Mathew Patten was a Scots-Irish migrant who came to New England during the 1720s. Settling in Bedford, New Hampshire, he managed to support a growing family, but the work was very hard. Along with serving as a probate judge, he engaged in a number of different activities from shoemaking to cutting timber, from surveying to running cattle. During the early months of 1775, he was drawn slowly—even reluctantly—into a resistance movement that we might recognize as an insurgency. The passages here chronicle the period from his first participation in committees that intimidated royal supporters to the death of his son who served in the American army.

Patten's diary is a record of daily life in eighteenth-century rural New Hampshire. His straightforward, matter-of-fact prose tends to level all events. In the same paragraph in which he reports the Battle of Concord, for example, he also says that he had a kettle repaired and a chain made for his canoe. He ends the paragraph by mentioning that his son John "intended to Sett off for our army to morrow." In the next paragraph he records his son's departure with no fanfare, no anguish. It is one more event in a day during which he also purchased a pound of coffee—significantly, not tea—on credit.

Throughout the excerpted sections, Patten mentions a "Mr. Houston," who is, in fact, John Houston, a Presbyterian minister whom the town of Bedford called to service in 1756. The people of Bedford enjoyed good relations with him until the heat of the Revolution reached them and made his loyalist views repugnant. On May 16, 1775, as Patten records, the town voted to ban him from his pulpit. The Houston affair suggests the passions and tensions that must have simmered among the people of Bedford at this time and that are only hinted at by Patten's monotone reporting.

Note: The term "old tenor," which Patten uses throughout his diary, refers to paper currency issued by a colony and typically valued at less than the British pound sterling.

Discussion Questions

1. How would you characterize Patten position in the town of Bedford?
2. How would you characterize his attitude toward the Revolution?
3. What glimpses of the resistance movement does Patten's diary provide?
Matthew Patten House

Matthew Patten

BEDFORD, N. H.

from 1754 to 1788

of

of

PICTON PRESS
CAMDEN, MAINE

MATTHEW PATTEN

THE DIARY
I went ok off to us away

19 house on the me very a little

17 house as I stay or it about

11t h day the wind very high at N W and cold we cut our stalks a frost that touched the pumpkins and bean leaves and some corn leaves the night following I drew a wirt for James Caldwell against David Briant

11th Sabbath the wind very high at N W and cold a little frost the night following

12th I worked at the highway and James and Bob top pole the fence up the back side and the school master kept the forenoon and the afternoon he went to a clearing frolick at Dav Moore

13th We that hired the school master meet on having Reed Word by Joshua Gage from Dunbarton that they would hire our Master two months and we agreed to have him go and then Return to us and he set of for Derry and returned in the morning and on the side of the snuff and gave it to us and got what Tobacco we had I suppose there was a pound and a half of it

14th I worked at the highway and James and Bob went to our uncle Alex MacMurphys to help him to get his hay

15th in the morning between Day break and Sun Rise Lydia Hopper came and informed us that a number of people came and Draged her husband away the night before and abused him and her they broke one of her fore teeth out and much abused Her daughter Hannah I advised her to go home and be Quiet and say nothing about it and I went above the meeting house and I split 52 rails and 30 posts and John Little sent for me to go to his house to Writ a Deed of his place and to James Eaton I went and did it and I charged 3° and they paid me Little paid me quarter of a dollar and Eaton paid me 1/2 a pinto bean and I had no change to give him

16th I worked at posts and Rails above the meeting house and David finished harrowing the old field before the house

17th Joseph Dow came to my house in the morning and paid me 20/ Bay old Tenor for his bro Benj toward my Running lines Writing a Deed and acknowledgement of the Deed and I paid it to old Mrs McLaughlin toward tow cloth I had from her last year I owe her 2/6 Bay old Tenor yet of it and I went and split Rails above the meeting house

19th James Orr mended my plow Shear that was broke in the wing he had a good deal of pains in the doing it the charge unknown and I went
SEPTEMBER 1774

330

to a town meeting at Evening and the people intended to go to Amherst

tomorrow to Visit Mr Atherton who Insisted on my going with them and

they told me I must and Should go and that if I did not they would Visit

to which I said I would go

20th James Orc and Shed set the shoes on my horses fore feet and I went

to Amherst and about 800 men assembled and chose a Committee who went

to Mr Atherton and he came to the people to the Court house and he

Signed a Declaration and Read it to the people who accepted it he invited

them to go to Mr Hildreths and Drink what they pleased the people

Dispursed about Midnight without Doing any Out Rigious act I stayd

till morning

21st I came home and I copied a transcript of a highway in Goffes town

from the proprs book for Eben Hackett

22nd I copied a considerable more for Hacket in the morning and then

went to Joseph Dows junr in Goffestown and Writ a bill of sale and a

power of Attorney from him to his Brother Benj and I took the acknowl-

edgement of each of them I charged 4/ unpaid And in the afternoon

I went and Run lines for Abel Right of that part of the lot that Eben

johnson formerly lived on that lys over Piscataquog but did not finish

23rd I went to Benj Dows and Run a part of his north line and fixt his

northwest corner and I then went to Abel Wrights to finish the lines

I was after yesterday but did nothing and I charged him 30/ Bay old Ten

for what I had done yesterday and today and he paid 25/ Bay old Tenor

24th Bob and the four cattle worked for Shad about 3/ of the day and

jamey David holed 31 posts and I split 36 rails and I fell 2 trees more for

Rails and Capt Perham paid me 2/ for writing his Will I writ it the 1st

Instant

25th I drew a warrant for Hannah Murphy against Titus Houston

and I signed another from Mrs Hepper against Titus Houston and John

Wallace the Constable took him and Col Goffe and I held a Court at the

school house on him and we adjourned both cases untl Monday the 3d of

October at nine of the clock in the forenoon

27th I went to Amherst to the Superior Court to Defend the case

between the town and Proprietors in favour of the Proprs and I paid four

Dollars for the Proprs from Jacob McNeill and in the Evening I gave

gave two of the Dollars to John Pickering Esqr in part of a fee as a lawyer

28th I had to come home for some papers and Evidences and I got back

to Dinner I had Alex Browns horse for which he would take no pay

29th Our case came on in the afternoon and the Jury got it in the

evening

30th they gave their Verdict in fav of the Town for 11-10-6 Lawful and

cost the cost was taxed at 9-11-6 the cost was taxed in the afterno and

I paid 6/6 of it and it was so near night when it was done that we could

not come home

OCTOBER 1774

OCTOBER 1st

I came home my Expences and jamey Vosses who attended the case

me at Hildreths was 6-12-6 Bay old ten

and I lodged one dig

Baldwin was 7/ Bay old ten

3d Col Goffe and I met at the School house on the case between

and Lydia Hepper and her Daughter And Mr Houston and her s

and we adjourned the Court to the 18th of November next at 10 o

Clock in the forenoon and I went to a training to Hugh Campbell

4th I went to McGaw and got 23/ & of Wool and some other at

to the amount of 2-11-2 Bay O: T and I settled all I owed him

19-12-5 Bay old Ten

gave him a Note for it on demand with I until paid

5th I got a Basket from Gardner at 2/ Lawful

6th I cut of 9 Rnd cuts and butt 8 at the west end of Wm Bel

and I draffed a Comptt and Warrant for William Bell against

Wood there was seven Subpoenas came to 5/12 3/ unpaid

7th I writ a pair of Indentures of James Greer to Mathew Lit

Lost upnd and Wm Bell and Eben Wood and Bladell the constable

and settled the affair and taxed the cost I set a fine of 4/ my fe

five shilling & I took his note on demand for the fees and the fine

8th I went to the little meadow and see what jamey Smith had b

king he made three new corners that I see as I suppose

9th I went to Col Goffe to concert what to do about Raising my

dischARGE the Damage and cost in McDuFrus case and afterward to

Little to see him on the acct of my lawsuit and had to go to MoG

and I then went to the falls and took my Salmon got up the bank

had a half of Brandy tory at McGregors in company with

for which I paid 8/ Bay old Ten

11th I sowed almost 8 bushell of Rie on the old field before the bu

12th I went to jamey Vosses and he went with me to james Alkins

John Bells Jacob McQueen Matthew MCdufrus and to Adam Dick

sov meetting and SeIIIing the judgement that the town Ga

the Proprieity We were moved by some threatening that jamey Sm

made to Math McDufrus it cost us the whole day we had half a bu

tody at Hugh Campbells charged to me unpaid

13th We got two jags of corn and all the Stalks out of the upp

peice of corn And my wife got Mr Nelsons letter to his congresto

William Wallace for 20/ Bay money and she paid 16/ of it

14th I went to Hollis to notifie Major Hobart according to his desh

time I intend to go on the Survey in the dispute between the prop

of Plymouth and Cockermouth my Expences was a pisteren

15th I husked corn and the boys did several overins

17th we finished husking corn in the forpart of the day and I

about noon to see Adam Dickey to see to settle the judgement th

gaigned against the proprietors and the commitee of the town and

Vose and I met them at Hugh Campbells and we worried untill in

break but they would do nothing but the cash or the Execution m
from Hisborough which was occasioned by Gordons laying in a demand of Two notes which had been Settled before.
5th I write a Deed from Eunos Bradfords to Calvin Johnson of three 50 lotts in Bedford and a Mortgage of the same to Bradford for security.  
6th we met and on the 7th and finished the Arbitration Murdough fell 32-7-10l Debit the cost of Raffformance was 2-5-0 the cost of court to be taxed at court Murdough paid my Expenes at Hildreths I Recd Two Dollars for my time from Col: Latwycbc for Mr Odon I sit the Remainder of the days in the Sessions and finished the Session and I paid Lient Hildreth 2-9-8 Bay old Tenor being the Remainder of James Vose and my Expenes at the Superiour court last September and came home in the night.  
9th I paid James McClure a dollar toward what shoes he made for us.  
10th I went and Run the lines of Jacob Freezes lott and William Barnett is to pay ¾ by Gelding my calves Laubs &c and Nathan Shad is to pay another ¼ and Freise is to pay the one half I charge ¾ a dollar in all and James Orr mended the Straps of my Spade.  
11th I finished drawing one of the Leases of the School lotts to Hugh Campbell and he promised to pay me I could not have time to Write the other And I went to David Sawyers in Goffestown and I measured of six acres of Josiah Woods land to Sawyer and I measured off sixty acres to Timothy Johnson of the lott No 11 in the 5th Rang on the South side of Plisataquog Sawyer owns the Remainder and I got 4 Gallons of Molasses from Sam: Moor at 17/ Bay old Tenor pr Gallon The Kagg and molasses and a long Strap weighed 54 2
12th was a tedious Storm of Snow and hail and some Rain the wind Northeasterly and cold the most tedious storm we have had this long time if any to equal it all winter every circumstance considered.
13th Shed Steel the toes of two shoes and Sett them on my horses fore foot and I went to McGregers and got a pound of Coffie and a Glass of Rum made into Toddy for which I paid a pistereen and three coppers and in the forenoon I wrote a letter to Deacon Williams to know the state of his Accts as Treasurer for thepropriety of Sowhegan East  
14th I write a lease of John Manougnahs place to John Gien for which Manougnah paid me ¼ pistereen with 1/6 Bay old Tenor that he overpaid me when I took the acknowledgement of his Mortgage deed to Thomas Boies made the two shellings for the leases today & I got 4 bushel of Rice from Robt Alexander and got it Ground at Capt Moors and I had the Tool.  
15th I got a streak of tire for my Cart that weighed 13 2 in the barr from James Martins and then he turned up the ends and punched the nail holes. And I write a long deed from Eben Wood to his son Jonathan and a note and I took the acknowledgement I charged 2/6 Lawful and Jonathan promised to pay me And I drew a Complaint and Warrant for Mr Joseph Currier against Sam Richards with two subpoenas for which Mr Currier paid me 3/8 Lawful.  
17th I went to Litchfield and Run some lines for Esqr Ciaget he would a paid me but I would not take any but told him I would want his advice
and assistance in the affair of James Smith and me and I paid Doctor Parker 6/8 being his charge for what he had done for our Susannah of her money and 1/3 for what he did for my Wife and I settled my note with Col Lutwyche I had 8/6 allowed me out of Capt Parkers Estate and I paid him 11/4-5 which paid up the note and I came home

19th I made a new handle to our Spade and made a pole to fish at the ponds

19th I got James Orr to make two hoops for our great Kettle one of them was my iron the other was Shed's and he made part of a chain for my Cannoe of my iron and write a deed from Alexander McCalley to his son Alexander and I took the acknowledgement unpaid 2/

20th I Read the Melancholy news in the morning that General Gates troops had fired on our Contrymen at Concord yesterday and had killed a large number of them our town was notified last night We Genereay met at the meeting house about 9 of the Clock and the Number of twenty or more went directly off from the meeting house to assist them And I came to Shed's and James Orr made me a great wheel Spindle of my Steel and he mended the Ear of a little kittle and finished the chain for my Cannoe he found iron for near a quarter of the chain the rest was mine And our John came home from being down to Pentacket and intended to get off for our army to morrow morning and our Girls sit up all night baking bread and fitting things for him and John Dobbin

21st our John and John Dobbin and my bro Samuell two oldest sons sett off and joined Derryfield men and about six from Goffstown and two or three others that joined them marched in about an hour after they to 35 there was nine more went along after them belonging to Pennkook or thereabouts and I went to Mcgregores and I got a pound of Coffie on Credit

22nd I was wakened in the morning by Mrs Chandler coming with a letter from the Comitee of the Provincial Congress for calling another Congress of the Province immediately and I went with it as fast as could go John Bells but he was gone to our army and both the others also and I went to Robert Alexander and got 4 bushel of Rice on Credit and took it to Capt Moors mill and got it ground and I had it the Toal and I had 3/4 a sowsle of Toddy at McCaw's for which I paid 4/4 Lawful

24th my neck was so stiff that I could not do anything with a cold I had got

23rd I went and notified on the River Road to meet at the meeting house the night on our publick Distress and I went to Col Goffes to ask his advice and met toward evening and acted on what he so absolutely and my Bruers jess helped me with their 3 pair of Oxen to cross plow

26th I went at the desire of the town to Col Goffes and Merrills and MacGregores and Cautioned them to take Special care of Strangers and persons Suspected of being Tories Crossing the River to Examn and search if they judge it needful and I got a pound of Coffie and nine flints from MacGregors for which I paid him 11/8 Bay old tenor

27th Was the Province Fast by the Governors Proclamation

APRIL - MAY 1775

28th I began to Stock Capt Blairs Gun and I went and got James Orr to forge me a Screw nail for the breach of the Gun and I fitted it and cut the screws and he made me a burning iron all of my iron

29th I worked some at Stocking the Gun and the boys planted Potatoes

MAY 1st

30th the boys planted potatoes and I worked at the Gun and William Barnet gelled 3 lambs and a Boar for us and our John and John Dobbin came home

2d Shed forged a Guard and some Rods for pining on the Quills and Stock on the Gun and I attended a Meeting of the town of our affairs of the country and Capt Moor had a training and our John and John Dobbin came home

3d I finished Stocking Capt Blairs Gun and the Boys got our Dung and planted some at Potatoes

4th I gave Jonathan Wood a Warrant of apprisement to appraise a mare he impounded yesterday unpaid

4th I with the other partners met and hung the Scene but did not Draw the River was so high

5th I shelled out our seed corn we have about 15 bushell and the boys finished planting potatoes and I went to Mr Alexander and got 4 bushells of Rice and got it ground at Capt Moors and I had the Toal

6th I went to the lott by Shed's and got some stuff for a Salmon pott and laid it home and put it into Soak

7th Being Sabath day the fire came from Adam Dickey's on both sides of Seabn's Swamp the wind high at the South we were obliged to go all hands in the Evening and had to work till midnight to stop it it came on a little rain and put it out

8th I shaved Some of the Stuff for the salmon pot and split out the remainder of the stuff

9th I finished Shaving the Stuff for the pot and Bundled it for carriage to the falls and James and Davitt Carried off the old Cole pit Stuff and other Sticks off the broke up ground

11th 12th & 13th I went to the falls and nailed on the new covering on my Salmon pot and I borrowed 300 clappboard nails from my bro Sam to do it with and in the time I hung a Nett and catched 3 Shad and Some Elwives and John Bell and I set the pot on our new setting place and I had my bro oxen once plowing two days

14th I went upon the Evening and got John Dunlap and Henry Stevens and took up the pot out of which I took big Salmon and 4 Shad The Salmon weighed 29 1/2 I gave Tho Miller 4 Shad and about 13 Elwives

From the 16th to the 20th Inclusive I fished at the falls I got 106 Ellys and how may shad I cant. Remember on the 16th we finished planting corn on the 16th we had a town meeting in Bedford at which we Voted to Shot the meeting house against Mr Houston and I was chosen to attend the County Congress next Wednesday at Amherst

22nd I got 37 Ellys for my Divide and I borrowed 78 that I sent home 105 and 10 James Patterson gave 10 Ellys for me for Rum
23d no fish got at the falls and I came home to go to the congress
24th our Boss cow took bull and I went to the congress and came home at break of day my Expenes was was about 16/6 Bay old Tenor
25th I went to the falls and Tarried untill the 27th at night the boys and I got as many Esals as paid what I had borrowed from Hackei viz 78 and I borrowed 11 from jamey Patterson and 13 from Saml Patterson and 15 of my own made 38
26th I went to Amherst and met the Rest of the Committee and we took the care of the Goaf and took from under his hand to Deliver it to us the first Tuesday in july next and I came home at Break of day next morning my Expenes was 19/6 Bay old Tenor
The rest of the month I fished but how many I got I dont Remember

JUNE 3d
I writ a Deed from Charles Black widow to John Garduer and took the acknowledgment both unpaid
7th We had a fine Shover and jamey and I fished at the Setting place and got six Salmon
9th my brors John and my jamey and I fished at our Setting place and got five Salmon and we had 3 of them
12th David and I fished and we got 8 Salmon one of 10 & I sold to Robt MacGregor and 3 to David Gage of 34 & I am to have a pair of Pumps from him and I lent one of 9/6 & to Robt Richardson and one I gave to Alex MacMurphy
13th David and I fished and we got six Salmon and 5 Shad the Salmon weighed 68 & and I let Nathan take them all they came to 14/7 1/6
15th David and I fished and we got one that weighed 10 & and we had two large Salmon broke through the next the one we got I let John Wallace have and he paid me the money for it
17th I with my bror went to John Bells to write an answer to Mr MacGregors letter in behalf of the town
19th jamey and Bob and I went to the mouth of the brook and hauled and caught six Salmon they weighed 16 & I divided in equal halves with Martin and I let Stephen Frencus wife have two that weighed 34 & And I writ all the fore part of the day in framing an answer to Mr MacGregor's letter to John Bell And the afternoon I attended Matthew Littles funeral And Bob and David fished at the Setting place and got 7 Salmon that weighed 10 & and Robt MacGregor had it toward fishing expenses they got two Shad also
20th I worked at making a Pail
21st David and I fished and we got three Salmon and I let David Gage have two that weighed 21 & and the other I brot home
23rd Was a fast by order of the Provincial Congress and I sent 3/4 of the Salmon to Saml Gordon that I brot home yesterday & our Bellad Cow took Bull
24th David and I fished and I caught 5 Salmon by Scooping they weighed 60 & and I let David Gage have two that weighed 31 & I got one from Robert Richardson that he owed me of 10 &

JUNE 4th
I gave James Caldwell one of the salmon I got yesterday and I went to the Falls but got no salmon And I gave a notification to Col Stark's son Wm. for his father to Notice Capt Page to come and hear some depositions taken at McGregores on Monday next
5th I went to MacGregores and swore 4 Witnesses for Col Stark to be improved at Exeter at the Congress in their Disputes in Dumbarton unpaid and I borrowed a Salmon of 9 2 of James Patterson for my bro to take to the army
7th I went to the Falls and Fished and got no Salmon
9th 29 & 30th I got some White Ash and made some Scoop nett bows on the 30th John cans home on a furlow

JULY 1st
I made some scoop nett bows and I sit up a Pail
9th I hopped the pail I set up the first and the afternoon I went with Sam Vose my Broth and met John Bell at Adam Dickes And took his Wife's Deposition and James Mathies and his son Roberts of some discourse Mr Houston had to them Relating the cruel acts of Parliament
4th I went to Amherst to the County Congress and it Rained near night and until near dark and I tarried over night at Heldreth's my Expenes was 17/3 Bay old Tenor
9th I came home in the morning nothing material untill the 11th when John sent off for the Army he Rid my horse down in the time I made a pail and a washing tab and went to Mcgregores to See Lieut McCollay about coming to assist as a committeman concerning Mr Houston but did not see him on the 10th Martin and I got Six Salmon that weighed I suppose about 80 & we did not weigh them we gave Capt Moor one of them we had the half of the six
12th We got 11 Salmon they weighed 133 & I had the half and Martin was 10 & ahead of me and I had that made up and I am 7 & ahead of Martin And jamey and Bob and my bros John went off in the evening and caught 10 that weighed 111 & we had 3/4 of them and I went to see Lieut McCollay but he was not at home and I writ a letter to him and Sent it by James Riddel
13th I went to Amherst to judge Esquire Whiting for being a Tory and I took two Salmon with me that weighed 30 & I sold one to Mr Hildreth and I gave him the other I had 2/6 pr Bay old Tenor my exponses was 16/6 Bay old Tenor
14th & 15th I with Deacon Boies and John Wallace apprized Matthew Littles Estate
17th There was 4 of Goffstown Committees and 4 of Marrymac and 3 from Derryfield met in Bedford by the desire of Bedford commitee to judge of Mr Houston being an Enemy to this country they judged him Guilty and confined him to the county without leave from the major part of one of the committees of the towns who judged him we broke up the next morning after day break
19th I did no business
19th I worked at Stocking a Gun for Mr Baker of Derryfield
20th Was the Continental Fast and Mr Cook preached with us in Bedford he preached with us last Sabath day which was the first preaching we have had since we shut the meeting house doors agi Mr Houston
21st I Almost finished Stocking Mr Bakers Gun and Jamey and Bob Reaped for Mr Shedd for which he is to hoe for me
22nd Mr Shedd hoed for me for the boys Reaping for him yesterday
23rd Mr Cook preached in Bedford
24th We finished hilling the new field west from the barn
25th We worked at making a new cow yard and plowing up the old one and David went to his uncle Alex to mill
26th I got two Tea cupfuls of Turnip seed from old Mrs Turill for which I gave her 8/ Bay old Tenor and I sowed the yard with seed and we finished making the new cow yard in the forenoon and we reaped the Afternoon
27th was a very Refreshing Rain and we lay by and did not Reap
28 & 29th we Reaped in the field by the Barn
30th Mr Burnap preached in Bedford
31st We finished Reaping the field by the Barn there was 32 Stooks in it and we got it carted into the barn

AUGUST FIRST

I butched our Heifers Calf it was a very poor and not large and the boys began to Reap in the old field before the house and I write several letters to divers of the Comite of the county to meet at Amherst the 8th inst to do something about Lancey and Silas Barron
2d 3d 4th & the 5th at noon we finished Reaping we have 41 Stooks and 5 Sheaves in the field before the house We have 73 Stooks and 5 Sheaves in all this year and we took the skin of the Calf we killed the 1st Instant to Stephen French to Tar

7th I went along the River as far as McGaws and round by Neasarchs and Tho' Wallaces enquiring after my Calf that stole away but could hear nothing of it and I got a pint of Brandy at McGaws for which I paid 6/0 Bay old tenor
8th I went to Amherst to meet the committee of the County to do something between Tho' Lancey and Silas Barron but there was none of them come but Daniell Campbell and we could do nothing and I came home in the night my expenses was 8/ Bay old tenor and I took the acknowledgement of a Deed from Capt Moor to Charles Black widow
9th 10th 11th & part of the 12th cloudy and rain and I fitted of some new Raikes
13th Mr Webster preached in Bedford
14th I brot the first load of hay from the little meadow
15th 16th & 17th I brot a load each day and Jamey Bob and David stayed at the meadow since Monday morning they all came home tonight there was a great Shower attended with a great deal of thunder and lightning

SEPTEMBER

1st I went to Deacon Walkers after Vinegar and I cut 4 trees for Raikes N W of the Meeting house
2d We got our hay at the little meadow dried and brot it home I have but eleven jars there in this year
3d Mr Cook preached in Bedford from Revelations 8d and latter part of the 1st verse the wind high at about N N E and in the afternoon it Rained considerably
4th It was cloudy all day and I went N W of the Meeting house and I cut and Split the trees into Raikes that John fell last fall on the Ministerial land and David and Alex came out with the Team and brot home 35 Raikes
5th We lent 4½ bushells of Apples to Deacon Littles and a barrel and they (viz) Deacon Little and Amaziah Pullard filled up the barrel with
was two year yesterday I pd Esquire Lovewell 6-7-4 L: M: and 6-2-8 L: M: to Ensen Ames being their pay for attending the General Court in March last which I drewed for them by their order Lovewell gave me 1/4 and Ames gave six pence for my trouble

6th I wrote a Deed from Matthew McDuffie to Amos Gardner and I took the acknowledgement and wrote some notes and McDuffie paid me the charge being 2/

7th I went to Col: Goffes with my brot Sam[.] and widow Barnettt on their administration affords

8th I settled accts with Samuel Moor and he paid me 1-5-8: Lawful with what money I had from him before Shad what my brot and Widow Barnettt owed me for what I did about prizeing & of Francis Barnetts estate they had paid me 1-6-10 for things I got at Vendme and the Remainder Samuel Moor paid me which with some Interest was 2-8-7 I had 2 £ of mores money on my hand being a months wages as Soldier last summer out of which I paid Mr Means 4/7 for him and Some things I had from him that there was 1-5-8 due now from him to me and I paid him 10/ with 4/7 and the 1-5-8 made the 2 £ that was in my hands

9th I finished writing two Deeds and a Bond for Shimeon and Stephen Tuttle and I went to William Whites in this town to Divide a fifty acre lot between him and Will[.] Rogers of Goffestown but Rogers did not come and I came away after waiting a while and I went and ran the north line of Mr Gordon land next to Mr Heppers I charged Rogers 1/6 and Gordon as much

10th I went to McGregor's to see to find flaxseed and I had ½ a bowie for which I paid 4/4 L: Mo: and came by the Voses and got the promiss of some from Lieut Vose

11th I went to Col Moores Mill and took 1½ bushel of corn and 1½ bushel of Rice and got it ground and I had the Tol[.]

12th I write a letter to John and Bob and sent it by John Dobyn who set off for New york today to join the army

13th I went to Col Moores Mill and took 1½ bushel of rice and 1½ bushel of corn and got it ground and I had the Tol[.] and a Reec of L: Mo: from John Orr being his part for my Runing lines for him and Matthew McDuffie a year or two ago

15th I shot a Sow on my horses near fore foot and I carried a pair of Leather Breeches to John Smith to get fitted for myself my son sent them to me and I went to Lieut Vosse to get flaxseed but he said his wife was both from horse that I did not get any and got a pair of Sols for my every day pumps from John Wallace and we could not make change to pay for them

19th was a Rainy day and I shelled corn

17th I went to David Moores with my pumps to have him sow on the soils I got from John Wallace yesterday and I went to William Plamers and paid his wife 1/4 L: Mo: being the Remainder of what I owed him for what earthen ware I had from him last fall and I went to MacGregores and had a ½ bowie of body for which I paid 4/4 and the afternoon attend the adjournment of our march meeting & another new meeting
Committee of this town for hiring preaching To treat with the Comtee for Goffestown about the two towns joining to to hire a minister to preach for both towns but there was but one of Goffstown comtes met us and we agreed to meet Tuesday come Sevenight at John Bells on the affair and I had a bowle of tody at Major Kelleys and they could not make change to pay for it
24 I got such a Cold yesterday that I was a good deal out of case and I put a New handle in one of our axes
3d I continued out of case and and Widow Smith of Goffestown and job Dow and John Clogston and signed a Bond on her admr on her Husbands Estate and I writ at Bonds and letters of Guardianship for her children
4th I went to Tho. Boies and Samuell Kennedys to Get Hony for Alex McMurphy and I got a snuff bottle almost full at Samuel Kennedys and some in another at Tho. Boies and they would not take any pay for it and John Smith breeches maker brot the breeches I took to him the 15th of last April he charged me a Dollar and I paid him the money
6th I went to Col Moors Mill and took 1½ bushell of Rie and 1½ bushell of Indian corn and got it Ground and I had the Toal it Rained considerable
7th Shed made a shoe of my iron and set it on my horses off fore foot and I went with my brors Samml to see Col: John Stark who came from New York yesterday my Expences was 3/10
8th I went to Col: Moors Mill and took 1½ bushell of Rie and 1½ bushell of Indian corn and got it Ground and I had the Toal it Rained considerable
9th William White Returned the Inventory of his fathers Estate and him and the apprizers were sworn in common form he paid 4/ and Widow Smith returned the Inventory of her husbands Estate and she and the apprizers were Sworn in common form she paid 4/ and she paid me 16/ for guardianship for 4 of her children and 5/ to get two deeds put on Record for her of her late husbands Estate the Deeds she is to send to me
11th we began to fellow the old field by my brors
12th we plowed at the field by my brors
13th the boys plowed in the field by my brors and I went to Col Goffes and took the points of the Compass on the side of a peice of land and Meadow that Major John Moor was getting from Col: Goffe and I writ a Deed of it and another Deed from the Col: to the Major of a lot in Derry and a peice on the River adjoining said lott where the Major lives I am to settle with the Major for my pay
15th I took a bond of Espr Little and one of Licut Sawyer as Guardians for John Smiths children of Goffestown and gave each of them a letter of Guardianship for which Widow smith paid me 15/ in may last and the afternoon I took home a Reed to Fugards that Susanna had weaving a peice of Fustin in
16th I set out for Exeter to attend as one of the Comtee of Safty for the Colony and arrived there that night
17th 18th 19th & 20th I attended on the Exeter on the affair and set out for home the afternoon of the 20th and came to Chester and lodged at

Original diary page
A photo of a page in the original c or "day book" is shown on the rev page. The diary page describ Matthew's son, John's, death. page will be found in the transcr version of the diary on the bottom page 360 and the top of page Courtesy of the New Hamp Historical Society.
Capt Underhills I left the Gown and near 38 yards of Fustin at Mr Barkers to cloath here to be dyed and dressed My Expences was 18/4 ½ I bot 4/ worth of things viz 2 £ of tobacco a rub ball for my breeches and a Declararion for Independance

21st I came home and went to writing letters to Crown Point for on my journey down I got an account of my Johns Death of the Small Pox at Canada and when I came home my wife had got a letter from Bob which gave us a particular account it informed us that he was sick of them at Champlain and that they moved him to Saint John where they terried but one night when they moved him to Isle of Noix where he died on the 20th day of June the Reason of moving him was the Retreat of the army which was very precipitate and he must either be moved or he be left behind whether the moving him hurt him he does not inform us but it seems probable to me that it did He was shot through his left arm at Bunker Hill fight and now was lead after suffering much fatigue to the place where he now lyes in defending the just Rights of America to whose end he came in the prime of life by means of that wicked Tyrannical Brute (Nea worse than Brute) of Great Britan he was 34 years and 31 days old

22nd I write at letters to send to the army in all I write four one Col Stark one to Major Moor one to Master Eagan and one to Bob

23rd I went to Robert McGregor to meet the Post and Tarried all day but he did not come and I got a pound of Coffie from Molly McNeil and I had a bowle of tody for which I paid her 2/2 four pence was in her hands before of it

24th I went to McGregor's and waited for the post but he did not come and I got two pounds of Coffie from Molly McNeal and 3/ a bowle of tody and did not pay her for want of change

25th I went set out to go to McGregor's to meet the post and Met McGregor's boy coming for me on the post horse and I gave the post four letters for the carriage of which I paid him 4/ and he agreed to bring my Johns things except the Gun and accoutments toward his doing it I paid him 8/ and I had half a bowle of tody and 2 quarts of Oats for the post horse for Which and and the two 2 of coffie and ½ bowl of tody I had yesterday I paid 4/ and Patrick Murfey paid me 8/ and Zachariah Chandler looked the bill and one of them handed the bill to me and I put it up in my book without looking at it

26th In the morning I found that the bill I took of Patrick Murfey yesterday was a 3 £ instead of a 5/ and I took after him to overtake him to Rectify the affair but he was Gone that I could not I went as far as Col. Moors and got back at 12 o Clock

27th I mowed three small cocks in the lower end of the meadow and the afternoon I turned and Raked some the boy's mowed in the pasture and between and the meadow and a little before night I went to McGaw's and bot 7 £ of Shugar at 5/6 and a Quart of Rum at ½ and ½ a bowle of Tody at 4/ which I paid him

28th I heard Mr Webster preached in Bedford

29th we Shelled 4 ½ bushell of corn and I took 1½ bushell of Rice and 2 bushell of corn to Lieut Littles mill but could not get it ground