



The 52nd annual reunion of the Roger Williams Family Association will be held on September 7, 1944, in the Casino at Roger Williams Park, from 11 a. m. to 5 p. m. The Elmwood Avenue entrance of the Park is within a very short walking distance of the Casino. Basket lunches may be brought and eaten on the wide veranda or inside the spacious dining room.

After a social hour the annual meeting of the Association and election of officers will be held at 2 P. M. Our speaker for the day will be Rev. Francis W. Thompson of Eden Park, who will speak on "The Ballad of America".

Dues will be payable. A supply of association pins will be on hand for sale.

Rain or shine, we shall look forward to a large attendance and an enjoyable time.

Mrs. Charles W. Anthony
President
23 Oakland Ave.
Cranston, R. I.

Mrs. Charles C. Roffee
Secretary
457 Farmington Ave.
Cranston, R. I.

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers for the coming year:

President Mrs. Charles W. Anthony
Vice-President Mr. Arthur K. Potter
Secretary Miss Eva Bennett
Corresponding Sec. Mrs. Charles C. Roffee
Treasurer Mrs. Eugene Dutemple
Registrar Mrs. Charles Weeden
Historian Mrs. Johnson Cox
Two directors will be nominated from the floor.

Mrs. Winthrop Saunders, *Chairman*
Mrs. I. Percy Roe
Mrs. Dudley Spalding

MEMORIALS FOR ROGER WILLIAMS

Below are various memorials honoring Roger Williams. We are looking for more. Can you send in any?

1. Statue near Prospect Terrace, Providence, R. I. dedicated June 29, 1939.
2. Statue in Geneva, Switzerland.
3. Statue in Statuary Hall in the Capitol, Washington, D. C.
4. Bust in Hall of Fame, New York City.
5. Monument in Roger Williams Park, near the Betsey Williams Cottage, unveiled October 16, 1877.
6. Monument in Cemetery in Roger Williams Park.
7. Tablet on "Slate Rock" at the foot of Ives Street, Prov., R. I. where he landed in Rhode Island.
8. Marker at "Roger Williams Spring" in Phillipsdale, East Providence, R. I. erected Nov. 8, 1936.
9. Enclosed spring on North Main Street.
10. Tablet in hallway of New England Genealogical Society, in Boston, Mass.
11. Plate glass window in chapel at Bacone College, Bacone, Oklahoma in honor of "the first white man to bring the word of God to the Indians".
12. Marker on stone, near Cocumussoc, R. I. near site of Roger Williams Post, erected 1936.
13. Tablet on wall at entrance to U.E.R. tunnel, Prov., R. I. "On this lot stood the first town house of Providence.

Here from time to time Roger Williams presided over the freemen from 1644 to 1647”.

14. Tablet on front of the house at 235 North Main St. Prov., R. I. with the inscription “A few rods east of this spot stood the House of Roger Williams Founder of Providence 1636”.
15. Tercentenary 50 cent coin—1936
16. Tercentenary three cent postage stamp—1936

“FOOTPRINTS OF ROGER WILLIAMS”

Author Unknown

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In all the early history of New England, no one name stands out so prominently today as that of the illustrious founder of “Rhode Island and Providence Plantations”.

The only thing that seems settled in regard to the early surroundings of Roger Williams is that he was of Welsh origin. It has always been supposed that he was of humble parentage, his birth and the date uncertain. In the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, 18 Somerset St., Boston, Mass., the “Publications of the Harleian Society” of London, was examined, consisting of a series of pedigrees and heralds’ visitations. The ninth volume is entitled “The Visitation of Cornwall, 1620”, and in a footnote on page 264 a record of the baptism of two sons of William Williams, together with that of a grandson and a great grandson, as follows:

“William Williams, son of Mr. William Williams, baptized 27th November 1598: Roger, second son of William Williams, Gentleman, baptized 24th July 1600: Humphrey, son of William Williams Jr., baptized 24th April 1625: John, son of Humphrey Williams, Gentleman, baptized at High Bickington, Devonshire 1660”.

These records are taken from the register of the Parish Church of Gwinear, a small town in Cornwall, near Truro. It would thus appear Roger Williams was born in the town of Gwinear, Cornwall, and of a good family, one very prominent in Cornwall, Devonshire, Monmouthshire, and throughout Wales. In Burke’s “Extinct Peerages of Great Britain” is an account of Baron Williams, of Thame, and of Sir Richard Williams, Knight, who assumed the name of Cromwell, and was ancestor of the Protector. Sir Roger Williams, after whom the founder of Rhode Island was undoubtedly named, was the pro-

prietor of Llangibby Castle and the Priory of Uske, in the County of Monmouth. He was a brave officer in the reign of Elizabeth, and by her knighted in 1586 for his gallantry.

The date of the birth of Roger Williams may safely be fixed, in view of these parish records, as 1600. It has generally been given as 1599. As the year commenced at this time on the 25th of March, this might be the date for January, February and the greater part of March, and yet be 1600 as dates are now reckoned. When young he espoused the cause of the Puritans, or Dissenters, and for this reason, his father probably being a high "churchman", he was "persecuted", using his own words, "in and out of my father's house these twenty years". At the age of 14 we find him in the "Star Chamber" at London, taking notes of the speeches, where he attracted the attention of his future patron, Sir Edward Coke. By him he was placed in the "Charter House School", being the second scholar whose name was entered upon the records of that noble institution. This was in 1614. Here he probably remained until he was 18 or 19. In 1624 he entered Pembroke College, Cambridge, where can be found the entries made by Williams in his own peculiar writing.

(Chapter II of "Footprints of Roger Williams" will appear in next folder.)

FREEBORN WILLIAMS

FREEBORN, second child of Roger Williams, was born in Salem October 1635 just before her father was banished from Salem in December. He left his wife and children and was gone fourteen weeks. Freeborn married Thomas Hart, a young ship master of Newport in 1662. They had four children, none of whom had any decendants except her daughter Mary, who married Governor Samuel Cranston. Freeborn's children were John, Mary, James and Thomas. Upon the death of Thomas Hart, Freeborn married Walter Clarke in 1683, a Quaker, of Newport, R. I. There were no children by this marriage. Freeborn is probably buried in the Clifton Cemeter, Golden Hill Street, where her second husband and daughter Mary are both buried. Although there were no descendants from the three sons, there were many from Mary and Governor Samuel Cranston.

We have had inquiry as to which daughter of Roger Williams married a Prior. The only connection we can find with this name is that Walter Clarke, second husband of Freeborn (Williams) Hart, after her death, married for his third wife a daughter of Matthew Prior of Newport. His first wife was Rebecca Scott.