

1790-1815. Excerpts from the Journal of John Baxter, a Long Island Slave Owner

Extracts from John Baxter's Journal of Daily Work and Related Events Pertaining to Enslaved and Independent African Islanders, 1790 – 1815.

Source: Moss, Richard (1993). Slavery on Long island: A Study in local institutional and early African-American communal life, 205-212.

October 2, 1790: Helped Old Mink in the Morning with a Jah of hay from the Island.

July 19, 1791: Went a fishing with John Stoothoff, Taaft and Old Mink.

August 12, 1791: Johannes Lott in the Neck Sold all his Negroes.

August 19, 1791: Old Mink went to ride shingles from Brooklyn for Stephen Lott.

August 28, 1791: Old Mink began to move Salt hay.

April 19, 1792: Our wench brough a Negress named Hanna.

November 9, 1793: The Negroes got their new shoes.

October 5, 1794: Our wench Dian brough forth a Negro boy called Joe.

January 29, 1795: Wrote a bill of sale for Mrs. Gerrett the French Ambassidor's Lady concerning A Negro wench that she brot [sic] from the Estate of R. Voorhees, deceased. Sarah sold for 70 [pounds].

June 9, 1796: Old Mink gone to a Burying at Garret Wyckoff.

July 28, 1796: Old Mink helped Peter Lake to Dig his Cellar.

September 2, 1796: Met in town with the Militia Officers about the orders of training our blacks.

January 2, 1797: Old Mink Got Badly burnt at Sarah Wyckoff.

April 17, 1797: A Court in Flatbush 4 Negroes tryed for stealing foul from Water Berrie and Peter Wyckoff at Guanus [sic].

April 18, 1797: Taaft, the Negro, eloped. Court in Flatbush Taaft came back being Brot [sic] from Oyster Bay by Van Size[?]. I gave him 8 dollars.

May 3, 1797: Sold a Negro call Taaft to Jacobus Lott for 90 [pounds].

October 7, 1797: Old Mink went to his son Tones Wedding.

May 21, 1798: Wrote a Bill of Sale for Barent Wyckoff who sold 2 Negroes to Garret Obeel in New York.

March 10, 1800: Old Mink, the Negro, died, aged 80 years.

June 30, 1800: A. Wyckoff purchased Harry, a black and Bet, his wife and Peg her child from Widow Lott for 180 [pounds]. I am afraid no Great Bargain.

Sept. 13, 1800: Married our Wench Dion to Tom Negro of H. Wyckoff.

March 3, 1801: Our wench Dion had a Young Negress called Dine.

January 23, 1803: Dion very Bad with the D.L. Knows what bed us all good by[e].

June 20, 1803: Old Gin Buried to Day a Slave of Peter Wyckoff.

January 31, 1804: Sold a Negro Women Called Dion and her two Male Children Joe and Tom to Rem Hegeman for \$ 250.

February 2, 1805: Went to Gravesend and offered Rem Williamson 300 Dollars for his Young Negro Will.

February 8, 1805: John Bergen's Negro Tom cut his foot badly.

September 2, 1806: A. Wyckoff and his Negro Harry cut my Salt hay. Critical times, a great deal of hay spoiled.

May 3, 1808: An accident had like to happen to C.V. DerGraw about a tree falling on 2 Negroes + a yoke of oxen.

August 27, 1808: The 25[th] of this month a great fire in Yoke at Mr. Watkins and her daughters and 2 young Negroes all consumed by fire.

May 1, 1809: Paid Abraham Wyckoff Seventy Five Dollars for a wench.

August 20, 1810: Garret Wyckoff sold his Negro John to Codwise at Brooklyn price 275 Dollars.

May 14, 1815: My Negro Will ran away.

May 20, 1815: Went to Jacobus Voris Gravesend Neck about my Negro no satisfaction. 4 Negroes gone off at the Holy days.

May 22, 1815: Went this morning to New York and published my Negro Will and John Wyckoff Negro Henry in the Papers – Spectator and Star reward 80 Dollars.

June 12, 1815: Met J. Mead at Brooklyn p[ai]d him \$ 110 for Jack. Negro Jack who is free at 21 years or 28 according to law.