

Winthrop Descendants Petition to Dename Winthrop House at Harvard University

We, as descendants of the Winthrop family of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, sign this letter to demonstrate our support for the Generational African American Students Association (GAASA) and Natives at Harvard College (NaHC) calling for Harvard to dename Winthrop House at Harvard University. The [report they wrote is here](#), the petition for Harvard affiliates [is here](#), and the Harvard Crimson published [Down With Winthrop](#) and [Harvard Students Circulate Petition Calling for Denaming of Winthrop House, Named After Slaveowners](#).

We understand that our family carries *the burden of a century of African slavery and Indigenous massacre*. As the petition states, “the first John Winthrop, a leader of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, spoke clearly and publicly about the importance of taming “savage” peoples and establishing white religious superiority over the continent. A century later, Winthrop’s great-great-grandson became President of Harvard. A slaveowner himself, he allowed students at Harvard to prepare defenses of slavery at a commencement ceremony. The two Winthrops were not simply bystanders of the institution of slavery in New England. They were instrumental in creating, maintaining, and defending it... Historical evidence clearly demonstrates the slave ownership and white supremacist views of the John Winthrop family.”

We disavow our ancestors’ views and practices, and commit to stand with Black and Indigenous communities today in their calling for truth-telling, healing, justice and repair.

Harvard University has said that denaming is justified when a namesake’s actions or beliefs were **abhorrent** in the context of current values. **We unequivocally support Harvard University removing our ancestors’ name from Winthrop House**, as one part of a long overdue public reckoning with slavery and colonization in New England.

Thank you for considering our perspective.

| # | Name | Location | Relationship to Winthrop family | Relationship to Harvard University (if any) |
|---|---------------|-------------|---|---|
| 1 | Morgan Curtis | Oakland, CA | Tenth-great-niece of Governor John Winthrop | HDS MTS 2023 |

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|----|--------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| 2 | Dan Wells | Somerville, MA | Tenth great-grandson of Governor John Winthrop | HDS '22 |
| 3 | Silas Curtis | Glasgow, Scotland | Tenth-great-nephew of Governor John Winthrop | – |
| 4 | Eliza Rockefeller | Cambridge, MA | Eleventh great-niece of Governor John Winthrop | HDS '24 |
| 5 | Brooke Larsen | Salt Lake City, UT | Twelfth-great-granddaughter of Governor John Winthrop | – |
| 6 | Nicole Larsen | Salt Lake City, UT | Twelfth-great-granddaughter of Governor John Winthrop | – |
| 7 | Lainey Curtis | Oakland, CA | Tenth-great-niece of Governor John Winthrop | – |
| 8 | Hester Tittmann | Somerville, MA | 10th great-grandchild of Governor John Winthrop | Grand-child of a Harvard and Radcliffe graduates |
| 9 | Adam Blachly | Brooklyn, NY | 10th-great-grandchild of Governor John Winthrop | Grand-child of a Harvard and Radcliffe graduates |
| 10 | Ariel Skolnick | Davis, CA | 10th great-granddaughter of Governor John Winthrop | – |
| 11 | Celia Jackson | Berkeley, CA | 9th great-granddaughter of Governor John Winthrop | – |
| 12 | Margot Milcetic | Ravenna, OH | 9th great-granddaughter of Governor John Winthrop | Daughter of a Harvard graduate |
| 13 | Amy Biddle | Napanoch, NY | 10th great-granddaughter of Governor John Winthrop | Grand-daughter of a Harvard graduate |
| 14 | Gilbert Oakley | New York, NY | 9th great-grandson of Governor John Winthrop | Son of a Harvard dropout |
| 15 | Adelaide Hallowell | Wenham, MA | 10th great-grandchild of Governor John Winthrop | – |
| 16 | Maria Jackson | Boyds, MD | 9th great-granddaughter of Governor John Winthrop | – |
| 17 | David Biddle | Nat. Br. Sta., VA | 9th great-granddaughter of Governor John Winthrop | Son of a Harvard graduate |

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| 18 | Mary Procter | Washington, DC | 9th great-granddaughter of Governor John Winthrop | Harvard Class of 1963. I was Harvard Overseer 1974-79 |
| 19 | Tiphaine Ravenel Bonetti | Boulder, CO | 9th-great-niece of Governor John Winthrop | Daughter & sister of Harvard graduates |
| 20 | Jenny Procter | Charlotte, NC | 9th great-granddaughter of Governor John Winthrop | – |
| 21 | Ann Chappell Reeves | Fairfield, CT | 9th great-granddaughter of Governor John Winthrop | – |
| 22 | Ramsay Ravenel | Cambridge, MA | 9th-great-nephew of Governor John Winthrop | Harvard College Class of 1996 |
| 23 | Mollie Hoopes | Ipswich, MA | 9th-great-niece of Governor John Winthrop | – |
| 24 | Amy Hoopes | Ipswich, MA | 10th-great-niece of Governor John Winthrop | – |
| 25 | Lisa Hoopes | Annapolis, MD | 10th-great-niece of Governor John Winthrop | – |
| 26 | Timothy Hoopes | Burlington, VT | 10th-great-nephew of Governor John Winthrop | – |
| 27 | Curtis Ravenel | New York, NY | 9th-great-nephew of Governor John Winthrop | – |
| 28 | Sarah Laughlin | Washington DC | 9th great-granddaughter of Governor John Winthrop | Daughter and Grand-daughter of Harvard & Radcliffe graduates |
| 29 | Mary C. Tittmann | Cambridge, MA | 9th great-granddaughter of Governor John Winthrop | Daughter and Grand-daughter of Harvard & Radcliffe graduates |
| 30 | Susannah Blachly | Adamant, VT | 9th great-granddaughter of Governor John Winthrop | Daughter and grand-daughter of Harvard & Radcliffe graduates |
| 31 | Deborah A Wells | State College, PA | 10th great-granddaughter of Governor John Winthrop | HLS '06 |
| 32 | Margaret Chandler | New York, NY | 9th great-granddaughter of | – |

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| | | | Governor John Winthrop | |
| 33 | David Chandler | Melbourne, Australia | 8th great grandson of Governor John Winthrop | Harvard Class of '54 |
| 34 | Thomas Chandler | Melbourne, Australia | 9th great grandchild of Governor John Winthrop | — |
| 35 | Sophia Chandler | Melbourne, Australia | 10th great granddaughter of Governor John Winthrop | — |
| 36 | Rebecca Clifford | Carmignano, Italy | 9th Great granddaughter of Governor John Winthrop | Daughter and grand-daughter of Harvard & Radcliffe graduates |
| 37 | Stephen Oakley | Cambridge, MA | 9th great-grandson of Governor John Winthrop | — |
| 38 | Robert Wells | State College, PA | 9th great-grandson of Governor John Winthrop | Harvard Class of '60 |
| 39 | Isobel Bonetti | Boulder, CO | Tenth great niece of Governor John Winthrop | — |
| 40 | Austin Curtis | London, UK | Tenth-great-nephew of Governor John Winthrop | — |
| 41 | Henry Tittmann | E. Montpelier, VT | 10th great-grandchild of Governor John Winthrop | Grand-child of a Harvard and Radcliffe graduates |
| 42 | Isobel Curtis | Bremen, ME | 10th great niece of Governor John Winthrop | — |
| 43 | Ellie Curtis | San Francisco, CA | 10th great niece of Governor John Winthrop | — |
| 44 | Chach Curtis | Waitsfield, VT | 9th great nephew of Governor John Winthrop | — |
| 45 | Ben Walker | Hoboken, NJ | 11th great grandson of Gov John Winthrop (1588–1649) | — |
| 46 | Elizabeth Biggs | Boulder, CO | 10th great-granddaughter of Governor John Winthrop | Former Harvard postdoctoral fellow |
| 47 | Ben Rimmer | Newburyport, MA | Tenth-great-nephew of Governor John Winthrop | — |
| 48 | Adam Roberts | Boston, MA | 10th great-grandson of Governor John Winthrop | — |

