

ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY

ASSOCIATION

Incorporated 1906

OCTOBER 1973

No. 60

Dear Members:

It is a pleasure and an honor for me to greet you once again as President of the Roger Williams Family Association, and I would like to dedicate this Bulletin to Miss Emily Paine, our Historian and to Mrs. Charles W. Anthony, our Registrar who served on my Executive Board when I compiled Bulletin No. 23, in March 1953 and are still loyal officers of the Association today. Many things have happened in the twenty years since I was last President; many of our devoted members have departed from us, and we miss them so very much. The Association today, numbering over 1000 descendants of Roger Williams, together with their families, is now larger than ever.

It seems only fitting that once more we honor the memory of Roger Williams by recalling those principles that he first promulgated on our shores and that over the decades and centuries became universally accepted as part of our great American Heritage. The most fundmental of these were that every person has a right to his own opinion and conviction and that he should be able to worship God in the manner that his conscience dictated.

All his life Roger Williams adhered to these two principles and he was a man of good sense and tolerance in an age of unreason and religious persecution. He held deep convictions himself, but he refused to force these convictions on others. He was a man devoted to rational persuasion and never to coercion. He participated actively in the affairs of his country, but he always kept religion and politics apart.

Most of all he felt that men and women of all religious persuasions could live together in one city, one state, and one country in harmony and mutual enlightenment. These principles of Roger Williams were strong medicine and sound advice for the 17th century, and they are still sound principles for all of us today. Let us continue to honor the memory of this remarkable man.

Sincerely,

Helen Steere Brown, President (Mrs. Clifford W.)

180 Brown Street Providence, Rhode Island 02906

IN MEMORIAM

| Maude Cook Clark (Mrs. Thomas J.) (Missouri) | d, 1972 |
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| Dr. Carleton Chase Murdock (New York) | d. 1972 |
| Louise G. Burbank (Mrs. Robt. T.) (New York) | d. March 9, 1972 |
| Dorothy Potter France (Mrs. Robt.) (New York) | d. September 1 ,1972 |
| Marion D. Atkinson (Mrs. Wm. D.) (Conn.) | d. October 10, 1972 |
| Priscilla Howard Barstow (Mrs. Truman) (Mass.) | d. October 14, 1972 |
| Donald F. Potter (Mich.) | d. November 8, 1972 |
| Mrs. Bertha Wallace (Associate) (R. I.) | d. November 13, 1972 |
| Lloyd S. Salisbury (R. I.) | d. December 3, 1972 |
| Gustavus R. Ide (R. I.) | d. January 1, 1973 |
| Ethel D. Roffee (Mrs. Charles) (R. I.) | d. January 18, 1973 |
| Maude L. Shields (Mrs. Wm.) (R. I.) | d. January 21, 1973 |
| Harold L. Latimer (Associate) (R. I.) | d. January 28, 1973 |
| Eunice A. Kohl (Mrs. Boyd R.) (R. I.) | d. January 28, 1973 |
| Emilie L. Randall, Jr. (Associate) (R.I.) | d. February 8, 1973 |
| Miss Amey Steere (R. I.) | d. April 8, 1973 |
| Lucy Lawrence Almon (Mrs. Arthur) (Ill.) | d. April 30, 1973 |
| Ida C. Standerwick (Mrs. William) (New York) | d. May 5, 1973 |
| Elizabeth Atkins Malcolm (Mrs. Wm.) (Ohio) | d. August 10, 1973 |
| Ida M. Colwell Cottrell (Mrs. Jesse E.) R. I. | d. August 15, 1973 |
| George E. Cheek (R. I.) | d. September 1, 1973 |
| Clara F. Young (Mrs. Charles W.) (R. I.) | d. Scptember 18, 1973 |
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--- NEW MEMBERS SINCE SEPTEMBER 1972 ----

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ACKLEY, Mrs. A. Thur F. (Helen J. Smrih) 3707 Meadowland Blvd., Col. Springs, Col. 80907 (Daniel) ADAIR, Mrs. A. Dixon Jr. (Virginia McConnell) Palazzo Caverna, Via Monte Giordano 36 Rome, Italy ADAIR, Caverna (Virginia) McConnell) Palazzo Caverna, Via Monte Giordano 36 Rome, Italy ADAIR, Adversa (Virginia) McConnell) Palazzo Caverna, Via Monte Giordano 36 Rome, Italy ADAIR, May Caverna (Virginia) McConnell Palazzo Caverna, Via Monte Giordano 36 Rome, Italy ADAIR, Miss Maude Lee, "Foxcore School." Middleburg, Va. 22117 (Mercy Waterman) ADAIR, Miss Maude Lee, "Foxcore School." Middleburg, Va. 22117 (Mercy Waterman) ALBRIGHT, Christopher L., 2949 S. Patton Court, Denver, Col. 80236 (Mary) ALBRIGHT, Miss Stephanie L., 2949 S. Patton Court, Denver, Col. 80236 (Mary) ALBRIGHT, Miss Stephanie L., 2949 S. Patton Court, Denver, Col. 80236 (Mary) ALDERSON, Mrs. Howard D. (Madelyn Beach) 286 Conners Ave., Chico, Calif. 59926 (Mercy Winsor) AVELLINO, Mrs. Robert (Ilena Smith) Lot 158 Hillside Pk., Stillwater, N. Y. 12170 (Daniel) BABCOCK, Mrs. Darrell R. (Sharon Sayles) 6730 Cedar Ave. S., Richifeld, Minn. 57423 (Mary) BARR, Miss Barbara Ann., 60 Academy Hill, Watertown, Conn. 60795 (Joseph) BENNER, Miss Mars Haw, 60 Academy Hill, Watertown, Conn. 60795 (Joseph) BENNER, Miss Mary Shaw, 60 Academy Hill, Watertown, Conn. 60795 (Joseph) BENNER, Robert VanAntwerp, 60 Academy Hill, Watertown, Conn. 60795 (Joseph) BENNER, Robert VanAntwerp, 61 Academy Hill, Watertown, Conn. 60795 (Joseph) BENNER, Robert VanAntwerp, 61 Academy Hill, Watertown, Conn. 60795 (Joseph) BENNER, Robert V. Ir., 66 Academy Hill, Watertown, Conn. 60795 (Joseph) BENNER, Robert V. Ir., 60 Academy Hill, Watertown, Conn. 60795 (Joseph) BENNER, Robert V. Ir., 60 Academy Hill, Watertown, Conn. 60795 (Joseph) BENNER, Robert V. Ir., 60 Academy Hill, Watertown, Conn. 60795 (Joseph) BENNER, Robert VanAntwerp) Hill, Watertown, Conn. 60795 (Joseph) BENNER, Robert VanAntwerp) Hill, Watertown, Conn. 60795 (Joseph) (Joseph) BENNER, Robert VanAntwerp) Hill, Watertown, Co
             ACKLEY, Mrs. Arthur F. (Helen J. Smtih) 3707 Meadowland Blvd., Col. Springs, Col. 80907 (Daniel) ADAIR, Mrs. A. Dixon Jr. (Virginia McConnell) Palazzo Caverna, Via Monte Giordano 36 Rome, Italy (Mercy Waterman)
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NICHOLS, Mrs. Howard M. (Judith Schlampp) 724 N. 4th St., Savanna, Ill. (Mary)
OLIVER, Miss Christine M., 13 Lake Dr., Riverside, Conn. 06878 (Mary)
OLIVER, David K., 3134 So. Vine Court, Englewood, Col. 80110 (Mary)
OLIVER, James J. Jr., 13 Lake Dr., Riverside, Conn. 06878 (Mary)
OLSEN, A. William, 47 Kenyon Rd., Cranston, R. I. 02910 (Associate)
PARTIS, Mrs. Ronald E. (Marilyn Cottrell) R.D. 3, Airport Rd., Binghamton, N. Y. 13901 (Mcrcy Winsor)
PECKHAM, Mrs. Harry N., (Jean P. Henry) 1429 Dorothy Dr., Palatine, Ill. 60067 (Daniel)
PENNER, Mrs. Lloyd M. (Eunice Bowles) 4 Sessions Rd., Washington Mills, N. Y. 13479 (Daniel)
PHILLIPS, Mrs. Robert F. (Marjoric Griffeth) HQ 17th Air Force, Box 2468 APO N. Y. 09130 (Daniel)
PHIERCE, Thomas B. Jr., 81 Davidson Rd., Framingham, Mass. 01701 (Mcrcy Winsor)
POTTER, Miss Marcia F., 37850 Willowmere, Mt. Clemens, Mich. 48043 (Mercy Winsor)
ROSS, Miss Robin, 5049 Hood Dr., Woodland Hills, Calif. 91364 (Mercy Winsor)
SCHIFFER, Charles W. Jr., 7701 S.W. 53rd Court, Miami, Florida 33143 (Mercy Winsor)
SCHIFFER, Charles W. III, 13800 S.W. 74th Court, Miami, Florida 33143 (Mercy Winsor)
SCHIFFER, Charles W. III, 13800 S.W. 74th Court, Miami, Florida 33143 (Mercy Winsor)
SCHIFFER, Miss Grace Ellen, Drexel Court Apt. 200, Drexel Hill, Pa. 19026 (Mercy Winsor)
SCHIFFER, Miss Grace Ellen, Drexel Court Apt. 200, Drexel Hill, Pa. 19026 (Mercy Winsor)
STANDERWICK, William Jr., 40 Oak Hill Rd., Chappaqua, N. Y. 10514 (Joseph)
THOMPSON, Mrs. David L. (Eliz, Keighley) 100 East St., P.O. Box 171, Wrentham, Mass. 02093 (Mary)
THOMPSON, Mrs. David L. (Eliz, Keighley) 100 East St., P.O. Box 171, Wrentham, Mass. 02093 (Mary)
THOMPSON, Elmer I., Box 126, Star Lake, Wisic, 54561 (Associate)
WADSWORTH, Mrs. W. Bradley (Joyce Bowles) Mallory Rd., Washington Mills, N.Y. 13479 (Daniel)
WEBSTER, John Lamey, 2924 Forest St., Denver, Col. 80207 (Mary)
WELCH, Miss Hilda Huntington, Sperry Rd., Bethany, Conn. 06525 (Mercy Waterman & Mercy Winsor)
WESTON, Howard T., 619 South 6th St., Rocky Ford, Col. 8

ROGER WILLIAMS AND THE INDIANS

From the very beginning even before Williams had left his mother country he had had a warm spot in his heart for the American Indian. He had read of these unfortunate red-men in the new land across the sea, and the miserable way in which they lived, knowing little or nothing about God and religion; he felt sorry for them and made up his mind that sometime he would do his best to assist them.

In Massachusetts his love for the Indians and his interest in their welfare provoked increasing criticism and he was censored for his radical activities. Few in Massachusetts believed that this country rightfully belonged to those who first were here. Roger Williams had that opinion and his ideas were a great offense to the Puritans. In spite of the colonists great terror of the Indians who lived about them, Williams felt no fear of the savages. He spent days and weeks at a time among them learning their ways and language. He tried to teach them about God and how to live better and cleaner lives. His whole life was devoted to helping them and lifting them above the station in which the white man seemed willing to have his red neighbors remain. The one large main tribe of Indians in New England was known as Algonquins, sub-divided into several tribes of which the Narragansetts were the most friendly. Williams spent time with this tribe where he developed a warm friendship for the powerful but very bashful Canonicus. All this increased his unpopularity with the Puritans and more so, perhaps, because he disagreed with them in regard to all their ideas of church and government, and often quarreled with them over some point of law or religious belief. On the subject of breaking church laws, Williams was at sword's point with the Puritan fathers. He believed that the Sabbath Day.

Finally an order was issued that he must leave and take abode elsewhere, far from the Massachusetts Colony. Many colonists believed in his preaching and became his ardent followers. Finally Williams learned he was to be secretly kidnapped and sent back to England, and at a minute's notice, he disappeared into the wilderness said to have been accompanied by one lone companion, his faithful servant, Thomas Angell, and they wandered from place to place for fourteen weeks on foot, through snow and ice; death by freezing facing them as well as hunger. He wanted to find a place where he could make a settlement, a home for his family, and where he might live in peace among his beloved Indians and his followers.

At last on the east bank of the Seekonk River he located an ideal place and five of his devoted followers came to join him and make their homes in more pleasant and peaceful surroundings. Everywhere around them lived friendly Indians who tolerated their presence without hostility.

But when he was about to send for his wife and children Governor Winslow of Plymouth warned him he was in Plymouth territory. Sad of heart and disappointed, the plucky little band gathered together their few belongings and loaded them into the one canoe they owned. Forsaking their half built houses, seeded gardens and crude wilderness improvements they paddled toward the opposite shore. They suddently came

before the gaze of a group of startled Indians as they approached. But when their spokesman recognized Roger Williams they shouted a greeting, a friendly welcome, "What Cheer Netop" and it was the turning point in the fortunes of Roger Williams. It represented the corner stone of the State that was to evolve from the incident. He answered the natives in their own tongue, and he learned he had come to the land of his friend, Canonicus, head of a mighty tribe, a close and trusted friend and a warm welcome awaited them wherever Canonicus' word was law. They paddled back into the stream, followed the shoreline, around a point to a place where three bodies of water converged, disembarked and carried their goods ashore. Surprised natives here also showed their goodwill and desired the strangers to remain and settle with them, and the red-men and white sat together in friendly feeling at a meal of fish and corn spread before them, a sincere feeling of mutual friendliness.

Guided by the doctrine of brotherly love Williams made his happy abode. Fired by the desire to share religious liberty with those who were oppressed and persecuted, he then and there established a harbor of refuge where liberty and freedom of thought

might forever prevail, and he called this place PROVIDENCE.

From Vol. III "Old Stone Bank History of R. I."

BEGINNING OUR 82ND YEAR

| OFFICERS - SEPTEMBER 1973 TO SEPTEMBER 1974 | |
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| Honorary President Bertha Jordan Chase b. May 9, 1873 age 100 Mass. | |
| Honorary President Minnie Barrett Randall b. May 26, 1873 age 100 Conn. | |
| Honorary Vice-President Frances Smith Vance b. Aug. 24, 1874 age 99 Ohio | |
| OFFICERS ELECTED | |
| President | |
| Vice-President | |
| Recording Secretary | |
| Corresponding Secretary | |
| Treasurer | |
| Registrar | |
| Historian | |
| Directors nominated from the floor: Miss Verena Williams, Edward Rathbun, Mrs. Preston Beauregard | |
| Chaplain appointed by the Executive Board | |
| Program Committee appointed by the Chair: Mrs. Ronald J. R. Platt, Jr., Mrs. Harold Williams, Mrs. William Wirth | |
| Librarian and Custodian Mrs. Charles W. Anthony | |
| Sunshine | |
| Publicity Mrs. Clifford W. Brown | |
| Auditors Mr. Webb W. Wilder and Miss Alice W. Roe | |
| Reception Committee | |
| Mrs. Nettie Sedgwick, Mrs. Ernest Mowry, Harold Williams and elected officers. | |