The Families of Wentworth Point (1800s-1840s)

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The Families of Wentworth Point (1800s -1840s)

In 1800 the first post office in Bristol was established at Walpole. In 1800 smallpox broke out in Waldoborough. The town of Bristol voted a hospital should be built for the smallpox, though without any cost to the town. In 1801 Bristol voted to give liberty to Dr. How to inoculate those that had the kine pox with the small pox, he giving bonds for all damages. In 1801 the destruction of the corn-crop by crows had become so great in Thomaston that that town voted a bounty of 20 cents for destroying them.

The Walpole Wentworth & Kelsey Families

John and Martha {2K} Wentworth also had nine other children besides twins Harriet {3D} and Susan {3D} Wentworth. Elizabeth Wentworth {3G} was born on the 9th of September, 1801. Mary Wentworth {3I} was born on the 28th of September, 1803. Mary {3I} died at the age of 3 on the 27th of November, 1806. She is buried in the Wentworth Cemetery; this is the oldest known grave in the cemetery. Henry Wentworth {3J} was born on the 7th of October in 1805. On the 4th of May in 1807 Son {3K} was born to John {2K} and Martha {2K}. He died 4 days later. Almira Wentworth {3L} was born on the 19th of May, 1808. Catherine Wentworth {3M} was born on the 12th of January, 1812. Clarissa Wentworth {3O} was born 25 January 1814. Jane Wentworth {3P} was born 16 May 1816. Martha Wentworth {3Q} was born in 1819 on the 26th of July.

William and Esther Kelsey {2F} had beside their two children from the previous century, Hannah Kelsey, born 24 May 1800. She married William Elliot in November 1820. He died in Virginia, 3 September 1831. 14 April 1846 she remarried to a William C. Thompson. He died in 1864 from injuries received in the war of the Rebellion. She did not have any children. Thomas Kelsey {3A} was born 20 March 1802. Abigail Kelsey was born 11 April 1804, and died single, in New York City, 10 June 1854. John and Martha Wentworth’s children, Mary Wentworth {3I} and Son, were not the only children of the families to die young in 1806 and 1807. William and Esther Kelsey {2F} had Kendall Kelsey, born 5 June 1805. She died 7 August 1806. Lucinda Kelsey was born 18 January 1807; she died 7 June 1807. William Kelsey was born on the 15th of May in 1810. He married in November 1843, Elizabeth Cox, of New York, and they had seven children. Samuel Kelsey {3C} was born 15 June 1812. He married Mary Jane Foster 30 January 1843, and they had 4 kids. Warren Kelsey was born 23 August 1814. He married Magdalen Butler of New York in 1843. They lived on Staten Island, N.Y., and they had 8 kids. Robert Kelsey was born 25 January 1816. He married Sarah Hillock in 1849. They lived in New Jersey and had 2 kids.

On Christmas day in the year 1800 Samuel Wentworth {2P} married Sarah Colbath {2O}. Samuel and Sarah Wentworth {2P} had 9 children. Esther Wentworth {3R} was born in 1801. Rosanna Wentworth was born in 1802, but died 26 July 1816. Mary Ann Wentworth was born 18 May, 1808. Margaret Wentworth was born 12 August 1810. She married Alexander Foster of Bristol, Me., 8 November 1833. They had 5 kids. Abigail Wentworth was born 1812. The Wentworth genealogy says she married George Mears on Christmas in 1823 and died 12 May 1826, and they had 2 kids. Samuel Wentworth {3S} was born 1 January 1815. Hiram Wentworth was born in 1817. He married Jane Heal of Searsmont, Me., 10 April 1843. They resided in Searsmont and they had 9 children. John Wentworth {3T} was born 5 March 1821. Olive Wentworth was born 10 May 1823 but died one year later. Sarah Colbath Wentworth {2O} died 25 February 1824.

James and Olive Kelsey {2Q} also had Hannah Kelsey born 4 August 1801. Lydia Kelsey was born 20 July 1803; she died 10 May 1844. Olive Kelsey died in 1805. James remarried to Mary Kelsey of Thomaston. They had Hugh Kelsey, born in Bristol in 1807. Hugh married Mahala St. Clair in 1835, and resided in Thomaston, then in Rockland, he being a farmer, lime burner, and a ship carpenter.
James Wentworth \(\{2^R\}\) and Susan Williams \(\{2^S\}\) were married on the 24 May, 1803.\(^4\) They had 8 children. Amy Wentworth was born 7 July 1804. Mahala Wentworth was born 29 January 1806. She married Rev. Dexter Waterman, a Free Baptist minister in Bristol on the 2\(^{nd}\) of June, 1834. They lived in Unity, Me., and they had 2 kids.\(^7\) Abial Wentworth \(\{3^W\}\) was born 4 February 1808. James Wentworth \(\{3^X\}\) was born 6 May, 1810. Eliza Ann Wentworth \(\{3^Y\}\) was born 6 August 1812. Achsah was born 26 October 1814. She married Henry Hobart, of Braintree, Mass., 11 December 1833. She died 30 December 1838. Susan Wentworth was born 14 March 1817. She married the same Henry Hobart 16 January 1840. She died 23 December 1841. Sarah C. Wentworth \(\{3^Y\}\) was born 7 July 1823.

Gershom and Mary Wentworth’s \(\{1^O\}\) son John Wentworth 2d \(\{2^Y\}\) married Hannah Little \(\{2^W\}\) of Bristol sometime about 1809 according to the Wentworth genealogy.\(^4\) The vital records of Bristol have them publishing their marriage intentions 29 December 1805. At any rate they had 10 children. They had George Wentworth, born 20 March 1810. He died or was lost at sea in 1828. Lydia Wentworth was born 5 April 1812 and died 20 March 1814. Arnold Blaney Wentworth \(\{3^Z\}\) was born 20 June 1814. He married his cousin Mahala Sheldon 3 April 1844, and they had 6 kids. Thomas L. Wentworth was born 15 February 1816. He married Eliza Morse of Thomaston. They lived in Hope, Me., and had 7 kids. Eliza Jane Wentworth was born 20 April 1818. She married, in Waltham, Mass., Dexter B. Patrick. They lived at Mahanoy, Northumberland co., PA., and they had 2 kids. Mary Wentworth was born 22 February 1821. She married, 26 August 1840, Captain Richard Robinson, of Thomaston, ME., born in Warren, ME., 13 August 1817. They lived in Auburndale, Mass., and they had 5 kids. Benjamin Wentworth was born 20 January 1823. He married Mary A Gardner of Lincolnville, ME., and they had 10 kids. Benjamin served as a private in the war of the Rebellion in H Company of the 8th Maine Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Arad Hazeltine Wentworth was born 25 January 1825. He married a Cordelia J. Wentworth. They lived in Searsmont and had at least 7 children. John Wentworth was born 15 January 1828. He married Maria Drake Cummings of Union. They lived in Vallejo, Cal., and they had at least 2 kids. Albert Clark Wentworth was born 5 February 1830. At the time the Wentworth genealogy was compiled he was single and living near San Diego Mines, California.\(^4\)

One can only imagine today what life was like back then here at Wentworth Point. These were large families with many Wentworth and Kelsey children. The land was being cleared or already cleared for farming. Today one can only imagine them working, celebrating a holiday, mourning the passing of a family member, playing, or getting into trouble.

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The Wentworth Genealogy states William Kelsey’s \(\{2^E\}\) brother John \(\{2^C\}\) died single in the year 1802 at the age of c. 36. However an entry appears in the Lincoln County Probate Records in August 1801 nominating John Farley Esqr. & Nathaniel Bryant a gentleman, both of Newcastle as commissioners to receive and examine the claims of several creditors against the estate of John Kelsa, yeoman, deceased, who has been represented as being insolvent, & insufficient to pay all past debts. The commissioners subsequently examined the claims over a 6 month period and made a list of the creditors which included John’s aunt Elizabeth Wintworth \(\{1^L\}\), his mother Abigail Kelsa \(\{1^I\}\), his brother James Kelsa \(\{2^D\}\),and his brother Wm Kelsa \(\{2^E\}\). By order of the Court of Common Pleas notices were to be posted of a public sale to the highest bidder of all of the real estate belonging to the late John Kelsey \(\{2^C\}\). The real estate to be sold included one lot of land lying in said Bristol containing fifty acres of land more or less being the lot of land [?] hereon the said Deceased
formerly lived, having thereon a good barn, & young orchard [?etc.]; one lot of land lying in Bangor in the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To Jonathan Mannone</th>
<th>$1.25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To James Morton on balance</td>
<td>$2.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To John Farley, Jr. on balance</td>
<td>$1.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Abner Perkins</td>
<td>$13.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Abner Crooker</td>
<td>$1.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Aaron King</td>
<td>$1.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To John Ogden on note $50.00</td>
<td>$53.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To John Ogden on note payable</td>
<td>$53.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Elizabeth Shedd</td>
<td>$1.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Lydia Perkins two notes</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Bela Page</td>
<td>$13.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Deborah Crooker</td>
<td>$1.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Sarah Little</td>
<td>$29.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Sarah Little, 2 notes of hand</td>
<td>$46.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Geo. Brookes to receipt</td>
<td>$46.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Also due James Ogden on one of the notes</td>
<td>$46.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To James Kelsa on acct.</td>
<td>$101.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Elizabeth Wintworth</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Abigail Kelsa</td>
<td>$60.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Ann Kelsa on acct.</td>
<td>$28.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To John Andrews on note</td>
<td>$30.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Mr. Kelsa for note endorsed by Notte</td>
<td>$7.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Mr. Kelsa on note</td>
<td>$11.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Mr. Kelsa on note</td>
<td>$7.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 4, 1802</td>
<td>$534.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: A list of creditors to the John Kelsa estate.42
County of Hancock containing seventy acres more or less, on which considerable improvements have been made __; Also one other lot of land containing one hundred acres lying in said Bangor uncultivated but of excellent quality. The sale was to be held at the dwelling house of Timothy Fitch in Bristol at two of the clock in the afternoon on Thursday the thirty first day of March.

William Kelsa \(2^{\text{r}}\), administrator for John’s estate, testifies that he posted notice of the sale in Bristol in a public place on February 3, more than the prior notice of thirty days that was necessary.\(^{211}\) He also posted in public places a notice in Wiscasset, in New Castle, and in Noble borough. A notice was also posted in Bangor and in Castine by other individuals. The sale of land along with rents and debts received amounted to $2854.31. The expenses paid including funeral expenses, advertising, paying to discharge mortgages, taxes including a highway tax at Bangor for 1801, and the expense of going after money to Bangor amounted to $2384.10.

Figure 2: This an image of a part of the tax rolls for the Wentworths and Kellsas in the Walpole part of Bristol in 1802.\(^{28}\) The first column is the state and county tax. The second column is the town and school tax. The third column is the minister’s tax. Among the highest taxpayers in Walpole is Elisha Hatch who is paying a $6.80 state & county tax, James Jones who is paying a $6.18 state & county tax, and merchant Thomas McClure who is paying a $12.94 state & County tax.\(^{28}\) Only 2 Walpole residents aren’t paying a ministers tax, Colonel Wm Jones and Daniel Day. There is a Widdow Askins listed on the tax rolls; Widow Elizabeth Wentworth \(1^{\text{r}}\) is not on the tax list.
In 1803 Bristol John Wentworth and Alex Askins were among those selected to be Surveyors of Highways. In 1803 the town of Bristol voted to see if it will accept the alteration of a road laid out for James Wentworth and others. The town voted April 23, 1803 to accept this road at ten dollars cost. It began at Clarks Cove at a stake on the road between Elisha Clark and Rob Askins, thence running northerly, thence northeasterly through John Wentworth, Saml Wentworth & Jas. Wentworth land, thence across [?Wm Killsa?] and [?Gershm Wentworth?] land, thence through James Killsa and John Killsa land so called to the road to the schoolhouse in District no. 3 in Walpole part of the town - said road to be two rods wide. Damages to Gershom Wentworth were judged to be ten dollars.¹⁹

The Lincoln County land records indicate that in 1804 Elizabeth Wentworth sold “. . . a certain tract of land butted & bounded as follows [?] beginning at Damacotta River on the East side beginning at a Hemlock Tree on said Bank of the River joining William Kelsey thence running East Southeast two hundred and eighty five poles to Orr Meadow Brook to an ash tree markd four side thence running down said Brook to a Fir Tree forty five poles thence running W.N.W. fifty poles to the old mill road so down said road ten poles & within three rods of the middle line between us thence running down said middle line a parallel line down to the shore W.N.W. course so up the River to the first mentioned bounds to contain ninety acres be the same more or less” . . . to James Wentworth for $200. The instrument was examined by Justice of the Peace William McIntyer who attested that Elizabeth Wentworth appeared before him and acknowledged it was her voluntary act and deed; neighbor William Page witnessed it. It was entered into the Lincoln County land records and examined by Registrar Warren Rice 19 June 1830. Orr’s Meadow Brook comes down from the present day Wawenock Golf Course midway between Clark’s Cove Road and Route 129 and feeds into the Damariscotta River at Clark’s Cove. It is said to be named after a John Orr who was a local landowner and trader in the 18th century.³, ⁸

![Figure 3: An 1805 promissory note from William Kelsey (2)]. It reads: Bristol the 25 Day of October 1805. For value received I promist to pay to Rogers Northey on order the some of twonty seven dollars and thirty three cents with intress till paid _ as witness James Kelsey _ my name Wm Kelsey.¹
Promissory Notes

Money was scarce in the local coastal towns in the early 19th century. In addition this was not a prosperous commercial center able to attract what hard cash there was in circulation. Storekeepers traditionally carried customers on credit for lengthy periods, sometimes years. If the accounts remained unpaid longer than the storekeeper deemed reasonable, he might turn to the courts, instituting ten or more cases at once against delinquent patrons.

Stores often served as "banks" for individuals; charged provisions might be paid for with produce or services. If an individual owed money to a neighbor, he might give money or goods to the storekeeper, directing him to credit the neighbor's account. Promissory notes were treated as universal money, travelling from hand to hand, endorsed to third and sometimes fourth parties; the trail of debt might become very tangled.

Many people were sued because they couldn't pay their debts. If the loser of the case did not pay his debts, plus court costs, attached assets were sold at public auction. Sometimes assets were pathetically small - a hat, a chair, a hog. If no one came forward to lend the necessary sum, the poorer sort of debtor could possibly end up in debtor prison.

On the 15th of June in 1805 “An Act to incorporate a Number of the Inhabitants of the Town of Bristol, in the County of Lincoln, into a Religious Society, by the Name of The First Congregational Society in Bristol” was passed by the state legislature of Massachusetts. Among the 61 persons named that were incorporated were a Gershom Wentworth, a Samuel Wentworth, and a John Wentworth.

In 1805 Saml Clark was chosen to be tything man. Hugh Paul and James Wentworth were selected to be Surveyors of Highways. Hugh Paul was also chosen to be a Surveyor of Lumber. That year three of the Pauls went on to Thomaston where they built ships. June 16th, 1806, that sublime phenomenon, a nearly total eclipse of the sun occurred at noonday. It long formed an epoch among farmers, who used to date from it the commencement of those cold seasons and precarious harvests, which, with some exceptions, continued with increasing severity for ten years.

In 1805 a John Wentworth was selected as one of the Surveyors of Highways. July 2 the town voted to dismiss an article to hear the petition of a number of inhabitants in regard to the proprietors claiming their lands.

Road Dispute

An item appeared in the April Warrant of the Bristol Town Records in 1805. The article reads: To hear the petition of James Wintworth and others in regard of a road from Rob’ Arskins to the School House in No. three Walpole part. Again on October 21 1805 in the Bristol Town Records an item appears: To hear the petition of a number of Inhabitants of said Town in regard to laying out a road, and opening up the same, to lead from the highway by the Schoolhouse in District No. three in Walpole part of the Town, to Robert Arkins Mill in the most convenient place for the public, and act as they think proper on that matter.

They then appointed a committee of three to lay out said road as near the old road as will accommodate the peoples and do the least damage, and to appraise any damage there may be by shortening the road.” The order was signed by the selectmen Robert Huston and Israel Cox. The committee reported November 25, and after hearing the report it was voted the road shall run the old way.

In a docket session book at the Lincoln County Registry of Deeds a number of entries for the petition of James Wentworth and others appears in 1806, continuing on from one term to the next. One entry reads, “on
the petition of James Wentworth and others for opening a road in the town of Bristol” . . . then goes on to order the town clerk or a principal inhabitant to have someone appear before the court and explain “why the [?prayer] thereof should not be granted.” Another entry states, “James Wentworth and other petitioners. Continued from last term. And now William McIntyre Esq. agent for the Town of Bristol agrees that the selectmen shall give orders to the surveyor of the Roads in said town” to open a road so as to be passable at the expense of the town of Bristol. If in default a committee shall be appointed at the next term to open the road.

For the 4th article in the town warrant of 3 November 1806 the town voted to hear the report of the town agent that attended the court at Topsham in regard to the Kelsey & Wentworth's road. It was agreed to [?] this article to the [?decision] of three men, one chosen by the town, one chosen by Kilsea & party, & the two chosen to choose a third. Doct. M. Howe & Wm Chamberlain joined Simon Elliot to form this committee. On Nov. 8th Two of the Committee Appointed to decide on Kelsea & Wentworth Rd. attended by Rt. Huston Esq met at Mr. James Wentworth' house - Dr. Howe being detained. The petitioners for the road were bitterly opposed to the committee deciding on any thing [?farther] than James Wentworth on to the southward. They therefore thought it not advisable to appoint another day for that purpose.

In the spring of 1807 the town voted to dismiss hearing the petition of a number of inhabitants regarding laying out a road from Rob Askins Old farm [?surofs?] the stream to the road that leads from the mill to Walpole Meeting house and act as they think proper. On a vote to hear the report of the Committee that viewed the road from school house # 3 to Rob Askins the town appointed the former committee chosen in Nov last to go & endeavor to agree with the petitioners for the road. The town also appointed the selectmen to see the Bridge at Capt. Rob Askins mill repaired out of the highway tax. May 30th Capt. Rob Askins was drawn as a grand juror. Other items in the warrants that year were: to choose a town representative and a meeting moderator; to hear a petition to split Round Pond into 2 school districts; to hear the report of the committee that [?settled] with the Treasurer and Selectmen; and what the town will do with regards to the poor.

Another entry into that docket sessions book at the Lincoln County Registry of Deeds for circa 1808 reads: It now [?Appear]. ing that the inhabitants of the town of Bristol have not opened said road or highway nor in any wise made the [?Lane] convenient for travel en and others [?hof/say] with their teams wagons and other [?carriages] Ordered that John [Far ley] [?&] [?David] [?Drm.] [?nis] [?esqr] and Mr [?Eben] Perkins be a committee to enter into contract or contracts with any person for making said road passable at the expense of the inhabitants of the Town of Bristol.*
Figure 5: Entry in a Lincoln County docket session book where William McIntyre agrees for the town of Bristol to the opening of a road.
Many post-colonial New England roads were in poor condition and difficult to travel. Local roads were built and maintained by towns, and road taxes were often paid in labor. There was an indifference in many cases that prevented significant improvement. Labor on the roads was supervised by surveyors - 20-30 who were elected in some small towns - who could often be unskilled or only concerned with their own roads. Gangs of men would work on the roads sometimes in the fall, but usually a few days in June between planting and haying. Road building could become a holiday where rum would flow freely and there would be little improvement.

By early 1790s many inhabitants had cleared farms and were supplying produce for market. By the end of the 18th century business opportunities resulting from the war in Europe meant a growing number of New Englanders were thus directly affected by the conditions of the roads. Interior towns had to drag produce to market through deep mud or poorly conditioned roads. This led to demands for improvement and reform of the local system. But even though states enacted road laws, they were difficult to enforce on the towns.

In the 1780s and 1790s toll bridge corporations and turnpike (the name was derived from an early device used to stop travelers on English toll roads) corporations began building and maintaining important routes of travel. In 1800 2/3rds of the 72 toll roads in the US were in New England. Most of the New England toll roads were built to facilitate the transportation of country produce to market. Stagecoach lines also began to make regular trips between Maine communities during this time.

Jefferson's Embargo of foreign trade helped bring an end to the expansion of the turnpike system in New England, but by then the corporations had taken over and improved most of the important routes and many of the unimportant routes of travel, as well as introduce and popularize improved methods of road building. Then came the war of 1812 and the British blockade. The town fathers could barely afford to build and maintain their local streets let alone improve the road to the neighboring community. By 1850 half the toll road companies had ceased to operate, and all but one were gone by the end of the century.

Between 1820 and 1840 road building intensified again. The county commissioners of Massachusetts and Maine were newly empowered to order and supervise road building. This was somewhat unpopular as it was at the expense of the towns, but between 1790-1840 better roads in New England helped quicken the pulse of economic and social life. Through the period of stagecoach and the proliferation of stage lines, turnpikes and tollbridges, and even after the coming of the railroads, the most important means of transporting goods and people in Maine was still by water.

In 1808 Captain Moses Kelsea & Ms. Jane Barstow Church were married.*22 Mr. William Little married a Ms. Nancy Kelsea; a Mr James Blunt married a Ms. Sally Clark.19 A Mark Feltis married Ms. Mary Askins in 1809. In 1808 James Carlisle is constable. November 1808 Bristol put a bounty on crow heads. In April 1809 Hugh Paul, James Wentworth, and Robert Clark were among those selected to be Surveyors of Road for Walpole; Samuel Clark, Thos. Millar, Wm Curtis, and George Sproul are among the surveyors of roads for Pemaquid. Thomas Miller and Hugh Paul are among the surveyors of lumber. In 1810 William Kelsea, Hugh Paul, John Bearce were among those selected to be Surveyors of Roads for Walpole.19

The Wentworth Genealogy states that William Kelsey’s {2F} brother James Kelsey {2D} died in 1809. However the Lincoln County Probate Records record William Kelsa {2F} nominated and appointed on the date of February 28, 1807 guardian unto John Kelsa [13 yrs. of age] & Hannah Kelsa [5 yrs. of age] minors under
the age of fourteen years, children of James Kelsa (2D) late of Bristol yeoman deceased. James Kelsey’s (2D) sons Enoch Kelsey [9 yrs of age] and James Kelsey [7 yrs. of age] were put under the guardianship of William Wentworth of Bristol. However there is no William Wentworth in the Bristol Vital Records. The author speculates that this William Wentworth is James Wentworth (2R). The youngest two of James Kelsey’s 6 children are not mentioned in the Lincoln County Probate Records. Three of these six children grew up to marry Wentworths, one of the Wentworths being a distant relation.

Figure 6: Lincoln County probate records placing John and Hannah Kelsa in the care and under the guardianship of their uncle William Kelsa (2F).
In July, 1810, neighbor Robart Askins signed out a complaint against James Wentworth \(^2\).\(^1\) It was alleged that James Wentworth \(^2\) threatened Robert Askins, his wife Margaret, his children, and his property.\(^2\) An arrest warrant was issued and the constable Robert Merrill bought James Wentworth before the Justice of the Peace, Squire Robert Huston.\(^5\) Robert and Margaret Askings were summoned to the proceeding as were witnesses William Page, Thomas McGuyer, and John Askings. It was alleged that James Wentworth threatened to ['?], beat, burn, and wound the said Margaret, and that at divers other days and times James stated he would injure the said Robert’s property, and he the said James stated he would whip the complainants children and prevent them from going to school.\(^2\) It was further alleged that on the 23rd of July James actually did stop the complainants children on the highway when they were going to school. He threatened to beat them if they went to school, and then and there drove them home. It’s not known to the author the outcome of this case.\(^*\)\(^2\)\(^1\)

There were numerous local court cases from this period about debts and matters of trespass or assault; James Wentworth \(^2\) himself was summoned the following month to be a witness in an assault and battery case by local Jeremiah Mears against John Richards.\(^*\)\(^2\)\(^1\) A Samuel Wentworth and John Richards were summoned in 1812 to give testimony in a plea of trespass by Capt. Rob Askins against Amos Sproul.\(^3\)\(^4\) A Samuel Wentworth, John Richards, and William Askings were involved in another case that year of four men answering charges of trespass.\(^3\)\(^4\)

In 1809 a Robert Kelsa was bought before the justice of the peace Robert Huston for failure to pay for the repair of one pair of shoes, and the making of another pair of shoes by cordwainer Robert Hewey.\(^*\)\(^2\)\(^2\)\(^3\)\(^5\) A
Figure 8: The back of the summons in figure 7. James Wentworth is paid 66 cents for his troubles.  

Figure 9: 1809 court document listing the amount James Kellsa owes and stating James Carlile has attached a hat of James.  

James Kellsa had a hat attached by constable James Carlisle for failure to pay his debt to cordwainer Dr. Robert Hewey.  

Tailor Mark Feltis was accused of owing certain goods and services to John Millar Jr. in 1811. Tanner John Mears was summoned to appear before Squire Huston on charges he owed Thomas Huston $20. Tanner John Mears was summoned to appear before Squire Huston on charges he owed Thomas Huston $20. 

Rueben Dyer of Bristol bought suit against dressmaker Fanny Brown of Boothbay in 1812 for failure to pay a debt. Captain Moses Kelsey was involved and Robert and Margaret Askins were summoned to give testimony.  

In 1811 a bill was drawn for James Cunningham’s room and board. The fee initially had to be given to William Kelsey, an administrator for sheltering the poor and homeless. It contains
Figure 10: Bill sent in 1812 to the Board of Selectmen of Bristol for room and board of an indigent man, James Cunningham. Wm Kelsey (2nd) provided board and various sundries, Sam Wentworth (2nd) provided timber, John Wentworth (2nd) and James Richards billed the town for shears. Neighbor William Page Jr. also billed the town. (Courtesy of Boston College University Libraries).
an itemized list of sundries also provided to the poor man, including a pair of stockings, one pair of shoes, one shirt etc.

On the 1810 census there appears another John Wentworth. He is listed as John Wintworth 2. He also appears on an 1814 list of Bristol voters and most probably is Gershom’s son John Wentworth 2 \(\{2^V\}\).*9

March 19, 1811 Wm Kilsea is chosen as one of the surveyor of highways. One of the Wentworths, John or James, was drawn as a petit juror. In March, 1812, Wm Kilsea \(\{2^F\}\) was accepted as a collector and constable for both the Walpole and Harrington part of Bristol at 4 1/2 per cent.19 James Wentworth, Hugh Paul, and John Fitch were selected as Surveyors of Highways. James Wentworth, Aaron Blaney, and Timothy Fitch were chosen for the school committee for Walpole.

However next month Capt. Elisha Hatch was chosen Collector for the Walpole parish at 5% in lieu of Wm Kelsea; Miles Thompson was voted to collect the taxes for Harrington at 5% in lieu of Wm Kilsea. There was also a petition to the town to determine what posture of defence the people shall put themselves into to prevent the marauding crews from plundering & robbing the town and their neighbors. One article in the Bristol town warrant was to see if the town would build an Alms-House.

In 1813 Aaron Blaney, Thomas Hutchings, John Wentworth, Artemis Sykes, and Hugh Paul were among those selected as Surveyors of Highways for Walpole.19 The town voted to apply for two 12-pounders, and if they obtained those cannon they were instructed to further solicit for two 4-pounders in order to form an artillery company. In 1814 James Wentworth, Hugh Paul, Artemis Sykes, George & Henry Askins, John Fitch were among those chosen Surveyors of Highways for Walpole; Tho Millar, Saml Clark, John Goudy were among those chosen Survey of Roads for Harrington.25 A Thomas Hutchins was one of eleven selected for Hog reeves, field drivers and fence viewers.
Figure 12: This is an image of a part of the tax rolls for the Walpole part of Bristol in 1812. 29 It is not clear why the taxes of Samuel Wentworth (2\textsuperscript{nd}), John Wentworth (2\textsuperscript{nd}), and John Wentworth 2d (2\textsuperscript{nd}) were the only Walpole taxpayers whose taxes were added up. Elizabeth Wentworth (1\textsuperscript{st}) is not listed. Willm. Kellory probably is William Kelsey (2\textsuperscript{nd}). 29 Among the highest payers for state and county taxes in Walpole is Robert Huston at $6.21, John Huston at $6.30, James Drummond Jr. at $9.69, and merchant Aaron Blaney who is now running the business and post office at McClure’s Landing.
Land Disputes

Up until this time land in Maine was constantly disputed on account of conflicting patents. The three major patents were drawn up by British lawyers who had never even seen the territory, so they were often imprecise and overlapping. These three major patents were claimed by the Great Proprietors, but they were further in conflict with ten other, smaller land patents. To make things more confusing, tracts of land were frequently sold and resold by local Indians to white settlers who didn't understand that several other people were also under the impression of ownership. Consequently, property titles were unclear in most of the region -- though the Great Proprietors could more easily back their claim with wealth and sued settlers who purchased land from the competition.

The Great Proprietors saw themselves as morally and intellectually superior to Maine pioneers, and in response to the reckless authoritarianism of the Great Proprietors, squatters and other settlers launched a series of assaults on the proprietors and their property. This frequently involved sabotage or destruction of their boats, garrison houses, or sawmills. Between 1790 and 1799 there were thirty-three such instances recorded, and another hundred between 1800 and 1809.

At the beginning of the 19th century the “proprietors,” as all the nonresident claimants to the soil were called, had become a numerous body, mostly living in Massachusetts, with some of them residents in other states. However the time was fast approaching when many of the earliest settlers, if left undisturbed, would hold the places they occupied by right of possession, the period then being required for this purpose in Massachusetts, being 60 years. Occasional threats of actions of ejectment from different proprietors had long been heard by the settlers; but some lawsuits were now actually commenced, and the citizens here expected with anxiety many more to follow. By 1810 several actions of the kind were pending.

The people of Bristol and other towns became alarmed. Much indignation was felt everywhere for the hated proprietors; and in several instances, strangers coming into town, whose business was unknown, were treated with rudeness. A circumstance that added not a little to the excitement of the time, was the singular law passed March 6th, 1810, as its title expressed it, “for the more speedy and effectual suppression of tumults in the commonwealth.” Though general in its terms it was evidently for the Kennebec region and this particular locality. This law authorized any judge of the Supreme Court, in certain circumstances, when the regular administration of the laws should be obstructed, to call out at his own discretion, a sufficient force from the militia in the neighborhood to suppress the riot or tumult, and restore order.

In one of those lawsuits that year a Supreme Judicial Court Judge in Wiscasset ordered a survey of the farm in question at Broad Cove which at that time was in Bristol. On Monday the 27th of Aug., the appointed surveyor, James Malcomb, came to Bristol to fulfill the order. He was met by about forty to sixty men, who assembled in parties, and seemed to be led by Capt. Samuel Tucker and others. The said Tucker stated he was one of a committee unanimously chosen by the Town of Bristol to oppose the running of any lines in said Town, and demanded by what authority they came to run the lines. Malcomb presented them with the Supreme Court order, but they declared it a forgery, and declared the Supreme Court had no authority to grant an order to run lines without notice to every person whose lands were touched thereby. They also told the surveyor that there were a number of men likewise assembled in Nobleboro and other towns, keeping a strict watch to obstruct the running of any lines by proprietors; and they threatened to take his instruments if Malcomb persisted. Unable to run any survey lines, the surveyors left, and they were followed out of town by a party of men.
The agent of the plaintiff in that case, Elliot Vaughan, who was a plaintiff himself in another case, had accompanied Malcomb that Monday. On Wednesday he accompanied an old man by the name of Benj. Jones, of Newcastle, to Walpole, Jones having some business there and at the store of Mr. Blaney, and he being acquainted with the inhabitants. Along the way Vaughan discussed the subject of non-resident proprietor’s land with Col. Wm. Jones, and he got an earful. The colonel told them no proprietor owned any land, and that the government was corrupt in allowing any title, that no man had a right to more land than he could improve, and named 200 acres. He told Vaughan that God Almighty had it in his power to settle it in two ways; one was to serve all the proprietors as he did the firstborn of Egypt (cut them off in one night) the other was to raise up some man like Cyrus who would purge the land. The 2 men then went to the store of Mr. Blaney, which was a little south of the Walpole Meeting House on the Damariscotta River at McClure’s Landing. On the way back Robert Huston, Esq., the aforementioned “Squire Huston,” came out to the road and inquired if he was one of the Vaughans who had been trying to run their lines? Told he was, Justice of the Peace Huston then stated that they were ready for anyone who wanted to run lines, and they did not want them run. A crowd began to gather, and the two men then continued their ride back to the toll-bridge. A number of men followed them on horseback making a noise and ringing cowbells, and with many oaths desired them “never to show their faces in Bristol again.” That night Vaughan stayed at the house of David Myrick by the bridge. It was surrounded by men that evening who threatened to tear down the house if Myrick did not turn out Vaughan. Myrick tried to talk to them. But they kept storming around the house and making almost every noise that could be conceived of, until they finally left around 1 or 2 o’clock.

Malcomb made return to the Supreme Judicial Court, and subsequently Judge Thacher ordered a force of 500 men, mostly from Boothbay and vicinity, to be drafted under their proper officers, and held in readiness to march at short notice. The people of Bristol and Nobleboro fully convinced of the intrinsic justice of their cause took measures to organize an effective defensive force. The aspect of affairs became alarming that both military and civil officials, and friend and foe of that March, 1810 law alike, began to look at the matter with grave concern.

It has been said that agents from Bristol went to Boothbay and took occasion to pay their respects to many of the drafted men, who gave them to understand if they should really be called into the field to fight in such a cause, they “should choose which side to fight on.”

Though the draft was made on paper, the militia was never called out, and cooler heads prevailed. There was much correspondence and petitioning, and Governor Gerry postponed further coercive measures. The obnoxious law was repealed by the legislature during the winter session, and the governor subsequently appointed a commission to investigate the difficulties in Lincoln County. On Monday, April 29th, the selectmen and committee of Bristol, Nobleboro, Newcastle, and Boothbay, met at Myrick’s in Newcastle and appointed a committee to represent them before the commission. The commission held its first meeting May 1, 1811 at the Court House in Wiscasset. The candid manner, and the patient, respectful attention the commissioners gave to all the evidence bought before them, greatly pleased the people of this place. The commissioners proposed a new Board of Commissioners to settle the disputed claims. Most or all of the claimants, more than a hundred in number, according to agreement, executed deeds of release to the state of all right and title to the land in question. Those whose claims were deemed well founded were offered townships of land to be selected from the wild lands in the district of Maine. The claims of the “proprietors” were thus extinguished.
Jeremiah Bailey and Silas Lee were appointed by Governor Caleb Strong on March 2, 1813 to give deeds to settlers in Lincoln County, Maine. Conforming to the standards set by the state for quieting settlers in other parts of the eastern lands, each settler would receive clear title for up to 200 acres of his property, including his best improvements, for a nominal amount of money. The work of the commissioners proceeded slowly, interrupted by the uncertainty caused by the War of 1812 and financial hardships in the area. Along with the 1816, 1817 and 1819 reports to the General Court, the commissioners submitted schedules of deeds released and the surveys of the settlers’ lots to the Land Office from 1815-1819.

Figure 13: Wentworths listed on the schedules of deeds released for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (1815-1819). Elizabeth Wentworth {1^L} paid $6.19 for 48 acres of land. John Wentworth {2^R} paid $5.80 for 45 acres of land. Samuel Wentworth {2^P} paid $10.84 for 84 acres of land, and James Wentworth {2^R} paid $9.03 for 70 acres of land. The price listed for most of the people in Bristol is listed as 12 9/10 (do in figure 13). They are paying roughly 7.75 cents per acre which is what each of the Wentworths of Wentworth Point paid. There are just a few prices listed as 12 8/10. Those Bristol residents are paying roughly 7.8 cents an acre. There are also just a few listed as .32, and they are paying 32 cents an acre. A John Wentworth {2^L}, possibly John Wintworth 2, paid $1.29 for 10 acres of land. Obviously he paid 12.9 cents an acre. A William Kelsey {2^F} is on a list of settlers that have not paid for their lands. It’s not clear if this is a list

Figure 14: William Kelsey on list of Bristol settlers who have not paid for their lands. (Courtesy of the Massachusetts Archives)
of people who could not pay, or a list of settlers not required pay. I would hazard a guess for the latter as no amount is listed.

Figure 15: Portion of an 1815 Bristol Survey Map done by William McClintock for the town of Bristol. Wentworth Point and Lowes Cove is left of center of the map. AC indicates the number of acres. No indicates the plot number. You can see the property of James Wentworth (2ⁿ) extended beyond Clarks Cove Road to the stream (Orr’s Meadow Brook) that feeds the pond at Clarks Cove. Across the brook from James Wentworth (2ⁿ) is the lot of a James Curtis. It is not clearly legible, but above the Curtis plot is the 10 acre lot of John Wentworth (2ⁿ). The present site approximates to the location on Route 129 just south of the Wawenock Golf Club and near or at the West Bristol Cemetery where a number of Kelseys and Wentworths are buried.

The War of 1812

The Embargo and Non-Importation Acts and the outbreak of the War of 1812 were ruinous to the commerce of Bristol.³ Fishing and the shipping of fish and timber were nearly destroyed. There was a shortage of goods normally imported, such as white flour for bread, sugar and molasses. The people of Bristol were thrown on their own resources for food and clothing. They were kept in a constant state of alarm by British naval vessels and privateers in the coastal waters.

In the spring of 1813 British cruisers appeared at different places along the coast.⁵ At the end of March the Rattler and the Bream, sloops of war made their appearance off of Pemaquid Point. They quickly seized 5 schooners and sloops that were on their way to Boston, loaded with wood and lumber. One of the captured prizes was recaptured 2 days afterward by 3 boats, manned by 20 men, and sent out from Boothbay Harbor.

A little time afterwards the Rattler anchored near Squirrel Island.⁵ Captain Read of the local militia fired an alarm, which soon brought to their assistance Captain Rose with a company of soldiers from the
Damariscotta fort. In the night a boat from the Rattler, landed some men at a place on the west side of Spruce Point; but when fired upon they made haste to escape.

The most important naval action locally was the capture of the British brig Boxer by the U.S. brig Enterprise on Sunday, the 5th of September. The Boxer had anchored near John’s Island and sent a boat into Pemaquid Harbor to investigate a schooner anchored there showing a Swedish flag. It was in fact a Yankee craft commanded by Captain Thos. Child, of Bristol, and had been put under the Swedish flag because of the neutrality of that nation at the time. It was at this point the Enterprise made her appearance at a considerable distance outside, coming from the west, and the Boxer headed out to sea to meet her.

The action took place in a line nearly midway between the extreme end of Pemaquid Point and the island of Monhegan. Many of the inhabitants of the southern part of town left their homes to seek better places of observation, and multitudes on the shores and hills waited with anxiety the result of the contest. The wind was light, the movement of the ships was slow, and firing did not begin until 3pm. Occasionally neither ship could be seen for the smoke that enveloped them. Soon after the firing ceased the two ships turned their prows to the west, and the people on the shore then first knew which party had gained the victory, and there was great rejoicing on the shore.*

The capture of Napoleon in the spring of 1814 and his banishment to Elba caused the people of this peninsula to fear even more an invasion of Maine territory now that England’s forces in Europe could be transferred here. Preparations for the defense of this place were made. Several British ships plied the mid-coast of Maine that summer sending barges ashore and leading to skirmishes with the local militia. On Monday June 20th, the Bulwark entered the Sheepscot and sent 6 barges that effected a landing. Though opposed by 40 militia, they marched inland, supposedly intending to reach Wiscasset. After the British had marched inland about 7 or 8 miles they were met by a much larger militia force, and, in their turn, were obliged to retreat.

At this point the militia of the whole region were frequently called out for drill, and in all respects were kept in readiness for action. From the Clarks Cove area Henry and James McGuire, and Samuel and John Clark, and George and William Miller, served in the Harrington Militia Company under Captain Sproul. Henry McGuire was one of the two musicians of the company, and John Clark was a sergeant. On account of various annoyances they had received from the venturous yeomen of the place, the British had for some time threatened Pemaquid. Accordingly on the 29th of June, the frigate Maidstone anchored in Fisherman’s Island Harbor, whence 8 barges containing 275 men, set out for Pemaquid Harbor. Captain Sproul with about 100 men met them in the night; a dense fog enveloping the forces, so that neither the barges nor the men could be seen, except by the flashes of musketry. It is not know that any person was injured during the engagement, which lasted about an hour; but the British gave up the attempt on Pemaquid, and turned their boats toward New Harbor. Captain Sproul and his company headed to New Harbor to reinforce a detachment there from the Broad Cove Company.

At dawn on June 30th 2 barges were discovered entering the mouth of New Harbor. A Wm. Rodgers fired his piece by way of alarm, and militia men on guard rushed to the shore and poured into the barges a rather heavy fire of musketry. The enemy returned the fire with much spirit from small cannon as well as muskets, and for a few minutes the pattering of the bullets on the rocky shore was lively and also the whistling of cannon shot in the air, the aim being mostly too high to strike the men on shore. After a short battle the barges retreated. Quite a number of men were killed, and many wounded on board the barges, but the exact number was never
ascertained. On the Yankee side one man, Daniel Richards, was wounded in the thigh, either by a wad or a spent ball. Though the flesh was only bruised, the shock had bought him to the ground.*22  

The Wintworth brothers, John \(2^K\), Samuel \(2^P\), and James \(2^R\), and their cousins John Wintworth 2d \(2^V\) and John Killsa, and neighbor James Curtis served in the Walpole Company.*11 They were all privates.

In 1813 the Walpole Company trained at the usual place of parade on the first 3 Sundays of September at 1pm.\(^{13}\) James Wintworth \(2^K\) was fined for non-appearance at company training on September 4th; John Richards and Hugh Little were fined for non-appearance at the September 18th training. James Wintworth paid his $1 fine on Nov. 27, 1813. The Walpole Company mustered at Schoolhouse #1 at 6 am on September 28, 1813, and then marched to the field of Daniel Day (the regiment’s paymaster) in Nobleborough for a battalion muster. The commanding officer of the Walpole Company, Captain Richard Hiscock, recorded the equipment inventory of the rank and file of the company in his orderly book:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>Muskets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Bayonets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>Cartridge Boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Iron Rods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>Wous and Brushes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>222</td>
<td>Scabbards and Belts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>148</td>
<td>Flints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>Knapsacks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1814 the Walpole Company assembled for discipline training on April 23, and for inspection training on May 3.\(^{13}\) One man, Daniel Hussey, with documents from the town and his minister attesting he regularly attended Quaker meetings, was recorded as a Quaker. On the 3rd of May, John Wentworth and two other men presented certificates from the town treasurer stating they were of the age of 40 and had paid what the law requires and had sent in their equipment. On the 14th of May the Walpole Company received regimental orders to assemble on the parade grounds to repel any enemy landing and annoy them as best they can. On the 22nd of June they mustered at 6 pm, alarmed the enemy was about to come on the frontiers of Bristol. They received 2-3 days of rations from the town selectmen. On the 30th of June the regimental commander ordered the Walpole Company to go to Gamage Point on the east side of the Damariscotta River to defend against possible invasion. 59 men of the company went to Gamage Point, 8 were absent. The next day the enemy barges were ascertained to have left the Bristol frontier, and the Walpole Company subsequently dispersed.

The British took possession of Eastport on July 11th. On September 1st the British took possession of the fort at Castine, and then took possession of Bangor and Belfast.\(^{5}\) In response, the division commander of the local militia, General William King in Bath, ordered the whole division out into the field in September. One onlooker at the time described the area as being in a great degree of alarm and excitement, with soldiers everywhere moving in different directions.

On the 5th of September, 1814, the Walpole Company was ordered to the tavern of Nathaniel Bryant in Nobleboro where they were to wait for orders, having received provisions for three days.\(^{13}\) At the time of this deployment, John Wentworth was 42 years old, and he and his wife Martha “Patty” Wentworth \(2^K\) had 6 daughters and one son ranging in age from baby Clarissa to 16 year old twins Harriet and Susan.\(^{4}\) Samuel Wentworth was 38, and he and his wife Sarah Wentworth \(2^O\) had 5 daughters ranging in age from 3 year old Abigail to 12 year old Esther. James Wentworth was 36 years old, and he and his wife Susan \(2^S\) had 3
daughters and 2 sons ranging in age from 3 year old Eliza Ann to 10 year old Amy. Susan Wentworth was also 7 months pregnant at the time. John Wentworth 2d was 34 years old, and he and his wife Hannah Wentworth \(^{2\text{v}}\) had 2 sons, 2 month old Arnold, and 4 year old George. John Kelsey had not yet married, and he turned 21 during this company deployment.

The Walpole Company was subsequently sent to the Sheepscot Bridge.\(^{13}\) Afterwards there were numerous detachments for picket guards and detachments to other units. By September 17 there were 22 men absent on duty (duty with other units) in the Walpole Company, and an additional 22 were absent without leave. On September 17 John Wentworth 2d \(^{2\text{v}}\) was “discharged from military duty by reason of the loss of his right eye.” In Captain Richard Hiscock's orderly book, there is no explanation as to how he lost his right eye, it just says beneath that entry: Lot Myrick Surgeon [Lot Myrick was the regimental surgeon from Newcastle]. On September 23 it was recorded that 45 men of the Walpole Company were fit for duty, 12 were absent on duty, and 4 were absent without leave. On this day the company marched back to the Damariscotta River and crossed over on the ferry. They were dismissed at 3 pm. On the 27th of September a detachment of 1 sergeant, 1 drummer, and 16 privates from the Walpole Company were ordered to rendezvous at the Damariscotta toll bridge at 10 a.m. on October 1 where they were to go to Squam Island. John Wentworth was one of the privates chosen. On the list of men chosen for this detachment is a Paul Tomlinson, and next to his name in parentheses it says substitute Henry Hutchings. A Henry Hutchings and a John Wintworth served in Captain J. Winslow’s Company which was raised in Nobleboro, and saw service in Bristol from September 30\textsuperscript{th} to November 15, 1814.

The military season then wound down. Illicit trading sprung up between British forces in the east of Maine and the Americans west of them.\(^{5}\) Poverty, taxes, and want of employment, pressed upon private life.\(^{39}\) Jan 12, 1815 was observed as a national Fast.\(^{39}\) It was February, 1815, before news of the peace treaty between Great Britain and the United States reached this place.\(^{5}\) A meeting was called at the Town House for the exchange of the people’s mutual joys and cheerful congratulations at the news of the wars ending. No record of the meeting has been preserved; but it was held, it is believed, early in March, and was largely attended, several clergymen of the place taking part in the exercises.

Farming in Maine

During the war, life on the farm continued its regular seasonal rhythm: corn and beans planted, vegetables seeded and wheat and rye sown in May; sheep sheared in June; hay mowed in August; wheat threshed in September; corn harvested in October; cows and pigs butchered and salted in December; and logging for firewood and timber on nearby wood lots throughout the winter before the process began anew each year.\(^{16}\) With so many chores to be done, all men, women and children living on the farm were expected to pull their share in ensuring a plentiful crop. Men drove oxen, slaughtered livestock and cut wood for the mills; women preserved and cellared pumpkins, apples and other produce, made soap and candles and milked cows; and children plowed fields, scythed hay (along with hired hands), picked berries and weeded gardens.\(^{16}\)

March 1815 Hugh Paul, James Wentworth, and James Carlisle were among those chosen to be Surveyors of Roads in Bristol.\(^{19}\) Henry H. Little was chosen to be a tything man. Paupers Benjamin Richards & Mrs. Kelsey were left ot the selectmen to provide for--other poor were contracted out to individual citizens.
Clarks Cove resident Captain William Millar married Nancy Blunt 31 July 1815. On Dec.2 Mr. Hugh Little wed Mary Richards both of Bristol. In the September meeting it was voted that the bridge by Capt. Rob Askin's Mill be repaired by the most prudent means; concern for the bridge at Rutherford Island was dismissed. In 1816 James Wintworth and Capt. A Askins were chosen to be on the school committee. Wm Kilse was chosen to be a Tything man in lieu of Sewall Parsons. In 1816 the town voted to abandon its duty to pay for the gospel.

In 1815 the Tambora volcano erupted in Indonesia. Consequently, the spring of 1816 was cold and wet in Bristol, and vegetation unusually backward. As a consequence, the farmers were delayed in their planting; and certain of their crops, as Indian corn, was so backward that an early frost quite destroyed them. It is believed there were some frosts on the low grounds in Bristol every month of the year. On the evening of June 6th (or 8th) snow fell so as to fairly whiten the ground. Maine farms were struck with a killing frost every month of the year, and 1816 was thereafter remembered as “eighteen-hundred-and-froze-to-death.” Although hay yields were reduced, hay was the one crop that was not destroyed in 1816.

In 1816 James Wintworth and Capt. A Askins were chosen to be on the school committee. Wm Kilse was chosen to be a Tything man in lieu of Sewall Parsons. In 1816 the town voted to abandon its duty to pay for the gospel.

Abigail Kelsey nee Wentworth (1) died in 1815 at the age of 77. Her son William Kelsey (2) died 17 June 1816 at the age of 46. He is buried in the Wentworth Cemetery.*24 The gloom spread over the community by the disastrous season of 1816, was in some measure relieved by the warmer summer of 1817, which proved to be the commencement of a series of favorable seasons for Indian corn. With returning harvests and productive seasons, also returned the former activity of business and general prosperity of the country.

March 10, 1817, a John Wintworth and Hugh Paul were among those chosen to be Surveyors of Highway in the Walpole part of Bristol; Samuel Clark was chosen to be a surveyor for Harrington. A Saml Wentworth chosen as Field Driver and Fence Viewer. James Kelsey’s (2D) son Enoch Kelsey died 20 Jan 1817 in the West Indies at the age of 19.

In 1817, the schooner Rising Sun was built in Bristol, ME. The 103 ton vessel was owned by Samuel Wentworth & others; I.G. Stocker was the master. In 1817 Charles Harding was summoned to court on a plea from the trading firm M.S.J. Varney because he bought goods on order that a Samuel Wentworth should pay the bill, but said Wentworth refused to pay the firm.

The 6th article in the May 4, 1818 town warrant was to see if the town would build a work house, and to see what to do about the poor. Benjamin Richards was voted 1 pack of meat per week. Jas. Cunningham went to Jno. Stevens, the Widow Kelsea was left with the overseers. John Fitch, James Wentworth, Hugh Paul, and Samuel Clark were among those chosen to be Surveyors of Roads.

On the 29th of December 1818 Guardian William Page indentured his ward 6 year old Eliza Page to be the servant of Barry G. Pomeroy of Bristol until her 18th birthday. An agreement was drawn up that stipulated what was to be expected of Eliza and what was to be expected of Barry Pomeroy which can be viewed here.

The mark of Alfred Hutchings sheep were entered into the Bristol town records for 1819. Samuel Clark, Hugh Paul, and James Wentworth were among those chosen to be Surveyors of Highways. It is mentioned in the town records that Bristol was in negotiations with Newcastle and Nobleboro about a joint work house for the poor. This year the Widow Kilsea was left to the discretion of the overseers. Tomlinson went to Saml Wentworth at 96 cents per week. Jas. Cunningham also went to Samuel. It was reported in the Eastern Argus, 23 March 1817, 37 year old Captain Moses Kelsey drowned at Savannah.

At the March 13, 1820 town meeting Samuel Clark, Jas Wentworth, and Hugh Paul were among those chosen to be Surveyors of Highway; Samuel Clark also served on the Harrington school committee.

Regarding paupers, Gershom Wentworth (1) was left to the discretion of the selectmen; the Widow Kelsey...
went to Wm Sproul. Early in September, a beautiful comet was observed above the western horizon in the evening; which, as it receded from the sun, increased in splendor and magnificence for weeks and months, and, as it moved northerly, was visible also, mornings, in the N.E.,--a spectacle of rare beauty to some, and of terror and ominous import to others.

Figure 16: A portion of the 1820 U.S. Federal Census of the Wentworth Point and Clarks Cove Road neighborhoods in the Walpole part of Bristol, Me. Jenny Wentworth is most probably Miss Jane Wentworth (2). In that household there are 2 white females of 45 yrs. of age & upwards, so it’s probably head of household 50 yr. old Miss Jane Wentworth (2) and her mother 70 yr. old Mrs. Betsey Wentworth (1). Joshua Wentworth might be Gershom Wentworth (1). Esther Kelsey (2) is head of a household of 10.

Susan Wentworth (3), one of the twins born to John (2) and Martha (2) Wentworth, and a Henry Hutchings (3) had their marriage intentions published on November 28, 1820. The Wentworth Genealogy says they were married. Henry Hutchins (3) died in 1822.

In 1821 James Wentworth was among those accepted by the town to be Surveyor of Highways. As to paupers James Cunningham went to James Sproul to be removed at the discretion of the of the selectmen. The
Widow Kelsea of Pemaquid was bid out to Hugh Paul at 3/- per week. Gershom Wentworth & family were to have 6/- per week.

In 1823 John Bearce bid $550 to keep a list of paupers for one year [pays all expenses, doctor bills, formal charges]. On that list was Gershom Wentworth and family, the widow Kelsea, and a Hannah Wentworth & child. On the night of May 25th, when the moon was a little past the full, during a gale of wind from the N. W., a bright lunar rainbow was observed in Thomaston about midnight by such of the people there as had the good fortune to be out and witness so rare a phenomenon.

The year 1824 began mildly; the George's River in Thomaston did not freeze until Jan. 24, and was open before the end of February. A small comet was seen in the east by many about 3 A. M. on Jan 8th and was still visible in the N.E. on the 23rd at 10 P. M. The temperature in Thomaston on Feb. 5 was 10° below zero; and on the 12th a S. W. gale did considerable damage in that place, unroofing sheds and prostrating fences. On the 5th of March, half grown grasshoppers were picked up in sunny places there and bought in by the pupils of the Mill River School in Thomaston; but a dry and frosty May greatly injured the grass crop. April 5, 1824 Elisha Clark was chosen as one of the Warden & Tything Men in Bristol. James Wentworth and Samuel Clark were among those chosen for Surveyors of Highways.

Gershom Wentworth [1N] died April, 1825, in Searsmont, Maine.

The winter of 1825 was very mild in Thomaston,--the lower Georges River not having frozen over at any time; the summer was very hot and dry. Dysentery in Thomaston, in its most malignant form, extensively prevailed, and carried off upwards of twenty-two children of that town, besides several adults. Grasshoppers were abundant, but the crops, with the exception of potatoes, were tolerably good. In 1825 Samuel Wentworth and Hugh Paul were chosen Surveyors of Highways for Walpole, Samuel Clark was among those chosen for Harrington. It was also voted that the poor be supported in a work house.


On the 31st of January, 1826, the mercury at Mill River in Thomaston stood in the morning at zero, at noon, with a high N. W. wind and bright sunshine, 16° below, and at evening 22° below,--not rising above 5° or 6° below, during the day. Influenza prevailed in February throughout the state with great severity. Three remarkably warm days occurred in May, when, at noon of the 16th, the mercury stood at 98°. In Thomaston the grasshoppers were innumerable, appearing as early as March 15th; and dysentery again swept off many children. Boisterous storms and severe weather occurred in October.

On March 25, 1826, the town voted that the treasurer prosecute all persons in the town of Bristol who sell by retail spirituous liquors without license according to the law. Saml Clark, John Page, James Wentworth, Rufus Curtis, Rob Miller, and James Blunt were among those selected for Surveyors of Highways for Walpole; Hugh Paul was one of the Surveyors of Lumber. Alfred Hutchings, Harrot Fitch, and Thos Kelsea were among those chosen as Fence Viewers, Field Drivers, & Hog Reeves.
Elizabeth Wentworth {1L}, the wife of James Wentworth {1K} who drowned in the river in 1778, died 16 August 1827 being 77 years of age.*24 Mrs. Betsey is buried in the Wentworth Cemetery. Her son John Wentworth {2K} died on the 26th of January 1828, at the age of 55. He is also buried in the Wentworth Cemetery. On John’s tombstone it reads:

   Though by death’s untimely stroke
   The tender ties of earth are broke
   We hope to meet thee in the sky
   And dwell with thee no more to die

James and Susan Wentworth’s {2R} daughter Amy Wentworth {3V} married her second cousin James Kelsey, 11 December 1827, and they had 6 children.4, *18

On the 21 November 1828 Samuel Wentworth {2P} remarried to Huldah Little {2P}.*17 They had three children. Sarah Jane Wentworth was born 12 September 1829. Elbridge Wentworth was born 18 October 1830, and died 10 November 1840. Darius Wentworth {3} was born 12 May 1837.

It is said about this time that Bristol suffered from the great evil of intemperance.5 Therefore when the formation of temperance societies began to be generally advocated in the spring of 1828 it was met locally with great joy, and many resolved to lend their aid to the cause. Meetings were held by the friends of the movement several Sunday evenings at the Mills for the public reading of Dr. Lyman Beecher's sermons on intemperance, then recently published; and at the close of these readings, a meeting was called for the formation of a temperance society. This meeting was held about the last of August in the town-house, and was opened by prayer by the Rev. Enos Baxter. Several addresses were made, and a paper offered with a proper pledge of total abstinence. It received 32 signatures. Among the signatories was a Henry Wentworth.

Henry Wentworth {3J} died on the 1st of January 1830 at the age of 24. Mr. Henry is buried in the Wentworth Cemetery.*24

Among the heads of families around Wentworth Point in the 1830 census is James Wentworth {2R}, Samuel Wentworth {2P}, Martha Wentworth {2K}, Thomas Kelsa {3A}, and Jane Wentworth {2J}. Jane is the only person living in her household.

The haying season of 1830 was extremely wet, rotting hay in the fields.14

Warner states that after 1830 a James Wentworth {2R} bought land from Thomas McClure and built a house in which he and his heirs lived until 1862.3 That is the second house on your left from the Leeman House as you head north on Clark’s Cove Road. There is a land record for an 1830 transaction, but it should be noted that James Wentworth {2R} would have been in his fifties then, and that he and Susan Wentworth {2S} had 8 children between 1804 and 1823, and that he owned property since at least 1798.

June 1st, 1830 a dispute arose between James Wentworth {2R} and neighbor William Page about their respective rights and obligations to maintain a partition fence in the line between their several lands.19 Fence Viewers Jacob W. Paul and Samuel Johnston, in virtue of the statutes in such cases, after having viewed the premises with James and William present, and having duly considered the matter in dispute, assigned the neighbors a portion of the fence each had to build and maintain beginning at the town road and ending at the Meadow Brook.

Mary Ann Wentworth, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Wentworth {2O} married her cousin Abiel Wentworth {3W}, son of James & Susan Wentworth {2R}, 10 May 1830, and they had 8 kids.
Catherine Wentworth {3M} married a Gilman John Merrill {3N}, a stonemason from Salem, N. H. He is one of 5 children born to John Merrill and Sally Merrill in Salem. He was born 20 November 1808. Gilman and Catherine Wentworth {3} resided in Salem, New Hampshire and they had 6 kids. The Wentworth Genealogy has them marrying and living in Methuen, Mass., but it is believed they did not live in Methuen until the time of the Civil War. They had a daughter named Martha J. Merrill {4K} born about 1834. They had a son named Henry W. Merrill {4L} born about 1836. They had a daughter named Sarah Merrill {4M} born in 1837. They had a daughter named Susan Merrill {4N} born around 1841. They had a son named John Merrill {4P} born in 1842; and they had a daughter named Harriet A. Merrill {4Q} born in 1848.

Among the articles to be voted on in a Bristol town meeting of 1832 was a road to Fitches Ferry [Fitch Point] and to choose a health committee. James Wentworth was among those chosen for Surveyor of Highways. 21 January, 1833, Aaron Blaney wrote in his day book, “Tho Hutchings has my ox on a walk this day.” Thomas Hutchings had done work for the merchant in the past, and as Justice of the Peace Mr. Blaney had married a couple of his daughters, one daughter was married at the home of Thomas Hutchings. In April 1833 James Wentworth was chosen a Surveyor of Lumber and a Surveyor of Highways for the town. October 7, 1834 Samuel Wentworth and Hannah Kelsea published their marriage intentions. They were married 2 Jan 1835. In 1835 among the Surveyors of Road chosen for that year were James Wentworth, Joseph Richards, Jacob W Paul. James Wentworth and Hugh Paul were chosen Surveyors of Lumber. Among the Fence Viewers and Field Drivers selected were Arnold Blaney, James Curtis, Enos B. Richards, and Saml Wentworth Jr. Henry Erskine was voted the town agent to attend law suits and pursue all cases of bastardy now pending.

In the October warrant in 1835 it was voted that $15 in cash be raised & expended on the road leading from Goudy's Mill to Samuel Wentworths.

1835 *14

Most hay grown in Maine was used for home consumption, with any excess being sent to market. The greater part of a farmer’s hay was fed to his own animals to produce food for his family, manure for the fields, and a marketable commodity that could be transported on the hoof. In 1835 Bristol farmers, the Chamberlain family, were forced to put 4-6 quarts of salt on every load of hay because the hay season was so rainy that the hay would not dry properly. The spring of 1839 was cold. One local farmer remarked at the beginning of June, “grass grows very slow and cattle are almost in the last stages of starvation.” The cattle had to eat straw, and the oxen had to be “baited” to force them to work in the fields. Locally, the 1840s produced several years of below-average hay yields. In 1841 the grass grew well in the spring, but it was cut off by a drought in June and July. In 1842 the hay crop was reduced by winterkill and a dry early spring. The farmer and his livestock were at the mercy of the fluctuating climate and its accompanying dramatic variations of in yields.

July 24, 1836 Mr. James Wentworth 2d and Ms. Mary Little, both of Bristol, declared their marriage intentions. In 1836 Abiel and James Wentworth are among those selected to be Surveyors of Highway in Bristol. Benjamin Richards, Samuel Wentworth, and Willard Richards are among those selected to be Field Drivers, Fence Viewers, and Hog Reaves. In 1838 Alfred Hutchings and Harrt Fitch were among those voted to be Surveyors of Highways for Walpole. John Goudy and Sam Clark are among those voted to be Surveyor of Highways for Pemaquid. Hugh Paul is again a Surveyor of Lumber.

In 1829 the schooner Increase was built in Bristol. It was 110 tons and measured 76.3’ by 21.7’ by 7.5’. In 1839 local ship Captain Isaac Carlisle was master of the Increase. He owned the farm at the top of the big hill on the south side of Clarks Cove Rd. opposite the present town hall of South Bristol, which he inherited.
from his parents, James Carlisle and Betty Goudy Carlisle.\textsuperscript{17} In 1839 the owners of the *Increase* were Samuel Clark, James Wentworth, & others.

James Wentworth {3\textsuperscript{X}} married Parmelia Foster 19 January 1840.\textsuperscript{4} They resided in Bristol, and they had 4 kids.

On the 1840 census James Wentworth {2\textsuperscript{R}} and Samuel Wentworth {2\textsuperscript{P}} are listed as occupied with agriculture. No occupation is listed for the households of Martha Wentworth {2\textsuperscript{K}} and Jane Wentworth. Thomas Kelsey {3\textsuperscript{A}} and Samuel Kelsey {3\textsuperscript{C}} are occupied with agriculture too; they are living northwards on the Damariscotta Rd.
Notes

This is a third and final edition of a Wentworth Point History Bulletin. It was edited, put into chapter form, and reissued in 2017.

There are Wentworths and Kelseys in the records for which no connection to these Wentworths and Kelseys has been discovered by the author.

Some historical material in the history chapters and the history supplements has been unintentionally or deliberately reproduced and/or duplicated in different chapters or supplements as a means of connecting the material. Revisiting source material may yield additional useful material that the author did not recognize earlier.

* (#) after a name denotes the generation in the Wentworth Point Family Tree, as indicated horizontally at the bottom of the page. (#S) The superscript denotes the location of a person in that generation, as indicated vertically on the left side of the tree.

*1 This court case and other Bristol documents now reside at the Boston College University Libraries Special Collections Online: The Robert E. Brooker III Collection of American Legal and Land Use Documents, 1716-1930
Accessed 13 Oct 2017. Special thanks to Alison Lee for alerting author to online documents.

*2 Mary was thought to be at Wentworth Point Cemetery according to the 1992 Brown list, however there is no known grave marker for Mary Kelsey {41}.

*3 Brown’s 1992 list of people buried in the Wentworth Point Cemetery includes Henry Hutchins. No other source states he was buried here; it is thought by the author that the Browns are may be in error.

*4 Those records and some of the preceding paragraphs containing information about the petitions are bits and fragments of a story or part of a story that can presently only be filled in by the imagination.

*5 Courtesy of the Massachusetts Archives. Hannah De Paoli, Reference Intern.

*6 Note here the dates of birth and marriage. It is unknown if this is an incorrect record or not.

*7 More about Mahala and Dexter Waterman at these links:
   Mahala Wentworth _ Wentworth Genealogy
   Dexter Waterman _ The Waterman Family

*8 In 1746 when John Kent received one of the earliest deeds to 2 parcels of land at Clark’s Cove from the “Proprietors of the Pemaquid Patent” one parcel of 90½ acres is identified as the tract “where John Orr formerly possessed and lived,” suggesting Orr was a squatter being dispossessed by the Proprietors. An Orr, possibly a John Orr’s signature, appears on a 1742 petition to King George from Fort Frederick for a gospel minister, a couple names away from a John and William Kent.

*9 At this point there are at least two Hannah Kelseys. Hannah Kelsey (b1801), the niece that William Kelsey {2F} became a guardian to, and William Kelsey’s own daughter Hannah Kelsey (b 1800). As these large families begin to grow it can be difficult to tell people apart in the record with the same first and last names.

*10 John Killsa would probably be the son of James Kelsey {2D}, who became a ward of his Uncle William Kelsey {2F} when his father died in 1809. In that case he would be a first cousin once removed, while John Wintworth 2d {2V} is simply a first cousin.

*11 Spelling of names in the records varies. Variant names are used interchangeably.

*12 Winter weather could be significant for hay production. Grass was frequently winterkilled due to inadequate snow cover, which allowed grass roots to be damaged. Also during this period haying was almost exclusively done by manual labor, prolonging the haying season and allowing more opportunity for weather damage.

*13 Up into the 19th century, parents could usually count on one third of their children not surviving.
There is a curious entry in the town records that says on August 10, 1835 a Mr. James Plummer and a Mrs. Martha Wentworth published their marriage intentions. No other record corroborates any marriage between James and Martha.

This would be a son of Gershom Wentworth {1N} born 14 May, 1782. The Wentworth genealogy states they were married in 1841, but they did not have any children.

It’s not clear who is this Hannah Wentworth. Gershom Wentworth {1N} did have a daughter named Hannah. The only thing the Wentworth Genealogy says about her is she married and had 3 children.

The town and vital records state they declared their marriage intentions in 1830 and they were married in 1831.

The Maidstone hovered about the coast for a few weeks after this affair. She then returned to England, where the captain was court-martialed and discharged from the service “for making an attack upon Bristol without orders.”

Because the smoke obscured the engagement, the people on shore had decided that they would be able to tell who won by the course the vessels would take after the battle. If the American vessel should win they would go towards Portland; if the British, towards Halifax.

Robert Huston was a member of the town’s board of selectmen from 1799-1812. He was for many years a Justice of the Peace and was familiarly known as “Squire Huston.” Capt Rob Arskin’s land abutted the land of James Wentworth as you can see in Figure 9.

It’s not clear how Robert Kelsey or Moses Kelsey are related to the other members of the family.

This Thomas Hutchings was the father of Thomas Hutchings {3D}.

The sentence has been highlighted to give emphasis that this person is buried in the Wentworth Cemetery. The color indicates their surname.

The northern boundary of the Harrington/Pemaquid parish ran in an east to west line from New Harbor to Wears Cove (Lowes Cove). Thus those north of Wears Cove were in the Walpole parish and those south of Wears Cove were in the Harrington/Pemaquid parish.

This is the first time Gershom Wentworth and members of his family show up as paupers in the town records. It is not clear who the Widow Kelsey is.

The author here makes the assumption that William Wentworth may in fact be James Wentworth {2R}. The author has not seen any record with a middle name for James Wentworth {2R}. However not too infrequently a child would take or be assigned their mother’s maiden name as a middle name, and it was not too infrequently that a person would use their middle name in the stead of their first name. James’s mother’s maiden name is Williams. Further, his son James Wentworth {3S} has been referred to in the town records as JW Wentworth {3S}. The author is speculating, but believes these two Kelsey children were placed in the care of James Wentworth {2R}. Further, one of the wards awarded to William Wentworth, James Kelsey {3W} would go on to marry Amy Wentworth {3V}, the daughter of James and Susan Wentworth {2R}. After James Wentworth {2R} and Amy Wentworth {3V} both died in the 1840s, in 1850 James Kelsey {3W} and his children are living in widower Susan Wentworth’s {2S} house with Susan’s daughter and her daughter’s child. It is here noted that Susan’s maiden name is also Williams. James Wentworth’s {2R} had a son Abial {3W} who had a son named William born in 1841.

The book The Probate records of Lincoln County, Maine, 1760 to 1800 mistakenly list these children under James Kelsey’s brother John Kelsey.

The other two children of James Kelsey, are from his first wife Olive, Lydia Kelsey [3 yrs. of age at the time of this probate record date], and from his second wife Mary Kelsey, Hugh Kelsey [an infant]. The author speculates that these two children may have been placed with James’s second wife Mary Kelsey of Thomaston, where they may have been subsequently raised.

The author is making a speculation.
You can read about the Warren Kelsey and his family at the HathiTrust Digital Library. Note Pelletreau is in error—Warren Kelsey is the son of William and Esther Kelsey, not James and Esther Kelsey.

Sources


42. Lincoln County Probate Records. Wiscasset, Maine.

43. Patterson, William. *The Probate records of Lincoln County, Maine, 1760 to 1800.*