

full ever since. Adieu, my dear sister, and be assured you have not a more affectionate one than

ELIZABETH WENTWORTH.

To Mrs. Nathaniel Ray Thomas, Boston.

When the British occupation of Boston gave promise of becoming a failure Governor Wentworth sent his lady and their infant son to England where they were received into the family of Lord and Lady Rockingham and all possible was done for their comfort. In 1778, the Governor reached London where he lived until 1783 when he sailed for Nova Scotia as Surveyor General of the King's Woods for all North America. In 1792 he became Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, the technical Governor being stationed at Quebec, and until 1810 Lady Wentworth spent most of the time with him at Halifax which then was a place of refuge for thousands of forlorn Loyalists and the comforts of life to many were very limited. In 1791, Lady Wentworth sailed for England to visit her son but returned to Halifax the next year after her husband was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia. "After 1792," writes Mr. Mayo, the biographer of John Wentworth, "the Governor and Mrs. Wentworth were, of course, the recognized king and queen in the local court, and they played their parts well. Their dinners and other entertainments exhausted the adjectives and superlatives of the Halifax newspaper. In a single year more than twenty-five hundred people dined at Government House." An account of a ball and supper given by the Governor and his Lady to the ladies and gentlemen of the town is preserved in Murdock's *History of Nova Scotia* and little suggests

the hardships existing about Halifax but a few years before.

The company being assembled in the levee room at eight o'clock, the band, which was very numerous and excellent, played "God save the King" three times over, after which the country dances commenced, two sets dancing at the same time. The whole house was open—every room illuminated and elegantly decorated. There was a room set apart for cotillions, above stairs, for those who chose to dance them, and a band provided on purpose for it. During the dancing there were refreshments of ice, orgeat, capillaire, and a variety of other things. At twelve the supper room was opened, and too much cannot be said of the splendour and magnificence of it; the ladies sat down at table, and the gentlemen waited upon them. Among other ornaments, which were altogether superb, were exact representations of Messrs. Harts-horne and Tremaine's new flour-mill, and of the windmill on the Common. The model of the new lighthouse at Shelbourne was incomparable, and the tract of the new road from Pictou was delineated in the most ingenious and surprising manner, as was the representation of our fisheries, that great source of the wealth of this country. To all these inimitable ornaments corresponding mottoes were attached, so that not only taste and elegance were conspicuous, but encouragement and genius were displayed. The viands and wines were delectable, and mirth, grace, and good humour seemed to have joined hands to celebrate some glorious festival; but *this* was only for the friends of the Governor and Mrs. Wentworth. When the ladies left the supper-room the gentlemen sat down at table, when the Governor gave several loyal toasts, with *three times three*, and an applicable tune was played after each bumper, which had an admirable effect. At two o'clock the dancing recommenced, and at four the company retired. That ease, elegance, and superiority of manners, which must ever gain Mrs. Wentworth the admiration of the whole community, and

## Lady Wentworth, the Wife of John Wentworth, Governor of New Hampshire

**F**RANCES Deering Wentworth was the daughter of Samuel Wentworth, a prominent Boston merchant who was also one of the wardens of King's Chapel. She was born September 30, 1745, and "became one of the most beautiful women in America." The accompanying portrait by Copley, painted when she was only nineteen years of age, is a splendid example of his art and pictures the grace and beauty that New England knew at that time. When only sixteen she married Theodore Atkinson, Jr., the Secretary of the Province, who died in 1769 of consumption. Ten days after the funeral she married her cousin John Wentworth, the last royal governor of New Hampshire, who long had been an admirer. In the next issue of the *Boston News-Letter*, appeared the following announcement:

This morning His Excellency John Wentworth, Esq. our worthy and beloved Governor, was married by Rev. Mr. Brown, to Mrs Atkinson, Relict of Hon. Theodore Atkinson, jun. Esq. deceased, a Lady adorned with every Accomplishment requisite to make the Marriage State agreeable. Long! may this amiable and illustrious Couple live happily (Blessings to each other and all around them) in this World, and may they be the Crown of each other's Joy in the next, when the great Governor of all Worlds shall make up his Jewells. The Day is spending in innocent Mirth—the Colours of the Shipping in the Harbour are displayed—all the Bells are ringing—the Cannon roaring,—in a word Joy sits smiling in every Countenance on this happy Occasion. Happy, thrice happy the Ruler!

thus riveted in the Hearts and Affections of his people.

At the time of her second marriage Mrs. Atkinson was childless and for a number of years after the Governor was without an heir. But in January, 1775, the booming of guns down the harbor announced to all Portsmouth that the Governor's lady had given birth to a son, who was christened Charles-Mary, at the request of his god-parents, Lord and Lady Rockingham. Charles-Mary went to England with his mother when he was a year old and after having been educated at Oxford, served the Government both at London and at Nova Scotia and died unmarried in 1844.

Soon after the birth of Charles-Mary, his happy grandmother wrote to her sister in Boston announcing the event in the following letter:

PORTSMOUTH, February 2, 1775.

*My dear Sister,*—I have the pleasure to receive your favour of the 10th December. . . . Mrs Wentworth is safe in bed with a fine hearty boy, with another blessing added, in being able to nurse him herself. I need not attempt to tell you the pleasure this child has brought with it to all its connections. The Governor's happiness seems to be complete; and had a young Prince been born, there could not have been more rejoicing. The ships fired their guns. All the gentlemen of the town and from the King's ships came, the next day, to pay their compliments. The ladies followed and, for one week, there were cake and caudle wine, etc. passing. I forgot to mention that this young gentleman made his appearance on the 20th January, and this house has been

that hospitality, perfect good breeding, and infinite liberality which so distinguish the character and conduct of our beloved and adored Governor, never shone with more lustre than on this occasion, when every care of his and Mrs. Wentworth's mind seemed to be to give one universal satisfaction. Everything tended to promote one sympathizing joy, and never was there a night passed with more perfect harmony and luxurious festivity.

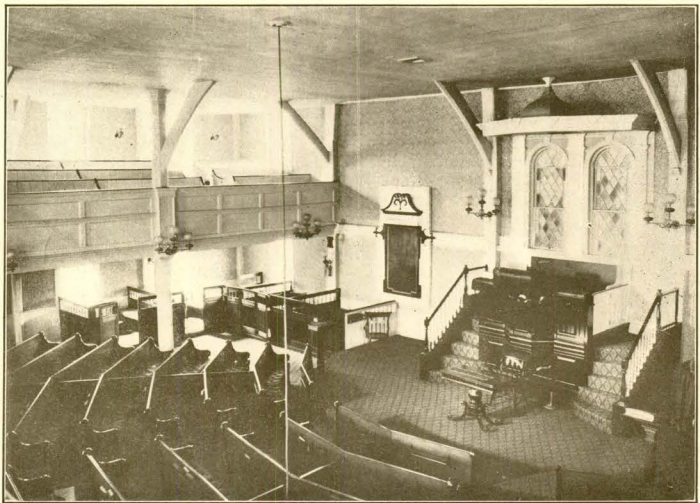
In 1795 the Governor was created a Baronet. Three years later Lady Wentworth was again in London and in July she was presented at Court and so pleased Queen Charlotte that she was appointed a Lady-in-Waiting with a salary of £500 and permission to live abroad. "Probably few incidents in his life gave John Wentworth deeper joy than this honor which royalty paid to his lady, for as Frances Wentworth, Mrs. Atkinson, or Lady Wentworth she was in his eyes ever incomparable." In 1810 she returned to England for the last time, spending the last three years of her life in or near London. She died February 14, 1813, at Sunning Hill, a watering-place not far from Windsor.

Copley's beautiful portrait of Lady Wentworth was painted in 1765, when

Lady Wentworth, then Mrs. Atkinson, was nineteen years old. She is dressed in a gown of silvery gray finished at the neck with lace, and with lace ruffles in the sleeves. A light brown gauze sash, threaded with gold, crosses the bodice diagonally, and fastened from her shoulders is a deep blue cloak falling in folds behind. A string of pearls, held together with a bow of white ribbon, is around her throat, and pearls are also worn in her dark hair. Both hands rest upon a table before which she is seated, and in one of them she holds a chain to which a flying squirrel is attached—a favorite motive with Copley. Lady Wentworth's figure is relieved against a curtain of rich dark red, revealing at the right a column and a glimpse beyond of blue sky and white clouds. The portrait is said to be an excellent likeness. After many vicissitudes it passed into the hands of James Lenox of New York City and was bequeathed by him to the Lenox Library now merged into the New York Public Library where it now hangs. The canvas measures about four feet high and three feet four inches wide. It has been somewhat restored.



Meeting House of the First Parish, Wingham



Interior of the Wingham Meeting House

1762

2. born

1762  
1745  
17

May 13

Frances Portsmouth married her cousin Theodore Atkinson.

About this year Benjamin Franklin visited Portsmouth & while there installed lightning rods on the McAndrews mansion. For this, & description of the mansion, see Portsmouth Genealogy, Vol. 1/302,303