

George Foster Jencks, Diary, 1824, Pawtucket

<p>“The Manufacturers on the Seekonk side held a meeting this afternoon - the result of which was to reduce the wages of their help and lengthen out the working hours to 14 hours per Day. There appears to be a general sto[p] among the working people on account of the new arrangement and moste of their laborers refuse to comply to [their] terms.”</p>	May 25, 1824
<p>“The people are yet unsettled and I think we have not seen the worst of it yet 102 Weavers met at their meeting house over the river (Female Weavers) and formed a resolution not to work for les[s] wages nor more than 12 hours per Day.”</p>	May 26, 1824
<p>“11 o’Clock AM I have just returned from one of the moste gloomy [assemblage] of People I ever witnessed there strait from the Pawtucket Bank across the bridge to Josiah Millers shope is literally filled with Men Women & Children - making a mob of very daring aspect Insulting the Managers of Cotton Mills in every shape - Pulling & hauling - screaming & shouting - [through] the streets - But they have mostly now dispersed And what is to be next the lord only knows”</p>	May 27, 1824
<p>“The Factorys are all stopped except A B & Slater who kept along in the old way - as strai[gh]t as a line”</p>	May 28, 1824 (Almy Brown & Slater)
<p>“The Factorys continue stopped - the people continue to assemble themselves in the publick places.”</p>	May 29, 1824
<p>“Attended meeting all day & in the evening.”</p>	May 30, 1824
<p>“The Factorys started again this morning - very few went in thro[ugh] the day - the Factory owners appear to perceive in them now ways of oppression.”</p>	May 31, 1824

<p>“This Morning was alarmed by the Cry of Fire Fire Fire.” (12 o Clock) [About] 4 o Clock which proved to be the Stone Factory Without doubt it was set on fire by some person or persons as there was found concealed in bales of Cotton Large coals of Fire It was however got under before it had done much damage. [Mire?] for this spirit will be permitted to go I cannot tell but I fear we have not seen the end of trouble yet and except the Manufacturers will show a different disposition then they have for a week past. I would not thank them for their [propriety]. Last evening nearly 200 Mechanicks assembled at the hotel, the result of the meeting I do not know but have heard that they resolve not to work more than 12 hours per Day nor less wages than they have had. Publick Notice is given for all the Respectable People those who wish to quell Riots & Restore Peace to our village is requested to Meet at the hotel [at] 11 o Clock PM. I have just retuned from the Meeting at the Hotel - Made Choice of E[?] Tyler Chairman Samuel Green Clerk. The Meeting was a[?] by the Chairman - they now being ready to act Moses Sanford took the floor and after a speech of some length moved that there be a committee appointed of 12 as a committee of Safety. They were accordingly elected after several shout speeches.”</p>	<p>June 1. 1824</p>
<p>“The Factorys continue to run.”</p>	<p>June 2, 1824</p>
<p>“Last night the whites assembled on the Bridge in Providence and went in a body to that part of the town occupied by the blacks and pulled down Ten of their houses and laid waste all there contents and this day the Governor and Counsel has ordered out the Light Infantry to guard the town.”</p>	<p>October 19, 1824</p>