Another busy season at the Historic Winslow House ended in October. Not only did we host four coffee series lectures, we also saw two “Evening With...” conversations. Finding diverse and interesting speakers is always a challenge, but we manage to put together a winning program year after year. The 2003 program promises to be just as exciting for us.

Additionally, our children’s workshops gained in popularity, with more children and young parents participating in a range of fun and historically informative programs.

One thing we advocate at the Winslow House is that something new should be learned with every visit. In my case, I picked up my copy of Edward Winslow’s “The Good News from New England,” (continued on page 2)
A president’s final message
(continued from page 1)
and discovered a host of interesting tidbits that helped me gain a unique perspective on what it meant to live and survive in a sometimes hostile alien environment. Highly recommended, it is available from Applewood Books in Bedford, Massachusetts.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find a call for volunteers. Pitch in to help keep our House operating! You can also help sponsor a particular event or program. There are plenty of ways to help us prosper and grow.

By now, you have received my letter asking for help building our endowment. This is critically important to our future at the Historic Winslow House. We cannot operate in the manner befitting a mansion of our historical stature without it. If you can’t give us your time, please consider a gift for this critical fund.

This is my last message to you as president of the Historic Winslow House Association. Holding this position for two years has been a privilege, and I relinquish it reluctantly. Cynthia Krusell takes my place as of January 1, 2003. Cynthia, whom most of you know well, is more than qualified to steer the House past the shoals of modern times, so to speak. Please welcome and assist her.

A biographical sketch:
Winslow father and son
by Cynthia Krusell

Did you know that Isaac Winslow, builder of the Historic Winslow House, was born in 1671 in Marshfield and died here in 1738? He served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives 1701–1702, was on the Massachusetts Council 1703–1724 and 1226–1736, was a Plymouth County Court of Common Pleas Judge 1712–1729, and became Chief Justice in 1729, serving until his death.

Isaac married Sarah Wensley in 1700 and had seven children. He was an important officeholder as well as a farmer, “in every way a gentleman, easy of access, facetious, generous, of good natural powers, and universally beloved ... tall and gross.”

His son, General John Winslow, was born in 1703 in Marshfield, living until 1774, just prior to the start of the American Revolutionary War. John also served in the state’s House of Representatives almost continuously between 1739 and 1765, was elected a Marshfield selectman in 1739 and held the position again 1752–1754, frequently acting as town moderator as well through 1770. A career in the military earned him the rank of colonel in 1753 and brigadier general in 1756.

Continuing to follow in his
(continued on page 7)
Remembering the “Toy Maker”

by Jonathan Ralton
Editor

We regretfully report that Aaron Loomis, a longtime volunteer at the House, passed away this summer.

Aaron was born in Boston in 1913, and after moving to Needham at an early age, graduated from Needham High School in 1931. A year later, he graduated Roxbury Latin School and went on to graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1934.

House volunteer Natalie Loomis was Natalie High when she and Aaron married in 1938. In 1969, she and her husband moved to Marshfield with their four children: Warren, Barbara, Betsey, and Tally, building a home overlooking the South River. Both of their families had summered in Marshfield during the 1930s and 40s, and this is how they met.

Aaron had been working as an engineer at Simplex Wire and Cable Company since he graduated, and would continue to work there for almost 40 years. However, his work at home is what brought him local fame. All his life, Aaron loved working with wood and always kept a workshop in his basement. His children were born during World War II when very few toys were available, so he made them himself. When he retired, it was only natural that Aaron turned to his love of woodworking. He started ANAHLCO, a toy business, and became known as “The Toy Maker of Marshfield.”

He sold his toys in about 50 stores across New England. His greatest joy, besides keeping his own and his neighbors’ families supplied with wonderful toys, was donating them to libraries, hospitals, schools, and groups such as the Winslow House Association and the Audubon Society. Aaron always loved to have children come to his workshop and make a toy. The “Toy Table” was a popular fixture at the Daniel Webster Farm Day for many years. Natalie, a Marshfield Public Schools first grade teacher, would often have Aaron visit her class and make toys with the children.

Aaron was a very active member of his community. He was one of the founding members of the North and South River Watershed Association, and a frequent volunteer at the Winslow House. We thank him for his enduring support and extend our condolences to his family and friends.

Natalie Loomis contributed to this article.

Another piece of the past

The Historic Winslow House is one of many well-preserved historic residences open to the public on the South Shore. Our association frequently joins with other organizations that care for these homes in developing programs and sharing knowledge.

In addition to a tour of Marshfield’s famous 1699 Careswell mansion, this combination ticket shown here from the mid-1900s also admits the bearer to two other homes of well-known colonial families, the 1653 John Alden House in Duxbury and the 1674 John Bradford House in Kingston. Although admission prices have increased above the face value of this old ticket, the Historic Winslow House still often partners with our friends in Duxbury for joint tours and educational events. Keep an eye on future Calendar of Events for these special offerings!
First search for tunnel fails, but yields

(continued from page 1) Sensing survey were not conclusive, however. While the electric line on the Careswell Street side of the House showed up as a dark trench, no other obvious trenches or tunnels appeared. The final report will suggest places to dig in the future.

In the meantime, Kat, myself, archaeology students, and Historic Winslow House volunteers (including Susan Ramsdell, Noreen Wenger, and Cathy Whalen, among others) started digging test pits across the site. We dug through the root zone through the dark soil, down to the sterile glacial sandy soil, at least 20 inches deep. All of the soil was sifted through a quarter-inch screen to find even the smallest artifacts (this was not as easy as it sounds, considering all the rain we had during the month of September.)

Resident Director Regina Porter helped dig. Her first find was an early plastic Dairy Queen spoon! Other finds included window glass and nails from the building itself, as well as ceramics from the early 1700s through the mid-1800s, animal bones, clam shells, and even buttons and shoe buckles. It was exciting to uncover a piece of plate that might have been used by General John Winslow himself!

*Looking for the Tunnel*

Between test pits, Kat set up trenches outside of the two areas of the cellar that had been patched. The even repair line on the east side of the cellar suggested an old entrance, possibly to a tunnel. When the volunteers excavated the 20-inch by six-foot trench, they found a rock fall from the foundation. Expanding the trench further a couple of feet, however, proved more interesting. The rock fall resolved into two parallel walls. What was it? The entrance of a tunnel, or something else?

By the end of the dig, it became apparent that the east entrance was probably not a tunnel. The two parallel stone footings stopped about two meters from the foundation.
valuable evidence hidden from view

The footings were 50 inches apart—the same distance as the existing bulkhead walls on the opposite side of the House. We theorize that the patch on the east wall of the cellar was once the opening to an old bulkhead. Finds from the trench dug outside the wall suggest that it was filled in during the second half of the 19th century—about the same time a Victorian porch was added to the House’s facade. The old bulkhead was possibly removed to make room for this porch.

Future Plans

While the 2002 excavation did not find the tunnel, the final report on the remote sensing may suggest places to dig in the future. The dig, however, did uncover all sorts of other historical evidence. The tiny fragments that are now being washed and processed by experts at Plimoth Plantation represent nearly 200 years of occupation by the Winslow family and their successors. A small exhibition of finds from the excavation could be seen on display at the Marshfield Town Hall through November 2002. Look for more on the artifacts from the dig in future issues of this newsletter.

The three tunnel theories—tradition or truth?

There are three theories as to the location of a tunnel at the Isaac Winslow House. One story claims that it ran from the rear north corner of the house to the swamp area just behind where the Ford house is now located, an area that would have been tidal at the time the Winslow family lived in the House. Another theory claims a tunnel ran from the front of the House easterly toward the foot of Gotham’s Hill where another Winslow family residence once stood. The final theory describes a tunnel running from the House to the edge of the Duxbury marsh near the site of the original Edward Winslow house. This site has been excavated twice.
**Gifts to the Winslow House**

_by Joan Scolponeti  
Secretary_

The Historic Winslow House Association has been the fortunate recipient of gifts given in memory of friends who maintained strong relationships with the House:

- Edith Hagar
- Aaron Loomis
- Helen Peterson
- Gerald Shepherd
- Charles “Chuck” Taylor
- Bill and Beverley Thomas
- Eva and John Winslow
- Marguerite Winslow

An additional gift came from Shirley and Bert O’Donnell who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the House this year. They asked their friends to make a donation to the House in lieu of giving them personal gifts. Shirley and Bert have been long-time supporters and volunteers at the House. Many will recall that for over thirty years, Shirley was the overseer of the kitchen as the food for the turkey dinners was prepared and served by an army of volunteers, all under her able direction.

The gifts in memory of Bill and Beverley Thomas, late resident directors of the House, were earmarked for assisting in the establishment of the Thomas Memorial Farm Museum, their much talked about dream. The museum is currently being planned by the Board of Governors and will become a permanent addition to the House tour when complete, thanks to these funds.

To date, these gifts have totaled $5,725.00 and have been gratefully received by the Association for the continuing upkeep of the House.

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**The flowering touch**

_by Phyllis Burns  
Volunteer_

Flowers have always played a silent but important part of the Historic Winslow House interpretation. Plants and people go together. The Pilgrims could not have survived without their plants for healing, cooking, and household uses.

Even though our 21st century lives don’t necessitate the growing of herbs, an appreciation of the quality of life that flowers and plants gave our forebears is reflected in the flowers that a visitor to the House sees today. The use of wildflowers, herbs, and garden flowers in small or mass arrangements reflect days gone by and add to a visitor’s overall experience of the House.

The Association would like thank the following people who have shared their time, plant materials, expertise, and creativity to bring the House alive with fabulous flower arrangements: Ann McAleer, Nancy Karpovich, Regina Porter, Nancy Patterson, Beverly Rinehart, Barbara Moriarty, Paula Buckley, Anne Zulak, Karen Baker, Pat Kelso, Beryl Jackson, Polly Washa, Lynda Leonhard, Nancy Pappas, Ginny Glickman, Carol Kuburis, and Phyllis Burns. Special thanks to Pat Kelso for her generosity in sharing her skills and plant materials for the Candlelight Tour and the Turkey Dinner, and to the Seaside Gardeners who continue to care for the herb garden and support the flower arranging activities during the tour season. Half of our flower arrangers are active members of the Seaside Gardeners!

If you have plant materials from your garden you’d like to share during the summer months, or wish to get involved and share your talents, please contact Phyllis Burns at (781) 834-6259.
From the Hearth

by Regina Porter
Resident Director

The kitchens in the 18th century were a bevy of activity. The fire would be started early in the morning by carefully removing the top layer of fire ash and uncovering hot embers buried from the night before, then with small bits of tender wood get a small flame going, adding larger pieces of wood until it was a good blaze. The trammels which hang in the hearth would hold pots for boiling water and facilitate the sort of cooking one might do today on top of the stove.

The hot bed of coals would take hours to build up so that one might grill or roast fish, flesh, or fowl. The main meal of the day—dinner—would be served about two o’clock in the afternoon. An autumn menu might include:

**First Course**
- Roasted duck with an egg sauce
- Apple pudding
- Furmenty (wheat boiled with sugar and spices with fresh cream)

**Second Course**
- Buttered parsnips
- Rice Blancmange
- Grilled beefsteaks

Recipes for each of the second course dishes follow...

**Buttered Parsnips**
“Scrape or peel the parsnips, and boil them in hot water till they are quite tender, then drain off all of the water, add a bit of butter, some chopped parsley, pepper, salt, shake them together on the fire until all is well mixed.”

*Source: A Plain Cookery Book for the Working Class, Charles Elmé Francatelli*

**Rice Blancmange**
“Simmer a tea-cupful of whole rice in the least water possible, till it almost bursts, then add half pint of good milk or thin cream, and boil it till it is quite a mash, stirring it the whole time it is on the fire, that it may not burn. Dip a mould tin in cold water, and pour the hot rice in and let it stand till cold, when it comes easily out.”

*Source: Early American Cookery: The Good Housekeeper, 1841, Sarah Josepha Hale*

**Grilled Beefsteaks**
“When you happen to have a clear fire, the steaks may be cooked on a gridiron over the fire; the steaks must be turned on the gridiron every two or three minutes. This precaution assists very much in rendering the meat more palatable and tender, as it is by this frequent turning over of the meat while broiling, that the juices are not allowed to run off in waste, but are reabsorbed by the meat. When the steaks are cooked, rub them with a bit of butter, season with pepper and salt. A little chopped shallot, sprinkled over the steaks, imparts an extra relish.”

*Source: A Plain Cookery Book for the Working Class, Charles Elmé Francatelli*
General Information

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Guided Tours

June 16–October 27, 2002
Wednesday–Sunday 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Free (Members); $5/adult, $3/senior, $1/child (Non-Members)
Guided tours last approximately one hour. Inquire with the Resident Director to arrange special appointments, group tours, and group rates.

Rentals

During the season, the Winslow House’s Barn Room, Tea Room, and grounds are available for weddings, receptions, rehearsal dinners, parties, showers, and business meetings. Our extensive kitchen facilities, historic setting, and ample parking make the House an ideal location for your function. Please direct inquiries to the Resident Director.

Gift Shop

Visit our gift shop to find books, colonial childrens toys, notepaper, mugs, pins, and other items related to the House, Daniel Webster, and the Town of Marshfield.

Directions

From Route 3 North or South, take Exit 11 onto Route 14 East. After the Police Station, bear left at the fork onto Route 139 East. Continue through the intersection of Route 3A. The House is 1.4 miles on the left at the intersection of Webster and Careswell Streets.