

1800-1801. Excerpts from the Journal of Dr. Samuel Thompson, a Long Island Slave Owner

Source: Dr. Samuel Thompson's Journal of Daily Work and Related Events Pertaining to Enslaved and Independent African Islanders, March, 1800 -- January, 1801. Moss, Richard (1993). Slavery on Long Island: A Study in local institutional and early African-American communal life, 197-204.

March 5, 1800: Robbin threshed, Jack + Cuff flax, dressed 47 pounds of flax of the Newtown Sort.

March 6, 1800: Nan says child sick; Cuff dressed 25 pounds of flax.

March 11, 1800: Sharper + Franklin shell 3 bushels of corn. Carried it to Mill a bushel of wheat + 2 of rye. [G]et 2 gallons of molasses at Amos Smith. Robbin dressed 27 pounds of flax + Jack dressed 26. Cuff gets home at noon, breaks 9 sheaves. Ginne hatched 16 pounds of flax, paid her 1/6.

March 12, 1800: Robbin dressed 19 pounds of flax + Cuff 16. A black women died at Major Hawkins.

March 13, 1800: Jack dressed 26 pounds of flax, Cuff 27 1/2, Robbin crackled 27 sheaves, Ben + Franklin 22 sheaves and fetched me 7 bushels of meal from mill together with Simon. Samuel Longbothan said he had employed Jacob + Micas James to Doo out flax but thought he had rather have Jack more to Doo flax for him as he did more.

March 15, 1800: Franklin and Ben crackled flax in the forenoon and attended the funeral in the afternoon [of Daniel Smith's wife]. Robbin crackled flax and Cuff dressed 27 pounds. Ginna hackled 32 pounds flax, made 18 pounds beside.

March 21, 1800: Robbin sowing clover seed, carried 16 pounds of seed + sowed it in the wheat ground by the locust tree: then carried 18 pounds and sowed one half and was beat off by the easternly storm of Rain Ben + Franklin crackled flax; Cuff dressed 22 pounds of flax.

March 22, 1800: Ginna came here to hatchel flax for me. Cuff dressed 20 pounds of flax, Ginna hatched 15 pounds of flax, paid her for her work 2/6; Robbin threshes out.

March 25, 1800: Franklin crackled flax in forenoon + went to Major Hawkins in afternoon + got 4 bunches of onions at 16. Robbin threshed oats toward night, sowed clover seed + went to Stony Brook. Cuff dressed 20 pounds of flax, Jack crackled flax, Jacob Hawkins' black grid very much swelled with sweld throat.

March 26, 1800: Cuff swingled, Jack crackled and Robbin threshed. Franklin not well, went to Major Hawkins + got one quart brandy + one quart gin. Franklin got 1 oz. of Senna + paid 4 shillings for it.

March 28, 1800: Cuff + Robbin + Franklin mended fence at Tooker's lot in the forenoon, in the afternoon at forty acre lot. Sharper carted home Posts and Rails to mend the fence by the road.

March 29, 1800: Sharper went in to the old field with a load of Post and Rails to set between Jonathan Satterly + me. Robbin + Cuff went to forty acre lot to mend fence. Came home to dinner + threshed out in the afternoon.

April 2, 1800: Jack + Robbin mended fence near the Road forty acre lot. Cuff dressed flax 20 pounds; Ben B. and Franklin crackled flax in afternoon; Franklin went to S. Jaynes to get the Nan sold. Franklin got a pin made to the small Clevis.

April 4, 1800: Robbin, Sharper + Cuff fanning out. Franklin, B.B., crackled flax, Franklin carried 2 bushels of rye to mill; Cuff + Robbin finished the fence at Funder lot; Sharper + Franklin went to Richard Satterly's lot, carted home a load of Posts + some dry wood. Franklin brought home two bushels of Rye from Mill; Ginn, Jack came here and got her flax all by three pounds.

April 7, 1800: Sharper and Simon began to plow corn stalks at forty acre lot Robbin, Cuff + Franklin went in to old field and drove cattle and set the Post and Rail fence. Robbin sowed clove seed on the wheat in old field. Paid B.B. for his labor 24/2.

April 17, 1800: Robbin sowed by flaw. Six bushels seed West of the Great tree. Robbin sowed three in for lands with oats and about sixteen bushels of oats being near Eight acres by estimatesa [?]. Sharper set about fifty cherry trees by the ditch.

April 19, 1800: Sharper plowed all day. Franklin + B.B. in the afternoon. Cuff + Franklin plowed the garden in the afternoon; Jack + Cuff cleared orchard in forenoon; Robbin finished oats in afternoon, dug up potates ten bushels.

April 21, 1800: Sharper + Simon plow in the orchard. Franklin + B.B. also plow in the orchard. Robbin + Cuff bring half a load of Dung into the Garden planted the northside of it with beans of different sorts. Planted the peas among them all in the whole. Robbin marked the ground for the cabbage on the south side of the Garden. Robbin + Cuff ringed the hogs. Mima's child born in the forenoon Granna Tooker the midwife, a girl.

April 30, 1800: Sharper + Simon + Franklin + B.B. plow some in the orchard. Robbin, Cuff dress flax 20 pounds; Cuff 22 pounds, Franklin rides to Major Hawkins pay for 5 gallons of rum at 3/6; brings home 4 and the mill clothe.

December 1, 1800: Franklin + John Bayles ride in to old field and settle the tar barrel. Franklin drove the cattle to the beach well to water. Robbin, Cuff, Sharper + Killis work on stalks.

December 3, 1800: Masons continue to work; Robbin tends them. Cuff + Franklin cart stalks and stack them.

December 4, 1800: Franklin rides to Stong Brook and fetches the things from on board the vessel.

December 5, 1800: Began to rain in the morning. Boys cart four loads of stalks and stack them and top the stalks in the Rain.

December 6, 1800: My people go to get wood. Sharper + Killis cart wood six loads. Franklin rode to Mr. Green to carry a piece of meat.

December 7, 1800: Franklin rides to old field to draw water.

January 4, 1801: Negroes get home toward night.

January 5, 1801: Snow deep and prette[sic] cold. Franklin got a gallow of rum at Isaac Satterly. Franklin + Simon fetch the sheep home. Robbin begins to thresh wheat + Cuff + Killis to crackle flax.

January 6, 1801: Snow deep; Sharper goes to mill with fourteen bushels of grain for my self and one bushel of wheat for Jack to Stony Brook Mill. Robbin threshed, Cuff + Killis crackled flax.