EDWARD PARRY OF PORTSMOUTH

BY

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I) Edward Parry of Portsmouth

1) Sources

2) Anglesey, Wales

3) Life in England 1785-1792

4) Portsmouth, New Hampshire

5) Joanna Chauncy

6) The Pleasant Street House

7) Love and Tragedy

8) The Welsh Merchant

9) The Collins Family of Danvers

10) Pleasant Street Again

11) End of an Idyll

12) Last Years in Philadelphia

13) Bibliography

I) Edward Parry of Portsmouth

1) Sources

Information about Edward Parry of Portsmouth can be derived from several sources. To begin with he wrote a short biographical sketch (never finished) which covers the period from his birth in 1766 until his meeting with his first wife in 1793 (a classic case of love at first sight). Another interesting source of information is an article that appeared in the "Portsmouth Weekly Chronicle" for April 2, 1853. This in turn inspired, or at least was used to embellish, another that appeared in the "Portsmouth Herald" for January 10, 1961. Since Edward Parry left Portsmouth in 1818, and died in Philadelphia in 1834, it is an impressive testimony to his personality and achievements that he was still remembered in Portsmouth 143 years after his departure and 127 years after his death.

There also exists a series of reminiscences and anecdotes, originating with his daughter, Joanna Chauncy Parry Cooper. These were written down by her granddaughter many years after Joanna's death, and contain what appear to be exaggerations and errors of fact. These can be used with confidence only when checked against other sources, such as the correspondence of Edward Parry's son: Judge Edward Owen Parry, or against Edward Parry's own voluminous correspondence, much of which has yet to be deciphered since it is written in Welsh.

Other information sources consist of newspapers, legal documents, a plan of the Parry estate in Portsmouth, portraits and silhouettes, plus material deriving from Edward Parry's second wife, Ruth Collins, and her father: Judge Benajah Collins of Danvers. General background material can be found in publications dealing with Portsmouth in the years between 1790 and 1820, and in the history of the Wendell and Haven families, Edward Parry's next door neighbors in Portsmouth.

2) Anglesey, Wales

Edward Parry was born on December 29, 1766, on the island of Anglesey off the north coast of Wales. He was the fourth son of Owen Parry and his wife Ann, and had one younger sister (one of his brothers had been killed, when a baby, by a windmill). His father had a 200 acre farm in the interior of the island, at a place that appears to be spelled "Mynydd Adda" but which escapes identification on a modern map. ("Mynnyd" means "mountain," and there is a low "Pary's mountain" in the northern part of Anglesey). For this land he paid 18.4.6 pounds Sterling to Lord Bulkeley of Baron Hill, and on it he raised English corn (not Indian maize) and cattle. By the time of his death in 1784, Owen Parry had achieved the comfortable status of a well-to-do farmer.

Anglesey, an island of about twenty miles in diameter, was found by the Romans 2,000 years ago to be heavily wooded, and the headquarters of the Druid religion of the Celtic Britons. Later, about the 5th century (after the Romans left) Angles from the Anglo Saxon areas across the North Sea overran the island, which thus acquired its present name. At Baron Hill there also exist remains of a 6th century castle, said to be associated with the legendary King Arthur.

In the 13th century Edward Ist of England conquered Anglesey, as he did all the rest of Wales, and built Beaumaris Castle near Baron Hill, on the Strait that separates the island from the mainland of Wales. This castle, taken by the Parliamentary army in 1646, later fell into disuse. The Bulkeley family, dominant in the area, lived on their Jacobean estate at Baron Hill nearby.

By the end of the 18th century the island and its slightly rolling landscapes were almost bare of forest. Farm animals grazed on the extensive grasslands or worked in the fields. On the coast there was fishing.

The population was small, living either in Beaumaris, one of the other four market towns, or one of the sleepy hamlets inter-connected by winding lanes. The country cottages were surrounded by roses (brought to Wales by the Romans) and honeysuckle. One relic of this old world was brought to America by Edward Parry: an iron Tudor rose, pierced in the center for a nail or bolt. It may have come from some 16th century gate.

The reasons given by Edward Parry for writing an account of his early life provide some insight into his character. His rambling preamble begins as follows (the words in brackets are inserted to provide continuity):

"Having observed in the history of men's lives that they never omit to mention but that they are descended from some great family, possessing titles and sometimes large fortunes---, and having met with people since my arrival in this country who mentioned with pleasure that their parents came from the 'old country,' but could not tell what part owing to the fact that their forefathers never left any record of the same" (he has decided to provide his family with an account of his early history because) "sometimes I have not the least doubt that many large fortunes have been lost to many families for wanting such knowledge;" (although) "I do not think that my descendents will be troubled much on this score." After having thus put to rest any vain hopes that may have been raised earlier in his preamble, he continues: "I can say with truth that I am descended from an honest and upright family who were neither rich nor poor, but had their living by their own industry." This statement can still be made by his descendents, after all the viscissitudes of two hundred years.

When Edward Parry was in his 17th year his father died, and since his older brothers, William and Henry, had previously gone to England to seek their fortunes, he found himself left alone to manage the farm for his mother and sister. Apprehensive at first, he later took pride in the discovery, made after a year's work, that he could maintain it "nearly

as well as in my father's time." However, his mother soon decided to marry again, and Edward "determined not to stay at home with a master." He wrote to his brother Henry in London "to inform him of my intention of coming to London to try my luck," and on the 8th of October, 1785, he left Anglesey. His mother traveled with him as far as Beaumaris Ferry, begged him to stay, and "was in as much trouble as I was in parting;" but his "curriage strengthened" and he jumped onto the boat. He then set off for Chester "in company with a distant relation who had a parsel of horses to sell at Chester Fair."

Edward Parry was at some disadvantage in leaving Wales. His father "had never thought it proper" to give him an English education. He could not speak one word of English.

With his relative, William Pritchard, he "tarried for a week in Chester and began to pick up a few English words." William could speak some English, and tried before leaving Chester to persuade Edward to return with him to Anglesey, but being unsuccessful, accompanied him to the coach office, where he saw him off to London, "not without losing many a tear."

3) Life in England 1785 - 1792

Edward was now "left amung strangers" who could understand him "only by signs." Leaving Chester at 8:00 P.M., he arrived at Charing Cross, London, on the afternoon of the second day. The master of the Inn sent him to his brother Henry's house "with a trusty guide." Here he "was received with every mark of brotherly love and affection" by Henry and his wife.

In 1785, George IIIrd was King of England, and William Pitt the Younger was at the beginning of his two decades as Prime Minister. The world dominance of England had been in partial eclipse since George IIIrd, at the start of his reign 25 years before, had connived in the removal of

William Pitt the Elder from power; but England's position of leadership was soon to be regained as a result of the Napoleonic Wars. The French Revolution was only four years away, and across the Atlantic the former American Colonies were in their second year of independent existence.

In London, Dr. Samuel Johnson had recently died, but Edmund Burke, Charles James Fox and Sir Joshua Reynolds were at the height of their careers.

Within a few weeks of his arrival in London, Edward Parry was able to secure a place with Messrs. Barton and Woolf, Haberdashers and Milliners, of Tavistock Street (just off Covent Garden), at wages of 8 guineas a year. This area was a center of London political and theatrical life, and should have held much to interest a young rustic from Wales, but at this time Edward Parry's English was very poor and he was homesick. In fact, it was only after an inward struggle and much discussion with his brother that he resolved to stay until spring, by which time he "had begun to like London very well."

The following May he went to Cheapside (near St. Paul's Cathedral) with Mr. Brown, a Bookseller, but being unhappy there, soon went on to Hopley, White and Sharp, Wholesale Glovers, in Leadenhall Street. Here he stayed for 2-1/2 years, and it was here in London that he acquired a foundation knowledge of Retail Selling, and the beginning of an acceptable command of the English language.

In 1788 his mother wrote him a letter, telling him that his new stepfather had died, and begging him to return to Anglesey. After discussing this matter with his brother Henry, he did set off, but by way of Bridgeport in Dorsetshire, on the south coast, where his brother William lived. After a few weeks with William and his wife, he left Bridgeport for Anglesey, accompanied by William. They arrived in Bristol in November, 1788, during the celebration of the 100th

anniversary of the Landing of William of Orange in England.

William spent only a few days in Anglesey, but Edward spent about a year. At the end of this time he evidently felt free to leave again. His sister had married, and his mother probably seemed adequately provided for.

William's wife had in the meantime died, and he had written offering Edward the position of assistant in his shop. Edward bought a horse, and rode it down the entire length of Wales and thence on to Bridgeport. He stayed there this time for three years, until (in 1792) the world beyond beckoned again.

A cousin, Morris Williams, had left Poole in Dorsetshire for Portsmouth, New Hampshire. He wrote back "setting forth the many advantages that country afforded to an industrious young man," and advising Edward to come on to America. No sooner advised than done. On August 17, 1792, Edward left Bridgeport for Dartmouth, about forty miles west on the south coast, near Torquay. His brother entrusted him "with sundry merchandise worth 230 pounds Sterling---230 pounds more than I was worth." His first plan was to sail with Captain John Moore of the "Mary," but he delayed his departure so that his brother William could come down to see him off, and took passage on the Brig "Mentor" - Captain John Lyon - for Portsmouth.

For three weeks the "Mentor" lay in port, waiting for a favorable wind, but on September 5, 1792 "the wind proved fair," and at 6:00 A.M. they "passed the castle," and Edward Parry sent off a note to his brother via the harbor pilot, saying that they were "under sail with a fair wind - and in tolerable good spirits." At 8:00 they were out in the English Channel, and he went to breakfast, starting to feel queasy, and a little "gloomy at leaving old England." The wind then changed, the sea became

rough, and Edward became sick. He "prayed hartley" that something might happen to force them to return to shore. He did not care "which way, as long as I could reach terra firma once more." He vowed that he "would never venture again on sallt watter." A day or two later he got his sea legs, and the voyage became "tollorable pleasant." Then early on the 30th of October, 1792, they entered the Piscataqua River and docked at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, 56 days out of Dartmouth, England.

4) Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Portsmouth in 1792 was at the height of its prosperity as a shipping and merchantile center. Founded in 1630 by Anglican farmers and fishermen, it was incorporated as a town in 1653. Later it became the Provincial Capital of the separate Colony of New Hampshire, and the seat of its Royal Governors. With its sister town of Kittery, Maine, across the Piscataqua River, it early became a great shipbuilding center, and the home port of one of the greatest of Colonial Merchant Fleets. The sails of this fleet carried the name of Portsmouth New Hampshire to the West Indies, to England, to the Mediterranean, and in fact to all the far corners of the earth. During the Revolution, Portsmouth and Kittery built Men of War and Privateers for the American Navy, a function that they were to discharge again during the War of 1812. Portsmouth Merchants were among the richest of Colonial traders, and their houses, many in the Georgian Architectural Tradition, ranked with the finest in America.

New Hampshire had been one of the original 13 colonies, and in 1788 was the 9th and decisive state to ratify the Federal Constitution. After this, Portsmouth shared in the two decades of New England prosperity that preceded the Embargo Act of 1807, and in the dislocation of commerce that, starting in 1815, followed the War of 1812.

According to Lorenzo Sabine in his "Loyalists of the American Revolution" (Volume 2, Pages 149 and 150), there had been an earlier Edward Parry in Portsmouth. He was a Tea Merchant, and his attempted importation of British Tea in 1774 had nearly precipitated a Portsmouth version of the Boston Tea Party. He had left town shortly afterwards, but there is no evidence that his name and reputation had any effect upon the career of his namesake, which was to begin in Portsmouth in 1792.

* * *

Whatever Portsmouth had in store for Edward Parry in 1792, and much lay ahead in the 25 years that he was to spend there, his first experience caused him disillusionment. Like many another immigrant, he had been told that there were no poor people in America; that "every third man had a title---Captain, Colonel or Esquire." Thus he was shocked when, debarking at 11:00 A.M. on the day of his arrival, he was accosted at the top of the stairs leading up from Jacob Shaefe's warf by a beggar. This was the first man he met in America.

Following this, Captain Lyon took him to meet Jacob Sheafe, his consignee. Then Edward set off in search of his cousin, Morris Williams, who boarded at the house of a Mrs. Parker, and was "quite pleased" to see his 26 year old cousin in America.

Edward found the town of Portsmouth, at first sight, "very different from-----those in England. The streets not paved and the houses mostly built of wood." As to the people: "The inhabitants appear free and generous, but are sharp and keen in their dealings, and full of speculation." Edward rented a store on Market Street (Old Paved Street) for $40.00 a year. Later he was to buy it. With this and the 230 pounds sterling worth of merchandise provided by his brother he went into business on

December 5, 1792, five weeks after his arrival in America.

Here his six years experience in trade, and his three years of hard work in the management of a large farm, stood him in good stead. Within a week he was off to Boston "to purchase a few goods to make my assortment better for the winter trade." He found his business good "considering the amount of my stock," but was homesick again, and thought of returning to England with Captain Lyon. On reflection, however, he felt that he had to stay at least until spring, "by which time I could give better account of the country to my friends in England." A week or two later he felt better, for "as business increased I found I began to like the country much better, and made up my mind to stay at least two years." Then an event occurred which caused Edward Parry to give up all idea of leaving America. It happened on a day in February, 1793.

5) Joanna Chauncy

He had been invited by a Mr. Edward Quinsey (Quincy?) to spend an evening at his house. Upon arrival there he found that Mrs. Quinsey had gone on to a gathering at the house of a Captain Edward Sargent, and suggested that her husband follow her with his guest as soon as he arrived. This her husband did, and they were received "with much politeness and attention by Captain Sargent and his lady." Mrs. Sargent then introduced them to her other guests, among whom were Miss Joanna Chauncy and one of her sisters. Edward Parry was overwhelmed. He thought Joanna "the handsomest young lady I ever beheld, very pleasing in appearance." All too soon "the nine o'clock bell rang, and the ladies began to muster to go home." This was too brief! Edward "with much diffidence offered to waite upon her home," as he "was determined to find out where she lived." Joanna replied that she had some distance to go, and that they were going to ride. Edward, however, "was not to be disappointed and jumped into the sleigh." From their home he returned to the Sargent's, and thanked them

most enthusiastically for having introduced him to "so lovely a lady." Mrs. Sargent asked him politely to come again.

On his return to his lodgings he told his landlady, in response to her question, that he was late because he "had been in good company--- and had the pleasure of waiting on the handsomest young lady I ever saw--- and if I should stay long enough in Portsmouth I shall try to have her for my wife!"

This feeling must have been reciprocated, at least in part, because "a few days after, as I was standing at my shop door, this lovely girl came by." After some persuasion, she stepped into the shop, looked around and made a small purchase. She then left "to see Mrs. Yeaton." (Joanna's younger sister, Lucy, had married a Captain Yeaton of Portsmouth).

Shortly after this, he met her at the "Crefeld(?) Ball, so named to celebrate a victory gained by Ferdinand(?) in Holland." Here he decided that he must declare himself to her, even though "I could not promise myself any success---my business at that time being but small." His account ends at this point.

The following description of the Chauncy family is derived from the 1859 Edition of Charles W. Brewster's "Rambles about Portsmouth:"

Captain Charles Chauncy, a 1748 graduate of Harvard, came from a noted family of Clergymen. His earliest American Ancestor, also named Charles Chauncy, was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge University, England, and became 2nd President of Harvard in 1654. His father was the distinguished Rev. Charles Chauncy, D.D., of Boston. Captain Chauncy himself had come to Portsmouth only after poor health prevented the completion of his own studies for the Ministry. At first he worked for a relative in Kittery Maine, across the river from Portsmouth, and he married there, but his first wife died childless. Achieving success in

trade, he married again in 1760. His 2nd wife, Joanna Gerrish of Kittery, bore him twelve children, of which five died at birth. Of the other seven, three were boys and two of these had also died by the end of 1792, one in a shipwreck. The remaining children were Sarah, Samuel, Elizabeth, Joanna and Lucy. They were born in 1765, 1767, 1769, 1772 and 1773, respectively. All were attractive and shortly after 1792 all were married.

Captain Charles Chauncy was a man of high moral quality. Small, erect, gentlemanly and quick, he wore a cocked hat and diamond knee buckles, but apart from this despised all forms of ostentation. He wrote and spoke with great vigor and considerable eloquence, and was therefore greatly in demand as a speaker. Because of his title of Captain and the fact that he had an old sword and a military coat it was assumed, probably correctly, that he had fought in the Revolutionary War. He always insisted that his table should be amply set, so that there would be plenty left over for the poor. His generosity and belief in the integrity of others left him with a hardly adequate provision for his old age, and he and his wife died in modest circumstances in 1809.

But in 1792 Captain Chauncy was a considerable person in Portsmouth, living in an imposing mansion on South Street that had formerly been the home of a Colonel Pierce Long. In later years, one of his granddaughters remembered how proud she had been as a child to walk with him down the street, because of the affection, reverence and respect with which he was universally greeted.

It was into this family that the immigrant, Edward Parry, now aspired to marry. His determination to succeed in love must have been as evident to the Chauncys as his determination to succeed in business. He traveled to Boston to buy goods with which to improve his stock, made credit arrangements, and sent to England for renewed supplies. Captain Chauncy,

a merchant himself, may have been impressed by this. He was probably also influenced by his respect for Joanna's wishes, and by his willingness to believe the best of all men. At all events, he agreed to the match, and Edward was married to Joanna in November, 1794, about two years after his arrival in America.

6) The Pleasant Street House

During the decade following his arrival in Portsmouth, Edward Parry made steady progress in his business. He advertised, worked out agreements with suppliers in England, and showed skill in the attractive display of merchandise. By 1799, he was a man of means, and decided to build a new house.

The lot he purchased was on Pleasant Street, about half a mile south of the center of the town. Pleasant Street runs down a small peninsula between the Piscataqua River and the South Millpond, which empties into the river somewhat farther away from town. The Parry lot extended 377 feet from Pleasant Street down to the Millpond, and immediately adjoined the property of Dr. Samuel Haven, D.D., who lived next door to the south.

Dr. Haven was a Congregationalist Minister, and had come to Portsmouth from Massachusetts in 1752 in response to a unanimous call of the congregation of the old South Meeting House. He was a man of principle, having previously refused every call for his services that was not unanimous. He was an ardent Patriot, and during the Revolutionary War had used the Parry Lot, plus his own cellar, in the manufacture of bullets and gunpowder for the colonial militia. When the news of Lexington had reached Portsmouth in 1775 he was galvanized into action, and kept his wife and children up all night making bullets for the Minute Men. In 1799, he was approaching the end of his Ministry. He was to die in 1806.

Next door to Edward Parry's new property to the north, across a lane that was soon to be named Edward Street in his honor, was a house built in 1789 by Jeremiah Hill. In 1815 this house was purchased by

Jacob Wendell, a merchant whose father had been on the committee that welcomed George Washington to Portsmouth in 1789. This house, furnished with ~~almost~~ museum perfection, has remained in the Wendell family ever since.

Across Pleasant Street lived the Wentworth family, relatives of Benning Wentworth, the first Royal Governor of the separate province of New Hampshire, and near their estate, but closer to town, was the great Georgian mansion of John Langdon (1741-1819); Patriot, Governor of New Hampshire, and first President of the United States Senate.

From all this it can be seen that Pleasant Street was a highly desirable address.

A plan of the Parry House and garden, drawn in 1799 by John Stockell for "Edward Parry Esq." survives. It contains a drawing of the front of the house showing a frontage on Pleasant Street of about 50 feet. Behind the house is shown a wood shed, and then a garden gate, from which a path extends almost a hundred yards through the garden to a flag pole and bathing house on the shores of the South Millpond. In recent years a photograph, taken about 1860 from across the street, was found in the Jacob Wendell House. It shows the Wendell, Parry and Haven houses. The Parry House looks just as it does in Stockell's drawing, except that in the photograph the white clapboard, dark shuttered construction (over the stone cellar) is revealed more clearly. Both the Parry and Haven Houses were moved years ago, to make room for Haven Park. The Parry house no longer exists.

7) Love and Tragedy

Edward Parry deeply loved Joanna, and has left many wistful tributes to her charm, but their life together was touched by tragedy. Their first son died the day of his birth, their second lived only a year, and died in 1798 during the Yellow Fever epidemic. They had a third child, Louisa Ann, in 1799, but she was still a baby when her

mother was taken suddenly ill on the Sunday afternoon of June 8, 1800, and died two days later at the age of 27.

Edward Parry was desolated. In the eight years since he had climbed the steps of Jacob Sheafe's Wharf he had become so successful that his prosperity had aroused jealousy in Portsmouth. He had married well and built a fine house. Now his life seemed almost empty.

After a year as a widower, Edward left his estate and shop in the care of others, and returned to the British Isles to visit his family, whom he had not seen for nine years. He probably left his little daughter Louise with the Chauncys, in the care of a Miss Annie Greene. Miss Greene, an acquisition of Joanna's, was according to Joanna Parry Cooper "a cousin of General Nathaniel's, a lovely christian woman, who lived according to the Bible and the Episcopal Prayer Book." A "wonderful story teller," she was to spend the rest of her life with the Parry family, and many years later was buried with them in the family cemetery lot in Philadelphia.

Edward Parry returned to Portsmouth about the time of the great fire of December 26, 1802, which destroyed his store and most of the surrounding buildings. As a man of means, who now felt himself very much the citizen of Portsmouth, he immediately busied himself with plans for the reconstruction. In the midst of this, on June 18th, 1803, his little daughter Louisa died. He buried her beside her mother in the old North Burying Ground, where in the summer of 1956 their broken tombstones were discovered, resurrected and reconstructed. This was done by Edward Parry's great grandson, the Hon. George Gowen Parry of Philadelphia, who was aided and advised in this by Mr. William G. Wendell of Pleasant Street, a next door neighbor of Edward Parry's at a remove of 140 years.

Joanna's tombstone contains a touching broken inscription: "She resigned her soul into the hands of God the 10th of June, A.D. 1800, 27 years after the beauteous clay had been inspired by his spirit, five and a half of which had been passed in happy wedlock with a husband who admired her virtues, and loved her without reservation. Who, in depositing her body beneath this stone---" The rest is lost, but the picture it conveys is one of desolated devotion.

But life is for the living, and at 34, half of life still remained to Edward Parry. He was rich, ambitious and handsome (two portraits and a silhouette of him survive) and he had made a place for himself in Portsmouth. At about this point, before his second marriage, it is interesting to look back at him as he was remembered by "Uncle Toby" in his column of April 2, 1853 in the Portsmouth "Weekly Chronicle:"

8) The Welsh Merchant

Edward Parry - On a white marble tablet of not more than two feet square, on the front of a store in Market street, stands this inscription:-

'Burnt Dec. 26th, 1802, when 120 Buildings were destroyed with other property to the amount of 300,000 dollers. Rebuilt, 1803, by Edward Parry.'

This tablet, when placed there was in the exact centre of a block of three uniform brick buildings, which are now no longer uniform. One of them has been burnt down and rebuilt; and the others have so frequently and variously altered, as to break up nearly all the symmetry of the block. But in the days when the sidewalks of old Paved street were wider than the carriage way, the exterior symmetry was complete and perfect; and the architecture (as Uncle Toby thought) was admirable. He thinks so still. The three stores were all of a size, and all large; the brick work was new and bright; the paint fresh, and the bow windows magnificant. They were all occupied for the sale of dry goods; and the

stocks being large, made a good show.

Let us enter. In one of the stores, the door frame was finished with a counterfeit presentment of dry goods in packages of single pieces, carved in wood and painted, so as to make a very accurate representation of the goods sold within. In this, the northern store of the block, traded Edward Parry, the builder and owner of the whole, who was a native of Wales, and a man of some marked singularities of character. Phrenology was not brought out as a science then; but he must have had the bump of constructiveness large, and also that of symmetry, and of taste for the picturesque and beautiful, sometimes running almost into the grotesque and whimsical.

He had begun his business here under the emblematic sign of the Lamb and Flag. Pictures of these graced the newspapers of the day, and drew custom to his shop. But some envious native Americans, grieved or vexed at the success of an enterprising foreigner, had often suggested that the animal on the sign was no Lamb at all, but only a Welch Goat, which emigrated from its rocky home to find a better pasture in New England.

Parry was sensitive; some called him touchy-and he might abandon the sign because he felt offended by the sneer:-all we know about it is, that it gave place to the plain gilded sign and the carved door frame.

Inside, the room on the ground floor was filled with Dry Goods; and not only so, the second story was finished as a gallery, with a light open balustrade surrounding the opening, and the walls covered with shelves and filled with goods, as showy as those below. A light staircase led from one to the other. They were all occupied for the sale of dry goods, and the stocks being large, made a good show, and when customers and clerks were passing round in both, the scene was

quite lively and beautiful. Uncle Toby thought it the 'ne plus ultra' of dry goods stores to look at; though he never went in, as he bought his shoes and clothes of Henry Haven and Timothy Upham."

It was at this time that Edward Parry met the young lady, then 21, who was to become his second wife. Like others whose happy marriages have been terminated by untimely death, he sought after an interval to recapture some of his lost happiness - and in this he was to be successful. For Ruth Collins, a daughter of Judge Benajah Collins of Nova Scotia and Danvers, was in fact a very desirable young lady. She was, according to Dr. Bently of Danvers, "full of spirits, gaiety and fancy." Her family was even more interesting, in worldly ways, than the Chauncys.

9) The Collins Family of Danvers

Judge Benajah Collins had come to Danvers to live, or to enjoy the fruits of his previous labors, in the year of 1797. At 54 he had behind him a life of adventure and achievement, in the course of which he had acquired great wealth. As a young man of 16, in 1759, he had accompanied his father and other Cape Cod settlers to Nova Scotia, to pursue the opportunities opened up by the Anglo-Colonial victory in the French and Indian War. They had founded the town of Liverpool, and from here before the American Revolution Benajah had taken to the sea. He had risen to the rank of Captain and to the command of a ship, and had sailed it half way round the world - to the East Indies, and wherever else trade and the pursuit of profit led him. In 1770 he sailed a trading sloop up the Connecticut River to East Haddam, where, (according to his granddaughter Joanna Cooper) he eloped with a local belle, Susannah Tracy, carrying her off with him in his ship - apparently without the consent of her father Nehemiah.

Later the happy couple had returned in triumph, laden with gifts for the offended family and their friendship and love was forgiven.

Back in Nova Scotia, Benajah and Susannah began a large family, and Benajah, after activities as a Privateer during the Revolutionary War, became a Shipowner, Merchant, and Politician. In 1784, he began 13 years as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia, and he also served for part of this time as a Common Pleas Judge. Both Benajah and Susannah were of the earliest colonial stock; Susannah in fact being a great, great, great, great granddaughter of Governor William Bradford of Plymouth Colony.

When Judge Collins came to live in Danvers, he was preceded by his Tory reputation. This was based upon his long residence in Nova Scotia, and upon his supposed activities as a Privateer during the Revolutionary War. His wealth and reputation, however, made him a fit successor to the man whose Danvers house he had acquired: The famous "King" Hooper of Marblehead. Hooper had been a friend of the British General Gage, Royal Governor of Massachusetts, and his home in Danvers had been Gage's Headquarters. This was during the summer of 1774, when the Capital of the colony of Massachusetts was in Salem. This famous house, moved to Washington D.C. about 1930 ("The Lindens," on Kalorama Drive), still displays in its front door a bullet hole, made by a shot fired at "King" Hooper by militiamen on their way to join the American Revolutionary Forces in 1775. He had called them "rebels and knaves."

Anticipating a need to insure a welcome for himself in his new environment, Judge Collins stopped in Boston enroute to Danvers and purchased an impressive set of silver communion vessels for the First Parish Church. The following excerpt from the "Chronicles of Danvers" * will give some idea of how well he succeeded:

Judge Benajah Collins: One of the characters of this period was Judge Collins, who came to Danvers from Liverpool, Nova Scotia, in 1797, and purchased of the heirs of Robert Hooper, the mansion on Sylvan street,

*"Chronicles of Danvers, Massachusetts 1632-1923" by Harriet Silvester Tapley - Danvers Historical Society - 1923.

which was known during the next half century or more as the 'Collins house.' His father had removed in 1759 from Cape Cod to Nova Scotia, being one of the first settlers there. Judge Collins entertained many of the prominent families of Salem and vicinity, Dr. Bentley often recording in his diary a visit to the mansion and with what great hospitality he was received. The Judge had four daughters, of whom the diarist writes: 'Deborah was attentive, Triphenia silent but sprightly, Hepsibah sweet, innocent and cheerful, Ruth full of spirits, gaiety and fancy.'

Upon the arrival of such a conspicuous personage as Judge Collins in town, the officers of the First Parish Church had a consultation, and it was decided to fit up a special pew for him with cushions, carpet and other accessories, as befitted his station. He was not averse to making a grand appearance and duly impressed the populace by riding to meeting in a yellow coach drawn by two black spirited horses, making the gravel fly as they drove up with a flourish to the door of the house of worship. A coal-black negro on the box, with a negro boy behind the coach, holding on by the tassels, as footmen, added to the sumptuousness of the outfit, and these servants never left the coach while the Judge was attending service. It is said that when either Judge Holten or Judge Collins took their seats, the congregation rose, and that Parson Wadsworth, as he walked up the broad aisle, was wont to make a slight bow of recognition to the two magistrates." *

The Collins household, according to Joanna Cooper, was an exotic one. To begin with, there was the negress Rose. Susannah Collins had first seen her in the slave market at Liverpool, Nova Scotia, been struck by her small, wretched and miserable appearance - with an iron collar around her neck - and bought her. The collar had been filed off, but Rose had missed

*Judge Samuel Holten, 1738-1816. was President of the Continental Congress in 1785.

it, and for the rest of her life she wore a tight velvet band, fastened by a brass pin, to replace it. Later, learning English, she had told Susannah of her life in Africa. The daughter of a defeated Chieftain, she had been sold into slavery with other women and children from her village. She became Susannah's devoted servant and companion, and was converted to Christianity, but every morning she dipped water from a bucket, and let it drip slowly from her hands held high before the sun, an African ritual performed in memory of her mother.

There was also a half Maine Indian girl called Hitty, who was married to a Malay sailor named Prince. These and others of various races, picked up on Benajah's voyages, lent much color to the establishment.

Ruth Collins (according to Joanna Cooper) had been in love with a ship's officer named Ned White, but he had gone to sea and sent back no word for a period of three years. Ruth had given him up for lost by the time she met Edward Parry, whom she married in Danvers on April 14, 1804. Her large dowry added to Edward Parry's existing financial well being and the newly married couple, well provided for and with a fine house and business in Portsmouth, embarked upon their new life with every prospect of happiness. Shortly after this, Ned White made a frenzied reappearance - too late to reclaim the sweetheart from whom he had been absent too long.

10) Pleasant Street again

Back in Portsmouth, life began again at the Parry house on Pleasant Street. The next year saw the birth of another Louisa Ann Parry, and other children followed in 1806 and 1807. In 1809, another Joanna Chauncy Parry was born, a fair haired beauty, and was given at her christening a present of $1,000.00 by the Charles Chauncys, generous even in the final years of their lives. Seven other children were to follow.

The church the Parrys attended in Portsmouth was the old North Church (torn down in 1854). Its minister was the Reverend Dr. Pickminster,

whose tenure began in 1779 and lasted until his death in 1812. He was a graduate of Yale, with a D.D. from the College of New Jersey (Princeton). He had preached the memorable sermon on that Sunday afternoon in 1789 when George Washington, during his state visit to Portsmouth, had attended services in the old North Church. Among the pew holders of this church, at various times, were Governor John Langdon, General William Whipple (a signer of the Declaration of Independence), and Daniel Webster (from 1807 through 1816). The other pew holders included the Shaefes, the Sargents, and the Chauncys. Edward Parry's pew was to the right of the main aisle, directly in front of the heavy pulpit and its large sounding board. From the steeple overhead, a guilded weather vane looked out over the town.

At this point it may be well to return to the columns of the Portsmouth Weekly Chronicle for April 2, 1853:

"Mr. Parry's constructiveness did not wholly expend itself on one block of stores, nor was his taste satisfied with only so much of the beautiful as could be seen at his store, inside and outside. His house on Pleasant street, at the corner of Edward, (which was named in his honor,) was finished, furnished and arranged to suit his peculiar taste. His garden in the rear, extending to the South Mill Pond, was furnished with all manner of trees pleasant to the eye and good for food.

He did not feel quite sure of the honesty and good will of the boys in his vicinity-and therefore he planted a thorn hedge on the whole side of his garden next to Edward street-and outside it built a substantial stone wall, breast high or more, and strong enough for a fortification. This was surmounted with broken glass bottles embedded in the masonry, so as to render climbing impossible. At the lower end of the garden, on the shore of the pond, the walls were eight or ten feet high, of massive stone, built after the manner of a regular fort, and by the proprietor

named Fort Anglesey. Here he had a costly Summer House, which was the Castle or Block House of the fort, and was surmounted by a flag-staff bearing a beautiful flag with some device, and with the Welch motto "Ich Dien." To complete the fort, he had an armament of two small cannon, duly mounted on swivels. With these he used to favor the town with salutes on set days, and especially on the fourth of July.

The Republicans, in those days, used generally to have their oration for the fourth delivered in the Universalist meeting house, and the orator would be about half way through his performance at twelve o'clock at noon- precisely at which moment Mr. Parry's swivels would begin to speak, and would keep on speaking ten or fifteen minutes, during all which time the audience were regaled with the orator's patriotic music from the pulpit, mixed up with the powder music from fort Anglesey."

The "Portsmouth Herald" for January 10, 1861, in an article by Ray Brighton, had this further to say about Fort Anglesey:

"Nothing ever built in Portsmouth was more startling than the Fort he (Edward Parry) built at the foot of his garden on the bank of the South Millpond. This structure stood only a few feet east of what is now Junkins Avenue, and it was no make believe affair. A description of it has survived in the files of the Portsmouth Morning Chronicle. The walls, of several feet in thickness, were of granite and stood 10 feet high. Parry named it Fort Anglesey, after the place of his birth in Wales. Two carronades, on swivels, stood ready to defend the fortification from intruders. The flag staff atop the walls flew a pennant bearing the motto: 'Ich Dien.' This German motto of the Prince of Wales means "I serve." One of the reminiscences of Joanna Chauncy Parry Cooper suggests a reason for Fort Anglesey's construction:

"One day in the late spring or summer, probably about the year 1807, a

daughter of the Haven family next door was dressing to be married. The groom-to-be was walking in the garden below the house, waiting for the beginning of the ceremony. Seeing a boat land at the garden dock, he walked down to investigate. A group of sailors from a British "press gang" thereupon siezed him and carried him off. He reappeared years later, but in the meantime the shocked "bride" had died of a broken heart. *

Perhaps the carronades of Fort Anglesey were installed as a measure of self defense, although it is doubtful if anything larger than a ship's boat could have made the passage into the South Millpond from the Piscataqua.

11) End of an Idyll

The War of 1812 brought trouble both to Edward Parry and to his father-in-law in Danvers. These troubles, largely economic, were also personal. As far as Edward Parry was concerned, the trouble that now overtook him revealed a lack of circumspection and too great a sense of security. It revealed better qualities on the part of his wife. This story comes to us via Joanna Cooper:

Out in the Piscataqua River were moored two old ships, known as "the hulks." These ships, as the War of 1812 progressed, were used by the government for the detention of British prisoners. Hearing that the supply of food on "the hulks" was poor, Edward Parry sent aboard a supply of roast beef and plum duff - for use on an approaching holiday. This act of generosity offended many of the townspeople, and a mob soon gathered in Pleasant Street outside of Edward Parry's house. Edward Parry, taken by surprise, hid upstairs, but his wife Ruth, carrying her youngest baby in her arms, appeared on the front steps, and with soothing and unruffled words of explanation, and a display of great courage and presence of mind, was able to disperse the hostile crowd.

* Dr. Haven had two daughters by his second wife who were of marriageable age in 1807.

Judge Collins' situation in Danvers was described by Samuel P. Fowler in an article called "Hawthorne in Danvers" (Danvers Mirror for 7/7/1877 - Reprinted in 1924 by the Danvers Historical Society). As boys Fowler and Nathaniel Hawthorne (then both about the age of 10) sat on a hill overlooking the ocean, enjoying a cool breeze. His account of their afternoon's reflections follows:

> "We left the boys sitting on the grass upon the summit of Folly Hill with their spy-glass, looking seaward and watching a large ship under easy sail, which might have been the British Frigate Tenedos of 46 guns, Capt. H. A. Parker, as this was his station on our coast in the summer of 1813 and 14. The British Naval Historian, William James, says in the autumn of 1813 the Tenedos made fruitless attempts to bring the frigate Congress, Capt. Smith, to action, then lying at Portsmouth, and intimated that had the Congress lifted her anchor and met the Tenedos in conflict, she would have shared the same fate as did the Chesapeake in her encounter with the frigate Shannon, whose engagement was seen on Folly Hill. It does not appear that any formal challenge was seen by the Captain of the British frigate. Had there been, with an assurance that no interference would be made by the ships in company with the Tenedos, who believes that the Congress would have failed to meet this British frigate? The smaller vessel inside of the Tenedos lying off and on with a light breeze was probably the Liverpool Packet, a small privateer, fitted out at Liverpool, Nova Scotia. She made great havoc in our Bay during the later period of the War of 1812, by capturing our vessels engaged in the fishing, coasting and southern trade. Her commission, it was said, was to "burn, sink and destroy." If she captured a vessel of not much value, or was short of hands for a prize crew, she was scuttled and sunk or burnt. A vessel bound to Danversport, loaded with wood and bark, was captured and burnt just outside of Baker's Island.
>
> This little sea scourge in our Bay produced no little excitement in Danvers, arising from a belief that a distinguished gentleman [Judge Collins] then living in Danvers, owned shares in this privateer, and was actually receiving from time to time some of her prize money. We have said that this small cruiser was fitted out at Liverpool, Nova Scotia, a seaport town first settled in 1760 by emigrants from Massachusetts, and it was said the suspected person was either one of the emigrants or one of their descendants. As the Township of Liverpool was settled before slavery was abolished in Massachusetts, the emigrants took their slaves with them. At the time this gentleman came to Danvers from Nova Scotia, he brought with him several negro servants of different degrees of color. Some of the circumstances of the case, as related at the time, seemed to point to him as in some way connected with this privateer. But what gave much credit to the belief was a story related by a man living with the suspected person, who affirmed that one day he saw in this gentleman's house a milkpan of guineas counted out on a table, and that it was a part of his employer's share of the prize money of the Liverpool Packet. The coin was undoubtedly seen by Jedidiah, but he failed to prove where it came from. In fact, evidence was wanting to sustain the charge alleged."

The "Chronicles of Danvers" described the situation even more briefly - as follows:

"During the War of 1812 Judge Collins was supposed to have been part owner in a small privateer fitted out at Liverpool (Nova Scotia), which made sad work in destroying coasters in New England, and in consequence he became obnoxious to the people of Danvers." Under the stress of War both Portsmouth and Danvers were willing to believe the worst of those who, by birth or previous history, might have been supposed to have harbored Tory sentiments.

It is difficult to determine, from the evidence at hand, whether any single incident resulted in the decline of Edward Parry's fortunes. War and its attendant events, which have created much wealth, have destroyed much more. With the enactment of the Embargo Act of 1807, New England as a whole was hard hit economically, and suffered a decline in trade from that time until the War of 1812. After the War, there was a severe economic depression.

In 1810 the Brig "Quick Time," carrying goods belonging to Edward Parry, was detained at Malaga by the Spanish General commanding that port, and its cargo confiscated without compensation. Edward Parry reported this to the American Secretary of State, but was still trying to get Secretary John Quincy Adams to take action as late as 1818. No compensation was ever received. On other occasions goods consigned to him were lost, and he retained Daniel Webster to examine his claims, but this too led to nothing. Joanna Cooper claimed that Edward Parry and his wife traveled to Washington after the war, and met President Madison, his wife, Dolly, and John Randolph of Virginia, but the only tangible result that she could report was that Ruth Parry got a recipe for a fruitcake from Dolly

Madison, and heard her tell the story of how she had saved a portrait of George Washington by cutting it out of it's frame shortly before the British burned the White House in 1814. I could find no evidence external to Joanna Cooper to support the story of this conversation, but it may have taken place in 1815 or 1816. Edward Parry was seeking governmental assistance at this time, and Presidents of the United States were easily accessible to the public until long after President Madison's second term.

But the time was now at hand when Edward Parry and his family would have to leave Portsmouth, for in 1817 and 1818 he was overtaken by economic ruin. What must have become a credit house of cards collapsed on the default of a large debt owing to him, and he in turn was unable to meet his obligations. In his downfall he involved at least one of his suppliers in England, who wrote him desperate letters begging him to make some remittance.

Judge Collins, who was now in the last two years of his life, bought the Pleasant Street house to prevent his daughter Ruth from being turned out by her husband's creditors, but it soon became impossible for the Parrys to live there, or anywhere else in Portsmouth. They left for Baltimore, Maryland in 1818, taking the children's nurse, Miss Annie Greene, with them.

How the Parrys were able to support themselves in Baltimore is not clear. Perhaps Ruth received money from her father. The only family reference to this period that I could find was an account of a Cholera epidemic. Burial parties with carts patrolled the streets of Baltimore to the mournful cry: "Bring out your dead!"

Benajah Collins, who had rewritten his Will to make sure that no part of his bequest to his daughter Ruth could be taken over by her husband's creditors, died in 1820. According to the "Chronicles of Danvers," he was "laid out in great state in his broad hallway for a month before he was buried in the tomb which he had prepared near his house. It was said that when he lay in his coffin, by way of embalming, he was enclosed with a bag of Sumatra pepper, and when anyone came to view the body the pepper was removed from the face by the wing of a goose!"

The use of pepper for embalming was initiated by Benajah Collins himself. In 1800 a ship in which he had an interest missed a crew member following the loading of pepper in the "spice islands". Six months later during the unloading in New England his body was found perfectly preserved in the pepper. Hence the use of pepper for embalming following Collins funerals. The frozen ground made winter burials almost impossible.

The year following Benajah's death the Parry family moved from Baltimore to Philadelphia. They again took with them the faithful Annie Green, a link with the long departed Joanna Chauncy.

12) Last years in Philadelphia

The bequest from her father probably enabled Ruth Parry to buy the boarding house that she then acquired in Philadelphia. This undertaking, presumably proof against her husband's creditors, was to support the family for the rest of her life. The Parry boarding house catered to a genteel clientelle, a chef was engaged, and the quality of the food was reported to be of the best. The children were all back in school, and ordered life began again for the Parry family.

During this period Ruth's sister Hepsibah visited Philadelphia with her husband Captain Jeremiah Briggs. The Captain was away at sea for long periods of time, and his wife Hepsibah spent these periods with her mother in Danvers. Hepsibah decided to take Joanna Parry back with her to Danvers, so that she could live there with her grandmother and her unmarried Aunt Deborah, to liven things up at the old house, which had become very quiet following Benajah's death. To make things more interesting for her, they later brought in Zeralda Emerson, "an orphan of good family," to be her companion. Mrs. Susanna Collins, "small and lively," thereupon revived. She loved music and had both a harpsichord and a spinnet in her bedroom, playing one or the other for pleasure when the spirit moved her, although this was not always to the taste of her less musical daughters. She gave Joanna and Zeralda a carriage to use, and they frequently rode in it to Boston and Salem. In Salem they visited Joanna's Aunt Triphenia, who in 1806 had married a Mr. William Marston (later a well-to-do Boston merchant). While visiting "Aunt Marston" Joanna recalled that she sometimes met the then quite acceptable but later notorious Crowninshield boys, who in 1830 were to murder the highly respected and very wealthy Captain Joseph White in one of 19th Century New England's most terrible crimes.

During one of her visits to Philadelphia Joanna, at this time a "lovely blond girl of sixteen," was caught up in the festivities that

accompanied the return of General Lafayette to thiscradle of American Independence. She and a beautiful dark haired Jewish girl named Rose were selected to lead two lines of pretty young girls in a procession that was to greet the old Marquis. Dressed in white with a wide blue ribbon over her shoulder and pictures of Washington and Lafayette pinned to a satin band around her waist, she stood with her dark haired companion, similarly dressed but with a red ribbon, at the head of the column of girls. Lafayette kissed them both and is reputed to have said: "Ah, the Lily and the Rose!"

Hard times caught up with the Parry family again towards the end of the 1820's, and the children had to help out as best they could. Joanna raised money by coloring prints and engravings, and applied this money to the support of the family. Her brother Edward Owen Parry, who had dreamed of going to sea, worked in the Law Office of Henry Chester, studying law whenever he could and laying the foundation for a distinguished legal career. His brother George was similarly apprenticed to a Dentist.

In 1827 Susanna Collins died, and the great house in Danvers soon passed out of the family. Years later it became for half a century a seat of the famous Peabody family of Massachusetts - relatives of George Peabody, the great philanthropist, of the founder of Groton School, and of the present (1964) Governor of Massachusetts.

Joanna soon eloped with a Dr. William Cooper, and later went west with him to New Albany, Indiana, where they "lived happily ever after." Her lively personality and vivid imagination come through to us in her memoirs, but some of the exaggeration apparent in her anecdotes may have been the result of the many retellings that preceded their reduction to writing by her granddaughter.

After 1830, with their children marrying and moving away, Edward and Ruth Parry were left to contemplate their changing fortunes and the

swift passage of time. There still exist silhouettes of them made at about this period. Edward Parry displays a rather large head, a little humbled perhaps by time and misfortune. Ruth's younger face, under the stray lock of hair so dear to the practitioners of the art of the silhouette, suggests a strength and wisdom attained in adversity.

Edward Parry died in 1834, but it was left for the Portsmouth "Weekly Chronicle" 19 years later to pronounce a fitting epitaph. Following the discussion of Fort Anglesey, it concludes:

"All this is of by-gone days; but now, though the fort is there, the swivels are gone; there are no republicans left, and but little of the Fourth of July; the glass bottles are brushed away; the hedge has overgrown the plants it used to protect, and the beauty and glory of Fort Anglesey have departed. The owner and captain of the fort, in the decline of his fortunes, removed to Philadelphia, where he kept a genteel boarding house for several years, and - where he died - but his toils and his hopes, his toys and his favorite property were here; and though born in a foreign country, we never had a resident trader here who felt more like a Portsmouth man, or had stronger hopes of permanency of residence among us.

Mr. Parry was never very popular here - but he was an advertiser and a trader, ahead of his times. He loved to make money and to spend it - and he did considerable of both. A man who builds a good block of stores, a house, and a fort, and gives his own name to a street, has certainly a claim to remembrance as an energetic and effective citizen. Such an one was Edward Parry - with a will, taste and purposes all his own, and with force of character enough to carry them out."

(THE END)

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

I) Information or illustrative material can be obtained from the following private sources:

1) Richard Parry of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, has Edward Parry's handwritten account of his early life, most of his correspondence, his portrait with a child on his lap, his silhouette plus one of his wife, Ruth, and an ancient copy of Benajah Collins' Will.

2) John Collins Parry of Upper Montclair, New Jersey, has some of Edward Parry's correspondence with John Quincy Adams and Daniel Webster relative to ship claims.

3) The author has the architect's plan of Edward Parry's Portsmouth Estate; a picture taken about 1865 of the Wendell, Parry and Haven houses on Pleasant Street; and a typed copy of Joanna Chauncy Parry Cooper's reminiscences. These reminiscences were put into writing by Joanna's granddaughter, the late Mrs. Schuyler Jones. The typed copy was made for the late Judge George Gowen Parry of Philadelphia, by Mrs. Schuyler Jones' daughter: Mrs. Charles Warren Snow of Kansas.

4) The author also has a photograph made of another painting of Edward Parry. This painting, showing Edward Parry in a white wig at the age of about 30, was last seen in St. Louis about 50 years ago. Whether it was a full size portrait or a miniature is not clear.

5) Mrs. Morris P. Taylor of San Luis Obispo, California, has an oil painting of Ruth Collins Parry.

6) Benajah Collins' Silver Tankard is on loan to the Cleveland Museum of Art. A flowered waistcoat belonging to either Benajah Collins or Edward Parry is in the Museum of Art in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

II) Published Sources for statements made in the text:

1) Ward Lock and Company's "Illustrated Guide Book to North Wales" contains on pages 185-200 information about the island of Anglesey. The edition consulted was published in about 1910 in London, England, but the date is not shown.

2) Information about London's geography and history can be derived from "London For Everyman" printed in 1961 by W.W. Norton and Company (New York).

3) Sir Winston Churchill, in his "History of the English Speaking Peoples" (Volume III, pages 123-250), reviews events in England during the second half of the 18th century.

4) In 1959 the Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce distributed a pamphlet entitled "Come to Portsmouth, New Hampshire" that contains several pertinent facts about Portsmouth history.

5) "Rambles about Portsmouth," by Charles W. Brewster, gives much information about Dr. Samuel Haven, about the old North Church, and about George Washington's 1789 visit to Portsmouth. There is reason to believe that Dr. Haven was the man who recommended Tobias Lear of Portsmouth to George Washington. Tobias Lear was Washington's Private Secretary from 1785 until 1792, and his friend thereafter.

6) "Sergeant Richard Haven, 1620-1703, of Lynn, Massachusetts. - One line of his descendents" contains facts about Dr. Samuel Haven and his family. This book was compiled by William Haven of Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1927. See pages 14-18.

7) "Portsmouth, New Hampshire - A Camera Impression" contains pictures of 18th century houses in Portsmouth, the South Millpond, the Wendell House, the Schaefe warehouse, etc. with appropriate captions and notes.

8) "Early Portsmouth History," by Ralph May (1926), contains much general information about 17th and 18th century Portsmouth.

9) "The Direct Ancestry of the late Jacob Wendell of Portsmouth" by James Rindge Stanwood of Boston - 1882, contains Wendell Family information.

10) "The Columbia Encyclopedia," 2nd Edition, 1950, contains factual information about James Madison, Daniel Webster, Dr. Samuel Johnson, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Edmund Burke, and Charles James Fox. It also contains facts about the history of Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

11) "A Directory of the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia 1758-1958" contains on pages 68 and 69 information about Benajah Collins and his son George (also an "M.L.A." - who remained in Nova Scotia, as did Benajah's oldest daughter Susannah. Both were married by 1797 when Benajah moved on to Danvers).

12) "The Marston Geneology," compiled by Washington Marston in 1888, contains facts about William Marston of Salem and Boston. (Triphenia Collins' husband).

13) "The American Heritage" for June 1960 contains an article by Charles P. Curtis called "The Young Devils and Daniel Webster." This is about the murder of Captain Joseph White by the Crowinshield and Knapp boys. It was this murder that convinced Miss Deborah Collins that she ought to sell the Collins house (The Lindens) and leave Danvers. The neighborhood was getting dangerous.

14) "The Historical Collections of the Danvers Historical Society" (Volume 10, Page 49) contains a copy of an impressive silhouette of Judge Samuel Holton, plus information about his career.

15) A letter written by Samuel P. Fowler and quoted in the Historical Collections of the Danvers Historical Society refers to Judge Benajah Collins as "a large, portly man" who "wore a white wig well powdered with its dust on the collar of his coat." Another contemporary, Dr. Bentley, is quoted as referring to the Judge as a "powdered dignitary," (also in the Historical Collections of the Danvers Historical Society).

16) "The Salem Weekly Gazette" for December 8th, 1869 carries an article by Samuel Preston in which he refers to "the two massive communion cups" given by Judge Collins to the First Parish Church. These paved his way into Danvers.

17) "Historic Homes of Georgetown and Washington City" by Eberlein and Hubbard (Dietz Press, Richmond, Va. - 1958) contains on pages 432-438 many interior and exterior photographs of "The Lindens" and a description of its history.

18) "The Second Treasury of Early American Homes," by Dorothy and Richard Pratt (Hawthorn Books - 1959) contains a description and several interior and exterior color photographs of "The Lindens."

19) "Gleason's Pictorial" for May 21st, 1853, contains on page 336 a woodcut of "the Collins House" (The Lindens) with a description of its history.

20) "The Century Magazine" for October, 1884 contains an engraving of "the Peabody Mansion" (The Lindens).

21) "The Historical Collections of the Danvers Historical Society" (Volume 19, Pages 57 and 58 contain the following reprint of an 1854 advertisement,"The Collins Place" was being offered for sale:

ELEGANT COUNTRY RESIDENCE FOR SALE IN DANVERS, MASS.

The Collins Place, so well known as one of the most desirable and elegant Country Residences in the State, consisting of

A large and stately Edifice in complete repair containing fine halls and rooms of high stud and beautifully finished; a Gardener's House; Barn; Stable; and Carriage House. Also plenty of excellent water in and about the premises.

In front is a large Park, containing some of the noblest specimens of Linden, Elm, and other ornamental trees.

The Land measures about 8 acres, including a Kitchen and Flower Garden—in the former of which are fine Asparagus and Strawberry beds. The choicest Peaches, Apples, Pears, Plums, Gages, Quinces, Grapes, Raspberries, Gooseberries, Blackberries, and Currants, are here found in the best bearing condition. The land is among that so long noted for its great fertility, in this vicinity. Fine borders of Buckthorn hedges, most beautiful Roses, and every thing to beautify a place and gratify the eye and the taste, abound.

The Place is celebrated as having been the residence of Judge Collins, and also, as the Head Quarters of Gen. Gage, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army. It was built by *"King"* Hooper, so called on account of his favoring the Royal party, for which adherence he came near losing his life. One day, as he was standing in his doorway, having called a party of Patriots (who were passing his house to join the American army), rebels and knaves, a ball was shot at him, which, missing its object, passed through the door, the passage of which still remains in the door. He was soon obliged to leave the place.

Upon the window of a small ante-room remain the signatures of several noted persons of those times, among which are those of some of the officers of the British army, traced upon the glass.

The Place is one of the few remaining of the noted places immediately connected with the War of the Revolution. It is now occupied by the owner, Capt. Joseph Rider. Churches and the best of Schools are in the immediate neighborhood; a Railroad depot is within 3-4 of a mile, and there will soon be another within 1-4 of a mile, affording the best means of communication with Boston, Salem, and elsewhere, a dozen times per day—consequently making it a most desirable residence for a part or the whole of the year. Hourly coaches pass the house.

With every convenience appertaining to Country residences nearer Boston, and certainly not behind any of them in interest and beauty of situation, this Place can be purchased at a much less price.

As a Private Residence, Summer Boarding-house, or Seminary of Learning, it is equally well adapted. It is yearly increasing in value, and in five years will be worth double its present price.

The premises can be viewed, and terms learned, by those desirous of purchasing, on application to

T. A. SWEETSER, Apothecary,
Main street, Danvers.

Applications by mail immediately attended to.

Danvers, March 30, 1854. tf

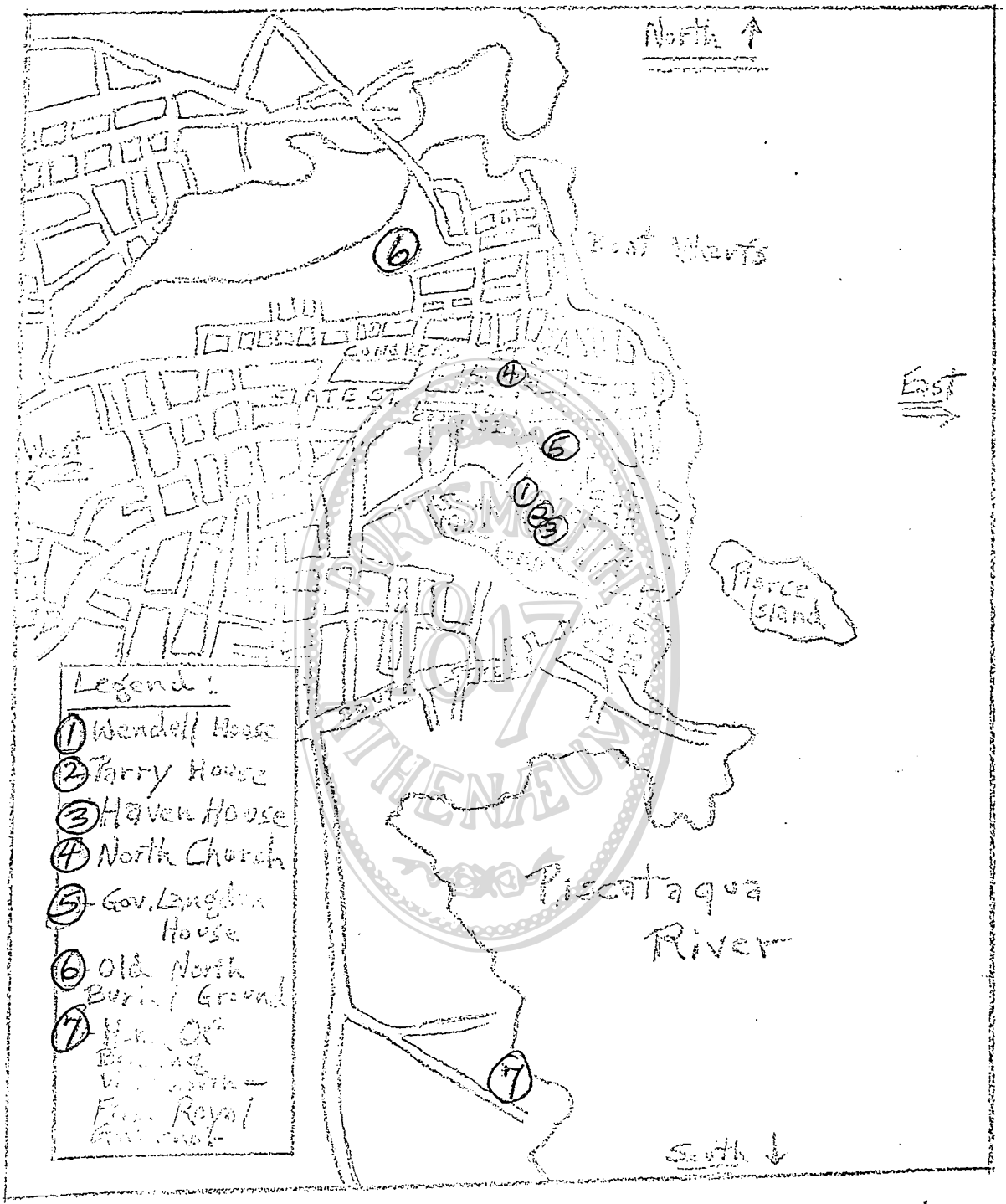
22) The Ancestry of Susanna Tracy Collins can be traced in the "Mayflower Index;" in "Old Houses of the Ancient Town of Norwich, Connecticut" (Mary E. Perkins - 1895); in Volume I of "The History of Windham County, Connecticut (Ellen D. Larned - 1874); in "The Mack Geneology" (Mrs. Sophia Smith, Rutland, Vermont, 1903); and in "The History of the Town of Hingham, Massachusetts (1893). Governor William Bradford of "Plimouth Plantation" and "The Mayflower" was her most distinguished American ancestor, but there were many others of interest: Bradford's son, Major William, who commanded the Plymouth forces in"King Philip's War" and was badly wounded; the Major's daughter Hannah, who married Josiah Ripley and went to Connecticut, where she taught herself medicine, had many children, and became the first Doctor of either sex in her part of Connecticut; Orlando Bagley, Constable of Salem during the Witch-craft Trials, who had his neighbor "apprehended as a witch;" the distinguished Reverend Peter Hobart of Magdalen College, Cambridge University and later Hingham, Massachusetts; and Captain John Tracy of the Connecticut General Assembly, whose wife Mary Winslow was a niece of Governor Edward Winslow of Plymouth Colony. Susanna Tracy Collins also had a patriot brother, Nathaniel, who was reputed to have taken part in the "Boston Tea Party". He was killed fighting against the British at the Battle of Lexington.

23) Benajah Collins' American Ancestors can be traced in the geneologies of the Collins, Crowell, Dexter, Doane, Hallet, Bangs, and Sears and Knowles families, and in the records of the Cape Cod towns of Eastham, Chatham, Sandwich, and Barnstable. His earliest American ancestor was Edward Bangs, who came to Plymouth Colony on the "Ann" in 1623. Another interesting ancestor was Thomas Dexter, who

in 1630 bought Nahant, Mass., from the Indian Chief Poquanum for a suit of clothes.

24) The "Lamb and Flag" symbol used by Edward Parry to advertise his shop came from the upper part of the Parry Coat of Arms. The section over the shield.

25) Edward Parry wrote almost illegibly that he was born in the Parish of "Standeraint". It seems probable to me that this should read "Rhys-Y-Saint", or "Rhys the Saint". This Parish is a few miles west of Beaumaris.



Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Modern Bridges and Roadways Depicted, Based on a map distributed by The Greater Portsmouth Chamber Of Commerce, Edward O. Parry - 1964

Foreword to a set of four Biographies, which will some day hopefully include as Part I "Edward Parry of Portsmouth." This Part I may be rewritten if important new material becomes available.

Each of the four generations of the family that immediately preceded mine produced a man of unusual character and ability. Three were self made, although one of these died poor. The fourth was a brilliant and articulate failure.

Every one of the four lived in an environment of more than usual interest. Three left their marks upon their communities. The fourth, with little impact upon his contemporaries, left vivid and perceptive accounts of great and far flung events.

These four, in chronological order were:

Edward Parry - imaginative but incautious Welsh Merchant of Portsmouth, New Hampshire - who died poor;

His oldest surviving son - Judge Edward Owen Parry of Schuylkill County, Pa. - strong, dependable, perhaps too indulgent, a pillar of society.

The Judge's eldest son - Major Henry Chester Parry M.D. of the Union Army and the Union Pacific Railway Commission - brilliant but erratic - who tasted glory but knew weakness and failure.

The Doctor's only son - Judge George Gowen Parry of Philadelphia - who valued strength and scorned expediency.

The lives of these four covered the years between 1765 and 1960.

Edward Owen Parry
Shaker Heights, Ohio
September 5th, 1964