



“Praeservare et Transmittere”



# The Winthrop Society

## Newsletter

**Descendants of the Great Migration**

**Volume 1, Number 1, Spring 2004**

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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."

— excerpt from the Winthrop Society Charter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**C**ousins and fellow members, I bid you greetings!

Much has transpired since you last heard from the Winthrop Society's Board of Governors; in brief, virtually everything about us has been revamped and updated.

The **Winthrop Society Newsletter** is launched - you hold the first issue in your hands! The newsletter will be published in April, August and December.

Our Web site ([www.winthropsociety.org](http://www.winthropsociety.org)) has a new look and structure. We have begun establishing affiliations with charitable organizations that share our interests. Our hard working Registrar, Verna Maleski, contacted Salem Preservation Inc. We have become a prominent supporter of this organization which seeks to restore and preserve the historic settlement in Salem, Massachusetts.

**M**ost gratifying of all, seventy enterprising descendants joined in 2003 as Members and Associates, swelling our ranks by a greater margin than in any year since our founding.

We are planning on sending out mail-in ballots for a new election later in the year. Members are encouraged to submit nominations for all Board offices: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding and Recording Secretaries, a

Webmaster, and an Editor of Publications. Self-nominations, of course, are more than welcome. Please include a brief CV to let us know something about you.

Kindly send email nominations to Joan Keller, [vicepres@winthropsociety.org](mailto:vicepres@winthropsociety.org), or send via US mail to Society headquarters *11 Cresthill Dr, Apt 11A, Nyack, NY, 10960*. We look forward with great anticipation to hearing from you!

**J**ohn Stimson Beardsley, our Society's founder, retired from the Board in 2003 and joined the ranks of our Emeriti. John has immersed himself in the research of his ancestry. John deserves our deepest gratitude for all the hard work, scrupulous scholarship, and familial devotion he invested in this Society.

In response to your many inquiries, the Society is engaged in designing an insignia to complement our *Certificate of Membership* and the Winthrop rosette.

I enthusiastically encourage suggestions from you. Please feel free to contact any Officer with your input. This is an exciting time for the Winthrop Society, and I am glad you've chosen to join with us as it unfolds.

Yours in Patriotism,  
*Charlie Banks*  
Acting President



Governor John Winthrop



Boston Birthday Celebration at the Boston Public Library Sept 7, 2003. (Far left) Will Holton (US) and Judy Cammack (UK) represent the Historic Bostons Partnership. Barry Cotton (far right) is our Society Chairperson.

On September 7, 1630, the town of Trimountaine was renamed Boston and declared the capital of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Possessing a land grant and a charter from King Charles I, John Winthrop was named the first governor of the colony. Winthrop selected Boston as the capital at the urging of William Blackstone, who built a home for him. On September 7, 2001, the Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston and the Massachusetts Historical Society cosponsored the first annual Charter Day celebration.

### ANNUAL MEETING ● BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS ● SEPTEMBER 12, 2004

The Winthrop Society will hold its first Annual Meeting in Boston on September 12, 2004. The meeting is planned to coincide with the fourth annual celebration of Charter Day in Boston.

Boston's Charter Day celebration, first observed in September 2001, has grown into a week long event under the generous sponsorship of these organizations: the Rappaport Institute/ Harvard University, Massachusetts Historical Society, the Bostonian Society, Partnership of the Historic Bostons, Boston Foundation, Boston Public Library, Old North Foundation, and the First & Second Church of Boston.

Charter Day 2003's theme, "Common Space, Common Wealth", included a Frederick Law Olmsted reenactment at the Old State House, a panel discussion on Boston's open spaces at the Massachusetts Historical Society, a Birthday Party at the Boston Public Library, a first ever Founder's Trail Tour through old Boston, and services at both First & Second Church and the Old North Church.

The year 2004 will mark Boston's 374th anniversary and a number of guests from Boston, England are expected to attend Charter Day festivities on September 10, 11, and 12, 2004.

Members of the Winthrop Society are encouraged to attend the first Annual Meeting September 12 in Boston. The location will be announced in our next newsletter and posted on the Society website. Further, the Winthrop Society is seeking to co-sponsor an event this year. For information, visit the Charter Day website at <http://www.bostoncharterday.org>.



Study of Massachusetts Bay Colony Charter of 1629

### Planning to attend the Annual Meeting?

Please write or email Barry Cotton, 2305 Barton Creek Blvd, #29, Austin, TX 78735  
[bacotton@austin.rr.com](mailto:bacotton@austin.rr.com)



## The Bostons - Olde and New

**B**oston, England is linked to Colonial American History through the Pilgrims and the Puritans. In 1607, the Separatists, later to be known as the Pilgrim Fathers, were betrayed by the sea captain of a vessel that had been hired to take them to Holland and their leaders were imprisoned at Boston's Guildhall and put on trial.

From the 1530's Boston was a Puritan town and, from the 17th century, strongly so. Boston town-folk were largely sympathetic to the Pilgrim prisoners as their religious beliefs were very similar. Virtually the only difference was that, whilst the

**1530** Puritans sought to 'purify' the Church of England from within, the Separatists had decided that they were faced with no alternative but to 'separate' from the nation's church

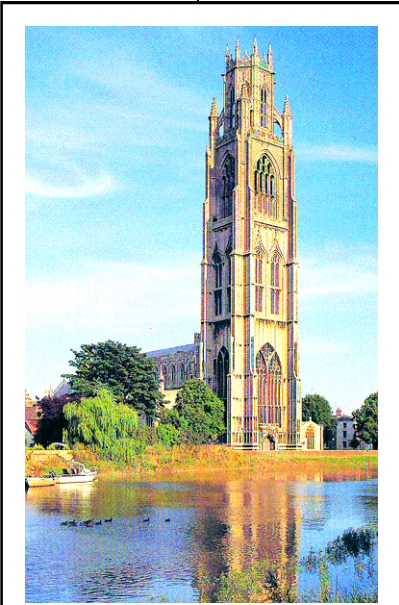
In 1612, the town's councillors appointed the Reverend John Cotton, of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, to be the new vicar of the parish church (St. Botolph's). He had a charismatic personality and became recognised as the pre-eminent Puritan theologian in all England. As well as the leading citizens of the town, he drew to his congregation other men and women of a very high calibre who were to become leaders of Massachusetts.

**J**ohn Cotton was the mayor's chaplain in Boston and the congregation included Atherton Hough who was mayor in 1627 and an alderman of the council; lawyer Richard Bellingham who was the recorder of Boston (1625-1633) and a member of parliament for the borough; lawyer Alderman Thomas Leverett and his son John who was almost certainly a pupil of Boston Grammar School, and old boys, the Reverends Thomas James and Samuel Whiting who had become the headmaster of the Grammar School and the vicar of Skirbeck Church respectively. Other local 'gentlemen' included three members of the Pelham family from Swineshead and Abraham Mellows; John Whittingham, merchant and William Dinely, surgeon.

Other groups became followers of Cotton and moved to Boston to be part of his congregation.

The high steward of the town (1625-1633) was Theophilus, earl of Lincoln. He had homes in Boston and at Tattershall Castle but his principal Lincolnshire home was at Sempringham. He never migrated to New England, possibly because the colony refused to recognise titles in the New World, but it was at Sempringham that a critical group gathered.

Four of the earl's sisters married staunch and wealthy Puritan husbands each of whom had connections with groups who were plotting expeditions. His stewards were firstly Thomas Dudley and then the young Simon Bradstreet (of nearby Horbling). At Sempringham, there was also the vicar, Reverend Samuel Skelton and, probably, the Reverend Francis Higginson.



St. Botolph's, Lincolnshire

**A**nother important group was centred at Alford and frequently travelled to Boston to hear Cotton preach. It included Anne Hutchinson (whose father had taught the famous John Smith as well as his own daughter), her husband, the wealthy William, her brother-in-law, the Revd John Wheelwright (a friend and wrestling partner of Oliver Cromwell) and gentle-

**1629**

men and merchants like William Wentworth and Val Hill. Philemon Pormort, a school teacher from Grimsby, married Richard Bellingham's sister in Alford. A wealthy young man, William Coddington from Grantham, was another who had moved to Boston because of Cotton.

As Church leaders tried to eliminate dissent, the position of the Boston Puritans became perilous and they began to take an interest in the fledgling West Country initiative, the Massachusetts Bay Company. John Humfrey, the husband of the Lady Susannah, one of the Earl of Lincoln's sisters, was a leading light and meetings of the company moved to Cambridge and then to Sempringham.

**J**ohn Winthrop joined and, indeed, took over the company in 1629, along with the Revd Isaac Johnson (one of the main financiers of the expedition and the husband of the Lady Arbella, another

## The Bostons - Olde and New (continued)

sister), Thomas Dudley, Simon Bradstreet and William Coddington, another financial backer. The reverends Skelton and Higginson sailed to New England on exploratory expeditions with some of Isaac Johnson's servants.

**1630** In 1630, the great fleet set sail under its flagship, the *Arbella*, named after her ladyship. Aboard with Winthrop, were Isaac Johnson and his wife, Thomas Dudley, Simon Bradstreet and William Coddington. In 1633, John Cotton sailed aboard the *Griffin*, with Thomas Leverett and his son, John, and Atherton Hough

**T**he next year the Alford contingent, under the Hutchinsons, and Richard Bellingham, followed. Like the Pilgrim Fathers, the first winter saw a great number of deaths including the particularly tragic ones of the near saintly Isaac Johnson and his noble wife. Just before his death however, at the Company meeting, Johnson, along with Dudley, Bradstreet, and Coddington, voted for the new settlement to be named Boston to perpetuate the Puritan community that had been such a beacon in old England.

On Cotton's arrival, he was made leader of the First Church of Boston and Thomas Leverett was elected as the town's leading elder. At least once the colony's ruling body of assistants/magistrates had half of its members from the old town in England. Richard Bellingham was the colony's treasurer and Simon Bradstreet was its secretary.

The group which became known as the 'Boston Men,' out of their allegiance to the old town and to Cotton, dominated the colony under its leader, Winthrop. The four 17th century governors recorded in the tower of the 'Stump' served as governor or deputy governor of the colony of Massachusetts for all but four out of the first 56 years and with Dudley's son, Joseph, this rises to 69 years of the first 85. They controlled not only its government but also its religious and philosophical life.

They were leaders in the foundation of the Boston Free Latin School,

America's oldest, modelled on the Boston Grammar School in England. Philemon Pormort was its first schoolmaster.

They also featured prominently amongst the founders and overseers of what was to become Harvard University. As governor, Thomas Dudley signed its charter and Herbert Pelham was its first administrator.

**A**s deputy governor, Thomas Dudley signed the charter of the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts and built the first fort on Castle Island. John Leverett was major general of the company and, as governor, is credited as saving the colony from being 'pushed back into the sea' during King Philip's War and was given what is probably America's first state funeral. **1631**

A particularly unusual aspect of this story is that a group of remarkable women from south Lincolnshire have become probably more famous in new Boston than their men folk. Anne Hutchinson, the first American to fight for women's rights, and Anne Bradstreet (Dudley's daughter and Simon Bradstreet's wife) the new country's first poet, are the only two famous women from amongst all the original American colonists; and three of the Earl's redoubtable sisters, Lady Arbella, Lady Susannah and Lady Deborah Moody are much written about.

**L**astly, William Blackstone, the first white inhabitant of Shawmut, the peninsular on which the new Boston was founded, was born in Horncastle near old Boston.



Anne Bradstreet  
St. Botolph's

### Are Your Ancestors from Boston, England?

Join the Historic Bostons Partnership. Winthrop Society members are invited to join or make contributions.

Contact: Prof. Will Holton  
41 Oriole St, Boston, MA 02132

[w.holton@numet.neu.edu](mailto:w.holton@numet.neu.edu)

*Researched by John Cammack and Neil Wright in the U.K. and Will Holton in the U.S., 2001. Editorial changes by Barry Cotton. Copyrighted by the Historical Bostons Partnership.*

*Study of St. Botolph's Church by Ernie Napier (UK) Posterized in Adobe Photoshop by page designer.*

*Study of Anne Bradstreet stained glass window. Vicar and church wardens of St. Botolph's Church, Boston, Lincolnshire.*





## THE WINTHROP SOCIETY

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Joan Keller

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Verna Maleski

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Charlie Banks

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Steven T. Beckwith

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Visit our website at:

[www.winthropsociety.org](http://www.winthropsociety.org)

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### ● BOARD/Barry Cotton, Chairman

Winthrop Society membership has increased over 35% under the stewardship of current officers and trustees. Our registrar, Verna Maleski, deserves special recognition for her unflagging efforts in enrolling and approving new members. The Winthrop Society Board established the following goals for 2004:

- Incorporate as a nonprofit organization
- Publish periodic Winthrop Society Newsletters
- Publish periodic Winthrop Society Journals
- Hold a General Meeting
- Hold a General Election

### ● PUBLICATIONS

The Winthrop Society Newsletter will be published April, August and December. To give feedback, suggestions, or submit articles to the Winthrop Society Newsletter, please contact the Chairman/Editor: [bacotton@austin.rr.com](mailto:bacotton@austin.rr.com).

The Winthrop Society Journal will replace the Quarterly and be published biannually. The Journal will be a scholarly publication of historical and genealogical content intended to further the goals of the Winthrop Society as outlined in our Charter. Anyone interested in contributing to, editing and/or publishing the Journal, please contact our Chairman.



### ● REGISTRAR/Verna Maleski

During 2003, sixty-six new members joined the Winthrop Society and thus far in 2004, twelve new members have been approved for a total of seventy-eight additional members. From these seventy-eight new members, twenty-six new Qualifying Ancestors have been recorded.

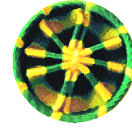
All members are encouraged to register SUPPLEMENTAL ANCESTORS to expand the Society's record of Qualifying Ancestors. Please e-mail Registrar or visit the Winthrop Society website regarding how to submit Supplemental Ancestors.



#### Consider presenting the **GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP**

to your own family members. This will enlarge the Society *and* preserve your family legacy. For inquiries regarding membership or help in finding documentation for your supplemental ancestor, contact Verna Maleski, Registrar at [registrar@winthropsociety.org](mailto:registrar@winthropsociety.org).

## Winthrop Society Rosette



### ● TREASURER/Verle Bresson

The finances of the Winthrop Society have taken a dramatic turn around since the current officers took office. The balance in the account when the present Treasurer took over the records on 1 Jan 2003 was exactly zero. Now there is a comfortable balance and the society has been able to assist in the Salem Preservation project of participating in the restoration of the ancient buildings at Salem, Massachusetts.

Undoubtedly there will be other worthwhile projects that the Winthrop Society will be able to assist in as time goes by. Our year-end report is one that we all can take pride in.

#### Winthrop Society Profit & Loss Statement Year 2003

Beginning Balance - 1/1/2003	\$ 0.00
Application Fees	725.00
Supplemental Fees & Certificates	315.00
Annual Dues Renewals	120.00
Annual Dues (New Applicants)	2,380.00
Lifetime Dues	3,800.00
Rosette Sales	90.00
Winthrop Society Journal Sales	25.00
Overpayment	15.00
Total Receipts Year 2003	\$7,470.00
T. Jacobs, Rosettes	\$ 594.00
Fed. of Gen. Societies Dues	55.00
V. Maleski, Postage: Library, CDs	25.04
C. Banks, Webmaster Expenses	65.00
C. Banks, Certificate Material	97.59
Kinbooks, Certificate Expense	29.00
V, Bresson, Rosette Expenses	11.02
C. Banks, Folders, Postage	24.60
Contribution, Salem Preservation	200.00
J. Beardsley, Shipping Documents	54.93
N. Mizaur- Overpayment	15.00
Total Expenses Year 2003	\$1,171.18
Net Income 2003 and Washington	
Mutual Ckg Acct Balance 12/31/03	\$6,298.82
Reconciliation of Bank Statement	
Balance per Statement 12/31/2003	\$6,498.82
Less Outstanding Check #113	
Salem Preservation	<u>200.00</u>
Actual Bank Balance 12/31/2003	\$6,298.82

The Winthrop Society rosette has been especially and uniquely crafted by the Nation's premier artisans, Dexter Rosettes, to the specifications of the Winthrop Society. It is a bit less than one-half inch (11 mm) in diameter and very sturdily constructed of finest silk ribbon.

Its colors are pine-green and gold. Green represents the Pine Tree Banner of old Massachusetts Bay and the forested wilderness and gold for the fire of their inspired and courageous spirits.

Traditionally, a rosette is a small insignia pinned on the lapel. The Winthrop Society Rosette will command attention among other lineage & genealogical societies where rosettes are considered a mark of distinction. Wear it with pride in remembrance of your Puritan ancestors.

Full members of the Winthrop Society may order rosettes at \$10.00 each from Verna Griffith Maleski, Registrar:

[registrar@winthropsociety.org](mailto:registrar@winthropsociety.org)



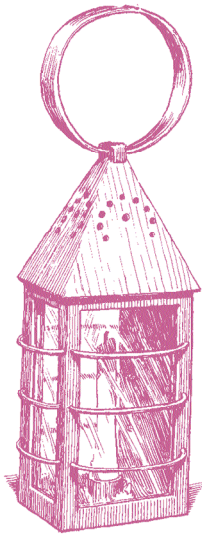
This edition of the Winthrop Society Newsletter was printed at

**BRAINTREE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

31 Tenney Rd, Braintree, Massachusetts 02184-6512 - Tel. (781) 848-1640 through the generosity of Brian Kolner, Executive Director, and Barry Cotton of the Winthrop Society. Many Winthrop Fleet families settled in this area including James and Lydia Penniman. Their descendant and family researcher inspired the creation of the Rev. Dr. George W. Penniman Genealogical Department in his memory. To learn more visit: [www.braintreehistorical.org](http://www.braintreehistorical.org)



The **Winthrop Society** gladly extends membership to all men and women of good character and proven descent from one or more passengers of the Winthrop Fleet, or of others who settled in the Bay Colony and down east before 1634.



We also welcome the efforts of any others who bring with them the fruits of any research that furthers the appreciation and understanding of seventeenth-century Massachusetts Bay and New England.

We encourage all visitors to explore our site and to find out more about the Winthrop Society and its goals, achievements, and membership.



The Winthrop Society  
Verna Maleski  
1040 East Greenway Street  
Mesa, AZ 85203

First Class  
Postage