

- April 4. "Br. Loesch went to the Meho for potato slips; and Br. Merkli to the Etkin for a couple of pigs, that are said to be of a particularly good breed."
- April 8. "Br. Loesch returned from the Meho, bringing four bushels of seed potatoes, which we at once planted."
- April 9. "The Brethren planted potatoes, beans and corn."
- April 15. "...went to Dan River to get some cows,--part of them we have bought, and borrowed the others."
- April 17. "Last night it was very cold, and our corn and flax were hurt. Br. Erich returned from Dan River with one cow and calf, instead of the five he was to bring....A man...brought with him a bear, which he had shot on our land as he came through, and presented it to us."
- April 18. "It was very cold again last night, and blossoms and young plants were somewhat hurt."
- April 19. "Br. Loesch rode to Mr. Haltem and Mr. Guest [neighbors] to pay bills."
- April 23. "The Brn. Grube and Loesch returned, bringing a deer which Br. Herman had shot."
- April 29. "We burned brush on our second field."
- April 30. "We finished clearing our second field. That made ten acres, which by May 24th had all been planted in corn and pumpkins, with the exception of one half acre planted in hemp seed, and one-third acre in beans."
- May 6. "We cleared out a spring in the second field, about two hundred paces south-east from our cabin."
- May 25. "...weeded our garden and fields."
- May 27. "Began to hoe corn in the first field, which was planted in April. It was decided in conference to clear three or four more acres for corn...."
- June 1. "We began to clear this third field, finishing by the 8th."
- June 14. "Began to plant corn in the third field, finishing next day."
- June 25. "From a tree we made a feeding trough, at which the cows can be tied."
- July 2. "We picked the ripe barley from among the oats."
- July 5. "Began to cut wheat, continuing with it on the 6th and 8th."
- July 11. "Gathered blackberries for vinegar."
- July 12. "We stacked our grain; the crop was small."
- July 22. "We began to pough the fields from which the grain had been gathered; and by Aug. 6th had planted about five acres in buckwheat."
- July 25 and 26. "Made a threshing floor."
- July 31. "The first churn was completed."
- Aug. 14. "The 1st field was ploughed for turnips, and seed sowed in three acres on the 16th."
- Aug. 17. "Built a stable for the calves, though for the present it will be used for drying tobacco."
- Aug. 31. "...also gathered a quantity of fox grapes for vinegar."
- Sept. 12. "...Br. Feldhausen [has been making us] barrels for storing food."
- Sept. 21. "Finished gathering and shucking corn from the 1st field."
- Oct. 3. "Began to reap the buckwheat. Whennthreshed it made more than thirty bushels."

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- Oct. 10. "Gathered pumpkins. Land was also broken for rye, seven acres being sowed in this grain by Oct. 28th; a little spelt [inferior kind of wheat, also called "German wheat"] was also sown for seed."
- Oct. 21 to 24. "Others continued gathering corn and pumpkins. The evenings for some weeks were given to shucking and sorting corn."
- Oct. 28 to 30. "...examined various creeks, and measured the fall of water, [searching for a good mill site]."
- Oct. 29 to Nov. 11. "Seven acres were planted in winter wheat, two acres in oats, and one acre in rye."
- Nov. 8. "Dug potatoes."
- Nov. 11. "Threshed the wheat we hold for seed."
- Sept. 27 and 28. "...it was also decided that hereafter a small charge would be made to strangers seeking food and lodging."
- [Aug. 14-Nov. 18th] "Br. Lischer made a two day trip into Virginia, seventy miles from here, to get salt."
- Nov. 18. "We dug potatoes, and placed them in a hole in front of our fireplace."
- Nov. 19. "We fastened four cows in the stable for the winter, and drove the rest to the Black Walnut Bottom, where there are green reeds."
- Nov. 20. "This evening we began to shred pumpkins for drying, as they spoil otherwise."
- Nov. 26. "Brought in turnips and buried them in a pit."
- Dec. 18. "We ate the last of our potatoes. We have had them hardly three months, but more than 20 bushels rotted because we could not dig them at the right time, being too busy with other things. Dec. 23rd we had the last of the pumpkins. They also would have lasted longer if we had been able to bring them in at the right time, but still we have had them for five months."
- Dec. 21. "Built a small house 24 feet from the new dwelling house,--it will serve for the present as a smoke-house. It was finished by Jan. 2nd, and the first meat hung in it to smoke. For salting we killed cattle as follows: a cow weighing 400 lbs; an ox, 460 lbs; a cow 350 lbs; two oxen, each 400 lbs; and a cow, 200 lbs; all these between the 21st and 30th of December.
- "Of game during this period we shot two small deer and two wild turkeys. Bear fat, which is the best fat here, will be scarce this year, for the snow drove the bears to their dens unusually early."

The Bethabara Diary, 1754 (pp. 110-111)

"Until Sept. 25th we have eaten mush for breakfast and supper, and at noon either green beans, which were planted in April, or pumpkins, which grow well here. During this period we have had no meat except one deer, which Mr. Fry gave us on Sept. 6th.

"Partly because we were out of grease for our mush, and partly because we needed food that the Brethren could take with them when they went surveying,

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native gave us a small bear. After we began butchering we usually had meat for dinner every other day, especially as the garden began to fail. With the meat we had potatoes or white turnips, which are very good, or else sequata [f. Sequata, probably a local form of squanter-squash, generally contracted into squash. At another place it is spelled squata by the Diarist....]. In October we could have milk only once a day; the first part of November only every other day; and now we can have it only every third day. Therefore in the morning we have mush with milk or drippings; at supper mush with drippings, or pumpkins, or squashes; and at noon, when we have no meat, we use pumpkin or beans.

"While our water-melons were not a great success we did have some good ones, especially late in August. We began to eat them early in August, and could still give some to the Brn. Peter and Hoger when they arrived [Sept. 10].

"Sept. 15th we had the first mush and bread from our own corn, and it was a pleasure that the Brn. Peter and Hoger could share in the first fruits of our fields. While much corn spoiled, and much was eaten by cattle and birds, still we had a good crop; and the corn planted on the 3rd field in June did as well as that planted earlier. Corn must serve us with bread and mush this year.

"During this period we have killed no game except a bear and a deer shot by Br. Herman Loesch on Oct. 29th.

"If one wishes to purchase cattle in this neighborhood it usually costs forty to fifty shillings a head, therefore it is cheaper to buy in South Carolina, if one wishes enough to make the trip worth the trouble. But if one can wait for an opportunity, and especially if one can pay in silver, which is scarce, cattle can sometimes be secured for half price here, and

'FOOD FROM THE FOREST'

Food in Early Bethabara

(From Records of the Moravians in N.C., Vol. 1)

The Bethabara Diary, 1754 (p. 104)

"Their garden has given them good service; from May 8th to July 5th they had salad every day for dinner, and nearly every evening also. When the salad came to an end they had cucumbers for three weeks, with three or four meals of sugar peas, beans several times, occasionally cabbage, and squashes twice. Everything grows rapidly here.

"Their usual and best food is milk and mush, and whatever can be made from cornmeal. During these three months they have shot only three deer and two small bears. (Mr. Altem [a neighbor] gave them one deer.) That is all the meat they have had during this period. They have not tried to do much hunting, partly because game is scarce. The deer and bears are generally smaller than in Pennsylvania; one deer makes them three meals, and two young bears give less meat than one small deer.

"They now have 12 cows and 12 calves, one bull and one steer. The cattle here are very wild, as it is usual to feed them little and let them run in the woods, so they are generally of little use. The Brethren, however, are trying hard to tame them, and to take better care of them, and have more good of them, and it is succeeding well. Once they herded them