

THE WINTHROP MANOR OF FISHERS ISLAND

ADDRESS PREPARED
FOR THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING
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OF

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OF MANORS IN AMERICA

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BY

THE REVERED M. LLOYD WOOLSEY

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THE WINTHROP MANOR OF FISHERS ISLAND

To attempt a fresh narration of the history of Fishers Island would be a superfluous undertaking, the work having been already done by other hands most ably and fully.¹ The present account is to dwell rather more on that which is of special interest to the members of this Order, namely, the Island as a Manor, with somewhat fuller accounts of those members of the Winthrop family who held it; but let it be freely acknowledged that the works referred to are the basis of this paper.

Fishers Island, lying about four miles off the Connecticut coast near New London, is about nine miles long, with a width varying from half a mile to a mile and a quarter, and contains about three thousand acres of land.² It was a great fishing-ground for the neighboring Pequot Indians, and is said, in their time, to have been well wooded, and the woods to have been full of deer and other wild animals. The Indian name for the Island was Munnatawket, signifying an outlook.

This Island, one of the Manors of the Province of New York, was in the possession of the Winthrop family, descending from father to son through seven generations, and for a period of more than two hundred years.

To give with any fulness an account of the first three generations of the Winthrop family in this country would be, in large measure, to recount the early history of Massachusetts and

¹ "Fishers Island Its History and Development" by F. E. Hine.

² "Fishers Island N. Y. 1614-1924." Henry L. Ferguson. Privately printed.

So freely are these works used, with the kind assent of Mr. Ferguson and of the widow of Mr. Hine, that it is deemed unnecessary to use quotation marks for everything taken from them. Mr. Ferguson gives a full list of authorities.

In addition, "A Brief Account of the Winthrop Family," by Robert C. Winthrop, Jr., has also been drawn upon in preparing the present monograph.

² According to Mr. Ferguson, correcting a previous estimate of five thousand.



GOVERNOR JOHN WINTHROP III, YOUNGER (1607-1676)
*Original portrait in possession of Mr. Grenville Lindall Winthrop, as are also others
here reproduced.*

Connecticut. For our story of the Winthrop Manor we must begin with John Winthrop the Younger, illustrious son and namesake of an illustrious father, the latter having been one of the founders and long the Governor of Massachusetts.

Born at Groton, England, in 1606, the second John Winthrop was well acquainted with all that was associated with the idea of a manor in the land of his fore-fathers. For Groton was a manor which had been acquired by his great-grandfather, Adam Winthrop, a wealthy London merchant, towards the close of the reign of Henry VIII. This manorial property had descended from father to son, and would in due course have come to John Winthrop, the Younger. But being deeply interested in his fathers' plans for the planting of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, he voluntarily broke the entail and arranged for the sale of the estate, in order that adequate settlements might be made on his step-mother and her children, and to provide funds for the emigration.

Let us sum up briefly the salient points of his early life. Educated at

He writes to his father, "The price we have agreed is £2000," the equivalent of several times that amount in the money of to-day. John Winthrop the elder, at the time he left England is stated to have had an income equivalent in our day to between £3000 and £4000 per annum, and he subsequently received considerable grants of land in Massachusetts; but his great expenditure in furtherance of the colony, coupled with the dishonesty of his agent, crippled him financially in later life, and his sons were largely dependent on their own exertions.



SWORD USED BY GOVERNORS JOHN WINTHROP AND JOHN WINTHROP THE YOUNGER

Bury St. Edmund's School and Trinity College, Dublin, he became for a while a barrister of the Inner Temple. He served as a volunteer in the unfortunate expedition under the Duke of Buckingham to relieve the Protestants of Rochelle; made an extensive tour of eastern Europe; and on his return to England became interested in the enterprise on which his father and friends were engaged for the settlement of Massachusetts. He followed his father to this country in 1631, and at once took a prominent position in the affairs of the new colony. Returning to England in 1634, he was commissioned to build a fort and begin a plantation at the mouth of the Connecticut River, and appointed Governor of that plantation. He remained in England for over a year, engaged largely in scientific pursuits. It was in 1635, when he was thirty years of age, that he began the plantation at Saybrook, and at that time he probably explored Fishers Island and realized its advantages for a safe retreat.

October seventh, 1640, Winthrop obtained from the General Court of Massachusetts a grant of Fishers Island, so far as it was theirs to grant, "reserving the right of Connecticut, if it should prove to be theirs." About the same time, in order that there should be no flaw in his title, he applied to the Connecticut General Court for a similar grant, and it was granted him.⁴ After obtaining this grant, Winthrop again left for England to organize a company for the manufacture of iron, much needed in the new land and returned with them in 1643 to Lynn and Braintree.

In 1644, as rehearsed in the patent later procured from Governor Nicolls, Winthrop purchased from the Indians the right to Fishers Island, and soon began building and planting there, as he intended to make it his headquarters. The house that he built on the Island was the first white man's house in the Pequot country.

In October, 1646, Winthrop with his wife and children, Fitz John and Margaret, set sail for Fishers Island. His Brother, Dean Winthrop, accompanied them. Shortly after his de-

⁴ "Upon Mr. Winthrop's motion to the Court for Eyscher's Island, it is the mind of the court, that so far as it hinders not the public good of the country; either for fortifying or defence, or setting up a trade for fishing or salt, and such like, he shall have liberty to proceed therein." Records of a General Court, held at Hartford, April 9, 1641.

parture, his father writes: "To my very good son, Mr. Jo. Winthrop at Fishers Island, n'r Pequot River:

My good son: The comfortable season God was pleased to send after thy departure from us, and the fair S. E. wind the last day of the week, gives me good hope that you are all safe arrived at your new habitation." And on November nineteenth, he writes, "I do bless God for your safe arrival at Fishers Island." This letter mentions a violent storm which they weathered, reaching in due time the sheltered harbor which the Island afforded, and the house which had been standing ready for two years, "sheltered on the north and west by the banks and woods encircling a bay in which it nestled, and the air above it was softened by the warming influence of the surrounding ocean,"—this description seeming to refer to the very location of the house afterward erected, and known in its present altered form as the Mansion House.

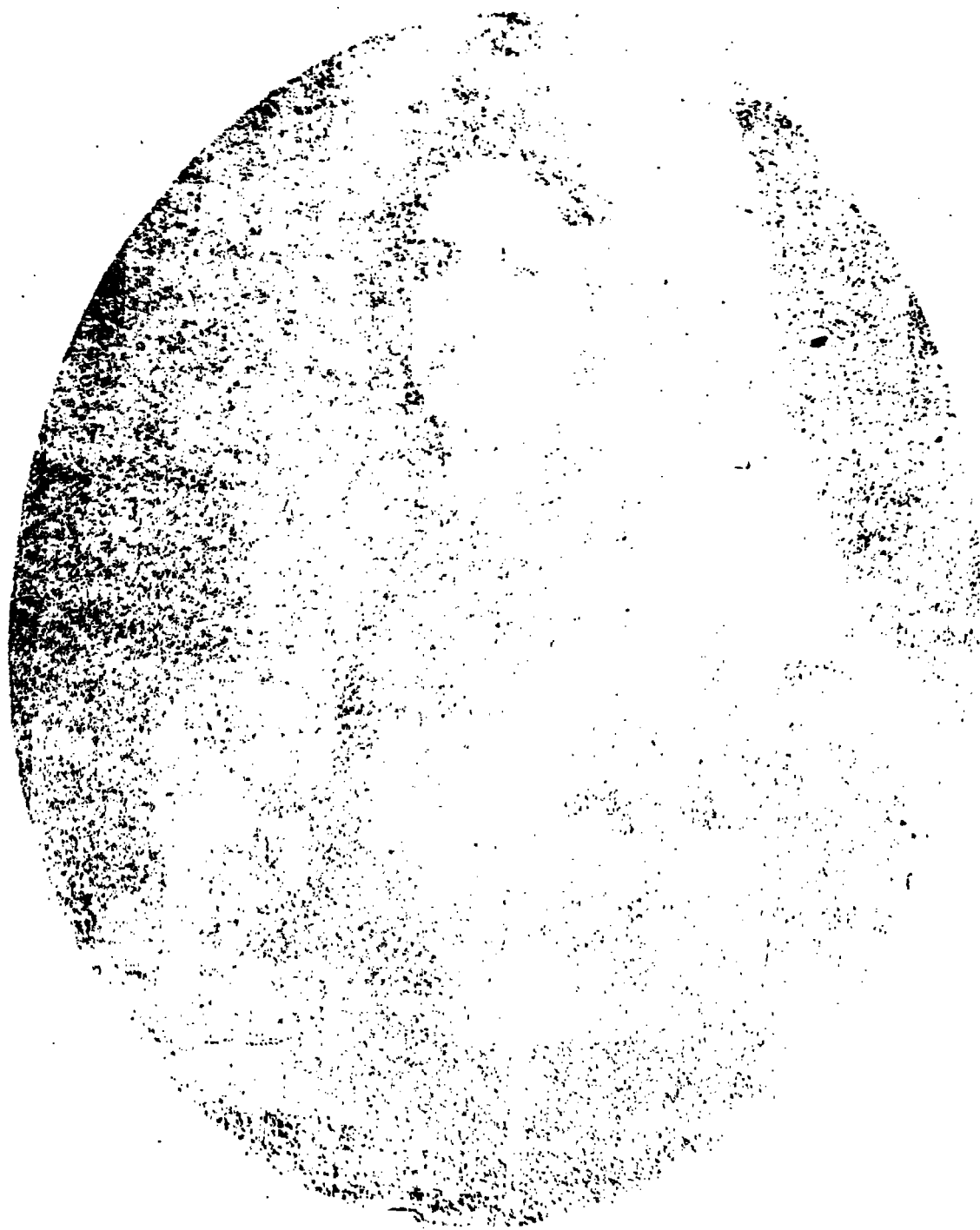
On the Island there was also comparative safety from beasts of prey, for which it was less accessible and afforded limited range. But to settle at that distance from any other white men showed great courage, in view of the possibility of an Indian uprising which might occur at any moment.

The only alarm that winter was caused by the Mohegans. Nowequa, the brother of Uncas, descended on the Island, destroyed a canoe and alarmed the Winthrop family. For this and other insolent acts and threatening bearing by the same band, Uncas was made to pay one hundred fathoms of wampum.

The first horses ever seen in Connecticut were brought by Winthrop in 1645. On the Island he raised horses and goats. It is probable that he and his family remained there until May, 1647, as is shown by letters of his father addressed after that date "To my very good son, Mr John Winthrop at Nameauge upon Pequot River"—now New London.

The island was not suitable for the work to which he had dedicated himself, so we find him building himself a house in New London and removing his family thither.

Fishers Island was included in the boundaries of the Duke of York's patent to Richard Nicolls in 1664, and John Winthrop, who had been elected Governor of Connecticut in 1657, as he was again in 1659, and every year subsequently until his death in 1676, procured in 1668 a Manorial Grant and patent of confirmation, erecting the Island into an "Intire Enfranchised Township Mannor, & Place of itselfe & [it] shall alwayes from tyme to



FITZ JOHN WINTHROP (1638-1707)



ELIZABETH TONGUE, WIFE OF FITZ JOHN WINTHROP (1653-1737)

tyme and at all tymes hereafter have-hould & injoye like & Equall Priviledges & Immunityes with any Towne Infranchis'd Place or Mannour within this Governmt. . . . & by fealty onely paying yearely as an Acknowledgment One Lamb upon ye first day of May if the same shall be demanded."

That such payment was duly made is shown by the postscript of a letter written by Governor Andros to Fitz John Winthrop, twelve years later, June eighth, 1680:

"Capt. Hall asking me occasions this postscript, to repeate & acknowledge the receipt by him of ye lambe you paid him (as authorized) for acknowledgmt of ye tenure of Fishers Island and is in full to this time. _Yours, E. Andros G."

While he was Governor, Winthrop realized the insecurity of Connecticut politically, and was delegated by the General Court to obtain a charter from Charles II. By his tact and diplomacy a liberal one was secured, which served as the Constitution of Colony and State down to 1818.

Immediately thereafter Connecticut claimed complete jurisdiction over Fishers Island as well as the towns of Long Island. But Sir Edmund Andros, the new Governor of New York, took effective measures and wrote in 1680 as follows to Wm. Leete, the Governor of Connecticut:

"Hon'ble Sr.— Being advised by an order on warrant from yourself and some assistants sent to fishers Island, I am much surprised att your Intrenching upon his Maj Ties Letters Patent to his Royal Highness, as well as the grant by Governour Nicolls to the Honoble John Winthrop, Esq. (late Governor of Connecticut) for sd Island, which Island and Grant it is my duty to assert, as much as this or any other part of the Governmt; and therefore desire that you will, without delay, recall sd warrant or order, and forbear any the like proceedings for the future, to prevent great Inconveniencys; and remaine your Effectionate Neighbour and Humble Servant E. Andros."

Connecticut was obliged in the end though reluctantly; to acquiesce in New York's jurisdiction over the Island.

"We read little of social activities in the old records, just a mention here and there showing that on occasions they met at one place or another, but undoubtedly they occasionally broke the monotony of their wilderness life. Lion Gardnier on his island and Lady Fenwick at Saybrook, 'paid passing gay visits by boat to Mrs Anna Wolcott Griswold at Black Hall, or to the

Governor of Connecticut, John Winthrop, Jr., at Fishers Island.⁵ The Sylvesters at their Manor of Shelter Island were of this little group, and a pathetic paragraph from Sylvester begs advice because the baby is sick and in danger of strangling, 'and here we are quite out of ye way of help.' Such seeking of medical advice, from Winthrop arose from the fact that he was possessed of much knowledge about medicine: many of his letters contain remedies.

• During the several years which he spent in London, looking after the affairs of the colony, he was received as one of the most accomplished scholars of his time. He was one of the founders of the Royal Society, being one of a number of men who met in 1645 to discuss philosophical questions, these meetings leading to the definite constitution of the Society in 1660.

It is interesting to note that lands near Brookhaven on Long Island, acquired by John Winthrop from the Indians, in 1664, and confirmed to his eldest son by Governor Andros in 1680, received the name of the old home in England and became known as the Manor of Groton Hall, though never officially so constituted. Had steps which were contemplated been carried out, we should have had one more to add to our list of New York Manors.⁶

After a full and noble life in carrying out the work to which he had dedicated himself, John Winthrop the Younger passed away in 1676, leaving a great heritage in landed estates,⁷ among which were Fishers Island with its smaller adjacent islands.

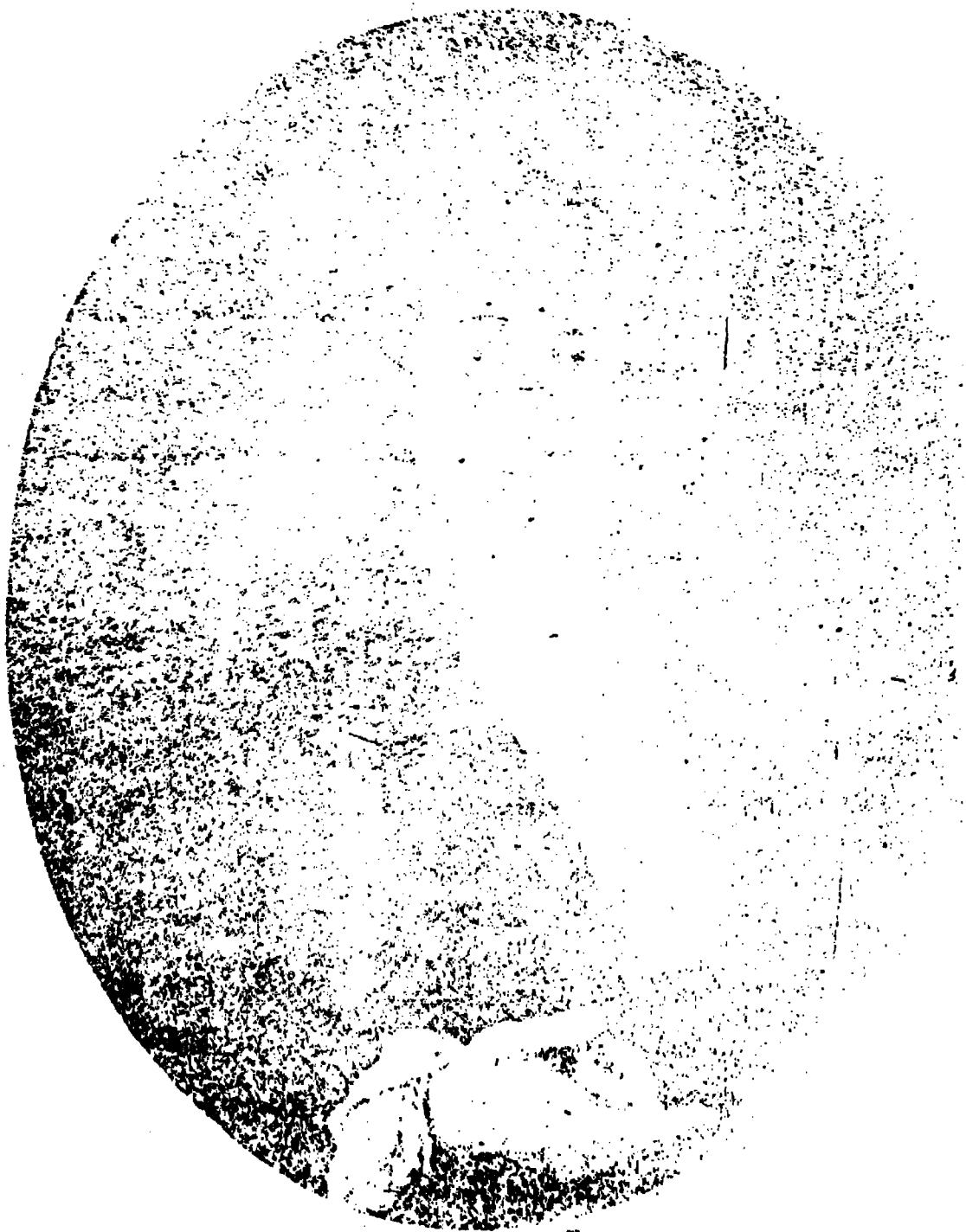
The Island descended to his two sons, Fitz John—so called to distinguish him from his father and grandfather—and Wait Still, and was possessed by them conjointly and undivided during their lives.

Fitz John, after a period of study at Harvard, went to

⁵ Quoted by Mr. H. L. Ferguson, from whose brochure this paragraph is taken.

⁶ See Appendix II.

⁷ Between 15,000 and 20,000 acres in Connecticut, beside Fishers Island and land in Massachusetts and on Long Island. But, as is well pointed out by Mr. Ferguson, this meant something very different from what might appear to us. 'The Colonies were poor, little money coming into their treasuries for running expenses, and so it was that the men who were at the head were forced to take land in lieu of money on the chance that they might derive some benefit from part of it. They were land-poor and continually were obliged to borrow to meet their daily expenses.'



WAIT WINTHROP (1642-1717)

JOHN WINTHROP, F.R.S. (1681-1747)

England, and there held a commission in the Parliamentary army; was in active service in Scotland, and also served under General Monk holding the rank of captain. After the Restoration of the monarchy he returned to New England in 1663 and settled in Connecticut. In the Indian wars he rendered excellent service to the colony, and in civil life was a member of the Council of Sir Edmund Andros; in 1690 was Major General commanding in the expedition against Canada. Later, for a number of years he was the Agent of Connecticut at the Court of William III, and from 1698 till his death in 1707, Governor of Connecticut.

At the times when Fitz John was residing in New London, he busied himself in raising stock on Fishers Island; and in looking after his father's property, but he also had a house on the Island, as is shown by a letter addressed to him there by Sir Edmund Andros, in 1680.

In 1690 there was an alarm caused by the anchoring of four sloops near the harbor. They had been at New London for some time, flying the English colors, then French. Several shots were fired at them. Gurdon Saltonstall wrote to Fitz John Winthrop as follows:

"That night there came over from Fishers Island a small number of Indians who gave an account of a skirmish that they had with a small number of French. They have brought over a scalp with them and say they have left one dead there whose scalp they had not time to take. It is presumed (upon their report) that your house is rifled at your Island." Later he writes of most of Winthrop's people being in a great fright and hurrying away for Boston; and again, a week after, of those who remained being scared off by the landing of some British ships in pursuit of the enemy.

Of greater dread than either the Indians or the French privateers was Captain Kidd, who at this time frequented the coasts of Gardiners Island and Fishers Island opposite. The Island has its share of traditions concerning buried chests of gold, for which many a spadeful of earth has been turned. Enthusiastic treasure-hunters have even employed divers to search some of the numerous ponds.

⁸The portrait of Fitz John here reproduced is supposed to have been painted in London between 1694 and 1697, at a time when it was the fashion to represent military men in mediaeval armor. The armor which he actually wore was less elaborate.

On the failure of the expedition against Canada by the New York and New England forces in 1690, when Fitz John Winthrop, a Major General commanding the land forces, had been unable to proceed further than Lake Champlain, he returned to Connecticut, where his reputation was not diminished by the failure. But the sentiment in New York was so bitter that the officers of his council felt it wise to retire with him to Connecticut. Among them was Colonel John Livingston, eldest son of the first Lord of the Manor of Livingston, who accompanied General Winthrop to New London, became a resident there, and married Mary, Winthrop's only child.⁹

As Fitz John and Wait Still Winthrop were both so actively engaged in the business of the colonies that they could not properly superintend the affairs of their Island, they secured, in 1689, the services of William Walworth, a family friend, who came over to introduce the English system of cultivation and became the first lessee of the Island.

Fitz John having no son, on his death the greater part of his landed property, including Fishers Island, passed to the sole possession of his brother Wait Still.¹⁰

It is seldom that we see in any family exceptional ability handed down through three successive generations; but it was so with these Winthrops. Wait Still, like his brother Fitz John, and like their father and grandfather, performed distinguished public service and received high preferment. For more than thirty years he was the Major General in command of the provincial forces of Massachusetts, he was also a judge of the Supreme Court, a Judge of Admiralty, and for some time Chief Justice of that Colony.

He visited Fishers Island occasionally. In 1712 he or his son John attempted to transport from the Island a pair of moose deer to England, as a present to Queen Anne, but there were accidents, so her Majesty was finally presented with the horns only.

⁹ It seems likely that there may have been a perpetuation of a Winthrop-Livingston friendship begun in 1634, when Mary Winthrop's grandfather, John the Younger, sailing for America, was driven by a storm on to the Irish coast, crossed to Scotland, and at Ancrum was the guest of the Rev. John Livingston.

¹⁰ The family name "Still" was derived from Alice, the sister of Dr. John Still, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and wife of Adam Winthrop. They were the parents of Governor John Winthrop the elder.



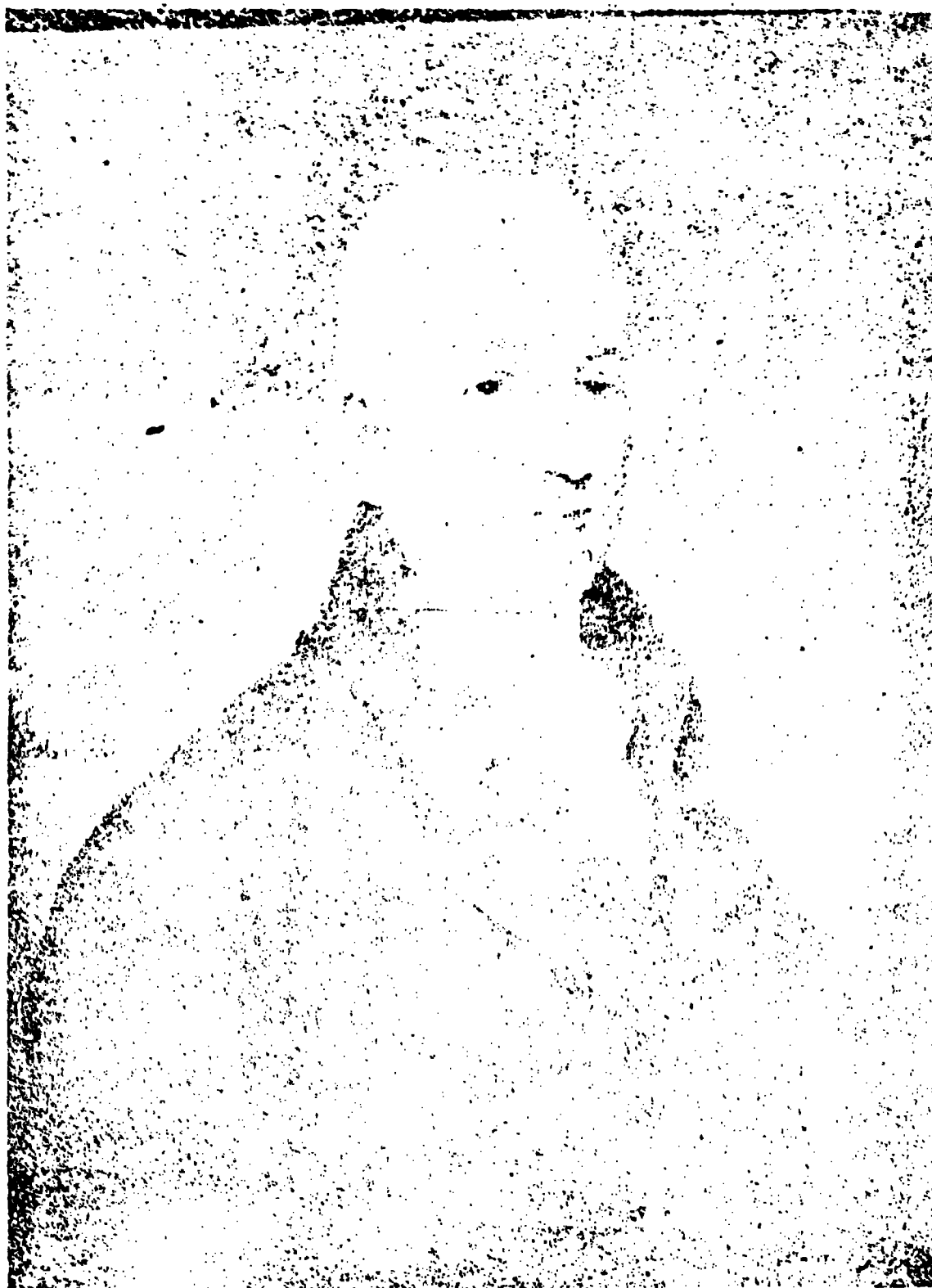
JOHN STILL WINTHROP 1726-1776

Wait Winthrop lived to the age of seventy-five. Only a few years before his death his son describes with pride his father's activity of limb and accuracy of aim during a day's shooting on Fishers Island.

Next comes this son of Wait, another John, called to distinguish him from those of the earlier generations. John "F.R.S.," he being a Fellow of the Royal Society, which dedicated the Fortieth Volume of its Proceedings to him. In 1717 he came into active possession of Fishers Island, but had much litigation in the Connecticut courts with his sister, which confirmed her claim to an equal share of their father's landed estate. In 1726, after making his will, leaving Fishers Island to his son, John Still, "forever to be and abide to him and his heirs male forever," he went to England to plead his cause. There he was well received, and obtained a favorable decree from the King in council, grounded on the English law of primogeniture, a result deplored in Connecticut, where that law was obnoxious. But by the intervention of friends, a decision was finally obtained even there, confirming Winthrop in his possession.

During his absence, his wife, the daughter of Governor Joseph Dudley, managed the Island affairs from New London, sometimes visiting it in person, sometimes employing Joshua Hempstead, who gives accounts of such visits in his diary. He tells of a party composed of Madam Winthrop, her children and her guests, in October, 1739, when there was a fine deer hunt, Colonel Saltonstall bringing down a doe, and Mumford, the tenant, two Bucks. The hunting was a preserve of the Winthrops under the terms of the manorial Grant: just before this a white man and an Indian were fined for killing a deer.

In 1744, Hempstead tells of finding the Sheriff of Suffolk County calling at Madam Winthrop's, to collect the taxes for twenty-two years; which would seem to show that the rights of the Manor were recognized, as a "place by itself," taxes being paid directly to the county authorities, independent of the town of Southold, to which it was ultimately annexed. John Winthrop, F.R.S., remained in England until his death in 1747. He was succeeded by his son John Still, who lived chiefly in New London, where his house was called "the best in the Province." The Island continued to be leased to tenants, who first and last, according to Miss Caulkins, the historian of New



FRANCIS BAYARD WINTHROP (1754-1817)



JOHN J. COOK, WITH CAPTAIN JAMES LAYARD WINTHROP (1705-1811)

London, had the good fortune to draw a large income therefrom in the raising of live-stock of all kinds.

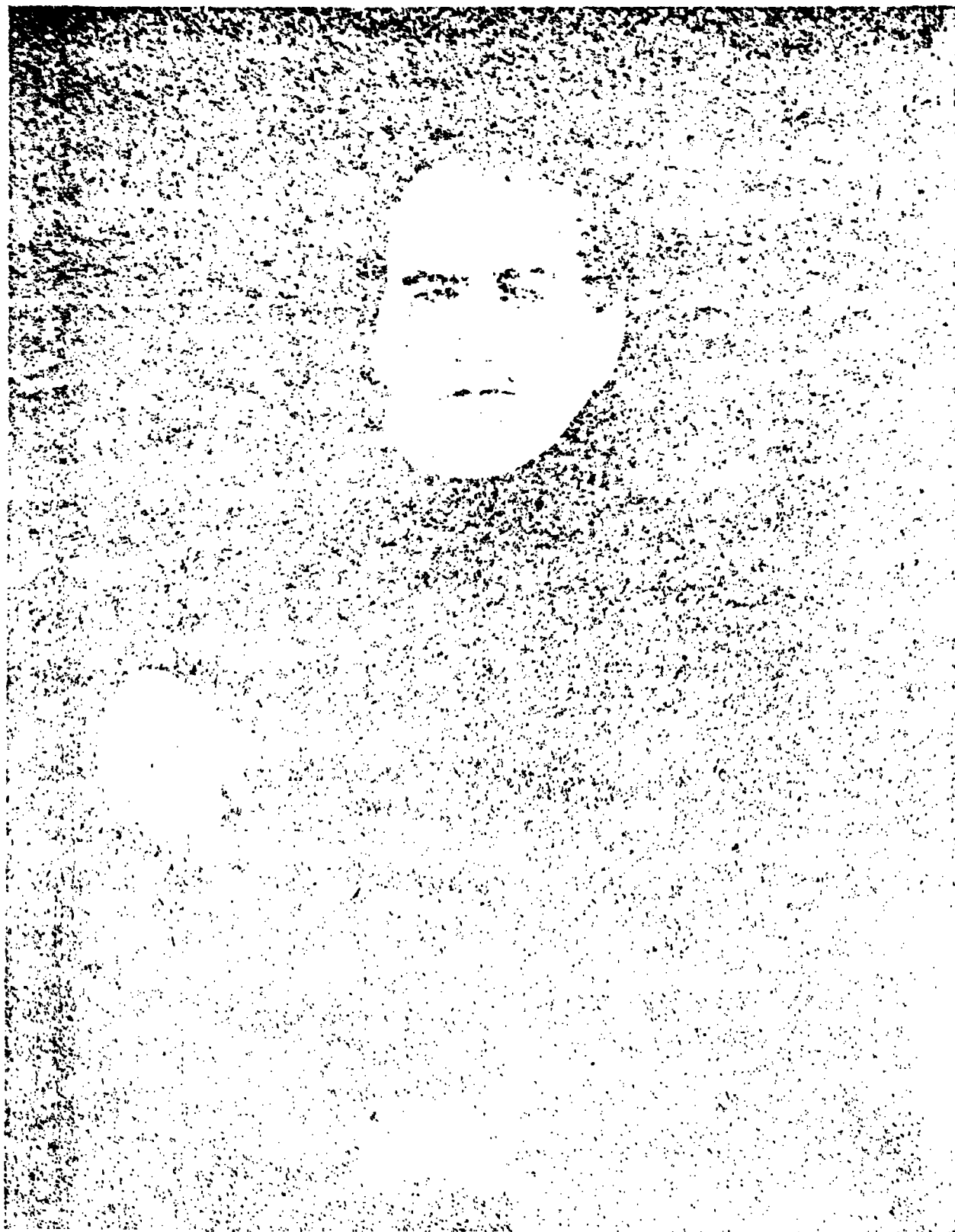
John Still Winthrop devoted himself to business, and was successful in clearing up the embarrassments that had involved his father's estate. He died when the Revolutionary War was beginning.

His successor, another John, died unmarried in 1780, leaving by his will Fishers Island to his brother, Francis Bayard Winthrop.



MANOR (AFTERWARDS "MANSON") HOUSE AS IT APPEARED ABOUT 1870

Lying near the eastern end of the Sound, the Island lay open to attack during the Revolutionary War, and was repeatedly subjected to depredation. As early as August, 1775, sheep and cattle were seized and carried off by British men of war; again in 1777, when there was almost a clean sweep of produce and all things. Both of these times some payment was made. But in 1779 there was actual plundering of everything valuable by the crews of the British ships, who then wantonly set fire to the buildings.



WILLIAM HENRY WINTHROP (1791-1860)

Yet in the very next decade we find a return of prosperity, when the lessee of the Island, Allen, had twelve families under him, five or six girls to spin and weave, a cook and a colored boy to help her. Besides butter, sixty pound cheeses a day were made; one hundred cows and two thousand sheep kept; rye, wheat, and oats raised. There was a chaplain, who acted also as teacher for Allen's and his tenants' large families.¹¹

By the will of Francis Bayard Winthrop Fishers Island was left to his four sons in common. Of these, William Henry Winthrop in 1818 purchased his three brothers' interests, thus becoming sole owner. His son, William Henry, Jr., with his family, lived for several years on the Island, latterly at the Mansion House.

Although John the Younger, to whom the Grant of the Manor was given, at first went to live there, the Winthrop owners, excepting those of the last generation made no permanent use of the Island as a home, only visiting it from time to time from their residence in near-by New London, or from Boston, or later, New York.¹²

In 1863, Fishers Island, so long held by the Winthrop family, passed out of their possession. It has since then become a noted summer resort, with hotels and numerous cottages, and is the seat of a U. S. Army Post.

¹¹ "The Allen Family and Their Connections."

¹² Of what age are any of the Winthrop houses on the Island appears to be a difficult question. The tradition is that original parts of them at least are over two hundred years old. This is compatible with the statement that they were burned and destroyed by the British in 1780, only on the supposition that such destruction was incomplete. The plain house at the East end is of brick sheathed with wood, and the tradition is that the bricks were imported from Holland. This is partially supported by the opinion of judges of brick, that they are different from any made in the neighborhood. If this is correct, it may be inferred that the main part of that house dates from the time of the early owners.



EARLY WINTHROP HOUSE AT EAST END AS IT APPEARED ABOUT 1870

APPENDIX I

A Confirmation Granted unto John Winthrop Esq^r for an Island called Fishers Island.

Richard Nicolls Esq^r &c Whereas there is a Certaine Island w^hin this Governm^t Scituate lying & being in y^r Sound neare unto New London commonly called & knowne by y^r Name of Fishers Island Conteyning by Estimation one thousand Acres be it more or less w^h said Island was heretofore purchased from y^r Indian Proprietors by John Winthrop Esq^r Governor of his Ma^{ty} Colony of Conecticott in whose tenure or Possession it now is & ever since the purchase thereof hath so been & Continued Now in Consideration of y^r said Purchase & longe Possession as also for y^r good Services performed by him the said John Winthrop at y^r Reducing of this Place to his Ma^{ty} Obedience the being p^rsent therat) togeth^r wth y^r many good & Neighbourly Offices done towards y^r Security &c benefit of this Colony and for divers other Causes & Considerations me thereunto especially moving KNOW ALL that by vertue of y^r Commission & Authority unto me given by his Royall Highness James Duke of Yorke &c upon whome by Lawfull Graunt & Pattent from his Ma^{ty} y^r Propriety & Governm^t of Long Island & all y^r Islands adjacent amongst oth^r things is Setled I have given Ratified Confirmed & Graunted & by theise P^rsents doe Give Ratifye Confirme & Graunt unto y^r said John Winthrop his Heires & Assignes y^r said Island called Fishers Island as aforesaid Togeth^r wth all y^r Lands Soyles Woods Meadows Pastures Marshes Lakes Waters Creeks Fishing Hawking Hunting & Fowling & all oth^r Profitts Comodityes Emolument & Hereditam^t to y^r said Island belonging wth their and every of their appurtenances & of every Parte & Parcell thereof And that y^r said Island & P^rmisses now is & forever hereaf^r shall be held deemed reputed taken & be an Intire Enfranchised Towne ship Mannor & Place of itselfe & shall alwayes from tyme to tyme & at all tymes hereafter have hould & injoye like & Equall Priviledges & Immunities wth any Towne Infranchis'd Place or Mannour wth in this Governm^t & shall in no manner of way

be Subordinate or belonging unto have any dependance upon or in any wise be und^r y^r Rule Ord^r or direction of any Ryding Towneship or Towneships Place or Jurisdiction wth in this Governm^t but shall in all cases things & matters be deemed reputed taken & held as an absolute intire Infranchised Towneship Mannor & Place of it selfe & shall be ruled ordered & directed in all matters as to Governm^t accordingly by y^r Governor & his Councell & y^r Gen^l Assizes onely. Provided that no Priviledges herein Graunted or mentioned to be Graunted shall be meant & interpreted to extend to y^r Protecting of any Traytors Malefactor Fugitives or Debtors flying unto y^r said Island to y^r Damage of any Particular Person or y^r Obstruction of y^r Lawes & y^r Comon & Publique Peace of this Governm^t & y^r Justice thereof To have & to hold y^r said Island & all & Singular th^r appurtenances & Premisses Togeth^r wth y^r Priviledges Immunityes Franchises & Advantages herein Given & Graunted unto y^r said John Winthrop his Heires & Assignes unto y^r Proper use and behoofe of y^r said John Winthrop his Heires & Assignes forever fully freely & Clearly in as large & ample manner & forme & wth such full & absolute Immunityes & Priviledges as before is Expressed as if he held y^r same Immediately from his Ma^{ty} y^r Kinge of England &c & his Successors as of y^r Mannor of East Greenwich in y^r County of Kent in free & Common Socage & by fealty onely Yielding Rendring & Paying yearly & every yeare unto his Royall Highnesse y^r Duke of Yorke & his Heires or to such Governor or Governours as from tyme to tyme shall be by him Constituted & Appointed as an Acknowledgm^t one Lamb upon y^r first day of May if y^r same shall be demanded Given und^r my hand & Seale at ffort James in New Yorke on y^r Island Manhatans in America y^r 28th: day of March in y^r 20th. yeare of y^r Raigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charles y^r Second by y^r Grace of God of England Scotland France & Ireland Kinge Defend^r of y^r ffaith &c & in y^r Yeare of our Lord God 1668.

I do hereby Certify the foregoing to be a true Copy of the Original Record, there being a word obliterated in the [nineteenth] line as in the said Original. Compared therewith by Me.

Lewis A. Scott,
Secretary.

APPENDIX II.

By his Excellency the Governour in Council the 25th
of June, 1698.

You are hereby required to prepare the draft of a Patent for
Maj. Genl Winthrop & his brother for their land in Suffolk
County to be erected into a manour by the name of the man-
our of Gironton Hall the former quitrent reserved to his Ma-
jesty and Successours & this shall be to you a sufficient Warrant for
soe doing dated as above.

Belmont.

To James Graham Esqr
Attorney Genl.

P. order of Council.

But the matter hung fire:

To the Hon^{ble} Majr Genl John Winthrop Governour of his
Majestys Colony of Connecticut.

New London

When your Bro. Major Genl Waite Winthrop was here he
desired me to acquaint you when I saw any likelihood of having
your Patent (for the Manour of Gironton Hall) pass. Since the
arrivall of our last ship from England I have again dis-
coursed the Lt. Governour upon that head, he tells me he is now
ready to pass it, but says wth all he has been informd that his
predecessour was to have forty pounds for passing it the wth
he seems to intimate should be paid to him. the Attorney Genl
and my fees are besides the £40. let me have your resolution in
this matter as soon as conveniently you can. the quitrent is not
yet ascertain'd let me have your thoughts upon it & I shall
endeavour to procure it at as moderate a rate as may be.

I am Sr your most humble & most obedient servant

M. Clarkson

New York 23 December 1701