

### Job Whitall's Diary\*

Job Whitall, son of James and Ann Cooper Whitall, was born 1 mo.-27-1743, and died 9 mo.-11-1797.

Job Whitall was a son of James and Ann Cooper Whitall, who lived in the old brick mansion still standing near the Red Bank monument visited by our Society last June. His diary, now in possession of Louis W. Whitall, contains a great deal more of interest than is mentioned here, especially genealogical data, and is another example of history that has never been copiously copied or published.

Job had the patience of Job of Old and the extracts made here from his diary certainly fail to show the slightest exasperation at the confiscation of his things by British and Continental soldiers alike. Harassment from all quarters was his portion, and while he ignores the famous battle of Red Bank he throws a great deal of light on the doings of the soldiers and the military conditions prevalent in Old Gloucester in 1776-7.

On Feby. 7, 1776, he received of Joseph Whitall one hundred Continental dollar bills.

Feby. 24 he mentions that The people began to muster this day.

May 6. The alarm guns were fired betwixt twelve and one of the clock which occasioned great commotion amongst some of the people.

On May 8th he heard a cannonading with the row galleys and a man of war or two which lasted three hours or better. The people getting in arms as fast as possible. The next day he heard the cannon firing the most of the afternoon and evening.

Oct. 8th. Brother John Whitall and Thomas Saunders set off for New York to see Brother Benjamin Whitall at ye Camp.

\* By FRANK H. STEWART.

Benj. Whitall made application to Committee of Safety Jan. 10, 1776, for a command in Col. Maxwell's regiment. Benjamin Whitall was a Second Lieutenant in Artillery Co. formed March 2, 1776. He was subsequently promoted to be a First Lieutenant and later Captain Lieutenant.

Oct. 18th. He gave Barbara Down four dollars that brother John Whitall brought from Charles Spencer at ye Camp.

Nov. 29. He records: Bob Taylor came here to strain our goods and because he could not go all over our house he got in a passion and went away without anything, he threatening to fetch a file of musketeers to scare us I suppose.

Dec. 10. I got a good deal of pork of ye market people, they being scart and turned back by accounts that ye English soldiers were coming to Philadelphia or near it. I paid them all. On Dec. 14 he went to the Philadelphia Market and got to Austins ferry (Arch St.) before daylight and sold his marketing when market opened.

Jan'y 20th, 1777. Thomas Denny and John Sparks sent for cousin Thomas Redman and committed him to gaol, but he had his liberty to go home and come next morning, which he did.

Jan'y 21. Squires sent for Cousin Mark Miller again and I went to see how it went. They wrote his mittimus and ordered Ellick Mitchell to take him to gaol but Ellick gave him liberty to stay to dinner and when over he took Cousin Thos. Redman and Mark Miller to gaol.

April 16, 1777. Went down to Father Whitalls to make a haul with his seine but there being three or four hundred soldiers there we thought not to fish but we made one haul and caught one shad and two or three other fish.

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April 19. Some of the soldiers went away and more came this day.

Aug. 8. A number of ye militia came in to Woodbury and took possession of our meeting house.

Aug. 15. Ye soldiers came back this day and went into our meeting house again.

Aug. 16. While I was at Fathers, John Porch ye Constable came there and demanded a fine from Brother John Whitall, and I had an opportunity to see what mine was. There were two against me, one fine was

	£	S	D
	1	2	6
Costs		2	6
Ye other fine 1		0	0
Costs		2	6

And against my man John were two more, one

		17	6
Costs		2	6
Ye other		15	0
Costs		2	6
	£	S	D
Ye whole	4	5	0

Aug. 19. Jehu Ward came here in a passion and demanded me to go over to brick house tavern before Sparks and Denny or I should be sent for by ye authority. After a little pause I went over to the Squires and they not being in Jehu and I walked into a private room and by having some conversation his passion began to cool and he concluded to go no further in it and he seemed to be very friendly when we parted.

Sept. 2, 1777. I went to Gloucester Gaol to see Thomas Edgerton whom Sparks had put in for not taking ye test.

Sept. 5. Militia had their discharge this morning and ye bigger number went home. A number of girls went to washing and cleaning ye meeting house.

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Sept. 13. Ye Militia had filled our meeting house and school here and several other houses ye fore part of week.

Sept. 20. Jehn Wood *drest* a number of horses and wagons today.

Oct. 2. Capt. Sam'l Hugg had our wagon for ammunition. Ye Militia took our light covered wagon without leave and have not returned it.

Oct. 6. While I was at fathers Capt. Jos. Blewer took my little brown mare without leave to ride up to Washington's Camp, as he said.

From Oct. 7th to the 22nd he was busy moving furniture, produce and stock first to his father's place, and thence again to his Uncle David Cooper's, at Woodbury. On the 10th he writes: "The Militia turned us out of our kitchen ye largest room upstairs and the shop and took our hay to feed their horses."

On the 12th Capt. John Blewer brought his brown mare home and on the 17th he got his wagon back, which he loaded with a chest full of clothes, a tub full of china and crockery, a half barrel of wine; another tub full of pewter and one walnut box, and sent the lot to his uncle David Cooper's.

On the 21st he took another load of goods away.

On the 22nd of October, the day of the battle of Red Bank, he says: "Ye Boys and myself hung a gate in ye meadow and John and I went to finish ye stacks (hay) and our women blowed ye horn and we went home and got our horses and wagon and loaded it with goods. Ye reason was because ye English troops were close by. We ate some dinner and my wife, children and myself went off in our wagon. Father, *mother* and ye boys stayed. We got to Uncle David Coopers and stayed awhile and I went back again on horse back. Uncle David and James Cooper each sent a boy down to fathers to help me away with some cattle. I went over the Dam to fathers and got ye boys and we drove

away 21 head, 8 fat, 4 cows, one pair oxen, 3 steers, 1 heifer and 3 calves to Uncle David Cooper and stayed all night. This same day ye people in ye Fort drove from Father and me 47 sheep into ye fort."

This record showing that his mother, Ann Cooper Whitall, did not leave the farm after dinner on the day of the famous battle should forever kill the suspicion created by certain writers that she was not at home during the battle, and therefore could not have been engaged in knitting or spinning when the cannon ball went through one end of her home.

Oct. 23. The day after the battle, which is not mentioned by Friend Whitall, he records: "The Americans had filled the kitchen, shop, big room, the long room upstairs and two other rooms down stairs which forced us to move out." The next day he got several teams and loaded them with his fathers goods and took them to Woodbury to John Murdocks.

Oct. 25. He and his wife took his mother down and were loading goods when the soldiers took his mare out of harness by order of Col. Greene. This prevented the removal of the goods and he locked four rooms filled with articles. The following day he brought away his father's hogs and sheep, also Joseph Low's. Four out of 37 were missing.

On the 27th he went to his father's house and found the soldiers had broken open three of the doors. He got six more sheep and one pig.

On the 29th he got a few of the potatoes the soldiers had left and found the other door forced and the things chiefly gone out of it. This day he got his brown mare back. On the 31st the soldiers took a young mare colt away out of the meadow. At this time he sent a valuable horse down to Salem to his Uncle Richard Wood's.

On Nov. 4. while several teams were hauling, the soldiers took a yoke of oxen and his sorrel horse away.

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Nov. 7. He went to Woodbury meeting and the soldiers had made a hospital of the meeting house, and a meeting was held out of doors and when over a Preparative meeting was held in Mark Miller's house. He said it was a matter of satisfaction and comfort to him.

On the 9th another meeting was held out of doors. On his return home the soldiers had stolen two of his pigs in the night. His Uncle David Cooper while on the way to meeting saw two soldiers, one of whom had a pig. He shouted to them and they dropped the pig and ran as fast as they could through the corn. This would make a good subject for some artist.

Nov. 18. The sick soldiers were all ordered away.

Nov. 21. I stayed at home on account of ye English soldiers coming here today. They took two mares from me, one sorrel horse out of the stable, the other out of the lot, a brown mare, both with foal, and while ye army was passing they came in and took our bread, pie, milk, cheese, meat dishes, cups, spoons and then took shirts, sheets, blankets, coverleds, stockings, breeches and drove our cattle out of ye brick shed and they all came back but one big brown ox that we worked while here. They broke open two doors and ransacked ye house all over but ye cellar.

Nov. 22. He stayed at home all day. The soldiers took one of his pigs and cut and hacked several others with their swords. We were pretty peaceable this day—only came and got some potatoes and milk. There was a great number of soldiers who went by this day and while passing they took off my gears with them.

On the 23rd he went to Uncle David Cooper's and found the soldiers had been there and broken open many doors and two drawers in his desk. Took nearly a whole barrel of sugar leaving only a few pounds and also took ten sheep of his father's and Joseph Low's. Towards night he went home and some soldiers were there taking as much hay as two horses could carry strung on each side with ropes.

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Nov. 24. Ye English soldiers all moved off this morning and left Woodbury. I walked to where they had their camp and we found our big kettle but not our little pot. Found ye brown oxes hide belonging to father that they had killed, and took it to Aaron Hews for him to tan for me. It weighed 50 lbs. Father found a Windsor chair in the woods. I walked to Woodbury to see my friends and the soldiers had stolen out of our smoke house in Woodbury 4 or 5 fitches of bacon. They had taken over a thousand feet of 1¼ inch boards and 2 or 3 thousand barrel staves.

Nov. 25. Sailors came ashore and took Brother James' hogs.

Nov. 30. Went to Woodbury meeting for the first time since the soldiers had left it.

Dec. 15. Went to Red Bank to spread Flax that ye soldiers had made tents of. It was very much tangled.

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### Spelling of Family Names

It is a curious fact that many of the first settlers would not recognize their names as now spelled by their grandchildren's grandchildren.

Covenover is now Conover.

Van Immen is now Vanneman.

Maffet is now Moffett.

Eslick is now Eastlack.

Pronunciation has had a great deal to do with the changes in spelling. In Salem Co., where I was born, the Steward family was a large one and there was no trouble with my name. When I went to Philadelphia everybody called me Stewart, and I, boy-like, thought it would be all right to make the spelling conform to the practice. When I started in business for myself I did