

BEGINNING OUR 133RD YEAR

2021-2022

OFFICERS

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<i>1st Vice President</i>	Patricia A. Woodard 401-330-0314 (c); 1st-vice-president@rogerwilliams.org
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<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Anne (Williams) Crocker 100 Arthur Street - Apt. 103, Cranston, RI 02910 401-467-7594 (h); 401-339-1639 (c); corresponding-secretary@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Treasurer</i>	Frank B. Stevenson 142 George Allen Road, Chepachet, RI 02814 401-568-4016 (h); treasurer@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Registrar</i>	Kathan M. Lambert 415 Wallum Lake Road, Pascoag, RI 02859 401-529-4581 (c); registrar@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Historian</i>	Mary (French) Channing historian@rogerwilliams.org

DIRECTORS

<i>Director; Past President</i>	Dr. Clifford W. Brown, Jr.
<i>Director; Past President</i>	Mary (French) Channing
<i>Director; Past President</i>	Kathan M. Lambert
<i>Director</i>	Gladys I. Bailey
<i>Director</i>	Janis (Frigault) Stevenson

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

<i>Auditor</i>	Raymond L. Hilton, Jr.
<i>Chaplain</i>	Anne (Williams) Crocker
<i>Membership Database</i>	Janis (Frigault) Stevenson database@rogerwilliams.org
<i>Program</i>	Patricia A. Woodard 401-330-0314 (c); 1st-vice-president@rogerwilliams.org
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THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

2021-2022 No. 108

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



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings, Cousins!

I hope 2021 is finding you more well, able, and enlightened from the sufferings and tolls of the pandemic. Prayers are sent collectively to all family members for better days, good health, and happiness. As we grow accustomed to re-openings and getting back to normal, we hope you enjoyed precious time with your families and the meaning of endurance, patience, and prudence.

Perseverance was a strength of our ancestors, and our Association has made strides with technology to keep our association afloat and in virtual communication. We have been actively participating in many virtual meetings via Zoom in collaboration with local historical societies, educational foundations, and Roger Williams University. To keep everyone informed, our website (www.rogerwilliams.org) and Facebook page have been updated regularly regarding programs. Our upcoming in-person gatherings are now set for all who have been vaccinated or are following government guidelines, so be on the lookout for reminder messages from the Association.

A trip abroad is being planned for the summer of 2022 by Dr. Charlotte Carrington-Farmer and Ranger John McNiff to retrace the footsteps of our grandparents in London. It is my hope that many of our members will be able to make that trip. More information will be forthcoming.

I hope to see you at our upcoming gatherings scheduled for 2021-2022. Although technology has kept us all in touch over the past eighteen months, I believe we can now all agree that meeting in person is abundantly better.

Please feel free to call me at (401) 418-9971 or email president@rogerwilliams.org if you have any inquiries.

Fondly,

Dawn Williams, President
Roger Williams Family Association
August 2021

RWFA Pamphlets/Bulletins: 1942 Through Present

All of our Roger Williams Family Association Bulletins have recently been digitized and posted as PDF files on our website. Several are missing, so if you happen to have a copy, please let us know!
View the files at www.rogerwilliams.org.

NEW MEMBERS 2020-2021

* Charlotte Carrington-Farmer	Barrington, RI	<i>Honorary</i>
* Sharon Ann Hare	St. Charles, IL	<i>Mary</i>
* Carter Robinson Meyer	Camden, ME	<i>Mary, Mercy Winsor</i>
Helen Smith	Jamestown, RI	<i>Freeborn</i>
Finn M. Stern	Charlotte, NC	<i>Freeborn</i>
Marianne Stern	Charlotte, NC	<i>Freeborn</i>
Phalen J. Stern	Charlotte, NC	<i>Freeborn</i>
* Gregory Benz van Inwegen	Gardiner, NY	<i>Freeborn</i>
<i>* Life Member</i>		

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas Francis Budlong	1 August 2020	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Frank Arnold Hassell	18 November 2018	<i>Freeborn</i>
Margaret Ann Hetrick	25 November 2015	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
Richard Alvin Hetrick	5 October 2015	<i>Associate</i>
Harriet May Pepper	5 February 2020	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Peter A. Salsbury	1 October 1999	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
Amenie Nelson Schweizer	16 March 2019	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Edna S. Steinour	12 November 2002	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
Gordon P. White	10 March 2004	<i>Daniel</i>
Allan Williams	13 September 2000	<i>Daniel</i>
Jean F. Yates	22 August 2007	<i>Joseph</i>

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.

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 yearly*
- ♦ *Life Membership Dues: \$75.00 (no application fee required)*

Many records — including many about Mary Williams — were lost when Williams' home was destroyed in King Philip's War in the 1670s. So Carrington-Farmer has had to rely on records and letters about Mary Williams that were written by her husband, and the men around her.

“As a historian, you have to take everything with a real pinch of salt. It was a man's world in the 17th century and when you married, you subjected yourself to your husband,” said Carrington-Farmer. “But in Rhode Island, it was different. Women had more power that shook up the typical norms of the time.”

Within those letters and other records are the little-known pieces of Mary Williams's life.

Before she was married, Mary Barnard worked as a maid in the household of a country magistrate in 1629 in Essex county. She was more of a companion than a servant, a common position for daughters of the upper clergy.

During that time, Roger Williams was appointed as the chaplain following his graduation from Cambridge University, and wrote letters professing his love to a woman named Jane Whalley, the cousin of Mary Barnard's employer's wife. He was forbidden to marry Whalley and soon after, a marriage certificate stored at the Essex County archives in Chelmsford, England, shows that Roger married Mary Barnard in December 1629. It's unclear if she ever knew of her husband's previous attraction.

The couple came to Boston in February 1631, fleeing the religious climate in England, says Carrington-Farmer. Roger Williams turned down a position at the Boston church. The couple moved several times and, four years after arriving in Boston, they were banished from the Massachusetts Bay colony for his “new and dangerous opinions.”

When she arrived in Providence, a “magical place for religious freedom,” Mary Williams finally settled down, Carrington-Farmer said.

“By spring of 1636 Williams and his followers (including his wife Mary) from Salem had started to build a settlement along the Seekonk River, in present-day Rumford, R.I. Williams, in keeping with his views on the land rights of Indigenous peoples, bought the land from Massasoit. However, Plymouth asserted that the land was within their jurisdiction, which meant that Williams could be arrested,” Carrington-Farmer wrote.

“Even though Williams and his followers had already begun to build houses and plant crops, they decided to cross the Seekonk River and settle in a place that lay beyond Plymouth's boundaries. After rounding the river, Williams crossed into Narragansett land and accordingly he purchased land from the Narragansett Sachems, Canonicus and Miantonomi. He named the settlement Providence, as he believed that it was God's providence that had carried them to safety.”

Carrington-Farmer says the most exciting part of Mary Williams' story is that it's an unfinished puzzle.

“Her place in history matters,” said Carrington-Farmer. “Doing women's history is hard. You have to be creative with the sources that you use.”

By Alexa Gagosz, The Boston Globe, 2021

CALENDAR

September 2021 - June 2022

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2021 - 12:00 PM
PRESENTATION & TOUR OF PAWTUXET RANGERS ARMORY
Colonel Ronald W. Barnes, Commanding Officer of the Pawtuxet Rangers and RWFA member, will talk about the history of the Pawtuxet Rangers, the armory in Historic Pawtuxet Village, and the burning of the HMS Gaspee in 1772. This will be followed by a tour of the armory, then luncheon at the nearby Revolution Restaurant at 2190 Broad Street.

RSVP by September 11th to rihistorybuff@gmail.com or 401-330-0314.
Directions to 59 Remington St., Warwick, RI: Take the Route 37 exit off Route I-95 toward Warwick. Follow it to the end to Post Rd. North. Continue on Post Rd. to Rick's Auto Body (on right at 62 Post Rd.) and turn right onto Fair St. Take second left onto Remington St. The armory is on the corner of Bank and Remington Streets. If parking is unavailable, you may park at the Aspray Boat House parking lot at 2 East View St. (continue down Remington St., turn left on Narragansett Parkway, then right onto East View St.)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021 - 11:00 AM
PRESENTATION AT SMITH'S CASTLE
Robert Geake will talk about the life of Roger Williams at Cocumscussoc. Smith's Castle is maintained by the Cocumscussoc Association, the corporate entity that owns, maintains, and interprets the history of Smith's Castle and Cocumscussoc on behalf of the people of Rhode Island. This presentation will be followed by a brief business meeting and family photo of our members. Luncheon to follow at Sonoma's Restaurant at 7366 Post Road, North Kingstown, RI.

RSVP by October 9th to rihistorybuff@gmail.com or 401-330-0314.
Directions to 55 Richard Smith Dr., No. Kingstown, RI: From I-95 South, take Exit 9. Merge left onto RI-4S toward No. Kingstown. Take Exit 7B-A toward Quonset RI-403. Keep R onto RI-403E to Quonset. Take exit toward Post Rd. US-1. Keep right on Post Rd. toward Wickford Village. Turn left on Richard Smith Dr.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021 - 12:00 PM
PRESENTATION & TOUR AT JOHN WATERMAN ARNOLD HOUSE
A tour of the house will be given by Felicia Gardella, President of the Warwick Historical Society. Highlights will include the collection of the City of Warwick, which includes items from the Westcott family and Rocky Point. John Waterman Arnold was also a descendant of Roger Williams and his father, Israel, was one of the first Pawtuxet Rangers. A luncheon will follow at Rigatoni's Restaurant at 1229 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, RI.

RSVP by November 13th to rihistorybuff@gmail.com or 401-330-0314.
Directions to Roger Williams Circle, Warwick, RI: Take the Route 37 exit off Route I-95 toward Warwick. Follow it to the end to Post Rd. North. Continue on Post Rd. to Rick's Auto Body (on right at 62 Post Rd.) and turn right onto Fair St. Turn right onto Harrison Ave., then left onto Roger Williams Circle.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2021 - 2:00 PM
ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AND TEA
Join us at the home of past president Clifford Brown and his wife, Marilyn Brownell, for a brief business meeting prior to a music program, in which we will be encouraged to join in caroling. Afterwards, we will enjoy a traditional Victorian tea with holiday refreshments and lively conversation. Please feel free to bring a treat for all to enjoy.

RSVP by December 11th to rihistorybuff@gmail.com or 401-330-0314.
Directions to 180 Brown St., Providence, RI: From north or south, take Rte. 95; take exit 22A, following signs to Downtown Providence/Memorial Blvd. From west, follow Rte. 6 to exit for Downtown Providence/Memorial Blvd. In all cases,

follow Memorial Blvd. to the river. Turn left onto Washington St., which becomes Waterman St. Proceed up the hill to Brown St., just beyond its summit. Turn left onto Brown St. and proceed seven blocks to Keene St. The Brown residence is on the far left (northwest) corner of Brown and Keene Streets.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022 - 1:00 PM
EXHIBITION AT WILBOR HOUSE

We will explore the exhibition sponsored by the Little Compton Historical Society at Wilbor House: "If Jane Should Want to Be Sold: Stories of Enslavement, Indenture and Freedom in Little Compton, Rhode Island." A luncheon will follow at Crowther's Restaurant at 90 Pottersville Road, Little Compton, RI.

RSVP by April 9th to rihistorybuff@gmail.com or 401-330-0314.

Directions to 548 West Main Road, Little Compton, RI: From Boston, take Rte. 93S to Rte. 24S. EXIT Tiverton/Little Compton (Rte. 77); go south on Rte. 77, through the traffic light at Tiverton Four Corners; continue south for 7 mi. and the Wilbor House will be on the left. From Providence, take Rte. 195E to 24S. EXIT Tiverton/Little Compton (Rte. 77); continue as above. From Newport, go north on East Main Rd. (Rte. 138) or West Main Rd. (Rte. 114) to Rte. 24N. EXIT Tiverton/Little Compton (Rte. 77); continue as above.

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022 - 1:00 PM
TOMAQUAG MUSEUM PRESENTATION

Loren Spears will talk about the Narragansett tribe and Roger Williams, and how they coexisted during the Colonial era in Rhode Island. Afterwards, a short drive to Arcadia Park for a picnic lunch and short business meeting.

RSVP by May 7th to rihistorybuff@gmail.com or 401-330-0314.

Directions to 390A Summit Rd., Exeter, RI: From the North, take I-95S towards Providence, RI. Merge onto RI-102S via exit Number 5A towards Exeter/RI-165/Arcadia/Beach Pond. Stay straight onto RI-3/Nooseneck Hill Rd. Turn right onto RI-165/Ten Rod Rd. Take a left onto Arcadia Rd. and go approx. 3 miles until stop sign. Turn right onto Summit Rd. and follow over a small bridge. When you see two stone pillars, turn right up the driveway to the Museum or, if lot is full, go to next drive on right and park in the lower lot. From the South, take I-95N to RI-138W via exit 3B toward Wyoming/Hope Valley. Stay straight through the first stoplight. You will pass a shopping area and the Richmond Police Station. Turn right onto Bridge St., and go over the dam. You will see a white and blue RI-DOT sign on the corner. Bear right at the fork onto Arcadia Rd. The RI DOT center will be on your left. Follow Arcadia Rd. approx. 4 miles, passing a bridge over a small dam and the Arcadia Forestry Station. Go straight through Summit Rd. intersection; RI Fish Hatchery will be on the right. Turn right onto Summit Rd. and follow over a small bridge. When you see two stone pillars, turn right up the driveway to the Museum or, if lot is full, go to next drive on right and park in the lower lot.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2022 - 1:00 PM
PRESENTATION AT SMITH'S CASTLE

Please join us for an exciting afternoon with Professor Charlotte Carrington-Farmer on "The women in the life of Roger Williams." Discover the story of the women who influenced Roger Williams throughout his lifetime. Carrington-Farmer, Associate Professor of History at Roger Williams University and resident scholar, will be presented with an Honorary Lifetime Membership in our Association in recognition of all her dedicated research in our ancestor's memory throughout the years. A luncheon will follow at Dan's Carriage Inn at 1065 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown, RI.

RSVP by June 11th to rihistorybuff@gmail.com or 401-330-0314.

Directions to 55 Richard Smith Dr., North Kingstown, RI: From I-95 South, take Exit 9. Merge left onto RI-4S toward North Kingstown. Take Exit 7B-A toward Quonset RI-403. Keep R onto RI-403E to Quonset. Take exit toward Post Road US-1. Keep right on Post Rd. toward Wickford Village. Turn left on Richard Smith Dr.

MORE THAN ROGER'S WIFE

Local scholar committed to uncovering the untold story of Rhode Island's first lady, Mary Williams

In June 1650, she wrote, "My dear and loving husband."

Those five words are the only surviving, legible examples of former Rhode Island first lady Mary Williams's handwriting. There are no other documents, and even in this letter, a different ink partially bleeds onto her script.

She was the daughter of Reverend Richard Barnard, an important Puritan clergyman in England. She was the mother of six children who reached adulthood. She frequently hosted Indigenous leaders at her home in the mid-17th century.

But despite being in the presence of rule breakers and trailblazers of the time, today she is mainly known only as the wife of religious and political leader Roger Williams, who eventually founded the state of Rhode Island.

"Women were also important then. Mary Williams influenced the world around her. I think in her own way, she was a changemaker," said Dr. Charlotte Carrington-Farmer, an associate professor of history at Roger Williams University, and resident scholar of the university's namesake. "And I think the days of history of just great men are numbered."

Carrington-Farmer, who next year will teach a class about Mary Williams and the other women of her era, has been researching the state's founder for nearly 20 years.

She "was hooked" while taking a course on Puritanism in the Atlantic World as a second-year undergraduate student at the University of Leicester in 2002. She spent the summer before her senior year in New England, working at Camp Nashoba North in Maine and traveling to historic sites from Providence to Newport, all connected to Roger Williams and his life.

She returned to England in 2003 and wrote her senior thesis on how Roger Williams' religious views affected how he interacted with Indigenous peoples around New England. Three years later, she picked up her interest in him again during her PhD research at the University of Cambridge, which she said "examined dissent and deviance in 17th-century New England." A chapter of her thesis focused on Roger Williams, and was edited and published in "Law and Religion in the Liberal State," last May.

But after her work on Rhode Island's founding father was published, she realized there was little to be found about his wife, or about other women of that time.

"The process involved painstakingly tracking down where the documents were located," said Carrington-Farmer, who is hoping to finish her research in the UK this summer, but is still waiting for archives to reopen. Most of them have been closed for the last year due to the pandemic.

The primary sources on Mary Williams are letters, marriage and christening records, and deeds that are scattered across two continents, in Boston, Plymouth, Mass., and Providence, and in London, Nottinghamshire, Cambridge, Essex, and Somerset in England.