

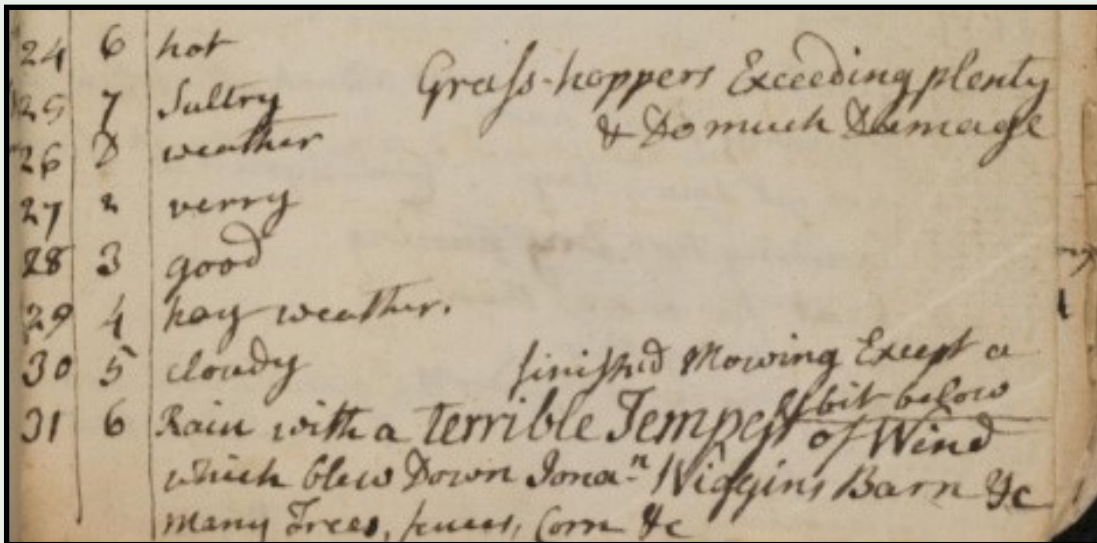


# WEATHER JOURNALING



Today, there are many ways to keep track of the weather. Websites share information about things like how much rain we've gotten in a certain period or what the temperature has been. But weather journaling—the practice of recording what the weather has been on a daily, weekly, monthly, or annual basis—has a long history in America that started well before the invention of websites.

In New Hampshire in the 18th century, a man named Samuel Lane recorded the weather nearly every day in the journals he kept from 1739 to 1799. He also wrote summaries about the weather. Samuel Lane's journals tell us much about what life was like in the 18th century. In fact, the meteorology department at the University of New Hampshire used his journals to see if the weather was different in the 18th century from the weather today.



24	6	hot	
25	7	Sultry	Grass-hoppers Exceeding plenty
26	7	weather	& Do much Damage
27	2	very	
28	3	good	
29	4	hay weather.	
30	5	cloudy	finished mowing Except a
31	6	Rain with a terrible Tempest of Wind	bit below
		which blew Down Jona. Wiggins Barn &c.	
		many Trees, fences, Corn &c	

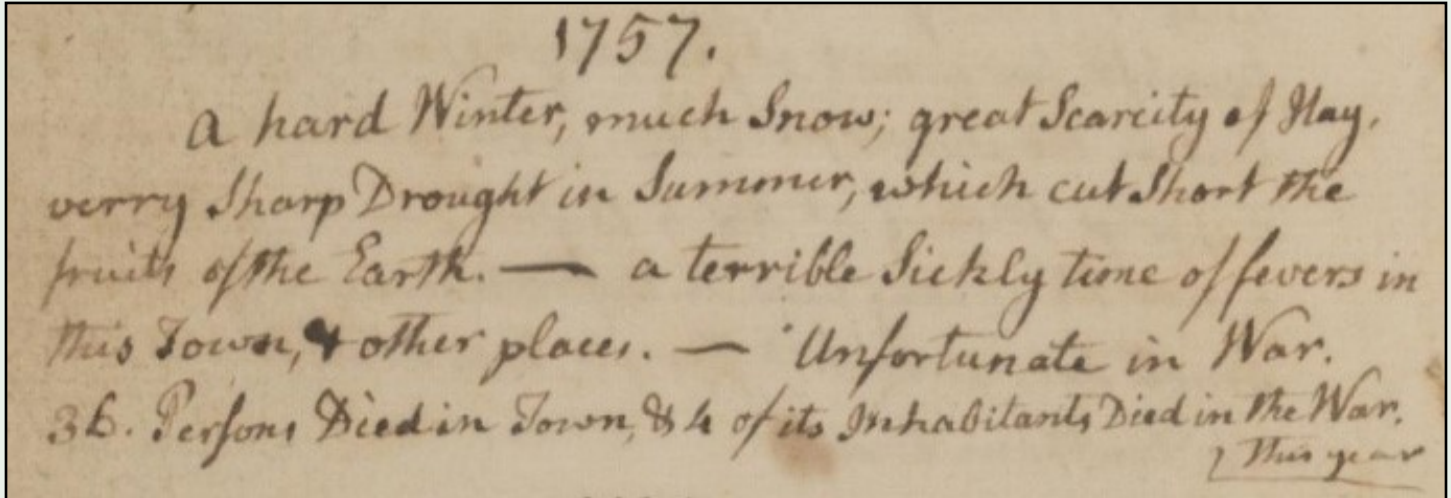




# WEATHER JOURNALING



Below is Samuel Lane's summary for the year 1757, with a transcript beneath it to make it easier to read.



1757.

A hard Winter, much Snow; great Scarcity of May, very Sharp Drought in Summer, which cut short the fruits of the Earth — a terrible Sickly time of fevers in this Town, & other places. — Unfortunate in War.

36 Persons Died in Town, & 4 of its Inhabitants Died in the War  
this year.

## Notice & Wonder

- Why do you think Samuel Lane wrote down this kind of information in his journal?
- Why would someone be so interested in the weather? What professions or jobs would be affected by the weather in the 18th century?
- Are people today still interested in learning about the weather every day? Why? And where do they get their information from?
- If you kept a journal, what kind of information would it contain? What aspects of your life would you record?

Source: Samuel Lane journal, 1739 to 1799, pages from his journal for 1757 and 1767. New Hampshire Historical Society.



**Moose on the Loose™**  
Social Studies for Granite State Kids