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JOHN WINTHROP
the Younger

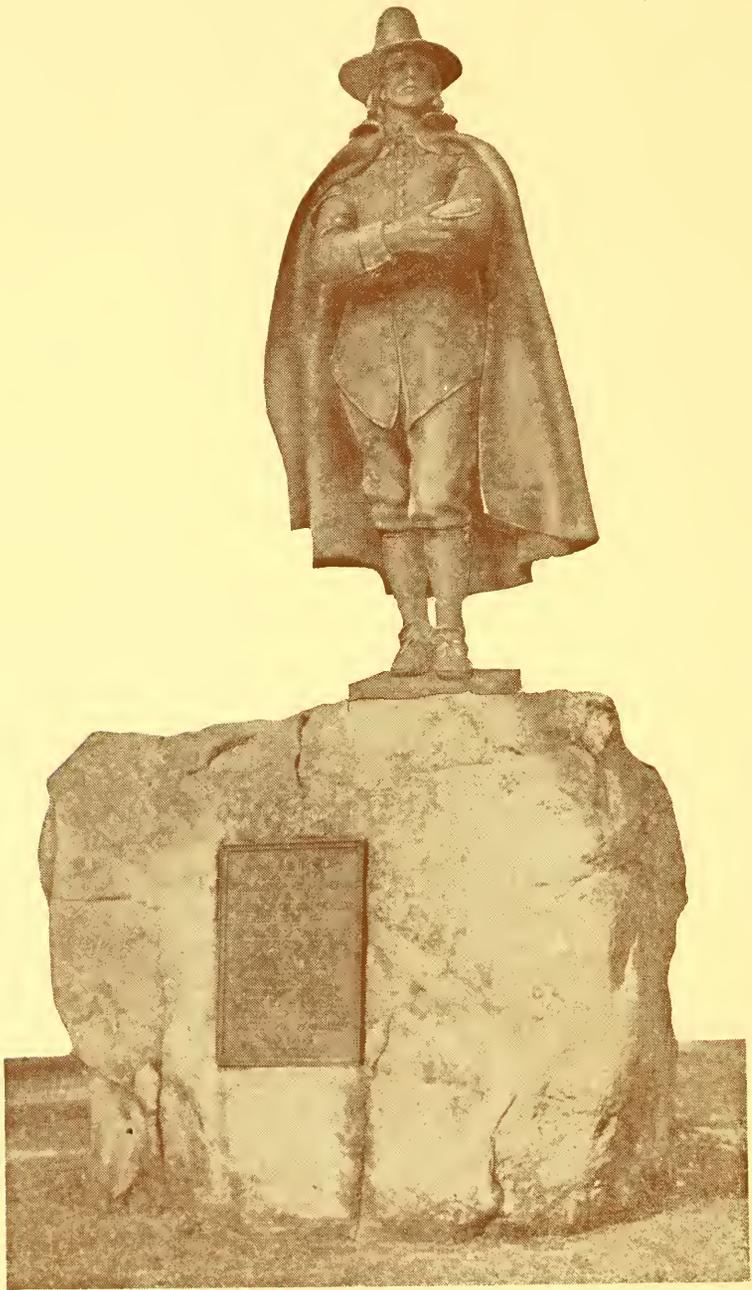


1922

The Winthrop trust company

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JOHN WINTHROP

the Younger



IN a charming and historic "Faire Harbour" of southern New England on the western bank of the river Thames, near its confluence with Long Island Sound, is the fair city of New London, renowned for its romantic, heroic, and commercial history. Near the highest eminence overlooking the river, the sound, and the ocean, in the old "Town Square" on "Meeting House Hill," standing in bronze on a native boulder is the portrait statue of the founder and first Magistrate of this ancient town—John Winthrop the younger.

The statue, costing \$10,000, was a gift from the State of Connecticut, obtained through the efforts, covering a period of ten years, of the New London County Historical Society. It is the work of Bela L. Pratt, famous sculptor, a native of New London County, and was unveiled on New London's 259th birthday, May 6, 1905, in the presence of the municipal authorities, the Governor and other officials of the state, and a vast concourse of citizens and visitors.

At the time Winthrop obtained the grant from the General Court of Massachusetts, May 6, 1646, to

establish a town government in the Pequot country, he was, without doubt, the most picturesque figure in New England—40 years of age, an eminent Puritan, pioneer, collegiate graduate with a library of 1,000 volumes, lawyer by profession, renowned traveler,

JOHN WINTHROP
1606-1676
FOUNDER OF NEW LONDON
MAY 6, 1646
GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT
1657; 1659-1676
—
THE CHARTER OF CONNECTICUT
WAS PROCURED BY HIM
FROM KING CHARLES II
APRIL 23, 1662
—
TO COMMEMORATE
HIS GREAT SERVICES
TO THIS COMMONWEALTH
THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT
ERECTS THIS MONUMENT
A. D. 1905

INSCRIPTION ON TABLET AT BASE OF
WINTHROP'S STATUE

physician, scientist, diplomat, statesman, and, in the words of his father (the senior Winthrop is known in history as a great Puritan leader, the founder and Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony) "God gave him favor in the eyes of all men with whom he had to do, by land or sea."

Born in Groton, England, in 1606, graduating from Trinity College, Dublin, studying law at the Inner Temple, London, touring the continent for over a year, proceeding as far east as Constantinople, at which place he was connected with the English Embassy, returning to London and selling his own inheritance from his mother, to help his father found the Massachusetts Bay Colony, proceeding to Boston a year after his father, later founding Ipswich, then receiving the appointment as Governor of the River Connecticut, under Lord Say and Seal, Lord Brook and others, buying Fishers Island in 1640, which remained in the possession of his family until 1852, already he had passed an eventful life and his judgment in many capacities was eagerly sought.

Attracted by the beautiful country from which the fierce Pequots had been driven only a few years before, he laid out, here, the boundaries of the plantation, built his home in a wooded and secluded glen at the head of Winthrop Cove, and adjacent to it erected the old town mill. In 1655 he sent to Milford, where a mill had been established, for James Rogers the miller to come here and operate the town mill, giving him a portion of his own house lot on which to live.

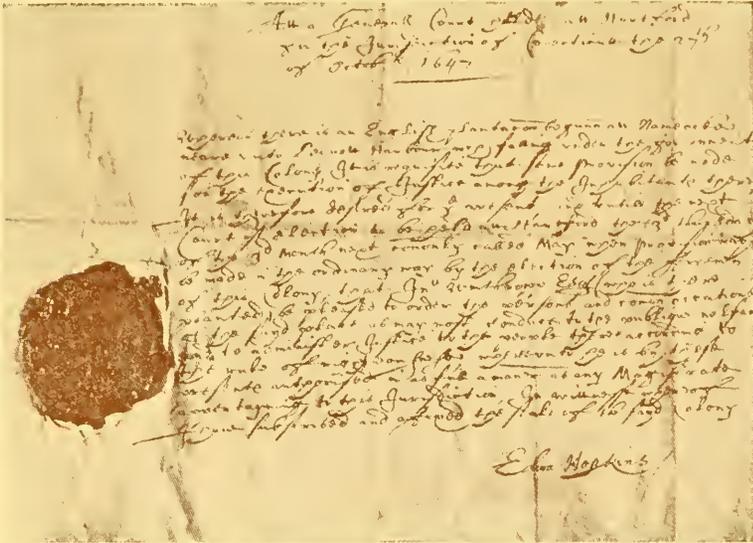
John Winthrop's son, Governor Fitz-John Winthrop, gave the town a bell in 1698, and it was voted to "Ring the bell every night at nine of the clock, winter and summer." The ringing of the curfew bell has been continued until the present; a custom in force for 224

years, with the exception of ringing at eight on Saturday nights.

At the time of his first re-election as Governor of the Colony, having lived in New London for 13 years, he moved his residence to Hartford, where he lived until his death, in 1676, having held the position longer than any Governor in the history of the State,—18 years. While attending a session of the Commissioners of the United Colonies he was taken ill, died, and was buried in King's Chapel graveyard, Boston, in the tomb of his father.

For many years the freemen of Pequot were desirous to name the town New London, and the river, Thames; but the General Court would not allow it, considering them too ambitious, and suggested from time to time other names. Finally, during the Governorship of Winthrop, a petition drawn by him in his own handwriting, was approved, and the names granted in 1658.

The greatest service performed by him to Connecticut was the procuring of its charter from King Charles II April 23, 1662, uniting the Connecticut and New Haven Colonies, which made Connecticut free all except in name and continued in force until the constitution of 1818. An interesting tradition has been handed down concerning Winthrop's reception at the Court of King Charles II. At the time Charles II was restored to the throne of his ancestors, the citizens of Connecticut sought to recognize him as their lawful sovereign, and



JOHN WINTHROP'S NEW LONDON COMMISSION

sent Winthrop with an address of congratulation, and as agent to secure a charter.

The late Robert Coit of New London, when sketching the career of Winthrop before the Appropriations Committee of the General Assembly, in March, 1901, laid especial emphasis on Winthrop's success in procuring the charter for the state. He remarked that Winthrop was said to have possessed a ring given to an ancestor by Charles I, and this ring he presented to Charles II, thus securing favor at Court. "This," said Mr. Coit, "is the first appearance of the 'ring' in Connecticut politics." Senator Roberts, Chairman of the Committee (afterwards Governor) inquired, "Was it successful?" Mr. Coit replied, "Very successful, as it always is."

The letter of credit for 500 pounds voted by the General Assembly to pay Winthrop's expenses is interesting, showing the method of exchange and banking of that period. The fact is, the Treasurer of the Colony was unable to pay it until long afterwards, but to expedite matters, Winthrop discounted it himself, by mortgaging his Fishers Island farm.

We are indebted to Mr. George S. Godard, Connecticut State Librarian, for copies of the Governor John Winthrop's New London Commission, and the Governor John Winthrop's Letter of Credit, the originals of which are in the Connecticut State Library.

We are further indebted to Mr. Godard for the following, which is an excerpt from Librarian's Report of 1905-06 to the Governor.

John Winthrop's New London Commission

THIS COMMISSION, dated October 27, 1647, appointing John Winthrop the first magistrate of Nameock—now New London—was presented to the state by Robert C. Winthrop, Jr., January 19, 1888, and is one of the most interesting documents in our State Library. Not only was it written and signed by our second colonial governor, Edward Hopkins, who did so much for the educational interests of our state, but it bears the earliest known impression of the seal of Connecticut. This impression, which is in red wax, shows fifteen grape-vines instead of our customary three, to which number a change was made in 1711.

John Winthrop's Letter of Credit

THIS LETTER OF CREDIT for £500, a photograph of which is reproduced in this report, taken by John Winthrop when he went to London as agent of the Colony of Connecticut to negotiate for a charter from Charles II, was loaned to the Connecticut

State Library in 1868 by Hon. Robert C. Winthrop of Boston, and later presented to the library, January 19, 1888, by Robert C. Winthrop, Jr. It was authorized by the General Court of Connecticut March 14, 1660-61, in the following manner:

"It is ordered that the Five hundred pounds that Capt. John Cullick is to pay ye Countrey, shall be kept and improved in pursuance of our Addres to his highnes our Sovereigne Lord Charles etc.

Mr. Willis, Mr. Allyn, & Willm Wadsworth are appointed as a Committee to meet with Capt. Cullick when he comes up, to receive in such Bills as he is to Assigne to ye Countreys use." Col. Recs., 1, 362.

Treasurer Talcott was authorized to sign it June 7, 1661, as follows:

"The Treasurer is appointed to signe ye Lr of Credit whereby the Governour may be authorized to charge Bills on ye Colony to ye value of 500l according to former act of ye Court. The Treasurer is to give order to ye Committee for ye Delivery of pay when Bills are charged." - Col. Recs. 1, 370.

The payment of this Letter of Credit was made as follows: Governor Winthrop, in London, May 3, 1662, drew on Treasurer Talcott in favor of Edward Cowes, Giles Silvester and William Maskeline, or their assigns, at New London, for 2,000 bushels of wheat at 3s. 6d. per bushel, and 1,200 bushels of peas at 2s. 6d. per bushel, all of which amounts to 500 pounds sterling. The draft was assigned at London, May 21, 1662, to Philip Best and Edward Paule, aboard the John and Robert of London, was accepted by Treasurer Talcott November 14, 1662, and a receipt in full acknowledged by Best and Paule December 1, 1662. (See Conn. His. Soc. Col. 1, 52-55. Mass. His. Soc. Proc., 1869-70, 344.)

As one reads of the achievements of Winthrop, he is filled with admiration of his Christian character, remarkable ability and sincerity of purpose. The superb nobleness of the man, his extraordinary learning and

culture, coupled with his high resolution and dauntless conquest of difficulties, made not only a strong impress upon the people of his day, but also throughout succeeding generations.



The Winthrop Trust Company

will be opened for business in temporary quarters in the *Plant Building, 310 State Street, New London, Connecticut*, on March first, nineteen hundred twenty-two, being the two hundred seventy-sixth year after the founding of New London by JOHN WINTHROP *the Younger*.

Complete banking service is offered through the following departments:

COMMERCIAL · TRUST · INVESTMENT · INTEREST
REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE · FOREIGN EXCHANGE
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Please call upon us and give us an opportunity to serve you in matters financial, in the same broadminded manner as is credited to the Founder of New London whose name we have taken for our progressive bank.

P. LeRoy Harwood, *President*

Ernest E. Rogers, *Vice-President*

Frank C. Cutler, *Treasurer*

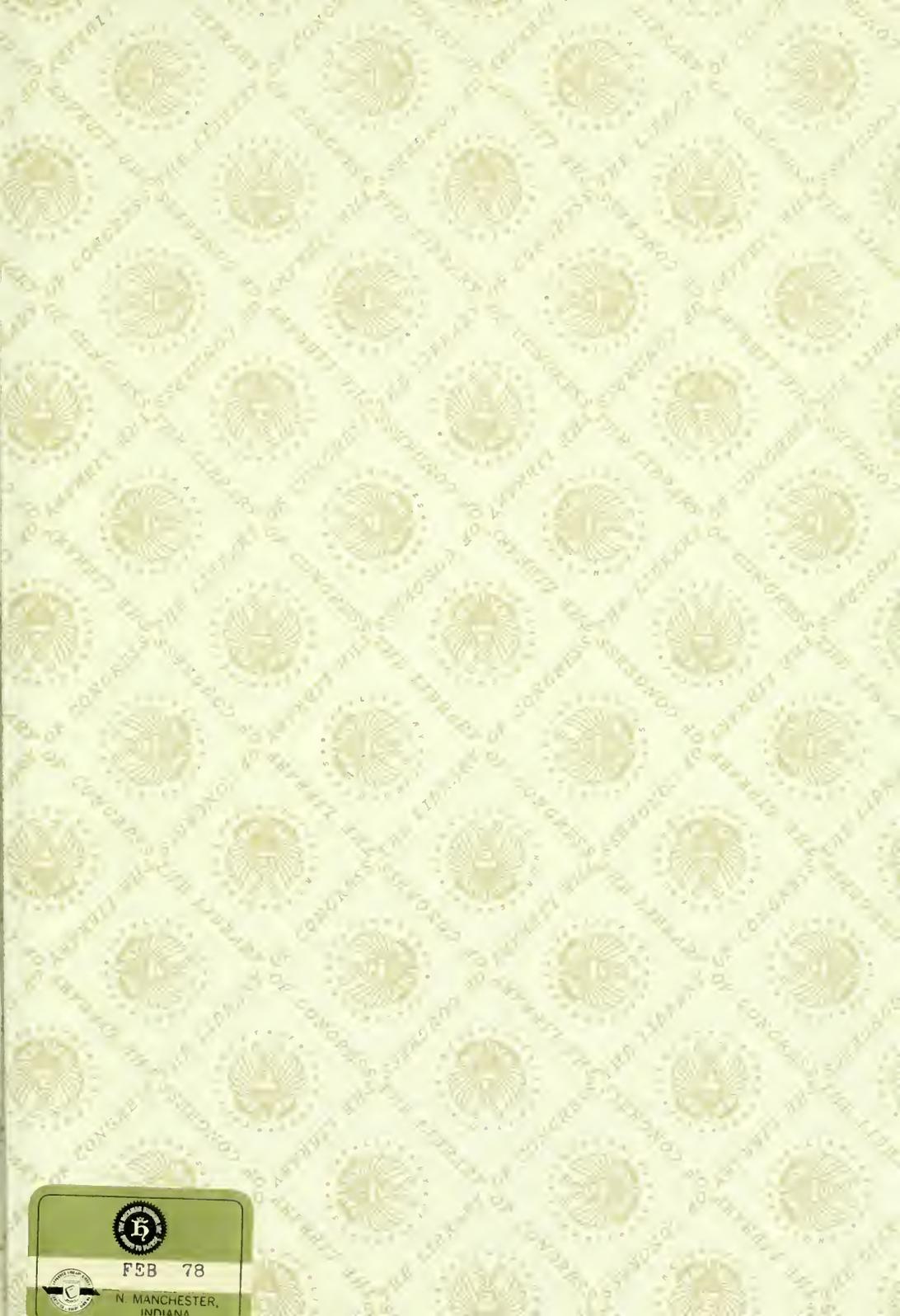
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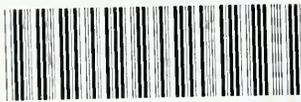


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