



ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

April 1970

No. 56

Dear Members:

Greetings to all. Today is a blustery March day — a Rhode Island day of promise of spring. Perhaps not unlike a spring day when Roger Williams and five companions crossed the Seekonk River to find refuge outside the lands of the Plymouth Colony. Friendly Indians welcomed the cold and hungry men with a hearty "What cheer, Netop." Food and shelter were proffered, but the most pleasing gift of the Indians was permission to establish homesites. Roger Williams felt that God's providence had guided him to a good land and the new settlement was called Providence.

Providence has grown and the Roger Williams Family Association has grown to a membership of over eight hundred.

We had a delightful time at the meeting in March at the North Scituate Baptist Church and wish to thank Mrs. Logee and her committee for their hospitality and refreshments. We are open to invitations to meet in other parts of the state, near the homes of cousins in other sections.

Good days are coming, and I hope to see many of you at our meetings and outings. Families should know each other.

Happy vacation days to all.

Sincerely,

(Miss) Verena Williams

President

35 Cherry Road, Edgewood, R. I. 02905

(summer - Box 26, Prudence Park, Prudence Island 02872)

ROGER WILLIAMS: A FRIEND OF THE INDIANS

Roger Williams pleasant relations with the Indians were of greatest value to him when he came to purchase lands and sites for his settlement. His kindness, patience and gentle bearing toward those who little understood the ways and intentions of the white strangers won the esteem and confidence of the Indians; therefore it was a simple matter for him to negotiate with them in a business-like manner when the founder sought title to lands which rightfully belonged to those first residing there. This friendship was an important influence later when the wrath of Indians was turned upon the Colonist and it doubtless saved all of the New England settlements from complete extermination.

From the Narragansett sachems, Canonicus and Miantonomi, Roger Williams obtained his first deed of the lands in the vicinity of Providence. The exact wording of the deed dated March 24, 1637 from Cannannicus (Canonicus) and Miantonomi to Roger Williams may be transcribed as follows:

"At Nanhiggansick, the 24th of the first month, commonly called March, in ye second year of our plantation or planting at Mooshausick, or Providence Memorandum, that we Cannannicus and Miantonomi, the two chiefs sachems of Nanhiggansick, having two years since sold unto Roger Williams ye lands and meadows upon the two fresh rivers called Mooshausick and Wanasquetucket, doe now by these presents, establish and confirme ye bounds of those lands from ye river and fields at Pawtuckqu, ye great hill at Notquonckanet, on ye northwest, and the town of Maushapogue on ye west. As also, in consideration of the many kindnesses and services which he hath continually done for us, both with our friends at Massachusetts, as also at Quinickicutt and Apaum, or Plymouth, we do freely give unto him all that land from those rivers reaching to Pawtuxet River. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands."

This deed was signed first by sachem Canonicus who penned his mark that resembles a crude sketch of an Indian canoe, and beneath that appears a rough design of an arrow, the mark of Miantonomi. This was witnessed by the Indians Setash and Assotemewit and by Roger Williams and Benedict Arnold and is now preserved in the Providence City Hall.

There is no record of the amount that Roger Williams paid the Indians for these lands, but is generally understood that he gave his native friends many presents and that he was forced to mortgage his property in Salem in order that he might procure more presents and thus retain their confidence and friendship. Canonicus was one of the greatest persons that ever ruled an Indian tribe. His young nephew Miantonomi, associate ruler of the Narragansetts, was much more of a fiery leader, but Canonicus had the last word in all important decisions, and therefore the reason of friendly relations with the settlers.

Roger Williams was a friend of the Narragansetts and also of Gov. Winthrop and served as the great peacemaker and avoided much of the intertribal disagreements and fighting between the Narragansetts and the Wampanoags. This immortal, many-sided man became the only successful mediator between the Indians and the English Colonists, and in this capacity he distinguished himself as a Statesman, Diplomat, Counselor and Politician.

IN MEMORIAM

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| Harriet Chapman Bryan (Mrs. Walter J.) (R. I.) | September 28, 1968 |
| Ione Lovejoy Wiggins (Mrs. John E) (R. I.) | November 23, 1968 |
| Mary Battey Nichols Wells (Mrs Edward Descombe, Sr.) (Ga.) | December 29, 1968 |
| Charles Harold Atkinson (Texas) | July 6, 1969 |
| Persis Dewey Leger (Mrs. Carl H.) (Md.) | July 17, 1969 |
| Arthur W. Butler (R. I.) | October 4, 1969 |
| Hilda Williams Schuster (Mrs. William C.) (R. I.) | October 22, 1969 |
| Stanley Brown Jordan (R. I.) | December 9, 1969 |
| Florence Burbank Simmons (Mrs. Ernest C.) (R. I.) | January 11, 1970 |
| Harry D. Bedson (Associate) (R. I.) | January 17, 1970 |
| George Rufus Kenson (R. I.) | February 1, 1970 |
| Sandra Standeven Muirhead (Mrs. William R.) (R. I.) | February 15, 1970 |

— NEW MEMBERS SINCE SEPTEMBER 1969 —

- ANDREWS, Miss Roberta G., 270 Dogwood Rd., Media, Penna. 19063 (Daniel)
- ASHMAN, Mrs. George W., (Constance Miller) Rt. 1, Box 549, Dundee, Illinois 60118 (Joseph)
- BRACY, Mr. George E., Cascade Rd., Amenia, N. Y. 12501 (Joseph)
- BRACY, Miss Isabel, 616 McDonal St., Chitzenango, N. Y. 13037 (Joseph)
- BRADLEY, Mrs. Henry W., (Miriam Camp) 215 Highland Dr., Rio Del Mar, Aptos, Calif. 95003 (Joseph)
- BURLINGAME, Mr. John A., 123 West Third Ave., P. O. Box 226, New Lenox, Illinois 60451 (Daniel)
- COOK, Mr. Frank E., Rt 2, Box 271A, Montross, Virginia 22520 (Mary)
- COOPER, Mrs. John (Isabella Stone) 10 Greenlake Dr., Greenville, R. I. (Mercy Winsor)
- HOOTON, Mrs. Ralph W. (Patricia K. Upson) 110 King Henry Way, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185 (Mercy Winsor)
- JORDAN, Mr. Caleb B., 1990 Cranston St., Cranston, R. I. 02920 (Daniel)
- JORDAN, Mr. Donald S., 285 Garden City Dr., Cranston, R. I. 02920 (Daniel)
- JORDAN, Miss A. Linda, 1990 Cranston St., Cranston, R. I. 02920 (Daniel)
- KELLEY, Mr. Norman D., 6 Cleveland Lane RD 4, Princeton, New Jersey 08540 (Daniel)
- LAMON, Mrs. Donald T., (Eleanor Ide) 145 Dover Ave., East Providence, R. I. 02914 (Mercy Winsor)
- LAMON, Mr. Donald T., 145 Dover Ave., East Providence, R. I. 02914 (Associate)
- McDERMOTT, Mrs. John (Betsy Ray) 1071 Bullocks Point Ave., Riverside, R. I. 02915 (Mary & Mercy Winsor)
- MILLER, Rev Carleton Brooks, 405 Orchard Ave., Battle Creek, Michigan 49017 (Joseph)

MILLER, Mr. Roger Brooks, Big Pines Rd., Westport, Conn. 06880 (Joseph)

MILLER, Mr. Carleton Williams, 2200 Curtner Rd., Apt. 58, Campbell, Calif. 95008 (Joseph)

MUIRHEAD, Mrs. William R. (Sandra Standeven) 13 Lisbon St., Providence, R. I. 02908 (Daniel)

MURPHY, Mrs. John F. (Isabel Alveretta Tupper) 585 Plainfield St., Providence R. I. 02909 (Mercy Waterman)

PERRY, Mr. Charles E., 73 Thomas Drive, Manchester, Conn. 06040 (Mercy Winsor)

PERRY, Mr. Charles E. Jr., 29 Coolidge St., Manchester, Conn. 06040 (Mercy Winsor)

PERRY, Mr. George Sumner, 146 East St., Wrentham, Mass. 02083 (Mercy Winsor)

PERRY, Mr. Kendrick Randall, 2902 18th St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20009 (Mercy Winsor)

PERRY, Mr. Lewis Farrington, Jr., Lake Archer, Wrentham, Mass. 02083 (Mercy Winsor)

RAUSCH, Mrs. Ervin M. (Sarah Miller) 26424 136th Ave., S.E., Kent, Washington 98031 (Joseph)

RAY, Mrs. Warren (Lois Allen) 1071 Bullocks Pt. Ave., Riverside, R. I. 02915 (Mary & Mercy Winsor)

RAY, Mr. David W., 1071 Bullocks Pt. Ave., Riverside, R. I. 02915 (Mary & Mercy Winsor)

ROSENTHAL, Miss Heidi Allison, 277 N. Orange, Orange, Calif. 92666 (Joseph) (Born Sept. 7, 1969)

SHUMAN, Robert Alan, 4 Summit Rd., Hamburg, N. J. 07419 (Marcy Winsor) (Born Oct. 22, 1969)
c/o Alan Lowell Shuman

STANDEVEN, Ms. Harry E. (Lillian Hervey) 17 Howard St., Cranston, R. I. 02920 (Daniel)

THURSTON, Mrs. Paul C. (Florence H. Perry) Star Route 1184, Bethel, Maine 04217 (Mercy Winsor)

YOUNG, Mrs. Robert (Nancy Ray) 1071 Bullocks Pt. Ave., Riverside, R. I. 02915 (Mary & Mercy Winsor)

A gift of Ten Dollars, in lieu of flowers, has been given us by the Thomas Angell Family Association in memory of Harry D. Bedson, who passed away January 16, 1970 and was a member of both our groups. This amount has been placed in our Memorial Fund, set aside for some special future use. Our thanks are extended to the Angell Association for their kind remembrance of our departed member.

Our President has donated a beautiful silver punch ladle which was the property of her Grandfather, George Washington Williams. This will be used with our punch bowl which was given our Association by our member, Mrs. Robert W. Allen of Brockton, Mass. some time ago. We are delighted to receive this gift.

Report any illness or deaths to the Sunshine Chairman, Miss Bertha I. Phillips, 64 Chestnut Ave., Cranston, R. I. 02910 and any change of address to the Treasurer, Mrs. Blanche H. Scott, 23 Oakland Ave., Cranston, R. I. 02910. For information regarding the Association write the Registrar, Mrs. Charles W. Anthony, 23 Oakland Ave., Cranston, R. I. 02910.

