

## WINSLOW “FAMILY MEMORIAL”: DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

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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).

Margaret divides her portion into chapters only intermittently and inconsistently. For the purposes of this description, therefore, I break her narrative into arbitrary sections of, for the most part, ten pages per section of the original ms. The numbers of these sections correspond to file numbers of digitized scans of her portion of the ms.

*“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 (Ms.). References include the volume number in Roman numerals.*

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### VOLUME FIVE

19. (Ms. V: i-iv, 1-10) [Pp. i-iv are genealogical and evidently intended as labels for four family portraits then in the family’s possession; they are not transcribed.] Extracts from Horace Greeley’s *American Conflict*, Vol. I, Ch. 9, concerning Benjamin Lundy, 1869. Mother’s Journal, 1828. Visit of Mr. Lundy to Isaac inviting a subscription to an anti-slavery paper. Discussion of the anti-slavery movement. Excitement at Harvard following the resignation of President Kirkland. Ladies from the “Fragment Society.” Mrs. McKeige visits; she is breaking up housekeeping and closing her school. More philanthropic visitors. Unhappy transformation of Boston from a Merchant city to a Manufacturing one, which led her to become “the passive tool of a Slave holding Oligarchy.” Isaac’s and Henry Lee’s opposition to this. Margaret’s mother’s cough worsens. She will board at Newton (then quite a country place) for a while for her health, accompanied by Aunt Henrietta, and Miss Thomas will head the table at home. Visit from Elizabeth Chase’s cousin, Salmon P. Chase (later member of Congress and U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice). Consul Manners gives “a ludicrous account” of a dinner given for Daniel Webster. Brother Isaac leaves for New York and Margaret’s mother goes to Newton. Her account of the place. Fellow boarders Mr. and Mrs. Standfast Smith. Visits from family members to Newton. Elliott’s Falls. A ride back to Boston with a very dull horse. Mending clothes for the weekly wash.

**20.** (Ms. V: 11-20) Sudden death of young James Perkins, husband of Eliza Callahan, while on a business trip with Uncle Benjamin. More family visitors to Newton. Sightseeing with visitors and calls to friends and relatives near Newton. A long walk and almost lost in the woods. Isaac returns from New York and a side trip to Mr. Theodore Barrell's in Saugerties, smitten with some of the young ladies there. Margaret's mother returns for a day to Boston, again mending clothes for the wash. Aunt Pickering now heading her table. Margaret pays an overnight visit to Mr. Frost at Elliott's Falls. More family visitors and then return to Boston at the end of the month's stay in Newton. A little moralizing on taking "the sweets of life immoderately." Brother Ben visits his chum Clarke "at old Dr. Freeman's" in Newton. Letters between Margaret's mother and Isaac and others while she her mother was at Newton with intimations of her mortality: "A good opportunity to leave something in writing" for her survivors. Includes a fuller account of the death of young Perkins. Margaret's mother worries about her husband's "dullness," as reported by little Meg. A long letter to Margaret from her mother, including the wish that she should make her father as happy as she can. A long letter to her son Isaac then in New York expressing anxieties on his behalf both worldly and religious.

**21.** (Ms. V: 21-30) The letter concluded. A likely match of Isaac with a Miss Masters of New York that never came off. Visit from Miss Elizabeth Breeze of Newport and sightseeing in Boston with her. Aboard the old Independence. Margaret's musical friends, including daughters of Judge Thatcher of Lubec, Maine. One of these will turn up at the close of the Civil War at an "ovation" for John Ancrum Winslow in Philadelphia where she catches up on family news from cousin Kate Winslow. Her other musical friend was a Miss Bradlee who "wandered away from our sphere," which occasions further reflections on the scattering of friends into other worlds. Much entertaining and the difficulty of this being done at this time without a cook. Harriet Sparhawk arrives from Portsmouth for a long stay. Her generous character in spite of her very small means. She once took in a poor deaf and dumb child from his dying mother and cared for him "till he also was taken from the world." A journey planned for the family to visit Samuel Sparhawk in Concord, New Hampshire, Consul Jarvis in Weathersfield, Vermont, and others. Little Meg, her parents, and Elizabeth Chase will form the party, but Aunt Pickering and brother George will accompany them as far as Lowell. A delightful canal boat ride. Margaret's vivid recollections of the scenery and fellow passengers. Country folk, their speech and manners. Isaac's pocket book has been left behind, but he is rescued by a chance encounter with Peter C. Brooks and a loan of perhaps twenty dollars (from perhaps the richest man in Boston). Intimations of the industrial future at Lowell. The sights of the town at this early stage in its history. traveling from Lowell to Groton and Keene. Bellows Falls and Weathersfield. Consul Jarvis' hospitality.

**22.** (Ms. V: 31-40) At Hanover and the (Dartmouth) Commencement there. Meeting up with Elizabeth Sparhawk and her brother Thomas (in the graduating class). A large party and some disappointing orations. Visits and sightseeing in and around Weathersfield. To Concord and Samuel Sparhawk. Sentir (Center) Harbor. Letter from Margaret to Aunt Henrietta. A trip to the top of Red Hill. Visits also with Humphreys and Starks. To Meredith and Lake Winnipiscogee (Winnepesaukee). Letter from brother Edward in Boston to Margaret with lots of home news. Her little kitten "executed" by brother Ben. Further rounds of visits. To Haverhill and back to Boston and the busy social life resumed. Brother Ben's classmate Joseph Angier, "who sings delightfully." A visit from the Duc de

Montibello, son of one of Napoleon's generals, announced by a hackman as "the Duke of Marlborough."

**23.** (Ms. V: 41-50) His visit returning the courtesy of both Isaac, who had met him at a supper following a Parade of his "Winslow Blues" at the Marlborough House. Three gentlemen wait on Isaac trying to persuade him to stand for Congress. Brother Thomas at home following a very bad injury to his knee when a truck collided with him at the wharves. Treatment and healing go on for many weeks. Another visit from Mr. Canda and his "two pretty little girls, who danced for us." Also a visit from a Mr. Bonfils who has set up a French boarding school to which Amory and Catherine Winslow were sent. Margaret attends the Candas' dancing school. Mrs. Francis, a needy Englishwoman abandoned for a period by her preacher husband. Thanksgiving, 1828. About thirty persons entertained after dinner. More about brother Thomas' suffering with his injured knee. Margaret's mother's "wearing consumption" and "hectic cheek" through all of this. Presidential and Mayoral elections, failures of many businesses. Margaret's mother's close of the year in her diary, "O may I be enabled to say – Thy will be done." 1829. Comings and goings. An ice storm's beautiful result. Death of General Jackson's wife. A large Friday evening party. Miss Alsop of Connecticut, daughter of Isaac's old friend, a rival Belle. Little M's thirteenth birthday. Timmins Pollard very ill. Death of George Hunt. Josiah Quincy accepts the presidency of Harvard.

**24.** (Ms. V: 51-60) Isaac's fifty-fifth birthday. Margaret gets a fashionable new dress. A sleighing party snowballs and the Greenliefs at Quincy surprised with eighteen unexpected guests. Isaac mortified to have put them to so much trouble. Miss Thomas' friend John Kenrick of Newton. Several fires. Isaac aides a supercargo of a small schooner who became ill and was jailed by settling his affairs. Edward Lawson and Miss Alsop come to stay and have "grand frolics." More fires believed the work of incendiaries. Edward to New York but delayed by a snow storm and the trip takes him a whole week. Effects of the storm in Boston. Inauguration of President Jackson and celebrations. Members of the family join in – their being Federalists notwithstanding. A party at Margaret Fuller's which several of the family attend. Several of the family attend (Ralph Waldo) Emerson's ordination. A large party with dancing. Miss Wilby, a neighbor around the corner in Greene Street, and the commencement of her school for girls. Timmins continues ill. Whist and "segars." Reading Bulwer's *The Disowned*. Mr. Balfour has become a Universalist. Brother Ben visits a fashionable lounging place, Alexander's painting room, and is joined by the Winslow girls, Miss Fuller and Elizabeth Randall. Margaret reflects on the futures of these women, "(What a history in all those names!) The future Portrait Painter of Celebrity [Francis Alexander], the wife of the Marquis D'Ossoli of world wide literary celebrity [Margaret Fuller], the future wife of Governor Cummings of Utah [Elizabeth Randall], and the future wife of the hero of the Kearsage [Catherine Amelia Winslow, his cousin and wife]." Brother Edward returned from Washington. He has visited Aunt Hodge in Philadelphia. A visit of some weeks from Harriet Stark. Unexpected visit from her father, the Major. Margaret Houston returns reluctantly to Exeter. Elizabeth Chase engaged to Dr. Howard. Her half-brother Samuel Waldo's last illness and death from consumption.

**25.** (Ms. V: 61-70) Melancholy news of the suicide of John Quincy Adams' son George Washington Adams and reflections about this. Local politics of the day and Isaac's opposition to "class interests and monopolies." Margaret's mother's last birthday and her

reflections in her journal on all that she has to be grateful for, her illness notwithstanding. A note and present from little Margaret move her. Margaret's present-day hopes to be reunited with her. Margaret's mother having a dress made out of silk from a dress that belonged to her grandmother. Margaret notes it was later made up for her after she was old enough for it. A visit from the Sheriff Mr. Sumner seeking information about the Pollard family for a history he is composing of Boston's first settlers. An awkward dinner at which the family meet Elizabeth Chase's fiancé. Preparations for a trip to Connecticut and New York. Margaret's mother gives an account of her trip after her return: Worcester and Northampton. Mt. Holyoke and a terrific thunderstorm. A lightning strike close by while Margaret and her mother are sitting near a window in the drawing room of their hotel vividly recalled by Margaret and prompts religious reflections in her mother: "We are safe in God's hand now, as at all times; but this is a solemn manifestation of His power – Sit down with me and listen to His voice in the thunder." Round Hill Academy. The Springfield Armory. Meeting Edward D. Winslow at Washington (Trinity) College, Hartford. The Asylum for deaf-mutes at Hartford. Julia Brace (and Laura Bridgman). Middletown and a two days' visit with the Alsops. New Haven and lodgings there secured by Mrs. McKeige, who was boarding there. Visiting the College (Yale). To New York by steamboat. Sightseeing. Various New York City friends. Seasick on the voyage to Providence.

**26.** (Ms. V: 71-80) Return home to find a large Friday evening party assembled. Incessant socializing recommences. Consul Jarvis. Brother Ben and his Harvard friends. Frequent changes among the servants (who are all, however, "still Americans"). Harriet Sparhawk. A rainy and cold Fourth of July with a fireside party at home. "A curious supper party at home, illustrating the 'picking up' habits of the family. Her mother makes ten "calls" of a morning: "a pretty good batch of calls for an invalid to make in one morning!" Almost all the Pickering and Winslows to an annual fruit and bowling party at Dorchester. Brother Ben does not wish to take part in his upcoming Commencement exercises, not having enough confidence to speak in public. His future profession still undecided. A final "spree" in his rooms at Harvard. A bad time to be going into business. Many firms failing. Mr. and Mrs. Masters from New York will visit. Isaac laid up with a bad back. Their recent visitor Judge Wilde and great friend of Uncle Benjamin Winslow loses his son-in-law, recently disappointed in business, to suicide and reflections on this. Flight from the family nest for good and all of brother Edward (to Roxbury). Margaret goes to a little party at Aunt Pickering's where "the much talked of Miss Randall was to make her appearance with Amory and Catherine Winslow." William Pickering flirts with her and Margaret Fuller, "pretending to be learned with the scholar and devoted to the beauty, although far from being deeply smitten with either." Isaac and others go to hear Fanny Wright "hold forth" on women's rights and other issues. Mrs. Hudgens has had a bad fall. A Navarino bonnet for little Margaret. The boys out shooting and brought home birds for a pie. Helen Pearce engaged to Dr. Ferdinand Ostrander of New York. Mr. Erving's untimely visits. He and Isaac travel to Plymouth and Isaac considers buying the Winslow House and estate at Marshfield, later bought by Daniel Webster. A digression on the old John Winslow estate near Plymouth, "Plain Dealing," and a much later visit (1868) by Margaret, brother Edward and wife, brother George's widow Ellen, who all visited Plymouth to view the site. Mr. Erving "an oddity," who liked Margaret's mother very much. Preparations for brother Ben's graduation. To Cambridge with provisions for a party in Ben's rooms.

27. (Ms. V: 81-90) Most of the family and brother Ben's friends there. A supper afterwards for 500 persons in Parkman's Buildings. The boys and Winslow girls spent the evening at Miss Fuller's. More comings and goings. The boys' military doings. A grand military review on the Common and a reception and supper for Isaac's "Winslow Blues" following on the lawn in Leverett St. The new Tremont House. Bowling in Roxbury. A short trip to Nahant. Sightseeing with some ladies visiting from New York. How Isaac and others observed the Sabbath. A cotillion in the south parlor at Leverett St. Celebrations of the Boston Horticultural Society. Margaret's mother finally meets the fascinating Miss Randall. James Clarke's sleepover. Harriet Stark calls on her way to Washington and asks "if we had any commands for the south or President Jackson whom she means to visit." News of ill health of Samuel Sparhawk.

28. (Ms. V: 91-90) Margaret's lengthy digression about Samuel Sparhawk. His differences of theological opinion with others of the Sandemanians and its heavy cost to him. His character. The "two natures of Christ." His family. Recollection of his quelling a revolt of prisoners. His business and political careers. Return to 1829. Wedding of Helen Pearce. Margaret's mother buys a small brooch for Aunt Henrietta. Margaret will eventually inherit it; its loss and miraculous recovery. Wedding of Elizabeth Chase and hints of the eventual unhappiness of the match. A very fashionable affair. Parties for the newly married pair. Young Angier to dinner and sings, accompanying himself on the piano. Dedication of the new Trinity Church. A rice pilaf. Remainder of the journal is copied from Margaret's mother's rough draft,

29. (Ms. V: 101-110) by various members of the family. Her last Thanksgiving "*on earth*." Some of the young men in fancy dress headed for a ball at Zebeda Cook's in Dorchester. Intimations of mortality and change, but many future events could hardly have been expected. Dr Tuckerman's and Uncle Blanchard's free church meetings on "the new land" near what has since been called Causeway St., where they hired a room to preach for poor people who could not afford to hire seats in Churches. The parties continue. A new family tomb at the new Trinity Church. Edward saves a boy from drowning. Isaac overlooked on return from a trip to Plymouth to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the landing at Plymouth Rock. Evolution in the practice of celebrating Christmas. Last of the Friday gatherings, and a "rout," with music and dancing. The party consisted of Amory and Catherine Winslow, two Miss Chapmans and Ellen Houston, Miss Randall, Miss Fuller, Miss Coffin and a Miss Symmes, as well as Aunt Pickering's boys, Mrs. Hudgens, Uncle Davis, Uncle Benjamin Winslow and son, young Chapman, James Clarke, Mr. Angier, and "the boys." 1830. Margaret's mother's worsening illness. Attended by Dr. Shattuck. Roast turkey for Margaret's fourteenth birthday, but postponed a day because her birthday fell on an ironing day. The logistics of cooking on an open hearth around washing and ironing days. Margaret's mother's last illness, February, 1830. Dr. Shattuck in attendance and his fondness for "old fashioned remedies of blisters and calomel." The close of her mother's journal on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Brother Isaac continues it until her death on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

30. (Ms. V: 111-120) Details of her last days. Taking leave of her children, niece Ellen Houston and others. The end. "Recollections of a Mother," Isaac's tribute to his late wife, which he copied out for each of his children and Margaret now copies "in full" [though she will in fact extract and annotate and amplify it]. Begins with Isaac's reflections. Extract from William Cowper's "Hope." Isaac's account of his motives in writing. His wife's

“Characteristics.” Her “entire and grateful dependence on God.” A digression by Margaret on her brother Henry’s illness and death and Isaac’s reflections upon it.

**31.** (Ms. V: 121-130) Henry’s sudden death was a chief cause of her constitution’s being undermined. Extracts from Margaret’s mother’s letters. Isaac details the closing scenes of her life, including extracts of accounts the children have left of their last conversations with her. Interesting conversation with her sons, including one about whom she felt religious anxieties. The end, again, and Isaac’s final thoughts.

**32.** (Ms. V: 131-140) Eliza and Margaret Houston come to spend the next few months. Visits of condolence from friends and family. The services at the funeral. A list of the interments of herself and earlier and later ones of members of the family. Lines “partly altered” by Isaac from an elegy by John Glas. A sonnet by George Lunt. Margaret’s note on the future life “as revealed by Nature.” Lines by brother Edward, “partly altered” by his father” in memory of his mother.

**33.** (Ms. V: 141-150) Letters concerning Margaret’s mother’s death. From Samuel Sparhawk. Isaac’s reply. From Thomas Masters of New York. From Harriet Sparhawk. From Uncle Edward in North Carolina. From Uncle Joshua Winslow, St. Croix. From Uncle John D. Winslow, New York, to brother George. Concluding remarks. A sketch of the decade 1830-40.

**34.** (Ms. V: 151-160) Several marriages, among which is Isaac’s marriage to Aunt Henrietta. List of the issue of these several marriages through 1872. Marriage of brother Ben to Mary Timmins Quincy Hill, 1832 and their difficult circumstances. A note on the great fire of 1872 that destroyed Trinity Church. A new hope, the birth of William Henry Winslow, 1834. Further marriages. Descendants of these marriages through 1872. Reminiscences of life in the “Ark” at Leverett St. 1830-40. Margaret’s hope for the memory of the family by future generations.

**35.** (Ms. V: 161-170) Summary and Reflections. The breaking up of the “Ark.” Mercantile and political events. Economically disastrous years, 1837-39. Lengthy account of the great meteor shower of 1833. Extracts from brother Ben on the birth of William Henry. Additional family births. A premature birth and another infant who dies soon after birth. Isaac’s thoughts on the future state of those who die in infancy. More on the business depressions of 1837-39. Birth of Erving Winslow to brother Ben, 1839, and family afflictions. Final thoughts about the “Ark.” [Pp. 170-71, a first draft of the poem “The Old Home,” are not transcribed.]

**36.** (Ms. V: 172-180) Poem about the “Ark”, “The Old Home”

**37.** (Ms. V: 181-187) – poem continued and concluded. Inserted loose leaves: a poem about peace with a note on “the longest general peace which Europe ever saw,” 1815-53 and the peace congress in Brussels of 1851. And an inserted poem on loose leaves, “The Flag of Peace,” “written to please Uncle Blanchard” and for publication in *Burritt’s [Christian] Citizen* in 1851, with a note about Henry 4<sup>th</sup> of France, his attempt to establish peace in Europe, his assassination, and the St. Bartholomew’s Day massacre in 1572.