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Historic Review

Prepared for

Lloyd's Land



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Somerville, Maine

Patricktown Plantation ~ Somerville, Maine

When Maine was still part of Massachusetts they decided they wanted to settle this wildness which is now called Maine. They surveyed the different areas and broke them up into 100 acres lots.

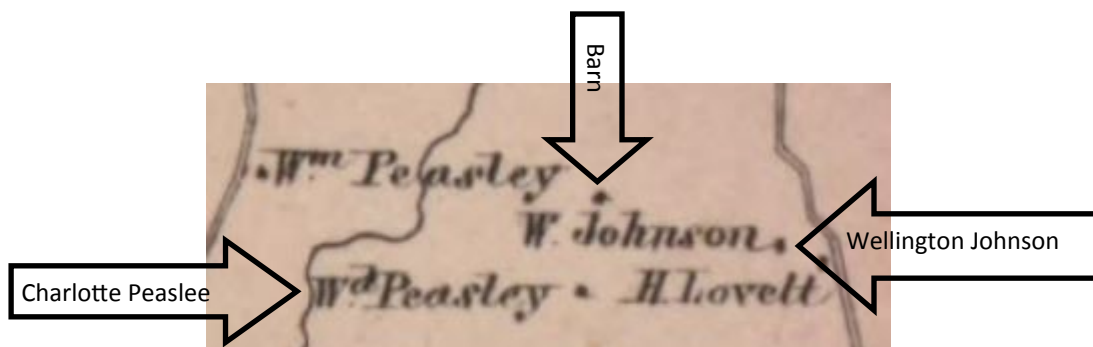
When viewing this lot for the first time my immediate feeling is that this was a family unit and that the 100 acres had been split into 2 family lots which happened quite often.

The close proximity of the 2 cellar holes to each other, the central location of a barn which they might have shared since neither homestead appeared to have a barn area further leads us to this possible conclusion.

Patricktown Plantation incorporated as the town of Somerville on March 25, 1858. On June 23, 1900 the newspaper headline states Somerville is hopelessly bankrupt and seems to have dried up and decayed. It is for sale to the highest bidder, and it is not expected to go for a very high price. Most residents had just stopped paying their taxes. There was little income and seized farms that the town could not sell, their former owners still residing in their residences. There seemed to be little choice for Somerville other than bankruptcy. Incorporation was repealed in 1937 and surrendered in 1938. Organized as Somerville Plantation in 1938 for elections purposes. Reincorporated as the town of Somerville in 1974.

In the 1871 Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Maine there were Remonstrances of **Wellington Johnson** and others Jeremiah Dow and others against the division of Somerville were referred to the Committee on Division of Counties.

1857 ownership map the dot above the Wellington Johnson place is the location of the central barn area. The Wd. Peaslee stands for Widow Charlotte Pealsee wife of Abiel Peaslee they did not spell their name as marked on the map. Not located on this property is their son William Peaslee.



Wellington Johnson		Family Record Sheet			
	Husband	Born	Where	Died	Where
	Wellington Johnson	4/30/1830	Maine	1883	SomervilleME
	Wife	Born	Where	Died	Where
	Dorothy W. Lovett (Dolly)	7/28/1832	Maine	6/13/1908	Augusta, ME
	Children	Born	Where	Died	Where
1	Gardiner P. Johnson	10/3/1850	PatricktownME	4/4/1926	Maine
2	Ira Eugene Johnson	3/10/1853	PatricktownME	1/27/1854	PatricktownME
3	Dr. Wellington Johnson Jr.	2/7/1855	PatricktownME	2/18/1915	Augusta, ME
4	Ella A. Johnsons	11/28/1857	PatricktownME		
5	Addie Mina Johnson	9/30/1861	Somerville, ME	11/1/1878	SomervilleME
6	Laura May Johnson	5/1/1865	Somerville, ME	12/30/1896	Augusta, ME
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Notes:					
<p>You will find the name Wellington also spelled Willington. Since his namesake spelled it Wellington one could assume that to be the correct spelling.</p>					
<div>Heidi Inman 2018</div>					

Wellington Johnson ~ Dorothy Lovett

Wellington was born in 1830 parents unknown. We find Wellington and Dorothy living with Porter Dodge and his wife in the 1850 census it was said that Wellington and his wife lived with the Dodge's for 20+ years. Porter Dodge was one of the early eminent citizens of Patricktown. Unknown - was the cellar hole of Wellington Johnson the same one as the Porter Dodge family?

The Wellington Johnson cellar hole was a large structure with nicely fitted flat stones with what looked like a central fireplace. It had a hand dug rock in well not far from the home and there are honeysuckle trees planted there.

Abiel's Son William Peaslee's daughter Ida M. Peaslee married Gardiner Johnson on 2/26/1876 he was the son of Wellington Johnson giving us the connection between the 2 families.

The 1870 census shows son Wellington Johnson Jr. age 15 as being farmed out as it was called back in the day to the family of Ansel and Martha Besse.

In the 1871 Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Maine there were objections of Wellington Johnson, Jeremiah Dow and others against the division of Somerville it was referred to the Committee on Division of Counties.

The Lincoln County Maine Archives History – Businesses - Somerville 1883 lists Wellington Johnson as a Justice on April 21, 1880.

In Whitefield at Coppers Mills we find a listing for Dr. Wellington Johnson for 1891 and he practiced there until 1897. From there he moved to Augusta where he was a surgeon for the Augusta Hospital. Dr. Wellington had a paper on the three stages of labor published in the 1904 – 1906 transactions of the Maine Medical Associations. He also had a son George who went on to become a Dr. and practiced in Berlin, NH.

Wellington Johnson and family moved from Somerville to Augusta, Maine on the West side of the river in 1883.

Wellington and Dorothy Johnson Homestead



1850 wood stove door



Miscellaneous finds

Abiel Peaslee		Family Record Sheet			
	Husband	Born	Where	Died	Where
	Abiel Peaslee	11/16/1795	Whitefield,ME	5/23/1849	PatricktownME
	Wife	Born	Where	Died	Where
	Charlotte Clark	3/24/1797	Whitefield,ME		
	Children	Born	Where	Died	Where
1	William Peaslee	6/3/1819	Whitefield,ME	6/28/1865	SomervilleME
2	Lucy Ann Peaslee (went by Ruth)	9/11/1821	Whitefield,ME		
3	Mary Peaslee	4/18/1823	Whitefield,ME		
4	Nancy E. Peaslee	7/4/1825	Whitefield,ME	7/20/1863	SomervilleME
5	Hannah Peaslee	8/7/1827	Whitefield,ME		
6	James M. Peaslee	2/25/1830	PatricktownME	2/20/1858	Maine
7	Alexander Peaslee	5/12/1836	PatricktownME	6/14/1863	
8	Madison Peaslee	?/?/1838	PatricktownME		
9	Martin Van Buren Peaslee	11/3/1841	PatricktownME	7/17/1904	Maine
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
Notes:					
Abiel and Charlotte were married in 1816. Variations of last name spellings - Peaslee, Peasley, Peoslee, Pasley, Peisley, Peaslie, Peasly.					
Metal Detecting Sisters 2015					

Abiel Peaslee ~ Charlotte Clark

Abiel Peaslee was born in Whitefield, Maine in 1795 to James and Ruth Peaslee.

Abiel was a private in the war of 1812 in Captain B. Goodwin's Company, Lieutenant Colonel E. Cutter's Regiment. From Sept. 28 to Oct. 12, 1814. Raised at Dresden. Service at Wiscasset.

Abiel married Charlotte Clark in 1816 they made their home in Whitefield and raised their first 5 children there until the year 1827. Some time after 1827 and prior to 1830 they moved to Patricktown.

Their cellar hole in Patricktown was a simple stone structure with a stone fireplace and chimney. It set perched upon a knoll and would have had nice views and plenty of sunshine. The remains of a large apple tree are planted next to the home. The stone dug well is surrounded with pink and yellow honeysuckle trees. It is a very peaceful pretty spot and you can see why they chose to live there.

While living in Patricktown they had 4 more children. Abiel Peaslee died in 1849 leaving Charlotte a widow which is noted on the 1857 ownership map. Charlotte received a \$8.00 widow pension for Abiel's service in the war of 1812. Their son James M. Peaslee was murdered 2/20/1858 we do not have any further info.

The 1850 census shows the following living with widow Charlotte - children Ruth Ann, James, Alexander, Madison, Martin and Horatio Savage which was the son of Ruth. On Horatio's death certificate father was unknown, maybe he was adopted.

Alexander Peaslee died 6/14/1863 while enlisted in the Civil war. He served in 32nd Maine infantry Company G.

The 1870 census shows Charlotte and daughter Hannah living with her son Martin Van Buren. We do not find Charlotte or Hannah listed as living with her son in the 1880 census.

Daughter Hannah married Hosea Knowlton in 1874 this was his third marriage he was divorced twice before Hannah. He was divorced by Lucinda Peabody in 1869, in 1873/74 Olive Knight, Hannah Peaslee left him and went back to live with her mother and he divorced her in 1879. He was incarcerated for several years in prison for larceny and was accused of desertion during the Civil War. He served in Maine 30th Company I infantry 12/10/1863 to 1/6/1864.

Abiel's Son William Peaslee's daughter Ida M. Peaslee married Gardiner Johnson son of Wellington Johnson giving us the connection between the 2 families.

Abiel and Charlotte Peaslee homestead



Trade axe ~ The colonists would trade these axes for fur with the Native Americans. This style was first made around 1765. Also, some soldiers in the war of 1812 would carry this axe on their side and use it as a tool and weapon. Abiel was in the war of 1812 possibly this could well have been his axe and maybe it went to battle with him an intriguing thought.



Civil War Officer or Cavalry Eagle Sword Belt Plate Buckle. Would have been a polished brass with 3 pieces of applied silver wreaths. We was not able to find a connection for this belt with the Peaslee family
All of the civil war soldiers connected to this family were infantry men.

Other notable finds a Civil War canteen hook and a nice brass suspender clip patented 1868.

Links

[1857 Ownership Map Lincoln County, Maine](#)

[History Patricktown - Somerville](#)

[Gazetteer State of Maine 1881 Somerville](#)

[Annual reports State of Maine 1877](#)

[Maine Register State Yearbook 1898/1899](#)

[Somerville bankrupt and for sale](#)

[Fur trade axes](#)

[Civil War Sword Belt Plate Buckle](#)

[Obituary Dr. Wellington Johnson](#)

[3 stages of labor Dr. Wellington Johnson](#)



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