitney, Thomas Twitchell, Amariah Thurston, with several Lads, Daniel Grout and Joseph Harrington came and cutt up my Corn at the Island, and Mr. Ebenezer Forbush with his Team brought it in. They made 4 Load of it and had done by noon. Four of them stay'd to dine. It was our purpose to have husk'd in the afternoon (for some persons said they Should choose it rather than in the Eve) and a few Neighbours were Sent to, but none came but old Mr. Maynard. So then we sent again, desiring they would come in the Evening, but neither did there come any but a few Boys who ran away home again.

1754 October 8 (Tuesday). To Day some of my own Family who did not use to husk, put their Hands to it.... Noah Forbush part of p.m. husking -- a number more came in the Evening, viz. Thomas Hardy, Alpheus and Abner Newton, Charles Rice and Ebenezer Rice junior -- very frosty Night, they did not stay to husk the whole.

1754 October 9 (Wednesday). Thomas and Billy husk.... Thomas and Billy, and 3 Rices (Merchants Sons) husk in the Evening.

1754 November 6 (Wednesday). Ebenezer has an Husking p.m.

1755 November 11 (Tuesday). At Eve Nathan Kenny, and Solomon and David Maynard husk'd out the rest of our Corn.

1755 November 25 (Tuesday). N.B. Thomas and Billy at their Brother Ebenezers who has a Husking to Day.

1756 September 17 (Friday). The Frost having in some Measure seized my Corn, *Billy* (agreeable to the practice which some of the Neighbours go into) strips down the Husks, as it stands in the Field. Ebenezer Rice junior helps him.

1756 October 7 (Thursday). A Number of Persons, about 32, came and husked out my West Field of Corn, and that by the Barn. My son Thomas helped me Yesterday and to Day in Cutting it up and gathering it into Heaps. Mr. *Alph. Newton* likewise assisted part of p.m. and Mr. Moses Nurse in the Evening got his Team, and by the help of Some of the Hands brought in what was not carted in the Day. Lt. *Tainter* and his son, Deacon Bond, Mr. Jonah Warrin, Mr. Eliezer Rice were part of the Company.

1756 October 8 (Friday). Very rainy Day. All my Corn and Husks lie abroad.

1756 October 18 (Monday). Mr. Thomas *Frost* with Billy carting in Stalks, Husks, Pumpkins.

1757 October 8 (Saturday). N.B. Thomas took Care of gathering my Corn at the Island and getting it in. For they had Mr. Zebulon Rices and Mr. Nurse's Teams. They had also an Husking last night; about 10 or 12 persons here.

1758 October 25 (Wednesday). Boys are husking. P.M. rainy. Nathan and Jonas Kenny husk.

1758 October 26 (Thursday). A very winter like Face on every Thing.... My sons are husking -- but my own Business succeeds but poorly. Alas, that I am so sluggish! I had need be quickened, for the holy God has awfully smitten us, in taking away a most eminent person, the Rev. Pious and learned Mr. THOMAS PRINCE of Boston who dyed last Lords Day Evening.

1759 October 18 (Thursday). Deacon Tainter and son with Team, Capt. Wood and Neighbour Zebulun Rice, Joseph and Jonathan Grout gathered and brought up my Island Corn, and with Others to Assist husked it out.

1759 October 22 (Monday). Deacon Tainter had striven to get my Corn Field behind the Meeting House together but others would not exert themselves as he -- he got one Load to the place for husking -- but Rain came upon it in the Night.

1759 November 7 (Wednesday). The Boys go to husking to t'other House.

1759 November 9 (Friday). At my Son Alexander's Earnest Request I consent to their having an husking at t'other House -- though my boys have been all of them husking there one Day after another.

1760 October 24 (Friday). Alexander and Breck go to Deacon Bonds to Husking.

1764 October 4 (Thursday). Capt. Fay and Son came with a Team to get in my Corn. There came many more to get it in and husk it: and they Sup with us. They are, in all, 28. After returning Thanks, we sang part of Ps. 4 in Tate and Brady. But we need to be humble for the Frown of providence in the lightness of the Crop.

1765 October 11 (Friday). Mr. *Hastings* comes to build me a Stone Chimney in my Study. It proves unhappy to my Studys -- for my Neighbours came to cutt up and gather and Husk out my Corn. Thomas taken off from tending the mason. Deacon Tainter and others cutt up; his son with a Team and Capt. Wood with his Team also, bring in the Corn. A considerable Crop -- thanks to God! Many come to husk. They husk it out. 47 at supper besides my own. Sing part of Ps. 65.

1766 October 13 (Monday). N.B. Caleb bestirred himself and Neighbours came, cutt up, Carted in and husked out my Indian Corn. 51 Hands at supper. N.B. when I named and read part of the 4th Psalm to be sung, Neighbour Batherick Struck -- but it was a Tune I knew not. He sung almost wholly alone throughout the whole Singing. For which I was very sorry. When he had done, he told me it was *Plimouth*. Visit Mrs. Haws -- run away with by their wild Mare, Scared, thrown out of the Chair and hurt. Prayed with her.

1766 October 14 (Tuesday). James Haven from Lt. Baker, helps Caleb in carrying the remainder of the Corn -- and getting the Husks into the Barn. N.B. 134 Baskets of good Corn.

1767 October 8 (Thursday). Mr. John Wood invites me to supper at his House this Evening after their husking in the afternoon.

1767 October 9 (Friday). P.M. Deacon Wood, Lt. Baker, Neighbour Zebulun Rice, Lt. Baker [*sic*], Mr. Nathan Maynard, Neighbour Seth Morse (who brought a large Cheese) and a Number more (between 30 and 40 in all) got in and husked out my Corn. The Crop proved but indifferent. For

entertainment Mrs. P. instead of the usual hot Supper, baked Applepies and agreeable Cakes, which with Cheese proved an Acceptable [Reflection?] to the Company. N.B. Master Jamison here likewise. We sung part of the 4th Ps. Mr. Seth Morse set the Tune.

1767 October 10 (Saturday). R. Temple and Jonas Kenny came from Mr. Nurse's and pitched up the Husks. John carries up the Hog Corn.

1768 October 25 (Tuesday). A Number of Neighbours came in the Afternoon, and cut up the Corn of the West field, and part of the North, and this Evening husked. There were about 20. They were chiefly Mr. David Maynard, Zebulun Rice, Edwards Whipple, Tainter, Lieut. Baker, McCulloch, Neighbour Newton, Joseph Bond and James Bellows, Isaac Miller etc. etc., but it rained and beat them off, when they had husked about half of what they had gathered.

1768 October 27 (Thursday). The weather so cold and the Corn so wet, John can accomplish but little in the harvesting. He carries Apples and Barrell to Mr. Bakers Cyder Mill. He tries for help in Husking, but no body encourages him.

1768 October 28 (Friday). In many perplexitys about getting in the rest of the Corn -- It being too much for John. A great part of that which was husked lying abroad and a great Body of husks, which had been wet with the storm -- several Load yet in the Field -- and not easy to get any Hand to help. Friday with me and can't go my self -- and am to be gone (with leave of Providence) next week -- but p.m. Nathan Maynard junior and his Brother Nehemiah came and cut up and carted the Corn from the Field, and about 20 at Evening husked it out, and got in great part of the Husks.

1769 October 13 (Friday). My Son *John* exerts himself in gathering and getting in, husking and laying up, the Corn himself; with out troubling the Neighbours.

1770 September 28 (Friday). *Elias* went to Neighbour Arnolds Husking.

1770 October 17 (Wednesday). Deacon Wood offers to come and husk tomorrow afternoon, and to promote it among others, if I liked it.

1770 October 18 (Thursday). *Deacon Wood*, Lt. Baker, Mr. Daniel Hardy and his son Adams came about 2 p.m. to See if it would do to husk; for the Weather was misty. I wholly left the Matter with them to do as they inclined. They went to the Barn. I chose to attend as closely as I could to my Study. There came some Number more, viz. Mr. Ebenezer Maynard, Barnabas Newton, Thomas Bond, Moses Wheelock, Thomas Arnold, Silas Hill, Levi Warrin, Nathan Kenny, Joseph McCulloch, Benjamin Wood (who lives with his uncle), Ebenezer junior, Nathan junior, Jonathan, Nehemiah, Stephen, Calvin, Daniel Maynard, Benjamin Taynter junior, Daniel Adams junior, John McCulloch, Jacob and Aaron Foster, Abijah Gale (N. Kennys Lad) and Sherebiah Fay. Messrs. Baker, Newton and Bond provided a Small Quarter of Beef about 60 weight and gave it. Also the former brought a Basket of excellent sauce, Carrots and Turnips. May God reward him and them, for so great Kindness and Generousness!

1770 October 19 (Friday). Isaac Lamb is detained here by Joseph Wood to help him carry Corn, lay up the Husks etc. but about 2 p.m. Joseph goes away with a Company of young people that came to See him. This I would not resist although it was to my Hurt, because I had promised Mr. Chamberlin to send for 6 Barrels of Cyder early tomorrow Morning and *Lamb* was not willing to engage to go in Josephs stead.

1770 November 1 (Thursday). At night having received the repeated Invitations to go to Supper at Mr. Nurse's, after their Husking, which they began in the afternoon, but especially to gratifie Mrs. Nurse in her urgent Requests, I went over. I went not to the Barn -- but we could not rise from Supper till about 10. This sort of Entertainment I have not usually gone to. I don't know *when* I have ever been at one Since I was ordained. I was not willing to grieve my Neighbour or I would not have gone now. But since it was So late when we left the Table, I would not so much as sit down again, but hastened home; exhorting all others to do so.

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.

1771 October 11 (Friday). The weather being good, my Hands resolutely Set to the Cutting up of my Corn. Deacon Wood sent a Team and his hired Man. P.M. a great many more came. They brought it in and husked it out.

1771 October 12 (Saturday). I was grievously exercised at times with pain in my Stomach and Bowels so that I was not able to do much in my Study -- but was forced to regard the necessary and unavoidable Affairs abroad. After Such a tumultuous husking -- this was a great interruption, though I did not pretend to work, but to oversee it. P.M. a Storm threatening and my 3 Youths incapable to Secure the Corn and Husks, I was obliged to go to Mr. *Nurse's* and *Warrins* for help. Mr. *Aaron Lamb* and *Sherbiah Fay* came and assisted; also Mr. *Thaddeus Warrin* for an Hour or more, in sorting and carrying in Corn etc.

1772 October 9 (Friday). Still the distressing Rains and the Cloudy Weather continue; except that sometimes the Sun has broke out, and there is much less wet to day. It is feared the Indian Corn will suffer in the Field; moulding in the Husk.

1772 October 19 (Monday). A number of Neighbours, about 30 old and young, came about 9 or 10 o'Clock to husk my Corn. I committed the whole matter of their Refreshments and their Dinner to them, to have every thing relating thereto when and as they Should please. Accordingly They had Liquor and Bread and Cheese to their Satisfaction, but they did not choose to have the dinner till they had done husking the Corn, which was carted. A Load was left in the Field. This they could not meddle with because what was brought held them till

sunsett. I went out to them not less than three times to entreat to have their Food, and See that they had Drink enough. But yet two, Mr. Tainter and Mr. Biglow, appeared offended and I was told that some went away -- but a Number returned again and stayed to eat with us. The abovementioned were also pacified. The Two Deacons (especially Deacon Wood), together with other elderly Men, conducted the Affair. The Corn was very Moist, having been greatly Soaked by the late great Rains.

1772 October 30 (Friday). Phinehas Forbes, having filled up his Time with me, *now leaves me*. I have him a promissory Note for 11£ lawful Money with Interest. N.B. As soon as Phinehas was gone, Discovered my 3 Stacks of Husks were so wet as to take Dammage.

1772 October 31 (Saturday). Yesterday being rainy could not have any thing done to Save my Stacks of Husks, though they Smoked visibly. To Day (depending upon Mr. Jonathan Barns to preach for me), I went out, and prevailed with Mr. Moses Nurse and Mr. Thaddeus Warrin to come and pitch off the Stacks and Spread the Husks abroad, and ventured to let them lie so over the Sabbath, they being too wet to make up again.

1773 October 14 (Thursday). Though *Jonathan Maynard* had laid aside the Design of our Husking to day, yet he undertook to get Hands together and they cut up, carted in the rest of the Corn, So that at Eve about 30 Hands came and husked it out. We got 'em a supper, and had Mr. *John Harrington* to tend and Mr. *Thaddeus Warrins* Wife to Cook. Dr. *Joslyn* and Mrs. *Cotton* here, but the Doctor went with Dr. *Haws* to lodge. Mr. *Benjamin Webb*, School master, among the People; and he returned Thanks. We Sang part of Ps. 65, v. 2 and v. 8 to the End of 11.

1774 October 12 (Wednesday). Asa is lame, but husks in the Barn.

1776 October 16 (Wednesday). Deacon Wood, Mr. Solomon Baker, Mr. Nathan Maynard with others came p.m. and cut up and brought my Indian Corn. At Eve the Deacon went home, but gave us Cyder for the Huskers at Supper, who, Men and Boys, amounted to 14 only. In the dark I fell into an Hole, and sorely wounded my Self, so that I could not Sleep.

1776 October 17 (Thursday). Sent a Letter inclosing 3 Dollars more and therewith Linnen, viz. two shirts, and a stock, two pair of stockings, a Looking Glass and a Box containing 4 1/2 Dozen Candles, by Mr. [Tainter?] to *Elias* at *Cambridge*. The Husking was not over. It was unhappily wetting weather, though not very rainy.

1777 November 6 (Thursday). *Reuben* went to his uncles in order to his going to *Worcester*, but though he tarried there all the forenoon, yet he went not. It rained, and the Horse he was to have rid got away. But p.m. he returned and went to my Business -- husking.

1779 October 11 (Monday). This day we cutt up, carted home and husked out our Indian Corn. Ephraim Tucker went with my Team and Deacon Wood with his. About nine dined here. There were forty or more of Men and Boys at Eve, and several Neighbors were so generous as to

contribute to the Entertainment. Squire Baker above 50 lbs. of Meat, Mr. Ebenezer Forbes, Beef and 3 cabbages, Lt. Bond, Pork, Mr. Barnabas Newton, a Cheese, Breck, sufficient Rum. Through the Goodness of God we had a good crop, Sound Corn and the Joy of Harvest. To Him be all Honor and Glory! We sang latter part of Ps. 65.

1780 October 16 (Monday). Mr. Kenney refuses to husk my Corn, though I conceived he took my Field to the halves as Dr. Hawes did, who took the whole care of husking the Corn, and carrying it into the Corn Barn. However, we came to an agreement. I told him he should ask the Neighbors to assist, in an afternoon, and though I would not make an Entertainment, yet I would give them some Drink.

1780 October 19 (Thursday). Mr. Kenney brought from the North Field my part of the Corn, and a number of Neighbors husked it out. Breck was very generous in treating the Huskers with Liquor.

1781 October 4 (Thursday). Mr. *Brigham* took care of the Husking and of the *Huskers*.