

Reminiscences
of
Jonathan Elkins

From a manuscript in the possession
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REMINISCENCES OF JONATHAN ELKINS

In the year 1774, Genl. Jacob Bailey of Newbury, Mass. who was the most noted man in this country at that time, had been applied to by some of the Proprietors of Peacham, who lived in Hadley, Massachusetts, to undertake a settlement of Peacham, and this year he sent his son Josua who had learnt the surveyors' art, with a number of men, to survey a tract in Peacham, and bring back tidings of the Country, and as Peacham was west of Barnet, they ascertained the east line of Barnet, and then begun their survey, at or near the south west corner of Barnet & the north west corner of Ryegate, and surveyed what they called the square, of about three miles square west of Barnet, and on their return, they reported a fine tract of land, lying on which a number of lots was picked by the surveyors & the men.

My father, who then lived in Haverhill, N. H., just opposit Newbury, Vt., hard of the goodly land, and with some others, went to it in Sept. the same year. he was so pleased with it he pitched him a lot, and when he got home put his farm on sail emediatly.

He soon sold his place (on yearly payments for several years payable in grain &c. before some of his notes became due 1 lb. of Corn would pay 20 or 30 Dollars of his note), and then made preparation, to go to Peacham in the Spring.

in May 1775 my Farther, my self in my 14th year, with 2 hired men, set out for Peacham. no road, nothing but a spotted line with know and then a bush, cut 20 miles from the settlement in Newbury. my Farther led his horse loded with Provisions. we drove a yoak of oxen and a cow (that was expected to calve within the month and when we got on to the ground we found on the lot adjoining the one my Farther had pitched, Robert Cour [?] in a small

camp, whair we pitched till we bilt a log house and bound [?] it with bark.

thair was Dr. John Skeels, Coll. Frey Bailey, John Sanborn, and some others that come on that spring, and a number more through the sumer. that sumer my Farther clared of a number of acres & sowed six or 8 acres with winter wheat, and he hyered [?] 10 acres, to be clared of for [?] to be sowad with oats the next year.

in the fall we all retreated to Haverhill, N. H. the next spring, in March 1776, part of Butler's [?] Rigmen was going through the woods to St. Johns, on their way through Peacham, my Farther thought it a good time to go on with the first company to Peacham and prepare for making shugar, and I with him. he took his old pung with his Provisions & Blankets & Snowshoes. started with the first Company.

the year before, several Scotch Famerlys had got on to Ryegate, viz. Genl. Whitlaw, Coll. Harvey, John Henderson, John Gray & several others not recolected, and thay had kept a sled road as far as thair, and the Solders had slays to carry thair packs as far as thair. my Farther had a boy that cam with us, to take his horse back. he gave me for a pack 3 pecks of meal, my Blanket & Snowshoes. he took his pack, and went on with the Pitch in frunt. my Pack was so heavy I was not able to keep up with him, and had to linger behind amoung the Solders, and I saw no more of him till the next day when we got through to Frey Baileys house in Peacham. I was verry much bet out, for my load was two heavy.

the next day my Farther & my self Came to our house, which was a mile from where the track that the Solders past to the west of us. my Farther and my self went emeadatly about making troughs for shugring, and in 8 or ten days we had got prepared for taping our trees. my Farther got 1 or 2 kittles halled from Ryegate on hand sleds, and he went home to Haverhill and left me, for a few days to take care

of the sap. we made consedrabable shuger, and after the snow went of several people returned to their farmes as they called them.

[Nine lines crossed out.]

In May 1776 Genll. Bailey who was the only man that was trusted with the management in this part of the Cuntrey Respecting the war, had sent on men to cut a Road through to Missisque bay, so that troops and stores could be got through to our army in Canada, which had delaid my Farther from moving his Famerly till the road had got made to Peacham. in July the road was so forward that waggons had come on as far as Peacham, and then my Farther went for his famerly, and got them on, and the road was Progressing on towards Canada, and we were all in Good Spirits. but all at once, our joy was turned into mourning. Sum disarters that had made their escape from the British had arived bringing the molancolly news that the Brittish had drove our army from Quebeck and that our army was retreating out of Canada. it was soon made certen, that was the Case.

All the men on the road retreated. What to do we knew not. thair was no other famerly in Town, and the expectation was that the Indins would be emeadatly upon us, and know other alternative but to retreat with the rest, and we all retreated to Newbury, Vt., and the whole cuntrey took the allarm, and in a few days thair was at work 3 or 4 hundred men a fortifying the oxbow, with breast works and block houses sufisint for 1 or 2 thousand men to man. Scouts was sent out in all directions to larn if any enemy was approaching. the Indins that was in the habet of visiting the place all flocked in, to know if they ware in Danger, for they took the alarm also.

Genll. Bailey wrote Emeadatly to Washington for advise, at the time, sugesting to Washington to treet the Indins with all Kindness posable, which was approved by Wash-

ington, and it was recomended to the people in the back settlements, and finding the Indins all appearing friendly, and our scouts not discovering any signs of the enemy, the people begun moving back to there homes.

my Farther had no home but Peacham, and he had nothing to suport his Famerly upon except what he had growing in Peacham. [It] was then concluded to move back, which we did in Octr.

part of a company had bin up before, and kept gard while reeping his grain, and my Farthers house was the out post during the war. the Indins made it thair home, all our scouts stoped thair. in fact it was a place of randevews, for scouts, Indins and Desarters.

the friendship showed to the Indins brought numbers of thair Cheafs in, to larn if it was true what they heard of our kindness. Gill the Cheff of the St Frances tribe came to our house and stayed nearly a week. we treted him with all the hospatality posable. he could speak but few words of English. I understood many words of the Indin dialect, and between us we could make each other under stand, so that he appeared to be Quite happy. the Cheaffs from the Cagnawagah tribe came here also, and every friendship was showed that was possable for us to do, and in the course of the war I became so much aquanted with them, that I under stood thair Langage so well, they would apply to me for my assistance to settle difficultys between each other, in which I was verry sucesful, and by my under standing so much of thair language when strangers of them met thay would converse about the war, and in some instances, have been able to convince them of errors thay had imbibed so that thair friendship appeared to be secuard, and I believe was the case.

In 1777 Burgoyne's army went up the lake and drove all before them, and we ware in Continual fear. the De-

sarters from Canada coming in continually, our scouts were passing, and frequently in. ?

On there return, when Burgoyne had got to Stillwater, one half the men from each town was called for. Altho we was an out post and had but 6 or 8 men in Town we sent 2, viz. James Bailey & Moses Chamberlin, for we feared if Burgoyne could not be stoped, we should all be ruined.

in the year 1778 the Indians become more numerous and friendly, would come in with thair furs and sell them. They have agreed with me to take thair furs for 2 or 3 weeks till I could go to Boston or els where and them and git the money for them, for we had no money here that they would take (and I always was punctual to meet any engagements which gave them more confidence) but thair was nothing in particular that took place here this year. we all felt in hope that the warre would end soon. Coll. Thomas Johnson had engaged the Proprietors to build Mills in Peacham, and came on this year and put up a saw mill fraim and nearly completed the year and expected to finish booth with the next year.

In 1779 Genl. Washington found it nessery that something must be don to keep the enemy from sending thair force which thay had in Canada up the lakes into the State of New York, and Genl. Hazen had lost a grait part of his Rigmnt at the battle of Monmouth or White Plains, it was nessery that the ridgment should be sent back into the cuntrey, to recruit [?] in men, and as his regiment was rased in Canada and he had lived some years thair and had a french wife & many of his officers were french, by sending him to the north, under the pretence of completing the road that had been begun by Bailey, with the Pretence, that an army was Preparing to go through on it to retake Canada, and his officers would many of them vissit thair friends, the French, and would ascertain thair feelings and secure thair friendship, which was the case.

In June 1779 Coll. Moses Hazen came on to Peacham with about 150 of his men and encamped near our house. the remainder of his regiment was kept at Haverhill, N. H., and they begun cutting the road, bulding bridges, &c. when thay had got 6 miles above Elkins house thay bult a Log house with port holes which was called the first block house, and the 2d was bult in Walden 12 miles above Elkins, that was bult for to be a more servicible one, a large log house 20 by 40 feet, with a stone chimley in the midle, and the beams run over all around the house about 6 feet and covered with hewed timbers, and the hewed timbers on the outer side of this House was carried up about 6 feet higher with port holes for small armes, and about 3 or 4 rods from the house thare was placed the tops and limbs of trees 8 or 10 feet high and sharpened to a point, except a narrow way to pass in, and thare was brush sharpened [?] in the same way to fill up the road if nessery, and the trees was all fell for some distance from the block house, &c.

6 or 8 miles above thair an other house was bult similar to the first.

in Greensbouro the roade was continued on to Hazens noch (so called) in the corner of Westfield & Montgomery.

Coll. Hazens troops was poorly clad, many of the soldiers had no shoes, and they complaned bitterly, and the flies was very bad. Hazen himself would strip of his shoues and stockens, and go bare leggd & bare footed to encorage his men that complained. I saw him on his return to my Farthers, with his leggs all as blodey as if he had washed them in blood, and his hands and face the same with the blood that had been taken by the fies from him,—and his soldiers would say that nothing would kill him.

in Octr. Hazen retretd to the south. a company of the Malitia came on from New hampshire and kept the fort that was bult 12 miles above Peacham till the last of winter, and then thay retired back and my farthers house became the outpost.

May 1780, a company came on to Peacham, commanded by Capt. Stone from N. H. and bult a picket around James Baileys house, 1 mile south of my Farthers, and kept a picket at my Farthers house, and Capt. Stone wanted me to list, as I was aquanted with the cuntrey, as a Pilate for his scouts, which I did, and was scouting through the summer & fall. Sometime in Novr. he retreated from here, and we were left to guard our selves. No soldiers was left here.

In March Coll. T. Johnson undertook to hall his Mill Stones, which he had redey at Newbury to Peacham. he came on with 2 teams. On the 7th of March, 1781, he got to our house and put up for the nite, and about 1 oclock the next morning we ware alarmed by the enemy around the house and some of them had got into the house, and told us we were all prisners.

We ware not to leve the house on no conditions as thair ware 500 Indins around the house on thair way to Newbury to distroy that place. Col. Johnson had brought a berril of rum on his team for my Farther and it was standing on the flore, and when thay discovered it thay pretended to be graitley allarmed saing that must be secured emeadatly, asking if we had no Celler. thay were told we had a small one under the floor. thay said it must be buried thair emeadately, for if the Indins should assertain thair was rum in the house thay would Butcher every one in the house to git the rum, should any one oppose them. sevrall of the enemy my Farther had been aquanted with, and thay professed grait friendship for the famerly, and collecting what emty Bottles that could be found and filling them with rum, thay assisted my Farther in diging a hole in the bottom of his seller and berrying his berril of rum, Charging the famerly not to go out doars if thay wished not to be killed, as the Indins had strict orders not to go into any house whair the enhabatants kept within thair house.

Coll. Johnson, Jacob Page, myself and oldest Brother were kept in the other room. Others of the enemy, hurring us to make redy as fast as posible, taking what provisions they wished, and putting on our snow shoes, we were ushered out of Dores with all speed. after we had traveled a bout 3 miles on the Hazen road north, thay set up an Inding yell, and was answered a head by a number of others. the party that took us was all Dressed in the Indin dress, Blanket coats, legins & pointed snow shoes. we soon came to the remainder of thair company, and thay were soon redy to march, & by the time it was lite so that we could see, we had got about 10 miles, and thay made a short halt, and I missed my Brother Moses, which I feared thay had killed. I was afraid to ask. I had been kept next to the formost man, but whin we stoped to take some food I got near to Coll. Johnson. I asked him if he knew what had become of my Brother. he said that he had gone back, which releved me much.

by this time we had ascertained thair was no army, nothing but a scout, but thair was no possable way of escape. the snow was 4 feet deep. So we must make the best of it.

Coll. Johnson was verry sevear upon the Capt., whos name was Amaziah Prichet from Conneticut; of a free open Conversation. Johnson would accuse him of a mean Cowardly Caractor, or he would not Crall into peoples houses and capter them while a sleep. he recd. those rebukes with great plesentness. on our journey Johnson would say to him, what advantage is it to take such boys as I was from thair Parants who was dependent on ther Children for assistance, when thay lived so far from mill and the Convences of Life. he would reply he said he new it was enhuman, but he must obay his orders. but he would say, it shall never be said of me, while I have it in my power, that I shall ever abuse a prisenor, or engage any thing to any one that is not in my power to perform.

we was six days before we arived at St. Johns. when we came in sight of the foart, Prichard made a halt. taking me a one side, now, sais he, you must deside wheather I return you a volunteer for the King or I must send you to prison. I wished him to explain himself. why, sd, he, I shall return you as a volunteer in my company. You must list and take an oath to be true to the King. Yes, that is my duty to have you due. that I cant due, Sir. if you are willing to return me a volunteer I am willing that you may call me what you pleas, if it will save me from prison, but I shall not sine my name to any paper, nither shal I take an oath to be true to the King.

well, says he, I have ben the cause of taking you from home in a mean Clandistine way. I will return you a volunteer, and I now expect to have orders in June to go into the Cuntrey a gain and should you wish I will take you as one of my men. I thanked him for his good will. we marched on. I went home with one of the men that had taken me, John Cross, who had a wife and Dafter living about a mile below the fort, whare I was kindly treted for several weeks.

Johnson was kept at the fort upon parool as I understood, and Page was sent to Montral and empisoned. 2 of the men that was in the party that took me I was aquanted with, John Gibson and Abner Barlow, boath hunters. Barlow was a solder in Maj. Whitcoms Core of rangers (so called) in the fall of 1780. thay ware boath out a Hunting Beavour, and ware boath taken by the Indins and carried to Montral and emprisoned. thay had the offer of listing out of jail into Prichards company, which thay did, thinking thay should have an opertunity to make thair escape sometime in the spring or summer. Prichard took them with him on the scout when I was taken, for Pilots as he said, but thay ware boath wached on the way while I was with them, and was not allowed to stand centrey.

While at St. Johns I had some opportunity with them. they said that they should leave as soon as the snow was off, and thought it possible we could all escape to geather, which we agreed to do. after the snow begun to start it went quick. we did not wish to be seen to geather offen, but we would meet by appointments after dark, as I lived a mile from the Gard house where they lived. they generally met me near where I lived. the last meeting we had to gather on the subject we agreed on the day. it was to be on a Sunday, as that was a holladay in Canada.

Some few days before the time appointed the watter had got into the sular of Cross's house where they had a few Bushels of Potatoes. Crosses wife wished me to go into the cellar, and try to save thair Potatoes, which I undertook to do, and went into the celler and picked up the potatoes where the water was nearly 2 feet deep, and I took a violent cold, and I had a fever and it was thought I should not live. When the day came that we had agreed on, Gipson and Barlow came to Crosses where I was sick, lying on the floor in one corner of the room. it was a little french house, with but one room in it. Crosses bed stood in the opposit corner.

a Corporal Magee came in first and was conversing with Cross, telling him that he was a going to Montreal to see a friend he had thair, and had got a pass for that purpose, and pulled it out of his pocket and showed it to Cross as they were sitting on the bed side opposit to me, and while they set thair Barlow came in, but he said but little. directly Gipson came staggering a long pretending to be drunk, and had a stick [?] on his back with 4 peases of poark of 4 lbs. each, saying he was a going down the river to Mathew Cheshers [?] who kept a grog shop, to sell his poark to get rum, as he ment to have a high day. he pulled out of his pocket a flask with about a pint of rum in it, and handed it all round to drink, and came to me to have me drink, and when stuped down to me winked his eye so that I mite remember the agreement. then I felt

bad. he stagered around the house, picked up some clothing he had thair and said he should lose all his cloathes and he would sell them. I had a blanket over me that belonged to him. he pulled it of from me, and said that was his Blanket, and said he should loose that also, for I should die, and no matter how soon, as I was a rebel. [He] took up his meat & said he would sell his Blanket for eggs, and his meat for rum, and he should have a good time, and of he stagered.

after he was gone M'Gee said that Gipson was a strange man, for when he could git Liquer he would always say swaring he would run away, that he would not stay whare he could not git rum. I think it would be well enough, said he, to have him Watched, as he is now in liquer and has got his blanket and meat, he may take it into his hed, to make the attempt. if you will let me take your gun (I will put of going to Montral til to morrow, as my pass is for 3 days, I shall have time enough if I stay till to morrow), I will go down the river and watch him.

Cross was pleased, handed McGee his gun, powder horn, bullet pouch, with his hooks and lines, and said it was a good thought, and Magee started after Gipson. thay went down the river about a mile whare 4 others joined them. thay went to a french man, telling him thay wanted to hire his cano to cross the river. to there [?!] men that was making a raft that was bulding on the other side of the river. he let them have it. thay crossed the river about a mile below the raft, and called on another frenchman and said thay belonged to the raft and wished to purchis sum Bred and thay would give him an order on a store in the rocky [?] so called. he sold them 6 large loaves. thay set out to go to thair raft, and took to the woods, and the 6th day after, all six was at my Farthers in Peacham, giving my Parants the news of my sickness, and if I got well I should be at home in the corse of the summer.

as Barlow had not come, but was waiting for me, to come with me, if I got well.

I was verry sick for 2 or 3 weaks, and having no Doctr. nor medason to take, was almost dried up. it was more than 2 weaks before any thing passed my Bowels. after I got so that I could crall on all fores to the dore I could not set up, as it would make me dissey & all dark. it was sevrals days after I could crall out dores, and I would git hold of the fence that came to the house. I would hall myself up by the rails a stick at a time till I got up strait, and it was with defacalty I could git myself down a gain, to crall into the house. all the nursing I had was Crosses guarl about 8 years old. She would pick straberry leaves and steep them and set them on the flour, by whare I Lye, for my drink. as for food, I eat but verry little.

in about 3 weaks I begun to git better and begun to gain strength. I was taken sick the fore part of may, and some time the last of June Capt. Prichard came from Quebec, with orders to take 12 men and go 20 miles east of Lake Champlain, and then oppen his orders. Barlow came to me and told the news that the Capt. has selected his men, and that he was one, and to go on a second scout and return he could not, and to go & leve me and not return to help me make my escape, he could not think of.

I asked him if Prichard enquired for me. he said that he had, and he enformed him you had been sick, but you had got almost well again. but did he say any thing about my going. he said no. well, you must put him in mind of his engagement to me, that when he had orders to go into the cuntrey, if I wished he would take me with him, and I think if I can git into the woods on my way home, you and I can so manage that we can leve them when we wish. but, sais he, I am afraid to mention it to him for fear that he will mistrust our plan. You must mention it, that is all the hope thair is left us, for should you go and leve him and return to

your company, they may take you for a deserter from your own company, or you may be taken as a spie from the British, and you will have no one to be a witness in your favour, so there is no other way left.

he went emeadatly, and found Prichard alone, and enformed him that I expected (he Prichard) would have bin as good as he promised me, to take me with him. go and tell him to come and see me. Barlow enformed me quickly, and I went to see him.

he enquired about my helth, and asked if I thought I was able to go with him. I told him I was. well sd. he, you shall go. I have selected my men but I will dismis one and take you. we are to start to morow, be redy. I returned with a merry hart, and found Barlow a waiting my return. the news I brought was plesent to him also. we then felt shoure of making our escape.

the next day we started in a Batto with the stores for the voige. we went up the lake to the narrows between the 2 herows on Lake Champlain, and thair cared our Batto and stores something like 10 or 12 Rods a cross, if I recolect right.

we encamped thair for the nite. in the Morning after eating breakfast, Capt Prichard took his orders out of his Pocket, being sealed. on the out side was this subscription. Capt. Prichard you will take 12 men and go 20 miles east of lake Champlain, and then oppen theas Orders. the Capt. says to his men, if you think as I Due, and will not name whare I opened them, it may save us many miles travel and we are beyond all our outr parts, and it cant be of any harm to any one, and I wish to know what thay contain. so said all his men, and he broak the seal and red his order before us all, which was, to go on to Connecticut River some whare between Haverhill and Northumberland, and take some entilegent man that would be the most likely to know about the army that is rasing and is expected to come into Canada,

and bring him here, which was the substance of his orders then.

we all made up our packs, to be ready when we crossed the lake to march. it was concluded by some of his most trusty men & himself to go to Lancaster, and take a Coll. Whipple that lived in Lancaster, N. H. we put our packs into the Boat and the last man that shovled of the boat gave holo, and was answered from the other side of the Island. he Jumped out of the boat and run up the bank, and thair was a Battow full of British solders.

the Capt. said that he should be ruined [?] for breaking his orders. we all relanded. a Left. and 12 British solders. the Capt. & Left. conversed [?] to geather for some time and Prichard called some of his most trusty men and then Barlow was caled by the Capt. and conversed with, and then he came and told me we wair rewned, for, sais he, Benjamin Patterson from Pearmont, N. H., had arived, bringing the news, that Gibson had arived thare bringing the news that Barlow and Elkins ware to run a way the first opportunity, and that we ware sent for to be taken back.

Pritchard and his men ware by them selves in close conversation. soon Prichard came to us saing he was in a strait, for he knew not what to do for his orders being broak, and his men refusing to go on unless they had a Pailate that was better aquainted then any of them ware with the cuntrey. now, says Pritchard, if one of you will go with me and will return with me I will engage to you boath, that I will be your friends at all times, and what ever you shall ask of me it shall be granted, if it be in my power, and I wil leve you to consult for a few moments.

we saw no other way but to comply with his request and that Barlow should go, and that Pritchard should give his word to the officers that I should not be confined, but have my liberty as I had done, and the officer praided his men [and] demanded of Capt. Pritchard Abner Barlow & Jona.

Elkins, agreeable to his orders, and then took me to his battow and returned to St. Johns, and Pritchard went on with his scout, and when they got near Whipples he sent part of his men to Whipples house, to take him, and he was at home and they made a prisner of him, and requested him to march with them emeadatly.

Barlow had requested to stand centrey at the dore, as he was aquanted with Whipple did not like to go in. Whipple requested them in the house to let him shift his cloathes in a bed room that was near, for a few moments, which they granted him. he stept in. the winder was open. he looked out and Barlow saw him & becked him to Jump out and Barlow turned his back and walked the other way, and Whipple made his escape out of the windo, and those in the house ware impatient, opened the dore and beehold he was gone. they ware alarmed. could see nothing of him. Barlow had not seen him, and he was gone.

they fled for their lives to convey the tidings to thair captain. they ware all in truble. the people in the nabourhood ware soon apprised that the enemy was among them. the Capt. was loath to go back to his marster and tell the tale of his disaster, and he and his party stayed around in the woods for several days in hope they should catch him, till thair provisions begun to fail, and thay found by what they could discover that they would be in danger themselves if they did not retreat soon, for they had been discovered in some of thair hiding places, and thay returned to tell thair Marster what grait exploit thay had don.

I was sent back to St. Johnswhare I had my liberty as yousual. I lived with Crosses wife and dafter, but I found I was watched closely, by seeing some person always in sight when I walked out, but I kept close about the house and said but little to any one.

but the time had come when Prichard was expected back and he did not come, and Conjector was wide awake,

that Barlow had betrayed the party, and a man came and told me that was the reports. the next day a soldier belonging to [a] British company by the name of Codner [?] with great pretended friendship informed me that he had overheard 2 officers conversing together that day, respecting Pritchett having been betrayed by Barlow and that I was to be sent to Prison on the morrow, and he wished to let me know it so that I could make my escape that night.

I was afraid of him and tried to put him off, telling him I did not wish to get away, as my Fathers formerly lived on the back of settlements, and should I run away it might be the means of having them distressed, (but I wanted to go, if I dared to trust him). he said if he knew the woods as well as I did he should attempt it, for he was taken the fall or 2 before at fort Stannacks [Stanwix]? and he had listed out of Prison in hope he might make his escape some time, and if I would go and take him with me, he should be very glad, to be my company, and that he had always kept some provisions, before hand, hoping he should have a chance with some one.

after hearing his story and he [appearing] so sincere I felt as if I would make the attempt. I ask him if he would solemnly say before his God he was sincere. he said he would, and he would be my friend in all cases what ever the danger. then I told him to meet me at a certain place on the bank of the river at dark with what provisions he had. I knew where a Frenchman kept his canoe near the place of meeting. I could procure a gun and ammunition, fish hook & lines and some provisions. we parted a little before sun setting. he went home. I went to see if the canoe was in its place, and got a piece of Board and made a paddle, and got my pack ready and flung it out of the chamber window, and my gun, so that I was all ready waiting to have it dark enough to have him come, for he was to come in sight of Cross house where I lived.

It had got to be about the time I expected he would come. I went to the door and round to the corner of the house. Who should I see but an officer and a file of men who seized me by the arm and asked if this was Elkins. I answered in the affirmative. They seized my hands and tied them both fast behind my back and ordered me to march. We had not gone far before we came where Codner was bound with his pack on, with 2 or three soldiers with him. We were marched to the guard house where we were kept that night. I then saw that I had been deceived by Codner and accused him of it, but he would say but little.

The next morning I was ordered before Major James Rogers for examination. I told him the facts, how I had been flattered and deluded [?] by Codner to do what I had done. The Major said, I believe you have told an honest story, but you have been reported to the [Cornal?] and I can't help you.

I was then sent to the main guard where I was kept 5 or 6 days, and then had irons put on to my wrists that was so small they had to crowd them on, and a rivet that was heded through the bolt, and then was ordered to march. I traveled to Chamblee [?] about 12 miles. Before I got there my hands were so swollen that I could not shut my fingers, and my hands were both as black as they could be, and the pain was intolerable in each of my shoulders. I complained to the guard it was cruel treatment to a boy that had not done any act that was criminal in any shape, but if it could be of pleasure to torment me so I hoped they would have their reward, but if they would knock me in the head, I should think they would be more kind to me.

The guard was to return back from that place, as they had handed me over to the guard there. They must have there irons to take back, so they got a blacksmith with a cold chisel to cut the head of the rivet off, and every stroke he struck with his hammer hurt me as bad as to have cut my wrist off, as the pain appeared to me as much as I could bare,

and when the rivet was got out it was as much as the blacksmith could do with his pinsers to hall out the bolt, and likewise the shackle, as the rist was so swollen that the flesh was eaven with the top of the Irons.

I was then put on board a Battow with six Spanish salors that had ben in the fleet on Lake Champlain, that had been gilty of some misdemenors, and thay were sending them to Quebec, to be put a board of thair large ships. we reached Sorell the next morning bfore lite. thair we changed gards, and as we had no sleep we ware allowed to lie down an hour.

When the gard was redey I had an other pair of Irons put on, with a small lock as my hands was still swollen. thay gave me a pair of larger ones, so that I could turn my hands better.

We had a sail to the battow and 4 owers on a side. I was placed under the forward seat, my head [rased?] in the bough of the boat, and thair was 26 in all—one woman. We sailed from Chamblee about 9 oclock in morning with verry little wind. we had got some ware near half way across Lake St. Peater. we ware atacked with a voialent wind and rain.

the wind was from the north west and our course about north east, so that it was Quatering of us. the Lake was all in fome soon. the waves soon run high, and the boat soon begun to ship the seas as she struck them, and I being in the bow every sea come over me. the woman was screaming with all her mit. I was expecting when the seas was coming over me every moment that the boat had gone under and that was the last I should see lite, and my hands being in Irons I had no means to help myself, and thay would not and did not take of my Irons. I then thought I was willing to be drounded if so many hundred reches should find the same fait with me, but then I did not know that I was as hard as thay was, and that my doom would be as bad as thairs but the Lord had marsey on me when I had no marsey on myself.

the Spanish salors saw the danger, sprung to the owers and sail and put the boat before the wind and the boat seamed to letten up, and the wind slashing. thay returned to thair course again and the boat was landed on the beach at the mouth of 3 rivers a little before sunset, and thay all got out of the Boat. I had liberty if I wished. I tried but I had lien in the warter so long my limbs ware youseless. it was some time before I could git out of the boat even with the assistace of a solder that tended [?] to help me, for my hands being confind I could help my self but little.

the boat stoped a bout half an hour. we ware all a board and sailing down the river with a strong wind currant & tide. the 2d day from thair we landed in Wolfs Cove on the rocks.

the solders washed up, and prepared to enter Qebeck whare I was put in Prison, and thair I suffered with hunger. I was thare between 2 and 3 months. the prinsable part of the time we had nothing but poor fresh beef from the Canadians [?] and 2 year olds creators. 3 fourths of a pound was a lowed each man, a day, the same of Bred that was made from. . . . ?

this we got twice a weak, for 3 days & for 4. we had a large pot whare we could boil our meat. we had to cook it as soon as we got it, for in the prisson whare thair was from 12 to 16 in a room 14 feet square in the months of August & Sept. and no salt, our meat would become putrid. we boiled our meat as soon as we got it and then divided as near as possable between each man, and often the bones was out. the meat was but small. we would eat the broath out of the pot together as we had no dishes. we maid each one of us a spoon out of the wood we had for fire. we had no whare to put our meat or bred but cared it under our arm till we eat all up, for if we layed it down we ware so hungry someone of us would steal and eat it, and when we got out allowance for 4 days, thair was scarce one of us that would keep any

even 2 days, so that we could git nothing to eat for 2 days, and when we got our allowance for 3 days it was generly all gone within 24 howers, so it was we eat nothing 4 days in the weak. for a hungry man to carry victuals under his arm and not eat it is hard work.

we had no liberty except the room we lived in, but once a day 2 of us had the priviledge to empty the tubs we had our filth in, which privilege we all wished for. some time in Sept. 2 prisensors was put into our room that was taken by the Indins. Capt. Lowvel who commanded a company at Peacham, 1781, sent out a scout of 4 men up the Hazen Road, and near the 3d house that Hazen had bult they had halted to cook some victuls. the Indins came upon them & killed 2 and took the other two Prisenors. thair names ware Naham Powers & John Martin. the 10th day after thay left my farthers house thay ware boath of them in Pryson with me in Qubec, and I was glad to here from home.

When the Qebec fleet was ordred to be redy to sail on such a day, the commanders of vessels could not find all thair men, and thay could not hire. thay applyed to the govenor for men to man thair ships. thair was about 150 prisensors thair. we ware all ordred aboard the old Duncurk [?], a gard ship that lye thair. on the 9th day of October I went on board. the 2d day after we ware put on board we ware all called on Deck. a boat came along side the ship with an officer, haled the Prisenors saying we ware to be distributed among the marchant ships, 1 and 2 aboard the ship, as thay wanted hands, and if we would due duty aboard the ships we should be payd and have good allowance, but if we wold not work we should go as prisensors and fare as such.

I was put aboard a ship of 500 tuns burden. she was allowed 20 men to man her, but she had but 6 men before the mast and 5 or 6 boys. the Capt. was a hired man for the owners. he sold the provisions that belonged to the ship in Quebec because he could git a grait price for it, and when he

had got to see he put his crew on short allowance. his men knew him and purchased [?] ship stores for them selves, but I must live on my own allowance. I had no bootts except what I had on, and my shurt was brock up behind, and when I went aloft to help hand a sail the wind would blow my coat over my head. the hale and rain had free course on my back.

we had a borstros passage. we went into the Cove of Cork about the 20th Decn [?] I was taken out of the marchant ship when we got thair and was put on board on a Man of war, that carried me to Portsmoth, England, with 16 other Prisenors that sailed in the fleet from Quebec, expecting to have put us into fortен Prison, but that prison was full and thay put [us] a board the Midway, a 64 that carred us to Plymouth, and we was taken out of her [and] sent to Mill prison.

we went from the ship to a Publick house whare each one of us [was] examemed sepatly, and when I was examined, I was asked how old I was, whare I was born and whare taken, in what Town & what State. I told them. thay sd. thare was no such state in America. after some more enquiries I told them it had been called Hampsher Grants. Then thay new, and thay maid a Mittemas and red to me in theas words: You Jona. Elkins are comitted to Mill Prison for high treason till his Magesty shall see fit for a trial, and we ware taken to prison the 9th Day of Feb. 1782, whare we remained till the 24th of June, and then was put a Board cartels & ordered to Amaraca, 1733 prisenor in exchange for Cornwallaces Graneders and lite Infantry.

While in Prison our allowance was 2-3d of a solders allowance, and we maney of us was porly clothed, and Doctr Franklin our Minister in France then, had heard of our {situation?} and sent each prisenor a shilling sterling a weak, which was of grait youse to us.

thair was among us 40 [?] Capt. of vessals that had been taken, and many others men of larning, and those that had

no larning and lived on thare allowance, and would pay 4 coppers a weak for a marster could have a school. within 2 or 3 weaks after we got our shilling thair was a large number of schools set agoing, I among the rest. I purchased [?] paper pens & ink and slate. thair was a number of men that could not read nor write that got so much larning thair, that thay were capable of Doing bisness themselves. many of us larnt the Marriners art, and became capable of sailing a ship.

Col. Johnson was Paroled in Canaday, [and] wished verry much to go home. he requested the comander and cheaff Ledgard to let him go home and see his famerly and he would return to him if he wished. Ledgard told him he would let him go home on condition he would suply his scouts with provisions when thay should call on him, and he should give all the enformation he could, respecting the army that was expected to come into Canada. Johnson hesetated for some time but at last agreed to suply one scout with Provisions, and if he concluded not to suply longer he agreed to go back to them. thay let him go home on those conditions, and when he got home he stayed at home but one or 2 nites. telling his famerly he must go to old Haverhill, Mass. as he had some bisness thair he must attend to, he took his horse to go thair, and went emeadatly to Genll. Washington (then in the neighborhood of the city of N. York [addition] in another hand!) and told him what he had don.

Washington approved of his plan, said he had wanted such a man, and wished him to go on and suply thair scouts, and at the same time to larn from them all thair Plans, and, said he, you can due more good to the cause in that way then in any other. you must keep it a secret, and let no man know the plan, for should the Toreys find out your Pollecey thay will be likely to burn your Buldings, and if Possable to make a Prisoner of you again. Johnson returned home. the scouts came, and Johnson suplyed them with Provisions,

and gave them what Information he thought best, telling them, as fair as he could larn, an army was preparing.

the next scouts that came in ware prepared by the enfor-
mation thay had got from the Toreys in the vessinity that
Genll. Bailey mite be taken, and thay entended to make the
attempt. Coll. Johnson lived the next dore nabour to Genll.
Bailey and had let him know in part the Plan that Washing-
ton had Intrusted with him, so that Bailey was prepared to
follow any direction that Johnson should give. Johnson
had ben notified of Prichard being in the vissinity and had
seen him, and Prichard told Johnson that thay entended to
take Genll. Bailey that evning about candle liting. Johnson
returned home in grait anciety for Bailey, for he, Johnson,
new that Prichard was on the Mountain in fair vew of his
house, with his glass a watching every mōvement.

Johnson rote a billet to Bailey, but how to git it to him
he knew not. he watched all the movements from his
chamber windo, about Genl. Baileys farm & Buildings.
About 5 oclock in the after noon he saw Genl. Bailey walk
out with his staff toards the Medow (on the Oxbow), whair
his men ware at work, [howing corn, crossed out.] Johnson
emeadatly run down stares and out of his south dore and
down the hill on to the Medow in sight of Bailey, and by
caughing Bailey looked round and saw Johnson, who beckned
him to come to him. Bailey turned and came toards John-
son. he, Johnson, terred [?] till Bailey got within a few rods
of him, held up his hand with his paper in it in vew of Bailey
and dropped it, and Johnson stepped into the Bushes and back
to his house, and Bailey came and picked up the paper. it
contained but few words, viz., you must cross the river to
haverhill emeadatly and not return till to morrow.

Bailey did not return to his house, but crossed to Haver-
hill and rote back a billet to his son, who had the comand of
the gard that was kept at his house, to duble the gard &
centries emeadatly as he should not be back that nite, but

his son thinking his Farther some what spleend by his being absent, did not take the alarm, but all concluded to take thair suppers.

between day lite and dark, and abought the time thay had finished thair suppers, the enemy was upon them. some sprang for thair guns, but thair thay found the enemy had got them.

they took one of the Genl's sons, James, & fired at some of the gard and broak Ezra Gates arm, and thay made thair retreat to the woods and to Canada, to carrey the news to thair marster how thay had failed in gitting Genl. Bailey.

the Toreys that lived in the naborhood and naboring Towns that had planed the plot for Prichard, to take Bailey, after finding that Bailey was absent from home that nite, and not being in the habit of staing from home, said that Johnson was a trator, and the news was soon carred to Canada and begun to be beleved, and Johnson soon larnt the thretnings from Canada that his buldings would all be consumed the next spring, if not before, and Johnson was in grait truble, but the news of Corn Wallas being captured, and the Toreys beginning to fear what thair sittuuation would be, became more still, and peace being concluded before the next summer, was the only reason that Coll. Johnsons property was saved.

Hemenway, v. 1, p. 362-3. Peacham. By Rev. A. Boutelle. After 1861.

The first millstones for a gristmill in Peacham were drawn from Newbury on an ox sled, by Col. Johnson, of N. He tarried over night with Dea. Elkins. Somehow, the Tories found out he was there. Knowing Johnson was staying with a defenceless farmer, about midnight they surround-

ed the house, and entering, took prisoners whom they would, at the point of the bayonet. . . . Johnson, with Jacob Page, Col. J. Elkins and a younger brother, were marched off before daylight, prisoners of war. Johnson told the Tories the younger Elkins would not live to get thro the woods, as he was feeble, "having been drowned when a little boy," and they let the boy return, to his great joy and that of his parents. Col. J. found many old acquaintances among the Tories, now bitter enemies. There were eleven of them under the command of a Capt. Prichard. This affair happened March 6, 1781.

Dea. Jonathan Elkins, born at Hampton, N. H., 1734; married Elizabeth. . . . of Chester, N. H., 1756, and in 1760 removed to Haverhill, N. H., being among the first settlers of that town. . . . From thence in 1776 he removed with his family to Peacham. His was the first family to settle in town. . . . He died Dec. 4, 1808, aged 74 years.

Col. Jonathan Elkins, son of Dea. E., born in Haverhill, N. H., Oct. 23, 1761, came with the family to Peacham, and was taken captive by Tories in his father's house, March 6, 1781. He was marched away on foot, in deep snow, direct to Canada, first to Quebec, then carried to Ireland, then to England, from whence by exchange of prisoners, he returned to his friends the following year. He removed from P. about 1836, to Albion, N. Y., where he died.

The story of Johnson warning Bailey is told in the history of Newbury, in v. 2, p. 927. The details are different, as the letter being carried by Dudley Carleton. Of course this was not a personal experience of Jonathan Elkins.