

Index Of Continental Army Enlisted Men's Diaries

Compiled by Bob McDonald, © 2001

[NOTES FOR THE READER](#)

Daniel Allen:

Private, Bradley's Connecticut State Regiment (in Continental service.)

Diary spans July - October 1776.

Service at Manhattan, captured at Fort Washington.

Published in *A History Of Cornwall, Connecticut, A Typical New England Town*, by Edward C. Starr, n.p., 1926, pages 252-254.

Josiah Atkins:

Private, Light Infantry Company, 5th Connecticut Regiment.

Diary spans April - October 1781. (Died of disease.)

Service in Hudson Highlands, march to Virginia, in Lafayette's campaign of summer 1781.

Published as *The Journal Of Josiah Atkins Of Waterbury, Farmington Society In Ye State Of Connecticut N. England 1781*, by the Mattatuck Historical Society,

Waterbury, CT, Occasional Publications, New Series, Number 21, October 1954, 16 pages.

Manuscript within the collections of the New Haven Colony Historical Society.

Aaron Barlow:

Sergeant, 5th Connecticut Regiment (Waterbury's.)

Diary spans June - December 1775.

Service at Fort Ticonderoga and St. John's.

Extracts published as *The March To Montreal And Quebec, 1775*, edited by Charles B. Todd, in *The American Historical Register*, No. 7, March, 1895, pages 641 - 649.

Enos Barnes:

Sergeant, 5th Connecticut Regiment.

Diary spans (?) - 1778 - (?).

Service at (?), Monmouth, (?).

Transcription of unpublished manuscript in private possession.

Henry Bedinger:

Sergeant, Stephenson's Independent Company of Virginia Riflemen.

Diary spans July 1775 - June 1776.

Service at Boston.

Published in *Historic Shepherdstown*, by Danske Dandridge, Charlottesville, VA, 1910, pages 97 - 144.

Samuel Bixby:

Private, Learned's Massachusetts Regiment.

Diary spans May 1775 - January 1776.

Service at Boston.

Published as *Diary of Samuel Bixby*, in Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Vol.14, Boston, MA, March, 1876, pages 285 - 298.

Thomas Boynton:

Sergeant, Frye's Massachusetts Regiment.

Diary spans April - August 1775.

Service in Boston.

Extracts published as "*Thomas Boynton's Journal*", in Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, No. 15, Boston, MA, 1876 - 77, pages 321 - 322.

Manuscript within the collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Leonard Broome:

Sergeant, 4th Continental Artillery Regiment.

Diary spans February - April 1781. Note: This volume is a mixture of orderly book entries, company returns, and only limited but nevertheless interesting diary entries.]

Service at the North Redoubt, eastern-shore Hudson Highlands.

Manuscript at the United States Military Academy Library, West Point, NY.

Unpublished. Transcribed. Not microfilmed.

Obediah Brown:

Private, 16th Continental Regiment (Sargent's.)

Diary spans January 1776 - January 1777.

Service at Boston, Manhattan, in Westchester County.

Published as "*Military Journal, January, 1776 - January, 1777, around Boston and New York*", in Quarterly Bulletin of the Westchester County Historical Society, Elmsford, NY, No. 4, 1928, pages 67 - 72; No. 5, 1929, pages 10 - 20. Published article microfilmed.

Manuscript within the collections of the Westchester County Historical Society.

William Chapman:

Private, 6th Connecticut Regiment (Parsons'.)

Diary spans July - December 1775.

Service at Boston.

Manuscript within the collections of the Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, CT. Unpublished. Microfilmed.

Samuel Chase:

Private, (?) New Hampshire Regiment.

(1) Diary spans August - October 1779.

Service in Sullivan's Expedition.

(2) Diary spans July 1781 - January 1782.

Service at (?)

(3) Diary spans May 1782 -- April 1787 (?)

Service at (?)

Manuscript (71 pages) within the compiled pension application files, National Archives. Unpublished. Microfilmed.

Elihu Clark:

Private, 2nd Connecticut Regiment (Wyllys'.)

Diary spans April - December 1775.

Service at Boston.

Manuscript within the collections of the Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, CT. Unpublished. Microfilmed. Copy within the Force transcripts, Library of Congress.

Ichabod Corbett:

Private, (?) Massachusetts Regiment (militia service?)

(1) Diary spans December 1776 - March 1777.

Service in the Hudson Highlands.

(2) Diary spans January - April 1778.

Service in Rhode Island.

Published as *Diary Of A Revolutionary Soldier*, in Proceedings of the Worcester Society of Antiquity, No. 19, Worcester, MA, 1903, pages 171 - 186.

John Dewey:

Private, 3rd Continental Regiment (Learned's.)

Diary spans April 1776 - February 1777.

Service at Boston, Manhattan, on New Jersey retreat, at Trenton, Princeton, Morristown.

Published in *Life Of George Dewey, Rear Admiral, U. S. N., And Dewey Family History*, edited by Adelbert M. Dewey, Westfield, MA, 1898, pages 278 - 281.

Russel Dewey:

Fife Major, 15th Continental Regiment (Cady's, late Paterson's.)

Diary spans January - March 1776.

Service at Fort Ticonderoga, Quebec.

Published in *Life Of George Dewey, Rear Admiral, U. S. N., And Dewey Family History*, edited by Adelbert M. Dewey, Westfield, MA, 1898, pages 266 - 271.

George Ewing:

Private/Ensign, 2nd New Jersey Regiment, 3rd New Jersey Regiment.

Diary spans November 1775 - June 1778.

Service at Forts Stanwix, Schuyler, Herkimer, and Ticonderoga, in Philadelphia Campaign, winter quarters Valley Forge.

Published as *The Military Journal of George Ewing (1754 - 1824), a Soldier of Valley Forge*, Yonkers, NY, 1928. Also published as *Journal of George Ewing, a Revolutionary Soldier, of Greenwich, New Jersey* in *The American Monthly Magazine (D.A.R.)*, Vol. 37, No. 6, 1910, pages 471 - 473; Vol. 38, No. 7, 1911, pages 5 - 8, 50 -

Amos Farnsworth:

Corporal/Ensign, Prescott's Massachusetts Regiment, 13th Continental Regiment (Read's), 2nd Massachusetts Regiment. (?)

Diary spans April 1775 - December 1776 (with several pages missing from manuscript and publication.)

Service on Lexington Alarm, at Boston, and at Bunker Hill (wounded) as enlisted man, at Fort Ticonderoga in 1776 as ensign, Massachusetts militia.

Published as *Diary Kept By Lieut. Amos Farnsworth Of Groton, Mass., During Part Of The Revolutionary War, April, 1775 - May, 1779*, edited by Samuel A. Green, Cambridge, MA, 1898. Also published in *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Second Series, Vol. 12, 1899*, pages 74 - 107.

Moses Fellows:

Sergeant, 3rd New Hampshire Regiment.

Diary spans June - September 1779.

Service in Sullivan's Expedition.

Published in *Journals of the Military Expedition of Major General John Sullivan....*, by Frederick Cook, Auburn, NY, 1887, pages 86 - 91.

Elijah Fisher:

Private, Read's Massachusetts Regiment, 13th Continental Regiment, 4th Massachusetts Regiment, the Commander-in Chief's Guard, 11th Massachusetts Regiment.

Diary spans May 1775 - April 1781.

Service locations numerous and diverse.

Published as *Elijah Fisher's Journal While in the War for Independence*, Augusta, ME, 1880. Also published in *Magazine of History, Extra No. 6*, pages 126 - 165.

John Flanders:

Private, (unit unknown.)

Diary spans January - April 1776.

Service at Quebec, and prisoner.

Published in *The History of Boscawen and Webster [New Hampshire] from 1773 to 1878*, by Charles C. Coffin, Concord, NH, 1878, pages 250 - 251.

Thomas Foster:

Private, 7th Massachusetts Regiment.

Diary spans May 1782 - June 1783.

Service at West Point, Verplancks Point, New Windsor Cantonment.

Manuscript within the collections of The Huntington Library, San Marino, CA.

Unpublished. Microfilmed.

Simon Giffen:

Sergeant Major, Webb's Additional Continental Regiment.

Diary spans May 1777 - September 1779.

Service at West Point, White Plains, Newport.

Manuscript within the collections of the Beineke Library, Yale University, New Haven, CT. Unpublished. Microfilmed.

Benjamin Gilbert:

Sergeant-Major, 5th Massachusetts Regiment.

Diary spans January 1778 - January 1780.

Service in Connecticut and the eastern-shore Hudson Highlands.

Published as *A Citizen-Soldier In The American Revolution: The Diary of Benjamin Gilbert in Massachusetts and New York*, edited by Rebecca D. Symmes, Cooperstown, NY, 1980, 93 pages.

Manuscript within the collections of the New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, NY. Microfilmed.

George Grant:

Sergeant Major, 3rd New Jersey Regiment.

Diary spans May - December 1779.

Service in Sullivan's Expedition.

Published in *Journals of the Military Expedition of Major General John Sullivan...*, by Frederick Cook, Auburn, NY, 1887, pages 107 - 114.

Jeremiah Greenman:

Sergeant/Adjutant, 2nd Rhode Island Regiment.

Diary spans September 1775 - December 1783.

Service locations numerous and diverse.

Published as *Diary of a Common Soldier in the American Revolution, 1775 - 1783; An Annotated Edition of the Military Journal of Jeremiah Greenman*, edited by Robert C. Bray and Paul E. Bushnell, DeKalb, Illinois, 1978, 333 pages.

Manuscript within private possession.

Caleb Haskell:

Fifer, Little's Massachusetts Regiment, 12th Continental Regiment (Little's.)

Diary spans May 1775 - May 1776.

Service at Boston and Quebec.

Published as *Caleb Haskell's Diary*, (pamphlet), edited by Lothrop Withington, Newburyport, MA, 1861. Also published in *March To Quebec*, by Kenneth Roberts, New York, NY, 1938, pages 455 - 499.

John Hawkins:

Sergeant-Major, 2nd Canadian ("Congress' Own") Regiment.

Diary spans September 1777 - December 1782 (though not continuously.)

Service locations numerous and diverse.

Manuscript within the collections of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. Unpublished. Microfilmed.

Samuel Haws:

Private, Read's Massachusetts Regiment.

Diary spans April 1775 - February 1776.

Service at Boston.

Published as "A Journal for 1775", in *The Military Journals of Two Private Soldiers, 1758 - 1775*, edited by Abraham Tomlinson, Poughkeepsie, NY, 1855, pages 49 - 90.

David How:

Private, Sargent's Massachusetts Regiment, 16th Continental Regiment (Sargent's.)

Diary spans December 1775 - December 1776.

Service at Boston, Manhattan, in New Jersey retreat, and at Trenton.

Published as *Diary Of David How, a Private in Colonel Paul Dudley Sargent's Regiment of the Massachusetts Line, in the Army of the American Revolution*, edited by George W. Chase and Henry B. Dawson, Morrisania, NY, 1865, 51 pages.

Phineas Ingalls:

Private, Frye's Massachusetts Regiment. (1776 unit??)

Diary spans April 1775 - December 1775; July - November 1776.

Service in Lexington alarm, at Boston and Fort Ticonderoga.

Published as "Revolutionary War Journal, Kept by Phineas Ingalls of Andover, Mass., April 19, 1775 - December 8, 1776", edited by M. V. B. Perley, in the Essex Institute Historical Collections, Vol. 53, Salem, MA, 1917, pages 81 - 92.

Joseph Joslin, Jr.:

Teamster in Continental service.

Diary spans March 1777 - August 1778.

Service in Connecticut and the Hudson Highlands.

Published as "Journal of Joseph Joslin, Jr., of South Killingly, a Teamster in the Continental Service, March 1777 - August 1778" in the Connecticut Historical Society Collections, No. 7, Hartford, CT, 1899, pages 299 - 369.

Manuscript within the collections of the Connecticut Historical Society.

Microfilmed.

Andrew Kettell:

Sergeant, Jackson's Additional Regiment (16th Massachusetts), 9th Massachusetts Regiment.

Diary spans April 1780 - May 1781.

Service at West Point, in northern New Jersey and at West Point.

Manuscript (66 pages) within the compiled pension application files, National Archives. Unpublished. Microfilmed.

Enoch Long:

Private, (?) New Hampshire Regiment.

Diary spans July 1779 - December 1780.

Service in Sullivan's Expedition, winter quarters Danbury, in northern New Jersey, winter quarters New Hampshire Village (north of Peekskill.)

Manuscript (30 pages) within the compiled pension application files, National Archives. Unpublished. Microfilmed.

Simeon Lyman:

Private, (?) Connecticut Regiment (militia?).

Diary spans August – December 1775.

Service on Connecticut coast and at Boston.

Published as “*Journal of Simeon Lyman of Sharon, Aug. 10 to Dec. 28, 1775*” in Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society, No. 7, Hartford, CT, 1899, pages 98, 111 – 134. Manuscript within the collections of the Connecticut Historical Society. Microfilmed.

Thomas McCarty:

Sergeant, 8th Virginia Regiment.

Diary spans August - September 1776; November 1776 - February 1777.

Service at Fort Lee, on New Jersey retreat, at Trenton and Morristown.

Published as *The Revolutionary War Journal of Sergeant Thomas McCarty*, edited by Jared C. Lobdell, in Proceedings Of The New Jersey Historical Society, Vol. 82, No. 1, Newark, NJ, January, 1964, pages 29 - 46.

Manuscript within the William Croghan Papers, Draper Collection, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Daniel McCurtin:

Private, Cresap's 1st Company of Maryland Rifles.

Diary spans July 1775 - May 1776.

Service at Boston and Manhattan. [?]

Published as “*Journal of the Times at the Siege of Boston since our Arrival at Cambridge, near Boston*”, edited by Thomas Balch, in Papers Relating Chiefly to the Maryland Line During the Revolution, within Publications of the Seventy-Six Society, No. 4, Philadelphia, PA, 1857, pages 11 - 41.

James McMichael:

Sergeant/Lieutenant, Miles' Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment, 13th Pennsylvania Regiment.

Diary spans May 1776 - May 1778.

Service locations numerous and diverse.

Published as *Diary Of Lieutenant James McMichael, Of The Pennsylvania Line, 1776 - 1778*, in The Pennsylvania Magazine Of History And Biography, Vol. 16, 1892, pages 129 - 159. Also published in Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. 15, pages 195 - 218.

James Melvin:

Private, 1st New Hampshire Regiment.

Diary spans September 1775 - August 1776.

Service at Quebec, and as prisoner.

Published as *The Journal of James Melvin, Private Soldier in Arnold's Expedition*

Against Quebec In the year 1775, edited by Andrew A. Melvin, Portland, ME, 1902.
Also published in *March To Quebec*, Kenneth Roberts, NY, 1938, pages 433 - 454.
Also published in "The Life and Times of Aaron Burr", by James Parton, 2 vols.,
Boston, MA and New York, NY, 1900, pages 375 - 390.

Solomon Nash:

Matross, Knox's Regiment of Continental Artillery.

Diary spans January 1776 - January 1777.

Service at Boston, Manhattan, in Westchester County and the Hudson Highlands.

Published as *Journal Of Solomon Nash, A Soldier Of The Revolution, 1776 - 1777*,
edited by Charles I. Bushnell, New York, NY, 1861, 41 pages.

Nahum Parker:

Private/Corporal, 15th Massachusetts Regiment.

Diary spans July - December 1780.

Service in the Hudson Highlands, northern New Jersey, at West Point.

Manuscript (30 pages) within the compiled pension application files, National
Archives. Unpublished. Microfilmed.

Ebenezer Parkman:

Private, Baldwin's Artillery Artificers Regiment.

Diary spans June 1779 - June 1781.

Service at Morristown and in the Hudson Highlands.

Manuscript within the collections of the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester,
MA. Unpublished. Microfilmed.

Thomas Roberts:

Sergeant, Spencer's Additional Continental Regiment (5th New Jersey.)

Diary spans May - September 1779.

Service in Sullivan's Expedition.

Published in *Journals of the Military Expedition of Major General John Sullivan...*, by
Frederick Cook, Auburn, New York, NY, 1887, pages 240 - 245.

Manuscript within the collections of the New-York Historical Society.

William Rogers:

Sergeant, 2nd New York Regiment.

Diary spans April - September 1779.

Service in Sullivan's Expedition.

Published in *Journals of the Military Expedition of Major General John Sullivan...*, by
Frederick Cook, Auburn, NY, 1887, page 266.

William Slade:

Private, Bradley's Connecticut State Regiment (in Continental service.)

Diary spans November 1776 - January 1777.

Service at Fort Washington, and as prisoner.

Published in *American Prisoners of the Revolution*, by Danske Dandridge,

Charlottesville, VA, 1911, pages 492 - 502.

John Smith:

(1) Sergeant, Lippitt's Rhode Island State Regiment (in Continental service.)

Diary spans August 1776 - January 1777.

Service at Manhattan, in Westchester County, on New Jersey retreat, and at Trenton.

Published as "*Sergeant John Smith's Diary of 1776*", edited by Louise Rau, in *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, No. 20, 1933, pages 247 - 270.

Manuscript within the collections of the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA. Manuscript contains both the original field diary and a later revision with minor modifications. Microfilmed.

(2) Sergeant, 1st Rhode Island Regiment.

Diary spans July 1777 - January 1778.

Service in the Hudson Highlands, at Fort Mercer, Whitemarsh, winter quarters Valley Forge.

Manuscript within the collections of the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA. Unpublished. Microfilmed.

Moses Sproule:

Sergeant, 3rd New Jersey Regiment.

Diary spans May - October 1779.

Service in Sullivan's Expedition.

Published as "*The Western Campaign of 1779*", edited by R. W. G. Vail, in the *Quarterly of the New-York Historical Society*, No. 41, New York, NY 1957, pages 47 - 69.

Manuscript at the New-York Historical Society.

Ephraim Squier:

Sergeant, 3rd Connecticut Regiment (Fellows'.) (1777 unit? Militia?)

(1) Diary spans September - November 1775.

Service at Quebec.

(2) Diary spans September - November 1777.

Service in Saratoga Campaign.

Published as *Diary Of Ephraim Squier, Sergeant In The Connecticut Line Of The Continental Army*, edited by Frank Squier, in *Magazine of American History*, No.2, part 2, 1878, pages 685 - 694. Diary (1) also published in *March To Quebec*, Kenneth Roberts, New York, NY, 1938, pages 619 -628.

Benjamin Stevens:

Private, Burrall's Connecticut State Regiment (in Continental service.)

Diary spans February - May 1776.

Service in Canada.

Published as *Diary of Benjamin Stevens, of Canaan, Conn.*, in *Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine*, Vol. 45, August - September, 1914, pages 137 - 140.

James Stevens:

Private, Frye's Massachusetts Regiment.

Diary spans April 1775 - December 1775.

Service in Lexington alarm and at Boston.

Published as *The Revolutionary Journal Of James Stevens Of Andover, Mass.* in The Essex Institute Historical Collections, Vol.48, Salem, MA, January 1912, pages 41 - 71.

Abner Stocking:

Private, 2nd Connecticut Regiment (Wyllys'.)

Diary spans September 1775 - September 1776.

Service at Quebec, and as prisoner.

Published in *March To Quebec*, by Kenneth Roberts, New York, NY, 1938, pages 545 - 569.

Solomon Stowe:

Private, 15th Massachusetts Regiment.

Diary span unknown.

Service locations unknown.

Unpublished manuscript believed to be in private possession.

Cited in "*History of Palmer (Massachusetts)*", page 556, per listing in *New England Diaries, 1602 - 1800*, by Harriette M. Forbes, privately printed, Topsfield, MA, 1923, page 277.

Timothy Tuttle:

Private, 1st New Jersey Regiment.

Diary spans December 1775 - November 1776.

Service at Fort Ticonderoga.

Published as *The Diary of Timothy Tuttle*, edited by Donald Wickman, in *New Jersey History*, Vol. 113, Nos. 3 - 4, 1995, Newark, NJ, pages 61 - 77.

John Twiss, Jr.:

Drummer, 7th Connecticut Regiment (Webb's.).

Diary spans August - December 1775.

Service at Boston.

Photostat of manuscript within the collections of The Connecticut State Library, Hartford, CT. Unpublished. Not microfilmed.

Zebulon Vaughan:

Private, 5th Massachusetts Regiment (Putnam's.)

Diary spans August 1777 - May 1780.

Service at Saratoga, West Point, and throughout east-shore Highlands.

Manuscript within the Americana Collection, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Published within the *Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine*, 113 (1979): pages 100-114, 256-7, 320-1, 478-487, Virginia Steele Wood, editor.

Joseph Ware:

(Also erroneously attributed to Ebenezer Tolman and to Ebenezer Wild.)

Private, 1st Rhode Island Regiment.

Diary spans September 1775 - September 1776.

Service at Quebec, and as prisoner.

Published as *Expedition Against Quebec*, in the *New England Historical & Genealogical Register*, No. 6, April 1852, Boston, MA, pages 129 - 147.

Nathaniel Webb:

Sergeant-Major, 2nd New York Regiment.

Diary spans June - September 1779.

Service in Sullivan's Expedition.

Published in *Journals of the Military Expedition of Major General John Sullivan...*, by Frederick Cook, Auburn, NY, 1889, pages 285 - 287. Also published in the *New York State Historical Association Proceedings*, No. 6, pages 87 - 93.

Bayze Wells:

Private/Lieutenant, 4th Connecticut Regiment (Hinman's), Burrall's Connecticut State Regiment (in Continental service), 8th Connecticut Regiment.

Diary spans May 1775 - February 1777.

Service at Fort Ticonderoga, Crown Point, in action at Valcour Bay.

Published as "*Journal of Bayze Wells, of Farmington; May 1775 - February 1777, at the Northward and in Canada*," in *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, No. 7, Hartford, CT, 1899, pages 239 - 296.

Manuscript within the collections of the Connecticut Historical Society.

Microfilmed.

Ebenezer Wild:

Sergeant/Lieutenant, 6th Continental Regiment, 1st Massachusetts Regiment.

Diary spans August 1776 - December 1781.

Service locations numerous and diverse.

Published in the *Massachusetts Historical Society Proceedings*, Second Series, No. 6, Boston, MA, 1891, pages 78 - 160.

Manuscript within the collections of The Massachusetts Historical Society.

Microfilmed.

Ebenezer Withington:

Matross, Knox's Regiment of Continental Artillery.

Diary spans October - November 1776.

Service in Westchester County, on New Jersey retreat. (?)

Extracts published as ? in *The Magazine of American History*, December, 1908, pages

Aaron Wright:

Private, Thompson's Pennsylvania Rifle Battalion.

Diary spans June 1775 - March 1776.

Service at Boston.

Published as “*Revolutionary Journal of Aaron Wright, 1775*”, in *The Historical Magazine of America*, No. 5, July 1861, pages 208 - 212.

[Anonymous]:

Independent Pennsylvania Rifle Company.

Diary spans July - December 1776.

Service at Manhattan, in Westchester County, on New Jersey retreat, and at Trenton.

Published as *Journal of a Pennsylvania Soldier, July - December, 1776* in the *Historical Magazine of America*, Vol. 7, New York, NY, 1863, pages 367 - 369. Also published in *Bulletin of the New York Public Library*, Vol. 8, New York, NY, 1904, pages 547 - 549.

Notes to Readers

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The diaries listed within the accompanying index relate only to a narrow segment of writings related to the Revolutionary War. They are, firstly, constrained to contemporary “in the field” diaries (or “journals”), thereby eliminating from inclusion all memoirs, reminiscences, autobiographical sketches, pension application affidavits, and even what appear to have once been contemporary diaries but which were, at a later time, rewritten and substantively revised via the infusion of “memory.”

Second, to qualify for inclusion, the contemporary diary had to have been kept by an enlisted man, a member, that is, of the “rank and file” of the period. This, then, would require that, *at least for some period during which the diary was kept*, the man was a private, corporal, sergeant, drummer, fifer, artillery matross or artificer. If the diary was initiated while the author was an enlisted man, but during the period of its coverage he was promoted to become a commissioned officer, the entire content has been included.

Lastly, the index is intended to focus only on such “rank and file” serving as members of the “regular” Continental Army. Militia service, that is, is intended to be specifically excluded. This criterion is, in some instances, not as clear-cut as it may first seem. The colonies’ initial armies “of observation” all became, by act of Congress in June 1775, part of the “army of the United Colonies.” Clearly, however, many of these early-war units were, at least to some extent, very much “militia-like” in terms of organization, command structure, and, in particular, training and discipline. Having no reasonable and valid criteria for exclusion, all diaries relating to such initial units of 1775 have been qualified for presentation.

As of January 1, 1776, the basis for distinction becomes clearer. For example, a diary with content relating to that year would qualify if kept by a rank-and-file member of one of the twenty-seven numbered Continental infantry regiments or a parallel artillery or mounted unit. In addition, however, *state regiments “in Continental service”* have also been regarded to qualify for inclusion. Examples of such units would be Elmore’s, Burrall’s or Ward’s Connecticut state regiments and Church’s, Richmond’s and Lippitt’s Rhode Island state regiments, each of which was “adopted” and integrated by Congress as part of the Continental Army. Finally, after January 1, 1777, little amount of question arises in qualifying “Continental” service.

A final issue given consideration has been the length of a particular enlistment. Although during 1777 (and thereafter) the conceptual model was of enlistment periods of three years or “for the war”, manpower requirements often outpaced enlistment ardor such that shorter terms were by no means rare, particularly in later

years. Thus, in order to meet their enlistment quotas, some states in, for example, 1780, found it necessary to accept one-year or even six-month enlistment periods. While such short-term Continental enlistment periods require a more careful focus to discriminate a given diary from that of a militia tour of duty, the former have been considered to fully qualify for inclusion.

In order to assist the user of the index, the following lists those diary entries from White and Lesser's *Fighters For Independence* which, given the more focused goal of this index, have been *omitted* and the reason for omission when such reason is not evident in their description of a given entry. (The number preceding each listing is the cataloging number used in White and Lesser.)

#345. Allen, Thomas	militia
#359. Avery, Rufus	memoir
#370. Bates, Ambrose	militia
#395. Boardman, Oliver	militia
#424. Carpenter, Jonathan	militia
#428. Chandler, Abiel	militia
#434. Clap, Daniel	officer
#441. Cleaves, Nathan	officer
#445. Colbrath, William	officer
#461. Curtin, Daniel M.	duplication of #665.
#479. "A Diary of..."	duplication of #445.
#482. "The Doughboy of 1780"	officer
#493. Emerson, William	chaplain
#535. Gerrish, Jacob	officer
#549. Graves, Daniel	militia
#599. "Itinerary of..."	officer
#612. "Journal of..."	duplication of #611.
#652. Lunt, Paul	officer
#663. McCready, Robert	militia
#674. Martin, Joseph Plumb	memoir
#686. Moody, Moses	militia

#695. Mudge, Simon	militia
#704. Norton, George	militia officer
#706. Nutting, George	militia
#734. Porter, Jonathan	militia
#763. Sawyer, Ebenezer	militia
#765. Scudder, William	officer
#767. Sellers, Nathan	militia
#770. Seymour, William	memoir
#773. Shaw, Thomas	memoir
#804. Stone, Stephen	memoir
#821. Town, Zaccheus	officer
#856 Weston, Abner	militia

With no question whatsoever, *Private Yankee Doodle*, the republished and re-titled memoirs of Joseph Plumb Martin, is the most widely-read, informative, entertaining and best-loved classic writing of a Continental soldier. On the basis of all criteria, it is an absolute “must read”, with it’s remarkable appeal being proven by its currently being required reading in many high school American history classes. Since, however, it is a post-war *memoir*, it does not qualify for inclusion in the index presented here. That, of course, is in no way a suggestion of any perception that *Private Yankee Doodle* is less than the truly great work which it is. Given this index’s focus being exclusively on “pure” in-the-field contemporary diaries, Martin’s retrospective reminiscences clearly do not qualify for inclusion in this index. In summary, perhaps the true greatness of *Private Yankee Doodle* is demonstrated by these additional comments regarding its absence from the index being felt to be required. Anyone having the slightest interest in the life of the Continental soldier should surely place Martin atop his or her reading list.

References

Martin, Joseph Plumb. *Private Yankee Doodle, Being a Narrative of Some of the Adventures, Dangers and Sufferings of a Revolutionary Soldier*. Edited by George F. Scheer. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1962. (Many reprints, under alternative titles, are available.) Available from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and in hardcover: [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

White, J. Todd & Charles H. Lesser, eds. *Fighters for Independence: A Guide to Sources of Biographical Information on Soldiers and Sailors of the American Revolution*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1977.