



ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

March 1967

No. 50

Dear Members:

Greetings to all our members including the forty-three new members who have joined our Association since our last bulletin.

We have been saddened by the deaths of sixteen members, including our Past President, Raymond C. Colwell, Sr., and extend sympathy to their families.

At our last meeting we voted to donate \$25 toward the purchase of a large Meteorite or "Shooting Star" for the Roger Williams Park Planetarium in the Museum.

We are indebted to our members, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford W. Brown for opening their beautiful home during the past year for our meetings.

We hope to have a large attendance at the church service at the First Baptist Meeting House on May 21st and at the buffet luncheon following the service, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Brown.

Cordially,

VERA MAE NELSON

President

REVOKING of ROGER WILLIAM'S EXPULSION from MASSACHUSETTS

On October 9, 1635 Roger Williams of Salem stood before the General Court of the Bay Colony, now the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to receive sentence.

He had been ordered by the Clergy, the Magistrates and the Elders to appear at Newtown, near Cambridge, October 6th for a second trial, the first having proved inconclusive. He had withdrawn from the Salem Church and renounced communion with all the New England churches, disagreeing with their tenets, as he denied the justice of the form of civil government. At that time in the Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth Colonies, attendance at the established church was compulsory. The ministers of the churches had magisterial power to enforce and make laws, and church membership, which was not given to everyone, was a requisite for voting or otherwise participating in government affairs.

Two days were spent in trying to get Williams to recant before the trial opened on Thursday, October 8th. No specific charges were entered into the Court records against him nor were any specific charges made other than the beliefs he had expressed.

There were present the Governor, Magistrate, Deputies and all the Ministers of Massachusetts Bay, 14 in number, representing ten churches. In all, fifty persons took official part in the trial, representing fewer than 500 freemen out of the 12,000 settlers who had come to New England and settled on the Massachusetts coast. Roger Williams' opinions were:

1. That the King of England had no right to confer patents upon companies or individuals, entitling them to lands in America, without purchasing such right from the aboriginals.
2. That no Magistrate had power to punish a person for not attending church or for breaking the Sabbath day. This made him at sword's points with the Puritan fathers.
3. Disagreement in regard to ideas of church government. Puritans left England because of persecution, but persecuted those in this country who did not agree with them.
4. That a magistrate ought not to tender an oath to an unregenerate man saying "an oath is an act of worship and that the person who takes it, by the very act, acknowledges the existence of God". He reasoned that in the belief in liberty of conscience no man had a right to enforce an oath.

To all this Roger Williams made acknowledgment and was sentenced; all the ministers except John Cotton approving, the Court record stating that Williams depart out of that jurisdiction within six weeks. However, by petition of friends the General Court allowed him, because of ill health, to remain in Salem until spring. He continued to hold private religious meetings in his own home. Hatred of him as a trouble maker made the Colony feel there could never be hope for peace as long as he was permitted to remain and air his disturbing doctrines. However, he made plans to begin a settlement in the Narragansett country, based on his two cardinal principles, the rights of man, and liberty of conscience with separation of church and state. He had already made verbal treaties with the Narragansetts and Wampanoags for land beyond the Bay territory.

However, in January 1636 it was decided to send him to England on a ship in the harbor ready to sail and a warrant was issued against him but he received word of this and fled into the wilderness, to be heard from after three months, in what is now East Providence, R. I.

The first action by the parties who banished Roger Williams came three centuries after the original sentence, in the passage of an act revoking the decree of banishment, and the official presentation of this act rescinding the decree of banishment was presented May 4, 1936, engraved and framed, with the quill pen tipped with a gold point by which it was signed, attached by a blue satin ribbon to the Governor of Rhode Island, with the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That in so far as it is constitutional and competent for the General Court to revoke the sentence of expulsion passed against Roger Williams by the General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony in the year 1635, the same is hereby revoked.

R. I. Tercentenary 1936

In Memoriam

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Lewis M. Thayer (Associate) (Mass.) | February 9, 1966 |
| Rev. Roy D. Wood (Vermont) | May 7, 1966 |
| Daisy Nichols Swackhamer (Mrs. Chester R.) (Arizona) | October 14, 1966 |
| Mary Angell Swift (Mrs. Everett) (R. I.) | November 3, 1966 |
| Janet Winsor Hopkins (Mrs. J. Curtis) (R. I.) | November 12, 1966 |
| Dr. Frank Ward Holt (Michigan) | November 24, 1966 |
| Eleanor Spicer Faria (Mrs. Manuel T.) (R. I.) | December 18, 1966 |
| Dorothy Moulton Latham (Mrs. Hubert A.) (R. I.) | December 28, 1966 |
| Mary Colwell Latham (Mrs. Benomi M.) (Mass.) | January 12, 1967 |
| Wilfred G. McIntosh, Sr. (Associate) (N. H.) | February 14, 1967 |
| Albert R. Rietheimer (Associate) (Pa.) | February 20, 1967 |
| Roger Williams Potter Greene (R. I.) | February 27, 1967 |
| Alice Waterman Thornton (Miss) (R. I.) | March 7, 1967 |
| Mary Kenyon Huling (Mrs. Edwin) (R. I.) | March 11, 1967 |
| Cora E. Coughlin (Miss) (R. I.) | March 12, 1967 |
| Raymond Carpenter Colwell, Sr. (R. I.) | March 19, 1967 |

NEW MEMBERS SINCE SEPTEMBER 1966

- BARROWS, Miss Nancy Victoria, 45 Murray St., Warwick, R. I. 02886 (Mary)
- BECKWITH, Mr. Henry Lyman Parsons, Jr., 6 Villa Ave., Providence, R. I. 02906 (Mercy Waterman and Freeborn)
- BOHLERT, Mrs. George P. (Edith Thomas), 8712 80th St., Woodhaven, N. Y. 11421 (Joseph)
- CHAFEE, Mr. John S., 60 Stimson Ave., Providence, R. I. 02906 (Mercy Winsor)
- CHAFEE, Mrs. John S. (Janet M. Hunter), 60 Stimson Ave., Providence, R. I. 02906 (Mercy Waterman)
- COMBITHS, Mrs. Thomas M. (Dess Bullard), P. O. Box 846, Pulaski, Virginia 24301 (Mary)
- COMBITHS, Mr. Thomas M., P. O. Box 846, Pulaski, Virginia 24301 (Mary)
- CONGDON, Mrs. Albert E. (Elizabeth Reynolds), Apt. So.-A2, 400 Narragansett Parkway Warwick, R. I. 02888 (Mary)
- CROWLEY, Merritt Ann (b. 1966), c/o Robert Allan Crowley, East Road, North Scituate, R. I. 02857 (Mercy Winsor)
- DELEMONTEX, Mr. George Frederick, 163 Parade St., Providence, R. I. 02907 (Mary)
- DENCH, Capt. Clarence H., 25 The Waterway, Saunderstown, R. I. 02874 (Associate)
- DUDLEY, Alfred Betts (b. 1961), c/o Alfred T. Dudley, 8705 Bedell Rd., Richmond, Va. 23229 (Freeborn)
- DUDLEY, Beverley Freeborn J. (b. 1964), c/o Alfred T. Dudley, 8705 Bedell Rd., Richmond, Va. 23229 (Freeborn)
- DUDLEY, Mr. Beverley Roy III, 502 Janney's Lane, Alexandria, Virginia 22300 (Freeborn)
- FREESE, Mr. Frederick Foss, 350 Pequot Ave., Warwick, R. I. 02886 (Daniel)
- GATES, Mrs. Richard F. (F. Adelaide Smith), 922 East Beach, Long Beach, Miss. 39560 (Mary)

GATES, Miss Elizabeth Anne, 922 East Beach, Long Beach, Miss. 39560 (Mary)
 GATES, Miss Mary Adelaide, 922 East Beach, Long Beach, Miss. 39560 (Mary)
 GATES, Miss Sarah Frances, 922 East Beach, Long Beach, Miss. 39560 (Mary)
 GREENE, Mr. Stephen Albert, 15 Villa Ave., Edgewood, R. I. 02905 (Joseph)
 GUERIN, Mrs. Theodore (Barbara Seamans), 41 Pitman Rd., Warwick, R. I. 02886 (Joseph)
 HALPINE, Mrs. Charles G. (Helen Bullard), 1 Taney Ave., Annapolis, Maryland 21400 (Mary)
 HICKIE, Mrs. William Wesley (Harriet D. Greene), 48 Gilford Rd., Hingham, Mass. 02043 (Joseph)
 MANOR, Mrs. Joseph D. (Leila Abbott), 43341 Briercliff Drive, Hemet, Calif. 92343 (Mercy Winsor)
 MARTIN, Mrs. Norman (Marion Thomas), 50 Briary Rd., Dobbs Ferry, N. Y. 10522 (Joseph)
 MATHEWSON, Mrs. Wallace B. (Florence Sayles), 2950 So. County Trail, East Greenwich, R. I. 02818 (Mary)
 McBRYDE, Mrs. Malcolm (Grace E. Thomas), 507 E. Giddens Ave., Tampa, Florida 33600 (Joseph)
 RYMAL, Mrs. Grant V. (Mary L. Barnard), 2402 Plaza a La Playa, San Clemente, Calif. 92672 (Daniel)
 SHIPPEE, Stephan (b. 1962), c/o Elmer R. Shippee, 1 Poplar Ave., No. Kingstown, R. I. 02852 (Daniel)
 SHUMAN, Darcy Ann (b. 1967), c/o Alan L. Shuman, 12 Woodward Ave., Bloomingdale, N. J. 07403 (Mercy Winsor)
 SPRINGER, Mrs. Clifford (Marion L. Waight), Box 14, R.D. No. 2, Arkport, N. Y. 14807 (Daniel)
 THOMPSON, Mrs. Elmer I. (Elvira P. Southworth), 901 East Lancaster Ave., Whitefish Bay, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53217 (Mary)
 TRIESCHMANN, Mr. Luther Wm., 862 Tolland Turnpike, R.F.D. Manchester, Conn. 06040 (Mary)
 WAKEFIELD, Mr. Robert Sidney, 1221 Windsor Way, Redwood City, Calif. 94061 (Mercy Waterman)
 WEATHERBY, Mrs. Cyrus (Rose L. Taylor), 2194 Fischer, Detroit, Mich. 48214 (Daniel and Joseph)
 WILLIAMS, Mrs. Hiram Herbert, 252 Woodstock Ave., Putnam, Conn. 06260 (Associate) (Mr. W.—Joseph)
 WILLIAMS, Mr. Roger, Jr., 85 Buttonwoods Ave., Warwick, R. I. 02886 (Mary, Freeborn and Joseph)
 WOODWARD, Craig McKee (b. 1966), c/o Allyn Child Woodward, Jr., 5 Longfellow Rd., Natick, Mass. 01760 (Joseph)
 YOCOM, Miss Barbara Joan, Box 1588, Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois 61401 (Mary)
 YOCOM, Mr. Daniel L., B 94 Quadrangle, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52240 (Mary)
 YOCOM, Mr. Daniel Lea, Jr., 813 North Avenue, Waukegan, Illinois 60085 (Mary)
 YODER, Mrs. Charles J. (Dorothy F. Thomas), P. O. Box 155, Northridge, Calif. 91324 (Joseph)
 YOUNG, Miss Rachel A., 39 North Road, Hope, R. I. 02831 (Daniel and Mercy Waterman)

According to our old records we will be celebrating the anniversary of our 75th ANNUAL MEETING in September (1892-1967).

There are copies of Volume II, "ROGER WILLIAMS of PROVIDENCE, R. I." by Bertha Williams Anthony—1966, still available—over 200 pages of genealogical data. Mail check to Mrs. Anthony, 23 Oakland Ave., Cranston, R. I. 02910.

We are still collecting Betty Crocker coupons, concentrating now on knives and forks. Please give them to Mrs. Anthony, Treasurer.

Consult the September 1966 Bulletin, which you have all received, for a full list of Officers and their addresses.

Please report any illness or deaths of our members to the Sunshine Chairman.

Have we your correct name, address and zip code number? Kindly notify Corresponding Secretary promptly of any change of address.