April 10, 1775

Today, Master Parker asked me “Jack, you have to decide are you going to be a Patriot or a Loyalist?” Master Parker is a Patriot. He is calling me down to help him with the printers in the shop that is in New York. I will continue later.

Later:

To continue:

I told him I had no idea. I have only been here in the new world for a few years. Then Master Parker told me I should chose soon. Master Parker is nice but he has his days.

April 14, 1775

I have decided to become a Patriot. Master Parker has told me almost everything about King George III and Parliament. He told me about the Sugar, Stamp, Intolerable, Townshend, and Quartering acts. I think the worst was the quartering act. The Quartering act is where you had to feed and house the British soldiers. Almost everyone had to quart the British soldiers. Some colonists had to quarter two soldiers. The Intolerable acts were also pretty bad. It’s where Parliament closed the Boston port, after the Boston Tea Party. Also, after the Quartering acts where repealed, Parliament passed them again. Boston was also placed under control of a British soldier, Thomas Gage. The Sugar and Tea acts where taxes. The Tea law was kept from the Townshend acts to show the colonists that Parliament still had power. This lead to the Boston Tea Party. The Sugar act is where they taxed sugar, simple. The stamp act is where Parliament taxed printed materials as in legal documents, newspapers, even playing cards. This act is still going on today.

April 17, 1775

It has been very busy these past few days. There is the rest of my lesson. Colonists had moved west of the Appalachian Mountains, then King George III told us that we couldn’t move past the mountains. A lot of colonist had to move their families and businesses back. We are not allowed to do a lot of things like making our own tea, trading different tea, or speak freely. We have no voice in Parliament. Master Parker was not happy about that.

April 24, 1775

I have also been very busy from this past week in New York. The Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, George Washington, came to the shop to get a document. That was all that Master Parker told me. He has also told me that news of war has come. I am to become a part of a militia. After the war, if I live, I will continue my years as an apprentice.

September 10, 1783

I have survived! The Continental Army won! I will continue my years as an apprentice for the next 6 years. When I’m done, I will start my own business. I’m now 20 years old instead of 12 years old. The war has lasted for about 8 years. I will wait until then. Master Parker is calling me downstairs.