

WINSLOW “FAMILY MEMORIAL”: DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

The Winslow “Family Memorial” was written by Isaac Winslow (1774-1856) from about 1837 (volumes I through most of III) and continued after his death by his daughter Margaret Catherine Winslow (1816-90), who worked on it until about 1873 (part of volume III through volume V).

“Isaac” in this description always refers to the first writer, and “Margaret” always to his daughter. The person typically identified in Isaac’s portion as Isaac’s brother Tom, for example, will in Margaret’s portion be most often identified as Margaret’s Uncle Tom.

The page references that follow refer to page numbers of the original manuscript. References include the volume number in Roman numerals. Where Isaac has paged his numbers in Roman numerals, they will be given as he gives them. Where he has used both Roman and Arabic, only Arabic will be given.

VOLUME THREE

Chapter Twenty (Volume Three, Chapter One) (Ms. III: 1-35) describes Isaac’s family’s situation upon his return. It is expensive to support them. His grandfather William Davis and cousin are ruined by the capture by the French of an uninsured vessel they owned. Political unrest in 1795. Visits by relations. Letters from grandfather Davis to his son while Isaac is away and much wanted at home: discusses the sharp increase in rents. After Isaac’s return, he anticipates a second Mediterranean voyage. His reasons for undertaking a second voyage. Isaac’s rising position in society is occasioned by his success in business and his now being more conversant with trade between the U. S. and Italy than any other Boston merchant. He embarks with his brother Tom. *The Five Friends* starts leaking again. They put into Portland for repairs and discover their problem is a badly caulked garboard strake. A distressed letter from his mother urging him not to undertake the voyage. A pleasant passage. They fall in with the *Betsy* of Boston, captive prize to a Tunisian Corsair (said to be a Scottish *renegado*). Quarantine at Alicante. Setting sail for Naples, unaware that they were vulnerable to being seized by Algerians, who were now at war with Denmark. Isaac disappointed by the view in the Bay of Naples of Vesuvius. More quarantine. His Captain becoming increasingly ill-tempered and abusive and the probable reasons for this. Slackened demand for trade in Naples. Taking a house in Naples and housekeeping concerns: the cook and servants. Hairdressing by the Prince of Naples’ barber. The contrast between European servants and those in England in America. The daily habits of Neapolitan businessmen. Neapolitans and their horses and equipages. The opera. Neapolitans do not mingle with foreigners. Passing his spare time in writing letters and keeping his journal. Naples is as interesting a city from the point of view of ancient history as any place except perhaps Rome

and Jerusalem. Fears of a French invasion. An unexpected visit from an old Boston friend, Edward Rand, just released by the Tunisians, who had held him as a slave. The new arrival joins the Naples household. Politics in Rome and the French invasion prevent Isaac's hoped for visit there. Mob violence and a shameful Treaty. Attending to business and preparations for the voyage home. Charters the Swedish brig *St. Peter*. His Cargo. Passage to Alicante. Owing to fair winds following a gale that prevents their making anchor, they do not stop at Gibraltar. An uneventful further passage, except for an hour's long detention by a pirate. Captain Neillsen is overcome when Isaac is safely returned to the *St. Peter*.

Chapter Twenty-one (Volume Three, Chapter Two) (Ms. III: 36-48) describes a less emotional homecoming than the last. A letter from his mother that he had received at Naples dated September, 1796. Isaac realizes little profit from his second voyage, and he is not offered another, though that would have been tempting as he has acquired a taste for voyaging. At last he turns to the settlement of the various estates. He buys his father's distillery and compromises with the heirs of his great-uncle Isaac Winslow Sr. He discusses the usefulness to his career of having to deal with the complexities of estate law, probate, and so forth. Discusses the French ascendancy over weaker European powers and the capture of numerous American ships, which leads to stagnation in commerce. His brothers' situations. His concern for Thomas, who at the end of the year becomes supercargo on a Swedish vessel bound for Marseilles. His sister Eliza becomes one of the family. His cousin Eliza marries their cousin John Winslow, son of Edward the clergyman, which is the match Aunt Malbone (formerly Mrs. Simon Pease) had wished for her. The rage in Boston for theatricals. His mother's house and soaring rents. The yellow fever is in Boston in 1798. Deaths, including Mr. Samuel Waldo's while on business in Virginia.

Chapter Twenty-two (Volume Three, Chapter Three) (Ms. III: 49-68) begins by noting that Isaac has omitted in the last chapter to notice the death from yellow fever of Bartholomew Rand, who might have been a suitable marriage partner for Isaac's first wife. The state of business necessitates Isaac's entering business on his own account. Discusses the problem of American vessels being seized abroad and the loss of a vessel on which a Mr Gardner was supercargo (and never heard from again). France's role in impeding business. His brother Thomas again. Their mother's declining health. Trips to Virginia, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. The family's move to a house in Hawkins Street. A turnaround in Isaac's business success. Aunt Patty's providential increase in income aids the family. Discusses the state of her mind, habits, and manners. Business and social relations. The tragic murder of Captain Chipman in Haiti. Isaac's standing in Boston society. His religious reflections and considerations. Death of his cousin Eliza in North Carolina. His mother's relapse and unexpected death. His engagement to Margaret Blanchard. Reflections on Autobiography. His feelings on the death of his mother and about marriage. His mother had wanted him to marry Sukey Sparhawk, and he has second thoughts about his engagement. Discusses the danger of his love of distinction in the world. Further religious considerations. The Sandemanian ultra-Calvinist tenets on society, marriage, and children.

Chapter Twenty-three (Volume Three, Chapter Four) (Ms. III: 69-80) begins with Isaac's thoughts and considerations on marriage. His concern that husbands and wives be religiously compatible. Marriage changes the whole course of a man's life. He finds himself in a dilemma: he is engaged to Miss Blanchard, a woman brought up in the world, but his

mother and his own conscience incline to Miss Sparhawk, brought up in the same religion as he. And the demands of a contract already entered into are as peremptory as those of religious conscience. Discusses his earlier attachment to Catherine Blanchard, Margaret's sister (and meanwhile herself married to John Houston), which is also a complicating circumstance. The sacredness of the marriage contract and the happiness of all the several persons involved leads to his decision, of which he has never repented. Nothing could have proven more amiable than Margaret's religious conduct. Isaac arranges voyages for his brothers John and Tom

[CONTINUATION HERE OF THE MEMORIAL BY ISAAC'S DAUGHTER, MARGARET CATHERINE WINSLOW, AFTER HIS DEATH IN 1856]

Margaret's Aunt Catherine's marriage to Mr John Houston of Tobago and how this came about. Their spending the warm season in Nahant. A stillborn child. The Hawking St. residence. The Houstons depart for Tobago with Margaret's Aunt Susan and Uncle Joshua Blanchard. Letters concerning his mother's death from Isaac to Mrs. Sarah Waldo and to Mrs. (Aunt) Malbone. Isaac's reflections on his mother's death, which he wrote at the time. Margaret notes his religious convictions were quite definite at an early age and offers her own reflections.

Chapter Twenty-four (Volume Three, Chapter Five) (Ms. III: 81-95) begins with letters from his brother Tom to Isaac and reveals more about Tom's character. Colonel Handfield of Dublin, brother of a suitor of Aunt Malbone and who has married a daughter of Edward the Parson, is visited by Tom. The Colonel's station and family and their cousins in North Carolina. More about Cousin Eliza and her death. Aunt Malbone's character. Her manners and feeling for society compensate for her being less handsome than her sister Mrs. Pollard. Her Episcopalianism and her worldliness. Her attachment to Margaret's grandmother Blanchard, who was unruffled by the demands of her visits and always glad to have Katy come and to have her go. Newport friends. A letter from Aunt Malbone on Margaret's grandmother Winslow's death. A tumultuous household while Isaac was away in Portland and his brother Jack is left in charge. The many commissions charged to Isaac on his trips by his relatives and friends, and his being charged with many larger tasks also that involved the business affairs of his relations. His sister Mary and his great attachment to her. She was a great favorite early in life, but without adequate early parenting. The later consequences of that lack.

Chapter Twenty-five (Volume Three, Chapter Six) (Ms. III: 96-116) discusses "Aunt Atkinson," sister to Isaac's father's first wife. She had adopted Isaac's little sister Eliza after their father's death. Eliza remembers that dismal time and the move to a wealthy, but lonely house in Portsmouth. Discusses her Sparhawk relatives and the Humphreys. The unfortunate division and disposal of Mrs. Atkinson's estate. Eliza returns to Boston to live in Isaac's family. The plan is for one sister always or generally to be with Aunt Malbone in Newport. Newport then and now (mid-1850's). Margaret's uncles: "Honest Jack," intelligent and literary, but ill-suited to business; Uncle Joshua, sedate and studious. The unfortunate consequences of the brothers' being deprived of their father so young and their mother's ill health and their being too old to accept Isaac as a surrogate parent. Their religious upbringing also narrowed the circle of their acquaintance. Uncle Benjamin was an exception in temperament, being mirthful and lighthearted, which better adapted him to society, but no

better adapted him to business than his brothers. Uncle Edward, the youngest and most difficult. Margaret's motive in writing is to tell the truth even when that is painful. The solemn lessons to be learned both from the virtues and the faults of departed ancestors.