

BEGINNING OUR 135TH YEAR

2023-2024

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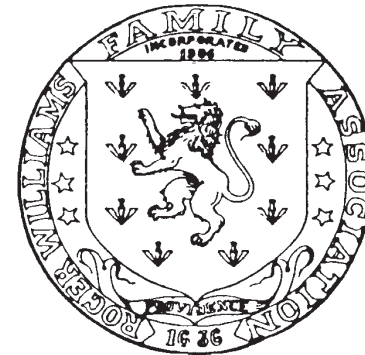
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THE ROGER WILLIAMS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

2023-2024 No. 110

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



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to all our Williams cousins to our 2023-2024 program and our 135th year. Following our association's elections, the new board of directors has been installed and I am honored to have been chosen as your president for the next three years. I hope to represent our association well and live up to the memory of our ancestor.

Many thanks to all who served on the board during the difficult years of Covid, when unfortunately many of our functions had to be canceled due to social distancing. We look forward to working together with our newly-elected board members throughout the coming year.

We have planned an interesting program of meetings and events, and encourage everyone to join with us often as possible. The program will include a boat trip to Rose Island, which we had to postpone last June due to bad weather. We will tour the Kentish Guards Armory, celebrating their 250th anniversary, and will visit the Pawtuxet Rangers Armory, also celebrating their 250th anniversary, where Charlotte Carrington-Farmer will speak.

Annual events will include the Founder's Day service at First Baptist Church in October and our special December gathering at the home of Marilyn Brownell and Dr. Clifford Brown ... always a great treat!

We are looking forward to a wonderful year and getting together with as many cousins as possible.

Warmest regards,

Trish Woodard, President
Roger Williams Family Association
August 2023

REVISED DUES STRUCTURE

As of July 1, 2023, dues and fees for memberships are as follows:

- ♦ Annual Membership Dues: \$25.00 yearly
- ♦ Life Membership Dues: \$200.00
- ♦ One-time application fee for Annual & Life Members: \$25.00
(add \$10.00 for each additional immediate family member within the same primary application)

NEW MEMBERS 2022-2023

*Lisa Anne Baroz	Staten Island, NY	Mary
*Susan Tull Byerly	Stoneville, NC	Mary
*Helen Christoffel	Mineral, VA	Mary
*Joseph May Davis	Newport, RI	Mary
*Jeffrey Allen Flowers	Mineral, VA	Mary
*Karen M. Flowers	Mineral, VA	Mary
*Marilyn Markel Hanson	Greensboro, NC	Mary
*Andrew Howes	Grosse Pointe Woods, MI	Mary
*James M. Mumma	Bristol, RI	Mary
*Virginia Cabot Whiting	New York, NY	Mercy Waterman
*William Gordon Whiting II	New York, NY	Mercy Waterman

* Life Member

IN MEMORIAM

Richard S. Barker	19 December 2012	Associate
Elsie Drew Buffum	14 April 2023	Mercy Winsor
Walter Courtney Burgner	29 October 2020	Joseph
Lynn M. Gale	23 June 2021	Daniel
Russell Winslow Greene	8 December 2022	Joseph
Alexander Arnold Harris	23 March 2021	Mercy Winsor
Virginia R. Lindley	25 December 2020	Mary
Joan A. Noonan	3 September 2020	Joseph
M. Carolyn Platt	19 February 2022	Daniel
John Albert Southworth	16 August 2021	Mary
Vivian Mae Stone	10 June 2012	Daniel
Arietta M. Tapner	21 January 2018	Daniel
Barbara M. Thompson	25 July 2021	Joseph
John C. Williams	-----	Daniel, Mary, Joseph
Harry Leslie Devoe	17 August 2021	Mary, Freeborn, Joseph and Mercy Waterman

RWFA Pamphlets/Bulletins: 1942 Through Present

We have recently digitized all of our Roger Williams Family Association Bulletins and posted them as PDFs 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.

Please note that shipping prices shown below are for U.S. states.
Shipping for international orders is significantly greater.
Please email orders@rogerwilliams.org to discuss your options.

Name _____

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DESCENDANTS OF ROGER WILLIAMS - BOOK 1

The Waterman and Winsor Lines Through His Daughter Mercy Williams

QTY _____ Hard Cover Book: \$34.00 plus \$6.00 shipping for each book ordered

QTY _____ CD Version: \$20.00 plus \$6.00 shipping for each CD ordered

QTY _____ Hard Cover & CD: \$44.00 plus \$6.00 shipping for each book/CD ordered

DESCENDANTS OF ROGER WILLIAMS - BOOK 1 SUPPLEMENT

Corrections and Additions To The Waterman Line

DO NOT order this booklet if you are ordering Volume 1 above. This booklet is already included in your Volume 1 order.

QTY _____ Booklet: \$4.50 plus \$1.50 shipping for each booklet ordered

DESCENDANTS OF ROGER WILLIAMS - BOOK 2

The Hart Line Through His Daughter Freeborn Williams

QTY _____ Hard Cover Book: \$28.00 plus \$5.00 shipping for each book ordered

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DESCENDANTS OF ROGER WILLIAMS - BOOK 3

The Sayles Line Through His Daughter Mary Williams

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QTY _____ Hard Cover & CD: \$44.00 plus \$6.00 shipping for each book/CD ordered

DESCENDANTS OF ROGER WILLIAMS - BOOK 4

Through His Son Joseph Williams

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QTY _____ Hard Cover & CD: \$40.00 plus \$5.50 shipping for each book/CD ordered

DESCENDANTS OF ROGER WILLIAMS - BOOK 5

Through His Son Daniel Williams

QTY _____ Hard Cover Book: \$28.00 plus \$5.00 shipping for each book ordered

QTY _____ CD Version: \$20.00 plus \$6.00 shipping for each CD ordered

QTY _____ Hard Cover & CD: \$38.00 plus \$5.00 shipping for each book/CD ordered.

"ROGER WILLIAMS ASSOCIATION" BRASS PINS

QTY _____ \$12.50 plus \$3.50 shipping for the first pin ordered.

Add \$1.00 for each additional pin ordered.

CALENDAR

September 2023 - June 2024

Programs may be subject to cancellation due to severe weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Please check www.rogerwilliams.org or our Facebook page for updates.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 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. Capt. 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. \$25.00 per person. Reserve early - only 15 seats available!

RSVP by September 1st to hhsctc@aol.com or 401-255-1560.

GPS: Fort Adams State Park, 80 Fort Adams Dr, Newport, RI 02840. Directions: From Providence, take I-195E 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.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023 - 11:00 AM

FOUNDER'S DAY SERVICE AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

We will meet for the annual Founder's Day Service at First Baptist Church in Providence and join in the celebration of their 385th anniversary. We will then gather at the Betsey Williams cottage and enjoy a self-tour of the building's exterior, view the nearby Roger Williams statue, and walk through the Joseph Williams burial grounds. Bring a folding chair and picnic lunch.

RSVP by October 22nd to hhsctc@aol.com or 401-255-1560.

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 18, 2023 - 12:00 PM

PRESENTATION BY DR. CHARLOTTE CARRINGTON-FARMER

Charlotte Carrington-Farmer will give a presentation on the early years of Roger and Mary Williams and how this led to the founding of Rhode Island. We will meet at the Pawtuxet Armory, a historic armory awarded by the state to the Rangers after the Dorr rebellion. Following a brief meeting, we will gather for a luncheon at O'Rourke's Pub in nearby Pawtuxet Village.

RSVP by November 11th to hhsctc@aol.com or 401-255-1560.

GPS: Pawtuxet Rangers Armory, 59 Remington St, Warwick, RI. Directions: Take Rte 37 exit off Rte I-95 to Warwick. Follow to end to Post Road North. Continue on Post Rd to Rick's Auto Body (on right at 62 Post Road) and turn right onto Fair St. Take second left onto Remington St. Armory is on the corner of Bank and Remington Sts. 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 Pkwy, then right onto East View St).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023 - 2:00 PM
WILLIAMS FAMILY HOLIDAY GATHERING

A holiday favorite! We will return to the home of Clifford Brown and his wife, Marilyn Brownell, where we will hold a brief business meeting and enjoy a program of Christmas music, a carol sing-along, and a traditional high tea. Donations of goodies for the table are greatly appreciated.

RSVP by December 9th to hhsctc@aol.com or 401-255-1560.

GPS: 180 Brown St, Providence, RI. Directions: From Rte 95 or Rte 6, take exit to Downtown Providence/Memorial Blvd. Follow Memorial Blvd to the river. Turn left onto Washington St (becomes Waterman St). Proceed up the hill to Brown St, just beyond its summit. 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 Sts.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024 - 12:00 PM
TOUR OF KENTISH GUARDS ARMORY

The Kentish Guards, celebrating their 250th anniversary this year, is a militia company that was chartered in 1774 by the Colony of Rhode Island to protect the town of East Greenwich from possible attacks from Loyalists and British troops. Along with their militia, they have a fife and drum corps and color guard. Many Williams descendants have been members throughout the years. Following the tour, we will gather for lunch at nearby Chelo's Waterfront Grille.

RSVP by April 13th to hhsctc@aol.com or 401-255-1560.

GPS: Kentish Guards Armory, 1774 Armory St, East Greenwich, RI. Directions: From Rte 95 S, take exit 24B on the left to merge onto Rte 4 S. Take first exit to Rte 401, Division St, East Greenwich. Bear right at end of ramp. Proceed through several sets of lights on Division St, then bear left at fork to stay on Division St. Turn right onto Peirce St and follow to the Armory (on left).

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024 - 1:00PM
TOUR OF NEUTACONKANUT HILL CONSERVANCY

National Park Ranger John McNiff will give a presentation on the early land boundaries that were laid out between Roger Williams and the Narragansett leaders. You can see all the land within those boundaries from the top of the hill, the highest point in the city of Providence. We will then enjoy a picnic lunch and hold our annual business meeting and elections. Bring a folding chair and lunch.

RSVP by May 11th to hhsctc@aol.com or 401-255-1560.

GPS: Legion Memorial Dr, Providence, RI. Directions: From Rte 10 in Providence, take exit to Rte 6 West. Take Killingly St exit and turn left onto Killingly St. In about 3/4 mile, turn right onto Sunset Dr. Turn left onto Legion Memorial Dr. Park at the Conservatory.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024 - 11:00 AM
TOUR OF BEAVERTAIL LIGHTHOUSE

We will meet at the lighthouse for a guided tour by knowledgeable docents. Learn of the lighthouse's historical significance to the area and discover what it is like to be a lighthouse keeper. Following the tour we will picnic on the grounds and hold a brief business meeting. Bring a lunch and a folding chair.

RSVP by June 8th to hhsctc@aol.com or 401-255-1560.

GPS: Beavertail Rd, Jamestown, RI. Directions: From Rte 95 South, take exit 24B on the left to merge onto Rte 4 South toward North Kingstown; continue to Tower Hill Rd. Take slight right to merge onto Rte 138 East toward Jamestown, Newport for 4.5 miles. Take exit onto Helm St. In 0.7 miles turn onto North Road. In 5.7 miles keep right onto Beavertail Road. The lighthouse is on your left.

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM RWFA

Visit our website for full descriptions and photos of the items below.

www.rogerwilliams.org

To order by mail, complete the back of this form, enclose a check made out to "Roger Williams Family Association" and mail to:

Frank B. Stevenson, Treasurer
Roger Williams Family Assoc.
142 George Allen Road
Chepachet, RI 02814

For faster delivery, order online at www.rogerwilliams.org.

DESCENDANTS OF ROGER WILLIAMS - BOOK 1

The Waterman and Winsor Lines Through His Daughter Mercy Williams
Waterman Line compiled by Dorothy Higson White. Winsor Line compiled by Kay Kirlin Moore. Gateway Press, Inc. 1991. Index. 403 pp.
Includes "Descendants of Roger Williams - Book I Supplement."
Available in Hard Cover and CD Version.

DESCENDANTS OF ROGER WILLIAMS - BOOK 1 SUPPLEMENT

Corrections and Additions To The Waterman Line
DO NOT order this booklet if you are ordering Volume 1 above. This booklet is already included in your Volume 1 order.

DESCENDANTS OF ROGER WILLIAMS - BOOK 2

The Hart Line Through His Daughter Freeborn Williams
Compiled by Kay Kirlin Moore. Edited by Dorothy Higson White. Braun-Brumfield. 1998. Index. 134 pp.
Available in Hard Cover and CD Version.

DESCENDANTS OF ROGER WILLIAMS - BOOK 3

The Sayles Line Through His Daughter Mary Williams
Compiled by Dorothy Higson White. Braun-Brumfield. 2002. Index. 516 pp.
Available in Hard Cover and CD Version.

DESCENDANTS OF ROGER WILLIAMS - BOOK 4

Through His Son Joseph Williams
Compiled by Elsie B. Williams. Gateway Press, Inc. 2009. Index. 237 pp.
Available in Hard Cover and CD Version.

DESCENDANTS OF ROGER WILLIAMS - BOOK 5

Through His Son Daniel Williams
Compiled by Elsie B. Williams. Gateway Press, Inc. 2014. Index. 133 pp.
Available in Hard Cover and CD Version.

"ROGER WILLIAMS ASSOCIATION" BRASS PINS

Cast from the original pre-1906 hub & die.

by the court, convicted of blasphemy. The men were hanged but at the last minute Mary was given a reprieve and ordered to go back to RI, never to return.

Mary defied the law of the Massachusetts Bay Colony once more. A hearing was held to see if Mary would repent her Quaker beliefs. When she refused, she was hanged on June 1, 1660.

Summary

The Verin, Hutchinson, and Dyer stories demonstrate how even in its very first years, in the Rhode Island colony, *each person* had a right to liberty of conscience. It was not an overall feeling of gender equality that brought these issues to the forefront. Women in general were still seen as property and inferior. But on a frontier, everyone is important. Roger Williams's ideal of soul liberty, creating a "*shelter for persons distressed for conscience*" extended to each and every soul, regardless of gender.

Years later, Roger Williams ideals on liberty of conscience were formalized in the Royal Charter of 1663. This Charter established as law that no person in the colony would be punished for what they believed. As Roger said, "Liberty... of our spirits, which neither Old nor New England knows the like, nor no part of the world a greater."

John McNiff is an Honorary Member of the Roger Williams Family Association.

NEWS OF INTEREST

ROGER WILLIAMS BOOKS ON CD!

Volumes 1 through 5 of "Descendants of Roger Williams" are now available in digital format! Each CD contains all the content of the original hard cover book and is **fully searchable** on names, places, dates, etc. Many thanks to our Treasurer, Frank Stevenson, for his efforts on this project! See page 9 to place your order by mail, or order online at www.rogerwilliams.org.

FOR PHILATELISTS

The Rhode Island Tercentenary issue, consisting of a single 3-cent violet stamp, was issued on May 4, 1936, to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the state's first settlement. Roger Williams led a group of followers out of Massachusetts, seeking a place where religious tolerance and free thought could flourish. Their settlement, near Narragansett Bay, was called Providence. This was the nucleus of what became the territory and later the state of Rhode Island. The stamp depicts the statue of Roger Williams that stands in the city of Providence near the State House. A small image of the state seal of Rhode Island appears at lower left.



THREE WOMEN KNOWN TO ROGER WILLIAMS

BY JOHN MCNIFF

PARK RANGER, ROGER WILLIAMS NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Introduction

In February of 1635/6 Roger Williams fled Massachusetts to escape religious persecution. By that summer, Roger had negotiated an agreement with the Narragansett for the land that became Providence, at the headwaters of Narragansett Bay. There, he founded a colony unique in its commitment to full liberty in religious beliefs for each person.

This is the story of how that liberty extended to, at the time, a very unlikely group: three women, who had strong religious convictions for which they were willing to suffer physical and mental abuse.

The concept of gender equity would have seemed very strange to most people in the 17th century English world. In Puritan New England, as well as in Tudor and Stewart England, it was the accepted belief that women were intellectually and morally inferior. This belief reached back to the biblical teachings about Eve succumbing to temptation in the Garden of Eden. Accordingly, women were not allowed to speak in church. Yet at the same time, women were a valuable part of the 17th century household, particularly in New England, at that time the very edge of English world. Wives were expected to maintain and direct the household operation in the absence of the husband. However, when the husband was present, a wife was expected to defer judgment to him. Most women saw this as normal. A dominant or independent woman was unnatural and would disrupt society.

A husband was allowed to 'correct' his wife with corporal punishment. However, if the 'correction' were so severe as to disrupt the peace of the community, or endanger the health or safety of the wife, the authorities had the right to step in and punish the husbands for abusing their wives.

Jane Verin

In the spring of 1636, Roger Williams was joined in Providence by several families. Joshua Verin, and his wife Jane settled next door to the Williams family. Jane and her mother had been followers of Roger in Salem. In less than two years, trouble was brewing in the Towne of Providence.

Joshua Verin chose not to attend the religious services held at Roger Williams' house. He was free to make this choice. In Massachusetts Bay or Plymouth colonies church attendance was mandatory. Jane Verin regularly attended Williams' services against her husband's wishes. For this disobedience, Joshua beat Jane.

Williams, describing Joshua Verin's actions saying "...he hath trodden her under foote tyrannically and brutishly: which she and we long bearing though with his furious blows she went in danger of Life...".

Town members met to confront Verin about his brutal behavior. Verin was not prosecuted for 'his furious blows' on his wife, but for violating her liberty of conscience. Not everyone in Providence agreed. William Arnold and others argued that to prosecute Verin would violate his liberty of conscience because it would "*breach (an) ordinance of God, the subjection of wives to their husbands.*" The town voted to disenfranchise Joshua Verin.

With that vote, Joshua forced his wife to return with him to Salem. As Roger said, "*He will hale his wife with ropes to Salem, where she must needes be troubled and troublesome as differences yet stand.*" Verin found a home in the Salem Church and was appointed church warden. Ironically, as warden, he arrested his wife for **not** attending the church services.

Anne Hutchinson

Anne's father was Francis Marbury, a Puritan minister in England who was jailed in 1578 for criticizing the bishops. While later under house arrest, he spent his time educating Anne and her sisters. Anne was especially bright and quickly absorbed her father's ideas on questioning religious authority.

In 1612, Anne married William Hutchinson. After moving to Massachusetts Bay, William and Anne became members of John Cotton's church, and Ann began conducting meetings to explain Cotton's sermons to the community's women.

At first, she had the approval of the Boston religious leaders. But when her teachings started to include her own opinions, and important men began to attend her meetings, Anne was seen as a menace.

In November 1637, Governor Winthrop summoned Anne to answer charges of leading Scripture meetings in a way "not comely or fitting" for a woman and for trying to usurp the powers of the ministers. At first, her mentor, Rev. Cotton, stood by her. But when his support for Anne threatened to harm his own reputation, he withdrew. Anne vigorously defended herself quoting from the Bible. But in the end, more than 30 magistrates voted to convict her.

Anne Hutchinson was held under house arrest until March of 1638. Because she refused to admit to her errors, her own congregation voted to excommunicate her. Anne left Massachusetts Bay Colony for Providence. She stayed with her sister, Katherine Scott, until William Hutchinson had finished their new house on Aquidneck Island on land that Roger Williams helped them buy from the Narragansett. One of their first written rules in this new town of Portsmouth was "No person within said colony, at any time hereafter, shall be in any wise molested, punished, disquieted or called into question on matter of religion – so long as he keeps the peace."

Roger Williams

After the death of her husband Anne Hutchinson no longer felt safe. There was constant threat that either Plymouth or the Massachusetts Bay colonies would gain control over Portsmouth. In 1642, she moved with her children to the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam. In 1643, the Siwanoy Indians attacked her home. During the attack, the whole family, except for nine-year-old daughter, Susan were killed. Held captive by the Indians for several years, Susan eventually returned to RI where she lived until the age of 80.

Mary Dyer

Mary and William Dyer came to Massachusetts Bay Colony and were admitted into the Boston church in Dec. 1635. By 1637, the Dyers were followers of Anne Hutchinson and worked with her to organize groups of men and women to study the Bible.

Mary Dyer was present during the church trial in 1638 that resulted in Anne Hutchinson's excommunication. At the conclusion of the trial, when Anne was told to "withdraw yourself out of the congregation". Mary took her hand, and they walked out of the courthouse together.

Mary's loyalty toward her friend cost her dearly. John Winthrop described her as "a very proud spirit," "much addicted to revelations," and "notoriously infected with Mistress Hutchinson's errors."

When Anne Hutchinson left the Massachusetts Bay colony and settled in Portsmouth in 1638, Mary and her husband also moved there. William Dyer was one of the 19 men who signed the Portsmouth Compact.

In 1650 Mary Dyer traveled to England. There, she heard the preaching of George Fox, founder of the Religious Society of Friends, or the Quakers. Mary embraced Fox's teachings as they agreed with the ideas that she and Anne held, including gender equality in religion.

In 1657, Mary Dyer, now a Quaker preacher, returned to New England. Since Massachusetts Bay Colony had banned all Quakers, as soon as she landed in Boston, the General Court ordered her out of its jurisdiction. When Mary refused, she was arrested, and publicly whipped.

For the next three years, Mary repeated a pattern. Leaving the sanctuary of RI, she returned to Massachusetts Bay Colony to bear witness to her faith and to protest the treatment of other Quakers. Again and again, she is arrested, banished, and then released. In 1659, Mary, along with two Quaker men, were arrested and tried