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The Deane Winthrop Farm; its Owners and Tenants

Address By

Mr. David Floyd

Delivered at the Deane Winthrop House

October 19, 1911.



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## The Deane Winthrop Farm; its Owners and Tenants.

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The town of Winthrop is fortunate in having within its borders a dwelling built by one of the fifteen men to whom "Pullen Poynte" was allotted by the Town of Boston seven years after the coming of John Winthrop. On June 12, 1637, so reads the Boston records: "It was brought in that Mr. William Pierce have an hundred acres of upland and marsh ground Layd out for him at Pullen Point Necke."

Capt. William Pierce was "one of the most esteemed and accomplished navigators of his day." Before his valuable services to the Massachusetts Bay Colony he had been master of the Mayflower and two other ships which brought over the Pilgrims, landing at Plymouth for the first time in the Anne in 1623. He was on intimate terms with Governors Bradford and Winslow of the Plymouth Colony and welcomed Governor Winthrop at Salem on the latter's arrival there in 1630. He afterwards made several voyages for the Bay Colony.

Gov. Winthrop wrote his son under date of March 28, 1631: "For though I think very long till I see you all here, yet I would rather you stayed though it was two or three months to come with Mr. Pierce, because of his skill and care of his passengers."

In November of that year Drake says: "Among the sixty passengers (in Capt. Pierce's ship) was Mrs. Winthrop, the Governor's lady, his eldest son John Winthrop, Jr., and Mr. John Eliot, afterwards so famous for his labors to Christianize the Indians."



Other well-known characters who sailed with Capt. Pierce were Myles Standish, Roger Williams, Rev. John Wilson, and Sir Richard Saltonstall. We find the names of nine ships sailed by the Captain and he made more trips across the Atlantic than any man of his time.

The names of the ships commanded by Capt. Pierce and the years in which the voyages were made are as follows:

1621	Paragon,
1623	Anne,
1624	Charity,
1625	Jacob,
1629	Mayflower,
1630	Lion,
1633	Rebecca,
1634	Regard,
1636	Desire,

A day of Thanksgiving was several times observed for the safe arrival of Capt. Pierce with many passengers and much provisions. His first voyage in the Desire was with Endicott's expedition against the Indians at Black Island August 24, 1636.

On July 13, 1637, a month after the allotment of land at "Pullein Point," he sailed for the West Indies, carrying 15 boys and two women, captured Pequod Indians, who were sold as slaves. Returning February 26, 1638, with a cargo of cotton, salt and tobacco, he had also a number of negroes who were the first slaves brought into New England. The first neat cattle landed in the colonies were brought over from England by Capt. Pierce. The Captain prepared the copy for the first book published in the colonies, "An Almanac for the year 1639, made for New England by William Pierce, Mariner." This book was printed at Cambridge on the Daye press, which was established on the site of



Massachusetts Hall in the latter part of the year 1638.

Captain Pierce joined the church in Boston in 1632, and his wife Bridget became a member February 2, 1634. On May 14, 1634, he was admitted a freeman and the first page of Boston's records shows that on September 1st of the same year he was one of the ten men chosen to manage the affairs of the Town, Governor Winthrop's name being the first. The same records show that at a meeting of the richer inhabitants, August 12, 1636, William Pierce was a subscriber "to a fund for the maintenance of a free schoolmaster for the youth with us, Mr. Daniel Maude being now also chosen thereunto." This was the first free school in Boston.

The Captain was the inventor of a scheme for coast defence by means of a floating battery.

Captain Pierce's Boston house was on the north side of State street on land adjoining the present passageway opposite the Exchange Building connecting that street with Dock Square. At a meeting of Boston's selectmen held April 29, 1639, the Captain being present, it was arranged to establish this way, the Captain and his neighbor, Edward Bendall, contributing the land. It was called Pierce's Alley as late as 1708, and has since been known as Change Alley or Change Avenue.

In June, 1641, Capt. Pierce was killed by the Spaniards at the Isle of Providence, West Indies. The story of his untimely taking off is related by Governor Winthrop in his History of New England.

The Town of Winthrop is fortunate in having on its soil and in a good state of preservation, a dwelling occupied for more than fifty years by a son of the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.



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Deane Winthrop, the sixth and youngest son of Governor John Winthrop, was born in Groton, England, March 16, 1623. He was left behind at school when his father emigrated to New England, but came over in the Abigail on the second voyage of his brother John in 1635. In 1637 he was with his brother John at Ipswich, Mass., and in 1646 at New London, Conn.

In 1647 the Governor conveyed to Deane the parcel of land allotted to him by the town of Boston in 1638, including all the land now known as Point Shirley, Great Head, and the beach extending northerly to a point about where Locust street joins the Winthrop Shore Reservation. The Governor's conveyance is the first entry in his Book of Possessions, and on the same page is a reference to a deed from Bridget and William Pierce, granting "unto Mr. Deane Winthrop, of Boston, all that their messuage and Farme at Pullen Point (adjoining into the farme of the said Deane Winthrop) containing one hundred acres be the same more or less with all the out-houseing, fences, wood, and all other appurtenances," and this by an absolute deed of sale dated" 14 (11) 1647." Thus we see that six years after the death of Capt. Pierce his widow and son conveyed 100 acres, now the easterly section of Winthrop Highlands, extending southerly to the marsh land, with a dwelling house and other buildings thereon, to Deane Winthrop, and the House of the favorite Captain of Gov. John Winthrop became the property, and afterwards the home for many years, of the Governor's son, Deane Winthrop.

William Pierce owned a house in Boston, already referred to, and the dwelling at Pullen Point may have been used by him as a summer or all-the-year residence, or have been occupied by a family who, as tenant or employee of the owner, cultivated the farm.



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The house may have been built as early as 1637, the year the land was allotted.

Deane Winthrop married, probably in 1647, Sarah, daughter of Rev. Jose Glover, step-daughter of President Dunster of Harvard College, and sister of the wife of his brother Adam Winthrop. The Daye press already mentioned was brought over by the clergyman referred to in 1638, but Mr. Glover died on the voyage and Stephen Daye took charge of the printing under the direction of President Dunster who married the widow Glover.

October 18, 1659, Deane Winthrop added to his farm 32 acres of upland and 10 acres of marsh, by purchase from "Thomas Buttalph Glover and Anne, his wife," who for 110 pounds conveyed the land lying west of the William Pierce farm already acquired and east of the land of Elder James Penn (formerly of William Aspinwall). The land is now bounded on the south by the Fort Banks reservation and extends northerly across Revere street, Quincy Avenue, Cliff Avenue, Floyd street, and Sewall Avenue to the beach on the north side of Winthrop Highlands. The deed mentions a dwelling house and yard, "Barne" and leanto as being on the land. This house stood not far from the Argyle stable just north of Revere street. The deed also mentions "the timber, trees and underwoods standing or lying upon the same" as being included in the sale.

But one more conveyance is to be recited referring to the land holdings at "Pullein Point" of Deane Winthrop, and this is a deed from the Indians. The charter granted by King Charles the First to the Governor and Company of Massachusetts Bay was the foundation for the land titles of that time. The few Indians then in the vicinity of Boston made claims in the Courts, but accomp-



lished nothing. After the restoration of Charles the Second the attempt to revoke the first charter was renewed, and in 1684 the charter was abrogated and for some time there was great anxiety among the land-holders. Some claimed that the land titles reverted to the Crown. This caused the land owners to obtain deeds from the survivors of the families of the Indian chiefs. The Suffolk Records contain a deed from six Indians who were the descendants of Sagamore George (Wenepoykin) conveying to several of the principal land owners the land in Winnisimmet, Rumney Marsh and Pullen Point. In the latter place Deane Winthrop and James Bill are the grantees named, and as these two men then owned about all of the peninsula, the land here, if not in other places in New England, has a recorded title from the Red men.

Nine children were born to Deane and Sarah, four of whom died in infancy. His first wife died before 1684. His second wife was Martha, the widow of Captain John Mellow. Judge Sewall gives an account of the marriage of Mercy Winthrop to Atherton Haugh July 11, 1699, and it is probably that the west room of the old house was also the scene of the marriages of Margaret Winthrop to Jotham Grover, of Elizabeth to Capt. Samuel Kent, and of Pricilla to Eliah Adams.

Deane Winthrop's children were baptized in the First Church of Boston, its meeting house then being on Washington street, at the head of State Street. His daughters Margaret and Mercy were married by the pastor of the Old South Church.

Deane Winthrop made Pullen Point his home, but was absent occasionally on various enterprises.

In 1655 he was one of the founders of the town of Groton, Mass., although there is no record of his ever living there. He



was one of a committee appointed by the selectmen of Boston in 1698 to lay out a road, from what is now "Church Square" in Revere, to Pullen Point. The committee's report shows that the way went through the section now known as Crescent Beach, then north of Beachmont, and over the short beach to what is now Winthrop Highlands, where substantially the line of the present Revere and Winthrop streets was followed as far as the town hall. From this point the road wound round the little hills which then stood near the present Centre station and ended at a point near the John Sargent Tewksbury house just north of Johnson avenue.

He joined the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company in 1644, and Jose his only son who lived to maturity, became in 1692 a member of the same organization.

Jose (called Joseph and Jesse in the Boston records) was born May 3, 1666. In 1700 he was elected constable for Rumney Marsh, and in March, 1702, was chosen with eleven others, to run the line and renew the bound marks between Malden, Lynn, Reading and Boston.

Margaret Grover died in 1695, and Elizabeth Kent in 1697.

In November, 1702, Jose with his sisters Mercy and Priscilla, fell victims to the small pox. Thus at the age of nearly 80 years was Deane Winthrop bereft of all his children.

The pathetic note sent to Chief Justice Wait Winthrop, his nephew, and to Capt. Adam Winthrop, his grand-nephew, the original of which is in the Frost Public Library, can be appreciated from the above facts. The letter was directed to:

"The Honorable Wait Winthrop, Esq., and Capt.  
Adam Winthrop in Boston: with speed."

The opposite side contains the message:



"Pullin Point:  
ye: 27th November, 1702.

To kinsmen:

I would desire ye Favor to come down in ye Boat with my son Haugh For to give me some advice in ye settlement of my affares that I may live in Peace and nott be Incumbered with ye affares of ye world I am yor affectionate Kinsman.

Deane Winthrop."

Sixteen months later on his 81st birthday, March 16, 1704, Deane Winthrop died. Judge Sewall and many other notables attended the funeral, the burial being in the old graveyard not far from the present Unitarian church in Revere. Here most, if not all of his nine children lie buried, stones being erected in memory of Deane Winthrop, Jose Winthrop, Margaret Grover, Priscilla Adams and Mercy Haugh.

Deane Winthrop's will was dated 29 Dec., 1702. Wait Winthrop and Adam Winthrop were named as executors.

In the list of property mentioned in the inventory of the estate we find:, "One negro man, by name Primus," valued at 30 pounds, "one negro woman, by name Moreah," and "a Boy by name Robin," the last two jointly appraised at 30 pounds.

For purpose of comparison as to values it is interesting to know that a yoke of large oxen 8 years old were valued 8 pounds, and 141 sheep 48 pounds, "one fowling piece, 3 old muskets, 2 pounds."

A yearly payment was provided by the will for his widow, and also the "use and service of my negro woman named Moreah, during my wife's natural life." His widow died in 1716.

Deane Winthrop's grandchildren were John Grover and Deane Grover, sons of Jonathan and Margaret Grover; Priscilla Haugh, daughter of Atherton and Mercy Haugh; and Priscilla Adams, daughter of Eliah and Priscilla Adams. This house and the farm



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was leased until these children were grown up and married, and then John Grover bought the shares of his brother Deane Grover, and of his cousin Priscilla Haugh who had become the wife of Hezekiah Butler. The one-fourth part owned by Priscilla Adams was conveyed by her and her husband, Samuel Royal, to Joseph Belcher.

On the 2d day of December, 1720, "& in the seventh year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George, King of Great Britain," etc., John Grover and Joseph Belcher made a partition of Deane Winthrop's farm, Grover taking the three hills towards the north and the marsh west of the beach, and Belcher, Point Shirley, Great Head, and the Beach up to the old "Beach Bars" near where the present Locust street joins the Metropolitan Boulevard, also some agreement as to apple trees and wood and right of way. This agreement and partition, while giving Grover all the land referred to, provides that "Belcher hath for his part in the orchard 3 rows of apple trees on the southerly side of the orchard and 6 trees of the 4th row at the southerly end of said row and said Belcher is to take all the apples that shall grow on said trees as long as they shall bear, and then take said trees when they will bear no longer." Belcher was also to have the wood from that part of Grover's farm called the Island, the lines of this reservation being marked by a "witch hazell, a cedar, and a saxifrax tree each with a heap of stones about it."

Grover was given liberty to drive his sheep yearly to wash, and to cart to and from the boat place at all times, and Belcher was to be allowed to cross Grover's land when removing his salt hay, "that is, to go where Grover carts his hay to the new barn." The buildings on said farm were appraised by the



parties to the agreement at 102 pounds, and as they were on Grover's land, he was to pay Belcher £25 and 10s. for his one-fourth interest in them. May we not infer from this that no buildings were then existing at Point Shirley, and that Joseph Belcher was the first to build at the Point?

March 10, 1730, John Grover bought of Robert Auchmuty, of Boston, one-sixth of Joseph Bill's farm which Auchmuty had purchased in 1728 of Anne (Bill) Smith and Esther (Bill) Goodwin two of the children of said Joseph Bill.

Robert Auchmuty was born in Scotland, educated in Dublin, came to Boston where he was the first to give tone to the Boston Bar. He became a judge of the Court of Admiralty. Drake says he was "a distinguished lawyer and judge, a man of extraordinary talent and famous for his wit and shrewdness." He died in 1750, leaving a son of the same name who became a distinguished lawyer and judge. On the Tory side in the Revolution, he became unpopular and went to London where he died in 1788. His house built in 1761 stood in Roxbury until about the year 1900.

23 June, 1730, John Grover and Jeremiah Bill, a son of Joseph, deceased, agreed upon the division line which defined the northwesterly boundary of the purchase from Auchmuty. The record says the line started "from near the old Indian Fort and ran straight to a stake by the corner of the orchard near John Grover's barn, thence straight to a stake and stones at the northeast end of said Bill's farm below the horse gate." The southerly boundary of this land was that part of Pitt's farm afterwards owned by Samuel Belcher.

John Grover died in 1747, leaving a daughter Mary who married Stephen Whiting, of Boston, a japanner.



Stephen and Mary Whiting, July 30, 1753, borrowed of James Bowdoin of Boston, then considered the richest man in the state, 1800 pounds and conveyed by deed, as security, the entire Winthrop farm left by John Grover, on condition that if one year a payment was made to said Bowdoin of 5,400 ounces, Troy weight, coin silver alloy, the farm should be reconveyed to Mary Whiting. The silver was never paid, and thus the land and buildings which for 107 years had been owned by Deane Winthrop, his four grandchildren, and his great-granddaughter, together with the addition made by John Grover, passed out of the possession of the Winthrop family.

James Bowdoin was Governor of Massachusetts in 1785 and 1786, being the second governor under the Constitution. John Hancock, who at one time owned and lived in a house on Point Shirley, built on land first allotted to Governor John Winthrop, preceded and followed Governor Bowdoin as Massachusetts' chief executive.

Among the papers left by the late Hermon Bill Tewksbury is one which throws an interesting side light on the siege of Boston. Twenty years and more before the date of this paper the leases of the farm had provided that "no wood or tree or trees be lopped, polled, or cutt down" upon the leased premises. The letter is as follows:

Chelsea, Feb. 1, 1776.

Mr. John Tewksbury;

Sir:

We desire you would cutt down any trees on Hon. James Bowdoin's farm for the use of the distressed poor now at Point Shirley & we will bear you harmless. The Committee of the House of Representatives for taking care of the Poor of Boston.

(Signed by)

Thomas Crafts Junior  
Daniel Sigourney  
Winthrop Gray  
Edward Precter.



Governor Bowdoin's only daughter Elizabeth had married Sir John Temple and when the Governor died in 1790 his large estate was divided between his son James and Lady Elizabeth, the latter becoming the owner of the farm at Pullen Point. Sir John was the son of Captain Robert Temple who came over in 1717 with a number of Scotch-Irish emigrants. Sir John's sister married Governor Shirley. Sir John was an officer of the Crown and the acknowledged heir of the baronetcy in 1786. He died in New York in 1798 and was buried in St. Paul's churchyard, and a tablet was erected within the old church, bearing the following inscription:

Sacred to the memory of

Sir John Temple Bart

Consul General to the United  
States of America  
From his Britannic Majesty

The first appointment  
to this Country after its  
Independence

Died in the City of New York  
Nov. the 17th, 1798  
Aged 67 years.

His widow returned to Boston to be near her daughter Elizabeth Bowdoin Temple who in the year 1786 (July 26) had married Thomas Lindall Winthrop, a descendant of Governor John Jr. of Connecticut, the farm thus coming back again to the Winthrop family. Lady Temple owned the farm until her death in 1809. She left a most interesting will for the purpose "of making such an equitable disposition of the estate with which Almighty God in his providence has been pleased to bless me; as may suit the situation of my family and remunerate the affection and devotion of my granddaughter Eliza Bowdoin Temple Winthrop."

The will provided that her domestics should be



suitably clad in mourning and an additional three months wages be paid to each of them who had served her two years. To Thomas Neal for "his long and faithful service \$100 was to be paid each year during his life." There were special bequests of jewels, plate and wearing apparel to her daughters, Elizabeth Bowdoin, wife of Thomas L. Winthrop, Esq. and to Augusta Grenville, wife of William L. Palmer, and to her sons Sir Grenville Temple and James Temple Bowdoin. To Sir Grenville she gave "all that sett of India china which bears the crest of the Temple Arms."

She left brilliant rings to her sons' wives and ordered a ring to be purchased for the wife of her brother James Bowdoin to cost four and twenty guineas.

The residue of her estate was to be divided between her four children and her grandchildren, the granddaughter Eliza Bowdoin Temple Winthrop to get more than the other grandchildren.

A codicil was afterwards made by which, among other changes, "the real estate in Chelsea near said Boston, commonly known in my family as the Chelsea farm, with all the stock, farming utensils, and other things belonging to said farm" was given to her elder son, Sir Grenville. The codicil ended with a provision that should any of the heirs dissent from the disposition made therein, the devises and dispositions set forth should be null and void. Three of the four children immediately filed their dissent, stating as reasons, that their brother Sir Grenville was absent, and the delay in settling the estate if the codicil was allowed to stand.

The dissent resulted in the Chelsea farm becoming the property again of a descendant of Governor John Winthrop of Massachusetts, and also a descendant of Governor John Winthrop, the younger, of Connecticut, for on March 28, 1812, the four children



of Lady Temple conveyed by deed to Lady Temple's favorite granddaughter, Eliza Bowdoin Temple Winthrop, the farm in Pullen Point which 58 years before had passed from the ownership of the Winthrop family. This young woman was the sister of Robert C. Winthrop who was Speaker of the National House of Representatives and afterwards represented Massachusetts in the senate, (1850-1). She married Rev. Benjamin Tappan, D. D. of Augusta, Maine, and the title of the Winthrop farm remained in her name until Nov. 25, 1854, when she and her husband conveyed the property to William Minot, Robert C. Winthrop and William Minot, Jr., as Trustees.

The deed refers to a plan made by Alonzo Lewis, of Lynn, and the further changes in the ownership of the old farm will refer to this plan which is entitled "The Winthrop Farm in Chelsea surveyed by Alonzo Lewis March 12, 1840; scale 10 Rods to an inch. Reduced to a scale of 30 Rods to an inch Dec.1, 1854, by Alex. Wadsworth."

The plan shows the 132 acres 95 rods of upland, and the 53 acres 65 rods of marsh divided into ten (10) parcels, the boundaries as thereon indicated and as remembered by Winthrop's older residents being either stone walls, ditches, or rail fences.

The names assigned each of the parcels are as follows:

"The West Field,"

- Lower "
- Front "
- Home "
- Hill "
- East "
- Pasture"
- North "
- Marsh "



## Marsh 1 acre 32 rods

Seven of these parcels, aggregating 158 acres and 136 rods, became the property of the City of Boston Feb. 1, 1866, by a deed signed by Benjamin Tappan, of Norrdigewock, Anna W. Tappan, of Augusta, John C. Fiske, Mary A. Fiske, his wife, of Bath, F. L. Winthrop Tappan of Brunswick, all in the state of Maine; Jane W. Tappan, Edwin B. Webb and Elizabeth F. Webb, his wife, of Boston; and thus, after a period of 54 years ownership, for the second time the farm went out of the hands of the descendants of Governor John Winthrop, and most of it, after the passing of 229 years became a possession of a greater Boston than the town of 1630. The city bought the farm as a site for an insane hospital and plans were made for a great institution which was planned to be erected on the middle hill. By one vote the project was defeated in the Board of Alderman. For 17 years the land was used for pasturage and the cutting of salt and English hay.

In 1883 the city sold the land at auction, Mr. William B. Rice, of Quincy, being the purchaser. Streets were immediately built through the property and the sale of lots began. At this period of the farm's history there appeared in the "Winthrop Visitor" in May, 1883, an article called "A Sportsman's Farewell," which indicated one purpose of pleasure and profit for which the farm had been used since the days in 1632, when John Perkins was given the exclusive privilege of taking fowl with nets at Noddle's Island and Pullen Point.

With apologies to Tennyson, the article closed as follows:

"Ring out the scenes of years ago,  
 When birds were plenty, fat & tame;  
 Ring out our hunting ground for game,  
 Ring out and leave us all forlorn.



"Change everything where once we met,  
 The pond, the swamp, the beach, the hill,  
 The spring from whence we drank our fill,  
 And still old times we'll not forget.

"While here we dwell, our yarns we'll tell  
 Of how we shot a brace of widgeon,  
 Or bagged about a score of pigeon,  
 In the old place we love so well.

"Ring out the old, ring in the new!  
 All must be changed, then be it so.  
 Most of the game left years ago.  
 Ring in the Rice birds not a few."

The story of the tenants of the old farm can be soon told. As leases are not usually a matter of record, we have obtained information about the first hundred years' rental from the Tewksbury and Bill papers already referred to and from others furnished by the late Warren Belcher.

About six months after the death of Deane Winthrop in 1704 we find a receipt which deserves to be preserved as a good example not only of penmanship, but of the courteous business note of 200 years ago:

<sup>r</sup>  
 "M Jonathan Bill

pray pay unto my Aunt Winthrop five pounds in  
 money & her receipt shall be your discharge for so much  
 of the rent of the Farm

<sup>r</sup>  
 Y Lov: Friends

Adam Winthrop

Boston Oct: 31 1704

<sup>r</sup> 11  
 in behalf of Maj Gen  
<sup>r</sup>  
 Wait Winthrop Esq

& myself "

In 1717 John Grover releases Jonathan Bill, Jr., as a co-tenant with him of the farm and Grover remains as sole lessee.

In 1734 John Grover hires John Tewksbury to mow salt



grass and some time after that Grover rents the farm to John Tewksbury, for we find a lease given in 1742 and a receipt for rent in 1745. In the year last name Grover sells John Tewksbury 90 sheep, 3 cows and 2 calves for 154 pounds.

In 1750 Stephen Whiting, John Grover's administrator, rents the farm to John Tewksbury and John Whiting.

A Mr. Belcher was the tenant in the latter part of the 18th century.

About the year 1800 William Tewksbury became the tenant and in the old house all his children except the youngest (Mrs. Augusta P. Ingalls) were born. These included the late James Winthrop Tewksbury, of Lynn, Mrs. Sarah Procter, late of Westford, Miss Caroline Tewksbury and Miss Abigail Tewksbury. Mrs Procter used to tell of how, when a girl, she went from the old house to the beach and watched the beginning of the battle between the Chesapeake and the Shannon in which the brave Lawrence was killed.

In 1825 David Floyd moved into the old house with 8 of his 9 children, coming here from that part of Chelsea now Revere. After 8 years he built a house on land where now Fort Banks is located, and his son David became the tenant. The younger David, or "the Deacon," as he was afterwards called, was tenant until he bought the house and front field in 1854, and his seven sons were born in this house. Deacon David Floyd built a new house on Locust street in 1856 and the old house was again rented. During the following years Edward Graham, Thomas Clifton, Albert Richardson, William Elliot and others were tenants of the house.

Charles S. Teel bought the house and 16,500 square feet of land of Deacon Floyd in 1864. In 1867 he conveyed a part of the property to the late David H. Blaney, then of East Boston, who



reconveyed to Mr. Teel the following year. Mr. Teel sold the land and buildings to Henry Otis Floyd, a son of its former owner, in 1870.

In July 1905 the heirs of Henry Otis Floyd leased the house and land to the Winthrop Improvement Association. This Society at once joined with 17 other Winthrop Organizations in holding a bazaar in the old building from the proceeds of which the house was repaired and \$775.00 put in the bank towards buying the property.

In 1908 the "Winthrop Improvement & Historical Association" was incorporated, and now the title of the old house and 16,500 square feet of land stands in the name of that organization.

I do not forget that the women here today are descendants of Revolutionary soldiers, and for that reason may be interested to know what part the old Deane Winthrop farm had in the several wars in which the people of Boston and vicinity participated. The old Indian fort already referred to was probably built by the white settlers to protect themselves from the Red men.

During the war for Independence a fort was erected on the hill at Point Shirley on land formerly owned by Governor Winthrop.

At Point Shirley two months after the evacuation of Boston, Captain Mugford of Marblehead, was killed in a battle with the English between the men of the Franklin and the Washington.

During the war of the Rebellion, a part of the territory once the Winthrop farm, was used as a testing place for new projectiles, cannon of various sizes being fired from the beach



front about opposite the easterly end of Ocean Avenue. A large target was built at Grover's Cliff near the bank on the southerly side of that point of land. Some of the balls and shells which missed the target were dug out of the earth the day after the practice firing by the boys of Winthrop during the years 1861-5.

During the Spanish War an attempt was made to complete Fort Heath on this very land, but the war was over many months before the great disappearing guns were put in place. Fort Banks, which was completed before the Spanish War, is built partly on land once owned by Deane Winthrop.

Besides the twenty-five acres of the old farm now owned by the United States, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts owns a strip of beach extending about a mile and one-half north of Great Head, known as the Winthrop Shore Reservation. The town of Winthrop has recently acquired a piece of beach 1200 feet in length south of Great Head, always to be kept open for the public. In 1909 the town took action which resulted in about sixty acres of the old farm becoming the property of the people of Winthrop, to be used for play grounds. So we see that about one-third of the old farm granted by the Bay Colony to Gov. Winthrop and his son is now the property of town, state, and nation, and these reservations are on every side of the old house where the Winthrop Improvement and Historical Association, through the building and its growing historical collection, seeks to present to the occupants of one thousand dwellings erected on the old farm and to those who live in 1300 houses in other parts of the town, not only local happenings, witnessed by an ancient dwelling, but also some facts connected with the history of Boston, of Massachusetts, and of the Nation, in which Pullen Point people have played a part.

Winthrop, Oct. 19, 1911.

David Floyd