This week we’ll focus primarily on one document, written by an Englishman who was involved in a 1775 Bath event that offers insight into the spirit of the time and mirrors the currents of that revolutionary period. Though the Kennebec was well removed from the hotbed of revolution boiling in Boston, Committees of Correspondence had done their work and those waves were rocking things here on the Kennebec.

Though we’ll focus on three people, the words of only one are featured. The time is just after the battles of Lexington and Concord. The place is the waterfront of Bath, then known as Long Reach in the town of Georgetown. Edward Parry, an Englishman, was involved in lumber and masts in Portsmouth on the Piscataqua. Just after the events of Lexington and Concord he comes to Bath, then known as Long Reach in the town of Georgetown, to gather masts destined for the British navy. Enter Samuel Thompson and his militia group from Brunswick to close down the operation. In the process, we will meet Henry Mowatt, skipper of HMS Canceaux, who will soon burn the town of Falmouth, now known as Portland.

We usually view this period through American eyes. This week we’ll see things from the British point of view, and in the process learn about the importance and methods of the mast trade. Focus on perceptions and attitudes of those you meet along the way as well as what happened and why.
The Journal of Edw. Parry
Agent for procuring Masters for His Majesty's Navy from North America,
containing an acount of the transactions, and the treatment he experienced from March 1775 to August 1777, in his confinement among the Rebels, the seizure and confiscation of the effects he had in his possession.

A Photograph of the Title Page from the Manuscript of Edward Parry's Journal
NOTE to MID COAST SENIOR COLLEGE STUDENTS ----

The original of this document, originally a PhD thesis by James Henry Maguire, is 332 pages in length. It’s available in regional libraries for interlibrary loan. I was blessed last year by a student who gave me one of two copies he was able to print out with permission of the copyright holder. Let me know if you’d like to borrow it.

The Introduction (pp. vi-lxviii) offers an excellent background to the context of the text and insight into its literary and historical merit. The transcription of the journal itself covers one hundred thirteen pages; there are five pages of maps and fourteen of notes. Of particular interest to students of Maine history, a hundred twenty one pages of biographical offer good detail about sketches of every individual mentioned in the journal. I have found the document invaluable for my own study of the Revolutionary period on the Kennebec.

The basic story is of one event that happened at the north end of Bath in 1775. Its value is that it links more broadly to the basics of the mast trade, unrest of local Mainers at the time, a view of the mindset and attitudes of those working within the revolutionary movement, and even the burning by the British of Portland later that first year of our rebellion. As one reads it, one can’t help but wonder, “How would I have behaved if I’d been there?”

This selection includes only thirty five of the journal’s one hundred thirteen pages have been included for you to read. The first twenty two or so are basic to the story.
March 28th, 1775---

Edward Parry being at Boston contracted with Rich'd Lechmere Esq'r to deliver unto Rich'd Williams Esq'r Naval Store keeper of his Majesty's Dock yard in Nova Scotia on or before the last of May the following Masts &c

| 2 Masts--- | 24 ins--- | at £18 Sterling each |
| 2 yards--- | 16--- | £11 |
| 2 Masts--- | 20½--- | £15 |
| 2 yards--- | 14½--- | £9 |
| 2 Masts--- | 22½--- | £14 |
| 2 yards--- | 14½--- | £9 |
| 2 Masts--- | 20¼--- | £9 |
| 2 yards--- | 13--- | £4 |
| 6 Top Masts--- | 17--- | £6 |
| 6--- | 17--- | £5.10 |
| 2--- | 12--- | £5 |
| 6 Schooners--- | 20--- | £9 |

All or as many of them to be yellow pine if they can be procured, the residue White Pine.

Merchantable boards 1 & 2 ins--from 20 to 30,000 feet at £1.18 Sterling per 1000 feet Clear ditto--5000 at. £2.14.14.0

Oak boards, 1 in9 thick--10,000 feet at £3.13.0

\( \frac{3}{9} \), 3,000, £3.10--

\( \frac{1}{2} \), 2,000, £2--

Square edged white or grey Oak plank 4 in thick, from 15
March 28th, 1775——

Edward Parry being at Boston contracted with Rich'd Lechmere Esq'r to deliver unto Rich'd Williams Esq'r Naval Store keeper of his Majesty's Dock yard in Nova Scotia on or before the last of May the following Masts &c

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All or as many of them to be yellow pine if they can be procured, <sup>Pine</sup> the residue White Pine.

Merchantable boards 1 & 2 ins.--from 20 to 30,000 feet at £1. 18 Stg. 1000 feet Clear ditto--5000 at £2. Stg. 2

Oak boards. 1 ins thick--10,000 feet at £3.

- $\frac{3}{4}$ ins.—3,000, £2. 10--
- $\frac{1}{2}$ ins.—2,000, £2--

Square edged white or grey Oak plank 4 in thick. from 15
to 20 $ 36 feet long. from 3 to 5000 feet at £15 Stg $ 1000 feet Standards and lodging Knees, from 10 to 15 Tons at £3 Stg $ Ton of 40 feet—The Contract will fully explain all the particulars.—

March 28. 29 & 31. Sold bills upon London and New York to raise Money to procure the above—

April 1 to 6. returned to Portsmouth and made further provision then endeavored to charter a brig or a couple of Sloops to transport the Masts &c from Kennebec (where I was to procure them) to Halifax but could get no vessel—waited on the Survey General—and informed him of my Contract.

April 6th to 9th.---I took James Marden Mastliner with me to Kennebec, to fix and prepare the Trees. &c---in my way thither on the 7th of April I chartered two vessels for the purpose of transporting the Masts &c of Mr. Joseph Morrill of Sawco for which I was to pay him One hundred pounds Sterling.

April 9th reached Kennebec, and immediately set about the business, &contract'd with different persons for the sundry articles—Employ'd James Marden, John Green, James Grant, Michael Riedan, and Solomon Walker, to Hew out the Masts & yards.---and employed Sawyers to saw the Plank.---Cohburn, Stone, & Morrill were to procure the Pine boards, Plank Clear boards,---Oak boards---

April 13th a vessel owned by DF Sylvester Gardiner going
from Kennebec to Boston, I sent the following Letter to Richd Lechmere EsqF---Sir---

"I have the present Opportunity by a vessell bound for Boston to acquaint you that I am preparing the Several Articles agreeable to our Contract and am in hopes, that they will be all ready for shipping by the last of this Month, I have chartered two Vessells to transport the same to Halifax the 1st Vessell is to take in her Cargo the 1st of May, and the second Vessell is to take in her Cargo Loading in all that Month---If you should have any thing to communicate or transmit to Halifax, a line directed to me at the Mast dock in long reach Kennebec River will find me---I am with great Respect

Sir your most obedt hbleservt

Edwd Parry"

about the 18th or 20th--I found the Committee Men and others were endeavoring to influence the People to give me no Assistance and to prevent thereby my getting the Lumber &c---hints were thrown out—that the Vessells would not be permitted to load—but others were afraid a vessell of War would attend them—the Town & some Neighbouring Committees on waited me one Sunday afternoon at my lodgings near the Mast docks from thence I proceeded with them to Mr Thornton's adjoining, who kept a sort of a petty public House---I imagine they might consist of about a dozen or fifteen Persons---
they wanted to persuade me to desist from my Intention of sending any Masts &c away—and in their usual enforcing stile—recommended it to me—I replied—that I was doing only my duty, and what I thought I was legally entitled to, therefore could not possibly accept of any recommendations from them in regard to my Business—at the same time thanked them for their friendly Admonition—

The 21st or thereabouts one Samuel Thompson, concerned in a Saw Mill at Brunswick—a violent highflying Stuttering foolish fellow lately elected a Lieutenant Colo. of the Militia by the Populace, and chosen by the Town of Brunswick to represent them in the Congress at Concord, came from the Congress, with orders & recommendations to the different Towns to prevent ship'g off any Masts, Lumber &c to Boston or elsewhere, to impede thereby, and distress the King's Fleet & Army—and this Thompson was pitched upon to superintend their recommendations and carry their intentions—into execution—

He came to me about the 20th and in an Authoritative Manner attended with a sneering smile or grin, told me, I must not send off any of the Masts I had, to our Enemies; as he called the King's forces—I gave him no answer (except smile)—he said you must not mind what I say—the Congress sent me down here purposely to prevent you, and some others who are sending Lumber—I gave little attention to what he said—fully resolving to proceed notwithstanding.
the Menaces and recommendations of any persons whatsoever,—-
some People were alarmed, and one Man told me he was afraid.
if I persisted Hostilities would commence in that River—I
told Him I could not help it—if the People would be so
foolish and headstrong.—

Information was given to me by J. Barnard Esq to be
(Luke Lambert)
upon my Guard that my Landlord was leagued against me, and
that he had expressed himself in an equivocating manner, to
Hobby
Cap: Hubbs and others, that he was concerned at my Staying
at his House—that his Wife was pregnant and very near her
who
time—was under great Apprehensions, and fears—he wished
the Committee or others would carry me off—Why Luke says
one of them to him, you wont join against Mr Parry—Yes I
will, I swear to you any night you please, and will bring
my Gun—this perfidious rascal a day or two before had been
endeavoring privately to recommend himself to me, in declar-
ing his Abhorrence of the Solemn league and Covenant and
that he had refused to sign it; (because) altho’ he incurred
the displeasure of his Brother one Joseph Lambert—I took
no notice of this information apparently—but treated it
slightly—as an impossibility—that Lambert could not be so
ungrateful—this produced—asseverations of the veracity—
thereof,
and to confirm it—be bro: Hubbs to me—who declared the
same—I then privately communicated it—to my Mastliner
James Marden—who thought it most adviciable to remove from
his House—I told him I thought that would Argue fear in me, and if the People found I could be wrought upon that way; they would avail themselves of the Appearance of fear—and thereby render it impossible for me to send off the Masters—that I was and that their intimidations would not do—determined not to be bullied or frightened. I would continue in the same place though under the roof with such a villain—I thought it best to communicate this intelligence to my linen; lest I might be carried away in the Night—that if I was missing he might look to the right persons—indeed—I had a quantity of money with me—which possibly Lambert might think was in my Saddle Bags in my Chamber in his House—money and that to obtain that might be his view, in proposing such a plan—from this time I was very watchful and cautious I fastened down my windows & secured the Door every night, and kept a pair of loaded Pistols on the Chair, by the bedside—that in case I was surprized—I might make as good a defence as I was able.

about five or Six days after as he, (Lambard) came to my Chamber door very early in the morning and knocked—I asked him what he wanted he said he was going up the River, and wanted some Paper or Account out of a desk belonging to him which stood in my bed Chamber—I got up and opened the door—upon his entering he happened to spy the brace of Pistols—which surprized him, a good deal, and he appeared very much Startled, and finding the door fastened—he was perhaps
conscious, that I had made some discovery of his Conduct—-—-he says he—I hope ME Perry has no hard thoughts of me,——-I see you fasten your door and lay with Pistols by your bedside—-—-he asked if those little Pistols could hurt any person at a short distance—he did not think they could be of much service—if I was attacked—in this "silly" manner he talked—-—-I was a little exasperated for I thought his language was somewhat taunting—-—-I told him [there are several lines marked out here that are indecipherable] and let him know that it would be dangerous for him or any others to make the experiment—-—-this produced an explanation—-—-when I upbraided him, with his perfidious conduct he was very solicitous to know how I came by my information—-—-and denied it totally—-—-averring it to be wholly a falsehood—-—-I refused giving up the person who first acquainted me, [for I was] apprehensive it might be prejudicial to him & deprive me of future information—-—-I told Lombard that I had the greatest reason to believe it to be true;—-—-and that his conduct for the future must be such as to convince me of his honesty—he was much chagrined at my not discovering [all] the person who raised the story (as he called it) [such falsehood] against him that he must certainly be some bad man, who wanted to create a difference between me, and him—I told him I would enquire further into the matter—-—-and accordingly I went to the Person who first told [me], & he as I apprehended was unwilling that I should mention
his name lest he might suffer thereby---but going to Hubbs---he said he would confront Lambard---and accordingly did---but Lambart wanted to Twist Twine and equivocate the meaning of his Words--but all tended only to make it appear worse against him---and in short I was fully satisfied what sort of a Man I had to deal with.

April 23d---some vague and uncertain rumors reached Kennebec Troops of the Skirmish at Lexington, and that the King's were defeated and pursued---from this time the People talked openly of stopping (my) Matthew's.

April 28th in the Morning a person in behalf of the Committee ordered the Masthewers not to proceed in their business on their peril---then they left off,---and he ordered me to desist from carrying on the work on pain of being deemed inimical---which I was necessitous to comply with---and accordingly left off---and paid the Hewers their Wages, and settled my Acco'ts with others.

The same day I proposed to one of the Committee to send a person to Falmouth for my Newspapers, Letters &c which I had ordered to be sent to my friend W't Tyng Esq.---I thought I should thereby find out the Truth of the Lexington affair and was in hopes it was not so bad as represented; and desired the Masthewers to wait until The Messenger should return from Falmouth;--for I was not without hopes of being able to obtain permission to go on again with my business.
I accordingly agreed with Mr. Joseph Lambert to go thither on my Horse, as he was the Person the Committee had pitched upon for that purpose, for it would not have answered for me to send a Man off of my own accord, as it would create suspicions in the minds of the people (who appeared inflamed to a degree of Madness) that I had sent for assistance or Protection.

The 30th of April late in the Evening Joseph Lambert sent me my Newspapers,—I enquired of the person who brought them—if Mr. Lambert had any Letters for me—he replied he believed not.—Mr. Lambert was much fatigued, and would call upon me in the Morning—

May 1st about 8 in the morning Joseph Lambert, brought me a number of Letters he had received of Willm Tyng Esqf. in Falmouth among which were some letters from England, and also a Letter from Capt. Henry Hewett. Commander of His Majesty's Ship the Canceaux then laying in Falmouth Harbor to protect a Ship belonging to one Capt. Colson of Falmouth.—Bristol, upon enquiry of Lambert how all my Letters became opened,—he said they were demanded by Sam'l Thompson of Brunswick as he passed thro' that Town on his return, who broke open all the Letters, and took copies of some of them,—having paid Lambert for his Journey—Upon further enquiry I found out the reason of his not bringing me my Letters the evening before and pretending excessive fatigue, was only to give the Committee of George Town
sufficient time to take Copies of them; the Letter from Cap[7]
Movat was in these words.

"Coneaux Falmouth
5 29th April 1775

"Sir
I believe just this moment informs'd that you are interrupted
in your occupations by the misled people of the place where
you are;--I therefore think it incumbent on me as a Servant
under the Crown, to warn those infatuated people of the conse-
quences that will ensue from the detaining or interfering with
You, or any other of His Majesty's Loyal Subjects in their
lawful Avocations,---and I do by the same authority authorize
you to make known to me without <delay> loss of time, your
present situation; and the names of those that have presumed
to molest you---should a reply to this Letter not appear by
the time I have a right to expect it--I shall naturally suppose
that it has been interrupted and you may depend, as soon as I
know that to be the case, that assistance shall soon release
you, or any other Subjects whose treatment may furnish me with
a just cause to complaint.--My Compliments to Mr Barnard I
hope he is not in the same predicament with yourself.--please
to acquaint him, that I received his Letter, and that I have
been in hourly expectation of seeing him for some days past;
"I hope also to have the pleasure of seeing you very soon--I am,

Sir

your most obedient
Humbly Servt.

"To
Edwd Parry Esq.
Kennebec River"

"H Mowatt"
Edward Parry's Journal

Of this letter \( \text{was} \) industriously circulated by the different Committee men thro' the towns \( \text{and} \) created a great ferment among the People; I was in hopes that it would influence them to suffer me to go on again; altho' some others were exasperated & almost frantic---I heard of various schemes contrived how to destroy the Masts, not only those intended for Nova Scotia but also \( \text{chose} \) the surplusage Trees that remained in the Dock for the Contract at Home, which I had collected from Falmouth and the other shipping Ports---this gave me much Uneasiness as I supposed their value could not amount to less than three Thousand pounds Sterling, which would be inevitably destroyed in case any vessel of War should have happened to arrive in that River---I communicated my thoughts and also Capt. Mowats Letter to John Barnard Esq. son of Sir Francis Barnard who had come into that River a few days before in a pleasure barque---

This day I was also informed privately that it was Thompson of Brunswick's intention to take me prisoner, and that he had placed Centinels in North Yarmouth Woods to prevent my escaping, and to prevent any intelligence reaching to Falmouth or Portsmouth, that every person was searched, and there being no other way by Land for me to return, it was impossible to escape---and my flight I considered would consequently involve \( \text{my} \) the Property---I also thought whether this might not be a contrivance to make me run off---
Thompson alledged that it was necessary to confine me; that I might redeem some good Man, as he said it appeared by the intercepted Letters &c I had many Friends in England who put a value on me—and that such persons were such the Country ought to lay hold of—I was also acquainted that this Thompson had been guilty of great Cruelties, to many persons of his Neighbourhood, whose Sentiments happen'd not to coincide with his own—especially two persons called—Wilson and Woodsides—one of whom he had tied to a block, and collected some of his Myrmidons around to shoot him—and the other he caused a grave to be dug and buried alive in—and then covered with the Earth beginning at his Feet—in order to make them join in his measures—curse the King sign the Covenant &c—

I was also informed that a Report was spread about, that there was a quantity of money on board the Canceaux Armed Ship and that Thompson proposed to his Men to surprize her,—accordingly Fifty or Sixty men had agreed upon the Plan,—they were to Man two Slooops (one belonged to Aaron Hinckley Esq an Uncle of Thompson) with about Thirty or forty men each, and were to board Canceaux in the Night time—they had nearly persuaded themselves it could be easily accomplished, and they would be thereby enrich'd with very considerable Booty, the Plunder was, or appeared to be the sole view of their intended expedition.

May 2d in the Evening just at dusk Sam'l Thompson came to
long reach to my Lodgings at Luke Lamberts he said he wanted to speak in private with me, I desired him to walk into my chamber—he said he thought it would be best to go out—I went with him—he then told me he wanted me to go with him about 8 miles off that Evening to New Meadows—(the place where he was fitting out the two Sloops to attack the Canceaux) I asked him to what purpose—he told me I should know when I got over there—I said if he had any Business with me it could be done as well where I was as to go over with him—no says he it wont I want you to be at Esq? Hinckley's—I told him I had no connections with Esq? Hinckley besides, I want to see some Gentlemen that are gone to the County Convention at Pownalborough who promised to call on me next morning on their return from thence—it does not signify to make many words about it you must go over with me, and if you will not go by fair means you shall by foul, for I have got men enough near at hand to assist me, in this interval came up one Obed Hubbs master of a small vessel from Connecticut or New York, who had been in those parts some short time, and who I knew to be given to duplicity and a busy dangerous person, upon this Man's joining us—the discourse resumed by Thompson, who again asked me if I would go over with him, I replied I would not that Evening that it was then almost dark—says he, if you will give bonds I will give security that you shall not be hurt—in going over—I told him I would not go unless
he would tell me what he wanted with [him]---he then uttered some threatening intimations if I refused---Upon this says [had] Hubbs--Mr Perry I think you [would] better go over with the Colonel---I know he has no intention to hurt you, I replied I would not go over that evening upon any account---will you come over tomorrow morning says Thompson---I don't know but I may I said---then if you will give me security that you will; I shall be content---I told him I had no security to give neither did I think it necessary---he then said, will you give me your word of honor--I'll take that--of meeting me too morrow morning at Nine o'clock at Esq' Hinkley's---in order to get rid of him, that I might have time to consult and take advice, I consented to meet him there---upon which he went off---I immediately acquainted one or two friends with Thompson's requisitions, and wanted to know their opinion---they apprehended some mischief was intended, and that altho' he said he would not hurt me--yet there would certainly be some equivocation carried on as he was of an unprincipled disposition---and whose clamorous Patriotism sprang entirely from a restless ambition--and as he would not say what he wanted with me--it appeared very suspicious he had no good design.---Various were the conjectures what his intentions might be, the most probable that suggested itself, I confess, was an exceeding villainous one;--and enough to startle any Human Creature---as Thompson was a person void of all Manliness---
a meer poltron--his only method of attacking the Cansaux, 

would undoubtedly be by stratagem--and having form'd by the 

intercepted Letter from Capt: Mowat to me, that a degree of 

intimacy subsisted between us--it was most likely his inten-

tion of getting me over to New Meadows where the Vessels were 

fitting out, was to put me on board one of them, and bear 

in the nighttime 

\[\text{down upon the Cansaux, and to compel me, by holding a pistol} \]

\[\text{throat} \]

\[\text{to my breast or a knife to my} \]

\[\text{(neck)--to hail Capt: Mowat--} \]

\[\text{that I had fled in that Vessel from Kennebec, and sought} \]

\[\text{refuge on board his ship--that if they could induce me or} \]

\[\text{intimidate me so far as to be guilty of such villainous} \]

\[\text{treachery--they would naturally come along side the Ship,} \]

\[\text{and instantly board her--This suggested Scheme gave me} \]

\[\text{great uneasiness, as I perfectly knew Thompson and his Crew} \]

\[\text{were capable of such a transaction--that night--I ruminated} \]

\[\text{on every method and scheme I could think of to elude and} \]

\[\text{defeat Thompson's designs whatever they might be, I found} \]

\[\text{several of the George Town Committee were gone to the Conven-} \]

\[\text{tion and very few remained at Home; I got up very early by} \]

\[\text{dawn the next morning May 3d--} \]

\[\text{I went over to the House of Sam'l Todd (about 300 yards} \]

\[\text{distant) where Mr Marden my mastliner boarded Todd being} \]

\[\text{also a young man who I employed--having awaked them, I told} \]

\[\text{Todd that he must take Horse and ride to Mr John Wood &} \]

\[\text{Wm. Swanton who I knew had great influence with the Populace,} \]
and who I thought were of the Committee, desiring the favor of them to come immediately to me as I had something of great importance to communicate to them—I also sent a person across the river to—Mr. Harneden who had been lately elected a Lieut Col° for the same purpose,—Mr. Swanton and Mr. (Harr) Wood having come up—I told them the Conversation that passed between Thompson and me—saying also that as I had desisted from carryg on the work, when they had ordered and they were satisfied—I thought it was an insult offered to their Town, for Thompson to pretend to intermeddle with their affairs—entertained that I had great distrust of Thompson and wanted to know if they could protect me or give me any advice.

They appeared much surprized at Thompson's conduct, and advised me by no means to go over to New Meadows, for he had some bad design in view—and that he must undoubtedly intend to do me mischief—that if he had any honest views he would have certainly told me immediately what he wanted—that Thompson belonged not only to another Town but to another County, and had no reason to enter into their County—They told me, if I desired it—they would give me orders not to quit the Town—and would send word to Thompson; that I was in their Custody; and for form sake would put a person to guard me from quitting the Town—I agreed and accepted of their offer which I looked upon as very friendly—soon after the Messenger from Mr. Harneden returned, and said that Deacon Ford
of Woolwich and Mr. Harnedan were coming over to George Town in their way to New Meadows to purchase Indian Corn—upon which we thought we could not send word to Thompson by a more proper person than Mr. Harnedan as he was a sensible, moderate man of considerable influence amongst the people—and would be almost the only person that could pacify Thompson, should he appear disconcerted and exasperated—Mr. Harnedan having come over & heard all the particulars, undertook to deliver the Committee's message to Thompson, and said we were right as Thompson had not declared nor shown any authority to vindicate his conduct, or advised any of the Committees of any authority delegated to him by the Congress, and especially as he was not of that town or county—

about two o'clock I heard that Thompson was greatly dissatisfied—that he had about fifty men with him under arms—several or the most part of them having been drink'd with rum &c the preceding night were intoxicated with liquor—and very unruly—that some of them had stripped in order to give Mr. Harnedan a drubbing—and that they were marching into over to George Town, that among other things they intended to do, one was to uncover and remove all the masts I had in the dock, up to a place called muddy river, about 12 miles higher up in the country which being shallow would be out of the reach of the men of war—

soon after, or near four o'clock Luke Lambert my landlord
and Obed Hubbs, acquainted me that Thompson and his Men were not a mile off—and that it would be necessary for me to give the deposit my money in some place of Security. Lambart said he would take care of it, or I might entrust it with his wife—or I might go out somewhere immediately and hide it under a Stone, Rock or any other place I thought best—I instantly sent for James Marden the Liner, and wrapp'd up my money being about £130 in Gold in a Newspaper;—and having Sealed it I put it in Marden's hands to keep for me until I should demand it—for I found I could not Trust Lambart after his late perfidious Conduct—soon after this Lambart expressed his fears to me that they might seize both my Horses, and it would be most prudent for me to make over to him, by giving him a Bill of Sale or receipt for the Amount—I told him, that I would not avail myself of such a subterfuge as to dispose of my Horses to him or any other in such a way—at the same time I thanked him for his friendly advice; tho' at the same time I thought he might have recovery in view, but folly and knavery having the same symptoms or very nearly resembling one Another in some cases; I thought it most prudent not to give him any reason to imagine that I in the least distrusted his sincerity in this instance.

About 4 o'Clock in the Even' I was sent for to Joseph Lambert Tavernkeeper where Thompson and his Men were—upon my coming there—I imagine he might have about fifty Men Armed
with Guns, powder horns Cartouch Boxes and other Accoutrements—my Ears were saluted by the miserable Music of a miserable Hauthoy, and a lad thumping an old drum, which made a most doleful noise;—but in perfect Cadence, or discordance with the other instrument—I soon perceived Thompson was exceedingly irritated against me;—and asserted that I had treated him unbecoming a person of his imaginary consequence—I appeared very submissive—and the Committee alleged that they had insisted on my being under their Care—he was very clamorous, violent, and said I had forfeited my Honor to him that I was no more worthy to be treated like a Gentleman he sent off some of his Men to view the Dock—about dusk his Men were altogether—he sent off a party upon a private expedition—he then with several others formed themselves into a Committee—and Mr. Timothy Langdon (since made a Judge of their Admiralty) of Wincopset, was their clerk to draw up their resolves and proceedings—a Chairman was chosen—the number of Persons present being about twelve—besides myself while Thompson's Men were in the adjoining Room dancing and drinking Rum Toddy with all their might, and I must confess the same liquor circulated very briskly in the Committee Room, which contributed much to display the Oratorical Powers of the Members, especially Thompson, who tho’ he stuttered & has a great impediment in his Speech, yet spoke like a person inspired—or rather possessed—I hardly opened my mouth, except to contradict any glaring falsehoods that were advanced—Thompson—said I was a Traitor to the
State—that I acknowledged George the Third for my King, & was consequently a Tory—that the King and ministry were all that was bad, and loaded them with epithets too shocking and treasonable to repeat—that I was entirely in their views—that all the Mast[s] were forfeited to the Continent, that I had in my possession—that the Congress would want them for their own Navy—and that they might send some to France or Spain to induce them to assist the Congress—and that he was credibly informed, I had received from General Gage or the Admiral a great quantity of money to procure the Mast[s] I was fitting for Nova Scotia—and that I had all that money about me—I replied to the last assertion, as it seemed to aim at plundering me—I told him—that I was surprised a Gentleman of his extensive understanding and knowledge, should be present so greatly mistaken—for undoubtedly many of the members knew that Government never paid their money beforehand for things they purchased, that it was looked upon as very good pay to receive it soon after the delivery and that what little money I had about me was entirely my Own; and no other person could honestly lay any claim to it—this with some further explanation cleared up the insinuation he attempted to inculcate into their minds—the Committee kept sitting and resolving until two o’Clock in the morning—and then I was permitted to go to rest—as I was apprehensive of danger or being plundered if I went to my own lodgings—I requested the
favor privately of Mr. John Wood one of the George Town Committee to lay at his house that morning, and accordingly went home with him—-

May 4th.

In the morning several Gentlemen returned from the Convention at Pownalborough amongst whom were Mr. Cobb Esq.; Mr. Stinson Esq.; Mr. Jordan Parker; Mr. Dummer Sewall; whom I conversed with before I saw Thompson, and requested their Friendship and Assistance—they promis’d to do what they could, but were apprehensive they could have but little influence, indeed Mr. Cobb intimates it would be most likely that Thompson would act in entire Opposition to whatever he might say—Mr. Langdon the Clerk of the Mock Committee the Evening before having Shewn the resolves of the preceding Evening to these Gentlemen, they appeared so extravagant to them that they desired him to destroy them for the Credit of the place which I was sorry for, as such extraordinary a Transaction ought to be preserved to posterity as one of the many testimonies of Political Lunacy acted by this people.

About Eleven o’Clock these Gentlemen whom I accompanied met Thompson at Lambarts Tavern, if he was noisy and vehement the Evening before he was still more so this morning sometimes exceedingly Sulk’y, and whether it was owing to too little rest; after so much Exercise and Liquor he drank the last Evening or chagrined at the appearance of the Gentlemen from
the County Convention whom he apprehended friendly to me—I can't determine but there was something chagrin'd him much—he would not hearken to any advice, recommendations or conclude what to do, sometimes he would intimate that I ought to be instantly shot—at other times he would upbraid all the Gent'd of George Town as my confederates—that they might go to General Gage, and see if he would supply them with Pork & Corn &c and said some of them were enemies to their Country—some of these Gent'd expressed their fears to me, that they were apprehensive he could not be brought to reason; and as the Men he brought from New Meadows were continuing to drink; and no persons to oppose their force being all armed—it would be impossible to protect me if they should proceed to further violence—they promised to do what they could, and talked to him privately—flattered his Vanity—and some tried other methods and called him Tyrant—Esqr Stinson once told him he was certainly Mad—or intoxicated with Power and ought rather to be Stiled the Duke of Brunswick than the Lieut. Col'd of the Brunswick militia—"you may call me what you please; Crazy Sam Thompson or any other name but I will do what I please"—Some disputed his Authority, and that he had exceeded the lengths (an indecipherable word) Warranted by the Congress. he showed some of them a Copy of a Resolve which he said was voted by the Congress, which he had also produced to the Committee of his own Appointment last Evening.
some thought it spurious, whilst others could not construe it to extend to authorize his proceedings—after some fresh altercation he insisted I was his Prisoner, and that I must go with him—I told the Gentn of George Town; that I hoped they would not deliver me up to him; that I had an exceeding bad opinion of his Humanity and Honor, and requested of them for the Honor of their Town as well as their regard to the rights of Humanity be not to suffer me to be kidnapped from the Town, and used every Argument I was master of to induce them to befriend me—and suppose themselves desired them to consider, (if they were) in my situation—after a great many conversations some public and some private, which spun out the Time to about three o’Clock the Drum beating, and the armed Men showing every symptom of uneasiness at so much delay—Thompson at last consented that if I would give him sufficient securities that I should be forthcoming when ever the Congress demanded he would release me—I hesitated and said that as I had done nothing culpable, I ought not to be put under restraint—some of them told me it would be best to accept of these Terms, that it with much difficulty and long persuasion, he was bro’t to grant these Terms, which possibly he might soon retract; as he and his Men were grown quite impatient and riotous—that no doubt the Congress, would utterly abhor these proceedings & order me to be set at Liberty, as soon as they were acquainted truly of the facts—I told them I had no persons that I knew would undertake to give bonds in
my behalf; upon which one of the Sent'n was requested to enquire of Thompson what sort of bond he required—he then dictated the conditions; and Jordan Parker and Dummer Sewall voluntarily offered to be my Bondsmen to keep me in Safe Custody &c, which he accepted. The condition of the Bond was in these words.

"The Condition of the above obligation is such that whereas as Edward Parry Esq—is taken up by & now is in the Custody of Coll'n Samuel Thompson as a suspected Enemy to the rights of America. Now if the above bounden Jordan & Dummer shall keep the said Edward in safe Custody 'till the said Edward is released by the order of the Congress for the Province afore-said; and the said Edward either by himself or any person for or under him shall not remove the Masts, Sparrs, boards, plank Yards &c now in the Mast dock in said dock in George Town, & shall not write to any of the Officers of the Army or Navy for protection or against the Country then the above obligation to be void otherwise to remain in force"—

This bond was drafted by Mr. Timothy Langdon of Wickcasset attorney who had been clerk of the Committee the night before; who gave me afterd the above copy—the obligation was in the form of Two thousand pounds lawful, payable to the Congress or the heads of the Province for the time being that may be appointed by the People.

After the Bond was signed & delivered to Thompson, we all thought he had done with me—but he had another requisition;
he would not allow me to be released from him until I had paid all his and his Men's expenses at Lambart's Tavern; the preceding afternoon, Night and that day—several Gentlemen remonstrated against it—I insist upon it says he; and he shall not go out of my hands until it is done—I don't know but he shall pay all my Men's wages also—however I swear he shall pay all their Expenses—the Landlord was called in to know the Amount which was Forty One Shillings & ten pence—which I, under the necessity of comply with to be freed out of his clutches—

Not long after the party of Men he had sent off the Evening before, brought up with Mr John Barnard who they surprised near the Mouth of the River in his Bark—he was searched upon suspicion of conveying Letters from me to Cap'n Howat and the officers belong to His Majesty—but nothing of that Nature was found—Mr Barnard was laid under similar bond to mine—and Thompson among many other things tauntingly told him; he should plant Potatoes for him upon a farm he had in Topsham.

I was greatly fatigued, having had no rest for two Nights, and continually stunned by day, with hearing so many disagreeable and insulting things—and knowing the precarious disposition of a Mob—I wished for some rest and tranquility, which I was apprehensive I could not obtain in the long reach as Thompson's men were still there—and possibly they would repeat
Edward Parry’s Journal

their abuses to me without much scruple— I accordingly accepted Mr. Jordan Parker’s invitation to tarry a few days at generally his Uncle’s about Ten Miles below, who (used to) furnish the Mastships with fresh beef, mutton &c and accordingly went down with him Esq. McCobb & Esq. Stinson altogether in one boat—

I accordingly enjoyed a few days rest in my present retirem’t and had recovered from my fatigue

In the interim Tho’man’s Conduct towards me spread abroad thro’ the Country, and when it reach’d Portsmouth in New Hampshire it was told with some additional aggravations, such as, my being bound with heavy chains which had wore into my flesh, that I was confined in a dungeon in Pownalboro’ that my Mast-liner had fled into the Woods and was supposed was there starved— all this news much alarmed my Landlord there Mr. Noah Parker an honest Man and sincere friend he immediately applied of his own accord as the only source to the Committee of that Town, who upon his request wrote up to the Congress at Watertown to get me released, and also procured Letters from the Committee to several Towns in the County of Lincoln to procure some relaxation of this imaginary rigor of my confinement— the Letter to the Massachusetts Bay Congress, he dispatch’d by one Shillaber and those to the Eastern Committees (writ) he sent by Jos Ayers by Land, and at the same time, lest he should be interrupted; he sent Sam’l Hart one of the Masthevers by water in a small fishing boat, with a Letter and some fresh beef for
me—the 9th Mr Ayers came to me at Capt Parker's—from whence I returned (from thence) to my old lodgings at Lamberts—and wrote a Letter to Mr Noah Parker, another to the President of the Massachusetts Congress, wherein I stated my Case as I thought causelessly with a manly and decent Freedom, as a person injured by one of their Servants, who I should have imagined would not countenance his proceedings—my address to the President was in the following words.

George Town Kennebec River
May 10th 1775——

"Sir

I humbly beg leave to lay before you, that Mr Samuel Thompson of Brunswick one of the Delegates of your Congress has attend'd by about Forty or upwards of his Minute men & armed, restrained me from following my lawful Occupation and detained me here, and compelled a Bond to be given the 4th inst with two securities for me in the penal Sum of £2,000 lawful money, payable to you or the heads of the Province for the time being, that may be Appoint'd by the People—The condition of the Bond prevents me, or any person for or under me, from removing certain Mats, Spars, oak plank &c that are now under my care in this River, and procured for the service of His Majesty's Navy—and that I should be kept in safe Custody here, until I may be released by your orders; he has also required that I shall not write to any Officer of
"the Army or Navy for protection---He grounds his pretences
"for these violences to me by resolve of your Body, as he
"says passed the beginning of April the Subject-matter of which
"as near as I can recollect is--"That Col° Samuel Thompson be
"appointed to notify certain Towns in the Eastward, that one
"Perry was gone down thither to strip Masts Plank &c. for the
"Dock yard at Nova Scotia; and that he and they should use all
"possible and effectual means to prevent the same being done"---
"And likewise the People I employed have been intimidated and
"influenced from carrying on their work to my great detriment,
"by persons who appear by their Conduct to place reliance on
"your Approbation"

"I imagine you will not justify but disavow these injurious
"proceedings, and I expect; you will without delay; the bond to
"and myself released
"be cancelled from my present confinement. I am Sir
Your very humble serv't
Edwd Parry

"To The President of
the Delegates of the Province of the
Massachusetts Bay assembled in Congress
at Concord"---

this I inclo'd in a Letter to Mr. Noah Parker at Portsmouth to
forward, after he had taken copies of it to send to Rich'd Lechmere
Esg° Mr John Bernard brought me word from Mr William Lithgow
just come from Sawco—that Mr Joseph Morrill of that place
desired him to acquaint me, that he could not possibly comply
with His Charterparty of sending the Vessells to Kennebec, by
reason of the Hostile state of the Country---

At the same time I heard that Sam'l Thompson had given over his intentions of attacking the Cangeaux with the Sloops; --and that he and his Men were embarked in Boats for Falmouth in order to plunder some reputed Tories of their Effects--and to concert measures with the Casco Men to Attack the Cangeaux if practicable---

As several persons intimated to me the danger that would accrue to the Masts &c in case of any Vessell of his Majesty's coming into the River--I thought it afforded me a sufficient plea to answer Cap't Mowat's Letter--and to explain to him my Situation--and if I did not request and intreat his protection I thought it would not disagree with the condition of the Bond--so as to create a forfeiture--and thinking I could safely trust Ayers with the conveyance of it--I accordingly resolved to write the following Letter, which I inclosed to my Friend Will'm Tyng Esq' at Paltom

"George Town May 10th 1775"

"Sir"

"I am very much obliged to you, for your kind Letter of was the 29th ult &c Lambert which intercepted and demanded with "my other Letters at Brunswick by Samuel Thompson of that place "and broke open, copies of which have been industriously circu-"lated through the Country by the different committee Men &c, "several parts thereof being misconstrued or misunderstood by
"the illiterate:--I should have answered your letter sooner, but did not know how to procure any safe conveyance. On the 4th inst Thompson attended by a number of armed men to the amount of forty or upwards insisted on my being his prisoner, and to go with him, or give bail bond with two securities in the penal sum of £2,000 payable to the Provincial Congress--the Condition of the Bond compelled to be given, is, that I should be kept in Safe Custody by my Sureties until released by the Congress, that I should not nor no one for or under me remove any Masts Plank &c now here, nor write to any Officer of the Army or Navy for Protection, or write against the Country, I preferred giving the Bond, rather than risk myself with him--A State of my case has been sent to the Congress who, I hope will think it reasonable to release me--but such is the Unfortunate temper of the times, that I am apprehensive I shall be unable to proceed with my business, and fulfill my engagements for Halifax yard for the present, and I think it will be extremely hazardous for sometime to attempt it, unless affairs take a sudden turn"--

"I am with great Respect" "Sir" "your obliged Mr. Bernard is also under and most obedt hbleservt Bond & in the same situation" Edward Parry

"There were some Reports spread here of an attempt to surprize the Canceaux--"

"To Henry Mowat Esq: Commander of His Majesty's Arm'd Ship the Canceaux in Falmouth Harbor"
Edward Parry's Journal

These letters being finish'd and delivered to Ayers—who went off immediately—I wrote to Mr. Noah Parker; by Sam' Hart desiring him to send me by water any letters that might come by Ships from England; as there was no safety by Land, and desired him to send me by the same opportunity Provisions (to myself enable) to support (me) more comfortably which at the same time would serve as a blind to the People---I also Encouraged this plan—for I knew not but I might be put to the necessity of making my escape that way---

about the 15th of May, I heard that Thompson by some means or other intercepted, my Letter to Cap' Mowatt—I have not been able to say how he came by it, he showed (it) to a great many persons but would not let them read the Contents, by saying I had forfeited my bonds, giving information to Cap' Mowatt—by this means he endeavor'd to prejudice the Minds of the People against (them) me;—I shew'd them the copy of it—to convince them it was not so bad as Thompson would have them suppose—

I also heard that Thompson and his men had returned from Falmouth loaded with Plunder which he had taken from the Houses of Wm Tyng Esq'—Cap' Colson—Pote &c and that he had set out for the Congress.

The 20th. I received a Letter from Mr. Noah Parker—that the Congress gave for answ' to the Committee of Portsmouth, that if I was innocent I should be liberated—but he
apprehended I should not be liberated until the disputes were
ever--that the Congress was very much engaged with a multipli-
city of matters--and hoped I would endeavor to be as easy as
possible in my Situation--

I also heard about the 23d--that about 300 of the People
went
go
to the Dock where the
Private Masts I had purchsed and also the Masts for the King
that lay there rafted Sunk and covered were taken away and
transported up the River to a place called Cask River--this
was another great Shock to me, as they were of great value,
not less, I conjectured than Three Thousand pounds,--and by
being exposed to the Sun, winds, and weather would injure
exceedingly--and if not covered so if they lay any Length
of time, would render them totally useless and unfit for Service--

I requested MCParker to write to Mr. Dumand, and acquaint
him of my situation &c--all these things made me very anxious
to return to Port south, as I had such great property at Stake--
and was extremely solicitous to obtain my freedom--but not a
Syllable could I hear of the fate of my Application to the
Congress--Until the 8th of June, Mr. David Wyer Attorney from
Falmouth on his return from Falmouth, Pownalborough where he
and some other Lawyers had been to continue actions and adjourn
the Court--called on me--and said that great fault was found
with my Letter to the President, that it was not submissive and
respectful enough he told me Mr. Samuel Freeman who then was
Representative for Falmouth, and Clerk of the House, had wrote some person at Falmouth wherein he mentioned my Application saying it was conceived in "haughty" Superb "Dictatorial language," and what much fault, was found with the expression "I expect you will (Mr. Wyer) without delay"--This was the ostensible reason he said prevented them from taking my case into, consideration--I was also informed that Thompson upon his entering into the House, extoll'd his own exploits--that he had secured Ten Thousand pounds Sterling worth of Masts &c that he had confined the Agent, intercepted my Letter to Cap't Mowat which together with the Bond, he laid before the House Congress--and received their Unanimous Approbation--

Mr. Wyer also told me that the Congress was dissolved and new one that a general Court was immediately to meet; and he advised me to send a Petition up;--if I would write (it) that Evening, he would take care of it, and have it presented to the House;--he said they required vast deal of Homage; even as much as any Potentates, on Earth, and that the least incautious word that might be imputed not to give them respect enough, was sufficient to hinder Justice from taking place, or even their condescending to have it read--and that I must lard my Petition with frequent repetitions of your Honors, and too much flattery and fulsomeess could not be addressed to them--and he further said (to use his expression) it was a damnable shame for them to keep me where I was, excluded from the Company of both Men & books--I told him I should be
much obliged to him for his assistance, as I was utterly unac-
quainted with the mode of addressing these new made Great Men
we accordingly, compleated the followg which I delivered him
to present to their Honors---

"To The Honorable the Provincial
"Congress of the Massachusets Bay
"convened and assembled at Watertown
"The Petition of Edward Parry
"Agent to the Contractor for Masts"
"Humbly Sheweth"---

"That your petitioner has been detained in his
"Occupation of shipping a small quantity of Masts and Lumber
"he was providing for his Majesty's Dock Yard in Nova Scotia,
"on the beginning of may last at George Town in Kennebec River
"by Lieut Colo Samuel Thompson of Brunswick and two bonded
"Sureties required in the penal sum of £2,000 lawful money pay-
"able to the Provincial Congress, or the Heads of the Province
"for the Time being that may be appointed by the People---The
"Condition of the Bond prevents me or any person for or under
"me from removing certain Masts, (yards) Sparrs oak plank &c
"that are now under my care in said River, and procured for the
"Service of His Majesty's Navy--and that I should be kept here
"in safe Custody, until I may be released by the Honorable
"Provincial Congress's orders--the particulars of which are
"fully explained in the said Bond, which your Petitioner supposes
"Colonel Thompson, has before this delivered in to your Honors, 
---your Petitioner humbly begs leave to represent to your 
Honors, that his being detain'd here so long, at such a great 
distance from New Hampshire, the place He has been used to 
reside at, is of great detriment and damage to him, and thereby 
the daily suffers considerable loss, in his private concerns--- 
Wherefore he humbly prays your Honors would take his case into 
your wise consideration, and that your Honors would compas-
sionately be pleased, to order him to be released, and the 
hond cancell'd or order such relief as your Honors in your great 
Wisdom may think proper, and your petitioner will ever pray &c

Edw'd Parry"

"George Town
Kennebec River June 8th. 1775---
To the Honorable Joseph Warren Esq' President of the 
Honorable Congress of the Province of Massachusetts Bay--at 
Watertown "
Honorable Sir"

"As it is impossible for me personally to deliver the 
inclosed Petition--I have taken the Liberty to inclose the 
same under cover to your Honor, and request the favor of you 
to communicate it to the Honorable the Provincial Congress 
which will confer a great obligation on"

"Honorable Sir
Your most humble 
and most obedient 
Servant "Edw'd Parry"

"George Town
Kennebec River 
June 8th 1775---"
And here’s the rest of the story of what happened to Edward Parry…

(The Journal continues to page 113.)

July 18\textsuperscript{th} – Parry sets out with Dummer Sewall for Watertown.

July 24 & 25\textsuperscript{th} – He is examined by a Committee of the House of Representatives.

July 16\textsuperscript{th} – Committee reports to the House: 1. The masts are not to be moved. 2. Parry is to be released.

Aug 3\textsuperscript{rd} – House debates the Committee report and refers the case to a new Committee to determine if Parry were inimical or unfriendly to the American Colonies, and Parry is re-examined.

Aug 9\textsuperscript{th} – Committee reports to the House – 2 in favor of liberating Parry; 3 to accept the report, indicating that “considering his close connection with and dependence upon persons employed by the Crown and his disposition to supply our Enemies with Masts., Plank &c contrary to the known sentiments of this People; and that his being restrained from doing it; he considers as Acts of violence and injustice, all which appear under his own hand, -- beg leave to report as their Opinion that the said Edward Perry be immediately sent to some inland Town which shall be more than Seventy miles distant from all the Sea Ports in this Colony, there be detained and provided for by the Seletmen of the such Town until the firther order of this Court……”

Aug 12\textsuperscript{th} – Report read and concurred with an amendment naming the town to be Sturbridge.

Aug - Goes to Sturbridge, lives with the town’s representative to the House of Representatives and then with the minister until November, at which point he is released and allowed to return to Portsmouth where he attempts to carry on his business of selling lumber.

Nov 16 – The Massachusetts House voted that as the masts were “liable for damage where they lie,” they be disposed of to the benefit of the state.

Dec 18\textsuperscript{th} – Massachusetts Bay Colony orders all the masts in the Kennebec to be taken into possession of the Board of War – “49 great masts, 23 bowsprits, 20 small masts

March 24\textsuperscript{th} – 1777- Men were sent to Kennebec to line the masts, and take them out of the dock through the Gut to Sheepscot to be loaded on a mast vessel to go immediately to France

May 12\textsuperscript{th} – “During the last Months there had been several Mobs at Portsmouth and several persons confined and abused by the rioters, --- hitherto I escaped unmolested, by being Cautious, keeping at home, employing my time in reading, &c --- some persons seem\textsuperscript{d} desirous of pointing me out, for frequently they [dignified] the Walls of the House with Chalk inscriptions of TORY &c sometimes HOLE and other words of similar import, such as damn\textsuperscript{d} TOry &c &c . . .”
May 15\textsuperscript{th} Thursday – The Town Committee ordered him and other Loyalists in town to appear for questioning.

May 16\textsuperscript{th} Friday - Parry was ordered to take an oath of allegiance to the United States – he refused. Was told to do so or be jailed the next morning; until then he was to stay in his house.

That afternoon Parry met the Speaker of the House of New Hampshire who asked if he were desirous of returning to England. This important man in the community told him to let the Committee know they’d talked together, and he’d arrange for Parry to be on a vessel to Halifax in a few days. Parry met with the Committee on Saturday and was told to be gone by Wednesday or he would go to jail on Thursday.

May 22\textsuperscript{nd} – He sailed for Halifax and arrived the 25\textsuperscript{th}.

July 19\textsuperscript{th} – He departed Halifax and arrived in England Aug 22\textsuperscript{nd}.

PARRY’S FINAL ENTRY: “The 23\textsuperscript{rd} of August being Saturday I arrived at Carshalton, where I saw the family Carriage driving Towards London. I desired my Postilion to overtake them, and was surprised that neither Mr Durand or any of the Family recollected me, being so much altered by the Climate, we drove to Vauxhall Gardens where we spent the Evening, a most agreeable contrast between that Elisium & the Wilds of America.”