

TRANSCRIPTION OF CHARLES THOMSON'S DAYBOOK

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HART B420 MUSEUM STUDIES FIELDWORK SEMINAR SPRING 2026
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HARRITON HOUSE:

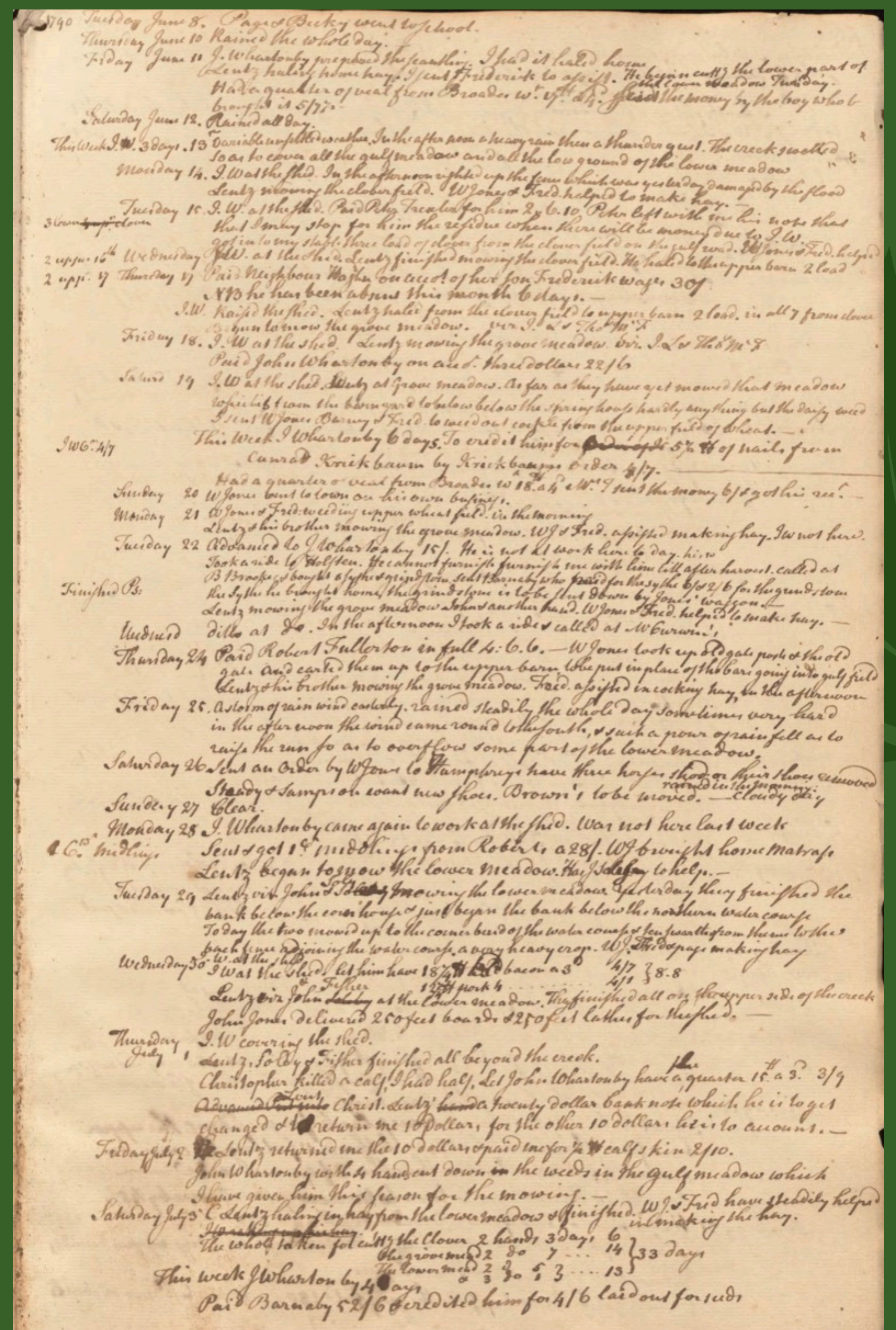
- The **Harriton House** was built in 1704 by Rowland Ellis, a Welsh settler who named it Bryn Mawr
- After Ellis' ownership, Richard Harrison and Hannah Norris established a tobacco plantation with enslaved people
- Charles Thomson, the Secretary of the Continental Congress, next inherited the property using it for crops and farms
- Now, the house is owned by Lower Merion Township used to **educate** the communities about the early American colonial history and culture

MY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Transcribe a copy of Charles Thomson's **daybook** to create a searchable and accessible document for future study
- Take notes of people and places mentioned in daybook for **future references** or research for the Harriton House to utilize

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED:

- Learning the characteristics of Thomson's writing such as how he writes his "s" or spells words. Ex: "waggon" instead of "wagon" or "cloaths" instead of "clothes"
- Not being familiar with some of the old age vernacular around house or farm work used in this time
- Relearning the cursive alphabet



EXAMPLE: PAGE 22 OF DAYBOOK



APPLEJACK



CHARLES THOMSON,
 SECRETARY TO THE
 CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Seeing the goat named "Applejack" and feeding him
- **Connecting** the figures seen in the daybook to figures in Philadelphia history. Ex: Colonel Benjamin Flower or Joseph P. Norris who married Elizabeth Hill Fox, a figure in Philadelphia society

TAKEAWAYS:

- Discovering genealogy websites and sources for research on people mentioned in the daybook
- Gaining transcription skills
- Understanding the **behind-the-scenes** of managing a historic house and property