Wentworth Notes

(From Ports of Piscataqua, by William G. Saltonstall, Harvard University Press, 1941)

Portsmouth is one of the important deep-water harbors of the North Atlantic coast. Seven feet of ~~xxxxxx~~ tide serve as a daily reminder to the people of the towns along the fall line that below the saw and grist mills driven by the rapids were once busy shipyards, blacksmith shops, wharves and ship chandleries. Although the actual coastline of New Hampshire is but 18 miles long, there are at least one hundred miles of inland shore washed by salt water.

The Piscataqua towns of Exeter, Newmarket, Durham, Dover and Sotuh Berwick, fifteen to twnety-five miles up from the sea, were in a sense ports. Seal, sea bass and salmon; Canada geese, yellow-leg, black-backed gulls and other saltwater fowl, were the earliest inhabitants of these towns.

New Hampshire's real sea coast is made up largely of the sandy beaches of Hampton and Rye, behind which are brown and yellow salt marshes, intersected by creeks. There are a few dangerous ledges offshore marked by white water at half tide. While Portsmouth is the only harbor on the N.H. coast for large vessels, there are several small coves which offer protection to fishermen and smaller craft.

Great and Little Boar's Heads make valuable landmarks for the coasters; but for ships coming in from the sea, Agamenticus, "a remarkable mountain in the county of York", is more prominent. Nor must we forget the Isles of Shoals, "among the ~~xxxxx~~remarkablest Isles and mountains for landmarks ... a heape together, none neare them, against Accomintycus" -- (Description of New England, by John Smith)

The directions for entering "the Harbour of Piscataqua" a century and a half ago suggest the layout of the port:

Ships coming from the east should keep in twelve fathom, till the light (erected at Newcastle, on Great Island, in 1771) bears N. half a point E. or W. distant three miles; (to avoid a ledge of rocks which lies off the mouth of the harbour): then bear away for the light, keeping the western shore on board, and coming no nearer ~~xxxxx~~that shore than the depth of nine fathoms; giving the light a proper birth, and standing over to the northern shore of the river; where they may anchor in nine fathoms, abreast of Spearhawk's Point (Pepperell Cove, Kittery). Ships coming from the southward should observe the same directions respecting the light, and keep in nine fathoms on the western shore.

This ~~out~~ outer channel is wide, straight, and free from shoals, with depths of thirty feet or more, and a width of more than a quarter of a mile. The main entrance to the harbor is between Newcastle and Kittery. The channel is wide and deep, the anchorage good, locked as it is by rocky shores from the sea. The current is strong (spring ebb as high as six knots) and the tides rise and fall from eight to ten or more feet. Another entrance, to the south of Newcastle, is called Little Harbour. It provides a good berth for small craft, but the water is shoal. There was considerable maritime activity both here and up Sagamore Creek during the 17th and 18th

centuries.

Proceeding up the Piscataqua, vessels are guided and protected by many islands. "Between the upper end of Great Island and the town of Portsmouth on the southern side of the river, is a broad, deep, still water called 'The Pool', where the largest ships may lie very conveniently and securely. This was the usual station of the mast-ships, of which seven have been loading at one time."

The main channel up to the Portsmouth wharves lies between Pierce's and Seavey's islands. It is only 300 to 400 yards wide, (less at Pull-and-be-damned Point), with depths ranging from 40 to 90 feet at mean low water. These waters demand careful navigation. The tidal current flows up the river northwesterly for about five hours; while the duration of the ebb, due to the freshwater run-off of the Piscataqua and its many tributaries, is about seven hours. The period of slack water between tides lasts only a few minutes, and the average current runs at about four knots. Such conditions prevent the river from freezing over, even in the severest winters.

The town of Portsmouth lies between the North and South mill-ponds, on the west shore of the river. Fog is rare. Dredging is unnecessary. In the middle of the river, opposite Portsmouth, is a narrow island, successively known as Rising Castle, Langdon's and Badger's Island -- the scene of hundreds of ship-launchings.

Following the west and southwest branches of the Piscataqua, an incoming schooner must beware of the "horse-races" as she passes west between Dover Point and Bloody Point (Newington) into Broad Cove. At the head of the # "broads" the swirling waters again become confused.

Great Bay, 3 miles in breadth and 5 in length, is at high tide a small inland sea. Into it, besides twenty or thirty brooks and creeks, drain the Winnicut, Squamscot and Lamprey rivers. During the early ~~mmmk~~ eighteenth century, the Council of Trade and Plantations was told (1708) that Great Bay ... " is furnished with great plenty of fish such as cod, haddock,bass, shad, mackerell, herring, ~~mk~~ blew-fish, alewives, pollock, ffrost-fish, perch, ffloundres, sturgeons,lumps, eels, hollow-boats, seales, salmon and many others; and all sorts of shellfish such as lobsters, crabs, cockles, clams, mussells, oysters, etc."

Coasting vessels can tie up to a wharf just below the Great Falls of the Squamscot, about twenty-five miles upstream from the entrance to Portsmouth Harbor.

While Portsmouth carried on a large trade, many vessels and large ones were built in Exeter and the other towns clustered about the falls. The Squamscot, Lamprey and Oyster rivers were too shallow and narrow to permit the passage of heavily laden ships. They bore instead the small coasting sloops and schooners, and especially the heavy broad-bottomed gundelow, a local type of river craft used in one form or another for over two centuries on the Piscataqua.

(Note by T.H.R. A model in the John Paul Jones house, Portsmouth, shows the gundelow to have been a barge of shallow draft, with a spoon bow. A small deck forward, through which was stepped a short

stout mast. On this mast was rigged a long sail, triangular, with a lateen boom. There was another short deck aft, containing a cabin and hatch. Steering was by a tiller. The gundelow usually towed a small dinghy of some sort.)

This Portsmouth customs district, this "River running so Intrycate" back into the country, was for over two centuries the scene of busy maritime activity. Down the tributaries came masts for His Majesty's naval vessels, molasses brigs for the West India trade, privateers for the American Revolution; and (from Eliot) sleek clippers for the tea races from Shanghai to London. And along their banks, rolling fields and blue hills swept back to the mountains from tidewater towns where "the smell of the sea mingled with the scent of apple blossoms and clover, and sweet hay drying in the sunshine" --(the quote is from E.S.Bowles', Let Me Show You New Hampshire.)

The Isles of Shoals, and possibly the port of Piscataqua itself, were used during the sixteenth century by venturesome fishermen from the across the Atlantic. By 1631 there were well-rooted plantations on the Piscataqua. "Strawberry Bank" --"accidentally so-called by reason of a bank where straberries were found" -- increased in importance until in 1653 its people humbly desired "to have it called Portsmouth, being a name most suitable for this place, it being the River's mouth and as good (harbor) as any in the land." Sawmills were erected from models sent over from England/. Large yellow cattle were imported from England. Fishermen's cots were built near the mouth of the river, especially on Great Island.

Captain Walter Nele and Captain Thomas Wiggon made "a choise of the most convenient place in the said river to make a fortefecatyon for the defence thereof ... and they gave it the name of Port-poynt, and allotted it so far backe into the island (Newcastle) about a bow-shoat to a grete high rocke whereon was intended in time to set the principall fort."

Later known as Fort William and Mary and Fort Constitution, this "fortefecatyon" was to play a leading part in the colonial budget as well as the colony's defence.

By 1665 there were "above tweny saw mills on the Piscataqua. Masts were plentiful. Shipbuilding was going on. Andrew Haley was "King of the Isles of Shoals", where some 1500 men were employed in the cod and mackerel fisheries.

The Earl of Bellomont had said that "if ever England should think it a good point of husbandry to build ships of war cheap, Piscataway will be the properest place for it." By order of the British Government the ship Falkland (of 48 or 54 guns) was built in 1690; and the Bedford-Galley, 32 guns, in 1696. The America, a frigate of 50 guns, was built for the British Navy at Portsmouth by Colonel Nathaniel Meserve, in 1749.

In 1750 James Birket, a visiting captain from Antigua, reported Captain Meserve had agreed to build a double-decked vessel of about one hundred tons for thirty pounds per ton, to be paid in goods. On a trip up to Dover he noticed a "six vaind wind mill" near the river

bank. He reported that salmon had already forsaken the Piscataqua because of the sawdust from the mills, but "lobsters they bake in abundance near their wharves." Mentions excellent warehouses along the waterfront. Remarks on the great amount of "cyder" consumed, along with New England and West India rum. "But people of fortune (especially the Marsh's) have very good rum and Madeira wine in their homes; indeed the wine most commonly Drunk here is from the Canaries & Western Islands, called Vidonia; tis of a pale color, tastes harsh and is inclined to look thick."

While in Portsmouth James Birket put up at the tavern of Widow Slaton. He dined with all the important merchants, amongst others the Wentworths, Odiornes, Meserves, Pearces and Sherburnes.

He remarked that their exports consist largely of lumber and fish to the West Indies, but adds, "They have also sent a good deal of lumber to the City of Hallifax."

Between 1764 and 1772 the customs house at Portsmouth recorded an average 103 entrances (of ships) and 155 clearances per year. These figures indicate a vigorous trade and an active shipbuilding industry..

The New Hampshire Gazette mentions on March 1, 1765, "Last week 80 yoke of oxen were employed on the ice to raise a vessel of 200 tons, which about two months ago overset in coming down the River, which they happily effected; it was judg'd there was at the same time about 1,000 persons on the ice."

With Governor John Wentworth's enthusiastic backing a 78 foot wooden lighthouse was built on the east end of Newcastle island in 1771.

Perhaps the most extensive shipbuilder of Portsmouth during the years immediately before the Revolution was Colonel George Boyd. Operating in Nathaniel Meserve's old yard on the North Mill Pond (Meserve had died at Louisburg in 1745), he wrote on July 5, 1773, that he had seven sail of new ships on the stocks. "It takes one year to have a good ship built; ye fall of ye year is the time to cutt the timber & the summer following to build the ship in."

By 1774 Piscataqua was probably launching fifty vessels a year, half of them square-rigged. Boyd had a humble beginning as a foreman at Myrick's ropewalk and rose rapidly to grandeur. His mansion "White Village" was the show place of Portsmouth, and his spacious gardens were surrounded by a white open fence adorned with grenadiers' heads. The Portsmouth Croesus, having named his new-born daughter Submit, sailed to England for the duration of a revolution for which he had no enthusiasm, to return in 1787 bringing "an elegant monument" for a grave which he occupied within a week of his homecoming.

Piscataqua's most important single role in early maritime history was as center of the mast trade. New Hampshire oak and white pine were largely responsible for the large timber trade built up in early colonial times. The woods produced 200-foot pines which could be shipped whole for masts and spars, or cut up into lumber, planks or clapboards. The White oak satisfied a tremendous demand for barrel staves in Fayal and Barbadoes.

A mast of white pine was good for about twenty years. A mast of Norway pine lasted only five years, because it decayed when exposed

to heat and dampness.

Belknap's History of New Hampshire speaks of the art of "falling" big pines for masting:-

So tall a stick without any limbs nearer the ground than eighty or a hundred feet, is in great danger of breaking in the fall. So the workmen "bedded" the tree they proposed to cut, by cutting or dragging a number of smaller trees to the spot. A time of deep snow made a natural bed for the tree. When the tree was felled it was examined. If sound throughout it was cut for a mast, in the proportion of three feet in length for every inch of its diameter. If intended for a bowsprit or a yard it was cut shorter. If not sound throughout, or if it broke in falling, it was cut into logs for the sawmill. As soon as felled the tree was stripped of bark to keep the worms from getting in.

The most difficult task was to get these huge trees from the stump to the mast-ship. By 1700 the men already had to go back into the woods, away from the river bank, to find the trees. XXXXXX Jeremy Belknap says:-

The length of the mast would not permit it to be drawn over a crooked road. Hence a "mast road" was cut straight to the river bank, frequently passing rocky hills and swamps. In winter it was laid on the ice to be floated away in the spring. By 1792 masts were being conveyed 20, 30 or 40 miles to the landing places at the head of the tide. Formerly, if drawn on wheels, the mast was raised by levers and hung by chains under the axle. With a large mast very heavy chains had to be used, and wheels of 16 or 18 feet in diameter, so that the mast would clear the rocks and stumps. Nowadays (1792) the mast is raised on to the axle by special means.

When a mast is to be drawn on snow, one end is placed on a sled, shorter but higher than the common sort, and rests on a strong block, which is laid across the middle of the sled. The butt end was placed foremost and fastened by chains to the bars of the sled. In descending a long steep hill some of the cattle were placed behind. A chain attached their yokes to the hinder end of the load, and the resistance of these cattle prevented a too rapid descent. This operation was called "tailing". There was another means known as "Bridling". Heavy chains were wound around the sled runners to make them drag, and wheels were chained so that they would not rotate. The most dangerous circumstance was in passing over the top of a sharp hill, so that the oxen nearest to the wagon or sled tongue were sometimes suspended. In this case the drivers were compelled to use the utmost care lest the animals be killed.

According to the Rev. Andrew Burnaby, who came to Portsmouth in 1760 aboard XXXX HMS "Winchester", it took sometimes 70 or 80 pair of oxen to "snake" a big mast through the snow. "It is exceedingly difficult to put them first in motion, which they call "raising" them; and when they have once effected this, they never stop on any account whatsoever until they arrive at the water's side. Frequently some of the oxen are taken ill, on which they immediately cut them out of the gears, and are sometimes obliged, I was told, to destroy five or six pair of them".

The masts, many of them worth over one hundred pounds in British yards, brought little income to the lumbermen themselves. Paid in rum, knives and tobacco, they lived a rough and ready life but made little profit. That was reserved for the many agents and contractors. Early visitors to the Piscataqua region often commented

on the vicious life of the mastmen. Fascinated by their dangerous work they raised no food but depended on food imported from the southern colonies. If they got money they spent it in the taverns as fast as they made it.

A first rate man-o-war needed a mainmast 40 inches at the base. A seventy-four gun ship needed one of 36 inches. The value of the mast increased enormously for diameters over 30 inches. Such sticks did not have to meet Baltic competition.

The mast ships that carried these spars to the English or West Indian dockyards were usually heavy vessels of 400 to 500 tons, with a crew of about 25, capable of taking 40 or 50 masts each trip. They were built especially for the mast trade, equipped with stern ports for the difficult process of loading. As early as 1670, ten mast ships a year sailed from the Piscataqua for British yards. The Portsmouth shipbuilders themselves built many of these mast-ships ; thus the mast trade centered at Portsmouth from the start. Until the Revolution this early capital of New Hampshire furnished most of the great masts for the Navy."

The New Hampshire Gazette frequently mentioned the later mast ships. They had many roles on their returns to the Piscataqua. They carried troops to fight the French; mail from England; hardware and dry goods from England for the local merchants. They were the safest and fastest means of communication with England.

Surveyors were commissioned by the British Government to reserve good mast trees by cutting the broad arrow on them. The average Piscataqua lumberman resented this. The trees were valuable to him because they could be sold elsewhere (e.g. Spain) for masts and for good prices; they could also be sawn into 36-inch broadboards. The early surveyors were also collectors of customs, and later, governors of New Hampshire.

In 1743 Benning Wentworth, who had contracted extensively with the Court of Spain for oak timber, paid Dunbar two thousand pounds for the surveyorship. The salary (with which he paid four deputies) was eight hundred pounds . The Wentworth clan had based their fortunes on the lumber trade , and family control of the surveyorship enabled them to further their own business and check that of their rivals. The Wentworth bureaucracy saw brothers and sons, nephews and cousins holding closely related offices in 18th century New Hampshire. Mark Hunking Wentworth, Benning's brother, was for many years the local agent for procuring masts and spars for the British Navy. The agency brought him a large fortune. John Wentworth, Benning's nephew, later proved the most able of all the New Hampshire surveyors.

Benning Wentworth was by no means a conscientious custodian of the King's woods. From 1743 to 1766 (when his nephew John replaced him) the governor was usually willing to look the other way when "broad arrow" trees were unlawfully cut. Some attempt was made to establish clearly marked reservations of King's pine lands, and so to do away with the difficulties of enforcement.

The great fire of 1762 destroyed hundreds of mast trees in the Piscataqua and Falmouth districts, with the result that lumbering operations had moved as far east as the Kennebec by 1775. Many of these masts were purchased by Portsmouth contractors and towed along the coast to their booms in the Piscataqua, ready for shipment.

In May 1775 two mast ships called at Portsmouth for cargo. Local patriots asked the opinion of the Congress on the matter, but they did not wait for Congress's decision. The captain of a British

man-o'-war, lying in the Piscataqua, reported to his admiral:-

"Yesterday (May 18) Governor Wentworth sent me a message by his secretary, acquainting me that there was about three hundred men had assembled to carry away a quantity of masts that were in a pond near the town. I asked the secretary if the Governor desired that I might send my boats to prevent their doing so. He said no, by no means, for if such a thing were attempted they would immediately cut them to pieces. I ask'd him what they intended to do with them, he replied that they were going to carry them higher up the river for their better security. I asked him where they would be so well secured or safe as under the protection of a King's ship and told him if Governor Wentworth, or whoever was proprietor of these mast would apply to me, it was in my power to have protected them, as they were made up in floats to be carried away up the river. He said he had no such request to make. About an hour after he was gone I received a letter from Governor Wentworth ... by which you may see, that they intend they never shall be made use of for the King or his Service."

Within two years, three cargoes of the masts gathered for the British Navy at Portsmouth had reached France.

Piscataqua trade shrank rapidly during the American Revolution. For 8 years the efforts of Piscataqua shipwrights, captains and owners were bent towards winning independence.

Governor John Wentworth's wisdom and influence were such that the revolutionary spirit grew more slowly in New Hampshire than in some of the other colonies. The merchants of Portsmouth had forgiven (if they had not forgotten) the odious Stamp Act. They had been loath to join the American Association and support the Non-Importation agreements. Good relations existed in the early 1770's between H.M. ships Beaver and Swan stationed at Piscataqua, on the one hand, and local merchants and masters on the other. The New Hampshire Gazette reported the "polite behaviour" of Captain Bellew and his officers of the Beaver on their departure for Halifax in 1770. Captain Ayscough of the Swan, which lay at Portsmouth during the winter of 1771-1772 , said he was always "happy to receive any of his old shipmates in particular, or their jolly friends in general."

However when news of the Tea Act of 1773 arrived, a Portsmouth town meeting, on December 16, passed a set of stiff resolves. They saw in it a "direct attack upon the liberties of America". The eighth resolution warned that in case any of the East India Company's tea was brought to Portsmouth for sale, they would stop at nothing to prevent its being landed and sold.

But at the same time a number of Portsmouth ladies, meeting at the house of Mrs. Susanna Spindle, declared, "That the merchants, under a pretence of guarding our liberties, prevented the landing of the East India Company's tea; and at the same time sell their own at such an extravagant price (as to) make it evident it is not our interest, but their own private gain they are pursuing."

On June 25, 1774, twenty-seven chests of East India tea, consigned to Edward Parry Esq., were landed at Portsmouth from the mast-ship Grosvenor, Captain Brown, and stored in the customhouse. A special town meeting was held on June 27th (a Monday) and a guard was appointed "to keep the tea secure". Mr. Parry agreed "in a genteel manner" to re-ship the tea to Halifax before noon of the 29th.

Parry did so, sending off the tea in the sloop Molly, Captain Benjamin Partridge, for Halifax. On the evening of the 28th "three overheated mariners (two of them strangers) endeavored to excite a mob to destroy the tea and sloop". Governor Wentworth followed the affair closely, (although he nonchalantly rode up to Dover the day the tea arrived) and set a guard over vessel and cargo. Next morning the three mariners had got drums and "were assembling thoughtless people to destroy the sloop". They were restrained, and at last the Molly dropped down the river for Halifax.

In September 1774 the mast-ship Fox, Captain Zachariah Norman, entered with 30 chests of tea consigned to Edward Parry. Again there was some ferment, tactfully handled by Governor Wentworth. People broke Parry's windows, and the next day, at town meeting, Parry again agreed to ship the tea to Halifax. A committee was appointed to keep guard over the tea and see that it was sent off. It was loaded on another vessel and cleared for Nova Scotia under Captain Fernald.

A month later a brig with 2320 lbs of Bohea tea came into Portsmouth, and Governor Wentworth reported that the people had burned the brig and the tea.

On December 13, 1774, Paul Revere galloped into Portsmouth with news from Boston. There was a rumor that General Gage was about to send two regiments to Portsmouth to garrison the fort. (This was Fort William and Mary, then known mostly as "The Castle".)

At noon on Dec. 14 a drum beat around the town and 200 volunteers gathered at Market Square. Everyone seemed to know that a local expedition to the Castle was about to be made. They marched to the waterfront, boarded some gundelows, and headed for Great Island. There they were joined by men from Rye and Newcastle. Their number was now about 400. They marched on towards the fort. The ringleaders seem to have been John Langdon, Thomas Pickering and Pierce Long.

Governor Wentworth had warned Captain Cochrane, in charge of "The Castle", that trouble was afoot. But the fort was too weak and dilapidated to offer much resistance. Cochrane pointed three 4-pounders at the approaches to "the Castle". His men fired the cannon in an attempt to scare off the Sons of Liberty, but there were no casualties, and before Cochrane's garrison (five men!) could reload the cannon they were seized and made prisoners. The rebels gave three huzzas and hauled down the British colors. With ax and crowbar they broke into the magazine, seized about one hundred barrels of gunpowder, sent it up the river by gundelow, and hid it under the pulpit in the meetinghouse.

On the night of the 15th John Sullivan of Durham organized a second expedition. With 40 men he visited the empty fort, and carried off 16 cannon, 60 muskets, and other military stores. On the flood tide these arms followed the powder up the river.

Governor Wentworth was powerless. He wrote to Admiral Graves at Boston, urging that a man-o'-war be stationed at Portsmouth. Within 4 days the frigate Scarborough, Captain Barkley, and the sloop Canceaux, Lieutenant Mowat, with several companies of soldiers, were lying off the fort. For the next six months the presence of the Scarborough with her one hundred marines preserved at least a semblance of royal authority. From June 13 to August 23, 1775, Governor Wentworth and his family stayed under cover of the man-o'-war's guns at Fort William and Mary, in "a small incommodious house, neither wind nor water tight."

During the spring of 1775 Captain Barkley was under orders to restrict local trade to the British Isles and the West Indies. Piscataqua fishermen were forbidden to go offshore to the Grand Banks. Seizures and impressments took place. In May the Scarborough stopped two coasters laden with corn, pork and flour, which were coming up the harbor:-

"Notwithstanding the remonstrances of the inhabitants, and the solicitation of the Governor, (Captain Barkley) refused to release them. A body of armed men went to Jerry's Point, on Great Island, and took away 8 cannon (24 and 32-pounders) which they brought up to Portsmouth. While they were engaged on this work, the Canseau sloop convoyed the two provision vessels to Boston, for the supply of the (British) fleet and army." (from Belknap's History of N.H.)

By this time Barkley had orders to "take every provision vessel that should be met with, on every station, and send them forthwith to Boston" --(from N.H.Gazette, June 2, 1775)

On June 17 he seized the sloop Kingfisher. Jonathan Eaton master, laden with 13 hogsheads and 3 tierces of molasses. On entering Piscataqua she had slipped into Little Harbor and loaded 8 casks onto a gundelow without reporting at the Customs House. Two weeks later the schooner Ann, a small fishing vessel belonging to Titus Salter, was seized between Rye and Portsmouth.

Barkely seized a member of the crew of a Portsmouth fishing vessel as hostage for a deserter from the Scarborough, (who was being protected, he thought, by the people of Portsmouth), and there was retaliation. A boat from the man-o'-war, sent up to Portsmouth for provisions, was fired upon and captured on August 10. Captain Pickering led this attack, and later had the boat hitched to a team and driven through the town.

The (Portsmouth) Committee of Safety then prohibited any communication between the Scarborough and the town. Barkley then stopped all inward and outward bound shipping. Thus the ship could not provisions ashore, and the poor of Portsmouth could not get fish. On August 23, 1775, the Scarborough, badly in need of food, sailed for Boston with Governor Wentworth and his family on board. Unable to raise a naval force, Wentworth chartered an armed schooner on September 25, proprogued the N.H.Assembly from Gosport on the Isles of Shoals, and returned to Boston. In fact Wentworth had been unable to persuade N.H. to remain loyal to the King. Members of his own family, along with the Pickerings, Langdons and others of the Portsmouth aristocracy, had gradually fallen into line with the more radical leaders in Massachusetts. The Piscataqua merchants and captains had taken the initiative in severing connections with England.

Wentworth Notes, continued.

From "The Wentworth Genealogy", by John Wentworth, Chicago, published at Boston by Little, Brown Company, 1878.

The original Wentworth arms (illustrated in the book) were three cat heads, whiskered and popeyed beasts; the lower cat was separated from the others by a bend sinister or rather a chevron, peak uppermost. A winged griffon stands on the top of the shield. The motto below is "En Dieu est Tout".

Thomas Watson-Wentworth, born Nov.13 1693, was made Baron of Malton in 1728; Baron of Wath and Harrowden in 1734; and in that year also Viscount Higham and Earl of Malton. In 1746 he succeeded also to the Barony of Rockingham (as sixth baron) and later that year was advanced to the dignity of Marquess of Rockingham. He rebuilt Wentworth House, the ancient seat of the family, in a splendid manner, and , dying there on the 14th, was buried in York Minster December 29, 1750. He married in 1716 Lady Mary Finch, who died in 1761 aged 59. They had five sons. Four of the sons died in youth or early manhood. They were outlived by Charles Watson-Wentworth, the only surviving ~~child~~ son, who was born in 1730.

Shortly before his father's death Charles was created Earl of Malton in the Irish peerage, and succeeded his father as the second Marquess of Rockingham. Made a Knight of the Garter in 1760. Was Prime Minister of Great Britain in 1765 and again in 1782. As the leader of the "Rockingham Administration" he made strenuous efforts to pacify the American difficulties, but died before completing his work. He died at Wimbledon, Surrey, July 1, 1782 and was buried in York Minster. He had married in 1752 Mary, daughter and heir of Thomas Bright of Badsworth, Yorkshire. She died at Hillingdon House, near Uxbridge, Middlesex, on December 19, 1804, aged 68 years, and was buried in York Minster. The Marquess died without issue and all his titles became extinct; while the chief part of the Wentworth estates, including Wentworth House and Malton, Yorkshire, went to his sister's son, Earl Fitzwilliam. William Fitzwilliam, who thus acquired the estates, added the Wentworth name to his own, becoming William Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, Earl Fitzwilliam.

The first emigrant Wentworth was William Wentworth (so far as can be ascertained by careful research) who was born at Alford, Lincolnshire, about 1696(?) He appears in America as a signature to a combination for the government of Exeter,N.H. on the fourth of July, 1639. William eventually settled at "Cocheco" (Dover) on the Piscataqua, in 1652, where already there was a settlement and a sawmill. He became the Ruling Elder of the church at Dover, and officiated as preacher many years of his life. (The office of Ruling Elder gradually died out of the Congregational Church.)

A much later immigrant, linking the old-country Wentworths with those of America , was Michael Wentworth. Michael was born in Yorkshire and was closely allied with the family of the Marquis of Rockingham. His own elder brother Peregrine inherited the paternal estate. The younger son, Michael Wentworth entered the army early in life, served under the Duke of Cumberland in Britain and on the continent.. He was at Culloden in 1745. In May 1746 he was in France. He fought at Fontenoy, and

Michael Wentworth was apparently 10 to 15 years older than J.W.! At a guess he was born about 1725 EMR

remained in the army some time after the peace of 1748. Then, having sold his colonel's commission, he returned to England and passed some years with his brother and friends. In 1767 he came to New Hampshire. In 1770 he married the widow of the late Governor Benning Wentworth, who had an ample fortune, and he resided with her at Little Harbor, the seat of the late Governor, where he enjoyed during the rest of his life otium cum dignitate.

Michael had a good constitution, which he preserved by frequent exercise. He always rode horseback in travelling and had good health and a fine flow of animal spirits. He was fond of music and played the violin well. His manners were those of an accomplished gentleman. He and the widow had one child, a daughter, Martha, who married John, son of Thomas Wentworth, in 1802. As her father's brother Peregrine, in England, left no issue by his two wives, Martha Wentworth inherited eight thousand pounds from his estate when he died in August, 1809. She died in London in 1851, aged 79.

Hunking Wentworth, son of Lieut.Gov. John and Sarah(Huhking)Wentworth. Born 1696, lived in Portsmouth,N.H. He was Clerk of Common Pleas from 1742 to 1770. A friend of the American Revolution from the first agitations, and chairman of the Portsmouth Committee of Safety as long as his health permitted. His immediate relatives had, of course, been recipients of many favors from the Crown. His father had been Lieut.Gov. of N.H. when New Hampshire was still united with the colony of Massachusetts. His brother had been the first Governor after the separation. His nephew John was then Governor; and so numerous were his relatives in other official positions that, in taking sides with the people, he seemed to be quarelling with his own family.

Governor John Wentworth, writing to the Earl of Dartmouth about the agitations at Portsmouth, said:- "They proceeded to appoint a committee of 45 persons, who style themselves a Committee of Ways and Means. I hear half the number refused to act. The remainder convened together and prevailed upon Mr. Wentworth, an old gentleman of 78 years, and lately impaired by epileptic fits, to be their chairman."

Hunking's third wife Margaret, born 1709, died 1788. Hunking himself died in 1784.

Benning Wentworth, Born 1757, died 1808. He was a son of Samuel amd Elizabeth (Deering) Wentworth, and a brother of Frances, who took as her second husband her cousin John. Benning was baptised at King's Chapel, Boston. He graduated at Oxford University. He married in Hereford, England, Anne Bird. In 1788 he was living at Hope, Hereford. He moved to Halifax,N.S. and held several offices there while his cousin and brother-in-law John Wentworth was Lieut. Gov. of Nova Scotia. He owned a house and grounds in the north suburbs of Halifax, since called Poplar Grove. He was made a Councillor in 1796. He resigned as Treasurer in 1797. He was Master of the Rolls and Registrar in Chancery in July, 1800. He was also Captain and Paymaster in the King's Nova Scotia Regiment. He was Secretary of the Province when he died at Halifax in Feb. 1808. The Governor's son Charles-Marylw as appointed Secretary in his place. In June 1809 Benning's widow and children sailed

from Halifax to England, where she died in September 1812.

John Wentworth , known as # "Goverhor John ", the last royal gov. of N.H. He was a son of Mark Hunking and Elizabeth (Rindge) Wentworth, grandson of Lieut.Gov. John, and nephew of Gov. Benning. He was baptise in August 1736-7. Graduated at Harvard College 1755, took the degree of A.M. there in 1758. Was early associated in business with his father at Portsmouth. John went to England prior to 1765. When the Stamp Act of that year was passed, he and Barlow Trecothick, then agents in England for the Province of New Hampshire, were ordered to use all their influence for its repeal. How early he went to England cannot be ascertained. Official record of his being there as an agent of N.H., two years prior to his appointment as Gov., has been found. It is said that he was there when XX Frances wed her first husband, in 1762. The zeal and talent displayed by young Wentworth commended him to the ministry, and helped in securing repeal of the Stamp Act.

While in England, and not 31 years old, on August 11, 1766, he was appointed Governor of New Hampshire in place of his uncle Benning, who had resigned. John was also made Surveyor of the King's Woods for all North America. The latter office had particular reference to the selection and preservation of timber for the Royal Navy and other governmental purposes. The duties of this office called him to all the colonies. Therefore he sailed from England to Charleston, S.C., and reached there March, 1767. He travelled by land from there to New Hampshire, registering his commission in each colony as he passed along, thereby giving official notice of his appointment. He entered on his duties as Gov. of N.H. June 16, 1767.

Gov. John Wentworth lived in the house on Pleasant Street, occupied by the late Ebenezer Wentworth, son of the Governor's cousin George, until compelled by fear of the rebel party to leave N.H. in 1775; and there is now paper on the walls of the house, as good as new, placed there by order of the Governor.

In 1773 he built a country residence in Wolfeborough N.H. on the small lake emptying into Lake Winnipissiogee (now usually written XXXXX Winepesaukee). The mansion was 100 feet long by 45 feet wide, with outbuildings of corresponding size. The house was burned in 1820, the same year in which the Gov. died in Halifax.

Mrs. Sarah Wentworth Morton, in her poem "Beacon Hill", published in 1797, thus alludes to the estate at Wolfeborough:-

> While Wentworth, patron of his parent clime,
> With hand of bounty and with soul sublime,
> Mid the blank forest arched the sumptuous dome,
> And dressed the desert with exotic bloom,
> The blue cot rising on the rivulet's side,
> The hungry plain with feeding pulse supplied,
> The clover'd valley and the barley'd hill,
> The busy flail, the never-resting mill,
> Join'd with the milkmaid's song, the ploughman's glee,
> Were all thy gift, and drew their hope from thee--
> Thee, Wentworth! born the humblest hut to cheer.

When Gov. John Wentworth fled from N.H., a new government was organized by the Speaker of the last House of Representatives, his namesake Colonel John Wentworth, a distant relative of his.

(Colonel John Wentworth was from Somersworth, N.H.. He was made President of the first State Revolutionary convention, held for the organization of an independent State government at Exeter.)

The immediate cause of open trouble in N.H. was the attempt of Gov. John , in the autumn of 1774, to help Gen. Gage at Boston by procuring mechanics to build barracks for the British troops therebefore the coming winter. Massachusetts carpenters had refused XX to do this. The Committee of Safety, with John's uncle Hunking Wentworth at its head, had the Gov's. agent brought before them. In fear of his life from the popular excitement, the agent made humble acknowledgement to them.

Gov. John wrote the Earl of Dartmouth, March 10, 1775, that he had issued writs, Feb. 28, calling a General Assembly. But he had found that one third of the House would be composed of men who had taken part in, XXX or instigated, the attack on Fort William and Mary; so he had adjourned the meeting to May 4th. The Assembly met on that date, but by its own wish adjourned again to July 11. It also expelled three members summoned by Gov. John. One of these made himself obnoxious to the populace, and had to take shelter in the Gov's. house. The people pointed a cannon at the door and demanded the man, who went out and gave himself up as a prisoner.

This was Mrs. Foster

The Gov. then retired to the fort, and subsequently to a warship in the harbor. His house was pillaged. From the fort he sent a message adjourning the Legislature to Sep.28, and sailed for Boston. In September he returned as far as the Isles of Shoals (now a popular summer resort about eleven miles from Portsmouth) and issued a proclamation proroguing the Assembly until April 1775. This was the last time he set foot in the province, and this was his last official act as Governor.

In 1801, writing from Halifax to Charles Hall, of Surinam, John Wentworth mentioned that:- "I should be happy, were it in my power to afford you any useful information concerning your XXXXXXXX late father's property near my estate at Wolfeborough, adjoining the former property of Mr. Peter Livius. Since August 1775 I have not had any intercourse with that country upon business. In the progress of the Revolution all my property was confiscated, and my person proscribed, for my loyalty and attachment to His Majesty's service."

When Gov. John fled from Portsmouth on August 22,1775, he reached Boston on the 25th. His wife and child remained with him there until January 15, 1776, when Frances and the boy sailed for England on the ship Julius Caesar, bound for London. On March 18,1776, John wrote the Earl of Dartmouth that he had engaged a ship for his removal from Boston when the troops left, and that he would be under the protection of the fleet. With him went half a dozen Loyalist refugees, including Rev. Dr. Henry Caner, rector of King's Chapel, Boston. (Caner had graduated at Yale College in 1724; was preaching at King's Chapel in Boston when the Revolution began. His confiscated estate, next to the chapel burying ground, eventually came into the hands of the Massachusetts Historical Society. He died in England, aged 93, in 1792.)

John wrote from Halifax, 10 April, 1776. Wrote from Long Island, 5 November. Wrote from New York city, 6 January, 1777. Wrote from Newport, R.I., May, 1777. He sailed for England 7 February, XXXX 1778, and in May of that year was calling himself a resident of London.

Gov. John was in Paris in 1778. John Adams (afterwards President) records that, as he was leaving his box in a Paris theatre, " a gentleman seized me by the hand. I looked at him. 'Governor Wentworth, sir' said the gentleman. At first I was somewhat embarrassed; I knew no how to behave towards him. As my classmate and friend at college and ever since, I could have pressed him to my bosom with most cordial affection. But we now belonged to two different nations and were at war with each other, and consequently we were enemies."

However they met afterwards in amity. Adams remarked further that he never knew the object of John's visit to Paris, and concluded, "Not an indelicate expression to us or to our country or our ally escaped him. His whole behaviour was that of an accomplished gentleman."

(Note by T.H.R. Paul Wentworth, a connection of John's, possibly through the English branch, but who also had visited and owned some property in New Hampshire, was in Paris at this time as as confidential agent of the British government, watching the efforts of the American representatives to get arms and supplies from the French and to create a military alliance with them. John Wentworth is also believed to have called on Benjamin Franklin in Paris at this time, with the same result. Possibly they suspected him of complicity with Paul.J.Wentworth's real motive in the visit is obscure. Possibly he wanted to sound out Adams on the possibility of his own return to New Hampshire; for by this time John could see that Britain was losing the war, and his own prospects were dim.)

Rev. Dr. Jeremy Belknap, the historian of N.H., says of John:- "His intentions were pacific. When matters came to the worst his faults were as few and his conduct as temperate as could be expected from a servant of the Crown. If a comparison be drawn between him and most of the other Governors on this continent at the beginning of the Revolution, he must appear to advantage. Instead of widening the breach, he endeavored to close it; and when his efforts failed, he retired from a situation where he could no longer exercise the office of Governor, leaving his estates and many of his friends."

John wrote to Belknap from Nova Scotia on May 15, 1791:-

" The independence having been consented to by the government which entrusted me with its powers, I do most cordially wish the most extensive, great and permanent blessings to the United States;and of course rejoice at the establishment of their federal constitution as the probable means of their happiness. If there is anything partial in my heart in this case, it is that New Hampshire, my native country, may arise to be among the most brilliant members of the confederation;as it was my zealous wish, ambition, and unremitted endeavor, to have led her to, among the Provinces, while under my administration. For this object, nothing appeared to me too much. My whole heart and fortune were devoted to it; and I do flatter myself, not without some prospect of success."

Dartmouth College owes its foundation, and chief support prior to the Revolution, to Gov. John Wentworth. What the Earl of Dartmouth did for the college was done entirely through Gov.John's influence, as they were intimate friends and the Gov. first introduced the subject to him. Gov.Wentworth was made Doctor of Laws by Dartmouth College in

the year 1773. Oxford and Aberdeen Universities had done it previously. Oxford gave him the honor 12 August 1766, the day after his appointment as Governor, with this citation:-

Excellentissimus et Honorabilis vir Joannes Wentworth, Armiger, Novae Hantoniae apud Americanos, Provinciae Gubernator et Capitaneus Generalis.

From 1778 Gov. John made his home in London or its suburbs until 1783, when he received a new commission as Surveyor-General of the King's Woods for all North America. He sailed for Halifax 12 August and reached there 20 September 1783. In 1788 in a letter he mentioned that his duties took his whole time. Six or seven months in each year he is entirely absent from his family, traversing the wilderness and waters, exposed to cold, heat, hunger, wet, fatigue,so t that he had never yet found any one man who was able to go through the whole with him. He continued in this office until George 3 appointed him Lieut.Gov. of Nova Scotia, 14 May, 1792. Lord Dorchester, Governor-in-Chief of all the provinces of which Wentworth had been Surveyor, was his strong friend. The same was the case with Prince William and Prince Edward.

Mrs. Catherine Frances Gore, the distinguished authoress, later had in her possession letters from William and from Edward showing that their friendship with John Wentworth continued long. Thus:-

Busby House, [illegible]
12 June, 1802

Dear Sir --

The bearer was an old shipmate with me when we were both boys, and has served the whole of the war just concluded, with great credit to himself, and ought to have been promoted; but like many other brave and gallant officers, had not the interest requisite. He is, I believe,not unknown to you, and returns to his family at Halifax; being anxious to carry letters of recommendation to your excellency, [illegible] I could not refuse Mr. Lloyd to write these few lines, and at the same time embrace with pleasure the opportunity of recalling myself to your recollection, and that of Lady Wentworth. I beg my best wishes and compliments may be presented to her Ladyship, and remain,

Dear Sir, Yours sincerely,

William

(A man named Loder held a chief office at the Royal Naval Dockyard, Halifax, about 1770 or 1780. He had a nephew named Lloyd who was a lieutenant in the Royal Navy, and married and died at Halifax, leaving a widow, a son who died unmarried, and two daughters. Loder also had two nieces named Lloyd, one of whom married Rufus Taylor, a merchan and the other married John W. Fyke.

When Edward, Duke of Kent left Halifax for ever in 1800, he gave the Lodge at Bedford Basin to Gov. John, and John and Frances lived there until he and Lady Wentworth went to England for the last time in 1810. Haliburton's History of Nova Scotia says, "January 1810. Sir John and Lady Wentworth return to reside in Nova Scotia and receive an affectionate address from the people." This is an

error. There is an autograph letter from Lady Wentworth to her nephew Samuel Henry, dated at Morin's Hotel, London, 1 March 1810, describing a severe voyage across the ocean, and stating that her husband came with her, and that their son was already in England. There are other letters covering the time up to 24 July 1812, which prove that her husband and son were still with her. So she never returned to Halifax, nor did her husband until after her death, and there is no evidence that her son ever did. There is an autograph letter of Sir John written in Halifax in May 1809.

latest — Prince Edward, Duke of Kent wrote to John Wentworth regarding his claims XXXXXXXXXXX, as follows:-

1812

"Kensington Palace, 15 January XX

Dear Sir John --

In returning you the enclosed, contained in your favor of yesterday, this instant received, I cannot refrain from expressing my very great disappointment at the result of my best exertions to obtain that contrary decision upon your claims, to which it was unquestionably, from every principle of justice and liberality, entitled. However I entreat you do not suffer yourself to be cast down by the failure of your hopes in this instance, and bear up until our joint friends return into office, which I think the necessity of conceding to the claims of the Catholics at this momentous crisis must effect at no very distant period; after the restrictions are removed, then be assured that I will conjointly with our venerable friend Lord Fitzwilliam exert every nerve to have justice done you, and no rebuffs shall damp my zeal in forwarding that cause which I consider the honor and good faith of Government to be no less concerned than the interests of one of its oldest and most faithful servants. I have many thanks to return xx you for your kind attention to the commission I took the liberty of troubling you with for Mrs. Moody (the mother of Mrs. Gore) and Mrs. Taylor, and with the kindest remembrances to Dear Lady Wentworth and every sentiment of friendship and esteem for yourself,

I remain,

Dear Sir John,

Ever Yours,

Most Faithfully,

Edward.#

P.S. I do myself the pleasure of sending you a couple of woodcock which I hope will be acceptable to her Ladyship and yourself. "

Upon the death of Lady Wentworth and the departure of Sir John in 1813, the Duke of Kent wrote to Wentworth thus:-

"I cannot but tell you how strongly my heart participates in the severe blow which it has pleased Providence to inflict upon you; and entreat you to believe that whenever you return to Old England no exertion shall be spared to reconcile you to that stroke which it was beyond all human power to avert. I look forward anxiously to the time when I shall receive you again at Castle Hill, and retain you there as a guest."

Upon the birth of Princess (later Queen) Victoria, the Duke

of Kent wrote John Wentworth as follows:-

"I have received your kind congratulations on the birth of our little girl, which you may sure I highly appreciate as coming from the heart of one of my best and oldest friends. You will, I am sure, be pleased to hear that the Duchess has been able to suckle her child from the first to the present moment, and that both are doing wonderfully well."

In 1795 Wentworth was made a Baronet, and on 16 June 1796 he was further honored with the privilege of wearing in the chevron of his arms two keys, as an emblem of his fidelity. In 1808 he resigned office, and Sir George Prevost was sworn in as his successor 13 April of that year. From 1 June 1808 until his death he received a pension of five hundred pounds a year from the British government.

Mrs. Sarah (Deering) Thomas, sister to Lady Wentworth's mother, was apparently a guest of John and Frances at the time John gave up his office, for she wrote a letter from "The Lodge" dated 15 June 1808, mentioning the arrival of Prevost, and that the people of Halifax were preparing an address to Wentworth on the occasion of his retirement.

In a letter to Colonel Moody, dated at Halifax 17 November 1803, John Wentworth refers to Napoleon's scheme for invading England, and calls himself proudly an Englishman:-

"We are in daily expectation of hearing the result of Bonaparte's threatened invasion... I feel greatly for Great Britain, our glorious parent country, but I fear not. Sooner shall her sea-girt isles be overwhelmed by the ocean in which she stands, the proud and only defender of religion and liberty on earth, than Frenchmen shall conquer them. The crisis is indeed awful; but it is surely glorious to be an Englishman in this vast struggle."

Beamish Murdoch, historian of Nova Scotia, wrote to the author of the "Wentworth Genealogy" as follows:-

"You will see that he was heavily a loser by the sudden death and closing up of the affairs of his friend Paul Wentworth at Surinam, with whom he had many dealings. In the latter years of his administration Governor Wentworth was embarrassed very much in money affairs; and the losses through the estate of Paul Wentworth (pedigree not known) may account for it. The more I have investigated his proceedings, the more I am induced to admire the man. His urbanity, his warm attachment to all his kinsfolk, however remote, and to old friends and associates, and his exceeding humanity and kindness, entitle him to the highest respect."

A letter from a maternal cousin of Lady Frances, Nathaniel Thomas, son of Hon.Nathaniel and Sarah (Deering) Thomas, says in part:- "There have dined at Government House between 12 December 1794 and 29 October 1795, 2,437 persons."

Neither Gov. John nor Frances ever visited the United States after the Revolution, although correspondence shows that they occasionally contemplated a visit.

Gov. John Wentworth left nine manuscript volumes of copies of his letters, from 1767 to 1808, a period of 41 years, which are now among the public records at Halifax, N.S.

Gov. John made his will on 26 May 1818; it was proved on 13 April 1820. He appointed his son Charles-Mary Wentworth, of Sunning Hill, Berks, his executor, and made him sole heir. He gave "my dear friend and kinswoman Anna Louisa Morton" his silk purse with a few pieces of gold and silver coin in it, and one hundred guineas besides. (She was a daughter of Mrs. Sarah (Apthorp) Morton.) He left 30 guineas to his wife's sister Mary Brinley, with whom he lived much of the time after his last return from England; but she died before he did. He asked Michael Wallace (A loyalist from Norfolk, Va., and a Councillor at Halifax, who died at Halifax in 1831 aged 84.) to help his son with reference to property in Nova Scotia, and left one hundred guineas to him. He asked to be buried "without undue expense, for I am a private citizen and would avoid all show and parade." He left 150 guineas to George Dean Macleod, clerk to an attorney in London. He left his clothes, bed, bed linen, and 25 guineas to Edward Harrington Lowe.

John Wentworth died at Mrs. Fleigher's, on the east side of Hollis Street, Halifax, 8 April 1820, aged 83. Mrs. Fleigher's son, Wentworth Fleigher, long afterwards an attorney at Chicago, Illinois, was with Sir John in his last hours. Wentworth's son, Charles-Mary, was then in England, being secretary to Earl Fitzwilliam.

John's remains were interred under St. Paul's church, Halifax. A marble tablet to his memory says;—

In memory of Sir John Wentworth, Baronet, who administered the Government of this Province for nearly sixteen years, from May 1792 to April 1808. With what success the public records of that period, and His Majesty's gracious approbation, will best testify. His unshaken attachment to his sovereign and the British constitution was conspicuous throughout his long life.

Frances Wentworth's first husband, Theodore Atkinson Jr., died of slow consumption 28 October 1769, aged 33. It was evident long before John Wentworth returned from England in 1767 that Theodore's disease was beyond all hope of cure. Her portrait was painted later ( ) by John Singleton Copley, and by Blackburn. (Copley was born in Boston 1737; married to Susan, daughter of Richard Clarke of Boston, one of the consignees of the tea destroyed in 1773. Copley was a loyalist and left the country as soon as the troubles began in 1774. He visited Rome, returning to England late in 1775, and resumed his profession there. He died in London 9 September 1813.

In July 1798, the Countess Fitzwilliam presented Frances at court, and she was so pleased Queen Charlotte that the Queen made her a lady-in-waiting, with five hundred pounds salary, and the privilege of residing abroad. She died 14 February 1813, at Sunning Hill, Berks, 24 miles out of London, having returned to England with her husband in 1810. Mrs. Gore, the authoress, granddaughter of Lady Wentworth's sister Mrs Mary Brinley, was present at her last sickness and death.

Information from Miss Dorothy Vaughan, chief librarian, Public Library, Portsmouth, N.H.

(Records of Queen's Chapel, Portsmouth, kept by Rev. Arthur Browne show the baptism of a son John, to John & Frances Wentworth, on June 9, 1770 — with the added letters "P.B." — presumably "Premature Birth" This child died in infancy.

Wentworth Genealogy, Vol.1, page 550:-

Gov. John and Frances (Wentworth) Wentworth had a son, John Jr., and it is said also others who died in infancy. The only child that survived was Charles-Mary, born at Portsmouth N.H. 20 January 1775. He was the god-son of Charles and Mary, Marquess and Marchioness of Rockingham. Charles-Mary was taken to England in 1776, and grew up and was educated there. He graduated from Oxford and was private secretary to Earl Fitzwilliam when that nobleman was Lord of the Treasury. Charles-Mary was sworn in as a member of His Majesty's Council in Nova Scotia, 16 June 1801. He sat in 1802 and 1803. In 1805 Sir John reported his seat vacant. Charles-Mary passed little of his time in Nova Scotia. (In 1799 John wrote "Lady Wentworth and my son arrived here (Halifax) in safety, after a fine passage of twenty-seven days.")

On 10 December 1799 Sir John wrote Thomas McDonogh, British Consul at Boston, that his son sailed yesterday for Boston in H.M. sloop of war Fly. On 7 April 1800 Sir John wrote, "My son was in Philadelphia 12 March 1800 attending to the eloquence of the United States. He was particularly distinguished by the President, and those in the departments of state, whose society and countenance are most honorable and useful to a traveller."

On 6 April 1800 Sir John wrote to John King -- "The President spoke to my son of me in the kindest terms; said it was impossible for him to leave his country, but exceedingly wished that I could come to see him in the United States."

Charles-Mary went as far south as Georgia, and returned to Nova Scotia in November 1800. On 21 September 1805 Sir John wrote to Lord Castlereagh that he was sending his son to England with official despatches. On Feb.1 1806 Sir John wrote to Lord Sheffield --" My son Charles-Mary Wentworth, returned to England last autumn, after several years' travel through the United States of America and the British colonies."

Charles-Mary remained in England, residing for many years with the Earl and Countess Fitzwilliam, and died, single, at Kingsand, Devon, 10 April 1844, when the baronetcy became extinct. In his will Charles-Mary left property in the "Wentworth Hills", Nova Scotia, to Charles W. Wentworth Fitzwilliam. To Francis Gore, former Governor of Upper Canada (and husband of his late cousin Annabella) Charles-Mary left property at Antigonish, N.S. To Mrs. Catherine Frances, widow of the late Charles Gore (an officer in His Majesty's Life Guards), and granddaughter of his mother's sister Mary (who was wife of General Brinley), an estate of 23,000 acres near Pictou; also the estate called "Rockingham Lodge", near Halifax, formerly the residence of HRH Edward, Duke of Kent, and all the family papers, plate and pictures. Among the pictures was a Vandyke portrait of Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford.

Through his grandparents Charles-Mary had inherited certain property, (i.e. in New Hampshire) of which John Peirce had charge until his death in 1814. These lands appear to have been small lots of wilderness, and in a letter to a son of John Peirce (Mark Hunking Wentworth Peirce) in 1816, Charles-Mary said, "I scarcely know the description of my little possessions there, and I should feel much indebted to you to inform me of what they consist. I should be very glad to dispose of the wild lands you mention, provided their value is not very

insignificant; in which case I should scarcely conceive it worth awhile to be troubled with any negotiation concerning them. Your advice upon this subject will be gratefully accepted."

In another letter head "Sillwood Cottage, Staines, 12 May 1817", Charles-Mary says, "Your excellent father, who has heretofore directed my interests in New Hampshire, exercised his friendship and experience by every possible means. In the year 1812 I received from him about seven hundred pounds ... the produce of some sales he had made in contemplation of the unfortunate rupture which soon took place between the two countries. A more pernicious or impolitic dispute on our part never in my humble opinion disgraced our history; but I trust a permanent peace is now confirmed. Since that period I have never heard from your father. ..... My father (Gov. John Wentworth) who is in Nova Scotia, has been afflicted with a paralytic disease for about a year past....After all the sacrifices he has made for England, after all his exertions and enthusiasm in her cause for sixty years of toil and self denial, I regret to say that Government disregarded his merits and abandoned his age to the consequence of embarrassments occasioned by public service. I trust they are now nearly overcome, and if Providence allots him a further portion of days they may be passed in repose. ... My course of life is at present very much retired. My connections take no part in administration, considering the system which is here pursued inconsistent with the advantage of the country.....

I remain, my dear sir,
Your Sincere Kinsman,
Charles M Wentworth "

Gov. John's brother Thomas and wife Anne had five children. One of these was John Wentworth, aged 27 in 1795, was born about the time of his father's death. He was taken to England soon after his mother's second marriage, and educated for the law. His professional card read "John Wentworth, of the Inner Temple, London". He published an elaborate legal work known as "Wentworth on Pleading", which so impressed the government that he was appointed Attorney-General of Prince Edward Island. After residing for a while in P.E.I. he removed to Portsmouth, N.H., where he married, 7 January 1802, Martha, only daughter of Col. Michael Wentworth by his wife Martha (Hilton), widow of Gov. Benning Wentworth. He lived at Little Harbor in the mansion of the late Gov. Benning Wentworth. On the fourth of July 1804, at the celebration of the day in Portsmouth, he delivered the oration, and it was printed. About 1816 he returned to London with his wife, and died, childless, not many years after, while on a visit to Paris. His widow Martha lived afterwards in London with an adopted daughter, Mary Anna Wentworth, who married a Captain Edwards of the British Army; and she died there in 1851, aged 79.

Francis Gore, who married Annabella (cousin of Charles-Mary Wentworth) in 1793, was then a major in the 17th Light Dragoons. Appointed Governor of Bermuda, 1805. Lieut.Gov. of Upper Canada, 1806 to 1811, when he resigned and was succeeded by Major-General Isaac Brock. He and Annabella finally settled in London, where she died childless in or about 1840. He died at Brighton, England, in 1852, aged 85.

or Arabella ?

Wentworth Genealogy. Vol. 3/7.

Paul Wentworth, the mystery man of the "Wentworth Genealogy".

In 1769 Gov. John Wentworth wrote to Lord Hillsborough recommending Paul Wentworth as agent for New Hampshire (in place of Barlow Trecothick, who wished to resign). John spoke of Paul as "personally known to most of the House and Council and extremely respected by the whole country." From this it must be inferred that Paul had passed much time in N.H.

letter from

In ~~anxxxxxxxxxx~~ the Congress sitting at Philadelphia in October 1774, addressed to the American agents in London, their names are given as Paul Wentworth, Benjamin Franklin, William Bollan, Arthur Lee, Thomas Life, Edmund Burke and Charles Garthe. Paul Wentworth in another record of the Congress is put down as "Agent for New Hampshire".

New Hampshire probably dropped him, as sympathizing with his friend Gov.John ; but his name does not appear among those proscribed by the N.H. Act of Nov.1778, and it is doubtful if he had been in the State since the appointment of John as Governor, or owned any property there to confiscate. A list made by Gov. John in March 1775 shows Paul as one of the N.H.Councillors, but the following words are appended to his name: "resident in London;not sworn in."

Published correspondence of George lll with Lord North shows that Paul Wentworth was a confidential agent of the British Government at Paris during the American Revolution. It was his business towatch the movements of France towards the American colonies. The King had great confidence in his sagacity, but feared he sometimes wrote letters to affect the stock market.

Brimley (see copy p. 19)

According to Mrs. Gore, the authoress (whose mother Mary was married from Paul Wentworth's house in 1783) Paul Wentworth lived in the best society in England, France and Holland. About 1780 he took up residence at Brandenburg House in Hammersmith, and lived there in great state. (This house afterwards became celebrated as the residence of Queen Caroline, wife of George lV, where she died.) The Marquis and Marchioness of Rockingham frequently visited Paul there. Benjamin Franklin was one of his intimate friends. Gov.John, Lady Frances, and their son Charles-Mary, Lady Wentworth's mother, and other American Wentworths, lived there more or less with him. In London in 1784 Paul, with Frances Wentworth, stood sponsor at the christening of Frances Augusta, daughter of Frances' brother Benning Wentworth.

Belknap says Paul Wentworth of London was one of the benefactors of Dartmouth College,N.H. In 1789 Dartmouth conferred the degree of LL.D. on Paul, the last instance of any American college conferring that degree upon anyone named Wentworth until 1867, when it was conferred on the author of the "Wentworth Genealogy".

About 1790 Paul was involved in some political difficulties, and fell under suspicion of the government as a disaffected person. He disposed of all his property and removed to Surinam, where he had large estates. One night he heard a horse tramping in his garden. He arose in haste to drive it out, caught a cold and fever, and died in a few days, in December 1793, on his plantation.

Before leaving England, he sent to his native West India island for a young man named Nathaniel Wentworth, whom he called his nephew, and adopted him as a son. After Paul's death this Nathaniel became his sole heir. Nathaniel converted all the propety into cash and

Nathaniel's

set sail for his native West Indian island; but the ship was lost on the voyage. Only a boy survived the wreck, and was able to tell of ~~Paul~~'s death and the utter loss of Paul's wealth. Afterwards there were tales that the crew had mutinied and murdered Nathaniel for the money, but they were never proved.

By the sudden death of Paul, and the hasty settlement of Paul's property on Nathaniel, Gov. John Wentworth of Nova Scotia was seriously embarrassed financially, as they were engaged on many joint speculations, and so incurred many joint liabilities, and he had trusted everything to Paul.

to Surinam

In February 1784 Gov. John sent ~~Paul~~ nineteen negro slaves, after having them baptised by Dr. Breynton of St.Paul's. John wrote:-

"I wish them employed solely upon the estate, and for the use of my dearest friend and relative, Paul Wentworth Esq. I would rather have liberated them than sent them to any estate where I was not assured of their being treated with care and humanity. About three months since, I wrote Mr. W. in London that I had purchased these negroes, and should ship them in March for his estate in Surinam. I think it necessary to inform you that Mr. Paul Wentworth is my near relation, and most intimate, dearest and confidential friend; that on my return to England in 1778 (from America)... Mr. Paul Wentworth and myself were but one family, and lived together until August last, when my public duty as Surveyor-General of all the British dominions in America rendered it expedient for me again to visit this country; and that with every other interest I have, my only son is happily confided to his unexampled affection and friendship." (This letter was addressed to Paul Wentworth or his attorney, at Surinam .)

No record is known of Paul Wentworth's birthplace, date of birth etc His intimacy with John Wentworth began before John's appointment as Gov. of New Hampshire. After becoming Gov. of N.H. , John wrote Paul immediately, mentioning his desire to have Paul with him in New Hampshire. At the very time of the revolt in N.H., John was trying to get an appointment for Paul as Lieutenant-Governor. "While Paul was ambitious of wealth, Gov.John was ambitious of position; and each found pleasure in finding opportunities to advance the ends of the other." Possibly Paul was a natural son of some near relative of Gov.John.

The author of the "Wentworth Genealogy" personally saw, or caused others to see, all known families of colored persons named Wentworth, several of whose names he found on the rolls of soldiers in the War of the Rebellion (1861-1865) He found them, without exception, tracing their ancestry to the household of "Governor Wentworth" of Portsmouth,N.H. They had no idea of there having been more than one governor of that name; but from their traditions and occasionally from heirlooms, they are undoubtedly descendants of different servants of each one of the three governors. Many of their traditions are interesting, and are corroborated by history.

Note: Some of Paul's money remained invested in Surinam. From it an annuity was paid to Sarah Wentworth Apthorp, who died 1820, and then to Elizabeth Apthorp, who died single in Mass. in 1845. The annuity ceased in 1842. In 1854 Sarah Apthorp, daughter of George Apthorp, wrote to Surinam & found out why. She died there in the same year, aged 52. The matter was then abandoned. Apparently the Apthorp women drew the annuity by making drafts on someone in Surinam, & in 1842 the draft was protested — Wentworth Genealogy, Vol. 1/525 Vol. 3/8

Wentworth Notes, continued.

Extracted article from the book "Conflicts with Oblivion", by Wilbur C. Abbott, published by Yale University Press in 1924.

A Servant of the Crown: Sir John Wentworth

Among those portraits which help to make up the picture gallery of Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H. none impresses the beholder more than the lightest and most graceful figure of them all.

A man in the early prime of life, with a keen intelligent face, clean cut, clear-eyed, he looks out on the world... with understanding gaze, not unsympathetic, yet not deceived; serious, yet with the faintest shadow of a smile about the well formed lips. The light close-fitting wig, the dove-colored silk coat and waistcoat with their fine-wrought buttons and elaborate embroidery, proclaim the mode of the eighteenth century. In Government House in Halifax hangs another portrait of the same man after 40 years. Still serious, still regarding the world with steadfast gaze, with whitened hair and more sober dress, the same face looks out on a very different world with undimmed spirit and unbroken charm. Between these pictures lies the life of a man replete with human interest, dramatic circumstance, tragic catastrophe -- the type and symbol of a great epoch of history and a vanished race.

In the hectic summer of 1765 the colonial agents in London included with the astute Franklin and others a young man just turned twenty-eight, handsome, agreeable, tactful, well-mannered, honest, frank, son of a wealthy merchant, nephew of a colonial governor, for two years a resident in England, and there received into the best society. A friend and namesake of the Marquis of Rockingham, this newcomer might well have sat for a portrait of young Esmond whom a later novelist immortalized.

i.e. since 1763

Almost at once the Grenville ministry was replaced by that of Rockingham, pledged to reverse its predecessor's policy and to conciliate America. The Stamp Act was repealed. As it chanced, the British government's measures included the appointment of a new governor of N.H. to succeed old Benning Wentworth, now retiring from the office he had held for twenty-five years. Perhaps young Wentworth had been sent and kept abroad by his shrewd father with this end in view.

The British ministry did not hesitate. Here was a candidate equipped by family, station, character and ability, agreeable both to England and America, and Rockingham lost no time in naming him for the post. To this was added the important and lucrative post of Surveyor-General of the King's Woods in America. To his degrees at Harvard, where he had graduated 10 years earlier, came degrees from Oxford, Aberdeen and Princeton. Thus he wwas despatched to his new post, the bearer of the tidings of Repeal, a pledge of friendship to the troubled colonies. With the servants he had engaged in Yorkshire, and the horses he had bought, he sailed by way of Lisbon to Charleston, South Carolina, where in the course of his journey north overland he was able to begin his duties as Surveyor-General.

From the hospitable homes of the Carolina planters he made his way to play cards with Mr. Byrd at Westover, to buy horses from Mr. Randolph at Chatsworth, to be the guest of Governor Sharpe at Annapolis; and so through New Jersey to New York to hear Miss Bayard's charming songs at Weehawken, to visit his old friends in Boston, and so, after six months' travel, to New Hampshire.

On the way John attended to his office as no surveyor ever had done before, reporting as he went along on hemp, tar, pitch pine, white oak, yellow pine and live oak, to the satisfaction of the British government.

His native province welcomed him. A committee of the Assembly, representatives of the Council, and two troops of horse met him at the Massachusetts line. At Portsmouth he was greeted by a militia regiment and "the independent company of engine-men". The troops and citizens gathered in the public square; his various commissions as governor, captain-general and vice-admiral of the Province of New Hampshire were read; the cannon at Fort William and Mary fired a salute; the militia fired a volley; the people cheered. After the usual public banquet his friends and neighbors "waited upon his Excellency to his seat, where they took leave and left him to receive, if possible, a more endearing reception from his affectionate family."

A century and a half before, when Charles 1 dismissed his Parliament and turned to personal rule under the guidance of Archbishop Laud and the greatest of the Wentworths, who later became Earl of Strafford, one of Strafford's humbler kinsmen crossed the sea amongst the Puritans to New England. To this man, William the Emigrant, the intolerance of Massachusetts Bay seems to have been as distasteful as the intolerance of Laud, and he soon moved across the Merrimac.

New Hampshire and the Wentworth family flourished together. As the colony increased from the original settlement to four towns, Portsmouth, Hampton, Dover and Exeter, William Wentworth and his descendants held their own. William cleared land, built house and barn, farmed, trapped, raised a family; became a party to the Indian deed to Exeter; signed the "combination" that organized the town; became an elder of the church. His eldest son Samuel made his way to Portsmouth, set up as a tavern keeper and merchant, married the daughter of one Benning, a leading citizen. Samuel prospered. Had a son John (who in turn married a Sarah Hunking) and in time became Lieutenant-Governor of the joint province of Massachusetts-New Hampshire. Of his numerous progeny one son, Benning, became first Governor of the separate province of N.H., when after a hundred years the connection with Massachusetts was broken. Another son, Samuel, married a Deering. Still another, Mark Hunking, married a Rindge, became the richest man in the province and the father of Sir John.

As the simple economy of farming, forest and fishery grew into a more varied industry, this family of farmers, innkeepers, merchants, shipowners, landholders and officials became the dominating influence in the society it typified. Bennings, Deerings, Hunkings, Rindges, Atkinsons, Gilmans, Wentworths, a group bound by family ties, in a century of energy and thrift, had drawn into its hands the larger part of the young colony's goods and power. It had become the chief landed as well as the chief commercial interest, for its members had but recently bought up the claims of Mason's heirs to that part of the original grant which he divided with Sir Fernando Gorges and named after his English home, Hampshire.

Such was the society in which John Wentworth found himself; such the oligarchic rule which he inherited; for on his Council there was scarcely one who was not kin to him by blood or marriage or both. It was a characteristic feature of the period we call "colonial", repeated in every province; the Hutchinsons in Massachusetts, the de Lanceys in New York, the great families of the south, a "natural aristocracy" based on talents, landholding and commerce, cemented by marriage. Its dominance was not wholly unquestioned in New Hampshire or elsewhere. Beyond it lay the new men of the time, chiefly the latecomers and their sons; the "people" and their leaders, as distinct from the "aristocrats" of the elder line. This newer element was now rising to wealth and influence, though still denied entry into the inner circle of those who managed.

While the Wentworths and their connections were dominant in Portsmouth, elsewhere, especially in those growing communities which resented the ascendancy of the capital, they had their rivals. In Portsmouth were the Langdons, John and Woodbury, trained in Daniel Rindge's countinghouse, now enterprising merchants on their own account -- John in particular having made much money in the recent war. In Dover was John Sullivan, sometime a student in Judge Livermore's law office, son of an Irish exile, "Schoolmaster" Owen & O'Sullivan of Somersworth. In Exeter, which took its political views from Boston rather than from Portsmouth, lived Captain Nathaniel Folsom, who had gained distinction in the late war; and all the Gilmans save one (the Speaker of the Assembly) were in opposition. In Londonderry lived John Stark; and elsewhere there were others dissatisfied alike with the ascendancy of the Wentworths and of Portsmouth.

Yet Portsmouth remained the center of the stage. It was a thriving town of near 5,000 souls. It had felt the wave of prosperity which the war had brought to the northern colonies, by preying on French commerce and supplying the British (even, it was whispered, the French) with food and war material. The wharves that lined the river banks, the shipyards and ropewalk, the piles of deals and timbers, the warehouses and customhouse, the vessels which filled the harbor, revealed its principal industry. Its many handsome houses, adorned with all the taste and fancy of the period, witnessed its success.

Portsmouth had a public library on the "tontine" plan. Besides its many taverns, there was being built the Earl of Halifax hotel, in whose upper room met the St. John's lodge of Freemasons, affiliated with the Boston lodge of which Dr. Joseph Warren was Grand Master. There was a workhouse and a jail, however little used. A dozen years earlier an earthquake, a fire engine, and a newspaper, the New Hampshire Gazette and Historical Chronicle, the first of its kind in America, had made their xxxxxxxxxxxx almost simultaneous appearance in the town; and more recently there had appeared a rival to the latter, the New Hampshire Mercury and Weekly Advertiser, to express the sentiments of the "more zealous Whigs".

The pages of these newspapers contain proclamations about town meetings, taxes, roads, quit-rents, proprietors' rights, the boundaries of townships, advertisements of lotteries to promote settlement, to encourage education, notably at Harvard College, ship entries and clearances, strayed cattle, packet-boats to New York, deserting seamen, and for "maids who understand country business." Daniel Pierce fills a column with his importations of

English and French cloths, linens and silks. Gregory Purcell announces that he "takes in Flax Seed." John Sherburne in Gloucester advertises chees and hair trunks -- curious combination. Mendrum Janvrin advertisies crockery, glassware, flax, powder, shot, rum and shoes.

Sparhawk and Fowle are the rival booksellers.Hughes and Knight are the rival periwig-makers and hairdressers; Griffith the watch-maker;Hickey the dyer;Doig the painter; Sheafe who deals in Philadelphia flour. Nor are the graces of life wanting. Daniel Humphreys opens a private school; William Crosby teaches music, vocal and instrumental; Daniel McAlpine opens a broadsword academy; Ammi R. Cutter advertises his own medical skill and his stock of medicines, including Jesuits' Drops and British Oil, and also wines, brandies, rum and groceries.

Week by week, too, the papers record news of the world, chiefly "by letter from London". Reports of the doings of Parliament; the speeches of Chatham in full; the activities of the ministry, even a good deal about the more spectacular happenings in English society. There are moral articles on such texts as "Industry and Frugality are the hands of Fortune". There is news of Voltaire's death and his will, with other information from the continent of Europe. All in all Portsmouth was as alive intellectually, and especially politically, as it was materially. It even produced verse -- for there are columns, even pages of poetry.

From the roof of Captain MacPhaedris' mansion rose the first lightning rod in New Hampshire, said to have been erected by Dr. Franklin himself. A regular stage service to Boston -- one round trip a week, fare three dollars -- provided access to New England's capital. By it, or by like conveyance (or by sea,THR) came visitors -- Copley to paint the dignitaries of N.H., the Governor among them; Benjamin Thompson, later famous as Count Rumford; John Adams on his legal rounds; Doctor Franklin; and President Dwight of Yale, each to record his favorable opinion of the government in his own way.

Here John Wentworth had been born and bred. Here he lived in a house on Pleasant Street, hired for him by the Assembly, a "small hut" as he described it too disparagingly; adorned with wallpaper and furnishings from Boston, manned by the servants he had brought from England -- a Lilliputian Wentworth House after the fashion of the Rockingham seat in England. From his windows he could "look over the town and down the river to the boundless Atlantic; on the other side ... a garden, bounded or rather separated from the fields by a large sea water pond, which enlivens the rural scene." Thence, too, he could see the residence of his cousin Theodore Atkinson. Conveniently at hand stood his stables with sixteen horses, and the carriages in which he took such pride.

His chief troubles were inherited. His uncle and predecessor, Benning Wentworth, had filled the offices with his favorites, had obtained fees and perquisites from the land grants too much to his own advantage, and refused to change the local government. The new settlers complained of his incompetence and greed. The scarcity of specie and the uncertain currency bore hard on poor men. The rude if salutary check on paper money imposed by the British government increased the discontent.

The outlying settlements, so rapidly filling up, found no adequate representation in the government. Complaints that "officers

were appointed from abroad to please the English government rather than the people" grew to a feeling that there was "a set of men xxx seeking to found an American nobility between crown and democracy."

The press, threatened by the Stamp Act, had opposed it and encouraged resistance in others. The Gazette declared that "the whole continent is almost in despair" at the threatened loss of liberty. It urged that "the Accounts we give from Time to Time (i.e. of the Stamp Act disturbances) will not be taken as though we aim at Independence as some have in a most vile manner insinuated."

Following this, two columns by "Cato" denounce the Stamp Act - - and it is noted that "This piece was wrote several Days before the late Stirs in Boston." This is followed by notes on similar disturbances in Newhaven, once more by "Cato", who was probably the editor. The Mercury appeals to the printers against the Stamp Act, and gives an account of the burning of "Effigies of a Distributor of the Stamps pendant behind who hung a Boot newly soled with a Grenville Sole out of which proceeded the Devil".

Although the moderate members had prevented New Hampshire being represented in the Stamp Act Congress, the dissatisfied element had expressed itself. The xxxxxxx Assembly refused to vote Gov. John a "permanent" salary. While it approved his "benevolence and amiable qualities", and his fitness for the post by "birth, fortune and education", it called attention to his "remarkable opportunity of hearing every branch and part" of the British Constitution "pass the most critical examen any age has even seen", and thanked him for his services in that "critical conjunction of affairs when it was threatened and in danger of irreparable Burthens".

John's difficulties were suddenly complicated by another element. Scarcely was he in office when that evil genius of the British Empire, Charles Townsend, now Chancellor of the Exchequer, persuaded Parliament to xxxxx impose petty and irritating duties on glass, paper, tea, and painters' colors, and so raised again the question of colonial taxation. New agitation flamed. The Sons of Liberty revived. Non-consumption and non-importation agreements were proposed to influence English merchants and through them the British government, whose representatives in America again found themselves in a difficult situation.

Not in New Hampshire, however, so much as elsewhere. In N.H. the radicals might oppose the Stamp Act; they might restrict the Governor's salary; but they could not dictate to the powerful commercial interest how it should conduct its own business. Partly because (in the words of the old historian) "the improvement of the country occupied the minds of the people and took off their attention in great measure from the view of those political difficulties"; partly because this issue lay largely in the hands of merchants well-disposed to Britain and ill-disposed to fight; but partly because of John Wentworth's "gift of governance", Portsmouth had no such disturbances as some other ports, notably Boston.

Wentworth's character was well exemplified in this first test of his capacity to rule. He wrote, "The grand secret of peace is to cause men to think before they act, the longer the better; and to be steady, open and resolute, without any mystery or intrigue. In this way there will never be great tumults. It is impracticable to raise a dangerous mob if all the business is understood. Men will not be led to broken heads, gaols and gallows, unless they are somehow deceived."

So, when an unpopular official came, and the zealots from Boston notified their more moderate brethren in Portsmouth to drive him out of town, the Governor gave notice of his coming. He asked advice of "some warm people". He entertained the man, and made his stay not only peaceable but enjoyable. This was due to no lack of courage. Not long before, a mob had formed to rescue a prisoner from execution. The young Governor, notified by the Sheriff at midnight, ordered out the militia, summoned the Council, stood before the jail, and commanded his men to fire to kill if an assault was made, to take as many prisoners as they could, and to hang them the next day. This news dismayed the mob, which presently dispersed. Since which time, Wentworth wrote, "we have not had even an escape, though the prison may be knocked down by an old woman."

This was the temper of the man, and it commended itself alike to the British government and his own people. "Johnny" Wentworth was popular. In a serious attempt to strengthen his government he called to office men and interests neglected by his predecessor. He carried on the work of setting up new townships, as settlers came, attracted by the easy terms of clearing and planting five acres in five years, paying an ear of corn a year for the first ten years as rent, and thereafter a shilling a hundred acres.

The list of charters, grants and incorporations in his administration, some thirty in all, from Dublin to Berlin, from Jaffrey to Bretton Woods, reveals this stream of population pushing into the wilderness. As the original four towns were thus reinforced, Gov. John embodied them into counties whose names still echo those of his English friends -- Rockingham, Strafford, Hillsborough, Cheshire and Grafton. Here again he showed his statesmanship; for he successfully opposed the narrow views of a Portsmouth group who were unwilling to recognize the newer settlements.

John paid great attention to the militia in his capacity as Captain General, commissioning "new" men like Folsom, Stark and Sullivan. He traveled far and wide to see how his people fared. He cooperated with the New York authorities with a view to exploring the forests on the Connecticut. He approved young Thompson's plan to survey the White Mountains, offering his own books and instruments to that end. He tried to get the Assembly to vote fifty pounds for a province survey; when the Assembly refused, he took up a private subscription to employ Captain Holland, surveyor of the northern coasts, in that enterprise.

He busied himself with coinage reform and abolition of the paper currency, which he finally accomplished. He tried to strengthen the Church of England, now in danger of submersion by the influx of new communions. He projected roads to the Connecticut, to the mountains, even to Quebec, hoping to make Portsmouth (as he said) "the first provision market in New England."

He wrote from Casco Bay in 1772, "I found on my arrival in my district that the greatest part was not inhabited; and such as were, the inhabitants could not supply us with provisions (or) an extensive sea boat. The extreme fatigue we must certainly experience in exploring the woods, and the necessity of a place for the people to retreat to, were the reasons which induced me to request the above vessel and boat." And again, "In the months of June, July and August, the Moskitoes and black Flies are very numerous and troublesome; which renders traveling in the Woods at that season extremely fatiguing." And again, "I considered it of the highest importance to His Majesty's interest to go up the

Androscoggin, and put a stop to the depradations they were committing. I have the satisfaction to inform their Lordships that our appearance had the desired effect, those Invaders fled at our approach; they had cut down some Pines, for logs to be saw'd into boards; and for Shingles and Clapboards."

Yet he recognized the natural desires and necessities of the settlers (with regard to timber) no less than the rights of the Crown. He writes, "The acts of Parliament relative to the preservation of pine timber in America, being merely penal and too general, operated so xxxxx much against the convenience and even necessities of the inhabitants, that had or could they have been strictly executed, they would have prevented cultivation, and soon put an end to the lumber trade both in the West XXIX Indies and England. ... Hence it became almost a general interest of the country to frustrate laws, which comprehend nearly an unlimited reservation."

He pleads therefore for regulations which would permit cultivation and enable men to "cut into the different species of lumber requisite for their own building, or profitable at market for exportation, the proceeds supplying the poor settlers with provisions, West India produce and British manufactures." But he notes also that there were certain persons "interested in defeating the actions, that they may Themselves trespass on the King's Woods with impunity".

Gov. John was concerned with education, for (almost alone among the colonies) New Hampshire had no college; and here he came in contact with an important enterprise. Eleazar Wheelock, of Connecticut, a Yale graduate, backed by Colonel Moor, had set up a training school for Indians and Indian missionaries some years before at Lebanon. But Indians were scarce in Connecticut, and Wheelock sought a site nearer the wilderness.

Wheelock had fallen out with Benning Wentworth, who was determined to secure the institution for the Church of England. But the new Governor met his terms. A township on the Connecticut was set aside; the Governor subscribed to an endowment, the Assembly voted one hundred pounds. A converted Indian, Samson Occom, was sent to England to solicit funds, and the spectacle of an Indian who read Greek and preached acceptably in English opened the English purse. The Earl of Dartmouth subscribed fifty pounds and became chairman of the committee; the King gave five hundred pounds. Altogether eleven thousand pounds was raised. Wheelock drew up a charter, moved to the new town of Hanover, and there set up his school, a ferry and a mill. And thither, in 1771, came John Wentworth and his friends on horseback to the first Commencement, leaving as a souvenir of their visit a handsome punch bowl to the president.

This visit took Wentworth's party through lands then in dispute between New Hampshire and New York, the so-called New Hampshire Grants -- sixty-eight towns which Governor Benning had granted beyond the limits of his jurisdiction. New York had protested vigorously enough to rouse even the somnolent (British) Board of Trade, which checked his too ambitious plans and gave the lands to New York. This disgusted the inhabitants of the grants who, when occasion offered, set up their own state of Vermont.

This had been part of young John's xxxix business in England; and when, just prior to the visit to Hanover, Benning Wentworth

↑ ca 1770

died, leaving his property to his widow, the "gypsy girl" who had married this old provincial Cophetua a few years earlier, the Benning Wentworth grants came into politics.

For within two months of Benning's death she married again, this time a Colonel Michael Wentworth who, three years before, had come to New Hampshire. With that (whether from pique at being disinherited, or from family pride, or from reasons of state) Gov. John enquired of his Council if the 500 acres his predecessor had retained for himself out of the 200 townships to which he had given title, were legal. He was answered in the negative, with one dissenting voice, and with this he came to a great problem of his government.

The dissenting voice belonged to a newcomer to the province, Peter Livius, of unknown ancestry, who had married a New Hampshire heiress and become a man of property and position. Benning Wentworth had made him a justice and a member of the Council. Livius already had proposed, behind ~~xxxxxxxx~~ Gov.John's back, a new system of forest administration. He now offered a minority report, a bitter indictment of the Governor and Council, sought support for it among the dissaffected in the province, and presently took it to England to the Board of Trade. Livius declared (in the report) that Gov.John had dispossessed grantees of large tracts of land without process of law; secured for himself through others the recovered grants; prevented protest; and abused Livius personally. Livius further alleged that no account of "powder-money" had been made for thirty years, and the Assembly's vote for an investigation had been killed in the Council; that the Gov. had changed the justices in the Common Pleas to get a favorable verdict for himself ; that he had filled the Council with his relatives, and had failed to send a copy of its journal to England , "to keep out of sight the practices of himself and his council."

The Livius complaint was that most dangerous form of accusation, a half-truth. The Board of Trade sent it to Wentworth and his Council, who refuted at nearly every point the charges it contained. The resumption of the Benning Wentworth grants, they declared, had been approved by the Attorney and Solicitor-Generals of England, and the Governor denied a personal interest in the matter; the powder-money had been regularly collected; and Livius had not been reappointed justice because of his maladministration when in office. The change of judges was due to the colonial practice of not permitting men who had been counsel on either side of a dispute to sit in judgment on it; and though the Council proceedings had not been sent to England, through ignorance of the law, they were kept and were available. As to relatives, the Governor averred (not quite ingenuously) that he had but one member of his family by blood upon the Council. All this was reinforced by affidavits and certificates of character from the leading men of the province.

None the less, after long deliberation, the Board of Trade found Wentworth guilty on four counts and virtually recommended that he be dismissed. It was a crushing blow; but his friends appealed to the Privy Council, which ultimately threw out the whole contention, reasoning no doubt that a successful governorship, so rare in America, was a sufficient answer to the charges of a disgruntled office-seeker, even though some of its actions might not bear the closest scrutiny. Thus was concluded the "Livius

Case", notable in the annals of colonial history; and Portsmouth took occasion to celebrate the Governor's vindication with a great ball, while addresses of congratulation poured in from the towns.

Such were the problems and the character of this model colonial governor in his 5 years of rule.

From his boyhood days he had dreamed of a great country-seat; and his grand tour, if it taught him nothing else (and it taught him much) had strengthened his resolution on that point. He had long been a proprietor of the town of Wolfeborough, where his father had transferred to him more than 2,000 acres -- which John increased to 5,000 acres. Almost as soon as he was Governor he began to settle tenant families there, and to interest his friends in the project.

He incorporated it, set up a gristmill and a sawmill, cleared ground, made roads, and began to build. There presently arose his manor house, 100 feet long, 40 wide, two-storied, gambrel-roofed, with a great central hall. According to tradition it held more than fifty rooms, among them a great ballroom the whole width of the house, an East India room with wallpaper of scenes from Indian life and with marble fireplaces, a green room, a blue room,, a "king's and queen's" chamber with niches for statues of royalty and a grey marble fireplace, a billiard room and a council chamber; and downstairs a kitchen and diningroom, a drawingroom, and a library with a black marble fireplace. Beside the mansion rose a barn of equal size; a stable and coach-house to hold thirty horses; a dairy, smokehouse, and joiner's shop. About it lay a 40-acre garden bordered with elms and walled with stone. Beyond this he planned a park for deer and even moose. He put in English pheasants but they disappeared.He put cusk in the pond, and took great interest in collecting animals for the great estate. He planned to spend the [illegible] summers of his life there, surrounded by his friends and colleagues, among them Doctor Cutter (for whom the nearest hill was named), his uncles Jotham and Daniel Rindge; his brother Thomas; his attorney-general Judge Livermore -- even his sometime councilor Peter Livius.

Governor Wentworth was a bachelor when he began his house in 1768, and a bachelor still when he began to live in it in the summer of 1770. Not all the beauties of the English court, nor of the southern mansions, nor Miss Bayard's voice, nor the maidens of Portsmouth, seemed to touch his heart.. Apparently this was because he loved his cousin Frances Deering. But while he was gone in England she had married another cousin, young Theodore Atkinson, his nearest neighbor in Portsmouth.

Then, at the moment when his house was done, his rival died, leaving a lovely widow of 24. She was not long a widow. The same guns which had fired, minute by minute, a funeral salute to Atkinson on November 1, 1770, fired their approval of the widow's marriage to the Governor on November 10. The same crowd which had mourned at the funeral joined in the wedding festivities. The same minister who laid Atkinson to rest performed the new wedding.

Four years thereafter the guns boomed again; this time a welcome to a new-born son, Charles-Mary -- he was named after both Lord and Lady Rockingham at their request. His proud father wrote, " He will do to pull up stumps at Wentworth House."

At the very moment when Portsmouth was absorbed in the great ball to celebrate Wentworth's victory over Livius, on the night

of December 16, 1773, a little group of Boston radicals were throwing tea-chests from a ship into the harbor. The news of the Boston Tea Party reached Portsmouth almost at once, and divided interest with the comments on the Governor's ball..

Three days after the Boston incident a public meeting in Portsmouth resolved that the tea business was artfully designed to "raise a revenue from the colonies without our consent. Wherefore from a due sense of the value and importance of our liberties and properties, and from a just apprehension of the horrors of slavery" the meeting resolved that this was "unjust, arbitrary, and inconsistent with the principles of the British constitution", and that it "directly tended to hasten on the destruction of the empire." They resolved, finally, to form a union of all the colonies to obtain repeal, and to "use any ~~xxxxxxxx~~ necessary method" to prevent the landing or the sale of tea.

As the year 1773 progressed, the press of Portsmouth began to display the news from Boston on the front page, in the place hitherto reserved for the news from London. The center of gravity had begun to shift. In June came news of the protests of the Mass. House of Representatives against the letters written by Governor Hutchinson about the affairs in that colony -- letters secured in London by Dr. Franklin and sent by him to America.

By August the spirit had spread. An article headed, "Britons attend! Americans give ear!" informs us that "The People of this Continent are awaked by the Call of Liberty, and are now forming Plans to preserve it in Perfection to Future Ages. The People of Britain are alarmed ... No Power nor Wisdom in Great Britain can secure the Dependence of the Colonies agreeable to her Idea of Dendendance." A Congress is urged, to establish a "Union between Britain and America founded on equal Liberty". This article from the Boston Gazette divides interest with the controversy over paper money. By December the Portsmouth paper note the instructions to New York pilots not to bring in any ships suspected of carrying tea, under penalty of the "vengeance of a Free People."

These things the Governor read. Although the December 17 issue noted that the Livius charges had been dismissed and that he had been "honourably acquitted", the next week's issue contained an account of a meeting of freeholders and others in Portsmouth to protest the landing of tea. Moreover its resolutions declared, among other things, that "a Union of all the colonies is most likely, under God, to secure repeal" of the obnoxious measures. The resolutions were signed by a list of names beginning with John Sherburne and ending with Captain John Langdon. That issue contained the story of the Boston Tea Party. By January the little town of Greenland, up the river from Portsmouth, had resolved against tea, and a whole page is filled with obituaries, fires, accidents and (what the Governor might have noted grimly as similar catastrophes) news of similar protests.

1774 Wentworth got word in June of the coming of the Grosvenor with tea aboard. He rode out to Dover to divert attention, while the captain and consignee landed the cargo and stored it in the customhouse according to his directions. The next day he came to the meeting being held by the radicals in protest; he agreed with their committee to send the tea to Halifax, set guards over it, and so blocked a Portsmouth Tea Party. Yet he knew that the troubles were only beginning. He wrote, "Our hemisphere threatens a hurricane. I have in vain strove almost to death to prevent it.

If I can at last bring out of it safety to my country and honour to our sovereign, my labors will be joyful."

It was evident to him, as to others, that two incompatible theories of imperial administration stood face to face. The British doctrine of the supremacy of Parliament over the colonies versus the colonial contention that its assemblies were of equal authority with Parliament, under the Crown. But the constitutional issue was only half the case. Men seldom fight for abstract principles. There was dislike of "oligarchic" government, however capable and benevolent. There were business rivalries and social feuds. There was a mass of later immigrants, resentful of the domination of the older settlements and families; the antagonism of the outlying districts towards the capital. There was widespread belief that each man's fortunes and unrealized ambitions were somehow the fault of government, and could be relieved by change. There were able and ambitious men prepared to use these forces to attain power; and under the guise of liberty and equality to bring about the overthrow of the old regime.

In the face of all this what could one colonial governor do? In Portsmouth the dignity and authority of British "tyranny" were represented by a handful of officials, and by Fort William and Mary, whose crumbling walls were defended by an officer and 5 men. Wentworth had forbidden the Committee of Correspondence to meet in a government building. The Committee sought a tavern, and summoned a provincial convention at Exeter, which presently chose Major Sullivan and Colonel Folsom as its delegates to the first Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia in this fall of 1774. The Continental Congress drew up protests to the King, to Parliament, and to other colonies; signed an Association to prevent commerce with Great Britain till America's grievances were recognized; and entrusted its execution to local committees of safety or of "ways and means".

Wentworth's position became daily more difficult. Thus far, while other governors were seeking safety where they could, his enemies had been unable to shake his popularity. Then General Gage found the Boston radicals blocking his efforts to get carpenters to build barracks for his troops. He appealed to Wentworth for help, and Wentworth secretly employed an agent to secure men at Portsmouth. The Portsmouth committee discovered this, denounced the Governor's "cruel and unmanly" conduct, pronounced him an "enemy of the community", compelled his agent to beg forgiveness on his knees, and frightened the New Hampshire carpenters from their jobs. With this Wentworth's popularity, his chief asset, was gone.

Worse was to follow in the winter of 1774-1775. The British government, sensing armed trouble in America, had now forbidden the exportation of munitions to American ports. The Rhode Islanders seized a local supply in the harbor fort. News of this was relayed from Boston to Portsmouth by Paul Revere, and action there developed rapidly. Wentworth sensed what the action would be. In Fort William and Mary lay a hundred kegs of powder, guarded by six men, and the Governor ordered Captain Cochran to defend it at all costs.

On December 13 the patriots held a meeting. Next day a crowd gathered to the beat of drum. Wentworth sent the chief justice to read the riot act, warn them against violence, and order them to disperse. They refused. Joined on their way by groups from Rye and Newcastle, a mob of 400 men marched to the fort,

overpowered the little garrison, and carried off the powder. Next day arrived John Sullivan from Durham to assure the Governor that he would use his "utmost endeavours" to disperse the crowd, while a committee waited on Wentworth to disavow the act and ask suspension of any prosecution against its perpetrators. Wentworth agreed that if the powder was returned he would regard it as an "alleviation" of the offence. On the following night Sullivan led another party himself to Fort William and Mary, seized and carried off cannon, muskets and other stores. Thus the revolution began in New Hampshire.

Wentworth appealed to Admiral Graves, at Boston, for support, and got two ships and a hundred marines for protection. He made no attempt to seize the rioters. He wrote, "No jail would hold them long, no jury find them guilty, for by the false alarm raised through the country it is considered by the weak and ignorant who have the rule in these times an act of self-preservation." He deprived the known leaders of their militia commissions. He formed a little force of fifty loyal men to guard his person. Within a month another convention at Exeter had chosen the mob leaders John Langdon and John Sullivan as delegates to a second Continental Congress, as recognition of their services.

The Governor played for time. The Assembly was to meet in February. He adjourned it till May, and went to Wolfeborough with his wife and infant son, born five days before Langdon and Sullivan were elected delegates to the CCongress. While he was at Wolfeborough the revolutionary spirit spread. The Loyalists were being driven from their homes, and were seeking refuge first in Portsmouth, then in Boston. Paul Revere appeared again in Portsmouth, this time to announce Concord and Lexington.

Wentworth hurried back to face the storm, but there was little he could do. Twelve hundred men from New Hampshire marched to join the patriot army forming at Cambridge for the siege of Boston, and the N.H. convention at Exeter voted three regiments of 2,000 men for a year's service. Amid these distractions the Assembly met in May, put off the Governor's appeal to consider Lord North's for conciliation. Still playing for time, Wentworth adjourned the Assembly until June. Before it met again a brawl between British naval boat crews and Portsmouthmen further embittered the situation. When the Assembly came together it had a new grievance. Wentworth had empowered the towns of Lyme, Orford and Plymouth to send representatives to the Assembly. The Assembly did not consent, and deprived these members of their seats.

This apparently trifling incident precipitated the catastrophe which Wentworth had so long and skilfully put off. One of these rejected members, a former English officer named John Fenton, that night took dinner with the Governor. A crowd collected and demanded him as a prisoner; the Governor refused; the mob brought up a cannon and trained it on the house. Whatever his politics Fenton was a gallant gentleman. He came out unconcernedly, surrendered, and was carried in triumph to Exeter. The ensuing issue of the Gazette, which printed the correspondence between the Governor and the Assembly over the excluded representatives, carried the news of the battle of Bunker Hill, and of the meeting of the New Hampshire Provincial Congress at Exeter.

This was the end. That night Wentworth took his family to the fort where, under the guns of the Scarborough, he might hope for

safety for his wife and son. With this the government of the colony passed definitely into other hands. Left to himself, Wentworth might have solved his problems successfully; but he was a servant of the Crown, which made success impossible. He was a representative of authority faced by a popular uprising against the government. Three courses were open to him: to stand aside and let things take their course, preserving his own fortunes by silence and consent; to take the lead himself and perpetuate his power by sacrifice of his principles; or to go down in honor.

He chose the third, and thus determined his future once for all. When the Scarborough was ordered to Boston he and his family went with her, and joined the Loyalist exiles within the British lines. Thence he returned but once, when in September he came to New Hampshire soil for his last official act, a proclamation to prorogue the Assembly to the following April. Before April came he wrote Dartmouth that he had taken ship "to whatever place the fleet and army go." First to Halifax, then Long Island and New York, finally to England he went, while his estates were confiscated and he was proclaimed a traitor by the men who had now risen to the head of the New Hampshire government. In the space of 18 months his dreams had come to a tragic conclusion.

His shrewd old father, keeping clear of politics, saved what he could from the wreckage. The British ministry gave the former Governor a pension, and his wife a place at court. His relatives were rich and devoted, and he found a place in English society. At last he obtained xxx an office as a reward for his loyalty. By a curious coincidence, Lord Rockingham was again brought into power to make peace with America; and before Rockingham died he did Wentworth one last service. It was a revival of his old post of Surveyor of the King's Woods. Wentworth returned to Halifax with this post, and there lived eight years. Then, during another visit to England, the Lieutenant-Governor of that province died, and Wentworth was appointed to the post.

For nearly 16 years he exercised the powers of Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, till the storm of the Napoleonic Wars put Prevost in his stead. In Halifax, with his wife and brother-in-law Benning, and presently with Charles-Mary, he revived the shadow of his New England home. Removed from office, he returned to England. His wife died there and, his heart turning always to America, he came back to Nova Scotia, where he lived till 1820.

A building at Dartmouth College still bears his name; an old silver punch bowl still handed down from president to president remains there also; In Halifax are some volumes of his letters and a tomb; elsewhere in histories and documents some mention of his name. In Portsmouth a house. In Wolfeborough the cellar of his summer home -- these are his weapons against oblivion.

In the year he died, his great house at Wolfeborough burned to the ground. With it went, according to tradition, by a stroke of lightning, the pine which he had planted to commemorate its founding. Charles-Mary died in England a bachelor.

(End of quoted material from "Conflicts with Oblivion". These quotes I have altered -- without in any way changing the sense -- in various places to cut out unnecessary wordage and to bridge the gaps. THR)

Wentworth Notes -- continued.

Dictionary of National Biography, edited by Sidney Lee, published in New York by the MacMillan Company, 1909, gives the following facts about John Wentworth:-

On 16 May 1795 he was created a baronet, and on 16 June 1796 he was honored with the privilege of wearing in the chevron of his arms two keys as an emblem of his fidelity. His administration in Nova Scotia was vigorous, and personally he was popular; but he was accused of filling the Council with his own connections, and towards the end of his government he was involved in several differences with the Assembly.

John Wentworth married, on 11 November 1769, at Queen's Chapel, Portsmouth N.H., his cousin Frances, widow of Theodore Atkinson.

Provincial Papers -- Documents and Records relating to the Province of New Hampshire, from 1764 to 1776, Volume 7 --compiled and edited by Nathaniel Bouton D.D., printed at Nashua in 1873:-

"At a Council holden at Portsmouth by His Excellency's summons on Saturday, June 13 1767.

Present:

His Excellency Benning Wentworth Esq. Governor

Theodore Atkinson Sr.		Nathl. Barrell
Daniel Warner	Esqrs. of	Peter Levius
Mark Hunking Wentworth	ye	Jona. Warner
James Nevin	Conc.	Daniel Rindge
Theodore Atkinson Jr.		Daniel Peirce
		George Jaffrey

His Excellency acquainted the Board that H.E. John Wentworth Esqr. whom his Royal Master had appointed to succeed him as Governor of this Province would arrive in this town by one of the clock & tho't proper his Majesty's Council should be assembled in the Council Chamber at that time to receive him. Accordingly his Majesty's Council did meet in the Council Chamber & His Excellency John Wentworth Esq. did arive escorted by two troops of Horse the first regiment of militia being drawn up at the end of the Town House his Excellency there produced his Majesty's Royal Commission under the Great Seal appointing him Capt. General & Governor over this his Majestys Province which was publickly read in the audience of a vast concourse of his Majesty's subjects exclusive of the militia both Horse & Foot as was also his Excellency's Commission appointing him Vice Admiral of this Province. Then His Excellency & His Majestys Council took the usual oaths in the accustomed method.

His Excellency then issued a Proclamation, impowering & directing all officers civil and military to exercise the duty of their respective officers till further order. Then the cannon at Castle William & Mary were discharged as also the battery raised in this town for that end, three vollies of small arms were fired by the militia & three huzzas given by the multitude. His Excellency & the Council the Magistrates & a great number of gentlemen then retired from the Council Chamber & dined publicly where etc."

Note: Theodore Atkinson Jr. is mentioned in these papers as a member of the Council attending meetings in June & July 1767. After this there is a gap in the papers extending to 1772. Theodore Atkinson Jr. died of consumption in 1769.

Further notes from Provincial Papers of New Hampshire

At a Council meeting at Portsmouth on Wednesday 30 June 1773 by Gov.Wentworth's summons. Present were Theodore Atkinson Sr., Daniel Warner, Jna. Warner, Daniel Rindge, Daniel Rogers.

The Council heard a petition of the Selectmen of the town of Portsmouth setting forht that it was not in their power to prevent persons going down to the Pest House Island to be inoculated for the Small Pox, the great danger of the inhabitants of this town and province, and therefore praying the advice and assistance of His Excellency & the Council. The Council ruled that no person hereafter should go down to the Pest House Island without license first obtained from the Governor and Council. If any person disobeys this order and receives the infection there or elsewhere, they shall be confined 42 days after their recovery and until an order for their return be obtained from the Governor & Council. The Council further ruled that "any Physician" who went down to Pest House Island without leave from the Selectmen shall be oblig[illegible] to remain there until an order for their return be obtained from Governor & Council. The selectmen are to appoint a proper guard to see these orders executed.

(The above was aimed at Doctors Joshua Bracket and Stephen Little [illegible], a son-in-law of Doctor Clement Jackson. These two physicians had been inoculating people, including their own wives, on Pest House Island.)

A measure for collecting the Province Tax in 1765 reveals the following "products of this province":-

Bar iron, hemp, Indian corn, rye, peas, (i.e. bayberry) winter wheat, barley, pork, beef, flax, bees wax, babury wax, well tanned sole leather, tallow, winter and spring codfish, pitch, tar, turpentine, white pine joists, white pine boards, white oak two inch plank.

Nov.27, 1765 -- A petition of Martha Barrell of Portsmouth setting forth that about three months past she intermarried with one William Barrell of said Portsmouth with all the publick forms of matrimony under expectation of living comfortably & happily with him and that he would answer every End of matrimony, but so it is that the End of Matrimony which among other things Tends to increase & multiply, which cannot ever be answered to her, as it has pleased God that your Petitioners said husband is utterly incapable to satisfy the most virtuous and modest Feminine Inclination and is Impotent to render that due Benevolence which every married woman is warranted not only in expectation, but receiving etc., and Praying she [illegible] might have adv[illegible] assigned to Prove her allegations and that the said William might be notified thereof accordingly.

Read & sent down. (The petitioner was granted a hearing by Council and Assembly.)

A footnote in the N.H.Provincial Papers, Vol.7, page 129, sets forth the oath of allegiance & abjuration as laid down in Geo.III, ch.53, 1766:-

"I A.B.do, in the sincerity of my heart, assert,acknowledge and declare, that His Majesty King George is the only lawful and undoubted Sovereign of this Realm ...And therefore I do promise

and swear, That I will with heart and hand, life and goods, maintain and defend his right, title and government, against the Descendants of the person who pretended to be Prince of Wales during the life of the late King James, and since his decease, pretended to be, and took upon himself the stile and title of King of England, by the name of James the Third, or of Scotland by the name of James the Eighth, or the stile and title of King of Great Britain, and their adherents, and all other Enemies who, either by open or secret attempts shall disturb or disquiet his Majesty in the Possession and Exercise thereof."

March 7, 1769

Vol.7, page 201 Theodore Atkinson Jr. was voted an allowance of one hundred and twenty pounds (a year), in the usual manner, for his services as Secretary of the Council.

Council members were allowed 6 shillings and 5 pence per day for their attendance, and 2 pence halfpenny per mile for travelling to and from the sittings of the General Assembly. Members of the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ House of Representatives got 6 shillings per day and 2½ pence a mile.

30 K this is wrong. It was 1768.

Vol.7, page 206, footnote Friday, December ~~10~~, 1769, Ruth Blay of South Hampton was executed in pursuance of the sentence of death pronounced upon her by the Superior Court at August term last. She was indicted for concealing the birth of a bastard child, so that it might not come to light, whether the said child was born alive or not. Wiseman Claggett Esq. was the King's Attorney who conducted the prosecution. The court were Theodore Atkinson, Chief Justice, Thomas Wallingford, Mesheck Weare and Leverett Hubbard, Justices. She was convicted by the verdict of a Jury, and sentenced to be hanged by the neck until she should be dead. This sentence was executed by Thomas Packer, Sheriff of N.H., on a ridge of high land in a field belonging to the south parish, lying on the south road leading to Little Harbor. She was buried in the same field, near the bottom of the hill. A vast concourse of people attended.

Vol.7, page 208 March 15, 1769. Petition of Samuel Hall of Portsmouth, setting forth that he improves the land where, and near the gallows on which Ruth Blay was hang'd, was fixed; and had the year before made a considerable quantity ofnew fence and stone wall, which was almost broke to pieces and thrown down by the crowd of people who attended the execution and other damage done to his pasture by the horses, for which he charges ten pounds lawful money, and prays that as the execution of all criminals are defrayed at the public expense, his case may be considered and damages allow'd.

Vol.7, page ~~XXX~~ 247, ~~XXXXXXXX~~ The House voted forty pounds to the heir or heirs of Honbl. Theodore Atkinson jun. Esq., deceased, for his services as Secretary from March 1 to Nov. 1 1769.

Footnote "Theodore Atkinson jr., one of H.M.Council, and Secretary of the Province, departed this life on Saturday October 28, aged thirty three years. On the Wednesday following, his remains were deposited in the family tomb at Queen's Chapel. During the procession minute guns were fired at Castle William and Mary, and from H.M. ship Beaver in the harbor; and every other testimony of respect was shown which his public station and private virtues demanded. He was the only son of Hon. Theodore Atkinson, Chief Justice

of the Province and President of the Council. He received his education at Harvard College and was graduated in the year 1757. He was mild and obliging in his disposition, faithful and correct in his official duties, and devout in the exercises of religion.

On Saturday Nov.11, Governor Wentworth was married by Rev. Arthur Brown, in Queen's Chapel, to Mrs. Frances Atkinson, relict of Theodore Atkinson Jun., and daughter of Samuel Wentworth Esq. of Boston. Her full maiden name was Frances Deering Wentworth."

Vol.7, page 248 April, 1770. His Excellency the Captain-General was desired(by the Council) to give orders for enlisting five men to be posted at H.M. Fort William & Mary for one year, commencing the first day of March last, under such officer as he shall be pleased to appoint. The pay of the officer shall be 30 shillings per month, and each private 18 shillings per month, and 5 shillings per week for billeting to be paid when the muster roll shall be allowed by the General Assembly. Sent up by Captain Worthen.
(Concurred)

Page. 267 John Wentworth recommends to the Speaker and memebrs of Assembly that the militia be formed " into a powerful and respectable body, which from the number and the natural bravery and strength of the men, it is undoubtedly capable of." Also he recommends "a proper plan of military exercise, which I shall immediately cause to be published, and practised accordingly."

Page 283 April 12, 1771. An Act for establishing and making passable a road from the Governor's house in Wolfborough to Dartmouth College in Hanover.

Page 287 14 December, ~~XXXX~~ 1771. The Governor's message to the House of Assembly mentions the need for schools. "Nine tenths of your towns are wholly without schools, or have such vagrant foreign Masters as are much worse than none; Being for the most part unknown in their principles and deplorably illiterate. The useful progress of Dartmouth College promises the happiest effects. ... "In the last session of the General Court, a vote of Supply pass'd, to erect a Light at the Castle ... for the benefit of vessels coming into this Harbour and upon this coast.... The Necessity, Humanity and Advantage of a Building for this purpose is universally known: I have exceeded the Grant in erecting and lighting the edifice. Already it hath been the acknowledged means of preserving two vessels and their men."

Page 290 Captain John Cohran, commanding the handful of men at the Castle, complains of the bad condition of the fort, inspite of recent repairs to the ramparts and platforms. The chimney in his own dwelling is dangerous, so is the chimney in the soldiers' barracks, which is dangerously close to the powder magzine. There should be more soldiers. The present men's time expires in the spring and they will leave, owing to the low wages. There is a want of suitable boats for the use of the Fort.

Page 306 In his Message to the House of Assembly June 5,1772, Gov.Wentworth ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ notes that they have voted his usual salary of seven hundred pounds for the ensuing year. " I have found

this sum from the experience of five years past a very inadequate ... I take this opportunity of proposing to the House a competent provision for this purpose."

Page 337 A full transcription of the complaints made against Gov. Wentworth by Peter Livius (or Levius as it is usually spelled in the colonial documents); together with the report on these complaints as weighed by a government committee in London.

The London committee rejects some of Livius' charges but finds Wentworth guilty of manipulating lands, changing Judges, and withholding reports of the proceedings of the Council. "Upon the whole .... the complaint against Mr. Wentworth, so far as it regards the facts above stated, has been fully verified. At the same time it is our duty to represent, that the reports which we have received through different channels of the situation of affairs within your Majesty's government of New Hampshire, do all concur in representing the colony to have been, ever since Mr. Wentworth's appointment, in a state of peace and prosperity; that its commerce has been enlarged and extended, the number of its inhabitants increased, and every attempt made to excite the people to disorder and disobedience has been, by the firm and temperate conduct of Mr. Wentworth, suppressed and restrained. But upon the whole, we humbly submit, whether Mr. Wentworth's conduct in the maladministration with which he has been charged, has been such as renders him a fit person to be entrusted with your Majesty's interest in the important station he now holds.

(signed) Soam Jenyns
Bamber Gascoyne
Grenville
Garlies

Whitehall, May 10,1773."

To the above there was a sequel, when the Lords of the Committee of Council for Plantation Affairs reported to the Privy Council their review of Livius' attack and of Wentworth's reply.. They summed up their report as follows:-

"Upon the whole, therefore the Lords of The Committee submit to your Majesty, That there is no foundation for any censure upon the said John Wentworth Esq., Your Majesty's Governor of New Hampshire, for any of the charges contained in Mr. Livius's complaint against him." The king thereupon(Oct.8,1773) dismissed the Livius complaints, but ordered that Wentworth hereafter submit "punctually and regularly" to the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations, authentic copies of the journals of the (New Hampshire) Council, as a Council of State.

The effects of this affair dragged on, however, for in April 1775 John Wentworth was writing to Henry Bellew, in London (Bellew had married the widow of Gov. John's brother Thomas, who was Anne, daughter of Judge Tasker of Marblehead.)

"My affair with Livius is at length finished in my favour after much time, cost and trouble that I thought it possible such

a groundless malevolent attempt could have found means to create. To this moment I have never learned the reason that induced Mr. Trecothick to direct Mr. Holland and Skinner, in the first hearing to leave my reputation at the mercy of mine enemy, without using the cloud of authentic testimonies furnished to justify me, and prove the notorious wickedness, dishonour and malignity of the complainant.This strange conduct must naturally injure me very much, and no doubt causes Mr. Dunning, whose good opinion I exceedingly covet, to form an unfavorable judment of the case. Your kind interposition with him on this point I shall always consider as an essential office of real friendship."

page 376 Portsmouth, N.H. May 30,1775

This day about 30 or 40 men from the Scarborough man-o'-war now in the harbour, came on shore at Fort William and Mary, and tore down great part of the breastwork of said Fort, and did other damage. The day before this, the Scarborough took two provision vessels, loaded with corn, pork, flour, Rye etc., coming in from Long Island, which was for the reliefe of this place, as the inhabitants are in great want of provisions;and notwithstanding the most prudent application of the principal gentlemen of this Town, the Captain refused to release them..

The inhabitants of this and the neighbouring Towns were greatly alarmed, and next morning between five and six hundred men in arms went down to the battery called Jerry's Point, and brought off eight cannon, 24 & 32-pounders, weighing 4,800 lbs. each, and brought them up to this Town. While they were taking off the Cannon, the Canceaux set sail with the two provision vessels for Boston. The next day the Town was full of men from the country, in arms.

The Committee of Safety having met, a memorial was presented to the Governor and Council, who took every prudent method in their power to pacify the people, and to obtain a release of the captures. His Excellency repaired on board the Scarborough and informed the Captain that the provisions were the property of some of the inhabitants, who had before contracted for the same; but the only answer he could obtain was that "Admiral Graves and the General had forwarded orders to take every provision vessel that should be met with, on every station, and send them forthwith to Boston for the supply of the Army & Navy." Captain Barclay of the Scarborough informed two of the Committee at Fort William & Mary that his orders were such that he must even take all vessels with salt or molasses, they being a species of provision, and send them into Boston.

(According to a letter from H.Wentworth to Matthew Thornton, President of the Congress at Exeter, May 31, 1775, the guns from Jerry's Point, 6 twenty-fours and two thirty-twos, had neither carriages nor ammunition.)

Page 381 Letters from John Wentworth to General Gage dated June 15 and June 29, 1775, reveal the following:-

"The ferment in this Province has become very general, and the government has been very much agitated and disturbed since the affair of the 19th of April last. Two thousand men are already

enlisted, two-thirds of whom xxxxxxxxxxxxxx I am informed are destined to join the insurgents in your province, and the remainder are to be stationed along the coast in different parts between Portsmouth and Newbury.

The spirit of outrage runs so high that on Tuesday last my house was beset by great bodies of armed men (who brought) a cannon xxxxxxxx directly before my house, and pointed it at my door, threatening fire and destruction unless Mr. Fenton should deliver himself up to them. ... Mr. Fenton was obliged to surrender himself and they have carried him off to Exeter, xxxxxxxxxxx about fifteen miles from Portsmouth where he is kept in confinement..

I found myself under the xxxxxxxxxxnecessity of immediately withdrawing to Fort William and Mary, both to prevent as much as may be a Repetition of the like insults and to provide for my own xxxxxxx security.... This fort, although containing upwards of sixty pieces of cannon, is without men or ammunition.

(June 29th) Admiral Graves has sent a transport under convoy of the Falcon sloop of war, and entirely dismantled this ungarrisoned Castle of all the ordnance, stores etc. Besides the necessity of being crowded into this miserable house, confined for room and neither wind nor water tight, I am inevitably obliged to incur some extra expense for my safety and existence even here.. Being of necessity compelled to make some small repairs to render it habitable, and to employ six men as watches to prevent my being surprised and made prisoner. These, with my three servants and Mr. Benning Wentworth, and Captain Cochrane, and divided into three guards of four hours each; by which means I have some security of getting on board the Scarborough. The six men are at the expence of Twelve dollars per month each, including their dieting, allowance of Rum etc., under which expence no trusty man could possibly be had for so unpopular a service in this time of general opposition to Government. The repairs will not exceed fifty guineas."

In a note to Theodore Atkinson (Sr) dated at Castle Wm. & Mary, July 3, 1775, John Wentworth concludes;*

"Mrs.Wentworth joins with me in due regard to you; we also present the same in behalf of our boy Charles Mary who promises to make a good fisherman & xxx perhaps a good Gunner."

On July 7th Theodore Atkinson sent a note to Wentworth advising him that on July 6th a force of men led by the Secretary of the Committee appointed at Exeter had come to his office and demanded all the records and files of the Secretary of the Province.(Who was himself.) "I told them they well knew it was not in my power to defend the office by force of arms; if they took the records or any of them they must be answerable.. They then cleared the office of all the Books & Papers and transported them to Exeter."

Further notes from Atkinson (Secretary to the Council) reveal that both he and Thomas MacDonagh or McDonough remained in Portsmouth while John Wentworth was on Castle William,and that the Council were still holding meetings.

July 5,1775 the Scarborough seized and retained a fishing boat, laden with fish, owned by Titus Salter. Her name was the Ann.

Page 393 - Province of New Hampshire Correspondence, Vol 7.cont'd.

from

Letter from Gov. John Wentworth to his sister Mrs. Ann Fisher at Portsmouth N.H.:-

"Flatbush, Long Island.
January 17,1777

My dear Sister,

I have prevail'd on a man, bound on a trading journey, to forward you this letter, and one to my father, with one from your husband, who was well Oct.23rd, the latest actts.we have from England. Also 7 letters for Mrs. Rindge from my uncle, who was well at the time, as is Mr. Boyd, Traill and Wy. Langdon. I have a box qt. 16 pr. children's shoes -- 3 pr. woms. silk and 3 pr. Calamanco shoes -- 4 pattherns of Calacoe and 4 handckfs which Mr. Fisher sent for you by Mr. Brinley. Whenever they can be sent you shall have them. Mr. Brinley was fired on 37 days since by a party in the Jerseys -- one ball penetrated under the fifth rib -- another below the hip, and a third just above the garter -- he refused quarter and rode 4 miles to a party of Waldeckers. There is hopes of his recovery -- is at N. York -- Mr. Pepperell arrived here some time since -- he takes passage for London in 4 days. I think it probable Mr. Fisher and Mr. Rindge will be here in the Spring. Mr. Meserve, Hale and Lutwyche are perfectly well -- Capt. Cochran, Mr. McDonough and Mr. Wentworth are with me and well. From dispositions and intelligence from Pennsylvania and Southward it is more than probable that the present unnatural war is almost at an end. Be assur'd an army of 20,000 Russians and 12,000 Wirtenbergers etc. are engag'd and will be in N. England by June next, unless prevented by Peace. Mrs. W. and Charles are very well -- the latter is taken under the wing of his noble sponsors and namesake, who are incredibly fond of him. He has the same apartments assign'd to him that his noble namesake occupied in his infancy.... I rejoice to hear our dear Parents, you and your sweet little ones are all well. I hope it will not be long before we meet. Pray give the little cherubs a million kisses for me.Capt. Bellew has been very ill but writes me from Halifax he is recovered and out of danger. Mark is with him. By Robt. Butler I requested my father would supply Mrs. Butler ten guineas. Mr Butler is well and in good employ, where he saves money and acts laudably. Pray remember me kindly to all my loyal steadfast friends -- the time of their rejoicing is at hand. I am in good health, and will not leave America until peace is restored. Those that love me and that I love will be good to Prisoners and Captives -- I would sell my all for their comfort. I have not, nor do I wish to receive a line from N. Hampshire. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Rindge are as happy as they can be from their familys, whom they dearly love. Our worthy parents will accept my most cordial and attach'd salutations, and all will oblige me in their continued affections, which are inestimable to, my dear sister,

Your affectionate brother,
J. Wentworth.

I send you 5 letters directed to Mr. Russell -- they are for you, and you must open them."

(End of quotations from N.H.Correspondence Vol.7)

Letter from Gov. John Wentworth to Thomas Westbrook Waldron.

Portsmouth, Feb. 8, 1775

My dear Sir,

Capt, Dame safely bro't your favor yesterday. There is no doubt S.* has his spies & none can be more ready for the office than H. J...n* neither can there be one more deceptive or less to be relied on. He skillfully attended the perilous hour lately in this house, but does not visit here. Even at that time, when retired from his professional call, he preferr'd the jolly laughing servants' hall to the master's parlour, in which I quietly adquiesced. Here his unmeaning invention was triumphantly exercised. Obstetric anecdotes, surgery, military instructions and political phantoms by turns entertained the circle; and the next day his own storys he retail'd on the parade as news from the Province House. Mrs. W. grows better; her son is unwell."

* refers to John Sullivan, one of the leaders of the patriots.

* refers to Dr. Hall Jackson, a distinguished physician and surgeon in Portsmouth, who died aged 58 in 1797. He was lively, sociable, "facetious and pleasant in conversation", a well liked doctor.

Extracts from "History of Wolfeborough" by Benjamin F. Parker

Mirror Lake ... was first known as Livius's Pond, taking its name from Peter Livius, a member of Gov. Wentworth's Council. Through his agent Livius commenced farming on the west shore of the pond. There he dug a channel, intending to drain the pond and convert it into a grass meadow. This channel still exists. He erected a house, the cellar of which remains, and employed a large number of laborers under an overseer -- who is said to have had a seat on a stump twenty feet high, where he could overlook his gang. The scheme for an artificial meadow was a failure, either because of the unsuitability of the soil or of Livius's enforced departure. Being a royalist, he retired to Canada, where he obtained a public office. The name Livius was contracted to Levis, and by that name the pond was known for years.

The primitive forest of Wolfeboro was diversified. White pine prevailed in the central and southwestern portion of the town. Hemlock, beech, maple, oak and other hardwoods were found in all parts.

The proprietors of Wolfeborough obtained possession of the township in the autumn of 1759. Paul March, John Wentworth and Dr. Ammi Cutter were appointed a committee to offer gifts of land to settlers and to adopt such other measures as would be likely to promote the settlements. They were unsuccessful. The permanent settlement of Wolfeboro dates from 1768, although a few persons, unaccompanied by their families, had previously spent some time within its borders. The region was noted for its furs and was frequently visited by hunters. Persons who had settled on the shores of Lake Winnipesaukee came to the meadows on the borders of Lake Wentworth in the hay season, cut and stacked the grass, and in the winter removed it to their homes on the ice. William Rogers when

a lad spent an entire winter on the shore of Lake Wentworth, caring for neat stock, which was kept in a hovel. He was visited occasionally by members of his family with food.

Gov. Wentworth as early as 1768 commenced operations on his own lands. At fourteen John W. had entered Harvard College, making the journey to Cambridge on horseback, accompanied by a servant. There he met Ammi Ruhamah Cutter, who for two years had been a student at the college. Between these two young men began a close intimacy that lasted for a score of years. The parting of the political ways forbade companionship through the greater part of their long lives.

The College Road was completed as a horseway to Hanover and used as such. In August 1771 the Governor with a number of gentlemen set out from Portsmouth for Dartmouth College by way of Wolfeborough.

In April 1768 John Wentworth wrote that "Mr. Benjamin Hart, overseer of my designations in the wilderness, and Mr. Webb, who is to reside there as farmer, are now there on their first expedition to clear a few acres and build a humble habitation for me."

In 1768, '69 and '70 a large force of laborers cleared a great extent of forest, sowed fields, planted orchards, laid out a large garden, and erected a mansion. The site of the house was a small plain about 100 rods east of Lake Wentworth. The house was 100 feet long and 40 wide, and fronted both east and west. It was two-storied with a gambrel roof, the upper story being 18 feet and the lower story 12 feet high. Its windows, glazed with small panes, were 6 feet wide. A hall 12 feet wide extended across it, entered at each end by massive doors, the keys of which weighed 1½ lbs each. (Mrs. Raynard, the last occupant of the house before it burned, sent one of them to the governor, then an octogenarian, who was deeply moved on its receipt.) The principal room in the upper story was the "East India" chamber, the walls of which were covered with finely painted paper depicting life scenes in the East. Here was a white marble fireplace; on each side were niches to place statues. On the same floor were the "green room" and the "blue room", thus named from the color of their finishings. Here also was the "King & Queen's" chamber, which had a fireplace of grey marble, and niches in which stood statues of the king and queen. In the lower story were the store-room, kitchen, diningroom, drawing room and library. In the library was a black marble fireplace with a tile hearth. At the south end of the house was a one-storied building called a "porch", probably used for domestic purposes. At a little distance was a dairy with a well.

The chief barn was 100 feet long. Some of the grounds were enclosed by carefully built stone walls that remain standing. A mall extended from the shore of the lake to the mansion and ground beyond, a part of which is still to be seen. This was bordered with elms. There was also a fenced park, stocked with deer and moose. This deer-park was surrounded by a ditch 12 feet wide, with an embankment on the outer side formed by the earth thrown out; on this embankment were piled large trees with branches interwoven. Near the park was the house of Robert Calder, the Scotch gardener. The northerly end of the house (nearly one half of it) was never finished. It was, no doubt, intended for court rooms.

Wentworth's visit to England had increased a previously possessed desire to have a large landed estate like the baronies

of the British Isles. The locality (at Wolfborough) was a desirable one for his purpose. The plain, which lay adjacent to the lakeshore, was a fitting place for his residential mansion. There was ample room for wide fields, gardens and orchards. The nearby plateau, Martin's Hill, illumined by the rays of the morning and evening sun, presented a pleasing picture. Mount Delight, overlooking the little bay at its foot and the broader blue of Lake Wentworth, added its charm; while the more distant hills and faraway mountains, whose cloud-capped tops hover over the shores and island-specked waters of Winnipesaukee, furnished views of unsurpassed loveliness.

Lumber for the buildings was probably manufactured on the premises, as there is evidence that a sawmill once stood on Rye Field Brook. If not, it could have been obtained from the Cutter & Sewall mill, a distance of about 5 miles. It is said that the bricks (for) the great chimneys were made at the foot of Smith's River falls, of clay brought from Clay Point in Alton. They were taken to Mast Landing, which is on a level with Lake Wentworth, and conveyed to destination in a two-masted boat, the Rockingham. No doubt they were quite expensive.

The fine material for finishing the house, and the furnishings, were taken from Portsmouth to Wolfeborough by the only feasible route then existing; by gondolas or other river craft to Dover; thence by teams along a road from Rochester to Merry Meeting Bay on Lake Winnipesaukee -- this road had been opened by soldiers during the late French war, protecting the frontier settlements against incursions of the Indians. From Merry Meeting Bay the freight was taken by the governor's sloop to Wolfeborough, where it was portaged over Smith's River falls, and conveyed by water to the Wentworth farm.

For passenger travel only there was another route from Portsmouth. It was the one usually, perhaps always taken. It was as follows, the distances and stopping places being given: from Portsmouth to Newington ferry (Knight's), 6 miles; Dover (Hanson's) 6 miles; Rochester (Stephen Wentworth's) 10 miles; Rochester (Roger's now Hayes') 4 miles; Middleton (Drew's, now Prescott's) 10 miles; Middleton (Guppy's, since Buzzell's) 1 mile; Wentworth House, 12 miles. (A total distance of 49 miles.) On the border of Middleton, near Wolfeborough line, lived Nicholas Austin. Here was the end of the road, until the Pequaket road was opened. From Portsmouth to Plummer's Ridge (then within the limits of Rochester, now a part of Milton) the governor's family rode in carriages, the remaining distance on horseback. Plummer usually accompanied the party on the latter part of the journey.

In 1770, the Governor and his family took possession of the house, though it was not finished. The New Hampshire Gazette said, "Last Tuesday His Excellency, our Governor, set out for his country seat on Winnipeseogee Pond, and we hear his lady sets out next week for the same place to reside during the summer season." "

Lake Wentworth teemed with pickerel and other food fish, as did the hillside streams with speckled trout. Jotham Rindge, the Governor's factotum, let loose English pheasants in the woods, but they disappeared. He also put cusk, a salt water fish, into Lake Wentworth. They evidently passed down Smith's River to Lake Winnipesaukee, where they have become inhabitants.

There were several favorite resorts about the farm for out-of-door dinners and teas. One was an island-rock in the southern

part of Lake Wentworth, still called Tea Rock or Governor's Rock. It was about 40 feet long and 20 feet broad. Turtle Island, near the north shore of the lake, was also a feasting place. This island was connected with the mainland by a narrow causeway. A large pine tree on Mount Delight was also a chosen place for afternoon entertainment. Wentworth's college chum, Dr. A.R. Cutter usually accompanied him to the farm in the double capacity of companion and physician.

One event that took place at the farm was the wedding of Lemuel Clifford, a farm hand, and Betsy Fullerton, daughter of the widow Mary Fullerton, a household domestic. The Governor, in scarlet, tied the nuptial knot, while his lady, dressed in blue, honored the occasion with her presence. The feast, provided at the expense of the Governor, was sumptuous; and the company of town guests, neighbours and domestics, remained at the banquet until the wee hours of the next morning. This caused the grateful husband to become devotedly attached to the governor and his interests. The newly married couple made themselves a home nearby. One day, in the absence of the husband, a deer came near the house and Betsy shot it. A marked strap was found about the neck of the deer, showing that it had escaped from the park. Betsy, fearing her husband's displeasure, hid the strap, and Lemuel feasted innocently on the Governor's venison.

Once, Wentworth had a moose caught and tethered to a tree. He intended shipping it to the King of England. But in its struggles to escape the moose broke its neck. A Scot named McDonald reported this to the Governor, and said he regetted that his own neck had not been broken instead of that of the moose.

In the governor's family were two negro slaves. They remained on the farm after his departure. The woman's name was Hagar and she had a son Remus.

Here is a letter written from Wolfeborough by Frances W.:-

" Wentworth House, October 4th, 1770

My dear Mrs. Langdon,

I hope there requires no profusion of words to convince my dear Friend how very happy her obliging letter made me, as surely she must be sensible of the kindest feelings of my heart towards her, and believe me, my dear Mrs. Langdon, I was extremely uneasy till I heard you got safe to Portsmouth. Mrs Long told me you had met with some inconvenience at the ferry, which really alarmed me exceedingly for you. However I was soon quieted by receiving a line from you with mention of your health. The time you spent with me in this solitary wilderness has riveted a lasting impression of pleasure on my mind; nor do I forget our tedious walks which the charms of the meadows scarcely made up for. I have taken but one since, and then lost both my shoes and came home barefoot.

Mrs. Livius arrived here on Monday afternoon, and appeared nearly as tired as you was, but would not own it. She staid here three nights for fair weather, and at last went over the pond in a high gust of wind, which made a great sea and white caps as large as the canoe. I was much afraid for her but she got over

quite safe. She told me you was unwell when she left town, and I am anxious to hear you are recovered again. I wish you had tarried at Wolfeborough till you had established your health. Indeed, you ought to be mighty attentive to keep your mind easy and calm, or you will be often subject to indispositions that will become mighty troublesome to you.

I was pleased at all the intelligence you gave me; for although I live in the woods I am fond of knowing what passes in the world. Nor have my ideas sunk in rural tranquillity half enough to prefer a grove to a ball-room. I wish you were here to take a game of billards with me, as I am all alone. The Governor is so busy in directions to his workmen that I am almost turned hermit.

The great dancing room is nearly completed, with the drawing room, and begins to make a very pretty appearance. I hope you will be here next summer with all my heart, and then our house will be more in order than it was when you last favoured me with a visit, and less noise. For in fact my head is most turned with a variety of noises that is everywhere about me, and I am hardly fit to bear it, as I have been in poor health ever since you left me, and am hardly able to live. However, I hope to be stout now the winter comes on, as the summer never agrees with my constitution, which looks strong but is quite slender. When Mrs Loring left me, I gave her charge your side saddle, which she promised to send home to you. I hope it was not forgot. If it was, it must have been left at Staver's tavern, and you can send for it, if you have not received it before this time.

The cruel came safe, and I will trouble you for the worsted you mentioned, as it will do just as well as English; and, if you please, one skein more of cruel, as we were much in want of it.

I have done very little work since you went away; not because I was indolently disposed, but because you did so much in helping me that I have nothing to do. So now I read or play as I have a mind to do. I get but very little of my Governor's company. He loves to be going about, and sometimes (except at meals) I don't see him an hour in a day.

The season of the year advances so rapidly now that we begin to think of winter quarters, and I believe we shall soon get to town. I guess we shall set off about the time we proposed. You may easily think I dread the journey, as the roads are so bad, and I am as great a coward as ever existed. I tell the Governor he is unlucky in a wife having so timid a disposition, and he so resolute. For you know he would attempt, and effect if possible, to ride over the tops of the trees on Moose Mountain, while poor I even tremble at passing through a road cut at the foot of it.

Your little dog grows finely, and I shall bring him down with me. You never saw such a parcel of animals in all your life, and they have lessened poor Phyllis' courage down to a standard, for she can hardly crawl along. But I intend to send some of them off soon. We have given Mr. Livius one, and our neighbours all around are begging to have one, so that the stock will soon be lessened, and I intend to see that yours is taken the best care of amongst them.

Mrs. Ridge seems now to falter in her intentions to spend the winter in town, but she says she is fixed on passing a month or so there. I believe it all a matter of uncertainty; for the roads

are so precarious in the winter months, that 'tis impossible to fix on anything.Her baby seems to grow considerably and looks better than it did, so that I begin to think she nowhas a chance for his life. You know it looked in a great decline at the time you was with me.

I am obliged for your charge to the house you lodged at on the road to be in readiness for our return. I desire things only a little clean;for elegance is not to be found in the country. I hope Mr. Langdon and your little ones are in health. I pray you'll present my best compliments to him,and tell him I hope the roads will be better next year, to induce him to try another journey to Wolfeborough. The Governor has just come in, and says I must send a great many compliments to you and Mr. Langdon, and tell you he knows you'll forget how to eat beef at Portsmouth. Wolfeborough is the place to recover appetites and learn people to relish anything that is set before them. But adieu. I could write you all day, but am called on for my letter by Mr. Russell who is just setting out on his journey. This ~~xxiixxedxyxxxxfx~~ relieves you from the trouble of reading a long penned epistle from one who need not say she loves you; since you know you can command every friendship that flows from the heart and mind of

Your sincere Friend and very humble Servant ,

Frances Wentworth."

(The above letter was written to the wife of the Hon.Woodbury Langdon, who afterwards became governor of the State of New Hampshire. Mrs. Loring was a very intimate friend of Mrs. Wentworth's. They were about the same age, and were married the same year. Her husband was a native of Boston. They had a son, John Wentworth Loring, born the same year as was Governor Wentworth's son. Mr. Loring lost much property on account of his adhesion to the British government. He died in England in 1789. Through the representation of Mrs. John Wentworth, his widow was placed on the British pension list. Mrs. Livius was the wife of Peter Livius of Portsmouth, then a member of Gov. Wentworth's council. She was en route to her husband's country establishment in Tuftonborough by way of Lake Wentworth and the Miles Road. Livius commenced operations on his land near Mirror Lake about the time Gov.Wentworth began at Lake Wentworth. Mrs. Ridge was the wife of Isaac Rindge, a town proprietor. Mr. Rindge, a cousin of the Governor, and supposed to be friendly to the English in the time of the Revolution, was not allowed to reside within 15 miles of Portsmouth. It is probable he retired to his farm in Wolfeborough.

The Gov. and his family were at their town residence in November, as is shown by the following:-

"THE GOVERNOR AND LADY INVITE TO
TEA ON THURSDAY NEXT
MR. AND MRS. LANGDON.
TEA AT FIVE O'CLOCK P.M.
PORTSMOUTH, FRIDAY EVENING,NOVEMBER 23, 1770"

Until 1775 the Gov. and family spent a large part of the warm seasons at their farm. This was probably his choice; although once, in addressing the Assembly, he said he did so because his

salary was inadequate to living in town.

One apple grown on the Wentworth farm was a large oval red apple with a flavor that would not be considered very fine now. It was called the "Farm Sweet". Fruit at that time was mostly native, and generally not of a fine flavor. There was on the farm a pear tree with fruit of excellent quality.

In 1774 Gov.Wentworth planned to build a larger sawmill, this time on Smith's River between ~~XXXXXXXXXXX~~ the mill owned jointly by David Sewall and Dr. Ammi Cutter, and the dam erected at the foot of Crooked Pond. This conflicted with the rights of Sewall & Cutter, who owned the whole Smith's River privilege; Sewall wrote a note to Cutter pointing this out, and suggesting that he do something "to prevent our entering into a controversy with His Excellency". Sewall wrote the note in November 1774. By the following spring Wentworth had too many troubles to go farther with his notion of a mill on the Smith's River.

In the spring of 1775 Wentworth visited the farm, as early as the season would permit. He remained only a short time, for there were reports of the battle of Lexington and the great excitement that followed. He said to his secretary John Fernald, who accompanied him back to town, "These contentions will soon cease, and I shall return to this sylvan abode." He never did.

Extracts from Belknap Papers, Part 3, Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll. Sixth Series. Vol.4

(John Wentworth to T.W.Waldron) Portsmouth, 30th December, 1774:-

The late confusions give me great pain indeed, not for myself but for a people whom I love equally. Such a precipitate movement upon a known false rumor involving very deplorable circumstances. I know not what to say in the instigation of the insult to the British flag hall'd down with ignominy in New Hampshire; it grieves me to my soul. Thus driven from my favorite stronghold of favor-able representations by the mad intemperance of a few indiscreet zealots, who seldom want followers in folly.

We have 2 ships at the Castle which will quietly consume some beef and, if no violence is attempted, in the spring will proceed on their cruizing service. I have great belief that America will be great and imperial, but the present disorders denote, or rather call down, an important check on their peace (and so surest) course to magnitude. ... Mrs. Wentworth has been much frightened and in great pain therefrom ... I am in daily hope of another young friend to be added to us and you, which renders us some solicitude. I wish to know when Esqr. Plummer returns from Wolfeborough. He is to bring some hides for Mr. Clarkson, to be lodged in your store. I have 2 hhds. rum and 2 of molasses to send up when the craft comes for the hhds. I shall want your aid in taking them to your house from the landing. I shall not delay sending stores to W. House notwithstanding all the menaces. If it is destroy'd, let all go together.

John Wentworth to T.W.Waldron.

Portsmouth. 20 January,1775

My dear Sir --

An half hour since Mrs. Wentworth was deliver'd of a sturdy healthy boy after seventeen hours, the severest XXXXX natural labour Dr. Hall Jackson remembers. However, thanks to God, she is now safely in bed, and the Doctor says without any unpromising circumstances. The affection which causes this to be a joyful event prompts me to present its object to your kindest good wishes. Mrs. Wentworth, almost exhausted, permits my absence thus to bespeak good for her son, and desires her best regards to you and Mrs. Waldron.

John Wentworth to T.W.Waldron

Portsmouth, 29 January, 1775

Friend Austin deliver'd the pacquet of books safe last evening. I hear the proceedings at Exeter are warm and irregular insomuch that some members have drawn off, and declare it is by no means a free assembly. (Note: the second provincial congress of N.H. met at Exeter Jan.25,1775) Judge W. (Note: John Wentworth, Pres. of the Assembly of Somersworth) attempted to speak on the moderate side, but was so rudely treated that he couldn't be heard, and many members vociferated, "A Tory within the bar. It is Tory nonsense, we've had enough of it." The Durham Hero mov'd for a committee to prepare a petition to the Govr. for an assembly, & that he w'd not dissolve it whatever proceedings they may or might not pursue. This was oppos'd by Judge W., Colo.Hall and Mr. Wingate of Hampton , supported by J. Langdon, Folsom, Bordman.

The opposition contended that they were delegated for particular express purposes and could not exceed them. Sullivan replied that their whole meeting was unlawful, and therefore might do one thing as well as another. They were the people and their powers unlimited. That the Continental Congress was unlawful, yet they acted. Paul Revere went express thither yesterday noon. It portends a storm rather than peace.

Peace my dear friend has by unwise men been driven out. They shut the door against its return. God forgive them. They know not what they do. Many of them, I verily believe, are innocently wicked. Our hemisphere threatens a hurricane. If I can safely bring out of it at last safety to my country and honour to our Sovereign, my labors will be joyful and I yet think I shall. My heart is devoted to it. You know its sincerity, and that you and yours are dear to,

J. Wentworth.

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(J. Belknap to J. Wentworth)

Boston, March 21, 1791

He has written J.W. several letters while he was in England and since, but has never had the pleasure of a line in return. When the first volume of his History of New Hampshire was printed, Belknap gave one to John Peirce to present to J.W.. Also delivered to him several books which Belknap had borrowed from the library at Wolfeborough.

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During this summer John & Frances sailed for England the week after Charles-Mary, & remained over the winter. While there John received the appointment of Lieut. Governor of N.S. in lieu of Parr, deceased.

(John Wentworth to J. Belknap)

Friar Lawrence's Cell, near
Halifax. May 15, 1791

My dear Sir,

It is a long time since I have rec'd such sincere pleasure as your letter of the 21st March has given me, and I should have acknowledged it by the Alligator frigate, but she sail'd so suddenly there was not time to send to me here (6 miles from town) and return before she got away."

(Some of the letters Belknap mentioned, Wentworth received and answered in England, but conveyances were very uncertain.)

"I accordingly was much pleas'd on hearing you were continuing the History of New Hampshire, having receiv'd so much satisfaction from the first volume and being myself more interested in the two next. I herewith send you the papers you desire, as far as I can find them. Most of my papers were destroyed during the late tumults, both public and private were at several times burn'd. Their loss has been often very inconvenient to me since, and is now particularly regretted, as they might have been useful to you. However all that remain I confide to your friendly discretion.

You will best understand the displeasure of government against my late uncle by a very private paper you'll find in the budget, wherein I wrote a hasty explanation and defence of the good old gentleman for the information of my noble friend and patron, thro' whom I prevail'd to obtain time for him to resign, which saved all the disgrace which might have attended his removal, especially as it appeared he resigned in favor of his nephew. This memoir, being confidential, must not be published, tho' you can gather from it what may be necessary. The same I would request of all the other papers.

If at any future time the whole can be safely returned, it may be best; if not I rely on the truth, esteem and regard I have always experienced in you that they be burned and never seen by any other person than yourself. In my dispute with Mr. L. it is probable he met great support from the interests of all those who wish'd to succeed me. They thereby became so deeply engaged to him that they procured his appointment to be the Chief justice of New Hampshire., but this upon more mature consideration was tho't too likely to produce trouble and he had a more lucrative office in Canada.

During the siege of Quebec by Mr. Arnold, part of his house, being properly situated, was used as a guardhouse. On the attack, his servant was in action, and when over Mr. L. himself appear'd. Upon the repulse of the Americans he wrote home a pompous acc't of his services. "His house a guard house, he himself often at the wheelbarrow in repairing the fortifications, and at all other times with a brown musquet doing duty with and encouraging the citizens."

I now declare to you, in private friendship, that on a review of all my public conduct to this day, I acted with zeal for the King's service and the real good of his subjects, which I always did and do now think were inseperable. Nor did I ever know any intentions to impose arbitrary laws on America, or to establish any systems repugnant to British liberty, and I do verily believe, had the true, wise and open measures been embraced on both sides,

that their union would have been many years established and their prosperity wonderfully increas'd. The independence, having been consented to by the government which entrusted me with its powers, I do most cordially wish the most extensive, great and permanent blessings to the United States.

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Miscellaneous sources

The Isles of Shoals

The islands are eight in number (nine at high tide because the water divides one of them.)They are Duck, Appledore, Smutty-nose, (the "nose" is a black projection on its south-east side),Malaga Island; Star Island, of 150 acres and 50 feet elevation, is so named from its shape; the old town of Gosport was on this island; Londoner Island (from a wrecked ship named Londoner); White Island; Seavey's Island -- which is one with White Island at low water.

The first settlers on the Isles of Shoals, and later on the adjoining mainland, came from Devon and Cornwall. Portsmouth N.H. is distant ten miles. The Isles were discovered and described by the famous Captain John Smith in April 1614, when, with 8 others in an open boat, he was exploring the coast; but probably the Isles had been seen by DeMonts and Champlain in 1604, for they sailed along this coast. Sir William Pepperell, of Louisburg fame, was born on Appledore in 1696. In 1767 the population of Gosport on Star Island was 284, including 4 slaves.On the outbreak of the Revolution it was found that these islands offorded sustenance and recruits to the enemy, and the inhabitants were ordered away. They scattered into the towns along the coast and most of them never returned. In 1775 only 44 persons remained. In 1790 Gosport had only 93 people. There was an old fort on the western side of Star Island, whose traces can still be seen; it mounted nine guns, which were carried off to Newburyport when the islanders were dispersed.

Extracts from "John Langdon of New Hampshire", by Lawrence Shaw Mayo, The Rumford Press, Concord, N.H. 1937.

John Wentworth, (the Governor) had no high opinion of the Commissioners of Customs who, as he said himself, administered the revenue service "with contemptuous, positive, exclusive edicts, calculated to alarm and astonish." In another letter, written to Paul Wentworth on November 15, 1768, Wentworth said, "You can scarcely credit the absurd, inflammatory and contumelious conduct of that new (very young indeed) Board sent hither last year ... All the paper imported since their arrival would not suffice to record their arrogance and unavailing management."

Page 38 In the autumn of 1771 George Meserve, at that time Collector of Customs at Portsmouth, seized a cargo of one hundred hogsheads of undeclared molasses on board the brigantine Resolution. Her owners were Samuel Cutt and others. Meserve seized the ship a day or two she entered the harbor on Oct.26. On the night of the 29th, just before midnight, a numerous company of men, disguised, and armed with clubs, boarded the ship, turned some of the officers ashore and shut up the rest in the cabin. They then carried off the molasses. Meserve and the Comptroller, Robert Traill, complained to the Governor. Wentworth offered a reward of $200 to anyone giving information leading to the conviction of the guilty men. It came to nothing. The Resolution herself was condemned by the local board of Admiralty.

About the time of the Resolution incident, John Langdon had a cargo of sugar and rum aboard a vessel that also was seized. This was the brigantine Sally,, owned by Capt.Moffatt, William Whipple and Otis Baker. John Langdon appealed for his cargo, but the Vice-Admiralty Court in Boston, presided over by Judge Auchmuty, upheld the seizure. (Page 42, 43.) "As John Langdon was one of the disappointed appellants, we may well date from March 9, 1772, his intense hostility to the British government, its measures and magistrates."

On Dec. 10,1773 a group of ardent Portsmouthians sent a petition to the selectmen asking for a town meeting to decide the community's policy towards East India tea, and to appoint a committee of correspondence. With the exception of Jacob Sheafe none of the group were of the local aristocracy. The ringleaders were John Langdon, Major Samuel Hale, and Jacob Sheafe. As a result, a meeting in the North Meeting-house on Dec.16 strongly condemned the Tea Act of 1773. There were only six dissident voices, one of them Captain Woodbury Langdon's. At this time Woodbury was undoubtedly a Tory, and it is interesting to picture him and his radical brother John living together in the same house on Broad (now State) Street -- the Rockingham Hotel now stands on the site.

Appointed to the town Committee of Correspondence were John Sherburne, Jacob Sheafe, Samuel Cutts, George Gains and Captain John Langdon. All of these became leaders in the local revolt against the British government. Sherburne, Sheafe and Cutts were middle-aged merchants who had prospered in the good old days, had endured much in recent years, and had reached the limit of their patience. Of the big three, Sherburne was the most eminent, and on this occasion the most courageous, for he was a member of the

Council, registrar of the Court of Vice-Admiralty, and a judge of probate. In spite of his offices under the Crown he had been from the first outspoken in his disapproval of the new measures of the British government. Like Sherburne, Samuel Cutts belonged to an old Portsmouth family. Under the new regime more than one of his ships had been seized by customs officers and condemned by Admiralty courts at Portsmouth and Boston. Sheafe, the eldest and probably wealthiest of the trio, was 60 or thereabout. His father and grandfather had been members of the Council, and he himself had recently been elected one of Portsmouth's representatives in the provincial Assembly. George Gains was a carpenter and cabinet maker. In 1773 he was made a selectman and he continued to serve the town in that capacity for more than thirty years. At the time of the tea excitement he was between 35 and 40. Captain John Langdon, aged 32, was the youngest of them all.

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Extract from "Loyalist Refugees of New Hampshire" by Wilbur H. Siebert, pub. by Ohio State University, Columbus, 1916.

Loyalists who fled from New Hampshire were:-

see also Note 4.

Portsmouth: John Wentworth, Peter Livius, John Fisher, George Meserve, Robert Traill, George Boyd, John Fenton, Capt. John Cochran, Samuel Hale, Edward Parry, Thomas McDonough, Major Robert Rogers, Andrew P. Sparhawk, Patrick Burn (mariner), John Smith (mariner), William Johnson Rysam (mariner), Stephen Little (physician), Thomas and Archibald Auchincloss, Robert Robinson (merchant), Hugh Henderson (merchant), Gillam Butler (merchant), James and John McMasters (merchants), James Bixby (yeoman), William Peavey (mariner), Benjamin Hart (ropemaker), Bartholemew Stavers (post-rider), Philip Bayley (trader), Samuel Holland, Benning Wentworth, Jude Kermison (mariner),

see p. 13 re Wentworth House or Hall

Before the end of November 1778 the Assembly proceeded to confiscate the real and personal property of 23 of the proscribed Loyalists. In each country trustees were appointed to take possession of the estates and sell the personal property at public auction, except such articles as they might deem necessary for the support of the families of the proscribed. In the case of the furniture and family pictures of Governor Wentworth, however, it was not the trustee but the Assembly that decided (April 27, 1780) that these personal effects should be delivered up to the father of the absent official, namely, Mark Hunking Wentworth.

Notes from "Peter Harrison, First American Architect", by Carl Bridenbaugh, published in 1949 by the University of North Carolina Press, for the Institute of Early American History and Culture at Williamsburg, Virginia.

"The conspiracy of Joseph Harrison and John Wentworth to promote the Church of England in New Hampshire was no secret." (See letter from John Wentworth to E.Wheelock, Jan.20,1775. Wentworth Letter Book 3/49)

1769"For nearly two years Governor John Wentworth had been urging Joseph Harrison to visit him at Portsmouth (N.H.) He played on mutual Yorkshire connections. "We make a Lilliputian Wentworth House here; my domestics mostly Yorkish and some from W. But to resemble the original essentially we endeavour to make everyone as happy as we can. I wish to see you exceedingly." Wentworth offered the lure of "a dry bed, remarkably good air, plain simple plenty, and the heartiest welcome in the world." Joseph's poor health and the need for a change of scene, as well as a desire to talk over the political situation, led the two discouraged brothers to visit Portsmouth in April. (J.W. to Joseph Harrison, July 27,1767; Feb.13,1768. Wentworth Letter Book 1, 23-24, 77-78).

Page 142. "The center of the new parish was to be at Wolfeborough, where the Governor had begun the foundations of a mansion... In conveying the compliments of his kinsman Michael Wentworth to the Harrisons, their host mentioned the enthusiastic encouragement ~~XX~~ this Yorkshireman had given to his plans for the Wolfeborough estate: 'He is ... American in thout, Word and Work; instead of Courts and European Magnificence, He talks of Agriculture and American Cultivation, Cutting Vistoes, opening Water Views, and increasing cattle, and (assures me that I) will soon have a good Farm'." (John Wentworth to Joseph Harrison, Feb.13,1768: Sep. 24, 1769: Wentworth Letter Book 1, 78 and 288-292).

While Joseph Harrison was getting into hot water as Collector of Customs at Boston, his brother Peter was Collector at Newhaven, Conn., Peter, the "first American architect", was deeply interested in his friend J.W.'s proposed new mansion at Wolfeborough.
Pages 146 and 147:- "As soon as business at the Customs House permitted, Peter Harrison worked on the designs for Wentworth House. In a farewell letter to Joseph on Sep.24, ~~XXXX~~ 1769, Governor Wentworth, uncertain of Peter's whereabouts, wrote that:- 'One Chimney built in the So.East End and two rooms finish'd with lath and plaister, which I had rather undo than spoil the house; wch I propose to have as good a habitable House, with at least one room of Forty feet long and Proportionable breadth, as can be contriv'd. This I am sure will be effected with your Brother's aid." (J.W. to Joseph Harrison, Sep.24, 1769. Wentworth Letter Book 1, 286-287)

Peter Harrison had a crushing blow when his only son Thomas, aged 23, died at Newhaven, Conn., where Peter was still H.M.Collector of Customs in Nov.1772.

Peter remained at Newhaven as Collector until 1775, when his loyal heart was disturbed by the uproar in America. On April 30, 1775, he died of a stroke. He was born in 1716. He and his brother Joseph were natives of Yorkshire, England. Peter began as a shipmaster voyaging to America. In 1740 he superintended "smiths, founders, blockmakers, joiners, carvers, ship chandlers, painters, sailmakers, riggers, tanners, tallow chandlers, coopers, glaziers " -- in fitting up a new ship, the Leathley, recently launched at Newport, Rhode Island. Peter took up residence in Newport in 1739 with brother Joseph. Peter and his ship Triton were captured by a French privateer and taken into Louisburg in May 1744. Returning to New England in a cartel, he made an accurate map of Louisburg harbor which Governor Shirley of Massachusetts was glad to use in his plans for the expedition

again Louisburg. Peter and Elizabeth Pelham, a young heiress of Newport, fell in love.Her family objected on grounds that the young sea captain, however handsome and clever, was not "the match her family entitled her to." Her brother-in-law said that Harrison was merely "pushing for a fortune". However, early in the winter of 1746 Elizabeth found herself with child, and the couple ran away to New Hampshire, where Peter had friends. Peter got a marriage license from his friend Governor Benning Wentworth, and they were married at nearby Hampton Falls. Towards mid-summer they returned and took up residence in Newport, R.I. In 1746 Peter and brother Joseph went into business for themselves, instead of working for Elizabeth's brother-in-law John Banister.

When and how Peter acquired his training as an architect is not known. By the 1740's the Palladian style of architecture had become the vogue in England. In England on a voyage in 1747 Peter bought English furniture of the latest fashion for his Newport house, traveled about the country inspecting the architecture of the best country mansions, as well as the great public buildings in London.

When he sailed for Newport in 1748 he had with him a copy of "The Designs of Inigo Jones" (1727) by William Kent: "Designs for Houghton Hall, Holkham" by Kent: "Andrea Palladio's Architecture" (1735-36) edited by Edward Hoppus: James Gibbs' "A Book of Architecture" (1728) and his "Rules for Drawing the Several Parts of Architecture" (1732): also Batty Langley's recently published "The City and Country Builder's and Workman's Treasury of Designs" (1740), and other books and manuals on the arts. In fact Peter eventually was master of ten trades -- ship-handling, navigation, shipbuilding, woodcarving, drafting, cartography, surveying, military engineering, commerce and agriculture.

The word went out among the colonial Anglicans that a member of Trinity Church, Newport, was "a Gent. of good XXXXXXX Judgment in Architecture", and soon he was being asked to design a library, a Boston church (King's Chapel). South Carolinians visiting in the north for their health soon learned of him and in 1751 he was engaged in drawing plans for the new church of St.Michael in Charleston.

J.W. wrote to Joseph Harrison on July 27, 1767, and on Feb.13,1768. These and other letters noted above are in Wentworth Letter Book 1, typescript copy in the New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, N.H.

Notes from Professor Robert F.W.Meader, Susquehanna University (Written by T.H.R. in 1957)

My great-grandfather, Thomas L. Whitton, was nine years old when Wentworth House burned to the ground in 1820. His aunt's husband, Daniel Raynard, was the last owner of the house, and later on Thomas Whitton acquired the mansion site himself. Benjamin Parker, author of the History of Wolfeboro, interviewed Thomas Whitton long afterwards, when the old man was 72. I am doubtful of the accuracy of a nine-year-old boy's observations, and of his subsequent recollections at the age of 72; but of course Thomas must have heard a good deal about the Wentworths and the mansion from his older contemporaries. Dr. James W. Goldthwait, head of the Geology department at Dartmouth College many years ago, had a cottage on what is now called the Governor's Shore, at Lake Wentworth. He, too, interviewed old Thomas Whitton. Here is a copy of that interview, with Goldthwait's own marginal annotations:-

"The visitor to the old Wentworth place is surprised at the magnitude of the enterprising governor's undertaking. The clearing was more than a mile in extent, and the farm comprised more than 3000 acres. The mansion stood about ¼ mile from the present highway, and but a short distance from the lake. The cellar with a part of its wall remains, The excavation is filled partially with debris, out of which three elms have grown. The house was 100 feet long by 40 feet wide and 28 feet high. The house had a flat roof, (Note: This seems to mean a flat hip roof like those in Portsmouth. See miniature drawing in Neal's map of 1780) and a hall that went through the middle, and stood due east and west. There were two huge chimneys with fireplaces. At the southeastern end of the house the foundation stones of the portico (kitchen?) remain firm and solid.

"In 1820 the house was destroyed by fire. During the summer the roof had been reshingled and the old shaved shingles saved for fuel. Along in the fall there came a cold biting morning. The great fireplace was piled full of the old dry shingles: the fire roared up the wide chimney, covering the wide flat roof with burning embers, and in a very short time nothing was left of the old house but a few cinders in the cellar. Besides the dwelling house there were five barns, a stable and milk house. The stable is still in existence on the Whitton premises.

"The remains of the old well recall an old tradition. It was said that on one occasion Mrs. Wentworth and the Governor had a quarrel at night. She ran out into the garden xxxx crying that she was going to throw herself down the well. She tipped a stone down and slipped back into the house. The Governor, hearing the splash, rushed out into the darkness. Then he heard another sound. She was laughing at him from her bedroom window.

"A dozen rods distant from the house was a deer park of about six acres; all around the enclosure was a faced stone wall of eight feet in height and eight feet thick, surmounted by an iron railing. Just within this wall stood a pear tree on the north side. (There is part of the stump of this old pear tree, flush with the ground among bushes just inside the big wall. Could be seen as late as 1906)

"Mr. Whitton said he used to play in the old mansion when he was a child, and that in the kitchen there was a wainscoting of one solid plank from floor to chair rail, over three feet wide. It was of clear white pine. To clear the land Wentworth had the trees felled so that their tops locked together, teepee-wise; in that position they were burned. The house was built of trees felled on the spot, and were very often three to four feet in diameter before hewing. The stumps were removed by a huge plow pulled by three or four yoke of oxen, with another pair hitched on behind to pull the plow back if it snagged fast.

"A huge stone wall, six or more feet wide, extended from the Mall to the lake. It is now gone. Whitton said the Raynards in winter would drive their sleds to the ice on top of it, when the snow got too deep; succeeding generations did the same until the wall was removed by someone."