



ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

April 1969

No. 54

Dear Members:

Greetings to all our members and we especially welcome the sixty who have joined our Association since our annual meeting last September.

My apologies to our members for my inability to preside at meetings or attend to any and all duties as President of your Association since last September. A serious operation made me completely unable to act and is still keeping me down. My thanks to Miss Verena Williams, our efficient Vice-President for taking my place and doing an excellent job.

Sincerely,

Forrest B. Morgan

President

1336 West Shore Road

Warwick, Rhode Island 02889

ROGER WILLIAMS COMPASS

In the possession of the Rhode Island Historical Society at the John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, R. I. is a folding pocket compass and sundial which, by family tradition, is said to have been used by Roger Williams to guide him on his journey from Salem, Massachusetts to Seekonk in 1636.

The brass case, only 2½ inches in diameter, is lined on each side with a round printed paper showing on one side of the case the numbers on which the folding dial handle will cast a shadow; on the other the points of the compass. The traditional fleur-de-lis decoration marks the most northerly point on the paper lining.

It was in the month of March 1636 that the founder of Providence, Roger Williams, "wandered sorely tossed for one fourteen weeks, not knowing what bread or bed did mean." Futhermore, at least part of this time his wandering was through the forests and bull-briar thickets of Rhode Island. For religious reasons he had been exiled from Salem, and had sought haven outside the domain of the uncompromising Massachusetts Bay Colony.

The story of Williams' expulsion for refusing to give up his ideals is well known. His contemporaries called him "divinely mad" for preaching the adoption of complete religious liberty in the Massachusetts Bay Colony where the church and state were closely united in firm intolerance of spirit.

However, when Williams held out for those self-righteous Puritans paying the Indians for the land they had seized in the name of the English King, their frightened elders sent a posse to deport him to England.

It is said that Williams, informed by a friend of their intent, set out with this folding brass compass and sundial in his pocket. Also it is assumed he must have worn the tall Cromwellian boots as well as a long homespun greatcape like the one the society owns which belonged to his contemporary, Richard Smith, the trader.

Williams must have lost his way many times but with the help of the compass he came in April to Seekonk and the lands of the Wampanoag Indians. He had chosen this spot because of the friendship that had grown up between himself and the Indians whom he had hoped to serve as a missionary.

He said, "My soul's desire was to do the natives good," and his kindness, justice and good sense won their everlasting good will. Tradition has it that Thomas Angell, his servant, accompanied Williams on this tedious journey and that on April 4th, four companions joined them; John Smith, the miller, banished from Dorchester; a lad named Francis Wickes, and William Harris, who had come over in the ship Lyon to Boston with Roger Williams. Joshua Verrin soon joined them.

The little band had already broken ground and sown their spring crops near where the Agawam Hunt now stands, when a messenger from Governor Winslow of Plymouth brought the shocking news, "We have loved thee very much, Friend Williams, but get thee off our land."

Sadly the exiled ones paddled across the Seekonk River to a point where Power Street now begins, and as a group of Narragansett Indians sitting on a large slate rock saw them approaching they greeted the exiles with their friendly, "What Cheer, Netop!"

Then guided by the Indians, the Englishmen paddled around Fox Point and up the Providence River to the Moshassuck, until they arrived at a spring of fresh water. Here they decided to stay and Williams named the place "Providence," "in grateful remembrance of God's merciful providence to me in my distress." This was in the Spring of 1636.

In Memoriam

Mrs. L. Byron Steere (Associate) (R. I.)	September 26, 1968
Dr. Russell A. Williams (Florida)	be. Oct. 1968
Ione Lovejoy Wiggins (Mrs. John E.) (R. I.)	November 23, 1968
Ethel M. Tourtellot Anderson (Mrs. Oscar A.) (R. I.)	December 23, 1968
Elizabeth L. Levardsen Finegan (Mrs. Walter J.) (Mass.)	February 12, 1969
Louise S. Waterman (Miss) (R. I.)	February 20, 1969
Herbert Knapp Sturdy, Jr. (Florida)	March 7, 1969

NEW MEMBERS SINCE SEPTEMBER 1968

- ALBEE, Mr. Stanley R., 1032 Lake Ave., Bismarck, N. Dakota 58501 (Mary)
ALBEE, Robbin Timothy (born 1963) 1032 Lake Ave., Bismarck, N. Dakota 59501 (Mary)
ALLEN, Mr. Godfrey French, 210 Terrace Ave., Riverside, R. I. 02915 (Mary)
ALLEN, Mrs. Godfrey F. (Melora Stone) 210 Terrace Ave., Riverside, R. I. 02915 (Mercy Winsor)
ALLEN, Miss Priscilla J., 210 Terrace Ave., Riverside, R. I. 02915 (Mary & Mercy Winsor)
ALLEN, Mr. Stephen Russell, 210 Terrace Ave., Riverside, R. I. 02915 (Mary & Mercy Winsor)
ALLEN, Christopher Godfrey, 210 Terrace Ave., Riverside, R. I. 02915 (Mary & Mercy Winsor)
ALLEN, Miss Martha Melora, 210 Terrace Ave., Riverside, R. I. 02915 (Mary & Mercy Winsor)
ANGELL, Mr. Ernest, 156 East 66th St., New York, N. Y. 10021 (Mercy Winsor)
BAKER, Mrs. Albert H. (Elaine H. Smith) 258 County St., Seekonk, Mass. 02771 (2) Daniel; (2) Mary
BEAUREGARD, Lt. Col. Preston M. (Retired) 19 Norwood Rd., Woonsocket, R. I. 02895 (Associate)
BISHOP, Mr. Laurence Walker, 31 Lawrence St., Pawtucket, R. I. 02860 (Joseph)
BISHOP, Mrs. Laurence W., 31 Lawrence St., Pawtucket, R. I. 02860 (Associate)
BOHLERT, Mr. George William, 8712 - 80 St., Woodhaven, N. Y. 11421 (Joseph)
BULLARD, Mr. John J., 2419 N. Fillmore St., Arlington, Va. 22207 (Mary)
BULLARD, Miss Anne Clough, 2419 N. Fillmore St., Arlington, Va. 22207 (Mary)
BULLARD, Mr. George C. Jr., 2419 N. Fillmore St., Arlington, Va. 22207 (Mary)
BULLARD, Miss Laura B., 2419 N. Fillmore St., Arlington, Va. 22207 (Mary)
CHARBONNEAU, Mrs. Robert (Susan Allen) 35 Grant Ave., Riverside, R. I. 02915 (Mary & Mercy Winsor)
DERICKSON, Mrs. Richard, (Charlene Greham Halpine) 29 Southgate Ave., Annapolis, Md. 21401 (Mary)
EVERSOLE, Mrs. John S. (Helen Dorn Halpine) Castlerock, Rt. 1, Box 80A, Pulaski, Va. 24301 (Mary)
EVERSOLE, Miss Jenene Louise, Castlerock, Rt. 1, Box 80A, Pulaski, Va. 24301 (Mary)
EVERSOLE, Mr. Thomas Greham, Castlerock, Rt. 1, Box 80A, Pulaski, Va. 24301 (Mary)
EVERSOLE, Miss Ruth Serena, Castlerock, Rt. 1, Box 80A, Pulaski, Va. 24301 (Mary)
FINEGAN, Mrs. Warren J. (Elizabeth Levardsen) White Pine Knoll Rd., Wayland, Mass. 01778 (Joseph)
GREENE, Mr. Louis M., RFD, Box 65, Vineyard Haven, Mass. 02568 (Joseph 3 lines)
GREENHALGH, Mr. John Steere, 2115 Mill Plain Rd., Fairfield, Conn. 06431 (2) Mercy Waterman; (2) Mercy Winsor; Daniel & Joseph)
GREENHALGH, Miss Sarah Anne, 2115 Mill Plain Rd., Fairfield, Conn. 06431 (2) Mercy Waterman; (2) Mercy Winsor; Daniel & Joseph)
GULEKE, Mrs. James S. (Gaynor N. VanShaw) 1607 Harrison St., Amarillo, Tex. 79102 (Mary)
GULEKE, Miss Ann Gaynor, 1607 Harrison St., Amarillo, Texas 79102 (Mary)
HATCHER, Miss Kimberly Joan (born April 4, 1968) 9 Poplar Ave., North Kingstown, R. I. 02852 (Daniel)
HICKIE, Mr. Thomas Louis, 495 Careswell St., Marshfield, Mass. 02050 (3 lines Joseph)
HILL, Miss Lynn Dunaford, 29 Southgate Ave., Annapolis, Md. 21400 (Mary)
HILL, Mr. Bruce Bullard, 29 Southgate Ave., Annapolis, Md. 21400 (Mary)
HILL, Miss Holly Greham, 29 Southgate Ave., Annapolis, Md. 21400 (Mary)
HOUGH, Mr. Mark Sayles, 138 Great Rd., Woonsocket, R. I. 02895 (Mary)
HOUGH, Mrs. Mark Sayles, 138 Great Rd., Woonsocket, R. I. 02895 (Associate)
HOWARD, Mr. Charles H., P. O. Box 1198, Beverly Hills, Calif. 90213 (Joseph)

HOWARD, Mr. Lester E., 832 Centre St., Brockton, Mass. 02402 (Joseph)
 HOWARD, Mrs. Lester E., 832 Centre St., Brockton, Mass. 02402 (Associate)
 HOWARD, Miss Sandra, 800 Ellen St., Colton, Calif. 92324 c/o Eugene Knox (Joseph)
 HOWARD, Miss Sheila, 800 Ellen St., Colton, Calif. 92324 c/o Eugene Knox (Joseph)
 JENISON, Mr. Paul Bennett, 48 Hill Top Drive, Cranston, R. I. 02920 (Mary, Mercy Waterman,
 Mercy Winsor)
 JENISON, Miss Priscilla Anne, 48 Hill Top Drive, Cranston, R. I. 02920 (Mary, Mercy Waterman,
 Mercy Winsor)
 LEVARDSEN, Mr. Richard Williams, 82 Elsmere Ave., Delmar, N. Y. 12054 (Joseph)
 LITTLEFIELD, Miss Pamela Marie (born 1961) 835 Rood Drive, Akron, Ohio 44319 (Mary)
 LUCK, Mr. Felix Earle, 119 Norman St., East Orange, N. J. 07017 (Joseph)
 LYON, Mr. Chester S., Ide Road, North Scituate, R. I. 02857 (Associate)
 LOMBARDO, Mrs. Ralph B. (Virginia Bartley) 10 Blaisdell Ave., Pawtucket, R. I. 02860 (Mary,
 Mercy Waterman, Mercy Winsor)
 MOTT, Mrs. Carleton E., Jr., (Susan Eversole) 903 Primrose Rd., Annapolis, Md. 21400 (Mary)
 POWER, Miss Mary Eleanor, 26 Brookmont Dr., Wilbraham, Mass. 01095 (Mercy Winsor)
 (also Champlin Hall, Pembroke Hall, Providence, R. I. 02906)
 POWER, Mr. Harry H., 4608 Madrona Drive, Austin, Texas, 78731 (Mercy Winsor)
 (Professor Emeritus University of Texas)
 ROSENTHAL, Mrs. Gary W. (Cynthia Howard) 1214 W. Raymar, Santa Ana, Calif. 92703 (Joseph)
 SARGENT, Mrs. William DeLos (Blanche Chamberlain) 212 South Fifth St., Delavan, Wisconsin 53115
 (Daniel)
 TILLEY, Mr. Jay Powell, P. O. Box 136, Pleasant Valley, Conn. 06063 (Freeborn)
 TILLEY, Mr. Jefferey Cranston, P. O. Box 136, Pleasant Valley, Conn. 06063 (Freeborn)
 TILLEY, Mr. Peter Raymond, P. O. Box 136, Pleasant Valley, Conn. 06063 (Freeborn)
 TRAMMELL, Mrs. John C. (Kathleen A. Hickie) 4429 North 13th Place, Phoenix, Ariz. 85014
 (3 lines Joseph)
 VANDERVOORT, Mrs. Robert S., (Marjorie Levardsen), 103 Wainwright Ave., Closter, N. J. 07624
 (Joseph)
 VAN KENNEN, Mrs. James F. (Harriet Gillett) 1030 Hubbard Place, Winnetka, Ill. 60093
 (Mercy Waterman)

Raymond Carpenter Colwell, a Past President of our Association, who passed away March 19, 1967, bequeathed in his will several books and publications, among which were:

1636 History of Rhode Island - 1878

The Meeting House of the First Baptist Church in Providence written by Norman M. Isham - 1925

A Short History of Rhode Island by George W. Greene - 1897

"What Cheer, or Roger Williams in Banishment," by Judge Job Durfee, Esq. - 1832

and various other books and pamphlets.

These have become a part of our library. Mr. Colwell's thoughtfulness showed his love for the Roger Williams Family Association in desiring these books to belong to us.

Mrs. Robert Allen of Brockton, daughter of our late member, Mrs. Ada Whittemore has donated to our Association a beautiful large glass punch bowl which we shall use occasionally at our gatherings. Also, Mrs. Allen has given us, in memory of her mother, a Commemorative Pitcher, made in 1907, which shows a view of Roger Williams with five men landing in Providence from a canoe. On the other side is shown the Betsy Williams cottage. We were delighted to receive these gifts and wish to thank Mrs. Allen for her donations. They will become an important part of our collection.