



No. 18

THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION
(Incorporated 1906)

To All Our Members and Their Families

The Officers of this Association send

GREETINGS

Wishing You a Happy and Prosperous

New Year

AGAIN I GREET YOU AS YOUR PRESIDENT

I am most grateful to all for electing me as your President for the second time. I pledge myself to serve you to the best of my ability and to do all in my power to further the interest of the Association in every way. Thank you.

I urge all to work for more new members. I know that there are many more who should be members of our society.

Please send in any information that you may have for our genealogical records as we plan to print an addenda later. To make it complete all must help. Thank you.

HELEN M. STEERE, *Pres.*

QUOTATION

"No one could tell me where my soul might be,
I searched for God, and he eluded me;
I sought my brother out, and found all three."

NEW MEMBERS

Raymond C. Colwell III
Carey Martin Colwell
Perry Pierce
Jeanne L. Colwell
Bruce Colwell
Mrs. Anna Judge
Mr. Harold Williams
Mrs. Harold Williams
Mr. L. Byron Steere

Mrs. Talbot Patrick
Mr. Russell G. Finch
Mrs. Russell G. Finch
Miss Mary E. Magoon
Mrs. Walter Schnabel
Miss Anna Sessions
Mrs. Francis E. Sedgwick
Mr. Gilbert G. Littlefield
Mr. Stanley A. Huber

DECEASED

Mr. Winthrop P. Tenney	5/18/46
Mr. Arthur G. Sayles	9/8/49
Mrs. Oscar Harris	10/10/49
Mrs. Mary McLeod	10/25/49
Mrs. M.E.W. Hinckley	12/28/49
Mrs. James Reagan	1/2/50
Miss Musette Appley	1949

February 2—2 P.M., *Speaker*
Miss Vivian D. Mathewson

March 2—2 P.M., *Speaker*
Mr. Theodore Dexter

April 6—2 P.M., *Speaker*
Announced Later

May 4—8 P.M., *Speaker*
Mr. W. G. Roelker



THE NEW YEAR



A flower unblown; a book unread;
A tree with fruit unharvested;
A path untrod; a house whose rooms
Lack yet the heart's divine perfumes:
A landscape whose wide border lies
In silent shade, 'neath silent skies;
A treasure with its gifts concealed—
This is the year that for you waits
Beyond tomorrow's mystic gates.

Horatio Nelson Powers

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SKETCH OF ROGER WILLIAMS CAREER

January 16, 1683 he signed his name to a deed—probably his last public act. Williams died in the early part of 1683, previous to April 25th as the deed of William Carpenter of that date speaks of himself as the last survivor of the thirteen proprietors of Pawtuxet Lands (Roger Williams having been one of them). It is said that he was buried with military honors (Callender in his *Century Sermon*. Dr. Styles *Ms. Dairy* Vol. 2.) and that he was buried in the family burial ground on the lot back of the house of Sullivan Dorr, Esq. (Knowles, *Life of R. Williams* p. 432). The precise date of his death is not known, but he was in his 84th year. May 10, 1683 Mr. Jno. Thornton, of Providence, wrote to Rev. Samuel Hubbard of Boston, "The Lord hath arrested by death an ancient and approved friend, Mr. Roger Williams, with divers others here." Thus lived and died the founder of R. I., one of the noblest of men, the defender of the rights of conscience in a persecuting age, "one of the most disinterested men that ever lived, a most pious and heavenly minded soul." "In Salem, every person loved Mr. Williams. He had no personal enemies, under any pretense. All valued his friendship. Kind treatment could win him, but opposition could not conquer him. He was not afraid to stand alone for truth against the world, and he had address enough with his firmness, never to be forsaken by the friends he had ever gained. He had always a tenderness of conscience, and feared every offence against moral truth. He breathed the purest devotion. He was a friend of human nature, forgiving, upright and pious. He understood the Indians better than any man of his age. He made not so many converts but he made more sincere friends." (Dr. Bentley, *Hist. Coll.* Vol. VI. p. 294). His writings show that he grasped more fully the idea of republican as well as the doctrine of soul liberty than any of his day. He taught that "the sovereign power of all civil authority is founded in the consent of the people." (*Bloody Tenent* p. 243.) "He alone conceived in its true import and application the principle of the supremacy of conscience." (Prof. Gammel, *Life Williams* p. 206).