The Families of Wentworth Point (1840s-1850s)

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By 1840, almost all the trees along the shore of the Damariscotta River had been cut down.\textsuperscript{17}

6 April 1840 the town of Bristol met at the school house at District # 4.\textsuperscript{7} The town voted Arnold Blaney to be the town librarian, and to conduct the library according to the best of his judgement. and noted townsman Arnold Blaney were selected for the fish committee. Alewife fishing privileges in the Pemaquid River were sold to Gustavus Miller for $28.50. Orren Paul and James Wentworth Jr. \{3\} were chosen for field drivers and fence viewers.\textsuperscript{7} The 4th article in a Sept. warrant was to see what method the town will take to repair the Goudy Bridge so-called [?Clarks Cove]. This article was adjourned and later left to the selectmen to do what they think best.

James & Pamela Foster declared their marriage intentions Aug 8, 1840.\textsuperscript{7}

In the 1840s William Kelsey’s \{2\} son and Thomas Kelsey’s \{3\} brother Samuel \{3\}, a well-known shipbuilder, built the house that is now the Wawenock GolfClub.\textsuperscript{13} His son William T. Kelsey later becomes overseer of the poor for the town of Bristol in 1873.\textsuperscript{9} Later on William T. Kelsey used to drive the mail with horse and buggy from South Bristol to Damariscotta. More about Samuel Kelsey, William T. Kelsey, and that side of the family can be read in the book \textit{Down on the Island, Up on the Main: A Recollected History of South Bristol, Maine}.

William N. Miller was chosen a traverse juror to attend the district court in Topsham 14 August 1841.\textsuperscript{7} October 9, 1841 the town voted the selectmen be instructed to support James Kelsa at the insane hospital at the charge of the town from the times he last went there until otherwise ordered by the town.*\textsuperscript{13} Article # 3 voted to grant people out of state permits for the taking of lobsters & to prosecute violators.\textsuperscript{7} The 4th article voted that the request of Benj Alley and Benj Bennett be granted, and that they be set off from School District no.15 or the Sam Clark district so-called and annexed to School District no.3 or the Parsons District so-called.

Elizabeth Wentworth \{1\}, Mrs. Betsey, had died intestate in 1827.* In 1841 her son Samuel Wentworth \{2\} wishing to possess his portion of her real estate petitioned the Lincoln County Probate Court to divide her land among her heirs. The land was called Beach Point and was bounded northerly by land in possession of Martha Winthrop [sic], westerly by the Damariscotta River, and southerly and easterly by Wear Cove containing 50 acres more or less with the buildings thereon standing.

On September 27, 1841, with no person appearing to object Probate Judge Groton ordered the prayer granted and that William McLintock, Benj Alley, and James Curtis be appointed commissioners to divide the estate among the heirs. The heirs were Jane Wentworth \{2\}, the heirs of John Wentworth \{2\}, Esther Kelsey \{2\}, Samuel Wentworth \{2\}, and James Wentworth \{2\}. James, Samuel, and Jane Wentworth \{2\} were present when the real estate was appraised. The land was redescribed as bounded by the heirs of John Wentworth in the north, westerly by the Damariscotta River, and southerly and easterly by the waters of Ware Cove and land of Benjamin Alley containing 52 acres and 99 rods. It was appraised at $400.

The property line between the heirs of John Wentworth and the heirs of Betsey Wentworth started at a birch tree on the Damariscotta River and ran ESE until at the NE corner of the cove it ran into neighbor Benjamin Alley’s property line. Starting at the river Samuel was allotted 12 acres and 130 square rods (0.8125 acres). Allotted to Jane were 10 acres and 32 square rods (0.2 acres) with all the buildings on the same viz one dwelling House and Barn and all on the same. Allotted to Esther were 9 acres and 112 square rods (0.7 acres).
Allotted to James were 9 acres and 103 square rods (0.64375 acres). Allotted to the heirs of John Wentworth were 10 acres and 42 rods (0.2625 acres).

Mr. John Wentworth (3\textsuperscript{T}) & Miss Betsey Kelsa, both of Bristol published their marriage intentions 4 March 1842.\textsuperscript{7} They were married 24 March 1842 by Justice of the Peace Thomas Thompson in Bristol. The expenses to support James Kelsea amounted to $77.05 by March 2, 1842.\textsuperscript{13} That year the town voted the poor in the poor house including Benjamin Wentworth be bid out, which they were subsequently to Edmund Mears except James Kelsa, who was left in the hands of the overseers [selectmen].\textsuperscript{14}

The winter of 1843 was divided between mild weather and violent storms, bare ground and deep snows.\textsuperscript{23} In Thomaston the snow was above road fences, and remained until late spring. The unusual quantity of snow, together with the sublime spectacle presented in the heavens by a comet which was at first, Feb. 28th, visible at noonday near the sun, and whose train continued to adorn the evening sky through most of March, rendered this a memorable season.\textsuperscript{23} The hay crop was good that year. In July, 1843, a severe influenza, named the *Tyler Grip* pervaded this community and indeed a greater part of the union.

James Wentworth Jr., Alfred Hutchings, Enos B. Richards, and Enos B. Jones were among those chosen for Highway Surveyors in 1844.\textsuperscript{7} The collection of Walpole taxes was sold to Harrot Fitch for 3 %; James Wentworth Jr. was one of the four men that offered as bondsmen. In 1844 Captain John Fountain proposed he
and another man go to Augusta & bring James Kellsa back to be kept with the Bristol poor. The supposed bill to the insane hospital was said to be $130. A contract for that expense and the discharge of that duty between the townspeople and the principal John Fountain, with his Sureties Oakman Ford and James Perkins can be found here at Boston College’s Special Collection Online. For October 7, 1844 there is a record of a fence dispute between Clarks Cove Road residents Thomas Page and Willard Richards. Harrot Fitch and William Page were the Fence Viewers to resolve the dispute. The previous month there had been a dispute between the Wentworths.

**Fence Viewers**

“Good fences make good neighbors,” goes an old New England saying. So firmly convinced of this were the early settlers that they chose Fence Viewers to make sure good neighborliness did not suffer from neglect... The Fence Viewer was an arbiter of disputes, simply a court of original jurisdiction to establish each man’s obligation to maintaining a joint fence. Their function was to settle a dispute before it got to the lawing stage.1

The origin of the position of Fence Viewer in the towns of Massachusetts can be dated to the 1600s when the Massachusetts Bay colonial government recognized that corn crops had to be protected from cattle by good fences. Back then each town was dependent on raising most of its own food for survival. There was an overriding public interest in maintaining separation between domestic animals and cropland. Successes in raising both were required for community survival. Erecting and maintaining fences between them helped to ensure survival and it was deemed reasonable that all parties share in the cost. If they could not agree, Fence Viewers were authorized to arrive at solutions that would be enforced by the courts.2

Minor town jobs in New England, such as the position of fence-viewer, were filled by yeoman farmers.3 They sometimes regularly made rounds of the town’s fences, and usually wore the uniform of a town official, a plug hat and a frock coat.4 Under common law a Fence Viewer who is related, within the fourth degree, to one of the parties is disqualified to act. Thus, appointment of more than one fence viewer in a town appears to be a basic precaution against avoidable disputes over decisions.

An old farmer’s rule of thumb is that a good fence must be “horse high, hog tight and bull strong.” Massachusetts’s law was specific about what constitutes a good fence, but Fence Viewers were given some discretion in the matter. Fences four feet high, in good repair, constructed of rails, timber, boards, iron or stone, and brooks, rivers, ponds, creeks, ditches and hedges, or other things that the Fence Viewers consider equivalent, are deemed legal and sufficient fences.2
On the fourteenth day of September A.D. 1844 Bristol Fence Viewers decided on a matter between Samuel Wentworth and Martha Wentworth. It reads as follows: Whereas Samuel Wentworth did represent to us Fence viewers of said town that he was desirous of improving in [?severatly], a certain parcel of land being the homestead of said Wentworth which has [?hith] onto been improved in common with a certain piece of land owned and occupied by Martha Wentworth and to have a partition fence between the said lands and the said Martha Wentworth has refused to divide the line where the fence ought to be built and did request us to divide and assign the same in the manner by law provided [?netherefore] having given due notice to the said parties have divided once assigned and also hereby divide and [?ecs?] --- sign said line as follows to wit --- The said Samuel Wentworth shall build and maintain a fence on the line running from Damariscotta River including water fence easterly on said line to stake and stones it being about 10 rods ---
And the said Martha Wentworth shall build and maintain a fence on the other part of said line [vis] from the last mentioned bounds to a stake & stones nineteen rods --- And the said Samuel Wentworth shall further build and maintain a fence from the last mentioned bounds to a stake and stones eight & half rods --- And said Martha Shall build and maintain a fence from the last mentioned bounds to a stake and stones seventeen & half rods --- And Samuel Wentworth shall build and maintain a fence from thence nine rods to James Wentworths Northwest corner bounds --- And we hereby do assign the space of thirty days from the date hereof for making up the fences as aforesaid whereof the several parties aforesaid are to take notice --- given under our hands this fourteenth day of September A.D. 1844

Harrot Fitch, Howland Hatch Jr. Fence Viewers

Recorded September 21, 1844 by Peaslee M. Wells Town Clerk

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James Wentworth [2R] died on 13 February 1845. On May 12, 1845 Judge of Probate [?Nathe] Gordon appointed a committee to appraise on oath all the Real and Personal Estate of James Wentworth [2]. They were a Justice of the Peace Peaslee M Wells, and neighbors Alfred Hutchings and Benjamin Alley. They were to make return of the warrant with all of their doings thereon to the administratrix (Susan Wentworth) of said deceased as soon as may be. What follows is a list of James Wentworth’s earthly belongings and their appraised value:

### Real Estate

- The homestead or farm on which the said deceased lived containing about 100 acres.  
  1100.00
- One other piece of land situate in Bristol containing about ten acres being the said deceaseds share in his fathers estate [That share of family property he received in 1841].  
  80.00

**Total:**  
$1180.00

### Personal Property

- 4 Cords of hard wood $10. 8[?m] Shingles $lb  
  26.00
Lot of ash & oak boards 3.00 .about 2[?m] Pine [?] boards $12  
3 hund feet [?H] Joist $200 1 shovel .25  
1 manure fork 50 2 chains 2.00  
1 Sett Cart Irons body [?inafts] & rack  
1 Plough 2.50 1 Harrow 200  
1 pair chaise wheels & carriage  
1 ox sled 200 1 Crowbar 75 1 Grindstone 200  
1 Scythe & Snaith 1.00 1 hand saw 50  
1 fine saw 50 3 Planes 200  
8 mould Planes 150 2 chisels 50  
1 [?pr] Compasess 6 1 adze 75 1 maul 25  
1 Shave 13 1 Bit Stock 12 2 augurs 34  
1 narrow axe 1.00 1 Horse Saddle & bridle 30.00  
1 yoke of oxen 55.00 3 Cows 54.00 1 yearlin 3.00  
1 Two year old 8.00 6 sheep & 2 lambs 1400  
2 Swine 5.00 1 Yoke ring & Staple 1.00  
1 Clock & case 300 2 tables 75 25 100  
2 Stands 50 _ 12 62 6 chairs 200  
10 old chairs 1.67 1 Rocking chair 50  
3 Looking glasses 50 25 6 81 6 Pictures & Frames 36  
1 [?pr] andirons 50 1 Sett crockery 150  
6 Blue plates 50 1 Show glass 25  
1 Pitcher 17 1 [?pr] Lamps 50 2 brass candlesticks 25  
1 Bed bedding & bedstead 10.00 1 D° D° D° 6.00  
6 Sheets 150 2 quilts 200 4 Blanketts 500  
6 Pillow cases 50 3 table cloths 75  
3 Towells 36 3 window curtains 24  
3 Chests 1.00 .25 .25 _ 150 1 Loom & apparatus 200  
1 Gun 25 1 Large wheel 50 1 shovel & tongs 25  
2 Flat Irons 17 1 Tin [?lamp] 8 1 Kettle 17  
1 Tea Kettle 17 1 Pot 12  
Lot of old crockery 25 Tin ware 1.00  
1 Water pail 17  

$287.76

The ten acre tract of land was bounded on the north by land of Martha Wentworth, on the west by Damariscotta River, on the South by land of heirs of John Wentworth & on the East by Ware Cove so called.*5 Susanna Wentworth petitioned the court to be able to sell this tract of land to Samuel Wentworth for $100 in order to pay off the debts. A hearing was held on Susanna’s petition at the Probate Court on December 1 1845, and it was ordered that the heirs at law be given notice by posting the order of the hearing and the petition in the
town of Bristol at least 14 days before the hearing, which was done by James Wentworth. At the hearing Susanna Wentworth was empowered & licensed to sell the tract.

In April 1845 a description of a private road was entered into the Bristol Town Records. It reads as follows: Discription of a road Pursuant to the annexed petition of [Samuel] Wentworth and others for a private road. We the undersigned after having viewed the road laid out a private road on the following courses and distances viz beginning at said Wentworth’s barn thence running north 24 degrees East 60 rods to Martha Wentworth land thence north 78 degrees East 26 rods to stake thence East 16 degrees South 7 rods to a stake thence 8 degrees North 14 rods to Alfred Hutchings line thence east 17 degrees south by said Hutchings land 39 rods to Town road said road or private way to be one and half rods and to be on the East and the South of said course.

Table: Description of a road

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Signatures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bristol March (?1), 1845</td>
<td>[Thl L] Greenlaw</td>
<td>Selectmen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 14, 1845</td>
<td>Willm Hanley</td>
<td>of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(?copy)</td>
<td>David Plummer</td>
<td>Bristol</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

James Erskine Town Clerk

Figure 4: A description of a road in the town records of Bristol, Maine [Ira Darling Rd.?] (Source: Bristol Town Records).
Figure 5: Receipt from the Insane Hospital at Augusta to the Town of Bristol for payment for the keeping of James Kelsey.\textsuperscript{18} (Courtesy of Boston College Libraries)\textsuperscript{16}

Figure 6: A receipt of payment from the town of Bristol to Wentworth Point neighbor Benjn Alley for nursing and boarding a Wm. Collins.\textsuperscript{19}
In 1845 the town voted the treasurer was to be the librarian [Yeah for libraries]. In 1845 the Overseers of the Poor & Poor House of the Town of Bristol received the following persons paupers of said town, Samuel Wentworth, and Benjamin Wentworth, and household property listed in this receipt signed by the Poor House Keeper Edmund Mears.

In April, 1846 it was reported upwards of 40 vessels, some of them large ships, are now building on the Damariscotta River. An article in the Sept. 1847 town warrant put to vote to see if the town will accept the bridge lately built across the stream near Capt. Millers. 19 March 1848 Ms Mary A Hutchings, who grew up in the Leeman House, married future Bristol animal pound keeper James H. Little. In 1848 Benjamin Alley was paid $49.75 for keeping the poor that winter season, though they were bid off to him the previous year. In 1848 Thomas Kelsey bought a house at Clark’s Cove for $500 from Thomas McGuire. On the 1849 tax rolls up on the town road (Route 129) above the Split Rock Rd. are A&O Paul who have a ½ interest in a mill; local townsman Jacob Paul also has a half interest in a mill. Abiel Wentworth (3W) is being taxed for a 14 ton vessel/s, a couple of colts, 2 oxen, 3 cows, 10 sheep, and 1 pig. His brother James (3W) is being taxed for one horse, 2 oxen, 6 cows, 7 sheep, and one pig. Their cousin sailor Samuel Wentworth (3S) is being taxed for 2 oxen, and 5 cows.

On the Clarks Cove Rd. in the 1849 Bristol tax rolls the James Wentworth (2W) heirs have a house, 2 barns, 90 acres, 2 oxen, 4 cows, 12 sheep, and 1 swine; James’s grandson Cyrus Kelsey (4T) has 1 cow and 1 horse, but no real estate. Neighbor John Page 2d has a house, a barn, 85 acres, 1 horse, 2 oxen, 5 cows, and 10 sheep. Alfred Hutchings has a house, a barn, 71 acres, 2 oxen, 1 cow, 10 sheep, and 1 swine; his son and namesake has a colt, but no real estate. Lorenzo Feltis has a house, no barn, and 2 acres. He has no livestock. Martha Wentworth has a house, a barn, 35 acres, 5 cows, and 6 sheep; she has no oxen. Samuel Wentworth (2W) has a house, a barn, 30 acres, 2 oxen, 4 cows, 8 sheep, and one pig. Benj Alley has a house, a barn, 75 acres, 1 horse, 1 colt, 2 oxen, 2 cows, and 12 sheep. At McGuire Point sailor William C. Thompson is being taxed for 1 house, 1 barn, 45 acres, but he only has one cow for livestock. At Clarks Cove Thomas Kelsey is being taxed for 1 house, 1 barn, 64 acres, 2 oxen, 3 cows, 8 sheep, and 1 pig.

On March 24, 1849 it was voted that the Bristol collectors of taxes act as constables for the ensuing year. The position of tax collector was to go the lowest bidder. At that town meeting James Wentworth (3W) successfully bid for the position at 3%, that is he is to be paid 3% of the taxes that he collects. He offered the names of Benjamin Alley and Benjamin Ford as his bondsmen, and they were accepted by the town. He took the required oath on November 14th, 1849. It was administered by the town clerk Howland Hatch. On March 23, 1850 he successfully bid for the position of tax collector at 2¼ %.

1850 finds Bristol natives 30 year old John Wintworth (3T) and Betsey Wintworth nee Kelsey living in Searsmont, Maine. Living with them is their 7 year old son Nathaniel Wintworth (4T), 5 year old son Thomas K. Wintworth, 4 year old son Jonathan M. Wintworth (4T), and 1 year old daughter Rosannah Wintworth.

Some families stay for generations, and some neighbors come and go at the Clarks Cove Rd. neighborhoods. 24 year old Joshua Sherman is living in Boothbay in 1840. He is on the Bristol tax roll in 1849. He is only being taxed for 1 cow. In 1850 shoemaker Joshua and his wife Catharine are living with their 3 kids, his 73 year old mother in law Judith L. Webber, and a sailor named Samuel Priest, on the Clarks Cove Rd. in Bristol. He has for neighbors Martha Wentworth (2W) and Sylvanus Lowe. 1860 finds the shoemaker and his family living in North Boothbay. 1870 finds the family living in Hodgdon Mills in East Boothbay; Joshua is now a ship carpenter.

On April 26, 1850 marriage intentions were recorded in the Bristol Town Records for 56 year old Mr. Thomas Hutchings and 48 year old Miss Elizabeth Wentworth (3S). They were married on June 22, 1850. This was farmer Thomas’s second marriage. Living with Thomas and Betsey Hutchings (3S) in 1850 are 8 other people ranging in age from
6 year old Mary E Hutchings to 29 year old William Hutchings. They are living on the east side of the Damariscotta Road (Rt. 129) north of Fitch Point and south of Wiley Point.

The 1850 census finds James and Susan Wentworth’s (2\textsuperscript{nd}) son Abiel Wentworth (3\textsuperscript{w}) farming up on the Damariscotta Road (Rt. 129) just south of Fitch Point. He married his cousin Mary Ann Wentworth in 1831, the daughter of Samuel Wentworth (2\textsuperscript{nd}). They had 8 kids in 1850. His brother James Wentworth Jr. (3\textsuperscript{i}) can be found farming on the Bristol Road (Rt. 130) about a mile or so south of Bristol Mills. James Wentworth married Parmelia Foster in 1840. At 1850 they have 4 kids. Laura A. Wentworth was born Christmas Day, 1841. She died Christmas Eve in 1854. Susan Augusta was born 8 April, 1844. Everett Atwood (4\textsuperscript{i}) was born 8 September 1845. Harriet Ann was born 3 December 1847. She married a George W. David of Damariscotta in 1872. Pamela (Parmelia) died 30 July 1856. On 1 January 1857 James remarried to Margaret Sherman. On the 1857 map he is neighbors with his brother Abiel (3\textsuperscript{w}) and his cousin Samuel (3\textsuperscript{s}).

In 1850 Samuel Wentworth’s (2\textsuperscript{nd}) son sailor Samuel Wentworth (3\textsuperscript{rd}) is living a few doors down from his cousin Abiel on the Damariscotta Road (Rt. 129). He married Hannah Kelsey in 1835. She was the other child that William Kelsey (2\textsuperscript{nd}) had become a guardian unto in 1809, and in 1850 Samuel & Hannah had 2 kids. Olive K. Wentworth was born in 1835. Enoch Wentworth (4\textsuperscript{th}) was born in 1836.

At Wentworth Point the 1850 census lists the occupants of 70 year old widower Martha Wentworth’s (2\textsuperscript{nd}) dwelling house. They are her daughter 31 year old Almira Wentworth (3\textsuperscript{rd}), her daughter 29 year old Jane Wentworth (3\textsuperscript{rd}), and her granddaughter 13 year old Sarah A Merrill (4\textsuperscript{th}). On the 19\textsuperscript{th} of October, 1853 16 year old Sarah Merrill (4\textsuperscript{th}) died. She is buried in the Wentworth Cemetery.

In 1850 72 year old Samuel Wentworth (2\textsuperscript{nd}) is listed as a farmer. In his dwelling house is his second wife 56 year old Huldah and their two kids, 20 year old Sarah Jane Wentworth and 13 year old Darius Wentworth (3\textsuperscript{rd}), and a 25 year old sailor named Lorenzo Feltus. Samuel and Huldah also had a son Elbridge who was born on 18 October 1830 and died on 10 November 1840. Lorenza Feltis and neighbor Arrena M Hutchings announced their marriage intentions 1 Jan 1851.

In another dwelling house here at the point 78 year old Jane Wentworth is living alone. In the dwelling house of nearby neighbor 51 year old farmer Alfred Hutchings is his 51 year old wife Miriam, his 20 year old daughter Arrena M Hutchings, his 18 year old son farmer Alfred Hutchings Jr., his 15 year old daughter Susan L Hutchings, his 11 year old daughter A W Hutchings, and his 8 year old daughter Sarah E Hutchings. Augustine W. Hutchins died 17 Feb. 1853; she was 13 years, 10 months old.\textsuperscript{16} James and Pamella Wentworth’s (3\textsuperscript{rd}) daughter Laura A. Wentworth died 23 Dec. 1854, a 13 year old. She is buried at the Kelsey Cemetery just north of the Wawenock Golf Course.

March 25, 1850 Benjamin Alley was selected a Surveyor of Highways. James Wentworth collected $653.28 in taxes for the town in 1849.\textsuperscript{7} He again successfully bid to be the Walpole tax collector at 2 3/4 %. Alden Paul was again chosen Surveyor of Lumber.

Living in 73 year old widower Susan Wentworth’s (2\textsuperscript{nd}) dwelling house in 1850 is her daughter 38 year old Eliza A. Wentworth (3\textsuperscript{rd}). Living with them is 50 year old farmer James Kelsey (3\textsuperscript{w}). He was the son of James Kelsey (2\textsuperscript{nd}). As was mentioned earlier he was one of the three out of six of James Kelsey’s children who married Wentworths. He married the daughter of James and Susan Wentworth (2\textsuperscript{nd}), his second cousin Amy Wentworth (3\textsuperscript{v}) who died May 28, 1847.\textsuperscript{47} Also living in Susan Wentworth’s (2\textsuperscript{nd}) household was James and Amy Kelsey’s (3\textsuperscript{w}) son 17 year old farmer Cyrus Kelsey (4\textsuperscript{th}), 14 year old son William Kelsey, 12 year old son Henry Kelsey, and 9 year old daughter Mahala Kelsey. James and Amy Kelsey (3\textsuperscript{w}) also had a son James Edwin Kelsey born 22 June 1830 that died 12 September 1840 at the age of 10, and a son named Franklin B. Kelsey born in 1831 that died at the age of twelve. Also living in the Susan Wentworth household in 1850 is 8 year old Sewel Wentworth (4\textsuperscript{i}). There is no birth date in the Vital Records of Old Bristol and

Figure 7: This is an entry in the Bristol town records from 1844 on the same page as that of the decision of the Fence Viewers to assign the building of a fence between the lands of Samuel Wentworth (2) and his sister-in-law Martha Wentworth (2). It is a record of the births of their next door neighbor Alfred & Miriam Hutching’s children. James J. Hutchings died in October, 1849 at the age of 12 of phrenetes.

The agricultural schedule for the 1850 census has James Kelsey (3W) managing a farm of 40 improved acres (cleared and used for grazing, grass, or tillage, or which is now fallow but still connected to the farm) and 50 unimproved acres. The farm was valued at $900 and the farm implements and machinery at $15. He had 4 milch cows, 2 working oxen, and 4 other cattle (all cattle not before enumerated that are one year old or older). He also had 17 sheep and 2 swine. The animals were valued at $251. The farm produced 75 bushels (sometimes estimated) of Indian corn and 4 bushels of oats. The farm also produced 2 bushels of peas and beans, 10 bushels of barley, and 20 bushels of Irish potatoes. It produced $20 worth of orchard produce. In addition it produced 150 pounds of butter and 12 tons of hay. In that year the farm produced $20 of home-made manufactures (from their own production and from raw materials that were not bought). The value of the animals they slaughtered in that period of a year was $[?7_].

The farm of Samuel Wentworth (2P) had 20 improved acres and 5 unimproved acres. The farm was valued at $400 and the farm implements and machinery at $15. Samuel had 2 milch cows, 2 working oxen, and 2 other cattle. The farm also had 6 sheep. The animals were valued at $119. The farm produced 20 bushels of Indian corn and 2 bushels of oats. The farm also produced 4 bushels of peas and beans, 2 bushels of barley, 30 bushels of Irish Potatoes, and 40 pounds of wool. In addition it produced 200 pounds of butter, 16 pounds of cheese, 8 tons of hay, and $5 worth of orchard produce. In that year the farm produced $100 in home-made manufactures. The value of the animals they slaughtered in that period of a year was $[?3_].

Not every farm was included in the schedules. In 1850, for example, small farms that produced less than the $100 worth of products annually were not included. Martha Wentworth (2L) was not included in this agricultural schedule. Over in Clarks Cove Thomas Kelsey (3A) was farming 30 improved acres and had 36 unimproved acres. The farm was valued at $700 and the farm implements and machinery at $25. Thomas had 1 milch cow, 2 working oxen, and 2 other cattle. The farm also had 12 sheep. The animals were valued at $113. The farm produced 9 bushels of wheat, 40 bushels of Indian corn, and 12 bushels of oats. The farm also produced 2 bushels of peas and beans, 10 bushels of barley, and 20 pounds of wool. In addition it produced 100 pounds of butter, and 8 tons of hay. In that year the farm
produced $75 in home-manufactures. No value of the animals they slaughtered in that period of a year was entered on the form.

The farm of neighbor Benjamin Alley had 30 improved acres and had 40 unimproved acres. The farm was valued at $400 and the farm implements and machinery at $25. Benjamin had 1 horse, 2 milch cows, 2 working oxen, and 2 other cattle. The farm also had 12 sheep. The animals were valued at $177. The farm produced 8 bushels of wheat, and 50 bushels of Indian corn. The farm also produced 1 bushel of peas and beans, 8 bushels of Irish potatoes, 11 bushels of barley, and 40 pounds of wool. In addition it produced 200 pounds of butter, $10 worth of orchard produce, and 15 tons of hay. In that year the farm produced $50 in home-manufactures. No value of the animals they slaughtered in that period of a year was entered on the form.

The farm of neighbor Alfred Hutchings had 40 improved acres and had 40 unimproved acres. The farm was valued at $800 and the farm implements and machinery at $40. Alfred had 1 horse, 4 milch cows, 2 working oxen, and 2 other cattle. The farm also had 14 sheep and one swine. The animals were valued at $236. The farm produced 57 bushels of rye, 65 bushels of Indian corn, and 56 bushels of oats. The farm also produced 2 bushels of peas and beans, 15 bushels of Irish potatoes, and 20 pounds of wool. In addition it produced 22 bushels of barley, 100 pounds of butter, 15 tons of hay, and $4 worth of orchard produce. In that year the farm produced $110 in home-manufactures. The value of the animals they slaughtered in that period of a year was $[?]4_].

On the 1850 census among the residents of the Harrat Fitch household is his son carpenter Timothy Fitch, his wife and other children, and various other persons listed as blind, insane, or idiot. Among those residents is a 56 year old Samuel Wentworth who is listed as idiot, and a 53 year old Benjamin Wentworth who is listed as insane. There is no James Kelsey at this poor farm.

On the 25th of November, 1851 Thomas and Esther’s daughter Eliza Jane Kelsey died. She was 11 years and 4 months old, and she is buried in the Wentworth Cemetery. Five days later on November 30, 1851, their son Warren Kelsey died. He was 9 ½ years old, and he too is buried in the Wentworth Cemetery.

1851 the collection of the Walpole part of Bristol were sold to J.W. Wentworth for 3 1/2 %, and he subsequently took the oath to become a constable. Samuel Kelsey and Willard Richards became Surveyor of Highways; Alden Paul was a Surveyor of Lumber; the poor were sold to Timothy Fitch for $8.25. Nov. 23 Samuel Kelsey was drawn for Grand Juror for Supreme Court.

In 1852 both Samuel Kelsey and Alden Paul were selected Surveyors of Lumber. In 1853 Thos Kelsey was selected a Surveyor of Highway; Wm M. Clark was a selected as a Fence Viewer. James Wentworth and Alden Paul were on a list of jurors. It is recorded in the 1853 Bristol town records that there are indoor poor as well as outdoor poor. In 1853 the town voted to transcribe the town records. In that year P.M. Wells, Justice of the Peace, married Cyrus Kelsey and Ms. Julia A. Johnson, on the third of March.

The Massachusetts state census of 1855 finds the twins, 55 year olds Harriet Wentworth and Susan Hutchins living in Boston. Living with them is their 14 year old niece Susan Merrill, the daughter of Katherine Merrill nee Wentworth. Living nearby is 28 year old George H Lovejoy, 26 year old Sarah G Lovejoy, and 5 year old Georgiana Wentworth Lovejoy. Sarah C. Lovejoy nee Wentworth is the twin’s cousin, a daughter of James and Susan Wentworth.

An article in an 1842 Bristol town warrant to hear about the condition of the bridge to Rutherford Island was dismissed. In 1847 another adjourned article in the warrant concerning this bridge was dismissed. Jan 12, 1858 it was recorded $474.77 in repairs were made to the Rutherford Bridge. The town of Bristol drew James Wentworth a grand juror, January 12, 1858.
It was reported in Thomaston that the late summer in 1858 was windy and unpropitious. A severe gale on Sept. 16 did much damage to the fruit trees and other trees there. Donati’s comet, if that were the name of the illustrious visitor was observed there on Sept 13th. Small at first it increased in size and splendor up to October 8; it’s slightly curved train was shaped like a sword. It disappeared quite suddenly on the 18th of October.

The 1860 census finds a 19 year old Susan Merrill living with the Mason family in Methuen, Mass. She is from New Hampshire as was the head of the household, 41 year-old shoemaker Thomas Mason. Susan Merrill is an operative [a worker, especially a skilled one in a manufacturing industry]. Also living with the Mason family is 16 year old operative and Maine native Rose Woodman. The 1860 census also list a 16 year old weaver Rose Woodman living in the household of 46 year old blacksmith Elijah Woodman in Waterville, ME. Also living in that household is his son, 22 year old blacksmith, Elijah M. Woodman.

Martha J. Merrill married a Josiah W. Bodwell from Methuen in 1857. A Gilman Merrill was living at the old George Richardson house in Salem, New Hampshire around 1857. In 1860 he is living with Josiah and Martha Bodwell and his 7 month old grandson Christa. It’s unclear where Catherine Merrill is living in 1860.

By 1860, Maine had come to dominate the national fishing industry. The state had more full-time fishermen than any other. Fishing came to dominate life in coastal Maine at mid-century. The success of Maine’s fishing venture allowed it, in the three decades preceding the Civil War, to achieve a level of national economic importance never seen before or since.

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. Each of these historical tidbits answers some questions and raise some more. Each of them is a jumping off point for further historical research.

* {#} 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} Produce raised from 1 June 1849 to 1 June 1850.
*{2} Here I would hazard a guess and say the Rose Woodman on the Waterville census and the Rose Woodman on the Methuen census are the same person. Perhaps this possible slip-up fortuitously hints at how the future husband and wife, Elijah Woodman and Susan Merrill, first met. While researching this project I read, “The census taker came around once every ten years & often missed people. The tax collector came around every year and seldom missed anyone.” There are problems with the accuracy of the census records and instances of counting people twice. And if both of those Rose Woodman are one and the same, could this dwelling place of the shoemaker be the origin of the future George Woodman’s involvement in the shoe business?

Double counting on a federal census also occurred with Susan’s sister, 13 year old Sarah A Merrill on the 1850 census. She is listed living in Bristol with her grandmother Martha Wentworth and 2 of her aunts, Almira Wentworth and Jane Wentworth. However she is also listed as living with her 5 siblings and her mother and father, Gilman and Catherine Merrill in Salem, N.H. Are these just mistakes or is something going on here? Perhaps
this counting of young Sarah Merrill \(4^\text{M}\) twice in the federal census is just an unintentional record of a visit to her grandmother.

*3 It is worth noting here, to those who are unfamiliar with the area, that Salem, N.H. and Methuen, MA. border each other.

*4 “Tax farmers” were independent contractors who collected taxes in return for a percentage of the take.\(^{11}\)

*5 It is not the same location as that approved by the probate court in 1841.

*6 Wentworth Genealogy and Gravestone indicate she is 48 years old in 1850.\(^{24}\) Census records indicate she is 45.\(^{20}\)

*7 Page 645 of the Wentworth Genealogy states James Kelsey died 28 May, 1847. On page 650 of the genealogy it says his wife Amy nee Wentworth died on 28 May, 1847. Obviously page 645 is incorrect and page 650 is correct.

*8 The count is for the number of animals they possessed on the 1st day of June, 1850.

*9 For further information about poor relief in Maine, and poor relief in Bristol, Maine, see Elizabeth Morrison’s The History Of Poor Relief In Maine.\(^{15}\)

*10 Nathaniel Wentworth stated in a 1905 Bureau of Pensions document that he was born in Pittston, ME.

*11 The Vital Records of Bristol state Jonathan was born in Searsmont, Maine.\(^{16}\)

*12 A Sproul was also listed locally as having a \(\frac{1}{2}\) interest in a mill.

*13 It’s not clear who this James Kelsey may have been. James Kelsea may have been the grandson of James Kelsey \(2^\text{D}\). This James was the son of John Kelsey and Patience Wentworth.\(^{24}\) He was born May 23, 1825, and he died Jan 4, 1849.\(^{16}\) Patience Wentworth is a distant relation to the Bristol Wentworths. On the 1840 census there is a John Kelsey living in Belgrade where the parents of Patience have lived since 1817. Nearby is a Mark Wentworth, and she has a brother named Mark. However no insane people are listed living in the John Kelsey household on the 1840 census. John and Patience had six other children. The 1850 census finds John and Patience Kelsey living in the household of Benj Alley with their 26 year old son Wentworth Steward Kelsey.

*14 It’s not clear who Benjamin Wentworth and this Samuel Wentworth were. Benjamin Wentworth and Samuel Wentworth may have been the youngest sons of Gershom Wentworth \(1^\text{N}\).\(^{24}\) The Wentworth genealogy says they both died single in the 1860s at Searsmont.\(^{24}\) There is also a “Wentworth Corners” in nearby Cushing that was settled by a distant branch of the Wentworth family, a Benjamin Wentworth Sr.

*15 On the 1860 census there are numerous paupers living at the Harrott Fitch household.\(^{20}\) There is one idiotic person, 63 year old Samuel Wentworth; Benjamin Wentworth is not listed.

*16 Special thanks to Alison Lee for notifying the author that these sources (Robert E Brooker III Collection, Boston College Libraries) were now online.

Sources


20. Ancestry.com


