

**DIARY OF A VISIT TO  
NEWPORT, NEW YORK AND  
PHILADELPHIA DURING THE  
SUMMER OF 1815**

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Diary of a Visit to Newport, New York and Philadelphia During the Summer of 1815 by  
Timothy Bigelow

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**TIMOTHY BIGELOW**

**DIARY OF A VISIT TO  
NEWPORT, NEW YORK AND  
PHILADELPHIA DURING THE  
SUMMER OF 1815**



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# DIARY

OF A VISIT TO

NEWPORT, NEW YORK, AND PHILADELPHIA

DURING THE SUMMER OF 1816,

BY

TIMOTHY BIGELOW.



Edited by a Grandson.

*Abbot Lawrence,*

"Scripta ferunt annos." — OVID.

BOSTON:

PRINTED FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION.

1880.

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JOHN WILSON AND SON, CAMBRIDGE.

## NOTE.

SOON after editing in 1876 the "Journal of a Tour to Niagara Falls," I found among some family papers this Diary by the same author. I am glad to draw it from the undisturbed obscurity of sixty years, and to record my sense of the interest and value of such writings by putting it in a form which ensures its preservation.

Mr. Timothy Williams (H. U. 1784), who accompanied my grandfather on this journey as well as on the former one, was his contemporary in college and afterwards his most intimate friend. Such was their intimacy that, it is said, one was seldom seen without the other. Mr. Williams was a well-known merchant of Boston, and a very intelligent, genial, and estimable man. He died in 1846.

I have altered the spelling in the Diary to conform to modern usage, and have occasionally inserted a word in brackets. The numbers in the margin are copied from the manuscript, and give the distance from place to place.

A. Lawrence

Boston, March 8, 1880.

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## DIARY.

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ON Monday the third day of July, 1815, at eight o'clock, A.M., Messrs. Williams and Bigelow left Boston in the Providence stage-coach. 21 Dined at Polly's in Wrentham, — a good house. We had a travelling companion, a manufacturer belonging to Attleboro', returning from Portland, who informed us that, coming into Boston from sea yesterday, he saw Commodore Bainbridge and his squadron under weigh [way] for the Mediterranean, and that the "Independence" sailed well.\*

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\* On Sunday last, the United States squadron, lately equipped in this harbor, sailed for the Mediterranean, composed of the *Independence*, 74, Capt. Crane, bearing the broad pendant of Com. Bainbridge; *Erie*, 18, Capt. Ridgely; *Chippewa*, 16, L't.-Com. Reid; and *Lynx*, 7, L't. Dukehart.

Commodore Bainbridge's squadron was seen 24 hours out, having had a fine run. The commodore communicated a note to a friend, by the pilot, in which he says he was perfectly satisfied with the trim and sailing of the *Independence*. — From the "Columbian Centinel" of July 5th and 8th, 1815.

20 To Providence. Chapotin's (ordinary). On Seekonk plain, a smart thunder-shower. Learned that the lightning struck in Providence, and killed a horse, &c. Mr. Scott, well-informed, civil, and communicative; Mr. Colman, brother of Chapotin, very attentive. Providence is considerably enlarged since we last saw [it], and improved in the quality and style of building. It exhibits many marks of prosperity.

30 Tuesday, July 4th. To Newport by packet, Captain Gardner; many passengers. Captain Taylor, late of the United States Navy, was one. He was in the same ship with Commodore Perry at the battle on Lake Erie, and was left in the command of the ship when Perry left her. He seems to have been dismissed the service; perhaps for being federal. Our passage was uncommonly pleasant; wind and tide were favorable, and we were but four or five hours from Providence to Newport. Dined at Daws's (a servant, formerly Mr. Lyman's, attended us). Mr. Milliken, of Frankfort, a Democratic Representative in Massachusetts General Court, was there. He has a cargo of lumber, which he is trying to sell.

The streets are dressed with flags and other decorations; the inhabitants, with many people from neighboring towns, in their best. Admired

the fine complexion of the females, but noticed a particular Rhode Island air and manner in the walk and deportment. All, male and female, walk in the middle of the street. It is attended with less inconvenience than might be supposed, for we saw not a single pair of wheels in motion while we were in Newport.

Afternoon to South Kingston. The ferry to Connonicut, three miles; across that island, one mile; and the ferry thence to the Narragansett shore at South Kingston, three miles more; and to Gardner's house one mile. Among our fellow-passengers over the ferries, &c., were Governor Brown and an old slave ship-master, eighty-two years old; has become very poor, but says he should be glad now to go a voyage to Africa for slaves!

Wednesday, July 5th. Hired our host Gardner to carry us in his coach to New London. To General Stanton's in Charlestown to breakfast (passing the Pettaquamscot, Saucatucket, Taugwunk Hill, &c., &c.). To Perkins's, in Groton, to dine, — a miserable house. The only agreeable thing we met with was civil manners. In this stage, we passed the farm which Mr. Babcock sold for the money with which he made his fortune, — for fifteen dollars per acre, — would now bring forty-