

the sky and the trees.

I've recently talked on the phone with a Mrs Alexander Neilson, whose mother was Mary Parkman, daughter of our favorite historian, and whose father was Mr. J. Templeman Coolidge (last owner of Wentworth mansion). She was so pleased that we showed you the house, and that you admired her grand father so much!

She did not remember him for he died just before she was born, but she said when she was a small girl his leather coat with fringe, which he wore on the Oregon Trail "hung by the small fire place in that little blue room over looking Little Harbor (where he wrote the Century of Conflict). She also said he did not die there,

Ans'd
Oct. 20/57

Portsmouth N. H.
October 13th
1957

Dear Friend -

Thank you for your kind letter. It was good to know that you made the return journey without mishap. It must have been a delightful autumn journey up the rock bound coast of Maine.

We are having beautiful fall weather here - colorful and mild. Friday Rose and I drove over through the yokes in Maine - York Village, Harbor and Beach as far down as Ogunquit (where the art colony is -).

All the way over and back we kept saying "Oh if only Mr. Raddall could have seen this! -" it was

was as his only home at Jamaica Plain (near 1907m)
However he did spend his last summer at Litch-
Harbor and wrote much in that blue room. I think
he died in October, 1897 (~~I think~~ but don't quote
me on the year!) Mrs. Nelson said there was a pair of
oars which he loved dearly in that room, and
the oars and leather coat are now owned by her
nephew Francis Parkman Coolidge. Is it that
interesting? She said she has heard that in his
last days he was very lame, and could not go
down stairs very well. So he would sit on the
steps and "hitch himself up and down the stair-
way which he walked up and down several times."
We've been terribly busy at the library which is
why I've not written before, although I've wanted to say

much. Rose said she sent you some of her writings
on Lady Isle - where the convent was located.

We are all reading the novel of one Thomas & Radcliff
- by we I mean the Piscataqua Pen - because we
feel we may learn the art of fiction writing from one
who really knows the art. We've finished our writing
course with Mrs. Bowles who has gone to Washington,
D.C. for the winter - and we all gained a lot from
her talks. In one of my assignments she wrote -
"Dorothy - you certainly are perceptive and can record
your impressions -" that pleased me no end -
She said our group were all writers and she thought
we would succeed in our chosen fields if we kept
plugging away at it. Well, we try hard, and in trying
to be a good leader my father & mother were married 54
years ago tomorrow. isn't it wonderful? Kindest regards
from all the Paeghans - cordially - Dorothy

January 8th, 1958

Dear Dorothy,

My book-shop people have been unable to find another copy of Mayo's biography of Sir John Wentworth, and so I must accept your very kind offer to let me keep the copy which belonged to you. I enclose a bank money order for \$25, payable in U.S. funds, which will I hope cover the cost of another copy for yourself whenever you have the opportunity.

My book is growing slowly. As always with a historical novel for which I've made such careful research, the difficulty is to keep the history in the background where it belongs. It has an insistent habit of intruding on the story itself! I find myself writing paragraphs and sometimes whole pages of historical detail which has little or nothing to do with the story (which indeed only impedes its flow) simply because I'm fascinated with it. Unfortunately it wouldn't fascinate the average reader. The problem of the historical novelist who has an honest regard for fact is to tell a tale that will be interesting in itself and at the same time true to the period and the people who lived in it. But I've said all this before, on those pleasant walks and drives in Portsmouth.

I have booked passage to Europe in April and I plan to spend two months over there. I've been overworking myself for years and at the end of another winter's labor I must have a long break. However I shall spend some time in England trying to locate the elusive letters of Lady Frances.

I write this with a sea gale howling about the house and flinging rain against the windows. No snow anywhere on this part of the coast, and I've been able to get outdoors for two or three hours' exercise almost every afternoon since Christmas.

My best wishes to you, and to your mother and father, for the new year.

Miss Dorothy Vaughan

Portsmouth, N.H.

August 6 - 1958

Dear Friend -

I've been thinking of you and Lady Frances Wentworth a good deal of late, and also, I'd wanted to tell you that I've been able to replace Sir John Wentworth by Mayo, with very little trouble. So you can dismiss any qualms you may have had about me being with-out Sir John!

We've been having a very busy summer at the library - many visitors and researchers making use of our local materials. It is very nice having people come to quench their thirst for the past at our ever flowing fountain!

The plans for a restoration of a part of old Portsmouth to be called Strawberry Banks, are under-way.

and we think there will be help
from the Federal government - which
will really help! This all comes from a
fiery speech I made at Rotary Club
about a year ago - maybe I should
get "fired up" more often - since it
seems to pay off -

I hope Rose LaBrie hasn't disturbed
you with her enthusiasm for writing -
she is very impulsive, and has a lot to
learn - but she is good hearted and
means well. I've told her many times
that she should not bother busy people
- and that I was sure you had too
much work to do, to engage in
social correspondence!

Enclosed is a new card of Wentworth
Museum - which is open this season
for tourists, although not furnished.

If there are any questions I can
clear up for you on the Wentworths
or Old Port mouth, please let me
know. With best wishes for success with
the Wentworth book. Love

Cordially - Dorothy Vaughan

July 6, 1960

Dear Miss Vaughan,

I'm sure you will be delighted to know that my book, "The Governor's Lady", has won the Doubleday Canadian Novel Award of \$10,000.

Publication has been set for next September 9th, and the book will appear simultaneously in the United States and Canada. Publication in Britain, by the Collins people, will follow next year.

When the book appears in September it will be exactly three years since I went to New Hampshire to begin the research. Actually I finished the manuscript in 1959, but some cutting was required, and as a result it was decided not to hurry the book out so late in the publishing season.

The jacket illustration will be a Kodachrome copy of the portrait by Copley, painted when Frances was the wife of Theodore Atkinson.

Sincerely,

Miss Dorothy Vaughan

Portsmouth, N.H.

August 12, 1960

My dear Friend -

How very nice of you
to send me one of the first
copies of the Governor's Lady.

I am just thrilled, with the
gift and with the book!
Just the cover with that
handsome reproduction of
Frances, is a thrill. How
well it reproduced.

I've read the book
from cover to cover and
have started all over again

because I couldn't drink it all
in the first time through.

I do want to tell you that you have
portrayed Portsmouth just as well
if not better than any Portsmouth I have
read, and I don't see how you
did it, with having visited here
only the one time. How do you do it?
I could find no flaw, and I shall
probably be your most severe
critic when it comes to the Portsmouth
back ground.

How I wish I could talk with you -
There are so many things I'd like
to know about the English research
you did for the story. For instance -
where is Frances buried? did you
find her last resting place? and
did you find out for sure who
Paul Wentworth was, and what really
became of him? He has interested me
for years and years.

and how do you know so much
about the beautiful clothes Frances
wore? you describe them so delight-
fully - I'm sure she had exquisite
tastes, and you must have second sight!

Do you suppose your publishers
would send me some posters
and a print of Frances
(in color) for a display when
the book is published? We
could make a lot of it
here in Portsmouth.

L. Roberts used to have them
send me materials on any
local book.

Rae is thrilled with her copy of
the book and has been talking
a lot about it. I told her
to keep her mouth closed
until it is formally announced!
She is so excited at times
I could spank her. I hope she
doesn't bother you too much
with her publicity ideas. I know
your publishers have plans for your
book. Cordially Dorothy Vaughan

Miss Dorothy Vaughan,
Chief Librarian,
Portsmouth Public Library
Portsmouth, N.H.

August 19/60

My dear Dorothy Vaughan,

I'm so glad that you like the book, and that you feel I have caught the authentic spirit and atmosphere of Portsmouth in the eighteenth century. You ask how I did it? In the first place, as you know, I went to Portsmouth and (with the very best of guides!) went over the ground myself. Also (again with your aid) I went over all the available books and documents, making long and careful notes. You gave me that excellent map of Portsmouth, compiled by yourself, which showed the location of various homes, stores, wharves, taverns churches etc. which were very important to my narrative. Also I procured U.S. government maps of New Hampshire showing amongst other things the lakes and streams and the contours of the land in detail; and I got modern charts of the Piscataqua waters and Portsmouth harbor, giving detail of water depths, tidal currents, etc.

At Wolfeboro I was again fortunate in my guide, a Mrs. Gertrude Hamm who knew the whole history of the region. In an old truck (most useful in traveling the backwoods roads) she and her husband took me to the site of Wentworth House, and we explored the whole vicinity, including parts of the old Governor's Road and his College road that still survive untouched. I also procured (through you or Mrs. Hamm) an excellent booklet on Wolfeborough and especially Wentworth's Lake, which included a large scale map of the region.

When I got home I managed to procure a set of the Wentworth Genealogy volumes; and out of the goodness of your heart you had given me a copy of Mayo's life of Sir John. I also gathered together, by borrowing or purchase, every book I could find that touched on New Hampshire in the period before and during the Revolution. I spent that whole winter in ardent study of these materials until I could actually feel I was living and moving about New Hampshire in those times. I have made a lifelong study of the eighteenth century in Europe and North America, notably as it affected New England and the neighboring Maritime Provinces of Canada; and my newly acquired information took its place in the general pattern. This study naturally included costumes, architecture, furniture, ways of speech and habits of life.

In the spring of 1958 I set off for England and the European continent, where again I was able to follow exactly the movements of the Wentworths during the period of exile in England. I was also fortunate in locating two small collections of Frances Wentworth's letters, which threw much light on her character and movements during the period of my book. The Archives in Halifax has a large collection of John Wentworth's official papers and letters.

You ask about the death of Lady Wentworth. On page 332 of my book you will notice Fannie remarking that she would like to live near the royal home at Windsor when John retired; and she points out a place called Summing Hill. Actually, when John retired from his Nova Scotia governorship, they removed to England and leased the Summing Hill house. Frances died there aged 68 in 1813, and was buried in the local churchyard. John then returned to Halifax N.S., where he lived for some years in the home of Fannie's sister Mary, widow of George Brinley. When Mary died he removed to a boarding house on Hollis Street, Halifax, and died there 1820. He was buried under St. Paul's church in Halifax, and his funeral hatchment may still be seen there, bearing his coat of arms -- the Yorkshire Wentworth arms plus the two added keys for his fidelity to the King in New Hampshire and Nova Scotia.

On page 112 of my book I make mention of Mount Delight and the giant pine that stood upon it, and I have Johnnie remarking that the tree "shall stand as long as I live." This tree actually stood until the year (1820) he died. His death occurred in April. That summer during a thunderstorm a bolt of lightning struck the great tree and destroyed it. And on September 12 of the same year his former mansion at Wolfeborough, "Wentworth House" was itself destroyed by fire. A triple coincidence -- or fate, would you say?

Much as I tried, I was unable to find any detail of the birth of Paul Wentworth. John Wentworth mentioned Paul in his letters as "my friend and kinsman", and there is evidence that Paul was helped in establishing himself as a merchant in New Hampshire by Johnnie's father Mark. I found somewhere a hint that Paul was possibly an illegitimate child of the Wentworth clan. He certainly retained a deep interest in New Hampshire all his life, most of which was lived abroad. He died on his estate in Surinam, December 1793, bequeathing his whole property to Nathaniel Wentworth, whom he called his nephew and had adopted as his son. Nathaniel had spent his life in the West Indies and was possibly an illegitimate son of Paul's. On Paul's death, Nathaniel converted ~~his~~ property into cash and took ship for the West Indian island on which he had lived most of his life. The ship was wrecked and lost with all on board except a boy, who lived to tell the ~~story~~ tale. There were tales that the crew had mutinied and murdered Nathaniel for his money, but these were never proved. However, some portion of Paul's estate remained in Surinam. From it an annuity was paid to Sarah Wentworth Apthorp, who died in 1820, and then to Elizabeth Apthorp, who died single in Massachusetts in 1845. Actually the annuity had ceased in 1842. In 1854 Sarah Apthorp, daughter of George Apthorp, went to Surinam to find out why. She died there in the same year, aged 52. Nothing more seems to be known. To my mind Paul Wentworth, from what we know of him, was one of the most remarkable characters of the 18th century, and if one could fill in the blank spots he would make an excellent subject for a book.

And now, to change the subject, you once told me that you knew the story of Saint Aspinquid of Agamonticus. Will you tell me now, please? I ask because the Indians of Nova Scotia, under the direction of their chiefs and apparently the French Catholic missionaries, celebrated every spring on a day devoted to Saint Aspinquid. The last celebration took place in Halifax during the American Revolution, when some white guests at the feast hoisted the Stars and Stripes and made what were considered seditious speeches. The Nova Scotia government forbade any further celebrations of the feast of Saint Aspinquid. Hence I have always been curious about its origin.

With all good wishes,



Portsmouth Public Library

PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Dr. Dorothy M. Vaughan
Librarian

July 9 - 1970

Am'd July 14/70

My dear Mr. Raddall —

It has been a long time since you've heard from me.

But I've been very busy as I know you must have been.

My reason for writing is to say that a young friend of mine Mr. Joseph Hammond will be in Halifax for a week before long and he wants to do research on the Wentworths and wants to know where to start looking for Portsmouth materials. I thought you'd be the one for him to see or contact.

I have a vague idea that there are records at Dalhousie. The Historical Society and probably other places — He is going to write to you before he makes the trip.

My "strawberry Bank" restoration is going well and enclosed is a folder which may be

of interests. You should come and see
it some day. This has taken much of
my time for about 10 years and it is
well worth it.

Jim never writes you of the fact that
the U. of D.N. gave me an honorary
degree - Doctor of Humane Letters - in 1966 -
for my work at the library and for
making Strawberry Bank tick! Wasn't
that a thrill?

Your governor's Lady is still tops
on our Portmouth Reading list!
When are you going to give us the rest of
that story?

My mother, who was 89, passed away
in June. She remembered your visit to
Portsmouth so well. She was the librari-
an at the Portsmouth Athenaeum
for over 20 years. We miss her very
much - she was such a remarkable
gal. Thank you for all your Christmas
cards. Jim enjoyed them all but
the last 2 Christmases Jim has ill
with the flu! Will try to keep well this
year. Very truly yours
Dorothy McLaughlin



Greetings of the Season and Best Wishes
for the New Year

Dear Friend - I often think of you and
wonder if you are going to give us another
novel about Fanny and John Wentworth?
The "Governor's Lady" goes very well here -
everyone loves it! The Wentworth Home
(where they lived - which we visit) sells paper
back copies of the book to visitors who come
there. All good wishes for the holiday season
and a Happy 1973. cordially Dorothy M. Vaughan

WK 2579

January 6, 1973

My dear Miss Vaughan:

I am delighted to get your card with its very kind note about "Governor's Lady".

The cloth-bound edition is out of print, but the book still sells well in the paperback edition in the United States and Canada.

From time to time I get fan mail from readers, and other letters enquiring about particular people and places mentioned in the book. All express their interest and pleasure in the book.

At the present time I am engaged in writing my memoirs. I have reached an age when various archives, universities, libraries, and other institutions are asking me to donate or bequeath my manuscripts, correspondence, diaries and other papers.

I have not yet decided where they shall go, indeed I am using them to compile my memoirs, to go along with them. If any future students of North American literature are sufficiently curious, they can read what I had to say about myself -- and then check me out through the diaries and correspondence.

Naturally I shall include in these memoirs my researches for "The Governor's Lady" in Nova Scotia, New Hampshire, and England, and the kindness and assistance of yourself, so generously given, and so valuable to the finished work.

A Canadian publisher wants to print the memoirs but I'm not convinced that my life and labours are all that interesting to the general public. My seventeen books can speak for themselves.

With every good wish for 1973, and my very deep appreciation,



NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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DR. DOROTHY M. VAUGHAN
202 Summer Street
Portsmouth, N.H. 03801

202 Summer Street
Portsmouth, N. H.
03801
January 4, 1978

My dear Friend;

It has been a long time since we've been in contact..too long, I expect. Many things have been happening here and I'm sure you have seen many things change.

I am writing because I think you can help me with some Wentworth research. Recently a large oil painting of Sir Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford (copy of the Van Dyke painting) has returned to Portsmouth. It was in 1878 in the Gov. Benning Wentworth mansion at Little Harbor. In recent years it has been in Duxbury, Mass.

Apparently it was left in the mansion when the 2nd Martha Wentworth (who had married her cousin John(son of Thomas the Governor's brother) left for England. The mansion passed into the Sheafe family and then to the Cushings, finally to the Israels and the painting has been in the hands of an Israel descendant.

It was sent to the Portsmouth Athenaeum and the Directors didn't know what to do with it, so I asked for it for the Thomas Wentworth house, now known as the Wentworth-Gardner house. I'm a Director there. So Sir Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, will finally come to roost in the lovely home of a descendant of the same name.

In the Wentworth Genealogy by John Wentworth of Chicago, Vol. 1, p.552, under the account of Charles Mary Wentworth's will it states that he left all the family papers, pictures, portraits etc. including the Van Dyke painting of Sir Thomas to a grand-daughter of his mother's sister, Mrs. Charles Gore; also the estate called Rockingham Lodge, which had belonged to the Duke of Kent. Now, can you tell me if that painting is still at the Lodge, or if it is in a museum or the Government House in Halifax, I'm sure you can help me. I recall you telling me about the Prince's Lodge at Bedford Basin. I would just love to know about the original of Sir Thomas Wentworth. Ours is in poor shape but can be restored.

Very truly yours,

Dorothy M. Vaughan

Happy New Year

Miss Dorothy Vaughan
202 Sumner Street
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

January 9, 1978

My dear Miss Vaughan:

I'm delighted to hear from you again, and to know that you are still active in historical matters in New Hampshire. I often think of your kindness when I was doing research for "The Governor's Lady" there.

With regard to Mrs. Charles Gore, who inherited most of the belongings of Charles Mary Wentworth, including the house and grounds known as Prince's Lodge, near Halifax N.S. The lodge was built by Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, about the year 1795, when he was commanding the British troops in Nova Scotia. It was a rambling wooden structure on a wooded knoll overlooking Bedford Basin, the northern extension of Halifax harbour.

When Prince Edward and his French mistress Madame St. Laurent departed for England in the summer of 1800, the lodge became the summer home of Sir John and Lady Frances Wentworth. The Wentworths themselves removed to England in 1810, and after that the lodge remained closed and shuttered, gradually falling into decay.

Mrs. Catherine Grace Frances Gore (née Moody) was the favourite niece of Lady Frances Wentworth. After the death of Lady Wentworth's son, Charles Mary, in 1844, the Prince's Lodge property passed into the hands of Mrs. Gore, but she never came to Nova Scotia and made no attempt to put it in repair. When she died in 1861 her son sold the ruins and the site to Halifax people. Nothing remains today but the Prince's bandstand, preserved by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board. The furniture and other contents of the lodge seem to have been sold and removed by Charles Mary's agent some time prior to 1844, probably in the 1820's.

Mrs. Gore was too busy writing her novels and plays to bother with anything so far from her English desk as Prince's Lodge. My guess is that the original Van Dyke portrait of Sir Thomas Wentworth remained in the possession of Mrs. Gore until her death, and was then sold in England by her son.

I am now retired, and alone since my wife's death in 1975. After much trouble with my eyes (cataracts) I am now recovering from two operations, and getting used to the new thick lenses of my glasses.

As you probably know, Doubleday's casebound edition of "The Governor's Lady" has been out of print for many years. Popular Library kept it in print in paperback until about 1970, and since then I've had a long hassle to get a formal reversion of the publishing rights. I have just received it, and during the next year or two my Canadian publishers, McClelland & Stewart of Toronto, will bring it out again in their paperback New Canadian Library.

With all good wishes,

J.H.R.

January 9, 1978

Dear Miss Vaughan:

I'm delighted to hear from you again, and to know that you are still active in the State Historical Commission. I often think of your kindness when I was researching for "The Governor's Lady".

With regard to Mrs. Charles Gore, who inherited the belongings of Charles Mary WENTWORTH

202 Summer Street
Portsmouth, N. H.
January 31, 1978

My dear Mr. Radall;

Thank you so much for your prompt and interesting reply to my inquiry regarding the painting of Sir Thomas Wentworth dictating to his secretary, * painted by Van Dyke.

I have made a startling discovery and want to share it with you. In a recent book "Sir Thomas Wentworth" by C. V. Wedgewood, published by Mac-Millan in 1962, I find a reproduction of that painting (which we have a copy of) and it is said to be owned by the Earl Fitzwilliam.

The painting we have is just like the one in the book, and I am told it has the signature B. Walker on it. We can't locate an American artist with that name so feel that it may be, or must be British. We don't know how this copy got in the Gov. Benning Wentworth mansion, but it was there in 1872.

We are having our painting restored and it will hang in the Thomas Wentworth house in this city, which is known as the Wentworth-Gardner house. You may remember seeing it; it is on the water-front and is very lovely. It was the home of Gov. John's younger brother.

I was interested in what you wrote about Catherine Grace Frances Gore. Don't you suppose at her death her son sold it to the Fitzwilliam family? Sounds reasonable, doesn't it?

From your research did you find that Charles Mary was a " queer"? We have a colored miniature of him in the Athenaeum, done shortly before his death and he looks wild and sort of weird! He had red hair and mustache. I also have a copy of a very handsome miniature of him as a young man. He was very charming and sweet in that pose. Didn't Frances think he was beautiful? I get that impression.

By the way have you read Mollie Gillin's book THE PRINCE AND HIS LADY? I found it interesting. She says there is no proof Frances was a Lady in waiting what do you think.? I am delighted that the GOVERNOR'S LADY will come out in paper back. It will have a good sale in Portsmouth. We all love it!

I had heard that Mrs. Raddall had passed away from a young Dr. Duncan and his wife from Halifax; they were visiting one of our old houses. I am very sorry and know how lonely you must be. I've lost my mother and my brother who made his home with me, so I am alone, except for a tiger cat.

It was great to hear from you; do write again
Cordially,

Dorothy M. Vaughan

* the secretary's name was Sir Philip mainwaring -

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

Jan 8/58
2500 2

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