



ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION  
INCORPORATED 1906

August 1952

No. 22

This bulletin will reach you a few days before our 60th ANNUAL MEETING to be held in the auditorium of *Roger Williams Park Museum* at two o'clock on Thursday afternoon, September 4th. If it is a pleasant day it would be nice to bring lunches and enjoy them under the trees. We look forward to a large attendance.

We are grateful to the following members for outstanding contributions to our entertainment during the past six months:

Mr. Marshall T. Morgan, who read excerpts from old deeds and various legal papers.

Mrs. Harold C. Macdonald and Miss Clara Pearl Dyer for describing the history of the spacious old houses in which they live. Also to Mrs. Preston Buffington for the excellent account she wrote describing the century and a half old house in which she makes her home — out on the Danielson Pike.

Miss Alice Roe, for the picturesque slides of her trips along the eastern seaboard.

We all enjoyed the book "Diligence in Love" reviewed by Miss Marion Bonner and regret to record Miss Bonner's death in May, 1952. Although Miss Bonner was not a member of our Association she was very friendly with many of our members.

Mrs. Winthrop H. Saunders and her committee for the splendid work in making a success of the "Treasures and Trinkets" exhibit, a digest of which follows:

"In April we had a "Treasures and Trinkets" meeting and members had been invited to bring articles for display that might

come in such a classification. Such a variety of interesting, historical, quaint, curious and valuable articles as were brought together! There was everything from baby dresses to coffin plates and valentines to powder horns. Some of the "in betweens" were wedding slippers, shawls, very old newspapers, books of many types and subjects, various denominations of old currency, beautiful colonial jewelry — watches, chains, rings, pins — all hand made, a hundred year old hand pieced quilt, lottery tickets, children's copy books, old letters, fashion books of 75 years ago, samplers, silver spoons, autograph albums, horse hair bracelets, old almanacs, both regular size and miniatures, rewards of merit given to children for good work in school, leather wallets, temperance pledge, whale oil lamps, lovely old hand loomed linens, hand knotted fringes, dolls, family records, pictures, Jew's harp, lace handkerchiefs and collars, old deeds and commissions, and many, many other interesting items. Several of the members dressed in old time costumes. The dining room arrangements for the social hour carried out the colonial atmosphere, with the old fringed linen table cloth, pewter and glass candlesticks, and blossoming geraniums in pewter bowls in the windows. Tea was served from lovely old pewter and crockery tea pots while molasses and sugar cookies were passed on pewter and old pressed glass plates. All together it was a most interesting and successful meeting."

The Family Guest Day held in June was a great success. There were approximately 250 people present and representatives of twelve early R. I. families gathered at the Roger Williams Park Museum to get acquainted with each other. During the social hour it was suggested by many of those present that steps might be taken toward the formation of a "Council of Families" for the possibility of:

1. Bringing these family groups closer together.
2. Exchanging periodicals published by each group.
3. Filing each year the names of Association Officers with the Rhode Island Historical Society.
4. Exchanging ideas of possible entertainment.
5. Promoting projects of interest to all.
6. Exchanging genealogical records.

Suggestions toward this end would be welcomed by the President. The pioneer ancestors of all these family groups were closely associated in the early history of our state; so likewise, such an association of present day families might receive pleasure and benefit from the formation of such a council.

The August meeting was a picnic and outing at historical Smith's Block House or Cocumcussoc in Wickford. There were tables under

the very old trumpet vine where a lovely view of the water could be enjoyed while we ate our lunches and chatted with members and friends. After lunch the meeting was held in the historic old house, perhaps the very room where Roger Williams wrote some of his papers and Rev. James MacSparren often preached and Indians, statesmen, patriots, generals and privates often met. Mrs. Edwin Huling read quite an extensive account of the old place and plans for its further restoration.

Our Historian, Miss Emily Paine has very carefully searched through daily newspapers in this area for news items relating to descendants of Roger Williams. These are cut out and put into our scrap book which is becoming an increasingly important item of our historical properties. If members who live outside this area will send us any such items as may be printed in their locality it will greatly add to our coverage. The enclosed hectograph copy of "Condensed History of the Roger Williams Family Association" was prepared by Miss Paine and read by her at the Family Guest Day in June.

#### NEW MEMBERS

- MISS LYDIA ANNIE STEERE  
 MRS. MABEL WELLS BRIGGS (MRS. ERNEST L.)  
 MRS. FLORENCE JOSLIN GALLUP (MRS. MILTON P.)  
 MR. MILTON P. GALLUP  
 MR. CHESTER BENNETT COLWELL  
 MRS. MABEL ELLIS BERRY (MRS. MASON W.)  
 MISS ELIZABETH ANN COLWELL  
 MISS NANCY ELIZABETH COLWELL  
 MISS GLADYS COUGHLIN  
 REV. ARBA JOHN MARSH
- MISS JESSIE H. HUNT  
 MRS. PERSIS DEWEY LEGER (MRS. CARL H.)  
 MRS. ELIZABETH C. DUBEE (MRS. J. RAYMOND)  
 MRS. CLARA HENRY DAVIS (MRS. HAROLD)  
 MR. LOREN DEWEY LEGER  
 MRS. LEORA SMITH BOGART (MRS. KENDALL W.)  
 MR. HUBERT A. LATHAM  
 MRS. DOROTHY MOULTON LATHAM (MRS. HUBERT A.)
- MRS. MAUDE EVELYN BABCOCK (MRS. HARRY L.)  
 MISS MYRTLE JOSLIN  
 MRS. INA WILLIAMS MCINTOSH (MRS. W. G.)  
 MRS. ADAH BROWNELL THORESEN (MRS. THOMAS)  
 MR. ALDEN CLINTON SAUNDERS  
 MR. BYRON WINTHROP SAUNDERS  
 MISS CANDACE ELONA WILLIAMS  
 MR. RICHARD WALTER WILLIAMS  
 MISS MARLENE LEIGH SCHLUSEMEYER  
 MR. LEIGH BARTON SCHLUSEMEYER

MISS HELEN HONORA FARRELL  
MISS VICTORIA SUSAN FARRELL  
MISS SANDRA LOUISE FARRELL  
DR. EVERETT CUSHING HURDIS  
CAPT. RICHARD WARREN HURDIS  
MRS. SARA HURDIS MACLAINE (MRS. ALLEN H.)  
MR. LLOYD M. WINSOR  
MISS AMBY LOUISE STEERE  
MR. LESTER BARTON WELLS  
MRS. SUSAN ALLEN WELLS CRABTREE (MRS. BERTRAM)

Great credit is given to the untiring efforts of our very efficient Registrar, Mrs. Charles E. Hurdis, for this splendid record of fifty new members during the year.

---

### IN MEMORIUM

For those bereaved, dear Lord I pray;  
Be Thou their comforter this day;  
In the dark valley be Thou near,  
Yea, very near, O Saviour dear,  
For then they will not be afraid;  
Thy rod and staff will bring them aid.  
Thy presence will alone suffice  
To wipe the tears from sorrow's eyes  
Be with them Lord, I pray.

"Allan Junior"

Mrs. Frank C. (Bernice R.) Munn

Born November 12, 1865

Died February 15, 1951

Mrs. Edmund (Cecil G.) Bardsley

Born 1862

Died July 7, 1951

Mrs. Willard (Grace Winsor) Sisson

Died February 3, 1952

Mrs. Lorena Tyler Gallup

Born 1873

Died February 15, 1952

Mrs. Ivory W. (Carrie L.) Kimball

Died February 16, 1952

Mrs. John (Laura Rhodes) Powers

Born 1881

Died July 2, 1952

Mrs. Joseph B. (Lulie A.) Johnston

Born August 1863

Died July 13, 1952

Mrs. Frank F. (Dr. Louisa Paine) Tingley

Born June 14, 1869

Died July 16, 1952

Miss Anna Hill

Died July 16, 1952

Mrs. Kimball joined the Family Association in 1902 and was the designer of the Association Seal. She also held the office of Treasurer.

Mrs. Powers was hostess during Mr. Arthur Potter's Presidency and was extremely efficient. Her table arrangements were a joy to behold. She also served as Recording Secretary for 2 years.

Dr. Louisa Paine Tingley was a noted physician and attended our meetings when possible. She was one of the women pioneers in the medical field and stood very high in her profession. She also was an artist of note.

---

Mrs. Charles W. Anthony, our very efficient Corresponding Secretary is spending a great deal of time experimenting with a new

hctograph and as a result we hope in the future you will be receiving timely communications of interest to us all.

Report of the Nominating Committee:

For:

President .....Mrs. Clifford W. Brown  
Vice President .....Mrs. Wm. Alfred Leigh  
Recording Secretary .....Mrs. Winthrop H. Saunders  
Corresponding Secretary .....Mrs. Charles W. Anthony  
Treasurer .....Mrs. Harold C. Macdonald  
Historian .....Miss Emily H. Paine  
Registrar .....Mr. Harold P. Williams

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/ HARRIET W. WEEDEN  
M. ALICE HART  
HILDA W. SCHUSTER

## ROGER WILLIAMS MONUMENT ON PROSPECT TERRACE

Roger Williams died in the spring of 1683 and his remains interred in a spot which he had himself selected, on his own land, a short distance from the "spring" where 47 years before he had landed with his five companions, and founded Providence. Not even a rough stone was set up to designate the spot.

On July 15, 1771, 88 years after his death, the Freemen of Providence, in Town Meeting, appointed a committee to draft an inscription for a monument, which it was then voted to erect "over the grave of the Founder of this town and colony." The population at that date scarcely exceeded 4,000 souls and nothing was probably contemplated save a simple memorial to mark the western slope of Prospect Hill. The swift march of events, the burning of the Gaspee, the quarrel with the mother country and the great Revolutionary struggle, hindered the project, and no monument was erected.

The matter seemed forgotten for nearly a century. Then about 1850 it was taken up under the auspices of the "Providence Association of Mechanics and Manufacturers" and a course of ten lectures was given to the public, gratuitously by ten men, the proceeds going toward the monument of Roger Williams. This together with solicited subscriptions was deposited in the Providence Institution for Savings. The first deposit of \$100 was made in 1850. This account reached \$707.53 in May 1886.

On April 26, 1860 Stephen Randall, Esq. called a meeting to which nearly 200 persons came. A month previous, in the presence of several witnesses and with the assistance of two experienced superintendants of public burial grounds, he had caused to be exhumed from the neglected resting place, Williams' "dust and ashes" and placed in an urn in his own tomb in the North Burial Ground. Randall brought the matter before the assemblage, a committee of fifteen appointed, and an act of incorporation under the name of "Roger Williams Monument Association" was signed by 80 of the most prominent and influential citizens of the City and State.

This committee selected a site on Prospect Hill as Roger Williams' final burial place, a height of 200 feet above tide water. As evidence of the conspicuousness of the summit, the committee referred to the historical fact that during the Revolution a beacon fire was kindled thereon at the top of a mast which was seen by the inhabitants of Cambridge, Mass. and of New London, Conn. This circumstance rendered the supposition reasonable, that the top of the monumental shaft, nearly two hundred feet high, might be visible from the top of Bunker Hill monument, which is 220 feet high. In that case, the worthy descendants of the Puritans might there behold the Roger Williams monument, raised on high as an emblem of the triumph of religious freedom. The committee recommended a shaft of granite, in the form of a Grecian column, with a space within the base for statuary, sculptures and historical inscriptions, estimated to cost from \$60,000 to \$70,000. However, no plans submitted were approved and no progress made in subsequent annual meetings which were recorded only until 1865, when Mr. Stephen Randall, despairing of any action on the part of the Association, deposited in the Peoples Savings Bank January 5, 1865 \$1,000 for the purpose of the monument. This, together with various other gifts and accumulated interest, amounted in January 1886 to \$1,635.27. Mr. Randall died in 1874. The total of amounts in three Providence banks in January 1886 amounted to \$6,695.91. The matter lay dormant for fifty years.

In 1936, the 300th anniversary of the settlement of Providence, a new Roger Williams Monument Association was formed, including high officials of the state and patriotic societies for the purpose of erecting the monument. In 1938 the Superior Court issued an order turning over savings accounts to the Association. These amounted to approximately \$45,000. The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations gave \$21,000 and a contribution of \$19,000 from the Tercentenary Committee, and plans were ready to be put into operation.

The result of the work of this committee developed in the construction of a 14 foot statue of Roger Williams weighing ten tons, hewn from fine Rhode Island blue white granite. It was set between two high granite pylons, forming the sides of a rectangular arch. Two bronze boxes, one containing the remains of Roger Williams and the other the records of the Association were placed within the monument. Standing on Prospect Terrace, high above the City of Providence, overlooking same, the monument was dedicated June 29, 1939 to the man who advocated and practiced the doctrines of the right of religious liberty in its widest meaning and stands in its majesty, solidity and permanence an everlasting tribute to the Founder of Rhode Island, keeping eternal vigilance over the City and State he founded in 1636, more than three centuries ago.

Submitted by Mrs. Charles W. Anthony

---

Who knows the story of the Roger Williams statue near the Betsy Williams Cottage in the Park? Research on that is going on and an article is being prepared for future printing.

I wish to express my appreciation and extend sincere thanks to the officers and committee members for all their efforts and work in making my year such a happy one.

MRS. CLIFFORD W. BROWN  
*President*