

(a)
Notes for D.H. Watson re correspondence between John Wentworth and Joseph Harrison, who was Customs Collector at Boston in 1768 and was injured in the Liberty riots.

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

"The conspiracy of Joseph Harrison and John Wentworth to promote the Church of England in N.H. was no secret." Footnote: "See also letter John Wentworth to E. Wheelock, Jan 20, 1775, Wentworth Letter Book, 111, 49.

(1769) "For nearly two years Governor John Wentworth had been urging Joseph Harrison to visit him at Portsmouth (N.H.) He played on mutual Yorkshire connections. "We make a Lilliputian Wentworth House here; My Domestic mostly ~~YORKSHIRE~~ Yorkish; and some from W. But to resemble the ~~A~~ Original Essentially, We Endeavor to make Evry one as happy as we can. I wish to see you exceedingly." (and further) Joseph's poor health and the need for a change of scene, as well as a desire to talk over the political situation, and the lure of "a dry bed, remarkably good Air, plain simple Plenty, and the heartiest Welcome in the World" from the first gentleman of New Hampshire led the two discouraged brothers to visit Portsmouth in April.

(page 141) Most prized of all Joseph's possessions was an imported quadrant "of Three Feet and a half radius, with Telescopic Sights, and mounted on a grand Pedestal with a curious Apparatus of Wheelwork to adjust its Motions". It was worth at least one hundred guineas, "and was the more valuable on account of its having been the property of the Great Astronomer, the late Dr. (Edmund) Halley, and the Instrument with which he made many of his Observations." Joseph offered to lend this to Professor John Winthrop of Harvard College, who was fitting out an expedition to observe the transit of Venus at Newfoundland. However Winthrop found another, more suitable for carrying in the wilds.

Footnote to Page 142, re Church of England matters in N.H.:-

"John Wentworth to Joseph Harrison, Portsmouth, Sep.24,1769, Wentworth Letter Book 1,288-292. "

Page 142, again referring to Church of England hopes in N.H.:-
"The center of the new parish was to be at Wolfeborough, where the Governor had begun the foundations of a ~~mansions~~ mansion which he aspired to make far more than a "Lilliputian Wentworth House." In conveying the compliments of his kinsman Michael Wentworth to the Harrisons, their host mentioned the enthusiastic encouragement of this Yorkshireman had given to his plans for the Wolfeborough estate: "He is ... American in thout, Word and Work; instead of Courts and European Magnificence, He talks of Agriculture and American Cultivation, Cutting Vistoes, opening Water Views, and increasing cattle, and (assures me that I) will soon have a good Farm." Footnote on this page says: "John Wentworth to Joseph Harrison, Portsmouth, Feb.13, 1768: Sep.24, 1769; Wentworth Letter Book, 1, 78, 288."

attached to this copy - "John Wentworth to Joseph Harrison, Portsmouth, July 27, 1767; Feb. 13, 1768, Wentworth Letter Book, 1, 23-24, 77-78."

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While Joseph Harrison was getting into hot water as Collector of Customs at Boston, his brother Peter was Collector at Newhaven, Conn. Peter, "the first American architect", was deeply interested in his friend John Wentworth's proposed new mansion at Wolfborough. Quote from "Peter Harrison, First American Architect", pages 146 and 147:-

As soon as business at the Customs House permitted, Peter Harrison worked on the designs for Wentworth House. In a farewell letter (to Joseph) on September 24, 1769, Gov. Wentworth, uncertain of Peter's whereabouts, wrote Joseph that: "One Chimney built in the So. East End and two rooms finish'd with lath and plaister; which I had rather undo than spoil the House; wch I propose to have as good a habitable House, wth at least one room of Forty feet long and proportion(able?) ~~XXXXXX~~ breadth, as can be contriv'd. This I am sure will be effected with your Brother's aid."

Whether Peter Harrison required any changes in construction in conformity with his designs is not known, but work progressed and the family was able to occupy it in 1770. If Harrison's plans had not been forestalled by the Revolution, John Wentworth's estate might have rivalled William Byrd's Westover, which had so excited the young governor's admiration during a visit in 1767.

(footnote: John Wentworth to Joseph Harrison, Sep. 24, 1769, Wentworth Letter Book, 1, 286-87.)

Peter Harrison had a crushing blow when his only son Thomas, aged 23, died at Newhaven, Conn., where Peter was still His Majesty's Collector of Customs, in November, 1772.

Peter remained at Newhaven as Collector until 1775, when his Loyal Hart was disturbed by the uproar in America. On ~~XXXXXX~~ April 30, 1775 he died of a stroke. A week later the remains of "America's great architect" (Bridenbaugh's words) were buried in Trinity Church. He was born 1716. He and his brother Joseph were natives of Yorkshire, England. Peter began as a shipmaster voyaging to America, ~~XXXXXX~~ In 1740 he superintended "smiths, founders, blockmakers, joiners, carvers, ship chandlers, painters, sailmakers, riggers, tanners, tallow chandlers, coopers, glaziers" -- in fitting up the new ship Leathley, recently launched at Newport, Rhode Island. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Peter took up residence in Newport in 1739, with his brother Joseph. Peter and his ship Triton were captured by a French privateer & taken into Louisburg in May ~~XXXXXX~~ 1744. Returning to New England in a cartel, he made an accurate map of Louisburg harbour which Governor Shirley of Massachusetts was glad to use in his plans for the expedition against Louisburg, and

He (Peter) ~~MARRIED~~ Elizabeth Pelham, a young heiress of Newport fell in love. Her family objected on grounds that the young sea captain, however handsome and clever, was not the "match her family entitled her to." ~~THAT~~ Her brother-in-law said Harrison was merely "pushing for a fortune." However, early in the winter of 1746 Elizabeth found herself with child, the couple ran away to N.H. where Peter had friends. Peter got a marriage license from his friend Governor Benning Wentworth, and they were married at near by Hampton Falls. Towards midsummer they returned and took

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up residence in Newport, R.I.. In 1746 Peter and brother Joseph went into business for themselves, instead of working for Elizabeth's brother-in-law John Banister.

When and how Peter Harrison acquired his training as an architect is not known. By the 1740's the Palladian style of architecture had become the vogue in England. In England on a voyage in 1747 Peter bought English furniture of the latest fashion for his New Port house, travelled about the country inspecting the architecture of the best country mansions, as well as the great public buildings in London. When he sailed for Newport in 1748 he had with him a copy of "The Designs of Inigo Jones" (1727) by William Kent; "Designs for ~~NEW~~ Houghton Hall, Holkham" by Kent; "Andrea Palladio's Architecture" (1735-36) edited by Edward Hoppus; James Gibbs' "A Book of Architecture" (1728) and his "Rules for Drawing the several Parts of Architecture" (1732); also Batty Langley's recently published "The City and Country Builder's and Workman's Treasury of Designs" (1740), and other books and manuals on the arts. In fact Peter eventually was master of ten trades -- Ship-handling, navigation, shipbuilding, woodcarving, drafting, cartography, surveying, military engineering, commerce and agriculture.

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

John Wentworth wrote to Joseph Harrison at Portsmouth on July 27, 1767, and on Feb. 13, 1768, ~~XXXX~~. These and others noted above are in Wentworth Letter Book, 1, typescript copy in New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, N.H.