

BENEDICT ARNOLD'S

REGIMENTAL MEMORANDUM BOOK

WRITTEN WHILE AT TICONDEROGA AND
CROWN POINT, 1775

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TRANSCRIBED BY
C. L. MULLEN
IN CAMP AR RAMADI, IRAQ
2005

May 10th. When Mr. Allen, finding he had a strong party, and being impatient to control, and taking umbrage at my forbidding the people to plunder, he assumed the entire command, and I was not consulted for four days, with time I spent in the Garrison.

N.B. As a private person often insulted by him and his officers, often threatened with my life, and twice shot at by his men with their Fuseses.

This day Colonel Eaton¹ taking umbrage at my refusing his Lt. Colonel's commission set off for the Congress with the announced intention to injure me all in his power.

Sunday 14th. The Schooner Liberty arrived at Ticonderoga from Skensbo. With Captain Brown Oswald² and about 50 men enlisted on the road. We immediately fixed her with four carriage and six-swivel guns, and proceeded to Crown Point with 50 men in the Schooner, and one Battoe with two Swivels where we arrived the 15th.

N.B. Despatched Mr. Brown to Albany, and sent forward provisions, &c.

Tuesday 16th. Left Crown Point for St. Johns with a head wind, and beat as far as Split Rock that night.

Next day.

Wednesday 17th. Wind being fair proceeded within 30 miles of St. John at point Au Fare, when, being cautioned, we maned out two battoes with 35 men, and after rowing all night arrived at St. John's Six O'clock Thursday morning, where we surprised and took a Sergeant and his party of 12 men the Kings Sloop of 70. tons 6. brass six-pounders, and seven men. 9. large Battoes, 4 of which, being out of repair we destroyed, the others brought away. The wind springing up fair at 9 Oc'k weighed Anchor and stood up the Lake, and at noon met Colonel Allen, and his part of 100 mad fellows going to take possession of St. Johns, and not being able to persuade him from so rash a purpose, supplied him with provisions &c.

1775. Friday, May 19th. At 4 A.M. crossed Cumberland Bay with the Sloop and Schooner, and at 8 A.M. anchored at Crown Point two hours, and proceeded to Ticonderoga where we arrived at 5 P.M., and having saluted the Fort, came to Anchor.

Saturday 20th. Were employed in fixing and arming the Schooner.
N.B. Disputed Capt. Oswald, to Connecticut, and Captain Brown to Cambridge with advice, taking the Sloop &c.

Sunday 21st. Rode out two miles to the mills to engage a quantity of plank for carriage boards and Battows to carry the cannon over Lake George. When at the landing

¹ James Easton

² Captains Brown and Oswald.

received advice of Colonel Allen's Depot at St. Johns, and return with a loss of three men, which in least did not surprise me, as it happened as I expected.

Returned to the Fort, and made preparation to forward to Crown Point.

Monday 22nd. Proceeded from Ticonderoga to Crown Point, with the Sloop and Schooner, and about eighty men, where we arrived before night.

Tuesday 23rd. All hands employed at fixing the Sloop, Schooner &c putting them in the best posture of defense. About noon had intelligence from one Butterfield of Colonel Allens party, who was left behind, that he left St. John's the 19th inst. Where there was then 300 Regulars, Canadians &c making all possible preparation for crossing the Lake, on which I sent Expresses to Fort George and Skenesborough for the people to muster and join us. At 6 P.M. Mr. Adams who left St. Johns the 19th inst. Arrived and says there was only 120 men who attacked Allen, and then same day marched to Chambly.¹ When they were repairing the Fort, on this intelligence, I sent forward to countermand my former Orders. N.B. Wrote to the General Assembly of Connecticut, and Committee Safety, Cambridge.

Thursday 24th.² Mr. Dean, Col. Webb &c set out for Tic. Wind proving contrary they returned. We were busy getting down some cannon, Mortars, &c clearing out the N. Et. Redoubt, &c and arming the vessels.

Saturday 27th.³ Were joined by 20 men enlisted by Col. Allen at the request of Col. Webb, these are the whole of his party, all hands employed on Guard, fixing Sloop, Schooner, &c and getting down Cannon.

Sunday 28th. Employed on the Sloop Schooner, Guard, charg &c &c

Monday 29th. Employed as the day preceding.

Tuesday 30th. Employed as the two preceding days Received my Bill of an £150. from Thomas Wells Dickerson, and drew on the Committee Safety for the balance due me £77 13, 4.⁴

1775. May 31. Wednesday. All hands were employed on Guard, fixing the vessel &c 30. men of Capt. Bulls Company arrived from Stillwater including officers. **N.B.** Sent a boat with Sergeant Armstrong with 5 men on a Scout to St. Johns.

¹ All preceding this is on the first page of the original manuscript. The first entry in it is that dated May 19th, and the manuscript continues from there as printed to where the reference to this note is inserted. The entry dated May 10th begins at this point, and what follows is in the order given above. The last entry on the page is that of the 17th, and after it a page is said to be missing in the original. The last paragraph of the first printed entry is all that is dated May 10th. What precedes it in the original closes that of the 23rd.

² The 24th came on a Wednesday. In Arnold's setter of the 26th, he writes, eight gentlemen having arrived from Hartford, who are seamen, etc. etc. See *American Archives*, 4th series, vol. ii. . 714.

³ In the copy from which we print, this entry is dated Thursday 26th and Saturday 27th. The former is obviously an error.

⁴ End of page 2 of manuscript.

Friday¹ 1st June. Arrived here part of Capt. Wells Camp [Company], 20 men from Cambridge with 20. men including officers. Arrived here Mr. Henry J. Bogert sent by the Committee of Safety at Albany to take charge of their Stores of Provisions at Fort George, and an inventory of Cannon &c. here, sent a boat to Raymonds Saw-mills for Boards to repair the Barracks &c, a number of men employed getting down Cannon 15 men were employed digging in the ruins of the old Fort who got out near one ton of Lead and Iron Ball, sent a Battoe Tic [to Ticonderoga] with Mr. H. J. Bogert, Mr. Elphinston the Conductor his wife and seven men Captain Henicks² Camp.

Friday 2nd June. 20. men employed getting down Cannon, digging ball &c. fixing Battoes and 8. Carpenters employed in repairing the Barracks received 2 m feet Boards from Raymonds mill 441^a. 10. d. nails from Annis,³ and sent 224^a to Tic[onderoga] and 600 feet of Board to repair the Barracks, Took into service a large new Battoe of Fensis and sent her to Tic for men and provisions. Col. Allen left this and went to Tic, arrived Sergeant Johah Sanborn who was sent out on a Scout to reconnoiter the 28th of May who when about two miles below Ile Anow⁴ was chased and fired on by an number of people in two Battoes, say 20, and obliged to run on Shore. The enemy took the Cannon, and he was relieved and brought in by Canadians. Sent Capt. M'Kenzie in his Battoe to Raymonds mill for Boards.

Received on Board 4bbls: Pork for Tic, and sent 2 into Store, received _____ld Nails of Watson.⁵

Sunday 4th June. All hands employed in fixing boats to proceed down the Lake. Received and borrowed of McIntosh a barrel of New Rum. Took on board from the store 6. barrels of Flour, and One Barrel of Peas. Sent a Boat to Raymonds for Ash for Oars and Troughs for the Guns. At 10 A.M. the Wind sprang up to the Southward, the whole Garrison were paraded, and 40 men were drafted out to _____ Garrison, the remainder immediately embarked to No. 155 men on board the Sloop Schooner and three Battoes, including the Seamen, Mariner's &c, on board before. At 3 P.M. weighed Anchor and proceeded down the Lake with a small Breeze. Sent on shore one cask of Powder to be divided among at night. Anchored at Button Hole Bay 10 miles from C_____ [Crown] Point, where we lay all night.

Monday June 5th. At 4 A.M. weighed anchor, and proceeded down the Lake, at 10. went on Shore at _____ Bay at Hay's Plantation. Examined his large Battoe which I found very badly built, small Timbers, weak and unfit for any hard service, though I found to small Craft, which I dispatched the day before in quest of one.

1775. June 5th. One Capt _____ Grant who, though under his Parole of Honor, had left Crown Point the day before, they informed me, they had got 10 Leagues the Start of them, and they could not possibly come up with them. There I met with one Host, an

¹ Thursday.

² Samuel Herrick's Company.

³ Probably Alvis.

⁴ Isle Aux Noix.

⁵ Probably John Watson, half-brother of W. Gilliland, a large landholder in the neighborhood.

Indian Interpreter, whom I had sent with some Stockbridge Indians to KauKnowaughua [Caugnawaga], as an Interpreter, he informs being near St. Johns the Indians insisted on going directly there, and, being fearful of being taken prison, was put on shore and proceeded to Kauknowaughua, where there was search made for him by Gov. Carlton, and he narrowly escaped being taken, and says the French informed him the Stockbridge Indians were imprisoned at Montreal, but on the intercessions of the other Indians were set at liberty. That Gov. Carlton was at Montreal, and threatened the inhabitants that unless the merchants would defend the place he would burn it, and retire to Quebec. The Canadians and Indians utterly refused joining the Kings troops, and that there was 300 Regulars at St. Johns _____ &c at 7 P.M. anchored opposite point Aroach.¹

Tuesday June 6th. At 4 A.M. weighed Anchor, at 8 passed Point Asen,², at 10 A.M. anchored of Hospital Island 62 Leagues [? Not possible] from St. Johns, sent a Battoe, 20 men, in search one swivel, &c. &c. Cannon 3 men, the two latter as advanced Guard to the Aux Noix with directions to get all possible intelligence, and in the night to proceed within two miles of St. Johns, and, if possible to take any party sent out from there. Employed a number of hands on shore baking bread at night, but of Capt. Varnums with 4 men to go on the east side of the Lake opposite St. Johns and discover the _____ town of _____³

1775. Wednesday June 7. Motions of the enemy at 4. P.M. The large Battoes returned from there, the small canoes having proceeded within one mile of St. Johns. Was informed there was 300 Regulars and soon after they were chased by a Battoe and obliged to return. And they also informed us that the Regulars were determined to pay us a visit the next day, sent out 3 small boats, different scouts, for intelligence and put ourselves in the best position of defence.

Friday⁴ June 8th. At 8 A.M. our small yawl came in from St. Johns and informed us that they lay three hours opposite the barracks, where the Regulars to the number of 300 men were trenching. Our people fired two shot at them which was returned by the whole body.

N.B. Wind has been strong to the southward for three days. All hands employed baking Bread, getting Timber for Oars, &c, N.B. Gave one bbl: of Flour to Monsieur Conderet who brought a party of our men to C'n Point, who had their boat taken away.

Friday June 9th. At 5. A.M. weighed anchor for C'n Point, Schooner & two large Battoes. Left one Battoe with one sergeant and two men to bring off a French Family. At 9. met Capt. Brown from the Congress, Lt. John Graham with 12. men from Saratoga, the remainder of his party left at Sea Point. Fair wind at 4. P.M. One of the three brothers at night anchored about Highland Bonnet.

¹ De Roche Fendu.

² Possibly Isle Ash in the river St. Johns.

³ End of page 3 of manuscript.

⁴ Thursday

Sat. June 10. At 4 A.M. weighed anchor, and at 5 P.M. anchored at C'n Point, and found that Col. Allen, Col. Easton, and Major Elmore¹ had just arrived, and had called.²

Called a Council of their officers and others not belonging to my Regiment, and sent for Major Elmore, who excused himself, on which I wrote the Consell that I couldn not consistently with my duty suffer an illegal counsels, meetings, &c, as they tended to raise a mutiny, that I was at present the only legal Commanding Officer and should not suffer my command to be disputed, but would willingly give up the command when and one appeared with proper authority to take it. This had the desired effect, and they gave up their expectation of Commanding.

Sunday June 11. Went on shore early, and gave order to have the Guard doubled to prevent any mutiny or disorder. Col. Allen, Major Elmore, Easton and others attempted passing the Sloop without showing their pass, and were brought to by Capt. Sloan, and came in show [shore] and when in private discourse with Elmore intruded and insulted me. I tooke the liberty of breaking his head, and on his refusing to draw like a gentleman, he having a hanger by his side, and a case of loaded Pistols in his pocket, I kicked him very heartily, and ordered him from the point immediately.³ Several parties left the Point this day for Ticonderoga, having orders from the Committee of Albany for that purpose.

Monday June 12. 1775. People employed in building Barracks, digging &c. Sent a scout of 5 men to St. Johns, the Albany Company of men received Orders from the Committee to return to Fort George, and accordingly embarked. I went to Ticonderoga. Sent a Boat to the mill for Boards.⁴

1775. June 13. Tuesday. Sent Capt. Oswald expressed to the Continental Congres.⁵ The Boat returned from the mill with boards, sent her to Ticonderoga. The people employed getting Oars, refitting Barracks. Sent a Boat with Skens [Skeene's] Negroes to dig ore. Sent a Boat and 20. men to Hay's place to bring up his large Battoe.

Wednesday June 14th. Men employed digging Ball and getting Timber, & making Oars and Tents. I went [sent?] to Cows Mill a Battoe on the E side of the Lake to cut Timber and hunting. The Gunners employed in searching and sealing the small guns, Carpenters making Carriagess. Sent two Boats to Ticonderoga with Capt. Buell, and Lieut. Garrison.
N.B. Blows extremely hard, N.N.E.

Thursday June 15th. Blowing at N.N.E. & N.E. at 8. A.M. Sent a Boat across the Lake for a Scoutⁿ Party. Sent there before. People employed in getting Timber and mounting some Lumber. Sent a Party out hunting.

¹ Samuel Elmore of Connecticut.

² End of page 4 of manuscript.

³ The "he" referred to is Easton.

⁴ End of page 5 and beginning of page 7 of manuscript.

⁵ On July 11 Arnold wrote to Congress from Albany that he had received no answer to this letter. See *American Archives*, vol. iil, p. 1647.

Friday 16th. Three Boats with all the Carpenters on the other side of the Lake, getting Timber for Skids, Ores, Wheelles &c. Sent to Raymonds Mills for Timber and provisions for Skine's [Skene's] Negroes. Received a Whale Boat from Mt. Usher. Capt. Winnean [Benjamin Hinman] and Major Elmore arrived from Ticonderoga. Sent to Capt. Herrick to send all the damaged Powder to Albany to be wrought over anew.¹

1775. Saturday June 17. The Garrison employed in getting Timber, fixing Barracks, making Oars, and digging. Colo' _____ [Hinman] made a demand of the command here, but as he produced no regular order for the same I refused giving it up, on which he embarked for Ticonderoga.

Sunday 18th. Blows heavy from the northward. The Garrison employed as the preceding day.

N.B. The only show of Rain this two weeks.

Monday 19th. The wind continues blowing northward, and very cold. Sent Capt. Brown in a Petranger² to take for [us] as many Gun carriages as the Boat will carry. Five returned from a Scout to St. Johns and says there is 300 Regulars there, with three pair Cannon, and two Mortars, entreching &c, which is confirmed by Mr. Udney Hay who arrived from there this morning.

N.B. The Garrison employed as usual. Published an Ordnance for the better regulation of Suttlers and retailers of Liquors, as they were heretofore sold at an extravagant price.³

1775. Tuesday June 20th. The Garrison employed in building a Guard House, fixing the Barracks, and helving Axes Hoes, &c N.B. This day lined out an entrenchment across the Point where I propose mounting 15. 9 ½ Pounders, which secures the redoubt and rampart for 2000. men.

Wednesday 21st. The Garrison employed in fixing Barracks getting down and mounting Cannon, the Carpenters at work on a Guard House, Whells, &c and at 6 P.M. Major Elmore arrived here with three Companies of men from Ticonderoga, arrived Mr. Nicholson, from Philad^a, Mr. Price, - the latter a gent from Montreal.

Thursday. 22^d June. People employed as on the previous day. Carpenters turning Carriage Wheels, getting Timber &c.

Arrived here three gentlemen for the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts Bay, viz. named Wm. Spooner, Sullivan.

Friday 23^d. Carpenters employed as usual, People on duty and sealing Guns. Arrived here the gentlemen from the Congress of Massachusetts Bay Walter Spooner Jedidiah Foster, & James Sullivan Esq. to whom I have resigned my commission, not being able to hold it longer with honor, accordingly wrot Capt. Herrick to give up the command to Col.

¹ End of page 7 and beginning of page 6 of manuscript

² Perianger.

³ End of page 6 and beginning of page 8 of manuscript.

Winman [Hinman]. Arrived here the 3. Miss Skeins [Skenes], Capt. Elisha Sheldon, Capt. John Bigelow, &c.¹

1775. Saturday June 24th. Applied to the Committee from the Massachusetts Bay for Cash for Regiment which they refused. I am reduced to great extremity, not being able to pay off the people who are in great want of necessaries, and much in debt. This gives me great trouble to pacify them and prevent disturbances. At noon went on Board to Dinner, and while at dinner I was confined in the great Cabin by People who manned and sent a Boat after the Committee from the Congress, who had left this place for Ticonderoga about 2 hours before. I complained much of the insult offered me, and received for answer that they – personall ill will, but were determined to stop the Committee and oblige them to pay off the Regiment or at least some part as will enable them to go home to their families with honor. At 4 P.M. arrived Capt. Matthews with 5. bbls. Pork from Ticonderoga. At night came on board Capt. Sheldon and Capt. Bigelow to see me, had a rumor of an engagement at Cambridge between the Regulars and the Provincials in which it is said there is many thousand killed on both sides.

¹ End of page 8 of manuscript