The Thomas & Esther Kelsey Children & Descendants (1850s-2000s)

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**The Thomas & Esther Kelsey**  
**Children & Descendants (1850s - 2000s)**

Thomas & Esther Kelsey (3A) (buried at Wentworth Point Cemetery) had 8 children; 5 of their children reached majority. This chapter is about those children that reached maturity, and the descendants of those children.

**1) GEORGE KELSEY & Descendants**

Thomas and Esther’s son 24 year old George Kelsey (4A) (b. 20 Apr. 1826) is living at home on the 1850 census; he is a carpenter. 34 year old George is living at home in 1860; also living in the household is 20 year old Emeline Gamage. George built a house at Clarks Cove that he and his son Everett Parker Kelsey (5C) occupied until 1953 when it was sold to Ed Myers (the administrative officer of the Darling Marine Center from 1969 to 1974). George Kelsey (4A) married Emeline Gamage (4A) Jan 30, 1863. They had 7 children.

The 1870 census list 44 year old Ship Carpenter George Kelsey (4A) living in a dwelling house with his wife and their four children, and 62 year old farm laborer John Wentworth. In 1880 George is a farmer living with his wife Emeline, and their 7 children.

In 1880 (from June 1879 to June 1880) the George and Emeline Kelsey (4A) farm has 10 acres of tilled land (including fallow and grass in rotation (whether pasture or meadow)). They have 20 acres of permanent pastures, meadows, orchards, vineyards; they have 20 acres of woodland. The land, buildings, and fences of his farm are valued at $500; they have $25 worth of farming implements and machinery; they’re livestock is valued at $75; they’ve spent $30 repairing or building their farm. The estimated value of his farm production is $75. George has mown 10 acres of grassland and produced 10 tons of hay. As of June 4, 1880 they have 2 milch cows, and 2 calves have dropped; the farm has produced 100 pounds of butter. They have 5 sheep; 4 lambs have dropped since June 1879. They have produced 5 fleeces--17 pounds of wool. They have 1 swine on hand; they have 12 chickens which have produced 100 dozen eggs for that year period. In the past year they have produced 30 bushels of Indian Corn from an acre of land; they’ve produced 12 bushels of wheat from a ½ acre of land; they’ve produced 20 bushels of potatoes from an acre of land. The farm has also produced 30 cords of wood valued at $75.

George Kelsey died 25 March 1891 at the age of 64. Emeline died 25 June 1911 at the age of 71. They are both buried at the West Bristol Cemetery.

**Children & Descendants of George & Emeline Kelsey**


Freeman was a fisherman. In *Down on the Island, Up on the Maine* he is described along with others as one of the real lobsterman. Freeman & Emma Kelsey are buried at the Island Cemetery in South Bristol, Maine. Masonic committal services were to be held at Island Cemetery for Freeman.
Figure 1: A 1949 Portland Press Herald news article and photo reporting on Freeman and Emma Kelsey’s 65th Wedding Anniversary and their life together.
**1B) Thomas Webster Kelsey** {5\(^2\)} (born 5 Dec. 1865). Webster Kelsey (1865-1948) married Mabel G. Thompson (1871-1939) of Machias, Me. on Jan. 14, 1888. They had three sons: Ernest Chester Kelsey {6\(^5\)} (1888-1962), Harold Leon Kelsey (1890-1946), and Albert Goody Kelsey (born 1902). 20 yr. old Farmer Ernest C. Kelsey and 17 yr old waitress Flora C. Kelsey filed their marriage intentions 29 August, 1908. On Sunday, September 6, they were married by clergyman Charles F. Beebe in Bristol. 1910 finds the young couple living in Ernest’s father’s home; Ernest is employed doing odd jobs. Also living in the Webster Thomas Kelsey household is 92 year old boarder, Sarah F. Goudy, and Webster Kelsey’s {5\(^8\)} uncle, boarder and brick maker Simon Kelsey {4\(^F\)}. Jorgen Cleeman in describing the end of the brickmaking industry on the Damariscotta River states in his thesis *The Kiln in the Garden: Damariscotta River Brick Making and the Traces of Maine's Agro-Industrial Past:*

By 1904-05, one [brickyard] remained—that of Nathaniel Bryant. This brickyard closed in 1906 or 1907. Although the Newcastle yards had traditionally been the heart of the industry, documentary evidence suggests that a few isolated brickyards continued to produce in other municipalities along the river for several more years. Castner states that the “last yard to burn was Mr. Webster Kelsey in Bristol.” Another source from the 1930s states that Kelsey burned the last kiln “some 20 years ago,” or in the 1910s. Consistent with the agro-industrial brick makers along the Damariscotta who came before him, Kelsey identified himself as a farmer in both the 1910 and the 1920 federal censuses. 16 Brickmaking remains can be found along the southeast side of Lowes Cove.

In 1920, living with Webster and Mabel Kelsey is their 17 year old son Albert, and 76 year old widower and boarder John Wentworth {4\(^U\)}, who is actually a second cousin once removed. 5 Mabel Kelsey died 1939. 22 Widower Thomas is living with his son Albert in 1940; Albert is a caretaker for a summer home and he is also farming. 5 Sadly, 82 year old Webster Kelsey hanged himself in a workshop, at the beginning of September, 1948. 46 Relatives said the aged man was ill last winter and was apparently dreading the approach of another cold season.

Ernest and Flora Kelsey {6\(^C\)} had three sons: Leon P. Kelsey (1909-1909); Thurlow Kelsey {7\(^C\)} (1917-1998); and Kenneth Kelsey {7\(^D\)} (1925-2015). Leon was born March 20\(^{th}\). Leon died the 10\(^{th}\) of September of meningitis. Ernest’s World War I draft registration card is dated 5 June, 1917. 35 It states Ernest, Flora, and young Thurlow are living at 5 Washburn St. in Bath. Ernest is a machinist at Bath Iron Works, and he claims exception from the draft on account his wife and child depend upon him for support.

In 1920 Ernest is employed as a marine engineer at the Bath shipyard, and the family is living at 1303 Washington Street in Bath. 5 They are living there at that address according to the 1919 and 1922 Bath, Maine City Directory. 54 In the 1931 Bath Directory it says Ernest and Flora have removed to Walpole. In 1940 Ernest is a farm operator, and he and Flora are living on the Clarks Cove Rd. Ernest C. Kelsey {6\(^C\)} is described as being of medium height, having a medium build, and he has gray eyes.

Ernest Kelsey passed away 10 March 1962 in South Bristol at the age of 73. 5 Flora Kelsey passed away in Waldoboro 19 April, 1987, at the age of 95. 56
On the 1910 census, Harold L. Kelsey (1890-1946) is a farm laborer. He married Nina B. Hatch in Machias, 25 June 1921. They had a son, Harold Leon Kelsey (1921-1984) born December 23 in Machias, and they had a daughter Mildred E. Kelsey born about 1924. 1930 Harold is a general farmer on Clarks Cove Rd. in Walpole, ME. In 1940 the family is living in Jonesboro. Harold is a pick and shovel laborer on a WPA road project; 18 year old Leon Webster Kelsey is working in a clam factory. Harold Kelsey died 29 April 1946 in Walpole, ME.

Albert Goody Kelsey {6}D married Beatrice V. Fitch 21, May, 1923. They had Phylis E. Kelsey born about 1924, and and they had Harvey Thomas Kelsey (1926-1992). 1930 they are living in South Bristol, and Albert is a laborer on the road. Albert Kelsey may have remarried in 1935 to Alice Thompson; nothing further is known.

Thurlow Burnham Kelsey (7C) (born 16 Dec. 1916)

When Thurlow was 3, he was living in Bath, ME. Thurlow graduated from Lincoln Academy in 1935. In the school yearbook under the heading PECULIARITIES, the peculiarity for Thurlow was ‘Quietest Boy.’ In the 1938 Lincolnian under the heading CLASS OF 1935 it says for Thurlow, “Thurlow Kelsey is at home in Walpole, Maine.” On the 1940 census Thurlow is occupied as a laborer. During the war he was a pipe fitter at the Bath shipyard. On 20 Dec. 1947 Thurlow Kelsey (7C) and Pauline M. McFarland (7D), both of South Bristol, were married.

Figure 2: Thurlow Kelsey. 1978 Darling Marine Center Open House. (Courtesy: David Dean)
Thurlow Kelsey was a janitor, maintenance worker, and night watchman here at the Darling Marine Center from the 1970s to 1993. In 2015 the author of this chapter emailed the Darling Marine Center community to solicit any one’s memories or recollections of Thurlow. What follows are excerpts from those people who responded.49

Figure 3: Thurlow Kelsey (7C) on the right. 1980. Aquaculture Building, Darling Marine Center. (Courtesy of Dr. Bob Steneck)

Thurlow related to Bob Steneck late one night that his family didn’t have a car when he was younger so he’d walked sometimes for days to get places. At night, he’d stop and ask people along the way if he could sleep there. Thurlow said that was common back then. Phil Yund recalls Thurlow had travelled no farther than the local area, and Larry Mayer says Thurlow used to say he’d been all the way to Portland and could assure every one that people were pretty much the same everywhere. Mark Wells states Thurlow never felt the need to stray further, and that Pauline went for her first trip away by air in the 1980s. It was a big thing for both of them.

One night Thurlow described his early life to Lewis Incze, then a graduate student at the DMC. Everything he described was local so he asked Thurlow if he had lived anywhere else. “Oh yes!” Thurlow said with emphasis, a huge twinkle in his watery blue eyes, a sly wrinkle on his lips, and an extra lean on the broom he was using to clean up. “During the war I worked ‘way down to Bath’ at the Iron Works building ships,” Thurlow replied with obvious pride and chuckling as only he could do. Thurlow was a pipe fitter at Bath Iron Works during World War II.
Figure 4: Thurlow and Pauline Kelsey at Adelaide Lane’s retirement party in 1984 in the Kresge Classroom at the DMC.

Figure 5: Thurlow Kelsey. (Darling Marine Center Archives. Louise Dean Library)
Rick Wahle recalls that Thurlow told him he went to the one room school house at the end of Clarks Cove Rd. and as a young man he used to haul lobster traps and fish ground lines in Johns Bay and around Pemaquid Point, all by hand, including the rowing. He told Bob Steneck that he even had a short stint as ‘rum runner’ on the coast of Maine. He also was for a time a superintendent of the apple orchards at Clarks Cove Farm.

Rick Wahle remembers Thurlow as a kind and gentle man always quick with a greeting. Les Watling’s fondest memory of Thurlow was the way he would listen to whatever you had to say, always interjecting a little “ayuh” whenever you paused to take a breath, and having many a late night conversation with him while he was sweeping the floor in the Schnittwit lab, and then down at the flowing seawater lab. Thurlow smoked a pipe, and he had a gravelly voice.

Kevin Eckelbarger recalls what a savvy negotiator Thurlow Kelsey could be. In the 1990s Thurlow announced he had 20 acres of land adjacent to the Darling Center he wanted to sell the university. To encourage interest he would drop hints that developers were interested in developing the land. Concerned over the impact that would have on the character and environment of the Darling Marine Center, Thurlow received a good price for his land.

From the spring 1993 edition of Darling Marine Center’s Making Waves newsletter is this ODDS & ENDS Departure note: Thurlow Kelsey, Custodian II (and unofficial night watchman), retired May 15 after 20 years. Thurlow was a friend and confidant to many students over the years, partly because he was here nights, but mostly because of his warm personality. This “character” is greatly missed!

Local summer resident and McGuire Point neighbor to the Darling Marine Center John Rounds remembers Thurlow was the main employee for many years for his father, Harold Rounds, in Harold Rounds’ apple orchards. Thurlow would help him operate two orchards, one at McGuire Point, and one at the present day Clarks Cove Farm, which Harold Rounds first started and owned. Thurlow would go out and spray the trees and dig out insect borers and things like that. John remembers Thurlow had a real and wonderful Maine accent.

John described Thurlow as a good-hearted guy and very likeable, and he would always go to see Thurlow every summer he came to Maine. He always enjoyed sitting in Thurlow’s kitchen, chatting about this and that.
By 1970 the Clarks Cove Farm on Ridge Rd. had been sold to the Edwards.\textsuperscript{51} They had two full-time employees; one was Thurlow Kelsey.

As a younger man Thurlow Kelsey enjoyed golfing.\textsuperscript{52} He also loved his home and tending his garden. After a brief illness Thurlow passed away at Miles Memorial Hospital in Damariscotta, 26 May 1998. Pauline Mae McFarland Kelsey passed away 26 Feb. 2006. They are both buried at the West Bristol Cemetery.

Thurlow’s brother Ken went to the Gladstone School on the Clarks Cove Rd. and then to Lincoln Academy. He caddied at the Wawenock Golf Club while growing up in Walpole. Kenneth graduated the academy in 1943 after taking the Agricultural Course. He worked at Round Top Farms before joining the U.S. Air Force August 29, 1945; he returned to civilian life in 1947. He married Isabell Eva Hagar of Damariscotta Mills, Maine, October 27, 1948. They had three children: Brenda Griffin, Darlene Parker, and Carolyn Belanger.

Ken and Isabelle bought a poultry farm in Pittston in 1956 which they operated for eight years. March 30, 2015 Kenneth Kelsey (79) died at the Togus VA Hospice unit from advanced Alzheimer’s
and pneumonia. Kenneth is buried at the Riverside Cemetery in Pittston. More can be read about Kenneth Edward Kelsey at this funeral home obituary web page.

**1C) Everett Parker Kelsey** (5<sup>C</sup>)
(born March 11, 1867)<sup>12</sup> Everett Kelsey married Laura Edna Somes of Edgecomb on Halloween in 1894.<sup>5</sup> Laura is the younger sister of Elmer C. Somes who married Everett’s younger sister Amy Kelsey in 1892. They had: Laura B. Kelsey (b. 29 May, 1896); Lewis Sidney Kelsey (b. 14 Nov. 1898); Inez Leita Kelsey (b. 6 May, 1900). Everett Kelsey (5<sup>C</sup>) is a farmer on the Clarks Cove Rd.

Everett and Laura had one more child Norman Everett Kelsey {6<sup>H</sup>} (born 12 June 1911). There was a boardinghouse for the ice company at Clarks Cove.<sup>7</sup> Edna (Laura) Kelsey ran the boardinghouse in the Kelsey homestead at Clarks Cove; she cooked on a woodstove in her kitchen for a lot of people. When the ice company left the Kelseys turned it into a summer boardinghouse which Edna ran until the 1940s. She cooked three meals a day for sixteen boarders plus her family of four children. Food came from the garden, lobsters Everett caught, and eggs from the chickens. The 1926 & 1936 town reports list Everett as 1 o2 Fire Wards.

**Figure 8:** Kenneth Kelsey. (Courtesy of Anonymous Child. FindAGrave.com)

**Figure 9:** An advertisement in a 1904 edition of The Outlook. The Anchorage is the boardinghouse run by Mrs. Everett P. Kelsey at Clarks Cove, Walpole, Maine.<sup>64</sup> In the Business Directory for Walpole in the 1924 Chronicles of Lincoln County Mrs.Everett P. Kelsey is listed as the proprietor of the Anchorage. Everett Kelsey is listed as a mason.<sup>66</sup>
By 1920 Everett P. Kelsey is now a contractor and a mason. ‘None’ is the occupation listed for Everett P. Kelsey in 1930. That year Everett began building the stone wall around the cemetery at Wentworth Point. In 1940 Everett is again a mason and private contractor. Edna Kelsey died in 1953, Everett Kelsey died in 1955. They are both buried at the West Bristol Cemetery.

21 August, 1921 Laura B. Kelsey married Burton Byron Blaisdell (b. 1895). In 1920 Burton is a chauffeur. In the 1924 Chronicles of Lincoln County Burton is listed in the business directory as being in general insurance, surety bonds, real estate—he is a Notary Public, and he runs a telephone office. In 1930 he is a real estate agent. Living with Burton and Laura in 1930 is their 7 year old daughter Phoebe Blaisdell, and Burton’s 71 year old mother Roselda. In 1940 Burton is an insurance agent. The Blaisdells
have another daughter, Elizabeth Blaisdell (born c. 1931). Burton Blaisdell died 1955 and is buried at the New Harbor Cemetery. Laura B. Blaisdell died in 1966, and she is buried at the New Harbor Cemetery.*

Figure 11: Advertisement for the business of Burton B. Blaisdell in the 1924 Chronicles of Lincoln County.

Lewis Kelsey is described as having medium height, a medium build, blue eyes, and dark brown hair on his WWI draft card. Lewis was lost at sea in 1920. He is buried at the West Bristol Cemetery.

Inez L. Kelsey married Norman George Sherman 22 June 1927. In 1930 the couple are living in the household of Norman’s father, farmer George E. Sherman in Edgecomb. Norman is a telephone lineman. 44 year old Norman Sherman is now a farmer in 1940 living with his 39 year old wife Inez. They have one boarder, 56 year old school teacher Sarah Emery. Norman died Sept. 20, 1958, and is buried at the Union Cemetery in Edgecomb. Inez L. Sherman died 20 August 1988 in Edgecomb.

Norman Everett Kelsey graduated Lincoln Academy in 1928. He later received a degree in masonry from the Wentworth Institute in Boston and joined his father in the mason business. He married Helen H. Gilbert, 13 June, 1935. They had two daughters, Carolyn Edna Kelsey, and Patricia Kelsey Dubord.

Norman Kelsey took over the family masonry business in the early 1940s and worked until his retirement in 1992. During World War II Norman served in the Navy. Norman and Helen lived in South Bristol until 1961, and then they moved to Newcastle. In 1955 Albert Bouffard built the addition to the undercroft of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Newcastle. Norman Kelsey was the mason who poured and did all the cement work for Alfred Bouchard.
Figure 12: Everett and Edna’s son Lewis Kelsey’s application for seaman’s certificate of American citizenship, 3 April, 1919.
Norman Kelsey {6⁵} passed away in 1999.⁶⁰ Helen Hatch Gilbert Kelsey passed away the next year.⁶²

Carolyn Edna Kelsey {7⁷} recalls spending many happy days with her grandparents Everett and Edna Kelsey {5⁵} while her father Norman was away during WWII.⁶³ In later years Carolyn developed a passion for genealogy and family history. She volunteered at Skidompha Library, organizing and cataloging references in the Genealogy Room. She volunteered at the South Bristol Historical Society, and she passed on her passion for genealogy to her daughter Tracy; they spent many enjoyable times “digging” up information about ancestors. Carolyn E. Kelsey {7⁷} passed away July 24, 2012.

1D) Augusta “Gussie” Kelsey (born 5 Mar. 1869)¹² Gussie Kelsey married Eugene Wylie around 1891. They had Eva L Wylie (born c.1894), Alva L. Wylie (born c. 1896), Amy F. Wylie (Born c.1899), and Clara A. Wylie (Born c.1906). Thomas Webster Gamage lived on Gem Island with his first wife who died in 1888.³ A house was built on the corner of Route 129 and the Thompson Inn Road for Mr. Gamage and his second wife, Thankful Tibbetts Poole. They were in their seventies, and they made an agreement with Eugene and Gussie Wylie that the Wylies should care for them the rest of their natural lives, and then Eugene and Gussie would inherit the house. Thomas Webster Gamage and Thankful Tibbetts Poole both passed away in 1904.

Eugene is a [?waft] carrier in 1900, a driver of a truck team in 1910, and a teamster in 1920. Eugene and Gussie Wylie are buried at the Main Cemetery in South Bristol.

1E) Amy Otis Kelsey (born Feb 6, 1871)¹² Amy married Elmer Cecil Somes, a laborer from Edgecomb, on 24 Sept. 1892, in Bristol. Elmer is actually the older brother of Laura Somes who married Amy’s older brother Everett. On the 1900 census Elmer is listed as a fisherman. 1910 the Somes are living on the Old Fort Road in Bristol; Elmer is lobstering. The Somes do not appear to have had any children. They are both buried at the New Harbor Cemetery in Bristol.

1F) Georgiana Kelsey (born Sept. 1872).¹² Georgie Kelsey married widowed farmer Oren Russell (1863-1912) 12 October 1893. They had Lillian M. Russell (born c. 1895), Vernold C. Russell (born 11 May, 1896), and Oscar K. Russell (born c. 1899). On the 1900 census Oren is farming, and he is renting. Georgie Kelsey died 7 Dec. 1906 at 32 years of age of cerebral softening. 1910 Oren is laboring at odd jobs; 15 year old Lillian is keeping house. Oren died 15 July 1912.⁵⁷ Oren’s estate was insufficient to pay off his debts.⁵⁷

Vernold Russell saw action in World War I and eventually married and became a carpenter in Cumberland.⁴⁷ Lillian Russell married John B. Woodward in Damariscotta in 1920.⁵ They had Audrey C. Woodward (b.1922), Chester W. Woodward and Charles B. Woodward (b.1924), and Norma E. Woodward(b.1931). John Woodward is a farmer in 1930 at Bristol. Living with the Woodwards in 1930 is 30 year old mason Oscar Kelsey Russell. He married Beatrice L. Benner 7 Feb 1931; he died in Bath 12 Sept. 1960.
1G) Albertine Blanche Kelsey (born Oct. 11, 1878). She married 1st Ralph O. Stevens 16 Jan 1898; they had Ralph S. Stephens (b 1902); Ralph O Stephens died. Albertine remarried to widower 48 year old house painter Ralph E. Tarr 19 June, 1907. They had Christine E. Tarr (born 1909); they lived on the Pemaquid Point Road. Albertine Tarr died 3 April, 1956, and she is buried at the New Harbor Cemetery.

2) JOHN WENTWORTH KELSEY & Descendants

Thomas and Esther’s son 22 year old carpenter John Wentworth Kelsey {4\textsuperscript{B}} (b. 30 Mar. 1828) is still living at home on the 1850 census. The Wentworth Genealogy states that later in the year he married a Martha Johnson {4} 13 November 1850 in Boston, Mass. Other marriage records state they were married 5 December, 1850. Both were born in Maine and residing in Charlestown when they married. Martha was 18 and her father was a Samuel Johnson. There was a 19 year old Martha Johnson in Bristol Maine on the 1850 census living in the household of widower Samuel Johnson, a carpenter.

The couple had a son Albert C. Kelsey born in Manhattan on Christmas Day 1853. 1855 finds John and Marth Kelsey and their 1 ½ year old son living in Brooklyn. John’s occupation is pump and block maker. The couple also had Edgar Kelsey born 21 June 1857. Martha died in New York City 19 March 1859.

John Wentworth Kelsey remarried 8 August 1859 to Mary (Johnson) Gale {4\textsuperscript{D}}, the widow of a William S. Gale. The family is living at Greenpoint in 1860. Living with them is John’s younger brother Hiram Kelsey {4\textsuperscript{H}}, who is also a pump and block maker. There is also a servant living in the household, 18 year old Deria Kerrigan. Also living with them is 11 year old Josephine Gale, 6 year old Albert Kelsey, 3 year old Edgar Kelsey, and a one month old Clara Kelsey. John and Mary Kelsey {4\textsuperscript{D}} had Julia Helen Kelsey born 16 May 1860, Addie L. Kelsey born 15 June 1862, and Eva A. Kelsey born 31 October 1865.

On the 1865 New York state census John and Mary Kelsey {4\textsuperscript{D}} are living in Brooklyn, but they are now living next door to ship carpenter William Kelsey, John Wentworth Kelsey’s uncle. William & Elizabeth Kelsey have 8 children living with them in addition to Elizabeth Kelsey’s mother. They also have a boarder, a 58 year old ship carpenter. William & Elizabeth’s oldest child is, 20 year old William Edwin Kelsey, a Boatman. Their son, 19 year old Francis W. Kelsey is a ship carpenter like his father. John Wentworth Kelsey’s son, Albert C. Kelsey {5\textsuperscript{D}}, is not enumerated with his family on this 1865 census, but he is enumerated with them on the 1870 federal census living in Brooklyn.

John and Mary Kelsey {4\textsuperscript{D}} had Samuel J. Kelsey born 17 January 1871. At this point in time when the Wentworth Genealogy was compiled, the Kelsey family was living at Greenpoint, N.Y. At some point in the 1870s the family moved to Maine. On December 21, 1877, Mary I. (Johnson) Kelsey died in Damariscotta. 1880 finds House Joiner 52 year old John W. Kelsey (4\textsuperscript{C}) living in Damariscotta. Living with him is his 23 year old son Edgar who is doing manual labor, his 20 year old daughter Julia Kelsey, his 17 year old daughter Addie A. Kelsey, his 14 year old daughter Evva Kelsey, and his 9 year old son Samuel J. Kelsey; Samuel and Evva are attending school. It is not clear what became of Albert C. Kelsey {5\textsuperscript{D}}.

A small group from the Damariscotta Methodist Episcopal Church formed a social literary club in the 1880s. On April 8, 1885 the club performed the operetta “The Mikado” in the Methodist church vestry. Admission was free. Tea was offered during intermission, and donations were solicited during the
Figure 13: Members of the Skidompha Club in 1896. Miss Julia Kelsey is the 4th person to the right in the middle row. (Courtesy of the Skidompha Library)
The Thomas & Esther Kelsey
Children & Descendants (1850s-2000s)

Tea offerings to help raise money to purchase a pipe organ for the church. Among the cast members of the operetta were Miss Julie Kelsey (50) and Miss Addie Kelsey (51). A name was sought for this group, and the members settled upon the acrostic, SKIDOMPHA. The ‘K’ in Skidompha stands for Kelsey, Julie and Addie. The Skidompha club met for the first time on a Monday evening, May 8, 1885. The club began to collect books, and buy books from member donations. In 1905 the Skidompha Club of Damariscotta gave to the three towns, Damariscotta, Newcastle, and Nobleboro, a collection of 1476 books as a start for a Free Public Library.

Miss Julia Kelsey and her sister Addie also worked as accurate type setters and compositors on the newspaper The Herald and Record. *2, 32

Julia Kelsey was a school teacher. 12 In the Castner Papers it was written: “Julia Kelsey taught from approximately 1870 to 1900 in the grade schools, first at the little schoolhouse . . . and later in the brick school house. 34 She taught two generations of many local families and is lovingly remembered for her diligence and interest in the welfare of the children. She lived to a ripe old age and left a heritage of remembrance which is shared by the hundreds of the living who still cherish her memory.” It was further noted how underpaid the teachers were back then, and that it was recorded in the town records that Julia Kelsey was paid $2 a week for her labors. *4

From the annual town school report, in 1888, for the primary school in District no.1, it was written, “Our popular teacher, Miss Julia Kelsey, has been continued in charge of this school through the year. 38 The results of her work have been as satisfactory as her untiring energy and efforts deserve.” In 1891 it was reported under the heading Primary, “The Summer term was taught by Miss JULIA KELSEY. 39 Her success as a teacher is too well known to call for further comment. It is sufficient to say that the school under her guidance ranks second to none in town.” In the 1893 report the Supervisor of Schools wrote (under DISTRICT no.1 PRIMARY DEPARTMENT), “the school has been under the tuition of Miss Julia H. Kelsey during the whole year. 40 Too much cannot be said in praise of Miss Kelsey’s government and mode of teaching. No pains have been spared by her to make the school a success. She has an admiral faculty for inspiring scholars with a desire to advance. While being the hardest school, on account of the age of the scholars, yet there has been no other which has made more marked improvement. Her engagement for another year is most earnestly recommended.”

1 Sept. 1892 printer 35 year old Edgar Kelsey {5^P} of Lancaster, Mass. (b. in Brooklyn, N.Y.) married 24 year old teacher Lilla D. Miles of Hardwick, Vt. 36 *5 They had a son, Clarence Edgar Kelsey, born 16 Feb 1894 in Lancaster, Mass. 5 The 1900 census finds 42 year old printer Edgar Kelsey living with his 31 year old wife Lora D. Kelsey, and his 6 year old son Clarence E. Kelsey in Lancaster. Edgar Kelsey died 21 June 1901 of punicious anosmia [?pernicious anaemia]. 37

On the 1900 census House Joiner 72 year old John W. Kelsey {4^C} is living in Damariscotta with his 40 year old daughter Julia H. Kelsey (Occupation: Public School Teacher), 37 year old daughter Adaleide L. Kelsey (Occupation: none), 34 year old daughter Evelyn A. Kelsey (Occupation: Compositor), and his 29 year old son Samuel J. Kelsey who is a Salesman Grocer.

Clerk Samuel J. Kelsey {5^I} married Lillian M. Hassen 4 January, 1905. 5
John Wentworth Kelsey \(^4\) died in Damariscotta on 31 July 1907 at 79 years of age. His death certificate listed shoe maker as the occupation of his father Thomas \(^3\).\(^4\) John is buried at the Hillside-Norris Cemetery in Damariscotta.

1910 finds Samuel J. and Lillian Kelsey living and working on a farm in Newcastle on their own account.\(^5\) They have a 4 year old son Lawrence Kelsey, and a 1 year and 4 month old daughter Helen E. Kelsey. The couple continue to farm for the next couple of decades. The 1940 census finds 69 year old Samuel J. Kelsey and 68 year old Lillian M. Kelsey living on a farm on Pleasant St. in Damariscotta. Samuel is again or still clerking at a grocery store. Living with the couple is their son, 8 year old Samuel J. Kelsey. Samuel J. Kelsey \(^5\) died in 1951 and he is buried at the Hillside-Norris Cemetery in Damariscotta. Lillian Mabel Hassen Kelsey died in 1970 in Quincy, Mass.

1910 finds Julia Kelsey head of her father’s household living with her two sisters. She and Evelyn have no occupation; their sister Adelaide is a compositor at a Printer’s Office. In 1920 Addie is the bookkeeper at the printing office. Evelyn died May 5, 1928.\(^12\) The Vital Records state her father was born in Knox.

In 1930 Addie is still a bookkeeper. In a September, 1930 issue of the Lewiston Evening Journal there was a report from the Damariscotta Rest Room Information Bureau. Julia H. Kelsey was in charge.
It stated that during the month of August, the bureau had 1,121 callers who were given touring and local information. Miss Kelsey expressed her appreciation of booklets, maps, etc., that had been provided.

In the 1933 diary of Eugene H. Havener (Damariscotta) he wrote: On Feb. 22, we went to the guild social in the evening at the Methodist Episcopal Church. Julia Kelsey put on a wonderful program and great refreshments were served. It was an evening of fun filled events. Addie Kelsey passed away on April 26, 1938. Julia Helen Kelsey died December 14, 1838. The family is buried together at Hillside-Norris Cemetery in Damariscotta.

![Figure 15: The grave of John Wentworth Kelsey, his second wife Mary, and their three daughters Eva, Julia, and Addie. The grave is located in the Hillside-Norris Cemetery on Church Street in Damariscotta.](image)

3) WILLIAM H. KELSEY & Descendants

 Thomas and Esther’s 20 year old son William Kelsey is a laborer on the 1850 census and living at home; he is living at home in 1860. Carpenter William Henry Kelsey (4\textsuperscript{f}) (b. 14 Dec. 1829) married Allura E. Hatch (1843-1915) of Morrill, 18 January 1868. In the 1870s William built a house at Clarks Cove northwest of the ice pond. William and Allura lived there until 1900 when they sold it to Evander Hatch. William & Allura Kelsey (4\textsuperscript{f}) had Stillman Henry Kelsey (5\textsuperscript{g}) born 30 September 1868 in Damariscotta, and Leslie H Kelsey (5\textsuperscript{h}) born in 1871. On the 1870 census William H. Kelsey is occupied with farming. On the 1880 census he is a carpenter. On the 1900 census Leslie Kelsey (5\textsuperscript{g}) is a shoe stamper who lives on Summit St. in Auburn with his 69 year old father William, a carpenter, and his 57 year old mother Lola [sic] E. Kelsey. The 1910 census finds 37 year old Leslie H. Kelsey living on the West Auburn Rd. in Auburn, Me., with his 80 year
old father William H. Kelsey, and his 67 year old mother Allura Kelsey. Leslie Kelsey (5th) is now a farmer. Allura Kelsey (4th) died in 1915. William Kelsey (4th) died 30 Jan 1918 at 88 years of age. They are both buried at the West Bristol Cemetery. William’s death certificate listed farmer as the occupation of his father Thomas (3).

On the 1920 census 48 year old Leslie Kelsey is living with his wife, 46 year old Addie B. Kelsey at the first house on the top of Clarks Cove Rd. in South Bristol; his occupation is farming. Leslie Kelsey died October 2, 1935, in Auburn; he is listed as a widower in the vital records. He is buried at the West Bristol Cemetery.

Stillman Kelsey married first Edna M. Wentworth (1876-1916) (born Scarboro, ME.) 6 February 1897 at Dover, New Hampshire. On the 1900 census Stillman is a horse trainer living in the household of his mother-in-law Lizzie V. Wentworth in South Portland, with his wife Maud E. Kelsey. On the 1900 Portland Directory he is a laborer living on Broadway, and on the 1902 Portland directory it says he is a laborer that has moved to Auburn. On the 1910 census Stillman and Maud Kelsey are now living on Wood Street in Lewiston; he is an Edge Trimmer in a shoe factory. Maude E. Kelsey died 22 Feb. 1916.

On the 7th of May, 1921, 55 [sic] year old Stillman H Kelsey and 45 year old Carrie B. Patterson nee Weston, both of Auburn, declared their marriage intentions. On Saturday, May 14, 1921 they were married by clergyman Charles. S. Cummings in Auburn. Stillman is a shoemaker, and Carrie is a boxmaker; this is the 2nd marriage for widower Stillman; this is the 3rd marriage for Carrie and she is divorced.

On the 1930 census 51 year old Stillman is now a night watchman at the box factory. Living with him and Carrie is his stepson 22 year old Gordon Patterson who is a laborer at the box factory. Stillman continued as a night watchman there during the 1930s and then retired. Stillman H. Kelsey (5th) died 8 February, 1948 in Lewiston. Carrie Kelsey died in 1951. They are buried at the North Auburn Cemetery in North Auburn, Maine.
4) SIMON KELSEY & Descendants

According to the town records of May, 1858, Simon Kelsey presented a bill to the town for injuries and damages he sustained on the highway that spring. The town voted that the case be left with the selectmen to make the best bargain with Mr. Kelsey. 28 year old Simon Kelsey is living at home in 1860. As early as 1863, Thomas and Esther’s (3rd) son Simon Kelsey (4th) (b. 6 Nov. 1831) is making bricks. In 1869 the town of Bristol assessed a 5 ton vessel or vessels owned by Simon Kelsey at $100. Simon had no real estate, and paid a total town tax of $1.84 (84 cent poll tax, plus a dollar on his boat) for that year.

Simon is a 36 year old brick maker on the 1870 census living with his parents. The industrial census says he has $500 invested in the business. The motive power is hand; the machine is mill [?pug]. There’s a total of 4 males who work 4 months to earn $500. They’ve used 70 cords of wood valued at $350. They’ve produced 250,000 bricks valued at $1250.

Simon married Annie S. Knight (4th) of Edgecomb on 22 September, 1872 in Alna, ME. In 1873 Simon and Annie Kelsey bought the Miller house at Clarks Cove. Simon Kelsey is listed as a brick maker from Bristol in the 1874 & 1876 Maine Business Directories. Simon and Annie had a son, Lyman Kelsey in 1874. Lyman died April 22, 1878 at the age of 4. He is buried at the West Bristol Cemetery.

The 1880 census lists Simon Kelsey as a 48 year-old farmer. He is living with his 40 year-old wife Annie, his 81 year-old father-in-law N. Taberak Knight, and Simon and Annie’s 5 year-old daughter Mary M. Kelsey.

In 1880 (from June 1879 to June 1880) on the old Miller homestead farm Simon Kelsey (4th) has 15 acres of tilled land (including fallow and grass in rotation (whether pasture or meadow)). He has 20 acres of permanent pastures, meadows, orchards, vineyards; he has 30 acres of woodland. The land, buildings, and fences of his farm are valued at $1000; his livestock is valued at $50; he has spent $20 repairing or building on his farm. The estimated value of his farm production is $50. He has mown 12 acres of grassland and produced 8 tons of hay. As of June 4, 1880 he has 1 milch cow, and 2 other cows on hand; the farm has produced 100 pounds of butter. He has 8 sheep; 5 lambs have dropped since June 1879. They have produced 8 fleeces--32 pounds of wool. He has 1 swine on hand; he has 16 chickens which have produced 150 dozen eggs for that year period. In the past year he has produced 20 bushels of Indian Corn from an acre of land. He’s produced 15 bushels of potatoes from one acre of land. The farm has also produced 25 cords of wood valued at $60.

Simon’s daughter Mary Kelsey (5th) died May 17, 1884 at the age of 9. Simon’s wife Annie S. Knight (4th) died the 6th of March, 1885 at the age of 46. They are both buried at the West Bristol Cemetery. Being weak in body, but of a sound mind and memory, Annie composed her will June 14, 1884. It was witnessed by her brother-in-law and sister-in-law Mr. William H. Kelsey and Mrs. Allura E. Kelsey, and it was also witnessed by local neighbor Mrs. Susan C. Sherman. Annie left all of her estate, wherever it could be found, and however it was situated, to her beloved husband Simon Kelsey. Upon Simon’s decease the estate, residue or remainder thereof, was to go to Annie’s adopted brother Willard A. Knight.

31 July 1885, a list of people were entered into the Bristol town records; they had not paid their taxes. Simon Kelsey owed $17.40 for the 1884 tax on his house and land. If no person discharged that
debt by the 12th of September, 1885, then at 2 O’clock of that day there would be a public auction at the Bristol town house, and Myrick H. Marston, the town tax collector, would auction off parcels or tracts of those lands which were in arrears. 60 acres of land more and less, buildings thereon, homestead, of Simon Kelsey were sold for $19.15 ($17.40 tax plus $1.75 cost and charges) to Henry Chamberlain.

In 1890 the Bristol Ice Company bought Simon Kelsey’s house and abutting land.

The 1900 census finds widower 68 year old Simon Kelsey renting at Boothbay Harbor. He is a day laborer. He has been unemployed 4 months of the year.

The 1910 census finds 79 year old Simon Kelsey living as a boarder at Clarks Cove in the home of his nephew and Thurlow Kelsey’s grandfather, 44 year old Webster T Kelsey (Thomas Webster Kelsey). In the census entry space for occupation, ‘pauper’ is entered for Simon Kelsey.

Simon Kelsey died of apoplexy 29 May 1912 at 80 years of age. He is on Brown’s 1992 list as being buried in the Wentworth Cemetery. It is now thought that this is incorrect and he is buried in the West Bristol Cemetery.

5) HIRAM KELSEY & Descendants

The 1860 census finds Hiram living with his older brother John Wentworth Kelsey at Greenpoint, Long Island; they are both Block & Pump Makers. Hiram Kelsey (b. 11 Dec. 1837) married Hannah Wells, youngest daughter of Charles Augustus Doughty (of Greenpoint) on the 17th of May in 1865 at the home of Hannah’s brother at Greenpoint. They had Caroline (Carry) Kelsey (1871-1960), and they had Charles Kelsey (1876-1967). On the 1875 N.Y. state census Hiram is employed as a locksmith.

On the 1870 federal census there is a 2 year old Herbert Kelsey living with Hiram & Hannah Kelsey in New York; he is not living with Hiram and Hannah on the 1880 federal census. On the 1875 N.Y. State census there is a 2 year daughter Josephine Kelsey living with Hiram & Hannah Kelsey; she is not listed as living with Hiram or Hannah on the 1880 census. On the 1900 U.S. census, it is recorded that Hannah Doughty Kelsey had given birth to 6 children, and 3 of them were still living. The Bristol Vital Records under Hiram Kelsey list 3 children of Hiram Kelsey and Hannah W. Doughty: Caroline D., Chas. A., and Lura E.

On the 22nd of September, 1891, in Kings County (Brooklyn), New York, Caroline Kelsey married Frank Rapalyea in Newtown (Elmhurst), Queens, New York. Frank Rapelye bought the present day Leeman House in Walpole, ME., 1894. The 1900 census finds Hiram and Hannah Kelsey living at the Leeman House in Bristol, Maine with a 24 year old Charles Augustus Kelsey who was born in New York. In 1900 Frank and Caroline R apealye are living in Queens with their 1 year old daughter Margarite. Frank Rapelye is now a printer.

On 26 Sept 1900 Charles and 25 year old Bristol native Susie Redonnet (1875-1963) were married in Bristol. They had Eric R. Kelsey in 1903; he died on July 21, 1912 of acute nephritis following pseudo diphtheria. The death certificate list his father, Chas. Kelsey’s occupation as farmer. On the 1920 census New York born Charles Kelsey is still a farmer in South Bristol. On the 1940 census, 64 year old Charles Kelsey is a carpenter at a boat shop.
Hiram & Hannah are living at the Leeman House on the 1910 census. Hiram Wentworth Kelsey \(\{4^H\}\) died August 17, 1911.\(^{27}\) Hannah W. Doughty Kelsey died May 8, 1921. They are both buried at the West Bristol Cemetery just south of the Wawenock Golf Course.\(^{22}\)

1910 Frank and Caroline Rapelie are still living in Queens with their 11 year old daughter Margaret.\(^1\) Frank is still a printer. In 1916 the Rapalies sell the Leeman House to George Woodman \(\{5^p\}\). The 1920 census finds the Rapalies living about 3 houses up from the Leeman House on the Clarks Cove Road with Caroline’s mother Hannah, and a 10 year old boarder named Newbert Spear.

On the 10\(^{th}\) of March, 1919, Mrs. Caroline D. Rapelye was appointed Postmaster for Walpole. The post office was operated out of the Rapelye farmhouse.\(^7\) Mervin Rice remembers a little ell that was built onto the Rapelye farmhouse; it was kind of a little room. The post office was in that little room. Carrie Rapelye also sold candy bars and a few little things.

The 1930 census finds 31 year old Margaret R. Andrews \(\{6^I\}\) (born in New York) (1899-1979) living with her husband Elburton R. Andrews (born in Maine) on Rockland St. in Rockport, Maine.\(^9\) They have been married since 1921. Margaret is—like her mother—a postmaster. Elburton, a military veteran, is actually a census enumerator. In 1930 the Andrews have an 8 year old son, Sydney F. Andrews, a 6 year old daughter Carolyn M. Andrews (1923-2013), a 5 year old son, Arthur C. Andrews, and a 1 ½ year old son, Walter C. Andrews.

Carrie Rapelye retired from the postal service on Halloween, 1940.\(^8\) Mrs. Beatrice V. Kelsey became the next postmaster. Frank and Caroline Rapelye are listed in the 1956 and 1961 Rockland Maine Directories.\(^5\) Living with them is Margaret R. Andrews. Caroline D. Rapelye \(\{5^I\}\) died 10 December, 1960, at the age of 90, in Rockland, Maine.\(^5\) Frank W. Rapelye \(\{5^I\}\) died 9 February, 1961 in Union, Maine, at the age of 94.\(^5\)

Notes

* A pump and blockmaker was a precision woodcarver, making two machines that ships needed to sail: the block-and-tackles that could lift heavy cargo or raise sails, and the pumps that kept water from building up below decks.\(^2\)

*\(^1\) Source # 20 has Simon Kelsey buried at the West Bristol Cemetery. Source # 23 states he is buried at the Wentworth Cemetery. Note the record for source # 23 was made July, 1992; it is erroneous.
*2 This newspaper ceased publication in 1896 and became the Damariscotta Herald, and the Damariscotta Herald merged with the Sheepscot Echo to from the current day Lincoln County News (probably 1919?).

*3 There are some sources, one at the Boothbay Region Historical Society, some in Ancestry.com that state Albert was known as Robert, that he was in the military during the Texas Indian wars in the 1870s, that he married Julia Etta Bennett, a daughter of William and Mary Bennett, in 1881, and they subsequently resided in Falls River, Mass.

*4 It is here noted that Julia H. Kelsey was 10 years old in 1870.

*5 For further variation of names the Bristol Vital records state Edgar Kelsey, formerly of Damariscotta, married Lelie D. Mills, of Harwich (Conn.)

*6 {#} 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.


*8 In the Bristol Vital Records there are private records that are referenced in record entries for Kelseys, P.R. 74: data on Blaisdell & Kelsey fam. furnished by Mrs. Burton Blaisdell.

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