



No. 11

THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED 1906

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The annual meeting of this association will take place on September 5th in the auditorium of the MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY in Roger Williams Park. Please note the place; the MUSEUM, not the Casino. Nearest park entrance on Broad street.

From 11 A. M., social hour and box lunch at picnic-grounds, close by museum. Business meeting at 1:30. It is important that every member who can be present will attend.

By will of our late member, Honorable Zenas H. Ellis of Vermont, we have received the sum of One Thousand Dollars, less tax and costs, as a trust fund to be invested at the discretion of our directors, (acting as trustees) the dividends or interest to accrue to our treasury.

At this meeting the Directors will present their views, and you will be given the opportunity to express your own.

ARTHUR R. POTTER
President

A QUOTATION

“Then let us gather and be cheered; let us, this day, have peace and right content.”

Roger Williams

Sent in by Mrs. Ethel D. Roffee

Dues for the new fiscal year are payable at the annual meeting. The Treasurer has a new supply of the Association pins, which will be on sale at this and subsequent meetings.

CHILDREN OF ROGER AND MARY WILLIAMS

JOSEPH

The sixth and last child of "The Founder" was born in Providence Plantations December 12th, 1643, six months after his father had sailed for England on his successful quest for the first charter from Parliament. Joseph was eight months old when his father returned with the charter.

When a boy of sixteen we find reference to him in a letter written by Roger to John Winthrop; he wrote, "My youngest son, Joseph, was troubled with a touch of epilepsy, . . . but it hath pleased God . . . perfectly, as we hope, to cure him."

His cure must have been complete, for at the age of 33, we find him fighting bravely, as Captain of the Cranston troops in defence of the Colony in the King Philip war. He received citations for valor and skill.

On December 17th, 1669, he married Lydia, youngest daughter of Thomas and Mary (Small) Olney of Providence. (See bulletin #10.)

He received from his father a gift of land in that section of Cranston called "The Pawtuxet lands" later known as "Mashapaug", and today, Auburn, where he built his home and operated a large farm.

Several generations later this land was bequeathed to the city of Providence by Joseph's great-great-granddaughter, Betsy Williams, and it became the nucleus of Roger Williams Park.

From 1683 to 1713, Joseph served as a member of the House of Deputies in the General Assembly, (now called House of Representatives) and from 1684 to 1715, he was also a member of the Cranston Town Council.

Joseph's house stood directly across the present Elmwood Avenue from the park, at a point nearly opposite his family cemetery. The house was torn down in May, 1886, being then in a decadent condition.

Joseph died on August 17th, 1724, and his wife, Lydia, just 23 days later. Their graves are in the family plot in the Park; Joseph's grave is marked with the cross of Colonial Wars.

Joseph and Lydia had six children;

1. Joseph, died in youth.
2. Thomas, born 1672; died 1724. Married (1) Mary, daughter of James and Mary Blackmar and (2) Hannah Sprague.
3. Joseph (2nd) born 1673; died 1752. Married Lydia Hearnden.

4. Mary Williams, born 1676.

5. James Williams, born 1680; died 1757.

Married Elizabeth Blackmar, sister of the first wife of his brother, Thomas.

6. Lydia Williams, born 1683.

It is supposed that the two daughters, Mary and Lydia, did not survive their parents, as their names were not mentioned in the wills.

Research by Miss Emily H. Paine

This concludes the list of the children of Roger and Mary Williams; sketches of the others have appeared in previous bulletins.

Our Librarian says —

During the past year the following named books have been donated to our library:

“Early Records of the Town of Providence”, (20 vol.) presented by Miss Esther W. Tripp, in memory of her father, the late Henry O. Tripp.

“Quidnessett Memorial Cemetery” compiled by Mrs. Helen G. S. Bartlett, and presented by Mrs. Dana Lawrence.

“The Story of Pettaquansett”, by Mrs. Mary R. Huling, presented by Mrs. Ethel D. Roffec.

BY REQUEST

The memorial tablet to Roger Williams in the cloisters of Old Charterhouse school in London, England, where he prepared for Pembroke college, in Cambridge University, reads as follows:

“Dedicated to the memory of Roger Williams, Charter house scholar, founder of the State of Rhode Island and pioneer of religious liberty in The United States of America.”

NECROLOGY

September 6th, 1945 to September 5th, 1946

Mrs. Annabelle Raynor.	September 8th, 1945
Mrs. Cora B. Fish	November 8th, 1945
Frederick E. Whitaker	December 25th, 1945
Mrs. Cora E. Wallace	December 31st, 1945
Mrs. Bertha L. Mitchell	March 3rd, 1946
Miss Julia Steere,	April 17th, 1946
Mrs. Clara Williams Child	June 10th, 1946

NEW MEMBERS

September 6th, 1945. to September 5th, 1946

Arnold, Mrs. Ruby H.	Lafayette, R. I.
Barrett, Mrs. Ruth C.	56 Sowans Road, Barrington, R. I.
Bugbee, Mrs. Isabelle E. S.	24 Elton St., Providence, R. I.
Butterfield, Donald G.	122 Franklyn Ave., Cranston, R. I.
Butterfield, Richard W.	122 Franklyn Ave., Cranston, R. I.
Butterfield, Mrs. Ruth I.	122 Franklyn Ave., Cranston, R. I.
Child, Mrs. Clara Williams	Newtonville, Mass.
Ellis, Miss Ann	Bennington, Vt.
Frantz, Mrs. Ora E. Williams	Mitchell, Nebraska
Freeman, Mrs. Martha K.	40 Bald Pate Road, Newton Center, Mass.
Gifford, Miss Charlotte	122 Franklyn Ave., Cranston, R. I.
Marcy, Mrs. Mary E. S.	3 Luther St., Seekonk, Mass.
Marcy, Mr. Melvin T.	3 Luther St., Seekonk, Mass.
Morgan, Mr. Emery	1815 Beverly Road, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Murdock, Mr. Clarence T.	Clayville, R. I.
Murdock, Mrs. Helen G.	Clayville, R. I.
Roalf, Mrs. Laura A.	27 Stanwood St., Providence, R. I.
Steere, Miss Marjorie L.	Chepachet, R. I.
Steere, Mrs. Ruth O.	Chepachet, R. I.
Tyrrel, Mrs. J. A.	67 Daniel St., Providence, R. I.
Webster, Mrs. Florence R. R.	44 California Ave., Springfield, Mass.

Nominating Committee 1946

Mrs. Clara Spencer, *Chairman*

Miss Eva Bennett, Mrs. F. A. Shippee

Committee on arrangements for annual meeting, 1946

Mrs. Winthrop Saunders, *Chairman*

Mrs. Clara Spencer

Monthly meetings as usual; the first Thursday in each month, *unless otherwise notified*, at the Rhode Island Historical Society, 52 Power Street, in Providence.

October 3rd, November 7th, December 5th, 1946.

Guests are always welcome.