



THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED 1906

The Annual Meeting of this Association will take place on Thursday, September 1, 1949, in the auditorium of the Museum of Natural History in Roger Williams Park. Nearest park entrance on Broad Street.

Meet at 11:00 A. M. for social hour and basket lunch. Come and bring your friends.

The business meeting will be at 2:00 P. M. in the Museum for the election of officers and annual reports. The Rev. Dallas E. Hill, will be the speaker in the afternoon.

Dues will be payable at this time.

We are looking forward to a large attendance and an enjoyable time.

Mrs. Howard W. Steere, <i>President</i>	Mrs. Laura R. Powers, <i>Secretary</i>
Chopmist Hill Road	45 Hope Road
Chepachet, Rhode Island	Oak Lawn, Rhode Island

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers for the coming year:

<i>President</i>	Mrs. Howard W. Steere
Chopmist Hill Road, Chepachet, R. I.	
<i>Vice-President</i>	Mrs. Winthrop Saunders
255 Alabama Avenue, Providence, R. I.	
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Mrs. John H. Powers
45 Hope Road, Oaklawn, Cranston, R. I.	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mrs. Harry D. Benson
285 Woodbine Street, Cranston, R. I.	
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Mrs. Charles C. Roffee
457 Farmington Avenue, Cranston, R. I.	
<i>Registrar</i>	Mrs. Charles E. Hurdis
109 Smithfield Road, N. Providence, R. I.	
<i>Historian</i>	Mrs. Myron Hawkins
Harmony, Rhode Island	

SKETCH OF ROGER WILLIAMS' CAREER

Part III

While abroad Roger Williams wrote to his wife as "my dearest love and companion in this vale of tears", expressing gratitude for her recovery from illness. "I send thee, though in winter, a handful of flowers, made up in a little posey, for they dear self and our dear children to look and smell on when I, as grass of the field, shall be gone and withered." His letters from abroad of this period are of deep interest, showing great character and much affection for his absent family. He returned from England in the summer of 1654. In a letter to John Winthrop he speaks of his knowledge of the Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Dutch and French languages, of his association with John Milton in study. This year, 1654, he became President of the Colony, remaining such till May, 1658, after which he held various offices as Commissioner or Deputy; Member of Town Council, Town Clerk, etc. He was constantly active in all the public affairs of the colony and his influence was ever felt in compressing differences which arose within its borders and defending it from outward foes. His letters to the Government of Massachusetts, Oct. 5, 1654, intended to prevent Indian hostilities and to the Town of Providence (even those who had banished him), setting forth the true nature of freedom, its relation to human government, were written to promote the common peace. (Knowles, *Life of Roger Williams*, p. 252-264).

Williams occasionally exercised his gifts as a preacher in his visits to the trading house in the Narragansett country and always showed a deep interest in the instruction and conversion of the Indians.

In his relations with those differing from him in sentiment, Williams always planted himself upon the ground of toleration, and thus Rhode Island became a refuge for the persecuted and oppressed. Yet, though, admitting Quakers to civil privileges, he seemed to disapprove very strongly of their principles and practices and could say very severe things, especially against the latter. In 1672, when 73 years of age, he rowed in a boat thirty miles to Newport to hold a public disputation with the Quakers, expecting to meet George Fox, their great champion, but he had departed for England. Williams wrote an account of their debate under the amusing title "George Fox digged out of his Burrows" in which he used "some sharp, scriptural language, but not passionately and unjustly". Yet this controversy showed more or less bitterness of feeling and expression on both sides. As Williams came near to the end of life, his conscientious severity was softened down and he took more generous views of the opinions of his opponents. He addressed a letter

May 6, 1682, to his "much honored kind friend, the Governor Bradstreet at Boston", from which the following extracts are given, "Sir—This enclosed tells you that, being old and weak and bruised (with rupture and colic) and . . . on both my feet. I am directed by the Father of our spirits to desire to attend his infinite Majesty with a poor mite (which makes but two farthings). By my fireside I have recollected the discourses which (by many tedious journeys) I have with the scattered English at Narragansett, before the war and since. I have reduced them unto those 22 heads (enclosed) which is nearly thirty sheets of my writing. I would send them to the Narragansetts and others; there is no controversy in them, only an endeavor of a particular match of each poor sinner to his Maker . . . Eternity, O Eternity, is our business."

OUR OLDEST MEMBER

Mrs. Mandilla Hunt, *Honorary President*
 Mrs. Annie Irons, *Honorary Vice President*

The Nominating Committee—1949

Mrs. Preston Buffington, *Chairman*
 Mrs. Louis Remington
 Mrs. Alice Hart

Auditing Committee

Mrs. Charles Anthony
 Mr. Marshall Morgan

Committee for Arrangements—Annual Meeting

Mrs. Charles Anthony

NEW MEMBERS 1948-49

Sept. 2, 1948 Walter Howard Covell,
 28 East Side Drive, Barrington, R. I.

Oct. 7, 1948 Howard W. Steere
 Chopmist Hill Road, Chepachet, R. I.
 Mrs. Sabin A. Steere (Ella A.)
 Victory Highway, Gloucester, R. I.
 Mrs. Benjamin F. Steere, Jr. (Hortense E.)
 Chopmist Hill Road, Chepachet, R. I.
 Mrs. Lester O. Clemence (Clara E.)
 No. Scituate, R.F.D. #2, R. I.
 Dr. Russell A. Williams
 229 S. W. 19th Road, Miami 36, Fla.

Nov. 4, 1948 *Mrs. William J. Steere (Emily A. B.)
 No. Scituate, R.F.D. #2, R. I.
 *Mr. William J. Steere
 No. Scituate, R.F.D. #2, R. I.

*reinstated

- Dec. 2, 1948 Miss Patricia Anne Tucker,
1510 Washington St., Emporia, Kansas
- Feb. 3, 1949 Mrs. L. Byron Steere,
Harmony, R. I.
William H. Thurber
c/o Tilden Thurber Co., Prov., R. I.
- Apr. 7, 1949 John C. Sayles,
Buttonwoods, R. I.
- June 2, 1949 Dr. Edgar S. Potter,
Chepachet, R. I.
Mrs. Bertha J. Potter,
Chepachet, R. I.
Mr. Horace E. Benton,
Box 66, Creswell, Oregon
- July 7, 1949 Mr. Frank Ward Holt, Jr.,
Detroit 26, Michigan
- Aug. 4, 1949 Mrs. J. Curtis Hopkins,
Chepachet, R. I.

NECROLOGY—SEPT. 2, 1948—SEPT. 1, 1949

- Oct. 19, 1948 Mr. George T. Papineau
- Nov. 8, 1948 Mr. Frank O. Bishop
- Feb. 3, 1949 Mrs. Cynthia Gowdy
- Feb. 5, 1949 Mrs. Emily Arnold
- Apr. 4, 1949 Mr. George E. Williams
- June 12, 1949 Mr. Bertram D. Hulen
- June 28, 1949 Mr. Frank E. Waterman
- July 15, 1949 Mrs. M. Edith Esterhood
- Aug. 2, 1949 Mr. Irving P. Winsor
- 1945 Mrs. Minnie Moore

Monthly meetings as usual; the first Thursday in each month at the
Rhode Island Historical Society, 52 Power Street, Providence, R. I.

October 6, 1949—November 3, 1949—December 1, 1949

Guests are always welcome

Have you bought your geneological book yet? If not, why not?

We are very proud of Mrs. Charles Anthony and Mrs. Harriet Weeden for the splendid work they have done in connection with this. Thank you.