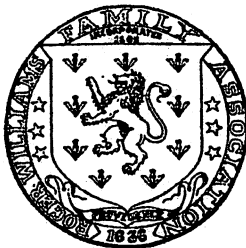


ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION



April 1962

No. 40

Greetings to each member of the family and a special welcome to our forty-three new members.

As the Easter season approaches may its true spirit of Eternal Life fill your hearts and comfort you throughout the year.

May it be a special comfort to those who have lost dear ones recently. And may its message bless the ill and shut-ins.

To those who so faithfully attend and support our meetings, I am most grateful.

Cordially,

FLORENCE J. GALLUP,

President

JOSEPH WILLIAMS' EPITAPH

Was Joseph Williams a Theosophist? If so, or if not so, what is the significance of the epitaph on his gravestone in the family burying lot in Roger Williams Park? The idea that he may have been one occurs because an important item of Theosophist belief is reincarnation in some different form, and the epitaph runs as follows:

In King Philip's War he courageously went through/
And the native Indian he bravely did subdue,
And now he's gone down to the grave and he will be no more/
Until it please Almighty God his body to restore/
Into some proper shape as He thinks fit to be,
Perhaps as a grain of wheat as Paul sets forth, you see.

There follows a reference to Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth. In the fifteenth chapter, verses 36, 37 and 38, he says: "That which thou sowest is not quickened except it die. And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat or of some other grain. But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him."

We take it that was whoever thought up the lines which mark Joseph Williams' last resting place had in mind. Perhaps Joseph himself prepared the epitaph in anticipation of death. If so, they reflect unquestionably his own thoughts. But they seem rather more likely to have been assembled after his death, quite probably by his pastor. The belief in the resurrection of the body was out of fashion among the early settlers of Rhode Island. They seem not to have concerned themselves generally with what was going to happen to the mortal tenement. Our own idea is that Joseph took a naturalistic view of the matter, figuring that his flesh would promote other growths.

Joseph was born in December 1643, six months after Roger had sailed for England on his successful quest for the first charter. He was eight months old when his father first saw him after his triumphal return. There is one curious reference to him as a boy of 16 in a letter Roger wrote to his friend John Winthrop of Connecticut. He says: "My youngest son Joseph was troubled with a spice of epilepsy. "We used some remedies, but it hath pleased God by his taking of tobacco perfectly as we hope to cure him."

Joseph was 31, in the full strength of his manhood when he bravely did subdue the Indians in the great war. He held by gift from his father the Pawtuxet lands allotted to Roger, including the greater part of what is now included in the park.

If Joseph had a touch of what later came to be known as Theosophy, he came by it legitimately. His father passed his whole life trying to sift truth from falsehood. No doubt in the course of his meditations, Roger gave a lot of thought to the fate of the body after death. Very likely he talked these matters over with his youngest son, Joseph.

Milking the cows where now Providence dwellers seek recreation in their beautiful park, picking apples, ploughing and hoeing, Joseph would have had opportunity to think these matters over. He knew how a grain of wheat grows and the corn swells in the ear. In some such way as that his body after death would live again. That's what we think his epitaph means. Any reader who wants to think otherwise may do so without written license.

Condensed from *These Plantations*

by J. Earl Clauson in the *Providence Evening Bulletin*

ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Programme

APRIL 1962 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1962

Programme Committee

MRS. ROBERT M. BRAYTON, Chairman

MRS. RUSSELL G. FINCH

MRS. HAROLD P. WILLIAMS

April 5th, 2:00 P.M.—

Attic Treasures—Member Participation Meeting.
Bring your favorite attic treasures and share their stories with us.

May 3rd, 8:00 P.M.—

Roger Williams and the Narragansett Indians.
Speaker: Mr. George E. Matteson.

May 20th (Sunday), 11:00 A.M.—

First Baptist Church. Luncheon at Howard Johnson's, 1303 North Main Street.
Pilgrimage to the Providence Automated Post Office, Corliss Street. Tour at
2:30 P.M.

June 7th, 2:00 P.M.—

Roger Williams' Influence Counts In Providence Today.
Speaker: Mr. George Williams of the Providence Preservation Society.

July 14th (Saturday), 12:30 P.M.—

At the Joy Homestead, Scituate Avenue, Cranston, R. I.
Basket Lunch. Tour of the House.

August 4th (Saturday), 12:30 P.M.

At the Home of Mr. E. W. Bradford, Duxbury, Mass.
Basket Lunch.

September 6th—

Roger Williams Park Museum. Annual Meeting.
Mr. and Mrs. Carlton H. Parker will show their pictures of Our National Parks.

Unless otherwise stated, meetings will be held at the John Brown House,
52 Power Street, Providence, R. I.

Please keep this programme for future reference, as no other notice of
meetings will be sent.

POTTER, Jere Walden, 5478 Revere Drive, North Olmstead, Ohio (Mercy Winsor).
 POTTER, Wentworth M., 29 Hook Hollow Road, Novelty, Ohio (Mercy Winsor).
 RATHBUN, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold C., 463 Oaklawn Ave., Cranston, R. I. (Joseph).
 RATHBUN, Mr. and Mrs. Edward B., 41 Turner Ave., Cranston, R. I. (Joseph).
 ROSE, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson N., 530 Victoria Court, San Leandro, Calif. (Daniel).
 ROSE, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Richard, 530 Victoria Court, San Leandro, Calif. (Daniel).
 ROSE, Nelson Robert, 530 Victoria Court, San Leandro, Calif. (Daniel).
 ROSE, Neil Ronald, 530 Victoria Court, San Leandro, Calif. (Daniel).
 ROSE, Nancy Rose, 530 Victoria Court, San Leandro, Calif. (Daniel).
 ROSE, Nina Roselyn, 530 Victoria Court, San Leandro, Calif. (Daniel).
 SAWYER, Mrs. Harry N. (Alice Treadway), 610 Empire Blvd., Rochester 9, New York (Daniel).
 SHEDD, Mrs. Kenneth W. (Johanna E. M. Potter), 5 Leatherstocking St., Coopers-town, N. Y. (Daniel).
 STAATS, Mrs. Robert W. (Janet W. King), Carol Drive, R.D. 3, Poughkeepsie, N. Y. (Daniel).
 STAFFORD, Mrs. William R. (Elizabeth L. Patt), 51 Annawanscutt Rd., West Bar- ington, R. I. (Daniel).
 STEERE, Miss Nancy Ann, Box 133, Forrestdale, R. I. (Mary, Daniel and Joseph).
 WILLARD, Jonathan, 2 Robb Court, Winchester, Kentucky (Mary, Daniel and Joseph).
 WHIPPLE, Miss Stephanie Kay 25 Algonquin Road, Rumford 16, R. I. (Mary).
 WHIPPLE, Miss Karen Louise, 25 Algonquin Road, Rumford 16, R. I. (Mary).
 YOUNG, Mrs. Charles W. (Clara Frances Gardiner), 25 Algonquin Rd., Rumford 16, R. I. (Mary).

RESUME OF MEETINGS — OCTOBER - MARCH

October 5th, 8 P.M.—Members always look forward to the colored movies of the annual vacation trip taken by our members, Miss Alice W. Roe and her father, Mr. Percy Roe. This year there were two trips—their winter vacation in Florida, the summer one on the Saguenay River. Again we thank them for sharing their vacations with us.

November 2, 2:00 P.M.—“Quilts through the Ages,” Mrs. Harold E. Adams, our speaker, has collected some beautiful specimens and some of our members displayed their treasures.

December 9, 8:00 P.M.—Again we are indebted to our members, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford W. Brown, for opening their lovely home to us for a Christmas party. This year the weatherman treated us better. A fine musical program was under the direction of Mrs. Clifford Poole and Dr. and Mrs. George W. Davis and readings, “Christmas Customs of Other Lands,” were given by Mrs. Josiah Barney. Mrs. Harold P. Williams was in charge of refreshments.

January 11, 2:00 P.M.—Mrs. Florence Simister chose selections from her writings, “Streets of the City,” which were read by members.

A similar program given last year was so enjoyed, that it was requested we have another.

February 1, 2:00 P.M.—“Holiday on the Hudson,” by our member, Mrs. Harold P. Williams. Her slides of historic homes were beautiful and her commentary very educational.

March 1, 2:00 P.M.—Meeting cancelled because of hazardous driving.

Dues (50 cents a year) payable September 1st

Treasurer: Mrs. Harry D. Bedson

285 Woodside Street, Cranston 10, R. I.

In Memoriam

Mrs. Lizzie Kakebeeke	January 12, 1961
Miss Florence S. Bennett	March 15, 1961
Mrs. Grace W. Smith	April 24, 1961
Dr. Irvin C. Brown	June 21, 1961
Mrs. Lillian W. Clement	June 22, 1961
Miss Fanny B. Lippitt	July 10, 1961
Mrs. Bertha C. Rose	September 14, 1961
Miss Myrtle I. Allen	September 14, 1961
Mrs. Harriett Weeden (A Past President)	September 17, 1961
Mrs. Elsie M. Cooke	September 21, 1961
Mrs. Florence M. Bassett (Honorary President)	October 28, 1961
Mrs. Mary L. Slocum	December 1, 1961
Mr. Manton L. Sweet	February 14, 1962

NEW MEMBERS SINCE SEPTEMBER 1, 1961

- ALEXANDER, Mrs. Ralph B. (Sarah Louise Johnson) Laurens, Otsego County, New York (May-Nov.) 1938 Albany Drive, Clearwater, Florida (Nov.-May) (Daniel).
- BIRTWELL, Mrs. William C. (Arlene Fales), Peep Toad Road, No. Scituate, R. I. (Mercy Winsor).
- BIRTWELL, Miss A. Dianne (Arlene Fales), Peep Toad Road, No. Scituate, R. I. (Mercy Winsor).
- BIRTWELL, William C. (Arlene Fales), Peep Toad Road, No. Scituate, R. I. (Mercy Winsor).
- BIRTWELL, Suzanne C. (Arlene Fales), Peep Toad Road, No. Scituate, R. I. (Mercy Winsor).
- BIRTWELL, Robert C. (Arlene Fales), Peep Toad Road, No. Scituate, R. I. (Mercy Winsor).
- BROWN, Mrs. Charles (Helen Potter), 134-15th Ave., c/o Alpha Phi House, Columbus, Ohio (Mercy Winsor).
- DAVIS, Mrs. Lewis E. (Maria Rose Potter), 238 E. Broadway, Granville, Ohio (Mercy Winsor).
- DESFORGES, Mrs. Henry G. (Beulah Searle), 54 Newport Ave., North Kingstown, R. I. (Daniel).
- DOWLING, Mrs. Frederic P. (Sibyl A. Searle), Inez Ave., Narragansett, R. I. (Daniel).
- FALES, Lester P., Jr. 39 Hersey Rd., Cranston 10, R. I. (Mercy Winsor).
- FALES, Stephen A., 39 Hersey Rd. Cranston 10, R. I. (Mercy Winsor).
- FALES, F. Curtis, 15 Wilton Drive, Allendale, New Jersey (Mercy Winsor).
- FRANCE, Mrs. Robert C. (Dorothy Williams Potter), 98 East Main St., Cobleskill, N. Y. (Daniel).
- GOFF, Dixwell, 36 Berwick Place Rumford 16, R. I. (Mary).
- HASSLER, Mrs. John B. (Penelope Resser), 18 Molly Lane, Placerville, Calif. (Mary).
- KING, Mrs. Irving A. (Mildred Ghoocy), 79 Royland Road, Hoxsie, Warwick, R. I. (Daniel).
- LATHAM, Mrs. Leland (Carolyn F. King), 3 Lake Crest Drive, Hoxsie, R. I. (Daniel).
- POTTER, Clifton R., 125 Sickie Road, Elmira, R.D. #2, New York (Mercy Winsor).
- POTTER, Miss Marie, 1434 Fulton Rd. N.W., Canton, Ohio (Mercy Winsor).
- POTTER, Donald Fordyce, 37850 Willowmere Rt. 8, Mt. Clemens, Michigan (Mercy Winsor).