



# THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

2012-2013 No. 99

Incorporated January 30, 1906  
Providence, Rhode Island  
[www.rogerwilliams.org](http://www.rogerwilliams.org)



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Cousins,

Greetings from Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. The Roger Williams Family Association has been quite active this past year and we plan to be even more so this coming year. Last November we placed an appropriately-engraved stone marker at the site of Margaret's Cave in Swansea, Massachusetts, just over the Rhode Island line, where, by tradition, Roger Williams spent several weeks during the winter of 1635-36. Next June, we plan to restore the brass marker on North Main Street in Providence which was the site of Roger Williams' homestead. The original, placed there in 1936, was stolen by vandals. In July, we plan to participate in the 350th anniversary celebration of the granting of Rhode Island's 1663 Royal Charter. This charter, building on the charter of 1643, contained the earliest provision for religious freedom granted by a monarch in modern European history (the charter of 1643 which also had this provision, was granted to Roger Williams by Parliament).

The 350th anniversary of this world-historic document will take place on the weekend of July 13, 2013. It will be a splendid celebration, and we urge all members of the Roger Williams Family Association to keep the weekend clear on their calendars. The beautifully elaborate document itself still exists, and will be given a safer and more appropriate home in the Rhode Island State House when the celebration is complete (please see Dr. J. Stanley Lemons' piece about the 1663 Charter elsewhere in this bulletin).

This celebration of religious freedom and religious toleration could not come at a more appropriate time. The news is increasingly filled with examples of religious intolerance, and it is probably the case that all religions throughout the globe today are experiencing some form of discrimination and persecution in some location. None is exempt. Roger Williams' ringing declaration that people should be free to worship as they please, as long as they obey the civil authorities in civil matters, speaks to the world just as urgently today as it did in his time. We, his descendants, are proud to be the inheritors and promulgators of that message.

We have a wonderful set of historical and educational programs planned for the coming year, as detailed in this bulletin. Please do make an effort to join us during the next ten months. You will find our programs interesting and our welcome warm and sincere.

Sincerely,

Clifford W. Brown, Jr., President  
Roger Williams Family Association  
September 2012

# CALENDAR

## October 2012 - July 2013

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2012 — 11:00 AM**

### **FOUNDERS' DAY SERVICE AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN AMERICA**

We will observe Founders' Day at the First Baptist Church in America, 75 North Main Street, Providence, RI. This will be a very special day in the life of this congregation, founded by our ancestor, since this service will mark the beginning of the Church's celebration of its 375th anniversary. The guest preacher at the 11:00 service will be the Rev. Dr. Walter Sherden, a Baptist minister and historian from Mercer University. There will be a deli lunch provided at 12:30, which will be followed by a brief meeting, including an update by our president on the Rhode Island State 1663 Charter Commission. Please call Barbara McCurdy at 401-682-2404 or Ann Prokopowicz at 401-785-2512 if you plan to join us for lunch.

*Directions: The First Baptist Church in America is located at the corner of North Main and Waterman Streets in downtown Providence. From north or south, leave I-95 at Exit 22a, following signs to Downtown and Memorial Boulevard. Follow Memorial Boulevard to the river; turn left onto Washington Street. The church is visible directly ahead. From the west, follow Route 6 to the exit for downtown Providence to Memorial Boulevard, etc.*

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2012 — 5:00 PM**

### **ADDRESS BY JOHN BARRY**

Association members are invited to an address by John Barry, author of *Roger Williams and the Making of the American Soul*, at Roger Williams University.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2012 — 10:30 AM**

### **LIPPITT HOUSE MANSION**

Tour of the Governor Henry Lippitt House museum, 199 Hope Street, Providence, RI. Henry Lippitt, 1818-1891, was the 33rd Governor of Rhode Island, and a descendant of Roger Williams. His house (built in 1865) and designated as a National historic Landmark, is a fine example of an original 19th century high style Victorian home. After we finish the tour, we will have a brief business meeting at the Lippitt House. We will then travel to Gregg's Restaurant for lunch.

*Directions: The museum is located at 199 Hope Street at the corner of Angell Street. From north or south, leave I-95 at Exit 22a, following signs to Downtown and Memorial Boulevard. From the west, follow Route 6 to the exit for downtown Providence to Memorial Boulevard. In all cases, follow Memorial Boulevard to the river; turn left onto Washington. This becomes Waterman Street in a couple of blocks. Follow Waterman Street up the hill and go approximately a mile to Hope Street. Turn left onto Hope Street, and the museum is the second building on your right. Parking may be available on Angell Street west of Hope, and on side streets east of the Lippitt House Mansion.*

*Directions to Gregg's Restaurant (1303 North Main Street): From the Lippitt House Mansion, follow Hope Street to Olney Street (the second traffic light). Turn left onto Olney and proceed to the end of Olney at North Main. Turn right onto North Main, and follow about a mile to Gregg's, which is located on the right just before the Pawtucket line.*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2012 — 2:00 PM**  
**HOLIDAY PARTY**

We will hold our annual holiday party and reception at the home of Marilyn and Clifford Brown, 180 Brown Street, Providence, RI., appropriately decorated for the season. We will enjoy a seasonal musical presentation, followed by Christmas carols, a short business meeting, and our traditional Victorian tea.

*Directions: From north or south, leave I-95 at Exit 22a, following signs to Downtown and Memorial Boulevard. From the west, follow Route 6 to the exit for downtown Providence to Memorial Boulevard. In all cases, follow Memorial Boulevard to the river; turn left onto Washington. This becomes Waterman Street. Follow Waterman Street up the hill to Brown Street just beyond its summit. Turn left onto Brown Street and proceed seven blocks to Keene Street. 180 Brown is on the far left (northwest) corner of Brown and Keene.*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2013 — 1:00 PM**  
**RISDMUSEUM OF ART**

Tour of the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, 224 Benefit Street, Providence, RI. We will tour the museum's collection, which contains works by Monet, Degas, Picasso, and many other important world artists. There is a famous collection of ancient Egyptian artifacts. A great deal of Rhode Island history can also be found here. The Gorham Silver Company has an exhibit of the famous sterling silver made in Providence during the 19th and 20th centuries. There are also fine examples of furniture made in Newport, RI, by the Goddard and Townsend families. Following the tour, we will repair to Prospect Park Terrace on Congdon Street for refreshments and a brief business meeting. Please bring a folding chair! Weather backup (snow, cold): we will repair to 180 Brown Street.

*Directions: The museum is located at 224 Benefit Street in Providence, between Waterman and College Streets. From north or south, leave I-95 at Exit 22a, following signs to Downtown and Memorial Boulevard. From the west, follow Route 6 to the exit for downtown Providence to Memorial Boulevard. In all cases, follow Memorial Boulevard to the river; turn left onto Washington. This becomes Waterman Street in a couple of blocks at the foot of the hill. Follow Waterman Street up the hill one block. Turn right onto Benefit, and the Museum is immediately on your right.*

*Directions to Prospect Park Terrace: Go on Benefit Street to either Waterman or College Streets. Go up the hill one block to Prospect Street. Turn left on Prospect. Proceed to Cushing Street and turn left again for one block to Congdon Street. Turn right onto Congdon and Prospect Park is ahead on the left. If inclement weather, continue on Prospect Street, crossing Cushing, and proceed to Keene Street. Turn right onto Keene for one block to Brown Street. 180 Brown is the brick house on the near left corner of Keene and Brown.*

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2013 — 11:00 AM**  
**DENISON HOMESTEAD**

We will meet at the Denison Homestead, 120 Pequotsepos Road, Mystic, CT. This 1654 farm was the home of George Denison, one of the earliest settlers of Mystic. The 1717 farmhouse was restored by the noted architect and architectural historian J. Frederick Kelly in 1946. A tour of the house, now a museum, will be offered for seniors and students for \$4.00 per person. After the tour, we will go to a nearby restaurant for a lunch and business meeting.

*Directions to the Denison Homestead: From the north: take I-95 to Exit 90. Turn right onto Whitehall Avenue, then turn right onto Jerry Browne Road and continue for one*

*mile. Turn right on Pequotsepos Road. Denison Homestead is located one half mile down on the right. From the south, take Exit 90 off I-95 and turn left onto Whitehall Avenue, and follow the above directions.*

**SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2013 — 10:00 AM**

**WILLIAMS DAUGHTERS GRAVESITE VISIT**

We will visit the graves of two of Roger Williams' daughters, Mary (Williams) Sayles at Easton Cemetery in Middletown, and Freeborn (Williams) Hart Clarke at Clifton Cemetery in Newport. Please be at the parking lot behind the United Congregational Church (next to the John Clarke Nursing Center) at 600 Valley Road in Middletown at 10:00 AM to join other members for a bus tour of Newport to the two graves. The bus will return to the parking lot, and we will enjoy a self-catered picnic lunch in the Garden Room of the John Clarke Retirement Center next door to the church parking lot. Please call Dot White at 401-849-3841 or Anne Prokopowicz at 401-785-2512 if you plan to join us.

*Directions to Valley Road: A) From the north and east, go over Mount Hope Bridge and follow Rte. 114 south (or over the Sakonnet River Bridge on Route 24 south; Rte. 24 will join Rte. 114). Proceed down 114 from the junction of Rte 24 for about 5.25 miles. Take a left on Valley Road at the (closed) Modern Furniture Company. Go straight on Valley Road through two traffic lights. Immediately after the second light, take the third driveway on the left to the John Clarke Center at 600 Valley Road. Go up the hill to the parking lot behind the Congregational Church. B) From the west or north, cross the Pell Bridge and take the second exit. This will bring you to a light facing the JaiLi (HiLi) Courts. Turn left at this light. Go straight on this road (which changes its name from Kalbus to Miantonomi) to the third light. Turn right onto Valley Road (Rte. 214). Turn left at the third driveway to the John Clarke Center at 600 Valley Road. Go up the hill to the parking lot behind the Congregational Church.*

**SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2013 — 11:00 AM**

**ROGER WILLIAMS MEMORIAL**

We will gather at the Roger Williams Memorial Park between North Main and Canal Streets for a presentation by Park Ranger John McNiff, and a planned dedication of a replacement plaque commemorating the founding of the City of Providence in 1966. This new plaque, donated by the Roger Williams Family Association, will replace the original plaque dedicated in 1936 and stolen by vandals. The ceremony will be followed by a picnic lunch at the Memorial Park.

*Directions: From north or south, leave I-95 at Exit 22a, following signs to Downtown and Memorial Boulevard. From the west, follow Route 6 to the exit for downtown Providence to Memorial Boulevard. In all cases, follow Memorial Boulevard to the river; turn left onto Washington. Turn left in two blocks onto North Main. Follow North Main to the second traffic light, which is Smith Street. Turn left onto Smith, and then immediately left onto Canal Street. The Park entrance is directly on your left.*

**FRIDAY, JULY 12 THROUGH SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2013**

**350TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHARTER OF 1663**

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATES**

We will join the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in celebrating the 350th Anniversary of the Royal Charter of 1663, obtained through the efforts of Roger Williams and John Clarke. Please save these dates. The details of these events will be provided to our membership.

# THE CHARTER OF 1663

BY J. STANLEY LEMONS

In February Governor Lincoln Chafee announced the appointment of the "1663 Charter Commission" whose assignment was to develop ideas to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the Charter of 1663. The Charter was noteworthy in that it was the first time that a monarch had signed a charter to protect religious freedom, and the Charter remained Rhode Island's constitution until 1843. This charter became necessary because the charter that Roger Williams had gotten from Parliament in 1643/44 was declared void by the restoration of the monarchy. Before 1663 Rhode Island already had lived twenty years under a charter that separated church and state and provided for religious freedom.

After William Coddington had acquired his own patent that separated Aquidneck Island from the rest of the colony, Williams and John Clarke sailed to England in 1651 to get it rescinded. Williams hoped to acquire a new charter in order to clarify matters, and Clarke was commissioned to get the old charter reconfirmed. They succeeded in the latter, but not the former, and Williams returned to Rhode Island in 1654 to try to reunite the colony. Clarke remained in England, acting as an agent to counter the efforts of Massachusetts, Plymouth, and Connecticut to overpower and dismember Rhode Island. He was there when the monarchy was restored in 1660 and when it became necessary to get a new charter. John Clarke wrote and negotiated the Charter of 1663 which built on Williams' Charter of 1644.

*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)*

## **RWFA IS GOING GREEN!**

The Roger Williams Family Association is pleased to present our "Going Green" initiative for members. Sign up to receive the Annual Bulletin electronically. You'll help the Association save money *and* benefit the environment by reducing paper usage. Just go to the address below and complete the form. If you change your mind, we can always put you back on the list to receive a printed copy. Thank you for your support!

[www.rogerwilliams.org/gogreen.htm](http://www.rogerwilliams.org/gogreen.htm)

# NEW MEMBERS

## 2011-2012

*Kenneth Bernier	Brimfield, MA	<i>Mercy Winsor; Daniel</i>
*Teresa A. Boice	Shelby, OH	<i>Mary</i>
Roberta Bolduc	Charlotte, MA	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Robert S. Cocroft	Wakefield, RI	<i>Mercy</i>
Robert W. Gaffrey	Southfield, MI	<i>Mary</i>
*Kelly P. Gay	Shreveport, LA	<i>Mercy</i>
*Susan H. Grayshaw	Bayside, NY	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Henry J. Grayshaw	Audubon, PA	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*John H. Grayshaw	Audubon, PA	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
Toren A. Hoffee	Millersburg, OH	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Linda K. Hoffee	Wooster, OH	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
Marris V. Hoffee	Millersburg, OH	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Sloan W. Hoffee	Wooster, OH	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Nancy L. Hume	Stamford, CT	<i>Daniel</i>
*Julie P. Johnson	Shreveport, LA	<i>Mercy</i>
*David R. Keeler	Tolland, CT	<i>Joseph</i>
*Kathan M. Lambert	Pascoag, RI	<i>Mercy Waterman, Mercy Winsor</i>
*Dr. Stanley J. Lemons	Greenville, RI	<i>Honorary</i>
*Lani L. Lila	Chico, CA	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Carl Lindstrom	Wakefield, RI	<i>Mary</i>
*Howard C. Lowe Jr.	Scotts Valley, CA	<i>Mercy Winsor; Daniel</i>
*Laureen F. Payne	Shreveport, LA	<i>Mercy</i>
*Meredith Pyle	Atlanta, GA	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Nathan M. Scharoff	Windsor, CT	<i>Mercy</i>
*Reagan Snodgrass	Irvine, CA	<i>Mary</i>
Michelle Weaver	Lancaster, SC	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
* <i>Life Member</i>		

## IN MEMORIAM

Warren E. Eggers, Sr.	1 January 2009	<i>Mary</i>
Robert C. Mason	12 October 2010	<i>Daniel</i>
Everett O. White, Jr.	26 September 2011	<i>Associate</i>
Harry W. Williams	4 July 2010	<i>Joseph</i>

### HELP US FIND LOST MEMBERS

*In recent years, bulletins for the a number of members have been returned with no forwarding address. We would appreciate your looking through the list of these members that we have posted on our website and providing address information for anyone you may know. Thank you!*

*See list at [www.rogerwilliams.org/address-unknown.htm](http://www.rogerwilliams.org/address-unknown.htm)  
Send address information to [database@rogerwilliams.org](mailto:database@rogerwilliams.org)*

# BEGINNING OUR 121ST YEAR

## 2012-2013

### OFFICERS

<i>President</i> .....	Dr. Clifford W. Brown, Jr. 180 Brown St., Providence, RI 02906; president@rogerwilliams.org
<i>1st Vice President</i> .....	David Wordell, Sr. 509 New London Rd., Salem, CT 06420; vice-president@rogerwilliams.org
<i>2nd Vice President</i> .....	Ann (Rowley) Prokopowicz 168 Forest Ave., Cranston RI, 02910; 401-785-2512
<i>Recording Secretary</i> .....	Patricia A. Woodard-Harmon 74 Spruce St., Warwick, RI 02886; 401-737-3142, secretary@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i> .....	Mary A. Channing PO Box 94, Wilton, CT 06897; 203-834-0545; correspondence@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016, treasurer@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Registrar</i> .....	Barbara (Wright) McCurdy PO Box 717, Portsmouth, RI 02871; 401-682-2404; registrar@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Registrar Emerita</i> .....	Elsie (Bushnell) Williams 35 Hodsell St., Cranston, RI 02910; 401-467-7594
<i>Historian</i> .....	Barbara (Wright) McCurdy PO Box 717, Portsmouth, RI 02871; 401-682-2404, historian@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Archivist</i> .....	

### DIRECTORS

<i>Director, Past President</i> .....	Mary (French) Channing PO Box 94, Wilton, CT 06897; 203-216-1331
<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> .....	Allison (Greene) Morrison 384 West Allenton Rd., No. Kingstown, RI 02852
<i>Director, Past President</i> .....	Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016
<i>Director</i> .....	Janis (Frigault) Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016
<i>Director, Past President</i> .....	Dorothy (Higson) White 600 Valley Rd. - Apt. 102, Middletown, RI 02842

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

<i>Auditor</i> .....	Raymond L. Hilton, Jr.
<i>Chaplain</i> .....	Anne (Williams) Crocker 35 Hodsell St., Cranston, RI 02910; 401-467-7594; chaplain@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Lineage Book</i> .....	Dorothy (Higson) White 600 Valley Rd - Apt. 102, Middletown, RI 02842, lineage@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Membership Database</i> .....	Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016, database@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Program</i> .....	David Wordell, Sr. 509 New London Rd., Salem, CT 06420
<i>Publicity</i> .....	Susan (Wordell) Jacquet 40 School St., Newport, RI 02840; 401-741-7526
<i>Sunshine</i> .....	Anne (Williams) Crocker 35 Hodsell St., Cranston, RI 02910; 401-467-7594
<i>Web Site/Publications</i> .....	Janis (Frigault) Stevenson 142 George Allen Rd., Glocester, RI 02814; 401-568-4016