



No. 19

THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION
(Incorporated 1906)

To All Our Members and Their Families
The Officers of This Association Send
GREETINGS
Wishing You a Happy and Prosperous
New Year

GREETINGS TO THE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

It is with pleasure that I greet you as your President for the third time.

It is with regret that I must report that we have lost several members through the year who have passed to the Great Beyond.

However, we have gained new members so that now we have a membership of three hundred-sixty-seven. It is hoped that each and every member will endeavor to bring in one new member for the Association during the year. Remember that many of us are getting older and if our Association continues we must keep the younger generation interested. See to it that your children and grandchildren are members.

Please keep Mrs. Harriet Weeden and Mrs. Charles Anthony informed so that we may have an accurate record of your line. We shall continue to print more on our genealogy as we obtain enough information. Have you bought one of the genealogical books yet? If not, why not?

Our next meeting will be in the evening at 8 o'clock P. M. at the Rhode Island Historical Society, 52 Power Street, Providence, R. I., November 2, 1950. Mr. William Heath will be the speaker and he will show colored pictures. We all enjoyed him last year and I know that he will have something worthwhile for you. Please make this a Booster Night for our Association.

HELEN M. STEERE, *President*

The following article seems to me to coincide with the principles and ideas of Roger Williams and I feel should be stressed at this time:

AMERICA'S CREED

The Separation of Church and State was not simply an interesting feature of our governmental structure. It was an integral part of the very fabric of our concept of a democratic state. The dignity of the individual, derived from religion, and the authority of the people, also derived from religion, cannot be maintained if any power above that of the individual or of the people as a whole is the legal arbiter or director of the actions of human beings. The supreme principle of democratic government is the sovereignty of the people.

Religion as an inspiration, religion as a guide to to personal conduct, religion as the source of ideals of democracy and brotherhood is essential to a democratic state. But religion or religious institutions as political sovereigns defeat the purposes for which they exist. At the time of the writing of the Declaration of Independence and of the Constitution, nearly the whole Occidental world consisted of nations whose governments were based on the theory of divine right to rule. . . .

Our history is both the history of an experiment in self-government and the history of a new concept of religion and its place in the lives of human beings.

We have survived the dangers, but we have not eliminated them, and I suppose they will always exist, bringing to mind the maxim that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. . . .

I believe that the quotations from the Presidents illustrate the fact that the Presidents and the majority of the American people have always been aware of those dangers. They illustrate, too, what seems to me the basic fact about our faith in God's power and our destiny—that He has blessed us with the opportunity to provide abundance for ourselves, all of us, and to share the abundance with the world; that our destiny is to hold high the flaming torch of liberty for all, and to rule over none.

I know no finer expression of this than the words of Franklin D. Roosevelt less than six months before his death:

The creed of our democracy is that liberty is acquired and kept by men and women who are strong and self-reliant and possessors of such wisdom as God gives them—men and women who are just, and understanding, and generous to others—men and women who are capable of disciplining themselves.—From "This Nation Under God," by ELBERT D. THOMAS. Copyright, 1950, by Harper & Brothers.

The Annual Meeting of this Association was held on Thursday, September 7, 1950, in the auditorium of the Museum of Natural History in Roger Williams Park and the following slate of Officers were elected to serve you for the ensuing year:

- President*.....Mrs. Howard W. Steere
Gleaner Chapel Road, North Scituate, R. I.
- Vice-President*.....Mrs. Myron Hawkins
Chepachet, R. I.
- Recording Secretary*.....Mrs. Winthrop Saunders
255 Alabama Avenue, Providence, R. I.
- Treasurer*.....Mrs. Harry Bedson
285 Woodbine Street, Cranston, R. I.
- Corresponding Secretary*.....Mrs. Ernest Mowry
Putnam Pike, Greenville, R. I.
- Registrar*.....Mrs. Charles E. Hurdis
109 Smithfield Road, North Providence 4, R. I.
- Historian*.....Miss Emily Paine
887 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, R. I.
- Directors*.....Mrs. Charles Roffee
457 Farmington Avenue, Cranston 9, R. I.
Mrs. Marshall Morgan
Warwick Neck, R. I.
- Sunshine Committee*.....Mrs. Charles Anthony
23 Oakland Avenue, Cranston 10, R. I.
- Publicity Committee*.....Mrs. Edward Coleman
40 Wesleyan Avenue, Providence, R. I.
- Chaplain*.....Mr. Arthur Rice Potter
958 Park Avenue, Cranston 10, R. I.