



THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

2001-2002 No. 88

Incorporated January 30, 1906
Providence, Rhode Island

... the voice of Roger Williams needs to be heard in our land.
Eleanor Roosevelt



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Cousins and Friends:

As I enter my third year as President of the Association, I want to welcome our 53 new members and wish our entire membership a healthy and productive year.

Walter Covell and the Program Committee have again assembled a varied and exciting program of speakers and tours to augment our meetings this year. I am sure that they will prove to be as interesting as those from last year. We encourage our local members to attend as many of these functions as possible, and look forward to meeting visiting members from out of state. As always, suggestions for future program items are always welcome.

The Association's web site at www.rogerwilliams.org has proven to be a great success, with hundreds of people from around the world visiting the site every week. The site includes a biography of Roger Williams, the year's program items, and listings of officers, directors, and committee chairpersons. There is also a comprehensive catalog of resource material relating to Roger Williams, as well as an online purchasing system for the Association's books and commemorative pins. Soon the site will include a four-generation genealogy of the Roger Williams family, and we hope throughout the course of the year to post copies of previous Annual Bulletins, the earliest of which dates back to January 1942.

I am very pleased to announce that *Descendants of Roger Williams - Volume III, The Sayles Line Through His Daughter Mary Williams* will soon be published. This volume traces the descendants of Mary Williams, Roger Williams' first child and eldest daughter, through her marriage to John Sayles. The book represents years of dedicated research by our Lineage Chairperson and Past President, Dorothy Higson White. Dot is to be congratulated for this accomplishment, and commended for her untiring efforts on behalf of the Association.

I thank all of the officers, committee members and other volunteers who continue to make the Roger Williams Family Association a strong and vibrant organization. As we grow in numbers, we assure the continuation of the memory of our ancestor.

I am honored to have been elected President of this Association for a third term, and promise to serve my fellow members and the legacy of Roger Williams to the best of my ability.

My best wishes to all our members and their families.

Frank Budlong Stevenson
President

August 2001

IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Lineal descendants of Roger Williams and their spouses are eligible to join the Roger Williams Family Association. Dues are \$5.00 for Annual Membership or \$50 for Life Membership. To request an application, please contact our Registrars or our Corresponding Secretary. Application forms are also available on our web site at www.rogerwilliams.org. Please note that references are REQUIRED. Incomplete applications will be returned.

THE OLD BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE

Janis M. Stevenson

The Stony Lane Baptist Church in North Kingstown, Rhode Island was founded in 1665 by Roger Williams, and is one of the oldest Baptist churches in America. The meeting house was built around 1710 and served the congregation faithfully for many years. The building slowly fell into disuse until, eventually, services and meetings were held there only several times a year. Members of the Roger Williams Family Association were among the few who visited the old meeting house during its lonely years, gathering there in 1937 for a joint meeting the members of the D.A.R. The Old Baptist Meeting House was revitalized in 1958 and saw weekly services for the next thirty years. However, a "New Baptist Meeting House" was dedicated in 1989, leaving the ancient little meeting house empty once more.



The following article, written by Mary Kenyon Huling and published in Roger Williams Family Association Bulletin No. 5, April 1944, relates the tale of that pleasant visit to the meeting house by members of the Roger Williams Family Association. Should anyone care to travel to "Narragansett Country" to see this quaint old building, turn left off Route 2 South onto Stony Lane, then right onto Old Baptist Road.

The "Old Baptist" Meeting House in Stony Lane

North Kingstown has always been proud of its early association with Roger Williams. It was only through his courage and tactfulness that the new settlement was able to survive in the wild, Indian country. Great credit is also due Roger Williams for the pioneer, Christian seed-sowing in the community. Rhode Island historians say that Williams spent a good part of six years in the locality.

Richard Smith the first white settler, leased land from the Indians and established a trading post near Cocumcossoc brook and Williams soon built a house nearby. Of the 41 known letters written by Williams, 28 were written at Cocumcossoc. Williams sold his house to Smith in 1651, but often came back to preach to the settlers and to the Indians, who he was always anxious to Christianize. It is believed that he induced Elder Thomas Baker to come from Newport in 1666 and thoroughly organize a church and become its first pastor, of which he continued in charge until his death in 1710.

August 12, 1703, Alexander Huling deeded half an acre of land to the church society; "to make use for building a meeting house, for the service and worship of God." Sometime later a meeting house, that is still standing, was built on that land. In an old letter, dated May 20, 1750, mention is made of land given for the meeting house about 40 years before, and that it was built by subscription, but the exact date of its erection is not known.

If the "Old Baptist" meeting house in Stony Lane could tell the story of its past, it would add much to the history of the town. In the year 1771, there were 167 names on the Church member list.

For a great many years the church served the community faithfully, but with the building of more modern and centrally located churches in the town, the building has fallen

into disuse. Occasionally it was opened for union services, which have always been well attended, or for Bible classes for people living nearby.

June 22, 1937 the Roger Williams Family Association were guests of honor of Pettaquamscutt Chapter D.A.R. at a meeting held in the venerable old building. The late Miss Abby P. Gardner, Regent of the Chapter, welcomed the guests who expressed their great pleasure at the opportunity to visit the historic meeting house. Mrs. Hilda Schuster, President of the Association, presided at the meeting. Rev. Gideon Burgess, one of the oldest members of the Society, read a poem by Roger Williams. A paper giving the history of the Church was read by the author. After a short business session, the assemblage went to the home of Miss Gardner in Wickford for a basket lunch. At 2 o'clock all went over to the Old Narragansett Church where they were met by the late Canon Herbert J. Piper, who was pastor of the church, and Miss Virginia White who was in colonial costume. Canon Piper gave a short talk on the history of the building, after which the group continued to the Cocumcossoc farm, the site of Richard Smith's trading post or block house. Mr. Austin Fox, the late owner, gave a history of the ancient house after which the party was taken on a tour of inspection and many things of interest were pointed out to them.

The old meeting house was the scene of a large gathering Sunday afternoon, October 17, 1943, when the long-planned-for marker, sponsored by Pettaquamscutt Chapter D.A.R., was dedicated. About 140 persons were seated in the 17 boxlike pews or standing outside near the door. Rev. Arthur C. Lambourne of Cambridge, Mass., a former pastor in the community, officiated. He was assisted by Rev. Stephen Talbott and Merith Kline, a divinity student. The congregation joined in singing several old hymns. Rev. Talbott read the 84th Psalm, beginning with the verse, "How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts."

"An Historic Church and an Historic Faith" was the theme of Rev. Lambourne's message, in which he pointed out the accomplishments of the historic church down through the years. Preceding Rev. Lambourne's address an historic sketch of the meeting house and the society who has occupied it was read.

Following the service the congregation assembled on the grounds about the meeting house. After singing "Faith of our Fathers," the plaque set in the panel over the door and bearing the inscription:

"OLD BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE,
CHURCH ORGANIZED 1665"

was unveiled by three little girls, namely: Elizabeth Ann Schmidt, Joyce Lynne Huling and Rosemary Arnold, all descendants of Roger Williams, who held the first religious services in the community, of Richard Smith, at whose house they were held, and Alexander Huling, who gave the land for the meeting house. Appropriate services followed.

Roger Williams, who was prime mover in laying a deep and secure foundation for our State, was also prime mover in establishing the First Baptist Church in the Narragansett Country.

*Visit the Roger Williams Family Association on the internet at:
www.rogerwilliams.org*

RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Each month the Association receives numerous requests for genealogical research assistance. There are many correspondents who would be pleased to prove family claims of descent from Roger Williams, but are limited in their research efforts due to great distance or lack of expertise. If you can spare a few hours per week or per month to help your distant Williams cousins with their research needs, please contact Lineage Chairperson Dorothy White at 401-246-0246.

CALENDAR

September 2001 - June 2002

Saturday - September 22, 2001 at 11:00 a.m.

Members and guests are invited to meet at the Babcock-Smith House at 124 Granite Street in Westerly, RI for a tour of one of Rhode Island's important architectural and historical landmarks. The home of Dr. Joshua Babcock, born 1707, is an early Georgian style home. Dr. Babcock was Westerly's first physician, postmaster, and friend of Benjamin Franklin. He was also a General Assemblyman, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, and Major General of the Rhode Island Militia. Orlando Smith, a later owner, discovered granite on the property in 1846. Three generations of Smiths made Westerly one of the most important granite centers in the world. The cost of this enriching, marvelous tour is \$2.50 per person. After the tour we will meet in the newly-built carriage house for a business meeting and bring-your-own lunch. Tables and chairs will be set up for our convenience. Please call Ann Prokopowicz at 401-785-2512 before September 15 to ensure docent coverage for our tour.

Directions: From Providence, Route 95 South to Route 4 South to Wakefield; exit to Route 1 South to Westerly and proceed all the way to 124 Granite Street (Route 1); take a right at Cumberland Farms and park at the rear.

Saturday - October 13, 2001 at 11:00 a.m.

Members and guests are invited to meet at the Quonset Aviation Museum at 63 Eccleston Avenue in North Kingstown, RI for a tour of this working museum of commercial and military aviation. There are nearly 30 aircraft on display, including a Russian MIG-17, TBM Avenger, A-4 Skyhawk, A6 Intruder, and SH3 Seaking. Docents will lead the tour, which will last about 45 minutes, and will include information about naval history and the importance of Quonset Point throughout the years. The cost of the tour is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children under 12. Following the tour we will proceed to the nearby Gregg's Restaurant at 4120 Quaker Lane (Rte. 2) for lunch and a business meeting. Please call Trish Harmon at 401-737-3142 by October 1, 2001.

Directions: From Providence, Route 95 South to Route 4 South; take Quonset Point/Davisville exit, bearing left at the end of the ramp onto Devil's Foot Road; proceed under bridge, bearing right at intersection onto Roger Williams Road, then to Eccleston Avenue. Hanger 488 will be on your right.

Saturday - November 17, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.

Members and guests will meet at the home of Frank & Jan Stevenson at 142 George Allen Road in Glocester, RI for a business meeting and "Family Treasures" display by Trish Harmon and Wendell Pols. A dessert buffet including hot mulled cider and home-baked pies will be served. Donations of non-perishable food items for a local food bank will be appreciated. Please call Jan Stevenson at 401-568-4016 by November 10 if you are planning to attend.

Directions: From Route 95 in Providence, follow all signs to Route 6 West; head west on Route 6 through Johnston and Scituate, staying in right lane to pick up Route 101 West; after junction of Routes 101 and 102 at Countryside Restaurant, turn right at second blinking yellow light onto Pray Hill Road; proceed about 1 mile, then left onto George Allen Road; proceed about 1 mile, then left onto driveway at #142 (gray mailbox, numbers on box & post). Members are encouraged to carpool as parking is limited.

Saturday - December 15, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.

We have been invited again to enjoy a social hour of Christmas music and refreshments at the home of Clifford W. Brown at 180 Brown Street in Providence, RI. Marjorie Davis, accompanied by Nancy Merritt, will present a musical program. There will also be a short business meeting. Please bring a non-perishable item for a food basket to be donated to a Providence food kitchen.

Directions: From Providence, Route 195 East; take Wickenden Street exit, turning left at bottom of ramp onto Wickenden Street; left onto Hope Street; left onto Barnes Street; left onto Brown Street; the Brown house is on the right side of the road.

Saturday - March 16, 2002 at 11:00 a.m.

Members and guests will meet at Roger Williams National Memorial Park for a presentation by Ranger John McNiff concerning Roger Williams' association with Providence. A business

meeting will be followed by luncheon at Three Steeple Street, a restaurant a short walk down Canal Street from the Park. Please phone Walter Covell at 401-245-6279 or Dorothy White at 401-246-0246 by March 9 if you are planning to attend. Parking is available along North Main Street, and is also available in the Memorial parking lot which can be reached by a left turn off North Main Street at the light by the Park headquarters, and an immediate left on Canal Street to the driveway of the parking lot.

Saturday - April 20, 2002 at 11:00 a.m.

Members and guests will meet at Textile Fiber Arts Studio at 64 Paris Irons Road in Gloucester, RI where Faith Wight, Certified Master Handspinner, will give a talk and demonstration on old spinning and weaving techniques. We will then proceed to the Stagecoach Tavern Restaurant in nearby Chepachet for a business meeting and self-ordered luncheon. The studio accommodates about twenty, so be sure to reserve your place early. The cost of the demonstration is \$5 per person. Call Jan Stevenson at 401-568-4016 by April 13.

Directions: From Providence, Route 6 West through Johnston and into North Scituate; keep right at McDonald's and Mobil gas station, continuing onto Route 101 West; right at Countryside Restaurant onto Route 102 North; right at traffic light onto Snake Hill Road; left onto Paris Irons Road, just after Cherry Valley Herb Farm; left into drive at studio sign. To Chepachet: Left out of drive onto Paris Irons Road; left at "T" intersection onto Pound Road; right onto Route 102 North (Note the stone enclosure at the corner; built in 1749, it is the oldest town pound in America); straight at "Stop" sign, continuing into Chepachet village; the restaurant is just after CVS on the right; park on the street in front of the restaurant or turn right into the driveway just after the restaurant to park in the rear lot (handicapped access at rear).

Sunday - May 19, 2002 at 11:00 a.m.

We will gather at First Baptist Church in America, 75 North Main Street, Providence, RI for our annual Founders' Day Sunday service. Following coffee and a tour of the historic Church, founded by Roger Williams in 1638, we will proceed to the home of Alice Cashill at 24 Meadowbrook Drive, Barrington, RI for a social hour and meeting. Please bring a picnic lunch and a lawn chair.

Directions: From Providence, Route 195 East to Route 114 South toward Barrington; left at light at "White Church" onto Massasoit Avenue and follow through to New Meadow Road; right onto New Meadow Road; first right onto Meadowbrook Drive; Cashill home is on the left.

Saturday - June 15, 2002 at 11:30 a.m.

Members and guests will meet at Bicentennial Farm, the homestead of the late Marion and Dorothy Fry, located in East Greenwich, RI. Once known as the Joseph Fry Farm, it features a 1795 farmhouse and an extensive rose garden that should be in full bloom at the time of our visit. Gladys Bailey, our Corresponding Secretary, will give our group a brief tour of this 19th century historical and agricultural gem. Following the tour, we will picnic on the grounds and hold our annual meeting. Please bring your own lunch and lawn chair.

Directions: From Providence, Route 95 South to Route 4 South; take first exit to Route 401, turning left at traffic light at end of exit; left onto Route 2 South; right into drive at 2153 South County Trail at "Bicentennial Farm" sign.

IN MEMORIAM

John Marshall Duryea	13 January 2000
A. Middleton Gammell	18 August 2000
Ruth Pierson Ott Hunt	18 January 1998
Rev. Allen Webster Joslin	1 January 2000
Judith H. Maby (Mrs. Ernest C.)	27 March 2000
Margery Harrington Matthews (Mrs. Thomas)	26 September 2000
Marguerite Williams Ross Olsen	19 January 2001
Mary Ellen Waterman Pickup (Mrs. Donald)	8 July 2001
Lois French Allen Ray (Mrs. Warren A.)	28 April 2001
Dr. Herbert Wisbey, Jr.	March 2000

<i>Daniel</i>
<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
<i>Mary</i>
<i>Daniel</i>
<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
<i>Joseph, Mercy Waterman</i>
<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
<i>Mary</i>
<i>Mary, Joseph,</i>
<i>Mercy Winsor, Daniel</i>

NEW MEMBERS

2000-2001

* Bailey, Bonnie R. (Stephenson)	Pascoag, RI	<i>Associate</i>
* Bailey, Leonard Gibson	Pascoag, RI	<i>Joseph</i>
Bessette, Christopher A.	Stonington, CT	<i>Daniel</i>
Bessette, Harriet M. (Mrs. Edward A.)	Stonington, CT	<i>Daniel</i>
Bessette, Paul Morgan, Esq.	San Rafael, CA	<i>Daniel</i>
* Bessette, Stephen E.	Mystic, CT	<i>Daniel</i>
* Burke, Joseph Fitch, III	Landisville, PA	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Channing, Mary Alice (French)	Wilton, CT	<i>Mary</i>
* Crandall, Valerie (Dunn)	Landisville, PA	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Di Bernardo, Ann Curtis	Chester, VT	<i>Mary</i>
* Dumont, Lisa Ann	Fair Haven, CT	<i>Mary</i>
Emory, Theresa M. (Bessette)	Windsor Locks, CT	<i>Daniel</i>
Fuller, Amy C. (Mrs. Harold L.)	Rancho Santa Fe, CA	<i>Mercy Winsor, Daniel</i>
Gardiner, Colette Grace	Eugene, OR	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
* Gaudet, Alex Duryea	Califon, NJ	<i>Daniel</i>
* Gentry, Beverly J. (Markey)	Inverness, FL	<i>Joseph</i>
* Girdner, Merredi (Hubler)	Abilene, TX	<i>Daniel</i>
Hawkins, Louise Burdick	Mansfield Center, CT	<i>Mary</i>
* Hearn, William Avery	Franklin, MA	<i>Mary, Mercy Waterman/Winsor</i>
* Hoppe, Mark Edward	Lawrence, KS	<i>Mary</i>
Habek, Bret W.	Front Royal, VA	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
* Hubler, Susan R.	Redondo Beach, CA	<i>Daniel</i>
* Jacobs, Timothy Lester	Moodus, CT	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
* King, Dale Russell	Colgate, WI	<i>Daniel</i>
Kirk, Richard Dane	Lake Worth, FL	<i>Mary</i>
Larson, Linda A. (Steere)	No. Smithfield, RI	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
* Levin, Jason Samuel	Lancaster, PA	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Lippitt, A. Warren, USNR	Marietta, GA	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
* MacKeith, Arthur Kent	Bristol, RI	<i>Joseph, Mary</i>
* MacKeith, Hope Dora	Bristol, RI	<i>Joseph, Mary</i>
* Markey, Karen Lee	No. Smithfield, RI	<i>Joseph</i>
* Markey, Virginia C. (McBrien)	Seminole, FL	<i>Joseph</i>
Mathewson, Frederick Humphrey	Simsbury, CT	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
* McCarthy, Rory Flynn	Fair Haven, CT	<i>Mary</i>
* McDowell, Anastacia Patricia	Dennis, MA	<i>Mary</i>
* Nastro, Margaret Potter	New York, NY	<i>Mary</i>
Peppler, Jane Watson	Chapel Hill, NC	<i>Daniel</i>
Peterson, Sandra D. (Burlson)	St. Petersburg, FL	<i>Joseph</i>
Reavely, Marcia J. (Mrs. Richard)	West Linn, OR	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
* Repetto, Brian	Inverness, FL	<i>Joseph</i>
* Repetto, Kevin	Inverness, FL	<i>Joseph</i>
Rochette, Michael Bessette	Berkley, CA	<i>Daniel</i>
Rowland, Virginia M. (Stiles)	Cheyenne, WY	<i>Mary</i>
* Sears, Irving Hunt	Philadelphia, PA	<i>Mary, Mercy Waterman/Winsor</i>
* Spector, Rachel (Whitehead)	Atlanta, GA	<i>Mary</i>
Shifflett, Joseph A.	Buffalo, NY	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
Smalley, Joy Lynne (Mrs. David D.)	Sherwood, OR	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
* Travis, Nancy Hill (Mrs. Brian D.)	Denver, CO	<i>Mary</i>
Warren, Nancy	Canaan, ME	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
* Williams, Alexander Nicholas Edward	Orlando, FL	<i>Mary, Joseph</i>
* Williams, Mason Butler	Barrington, RI	<i>Joseph</i>
Willinger, Ronald D.	Huron, OH	<i>Mary</i>
* Woodard, Jenna Ann	Norwood, MA	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>

* Life Member

BEGINNING OUR 110TH YEAR 2001-2002

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Mr. Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814	401-568-4016, president@rogerwilliams.org
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Mr. Walter Covell 47 Bowden Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806	401-245-6279
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Mrs. Ann (Rowley) Prokopowicz 168 Forest Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910	401-785-2512
<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 2153 South County Trail, East Greenwich, RI 02818	401-884-4988
<i>Treasurer</i>	Steven J. Hart, Esq. 13 Gilles Street, Coventry, RI 02816	401-828-4738, treasurer@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Registrars</i>	Mrs. Elsie (Bushnell) Williams, Mrs. Anne (Williams) Crocker 35 Hodsell Street, Cranston, RI 02910	401-467-7594
<i>Historian</i>	Mrs. Patricia A. Woodard-Harmon 401-737-3142, historian@rogerwilliams.org	
<i>Historian/Archivist</i>	Mr. Wendell B. Pols 401-245-1532	

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>	Mr. Raymond L. Hilton Jr. 84 Alfred Drowne 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 Rd., Glocester, RI 02814	401-568-4016
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Mrs. Dorothy (Higson) White 15 Frederick Dr., Barrington, RI 02806	401-246-0246
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Mr. George W. Williams 8 Moses Brown Street, Providence, RI 02906	401-351-2351

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 Dr., Barrington, RI 02806	401-246-0246, lineage@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Membership</i>	Mr. Steven J. Hart 13 Gilles Street, Coventry, RI 02816	401-828-4738, membership@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Program</i>	Mr. Walter Covell 47 Bowden Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806	401-245-6279
<i>Publicity</i>	Mr. Robert Messinger, Mrs. Dee Dee Messinger 20 Elderberry Lane, Wakefield, RI 02879	401-782-4058
<i>Sunshine</i>	Mrs. Anne (Williams) Crocker 35 Hodsell Street, Cranston, RI 02910	401-467-7594
<i>Trust</i>	Miss Gladys I. Bailey; Mr. Elmer H. Palmer	
<i>Typesetting/Web Site</i>	Mrs. Janis (Frigault) Stevenson	