



ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

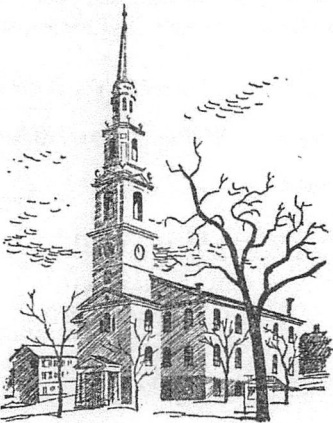
Incorporated 1906

OCTOBER 1974

No. 61

"America's First Baptist Church"

Dear Members:



Once again I wish to extend greetings to all the members of the Roger Williams Family and to thank the officers of the Association for their efforts over the past year.

As we approach the Bi-Centennial year with Americans reflecting on our heritage, it is quite fitting that we remember Roger Williams whose devotion to individual freedom and the separation of Church and State anticipated by more than a century many of the principles for which the American Revolution was fought.

Of special interest to descendants of Roger Williams is the Bi-Centennial anniversary of the Meeting House that houses the congregation of the First Baptist Church in America founded by Roger Williams in 1636. This superb example of colonial architecture was completed in 1775. For many years the Roger Williams Family Association has made an annual pilgrimage to worship there. This year we have been invited to participate in the church's anniversary celebration. Brown University holds its commencement exercises in this large Meeting House and several years ago the Rockefeller family, descendants of Roger Williams, was responsible for its impressive renovation.

We take pleasure in dedicating this Bulletin to the 200th Anniversary of this beautiful building.

Sincerely,
Helen Steere Brown, President
(Mrs. Clifford W.)

180 Brown Street
Providence, R. I. 02906

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Paul Waldo Emerson (Wyoming)	d. 1973
Mrs. Albert E. Whitten (Carolyn Steere) (Maine)	d. Oct. 24, 1973
Mrs. Edward Parkhurst (Mary Williams) (Calif.)	d. Nov. 7, 1973
Mrs. Hiram H. Williams (Associate) (Conn.)	d. Nov. 1973
Mrs. Elmer J. Harrington (Clara Tillinghast) (R. I.)	d. Nov. 12, 1973
Mrs. Everett Shippee (Ruth Barton) (R. I.)	d. Nov. 23, 1973
Mrs. Everett W. Wight (Isabel I. Bennett) (R. I.)	d. Jan. 9, 1974
Mr. Burdette Chamberlain (Tenn.)	d. Jan. 23, 1974
Mr. Thomas M. Combiths, Jr. (Virginia)	d. Feb. 9, 1974
Mr. Frederick J. Simmons (Maine)	d. Mar. 30, 1974
Mr. Hubert A. Latham (Associate) (R. I.)	d. April 18, 1974
Mrs. Guy C. Shaw (Mary Price) (New York)	d. April 26, 1974
Mr. Elmer C. Bentley (R. I.)	d. June 5, 1974
Mr. Edward W. Bradford (R. I.)	d. July 13, 1974
Mr. Charles Reed Gardner (Penna.)	d. July 17, 1974
Mr. George A. Sayles (R. I.)	d. Sept. 20, 1974
Miss Verena Williams (R.I.)	d. October 4, 1974

Sent in by our Chaplain: Mrs. Leroy F. Garland

"Experiments of Spiritual Life and Health and their Preservatives, in which the weakest Child of God may get assurance of his Spiritual Life and Blessedness. And the Strongest may finde proportionable Discoveries of his Christian Growth, and the means of it."

By Roger Williams of Providence in New England London, Printed in the Second Month, 1652.

—from the book Roger Williams by Perry Miller

— NEW MEMBERS SINCE SEPTEMBER 1973 —

ATKINS, Miss Kathy, 3703 Kellim, Long Beach, CA 90808 (Mercy Waterman)
 BARIBEAULT, Mrs. Douglas (Annie Mari Simmons) 47 Ferris Ave., Rumford, RI 02414 (Mary)
 BARKER, Mrs. Kenneth L. (Rose Marie Stroud) 1619 Pinar Dr., Orlando, FL 32807 (Mary)
 BARKER, Miss Amy Elizabeth, 1619 Pinar Dr., Orlando, FL 32807 (Mary)
 BEACH, Donald Pershing, R.R.1, Walcott Rd., Telkwa, B. C., Canada V03 2X0 (Mercy Winsor)
 BENNETT, Dr. Dudley Wayne, 180 San Benito Way, San Francisco, CA 94127 (Mary)
 BOSSERT, Debra Scelenbinder, Apt. 86, Williamsburg Village Apts. 2650 E. High St., Springfield, OH 45505 (Mary)
 BRYANT, Mrs. Robert G. (Nancy Williams) Rt. 11, Box 565, Clarksville, TN 37040 (Joseph)
 BRYANT, Robert Nelson, Red Brook, Rt. 11, Box 506, Clarksville, TN 37040 (Joseph)
 BULLARD, James W., M.D., 17107 New Hampshire Ave., Ashton, MD 20702 (Mary)
 BULLARD, James W. Jr., 17107 New Hampshire Ave., Ashton, MD 20702 (Mary)
 BULLARD, Gregory, 17107 New Hampshire Ave., Ashton, MD 20702 (Mary)
 BULLARD, Dexter M. Jr., 4 West Melrose St., Chevy Chase, MD 20014 (Mary)
 BULLAR, Dexter M. III, 4 West Melrose St., Chevy Chase, MD 20014 (Mary)
 BUSH, Mrs. Franklin W. (Ruth G. Phillips) Box 532 Loughlin Rd., RD6, Binghamton, NY 13904 (Mary)
 BUSH, Donald Franklin, Box 532, Loughlin Rd., RD6, Binghamton, NY 13904 (Mary)
 BUSH, Richard J., 119 Murray St., Binghamton, NY 13905 (Mary)
 BUTTERFIELD, Daniel Gifford, 156 Cady Ave., Warwick, RI 02889 (Joseph)
 BUTTERFIELD, Donald Walter, 156 Cady Ave., Warwick, RI 02889 (Joseph)
 BUTTERFIELD, Richard Thomas, 156 Cady Ave., Warwick, RI 02889 (Joseph)
 BUTTERFIELD, Glenn Mark, 47 Sheffield Ave., West Warwick, RI 02893 (Joseph)
 BUTTERFIELD, Linda Marie, 47 Sheffield Ave., West Warwick, RI 02893 (Joseph)
 CULVER, Mrs. Fredk. J. (Dorothy Williams) 1353 Cameo Dr., Campbell, CA 95008 (Joseph)
 DeGROFF, Mrs. Leonard F. (Rachael E. Haynes) 1414 W. Central sp. 33A, Brae, CA 92621 (Mary)
 DeGROFF, Mr. Leonard F. Jr., 7544 Clear Sky Rd., San Diego, CA 92120 (Mary)
 DERRY, Mrs. William R. (Anne Barrett) 3060 Pharr Court, Atlanta, GA 30305 (Joseph)
 DOE, Mrs. Robert E. (Alzadia Wright) 106 Ioio Place, Kula, Maui, Hawaii 96790 (Mercy Winsor)
 DOWNS, Mrs. Jerome F. (Jean Bennett) 66 Hollybock Ct., Mill Valley, CA 94941 (Mary)
 EASTMAN, Mrs. Lawrence E. (Geraldine C. Beach) 1648 Diamond Ave., Chico, CA 95926 (M. Winsor)
 ELLIOTT, Donald J., D.V.M., RD3, Box 224, New Berlin, NY 13411 (Daniel)
 ENGLAND, Miss Deanne R., 107 Sicomac Ave., Midland Park, NJ 07432 (Mary)
 FINKLEA, Mrs. Ernest E. (Lela Norwood) 56 S. Calle Cadiz, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 (Mary)
 FLINT, Mrs. F. Harlan (Barbara Mitchell) 1813 Tewa Rd., Santa Fe, NM 87501 (Joseph)
 FLINT, F. Harlan Jr., 1383 Stanbach Circle, Anchorage, Alaska 99504 (Joseph)
 FLINT, Garrett, 2-10-17 Moto Axabu, Minatoku, Tokyo, Japan (Joseph)
 FLINT, Myles E., 1835 Wainwright Dr., Reston, VA 22070 (Joseph)
 GARLAND, Peter Winslow, 442 Washington St., Coventry, RI 02816 (Joseph)
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GUMMA, Mrs. Frank V. (Muriel M. Tate) 1430 So. York St., Denver, CO 80210 (Mary)
 HALL, Glendon Colwell, 1361 Calle Crisantemo, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 (Mercy Winsor)
 HARTSHORN, George E., 4012 Dresden St., Kensington, MD 20795 (Mary)
 HARTSHORN, Theodore D., 8118 No. Poplar Dr., Milwaukee, WI 53217 (Mary)
 HUSTON, George H. III, M.D., 201 W. Commerce St., Bridgeton, NJ 08302 (Jos. & Mcy. Waterman)
 HUSTON, Kathryn D., 201 W. Commerce St., Bridgeton, NJ 08302 (Joseph & Mercy Waterman)
 HUSTON, George H. IV., 201 W. Commerce St., Bridgeton, NJ 08302 (Joseph & Mercy Waterman)
 HUSTON, Lizanne, 201 W. Commerce St., Bridgeton, NJ 08302 (Joseph & Mercy Waterman)
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 IRONSIDE, Mrs. Joseph (Carolyn Flint) P.O. Box 372, Dexter, NM 88230 (Joseph)
 KNAPP, Mrs. Vernon (Barbara J. Phillips) 206 Lake Rd., Congers, NY 10920 (Mary)
 KNAPP, Darlene, 206 Lake Rd., Congers, NY 10920 (Mary)
 KNAPP, Vernon L. Jr., 206 Lake Rd., Congers, NY 10920 (Mary)
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 LONG, Rev. Lewis Clark III, P.S.C.1, Box 361028, Lackland Air Force, TX 78236 (Joseph)
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 MATHEWSON, Edward W., 2950 So. County Trail, E. Greenwich, RI 02818 (Mary)
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 MATHEWSON, Christopher Brooks, 2950 So. County Trail, E. Greenwich, RI 02818 (Mary)
 MATHEWSON, Shawn Catherine, 2950 So. County Trail, E. Greenwich, RI 02818 (Mary)
 MILLER, Mrs. Charles (Vera Smith) 8110 Troost Ave., Apt. 310, Kansas City, MO 64131 (Joseph)
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 RESIDE, Charles Jerome, 121 Carrier St., Liberty, NY 12754 (Mary)
 RESIDE, Charles Jay, 121 Carrier St., Liberty, NY 12754 (Mary)
 RESIDE, Lisa Lynn, 121 Carrier St., Liberty, NY 12754 (Mary)
 SAYLES, George Arthur, 2950 South County Trail, E. Greenwich, RI 02818 (Mary)
 SAYLES, John Crosbie III, RFD3, Box 151, Norwich, CT 06360 (Mary)
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 45505 (Mary)
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 STOCKWELL, Alexandra, Middle Rd., Rowley, MA 01969 (Mercy Winsor)
 STOCKWELL, John Frederick, Middle Rd., Rowley, MA 01969 (Mercy Winsor)
 STOCKWELL, Stephanie E., Middle Rd., Rowley, MA 01969 (Mercy Winsor)
 STOCKWELL, William Apel, Middle Rd., Rowley, MA 01969 (Mercy Winsor)
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 STROUD, David Wayne, 3 Redwood Dr., Orlando, FL 32807 (Mary)
 STROUD, John Wealey, 3 Redwood Dr., Orlando, FL 32807 (Mary)
 STROUD, Richard Keith, 3 Redwood Dr., Orlando, FL 32807 (Mary)
 STROUD, Howard Lee, 2729 South Broadway, Apt. 181, Tyler, TX 75701 (Mary)
 STROUD, Kimberly Ann, 2729 South Broadway, Apt. 181, Tyler, TX 75701 (Mary)
 STROUD, Lisa Ann, 1809 Jasper Dr., Orlando, FL 32807 (Mary)
 STROUD, Roger Lee, 1809 Jasper Dr., Orlando, FL 32807 (Mary)
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 Van SHAW, Mrs. W. H. (Tula Norwood) 3218 Austin St., Amarillo, TX 79109 (Mary)
 YATES, Mrs. Harold W. (Jean Fletcher) 251 Brookline Ave., Davtona Beach, FL 32018 (Joseph)
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 YOUNG, Ronald Edwin, 1223 Venus St., Cedar Hill, TX 75104 (Joseph)

ROGER WILLIAMS

During his two years in Plymouth, Williams not only converted many of the colonists to his ideal of religious liberty but he also became widely known for his successful missionary work among the Indians. An important phase of this work was the compiling of an Indian dictionary.

News of this work came to the people in Salem, and they invited him to return to Salem, in spite of the opposition of Boston church authorities and he returned to Salem in August 1633, where he immediately began challenging the church-state government in Boston. He advocated complete separation of church and state. He advocated that non-believers should not be required to take oaths when called upon to testify as witnesses. Critics contended this was outright heresy.

And, it was recalled, he had written a paper when in Plymouth contending that the King of England had no right to give away land belonging originally to the Indians without first purchasing it from them. This caused furor.

Anger against the rebellious Williams and his Salem followers continued to mount in Boston and in October he was summoned before the General Court. This Court consisted of the Governor, Deputy Governor and eight assistants who sat grim faced on a raised platform as the preacher from Salem was escorted into the courtroom. Four formal charges centering on Williams' contention that the civil power had no rightful authority over the conscience were read and the trial got under way.

Firmly, his voice ringing with sincerity, the preacher again declared his conviction that a man's conscience should be free from civil controls, stating he was ready to be

bound and banished rather than renounce his opinions. The General Court found Williams guilty of disseminating "news and Dangerous opinions" and ordered him banished from the Bay Colony.

When Williams refused to obey their summons in January to come to Boston so he could be deported to England, a detail of armed men was sent from Boston to take him by force but the preacher had vanished, had left Salem at night in company with a few friends. This caused anger and concern among members of the General Court, and they received word later that Roger Williams had found refuge among friendly Indians and was planning a new colony. He finally arrived beyond the jurisdiction of Massachusetts and Plymouth and bought land from his Indian friends, and named the place "Providence", and established the first American government by mutual consent.

In July 1643 Williams returned to England and obtained a charter for full power to rule themselves. This was the beginning of Rhode Island. He built a Baptist church, the first in America, and established complete freedom of religion, even for Jews and Catholics. This was far ahead of the Bay Colony and also ahead of any other English settlement in America.

This was the beginning of religious liberty in America and millions of Americans today pay homage to Roger Williams as the father of religious liberty.

From the American Baptist - June 1974

BEGINNING OUR 83RD YEAR

OFFICERS - SEPTEMBER 1974 TO SEPTEMBER 1975

Honorary President Bertha Jordan Chase b. May 9, 1873 age 101 Mass.
 Honorary President Minnie Barrett Randall b. May 26, 1873 age 101 Conn.
 Honorary Vice President Frances Smith Vance b. August 24, 1874 age 100 Ohio
 President Mrs. Clifford Brown
 180 Brown Street, Providence, R. I. 02906
 1st Vice President Mr. Earl Davis
 11 Harbor Terrace, Cranston, R. I. 02910
 2nd Vice President Col. Preston Beauregard
 19 Norwood Rd., Union Village, Woonsocket, R. I. 02895
 Recording Secretary Mrs. Wallace B. Mathewson
 2930 So. County Trail, East Greenwich, R. I. 02818
 Corresponding Secretary Mrs. E. Warren Colwell
 61 Gladstone Street, Cranston, R. I. 02920
 Treasurer Mrs. Lillian F. Broome
 112 Pontiac Av., Cranston, R. I. 02910
 Registrar Mrs. Charles W. Anthony
 23 Oakland Ave., Cranston, R. I. 02910
 Historian Mrs. William Haelson
 108 Brightwood Ave., North Providence, R. I. 02908
 Two Directors nominated from the floor:
 Miss Verena Williams Edward Rathbon
 Chaplain appointed by the Executive Board Mrs. Leroy F. Garland
 442 Washington St., Coventry, R. I. 02816
 Program Committee appointed by the Chair:
 Mrs. Ronald J. R. Platt, Jr., Chairman; Mrs. Harold Williams, Mrs. William Wirth,
 Mr. Peter Garland, Mrs. George W. Davis
 Conversation Corner Mrs. Harold Williams, Chairman
 Please notify Mrs. Williams (Tel. 467-7594) if you wish to exhibit any unusual
 collections or items of interest to all.
 Librarian and Custodian Mrs. Charles W. Anthony
 Sunshine Committee Miss Bertha Phillips
 Publicity Mr. & Mrs. Alden Saunders
 Auditors Mr. Webb W. Wilder and Miss Alice W. Roe
 Reception Committee Mr. & Mrs. Harold Williams, Col. & Mrs. Preston
 Beauregard, Mr. Ralph N. Battey, Mrs. Ernest Mowry, Mrs. Nettie Sedgwick plus the
 Executive Board.