

expedition was planned, Mr. DeCosa's theory and superstructure fall to the ground. That he could not have been there on that day is beyond question. On the 24th of April, John Hancock wrote from Worcester to the Massachusetts committee of safety, among other things, as follows: "Mr. S. Adams and myself just arrived here, find no intelligence from you and no guard. * * * * * How are we to proceed? Where are our brethren? * * * * * Where is Cushing? Are Mr. Paine and Mr. John Adams to be with us? [They were the other three delegates to the Continental Congress.] * * * Pray remember *Mr. Adams* and myself to all friends." (Force's Archives, 4th Series, Vol. 2, 384.) On the 26th, he wrote again: "I set out to-morrow morning." (*Ibid*, 401.) The distance from Worcester to Hartford, seventy or eighty miles, was two good days' travel in those days, and the delegates could not have reached there till the evening of the 28th or the morning of the 29th, after Phelps and Romans were well on their way to Salisbury.

In support of his claim that Mr. Adams was at Hartford on the 27th of April, Mr. DeCosta relies upon two authorities, both of which flatly contradict his position. One of them is the life of Samuel Adams by Mr. Wells, who instead of stating that Mr. Adams was at Hartford on that day, says he left Worcester on the 27th, and was at Hartford on the 29th. (Vol. 2, 207.) The other authority is an anonymous letter found in Force's American Archives, (Vol. 2, 507) from a gentleman in Pittsfield, dated May 4, 1775, which erroneously states that the expedition had been concerted the previous *Saturday* by Samuel Adams and Col. Hancock with the governor of Connecticut and others. But the previous Saturday was the 29th of April, and not the 27th, which, as we have seen, was the next day after the advance party of the expeditionists had left Hartford. It is, therefore, very clear that

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