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M.DCCC.LXXVI.

your House, or rather, mine, & inform you what state it is left in, & for your sake and the Lady's who gave it me; as well as my own, shall see that no Injury is done to it in future 'till I can have the pleasure of seeing you and your family in full possession. I expect to march for New York in two or three days, — part of our army having marched some days since, & the whole is to follow, to prevent them getting possession of that Important Post. I have seen Common Sense & admire it. It takes well with the Army & the People in General, & I hope so Rational a Doctrine will be established throughout the Continent as the only Doctrine which will work out the Salvation of America.—You ask me if we have Col^{ls} fit for Brigadiers, & who they are. I will undertake to Recommend one, viz. Col^l Stark, who is an old veteran, & has better pretensions than any other Col^l in the Army, though by Down right Dint of Blunder, he was Ranked below other Col^{ls} in the Army; when by the very Principles the Committee pretended to go upon, he should have been the first; — this Recommendation I submit to your wise Consideration. I beg you to make my most Respectful Compliments to Col^l Hancock, Messrs. Adams, Pain & Gerry, & believe me to be, D^r Sir, with much respect,

Your most obed^t Serv^t

Hon. JNO ADAMS, Esq.

JNO SULLIVAN.

*Diary of Samuel Bixby.**

SUTTON, Mass., May 4, 1775.

Took our journey, and encamped this night at Sudbury.

5th. Took our journey, & pitched our tents in Roxbury.

6th. It is said the regulars were about to make an attack somewhere; and about 6 o. c. P.M. the Army was on the Grand parade. The Col. ordered us to lie by our arms & ammunition all night. But there was no disturbance.

14th. Last Sunday the Meeting House was full of soldiers, and news came that the regulars were landing on Dorchester Point. The Gen^l ordered the drums beat to arms, and as soon as the drums sounded, the soldiers were out of the Meeting House in the twinkle of an eye. We paraded, and marched to Dorchester Neck. as it was said, the enemy was landing from the Castle. It proved to be a false alarm, and we returned to our quarters. We were ordered to lie by our arms through the night.

27th. Saturday. About 200 men were detached to go to the Point to guard it. About 9 or 10 o. c. in the evening we heard the cannon roar, and the small arms crack for about an hour, in the direction of Marblehead or Medford, as we thought. We have since learnt that it was Col. Putnam, & his men on Noddle's Island, where he engaged the regulars, and took 300 sheep, & 200 lambs. One ship run aground, & they burnt it. He also took some cattle.

* He was in Isaac Bolster's Company, of Sutton, in Colonel Larned's Regiment. Enlisted May 1, to serve to Dec. 31, 1775.

June 1st. Thursday. Now I shall endeavour to put some things upon record every day, that are transacted during my campaign. We heard to-day that a soldier over at Cambridge was deeply in love, & wished to go home to see his *dear*, and being refused leave of absence by his Captain, (Wood) went into a barn and hanged himself. Two others died of sickness the same night.

2d. Friday. Guards & fatigues as usual.

3d. Saturday. Drawed provisions for Sunday; namely, Bread, Dry-fish, Potatoes, Butter, Rice, &c.

4th. Sunday. Nothing remarkable.

5th. Monday. This day is "Artillery Election;" but it was not much thought of by the soldiers. About 12 o. c. the regulars fired from the Fortification; and they fired from the Castle at a party of our men on shore digging clams, but did no damage. Our men picked up one of the balls, a 24 pounder, and carried it to the Gen^l, who gave them two gall^l of rum. A party of our men out towards Noddle's Island captured a barge and four men belonging to a man of war, & carried it ashore at Cambridge, and this day brought the barge to Roxbury in a cart, with the sails up and three men in it. It was marched round the meeting-house, while the Engineer fired the Cannon for joy.

6th. Tuesday. Orders to wash the floor of the Barracks, and clean out every hole and corner, and to sweep the yards. Gen^l Thomas and Heath went to Dorchester Point to view & lay out a place where to entrench, in order to storm the Castle. The regulars fired three times at them with their Cannon, but did no harm. Our sentries stopped a team going into Boston with a load of hay. They threw the hay off, & found 2 calves, 32 watches, a great number of letters, some veal, several boxes butter, 2 bushels green peas, and some mutton.

7th. Wednesday. William Waite of Sutton, went into Boston with his team, and carried a load of goods back for the liberry men in Boston.

8th. Thursday. A man to be whipped 20 lashes for stealing.

9th. Friday. The man who was going into Boston with the hay &c. was tried by a Court Martial, and acquitted, as he proved not to be a Tory. —

June 10th, 1775. Saturday. Nothing remarkable.

11th. Sunday. Last night Mr. Evans died of the pleurisy.

12th. Monday. General Orders: That every man shall turn out at the break of day on the Grand parade till further orders.

13th. General Court Martial. A man sentenced to 20 lashes and drummed out of camp for striking without cause, a soldier. — Eight ships sailed into Boston harbor to day.

14th. Wednesday. Squire Pain's son of Worcester went into Boston with his horse. The sentries searched his saddle bags, & then let him pass.

15th. Thursday. Nothing remarkable.

16th. Friday. Firing by the regulars in Boston. Went on the Grand

parade, where about 300 men were drawn for the Point Piquet, and about 600 to entrench the piquet.

About 9 o. c. P. M. the regulars in Boston fired an alarm, and rung the bells. We heard them drawing the carriages to the neck, & the riding of horses with great speed up to their guard and back into Boston, and there was great commotion there. It was supposed they were preparing to attack us in the morning, but no special orders were issued. The town seemed to be alive with men marching in all directions.

June 17th, 1775. Saturday. Col. Putnam with a large party went on to a hill in Charlestown, called Bunker's Hill, last night to entrench, & this morning the British discovered him, & commenced firing at the men on the hill. A heavy fire was opened at Col. Putnam from the ships, & also from the fortifications in Boston. The regulars went over in barges in great numbers and landed in Charlestown to attack Col. Putnam. Our men returned the fire smartly, and the battle appeared to rage fiercely. The entrenchment was not quite completed, and our men having spent their ammunition, still defended themselves bravely, but were obliged to retreat. The regulars set houses on fire, & did all manner of mischief. Col. Putnam retreated to another hill, & went to entrenching there, while the British kept up a constant fire upon him.

About noon we fired an alarm, & rung the bells in Roxbury; and every man was ordered to arms, as an attack was expected.

Col. Larned marched his Regt up to the meeting house, & then to the burying yard, which was the alarm post, where we laid in ambush with two field pieces placed to give it to them unawares, should the regulars come.

About 6 o. c. the enemy drew in their sentries, & immediately a heavy fire was opened from the Fortification. The balls whistled over our heads, & through the houses, making the clap-boards and shingles fly in all directions.

Before the firing had begun, the Genl ordered some men down the street to fall some apple trees across the street, to hinder the approach of their Artillery.

Lieut Hazeltine picked up a 12 lbs ball — we were anxious to get their balls as though they were gold balls. The firing is still kept up at Charlestown & Cambridge. The enemy threw bomb-shells hourly into Roxbury during the night. Col. Larned ordered his Regt to encamp in the safest place. Our company took cover behind a hill.

18th, Sunday. Paraded at the burying yard, & then went into quarters. The firing of cannon & small arms continued at Charlestown and Cambridge, and several more houses burnt. A man belonging to the Connecticut Regt was struck in the shoulder by a cannon ball, & died this morning. No other man was hurt in Roxbury. The Rhode Islanders laid out a piece of ground for an entrenchment, & went to work entrenching. Genl Thomas ordered them to cease work, but they swore they would not, and he thought best to let them go on with the work.

June 19th, 1775. Monday. Our men were ordered to another place to entrench. We hear from Cambridge that Col! Putnam is entrenching, & that the regulars are still firing at him.

20th. Tuesday. Entrenching here and at Cambridge, and but little firing.

21st. Wednesday. A fatigue party to cut *facines* for the Fort. We cannot go nearer the Point now, than on to Dorchester neck, as the enemy might cut us off from the way of the marsh; and with their Guns of the Ships & Blockhouse. Our sentries spied 3 men of wars-men on shore, & fired at them. Two were killed.

About 4 o. c. P.M. The Rev. M. Paine of Sturbridge preached a sermon to our Regt from Judges 20th c. 28th v. "Shall I yet again go out to battle against the children of Benjamin, my brother?"

22d. Thursday. We are still entrenching here & in Cambridge, & making our position as strong and secure as we can. We have thrown up a strong work across the street, and also one across the road to Dorchester. The enemy has withdrawn the sentries to the Fortification.

Within three weeks 14 Ships have arrived in Boston harbor.

23d. Friday. Nothing new this day, unless it is new to dig graves. We can see the regulars, with the spy glass digging graves in Boston. — We are still building the Fort.

June 24th, 1775. Saturday. A house near our entrenchment was ordered to be taken down, as it might be set on fire by a bomb-shell & render the entrenchment too hot for us. A party soon began the work, and about 1 o. c., the British opened a fire upon them.

Col. Larned paraded at the Burying Yard, & the regulars continued to fire shells at us.

A house on (Boston) Neck, called "Brown's House" was used by the regulars for a Guard House; and a party of our men obtained leave to set it on fire, and burn them out. But they were discovered too soon, & did not succeed. The parties had a pretty smart skirmish. Our party had two men killed. But we brought down a field piece & gave them a few shots; the first ball fired went through the house & drove them out. The firing was continued on both sides for some time. Two houses in Roxbury were set on fire.

25th. Sunday. Another attempt was made to burn the "Brown House," but we did not succeed. One man wounded. Our men returned the fire of the regulars briskly. Smart skirmishing with the enemy throughout the day on the neck, (Boston.) They lost several men.

26th. Monday. The guards kept a firing with small arms during the day. About sun-set the Rhode Islanders marched down to the guard, & fired 7 or 8 times at the regulars; & they returned three shots. No damage done to our men.

27th. Tuesday. We are building defences on Dorchester Neck. The Regulars fire at us occasionally. A man under guard jumped out of the garret window, and killed himself.

28th. Wednesday. A soldier was drummed out of camp for defaming the General.

29th. Thursday. Haynes Larned, son of Col. Larned, crept down to near the regular's guards last night, and fired at one of the sentries, and *dropt* him.

30th. Friday. General Orders:—The Drummers & Fifers shall parade at Head Quarters at 8 o'clock A.M. each day to call the Main Guard, & at 4 o'clock P.M. to call the Regt on to the Grand Parade. Also, that all sorts of gaming, such as card playing & the like, shall be suppressed. Last night, the Rhode Islanders went down to the guard with a field piece, & fired nine times at the regulars. They returned three shots.

July 1st. Saturday. We are fortifying on all sides, and making it strong as possible around the Fort. We have two 24 lbs. Cannon, & forty balls to each. We have hauled apple trees, with limbs trimmed sharp & pointing outward from the Fort. We finished one *platform*, & placed the Cannon on it just at night, and then fired two balls into Boston.

2d. Sunday. This morning at 4 o'clock the regulars opened a heavy fire at us which was continued till about 7 o'clock, sending in among us balls, bomb-shells, carcasses, & stink pots. One house was burnt. We mounted guard at the usual hour, & marched to the Col's quarters and attended prayers; after which we returned to our quarters, with orders to keep ourselves ready for a start; and should there be no alarm before 2 o'clock P.M. the Regt would attend public worship at the Col's Quarters. There was no alarm, & we accordingly attended the Divine Worship.

Our Company drew powder & balls enough to make up 30 rounds to each man.

3d. Monday. Orders from the Congress:—That the Captains of the several Companies shall make returns of the age & height of the men of their respective Companies:—where born—whether sons or servants:—when enlisted, & who under.

4th. Tuesday. James Wood, a soldier, broke his arm wrestling.

5th. Wednesday. Both of the new Generals, Washington and Lee, came into town (Roxbury) to day.

6th. Thursday. A flag of truce came from Boston, & was suspected as a spy. We were ordered to lie by our arms. I slept with my gun in my arms, & used my cartridge box for a pillow.

July 7th, 1775. Friday. Nothing.

8th. Last night we planted two pieces of artillery within range of the enemy's out post on the neck. About sun rise this morning a fire was opened on their guard house, which took fire. Our men fired with small arms also. Two regulars were killed. A floating battery was brought into the Bay near us, but we drove them away with our artillery. On this fight, our party burnt two houses & one barn, took 1 gun, 1 Bayonet, 1 halbert, & it is reported we killed several of the enemy.

A *flag* came into Roxbury camp from Boston with letters.

9th. Sunday. Cut down apple trees & trimmed the limbs sharp, & built a sort of breast work across the road, with their points toward Boston to stop the light horse, should they come to attack us.

10th. Monday. Nothing remarkable.

11th. Tuesday. Last night a party went to attack Brown's Store. It was the only house left standing on the Neck this side of the Fortification. The store was set on fire, and a smart firing of small arms was kept up on both sides.

12th. Wednesday. Last Wednesday a detachment of about 400 men marched down to Weymouth, & from there went in whaleboats to an Island, & captured 13 men, 2 boys, 2 women, 200 sheep, 19 head horned cattle, & several hogs. The 45 boats landed at Dorchester, & the 13 men were brought to Roxbury.

13th. Thursday. The regulars fired at our fatigue party which was throwing up an embankment on the marsh to set piquets in.

The regulars fired shot & shells at times during the day. Reuben Stockwell, of Sutton, died this afternoon about 3 o'clock of the camp distemper. He belonged to Capt. Daggett's Company, & was in his 20th year of age.

14th. Friday. Last night a party undertook to capture the enemy's sentries, but did not succeed. The party was discovered, & fired upon, & a smart skirmish took place. We lost one man belonging to the Connecticut forces.

15th. Saturday. Last night 200 men were ordered to march quietly down to "George's Tavern," & throw up a breast work on the marsh.

16th. Sunday. General orders: To ascertain who, & how many in each company were expert in managing whale boats.

17th. Monday. Col. Larned & a number of his officers and soldiers took a walk to Dorchester point this morning for pleasure, & were fired at.

18th. Tuesday. About eleven o'clock the party at George's were fired upon. We sent a few balls into Boston, & the guards fired at each other.

19th. Wednesday. Nothing remarkable.

July 20th, 1775. Thursday. This day was set apart by our Rulers as a Day of Fasting throughout the twelve Tribes of America. Another flag of truce came from Regulars in Boston, with some letters about the poor. The Captain of our guard told him to inform Gage that all our Generals were well; and also that Hancock & Adams were well, and likely to live, & that we are all ready for him to come out.

21st. Friday. A man of Col. Reed's Regt was accidentally shot.

22d. Saturday. Nothing remarkable.

23d. Sunday. Nothing.

24th. Monday. Nothing.

25th. Gen! Washington, Gen! Lee, & Gen! Ward came from Cambridge to take a view of things in Roxbury.

26th. Wednesday. Gen! Ward marched his Regt into Roxbury this day.

27th. Thursday. A deserter from Cambridge reports that the regulars are to attack Putnam's Fort.

28th. Friday. A deserter came in today, and says the regulars have but 900 men fit for duty, in Boston.

29th. Saturday. Nothing remarkable to-day.

30th. Sunday. Had an alarm, & the Adjutant General ordered the troops to the alarm post.

31st. Monday. Night before last a party of our men on Cambridge side went on to Charlestown neck, attacked the regular guard, & killed four men, & captured two. Last night about midnight, our troops at Cambridge began firing at the enemy. They fired also from Brooklin Fort, & here in Roxbury, into Boston. The regulars had it from all sides. Our guard near "George's Tavern" were drove in. The enemy fired from their ships & other places. "George's Tavern" & barn were burnt. The Cannon roared like thunder in all directions. Bomb shells were flung into Roxbury, but generally went over us. One man of our company was wounded.

August 1st. Tuesday. Yesterday we had a fight with the regulars down at the light house. We killed a considerable number of them, made prisoners of 35 regulars & 7 tories, burnt two schooners, one house & one barn; sunk one barge and took a great deal of plunder. We had one killed & one wounded. The regulars kept up a cannonading all day.

2nd. Wednesday. One of Gen! Washington's riflemen was killed by the regulars to day & then hung! up by the neck! His comrades seeing this were much enraged, & immediately asked leave of the Gen! to go down and attack them. He gave them permission to go and do as they pleased. The Riflemen marched immediately & began operations. The regulars fired at them from all parts with cannon and swivels, but the Riflemen skulked about, and kept up their sharp shooting all day. Many of the regulars fell, but the riflemen lost only one man.

A flag of truce came from Boston for a cessation of hostilities six days, but our Gen! would not agree to it, & sent it immediately back. About 1 o. c. the enemy fired from their floating batteries which was returned from the Brookline Fort. We fired the 24 pounder in the Great Fort above the meeting house, three times. One ball went into Boston, & two struck their breast work.

3d. Thursday. Our men at Cambridge keep picking off the regular's sentries daily, & they continue to fire with their cannon at us.

4th. Friday. About the same as yesterday.

5th. Saturday. The Captain who was at the burning of "George's Tavern" was broke for improper conduct.

6th. Sunday. This morning the regulars fired at our sentries, & our men gave them back the same.

7th. Monday. Major Tupper went into Boston, as far as the enemy's sentries with a flag of truce.

8th. Tuesday. The regulars took a floating Battery up to the north side of Charlestown and set two houses on fire. Soon our men brought out a field battery, and compelled them to withdraw.

9th. Wednesday. Nothing remarkable going on to day. A good deel of sickness in the camps with the camp distemper.

10th. Thursday. A flag of truce came from Boston, with letters

concerning the prisoners on both sides. In the afternoon another came concerning the liberty people in Boston.

11th. Friday. A family came to Roxbury by way of Charlestown, & report that the British are plundering Boston, & loading their vessels with the plunder.

12th. Sat. About 1 o'clock p. m. a Regiment of Riflemen arrived in Roxbury. Our men we have heard, took a tory and several regulars & brought them into Cambridge. They were going eastward for stores. The firing we saw over at Charlestown neck last night was the riflemen attacking the regulars. The enemy lost several killed, & four made prisoners.

13th. Sun. Nothing.

14th. Mon. Last night we began to entrench down by Roxbury burying yard on each side of the street;— one in the orchard at the right hand, and one at the left hand, down towards "George's Tavern."

August 15th, 1775. Tuesday. About 2 o'clock the enemy opened a cannonade from the Fortification and floating battery; but our men kept entrenching. We flung a few shots from the Fort, and with a field piece. They still keep pitching bomb-shells. One of our men was wounded.

16th. Wedn. The enemy keep up a firing upon our fatigue parties in the entrenchments, but they mind it not.

17th. Thurs. Three or four deserters came in from the ships of war. Also, a light horseman from Boston by swimming his horse— reports sickness among the regulars.

18th. Frid. The regulars continue to fling balls and bombs at our fatigue parties. The riflemen picked off a few of the regulars to day.

19th. Sat. Nothing remarkable. A deserter came in last night by swimming from Boston Common to Roxbury.

August 20th, 1775. Sunday. The deserters who came in last night report, that Gage's wife is about to sail for England.

A Guard was posted down at Lamb's Dam.

21st. Mon. A flag came out as far as our lower sentries.

22d. Tuesday. Cannonading by the regulars. A deserter came in.

23rd. Wed. Last night a party of our men took two boats, and rowed from the tide mill down the Bay to within gun shot distance of the regulars camp on Boston Common; & then formed broad side on, and fired into their tents. It was a dark night & the party returned without loss.

24th. Thurs. One of our riflemen deserted last night. Fifteen ships sailed out of Boston harbor this day.

300 men were ordered to entrench at the lower end of Roxbury street last night, & 300 men were stationed at Lamb's Dam to protect them.

25th. Frid. Nothing but a bomb shell from Boston which fell in Roxbury.

26th. Sat. A brisk firing of small arms over at Charlestown neck.

August 27th, 1775. Sun. The firing at Charlestown neck yesterday by our men & the regular's guard.

28th. Monday. We see heavy firing from Bunker's Hill at our men on Prospect Hill.

The enemy drew up two floating batteries, from which they opened a fire upon them also. Our men returned the fire with good effect, by which one of the batteries was sunk. A brisk fire of small arms was kept up for some time.

29th. Tues: A Company of Riflemen arrived in Roxbury to day. Heavy firing on Bunker's Hill.

30th. Wed. Nothing.

31st. Thurs: The regulars came out this side of the Fortification last night.

Sept. 1st. Friday. A deserter came out last night. It was very dark and rainy, & the enemy gave us a shower of balls and bomb shells, some of which fell in Roxbury Street. We lost three men.

2nd. Sat. This morning we spied the enemy entrenching at Brown's Chimnies, & we fired at them from the lower fort, and with a field piece. Elias Sibley, of Sutton, died this morning at 4 o'clock of the camp distemper. He had come to stay awhile in the place of Serjeant Jonathan Gould.

3rd. Sun: Nothing of note.

Sept. 4th, 1775. Mon: Guards & fatigues.

5th. Tues: Things seem to go very dull at present. We have heard that it is very sickly in the country, & sore judgments seem to be coming upon us on all sides.

6th. Wed: Our fatigue parties are at work on both sides, below George's Tavern & at Lamb's Dam.

7th. Thurs:—A Lieut. in Col. Cotting's Regt. was accidentally shot in the side.

8th. Frid: Our fatigue party building a Fort on the Hill above Lamb's Dam, were fired upon by the enemy. They flung 6 or 7 balls and 2 bomb shells.

9th. Sat: Nothing important.

10th. Sun: The enemy flung several shot amongst our fatigue parties.

11th. Mon: Nothing.

12th. Tues: All quiet.

13th. Wed: Heard firing from the ships in the harbor.

14th. Thurs. A deserter came out from Boston.

15th. Fri. A deserter came from Boston last.

16th. Sat. Guards & fatigues as usual.

17th. Sun. This morning about 8 o'clock the regulars fired at our Main Guard 3 or 4 balls, and we gave them back 8 or 9 with our 12 & 18 pounders.

Sept. 18th, 1775. Mon: About 9 o'clock this morning the enemy began firing into Roxbury Street, and continued it at intervals during the day. We returned the fire.

19th. Tues. About 9 o'clock this morning the enemy opened another heavy fire into Roxbury. We returned one or two shots.

20th. Wed: Heavy firing from the ships at our men on Prospect Hill.

21st. Thurs: We fired from the lower fort with our 18 pounder, which was returned by the Regulars with balls and shells. The Guards on both sides fired at each other.

22d. Frid: Last night 15 men deserted from the ships in boats. A number of boats have been brought into Roxbury by the deserters. This is the "King's Coronation Day," and at 12 o'clock the regulars fired on Boston Common and Bunker's Hill; and at 1 o'clock P. M. the Admiral's ship fired a salute. They fired also from all the other ships, and at the Castle.

23rd. Sat: At 8 o'clock this morning the enemy opened a heavy fire from the fortification, & flung over a 100 balls into Roxbury. We returned a few shots from our lower fort. They fired from the Castle.

24th. Sun. Guards and fatigues.

Sept. 25th, 1775. Mon. This morning we fired from our lower fort, & sent some 12 and 18 lbs. shots into Boston, but they did not return the fire.

26th. Tues: Nothing remarkable to-day.

27th. Wed: A scouting party came in from Governor's Island, with 11 cows & 2 horses.

28th Sept. Thurs. Nothing to note.

29th. Friday. Nothing.

30th. Sat. At 9 o'clock A. M. we fired two 18 lbs balls into Boston, and the regulars gave us back upwards of twenty.

Oct. 1st. Sunday. Guards & fatigues.

2nd. Mon: Just at night the enemy threw 7 or 8 balls into Roxbury. We returned the fire from the lower fort.

3rd. Tues. 4th. Wed. Nothing these days of importance.

5th. Thurs. A sale at Major Smith's of the plunder taken at the *light house*, the proceeds to go to Major Tupper & his party, who captured it.

6th. Frid. About 9 o'clock A. M. we flung two 18 lb balls into Boston from the *lower fort*, just to let them know where to find us, for which the enemy returned 90 shots. We had one man wounded.

7th. Sat. Guards & fatigues.

Oct. 8th, 1875. Sunday. A deserter came in last night, and reports that both shots of ours, fired into Boston on the 6th took effect, killing one man and wounding another.

9th. Mon. Nothing remarkable.

10th. Tues: Same.

11th. Wedn: Building barracks.

12th. Thurs: Regimental Orders: From this time forward every soldier not on duty, shall turn out on the parade at 2 o'clock P. M., & exercise to the best advantage, & for the good of these Colonies.

13th. Frid. A flag of truce came out from Boston with letters to our Generals.

Some firing from the ships in the harbor.

14th. Saturday. Firing on Bunker's Hill.

15th. Sunday. The fatigue men were set to work entrenching,

which is not practised in our Regt on Sundays. Mr. Pope, of Spencer, preached to our Regt. Gen^l Thomas attended the Worship.

16th. Mon. 17th. Tues. General orders :— That Coal be furnished for the redoubts, & the sentries be relieved at midnight, & hourly during the remainder of the night — per order. Building barracks, & watch boxes, & burning bricks: the masons are also called for, to prepare for winter quarters.

Oct. 18th, 1775. Wedn. A party of our men at Cambridge went on board of two floating batteries, and sailed down the Bay by Brookline Fort, to near Boston Common, and opened a smart fire into the town. Unfortunately one of the cannon burst, by which eleven men were wounded — one mortally. They also lost two swivels, and two chests powder.

19th. Thurs. All quiet.

20th. Frid. The regular's guards fired a few times at our men in the redoubts.

21st. Sat. A deserter came in last night, & reported that it is sickly in Boston.

22nd. Sun. Guards & fatigues.

23rd. Mon: Col. David Brewer was tried by a Court Martial, for giving his son, 16 years of age, a commission, and drawing the pay for him for the month of August, while the inexperienced lad was at home in his own service. Also, for sending two soldiers belonging to his Regiment to work on his farm! The Court ordered the said David Brewer to be dismissed the service. *Amen to that.*

24th. Tues. General Orders. The Officers will give notice at Head Quarters of their intentions to serve another year. Per order.

Oct. 25th, 1775. Wedn. Heavy firing on Boston Common, by the ships in the harbor, and the Castle, in honor of the king.

26th. 27th. 28th. 29th. Generally quiet.

30th. Mon. Some heavy firing from the ships this day.

31st. Tues. Guards & fatigues.

Nov. 1st. Wedn. Guards as usual.

2d. Thurs. Heavy firing from the ships.

3rd. Frid. Some may think that I put down things which do not happen. But I put nothing down but such as I am certain of. And you may depend upon it, that all I say here is the truth.

SAMUEL BIXBY.

4th. Sat. Guards & fatigues.

5th. Sun. The firing last Sunday we have heard was, "mourning for the King."

6th. 7th. 8th. All quiet.

9th. Thurs. Sharp firing over at Charlestown Neck by a party of regulars from the ships, & our men. We had one killed, & one wounded.

10th. Friday. All's well.

11th. Saturday. Last night the tide overflowed Dorchester Neck. The picquet guard was ordered in; otherwise the regulars would have cut them off.

Nov: 12th, 1775. Sunday. All sorts of rumors brought by the deserters.

13th. Mon: Last night the regulars advanced up toward our Redoubt. The Guard opened a brisk fire at them and drove them back.

14th. Tues: Recruiting men to serve one year.

15th. Wed. 16th, 17th. Nothing remarkable.

18th. Sat. General Orders:—The fatigue parties will begin work at 9 o'clock A.M., & continue until 3 o'clock P.M.

19th. Sunday. The floating battery near Boston Neck, moved off this day.

20th. Mon: General Orders:—The Main Guard will be commanded by a Field Officer, & consist of 3 Captns. 9 Subalterns, 18 Serjeants, 18 Corporals & 360 privates. The piquet guard 1 Subaltern, 2 Serg^{ts} & 2 Corporals from each Reg^t

21st. Tues: General Orders:—No man will be permitted to carry away his gun, when the term of his service is ended; as it will be appraised & the value thereof paid in money.—Per order.—

22nd. Wedn: Regimental Orders:—The Reg^t will not parade at the alarm post as heretofore, but will attend prayers at the usual times, that is, at a little before sunrise.—

Nov. 23rd, 1775. Thursday. This is a day of Public Thanksgiving throughout the Province. We had the Rev. Mr. Bowman of Oxford to preach to us at the Col.'s as usual. Text 101 Psalm, 1 verse.

24th. Friday. Orders came last night from Gen. Washington to Gen. Thomas, & from him to Col. Larned, for every man to lie by his arms, & with his clothes on, as an attack was expected from the enemy, who had given out word that they would take supper with us in Roxbury on Thanksgiving night.

25th. Sat. General Orders:—The main guard will in future parade in the street from Howe's Bake-house to the Guardhouse.

Regimental Orders.

That the drums & fifes beat down the street, from the Col.'s quarters as far as his right, every morning at sunrise, & at one hour before sunset to call the troops to Prayers.

26th. Sun. A flag of truce was sent into Boston by Col. Parsons, & one was returned by the enemy.

27th. Mon. I read in the "News Print" that Gen. Howe sent out from Boston by way of Chelsea, 300 of the town's poor; men, women and children.

28th. Tues. Guards & fatigues.—

Nov. 29th, 1775. Wedn. Gen^l Ward's Orders to the Capt. of the Main Guard to allow no persons to send letters into Boston, or to go beyond our sentries, without a written permit from the Gen^l in Command. He is to be very vigilant, & see that there is no waste of the private property in Roxbury.

30th. Thurs. Nothing important.

Decr. 1st. Friday. Guards & fatigues as usual.

2nd. Sat: I went with Col. Larned & several other officers & soldiers, about 50 in all, to Dorchester Point, for a pleasure walk. While there, we were fired at from the Castle, 6 or 7 times.

3rd. Sun: Moses Foster, of Sturbridge, belonging to Capt. Martin's Company, was buried in Roxbury.

4th. Mon: Orders from Gen^l Washington: That no person be sent into Boston with a flag of truce, who has not had the small pox: & that all letters from Boston to be dipped in vinegar before perusing them.

5th. Tues: Nothing. —

6th. Wedn. General Orders:

The main guard shall parade from Howe's Bakehouse to Doct. Davis' great house.

Dec. 7th, 1775. Thurs: Capt. Ingersoll was tried by a Court Martial for spreading false reports about the Country, tending to defame the General. He was fined £8, and dismissed the service. —

8th. Friday. The same Court fined one man £8.7s, and sentenced him to two years imprisonment in the New Gate Prison in Simsbury, for stealing & deserting; and another man, John Smith, for similar offences, was fined £8, and sentenced to six months at Newgate.

9th. Saturday. Nothing.

10th. Sunday. All is quiet.

11th. Mon: Several Companies of militia marched into Roxbury to day.

12th. Tues. Several Companies of militia arrived in Roxbury to-day, & joined Col. Larned Reg^t

13th. Wed. Nothing of note.

14th. Thurs. Regimental Orders.

The Regiment will parade tomorrow morning at 6 o'clock at the Col.'s quarters, & march to the alarm post to instruct the militia.

15th. Friday. Attended prayers as usual, and it being a wet day, we stood with our hats on.

16th. Sat. Regimental parade as usual.

17th. Sun. The Regulars fired from the ship near Bunker's Hill, at our men on Cobble Hill. In the evening they fired from Beacon Hill, and from the Ship. Our men returned the fire. —

Dec. 18th, 1775. Mon. That ship near Bunker's Hill dropped down into the harbor to day.

19th. Tues. The Regulars kept up a heavy fire from Beacon hill, of balls and shells, at intervals during the day and night, at our men on "Lechmere's Point."

20th. Wedn. The firing is continued on Beacon hill.

21st. Thurs. Lieut. Col McNott was tried by a Court Martial for treating Lieut Goodell in an unbecoming manner. Fined £2.

Col. Cotton, Pres^t

22d. Frid. All quiet.

23d. Sat. Several men discharged from Col. Larned's Reg^t Wednesday.

24th. Sun. Paraded as usual.

25th. Mon. No Chaplain in Col. Larned's Reg^t at present.

26th. Tues. Troubles as usual, but nothing remarkable.

27th. Wed. In future the sentries of the Main Guard will be relieved hourly, & oftener, if the Officers see fit.

28th. Thurs. General Orders.

The new recruits will join their respective Reg^{ts} at Roxbury & Cambridge on the 1st day of January next. —

Dec. 29th, 1775. Friday. We of Co! Larned's Reg^t received one month's pay. Last night there was firing of small arms near Bunker's hill. It is said, our men undertook to storm the fort on the hill, by crossing over on the ice; but the ice was not strong enough. We had two men drowned.

30th. Saturday. General Orders.

The old Regiments of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, & Rhode Island will parade tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock to receive the instructions of the Commander in Chief, concerning their arms; & to see what they intend to do with them; for such noncommissioned Officers & privates as shall presume to carry home their arms, contrary to an express General Order, and the pressing necessities of the country, will be *mulct* in the sum of their pay and rations.

31st. Sunday. Paraded according to the above order, but had no further instructions.

January 1st, 1776. Monday. Paraded, and had our guns inspected, and returned our ammunition. Col. Larned desired us not to leave until properly discharged by the General, whose orders he expected to have within an hour, but the largest part of the companies left. Some of us remained in camp till morning.

Jan. 2nd, 1776. Tuesday. This morning the drums beat for prayers, and we attended. After which, the Col. dismissed us with honor, and gave us many thanks for our good conduct; and then we took up our journey for home, and lodged at Framingham.

3rd. Wed. Resumed our march, and arrived at Sutton about 9 o'clock in the evening.

SAMUEL BIXBY.

SUTTON, MASS.

The President said that he would now call on our associate Mr. Waterston, who had promised to give us some account of the Old Elm, which, after being so long the pride of our Boston Common, had recently fallen in a gale.

Many theories had been advanced as to the age and origin of this venerable tree. No one imagined it to be as old as that "ancient oak of Guernica," under which Ferdinand and Isabella swore to maintain the liberties of Biscay, just four hundred years ago, and which Wordsworth had celebrated in a noble sonnet. Nor would it be pretended that it was coeval with the "Yardley Oak," on which Cowper had written some of his most charming lines.