



THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

1997-1998 No. 84

Incorporated January 30, 1906
Providence, Rhode Island



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Cousins and Friends,

I am very grateful for the effort put forth by the Officers of this Association, and I wish to thank those members that participated in our 105th year of family gatherings. We had a good turnout for each of this year's program items, and our Vice-President, Frank Stevenson, must be congratulated. I believe you will find this year's program equally as interesting and varied. I look forward to meeting as many of our cousins as can attend these activities.

Past President Dorothy White, as Chairperson of the Lineage Book Committee, anticipates that the second volume of Roger Williams's children should go to press in the Spring of 1998. This book will cover the Freeborn (Williams) Hart line through eight generations. The third volume, encompassing seven generations of the Mary (Williams) Sayles line, is about half completed and may be available in 1999. An updated Mercy (Williams) Winsor volume is also being prepared and will extend through eight generations.

We are currently reviewing our Roger Williams Family Association artifacts, and will soon have a depository for the collection at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island. These artifacts will be on loan to the University for safekeeping, with the Association retaining ownership.

In the interest of greater efficiency, we have created a master database that combines our members' names, addresses, and dues information. Because such a project requires up-to-date computer hardware and software, we are investigating the possibility of purchasing a good computer and high-quality printer. This system would be in the care of our Treasurer, A. John Prokopowicz, who is now overseeing the maintenance of the new database. As with any project of this size, there are bound to be errors in transferring information from one program to another. Should you notice such an error in your name or address, kindly bring it to the attention of Mr. Prokopowicz.

I have received with regret Miss Dorothy Budlong's resignation as Sunshine Chairperson. Miss Budlong has served the Association well for many years. In her place, I have appointed Mrs. Godfrey F. Allen of Riverside, Rhode Island. Her full address and telephone number are included on the back page of this publication.

Please note the dates and locations of this year's meetings on your calendar. As always, the Association solicits your thoughts and suggestions for future program items, and other ideas for improving our service to members.

Best wishes for the holidays and good health for this coming year.

Col. Robert Allen Greene
President

October 1997

died at Newport in 1671 [error for 1670], and that his widow Mercy was allowed the use of the house, houselot and other lands; now she is about to Marry Samuel Winsor of Providence. (Waterman Family, Vol. III, p. 11, Donald Lines Jacobus and Edgar Francis Waterman, Hartford, CT 1954, citing Town Records of Providence)

3. Other sources and Town Records of Providence illustrate that the administration of Resolved's estate went on for many years. Before Mercy's marriage to Samuel Winsor in 1677, Winsor had petitioned the Court to allow the estate to pass to his future wife. Later, in 1681, Richard and Resolved Waterman, sons of Resolved and Mercy (Williams) Waterman, had a disagreement with their father-in-law [stepfather] over land left to them by their grandfather, Richard Waterman. (Waterman Family, Vol. III, citing Early Records of the Town of Providence, Vol. VI, pp. 34-37, 41-43)

We know Mercy (Williams) Waterman married Samuel Winsor 2 January 1676/77; and that her children by her first marriage were heirs of Resolved Waterman. Early Records of the Town of Providence also show that on 1 July 1679 Samuel Winsor and the orphans of Resolved Waterman were taxed together 6s, 3d. (Vol. XV, pp. 207-211)

4. Bible records of Resolved Waterman's grandson, Benoni Waterman, born at Warwick 25 May 1701, died there 3 November 1787, state: "My father's name was John Waterman; my mother's maiden name was Anne Olney, daughter of Thomas Olney. My grandfather's name was Resolved Waterman, and grandmother's Christian name was Marcy, daughter of Mr. Roger Williams, the first settler in Providence. She had five children by my grandfather -- Richard, Resolved, John, Mary and Waite. After my grandfather died, Mr. Samuel Winsor married her and had three children -- Samuel, John and Hannah. My great grandfather's name was Richard -- he came from England with Roger Williams and my great grandmother's name was Bethia." (Greene Family of Rhode Island, Vol. I, p. 181, Louise Brownell Clarke, NY 1903; also partially quoted in Waterman Family, Vol. III, p. 11)

I hasten to add that we descendants of Roger Williams believe it unnecessary to prove the above marriages. We could cite many other sources which mention these marriages and the children resulting from them. I have used the above material simply because, except for Austin, it may not have been well studied. I note that Mr. Anderson in his "Biographical Note" on the same page as his "Comments" mentions LaFantasie's *The Correspondence of Roger Williams*. He might also have discovered the inclusion of Thomas Hart and Roger Williams's daughter, Hart, in this wonderful volume . . .

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy H. White
Past President, Director

cc: Mr. Robert Charles Anderson

As a final defense of the legitimacy of the first marriages of Freeborn and Mercy Williams, it should be noted that all marriages performed but not previously reported to Town Clerks for recording, as required by law, were declared legal by an Act of the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1698:

"Be it enacted by this Assembly and the authority thereof, and it is hereby enacted, That all marriages that have been solemnized throughout this Collony, according to the laws of the Collony, shall, and are hereby declared to be lawfull and good in the law ..."

We have finally found a safe place for our artifacts, records, books, etc. Roger Williams University has graciously offered to take our material, on loan, for storage in their climate-controlled library depository. We have been in contact with their Librarian and their Archivist, who envision "The Roger Williams Collection." This collection will be available for research or browsing by our members during specified hours or by appointment.

We hope to have our material inventoried and ready for them by January 1998. If you have anything belonging to the Association, or if you have anything pertaining to Roger Williams or the Roger Williams Family Association that you would like to contribute to our collection, please get it to me soon as possible.

Dorothy White

CALENDAR

November 1997 - October 1998

Saturday - November 22, 1997 at 11:00 AM

Tour of Roger Williams University Archives

The University will provide a tour of their state-of-the-art archival facility where our Association's artifacts will soon be housed. Following the tour and a business meeting in the Board Room, we will proceed to nearby Archie's Restaurant for a self-ordered luncheon.

Roger Williams University - 1 Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI (Directions: Route 95; exit to Route 114 South towards Barrington; continue on Route 114 into Bristol; left into Roger Williams University Library parking lot; park at the rear of the library; take the elevator to the second floor.)

Archie's Restaurant - 200 Gooding Avenue, Bristol, RI (Directions: from Roger Williams University, follow Route 114 North through Bristol; right at traffic light at Ro-Jac's Supermarket onto Gooding Avenue; proceed 1/4 mile to Archie's on right.)

** Note: If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Dorothy White at 401-246-0246 no later than Monday, November 17, 1997 to make a reservation.*

Saturday - December 6, 1997 at 1:30 PM

"Roger Williams University Archives" - Mr. Wendell Pols, Archivist

For many years, a collection of artifacts belonging to our Association was stored at the home of Dr. Clifford Brown in Providence. These items were recently transported to the home of Past President Dorothy H. White, where they are being catalogued by several of our members. Attendees will have the opportunity to view this collection first-hand before it is loaned to Roger Williams University Archives for display and safe-keeping. Mr. Wendell Pols, Roger Williams University Archivist, will briefly describe the University's new facility and explain how our artifacts will be catalogued and stored. Refreshments will be served by our Hospitality Committee.

Home of Everett & Dorothy White - 15 Frederick Drive, Barrington, RI (Directions: Route 195 East; exit to Route 114 South towards Barrington; right onto Primrose Hill Road at "Zion Bible College"; second left onto Frederick Drive; fourth house on right.)

Saturday - March 21, 1998 at 12:00 noon

"William Blackstone" - Louise Lind, Author

We will meet for a lovely luncheon at the Purple Cat Restaurant in Chepachet. Following a brief business meeting Louise Lind, author of *William Blackstone - Sage of the Wilderness*, will speak on Blackstone's life and his part in the history of Providence. Ms. Lind will also give us an overview of her recent publication on the French-Canadians, *Heritage of Peace - Land of Hope and Glory*.

Purple Cat Restaurant - Main Street, Chepachet, RI (Directions: Route 295; exit to Route 44 West and follow into center of Chepachet Village; straight at junction of Routes 44 (bears to left) and 102; immediate right into Stafford Yard; park in lot at rear of restaurant)

** Note: Dinner is \$12.95 (including tax and gratuity) per person at the door and includes choice of Broiled Scrod, Boneless Breast of Chicken, or Tenderloin Tips Casserole; soup or salad; a dessert of homemade pudding; and non-alcoholic beverage. Please call Frank Stevenson at 401-568-4016 no later than Sunday, March 15, 1998 to make your reservation and order your entrée.*

Saturday - April 18, 1998 at 11:00 AM

Tour of Gen. Nathanael Greene Birthplace

Thomas Casey Greene will take us on a tour of the *actual* birthplace of Gen. Nathanael Greene, Revolutionary War hero. This large colonial house with a central chimney was built in 1684 and was considerably remodeled in the 1860's. It was here that the General was born and lived for many years, running the iron works in the grist mill with his brothers, and it was here that the General's first child, George Washington Greene, was born. With good weather, members will be able to roam the grounds and view one of the original millstones and cast-iron artifacts from when

the forge was in operation. Following the tour, we will proceed down the road to the Greenwich Tavern for a business meeting and lunch.

Gen. Nathanael Greene Birthplace - 40 Forge Road, Warwick, RI (Directions: Route 95 South; bear left towards Route 4 South; exit to Route 401 East; right onto Route 1 South; left towards Goddard Park; bear right at fork onto Forge Road.)

Greenwich Tavern - 195 Forge Road, Warwick, RI (Directions: backtrack to beginning of Forge Road.)

Note: Dinner is \$10.00 (including tax and gratuity) per person at the door and includes choice of Baked Scrod, Chicken Marsala, or Veal Parmesan, salad, dessert, and coffee or tea. Please call Frank Stevenson at 401-568-4016 no later than Sunday, April 12, 1998 to make your reservation and order your entrée.

Sunday - May 17, 1998 at 11:00 AM

First Baptist Church In America Founders' Day Sunday

We will gather for a special service at the church founded by Roger Williams, then proceed to Eileen Darling's Restaurant for a self-ordered luncheon.

First Baptist Church in America - 75 North Main Street, Providence, RI

Eileen Darling's Restaurant - Ramada Inn, 940 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA (Directions: Interstate Route 195 East; take Exit 1; right and immediate left into Ramada Inn parking lot.)

** Note: If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Frank Stevenson at 401-568-4016 no later than Sunday, May 10, 1998 to make a reservation.*

Saturday - June 20, 1998 - 11:00 AM

Tour of South County Museum

We will meet at the Museum for a walking tour of the many wonderful new exhibits, then proceed to the nearby Steak Lodge for a business meeting and self-ordered lunch.

Directions to South County Museum - Canonchet Farm, Narragansett, RI (Directions: Route 95 South; bear left onto Route 4 South; pick up Route 1 South; exit to Route 138 East; right onto Route 1A South; continue towards Narragansett - watch for Museum signs on right.)

Steak Lodge - 945 Boston Neck Road, Narragansett, RI (Directions: from Museum, backtrack on Route 1A a short distance; restaurant on right.)

** Note: If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Frank Stevenson at 401-568-4016 no later than Sunday, June 14, 1998 to make a reservation. A small fee will be charged for the tour.*

Saturday - September 20, 1998 at 1:30 PM

Tour of Betsy Williams Cottage

Following a private tour of the famous Betsy Williams Cottage, we will proceed to the nearby Boat House for our Annual Meeting. We will end our 106th year with Annual Reports by the Association's Officers and Committee Chairmen, and the election of Officers and Directors for the following year. Refreshments will be provided by our Hospitality Committee. Dues are payable at this time.

Roger Williams Park - Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI (Directions: Route 95; exit to Route 10 East; exit to Elmwood Avenue; left at bottom of ramp; right into park; follow signs to Cottage.)

Saturday - October 17, 1998 at 11:00 am

"The Rhode Island Militia" - Robert Lynch, Pawtuxet Rangers

Following a business meeting at the Roger Williams National Memorial Park's Visitor Center, Robert Lynch of the Pawtuxet Rangers will regale us with a brief history of the militia and the role of the Pawtuxet Rangers in Rhode Island history. This will be an informal presentation and attendees are encouraged to participate and ask questions throughout. A self-ordered luncheon will follow at nearby 3 Steeple Street.

Roger Williams National Memorial Park - 282 North Main Street, Providence, RI (Directions: Route 95 North to State Office Exit; straight at traffic light, crossing Orms Street; left at traffic light onto Smith Street; right at traffic light, and immediate left into parking lot.)

3 Steeple Street Restaurant - 125 Canal Street (corner Steeple Street), Providence, RI

IN DEFENSE OF THE FIRST MARRIAGES OF FREEBORN AND MERCY WILLIAMS

Dorothy H. White

Robert Charles Anderson in *The Great Migration Begins*, 1995, on page 2010 makes the following comments: "For two of the daughters of Roger Williams, evidence was not found for the marriage to the first husband (Freeborn to Thomas Hart and Mercy to Resolved Waterman), although both unions are confidently asserted in any number of modern publications. The rarity of the name Freeborn speaks in favor of the marriage to Thomas Hart, but additional information would be welcome in both instances. Assuming these first marriages, the evidence is more than adequate in each case for the marriage to the second husband."

We have felt it necessary to take a stand in support of the legality of these marriages, and we offer the following proof, which was part of our reply to a letter from a loyal descendant of Roger Williams:

20 September 1997

... The comments in *The Great Migration Begins* are unusual, considering the fact that most of the earliest marriages in Providence do not appear in Vital Records. At that time, marriages were civil rather than religious events. They were performed generally by Assistants to the General Assembly, or Assistants to the Town Council.

When taking the morals of that time into consideration, may we not agree that had Freeborn not actually married Thomas Hart, nor Mercy Resolved Waterman, those facts would have created a scandal of which we would have been well aware.

I cite the following facts to prove the authenticity of these marriages. I know that there are many more:

FREEBORN WILLIAMS

1. Roger Williams's letter to Gov. John Endicott at Boston, 1 December 1656:
"This bearer Mr. Hart a Young ship mr [master] (who now maketh love to my Second daughter Freeborne), is bound for Salem about a Vessell. If by his return You can spare a little season for a line, it shall be thankfully accepted by Your humble Servant." (Correspondence of Roger Williams, Vol. II, p. 474, Glenn W. LaFantasie, Editor, Providence 1988)
2. Roger Williams's letter to Samuel Hubbard at Newport, ca. Winter 1672/73:
"At present (to repay your kindness, and because you are studious, I pray you to request my brother Williams, or my son Providence, or my daughter Hart, to spare you the sight of a memorial in verse which I lately writ, in humble Thanksgiving unto God, for his great and wonderful deliverance to my son Providence) ... (Correspondence of Roger Williams, Vol. II, p. 688)
3. Thomas Hart of Newport (son of Edward of Providence) m. Freeborn Williams, daughter of Roger and Mary Williams. Thomas d. at Newport 1671, and in his will proved 7 Aug. 1671, he mentions his wife Freeborne and all four of his children. (Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island, p. 314, John Osborne Austin, Albany, NY 1887; reprinted Baltimore, MD 1995)
4. [425] William Brenton, etc. to freeborn hart. "Three and Twentieth day of [torn] ... 1674 Between William Brenton John Hull Benedict Arnold John Porter Samll Wilbur samll Wilson & Thomas mumford of the one part & freeborn hart Executrix and widdow of Thomas hart Late of Newport ... deceased..." (Rhode Island Land Evidences, Vol. I, 1648-1696, p. 237, Genealogical Publishing Co. 1897)

MERCY WILLIAMS

1. Resolved Waterman m. 1659 Mercy Williams, daughter of Roger and Mary () Williams. Resolved d. 1676. Widow Mercy refused administration from the Town Council, and the Council found she had already administered without order from them. (Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island, p. 410, John Osborne Austin, Albany, NY 1887; reprinted Baltimore, MD 1995)
- 2 It was reported to the Court [Providence Probate] 27 Dec. 1676 that Resolved Waterman

NEW MEMBERS

1996-1997

* Andrews, Mrs. Mary (Knight)	Bloomfield Village, MI	<i>Daniel</i>
* Angell, Mrs. Carolyn T.	Warwick, RI	<i>Associate</i>
* Bailey, Edwin A.	Burrillville, RI	<i>Mary</i>
* Bailey, Thomas N.	Burrillville, RI	<i>Mary</i>
Berglund, Mrs. Leona (Carscallen)	Rialto, CA	<i>Mary</i>
Butler, Mrs. Marcia (Sayles)	West Palm Beach, FL	<i>Mary</i>
Card, Frederick Stanley	Tampa, FL	<i>Mary</i>
* Crowley-Barros, Zachary Robert	North Scituate, RI	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
Dorris, Mrs. Lisa L. (Wooster)	Alvin, TX	<i>Mary</i>
* Gräpel, Christian J.	Little Silver, NJ	<i>Mary</i>
* Green, Ms. Nancy Winsor	Houston, TX	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
* LaMoria, N. Peter	North Providence, RI	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
* Marshall, Mrs. Holly (Paige)	Old Orchard Beach, ME	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
* Marshall, Paige Laurel	Old Orchard Beach, ME	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
* Marshall, Sandra R. P.	Old Orchard Beach, ME	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
* Paige, Jeffery Wayland	Ann Arbor, MI	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
* Peterson, Derek Moverly	Barrington, RI	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
* Pettee, Rev. David Allen	Berkeley, CA	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
Prater, Anne Elizabeth	Clearwater, FL	<i>Mary</i>
* Robert, Mrs. Eleanor (Bailey)	Pascoag, RI	<i>Mary</i>
* Robert, Geoffrey Scott	Pascoag, RI	<i>Mary</i>
* Robert, James Michael	Pascoag, RI	<i>Mary</i>
* Robert, Matthew Stephen	Pascoag, RI	<i>Mary</i>
* Smith, Mrs. Celeste (Staple)	Munnsville, NY	<i>Mary</i>
Thomas, Mrs. Phyllis (Fesmire)	Warsaw, IN	<i>Joseph</i>
* Vickers, Mrs. Judith (Paige)	Barrington, RI	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Walts, Mrs. Helen (Fisher)	Hurst, TX	<i>Mary</i>
* Watson, Mrs. Betsy W. (Birch)	North Scituate, RI	<i>Joseph</i>
White, Robert Leslie	Santa Monica, CA	<i>Mary</i>
White, Mrs. Ruth (Peterson)	Santa Monica, CA	<i>Associate</i>
* Wilbur, Michael Winsor	Oxford, MA	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
* Wilbur, Ted Winsor	Oxford, MA	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
* Young, Mrs. Nellie (Goold)	Lakewood, CA	<i>Joseph</i>
* Life Member		

IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth (Leithead) Corbello (Mrs. Bennie E., Jr.)	June 6, 1996	<i>Mary</i>
Clarence E. Essex	August 22, 1997	<i>Associate</i>
Barbara Wight Izdebski (Mrs. Stanley)	March 3, 1997	<i>Daniel</i>
Henry W. Lawton	October 4, 1997	<i>Associate</i>
Virginia Bartley Lombardo	March 29, 1997	<i>Mary</i>
A. William Olsen	January 31, 1993	<i>Associate</i>
Nancy (Turner) Perks (Mrs. Ben W.)	(no date given)	<i>Mary</i>
Winfield Elton Pray	January 24, 1997	<i>Daniel, Joseph</i>
Hortense E. Steere (Mrs. Benjamin F., Jr.)	December 10, 1996	<i>Mercy</i>
Miriam L. Baker Steere (Mrs. Wendell W.)	July 25, 1997	<i>Waterman</i>

BEGINNING OUR 106TH YEAR 1997-1998

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Col. Robert Allen Greene PO Box 137, E. Greenwich, RI 02818	401-884-5929, 401-884-7530, fax 401-885-9370
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Mr. Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Road, Glocester, RI 02814	401-568-4016, frankbs@ici.net
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Mrs. Ann (Rowley) Prokopowicz 168 Forest Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910	401-785-2512, ajpro@worldnet.att.net
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Mrs. Meredith (Rowley) Smith Wilbur Hollow Road, North Scituate, RI 02857	401-647-7204
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Miss Gladys I. Bailey 2068 South County Trail, East Greenwich, RI 02818	401-884-9009
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr. A. John Prokopowicz 168 Forest Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910	401-785-2512, ajpro@worldnet.att.net
<i>Registrar</i>	Mrs. Elsie (Bushnell) Williams 35 Hodsell Street, Cranston, RI 02910	401-467-7594
<i>Historian</i>	Mrs. Birdella (Wightman) Corbitt 15 Ivy Lane, Seekonk, MA 02771	508-336-9418

DIRECTORS

<i>Director, Past President</i>	Col. Robert Allen Greene PO Box 137, E. Greenwich, RI 02818	401-884-5929, 401-884-7530, fax 401-885-9370
<i>Director</i>	Raymond L. Hilton Jr. 84 Alfred Drown Road, Barrington, RI 02806	401-245-7463
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Mrs. Gussie (Randall) Lawton 1017 Great Road, Lincoln, RI 02865	401-334-2674
<i>Director</i>	Mrs. Janis (Frigault) Stevenson 142 George Allen Road, Glocester, RI 02814	401-568-4016, frankbs@ici.net
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Mrs. Dorothy (Higson) White 15 Frederick Drive, Barrington, RI 02806	401-246-0246, dwhite@ids.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

<i>Auditors</i>	Mr. Raymond L. Hilton Jr., Mr. Everett O. White	
<i>Chaplain</i>	Mrs. Birdella (Wightman) Corbitt 15 Ivy Lane, Seekonk, MA 02771	508-336-9418
<i>Lineage Book</i>	Mrs. Dorothy (Higson) White 15 Frederick Drive, Barrington, RI 02806	401-246-0246, dwhite@ids.net
<i>Membership</i>	Mr. A. John Prokopowicz 168 Forest Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910	401-785-2512, ajpro@worldnet.att.net
<i>Program</i>	Mr. Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Road, Glocester, RI 02814	401-568-4016, frankbs@ici.net
<i>Publicity</i>	Mr. Everett O. White 15 Frederick Drive, Barrington, RI 02806	401-246-0246, dwhite@ids.net
<i>Sunshine</i>	Mrs. Melora (Stone) Allen 210 Terrace Avenue, Riverside, RI 02915	401-433-2152
<i>Trust</i>	Miss Gladys I. Bailey; Mr. Elmer H. Palmer	

Visit the Roger Williams Family Association Home Page on the Internet
http://www.ici.net/cust_pages/frankbs/rwfa.htm