

BEGINNING OUR 134TH YEAR

2022-2023

OFFICERS

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<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Neil W. Ross 138 White Horn Drive, Kingston, RI 02881 2nd-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>	Roger H. Blake 22 Pond Street, North Easton, MA 02356 (508) 369-6514; 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>	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

2022-2023 No. 109

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



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Warm regards, Family!

Sending *Good Cheer* to current, new, and honorary members of our Association.

We are pleased to announce the 150th Anniversary of Roger Williams Park! In 1871 Betsey Williams, descendant of Roger, bequeathed over 100 acres to the City of Providence for the Park and additional funds to erect a statue of Roger Williams there. The park has since quadrupled in size and has undergone many wonderful improvements. The park's birthday will be commemorated on Sunday, October 30th with an all-day event. For our members and their guests, the day will begin with a special morning service at the First Baptist Church in America, followed by a complimentary luncheon at the Roger Williams Park Casino. Various activities hosted by the Roger Williams Park Conservancy, TEN31 Productions, and the Association will follow, including lectures, colonial music, presentations on Roger Williams, Betsey Williams, and Conanicus, and tours of the Victorian Rose Gardens, the Williams Family Cemetery, Betsey Williams Cottage, and Roger Williams Statue. The day will be capped by a chorus of "Happy Birthday" and birthday cake. October 30th will be a perfect opportunity to reunite with our Roger Williams family members and pose for group photos in the park as our family members have traditionally done for many decades. See the 2022-2023 Program page for details. Let's hope for a large turnout!

Also worth mentioning is an upcoming new television series by producer Oliver King of the UK. The show will be entitled "Providence" and will focus on the exciting and harrowing life of Roger Williams. Filming will be underway in New England soon, mostly in Providence, Rhode Island. See Wild Yak Productions for further tidbits regarding the pilot.

Happily, we have seen an upswing in membership applications this past year. Since our founding in 1906, we have approved over 4,000 applications for membership. Currently, we have over 1,000 active members from all over the world. It is the Executive Board's hope to see new faces this year in our many program excursions.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve the family. Have a wonderful summer, and I hope we will see you at the Roger Williams Park Birthday Celebration on October 30th.

Fondly,

Dawn Williams, President
Roger Williams Family Association
August 2022

NEW MEMBERS 2021-2022

* Linda L. Bjornson	Mount Dora, FL	<i>Daniel</i>
Mary Adelaide DaRin	Huntersville, NC	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
* Lois E. Dexter	North Kingstown, RI	<i>Daniel</i>
* Karen R. Ellsworth	Wakefield, RI	<i>Joseph</i>
* Linda Hahne	Cedar City, UT	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
* Kenneth L. Hewett II	Richmond, RI	<i>Joseph</i>
* Richard Frederick Keene	North Smithfield, RI	<i>Daniel</i>
* Cherrill Corby Lewis	Chatham, MA	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
Emma L. Sheeran	Park Ridge, NJ	<i>Daniel, Mercy Winsor</i>
Jessica M. Sheeran	Park Ridge, NJ	<i>Daniel, Mercy Winsor</i>
* Susan Lee Sheldon	Seneca Falls, NY	<i>Mercy Winsor</i>
* Abigail Rose Stevens	Castle Pines, CO	<i>Daniel</i>
* Anabelle Grace Stevens	Castle Pines, CO	<i>Daniel</i>
Mark Stockwell	Seneca Falls, NY	<i>Daniel</i>
* Dorothy Lou Walker	Oriental, NC	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
* Harold Eugene Williams III	Wannakee, WI	<i>Daniel</i>

* *Life Member*

IN MEMORIAM

Gladys I. Bailey	16 February 2022	<i>Mary</i>
Thomas Casey Greene	29 December 2021	<i>Mary</i>
Donald E. Haslam	8 July 2022	<i>Mercy Waterman</i>
Elmer Hall Palmer	15 September 2021	<i>Mary</i>
George Roger Peck	12 September 2018	<i>Joseph</i>
Robert Laurens Sawyer	20 February 2019	<i>Daniel</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)*

Originally, the city refused to accept the property, as it was 'too far' from where people lived. Shortly thereafter, the trolley line was expanded to include Elmwood Avenue. With that, the city accepted the bequest. The monument to Roger Williams next to the Betsey Williams cottage was dedicated on October 16, 1877, with 20,000 people in attendance.

In the 1930s, with the commemoration for the 300th anniversary of the founding of Rhode Island approaching, even more attention was focused on Roger Williams. Roger Williams Spring Park (now the Hahn Memorial) and a small monument were dedicated along North Main Street in the mid-1930s. The monument with a statue of Roger, which is also his final resting place, was finally placed in Prospect Park in 1939.



Roger Williams Statue, Prospect Park

In the 1950s, US Senator Theodore Francis Greene began a push for national recognition of Roger Williams and his work. These efforts were taken up by his successor in the US Senate, Claiborne Pell. Roger Williams National Memorial was established by Congress in October 1965 to commemorate Williams' "outstanding contributions to the development of the principles of freedom in this country." The memorial, a 4.5 acre urban greenspace located at the foot of College Hill in downtown Providence, includes a freshwater spring which was the center of the settlement of Providence founded by Williams in 1636. It is on this site that Williams, through word and action, fought for the ideal that religion be entirely separate from the state and that it should be a matter of individual conscience. Along with that, the state did not get its authority from God, but from the consent of the people. It was a remarkable journey that brought Williams to what is now the capital of Rhode Island and to where he put his beliefs into practice, giving "shelter for persons distressed of conscience."

This 4.5-acre memorial has changed quite a bit from its origins in 1965. At first the area was a vacant lot, the product of urban renewal. The landscape you can see today was designed by Albert Veri and Associates and put into place in 1984. Mr. Veri stated that he wished the place to be an 'urban oasis, a contemplative grove' where people could come, take a break from the urban bustle around them and contemplate the ideas and ideals of Roger Williams. When visiting the site in 2010, Mr. Veri said that the design had turned out just as he had seen it in his mind.

There is a small visitors center for the memorial at the corner of North Main and Smith Streets. In the center is a short, 5-minute video on the life of Roger Williams. There is also an exhibit demonstrating how Roger's 'New and dangerous opinions,' the crime for which he was tossed out of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, are still relevant for all of us throughout the world today.

*By John McNiff, Park Ranger
Roger Williams National Memorial*

CALENDAR

September 2022 - June 2023

The RWFA will pay admission fees for all children 12 and under.

PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO COVID-19 ALL MEETINGS ARE TENTATIVE AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION

Please check www.rogerwilliams.org or our Facebook page for updates.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2022 - 1:00 PM

TOUR OF VARNUM ARMORY

The Varnum Armory, built by the Varnum Continentals in 1913, is a medieval-style redbrick building housing a military history and weaponry collection. Following the tour, we will meet at the nearby Chelo's Waterfront for lunch. Directions to the restaurant will be handed out after the tour.

RSVP by September 17th to rihistorybuff@gmail.com or 401-330-0314.

GPS: Varnum Armory, 6 Main St, East Greenwich, RI 02818. Directions: From Providence, take I-95 S; keep left at fork to RI-4 S; take Exit 8 to RI-401; right onto RI-401 E; left onto Division St; right onto US-1 S. Armory is on the left.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022 - 1:00 PM

BIENNIAL TRIP TO MARGARET'S ROCK

Following his banishment from Salem in January 1636, and suffering from illness, Roger Williams headed to Sowams (now Warren) where Margaret, a Wampanoag medicine woman, nursed him back to health in a lean-to shelter at Massasoit's winter camp. This is the only remaining abode in the Providence area whose walls Roger actually touched. A hike of approx. 500 yards is required. Bring a folding chair and packed lunch for a brief meeting afterwards.

RSVP by October 8th to rihistorybuff@gmail.com or 401-330-0314.

Directions: From Providence, take I-195 toward Swansea and Fall River; take the Rt. 136 exit and travel south 1.7 miles; after crossing into RI, turn left onto Birch Swamp Rd; continue for 0.3 miles where road takes a 90 degree turn, and go straight onto the dirt road (sign "Windswept Farm"; DO NOT turn right into the drive to the Old Chase Farm). We will assemble on this dirt road, drive to within several hundred yards, and hike up to the rock from there.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2022 - 11:00 AM

FOUNDER'S DAY SERVICE AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Join us for this special service dedicated to the memories of all those that came to Providence with Roger Williams in 1636. Afterwards, we will proceed to Roger Williams Park to join in the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the park. We will gather at the park's famous Casino where luncheon will be provided. Directions to Roger Williams Park Casino will be provided at the church. See President's letter for more information.

RSVP by October 23rd to rihistorybuff@gmail.com or 401-330-0314.

GPS: First Baptist Church, 75 North Main St, Providence, RI. Directions: From I-95 take Exit 22A, following the signs to Downtown/Memorial Blvd; follow Memorial Blvd to the river; then left onto Washington St. The church is visible directly ahead at the corner of North Main and Waterman Sts. Parking can be difficult, so plan travel time accordingly.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2022 - 1:00 PM

PRESENTATION AT SMITH'S CASTLE

Local historical interpreter, Estelle Barada, will give a first-person narrative of an enslaved woman named Phyllis who worked in the kitchen on the Hazard plantation in North Kingstown, and who some credit with the creation of johnnycakes. We will then gather at Richard's Pub for lunch. Directions to the restaurant will be provided at the presentation.

RSVP by November 12th to rihistorybuff@gmail.com or 401-330-0314.

ROGER WILLIAMS' PARKS

GPS: Smith's Castle, 55 Richard Smith Drive, North Kingstown, RI 02852. Directions: From Providence, take I-95 South; merge left onto RI-4S toward No Kingstown; take Exit 7B-A toward Quonset RI-403; keep right onto RI-403E to Quonset; take exit toward US-1 Post Rd; keep right on Post Rd toward Wickford Village; turn left on Richard Smith Dr.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2022 - 2:30 PM WILLIAMS FAMILY HOLIDAY GATHERING

Dr. Clifford Brown and his wife, Marilyn Brownell, will host the holiday festivities this year at the Chepachet Baptist Church, to include a musical program and carols sing-along. After a brief business meeting, the group will enjoy a Victorian style tea. Goodies to share are greatly appreciated.

RSVP by December 3rd to rihistorybuff@gmail.com or 401-330-0314.

GPS: Chepachet Baptist Church, 1213 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI 02814. Directions: From I-295, exit to US-44 W; proceed through Greenville into Glocester (as you enter Chepachet Village, US-44 merges with US-102); proceed on US-44 through Chepachet Village to the roundabout, following signs to continue on US-44 W. The church is about 200 feet beyond the roundabout on the right.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023 - 11:00 AM WHYDAH PIRATE MUSEUM

We will learn about Captain Sam Bellamy, a pirate whose ship, the *Whydah*, crashed on the shores of Cape Cod during a hurricane. Those that survived the wreck were charged with piracy and executed. Over the years many artifacts from the crash have been recovered and are on display at the museum. A forty-five minute program will be followed by a self-guided tour. Admission: \$17.00, Seniors: \$15.00. Luncheon will follow at nearby Captain Parker's Pub.

RSVP by April 8th to rihistorybuff@gmail.com or 401-330-0314.

GPS: Whydah Pirate Museum, 674 MA-28, West Yarmouth, MA 02673. Directions: From Providence, take I-195 E, to Bourne; continue to US-6 E, following US-6 E to Willow St in Yarmouth; take Exit 72; take Higgins Crowell Rd to Main St; left to museum.

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023 - 1:00 PM TOUR OF GILBERT STUART BIRTHPLACE & MUSEUM

We will tour the site where famous portrait painter, Gilbert Stuart, was born and raised at the snuff mill his father ran. Stuart painted the portraits of the first six presidents, the more famous one of George Washington having been used on the one dollar bill for over one hundred years. Admission: Adults \$12.00. We will then gather at Richard's Pub for lunch. Directions to the pub will be given at the meeting.

RSVP by May 13th to rihistorybuff@gmail.com or 401-330-0314.

GPS: Gilbert Stuart Birthplace & Museum, 815 Gilbert Stuart Rd, Saunderstown, RI 02874. Directions: From Providence, take I-95 S; merge left onto RI-4S toward No Kingstown, picking up US-1 S in No Kingstown; continue on US-1 S approx. 6 miles (you will pass Gilbert Stuart Rd); make a legal U-turn onto S-1 N to head back to Gilbert Stuart Rd access; turn right onto Gilbert Stuart Rd; destination is on your left.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023 - 11:00 AM FORT ADAMS PARK TO ROSE ISLAND BOAT TOUR

We will meet at Fort Adams in Newport at the south dock and board for a boat trip over to Rose Island. Captain David McCurdy will guide us on our journey and relate the history of the Rose Island lighthouse. Bring a picnic lunch to be enjoyed on the island. Cost is \$15.00 per person. Reserve early - space is limited!

RSVP no later than June 3rd to rihistorybuff@gmail.com or 401-330-0314.

GPS: Fort Adams State Park, 80 Fort Adams Dr, Newport, RI 02840. Directions: From Providence, take I-195 E toward E Providence/Cape Cod; take Exit 14A to merge onto Rte 24 S toward Tiverton/Newport; Rte 24 becomes W Main Rd; turn left onto Valley Rd; continue onto Aquidneck Ave; turn left onto Bellevue Ave; turn right onto Ruggles Ave; turn left onto Brenton Rd; turn right onto Ft Adams Dr; turn left onto Monroe Rd; destination is on your left.

Roger Williams was a passionate Christian minister who is widely recognized as the founding figure for the state of Rhode Island. In so doing, he established one of the very first places based on the absolute separation of church and state. He did this, not because religion was unimportant, but because it was *too* important to be tied to something as tied to this world as government. In doing so he also established one of the very first places where the people were the foundation of civil government. These ideals of religious liberty and secular government were written into the founding documents of the United States.

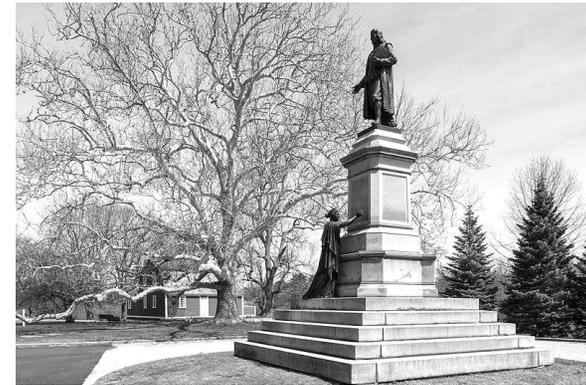
Ironically, by the end of his own lifetime, Williams was pretty much an afterthought for the people of Providence. The official records state that he died and was buried on his own property sometime between January and March 1683. Sometime between January and March!

Decades later, as English colonies in America grew more and more disheartened with colonial rule, many of Williams' ideals took center stage. Locke, Rousseau, Jefferson, and Madison all echoed Williams when writing on liberty and freedom.

After independence, Rhode Island's influence grew as it became the cornerstone of industrialization. Slater Mill and all the other mills that followed, and the Blackstone Canal, brought economic prosperity to Providence. With that prosperity, leading families in Rhode Island began to look back at their origins and sought to record and commemorate Rhode Island's origin story. The work of Roger Williams was once again coming to the forefront of history.

By the mid-19th century, an effort was made to commemorate Williams and his work. But plans for a memorial statue to Williams at Prospect Park on Providence's east side were put on hold by the outbreak of the Civil War. After the war, the focus shifted to memorializing the efforts and sacrifices of the soldiers and sailors from the recent conflict.

It wasn't until the passing of Betsey Williams, the great-great-great granddaughter of Roger Williams, in 1871 that a tangible memorial to Williams was created. The Roger Williams Park and Zoo was created on land that had belonged to the Williams family, going back to Roger's youngest son Joseph. When Betsey Williams died in 1871, she willed her property, 102 acres, to the city of Providence to be used for the public good, along with the stipulation that the city would be required to create a monument for her famous ancestor.



Roger Williams Statue and Betsy Williams Cottage, Roger Williams Park