

= John Winthrop =

John Winthrop ( 12 January 1587 / 88 ? 26 March 1649 ) was a wealthy English Puritan lawyer and one of the leading figures in the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony , the first major settlement in what is now New England after Plymouth Colony . Winthrop led the first large wave of immigrants from England in 1630 , and served as governor for 12 of the colony 's first 20 years of existence . His writings and vision of the colony as a Puritan " city upon a hill " dominated New England colonial development , influencing the governments and religions of neighboring colonies .

Born into a wealthy landowning and merchant family , Winthrop was trained in the law , and became Lord of the Manor at Groton in Suffolk . Although he was not involved in the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Company in 1628 , he became involved in 1629 when the anti @-@ Puritan King Charles I began a crackdown on Nonconformist religious thought . In October 1629 he was elected governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony , and in April 1630 he led a group of colonists to the New World , founding a number of communities on the shores of Massachusetts Bay and the Charles River .

Between 1629 and his death in 1649 , he served 19 annual terms as governor or lieutenant @-@ governor , and was a force of comparative moderation in the religiously conservative colony , clashing with the more conservative Thomas Dudley and the more liberal Roger Williams and Henry Vane . Although Winthrop was a respected political figure , his attitude toward governance was somewhat authoritarian : he resisted attempts to widen voting and other civil rights beyond a narrow class of religiously approved individuals , opposed attempts to codify a body of laws that the colonial magistrates would be bound by , and also opposed unconstrained democracy , calling it " the meanest and worst of all forms of government " . The authoritarian and religiously conservative nature of Massachusetts rule was influential in the formation of neighboring colonies , which were in some instances formed by individuals and groups opposed to the rule of the Massachusetts elders .

Winthrop 's son , John , was one of the founders of the Connecticut Colony , and Winthrop himself wrote one of the leading historical accounts of the early colonial period . His long list of descendants includes famous Americans , and his writings continue to influence politicians today .

= = Life in England = =

John Winthrop was born on 12 January 1587 / 8 to Adam and Anne ( née Browne ) Winthrop in Edwardstone , Suffolk , England . His birth was recorded in the parish register at Groton . His father 's family had been successful in the textile business , and his father was a lawyer and prosperous landowner with several properties in Suffolk . His mother 's family was also well @-@ to @-@ do , with properties in Suffolk and Essex . When Winthrop was young his father became a director at Trinity College , Cambridge . When Winthrop 's uncle John ( Adam 's brother ) emigrated to Ireland , the Winthrop family took up residence at Groton Manor .

Winthrop was first tutored at home by John Chaplin and was assumed to have attended grammar school at Bury St. Edmunds . He was also regularly exposed to religious discussions between his father and clergymen , and thus came at an early age to a deep understanding of divinity . He was admitted to Trinity College in December 1602 , matriculating at the university a few months later . Among the students that he would have interacted with were John Cotton , and John Wheelwright , two men who would also have important roles in New England . He was a close childhood and university friend of William Spring , later a Puritan Member of Parliament , with whom he would correspond for the rest of his life . The teenage Winthrop admitted in his diary of the time to " lusts ... so masterly as no good could fasten upon me . " Biographer Francis Bremer suggests that Winthrop 's need to control his baser impulses may have prompted him to leave school early and marry at an unusually early age .

In 1604 Winthrop journeyed to Great Stambridge in Essex with a friend . They stayed at the home of a family friend , and Winthrop was favorably impressed with their daughter , Mary Forth . Winthrop left Trinity College to marry Mary on 16 April 1605 at Great Stambridge . Mary bore him five children , of whom only three survived to adulthood . The oldest of their children was John Winthrop , the

Younger , who became a governor and magistrate of Connecticut . Their last two children , two girls , died not long after birth , and Mary died in 1615 from complications of the last birth . The couple spent most of their time at Great Stambridge , living on the Forth estate . In 1613 Adam Winthrop transferred the family holdings in Groton to Winthrop , who then became Lord of the Manor at Groton .

= = = Lord of the Manor = = =

As Lord of the Manor , Winthrop was deeply involved in the management of the estate , overseeing the agricultural activities and the manor house . He eventually followed his father in practicing law in London , which would have brought him into contact with the city 's business elite . He was also appointed to the county commission of the peace , a position that gave him a wider exposure among other lawyers and landowners , and a platform to advance what he saw as God 's kingdom . The commission 's responsibilities included overseeing countywide issues , including road and bridge maintenance , and the issuance of licenses . Some of its members were also empowered to act as local judges for minor offenses , although Winthrop was only able to exercise this authority in cases affecting his estate . The full commission met quarterly , and Winthrop forged a number of important connections through its activities .

Winthrop documented his religious life , keeping a journal beginning 1605 in which he described his religious experiences and feelings . In it , he described his failures to keep " divers vows " , and sought to reform his failings by God 's grace , praying that God would " give me a new heart , joy in his spirit ; that he would dwell with me " . Winthrop was somewhat distressed that his wife did not share the intensity of his religious feelings , but he eventually observed that " she proved after a right godly woman . " He was notably more intensely religious than his father , whose diaries dealt almost exclusively with secular matters .

When his wife Mary died in 1615 , Winthrop , following the custom of the time , remarried soon after , marrying Thomasine Clopton on 6 December 1615 . She was noticeably more pious than Mary had been : Winthrop wrote that she was " truly religious & industrious therein " . Thomasine died on 8 December 1616 from complications of childbirth ; the child did not survive .

In approximately 1613 ( records indicate it may have been earlier ) , Winthrop was enrolled at Gray 's Inn . There he read the law , but did not advance to the Bar . His legal connections introduced him to the Tyndal family of Great Maplestead , Essex , and in 1617 he began courting Margaret Tyndal , the daughter of Sir John Tyndal , a chancery judge and his wife Anne Egerton , sister of the leading Puritan preacher Stephen Egerton . Her family was initially opposed to the match on financial grounds ; Winthrop countered by appealing to piety as a virtue that more than compensated for his modest income . The couple were married on 29 April 1618 at Great Maplestead . They continued to live at Groton , although Winthrop necessarily divided his time between Groton and London , where he eventually acquired a highly desirable post in the Court of Wards and Liveries . His eldest son John sometimes assisted Margaret with the management of the estate while he was away .

= = = Decision to emigrate = = =

In the mid to late 1620s , the religious atmosphere in England began to look bleak for Puritans and other groups whose adherents believed the English Reformation was in danger . King Charles I had ascended the throne in 1624 , and he had married a Roman Catholic . Charles was opposed to all manner of recusants , and supported the Church of England in its efforts against religious groups like the Puritans that did not adhere fully to its teachings and practices . This atmosphere of intolerance to their views led Puritan religious and business leaders to consider emigration to the New World as a viable means to escape persecution .

The first successful religious colonization of the New World occurred in 1620 with the establishment of the Plymouth Colony on the shores of Cape Cod Bay . An effort in 1624 orchestrated by pastor John White led to a short @-@ lived colony at Cape Ann , also on the Massachusetts coast . In 1628 some of the investors in that effort joined with new investors to acquire a land grant for the

territory roughly between the Charles and Merrimack Rivers . First styled the New England Company , it was renamed the Massachusetts Bay Company in 1629 after it acquired a royal charter , granting it permission to govern the territory . Shortly after acquiring the land grant in 1628 , it sent a small group of settlers led by John Endecott to prepare the way for further migration . John Winthrop was apparently not involved in any of these early activities , which involved primarily individuals from Lincolnshire ; however , by early 1629 he was probably aware of the company 's activities and plans . The exact connection by which he became involved with the company is uncertain , because there were many indirect connections between Winthrop and individuals directly associated with the company . Winthrop was also aware of attempts to colonize other places ? his son Henry became involved in efforts to settle Barbados in 1626 , which Winthrop financially supported for a time .

In March 1629 King Charles dissolved Parliament , beginning eleven years of rule without Parliament . This action apparently raised new concerns among the company 's principals ; in the company 's July meeting , Governor Matthew Cradock proposed that the company reorganize itself and transport its charter and governance to the colony . It also worried Winthrop , who lost his position in the Court of Wards and Liveries in the crackdown on Puritans that followed the dissolution of Parliament . He wrote , " If the Lord seeth it wilbe good for us , he will provide a shelter & a hidinge place for us and others " . During the following months , Winthrop became more involved with the company , meeting with others in Lincolnshire . By early August he had emerged as a significant proponent of emigration , and on 12 August he circulated a paper providing eight separate reasons in favor of emigration . His name appears in formal connection with the company on the Cambridge Agreement , signed 26 August ; this document provided means for emigrating shareholders to buy out non @-@ emigrating shareholders of the company .

The company shareholders met on 20 October to enact the changes agreed to in August . Since Governor Cradock was not emigrating , a new governor needed to be chosen . Winthrop was seen as the most dedicated of the three candidates proposed to replace Cradock , and won the election . The other two , Richard Saltonstall and John Humphrey , had many other interests , and their dedication to the cause of settling in Massachusetts was viewed as uncertain . Humphrey was chosen as deputy governor , a post he relinquished the following year when he decided to delay his emigration .

Winthrop , along with other company officials , then began the process of arranging a transport fleet and supplies for the migration . He also worked to recruit individuals with special skills the new colony would require , including pastors to see to the colony 's spiritual needs .

It was unclear to Winthrop when his wife would come over ; she was pregnant and due to give birth in April 1630 , near the fleet 's departure time . They consequently decided that she would not come over until a later time ; it would not be until 1631 that the couple was reunited in the New World . To maintain some connection with his wife during their separation , the couple agreed to think of each other between the hours of 5 and 6 in the evening each Monday and Friday . Winthrop also worked to convince his grown children to join the migration ; John , Jr. and Henry both decided to do so , but only Henry sailed in the 1630 fleet .

By April 1630 Winthrop had put most of his affairs in order . Groton Manor had not yet been sold , because of a long @-@ running title dispute . The legal dispute was only resolved after his departure , and the property 's sale was finalized by Margaret before she and John Jr. left for the colony .

= = = Coat of Arms = = =

John Winthrop used a coat of arms that was reportedly confirmed by the College of Arms , London , to his paternal uncle in 1592 . It was also used by his sons . These arms appear on his tombstone in the King 's Chapel Burying Ground . It is also as the coat of arms for Winthrop House at Harvard University and are displayed on the still intact 1675 house of his youngest son , Deane Winthrop at the Deane Winthrop House . The heraldic blazon of arms is : Argent three chevronels Gules overall a lion rampant Sable .

= = Massachusetts Bay Colony = =

= = = Arrival = = =

On 8 April 1630 , four ships left the Isle of Wight , carrying Winthrop and other leaders of the colony . Winthrop sailed on the Arbella , accompanied by his two young sons , Samuel and Stephen . The ships were part of a larger fleet , totalling 11 ships , that would carry about 700 migrants to the colony . Winthrop 's son Henry Winthrop missed the Arbella 's sailing , and ended up on the Talbot , which also sailed from Wight . Winthrop wrote a sermon entitled A Modell of Christian Charity , which was delivered either before or during the crossing . It described the ideas and plans to keep the Puritan society strong in faith as well as comparing the struggles that they would have to overcome in the New World to the story of Exodus . In it he used the now famous phrase " City upon a Hill " to describe the ideals to which the colonists should strive , and that consequently " the eyes of all people are upon us . " Winthrop also said , " in all times some must be rich some poore , some highe and eminent in power and dignitie ; others meane and in subjection " , and in short meant that there were those who were rich and successful and others who were poor and subservient to others . But Winthrop also said that although these two groups were different both were equally important to the colony because both groups were members to the same community .

Upon the fleet 's arrival at Salem in June , the new colonists were welcomed by John Endecott . Winthrop and his deputy , Thomas Dudley , found the Salem area inadequate for creating a settlement suitable for all of the arriving colonists , and embarked on surveying expeditions of the area . They first decided to base the colony at Charlestown , but a lack of good water there prompted them to instead move to the Shawmut Peninsula , where they founded what is now the city of Boston . Because the season was relatively late , the colonists decided to establish dispersed settlements along the coast and the banks of the Charles River in order to avoid presenting a single point that hostile forces might attack . The colony struggled with disease in its early months , losing as many as 200 people , including Winthrop 's son Henry , in 1630 , to a variety of causes and about 80 others who returned to England in the spring due to these conditions . Winthrop set an example to the other colonists in joining servants and laborers in the work of the colony . According to one report , he " fell to work with his own hands , and thereby so encouraged the rest that there was not an idle person to be found in the whole plantation . "

Winthrop built his house in Boston , where he also had a relatively spacious plot of arable land . In 1631 he was granted a larger parcel of land on the banks of the Mystic River that he called Ten Hills Farm . On the other side of the Mystic was the shipyard owned in absentia by Matthew Cradock , where one of the colony 's first boats , Winthrop 's Blessing of the Bay , was built . Winthrop operated her as a trading and packet ship up and down the coast of New England .

The issue of where to locate the colony 's capital caused the first in a series of rifts between Winthrop and Dudley . Dudley had constructed his home at Newtown ( present @-@ day Harvard Square , Cambridge ) after the council had agreed the capital would be established there . However , Winthrop decided instead to build his home in Boston when asked by its residents to stay there . This upset Dudley , and their relationship worsened when Winthrop criticized Dudley for what he perceived as excessive decorative woodwork in his house . However , they seemed to reconcile after their children were married . Winthrop recounts the two of them , each having been granted land near Concord , going to stake their claims . At the boundary between their lands , a pair of boulders were named the Two Brothers " in remembrance that they were brothers by their children 's marriage " . Dudley 's lands became Bedford , and Winthrop 's Billerica .

= = = Colonial governance = = =

The colony 's charter called for a governor , deputy governor , and 18 assistant magistrates ( who served as a precursor to the idea of a Governor 's Council ) , who were all to be elected annually by

the freemen of the colony . The first meeting of the General Court consisted of exactly eight men . They decided that the governor and deputy should be elected by the assistants , in violation of the charter ; under these rules Winthrop was elected governor three times . The general court admitted a significant number of settlers , but also established a rule requiring all freemen to be local church members . In 1633 and 1634 , following the appointment of the strongly anti @-@ Puritan William Laud as Archbishop of Canterbury , the colony saw a large influx of immigrants .

When the 1634 election was set to take place , delegations of freemen sent by the towns insisted on seeing the charter , from which they learned that the colony 's lawmaking authority and that the election of governor and deputy rested with the freemen , not the assistants . Winthrop acceded on the point of the elections , which were thereafter conducted by secret ballot by the freemen , but he also observed that lawmaking would be unwieldy if conducted by the now relatively large number of freemen . A compromise was reached in which each town would select two delegates to send to the general court as representatives of its interests . In an ironic twist , Thomas Dudley , an opponent of popular election , won the 1634 election for governor , with Roger Ludlow as deputy . Winthrop , as he had after previous elections , graciously invited his fellow magistrates to dinner .

In the late 1630s the seeming arbitrariness of judicial decisions led to calls for the creation of a body of laws that would bind the opinions of magistrates . Winthrop opposed these moves , and used his power to repeatedly stall and obstruct efforts to enact them . His opposition was rooted in a strong belief in the common law tradition and the desire , as a magistrate , to have flexibility in deciding cases on their unique circumstances . He also pointed out that adoption of written laws " repugnant to the laws of England " was not allowed in the charter , and that some of the laws to be adopted likely opposed English law . The Massachusetts Body of Liberties was formally adopted during Richard Bellingham 's governorship in 1641 . Some of the laws enacted in Massachusetts were cited as reasons for vacating the colonial charter in 1684 .

In the 1640s constitutional issues concerning the power of the magistrates and assistants arose . In a case involving an escaped pig , the assistants ruled in favor of a merchant who had allegedly taken a widow 's errant animal . She appealed to the general court , which ruled in her favor . The assistants then asserted their right to veto the general court 's decision , sparking the controversy . Winthrop argued that the assistants , as experienced magistrates , must be able to check the democratic institution of the general court , because " a democracy is , amongst most civil nations , accounted the meanest and worst of all forms of government . " Winthrop became the focus of allegations about the arbitrary rule of the magistrates in 1645 , when he was formally charged with interfering with local decisions in a case involving the Hingham militia . The case centered around the disputed appointment of a new commander , and a panel of magistrates headed by Winthrop had had several parties on both sides of the dispute imprisoned pending a meeting of the court of assistants . Peter Hobart , the minister in Hingham and one of several Hobarts on one side of the dispute , vociferously questioned the authority of the magistrates and railed against Winthrop specifically for what he characterized as arbitrary and tyrannical actions . Winthrop defused the matter by stepping down from the bench to appear before it as a defendant . Winthrop successfully defended himself , pointing out that not only had he not acted alone , but that judges are not usually criminally culpable for errors they make on the bench , and that the dispute in Hingham was serious enough that it required the intervention of the magistrates . Winthrop was acquitted and the complainants were fined .

One major issue that Winthrop was involved in occurred in 1647 , when a petition was submitted to the general court concerning the limitation of voting rights to freemen who had been formally admitted to a local church . Winthrop and the other magistrates rejected the appeal that " civil liberty and freedom be forthwith granted to all truly English " , and even fined and imprisoned the principal signers of the petition . William Vassal and Robert Child , two of the signatories , pursued complaints against the Massachusetts government in England over this and other issues .

= = = Religious controversies = = =

In 1634 and 1635 Winthrop served as an assistant , while the influx of migrants brought first John

Haynes and then Henry Vane to the governorship . These two men , along with Anne Hutchinson and pastors Thomas Hooker and John Wheelwright , espoused religious or political views that were at odds with those of the earlier arrivals , including Winthrop . Hutchinson and Wheelwright subscribed to the Antinomian view that following religious laws was not required for salvation , while Winthrop and others believed in a more Legalist view . This religious rift , commonly called the Antinomian Controversy , significantly divided the colony , and Winthrop saw the other side 's beliefs as a particularly unpleasant and dangerous heresy . By December 1636 the dispute reached into colonial politics , and Winthrop , in a bid to bridge the divide between the two factions , penned an account of his religious awakening and theological position papers designed to facilitate a harmonization of the opposing views . How widely these documents circulated is not known ( and not all of them have survived ) , but the Legalist pastor Thomas Shepard reacted in a way that biographer Francis Bremer describes as " horrified " , and containing " a color of Arminianism , which I believe your [ Winthrop 's ] soul abhors . " In the 1637 election , Vane was turned out of all offices , and Dudley was elected governor .

His election did not immediately quell the controversy . First John Wheelwright and later Anne Hutchinson were put on trial , and both were banished from the colony . ( Hutchinson founded Portsmouth , Rhode Island and Wheelwright founded first Exeter , New Hampshire and then Wells , Maine in order to be free of Massachusetts rule . ) Winthrop was active in arguing against their supporters , but Shepard criticized him for being too moderate , claiming Winthrop should " make their wickedness and guile manifest to all men that they may go no farther and then will sink of themselves . " Hooker and Haynes had left Massachusetts in 1636 and 1637 for new settlements on the Connecticut River ( the nucleus of the Connecticut Colony ) , and Vane left for England after the 1637 election , suggesting he might seek to acquire a commission as a governor general to overturn the colonial government . ( Vane never returned to the colony , and became an important figure in Parliament before and during the English Civil Wars ; he was beheaded after the Restoration . )

In the aftermath of the 1637 election , the general court passed new rules on residency in the colony , forbidding anyone from housing newcomers for more than 3 weeks without approval from the magistrates . Winthrop vigorously defended this rule against protests , arguing that Massachusetts was within its rights to " refuse to receive such whose dispositions suit not with ours " . Ironically , some of those who protested the policy had been in favor of the banishment in 1635 of Roger Williams . Winthrop , who was then out of office , actually had a good relationship with the controversial Baptist . When the magistrates ordered Williams ' arrest , Winthrop warned him , making possible his flight that resulted in the establishment of Providence , Rhode Island . Winthrop and Williams also later had an epistolary relationship in which they discussed their religious differences .

= = = Indian policy = = =

Winthrop 's attitudes toward the local Native American populations was generally one of civility and diplomacy . He described an early meeting with one local chief : " Chickatabot came with his [ chiefs ] and squaws , and presented the governor with a hogshhead of Indian corn . After they had all dined , and had each a small cup of sack and beer , and the men tobacco , he sent away all his men and women ( though the governor would have stayed them in regard of the rain and thunder . ) Himself and one squaw and one [ chief ] stayed all night ; and being in English clothes , the governor set him at his own table , where he behaved himself as soberly ... as an Englishman . The next day after dinner he returned home , the governor giving him cheese , and pease , and a mug , and other small things . "

Although the colonists generally sought to acquire title to the lands they occupied in the early years , they also practiced a policy that historian Alfred Cave calls *vacuum domicilium* : if land is not under some sort of active use , it is free for the taking . This meant that lands that were only used seasonally by the natives ( e.g. for fishing or hunting ) , which otherwise appeared to be empty , could be claimed . Winthrop claimed that the rights of " more advanced " peoples superseded the rights of the hunter @-@ gatherers .

However , cultural differences and trade issues between the colonists and the natives meant that clashes were inevitable , and the Pequot War was the first major conflict the colony engaged in . Winthrop sat on the council that decided to send an expedition under John Endecott to raid native villages on Block Island in the war 's first major action , but his communication with Williams encouraged the latter to convince the Narragansetts to side with the English against the Pequots , their traditional enemies . The war ended in 1637 with the destruction of the Pequots as a tribe , whose survivors were scattered into other tribes , or shipped to the West Indies .

= = = Slavery and the slave trade = = =

Slavery , according to Puritan thought , was condoned in the Old Testament , and therefore was not considered sinful towards God . The institution already existed in the Massachusetts Bay area prior to John Winthrop 's arrival , since Samuel Maverick arrived in the area with slaves in 1624 , and Winthrop supported the practice . This is most clearly evident in the aftermath of the Pequot War , in which many of the captured Pequots were enslaved . The Massachusetts council , headed by Winthrop , approved this action . Male warriors , deemed dangerous to the colony , were shipped to the West Indies , while females and children were divided among the colonists . Winthrop recorded that the exported male Pequots were traded for " salt , cotton , tobacco , and Negroes " , and the practice of exporting captured Indians to exchange for goods and African slaves became a routine practice . Winthrop was known to keep three Pequot slaves , a male and two females .

In 1641 , the Massachusetts Body of Liberties was enacted , codifying ( among many other things ) rules about slavery . Winthrop was a member of the committee that drafted the code , but his role in drafting the slavery language is not known because records of the committee have not survived . Winthrop was generally opposed to the Body of Liberties because he favored a common law approach to legislation .

= = = Trade and diplomacy = = =

Rising tensions in England ( that culminated in civil war ) led to a significant reduction in the number of people and provisions arriving in the colonies , something noted by Winthrop in 1643 . The colonists consequently began to expand trade , interacting with other colonies , non @-@ English as well as English . These led to trading ventures with other Puritans on Barbados , a source of cotton , and with the neighboring French colony of Acadia .

French Acadia , covering the eastern half of present @-@ day Maine , as well as New Brunswick and Nova Scotia , was at the time embroiled in a minor civil war between competing administrators . After English colonists began trading with Charles de Saint @-@ Étienne de la Tour in 1642 , his opponent , Charles de Menou d 'Aulnay , warned Boston traders away from la Tour 's territories . In June 1643 la Tour came to Boston and requested military assistance against assaults by d 'Aulnay . Winthrop , then governor , refused official assistance , but allowed la Tour to recruit volunteers from the colony for service . This decision brought on a storm of criticism , principally from the magistrates of Essex County , which was geographically closest to the ongoing dispute . John Endecott was particularly critical , noting that Winthrop had given the French a chance to see the colonial defenses . The 1644 election became a referendum on Winthrop 's policy , and he was turned out of office . The Acadian dispute was eventually resolved with d 'Aulnay as the victor . In 1646 , with Winthrop again in the governor 's seat , d 'Aulnay appeared in Boston and demanded reparations for damage done by the English volunteers . Winthrop placated the French governor with the gift of a sedan chair , originally given to him by an English privateer .

= = = Property and family = = =

In addition to his responsibilities in the colonial government , Winthrop was a significant property owner . He owned the Ten Hills Farm , as well as land that would become the town of Billerica , Governors Island ( now the site of Logan International Airport ) in Boston Harbor , and Prudence

Island in Narragansett Bay . He also engaged in the fur trade in partnership with William Pynchon , using the Blessing of the Bay to further that business . Governors Island was named for him , and remained in the Winthrop family until 1808 , when it was purchased for the construction of Fort Winthrop .

The farm at Ten Hills suffered from poor oversight on Winthrop 's part ? the steward of the farm made questionable financial deals that in the early 1640s caused Winthrop to have a cash crisis . The colony insisted on paying him his salary ( something he had regularly refused to accept in the past ) , as well as his out @-@ of @-@ pocket expenses while engaged in official duties . Private subscriptions to support him raised about £ 500 and the colony also granted his wife 3 @,@ 000 acres ( 12 km<sup>2</sup> ) of land .

His wife Margaret arrived on the second voyage of the Lyon in 1631 , but their baby daughter , Anne , died during the crossing . Two more children were born to the Winthrops in New England before Margaret died on 14 June 1647 . Sometime after 20 December 1647 and before the birth of their only child in 1648 , Winthrop married his fourth wife , Martha Rainsborough . She was the widow of Thomas Coytmore , and sister of Thomas and William Rainborowe . Winthrop died of natural causes on 26 March 1649 , and is buried in what is now called the King 's Chapel Burying Ground in Boston . He was survived by his wife Martha and five sons .

= = Writings and legacy = =

Though rarely published and relatively unappreciated for his literary contribution during his time , Winthrop spent his life continually producing written accounts of historical events and religious manifestations . Winthrop 's major contributions to the literary world were A Modell of Christian Charity ( 1630 ) and The History of New England ( 1630 ? 1649 ; also known as The Journal of John Winthrop ) , which remained unpublished until the late 18th century .

= = = A Model of Christian Charity = = =

John Winthrop wrote and delivered the lay sermon that would be called A Modell of Christian Charity either before the 1630 crossing to North America or while en route . It described the ideas and plans to keep the Puritan society strong in faith as well as the struggles that they would have to overcome in the New World . He used the phrase " city upon a hill " ( derived from the Bible 's Sermon on the Mount : " You are the light of the world . A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden " ) to characterize the colonists ' endeavour as part of a special pact with God to create a holy community . He encouraged the colonists to " bear one another 's burdens " , and to view themselves as a " Company of Christ , bound together by Love . " He told the colonists to be stricter in their religious conformance than even the Church of England , and to view as their objective the establishment of a model state . If they did so , God would " make us a prayse and glory , that man shall say of succeeding plantacions : the lord make it like that of New England . "

Winthrop 's sermon is often characterized as a forerunner to the concept of American exceptionalism . Recent research has shown , however , that the speech was not given much attention at the time of its delivery , unlike the farewell sermon of John Cotton . Furthermore , Winthrop did not introduce any significant new concepts , but merely repeated what were widely held Puritan beliefs . The work was not published until the nineteenth century , although it was known , and circulated in manuscript before that time .

= = = The History of New England = = =

Starting with the voyage across the Atlantic and continuing through Winthrop 's time in Massachusetts , he kept a journal of his life and experiences . Originally written in three notebooks , his account has been acknowledged as the " central source for the history of Massachusetts in the 1630s and 1640s " . The first two notebooks were published in 1790 by Noah Webster . The third notebook , long thought lost , was rediscovered in 1816 , and the complete journals were published



in 1825 and 1826 by James Savage as *The History of New England from 1630 ? 1649* . By John Winthrop , Esq . First Governor of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay . From his Original Manuscripts . The second notebook was destroyed in a fire at Savage 's office in 1825 ; the other two volumes now belong to the Massachusetts Historical Society . A modern preparation combining new analysis of the surviving volumes and Savage 's transcription of the second notebook was prepared in 1996 by Richard Dunn and Laetitia Yeandle .

The journal began as a nearly day @-@ to @-@ day recounting of the ocean crossing . As time progressed he made entries less frequently , and wrote them up at a greater length , so that by the 1640s the work began to take the shape of a history . Winthrop wrote primarily of his private accounts : his journey from England , the arrival of his wife and children to the colony in 1631 , and the birth of his son in 1632 . He also wrote profound insights into the nature of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and nearly all important events of the day . The majority of his early journal entries were not intended to be literary , but merely observations of early New England life . Gradually , the focus of his writings shifted from his personal observations to broader spiritual ideologies and behind @-@ the @-@ scenes views of political matters .

= = = Other works = = =

Winthrop 's earliest publication was likely *The Humble Request of His Majesties Loyal Subjects* ( London , 1630 ) , which defended the emigrants ' physical separation from England and reaffirmed their loyalty to the Crown and Church of England . This work was republished by Joshua Scottow in the 1696 compilation *MASSACHUSETTS : or The first Planters of New @-@ England , The End and Manner of their coming thither , and Abode there : In several EPISTLES* .

In addition to his more famous works , Winthrop produced a number of writings , both published and unpublished . While living in England , Winthrop articulated his belief " in the validity of experience " in a private religious journal , known as his *Experiencia* . This journal , in which he wrote intermittently between 1607 and 1637 , was a sort of confessional , very different in tone and style to the *Journal* . Later in his life , Winthrop wrote *A Short Story of the rise , reign , and ruine of the Antinomians , Familists and Libertines , that Infected the Churches of New England* , which described the Antinomian controversy surrounding Anne Hutchinson in 1636 and 1637 . The work was first published in London in 1644 . At the time of its publication there was much discussion about the nature of church governance , and the Westminster Assembly of Divines had recently begun to meet . The evidence it presented was seen by supporters of Congregationalism as evidence of its worth , and by English opponents as evidence of its failings . In some of its editions it was adapted by opponents of Henry Vane , who had become a leading Independent political leader in the discussion . Vane 's opponents sought to " tie Toleration round the neck of Independency , stuff the two struggling monsters into one sack , and sink them to the bottom of the sea . "

According to biographer Francis Bremer , Winthrop 's writings echoed those of other Puritans : " William Bradford 's *Of Plymouth Plantation* ( unpublished until 1856 ) , Edward Johnson 's *Wonder @-@ Working Providence of Sions Saviour in New England* ( 1654 ) , Cotton Mather 's *Magnalia Christi Americana* ( 1702 ) , and Winthrop 's *Journal* were efforts both to discern the divine pattern in events and to justify the role New Englanders believed themselves called to play . "

= = = Legacy = = =

Winthrop 's reference to the " city upon a hill " in *A Modell of Christian Charity* has become an enduring symbol in American political discourse . Many leading American politicians , going back to revolutionary times , have cited Winthrop in their writings or speeches . Winthrop 's reputation suffered in the late 19th and early 20th century , when critics like Nathaniel Hawthorne and H. L. Mencken pointed out the negative aspects of Puritan rule , leading to modern assessments of him as a " lost Founding Father " . Political scientist Matthew Holland argues that Winthrop " is at once a significant founding father of America 's best and worst impulses " , with his calls for charity and public participation offset by rigid intolerance , exclusionism and judgmentalism . But at heart he did

truly want to be a good leader and once gave a speech to the General Court in July 1645 that there were two kinds of liberty : natural , liberty to do as one wished , " evil as well as good , " a liberty he believed should be restrained , and civil , liberty to do good . Winthrop strongly believed that civil liberty was " the proper end and object of authority " , meaning it was the duty of the government to be selfless for the people and promote justice instead of promoting the general welfare . Winthrop supports this point of view from his past actions such as when he passed laws requiring the heads of households to make sure their children and even their servants to receive proper education and for town to support teachers from public funds . Winthrops actions were all for the unity of the colony because he believed that nothing was more crucial of a colony than working as a single unit that wouldn 't be split by any force , such as with the case of Anne Hutchinson . He was a leader respected by many , and even Richard Dummer , a principal Hutchinsonian disarmed for his activities , admired Winthrop and gave 100 pounds to him .

Despite the criticism , modern politicians as diverse as John F. Kennedy , Ronald Reagan , Michael Dukakis , and Sarah Palin , have all made reference to Winthrop 's writings in their speeches . Ronald Reagan described Winthrop as " an early ' Freedom Man ' " who came to America " looking for a home that would be free . " However , those like Reagan who praise Winthrop fail to note his strident anti @-@ democratic political tendencies .

Winthrop is a major character in Catharine Maria Sedgwick 's 1827 novel Hope Leslie , set in colonial Massachusetts . He also makes a brief appearance in Nathaniel Hawthorne 's The Scarlet Letter in the chapter entitled " The Minister 's Vigil . "

John Winthrop 's descendants number thousands today . In addition to his son John , who was the first governor of the Saybrook Colony , later generations of his family continued to play an active role in New England politics well into the 19th century . Twentieth century descendants include former Massachusetts Senator and current Secretary of State , John Kerry and educator Charles William Eliot . The towns of Winthrop , Massachusetts and Winthrop , Maine are named in his honor . Winthrop House at Harvard University , along with Winthrop Hall at Bowdoin College , is named in honor of him and of his descendant John Winthrop , who briefly served as President of Harvard .

He is also the namesake of three squares in Boston , Cambridge , and Brookline , and the Winthrop Building on Water Street in Boston , one of the city 's first skyscrapers , was built on the site of one of his homes .