



March, 1957

ANCESTORS

Dear ancestors of long ago,
Didn't you think I would want to know
Where you were born, where you died,
Where you laughed and where you cried?
Your politics and religion were right;
Always knew when and how to fight.
And considered it wrong and a sin
If you did not endeavor to win.
You did your duty, did not shirk,
Were willing and thankful to work.
Tell me, where did all of you go?
Your descendants want to know.

By Mrs. Maude B. Reid, our Honorary Vice President, who will be 89 years old on the 28th of April.

Welcome to the 58 people who have joined the Roger Williams Family Association since September 1956 and greetings to all of our 608 members.

We regret that it is sometimes several years after the death of one of our members before we learn the date, as in the case of two of those listed in this Bulletin.

Our Association pins are only 75c each, and very attractive. Do you have one? The gentleman who made them for us has recently died and the next lot will cost much more. If you desire a pin, contact our Treasurer, Mrs. Ernest E. Mowry, P. O. Box 477, Greenville, R. I.

As the First Baptist Church of Providence, founded by Roger Williams, is under repair, our Association will attend services in Sayles Hall, Brown University, on Sunday, May 19, 1957. Members will have lunch at Eileen Darling's, followed by a tour of Swansea.

HELEN S. BEDSON,
President

In Memoriam

MISS LUCY E. BROWN
MR. FRANK COE
MRS. ARTHUR C. TOPLIFF
MR. FREDERICK MERCHANT
MR. BENJAMIN H. SMITH
MRS. JUSTUS P. THORNDIKE

May 14, 1954
Sept. 19, 1955
Oct. 14, 1956
Nov. 15, 1958
Dec. 18, 1958
Jan. 18, 1957

PROGRAMS OF THE PAST SIX MEETINGS

On October 4th, Mrs. Harold P. Williams showed colored slides of "Acadia, New England's National Park" in Maine. The pine clad mountains, rocky coast and sheltered coves make this area a favorite vacation spot.

Mrs. Winthrop Saunders was in charge of the "Treasures and Trinkets" program on November 1st, which involved much planning. Members were very interested in the many antique and unusual items displayed.

The Providence Plantations Club was the setting for a dinner and Christmas Party on December 6th, which was enjoyed by 79 members. C. Livingston Peck entertained with piano selections and Mrs. Clifton L. Poole sang a group of songs appropriate to the season.

The January 3rd meeting was held in the auditorium of the Providence Gas Co. because of snow and icy streets. Mrs. Harold C. Macdonald gave an amusing and interesting account of the restoration of "An Old Connecticut Homestead" recently purchased by her daughter.

Because of a conflict in her plans, Prof. Mary C. Whitlock spoke on February 7th instead of in March, as planned. Her topic was "Around the World with Textiles" and she exhibited laces and embroideries from this country and abroad.

On March 7th, Mrs. Saunders spoke of her "Pennsylvania Ramblings" and the adventures which befell her when she set out to find the descendants of a great uncle who migrated to Pennsylvania over a hundred years ago. She felt her perseverance had been amply rewarded by the discovery of relatives hitherto unknown.

A TREE GROWS IN RUMFORD

There are many who have but a vague idea of the ordeals Roger Williams endured in the bitter winter of 1636, some of his darkest hours, in the cause of RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

Roger's repeated clashes with the elders among the Massachusetts PURITANS are too well known to require repetition; the "Lord's Bretheren" as Blackstone labeled them, were filled with fear that Roger's powerful and persuasive preaching was awakening the people of the Bay Colony to the tyrannical attitude of the Massachusetts established church, and in time would spoil the GOOD THING they had built up for themselves in the colony. They simply HAD to get rid of the outrageous Mr. Williams.

So on the 11th of January 1636, they ordered the leader of their trained band, a Captain Underhill, to proceed to Salem where Roger was preaching, arrest him and bring him under guard to Boston, where he was to be placed aboard a ship to sail for England.

John Winthrop, who was Governor of the "Bay" at that time, had taken a liking to the young clergyman, and was to some extent sympathetic to his doctrines and although he did not have the courage to espouse his cause, saw to it that Roger was secretly warned, in time to make good his escape. When the brave Captain Underhill arrived in Salem, Roger, the rebel, was nowhere to be found, and no one knows where he had gone—or did they? Probably they did not, for Mr. Williams was too astute to leave any possible clue by which he might be followed, and the great blizzard which was raging at the time would have covered his tracks in the deep snow. To the end of his long life, Roger never revealed, by spoken or written word, where he spent the rest of that terrible winter. He was too much a MAN ever to betray his host who gave him food and shelter in his dire need, for he well knew the ruthless persecution that the magistrates of the Bay Colony would be sure to

inflict upon the kind friends who sheltered and protected him, and the land of the Wampanoags lay within the jurisdiction of the Boston and Plymouth Colonies.

Historians have suspected that Roger hid himself at the winter quarters of the friendly tribe at Sowams (Warren) and probably he did, for when spring arrived at last, Massasoit, Chief of the Wampanoags, made Roger a present of a tract of land on which he might build his home, and bring his persecuted friends to join him. This tract was on the north shore of Seekonk Cove, between the Ten-Mile and the Seekonk Rivers, on the southern slope of a wooded hill, where there was a spring of good water, which still flows as it did in that long ago.

Here Roger and his friends built homes and planted their crops, but scarcely had the seed taken root, when one day came a messenger from Plymouth Colony with a note from Governor Winslow to Roger Williams, to the effect that Roger and his friends unwittingly had built their homes on land that was part of Plymouth Colony, and as that Colony could not afford to offend the Lords of the BAY, would Mr. Williams oblige by removing to the western bank of the Seekonk River, and thus relieve Plymouth of his embarrassing presence? Mr. Williams would—and he did.

We all know the rest of the story and its happy ending. The little hamlet of Providence was abandoned, and the little band of freedom seekers crossed the Seekonk, and founded a new Providence on the left bank of the—then—beautiful Moshassoc River, where the great city of Roger Williams now stands. It must have been a sad blow to our Roger to be driven out of that beautiful little hamlet on the Ten-Mile, but, as so often happened in his life, out of sorrow and bitter disappointment, he was led into much greater and more enduring things. The little village he founded in what, by a happy readjustment in boundaries, is now a part of Rhode Island, could never, because of its geographical location, have become a great city such as the present city of Providence.

Not so many years ago those who visited the site of that first settlement were shown the cellar-hole of Roger Williams' first home. It is plainly evident that the land along the shore of the cove has been filled in to the level of Roger Williams Avenue, and the old cellar-hole filled up and built upon. The narrow Indian trail has become the two-lane Roger Williams Avenue, but the spring is still flowing—cold and crystal clear as when Roger himself drank from it and gave thanks.

Let the site of that historical spot be forgotten and lost to future generations, this Association on April 27, 1904, planted an oak tree on the exact location of Roger's first Rhode Island home, and surrounded it with an iron paling to protect it from injury; to this is attached a bronze tablet which tells the history of the settlement and the cause of its abandonment.

"This oak tree marks the site of the first dwelling place of Roger Williams after his banishment from Salem, Mass. in 1636, and which he abandoned in the spring of that year at the request of Governor Winslow of Plymouth."

Thus, this faithful old SENTRY OAK stands guard over HISTORY, preserving it from the inroads of time and change; of forgetfulness and ingratitude, this TREE THAT GROWS IN RUMFORD.

ARTHUR RICE POTTER

NEW MEMBERS SINCE SEPTEMBER 1956

ANDERSON, Mrs. Oscar A. (Ethel M. Tourtellot) 134 Whittier Avenue, Providence 9, R. I. (Daniel)

ATKINS, Thomas J. S., 2259 Madison Road, Hyde Park, Cincinnati 8, Ohio (Mercy Waterman)

BARNARD, Miss Edith, 114 Brown Street, Providence 6, R. I. (Mary)

BLAKE, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond H., Jr., Moulton Street, Rehoboth, Mass. (Freeborn)

BLAKE, Bruce B., Moulton Street, Rehoboth, Mass. (Freeborn)

BLAKE, Molly K., Moulton Street, Rehoboth, Mass. (Freeborn)

COOKE, Miss Marion A., 167 Power Street, Providence 6, R. I. (Daniel)

CRUMP, Mrs. Rollan A. (Anna Smith) 370 Newport Avenue, Hermiston, Oregon (Mercy Winsor)

EVANS, Bradford N. C., 11 Allison Avenue, No. Providence 11, R. I. (Mercy Winsor)

FITZ, Mrs. Robert (Madeline Keithley) 704 Greenwood Avenue, Michigan City, Ind. (Mercy Waterman)

NEW MEMBERS SINCE SEPTEMBER 1966 (Continued)

- FRAZIER, Mrs. Wm. F., (Janet White) 191 Pond Street, Westwood, Mass. (Mercy Waterman)
- GILBERT, Mrs. Walter J. (Mary Barnard) 114 Brown Street, Providence 6, R. I. (Mary)
- HALL, Mr. and Mrs. George E., (Norma C. Thorensen) 2783 Senate Drive, Lansing 12, Mich. (Daniel)
- HALL, Miss Janice L., 2783 Senate Drive, Lansing 12, Mich. (Daniel)
- HOYT, Mr. and Mrs. Russell W., (Gene E. Munson) 85 Bishop Street, No. Haven, Conn. (Daniel)
- HOYT, Neil R., 85 Bishop Street, No. Haven, Conn. (Daniel)
- HOYT, Miss Susan Gene, 85 Bishop Street, North Haven, Conn. (Daniel)
- MacINTOSH, Gordon W. Daycroft School, Stamford, Conn. (Daniel)
- MacINTOSH, Miss Dorothy G., 1654 Waverly Way, Baltimore 12, Md. (Daniel)
- MacINTOSH, Gwyn Williams, 1654 Waverly Way, Baltimore 12, Md. (Daniel)
- MALCOLM, Mrs. William (Elizabeth Atkins) P. O. Box 156, LeRoy, Ohio. (Mercy Waterman)
- MacKAY, Mrs. Earl C., (Virginia Place) 75 Maryland Avenue, Lincoln Park 7, R. I. (Mary)
- McINTOSH, Wilfred G., 119 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence 8, R. I.
- McINTOSH, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred G., Jr., Little Pond Road, Concord, N. H. (Daniel)
- McINTOSH, Henry H., Little Pond Road, Concord, N. H. (Daniel)
- McINTOSH, Wilfred G., 3rd, Little Pond Road, Concord, N. H. (Daniel)
- MUNSON, Mr. and Mrs. Harold D., (Marjorie McIntosh) Devil's Garden Road So. Norwalk, Conn.
- MUNSON, Miss Gail Williams, Devil's Garden Road, South Norwalk, Conn. (Daniel)
- MUNSON, Harold D., Jr., Devil's Garden Road, South Norwalk, Conn. (Daniel)
- PETERSON, Mrs. Albert N. (Ruth E. Cooke) 5 Hidden Street, Providence 8, R. I. (Daniel)
- PHILLIPS, Miss Bertha L., 64 Chestnut Avenue, Cranston 10, R. I. (Daniel)
- SCOTT, Mrs. Caleb M., (Lillian Tourtellot) 16 Summer Avenue, Cranston 9, R. I. (Joseph)
- SHUMAN, Mrs. Ralph W., (May E. Colwell) RFD No. 1, Centerdale, 2365 Hartford Avenue, R. I. (Mercy Winsor)
- SIMMONS, Frederick J., 104 Summit Avenue, Upper Montclair, N. J. (Mary)
- SHIPPEE, Elmer R., 90 Greenwood Avenue, Rumford, R. I. (Daniel)
- SHIPPEE, Barbara Ann, 90 Greenwood Avenue, Rumford, R. I. (Daniel)
- SHIPPEE, Joan E., 90 Greenwood Avenue, Rumford, R. I. (Daniel)
- SHIPPEE, Richard C., 90 Greenwood Avenue, Rumford, R. I. (Daniel)
- SHIPPEE, Russell R., 90 Greenwood Avenue, Rumford, R. I. (Daniel)
- SHIPPEE, Harold R., Jr., 194 Arlington Avenue, Providence, R. I. (Daniel)
- SHIPPEE, William H., 194 Arlington Avenue, Providence, R. I. (Daniel)
- SHIPPEE, Patricia A., 194 Arlington Avenue, Providence, R. I. (Daniel)
- SHIPPEE, Charles B., 194 Arlington Avenue, Providence, R. I. (Daniel)
- SMITH, Mrs. David E., (Katherine Maxwell) 545 So. McGilnecy, Campbell, Calif. (Mercy Winsor)
- STARR, Mrs. Charles H., (Rose Champlin) 15 Farm Street, Cranston 9, R. I. (Mary)
- STEEER, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar A., (Florence Esten) Absalona Hill Road, Chepachet, R. I. (Daniel)
- TAYLOR, Robert P., Danby, Rutland County, Vermont (Mercy Winsor)
- THORESEN, Miss Ina C., 83 Walnut Street, East Providence, R. I. (Daniel)
- WILBUR, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie C., Rt. 3, Hillsboro, No. Carolina (Mercy Winsor)
- WILBUR, Clifford L., Rt. 3, Hillsboro, No. Carolina (Mercy Winsor)
- WILBUR, Kenneth C., Rt. 3, Hillsboro, No. Carolina (Mercy Winsor)