

Sheep

1736 March 4 (Thursday). One of my young sheep dyed whilst I was at Southborough.

1736 May 21 (Friday). David Sheared some of the sheep. Mr. Tainter Cut my Calf and 5 Lambs.

1739 Aril 13 (Friday). N.B. My old Bell sheep kill'd as 'twas Thought by a Wolf on my Hill in the upper Clear'd Ground. I have now lost no less than Four grown sheep this last winter and this spring.

1740 January 4 (Friday). Mr. Crosby again. I dispos'd of 4 Sheep Skins to him.

1745 Aril 1 (Monday). Trouble in my neighbourhood resecting Sheep hurt by Doggs. As Ewe and Lamb of mine in all likelihood kill'd.

1745 Aril 12 (Friday). Last night our Small Flock of Sheep Sett on by Doggs. A principal Ewe lay Dead, and mostly Eat up: her Lamb left to be brought up by Hand. A Weather also much bitt, that we much doubted of its Life.

1745 June 27 (Thursday). Neighbour Rogers Suffers Damage by Doggs among his sheep.

1746 May 17 (Saturday). Ebenezer and Thomme Shear'd Sheep.

1747 February 17 (Tuesday). N.B. Mr. Jenison supp'd with me. N.B. Sad Thieving of Cattle and sheep of late by Jonathan Willard and [blank] Cutting of Shrewsbury.

1747 May 13 (Wednesday). Ebenezer sow'd peas. P.M. he wash'd Sheep.

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.

1749 May 10 (Wednesday). Ebenezer a.m. looking up the sheep.

1749 May 15 (Monday). Daniel and Ebenezer look'd up and walk'd sheep a. and p.m.

1749 November 21 (Tuesday). Ebenezer gather'd our Sheep home. In all 16.

1749 November 26 (Sunday). A raw Cold, cloudy Day -- but I was so much more Comfortable than I have been (though Still indispos'd) that I ventur'd to Meeting.... We are much burthen'd with Stray Sheep.

1749 December 18 (Monday). Neighbour Noah How came and took away Eight stray Sheep to keep, and legally Stray 'em.

1750 January 8 (Monday). A very Cold Day. Mr. Jeduthun Fay came and bought seven Sheep of me, (3 of them Lucy's) for 12£ old Tenor and took a poor Ewe with Lamb to winter for me.

1751 May 16 (Thursday). Ebenezer shearing a few Sheep.

1752 Aril 28 (Tuesday). The Ground by my new House design'd for a pasture lys open to the Flocks of Sheep.

1752 June 15 (Monday). Ebenezer has met with several Checks upon the Field of Indian Corn on the south side of the Road. The piggs rooted it up a while ago so that he was forc'd to plant the chief of it over again: and now as soon as it is come up again a Flock of Sheep has broke in upon it and crop'd it down.

1752 June 30 (Tuesday). Fair, hot -- N.B. Billy assisted a Drover (one Boardman of Exeter) with a Flock of Sheep and went so far with him as put us in great Consternation. I visited old Mrs. Dorcas Forbush and borrow'd Lieutenant's Horse to ride after Billy. Went as far as Mr. Elisha Wards and found him there. He had been as far as Mr. Jonathan Strattons. In returning we din'd at Lieutenant Bruce's. I sent Billy to the other House to help his Brother this Afternoon.

1754 March 12 (Tuesday). Billy brought over four Sheep and [blank] Lambs from t'other House.

1754 Aril 26 (Friday). Alpheus Newton disquieted with my Sheep.

1754 May 7 (Tuesday). Our sheep continue troublesome to Alphy Newton and Mr. Francis While comes to me on his Account.

1754 May 22 (Wednesday). Abner Warrin wash'd 5 of my sheep, which were all that were wash'd.

1754 December 11 (Wednesday). Sold 11 Sheep to Mr. Simon Tainter. Persis Fay Sins here.

1755 March 21 (Friday). Messrs. Samuel Hardy and Simon Tainter here on the Affair of Mr. Tainters Debt to me for the sheep he bought of me.

1759 August 12 (Sunday). Met with a great deal of Trouble by Sheep getting into my Corn behind the Meeting House; and Mr. *Mannings* Horse also unruly, and got into the Corn.

1759 August 14 (Tuesday). By Means of the ill state of the stables, Many sheep.

1760 Aril 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 May 22 (Thursday). Capt. Wood goes at my Request to Mr. Parkers about his Sheep -- to view and Trade with him for some of them if he can.

1760 May 23 (Friday). Mr. Fessenden leaves us and goes to Cambridge -- After I had rid over to Mr. Parker -- about his sheep.... At Night was at Cat. Woods Still to consult about *Parkers* Sheep because he asks so much for them.

1760 June 16 (Monday). Returned with Mr. Parker and I payed him my Ballance, 9/ Old Tenor. But N.B. he wants my part of the lower south side for pasture for his sheep -- but does not pay me for it.

1760 July 12 (Saturday). My Sheep missing, and add New Trouble.

1760 July 14 (Monday). In Some affliction by reason of our little Flock of Sheep Straying away. They have been gone some Days, and we can't hear of them.

1760 July 17 (Thursday). N.B. My Sheep, which had strayed, had come to home in safety.

1760 December 25 (Thursday). Went over to Mr. Parker. payed him 22£ for the Sheep and 6/ Interest. Payed him also for 2 Gallons of Serma Ceti Oyl, which came to a Dollar; and for a Tin Lamp, which was 1/4 of a Dollar. To make him quiet in tending my Creatures I gave him gratis my part of the Sheep pasture which he had wanted to hire of me for his sheep. And promised to take my Sheep over to the New place.

1761 Aril 10 (Friday). Having much Trouble with my Sheep getting in upon my Neighbour Beetons Rye, I had yoked 5 of them. But finding by Alex that the Defect is chiefly in Capt. Woods, Beetons and Barny Newtons Fences, I go to Mr. *Beetons* and to Capt. Wood's, as Soon as I had dined, to confer with them about it.

1761 May 8 (Friday). At Eve Mr. Beton informs that Capt. Maynard has Sent over word to the Street that my Sheep are pounded. It appears to have been done by Neighbour Barny Newton and without having informed me of their Getting in upon his Grass Since the Fence was mended. I went up to his House and expostulated with him.

1761 May 9 (Saturday). Sent for my Sheep out of the pound, and sent 'em up to Neighbour Newton to be yoked and fettered. I provided yokes, viz. 7 and 3 more soals and Crotches. He accordingly does the work. I viewed both Newtons and Betons Fences. Found Betons very Defective and Newtons part of it very bad, and Newtons outer Fence mended but newly. Capt. Woods was mended since Tuesday last.

1761 May 13 (Wednesday). P.M. Sheep Washed.

1764 August 31 (Friday). Arrived here at Evening. Great Trouble with the Sheep's breaking in etc.

1764 September 1 (Saturday). N.B. My Sheep which were very disorderly, Mr. Aaron Nurse fetters.

1764 October 1 (Monday). Much interrupted and disturbed by the breaking in of Sheep and Hoggs (my own) into my Field.

1764 November 21 (Wednesday). Mr. John Fessenden dines here. He takes my Sheep to the Halves. Viz. 8 of them and is to return them in two Years: half the wool each Year and half the stock.

1765 Aril 1 (Monday). Breck goes with my and Capt. Woods Oxen and Neighbour Newtons Cart to cart Timber for a Corn Barn. Sheep, and Steers brought home.

1765 May 3 (Friday). My Sheep So unruly, and So troublesome to Lt. Baker, that he comes at Eve (bringing his F. Wood with him) and fetter them.

1765 October 14 (Monday). Sheep troublesome for several Days to my Neighbours.

1765 October 25 (Friday). Mr. Zeb. Rice came and [blank]. Capt. Woods kills a sheep for me.

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

1767 September 10 (Thursday). At Lieut. Bakers. He informs me my Sheep (9 which he has taken to keep) are come home to his House; and his Time being up, he would have me take them back; but I still committ them to his Care. He offers me 8 acres of Middle Meadow at £400 old Tenor.

1767 October 30 (Friday). Lieut. Baker kills another Sheep for me.

1767 November 16 (Monday). Lt. *Baker* and Mr. *Jamison* here a.m. I agree with the former *to get me my Years wood for 50£* old Tenor and I have expressly mentioned our keeping 3 Fires, and to have constant Supply for them. Sell him also 7 sheep for 14£ O.T.

1767 November 26 (Thursday). Payd *John* £4 for his two sheep which I have sold to Lt. *Baker*; and *John* trades with *Jonas Kenny* for two and a Lamb to be received next Fall, but Mr. *Moses Nurse* gives the Note to Me of what *John* is to receive for his money.

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.

1770 Aril 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 August 2 (Thursday). Greatly perplexed by my Sheep being unruly. Get Neighbour Aaron Nurse to help me in Yoking and fettering them.

1770 August 3 (Friday). Mr. Nurse finishes what he undertook to restrain the Sheep.

1770 November 13 (Tuesday). Elias Sends the chief of the Day in looking for my Sheep, which have been missing above a week.

1770 November 15 (Thursday). In much perplexity about my little Flock of Sheep.

1770 November 26 (Monday). Am much concerned about my sheep, which we cannot hear of with any Certainty.

1770 November 29 (Thursday). I got Mr. *Levi Warrin* to Send what time he could to Day in looking and enquiring after *my Sheep*.... Little news of my Sheep.

1770 December 1 (Saturday). Employed Mr. *Thaddeus Warrin* to Search for my Sheep. He Sets out on my Horse -- northerly etc. He finds them North of Mr. *Andrews's*; and drives them home. For which I gave him a fat Goose (when picked) for Thanksgiving. The sheep had been gone nigh a Month.

1770 December 10 (Monday). John returns to Brookfield. N.B. Bought his Six sheep for 40/ per Head old Tenor.

1770 December 20 (Thursday). Sold my little Flock of 12 sheep and Lambs to Mr. Barnabas Newton for 28£ old Tenor and he sent for them and had them accordingly.

1772 February 26 (Wednesday). Sent by Mr. Morse for 12 lbs. of Sheeps Wool and gave him Money for it.

1774 November 3 (Thursday). Elias is greatly afflicted for his *Cossitt* Sheep, which is missing. He rides after Some Drovers of sheep, fearing they have taken in his sheep. Proceeds as far as Natick - - and returns uncertain. At Eve came Messrs. Thomas Bond and Levi Warrin to acquaint me with their suspicions that *Moses Sever*, who moved with his Family this Morning to Westminster, had stole and killed and carryed off the *Cossitt*. Mr. B. Tainter came also to enquire and confirm. Sent for Lt. Baker up -- who came up-- and agreed to pursue *Sever*.

1774 November 4 (Friday). Early in the Morning Lt. *Baker* and my Son *Breck* Sat out.... P.M. *Breck* etc. returned, and gave me Account of their overtaking the man Suspected of taking away *Elias's* sheep. He confessed it, and to make Satisfaction he has Sent me a Note of Hand which Lt. *Baker* had given him for 15£ lawful Money, that So much might be taken out of it as be proper Amends for the Sheep and the Charges.

1775 June 4 (Sunday). At Evening *Breck* returned from his Journey, in which he went to *Cape-Anne*, and saw his Sister *Forbes*, who is (through Gods Goodness) recovering apace. He relates that our provincials have lately taken 400 Sheep from *Deer Island*.

1777 September 15 (Monday). *David Sangor* goes to Connecticut to buy Sheep; I gave him six Dollars to buy me some.

1778 January 2 (Friday). Mr. *Forbes* agrees to committ to me 9 of his Sheep, to be kept here till after the next Shearing time. He leaves us to return home. Mr. *Eleazer Fairbank* of *Shrewsbury* dines here. He tells me that Mr. *Morse* is in bad Circumstances having forfeited his Bonds of Appearance at Court, and refused to go with the Officer which the Court sent for him.

1778 January 6 (Tuesday). *Elias* goes to *Brookfield* to drive down Cattle and Sheep. Mr. *Lovering* setts out with him, on his Journey to *Westfield*.

1778 January 8 (Thursday). *Elias* eturned 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 Aril 21 (Tuesday). A.M. I was obliged to ride over to Mr. *Fessendens* about keeping my sheep.

1778 Aril 25 (Saturday). I returned to Mr. *Pratts* (where my Horse was kept also) and rode to *Grafton*, to Mr. *David Stows*, with whom I agreed to pasture my Sheep. 12d old tenor per Head per Week.

1778 May 1 (Friday). A peculiarly Difficult time with me, it being very Stormy and my Sheep so unruly, breaking into [not only?] my own Clover, but into Mr. [*Newtons?*] [forced to Shut?] them up in the Barn, and keep them on Hay and Stalks, though it makes them waste, and dirty.

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 June 8 (Monday). Called at Mr. *John Maynards* -- at Squire *Brighams* -- at Mr. *David Stow's*, to See why my Sheep had not been Sheared.

1778 June 10 (Wednesday). *Elias* goes up to *Grafton*, being [torn] Shearing the Sheep: and at night [torn] home [torn] Mr. *Farrar* came not.

1778 July 13 (Monday). For *Timothys* Work for the Doctor in hoeing *Stephen Maynard* came and mowed part of my Clover in the West Field, much diminished indeed by Mr. Harringtons sheep getting frequently into it, feeding and trailing and tangling it. *Timothy* very faithful in tending, raking etc. I could not but go out and rake part of the p.m.

1778 August 27 (Thursday). I dined at Mr. *Joseph Grouts* -- went to Mr. *David Stows* to See my Sheep, there having been sore Mortality among them. About 6 have dyed, of those he has the Care of.

1778 September 8 (Tuesday). By *Breck* I write to *Elias*, inclosing his Quarter Bills which he had inadvertently left: and to Mr. *Forbes* of *Gloucester*, concerning his Sheep.

1778 September 14 (Monday). Walked to Mr. *Greaves's* to See Deacon *Dolliver* -- who went with me to Squire Bakers -- who was so generous as to take my whole Flock of Sheep to his pasture, and gratis. Thanks to God for this His Goodness!

1778 September 18 (Friday). When Mr. *Forbes* hears me relate what Mr. *David Stow* demands for keeping his Sheep, viz. 1 sh. per Head per Week -- he is not willing to pay it, but thinks I ought to have informed him, that he might have taken them away, according to the first Method proposed, that is, after *shearing*. We are therefore thrust on to the *Second Method* which is to keep them till the year be up. Which we consent to. He and his son leave us to go to *Brookfield*.

1778 September 21 (Monday). Went to *Grafton*, and settled with Mr. *David Stow*. paid him in full for keeping the sheep -- viz. 11£ 8/ Lawful Money, and returned at Eve.

1778 September 22 (Tuesday). Mr. *Stows* sons, *Samuel* and *Ithamar* drive down hither the Four Sheep which he had kept back, and they are driven to squire Bakers.

1778 September 24 (Thursday). Mr. *Forbes* and his son leave us to go home by way of *Cambridge* and *Boston*. He proposes to Send, if he can, for his Sheep this Fall, but to leave me the Lambs; but he must have a pound of Wool per Head -- that is 9 pound as if they were kept till January when at furthest he will send for them.

1778 October 7 (Wednesday). N.B. Dogs wound and worry the Doctors and Mr. *Ebenezer Forbush's* Sheep. The Doctors great Dog killed.

1779 February 9 (Tuesday). Wrote again to Mr. *Forbes* about his Sheep.

1779 Aril 13 (Tuesday). My sheep grow very troublesome, to Mr. *Newton*.

1779 Aril 27 (Tuesday). We are every day perplexed by the unruliness of the Sheep.

1779 Aril 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 Aril 29 (Thursday). The Sheep are sent to Squire Baker's pasture to be kept there till after Shearing.

1779 May 7 (Friday). Eli Forbes Returns to Cambridge and Boston.... I send by Eli to Elias, Ferguson's Astronomy, with a Letter against his Selling Books, which he has had of me, and have writ to Eli's Father, particularly to send for his Sheep after Shearing.

1779 May 24 (Monday). Squire Baker again relieves me as to pasturing my sheep, if I will obtain of Mr. Elisha Forbes to keep his uncle Eli's nine.

1779 May 25 (Tuesday). I sent for Mr. Elisha Forbes, who came and told me he would take care of his uncle's nine sheep, that they may not trouble me any more.

1779 June 3 (Thursday). Mr. Elisha Forbes directs that his uncle Eli's sheep be sent to his pasture, and his brother Simon, with Billy Spring, drives them there.

1779 June 16 (Wednesday). Mr. Forbes and his Daughter left us to go to Brookfield. N.B. Before he went, his cousin Elisha came, and they agree about the nine Sheep of Mr. F. which I have heretofore kept.

1779 November 17 (Wednesday). Mr. Kendal of Southborough here to look of [*sic*] my Sheep.

1779 December 2 (Thursday). Deacon Wood brings Mr. William Campbell, heretofore of Oxford to see me. He offers to buy my Sheep, but I dont incline to sell part without he takes the whole.

1780 Aril 5 (Wednesday). Stephen Maynard who has the Care of the Doctor's [Hawes] Affairs here in the Evening to tell me that he could not take Care of the Doctor's Sheep, being in preparation to go to Market.

1780 Aril 6 (Thursday). Disappointed of Help to repair my Island Fence, and therefore those Sheep are in again upon my Rye.

1780 Aril 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 Aril 19 (Wednesday). Am informed that Doctor's Sheep have still been troublesome.

1780 Aril 21 (Friday). Was forced to go to Dr. Hawes on the Account of his Sheep, which were again yesterday upon my Field of Rye, and was at Neighbor Caleb Harrington's, his Hogs having

done Mischief several times in my Garden, and mentioned to him my putting out my Chauncey Meadows to the halves, much interrupted and tossed in spirit by having no man to work for me, when so many different affairs to mind, in looking after my Husbandry at this Season, and Creatures to guard from transgressing.

1780 May 3 (Wednesday). Sheep more than ordinarily Troublesome.

1780 May 8 (Monday). I have now neither Man nor Boy -- but Billy Spring to tend Cattle and Sheep.

1780 May 16 (Tuesday). I rode to Mr. Fessenden to try to put out my Sheep, but in Vain.

1780 July 21 (Friday). Mr. Biglow again reaps, and Elias part of the forenoon. P.M. goes to the Interval, to look after the Hay there. When he returns he goes up to the Flock of Sheep.

1780 November 4 (Saturday). Elias goes and fetches my 12 Sheep from Squire Baker's pasture. N.B. The principal Weather is missing, and a strange one is brought in his stead.

1781 March 8 (Thursday). We were perplexed about one of the Sheep that is lost in the Snow storm. All our Searching after it is in Vain.

1781 March 16 (Friday). The sheep that was lost in the late snow storm, was found and her Wool saved.

1781 Aril 23 (Monday). We are in much perplexity about our Sheep -- are forced to keep them up in a pen, and give them Hay.

1781 Aril 30 (Monday). I am very much afflicted by my Sheep, which by reason of their unruliness, I am forced to keep confined to the Hovel-Yard, and give them dry Meat.

1781 July 18 (Wednesday). A young man, who says his Name is *Nathaniel Fishor*, came and bought of me 12 Sheep and two Lambs. I sav'd one Lamb to kill.