

WINSLOW HERITAGE SOCIETY



Worcester Cathedral, Worcester, England

Photo found on Wikipedia

Recently, the Winslow Heritage Society was contacted by Jane Rogers of Worcester Cathedral. She has passed along opportunities to support the Cathedral through capital projects and also fundraisers as simple as “Endow a Day of Music.” Ms. Rogers also extended an invitation for our members to visit reminding us of our shared history of Edward Winslow and his time at the King’s School. For those interested in projects to benefit the Cathedral and to remember Edward Winslow, please contact Kathy Myers, jkmyers2@verizon.net for brochures outlining those projects. Below is some of Ms. Rogers’ correspondence.

“Dear Mrs. Myers

Happy New Year. I was reading recently about Edward Winslow as one of the early settlers in America and I wondered if you knew that he attended the Worcester Cathedral School? I found your email address from the Facebook page for the Edward Winslow Society. Our Cathedral Library archives holds his school admissions register for the years 1590-1645. In this Edward Winslow is recorded as a scholar between 1606 and 1611. We also have a 1953 biography of Edward Winslow by W. Sterry- Cooper. On behalf of the Dean and Chapter, you would be warmly welcome to visit us here in Worcester, and we could arrange for a tour of the Cathedral, the historic parts of the school, including the Edgar Tower gateway, which is possibly the oldest schoolroom in England. Our bell ringing teaching centre is unique and if you were able to climb the spiral staircase beyond the bells, the views from the Tower are stunning! This is our website: http://worcestercathedral.co.uk/Home_Page.php.”

Several members of the Winslow family had a first-hand tour of the Cathedral School and Worcester Cathedral when attending the 400th anniversary celebration of the birth of Edward Winslow. Thanks to Ms. Rogers' reaching out to WHS, it seems appropriate to review Edward's time at the school published in the following booklet.

Edward Winslow (O.V. 1606-11), King's Scholar and Printer

by George G. Wolkins, published 1951 by the American Antiquarian Society

"With Edward Winslow, Sr., we have now got as far as the aftermath of Guy Fawkes Day, November 5, 1605. By that time Edward, Jr. was beginning his eleventh year, and somewhere he must have got his a.b.c. and other rudiments, but where, as Miss Mary Bateson would say, is 'wrapped in doubt.' Worcestershire was as well supplied with schools as any county.....While we can't name the school where Edward, Jr. was taught a.b.c., or, in fact whether he attended such a school, it is amply set up he was trained for 'college' in the limited sense of the word in England at that time. 'College' was a word that survived in local use from the Benedictine friars of the Middle Ages whose care of their juniors was among the offices of Worcester Cathedral, and for whom provision was made in Chapter House, Refectory, and Dormitory, all parts of the Cathedral establishment."

"It is fully shown also, that to offset his father's untoward association with a Gunpowder plotter, there were powerful influences that could be used in the boy's favour. The father, it seems evident, made continuing effort to raise his social status to that of 'gentleman', but in the few documents, his name, where it appears, is not consistently followed by the word 'gentleman'"

"In 1540-42 the monastery in Worcester was suppressed, and the Worcester Cathedral Grammar School, the King's Free School, variously so called, was founded with an endowment that came through the action of Henry VIII; it was probably based on leases that had previously supported the monastery. The prior and thirty-three monks gave place to a maximum of forty boys, or King's Scholars, 'to be taught both grammar and lodgicke in the Greke and Laten tongue, every of them 66s 8d by the yere'.... In general, in the king's schools, or at least on the king's endowment, no boy was to be admitted if his father owned land and goods to the value of more than 300 pounds, but there is evidence this restriction was not too narrowly observed."

It appears that Edward Winslow's name had been misspelled as Edward Winstowe and therefore caused some confusion over his attendance there. In 1944, Rev. W. Sterry-Cooper, M. A., presented the following information which was carefully confirmed in the Worcester Chapter Library on Edward Winslow's time at the school: *"Edward Winslowe was admitted the second of Aprill 1606 in the place of John Welles to beginne his schollership at the feast of annunciation last"* and later, *"John Dymocke was admitted into the place of Edward Wynslowe the 20th daie of Aprill (1611) ex relacione Mr. Bright."*

"During the period Winslow was King's Scholar there were fewer than usual in the School, but it was during what is called its 'Golden Age.....'"

"A fantasy of some appeal might be a prologue featuring Edward Winslow, later the devoted disciple of John Robinson, a kind of vicegerent of independency, stepping around the tomb of King John in the surplice of an acolyte, lighting tapers and doing reverence to expressive figures of the Virgin and Saints, and joining in chants that were prominent in cathedral worship.....In conscience it must be conceded

that for Winslow these were years from eleven to sixteen, and that in his view, in later years, he and his Pilgrim associates had not left the church; they **were** the church.”

Others trained at King’s School were: “Sir John Vaughan, Samuel Butler, O.V..... William Fitzgerald (printer of William Harvey’s book on circulation of the blood). O.V. after the name is an abbreviation of Old Vigornian.....In King’s School at the same time with Winslow were Hannibal and Francis Potter, respectively President of Trinity, Oxford, and F.R.S. maker of quadrants, John Doughtie, prebendary of Westminster, and Roger Manwaring, dean of Worcester, and extreme Arminian, Bishop of St. David’s, Chaplain to Charles I, in hot water with the Long Parliament and called an abject tool of power.”

It is this training at King’s School that prepared Edward Winslow for his writings, *Mourt’s Relation, of Good Newes, Hypocrisie Unmasked* and *The Danger of Tolerating Levellers*.

While much has been written about Edward Winslow, his friendship with Massosot, his statesmanship, his governorship and his death, the information below, found in *Edward Winslow, OV, 1606-1611*, shows another side of the man.

“More than fifty years later, Roger Williams, reviewing his sufferings in Plymouth and In Salem, recalling that Winthrop had privately urged him to steer his course toward Narragansett, ‘where land was free of patent and there were plenty of Indians’, wrote to Major Mason: ‘.....I received a letter from my ancient friend Mr. Winslow, then Govenour of Plymmouth, professing his care and others love and respect to me,....’”

“And at another time in a season of privation and want in the Williams settlement, ‘It pleased the Father of Spirits to teach in any hearts (dear to himself) with Some Relentings. Amongst such....Mr. Winslow...kindly visited me at Providence & put a piece of Gold into the hands of my wife for our supply...(Mr. Winslow) that great & pious Soule.’”



“Mr. Winslow, that great & pious Soule”
Educated at King’s School, Worcester Cathedral



Norman Gateway to King's School, Worcester

Photo by John Myers



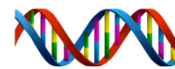
Winslow Descendants with guide about to enter the Gateway to King's School in 1995 during the Celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the birth of Edward Winslow.

Photo by John Myers



To those of you who have renewed your membership for another year, **THANK YOU!** Treasurer, Alice Zimmerman, is pleased to report that as of January 22, 70% of annual members have renewed their membership in the Winslow Heritage Society. Your promptness is appreciated.

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At the Winslow Heritage Society Annual Meeting in October, Judy Quinn, Deputy Governor of WHS and Administrator of the Winslow Surname Project on the DNA Testing site, FTDNA, reported that 16 males and 14 females were participating in the project for a total of 30. Judy has recently reported that there are now 37 participants in the project. If you are considering testing, log on to the FTDNA page for details about Y-DNA, mtDNA, or autosomal DNA. Those with questions or comments may contact Judy at [judyq47@yahoo.com](mailto:judyq47@yahoo.com).

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Article by Bruce Fensley

ABNER WINSLOW (REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERAN) GRAVESTONE DETERIORATION



After my installation into the Sons of The American Revolution, I attempted to find a picture of the gravesite of Abner Winslow in Freetown, Ma. This was my Winslow ancestor that was validated as a Revolutionary War Veteran. Other WHS members may also share this ancestor. I contacted the Freetown Historical Association and they confirmed that Abner was buried in the Robinson Cemetery in Freetown Massachusetts. A Massachusetts friend visited the site and took this picture of Abner’s Headstone. He noted that the lettering on the slate headstone was chipping off (almost illegible) and that the cemetery was very overgrown.

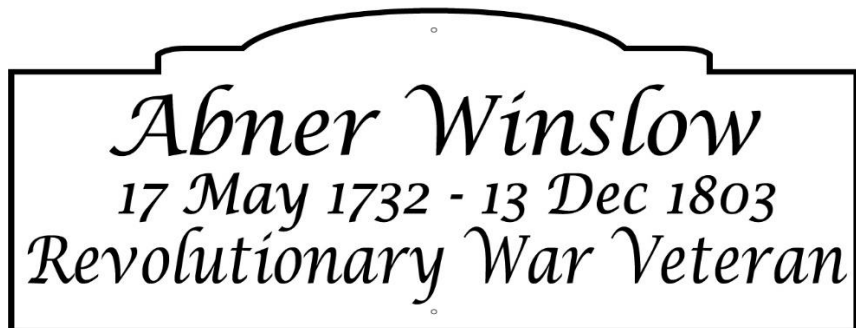
The Folks at the Freetown Historical Society also mentioned that the State of Massachusetts passed a bill in 1884 that encourage local municipalities to allocate funds to maintain the gravesites of Revolutionary War Veterans.

I then wrote to the Director of the Freetown Cemetery Commission and the Veterans Agent Director and explained the condition of the Robinson Cemetery and more specifically, Abner Winslow's headstone. I asked if the Town of Freetown, Massachusetts State, or veterans funding was available to maintain these gravesites. The Director of the Cemetery Commission explained that I could apply for funds based on the Massachusetts 1884 bill, but he was not aware of any appropriations approved for replacing headstones. He was very helpful with suggestions of what might be done to preserve Abner's gravesite. He suggested that an interim solution would be to install a metal painted sign marking his gravesite (capturing the headstone lettering) and in the longer term a flat granite headstone could be placed in front of the existing headstone. He also stated he was not allowed to remove the existing headstone. He sent me these pictures below that captured the state of the lettering on the existing slate headstone. I immediately ordered the painted metal sign to preserve Abner's gravesite in April.



In the meantime, the Freetown Cemetery Commission offered this metal painted sign to mark Abner's gravesite and preserve his Revolutionary War involvement. It should be installed around April.

(1) 18" x 8" high



If any Winslow Heritage Society members have any experience with this process or have any knowledge of organizations or government contacts that can help us with obtaining a new headstone, I would appreciate any help or leads that would help with getting a permanent headstone. Please contact Bruce Fensley b0408fensley@gmail.com.

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This and That



Visit us on Facebook at [winslow.heritage.society](https://www.facebook.com/winslow.heritage.society)

Our organization is able to highlight special events on the Winslow Heritage Society Facebook page. Recently we posted a notice of a Winslow Reunion to be held on August 5 in Benezette, PA, for the descendants of Carpenter and Elizabeth Colburn Winslow. Anyone interested in posting an upcoming special event on Facebook should contact Kathy Myers at jkmyers2@verizon.net.

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Judy Quinn, Deputy Governor, is currently designing a web page for the Society. We will keep you posted on our progress.

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Winslow Heritage Society is working with the Hamilton Company to develop a charm for the Winslow family. Other vendors are also being contacted with ideas to produce additional promotional products for the Society.