

WINSLOW HERITAGE SOCIETY

WHAT WOULD I HAVE DONE?

by Kathy Myers



The *Lexington Minuteman* monument, 1900, by Henry Hudson Kitson

Many times while researching certain eras of history, I find myself asking the question, “What would I have done?” As a person who doesn’t know how to swim, I often joke that if it had been up to me, the family would have remained in England rather than board the ship to cross the ocean.

Recently I signed a contract with a publishing company for a book entitled, “Historic Tales of the Pennsylvania Wilds”. To be published in May, the book features a chapter of an actual event from my family’s history during the French and Indian War, when members of the family were killed and/or captured by the Delaware Indians in Pennsylvania during the Great Cove Massacre of 1755. Those captured were held for approximately six years. In historical records from that time, captives were known as “White Indians”, including children taken in raids. In the book I explore the reasons why those being held didn’t try to escape, another “What would I have done?” moment. A descendant of one of the family members captured in that raid eventually married into my Winslow line.

In the month of September, WHS member, Mike Winslow, reached out to me sending along some information about my direct Winslow line, specifically James Winslow of Maine, who was a Quaker. In an article entitled “Quakers in Early Falmouth and Portland, Maine, 1740-1850” by Wayne Cobb available at the Portland Public Digital Commons, the article provided me with additional information about the depth of James Winslow’s Quaker principles.

I knew James’ religious beliefs influenced his feelings about the Revolution. “James Winslow carried his Quaker principles with him, and refused to serve in the Revolution....James always took occasion to speak against the efforts of the Americans, though he and his son Jonathan made fifty paddles for [General] Benedict Arnold’s expedition [to Quebec City in 1775]. He used every effort to dissuade the men of the town from entering the contest against England, which he declared was foolhardiness.”¹

Contrast that statement with the actions of one of James’ counterparts and another of my ancestors, Major Reuben Colburn. Colburn, a shipbuilder in Pittston, Maine, at George Washington’s order, built “bateaux” for Arnold’s expedition into Quebec City in 1775. These were the very boats for which James Winslow was building paddles. Colburn also went along on the expedition to assist with keeping the boats

¹ J. W. Hanson, “History of Gardiner, Pittston and West Gardiner”, (Gardiner: Palmer & Co., 1852), 117

repaired. According to family history, Major Reuben Colburn never received payment from the government for these services, and the family’s claim for payment was dismissed by Congress in 1850.

Considering the positions of these two 5th great grandfathers, Colburn and Winslow, and the ramifications of revolution against the most powerful force in the world at that time, “What would I have done?” Would my convictions have created a Patriot or would I have folded as the first shots were fired at Lexington and Concord?

At present, I have identified six direct ancestors who served in the Revolution, including a 5th great grandmother, Catherine Smith, who, along with her sons ran a boring mill in Union County, Pennsylvania. A widow, she kept the family together operating a mill, adding the extra business of boring rifle barrels for the Revolution. She was burned out by the Indians and never regained her land. “What would I have done?”

Currently researching the Civil War years, I have been surprised by what I have found. Abolitionists and Copperheads, very opposing views! My “uncle”, Thomas B. Winslow, of Elk County, Pennsylvania, was a hero of the Bucktail Regiment, receiving a battlefield promotion, twice wounded, once captured. On the other hand, there were those very opposed to the war, particularly when the unpopular draft was instituted. An event in nearby Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, known as Bloody Knox, was the storming of a remote cabin by Union troops to take deserters into custody, those who had been called into service while opposing the draft who later became deserters.

As the great granddaughter of a Union soldier who survived that war and who, according to my research, lived a peaceful life in the years following a time when our nation was torn apart, “What would I have done?”

Any readers having a “What would I have done?” family history story to share, may contact me at jkmyers2@verizon.net. I would be pleased to feature the writing in an upcoming issue of this newsletter.

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**Bookending Mary (Chilton) Winslow
(1607-1679)**

**by David B. Appleton
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Mary Chilton, the wife of John Winslow (1597-1674), was the youngest daughter of Mayflower passengers James Chilton and his wife (whose name remains unknown). She was baptized on May 30, 1607, in the Parish of St. Peter’s, Sandwich, Kent, England. She sailed to America on the Mayflower with her parents, who both died that first harsh winter of 1620-1621. She herself lived to marry John Winslow, the younger brother of Governor Edward Winslow, and she died before May 1, 1679, in Boston, Massachusetts Bay, British North America. She and her husband are buried in King’s Chapel Burying Ground in Boston, Massachusetts.

A few years ago, I was able to take the opportunity to visit the little church of St. Peter’s in Sandwich, England, where my 10th great-grandmother, Mary (Chilton) Winslow, was baptized.

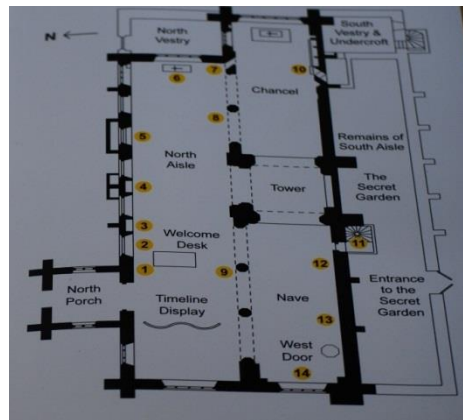
St. Peter’s Church has an interesting history of its own. It is situated near the center of the town of Sandwich in the county of Kent in southeastern England. A Norman church stood on the site of the present church by about 1100. This early church was probably destroyed in 1216 when Sandwich was attacked by the French. The church was rebuilt during the 13th century, it is thought, by Carmelite friars from France. At this time, the church consisted of a nave with north and south aisles, a tower, and a chancel. Beneath the chancel was a vaulted undercroft, which was probably used as a chanel house. During the 14th century, the north aisle was widened and raised in height, and a chantry chapel was built at the east end of the south aisle. The north porch was added in the following century.

In 1560, a group of Flemish Protestants from the Spanish Netherlands came to live in Sandwich, and St. Peter’s became their church. It is speculated that these Flemish Protestants are at least a part of the reason why the Separatists (including John Chilton, his wife, and daughter Mary Chilton) who eventually sailed

on the Mayflower to New England in America, originally sought refuge from the Church of England in the city of Leyden in The Netherlands.

The church now consists of two aisles and a chancel, with a square tower, containing a peal of eight bells, in the middle. Formerly there was a South aisle, but it was destroyed by the collapse of the tower on October 13, 1661, long after the Chiltons had left. That day was a Sabbath day; there were two sermons preached there that day, and it fell down within six or seven hours after the people had gone home, shortly after a quarter of an hour past eleven o'clock at night. Had it fallen at the time when the congregation were there, the chiefest people of the town and parish would have been killed and buried under the rubble, stones, and timber; but there was no man, woman or child killed or hurt, and very few heard it. The rubbish was reported to lay three fathoms deep [one fathom is six feet, so the rubble here was about 18 feet deep] in the middle of the church, the bells underneath it; two or three rods long it lay [one rod is 16½ feet, so this was 33 to 48 feet long]. (Information extracted from *Register of St. Peter's* and from Wikipedia.)

In another American connection, Thomas Paine, author of *The Rights of Man*, whose writings so strongly influenced the U.S. Constitution, was married at St. Peter's church. Tragically, his wife lived less than a year after the marriage and died in childbirth. After her death, he sailed across the Atlantic to America.



The current layout of St. Peter's Church, Sandwich, England



A view of the tower wall of the church around 1880



The entrance to St. Peter's Church, Sandwich



The north aisle of St. Peter's Church



The central Nave of St. Peter's Church looking east; the Chancel Is at the far end



The former South Aisle, now the exterior of the church



The interior roof beams and braces



The baptismal font (newer than the one used to baptize Mary Chilton)

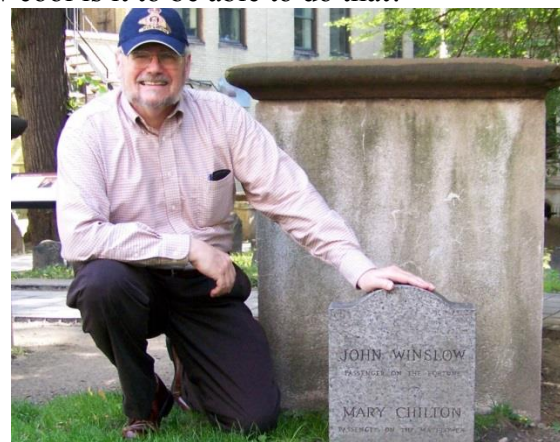


17th Century sounding board (they used sounding boards like this one to help project the minister's voice in the days long before microphones) which may have hung over the pulpit when the Chilton's worshipped here.

Why was I so excited to visit St. Peter's Church in Sandwich, England? Because it meant that I could "bookend" my 10th Great Grandmother, Mary (Chilton) Winslow, by visiting the place where she was baptized in 1605 ...



... and the place where she was buried in 1679 with her husband John Winslow (he died in 1674), King's Chapel Burying Ground in Boston, Massachusetts, thus encompassing both the very beginning and the very end of her life. And how cool is it to be able to do that?



Welcome

NEW MEMBERS

AMY KAREN HALL, DESCENDANT OF KENELM WINSLOW

KAREN L. RENAUD, DESCENDANT OF KENELM WINSLOW

MEMBER NEWS



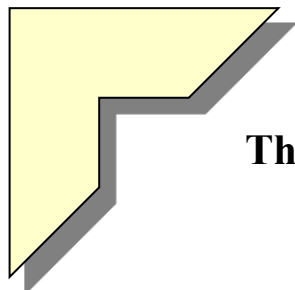
Andrew Whipple, new *Mayflower Quarterly* Editor-in-Chief

WHS member, Andrew Whipple, has been appointed Editor-in-Chief of the General Society of Mayflower Descendant’s “Mayflower Quarterly” succeeding Susan Roser. In an interview with the Howland Quarterly, published in December 2020, Whipple stated: “I am humbled to be asked to take on this role and most excited to make a contribution to the Mayflower Society in this way.” A member of the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Mayflower Societies, Andrew is a descendant of multiple Mayflower passengers. With regard to the Winslow Heritage Society, he is a descendant of John and Mary Chilton Winslow. CONGRATULATIONS, ANDREW!



In the last issue of the WHS newsletter, information was provided on the sale of a two coin set commemorating the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower. Not surprisingly, a limited supply was sold out within 20 minutes of the availability from the US Mint.

“Anyone interested in purchasing this Mayflower 400th Commemoration Coin Set may check out the Royal Mint which is offering the exact two-coin set for 195.00 Pounds.... On the Royal Mint Website, just search for ‘Mayflower 400th Silver Coin’. They also have the Gold Coin Set available for a much higher price.” *Bruce Fensley, WHS Secretary, b0408fensley@gmail.com*



The Deputy Governor's Corner

By Judy Quinn
judyq47@yahoo.com

On January 8, 2021, Group Project Administrators received an email from Bennett Greenspan and Max Blankfeld, the co-creators of FamilyTreeDNA to inform us of a merger with myDNA. myDNA is an Australian-based genomics company who has an outstanding reputation, innovative vision and pioneering genomics. This new partnership will allow FamilyTreeDNA to expand its product offerings.

Even more important to the merger is their shared principle of DNA privacy protections and DNA ownership. myDNA will retain the existing privacy policy and terms of service that FamilyTreeDNA members currently enjoy.

They state “our customers can expect a seamless transition as the new CEO, Dr. Lior Rauchberger, a respected physician and leader at the intersection of science and technology, takes FamilyTreeDNA and Gene by Gene (parent company) into an exciting future filled with innovative life-changing advancements while continuing to invest further in FamilyTreeDNA’s genealogy products and service offerings.”

It was not mentioned exactly when this new merger will occur, however, I continue to encourage the members of the Winslow Heritage Society to either test with FamilyTreeDNA or upload your results and join the Winslow Project, along with any family projects you may be interested in.

As you may recall from previous articles, **Ancestry** offers an atDNA test only, as does 23&Me and MyHeritage. Think about what your goals are before you choose a DNA company to test with. If your goal is to use the information to grow out your tree and to be able to verify connections then Ancestry is for you; however, they do not offer a chromosome browser. They offer ethnicity admixture, atDNA matching and pedigree trees if your match also has a tree on Ancestry. They do NOT offer y and mtDNA matching and identification of haplo groups. It offers a way to contact others in your tree but does not send you an email notification if they respond. It is merely an atDNA test.

23&Me offers ancient admixture, yDNA haplo grouping, mtDNA haplo grouping, ethnicity admixture, atDNA matching, a chromosome browser and health and wellness information. If health information is the result you are seeking then 23&Me is the test for you. It is very good too to identify “cousins” and does provide you with a confidential way to contact them. You will receive an email if your contact responds to you. It is merely an atDNA test.

MyHeritage offers ethnicity admixture, atDNA matching, a chromosome browser, pedigree trees and it will accept data transfer. I am not aware of how to contact matches as I am not a user. It is merely an atDNA.

FamilyTreeDNA offers the most comprehensive testing available which includes yDNA haplo grouping, yDNA matching, mtDNA haplo grouping, mtDNA matching, ethnicity admixture, atDNA matching, chromosome browser, pedigree trees and they accept all data transfer from other companies. The upload procedures do vary between companies. Most importantly they offer and host all DNA Projects – including the Winslow Project and the Mayflower Project among hundreds of others. These projects are free to join.

So, consider your DNA goals, take a test with the appropriate company and then upload your results to FamilyTreeDNA and join the Winslow Project! We currently have 138 members.

Judy Quinn, Co-Administrator, Winslow DNA Project

Women of the Mayflower in Recent Publications

By Jessica Winslow

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Pilgrim Maiden Statue, Brewster Gardens, Plymouth, MA

I recently came across two books about the women of the Mayflower that were published in 2020. Both are fascinating reads for different reasons. One is clearly historical fiction and the other is a compilation of historical writings about colonial women by women authors.

Beheld, a novel by Tara Shea Nesbit, tells the story of events in Plymouth in 1630 from the viewpoint of some of the women pilgrims. The author gives voices to these women about whom we know very little, mostly through the perspective of Alice Bradford, William Bradford's second wife. The action of the book centers on the first murder to occur in the colony, while also hearkening back to the mysterious death of William's first wife Dorothy who fell from the Mayflower while it was still docked in Provincetown Harbor. The friendship between the young Dorothy and Alice is imagined through dialogue that explores the complexity of their lives in Holland before the departure for the new world. The emotional toll of travel to the new world, grief due to the death of a child and sadness about leaving family and friends behind are presented as possible clues to Dorothy's mysterious death.

Beheld also reconstructs the experiences of John and Ellen Billington, considered the colony's troublemakers, to sympathetically portray their side of the conflict that ultimately led to the murder of the newly arrived settler. And the book touches on the pilgrims' continually evolving relationship with the Native Americans in the area, while exposing the savagery inflicted by all parties.

The Women of the Mayflower: A Collection of Excerpts Remembering the Women That History Forgot by Various contains "Women Pioneers," by Mrs. John A. Logan, "Matrons and Maidens Who Came in the Mayflower," by Annie Russell Marble, and "An Excerpt of Letter X," by Fredrika Bremer. The book contains no introduction to the works within it, or any kind of explanation as to why the excerpts were chosen, so I did my own research into the authors and their works.

Logan's work was originally published in The Part taken by Women in American History, 1912, and covers notable women pioneers, with the bulk of the narrative describing women who settled in the Midwest and the South. The descriptions of the lives of the Mayflower women are brief and do not add to our current limited knowledge. The entire book is available online at https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Part_Taken_by_Women_in_American_Hist/hnIEAAAYAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover.

Annie Russell Marble's piece is excerpted from her 1920 book, The Women Who Came in the Mayflower, available as a free download on Amazon. It appears to be well researched and documented with references. The book's intention is to extol the virtues of the women who traveled on the Mayflower and later ships Ann and Fortune who "maintained the high standards of home life in early Plymouth Colony." Again, this book covers material that is familiar to many readers.

The third excerpt in the book is from Frederika Bremer, born in 1801 in a village now in Finland, who was known the "Swedish Miss Austen" because of her great popularity as a novelist there. In her later

years she traveled extensively, including time spent in the United States. Bremer documented her travels in a series of letters to her sister, Agathe, written in Swedish and translated into English, compiled in a book, The Homes of the New World, published in 1853. The “Excerpt from Letter X” relates the story of the Mayflower as we commonly understand it; however it does not specifically address the women who were passengers. The entire text of Letter X and her other letters is available online at https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Homes_of_the_New_World/Letter_X.

All of these works contain references to contemporaneous issues. Beheld touches on the lower status of women in society and women’s subservience to their husbands, as well as class and racial prejudices. Logan’s telling includes stereotypes about Native Americans and African Americans that reflect the beliefs of her times. Marble’s work, coming immediately after the end of WWI, likens the hardships of her era to those faced during the early colonial times. Bremer, a social activist in her native Sweden, sees the Mayflower Compact as a precedent for the freedoms she advocated for.

In exploring the legacy of the Mayflower and its passengers, both male and female, through these writings, the lines between history, historical fiction, and fiction become blurred, leaving the reader to ponder our complicated history as a nation and to draw our own conclusions.

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Update on Kerswell, home of Grandfather Kenelm Winslow

A few days ago Hugh Gaspar posted a recent photo of Kerswell on Facebook. Mr. Gaspar, who was shown the property by the current owner, is pictured during his visit. WHS reported several years ago that the house had been taken down to “the studs” with renovations halted due to the financial crisis of 2009. WHS is pleased to learn that renovations to the house have been completed.



Kerswell, “It held a special place in their hearts”²

² Quentin Coons and Cynthia Hagar Krusell, “The Winslows of ‘Careswell’ Before and After the Mayflower”