

THE WYMAN JOURNAL

Issue 32 A Publication of the Francis Wyman Association 2017

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Dear Family and Friends,

2017 has been a pretty quiet year following all of last year's festivities for the 350th anniversary. We continued to host open houses on the second Saturday of the month during the summer. Mike Tredeau from the Burlington Historical Commission provided tours for Francis Wyman Elementary school children last fall and in the spring.



Ernie Shippen from Oregon visited in July

In the Spring, we had the large tree between the house and the road trimmed to get the branches (and squirrels) away from the house. The trimming will also provide room for the well sweep pole to swing. We also had them chip up the brush pile and some trees I cleaned out behind the stone chamber. I have not had the opportunity to get quotes for the well sweep construction but we have enough funds to accomplish the work. The archeological dig for the pole foundation is still the most expensive part. We need to identify our contactor so they can lay it out so we'll know where to dig.

This year is the 375th anniversary of the founding of Woburn. On Memorial Day they rededicated the First Burial Ground after completing a study and survey with ground penetrating radar to confirm the locations of graves. They erected a new monument which lists the names within the cemetery. The back of the monument has a map showing the locations of all the graves. Looks



New monument and directory at First Burial Ground in Woburn.

like the last Wyman interred there was Elizabeth in 1776. Congratulations to the City of Woburn and the Cemetery Commission on a beautiful and informative project. The rededication was well attended with the Mayor and local dignitaries sharing their pride in the project and commitment to historic preservation.

Woburn is having a formal dinner on Saturday September 23rd. It's

\$100 per person. It would be nice to have a Wyman table (10 per table) there to represent John and Francis. Let me know if you're interested. I have not committed yet.

	Wyman, Abigail	08/03/1772	343 & 344
*	Wyman, Benjamin Capt.	05/26/1774	513
14.2	Wyman, Elizabeth	01/06/1773	508
18	Wyman, Elizabeth	08/12/1776	311 & 324
	Wyman, Esther	03/31/1742	498
	Wyman, Francis	11/28/1699	446
-	Wyman, Huldah	05/28/1768	330
	Wyman, Jesse	11/02/1754	506
	Wyman, John	07/09/1721	452
	Wyman, Lucy	12/24/1785	538
27	Wyman, Nathan	02/04/1773	331
-70	Wyman, Phebe	11/24/1750	503
2	Wyman, Samuel	05/17/1725	403
*	Wyman, Samuel Ensign	12/18/1743	346
	Wyman, Susanna	Footstone	447
	Wyman, Susanna	11/24/1752	345

Known Wymans in the First Burial Ground, Woburn

The annual meeting will be on Saturday, September 16th. We'll have the tent set up so we can be at the house rain or shine. We'll gather at 10:00 and have house tours until 11:00. Meeting at 11:00. Group picture at 12:00 noon followed by lunch. At 1:00 we'll have a program and time to share our Wyman experiences. We plan to have a program that highlights the Wymans' role establishing the town. Once we wrap up, I think a field trip to the First Burial Ground would be in order followed by dinner in Woburn. Sorry for the late notice. Hope we see you there.

Thanks to our generous donors, we're approaching \$50,000 in the bank. It's plenty to get us going on the wellsweep. I just need some time to get some revised proposals and someone to oversee the job. We'll have to do some repairs on our 117 year old shed which is listing to the west somewhat. We also have our annual expenses for insurance, electricity, newsletter and other "routine" maintenance items. Please keep those annual donations coming. Consider remembering us in your will. It would be nice to have an endowment to help us keep the house alive for the next 350 years.

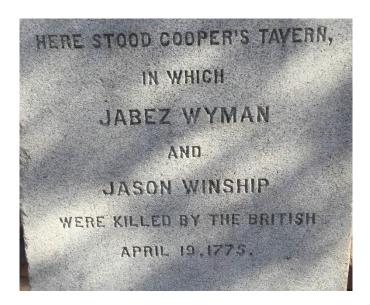
We also have a need for board members or people in the area to give house tours, help with the various community events, chronicle Wyman genealogies and histories.

Thank you for your continued interest and contributions. Remember to involve the next generations.

Jabez Wyman, a Revolutionary War Story - by Pam Meppelink

We all know the stories from Patriot's Day 1775 how bravely, courageously our ancestors faced down the greatest military force of those times. A little-known Wyman family story also took place on that fateful day.

Jabez Wyman and his good friend Jason Winship, wealthy landowners in Menotomy, known today as Arlington, decided they would belly up at their favorite watering hole, Cooper's Tavern. As evening approached, the Red Coats were marching back into Boston. The owners urged the pair to join them in the basement, safe away from any musket fire. The gentlemen declined and continued with their drinking. As the soldiers marched down Massachusetts Avenue, they spotted a flickering lantern. A month after the incident, Mrs. Cooper was interviewed and described the dramatic scene, "the King's regular troops under the command of General Gage, upon their return from blood and slaughter, which they had made at



Lexington and Concord, fired more than one hundred bullets into the house where we dwell, through doors, and windows,...The two aged gentlemen [Winship and Wyman] were immediately most barbarously and inhumanly murdered by them, being stabbed through in many places, their heads mangled, skulls broke, and their brains out on the floor and walls of the house." Today a plaque marks the spot and nearby, a restaurant remembers their unintended sacrifice with an old-fashioned cocktail called "Coopers Flip": Cruzan Dark Rum, cask ale, molasses, egg, and pumpkin. Not one I would recommend.

A Day in Westmill By Caroline Miller

A few years ago, I reserved one day out of a week in London, to visit Westmill, the birthplace of Francis and John Wyman. From Kings Cross I took a train to Hitchin and then a bus over rolling green fields to Westmill. The bus dropped me at the top of a rise and from there I walked down the hill, through copses and between hedgerows, admiring well-kept farmhouses set back from the lane.

Soon I was at the gate and the open door of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin where Francis and John Wyman were baptized 400 years ago, and where their parents are buried. It is a small parish church, like thousands all over England; medieval with Saxon roots and Victorian restorations. The Richardson and Wyman families alone could have filled the pews.



The Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Westmill

At the village center was a triangle green surrounded by houses and cottages appearing to illustrate every century: thatched roof, wattle

and daub, medieval stone. As I wandered about, each turn in the road presented another beautiful view of a model English village.

They were remarkable men and led remarkable lives, but perhaps not untypical of many of their fellow immigrants. What sets them apart is that we know so much about them. It is rare for an ancestor born 400 years ago to be identified, rarer still to have tangible artifacts and associations survive the centuries. We can roam the parish church where their forebears worshipped, follow them over 3000 miles across the ocean and explore the 350 year-old Francis Wyman house. We can touch his iconic gravestone, read their last wills and testaments, see their signatures, and in some of the court records, even hear their voices. There are references to John or Francis for

almost every year of their lives: in deeds for lands and boats, lawsuits, baptisms, marriages, burials, petitions, fines, church attendance, military service, and more.



Theirs were not the chronicled lives of the nobility, yet we have accumulated an improbable amount of documentation on these ordinary yeoman farmers who were possessed of extraordinary fortitude, industry, and skills in a valuable trade that enabled them to prosper in the new world.

Hezekiah Wyman gained fame as the legendary "White Horseman" or as the British soldiers called him "Death on the Pale Horse". He was 55 years old when he heard the alarm; he mounted on his large white horse, and set off for the battle on the Common but came upon the retreating British, making them very miserable. "His tall, gaunt form, his white locks floating in the breeze, and the color of his horse" set him apart. Once a bayonet charge drove him off, but before long he was returning to the charge, and this time killed an officer. His powerful white horse, careened at full speed over the hills, the old man on his back, continually being seen, the British fearing his reappearance. He joined the men of Menotomy by hiding behind stone walls and attacking the British ammunition and supply wagons. He died in Arlington in 1779.



Carving of Hezekiah by Raymond A. Bousquet generously donated last year

Hezekiah was alluded to in the first draft of Longfellow's poem of the midnight Ride of Paul Revere but not specifically by name. Unfortunately, all the lines about the pale rider were edited out. Here's the draft of that stanza:

> A voice in the darkness, a knock on the door, And a word that shall echo forevermore, And there in the field in the midnight gloom, Stood a white steed cropping the clover bloom. Shaking his bare entangled mane And little dreaming the part he would play In the battle of that famous day, Chasing the Redcoats down the lane And crossing the fields to emerge again, Under the trees at the turn of the road Only slacking his speed on the way, For this tall gray rider to fire and load. Where hands are ready and hearts are strong to defend the right and oppose the wrong. Such was the word and such the deed In the hearts of the people says God's speed

(Published Replacement Stanza)

You know the rest. In the books you have read How, the British Regulars fired and fled -- How, the farmers gave them ball for ball, From behind each fence and farmyard wall, Chasing the redcoats down the lane, Then crossing the fields to emerge again Under the trees at the turn of the road, And only pausing to fire and load.

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2016 Annual Meeting

UP TO \$100

Sonya Abrams Edward M. Baker Katherine Wyman Bosch Eleanor R. Boudreaux Ronald Bousquet Mary F. Brown Monica Chamberlain & Family Richard Cochran Jennifer Day Eve Saucier Eder Sandra Brown Fasano Laurel Gabel Edith P. Good Rebecca R. Greer Nancy Poch Guptill Sharon Kettlewell Frieda Lindberg Kelly Lindsey Laura F. Lowry Merle McConnell Garrett & Muriel McDaniel Katherine H. Moore John W. Newman **JanetPeirce** Harold Poch Richard C. Potts Margaret Samuelson Mary-Ellen Seitz-Kaschub Carlotta Smith Barbara Wyman Sorenson Heather A. Svare Anne Wyman Sylvester Charles Ulrich Russ Wigh Stephen & Sharon Wood Arthur "Trapper" Wyman Christie & Gloria Wyman **Delacy Mulford Wyman** Peter Wyman Rose M. Wyman

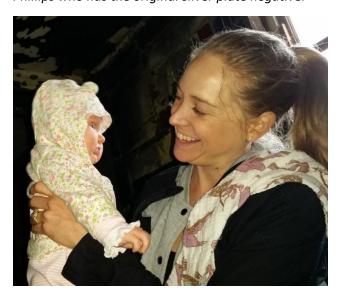
Thomas E. Wyman

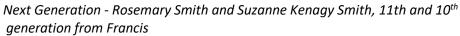


Caroline Miller and Ginny Mucciaccio



Photo of the house in the mid 1890's probably showing Joshua Reed and his wife sitting out front. I obtained 7 of these prints indirectly from David Phillips who has the original silver plate negative.









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SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Meeting and Reunion - Saturday, September 16th at the house.

10:00 AM - Gathering and house tours

11:00 AM - Annual Meeting

12:00 PM - Group picture

1:00 PM - Program and sharing

3:00 PM - Side trip to First Burial Ground and dinner in Woburn

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED