

[Letter from Gardner Gove to Rufus Knight regarding a Bull he would like him to lease or buy]

No. Edgecomb July 26 1833

Mr Rufus Knight Sir Mr James Knight of Westport informed me that you take much pains in the breed of good cattle & are using means to improve the breed of our Eastern Cattle & he wished me to inform you of the Bull Cushing which I own - Sir I have long felt that some improvement is necessary in the breed of cattle & that our farmers were doing wrong in not making more exertions to improve the breed of stock – The fact is our Farmers have been in the habit of keeping the smallest bulls & those of an inferior kind & colour, without regard to good milkers – now Sir this is an evil which our young State has long born up under – last spring I was determined to do something in the way of improving the breed of our Stock, accordingly I went to Boston & made all the enquiries I could at the New Eng. Farmers Office, & was recommended to Col. Jaques of Ten Hill Farm Charleston, who would give me all the information I wanted on the subject. I accordingly called on him & spent an afternoon with him & was highly pleased with his manner of proceeding, & I think him a very useful man to our Agriculturists he informed me of the bull Cushing as to his milking qualities etc. I accordingly went to Roxbury & purchase the Bull Cushing at a high price (if allowed to judge from our own yearlings) he was service by the celebrated Celebs & his mother service by and imported bull of Sir Isaac Coffins. The mother of Cushing is a large cow 7 years old & has given milk for five years & has not been dry a single week – has furnished 17 qts per day at one milking when feed is good & milk of a good rich quality – This Bull is celebrated for the good qualities of the milk more than for the drawing ox – I have Cushing weighed in Boston when a year old & he weighed 913lbs – his colour is red with a little white [??] his horns droop some – he is of long & powerful build and he now measures six feet & is 2 years old next May – he went to 18 or 20 Cows the last season, as many as I calculated to let him go to on account of his youth - & I intend for him to go to as many good cows as are brought this summer - & I do not let him go to every Cow that is brought, but only those that are larger & good milkers I have two Dollars & Warrant – After this Summer shall retreat him into the Country back with the agreement that he shall continue to retreat & not stay but one season in a place thusly scattering the seed through our new State – Should like to have you call & See him & next fall shall sell him or let some one take him & retreat with him into the country – The Bull Cushing has a Brother which came from the same cow, two years older than him,

which has retreated into Vermont & has paid over \$1000 as they have 5 Dol, & warrants & he did not weigh so much as Cushing at one year old by 9 lbs – I have not left Cushing so well as he ought to have been & have not grained him any – but think I shall give him a little this Spring – Should be pleasant to have you call & see him & after this Season will sell him to you or let him as agreeable Yours in haste
Gardner Gove