



THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

2004-2005 No. 91

Incorporated January 30, 1906
Providence, Rhode Island
www.rogerwilliams.org



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Cousins and Friends:

We are sorry to have to inform you that, for reasons of health, Walter Covell has decided to retire as President before the end of his term. We shall very much miss his abundant wit and his leadership skills. His experiences as an actor and media personality provided a valuable background for his contributions to our organization. We wish him all good spirits and good health.

We hope that many of you across our broad country will be able to visit Rhode Island sometime soon and attend one of our meetings. We always welcome our cousins from the "hinterlands." Rhode Island, Narragansett Bay, and the surrounding areas are especially beautiful in the spring and fall of the year.

Among the places of interest we will be visiting this year and next are the "Green Animals" exhibit in Portsmouth, the Gilbert Stuart Birthplace, the Maxwell House in Warren, the Sprague Mansion in Cranston, and Roger Williams Park in Providence. Our final meeting will be at the site of the Roger Williams National Memorial in Providence. There will be speakers and/or guides at most of these events.

My best wishes to all and I hope to see you sometime in Rhode Island.

Bruce Penniman
President

August 2004

PARDONED (*A BIT LATE*)

After all these years Massachusetts is going to do right by Roger Williams, pioneer advocate of the doctrine of a free church within a free State and author of numerous works, including *A Key into the Language of the Indians of America* and *The Bloody Tenents of Persecution for the Causes of Conscience*.

Arriving in Boston in 1631 with his young wife, Mary, Williams became teacher of the church at Salem. There, and in other posts, he aroused the antagonism of the authorities, it being charged against him that he held numerous heretical beliefs, among them these: that the civil power could not control conscience; that the King's patent was not just title to land in the New World, which should be purchased from its rightful owners, the Indians; that the oath should not be administered to an unregenerate man, for the oath is itself a form of prayer.

The charges were heard by the Massachusetts General Court in 1635, and a sentence of banishment was pronounced. The sentence was not immediately effective, but early in 1636, when he learned that he was about to be arrested, Williams fled with four companions to what is now Rhode Island. There the five established a settlement (paying the Indians for their land) which they called Providence. Subsequently, Williams obtained a royal charter for the Providence Plantations in Narragansett Bay. In 1683 he died after an honorable career, but the sentence of banishment from Massachusetts remained against him.

Last week a committee of the Massachusetts Legislature voted unanimously to extend a pardon to Roger Williams. They acted not because they wished to atone for the harshness of the forebears but because Rhode Island is celebrating its tercentenary this year, and officials of that state had asked for a little cooperation.

© Copyright 1936 The Providence Journal

CALENDAR

September 2004 - June 2005

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2004 - 11:00 AM

Picnic Lunch & Business Meeting

We will enjoy lunch and a meeting at the home of Anson and Barbara McCurdy at 195 King Charles Drive, Portsmouth, RI. Please bring a picnic lunch and a lawn chair. Following, for those members interested, Barbara has arranged a tour of Green Animals Topiary Gardens nearby the McCurdy home. There is a charge of \$8.00 for the tour.

Directions to McCurdy Home: From the north, go over Mt. Hope Bridge and bear right, continue to a light after the Island Nursery, and take another right onto West Main Road (Rte 114). Continue about two miles to the last of three traffic lights. The third light is King Charles Drive; take a right and the McCurdy home is the 7th house on the right. From Newport, on West Shore Road, it is about 6 miles to these lights. Go left at the first of the three lights, which should be King Charles Drive.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2004 - 11:00 AM

Tour of Gilbert Stuart Birthplace Museum

Gilbert Stuart was born December 3, 1755 in Saunterstown, RI, the third child of a Scottish immigrant. One of 18th century America's master portrait artists, Stuart is best known for his portrait of George Washington, which has been the identifiable image on the U.S. dollar bill for over a century. Stuart lived at the birthplace until he was seven years old. During his lifetime, Stuart painted over a thousand portraits, including Presidents Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe as well as war heroes and many other socially prominent men and women. He eventually settled in Boston, MA where he died on July 9th, 1828 at the age of 72. Following the tour of the Gilbert Stuart Birthplace Museum in Wickford, RI, we will gather at 12:30 PM for lunch and a business meeting at Chet's Quonset Inn. The museum tour is \$5.00 per person; luncheon is \$8.95 plus tax and 15% gratuity. Entrée choices are Stuffed Scrod, Chicken a la King, Beef Burgundy, or Chicken Parmagiana with coffee, tea, or soft drink. Please call Trish Woodard-Harmon at 401-737-3142 by October 8, 2004 with your choice of entrée.

Directions: From Providence, take 95 South to Route 4; take exit 9, then bear left toward Newport/South County. Turn left onto W. Allenton Road; turn right onto Tower Hill Road/US-1; turn right onto Boston Neck Road/RI 1A; turn slight right onto Gilbert Stuart Road. From museum to Chet's Quonset Inn, head north on Gilbert Stuart Road toward Boston Neck Road/RI 1A; turn slight left onto Boston Neck Road/RI 1A and follow; right onto Brown Street/RI 1A and follow; turn slight right onto W. Main Street/RI 1A; turn slight right onto Post Road/US-1; end at 7366 Post Road in North Kingstown.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2004 - 11:00 AM

Tour of Maxwell House

We will tour the Maxwell House, located on the corner of Church and Water Streets in Warren, RI. This brick Colonial house was the home of James and Level Maxwell, prominent ship owners and merchants. The house is now owned by the Massasoit Historical Society. The tour is \$1.99 per person. Lunch will follow at 12:30 at Crossroads Pub at 133 Market Street in Warren. Please call Bruce Penniman at 508-252-9798 by November 6, 2004 if you plan to attend.

Directions: From Providence, take Route 195 East to Exit 7 (Rte. 114, Seekonk/Barrington). Bear right onto Route 114 South and follow through the town of Barrington and into Warren. Just after the junction of Route 103, turn right onto Church Street and proceed to the corner of Church and Water Streets. To get to Crossroads Pub from Maxwell House, turn left and take second right onto Miller Street. Go to end; right onto North Main Street and immediate left onto Market Street.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2004 - 1:00 PM

Holiday Tour of Gov. Sprague Mansion

Members and guests will meet for a tour of the Gov. Sprague Mansion followed by holiday

refreshments at 1353 Cranston Street in Cranston, RI. The current home of the Cranston Historical Society was the former home of the politically and financially prominent Sprague family and the birthplace of two Rhode Island governors. The 28-room, 2 1/2 story house was built in 1790. A restored carriage house and stable contains carriages, sleighs, pony carts, a Gypsy wagon, and a bicentennial Conestoga wagon. A short business meeting will be held. Cost of the tour is \$8.00 per person. Please call Ann Prokopowicz at 401-785-2512 by December 6, 2004 to ensure docents.

Directions: From 95N or 95S, take Exit 16 to Rt 10 Cranston; if heading north, bear left while on the exit; if traveling south, bear right while on the exit. Proceed north approx. 1/4 miles on Rt 10 and take the Industrial Park/Cranston Street exit; stay on your left on the exit, take a left at the light to Cranston Street. Take a left onto Cranston Street; go through 6 traffic lights. At the sixth light, take a sharp right staying on Cranston Street. The Sprague Mansion is on the corner of Dyer and Cranston Street.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2005 - 12:00 Noon

Best Friends Animal Refuge

Members and guests will meet at the Warwick Public Library at 600 Sandy Lane, Warwick, RI for a business meeting and presentation by guest speaker Anne Williams Crocker. Refreshments will follow.

Directions: From I-95, take Route 37 East in Warwick, then exit onto Post Road South. Left onto Airport Road, then right onto Warwick Avenue. Right onto Sandy Lane, then left into library driveway and parking lot.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2005 - 10:30 AM

Speaker and Self-Tour of Roger Williams Park Zoo

Members and guests will meet at the Danforth Education Center at Roger Williams Park for a presentation about the current and future plans for the zoo. Following a business meeting, we will have a picnic lunch on the grounds and enjoy the Roger Williams Park Zoo. Our group rate is \$9.00 for adults; children free. Bring your own picnic lunch. Please call Frank Stevenson at 401-568-4016 by March 24, 2004.

Directions: From Providence, take Route 95 South; exit to Elmwood Avenue and follow signs to Roger Williams Park; upon entering park, follow signs to Zoo and parking lot; enter Zoo (mention RWFA for group rate) and proceed to Danforth Education Center.

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2005 - 11:00 AM

Founders' Day

We will observe Founders' Day at the First Baptist Church in America which is located at 75 North Main Street, Providence, RI. Following the church service and tour of the Church for interested members, we will meet for a picnic lunch and meeting at the home of Frank and Jill Stevenson, 142 George Allen Road, Glocester, RI. Please bring a picnic lunch and a lawn chair.

Directions to Stevenson home: From Route 95 in Providence, follow all signs to Route 6 West; head west on Route 6 through Johnston and Scituate, staying in right lane to pick up Route 101 West; after junction of Routes 101 and 102 at Countryside Restaurant, turn right at second blinking yellow light onto Pray Hill Road; proceed about 1 mile, then left onto George Allen Road; proceed about 1 mile, then left onto driveway at #142 (black mailbox, numbers on box & post). Members are encouraged to carpool as parking is limited.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2005 - 11:00 AM

Pirates & Privateers

Members and guests will meet at Roger Williams National Memorial on North Main Street in Providence for a presentation by Ranger John McNiff on Pirates and Privateers. A picnic lunch and Annual Business Meeting will follow Ranger McNiff's talk. Please pack your own lunch and bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on for a picnic on the park grounds.

Directions: From Route 95 North, take the State Office exit; go straight across Orms Street at end of exit; turn left on Smith Street; turn right at bottom of hill onto Canal Street, then immediate left into Memorial's parking lot.

THE YOUNGER BROTHER

Bradford F. Swan

We hope that Bradford Swan's article, which we are reprinting courtesy of The Providence Journal Company, will help to identify Robert Williams, brother of Roger Williams. Over the years, the researchers in our group have received many queries, trying to place Robert on Long Island, where another Robert Williams resided in the 17th Century.

Recently an invitation was extended to Rhode Island private fliers to leap into their planes on Saturday and fly down to Hicksville, Long Island, to help the townsfolk there celebrate Hicksville's tercentenary. They were called in to perform a sort of modern age reenactment of what was supposed to have been the original journey made by the town's founder from Providence to Hicksville, the founder being one Robert Williams.

The only trouble with this scheme is that the Robert Williams who founded Hicksville had nothing whatever to do with Providence - Rhode Island, that is.

This little historical fact did not deter the fliers, however. If they want or need a destination for a goodwill flight, let them go to Hicksville regardless of history; goodness knows there's little enough good will being shown these days without waiting for the okay of history.

They might even fly down bearing a clipping of this column, and read it into the record of the Town Board of Oyster Bay, thereby setting straight the town fathers who have been celebrating Robert Williams Day each May 20 since 1941 mistakenly believing that they were honoring Roger Williams' younger brother.

The Robert Williams who purchased the present site of Hicksville from the Indians on May 20, 1648, wasn't the Robert Williams of Providence and Newport. He was a worthy gentleman in his own right, who lived, married, raised a family, and died in Hicksville. It would be nice to connect him with the founder of Providence, but I don't think it can be done.

Our Robert Williams is one of the neglected early inhabitants of Providence. So far as is known he died childless, and, since most local history is written by genealogists and most genealogists aren't interested in persons who die *sine prole*, Robert Williams has been relegated to obscurity even more thoroughly than younger brothers of famous men usually are.

In many ways he was the typical younger brother. When his widowed mother died in 1634 his older brothers Roger and Sydrach were abroad, Roger in New England and Sydrach in the Near East, where he was a merchant. Robert was made executor of the will. He promptly fooled the money away, by dabbling in certain get-rich-quick schemes into which some London sharpies lured him.

Ten years later Roger Williams brought suit against the overseers of the will, trying to get his share of the estate. He never had any success, partially, he admitted, because his conscience wouldn't let him take an oath, which was a serious legal handicap.

Roger Williams had gone to London to get a patent for Providence Plantations; when he returned to Providence in 1644 he probably brought his younger brother with him. At any rate, Robert Williams appears in Providence about that time, and was assigned a house-lot at the southerly end of the town, probably about where Wickenden Street meets Fox Point Boulevard.

Robert Williams may have been a somewhat flighty youth, but he appears to have been an educated man, and Providence at that time was sorely in need of educated men. Robert Williams became almost immediately one of his brother's strongest political allies.

Generally speaking he was a man of capabilities in town politics. He could handle town meetings, as is shown by his frequent elections to the post of moderator, and he often wrote the official letters for the town to the neighboring colonies.

There is evidence, however, that he was something of a hothead, and he was sometimes in trouble when the factional fights broke out.

Once, during the summer of 1648, he apparently went on a binge. The town records show that he was drunk when Benedict Arnold came into town and took possession of John Throckmorton's pinnacle, and that same evening he put the town to a charge of twelve shillings for "setting a needless watch." Apparently he was on something of a rampage.

The town records have preserved the testimony in colorful language:

"John Olderkin affirms that there was a writing that was in Robert Williams his hands that he had the keeping of, & was some way defeated of it which sett him in a rage, & then he would come at force and so John Olderkin came with him; and would have him go home or to his brothers; and he would not but would go aboard again; and as he was going he tumbled overboard & could hardly be recovered & so John Olderkin went his way & sent Daniel Comstock to look to him."

Whatever his frailties, Robert Williams served the town well. When his brother Roger went to England to seek a charter in 1651, Robert was one of those upon whom the responsibility for running the town naturally fell, and he did a reasonably good job of holding the shaky government together.

One of the facts about Robert Williams which has always interested me is that he was the original owner of twenty acres of pasture in downtown Providence. He and his heirs would have been well heeled if he had stuck it out here.

But instead he sold the land and went off to Newport, where, in 1672, he was the schoolmaster. I'm not sure about it but I think he was the first schoolmaster of record in the whole colony. If that's the case perhaps he deserves to have a school named after him.

After he got to Newport he was elected general solicitor - the equivalent of attorney general - of the colony for four years, in 1673, 1674, 1676, and 1680. After 1680 nothing is known of him. B.F.S.

© Copyright The Providence Journal

IN MEMORIAM

Virginia Adair (Mrs. A. Dixon, Jr.)	30 Sept. 2002	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Barbara W. Byrne (Mrs. Francis X.)	24 Sept. 2003	<i>Mary, Freeborn, Joseph</i>
Esther L. Dickinson (Mrs. Tommy G.)	21 Dec. 2001	<i>Daniel</i>
Raymond F. Eggers, Jr.	29 June 2003	<i>Mary, Daniel</i>
Aldora Sayles Golembieski	29 Apr. 2004	<i>Mary</i>
Albert E. Hayes, Jr.	12 Aug. 2003	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
Ethel Jarvis (Mrs. Russell F.)		<i>Daniel</i>
Harold S. Morton	13 April 2003	<i>Joseph</i>
Laura Quimby (Mrs. Russell W.)	Dec. 1992	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Florence H. Schmidt (Mrs. William H.)	18 Aug. 2003	<i>Mary</i>
Cynthia A. Westcott (Mrs. Ellis R.)	20 Jan. 2004	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
George Whitehead, Jr.	14 Sept. 2003	<i>Mary</i>
Doris M. Wiener (Mrs. Frederick B.)	9 Aug. 2003	<i>Daniel</i>
Mason B. Williams	26 Feb. 2004	<i>Joseph</i>
Clarence C. Williams, Jr.		<i>Daniel</i>

NEW MEMBERS

2003-2004

Leroy R. Amunrud	Wibaux, MT	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Katherine W. Bergius	New York, NY	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
Patricia O. Birkell	Eugene, OR	<i>Daniel</i>
*Carol H. Boyett	Atlanta, GA	<i>Mary</i>
Donnalou Broberg	Lansing, IL	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Donald P. Budlong	Hampstead, NC	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Claire G. Dietz	Gold Canyon, AZ	<i>Daniel</i>
April P. Ducat	Natick, MA	<i>Joseph</i>
*Lawrence K. Gates, Jr., M.D.	Salem, OR	<i>Mary</i>
*L. Keith Gates, M.D.	St. George, UT	<i>Mary</i>
*Meredith A. Haas	Belchertown, MA	<i>Daniel</i>
Joyce A. Lanier	Lowell, MA	<i>Daniel</i>
*Barbara Larned	Barrington, RI	<i>Daniel, Mary, Joseph</i>
*Scott O. Lubker	Wellesley, MA	<i>Mary</i>
Evelyn S. Luddy	Swansea, MA	<i>Joseph</i>
William W. Luther	Valinda, CA	<i>Mary</i>
*Graham P. Mann	Warwick, RI	<i>Daniel</i>
*Thomas F. Marvin	Indianapolis, IN	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
*John D. Marvin	Reading, MA	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Carol L. McQuinn	Newburgh, NY	<i>Mary</i>
*Joan A. Noonan	East Longmeadow, MA	<i>Joseph</i>
*David E. Outerbridge	Belfast, ME	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
*Susan E. Rand	Irvine, CA	<i>Mary</i>
*Christopher T. Rand	Irvine, CA	<i>Mary</i>
*Virginia G. Rand	Irvine, CA	<i>Mary</i>
*John D. Rogers	Newburyport, MA	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
*Sara L. Rohrs	Columbia, MO	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Tara W. Rossi	Bernardsville, NJ	<i>Daniel</i>
*Patricia A. Russo	Cranston, RI	<i>Daniel, Mary, Joseph</i>
Richard A. Stansfield	Wayne, NJ	<i>Mary</i>
Troy Turner	Fort Wayne, IN	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
*Donald E. Waight	Alameda, CA	<i>Daniel</i>
*Ray A. Waight	Alameda, CA	<i>Daniel</i>
*John C. Williams	Little Compton, RI	<i>Daniel, Mary, Joseph</i>
*Norman P. Williams	Rumford, RI	<i>Daniel, Mary, Joseph</i>
*Christine M. Williams-Miller	Glen Cove, NY	<i>Daniel, Mary, Joseph</i>
Stuart R. Wood	Bellevue, NE	<i>Daniel</i>
* <i>Life Member</i>		

Visit the Roger Williams Family Association online at www.rogerwilliams.org

Lineal descendants of Roger Williams and their spouses are eligible to join the Roger Williams Family Association. Dues are \$5.00 for Annual Membership or \$50 for Life Membership. To request an application, please contact our Registrars or our Corresponding Secretary. Application forms are also available on our web site. Please note that references are REQUIRED. Incomplete applications will be returned.

BEGINNING OUR 113TH YEAR

2004-2005

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Mr. Bruce Penniman 7 Winterberry Ln., Rehoboth, MA 02769; 508-252-9798
<i>1st Vice President</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Mrs. Ann (Rowley) Prokopowicz 168 Forest Ave., Cranston, RI 02910; 401-785-2512
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Mrs. Patricia A. Woodard-Harmon 74 Spruce St., Warwick, RI 02886; 401-737-3142, secretary@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Miss Gladys I. Bailey 2153 South County Tr., East Greenwich, RI 02818; 401-884-4988
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr. Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016, treasurer@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Registrars</i>	Mrs. Elsie (Bushnell) Williams, Mrs. Anne (Williams) Crocker 35 Hodsell St., Cranston, RI 02910; 401-467-7594
<i>Historian</i>	Mrs. Barbara (Wright) McCurdy PO Box 717, Portsmouth, RI 02871; 401-682-2404, historian@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Archivist</i>	Mrs. Carole (Potter) Cargill 31 Cliff Dr., Assonet, MA 02702

DIRECTORS

<i>Director, Past President</i>	Mr. Walter H. Covell 47 Bowden Ave., Barrington, RI 02806; 401-245-6279
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Col. Robert Allen Greene PO Box 137, E. Greenwich, RI 02818; 401-884-5929, 401-884-7530
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Mr. Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016
<i>Director</i>	Mrs. Janis (Frigault) Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Mrs. Dorothy (Higson) White 15 Frederick Dr., Barrington, RI 02806; 401-246-0246
<i>Director</i>	Mr. Everett O. White 15 Frederick Dr., Barrington, RI 02806; 401-246-0246
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Mr. George W. Williams Bay Spring Village, 147 Bay Spring Ave., #304, Barrington, RI 02806

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

<i>Auditor</i>	Mr. Raymond L. Hilton, Jr.
<i>Chaplain</i>	Mrs. Anne (Williams) Crocker 35 Hodsell St., Cranston, RI 02910; 401-467-7594
<i>Lineage Book</i>	Mrs. Dorothy (Higson) White 15 Frederick Dr., Barrington, RI 02806; 401-246-0246, lineage@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Membership Database</i>	Mr. Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016, database@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Program</i>	Mr. Bruce Penniman 7 Winterberry Ln., Rehoboth, MA 02769; 508-252-9798
<i>Publicity</i>	Mr. Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016
<i>Sunshine</i>	Mrs. Anne (Williams) Crocker 35 Hodsell St., Cranston, RI 02910; 401-467-7594
<i>Trust</i>	Miss Gladys I. Bailey
<i>Web Site/Graphic Design</i>	Mrs. Janis (Frigault) Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016