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**Potter, John, 1746-1818.**

**Diary of Capt. John Potter, Revolutionary War, 1778-1779.**

**MS 973.335 P853**



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Diary Of Capt. JOHN POTTER  
Revolutionary War<sup>II</sup>  
(June 1778 - Feb. 1779)

1746-1318

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(8/1978)

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°Capt. JOHN POTTER, Revolutionary War Soldier°

His Diary

Capt. JOHN POTTER, son of DANIEL & ABIGAIL POTTER, was born 12 Sept. 1746 at Ipswich, Mass. He was married twice, 1st. to LYDIA CUTTING of Paxton, Mass., about 1768. She was born ca. 1747 and died 31 March 1781 at North Brookfield, Mass. There were seven children by this marriage.

He married 2nd., RHODA BURNAP of Hopkinton, Mass., 30 March 1782. She was born about 1754 and died 11 May 1843. There were eight children by this marriage.

Capt. JOHN POTTER served during the Revolution - was with the Massachusetts forces. Probably prior service, but he is recorded as 1st. Lieutenant, commissioned 7 June 1777, Capt. EBENEZER NEWELL's 7th. (Brookfield) Co., Col. JAMES CONVERSE's (4th. Worcester Co.) Regt. of Mass. Militia.

This Diary covers the period of his service from 1 June 1778 to 31 Jan. 1779, when he is recorded as a Lieutenant, Capt. JOEL GREEN's Co., Col. EZRA WOOD's Regt. During this term he was promoted and also served as Paymaster. (Mass. Soldiers and Sailors of the Rev. War, Vol. 12, pg. 269.)

Capt. JOHN POTTER settled in North Brookfield, Mass. He was a watchmaker and a leading man in public affairs. (For more detail, see J. H. TEMPLE's °Hist. of North Brookfield, Mass.°, pub. 1887.)

His son LUTHER POTTER (1795-1877) settled at Rutland, Vt. He had a daughter, RHODA BURNAP POTTER (1819-1852) who married HOMER LOVELAND (1816-1845) of North Hero and Grand Isle, Vt.

HOMER & RHODA B. (POTTER) LOVELAND had a daughter FRANCES LOVELAND (1843-1899) who married EDWARD GORDON (1840-1907) of Grand Isle, Vt. He was a direct descendant of the ancient ALEXANDER GORDON Family of Scotland and America. EDWARD GORDON's somewhat more immediate ancestor was ALEXANDER GORDON, 4th. Gen., (1750-1802), one of the very first settlers of Grand Isle, Vt.

This Diary of Capt. JOHN POTTER has been preserved (original) all these years in the Grand Isle, Vt. GORDON Family. Most recently (1978) by Mrs. EDWARD A. BULLIS (HELEN G. LADD) and Mrs. MARK H. HORICAN (MILDRED F. LADD), both of Grand Isle, Vt. and descendants of ALEXANDER GORDON.

Since Capt. JOHN POTTER was the ancestor of an early Vermont (LUTHER POTTER) Family with numerous following descendants, it is the personal wish of Mrs. EDWARD A. BULLIS and Mrs. MARK H. HORICAN, that this original Capt. JOHN POTTER Diary be deposited for future preservation, with the Vermont Historical Society at Montpelier, Vt.

Transcript of Capt. JOHN POTTER Diary

June 1778 -

- W - 3 I marcht from Home to Landlord Hitchcocks.
- T - 4 Ferriyed att said Place it being Rainey weather.
- F - 5 marcht to Palmer (Mass.) Lodged att Greaves's.
- S - 6 marcht to Longmeadow (Mass.) Lodged att L. Burts.
- S - 7 marcht to Sheffield (sic) over Love Joys Ferry Lodged at Kents (sic). (prob. Suffield, Conn.)
- M - 8 marcht to Simfbury Lodged att L. Cafes. (Simsbury, Conn. at L. Cases.)
- T - 9 marcht through the green woods to Norfolk Lodged wilcocks.

Gift of Mrs Edward Bullis + Mrs Mark H Horican - Aug 1978

Capt. JOHN POTTER Diary. (cont.)June 1778 -

- W - 10 marcht to Sharon Lodged att Pineards.  
 T - 11 marcht to Paulings Precinct Lodged att L. Coones.  
 F - 12 marcht to Fradricksburg Lodged at Wilcocks.  
 S - 13 marcht to Crompond Lodged at Conklins.  
 S - 14 marcht to Peekskills arrived att the Churches 12 oClock.  
 Barrackt in Said Churches Drew Provisions made ourfelves comfortable.  
 M - 15 Nothing Extrioridnary happened.  
 T - 16 Nothing Remarkable happened.  
 W - 17 Had nothing new.  
 T - 18 Affections workt fome about home Paufe a little.  
 F - 19 Drew Tents and Encampt by the Churches.  
 S - 20 Nothing Extrioridnary.  
 S - 21 Major SETH CUSHING of our Regiment Arrived.  
 M - 22 Nothing Remmarkable.  
 T - 23 this day Col. EZRA WOOD arrived att Peekskills.  
 W - 24 Nothing Remarkable.  
 T - 25 Ditto  
 F - 26 Col. WEBBs Col. SHERBURNs Col. PUTNAMs Regts arrived.  
 S - 27 Nothing Remarkable.  
 S - 28 Ditto  
 M - 29 Ditto  
 T - 30 This morning 2 oClock. a Sky Rocket was flung up as a Signal for the troops to March and did march accordingly

July - 1778

- W - 1 the army marcht to North Caftle Church there Encampt in an Orchard.  
 Decampt marcht to the South part of North Caftle by wrights mills Campt.  
 T - 2 Decampt 2 oClock marcht on the White Plains about 6 oClock in the Morning and Pitched our Tents.  
 F - 3 Nothing Extrioridnary happened.  
 S - 4 This Day being Anniverfary of the Independence of the AMERICAN STATES 13 Cannon was fired at 12 oClock...The General and Field Officers had an Entertainment prepared and Drank 13 Toasts and fired 13 Cannon at Evening 13 Sky Rockets fired and 3 Cheers through the Army.  
 s - 5 this day the Brigade Paraded and Mr. AVERY Delivered a Sutible difcorfe from Ezekiel 18th and 3d Verfe.  
 M - 6 this day an Exprefs arrived from Genl WASHINGTON with the good news of the Monmouth Battle...in honour of the fame Genl GATES fired 13 Cannon att 12 oClock Said Day.  
 T - 7 Nothing Remarkable.  
 W - 8 Nothing Remmarkable.  
 T - 9 Nothing Strange.  
 F - 10 a fine Shower and had a letter from Mr. CUTTER.  
 S - 11 Nothing Very Remarkable, a fine Rainy Day.  
 S - 12 Struck Tents moved 1/2 mile N.E. of the Plains Pitched.  
 M - 13 Nothing Remarkable this Day.  
 T - 14 This Day Lt. Col. JONATHAN HALE Arrived.  
 W - 15 3 Soldiers for Defertion was whipt 100 laphes Each. one gill Rum to the lines.  
 T - 16 4 Soldiers Received 100 lashes Each one of fd 4 Stood under the Gallows 15 minutes with halter about his neck.  
 F - 17 a Soldier for Plundering was whipt 25 lashes at 4 Brigads.  
 S - 18 Nothing Remarkable.

(cont.)

Capt. JOHN POTTER Diary. (cont.)July - 1778 (cont.)

- S - 19 Mounted a Piequet Guard att Scarsdell (sic)
- M - 20 Nothing Remarkable.
- T - 21 Nothing happened.
- W - 22 Ditto
- T - 23 Ditto
- F - 24 General WASHINGTONs Army Arrived on the Plains.
- S - 25 Nothing Remarkable.
- S - 26 Ditto
- M - 27 this day marcht 3 miles Returned and Pitched on the old Ground.  
the fame time we was joined to G. NIXON (?)
- T - 28 Nothing Remarkable.
- W - 29 Ditto
- T - 30 Decampt 100 Rod fouth Pitched tents again fame day I had a Mowing 15.
- F - 31 Nothing Remarkable. So ends the month of July adinfinitum.

August - 1778

- S - 1 Nothing Remarkable.
- S - 2 Struck tents at 5 oClock a.m. had a serch through the whole Army.  
then Encampt on the fame Ground.
- M - 3 Nothing Remarkable.
- T - 4 Ditto.
- W - 5 The Regiment was Mustered. I was Chofen P Master. (Paymaster)
- T - 6 Nothing Remarkable.
- F - 7 Ditto.
- S - 8 Ditto.
- S - 9 Ditto.
- M - 10 Very Smart Shower.
- T - 11 Nothing Remarkable.
- W - 12 Ditto.
- T - 13 Ditto.
- F - 14 Ditto.
- S - 15 Ditto.
- S - 16 Ditto.
- M - 17 This Day one GRAHAM was Shot on Gallows hill. for Defertion, and 10  
was to have been Shot but was Reproved till the next friday.
- T - 18 Nothing Remarkable.
- W - 19 Ditto.
- T - 20 Ditto. I mean I was taken Sick Stayed till ye 25.
- F - 21 The 10 Crimanals was Pardoned.
- S - 22 Remaining Sick.
- S - 23 No better.
- M - 24 Ditto.
- T - 25 Went out of Camp to Round hill at Mr. ROGER BROWNS where I Stayed.
- W - 26 Remaining Very low.
- T - 27 Ditto.
- F - 28 Ditto.
- S - 29 Seemed to be a little Better.
- S - 30 Mended as I think Still.

Sept. 1788

- T - 1 Grew better.
- W - 2 Ditto.
- T - 3 Ditto.
- F - 4 Ditto.
- S - 5 Ditto.
- S - 6 went to meeting to Stanwick about 3 miles.
- M - 7 Returnd to Camp.

(cont.)

Capt. JOHN POTTER Diary. (cont.)

Sept. - 1788. (cont.)

- T - 8 The Camp was Alarmd but Nothing Extrioridnary.
- W - 9 Nothing Remarkable.
- T - 10 Ditto.
- F - 11 Ditto.
- S - 12 Ditto.
- S - 13 went to hear Mr. SMITH from Jeremiah 9 23 24.
- M - 14 The Camp was Alarmd at 4 oClock a.m. Nothing.
- T - 15 Spy was hanged on Gallows hill without J or Jun(?)
- W - 16 in the morning at 5 oClock Struck Tents, at 6 oClock loded Bagadge  
7 oClock marcht from the Plains Towards Danbury Eastward. The  
fame Day I came to Mr. BROWNs lodged.
- T - 17 a very rainey Day, lodged at the above Place. (lodged Ridgfield
- F - 18 Sat out from Mr. BROWNs Came up with the Army (lodged Ridgfield
- S - 19 marcht to Ridgfield Drew Provisions Encampt at sd Town.
- S - 20 marcht to Danbury Pitched on the height on the East Side of Town  
it being 39 miles from Plains.
- M - 21 Nothing Remarkable.
- T - 22 Ditto.
- W - 23 An Exceeding Rainey.
- T - 24 In the afternoon taken with the Difentry.
- F - 25 Grew worfe.
- S - 26 No Better.
- S - 27 Much fa
- M - 28 Grew fome Better.
- T - 29 Ditto.
- W - 30 att 5 P.M. oClock orders to march. Marcht at 6 oClock P.M.  
(sic) Town and fo on about 5 or 6 miles then Encampt.

October - 1778

- T - 1 marcht to Fradrickburgh Encampt 12
- F - 2 Nothing Remarkable.
- S - 3 The Regiment Past Muster.
- S - 4 4 oClock P.M. The Regt. Marcht off from Fradrickburgh to mend the  
Roads towards Farmington and I went to a Yellow houfe lodged  
next morning.
- M - 5 went to General NIXONS and had the P. Rolls Signed fame Day went  
went to the Paye Master Genl, on Quaker Hill Lodged att PAUL  
OFBURNS a Quaker.
- T - 6 Stayed fame Place Lodged &c.
- W - 7 went to the Pay Master Genls in the morning in the afternoon to the  
Auditors and then to Head Quarters and Got my warrents back to my  
lodging about 4 miles.
- T - 8 went and gott my money for the Regiment.
- F - 9 went to making a Book and Receipts to pay by.
- S - 10 About the fame work.
- S - 11 Ditto.
- M - 12 Returned to the Brigade.
- T - 13 began to pay what men was in Camp.
- W - 14 Ditto.
- T - 15 till noon Sat out after the rest of the Regiment Traveled to  
Landlord HOBELLS about 12 miles.
- F - 16 Marcht to New Milford and to Kent Lodged at mr ROADS where I made  
my Quarters till I Returnd.
- S - 17 Paid off fome of the men and Got Pay Rolls for Aug<sup>t</sup>.
- S - 18 Shifted my Self went about my businefs &c.

(cont.)

Capt. JOHN POTTER Diary. (cont.)Oct. - 1778 (cont.)

- M - 19 After noon Sat out for Fradrickfburgh Lodged att Landlord NOBLEs that Night Breakfasted.  
 T - 20 Arrived in Camp.  
 W - 21 Nothing Remarkable.  
 T - 22 Att Night Orders for McDDUGALs D to march East.  
 F - 23 att 7 oClock Struck Tents loaded Baggage and marcht to Landlord NOBLEs.  
 S - 24 Then marcht to New Milford Encamp't on the 2<sup>d</sup> Hill in Said Town in the Afternoon in a Wood.  
 S - 25 Nothing Remarkable.  
 M - 26 Ditto.  
 T - 27 Ditto.  
 W - 28 Ditto.  
 T - 29 Ditto.  
 F - 30 Struck Tents in the Morning Marcht to Roxbury in Woodbury - Gen<sup>l</sup> NIXONs Brigade only.  
 S - 31 Nothing Extrioridnary happened.

Nov. 1778.

- S - 1 Ditto.  
 M - 2 Nothing Remarkable.  
 T - 3 Ditto.  
 W - 4 Ditto.  
 T - 5 Ditto.  
 F - 6 Ditto.  
 S - 7 The Brigade Past Muster 4 oClock P.M.  
 S - 8 Sabbath I was at RENOLDS. Nothing Remark.  
 M - 9 Nothing Remarkable.  
 T - 10 Ditto.  
 W - 11 A very Rainey Day.  
 T - 12 Nothing Strange.  
 F - 13 Ditto. I went to Col. GREATONs Quarters had the P. Rolls Sign.  
 S - 14 Set out for Head Quarters from Roxbury to Newfairfield by the Oblong Lodged at HOBBSATs.  
 S - 15 went to Quaker hill in the morning back to Quarters.  
 M - 16 Then went to the Pay Master Gen<sup>l</sup> then to the Auditors back to Head Quarters then to my Quarters Lodged.  
 T - 17 in the Morning went to Newmilford Lodged at NOBLEs.  
 W - 18 went back to Roxbury that night Lodged with the Maj<sup>r</sup>.  
 T - 19 The Brigade marcht on Westward through Southborough to Newtown, Over Col. CARLTONs Bridge being a Snoway Day.  
 F - 20 marcht on to Danbury Lodged at CROFOOTs.  
 S - 21 marcht to Salem Lodged at WANDLEs.  
 S - 22 marcht to Crompond Lodged at UNDERHILLs Quaker.  
 M - 23 marcht to the Continental Villedge Lodged att ARUNDELLs.  
 T - 24 Nothing Remarkable.  
 W - 25 Ditto.  
 T - 26 Ditto.  
 F - 27 Ditto  
 S - 28 Ditto.  
 S - 29 Ditto.  
 M - 30 A Snowey Day So ends the Month of November.

Dec. 1778.

- T - 1 Nothing Remarkable.  
 W - 2 Ditto.  
 T - 3 Ditto.

(cont.)

Capt. JOHN POTTER Diary. (cont.)Dec. 1778 (cont.)

- F - 4 Ditto. Major CUSHING & 76 men officers included went to Harverftaw.  
 S - 5 The Shiping came up the River Caused Alarm they did no damage of any Consequence.  
 S - 6 They fell down again; being a Pleasant Day.  
 M - 7 Nothing Remarkable.  
 T - 8 Ditto.  
 W - 9 went up Canada Hill Rool<sup>d</sup> a Rock down of about 30 Tun.  
 T - 10 Very Rainy Day; at Night Snow<sup>d</sup> very fast.  
 F - 11 in the Morning the Snow Appear<sup>d</sup> about knee deep.  
 S - 12 Made out a Weekly Return went to Major HARWOODS.  
 S - 13 A very Rainey Day till Night Cleare<sup>d</sup> off cold.  
 M - 14 Nothing Remarkable.  
 T - 15 Ditto. Major CUSHING & the Party Returned to Camp.  
 W - 16 Ditto.  
 T - 17 A Very Rainey Day The chief of the Snow went off.  
 F - 18 Nothing Remarkable.  
 S - 19 Past Muster, avery Pleasant Day.  
 S - 20 Pleasant weather for the Season.  
 M - 21 Col. WOOD and the Party with him Returned.  
 T - 22 very Cold L<sup>t</sup> WATKINS and I cut wood.  
 W - 23 very cold weather.  
 T - 24 had a Rost Goose in the mefs.  
 F - 25 it being Christmas in the Morning it was Cloudy the wind North west; afternoon it Snow<sup>d</sup> the wind East; Snow<sup>d</sup> the Night following.  
 S - 26 2<sup>d</sup>, Snow<sup>d</sup> in the forenoon; 12 oClock Cleared off cold the wind North: Something Pleasant: towards night Clouded up again and very windy Night.  
 S - 27 3<sup>d</sup> very clear cold day: the wind North west.  
 M - 28 4<sup>d</sup>, Clear and cold: the wind North west.  
 T - 29 5<sup>th</sup>, Something Pleasant; wind South west Clearing.  
 W - 30 6<sup>th</sup>, Cloudy the wind Southerly Smokey warm &c.  
 T - 31 7<sup>th</sup>, A very Pleasant Sunshine Day. So ends the Year 1778, Like a Lamb the wind Southerly.

January 1779

- F - 1 8, Very Pleasant Sunshine day.  
 S - 2 9, warm and Pleasant the wind South Sunshine.  
 S - 3 10, the wind South fome rain and Fogg Thau<sup>d</sup>.  
 M - 4 11, Cloudy till noon: Afternoon Sunshine and Something Chilly.  
 T - 5 12<sup>th</sup>, Cloudy in the Morning Fair weather in the afternoon.  
 W - 6 Pleasant Weather for the Season.  
 T - 7 I went to Crompond Lodged at CARMONS.  
 F - 8 Cut my Broach. Lodged att Ditto.  
 S - 9 Returned to Camp; had  
 S - 10 Something warm, and Fogge.  
 M - 11 Clean and cold Nothing Remarkable.  
 T - 12 Nothing Remarkable.  
 W - 13 Ditto.  
 T - 14 Ditto.  
 F - 15 Ditto.  
 S - 16 Ditto.  
 S - 17 Ditto.  
 M - 18 Nothing Remarkable.  
 T - 19 mending watches &c.  
 W - 20 Ditto.

(cont.)

Capt. JOHN POTTER Diary. (cont.)January 1779. (cont.)

- T - 21 Ditto.
- F - 22 Ditto.
- S - 23 follow<sup>d</sup>, the Pen Steady.
- S - 24 Ditto.
- M - 25 Ditto.
- T - 26 Nothing Remarkable.
- W - 27 Ditto.
- T - 28 Ditto.
- F - 29 Nothing Extriorinary.
- S - 30 Ditto.
- S - 31 A very Pleasant morning my Boy left me and Sett out for home and Cap<sup>t</sup> GREEN & his Comp<sup>y</sup>

Febry. 1779.

- M - 1 Day of February very warm Weather Doc<sup>r</sup> Gn<sup>l</sup> (?) CARYL Sett out for home.
- T - 2 I went to Gen<sup>l</sup> McDOUGAL s Quarters: Lt Col. HALE sett out: and Lt WATKINS and I Left alone.
- W - 3 Nothing Remarkable.
- T - 4 Col. WOOD left the Ground, fame day I went to Col. PUTNAM's Quarters had my Abstracts fig<sup>n</sup><sup>d</sup> Supt<sup>t</sup> with him Lodg<sup>d</sup> with Lt HOLBROOK.
- F - 5 Breakfasted with Col. SMITH, Return<sup>d</sup> to Q<sup>rs</sup>.
- S - 6 Pleasant Morning.
- S - 7 Ditto.
- M - 8 Went to Gen<sup>l</sup> McDOUGALS back to Q<sup>rs</sup>.
- T - 9 a very Fogge warm Day and mudey Travelen.
- W - 10 Fine warm Weather.
- T - 11 Nothing Remarkable.
- F - 12 Ditto.
- S - 13 Eight Months fince I arrived a (sic) Peekskill.
- S - 14 Nothing Strainge.
- M - 15 I went to Gen<sup>l</sup> McDOUGALS.
- T - 16 Nothing Remarkable.
- W - 17 Ditto.
- T - 18 Ditto.

(So ends the Diary)