

John Winthrop the Younger

Source: Biographical sketch of Winthrop at State Library Web site



John Winthrop—12 Feb 1606 to 5 Apr 1676, generally known as *John Winthrop the Younger*, was governor of Connecticut.

He was born in Groton, England, as the son of John and Mary Forth Winthrop, the founding governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He was educated at the Bury St. Edmunds grammar school and at Trinity College, Dublin, studied law for a short time after 1624 at the Inner Temple, London, accompanied the ill-fated expedition of the Duke of Buckingham for the relief of the Protestants of La Rochelle, and the traveled in Italy and the Levant, returning to England in 1629.

In 1631 he followed his father to Massachusetts, and was one of the assistants in 1635, 1640 and 1641, and from 1644 to 1649. He was the chief founder of Agawam (now Ipswich, Massachusetts) in 1633, went to England in 1634, and in the following year returned as governor, for one year, of Connecticut, under the Saye and Sele patent, sending out the party which built the fort at Saybrook, at the mouth of the Connecticut river. He the lved for a time in Massachusetts, where he devoted himself to the study of science and attempted to interest the settlers in the development of the colony's mineral resources.

He was again in England in 1641-1643, and on his return established iron-works at Lynn and Braintree, Massachusetts. In 1645 he obtained a title to lands in southeastern Connecticut, and founded there in 1646 what is now New London. In 1651 he became one of the magistrates of Connecticut, in 1657-1658 was governor of the colony, and in 1659 again became governor, being annually re-elected until his death. In 1662 he obtained in England the charter by which the colonies of Connecticut and New Haven were united. Besides being governor of Connecticut, he was also in 1675 one of the commissioners of the

United Colonies of New England. While in England he was elected to membership in the newly organized Royal Society, to whose Philosophical Transactions he contributed two papers, "Some Natural Curiosities from New England," and "Description, Culture and Use of Maize." He died on 5 April 1676 in Boston, where he had gone to attend a meeting of the Commissioners of the United Colonies of New England

A great-grand-daughter, Rebecca Withrop (1712-1776) married Gudron Saltonstall, Jr, (1708-1785) son of Gordon Saltonstall (1666-1724) of the Massachusetts Nathaniel Saltonstall family. Gudron and Rebecca were the parents of Dudley Saltonstall (1738-1796).