

Address by Mr. David Floyd
at the
Celebration of the 50th Anniversary
of the
Incorporation of the Town of Winthrop
Delivered March 27, 1902.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This day marks the end of the first half century of the existence of the Town of Winthrop. We are met, not only to review the events of these fifty years, but also to acknowledge our indebtedness to the men and women who dwelt upon this little peninsula of a thousand acres during a period of more than two hundred years before Governor George S. Boutwell approved the action of the Great and General Court which invested the inhabitants living here on March 27, 1852 "with all the powers and privileges, and subject to the duties and requisitions, of other incorporated towns, according to the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth." Many Massachusetts municipalities have observed with fitting ceremonies the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of their settlement or incorporation. It was the good or ill fortune of those who for two centuries occupied the land we now inhabit that their number was so small, and their territory so limited, that no reason existed for a distinct local government until about the middle of the nineteenth century.

While this state of affairs deprives us of the records and traditions which would seem to belong to our soil if the management of public affairs had been entirely in the hands of those living here from the time of the first settlement by the English, yet if a township had at first been established, we could not, as we now do, point to the fact that those who once dwelt on our hills and who worked in view of our beautiful shores were for about one hundred years citizens of the "Town of Boston in New England," and that they shared in the privileges and duties which make the early history of Boston so interesting.

Neither could we boast the participation of our predecessors as citizens for over a hundred years of the town of Chelsea during a period when its inhabitants so well performed their part, not only in the establishment of a town and other institutions which have blessed this region of country to the present day, but who also nobly assisted in that rebellion, which resulted in a government independent of Great Britain, consisting then of the thirteen colonies, but now of the forty-six United States; to say nothing of the islands of the sea, over which float the Stars and Stripes. If we had been a separate town from the beginning we should have no right to share in the boast that

"More than any other town in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, or other town on the continent, there are associated with Chelsea the great number of what are called "First things.""
 (Mellen Chamberlain)

Nor would those who came before us have enjoyed the pleasant municipal, social and religious associations with the people of Old Chelsea, and later of North Chelsea which existed until the march of progress brought with it a shorter method of communication with Boston, and as a result a growth which soon brought about the severing of old ties and the formation of the new town whose first half century we celebrate today.

As early as Sept. 30, 1630 the records of the Massachusetts Bay Colony mention the fact that an inquest jury was held upon the body of William Bateman who died at Pullin Poynte. As the man landed from a boat this account does not prove that the place was then inhabited.

William Wood, who visited Boston as early as 1634, says in his "New England's Prospect:"

"The last towne in the still Bay is Winnisimet; a very sweet place for situation, and stands very commodiously, being fit to entertaine more planters than are yet seated; it is within a mile of Charles Towne, the River only parting them.

The chief Ilands which keepe out the Winde and the Sea from disturbing the Harbours are first Deare Iland, which lies within a flight shot of Pullin-Point. This Iland is so called because of the Deare which often swimme thither from the Maine, when they are chased by the Woolves; Some have killed sixteen Deare in a day upon this Iland. The opposite shore is called Pullen-Point, because that is the usuall Channell. Boats used to passe thorow into the Bay; and the Tyde being very strong they are constrayned to goe ashore and hale their Boats by the sealing, or roades where-upon it was called Pullin-Point."

The earliest map upon which the name "Pullin Poynt" appears was made by Wm. Wood just quoted, in 1634. In John Winthrop's map of 1633 the outlines of Pullin Point are rudely traced, but no name is affixed to the territory. The name was probably first applied only to that section now called Point Shirley, but it was soon afterward given to all the land extending Northerly to the present boundary stone on the Short Beach between Revere and Winthrop.

The late Judge Mellen Chamberlain the author of the history of Chelsea (existing unfortunately only in manuscript and that not yet accessible) has given this pretty picture of the former appearance of the landscape in this vicinity:

"While the bold bluffs of Winnisimmet were untouched by the levelling hand of man, and the great hills of the main, toward the North, and the lesser heights to the East, South and West stood at their original elevations, and covered with primitive forests, the situation must have been one of scarcely paralleled beauty and interest."

Upon this scene one day in July 1630, looked Governor John Winthrop and those of his company as they sailed in the "Arbella" the "Talbot" and the "Jewell" on their way from Salem to Charlestown. It is very probable that the view of Pullin Point obtained that day by those of the Massachusetts Company who accompanied Winthrop, led to the allotment a few years later of portions of Pullen Point to the Governor and members of his party. Governor Winthrop had with him as he sailed up the harbor a charter from King Charles granting to the Massachusetts

Company the territory extending from three miles North of the Merrimac river to three miles South of the Charles.

On the arrival of Winthrop so far as known there was only a single settler each at Boston, Charlestown and Noddles Island. Some of the planters who came over in 1626 still remained in the vicinity. Governor Winthrop soon removed from Charlestown to Shawmut or Tri-Mountain and on Sept. 17th the Court of Assistants, the Governor presiding, voted, "That Tri-Montaine shall be called Boston" in honor of old St. Botolphs town, or Boston, of Lincolnshire, England, from which the Lady Arbella Johnson and her husband had come, and where John Cotton was still preaching."

In Charlestown on July 30th Governor Winthrop and others organized a church now known as the first Church of Boston, which has among its communion plate an embossed silver cup with "The gift of Governor Winthrop to ye 1st Church" engraved upon its rim. At Charlestown also was held the first Court of Assistants and the first question considered was "How the ministers should be maintained." All town affairs were conducted by the free men in general town meeting until Feb. 10, 1634, when the inhabitants getting tired of being so often called together in town meeting, (a fine being imposed for non-attendance,) and by "reason of many men meeting things were not so easily brought unto a ioynte Issue" it was ordered that eleven men "shall entreat of all business as shall concerne the townsmen, the choice of officers excepted." Thus was the first board of selectmen created.

The early towns held lands, or the use of lands for their general benefit. The general Court in 1632 ordered;

"That noe pson w'soever shall shoote att fowle upon Pullen Poynte or Noddles Island, but the said places shall be reserved for John Perkins to take fowle with netts."

John Perkins is said to have come over with Roger Williams. He removed with John Winthrop, Jr. to Ipswich in 1633 and represented that town in the General Court in 1636.

In 1632 the General Court ordered:

"That the necke of land between Powder Horne Hill and Pullen Poynte shall belong to Boston, to be enjoyed by the inhabitants thereof forever."

In Sept. 1634 it was ordered:

"That Wynetsemt shall belonge to Boston,"

and on the 25th of the same month:

"That Boston shall have inlargemt att Mount Wooliston and Rumney Marshe."

By these enactments Winnisimmet, Rumney Marsh and Pullen Point became a part of Boston, and so continued until 1739. The territory mentioned, consisted of the lands embraced in the present City of Chelsea and the towns of Revere and Winthrop. In the Boston Records this outlying district is often referred to as Rumney Marsh or Number Thirteen.

In February 1635 the town voted that there should be,

"A little house built, and a sufficiently paled yard to lodge the cattle in of nights at Pullin Point Neck before the 14th day of the next second month."

In 1637 the town through a committee made allotments of land at Rumney Marsh and Pullin Point, the first name on the list being that of "Mr. Henry Vane" better known to students of English and American history as "Sir Harry" "afterward governor of Massachusetts, the defender of Quakers, Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, the opponent of slavery and of Cromwell himself when needful,--Sir Henry Vane suffered death at the block." His allotment of 200 acres was in that part of Revere in recent years known as the Fenno farm.

Allotments of the land at Pullin Point were made to fourteen men some of whom had come over either with Winthrop, or a few years later. Most of them were from London, and probably

only one of the number ever lived on the land allotted him.

Under date of Jan. 11, 1637, the record says,

"That our brother Mr. Edward Gibbon, shall have an Allotment of fourscore acre att Pullen Point, if it be there to be had."

The land was found to be there as at a meeting held June 12th it is recorded:

"Also Mr. Edward Gibbons took four score acrs of upland and marsh ground layd him out there."

This allotment was the point of land on either side of the present Washington avenue. Mr. Gibbons built a house which stood where now falls the afternoon shadow of the great elm just North of the Thornton railroad station. Gibbons was probably the first summer resident of Pullin Point. He was a man of considerable importance, being one of the Assistants, Captain of the A. & H. Artillery Company, and afterward a Major General. Governor Winthrop in his journal gives two incidents connected with Gibbons and his family showing two methods of making a journey to Boston from Pullin Point in the seventeenth Century; under date of----1641, the Governor says:

"The frost was so great and continual this winter, that all the bay was frozen over; so much and so long, as the like, by the Indians relation, had not been these 40 years, and is continued from the 18th of the present month (Jan.) to the 21st of 12th month (Feb.); so as horses and carts went over in many places where ships have sailed. Capt. Gibbons and his wife, with divers on foot by them, came riding from the farm at Pullen Point right over to Boston, the 17th of the 12th month, when it had thawed so much as the water was above the ice half a foot in some places."

The other incident is that of La Tour's (one of the French Governors of Acadia, on his first visit to Boston in June 1643) meeting Capt. Gibbon's wife and children as they were going down Boston harbor to their farm at Pullen Point. Mrs. Gibbon's alarm at the sight of so many foreigners; her hasty landing at the Governor's garden, as Fort Winthrop was then called; her

being sent to Pulling Point in the Governor's boat; the armed men who came forth in three shallops to meet Governor Winthrop and guard him to his Boston home; the scene the following week when on the training-day forty of La Tour's men were allowed to land and in the presence of the governor and magistrates went through a variety of military movements; Governor Winthrop during La Tour's stay in Boston being attended with a guard of halberts and muskateers whenever he was accompanied by La Tour to church or other places,--these all give an idea of the life of Boston at that time.

Nov. 6, 1637, the General Court, which was but another name for a great land company, voted:

"There is granted to the Governor Mr. John Winthrop the twoe hills next Pullen Point with some barren marsh adioyning thereunto, Provided it be not hindrance of the townes setting up a Ware in Fisher's Creek, or fishing for Basse there."

Fisher's Creek is the body of water North of Washington avenue.

In the following year other allotments were made, the last being:

"All the remainder of the land, both upland and marsh, to the Southward of the Northermost creek or cove, and from the South East end of Pierce's lott at Pulling Point Gutt, being compassed on all the sides with the sea, save only where it joyneth to Mr. Pierce, belongth to John Winthrop, Governor."

Governor Winthrop sold his holdings at Pullin Point to his son Deane, in 1647, and probably soon after this Deane became a resident here owning the land now known as Winthrop Highlands and the beach and marsh extending Southerly there from to and including Point Shirley.

Robert C. Winthrop, Jr. of Boston has furnished the following sketch of the only man who lived here bearing the name which was afterward given to the town in 1852.

"Deane Winthrop the sixth of the sons of Governor John Winthrop who attained manhood, was born in Groton, Suffolk, England, March 16, 1622/3. He was left behind at school when his father emigrated to New England, but he came over on the second voyage of his brother John in 1635. From that

time until his death in 1704 he nominally resided in or near Boston, but he was a good deal absent on different enterprises. In 1637 he was with his brother John at Ipswich, Mass. and in 1646 at New London, Conn. Later he took an active part in founding the towns of Lancaster and Groton, Mass. In 1647 his father conveyed to him a farm of 200 acres at Pullen Point, which he owned until his death and with which his name is always associated, though at one time he owned a much larger property on Nashua River. He married first (before 1647) Sarah, daughter of Rev. Jos'e Glover stepdaughter of Rev. Henry Dunster, President of Harvard College and sister of the wife of his brother Adam. She died before 1684. He married second, Martha, widow of Capt. John Mellows of Boston. She survived him and died in 1716.

By his first marriage he had nine children the last of whom died in 1702. Deane Winthrop died at Pullin Point on his birthday March 16, 1704, aged 81. His last years were much clouded owing to his having survived all his children." Sewall's diary gives an account of his funeral.

Sewall also writes of the marriage of Mercy Winthrop, a daughter of Deane, which event occurred 11 Jan. 1700 in the West room of the old house still standing on Shirley street near Fort Banks. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Samuel Willard, pastor of the Old South Church.

One other prominent early settler was James Bill who came from Boston and purchased land from a number of owners so that when he died in 1688 he was the possessor of nearly all of Pullin Point not owned by Deane Winthrop. A plan, copies of which are extant, shows a division of his farm among his three sons, James, John and Joseph. Their descendants bearing the Bill name lived here until 1822, occupying the old house still standing on Beal street near Ingalls station. The name became extinct at the date named, but several hundred of the present residents of Winthrop are the descendants of the James Bill who was a land owner here as early as 1645. Large sections of the Bill farm after the division of 1690 went into the hands of men outside of that family, but the three names of Gibbons, Winthrop and Bill are the ones which stand out prominently during the Boston

period of Pullin Point's history.

The town of Boston continued to increase in population and in importance; yearly elections were held at the town house at the head of State street where now stands the Old State House; the dwellers at the Point sometimes sailed across the harbor and attended these meetings; occasionally votes were passed concerning their section of the town, such as the regulation concerning keeping of only three swine to twenty acres of land and imposing a fine of two shillings if the animals were found abroad without being sufficiently ringed, the swine to be impounded until the fine was paid. This in 1645.

March 15, 1669,

"Ordered, that the constables of Muddy River and Rumney Marsh shall be chosen by lifting up of hands, and by the next yeare before the day of publique election the selectmen apoynt the inhabitants of Muddy River and Rumney Marsh to meete togeather and nominate constables and other officers proper for each place, and the present constable bring in their names to the next publique meeting on ye day of election, these to be put to vote."

This was the first instance of the outlying districts of the town having a chance to name any of the town officers. The constable in those days besides being the guardian of the peace, was also the tax collector for the district in which he resided. Jose Winthrop, a son of Deane Winthrop, held the office in 1700.

Joseph Belcher, constable in 1713 moved in the town meeting,

"That he be allowed three pence on the pound as other collectors are allowed."

In 1733 "Voted to choose a collector by hand vote" and Jacob Chamberlain was chosen. The assessors were the selectmen, all of whom lived at the Centre,--that is, Old Boston,--but in 1698 the meeting voted that Rumney Marsh and Muddy River, each have liberty to choose an assessor to set with the selectmen for the making of their own rates to make choice of their assessor,

on the first Training Day and then confirmed by the Town. The first assessor for an outlying section under this vote must have been selected as a compliment for the favor granted by the great majority of the voters of Old Boston, his name being John Center.

The names of Pullin Pointers are mentioned as having been elected at the Boston town meeting to the following offices, besides those already mentioned: Scavengers, surveyor of highways, tithingman, fence-viewers and hog-reeves. In 1666, April 30, John Tuttle, William Harris and Sam'l Davis were a committee to settle the highway to Pullen Point leading out of the neck of Rumney Marsh. In 1698-9, Jan. 30. Deane Winthrop, John Smith, William Ireland, John Tuttle, and James Bill, a committee appointed by the selectmen of Boston, made a report laying out a highway extending from a point near the present Johnson Avenue and Somerset Street by a very crooked course to the North part of what is now Winthrop, thence past Cherry Island to the present Crescent Beach and thence through the town to the county road "that runs to the Ferry at Winnisimmet." A few rods of this old road are still visible near the corner of Pauline and Fremont streets.

In 1734 the selectmen of Boston held a meeting at the district of Rumney Marsh and after viewing the highways which were "very narrow in some places it was thereupon agreed that they should be two rods wide."

Early in 1640 a motion was made by such as have farms at Rumney Marsh that our brother Oliver may be sent to instruct their servants, and to be a help to them, because they cannot many times come hither, nor sometimes to Lynn, and sometimes nowhere at all". The young man sent out was John Oliver, a graduate of Harvard College, 1643, and died of a malignant fever in 1646. Winthrop in his journal says:

"It swept away some precious ones amongst us, especially one Mr. John Oliver, a gracious young man, not fully thirty years of age an expert soldier, an excellent surveyor of land and one who, for the sweetness of his disposition and usefulness, through a public spirit, was generally beloved and greatly lamented. For some years past he has given up himself to be a minister of the gospel and was become very hopeful that way (being a good scholar and of able gifts otherwise) and had exercised publicly for two years."

As early as 1665, some of the residents of Rumney Marsh had relations with the Boston church, and the following certificate is interesting as showing the method of admitting freemen into the colony.

"These do testify unto the honored Gen. Court yt. Mr. John Tuttle, William Hasie, and Benjamin Muzzie of Boston-Rumney Marsh, are upon good testimony of others and my owne knowledge or experience both orthodox in the Christian Religion, and of unblamable conversation, as I do believe, and doe humbly comend them therefor unto the acceptance of the hon. Court unto the society and companie of our freemen according as they express their desire thereunto, and aimes at the Common Good therein. John Wilson, senior.
2'd of the 3 m. 65.

Mr. John Tuttle, William Hasie, and Benjamin Muzzie are raiteable according to the law made for admittance of Freemen.
2 May 1665. Hezekiah Usher."

Writing of a later period, Judge Chamberlain says:

"But the time was at hand when the people began to move in respect to a house of public worship. In 1706, at the March meeting of the town, Elisha Cooke, Elisha Hutchinson, Samuel Sewall, Penn Townsend, and Elder Joseph Bredham, or Bredon, were appointed a committee to consider, and make report at the next town meeting, what they should think proper to lay before the town relating to the petitions of sundry of the inhabitants of Rumney Marsh about the building of a meeting house there. The subject was postponed from year to year, until Aug. 29, 1709, when it was "voted a grant of one hundred pounds, to be raised and laid out in building a meeting house at Rumney Marsh; and the committee of 1706, with the substitution of the name of Edward Bromfield for that of Joseph Bredham, were empowered to direct both as to the place and manner of erecting said meeting house. Judge Sewall went to the raising July 10, 1710. His diary says:

"I drove a pin, gave a 5s Bill, had a very good treat at Mr. Cheevers; went home by Winnisimmet" July 16--extreamly hot wether. Mr. Cook, Bromfield and I goe to Rumney Marsh to finish the Meeting House. Stowers is to make the windows. Got home well, Laus Deo."
Several died of the heat at Salem."

The Unitarian church still standing in Revere is supposed to be

this "meeting house." It now faces the West instead of the North as at first. It formerly had a gallery for colored men, and another for colored women.

A church was organized in 1715 at which Rev. Cotton Mather was moderator. A number of the residents at Pullin Point joined this church, and for 150 years it was attended and supported by residents of the territory now called Winthrop. Among its deacons were John Sale of Point Shirley and John Camberlain who once occupied the Gibbons house already referred to.

There is no evidence that before the year 1701 the town of Boston made any provision for teaching the youth of Rumney Marsh, although the children in this district were probably allowed to attend the schools at Boston proper. At a town meeting March 11, 1704, after voting to establish a school in the North end of Boston,

"The inhabitants of Rumney Marsh standing by, and seeing the town in so good a frame, also put in their request that a free school might be granted them to teach to read, write, and cypher. It being put to vote to know their minds, it was voted in the affirmative, with the proviso that did it appear to the selectmen that there was a reasonable number of children to come to the school, then the selectmen should agree with a schoolmaster to teach the children to read, write, and cypher, for which service he should be paid out of the town treasury."

Nothing came of this vote for eight years when the citizens reminded the selectmen of it, whereupon the board voted Jan. 24, 1709,

"That in case Mr. Thomas Cheever do undertake and attend the keeping such school at his house four days in a week, weekly, for the space of one year ensuing and render an account with the selectmen once a quarter of the number of children or scholars belonging unto the said district which shall duly attend the said school, he shall be paid out of the town treasury after the rate of twenty pounds per annum for this service."

This arrangement with some changes of teachers and compensation was continued under the incorporation of the town of Chelsea. A return of scholars made by Cheever under date of Feb. 19, 1714, has the names of the well known Pulling Point

families of Belcher, Floyd, Chamberlain, Haisey, and Cole, although not all of the above named were then living in this part of the district. Thomas Cheever was the minister of the church then just erected.

The people of Winthrop have pointed with pride to the unbroken no-license majority which has been given during all the years since the question of the sale of intoxicating liquors has been submitted to its voters. Rembering this, we have studied with some fears the early history of this locality concerning the drink question. The colony records under date of Nov. 13, 1644 say:

"Goodman Smyth of Winnisimmet hath liberty to sell wine, and to keep a house of common entertainment."

He continued 36 years in the business at the same stand. In 1647 the General Court directed that the County Courts should attend to the business of granting licenses. We are glad to find no record of licenses granted on Pullen Point soil. We do find evidence that the dram drinking of the old days was not the harmless thing that is sometimes claimed for it by those who say the liquors then were purer and the consequences of the drink habit were not so disastrous as in these days. In the year 1676 James Bill, John Grover, (both of Pullen Point) Elias Maverick and William Ireland were appointed special surveyors under order of the General Court to inspect their part of the town "to prevent excessive drinking, and disorder in private houses."

We have thus attempted to give from the sources quoted some glimpses of the municipal, religious and social life of the first hundred years after the occupation of our little peninsula by the colonists. Methinks some of these school boys are saying to

themselves, "the speaker has not mentioned the Indians. Did not the red men ever live at Pullin Point?" And I seem to hear the voice of Charles Sprague, Boston's poet, on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of its settlement, still asking:

"Shall not one line lament that lion race,
For us struck out from sweet creation's face?"

Yes, the Pawtucket tribe of red men once were in possession of all of Pullen Point. The records show that great numbers living on the islands or near the harbor were carried off by a plague in 1615, and others in battle with the Tarratines in the following year, and that three years after the coming of Winthrop very many died of small pox. As late as 1685 after the arrival of the Second Charter, the descendants of Sagamore George signed a deed releasing their interest in the lands "at or near Winnisimmet, Rumney Marsh, and Pullen Point" to such as "are by long possession and legal descent from such persons as originally purchased from ye Indian Sagamores."

The Indians in our vicinity were generally justly treated and we are glad that our soil is not stained by any battle between the red men and the English. Indian skeletons and utensils have been unearthed here, and the Peabody Museum at Harvard has quite a collection of what remains of these, our first families. We leave them with the poet's lament:

"Alas for them--their day is o'er;
Their fires are out from hill and shore;
No more for them the wild deer bounds;
The plow is on their hunting grounds;
The pale man's axe rings through their woods;
Their pleasant streams are dry."

In 1735 began the agitation for a separation from Boston, a petition being presented at the town meeting. This was referred to a committee of five who reported adversely. Three years later 24 men again asked the town meeting:

"That you would sett off number thirteen (in which we dwell) as a separate township and allow us out of the public revenues what you in your wisdom shall think meet."

Again the matter was referred to a committee of five and again the report was against the petitioners. It is interesting to note that Sam Adams was a member of each of these committees, and that he signed a report which stated that the committee was of the opinion that in the matter of the support of the minister "with respect to the school, the due apportioning the taxes, and their highways, the town may give relief in a more reasonable manner than by voting them off a district township." A petition was then presented to the General Court. Boston held another town meeting, which selected another committee which presented a strong remonstrance against the petition. The General Court, however, granted the request, and the act of incorporation was signed by Governor Jonathan Belcher in January 1739. The first town meeting was held in the part of the town now Revere, March 5th. A Pullin Point citizen, Samuel Floyd, was elected one of the five selectmen. March 20th a second meeting was held when several of the officers previously elected were excused and others chosen. Mr. Elisha Tuttle paid a fine rather than accept the office of surveyor of highways. At the third meeting, held in May it was,

"Voted, to raise ten pounds to be laid out at the discretion of the selectmen in educating the children living in those branches of the town called the rocks and Pulling Point."

From that time for 107 years the people of Pulling Point paid taxes to, and were voters of the town of Chelsea. Usually they were represented on the board of selectmen and in some other offices.

Not many important incidents are recorded of these years other than the naming of Point Shirley, the mushroom growth of the new settlement, and the part played by Pullen Point in the war of the Revolution.

In 1753 a number of Boston gentlemen purchased all or nearly nearly all of the fifty acres of land contained in the point of land near Deer Island, and started a great fishing station there. The Boston News Letter gives an account of a dinner given by the proprietors to Governor Wm. Shirley and other gentlemen of distinction to celebrate the opening of the new enterprise. After the dinner the governor accepted the honor of bestowing his name on the establishment. Thus the point received a good name, and the place became a favorite summer resort; fine residences and a church were built, and one writer says a minister was settled. Among the Wendell papers is found a list of the names of fifty persons subject to military duty living at Point Shirley in 1754. Among these names are only two or three which are those of the old families of Point Shirley or Pullen Point. The fishing industry in a few years proved a failure; the fishermen moved away and the fine houses were used as summer residences by Governor Hancock and others.

The Revolutionary rolls show that the men of old Chelsea were active in the struggle which resulted in the independence of the 13 colonies. The Lexington alarm of April 19, 1775, found Capt. Samuel Sprague and a company of men, (most if not all of whom lived at the Centre,) marching toward Lexington. The state archives contain "A Rool of the men that kept guard at Pullen Point in Chelsea by order of Capt. Sam'l Sprague from April 19, 1775, till Discharged by their officer." This service lasted 30 days and a part of it was probably performed at Point Shirley in the old fort, the earthworks of which were clearly defined as late as 1884.

During the siege of Boston by vote of the Provincial Congress

and "by order of the Generall" it appears that John Tewksbury, Andrew Tewksbury, James Tewksbury, Seth Wood "and his mother-in-law, Ruth Bill" and the heirs of John Sargent with their families left the Point and lived for seven weeks in the North part of Chelsea and Lynn. They took with them 456 sheep, 23 horned cattle, three loads of hay and eight loads of "goods". Later during the siege several hundred poor people of Boston were sent to Point Shirley. Under date of Feb. 1, 1776 the following letter was received by Mr. John Tewksbury who lived in the old Bill house before-mentioned.

"Sir: We desire you would cutt down any trees on Hon. James Bodwin's farm for the use of the Distressed poor now at Point Shirley and we will bear you harmless."

This was signed by Thos. Crafts Jun., Daniel Sigourney and Winthrop Grey, the committee of the House of Representatives for the taking care of the Poor of Boston, and countersigned by Edward Proctor. Two months after the evacuation of Boston, Point Shirley was the scene of a battle which can best be described in the language of Judge Charles J. Noyes in his recently published historical romance, "Patriot and Tory:"

"That British fleet still lingered in the lower harbor, a terror to the timid, and an unwelcome sight to all. It was a menace to their commerce and a nuisance generally. No ship of theirs could pass in safety, and the inhabitants along the harbor front felt in danger of their lives and property while it remained. Several encounters between the fleet and American craft had taken place; and a brilliant naval battle had finally occurred within sight of the old town. The people of Point Shirley, alarmed at midnight were witnesses to as brave deeds as ever were wrought in the annals of naval combat. The Franklin grounded upon their shores, and the Lady Washington, anchored near at hand, furnished the setting to the scene, and the conflict between their intrepid crews, under Captain Mugford, their daunt-leader, and those of the man-of-war Nantasket, in thirteen boats, was a drama of heroism rarely equalled. The last words of the Captain: "Do not give up the ship,--you will beat them off," uttered with his dying breath, are worthy of immortality. Victory was at last accomplished, and the British were at last compelled to return to their vessel."

the residents of Pulling Point as joined the new organization upon certificate of that fact were excused from paying the "minister tax" to the town of Chelsea. Services were held in the school-house until 1834 when a church was built. The building which was enlarged in 1862, still stands on Winthrop street, and is now known as Dunham's block.

In 1830 the people in what is now Chelsea, numbered 30, and in 1833 Noddles Island, now East Boston had one house, and 8 inhabitants. From the dates named both places grew rapidly, and a ferry having been established from Boston to East Boston, the Pullin Pointers began a movement for a bridge across Belle Isle inlet. The General Court gave a charter to Joseph Burrill, Joseph Belcher, and John W. Tewksbury in 1835; the bridge was opened to travel in 1839 as a free bridge, but in 1843 the proprietors were allowed to charge a toll. The opening of the bridge brought new people to Winthrop, and in 1844 the Revere Copper Company built its works at Point Shirley.

The following year the first action was taken looking to a division of Chelsea, Winnisimmet or "The Ferry", had in 15 years acquired a population of 4500 people, and had ceased to be a farming community. The town meetings to accomodate 5/6th of the voters were held there instead of at the Centre. Money had to be spent for sewers, police, fire protection, and other departments, from which the farming section of the town received no benefit. This condition of affairs prompted Joseph Stowers and 95 others of the Centre to petition the General Court in 1845 for the incorporation of their section of old Chelsea as a separate town to be called Cushman. Immediately David Belcher and 36 others, residents of Pullin Point signed a remonstrance in which

they represented that they had been to great expense to obtain a road to Boston by the way of Belle Isle and East Boston; that their part of the town would be entirely separated from the Ferry village by Belle Isle or Breed's Island, and that for all purposes of town business they would be obliged to go through this part of Boston or through the proposed new town if the petition was granted. The Legislature after a hearing referred the whole matter to a committee to investigate and report the following year. This committee visited the different sections of the town and made a lengthy report recommending a new town which would include not only the Centre but also the "Two Points," meaning Pullin Point and Point Shirley. Such an act was passed and approved by Governor Geo. N. Briggs, March 19, 1846. For the following six years the "Pointers" were a part of the town of North Chelsea, attending town meetings in the old hall which was burned Jan. 19, 1897 and holding some of the most important offices. This period was one of many changes. East Boston's growth made a new market for the Point farmers; such Boston men as Judge E. G. Loring, Geo. B. Emerson, Hiram Plummer, and Chas. L. Bartlett became summer or all the year residents. George and William Shaw, builders, came from Vermont and erected a number of houses. The establishment of the Copper Works had brought to Point Shirley Fred W. Davis, Daniel Long, Theodore Smith, and their families. Taft's Hotel was bringing many people in the summer season. The toll charged for passing over the bridge was considered the only hindrance to the growth of the peninsula, and when the City of Boston, on July 1st, 1850, bought the bridge and laid it out as a public highway, there was great rejoicing. The year following a movement was begun that seems to have been lost sight of during these later years. The State House records

show that in 1851 Hiram Plummer and others petitioned for the setting off Chelsea Point or Pulling Point and annexing the same to the city of Boston. Representative Edward Floyd presented this petition, and in a few days brought another signed by David Belcher and others remonstrating against the action prayed for. The petition was referred to the next General Court. When the Legislature of 1852 convened upon request the petition was returned and practically all the inhabitants and tax-payers of this section of North Chelsea asked to be incorporated under the name of Winthrop. A hearing was given a bill was reported, and after a little opposition in each branch, the bill was passed.

The day after its enactment Governor Geo. S. Boutwell attached his name to the piece of parchment which created another "Little Republic." The word "little" applies most appropriately, for never before had the General Court made so small a territory into a municipality. Eleven days after the Governor's approval, the first town-meeting was held in the school-house which a few years before had been erected in the place of the building of 1805. Town officers were elected, and it was no task to select from the old and new residents of that day men capable of ably conducting the affairs of the new town. Appropriations were made for the support of schools, for highways, and incidentals.

The Winthrop of to-day is known by the 6,000 people who have their homes here; by an equal number who live here in the summer months, and by many thousands of transient visitors.

The Winthrop of 1852 is remembered by the seven surviving voters of that day, and by a number of other residents, who recall the many changes of the fifty years now ended. They tell us of visits to Boston by boat and by private carriage, and then by public conveyance—a covered wagon, which made two trips to Scollays Square

each day; of gaily painted coaches a little later; of horse cars from Point Shirley to Maverick Square in 1873; of a steam railroad which first ran a car into Winthrop from Orient Heights in 1877; of the many changes of location of the different railroad corporations having franchises here; of the Boston, Revere Beach & Lynn Railroad acquiring the rights of all former companies in 1886, resulting in the present circuit road over which two million passengers travelled last year.

They tell us that before 1852 the only organizations here beside those already named were the two school districts, an anti-slavery society, some of whose members were the descendants of slave owners who lived in Pullin Point, a temperance society, and a lyceum association; and of how they witnessed the building of six churches, the formation of numerous lodges, clubs, and other organizations, some of which meet in their own buildings. They tell us of the summer settlement which began on a larger scale than ever before in 1875 when Dr. Sam'l Ingalls bought the Wheeler beach, laid it out in lots and called it Ocean Spray; of the Tewksbury land put on the market at about the same time; of Dr. Ingalls' strong temperance convictions which found expression in his statement when offering his land for sale that:

"There shall be one seagirt resort (at least) where the fiend of the still shall not hold Court,"

and that he and other owners of beach lots put prohibition restrictions in their deeds and excellent people were glad to buy land so restricted; of the sudden rise in value of this property, and of the hundreds of dwellings now here, all of which are occupied in the summer and a constantly increasing number during the entire year. The interesting statistics just published by our assessors show an increase in most of the figures presented that is equalled by few New England towns.

The dwellings in 1852 numbered 45, now 1542; the property owners then 62, now 1441; the valuation fifty years ago \$182,428; 49 years later, \$7,391,380; the taxes for town and state purposes amounted in 1852 to \$1,539, and last year to \$116,472, the last figures being more than the combined assessments for the first 23 years. This table not only indicates the growth of the town, but as we examine the purposes for which the tax levy was spent each year, we see in the constantly increasing figures that the voters from the beginning of Winthrop's history met "new occasions and new conditions, by performing new duties" and taking upon themselves new responsibilities. The total of the 50 annual assessments on the polls and property in Winthrop is \$1,411,345. 25% of this amount has been spent for public schools and 26% for highways and bridges. These two departments are the only ones (except for contingent expenses) which have existed in all of the fifty years. The little school-house of 1852, in 1856 gave way to the new town hall in which two school rooms were provided. The same year a new one room school-house was built at Point Shirley. Neither of the buildings named are now used for school purposes, and this year as in the year 1852 the town meetings are held in a school-house. May we argue from this that the voters care more for the education of the youth than for their own accommodation?

"Winthrop furnished 72 men for the War of the Rebellion, which was a surplus of 8 over and above all demands. Two were commissioned officers. The whole amount of money expended by the town on account of the war, exclusive of State aid, was \$10,774.

All may better realize what the war cost the town by the statement that should war now call for the same percentage of outlay, Winthrop's share would be \$211,000.

We now raise money each year for 26 departments, 15 of which have been established during the past 20 years.

And now when it is stated that the last two numberings of the people of the Republic show that Winthrop has increased in population faster in each decade than any other town in Massachusetts, enough has been said to prove that we have reached the position the petitioners of fifty years ago looked forward to when they said that:

"The Points would soon contain as many inhabitants as most towns in the Commonwealth;"

But a review which shows only ever increasing figures, does not necessarily indicate the highest accomplishment in things that are best. If between the lines of the annals of our town we do not read of honorable service in public and private station, of work well done for God, for home, and for country, then is any mention of material advancement vain boasting. Examples of unselfish devotion to duty are not wanting in our history. During the years that are gone the town has never been without men who have acted as if governed by Emerson's injunction:

"'Tis nobleness to serve,
Help them who cannot help again;
Beware from right to swerve."

This meeting is a striking example of the far-reaching influence of such service. The generous gift of Mrs. Eliza W. Frost, together with other donations and the town's appropriation, provided for the people of Winthrop a beautiful library building in which is opened to-day an exhibition of many things connected with the history of our town.

This exhibition, together with the exercises of the afternoon and this evening are intended to foster such an interest in the past as shall assist us in avoiding its mistakes, and in making such use of what has been wise that the people of Winthrop shall be better prepared to meet the new responsibilities which are always before them.

Read at Winthrop, March 27th, 1902.