



No. 16

THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

INCORPORATED 1906

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Greetings to Each Member of the Association:

At this time we are all enthused to think that our genealogy is almost completed and we expect to have it in the hands of the printer soon. We are deeply grateful to Mrs. Harriett W. Weeden and Mrs. Bertha Anthony for the work they have done. We know that it has been a tremendous job and we say unto you, "Well done, good and faithful servants."

The next three meetings will be held at the Rhode Island Historical Society, 52 Power Street, the first Thursday of the month at 2:00 P. M. as follows:

June 2 — (Speaker) Rev. Floyd Taylor

July 7 — (Speaker) Mr. George W. Gardner

Aug. 4 — (Speaker) Mr. Jonathan Steere

HELEN M. STEERE, *President*

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## SKETCH OF ROGER WILLIAMS' CAREER

### *Part II*

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"What Cheer Netop" rang out as a welcome from the Indians, as with his five companions he landed at Slate Rock about June, 1636. In founding the new settlement from a deep sense of gratitude to God for his protecting care, he gave it the name of "Providence". Williams was not satisfied to possess the new territory by right of conquest with no recognition of the rights of the former owners. He therefore purchased his land of Canonicus and Miantonomi who lived on the Island of Conanicut, including all the land between the Pawtucket and Pawtuxet Rivers. After the purchase, he executed a deed, August 5, 1638, giving an equal share with himself to each of his twelve companions. There were Stukeley, Westcott, William Arnold, Thomas James, Robert Cole, John Greene, John Throckmorton, William Harris, William Carpenter, Thomas Olney, Francis Weston, Richard Waterman, Ezekiel Holyman, who, with Roger Williams, the grantor, formed the thirteen original proprietors of Providence.

In 1641-2 the Pawtuxet controversy engaged much of the attention of the early settlers and gave Massachusetts a pretext to seek to extend her authority over the Warwick territory. To protect the infant settlement of Rhode Island against such injustice and combine them under one government, the Assembly appointed a committee, Sept. 18, 1642, with instructions to secure a charter from England, which appointed Roger Williams agent to this end. He, shortly after June, 1643, embarked for England by way of New York. On the voyage, he wrote his "Key to the Indian Language" which was published in London. While the civil war was in progress he was able to obtain from the commissioners a charter for the colony of Rhode Island dated March 14, 1643-4.

While in England, Mr. Williams published his work "The Bloody Tenant of Persecution for Cause of Conscience". On Sept. 17, 1644

Mr. Williams landed at Boston with the Charter and also a letter from several noblemen, which amounted to a safe conduct through Massachusetts. His Providence friends met him with a warm welcome at Seekonk in their fourteen canoes. In 1645 his influence secured peace between the Narragansetts and the Mohegans. In 1647 Mr. Williams took part in the organization of the inhabitants of Providence, Portsmouth, Newport, and Warwick into a civil government. While filling the office of Deputy Governor, he became one of the four "Assistants" and held that office in the years 1648, '64, '65, '70, '71, and '72. Mr. Williams had purchased in November, 1637, jointly with Gov. Winthrop, from Canonicus, the Island of Chebachuwet which he named Prudence, afterwards buying the smaller ones nearby, naming them Patience and Hope.

November, 1651, Mr. Williams went to England by way of Boston, at this time in company with John Clark, with reference to the revoking of Gov. Coddington's conscriptions and the confirmation of the first charter. In 1652, Mr. Williams published in England an answer to Mr. Cotton's book entitled "The Bloody Tenant yet more Bloody", also "Experiments of Spiritual Life and Health and their preservations."

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### A CREED

There is a destiny that makes us brothers:

None goes his way alone:

All that we send into the lives of others

Comes back into our own.

I care not what his temples or his creeds,

One thing holds firm and fast —

That into his fateful heap of days and deeds

The soul of man is cast.

EDWIN MARKHAM.

OFFICERS OMITTED IN LAST BULLETIN

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*Chaplain* . . . . . Arthur Rice Potter  
958 Park Avenue, Cranston 10, R. I.

*Director* . . . . . Mrs. Clara Spencer  
207 Indiana Avenue, Providence, R. I.

*Director* . . . . . Miss Emily Paine  
887 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, R. I.

*Honorary President* . . . . . Mrs Mandilla Hunt  
32 Norwich Street, Providence, R. I.

*Honorary Vice-Pres.* . . . . . Mrs. Annie Irons  
1196 Cranston Street, Cranston 9, R. I.

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If anyone has any information for our genealogical records, please send it in immediately. We would appreciate it very much.

Those living out of State, please write to us, as we would like to hear from you.