



USS Constitution  
Museum

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TRANSCRIPTION OF

# **1797 Almanack**

USS Constitution Museum Collection [2360.1]

The year begins with very Cold  
weather.

8<sup>th</sup> as Cold a Sunday as ever  
I experienced. NB I went to Meeting  
Thermometer 15 below 0.  
The Harbour is frozen- over —

9<sup>th</sup> Cold continues, Hundreds of  
People walking over the Ice in  
the Harbour

10<sup>th</sup> heard of Andrews, being Cast away

15<sup>th</sup> the Cold relents, the Ice in the Harbour  
broken up

23<sup>d</sup> Isaac Cazneau & Wife came to see us

25<sup>th</sup> Isaac Cazneau & Wife returnd

31<sup>st</sup> 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 & taftral life  
For gude he nae regarded  
His perjurd 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

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{ a Happy New Year  
& welcome from Medford  
Miss Palfrey [?] }

1<sup>st</sup> Andrew Cazneau, Ci-devant  
Capt. of the William Henry, Arrivd

25<sup>th</sup>: 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

4<sup>th</sup> a 2 Oclock Cap<sup>t</sup>. Andrew Cazneau  
saild for Havannah, in the Brig  
Lydia —

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

8<sup>th</sup> 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

27<sup>th</sup>: a Heavy Storm at SW  
attended with much Rain  
some Thunder in the  
Afternoon

Epitaph  
upon one Dodge

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Here lies old Dodge who dodg'd all <sup>good</sup>  
But never Dodg'd Evil  
And when he had Dodg'd all he <sup>could</sup>  
He could not Dodge the Devil



9<sup>th</sup>: & 10<sup>th</sup> Exceeding Cold  
& Very high Winds at W

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

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

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24<sup>th</sup>. A South East Storm

& Rain —

25<sup>th</sup> I went on the Patrole }  
Guard }

2<sup>d</sup> Swallows appear'd

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

8<sup>th</sup> Stuart Tip'd

— - - - -

13<sup>th</sup> a Cold Storm at East  
of long Continuance —  
& Considerable Snow

15<sup>th</sup>: warm weather. wind SW—  
Consequently Boots has it —  
Very Wet Slosy & poshy  
muddy & mixy

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15<sup>th</sup>: we Launchd the  
Paragon

## April 1797

17<sup>th</sup> 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 – whats a Woman like  
Reason- whats the Audience like  
Fools for being there

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19<sup>th</sup> I had the Patrole Guard  
at the House

25<sup>th</sup> Rec<sup>d</sup> a Letter from Cap<sup>t</sup> A Cazneau  
informing of his Arrival at Havanna  
after bring dealt with by the British  
according to Treaty

12<sup>th</sup>: Isaac Cazneau & Lady  
came to see us.

15<sup>th</sup> 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 —  

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16<sup>th</sup> a remarkable Circle  
round the Sun

17<sup>th</sup> NE wind & Cold

18<sup>th</sup> Wind NE & Cold, much-  
rain & Storm in the Evening

19<sup>th</sup> Wind NE & very Stormy

20<sup>th</sup> Wind NE & Cold

30<sup>th</sup> Wind NE Rain & Cold

a Stormy Spring

2<sup>d</sup> Wind NE & Stormy  
weather, Rain Rain Rain

4<sup>th</sup> Fast Day  
Cloudy Rainy weather

Night of 6<sup>th</sup> Rain

7<sup>th</sup> Cloudy Weather Wind SE  
at ½ past 2 O'clock a great  
Hail Storm, attended with  
Thunder –

8<sup>th</sup> a Cold Windy Day Wind W

8<sup>th</sup> the Galen arrivd from  
London

9<sup>th</sup> the Ships Merchant &  
Eliza arrivd from London

11<sup>th</sup> a Warm pleasant Day wind SW

14<sup>th</sup> Ship Minerva arrivd from London  
Cool Weather S.E wind

15<sup>th</sup> Rec<sup>d</sup> a Letter from M Morgan  
at S<sup>t</sup>. Simons

13<sup>th</sup> Margaret & I Rode to Watertown  
& menotomy —————

20<sup>th</sup> Rain

23<sup>d</sup> Capt A Cazneau arrived from  
Havannah —————

29<sup>th</sup> Attach'd M Bryson Anchor  
for the Frigate

30 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.

26<sup>th</sup> the first Spring like  
morning we have seen for  
considerable time

27<sup>th</sup>. the Wind in the [?] hole  
& Rain. Rain Rain

28<sup>th</sup>: Rain

3<sup>d</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup> And.<sup>w</sup> Cazneau Sailed  
in Brig Lydia for Hamburg

8<sup>th</sup> Summer like weather

9<sup>th</sup>: 10<sup>th</sup>: 11<sup>th</sup>: Warm pleasant  
weather

14<sup>th</sup> Gave M Lloyd Cap<sup>t</sup> A.C' Certificate  
of Wines

18<sup>th</sup> a Cold Storm

19<sup>th</sup> Cold

22<sup>d</sup> Cool East winds

23<sup>d</sup> East wind & rain



23<sup>d</sup> I measur'd the Tree  
opposite the Door, it is  
10 feet 4 inches high

1<sup>st</sup>: 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:

7<sup>th</sup> Rode to Lee on a Visit  
to Cap<sup>t</sup>: Parkers family

8<sup>th</sup> returned to Portsmouth

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

10<sup>th</sup> 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

7<sup>th</sup> 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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7<sup>th</sup> Charles cut his foot badly

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

17<sup>th</sup> Simeon Skillin Tert<sup>s</sup> arrivd  
from New York

24<sup>th</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup> Flagg of Portsmouth here

20, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>d</sup> Very warm Days

24<sup>th</sup> Simeon Skillin Tertius  
set out for New York

22<sup>d</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

5<sup>th</sup> very warm Dog like Weather

6<sup>th</sup> Sultry Rainy Weather Rain

7<sup>th</sup> Muggy weather & Plenty  
of Rain. 8<sup>th</sup> Ditto & Ditto  
Abundance of Rain

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

16<sup>th</sup> President Adams made  
his Public entrance into Town

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

24<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Immove-  
-ably fixed, nor could all the force  
of Levers Screws & Tackles, with  
a Numerous & Active gang of  
Workmen, Alter her Situation

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September 1797

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

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25<sup>th</sup> 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 ——

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4<sup>th</sup> Simeon Skimmer, went to  
Newbury, to Cap<sup>t</sup> Davis's Ship

Night between the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, blew  
a most Violent gale about NW  
our Boat Paragon, cast away  
on Spectacle Island

4<sup>th</sup>: had 14 cord of Wood

Eve of the 8<sup>th</sup> a Storm of Thunder  
& Lightening Blew very heavy  
at SW & much Rain

18<sup>th</sup> M Isaac Cazneau & Lady  
came to Visit us ——

21<sup>st</sup> M Cazneau & Lady Returned

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## Futurity

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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 fulful  
And call to Birth each destin'd woe  
Each Embryo grief & ripen'd Ill

2<sup>d</sup> Ship Minerva arrivd from  
London—

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

26<sup>th</sup> Simeon Skimmer arriv'd  
in the Ship Herald, Cap<sup>t</sup> Davis  
From Newbury ——

3<sup>d</sup> 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

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

8<sup>th</sup> Memo

11<sup>th</sup> the first Snow

12<sup>th</sup> Plenty of Rain at Eve

19<sup>th</sup> a light Snow

25<sup>th</sup> Brother William helped us to  
Haul up Timber!!!

30 wrote to M Morgan Savannah

## November 14<sup>th</sup>

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



19<sup>th</sup> a Light Snow

21<sup>st</sup>: 12 OClock, Simeon Skimmer  
Saild, for London, in the  
Ship Herald, Cap.<sup>t</sup> Davis

24<sup>th</sup>: 26<sup>th</sup> Very High Winds  
at West

Night between 26 & 27<sup>th</sup> Fire  
near Draw Bridge, Several  
houses Burnt.. among the most  
Conspicuous, Ben Hagger &  
M<sup>rs</sup> Broad A\_\_\_\_e

27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> Very high Winds at W  
29. 30<sup>th</sup> Exceeding high Winds  
at West

30<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day  
Kept it at Brother Palfrey's

4<sup>th</sup> Gorham Parson's Brig  
hailed into our Dock

7<sup>th</sup>: & 8<sup>th</sup>: Moderate weather  
Southerly winds, 9<sup>th</sup> wind  
West & Snow: 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>  
good weather for the Season  
wind S:W

13<sup>th</sup>: Both Chimneys Swept

20<sup>th</sup> Snow at Night

21<sup>st</sup> Clear & Very Cold

13<sup>th</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup>. A Cazneau arrivd  
in the Brig Lydia from  
Hamburg Via S<sup>t</sup>. 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

23<sup>d</sup> gave SS 3<sup>c</sup>/

26<sup>th</sup> the Ship Grand Turk  
arrivd at Portland