



No. 26

March 1955.

Once again it is time to greet the members of our Association and to hope each one is well and happy.

Your response to our request in the last bulletin for names and dates of birth of children and grandchildren, not already recorded in our book, was very gratifying. Thank you for your co-operation.

In order to keep our records up-to-date, will you please see that we are informed of any changes of address.

Since becoming President, I have visited several of our members who are unable to attend meetings because of ill health. It was a pleasure to see and talk with them. The visits were possible only because of the kindness of our Recording Secretary, Mrs. Bertha Anthony, who is very generous with her time and car.

It would be a great pleasure to be able to welcome more of our out-of-state members at our meetings. Please try to come and get acquainted.

My thanks to the Officers, Chairmen and Committee Members who have been so helpful to me.

HELEN S. BEDSON,
President

EARLY LIFE OF ROGER WILLIAMS

Young Roger Williams, son of James Williams, a prosperous Merchant Tailor, hurried down Cow Lane one bright spring morning. He was one of a crowd of many people, jostling and pushing their way toward Smithfield, that great meadow on the outskirts of London. It was a sullen throng, and an undercurrent of tenseness and hostility communicated itself to the young boy. Roger followed along, curious, yet fearful at the same time. Soon he became aware of a thick cloud of evil smelling smoke which drifted over the heads of the multitude. The muttered oaths of the men became louder and more frightening and many women were hiding their faces in their cloaks and sobbing. Propelled by a curiosity which he could not overcome, Roger shoved and elbowed his way to the very front row of the milling spectators. Through the billowing smoke, he saw, to his horror, that a man, chained to a post, was being burned alive on a great bonfire. Choking and sobbing, the boy turned and ran, regardless of obstacles in his path, until he found himself, safe at last, in the security of his father's shop. Breathlessly, he demanded an explanation from his distraught parents of the dreadful sight he had witnessed. He was told that the man was a wicked Puritan, condemned by the King to die because he did not believe in the Church of England, would not use the prayer book, nor obey the Bishop. Even though they were affirmed Christians, his father said, the Puritans must be destroyed, since they threatened the security of the Church, and so, of all England. Shocked by the unrelenting attitude of his parents, and still trembling with the horror of what he had seen at Smithfield, Roger cried out in anger against the King, and was soundly thrashed by his father. Locked in his room for two days, his only companion was his Bible, over which he pored, trying to find an answer to the questions which thronged through his mind. Did not Christ love the Puritans who believed in Him, he asked himself, and therefore, should not King James love them also? The sensitive boy pondered long and deeply over the King's injustice. From this time on, his sympathies were with the Puritans.

When he was sixteen, Roger came under the patronage of Sir Edward Coke, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, the only man who dared to say publicly that the King did not rule by divine right from God, but must abide by the laws of England. Sir Edward procured a scholarship for Roger at Sutton Hospital, a school near Smithfield, and there the youth worked earnestly at his Greek and Latin.

After graduating from Cambridge University at the age of twenty, Roger accepted the position of chaplain on the estate of Sir William Masham at Otes. There he met and fell desperately in love with sprightly Jane Whalley. Her aunt, Lady Barrington, bitterly opposed the match, and refused her permission for them to wed. Sick at heart over his shattered romance, the young man soon fell a prey to bodily illness. Mary Barnard, young and pretty companion to Lady Masham's daughter Judith, helped to nurse him back to health. Roger realized that he loved the charming and intelligent Mary very deeply, and they were married the following December.

Discovering that he was to be brought before the King's Council for trial because of his radical preaching, Roger, with his young wife, hastily embarked on the ship Lyon for America. After a rough and stormy voyage of sixty-seven days on a wintry sea, they anchored in Boston Harbor. Here, in the bleak and sparsely settled town of Boston, a warm and cordial welcome awaited the young minister and his wife.

THE JEWISH CONTRIBUTION TO RHODE ISLAND CULTURE

At our October 7th meeting Mrs. Harold C. Macdonald gave a very interesting talk on the history of the Jewish people. She spoke of their high regard for Roger Williams because he had established freedom of worship for all in Rhode Island. Her subject was especially timely, as the Jewish people were celebrating the Tercentenary of the first Jewish settlement in the United States.

HOLIDAY IN BRITAIN

At our November 4th meeting the Rev. Frank Crook gave an illustrated lecture on his visit with his brother in England. He showed many fine pieces of English china, including a 1690 Queen Mary Plate and a Queen Anne Plate. The Rev. Crook was a very witty speaker and his pictures were beautiful. Delicious English Pastries, Tea and Coffee were served by the hostesses.

TURKEY SUPPER AT PEOPLE'S BAPTIST CHURCH, CRANSTON, R. I.

On November 13th our Hostess, Mrs. Ernest Dyer, assisted by the Program Committee, served us a very fine family-style turkey supper with all the fixings. Ninety-four of our members and guests were present. Mrs. Charles Roffee led the devotions. Miss Bessie Paine was the accompanist for the Group Singing. Mrs. John J. Ahearn, dressed in a beautiful outfit of the Gay Nineties, sang songs of that period. Mr. Wallace Parsons showed colored slides of his trip to California.

CHRISTMAS IN SWEDEN

On December 2nd Mr. Marshall Morgan brought to us the customs, folk lore and recorded music of the Swedish Yule. The theme was carried out in the dining room with a wooden Xmas tree and straw goats. It was further accented by the delicious Swedish cookies and coffee made by Mrs. Morgan.

The January meeting was cancelled.

JOYOUS JAUNTS OF A GENEALOGIST

Because of the snow and very cold weather, our February 3rd meeting was held in the Auditorium of the Providence Gas Company, in downtown Providence. Mrs. Harold P. Williams was to have spoken on Romantic Blue Willow but she graciously withdrew her talk in favor of Mrs. Winthrop Saunders' Joyous Jaunts of a Genealogist. We hope to hear Mrs. Williams at a later date. Mrs. Saunders gave so vivid a description of her trip to South Dakota that we became oblivious of time and place. We actually felt that we had taken the trip with her. Refreshments were served by our hostesses for the day, assisted by the "Girls in White" of the Providence Gas Company.

HISTORIC DOLLS

On March 3rd we were privileged to have Miss Elizabeth Anthony as our guest speaker. From her fine collection of historic dolls she exhibited those made in the likeness of people important in Rhode Island history. This collection is unique in that there is only one other like it in the world. Miss Anthony's talk was most interesting and we were delighted with the exhibit. The hostesses served home-made cookies and tea.

In Memoriam

MISS EDITH G. MOWRY	October 3, 1954
MRS. THOMAS INGERSOLL	October 18, 1954
MRS. JAMES F. DAVIS	October 19, 1954
MISS EVA G. BENNETT	November 23, 1954
MRS. ARTHUR E. WARNER	January 4, 1955
MISS MATTIE E. DEXTER	February 25, 1955

From time to time we indirectly hear of the death of some of our members but are unable to find out when it occurred. We wish it were possible for us to be notified at the time.

NEW MEMBERS SINCE SEPTEMBER 1954

- BARRETT, MR. AND MRS. LAWRENCE D., SR. (Marion Twedell, 80 Bate-
man Ave., Warwick, R. I.
- BLACKINTON, MR. JOHN ROSWELL, 55 Hunting St., North Attleboro, Mass.
- BLACKINTON, ELIZABETH STURDY, 55 Hunting St., North Attleboro, Mass.
- BLACKINTON, RICHARD ROSS, 55 Hunting St., North Attleboro, Mass.
- BOGART, RHODA LEE, 632 South Lucas Ave., Los Angeles 17, Cal.
- BROWN, MRS. WALTER G. (Mildred Boswell), 183 Irving Ave., Providence, R. I.
- CASTETTER, MRS. RONALD (Mary Steere), 2844 Marilyn Drive, Ogden, Utah.
- CASTETTER, CHARLOTTE ANN, 2844 Marilyn Drive, Ogden, Utah.
- CLEMENT, MRS. FRANK G. (Lillian White), 38 Highland Ave., South Berwick,
Maine, Box 55.
- COON, MRS. ANDREW J. (Velva Watt), 2919 West Brumbeck St., Boise, Idaho.
- DAVIDSON, MRS. T. JOSEPH (Eldee Castetter), 117 N. Morris Ave., Gainesville 1,
Texas.
- DILL, MRS. MELVIN W. (Barbara Shippee), 612 Long Road, Pittsburg 35, Pa.
- DILL, BRENDA PAGE, 612 Long Road, Pittsburg 35, Pa.
- ESTEN, MRS. ROY F. (Alice Tourtellot), Chepachet, R. I. R.F.D.
- HALL, ROSALYS HASKELL, 56 Barron St., New York 14, N. Y.
- HALSTEAD, MRS. RICHARD L. (Lorene Coon), Route 2, Boise, Idaho.
- NELSON, MRS. WARREN E. (Vera Chamberlain), 413 Manton Ave., Providence 9,
R. I.
- NOEL, MRS. JAMES S. (Georgie Pearl Maxwell), Route 1, Lockhart, Texas.
- WORRELL, MR. ROY W., 24 Medway St., Providence 6, R. I.