

The Value of One Prime Beaver Pelt

These spellings are not the ones we use today. When you say the words aloud, you can guess what the word might be.

(All items below are 1 pelt unless otherwise noted.)

What could you buy for one prime beaver pelt?

[A beaver pelt was also called one *plus*,
or one blanket.]

1 yard broad cloth [wide wool] **3 plus**

1 ½ yards gingerline [ginger-colored]

1 yard red or blew kersey [cheap coarse wool,
often used for blankets] **2 plus**

1 yard good duffels [heavy blanket-like wool]

1 ½ yards broad fine cotton

2 yards cotton [coarse fuzzy wool or rough linen,
not much like the cotton we know today]

1 ½ yards half thicks [a coarse cotton]

2 pecks Indian corn

[8 quarts = 1 peck; 2 pecks = 1 bushel]

5 pecks Indian meal

4 pecks pease

40 biskits

10 pounds pork

6 fathom tobacco [6 feet?]

1 pint shot

6 knives

2 small axes

2 small hoes

3 dozen middling hooks

1 sword blade **(1 ½ plus)**

2 pounds large kettles

1 ½ pounds small kettles

20 scaines thread [skeins or twisted lengths of
yarn, about 80 yards worth]

1 hat **(2 plus)**

1 hat with hatband **(3 plus)**

1 shirt

1 shirt with ruffels **(2 plus)**

6 combes

1 musket **(10 plus)**

What were other peltry worth, compared to one
beaver (one *plus*)?

1 otter

1 bear

2 half-skins bear

4 pappecote [bobcat]

2 foxes

2 woodchocks

4 martins

8 mincks

4 raccoones

4 seil skins, large

1 moose hide

5 pounds feathers

1 pound castorum