

## Anne's First Article in the Historical Series



Red Ruby Devons grazing in the fog in Devonshire England, where the breed originated. Photo taken at George Thorne farm by Linda

As reported in a previous post, board member Anne DeRousie is working on a historical section on Red Devons for the RDUSA Handbook. As part of that project she has agreed to do a few historical articles for our website. Following is the first article. Hope you enjoy.

### **Devon Cattle in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Agricultural Press**

One of the richest sources concerning Devon cattle are the many agricultural journals which began publication in the post- Revolutionary War and Early Republic period, but became most prominent after 1830. These journals were full of articles about the latest experimentation in agricultural improvement. In those days when there were few “experts,” farmers did their own experiments, drew their own conclusions (sometimes sound, sometimes not) and argued about them incessantly in the agricultural press. Among the things they argued about was cattle. At about the same time the agricultural journals were coming into prominence, “improved” cattle were first imported into the United States. These

included Devons, Durhams (or Shorthorns), Ayrshires, Herefords and others. They provided a great deal of grist for the mill as farmers argued about the relative merits of their favorite breed (not much has changed in 180 years.)

In January, 1842, *The Central New-York Farmer*, "Devoted to agriculture and designed to elevate the American farmer" began publishing in Rome, New York. In October 1844, an article from a Devon admirer appeared in the journal. Follow the link to see the article digitized in the *Core Historical Literature of Agriculture* electronic collection of the Albert R. Mann Library at Cornell University. Take yourself back to 1844 and enjoy reading.

[http://chla.library.cornell.edu/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?c=chla;cc=chla;q1=devons;rgn=full%20text;idno=7643212\\_9663\\_010;didno=7643212\\_9663\\_010;view=image;seq=17;node=7643212\\_9663\\_010%3A2.4;page=root;size=s;frm=frameset;](http://chla.library.cornell.edu/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?c=chla;cc=chla;q1=devons;rgn=full%20text;idno=7643212_9663_010;didno=7643212_9663_010;view=image;seq=17;node=7643212_9663_010%3A2.4;page=root;size=s;frm=frameset;)

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