

**JOHN WENTWORTH,  
GOVERNOR OF NEW  
HAMPSHIRE, 1767-1775**

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John Wentworth, Governor of New Hampshire, 1767-1775 by Lawrence Shaw Mayo

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**LAWRENCE SHAW MAYO**

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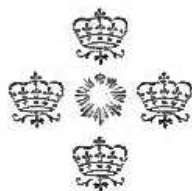
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*Governor of New Hampshire*

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BY

LAWRENCE SHAW MAYO



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TO MY FATHER



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## PREFACE

IN writing this biography of the last royal governor of New Hampshire, I have tried, whenever possible, to allow Wentworth to tell the story in his own words. This method is open to at least two objections. In the first place the Governor's comments on men and events were not always based upon accurate information. They do, however, show what he believed to be the truth, and hence afford a better explanation of his acts than would be given by an error-free recital of historical facts. Herein, perhaps, lies an essential difference between the writing of biography and the writing of history; but the ideal biography will combine the two points of view and give the reader the situation both as it appeared to the contemporary observer and as it appears in history. I have attempted coördination of this kind, but in many instances I was unable to find material with which to verify or balance Wentworth's contemporaneous account.

The second objection lies in the fact that the Governor's disregard for punctuation and spelling makes his letters difficult to read, and still more difficult to weave into the narrative without destroying whatever smoothness it might otherwise possess. Contrary to modern usage, therefore, I have sometimes punctuated his sentences and corrected his spelling. This seemed justifiable under the circumstances, although I should be the first to discountenance doing so in printing a volume of letters or documents as such. If on any page the reader finds reason to suspect that the meaning has been distorted by these well-intended emendations, I hope that he will examine the original, to which a footnote will guide him, and that he will give me the benefit of his keener perception if he finds that I have been misleading.