



THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

2010-2011 No. 97

Incorporated January 30, 1906
Providence, Rhode Island
www.rogerwilliams.org



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings,

This is my final, formal communication as President of the Roger Williams Family Association to my cousins and new friends as I enter my third year of office. I live and have always lived in Connecticut, but have the good fortune of owning a home in Rhode Island, too. I often think of our grandfather, Roger Williams, when I am out kayaking and try to imagine how different his experience was in 1645. I believe he would have taken such delight in watching the fireworks explode over Narragansett Bay on the Fourth of July in celebration of our country's many freedoms.

Our Association bylaws remind us of our purpose, and we continue in our mission to honor and preserve "the memory of Roger Williams, Founder of the present **State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.**" We also continue to identify "as many descendants as possible," and have joined the ranks of Facebook not only in an effort to find more descendants, but to broaden our outreach and promote



"friendship and social intercourse among them." Sign on to Facebook and search "Roger Williams Family Association." Once you click the Like It icon, your connection to the Association, its members, friends, photos, news, and events begins.

Our November 2009 meeting highlighted the introduction of our most recent publication, *Descendants of Roger Williams, Volume IV*, which traces the descendants of Roger Williams' youngest child, Joseph. RWFA member and centenarian, Elsie Williams, authored the book. Elsie provides us with an invaluable wealth of historical information. She is currently working on Volume V-the final book in our series, which traces Daniel's lineage. Our programs are always brightened by her presence and warm smile. If you don't know Elsie, I would urge you to come to one of our upcoming programs to meet her in person.

Welcome to our new members, and, Rhode Island residents, please, don't forget to vote in November! We must retain the State's original name and preserve the memory of Roger Williams, its founder.

Sincerely,

Mary French Channing

CALENDAR

September 2010 - July 2011

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2010 - 11:00 AM

Tour of Linden Place in Bristol, Rhode Island

Located at 500 Hope Street in Bristol's historic waterfront district, this "Great House" was used by generations of seafaring DeWolfs, Colts, and Barrymores to entertain presidents and politicians. Following the tour, we will dine at Thames Waterside in Warren at 12:30 p.m. Tour admission fee is \$6.00.

Directions: From Rte. 195 take Rte. 136 to Bristol. Take a right on Chestnut St. At the end take a left on Hope St./Rte. 114. At fork, bear right on Thames St., crossing over Bradford St. Parking is on the left in back of library. Linden Place is across the street from the library.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2010 - 11:00 AM

Founders' Day Service at First Baptist Church in Providence, Rhode Island

We will observe Founders' Day at First Baptist Church in America, located at 75 North Main Street. Church service at 11:00 a.m. will be followed by a deli lunch (provided) at 12:30 p.m. Preceding our meeting, Dr. Stanley Lemons, Retired Chairman of the History Department at Rhode Island College and Historian of First Baptist Church, will be our guest speaker. His topic: "Rhode Island and NO Plantations."

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2010 - 10:30 AM

Tour of the Smith-Appleby House Museum in Smithfield, Rhode Island

The Smith-Appleby House was built circa 1696 by Elisha Smith, the grandson of John Smith, "The Miller", a member of Roger William's original party of six men who left the Massachusetts Bay Colony to settle in Providence. The house was constructed as a one-room stone-ender with a loft above. The tour will be followed by a business meeting. Afterwards, we will proceed to the Pleasant View Diner at 132 Pleasant View Avenue in Smithfield, RI for lunch. Tour admission fee is \$5.00.

Directions: From Route 295 North or South, take Exit 8B (Route 7 North, Douglas Pike). Take a left at 1st light onto Thurber Blvd. Proceed to the end, then turn left onto Stillwater Road. The Smith-Appleby House Museum is 0.7 miles on the right.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2010 - 1:30 PM

Holiday Celebration

Members and guests are cordially invited to meet at Marilyn & Clifford Brown's home at 180 Brown St., Providence for a festive seasonal occasion featuring a brief business meeting, a Christmas Season musical program, a Christmas carol sing-along, and a delicious array of refreshments arranged to evoke recollections of a Victorian tea.

Directions: From Rte. 95 North or South, take Rte. 195 East to the Gano St. exit. At end of exit, bear right onto Gano St.; after crossing Angell St., Gano St. changes to Taber Ave. Left onto Lloyd Ave. Right onto Brown St. and proceed one block. House is across Keene St. on your left. Parking is legal on the south side of Brown St. and on Keene St. For directions from other locations, please call (401) 331-1253.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2011 - 10:00 AM

Tour of the Resolved Waterman Tavern Ell in Greenville, Rhode Island

Architect Robert Leach will give us a tour of the historic Resolved Waterman Tavern Ell, which has recently been restored by the Smithfield Preservation Society. This building also housed a bank (1822 Smithfield Exchange Bank), including a wrought iron vault and special Directors' Hall. He will also conduct tours of two other 18th century Waterman houses on Austin Avenue, and, time permitting, an historic

Waterman cemetery. We will have lunch following the tours at the Country Kitchen Restaurant in Greenville.

Directions: From Route 295, take the Route 44 West exit toward Greenville. The Ell is located in the vicinity of Greenville Common, at the intersection of Routes 44 and 116. Parking is limited in the area. We suggest that, as you approach the traffic light at Route 116 North (Pleasant View Avenue), get into the left lane and turn left on Route 116 South (Smith Avenue). Turn right onto Church Street, then right again remaining on Church Street, and park in the Greenville Common vicinity near St. Thomas Episcopal Church and Anderson-Winfield Funeral Home. The Ell, an ancient wooden yellow building, is on the north side of Route 44 next to the Smithfield Fire Department.

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2011 - 11:00 AM

Tour of Smith's Castle in Wickford, Rhode Island

Smith's Castle is an award-winning historic site encapsulating four centuries of Rhode Island history. A tour of the house will be followed by a picnic lunch and business meeting. Tour admission fee is \$6.00.

Directions: From the Providence area, take I-95 S toward Warwick. Slight left at RI-4 S (signs for North Kingstown). Take exit 7B for RI-402 toward Frenchtown Rd. Keep right at the fork, following signs for RI-403 E, Quonset, and merge onto RI-403 E. Take the US-1, Post Rd ramp. Turn right at US-1 S, Post Rd. Turn left at Richard Smith Dr (across from the State Police Barracks). From South County: Take I-95 N towards Providence. Take exit 8A to merge onto RI-2 S, Quaker Ln. toward RI-4, E Greenwich. Turn left at RI-401 E, Division St. Slight right to merge onto RI-4 S toward RI-403, Narragansett/Quonset. Follow signs for Quonset and merge onto RI-403 E. Take the US-1, Post Rd ramp. Turn right at US-1 S, Post Rd. Turn left at Richard Smith Dr (across from the State Police Barracks).

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2011 - 11:00 AM

Presentation by Ranger John McNiff at Roger Williams Memorial

Our meeting will begin with an informative presentation given by Park Ranger and Honorary Lifetime Member John McNiff. He will do a talk on local history and the founder of Providence, Roger Williams. After Ranger McNiff's presentation, we will hold a short business meeting followed by our annual meeting as we enjoy a picnic lunch on the grounds of the park.

Directions: From Route 95 North, take the State Office exit. Go straight across Orms Street at end of exit. Turn left onto Smith Street. Turn right at bottom of hill onto Canal Street, then immediate left into Memorial's parking lot.

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2011 - 10:00 AM

Tour of the Anthony Steere Sawmill, Chepachet, Rhode Island

The Anthony Steere Sawmill, still privately owned, was built in 1810, enlarged in 1863, and operated exclusively on water power until 1955. A major presence in the economy of northern Rhode Island, this sawmill complex produced lumber, wood products for the textile industry, ice, and electricity to light the town of Chepachet. It was restored in 2010 by Randall Steere assisted by his brother George Steere, Jr., who are Roger Williams descendants. After a lecture and tour of the mill conducted by Clifford Brown, we will have a picnic lunch at the site. Please bring sandwiches and desserts. Beverages will be provided.

Directions: From Route 295, take Route 44 West exit. Proceed towards Glocester and into Chepachet Village. At the traffic light, proceed straight onto Route 102, then bear right at fork, continuing on Route 102. Proceed about 1/2 mile, then bear right onto Old Victory Highway. Turn right onto John Steere Road. The mill is about 1/2 mile down the road.

KEEPING PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

DR. CLIFFORD W. BROWN, JR.

Aside from Trivial Pursuit players and Jeopardy fans, few people beyond our borders know that the official name of our state is "Rhode Island and Providence Plantations." Objection has been raised recently that the word "Plantations" evokes memories of slavery, and should therefore be dropped from the state's name. The voters will be asked to decide this issue by referendum on the November ballot.

Roger Williams was the author of the name "Providence Plantations," and the Executive Committee of the Roger Williams Family Association wish to go on record against this proposed change -- with all due respect to those who advocate it -- because we believe that the word "plantation," as used by Roger Williams, had nothing to do with slavery.

Unlike many other colonies of that era, Providence Plantations (subsequently united with "Rhode Island" into a single colony) was not organized or founded as a money-making enterprise. To the contrary, the original colonists in Providence were religious dissenters fleeing religious persecution in Europe and especially nearby Massachusetts. And, unlike many others fleeing religious persecution, they did not turn around and persecute others -- but demanded that religious persecution be explicitly forbidden in the founding documents of the colony.

Williams believed that this colony had been planted under the guidance and authority of Divine Providence as a small haven for those who wished to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences -- and he explicitly upheld the right of Protestant, Catholic, Jew, and "Turk" to worship unmolested within the boundaries of Providence Plantations as long as they obeyed the legitimate authorities in civil matters.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the word plantation had several meanings in Williams' time which can be grouped as follows: a) literally a planting of crops or an assemblage of plants, b) a founding of something, often a religion, c) a settlement of persons, especially a colony, and therefore a collection of colonists.

This word must have seemed especially fitting to Williams, since it described what the colonists were doing as they planted and harvested their own small crops, as they planted on these shores a novel and tolerant approach to religion, and as they constituted a new colony, a planting of peoples -- the first of many such plantings of peoples, as it turned out, from different cultures and with different religious beliefs, who could live peacefully together on this soil, consistent with Williams' important vision of human freedom of conscience, divinely blessed.

The call for renaming our state is based on a mistaken assumption: the OED's earliest cited usage of the word "plantation" meaning a highly-organized agricultural economic unit typically using slave or servile labor is from 1706, well

after the naming of Providence Plantations. We are not unmindful of this current usage, nor of Rhode Island's association with slavery and the slave trade, but we do think it is correct to conclude that the odious connotation of "plantation" currently complained of did not exist in 1636 when Williams named the colony.

If the meaning was not odious then, but to some has become so since, should this not be sufficient reason to change the name of the state? Were this merely an unimportant set of words with obsolete relevance, we might be persuaded. But "Providence Plantations" contains in its original meaning and historical context a powerful and positive message of religious toleration and human freedom that remains tremendously important today.

If there is confusion over what our state's name means and symbolizes, then let us clear up the confusion, not eliminate the name. Let us proudly proclaim to the world what it meant to Roger Williams, assert that this is still its meaning in our state today, and reaffirm by words and deeds our personal and collective commitment to the vision of religious freedom and human decency that Roger Williams hoped would always exist in "Providence Plantations."



Lineal descendants of Roger Williams and their spouses are eligible to join the Roger Williams Family Association. To request an application, please contact our Registrar or our Corresponding Secretary. Contact information is available on the back cover of this Bulletin. Application forms are also available on our web site. Please note that references are REQUIRED. Incomplete applications will be returned.

Effective July 1, 2009 membership dues and fees for Standard and Associate Memberships are as follows:

- ◆ *Application fee for Annual Member: \$25.00*
- ◆ *Application fee for multiple Annual Members within family: \$35 (conditions apply; see website for details)*
- ◆ *Annual Membership Dues: \$10.00*
- ◆ *Life Membership Dues: \$75.00 (no application fee required)*

NEW MEMBERS

2009-2010

Mary Armstrong	Slatyfork, WV	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Carol Mae Baker Betz	Cheney, WA	<i>Mary</i>
Jonathan Anthony Carr	Sudbury, MA	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
Jonathan Andrew Carr	Sudbury, MA	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Jack Crowder	Fort Worth, TX	<i>Joseph</i>
Amelia Bennett Downs	San Rafael, CA	<i>Mary</i>
Andrew B. Downs	San Rafael, CA	<i>Mary</i>
Jenna Baldwin Downs	San Rafael, CA	<i>Mary</i>
*Elizabeth K. Ecke	La Jolla, CA	<i>Daniel</i>
Mary E. Eysenbach	New London, NH	<i>Joseph</i>
Rachel Wallis Carr Goodrich	Sudbury, MA	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Susan M.L. Gray	Tomball, TX	<i>Mary</i>
*David Lawrence Grinnell	Palm Springs, CA	<i>Mary</i>
Steven R. Hartley	Summerville, SC	<i>Mercy</i>
Deborah M. Hicks	League City, TX	<i>Joseph</i>
Melany Allison Higgins	Denver, CO	<i>Mary</i>
*Sharon Lorraine Baker Holt	Livingston, TX	<i>Mary</i>
*Alice E. Homer	Newport, RI	<i>Mercy</i>
*Cathy Elizabeth Kennedy	Denver, CO	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Kameron Forest Kennedy	Denver, CO	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Keith Justin Kennedy	Denver, CO	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Timothy W. Larson	Newport, RI	<i>Mercy</i>
Ruth A. LeDonne	Slatyfork, WV	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
Daniel Jose Loya	Seattle, WA	<i>Daniel</i>
Cameron McIntosh	Slatyfork, WV	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Rona Janice Miller	Vincennes, IN	<i>Joseph</i>
John L. Prest	Providence, RI	<i>Joseph</i>
Jennifer Primonato	Slatyfork, WV	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
Sarah L. Primonato	Slatyfork, WV	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Steven D. Ricciardi	Duxbury, MA	<i>Mercy Winsor, Mary</i>
*Mary Anne Growcock Riehart	Hot Springs, AK	<i>Daniel</i>
*Erik M. Ross	Portsmouth, RI	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Sharon Jean Rowe	Mystic, CT	<i>Mary</i>
*Judith E. Sawyer	Torrington, CT	<i>Mary</i>
*Marilyn Montgomery Simmons	Wayzata, MN	<i>Daniel</i>
*Jeffrey Blake Smith	Montgomery Village, MD	<i>Freeborn</i>
*Diane M. Betz Stanley	Papillion, NE	<i>Mary</i>
*Timothy Andrew Ulmschneider	Wakefield, RI	<i>Mary</i>
*Brian Patrick Van Reet	Austin, TX	<i>Mercy</i>
*Robert Wilmot Williams	Peoria, AZ	<i>Daniel</i>
M. Ana Yeomans	Waterford, NY	<i>Mary</i>
Roger Wilcox Yeomans	Green Island, NY	<i>Mary</i>

* *Life Member*

IN MEMORIAM

Janet E. Beauregard	17 October 2008	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
Helen M. Evans	---	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
Mildred C. Farrell	25 October 2008	<i>Daniel</i>
L. Keith Gates, M.D.	29 July 2009	<i>Mary</i>
David E. Outerbridge	22 December 2008	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Ronald S. Schoepfer	15 August 2009	<i>Joseph</i>
Elmer R. Shippee	3 March 2010	<i>Daniel</i>
Kathryn G. Steere	29 April 2010	<i>Associate</i>

BEGINNING OUR 119TH YEAR

2010-2011

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Mrs. Mary A. Channing PO Box 94, Wilton, CT 06897; 203-834-0545; president@rogerwilliams.org
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Dr. Clifford W. Brown, Jr. 180 Brown St., Providence, RI 02906
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Nancy Main 309 Spring Green Rd., Warwick, RI 02888
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Mrs. Patricia A. Woodard-Harmon 74 Spruce St., Warwick, RI 02886; 401-737-3142, secretary@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Miss Gladys I. Bailey 2153 South County Tr., East Greenwich, RI 02818; 401-884-4988
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr. Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016, treasurer@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Registrar</i>	Mrs. Barbara (Wright) McCurdy PO Box 717, Portsmouth, RI 02871; 401-682-2404; registrar@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Registrar Emerita</i>	Mrs. Elsie (Bushnell) Williams 35 Hodsell St., Cranston, RI 02910; 401-467-7594
<i>Historian</i>	Mrs. Barbara (Wright) McCurdy PO Box 717, Portsmouth, RI 02871; 401-682-2404, historian@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Archivist</i>	<i>vacant</i>

DIRECTORS

<i>Director, Past President</i>	Dr. Clifford W. Brown, Jr. 180 Brown St., Providence, RI 02906
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Col. Robert Allen Greene PO Box 137, E. Greenwich, RI 02818; 401-884-5929, 401-884-7530
<i>Director</i>	Mrs. Allison (Greene) Morrison 384 West Allenton Rd., No. Kingstown, RI 02852
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Mr. Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016
<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 600 Valley Road - Apt. 102, Middletown, RI 02842

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

<i>Auditor</i>	Mr. Raymond L. Hilton, Jr.
<i>Chaplain</i>	Mrs. Anne (Williams) Crocker 35 Hodsell St., Cranston, RI 02910; 401-467-7594; chaplain@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Lineage Book</i>	Mrs. Dorothy (Higson) White 600 Valley Road - Apt. 102, Middletown, RI 02842, lineage@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Membership Database</i>	Mr. Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016, database@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Program</i>	Dr. Clifford W. Brown, Jr. 180 Brown St., Providence, RI 02906
<i>Publicity</i>	Mr. Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016
<i>Sunshine</i>	Mrs. Anne (Williams) Crocker 35 Hodsell St., Cranston, RI 02910; 401-467-7594
<i>Web Site/Publications</i>	Mrs. Janis (Frigault) Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016