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NEW YORK, June 6, 1862.

M. L. A.

REVOLUTIONARY JOURNAL OF AARON WRIGHT, 1775.

I HAVE been lately favored with the perusal of a MS. journal kept by Aaron Wright, a private in one of the companies of riflemen that were ordered by Congress, June 14, 1775, to be raised in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, and marched to the American camp in Cambridge, as we read in all the histories of the Revolution. But these same histories give us no pictures of the daily life, employments, and small events of camp life among the soldiers, which are daily jotted down in this journal. It comprises fifty-three pages, and extends from June 29, 1775, to the morning of the immortal 4th of July, 1776, when he was discharged in New Jersey, the term of enlistment of his company having expired.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March, 1862.

J. B. R.

NORTHUMBERLAND, PA., June 29, 1775. We were sworn to be true and faithful soldiers in the Continental army, under the direction of the Right Honorable Congress. After this we chose our officers, and lay there till the 7th of July, when we got orders to march next morning. When on parade, our 1st lieut. came and told us he would be glad if we would excuse him from going, which we refused; but, on consideration, we concluded it was better to consent; after which he said he would go; but we said, "you shall not command us, for he whose mind can change in an hour, is not fit to command in the field where liberty is contended for." In the evening we chose a private in his place. The next morning we marched on board the boats with as good spirit as ever men did.

July 13. We reached Reading, where we got our regimentals, knapsacks, and blankets.

July 20. We left Reading, after a great dispute about money. Some of us got ten, and some fifteen shillings; marched six miles, where we encamped near a run, and got half a loaf of bread and half a pound of meat each man.

Aug. 1. At Bethlehem, where I visited the "Young Men's House," composed of a great number of rooms, one of which is large enough for one hundred men to dine in at once, two more with fifty beds in each, and ninety in the others. The number of each bed is set in the wall at its head, and in the room is a board with the number of the beds on it; and if any one wants to rise before day, he sets the hour on the board in the same column with the number of his bed, and the watch wakes him at the time.

[After leaving Bethlehem, Pa., nothing important occurred till his company reached North River, opposite New Windsor, Aug. 20,] where we scared a tory, and "sarched" his goods. We found his discharge from Gen. Gage. His name was Charles Smith.

Aug. 24. Marched through Litchfield, Conn., where the men took a girl out of jail.

Aug. 26. Crossed the Connecticut, near Hartford, and after marching ten miles "caught" a tory; took him two miles and

tarred and feathered him, for saying he was sorry to see so many men going to fight the King, and that he had sent letters to Gage's camp. He said his name was Joseph Brooks.

Aug. 30. Reached Dudley, Mass., where a man was found guilty of stealing; said his name was Benj. Johnson; but it was Patrick.

Aug. 31. Marched to Weston, and staid all night; thence through Framingham, Wattertown, to Cambridge, where a College was kept, called Stoughton's Hall; thence to Prospect Hill.

Sept. 8. Col. Thompson's regiment was reviewed, and at about 10 at night we were all roused and taken to Plowed Hill, where we lay till morning.

Sept. 10. Great commotion on Prospect Hill among the riflemen, occasioned by the unreasonable confinement of a sergeant by the adjutant of Thompson's regiment; and before it was over, 34 men were confined, and two of them put in irons at headquarters in Cambridge; on the 12th, they were tried by a court-martial, and one was whipped 17 lashes, for stealing, and drummed out of camp.

Sept. 14. John Kelly, one of Capt. Clugage's men, shot one of Capt. Chambers's men through the head, for stabbing through his [hunting] shirt with a bayonet.

Sept. 16. One of the musketmen killed another by accident.

Sept. 20. The Red Coats fired 8 "Bums" and 4 cannon at our people on Plowed Hill, which did us no other hurt than kill one steer that was in a pasture 300 yards from Plowed Hill. In return for this, our men fired one of our cannon from the fort on Prospect Hill at the Red Coats on Bunker Hill, where they were drawn up to see what effect their firing made.

Sept. 21. The Red Coated Philistines fired 31 cannon and 3 bombs at the Sons of Liberty, who were building a parapet to secure themselves against the diabolical rage of the parliamentary tools on Bunker Hill. All they did was to wound 2 men, which happened by a stone which a bullet hit, and drove it against a man's leg, but did not break the bone; the other, a sod raised by the same ball, struck a man on the

thigh and broke it. In the mean time our Sons of Freedom shot twice at the Philistines. A deserter from their fort last night says our gun killed 3 and wounded 2 of the Philistines.

Sept. 22. Being George Third's Coronation day, the Philistines fired many guns for joy; and 2 or 3 bombs at us, which did us no harm.

Sept. 23. The Philistines on Bunker Hill fired 8 cannon and 2 bombs, none of which did us any harm, although one of the bombs broke near over where 200 of our men were at work, about 100 yards high.

Sunday, 24. Peace all day—but in the evening Generals Lee and Greene rode on to Prospect Hill very fast, and ordered the drums to beat to arms. In two minutes the Rifle Battalion was all under arms and paraded ready for the field; and in 6 minutes three regiments of musketeers were in the fort, but it proved a false alarm.

Sept. 26. This morning the Riflemen began to build barracks, and the Philistines fired 8 or 9 cannon and some bombs before breakfast, but hurt nobody.

Sept. 30. For the last four days we have had peace with our diabolical enemies; but to-day about 30 Red Coats, below Roxbury, fired 12 or 14 shots for nothing.

October 1. Yesterday I was told by an officer that a letter from Gen. Carlton, at Quebec, to Gen. Gage, in Boston, was intercepted by one of our privateers, and brought to Gen. Washington, which informs that the Canadians threaten to take up arms against the regulars there, if Washington sends any men to assist them—and the regulars threaten to lay down their arms; and he begs Gage to send him some men as soon as possible, or the forts will be taken without bloodshed.

Oct. 2. All peace. Our men dug up the bones of two people, which were thought to be the bones of Indians, who must have been buried before Boston was a town.

Oct. 3. Last night, John Shomney got by the picket-guard, and shot twice at the regulars.

Oct. 5. The regulars below Roxbury fired eighty-six cannon at our people, and killed two cows, and shot the arm of a musket-

man who stood behind an apple-tree. The Philistines on Bunker Hill were peaceable. A corporal of the guard came to our picket guard last night, and says that General Gage is to embark for England at one o'clock to-day. He says one of their men was badly wounded three nights ago by a shot from one of our men.

Oct. 7. Peace with our enemy, but disturbance enough with rum, for our men got money yesterday.

Oct. 12. No firing for three days. We hear from Rhode Island the Red Coats threatened our brethren there to bombard them, if they did not give them a considerable quantity of sheep, which they refused to do.

Oct. 15. Our "clergyman" preached with his hat on.

Oct. 17. Our floating batteries were launched and went and attacked the regulars' floating batteries below Roxbury, but to our sorrow, one of our cannons bursted, killing two of our men, and wounded the captain and six others very badly; but the residue, by the help of God, came home with the battery.

Oct. 18. The regulars made a great parade and beating of drums, but durst not come out. A parcel of our sergeants, with the sergeant-major, got confined for their drunken behavior, and 2 of the sergeants went into the main guard-house.

Oct. 18. Peace with the regulars, but some "rangling" by the musketeers.

Oct. 23. At 1 in the morning we were ordered to be ready to march at the morning gun. We marched through Mystic, Lynn, Salem, Beverly, to Ipswich, 34 miles, through the rain. [The Riflemen were stationed about Portsmouth, N. H., to perform coast guard; they returned to Cambridge Dec. 1st.]

Dec. 1. John P^mMurtry, in Capt. Chambers' company, killed John Penn, by his rifle going off, when, he says, he did not know it was loaded. He was cleaning the lock, and put it on and primed it to see how she would "fier." It shot through a double partition of inch boards, and through one board of a berth, and went in at Penn's breast, and out at his back, and left its mark

on the chimney. Penn put his hand on his breast, and as he turned round, fell down dead, and never spoke more.

Dec. 10. In the morning, the drums in Colonel Little's regiment played, and the fifes played, and the men were all paraded to see who would list for a year, and about two-thirds of them followed the recruiting drum.

Dec. 12. As I was looking over the new England Chronicle, vol. viii., No. 384, for Thursday, Dec. 7, 1775, I happened to cast my eye on Monsieur Voltaire's Letter to his friend at Amsterdam, after the defeat of the Spaniards before Algiers. He says, "Ever since the religious wars ceased, Christian knights have been totally useless"—and then proceeds to describe their policy: "Algiers, which has 2 men-of-war of 50 guns each, 4 of 40, and 5 frigates of 30 each, is sole master of the Mediterranean, and prescribes laws to the Dutch, English, French, and Spaniards, each of whose navies consists of at least 200 ships of war; that is ridiculous, you will say. But no matter; they say it is politic. I congratulated myself when I found Spain, most Catholic, cutting throats, and fitting out a fleet to destroy Algiers. But, to my surprise, I soon beheld ten or twelve thousand of them lie dead before the batteries of Algiers, and the fleet sailing home as fast as possible.

"But will not France, Great Britain, and Holland immediately join Spain and put a period to these little but troublesome States? No! by no means! Their High Mightinesses, the Dutch, must remain neuter, to sell their powder and ball, as also their cheese, to both belligerent States. Great Britain is just now engaged in a war of more consequence with her own colonies. Doubtless to know the cause of that civil war between mother and daughter, which has already cost the lives of hundreds, and is likely to throw the whole nation into convulsions, it is in one word this: the daughter colonies say, "We will supply you with every thing in our power, cheerfully, freely, and voluntarily." But the mother country replies; "Because you will give every thing cheerfully, freely, and voluntarily, you are rebels, and your throats must be cut."

Which is pretty d—— near the case, I think.

Jan. 9, 1776. Last night Major Knowlton was dispatched with 100 men, to make an incursion into Charlestown. He crossed the mill dam that lies between Cobble Hill and Bunker Hill, and proceeded down the street toward the ferry. A part of the men, at the same time, under Capt. Keys, were ordered to take part at the end of the street, near Bunker Hill, to intercept any who should escape from the houses. Those who went down the street found six men and one woman in one house; one they killed because he would not be taken prisoner; the other six all submitted and were brought to headquarters. They burned ten houses, in one of which, according to the woman, there were seventeen men burnt. They also brought away six muskets; all of which was done without the loss of a man on our side.

March 3. Last night our people threw the first bombs into Boston, which set the regulars at the same work (which has not been for more than two months), but to our loss, two of our mortars were bursted. In the morning, before day of the 4th, the Parliamentary tools threw several near the fort on Lechmere Point, and one into Prospect Hill fort (which they never did before), but it hurt no one, although there were above 1000 men in it. Our men kept a slow cannonading all day, and the enemy returned it as slowly. In the evening the brass mortar "Congress" was brought to Cobble Hill, and as soon as it was dark they began to work with her; but at the third shot she bursted, after which the regulars saluted us with several bombs, that did no harm, and Generals Greene and Putnam made their balls rattle in Boston, bravely.

March 5. Last night cannon and mortars were firing slowly all night; two men were wounded, and one Moor killed by a bomb falling into the fort at Lechmere Point.

March 6. We were ordered to march to Roxbury, whence we marched through Dorchester town to Dorchester Neck, where our men were building forts. We went again the 7th, 8th, and 9th.

March 10. Last night, about 8, the regulars began to cannonade us very smartly, which was continued all night, and was returned from four of our forts. We lost four men by one ball, and one by another, each of whom, at a moderate computation, cost the butchers 350 lbs. powder, besides balls, of which the Continental army gathered 900 to-day, the least of which weighed 6 lbs., some 9, 12, 18, 24, and 32 lbs. each. Of the two latter, 250 were picked up. About 10 o'clock twelve transports and three men-of-war moved toward Castle William, and seemed to be full of soldiers, but did not go out of the harbor.

March 11. Yesterday, His Excellency, in the evening, ordered some of the troops on Dorchester Neck to go with "piques" and spades on to a hill near Boston, and begin to work. As soon as it was dark they were ordered away, and the butchers cannonaded the hill all night, while our people at Lamb's Dam cannonaded Boston likewise. But our people wrought in peace and safety till morning, when lo! the Grand Butcher's surprise! He saw he had spent his powder and ball for nothing, while we had made a first-rate fort, a mile from the ground, with six 18-pound cannon in it.

[On the 15th, the Rifle battalion marched from Prospect Hill for New York city, where, and in New Jersey, they were actively employed till discharged, July 4th, 1776.]

THOMAS CUSHING.

[A paper read before the N. E. Historic-Genealogical Society.]

BY JAMES S. LORING.

WHILE this Society hath for its great object the authentic data and moral development of biography and history, it will have an honored name, wherever it is known, and thence achieve enduring strength. Had we the ability we would illustrate this remark.

Among the early patriots of Massachusetts, the memoir of whose life has been most unpardonably neglected, beside the great Samuel Adams, we find that of Thomas

Cushing, who thus boldly stated in the Continental Congress of 1774: "Whoever considers the present state of Great Britain and America, must see the necessity of spirited measures. Great Britain has drawn the sword against us, and nothing prevents her sheathing it in our bowels but want of sufficient force." On turning to John Adams, who is remarkable for the expression of opinions on all the great actors of the Revolution who rise before him, and whose works more fully develop our national history than any others we notice, he says of Thomas Cushing, that "he is steady and constant, and busy in the interest of liberty and the opposition. Is famed for secrecy and his talent at procuring intelligence. Cushing is silent and sly." Why is it that so persevering a man as he, of whom Dr. Johnson remarked, that "One object of the Americans is to adorn the brows of Cushing with a diadem," and who stood in the Continental Congress, an honored type of the commercial class on our seaboard, should have in our biographical dictionaries so small a niche, without a detail of one half the capacities in which he served his country, is beyond the power of penetration to comprehend. Our literary writers and historians will reap as liberal reward in coming out with the lives and times of our great patriotic men, prepared in a popular manner, and enriched with embellishments, as in any other field of mental labor they can enter. What do we know of Samuel Dexter and Charles Jarvis, who held a whirlwind power of the popular mind, and were foremost of our political orators? We leave these suggestions to our literary men, trusting that this dereliction of duty will be atoned for before every thing but the record of their personal eloquence passeth away.

Thomas Cushing was born in Boston, March 24, 1725, on the location of the Bromfield House; it is supposed on the street of that name. His father was the speaker of the House of Representatives, in 1742, and moderator of the town-meeting that voted thanks to Peter Faneuil for the gift of the Market-house and Town-hall, in that year. His mother was Mary, daughter of Edward Bromfield, who, according