

# The Friends' Quarterly

A Newsletter from The Museum at Lower Shaker Village

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## "An Extra Good Crop"

Seth Bradford was a member of the Enfield community who spent almost 14 years performing agricultural work before moving to the position of Boys' Caretaker. The journal he kept from 1837 to 1849 gives a detailed picture of the myriad tasks required to supply this large community with food, and of the enormous quantity and variety that was produced here. Major events of the community--deaths, the raising of a building--receive brief mention along with his notes on the weather and the day's labor. The following excerpts from his journal take us from planting time through harvest in observance of the season.

*April 9th. [1839] Hauled 3 loads of dung onto the point. [The journal mentions a day's hauling of up to 34 loads.] Spread and ploughed it in. Set 25 bus. of red onions, 20 bus. of yellow onions, 1 bus. of white onions. Whole amount 145 bushels of onions set this spring.*

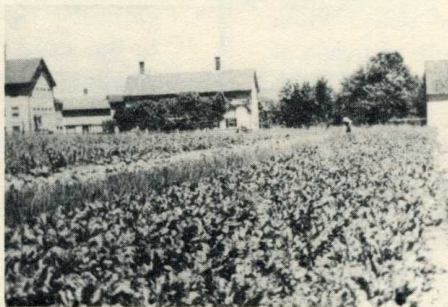
*April 18th. [1840] Planted early Potatoes, 3 sorts, Otis, Bleues, Mastings. Sowed 3 rows of Peas, acrossed the garden and 2 of them large kind. Set sage and parsley...The pond exempt from ice.*

*April 23rd. [1839] Set 18 bus. of Lemon Carrots on the sand and 9 bus. of Orange Carrots on the point and 8 bus. of Horn Carrots down in the hog pasture. Very warm. Mercury up to 70 above zero...*

*May 2nd. [1844] Putting manure in hill for cucumbers. Sowing peas, 2 sorts Blackchit & marrowfat Planting sweet corn in the North Garden, 10 rows.*

*May 6th. [1844] Planted Mammouth squash, butter and sweet potato squash. Showery. Planted early cluster cucumber seed and 4 rows of sweet corn...*

*May 10th. [1843] Set 3 sorts of beets. Quite warm. Sowed some lettuce seed from Lebanon. Sowed some radish seed, 3 kinds, sowed green H. lettuce and Ice Lettuce. Planted Peppers, squash and cayenne planted green London peas.*



*May 22nd. [1839] Dull. Set green Head Lettuce. Also set Turks Island Lettuce among the Onions. Set Peppers. Raked and set young sage. Joseph Dyer planted pop Corn in the Horse pasture. Also planted squash and melons and set Tobacco plants, some for seed and some to chew. Farmers planting potatoes. Pears and tame Cherry trees are in the height of blossom.*

*June 8th. [1848] ...railing up the peas to keep them off from the ground. The cold weather of late and the insects at present have come very near putting the vine tribe into nonexistence.*

*June 19th. [1840] We went a strawberrying. Harrowing cabbage ground. Hoed the Pop corn.*

*July 12th. [1847] Ploughed the*

*ground and set the cabbage plants, beginning on the west side - 250 Cromwell Drumhead - 106 of Early York - 140 of Red - 413 of New Y. Drumhead - 206 Green G. Savoy - 400 Low Duch - 428 Savoy - 340 Early Duch. Total 2299.*

*July 12th. [1841] A FROST IN THE MORNING...*

*July 20th. [1841] Went to haying. Very dry and hot. Mercury 80° above 0.*

*Aug. 31st. [1843] Harvested our last peas for this year.*

*Sept. 3d. [1847] Commenced cutting onion seed - an extra good crop*

*Sept. 18th. [1847] Threshed out peas by water power.*

*Sept. 20th. [1844] Finished cutting yellow onion seed. Cut the green head lettuce seed. Finished cutting beet seed...*

*Sept. 24th. [1842] The ground froze 1/2 of an inch which killed the vines and cucumbers.*

*Oct. 20th. Got the carrots into the cellar - Lemon, 17 bus. - Orange, 9 bus. - Early, 4 bus. - which makes 30 bus. for seed - 24 bus. to eat. - total 54.*

*Oct. 26th. Very cold. Got the cabbages into the cellar. A gang of our folks turn out and help the North Family dig their potatoes and got in their beets and carrots. Took 2 loads of potatoes to recompense us.*

*Nov. 13th. [1844] Finished ploughing. Wild geese flew.*

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Compiled by Becky Powell

