

100th ANNIVERSARY



of the unveiling of the
STATUE OF JOHN WINTHROP,
THE YOUNGER

New London, Connecticut

May 6, 2005



John Winthrop, the Younger, founded New London on May 6, 1646. On May 6, 1905, the statue of Mr. Winthrop which stands before you was unveiled during an all day celebration of parades and ceremonies. Today, one hundred years later, on May 6, 2005, we gather at his statue to again honor John Winthrop, the Younger.

Program

New London Firefighters Pipes & Drums

**New London High School Junior ROTC
Color Guard**

Pledge of Allegiance

Star-Spangled Banner

Music by J. Smith, Arranged by J. Stamp
N.L.H.S. Band, Scott Morgan, Director

Proclamation

Andrea Stillman, State Senator, 20th District

Honored Guests

America the Beautiful

Regional Multicultural Magnet School Chorus
Kevin Salley, Director

The Travels of John Winthrop, the Younger

Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School Quest Students
Bruce Cusson, Teacher

John Winthrop's Song

Written and directed by Carol Glynn
Jennings School Third Graders
Mike Podeszwa, Pam Wolejko,
Pat Passaro, Emily Collins, Teachers

Thoughts about John Winthrop, Jr.

Second/Third Grade Students
Regional Multicultural Magnet School
Candy Bartsch, Lucy Regan, Teachers

Boulder and Bronze & Original Poems

Winthrop School Third Graders
Michele Shannon, Haydee Ayala, Teachers

The Story of the Rock

Play by Tita Williams
Edgerton School Third Graders
Margaret Lewis, Michele Pittelli, Brian Smith, Teachers

Who Was Bela L. Pratt?

Winthrop School Fifth Graders
Cassandra Wolf, Iccius Harley
Diane Gigliotti, Teacher

You're a Grand Old Flag

By George M. Cohan
Arranged by Scott Morgan
N.L.H.S. Band, Scott Morgan, Director

Lucretia Shaw Chapter, D.A.R.

Alice Dickenson

Who Was John Winthrop, the Younger?

Walter Woodward, State Historian

America the Beautiful

Music by S. Ward, Arranged by M. Brown
N.L.H.S. Band, Scott Morgan, Director

John Winthrop, Jr.

by Carol Glynn and the
Third Grade Students of Jennings School

Doctor, lawyer, scientist and diplomat,
To this man we must tip our hats
Founded New London, imagine that!

John Winthrop, Jr.
Led Connecticut at the start,
Worked so hard that for our dear state, you could
say he gave his heart.

John Winthrop, he was truly charming
His good deeds almost alarming...and
How it shows! Connecticut knows!

As Governor for more than 18 years,
He helped wipe away most of those tears
Settle our fears.

He sailed to see the English king,
Traded a gold ring
As a barter,
To gain our charter
The one that later hid inside a tree
With rights for you and me.

John Winthrop, he was truly charming
His good deeds almost alarming...and
How it shows! Connecticut knows!

Boulder and Bronze

from the 1905 program

Boulder and Bronze! Your day of jubilee
Has proudly dawned. Our city by the sea
Bids ye, in art's symbolic tongue, proclaim
In what regard she holds her Winthrop's name—
Ye are her witness to posterity.

Poised on the ancient rock shall children see
A noble form; and say that destiny
Is made by character. Warn from all shame,
Boulder and Bronze!

As falls your veil away, may evils flee;
Till civic righteousness makes all men free,
In that high liberty which fears no blame
Of law, because with love of law aflame.
Draw from the Past and teach Futurity,
Boulder and Bronze!

Emilie H. Darrow

You're a Grand Old Flag

by George M. Cohan in 1905

arranged by Scott Morgan

You're a grand old flag,
You're a high flying flag
And forever in peace may you wave.
You're the emblem of
The land I love.
The home of the free and the brave.
Ev'ry heart beats true
'neath the Red, White and Blue,
Where there's never a boast or brag.
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
Keep your eye on the grand old flag.

You're a grand old flag,
You're a high flying flag
And forever in peace may you wave.
You're the emblem of
The land I love.
The home of the free and the brave.
Ev'ry heart beats true
'neath the Red, White and Blue,
Where there's never a boast or brag.
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
Keep your eye on the grand old flag.

John Winthrop, the Younger

from the 1905 program

In the spring of 1646, John Winthrop, the Younger, under the auspices of Massachusetts began a settlement near Pequot Harbor. Mr. Winthrop removed his family from Boston in the fall of 1646. They spent the winter upon Fisher's Island but in the spring, settled on the mainland. This was the beginning of the City of New London. It was first suggested that the place be called "Fair Harbor;" but the settlers finally decided upon the name of New London. The Pequot River was thereafter known as the Thames.

A comfortable home was built by Winthrop and, in close proximity to it, was erected in 1650, the old town mill. The mill still stands, a landmark by which the visitor may locate the general situation of the estate of New London's first early founder.

John Winthrop was obliged to remove to Hartford upon his election as Governor, in 1657. He became so necessary to the people in that capacity that they changed the provision in their constitution forbidding the immediate reelection of a Governor, and for eighteen years he was re-elected annually until his death in 1676.

His greatest service was performed in 1661, when, as the representative of the colonists, he visited England and secured from Charles II a charter which united Connecticut and New Haven into one colony and defined its rights and relations to the crown of England. The statue unveiled today shows this charter in Winthrop's hands. It is the remarkable document of which the historian Bancroft has said, "In regard to powers of government, it was extraordinary. It conferred on the colonists unqualified powers to govern themselves.* * * The King, far from reserving a negative in the acts of the colony, did not even require that the laws should be transmitted for his inspection; and no provision was made for the interference of the English Government in any event whatever. Connecticut was independent except in name."

Without detracting in the least from the character and service of his distinguished father, the early Governor of Massachusetts, the younger Winthrop does not stand in the shadow of his honored sire when measured by every standard of true greatness.

History of the Statue

from the 1905 program

The first decisive step towards erecting in this city a statue to its founder was publicly taken at the annual meeting of the New London County Historical Society, September 2, 1895, when the motion was made that the Society take "initiatory and active steps" towards the placing of a statue of Governor Winthrop, and that the "corner stone be laid not later than May 6, 1896." The time was favorable for the suggestion as the date mentioned marked the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the town, and public sentiment was in favor of celebrating the event with proper ceremonies.

In due time the recommendation of the Historical Society reached a committee having in charge the Anniversary Celebration. It was decided that the laying of a corner stone for a statue to Winthrop should be made a part of the celebration. Several sites were considered, but the choice fell to Bulkeley Square. It is a site historically associated with Winthrop, as it marks the spot where was located the old First Meeting House where he worshipped. In near proximity is the First Burial Ground where rest the remains of his neighbors and friends. So on this well chosen site, the corner stone was laid with Masonic ceremonies on May 6, 1896.

Early in the year 1901, interest was again revived in the statue by the action of the New London County Historical Society in presenting to the Legislature a petition for a suitable memorial to Governor Winthrop.

Heartily and earnestly the citizens of New London and their representatives at Hartford entered into the move-

ment. In the list of local organizations sending representatives to appear before the Appropriations Committee were the New London County Historical Society, Nathan Hale Branch, S.A.R., Winthrop Club, St. John's Literary Association, Saltonstall Club. In the minds of those whose fortune it was to attend the hearing, will long remain the memory of the masterly and eloquent plea for the statue by the late Hon. Robert Coit.

The results of these endeavors were not wholly successful nor yet an entire failure. In reporting upon the matter, the Committee on Appropriations for 1901 recommended that it be referred to the Legislature to meet two years later.

The meeting of the next Legislature in 1903 soon found the two representatives from New London actively engaged in the interests of the statue of Winthrop, and through their adroit handling of the matter an act was passed, creating a commission and providing funds for the statue.

The first section of the act is as follows:

Resolved by this Assembly:

SECTION 1. That the Governor shall appoint three commissioners to procure and cause to be placed on a suitable pedestal in the town of New London, to be provided for by or through the New London County Historical Society, a suitable bronze statue of John Winthrop, Governor of the Colony of Connecticut from 1657 to 1676.

In the sections following the expenditure was limited to \$10,000, and directions given as to its disposal. The commissioners appointed by Governor Chamberlain were: Hon. Robert Coit, Ex-Governor George P. McLean, and Col. N. G. Osborn. Mr. Ernest E. Rogers, President of the New London County Historical Society, was chosen to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Hon. Robert Coit.

The Boulder

from the 1905 program

As no expression of art met Winthrop here, other than nature's own handiwork, so it was decided that no pedestal could be more fitting for his statue than the one of nature's own boulders.

But where was the boulder of the right size and shape to be found? Search began months ago and many boulders were visited and considered. One was found, which though not entirely satisfactory, the sculptor thought might do, and further search was about to be abandoned when one more boulder, and one designed from time primeval for this particular purpose was discovered. Its shape was symmetrical and nature had so carved it and at such proper angles that the sculptor at once saw that no hammer need touch it.

The boulder was found on the farm of Mr. John T. ~~Hicks~~, on the Waterford side of Alewife Cove, about four ~~miles~~ from the site of the statue. Mr. Hicks generously donated it as his contribution towards the monument. To move a boulder of the cubic dimensions of 6x6x7 feet, and weighing twenty tons a distance of four mile, was a task of some difficulty. Money was generously contributed to meet the expense. The boulder was started on a platform moved on round rollers. It was soon found more expeditious to raise it on a flat car which was rolled over two sections of steel rails spiked to ties—the rear section being drawn to the front as soon as the car had passed over it. Later, when the boulder reached the route of the regular trolley line, it was switched onto the trolley track and taken in one night to within a single block of its present location.

The Sculptor and His Work

from the 1905 program

Bela L. Pratt was born in Norwich, Connecticut, December 11, 1867. While he was a child he began his artistic studies by drawing and modeling at home. At the age of sixteen he entered the Yale School of Fine Arts, where he studies under Professors Niemeyer and Weir. In 1887 he entered the Art Students' League of New York, where his teachers were Augustus St. Gaudens, F. Edwin Elwell, William M. Chase and Kenyon Cox. During the three years he passed in this school he also had the opportunity of working for Mr. St. Gaudens in his studio. In 1899 he went to Paris and continued his studies under Chapu and Falguière. He entered the Ecole Nationale des Beaux Arts at the head of the class the same year. While in Paris he received three medals and two prizes. He returned to the United States in 1892; was appointed instructor in modeling in the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in 1893, and he still occupies that position.

Mr. Pratt's professional success has been achieved through a long list of works of exceptional merit. His genius was employed in the adornment of the World's Columbian Exposition, at Chicago, in 1893, and again in furnishing groupings for the Pan-American Exposition. He produced the medal, presented by the Alumni of Harvard University to President Eliot—one of the best counterfeit presentments of this great man ever made. Some years later his design was the one accepted for the Yale bi-centennial medal in bronze. His contributions to the navy have consisted of the bronze Victory for the U.S. Battleship Massachusetts, a bronze group for U.S. Battleship Kearsarge, and a decorative tablet for the Alabama. In the elaboration of the great building of the Library of Congress at Washington, his time and skill were for a long space employed on important commissions.

Since to high professional reputation, there was added the special interest that Mr. Pratt would naturally take in a work intimately connected with the vicinity of his own birthplace, it seemed appropriate and wise to commission him with the task of designing and creating in bronze the statue of this city's founder. How generous has been his interest in the enterprise is witnessed by the tablet on the side of the boulder, which is the personal gift of the sculptor.

Patrons

The Planning Committee is sincerely grateful to the following individuals and businesses for their financial support. Without their generous donations, this 100th Anniversary Celebration of the unveiling of John Winthrop, the Younger's statue could not have taken place.

Accents on Photography
Carolyn Atherton
Barun Basu
Sandra & Lloyd Beachy
Nathan & Patricia Belcher
Gilbert & Maryellen Bowman
Kevin & Deirdre Cavanagh
Kathryn & David Collins
David Condon
Lucretia Shaw Chapter D.A.R.
Dutch's Tavern
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Post Hill Neighborhood Association
Nathan Hale Branch S.A.R.
Charlotte Schroeder
Father Charles Simones & St. Sophia Hellenic Orthodox Church
Waterhouse Salon
Walt & Tita Williams

Planning Committee

The 100th Anniversary Celebration of the unveiling of the statue of John Winthrop, the Younger, was truly a community effort. Heartfelt thanks go to the following individuals and organizations for their efforts to make this day a success.

Tita Williams, Chairman

New London Landmarks

New London Beautification Committee

New London County Historical Society

Jennings School

Carol Glynn Productions

Winthrop School

Edgerton School

Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School

New London High School

Daughters of the American Revolution,
Lucretia Shaw Branch

Sons of the American Revolution,
Nathan Hale Branch

New London Firefighters Bagpipe Band

Post Hill Neighborhood Association

Laurie Wilson Thomas

Sally Ryan,
Municipal Historian



UNVEILING OF STATUE
of
JOHN WINTHROP, THE YOUNGER

May 6, 1905