



THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

2011-2012 No. 98

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



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Cousins,

This year marks the 375th anniversary of the founding of the City of Providence by our common ancestor. Many cities and many states have celebrated such anniversaries recently (or are about to do so). Indeed, our cousins in Virginia have already observed their quadricentennial, and our cousins in Massachusetts will be observing theirs in less than a decade.

But what makes the founding of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations a very special case is that our city and our state were established not for economic gain or even simply as a safe refuge for their inhabitants (although it was indeed the latter). Instead, uniquely, it was founded in pursuit of an idea -- a very simple idea that human beings have the right to worship God as they please, without the dictation of the state or of their fellow citizens.

This idea, radical for the 17th century, and still radical today in many parts of the globe, was that of Roger Williams himself. It was embodied in the hope that citizens in this community (which he described as a lively experiment) could live together in decency and civility despite serious differences in some of their most fundamental beliefs and the ways they expressed them. It was also embodied in the shrewd conclusion that freedom and independence for oneself depend in the long term on respect for the freedom and independence of others.

It is a tribute to Williams that the founders of our nation more than a century after his death enshrined his doctrines in our Bill of Rights and adopted his concept of a bold "experiment" as a characterization of the country they were founding.

The city and state that Williams started three and three-quarters of a century ago have grown and changed in many ways, but throughout this uneven journey, by and large, their citizens have always remained hopeful, bold, tolerant, often respectful, yet always free, independent, and lively. May it long be so, both here in this small corner of the globe, and across our land as well. Providence's 375th is an anniversary worth celebrating; the city represents an idea worth embracing.

Sincerely,

Clifford W. Brown, Jr.
President
September 2011

CALENDAR

October 2011 - July 2012

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2011 — 11:00 AM

Founders' Day Service at First Baptist Church in America

We will observe Founders' Day at First Baptist Church in America at 75 North Main Street, Providence, RI. The Church Service at 11:00am will be followed by a deli lunch (provided) at 12:30pm. Preceding our meeting, Dr. Joanne Schneider, a First Baptist member and Professor of History at Rhode Island College, will be our guest speaker. Her topic: "Roger Williams, Rhode Island, and Its History Through Historic Sites."

Directions: From Rte. 95 North or South take Exit 22 Downtown. At the end of the exit, go straight across on Memorial Blvd. The Church steeple will be directly in front of you. Go to the third light and turn left over the Washington St. Bridge. Proceed one block to the next light on North Main Street. The Church will be directly in front of you.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2011 — 11:00 AM

Walk to Roger Williams Shelter near North Swansea/Warren Line

We will meet at the Robert Chace Farm at 68 Birch Swamp Road in Warren, RI. We will drive part way, then take the 10 minute walk to the rock shelter named Margaret's Rock after the Wampanoag squaw who nursed an ill Roger back to health. It was here that, during that very cold winter of 1636 and with the aid of Massasoit, Roger spent 14 weeks following his banishment from Massachusetts Bay Colony and prior to his founding Providence. Bring a picnic lunch and a lightweight folding chair.

Rain date: Sunday, November 13, 2011 — 1:00 pm.

Directions: From Providence take Rte. 195 East. Take Exit 2 and turn right onto Rte. 136. Travel 1.7 miles, then left onto Birch Swamp Road. Go 0.3 mi. and, where road makes a 90 degree turn to the right, go straight at "Windswept Farm" sign. Take first right to farm house.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2011 — 11:30 AM

Presentation at Brown University's John Hay Library & Holiday Party

We will gather at the home of Clifford and Marilyn Brown at 180 Brown Street in Providence, RI and car pool to the John Hay Library at Brown University (If you prefer, you may go directly to the Library on Prospect Street, between Waterman and College Streets). At noon we will attend a reception at the library for an exhibit on Roger Williams, consisting of rare books and artifacts (see our website for details). At 12:45, Paul Campbell, Providence City Archivist, will speak about his recent discovery of the Providence Town Charter of 1638. All will then repair to the Brown residence for our annual holiday party, at which we will hold a meeting, sing carols, and enjoy our traditional tea.

Directions: From Rte. 95 North or South take Exit 22 Downtown. At the end of the exit, go straight across onto Memorial Blvd. Go to the third light and turn left on Washington St., following it to the base of the hill by First Baptist. Continue up the hill on Waterman St. to Brown St. Turn left and proceed 7 blocks. The Brown residence is at the corner of Keene St. Legal parking is available on your right and on Keene St.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2012 — 10:00 AM (sharp)

Tour of the Eleazer Arnold House

We will meet at the Eleazer Arnold House at 487 Great Road in Lincoln, RI. Built in 1693, the Arnold House is a rare surviving example of a "stone-ender." A specially arranged, one hour tour has been set for 10:00 am, an hour before the public is admitted. Bring a picnic lunch for nearby picnic tables. If inclement weather, a room will be provided for the picnic and business meeting. Admission is \$4.00 for seniors, \$5.00 for adults. Parking is provided next door at Gateway Park. In the afternoon, members may visit the Quaker Saylesville Meeting House, a mere 750 feet away. Built in 1704, it is the oldest continuously used meetinghouse in Rhode Island.

Directions: Follow Rte. 295 to Rte. 146 South. Take Exit 9 to Rte. 123/Breakneck Road and go east (left) on Breakneck Road for 1.5 miles. Parking area is on left before the house.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2012 — 11:00 AM

Tour of the Narraganset Tomaquag Indian Museum

We will meet at the Museum located at 390 Summit Road in Exeter, RI. The first hour will feature a guided tour of the museum showcasing the history, culture and arts of the indigenous peoples, a traditional legend often teaching a moral lesson as told to our educators by Tribal Elders, and demonstrations of traditional music. The second hour will entail a Native Film Presentation, "Language of America," in their seated theatre. This topic is appropriate as Roger Williams wrote the first Native American dictionary of the Narraganset Native language in 1643. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy their picnic benches (weather permitting), followed by a short business meeting. If rain, a room will be available from 1:00 to 2:00 pm. Admission is \$15.00 per person.

Directions (due to certain bridges not being rebuilt since floods, please follow this temporary detour): From points north, take Rte. 95 South passing Providence. Merge onto Rte. 102 South via Exit 5A toward Exeter/Rte. 165/Arcadia/Beach Pond. Stay straight onto Rte. 3/Nooseneck Hill Road, then right onto Rte. 165/Ten Rod Road. Continue on Rte. 165 for 2 miles, then left onto Arcadia Rd. Follow around pond, bearing right at stop sign, then right onto Summit Rd. Museum is 1/8 mile on right; after small bridge, turn right uphill to Tomaquag. From points south, take Rte. 95 North to Rte. 138 West via Exit 3B toward Wyoming/Hope Valley. Turn onto Rte. 3 North, follow about 5 miles, then left onto Rte. 165. Continue on Rte. 165 for 2 miles, then left onto Arcadia Rd. Follow around pond, bearing right at stop sign, then right onto Summit Rd. Museum is 1/8 mile on right; after small bridge turn right uphill to Tomaquag.

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2012 — 11:00 AM

Tour of the Antique Carriage and Sleigh Museum

We will meet at Olde Ransom Farm located at 509 New London Road in Salem, CT. The farm is a restored Colonial farm dating back to 1784. A conducted tour will describe the history of each of the 24 carriages, sleighs and wagons, showing how people and goods were transported over one hundred years ago. Bring a folding chair and a picnic lunch; beverages will be provided and a gas grill will be available for our use. A business meeting will follow lunch. Please let us know if you want to carpool.

Directions: From Rte. 95 South, after crossing the Groton/New London bridge, take Exit 82 toward Rte. 85/Colchester/Hartford/Waterford. At end of ramp, turn right onto Rte. 85 and travel north for 7.8 miles. As you pass the Salem Town Line sign, proceed up the hill about 1500 feet. Still on Rte. 85 at the top of the hill is a large white Colonial with black shutters and white fencing; this is Olde Ransom Farm. Turn left up the drive.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2012 — 11:00 AM

Annual Meeting and Presentation at Roger Williams Memorial

We will meet at the Memorial located at 282 North Main Street in Providence, RI and begin with an informal presentation given by Park Ranger and Honorary Lifetime Member, John McNiff. He will conduct 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 Rte. 95 North, take the State Office exit. At the end of the exit, go straight across Orms St. Turn left onto Smith St., right at the bottom of the hill onto Canal St., then immediate left into Memorial's parking lot.

SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2012 — 11:00 AM

Tour of George Wheeler Steere Farm 1867 Dairy Barn

Last summer we visited the farm of George Wheeler Steere at 100 John Steere Road in Chepachet, RI for a tour of the 1810 Anthony Steere Sawmill. This year we will return to the farm for a tour of the recently renovated 1867 dairy barn and a talk by Clifford Brown on the barn and the family dairy business which operated from 1867 until 1974. For those who did not visit the sawmill last year, a guided tour will be conducted after the regular program is completed. We will hold a business meeting as we enjoy a picnic lunch on the farm; drinks and dessert 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.

RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

DR. CLIFFORD W. BROWN, JR.

We are happy to report that the voters of Rhode Island, by a wide margin, decided to keep "Providence Plantations" in the state's name. We explained its significance in our last bulletin. But what is the significance of the name "Rhode Island?" Where did it come from? This is also a much discussed, and often disputed topic. Since the state, as well as the City of Providence, was founded by our ancestor, this argument is of interest to the family. It is generally conceded that "Rhode Island" at least in part refers to Aquidnick Island, on which Newport is located. But when and how did Aquidnick acquire the name Rhode Island? Some claim that it was named by Verrazano for the Isle of Rhodes. Others claim that it was originally "Rogues' Island," a designation that was appropriate for some residents of the state from the early days, and may be thought to be even more appropriate in recent years (as followers of contemporary Rhode Island politics will agree). Some might even claim that it was named for the hen, but we have it on good authority the Rhode Island Red was named for the state and not the other way round.

We have found an interesting account in George Stewart's *Names on the Land*, published by Random House in 1945. Stewart puts the naming of Rhode Island in the context of a dispute between the Dutch settlers in New Amsterdam and the English settlers in New England, which raged throughout the 1640's. The Dutch were staking claims (and giving Dutch names) to most parts of the southern New England coast, and the English were making counter claims and giving English names throughout the same region. Quoting Stewart:

".. the Dutch claims were troublesome [to the English]. If the two countries had been actually hostile, a mere question of legality would have made little difference. But with England and the Netherlands friendly at home, the men of southern New England must always have feared that after some twist of international politics they would find themselves surrendered to Dutch rule by the home government. Anything they could do to bolster the legality of their settlement would be useful. Sovereignty of uninhabited or un-Christian [sic] lands was generally held to rest upon discovery, and the language of the names of a region was often cited as proof of discovery by that nation." Thus, according to Stewart, names bolstered titles -- and in this dispute, Dutch names would boost Dutch claims. He continues:

"At the very height of the controversy, on March 13, 1644, without preamble or explanation, the Court of Providence Plantations [the legislature] ordered, 'that the island commonly called Aquethneck, shall be from henceforth called the Isle of Rhodes, or Rhode Island.' To re-name an island by official act was not according to English custom anywhere, and to give it a name drawn from the Mediterranean was doubly strange. But DeLaet, a Dutchman writing in 1630, had made mention of a 'little reddish island' in that vicinity, and the Dutch may thus have had a common name Roode Eyland [Red Island], without any 'h' before 1644 -- as they certainly had soon afterward. Because of this, they could taunt or

threaten the English who lived there, saying that the Dutch title was better because of the name.

“Then some Englishman may have read in Hakluyt's *Voyages* how Verrazano had sailed along that coast in 1524, long before the Dutch. Verrazano had written vaguely of an island ‘about the bigness of the Island of Rhodes.’ From this passage, the English may have seen how they could play the Dutch a trick. For, if they boldly took the Dutch name with a little change in spelling, they could then say to them: ‘You did not give this old name at all, but merely used the one that Verrazano left here’ [thus undercutting the Dutch claim].

“The Massachusetts General Court, however, which looked upon Providence Plantations as ‘the sink of New England,’ seemed to regard the new name as presumptuous, and usually spelled it Road Island, as if it were merely an island with an anchorage for ships, in spite of the act establishing the spelling.” This may explain why some people today argue for an anchorage theory of the name's origin.

We can't swear to the accuracy of this explanation, but it does have a ring of authenticity to it. Whether or not Roger had anything to do with the 1644 act of the legislature naming Rhode Island, we do not know; but if he had, it was from a distance, since he was in London at the time.

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)*

HELP US FIND LOST MEMBERS

In recent years, bulletins for the a number of members have been returned with no forwarding address. We would appreciate your looking through the list of these members that we have posted on our website and providing address information for anyone you may know. Thank you!

*See list at www.rogerwilliams.org/address-unknown.htm
Send address information to database@rogerwilliams.org*

NEW MEMBERS

2010-2011

Michael Companion	Ballston Spa, NY	Mary
Carol Winsor Conrad	Upton, MA	Mercy Winsor
*Stephanie Evette Croall	Pittsboro, NC	Mercy Winsor
*LucyGrace Garceau	Vista, CA	Mary
*Glory Elizabeth Gendron	Metairie, LA	Mercy Winsor
*Camille Victoria Glavin	New York, NY	Mercy Winsor
*Victoria Hart Glavin	New York, NY	Mercy Winsor
Paul Hanrahan	East Greenwich, RI	Mercy
*Sean Christopher Hargreaves	Middletown, CT	Mercy, Daniel, Joseph
*Kathryn F. Homer	Middletown, RI	Mary
*William C. Homer	Middletown, RI	Mary
*Bruce Paterson Knight	North Providence, RI	Daniel
*Marilyn J. Knight	Greenville, RI	Associate
*Emmelia Paige Lutes	Newport, RI	Mary
*Nicholas Ryan Lutes	Newport, RI	Mary
*Robin-Lee Main	Jamestown, RI	Mercy
*Scott Charles Main	Exeter, RI	Mercy
*Meredith J. Maler	San Diego, CA	Daniel
*Bruce Robison Meyer	Orange, NJ	Mercy Winsor
*Brooke Alexandra Muoio	Sherman, CT	Mary
*Heather Elizabeth Muoio	Sherman, CT	Mary
*Dawn C. Roberts	Des Moines, IA	Mercy Winsor
*Charlotte Amanda Sinasky	Holden, MA	Mary
*Abigail Lynn Snow	Cranston, RI	Mercy Winsor
*Aubrey Ann Snow	Cranston, RI	Mercy Winsor
*Brian David Snow	Cranston, RI	Mercy Winsor
*Ramon Norris Snow	West Greenwich, RI	Mercy Winsor
*Randall Philip Snow	Cranston, RI	Mercy Winsor
*Raymon Nicholas Snow	West Greenwich, RI	Mercy Winsor
*Rebecca Noel Snow	Southborough, MA	Mercy Winsor
*Robert Alan Snow	Southborough, MA	Mercy Winsor
*Robin Elizabeth Snow	Southborough, MA	Mercy Winsor
*Julia Thomas	Aurora, CO	Daniel, Mercy Winsor
*Antony Wheat	Chicago, IL	Daniel, Mercy Winsor
*Brenda Williams	Siasconset, MA	Joseph
*Van Zandt Williams	Naples, FL	Joseph
* Life Member		

IN MEMORIAM

Jane D. Dench	9 June 2010	Daniel
Constance D. Haas	25 March 2011	Daniel
Elizabeth Ann Jaquay	27 February 2011	Mary
Arnold C. Rathbun	10 November 2010	Joseph
Francis Schweitzer	4 February 2008	Mercy Winsor
Helen A. Sharples	18 August 2008	Associate
Howard T. Winsor	9 September 2006	Mary, Mercy Waterman & Winsor
Goddard W. Winterbottom	2 February 2011	Daniel

BEGINNING OUR 120TH YEAR

2011-2012

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Dr. Clifford W. Brown, Jr. 180 Brown St., Providence, RI 02906; president@rogerwilliams.org
<i>1st Vice President</i>	David Wordell, Sr. 509 New London Rd., Salem, CT 06420; vice-president@rogerwilliams.org
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Nancy Main 30 Westwind Dr., Jamestown, RI 02835; 401-413-5445
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Patricia A. Woodard-Harmon 74 Spruce St., Warwick, RI 02886; 401-737-3142, secretary@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Mary A. Channing PO Box 94, Wilton, CT 06897; 203-834-0545; correspondence@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Treasurer</i>	Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016, treasurer@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Registrar</i>	Barbara (Wright) McCurdy PO Box 717, Portsmouth, RI 02871; 401-682-2404; registrar@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Registrar Emerita</i>	Elsie (Bushnell) Williams 35 Hodsell St., Cranston, RI 02910; 401-467-7594
<i>Historian</i>	Barbara (Wright) McCurdy PO Box 717, Portsmouth, RI 02871; 401-682-2404, historian@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Archivist</i>	Alice E. Homer 10 Bateman Ave., Newport, RI 02880

DIRECTORS

<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>	Allison (Greene) Morrison 384 West Allenton Rd., No. Kingstown, RI 02852
<i>Director</i>	Janis (Frigault) Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Dorothy (Higson) White 600 Valley Rd. - Apt. 102, Middletown, RI 02842

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

<i>Auditor</i>	Raymond L. Hilton, Jr.
<i>Chaplain</i>	Anne (Williams) Crocker 35 Hodsell St., Cranston, RI 02910; 401-467-7594; chaplain@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Lineage Book</i>	Dorothy (Higson) White 600 Valley Rd - Apt. 102, Middletown, RI 02842, lineage@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Membership Database</i>	Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016, database@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Program</i>	David Wordell, Sr. 509 New London Rd., Salem, CT 06420
<i>Publicity</i>	Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016
<i>Sunshine</i>	Anne (Williams) Crocker 35 Hodsell St., Cranston, RI 02910; 401-467-7594
<i>Web Site/Publications</i>	Janis (Frigault) Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016