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## WINSLOW HERITAGE SOCIETY



### *ST. PETER'S CHURCH, DROITWICH*

(The above photo is taken from the web page of St. Peter's Church in Droitwich)

#### **"A brief history**

Although there was a Saxon church on the site, no traces of it now remain. The current building does, however, still retain parts of the Norman building, of which the chancel arch provides a fine example of its type. The church was extended in the 12th century with a south aisle, later truncated to a south transept, which is now a Lady Chapel. The south east window contains a very old example of stained glass work. The north transept was added in the 14th century.

The nave was later drastically altered in the time of Henry VII, and a new roof put on, which fits through a rather odd but fine half-timbered clerestory.



Perhaps the most significant memorial in the church, which draws visitors especially from the United States, is that to Edward Winslow, born in St Peter's parish in 1595, and one of the Pilgrim Fathers who sailed on the Mayflower. He served three times as governor of the Plymouth colony, and brought the first domestic cattle to America. The detail is from a portrait by an anonymous London artist, painted in 1651. It is the only portrait of any of the Pilgrim Fathers actually painted from life. The vestry built onto the church in 1973 was dedicated to his memory.

The tower was built in 1500AD, although the west doorway was cut later. St Peter's has a peal of six bells, and three of these are of considerable age. There is no ringing chamber, but ringers stand in the space under the tower at the back of the church.”<sup>1</sup>

### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH AND THE WINSLOW FAMILY

“It is Edward, the father, who must be dealt with in any epic of Edward, the son; the more studiedly, perhaps, because the evidence is piecemeal. The father grew up in the beginnings of the Elizabethan reign, a time when it was held the country was over-populated. Many farms were too small. Richard Hakluyt was among those disturbed by ‘The Realme swarming at this day with valiant youthes’. John Heming went from Droitwich to London to become actor-manager of the Globe Theatre, but Edward Winslow, Sr. apparently laid his course for Droitwich, about five miles and a half the other side of Worcester, site of salt wells that had been worked time out of record. Droitwich on the Salwarpe flowing into the Severn, having, in 1563, we are told, 151 families in a splendid example of what the economists call ‘lingering custom’. The brine of an underground river came to the surface in springs that had been allotted under the Saxons, and probably under their predecessors; the king, Westminster Abbey, and several nabobs had shares in the gain.”<sup>2</sup>

At St. Peter's Church, Droitwich, one can find the permanent record of the baptisms of the children of Edward Winslow. Edward, who married Magdalene Oliver at St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London, was determined to show that he was a member of the established church. According to Wolkins, recited below, “...he was not only a member, but he was determined there should not be the slightest aspersion on the regularity of his membership or on his loyalty to the Church of England....The growth of Separatism, the strength of recusancy, need not be rehearsed here, but it is perhaps relevant to point out that in the St. Peter's registry for that era the **Winslow baptisms are the only ones recorded with dates of birth accompanying, as if to make it clear that here was a loyal Anglican who brought his children to be baptized within the three days desirable**, an Anglican whose religious life could have been suited easily under any local Vicar of Bray.” (emphasis by Editor)

Within the church itself is an object within a window that may be related to Edward, Jr., “...In the southeast window of the south transept...of St. Peter's come 14<sup>th</sup> century black and white glass,

<sup>1</sup> Text taken from the web page of St. Peter's Church, Droitwich

<sup>2</sup> Edward Winslow (O.V.1606-11) King's Scholar and Printer, by George G. Wolkins

including a pelican in her piety. If this can be related to the personal seal that Edward, Jr., used forty years or so later, we can imagine that what Sir Osbert Sitwell calls ‘something of the reflective air of the pelican’ was impressed upon his mind as a child dutifully conforming to the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer,”<sup>3</sup>

There is another historical fact that may have also influenced Edward, Sr., to portray himself as a loyal member of the Church of England. “But upon this church-going, salt-victualling Edward, Sr., of unblemished Anglicanism, there fell what we may regard—in the state of religious opinion in the England of that time—a heavy blow. The key to this is among the Talbot MSS., a certificate by the Bailiffs of Droitwich, Borough seal attached, a document acquired by the British Museum as recently as in 1937. It concerns the salt-vats as used in 1602-05; it recites that twenty-five of the boileries had been held by **Robert Wintour, Esq.**, late attainted of high treason; that ‘Edward Wynslowe’ had been among the tenants.....and that one boiler, until the third year of James I in the tenure of Edward Wynslowe or his sub-tenants, had been sold by the said Wyntour to one Thomas Gower, gent. Here we have Edward Winslow, Sr., in the fall of 1605, a tenant, sub-tenant, occupier, entre-preneur or what-not, a circumjovial **satellite to one of the more prominent conspirators against Protestant king and parliament. Winter bowed to the Tower executioner January 30, 1605/6, for his share in Gunpowder Plot, and we may assume the elder Winslow was in a sufficiently distracted frame of mind to lean the more heavily on his church connection.** (emphasis by editor)<sup>4</sup>



**A distinctive gate greets visitors and worshipers at St. Peter’s Church** (Photo St. Peter’s web page)

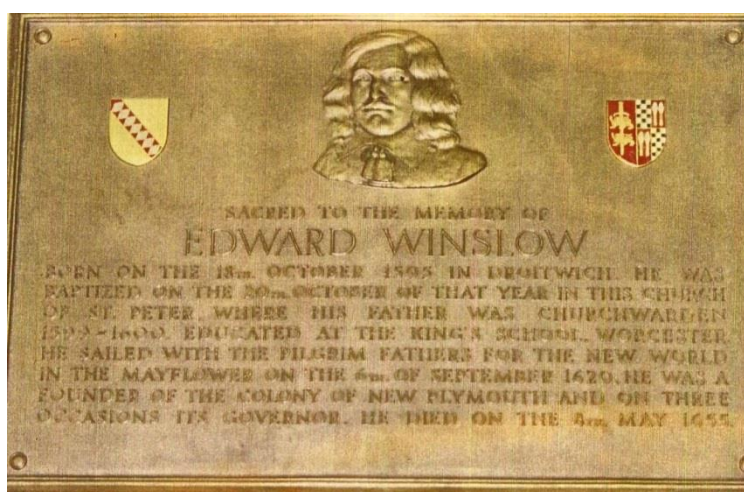
<sup>3</sup> Edward Winslow (O.V. 1606-11), King’s Scholar and Printer, by George G. Wolkins

<sup>4</sup> Edward Winslow (O.V. 1606-11), King’s Scholar and Printer, by George G. Wolkins



(Photo by John Myers)

**Interior of St. Peter's Church, Droitwich**



(Photo by John Myers)

**Edward Winslow Remembered at St. Peter's Church**



## GUN-POWDER Plot :

O R,  
A Brief Account of that bloody and subtle Design laid against the King, his Lords  
and Commons in Parliament, and of a Happy Deliverance by Divine Power.  
To the Tune of *Stim nat too high.* Licensed according to Order.



But Protestants I pray you do not fear,  
Unto this Day I send attentive Ear;  
The Kings are dead although the Devil's Child,  
Like itself is as true as e'er was told.  
When James the First in England Reigned King,

At length, these wretched Romanes all agreed  
Wholly to make the King and Nation bleed,  
By Powder, all agreed with joint Consent,  
To blow up both the King and Parliament.  
So to keep secret this their Villanage,

### Gunpowder Plot<sup>5</sup>

The **Gunpowder Plot** of 1605, in earlier centuries often called the **Gunpowder Treason Plot** or the **Jesuit Treason**, was a failed assassination attempt against King James I of England and VI of Scotland by a group of provincial English Catholics led by Robert Catesby.

The plan was to blow up the House of Lords during the State Opening of England's Parliament on 5 November 1605, as the prelude to a popular revolt in the Midlands during which James's nine-year-old daughter, Princess Elizabeth, was to be installed as the Catholic head of state. Catesby may have embarked on the scheme after hopes of securing greater religious tolerance under King James had faded, leaving many English Catholics disappointed. His fellow plotters were John Wright, Thomas Wintour, Thomas Percy, Guy Fawkes, Robert Keyes, Thomas Bates, **Robert Wintour**, Christopher Wright, John Grant, Ambrose Rookwood, Sir Everard Digby and Francis Tresham. Fawkes, who had 10 years of military experience fighting in the Spanish Netherlands in suppression of the Dutch Revolt, was given charge of the explosives.

The plot was revealed to the authorities in an anonymous letter sent to William Parker, 4th Baron Monteagle, on 26 October 1605. During a search of the House of Lords at about midnight on 4 November 1605, Fawkes was discovered guarding 36 barrels of gunpowder—enough to reduce the House of Lords to rubble—and arrested. Most of the conspirators fled from London as they learned of the plot's discovery, trying to enlist support along the way. Several made a stand against the pursuing Sheriff of Worcester and his men at Holbeche House; in the ensuing battle Catesby was one of those shot and killed. At their trial on 27 January 1606, eight of the survivors, including Fawkes, were convicted and sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered.

Details of the assassination attempt were allegedly known by the principal Jesuit of England, Father Henry Garnet. Although he was convicted of treason and sentenced to death, doubt has been cast on how much he really knew of the plot. As its existence was revealed to him through confession, Garnet was

<sup>5</sup> Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

prevented from informing the authorities by the absolute confidentiality of the confessional. Although anti-Catholic legislation was introduced soon after the plot's discovery, many important and loyal Catholics retained high office during King James I's reign. The thwarting of the Gunpowder Plot was commemorated for many years afterwards by special sermons and other public events such as the ringing of church bells, which have evolved into the Bonfire Night\* of today.

*\*The 5<sup>th</sup> of November is also known as Guy Fawkes Day. There are several versions of English folk poems written about the plot beginning with the words, "Remember, Remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November..."*

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## The Deputy Governor's Corner

### DNA / Genetic Genealogy Project

By Judy Quinn judyq47@yahoo.com

I've been contacted by and have been consulting with a gentleman named Greg who has been working with a newer (though more expensive) testing method known as "next-generating sequencing". He is working with a start-up company called Full Genomes Corporation (FGC), which has developed a commercial version of a testing approach focused on the Y chromosome. It is called the "Y Elite" test and is essentially the most comprehensive Y chromosome test on the market. He has an interest in DNA and bioinformatics, colonial New England history and DNA / genetic genealogy.

Greg as well as others have been working with a couple of the other DNA Mayflower surname project administrators to create a project focusing on advanced testing and DNA research related to the Mayflower passengers. To give you some idea of what he's trying to do and the goals of the project, check out the current project website (still under development): <https://mayflowerdna.org/>. So far they've sponsored initial Y Elite tests for several of the paternal lines (currently pending results), and the goal is to sponsor these tests for at least one representative from each surviving paternal line by the November 2020 anniversary of the Mayflower arrival in Plymouth. **The test will be done without cost to the participant(s) however they must be a direct Y-DNA descendent of a Winslow brother(s).** In certain cases, they hope to be able to identify specific SNP markers that can confirm patrilineal descent from certain passengers with great confidence (and also at relatively low cost, under \$50). In order to identify those markers, they will likely be following up on the Y Elite test results by pursuing additional advanced Y-DNA testing through single-marker tests at YSEQ. With an average of one SNP mutation every ~3 generations detected by the Y Elite test, and with two generations separating brothers, they foresee a decent chance of being able to identify individual-level SNP markers when there are surviving lineages available to test. As they see it, testing of the individual-level marker, along with a confirmatory "family-level" or "haplogroup-level" marker, can provide a low-cost, high-reliability check for patrilineal descent from particular Mayflower-associated individuals. The results could thus potentially provide

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evidence to surmount brick walls or support previously unconfirmed relationships. During this process they will be trying to use the results to produce genetic evidence to help answer some of the unanswered genealogical questions surrounding the Mayflower families!

This is by no means the first effort at using genetic genealogy and DNA testing to provide insight into Mayflower genealogical research and there are a number of family associations and surname projects (including our own Winslow DNA Project at Family Tree DNA), along with the Mayflower Society, which have been involved in this area in recent years. This project can potentially provide a forum for both presenting/summarizing findings to date, and also facilitating/coordinating additional DNA research.

In recent months, they have been working on reaching out to the various family associations, surname projects, and potentially-interested individuals in order to explore potential research coordination and collaboration. Greg is currently trying to recruit representatives from the various paternal Mayflower lineages for "Y Elite" tests (which would be paid for by them, at least for the initial stages of the project). These might be followed by other advanced tests in order to follow up on some of the initial findings.

I'm hoping that this article has piqued your interest in DNA testing and the more in depth project of Y Elite DNA testing and if that is the case, please contact me for further information on how you can participate. They have yet to publicly announce the project, as they're still in the process of trying to reach out to appropriate organizations, projects, experts, etc.

Greg's own personal goal is to have the project sponsor at least one "Y Elite" test from FGC for each of the extant paternal Mayflower lineages; the idea is that this will provide a high-resolution picture for each of the Mayflower Y lineages, in advance of the Mayflower quadricentennial in 2020. As a secondary goal they are hoping to be able to identify individual markers to differentiate brothers, uncles, cousins, etc. in order to allow cheap and reliable tests (future) that would confirm ancestry from particular Mayflower-affiliated individuals (this won't be possible/practical in all cases).

If any of our project members might be interested in participating, (male-surname Winslow only), I can provide further info and details. Please contact me by email so that I might provide you with contact information and more details as necessary. I should note that it would require collection of a new DNA sample (via saliva) as the testing is not being done through Family Tree DNA. This does NOT mean that I've stopped encouraging each of you to test through Family Tree DNA or to please upload your results to Family Tree DNA if you have tested with another company.

Greg wanted to know which of the Winslow brothers have known living paternal line descendants. The lineages from different brothers will provide an interesting point of comparison, and additional testing of those lines may allow them to identify markers unique to each of the brothers, which would provide a useful genetic genealogy tool to help facilitate research of various descendant lineages. Some folks have also expressed interest in autosomal DNA and mtDNA related to Mayflower passengers. (I am among them!) There is a provision for including these in future project efforts which I find very exciting!!

This is an excellent opportunity for us as a new Society to be able to work alongside such renowned researchers and genetic genealogists while at the same time work towards one of our society objectives. Our Bylaws: Article II, Section 6 states: "To encourage and support DNA testing programs either through the General Society of Mayflower Descendants or through established genealogical testing programs."

Our initial draft page for Winslow Y-DNA on the new Mayflower DNA project website: [https://mayflowerdna.org/wiki/index.php?title=Winslow\\_\(Y-DNA\)](https://mayflowerdna.org/wiki/index.php?title=Winslow_(Y-DNA)) Check it out!

I have also been contacted by Mike Terry, the new Program Administrator for the Mayflower DNA project at Family Tree DNA. He was requesting help sorting out the YDNA results in the project. If you are currently a member of the Mayflower Society (male or female) please let me know and if you could briefly give me your descent from your Mayflower passenger that would also be helpful. Mike is trying to establish the YDNA footprint for the male passengers. He would also like to know who has done any other DNA testing (mtDNA, Family Finder) and if you can show descent from one of the Mayflower passengers through either one of those tests.

I was not a member of the Mayflower project prior but, since receiving his request my nephew and I have both become members. Mike would like all of you to join the Mayflower Project on Family Tree DNA as well if you are not already a member. I'm hoping to hear from all of you regarding your descent, but hopefully not all at once! I will respond to each of you. Thank you for being a member of Winslow Heritage Society and supporting DNA testing.

Judy Quinn, Co-Administrator, Winslow DNA Project @ Family Tree DNA.



### A NOTE FROM WHS SECRETARY, BRUCE FENSLEY

In the 2014 Secretary's Report, Mr. White (previous WHS Secretary) requested that everyone provide their contact information (email & phone numbers) with their Winslow family forefather. Now that we have that information compiled, I would like to continue his proposal to provide WHS Members with contact information from all WHS members sharing the same Winslow forefather. This information shall only be provided to WHS members who have hit a lineage search roadblock with their family research and would like to reach out to other WHS members for some assistance. If you are interested, please send your information request with your Winslow Forefather to Bruce Fensley – [b0408fensley@gmail.com](mailto:b0408fensley@gmail.com).