

James Wiswall was born in 1807, and died in 1878. He married Minetta Wheelock, daughter of Abel Wheelock, of a pre-loyalist family. Seraph married Benjamin Smith of St. John, N. B., a wealthy banker and broker. She had three children—Dr. Peleg W. Smith, Sheriff of Digby; Benjamin Smith, barrister, of Kentville, and Eliza, who married Alexander McNab.

James had a number of children, four names of whom appear on the voters' list of 1896—Charles J., Abel M., Edwin G., and John. They are still on the old homestead.

Mercy, Miriam, Charles and John did not marry. They lived on the homestead and were industrious and highly respected. John and Charles managed the farm, and their two sisters, Mercy and Miriam, conducted a boarding school for young ladies—the first one taught in the county.

In due time, through their example, other schools were started. The first one was superintended by Miss Mary Ann Bill, daughter of the Rev. I. E. Bill. This one began in 1845 and was located at Nictaux. It continued until 1851. Others in time followed—one at Middleton, established by Mr. Charles Chesley. His principal was Miss Susan Hopkins, a graduate of Mount Holyoke. Mr. Fitch perpetuated the Annapolis County boarding schools by establishing one at Clarence, which, like the others, proved very useful. The higher culture and education among the women of Annapolis County can be traced, in a large measure, to the schools taught by the Misses Wiswall on the old homestead, founded by their grandfather when in a wilderness state, but left to them by him a home of beauty on the banks of the Annapolis River.

The memory of the Rev. John Wiswall, missionary of the S. P. G., is fragrant and honoured. He and his descendants have done much in moulding that part of Annapolis County where their lives thus far have been spent.