

Address by Mr. David Floyd

March 29, 1912

Delivered at the Masonic Temple Boston

On the Occasion of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary

Of Winthrop Lodge A. F. and A. M.

Winthrop Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons celebrates today the completion of the first quarter of a century of its existence. In observing this anniversary of an important event in the history of Winthrop and of the local lodge, we also commemorate the formation of a Masonic body having jurisdiction over a smaller area of the earth's surface than any lodge in Massachusetts. Winthrop, as old Pullen Point, was for more than a century a part of Boston. In the year 1739 its thousand acres on which dwelt a dozen families were included in the territory of the town of Chelsea. Early in the Chelsea period of the Point's history, through the purchase by a number of Boston Merchants of the section of Pulling Point now called Point Shirley, a well know free mason became connected with the town's history. John Rowe was one of the original proprietors of Pt. Shirley in 1753 and held his share in the land which included Great Head and the beaches as far north as Locust Street, Winthrop Highlands, to the time of his death in 1787. He was born in England in 1715 and was in Boston as early as 1736. He became one of the foremost merchants of Boston, importing goods from many countries, and was a land owner in twelve Massachusetts towns, as well as in Hartford and Woodstock, Connecticut. He was the owner of one of the ships which brought over the tea which was steeped in Boston Harbor in 1773. John Rowe's diary, recently published, "Shows that the feasting in Boston a century and a half ago was beyond anything now seen in places of the same population. There were merchant's dinners, St. Patrick dinners, charitable society dinners, artillery Election dinners, dinners on board vessels of war and commerce, dinners at Faneuil Hall to celebrate the close of the school year, with clergymen and official of eminent persons as guests."

His diary has many accounts of meetings of the Point Shirley owners, of which the following is a sample: "May 11, 1770

"Spent the evening at the Coffee House with the Proprietors of Point Shirley, James Pitts Esq., John Hancock, John Baker, Ezekiel Goldthwait, Thos. Goldthwait, Nat. Holmes, Dan'l Hubbard, and Charles Sigourney--agreed to go to the Point next Friday."

At the Masonic feasts held at the "King's Arms," at "Brackets," or at "Mrs. Cordis' restaurant" Henry Price, James Otis, and Joseph Webb were often present.

Rowe's name is a household word in Winthrop, not because of the general knowledge of the facts just mentioned, but for the reason that everybody knows that the Narrow Gauge ferry boats leave and arrive at Rowes Wharf every few minutes, and at certain times in the day much oftener. The wharf is named for its former owner, the one time Grand Master, who was also one of the proprietors of Point Shirley.

James Otis, patriot and orator of the Revolutionary period and mentioned often in the records of the Grand Lodge, was a summer resident of Point Shirley, after the fishing enterprise had been abandoned.

In the 19th century two residents of Pt. Shirley became members of Mt. Tabor Lodge of East Boston, viz: William H. Long in 1856 and Abraham Long in 1859. They were connected with the management of the Revere Copper works and were helpful in all matters pertaining to the town and school affairs up to the year 1867, when the closing of the smelting works resulted in their removal.

On Feb. 16, 1865 Mt. Tabor Lodge, conferred the Master Mason's degree on Warren Belcher of Winthrop and thereby put into operation a force for free Masonry in the then little town of 500 souls, the result of which is evident to the student of Masonry in Winthrop.

Mt. Tabor's records have Brother Warren Belcher's birth place

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as "Chelsea", but it was in the "Point district" of the old town where he first saw the light.

Joseph Belcher, an ancestor of Warren Belcher, came to Pullin Point as early as 1733 and bought the Point Shirley, Great Head, and Beach Sections of Deane Winthrop's farm. Brother Warren Belcher was the first man born in Winthrop to become a Mason and his position as Postmaster for 53 years, as town clerk for 30 years, and his connection with musical and other helpful organizations made him so well known to the people of Winthrop that many men, when an opportunity offered, applied for Masonic degrees because their friend, Warren Belcher, was a Mason.

John Belcher a brother of Warren Belcher took his degrees in November of the same year. Edward J. Belcher, a nephew, and Alfred H. Pierce also of Winthrop were raised to the sublime degree April 18, 1867.

Richard Shackford took his final degree in Mt. Tabor Sept. 25, 1851, Benjamin W. Clisby, July 5, 1866, Sylvanus Payne, Feb. 25, 1869, Charles A. Grant Dec. 17, 1874, Hermon Douglas Tewksbury March 15, 1883, and Osman B. Ingalls June 19, 1884.

Brothers Shackford, Clisby, and Grant mover to Winthrop a number of years after becoming Masons.

In the year 1868 Rev. John W. Dadmun then Chaplain of the City Institutions at Deer Island, built a residence for himself on Winthrop Street opposite the house of Brother Warren Belcher. His coming added another enthusiastic Mason to the little band already named. He had been the first Master and afterwards the Chaplain of Zetland Lodge.

What the purposes or the dreams of six of our Winthrop Brothers were I do not know, but the Suffolk Registry contains a copy of a

deed dated 1869 from James M. Belcher to John Belcher, Richard Shackford, Warren Belcher, Sylvanus Payne, Alfred Pierce and John W. Dadmun conveying a parcel of land having a frontage on Winthrop Street of 129 ft. and 6 inches.

The grantees were all Masons and until the land was conveyed (in 1872) to Dr. S. H. Durgin, it was assessed to the "Masonic Association."

The present Masonic building is less than 100 feet north of the land referred to.

Sidney H. Griffin was raised in Mt. Tabor May 19, 1870, and thus another was added to the Winthrop contingent who made visits to East Boston on "Lodge Nights." In the sixties and early seventies, coaches carried passengers from Winthrop to East Boston only during the day time. The Winthrop Masons often walked to and from the meetings. Sometimes Brother Shackford, whose business was in East Boston, would bring the brothers home behind his gray horse. Sometimes Brother Griffin's horse would be the motive power which took a party off to East Boston and brought them back from a well spent evening with the Brothers of Mt. Tabor.

Captain Zenas Treworgy took the third degree Nov. 9, 1865. He died in Winthrop July 16, 1869, and Mt. Tabor Lodge held a service at his funeral, it being the first Masonic funeral in Winthrop.

The completion of a street railroad from East Boston to Point Shirley in 1874 resulted in a settlement of summer residents along the ocean front and along the harbor shore of the town. This means of travel in a few years was followed by a steam railroad and the summer visitors increased, many of them becoming all-the-year residents. There were several masons among the new people, and about this time a number of the younger men, some of whom were born in

Winthrop, took their degrees in East Boston lodges.

Better railroad facilities were being provided, new people and new organizations were coming in, and Winthrop Masons thought it time for a home lodge. In 1886 a petition was signed asking for a dispensation. This secured the approval of District Deputy Charles S. Robertson, but Grand Master Howland was not convinced that the time had come.

The following year another petition was presented, with the result that on March 23, 1887 Most Worshipful Henry Endicott, grand master, granted a dispensation to Brothers Peter S. Macgowan, Charles G. Bird, Warren Belcher, Osman B. Ingalls, Hermon D. Tewksbury, Frank E. Bennett, Joseph Bowman, Edward F. Cutter, Sylvanus Payne, Sidney H. Griffin, Richard Shackford, Edmund S. Read, Benjamin W. Clisby, Thomas H. Cross, Henry F. Shaneck, Edwin F. Dunham and Charles A. Grant "to form and open a lodge after the manner of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and therein to admit and make Free Masons according to the ancient custom and not otherwise," and appointed Worshipful Brother P. S. Macgowan, Worshipful Master, Bro. E. S. Read, Senior Warden, and Bro. F. E. Bennett, Junior Warden.

The membership of the charter members had been as follows:

Mt. Tabor, East Boston: Warren Belcher, Osman B. Ingalls, June 19, 1884, Hermon D. Tewksbury, Mar. 15, 1883, Sylvanus Payne, Sidney H. Griffin, Richard Shackford, Benjamin W. Clisby, July 5, 1866, Charles A. Grant, Dec. 17, 1874.

Baalbec, East Boston, Thomas H. Cross, Henry F. Shaneck;

Temple, East Boston, Edward F. Dunham;

St. Johns, P. E. I., P. Staniforth Macgowan

Washington, Roxbury, Charles G. Bird.

Pentucket, Lowell, Frank E. Bennett.

Mt. Horeb, Woburn, Edward F. Cutter.

Mt. Hermon, Medford, Edmund S. Read.

At the 200th Communication of Winthrop Lodge Right Worshipful Bro. Lewis A. Wallon read a history of the Lodge to the year 1900, giving an account of its work under dispensation and under its charter, together with many facts of interest under each of its Masters. At the 250th Communication Bro. J. C. Nelson, Secretary, brought the history down to the year 1903. Some quotations will be made from both of these excellent papers and then a summary will be given relating mostly to the membership and events of most importance during the 25 years now ended.

Right Worshipful Bro. Wallon said, "The first meeting under the dispensation was held in the dear and cosey old lodge room in Read's Block on March 26, 1887, when the W. M. Appointed the following additional officers: Sylvanus Payne, treasurer; Warren Belcher, secretary; C. G. Bird, S. D.; T. H. Cross, J. D.; S. H. Griffin S. S.; H. F. Shaneck, J. S., and J. Bowman, tyler. Temporary by-laws were adopted at this meeting."

The second meeting was held on April 12, when fifteen applicants for degrees were received, the first one on record being that of Bro. Charles E. Lamb.

May 10th favorable reports were made upon all the applications. The candidates were elected to receive the degrees and five additional applications were received. At this meeting the first work was done, being the initiation as entered apprentices of Brothers O. F. Belcher, M. A. Belcher, J. Durant, and C. H. Brown.

Then followed a season of work, hard faithful work, for which we trust, our founders feel amply repaid, and which commanded the admiration, respect and appreciation of the grand master and laid the foundation for the good reputation which Winthrop Lodge has always held in the Grand Lodge.

Ten regular and 22 special meetings were held during the year. The result was thirty-six new Master Masons. "So well pleased was the grand master that a charter was gladly granted, and on April 30, 1888, the lodge was duly constituted in Sutton Hall, Masonic Temple, by M. W. Henry Endicott, grand master. The officers installed were practically the same as those who had worked under the dispensation. Kind and impressive remarks, full of encouragement, good cheer and valuable advice were made by the Grandmaster, William Parkman, P. G. M., S. D. Nickerson and others. It was a day to be long and pleasantly remembered by those who were so fortunate as to be present." The names of those taking the degrees under dispensation are as follows: Orlando Fuller Belcher, Marcellus Austin Belcher, Job S. Durant, Charles H. Brown, Elijah Everett Crosby, David Floyd 2d, Arthur Herbet Lawrence, William G. McNeil, George Franklin Payne, Winthrop Magee, Fred Hannibal Seavey, Horace John Soule, Arthur Homer Walcott, William Bates Floyd, Charles Edgar Lamb, Isaiah Atkins Whorf, William Henry Smith, Edward Bartlett Newton, David White, Herbet Wilson Floyd, Benjamin Tappan Floyd, James William Tilley, Horatio Sprague Soule, Frank Willard Tucker, Alvah Maximilian Norris, Arthur Brightman Howland, Ellsworth Burrill, James Robertson Brown, Jr., John Everett Burrill, Watson Chipman Wade, William Francis Boyd, Edward Soule Tewksbury, William Lauder, William Page Winn, Dallas Washington Belcher, Lewis Abraham Wallon.

"The first meeting under the charter was held May 8, 1888, when one applicant was rejected, one applicant received (from a non-resident) and it was voted to have a social entertainment from which sprung our popular and successful "Ladies Nights." This I think was the last communication over which our first W. M. Macgowan presided, he being called West by business changes and leaving behind him the kindest feelings of appreciation and gratitude for his un-

tiring and most valuable services to the Lodge."

From the beginning Winthrop Lodge has been the recipient of many gifts from organizations and individuals.

The first collars worn by its officers were presented by Washington Lodge. The officers themselves at a later period presented other collars.

Mt. Tabor gave the ballot box, and her officers assisted in the work at many of the meetings under dispensations.

The Bible and three great lights and the Past Master's Chair were presented by Brother John H. Callamore of Boston, and under his will the lodge received \$670 being a legacy of \$500 and interest. Ten summer residents of Winthrop not members of our lodge gave the Master's chair, viz; H. O. Stratton, H. F. Woods, J. W. Sanborn, H. A. Root, G. E. Leighton; C. Q. Ring, F. C. Hanson, A. L. Barnes, F. H. Appleton, and Joseph Gahm. In March 1893, Brother Fred H. Seavey presented a safe in which to keep the lodge's records, and later he gave a hospital bed for the use of the members of Winthrop Lodge.

Brother Frank W. Tucker gave the Marshall's Baton.

The oil painting hanging on the walls of our lodge, and which are so useful in illustrating the work of the several degrees were copied from the paintings in the Boston Masonic Temple by our Brother William A. England.

Brother E. B. Newton gave shares of the Masonic Building Assn. stock to the lodge and worshipful Brothers Simonds and Craib donated shares of the same corporation to the charity fund.

On Nov. 10, 1903 Brother Edward B. Newton having declined further promotion was presented by the lodge, a Junior Warden's Apron. Again on the 350th communication, a beautiful clock was presented Brother Newton by the Lodge and Chapter, as a token of appreciation

of Winthrop Masons for his untiring activity for the prosperity of Winthrop Masonic bodies.

At the Ladies Night in April 1896, Miss Julia E. Marshall of Winthrop presented the beautiful banner bearing the portrait of Governor John Winthrop.

October 8, 1901, Brother Geo. J. Barker presented a gavel from the Royal Solomon Mother Lodge of Jerusalem.

The lodge has shown its interest in the "Arts and Architecture" by placing marble walls and a mosaic floor and ceiling in the vestibule of the Frost Public Library Building, named for a former member of Winthrop Lodge, and by a generous donation towards the purchase of works of art for the Winthrop High School Building. The 200th Communication was memorable not only for the reading of Brother Wallon's history of the lodge, but because of the presentation of a gold ring to Brother Wallon as a token of the honor conferred on the lodge as well as on our Brother by his appointment to the position of District Deputy for the third Masonic District, thus becoming the first member of Winthrop Lodge to receive the title of "Right Worshipful."

A year later the masters of all the lodges in the Third Masonic District gave a loving cup to R. W. Bro. Wallon, making the presentation another memorable occasion for Winthrop Lodge.

Fifteen brothers have been chosen to rule the lodge as Worshipful Masters. Each has served two years except when removal from town or pressure of many cares led to a request for only a single year in the chair. Their names and years of service are as follows:-
 1887-1888 Wor. P. S. MacGowan; 1888-1889 Wor. E. S. Read; 1889-1891 R. Wor. C. G. Bird; 1891-1893 R. Wor. L. A. Wallon; 1893-1895 Wor.

S. H. Griffin; 1895-1897 Wor. G. F. Payne; 1897-1899 Wor. A. B. Dunham; 1899-1901 Wor. E. F. Cutter; 1901-1902 Wor. C. G. Craib; 1902-1904 Wor. H. A. Magee; 1904-1906 Wor. W. P. Simonds; 1906-1907 Wor. H. W. Aiken; 1907-1909 Wor. W. W. Thompson; 1909-1911 Wor. G. E. Safford; 1911-----Wor. W. H. Vincent.

The records have been kept by the following secretaries:-Brother Warren Belcher; Brother Arthur H. Lawrence; Brother E. E. Crosby; Wor. Brother L. A. Wallon; Brother James C. Nelson.

Brother Nelson has been secretary for the past 16 years. The three record books contain full accounts of 374 regular and special communications.

Placed at irregular intervals through these books are beautiful and artistic pages, all of different design and yet all suggesting Masonry. These pages are the work of Brother F. B. Valpey of Lynn and they commemorate the life, with Masonic information, regarding fifty-one of our brethren, who have finished their earthly existence.

The funds of the lodge have been faithfully looked after by three treasurers, viz: Brother Sylvanus Payne; Brother Thomas H. Cross; Wor. Brother W. W. Thompson.

The charity fund now amounts to	\$1253.07
The permanent fund	1842.58
The E. B. Newton fund	287.76
	<u>\$3383.41</u>

Tylers, Bros. Bowman, Belcher, L. A. Cummings, W. P. Natale, W. P. Ames, J. W. Cordis, James A. Gave, and Winthrop Magee.

The names in the visitors books for 25 years aggregate 5136, the smallest number in any year being 51 in 1890 and the largest 360 in 1911.

At the 200th Communication 106 members responded to the roll call.

At the 250th Communication 121 members were present, 28 of whom had taken their degrees in the old hall in Read's Block.

Winthrop Lodge has gladly received visits from the following Most Worshipful Masters of the Grand Lodge: M. W. Henry Endicott, M. W. Charles T. Gallagher, M. W. Dana J. Flanders, M. W. Beylis Sandford, M. W. J. Albert Blake, and tonight from M. W. Everett C. Benton.

The annual visits of the several representatives of the Grand Lodge, the District Deputies of the Third Masonic District, have been most pleasurable occasions to the members of Winthrop Lodge. Their names are:

R. W. Charles S. Robertson	R. W. Alexander M. Hayward
R. W. Daniel G. Crandon	R. W. John Stalker
R. W. Joseph H. Gleason	R. W. Henry Spavin
R. W. Frank H. Parker	R. W. Lewis A. Wallon
R. W. Eugene F. Endicott	R. W. Edward G. Graves
R. W. William H. L. Odell	R. W. Frank T. Barron
R. W. James Gould	R. W. Charles A. Estey

St John's Sunday has been observed thirteen times during the 25 years. The Unitarian, Methodist-Episcopal, Baptist, and Episcopal Churches have cordially invited the Lodge to use their respective houses of worship, and surrounded by beautiful flowers, services of songs, responsive readings, prayer and eloquent addresses have marked the celebration of the day. The preachers on these occasions have been:

1891 Rev. Rodney Walsh	1902 Rev. Albert Walkely
1892 " Lewis B. Bates	1903 " A. V. Dimock
1894 " C. M. Westlake	1905 " Fred. M. White
1895 " Edward M. Taylor	1906 " W. C. Litchfield
1898 " R. Perry Bush	1907 " Charles Tilton

1908 Rev. W. C. Litchfield 1909 Rev. C. W. Henry

1911 Rev. A. Irving Innes

The membership record for 25 years is as follows:

Charter Members	17	
Initiations	384	
Affiliations	<u>88</u>	489
Demitted	35	
Died	51	
Suspended	<u>18</u>	<u>104</u>
Present Membership		385

Born in

Winthrop	42
Mass.	206
Other States	<u>145</u>
	393
Dominion of Canada	42
England	27
France	1
Porto Rico	1
Norway	2
Russian Poland	1
Germany	5
Sweden	1
Denmark	2
Scotland	8
Ireland	2
Holland	<u>5</u>
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In May 1, 1891 members of Winthrop Lodge organized the Winthrop Masonic Benefit Association for the purpose of paying a ben-

efit to the family of a deceased brother. Brother Belcher was its treasurer as long as he lived. The organization has since been changed to the "Warren Belcher Benefit Association," in appreciation of the valuable services of Bro. Belcher to Masonry. Thirty assessments of one dollar each have been collected and thirty-five payments have been made. The total membership is now 190, and the payment to the family is \$125.00. The total amount paid in 21 years has been \$4023.00 and there is now a balance in the treasury of \$227.35.

Many members of Winthrop Lodge took their capitular degrees in East Boston Chapter until the year 1899 when Winthrop Chapter was constituted. It now has 249 members and is in a prosperous condition.

Of the 16 Charter members of Winthrop Lodge, who lived in Winthrop, 12 served the town of Winthrop in its most important official positions. Four of the members became Wor. Masters. Seven of the members are now living, W. Bro. P. S. Macgowan in St. Louis, W. Bro. E. S. Read in Highland Springs, Va., W. Bros. S. H. Griffin, Chas. A. Grant, and Benjamin W. Clisby, in Winthrop, and Bro. Thos. H. Cross in Lockport N. Y.

Twenty-five years ago Winthrop had a population of 2000; now 11,000 people dwell there on the smallest area of any town in Massachusetts save Nahant. During the quarter of a century the citizens of Winthrop have selected 76 members of Winthrop Lodge to fill the most important positions in the town's affairs. Five of our representatives in the General Court have been Masons. The Sheriff of Suffolk County for eleven years was raised in Winthrop Lodge nearly 25 years ago and the town's two Post Masters have been Winthrop Lodge members.

As Nahant has no Masonic Lodge, Winthrop can claim to have

more Masons to the square acre than any town in the Commonwealth. This state of affairs does not make it commendable to boast, but it should rather make the members of Winthrop Lodge feel their responsibility to make their town as well governed as the Lodge has been during the twenty-five years of its existence.

A number are present today who heard the beautiful charge to Winthrop Lodge from the lips of the then M. W. Grand Master Henry Endicott 24 years ago. They are as appropriate today to its membership of 385 as then to its 52 brethern. The closing sentences were as follows:-

"Ideal Masonry says it is not enough for a man to be simply good, in the sense of not being bad; he must be good FOR SOMETHING. He must do his part towards making the world better than he found it; for in these days of action no man, nor institution, has a right to hold back expecting others to do the work of the world. His Masonic principles must be shown by quick sympathies, thoughtful words and generous deeds.

"These are the requirements of every day; and then, if trying times come, as come they may, the virtues of bravery, patience and endurance will be found no less than in the days of our fathers.

"Let my word to you be this. Live in harmony, cultivate the unselfish spirit of brotherhood, and that spirit will teach you then the wide duties which, though beginning here, may extend far beyond any limits you can now understand.

" He prayeth well who loveth well
Both man and bird and beast.

" He prayeth best, who loveth best
All things both great and small;

" For the dear God who loveth us
He made and loveth all."