

## Meat

1750 October 16 (Tuesday). I din'd at Ensign Millers. We are so out of Meat in the Family that I bought a Quarter of Beef of him.

1751 June 26 (Wednesday). N.B. Mr. Robert Jennison (William Parkhursts Master) here, with his Wife and Brother. Mr. Stephen Maynard here, and we reckon'd. His Mother also was here. N.B. Their Extraordinary bountifulness in the Reckoning particularly in sinking the account of 43 pounds of Butter to 23, and this at 4/ per pound when I suppose the price is not much less than 5/ -- and in throwing in the bringing up of the Box of Glass for my New House; and in some other Respects, which Things are besides many presents of Meat, Cheese etc.

1752 August 25 (Tuesday). Last Night was exceeding tedious not for pains so much as Faintness, especially towards Morning I was exceeding low. My Wife watch'd. The forenoon was of apiece with the Morning. My wife stills a miscellany of Meat, Herbs, Roots, seeds etc. by the Doctor's Direction.

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

1754 November 8 (Friday). Sent by Lieutenant Tainter of Boston. N.B. He kill'd one of my steers, or rather one of his which he changes for one of mine that was a Rogue. He kill'd it at his House and brought me a Side of the Meat, the Hide, Tallow and Offal, and borrows half of the Meat to spend in his own Family. N.B. The Quarters he brought here were 90 and 86.

1757 June 8 (Wednesday). Capt. Baldwin (who came a Little after Midnight) to Day takes his Wife out in a Chair, and they ride over to Mr. *Martyns* -- and return at Evening. P.M. came his Father and Mother; and at Evening his Uncle *Samuel* (with whom he served apprenticeship). They Supped and lodged here. I would view the kind Hand of Providence that when I was Somewhat put to't for fresh Meat, Mr. *Maynard* kindly Sent me a Quarter of veal and some Butter. Mrs. *Dolly Rice* an old Cheese.

1758 September 13 (Wednesday). Deacon Tainter observably carefull to have me supplied with fresh meat, etc.

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, notwithstanding that Meat, Grain, Labour etc. are so exceedingly advanced in their price.

1766 March 10 (Monday). *Billy* having got mine and his own Oxen shod, and loaded his Cart with a great Variety -- his Chest -- Barrell of Meat -- Cyder etc. setts out, and Breck with him, for Townshend.

1766 September 25 (Thursday). Mr. B. Tainter supposes that nigh 100 lbs. of Meat was Stole out of his Cellar the night before last.

1768 November 19 (Saturday). Mr. Morse brings home the Beef -- weighs 108 lbs. He brings 1/2 bushel of Salt (which is 14/) and he cutts out the Meat.

1769 December 11 (Monday). A Number of Cutters go down to Capt. Ephraim Brigham's Land, and a Number of Teams came to Cart it. Some brought also from their own Land. Mr. Barnabus Newton, Deacon Wood, Capt. Benjamin Fay, Lt. Baker, Mr. Daniel Warrin, his Brother Timothy, Mr. Andrews, Capt. Maynard (from his own), Mr. Seth Morse, Mr. Tainter, Mr. Phinehas Maynard, Mr. Fessenden, Mr. Benjamin Warrin -- some from their own, some from the Ministerial Lot, in all 28 Load to Day. Several brought Meat, others Rum. They all Sup'd here.

1771 April 25 (Thursday). N.B. Mr. *Ithamar Bellows's* House was burnt down to day; The Fire broke out from a Crack in the Oven -- about 9 o'Clock a.m. They saved their Meat chiefly, but lost a great Quantity of Corn -- great part of their household Goods -- Apparel, Linnen etc. A very sorrowful Loss! May the Lord sanctifie this Dispensation to them, and to us all!<sup>1</sup>

1774 September 3 (Saturday). Capt. *Benjamin Fay* came here between 2 and 3 o'Clock in the morn in much Concern and knew not what to do. After Light and through most of the forenoon, vague uncertain Reports. *Sutton* men that had gone to Deacon Wood, came back to go down the Road again. My son *Breck* with provisions, Bread, Meat, etc., Coats, Blanket etc., for it was rainy, rides down towards Cambridge to relieve *Asa Ware*, Mr. *Spring*, and others who were unprovided.

1778 December 4 (Friday). At eve came Mr. Elisha Forbes and his Wife to Visit us, and brought an extraordinary present. 31 pounds of Meat, Beef and Pork and a Cheese of 12 lbs., and supped with us. Mr. Forbes also offered that if I would take one of the Boston newspaper, he would pay for a year. May God reward his Benevolence and Generosity!

1779 March 24 (Wednesday). Ephraim's brother Elisha was here and dined with us. He speaks of the Straits and Difficulties to which many of the People of Bolton are reduced, for want of Bread and how scarce Meat is there. May the great Provider Pity them, especially at this Season, and all others that are exposed in this terrible Storm! In Special that are at Sea.

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<sup>1</sup>"On Thursday sen'night the Dwelling House of Mr. Ithamar Bellows, of Westborough, was consumed by Fire, together with most of the Furniture and about 100 Bushels of Grain. The compassionate, generous neighbours, are in great forwardness in their work to get up another building, for the unhappy sufferers." *Boston Evening-Post*, May 6, 1771, p. 2.

1779 October 8 (Friday). We are unhappily low in the Meat Tub: which induced me to go to the Squires and Deacons, to enquire about Supplys.

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.

1779 December 18 (Saturday). It is exceeding Stormy, snowing, blowing and very cold, but through God's great Goodness, we have Shelter, Wood, Bread, Meat, Drink, Cloths but especially Health, Reason, above all the Day of means of Grace! To His Name be praise and glory! May God commeserate the exposed, and the Necessitous!