

*John Wentworth, born 1738*  
*Frances Wentworth born 1745, Sep. 30.*

*J. W.*  
*Age 26*  
*Frances*  
*Age 18*

**1763** This autumn (Mayo 14,15) Mark Wentworth sent his son J.W. to London, with letters of introduction to influential merchants there. In this year (Mayo 24) Nassau College -- i.e. Princeton -- gave John W. an honorary

M.A. degree. J.W. quickly made friends of the Marquis of Rockingham, whose family name was Wentworth and was possibly a remote blood relative, and of Rockingham's kinsman Sir Thomas Wentworth, whose home was Bretton Hall in Yorkshire.

Much scandal this year about Lord Bute and the Princess of Wales. He was also attacked for his prominent part in the unpopular peace with France. Among his political opponents were Pitt, the Marquess of Rockingham and other prominent Whigs. Also Wilkes attacked him in the North Briton, April 7 he resigned. Wilkes went on to attack the peace with France, reviled the King, and got into trouble. Pitt in these days attends the house suffering with gout, propped on crutches, even his hands wrapped in flannel. (Cassell's History of England, Vol. 4, pp. 178-182) & 176 *about this year (see Mayo 29) Gov. Benning Wentworth, aged 67 & crippled with gout, was confined to his mansion at Little Harbor by ill health. It was the end of his active days.*

*J. W.*  
*Age 28*  
*Frances*  
*Age 19*

**1764** J.W. remained in Britain, and Aberdeen College (Scotland) gave him an honorary LL.D.

Grenville imposes various duties on American exports to the French, Dutch and Spanish West Indies. He then goes on to propose stamp duties in America. News of this crosses the sea and creates great excitement. (Cassell Vol.4/183,184)

*J. W.*  
*Age 29*  
*Frances*  
*Age 20*

**1765** The year of the Stamp Act. For years New Hampshire's agent in London had been John Thomlinson. In '65 New Hampshire appointed in his place (Mayo 17-20) Barlow Trecothick, a London merchant in the American trade, with John W. as his assistant. Both were friends of Lord Rockingham, who succeeded Grenville as Prime Minister in the summer of 1765. Trecothick (and undoubtedly J.W.) worked hard to influence Rockingham to change the Stamp Act.

This year Copley painted a portrait of Frances Wentworth Atkinson, wife of Theodore Atkinson Jr, who had married her before she was quite seventeen. She ~~was now 19 or 20. (Mayo 69,70)~~ was now 19 or 20. (Mayo 69,70)

Nov.27 Portsmouth tickled by a juicy suit for divorce. Martha (Langdon) Barrell, married only three months, petitions for divorce from William Barrell on the ground that he is impotent. (See my notes p.37)

Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Maryland and Georgia appoint Benjamin Franklin their agent in London, to press their case against the Stamp Act. Rockingham became Premier with a patchwork cabinet, but it was a shaky government. The Stamp Act went into effect Nov.1. Uproar in America. (Cassell's History of England 4/184-188)

In this year Robert Rogers, the famous Ranger, was in England, and published his Journals and his Concise Account of North America in London. He laid before the King a plan to cross America from the Great Lakes to the Pacific. (Britannica:Robert Rogers)

*Products of New Hampshire in this year (Notes 37)*  
*Mary Wentworth, Frances's sister, aged 22, married George Bantley, a Boston merchant, Oct. 29, 1765*

*Wentworth Genealogy*  
*1/528*

*Frances Dering Wentworth born 1745*

J.W.  
Age 29  
Francis  
Age 21  
Lee  
Notes 52

1766

Stamp Act repealed. By this year (Mayo 24, 25) Benning Wentworth's greed as Governor and as Surveyor of the King's Woods, had aroused a great opposition in New Hampshire; and it was obvious that the London government, seeking in all directions to appease the anti-Stamp Act fervor of the Americans, would yield to this other pressure and dismiss Benning from his twin posts. John W. hastily but smoothly interposed, and arranged matters so that Benning was allowed to resign -- and so that John W. got the appointments. As soon as J.W. was made Governor, and before he set sail for America, Oxford University awarded him an honorary D.C.L., probably on personal grounds rather than his mental achievements.

This year in London (Mayo 68) J.W. had his portrait painted, holding a scroll marked "New Hampshire". Copy of this portrait is in Mayo opposite page 38. J.W. probably left for America before the portrait was finished, however, because ~~XXXX~~ it was left as a gift to the Marquis of Rockingham, and some years later J.W. wrote to a relative in England asking, "Is it a likeness?"

In December, just before returning to America, J.W. met at Bath the English representatives of the Rev. Eleazar Wheelock (Mayo 105), who was planning to establish a school or college in the backwoods of New England. J.W. subscribed £21 and promised to grant a township to the school if it was established in New Hampshire. Details of raising the college funds in England. (Mayo 105,106) (Notes, 29)

AUG. 16. J.W. receives his commission as Governor of N.H. & Surveyor General of the King's Woods. (Mayo 24)  
1766 the first Rockingham ministry fell in August

J.W.  
Age 30  
Francis  
Age 22

1767 John Wentworth set sail for home via Lisbon, Madeira and Charleston, South Carolina, where he arrived on March 22 (Mayo 25). He journeyed leisurely northward, studying the forest en route, and making pleasant and useful social contacts with the established gentry in Virginia and elsewhere (Mayo 26,27) In June he was at Weehawken near New York (Mayo 27). All who entertained him became Loyalists in the Revolution (Mayo 28). He was inaugurated Governor at Portsmouth on June 13 (Mayo 30). Description of the New Hampshire militia at this time (Mayo 45). Definition of the King's Woods (Mayo 47-51).

At this time (Mayo 31) New Hampshire contained about 50,000 people and was growing rapidly. Portsmouth had a practically stationary population of about 4,500, including 175 negro slaves (Mayo 34).

Having no Province House in which to lodge its new Governor, ~~XXXX~~ the Assembly rented a dignified two-and-a-half story house on Pleasant Street. The house belonged to a Mr. Fisher (probably John Fisher, who married J.W.'s sister Anna) and could have been bought for about £1700, but the shrewd Assembly rented it for £67 per year. Here J.W. installed himself soon after his arrival -- He described it in a letter dated July 3 -- and ordered new wallpaper and furniture. For companionship he had his bachelor cousin Michael Wentworth, a ~~retired~~ retired British officer who had recently emigrated to New Hampshire. He was older than John by 10 or 15 years but they had much in common, including a passion for horses and a fondness for music. (Mayo 64, 65) (Notes 10, 11)

Across the road from this rented Province House stood a large stable where J.W. kept the 16 horses which were his most precious possessions. Some he had brought from England, others were gifts or purchases from his friends in the middle or southern colonies. He described four of them humorously in a letter to William Byrd, June 23, recounting his journey home. Also there were his carriages, including a "sulky one-horse chair" made to his order in Philadelphia. (Mayo 66, 67)

1767 (continued)<sup>(a)</sup> In July of this year one of J.W.'s deputy surveyors, Joshua Loring Jr., left on some business of his own to Canada. J.W. wrote him July 10, offering to pay money for any natural or scientific specimens of interest, from pebbles to animals."

The happy state of affairs in America (and of course New Hampshire) following repeal of the Stamp Act. J.W.'s conviction that N.H. had nothing to do with the late agitations. (Mayo 119)

Michael Wentworth, a retired army colonel, came to New Hampshire this year from England. (Notes 11)

"It was evident long before ... 1767 that Theodore Atkinson's disease was beyond all hope of cure." (notes 18)

July 27; J.W. wrote Joseph Harrison at Newport R.I., urging him to visit J.W. at Portsmouth. (Notes 56)

*at the end of 1767 the Earl of Hillsborough became the newly created Secretary of State for the Colonies - Can. Historical Review. Sep. 1958. P. 198*

*December 1767 on the death of Charles Townshend, Lord North, aged 55, became the leader of the Tories*



J.H.  
Age 32  
Francis  
Age 23

1768

John W. explores the New Hampshire wilderness, has adventures, admits he cannot swim (Mayo 54).

J.W.'s younger brother Thomas died this year, leaving a widow with two boys and three girls. Soon afterwards the widow married Captain Bellew of the Royal Navy. Thomas was the original occupant of the so-called Wentworth-Gardner house which, according to Portsmouth tradition, was built for him by his generous father. The house is still standing, a perfect type of Georgian architecture. (Mayo 71)

J.W., at a cost of less than 750 guineas, secured from his fellow proprietors at Wolfborough about 4,000 acres on the north and east sides of what was called Smith's Pond, which flowed into Lake Winnepesaukee. In the spring of 1768 he sent Benjamin Hart and William Webb to "clear a few acres and build a humble habitation at Wolfboro. Hart was to be overseer, and Webb was "to reside there as a farmer in the future." The "humble habitation" actually had a foundation 104 feet long and 42 feet wide. Work was begun at once. (Mayo 87-90) (Notes 44, 45 etc)

This spring Nathaniel Whitaker and the Indian, Occom, ~~relocated~~ returned to New England from old England, where they had been raising funds for the Rev. Wheelock's proposed college in the backwoods. They interviewed, amongst others, J.W. at Portsmouth. (Mayo 106, 107)

In August J.W. wrote to Dr. ~~William~~ Belham regarding the Townshend Acts of 1767, which provided for import duties on several things, including tea; and the zealous activities of the new commissioners of the customs at Boston, which he deplored. (Notes 54) He foresaw trouble. (Mayo 120, 121) The affair of the sloop Liberty at Boston, and J.W.'s opinion of it, in the same letter. (Mayo 121, 122) His own adroit handling of a new customs officer and the people of Portsmouth, (Mayo 122, 123)

J.W.'s handling of an armed mob, some time before the Liberty affair, evidently in the previous winter, for it was cold weather. (Mayo 123, 124)

In June the Mass. House of Representatives sent a circular letter to the other colony assemblies, suggested joint action against the Townshend Acts. J.W. induced the N.H. Assembly to decline to join any union or combination with the others, following the precedent of the N.H. Assembly at the time of the Stamp Act troubles. (Mayo 124)

Early in October, two British regiments arrived at Boston, at the urgent request of the Commissioners of the Customs. J.W. wrote to the Marquis of Rockingham deploring this move and adding, "the just dependence of the British colonies in this continent can be ascertained only by a wise, moderate and well-timed reformation and strengthening of their government." (Mayo 126, 127.) See also Mayo 128.

Dec. 30, Ruth Blay hanged for concealing the birth of a bastard child, which died. The Chief Justice was Theodore Atkinson Sr. The hanging was carried out by Thomas Packer, Sheriff of N.H. (Notes 38)

Feb. 13: J.W. wrote Joseph Harrison again urging him to visit Portsmouth. In ~~April~~ April, Joseph and his brother Peter, the architect, came on a visit. (Notes 56)

In 1768 Viscount Hillsborough became Secretary of State for the Colonies, and President of the Board of Trade, holding these posts until 1772. (Eng. Brit. Vol. 7. P. 565) In & out of office, he opposed all concessions to the American colonists.



1769 In March, J.W.'s plan to divide New Hampshire into five counties (three fully organized and two to have judicial and administrative privileges as soon as they are properly developed) approved by New Hampshire Assembly and Council after debate (Mayo 37). This division was approved and confirmed by the King in 1771 (Mayo 37).

In July (Mayo 52) John W. enforces the mast law at Brunswick, Maine.

On August 18, John W. arrives (Murdoch 2/490) at Halifax, N.S., in H.M.S. Beaver.

In January (Mayo 56) J.W. made a journey through the snowy wilderness from Portsmouth to ~~xx~~ a place near Windsor, Vermont, where he caught three men cutting mast trees illegally. The round trip was made in 16 days -- "three hundred miles in excessive cold and snow" according to his own account (Mayo 56).

Later on in the spring (Mayo 63) he travelled to Boston to find out why the Massachusetts authorities had declined to carry out his orders in the above matter of trespass. He did it in style, travelling in a coach and requiring accommodations for 12 horses and 8 servants.

In September (Mayo 66) J.W. writes to Paul Wentworth in England asking him to send out two footmen "that can play well on a French horn; also, if they can, or one of them, play on a violin."

This autumn J.W. invited the artist Copley to come to Portsmouth and paint his portrait. Copley did so. (Mayo 68 -- copy of this portrait is the frontispiece of Mayo's book). *(The portrait was for a gift to Paul Wentworth. See 1770)*

On October 28, in the midst of Copley's visit, Theodore Atkinson Jr, secretary of the province, died "after many years' decline" at the age of 33. His widow was the daughter of Samuel Wentworth of Boston. She was a first cousin of her husband and of J.W. Copley had painted her in 1765, when she was about 19 or 20 years old. (Mayo 69).

On Nov. 1 Theodore Atkinson Jr. was buried. Gov. J.W. on Oct. 31 had ordered a warship (undoubtedly HMS Beaver) in harbor, commanded by Captain Bellevue, to fire minute guns when the funeral took place. He had given similar orders to Fort William & Mary ("the Castle"). Frances Atkinson, married for eight years, was now a widow at 24. (Mayo 69, 70) *(Note 38)*

Ten days later (evidently Nov. 11) J.W. married the widow Frances with much pomp. (Mayo 70, 71.)

In May of this year, Wentworth House at Wolfeborough was habitable, though far from finished. (Mayo 90) In September of this year (Mayo 89) J.W. wrote to Joseph Trumbull that he intended to live at Wolfeborough the greater part of the year "if not the whole", making visits to Portsmouth only when affairs of state demanded his presence at the capital; he expected that within 10 years his mansion, Wentworth House, would be the center of a vigorous community composed of "people of all nations". He expected a post road, connecting Portsmouth with Canada, to pass through the township.

This year (Mayo 96) J.W. estimated the population of Wolfeborough to be about 150 persons. His enterprise there had begun to attract others of the Portsmouth aristocracy; notably his uncle Jotham Rindge, Peter Livius, and Samuel Livermore the attorney-general (Mayo 96). The road from Portsmouth was fair, except through the undeveloped township of Middleton, where it was very bad. In May 1769 J.W. wrote the proprietors of Middleton that they must, within four days, put a gang of men and oxen to work on the road, cutting and bridging -- he complained that twice he had nearly drowned. Failing this he would sell the township and use the money to pay a gang of his own. This threat he fulfilled. In the summer of 1769 about 75 men led by Benjamin Hart and John Drew made a passable road through the township (Mayo 97, 98.)

At this time (Mayo 99) J.W.'s income consisted of his salary as Governor, (£700) and his fees as Surveyor-General of the King's Woods (£400). The maintenance

1769 continued (a)

of his Portsmouth establishment with its 8 servants and 16 horses (Mayo 99) and the development of Wentworth House and the lands at Smith's Pond were too expensive for an income of £1100. J.W.'s father, Mark Hunking Wentworth, advanced him £13,000 or £14,000 over the period between 1768 and 1775, most of which was probably spent at Wolfeborough. Quite possibly Mark expected to get his money back when J.W. inherited Benning Wentworth's estate. (In this he was disappointed, see 1770) Altogether J.W. must have spent about £20,000 on the Wolfeborough estate, up till he left the country as a Loyalist in 1775. But for the Revolution, J.W. probably could have paid off his debt by selling some of his big land holdings at Wolfeborough as the country opened up. ( Mayo 100)

The Rev. Wheelock was dickering with J.W. over the charter of his proposed college in the backwoods. J.W. wanted the Bishop of London added to the board of trustees. In September Wheelock threatened to build his college outside New Hampshire somewhere (Mayo 108, 109). They compromised and on Dec. 13th J.W. issued a charter. Wheelock suggested calling it Wentworth College, but J.W. was diffident, thinking it better to honor Lord Dartmouth, hence it was called Dartmouth College, and located at Hanover, N.H.

In September J.W. wrote to Joseph Harrison mentioning his private hopes and plans to see the Church of England firmly established in the province outside of Portsmouth. He mentioned that during the summer months, whenever a C. of E. clergyman was visiting Wentworth House, ~~there~~ he held divine services there, and the "people came fourteen miles" to attend. He was convinced that "nineteen out of twenty would join the Church if they had the opportunity." (Mayo 110, 111)

In May, writing to Trecotthick and Apthorp in England, J.W. mentions the current mania in America to establish home manufactures, in opposition to the Townshend Acts. Says the people are encouraging soldiers to desert the two British regiments at Boston, because many of these soldiers had been artisans in Europe, and can teach their skills. ( Mayo 125, 126)

Sep. 24: J.W. wrote Joseph Harrison, mentioning the helpful ideas given him for his Wolfeborough estate by Michael Wentworth. He refers to Joseph's brother Peter (the architect) and makes it clear that in building the great house at Wolfeborough he had consulted Peter and needed more of Peter's advice. (Notes 56)

*APRIL: Joseph & Peter Harrison visited J.W. in Portsmouth (Notes 56)*

29  
Age 34  
Frances  
Age 25

1770 John W. visits Nova Scotia and lays off Navy timber reserves (Mayo 55 -- but Mayo may be wrong in the date. See 1769 and Murdoch 2/490)

Early this summer J.W.'s college friend John Adams made a journey from Braintree, Mass., to "Falmouth in Casco Bay" which now is called Portland, Me. His shortest route lay through Portsmouth, but he turned aside to visit an old uncle at Newington. In his diary he wrote:- "By accidentally taking this new route I have avoided Portsmouth, and my old friend the Governor of it. But I must make my compliments to him as I return. It is a duty -- he is my friend and I am his. I should have seen enough of the pomps and vanities and ceremonies of that little world, Portsmouth, if I had gone there; but formalities and ceremonies are an abomination in my sight -- I hate them in religion, government, science, life." (Mayo 61)

Description of the ruling caste at Portsmouth (Mayo 61, 62).

This autumn Benning Wentworth, the former governor, died at his home at Little Harbour. As no children survived him, all Portsmouth (including J.W.) assumed that his great wealth would go to Gov. John Wentworth, his nephew. There was a sensation in Portsmouth (and a rude shock to J.W.) when it was revealed that Benning Wentworth, by a later will, had left everything to his fair young widow, Martha Hilton Wentworth. Two months after Benning's death, the retired English officer and bon vivant, Michael Wentworth, married his widow. (Mayo 73)

In the course of a few years Michael Wentworth spent all his own money and most of his wife's. His dying words, according to local tradition, were, "I have had my cake and ate it." (Mayo) *see also my Notes page 10.*

During his lifetime Benning Wentworth had granted himself more than 100,000 acres in N.H. During his lifetime nobody seems to have questioned his title, although many protested his methods. Soon after Benning's death, however, John Wentworth (probably piqued by the will) attacked his title to the lands, and pointed out that most of the lands remained "unimproved". He asked permission of the Council to re-grant the lands. With one exception the Council agreed. The exception was Peter Livius, who handed the Council a paper written by himself, accusing Gov. J.W. of wanting the lands for himself. The Council placed his paper on file, and let it go at that, for the time being. (Mayo 74, 75)

This autumn Frances wrote a petulant letter from Wentworth House (Mayo 92) to Mrs. Woodbury Langdon of Portsmouth, who had been her guest ~~latterly~~ recently. She complains of the country life and mentions a passing visit from Mrs. Livius. Says "the great dancing-room is nearly completed, with the drawing-room, and begins to make a very pretty appearance". Mentions that Mrs. Loring also had been her guest after Mrs. Langdon's departure. *(see also Notes 46)*

The Boston Massacre occurred in March. A few days before, J.W. had written to ~~MY FRIEND~~ a friend, "Our province is yet quiet, and the only one, but will, I fear, soon enter. If they do, they'll exceed all the rest in zeal." (Mayo 128)

This summer a number of Tory merchants, who had refused to join in the non-importation agreements, were driven out of Boston by a boycott. They attempted to set up business at Portsmouth; but there they met hostility not only from the people but from merchants of their own political stripe, who were jealous of their own profits. Boston had threatened to boycott all Portsmouth business if the newcomers were accepted. The Portsmouth people boycotted the newcomers themselves, and the Boston clamor subsided. ( Mayo 130, 131)

The People of Exeter, never very law-abiding, at this time began to look for guidance to Boston rather than to their own capital, Portsmouth. (Mayo 131)

Towards the close of this year the New Hampshire Gazette reported the "polite behaviour" of Captain Bellow and his officers of HMS Beaver on their departure for Halifax after being stationed at Portsmouth. (Notes 7)

Nov. 23: The Gov. and wife invites Mr & Mrs Langdon to tea. (Notes 49)



1770 -continued- (a)

J.W. and his Council decide to enlist five men to be posted at Fort William & Mary for ~~twelve~~ one year, and to appoint an officer to command them. (Note 37)

JUNE 9: Rev. Arthur Browne baptised a son, "John", born to Governor John & Frances Wentworth. His record adds the letters "P.B." presumably meaning Primature Birth. A courteous gesture towards the Governor & his wife who had married almost exactly seven months before. The ~~reason~~ <sup>reason</sup> for their <sup>happy</sup> wedding was now apparent. Her first husband, in the last fatal stage of consumption, obviously could not have been father of the child. (Notes p. 19)

JANUARY 1770 J.W. sent Paul Wentworth the portrait Copy by the painter last Fall. Paul Wentworth's address at this time was Poland Street, Soho, London. Copley made a copy for J.W. ~~the spring~~ & sent it to him this spring. (May 68, 69)

THIS YEAR, J.W. & Frances moved into Wentworth House at Halfborough, although it was still unfinished - Notes 46, 56, 58

March 1770 Lord North became prime minister & remained in office for 12 years.

*J.W.  
Age 35  
Frances  
Age 26*

1771 In this year (Mayo 37) the King approved the division of New Hampshire into five counties, a plan of J.W.'s which had been approved by the N.H. Assembly and Council in 1769.

This year (Mayo 41,42) J.W. devoted £500 of the Crown quit rents to opening "more than 200 miles of road".

In 1771-1772 the surveyor Captain Samuel Holland was in Portsmouth N.H., and J.W. persuaded the Assembly to have him make a map of N.H. Holland made an excellent map, but owing to various circumstances it was not published until Paul Wentworth put up the money in London in 1784 (Mayo 44)

Description of Fort William & Mary at this time (Mayo 44,45).

Pursuing his attacks on Gov.J.W.'s administration of forest lands, etc. (see 1770) Peter Livius found support amongst people who liked J.W. personally but disliked the way a small group in Portsmouth, led by J.W., controlled the province in all matters. One of these, of course, was Michael Wentworth's wife (the widow of old Benning Wentworth) who stood to lose a great deal if Benning's lands were escheated. Others were Woodbury Langdon and his handsome brother John. (Mayo 75)

In this year the Council of N.H. was as follows:-

Theodore Atkinson Sr. (the Governor's uncle by marriage)

Mark Hunking Wentworth (the Governo's father)

Jonathan Warner (the Governor's cousin by marriage)

Daniel Warner (Jonathan's father)

Daniel Rindge (the Governor's uncle)

Daniel Peirce (the Governor's uncle by marriage)

George Jaffrey (whose step-mother was the Governor's aunt)

Daniel Rogers (the Governor's uncle by marriage)

Peter Livius (the only member not connected with J.W. in any way)

On August 28 the new college at Hanover held its Commencement exercises. During the previous week Gov.J.W. and a distinguished company assembled at Portsmouth and set out in a merry cavalcade for Hanover by way of Wolfeborough. At this time the college had only a dozen resident students, and at this exercise only four received degrees; but the company put on a great show. An ox roasted whole, plenty of rum to drink. (Mayo 114) Some months later J.W. and his friends presented to President Wheelock a beautiful silver punch bowl suitably inscribed; it was J.W.'s idea, and he got Dr. Cutter to collect the contributions. (Mayo 114)

In October the brigantine Resolution was seized by the revenue officers at Portsmouth for smuggling molasses. On the 29th a mob of disguised men raided the ship, overpowered the officers, and carried the molasses ashore. J.W. offered a reward of 200 dollars but no one would divulge the names of the guilty men. (Mayo 132)

April 12, an Act for establishing and making passable a road from the Governor's house in Wolfeborough to Dartmouth College in Hanover. (Notes 39)

Dec. 14, J.W.'S message to the Assembly mentions need for schools --"nine tenths of your towns are wholly without schools or have ... vagrant foreign masters". Mentions progress of Dartmouth College. Mentions that he had erected a lighthouse "at the Castle". (Notes 39) Captain Cochrane, commanding the five men at the Castle, complains of bad conditions in the fort, asks for more soldiers, and for suitable boats for communications." (Notes 39)

*see  
Notes 54*

*J.W.*  
*Age 36*  
*Jan 27*  
1772 Lieut-Gov. Campbell of Nova Scotia complains to London (Murdoch 2/505) of "obstacles to settlement owing to the necessity of sending to Mr. John Wentworth, surveyor of woods and forests."

Peter Livius sailed for England this summer to carry his vendetta against J.W. to the Colonial Secretary. Details of the row. (Mayo 78,79)

The Governor gathered testimonials from many people refuting Livius's charges. He sent these to England by his private secretary Thomas Macdonogh, who sailed in that latter part of December, arriving in London late in January 1773. (Mayo 80)

In February J.W. made Sir Thomas Wentworth a proprietor of a new township in the heart of the White Mountains, which he called Bretton Woods after Sir Thomas' home in Yorkshire. He had made a friend of Sir Thomas during his stay in England 1763-1767, and he had kept in touch with him ever since, sending gifts from time to time, such as "a baboon and two squirrels" -- "a large Newfoundland water-dog" -- "a hamper of Madeira wine, a bundle of fish, and forty trees". In the present controversy with Livius, the friendship with Sir Thomas proved very useful to J.W. (Mayo 82)

In this summer J.W. explored part of the White Mountains, and planned a more ambitious expedition for the following year, when his company was to include his young admirer Benjamin Thompson. The plan, advanced by Thompson himself, had to be abandoned because of J.W.'s absorption in public business. (Mayo 95)

In this year he visited Casco Bay and other parts of the Maine coast (Notes 28)

June 5, in his message to the Assembly, J.W. complains that his salary of £700 is not enough. (Notes 39,40)

In 1772 Yeacovnt. Hillsborough gave up the posts of Secretary of State for the Colonies and President of the Board of Trade, which he had held since 1768. (Cray. Brit. Vol. 7. P. 565)

In 1772, or soon after, J.W. appointed Benjamin Thompson a major in a regiment of N.H. militia. Thompson was 19, & had just married the widow of Col. Benjamin Rolfe, a wealthy woman 14 years his senior. (Cray. Brit. 19/657)

In 1772 ~~Col. Michael~~ ~~to~~ ~~Martha~~ ~~Wentworth~~ ~~presented~~ Col. Michael with a daughter -- their only child, Martha, who died May 1, 1851, aged 79. (Wentworth Genealogy Vol. 1, p. 291)



J.H.  
Age 37  
Frances  
Age 28

1773 J.W. reports that the New Hampshire militia, under his efforts, now consists of twelve regiments (Mayo 46). This was about 10,000 to 12,000 men (Mayo 45, 46).

This summer (Mayo 55) J.W. went through the woods "from Winnepesiockett Pond to White River Falls on Connecticut River, thence up the said river to the 45th degree of latitude, and thence by another direction through the pathless wilderness down to the seacoast." ~~In this year also (Mayo 55) he explored the sea-coast from Portsmouth to Mackias, probably checking up on timber cutters.~~

Livius was busy pressing his charges against J.W. in England. In May the Lords of Trade found J.W. guilty of four of the charges, questioned his fitness to be Governor. The answer was up to the Privy Council. Thomas Macdonogh (see 1772) turned naturally to the Marquis of Rockingham and to Paul Wentworth. After many weeks the Privy Council ruled that there was no foundation in Livius' charges, and expressed confidence in J.W.'s governorship. News of this reached Portsmouth N.H. about the middle of December. The townsmen gave a ball in J.W.'s honor, and the country settlement of Londonderry sent an address of congratulation. During the spring and summer, when his fate was doubtful, J.W. had an opportunity to see who were his real friends and who his foes. He mentioned abuse of his servants in the "torrents of obloquy"; also "oblique insults to Mrs. W." (Mayo 80-86) (Notes 40)

Also  
also  
Notes 31, 32

Late this summer, pursuing his aim of boosting the Church of England in New Hampshire and of quietly making Dartmouth College an appendage of the Church, J.W. approached young Silvanus Ripley, a Presbyterian, who had graduated from Dartmouth in 1771. He offered Ripley the post of "assistant, and afterwards no doubt rector of King's Chapel at Boston", if Ripley would take orders in the C. of E. Ripley, after consideration, refused. (Mayo 115, 116) Rev. Wheelock, of Dartmouth College, had helped to make up Ripley's mind; and to mollify J.W. he conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. (See also Notes p. 14 & 15)

The Boston Tea Party took place on December 16. On the same day a public meeting in Portsmouth ~~advocated~~ advocated a union of the colonies to resist the Townshend Acts, and declared that if any tea of the East India Company were brought to Portsmouth they would prevent it being landed or sold. (Mayo 132, 133) Note, 54.

On the night of Dec. 16, at the very time of the Boston Tea Party, Portsmouth was holding a grand ball to celebrate J.W.'s vindication by the Privy Council of Britain, after the charges by Livius. (Notes 31, 32)

June 30, 1773, much ado over the smallpox scare. People are going down to Pest House Island and being inoculated there by Doctors Joshua Bracket and Stephen Little -- the latter a son-in-law of Dr. Clement Jackson. The Council make strict rules about this, obviously disapproving, under pressure from the town selectmen. The Council had been summoned by J.W. for this purpose. (Notes 37)

June The affair of the ship "Brewster" - Notes 32

In journeying between Portsmouth & Wolfeborough, J. H. invariably stopped at an inn in Rochester, kept by a kineman, Stephen Wentworth, who was very lame. Stephen died Aug. 1820. (Wentworth Genealogy, Vol. 1/496)

1773 - The Earl of Dartmouth had become Secretary of State for the Colonies.

1773 - Sumner. J.H. cruised the coast from Portsmouth to Mashpis. (Mayo 55)

1774

After the Revolutionary War, when J.W. made up his claim for losses as a banished Loyalist, he claimed that in 1774 his farm at Wolfeborough had "more than 500 acres under high cultivation." Mayo (page 91) doubts this, but admits that in the seven years of constant labor between 1768 and 1775 it is possible.

On June 25 the mast-ship Grosvenor entered Portsmouth with tea on board. J.W. gave instructions on how it was to be landed, and on Monday the 27th he rode out of town to Dover to spend the day. The tea was landed in his absence, as he intended; and he rode back to town and exchanged friendly greetings with the townsmen assembled in the open air to discuss the matter. Colonel Fenton and a few gentlemen guarded the ~~tea~~ ship that night. Two days later, by popular agreement to avoid trouble, the tea was shipped off to Halifax. (Mayo 133, 134)

In ~~May~~ <sup>June</sup>, learning indirectly that the Assembly planned to appoint delegates to a general American congress, J.W. smoothly ~~prorogued~~ prorogued the session. On July 6 they met in the courthouse for this purpose -- a government building -- and J.W. turned up and declared the meeting illegal. The men then adjourned to a tavern, over which J.W. had no jurisdiction, and resolved that every parish in N.H. should send deputies to Exeter on July 21. These deputies would select a group to represent them at the Continental Congress. Thus began the American Revolution in New Hampshire. On July 21 the deputies at Exeter chose Colonel Nathaniel Folsom and Major John Sullivan. Three weeks later Folsom and Sullivan set off for Philadelphia. (Mayo 135, 136)

On June 1 the Boston Port Act, in revenge for the Tea Party, closed that harbor to all commerce until the inhabitants paid for the tea. Other colonies, hearing of mass unemployment in Boston as a result of this, expressed indignation and sent food. N.H. produced barely enough food for itself; but the people of Portsmouth voted £200 from the town funds for "the relief of the industrious poor" in Boston. This, J.W. observed, was almost four times the amount of the town's province tax. (Mayo 137)

This autumn (apparently in September) General Gage at Boston wrote to J.W. and asked him to hire some carpenters to work on winter quarters for the British troops at Boston. The Bostonian carpenters had refused or were afraid to work on the job. J.W. got Nicholas Austin of Middleton to get the men at Wolfeborough, and toward the end of October, 15 Wolfeborough men were working on the Boston barracks. The Portsmouth Committee of Ways and Means heard about it, called a public meeting (J.W.'S uncle Hunking Wentworth was chairman) and passed a series of strong resolutions against the Governor's conduct. Meanwhile the Rochester Committee of Correspondence had summoned Austin, forced him to kneel and beg forgiveness. The carpenters hastily gave up their jobs and came home. J.W. was inclined to blame these actions on Peter Livius and Livius' "steady friend and assistant" Woodbury Langdon. His uncle, he said, was a "superannuated, weak, already forgiven old squire" who had been made a tool by the Langdon party. (Mayo 137-139)

In October the British Government ordered an embargo on arms and ammunition to the American colonies. At the same time Lord Dartmouth sent a circular order to the various governors advising them to stop importation of arms and ammunition from any source. A ripple of anger went through the colonies; Rhode Island decided to transfer the provincial arms and stores beyond reach of the British frigate at Newport; word of this action was passed to Boston, and from Boston the word was carried ~~to the colonies~~ by Paul Revere to John Sullivan at Exeter. (Mayo 140 et seq., "Paul Revere" 230, 231) *Notes p. 8 (December)*

J. W.  
Page 38  
Francis 28  
Case J.W.'s  
claim made  
1784

See also  
Notes p. 8

See  
Wentworth  
Genealogy  
Vol. 1/372, 373

See  
Notes 53

1774 - continued -(a)

On December 13th Paul Revere delivered his message to Samuel Cutts, who called an immediate meeting of his committee. J.W. scented trouble, and warned Captain Cochrane at Fort William & Mary, advising him to be on guard. On the 14th J.W. sent the chief justice to read the Riot Act to a crowd near the town-house. Nevertheless the crowd, joined by others from Newcastle and Rye, went on to capture the fort and carry off the powder. (Mayo 141, 142) On December 15th John Sullivan played a two-faced game with J.W., and that night Sullivan led a party back to Fort William & Mary, this time to carry off cannon, muskets, etc. On the 16th the stolen arms were taken up the Piscataqua and the insurgents quietly dispersed. (Mayo 143, 144, 145) On December 17th, responding to J.W.'s urgent plea for help, the British warships Canceaux and Scarborough arrived from Boston with about 100 marines on board. They anchored in the harbor. (Mayo 144, 145)

Benjamin Thompson's (and J.W.'s) commonsense way of handling deserters from the British regiments at Boston. (Mayo 148 -- J.W.'s letters written in November to General Gage and to the Marquis of Rockingham.)

Nov. 18, J.W. returned the first chapter of Jeremy Belknap's "History of New Hampshire", which had been sent to him for criticism; he wrote, "Your care in this composition disappoints the ambition of critical examination, and gratifies the more pleasing candour of friendship... I cannot suggest an amendment." (Mayo 186)

November: David Sewall wrote his partner Dr. Ammi Cutter that J.W.'s plan to build a large sawmill on Smith's River will conflict with the rights of S & C. He suggests that Cutter straighten this out. (Notes 50)

December 30: J.W. writes to T.W. Waldron, mentions the agitations in America, hopes that the trouble will subside, mentions his intention to send stores for his house at Wolfborough "notwithstanding all the menaces. If it is destroy'd, let all go together." (Notes 50)

The winter of 1774-1775 was "the warmest in the memory of man", a blessing to the poor of Boston. The Charles River never froze during the winter.

("Paul Revere" - Forbes - 233)

Detail of Thomas McDonough, J.W.'s private secretary - Wentworth Genealogy Vol 1/516

Apr. 21, 1774 at Gov. Wentworth's house, St. W. R. Perkins of Boston married by Rev. Dr. Byble to Elizabeth, sister of Mrs. Wentworth, & already twice a widow - Wentworth Genealogy Vol 1/526, 527

See also  
Notes p. 8.  
" p. 33.



J. W.  
Age 39  
Francis  
Age 30

1775

The widow of J.W.'s brother Thomas, who died in 1768, had married soon afterwards Captain Henry Bellew of the Royal Navy. The Revolutionary troubles and his duties took Bellew away from New Hampshire, with his wife. This left J.W. to look after the upbringing and education of the children, one of whom was named John. In April of this year J.W. wrote a detailed and cheerful report to Bellew about the childrens' progress at school etc. (Mayo 71, 72) (Notes 40)

January 20. Frances Wentworth gave birth to a son. A month or two later the child was christened at Queen's Chapel, and given the name Charles-Mary, at the request of Lord and Lady Rockingham. (Mayo 72) (Notes 44)

JAN. 21 → Towards the end of January J.W. wrote Gage at Boston, asking him to send two regiments to Portsmouth. Gage sent Captain Gamble to look over possible quarters for the troops in Portsmouth, but in the end he declined to spare the troops. J.W. was left to maintain order with the Canceaux and Scarborough and their marines, lying in the Piscataqua River. (Mayo 146, 147)

J.W. formed a group of about 60 loyal men in Portsmouth to safeguard his person; and by March 10 he had dismissed various militia officers and magistrates known to have been concerned in the raids on Fort William & Mary in December, replacing them with loyal men. (Mayo 146, 147)

January 25, a second revolutionary convention met at Exeter and elected Sullivan and Langdon to represent New Hampshire at Philadelphia. (Mayo 147)

In April, General Gage ordered the march on Lexington and the fat was in the fire. About 1200 men from southern N.H. immediately marched to the headquarters of the American forces at Cambridge. All but 200 of these returned soon after. There was talk of seizing J.W. and destroying the two warships in the harbor. But for a time there was no serious outbreak. (Mayo 149) (Notes 34)

Towards the end of May, the provincial congress of N.H., meeting at Exeter, voted to raise 2,000 men for the American army, these to remain in service until the end of the year. They formed three N.H. regiments, two of which distinguished themselves at Bunker Hill in June. Meanwhile the regular Assembly of N.H. met at Portsmouth, and J.W. asked them to consider the conciliatory proposals recently made by the British Government towards the American colonists. This was in May. The Assembly members quibbled, however, they were obviously afraid of offending their constituents, and J.W. adjourned the Assembly to June 12. (Mayo 149, 150)

May  
see also  
Notes p. 6 & 7

One day late in May, HMS Scarborough, stationed in the Piscataqua, seized two vessels bringing food supplies to Portsmouth. J.W. tried to get the cargoes released, but Capt. Barkley of Scarborough sent the ships as prizes to Boston, for the supply of the British army and ships. On the night of May 30 six or seven hundred armed men went to Castle Island, and from Jerry's Point (an old battery about a mile from the fort) they removed to Portsmouth several cannon. Bodies of armed men continued to arrive in Portsmouth. They ransacked several private houses for powder and arms, and kept the town in confusion and alarm. Some of these visitors knocked at the Governor's door, apparently intending to search the house for arms, but they were refused admission and went away. (Mayo 150, 151) (Notes 41)

See also  
Notes p. 9  
" " 41

On June 13 the Assembly at Portsmouth was entirely concerned with a personal squabble -- J.W.'s arbitrary appointment of members from the three new towns of Plymouth, Lyme and Orford. Particularly they objected to the Plymouth man, Colonel John Fenton. (Mayo 152, 153) On June 13 the Assembly passed a measure disqualifying Fenton, who was present that morning. Fenton left the Assembly and called at the Governor's house in Pleasant Street. He was on his way to HMS Scarborough for refuge; but at once a mob appeared outside J.W.'s house with a cannon. Fenton gave himself up to them. That evening (June 13) J.W. and his household fled from the mansion to Fort William & Mary, which lay under the protecting guns of the Scarborough. (Mayo 154, 155, 156) (Notes 41, 42)

1775-continued-(a)

J.W. and his family in the crude refuge of Fort William & Mary, June and July. He learned that his mansion at Wolfeborough had been ransacked by a party of rebels. Also that the rebel congress of N.H. had seized all the public records of the province and carried them off to Exeter. (Mayo 157,158) (Notes 42) *(July 6)*

J.W. had adjourned the Assembly on June 13. It met again on July 11, and J.W. sent a message asking them to reconsider the matter of deputies from Plymouth, Lyme and Orford. The Assembly received this with disrespect, and J.W. adjourned it to September 28. (Mayo 157, 158)

Early in August the aggressive Capt. Barkley of Scarborough, in spite of J.W.'s warnings, brought on a new crisis by seizing a Portsmouth vessels loaded with fish. On August 10 the Scarborough's boat was fired upon by ~~the rocks~~ some of the townsmen of the lower class. Barkley threatened to move his ship up the river and wreak vengeance on the town. J.W. talked him out of it. Finally Barkley announced that he must sail to Boston for supplies. This would have left J.W. and his family defenceless in the fort, which was stripped and worthless. Accordingly the Wentworths went aboard Scarborough on August 23 and sailed for Boston. Within half an hour a band of rebels entered the fort and wrecked the small house in which the Wentworths had sheltered during the summer. (Mayo 158,159,160,161)

At Boston, Admiral Graves had other uses for the Scarborough, and she did not return to Portsmouth. In September J.W. with his secretary Thomas Macdonogh, sailed to the Isles of Shoals (Gosport) in a small armed schooner called Hope. This was to give him a pied-a-terre on New Hampshire soil, from which he could prorogue the Assembly, due to meet on Sep.28. On the night of Sep.25 J.W. sent the proclamation by boat to the mainland, and it was delivered to Theodore Atkinson Sr., the senior member of the Council. J.W. sent another boat ashore the next day to await a reply, but none came. On September 28, feeling that he had done all he could, J.W. sailed for Boston in the Hope. He never set foot on N.H. soil again. (Mayo 161,162)

October 10, J.W. wrote to Rockingham mentioning the expense and discomfort of life in besieged Boston. He still hoped for warships to carry him and his authority back to New Hampshire; but the winter passed with nothing done.

This spring (probably April) J.W. and John Fernald went out to Wolfeborough. But J.W. was quickly recalled by the reports of Lexington. On leaving for Portsmouth he told Fernald, "These contentions will soon cease, and I shall return to this sylvan abode." He never did. (Notes 50)

Jan.20: J.W. writes to T.W. Waldron: some detail of the birth of his son. (Notes 51)

Jan.29: J.W. writes to T.W. Waldron: refers hotly to the second provincial congress of N.H., then meeting. Mentions Paul Revere arriving at Exeter "yesterday noon" and says it portends a storm. (Notes 51) ~~revised~~

April 30: Peter Harrison, Collector of Customs at Newhaven, Conn., and a skillful architect who had much to do with the design of Wentworth House at Wolfeborough, died of a stroke.

Feb. 8 J. W. writes referring to conspiracies of John Sullivan & Sr. Hall Jackson.

1775 During this year, apparently under rebel pressure, perhaps because J. W. had made the place a temporary pied-a-terre in September (which see) most of the inhabitants of the Isles of Shoals were induced to leave. Only 44 remained - Notes 53

This year ~~J. W. writes~~ there were 200 inhabitants in the townships of Wolfeborough. (Mayo 96)

April J. W. wrote to Henry Bellin, in London, saying that the affair Lisieux was finished at last. (Notes 40)

JUNE 17 The battle of Bunker Hill.

See also  
Notes p. 9

J. W.  
Age 40  
Frances  
Age 31

1776 January 19, Frances and her child sailed from Boston for England aboard the Julius Caesar. In March the rebel besiegers seized Dorchester Heights and Boston became untenable. General Howe prepared to evacuate the town. J.W. chartered a schooner, the Resource, for the flight to Halifax, taking with him some other Loyalists, including Benning Wentworth and Thomas Macdonogh. He remained in Hfx until the beginning of June, when he, Benning Wentworth and Thomas Macdonogh followed General Howe's army to New York. (Mayo 163, 164.) Howe's army and fleet arrived off Sandy Hook on June 10; they were joined by reinforcements from Britain and landed on Staten Island. Meanwhile more than 2,000 ~~Loyalist~~ women and children, who had come from Boston with the British troops, were left at Halifax to be cared for & sheltered by the town authorities. (Murdoch 2/573)

Wentworth, living at Flatbush, heard now and then from his friends in New Hampshire. (Mayo 164)

Winter 1775-1776. Siege of Quebec by Arnold. J.W.'s anecdote of Revier's part in the defence of Quebec. - Note 52

In 1776 on the evacuation of Boston, J.W. sent Benjamin Thompson to England with dispatches. On his arrival there Lord George Germain, Secretary of State, appointed B.T. to a clerkship in his office. (Crag. Brit. 19/657)

March 17, Howe ~~left~~ left Boston, anchored for ten days in Nantasket Roads, eight miles away, then sailed for Halifax



J.W.  
Age 41  
Frances  
Age 32

1777

J.W. remained on Long Island and in New York all this year. He had hoped to return to New Hampshire as Governor when the rebels were crushed. Letters from Loyalist friends in N.H. told him, or convinced him on his own assumptions, that a large body of New Hampshire people would receive him back gladly, and would join any British force that might appear. These hopes were ~~exaggerated~~ raised high by the mustering of Burgoyne's army on Lake Champlain this summer; but they were dashed by Burgoyne's surrender in October, and by the large part played by New Hampshire rebel troops in his defeat. (Mayo 164)

This autumn the Continental Congress began its first measures to confiscate Loyalist estates. The New Hampshire legislature in turn promptly passed an Act forbidding 75 Loyalists, who had fled the state, to return with permission. Penalty for a first offense was deportation; for the second it was death. The first name on the list was J.W. Next, most of J.W.'s personal effects were sold at auction, some of them apparently at Exeter, where the sale included books from Wentworth House. However, probably on the intercession of J.W.'s father, the family portraits at Wolfeborough and the furniture of the mansion in Portsmouth were turned over to the old man. The real estate, consisting of about ~~20,000~~ 20,000 acres in various parts of N.H., <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ gradually liquidated by the official trustee, Captain Samuel Gilman, and the proceeds paid to the Receiver-General of the province. (Mayo 168,169) (See also the year 1781) *See also Note 55.*

January 17: J.W. writes a long letter from Flatbush, L.I., to his sister Mrs. Ann Fisher at Portsmouth. Mentions other N.H. Loyalists in exile from that province. Is enclosing other letters for friends, and is sending shoes and clothing. (Notes 43)

Apparently this year J.W. formed a company of Loyalist volunteers, hoping to get them on the British army establishment. He failed, and nothing more was heard of the company. Thomas Bannister, one of the company, stated (in filing his claim for losses as a Loyalist) "In November 1777 he joined the corps called Gov. Wentworth's Volunteers & did duty with them on Long Island until the corps was disbanded."

(Loyalist Claims-- Ontario Bureau of Archives, 1904 -- Part 1, page 102)

In his own claim after the war J.W. stated, "During the war was obliged to quit his Govr't. & stand with the Army, & then associated a Co. of Volunteers who supported themselves at their own expense, of very respectable Persons from their Provinces. Remained with Army till he went to England, 1777. ~~XXXX~~ (Checked, 1777)

(Loyalist Claims - Ontario Bureau of Archives, 1904 -- Part 1, page ~~504~~ 507)

J.W.'s memoirs are found here.  
He sailed for England - February 1778.



1778

In February, J.W. abandoned his persistent hope of returning to New Hampshire with the support of British ships and arms. In this month he sailed for England from New York, and after a voyage of twenty-four days arrived in London. He found Frances and the baby boy comfortably established with Lord and Lady Rockingham; and little Charles-Mary occupied the nursery used in Rockingham's own childhood. However J.W., perhaps wanting to be nearer London, made his home for the next five years with his close friend Paul Wentworth, whose austere country residence, Brandenburg House, was at Hammersmith. (Mayo 165)

Not long after his arrival in England J.W. made a trip to France, for what reason no one knows. He met John Adams at the Comedie Francaise, somewhat to Adams' embarrassment. A day or two later he made a morning visit to Passy, where Dr. Franklin was living, and Adams and Franklin received him together. J.W.'s close connection with Paul Wentworth, who was then an active British agent making journeys to the Continent, probably made him suspect to Adams and Franklin. (Mayo 166, 167) *in 1783*

Benning Wentworth, Frances' brother, aged 21, probably went to England with *Benning* for we know he graduated at Oxford University, that he married Anne Bird of Herefordshire, and that in 1788 he was living with her at Hope, Hereford. *(see 1789 (a))*

This year Colonel John Parr, through strong ministerial influence, obtained the post of Major of the Tower of London, of no importance but with a good salary attached. He was 53. He held the post until July 13, 1782, when he went to Nova Scotia as Governor and C. in C. Description of him and his life. (NSHS 14/45)

*This year New Hampshire proscribed a list of Royalists, some of whose properties subsequently were confiscated. A list of these is in Wentworth Genealogy Vol. 1/516. And Vol. 1/529, where mention is made of Massachusetts' proscription of George & Thomas Brantley.*

Note:- In February 1778 John Adams sailed from the U.S. to join the American commission in Paris. On arrival he found that a treaty of alliance between France & the U.S. had been signed in February. Feeling that there was no need for his presence in Paris after this, he returned soon afterwards. (see John Adams in Encyc. Britannica.) Therefore John Wentworth's call on Adams in Paris must have taken place in the early spring of 1778, probably in March or April.

J.W.  
Age 42  
Frances  
age 33

According to Wentworth,  
Benning was 53 when he  
died in 1808. Therefore  
this year he was 23

J. W.  
Age 43  
Francis  
Age 34

1779

Living in England with Frances and his boy, most of the time at Paul (see 1780) Wentworth's house in Hammersmith, J.W. managed to get along on his British Govt. pension of £600 a year. In August 1779 he wrote to John Peirce a long and touching letter, having heard from the latest refugees from Forstmouth that the rebel legislature of XXXI N.H. was about to confiscate his estate. (Mayo 169,170)

Soon after going to England, J.W.'s government (British) allowance of £600 was reduced to £300. See his claim for losses as a Loyalist, made in 1784.

Aug 22. Theodore Atkinson Sr. died at Portsmouth, N.H. aged 82, having outlived all his family. He left most of his fortune to "my relation George King", who was required to take the name of Atkinson.

(Portsmouth Genealogy Vol. 1/299)

1779 Benjamin Thompson elected of fellow of the Royal Society. He was still working in the office of Lord Sornain, Secretary of State for the Colonies; but was busy with his scientific hobbies, especially (1) the explosive force of gunpowder, (2) the construction of firearms, & (3) a system of signalling at sea. (see 1780)

J. W.  
Age 44  
Frances  
Age 35

1780

About this year Paul Wentworth took up residence at Brandenburg House, Hammer-smith, and lived there in great state. (Notes 21) J.W., writing in 1784, says, "Mr. Paul Wentworth is my near relation and most intimate, dearest and confidential friend. On my return to England (from America) in 1778 Mr. Paul Wentworth and myself were but one family, and lived together until August last," (Notes 22)

April 27, 1780 N.H. Assembly orders to Mark Wentworth the confiscated (in 1778) furniture & family pictures of J. W.

1780 About this year Benjamin Thompson, who had been employed in the (Lord Germain's) office of the secretary of state for the Colonies since 1776, became an under-secretary of state. (See 1779) - Enc. Brit. 19/657



J.W.  
age 45  
frances  
age 36

1781

This year J.W.'s farm and mansion, Wentworth House at Wolfeborough, were sold to Andrew Cabot of Beverley, who had become rich through privateering in the war. His brother John Cabot acquired adjoining property; but after Andrew's death in 1791 these properties all passed into other hands. The confiscation and liquidation of J.W.'s property in New Hampshire brought to the provincial treasury the sum of £354,470 Continental currency, which was worth about £9,000 sterling. However the estate was burdened with debt amounting to £18,000, of which J.W.'s father ~~stated~~ Mark Hunking Wentworth claimed £13,000. Mark agreed to let his claim stand aside until the other creditors were paid in full. Thus the provincial government actually got nothing. (Mayo 170)

July 31: Sir Andrew Snape Hammond, Commodore, R.N., sworn in as Lieutenant-Governor. He was the third naval lieutenant-governor appointed to office in N.S. since Legge's departure in the spring of 1776; like the others he received only part of the salary, as Legge retained the office officially, while living actually in England. This arrangement, so comfortable for Legge, came to an end next year (1782) when Parr arrived as Governor, displacing Legge. (Brebner, "Neutral Yankees of Nova Scotia" p.337)

July 29, 1781

(no surname given)  
frances, writing to Lady Dorothy ~~Wentworth~~ from "Aps", says that she & J.W. are on a tour. Had spent some weeks in Brussels. Prince Henry was here (i.e. Aps) & had invited them to a breakfast party. He & J.W. intend to go on to Antwerp for a few days & then return to England. (Microfilm copy of this letter in N.S. Archives)

In 1722, when Lord Cornham went out of office with Lord North's administration, Benjamin Franklin (who was one of his under-secretaries of State) left the civil service & received a cavalry command (King's America Troop) in America. - Conc. Brit 19/657

1782

J.F.  
Age 46  
France  
Age 37

In March, Lord North's cabinet was displaced at last by a Whig ministry led by the Marquis of Rockingham. This was fine for J.W., and Mayo thinks that Rockingham promptly got him a renewal of his old post as Surveyor-General of the King's Woods. (Mayo 171) Personally I think J.W. had retained the post all through the war. Certainly no one else would want it at a time when practically the whole of British North America was in rebel hands. I think J.W. hung on in England hoping for something much better, preferably a governorship in one of the British colonies elsewhere; and I think he might have got it, but for the illness of Rockingham, who died in July 1782. (T.H.R.) (see paragraph record from bottom of this page.)

(see below) →

Lieutenant-Governor Hammond of Nova Scotia wrote in May to the new Secretary of State, Welbore Ellis, mentioning that large numbers of masts were being cut along the St. John river. Until this time Hammond had been restricted from making grants of land to officers, soldiers or American refugees. He now asks guidance, saying that several merchants of Halifax and others are applying for grants.

(Murdoch 3/3)

In October 1782 Lieutenant-Gov. Hammond, who had been in office for some time expecting the full governorship, received a jolt. The "annual ships" Adamant and Saint Lawrence arrived from London; and on board St. Lawrence was new Governor John Parr, with his family. Hammond promptly resigned. (Murdoch 3/6) (MSHS 12/77)

On Oct. 26 Governor Parr wrote to the Hon. Thomas Townshend, mentioning that Sir Guy Carleton had notified the N.S. governor that more than 600 persons at New York wished to embark for Nova Scotia this autumn, and a much larger number in the spring, but that he could not find shipping now for more than 300. Carleton recommends grants of land and suggests a scale. No fees or quit rents to be paid or reserved, etc. As this differs from the standing instruction regarding grants of land, Parr asks instructions. (Murdoch 3/8)

July 1, Marquis of Rockingham died at Wimbledon, Surrey. Buried at York Minster. (His widow lived until 1804) Rockingham was childless and all his titles became extinct. The chief part of his estates, including Wentworth House, went to his sister's son William, Earl Fitzwilliam, who then added the Wentworth name to his own, becoming William Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, Earl Fitzwilliam. (Notes 10)

July 13, Colonel John Parr, Major of the Tower of London, a man with influence in the Cabinet, obtained the post of Governor of Nova Scotia. (MSHS 14/45)

Oct. 23: Parr wrote to Grey in London: "... the greatest civility and attention from all Ranks of people, a most excellent house and Garden, a small farm close to the Town, another of 70 or 80 acres at the distance of two miles ... a snug little farm house upon it, a beautiful prospect, with good fishing, plenty of Provisions of all sorts except Flower, with a very good French Cook to dress them, a Cellar well stock'd with Port, Claret, Madeira, Rum, Brandy, Bowood Strong Beer etc. A neat income ... of £2200 sterg. p. annum, an income far beyond my expectations, plenty of coals & wood against the severity of the Winter, a house well furnish'd and warm Cloths ... upon the whole my dear Grey, your old friend Parr is as happy and comfortably seated as you could wish an old friend to be..."

(Shelburne MSS, quoted in Brebner "The Neutral Yankees of Nova Scotia" p.352. Note: Parr's income of £2200 included the colonelcy of a provincial regiment. His salary as Lieutenant-Governor was £1,000.)

March 1782 Lord North, prime minister since 1770, resigned after the news arrived of Yorktown. (see top)

(Re top of page) Mrs. Wentworth, writing to Lady Mary Fitzwilliam in 1784, claimed that Lord Shelburne had reduced the "allowance" paid to J.W. by the British govt., and finally abolished his post as Surveyor-General & the salary that went with it. The Duke of Portland & Lord Fitzwilliam had J.W. reinstated on this post after they took office in April 1783. - Letter from Mrs. Wentworth, Halifax, Oct. 5, 1784, microfilm in N.S. Archives.

July 1782 On the death of the Marquess of Rockingham, his Yorkshires estate's fortune was inherited by his nephew Sir William Wentworth Fitzgibbon.

In April 1783 Lord North formed an alliance with Charles Fox & became Secretary of State under the nominal premiership of the Duke of Portland.

J.H.  
Age 47  
Frances  
age 38

1783

J.W.'s friend and patron, the Marquis of Rockingham, had died in the summer of 1782. All hope of preferment in some government job was now gone. He had his old post of Surveyor-General of the King's Woods; and although the King's Woods had shrunk vastly in the past eighty years, a swarm of Loyalists was pouring into Nova Scotia and getting grants of land. J.W. decided to get on the job. He left Frances and the boy in London in the summer of 1783 and sailed for Halifax. (Notes 15)

His job as Survey-General now commanded a salary of £800, although according to him that only meant "£400 neat". He spent about six months of the year in the Nova Scotia woods, and now middle-aged he found the life something of a strain.

Feb. 3, the first vessel flying the American flag in any British port arrived in the Downs, and reached ~~Weymouth~~ London on the 6th. She was the Bedford with a cargo of whale oil. Description of ship and crew. (Murdoch 3/13)

All this spring, Loyalists and discharged soldiers were arriving in Nova Scotia and exploring the St. John River, etc. Large grants of old date were now being escheated to prepare for new grants to these people. (Murdoch 3/12-20) Parr visited the new town of Shelburne (he named it) in July.

Edmund Fanning was made Lieut.-gov. of N.S. under Governor Parr (Murdoch 3/19) J.W. came to Hfx from England alone, but he was soon joined by Frances. The boy Charles-Mary was left in England, where he did well in his studies at the Westminster school, especially in Hebrew and Greek. (Mayo 173)

Frances' <sup>sister</sup> Mary this year married General <sup>Walter</sup> Brinley, from Paul Wentworth's house at Hammersmith. (Notes 21) (Notes 18, 19. Also see below)

Just before the Loyalist influx from New York, Governor Parr estimated the population of Halifax at only 1,200. By Nov. 20 he intimated that nearly 13,000 Loyalists had landed at Halifax, many of whom had since distributed themselves through the province. (NSHS 8/85)

May 4: the "spring fleet" of Loyalists from New York arrived at Shelburne. Marston, one of the surveyors, had arrived there from Halifax only two days before, in a yacht with William Morris; both had been sent there by Hon. Charles Morris, Surveyor-General of Nova Scotia. Marston pitched his tent on the island directly in front of the new town, where also Commissary Brinley put up his storehouses. There was confusion in all directions; one was this, according to Marston: "They have an order from head quarters to prevent any timber being cut from off the King's wood (by the by 'tis uncertain yet whereabouts that will be.) They want, under the order, to prevent people ~~from~~ cutting from off any of the reserved lands -- when one purpose of the reservation is for a Common, and they have tried hard to coax the magistrates to publish these orders." ("They" means Colonel Morse, the Chief Engineer of the forces at Halifax, and Major Pitcairn.) Edward Brinley was an important official at Shelburne. As Commissary he built 3 large storehouses on what became known as Commissary Island, from which he victualled the thousands of Loyalists and discharged soldiers. Full rations were allowed for the first year, two-thirds for the second year, and one-third for the third year.

(N.B. Historical Society Publication No. 8, 1909, Pages 210, 205, 228, 246, 247)

<sup>J. Brinley, daughter of General George Brinley & Frances's sister Mary, married Charles Morley, a London merchant.</sup>  
Mary <sup>Wentworth</sup> Brinley married William Brinley, at that time Commissary General of British North America. The wedding took place in London, from Paul Wentworth's house at Hammersmith. (See my Notes 18, 19, 21) She and her sister Frances (wife of J.W.) were both gay and very much at home with the fast-living London society in which Paul Wentworth moved. I cannot find when Mrs. Brinley came to live in Halifax. See 1793 and 1794.

probably in 1784 see Note 21

1785  
Checked from Wentworth's account 1/530

Probably same time as 1785  
May 6 1783  
Wentworth's account  
in other place

→ April 1783 J.H. was reinstated in his post of Surveyor-General of the King's Woods through the efforts of the Duke of Portland & Lord Fitz-William. He had been deprived of it, and of part of his allowance from the British govt. as a governor-in-exile, when Lord Shelburne came to power in the summer of 1782. (Letter from Mrs. J.H. Wentworth to Lady Fitz-William. See 1782)



1783 - continued - (a)

May 6: J.W. wrote to Captain Cochran: "My destination is quite uncertain; like an old flapped hat thrown off the top of a house, I am tumbling over and over in the air, and God only knows where I shall finally alight and settle to rest ... Benning has been nearly four years a captain, and not being able to establish his rank as he expected, has sold out, and is now in the country; so that we ~~are~~ are all seeking something to do."

(Reprinted in Acadian Recorder, March 11, 1848. Quoted in "The Government of Nova Scotia" by J. Murray Beck, pages 13, 14)

1783 Lord Shelburne was head of the British gov't from the summer of 1782 (on Rockingham's death) until April 5, 1783, when he was defeated by the combination of Charles Fox & Lord North. The latter pair then formed a coalition government, using as "a convenient cipher" the amiable Duke of Portland (William Bentinck) who became premier. Portland's government was in turn defeated on the India Bill in December, 1783. William Pitt, aged 25, then formed a new administration, drawing his cabinet entirely from the House of Lords, & with the happy approval of the King, who saw himself delivered at last from the great Whig yoke & from his enemy Fox.

Cassell - Vol 4, 298-307

1783 Young Pitt, who had entered Parliament in 1781 at the age of 22, was a follower of Lord Shelburne's group, & accepted the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer under Shelburne in July 1782. ~~When Shelburne's cabinet fell in~~ When Shelburne's cabinet fell in ~~1782~~ April 1783 Pitt was out of office, opposing the Portland-Fox-North government, until it fell in December 1783. The King then appointed Pitt first lord of the Treasury & Chancellor of the Exchequer. In the election of April 1784 he & his followers won a great majority, and he retained office until 1800. This was the famous Fourth Pitt Administration.

- Ency. Brit. 17/973 ch. seq.

1783 With the end of the war & disbandment of the King's American Dragoons (see note at top of 1782) Benjamin Thompson returned to Europe. His patron Lord Germain was still out of office, & he entered the service of Prince Maximilian of Bavaria.

- Ency. Brit. 14/657

J. W.  
Age 48  
Francis  
Age 38

1784

May 25, J.W. arrived at Shelburne aboard a schooner, which was conducted up the harbor by HMS Mercury. He was saluted by a discharge of cannon on landing. ~~XXXXX~~ The inhabitants squabbled over an address of welcome to Hon. Henry Stanhope, captain of Mercury. (Murdoch 3/32,33)

(Nov. 5) → This year Frances Wentworth and Paul Wentworth <sup>were named as</sup> stood sponsors at the christening of Frances Augusta, infant daughter of Frances' brother Benning. (Notes 21) Apparently Frances must have sailed to join J.W. in Nova Scotia some time after.

In February, J.W. sent 19 negro slaves to Paul Wentworth's estate in Surinam. Paul at this time was still living in England. (Notes 22)

This year the House of Assembly was dissolved; it had sat fourteen years, due mainly to the troubles in America. (NSHS 8/87)

This year the population of N.S. was as follows:-

Pre-Loyalists .....	14,000
Loyalists & disbanded troops .....	28,347
Acadians .....	400
	42,747

The above includes 3,000 Negroes with the Loyalists. No estimate of the Indians. It apparently includes all of old Nova Scotia, which (NSHS 14/57) in 1784, after this estimate, was divided into Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. (NSHS 14/57)

This year Halifax merchants started the prosperous whaling industry, which eventually was purchased by Quakers who came to Dartmouth. (NSHS 14/59)

Dec. 23: J.W. filed his claim for losses as a Loyalist. He filed it with Col. Thomas Dundas and Jeremy Pemberton, who had opened their office in Halifax on Nov. 15th. The new claim was much larger than a previous claim, lodged much earlier in London by an agent acting for J.W. (probably Paul Wentworth)

Substance of the claim was this: "During the war was obliged to quit his Gov't & stand with the Army, & then associated a Co. of Volunteers, who supported themselves at their own expense, of very respectable Persons from their Provinces. Remained with Army till he went to England, 1777. ~~was longed~~ Had an allowance of £600 per annum preceding his return to England, which was afterwards reduced by Mr. Wilmot & Coke to £300, which he continues to receive. His present appt. is £800 per annum. Loss of property: 4,387 acres in Wolfeboro including several islands (Governor's Island, so called, is listed as one of them) "with a new mansion house & Offices with gardens, park etc. ... Generally estimated that in House, Gardens & Mills & improvements he laid out £10,000 sterling. Lived upon the estate. Between 300 and 400 acres highly cultivated. Garden 47 acres, walled in. Values it at 20,000 Str. which sum he would not have taken for it. Claimant explains the reason for his present estimate of losses exceeding the claim given in by his agent in England, who did it in order to save the time allowed by act of Parlt. & included as he supposes a general claim to save the Claimant's Right, knowing nothing at the time of the Claimant's Losses.

Claimant lists other lands, purchased ~~and~~ <sup>or</sup> inherited; odd lots in Portsmouth, Barrington, Lyman, Thornton, The Gore, Lime, Dorchester, Cockermouth etc.

Claimant fled to Boston in 1775. Has recovered no part, furniture, stock, carriages, or plate. A mob broke into his house & destroyed great part. Two regiments were quartered in the house. Thinks some part was sold.

Nathaniel Ray Thomas bears witness that claimant had "a most magnificent house, the best in the four provinces. House was almost furnished. A Park fenced in, and deer, and a large garden. Carriages and horses very handsome.

(Loyalist Claims; reprinted by the Ontario Bureau of Archives, 1904. See page 507)

May 26: J.W. in Shelburne. Marston writes: "Wednesday, May 26, Today waiting on Governor (sic) Wentworth. Thursday, May 27, Probate Court this morning with Gov'r. Wentworth. P.M. dined with him at G. Th---s. Friday, May 28, Over the river with Governor Wentworth up to the upper saw mill, returned about 4 p.m."

(N.B. Historical Society Publication No. 2, 1909. Page 222 264)

J.W.'s money was at fault  
when he sailed to England  
in February 1778.

Probably this was in  
1785, which see.

1784 - continued - (a)

Dec. 7: Benjamin Marston, who had been driven out of Shelburne by mob dissatisfaction, and had spent the autumn in Halifax, left for New Brunswick on this date. He was highly regarded by John Wentworth, and Wentworth had sent him to N.B. as one of his deputy Surveyors of the King's Woods. J.W. wrote to Lt. Col. Edward Winslow; "I embrace the few minutes while Mr. Marston is putting up his papers to say God bless you and yours. I have appointed our friend to be my deputy in New Brunswick and have wrote to Governor Carleton recommending him. As it is my wish to expedite the public business which depends on my office in the manner most agreeable to Governor Carleton, I shall be much obliged for your advice, and any information to Mr. Marston that will aid us therein. I have the fullest reliance on his discretion and shall trust much to his judgement."

(N.B. Historical Society: Publication No. 8, 1909) (Pages 271, 272)

Oct. 4, 1784

Frances writes from Hfx to Lady Lucy William. She had rejoined J. W. here seven months after he sailed for N.S. (i.e. she probably arrived in Hfx in the early months of 1784.) Life in Hfx is crowded & expensive. J. W. has rented, for £150 a year, a small house with "an eating room and sitting room on the lower floor, and divided into bedrooms above, without accommodation for servants, not one room prepared or painted until we came into it." She despises Hfx & its society, entertains only a few ~~and~~ people, notably "Captain Bontwick and Mr. Ayer because they are relations of the Duke of Portland". She had hoped for no more than "a short sail", but the death of Rockingham & the accession of ~~the new~~ <sup>the new</sup> ~~Providence~~ had "backed" all her views.



J. W.  
Age 49  
Francis  
Age 40

1785

J.W. was living in Halifax at this time, "as we find the house and grounds he occupied are advertised to rent for £250 per annum." (Murdoch 3/41)

This year the loyalists and disbanded soldiers complained to Governor Parr that Mr. Wentworth, Surveyor General of the Woods, had exacted fees from them of one shilling for every hundred acres. Parr enquired if this was sanctioned by the King, as all officers of this government were restricted by His Majesty from receiving any fees from "these unfortunate people", an order that had been strictly adhered to. (Murdoch 3/44)

Col. Thomas Dundas and Jeremy ~~FERRIER~~ Pemberton opened an office in Halifax. They were commissioners of enquiry into the losses of the American Loyalists. On Nov. 16th, the day after they opened their office, they received a complimentary address signed by 53 Loyalists. On Nov. 19th the brigantine Lord Middleton arrived in Halifax, 5 weeks from London. One passenger was Brigadier-general Benedict Arnold. (Murdoch 3/45)

Probably at this time (and ~~approximately~~ <sup>before & after</sup> for several years) Mr. J.H. Flieger was an assistant surveyor to J.W. in his activities as Surveyor General of the King's Woods. (NSHS 8/129)

This year no less than twenty criminals were hanged. (NSHS 14/64)

Complaints of the Loyalists and disbanded soldiers (<sup>against</sup> ~~about~~ J.W.'s fee of one shilling per acre on the lands allotted to them) -- see 1784 -- had been forwarded to England. There is a suggestion (NSHS 3/190) that J.W. went to England to answer the charges, and also in person to urge his claims for losses as a Loyalist. This account, written by Lieut-Governor A.G. Archibald in 1882, says of J.W.'s activities, "He appears to have spent the following few years partly in England and partly in this province."

Dec. 28, 1785

J.W.'s father, Mark Hunking Wentworth, died at Portsmouth, N.H., leaving his widow Elizabeth (Rindge) who survived until Nov. 20, 1794, when she died at Portsmouth.

Nov. 15, 1785

Commissioners Jeremy Pemberton & Thomas Dundas opened an office in Halifax on the Loyalist claims. They traveled about, sometimes accompanied by Benedict Arnold. The work continued until 1789.

Nov. 11, 1785

Mary, daughter of George and Mary (Francis's sister) Brinley, married Charles Moody, a London merchant. The wedding took place at Paul Wentworth's house "at Felham".  
- NSHS 28/152  
- Wentworth Genealogy 1/530.

Dec. 29, 1785

John Wentworth filed his claim for Loyalist losses. See detail placed erroneously under date 1784.

*J.P.*  
*Age 50*  
*Frances*  
*Age 41*

1786

Description of the brilliant ball, ~~XXXXX~~ in honor of Queen Charlotte's birthday, celebrated on Jan. 18th. (Murdoch 3/47, 48)

From May 20 to 30 a forest fire raged in the woods near Halifax. It destroyed a house called Bedford Lodge at Birch Cove. (Murdoch 3/48)

July 16, Prince William Henry, commanding the frigate Pegasus, 28 guns, arrived at Flaencia, New-foundland, from England. Announces that he will go to Halifax in the autumn, and spend the winter in the West Indies. (Murdoch 3/50) (NSHS 14/67)

In October, due to the elevation of Lord Dorchester as Governor-General of British North America, John Parr ceased to hold the title of Governor of N.S. Instead he received a new commission as Lieutenant-Governor of N.S. (Murdoch 3/50)

Oct. 4, Prince William Henry arrived at Hfx from Nfld, amid eclat. (" 3/51)

Oct. 25 # " " sailed for the West Indies

In this year Halifax was settling down, finding new trade, after the long war and its aftermath. Some merchants made wealthy by the war had gone to Britain; many of the Loyalists had scattered to the country or to other provinces. But there was still plenty of drinking and other dissipation. (NSHS 14/66)

A week or so after Prince William's departure on Oct. 25, the Governor-General, Sir Guy Carleton, now Lord Dorchester, arrived at Halifax with his suite from Quebec. (NSHS 14/68)

J. H.  
Age 51  
France  
Age 42

1787

June 28,	Prince William Henry arrived from the West Indies in <u>Pegasus</u> .
July 14	" " " sailed for Quebec.
Oct. 24	" " " arrived at Halifax from Quebec.
Nov. 12	" " " sailed for the <del>West Indies</del> <u>England</u> <span style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">Halifax, page 75</span>

(Murdoch 3/53-56)

Oct. 14, Charles Inglis, newly appointed Bishop of Nova Scotia, arrived at Halifax from London. (NSHS 22/36) On August 11 His Majesty had, by letters patent, made Nova Scotia an Episcopal see. Bishop Inglis was to have jurisdiction over Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P.E.I., Lower and Upper Canada, Newfoundland and Bermuda. Thus he was the first colonial bishop. American churchmen had long advocated such an appointment. (Bicentenary Sketches 112,113,115)

Early this year Dr. John Haliburton, a Loyalist from New York, received an appointment to the Council. It created much dissatisfaction amongst the pre-Loyalist people of Halifax, seeing many such appointments since 1783. They blamed Farr, but he was only acting on instructions from London to give the Loyalists preference in all appointments. The older inhabitants by this time were referring to the Loyalists as "these damned Refugees". The present appointment annoyed them especially because Dr. Haliburton had already got a lucrative post as director of the medical department of the Royal Navy on the station. (NSHS 14/68,69)

Nov. 28: Sterns and Taylor, Loyalists and attorneys, attacked the probity of ~~the~~ Chief Justice Deschamps and Judge Brenton. A great fuss in and out of the Legislature. It was part of the schism between Pre-Loyalists and Loyalists in the province, which was now becoming sharp.

July 22: The 4th Regiment, with Lieut. William Dyott, arrived at Halifax from Cork via Newfoundland. They relieved the 60th Regiment, which left for Quebec. (Dyott's Diary 1/29)

Nov. 4: Dyott met Prince William "at Mrs. Wentworth's". (Diary 1/37)

Nov. 7: ditto. "I was pretty intimate in the house" etc. (Diary 1/42)

Nov. 9: ditto. " " 1/44)

Dec. 25. Dyott had Xmas dinner at Governor Wentworth's. (Diary 1/47)

November At this time George & Mary Bromley were living in Hfx (Dyott 1/42,47) As their daughter was married from Paul Wentworth's house in London in 1785 (which see) possibly they were in Halifax then.



J. H.  
Age 52  
France  
Age 43

1788

On the Feast of All Saints, the academy at Windsor was opened by Bishop Inglis in a private house. (Bicentenary Sketches 126, 127) This was November 1st.

Schism between pre-Loyalist and Loyalist settlers in the town and province now becoming severe. After the events of 1787, Loyalist Sterns ran for the Halifax County seat vacated by S.S. Blowers, who had been appointed to the Council. The election took place Feb. 20-22 this year. Amid wild tumult Charles Morris Jr. was elected by a wide majority. (Murdoch 3/59, 60, 61) (NSHS 14/74)

Aug. 17: Prince William arrived from England in the ~~XXXXXX~~ Andromeda to the surprise of everybody. Dyott was spending the evening at Mrs. Wentworth's and had sat down to supper when the Prince arrived. He and Dyott spent the night there.

(Dyott Diary 1/50)

Sep. 14 Prince William with three ships, and Dyott as his guest, sails for a visit to Shelburne. (Diary 1/55) They go on to Sydney, Sep. 21 (Diary 1/57)

Nov: Prince William sailed for Jamaica, having spent three months on the Halifax station, mostly in dissipation with Dyott and others. (Dyott diary 1/60)

This autumn: the Rev. William Cochran resigned his teaching post at Columbia (formerly King's) College in New York, and came to Halifax, evidently at the urging of Lieut. Gov. Farr and others, who were about to start a Grammar School in Halifax. The School was started in 1789. (NSHS 23/122)

Aug. 8, 1788 Jeremy Pemberton, a Commissioner of the Loyalist claims, who had made his headquarters at ~~Halifax~~ since 1785 (which see), was appointed Chief Justice of N.S. He came from Gregory Varnock, <sup>Assistant</sup> Commissary-General, the house called "Paradise", which stood in 40 acres at the corner of Spring Garden & Robie St. His health was bad & he resigned & returned to England 1789.

-NSHS 28/152, 153

Jan. 1/88 Dyott died at the Brimley's, with J. H. & Mrs. Wentworth - Dyott Diary 1/47

1789

This year the N.S. legislature passed an act establishing and endowing King's College. (Bicentenary Sketches ?) At this time the school or college was still operating in a private house.

At this time the troops at Halifax were commanded by Brigadier-general James Ogilvie. George Brinley, esq., was <sup>DEPUTY</sup> Commissary General, and his assistants were Gregory Townsend and Roger Johnson. Rev. Mather Byles was chaplain to the garrison. (Murdoch 3/77)

Jan. 1: Dyott dined at Wentworth's "spent a very jolly day". (Diary 1/61)

Jan. 22: A great fire on Hollis Street endangers Gov't House. (Dyott Diary 1/61)

July 21: Dyott transferred to Windsor. (Dyott Diary 1/62)

June: Rev. William Cochran, as headmaster, opened the new Halifax Grammar School, in the building at the north-west corner of Barrington and Sackville streets, where the Assembly of the Province met at the time. Cochran remained exactly one year in this post, and then removed to King's College, Windsor. (NSHS 23/119-122)

*E. H.  
Page 53  
Frances  
age 44*

January 1789 *Fulford, in "The Royal Dukes" p. 96, says Prince William sailed from the West Indies for Halifax in this month. While there he learned of the King's first attack of madness, of his brother's quarrels with the King, & resolved to cast in his lot with them. Also he wanted a dukedom, so that he would receive a parliamentary grant instead of depending on his father's bounty. He sailed from Halifax and reached Spithead in a few days of 3 weeks, arriving there April 29, 1789. (i.e. he sailed from Halifax on April 8). There is no mention of this winter visit in Dyott's diary as published, nor in Murdoch's History of N.S.*

SEE 1799

JGh  
Age - 4  
Frances  
age 4 1/2  
-

1790

About this year Paul Wentworth's political activities in England brought him under the suspicion of the government as a disaffected person. He disposed of all his English property and removed to his large estate in Surinam. (Notes 21)

This year Rev. William Cochran appointed the first President of King's College. (Bicentenary Sketches 7)

This year the King's College authorities bought the estate of 69 acres in which the College and School eventually were built. At this time both were operating in a private house in Windsor. (Bicentenary Sketches 7, 23)

June 5, London informed Bishop Inglis, who had been urgently pleading for a college, that the House of Commons had voted £1,000 for it, and that grants of crown land would be made for its endowment, and that the King would grant a royal ~~charter~~ charter. The royal charter did not arrive until 1802. (Bicentenary Sketches 129, 130)

February: Dyott visits Halifax on leave from his post at Windsor; during his stay in town he dines with "Governor Wentworth". (Dyott Diary 1/63, 64)

August: The Prince of Wales adopted the French fashion of wearing trousers in the morning instead of breeches - The Green Dragon, 278.



1791

Nov. 25, Lieutenant-Governor Parr died, and was buried on the 29th. He had held office nine years. (Murdoch 3/97)

In this year Charles-Mary Wentworth was 16 years old, and J.W. and his wife decided to revisit England and see him. When the news of Parr's death reached London, the Home Secretary, Henry Dundas, looked about for a successor, and J.W. took pains to be in sight. One day during the winter of 1791-1792 J.W. received the coveted appointment.

March 21: historian Jeremy Belknap, writing from Boston to J.W., says he has written J.W. several times while J.W. was in England and since, without reply. Says he has delivered to John Peirce several books which Belknap had borrowed from the library at Wolfeborough. (Notes 51)

May 15: writing from "Friar Lawrence's Cell, near Halifax", J.W. answers the above letter, says he is sending Belknap a number of family papers, especially papers bearing on the famous dispute with Livius. Tells an anecdote of Livius during the American siege of Quebec. Declares that the American Revolution could have been averted. Gives his blessing to the United States. (Notes 52) and Notes 14

This summer Governor Parr laid the foundation stone of King's College at Windsor. At this time the college was still operating in a private house at Windsor. (Bicentenary Sketches 23, 128)

Oct. 10: William Brinley and four others received a grant of 25,600 acres at ~~King~~ Annapolis Royal. (Murdoch 3/105)

Aug. 25: Dyott, on leave from his post at Windsor, spends five days in Halifax. The day after he left Halifax, Lord Dorchester arrived on his way to England.

(Dyott Diary 1/67)

Oct. 10: William Brinley, <sup>son</sup> ~~husband~~ of Mrs. Wentworth's sister Mary, received a specific grant of 640 acres "on the Halifax-Annapolis Road", and was concerned with four others in a much larger grant in the same area (see above). He did nothing to improve these lands, and they were escheated in 1819. The Brinley grant was made by the Council Oct. 10, 1791, but for some obscure reason was never entered in the records of the Crown Land Office. (PANS 4/29,30,70 -- "Loyalists and Land Settlement in Nova Scotia")

Dec. 30, 1791 <sup>in England,</sup> Frances, writing to Lady Fitz William, says "Governor Wentworth wrote to Lord Fitz William yesterday to inform him of the death of Lieut. Genl. Parr, and to beg his favor toward his succeeding to that vacancy." (Microfilm copy of the letter - Archives, Halifax.)

1791 At this time Lord Fitz William was still a confirmed Whig, but he was friendly towards Pitt apparently, for in 1794 he & some other "old Whigs" entered Pitt's cabinet. (see 1794) - Envy Book. 9/338

1792

May 12, J.W. arrived from England to take over the office of Lieutenant-Governor, after a 5 weeks' voyage from Falmouth. On June 6 J.W. opened the Assembly. (Murdoch 3/100)

Col. Tonge, for long the Naval Officer of N.S., died in February. By His Majesty's mandamus the colonel's son, William Cottnam Tonge, was given the appointment. (Murdoch 3/101)

Sunday, August 12, the birthday of the Prince of Wales, J.W. gave a dinner to gentlemen of the army, navy and town. (Murdoch 3/101)

Friday, Sep. 21, J.W. sailed for Pictou in the armed schooner Diligent; reached there Oct. 3, landed on the 4th. Received an address. Returned to Halifax overland by way of Musquodoboit. The road for horses and cattle from Pictou was now open as far as Musquodoboit. (Murdoch 3/102)

Dec. 20, J.W. and wife gave a ball and supper. Description. (Murdoch 3/103)

As early as 1792 J.W. began to advocate to the British Gov't a charter of incorporation for King's College. (The charter was given in 1802) (May 178)

This summer J.W. persuaded Hartshorne & Tremaine to build a flour mill, and probably promised them his influence in getting the army flour contract, for in October he recommended this in a letter to London. He persisted in his efforts year after year, and in 1798 succeeded in getting H and T the contract. (NSHS 25/51)

Old (75 years) Richard Bulkeley, as senior Councillor, had assumed the administration of government on Governor Parr's death in Nov. 1791. He entertained lavishly all that winter and spring, obviously enjoying it. For several weeks after Wentworth's arrival he was absent from his various duties, pleading rheumatism. On Dec. 26 he resigned his office of Secretary of the Province in favor of his son Freke Bulkeley. (NSHS 12/82, 83)

Dec. 3: Dyott sails for England on leave of absence, and never returns.

The salary of Lieutenant-Governor of N.S. was IX £1,000 per year, unchanged since the time of Cornwallis. It so remained until 1808, when J.W.'s successor Prevost persuaded the home government to make it £2,000, the amount paid to the Lieutenant-Governor of Lower Canada. (The Gov't of Nova Scotia, J. Murray Beck, p.17)

Re Wentworth's "new road" from Pictou to Halifax via Musquodoboit (Murdoch 3/102)

Kenneth Mackenzie in "Sabots and Slippers" says that the road was cut some time in the 1790's from the head of the Musquodoboit valley to Sutherland River and ~~to the 1790's~~ Merigomish. That was as far as it existed. On the upper reach it was known as Blanchard's Road. It was cut mainly to benefit Jotham Blanchard and John Wentworth, who had received large grants of wild land in Pictou and Antigonish counties. J.W. (according to Mackenzie) had got himself a large grant at Merigomish Harbor soon after coming back to N.S. in 1783, and Sutherland's River is named after Wentworth's first settler, brought in (in accordance with the terms of the grant) in 1786. Jotham Blanchard, a New Hampshire man like J.W., some time after 1785 obtained through J.W. a concession of 200,000 acres in Pictou and Antigonish counties with a view to settling New Hampshire people on it. None came, so Jotham got a grant of 23,000 acres to himself at Lochaber in what is now Antigonish County, the grant being confirmed in 1796. The "new road" cut from Musquodoboit Valley to Merigomish (a small part of which is still called Blanchard Road) opened these grants to the Atlantic at the Musquodoboit mouth, whence coasters could make an easy run to Halifax. (Sabots and Slippers, pp. 46, 47, 75)

Apr 4, 1792 J.W. wrote to Francis's nephew Edward Bromley at Shelburne, congratulated him on his marriage, & appoints him Collector of that town. Edward was a son of Francis Bromley, George Bromley's brother. He returned to the U.S. after the death of his wife in 1804.  
- Wentworth Genealogy 1/529

J.W.  
Age 56  
Francis  
age 47

*e. he sailed from Falmouth April 7th*

J.W.  
Age 57  
-  
Frances  
age 48  
-  
1793

J.W. and wife give dinners, balls, levees, theatre parties. (Murdoch 3/106)  
April 13, J.W. informed the Assembly that France had declared war on England, and that he was ordered to raise a regiment in the province, of which he would be colonel. (Murdoch 3/108) (Maye 1793) (NSHS 21/164) (NSHS 14/80)

May 8, J.W.: reports on the state of the garrison and fleet. Press gangs given permission to collect men in town. (Murdoch 3/111)

At this time J.W. owned 100 acres on the west shore of Bedford Basin, about 6 miles from Halifax. He had built a cottage there which he called "Friar Lawrence's Cell. A letter from him to General Ogilvie dated "Friar Lawrence's Cell, August 2, 1793". (Murdoch 3/115) (see also 1791)

August 12, birthday of Prince of Wales, a levee at Government House in the afternoon, a dinner in the evening. (Murdoch 3/117)

December 2, death of Benjamin Green, who had been 30 years Treasurer of N.S. J.W. promptly appointed his brother-in-law Benning Wentworth as Treasurer. Benning was in England with his family at this time.

In June, J.W. wrote to England asking for a baronetcy. He did not get it until April 1795. (Mayo 181)

Benning Wentworth apparently had been living in England ever since 1778 (which see).

In December, Paul Wentworth died suddenly in Surinam, leaving his estate encumbered with debt. His heir, an adopted boy named Nathaniel, converted everything possible into cash and disappeared with it. This left J.W., who apparently had invested large sums in the Surinam estate, in a serious financial position. (Notes 21)

Dec. 7: J.W. wrote to London a hint that he suspected the loyalty of R.J. Uniacke and might have to supersede him in the office of Solicitor-General. Probably this hint had a double motive, for J.W. was anxious to promote Sterns, a Loyalist like himself. See 1795. (NSHS 25/58, 59)

This year Thomas Barclay, a close friend of J.W., was elected Speaker of the Assembly. This made J.W. sure of a sympathetic House. It would take time to fill the Council with his friends. (NSHS 25/60)

April 30: HMS Alligator enters Halifax with two rich French prizes, and sends prisoners ashore. (NSHS 14/81)

In May: General Ogilvie and troops from Halifax capture St. Pierre & Miquelon. This expedition had been planned jointly by Ogilvie and Gov. Wentworth. The prisoners came to Halifax. J.W. had ~~housed~~ rented buildings on Melville Island and fitted them with berths; but Ogilvie insisted on housing the prisoners in the old Corn wallis Barracks on Sackville Street at the east end of Artillery Park. (NSHS 14/89)



1794

May 10, Prince Edward arrived at Halifax from Saint Kitts. J.W. and Council make a fulsome address. May 24, Edward reviews the troops. (Murdoch 3/122,123)

May 27, in a letter to Colonel Small regarding the lands of his regiment at Kennetcook, J.W. mentions his plan of a canal to link Dartmouth and the Shubenacadie. (Murdoch 3/125)

J.W.'s officers seize the iron chest and papers of the late Benjamin Green, to the indignation of his family. (Murdoch 3/126)

June 14 Prince Edward left by horseback for Annapolis. HMS Zebra awaited him there, and carried him over to N.B. for an inspection of the troops. He returned in the Zebra to Digby and rode on to Halifax, arriving there June 28. (Murdoch 3/127)

August 1, Benning Wentworth and family arrived in the packet Tankerville from Falmouth. (Murdoch 3/129) Nov. 2, a Sunday, was the birthday of Prince Edward. J.W. gave a levee, and on Monday a great ball. (Murdoch 3/131)

A show at the Grand Theatre "by desire of Prince Edward", Dec. 30 (Murdoch 3/133) 134  
After spending several months at Gov't House with the Wentworths, Prince Edward established himself and Madam de St. Laurent at J.W.'s lodge on Bedford Basin, "Friar Lawrence's Cell". (Mayo)

Benning Wentworth soon acquired a house and property in the north end of Halifax, called Poplar Grove. (Notes 11)

This year J.W. reported to the Duke of Portland that King's College building had been erected, but it would take £1500 to finish the building.

(Bicentenary Sketches 129)

Early this summer many of the French prisoners taken at St. Pierre last year were shipped from Halifax to Guernsey. Others remained. (NSHS 14/92,93-100)

Frances Wentworth's closest female companion at this time (when she was still being snubbed by Halifax ladies who remembered her giddy affairs with Prince William and others) was her own sister, Mrs. Mary Brinley. Mary Wentworth had married William Brinley, <sup>who was now a Captain</sup> ~~and had become~~ <sup>an</sup> ~~Commissionary~~ <sup>Assistant</sup> General to the Forces in ~~British~~ <sup>North America</sup>. In London in ~~1780~~ <sup>1783</sup> (which see). Later on Mrs. Brinley came to Halifax and there spent the rest of her days. According to the author of "The Sandemanian Loyelists" (NSHS 29/118) "Lady Wentworth was pretty gay and was regarded as a dreadful woman in Puritan circles. She attended the Church of England, and cared very little for their opinion, and doubtless went out of her way to add to the scandalous gossip. At least she made a point of baiting the congregation of old Mather's Church, which was across Prince Street from the old Government House standing on the present site of Province House. On Sunday when the congregation were soberly entering this church, Lady Wentworth and her sister Mrs. Brinley could be seen by them, laughing and talking in a window, and smoking "segars", with the obvious purpose of shocking the dissenters. Mrs Brinley's son, ~~William~~ William Birch Brinley eventually became a captain in the army, married a Halifax girl in 1810, and lived on a small estate called Mount Edward at Preston. He was a drunken character, his young wife left him in 1812, and ~~he~~ in June of that year he committed suicide by shooting himself through the head with a pistol. He did this in his mother's house, which stood apparently in Granville Street. According to Halifax gossip (which had never loved Mrs. ~~Brinley~~ Mary Brinley) his mother's tearful remark was, "I never knew Bill had so much brains." (NSHS 29/118)

HALIFAX  
SEE  
1799  
1787

Nov. 20 J.W.'s mother, Elizabeth (Ridge) Wentworth died at Portsmouth N.H. aged 78. She had been a widow since 1785.

1794 Lord Fitzwilliam, heir of Lord Rockingham & friend of J.W., joined Pitt's cabinet with other "old Whigs" & became President of the Council. At the end of the year however he was sent to Ireland as receiver.

see notes on the following page

J.W.  
Age 58  
Frances  
age 48

J.W.  
Age 59  
Frances  
age 50

1795

The wealthy merchant John Butler Butler having retired and gone to live in England, J.W. recommended <sup>his</sup> his brother-in-law to take the vacant seat in the N.S. Council. (Murdoch 3/134)

J.W. received notification of his baronetcy. On Sunday, May 31 he gave a levee at Government House. Prince Edward attended, and congratulated Lady Wentworth in her drawing room. (Murdoch 3/137)

J.W. and lady made a tour of the western part of the province in September, apparently by carriage. Verses on the subject. Murdoch 3/139

In November, by royal mandamus, Benning Wentworth was appointed to the Council. (Murdoch 3/140)

In May, the General in command at Hfx called on J.W. to supply him with 600 militia to repair the Hfx fortifications. J.W. replied that it was planting time and he did not considered the levy justified. (Mayo 180)

Early in 1795 Prince Edward and J.W. hatched a little plot together. It was rumored that Guy Carleton, Lord Dorchester, was about to resign the governorship of Quebec, and it occurred to E. and J.W. that they might get a promotion there, working together with the same division of civil and military power that they had enjoyed in N.S. Nothing came of this scheme. (Mayo 184)

In connection with his new baronetcy, J.W. was anxious to prove his ancient connection with the English family of Wentworth in order to assume their heraldic devices. He wrote to Jeremy Belknap in New Hampshire, who traced his American genealogy for him and thus aided in his claim, which ultimately was recognized by the King. In thanking the historian for his researches, and mentioning "the honours lately conferred", J.W. wrote that "an addition to my arms was granted" ( two keys, signifying fidelity, in the Wentworth chevron) -- " merited more by honest zeal than brilliant execution". (Mayo 188)

A maternal cousin of Lady Frances, Nathaniel Thomas (son of Hon. Nathaniel and Sarah Deering Thomas) wrote that:- "There have dined at Government House between 12 December 1794 and 29 October 1795, 2,437 persons." (Notes 17)

Jan. 23: J.W. wrote to London uttering further suspicions about R.J. Uniacke -- "His conduct is dark and insidious, secretly connected with seditious purposes and giving advice against the service". Early this year there were rumors that Chief Justice Strange was about to leave the province. J.W. was anxious to see Attorney-General S.S. Blowers promoted to Chief Justice, but he was afraid that Solicitor-General Uniacke would then become Attorney-General. J.W. wanted his friend Sterns to have that post. (NSHS 25/53, 58, 59) See also 1793, 1797.

This was 1796

This year Freke Bulkeley, Secretary of the Province, died of tuberculosis at the age of 36. He was unmarried, lived with his father, and old Richard collected the pay and simply paid Freke an allowance. Thus, when Freke died and J.W. wanted to give the Secretary's post to his brother-in-law Benning, J.W. was obliged to pay off old Richard with an annuity of £200 for life. Description of old (but sorry) Richard at this time. (NSHS 12/83)

In this year Bishop Charles Inglis, aged 61 and wishing to get away from "the bleak air of Halifax, standing on the margin of the ocean", and having no liking for merely social affairs, moved his place of residence to Aylesford, where he built the cottage he called Clermont. Here at once he began to raise apple trees "from seeds of New Town Pippins from New York". (NSHS 22/39-41) (NSHS 23/28)

May: the captured French men-o'-war Le Raison and Prévoyante came into Halifax as prizes, and their officers and men, all hot republicans, soon began to spread mischief amongst the Miquelon refugees in Halifax, and the Acadians. At this time Captain Lyman was commissary of naval prisoners at Halifax, and J.W. ordered him to keep ~~EM~~ his French prisoners in confinement outside the town. In November most of these French naval prisoners returned to France in a cartel ship. (NSHS 14/101)

March 1795 Lord Fitzwilliam recalled from Ireland, disavowed by Pitt. (Ency. Brit. 9/338)

1795 Col. Michael Wentworth died while on a visit to New York - (Watson's Genealogy. Vol. 1/290)

1796

A proposal to build a bridge of boats across Halifax harbor. (Murdoch 3/145)  
J.W. in ~~his address to the assembly~~ a letter to the Earl of Portland in April, mentions the length and intenseness of the winter just passed. (Murdoch 3/146)

April 23, St. George's Day, a levee at Government House. Later on, a dinner of the English Society, which J.W. and Prince Edward attend. (Murdoch 3/146)

May 21, writing to Under-Secretary of State, (Mr. King, J.W. says the Acadians feel wholly British subjects, entirely changed from their former sentiments, and declares that this change has taken place during his administration. He asks for a French priest for them. (Murdoch 3/146, 147)

June 4, King's birthday. salutes and parades. A levee at Government House, attended by Prince Edward. Gov't. House illuminated in the evening.

July 22, 500 Maroons arrive at Halifax from Jamaica. (Murdoch 3/147)

July 25, Chief Justice Strange leaves for England. " 3/148

Land purchased for the Maroons, at Preston. J.W. suggests the escheat of a tract of 16,000 or 18,000 acres four miles further on, in order to grant it for the use of the Maroons. He apparently had already built his "farm" at Preston before this, for he mentions that about fifty of them sleep in his "outhouse at the farm, where I am often without a sentry, or even locking a door or window." He expects to have the Maroons comfortably settled in Preston by autumn. (Murdoch 3/149)

Aug. 12, birthday of the Prince of Wales, parades, salutes, banquet at Gov't. House attended by Prince Edward. (Murdoch 3/149)

Aug. 15. Lord Dorchester and family arrive at Halifax after being shipwrecked on Anticosti on their way to England. Aug. 30th they sailed in the Dover, from Hfx., for England. (Murdoch 3/149)

Halifax was visited this season by the U.S. commissioner and his agent in connection with settling the international boundary at Saint Croix; also by Samuel Webber, professor of astronomy at Cambridge, Mass., and other Americans.

Sep. 13, Lady W. gives a ball in honor of Capt. Beresford of HMS La Raison, who had fought and driven off a French ship of the line. (Murdoch 3/150)

Sep. 20 J.W. writes to the Duke of Portland that all the Maroons have been settled in comfortable houses, remarks that they are "remarkably clean in their persons, houses, clothing, and utensils, and very healthy." (Murdoch 3/150)

Sep. 24 J.W. writes to Portland, describing an alarm of French attack, Prince Edward's measures of defence, etc. (Murdoch 3/151)

Oct. 31, a man convicted of forgery, sentenced to one hour in the pillory and to have one ear cut off. This was carried out. (Murdoch 3/152)

Nov. 12 J.M. Freke Bulkeley, Secretary of the Province, died aged 35. Big funeral. J.W. promptly appointed Benning Wentworth in his place, Nov. 14 (Murdoch 3/152)

In XXXI April the postmaster at Halifax arranged horseback messengers to carry the mails between Hfx and Annapolis. (Murdoch 3/154)

Dec. 30, J.W. arranged detailed supplies for the Indians of Guysborough district, mentioned plans for a concentration at Hfx in case of French attack, the Indian women and children to encamp on "an island in the Bason." (Murdoch 3/158)

J.W.'s squabble with the Jamaican authorities, and their agents Querrell and Ochterloney, regarding maintenance of the Maroons. (Murdoch 3/158, 157)

Captain Cochrane (uncle of the celebrated Earl of Dundonald) with his wife and family arrive in Halifax, November, in his warship Thetis. (Murdoch 3/158)

Like the preceding winter, the winter of 1796-97 was long and hard. (Murdoch 3/158)  
March 17, St. Patrick's Day, the Irish Society held a dinner at Gallagher's hotel (the British Tavern). J.W. gave a levee at Gov't House, and attended the dinner with Prince Edward and other dignitaries. (NSHS 8/111)

October: J.W. wrote to the Duke of Portland, with reference to Negroes still in the province: "Slavery being almost exterminated here, distinctions naturally painful to these people are gradually dying away." (NSHS 10/61, 62)

J.W.  
Age 60  
Frances  
age 51

see also  
Murdoch  
3/159  
↑  
NSHS 12/93 copy  
for the dist in 1795  
(which see.)



1796 - continued -(a)

This year Benning Wentworth was granted 543 acres in Lunenburg County.  
(PANS 4/69 "Loyalists & Land Settlement in N.S.")

J.W.  
Age 61  
Francis  
age 52

1797

Assembly passed a bill to provide £250 for a survey of the proposed Shuben-acadie Canal, a pet project of J.W.'s. (Murdoch 3/161)

Prince Edward wants another regiment of militia called up. J.W. talks him out of it. J.W. succeeds in getting Ochterloney removed from his job re the Maroons at Preston; and Capt. Howe of the Royal N.S. Reg't is appointed in his place. (NSHS 20769) (Murdoch 3/161)

Prince of Wales's birthday, the usual levees, salutes, etc. (Murdoch 3/162)

Aug. 17 Lieut. Charles Thomas of H.M. 7th Reg't, killed by accident, shot by a fellow officer. A cousin of J.W.'s. Prince Edward's grief. (Murdoch 3/162) and 165

J.W. lays before the Council the resignation of Chief Justice Strange, who went to England last year. Strange has secured an appointment in Bombay. (Murdoch 3/162)

In October this year (and probably before) George Brinley was Commissary and Storekeeper-General to the garrison. His wife was a sister to Lady Wentworth and to Benning Wentworth. (His grand-daughter was Mrs. Gore, the novelist) Murdoch 3/163

Oct. 24, the embodied militia discharged. Nov. 8 Admiral Vandeput sails from Halifax on a cruise with six warships. Nov. 23 HMS Tribune wrecked at harbor mouth. Murdoch 3/163

SEE  
1799  
1797

Feb. 17/97 -- J.W. writes to Phineas Bond re newspapers of Peter Porcupine.

Apr. 21 -- J.W. writes to the Duke of Clarence re the Maroons; wants to keep them in N.S. mentions that Lady W. has been 52 days ill with fever. (Murdoch 3/165)

Nov. 9, brig Princess Amelia wrecked on Sable Island. News of this did not reach Halifax until January '98 (Murdoch 3/167)

J.W. wrote to Jeremy Belknap a long letter about "my old friend, the highly respected President of the United States" (John Adams) -- Mayo 189

When Chief Justice Strange resigned, J.W. urged that S.S. Blowers be made Chief Justice, and that his Loyalist friend Sterns should have Blowers' old post of Attorney-General. Instead London, while agreeing to make Blowers Chief Justice, promoted Uniacke to the Attorney-Generalship, and made Sterns Solicitor-General in Uniacke's old post. See also 1793 and 1795. (NSHS 25/53, 54, 58, 59)

This year the Legislature passed an Act nominating Commissioners to select and purchase a site for a proper building to house the Legislature. The Commissioners bought land therefor at the south end of Hollis Street. They also contracted for some of the building materials. At this point a hitch occurred. Sir John W. had his own ideas. He wanted a Government House as a proper residence for himself. See 1799. (NSHS 4/247, 248 etc.) At this time the Legislature met, and had met for years, in a building rented from the Cochrans and known as the Cochrane Building. It stood on Hollis Street immediately opposite the grounds of the old Government House. It remained the home of the Legislature for many years after. (NSHS 4/249)

*This year Mrs Sarah Morton, at Boston, published a poem which in part gave great praise to J.W. & his efforts to open the wilderness at Wolfborough. (Mayo 91)*

1797 At this time George Brinley (husband of Fannie's sister Mary) was Deputy Commissary-General of the forces at Halifax. (see 1799)

July 8/97 Edmund Burke died.

see NSHS  
Vol. 17 p. 127  
for full  
account

See also  
George Brinley  
William Wentworth  
Edmund Burke

J.W.  
Age 62  
Francisco  
age 53

1798

J.W. gets word of the Princess Amelia, wrecked on Sable Island last Nov., and sends a Liverpool schooner to the island with relief for the crew. (Murdoch 3/167) The schooner Black Snake leaves Hfx Jan.12 and returns with survivors Jan.28. (" 168)

Heavy snows block the Windsor road, shutting off supplies of fresh meat, early in February. People and troops turn out to clear the road, and on Feb.20 thirty-five cattle reach Hfx. (Murdoch 3/168)

Mr. Quarrel left for Jamaica via Boston. J.W. liked him, did not like Ochterloney, the other Jamaican officer, who was sent back in '97. (Murdoch 3/169)

The 6th Regiment (known as the Irish Brigade) arrived at Hfx early this year; part of them had spent the winter at their first landfall, Nfld. (Murdoch 3/169)

July 7, J.W., Council and Assembly proceed from Council Chamber to Government House, ask Prince Edward there to accept a jeweled star (which is still to be made, probably in England) and Edward accepts. (Murdoch 3/170)

June 23. After a row between 9 naval captains and Judge Bulkeley of the Vice-Admiralty Court, J.W. advises London that the naval officers on the station feel that Bulkeley is too old and should be replaced." (Murdoch 3/171)

In June, J.W. writes England re the Maroons, and W. Cottnam Tonge, whom he detests. (Murdoch 3/171) (NSHS 257)

In March Lady W. sailed to England. On July 5 she was presented at court to the King and Queen by the Countess Fitzwilliam, one of the British Wentworth family. Queen Charlotte, much pleased with her elegance and manners, appointed Lady W. a lady-in-waiting, with a salary of £500, and permission to live abroad. (Murdoch 3/172)

Aug.8. Prince Edward falls off his horse. Aug. 13 he attends a display on the Parade in honor of the Prince of Wales' birthday. Friday Sep.14 he attends a review of his own (7th) regiment. Complains of painful spasms from injured leg. Doctor fetched from Quebec, concurs with local doctors that Prince E. had better go to England. The Prince has a conversation with J.W., feels sorry for himself. On Oct.18 J.W. and Council present an address to the Prince, lamenting his accident and his departure. Oct.21 Edward and suite embark, and sail for England Oct.23, arriving there Nov.13. (Murdoch 3/172,173,174)

Sep.25 a hurricane does great damage to ships and wharves at Hfx. (Murdoch 3/174)

At this time the U.S. and France are at unofficial war at sea. Nov.11 the U.S. warships Herald and Pickering, convoying the brig Commerce, put into Halifax. Exchange of salutes. American captains land and pay respects to J.W., the admiral and general.

Nov.21 salutes and a general illumination in honor of Nelson's victory at the Nile (which took place Aug.1/98) Murdoch 3/174

March 17, J.W. and Prince Edward attended Irish Society dinner (Murdoch 3/174)

Nov. 30, J.W., chief justice and others attend Scotch Society dinner (Murdoch 3/174)

April. Someone stole three turkey hens from the Prince's town quarters. Five guineas reward offered for conviction of thief. Apply to Sergeant John Newton, at the Yellow Barracks. (Murdoch 3/175)

This year many government employees, following a practice begun two or three years before, "voluntarily" subscribed part of their pay to the British Gov't for aid in the French war. This year J.W. gave £200. Prince Edward's ~~servants~~ domestic servants, all ten of them, subscribed together £54. (Murdoch 3/175)

Nov.2, J.W., reporting to Duke of Portland in the annual routine account of the state of the Council, mentions that "Benning Wentworth, Secretary of the Province and Paymaster of the Royal N.S. Reg't, resides at Halifax and attends regularly." (Murdoch 3/176)

Nov.17 J.W. writes Portland news of the provincial crops, fisheries etc., and complains of "a continued bilious complaint, which affects my head and eyes, and prevents... writing many minutes together." (Murdoch 3/176)



1798-continued-(a)

In this year Dr. Jeremy Belknap, historian of New Hampshire, J.W.'S old friend, with whom he had corresponded frequently, died.

Lady W., visiting in England, found her son a polished young man. He had graduated from Oxford, where his college was ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Brasenose, and had spent a year or two as private secretary to Earl Fitzwilliam. The Earl was a nephew of the late Marquis of Rockingham and had inherited his estates, including Wentworth House. Thus Lady W. was a frequent guest there during her stay in England '98-'99.

~~XXXX~~ (Mayo 188)

This year J.W., after persuasion beginning in 1792, managed to get the army flour contract for his friends Hartshorne & Tremaine, who had a mill in Dartmouth.

This year old Judge Bulkeley in his Vice-Admiralty Court, clashed with nine captains of the Royal Navy. J.W. tried to mollify the naval people, eventually wrote London suggesting that Bulkeley was too old for the job, and that Judge Brenton be appointed in his place. London ignored the suggestion. (NSHS 12/84)

Charles Mary  
April 25!

NSHS  
25/51

1799

April, the Maroons at Preston create a disturbance. J.W. sends an officer and 50 men of the R.N.S. Reg't to preserve order. J.W. now complains of impaired health. Says Government House was built of green wood and is now nearly 50 years old and much decayed. He has moved to his lodge six miles out. He can be informed in five minutes of any occurrence in the town, by telegraph, and if necessary can be in town in 40 minutes. (Murd.3/177)

Jan.9, a diamond star of the Order of the Garter, which Prince Edward had agreed to accept last July in Halifax, is presented to him today at Kensington Palace, by Charles-Mary Wentworth and Halifax merchant Lawrence Hartshorne. (Murd.3/177)

May 21, Liverpool privateer Charles-Mary Wentworth returns to N.S. with four valuable Spanish prizes. (Murd. 3/177,178)

June 7, the Assembly opens its session, and replying to J.W.'s speech congratulate him on the safe return of his wife and son. (Murd. 3/178)

Argument in Assembly over the site for a new Government House. Suggestions include the South Farm, the Gerrish garden and the present site. The Assembly voted £10,500 to purchase a site and to build a new Government House. (Murd.3/179)

Sep.6 At six o'clock in the morning the telegraph signalled a frigate in the offing. At 8 o'clock it announced that the frigate was from England and had Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, on board. As soon as the frigate (Arethusa) was moored, J.W. and other dignitaries hastened aboard to greet the Prince. Edward came ashore in great state at 1 p.m., and came to Government House. (Murd.3/180)

Sep.27. Writing to John King, under-Secretary of State, J.W. says that the Duke of Kent "is now residing chiefly at my house near town, which he requested to re-occupy, and I have accordingly lent it to him during his stay in N.S., although I have not another place to go to for a day's retirement. However it must be so."

It appears (Murd.3/181) that although J.W. was nominally colonel of the Royal N.S.Regiment he received no pay, but got one ration and an allowance of fuel -- probably a money allowance in lieu of these things -- Murd.3/181

In October J.W., Benning, the chief justice and the bishop, attend a meeting of the governors of King's College at Windsor. (Murd.3/182)

Oct.30. The Duke of Orleans and his brothers Montpensier and Beaujolie, together with the Compte Montjoye, arrived in Hfx from New Providence in HMS Porcupine. They want a passage to England, and finding none at New Providence or here, went to New York in the merchant ship Lord Duncan. J.W. and Lady W. wined and dined and danced them, and they also dined with the Duke of Kent. Orleans lodged, while here, with the wife of one Meagher, a Frenchwoman, and attended service in the small R.C. Chapel in Pleasant Street, sitting in the pew of L. Doyle, Esq. (Murd.3/184)

Dec. 14, George Washington died. (Murd.3/184)

June 13, Lieut.Gov. Farming of the Island of St.John, formally announced that the King had approved changing the island's name to Prince Edward Island. The island assembly had passed an act to this effect last year. (Murd.3/185)

Dec.9, Charles-Mary sailed for Boston in the sloop-of-war Fly, thus beginning a long tour of the United States.

During this year the New Light religious movement again created a great stir in the country districts. Description of meetings. § (Bicentenary Sketches 151, 15, 140)

June: in response to a request of J.W., made in 1796, that a French refugee priest be sent ~~to~~ from England to work amongst the Acadians, the Abbe Sigogne arrived in Halifax. A few days later he sailed in a fishing boat to Bel Brook and began his long ministry amongst the Acadians of western N.S. (NSHS 14/103) (NSHS 23/103)

1799 George Brinley, husband of Fannie's sister Mary, one Deputy Commissary-General of the forces at Halifax, became Commissary-General of N.M. forces in North America, a post he held until his death in 1809 - Wentworth Genealogy 1/529, 530

This implies that he had sold his position while some time before.

J.W.  
Age 63  
Frances  
age 54

J.W.  
Age - 64  
Frances  
age - 55

1800

Jan. 20, J.W. in a letter to under Secretary of State King, mentions that a Mr. Ross was living at Maroon Hall and telling the Maroons of the good place to which he expects to take them. He also mentions two French ~~immigrants~~ 'emigre' families who wish to settle on the Maroon farm. (Murd.3/186)

Jan. 31. Duke of Kent, General Bowyer, and their staffs, set off to inspect the troops at Windsor and Annapolis. (Murd.3/186)

March 22, the Assembly resolve to lease for three years more the Cochrane building, which houses the Assembly and the courts of Justice. (Murd.3/189)

Feb. 23 J.W. writes of an epidemic of "rheumatic influenza" in Halifax. Says it lasts 6 to 16 days. He had got a "sad relapse" from venturing out on the 20th to open the Assembly session. (The Cochran building was right across the street from Government House ) Murd.3/190

J.W. gripes about Tonge in almost every despatch to London. For example, see Murdoch 3/190, 191.

This spring Charles-Mary Wentworth was on a visit to the United States, heard the debates of Congress, was well received by the President, who asked after J.W. (Murd.3/192)

J.W. sent (smoked) bear hams to London; one to Scrope Bernard, agent of the Province of N.S., the other to under Secretary of State King. (Murd.3/192)

April 10, J.W. laid the first foundation stone of St. George's church. (Murd.3/192)

Amongst his other jobs, Benning Wentworth was now Commissioner of Escheats and Forfeitures. (Murd.3/193)

Prince Edward imported four blood horses, to improve the breed in N.S. (Murd.3/193)

In December the transport Frances, bound from England to Halifax, stranded on Sable Island and was lost with all on board. Passengers included officers of Prince Edward's staff. (Murd.3/193)

June 6, William Cobbett "Peter Porcupine" arrived in Halifax on his way from New York to England. In his paper, the Porcupine Gazette, he had attacked the French directory, and upheld the Federalist party in the U.S., which was friendly to Britain. This had aroused the ire of the Democrats and forced him to leave. During his stay in Halifax, Cobbett is said to have dined with the Duke of Kent. His Porcupine Gazette had several subscribers in Halifax. (Murd.3/193, 194)

June 5, Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, laid the cornerstone of the Masonic Hall, on the site of the old main guard house, J.W. was in the Masonic procession.

(Murd.3/194)

July 8. Old Mr. Bulkeley resigned the offices of Master of the Rolls and Registrar in Chancery, both of which offices were conferred on Benning Wentworth by J.W., the Council (which included Benning) consenting. (Murd.3/194)

In July Prince Edward was planning to return to England, pleading a "bilious, rheumatic complaint in his stomach, head and neck". J.W. says that in addition to ~~the~~ HMS Assistance, which will be stowed "as full as a merchant ship", a large transport is daily expected from England "to take all his carriages, horses, furniture and domestics." (Murd. 3/194)

July 31 J.W. and Council present an address to Prince Edward expressing regret at his forthcoming departure. August 3, the Prince and suite embark on HMS Assistance, and she sails the next day. (Murd 3/195)

Aug. 7, three soldiers hanged on the Common, eight others reprieved. (Murd.3/195)

Sep. 15, J.W., Chief Justice Blowers and others left Hfx to visit King's College at Windsor. (Murd.3/195)

Aug. 6. J.W. writes that 551 Maroons had been shipped for Sierra Leone aboard the Asia. (Murd.3/196)

Sep. 11. J.W. laid the cornerstone of the new Government House. (Murd.3/196) (NSHS 3/200)

Sep. 26. J.W. and two provincial officials sail for a visit to Sydney, contrary winds force them to put in to Liverpool, where he receives a dinner and an address. Two days later (Sep. 30) he sails for Cape Breton. During October he visits Truro, Pictou and Guysborough. (Murd.3/196)



1800-continued-(a)

In November, Charles-Mary returned from his tour of the U.S., which he began in December '99 (Mayo 189, 190)

In the spring of this year J.W.'s friends Hartshorne & Tremaine lost the army flour contract to John Butler Butler. J.W. claimed in a letter to London that Butler had "artfully deceived" the Duke of Kent in this matter; the letter was written two days after Kent sailed for England. (NSHS 25/ 57)

This year J.W. claimed and began to use a power to issue marriage licenses to dissenting ministers. Hitherto only C. of E. clergy could obtain them. Bishop Inglis talked him out of it, and Inglis was backed by the home authorities. Bishop Inglis, writing to England, said that J.W. had been talked into this by his brother-in-law Benning Wentworth, who was Secretary of the Province and had the perquisite on marriage licenses. Inglis said that ~~the~~ Benning thought that "more would be made by the license in the new mode."

June 5, Duke of Kent laid the cornerstone of the Masonic Hall, with great pomp and ceremony, afterwards calling with the Freemasons' chief members on rheumatic old Richard Bulkeley, Grand Master for Nova Scotia. Dec. 7 Richard Bulkeley died, and was buried on the 11th, a very large funeral. (NSHS 12/85, 86)

In the winter of 1800-1801 there was a widespread smallpox epidemic in the province. (NSHS 24/50-55) (Bicentenary Sketches p.111)

1800

*In this year William Birch Bromley, son of Fermie's sister Mary, was paymaster of a regiment in Newfoundland - Wentworth Genealogy, 1/535. Note:- probably this was the Royal Nova Scotia Fencible Regiment, which had a detachment in Newfoundland for several years. Capt. John McNab, of McNab's Island, was a member of the detachment, & one of his daughters, born at St. John's Nfld. in 1807, eventually became the wife of Joseph Howe.*

1801

January. J.W. writes complaining of his health, is re-occupying his lodge or "villa" on the Basin, which Prince Edward had much improved. On Feb. 4 there was a fire at the villa, which destroyed the stables, coach houses and offices.

(Murd. 3/204)

An epidemic of smallpox between Sep. 1800 and Feb. 1801 (Murd 3/204)

April 10. J.W. writes hopefully of a project to establish a bank in Halifax. Nothing came of it. (Murd. 3/205)

This summer J.W., writing to Surinam about his claim of more than £4,000 sterling on the estate of Paul Wentworth, deceased. (Murd. 3/205) (N.S.H.S. 13)

June 16. The Council meets, including Charles-Mary Wentworth, newly appointed. (Murd. 3/207)

Aug. 26 J.W. is embarrassed financially. For one thing his salaries as Governor and as Commissioner of Woods have been held up. This is because his expenditures on the Maroons have not been approved. He now calls the Maroons "a ferocious, sanguinary people, inflamed with deep malice". (Murd. 3/208)

Oct. 18 J.W. writes to Ward Chipman about a rumor that Wentworth was about to be "transplanted to the West Indies", and that Governor Bentinck was to be made Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia. He says, "If it is so, I shall leave this country without regret." To Mr. Glenie on the same subject he says, "Old men do not kindly transplant any more than old trees. Nevertheless in this forest of life and politicks sometimes both ~~have to take their chance~~ must take their chances, whatsoever fruit they may have borne." (Murd. 3/209)

Nov. 18. Doctor Alexander Croke, Judge of Vice-Admiralty for N.S., produced his commission to the Lieut-Gov and Council and was sworn in. (N.S.H.S. 2/112)

Oct. 1. Britain and France signed preliminary articles of peace.

Oct. 6 The Earl of Moira and the hired schooner Kitty sailed for Sable Island with materials for the establishment of a lifesaving station. Details of material, animals etc. (Murd. 3/213, 214)

Feb. 2. Census of population on the peninsula of Halifax shows 8081 whites and 451 blacks. There are 2489 adult white women and only 1924 adult white men. There are 96 adult black men and 166 adult blackwomen. (Murd. 3/215) (This preponderance of women, white and black, is probably due to the large number of prostitutes who had been drawn to Halifax by the ~~large number of~~ soldiers and sailors of wartime. THR.) The census shows exactly 1205 white families and 1,000 houses. (Murd. 3/216)

In this year Titus Smith made a survey of the interior parts of the province. (Murd. 3/220)

This year the Govt appears to have spent £1,590 in building a wooden structure in Halifax for a meat market. (Murd. 3/220) (Probably an abattoir, THR.)

This year J.W. was made Grand Master of the Free Masons of Nova Scotia (Murd. 3/263)

J.W.  
Age 65  
Frances  
age 56

Possibly Anne William Bentinck, or to have appointed Governor of Madras in 1803

J.W.  
Age 66  
Francis  
age 57

1802

Albansden

January. J.W. recommends Dr. Croke to fill one of the vacant seats on the Council, caused by death. Murdoch makes a good comment on J.W.'s tendency to favor members of his family and of his party sentiments. (Murd.3/218,219)

Feb. 25 The Assembly meets. In reply to J.W.'s speech they mention the rumor of his removal, ~~and~~ congratulate him highly, and hope that he will stay. (Murd.3/219)

March 19, the Assembly passes an address to the King, praying him to retain J.W. in this government. (Murd.3/220)

March 25, Mr. Tonge moves an enquiry into the costs of building the new Gov't House, which is proceeding very slowly. He, Robie and Wilkins are appointed a committee to present this demand to J.W. In the succeeding days this led to a lively tussle of words in the House, a direct conflict between Assembly and Council. It was revealed that so far only one story of Gov't House had been erected, but that materials were at hand to finish the edifice. (Murd.3/221,222) Note: this ~~conflict~~ conflict, coming right on top of the Assembly's fulsome endorsement of J.W. in the preceding items, is a bit puzzling. It looks as if the previous vote of confidence in J.W. had been engineered by the Council, and Tonge and the other opposition members in the Assembly took the first opportunity of showing J.W. where he really stood in their regard. (THR)

The past winter had been mild, and the lack of frost and snow had made it awkward to get produce to the Halifax market. (Murd.3/223)

March 27. Definitive treaty of peace between France and Britain signed at Amiens. This was announced in council at Halifax on June 4. July 8 was appointed a day of public Thanksgiving. Nevertheless J.W. expects the revenue to fall off, and warns London. (Murd.3/223)

In June J.W.'s acute financial embarrassments were eased somewhat by the release of his salary, held up (see Aug.26,1801) until he satisfied the London authorities about his disbursements on account of the Maroons. (Murd.3/224)

June 22, General Bowyer notifies J.W. that the Royal N.S. Reg't is to be disbanded. (Murd.3/224)

M. Danseville, late Governor of St.Pierre, is still receiving at this time a pension of £166 sterling per annum from the British Government.

In 1802 the British Gov't, finally granted a charter of incorporation to King's College, which J.W. had been advocating since 1792. J.W. was appointed a governor of the College.

This summer a discharged naval officer named Lloyd, a native of Hfx, called on J.W. with a letter of recommendation from Prince William. (Notes 15)

At this time J.H.Flieger was in the employ of H.M.Customs as a gauger -- probably through J.W.'s influence. Flieger had been ~~the~~ assistant, for years in his post of Surveyor General of the King's Woods. (NSHS 8/134,146) This name was properly spelt Fleigher. Fleigher had a son named Wentworth. (Notes 18)

Jan 2: John Wentworth, J.W.'s nephew (son of his brother Thomas), who had been educated in England after the Revolution (his mother's second husband was Captain Henry Bellow, R.N.) and who had received & occupied the appointment of Attorney-General of Prince Edward Island in the 1790's, had lived of P.E.I. & removed to Portsmouth N.H. On this day he married Martha, only daughter of Col. Michael & Marilda Wentworth, and thus inherited old Benning Wentworth's estate at Rattle Harbor N.H. (Notes 20)



J. W.  
Age 67  
Francis  
age 58

1803

The winter of 1802-1803 is said to have been the mildest ever remembered. The previous winter also had been mild. (Murd. 3/223 and 3/226)

June 24, J.W. receives a despatch from London dated May 16, saying that war with France had been resumed. (Murd. 3/226)

Tonge continues to spark trouble between Assembly and Council, especially over the revenue bills. (Murd. 3/227, 228) and (Murd. 3/229, 230)

September. Many deserters among the troops at Hfx. (Murd. 3/231)

January 8: J.W. sends Scrope Bernard, agent of N.S. in London, 414 lbs Nova Scotia dumb salt fish; and in a deal box 18 quarts American hickory nuts. (Murd. 3/232)

April 30: press warrant granted to HMS Cambrian for 50 men. (Murd. 3/232)

In 1803 the majority of the governors of King's College adopted a statute that forced every student at his matriculation to subscribe to the 39 Articles of Faith of the Church of England. As J.W. was the highest government official on the board he was probably in agreement with the statute. The Bishop of Nova Scotia was against it. The evil genius of the King's College governors was Alexander Croke. (NSHS 25/62) (2/116)

By this year J.W. had a Council almost entirely composed of friends and relatives. A number of deaths and resignations in 1801 and 1802 had given him the long-awaited chance to recommend these appointments to London. From this time J.W. and his Council became increasingly aggressive in asserting the prerogative rights of the Governor against the democratic aims of the House. (NSHS 25/60, 61)

November 17 J. W. writes Col. Moody re Napoleon's scheme for invading England - Notes 17.

J.W.

Age 68  
Frances  
age 59

1804

February: J.W. writes that 70 or 80 cargoes of timber would be exported from Nova Scotia this year, and that if encouragement were given there could be 600 cargoes. He adds that large sums are drained annually from N.S. to buy bread and flour in the U.S. for the seaport towns and to supply the King's stores. (Murd.3/233)

This spring French general Brunet and his suite, captured in Saint Domingo, arrived in Halifax on the way to England. J.W. sent them to the Rockingham Inn, near his lodge on Bedford Basin. (Murd.3/234)

Wentworth seems to have patched up, momentarily, his feud with Cottnam Tonge, whose name does not appear in the perennial squabble between Assembly and Council until after the month of July. On July 9 J.W. wrote Tonge a friendly letter from the Lodge, replying to a business letter of Tonge's. Apparently Tonge had been ill for some time but is now traveling. (Murd.3/239)

In September the Irish poet Thomas Moore arrived in Halifax at the end of his American travels. J.W. took him on a carriage drive to Windsor and visited King's College.

This year, after delaying as long as possible, J.W. admitted John Butler Butler to the Council on a royal mandamus. He and Butler had long been friends; but in 1800 ~~1798~~ Butler succeeded in getting the army flour contract (using imported flour) away from J.W.'s closer friends Hartshorne & Tremaine, whose mill in Dartmouth had supplied the garrison since 1798. J.W. claimed in a letter to London that Butler had "artfully deceived" the Duke of Kent. (N.S.H.S. 25/57, 57)

August: Sir John Wentworth's illegitimate mulatto son (by a goodlooking Maroon woman) was born this month. He was named George Wentworth Colley; afterwards lived on the old Wentworth estate at Preston, and died in a small hut there in Nov. 1893.

(Nova Scotia Museum Reports, 1934-35, Page 46)

July 4: John Wentworth (J.W.'s nephew, son of his brother Thomas) who had ~~remained~~ with his mother & her second husband (Capt. Henry Bellu R.N.) to England during the American Revolution - who was educated as a British lawyer - who some time in the 1790's received the appointment of Attorney-General of Prince Edward Island but soon abandoned it & made his way to his old home town, Portsmouth, N.H. - who had married in 1802 the only daughter of Col. Michael & Martha (Hiller) Wentworth, the heiress of the old Penny Wentworth estate at Little Harbor, N.H. - on this day, Independence Day, gave the oration at the Fourth of July celebration at Portsmouth. (Notes 20)

1804 Fannie's nephew Edward Brinley (see 1792) removed from the home to the U.S. - Wentworth genealogy

1804. Dec. 19 Lady Rockingham, widow of J.W.'s old benefactor, died aged 68 at Hillington House, near Uxbridge, Middlesex, & was buried beside her husband in York Minster on Jan. 9, 1805. 11529

J.H.  
Age 69  
Francis  
age 60

1805

May 4: Vice Admiral Sir Andrew Mitchell applies for press warrants, accuses Halifax merchants of concealing deserters. The Council objects. Subsequently a press gang under Mitchell's orders broke into the stores of Forsyth & Company to hunt for deserters. Forsyth sued Mitchell in the courts and was awarded heavy damages. (Murd.3/241,242)

July: J.W. writes to the poet Thomas Moore, sends him a landscape drawing of Nova Scotia, and suggests that Moore include it as frontispiece to his forthcoming book -- of which J.W. wants a copy. (Murd.3/242)

July: General Bowyer leaves N.S. and is presented with a sword. (Murd.3/243)  
: Bowyer is replaced by Lieut. General Gardiner, who asks J.W. some pertinent questions about the militia. (Murd.3/243)

This summer the greatest harvest ever gathered in N.S., but large quantities of flour still have to come from the U.S. In addition to the troops and fleet and dockyard hands there are between 500 and 700 French prisoners of war in the town, all of whom have to be fed. (Murd.3/244)

King's College at Windsor is under a new President. Rev. Cox. It costs £50 sterling a year to keep a student in the college, exclusive of clothing; and £40 a year for a pupil in the academy attached to it. (Murd.3/244)

Mr. Uniacke, the Attorney-General, and father-in-law of Admiral Mitchell, has gone to England on leave of absence. In his absence Mitchell defies the provincial laws, send press gangs through the streets without warrant, and there is a riot. This was in November. (Murd.3/244,245)

Uniacke was also Speaker of the House. He wrote from England in November asking the House to appoint ~~another~~ Speaker. Cottnam Tonge was chosen, and confesses that it has long been his ambition. (Murd.3/246,247)

Dec. 14: J.W. notifies the House that he has moved into the new Government House, and as provided in the Act passed in 1799 they may now use the old Gov't House for the Assembly, courts and public offices. (Murd.3/246)

May 3: Vice Admiral Sir Andrew Mitchell married Miss Mary Uniacke at Saint Paul's; and apparently at the same time Thomas Jeffery, Collector of Customs, married Martha Maria Uniacke. They were the first and second daughters of R.J. Uniacke. (Murd.3/252)

Some time in December Halifax received the news of Trafalgar and of Nelson's death, The town was illuminated. (Murd.3/252)

March 21: J.W. making his annual report to London on the composition of the Council, mentions as usual that Benning Wentworth, Secretary of the Province, lives in Halifax and attends regularly. Adds that two seats are vacant. One of the vacated seats is that of Charles-Mary Wentworth. (Murd.3)

In this year Charles-Mary W. returned to England and there spent the rest of his life. (Mayo 190) (Noto 19)

Dec 28. The widow of Col. Michael Wentworth (nee Martha Hillin, who first married Gov. Benning Wentworth of N.H.) died (presumably in England) aged 68. Michael had died while on a visit to New York in 1795.  
(Wentworth Genealogy, Vol. 1/290)



J.W.  
Age 70  
Francis  
age 61

1806

Feb. 3: J.W. writes to Castlereagh a long tirade against Cottnam Tonge. Evidently the brief truce between ~~XXXX~~ J.W. and Tonge (see 1805) was at an end. Murdoch (3/249) gives some comment on the quarrel between Tonge and J.W.

March 21: J.W. making his annual report on the state of the Council, mentions as usual that Benning Wentworth, Secretary of the Province, resides in Halifax and attends regularly. He adds that there are two vacancies. One of these is his son Charles-Mary Wentworth. (Murd. 3/250)

Feb. 15: death of Lieut. General Gardiner, who took over command of the troops in Nova Scotia only last year.

This summer J.W. and his lady made a long tour through the north-west parts of Nova Scotia, and both returned in improved health. (Murd. 3/253)

August: Mr. Uniacke returned from his leave of absence in England.

November: the new Assembly met, and again elected Tonge as Speaker. J.W. refused to accept him and ordered them to choose another. So they chose Lewis Wilkins. On Nov. 22, in reply to His Excellency's address, they "lament that your Excellency has been pleased to exercise a branch of H.M. prerogative, long unused in Britain, and without precedent in this province." (Murd. 3/255, 256)

December: J.W. notifies the House that he wants "the lane near Government House shut up". He also wants £2,000 more spent on the building. ~~XXXX~~ £2292 has been spent on it since the last session, and debts of £2,000 more had been incurred without legislative sanction by the acting commissioner. The House apparently agreed, and also voted £60 as a testimonial of merit to Isaac Hildrith, architect of the new Gov't House. (Murd. 3/257)

August; When Uniacke returned from England he brought with him a letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury, disapproving and in fact annulling various regulations passed by the governors of King's College, chief of whom was J.W., who complained of the Archbishop's attitude in a letter to Scrope Bernard. (Murd. 3/262, 263)

Sep 13, 1806 Charles James Fox died.

Jan. 23, 1806 William Pitt (the second) died.

1806 Lord Fitzwilliam again became President of the Council (see 1794), but Pitt was dead, & his Whig opinions kept him mainly in opposition.

J.W.  
Age 71  
Frances  
age 62

1807

Murdoch notes (3/257) that for the past year or so, due to deaths and retirements, the Council had dwindled to 8 members, of whom only 3 or 4 attended.

January: the House was prorogued. J.W.'s feud against Tonge had now become a mania. About the end of January J.W. dismissed from the post of Naval Officer which Tonge had long held, and appointed a former British officer, John Beckwith, in his place. (Murdoch 3/355)

April 27: Seven square-rigged ships were seen off the harbor in murky weather. Signal guns were fired from the alarm posts at the harbor mouth. Major General Hunter ordered the garrison under arms. The militia also went to their posts. However the strange vessels steered away to the south-west and were not seen again. (Murd.3/262)

June 22: HMS Leopard, off the Capes of Virginia, fired into USS Chesapeake and took four sailors out of her. (Murd.3/264)

Soon after this Mr. Erskine, British envoy extraordinary in the U.S., notified J.W. through Vice Admiral Berkley that war with the United States was likely to arise. J.W., Generals Hunter and Skerret, Admirals Berkley and Cochrane, all exerted themselves to prepare against American attack. The Halifax militia were set to work on the fortifications. Country militia were drafted into the city. Also a company of free blacks. A spy was sent off to the U.S. to get information.

Dec.3: The Assembly met. Owing to a dangerous illness of Lady Wentworth, J.W. did not appear at the opening. His speech was read by Chief Justice Blowers. ~~X17/266X~~ (Murd.3/266)

Dec.11: The House voted 100 guineas to purchase a piece of plate for George Cranfield Berkley, Vice Admiral of the White, commander-in-chief of H.M. ships on the Halifax station, who was now transferred elsewhere. He was a friend of Tonge's, and apparently Tonge had a good deal to do with this gesture and the address that was prepared to go with it. This was enough to set J.W. against it, though possibly he did not like Berkley anyway. On Feb.1 J.W. sent a message to the House saying that he refused to assent to the gift. This was their first notification of his opposition, although (see 1808) *Murdoch 3/267*

*Berkley's daughter, with a  
half-sister, married Capt. Thomas Hardy R.N.,  
Warren's friend.*

This summer the English crown lawyers, adjudicating J.W.'s squabble with the legislature (over the right of the Nova Scotia Assembly to determine contested elections), ruled in favor of the Assembly. The victory of the democratic elements in the House was as complete as the humiliation of the Governor and Council. (NSHS 25/61)

Dec.22: U.S. Government passed the Embargo Act, forbidding all foreign trade, feeling that this would chiefly affect Britain.

J.W.  
Age 72  
Francis  
age 63

1808

Jan.2: J.W. wrote Castlereagh giving a long account of the Assembly's voting a piece of plate to Vice Admiral Berkley (see 1807) and saying that he would not give his consent. He did not notify the House of his refusal until Feb.1.

(Murd.3/267, 268)

Feb.1: J.W.'s refusal of the piece of plate to Admiral Berkley offended the Assembly. So did his refusal to accept their views about the seat for Annapolis. On this same date they wrote to Governor-General Sir J.H.Craig at Quebec, complaining that J.W.'s attitude was an attack on their independence. (Murd.3/270)

In these days the Governor went in plain dress, in his carriage, without military pomp, music or cannon, to open and close the sessions. (Murd.3/272)

Dec.22: the United States passed the Embargo Act, aimed chiefly at Britain.

Dec.26: Major General Hunter requests that 1,000 militia be embodied at once; 200 of these to be stationed at Annapolis, the rest at Halifax. He asks that a further 1,000 be placed on call at short notice. (Murd.3/274)

Jan.9: Richard John Uniacke, Attorney General, marries Miss Eliza Newton, daughter of the late Captain Newton, 45th Regiment. (Murdoch 3/275)

Feb.18: death of Benning Wentworth, Secretary of the Province, aged 53.

Feb.19: J.W. appointed Charles-Mary, his son, to the above job. As Charles-Mary was in England, he appointed Michael Wallace to act as his deputy. J.W. wrote Castlereagh begging him to confirm the appointment as a favor to him on account of his "advanced age and faithful service of nearly forty-two years." (Murd.3/276)

Jan.15: Lieut-General Sir George Prevost, in England, was made Lieut.Gov. of Nova Scotia. He sailed with a strong force of troops bound for Halifax via Bermuda. He reached Bermuda March 24, left a regiment there, and arrived at Halifax on ~~March~~ April 7. Castlereagh had written a letter to J.W., notifying him of his supercession, but it did not reach Halifax until April 25. Prevost landed and went to Gov't House escorted by grenadiers. J.W. received the first news of his dismissal from Prevost. On April 13 the Council met, Prevost read his commission, took the oaths and signed the rolls. J.W. placed him in the chair, congratulated him, thanked the Council for past support, and withdrew. On April 27 Prevost wrote to London that he had found J.W. wholly unprepared for his arrival. "In consequence, it was only a few days ago I assumed the civil administration, nor have I as yet taken possession of the government house, an edifice out of all proportion to the situation, and the cause of my predecessor's reduced circumstances, notwithstanding the increase his income derived from his situation as surveyor of woods." (Murd.3/278,279)

May 23: Prevost received a letter from Castlereagh dated Jan.24,1808, asking him to recommend to the House of Assembly a pension of not less than £500 a year for J.W. "as it is intended to provide a similar annuity for him here". The Assembly refused to grant a pension for more than one year. The Council insisted that the pension must be for life. Eventually the Assembly agreed to a pension of £500 a year. To get the money they ~~placed~~ placed an extra duty of sixpence a gallon on all wines imported and consumed in the province. (Murd.3/281,282)

June 16: Aaron Burr arrived in Halifax from New York. (Murd.3/283)

This summer Prevost visited the "midland and western parts of N.S. His wife and children were on the Atlantic bound for Halifax. In the autumn he was busy getting ready for an expedition in strength against the French West Indies.(Murd.3/285,286)

This autumn Prevost writes that the civil government in his absence will devolve upon "an able tho' rather unpopular character, the judge of admiralty, and as he is a new man in this community ... the chief justice will withdraw from the ~~Executive~~ Council. The chief justice being senior councillor, his disqualification is unfortunate, as he is most deservedly and universally esteemed." (The judge of admiralty referred to above was of course Dr.Croke) (Murd.3/286)

J.W.'S recommendation of his son as Secretary, in place of Benning Wentworth, deceased, was ignored in England. A royal mandamus dated June 20 made Samuel Hood George the new Secretary. George received his commission Oct. 3 and was sworn in at a meeting of J. Prevost and the Council. He was only 19. (Murdoch 286, 356)

1807

Stop much here - read R 500 sketch on 1814 at parlour of N.S. was paying a pension of £500 (personal income) to J.W. - see Murdoch 3/284

1808-continued-(a)

Castlereagh had written Prevost, July 7, to hold himself and his troops in readiness for "distant service". (Prevost probably knew what the service was, for he had won his rank and a baronetcy in the West Indies in 1805.) (Murd.3/285)

The actual targets of the expedition were revealed by Castlereagh in a despatch dated ~~XX~~ Sep.3. (Murd. 3/286)

During his busy summer Prevost had organized 26 battalions of militia, a large part of whom were armed and accoutred. (Murd.3/287)

Nov.30: Major-General Hunter returned from New Brunswick to take charge of the Halifax garrison in Prevost's absence. It was small. (Murdoch 3/286,287)

Dec.6: Prevost with his ships and troops sailed for the West Indies. With them went W. Cottnam Tonge, with a job as a commissary. He was later appointed Secretary at Demerara and never returned to Nova Scotia.

This winter proved very severe and there was much suffering amongst the poor. (Murd.3/294)

By summer (in all probability) the Wentworths quitted Government House and removed to their Lodge at Bedford Basin, where they continued to live for the next year and a half. (Mayo 191) Apparently Lady W's. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ aunt, Mrs. Sarah (Deering) Thomas, was a guest of the Wentworths at the time. Sarah wrote a letter dated June 15 at "The Lodge", and mentioned Prevost's arrival. (Notes 17)

About May: the artist Robert Field came to Halifax, probably from Boston, and certainly at the inducement of J.W. Field's first advertisement appeared in the Royal Gazette, May 30. His portrait of J.W. may have been done this summer. It was certainly done between Prevost's arrival at Halifax and J.W.'s departure for England in February 1810. (Copy of portrait, and details of Field, in NSHS 18/112 et seq) The portrait shows J.W. old, grim, disappointed, but still resolute and proud -- and with a pronounced belly under the fancy waistcoat.

June 16: Aaron Burr arrived in Halifax from New York, traveling as "Mr. Edwards". He made himself known to Sir George Prevost, who consulted Vice Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren. Burr obtained from Prevost on June 17 a letter of introduction to Lord Castlereagh, and sailed for England soon afterwards. (~~XXXX~~ See also 1809) (Murdoch 3/283)



JH  
Age 73  
Frances  
age 64

1809

April 15: Prevost returns from the West Indies. (Murd.3/295)

April 28: a public ball to Prevost and his officers. (Murd.3/295)

Much horse racing this year, chiefly by army officers. The Rockingham Club held its dinners. (Murdoch 3/275,299) and 303.

The autumn the Jordan piracy case. (Murd.3/299)

Aug.22: This evening, at the seat of Sir John Wentworth, Richard Cunningham of Windsor was married to Miss Sarah Apthorp of Boston. She was a niece of Lady W. (Murd.3/301)

In June, Benning Wentworth's widow and children sailed for England (Notes 11,12)

This year: the Spanish (Junta) government, through their ambassador, complained that Aaron Burr and the Spanish-American adventurer Francisco Miranda were in London, plotting a revolution in Spanish America. Miranda sailed away to Saint Kitts. Burr disclaimed any connection with the plot. The British authorities ordered him to leave the country, and later this year Burr went to the continent.

Aug.30. Penequin, elder brother of Col. Michael Wentworth, died childless in England. Michael had died in 1795. Penequin left £8,000 to Martha, only daughter of Col. Michael & Martha Heltie Wentworth.

1809 In the spring George Brouley, husband of Lammie's sister Mary, died at Halifax, where he was Commissary-General of H.M. Forces in North America

July 5, 1809 - H.M.S. Bonne Citoyenne captured the French armed transport La Feniceux, and brought her in tow (de mandamurie) to Hfx in 27 days, i.e. about Aug.1.

J.W.  
Age 74  
Frances  
age 65

1810

N.S.  
No meeting of the legislature took place this year. (Murd.3/302)

January: J.W. having decided to go to England, he made Michael Wallace his deputy as Surveyor General of H.M. Woods in America. (Murd.3/302)

In February the Wentworths sailed for England. Lady W. described the voyage in a long letter written from a London hotel on March 1st. (Mayo 192,193)

Apparently in the same letter, certainly at the same time " ", Lady W. wrote of her sister Mary's son William Birch Bonily, "William Bonily is on the point of marriage with the daughter of a tanner at Dartmouth, N.S." This was Joanna Allen of Boston. (Antworch Genealogy Vol. 1/533)

J. W.  
age 76  
Francis  
age 67

1812

~~1811~~

In 1812 an addition was made to St. Paul's church, Halifax, at the north end, with a round tower and steeple. (Murdoch 3/336)

Letter from Duke of Kent to J. W., in England, re J. W.'s application for more compensation as a Loyalist - Notes 16

June 12 William Birch Brinley died at his mother's house, Hollis St., Nfx,  
aged 41. He was Mary Wentworth Brinley's only surviving son. (Wentworth Genealogy Vol. 1/533)  
(see also 1794) (He shot himself.)

Sept. 21 Benning's widow, an Englishwoman, died in Hereford, where she had gone with her children from Nfx in June 1809.

J. W. & Lady W. living at Sunning Hill, Staines.

J.M.  
aged 77

1813

Lady Wentworth died at Sunning Hill, Berkshire, the 14th February, in the 68th year of her age. (Murdoch 3/356) See my notes p.18.

(Notes from an archaeologist engaged by Mr. Ralph Elliot at the request of THR:-)

Regarding the death of Lady Frances Wentworth. There are obituary notices in the Gentleman's Magazine, and the Windsor & Eton Express, but the only reference is to Sunning Hill. Sunning Hill is a parish in the rural district of Windsor and adjoins the southern extremity of Windsor Great Park (i.e. the portion containing Virginia Water, and bounded by the Southampton Road coming out of Egham and Staines.)

The burial entry in the parish church of Sunning Hill, ~~St. Michael and All Angels~~ Saint Michael and All Angels, merely refers to Lady Wentworth's abode as "Sunning-hill", and that her age at death was 67. The inscription on the tombstone is:-

"The remains of Frances Lady Wentworth, wife of Sir John Wentworth, Bart., are here deposited. Springing from an unblemished family in New England, and Married to John Wentworth, Esq., Governor of New Hampshire, she encountered, with a resolution not to be excelled, the tempest of a furious revolution, until driven by the rage of civil war from the land of her nativity, she found refuge with her only child in the bosom of the parent country..... A most affectionate mother and unblemished wife, she rendered up her soul to God through Christ, in the principles of the Established Church of England, A.D. MDCCCXIII."

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Note by THR:- Sir John made his will on 26 May, 1818, and appointed his son Charles-Mary Wentworth "of Sunning Hill, Berks." his executor and chief heir. On May 12, 1817, Charles-Mary Wentworth wrote to Mark H.W. Peirce, in New Hampshire, saying in part, "My father, who is in Nova Scotia, has been afflicted with a paralytic disease for about a year past..... My course of life is at present very much retired." This letter is headed "Sillwood Cottage, Staines."

Query: Was "Sillwood Cottage" the house in which Sir John and Lady Wentworth lived, presumably with Charles-Mary, from 1810 to 1813, when the lady died and Sir John returned to Nova Scotia?

Letter to Sir John from Duke of Kent re Frances' death -- see my notes page 16  
Wentworth leaves for Nova Scotia " " " " " "

~~Stroud~~

Sep. 9, 1813 -- Copley the artist, who left America for England in ~~1774~~ 1774, died in London on this date. (See my notes page 18)



1816

About 1816 John Wentworth (son of J. W.'s brother Thomas) left Portsmouth N.H.  
for London with his wife, permanently. See also 1802. (Notes 20)

1817

May 12. Charles-Mary Wentworth in a letter says "My father, who is in Nova Scotia, has been afflicted with a paralytic disease for about a year past."  
- Notes, 20

1818

Apparently Mrs. Mary Binkley died late this year, for her will was proven Jan. 2, 1819. J. W. had been staying at her house since he returned from England in 1813. He now resided to Mrs. Fleigher's.

*J.W.  
age 84*

1820

On the evening of Saturday, April 8, Sir John Wentworth died at his apartments on Hollis Street in Halifax. He was in his 84th year. His latter days were spent in solitude and retirement. His baronetcy devolved upon his son, Charles Mary Wentworth, who resided in England, and on whose death without issue the title became extinct. (Murdoch 3)

In this year J.W.'s old college friend, Dr. Ammi Cutter of New Hampshire, died at the age of 85.

September 12, Wentworth House at Wolfborough burned to the ground. (Mayo 194)  
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ A huge pine, under which J.W., his wife and their guests had often picknicked on Mount Delight, was destroyed by lightning in this year.

("Lake Wentworth" p.28)

Mrs. Fleigher (this is the correct spelling) in whose boarding house J.W. died, was apparently the widow of J.H.Fleigher, who for years worked as an assistant surveyor with J.W. in his office as Surveyor General of the King's Woods in Nova Scotia. In 1802 Fleigher was a gauger in the employ of H.M.Customs at Halifax; and in 1809 he became Secretary of the newly formed Fire Insurance Association of Halifax, a job he held for many years, keeping the office in his house on Hollis Street. (NSHS 8/134,146) See also 8/193. The Fleighers had a son named Wentworth Fleigher who was present in the bedchamber when J.W. died. Wentworth Fleigher afterwards went West and became an attorney in Chicago. (Notes 18)

*J.W.'s will. (Notes 18) (See also Notes 19 for properties passed on to his son.)*