

WOODCUTTERS RENTED TOOLS AND BLANKETS

p 11

Woodcutter John Hungerford, ^{IN} on Hopewell Journal between Jan and mid-May 1785, lived nearby since he bought ~~much~~ ^{pork, cornmeal} beef ~~and~~ flour, sugar and coffee. He "rented" two axes and two socket wedges, ~~returned~~ ^{and} a blanket. He also purchased two ~~pair~~ ^{pair} of shoes, ~~and~~ ^{and} 2½ yards of linen, ^{and} drew cash several times. He cut 53 cords of wood at 27 pence a cord and worked a month and two days for wages at 50 sh a month. Mark Bird owed him nearly 5 L ^{about \$13.30} at the Journal's end.

The quantity of food purchased suggests either a family or another woodcutter working with him. (He last because of the two axes and wedges rented and returned.) In 4½ months he bought 168 pounds of ~~meat~~ ^{42 pounds of pork} flour, ^{and} over 63 pounds of beef, 14 of cornmeal ~~and~~ plus coffee and sugar. A HUNDRED and FOUR pounds of beef and pork and 182 of flour and cornmeal is sufficient for one man to ~~ix~~ survive in a period of about 135 days. He may have lived ^{out in} ~~in~~ the woods in the teepee as the colliers did.

p 12 While Thomas Hughs also bought a blanket from a wood cutter Wm Richardson, he also paid taxes and was therefore a LANDOWNER who did cut 117 cords for Hopewell at 27 pence a cord.

p 24 Joseph Wiseman was another woodcutter who may have lived out in the woods Jan- mid-May 1784 while he cut 84 cords for Mark Bird. As the work ended, he returned and was ~~cred:~~ credited for his ^S ax, socket wedge and blanket, ^{worth 13 sh.} In cutting 84 cords for Hopewell at 27 pence a cord, he earned his provisions. In the 135 days, he drew small amounts of cash used tobacco, drank coffee and ~~used~~ ^{got} sugar, bought over 88 pounds of beef and pork, two pairs of shoes, bought a quarter of flour (28 pounds) for Widow Davis (perhaps paying for board or even charity) plus 208 pounds of white flour. Bird owed him ~~ov~~ over 4 Pounds, ^{well} over \$10 at work's end.

p 32 James Comane (Comain) was another of the 1784 woodcutters who seemingly lived in the woods while cutting 278½ cords for Mark Bird at 27 pence a cord. That he returned three blankets and three axes plus two socket wedges suggests that his two near-grown sons may have cut wood with him. Foodwise, he purchased 504 pounds of flour, 201 pounds of beef and pork, drew over 18 L cash and had 10L due him on June 2, 1784.