

THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

1996-1997 No. 83

Incorporated January 30, 1906
Providence, Rhode Island



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Cousins and Friends:

Thank you for re-electing me as your President once again. Having headed the Roger Williams Family Association for four years during the early eighties, it's good to be back. I wish to thank the officers of this association who supported me while I completed the term of George Williams after his resignation in January. At the time, I was Governor General of The General Society of Mayflower Descendants. I completed three years in that position in September, and you elected me to serve this association four days later.

We have been blessed with so many active and dedicated officers, such as Birdella Corbitt, John and Ann Prokopowicz, Meredith Smith, Janis Stevenson, and Elsie Williams, who are continuing in office. Our new Vice-President, Frank Stevenson, has planned an active schedule of events (listed on next page). And please note that George Williams has invited us back to Prudence Island next June for our annual picnic. Our first trip to the island in June of 1995 was most memorable, and I know that our members will enjoy another visit to George's summer home.

I have appointed Past President Dorothy White to replace me as Chairman of the Lineage Book Committee and expect that this year will see our second volume of *Descendants of Roger Williams*. This volume will encompass the descendants of Freeborn Williams. Please note that Volume I, the family of Mercy Williams - Waterman and Winsor lines - is still available (see enclosed flyer). We are working on the rest of the family lines and encourage any member with genealogical interest to assist the committee in researching the lines of Mary, Daniel, and Joseph Williams.

To publish our Williams family lineages we need to continually improve and update our records, especially those of members who joined a number of years ago when we didn't require as much information as we do now. Therefore, we ask that you update your Williams genealogy by sending us births, marriages, and deaths as they occur. Always give the precise location (town and state) of the vital record so that we won't lose track of your family's migration. We would also appreciate receiving any personal history, with reference to occupation, education, hobbies, and any interesting positions held or honors earned. Please send this information to A. John Prokopowicz, who has taken on the arduous task of compiling and maintaining a database of all Roger Williams descendants. John's address is 168 Forest Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910 (e-mail 71664.352@compuserve.com).

Looking to the future, the expansion of our membership should be the major concern, with the accent on bringing our younger members into active participation in the association. There are millions of descendants out there, and we need to mount a campaign to make them aware of the organization and what Roger Williams stood for. One possibility is to create active chapters in other states so that our members around the country might participate.

I solicit any thoughts you might have for improving our association and look forward to meeting many of you at family gatherings. Please note the dates and locations of our upcoming meetings on your personal calendar. My best wishes to all for the holiday season and to your good health for the coming year.

November 1996

Col. Robert Allen Greene
President

CALENDAR

November 1996 - October 1997

Saturday - November 23, 1996 at 11:00 am


Rhode Island Historical Society Library - 121 Hope Street, Providence, RI
Meredith Sorozan and fellow librarians will give a tour of the library and offer valuable insight into various approaches to genealogical research. Following the tour, our group will proceed a short distance to 3 Steeple Street for lunch and a business meeting.

Saturday - December 7, 1996 at 2:00 pm

Valentine Whitman House - Great Road (corner of Whalen Road), Lincoln, RI
Cathy Prescott of the Friends of Valentine Whitman House will give our group a private tour of this historic 1694 stone-ender, beautifully decorated for the holidays. Our group has been invited by Ms. Prescott to remain after the tour for a business meeting and then join in the historic district's special holiday festivities beginning at 3:00 pm. Attractions will include a harpist, caroling, trolley rides to the Eleazer Arnold House, hot cider and holiday treats. Directions: Route 295 North; exit at Route 7 North; right onto Route 116 North; right onto Great Road (just after Route 146 overpass); house is on left at corner of Whalen Road.

Note: A small contribution of \$3 per person will be collected at the door for this special tour.

Saturday - March 15, 1997 at 12:00 noon

Kountry Kitchen - 10 Smith Avenue, Greenville, RI 
Following our business meeting and a lovely luncheon, Susan Carpenter of Cherry Valley Herb Farm will present a talk on herbal lore of colonial times. As a special feature, herbal favors will be given to all attending. Directions: Route 295, exit to Route 44 West; left onto Route 116 South (Smith Avenue) at traffic light; left into Kountry Kitchen parking lot just a short distance down the road.

Note: Dinner is \$10 per person at the door and includes choice of charbroiled honey dijon chicken with steamed broccoli or oven-roasted potatoes or oven-baked scrod with fresh vegetables and wild garden rice; dessert, non-alcoholic beverage, and gratuity. Please call Frank Stevenson at 401-568-4016 no later than March 1, 1997 to make your reservation and order your entrée.

Saturday - April 12, 1997 at 11:00 am

Gilbert Stuart Birthplace - 815 Gilbert Stuart Road, North Kingstown, RI
Enjoy a journey back in time as we tour the birthplace of Gilbert Stuart, foremost portraitist of George Washington. Our guide will show us around this lovely wooded homestead on the shores of the Mattatuxet Brook, including the house which was built in 1751 and features a working 18th century snuff mill, the first in America. Following the tour, we will travel a short distance to the Steak Lodge at 945 Boston Neck Road, Narragansett (just beyond Bonnet Shores) for a business meeting and a delightful luncheon self-ordered from their extensive menu (\$4.95-\$9.95). Directions: Route 95 South; Route 4 South (becomes Route 1 South); left onto Gilbert Stuart Road after Route 138 exit (watch for sign).

Note: A small fee of \$2.00 per person will be charged for the tour. Please call Frank Stevenson at 401-568-4016 no later than March 29, 1997 so that we may let the restaurant know how many people to expect.

Sunday - May 18, 1997 at 11:00 am

Meeting House of the First Baptist Church in America - 75 North Main, Providence, RI
Celebrate Founder's Day at the oldest Baptist church in America. The congregation was founded by Roger Williams in 1638, and meets in this historic building erected in 1775. For those interested, a guided tour of the church will be available after the service. A self-ordered luncheon and business meeting will follow at 1:00 pm at Eileen Darling's

IN SEARCH OF ROGER WILLIAMS

If you're planning a trip to Rhode Island and would like to include some sites connected to Roger Williams in your itinerary, simply consult the list below. This list was compiled from past Bulletins of the Association and from our booklets entitled "Memorials to Roger Williams" and "A Brief Biography of Roger Williams."

Capitol Building - 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

In the House Chambers is a shield at the top of the center panels of tapestry depicting the landing of Roger Williams and his greeting by the Indians.

Central Baptist Church - 372 Wayland Avenue, Providence

This church has a window featuring a bust of Roger Williams in one panel and, directly beneath that, the steeple of the First Baptist Meeting House in Providence, which was founded by Roger Williams. Also, there is a piece of slate from "Slate Rock" embedded in the floor of the narthex of the church.

City Hall - Kennedy Plaza, Providence

On the façade of this building, high above the front entrance facing Exchange Place mall, is a sculptured relief representing the face of Roger Williams. Inside, in the Division of Archives and History, is kept the original deed or "Town Evidence" given to Roger Williams by Narragansett Indian Sachems Canonicus and Miantonomi. This document, dated March 24, 1638, was signed by Canonicus with a bow and by Miantonomi with an arrow, and confirmed earlier verbal grants of land. Restoration of the deed was provided by the Roger Williams Family Association. Also in this building is kept the official seal of the City of Providence depicting the landing of Roger Williams on "Slate Rock" and his greeting by the Indians.

Prospect Terrace - Prospect Street, Providence

Overlooking the city of Providence is a large statue of Roger Williams. The statue is made of Rhode Island blue-white granite, measures 14' high, and weighs 10 tons. It is flanked by two posts forming a rectangular arch. This wonderful statue was dedicated June 29, 1939 and may be seen by train passengers riding through Providence between New York and Boston. In 1936 Roger Williams' remains were disinterred from North Burial Ground (having previously been disinterred from their original burial site in the orchard at the rear of his home lot), placed in a bronze container, and set into the base of this monument. A second bronze container at the base contains the records of the Roger Williams Monument Association, which raised the funds necessary to build the monument. Nearby is a bronze marker honoring Roger Williams as the first Governor of the State. This Governor's Marker was dedicated July 4, 1954 by Mrs. Clifford W. Brown, President of the Roger Williams Family Association. A photograph of the marker was published in Ralph S. Mohr's "Rhode Island Governors for Three Hundred Years."

Roger Williams National Memorial Park - 282 North Main Street, Providence

One of the nation's smallest national parks, it is comprised of 4.5 acres between North Main and Canal Street, extending southward from Smith Street to Canal Row. The park was dedicated on October 8, 1984 by the National Park Service and features beautifully landscaped grounds. A Visitors' Center in the northeast corner contains an exhibit on Roger Williams and offers various books by or about Roger Williams and other related subjects for purchase. There is ample parking off Canal Street. Inside the park is the spring used by Roger Williams and his fellow settlers at Providence. The enclosure around the spring was donated by Judge Hahn, a Jewish man who was a great admirer of Roger Williams and his pursuit of religious freedom. At 235 North Main Street, just across the street from the park's Visitor Center, is a house with a plaque which reads: "A few rods east of this spot stood the house of Roger Williams, Founder of Providence 1636."

Roger Williams Park - 1100 Elmwood Avenue, Providence

Considered one of the most beautiful parks in the United States, this park is dedicated to the memory of Roger Williams and features 453 acres of expertly landscaped woodlands and about 140 acres of natural and artificial lakes. Special attractions are the zoo - one of

Restaurant at the Ramada Inn, 940 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA.

Note: Please call Frank Stevenson at 401-568-4016 no later than May 1, 1997 so that we may let the restaurant know how many people to expect.

Saturday - June 21, 1997 at 9:30 am

Summer Home of George Wightman Williams, Prudence Island, RI

Enjoy an all-day picnic with your cousins on the island that Roger Williams once owned! Bring a lunch - beverages will be provided by our host. Meet at the Bristol ferry dock at 9:30 am and board the tour bus; we'll take the 10:00 am ferry across the bay and return on the 4:00 pm ferry. Following lunch and a business meeting, a bus tour of the island will be provided to all interested, and will include a visit to "pulpit rock" where Roger Williams preached to the natives.

Note: The cost for the ferry is approximately \$6 per person; an additional charge for the bus will be pro-rated among the passengers.

Saturday - September 20, 1997 at 1:30 pm

Boat House, Roger Williams Park, Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI.

At our 104th Annual Meeting, the Association's Officers and Committee Chairmen will present their annual reports, and Officers and Directors will be elected for the following year. Dues are payable at this time. Christine Spidell, a descendant of one of the founders of the Association, will give a lively presentation on her fascinating research into her Williams ancestry. Chris will also display some memorabilia she discovered from the early years of the Association. Refreshments will be provided by our Hospitality Committee. Before you leave the park, you may wish to view the Roger Williams statue, dedicated 120 years before on October 16, 1877, or visit the Williams' family cemetery near the park entrance.

Saturday - October 18, 1997 at 11:00 am

Roger Williams National Memorial, 282 North Main Street, Providence, RI

Join your Williams cousins in a celebration of Roger Williams Day! Following a business meeting at the park's Visitor Center, the group will proceed to Prospect Terrace, just a short distance away. Accompanied by a contingent of Kentish Guards, we will honor our ancestor with a brief ceremony at his burial site and gather for a group photo beneath his statue. A self-ordered luncheon will follow at nearby 3 Steeple Street.

If you have a current address for any of the following members, please let us know so we may send them a 1996-1997 Bulletin:

Barnhardt, Luther E. III	..... E. Rochester, NY	Reid, Glenn S.	..... Dallas, TX
Beamer, Helen (Saunders)	..... Tucson, AZ	Riley, Priscilla (Miller)	..... Vineyard Hvn., MA
Blackinton, Richard R.	..... No. Attleboro, MA	Romer, Rev. William M.	..... Ballston Spa, NY
Bradley, Miriam (Camp)	..... Aptos, CA	Shippee, Steven W.	..... Ossining, NY
Colwell, Mrs. Chester B.	..... Johnston, RI	Smith, David A. Jr.	..... Wichita, KS
Corbello, Bennie W.	..... Lake Charles, LA	Smith, Helen M.	..... Toronto, Canada
Corbello, Elizabeth (Leithhead)	..... Lake Charles, LA	Snow, Marcellus S.	..... Honolulu, HI
Corbello, Richard A.	..... Lake Charles, LA	Steinhauer, Evangeline (Benton)	..... Eugene, OR
Crook, Ruth (Topliff)	..... Warwick, RI	Stroud, Andrew C.	..... Tampa, FL
Fenner, Alice (Cranston)	..... Wilmington, NC	Stroud, Bradley A.	..... Tampa, FL
Handrigan, Catherine (Pray)	..... Rehoboth, MA	Stroud, Lisa A.	..... Tampa, FL
Helm, Cazenova (Miller)	..... Augusta, GA	Sullivan, Michael	..... Narragansett, RI
Huxtable, Eric S.	..... APO New York, NY	Sullivan, Sherry	..... Narragansett, RI
Long, Christopher S.	..... Clayton, NC	Taylor, Marlys (Williams)	..... Greenville, SC
Miller, Charles Everett Jr.	..... La Habra, CA	Trim, Diane J.	..... Lawrence, MA
Moore, Alice (Hugli)	..... Washington, DC	Trim, Linda M.	..... Lawrence, MA
Pepper, Harriet (Murdock)	..... No. Scituate, RI	Wennberg, Donald E.	..... Providence, RI
Potter, Deborah (Catlow)	..... Auburndale, FL	White, Joan T. (Harper)	..... Brattleboro, VT
Potter, Jessica	..... Auburndale, FL	Willard, David L.	..... Kokomo, IN
Potter, Justin	..... Auburndale, FL	Zolman, Paul R.	..... Smithfield, RI
Randall, Hon. William	..... Framingham, MA		

the finest in the country, carousel, trolley, and museum. There is a Williams family burying ground (descendants of Joseph Williams, Esq.) near the main entrance to the park and a monument in the cemetery dedicated to Roger Williams. Near Betsy Williams' Cottage is a large statue of Roger Williams which was unveiled at a ceremony on October 16, 1877. **Roger Williams' Spring - Roger Williams Avenue, East Providence**

This spring was the site of Roger Williams' first settlement following his flight from the Massachusetts authorities. Although this area is now part of Rhode Island, at the time it was in Massachusetts territory, a fact which caused Williams, upon hearing it, to leave the area and re-settle in Providence. A bronze plaque marking the site was erected on November 6, 1936 and read: "This spring is on the site of the first settlement by Roger Williams in the (present) state of Rhode Island. Banished from the Massachusetts Bay Colony because of his religious beliefs, he fled into the wilderness and found refuge with his friend Massasoit (Chief of the Wampanoag Indians) from whom he received a grant of land upon which he built his home near this spring. Warned that he was still within the limits claimed by the (Massachusetts) Colony, he moved across the Seekonk River and founded the settlement which is now Providence." Unfortunately, this original plaque was destroyed by vandals. A marker of Vermont granite, measuring 60" x 54" x 6", was dedicated on November 8, 1975 in place of the bronze tablet. Near this spring is an oak tree planted on April 21, 1979 by the Roger Williams Family Association. A bronze tablet dedicated to Roger Williams reads: "to honor his memory and help preserve the site of his first residence after leaving Salem." This tree replaced one planted on April 27, 1902 by the Association, which had stood on the spot for seventy-seven years before dying in 1978.

Slate Rock - Corner of Williams, Gano, and Power Streets, Providence

In this small park is a plaque on "Slate Rock" designating where Roger Williams first landed in Rhode Island.

United Electric Railway Tunnel - South Main Street, Providence

At the entrance to this tunnel is a plaque which reads: "On this lot stood the first town house of Providence. Here from time to time Roger Williams presided over the freemen from 1644 to 1647."

IN MEMORIAM

Ruby (Huling) Arnold (Mrs. Ernest)	May 22, 1996	<i>Mary</i>
George E. Bracy		<i>Joseph</i>
Lillian M. (Fassell) Broome (Mrs. Milton H.)	September 4, 1996	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
John Post Reynolds Budlong	February 15, 1996	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Sherylynn (Hunt) Colwell (Mrs. Wayne P.)	September 15, 1996	<i>Freeborn</i>
Alfred B. Dudley	March 17, 1995	<i>Freeborn</i>
Alfred K. Dudley	June 22, 1995	<i>Freeborn</i>
Dr. John Greenhalgh Jr.	1991	<i>Associate</i>
Ruth (Harrington) Haslam (Mrs. Gordon R.)	July 1996	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Howard T. Holberton		<i>Associate</i>
Mrs. Sylvia (Knowlton) Hoyle	January 29, 1990	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
G. Arthur Luther	December 25, 1994	<i>Mary</i>
Kay Kirlin Moore	March 14, 1996	<i>Associate</i>
Marnece (Williams) Morrison (Mrs. George O.)		<i>Joseph</i>
Asa E. Phillips Jr.		<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Hazel Williams	January 9, 1995	<i>Daniel</i>

NEW MEMBERS

1995-1996

Allen, Russell H.	Barrington, RI	Mary
*Angell, Edgar L.	Warwick, RI	Mercy Waterman
Atkins, Laurie M.	Lowestoft, England	Mercy Waterman
*Bever, Edward E.	Winfield, KS	Joseph
*Bever, Jerry M.	Fairbanks, AK	Joseph
*Bever, Kim M.	Flint, TX	Joseph
*Budlong, Richard C. Jr.	Dallas, TX	Mercy Waterman
*Chamberlain, Stanley	Flintstone, GA	Daniel
*Colburn, Mrs. Joanne (Williams)	Foster, RI	Joseph
*Decker, Mrs. Carole E. (Jenkins)	Hackettstown, NJ	Joseph
*Goddard, Ian W.	Rockville, MD	Daniel
*Govoni, John R. Jr.	Centerville, MA	Mary
*Govoni, Kelly I.	Boston, MA	Mary
*Griffith, Robert Sumter II	Newton Grove, NC	Freeborn
*Grisham, John W.	Chatham, IL	Mary
*Hardeman, James S.	Long Beach, CA	Daniel
*Hayes, Albert E.	Wakefield, RI	Mercy Winsor
Knights, Edwin M. Jr., M.D.	Grantham, NH	Mercy Winsor
*LaGue, Adam D.	Centerville, MA	Mary
*LaGue, Lindsay J.	Centerville, MA	Mary
*LaGue, Peter E.	Centerville, MA	Mary
*Leach, Patrick J.	North Arlington, NJ	Joseph
*Mihaljevich, Michele F.	Fort Wayne, IN	Daniel
*Partridge, Howard O.	Riverside, RI	Marcy Waterman
*Reed, William A. Jr.	Griffin, GA	Joseph
*Seitz, Mrs. Janine F.	Munnsville, NY	Daniel
*Steinour, Stephen D.	East Greenwich, RI	Mercy Winsor
*Stenstrom, Mrs. Mabel F.	El Centro, CA	Joseph
*Stetson, Donald P.	Milford, NH	Mercy Winsor
*Stetson, Frank A.	Milford, NH	Mercy Winsor
*Sweazy, Robert W.	Sumner, WA	Mary
*Tuttle, Andrew R.	El Cajon, CA	Joseph
*Tuttle, Brian L.	Tempe, AZ	Joseph
*Tuttle, Mrs. Guille E. (Vasquez)	Alpine, CA	Joseph
*Tuttle, Nicholas M.	El Cajon, CA	Joseph
*Tuttle, Rodney J. Jr.	El Cajon, CA	Joseph
*Whitfield, Mrs. Georgina S. (Knowlton)	North Smithfield, RI	Mercy Winsor
*Whitford, Amy Lynne	Reno, NV	Mary
*Whitford, Shereen M.	Las Cruces, NM	Mary
*Whitford, Susannah R.	Las Cruces, NM	Mary
*Winterbottom, Colin W.	Washington, DC	Daniel
*Winterbottom, Goddard W.	Rockville, MD	Daniel

* *Life Member*

The following is an excerpt from the diary of Herman G. Tucker (1858-1936), descendant of Joseph Williams, submitted by great-granddaughter Christine (Hopkins) Spidell:

*You should not thro upon the floor the crust you do not eate,
 For many a little hungry ones would think it quite a treat.
 For willful waste makes woeful wants and you may live to say,
 Oh how I wished I had the Bread I once did thro away.'*

This is what my mother taught me when a Boy. Her name was Mary Eliza Williams, Born 1820, married Stephen Tucker, Born 1810, and God has been good to me all of these days.

BEGINNING OUR 105TH YEAR 1996-1997

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Col. Robert Allen Greene P. O. Box 137, East Greenwich, RI 02818	401-884-5929, 401-884-7530
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Mr. Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Road, Glocester, RI 02814	401-568-4016
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Mrs. Ann (Rowley) Prokopowicz 168 Forest Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910	401-785-2512
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Mrs. Meredith (Rowley) Smith Wilbur Hollow Road, North Scituate, RI 02857	401-647-7204
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Mrs. Janis (Frigault) Stevenson 142 George Allen Road, Glocester, RI 02814	401-568-4016
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr. A. John Prokopowicz 168 Forest Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910	401-785-2512
<i>Registrar</i>	Mrs. Elsie (Bushnell) Williams 35 Hodsell Street, Cranston, RI 02910	401-467-7594
<i>Historian</i>	Mrs. Birdella (Wightman) Corbitt 15 Ivy Lane, Seekonk, MA 02771	508-336-9418

DIRECTORS

<i>Director</i>	Miss Gladys I. Bailey 2068 South County Trail, East Greenwich, RI 02818	401-884-9009
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Col. Robert Allen Greene P. O. Box 137, East Greenwich, RI 02818	401-884-5929
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Mrs. Gussie (Randall) Lawton 1017 Great Road, Lincoln, RI 02865	401-334-2674
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Mrs. Dorothy (Higson) White 15 Frederick Drive, Barrington, RI 02806	401-246-0246
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Mr. George Wightman Williams 8 Moses Brown Street, Providence, RI 02906	401-351-2351

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

<i>Auditors</i>	Mr. Raymond L. Hilton Jr., Mr. Everett O. White	
<i>Chaplain</i>	Mrs. Birdella (Wightman) Corbitt 15 Ivy Lane, Seekonk, MA 02771	508-336-9418
<i>Lineage Book</i>	Mrs. Dorothy (Higson) White 15 Frederick Drive, Barrington, RI 02806	401-246-0246
<i>Membership</i>	Mrs. Janis (Frigault) Stevenson 142 George Allen Road, Glocester, RI 02814	401-568-4016
<i>Program</i>	Mr. Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Road, Glocester, RI 02814	401-568-4016
<i>Publicity</i>	Mr. Everett O. White 15 Frederick Drive, Barrington, RI 02806	401-246-0246
<i>Sunshine</i>	Miss Dorothy W. Budlong 8 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence, RI 02906	401-331-8474
<i>Trust</i>	Miss Gladys I. Bailey, Mr. Elmer H. Palmer	