



THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

1992-1993 No. 79

Incorporated January 30, 1906
Providence, Rhode Island

**"ROGER WILLIAMS STEERED HIS LITTLE SHIP OF
STATE TO A SAFE HARBOR BY THE COMPASS OF
AN ENLIGHTENED CONSCIENCE."**

**(Oscar S. Straus, quoted in *Roger Williams*,
May Emery Hall, 1917)**

DEAR COUSINS AND FRIENDS:

It is a pleasure for me to serve as President of the Family Association, and I hope to be able to carry on the work and traditions established by so many before me, most especially those of our immediate past President, Gussie Lawton.

My focus for many years has been genealogy, and I expect to stress that during my term as President. We hope to inspire all of you to share your research with us, and ask us for help when necessary.

This past year we have had two programs with members participating. In March, John Prokopowicz discussed his work delving into his Polish roots. And this month Marion Fry and Birdie Corbitt presented a program on their immigrant ancestor, George Wightman of North Kingstown. In the future, we hope to have more members reporting on their special family interests.

Our September meeting, held at the Roger Williams Park Museum, was an opportunity for us to hear of the wonderful work which has been done in restoring the Museum, both the building and the Exhibits. We hope you will visit the Park when you are in Rhode Island.

We are well into Book II of our Descendants of Roger Williams Series. The next volume will contain the descendants of Mary Williams Sayles and Freeborn Williams Hart.

Finally, we have started a project to restore the gravestone of Mary Williams Sayles, first child of Roger and Mary (Barnard) Williams. Mary died c. 1681 and was buried at Middletown, Rhode Island. Her stone rests between those of her husband, John Sayles, and her son-in-law, William Greene. The other two stones are in passable condition. Hers has broken up into many pieces. We have been in touch with a professional in this field, and hope to have more to report to you on this work soon.

I want to express my thanks to all the present and past officers who have given and continue to give their time so graciously. And a special thanks to Elsie Williams, our Registrar since 1976, who has done a tremendous job. Elsie, as you will note, has shared with us her knowledge of the history of the Family Association. We are also pleased to print the will James Williams, Roger's father, which I discovered recently in an 1889 issue of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at our 1992-1993 meetings. Please join us when you are in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Dorothy H. White

October 1992

ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

CALENDAR

November 1992 — October 1993

NOVEMBER 22, 1992 — Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Thanksgiving Service at Central Baptist Church where the focus will again be on youth and giving. Contributions of food will be placed on the altar for the South Providence Neighborhood Ministry, a charitable group affiliated with Calvary Baptist Church. Self-ordered brunch (\$4.00 to \$7.00) follows at Providence Bookstore Café, 500 Angell Street (Wayland Manor). Please call George Williams at 351-2351 or Dot White at 246-0246 if you plan to join us for brunch.

DECEMBER 5, 1992 — Saturday, 1:00 p.m.

Christmas meeting at the home of Ann and Elmer Palmer on Rte 1 in North Kingstown, beyond and on the same side of Rte 1 as the R.I. State Police Barracks. Part of their home is the old Roger Williams Trading Post. A Christmas program will be presented, and Elmer will recount some of the history of the Trading Post. Please bring canned and packaged goods for a food basket to be presented to a needy family in the area.

MARCH 20, 1993 — Saturday 12:00 p.m.

Luncheon meeting at Dove Crest, Exeter. Gil Reid, a descendant of the Onondaga and Chairman of the Corporate Board of the Tomaquang Indian Memorial Museum at Dove Crest, will address us, as will either Dawn Dove MacKenzie or Paul Dove Jennings, both Narragansett Indians. Take Exit 5A from Rte 95; right on Rte 102 to Rte 3 south; right on Rte 3 about one mile to Rte 165 west; follow signs to Dove Crest after Arcadia Park. Complete lunch with tip is \$9.50; entrees are fish, chicken, roast beef or quahang pie. Please call George Williams at 351-2351 or Gladys, Bailey at 884-9009 before March 5 with your luncheon selection.

APRIL 17, 1993 — Saturday 2:00 p.m.

We have been invited to tea at Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island, where we will enjoy hearing about the growth of the University, its plans for the future, and the possibility of an informal relationship between the University and our Association. Natale A. Sicuro, President of the University, or his deputy will address us. Our meeting will be held in the Student Union Building.

MAY 16, 1993 — Sunday 11:00 p.m.

Founders' Sunday at the First Baptist Church in America, North Main Street, Providence. A guided tour of the Church will be available after the service. At 1:00 p.m., we will gather for dinner (\$12.00) at the Smith-Appleby House, 220 Stillwater Road, Smithfield. Please call Gussie Lawton at 334-2674, or Dot White at 246-0246, before the May 1 reservation deadline.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1993 — Saturday 1:30 p.m.

Annual meeting at the Boat House, Roger Williams Park. Officers and committee chairmen will present annual reports. Dues are payable at this time. Officers and directors will be elected for the following year. A representative of the Park will speak on the Williams Cemetery in the Park, and you may want to visit the Cemetery on that day. Refreshments will be served.

OCTOBER 16, 1993 — Saturday 1:30 p.m.

Roger Williams Day will be observed at the Nathan Bourne Crocker Library of the Cathedral of St. John, 271 North Main street, Providence. Eleanor Retallick, Librarian, will speak to us on the Library, its function, and some of its treasures and artifacts. Refreshments will be served.

HISTORY OF ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Elsie B. Williams

THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION had its roots in the early 1880's when two or three related families, who were descended from Roger Williams, held an annual reunion and picnic in Roger Williams Park. They had no plans to form an association until 1886 when the City of Providence observed the 250th Anniversary of its founding. At that time, there were a number of celebrations, and Frederick Sayles, who was then Mayor of Pawtucket, called for a gathering of Williams descendants in Sayles Hall, Brown University. He expected about 50 or 60 people, and must have been overwhelmed when 1,000 showed up. Some brought charts showing their lines of descent, and others were somewhat vague about their lineage, relying solely on family tradition. They all showed a great deal of interest. Out of this gathering, the Roger Williams Family Association came into existence.

The first meetings were held in private homes and later in public halls, but it was not until January 27, 1906 that the Association was incorporated with 14 Charter Members. The Charter read, in part, that the Association was formed "for the purpose of honoring and preserving the memory of Roger Williams and the preparation of an authentic genealogy of his descendants and the promotion of social intercourse among them." Monthly meetings were held on the first Thursday of the month all through the year and annual meetings took place in September at the Casino in Roger Williams Park, and in later years at the auditorium in the Museum or at the Boat House.

The Society's seal was adopted in 1932. It is based on a ring which Roger Williams often used to impress his seal on certain documents.* In June 1939, the Association took part in the dedication of the statue of Roger Williams on Prospect Terrace, Providence. The President of the Association had the honor of unveiling the statue, and four descendants bore the remains of Roger Williams to be placed at the base of the monument.

In 1942, the first Annual Bulletin of the Association was issued and mailed to members, and this has continued to the present. At this time, we have about 1200 members, ranging from a few months of age to well over 90 years. They live in all parts of the United States, and there are some in Europe.

*The six stars in the inner circle of the seal represent the six children of Roger and Mary (Barnard) Williams. A center shield has a "lion rampant" surrounded by a border of nine "pheons" (the barbed head of a dart).

WILL of JAMES WILLIAMS, Father of Roger Williams

JAMES WILLIAMS, citizen and merchant tailor of London, 7 September 1620, proved 19 November 1621. I will and my mind is that, my debts being paid and funeral expenses discharged, all the residue of my goods and chattels shall be divided into three equal parts; one third part whereof I give and bequeath unto my loving wife Alice for her part and portion therein, according to the customs of the city of London. And, for that my son Sydrack and my daughter Catharine, now the wife of Ralph Wightman, citizen and merchant taylor of London, have "binn" by me already preferred and each of them hath received a sufficient portion of my estate, therefore I will that neither of them shall claim or have any customary part or portion of that estate whereof I shall be possessed at the time of my decease. And yet, nevertheless, my will and meaning is that my sons, Roger and Robert Williams shall have but one moiety or half part of the other third part of my estate equally between them to be divided, and the other moiety thereof to remain to such other child or children as I shall have living at the time of my decease. The other third part of my estate, which is in my power to dispose, I give and bequeath as followeth, viz'. to my son Sydrack twenty and five pounds and to my said daughter Catherine Wightman twenty five pounds, to be paid to each of them severally within one year next after my decease, and to my said sons Robert and Roger Williams twenty and five pounds apiece, to be paid unto each of them severally at his age of four and twenty years. To my godson, James Wightman, son of the beforenamed Katherine Wightman my daughter, five pounds in money, to be paid unto his father for the use of his said son. To Elizabeth Pemberton, Ellen Woolley and Elizabeth Bryan, my god daughters, to every of them twenty shillings apiece, to be paid to their several parents or governors & c. To Thomas Nicholson, citizen and currier of London, ten shillings, to Elizabeth Kinge, wife of Robert Kinge, clothworker, twenty shillings, and to my kinswoman, Alice Harris, now dwelling with me, forty shillings. To Robert Parke my "Jemmall" ring and to Edward Waterhouse my dagger, knife, chain and girdle. To the poor of St. Sepulchres without Newgate, London, wherein I now dwell, ten pounds in money and bread to be distributed amongst them on the day of my funeral or the day after, as follows, viz'. to the poor in Smithfield quarter thirty five shillings in money and thirty five shillings in bread, to the poor in Holborn Cross quarter twenty shillings in money and twenty shillings in bread, to the poor in Church quarter fifteen shillings in money and fifteen shillings in bread, and to the poor in old bayley quarter thirty shillings in money and thirty shillings in bread. To the poor of the said parish without Smithfield Bars twenty shillings in bread. To Alice and Roger Bryan, children of Henry Bryan, coachmaker, ten shillings apiece. The residue to my wife Alice Williams whom I do make and appoint sole executrix of this my last will. And overseers thereof I do make and appoint my brother in law Roger Pemberton, my said son in law Ralph Wightman, my kinsman Thomas Morse and the said Robert Kinge, to whom twenty shillings apiece. <Com. Court of London, Vol. 24, fol. 50, reprinted in New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Vol. 43, 1889.>

NEW MEMBERS

Anness, Miss Emily Graham	Rumford RI	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
* Arnold, Robert Carter	Dover MA	<i>Mary</i>
* Arwood, Earl Edwin, Jr.	Scottsdale AZ	<i>Daniel</i>
* Baldwin, Jane Williams (Mrs. Robert L.)	Anchorage AK	<i>Daniel</i>
* Beaver, Miss Eleanor Mae	Barrington RI	<i>Mary</i>
* Burgner, Walter Courtney, Jr.	Lima OH	<i>Joseph</i>
* Cocroft, Robert Stetson	South Kingstown RI	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
* Derickson, Charlene Halpine (Mrs. Richard B.)	Key West FL	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
Donahue, Miss Elizabeth Anne	Cranston RI	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
* Dudley, Roger Williams	Falls Church VA	
* Gauvin, Candace Williams (Mrs. Kenneth)	Cranston RI	<i>Joseph, Mercy Waterman</i>
* Jacobs, Joan Beckett (Mrs Russell D.)	Ames IA	<i>Mary</i>
* Johnson, Helen D. Luther (Mrs. Carl W.)	East Greenwich RI	<i>Mary</i>
* Kalchik, Jane Hilton (Mrs. Thomas E.)	Fairport NY	<i>Freeborn</i>
* Kalchik, Miss Margaret Anne	Fairport NY	<i>Freeborn</i>
* Kalchik, Matthew James	Fairport NY	<i>Freeborn</i>
* Krause, Edward Herman, Jr.	Bossier City LA	<i>Daniel</i>
* Martin, Col. Emmor Graham, Jr.	Lincoln TX	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
* McKee, Robert Harold	Friendswood TX	<i>Joseph</i>
* McEacham, William Maxfield, Jr.	Roanoke VA	<i>Mary</i>
* Mendez, Mary L. Hilton (Mrs. Richard J.)	Key Largo FL	<i>Freeborn</i>
* Mendez, Miss Melanie Elizabeth	Key Largo FL	<i>Freeborn</i>
* Mendez, Storm Tobias	Key Largo FL	<i>Freeborn</i>
* Miller, Dorothy Angell (Mrs. Leroy B.)	Smithfield RI	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
* Paige, Wesley Arthur, Jr.	Pennington NJ	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
* Paris, Miss Constance Wilson	Daytona Beach FL	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
* Paris, E. Ralph, III	Brooklyn NY	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
* Paul, Deborah Smith (Mrs. J. Folsom)	Jamestown RI	<i>Mary</i>
* Rubsam, Doris Davis (Mrs. Maurice E.)	Worthington MN	<i>Mary</i>
Smith, Miss Sarah Anne Greene	Jamestown RI	<i>Mary</i>
* Sorozan, Meredith Paine (Mrs. Gregory G.)	Chepachet RI	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
* Thompson, Barbara Carr (Mrs. Eric, Jr.)	Billings MT	<i>Joseph</i>
* Treloar, Constance Wilson (Mrs. Hugh)	Daytona Beach FL	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
* Williams, Harry Wallace	Palm Desert CA	<i>Joseph</i>
Williams, James Cunliffe	Lexington NC	<i>Joseph</i>
* Zilges, Ardoyce King (Mrs. Eugene A.)	Oshkosh WI	<i>Daniel</i>

*Denotes Life Member

IN MEMORIAM

Armbruster, Mrs. Lee V. (Virginia Allen)	<i>Daniel</i>	December 19, 1991
Jordan, Donald S	<i>Daniel</i>	April 25, 1992
Macdonald, Mrs. Harold C. (Susie A. Arnold)		
<i>(Honorary Vice President)</i>	<i>Fzeborn, Daniel</i>	October 3, 1991
Mathewson, Wallace B.	<i>Associate</i>	October 30, 1991
Moore, Mrs. Walter F. (Marion Steere)	<i>Daniel</i>	May 1, 1991
Poole Mrs. Clifton L. (Marion L. Harris)	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>	November 3, 1991
Sayles, Ralph L.	<i>Daniel, Mercy Winsor, Mary</i>	September 11, 1992



Houses like this were burned when the Indians attacked the settlement at Providence during King Philip's War (1675). The small dwellings contained one room with a stone fireplace at one end and a sleeping loft above.

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER:

At a meeting of the Association on October 17, 1992, it was voted to raise the annual dues to \$3.50 per year, and Life Membership to \$35.00, effective January 1, 1993. Printing and postage expenses have risen over the past few years, and, of course, will continue to rise. We are also anticipating the expense of publishing another book, in addition to our costs for annual projects.

—JOHN PROKOPOWICZ
TREASURER

BEGINNING OUR 101st YEAR—1992-1993

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Mrs. Everett O. White 15 Frederick Drive, Barrington, RI 02806	(401) 246-0246
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Mr. George Wightman Williams 8 Moses Brown Street, Providence, RI 02906	(401) 351-2351
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Mrs. A. John Prokopowicz 168 Forest Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910	(401) 785-2512
<i>Secretary</i>	Mrs. Dennis C. Smith Wilbur Hollow Road, No. Scituate, RI 02857	(401) 647-7204
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Miss Gladys I. Bailey 2068 So. County Trail, Ea. Greenwich, RI 02818	(401) 884-9009
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr. A. John Prokopowicz 168 Forest Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910	(401) 785-2512
<i>Registrar</i>	Mrs. Harold P. Williams 35 Hodsell Street, Cranston, RI 02910	(401) 467-7594
<i>Historian</i>	Mrs. Robert Corbitt 15 Ivy Lane, Seekonk, MA 02771	(508) 336-9418

DIRECTORS

<i>Director</i>	Miss Dorothy W. Budlong 8 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence, RI 02906	(401) 331-8474
<i>Director</i>	Mrs. Donald T. Morrison 384 West Allenton Road, North Kingstown, RI 02852	(401) 295-8714
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Mrs. Clifford W. Brown 180 Brown Street, Providence, RI 02906	(401) 331-1253
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Col. Robert Allen Greene P.O. Box 137, Ea. Greenwich, RI 02818	(401) 884-7530, 884-5929
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Miss Marion L. Fry 2153 So. County Trail, Ea. Greenwich, RI 02818	(401) 884-4988
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Mrs. Henry W. Lawton 1017 Great Road, Lincoln, RI 02865	(401) 334-2674

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

<i>Lineage Book</i>	Col. Robert Allen Greene P.O. Box 137, Ea. Greenwich, RI 02818	(401) 884-7530
<i>Membership</i>	Mrs. Donald T. Morrison P.O. Box 137, Ea. Greenwich, RI 02818	(401) 884-7530
<i>Sunshine</i>	Miss Dorothy W. Budlong 8 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence, RI 02906	(401) 331-8474
<i>Chaplain</i>	Miss Alice Roe	
<i>Program</i>	Mr. George Wightman Williams	
<i>Publicity</i>	Mr. Robert W. Westcott 130 Clearview Drive, No. Kingstown, RI 02852	(401) 884-7895
<i>Auditors</i>	Mr. Raymond L. Hilton, Jr., Mr. Everett O. White	
<i>Trust Committee</i>	Miss Marion L. Fry, Mr. Elmer H. Palmer	