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**MISCELLANEOUS MANUSCRIPT FILE**

**Prechtel, Johan E. – Hessian Solider, Diary**  
**Collection Number: 2006 WFCHS MMF**

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS:** Collection is open to all researchers.

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE:** Restrictions may apply concerning the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a member of the archives staff for information concerning these restrictions. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any claimants of copyright. Some materials may require special handling.

**PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Initially processed in 1987. Updated by Doug Gleason. Last updated November 18, 2023.

**ACCESSION NUMBER(S):** 1987.003 WFCHS

**EXTENT:** 1 folder

**CREATOR:** Prechtel, Johan E.

**DATE:** 1781-1782

**EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF ORIGINALS:** Bavarian State Archives

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:** Miscellaneous Manuscript Files (MMF) are small collections typically containing only a folder or two of materials. This folder contains photocopies and transcriptions of the diary of Johan (or Joseph) E. Prechtel, a Hessian prisoner of war during the American Revolution. The diary covers the entire period of the Hessian prisoners' captivity in Winchester from November 1781 to January 1782. Prechtel records the deaths of numerous Hessian prisoners, as well as some who deserted to American and French military units, during this time. Included are German and English language transcriptions of the diary.

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL:** Johan (or Joseph) E. Prechtel was a Hessian prisoner of war during the American Revolution. After the British surrender at Yorktown, he was among some 3,000 prisoners of war, including close to one thousand German auxiliaries commonly known as Hessians, who were marched from Yorktown to Winchester. Arriving in November 1781, Prechtel and his fellow prisoners had to build new barracks to provide themselves with winter shelter. In January 1782, the Hessians were moved to Fredericktown (now Frederick), Maryland to new quarters where they remained until granted their freedom by an act of Congress in April 1783.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** Prechtel, Johan Ernst. *A Hessian Officer's Diary of the American Revolution*. Translated and edited by Bruce E. Burgoyne. (Dover, DE: B. E. Burgoyne, 1989)

**IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION:** Copy acquired from Bavarian State Archives.

## **CONTAINER LIST:**

### **Folder 1**

Preckfal, Johan E. Diary, Nov. 4, 1781 to Jan. 31, 1782

German language transcription of diary

English language transcription of diary