EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARIES AND ACCOUNTS OF ISAIAH THOMAS

FROM THE YEAR 1782 TO 1804 AND HIS DIARY FOR 1808

EDITED BY CHARLES L. NICHOLS

Among the interleaved almanacs in the possession of the American Antiquarian Society are many which contain the accounts and diaries of Isaiah Thomas. Those which date from 1805 to 1828 have been edited by our associate, Mr. Benjamin Thomas Hill, and Volumes IX and X of our Transactions, which contain these diaries, form a valuable addition to the issues of the Society.

Knowing the methodical habits of Isaiah Thomas, we feel certain that he recorded his experiences in a similar diary during the early years of his life and the important period of his business career as a printer. No trace has been found, however, of such records after careful investigation of every possible source of information and after inquiry of all the branches of the Thomas family in the present generation.

The diary for 1808 has been recently discovered among the Jennison papers by Mr. Hill and presented to this Society.

This diary is here reproduced and prefixed to it are a few entries and a portion of the accounts of Mr. Thomas which partly cover the years from 1782 to 1804. These show, by the charges therein made, some indication of the growth of his business during these early years.

1782.

The Thomas Almanac for 1781 contains accounts without notes, the first half year being largely household expenses. The last half includes the expense of building his mansion on Court Hill which Mr. Thomas occupied from 1783 until his death and which (moved in 1838) is still standing on Court Street, behind the office of the County Treasurer. These accounts are for the year 1782 and contain several notes of interest.

Each week we find recorded the purchase of rags. Through the efforts of Mr. Thomas, Captain Abijah Burbank started in 1776 a paper mill in Sutton. In the *Spy* and the yearly Almanac we find advertisements for rags, to be used in the manufacture of paper, the price offered varying with the necessity which arose. In January, 1778, for example, four pence per pound was offered and in December, 1780, ten shillings per pound. Other items of interest are the following:

July	5.	Expense for building from Jan. 22	£114.19.5
	13.	Raising dinner	1.10.0
		Rum	0.5.0
		Workmen's dinner	2.0.0
Dec.		Clock	9.10.0

This almanac records the sale of 3300 Almanacs of the Thomas series for the year 1783, and its accounts extend to the last of February, 1783 as the financial year began in March.

1783.

The Thomas Almanac for 1782 contains the household expenses for 1783 to the end of September, among which are numerous charges for the completion of the mansion house.

June	5.	Ben. Russell	£ 2.4.0
July	24.	Paper hangings	1.4.0
		Cream pot and spoons	3.15.0
		Copper plait curtains	30.15.0
Aug.	14.	Clock	4.12.0
Sept.	25.	Almanac copy	4.4.0

Of the above items, we see the last recorded payment to Benjamin Russell who had worked for Mr. Thomas, as apprentice or journeyman since 1775 and who left his employment in November of this year to enter business in Boston as proprietor and editor of the *Columbian Centinel*, a post which he held until 1829.

The almanac copy was prepared by Mr. Benjamin West of Providence whose astronomical calculations were famous for many years. In the archives of the Society are letters from Mr. West relating to this copy and that for the year following.

The items of rags are still numerous and the payments to Captain Burbank increase after July, indicating that improvement in his business demanded a larger supply of paper. There are no further entries of interest during this year.

1784.

The almanac for 1783 contains among the various household expenses the following:

Jan.	22. Type and sundries	£45.0.0
Feb.	5. Types	11.17.6
Apr.	8. Sent to London	66.13.4
	29. Mr. Salisbury for type	50.0.0
May	13. " " " "	15.0.0
July	29. " " " "	25.0.0
Sept.	8. " " " "	51.0.0
Dec.	9. " " " "	50.0.0
	14. Almanac copy [Mr. West]	5.14.0

During the war Mr. Thomas had great difficulty in securing new type for his general printing and his newspaper. The earliest opportunity which offered was grasped by him and these entries show the merchants through whom he traded.

Among the Salisbury papers bequeathed to this Society, are the ledgers of S. & S. Salisbury. In these are recorded the accounts of Isaiah Thomas (who resumed his business in Worcester, June 1778) from December, 1778, to 1815.

S. & S. Salisbury were large importers from London, Bristol, Birmingham and Sheffield, having a Boston store "two doors southward of Dr. Silvester Gardner's in Marlborough Street" as well as one in Worcester, "upon the west side of the bridge near the Gaol."

As is well known, the difference in the value of currency and silver during the war was very great, and we find the Salisbury accounts in November, 1781 recorded in old tenor (paper currency) and translated into hard money (silver) at the rate of £75 to £1 of the latter.

The same fact is recognized in the advertisements respecting the price of the *Massachusetts Spy*. Twelve shillings (hard money) per year being the price until the middle of the year 1782 after which the specific term disappears.

1785.

Feb.	5.	Mr. Battelle	£100.0.0
		Mr. Green	25.0.0
		Mr. Boyle	25.0.0
Mar.	3.	for the year [1784]	1129.19.0
Apr.	21.	Capt. Burbank	0.12.0
		Capt. Burbank	1.4.0
	28.	Mr. Thomas to Boston	22.0.0
May	4.	Looking glass	4.10.0
Aug.	22.	Potash to London	30.0.0

The trips of Mr. Thomas to Boston, and payments to Boston publishers indicate his business relations with these men. Reference to the list of his imprints also reveals the fact that several books were printed for these publishers at this time.

Mr. Thomas in an effort to pay a portion of the money due his London agents sent a consignment of potash for sale. A letter from Thomas Evans, in our archives, acknowledges receipt of this potash, describes the difficulty he had in disposing of it and states that American ashes were not used by soap makers there, but were purchased by the druggists

and linen manufacturers of Great Britain. The last two pages of this almanac record sales of the Thomas Almanac together with those of Low and Bickerstaff from Boston.

1786.

From the entries of this year are taken the following:

Jan.	18.	Mr. Thomas to Boston	£15.0.0
Feb.	4.	Dr. Dix	4.0.0
		Mr. Ingraham for type	100.0.0
	11.	Paid Burbank in books	3.0.0
	16.	Paid Burbank in books	6.0.0
	23.	Dr. Green's bill	10.1.4
		Burbank	3.10.0
Apr.	7.	Rags to Burbank	6.0.0
		Chairs	11.5.0
	27.	Burbank	1.5.0
		Burbank rags	3.15.0
May	3.	Journey to Boston	15.0.0
	31.	Isaiah Brown	8.0.0
July	3.	Sent to London	133.6.8
	25.	Isa. Brown in books	4.10.0
Aug.	3.	Isa. Brown in books	4.10.0
Oct.	19.	Mr. Thomas to Boston	4.10.0
	25.	Paid Callender	3.0.0
Dec.	19.	Paid Callender	3.3.0

Isaiah Brown, recorded above, was a carpenter living in Holden who at this time enlarged the printing office on Court Hill, the contract for which is in the possession of this Society.

Joseph Callender engraved a book of Round Text Copies which was published by Thomas in 1787. He was an engraver in Boston and the frequent payments recorded would indicate that he did considerable work for Mr. Thomas during these years. The last leaf of this almanac contains record of sales of over four thousand Thomas Almanacs for 1787.

There are no entries or accounts in the Almanacs for the years 1787 or 1788.

1789.

The accounts open with the entry: For the year 1788, £3176, 1, 11.

Jan.	1.	Paid for pew	£45.0.0
	8.	Burbank	5.10.0
		Isaiah's doctor	2.8.0
		Mary Ann's doctor	2.10.0
		Mr. Callender	2.8.0
		Mr. Worcester	1.0.0
	16.	Dickman & Manning	1.4.8
	30.	Press	6.18.0
Feb.	13.	Mr. Thomas to Boston	3.0.0
		Burbank at sundry times	30.0.0
Mar.	7.	For horse	13.15.0
Apr.	6.	Mr. Thomas to Boston	1.16.0
	29.	Mrs. Thomas to Boston	18.0.0
May	15.	Judge Gill	350.0.0
June	19.	Mr. Thomas to New York	18.0.0

The payment for pew rent recalls the fact that Mr. Thomas, with others, seceded from the First Church and formed the Second Parish in Worcester under the Rev. Dr. Bancroft. At this time they worshipped in the first Court House (the Trumbull House), as their church building was not completed until January, 1792.

Leonard Worcester was apprentice, journeyman or partner from about this date until 1800, when he became the minister of a church in Peacham, Vt.

William Manning, an apprentice of Bennett Wheeler of Providence, worked for Mr. Thomas as a journeyman in Worcester and in Boston until 1794, and returned to Worcester in 1814 as editor of the *Spy*. Judge Moses Gill of Princeton forwarded bills of exchange to London for merchants in the United States from his office in Boston.

1790.

Jan.	22.	Paid Mr. Coverly	£20.0.0
		Sundries at Boston	33.8.0
	27.	Mr. Thomas to Boston	6.0.0
May	24.	Sent to London	133.6.8
Sept.	13.	Mr. Coverly	20.0.0
Oct.	8.	Household furniture	18.0.0
	23.	Burbank	3.12.0
	23.	Burbank order	20.0.0

There are few items of interest in the accounts of this year. In addition to household expenses there are weekly payments to a larger number of apprentices and journeymen in this busy year, during which the folio and quarto Bibles were being printed.

From 1791 to 1795 we find no records and the few entries in the almanacs for 1796 and 1797 have been printed in the introduction by Mr. Hill to the Diary of Isaiah Thomas already mentioned. No records for 1798, 1799, 1800 or 1801 are in the possession of this Society.

1802.

Jan. 26. Went to Boston in the Stage.
Feb. 28. Snow fell 3½ feet on a level, mail due from New York at this office on the 25th, arrived only this evening, three days late.
Mar. 17. Went to Boston.
19. Returned from Boston, 14 hours in the stage.
Apr. 20. Mail began to run to Washington in 4½ days from Boston. Go day and night. Received the 21st in the morning 5 o'clock mail from Washington which left there the 16th.

There are no other entries of interest in this year's diary except those relating to the weather. There are, however, four sentiments in the handwriting of Isaiah Thomas which were apparently used for toasts and they are here reproduced as examples of the custom of those days.

"1. The energies of Republicanism, may they be an overmatch for their enemies, and prostrate the opposition of unprincipled slanderers.

"2. The friends of the Constitution, may the apple of discord be their forbidden fruit, unpleasant to the eye, nauseous to the taste and dreaded in its effects.

"3. Republican policy, may it secure union, strength and prosperity at home, peace and respectability abroad.

"4. The fruits of economy, may those who labor to blast or check their growth, reap a harvest of disappointment."

1803.

Jan.	1.	Last year's expenses	£644.11.6
Feb.	1.	Expenses at Boston	9.0.0
	4.	Paid for land	90.0.0
Apr.	6.	Mr. Thomas to Boston	
	23.	Mr. Thomas to Boston	1.4.0
May	15.	Expenses at Boston	3.0.0
June	21.	Dr. Dix for paint	18.0.0
	30.	Sundries at Boston	15.0.0
July	17.	Died my honored mother in the 76th year of her age.	
Aug.	29.	Miss Weld, Mr. Thomas and Isa. to Walpole, expense	6.10.0
Sept.	10.	Mr. Thomas to Boston.	
	17.	Jacob, Mrs. Thomas and Miss Weld to Boston.	
Dec.	10.	Mr. Thomas to Boston.	
	27.	Year's expenses, household	267.1.1
		other	480.17.6
		Total expense	748.18.7

On the July page is placed a detailed list of purchases for his Boston residence at No. 52 Newbury St., including furniture, crockery, linen and silverware. For several years Mr. Thomas kept this residence open and occupied it from time to time until it was sold in 1808 to his partner, Mr. Andrews. On the September page is the draft of a letter of condolence which closes: "I can most fittingly condole with you by my recent loss of a very dear, tender and affectionate mother."

1804.

Jan.	19.	Mr. Thomas and Miss Weld to Boston	
Feb.	1.	Miss Weld to Boston.	
	14.	Expenses to Springfield	£2.15.0
	22.	Mr.Thomas and Miss Rebecca Armstrong to Boston	
May	7.	This day I intended and did go to Philadelphia	
	14.	Sundries at Philadelphia	12.0.0
		Expenses to and from there	41.0.0
July	9.	Mr. Thomas to Boston	
Aug.	11.	Paid to Bank	210.0.0
	18.	Mr. Thomas to Boston	
	20.	Expenses to Lancaster	1.10.0
Sept.	8.	Mr. Thomas and Miss Armstrong to Boston	

These entries and items of expense close the diary references to the life of Isaiah Thomas which are now in our possession. While many of these references may seem trivial to the casual reader, each one will be found of assistance in tracing the daily and business life of this man whose activities were of such value in his own day, and because of his benefactions, continue to be of increasing importance in this later generation.

DIARY FOR 1808.

January, 1808.

1. Charles went to see his father at Spencer, last Thursday, Dec. 31st. Let Part of my mansion house in Boston to Mr. Pomeroy of Little Cambridge for 3 months at 50 dols. per month.[1]

3. Snow Storm. Kept house. Prepared to go to Boston.

4. Very Cold. Sat off with Miss R. Armstrong, Frazier & Levi in a covered Sleigh for Boston. Broke the Sleigh at Sudbury. Very bad travelling. Snow light. The Sleigh cut thro' to the ground, which was very rough. Broke the Sleigh a few rods from Howe's at the black horse in Sudbury. Could not get it repaired, nor get another large Sleigh. Send to Sudbury Causeway for the Stage to come and take us to Boston tomorrow. Tarried at Howe's from 11 o'Clock this forenoon. Slept there this night which was exceedingly cold.

5. Hired a Carriage, and sat off again for Boston. Arrived there at 2 o'Clock. At 9 o'Clock this morning, an Extra Stage came for us. All sat off at 10 o'Clock, and arrived in Boston before 2 o'Clock. Paid 16 dollars for Extra Carriage. Mr. Pomeroy began to bring his goods into my house, and I began removing mine out of the part he had hired. Dined with Mr. E. T. Andrews.

6. Busy removing. Continued removing and packing up some Goods to send to Worcester. Dined with Mr. John Andrews.

---

[1] The mansion house was at No. 52 Newbury St. (now Washington St.) between West and Essex.

7. Attended Turnpike Directors. Gave up my house in Boston. Went to Lodge at Mr. E. T. Andrews. Prepared to go to Worcester tomorrow. Engaged a Carriage.

8. Snow Storm all day, detained in Boston. Charge 3 days attendance with Turnpike Directors.

9. Sat off in a hired Carriage and horses, for Worcester, with Miss Hannah Weld, Frazier and Levi. Paid 11 Dollars for extra Carriage to carry us to Sudbury. Paid for mending Carriage and extra Expenses at Sudbury 16 Dollars.

14. Settled with my son.

19. 5000 dols. Bank.

20. 16 Gentlemen dined with me.

24. Went to Church.

30. Wife of Wm. Green of this town strayed from home.

31. 1000 or more persons searching the woods, ponds, &c. for Mrs. Green without effect.

February, 1808.

1. Mrs. Green found at Grafton. She had hidden herself in the hay in her father's barn. Mrs. Greene going to a neighbor's on Mill Stone hill, on Saturday last, lost her way, wandered about till night, was frightened and bewildered, and could not find her way home, but somehow wandered 9 miles to Grafton, and got to her father's Barn; went upon the Mow, covered herself over with Straw, where it is thought she lay all Sunday and Sunday night, in a state of derangement; was found there in the forenoon of this day. Yesterday (Sunday) there was at several Churches, in this and the neighboring towns, no service, and the people generally went in search of Mrs. G. It is thought there were not less than 2000 men engaged in this business in Worcester, Sutton, Grafton, Northbridge, Ware, Shrewsbury, Northboro', Holden, Sterling, Boylston, Rutland, Paxton, &c. &c. and altho' it rained heavily all this forenoon, it is supposed not less than a 1000 men were out in search of her. As soon as she was found the bells were rung and cannon fired as a signal for them to return home.

2. Went to the Bank.

5. Owe 16 to one of the Club.

7. Began taking Catalogue of Books I have printed, &c.[2]
10. Mrs. T. had C'oy [Company.]
13. Bought Venison.
16. Attended at Bank.
18. Dined at Syke's with several Gentlemen on Venison.
23. Several Merchants failed.[3]
24. Isaiah Thomas, ter[s]. Moses T. & his wife, came to see us. Director for the week for Flagg.
26. I. Thomas, ter[s]. went to Boston.
27. Lydia Bass died.
28. Went to Church.
29. Jos. Laughton died.

March, 1808.

2. Clap, Blake, Waldo, Farrar, Dix, and Parson dined with me.
6. Miss Calef came on a visit. Went to Church.
7. My Grandson Isaiah Thomas Simmons died at St. Albans of the Croup.[4]
8. New Court of Sessions met and was organized.
9. My grandson Isaiah Thomas Simmons aged 1 year and 9 months.
13. Went to Church.
14. Miss Calef went to tarry a few days with my son.
15. Bank 5000. Went to the Bank. 5000 dollars due at the Bank.
16. Officiate this week for Dr. Fiske at the Bank.
17. Wild Pidgeons caught and bro't to market at Worcester several times this and the last week.
20. None of the family went to Church.
21. Miss Calef, came from my son's to spend the week with us.
22. My Brother came to see me. Went to the Bank.

---

[2] This catalogue of his imprints was later incorporated in the MS. Catalogue of Books owned by Thomas and presented to the American Antiquarian Society in 1812.

[3] In Thomas' diary for 1807 is found the entry "act of embargo passed the 21st inst" [December]. From this time the Massachusetts Spy contains frequent articles recounting the injury to merchants engaged in foreign and West Indian trade, in consequence of this act.

[4] Isaiah Thomas Simmons was the son of Marianne the oldest child of Isaiah Thomas by his first wife, Mary Dill—divorced in 1777.

23. My week at the Bank. 5100 actions entered at Court of Common Pleas for Debt.

24. Deacon Brown, T. Whiting, Esq. &c. dined with me.

27. Went to Church.

29. Went to the Bank.

30. Miss Calef went to visit at Gov. Lincoln's.

31. Officiated this week at the Bank for Mr. Chandler.

April, 1808.

1. Miss Weld left us in dudgeon. Pleasant for the season. Miss C. returned, and went again to Gov. Lincoln. Began writing a Sketch of the Origin and progress of Printing.[5] A child fell in a kettle of boiling Soap, and died. Its Grandmother going in haste from a neighboring house to administer relief taken with Asthma, died instantly. Her name was Harrington.

4. Hard struggle for Governor, &c. Presided at Fire Club.[6]

5. H. W. return'd. Sol. Willard found dead by his horse this morning on the road.

6. Wrote to Mr. Carter.

7. Fast Day. Went to Church twice.

10. Went to Church.

11. My Son's wife delivered of a Boy at 12 o'Clock this forenoon.[7]

12. Went to the Bank. Began to strip the wings of the House I live in to enlarge them.

13. Mrs. Thomas, Miss Weld, and Augusta, my G. Daughter, went to Boston with Levi. Raised the addition to the wings. Repaired the house next to the Book Store, south, and the large Necessary in that yard.

15. Mr. Matthew Carey, Printer, of Philadelphia, visited me. An old acquaintance.

16. Mr. Carey sat off on his return home. He had been to Boston.

19. Went to the Bank. Summer Court.

[5] The History of Printing was finished and printed in 1810.

[6] This was the Worcester Fire Society, founded in 1793.

[7] William Thomas was the eighth child of Isaiah Thomas, Jr. He became a merchant in Boston.

20. Mrs. Thomas returned from Boston with Levi.

24. Went to Church all day. Judge Sedgwick, Mr. Bancroft and Mr. Parker dined with me.

27. Went to Bank.

29. Set off in the Stage at 5 o'Clock this morning for Boston, arrived there at ½ past 2 o'clock. My Son went in the Stage to Boston, Portsmouth, &c.

30. Visited the ancient Library of the Mathers, now owned by Mrs. Crocker.[8]

May, 1808.

1. Went twice to Christ Church. Drank Tea at Mr. E. Weld's.

2. Went to the Library of the Historical Society. Mrs. Crocker gave me a very old Book, folio, very ancient printing, History of Plants, Fishes, Birds, Beasts, &c. &c. with wooden cuts colored, illuminated, supposed to be printed at least as far back as 1480.[9]

3. Went to the Library of the Old South. Was alone in the Historical Society's Library on Franklin Place all the afternoon. Took an account of many Books printed at Cambridge and Boston.

4. Went to the Circus. Went again very early this morning to the Historical Society's Library and took the Titles of many more books printed at Boston. After breakfast went to the Old South Library in the Steeple, and found many Books printed at Cambridge & Boston.[10]

5. Went to the Theological Society & to the Athenaeum. Still employed in the Old S°. Library.

6. Went again to y^{e} old South Library. Delivered the Deed of my Mansion house in Boston to Mr. Andrews. Sold it to him for 16,000 Dollars, but repented I had sold it.[11]

[8] This was the library which Thomas purchased in 1814 from Mrs. Hannah Mather Crocker, the granddaughter of Cotton Mather, and which he presented to this Society.

[9] This was the Hortus Sanitatis, an early work on Medicine and Natural History which was printed at Mainz, June 23, 1491, and is now in the Society's library.

[10] The study of the Rev. Thomas Prince was in the steeple of the Old South Church. Here he kept his library and it was from this library that the "Log of the Mayflower" disappeared, during the siege of Boston, which was returned to this State through the efforts of Senator Hoar and the Bishop of London.

[11] This Boston residence at No. 52 Newbury St. was near the office of the firm of Thomas & Andrews, and he had agreed to sell it to Mr. Andrews in December, 1807.

7. Sat off at 5 this morning for Worcester, arrived there at 2 o'Clock.

8. Went to Church.

9. My week at the Bank.

10. Went to the Bank. Sued Foster, and attached.

12. Went to Framingham.

13. Returned to Worcester.

14. My Son returned from the Eastward. Eliza Weld came with him. Paid at the Bank 2500 dols.

15. A young man and two Girls drowned at Hubbardston.

21. Supped at Sikes's.

23. Went to Boston with Eliza, Frazier & Levi in Coachee. Lodged at Mr. E. T. Andrews, Eliza at W. Andrews.

24. Went to Theological Library.

25. Election. Went to do. Majority of Federalists dined with W. Andrews. Frazier kept at Mary Armstrong's, Levi at Stone's Tavern.

26. Turnpike Corporation.[12]

27. Went to Roxbury with Eliza and spent the day with Mr. John Andrews, Jamaica Plain. My Brother Joshua's wife died.

28. Heard of it at Boston. Went to Theological. Lent Mrs. Ewers Furniture.

29. Rose at 5 o'Clock and went to Theological Library.

31. Rose before 3 o'Clock. Sat off at 5 for Worcester with Frazier, Levi, and my Granddaughter Augusta. Rain, Thunder, &c before I got home. 4th 5th & 6th days charge to the Wor. Turnpike Corporation. 12th and 13th do. on a Committee at Framingham, 24th 25th & 26th, Directors at Boston.

June, 1808.

2. Went to Lancaster with Mrs. Thomas.

3. Returned from Lancaster.

5. Mr. Nash, Mrs. Paine, Mrs. Seaver and Betsy Weld dined with us.

6. Reed & his partner and Gardner came to work at 3 o'Clock this afternoon. Begun to alter Kitchen, &c.

[12] This corporation built the Turnpike from Boston to Worcester in 1805.

7. Went to the bank.
8. 7 workmen on the house today. Hearsey began work again. 7 hands to work today. Hoed Corn.
12. Mr. Thayer dined with me.
13. Mr. Mycall C. C. P.
14. Went to Bank. 7 Carpenters.
15. 7 Carpenters, 2 masons.
16. 7 Carpenters, 2 Masons, and a Painter at work.
20. 5 Carpenters, 2 Painters, and a Stone Mason.
21. do, do and 2 paper hangers.
24. N. Patch died 23^{d}.
25. Same workmen.
27. Tempest at Newburyport &c.
28. Carpenters, & Masons finished repairing inside the House.
29. Went to Boston in the Stage.

July, 1808.

2. Returned to Worcester in Mail Stage. Dismissed most of the workmen on the house.
3. Dismissed several workmen.
4. Dined at home.
6. 6 Carpenters, 2 painters inside. Carpenters began to work again.
7. 3 Loads Hay. 2 Painters inside.
8. Miss E. W. went to Boston with Isa. walked to Long Pond.
9. Dined with Mr. S. Chandler.
13. Raised small back Portico.
14. Unroofed front of the House and put up a Pediment Story.
16. Papered North Parlor.
21. Mrs. Thomas, jun^{r}. went to Boston.
23. Carpenters finished the Pediment Story.
24. Went to Church.
27. Dismissed Earle & his Boys, Carpenters.
28. Hearsey began again to Plaster the Garret. My son & his daughter went to Boston.

30. Finished top of the house. Suspect I have a rupture.

31. Went to Church.

August, 1808.

1. Laid Flag Stones in back yard.

2. Carpenters finished in the Garret.

3. Masons finished do. Sat out for Boston with Levi past noon, in the Coachee. Carpenter & Stone Layers finished work. Removed Stage poles, dismissed all workmen but painters.

4. Lodged last night at Weston, breakfasted in Boston. Saw Miss W's anonymous Letter to Mrs. Thayer, it was false, wicked and cruel, and proved Miss W. to be a false friend. Its design was to injure the character of Miss C. and myself, only to prevent Miss C. from visiting Worcester. Took Lodgings in Boston at Mrs. Ewers's, head of Cow Lane. My Son and his wife returned to Worcester.

5. Began packing Goods early this morning.

6. Went to Jamaica Plains.

7. Went to Church twice. Dined with Wm. Andrews.

8. Purchased carpeting, &c.

9. Dined with Mr. Thayer.

10. Sat off for Worcester with Miss Calef and my daughter Eliza.

11. Dr. John Green died.

13. Dr. Green buried. Pall holder.

14. Went to meeting twice.

16. Went to Bank.

18. Went to the floating Bridge with Miss Calef.

19. My son went to Boston.

20. My son returned from Boston.

21. Went to meeting. Wrote to Miss Weld.

22. Went to Leominster with Miss Calef & Eliza.

23. Went to Harvard & Lancaster, returned Home. Left Eliza at Harvard at Mr. Mycall's. Found my brother and his Daughter dissatisfied with living together.

24. Consulted Dr. Prince, and find I have a rupture. This with my other infirmities places me in a very unpleasant

situation. Chaise Horse has had the Heaves badly. Sold him for 40 Dollars on that account otherways would not have sold him for 300 dollars. Rec^{d}. to Wm. Caldwell, for Goods he attached belonging to Arthur Adlington, amounting to about 40 dollars, and left them with Adlington.

25. Bought 38 bushels of oats.

26. Letter from H. Weld.

27. Parted with my excellent Chaise horse for 40 Dols.

29. Sat off this morning for Walpole, N. H. with Levi. Slept at Morse's in Winchendon.

30. Breakfasted at Fitzwilliam, arrived at Walpole half past 3 o'Clock.

31. Lodged with Alex^{r}. Thomas. Viewed the Bridge now building opposite Walpole Street. Settled Accounts with the Compy.[13]

September, 1808.

1. Sat off from Walpole this morning with Levi, on my return to Worcester. Lodged at Morse's, Winchendon.

2. Arrived at Leominster at 12 o'Clock, and stopped at Mrs. Legate's. Returning from Walpole, met Eliza at Mrs. Legate's, tarried there over night.

3. Lodged at Mrs. Legate's last night. Arrived at Worcester. Sat off with Eliza after breakfast, went to visit Moses Thomas at Sterling, arrived home to dine.

4. Went to Church in the afternoon.

6. Went to Bank. Wrote to my Brother at Long Island.

7. Rode to the Pond. Notes due at W. Bank.

8. Training at Worcester. My brother visited me.

9. Laid flat stones north side the house. Became surety for Adlington's debts.

10. Went to Boston in Coachee with Miss Perkins. Lodged at Boston at Mrs. Ewers's.

11. Went to Church twice.

12. Levi returned to Worcester. Attended Grand Lodge.

13. Attended Grand Chapter, was reelected G. H. P.

[13] The printing office and book store in Walpole, N. H., founded by Mr. Thomas in 1793 and managed by David Carlisle, Jr. proved unsuccessful. At this time its accounts were settled and the business renewed under the firm name of Thomas & Thomas, but sold to Cheever Felch in October, 1809.

Dined at Green Dragon. Reelected G. H. P. of the M. G. C. dined with the G. & H. Andrews Chap^{r}.

14. Dined with Mr. B. Weld, with a Mr. Snowden, wife and family &c. Dined with Mr. B. Weld.

15. Most of the day at the Atheneum.

16. Purchased 48 vols. old Newspapers. Purchased about 46 Vols. old Papers, Boston Evening Post, nearly complete, of M^{r}. Eliot, apothecary, they belonged to the Fleets, gave 50 dols. for them.[14]

17. Dined with Mr. E. T. Andrews. Bought 3 Vols. old papers of Ed. Draper. Gave 4 dols. for them. Attended every day the past week in search of old Boston printed Books, and in searching old files of papers for them.

18. Went to Church twice. Dined with Wm. Andrews.

20. Levi returned from Worcester. Levi came alone in the carriage from Worcester.

22. Went to Cambridge with young Dr. Gamage. Visited College Library. Took the Titles of a few old Books; but found it would take several days to search for New England Books, determined to take another opportunity.

23. Went to Jamaica Plains with Mrs. Ewers, sister and daughter.

24. Returned to Worcester with Mr. Wm. Andrews, wife and daughter.

25. Went to meeting.

26. Mr. Wm. Andrews returned to Boston.

27. Went to Bank.

28. Went to Pond Bridge with Mrs. Andrews.

29. Went to Framingham with Mrs. Andrews to meet her husband. Dined there.

October, 1808.

1. Gathered in Potatoes, raised 40 bushels, very good.

2. Garden robbed of Pears.

3. Went to Boston in the Stage. Lodged at Mrs. Ewers's. On Turnpike business.

---

[14] This file of the Boston Evening Post is today one of the most valuable of the possessions of this Society. It runs from Aug. 18, 1735 to Apr. 24, 1775, comprising 2065 numbers with only 30 numbers missing.

4. Went to Roxbury, Newton, &c. Went with the Directors of Worcester Turnpike and Court's Committee to view the road, went as far as Newton, and returned to Boston. Dined with General Eliot.

5. Went with Directors, Com^{ee}. &c. to Worcester on the Turnpike road.

6. Went to Boston, on Turnpike returned with the Directors, Com^{ee}. &c.; to Boston. The Com^{ee}. made a partial return of the Road, agreed where to place 2 of the Gates.

7. Attended Turnpike Directors at Vila's, dined there. Attended a meeting of the Turnpike Directors at Vila's.

9. Went to Church in the afternoon.

10. Went in a Hack to Dorchester & then to Jamaica Plains to get old newspapers from Deacon Peirce.

11. Left Boston at 6 o'Clock this morng. in Stage for Worcester. Arrived at Worcester at 2 o'Clock. Went to Bank.

14. Laid flat Stones north side the house.

15. Miss H. Weld from Boston.

19. My week at the Bank.

21. Dined with Col. Clap.

23. Went to Church twice.

24. Isaiah went to Boston with Miss Weld. Went to Providence with Mrs. Ball, Eliza, and Levi in coachee. Lodged at Smithfield at Bulkley's, Mrs. Ball being very unwell. Mrs. Ball, my niece, has been with us about a fortnight. Could travel but slowly, all Lodged at Smithfield within 9 Miles of Providence.

25. Arrived at Providence this morning. Put up at Ammidown. Supped with M^{r}. Carter. Arrived at Providence about 12 o'Clock. Mrs. Ball and Eliza, lodged at Mr. Bridgham's, a Gentleman of the Law, we dined with him this day. Govern^{r}. Fenner (of Rhode Island) called to see us after Dinner, invited us to see him. Saw M^{r}. Goddard.

26. Dined (with Eliza) at M^{r}. Carter's. Tea at Mr. Goddard's. Eliza dined with me at my friend Carter's as did M^{r}. Goddard. We drank Tea at M^{r}. Goddard's and spent the Evening very agreeably. I had Lodgings at Ammidown's Inn.

27. Returned with Eliza to Worcester. Breakfasted with M^r^. Bridgham. Left Mrs. Ball with her friends Mrs. and Mr. Bridgham where we took an early breakfast. Went with Eliza to see the Cotton Works at Patucket.[15] Arrived at Worcester at 7 in the Evening.

28. Isaiah returned from Boston.

30. Went twice to Church.

31. Dined with Rev. Mr. Bancroft, with Rev. Mr. Harris & wife. Attended Turnpike Business 6 days, on the Road with Court's Com^ee^. at Vila's, &c.

November, 1808.

1. Mr. J. Trumbull & wife dined with me. My Brother came from Lancaster.

2. Attended at Bank yesterday.

3. My brother returned to Lancaster. Pd 1420 dollars at the Bank.

5. Anson went to Hardwick.

6. Went once to Church.

7. Sat out at 4 o'Clock P. M. with D^r^. Fiske, in the coach-ee on the Turnpike for Boston. Lodged at Wheeler's at Framingham this night. Met there Lieut. Governor Lincoln, spent the eveng. with him and Dr. Fiske, the Hon. being a Counsellor.

8. Sat off from Framingham this morning at 6 o'Clock for Boston: with D^r^. Fiske & M^r^. Wheeler. Breakfasted at Newton, arrived at Boston at 10 o'Clock A. M. Dined at Vila's. Attended Corporation Meeting of Worcester Turnpike, was again chosen a Director. All the old Directors chosen excepting Fiske.

9. Miss Weld came to see me. Paid Callender & Jenkins —dollars. Miss R. Armstrong. 21, do.

10. Went to Dorchester & Jamaica Plains, dined with E. T. Andrews.

11. Sat off at 6 o'Clock this morn^g^. for Worcester, with Miss Eliza Ewers, arrived at 4 o'clock. Anson returned from

[15] The Slater Cotton Mill in Pawtucket was the first in the county with the Arkwright machines. It was built in 1790, and in 1808 was still considered worthy of a visit as one of the new industries of the United States.

Hardwick. Mrs. Thomas, jun^{r}. went to Boston. Eben^{r}. T. Andrews married to Elizabeth Weld, Sister to his former wife.

16. My Son went to Boston with his eldest daughter.

17. 3 loads of wood from the pasture.

18. 4 loads of wood from pasture.

19. Walked to Bladder Pond.

20. My Son returned from Boston with his wife and daughter.

22. Went to Bank.

24. Dined with Capt. Blake, &c. at Mrs. Stanton's.

27. Went to Church twice.

28. Went to Shrewsbury. Attended Jury on Gates' business.

29. Went to bank.

30. Engaged to slope the banks of Chandler's hill.

Charge Turnpike Corporation 4 days, Corporation meeting &c, Road, &c,

attending Jury, &c. 22^{d} 24th } 2 days 28th 29th } 2 do. 30th 1 do.

December, 1808.

1. Thanksgiving. Went to meeting. Children & Grandchildren dine with me.

7. Sat off for Boston in the afternoon with Eliza Ewers in Coachee. Lodged at Wheeler's. Isaiah went to Pittsfield.

8. Breakfasted at Wheeler's. Attended Turnpike Board of Directors till past 10 o'Clock in the Evening.

9. Dined with Wm. Andrews.

10. Dined with E. T. Andrews. Governor James Sullivan died. Went with 3 Miss Ewers's to Jamaica Plain. Rec^{d}. rent from Jackson & Tappan.

11. Went to Church in the Morng.

12. Attended Grand Lodge. Chosen Grand Master. Chosen Gd. Master again. Dan^{l}. Waldo, Esq. died.

13. Attended G. Chapter. Isa. returned from Pittsfield.

14. Went home. Miss Mary Armstrong and Eliza Ewers accompanied me. Isa. and his wife went to Boston.

16. Common Pleas Session ends. Daniel Waldo Esq. buried. Governor Sullivan buried in Boston.

17. Isa. & wife returned from Boston.

18. Went to Church twice.

20. Went to the bank.

21. Dined with S. Chandler.

26. Went to Boston with Mary Armstrong.

27. Attended Grand Lodge. Install[d]. Grand Mas[r]. Dined with the Grand Lodge at the new Exchange Coffee house, with G. Lodge. 4 past G. Ms. present. Went to Charlestown in the Evening and installed the Master of King Solomon's Lodge. Grand Lodge present, returned to Boston at 9 o'Clock.

28. Attended to business, various. Attended a Meeting of the Directors of Worcester Turnpike.

29. Attended Board of Directors of the Worcester Turnpike at Vila's.

30. Sat off for Worcester at 11 o'Clock arrived there at 7 o'Clock.

31. Sundry times postage, Charge Turnpike 1.25 Cts. Do postage &c. 7, 8, 9, 10, 4 Days attendance. 28, 29, 30 3 Do. attendance.

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.