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# WINSLOW HERITAGE SOCIETY



*Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers, etching by Charles Lucey*

*Being now passed the vast ocean, and a sea of troubles before them in expectations, they had now no friends to welcome them, no inns to entertain or refresh them, no houses, or much less towns, to repair unto to seek for succor; and for the season it was winter, and they that know the winters of the country know them to be sharp and violent, subject to cruel and fierce storms, dangerous to travel to known places, much more to search unknown coasts. (From the chronicle of those memorable circumstances of the year 1620, as recorded by Nathaniel Morton, keeper of the records of Plymouth Colony, based on the account of William Bradford, sometime governor thereof)*

SECOND ANNUAL MEETING, WINSLOW HERITAGE SOCIETY  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2015



INVOCATION

*By Chaplain Betty Mapes*

*Psalm 104:31, 34 – “Let the glory of the Lord endure forever, and let our meditation be pleasing to him...”*

Let us pray:

Gracious Father and Lord of all, as we meet again to examine and review our work, set foals and meet the challenged ahead; we remember with praise and thanksgiving Your presence and guidance. We ask again for wisdom for the decisions and work we have to do. May whatever we think, say or do be in accordance with Your will, that we may bring honor and glory to You. In Jesus' Name we lift this prayer to You. Amen.

**A note from the Governor: Our second annual meeting was accomplished by teleconference. This was our first experience as a Society attempting a meeting of this kind. I want to thank our new Secretary, Bruce Fensley, for making the arrangements for the free teleconference service and for hosting the meeting. It was amazing to be able to talk with Winslow Heritage Society members around the country and to renew acquaintances with one member I met last year at our first meeting in Plymouth. The discussion was lively, thought provoking, and at times, humorous. Thanks again to all who participated.**

**Kathy Myers**

**Minutes**  
**Winslow Heritage Society**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Remote Phone-In Meeting**  
**October 24, 2015**  
**2:00 pm - 3:18 pm EST**

**Present:** Judith Brister, Bruce Fensley Kathy Myers, John Myers, Judy Quinn, Jane Schleinzer, and Alice Zimmerman.

Proxy votes received and submitted: Prarie Counce, Judith Elfring, Meg Wilber.

**I. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Governor, Kathy Myers at 2:00 pm EST.

**II. Invocation**

Submitted by Betty Mapes, Read by Kathy Myers – Psalm 104, verse 31 – 34.

**III. Minutes Of the Meeting from September 8, 2014**

The September 8, 2014 meeting minutes were provided to all members in the September 2015 Newsletter, Vol.2, No.3.

A motion to approve the 2014 meeting minutes was made by Judy Quinn and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bruce Fensley. The 2014 Meeting minutes were approved by all present and those who voted by proxy.

**IV. New Business**

- a. Bruce Fensley agreed to work on the Nominating Committee to help fill open officer positions. We currently have open positions in; Finance, Junior Membership and Webmaster. Bruce suggested that we document a position description (with responsibilities) for all officer positions. This would help members consider their existing skills and time commitments to fill various positions.
- b. Bruce Fensley submitted his name for the open position for Secretary. A motion was made by Judy Quinn to approve and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Myers. This motion was approved by a vote.
- c. Kathy Myers & Judy Quinn submitted their names to share the open position of Historian/Genealogist. A motion was made by Bruce Fensley to approve and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alice Zimmerman. This motion was approved by a vote.
- d. WHS Member, Gordon Winslow submitted a proposed amendment to the by-laws which would add wording to include a category for those who “can prove lineage to the ancient lines of Winslows”. Similar wording is already included in **Article II, Objectives, section2** and **Article II, Section 6**. This amendment would require additional wording to **Article III, Membership, Sections 1 and 3, and Section 7**. After some discussion by the floor, Bruce Fensley made a motion to approve and 2<sup>nd</sup> John Myers. This motion was approved by a vote of all present and those who voted by proxy.

- e. Kathy Myers read a letter that she received from Mr. Roger Lethem, the current owner of the Kenelm Winslow House in Kerswell Green, Kempsey, UK, about a proposal he was offering to the Winslow Family descendants to purchase shares in a restoration project to correct/update the deteriorating condition of the building and improve the surrounding grounds. After much discussion, it was agreed that we should table our decision to share this proposal until we could continue further investigations and obtain more details about the project. Kathy will send a response to Mr. Lethem regarding our decision about the proposal.

#### **V. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Alice Zimmerman, provided the complete detailed 2015 Treasurer's Report in the September 2015 Newsletter, Vol. 2, No.3 to all members. The current balance was \$2,902.03. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report by Judy Quinn and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bruce Fensley. This motion was approved by all present and those who voted by proxy.

#### **VI. Secretary's Report**

Bruce Fensley agreed to fill the Secretary's position left vacant by Mr. John White. John was unable to continue his role with this position due to his work commitments. We would all like to thank John for all his hard work and organizational contributions.

In the 2014 Secretary's Report, Mr. White requested that everyone provide him with their contact information (email & phone numbers) along with a list of their Winslow forefathers. While information is currently on file with the Historian, there are members with multiple Winslow lines. I would like to continue his request for this information from all WHS members who may wish to provide additional lineage information to the Society. I will be preparing a spreadsheet of what is compiled. In this way, the Secretary can provide a member link with contact information to another member with matching forefathers to assist those members who have hit a lineage roadblock with their family research and who would like to reach out to other WHS members for genealogy assistance. This information shall only be provided to WHS members. Please send your information Bruce Fensley – b0408fensley@gmail.com

#### **VII. Historian/Genealogist Report**

Kathy Myers and Judy Quinn have agreed to jointly fill this position.

We currently have **37 Members, 5 Junior Members, and 3 Friends** of the WHS

WHS Winslow Ancestor Lineage

- 26 members to Kenelm Winslow, including Junior Members
- 10 members to John Winslow, including Junior Members
- 4 members to Josiah Winslow, including one supplemental membership
- 1 member to John Howland
- 2 members to William White

There are three Junior Membership applications pending. Two requests came through the WHS Facebook Page and one member from the Pilgrim William White Society

We currently have a WHS Facebook page and membership information on the Mayflower Society Website.

Bruce Fensley recently saw membership invitations in the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Magazine and suggested that we investigate the possibility of placing membership invitations in the SAR, DAR, Mayflower Society newsletters or magazines and other genealogical organizations. There was discussion about investigating the cost for membership invitations. Bruce Fensley said he would take an action to contact the SAR about the cost of a similar invitation.

We would also ask all WHS members to share WHS organization and membership information with any local genealogy societies that they may belong.

Jane Schleinzer mentioned that both the US Senate and House had existing bills in Congress to have the US mint create a Mayflower Commemorative Coin (gold & silver) in the year 2020 for the 400<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Mayflower Landing in 1620. It is a goal to have a two thirds vote in favor of these bills. Jane asked if all WHS members could write or contact their senators and Congressional representatives to support these bills. There will be 50,000, \$5 gold coins and 100,000, \$1 silver coins. The bill is named the Mayflower Commemorative Coin.

**The Senate bill - S.1715, Sponsor: Senator John Hoeven R-ND**  
**The House bill – HR.2980, Sponsor: Representative Bill Foster, D-IL**

#### **VIII. Old Business**

No old business

#### **IX. Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Bruce Fensley and 2<sup>nd</sup> Judy Quinn. This motion was approved by a vote.

Governor Kathy Myers adjourned the meeting at 3:18 pm EST.

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### **SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION CEREMONY**

*Article by Bruce Fensley*

Winslow Society members, Bruce A. Fensley, Meg E. Wilber, and junior members, John F. Wilber and Joshua A. Wilber (pictured) attended a Sons of the American Revolution installation ceremony at the Nathanael Greene Chapter of the North Carolina Sons of the American Revolution, at the Gilford Courthouse National Military Park in September.

This family's Revolutionary War veteran ancestor was Abner Winslow of Freetown Massachusetts. Abner Winslow, served as a Member of the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection, and Safety, while

he was a Selectman in Freetown, MA (years 1776, 1777, 1778 & 1780). The first of these committees was formed in Boston 1773 to “manage” the Tea Crisis with the Crown. Afterwards, these committees were established in many towns which served as standing inter-colonial provincial governments after the Massachusetts Royal Governor dissolved the Massachusetts Legislature in 1775. The primary purposes of these committees were to: Support the colonial militias, coordinate British opposition, evaluate and communicate important intelligence, and generate favorable colonial propaganda.

**Freetown’s Declaration of Independence.** On July 2, 1776, while Abner Winslow was serving as a Selectman in Freetown, MA, the Selectmen choose a committee to draw up instructions for their deputy to act at the Massachusetts Colony’s General Court and create a declaration of independence from Britain. The Committee members chosen were: Stephen Borden (moderator), Joshua Hatheway, Col. James Winslow, and John Hatheway. This committee prepared the following directions to declare their independence. The following Freetown declaration of independence was taken from page 22 of the book “A History of the Town of Freetown, MA. (Palo Alto Pierce-7-30-1902)”. *Please note that standard spelling of words had not yet been established.*

**“Whereas, George, the Third King of Greate Britian, in Voliation of ye Principles of the British Constitution and the Laws of Justice and humanity, Hath, by an accumulation of oppressions unpariled in history, excluded ye Inhabitants of this, as well as ye other neighboring Collones from his protection; and whereas, he hath paid no regarde to any of our Remonstrances and Dutefull petitions for redress of our Complicated Grevinces, but hath purchased foreign troops to asist in Enslaving us and Enciteed ye Savages of this Country to Carry on war against us, as also ye Negroes, to imbru their hands in ye Blood of their masters in a manner unpractised by Civilized Nations, and moreover hath Lately insulted our Caematyes by Declaring that he will have no mercey on us till he hath Subdued us; and whereas, the obligations of alegence being reciprocal between ye King and his subjects, are now dissolved on ye side of ye Collonies by ye Dispostism and Declaration of ye King, insomuch that Loyalty to him is Treason against the good people of this Country; and, whereas, not only ye parliment, But there is Great reason to beleave Too many of ye people of Great Britain have concurred in ye aforesd arbitrary and unjust proceedings Against us; and, whereas, the Publick Virture of this Collony, so esential to its Liberty and happiness must be indangered by a futer political union with, or Dependence on, a Crown and nation so lost to patriotism and magnanimity; WE, the inhabitants of Freetown, in publick Town meeting assemble, for giving instructions to our representative by Direction from ye general Court, Do in publick Town meeting Vote and declare, and Direct our representative to Declare in ye general Court that we are ready with our Lives and fortunes To Support the General Congress in Declaring the united American Colonies free and independent of Greate Britian, and also Direct our said representative to move in the General Court for ye Delegates for this Colony to be Directed to move for, and give votes for, said Independence, provided, that the internal police of this Government Be allwise left to the people of the said Colony, and we declare to all ye world that we do not make this Declaration out of pride or Envy, but by Dictates of the Laws of Nature, and appeal to ye Supreme Governor of the world for our Sincerity in the Declaration.”**

The above declaration and instruction was voted on and approved by the Freemen at the public meeting.

### **Freetown Military Actions**

One well documented British attack (Mount Hope Bay Attacks) that occurred during Abner Winslow’s Committee service was the attack on Freetown, MA, in May 30, 1778. On May 25, 1778, 500 British and

Hessian soldiers commanded by British General Robert Pigot (Commander - British Garrison in Newport) landed between the towns of Bristol and Warren, Rhode Island. The British divided into two units, and attacked these two towns simultaneously using a factor of surprise. The British units did not receive strong opposition from the colonial militias, which allowed them to cause much destruction. They burned and plundered homes, boats, municipal buildings, churches, and destroyed Continental Army stores.

Five days later (May 30, 1778), a British contingency, under the command of Major Edmund Eyer, sailed up the Taunton River to the Quequechan River to attack the militia of Freetown, MA. Since the British received such weak opposition in the Bristol and Warren attacks, they only deployed 100 troops for this attack. After the Bristol attack and expecting another British attack, the Freetown militia commander (Col. Joseph Durfee) set sentry watches along the river to monitor British naval activity. On the morning of May 30<sup>th</sup>, the sentry alerted the Freetown militia of the presence of British ships approaching. Forty militia men from Freetown and the surrounding area were mustered to oppose this attack force. After landing, the British progressed towards Freetown using small canons with grapeshot against the militia men. The militia men gave good resistance to the British and continued to systematically retreat until they reached a bridge across a large stream. As they reached this bridge, the militia established a defensive position around the bridge using stone walls for their protection. The patriot militia repulsed many British attacks over a ninety minute fight. Gaining no progress at this position, the British finally retreated back to their ships and returned to Newport. The Freetown colonial militia, facing a British force of more than **two to one**, had no casualties, prevented all damage to the property of Freetown, and won the day, while the British casualties had two dead and five wounded.

Bruce will be happy to share any genealogy records with members of the Winslow Heritage Society members that share Abner Winslow as an ancestor.

**The Family's direct Winslow Family lineage is below.**

1. Elizabeth Harriet (Winslow) Fensley – (1914-1977) Bruce Fensley's Mother, Norwich, Ct.
2. Wilfred William Winslow Sr. - (1885-1946) Father of Elizabeth- Putnam, Ct.
3. Llewellyn Ferdinand Winslow – (1856-1922) Father of Wilfred W. Sr. - Putnam, Ct.
4. Israel Brown Winslow – (1833-1882) Father of Llewellyn, Sergeant, Civil War Veteran, Putnam. Ct.
5. Abner Jones Winslow – (1813-1896) Father of Israel B., Born Freetown, Ma. Died Woodstock, Ct.
6. Phillip Winslow- (1776-1827) Father of Abner Jones - Freetown, Ma.
7. **Abner Winslow – (1732-1803) Father of Phillip Freetown, Ma – Revolutionary War Veteran.**
8. John Winslow – (1694-bef 1755) Father of Abner - Freetown, Ma
9. Lt. Job Winslow- (abt 1641-1720) Father of John - King Phillips Indian War Veteran Freetown, Ma.
10. Kenelm Winslow- (1599-1672) Father of Lt. Job - Plimoth Plantation/Marshfield, Ma, Brother of Edward Winslow (Plimoth Governor)
11. Edward Winslow – (1560-bef 1631) Father of: Kenelm, Edward, John, Gilbert, and Josiah, Droitwich, Worcestershire, England.

**The series of articles on DNA testing by Deputy Governor, Judy Quinn, will continue in the next edition of the newsletter. Those having an interest in the Winslow DNA Project may contact Judy at [judyq47@yahoo.com](mailto:judyq47@yahoo.com). The more who test the more we may learn about our past.**

