

Summer Teachers Institute, 2010

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Exercise: George Washington's Diary

Source: Samuel Blachley Webb. *Correspondence and Journals of Samuel Blachley Webb*. Ed. Worthington Chauncey Ford. New York: Wickersham Press, 1893. Vol. 3, pages.142-144. Internet Archive, <http://www.archive.org/details/corrjournalsam03webbri>

BOSTON, 1st Novem., 1789.

DEAR SAM :

For the last 10 days we have done nothing but prepare for, and enjoy the Visit of the best of Men. I am sure after this I will be needless to mention His majesty the President, who does in a wonderful manner unite all Hearts in sincere respect. To give you a detail of our proceedings would be only repeating the Account already published, but I am persuaded both [William] Jackson & [Tobias] Lear, will inform you, that every attention that was paid, appeared to be, and I have no doubt was, the Effusions of the Heart.

I had the Honor with M. Breeck [Samuel Breck] & Dr Eustice [William Eustis] to be appointed a Committee from the Town to wait on the good Man at Worcester, to make Arrangements for his Entrance into Town ; and we were determined to go in Taste, in a Coach & 4 Horses (Breeck's & mine) 2 Postilions & a servant on Horse back. We were received with that politeness, and dignity, which marks every action of that Illustrious Character. After settling our business, we set off for Boston and arrived in 9 hours & half and timely Effectually to Arrange the Procession. I am told His Majesty was much pleased with the order & regularity of the procession, saying it could not been better had a Soldier been posted by every Citizen to keep them in order. I have had the further Honor to dine with him in Fanuel [Faneuil] Hall, & at Governor Bowdoin's, who was so polite as to suffer me to send a Bishop of the Satisfaction Wine, which I had reserved as you know hoping for the Honor of his Drinking it at my House ; but this was impossible & as it is clearly the last time we expect to be Honored by so great & so good a man, I made the request to Mr. Bowdoin who very politely Accepted it, and informed His Majesty the Circumstances, giving full Credit for my Attention.

In the Evening of this day We were honored at the Assembly by his Presence the Hall was elegantly decorated, behind his majesty was hung my handsomest Tapestry & before him as a Carpet the other. He was seated on a Crimson Settee with the Vice President, our Governor and Governor Bowdoin, the Ladies were very handsomely dressed, and every one strove here as well as every where else, who should pay the most respect. We had a very pretty Desert for Supper with 3 fine Cakes (one for each set) at 150. The next morning at 8 o'clock he left us

attended by a number of Gentlemen in Carriages & on horseback. I had the honor with my worthy Parson to be the only Carriage that was at his lodgings before he set off. We were there 10 minuits before 8, knowing that would do ; the others came 10 minuits after w c . h we knew would not. The Ladies were most of them decorated at the Assembly with Sashes and Caps (Martha s was a Cap and thought it brilliant) with G. W. & various Devices on. Therefore Hetty and my daughter Hannah (who made her first appearance) were a tollerable good likeness of the Man himself with the Trophies of War under his feet & the Olive Branch of Peace in his hand, above Justice Crowning him with a Wreath of Laurel & the Motto " Virtue rewarded." On one of the Trophies the name Washington in gold letters. His Majesty while here went to the Manufactory of Sail Cloath, and was exceedingly pleased. The spinning for this Manufactory is done by a number of Girls who were dressed clean, and in general are likely. His Majesty made him self merry on this Occasion, telling the overseer he believed he collected the prettiest girls in Boston. The Card Manufactory he also visited, and as every thing that promises advantage to America must be pleasing to our friends there can be no doubt he was pleased.

My Nephew (who sails to morrow for Demmerary) informs me your name is with his to a Bond for Duties on Pepper to the amount of 100 Dollars due the 22 Inst. This bond I will see discharged, let me know if tis expected at the Day ; twas under the old govern ment.

I have got the things from Bunons, and I wish the Hudson Straw berries had been with them, but I fear I never shall have them, the Apples & Cyder I depend on by return of Barnard.

Sally, Kitty, Hannah & Mr. N. B. jun. who are present desire their love to you. We all should have been glad to have seen you at the time His Majesty was here ; nevertheless We shall be glad to see you. We are all sick with Colds wch we term Washington Colds, owing in great measure to the stop on the Neck [i.e. the visit on Boston Neck] by our little great man. I had rather have one of his Virtues thann all his Colds collected, but I will compound if he is not indisposed himself.

Remember me to all enquiring friends not forgetting Colo Smith in a particular manner.

I am Yr friend & Bro

Jo BARRELL