

WINSLOW HERITAGE SOCIETY

GRANDMA'S AUTOGRAPH BOOK

by Kathy Myers

The following article appeared in the winter issue of The Watershed Journal, a local publication by a group of writers in and around Brookville, Jefferson County, PA. Written about my grandmother, Eva Winslow, It is my pleasure to share it with the members of the Winslow Heritage Society. *Kathy*

"November 20, 1887, Dear Eva, There is a small and simple flower that twines around the humblest cot. And in the sad and lonely hours, it whispers low: 'Forget me not', Ever yours, Mina English"



Photo by John Myers

In a time when friends connect instantly through e-mail, text messaging, Twitter, and Facebook, and where the use of abbreviations such as lol and bff are widespread, I am reminded, through my grandmother's autograph book, that best friends forever in her day connected in ways far different than friends do today.

My grandmother was born in 1875 on Winslow Hill in Elk County, Pennsylvania. The writing inside the front cover of her autograph book indicates it was purchased in DuBois, Pennsylvania, on September 15, 1887, when she was 12 years old. Autograph books are an old time tradition. Curious to know where the custom began, a little research revealed that autograph books were popular in Europe as early as the 15th Century. Becoming particularly popular in Germany, a book would have been known as *stambuch* or friendship book. Autograph books were introduced to America in the late 18th century by German immigrants and peaked in popularity after the Civil War.

Leafing through the pages reveals a collection of autographs and verses from family and friends. There are pages with fragments of Victorian style Valentines pasted over the writings so as to hide what lies beneath. The messages vary from advice, to witty, to a note written on Thanksgiving Eve by my great grandmother. There is even a page of strange ciphers of which no one knows the meaning. Reading the entries found there reveals much about the writers' abilities for penning words to paper, the thoughts that are behind the sayings from bygone days of genteel etiquette.

“November 21, 1887, Friend Eva, When you are sitting all alone reflecting on the past, remember that you have a friend that will forever last. Austin E. Booth”

“November 24, 1887, Dear Eva, Remember them that had the rule over you and spoke unto you the words of God. Your affectionate mother, Mary Martha Winslow”

“February 20, 1890, Dear Eva, May your life have just clouds enough to make a beautiful sunset, is the wish of your Friend and Teacher. Crissie F. Hanna”

“February 10, 1893, To Eva, Long may you live and happy may you be and when you get married come and see me. From your Cousin, Oral Johnston”

“September 26, 1897, Dear Eva, You have 22 people here for dinner today. Is that not a corker, and Eva overslept herself this morning, dum, dum, and I smell chicken, yum, yum. From one of the visitors.”

Every now and then I open Grandma’s autograph book and study what was written some 131 years ago. Inevitably, coming to the page with marks made in ink, a cipher of some kind, I am always stumped. Grandma never shared its meaning with me, if she ever knew. But someone went to a lot of trouble to pen it. Was it just for fun? Is it some kind of shorthand? Is it a secret letter from some long ago best friend forever? When holding the page in front of a mirror, its reflection doesn’t reveal a readable message, not even when it’s turned upside down. If any reader has an idea as to the key to this puzzle, I would really like to hear from you.

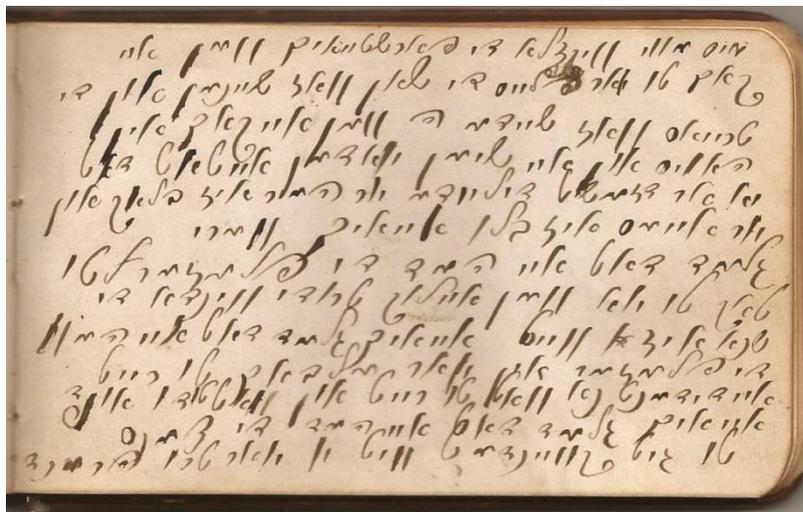


Photo by John Myers

After submitting this article to The Watershed Journal, one of its editors contacted me to say the “ciphers” looked like some papers she had received from an old general store in Howe, PA. At her recommendation, I sent the photo to a professor at the University of Pittsburgh and learned that the writing is Yiddish and seems to be some sort of dedication. Looking for an expert in Yiddish translation, I found the name, Rita Ratson, said to be an expert in old Yiddish writings. A teacher of Yiddish at Gratz College just outside of Philadelphia, her father was a Holocaust survivor. Yiddish was her primary language before she entered the US just before her 8th birthday, having lived in Germany, Poland and

Israel. Rita agreed to do the translation. It was a challenge as the "ciphers" written in Yiddish are a mixture of German and poor English. Translating it would be similar to those of us who read old cursive writing---a lot depends on the penmanship and vocabulary skills of the writer. Rita was not able to translate each word of what she describes as a dedication. The translation provides insight into the person writing the message. I believe it was a travelling salesman who called on the Winslow family on a regular basis. While he didn't sign his name, he appears to have been very fond of my grandmother. A 131 year old mystery has been solved.

"Miss Evy Winslow, the one who understands when I come to see her in her place, the beauty that shines and the consolation thatwhen I come in the house and I, and I thought that she is just delightful. Her hair is black and her eyes are blue and I am very glad that I had the pleasure to talk to her. When I look through the window, the..... Jews that..and I am glad that I have the pleasure to write in her album, to write a dedication, but what to write and what to do, and I am glad that I had the chance to be acquainted with you, your true friend."

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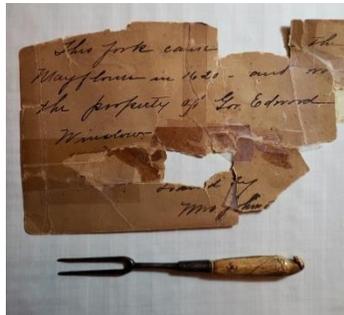
**THANK YOU, JOHN AND WELCOME, MARSTON**

After the publication of the WHS February newsletter, John White, who has been the WHS Historian/Genealogist since 2017 determined that he needed to cut back on his involvement with the Society at this time. John served as the first Winslow Heritage Society Secretary and attended the 2014 WHS organizational meeting in Plymouth. During his tenure as Historian/Genealogist, WHS membership has grown. WHS extends its **thanks** to John and looks forward to his active participation on the Board again at some future time.

**Welcome**, to Marston Watson, who has accepted the position of Historian/Genealogist. Marston is the first member of the Pilgrim Edward Winslow family to join the Society. An author and genealogist, his publications can be found on amazon.com including a series entitled, "Royal Families: Americans of Royal and Noble Ancestry". Marston's wife, Kathy, is also a member of the Winslow Heritage Society through her descent from John and Mary Chilton Winslow.

**WE GET....WELL, PHONE CALLS AND E-MAILS**

Recently WHS Governor, Kathy Myers, received a phone call from Scott from Connecticut who located WHS by contacting people at Droitwich Spa in England. Scott has in his possession a Winslow artifact that has been passed down through his family, known as the Winslow Fork. According to an old family letter, it was carried on the Mayflower by Edward Winslow. There appears to be a Mayflower carved on the handle. WHS put him in touch with Plymouth Hall Museum. Anyone with an interest can reach Scott at [gritec@tds.net](mailto:gritec@tds.net)





## **Mayflower Vignette: Governor Edward Winslow, Esq.**

By Marston Watson, Genealogist/Author<sup>i</sup> [mwatson@royalancestry.org](mailto:mwatson@royalancestry.org)

Edward Winslow was born on October 14, 1595 at Droitwich, co. Worcestershire. His father Edward Winslow, Sr. was styled "gentleman" as early as 1600 and was an under-Sheriff in Worcestershire around 1607. He fled to Londonderry sometime before 1620, to avoid being thrown into debtor's prison for the £30 sterling he owed to Thomas Harton (mentioned in his will of 14 Sep. 1620).

Edward Winslow of the Mayflower attended the King's School at Worcester Cathedral (1606-1611) under Henry Bright. He became an apprentice in August 1613 to John Beale, a stationer and citizen of London. However, Winslow did not fulfill his eight-year commitment with Beale, as he moved to Leiden, Holland in 1617, where he joined the Separatist church. There, he assisted Elder William Brewster with his underground (i.e. illicit) printing activities.

Edward married Elizabeth Barker at Leiden on April 27, 1618, he being called a printer from London. They, along with other Separatists, decided on June 20, 1620 to leave Leiden for a new life in what was to become known as Plimoth Plantation (i.e. Plymouth Colony). They departed Plymouth, England in September, 1620 on the Mayflower, a small, 100-foot ship with 102 passengers.

Unfortunately, Elizabeth Barker died in Mar. 1620/21 without any children. Edward Winslow and the widow Susanna (Jackson) White, who lost her Mayflower husband William White in Feb. 1620/21, were married on May 21, 1621 (the first Plymouth Colony marriage). Susanna had two children with William White and five children with Edward Winslow.

Edward Winslow established a friendship with Massasoit, Sachem of the Wampanoag Indian tribe, whose people were trading with the colonists. He became the third Governor of Plymouth Colony. He is the only Mayflower passenger with an extant portrait, painted circa 1653-1654 in London. This, along with portraits of his son Josiah Winslow and daughter-in-law Penelope Pelham (of royal and noble ancestry),<sup>ii</sup> along with various Winslow family artifacts, are at the Pilgrim Hall Museum in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Governor Edward Winslow died near Jamaica from Yellow Fever on May 3, 1655 and "his body was consigned to the deep with the honors of war, forty-two guns being fired by the fleet on the occasion."

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<sup>i</sup> Marston Watson is the 8th great-grandson of Governor Edward Winslow. He has extended the Winslow silver book (no. 5) to nine generations on behalf of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, with expected publication in 2019.

<sup>ii</sup> Watson, Marston, *Royal Families: Pelham - Avery - West*. Volume 4, *Royal Families: Americans of Royal and Noble Ancestry*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2017, 6, 20.

## The Winslows of Worcestershire, Part II

By Jessica Winslow, WHS Education/Research Chair, [jessicawinslow77@gmail.com](mailto:jessicawinslow77@gmail.com)

*The Winslow Families of Worcestershire, 1400-1700*, (Newbury Street Press, Boston, 2009), by Brandon Fradd, explores the ancestry of Gov. Edward Winslow. In the previous issue of the WHS newsletter, I reported Fradd's theory that Gov. Edward had to descend from Kenelm Buck and his first wife, Eleanor Neville. In this article I am presenting Fradd's list of commonly-held errors about the Winslows. Fradd hired noted British researcher Kenneth Smallbone to conduct an extensive survey of original records found in England. Fradd complemented Smallbone's research with a search of records found in the New York Public Library, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, and the Columbia University Library.

Chapter 5, "Fact and Fiction: Corrections to Published Errors About the Winslow Family," contains these items:

1. Based on court rolls of 1432, the earliest Winslow in Kempsey was Henry Winslow born in 1411 or earlier.
2. Also based on court rolls, Kenelm Winslow was the tenant farmer and not the owner of Newport's Place.
3. The supposed birth date of Edward Winslow Senior (October 17, 1560) is not found in any historical documentation.
4. There is no historical evidence that Edward Winslow Senior married before his marriage to Magdalen Oliver.
5. The Winslows of Kempsey are not descended from the Winslows of Earl Croome.
6. The Winslows of Kempsey are probably descended from Richard Winslow, not Thomas Winslow.

In addition, some interesting tidbits come to light in the book. Fradd states that the name Kenelm, rather than being unusual, was relatively common in Worcestershire and surrounds. In the court rolls, the Winslows are never given the title of gentleman, nor were they designated armigers. The records also show that the wealth of the Winslows was generally below that of the gentry. While Edward Winslow Senior occasionally used the title of gentleman, it is possible he felt entitled to use that designation because of his role as churchwarden at St. Peter's in Droitwich. Gov. Edward, in fact, at various times in his life used three different coats of arms: a bird, a lion, and the six lozenges seal used on his 1654 will that we are familiar with today. As a high level government official, he would have been expected to have been granted a coat of arms, which probably occurred in 1650, although no record is found.

The bulk of the book contains transcriptions of the historical records examined by Kenneth Smallbone, including court rolls and leases, wills, lawsuits, parish registers, tax levies, etc. for locations within a few miles of Kempsey: Draycott and Kerswell, Earls Croome, Upton-upon-Severn, Hanley Castle, Pinvin and Mathon, and Severn Stoke.

**GOOD NEWS!!!**

Photo by John Myers

**CLERKENLEAP, HOME OF KENELM WINSLOW**

A visitor to the WHS Facebook page found at [winslow.heritage.society](https://www.facebook.com/winslow.heritage.society) reached out recently to say that her husband had done a google search of the area around Worcester, England, and found a recent photo of Clerkenleap, the home of Kenelm Winslow, Grandfather of the five Winslow Brothers who came to America. At the time the above photo was taken in 1989 an elderly couple owned the property. Eventually the property was sold to a bus company and during a visit to Droitwich to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Edward Winslow in 1995, the house was boarded up reportedly for demolition which information had also been stated on the WHS web page and Facebook page. Upon receiving the news from the Facebook visitor and searching google, WHS contacted a representative at Droitwich Spa who has reported that the house did receive historic designation and remains. Apparently the bus company has a garage on the property and there has been a recent application to build houses on remaining land. Parts of Clerkenleap date to the time of Elizabeth I.

Details of its historic listing can be found at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1252650>

## Useful Information

**WHS Officers and Board of Assistants:** Officers: Kathy Myers, Governor, [jkmyers2@verizon.net](mailto:jkmyers2@verizon.net); Judy Quinn, Deputy Governor, [judyq47@yahoo.com](mailto:judyq47@yahoo.com); Bruce Fensley, Secretary, [b0408fensley@gmail.com](mailto:b0408fensley@gmail.com); Marston Watson, Historian/Genealogist, [mwatson@royalancestry.org](mailto:mwatson@royalancestry.org) Alice Zimmerman, Treasurer, [alicez@windstream.net](mailto:alicez@windstream.net); Betty Mapes, Chaplain, [nbmapes@hotmail.com](mailto:nbmapes@hotmail.com) Committees: Jessica Winslow, Education/Research Chair, [jessicawinslow77@gmail.com](mailto:jessicawinslow77@gmail.com); Judy Quinn, Web Master, Kathy Myers, Newsletter; Alice Zimmerman, Finance, Juniors Chair, **Vacant**, Bruce Fensley, Nominating Committee.

**Membership:** WHS By-Laws are posted on the web page, <http://www.winslowheritagesociety.org>. Membership categories are: Lifetime Member, \$100 one-time fee; Annual Member, \$20 yearly fee; Junior Membership, \$10, one-time fee until the member reaches the age of 18 and is eligible for full membership; Friends Membership, \$15 annual fee (anyone having an interest in the Winslow family but not a descendant of the Winslows); Supplemental Membership Fee, \$60.

Annual dues run from January 1 through December 31 of a calendar year.

### WHS By-Laws outline Society's Objectives:

#### Article II

#### Objectives

Section 1: To perpetuate the history and honor the memory of the Winslow brothers who first stepped foot in America during the "Great Pilgrimage" beginning with the voyage of the Mayflower in 1620: Edward, b. 18 Oct. 1595, d. 8 May, 1655; John, b. 16 April 1597, d. 1674; Josiah, b. 11 Feb. 1605-6, d. 17 Dec. 1674; Gilbert, b. 26 Oct. 1600, d. (?); Kenelm, b. 29 April, 1599, d. (bur.) 13 Sept. 1672.

Section 2: To encourage continued research and education regarding the children of Edward Winslow, Sr., including those in America and in England, and their descendants and to reach out to other kindred family and Pilgrim friends.

Section 3: To assist in the preservation of history pertaining to all Pilgrim families drawn to the shores of America for religious freedom, new frontiers, trade, etc. who participated in the building of a nation.

Section 4: To celebrate the time honored traditions which began when our forefathers first set foot in Plymouth Colony.

Section 5: To establish a Memorial Fund to be used in memory of the Winslow Family.

Section 6: To encourage and support DNA testing programs either through the General Society of Mayflower Descendants or through established genealogical testing programs.

**From the Editor:** Members are encouraged to submit articles of interest for the WHS Newsletter. Published four times a year, the next submission due date is July 25 to be included in the August edition. Submissions may be made to [jkmyers2@verizon.net](mailto:jkmyers2@verizon.net) or by mail: Kathy Myers, 2540 Beechtree Road, Falls Creek, PA 15840