



Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan

THE ROOT THAT ATE ROGER WILLIAMS

by Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan

(Illustrated by Chris Hilaire)

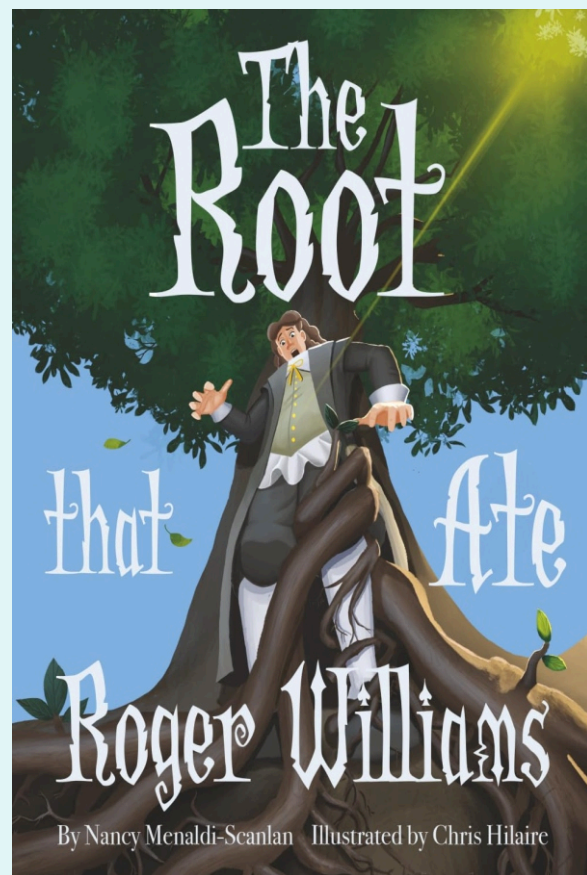
What do a birch canoe, rusty coffin nails and a strangely-shaped tree root have to do with the founder of Rhode Island?

Well, actually quite a bit!

Roger Williams, a well-educated Church of England minister, wanted to separate from the rigidity of England's religious laws, so he and his followers – the Separatists – set sail for the New World. Landing in Boston in 1631, he preached his "new and dangerous opinions" until they got him banished for good! Escaping capture and certain death, he survived the horrendous winter of 1636, thanks to his Native American friends who brought him to the safety of a new home -- Providence, a settlement in a colony that would one day become Rhode Island, the "biggest little state in the Union." But 200 years after Roger had died, his family decided to move him to a new grave, and that's when the story took a really strange turn!



Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan has had a rewarding career as a teacher, librarian, storyteller and Children's Theatre director who has always loved to perform. Although not a native New Englander, she lived in Rhode Island for 25 years and still spends summers there, happily living and breathing the fascinating history of the "Biggest Little". Now she's delighted to bring some of that history to life for kids and other lovers of a good story.



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