

# Contents

Paul Revere: Memorandum on Events of April 18, 1775 <i>The War Begins: Massachusetts, April 1775</i> . . . . .	1
Frederick MacKenzie: Diary, April 18–21, 1775 <i>The British Retreat from Concord: Massachusetts, April 1775</i> . . . . .	5
Thomas Gage to the Earl of Dartmouth, April 22, 1775 <i>“Fire from every Hill, Fence, House, Barn”: Massachusetts, April 1775</i> . . . . .	19
John Dickinson to Arthur Lee, April 29, 1775 <i>A Pennsylvanian Reacts to Lexington and Concord: April 1775</i> . . . . .	21
Peter Oliver: from “The Origin & Progress of the American Rebellion” <i>A Tory View of Lexington and Concord: Spring 1775</i> . . . . .	25
George Washington: Address to the Continental Congress, June 16, 1775 <i>Washington Accepts Command: Philadelphia, June 1775</i> . . . . .	31
John Adams to Abigail Adams, June 17, 1775 <i>Washington’s Appointment: June 1775</i> . . . . .	32
Eliphalet Dyer to Joseph Trumbull, June 17, 1775 <i>An Appraisal of Washington: June 1775</i> . . . . .	34
Samuel Blachley Webb to Joseph Webb, June 19, 1775 <i>Battle of Bunker Hill: Massachusetts, June 1775</i> . . . . .	36
George Washington to Burwell Bassett, June 19, 1775 <i>“Imbarkd on a tempestuous Ocean”: June 1775</i> . . . . .	41
John Adams to Abigail Adams, June 23, 1775 <i>Washington Leaves for Boston: June 1775</i> . . . . .	43
Peter Oliver: from “The Origin & Progress of the American Rebellion” <i>A Tory View of Bunker Hill: Summer 1775</i> . . . . .	44

Benjamin Franklin to William Strahan, July 5, 1775 <i>"You are now my Enemy": July 1775</i> . . . . .	53
The Continental Congress: Address to the Six Nations, July 13, 1775 <i>An Appeal to the Iroquois: July 1775</i> . . . . .	54
Abigail Adams to John Adams, July 16, 1775 <i>A Visit with Washington: July 1775</i> . . . . .	61
Lord Rawdon to the Earl of Huntingdon, August 3, 1775 <i>A British Account of Bunker Hill: August 1775</i> . . . . .	67
Ethan Allen: from "A narrative of Col. Ethan Allen's captivity" <i>An American Defeat in Canada: September 1775</i> . . . . .	71
To the <i>Virginia Gazette</i> , November 24, 1775 <i>Response to Lord Dunmore's Proclamation:</i> <i>November 1775</i> . . . . .	81
William Woodford to Edmund Pendleton, December 5, 1775 <i>Slaves Fighting with the British: Virginia,</i> <i>December 1775</i> . . . . .	87
Martha Washington to Elizabeth Ramsay, December 30, 1775 <i>The Continental Army Outside Boston: December 1775</i> . . . . .	91
Isaac Senter: Journal, November 1–December 31, 1775 <i>The Invasion of Canada: 1775</i> . . . . .	93
Sarah Hodgkins and Joseph Hodgkins, February 1–20, 1776 <i>A Continental Officer and his Wife Correspond:</i> <i>February 1776</i> . . . . .	109
John Bowater to the Earl of Denbigh, March 25, 1776 <i>The British Evacuate Boston: March 1776</i> . . . . .	113
Abigail Adams to John Adams, March 31, 1776 <i>"Remember the Ladies": March 1776</i> . . . . .	116
Peter Oliver: from "The Origin & Progress of the American Rebellion" <i>A Tory View of the Siege of Boston:</i> <i>Fall 1775–Spring 1776</i> . . . . .	119

John Adams to Abigail Adams, July 3, 1776 <i>Congress Votes for Independence: July 1776</i> . . . . .	124
The Declaration of Independence <i>Philadelphia, July 4, 1776</i> . . . . .	128
Isaac Bangs: Journal, July 10, 1776 <i>New York Celebrates Independence: July 1776</i> . . . . .	132
Landon Carter: Diary, June 26–July 16, 1776 <i>Slaves Join the British: Virginia, Summer 1776</i> . . . . .	133
Ambrose Serle: Journal, July 12–23, 1776 <i>The British Fleet Arrives at New York: July 1776</i> . . . . .	142
Joseph Reed: Memorandum on Meeting Between George Washington and James Paterson, July 20, 1776 <i>Washington Refuses to Negotiate: New York, July 1776</i> . . . . .	152
Benjamin Franklin to Lord Howe, July 20, 1776 <i>"It is impossible we should think of Submission": July 1776</i> . . . . .	156
Henry Laurens to John Laurens, August 14, 1776 <i>Events in South Carolina: Summer 1776</i> . . . . .	159
Philip Vickers Fithian: Journal, August 11–30, 1776 <i>The Continental Army at New York: August 1776</i> . . . . .	171
Jabez Fitch: Diary, August 27–28, 1776 <i>Battle of Long Island: August 1776</i> . . . . .	183
Henry Strachey: Memorandum on Meeting Between Lord Howe and the American Commissioners, September 11, 1776 <i>A British Peace Plan Fails: September 1776</i> . . . . .	186
Ambrose Serle: Journal, August 22–September 15, 1776 <i>British Victories at New York: Summer 1776</i> . . . . .	192
Philip Vickers Fithian: Journal, September 15, 1776 <i>Battle of Kips Bay: New York, September 1776</i> . . . . .	219
Benjamin Trumbull: Journal, September 15–16, 1776 <i>Kips Bay and Harlem Heights: New York, September 1776</i> . . . . .	222

Frederick MacKenzie: Diary, September 20–22, 1776 <i>The Burning of New York: September 1776</i> . . . . .	225
Robert Auchmuty to the Earl of Huntingdon, January 8, 1777 <i>Capture of Fort Washington: New York, November 1776</i> . . . . .	230
George Washington to Lund Washington, December 10 and 17, 1776 <i>The American Retreat: Pennsylvania, December 1776</i> . . . . .	234
Thomas Paine: The American Crisis, Number I, December 19, 1776 <i>Philadelphia, December 1776</i> . . . . .	238
Thomas Rodney: Diary, December 18–25, 1776 <i>Defending Philadelphia: Pennsylvania, December 1776</i> . . . . .	247
George Washington to John Hancock, December 27, 1776 <i>Battle of Trenton: New Jersey, December 1776</i> . . . . .	254
Thomas Rodney: Diary, January 2–4, 1777 <i>Battle of Princeton: New Jersey, January 1777</i> . . . . .	257
Nicholas Cresswell: Journal, January 5–17, 1777 <i>News of Trenton: Virginia, January 1777</i> . . . . .	264
Jabez Fitch: Narrative <i>American Prisoners in New York: August 1776–January 1777</i> . . . . .	266
John Peebles: Diary, February 13–24, 1777 <i>Skirmishing in New Jersey: February 1777</i> . . . . .	295
Abigail Adams to John Adams, March 8, 1777 <i>Hardship in Massachusetts: March 1777</i> . . . . .	301
John Burgoyne: Proclamation, June 23, 1777 <i>“The Vengeance of the State”: New York, June 1777</i> . . . . .	303
William Digby: Journal, July 24–October 13, 1777 <i>The Saratoga Campaign: New York, July–October 1777</i> . . . . .	306
John André: Journal, August 31–October 4, 1777 <i>The Fall of Philadelphia: Pennsylvania, August–October 1777</i> . . . . .	334

John Glover to Jonathan Glover and Azor Orne, September 21 and 29, 1777 <i>Battle of Freeman's Farm: New York, September 1777</i> . . . . .	348
John Adams to Abigail Adams, September 30, 1777 <i>Congress Flees Philadelphia: September 1777</i> . . . . .	351
Samuel Shaw to Francis Shaw, September 30, October 3, 13, and 15, 1777 <i>Battle of Germantown: Pennsylvania, October 1777</i> . . . . .	353
Robert Morton: Diary, September 16–December 14, 1777 <i>Occupation of Philadelphia: September–December 1777</i> . . . . .	359
Sarah Wister: Journal, October 19–December 12, 1777 <i>The Continental Army at Whitemarsh: Pennsylvania, October–December 1777</i> . . . . .	383
George Washington: General Orders, December 17, 1777 <i>The Army Seeks Winter Quarters: Pennsylvania, December 1777</i> . . . . .	398
Albigeance Waldo: Diary, December 11–29, 1777 <i>The Army Moves to Valley Forge: Pennsylvania, December 1777</i> . . . . .	400
John Laurens to Henry Laurens, January 14 and February 2, 1778 <i>A Proposal to Free and Arm Slaves: January–February 1778</i> . . . . .	410
John Laurens to Henry Laurens, May 7, 1778 <i>News of the French Alliance: Valley Forge, May 1778</i> . . . . .	414
Ambrose Serle: Journal, March 9–June 19, 1778 <i>The British Abandon Philadelphia: March–June 1778</i> . . . . .	416
The Continental Congress: Response to British Peace Proposals, June 13–17, 1778 <i>York, Pennsylvania, June 1778</i> . . . . .	444
Henry Laurens to Horatio Gates, June 17, 1778 <i>"The Door is shut": June 1778</i> . . . . .	450
John André: Journal, June 16–July 5, 1778 <i>The British Retreat to New York: New Jersey, June–July 1778</i> . . . . .	452

James McHenry: Journal, June 18–July 23, 1778 <i>The American Advance: New Jersey, June–July 1778</i> . . . . .	459
John Laurens to Henry Laurens, June 30 and July 2, 1778 <i>Battle of Monmouth: New Jersey, June 1778</i> . . . . .	470
J. Hector St. John Crèvecoeur: Narrative of the Wyoming Massacre <i>Frontier Warfare: Pennsylvania, July 1778</i> . . . . .	476
Peter Oliver: from “The Origin & Progress of the American Rebellion” <i>A Tory View of Frontier Warfare: Summer 1778</i> . . . . .	487
George Washington to Henry Laurens, November 14, 1778 <i>Opposing a proposal to invade Canada: November 1778</i> . . . . .	490
George Washington to Benjamin Harrison, December 18, 1778 <i>The Weakness of Congress: December 1778</i> . . . . .	493
Stephen De Lancey to Cornelia Barclay De Lancey, January 14, 1779 <i>The Fall of Savannah: Georgia, January 1779</i> . . . . .	498
George Rogers Clark: Narrative of the March to Vincennes <i>Capture of Vincennes: Illinois Country, February 1779</i> . . . . .	502
Alexander Hamilton to John Jay, March 14, 1779 “To give them their freedom with their muskets”: <i>March 1779</i> . . . . .	523
George Washington to Henry Laurens, March 20, 1779 <i>Arming Slaves “a moot point”: March 1779</i> . . . . .	526
Samuel Shaw to Francis and Sarah Shaw, June 28, 1779 <i>Depreciation of Continental Currency:</i> <i>New York, June 1779</i> . . . . .	528
“A Whig”: To the Public, July 30, 1779 <i>Banishing Tories: Philadelphia, July 1779</i> . . . . .	530
William Barton: Journal, August 27–September 14, 1779 <i>War Against the Iroquois: New York,</i> <i>August–September 1779</i> . . . . .	534
John Paul Jones to Benjamin Franklin, October 3, 1779 <i>Battle in the North Sea: October 1779</i> . . . . .	543

William Moultrie: Journal, April 2–May 12, 1780 <i>The Siege of Charleston: South Carolina, April–May 1780</i> . . . . .	559
The Sentiments of a Lady in New-Jersey, July 12, 1780 <i>Aiding the Continental Army: July 1780</i> . . . . .	575
Otho Holland Williams: Narrative of the Battle of Camden <i>An American Rout: South Carolina, August 1780</i> . . . . .	578
Royal Gazette: “Strayed . . . a whole Army,” September 16, 1780 <i>A Loyalist Satire: New York, September 1780</i> . . . . .	590
Benedict Arnold: To the Inhabitants of America, October 7, 1780 <i>Arnold Justifies His Actions: New York, October 1780</i> . . . . .	592
Benedict Arnold to Lord Germain, October 7, 1780 <i>A Report on the Continental Army: New York, October 1780</i> . . . . .	596
Alexander Hamilton to John Laurens, c. October 11, 1780 <i>Arnold and Major André: New York, September–October 1780</i> . . . . .	600
Robert Campbell: Narrative of the Battle of King’s Mountain <i>South Carolina, October 1780</i> . . . . .	610
George Washington: Circular to the State Governments, October 18, 1780 <i>An Appeal for New Troops: October 1780</i> . . . . .	615
Anthony Allaire: Diary, October 7–November 25, 1780 <i>A Loyalist Prisoner: South Carolina, October–November 1780</i> . . . . .	622
Enos Reeves: Letterbook Extracts, January 2–17, 1781 <i>Mutiny of the Pennsylvania Line: New Jersey, January 1781</i> . . . . .	630
Oliver De Lancey: Journal, January 3–21, 1781 <i>British Attempts to Exploit the Mutiny: New Jersey, January 1781</i> . . . . .	638

George Washington to Philip Schuyler, January 10, 1781 <i>"The event, which I have long dreaded": January 1781 . . . . .</i>	647
Nathanael Greene to Alexander Hamilton, January 10, 1781 <i>The Plight of the Southern Army: South Carolina, January 1781 . . . . .</i>	649
Nathanael Greene to Catherine Greene, January 12, 1781 <i>"The distress and misery that prevails": South Carolina, January 1781 . . . . .</i>	654
Thomas Jefferson: Narrative of Arnold's Raid, January 13, 1781 <i>The British Attack Richmond: Virginia, January 1781 . . . . .</i>	656
Daniel Morgan to Nathanael Greene, January 19, 1781 <i>Battle of Cowpens: South Carolina, January 1781 . . . . .</i>	659
George Washington to Robert Howe, January 22, 1781 <i>Mutiny of the New Jersey Line: New Jersey, January 1781 . . . . .</i>	663
Royal Gazette: "Our Last Will and Testament," January 31, 1781 <i>A Loyalist Satire of Congress: New York, January 1781 . . . . .</i>	664
Nathanael Greene to George Washington, February 9, 1781 <i>Cornwallis Invades North Carolina: February 1781 . . . . .</i>	667
Nathanael Greene to Joseph Reed, March 18, 1781 <i>Battle of Guilford Courthouse: North Carolina, March 1781 . . . . .</i>	670
Nathanael Greene to George Washington, March 18, 1781 <i>Prospects for Defeating Cornwallis: March 1781 . . . . .</i>	674
Nathanael Greene to Thomas Jefferson, April 28, 1781 <i>An Appeal for Support from Virginia: April 1781 . . . . .</i>	676
Ebenezer Denny: Journal, May 1-15, 1781 <i>The Pennsylvania Line Marches South: May 1781 . . . . .</i>	679
Thomas Brown to David Ramsay, December 25, 1786 <i>The War in Georgia: November 1778-June 1781 . . . . .</i>	681
Josiah Atkins: Diary, June 5-July 7, 1781 <i>The Campaign in Virginia: June-July 1781 . . . . .</i>	689

Ebenezer Denny: Journal, June 18–July 7, 1781 <i>Skirmishing in Virginia: June–July 1781</i> . . . . .	699
James Robertson to William Knox, July 12, 1781 <i>The British Consider Occupying Yorktown: July 1781</i> . . . . .	702
Otho Holland Williams: Narrative of the Battle of Eutaw Springs <i>South Carolina, September 1781</i> . . . . .	707
Ebenezer Denny: Journal, September 1–November 1, 1781 <i>The Yorktown Campaign: Virginia, September–November 1781</i> . . . . .	721
St. George Tucker: Journal, September 28–October 20, 1781 <i>Siege of Yorktown: Virginia, September–October 1781</i> . . . . .	727
James Robertson to Lord Amherst, October 17, 1781 <i>The British Relief Expedition Sets Sail: New York, October 1781</i> . . . . .	742
Lord Cornwallis to Henry Clinton, October 20, 1781 <i>Cornwallis Surrenders: Virginia, October 1781</i> . . . . .	744
Anna Rawle: Diary, October 25, 1781 <i>Victory Celebrations in Philadelphia: October 1781</i> . . . . .	750
Robert Gray: Observations on the War in Carolina <i>Partisan Warfare in the South: May 1780–February 1782</i> . . . . .	752
William Feilding to the Earl of Denbigh, August 10, 1782 <i>New York Loyalists Fear Peace: August 1782</i> . . . . .	769
Ebenezer Denny: Journal, January 4–December 13, 1781 <i>The War Ends in South Carolina: January–December 1782</i> . . . . .	771
John Armstrong: The Newburgh Address, c. March 10, 1783 <i>An Officer Urges Disobedience to Congress: New York, March 1783</i> . . . . .	774
George Washington to Joseph Jones, March 12, 1783 <i>Political Intrigue and the Army: New York, March 1783</i> . . . . .	778

George Washington: Speech to the Officers, March 15, 1783 <i>"The flood Gates of Civil discord": New York, March 1783</i> . . . . .	781
Samuel Shaw to the Rev. Eliot, c. April 1783 <i>Washington at Newburgh: New York, April 1783</i> . . . . .	786
A New York Loyalist to Lord Hardwicke, c. Summer 1783 <i>Loyalist Emigration: New York, Summer 1783</i> . . . . .	790
George Washington and Thomas Mifflin: Speeches in the Continental Congress, December 23, 1783 <i>Washington Resigns His Commission: Annapolis, December 1783</i> . . . . .	793
James McHenry to Margaret Caldwell, December 23, 1783 <i>"The revolution just accomplished": Annapolis, December 1783</i> . . . . .	796
<i>Chronology.</i> . . . . .	801
<i>Biographical Notes</i> . . . . .	813
<i>Note on the Texts</i> . . . . .	830
<i>Notes</i> . . . . .	842
<i>Index</i> . . . . .	859