

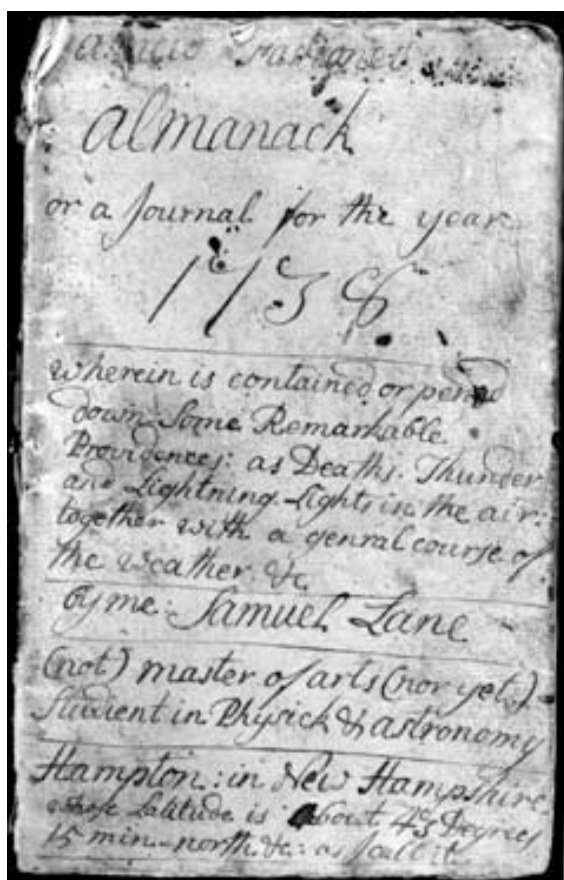
# Samuel Lane's "Almanacks"

The New Hampshire Historical Society's outreach program *Document Detectives* focuses on helping students learn how historians and museum professionals learn from objects and documents of the past. From the objects used in the program, students are encouraged to make reasonable generalizations about the nature of people's lives in the 1800s. Along the way, it is hoped, students learn that we develop knowledge of our past, ultimately, from primary sources—the writings and artifacts of the people who lived at the time.

If you wish to pursue this line of investigation with your students, you will certainly enjoy having them read these excerpts from the diaries of Samuel Lane, works that he called "almanacks." In the colonial period, printed almanacs, like Robert Thomas's *Farmers' Almanac*, provided weather forecasts and advice on such practical matters as when to plant and how to mend fences. Users of almanacs consulted them daily and often wrote notes about work and the weather in the margins. In his "Almanacks," by contrast, Samuel Lane made entries not onto a printed booklet, but onto blank diary pages.

## Background

Samuel Lane's almanacks are important documents for several reasons. For one thing, Lane lived from 1718 to 1806, a long time for the era, and a remarkably eventful period in American history as well. Then, and most importantly, Lane faithfully and meticulously recorded his life in his diaries and financial account books for over sixty years. His longevity provides us with a unique view into the life of an average person living in New Hampshire during the 1700s. No one else in the eighteenth century can boast a day-to-day routine as well preserved for posterity—not even New Hampshire's colonial governors!



The Cover to Samuel Lane's Almanack for 1738  
(See transcript below.)

**Transcript:** A new Fashioned almanack or a journal for the year 1738 wherein is contained or p[er]d down some Remarkable Providences: as Deaths, Thunder and Lightning – Lights in the air: together with a general course of the Weather etc. by me: Samuel Lane (not) master of arts (nor yet) Student in Physick & astronomy Hampton: in New Hampshire whose Latitude is about 43 degrees 15 min north etc: as I call it.

Like many New Hampshire men of the 1700s, Lane performed a variety of tasks to provide for his family's well being. Born in Hampton, he was initially apprenticed to his father—a cordwainer—who taught his son how to make shoes. The enterprising apprentice observed that much of his father's costs were bound up in buying leather, the single most important raw material that cordwainers used. Lane therefore took it upon himself to observe tanners as they made leather in tan yards using chemicals and animal skins. He also learned from a local tanner in exchange for the young Lane teaching him the rudiments of surveying, which Samuel was then himself also studying. He convinced his father to build a bark mill to process tannin-rich tree bark and to dig tan pits where the Lanes began making their own leather, thereby cutting their costs. When Lane struck out on his own, he practiced both trades.

Multiple apprenticeships weren't uncommon in northern New England in the 1700s. Lane also trained to be a surveyor at an important time in New Hampshire history. Well-settled towns near the coast like Hampton and Stratham were unable to sustain a growing population of farmers so people began to look inland. Interior land provided opportunities for logging and for establishing new farming communities. During Lane's lifetime—and especially during the governorship of Benning Wentworth—the number of new towns mushroomed. It was also a time of real estate speculation by wealthy investors who had to hire surveyors like Lane to measure out the land they'd invested in. Lane also helped his neighbors out by re-measuring their holdings to verify their deeds.

As an adult, Lane practiced these three trades. He also acted as a petty merchant who made frequent trips to Portsmouth (which he called the “Bank” as in Strawberry Banke) and the Isles of Shoals where he traded finished goods with fishermen. All the while, Lane made time to plant and harvest crops like barley, potatoes, corn, and wheat. He also mowed fields and marshes to fodder his livestock, which included horses, cows, and sheep. Indeed, a very large proportion of the tasks that Lane notes in his “almanack” or diary describe farming or animal husbandry. Perhaps the most important things that Lane's life shows us are:

- Individuals and families had to perform a wide variety of tasks to sustain themselves in eighteenth-century New Hampshire; performing these tasks often involved highly developed skills acquired after years of training as an apprentice.
- Families were *not* self-sufficient—Lane and his family couldn't make everything themselves and had to trade goods they could make (leather, shoes, cloth) to get other things they needed.

## Objectives

- To allow students to identify a historical period with the experiences and observations of a specific person who lived in New Hampshire of the 1700s;
- To show how historians and museums use documents (and objects) as sources to learn about the past;
- To encourage critical thinking and give students a chance to reach conclusions based on their own observations.

## Suggested Procedure

### Pre-Reading Activity

You may wish to begin with a full-class discussion of what sorts of information students might find in a diary. Ask for example...

- Do any of you keep a diary?
- What do you write about?
- What kinds of things might a historian 200 years from now learn about you?

Field a variety of answers and use them to establish that diaries and other kinds of personal documents provide a window onto people's everyday lives.

Next, discuss the differences between the 1700s and now that students anticipate finding in an old diary. For example...

- Did Lane's children take a bus to school?
- Did he get groceries at a supermarket?

Field answers and post four or so that prove most fruitful. They should be general enough to include a wide range of specifics. Headings such as "transportation," "work," or "food" are good choices.

At this point, you may wish to divide your class into several groups and distribute copies of different parts of the excerpts to each group. For example, one group might read through the excerpts from 1741 and 1742 (a little over two pages); another group could read the passages from 1748 and 1758 (close to six pages); and the third group could read the five-page excerpt from 1775. When the groups have read and discussed their excerpts, bring them back together to report their findings to the whole class.

Students, of course, should be able to discuss their findings in terms of the categories that were established before they read the diaries. Encourage them to take note of other elements of the diaries, too. Here are a few points to note:

- The number of infant deaths;
- Lane's reference to his wedding in a single five-word entry (plus two other brief references);
- Lane's awareness of events outside New Hampshire;
- Lane's references to the weather (Climatologists at the University of New Hampshire are studying these diaries for information about weather in the eighteenth century.);
- Lane's non-standard spelling and punctuation;
- Lane's use of summaries or retrospectives at the end of each year.

## Long-Range Activities

The following should give you some ideas on how to have your students think about the life of Samuel Lane and how it compares to their own. (For more ideas, see *New Hampshire History Curriculum Book I, K-6*, pp. 91-94, ; *Book II, 7-12*, pp. 105-112)

1. Have your students talk to a parent or another relative about his or her job and ask the following questions:
  - How did you learn to do your job?
  - Who helped you learn you job?
  - Is this what you wanted to do when you were my age? When did you decide that this is what you wanted to do?
  - Did your job exist 30 years ago? Fifty years ago? A century ago? If it did exist, what things did they do differently?
2. Using the U.S. Census, have students investigate the major occupations for men and women today. How many work in agriculture? How many in manufacturing? What do New Hampshire people produce now? How might this compare to an age when there were no factories or automobiles?
3. Time travel has been discovered and the curators of a history museum have traveled back from the year 2200 AD. Your students have been selected to help design an exhibit on how things were made at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Assign a product to each student to research the following questions:. How is it made? What raw materials go into making it? What kinds of tools or machines are used in its production? How did people learn how to use those machines? Once they have finished their research, have them design an exhibition poster that will help the people of 200 years from now understand their topic.
4. Ask students to research the lives of significant people who lived in New Hampshire at the time of Samuel Lane (1718-1806). The following are just a few possibilities. Refer to p. 77 of *K-6 Grades New Hampshire History Curriculum* for additional names: Compare the life of Samuel Lane with that of the prominent eighteenth-century figure that each student researched prior to visiting. What things did they have in common? What were some of the differences? As a whole group, discuss how gender, race, status, and wealth affected how people lived in the eighteenth century.
  - Josiah Bartlett
  - Mary Bartlett
  - Jeremy Belknap
  - Samuel Blodgett
  - Amos & Violate Fortune
  - John Langdon
  - John Stark
  - William Plummer
  - Robert Rogers
  - Governor Benning Wentworth
  - Lt. Governor John Wentworth
  - Sarah Hunking Wentworth
  - Prince Whipple
  - Molly Stark

## Recommended Reading for Teachers

Brown, Jerald E. *“Setting in the World”: Family Economy in Colonial New Hampshire through Samuel Lane’s Diaries*. Dissertation. Durham, NH: 1994.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Years of the Life of Samuel Lane, 1718–1806: A New Hampshire Man and His World*. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 2000.

Lane, Samuel. *A Journal for the Years 1739–1803 by Samuel Lane of Strathem, New Hampshire*. Ed. Charles Lane Hanson. Concord, NH: New Hampshire Historical Society, 1937.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Almanack or Journal for the Years 1737–1801*. Microfilm. Concord, NH: New Hampshire State Archives, 1988.

## The Almanacks: 1741

### [NOVEMBER 1741]

24-25 .....much rain

26-28 .....clears up & is verry cold / 27 I went to the Bank & bought Locks & Hinges f[or] my Doors. then People began to cry out i[n] the Meeting House at the Bank. I went from there to Hampton & to Joseph Sanborn

29.....moderate

30.....a cold Storm of Snow & rain Eben<sup>f</sup> Barkers child Died

### DECEMBER 1741

1.....Storm of frozen rain

2-3 .....pleasent weather

4-6 .....rain & misty weather & cloudy

7.....pretty cold

8.....verry cold & windy

9.....cold

10.....verry pleasent & warm. I went to the Bank & bought cloth for my wedding cloaths

11-13 .....rain clears up windy & pretty cold weather Governour Wentworth came into the Province

14-16 .....moderate & rain & misty weather

17.....cold

18.....verry cold & Some Snow

19-20 .....pleasent weather

21-26 .....fine pleasent weather for the Season / 24 the Day of our marriage / 25 caleb Rolings<sup>s</sup> wife Died

27-28 .....pretty cold / 28 Ens<sup>s</sup> Merrils wife Died.

29-31 .....Something pleasent for the Season / 31 Thanksgiving Day.

1741

we had this year past a hard winter & abundance of Snow, So that there was but little or no passing except on Snow Shoes for a considerable time. and a verry backward Spring & hay verry scarce. we have this Summer a plentiful crop of grass or Hay: & also a comfortable crop of corn ripe & good; tho' last year twas much otherwise. the cold weather in the fall holds of verry late.

We have had this year a wonderful time of health.

this year hes been a verry remarkable year with me I have this year (by the help of a kind Providence) bought Land to Settle upon convenient for my business; this year I removed from my native Town to another: this year I built me a house to dwell in: this year I rais<sup>d</sup> my Barkhouse This year I married a wife: & this year I have been comfortably carried through many changes & difficultys and having obtained help from God I am yet a living (though most unworthy) [signed] Samuel Lane

\* \* \* \* \*

## The Almanacks: 1742

### [AUGUST 1742]

30-31 .....pleasent weather / 30 mr Benj<sup>n</sup> Norris<sup>s</sup> child died

### SEPTEMBER 1742

1-2 .....rainy weather / 1 mr Joseph Palmers Son died. / mr Palmer another child Died.

3-4 .....fair weather / 3 Mr palmer another child Died. William Chases Child died. 2<sup>nd</sup> Day

5-6 .....cool nights / 5 frost this night Samuel Veazeys little Son Died. mr Benj<sup>n</sup> Jewets  
daughter Died 4<sup>th</sup> Day William Chases child died 10<sup>th</sup> Day.

7.....rain

8-9 .....verry blustering. / 9 David Stevens<sup>s</sup> child died

10-12 .....pretty warm weather / 10 David Stevens Servant girl Died mr Benj<sup>n</sup> Norris child died  
10<sup>th</sup> Day

13-15 .....cool mornings & evenings / 14 I went to hampton to Shave & grind bark

16-18 .....pleasent weather for the Season / 18 Six persons were this day buried in this Town

19.....Smart Showers

20-21 .....cool weather / 20 I gathered my corn

22.....rain

23-24 .....cool weather / 23 Fast on account of the Throat Distemper.

\* \* \* \* \*

## The Almanacks: 1748

### JANUARY 1748

- 1.....warm thawing weather
- 2.....grows cold & windy
- 3.....cold & Snow Showers
- 4.....exceeding cold & Blustering
- 5.....verry Shar cold Kill'd My Hogg weigh<sup>d</sup> 216 & a Pig weigh<sup>d</sup> 33 lb
- 6.....warm rain
- 7-9 .....pretty cold weather / 7 I Sold 4 Sheep to Smart .
- 10.....a pretty great Snow
- 11.....clears up verry windy it is now exceeding Difficult passing the Roads are almost all Block<sup>d</sup> up with Snow & people are oblig<sup>d</sup> to pass through fields with much Difficulty; the Like hes not been known Since Seven years ago this Winter & then not So Soon in the winter as now.
- 12-13 .....pretty cold / 12 I bought my Saddle
- 14.....a little Snow
- 15-16 .....rain & thawing
- 17.....a great Snow
- 18.....verry cold & high Wind & y<sup>e</sup> Snow flys exceedingly & Drifted in the Road by my House So that I could not get to the Mill & was oblig<sup>d</sup> to break a way a Cross the Mill-Pond where people travel constantly
- 19-21 .....pretty pleasent weather / 20 Some Snow
- 22.....a thawing Day which Setl<sup>d</sup> the Snow much
- 23.....pretty cold
- 24.....a pretty considerable great Snow the Small Pox broak out at y<sup>e</sup> Bank Last week
- 25-26 .....pretty cold / 26 I went to the Bank John come
- 27-28 .....pretty cold
- 29.....verry Blustering
- 30.....Sharp cold
- 31.....verry cold & windy

## FEBRUARY 1748

- 1.....Sharp Morn. moderate aft<sup>n</sup>
- 2.....pretty pleasent Day Br wm & wife come
- 3.....verry cold & blustering
- 4.....pretty cold & at night came on a great Snow. Br Israel & wife come
- 5.....pretty cold & blustering
- 6.....exceeding cold freezing weather & verry windy: & a Terrible cold windy night tis  
Said to be the coldest Day y<sup>[t]</sup> hes been this winter
- 7.....exceeding cold & bad passing
- 8-9 .....verry chill Sharp cold freezing weather / 9 my Son Joshua Born between 2 & 3  
o'clock in y<sup>e</sup> morning
- 10.....cold weather
- 11.....cold & a Little Snow
- 12.....cold
- 13.....freezing weather
- 14.....pretty pleasent
- 15.....verry Blustering Br Joshua Come.
- 16-18 .....verry cold & a Storm of Snow begins & lasts 2 Days & windy & Some think tis near  
a foot and half Deep / 16 I went to Br Jn<sup>O</sup> James<sup>s</sup> / 18 I Sold my Shingle to Jn<sup>O</sup>  
Thirston
- 19.....a pleasent Day
- 20.....a great Storm of Snow I believe near a foot Deep
- 21.....pretty cold no Meeting. The ways are now Block'd up So as the like was hardly ever  
known; and there is hardly any passing except on SnowShoes the Roads are full  
higher than y<sup>e</sup> tops of the fences.
- 22.....pretty pleasent
- 23.....a little snow 3 or 4 inches
- 24.....verry pleasent people broke the ways from greenland to Exeter with 30 or 40 oxen &  
20 or 30 Men
- 25-26 .....pretty pleasent

27.....winter weather  
28.....windy  
29.....cold

### **MARCH 1748**

1.....a pleasant Day  
2.....pretty pleasant  
3-5 .....pretty cold weather / 3 I went to Epping to run clarks Lines  
6-8 .....verry freezing cold winterlike weather  
9-11 .....freezing nights & thawing Days / 9 I went to Hampton with my Horse Sled  
12.....cold & a Snow 2 or 3 inches Deep  
13-16 .....cold for the Season & 3 or 4 inches of Snow & Hail / 14 Some Snow I went to Epping  
to look of Grants Land  
17.....Some Snow & rain  
18.....pretty pleasant  
19-21 .....pretty Blustering wind & cool / 21 I went to Epping to Measure Grants Land  
22.....pretty pleasant  
23.....Snow 3 or 4 inches  
24.....cloudy verry bad traveling the Snow is verry Deep in Many places which Shows a  
pretty many bare Spots in the grownd which lies been coverd near 4 Months  
25.....pretty pleasant  
26.....pleasant Day  
27-28 .....pretty pleasant 28 Day Hoag & I went to Speak with Cornet Gilman about his Land.  
29.....warm  
30-31 .....thawing weather 29<sup>th</sup> Day 4 Men & Horses broke the way between Esq<sup>r</sup> Leavits & my  
House in the Road where there hes been no passing for 2 or 3 months & tho' the  
Snow is much thaw<sup>d</sup> away it is yet verry deep in Many places  
there hes been this Winter past 25 Snows great & Small  
we have had no rain of any vallue above four Months  
I think according to the best computation I can Make we have had about 12. feet of  
Snow this winter Past which came in Nov about 9 inches. in Dec about 4 feet 3 inches  
jan 2 1/2 feet Feb 3 1/2 feet March about 1 foot.

## APRIL 1748

- 1.....verry warm & the Snow melts away verry fast
- 2-3 .....pretty cool weather the Snow hes gone away after the Strangest manner, this year, that ever was known; for the ground was not at all froze being kept warm by Such a vast body of Snow all Winter and the Snow melted away above & below & the water Soak<sup>d</sup> right into the ground & made no Land flood tho' a considerable freshet in Rivers. the Snow is almost all gone; & the most of it went away in a few Days without any Rain.
- 4-5 .....pretty pleasent
- 6.....moderate
- 7.....rain
- 8.....Father & Mother Come
- 9.....fair
- 10.....pretty cool
- 11.....hail Showers I went to Epping to See Cornet Gilmans Land Il<sup>th</sup> Day
- 12.....cool
- 13.....Showers & Thunder I went to ye Bank for Neighbour Mason 13<sup>th</sup> Day
- 14.....pleasent
- 15.....warm
- 16-17 .....Dry Weather
- 18-19 .....verry warm / 19 I Sow'd my Wheat & Barley
- 20-21 .....verry hot / 21 Eben<sup>f</sup> went to Salisbury. I Set my goose
- 22-23 .....cool weather / 22 I Sow'd my Barley
- 24-26 .....pretty pleasent weather / 26 I went to NewMarket to run Clarks Lines
- 27-28 .....Moderate Rain at night & morning / 28 Fast Day a Blazing Star hes been Seen Several Nights this Month
- 29-30 .....fair weather

**MAY 1748**

1-2 .....pretty cool I Planted my Corn & Petatoes / 2 John Come to work.

3-6 .....a cold Storm but not much rain / 3 I went to the Bank / 4 Quilting

7-8 .....fair weather

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## The Almanacks: 1758

### [NOVEMBER 1758]

26-27 .....Some rain & at Night comes on Cold Snow Showers & Exceeding high wind

28-29 .....a little Snow & rain

30.....cloudy I went to the Bank

The Throat Distemper is verry rife amongst young people & also a terrible Cough remains amongst Some Children which began Last Summer

### DECEMBER 1758

1-3 .....pretty cold weather

4-9 .....cold weather for Several Days together / 4 I measur'd Land for Cort Wiggin & C[?] /  
5 private Fast on Acco<sup>t</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> throat Distemper / 6 I measur'd Sam<sup>l</sup> Leavits Marsh / 7 I  
Carried my wife to Hampton

10-12 .....verry cold weather / 11 I Kill'd 2 Hogs 200 lb & 186 lb & a Heifer 85 lb a Quarter

13-14 .....pretty pleasent

15.....a little Snow 1 Inch Some rain

16.....pleasent

17.....cold

18-19 .....freezing weather

20.....cold I went to Salisbury

21.....Snow about 6 Inches Deep

22.....cold

23-24 .....Exceeding cold freezing

25.....Sharp weather I went to the Bank

26.....cold I went to Exeter to Meet Starks Town Com<sup>tee</sup>

27-28 .....a great rain which carried away y<sup>e</sup> Snow

29.....a little Snow about 1 Inch Deep

30.....moderate

31.....pretty cold

1758

we have had in the year past the most hard & Difficult winter known within ten years past, occasion'd by great Storms of Snow which make Such Difficult passing that tis hard getting firewood & Stiring on any occasion and Hay Exceeding Scarce Sold for- 50£ p Load & not to be had for that. we had a verry Wet Summer so that with Wet and Frosts our Indian Corn being backward & verry green turn'd out Exceeding mean & Light tho' Larg Crops yet being green & frost bitten Stunk in our Chambers; and 'tho So mean is Sold for 4£ p Bushel. we had an uncommon Larg Crop of grass & hay. we have had an Unusual Hooping Cough among Children and the throat Ail Mortal in Sundry Towns. the Small Pox in Some places. we had better Success in the War than in years past both in Europe & America; and although we met with a Sad & Unexpected Defeat at Ticonderoga yet great Success in taking of Louisburg, St Johns, Fort DuQuesne on the Ohio, Cadraqua &c.

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## The Almanacks: 1775

### [APRIL 1775]

- 20-21 .....verry windy weather / 20 Meeting & Sent 25 Men to Concord / 21 Sow'd about a Peck flax Seed at y<sup>e</sup> Hill
- 22.....rainey this Night is the false News of Salem & Ipswich being Set on fire by the Regulars which Set people in a terrible fright
- 23.....Dull weather
- 24-26 .....cool & windy weather / 24 the Bloody Battle at Concord &c was on the 19<sup>th</sup> Instant / 25 Sow<sup>d</sup> 1 Bushel Rye above / 26 Broke up.
- 27-30 .....pretty pleasent for the Season / 27 Publick Fast / 29 I carried Veal to Portsm<sup>o</sup>

### MAY 1775

- 1.....warm Bo't 8 C Hay of Enoch Merril
- 2.....cloudy
- 3.....verry warm
- 4-5 .....cloudy weather / 4 Sow'd about 3 pecks flax Seed
- 6-7 .....cold winds / 6 Sow<sup>d</sup> 4 or 5 qrts flax Seed over Y<sup>e</sup> Pond
- 8.....Some rain made Wall at y<sup>e</sup> Hill
- 9-10 .....fair weather
- 11-13 .....pretty pleasent weather / 11 began to Plant above / 12 Planted at the Hill / 13 finish<sup>d</sup> Planting above
- 14-17 .....warm weather & Dry / 16 I went to Northwood & carried Lotte / 17 I went first on the Congress at Exeter 4 Days
- 18.....verry warm
- 19-20 .....cooler winds a verry Dry time
- 21.....pretty pleasent
- 22.....rain
- 23.....cloudy
- 24-25 .....pleasent weather. / 24 Shar<sup>d</sup> 16 Sheep had 49 lb of Wool 1 Sheep had better y<sup>n</sup> 4 lbs / 25 Sent Sheep to Clark

26-27 .....warm weather  
 28.....a verry Dry time  
 29.....verry warm the Report of Regulars Landing at Hampton  
 30-31 .....cool & cloudy / 30 I went to Bank / 31 began to weed  
 we have had but verry little rain this Spring; not eno' to Settle y<sup>e</sup> ground after the frost  
 came out.

**JUNE 1775**

1-6 .....verry Dry cool weather for the Season we have had Scarcely any rain this Spring An  
 Exceeding Dry time  
 7.....fine refreshing Showers  
 8-10 .....pleasent weather but Dry. / 8 Dau<sup>r</sup> Clark come down  
 11.....a refreshing Shower Congress Adjourn'd  
 12-13 .....Dry weather / 12 Drove Calves to y<sup>e</sup> Hill / 13 Col Fenton carried to Exeter  
 14-15 .....verry windy a Most Distressing Drought / 15 Dau<sup>r</sup> Clark went home  
 16-19 .....Exceeding Dry weather & hot / 16 Some People have begun to Mow y<sup>e</sup> little grass  
 they have / 17 I went to Bank Charlstown burn't & y<sup>e</sup> Armies Battle at Bunker Hill &  
 M<sup>c</sup>Clary Kill<sup>d</sup> / 19 began to Mould  
 20.....verry cool & Some frost. View<sup>d</sup> arms  
 21.....cool  
 22-23 .....Dry weather / 22 Publick Fast on Account of the Difficulty of y<sup>e</sup> times  
 24.....a lovely Moderate refreshing rain w<sup>h</sup> was Extreemly wanted  
 25.....Some Showers.  
 26-27 .....pleasent weather / 26 I planted Corn for Stalks  
 28-29 .....cloudy & a plentiful rain / 28 finish<sup>d</sup> Molding  
 30.....warm & Some Showers began to Hill after a verry Distressing Drought which was  
 ended by a rain on y<sup>e</sup> 24th the face of the Earth is remarkably altered and it is a verry  
 growing Season

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**[NOVEMBER 1775]**

- 16.....cold Congress Dissolv<sup>d</sup>  
17-21 .....freezing weather, the like Scarcely ever known at this Season / 1 8 Br. Abr<sup>m</sup> Parsons  
Died  
22.....about 2 inches Snow. private fast  
23-24 .....Steady cold winterlike weather  
25-26 .....rain at Night & 3 or 4 inches of Snow  
27-28 .....verry cold / 27 kill<sup>d</sup> 1 ox weighed 152 lb qr  
29.....rain & warm thawing  
30.....cold Thanksgiving Day  
Mem<sup>m</sup> the ground hes been Shut up ever Since about y<sup>c</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> Instant and Many  
People have not done Making Syder. and many Potatoes & tirnips yet in the ground &  
Dung not hall<sup>d</sup> Out, nor ground Plow<sup>d</sup>

**DECEMBER 1775**

- 1-2 .....cold weather  
3.....rain  
4-5 .....cold weather / 4 I went to Curriers  
6-7 .....pretty cold / 6 carried heifers to Joshuas  
8.....Some rain & 1 or 2 inches Snow  
9.....pretty Moderate I went to Bank  
10.....rain at Night  
11-12 .....verry Cold / 11 Maj<sup>r</sup> Barker Chose Deligate  
13.....freezing.  
14-15 .....moderate weather / 15 kill<sup>d</sup> ox 134 lb qr & Hog 221 lb  
16-18 .....pretty cold weather. / 16 Ford Merrill mended my House / 18 met the Select men to  
make Rates

19-23 .....Exceeding cold freezing weather the like Seldom known  
24-28 .....Snow 3 or 4 inches & Exceeding cold freezing weather / 25 went to Exeter Mill /  
26 Beef Bro't from Newmarket / 27 I went to Bank  
29-30 .....more moderate  
31.....frozen rain & 1 inch of Snow

**1775**

We have had a verry Moderate Winter the year past a verry Short crop of English Corn & Hay; many Cattle were oblig'd to be Kill'd tho' but thin Beef: but we had a good Crop of Indian Corn tho' almost all Seem'd likely to be cut off by an Early Distressing Drought.

But the Most Remarkable Occurrences of this year is, the most Unnatural Civil War Between great Brittain & America; which begun on the Memorable 19<sup>th</sup> of April 1775 in a Battle at Lexington; and increased and Continued by Raising Larg Armies and fortifications Against Each other; Battle at Bunkers Hill, Burning Charlstown in 1 Day and Casco Bay &c &c &c which Cannot so much as be Enumerated in this Leafe: in Short the Continent are in the Utmost Distress & Confusion & know not what to do.

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