

Mrs. Wiswall's mother was an Appleton, and had in her veins a strain of royal blood, drawn from a member of the family of Henry VIII.

Peleg Wiswall left four children—Elizabeth, Daniel, Priscilla and John. John was born at Boston April 15th, old style, 1731. The mother died in the same city 1741. Says the Rev. John Wiswall:—"This occurred two years after Whitefield's first visit to New England, who revived the spirit of enthusiasm which has been so characteristic of the New England Independents." At that day, "enthusiasm" meant about what is now implied in the word, "fanaticism."

In 1745, the year that Louisbourg was taken by the New England forces, John Wiswall entered Harvard College, representing the third generation of Wiswalls in that institution.

The excitement in Boston caused by the plan of the merchant Pepperell to take Louisbourg, the "Dunkirk of America," stirred the hearts and inflamed the imaginations of all classes, not excepting the freshman class of Harvard, of which John Wiswall was a member. The arrival of troops from Connecticut and New Hampshire, their drilling on the Common, the preparation and departure of the fleet, created visions of adventure and military glory. Nor were these visions false. In June a swift sailing craft came up Boston Bay, bearing the intelligence that Pepperell had captured Louisbourg. Boston went into a frenzy of excitement—shouts, bonfires and clanging of church bells expressed New England's joy over a military victory that attracted the attention of the whole world.

The death of Admiral d'Anville in Halifax Harbour, the suicide of Vice-Admiral d'Estournelle, and the entire defeat of the project of the French to retake Louisbourg in 1746, capture Annapolis and Boston, gave rest to New England after a winter of deep concern and a summer of consuming anxiety.

In scenes like these, the early days of John Wiswall were spent. The dauntless spirit and unconquerable courage seen on