

The Winthrop Society

Newsletter

Descendants of the Great Migration

Volume 4, Number 2, Late Fall 2007

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Massachusetts Bay
Company Seal

WHEREAS, Governor John Winthrop and the Puritan colonists who came with him to plant the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630 were the most important and influential single group of Europeans ever to arrive in North America; the Winthrop Society is dedicated to preserving their memory, philosophy and tradition, and transmitting their example of courage, faith, civic duty, and integrity."

MESSAGE

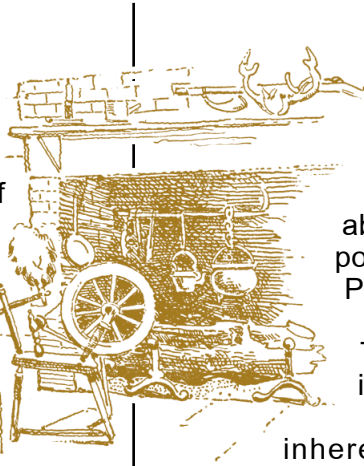
Greetings Winthrop Society Members

The Winthrop Society continues to grow in membership and feedback from members is positive. The new insignia medallion has been well received. If you have not ordered an insignia please refer to page 6 of the newsletter on how to order.

As was mentioned in the last issue of the newsletter, I have agreed to step in as "Acting President" of the Winthrop Society and also serve as Chairman of the Trustees of the Winthrop Society. Charlie Banks served nearly four years as our "Acting President" and has been the Winthrop Society Website Webmaster for five and half years now. I personally want to thank Charlie again for his dedication and service.

The continuity of the Winthrop Society and this newsletter are due to the efforts of a small group of volunteers and most of these volunteers have been serving since the Winthrop Society was established. Our registrar, Verna Maleski, and our treasurer, Verle Bresson, each have served over five years and have done an outstanding job.

However, our officers grow older each year and their lives are changing. As a result, all members of the Winthrop Society need to understand that if other members of the Society are not willing to get involved and serve on the Board or as an Officer, the future of the Winthrop Society is in jeopardy.



As a result, I ask each of you to consider serving as an officer or on the Board of Trustees. Over the next year, the Winthrop Society needs to find people willing to learn about and eventually fill the following positions: Registrar, Treasurer, Vice President, President, and Trustees.

The Winthrop Society can only exist if its members are willing to step forward. The spirit of volunteerism was inherent in our ancestors or our great nation would not have been possible. If you are willing to consider serving as an officer or on the board, please contact me at:

bacotton@austin.rr.com or call (512) 347-0247.

I will be happy to answer any questions you might have. I can also put you in touch with any other officer who could let you know what they do and how much time is involved.

Happy Holidays to you and yours,

Barry Cotton

On the Cover: *Massachusetts Bay Tercentenary poster, in 1930 News (Nov.–Dec. 1929). Collection of the Massachusetts Historical Society.*

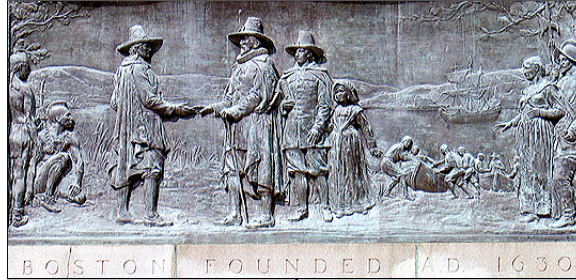
Whatchamacallit?

(Answer found
on page 7.)



✧ William Blackstone - Boston's First Resident - by Barry Cotton ✧

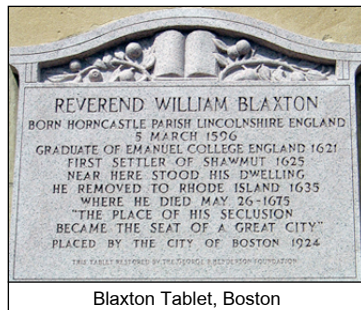
To commemorate the 300th anniversary of the founding of Boston in 1630, the Boston City Council erected a *Founder's Memorial* on Boston Common. The bas-relief depicts the city's first English resident, William (Blaxton) Blackstone welcoming John Winthrop's party to Shawmut peninsula in 1630.



In the memorial, Blackstone (on the left) is extending his hand to John Winthrop, Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Company. As no known portrait of Blackstone exists, Boston's flamboyant mayor, James Michael Curley, served as the model for Blackstone!

Later, Shawmut was renamed Boston after Boston, Lincolnshire, England, home to Lady Arbella, Simon Bradstreet, Thomas Dudley, the Rev. John Cotton, and other early settlers from eastern England.

In 1924, the City of Boston placed a tablet at the corner of Spruce and Beacon Streets memorializing the Rev. Blackstone as the first settler of Boston. This tablet renders Blackstone as *Blaxton* as in 1617 he had signed his name on the bachelor's graduation register at Emmanuel College, Cambridge as such.



Popular tales recount that Blackstone was an eccentric who lived alone because he did not abide self righteous Puritans. It is also said that he rode around on a large white bull and planted apple trees. He left Boston for the wilds of Rhode Island returning at age 60 to find a wife. No definitive work has been written to date about Blackstone and details of his life are as ambiguous as the spelling of his name. What follows is a brief sketch of what is known.

Although the City of Boston tablet shows William Blaxton as having been born in the Horncastle Parish of Lincolnshire, England, Robert Charles Anderson disputes this fact in his *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633*, saying it lacks satisfactory proof.

In his sketch of Blackstone, Nathaniel Brewster Blackstone said that William was born in Durham County, England on March 5, 1595 to John Blackstone and Agnes Hawley and then baptized in Horncastle Parish, Lincolnshire.

Lastly, General William Andrews Pew, author of *The Right Honorable, The Lady Arbella and Her Friends*, states "*William Blackstone ... was the son of a minister at Horncastle, Lincolnshire, England, where he attended a school founded by the Earl of Lincoln and afterwards enjoyed a scholarship at Emmanuel College given by the same Earl.*" Given that William Blackstone was well connected with others in the Earl of Lincoln's circle, credence is given to General Pew.

Blackstone entered Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in 1614 at age 19 and was a fellow student and roommate of Isaac Johnson of Sempringham, Lincolnshire. The two completed their Bachelors degrees in 1617; both were ordained at Peterborough in 1617; and both completed Masters degrees in 1621.

In 1623, Isaac Johnson married Lady Arbella Clinton-Fiennes, the Earl of Lincoln's younger sister. Also, William Blackstone left for America with Robert Georges, Governor General of New England. Upon entering the inner circle of the Earl of Lincoln by marrying Lady Arbella, Isaac Johnson was likely able to secure a place for William Blackstone in Robert Georges' expedition to America. This is all the more evident when it is known that Earl of Lincoln's family had married into the family of Sir Ferdinando Georges and that Lady Frances, a younger sister of the Earl and Lady Arbella, married Robert Georges, son of Ferdinando and brother to John.

As fate would have it, the Georges Expedition failed and most of the party returned to England by 1625. However, William Blackstone remained on the Shawmut Peninsula, building a hut on Beacon Hill at the edge of what is now the Boston Common. There he planted an apple orchard, the first in America. In his hut, he had a collection of over 180 books to keep him occupied. It was the largest collection of books in America at the time we are told.

Continued on Page 8

William Blaxton



● PUBLICATIONS EDITOR/Carol Taylor

The end of October my husband and I left Cape Cod for Florida. We return to New England for summer/fall. As we escape the cold winter and wet spring of the northeast, I am reminded of my 17th c. ancestors that faced undue hardships in those first years after 1630. The sea voyage from England took more than two months. To build shelters for the first winter was daunting. Many died and others returned to England. What courageous people our ancestors were. We respect and remember them, especially at Thanksgiving.

As always, Society members are invited to submit articles for publication. What can you tell us about your qualifying ancestor? Measure your document size by those articles that appear within this newsletter. Site your source if you have borrowed from the web and tell me about yourself for your biography. This is a biannual publication. Your art is welcome - subject to my graphic needs. Line drawings work best. Remember, I cannot use web found art (gifs). Please send your article to: coastalgraphics@cfl.rr.net.

Lastly, the *Name the Winthrop Society Newsletter* contest garnered lots of great names. The name chosen by our officers will appear in the Spring newsletter on the cover.

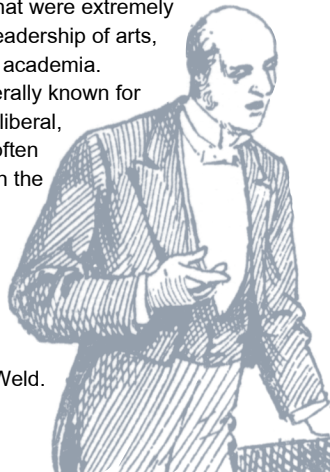
Did you know..

Boston Brahmins, also called the First Families of Boston, are the class of New Englanders who claim hereditary and cultural descent from the English Protestants who founded the city of Boston, Massachusetts, and settled New England. They are considered part of the historic core of the East Coast establishment, along with other wealthy families of New York City and Philadelphia.

The term Brahmin comes from the Indian caste system word meaning the purest person. The American use of Brahmin is purely metaphorical. It is used to speak of the old New England families of British Protestant (usually English) origin that were extremely influential in the development and leadership of arts, culture, science, politics, trade, and academia. Members of these families are generally known for being fiscally conservative, socially liberal, and well educated. These families often have deeply established traditions in the Episcopal or Unitarian faiths.

Among Brahmin family names are: Adams, Bradlee, Cabot, Chaffee, Choate, Cushing, Eliot, Emerson, Endicott, Lowell, Peabody, Putnam, Quincy, Saltonstall, Winthrop, and Weld.

Source: www.wikipedia.org



In the next newsletter...

- Edward Penniman, Whaling Captain
- To be announced...

Francis J. Bremer, Professor of History at Millersville University of Pennsylvania and Editor of the *Winthrop Papers*, Massachusetts Historical Society, is a friend and contributor to our Society. His new book, *Puritans: An Attempt to Build the Kingdom of God in America*, is due out next spring or summer. His summary follows. - Ed.



Burning of accused witches in Salem

Puritans: An Attempt to Build the Kingdom of God in America

At a time when religion and politics combine to form a volatile mix in the United States and abroad, Francis J. Bremer explores the relationship of the two in the formative era of American culture. The story begins with the religious executions of Marian times and traces the evolution of puritanism from its English varieties to the dark days of Salem witchcraft.

Religion in New England was an inspiration for Christian charity, but was also at times a justification for harsh intolerance. Bremer explores the struggle between those who believed that they knew how God's kingdom should be designed and were intolerant of any other views, and others who maintained that the kingdom was not achievable but a goal to strive towards.

Colonists debated the degree to which law should be rooted in religion, the right of a society to guard its borders against immigrants of different views, and similar basic issues that have continued to divide Americans to the present day. This is a tale filled with human stories that make the events of the time come alive.



Whatchamacallit?

A sharp iron point upon which a candle may be struck; hence, a candlestick, either separate or one of several connected together.



by David Colfax Garre ❖

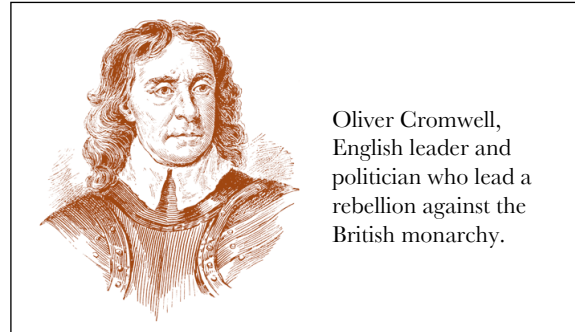
The fleet landed at Salem on June 12th after a voyage of over two months. Of the 700 onboard, 200 died during the voyage or within the first six months, and 100 disillusioned returned to England soon after arrival. Some of the 400 remaining settlers stayed in Salem but many moved onto Charlestown, land further south between the Mystic and Charles Rivers.

They went ashore at a spot on the north side of the river. The location featured a low hill rising from the tidal marshes five miles upstream from Boston. The banks were firm enough to provide a landing and the Charles was deep enough at high tide to accommodate ocean-going vessels. Further, the winding channel and the limited maneuvering space at the landing would protect the town against pirate raids. Saltonstall settled here with his family on a plantation of nearly 600 acres which later became the settlement of Watertown.



There is no evidence to suggest that Sir Richard did not plan to remain in New England permanently. Nevertheless he decided to return to England and on April 1, 1631, Sir Richard departed from Salem accompanied by his two daughters and one of his younger sons. He may have been concerned about the future of his daughters and the financial future of his four sons. It is also possible that he was disillusioned with the somewhat harsh climate of New England. Richard would marry twice more in England.

Although Sir Richard became a Parliamentarian back in England, he maintained an active interest in the affairs of the Massachusetts Bay Company.



Oliver Cromwell, English leader and politician who led a rebellion against the British monarchy.

He helped secure the grant at the mouth of the Connecticut River that led to the settlement of Saybrook in present day Connecticut. Yet, as the year's progressed he became discouraged by the increasing religious intolerance of the clergy in New England and in 1652 wrote a letter to the Reverend John Cotton. He expressed that *"It did not little grieve my spirit to heare what sadd things are reported dayly of your tyranny and persecutions in New England."*

Following the death of Oliver Cromwell in 1658, and the end of the rule of his son one and one half years later, Charles II returned to the throne. Sir Richard had not renounced his religion and he soon was accused of *"encouraging unlawful assemblies by seditious persons"*. He was ordered into custody but managed to elude authorities. Eventually, Charles II declared a general amnesty and Sir Richard took the oath of allegiance. In September of 1661, Sir Richard Saltonstall died in county Kent, England. His final resting place is unknown.

— — — — —

Sir Richard is the eleventh great-grandfather of the author, David C. Garre, a retired dentist living in Chatham, Massachusetts. - ED.

Sources:

Moody, Robert E., *The Saltonstall Papers*, Boston, Massachusetts Historical Society, 1972

Saltonstall, Leverett, *Ancestry and Descent of Richard Saltonstall*, Cambridge, MA., Riverside Press, 1897

Bremer, Francis J., *John Winthrop: America's Forgotten Founding Father*, New York, NY. Oxford University Press, 2003





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● REGISTRAR/Verna Maleski

New Members 2007 🌿 ANCESTOR

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● INSIGNIA

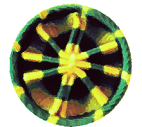
Society insignia is available to members through our website location at www.winthropsociety.org/insignia.php or by contacting our Treasurer:
Verle Bresson
70-200 Dillon Rd
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92241-7641

Made by City Pride, the miniature medallion is three-fourths inch (20mm) in diameter and crafted of solid brass with an antique finish. It is suspended from a silk drape in the Winthrop Society's colors. \$40.00 each

The rosette, made by Dexter Rosettes, is less than one-half inch and fashioned in the Winthrop Society's colors. \$10.00 each



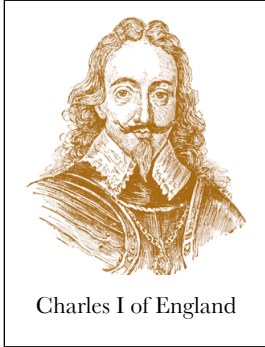
MEDALLION



ROSETTE

❖ **Sir Richard Saltonstall**

Born into a prominent Yorkshire, England family and knighted in 1618, Sir Richard Saltonstall



Charles I of England

became a member of the endeavor known as the Massachusetts Bay Company. He was a grantee of the project along with Thomas Dudley, Isaac Johnson, John Winthrop, and eight others. Saltonstall was appointed assistant to John Winthrop in

1629 when the Charter was signed by King Charles I of England. In 1630, Richard, a recent widower, and his five children, accompanied John Winthrop to America aboard the Arbella



The small fleet of four ships carried over 500 passengers, 240 cows, and 60 horses; also provisions, tools and weapons. It formed the largest and best-equipped fleet yet. Richard Saltonstall remained in New England for barely a year, however, leaving with several of his children to return to England. Regardless, his impact on the Massachusetts Bay Company was significant and his commitment to the endeavor strong. He continued his involvement long after his departure.

The name Saltonstall can be traced to October 16, 1207 when a court roll of the manor records shows that William, son of Thomas de Saltonstall, took possession of approximately thirteen acres of land. In the 15th century, the family shifted from agricultural interest to the wool and cloth business after sheep had replaced cattle in the Yorkshire region. The family became successful and increased its land holdings and built a stone mansion known as Saltonstall Old Hall.

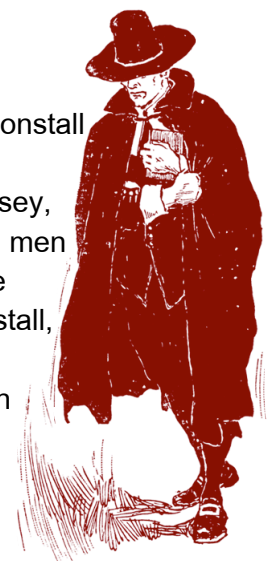
In the 16th century the family again shifted its financial interest from wool and cloth manufacturing to real estate. Richard, son of Samuel Saltonstall and Anne Ramsden, was born at Rookes Hall in

Hipperholme, Halifax, Yorkshire in 1586. A member of the gentry by virtue of his grandfather's land holdings, he was sent to Clare College, Cambridge and treated as a privileged student. After university he went to London to study law.

In the summer of 1609, Richard married Grace Kaye, an eleventh generation descendant of King Edward III. They lived at the manor of Huntwick Grange in Wragby, Yorkshire and had five children. Upon the deaths of his grandfather and father, Richard inherited extensive land holdings, thus becoming a wealthy young squire who soon came to the attention of the court. King James I conferred knighthood on Richard in Newmarket in 1618.

In 1625, Sir Richard's wife died and he began disposing of his land holdings. The proceeds of these transactions allowed him to start a new career as a merchant in London. He lived in the parish of St. Stephan, Coleman Street, where the vicar was John Davenport, a fervent Puritan and one of the earliest investors in the Massachusetts enterprise

At St. Stephan's church, Saltonstall became acquainted with Theophilus Eaton, Samuel Aldersey, and George Folcroft. Later these men were named in the Charter of the New England Company. Saltonstall, in May of 1628, subscribed 100 pounds along with Isaac Johnson (the future husband of Lady Arbella Fiennes) for support of the Salem settlement.



The Winthrop fleet left the south coast of England on April 8, 1630. His sons Richard, Samuel, and Robert, as well as his daughters, Rosamund and Grace, joined Sir Richard, now forty-four.



William Blackstone - Boston's First Resident *Continued from Page 3*

Back in England, Isaac Johnson and a group of entrepreneurs joined with the remnants of the Dorchester Company in 1628 to form the Massachusetts Bay Company. Isaac had inherited a large fortune from his grandfather and became the largest investor in the company. The flagship of their subsequent voyage was named the *Arbella* after Isaac's wife, Lady Arbella. Isaac Johnson and his wife sailed for America in March 1630 with what is now known as the Winthrop Fleet.

The *Arbella* and accompanying fleet docked in Salem June 12, 1630. Salem was ill prepared to deal with over 700 new inhabitants. Many were ill with fever or scurvy and Lady Arbella and Isaac were no exception.

A colonist writing home to England said that although Isaac Johnson and the Lady Arbella were "the chief persons of estate in the land and the ones who could do most good, even they were not spared the adversity suffered by all". Lady Arbella died on August 27, 1630 in Salem.

She had *"come from a paradise of plenty and pleasure in the family of a noble Earl into a wilderness of wants, and although celebrated for her many virtues yet was not able to encounter the adversity she was surrounded with, and now left her worthy consort over whelmed in grief and tears."*

The most common story of the founding of Boston (as shown on the Founders Memorial) relates how Governor Winthrop relocated from Salem to present day Charleston seeking a good source of water and was then invited by William Blackstone join him on Shawmut where good water was plentiful. However, General Pew says it is more likely that William Blackstone came to know that his schoolmate, Isaac Johnson, was in the area and the connection between these two old friends is what resulted

in Shawmut being settled and renamed Boston.

Blackstone must have seemed a bit eccentric to the newly arrived settlers as he had learned to live off the land and had become fur trapper and trader. In his *Magnalia*, Cotton Mather says of Blackstone, *"This man was, indeed, of a particular humor, and he would never join himself to any of our churches, giving this reason for it, 'I came from England, because I did not like the lord-bishops; but I can't join with you, because I would not be under the lord-brethren.'"*

On April 3, 1633, Governor Winthrop and the Massachusetts Bay General Court ordered *"that Mr. William Blackstone shall have 50 acres of ground set out for him near to his house in Boston, to enjoy forever."*

The irony of having invited Winthrop and company to join him on Shawmut only to then have them "grant" him what he already was in possession of must have been too much for Blackstone. One tradition quotes him as having said, *"The King asserteth sovereignty over this New Virginia in respect that John and Sebastian Cabot sailed along the coast, without even landing at any place; and if the quality of*

sovereignty can subsist upon the substratum of mere inspections, surely the quality of property can subsist upon that of actual occupancy, which is the foundation of my claim."

The same year, William Blackstone left Boston and moved south to what is now Rhode Island (near present day Providence) and built a house he called "Study Hall" on a hill he called "Study Hill". Two years later, Roger Williams moved within ten miles of Blackstone and established Rhode Island. William Blackstone died at eighty and was buried at Lonsdale, Rhode Island May 28, 1675.



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