

Among Pat Worden's files is a folder which is labeled the Thomas Cook Wordin papers. Thomas C Wordin in 1855 sought to establish his line of ancestry. Among those papers is an analysis labeled Hypothical. "Peter Wordin 3rd b. 1668 at Yarmouth, m. at age 25, 1693. Sons born, Joseph 1694, Nathaniel 1697, Thomas 1702 (possibly others) [these are the children of Dr Samuel - Ed]. He moved to South Kingston 1697 where he lived until about 1705 when he moved to Westerly where he died 18 Nov 1732. We will suppose that about the year 1714 when Joseph was 20 years of age he moved to Groton, Conn. And remained there two years when he migrated to Stratford, Conn. Where he bought land in 1716 being about 22 years of age. His younger brothers Nathaniel and Thomas went to Stratford with him, Nathaniel being 19 and Thomas 14. Thomas married Jemima Beardsley in 1728 say at age 26."

Thomas C. Wordin apparently never proved his ancestral line because his papers show that his search continued many years.

Questions:

Who were the ancestors of Thomas Wordin?

Who was Joseph of Groton?



Lieutenant Worden Released!

Robert L. Worden

After having been in custody in the Montgomery (Alabama) City Jail since April 15, following his arrest by Confederate officers on April 13, on November 13, 1861, Lieutenant John Lorimer Worden received parole granted by the Confederate Secretary of War and was released from prison. He was ordered to report to the adjutant general in Richmond, Virginia, in exchange for Lieutenant William Sharpe, ex U.S. Navy, now C.S. Navy, who had been captured at the Battle of Hatteras Inlet (August 28-29). On November 14, Worden departed from Montgomery for Richmond, arriving there on the evening of November 17. He reported to the adjutant general with orders from the secretary of war to carry out the exchange. The next day, under a flag of truce, a message was conveyed to Admiral Louis M. Goldsborough, commander of the Union's North Atlantic Blockading Squadron headquartered at Hampton Roads, Virginia, onboard the USS *Minnesota*, to release Lt. Sharpe and send him to Norfolk in exchange for Lt. Worden. This is done and Worden's imprisonment was officially ended.

Note: During the Civil War the two sides used the traditional European method of exchanging prisoners of war, usually one-for-one of equal rank. This partly explains why it took so long for Lt. Worden to be exchanged. There were no Confederate Navy lieutenants taken prisoner until long after the war started, plus the Lincoln administration refused to treat the Confederacy as an independent nation, as might be perceived in exchanging POWs. One aspect of the exchange system was giving "parole" to released POWs who were allowed to return home but not to bear arms against the other side until the formal exchange had taken place. In some cases, when the capturing side could not maintain (guard and feed) all the prisoners they took at a battle, POWs were almost immediately released on parole. This was the case of Lt Worden's first cousin William E. Worden who was taken prisoner at the 2nd Battle of Bull Run on August 30, 1862 and released on September 3rd and sent to Annapolis, Maryland, where there was a large parole camp. James H. Worden, William's older brother, on the other hand, was taken prisoner in a naval engagement off Sabine Pass, Texas, on January 21, 1863, but was not released until March 1865. Confederate navy POWs were hard to come by plus the North was not anxious to let go free Southern men with badly needed technical skills.

On January 13, 1862, following rest and recuperation with his family in Quaker Hill, New York, Lieutenant Worden received Navy Department orders to proceed to Brooklyn, New York, to take command to the USS *Monitor*, a revolutionary new ironclad then under construction at the Continental Iron Works in Greenpoint. The *Monitor* was launched on January 30, commissioned on February 25, and proceeded south on March 6 for its date with destiny at Hampton Roads, Virginia, on March 9, 1862.

Editor note: See <http://www.wordenfamlyassoc.org/> for the new feature
Rear Admiral John Lorimer Worden
Commander of the USS *Monitor*

