



THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

2009-2010 No. 96

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



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Cousins and Friends,

Serving my first year as President was a pleasure--working with the dedicated members of the Executive Committee, greeting new members and resuming relationships with my cousins near and far.

The highlight of the year for me was the duty, on behalf of the Roger Williams Family Association, of announcing an Honorary Lifetime Membership which was presented to John McNiff of the National Park Service at our annual meeting in June. This unique honor is in recognition of his exemplary service in public education and in appreciation of his professional and personal contributions in honoring and preserving the memory of Roger Williams. John is a Park Ranger at the Roger Williams National Memorial in Providence, and delights our members each June with his authentic portrayals of Roger Williams, Blackstone, and others of their time. I visited the Memorial again in early July, and learned that John had been granted permission to display his gold RWA pin on his uniform shirt, and he does so with much pride.

One of my personal favorite program experiences was the annual Flutterby exhibit in May at the zoo at Roger Williams Park in Providence. I was able to take some great photos of the numerous species of colorful butterflies fluttering throughout the greenhouse. It was my first visit to the zoo, and it's definitely on my "go there again" list. Last November we learned about Peter Harrison, America's first architect, at our tour of The Redwood Library in Newport. Dr. Clifford Brown's talk in Chepachet on "Religion and Architecture: Two Centuries of New England Meeting House Design" captured everyone's attention, and a video is also available. The December celebration at the Browns' home in Providence is always a festive start to the holiday season!

This letter would not be complete without expressing the sorrow of the Executive Committee upon the loss this past year of two good friends and past-presidents of our Association. Walter Covell and Bruce Penniman were dedicated members, and we will miss them.

Many thanks to Dorothy White for completing the current inventory of the Association archives housed in the library at Roger Williams University in Bristol. Dot accomplished the daunting task of organizing, storing, and documenting countless items and materials acquired over many years. Her tireless commitment to the task and keen attention to detail has resulted in a priceless document. The transcript of a CBS Evening News segment included here is an example of the treasures catalogued by Dot. Oh, yes, and in her spare time Dot also proofed our upcoming book, *Descendants of Roger Williams, Volume IV*. Authored by Elsie B. Williams, this book traces the descendants of Joseph Williams, the sixth and youngest child of Roger Williams. The book will be highlighted at our November meeting; come meet the author and have your copy signed by Elsie!

I am looking forward to my second year in office! Take a close look at our calendar of programs planned for the coming year. If you have never attended, take that first step-- come meet your cousins. If you live outside the Rhode Island area, I hope you might schedule a vacation trip back to your roots and also join us. You will surely learn a little, and probably a lot, more about your grandfather, Roger Williams.

Sincerely,

Mary French Channing
President
August 2009

CALENDAR

September 2009 - June 2010

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2009 - 1:30 PM

Tour of Rose Island Lighthouse

Members and their guests are invited to visit Rose Island Lighthouse located in Newport harbor. We will leave Fort Adams in Newport at 1:30 PM from the ferry dock located across from the Fort Adams Visitors' Center. We will board the Jamestown Ferry for our trip to the island. There we will be taken on a tour of the historic lighthouse and grounds. We will have a meeting and refreshments under a tent. You might want to bring a lawn chair so that you can sit and enjoy the magnificent views of Newport and the harbor. We will return around 3:30 PM.

Directions: From Providence, take Rte. 95 South to Rte. 4. Right onto Rte. 138 East; cross over the Pell and Newport Bridges and exit to Newport. Take a right at the end of the exit ramp and proceed along Farewell St., then right onto America's Cup Ave. Continue through 5 stoplights, then right onto Thames St. Follow it all the way to a Shell gas station, then right onto Wellington Ave. Bear left and continue to a stop sign. Turn right onto Harrison Ave. and soon you will see a sign to Fort Adams. Continue to the end of the parking lot at Fort Adams and you will see the ferry dock. Parking is free. Cost of the trip is \$20.00, which includes the ferry both ways and the landing fee onto the island.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2009 - 10:00 AM

Founders' Day at First Baptist Church Followed by Lunch and Meeting

We will observe Founders' Day at First Baptist Church in America, which is located at 75 North Main St., Providence. We will meet promptly at 10:00 AM in the vestry of the Church, preceding the Church Service at 11:00 AM, to view a 45-minute DVD "Roger Williams--Freedom's Forgotten Hero," featuring four Roger Williams scholars, including Edwin S. Gausted, Prof. Emeritus, Univ. of California, Riverside, and J. Stanley Lemons, Retired Chairman of the History Dept., Rhode Island College, and Historian of First Baptist Church. Following a tour of the Church for anyone interested, we will have lunch and a meeting at Gregg's at 1303 North Main St., Providence.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2009 - 1:00 PM

Presentation by Elsie Williams & Tour of the Sprague Mansion

Members and guests are invited to the Sprague Mansion, home of the Cranston Historical Society, at 1351 Cranston St. in Cranston. Elsie Williams will give a presentation on her new book, "Descendants of Roger Williams Through His Son Joseph Williams." Books will be available for purchase and will be gladly signed by the author. A brief tour of the Sprague Mansion will follow. Light refreshments will be provided.

Directions: From Providence, take Rte. 95 South to Rte. 37 West. Follow to end, then right onto Phenix Ave. Follow Phenix Ave., which turns into Park Ave. (Rte. 12), then left onto Dyer Ave. Cross over Cranston St. and turn into mansion's parking lot on right.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009 - 2:00 PM

Holiday Celebration

Members and guests are cordially invited to meet at Marilyn & Clifford Brown's home at 180 Brown St., Providence for a festive seasonal occasion featuring a brief business meeting, a Christmas Season musical program, a Christmas carol sing-along, and a delicious array of refreshments arranged to evoke recollections of a Victorian tea.

Directions: From Rte. 95 North or South, take Rte. 195 East to the Gano St. exit. At end of exit, bear right onto Gano St.; after crossing Angell St., Gano St. changes to Taber Ave. Left onto Lloyd Ave. Right onto Brown St. and proceed one block. House is across Keene St. on your left. Parking is legal on the south side of Brown St. and on Keene St. For directions from other locations, please call (401) 331-1253.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2010 - 10:30 AM

Tour of John Carter Brown Library

We will gather at Marilyn & Clifford Brown's house at 180 Brown St. in Providence at 10:30 AM. From there we will be shuttled to the John Carter Brown Library at 94 George St., where parking can be difficult. We will take a tour of this historic library and see books printed during colonial times in America. The library's holdings include books, maps and other materials printed before the year 1825. We will then travel back to the Browns' home for lunch and business meeting.

Directions: See December meeting.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2010 - 11:00 AM

Presentation and Tour of the John Waterman Arnold House

Our meeting will be held at the John Waterman Arnold house, home of the Warwick Historical Society, at 25 Roger Williams Ave. in Warwick. Col. John Waterman Arnold, 4th great-grandson of Roger Williams, fought in the Revolutionary War, commanding the America militia in the skirmish against the English forces that burned down houses on Prudence Island, RI. This property was a working farm and dairy for many years. A presentation will be given by historian Henry Brown. A brief meeting will follow, after which we will proceed to Gregg's Restaurant at 1359 Post Rd., Warwick at 1:00 PM. Contact Trish Woodard-Harmon at 401-737-3142 Before April 10th for reservations.

Directions to Arnold House: From Providence, take Rte. 95 South to Rte. 37 East toward Warwick. Follow to end, exiting to Post Rd. North. Right onto Atlantic Ave. just after WalMart, then right at traffic light onto Warwick Ave. Second left onto Harrison Ave., following for about 0.3 mi., then right onto Roger Williams Ave.

Directions to Gregg's: From Arnold House, head back towards Harrison Ave. and turn left. Right onto Warwick Ave., then left at traffic light onto Atlantic Ave. Left onto Post Rd.; Gregg's is on the right just before the entrance to Rte. 37.

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2010 - 10:00 AM

Tour of Governor Bradford House at Mount Hope Farm and Greenvale Vineyards

Mount Hope Farm was first owned by Nathaniel Byfield, one of the original founders of Bristol (then part of Massachusetts). We will enjoy a tour of The Governor Bradford House at Mount Hope Farm. William Bradford (1729-1808) was a physician, lawyer, and United States Senator from Rhode Island. He was the great-great-grandson of the William Bradford who was Governor of Plymouth Colony. After the house tour we will travel a short distance to Greenvale Vineyards in Portsmouth to enjoy our self-catered picnic lunches. Greenvale is a farm that has been in the same family since 1863. A brief business meeting will follow. Contact Mary Channing by April 30th at 203-834-0545 or mchanning@snet.net if you plan on attending.

Directions to Mount Hope Farm, 250 Metacom Ave., Bristol, RI: From I-95 take Exit to I-195 East toward Cape Cod. Take Exit 2 to Mass. Route 136 South. Continue to RI 136 South (Metacom Ave.) for 8 miles, and Mount Hope Farm will be on your left. Use main entrance (red mail box).

Directions from Mount Hope Farm to Greenvale Vineyards, 582 Wapping Rd., Portsmouth, RI: Turn left at end of drive on Rt. 136 South. Continue over Mount Hope Bridge and take Route 138 South. Pass the State Police Barracks and take a left onto Sandy Point Ave. at the traffic light. Take the first right on Wapping Rd. The vineyard driveway is 0.9 miles on the left. Parking is in the circular drive at the end of the lane.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2010 - 11:00 AM

Presentation by Ranger John McNiff at Roger Williams Memorial

Our meeting will begin with an informative presentation given by Park Ranger and Honorary Lifetime Member John McNiff. He will do a talk on local history and the founder of Providence, Roger Williams. After Ranger McNiff's presentation, we will hold a short business meeting followed by our annual meeting as we enjoy a picnic lunch on the grounds of the park.

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

JULY 9, 1975
CBS TELEVISION NETWORK
CBS EVENING NEWS WITH WALTER CRONKITE

(Excerpt)
(Roger Mudd substituting)

MUDD: Charles Kuralt is On The Road To '76, visiting all fifty states in this bicentennial year to weave, in his own style, the story of America. From Rhode Island, he reports on the central figure in the state's history, who gave to the nation a central idea.

CHARLES KURALT: Nobody ever comes here any more. And you can see why. (Squeak of gate being opened.) It's hard to find, lost in the seedy side-streets of a big city. But if you want to see where the raucous give and take of American democracy really was born, you have to come here. In the wilderness of 1636, there was a spring on this spot, and a troublemaker named Roger Williams, kicked out of Puritan Massachusetts and fleeing for his life, stopped running here. He wanted to live in a place where you didn't have to believe what the government told you to believe. And when he considered what had brought him to this place, he knew he had a name for it Providence.

Then, as now, Rhode Island was just a little place, twenty-five miles across, but the colony put it right into its first code of laws that within these twenty-five miles, all men may walk as their consciences persuade them. That was Roger Williams' idea, a hundred and fifty years before the U.S. Constitution got around to saying the same thing.

Well, it was freely predicted the idea would lead to chaos. And it did. These old streets were soon filled with every kind of screwball, all arguing with one another.

With the steeple of the church Roger Williams founded behind him, Professor William McLaughlin of Brown University gave it to us straight.

I should have thought that the other colonies would be proud of Rhode Island for its religious diversity and---

PROF. WILLIAM McLAUGHLIN (Brown University): ---Oh, no, no, that's happened since the revolution. At the time, Rhode Island was a scandal and a disgrace. The ideal in the colonial period was to have a well ordered, well regulated community with uniformity of belief and conformity of practice. And this place was known as a rogue's island. It attracted people who couldn't get along in decent society. All the bad rubbish drained down into Rhode Island, and since we were at the bottom of New England, that seemed to make sense. Well, it was called the licentious republic. And in the period called the critical period, the Rhode Islanders were looked upon, even by the other states in the new nation, as a rather outrageous example of what happens when popular democracy goes too far.

KURALT: "Don't tread on me." It was a South Carolina flag but it was a Rhode Island sentiment. We found the flag flying outside the old Touro Synagogue. (Synagogue congregation singing in Hebrew, continuing under Kuralt's voice)

KURALT: The Jews started a congregation in Newport in 1658, and it's still here, worshipping in the oldest synagogue in America.

See, Rhode Island was a mess, but it was a democratic mess, long before the idea of democracy occurred to anybody else around here. It sounded good to the Jews. (Synagogue congregation singing concludes, followed by church bell ringing continuing under Kuralt's voice)

KURALT: It sounded good to the Baptists, too. Today, every town has a First Baptist Church. This is the first Baptist Church, with a congregation that goes straight back to 1638.

(Church congregation singing "Faith Of Our Fathers." Lyrics mostly indistinct, with orchestra accompaniment, continuing under Kuralt's voice)

KURALT: Freedom of conscience is so old in America that we've forgotten where it began. Every one of us who listens to the cantor on Friday night or sings "Faith Of Our Fathers" on Sunday morning or kneels with a rosary before a statue of the virgin Mary or who never goes to church at all ought to remember that religious liberty, the separation of church and state, the whole idea of the sovereignty of the people, started here.

The early Rhode Islander was disrespectful and disreputable, always fighting about something.

Today they've put him on a pedestal. The figure atop the capitol dome is called the independent man. He can see the whole state from up there, the first to be disrespectful and disreputable and free.

---Charles Kuralt, CBS News, On The Road to '76, in Rhode Island

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Walter Leland Cronkite, Jr. (November 4, 1916 - July 17, 2009) was an American broadcast journalist, best known as anchorman for the CBS Evening News for 19 years (1962-81).

Roger Mudd was the documentary host and correspondent for The History Channel from 1995 until he retired in 2004.

Charles Kuralt (September 10, 1934 - July 4, 1997) was an award-winning American journalist. He was most widely known for his long career with CBS, first for his "On the Road" segments on The CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite, and later as the first anchor of CBS News Sunday Morning, a position he held for fifteen years. Kuralt's "On the Road" segments were recognized twice with personal Peabody Awards. The first, awarded in 1968, cited those segments as heartwarming and "nostalgic vignettes;" in 1975, the award was for his work as a U.S. "bicentennial historian;" his work "capture[d] the individuality of the people, the dynamic growth inherent in the area, and ...the rich heritage of this great nation." [1] He shared in a third Peabody awarded to CBS News Sunday Morning. The George Foster Peabody Awards (Peabody Awards) are annual, international awards for excellence in radio and television broadcasting.

Lineal descendants of Roger Williams and their spouses are eligible to join the Roger Williams Family Association. To request an application, please contact our Registrar or our Corresponding Secretary. Contact information is available on the back cover of this Bulletin. Application forms are also available on our web site. Please note that references are REQUIRED. Incomplete applications will be returned.

Effective July 1, 2009 membership dues and fees for Standard and Associate Memberships are as follows:

- ◆ *Application fee for Annual Member: \$25.00*
- ◆ *Application fee for multiple Annual Members within family: \$35 (conditions apply; see website for details)*
- ◆ *Annual Membership Dues: \$10.00*
- ◆ *Life Membership Dues: \$75.00 (no application fee required)*

NEW MEMBERS

2008-2009

Geraldine Aspinwall	Smithfield, RI	Daniel
Gibson Aultman	Macon, GA	Mary
*Beverly Bonsall	Milan, IL	Mercy Winsor
*Richard A. Brownell	Lake Mary, FL	Mercy
Paul B. Burtis	Calistoga, CA	Joseph
Kay Burtis	Calistoga, CA	Joseph
David G. Burtis	Calistoga, CA	Joseph
*Kevin R. Butterfield	Charlotte, NC	Joseph
*Theodore L. Clabeaux	Saratoga, CA	Mary
*Dekaris James	Centerville, MA	Mary
*Diari James	Centerville, MA	Mary
Gloria Foley	Mount Horeb, WI	Mercy
*Patricia E. Fulcher	Peoria, AZ	Mercy Winsor
*Michael A. Greene	Carlisle, PA	Joseph
*Jeffrey S. Greene	Harrisburg, PA	Joseph
*Wendy S. Greene	Langhorne, PA	Joseph
William M. Gregory	North Scituate, RI	Daniel
Linda Gregory	North Scituate, RI	Daniel
Robert G. Gregory	North Scituate, RI	Daniel
Ava R. Gregory	North Scituate, RI	Daniel
Sarah J. A. Gregory	North Scituate, RI	Daniel
Anthony A. Gregory	Brighton, MA	Daniel
*Nathan C. Harkey	Little Rock, AK	Mary
*Thomas J. Harkey	Little Rock, AK	Mary
*Kathy Hopkins	North Scituate, RI	Daniel
*James Ide	Inverness, IL	Mercy Winsor
Peter W. Joslin	McCormick, SC	Daniel
*Sean Kaiser	Chambersburg, PA	Joseph
*Gordon Kaiser IV	Chambersburg, PA	Joseph
*Jessica Kaiser	Chambersburg, PA	Joseph
*Jacob Kaiser	Chambersburg, PA	Joseph
*Jordan Kaiser	Chambersburg, PA	Joseph
Gordon W. Kaiser III	Chambersburg, PA	Joseph
*Alyssa Laguc	Centerville, MA	Mary
Ann Landeros	Austin, TX	Mary
*Eleanor E. Langlois	Venice, FL	Mary
*Matthew C. Lenahan	Pittsburgh, PA	Mary
*Allan George Lewis	Denver, CO	Mercy Winsor
Carlton P. Lodge	Lincoln, CA	Mercy Winsor
*Nancy E. Main	Warwick, RI	Mercy
*Debra Shaler	Simsbury, CT	Joseph
*Kelly Sims	Centerville, MA	Mary
*William A. Steere	White Plains, NY	Mercy
Daniel Sullivan	Middletown, RI	Mary
Jennifer Van Reet	Providence, RI	Mercy
Michelle Viveiros	Leesburg, FL	Mercy
*Robert Wheat	Aurora, CO	Mary, Daniel
*Donald B. Williams	Alexandria, VA	Joseph
Carla A. Williams	Billings, MT	Joseph
*Richard S. Wright	Los Angeles, CA	Mary
* Life Member		

IN MEMORIAM

Barbara Campbell	---	Mary
Walter H. Covell	11 November 2008	Mary
John C. S. Crosbie	16 February 2008	Mary
Thomas Kennedy	29 March 2009	Mercy, Daniel
Bruce Penniman	19 January 2009	Mercy Winsor
Ronald James Robert Platt, Jr.	17 July 2009	Daniel
Eileen Gillespie Slocum	27 July 2008	Daniel
Robert W. Westcott	10 February 2009	Mary, Freeborn, Joseph
Warren A. Wilson	16 July 2009	Mercy

BEGINNING OUR 118TH YEAR

2009-2010

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Mrs. Mary A. Channing PO Box 94, Wilton, CT 06897; 203-834-0545; president@rogerwilliams.org
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Dr. Clifford W. Brown, Jr. 180 Brown St., Providence, RI 02906
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Nancy Main 309 Spring Green Rd., Warwick, RI 02888
<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>Registrar</i>	Mrs. Barbara (Wright) McCurdy PO Box 717, Portsmouth, RI 02871; 401-682-2404; registrar@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Registrar Emerita</i>	Mrs. Elsie (Bushnell) Williams 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>	<i>vacant</i>

DIRECTORS

<i>Director, Past President</i>	Dr. Clifford W. Brown, Jr. 180 Brown St., Providence, RI 02906
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Col. Robert Allen Greene PO Box 137, E. Greenwich, RI 02818; 401-884-5929, 401-884-7530
<i>Director</i>	Mrs. Allison (Greene) Morrison 384 West Allenton Rd., No. Kingstown, RI 02852
<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 600 Valley Road - Apt. 102, Middletown, RI 02842

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; chaplain@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Lineage Book</i>	Mrs. Dorothy (Higson) White 600 Valley Road - Apt. 102, Middletown, RI 02842, 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>	Dr. Clifford W. Brown, Jr. 180 Brown St., Providence, RI 02906
<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>Web Site/Publications</i>	Mrs. Janis (Frigault) Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016