TRANSCRIPTION OF

1797 Almanack

USS Constitution Museum Collection [2360.1]
The year begins with very Cold weather.

8th as Cold a Sunday as ever I experienced. NB I went to Meeting Thermometer 15 below 0. The Harbour is frozen-overs-

9th Cold continues, Hundreds of People walking over the Ice in the Harbour

10th heard of Andrews, being Cast away

15th the Cold relents, the Ice in the Harbour broken up

23d Isaac Cazneau & Wife came to see us

25th Isaac Cazneau & Wife returnd

31st the Chimneys Swept by Coppy Gilly & Co
Epitaph

Here fast asleep lies Saunders Scott
Long may he Snort & Snore
His brains are now in Gormans Pot
That us’d to strut the Streets before
He liv’d a lude & tafral life
For gude he nae regarded
His perjur’d lack raisd mickel trife
For which belike he’ll be rewarded
Ill temper’d loon that us’d to sport
With ilk his neighbors fell in trouble
His gybes do now lie in the Dirt
To Satisfy his brethren double
The bread of life was offer’d him
For to abate his Evil
But he refus’d & Syn he’s dead
Wha kens but now he’s wi the Devil
But Syn he’s gone ill say nae Mair
In Abraham’s bosom may he waken
But gin he meet with vie gude fare
There’s mair than one will be Mistaken

________       ________
a Happy New Year
& welcome from Medford
Miss Palfrey [?]
1st Andrew Cazneau, Ci-devant
Capt. of the William Henry, Arrivd

25th: Fire at West Boston
3 Rope Walks, & Several
houses Burnt
3d The Family went to the New Theatre
the Play. Bunker Hill – the Farce
Bon Ton or Midnight Hour

4th a 2 Oclock Cap'. Andrew Cazneau
sailed for Havanah, in the Brig
Lydia —

Morning of the 5th: Fire on —
Bowdoins Hill, one House & One
Barn Burnt, Afternoon &
Evening, Blew very hard at West,
5th & 6th Exceeding high Wind
at West, & North West, & Several
Alarms of Fire

8th after a Close thick air during
the Day, at Eve came up a
Violent Gust at NW attended
with several heavy Claps of
Thunder, & Sharp lightning
Epitaph

27th: a Heavy Storm at SW
attended with much Rain
some Thunder in the
Afternoon
Epitaph
upon one Dodge

Here lies old Dodge who dodg’d all good
But never Dodg’d Evil
And when he had Dodg’d all he could
He could not Dodge the Devil
9\textsuperscript{th}: & 10\textsuperscript{th} Exceeding Cold
& Very high Winds at W

Frequent alarms of fire, & Thieves
& Incendiaries, a Guard of
Citizens is appointed to be kept

The Drain of the Cellar being
Stopped with Water’s prevailed
therein many Days & Coverd
the face of the Cellar

24\textsuperscript{th}. A South East Storm

& Rain ——

25\textsuperscript{th} I went on the Patrole Guard

}
2d Swallows appear’d

5th Very warm for the Season
wind SW. Shop open
and all hands work without
Coats ——— —

8th Stuart Tip’d
——— ———

13th a Cold Storm at East
of long Continuance —
& Considerable Snow

15th: warm weather. wind SW—
Consequently Boots has it —
Very Wet Sloshy & poshy
muddy & mixy

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15th: we Launchd the
Paragon
April 1797

17th I went to the Theatre in Federal Street. Play. Heights— for a Husband. Pantomime Le Petite Espeigle— Farce, a Day in Boston or the Lynn Shoemaker – Song – what's a Woman like Reason- what's the Audience like Fools for being there


19th I had the Patrole Guard at the House

25th Rec’d a Letter from Cap‘ A Cazneau informing of his Arrival at Havanna after bring dealt with by the British according to Treaty
12th: Isaac Cazneau & Lady came to see us.

15th W Cazneau & Anne his Wife set out for home. I wish them a good time, but appearances are against them – Poney is not the Tippy —

16th a remarkable Circle round the Sun

17th NE wind & Cold

18th Wind NE & Cold, much-rain & Storm in the Evening

19th Wind NE & very Stormy

20th Wind NE & Cold

30th Wind NE Rain & Cold
a Stormy Spring

2\textsuperscript{d} Wind NE & Stormy weather, Rain Rain Rain

4\textsuperscript{th} Fast Day
Cloudy Rainy weather

Night of 6\textsuperscript{th} Rain

7\textsuperscript{th} Cloudy Weather Wind SE
at \(\frac{1}{2}\) past 2 O’clock a great Hail Storm, attended with Thunder –

8\textsuperscript{th} a Cold Windy Day Wind W

8\textsuperscript{th} the Galen arrivd from London

9\textsuperscript{th} the Ships Merchant & Eliza arrivd from London

11\textsuperscript{th} a Warm pleasant Day wind SW

14\textsuperscript{th} Ship Minerva arrivd from London
Cool Weather S.E wind
15th Rec’d a Letter from M Morgan at S’t S’ims

13th Margaret & I Rode to Watertown & menotomy

20th Rain

23rd Capt A Cazneau arrived from Havannah

29th Attach’d M Bryson Anchor for the Frigate

30th M Isaac Cazneau came to see us
A long spell of Easterly Winds
& almost unceasing Rain
continuing renders us Impa
tient for the appearance
of Summer.

26th the first Spring like
morning we have seen for
considerable time

27th. the Wind in the [?] hole
& Rain. Rain Rain

28th: Rain
3rd Cap‘ And.‘w Cazneau Saild
in Brig Lydia for Hamburg

8th Summer like weather

9th: 10th: 11th: Warm pleasant weather

14th Gave M Lloyd Cap‘ A.C‘ Certificate of Wines

18th a Cold Storm

19th Cold

22d Cool East winds

23d East wind & rain
23rd I measur'd the Tree opposite the Door, it is 10 feet 4 inches high
1st: Margaret and I set off, on a Journey to Portsmouth
spent an agreeable Day
at Andover, at Brother
Cazneau’s, on Monday
set out for Portsmouth
arrivd there the Eve of the 3:

7th Rode to Lee on a Visit
to Cap’: Parkers family

8th returned to Portsmouth

9th at 4 Oclock afternoon set
off for home, arrivd a Newbury
about 8 oclock in the Evening

10th set off about 8 oclock in the morning. Dined in Salem
& Arrivd home about 8
in the Evening, had a
Very agreeable time on the Whole
7th at Eve we walked in the fields
accompanied by our amiable friends
the prospect led to contemplation
at the end of the walk stood a beautiful
Tree, selected from the rest of its
Tribe, & inscribed on its bark
(Sacred to Friendship)
many warm hearts had dictated, their
hands, to offer their Initials at this Altar
I wished to add my own, I had no [?]
I had half accomplished my work
when the Idea struck me, Alas
this Tree so flourishing may soon
fade, this season the Lightning
may blast it, or the rude Whirlwind
may overturn it, the thought
agitated my mind, I reflected on
the uncertainty of all our attachments
on Earth, on the Irresistible Sweep
with which nature absorbs every
thing, into itself
my faculties were lost in the Idea
Alas, said I to myself, Trees plants
& flowers, flourish & are gay
during their Existence, of Man alone
the Happiness is damped by the
thought of future changes
I then reflected that every
purpose of those Inanimate
things was answered during
their existence here, yes, said
I, I will hold the consoling Idea
to my heart, we shall not
perish as the Trees of the field
As no Erroneous principle can be
implanted in our nature, by the Author
of our being, those thoughts that Wander
through Eternity, cannot be illusion
in fairer fields those Dear connections
may be renewed, that so closely
Entwine themselves around our
hearts, & we may find Friendship
begun on Earth, Complete in Heaven

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7th Charles cut his foot badly

14th a great hail Storm, the largest hail I ever saw, many windows broke by it

17th Simeon Skillin Tert's arrivd from New York

24th Cap't Flagg of Portsmouth here

20, 21st, 22d Very warm Days

24th Simeon Skillin Tertius set out for New York
22<sup>nd</sup> Kitchen Chimney Swept

31<sup>st</sup> Margaret, & Mamma & Lydia Palfrey, & Widow Simmons, & Nabby, & Lydia Boyle, & I Esquire alone, went on a Visit to Castle William, had a Very agreeable time
5th very warm Dog like Weather

6th Sultry Rainy Weather Rain

7th Muggy weather & Plenty of Rain. 8th Ditto & Ditto
Abundance of Rain

13th in the Morning Raind with such Violence it seemed as though the Sons of Noah & co was to be aited [?]

16th President Adams made his Public entrance into Town

20th, 21st, 22d, 23d Dog like, Rainy Drizzly Flokey weather in short, Dog Days are giving us a Sweat —

24th at Eve came up a Squall Considerable Thunder & Lightening & Rain
September 1797

2<sup>d</sup> Simeon Skimmer arrivd from Baltimore, after a Voyage of Eighteen months

30<sup>th</sup> Ships Galen arrivd from London

30<sup>th</sup>: Margaret and I Scampered to Andover, a Sort of Moon light Expedition
September 20th 1797

The day so anxiously anticipated is arrived, the Weather is fine— the Flags & Pendants displayed— announce the Launching of the Frigate Constitution, the Navy Yard is Honor’d by a Visit of the President of the United States the Governor, & a Vast Concourse of Spectators, a most Brilliant Collection of Ladies, every thing Promises fair, & induces us to wish that (fair may befall their hope) but alas how futile are the Anticipations of Mortals, the Constitution after moving Slowly about 20 feet remain’d Immoveably fixed, nor could all the force of Levers Screws & Tackles, with a Numerous & Active gang of Workmen, Alter her Situation
September 1797

22d a Second attempt was made
to Launch the Ship Constitution
with no better success than the first

25th I saw a great Fish,
A Thrasher
[Drawing of fish]
6 feet 5 ½
October 1797

We hustled home from Andover, having the prayer of the Church - in our favor, for we travelled – by land & water —-

4th Simeon Skimmer, went to Newbury, to Cap' Davis's Ship

Night between the 4th & 5th, blew a most violent gale about NW our Boat Paragon, cast away on Spectacle Island

4th: had 14 cord of Wood

Eve of the 8th a Storm of Thunder & Lightening blew very heavy at SW & much rain

18th M Isaac Cazneau & Lady came to visit us —-

21st M Cazneau & Lady Returned
Futurity

The God who formed our wretched Race
In pity clos’d the book of fate
Forbad with Imperious search to trace
The Ills that all alike await

Ah wherefore burst the friendly shade
Which shuts the future from our sight
And tear the Veil by mercy spread
To shield us from a Painful light

Full soon shall time so seeming slow
With noiseless steps his course fulfil
And call to Birth each destin’d woe
Each Embryo grief & ripen’d Ill
2d Ship Minerva arrivd from
London——

21st a third attempt to launch
the Ship Constitution, —
Succeeded Completely, a fine
Launch

26th Simeon Skimmer arriv'd
in the Ship Herald, Cap' Davis
From Newbury ———
3rd went to the New Theater
Play, a Cure for the Heart
Ach. after pieces of Entertain
ment, the Oracle or Daphne
& Amyntor, & the Launch
or Huzza for the Constitution

Night of the 4th a Heavy Gale
of Wind at South, Continues
on the 5th & blew exceeding
Heavy

8th Memo

11th the first Snow

12th Plenty of Rain at Eve

19th a light Snow

25th Brother William helped us to
Haul up Timber!!!

30 wrote to M Morgan Savannah
November 14th

And it came to pass, in those days, as the lad Charles went out from meat, that he lifted up his Eyes & beheld a Strange Beast: at the sight whereof he marvelled greatly & he returned, & told Simeon, the Master of the household, of what he had seen, saying behold is he not in the Woodhouse, then Simeon arose & mustered up his Courage & armed himself with the Tongs & the lad Charles also attended with a Cord, to bind him withal & they assayed to take him, but he looked fiercely upon them & growled horribly, Nevertheless they continued to attack him, but could not overcome him — then Simeon called for help, unto John the Carver, & unto William the Carpenter ——
And they answered, yea, we will help thee, surely we shall be able to overcome him, & they joined their forces & armed themselves with new Weapons, & assailed him but could not subdue him by force then Simeon said unto John, take now the Cord, that is in the Lads hand, & work craftily, & put it on the neck of the beast — and he did so, and the Lad Charles pulled the Cord, & caught him & they overcame him, & Subdued him, & did manfully, also they put him in Strong hold, & there was Joy & shouting throughout all the Household

[Image of raccoon]

Raccoon
19th a Light Snow

21st: 12 OClock, Simeon Skimmer
Saild, for London, in the
Ship Herald, Cap. 1 Davis

24th: 26th Very High Winds
at West

Night between 26 & 27th Fire
near Draw Bridge, Several
houses Burnt.. among the most
Conspicuous, Ben Hagger &
M [__] Broad A____e

27th 28th Very high Winds at W
29. 30th Exceeding high Winds
at West

30th Thanksgiving Day
Kept it at Brother Palfrey’s
4\textsuperscript{th} Gorham Parson’s Brig hauled into our Dock

7\textsuperscript{th}: & 8\textsuperscript{th}: Moderate weather Southerly winds, 9\textsuperscript{th} wind West & Snow: 11\textsuperscript{th} & 12 good weather for the Season wind S:W

13\textsuperscript{th}: Both Chimneys Swept

20\textsuperscript{th} Snow at Night

21\textsuperscript{st} Clear & Very Cold
13th Cap. A Cazneau arrivd in the Brig Lydia from Hamburg Via S'. Ives, in 56 days passage ———

The Ship Grand Turk from India, having been spoke with on our Eastern Coast, the Benevolent mind is anxious for her fate. at this inclement Season

23d gave SS 3c/

26th the Ship Grand Turk arrivd at Portland