



**THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY
ASSOCIATION**

1993-1994 No. 80

Incorporated January 30, 1906
Providence, Rhode Island

**"People will not look forward to posterity who
never look backward to their ancestors."**

— Edmund Burke (1729-1797)

From Reflections on the Revolution in France, 1790

DEAR COUSINS AND FRIENDS:

Greetings to our members, presently numbering about 1200. We have had a busy year and will try to update you on current projects and events.

We have started to copy all of the Association records and applications which are in the possession of our Registrar. Eventually, we hope to locate a depository for these things, together with those artifacts and papers that have been left with us over the years. Our eventual aim will be to have a room where these treasures can be viewed and our records studied.

We are fortunate to have two members who are collecting up-to-date material on the descendants of Mary (Williams) Sayles and Daniel Williams. Please see a note in this Bulletin about contacting them.

The wheels move slowly, but we have started consideration of the restoration and/or replacement of the tombstones of Mary (Williams) Sayles, her husband, John Sayles, and their son-in-law, William Greene. Unfortunately, Mary's stone is missing. The neighbor, adjacent to the cemetery in Middletown, Rhode Island, picked up the pieces of Mary's stone for "safe-keeping," and has lost them. Mary's stone will have to be replaced. Those of her husband and son-in-law are probably salvageable. We have recently appointed a committee for this project which Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hurst have agreed to co-chair.

We may call upon Mary descendants to aid in our project. However, when we have a firm plan in mind, we hope to ask for financial help from a local charitable foundation which would expect us to provide matching funds.

We are pleased to be able to bring you excerpts from an outstanding find of one of our friends. When Robert H. Hurst was but 16 years old, he attended an auction which included a book collection owned by the late Bishop Noon of Fall River, Massachusetts. He purchased the entire collection of books for \$8.00, unaware, of course, that many years later his wife, Judith, a Roger Williams descendant, would find the collection a valuable source for historical and genealogical research. The "Anniversary Discourse" herein was contributed by Judith Hurst.

Some of your Executive Committee have been invited to join a committee at Roger Williams University to raise funds for a "Multi-Faith Spiritual Center." The Family Association was pleased to make the first contribution (\$100) to the project when we met at the University last April. Our Vice President, George Williams, will represent the Family Association on the committee, made up of local citizens and clergy. Two of our members, Birdella Corbitt and Ann Prokopowicz, have also agreed to serve on the committee. The spiritual center will be built on the University Campus in Bristol, Rhode Island, in a lovely wooded area on a knoll facing a small pond.

The support of the Executive Committee and our members- during the past year has been outstanding, and I thank you all. Here's to a new Association year when we shall proceed with and, hopefully, bring our projects nearer to completion. Work on the Mary (Williams) Sayles and Freeborn (Williams) Hart book is proceeding. We hope you will all be patient.

Please let us know if we in Rhode Island can help you in any way, and do let us know when you will be in the area.

Dorothy H. White
President

October 1993

ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION
CALENDAR

November 1993 — October 1994

NOVEMBER 13, 1993—Saturday 12:00 noon.

Meeting at The New England Wireless and Steam Museum, Frenchtown Road, off Route 2, East Greenwich, RI, for a tour of the Museum after a light catered lunch is served in the meeting room there. Charge for the lunch and tour is \$7.50. Please call George Williams at 351-2351, or Ann Prokopowicz at 785-2512 before the November 6 deadline.

DECEMBER 5, 1993—Sunday 11:00 a.m.

We have been invited to worship at Congdon Street Baptist Church, 17 Congdon Street, Providence. (Adequate parking in two lots behind the church.) As is our custom at Christmas time, please bring an item of canned or packaged goods for a food basket. Plan to join us for dinner at The Grist Mill, Seekonk, MA at 1:15 p.m.

MARCH 19, 1994—Saturday 12:00 noon

Luncheon meeting at Wharf Tavern, 215 Water Street, Warren, RI. Our guest will be H. Curtis Spalding, Executive Director of SAVE THE BAY. Choice of menu will be available when you telephone your reservation before March 12 to Gladys Bailey at 884-9009, or Elsie Williams at 467-7594. Cost: \$11.50, including tax and tip.

APRIL 16, 1994—Saturday 12:30 p.m.

Luncheon meeting at the Kountry Kitchen, 10 Smith Avenue, Greenville, RI. Jan Stephenson, a genealogist and wife of a Mary (Williams) Sayles descendant, will speak to us on her fascinating research into the Budlong family of Rhode Island. Choice of menu will be available when you telephone your reservation before April 9, 1994 to Meredith Smith at 647-7204, or Nancy Hazard at 433-3303. Cost: \$9.50, including tax and tip.

MAY 15, 1994—Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Founders' Sunday at First Baptist Church in America, North Main Street, Providence. A guided tour of the Church will be available after the service. Members and guests are invited to a catered lunch in the Fellowship Room at Barrington Baptist Church, Old County Road, Barrington, RI. The fifth grade of Barrington Christian Academy will present a skit relevant to Founders' Sunday, entitled "Said the Bell to the Rope." Please call Marion Fry at 884-4988, or Dot White at 246-0246 before the May 7 deadline. Approximate cost for lunch \$7.00.

SEPTEMBER 17, 1994—Saturday 1:30 p.m.

Annual meeting at the Roger Williams Park Museum. Usual annual meeting activities and payment of dues will be followed by a program and refreshments. Alice Roe, an enthusiastic world traveler, will present a program with slides of her travels in Holland.

OCTOBER 8, 1994—Saturday 12:00 noon

Luncheon meeting at Larchwood Inn, Wakefield, RI. Speaker will be George Wightman Williams. His topic "Off My Old Sea Chest," tales of his four years as a Naval Aide at the Truman White House. Choice of menu will be available when you telephone your reservation before October 1 to Robert Allen Green at 884-5929 or George Williams at 351-2351. Approximate cost \$11.00.

AN ASSESSMENT C

*from An ANNIVERSARY DISCOURSE Delivered by
by Gulian C. Verplanck, Esquire, and Publis
(contributed by Judith Hurst, c*

IN HIS OPENING STATEMENTS, THE AUTHOR URGED members of the New York Historical Society to continue their collection of the facts known of our illustrious men of history for it was "a story of liberty, virtue, and glory." The task he had set for himself was "the commemoration of some of those virtuous and enlightened men of Europe, who, long ago... were moved by a holy ambition to become the ministers of the most High, in bestowing upon it the blessings of religion, morals, letters, and liberty."

"The glory of having first set an example of a practical and extensive system of religious freedom was reserved for America; and the first legislator who fully recognized the rights of conscience, was Roger Williams, a name less illustrious than it deserves to be; for although his eccentricities of conduct and opinion, may sometimes provoke a smile, he was a man of genius and of virtue, of admirable firmness, courage, and disinterestedness, and of unbounded benevolence.

"He... emigrated to New England in 1630. He was then a young man, of austere life and popular manners, full of reading, skilled in controversy, and gifted with a rapid, copious, and vehement eloquence. The writers of those days represent him as being full of turbulent and singular opinions, 'and the whole country,' saith the quaint Cotton Mather, 'was soon like to be set on fire by the rapid motion of a wind-mill in the head of this one man.' The heresy which appeared most grievous to his brethren, was his zeal for unqualified religious liberty. In the warmth of his charity, he contended for 'freedom of conscience, even to Papists and Arminians, with security of civil peace to all,' a doctrine which filled the Massachusetts clergy with horror and alarm. 'He violently urged,' says Cotton Mather, 'that the civil magistrate might not punish breaches of the first table of the commandments, which utterly took away from the authority all capacity to prevent the land which they had purchased on purpose for a recess from such things, from becoming such a sink of abominations as would have been the reproach and ruin of Christianity in these parts of the world.'

"In addition to these most 'disturbant and offensive doctrines,' Mather charges him with preaching against the Royal Charter of the colony, 'on an insignificant pretence of wrong therein done unto the Indians.' ... He objected to the custom of returning thanks after meat, as, in some manner, involving a corruption of primitive and pure worship; he refused to join any of the churches in Boston, unless they would first make a public and solemn declaration of their repentance for having communed with the church of England; and when his doctrines of religious liberty were condemned by the clergy, he wrote to his own church at Salem 'that if they would not separate as well from the churches of New-England as of Old, he would separate from them.'

"All his peculiar opinions, whether true or erroneous, were alike offensive to his puritan brethren, and controversy soon waxed warm. Some logicians, more tolerant or politic than the rest, attempted to reconcile the disputants by a whimsical, and not very intelligible sophism. They approved not, said they, of persecuting men for conscience' sake, but solely of correcting them for sinning against conscience; and so not persecut-

OF ROGER WILLIAMS

From the *New York Historical Society* December 7, 1818,

Edited in 1818 by James Eastburn & Co., New York

Author of *Sayles Country*, Vols. I, II.)

ing, but punishing heretics. Williams was not a man who could be imposed upon by words, or intimidated by threats; and he accordingly persevered in inculcating his doctrines publicly and vehemently. The clergy, after having endeavored in vain to shake him by argument and remonstrance, at last determined to call in the aid of the civil authority; and the General Court, after due consideration of the case, passed sentence of banishment upon him, or, as they phrased it, 'ordered his removal out of the jurisdiction of the court.' Some of the men in power had determined that he should be sent to England; but, when they sent to take him, they found that, with his usual spirit of resolute independence, he had already departed, no one knew whither, accompanied by a few of his people, who, to use their own language, had gone with their beloved pastor 'to seek their providences.' After some wanderings, he pitched his tent at a place, to which he gave the name of Providence, and there became the founder and legislator of the colony of Rhode-Island. There he continued to rule, sometimes as the governor, and always as the guide and father of the settlement, for forty-eight years, employing himself in acts of kindness to his former enemies, affording relief to the distressed, and offering an asylum to the persecuted. The government of his colony was formed on his favourite principle, that in matters of faith and worship, every citizen should walk according to the light of his own conscience, without restraint or interference from the civil magistrate. . . . His own conduct in power was in perfect accordance with his speculative opinions; and when, in his old age, the order of his little community was disturbed by an irruption of Quaker preachers, he combated them only in pamphlets and public disputations and contented himself with overwhelming their doctrines with a torrent of learning, invective, syllogisms and puns.

"It should also be remembered, to the honour of Roger Williams, that no one of the early colonists, without excepting William Penn himself, equalled him in justice and benevolence towards the Indians. He laboured incessantly, and with much success to enlighten and conciliate them, and by this means acquired a personal influence among them, which he had frequently the enviable satisfaction of exerting in behalf of those who had banished him. It is not the least remarkable or characteristic incident of his varied life, that within one year after his exile, and while he was yet hot with controversy, and indignant at his wrongs, his first interference with the affairs of his former colony was to protect its frontier settlements from an Indian massacre. From that time forward, though he was never permitted to return to Massachusetts (sic), he was frequently employed by the government of that province with negotiations with the Indians, and other business of the highest importance to their interests. Even Cotton Mather, in spite of his steadfast abhorrence of Williams's heresy, seems to have been touched with the magnanimity and kindness of the man, and after having stigmatized him as 'the infamous Korah of New-England,' he confesses, a little reluctantly, that 'for the forty years after his exile he acquitted himself so laudably, that many judicious people judged him to have had the *root of the matter* in him, during the long winter of his retirement.'"

NEW MEMBERS 1992-1993

*Allen, Ralph William	Mars PA	<i>Freeborn</i>
*Almas, Brian Christopher	Newport Beach CA	<i>Daniel</i>
*Almas, Mrs. Fary F. (Joyce Williams)	Newport Beach CA	<i>Daniel</i>
Bailey, Mrs. Lewis J. (Harriet Underwood)	Pascoag RI	<i>Mary</i>
*Barnhardt, Luther Ernest, III	E. Rochester NY	<i>Daniel</i>
*Baxter, Stonewall Jackson, Jr.	Houston TX	<i>Mary</i>
*Bellomy, Mrs. Robert M. (Sherri E. Elliott)	Cocoa FL	<i>Daniel</i>
*Budlong, John Post Reynolds	Winter Park FL	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Caswell, William Stephen, Jr.	Boscawen NH	<i>Joseph</i>
*Cobb, Peter Henry	No. Attleboro MA	<i>Mary</i>
*Cobb, Mrs. Robert L. (Doris Barrowman)	No. Attleboro MA	<i>Mary</i>
*Derickson, Holly Graham Hill	Canton MS	<i>Mary</i>
*Elliott, John Donald	New Berlin NY	<i>Daniel</i>
*Forman, Mrs. Sidney (June Williams)	Incline Village NE	<i>Daniel</i>
*Harvey, Mrs. John E. (Eleanor Underwood)	Wakefield RI	<i>Mary</i>
*Hickling, Mrs. Calvin W. (Cynthia Elliott)	Edmeston NY	<i>Daniel</i>
*Hill, Bruce Bullard	Los Angeles CA	<i>Mary</i>
*Hill, Lynn D.	Key West FL	<i>Mary</i>
*Hill, Marie Elena	Boston MA	<i>Mary</i>
Hillberry, Mrs. Robert D. (Marcia Mason)	Rachel WV	<i>Joseph</i>
Holtzman, David Michael	Los Angeles CA	<i>Associate</i>
*Howarth, Mrs. George E. (Joan Tourtellot)	N. Scituate RI	<i>Daniel</i>
*Hunt, Mrs. John M. (Ruth Pierson Ott)	Wayne PA	<i>Mary</i>
*Hunt, John Mortimer, Jr.	Wayne PA	<i>Mary</i>
*Jennis, Mrs. Milton (Madeline Peck)	Indianatic FL	<i>Joseph</i>
*Johnson, Donald Earl	Los Angeles CA	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Kasanovich, Daniel Essex	Smithfield RI	<i>Mary & Joseph</i>
*Kasanovich, Patricia Laura	Truro MA	<i>Mary & Joseph</i>
*Kasanovich, Stephen Bernard	Truro MA	<i>Mary & Joseph</i>
*Martin, Mrs. Gary M. (Linda J. Collins)	N. Attleboro MA	<i>Joseph</i>
*Maugans, Mrs. Sandra Silliman	Wallingford PA	<i>Mary</i>
Messinger, Mrs. Robert A. (Charlotte Charles)	Cranston RI	<i>Associate</i>
*Ortmann, June Opal	Newport Beach CA	<i>Daniel</i>
*Ortmann, Michael William	Irvine CA	<i>Daniel</i>
*Ortmann, William Frederick, Jr.	Irvine CA	<i>Daniel</i>
*Ott, George Edward, Jr.	Arlington Heights IL	<i>Mary</i>
*Pannell, Mrs. Richard P.R. (Evelyn Wilson)	Atlanta GA	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
*Reid, Adam Douglas	Waco TX	<i>Daniel</i>
*Reid, Mrs. Douglas R. (Justine Tourtellot)	Dallas Tx	<i>Daniel</i>
*Reid, Douglas Craig	Waco TX	<i>Daniel</i>
*Reid, Glenn Stanton	Dallas TX	<i>Daniel</i>
*Reid, Marianne	Waco TX	<i>Daniel</i>
*Rogers, Horatio Rodman	Middletown RI	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Ross, Neil Williams	Hington RI	<i>Mercy Waterman & Joseph</i>

*Sanways, Kristin	Palm Bay FL	Joseph
*St. Clair, Michael Allen	Abilene TX	Daniel
*St. Clair, Mrs. Robert M. (Kim L. Reid)	Abilene TX	Daniel
Stevenson, Jonathan Rhodes	Cranston RI	(3) Mercy Waterman
*Thompson, Braden Jay	Edmond OK	Joseph
*Thompson, Jan Susan	Kennecwick WA	Joseph
Wightman, Ronald Dean	Salt Lake City UT	Mary
*Williams, Richard Walter	Cranston RI	Mercy Waterman & Joseph
*Wilson, Alexander Erwin, III	Athens GA	Mercy Winsor
*Wilson, Cary Erwin	Atlanta GA	Mercy Winsor
*Wilson, Julia Alexander	Atlanta GA	Mercy Winsor
*Wilson, Virginia Cammack	Atlanta GA	Mercy Winsor
*Wisbey, Dr. Herbert A. Jr.	Horsheads NY	Mary, Mercy Winsor Daniel & Joseph

* Denotes Life Members

IN MEMORIAM

William F. Brophy	Associate	February 28, 1992
Mrs. Charles L. Delemontex (Ruth M. Sayles)	Mary	September 7, 1993
Mrs. Charles J. Edmunds (Mildred Price)	Daniel	No Date
Mrs. Stephen A. Greene, Sr. (Dorothy Neil)	Associate	November 2, 1992
Mrs. Robert N. Linton (Hazel G. Powers)	Freeborn	July 27, 1993
Mrs. Kay K. Moore (Louise Winsor)	Mary, Mercy Winsor	December 21, 1992
Mrs. Robert E. Steere (Mary Steere)	Mary, Daniel, Joseph	January 14, 1993
Thomas J. Scavrum	Mercy Waterman	No Date

*Perhaps the one Who travels on
Without us for awhile,
Is lonesome too, and glancing back,
Takes courage, if we smile.*

NOTE:

If you are a Mary (Williams) Sayles descendant and wish to have your family records included in or updated in Ray Eggers's micro-fiche, please contact him at 208 West Milton Avenue, P.O. Box 208E, Rahway, NJ 07065.

If you are a Daniel Williams descendant, and wish to have your current family information included in John Prokopowicz's computer data, please contact him at 168 Forest Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910.

BEGINNING OUR 102nd YEAR—1993-1994

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Mrs. Everett O. White
15 Frederick Drive, Barrington, RI 02806	(401) 246-0246
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Mr. George Wightman Williams
8 Moses Brown Street, Providence, RI 02906	(401) 351-2351
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Mrs. A. John Prokopowicz
168 Forest Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910	(401) 785-2512
<i>Secretary</i>	Mrs. Dennis C. Smith
Wilbur Hollow Road, No. Scituate, RI 02857	(401) 647-7204
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Miss Gladys I. Bailey
2068 So. County Trail, Ea. Greenwich, RI 02818	(401) 884-9009
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr. A. John Prokopowicz
168 Forest Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910	(401) 785-2512
<i>Registrar</i>	Mrs. Harold P. Williams
35 Hodsell Street, Cranston, RI 02910	(401) 467-7594
<i>Historian</i>	Mrs. Robert Corbitt
15 Ivy Lane, Seekonk, MA 02771	(508) 336-9418

DIRECTORS

<i>Director</i>	Miss Dorothy W. Budlong
8 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence, RI 02906	(401) 331-8474
<i>Director</i>	Mr. Robert E. Seere
P.O. Box 247, Chepachet, RI 02814	(401) 568-2261
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Mrs. Clifford W. Brown
180 Brown Street, Providence, RI 02906	(401) 331-1253
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Col. Robert Allen-Greene
P.O. Box 137, Ea. Greenwich, RI 02818	(401) 884-7530, 884-5929
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Miss Marion L. Fry
2153 So. County Trail, Ea. Greenwich, RI 02818	(401) 884-4988
<i>Director, Past President</i>	Mrs. Henry W. Lawton
1017 Great Road, Lincoln, RI 02865	(401) 334-2674

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

<i>Lineage Book</i>	Col. Robert Allen Greene
P.O. Box 137, Ea. Greenwich, RI 02818	(401) 884-7530
<i>Membership</i>	Mrs. Donald T. Morrison
P.O. Box 137, Ea. Greenwich, RI 02818	(401) 884-7530
<i>Sunshine</i>	Miss Dorothy W. Budlong
8 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence, RI 02906	(401) 331-8474
<i>Chaplain</i>	Miss Alice Roe
<i>Program</i>	Mr. George Wightman Williams
<i>Publicity</i>	Mr. Robert W. Westcott
130 Clearview Drive, No. Kingstown, RI 02852	(401) 884-7895
<i>Auditors</i>	Mr. Raymond L. Hilton, Jr., Mr. Everett O. White
<i>Trust Committee</i>	Miss Marion L. Fry, Mr. Elmer H. Palmer