

National Humanities Center

My Neighbor, My Enemy: How American Colonists Became Patriots and Loyalists

The Diary of Matthew Patten (excerpts)

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.

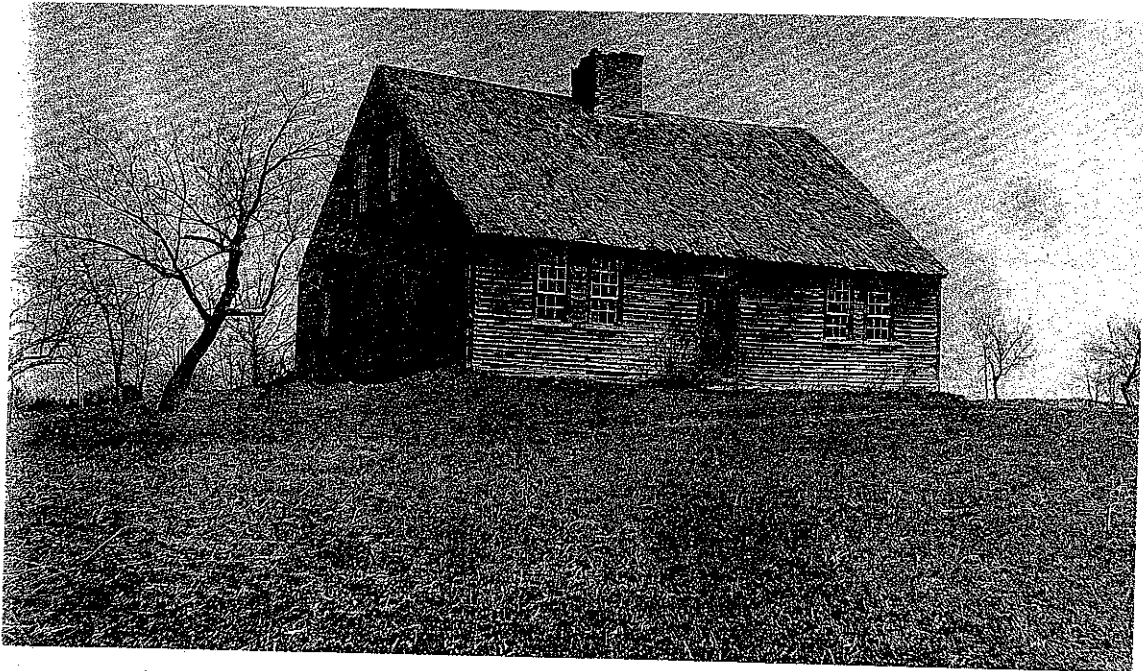
Patten's diary is a record of daily life in eighteenth-century rural New Hampshire. His straightforward, matter-of-fact prose tends to level all events. In the same paragraph in which he reports the Battle of Concord, for example, he also says that he had a kettle repaired and a chain made for his canoe. 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

THE DIARY

of

MATTHEW PATTEN

of

BEDFORD, N. H.

from

1754 to 1788

Matthew Patten



PICTON PRESS
CAMDEN, MAINE

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half the deed Dow sold it to David Abbott and the afternoon I went to the boys to the post and Rails beyond the meeting house

7th I finished the deed I began yesterday and I went to John Bells and Delivered the beam and Scales that my bro Sam^l brot from Noah Parkers last week for the town & I took their rect for them and they gave me an order for school money being 1-17-7-1 for which they gave me an order last march and I lost it was the Reason of my getting this

8th I took the acknowledgement of the Deed that I writ for Benjⁿ Dow to David Abbott unpd and David and I went with the Team and took 50 Chesnut posts that we got on the ministerial land to the little meadow

9th We went to work at the posts and Rails above the meeting house and it came on Rain and the boys came home and I stayed and cut 3 Rail cuts and 2 post cuts I shelled about 1¼ bushell of corn

10th the wind very high at N: W: and cold we cut our Stalks a frost that touched the punkins and bean leaves and some corn leaves the night following I drewed a Writ for James Caldwell against David Briant

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

12th I worked at the highway and Jamey and Bob top poled the fence up the back side and the school master kept the forenoon and the afternoon he went to a Clearing frolick at David Moors

13th We that hired the school master mett 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 Evening and brot a bottle of 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 Jamey and Bob went to their uncle Alex^r MacMurphys to help him to get his hay

15th in the morning between Day break and Sun Rise Lydia Hepper came and informed us that a number of persons 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^c and they paid me Little paid me quarter of a dollar and Eaton paid me 1½ a pistereen 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 bror Benjⁿ toward my Runing lines Writing a Deed and acknowledgement of the Deed and I paid it to old Mrs McLaughlin toward tow cloath 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

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 Viset me on which I said I would go

20th James Orr and Shed set the shoes on my horses fore feet and I went to Amherst and about 300 men assembled and chose a Commitie 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 Dispersed about Midnight without Doing any Out Ragious act I stayd till morning

21st I came home and I copped a transcript of a highway in Goffes town from the proprs book for Eben^r Hacket

22^d I copped 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 Benjⁿ and I took the acknowledgement 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 lott that Eben^r Johnson formerly lived on that lys over Piscataquog but did not finish

23^d I went to Benjⁿ 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^r 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 $\frac{2}{3}$ of the day and Jamey David holed 31 posts and I split 55 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

26th I drewed one warrent 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 att the school house on him and we adjourned both cases untill Monday the 3d of October at nine of the clock in the forenoon

27th I went to Amherst to the Superiour Court to Defend the case between the town and Proprietors in favour of the Proprs and I Recd four Dollars for the Proprs from Jacob McQuead 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^r 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 favr of the Town for 11-10-0 Lawful and cost the cost was taxed at 9-11-6 the cost was taxed in the afternoon and I paid 6/6 of it and it was so near night when it was done that we could not come home

OCTOBER 1st

I came home my Expences and Jamey Voses who attended the case me at Hildreths was 6-12-6 Bay old ten^r and I lodged one nig Baldwins was 7/ Bay old ten^r

3^d Col Goffe and I met at the School house on the case between and Lydia Hepper and her Daughter And Mr Houston and her a 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 Campbells

4th I went to McGaws and got $2\frac{3}{4}$ £ of Wool and some other a to the amount of 2-11-2 Bay O: T: and I settled all I owed him 19-12-3 Bay old ten^r and gave him a Note for it on Demand with I untill paid

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

6th I cut of 9 Rail cuts and butted 8 at the west end of W^m Ba land and I drewed a Compt and Warrant for William Bell against Wood there was seven Subpoenas came to 3/10 $\frac{1}{2}$ unpaid

7th I writ a pair of Indentures of James Grear to Matthew Lit Little unpd and W^m Bell and Eben^r Wood and Blasdel the constable and settled the affair and I taxed the cost I set a fine of 4/ my fe five shillings & I took his note on demand for my fees and the fine

8th I went to the little meadow and see what Jamey Smith had be ing he made three new corners that I see as I suppose

10th I went to Col Goffes to consult what to do about Raising mc discharge the Damage and cost in McDuffies case and afterward to Little to see him on the acct of said lawsuit and had to go to McGr and I then went to the falls and took my Salmon pot up the bank had half a bowle of Brandy tody at McGregores in company with for which I paid 3/ Bay old ten^r

11th I sowed allmost 8 bushell of Rie on the old field before the hc

12th I went to James Voses and he went with me to James Aikens John Bells Jacob McQuead Matthew McDuffies and to Adam Dick see about meeting and Settling the judgement that the town Ga the Propriety We were moved by some threatening that Jamey Smi made to Math McDuffie it cost us the whole day we had half a bc tody at Hugh Campbells charged to me unpaid

13th We got in two jags of corn and all the Stalks out of the upp peice of corn And my wife got Mr Nelsons letter to his congregatio William Wallace for 20/ Bay money and she paid 19/ of it

14th I went to Hollis to notifie Major Hobart according to his desir time I intend to go on the Survey in the dispute between the proj of Plymouth and Cockermonth my Expences was a pistereen

15th I husked corn and the boys did several overins

17th we finished husking corn in the forepart of the day and I about noon to see Adam Dickey to see to settle the judgement th gained against the proprietors and the commitie of the town and Vose and I met them at Hugh Campbells and we worried untill ne Break but they would do nothing but the cash or the Execution m^r

24th I writ a lease and counterpane for Samuel Moor and Amaziah Polard of Moors place I charged half a Dollar they promised to pay it in Equal halves

25th I writ a Deed from Matthew Little to James Cairns of the half of his home place and Cairns came for me at Bed time and I went with him to his uncles and took the acknowledgement of the Deed and sit the whole night in Drawing Matthew Littles Will and finished between break of Day and Sunrise and he Signed it and I came home the fore part of the day

26th James Little came about one or two of the clock and informed me that his bror wanted to have some addition and and some alterations and I went to writing and writ till night

27th I got to Writing and Cairns came and said that his uncle wanted I should go there and I went and almost finished the second draft and by Reason of some further thoughts I had to Draw a third and finished and had it signed after night and I came home about Bed time and Matthew gave me six sheets of paper

28th I writ a Deed from Isaac Marston to William Palmer I charged 40/ old tenor for it and the acknowledgement they paid me 37/6 old Tenor of it and Palmer owes me 2/6 old Tenor yet

29th Was our annual meeting which I attended and Swore the town officers and I swore the Committee that set off James Steels Wifes thirds for which Steel paid me a shilling

30th I went to Robert Alexanders and got four bushell of Rie and took it to Capt Moors mill but could not get it ground And I went to Hugh Campbells and Vendred his farm to John Manoughan for 398 Dollars & I Vendred several other articles We finished about 1½ hour before break of day I stayed all night

31st I assisted Hugh Campbell in Drawing the Deed and Settling with Thomas Boies untill about 10 o clock I charged 1½ Dollar and Campbell paid me the money and one Mr Holebrook from Killingsly came to get some information about some land of his fathers in this town I gave him a line what I thot the Value was he urged me to take a pistereen which I did after considerable urging

APRIL FIRST

I went to Capt Moors mill and got the Meal of the Rie I took there on the 30th Ult and I had the Toal and as I was comeing home I took the acknowledgement of a mortgage Deed from John Manoughan to Thomas Boies of Hugh Campbells place that he sold to said Manoughan Day before yesterday for which Manoughan Gave me a pistereen and I could not give him the change and he gave me y^e overplus

3^d Jamey helped his uncle John and Bob & David and I cut wood split two pine trees for wood

4th I Went to Amherst to Arbitrate between William Gordon and Thomas Murdough with Col: Lutwyche and Esqr Fletcher and we adjourned at Murdoughs Request till Thursday for his bringing some papers

from Hisborough which was occasioned by Gordons laying in a demand of Two notes which had been Settled before

5th I writ a Deed from Enos Bradford 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 32-7-10½ Debt the cost of Rafferance was 3-5-0 the cost of court to be taxed at court Murdough paid my Expences at Hildreths I Recd Two Dollars for my time from Col: Lutwyche for Mr Godon I sit the Remainder of the days in the Sessions and finished the Session and I paid Lieut Hildreth 2-2-6 Bay old Tenor being the Remainder of James Vose and my Expences 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 ¼ by Gelding my calves lambs &c and Nathan shad is to pay another ¼ and Freize is to pay the one half I charge ½ 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 off 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 Piscataquog Sawyer owns the Remainder and I got 4 Gallons of Molasses from Sam^l Moor at 17/ Bay old Tenor pr Gallon The Kagg and molasses and a long Strap weighed 54 £

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 Steeleed the toes of two shoes and Sett them on my horses fore feet and I went to McGregores and got a pound of Coffie and a Glas of Rum made into Tody for which I paid a pistereen and three coppers and in the forenoon I writ a letter to Deacon Williams to know the state of his accts as Treasurer for the propriety of Sowhegan East

14th I writ a lease of John Monaghins place to John Glene for which Monaghan paid me 1½ 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 shillings for the leases today & I got 4 bushell of Rie from Rob^t Alexander and got it Ground at Capt Moors and I had the Toal

15th I got a streak of tire for my Cart that weighed 13 £ in the barr from James Martain and he turned up the ends and punched the nail holes And I writ a long deed from Eben^r 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 drawed a Complaint and Warrant for Mr Joseph Currier against Sam^l Richards with two subpenas for which Mr Currier paid me 3/8 Lawful

17th I went to Litchfield and Run some lines for Esqr Claget 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 6/6 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 8/5 allowed me out of Capt Parkers Estate and I paid him 11/ 4-5 which paid up the note and I came home

18th 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 Kittle one of them was my iron the other was Sheds and he made part of a chain for my Canoe of my iron and writ a deed from Alexander McCalley to his son Alexander and I took the acknowledgement unpaid 2/

20th I Recd the Melancholy news in the morning that General Gages troops had fired on our Contrymen at Concord yesterday and had killed a large number of them our town was notified last night We Generay 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 Sheds 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 canoe he found iron for near a quarter of the chain the rest was mine And our John came home from being down to Pentucket and intended to Sett off for our army to morrow morning and our Girls sit up all night bakeing bread and fitting things for him and John Dobbin

21st our John and John Dobbin and my bror Samuell two oldest sons sett off and joynd Derryfield men and about six from Goffestown and two or 3 more from this town under the comand of Capt John Moor of Derryfield they amounted to the No of 45 in all Sunkook men 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 Pennykook or thereabouts and I went to McGregores and I got a pound of Coffie on Credit

22^d I was wakened in the morning by Mrs Chandlers comeing with a letter from the Comitee of the Provincial Congress for calling another Congress of the Province immeadeately and I went with it as fast as could to John Bells but he was gone to our army and both the others allso and I went to Robert Alexanders and got 4 bushell of Rie on Credit and took it to Capt Moors mill and got it ground and I had it the Toal and I had 1/2 a bowle of Tody at McGaws for which I paid 1/4 Lawful

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

25th I went and notified on the River Road to meet at the meeting house in the afternoon on our publick Distress and I went to Col: Goffes to ask his advice and met toward evening and acted on what we thot necessary and my Brors jos 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 Torys Crossing the River to Examin and search if they judge it needful and I got a pound of Coffie and nine flints from MacGregore for which I paid him 11/8 Bay old tenor

27th Was the Province Fast by the Governors Proclamation

28th I began to Stock Capt Blairs Gun and I went and got Jamey 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

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

2^d 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 on our affairs of the country and Capt Moor had a training and our John and John Dobbin came home

3^d 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 apprizement to apprise 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 1 1/2 bushell and the boys finished planting potatoes and I went to Mr Alexanders and got 4 bushells of Rie and got it Ground at Capt Moors and I had the Toal

6th I went to the lott by Sheds and got some stuff for a Salmon pott and brot it home and put it into Soak

7th Being Sabath day the fire came from Adam Dickeyes on both sides of Sebeans 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 Shaving the Stuff for the pot and Bundled it for carrying to the falls and Jamey and David Carted off the old Cole pit Stuff and other Sticks off the broke up ground

11th 12th & 13th I went to the falls and nail on the new covering on my Salmon pot and I borrowed 200 clapboard nails from my bror Sam^l to do it with and in the time I hung a Nett and caught 3 Shad and Some El-wives and John Bell and I set the pot on our new setting place and I had my bror^s oxen cross plowing two days

14th I went up in the Evening and got John Dunlap and Henry Stevens and took up the pot out of which I took Six Salmon and 4 Shad The Salmon weighed 70 & I gave Tho^s Miller 4 Shad and about 12 Elwives

From the 15th to the 20th Inclusive I fished at the falls I got 106 Ells and how may shad I cant Remember on the 19th we finished planting corn on the 16th we had a town meeting in Bedford at which we Voted to Shut the meeting house against Mr Houston and I was chosen to attend the County Congress next wednesday at Amherst

22^d I got 27 Ells for my Divide and I borrowed 78 that I sent home 105 and 10 Jamev Patterson gave 10 Ells for me for Rum

23^d 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 Expences 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 Eels as paid what I had borrowed from Hacket viz 78 and I borrowed 11 from Jamey Patterson and 18 from Sam^l Patterson and 15 of my own made 39

29th I went to Amherst and met the Rest of the Comitee and we took the care of the Goal 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 Expences 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 Blacks widow to John Gardner and took the acknowledgement both unpaid

7th We had a fine Shower 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 Rob^t MacGregore and 3 to David Gage of 34 £ and I am to have a pair of Pumps from him and I lent one of 9½ £ to Rob^t Richardson and one I gave to Alex^r MacMurphy

14th David and I fished and we got Six Salmon and 5 Shad the Salmon weighed 68 £ and I let Nathan Shed have them all they came to 14/7 1/5

16th David and I fished and we got one that weighed 10 £ and we had two large Salmon broke through the nett 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 MacGregores 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 76 £ I divided in equal halves with Martin and I let Stephen Frenches wife have two that weighed 24 £ And I writ all the fore part of the day in framing an answer to Mr MacGregores letter to John Bell And the afternoon I attended Matthew Littles funeral And Bob and David fished at the Setting place and got 1 Salmon that weighed 10 £ and Rob^t MacGregore had it toward fishing expences they got two Shad allso

20th I worked at makeing 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

22^d Was a fast by order of the Provincial Congress and I sent ½ of the Salmon to Sam^l Gordon that I brot home yesterday & our Belled Cow took Bull

23^d David and I fished and I caught 5 Salmon by Scooping they weighed 60 £ and I let David Gage have two that weighed 21 £ and I got one from Robert Richardson that he owed me of 10 £

24th 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 Starks son W^m for his father to Notifie Capt Page to come and hear some depositions taken at MacGregores on Monday next

26th I went to MacGregores and Swore 4 Witnesses for Col: Stark to be improved at Exeter at the Congress in their Disputes in Dunbarton unpaid and I borrowed a Salmon of 9½ £ of James Patterson for my bror to take to the army

27th I went to the Falls and Fished and got no Salmon

28 29 & 30th I got some White Ash and made some Scoop nett bows on the 30th John came home on a furrow

JULY 1st

I made some scoop nett bows and I sit up a pail

3^d I hooped the pail I set up the first and the afternoon I went with Sam^l Vose my Bror^s and met John Bell at Adam Dickeys And took his Wifes 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 untill near dark and I tarried over night at Heldreths my Expences was 17/2 Bay old Tenor

5th I came home in the morning nothing material untill the 11th when John sett off for the Army he Rid my horse down in the time I made a pail and a washing tub and went to MacGregores to See Lieut McCalley about comeing to assist as a commiteeman concerning Mr Houston but did not see him on the 10th Martain and I got Six Salmon that weighed I suppose about 60 £ 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 123 £ 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 brors John went off in the evening and caught 10 that weighed 111 £ we had ½ of them and I went to see Lieut McCalley 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 Esqur Whiting for his being a Tory and I took two Salmon with me that weighed 20 £ I sold one to Mr Hildreth and I gave him the other I had 2/6 pr £ Bay old Tenor my expences was 16/6 Bay old Tenor

14 & 15th I with Deacon Boies and John Wallace apprized Matthew Littles Estate

17th There was 4 of Goffestown Committee and 4 of Merrymac and 2 from Derryfield met in Bedford by the desire of Bedford committee 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 majr part of one of the commitees of the towns who judged him we broke up the next morning after day break

18th 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 agt 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

23^d Mr Shedd hoed for me for the boys Reaping for him yesterday

23^d 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^r to mill

26th I got two Tea cup fulls of Turnip seed from old Mrs Turil for which I gave her 3/ 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 butchered 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 writ severall letters viz 8 to Divers of the Comitee of the county to meet at Amherst the 8th instant to do something about Lancey and Silas Barron

2^d 3^d 4th & the 5th at noon we finished Reaping we have 41 Stooks and 5 Sheaves in the field before the house We have 73 Stook and 5 Sheaves in all this year and we took the skin of the Calf we killed the 1st Instant to Stephen French to Tan

7th I went along the River as far as McGaws and round by Neasmiths and Tho^s Wallaces enquireing after my Calf that stroled 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 comitee of the County to do something between Tho^s 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 expences was 5/ Bay old tenor and I took the acknowledgement of a Deed from Capt Moor to Charles Black for Blacks widow

9th 10th 11th & part of the 12th cloudy and rain and I fitted of some new Rakes

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

A DAY BOOK CONTINUED FROM AUGUST 18 1775

19th I brot a load of hay from the meadow

20th Mr Cook preached in Bedford

21st I brot a load of hay from the meadow & Susey bot 2 £ of tobacco from John Wallace and paid a pistereen for it

22^d I paid Moses Watt Thirty two shillings Bay old tenor for knitting my part of the scene the two last seasons being 20/ one year and 12/ the other and I brot a load of hay from the meadow

23^d I brot a load of hay from the meadow

24th I butchered a weather sheep that weighed 85½ £ and I brot a load of hay from the meadow

25th I brot in a load from the meadow and a small load out of the meadow at home

26th I went and Ran the lines of the meadow lott no 55 in the little meadow for Col Daniel Moor and the boys burned the Brow between the meadow and the old field by my brors

27th Mr Cotton preached in Bedford in exchange with Mr Cook

28th I went and Split a Rail out between this and James Caldwells it made 17 Rails we hauled it to the path last Winter and I fell a tree on my brors land and cut of a length for Rails and Quartered it

29th Was a Rainey day and Shed put a peice of his iron to one of my betle Rings and worked it over and made a new one of it and I Copped at the Inventory of Matthew Littles Estate about half the afternoon

30th Deacon Boies John Wallace and I met at widow Littles and finished apprizing and copying the Inventory and went to Swear to the appriz but Col Goffe was not at home

31st I went to Col Littles and from there to McGregores after Vinigar to Save pickles it Rained considerable in the afternoon I had a bowle of tody at McGregores for which I paid /8 La Mo

SEPTEMBER

1st I went to Deacon Walkers after Vinegar and I cut 4 treas for Rails N W of the Meeting house

2^d We got our hay at the little meadow dried and brot it home I have but Eleven jags there in all this year

3^d Mr Cook preached in Bedford from Revelations 3^d and latter part of the 1st verse the wind high at about E N E and in the afternoon it Rained considerable

4th it was cloudy all day and I went N W of the Meeting house and I cut and Split the trees into Rails that John fell last faul on the Ministerial land and David and Alex^r came out with the Team and brot home 53 Rails

5th we lent 4½ bushells of Apples to Deacon Littles and a barrel and they (viz) Deacon Little and Amaziah Pollard 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 Ensn Ames being their pay for attending the General Court in March last which I drew for them by their order Lovewell gave me 1/4 and Ames Gave six pence for my trouble

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

7th I went to Col: Goffes with my bror Sam^l and widow Barnett on their administration affairs

8th I settled acots with Samuel Moor and he paid me 1-5-5 Lawful with what things I had from him before Shad what my bror and Widow Barnett owed me for what I did about prizeing &c of Francis Barnets Estate they had paid me 1-6-10 by things I bot at Vendue and the Remainder Samuell Moor paid me which with some Intrest was 2-3-7 I had 2 £ of moors money in 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 1-5-5 due now from him to me and I paid him 10/ with 4/7 and the 1-5-5 made the 2 £ that was in my hands

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

10th I went to McGregores to see to find flaxseed and I had ½ a bowle for which I paid /4 La: Mo: and came by the Voses and got the promis of some from Lieut Vose

11th I went to Col Moors Mill and took 1½ bushell of corn and 1½ bushell of Rie and got it ground and I had the Toal

12th I writ a letter to john and Bob and sent it by john Dobyne who set off for New York today to join the army

13th I went to Col Moors Mill and took 1½ bushell of rie and 1½ bushell of corn and got it Ground and I had the Toal and I Recd of La: Mo: from john Orr being his part for my Runing lines for him and Matthew McDuffie a year or two ago

15th Shed set a Shoe on my horses near fore foot and I carried a pair of leather Breeches to john Smith to get fitted for myself my john sent them to me and I went to Lieut Voses to get flaxseed but he and his wife were both from home that I did not get any and got a pair of Soles for my every day pumps from john Wallace and we could not make change to pay for them

16th was a Rainy day and I shelled corn

17th I went to David Moors with my pumps to have him sow on the soles I got from john Wallace yesterday and I went to William Palmers and paid his wife 1/ La: Mo: being the Remainder of what I owed him for what earthern ware I had from him last faul and I went to MacGregores and had ½ a bowle of tody for which I paid /4 and the afternoon attended the adjournment of our march meeting & another new meeting

18th WAS THE COLONY FAST

20th I got a bushell of flaxseed from Lieut Samuell Vose & he said he owed me two shillings lawful and I gave him /5 and lawful and one the two he owed me made the price of the flaxseed and he could not make the change to give me the other shilling and I got my pumps from David Moor that he sowed the soles on he was from home and I did not pay him for his wife did not know how much it was and I got 6 pounds of fax from widow Little to be settled in my acct against the Estate

22^d I sowed three or four quarts of peas and the afternoon I went to the Raising of Zechariah Chandler's house

23^d I took the proof of Thos Wallaces Will at my house and Recd six shillings Lawful from jos Wallace

24th I attended the Probate at Amherst and my part of the fees was the proof of the 3 Wills that I took at Goffestown and at home and granting Admr to john Gregg came to 27/ and the Register gave me a shilling more than my part and I paid my expences at Smiths And I bot a pair of plated knee buckles and 5 £ and 10 ounces of lead at Means for which I paid 6/ 1½ my Expences at Heldrehs I did not pay

25th I went with jona Esqr to Col Goffes and he Recd the Probate Books and Files which Atherton had sent there to prevent their coming into our hands as I suppose And I bot ½ a pound of shot from Mrs Rand for which I paid her /8 ½ Lawful money and I lent Esqr Blanchard 2/8 in cash and I paid our ferriage

26th I spent the day with my Cousin William Patten in the house

27th the forenoon helping to mend fence the afternoon I writ a Deed from Stephen Tuttle to William Rogers & I took the acknowledgement both unpaid and I took the acknowledgement of the Deed I writ last Tuesday from Zechariah Chandler to Hugh Campell Chandler paid the writing the Deed and Campbell could not make change to pay the acknowledgement

28th Mrs French gave me a fresh shad that her husband brot from the mouth of Concord river and Mr Cotton Preached in Bedford being the first we have had since last faul

29th I went to Col Moors Mill and I took 1½ bushell of Rie and 1½ bushell of Indian corn and got it Ground & I had the Toal and I went to McGaws and I got 7 £ of Shugar and a quart of Rum and a Glas of Rum into tody for which I paid 49/2 Bay old Tenor and I went with Widow Little to her house to see if Cairns would give up his Deed that she might take her thirds but he would not and I went to McGregores & I paid him six Dollars for six bushell of salt and I brot home three bushell of it and the other three I have to get

30th was some Rain last night and this morning we shelled 2 bushels of corn and I got some hoop poles and shaved some hoops to put into some barrels

MAY FIRST

was a very high wind at N: W: and exceeding cold and I went to McGregores and got the last three bushell of the salt that I paid him for day before yesterday and I went to Major Kelleys with the Rest of the

MAY 1776

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 Goffstowm comtee 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

2^d 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

3^d 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^s Boies and Samuel Kennedys to Get Hony for Alex McMurphy and I got a snuff bottle almost full at Sam^l Kennedys and some in another at Tho^s 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 Sam^l to see Col: john Stark who came from New York yesterday my Expences was 2/10

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 15/ 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 geting from Col: Goffe and I writ a Deed of it and another Deed from the Col: to the Major of a lott 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 Esqr Little and one of Lieut 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 weaveing a peice of Fustin in

16th I set out for Exeter to attend as one of the Comtee of Safty for the Colony and arived 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 desc Matthew's son, John's, death. page will be found in the transcri version of the diary on the bottom page 360 and the top of page Courtesy of the New Hamp Historical Society.

fellows the old field by my
 field by my horse
 on the field by my horse and
 took the points of Camp
 meadow that Mr John
 gave me for it and
 took to the staff of a cloth
 the pieces adjoining to said
 I am to settle with the
 Regt Little and one of
 and for John Smith the child
 and gave back of them a letter
 which Mr Dawson wrote
 it and the afternoon I took
 to go to the at a
 of Fustin
 to attend to one of the
 and in the evening
 the afternoon of the 20th and
 to go to Capt Underhill
 as 26 yards of
 to be dyed and dressed
 to the 5 yards of
 ball for my breeches
 and
 and went to writing
 on my journey
 the death of the
 my wife had got
 the account
 he was with
 when they
 when they
 the 20th day of June

Capt Underhill I left the Gown and near 26 yards of Fustin at Mr Barkers to cloathiers to be dyed and dressed My Expences was 13/4 1/2 I bot 4/ worth of things viz 2 £ of tobacco a rub ball for my breeches and a Declaration 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 Chambike and that they moved him to Saint Johns where they tarried but one night when they moved him to Isle of Noix where he died on the 20th day of June the Reason of moveing him was the Retreat of the army which was very preceipitate and he must either be moved or be left behind whether the moveing 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 fategue 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 Tyranical Brute (Nea worse than Brute) of Great Britan he was 24 years and 31 days old

22^d I writ at letters to send to the army in all I writ four one Col: Stark one to Major Moor one to Master Eagan and one to Bob

23^d I went to Robert McGregores to meet the Post and Tarried all day but he did not come and I got a pound of Coffie from Moly McNeill 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 McGregores and waited for the post but he did not come and I got two pounds of Coffie from Moly McNeal and 1/2 a bowle of tody and did not pay her for want of change

25th I went set out to go to McGregores to meet the post and Met McGregores boy comeing for me on the post horse and I gave the post four letters for the carriag of which I paid him 4/ and he agreed to bring my Johns things except the Gun and accoutraments 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 £ of coffee and 1/2 bowle of tody I had yesterday I paid 4/1 and Patrick Murfey paid me 3/ and Zechariah 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 3/ 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 boys mowed in the pasture and between and the meadow and a little before night I went to McGaws and bot 7 £ of Shugar at 5/6 and a Quart of Rum at 1/3 and 1/2 a bowle of Tody at 1/4 which I paid him

28th I heard Mr Webster preached in Bedford

29th we Shelled 4 1/2 bushell of corn and I took 1 1/2 bushell of Rie and 2 bushell of corn to Lieut Littles mill but could not get it ground