



Dear Members:

Roger Williams had 6 children and 32 grandchildren. Those 32 grandchildren had 675 grandchildren. This would be the 5th Generation. Imagine how the number increases in the 10th, 11th and 12th generations from Roger Williams.

We want to enlarge our membership, and each of you can help. Do you know of a descendant of Roger Williams whom you can interest in our association?

In looking over the early generations of descendants the names most frequently occurring are Angell, Arnold, Brown, Dyer, Fenner, Potter, Randall, Sayles, Smith, Thornton, Waterman, Westcott, Whipple, Williams and Winsor.

Next in frequency come Atwood, Ballou, Bennett, Burlingame, Carpenter, Carr, Colwell, Comstock, Cranston, Dexter, Eddy, Esten, Field, Fiske, Fry, Hawkins, Hopkins, Irons, Jencks, Knight, Lockwood, Rhodes, Sheldon, Stafford, Steere, Thurber, Tillinghast, Tourtellot, Ward and Wright.

Of course not every one by the above names are descendants, but if you have a friend who has a possibility of a connection, you may be doing that person a favor by suggesting the Roger William Family Association. It might result in our finding a line we do not now know, and another fine member may be added to our group.

A copy of this bulletin will be sent to anyone you may suggest and applications may be obtained from our Registrar.

LET'S EACH BRING IN A NEW MEMBER.

MRS. CHARLES W. ANTHONY, *President*

23 Oakland Avenue
Cranston, R. I.

April 1, 1944
No. 5

Richard Smith, the first white settler, leased land from the Indians and established a trading post near Cocumcussoc brook and Williams soon built a house nearby. Of the 41 known letters written by Williams, 28 were written at Cocumcussoc. Williams sold his house to Smith in 1651, but often came back to preach to the settlers and to the Indians, who he was always anxious to Christianize. It is believed that he induced Elder Thomas Baker to come from Newport in 1666 and thoroughly organize a church and become its first pastor, of which he continued in charge until his death in 1710.

August 12, 1703, Alexander Huling deeded half an acre of land to the church society; "to make use for building a meeting house, for the service and worship of God." Sometime later a meeting house, that is still standing was built on that land. In an old letter, dated May 20, 1750, mention is made of land given for the meeting house about 40 years before, and that it was built by subscription, but the exact date of its erection is not known.

If the "Old Baptist" meeting house in Stony Lane could tell the story of its past it would add much to the history of the town. In the year 1771, there were 167 names on the Church member list.

For a great many years the church served the community faithfully, but with the building of more modern and centrally located churches in the town, the old building has fallen into disuse. Occassionally it was opened for union services, which have always been well attended, or for Bible classes for people living nearby.

June 22, 1937 the Roger Williams Family Association were guests of honor of Pettaquamscutt Chapter D. A. R. at a meeting held in the venerable old building. The late Miss Abby P. Gardner, Regent of the Chapter, welcomed the guests who expressed their great pleasure at the opportunity to visit the historic meeting house. Mrs. Hilda Schuster, President of the Association presided at the meeting. Rev. Gideon Burgess, one of the oldest members of the Society, read a poem by Roger Williams. A paper giving the history of the Church was read by the author. After a short business session the assemblage went to the home of Miss Gardner in Wickford, for a basket lunch. At 2 o'clock all went over to the Old Narragansett Church where they were met by the late Canon Herbert J. Piper, who was pastor of the church, and Miss Virginia White who was in Colonial costume. Canon Piper gave a short talk on the history of the building, after which the group continued

to the Cocumcossoc farm, the site of Richard Smith's trading post or block house. Mr. Austin Fox, the late owner, gave a history of the ancient house after which the party was taken on a tour of inspection and many things of interest were pointed out to them.

The old meeting house was the scene of a large gathering Sunday afternoon, October 17, 1943, when the long-planned-for marker, sponsored by Pettaquamscutt Chapter D. A. R. was dedicated. About 140 persons were seated in the 17, boxlike pews or standing outside near the door. Rev. Arthur C. Lambourne of Cambridge, Mass., a former pastor in the community, officiated. He was assisted by Rev. Stephen Talbott and Merith Kline, a divinity student. The congregation joined in singing several old hymns. Rev. Talbott read the 84th Psalm, beginning with the verse, "How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts".

"An Historic Church and an Historic Faith" was the theme of Rev. Lambourne's message, in which he pointed out the accomplishments of the historic church down through the years. Preceding Rev. Lambourne's address an historic sketch of the meeting house and the society who has occupied it was read.

Following the service the congregation assembled on the grounds about the meeting house. After singing "Faith of our Fathers" the plaque set in the panel over the door and bearing the inscription:

**"OLD BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE,
CHURCH ORGANIZED 1665"**

was unveiled by three little girls, namely: Elizabeth Ann Schmidt, Joyce Lynne Huling and Rosemary Arnold, all descendants of Roger Williams, who held the first religious services in the community, of Richard Smith, at whose house they were held and Alexander Huling who gave the land for the meeting house. Appropriate services followed.

Roger Williams, who was prime mover in laying a deep and secure foundation for our State, was also prime mover in establishing the first Baptist Church in the Narragansett Country.

MARY KENYON HULING

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

- April 6, 1944—"Governor Samuel Cranston"
Mrs. Susan Cranston Allebaugh.
May 4, 1944—"The Old Foster Center Church"
Mrs. William H. Saunders.
June 1, 1944—Life in Warwick, R. I. 1730-1760
Mr. William Greene Roelker.

PLACE — Rhode Island Historical Society, 52 Power Street,
Providence, Rhode Island — 2 P. M.

MARY—FIRST CHILD OF ROGER WILLIAMS

Born at Plymouth in August 1633. Married John Sayles in 1650, he being the first SAYLES in Rhode Island. Mary's father, Roger Williams, was married in 1629, remained in Salem about a year and then moved to Plymouth where Mary was born. She was the only daughter who died before her father. Mary and John Sayles had seven children. The eldest child, Mary, married, first, William Greene, son of Deputy Governor John Greene of Warwick, and, second, Rev. John Holmes (the seventh child of Rev. Obadiah and his wife Catherine) of Newport, at whose home Mary and John Sayles died and were buried on the farm of Peter Easton, Paradise Road, Middletown, where the gravestone still may be seen. They were only 48 years of age at the time of their deaths. Their daughter Mary's first husband, William Greene, lived but four years after their marriage and their only daughter, also Mary Greene, married Edward Dyer of Kingstown, R. I., he being the son of Samuel and Anne (Hutchinson) Dyer. Anne Hutchinson was the granddaughter of William and Anne Hutchinson, who bought from the Indians and settled Aquidneck and started the colony now the Island of Rhode Island.

Our deep sympathy is extended Judge Arthur A. Cushing on the death on March 12th of his son Edward D. Cushing.

THE "OLD BAPTIST" MEETING HOUSE IN STONY LANE

North Kingstown has always been proud of its early association with Roger Williams. It was only through his courage and tactfulness that the new settlement was able to survive in the wild, Indian country. Great credit is also due Roger Williams for the pioneer, Christian seed-sowing in the community. Rhode Island historians say that Williams spent a good part of six years in the locality.