

X CITIZEN SOLDIERS

off to war as a second lieutenant in the Fourth Pennsylvania. He died soon thereafter when a rifle accidentally went off in camp.

9. The strategic Sorel (or Richelieu) River which connects Lake Champlain with the St. Lawrence River between Montreal and Trois-Rivieres.

10. Brigadier General William Thompson of Pennsylvania, who led the ill-fated June 8 attack on Trois Rivieres.

11. Erkuries Beatty, the youngest of the Beatty brothers to take up arms, was a private in the Continental army.

12. Colonel Philip Van Cortland, Second Regiment, Essex County Militia.

13. The Reverend Thomas Morrell, Captain in the Essex County Militia.

14. Probably Abijah Holmes, quartermaster for Fithian's unit.

15. Ann Stockton Hunter, aunt of Fithian's close friend the Reverend Andrew Hunter, Jr. (see Doc. 2).

16. Maskell Ewing, Sr. (1721-1796), patriarch of the famous Ewing clan of Cumberland County; his son, Thomas, was married to Fithian's sister, Sarah.

2 Andrew Hunter, Jr., The Life of an Army Chaplain

[Andrew Hunter, Jr., Diary, 1776-1779, Firestone Library, Princeton University.]

The Reverend Andrew Hunter, Jr. (1752-1823), nephew and namesake of the famous Presbyterian clergyman of Greenwich, Cumberland County, joined Colonel Philip Van Cortland's unit as chaplain on June 28, 1776. The extract from his diary that follows not only reveals something about the life of an army chaplain but also records Hunter's reaction to the first major confrontation between British and American forces. The battle of Long Island began August 22-25 when General William Howe, supported by warships in New York Harbor, landed a 20,000-man force on the island and advanced toward strategic New York City, which was occupied by an American army under George Washington. The American forces sent to Long Island to blunt the British offensive suffered crushing defeats during pitched battles on August 26-27; during the night of August 29-30 Washington withdrew his men to Manhattan Island.

[August 6-September 1, 1776]

6 Tuesday Wrote a little in the morning—very unwell with a diarrhea in the afternoon.

7 Wednesday All day very unwell with the same complication.

8 Thursday A bed chief of the day.

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9 Friday My complaint continues or rather degenerates into the dysentery.

10 Saturday A.M. took an emetic; P.M. visited by Mr. Chapman¹ who was so kind as to agree to preach to my Reg[iment] on the Sabbath.

11 Sunday Something better in health. What an invaluable blessing is an affectionate wife or friend in the hour of sickness and distress. The dysentery abates; taken with a violent head ach. Mr. Chapman called to see me, but was hurried home sooner than agreeable by the appearance of a thunderstorm. Unable to attend public Worship—unable to read—unable to think.

12 Monday Continued weak and unfit for much business—spent the former part of the day in reading and writing. In the afternoon visited Col. Van Cortland.² Upon hearing a number of cannon fired we went down to the dock with a glass and saw 40 Sail of the Kings Ships arrive at Staten Island to have the Hessians on board.

13 Tuesday Reg. orders to march to Long-Island. Spent the day in preparing accordingly.

14 Wednesday Spent the day in moving from New York to Long Island.

15 Thursday Spent the day in quest of lodging which we are not permitted to take without the lines.

16 Friday Moved to Mrs. Seaburn's to board and lodge at 15/³ per week appears to be an agreeable place.

17 Saturday Spent the day in studying and preparation for the exercises of the Sabbath.

18 Sunday About half after 6 O'Clock in the morning a heavy canonading began between the Phenix a 40 Gun Ship and the Rose a 24 Gun Ship⁴ in their passage down to Staten Island, and our Batteries. The Engagement lasted about 3 Quarters of an Hour. Spent a part of the day in religious exercises with the Regiment. The other part was exceeding stormy.

19 Monday Spent the day in writing letters or reading. Every evening for two weeks past we have fully expected an attack.

20 Tuesday Spent the day in study—only the necessary duties and avocations.

21 Wednesday Spent the day in reading and writing. This day the enemy begin to weigh anchor and stand outwards. Conjectured that they are gone to plunder or to make a descent upon some other part of the continent. We have an account of the Rifle-Men killing one of the Regulars who was one of a party who attempted to Land at the Narrows. In the Evening a most dreadful thunderstorm which killed in Camp 1 Captain, 2 Subalterns and blinded and deafened 2 privates.

22 Thursday Very unwell in the morning; about 11 O'Clock an Express came from the Narrows that the Enemy were landing there and that Col. Hand⁵ the commanding Officer and his Regiment were retreating. Our Drums beat in Arms and every Reg[iment] took its Alarm post; the Generals then viewed the Arrangement and detached two Rifle Reg. and 3 Reg. of Musketeers to meet the Enemy who then had advanced as far as Flatbush. Our Troops Marched near their Encampment and after placing proper guards lay down upon their Arms.

23 Friday A smart skirmish happened between our Men and an advanced party of the enemy. One of our riflemen received a Musket ball in his Thigh which broke the bone. I was present at nursing the wound a little distance from the place of action—oh the excruciating Pain! The enemy's loss we are not yet able to ascertain tho' it is probable that it is not great. They however retreated to this main Body we Detached 8 Regts. to relieve those who had been out the Day before. The men upon

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our Lines all the day engaged in making Piquets and Abbetiss⁶ all in good Spirits and seem eager to fight.

24 Saturday After visiting the Reg. I spent the former part of the day in reading. A constant scattering fire was kept up between the enemy and our Men—little Damage was done on either side—save that 7 of the Enemy were said to be killed. One of our men had his leg shattered with a 6 Pound Ball. I was present when Dr. Warren⁷ amputated the Limb—the man fearcely disstorted his Face, and never gave a groan. The operation was performed in about 3 minutes after the Tornequits were fit—with very little loss of Blood. Col. Martin⁸ on reconnoitring Party received a wound in his breast, Lieut. Thomas⁹ and four Privates taken Prisoners.

25 Sunday The Camp in a Tumult—a few of us both forenoon and afternoon met to worship God. Very little done between us and the Enemy.

26 Monday Little done all Day. In the night our people and the Enemy lay within about 200 yards of each other. They fired scattering shot on both sides.

27 Tuesday Early in the Morning the Enemy in the woods attempted to surround our people in different Places which they in some Degree effected. A warm engagement at different Quarters ensued. But the Enemy, being double in Number, our Men were obliged to give way. Many were killed, many wounded, some drowned, and others escaped by swimming—we make doubt but the Enemy's loss was as great as ours in every Respect. We took about 30 of them Prisoners. We had about 300 men loss two of our Brigadier Generals Lord Stirling and Gen. Sullivan¹⁰ were taken Prisoners. Col. Johnson¹¹ and Col. Terry were killed. The enemy appeared in open view in the afternoon in large columns. They began to cast up works with about 1/4 mile of lines. A Lamentable Day.

28 Wednesday An incessant scattering Fire was kept up so that it was very dangerous to be out of a fort. The Balls whizzed around our Ears from all Quarters. Very little Damage done on either side. We were several Times alarmed with the approach of the Enemy. Col. V. Cortlandt defended Brigadier Gen. [blank].¹²

29 Thursday We remained in the same state. We threw several shells at our Enemy, and they fired their Field-Pieces at us. In the afternoon we received orders to parade the different Regiments at 7 O'Clock to receive orders. The orders were to retreat to New York with all our Baggage, to carry off as much of our artillery as possible. We were crossing the River all night in great hurry and confusion. This Retreat was wise determined and well executed—our People got safely over to New York. We left the Tories of Long-Island in great Fear and abandoned them to the Effects of their own cursed devices.

30 Friday Spent the Day in New York in a State of great anxiety. The Enemy this morning took Possession of all our Forts on Long Island. The ships of war drew up near Governors Island and fired several times upon our People there. We sent our Flat bottomed boats to bring them off; the Enemy in the Mean Time fired upon them from Fort Sterling,¹³ Red Hook,¹⁴ and their Ships, and only wounded one man.

31 Saturday Spent the Day in preparing for the Exercises of the Sabbath. Very little done in military affairs, unless some scattering shots from the ships. The soldiery seem a good deal discouraged and General McDougal's¹⁵ Brigade marched up towards Harlem to prevent the Enemy's coming across the town from Long Island.

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1 September Sunday We were ordered to be in readiness to march at a minute's warning. The soldiery were ordered to cook 2 days provisions and were prevented attending religious exercises. We had some Quiet and something like Peace. . . .

1. The Reverend Jedidiah Chapman of the Newark Mountains Presbyterian Church.
2. Colonel Philip Van Cortlandt, Second Regiment, Essex County Militia.
3. Fifteen shillings.
4. H.M.S. *Phoenix* and *Rose*, the principal British frigates brought down from Tappan Bay, had forty-four and twenty-eight guns respectively.
5. Colonel Edward Hand, First Pennsylvania, Continental Line.
6. Pickets (F. *piquets*): pointed or sharpened stakes used for fencing; abatis: a crude fortification constructed of felled trees whose sharpened ends face the enemy.
7. John Warren of Boston, younger brother of Joseph Warren, then chief surgeon of the Continental army hospital on Long Island.
8. Colonel Ephraim Martin, Second Regiment, Sussex County Militia.
9. Lieutenant Edward Thomas, First Regiment, Burlington County Militia.
10. William Alexander of New Jersey and John Sullivan of New Hampshire.
11. Colonel Philip Johnson, Second Regiment, Hunterdon County Militia.
12. Name missing from the manuscript.
13. Fort Stirling, fortification of General William Alexander (the self-styled Lord Stirling) on the shore of the East River near the Brooklyn Ferry.
14. Red Hook, the island directly south of Governor's Island at the northern extremity of Gowanus Bay, was the site of Fort Defiance.
15. Alexander McDougall of New York, Continental army.

3 [William Churchill Houston?], The Campaign Journal of a Militiaman, 1776-1777

[*Princeton Standard*, May 1, 8, and 15, 1863]

The following account portrays the life of a militiaman during some of the most trying times confronted by Jerseymen during the revolutionary war. After suffering devastating defeats by the British in and around New York City, Washington's bedraggled army in November and December of 1776 fled through New Jersey and across the Delaware River with Generals Howe and Cornwallis in leisurely pursuit. New Jersey belonged to the enemy. But Washington's audacious attack on Trenton on December 26 and his subsequent victory at Princeton on January 3 reversed the process; by the end of January 1777 the