



ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

INCORPORATED 1906

October 1952—March 1953

No. 23

Once again I extend greetings and best wishes to all Officers and Members of our Family Association.

A year untried before us lies
What it may bring of strange surprise,
Of joy or grief I cannot tell
But God, our Father, knoweth well
I make it no concern of mine
But leave it all with Love Divine. *Selected*

Contributed by our *Chaplain*, and *Director*, Miss Clara P. Dyer, 417 Dyer Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island.

In October we all enjoyed a play entitled, "It Happened In Providence" written and directed by Mrs. Harold P. Williams. The stage properties were in keeping with the period—among them being a hooded pine cradle and several corn husk dolls, made and dressed by Mrs. Williams. The dolls boasted hair of braided corn silk and full-skirted Puritan costumes complete to tiny white kerchiefs and aprons. There was also an ancient tea kettle made of copper that Roger Williams brought to this country from England. By inheritance the kettle passed through the hands of the oldest child of several generations to Miss Eliza M. Comstock of East Providence, and her sister, Mrs. Sarah W. Comstock Arnold. After Mrs. Arnold's death it became the property of her daughter, Mrs. Florence A. Mason, whose husband presented it to the Association July 6, 1950—a few weeks after Mrs. Mason's death. It will always be kept in our room at the Rhode Island Historical Society, 52 Power Street, Providence.

Mrs. Williams is to be congratulated upon her success. In answer to the many requests for a "repeat", we may try to give the play again at the Annual Meeting in September. The cast was as follows—selected from our younger members of whom we are so proud:



Clifford W. Brown, Jr.
Bonnie Sheffield, Susan Sheffield



Richard Williams
Cynthia Saunders, Neil Ross
Clifford W. Brown, Jr.

Roger Williams	Clifford W. Brown, Jr.
Mary Williams, his wife	Susan Sheffield
Mr. Olney, a neighbor	Neil Ross
Mrs. Olney, his wife	Bonnie Sheffield
Mrs. Lashley, a widow	Cynthia Saunders
Canonicus, the Indian Chief.....	Richard Williams
Canonicus's grandson	Garvin Morris

Following the play Mr. Clarkson A. Collins 3rd, Research Associate of the Rhode Island Historical Society, gave a most interesting talk about Roger Williams, during which he read excerpts from the book written by Roger Williams entitled, "Key into the Language of America; or, An Help to the Language of the Natives in that Part of America called New England—".



Cynthia Saunders
Clifford W. Brown, Jr.



Richard Williams
Garvin Morris

November Meeting: Everyone who attended this meeting will remember the human interest stories told during the social hour. If only they could be written and sent to Mrs. Myron Hawkins, R. F. D., Chepachet, her book would be well under way. There were tales of outstanding Thanksgiving Days—recollections of old fashioned Thanksgiving dinners. "Over the River and Through The Woods" was read by Mrs. Spencer. Mrs. Joseph Ament read several scriptural passages referring to thanksgiving and other interesting selections from old books about Thanksgivings of long ago. Our thanks to Mrs. Ament for a well planned meeting.

December Meeting: Entertainment Chairman, Mrs. William C. Schuster, 132 Chestnut Avenue, Cranston 10, introduced Mrs. Harris Lanphear who presented the Felix Fox Club, a group of young people, in a playlet depicting incidents in the life of the famous composer-musician, Edward A. MacDowell.

January Meeting: Our Librarian, Mrs. Clara L. Spencer, 57 Stimson Avenue, Providence 6, told of our library books stored in our closet on the third floor. We have about sixty books at the present time, besides the twenty volumes of "Early Town Records of Providence". We plan to have a few of these books brought down to each meeting and a short review given of one of them each meeting.

We are grateful to Mr. Theodore Dexter for his donation of the book entitled, "Experiments of Spiritual Life and Health of Roger Williams." We hope to enlarge our library this year and if anyone wishes to entrust us with genealogical or historical books pertaining to Roger Williams or early colonial history we promise to take good care of them.

One of our members, Mr. William G. Roelker, Director of the Rhode Island Historical Society, presented us with a block of oak wood on which is noted,

"This block of wood was taken from a beam cut away in making alterations in the house owned and occupied by Roger Williams in Salem, Massachusetts in 1635 and which was later known as the Witch House. Presented by Dr. G. P. Farrington, March 1851".

This is an interesting addition to our historical possessions belonging to Roger Williams.

February Meeting: Mrs. Harold P. Williams read a very comprehensive paper she had written on "The New England Sabbath". She brought out vividly the changes in Sabbath observances over the years. It was much enjoyed by those privileged to hear it and we found it hard to believe that the Sabbaths of very early days were so circumscribed by restrictions and prejudices.

March Meeting: Mrs. Herbert Bailey of Greenwood, talked informally on Ceramics and displayed many interesting pieces she has made.

Snap shots showing how some of our members appeared in April 1952



Mrs. Charles W. Anthony



Mrs. Annie Irons, Mrs. Edward Coleman

Vice President, Mrs. William Leigh, 137 Anthony Street, East Providence, is custodian of the new Family Album. We are making a collection of snap shots of our members and invite each one to send in pictures of himself and members of his family. These pictures should be properly marked with name, address, date and place of birth, parent's names and the place of their birth, etc. We also welcome group pictures of families, pictures of old houses and historic landmarks accompanied by identifying information. Please respond to this request.

Publicity Chairman, Mrs. Edward Coleman, 30 Wesleyan Avenue, Providence has faithfully reported details of all meetings to the local papers and radio stations.



Mrs. Winthrop H. Saunders

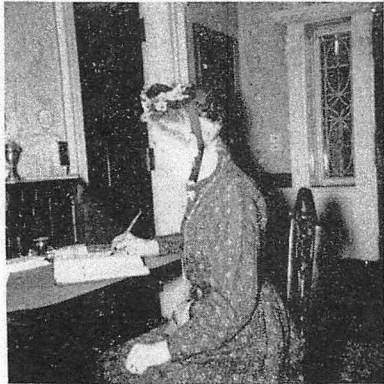


Mrs. Harold P. Williams

The meeting at which "Treasures and Trinkets" were exhibited.



Miss Mildred Williams
Mrs. Charles Roffee Mrs. Johnson Cox



Mrs. Harriet W. Weeden

Recording Secretary, Mrs. Winthrop H. Saunders, 255 Alabama Avenue, Providence 5, has recorded the quit-claim deed granted us for the Constellation of the "Little Dipper", and "Coma Berenices." Roger Williams Park Museum, where we hold our Annual Meetings, will have an addition this spring in the form of a planetarium to be open to the public free of charge. In order to finance this project, Heavenly Real Estate has been offered for sale. The Roger Williams Family Association is proud to have acquired the "Little Dipper" and the Star Cluster "Coma Berenices" for \$50.00. We have made a down payment of \$10.00. Members wishing to share in our Celestial investment are in-



Mrs. Elhanan B. Tucker
Mrs. Harold P. Williams



Miss Sara J. Winsor

vited to send \$1.00 to Mrs. Clara L. Spencer, 57 Stimson Avenue, Providence 6, R. I. The name of our Association will go on the permanent plaque in the Roger Williams Park Museum as a donor, and the names of the individual donors will be listed on our books in a permanent record.

Treasurer, Mrs. Harold C. Macdonald, Chopmist Hill Road, North Scituate, reports dues are coming in nicely. Please check and be sure *yours* have been sent. We are striving to keep dues at fifty cents per year. Your co-operation will enable us to do this.

We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald for the invitation to meet at their home in June. Note the *CHANGE of DATE* from Thursday, June 4th to *SATURDAY, JUNE 6th*. Lunch will be served by the Committee at a charge of 75 cents. Kindly make reservations with Mrs. Harold P. Williams at HOPKINS 1-4578. We will take a short hike during the afternoon, so wear walking shoes.

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Charles W. Anthony, 23 Oakland Avenue, Cranston 10, has received word from the Roger Williams New York Branch meeting as follows:

‘Fourteen were present at a reunion in Syracuse on November 28th of Roger Williams descendants living in New York State. This was in the form of a covered dish supper. Mrs. Mason W. Berry of Lafayette, was in charge of this get-to-gether and plans were made for a second meeting in the spring or summer when travelling conditions are better.’ Congratulations to our New York “Cousins” and we hope they will have many fine times together.

Director, Mrs. Harriet W. Weeden, 66 Lincoln Avenue, Riverside 15, has sent in this very interesting story pertaining to our New York relatives. This article was taken from a New York newspaper of 1887 as follows:

ANNALS OF OXFORD

1811 - 1813

“Eber Williams was born November 6, 1776, and married Martha Bennett November 7, 1799 at Foster, R. I. which town they left October 16, 1808 moving to Warren now Columbia, N. Y. After remaining there three years they came to Oxford and settled in the then dense woods on the farm now owned by Burton Westover, who married their grand daughter Amelia Weeks. In 1814 Mr. Williams sold to Philo Pier and removed to Columbus, this county, remaining here three years. He returned to Oxford and went on the farm he originally owned, and occupied it till his death. Mr. Williams was fifth (we call it sixth, counting Roger as 1st.) in descent from Roger Williams who settled R. I. in 1636. The line of descent being Roger, Daniel, Joseph, Benoni, John, and Eber. His father was born December, 1742, and died August, 1843. His mother was sister (this is incorrect as she was 2nd cousin) of Stephen Hopkins, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. and his wife was a descendant from the Royal House of Tudor of England. (?) Mr. and Mrs. Williams died on the same day October 3, 1867 aged 91 and 87 respectively, and were buried in the same grave. Their children were Daniel, born September 3, 1800, now living in Cincinnati, N. Y.. Polly, born April 7, 1803, married Vincent Loomis and died in Smithville; Sally, born June 6, 1809, married Isaac Wright and died in Wisconsin; John A., born

May 28, 1813, now living at Beloit, Wisconsin; Martha C., born July 10, 1815, married Wilson Case, now living at Spring Valley, Wisconsin; Julia A., born October 25, 1817, married Stephen Weeks and died on the homestead farm July 4th, 1876.

"Daniel Williams now in the 87th year, the oldest of Eber's children, has furnished us with an account of taking a load of butter to Rhode Island. He says: A few of the neighbors had made butter for market, but there were no buyers in Oxford, and they urged father to take it at ten cents a pound, or they would pay him four dollars per hundred for selling it for them. Father asked me if I would go with it. I consented and started on the 28th day of November, 1824 with a yolk of oxen and a pair of horses for a team, with a long-reached, high boxed wagon, and thirty hundred pounds of butter, exclusive of thirty heavy firkins for packages and some other loading, making in all about thirty-five hundred pounds. I walked beside the team and was 14 days on the road making about 260 miles. I had with me a common sized log chain to fasten a wheel in going down steep hills. When descending the eastern declivity of the Catskills I chained one wheel as usual but it occurred to me that it might not hold, and I fastened another wheel with a strong rope and had moved but a few rods when the chain broke, but luckily the rope held and I descended the hill in safety. With the assistance of relatives in R. I. I sold the butter and the oxen. During the month of January I started for home and the weather remaining warm till I crossed the Connecticut river, when it became intensely cold, and on reaching the Hudson river at Hudson found I could not cross on account of floating ice. Learning that the river was open at Troy I drove to that city reaching the landing just after the last boat for the day had crossed. I then went to Lansingburgh, crossed on the bridge, passed through Schenectady, striking the Albany turnpike at Post's tavern and stopped a few days with relatives at Herkimer. From there I came home, having made a trip in mid-winter of about 600 miles, a hazardous undertaking."

(Eber Williams was the 7th child of Elder John Williams and the 2nd by his 2nd wife Alsie Hopkins who was sister of his first wife Bethia Hopkins.)

Registrar, Mr. Harold P. Williams, 35 Hodsell Street, Cranston 10, has verified the names of the following applicants who were elected to membership:

MISS GLADYS ADELAIDE SWEET
46 Belvedere Blvd.
North Providence 11, R. I.

MISS EDITH F. WINSOR
1272 West Shore Road
Warwick, R. I.

IRVING MORRIS SWEET
200 Pine Hill Avenue
Johnston, R. I.
R.F.D. No. 1, Centerdale 11

CHARLOTTE T. PARMELEE
(MRS. E. LINCOLN)
44 Clarendon Street
Cranston 10, R. I.

MISS CLARA M. TALLMAN
44 Clarendon Street
Cranston 10, R. I.

MISS LINDA MARY TUCKER
225 Chapel Street
Saylesville, R. I.

MISS RUTH A. SWEET
7 Euclid Avenue
Providence 6, R. I.

MISS DOROTHY W. WILBUR
1272 West Shore Road
Warwick, R. I.

MISS LILLIAN M. SWEET
200 Pine Hill Avenue
Johnston, R. I.
R.F.D. No. 1, Centerdale 11

E. LINCOLN PARMELEE
44 Clarendon Street
Cranston 10, R. I.

LILLIAN C. TALLMAN
(MRS. HENRY M.)
46 Clarendon Street
Cranston 10, R. I.

GEORGE L. PAINE
72 Pontiac Avenue
Providence 7, R. I.

LOUISE ANTHONY GREENE
(MRS. JOHN F.)
117 Orchard Street
Cranston 10, R. I.

KENNETH DAVID SPENCER
168 Richard Street
Cranston 10, R. I.

FRANCES S. SMITH
(MRS. EUGENE A.)
65 Chauncey Avenue
Rumford 16, R. I.

MARION E. LEVINE
(MRS. JEROME F.)
65 Chauncey Avenue
Rumford 16, R. I.

MAY BYROM SUITS
(MRS. LESLIE D.)
176 Dorwin Avenue
Syracuse 5, N. Y.

BERTHA GREENUP HAINES
(MRS. JOSEPH A.)
56 Zone Street
Providence 8, R. I.

WINIFRED PENNELL FERREIRA
(MRS. ANTHONY F.)
106 Stanley Street
Attleboro Falls, Mass.

DR. ROSS GRIFFITH, D. D., *President*
North Western Christian Univ.
Eugene, Oregon

MARGERY IDA MATTHEWS
(MRS. THOMAS)
Foster, R. I.
(Mail) Greene, R. I.

MRS. MARY B. WILLIAMS
39 Church Street
East Hartford, Conn.

ELSIE WILD MUNRO
(MRS. CHARLES G.)
Tremont Street
Duxbury, Mass.

WINIFRED M. VINTON
(MRS. ARTHUR HOLZEN)
926 So. Westmoreland Avenue
Apt. 104, Los Angeles, Calif.

JULIA WINSOR LANPHEAR
(MRS. HARRIS E.)
1 Lanphear Street
West Warwick, R. I.

BARBARA MACDONALD WIECK
(MRS. MAX R.)
188 Morris Avenue
Providence 6, R. I.

ANTHONY F. FERREIRA
106 Stanley Street
Attleboro Falls, Mass.

MARIAN R. GRAVES
(MRS. FREDERICK E.)
45 Gaynos Drive
Bridgeport 29, Conn.

Last year Mr. Williams was responsible for clearing, grading and seeding one of the old Williams cemeteries. This cemetery is located on Beacon Circle in Cranston and I quote "Arnold's Cemetery Records of Cranston VOL. 2".

"1890—On what is known as the Fiske farm, a distance north of the house, between Pontiac and Reservoir Aves., in a burial lot much neglected and entirely unprotected.

Mathewson Williams, son of Jeremiah and Abigail, died Jul. 29, 1773 in 22nd year.

Celinda Harris, wife of the late James Harris and daughter of Zuriel and Rebecca Waterman, died Sept. 9, 1826, aged 69 years and 1 month. There are two graves on the right side not marked. To the left a space, a line of three small graves with a large one at the head of them, with end stones only.

Mr. Andrew Williams, born May 26, 1738, died Jan. 31, 1816. Mrs. Lydia Williams, wife of Andrew, died Mar. 1, 1805, aged 63 years, 6 months and 1 day.

A small grave and four large ones to the right with rude stones".

Historian, Miss Emily Paine, 887 Elmwood Avenue, Providence 7, has sent in the following:

IN MEMORIUM

Mrs. Nellie T. (Razee) Noyes, aged 80 yrs. wife of the late Frank W. Noyes	October 28, 1952
Mrs. Florence E. (Williams) Roe, wife of Percy Roe	November 15, 1952
Miss Mabel F. Armstrong	December 15, 1952
Mrs. Simcon A. Williams (East Hartford, Conn.)	January 5, 1953
Mrs. Gideon Burgess, (Emma Augustus Steere)	February 6, 1953

Sunshine Committee Chairman, Mrs. Harry Bedson, 285 Woodbine Street, Cranston 10, has made personal calls, sent many greeting cards and flowers to sick and shut-in members. We hope no one has been over-looked but must depend upon members to notify us of such cases.

A Conversational Corner: Under the direction of Miss Clara P. Dyer we are enjoying the exhibits each meeting in the Conversational Corner. There have been many unusual articles displayed there such as a Witchscare taken from an old chimney, several old games, including the solitaire game played with marbles; a pack of All American Playing Cards printed during 1862 and portraying the uniforms of the Union Army on the face cards; souvenirs of China; two old Farmers Almanacs dated 1828 and 1848; a metallic "Nancy" (A device to prevent sleeves from sliding up when putting on a coat); and other interesting and historical articles.

We have been asked to submit a window display at the time of the opening, at the new location, for the Roger Williams Savings Fund and Loan Bank on Westminster Street, Providence. Members having in their possession articles belonging to Roger Williams or articles in keeping with that period are urged to get in touch with Miss Clara P. Dyer, 417 Dyer Avenue, Cranston 9, R. I.

We are still collecting coupons of all kinds, particularly those from the General Mills Products. Please send them to Mrs. Charles W. Anthony, 23 Oakland Avenue, Cranston 10, R. I.

Family Council Chairman, Mrs. Charles E. Hurdis, 109 Smithfield Road, North Providence 4, R. I., has issued an invitation to the President and officers of the following old Rhode Island families to meet with her at her home on Saturday afternoon, May 9th, 1953, to consider our mutual problems and procedures:

THE ANGELL FAMILY ASSOCIATION
 THE BALLOU FAMILY ASSOCIATION
 THE BERNON FAMILY ASSOCIATION
 THE BUXTON FAMILY ASSOCIATION
 THE GOFF FAMILY ASSOCIATION
 THE HOWARD FAMILY ASSOCIATION
 PILGRIM JOHN HOWLAND SOCIETY, INC.
 THE R.I. CHAPTER OF THE MATTESON HISTORICAL CONGRESS
 THE MOWRY FAMILY ASSOCIATION
 THE PLACE FAMILY MEMBERS
 THE STEERE FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.
 THE WESTCOTT FAMILY ASSOCIATION
 THE WINSOR FAMILY ASSOCIATION
 THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Sunday, May 17th, 1953: The Roger Williams Family Association has been invited to attend church services at the historic old First Baptist Church in America, corner of Waterman and North Main Streets, Providence, R. I. — 11:00 A. M. The services will be broadcast so those unable to be with us may hear the sermon. We hope all who are able will be present. Following the services we will form a motorcade and visit several historical places including:

1. The spring—North Main Street.
2. First burial place of Roger Williams.
3. Prospect Terrace.
4. First landing place—Slate Rock Park.
5. Philip Walker House—Home of Miss Faith Shedd where we will have lunch on the lawn.
6. Spring in Rumford and site of Roger Williams first home.
7. The Walker House owned by Mrs. Remington.
8. The Cave in Swansea where Roger is reputed to have spent several nights on his way to Rhode Island.

Please bring a box lunch.

FAMILY TREES

If you could see your ancestors all standing in a row
 I expect you'd find there one or two you wouldn't care to know
 Because in climbing family trees there always are a few
 Who got there by irregular steps as such, folks always do.
 If you should see your ancestors all standing in a row
 You'd surely find there one or two whom you'd be proud to know
 But here's another question which presents a different view
 If you should meet these ancestors, would they be proud of you?

I'm sure Roger Williams would be proud of his descendant, Miss Janet M. Shaw, Brook Road, Wayne, Pennsylvania. Miss Shaw has written a splendid story of the Life of Roger Williams, a copy of which accompanies this Bulletin. Miss Shaw wrote:

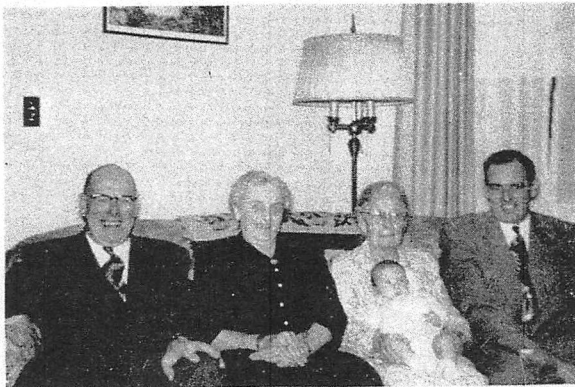


Mrs. Jennie M. Hopkins (center) 90th Birthday Party
 Mrs. Fred A. Shippee Mrs. Clara L. Spencer

"I wrote the paper as my thesis while I was senior at Radnor High School and was seventeen years of age. The school requires that each student in English write a paper on a subject that has not previously been written about by a student at the school. There was no prize connected with it. I chose Roger Williams because I had heard a lot about him through my parents and grand-parents and from the Baptist Church and because I am descended from him through my grandfather, Lewis Atwell Olney. I am now at Bucknell University at Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

My Parents are Dexter Nicholas Shaw and Edna (Olney) Shaw and both were brought up in Lowell, Massachusetts where my grandfather, Prof. Olney was Head of the Department of Chemistry and Dying at Lowell Institute of Technology."

Our Congratulations to Miss Shaw!



Mrs. Jennie M. Hopkins holding Kenneth D. Spencer (5th generation).
 Alfred J. Spencer Mrs. Clara L. Spencer Alfred J. Spencer, Jr.

Speaking of Family Trees; Roger Williams Family Association boasts one family of five generations, whose antecedents were:

Born

- | | | |
|--|------|---------------------------|
| 1. William Blanchard,
born in Coventry, R. I. | 1657 | Married Jane Steer |
| 2. Theophilus | 1704 | Married Patience Jefford |
| 3. Isaac | 1746 | Married Rosannah Green |
| 4. Caleb | 1777 | Married Betsie Walker |
| 5. Abram | 1804 | Married Mary Ann Crandall |
| 6. Jennie M. | 1863 | Married James S. Battey |

Abram was married three times, had five children by his first wife, fourteen by his second wife and by this third wife three. Jennie M. Battey Hopkins was the twentieth child.

Mrs. Hopkins is the oldest of five generations all members of the Roger Williams Family Association, including two daughters and one son.

Her daughter—Mrs. Clara L. Spencer

Her grandson—Alfred J. Spencer

Her great grandson—Alfred J. Spencer, Jr.

Her great great grandson—Kenneth D. Spencer.

Caleb Blanchard, grandfather of Mrs. Hopkins gave the acres of land in Moosup Valley, R. I. on which the Grange Hall, School House, Church and Library were built. The Blanchard Cemetery is there also.

Caleb's father, Isaac Blanchard served in the Revolutionary War in Capt. Fry's Company.

This Bulletin enables me to acquaint you with the progress of the Association. I trust you have enjoyed reading it. My sincere thanks to the officers and committee members for the splendid cooperation which exists among them.

MRS. CLIFFORD W. BROWN,
President.

Home address:
180 Brown Street,
Providence 6,
Rhode Island