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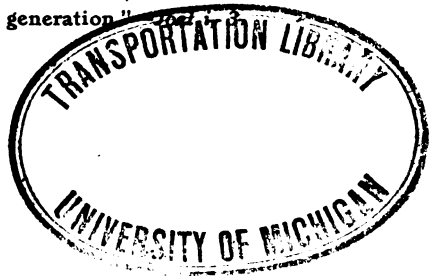
# Historic Shepherdstown

BY

DANSKE DANDRIDGE

*Author of "George Michael Bedinger—  
A Kentucky Pioneer," etc.*

"Tell ye your children of it, and let your  
children tell their children, and their  
children another generation."



THE MICHIE COMPANY, PRINTERS  
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## CHAPTER VIII

THE JOURNAL OF HENRY BEDINGER—ROXBURY CAMP

**J**ULY 17th, 1775. Set out from Potomack toward Boston and Encamped at the Mirey springs about Three miles from Sharpsburgh. Next Morning Took Leave of all Friends, Set off from thence & Marched to Stricker's in the Mountains. Thence Marched to Frederick Town where Two Companies of Independents met us about Three Miles from the Town. We Marched before them into the Town. They then Marched by us and we halted, and we followed them out of the Town, when they Halted and we passed by. As soon as we Got Passed them they Gave three Loud Shouts and Turned and Left us. We also Answered them and made off. Thence we Crossed Monocoso, and Encamped at Mr. Yenlie's. Thence set Off and Encamped in Peter Little's Town, where the Neighbors Brought us Vegetables of all kinds. Set off from thence and went through McAllister's Town. Saw my Uncle and Aunt, Got Dinner with them, our Coming from them Grieved them Much. I met with Dr. McCasery Before we came there, being in the Independent Company that met us about Three miles before we came to Town. We had some Conversation Together. Thence to Peter Wolfe's Tavern, where we Encamped. There our Captain and William Pyle Over Took us. Thence Marched to York Town being Sunday, and were Met by Three Independent Companies, Used Extremely Honorable in every House. Went to see our Relations, Eat Dinner with Them, and at our parting they Lamented much. We went into Church and heard the organs which were played for us.

After Church was over we were Conducted out of Town by all the Companies and about Fifteen Hundred of Men, Women, and Children. At our parting we had Shouting as Usual. We Marched to Susquehanna River and Crossed it and Encamped about half a mile from the River, but before the Company had all Crossed Several went to the Tavern on the Lancaster side where James Higgins Shott a wad into William Blair's Legg from Which Time he was disabled to Walk, and we were soon after obliged to Leave him in rear. Next Morning we Started from the River and about 30 of our men painted like Indians and Marched in that Manner Into Lancaster, but were met by a Rifle Company first about one Mile from Town, and thence By two Independent ditto.

We marched in towards the Court House and thence were Divided into small parties as Taverns suited to Dine. Thence Marched About Seven Miles and Encamped, where we left John Keyes, Very Sick. Thence Marched, within four miles from Reading and Encamped, where Adam Sheets had such violent Fitts that we were afraid for his life. He Recovered but felt Very Unwell for a few days. We thence marched and waded through Schoolkill Near Reading whence we were Met with Hobies (Haut-Boys) and Small and Large Violins which (made) most beautiful Musick. We then Marched to Allen's Town, were met by a Company of Independents with Drums and Hoboys. We were Biled in Different Taverns, Used Very well, in the Evening Robt. McCann Behaved Scandalously towards the Officers—was put under Guard, and kept all Night.

We Started from Thence and went to Bethlehem. Near Allen's Town was the River Jordan, and about

half a mile from thence the Great Lehy (Lehigh), the western Branch of Delaware River. We Crossed in Boats and so Marched to Bethlehem, where we had Breakfast Got in about Fifteen Minutes, tho' we came unawares to them.

Bethlehem is situate on the Banks of the Lehy, and appears as Beautiful as I Ever Saw a Town, all Connected together. They allow but one Store and one Tavern. There is But one House allowed to each Trade, which is Supplied with work men according to the run of Custom. It Bears one Very Large house Most Elegantly Built about Five Stories high, Built in the Best and Neatest Manner, has Three Hundred and Sixty-five Windows in it, Built for the use of the old men and young Students. It has Organs in it, has about three Hundred Beds and Bedsteads in it, where there is watch kept of Nights to wake them if wanted.

There is also a Nunery Consisting of about One Hundred and Thirty Young Women in another Large house, Dressed all alike. They have a small Yard to walk in, Do all Kinds of fine work, Make the finest of Lawn Cambrick, and Every Sort of finery that Can be Performed with Needles. There is another Large House for the Young Widows, and another for Widowers. We Saw all the water works, Especially that which drives the water up the Hill from an Excellent Spring to the Door of Every House in Town, from where it Springs. I Saw Hemp Mill, Bark do, Oyl Do,\* Fulling Do, Merchant Do, Fulling Mill for skins, and all kinds of water works, Built in the Best manner.

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\*Oil mills were used for the manufacture of linseed oil from flax.

We were Led into a Beautiful Church, adorned with Pictures Representing our Saviour from his Birth to his Ascension.

Every Garden and Yard are planted beautifully with pleasant Trees and Groves. It is the prettiest Place to its Size I ever saw. We then Marched about four miles to a Very fine Spring where there was a Court Martial Held over Robert McCann, (he) was sentenced to have Twenty five Lashes on his Bare Back and a Discharge to be Given him. He was then Striped and tied up to a Sapling, but a Couple of Gentlemen Volunteers from Reading Begg'd him off to a Ducking. All hands were then ordered with pails and Kettles to attend and Pour the Cold spring Water on him. He was then most Severely Ducked and Discharged.

Thence we Marched for East Town (Easton) where we encamped.

Rested the next Day, Got our Ammunition Ready, Guns in order, and Tried them. Thence set off on the 30th. We Crosst the River Delaware and Marched 18 Miles and Encamped. Thence we Marched about (left out) miles where we were Met by a Number of Men and Women out of the Country who Brought us churns of Beer, Cyder, and Buttermilk, apples, cherries, etc., etc. We honoured them by firing at our parting. Thence proceeded To Sussex Courthouse, and Encamped where the Butcher and Landlady Used the Company Very Ill.

Thence Marched and Encamped three miles in New York. Thence marched to New Windsor on the North River. Were Biled out at Night, Used Very well and met a fellow who Called himself Col'o Thompson of Penn'a, Col'o of the Rifle Battalion. Found him an



Imposter. We Took him in the Morning and Striped his Clothes, put him on the Highest place in Town, and Gave him a Severe Tarring and Feathering, and afterwards Took him to the River to one of the Wharfs and Gave him a Severe Ducking. This was Done 3d August. We thence Crossed the River in two periauges that sail's Very fast across the River being about Three miles over, and Landed and Fixed all up again and went through Fishkill and Encamped at the Sign of the Black Horse. Thence marched to a Bloomery just over the line Between New York and Connecticut, by a Large Bridge over the River. Thence Started and went to Litchfield and were Used Extremely well. Thence to Farmington and Got Dinner where we Saw Some families of Regulars who had been Taken at Ticonderoga.

Thence Marched Ten Miles to Hartford the Metropolis of Connecticut, and Encamped.

Thence Crossed Connecticut River which runs by the Town, being about as large as Patomack at Shepherds Town. Vessels Go in Said River.

Thence Marched Twenty five miles & Encamped.

Thence Marched twenty seven miles and Encamped.

Thence marched twenty nine Miles to a Tavern where there were Three Girls. Had some Diversion. Thence Started and Marched Sixteen miles before Breakfast. Thence Nine miles to Water Town. Saw Some Riflemen Belonging to the Camp. Thence three Miles and a half to Head Quarters in Cambridge, Being Friday, 11th August. Was Viewed By Generals Washington, Gates, and a Number of other Gentlemen. Was placed Into the Church. I was prevailed on to Breakfast with the Commissary Gen'l Trumbull. Thence went to see the Forts on Prospect and Winter

Hills. Saw many Curiosities. Every place was full of people, most of them in Tents.

Thus far we have quoted Henry Bedinger's journal of the march, which he evidently partly wrote in camp, and probably very soon after his arrival. It will be noted that the company left Shepherdstown on the 17th of July, 1775, and reached Camp at Cambridge on the 11th of August. They therefore performed the journey of nearly 600 miles in three and a half weeks.

It will also be noted that there is no mention in this record of the alleged meeting with General Washington at some distance from the camp, or of his throwing himself from his horse and shaking hands with each man while the tears rolled down his cheeks.

These demonstrations, though unlike the usual calm demeanor of the Father of his Country, must have taken place, if Mr. Boteler's account has any historical foundation, which we suppose it has, as Mr. Boteler was an honourable and perfectly reliable gentleman, when Captain Daniel Morgan's Company arrived, which was a day or two before the 11th of August.\*

The appearance of the rifle companies from the frontiers of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, on their arrival at camp is graphically described by Washington Irvine in his "Life of Washington." "Nothing excited more gaze and wonder among the rustic visitors to the camp than the arrival of several rifle companies, fourteen hundred men in all, from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia,—such stalwart fellows as Washington had known in his early campaigns.

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\*See the rest of Col. Boteler's "My Ride to the Barbecue," as quoted in Norris' "Shenandoah Valley."

Stark hunters and bush fighters; many of them upwards of six feet high, and of vigorous frames; dressed in fringed frocks, or rifle shirts, and round hats. Their displays of sharpshooting were soon among the marvels of the camp. We are told that while advancing at quick step they could hit a mark of seven inches in diameter, at the distance of two hundred and fifty yards. One of these companies was commanded by Captain Daniel Morgan, a native of New Jersey, whose first experience in war had been to accompany Braddock's army as a waggoner. He had since carried arms on the frontier, and obtained a command. He and his riflemen in coming to camp, had marched six hundred miles in three weeks. They will be found of signal efficiency in the sharpest conflicts of the Revolutionary War."

Julian Hawthorne, in his "History of the United States," thus describes these riflemen:

"And then there are the fourteen hundred riflemen from the South, the *first troops of the war to respond to a regular call for enlisted men*. A magnificent body of men they are: all six-footers, athletic and vigorous, clad in fringed hunting shirts of deerskin, with cape on the shoulders, and with moccasins on their light-stepping feet. Clear-eyed, spirited, sun-tanned faces they have, and long hair that hangs to their shoulders; and with those rifles of theirs they can hit the bull's eye at three hundred yards. These fellows march with a swing and a stride; they camp on the bare earth, and account nothing a hardship but inaction. They are led by a superb giant, nearly seven feet tall, Daniel Morgan, of Virginia, and by Hendricks, of Pennsylvania, another Agamemnon. Though enlisted for a year only, these riflemen stayed through

the war. Their motto was trenchant and explicit, 'Liberty or Death,' and there were no troops in the army that better served their country.

The riflemen were, as a rule, picked men for strength and activity, as well as for marksmanship. As to the men being all six feet or over, that was not the case. Abraham Shepherd, for instance, is spoken of as a short man.

Nat. Pendleton was a broad-shouldered, and athletic young giant, very handsome, better educated than the majority of the young men of the Valley, and looking like a Norseman, with his fair hair and blue eyes. Henry Bedinger was considerably over six feet in height, sinewy and vigorous, straight as an Indian, with swarthy complexion, dark brown hair, and piercing gray eyes.

His brother, George Michael, is described as not "*inordinately tall*" with a fair complexion, dark hair, and blue eyes.

An amusing anecdote was told the writer by a granddaughter of Henry Bedinger, Mrs. Frances Gibson of Charles Town, who remembered him well, as she was about nine years of age when he died in 1843. She says he was once attending a political meeting in a school house, when the speaker became annoyed at the sight of his tall figure in a prominent position, and, stopping in the midst of his address, and pointing his finger at Mr. Bedinger, declared that he would not continue until "that man sat down, whereupon Major Bedinger drawled out: "If you want me to sit down more than I *am* sitting down, you will have to take up the boards under me."

## CHAPTER IX

### IN CAMP AT ROXBURY—AT STATEN ISLAND

**W**E will now continue the journal of Henry Bedinger. He says: "On the thirteenth August being Sunday, we were ordered to Roxbury Which is Six miles from Cambridge. We Crossed Cambridge River over the Drawbridge and got to Roxbury in the Night, were Obliged to Remain in the Barn by our House, where several Canon Balls had Come through, which Seemed Somewhat Frightful at that Time, None of the Company being used to Hear Canon Firing. We Got a house to Live in. Nothing happened thence until the Sixteenth of August when the Enemy fired Very Fast from Boston Neck on us. Hurt one Man belonging to the Train of Artillery Who was Struck with a Stone on his head Occasioned by a Canon Ball that Struck the fence and knocked him Down. I saw him fall and two men helped him up, and Led him a Long. However he Soon Got well again—the Enemy also threw Bumbs at Same Time, but Hurt no person.

"17th. Fired at our Fatigue but Hurt none.

"18th. Fired at our main Guard but Hurt none, but Broke Two Muskets.

"19th. They fired Some Canon and a Bumb which fell within fifteen Yards of our House but Hurt no person. Tore a Great Hole in the Ground. Did no Damage. On Saturday there Came a Desarter from the Enemy and Declared that they intended to Intrench near Brown's Chimney where their out Centries Stand. We then were ordered as picket Guard, 20 out of each Company went of Riflemen Every Night to Lamb's Dam, and Laid all Night to Guard against their Com-

ing to Intrench there, which was the first Duty the Riflemen Did, with 400 Musket men, and was Continued."

Others, besides Henry Bedinger, kept journals of the events of the siege of Boston. Mr. Thatcher, in his military journal of August, 1775, noting the arrival of the riflemen, says: "They are remarkably stout and hardy men, many of them exceeding six feet in height. They are dressed in white frocks, or rifle shirts, and round hats. These men are remarkable for the accuracy of their aim, striking a mark with great certainty at two hundred yards distance. At a review, a company of them while on a quick advance, fired their balls into objects of seven inches diameter at the distance of two hundred and fifty yards. They are now stationed on our lines, and their shot have frequently proved fatal to British officers and soldiers, who expose themselves to view, even at more than double the distance of common musket-shot."

A young man named McCurtin, one of the Maryland riflemen, also kept a journal, in which he wrote on the 15th of August, 1775: "We had a most amazing shout of cannon thunders, which at this time seemed strange and shocking to our young soldiers, during this, our first alarm."

Three days later, on the 18th of August, he wrote: "I was at breakfast in the former dwelling house of Dr. Williams when the British fired four thirty-two-pounders at the house, one of which rushed through the room and dashed one side out of the chimney, broke two partitions, and filled our dishes with plastering, ceiling, and bricks. George Switcher, Sergt. Torrel, and William Johnson were in the room when

this happened. Any man may judge whether or no this did not surprise us four young heroes; however, as I cannot say for the minds of them who were in company with me, but I know, to the best of my thinking, that I went down two pair of stairs of three strides without a fall, and as soon as I was out of doors ran to the breastwork in great haste, which is our place of safety, without the least concern about my breakfast, to James McCancie's amazement."

To return to Sergeant Bedinger's journal:

On the twentieth of August he wrote: Sunday. Went 3 miles to Church.

21st. Some firing from the Enemy, no Damage. In the night a Desarter from the Enemy Came, our Centries Fired at him but did not Hurt him. Next Day one Johnson out of Capt. Price's Company went to the Regulars. Took with him Two Suits of Clothes, 1 pr. Silver Buckles, and a Very fine Rifle Belonging to Some of the Company.

August 22nd. Were marched out into the Country for Refreshment.

23rd. The Enemy Fired Some Balls Very Near us, but Hurt no person.

24th. In the night the Regulars were Very Busy Rowing Boats, and Riding about their Breastwork. Lieut. Scott and Two More went Down so near their Centries that they threw some printed papers among them. A bullet Being Rapped up in the Same to make them fly well, the Substance of which was to shew them how well we Lived to what they did, Inviting them to peace, and over to us.

25th. There was an Alarm that there were about 900 Regulars attempting to land Below Dorchester

point, We immediately paraded and Marched, but before we came Near they had already Returned.

Saturday Night, 26th. Captain Creasop, Who Came in the night before, agreed to go and fire on the Centries. About Thirty of our Company, our Captain, Lieut. Scott, and Lieut. Shepherd went along, they all Borrowed Musketts, Loaded them with a Ball and about fifteen Swan Shott. They all Creap Down along a Ditch that passes the Chimneys, and so By the side of the Breastwork. Mr. Scott being that Course before he was Pilot, as he was going Very Softly there Raised out a Centry out of the grass within Twenty Steps of him and fired at him, but missed, he Lay still then but the Regular Run off. In about an hour after there Came about Thirty out to see what it was he fired at, when Capt. Creasop, Capt. Stinson (Stephenson) and Scott, all fired on them, and then some of our men fired and all Run, one of our men Lost his Gun by falling into a Hole in the marsh. Next Morning we Saw them Carry Two persons from that place, and Soon Learnt from some Desarters that we kill'd one man & Wounded two more. On the Same Night about four thousand of our men at Cambridge Took possession of Plowed Hill, Near Bunker Hill, and Began to Intrench, and before Sunday morning had made Cover for themselves, but as Soon as the Regulars\* Discovered them in the morning they Began to Fire and Kept a Continual Fire the whole Day with Bumbs and Balls. Killed an Adjutant Belonging to the Hampshire forces, and a Soldier, also a Volunteer, named — Simpson, had his Legg Shott off with a Canon Ball, and Died the Next Day—he Came from Baxton, Pennsa., a Rifleman.

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\*Henry Bedinger always called the British troops "the regulars."



Aug. 31st about one O'clock in the Night the Enemy Began a heavy Fire at us, Fired Between 20 & 30 Canon Balls, Killed Two Men of the Provincials, alarmed all the Camps.

Sep'r 1st. 1775. Firing more or Less from Both parties Every Day until the 11th inst., when one of the Regulars went out from one of the wharfs in a small Conoe to pleasure. The wind and Tide being Very Strong he Could not Get Back, when 1 Serjeant and four men went out In a Whale Boat to assist him, they were all Drove ashore on Dorchester Neck, Captain Stinson and part of the Company Ran Imediately to take them, but tho' pushing off along the Shore Side we were prevented by a Small Creek that Runs through the marsh, when a Number of Provincials Commanded by Lieutenant Sparrow Came Down by way of Dorchester Fort, and Surrounded them, ordered them to Come on Shore Imediately. They having No Arms with them were Obliged to Surrender Prisoners of War—Canons were Frequently Fired, Desarters Came in Great Numbers: one James Finly, a Serjeant in Capt. Price's Compy. of Riflemen, was Tried by a Gen'l Court Martial for Drinking Gauge's (Gage's) Health, Helping a Provincial to a Rifle to Desert with, Expressing himself Against the American Cause, was found Guilty and Sentenced to be Drum'd out of the Camp Sitting on a Cart, with a Rope a Round his Neck.

Sept. 19th. The above Finly was Drumed where there was Drums and fifes in plenty and Thousands of spectators—

Sept. 21st. Came to Cambridge about 3 Tun of Powder from Philadelphia. Near Col. Brewer's Camp Where 1 of the Provincials Stood Centry there Came

a Mare in the Night; it being Very Dark the fellow Challenged her, She making no Answer, Fired at her, Shot her Dead.

Sept. 22nd. It being the King's Coronation Day all was Quiet untill 12 O'clock, when they Fired about 100 Guns for Joy in Boston: the Ships were Illuminated with flags and also Fired. Fired from the Common, But Did not fire a gun at us, which was Somewhat Strange.—

23rd. the Enemy Fired 108 Shott at us. Did no Damage.—

25th. Orders Came out that 200 men prepare & Draw 4 Days provision to go on a Fishing Expedition. Accordingly 27 of our men Turned out of our Company, and Joined the provincials. Were to have half the Victuals Cooked, and Ordered to be Ready to Start on the 26th. We all Got Ready and Marched to Dorchester, where all the whale Boats Lye, when Major Tupper took the Command. We embarked in 28 Whale Boats, and set off, When Each Boat Carried one Rifleman in the front, We Rowed about three Miles, thence Carried the Boats across a Narrow Neck of Salt Marsh into the water on the other Side, when Two men were Ordered to stay with Each Boat to keep her afloat as the Tide went out, All the Company then went out and scattered about, this being all in Sight of Castle Wm. and of the Guard Ship. In the Evening we were ordered to the Boats, and Rowed to the Point of Rocks, where we all went on Shore to Receive Orders, Major Tupper Got on a Rock and Told us what we had Come for, that he Intended to go Round to Governor's Island Near the Castle, To take off a Number of Cattle and Horses which were on the Island. Every Boat was provided with 2 Halt-

ers, and had Seven padles, and padled from thence, We were not allowed to Rowe with the oars which must have made Too much Report, The Major divided us Into Three Divisions Four Boats in abreast. Capt. Chapin Comanded the first Grand Division Consisting of Eight Boats and Set off. Capt. Peters Com'd the Second Division, Containing the Like Number. Capt. Hemblen Command. the Third Division of Eight Boats and Capt. Drury with Two Boats Brought up the Rear, The Major and the pilot went foremost with Two Boats, and made towards Governor's Island. We had to pass Between the Light House and Castle, Round by apple Island, where we went Very near the Shore, where Some person Hailed us. We made no answer but Continued on, and in a Short Time Came to the Back of the Island, our Intended place. The Major and Pilot Landed first on the Right, Captain Peters on the Left of him, and Capt. Drury to the Left of the whole. We all Imediately Formed Two Deep on the Beach, only the Riflemen in single file under the command of Lieut. Shepherd. Two men were Left in Every Boat, who Imediately Turned the Head of the Boat from Shore to be Ready to make our Escape If we should be Repulsed. We then Marched up the Bank and all Round the Island but meeting no Enemies, which was Contrary to all our Expectations, we then proceeded to Take the Cattle, it then being about 12 Oclock at Night. The Cattle were a Little wild but were soon all Taken. Mean time one of the Provincials fell on the side of the Bank, his Gun went off, but by Good fortune did not Discover us to the Enemy, which were in a manner all Round the Island. After the Cattle were all Taken we then proceeded to take the Horses, but they were so frightened that Not-

withstanding all means was taken that was thought practicable, we were obliged to sett off with thirteen Cattle and Three Horses. One Steer got away soon and one of the Horses also, so that we got off but 12 Cattle & Two fine Horses. The Major sent off all the Boats but his own & Another, and then went up Into the Island again and Set a Large Frame House on Fire, also a Beautiful Boat almost Ready to Launch, Painted most Curiously, Supposed to be Worth One Hundred pound Sterling, and found a small Canoe Lying on the Beech with a Great Number of Canon Balls but Could not Destroy Them, being Near Day and the fire Giving Notice to the Enemy. The Major then Embarked and Soon landed on Chelsea Shore where he had sent us with the Cattle and Horses, it being a point of main Land that Runs within Two Miles of this Island. Seven of our Boats Lost themselves, but Came Next Morning as Day appeared. In the Morning as soon as Day Break Lieut. Shepherd and myself & Ten men of our Company were Dispatched Round by way of Cambridge home to Roxbury which was Just Twenty Miles and only five miles by water, but Before Day the major Ordered the Boats Round a point of Land out of Sight of the Enemy, where they Lay all Day and Returned to Dorchester the following Night Safe—We Guarded the Cattle round, first Came to Mystic, thence to Cambridge, thence Home, Delivered them to Gen'l Ward. One the road people met us, and after knowing where we got them said we had Run Great Hazards, &c, &c. The Island is of an Oval form, Contains Between fifty & Sixty Acres of Land. Lyes Between the Light House, the Castle, & the Town of Boston. It has a Bold high Shore, Was well fortified in the Last

war by our people. There is a Breastwork all Round with Beautiful ambuzurs\* and platforms. In the middle of the Island there is about Three Acres of Land Stockaded and picketed with Ditches In the Neatest Manner. The platforms were made so as to have three Canons to Run to Each platform—Sometime after we Came off the Island we Could See Some Flashes of Guns which was Done by a few marines that went from the Shiping About fifty in Number, as was Reported by a Desarter that Came from the Castle—

26th. Nothing material happened since, only Frequent firings from Both sides & at arrival of some Ships the Shiping Fired for Joy.

October 3rd. 1775. Orders Came to be Ready to pass Muster. In the (afternoon the) three companies of Riflemen were paraded on the Green, and the Lists were Called. Every Man passed by the Muster-Master General, with his Firelock Brought to a Recover, They all passed Muster Very well. We had also a Very Good Sermon preached to us by the Reverend Mr. Martin, Who Took part of the Command on Bunker's Hill In that Battle.

Oct. 4th. Wm. and George Tabb got their discharge from the General & set off for Berkely County. The same day Robert Eakins died, one of our Company.

October 5th. Robert Eakins was buried In the Burying Ground at Roxberry.

6th. The Enemy Fired 96 Canon Shott at us. Kill'd Two Cows, Shott one of the provincial's arms off, as he was standing Behind an apple Tree, the Ball Cut through part of the Tree and Took off his Right arm.

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\*Perhaps he means embrasures.

7th. Intelligence we have by a Desarter that Gen'l Gage had Taken his Leave from all the Soldiers, and was to Start Tomorrow for England, had Given up the Comand to Gen'l Howe of the forces.

9th. Nicholas Machin of our Company tried by a Genl. Court Martial for Breaking into Captain Creasop's house, and for Desertion, was found Guilty to the Complaint, and was Sentenced to have 39 Lashes on his Bare Back, to be Drumed out and Never to Return. At 8 OClock the punishment was Inflicted on him and Drumed out by 45 Drums, & Near as many fifes, with Thousands of Spectators.

October 11th. Tarrance Finnegan, one of Captain Creasop's Company of Riflemen, Tryed by a Genl. Court Martial for abusing his Arms, wasting his ammunition, Getting Drunk & Daming Lieutenant Davis, Charging him with Taking a false Oath, was found Guilty of the Charge, Sentenced to be Drumed out of the Camp, If he Returned was to have 39 Lashes on his Bare Back, was accordingly at 8 o'Clock Drumed out by 43 Drums & fifes, and several Thousands of people.

October 12. Orders came out that the Riflemen are to keep a Quarter Guard of their own to Guard their own prisoners, our main was reduced from four men to two, & fatigue Raised from 3 to 5. Nothing material, only plenty of Flags of Truce.

13th. The Young man who had his arm shattered on the 7th. died of his wound, the Surgeons Could not Stop his Blood. \* \* \* On the 10th inst. General Gage set off for England, the Ship that Carried him fired as he got on board, and soon after the Ship fired again and then Sailed out of the Harbour. \* \* \*

14th. Whispering of Storming Bunker's Hill, Flat

Bottomed Boats Ready at Cambridge. Floating Batteries Quite Ready.

17th. At night the Gen'l ordered that the Floating Batteries go and fire on the Commons of Boston from Cambridge about 10 o'clock they began to fire and fired fifteen Shott at the Enemy into the Town and on the Commons among the Enemies' Tents, which Greatly alarmed them, their Drums Beat to arms &c. But the Last Shott proved fatal to our floating Batteries, one of the Canon Being over Heated By often Firing Bursted & kill'd Two men Dead, and Wounded six more—

19th. Last Night Three men Came out of Boston by way of the Wharf and the help of a small Conoe, after Being fired at by one of the Canon from the Ship, Who bring this most agreeable News that some of the Balls from our floating Batteries had Gone through some of the Houses, had Tore through Whole Streets of the Tents on the Common, and had Disheartened the Soldiery In such manner that Everything was put into the utmost Confusion, that they had no hopes of any more Recruits this fall, tho' the officers fed their soldiers with such Vain words to keep up their spirits, & Were Sure that about Three thousand men might have taken possession of the Town. Were sure If any Such thing should be attempted the Soldiery would not Stand Long; also that they saw a poor\* Lamb sell for Eight Dollars & a half—that the Tories Began to be in Bad Bread among the Soldiers, that the Grand Tory, Col. Parish, went sometime past a-fishing & Came in to sell them (his fish), but was Drove off By the Soldiery. Neither was there half the Number of Tories In Boston we

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\*A thin lamb.

Suspected, but were obliged to profess themselves such to save their Estates. \* \* \*

25th. Just Recd Inteligence that the Town of falmouth on Casco Bay was burnt Down by some of the king's Ships of War, they Drew up in the Harbour & sent out a Flag of Truce, Informed the people that their Commands was to burn the Town and would Effect it in half an Hour. The Town sent a committee on board to Treat with them, Who with their Influence Got this matter postponed until 8 oclock the Next day, so that the Inhabitants Got most of their Goods out of the Town. Accordingly about 9 O'Clock the Enemy Began to fire on the Town, and Threw bumbshells and Carcases that Instantly Consumed the whole Town. No person was Kill'd and but one man wounded: under cover of the Smoak the Enemy Landed about 100 men, but were Soon Drove off again by Some minute men Before the Enemy began to fire the people asked why their spite Lay at that Town in particular, They Answered that Every Town within Reach of their Cannon from thence to Georgia should fare the same way. The Same Acc't Gives Inteligence that the Noted Captain Micheal Creasop from Virginia had Died in New York on the — Day of October and the Town was Burnt on the —\* Day of October. \* \* \*

28. Orders Came out Recommending that the Soldiers of the New Army do not Lay out their pay in anything but Shirts, Leather Breeches, Stockings, Shoes &c, that the Congress would provide Regimentals for them.

30. the Enemy have Not fired a single Cannon at us since the 6th of this Inst., The Like has not been

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\*Two blanks in the manuscript at this point.



observed to keep so Quiet so Long Since the Bunker Hill Fight. Flags of Truce are Back and forwards Frequently. \* \* \*

November 1st, & 2nd. Nothing Material, only some few men went out to the Light House and Brought away Two Horses, among which were some of Capt. Rawling's men. The Following is a Copy of a Letter Sent to one of the Generals in Boston by Doctor Church, the Director Gen'l of the Hospitals in the Continental Army, but was Taken before it arrived where it was Intended for.\* \* \* \*

I hope this will Reach you, Three attempts have I made without Success, In Effecting the Last the Man was Discovered in Making his Escape but fortunately my Letter was Sewed in the wasteband of his Breeches. He was Confined a few days, during which time You may Guess my Feeling, but a Little art and a little Cash Settled the Matter. It is a Month since my Return from Philadelphia. I went by the way of Providence to Visit mother.—\* \* \* The Committee of Warlike stores made me a formel Tender of 12 pieces of Canon, 18 & 24 pounders they having took a Previous Resolution to make the offer to Gen'l Ward. To make a Merit of my Service I sent them Down, and when they Received them they Sent them to Stoughton to be out of Danger Even tho' they had formed the Resolution as I had before Hinted of Fortifying Bunker's Hill: which Together with the Cowardice of the Clumsy Coll'o Parrish and Coll'o Seamman's was the Lucky Occasion of their Defeat. This affair happened before my Return from Philadelphia. We Lost 165 Killed and Since Dead of their Wounds.

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\*This letter from the traitor, Dr. Church, to General Gage, was printed in the newspapers of the day.

\* \* \* 120 now lie wounded, the Chief of whom will Recover. They Boast You had 1400 Killed and Wounded in that action. You say the Rebels lost 1500, I suppose with Equal Truth. The people of Connecticut are Growing Mad in the Cause of Liberty. A number from that Colony of the Town of Stamford Robbed the King's stores at New York with a Little Assistance the New Yorkers lent them. They were Growing Turbulent. I counted 280 pieces of Cannon from 24 to 30 pounders at King's Bridge, which the Committee had Secured for the use of the Collonys. The Jerseys are not A Whit Behind Connecticut in Zeal, the Philadelphians Exceed them Both—I saw 2200 Men in the Review by Gen'l Lee, Consisting of Quakers and other Inhabitants in Uniform with 1000 Riflemen and 40 Horse, who Together made a most Warlike appearance. I mingled freely with the Members of the Continental Congress, they were United and Determined in opposition, and appeared assured of Success. Now to Come home, the opposition is Become formidable, 18,000 men, Brave and Determined, with Washington and Lee at their Head, is no Contemptible Enemy, & Adjutant Gen'l Gates is indefatigable In Arranging the army.—Provisions are Very plenty. Clothes are Manufacturing in almost every Town for the Soldiers. 20 Tons of Powder Lately arrived at Philadelphia, Connecticut, and Providence, upwards of 20 Tons are now in Camp. Salt peter is making In Every Colony, Powder mills are Erected and constantly Employed and in Philadelphia & New York Volunteers of the first Fortune are flocking to the Camps. 1000 Riflemen have arived in Two or Three Days, Recruits are Raising to augment the Army to 22,000 Men. Militia are appointed in this Government

to appear at the first Summons. The Bills of all the Colonies Circulate freely, and are Readily Exchanged for Cash, Add to this that Unless some plan of Accomodation Takes place Imediately their Harbours will swarm with Privateers, and an Army will be Raised in the Midland Coloneis To take possession of Canada. For the Sake of the Miserable Convulsed Empire. Solicit a Repeal of the Acts, or Britain is Undone. This advice is the Result of a warm affection for my King & Realm. Remember I Never Deceived You, Every Article here Sent You is Sacredly True, the papers will Anounce to you that I am again a member for Boston,—there you will see our motly Council, a General Arrangement of officers will Soon Take Place, Except the Chief, which will be Suspended but for a Little while to see what Course Brittain takes in Consequence of the Late Continental petition. A View to Independence grows more and more General. Should Britain Declare war against the Colonies they are lost forever. Should Spain Declare War against England the Colonies will Declare a Neutrality, which will Doubtless produce an offensive and defensive League Between them. For God's Sake prevent it by a Speedy accomodation—Writing this has employed a Day, I have Been to Salem to Reconoiter, but could not Escape the Geese in the Capital. Tomorrow I set out for Newport on purpose to serve you. I write you this fully, it being almost Impossible to prevent Discovery, I am out of place here by choice, and therefore out of pay, and Determine to be so unless something is offered in my way. I wish You Could Continue to write me in Large Cyphers by the way of Newport, addressed to Thos. Richards, Merchant, Inclosed in a Cover to me, Intimating that I

am a perfect Stranger to you, but being Recommended to You as a Gentleman of Honour, &c, You Took the Liberty of Enclosing that Letter to me, Intreating me to Deliver it as Directed, the person as you are informed, Living in Cambridge, Sign Some Fictitious Name. This you may Send to some Confidential Friend at Newport to be Delivered to me at Watertown. Make use of Every precaution or Else I perish. ——— (This Tory is Confined. H. B.)

November 1st. 1775. Rec'd Inteligence that some of our privateers had Taken Several Tory Vessels Booty.

5. This being the Day of Rejoicing Concerning the Gunpowder Treason the Vessels all fired, the Castle Fired, In all Several Hundred Guns were fired which Covered Great part of the Town and other places with Smoak.

Nov. 6th. the Castle and the admiral Fired. Last Evening Capt. Thos. Price from Frederick Town Set off for that place, is Expected will not Return again this Winter.

Nov. the 9th. This Day a party of Regulars landed on Lichmore's point. The Tide being so High that it overflowed all the neck they Took this advantage, & about 300 men Drove off Some of the Cattle to the Boats that were on the Island, and possessed themselves of a stone Fence at the Entrance of the point, the water then Being waste High on the Neck. Took one of our Centinels prisoners. On their Landing, there was an Imidiate alarm. Coll. Thompson and the Riflemen being Ready first, They Ran Down. The Col'o. Rode Into the water & all the Riflemen followed him. The Enemy Seeing they were so Resolute Run from Behind the wall and Retreated Over

the Hill Towards their Boats whence a Heavy Firing Began. The Ship Fired Floating Batteries, &c, but by Good fortune none of our people were hurt. The Enemy presently got Into their Boats and pushed off. Supposed they Carried off some Cattle. The provincials also Came on but were Later than the Riflemen. The Regulars lost five Arms and Two men were found this Evening.

Nov. 10th. This day Three more were found Dead, which make five Killed Besides what must be wounded, One of the Riflemen was also wounded with a Swivel Ball, which was all the Loss on our Side.—

11th. Received Certain Inteligence that Gen'l Howe has Got a Reinforcement of Between 2 & 3 Thousand men—

12. News came to the Camps that our people has Taken St. Johns on the Lakes.

13. This Night past 12 Deserters Came from the Regulars, also Two prisoners were Taken who Ventured Too far out for apples. We Learn from the Desertars that the Reinforcement which had arrived were but 500 men, that about 1500 men were Hourly Expected.—

14th. The Gen'l expects an Engagement as soon as the other Troops arrive or not untill Next Spring.—

20. November. Sent a Letter by John Beverly to Mother in Virginia, Shepherds Town—Rec'd a Letter from Mother By the post Dated October 28th. Came to hand from Baltimore in 16 Days.

24th. R'd a Letter from Mother Dated 31st of October by the Hands of John Kees who came from thence.

28th. An Express arrived Last Night at Head Q's that Governor Carlton had Deserted the Town and

fortress of Montreal & that the said City had peaceably Surrendered to Gen. Montgomery & the Continental Arms.

Dec'r 2. Yesterday Died John Metcalf & Burried this day in the Roxberry Grave Yard in Decent and soldierlike Manner.

Dec'r 3d. Capt. Wm. Henshaw\* set off from Roxberry for Virginia Sent Two Letters with him the 1st Dated 28th November & 2d Dated 2d of December, 1775.

6th. John Kees Set off for Virginia Five Days ago. We had News that our Privateers had Taken a Store Ship from the Enemy, wherein was Bale Goods, Musket Balls, Bumb Shells, Carcases, Some Brass Canon, 1 Large 13½ Inch Brass Morter, & about 2000 Stands of Small Arms. On Saturday the 1st Day of December 1775 Thomas Steer Deserted & Suppose is gone home Considerably in Debt to Several in our Company.

7th. John Short, a Soldier in Coll. Cotton's Regiment Tryed by a Gen'l Court Martial for theft, Desertion, & Divers other Crimes. The C't Sentenced him to have 39 Lashes on his Bare Back & Suffer two Years Imprisonment In Simsberry Mines in Conecticut, he Rec'd his Corporal punishment about 4 OClock this Evening, & after the first five Stripes Never Said one word Untill he had his Due—This Day a C't Martial was held over some Riflemen Composed of Rifle officers the first Time—

9. Two of Cap't Rawling's men & one of Cap't Price's men Tryed by the above C't Martial for Divers Crimes were Sentenced to be Whipt, accordingly the Three Companys were Drawed up, Formed a Hollow

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\*He was first Lieutenant of Captain Stephenson's company but had been promoted in November 1775.

Square, (the men) were Tyed to an apple Tree, & Rec'd their Corporal punishment—

Dec'r. Some firing from a ship at our People at Cobble Hill & Lichmore Point. Early this morning the Ship Removed from her Station, She Being exposed to our Canon on Cobble Hill fort, who Gave her some few Shott—

25. Christmas Day. Nothing has happened, only frequent firing at Cobble Hill Since the ship went away—

December 30th 1775. Gen'l Sullivan and his Brigade made an attempt to Take Bunker Hill but the Ice Not being Strong Enough to bear the Army they were obliged to Give over, tho' (they) Tryed it again the Second Time, also in the Night, but found it Impracticable.

January 1st. 1776 1776 1776 1776.

Some few days past Capt. Martindale of one of the Privateers was Taken by a Ship of war & Carried Into Boston, and has since been Sent to England.

3'd. Capt. Coit Came to the Camps from privateering.

4. Nat. Pendleton Returned from on Board a Privateer.

9th. Wm. Davis, a Soldier in Capt. Stinsons Comp'y Died at the Hospital in Jamaica Plains, He being on Duty but about five or Six Days before he Died.

10th. About this Time a Great Number sick in our Comp'y.

12. an Indian Named Simpson Tryed by a Gen'l C't Mart'l for Shooting & wounding a Serg't in the Legg was Sentenced To Receive 39 Lashes and be Drumed out of the Camps, accordingly this Morning

about 10 O'clock he was Punished on the Grand Parade & Sent off with a Vast Number of Drums & fifers & the usual Ceremony & Tune—

Roxberry January 12th 1776 We hear by the papers from the Great Bridge Near Norfolk in Virginia that on the Night of the 8th of December the Regulars made an attempt to Drive our People out of their Intrenchments Near the great Bridge but were Bravely Repulsed, Killed, & (we) Took 62 men, & the night following (they) Left all their works and went on board their Ships —

Last Monday it being the 10th Inst, Major Knowlton was Dispatched with 100 men to make an Incurision into Charles Town By the Mill dam that Lays between Cobble Hill & Bunker's Hill, about 9 O'clock at Night and Imediately Proceeded Down the Street On the Westerly Side of Bunker's Hill, A part of the men at the Same Time under Capt. Keyes were posted on the East Side of the Street Just under the Hill to Intercept any person who might Escape from the Houses in the Street—Some of which were occupied by the Enemy. These Houses were a little out of the Compact part of the Town, were Suffered to Remain unburnt in June Last, for their own Convenience,—they were now Surroundered and set on fire by our men — In one of them they found Six men & one woman, all of these only [except] one fellow, who Refused Coming were Brought off, & he was Kill'd on the Spot — In another of the Houses According to the Information of the Prisoners Lived Seventeen of the Enemies Carpenters,—as the woman says She went to Borrow Something at this House Just before our men Arrived, but Seeing no Light & not being able to get into that part of the House



where they Kept, She Concluded they were all asleep. As it is Very Certain that no one Escaped from the House, and as our men sett the Houses on fire Very Suddenly it is thought the whole Seventeen perished in the flames — There were Ten Houses burnt, and 6 or 7 musketts Brought off. Some few Houses are Still Standing, the whole was performed in Less than an Hour, without the Loss of a Single man, Either Killed or Wounded, tho' the Enemy Kept a Constant fire of small arms Every way from Bunker's Hill. Our men Did not fire a Single Gun untill all was over, we were all Alarmed here and Could See the Blaze of the Houses, Saw the whole firing which made no small Shew —

Jan'y 17th Recd. Inteligence that our army at Quebeck had made an attempt to Storm the Forts but Were very Unfortunate, that Gen'l Montgomery & his aid De Camp and Between 60 or 70 officers & privates were killed, that about 300 Were Taken prisoners — amongst whom were some field officers —

22d Some of the Enemies came and made attempts to Set Gen'l Ward's House on fire but their Scheme Miscaried —

January 25th 1776 We hear that a Number of our canon were Spiked up at Kings Bridge By Some Tories, some of Which have been Taken. — Capt. Manly has Taken several prizes Lately — We hear by the Papers from Virginia that Lord Dunmore's fleet had set the Town of Norfolk on Fire and Burnt the Greatest part thereof Down — this was done on the 4th of January, 1776. — The Papers Mention About 600 Tories that had Gathered in Westmoreland under one Plunker, who was Routed by some of our minute men on the 21st of December—& on the 23'd they assumed

to cross the River but were warmly Recd, and about 50 of them Kill'd. Our Loss were but 2 Kill'd & some few wounded —

Feb'y 1st. Last Tuesday An Express arived from Canada that (by which) we have the Pleasure to hear that our Army, Notwithstanding the Loss sustained in the Late unfortunate attack upon Quebec, Still continue the Blockade of that City, and that we have good hopes of the Reduction of that Capital before Spring, as there have been Reinforcements to our Little army.

11 Rec'd a Letter by the Post from Capt Will'm Morgan, Virginia, Dated 3rd December 1775. Came from Baltimore in fifteen days —

Feb'y 14th 1776. This morning Very Early we discovered Part of the Houses were set on fire on Dorchester point by the Enemy, & Soon Learnt that they had Landed on the Lower end of the point, from the Castle, also from the town of Boston at the upper end of the point, a number to the amount of about 300 Men in the whole, in order to take the Guard, which was kept Low down in the neck—Consisting of Sixty-Five Men. Capt Barns who Commanded the Guards Finding himself in a manner Surrounded thought it most Prudent to Retreat and Get off the Point as fast as Possible—there were about Six or seven of our centinels Taken prisoners.

15th. I Heard Mr. Frazier say that there was an Express Lately from Canada Brings an accompt that our men had Taken fifteen prisoners & Kill'd Eleven of the Enemy, all of which had been Sent out a wood Cutting by Gen'l Carlton from Quebec—Also that Capt. Daniel Morgan of Virginia was the First man that mounted the Ramparts, that he Kill'd five of the

Enemy and Unfortunately was made a prisoner, and most of his men are Either Kill'd or taken.

22d In the Evening it Being a Snow Storm Major Brewer Took 12 Serjts and went Down the Dike from Lamb's dam Towards The Block House on the Neck a Little Below the Chimneys where the Enemies Centries Stand, thence he Crossed and went into the Road that Leads from the Enemies fort-Gate up Towards the Chimneys, and Come upon the Enemies Centries, as tho' he came out of the fortification to Relieve them. He Immediately Ordered them to Drop their firelocks which they did, and so Brought away a Corporal & two privates prisoners, the Corp'l was a stout well Made man. Each of them were Very Sorry Because they were taken —

23. Five Regiments were ordered to take their alarm posts at 11 O'Clock with the Riflemen. We were all placed along Two Deep, the Riflemen in the Fort, & one Reg't of Musquet men, and the others a long the Breastwork. Toward Roxberry Street, all in proper order, it being the Prettiest Sight Ever my Eyes Beheld — I sent a Letter home pr the Post Dated 20th Inst. 1776.

March 1st was Brought from Cambridge to Roxberry Camp four Bumb Mortars with a Vast Quantity of Bumb Shells, hand Grenades, Ropes, Straps, handspikes and all kinds of Utensils for those Mortars with their Beds &c.

2d This Day was Brought to Roxberry a Very Large Mortar Piece and Everything Compleat for the same, & Imediately Fixed her Into the Fort on the Right — About 3 Days ago Capt Stinson and the Rest of the Rifle Officers went on Dorchester point In Order to Look out Some advantageous post, the

Enemy Fired two Balls from the Wharf in Boston at them Did no Damage &c.

March 2d In the Night of the 27th of Feb'y John Curry, one of our Riflemen Deserted to the Enemy, Took with him his Messmates Gunns, Shot Pouch &c, &c. This Day was two more Canon Fired at the Enemy Nearer Roxberry Street—

3d Last Night were thrown Bumbshells Into Boston the first Time, first from Lechmore's point, thence from Roxberry Fort, Two Mortars were Brought into the fort, the one By Great Misfortune was Broke to pieces in throwing the first Shell, and unfortunately wounded Two Men, tho' not V̄ery Bad — Orders Came out to prepare for an Engagemēt —

4th Orders Came out to go on Dorchester Point and Intrench, two Rifle-Companies from Cambridge were ordered here. In the Evening as soon as Sun Down our Teams Began to Load with Intrenching Tools, Spears, Canon, about 100 Teams to Carry Facines and pressed Hay, accordingly 2000 men and upwards went and Began the work and about 1 O'Clock our five\* Companies of Riflemen Marched on, when the Others had already made Two Compleat Facine forts on the Top of the Two Hills, made Two Redoubts and a Cover along the Neck with hay. We marched a Little Beyond the Forts and posted ourselves behind a hill Near the Water Edge where we Remained as Silent as possible. Mean Time our Forts Fired Shot and Threw Bombs into Boston from

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\*In December Bedinger spoke of "our three companies of riflemen." These were Captain Stephenson's of Virginia, Captain Price's and Captain Rawlings' of Maryland. Two more rifle companies appear to have joined them early in 1776. Captain Morgan had gone to Canada in the fall.

Brookline, from Lichmore's point & Cobble Hill. They were no Less busy In throwing as many Bomb Shells and Shott as we, which made no Small Noise, One Canon Ball Struck a Lieutenant in the Back part of the thigh Next to his knee as he Stept out of the Door of a house in Roxberry from which wound he Died in about 4 hours —

5th. About 3 O'Clock the first 2000 men were Relieved by 3000 & upwards, who all Began to work at Intrenching and made Great progress: before 8 in the morning the Canon were fixed In Both the Forts and Redoubts, a Vast number of Barrels of Dust and Sand wre Set around Each fort on the Top of the Hills in order to Roll Down to Break the Ranks of the Enemy If they offered to attack us, the Riflemen Lay Still at the hill. (The) General Requested they should (remain) another Night and Untill the Tide went out on the Next Day which Capt Stephenson Consented to who Commanded the five Companies provided the Gen'l would send us another Day's provision which he did Next Morning. Towards the Evening a Schooner went out of the harbour toward the Castle But Run a Ground & the Tide Left her there pretty Near the Shore. Some of the Artillery Men with a small Brass Field piece went Down from the Hill to fire upon her, Accordingly they fired three Shott when through Great Misfortune the piece went off too soon, and Took off One Man's hand and put out one Eye — At the Same Instant there Came Down to her Relief Two Brigs of war, so that put an End to our firing on the Schooner. This Night we Expected an Attack but there arose Such a storm Towards Day that it was Impossible for them to Land, the men worked on Bravely and we Lay Still.

March 6th. Nothing appeared as If we were going to be attacked, Capt. Stephenson Ordered us to March off the point About Two O'Clock in the afternoon in View of the Enemy. About 5 O'Clock came two Companies of Riflemen from Cambridge and Relieved those Who had been on the point with us, the Enemies fired a few Shott Towards the New forts but to no purpose only Hurt 3 Guns and then Quit Firing Entirely—

7th. This Day is appointed a Day of Prayer by the Legislature of this Colony. All the Riflemen are ordered on the point by 9 O'clock in the forenoon, &c. Came off at 3 O Clock.

8th. This Day a Flagg of Truce Came from the Enemy with a petition from the Select men of Boston to Gen'l Washington, & By the Consent of General Howe, the purport of which was that if our forces kept firing on the Town or Burbardin it he would move off and Burn the City — but If he Did not Fire he (General Howe) will not Burn the Town. It Seems he is Determined to Move off at Any Rate.

9th. Orders Came that the Riflemen Should hold themselves in readiness to March at an Hour's Warning —

10th. about 2 Hours after Dark the Enemy Began to fire on a party of our men who were throwing up a Breastwork on the Nearest point to Boston on Dorchester. They fired from a Small Vessel from Boston Neck, from the wharf, from Fort Hill, &c. Supposed they Fired 1000 Shott as it Lasted the whole Night. Our people Fired into Boston from Roxberry. The Firings Continued all Night. We had 1 Surgeon & Three men Kill'd.

13th. Rec'd orders to be Ready to March tomorrow at 10 O'Clock.

14th. Set off with our whole Company for Cambridge.

This ends the very graphic account of the winter at Roxbury Camp. Henry Bedinger speaks of five companies of Riflemen commanded by Captain Stephenson. One of the these was probably Captain Cresap's Maryland Company. It will be noted that he speaks of Captain Cresap of *Virginia*, and says he died in New York. This was because Cresap settled in western Virginia before the Revolution. Captain Daniel Morgan's Company had been ordered to Canada, where at the siege of Quebec most of them were taken prisoners.

It seems probable that another, possibly two or three more rifle companies had been raised in Maryland and Virginia in the fall of 1775, or the winter of 1776. William Henshaw, first lieutenant of Stephenson's company, had been promoted to a captaincy, and very probably commanded one of these new companies.

## CHAPTER X

### HENRY BEDINGER'S JOURNAL OF 1776 CONTINUED

**M**ARCH 15th. 1776. Friday. Were ordered to March to New York. The whole Battalion of riflemen were Ordered to March Ditto. Marched 9 Miles to one Flagg's.

16th. Marched off to Deacon Ben. Woods the Hartford Road. 20 Miles. the roads were so Excessive Bad the Teams Could Not follow us. Staid awhile in Westborough. Saw Some warlike Stores, viz 17 pieces of fine Canon, two Mortars & 1 Cohorn—

17th. Drawed 6 Days allowance of Beef & Pork. Thence Marched to Mr. Sherman's—7 Miles. Rec'd Intelligence that the Enemy had evacuated the town of Boston on Saturday after we Left Cambridge. Left a number of Canon Spiked up and Many other Stores. Left the town in Great Haste.

18th. Marched to Shumway's—15½ Miles.

19th. Marched to Woodstock—12 Miles.

20th. Marched to Wilson's—25 Miles.

21st. Marched from Wilson's to Hartford—17 Miles. This being the Metropolis of Conecticut, a seaport Town, Situate on Conecticut River. Very pretty place. Saw Some Regular officers Taken at St. John's, &c.

22nd. Took in fresh provisions, &c—112 Miles to Boston.

23rd. Marched from Hartford to Wethersfield, 4 Miles, thence to Wallingsford 22 Miles—26 Miles.

24th. Marched to New Haven, a large Seaport Town Beautifully Situated on the Sound, a Number of Vessels in the Harbour, a Brigg of 14 Guns on the



Sound, and a Schooner fitting out of 12 Ditto.—13 Miles. Thence Marched to Millford, a small seaport Town Just fifty Miles from Hartford.

25th. Thence Marched to Stratford River—4 Miles. thence to Fairfield, a County Town, a place of Trade and Seaport.

26th. Marched to Norwalk, a small Seaport Town—12 Miles. thence to Stramford, fresh provisions. &—14 Miles.

27th. Marched through Horseneck to Rye—10 Miles. thence to East Chester in New York Government—10 Miles—20 Miles.

28. Marched Over Kingsbridge to New York—20 Miles.

29. Viewed the City, the Numerous Canon Ready fixed. Every Street Towards the Water in all parts of the Town fortified with Breastworks, &c. East, West, North, and South of the Town are Forts. Saw the King's Effigy on a Horse in his proper Size on a large Marble Pillar Beautifully Gilded, Stands in Broad Street Near the old fortification in a Yard that is all picketed in with Iron palisadoes. Likewise Lord Pitt, the Earl of chatham, in Broadway Enclosed in Like Manner. Saw all the Large Buildings. the City Hall, Royal Exchange, all the Beautiful Churches.

30th. went to see the Water Works which are the Most Curious I ever heard of, the Water is Raised by the Strength of Fires So High as to be Brought all over the City. The works are not yet finished.

March 30th. 1776. Sent a Letter per post to Mother, Dated March 30th 1776. Rec'd orders to March to Staten Island. Yesterday and today five Regiments of Musketry arived at this place from the Grand Camps, Cambridge and Roxberry—

31st. Took a view of the Grand Hospital not Yet Finished, Fortified with Breastworks, &c.

April 1st. 1776. went on Board a Privateer & Viewed her. There are three now at this place. Two Ships of war Lye off the Town—

2nd. This Day Five Regiments of New England Troops were Reviewed by his Excellency General Heath, they made a Much Better appearance than they did at home—

3rd. Last Evening a Number of our Troops went and set fire to Some Houses on Bedley's Island that Lies Just opposite the City Near the Asia man of war the Enemy's men were Intrenching on that place. Supposed to harbour the Tories, Brought off their Intrenching Tools, Some fine Shirts, &c. The Asia fired but did not Hurt any person—at same Time the furnace was set on fire where they Run Canon by Some Enemy's to their Country, but was prevented burning Down by our People—this Day the Honorable Major General Putnum Arived in this City from the Grand Army at Boston—

4th. We hear the Enemies Fleet Left the Castle demolished, Set off from nantasket Road on Thursday, 27th March, 1776. The following is a List Taken from the Best accompts that could be had of the Stores left in Boston by the Enemy—Viz: 100 Pieces of Canon in Town from

9 to 32 pounders.

100 Do at the Castle.

4 Mortars 13½ Inch, two of them with Beds, weight 5 Tons Each.

2500 Chaldrons of Sea Cole.

Staten Island April 4th 1776.

A List of Stores in Boston left by the Enemy.

25000 Bushels of wheat. 1300 Bushels of Barley.  
6000 Bushels of oats in one Store. 100 Jars of Oyl  
Containing 1 Barrel Each. 150 Horses Marked G. R.,  
almost Starved. Some Canon and Mortars have Been  
since Discovered in the water—

We were ordered to March, accordingly we set off  
and Crossed the North river in a periaugre. Capt.  
Williams Company was left at Powles Hook ferry  
(Paulus Hook) and the other two Companies Marched  
on to a Village Called Bergen about Ten Miles from  
the Ferry where we halted about Two Hours until  
Lord Stirling came up to us with the Company that  
was left at the Ferry, thence Marched Together to the  
Ferry that leads over to Statin Island & Crossed with  
Two Companies. Capt. Rawling's Company was left  
at the Ferry, and Stationed along Down the water.  
The other two Companies were Stationed Down on the  
Island & We keep a piquet Guard of 25 men. 1 Serj't,  
1 Corp'l, 1 Subaltern at a point near some fresh water,  
about Seven Miles from New York, to prevent the  
men of war getting any.

5th. The men were Bileded out Into several Houses  
by 10, & 8, & 5, etc. Lord Sterling left us the same  
Evening when he came, and went to Amboy in the Jer-  
seys, about 14 Miles from here—

6th. Nothing material.

7th. About 9 OClock in the Morning being on  
easterday an Express Came that the men of war's  
were Landing at the watering place and were Taking  
in fresh water. A twelve Gun Ship was Sent to  
Guard them, a Small Sloop was Sent Close to Shore,  
and then the Barrels and Hogsheads were landed by  
two Barges, with about 20 men to fill them. They  
also Imediately Set a Centinel on the Hill about 200

Yards from the Watering place, and set up the King's Colours. Our Men all being Billeted Nearer than the officers they were within sight before the Capt Could come, where they Remained for orders—as soon as the Cap't Came he and the men made the Best of their way to surround the men. The Centinel fired at seeing our Men and alarmed them, they Imediately made off to their Boats, but our Men were so close upon them they Could not Get off but one boat with a few men in it. Wm. McKew took the first prisoner, Took his Gun, etc, at the Same Time the Rest of the men Took Eight more. Mr. Lockett\* wounded one man in the Back, who was made prisoner. All this time the Savage ship of war fired small arms, Swivels, and Canon shott at us, shot Rusty Iron and all sorts of Small Stuff but Hurt no person—the nine prisoners were sent off to the Capt's Quarters, when a few men were sent to Look along the water, one of them Espied a fellow hiding and skulking along, who was soon overtaken and shewed where the Colours lay. There was one man left in the Sloop who made Shift to Cut the Cable and so beat off, The people in the City saw the firing and Imediately sent out about 300 Men to our assistance, tho we did Not want them. One of the prisoners is an Inhabitant who always pilated the Enemy's Vessels. Our Men kept the ship afiring about 3 hours to no purpose. We are almost Certain some of the Enemy were killed besides those prisoners which are taken—10 men— We Got 1 Very pretty Barge. 29 Casks all Iron hoopt. 1 Iron Pot, 1 Small Anchor and Cable, 1 Musket. 1 Flag. We have Gained Great applause—  
We have now followed Stephenson's Riflemen for

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\*Mr. Lockett was a lieutenant in Captain Otho Williams' company, and was probably visiting Captain Stephenson.

nearly nine months. We have seen how long they were on their way, and what route they took. They left John Keyes very ill on the march. He seems to have recovered, gone back to Berkeley and joined the camp again at Roxbury, thence returning to Virginia, and acting as a messenger. We are told that Robert McCann was ducked and discharged for insubordination; that Eakins, Medcalf and Davis died in camp; that William and George Tabb were discharged and returned home; that Nicholas Makin was flogged and drummed out of camp for burglary and desertion; that Thomas Steer deserted and went home, and that John Curry went over to the enemy.

We have now had Henry Bedinger's account of the first skirmish of any importance in which the riflemen engaged. We have been so fortunate as to discover a letter from Captain Hugh Stephenson, in which he reports this engagement to his commander in chief. This interesting old letter is preserved in the manuscript room of the Library of Congress and is as follows:

LETTER FROM CAPTAIN HUGH STEPHENSON TO GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

Staten Island April 8th 1776

May it Please Your Honor

Yesterday about Ten O'clock, the ship Savage and the James pilate-boat came up the Sound under cover of thick fogg to the Watering place of this Island. Each sent a Boat of eleven men to take in water of which I received Intelligence and prepared to attack them. They received Information of our approach, and a Signal Gun was fired for their retreat which they endeavored to effect under cover of a brisk and

almost constant fire from the Savage, but being closely pursued were oblig'd to leave behind them One Standard, one Musket, one Boat, twenty-seven Iron-bound Barrels, one Cable, Anchor, and Buoy, one Speaking-trumpet one Iron pot and two watch-coats. Ten men were taken prisoner in the boat, and in the water, attempting to make their escape (one of whom is wounded). One man being shot fell into the water, and two others fell on board, of which we are confident, many were Wounded, but as I cannot inform you with certainty you'll please refer to four deserters who came ashore last night from the Phenix, for better information, two Boys from New York who went on board the Black Joke Saturday and were towed in their canoe by the James to the watering place yesterday Morning and landed, are supposed to be the persons who gave the ships' crew notice that the Riflemen were approaching, and are therefor made prisoners, they inform that messrs Weatherhead and Wallace of New York frequently go on board the phenix from Long Island—I have undertaken to send Derby Doyle as a prisoner for Selling provisions to and holding Correspondence with the Enemy. I have the pleasure to inform your Honor that the Officers and Soldiers under my Command behaved (in the late little Skirmish) with a Spirit and Conduct becoming Advocates for Liberty. I am to acknowledge myself oblig'd to Capt. Rawlings, his officers and men, for the Assistance they prepar'd to lend us, by crossing the river in the most expeditious manner—a list of the prisoners will be delivered by Lieut. Finley, to whom I beg to refer Yr. Honor for further particulars.

I have the pleasure to subscribe myself your Honor's

Most Obt. Hble Srvt.

Hugh Stephenson.

## CHAPTER XI

### CONCLUSION OF THE JOURNAL OF HENRY BEDINGER

**A**PRIL, 8th. Strong Guards are kept at the watering places. In the Night past Four Deserters Came from the men of war who bring accompts that the Capts of the King's Ships are Very Much exasperated at us and swear Vengeance against us. The prisoners were sent to New York, also one Dyle (Doyle), a tory the Capt Took and Sent with the prisoners.

9th. More Tories have Been Sent for and brought before the Capt.

10th. Saw George Tingle, who Came in Capt. John Nelson's Compy of Riflemen from Virginia and Maryland.

11th. Sent a Letter home to Mother Dated April 11th, 1776. Just Recd Inteligence by the Newspapers that the Grand Congress had opened a free Trade to all Nations Except Brittian and her Dependants—also that on Saturday, 5th Inst, Some of our Fleet and the Enemies' Met, when they had a Very sharp Engagement but the Enemies bore off—

14th. All the ships at the Narrows Sailed off and the Asia Man of war fell Down the Narrows and Anchored there. Yesterday Captain John Nelson and Company Came on the Island. We Began to Intrench at the watering place—

15th. Last Evening Gen'l Washington arived at New York. Yesterday when our people were Intrenching they found a Large Grappel and a Very Large Cable to it Belonging to the Tender that were fetching water at that place the Sunday before.

16th. Captain Nelson's Company Sett off for New

York in order to go to Quebec. Saw a ship launched of 240 Tun Burthen—

April 18th. Early in the Morning the Asia ship of war Moved out from the Narrows towards Sandy Hook. Some News Stirring of the Taking of Quebec.

25th. Much is printed and Publickly Debated in all Newspapers Concerning American Independency.—17,000 foreign forces are to be Sent to America by the King, &c. We are informed that the Ministerial Fleet has arived at Halifax—We hear that Governor Eden of Maryland is taken into Custody—Last Sunday Brigadier Gen'l Thompson Set out for Quebec with five Regiments of New England troops—

28th. A few Days Since the Asia and phanix Moved Down some men and Landed at the Light House from the man of war in order to Get water. Some Jersey Men went and Took 16 men prisoners and filled the well full of Stones, &c—More Pennsylvania Troops have Come in to New York Lately—

May 1st. About 4 Days past there was a man's head and another Man's whole Body found Somewhere about the hold Ground, Supposed to be Robbed and Murdered by the Bad women there or their associates, the man's head was Wrapt up in a woman's apron—

Last Satturday Night five Negro men ran away in a boat and Got on board the Asia Ship of war, the Negroes belonged to several Farmers on this Island but to their Great Surprise the Capt ordered them to be Set on Shore again and Return to their masters after they had been on board two Days, with about 4 Dollars in Money and a Letter to one of the Negroes' Masters Setting forth that they were a Fishing off the Shore and that one of the Barges had Taken them and



Detained them that Time against their will—all this was thought to be only a piece of policy In the Capt. of the Asia. The Negroes were Tried and were Sentenced to have 30 Lashes apiece well Laid on.

8th. The Fourth Battalion of Pennsylvania passed by for New York.

9th. Wm. McKue of our Company had the Misfortune to have his Left hand Blown off by firing his rifle which Bursted above half-Length of the Barrel open, Blew away the Lock and Tore his Left hand in a shocking maner, so that it has been Taken off at the Wrist Joint.

11th. Martin Wolford from Virginia Came. Rec'd a Letter by him Sent from Mother, Dated May 3rd 1776. Mr. Wolford Brought the first Accompt of the Engagement Between the Liverpool and Roebuck Men of war with our Gondolas In Delaware River Below Philadelphia—By the Best accompts since we Learn that we Lost one man and had three wounded, that the ships were forced to Make off Down the River—Yesterday Three privateers with a number of Whale Boats went out Towards the Hook, and this Day we heard some firing which we have since found was the whale Boats after a Tender—No Damage on Either Side.

14th. Martin Wolford Returned Home, and Conway Oldham is also Gone Home on Furlough—\*

16th. We have Certain accompts that the Two Ships of war were forced to Move Down out of the way of our Gondolas Down Delaware river, and that we had one man Killed and Eleven Wounded, Some of which have Died since the Engagement—

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\*No changes have been made in this journal except a few marks of punctuation, to make the meaning clear.

This Day passed over the Ferry Ten waggons Loaded with Powder Containing about Sixteen Tun Weight, which was Imported from France—The Congress Encouraged Trade to Such a Degree that there is no Limited Prices for any Merchandize—Except Teas—

20th. We hear that our forces before Quebec were obliged to raise the siege, that we have Lost a Number of sick who have Been Taken by the Enemy, and two or three pieces of Canon, Some Ammunition, and provision has fell into the Enemies' hands. George Merchant of Capt. Morgan's Company of riflemen Taken at Quebec was Sent Home to England and there Set at Liberty. Some Gentlemen were so kind as to Cloathe him and Give him Money Enough to pay his passage to America. He set off from England the 24th March & Arived at Halifax in 23 Days, from thence he and some others who had been Detained as prisoners taken at Sea, Made their Escape and in a few Days Came to Boston, from whence he was Dispatched an Express to Gen'l Washington, and from thence to Congress. I saw him at the Ferry, he gave me Very Satisfactory Accompts of his affairs, how he had fared, &c. We Learn that there are Some Troops arived at the Borders of Carolina Consisting in Number about 2000, &c.

May 24th. 1776. Yesterday an express arrived at New York which Brought that Captain Mumford had taken a prize Near Boston that had on Board 75 Tun of Powder, 1000 Stand of Small Arms, & Many other Valuable Articles Computed to be worth 40,000 Sterling. This prize was Taken the 17th of this instant—

The Next Day after Seeing his prize safe into Boston (he) went to get out to Sea, Early in the Morning

there Came off thirteen Boats from the Men of War, to take him. He Got Ready to Receive them, before they Could board the Schooner he Sunk five of the boats and the Remainder attempted to Board her, but the privateers men Cutt off some of their hands, others their fingers, &c. In this Time the Capt. Received a wound in his Breast, he Called to the Lieutenant and said "I am a Dead Man. Don't Give up the Vessel. You will be able to Beat them. If not Cut the Cable and Run her on Shore." He then expired in a few Minutes. The Lieutenant then Run her on Shore, and the Boats Made off—The men that were Taken up from the Boats that sunk say that they Lost Near 100 Men, the Schooner had but one Man Kill'd Dead besides the Captain—

28th. Nothing Material has Lately Happened on the Island—

29th. Captain Stephenson Came from Virginia and Took the Command of the Company, &c.

June 1st. Rec'd a Letter from Home Dated May 9th, 1776, pr. post.

June 6th. We had an acct. here that our people were Defeated In Small parties Twice and a Number Taken by the Enemy, that they were all Retaken and about 6 or 700 of the Enemy Made prisoners.

12th. Orders were Sent over from the General to Remove us to the South Side of this Island—

13th. Marched to the South Side of this Island and Were Biletted In Different houses, &c. About Seven Miles from Northfield.

14th. Two Irishmen that had been working about on this Island for some time made their Escape and went on board the Asia, man of war.

20th. Rec'd Orders My Self to proceed home-wards, &c.

22nd. Just Rec'd Intelligence that a most Helish plot of Conspiracy has been Laid against General Washington's Life in which two of his Life Guards have been Confederates, the Mayor of the City of New York was the chief man, the City was to have been set on fire in Several places, the magazine Blown up, and the General Shott Dead, The Headmen of the Traitors are Confined, one or Two have Turned Evidence—The Detachment Sent from New York to burn & Destroy the Light House is Returned without Effecting anything as the shipping was able to keep our people at too large a Distance, So that our Field pieces Could not Batter the walls Down. No person Kill'd nor wounded, tho' a Great Deal of firing.

23rd. The Scheme for killing all the General Officers was known to General Washington Near Fifteen Days before this Date, but Could not be properly found out until Now—there are Near Thirty men, Mostly of the first Rank, Concerned in it. Those that they thought they Could Depend on amongst the Conspirators they Gave Twelve pound Bounty, As soon as the fleet appeared before the Town, the Canon was to have been spiked up, the Magazine blown up, &c. The Soldiery now Can Scarcely be kept off from Murdering those prisoners.

24th. Captain Stephenson brings News from the General that the Yankees have Taken 214 Highlanders prisoners: & have Drove off the Rest of the Shipping that could not be Taken out of Boston Road, the Enemy have blown up the Light House at Boston, &c., three of our brave Yankees wounded. Just got Leave and made Ready to Start Home.