



No. 32

March 1958.

To our members:

Greetings and a sincere wish that, as Spring draws near, each one of you may be filled with a spirit of peace and contentment.

To our members whose hearts have been touched with sorrow during the past months, I extend deepest sympathy. To those who are ill or shut-in, I send cheer and a prayer that with the coming of Spring, gladness may enter your hearts. To our new members, a most cordial welcome into our family.

EVANGELINE A. McINTYRE,
President

A WELL-EQUIPPED KITCHEN OF 1633

- Item: 6 Kettles, 3 yron pots and a dripping pan.
7 pewter platters, 3 great ones and 4 little ones.
1 smale brasse mortar and pestle.
2 pint pots and 1 pewter candlestick.
1 pewter flagon, 2 pewter cups.
1 wine and 1 other beere bowl.
1 beaker and 1 caudle cup.
1 dram cup and a little bottle.
2 salt sellers.
3 porringers.
½ doz. old spoones, 3 prs. pot hooks.
1 old pr. of tongues and an old fire shovell.
1 pr. of pot hangers.
2 smale old yron hooks.
1 pr. of andyrons.
2 old yron candlesticks, and a pressing yron.
2 bason, 1 smale and another great one.

A LITERARY FIND

It is common enough for people to think of Roger Williams as a great prose writer and as a philosopher in the cause of libertarianism, but few ever think of him as a poet. The fact remains, however, that he was a poet, and a rather good one, as poets went in his day and place. Professor Harold S. Jantz of Princeton some years ago did extensive research in the first century of New England verse, and he concluded that Roger Williams was one of the best.

Unfortunately all of Roger Williams' verse which has come down to us consists of only 33 short poems printed into his "A Key Into the Language of America." Sometimes the poems don't quite live up to the promise of their opening lines, but an index of first lines reminds me—and I don't exaggerate—of a similar index of Shakespeare's sonnets; there's something of the same ring to them. For example: Boast not, proud English, of thy birth and blood. — Man's restless soul has restless eyes and ears. — The Indians find the sun so sweet. — The sun and moon and stars do preach. — God makes a path, provides a guide. — Truth is a native, naked beauty, but . . . — One step twixt me and Death.

Professor Jantz bemoaned the superficial judgment which earlier critics passed on Williams' verse. He points out, however, that there have always been a few individuals who discovered these poems for themselves and have cherished them among their treasured literary experiences. "If at least six of the poems had received the place in American anthologies that they deserve . . ." he wrote, "they would by now have become a vital part of our literary heritage."

I happened to discover Williams' verses by chance myself, and was charmed by them without realizing that they were supposed to be, in any way, especially meritorious. I recall being somewhat vexed that they had a way of petering out, in all too many cases, after a brilliant start. But in other cases Williams did sustain the promise. Here is an example; the last part of the first stanza is a bit weak but the rest of the poem is an utterly charming affirmation of a simple, confident faith:

*God makes a path, provides a guide, And feeds in wilderness!
His Glorious name while breath remains, O that I might confess.*

*Lost many a time, I have no guide, No house but hollow tree!
In stormy winter nights no fire, No food, no company.*

*In Him I have found a house, A bed, a table, company.
No cup so bitter but's made sweet, When God shall sweetening be.*

Several of Williams' stanzas reflect his own nature as clearly as they do Indian ways . . . But the old prophet could thunder, too. The lesson he strove to teach in the following poem is something mankind has to learn over and over again. I call your attention to the last word of the fourth verse. No theologian or philosopher, contending for the dignity of man, could have made a better choice:

*Boast not, proud English, of thy birth and blood, Thy brother Indian is
by birth as good.*

*Of one blood God made him, and thee, and all, As wise, as fair, as strong,
as personal.*

Condensed from "In Perspective" by Bradford F. Swan in the Providence Journal

McINTYRE, Miss Kathleen Elizabeth, 366 Washington St, South Attleboro, Mass. (Mercy Winsor).
 McINTYRE, Miss Nancy Gail, 745 High St., Cumberland, R. I. (Mercy Winsor).
 McINTYRE, Mrs. Myron C. (Shirley H.), 745 High St., Cumberland, R. I.
 SEDGWICK, Mrs. John P. (Mary Anne Parker), R.R. Box 18, Suffern, N. Y. (Mary Winsor).
 STEERE, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mowry, Putnam Pike, R.D., Chepachet, R. I.; Walter Mowry Olney Steere, Jr.; David Joseph Steere; Donald Edward Steere; Russell Arnold Steere, Putnam Pike, R.D., Chepachet, R. I. (Mary, Daniel and Joseph).
 STUBBS, Mrs. Charles G., Jr. (Alice Mallette), 5115 Homer St., Dallas 6, Texas. (Joseph).
 SAUNDERS, Mrs. Donald (Eleanor Hall). (Mary).
 SAUNDERS, Miss Patricia Gridley, 4922 Quebec St. N.W., Washington 16, D. C. (Mary).
 TRIESHMAN, Mrs. Luther (Gladys Newman), 79 Larrabee St., East Hartford, Conn. (Mary).

RESUME OF THE MEETINGS

At the October meeting, Miss Alice Williams Roe took us with her on her trip through the beautiful canyons of the Southwest by means of colored slides.

On November 7th we had just a grand time. Some of the members took us back to school days with poetry and readings. Mrs. Robert M. Brayton delighted us with an account of a well equipped kitchen of 1633, a copy of which you will find on the first page. Mrs. Harold P. Williams showed colored slides of the homes in England from which some of the Pilgrims came.

December was our Christmas Party. We had a delicious dinner, a short meeting and then a sketch entitled, "Mrs. Tinkham's Family Album," put on by Mrs. Edwin Huling. This was most enjoyable.

The January meeting found us at the Narragansett Electric Co. Mrs. Anne Ziegler did the cooking by quick methods, using packaged goods. Everyone especially enjoyed the "tasting."

At the February 6th meeting, Mrs. Harold P. Williams showed colored slides of Williamsburg, the Jamestown Festival and patriotic shrines of Tidewater, Virginia. The pictures were accompanied by a commentary giving the historical background and interesting sidelights of America's 350th Birthday Celebration.

After the March meeting, Mrs. Harry A. MacKnight had on display a part of her collection of spoons. She gave the history of many of them, which was most interesting. Mrs. Frank E. Chamberlain also showed her collection.

The book, "Master Roger Williams", by Ola Elizabeth Winslow, has been given to our library by Mrs. Charles R. Marvin in memory of her husband.

Mr. George L. Paine has been made an Honorary President and Mrs. Everett W. Davis, Honorary Vice-President.

The President's address has been changed to 745 High Street, Cumberland, R. I.

In Memoriam

Mrs. Edward (Louise Ketter) Conant, born July 20, 1863, had 12 lines of descent from early R. I. settlers. She was elected Honorary President of our Association Sept. 5, 1957 and celebrated her 69th Wedding Anniversary the following day. She died Sept. 21, 1957.

Mrs. Maude Bowman Reid, elected Honorary Vice President Sept. 6, 1956 was born April 26, 1868 and died Dec. 29, 1957. She had composed lyrics for several published songs and her verses were often printed in newspapers.

Mrs. Donald H. Reid	May 9, 1956
Dr. Chester A. Swackhamer	June 1956
Mr. Everett F. Swift	September 21, 1957
Mrs. J. Fred Bacon	October 6, 1957
Mr. Charles R. Marvin	October 7, 1957
Mrs. Sabin A. Steere	October 12, 1957
Mr. Edward B. Aldrich	October 25, 1957
Mr. Lawrence D. Barrett	January 1, 1958
Miss Elizabeth S. Bullock	January 18, 1958
Miss Ada L. Potter	January 20, 1958
Miss Eda M. Round	January 24, 1958
Mrs. Mary Potter Wildes	February 3, 1958
Mr. Howard R. Coughlin	March 7, 1958
Miss Sara J. Winsor	March 17, 1958

NEW MEMBERS SINCE SEPTEMBER 1957

- BOULTER, Mrs. George (Dorothy Alger), R.D. No. 2, Roland St., Cumberland, R. I. (Mercy Winsor).
- BOULTER, Miss Beverly, R.D. No. 2, Roland St., Cumberland, R. I. (Mercy Winsor).
- CHASE, Mrs. Ernest A. (Eva Howard Tillinghast), 180 George M. Cohan Blvd., Providence 3, R. I. (Freeborn).
- CHASE, Mrs. Herbert. (Ethel Newman), 79 Larrabee St., East Hartford, Conn. (Mary).
- DONALDSON, Mrs. Ross (Marion H. Baker), 75 Leonard St., North Attleboro, Mass. (Daniel).
- DORAN, Mrs. John T. (Lydia Paine Collamore), Cannon St., Mattapoisett, Mass. (Mercy Waterman).
- ELLIS, Miss Florence B., 89 Garner Ave., Buffalo, N. Y. (Daniel).
- FALES, Mrs. Lester (Emma Curtis), Limerock, R.D. Lincoln, R. I. (Mercy Winsor).
- FERREIRA, Miss Joyce, 106 Stanley St., Attleboro Falls, Mass. (Mercy Winsor).
- FERREIRA, Ross, 106 Stanley St., Attleboro Falls, Mass. (Mercy Winsor).
- GROSS, Roger Williams, 2104 West Fourth Ave., Corsicana, Texas. (Joseph).
- GROSS, Miss Jeanne Loraine, 2104 West Fourth Ave., Corsicana, Texas. (Joseph).
- JORDAN, Mrs. Byron (Edith M. Tillinghast), 1244 Elmwood Ave., Providence 7, R. I. (Freeborn).
- JORDAN, Miss Ethel L., 1244 Elmwood Ave., Providence 7, R. I. (Freeborn).
- KEENE, Mrs. Sarah, R.D. No. 3, Esmond 17, R. I. (Re-instated) (Mary).
- MILLS, Miss Anne Parker, R.D. Box 18, Suffern, N. Y. (Mercy Winsor).
- MILLS, Miss Katherine T., R.R. Box 18, Suffern, N. Y. (Mercy Winsor).
- MILLS, Miss Evelyn B., R.R. Box 18, Suffern, N. Y. (Mercy Winsor).
- RICHARDS, Miss Jeanne J., 236 33rd St., New York 16, N. Y. (Mary).