

# **A Day in the Life: Recording Our History**

**cThumanities**

# Who was Joshua Hempsted?

Joshua Hempsted was a man who lived nearly 300 years ago in New London, Connecticut. He began keeping his diary to keep track of his many business activities, but he didn't just write about work! For 47 years (from 1711 through 1758), he wrote every single day.



**A drawing of Hempsted's house**

*John Warner Barber, South view of the Hempsted House,  
New London, ca. 1836, pen and ink*

Connecticut Museum of Culture and History

# What did he write about?

- The date
- The weather
- Town meetings
- Work done on his farm
- Births
- Deaths
- Military activity
- When ships came and went
- Places he traveled
- People he met
- So much more!

# Become a Historian

Your job this week is to become historians of your own lives! You are going to create your own diary entries, trying to be as detailed as Joshua Hempsted was, recording not just what you do, but the events and observations that make up your day.

## **Work and Chores**

- Schoolwork
- Homework
- Farm chores
- Cleaning tasks

## **Important Life Events**

- Birthday parties
- Visits from relatives
- Personal milestones

## **Community Events**

- Club meetings
- Team meetings
- Assemblies

## **Travel and Observations**

- Trips to the store
- Visiting friends
- Vacations/longer trips



# Your Homework

Record a diary entry for every day this week.  
At the end of the week, we will share!