



# WINSLOW HERITAGE SOCIETY



Plans are underway for a WHS 2020 project. Some ideas to date are:

- (1) Commemorative plaque to be placed somewhere in Plymouth, MA, listing the names of the 5 Winslow Brothers. Possible locations: Brewster Gardens, the First Parish Church Meetinghouse, or other public location;
- (2) Plant a commemorative elm tree, possibly somewhere in Marshfield where 3 of the 4 brothers who stayed in America lived. An organization known as [libertytreesociety.org](http://libertytreesociety.org) is offering the elm trees;
- (3) Add wording to the back of the current Winslow Silver Charm making it a special 2020 commemorative charm.

Members with other suggestions may contact Kathy Myers, [jkmyers2@verizon.net](mailto:jkmyers2@verizon.net); Bruce Fensley at [b0408fensley@gmail.com](mailto:b0408fensley@gmail.com); or John White at [concord1775@comcast.net](mailto:concord1775@comcast.net)

## ANNUAL MEETING

News about the annual meeting will appear in the September issue of the newsletter. Amendments to the by-laws will be considered at the annual meeting and will be published in that newsletter for member consideration. A full copy of the by-laws may be found on our web page at [www.winslowheritagesociety.org](http://www.winslowheritagesociety.org). Any suggested amendments should be forwarded to Deputy Governor, Judy Quinn, [judyq47@yahoo.com](mailto:judyq47@yahoo.com) no later than July 31.



The Governor is pleased to announce that Jessica Winslow, a descendant of John Winslow, has agreed to serve as Chair of our Education and Research Committee. Jessica can be reached at [jessicawinslow77@gmail.com](mailto:jessicawinslow77@gmail.com)



# Welcome

## NEW MEMBERS

**KAREN MASEK SHAPRIO**, descendant of Kenelm Winslow;  
**BRIAN SAMUEL WILDFONG**, descendant of Kenelm Winslow;  
**DELBERT ALAN SMITH**, descendant of William White;  
**LINDA CUMBER GIFKINS**, descendant of Kenelm Winslow;  
**RICHARD KENNETH DUNHAM**, descendant of John Winslow;  
**ROBERT F. WHITE, SR.**, descendant of John Winslow  
**KENNETH LEE WINSLOW**, descendant of Kenelm Winslow  
**DANA C. WINSLOW**, descendant of Kenelm Winslow

## MAYFLOWER II

On May 18, WHS members, John and Kathy Myers, had an opportunity to get a close up view of the renovations to the Mayflower II through a program sponsored by the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants and Plimoth Plantation. At the site in Mystic, Connecticut, a group saw the work from the bottom of the ship to the top. The site includes saw mills and a mix of trees being used, with oak being the main tree for the hull. The workers patiently make patterns of the rotting wood that is being taken off the ship in order to make replacement parts. It is slow going, but steady work. The ship will be 85% rebuilt at the end of the project. The Mayflower II is expected to be back in Plymouth before the 2020 celebrations, possibly by 2019.



(photo by John Myers)



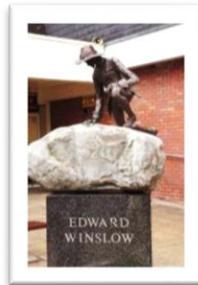
(photo by John Myers)

To submit articles for the WHS newsletter, contact Kathy Myers at [jkmyers2@verizon.net](mailto:jkmyers2@verizon.net).



## **A Journey to the Past: You Can Go Home Again**

**By Jessica Winslow and Naomi Winslow Ingraldi,  
sisters, members of WHS**



***Edward Winslow memorial in Droitwich***

Saturday, March 31, 2018, was the 4th day of our trip to the UK, a day similar to the others as we awoke to gray skies and cold temperatures. Our first stop was Kempsey to locate the Winslow homestead. Don't know how we would have done it without GPS and an excellent navigator (LOL!)

The roads are narrow with no shoulder and there was much ponding from the rain of the past several days. When the GPS announced "you have arrived at your destination" we were stumped! Where was the homestead? We pulled onto a dirt road and saw in the distance a house that looked like it had thatched roof. Hoping it was the one, we walked down the dirt road and passed several cottages on our way. We walked up a driveway and spotted a gentleman standing by a fence in the yard of a modern house that stood in front of the thatched house. We told him we were looking for the Winslow house and he pointed to it!

As we soon came to learn, the gentleman, named Roger, was the current property owner. We made our introductions and he asked if we were associated with the Winslow Heritage Society and Kathy Myers. He said we could walk around the property and take photos. He told us about a chimney fire in the house some years ago that took out the center chimney stack. It took 5 brigades to stop the fire, using water from the pond located between his house and the Winslow homestead. Roger pointed out the oldest part of the house-the original main door to a pipe sticking out of the siding- dated to 1400's. Part of the conservation process that he started years ago included "dating" of the home. Roger said the conservators are urging him to repair and restore the building, which he estimates will cost close to \$1 million.

Roger left for town and we stayed and explored. I discovered a way into the house and we cautiously entered. It is being used for storage and a cat has found its way inside. The interior of the house was dry because the thatched roof did not leak. There are exposed beams and a large fireplace on one end. The center fireplace was in disrepair. Wooden steps led to two rooms upstairs. They were sturdy enough to navigate, which we did. Wooden floors, hand-hewn timbers and exposed beams are visible. The smell of 600 years of fireplaces still lingered. We took multiple interior and exterior photos; it was evident that at one time it was a beautiful home. On the side of the homestead there's an empty in-ground pool and



overgrown gardens. The beautiful views of the Malvern Hills out the rear windows are concealed by two large dumpsters that contained construction debris. It is a sad state in its present condition.

In front of the Winslow house Roger had built a beautiful “addition,” a striking contemporary house for his wife Mary and himself, along with a lovely pond. When we returned to the car, which was parked on a dirt road, we discovered that someone had left a note for us: “IDIOT.”

Our next stop was Droitwich, the town the Winslow brothers inhabited before leaving for America. It was once renowned for its salt mining operation that dates back to Roman times. Salt mining ended in the 1920s, and the last spa closed about ten years ago.

At the Droitwich Spa Heritage Centre in Victoria Square we met the very knowledgeable and friendly Sarah Davies, Heritage Manager. She showed us their copy of the famous Edward Winslow portrait (the original is on display in Plymouth). Also, in 2009 the town erected a statue commemorating Edward Winslow, produced by Sara Ingleby-MacKenzie the renowned sculptress, in the St. Andrew’s Shopping Centre. It shows Edward kneeling as he touches Plymouth Rock in gratitude for safe deliverance. Sarah is hoping that American tourists will be drawn to Droitwich Spa as part of the 2020 celebrations.

These websites have more information about the history of Droitwich Spa:

<http://droitwichspa.com/history.shtml>

<http://historicdroitwich.org.uk/>

Our final stops on the Edward Winslow tour were to St. Peter’s Church in Droitwich, where Edward Winslow was baptized in 1595, and the Worcester Cathedral, where he attended the King’s School from 1606-1611.

As a side note, an English professor friend at the University of Texas at Austin shared this possible etymology of the idiom, “raining cats and dogs.” This phrase may come from said mammals tumbling out of the thatch where they took refuge on days with blustery rains.

Photos accompanying this article by Jessica Winslow and Naomi Winslow Ingraldi







## Kenelm Winslow's Marshfield House<sup>1</sup>



*Internet photo*

**By Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs**

As Plymouth Colony grew, its population included more and more people who had not been part of the Pilgrim migration from England to Holland to New England. Some had no known connections with the first settlers; others were relatives who came directly from England. Kenelm Winslow, for example, was Edward Winslow's brother. He arrived in Plymouth in 1631 to serve as the colony's accountant (he was also a furniture-maker, or "joiner"); ten years later he moved to the Rexham area of Marshfield where the "Kenelm Winslow House" still stands.

In 1901, Ruth A. Bradford published an article on "Marshfield and its Historic Houses" in which she rapturously described the house: "A large house was needed, and Mr. Winslow's views of comfort and convenience were large for that period; he evidently had not forgotten his English home, and wished to establish such a one here. ... Two good cellars were dug, providing for the winter's needs, and strong foundations were laid. The heavy oaken timbers supporting the frame are still unimpaired by the lapse of over 250 years. He built, according to the custom of the period, an immense central chimney, which gave ample fireplaces in the four rooms of the main house, and others in the kitchen and one above. The chimney necessitated rather a small hall or entry; but the stairways were broad and easy, with several landings. The railings were very broad, and the balusters heavy and handsomely wrought. A second flight, nearly as handsome as the lower stairway, led to the great garret. Today these stairs are worn into hollows by the many generations of feet that have passed over them. May they long remain unrestored!" [They presumably did until the late 1980s, when a fool who then owned the house removed them; now access to the garret is provided by a pull-down aluminum ladder and there is no longer any front staircase at all.]

Ruth Bradford continued. "The four rooms at the front of the house were about eighteen feet square, the lower story seven feet in height. The heavy timbers show in the corners, while beams of oak extend across each ceiling. The walls were mostly sealed with wood, while above the fireplaces the panels were of extra width, such as to astonish a modern eye, for they were cut from trees of a size no longer left in our forests. ... Back of these lower rooms was a large kitchen, where at the great fireplace

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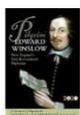
<sup>1</sup> This material appeared first as a part of my article, "Plymouth Colony Architecture Inventory, An Introduction," *Bulletin of the Fellows of the Pilgrim Society* 1, nr. 2 (1996), pp. 27-42; I also included it in my "Introduction" to Charles H. Simmons, Jr., *Plymouth Colony Records, Volume 1, Wills and Inventories, 1633-1669*, (Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1996), pp. xx-xxi.



the family meals were cooked. There were good sized bedrooms with deep closets opening on each side of this room, with doors from each front room also. At the back of this kitchen were pantries and another back room, also stairways leading to back chambers and cellars. In the second story the chambers were, strangely, higher ceiled, being at least eight feet. ... Back of these two great chambers was a large kitchen-chamber, now blackened by age and the hue of mahogany, for it has never been defiled by paint. This room was the sitting room of the colored servants or slaves, as they really were in the eighteenth century. Opening out of this room were two good sized bedrooms, where probably the servants slept. The great garret was over the whole house; ... It was the receptacle of the spinning wheels, ... and the numberless articles pertaining to a well ordered household. It is a pleasant task to go back to those early days of New England's settlement and gather what we can from faded and yellowed manuscripts and meagre records, glimpses of domestic life and social customs. Nothing brings the old days back to us more vividly than the old houses ..."<sup>2</sup>

This particular example of vividness seems to be drained of color, however, when we read Kenelm Winslow's inventory, taken in 1672.<sup>3</sup> Kenelm Winslow owned no slaves. There was one bedstead and a trundle bed, not the furnishings of six bedrooms. If there was a spinning wheel, it was listed under the term "householdments." The information of the inventory is supported by what can be seen on inspecting the foundations of the present building (which I did ca. 1995-1996). Originally there was one cellar, about half the size of one of the two present cellars, under the floor of the front east room only. The hearth of unmortared fieldstone now supports a large brick stack; it may have been built to support a timber-framed fireplace. The house that now stands above the modified foundations (with two large cellars) must date from the last quarter of the seventeenth century or the first quarter of the eighteenth. Curiously, an undatable structure of three bays, whose timber-framing is characteristically seventeenth-century, serves now as a summer house set back from the main house. The narrower central bay of this building is framed to allow for the possibility of a chimney. The absence of necessary wide door frame arrangements indicates that it was not built as a barn; but it is undocumented, so the possibility that this old structure is the original house remains conjectural. Without Kenelm Winslow's inventory to call our attention to the fact that the "Kenelm Winslow House" cannot be the one in which he lived, the ancient frame in the back yard might easily be overlooked or shrugged off as some kind of farm outbuilding.

*Editor's note: Dr. Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs is the author of "Pilgrim Edward Winslow, New England's First International Diplomat", among other publications. He is Director of the Leiden American Pilgrim Museum Foundation. WHS is appreciative for his contribution to this newsletter. He can be reached at [bangsflynn@cs.com](mailto:bangsflynn@cs.com).*



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<sup>22</sup> Ruth. A. Bradford, "Marshfield and its Historic Houses," *New England Magazine*, 2nd series, vol. 24 (March-August, 1901), pp. 438-439.

<sup>3</sup> The inventory is in the third volume of Plymouth Colony probate inventories, p. 57, 25 September 1672. (Simmons' publication covers the first and second volumes only.) Nowhere in Kenelm Winslow's inventory is there any indication of heavy indebtedness, which has recently (1980s – 1990s) been part of a legend that he died in Salem while fleeing creditors (and that his ghost makes occasional appearances there).



## KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE!!



**WHS Historian, John White, has an interest in and is a collector of old documents. Through this column, John will share some of his findings with us.**

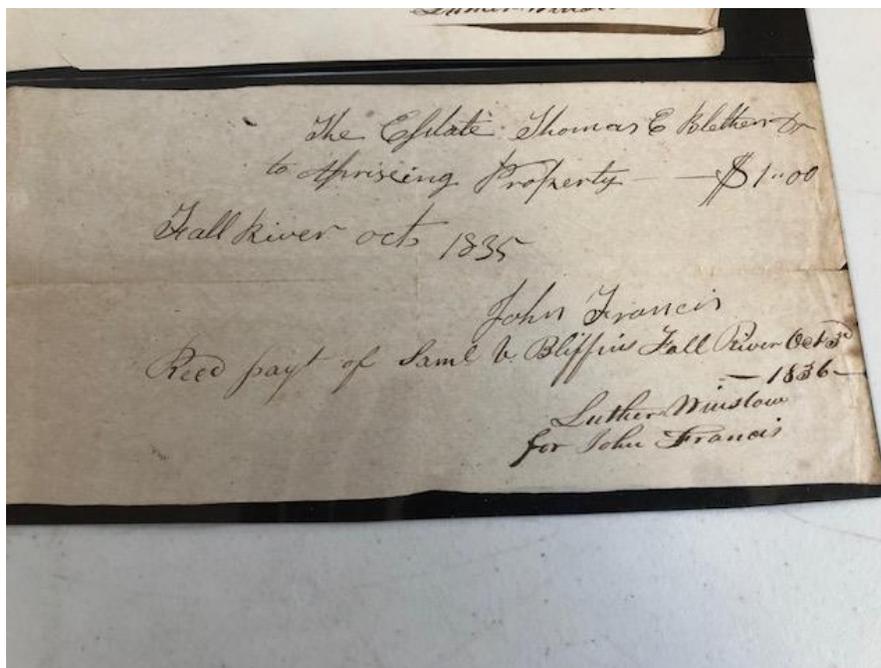
**Luther Winslow, [Luther, 6-5, William,4, Richard,3, Job2, Kenelm1]**

b. 18 Nov 1798 at Troy. afterward Fall River MA; d. there 2 Feb 1865; m. there by Joseph E. Read, Esq. in 1825 to Sally Wilson b. 15 July 1804 dau. of Hezekiah and Wealthy (Terry) of Fall River. She died, 31 Mar 1859 at Fall River. He held various town offices; was selectman from 1835-1839, farmer.

### **First document:**

The estate of Thomas E. Blethen, Jr. To appraising property ---- \$1.00. Fall River Oct 1835, John Francis

Recd pay of Saml V Biffins Fall River Oct 30 - 1836- Luther Winslow for John Francis





**Second document:** Beautiful document signed 4 times by Luther Winslow

The estate of Thomas L Bliffins to Luther Winslow, to services in appraising estate \$1.00

Recd paymt of Saml V Bliffins Fall River Oct 1st 1836, Luther Winslow

Fall River Sept 1st 1836, The estate of Thos L Bliffins to Luther Winslow, To services in receiving and allowing claims against said estate -----\$2.00

Recd payment of Saml V Bliffins Fall River Oct 1st 1836, Luther Winslow

