

## **The Order from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the Settlement of Limerick**

*“To John Perry, a principal inhabitant of the plantation of Limerick, in the county of York, greeting.*

*In observance of a precept from the Honorable Henry Gardner, Exp., treasurer of the State of Massachusetts Bay, & Pursuant to an act or Law of State made and passed Anno Domini 1761, intituled an act for laying & collecting tax in Plantations not in Corporated, you are hereby commanded in the name of the government and people of the Massachusetts Bay, New England, to Notify and Warn the inhabitants of Said Plantation chusing freeholders to assemble & meet at your Dwelling house therein, on Monday, the 22 day of May Next, att ten of the clock in the forenoon, in order to choose a moderator & clerk, and also assessors, and collector, for assessing and collecting all such tax as the general assembly of said State has ordered to Be collected in said Plantation, sing the year 1775 to the 29<sup>th</sup> day of December last, the Day of the Date of Said Precept inclusive hereof; fail Not and make a true return of this warrant with your Doings thereon to myself on or Before the first day of June next. Given under my Hand and Seal at Wells, in the County aforesaid, ye 28 Day of February, Anno Domini, 1780. Nathal, Wells, one of justice of peace of said county.*

*“N. B. – The assessors are to Be sworn Before the moderator. If no meeting is warned the Person to whom the warrant is Directed will Be obliged to Pay all the taxes; if the inhabitants Neglect after being notified to Chuse assessors, they are to Be appointed By the court of general sessions of the Peace.”*”

Under this order a meeting was held: Capt. Jacob Bradbury chose Moderator; John Wingate Clerk; Thomas Gilpatrick, John Wingate, and Isaiah Foster, Assessors; and John Hodgdon, Collector. The assessors were voted “four shillings a day each, which is equal to a bushel of corn: and the collector six pence a pound for collecting.

In June another meeting was held at Capt. Jacob Bradbury’s inn, and it was voted that John Hodgdon, the collector, was authorized to levy only the taxes from 1775 to 1779. This burdensome tax was severely felt by the young colony, and a hundred acres of good land was set aside to fee a lawyer who could appear in their behalf and address the General Court. A question as to “what tenor” the law of 1761 required payment in was debated through the settlement in hopes of a partial relief.

Source: Clayton, W. W. (1880). *History of York County Maine*. Press of Lippencott & Co. 1880 Philadelphia.