

# THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

**2017-2018 No. 104**

Incorporated January 30, 1906  
Providence, Rhode Island  
[www.rogerwilliams.org](http://www.rogerwilliams.org)



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Hearts,

I am deeply honored to have been chosen to serve as your president – something I would never have anticipated when I joined RWFA a mere five years ago. Prior to that year I self-identified as a third-generation Irish immigrant – but I did have this English maternal grandfather named Anson Wilson. When my post-retirement passion for genealogy led me down the path of his family history, I was in for a spectacular surprise. As I traveled back eleven generations, there he was, the founder of my home state of Rhode Island, a man I had studied and taught about and now my eight times great grandfather! Many of you have known your lineage all your lives; but for me, just five years in, it still leaves me a little awestruck. I still find it amazing to walk through the city of Providence and realize that the names on those street signs are actually my ancestors.

Over the last few weeks, as I have been considering the place to which I want to guide this organization, one thought has kept returning. As part of the yearly Program, those of us who are from Southern New England get to visit interesting places, hear informative speakers and, perhaps best of all, get to know each other over a picnic basket, a restaurant luncheon or a cup of tea at the Holidays. Unfortunately, only those in the area are able to attend these events regularly. The rest of the membership are part of a very large, far flung, diverse family with whom we connect about once a year when the Bulletin is sent out. I think we can do better than that and we are going to try.

During my first year as President, the watchwords will be “communication” and “outreach”. This will be a group effort on the part of the entire Executive Board. We want membership in RWFA to offer more than bragging rights and the Bulletin, and we are blessed to live in an age where technology makes it possible. Through email and social media, it’s easy to share information and to stay in touch. We intend to use our Facebook page – Roger Williams Family Association – to share photos of our events, historical information from our archives, and items of interest about our shared ancestors, Roger and Mary Williams. We also plan to give birth to a fledgling newsletter this year which will allow us to share information more often via email. To make all of this happen, we need each of you to do two things:

1. **Like us on Facebook! Roger Williams Family Association.**
2. **Verify your email address (personal or where you can be reached) by sending your name in an email from that address with RWFA as the subject line to me: [katemospaw@aol.com](mailto:katemospaw@aol.com).**

We will, of course, continue to contact those who are not online and send the Bulletin via the U.S. Mail.

I hope you are as excited about our new outreach initiative as I am.

Looking forward to the coming year,

Your cousin, Kate  
Kathan (Moroney) Mospaw Lambert, President  
Roger Williams Family Association  
July 2017

# CALENDAR

September 2017 - August 2018

*The RWFA will pay admission fees for all children 12 and under.*

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2017 11:00AM**

## **PAINE FARM**

We will gather at 11:00am to tour our cousin Ernest Ross' Paine Farm at 22 Paine Rd., Foster, RI. Paine Farm has been known over the years for its apple orchards, sleigh rides, animals, antique cars, and historical cemetery. Ernie, a descendant of Capt. Isaac Paine as well as Roger Williams, has a plethora of historical information regarding the farm structures and family throughout the generations. Following the tour and a brief meeting, we will have lunch at Tavern 19 at the Foster Country Club. **RSVP by September 5** to [dmw888@me.com](mailto:dmw888@me.com) or 401-418-9971.

*Directions: From I-295N, take exit 6 for US-6E to Providence/Hartford Ct. Stay toward the Hartford Ave. exit. Right onto US-6W/Hartford Ave. (signs for Foster) approx. 13 miles up Rte. 6. Right onto Paine Ave. 0.7 miles. (\*street sign across street a few blocks before CT border). The farm is on the right after the cemetery.*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017 11:00AM**

## **BIANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE ROGER WILLIAMS SHELTER**

We will assemble on the straight dirt road off Birch Swamp Rd., Warren, RI and travel by car to within several hundred yards of the large overhanging rock shelter known as Margaret's Rock in North Swansea, MA. Margaret was a Wamponoag Medicine Woman who helped Roger return to good health, along with the help of Massasoit, following Roger's banishment from the Massachusetts Bay Colony in that extreme cold winter of 1636. It is the only abode which exists today in the Providence area whose walls Roger actually touched. Let us pay homage to this temporary and first home in the wilderness for Roger during the 14 weeks immediately after his banishment. Please arrive 30 minutes early to carpool and/or caravan. Rain date: Sunday, Oct. 15 at 1:00pm. Bring a folding chair and packed lunch for a brief meeting afterwards.

*Directions: From Providence, I-95 toward Swansea Fall River. In No. Swansea, take the Rte. 136 exit and travel south 1.7 miles. After crossing into RI, left onto Birch Swamp Rd. Continue for 0.3 miles where the road takes a 90 degree turn to the south. At this bend go straight onto dirt road (sign "Windswept Farm"). DO NOT turn right into drive to the Old Chase Farm. We will start assembling on this dirt road shortly after 10:30am. A group photo will be taken. Call Dave Wordell at 860-859-5336 if you have any questions.*

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2017 11:00AM**

## **FOUNDER'S DAY SERVICE AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN AMERICA**

We will observe reverence for Founder Roger Williams, who pioneered the Baptist Religion in 1638, at the First Baptist Church, 75 North Main St., Providence, RI. Church Service is at 11:00AM. Following coffee and conversation in the church basement after the service and a brief meeting, we will proceed to lunch at Gregg's Restaurant. **RSVP by October 15** to [dmw888@me.com](mailto:dmw888@me.com) or 401-418-9971.

*Directions: Church is located in downtown Providence at the corner of North Main and Waterman St. From I-95, take exit 22A following the signs to Downtown/Memorial Blvd. Follow Memorial Blvd. to the river. Turn left onto Washington St. The church is visible directly ahead. From the West, follow Rte. 6 to exit for Downtown Providence to Memorial Blvd. Parking can be difficult, so plan arrival time accordingly.*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017 12:00PM**

## **HOLIDAY PARTY AT BELLA & CHEPACHET BAPTIST CHURCH MUSICAL**

Our Christmas party and reception will be held at Bella Restaurant, 1992 Victory Hwy, Glendale, RI for family style chicken and roast beef luncheon. After a short business meeting, we will enjoy a special traditional holiday music performance from Chepachet Baptist Church's Meeting House Series at 2:30pm, with refreshments following. \$20 per person. The restaurant requires a count, so **RSVP by November 19** to [dmw888@me.com](mailto:dmw888@me.com) or 401-418-9971.

*Directions: From Providence and points south, Rte. 95N to 146 toward Worcester. Exit to Slatersville Forestdale/RI 5/RI 102. Right off rxit ramp, then left at next light. Follow 102S*



for 5 miles. Left at Bella sign onto Glendale Bypass, then two quick lefts into the parking lot. From Rte. 295N, exit 7B to Smithfield. Remain on Rte. 44W through Greenville and into Chepachet Village. At light in Chepachet Village, bear right onto Rte. 100/102, then next right onto Rte. 102N. Continue for 4½ miles. Right at Bella sign onto Glendale Bypass, then two quick lefts into the parking lot. From CT, Rte. 395 to exit 47 Woodstock/East Putnam. Right off ramp onto Rte. 44. Continue to Chepachet Village. Left at light onto 100/102. then next right onto Rte. 102N. Continue for 4½ miles. Right at Bella sign onto Glendale Bypass, then two quick lefts into the parking lot.

**SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018 1:00PM**  
**ST. ANN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER**

This church, located at 84 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket, RI, is home of the largest collection of fresco paintings in North America. The artist used members of the community as models for 475 faces adorning the walls and ceilings that complete the masterpiece fresco. \$10 general admission, \$8 for seniors. Following the tour and a brief meeting, we will have lunch at the nearby Ciro's Tavern, 42 Cherry St., Woonsocket, RI. **RSVP by April 24** to [dwm888@me.com](mailto:dwm888@me.com) or call 401-418-9971.

*Directions: Rte. 146N to Woonsocket, then Rte. 99N. At the end, left at light onto Rte. 122 (Mendon Rd.). Continue straight for about 1.5 miles. The center will be on the right (look for the twin towers). Parking is across the street.*

**SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2018 11:00AM**  
**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ILLUSTRATION**

Join us for an audio guided self-tour of this lovely gilded age mansion, located at Vernon Court, 492 Bellevue Ave., Newport, RI, which houses the first national museum devoted exclusively to American illustration artwork. \$17 general admission. Following the tour we will have lunch at LaForge Casino Restaurant, established 1880. **RSVP by May 27** to [dwm888@me.com](mailto:dwm888@me.com) or call 401-418-9971.

*Directions: I-95S to Rte. 4S (exit 9), which merges into Rte. 1S. Take the 'Newport Jamestown Bridges' exit (I38E). Cross over both bridges and take the first exit off the Pell Newport Bridge. Right off the ramp (Scenic Newport), then continue straight through first set of traffic lights. At second set of lights, right onto America's Cup Ave. to traffic light at Thames St. Go straight up the hill: America's Cup Ave. becomes Memorial Blvd. at the Bellevue Ave. traffic light. Right onto Bellevue Ave. Head south on Bellevue Ave. toward 'Gilded Age' mansions. After about 1 mile, left off Bellevue Ave. onto Victoria Ave. at the Frederick Law Olmsted Park street clock. The first ornate gate on the left is the main entrance to Vernon Court. Free parking available opposite the main gate.*

**SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2018 11:00AM**  
**LADIES OF LINDEN PLACE**

Hear the stories of the women through the ages who lived and worked at Linden Place Mansion, located at 500 Hope St., Bristol, RI. This "Great House" was used by generations of seafaring DeWolfs, Colts, and Barrymores to entertain presidents and politicians. Stroll the sculpture gardens and visit the Bristol Art Museum in Linden Place's 19th Century Barn. \$8 admission, \$6 seniors, students and AAA members. A brief meeting will follow at the nearby Lobster Pot Restaurant. **RSVP by July 8** to [dwm888@me.com](mailto:dwm888@me.com) or call 401-418-9971.

*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.*

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 2018 12:00PM**  
**ROGER WILLIAMS NATIONAL MEMORIAL**

We will gather for a walk down memory lane with Ranger Jonathan McNiff at 282 North Main St., Providence, RI, to commemorate the life of the founder of Rhode Island. Enjoy a special presentation by author Alan E. Johnson of his book, *The First American Founder: Roger Williams and Freedom of Conscience*. Please bring a folding chair. We will regroup afterwards for lunch at The Milk Money Restaurant on nearby Water St. **RSVP by July 29** to [dwm888@me.com](mailto:dwm888@me.com) or call 401-418-9971.

*Directions: From I-95N, take Exit 23 to State Offices. Left at light to bottom of Orms St. Right at light onto Charles St. Continue straight through one light, then quick left into memorial parking lot. From I-95S, take Exit 23 to Charles St. First left onto Ashburton St. and continue straight through three lights. After third light, take a quick left into memorial parking lot.*

# NOT JUST ONE PURITAN ANCESTOR, BUT TWO

BY ADRIAN GRAY

Descendants of Roger Williams are justly proud of their rebellious but principled puritan ancestor who played – and continues to play – a great role in championing religious liberty. But how many know they are also descended from one of the greatest puritan writers of the period 1600-1630, and connected through him to a whole group of religious liberty pioneers?

Roger Williams married Mary Bernard, as is well-known, somewhat ‘on the rebound’, after being rebuffed over his first love. Mary was a young woman from Nottinghamshire, making do as a lady’s companion amidst the Essex gentry – but she was in Essex due to being ‘placed’ there through her Nottinghamshire links to families like the Whalleys. Indeed one of the greatest ladies in Essex was then the Countess of Warwick, Frances Wray, with whom Mary had close family links. And you probably don’t need me to remind you that the Earls of Warwick were strongly puritan and closely involved with Massachusetts and the Mayflower Compact.

Mary Bernard’s father was Richard Bernard (1568-1641). We know little about his humble origins except he was from Epworth where the first husband of Frances Wray had some property. Frances, her sister Isabel and her brother Sir William were pre-eminent puritans across the East Midlands and it is clear that they ‘talent spotted’ Richard and sent him off to Cambridge in 1592 where he was placed as ‘sizar’ – a form of student servant – to John Smyth, the future Baptist leader.



It is worth pausing to reflect on the Wray family. Their father had been Lord Chief Justice under Elizabeth I and provided their enormous wealth but their mother provided the links to important puritan families across the nation. Indeed her first husband’s brother was the first clergyman to be ‘deprived’ of his living under Elizabeth I for nonconformity. Whereas the son inherited much of the land, the two daughters married well and became fabulously rich – but had only one deceased child between them; instead, they ‘adopted’ radical young Christians. Richard was one and, at various times, Smyth was another. When Isabel died, her funeral oration referred to her as ‘the mother of Israel.’

After university Richard seems to have become private tutor to the children of Sir William Wray in Lincolnshire, which seems to have included preaching ‘widely’ in the area and he was possibly a curate in his home town. He was able to marry in 1601. Then the Whalley family helped him get the job of vicar in the Nottinghamshire market town of Worksop – just a few miles away. By this time his friend John Smyth was courting trouble over nonconformity with the laws of the Church of England, and Richard also showed his puritan credentials by refusing to wear the surplice. Another friend, a layman, was Thomas Helwys – later the pioneer of the Baptists in England and the author of the first English work to argue toleration for all religions.

Just five miles from Worksop was Babworth, the home of Richard Clifton – the ‘pastor of the Pilgrims’, and from Smyth’s nearby home village of Sturton came John Robinson – Clifton’s successor. In their midst lived William Brewster at Scrooby. By 1605-6 most of this group were in trouble for nonconformity and, probably encouraged by Smyth, met at Isabel Wray’s house to discuss whether they should leave the Church of England – and then, inevitably, escape to Holland. At this time of crisis Richard Bernard prevaricated, being first for leaving and setting up his own covenanted congregation,



then for staying in the Church of England; it has been suggested that the Archbishop, seeing his talents, made a special effort to keep him but his erstwhile friends condemned him as inspired more by money than God. He was condemned as a 'chameleon' by John Robinson, who wrote a book especially to denounce him.

But Richard Bernard's importance does not rest on this rather mixed episode. He was a hugely productive writer of theological works and one of his books, *The Isle of Man*, is seen as having inspired *Pilgrim's Progress*. One of his most interesting books is *A Guide to Grand Jury Men* which is actually a rather enthralling guide to witchcraft! You can read it online.

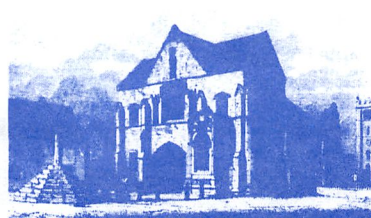
In the midst of this turmoil Mary was born in 1609, one of his few children to have a conventional name. In 1612 Richard Bernard moved to Somerset where he spent the rest of his life writing a large number of books and continuously flouting the rules of the Church of England; he never truly 'conformed.' Eventually Mary and one of his sons went to America and escaped the Anglican hegemony although Mary and her husband endured another sort of oppression from the spiritual descendants of John Robinson.

So Williams married a woman with extraordinary radical links and perhaps one who did her bit with the introductions she perhaps could make. When Williams wrote his famous book on religious persecution, he drew on the ideas of John Smyth and Thomas Helwys, and also on John Murton, a member of the Gainsborough congregation that became the Baptists in Amsterdam. Williams also became a great friend of Sir Henry Vane, the Massachusetts governor, who returned to England and married a beautiful and 'godly' grand-daughter of Sir William Wray; together these three enjoyed the Lincolnshire beauty at the Vane house at Belleau during Williams's occasional trips to England in 1651-4.

What can you see? Richard Bernard's links to the Pilgrim-Baptist group means there is a great deal to be seen in the Nottinghamshire-Lincolnshire region of England:

- Epworth – your ancestral homeland – is famous as the home of John Wesley
- Worksop – has the wonderful priory church where Richard was vicar and the old priory gatehouse which served as the vicarage and which is most likely to have been where Mary was born
- Babworth, Scrooby and Sturton – villages that were home to Clifton, Brewster, Robinson and Smyth
- Glentworth and Snarford – the fabulous tombs of the Wray family who supported Richard Bernard and helped Mary
- Belleau – a 'lost village' by a spring where Williams and Vane discussed religious liberty

*ADRIAN GRAY is the author of 'From Here We Changed the World' and runs heritage tours in the region discussed. See <http://pilgrimsandprophets.co.uk> and <https://www.facebook.com/PilgrimsAndProphets>*



*The priory church and the old priory gatehouse in Worksop.*

# NEW MEMBERS

2016-2017

Martha Stacey Browning	Terrell, TX	<i>Freeborn</i>
* Douglas Keith Brush	Oakdale, CT	<i>Joseph</i>
* Joseph Williams Cagnina	Spotsylvania, VA	<i>Joseph</i>
* Jeanne M. Caraglia	Georgetown, MA	<i>Mary</i>
* Katherine Caraglia	Georgetown, MA	<i>Mary</i>
* Matthew Caraglia	Georgetown, MA	<i>Mary</i>
* Stephan Paul Clarke	Churchville, NY	<i>Mercy</i>
* Todd Hunter Crocker	Coventry, RI	<i>Joseph</i>
* Kimberley Anne Davis	West Warwick, RI	<i>Joseph</i>
* Meredith Wood Doherty	South Orange, NJ	<i>Joseph</i>
* Addison Jean Fain	East Greenwich, RI	<i>Daniel</i>
* Oliver Robert Heenan	Chicago, IL	<i>Daniel</i>
* Michelle A. Henry-Sharp	Kenmore, WA	<i>Mercy</i>
* Bethany Lynne Kelley	Coventry, RI	<i>Joseph</i>
* Bruce A. Kohl	Pikeville, KY	<i>Joseph</i>
* Heather A. Lacki	Warwick, RI	<i>Mercy</i>
* Melodie Anne Gray Lacki	Warwick, RI	<i>Mercy</i>
* Kenneth M. Long	Pawtucket, RI	<i>Mercy</i>
* Callie Elizabeth Madsen	Cranston, RI	<i>Daniel</i>
* Joan B. Schmidt	East Longmeadow, MA	<i>Daniel</i>
* Parker Rose Snodgrass	Ladera Ranch, CA	<i>Mary</i>
* Rachel Spector	Atlanta, GA	<i>Mary</i>
* Craig Charles Stern	Bellingham, MA	<i>Mary</i>
* Danielle L. Stone	Warwick, RI	<i>Mercy</i>
* Jake W. Williams	Ormond Beach, FL	<i>Daniel</i>
* Steven L. Williams	Ormond Beach, FL	<i>Daniel</i>
* William M. Williams	Wakefield, MA	<i>Mary</i>
* <i>Life Member</i>		

# IN MEMORIAM

Mary Frances Allen	29 October 2012	<i>Daniel</i>
Judith Bailey	8 October 2013	<i>Associate</i>
Edward E. Bever		<i>Joseph</i>
Robert A. Crowley	14 February 2015	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
Mildred Farrar	20 December 2011	<i>Mercy Waterman, Mercy Winsor</i>
Kenneth R. Graham	2012	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Glendon Colwell Hall	August 2000	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
Bruce L. Jennings		<i>Joseph</i>
Emmor Graham Martin		<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Dale Walter McMIndes		<i>Daniel</i>
Ethel May McNiff	9 January 2017	<i>Joseph</i>
Harley B. Messinger	2001	<i>Daniel</i>
Dorothy A. Miller	7 April 2011	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
James E. Pennell	31 January 1998	<i>Associate</i>
Marilyn L. Plowman	September 2008	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Wendell Pols	1 April 2016	<i>Honorary</i>
Brian Cannon Williams	4 August 2016	<i>Mary, Freeborn, Joseph</i>

# BEGINNING OUR 129TH YEAR

## 2017-2018

### OFFICERS

<i>President</i> .....	Kathan M. Lambert 415 Wallum Lake Road, Pascoag, RI 02859 401-567-0088 (h); 401-529-4581 (c); president@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Immediate Past President</i> .....	David H. Wordell, Sr. 860-859-5336 (h)
<i>1st Vice President</i> .....	Dawn M. Williams 401-418-9971 (c); vice-president@rogerwilliams.org
<i>2nd Vice President</i> .....	Patricia A. Woodard 401-330-0314 (c); 2nd-vice-president@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Recording Secretary</i> .....	Alice E. Homer 401-846-4645 (h)
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i> .....	Anne (Williams) Crocker 100 Arthur Street - Apt. 103, Cranston, RI 02910 401-467-7594 (h); 401-339-1639 (c); secretary@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Road, Chepachet, RI 02814 401-568-4016 (h); treasurer@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Registrar</i> .....	Barbara (Wright) McCurdy PO Box 717, Portsmouth, RI 02871 401-682-2404 (h); registrar@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Historian</i> .....	Mary (French) Channing historian@rogerwilliams.org

### DIRECTORS

<i>Director; Past President</i> .....	Dr. Clifford W. Brown, Jr. 518-355-8567 (h); 518-388-6070 (w)
<i>Director; Past President</i> .....	Mary (French) Channing 203-216-1331 (c)
<i>Director; Past President</i> .....	Col. Robert Allen Greene 401-884-7530 (h)
<i>Director; Past President</i> .....	Frank B. Stevenson 401-568-4016 (h)
<i>Director; Past President</i> .....	Dorothy (Higson) White 401-849-3841 (h)
<i>Director</i> .....	Gladys I. Bailey 401-884-2862 (leave message)
<i>Director</i> .....	Janis (Frigault) Stevenson 401-568-4016 (h)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

<i>Auditor</i> .....	Raymond L. Hilton, Jr.
<i>Chaplain</i> .....	Anne (Rowley) Prokopowicz
<i>Membership Database</i> .....	Janis (Frigault) Stevenson 401-568-4016 (h); database@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Program</i> .....	Dawn M. Williams 401-418-9971 (c); vice-president@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Publicity</i> .....	Susan (Wordell) Jacquet 401-741-7526 (h)
<i>Sunshine</i> .....	Anne (Williams) Crocker 401-467-7594 (h); 401-339-1639 (c)
<i>Web Site/Publications</i> .....	Janis (Frigault) Stevenson 401-568-4016 (h); database@rogerwilliams.org