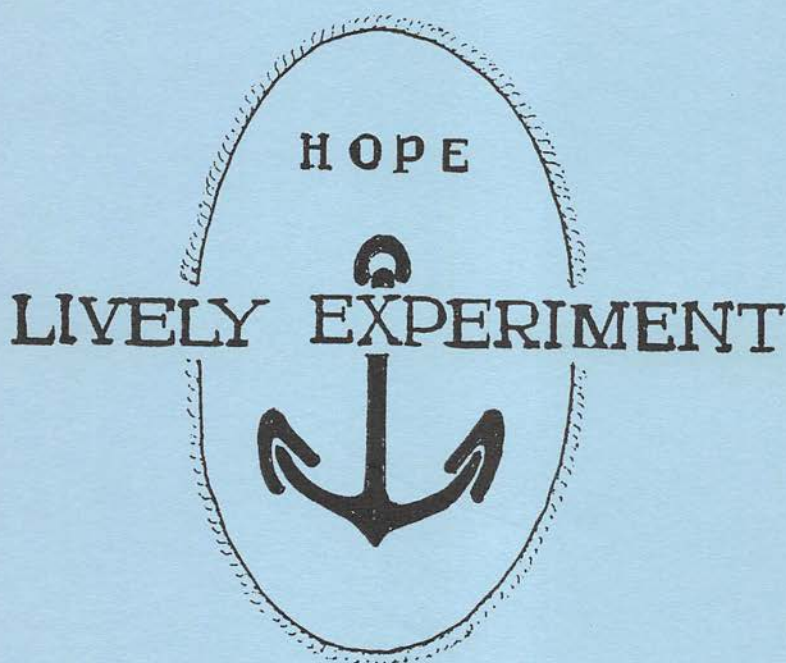


THE ORDER OF THE FIRST FAMILIES OF
RHODE ISLAND
AND
PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
1636-1647

Founded October 16, 1990



Volume III

1999

Number 1

THE ORDER OF THE FIRST FAMILIES OF
RHODE ISLAND
AND
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LIVELY EXPERIMENT

Editor:

Lilla McKnight Licht
490 M St., SW; #W604
Washington, D.C. 20024-2612

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BLOCK ISLAND

Block Island has working lighthouses at each end of the Island. This is the one at the south end. The Keepers house is being renovated to a bed & breakfast. It was moved 30 feet from the cliff edge.



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2111 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202-3137

Governor General Robert C. Arnold's Message

I am honored and privileged to be elected Governor General. I want to thank my predecessor Col. Elmer H. Palmer and his lovely wife Anne for all of their hard work. We look forward to their continued involvement - especially in planning our Fall Meetings in Rhode Island.

This issue of the Lively Experiment features photos from our Sept. 18-19, 1998 Fall Assenbly in R. I. On Friday evening Gov. Gen. Elmer H. Palmer hosted a black tie dinner at the historic Squantum Ass. in East Providence overlooking Narragansett Bay. On Saturday, historian Henry A. L. Brown led us on a fascinating "insiders tour" of Block Island.

On 21 April 1999, 30 members and guests attended our Spring Assembly at the Washington Club in Washington, D.C. (a special 'thank you' to our member Eleanor Niebell for hosting us). After luncheon, our Historian Gen. Betty A. Westcott Acker spoke about her ancestor Stukely Westcott. (Speech in next issue).

I have a number of goals for the next 2 years including a new membership roster. Soon, each member will receive a survey asking for imput & ideas. Please begin now to think about ways we can engage more members and have a greater impact. I look forward to working with our outstanding officers to serve, energize and improve our Order.

Most Cordially,
Robert Carter Arnold, Governor General

FROM RHODE ISLAND TO LONG ISLAND

Early in the settlement of Rhode Island, some of the men also began to acquire land on Long Island. The earliest was the Mespath patent in what is now Flushing, LI. Unlike Rhode Island, with its rocky soil, Long Island soil was most advantageous for agricultural products, particularly, tobacco, a cash crop.

"Rev. Francis Doughty, a dissenting clergyman, who is stated to have been a member of the ancient and honorable family of Doughtys, or Doutys, of Esher in Surry, and Boston, in Lincolnshire, England, settled at Cohannet, now Taunton, but here he discovered that he had plunged 'out of the frying pan into the fire.'"¹ A dispute arose concerning his religious sentiments, and Doughty "was forced to go away from thence, with his wife and children, and he sought refuge in the island of Aquidneck, now Rhode Island. Here he resolved, with certain of his friends residing at Taunton and other places to remove to the Dutch territory in order to enjoy freedom of conscience."²

Mr. Doughty, being empowered to act on behalf of his associates, made application to the authorities at New Amsterdam for a tract of land, and a patent was immediately granted them for 13,332 acres at Mespat, which embraced nearly all the whole of the present town of Newtown."³ The patent is dated 28 March 1642.⁴

Among the associates were several Rhode Island men, including Richard

(Continued page six)

JEREMEY CLARKE 'Father' of Rhode Island Governors

Jeremy or Jeremiah Clarke, not only was one of the first Governors in Rhode Island, but down to the American Revolution, nearly every Rhode Island colonial Governor could trace a family relationship to him.

The ancestry of Jeremy Clarke is back to Geoffrey, son of Richard I, Duke of Normandy, born prior to 1000 A.D. It also has been traced back to Charlemagne, b. 2 Apr. 742, d. 1 Jan. 814 who married Hildegard of Swabia.
1

William Clerke, of East Farleigh, Kent and of St. Botolph Aldgate, London, Gentleman, son of James and Mary (Saxby) Clerke, was buried at East Farleigh 12 June 1610. He married by license dated 10 Feb. 1598/9, at St. Andrews Holborn, Mary Weston, Spinster, bapt. at Roxwell, 26 April 1579, daughter of Sir Jerome and Mary (Cave) Weston.
2

Jeremy Clarke, son of William and Mary (Weston) Clarke, was baptized E. Farleigh, Kent 1 Dec. 1605. He married circa 1737, Frances (Latham) Dungan. She was bapt. 15 Feb. 1609, died Sept. 1677, Newport, RI. She was the daughter of Lewis Latham, Gentlemen, Sergeant Falconer to Charles I, by his first wife Elizabeth _____; and was widow of William Dungan, Gentlemen and Perfumer, son of Thomas Dungan, Gentleman, of Lincoln's Inn.
3

Jeremy or Jeremiah Clarke, as he is sometimes called, was probably a

(Continued Page Four)

1. Jeremy Clarke

widower, but the tombstone of his wife Frances distinctly states she was "ye mother of ye only children of Captain Jeremiah Clarke."⁴

About the year 1637, with his wife and her four children by William Dungan, and probably accompanied by his wife's widowed sister Ellen Sherringham, he sailed for New England and became one of the Founders of Newport, and President Regent or Governor of the Colony.⁵

At the first meeting of the settlers held 16 Mar. 1638/9, "It is agreed and ordered that the Plantation now begun at the southwest end of the Island, shall be called Newport." (Signed) Wm. Coddington, Judge; Elders Nicholas Easton, John Coggeshall, William Brenton; and John Clarke, Jeremy Clarke, Thomas Hazard and Henry Bull. W. Dyre, Secretary.⁶

29 Jan. 1639, Jeremy was appointed to assist Robert Jeoffreys in taking up the accounts of the old Treasurer.⁶

25 Sept. 1639, he was chosen Constable, an office which at this time only the most trustworthy members occupied.⁷

12 March 1639/40, at a meeting at Newport, Jeremy Clarke present, Portsmouth and Newport united - William Freeborne and others presented themselves and were accepted.⁸

16 March 1641, In the Court Roll of Freeman, and the officers as they were elected, appear the names of Jeremy Clarke and William Freeborn.⁹

(Continued Page Five)

1. Jeremy Clarke

17 May 1642, Jeremy Clarke elected Lieut. of militia.¹⁰

8 Sept. 1642, Wm. Coddington, John Coggeshall and Mr. Jeramie Clarke, bought of Robert Carr, a parcel of land containing 62 acres, "lying on the East side of Millbrook, bounded on the south by the highway that goes to the great common."¹¹

13 Jan. 1644, he was elected Treasurer of Newport, which office he held for three years.¹¹

13 March 1644, he was elected Captain, then the highest military rank attainable.¹²

16 May 1648, Jeremy Clarke was elected Governor's Assistant and pending accusations against Gov. Wm. Coddington, he was elected Governor with the title of "President Regent."¹³

Jeremiah Clarke died 11/-/1651, and the Friends' meeting records of Newport R.I. thus comment on his death:¹⁴

"Jeremiah Clarke, one of the first English Planters of Rhode Island, died at Newport in said Island, and was buried in the tomb that stands by the street on the water side, Newport upon the ____ day of Eleventh Mo. 1651.

A few years after his death, his widow married her third husband, the Rev. William Vaughan. The exact date is unknown, but as she entered into an agreement with her son Walter Clarke through his guardians John Cranston and James Barker, 18 Jan. 1656, wherein she is called widow of Jeremiah Clarke, and

(Continued Page Nine)

From Rhode Island to Long Island

Smith, John Townsend and Robert Fields. In 1643, hostilities broke out with the Indians. Mespatt community was destroyed, the inhabitants fleeing to New Amsterdam. "The colony of Mespatt never recovered from the shock of savage warfare and the no less fatal blows of intestine strife. By 1649, most of the inhabitants had returned to Rhode Island or the New England towns from whence they came. Some, like John Hicks remained on the Island.

In 1656, Jamaica, LI was being patented and settled by Quakers. Again some Rhode Islanders, including the Townsend brothers - Henry, John & Richard, and John Carpenter removed to LI. The Dutch were not tolerant of the Quakers, and forbid them to meet. Henry Townsend was heavily fined for having meetings at his home.

Looking to remove themselves from the rule of the Dutch, in 1661, settlement began in Town of Oyster Bay and here again we find Rhode Islanders among the patentees including Francis Weeks and Henry Feaks. Musketo Cove (now Glen Cove) founders were: the 3 Townsend brothers, Joseph Carpenter, Daniel Coles and Mattias Harvey.

Travel and commerce between Rhode Island and Long Island was easy by ship from Narragansett Bay down Long Island sound, and there was much travel and visits by family and friends as noted by marriages, estate settlements, and records of the Town of Oyster Bay.

Sands Point, in North Hempstead was
(Continued page seven)

From RI to LI

settled by the sons of James Sands. A careful scrutiny of the settlers on the end of the Island (Southold, and other towns in Suffolk Co.) will likely reveal more Rhode Island family names.

The community or town on LI that we find the greatest number of references to Rhode Island families in 17th & 18th century is Musketo Cove and the Town of Oyster Bay. Even after the death of original settlers of Rhode Island, despite the fact that all, or nearly all their descendants went to Long Island, they are still found in later 17th C. Rhode Island records. An example is Robert Coles.

Robert Coles died in Warwick, fall of 1655. His wife remarried to Mattias Harvey, and all his family went to Musketo Cove, Town of Oyster Bay. "Yet, long after his death, he continued to draw land from his rights in Providence. In the 19 Feb. 1665/6 lottery for land on the east side of the Seven Mile Line he drew lot #4. In the 12 Apr. 1675 lottery for land on the west side of the Seven Mile Line, he drew lot #75...In the 17 Mar. 1683/4 lottery for land on the west side of Seven Mile Line, he drew lot #70."⁴ Presumably, these rights were claimed by his descendants on Long Island.

References :

1. "Annuals of Newton, Queens Co., NY" by James Riker, Jr., NY 1852, p 17.
2. IBID. 3. IBID.
4. "The Great Migration Begins," by Robert C. Anderson, NEHGS, 1995, p. 437.

NEW MEMBERS

- #156 James Kevin Raywalt
 1449 Harvard St., NW
 Washington, D.C. 20009-4615
 ANCESTOR: Robert Carr
- #157 Avis Farwell Keedy
 5750 Via real #240
 Carpenteria, CA 93013-2826
 ANCESTOR: Roger Williams
- 158 Nadine Arnold Barr
 10019 Lynbrook
 Houston, TX 77042-1557
 ANCESTOR: William Arnold
- #159 Jean Eileen Butte Keller
Life (Mrs. Thomas David Keller)
 17311 Roosevelt Road
 Hemlock, MI 48626
 ANCESTOR: Hon. Phillip Sherman
- #160 Ronald Eugene Yielding
 186 Zacharia Drive
 Cathedral City, CA 92234-6648
 ANCESTOR: Anne (Marbury)
 Hutchinson
- #161 Ann Elizabeth Merritt Corson
 (Mrs. William Eugene Corson)
 604 Shuttle Hill Road
 Muncy, PA 17756
 ANCESTOR: Thomas Olney

1. Jeremy Clarke

now wife of Rev. William Vaughan, it is likely she was married but a short time previous to this date.¹⁵

Rev. William Vaughan was one of the original members of the First Baptist Church of Newport, RI of which Rev. John Clarke and wife, Mark Lukar, Nathaniel West and wife, Thomas Clarke, Joseph Clarke, John Peckham, John Thornden, William Weeden, and Samuel Weeden were his associates. This church was organized about the year 1644. Rev. Vaughan was one of the founders of the Second Baptist church of Newport in 1665, and was its first minister.¹⁶

2 Sept. 1677, in a letter written by Samuel Hubbard of Newport, RI to his children at Westerly, he says, "For news Mr. Vaughan is gone to his long home and his wife is like to follow him if not dead."¹⁷

Frances (Latham) Dungan Clarke Vaughan died as Samuel Hubbard predicted. On her tombstone is inscribed:

"Here Lyeth ye body of Mrs. Frances Vaughan alias Clarke, ye mother of ye only children of Captain Jeremiah Clarke, she died ye 1 week in Sept. 1677, in ye 67th year of her age."¹⁸

The gravestone is in the common burial ground of Newport, called the Governor's lot.

Gov. Jeremiah & Frances (Latham) Dungan Clarke had five sons, and two daughters born in Newport, RI:¹⁹

2. i. Gov. Walter Clarke.

(Continued Page Ten)

1. Jeremy Clarke

Children of Gov. Jeremiah & Frances (Latham) Dungan Clarke, continued:

3. ii. Mary Clarke.
4. iii. Hon. Jeremiah Clarke Jr.
5. iv. Hon. Latham Clarke.
6. v. Hon. Weston Clarke.
7. vi. Rev. James Clarke.
8. vii. Sarah Clarke

2. Gov. Walter Clarke

Gov. Walter Clarke was born 1638 and died 23 May 1714 in his 77th year. He is buried Clifton graveyard, Newport, R.I. He m/1 1660, Content Greenman, born 1636, died 27 March 1666, daughter of John Greenman. Walter Clarke m/2 Feb. 1666/67 Hannah Scott, born 1642, died 24 July 1681, daughter of Richard & Catherine (Marbury) Scott of Glemsford, Suffolk. Walter Clarke m/3 6 March 1683 Freeborn (Williams) Hart, born 1635, died 10 Dec. 1709, daughter of Roger & Mary (Barnard) Williams and widow of Thomas Hart. His 4th marriage took place 31 Aug. 1711 at Newport to Sarah (Prior) Gould, born Oct. 1664, died 31 Aug. 1714, daughter of Matthew & Mary () Prior and widow of John Gould.²⁰

Hon. Walter Clarke was one of the most distinguished men of his times, officiating as Ass't Gov. of Rhode Island during the years 1673-75, and '99; Deputy Gov. of R.I. 1676, 1686, 1700 and 1714; Governor of R.I. 1676, 1677, 1686, 1696-98; and appointed to Sir Edmund Andros Council 22 Dec. 1686.²¹

(Continued page Eleven)

2. Walter Clarke

6 Jan. 1681/2, there was surveyed for Walter Clarke and Arthur Cooke 1000 acres between the old head line Rancocas lots, Samuel Jennings and John Chaffin.²²

He left a will, but on account of his sickness, and the many erasures, blots, etc. it was set aside, and by agreement among his heirs the estate was divided in four equal parts.²³

To Children of his deceased daughter Mary Chapman, one part.

To his daughter Hannah Rodman, one part.

To his daughter Katherine Sheffield, one part.

To his daughter Deliverance Cornell, one part.

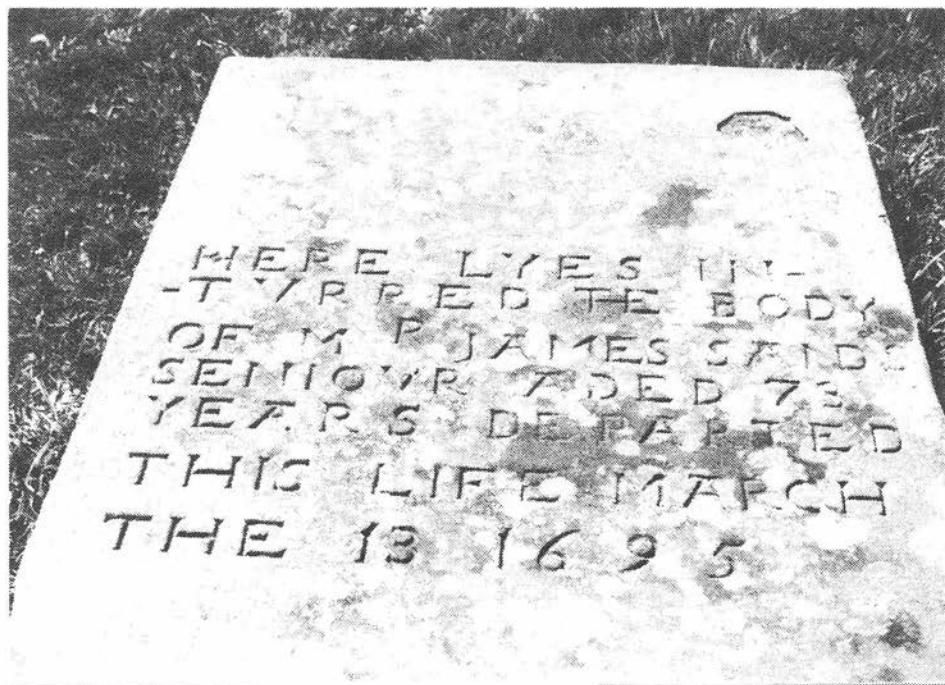
In addition, many nephews and cousins were mentioned in the agreement as well as the division of the land which his widow had for life. Widow Amy Wood was to receive a fat sheep annually for life; and the heirs likewise agreed that their uncle Weston Clarke should have Gov. Walter Clarke's seal with his coat of arms engraved on it which had been given to him by his father Jeremy Clarke.²⁴

Children of Gov. Walter & Content (Greenman) Clarke:²⁵

8. Mary Clarke, b. 11 Jan. 1660/61; d. 10 Aug. 1711; m. @ 1680, Daniel Gould, b. 24 Oct. 1656, son of Daniel & Wait (Coggeshall) Gould; Mary m/2 Ralph Chapman, Jr.

9. Content Clarke; m. Philip Harwood.

(Continued Page Thirteen)

**ABOVE:**

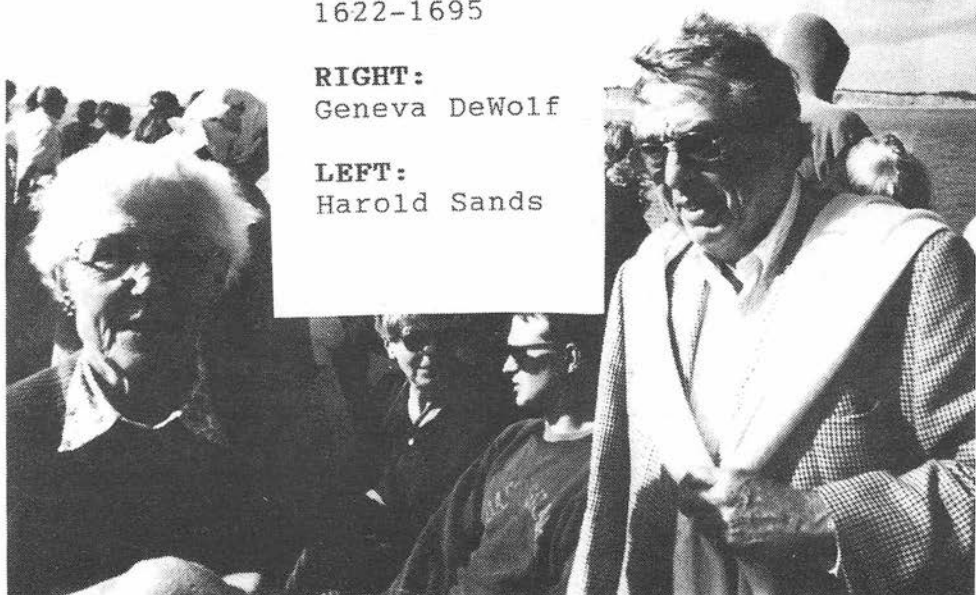
Tombstone of
James Sands
1622-1695

RIGHT:

Geneva DeWolf

LEFT:

Harold Sands



2. Walter Clarke

Children of Gov. Walter & Hannah (Scott) Clarke:²⁶

10. Jeremiah Clarke; d.y.
11. Hannah Clarke, b. 28 Oct. 1667; d. 22 Oct. 1732; m. 26 Nov. 1691 Dr. Thomas Rodman, widower, son of John Rodman from the Island of Barbados.
12. Catherine Clarke, b. 6 Sept. 1671, d. 25 Jan. 1752; m/1 Capt. James Gould, b. 13 Oct. 1666, brother of Daniel Gould; m/2 Major Nathaniel Sheffield, b. 18 Apr. 1667, d. 12 Nov. 1729, son of Icabod & Mary (Parker) Sheffield. Maj. Sheffield was Gen. Treasurer of R.I.
13. Frances Clarke, b. 17 Jan. 1673; 25 June 1693; m. James Harte, widower whose 1st wife was Mary Clarke, dau. of Weston & Mary (Eason) Clarke. He was son of Thomas & Freeborn (Williams) Hart & gdson of Roger Williams.
14. Jeremiah Clarke, b. 21 Feb. 1675 /76; died same day.
15. Deliverance Clarke, b. 4 July 1678; d. 8 Oct. 1732 at Portsmouth; m. 18 Jan. 1699, at Portsmouth, George Cornell, b. 1676, d. 11 May 1752., son of Thomas & Susanna (Lawton) Cornell.

Gov. Walter Clarke had no issue by either his third or fourth wife.

3. Mary Clarke

Mary Clarke, dau. of Jeremy and
(Continued Page Fourteen)

3. Mary Clarke

Frances (Latham) Dungan Clarke was born 1641 and died 7 April 1711. Her Will proved 10 June 1711. She m/1 1658, Gov. John Cranston, born 1626, d. 12 March 1680, son of Dr. James Cranston, Chaplain to King Charles I. Mary m/2 John Stanton, widower, born Aug., 1645, d. 3 Oct. 1713, son of Robert & Avis Stanton of Newport, R.I.²⁷

Gov. John & Mary (Clarke) Cranston had ten children - eight sons (including Gov. Samuel Cranston) and two daughters. By her second husband, John Stanton Mary had one son - Henry.²⁸

4. Jeremiah Clarke Jr.

Hon. Jeremiah Clarke was born 1643, died 16 January 1729. He married Anne Audley who died 15 Dec. 1732, probably daughter of John & Margaret () Audley of Boston.²⁹

In 1666, his name appears in a list of Freeman. In 1701, he was ordained a Deacon of the Second Baptist Church, of which his brother James was Pastor. He served as Deputy Governor of R. I. from 1696 until 1705.³⁰

17 Sept. 1719, he deeded to his son James half of his lands in Providence and at West Conang, CT for the consideration of 3 pounds and an annual sum of 3 pounds to be paid to himself and wife during life. On the same date he deeded the remaining half to his son-in-law Jeremiah Weeden, on the same terms, with the provision that upon the death

4. Jeremiah Clarke Jr.

of the Grantor and his wife, the sum of 17 pounds 10 shillings was to be paid to the children of each of the Grantees.³¹

The will of Jeremiah Clarke, dated 13 June 1728, proved 3 Feb. 1729 at Newport, mentions his wife Anne, and his living and deceased children; as well as the children of his deceased children.³²

Children of Hon. Jeremiah & Anne (Audley) Clarke:³³

27. Jeremiah Clarke III; m. Elizabeth Sisson, b. 18 Aug. 1669, dau. of George & Sarah (Lawton) Sisson; He m/2 Deborah Peckham.
28. Henry Clarke; m. Judith Peckham, prob. dau. of William & Phebe.
29. James Clarke; m. 16 Feb. 1716 Mary Buckling.
30. Samuel Clarke; m. Hannah Wilcox, daughter of Stephen & Hannah (Hazzard) Wilcox. Samuel dec'd in father's will; he of Newport & Portsmouth, R.I.
31. Weston Clarke; m. 20 June 1728, at Newport, by Justice Thomas Coggeshall, Mary Willets.
32. Frances Clarke, b. 15 Dec. 1669, d. 18 Mar. 1702/3; m. 6 Sept. 1689, at Portsmouth, by John Coggeshall, John Sanford, b. 10 June 1668, d. 23 Oct. 1723, son of Samuel & Sarah (Wodell) Sanford
33. Mary Clarke; m. Jeremiah Weeden; He d. 1756.
34. Anne Clarke; m. William Greenman.

(Continued Page Seventeen)

Address Changes

Charter Cynthia Ann Shreve Richard
 #54 11 Consul Road
 Livingston, NJ 07039-3322

Charter Ellis Floyd Vaughn
 #58 8717 Pine Ridge Blvd
 Diamondhead, MS 39525-4228

Charter John F. Capron III
 #41 1589 Cider Mill Road
 Salem, OH 44460

Charter Walter Abner Woods
 #82 2484 Oak Grove Church Rd #104
 Carrollton, GA 30117-9513

Charter Clifford Rowland Brooks, MD
 #71 "Temporarily Away"

Charter Barbara Jean Wesslen Davidson
 #94 P.O. Box 1295
 Maplewood, NJ 07040-0455

Charter Doris Merchant Wiener
 #22 (Mrs. Frederick B.)
 1616 W. Glendale Ave, Rm 387
 Phoenix, AZ 85021-8948

Corrections

Charter Mary Alice (Seldon) Short
 #25 (Mrs. Clifford H. Short)
 Life 10900 Temple Terrace, Apt I714
 Seminole, FL 33772-4738

FLOWER OF THE FIELD

Charter Winthrop Abner Young
 #56 of Clearwater, FL
 died 12/27/1997

4. Hon. Jeremiah Clarke Jr.

Children of Jeremiah & Anne (Audley) Clarke, Continued:

35. Sarah Clarke, d. 1729; m. Jeremiah Weeden, her brother-in-law. He d. 1756.

5. Hon. Latham Clarke

Hon. Latham Clarke was born 1645 and died 1 Aug. 1719. He m/1 Hannah Wilbur, daughter of Samuel & Hannah (Porter) Wilbur. Latham m/2 20 Sept. 1698, widow Anne Collins, born Aug., 1651, died 19 Feb. 1732 at the house of her daughter Elizabeth Borden. Anne was the widow of Walter Newberry.³⁴

24 Aug. 1676, Latham Clarke was a member of the Court Martial held at Newport for the trial of Indians. From 1681 until 1685, and during the years 1690-91 and 1698, he was Deputy Governor of Rhode Island.³⁵

12 June 1680, he bought of Henry Greene, late of Aquidneset, now of New Jersey, 24 acres in Portsmouth for a term of 16 years, and after this term, during the life of sd Greene and his wife Sarah, and then to deliver possession to sd Green's heirs.³⁶

The will of Latham Clarke dated 31 Dec. 1714, proved 10 Aug. 1719, names his son Samuel Executor and mentions his wife Anne, and his living children including the spouses of his living daughters.³⁷

Children of Hon. Latham & Hannah

(Continued Page Nineteen)

5. Hon. Latham Clarke

(Wilbur) Clarke:³⁸

44. Latham Clarke Jr., b. 1666, d. 25 February 1690/1; m. Hope _____
b. 1668, d. 13 Oct. 1690.
45. William Clarke, b. 27 May 1673, d. 1746; m. 15 Apr. 1700, Hannah Knight, b. 3 Apr. 1680, d. 1743; dau. of Jonathan & Hannah Knight
46. Abigail Clarke, b. 1674, d. 30 Nov. 1731 at Newport; m. c. 1695 Samuel Thurston Sr., b. 24 Aug. 1669, d. 27 Oct. 1747; son of Edward & Elizabeth (Mott) Thurston.
47. Elizabeth Clarke, b. 1680, d. 10 Nov. (or Sept.) 1730, Newport; m. 9 Feb. 1698 John Stanton Jr., b. 22 Apr. 1674; son of John & Mary (Harndel) Cranston Stanton.
48. Mary Clarke; m. 12 Dec. 1700, Joseph Fry, son of Thomas & Mary (Griffin) Fry of Newport.
49. Ann Clarke, b. c. 1682; m. 22 Sept. 1704, at Portsmouth, Thomas Hicks Jr., son of Thomas & Mary (Albro) Hicks of Portsmouth.
50. Samuel Clarke, b. 23 Oct. 1686, d. 18 Oct. 1761; m. 8 Apr. 1713, Mary Coggeshall, dau. of Daniel of Portsmouth.
51. Jeremiah Clarke.
52. Amey Clare, b. 1682; d. 7 Oct. 1726, aged 44; m. 18 May 1709 William Wood, of Portsmouth, b. 1675, d. 5 Apr. 1753, son of John of Newport.

(Continued Page Twenty)

L to R (clockwise): Lilla M. Licht, Thomas M Smith, Henry A.L. Brown, Richard Palmer, Gov Gen. Robert C. Arnold, Hon. Gov. Gen. Elmer H. Palmer, Anne Palmer, Harold Sands & Geneva DeWolf in front of Settlers Rock 1661-1911 on Block Island (Fall, 1998).



6. Hon. Weston Clarke

Hon. Weston Clarke was born 5 April 1648 and died 1728. He married 1/ 25 Dec. 1668, at. R.I.M. Meeting of Friends, Mary Easton, b. 25 Sept. 1648, died 16 Nov. 1690 at Newport. She was the daughter of Peter and Ann (Coggeshall) Easton. Weston m/2 21 Nov. 1691, at R.I.M. Meeting, Rebecca (Thurston) Easton, b. Apr. 1662, d. 16 Sept. 1737. She was the daughter of Edward & Elizabeth (Mott) Thurston, and widow of Peter Easton, Jr.³⁹

1670, Weston was elected Freeman.

1672, he was a member of the House of Deputies.

5 May 1675, he was appointed by the Assembly, Sealer of Weights & Measures.

24 Aug. 1676, a member of the Court Martial for the trial of Indians.

1676, 1677, 1680-86, Attorney General of Rhode Island.

1681-1685 General Treasurer.

1690-1714 General Recorder.

25 Oct. 1699, he was chosen the Colony's Agent to represent it in England but declined to serve.

12 May 1703, he was a member of the Committee who signed the Agreement with the CT Commissioners respecting the boundaries.⁴⁰

Children of Hon. Weston and Mary (Easton) Clarke:⁴¹

53. Mary Clarke, b. 11 Jan. 1669/70, d. 11 Nov. 1690; m. 1689, James Harte, b. 1666, d. 20 July 1693 son of Thos. & Freeborn (Williams) Hart, of Newport.

6. Hon. Weston Clarke

- 54. John Clarke, b. 15 Aug. 1672, dy.
 - 55. Weston Clarke, b. 18 Feb. 1674,
d.y.
 - 56. Weston Clarke, b. 15 Apr. 1677,
d.y.
 - 57. Walter Clarke; m. Elizabeth Foster. Both d. in NJ & their ch. ret. to their gdpars. in Newport.
 - 58. Ann Clarke, b. 1682, m. 22 Sept. 1704 Thomas Hicks, d. 20 Nov. 1759, son of Thos. & Mary (Albro) Hicks of Dartmouth, MA. [Note: #48, Ann Clarke, dau. of Latham Clarke says same data; one is in error as both could not marry same man same day.]
 - 59. Jeremiah Clarke, b. 26 Nov. 1685,
d. 23 Jan. 1688/89.
 - 60. Patience Clarke.
- Children of Hon. Weston & Rebecca (Thurston) Clarke:⁴²

- 61. Jeremiah Clarke, b. 27 July 1692,
d. 3 Sept. 1756.
- 62. Mary Clarke, b. 8 Feb. 1693/94.
- 63. Elizabeth Clarke, b. 5 Nov. 1695.
- 64. Weston Clarke, b. 25 Aug. 1697,
d. 22 June 1637.

7. Rev. James Clarke

Rev. James Clarke was born 1649. He died 1 Dec. 1736 at Newport. He married Hopestill Power, born 1650, died 27 Feb. 1718, daughter of Nicholas & Jane Power of Providence, R.I.⁴³

Rev. James Clarke, during the years

(Continued page Twenty Two)

7. Rev. James Clarke

1698, 1704 to 1713, served as Sealer of Weights & Measures, packer and gauger.

In 1701, he was ordained Pastor of the 2nd Baptist Church of Newport which position he held until his death.

January 23, 1707, he deeded to the church organization, land which he had bought 23 Oct. 1697. With money he had saved from contributions of the parishers, he built the church.⁴⁴

Both he and his wife are buried in Newport, R.I.⁴⁵

Children of Rev. James & Hopestill (Power) Clarke:⁴⁶

65. Hope Clarke, b. 29 Dec. 1673.

66. Jonathan Clarke, b. 1681, d. 22 May 1758; m/1 Amy _____, b. 1687, d. 16 Feb. 1735; m/2 Ann _____ b. 1704, d. 20 Jan. 1764.

8. Sarah Clarke

Sarah Clarke was born 1651, died circa 1706. She m/1 John Pinner who died 1674. She m/2 Caleb Carr, b. 1624, drowned Dec. 1695, widower. His 1st wife was named Mercy, born 1631, died 21 Sept. 1675.⁴⁷

Children of Caleb & Sarah (Clarke) Carr:⁴⁸

67. Francis Carr; d. 1717; m. 18 June 1700 Damaris Arnold, b. 19 May 1684.

68. James Carr; He was a Freeman 1701

69. Sarah Carr, b. 1682.

70. Elizabeth Carr.

(Continued Page Twenty Three)

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(Continued Page Twenty Four)

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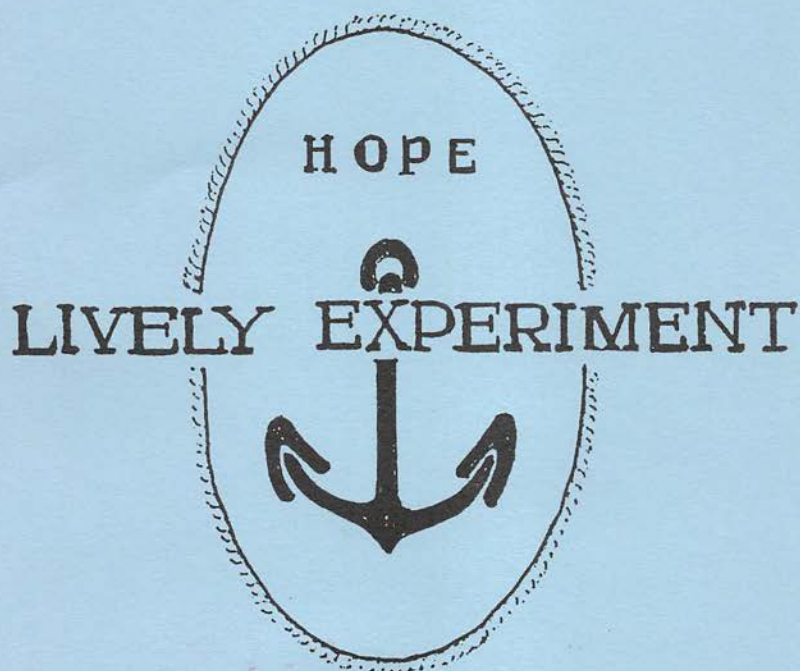
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**Arriving at Block
Island:** Our new
Governor General
Robert C. Arnold
1999-2001

THE ORDER OF THE FIRST FAMILIES OF
RHODE ISLAND
AND
PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
1636-1647

Founded October 16, 1990



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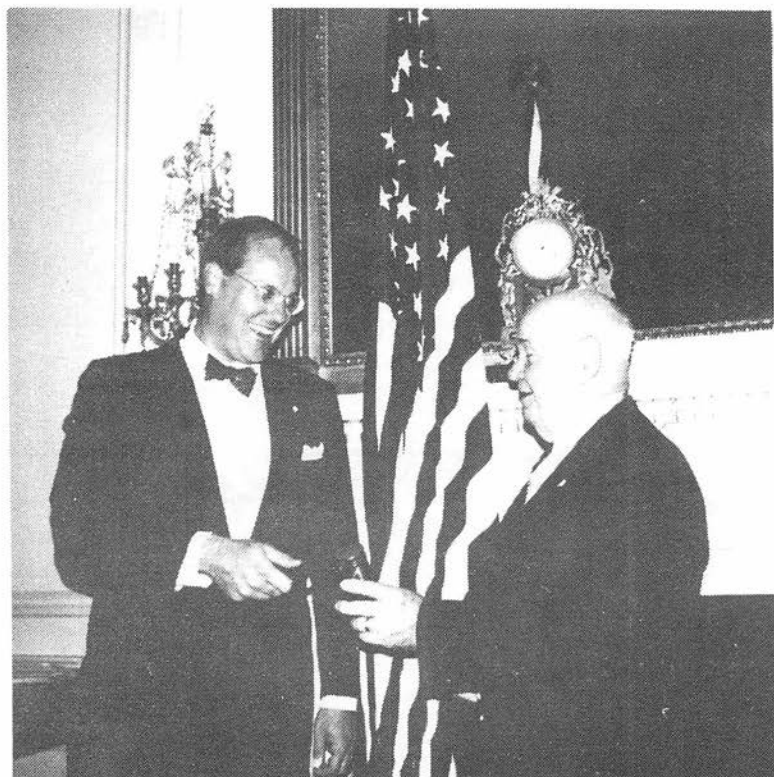
LIVELY EXPERIMENT

Editor:

Lilla McKnight Licht
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APRIL, 1999 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Governor General (1997-99) Elmer Hall
Palmer passing the gavel to newly elected
Governor Gen. (1999-2001) Robt. C. Arnold



T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

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1998 FALL MEETING IN RHODE ISLAND

The Order of First Families of R.I. & Providence Plantations 1998 fall meeting was held early - the weekend of 18th & 19th of September. The reason: the ferry schedule to Block Island.

Twenty four members and guests including Geneva DeWolf, Jo Lynn Hathaway & spouse, Robert Poyton, Harold Sands, 4 officers of the Society (Gov. Gen. Elmer Palmer & his wife Anne, Dep. Gov. Gen. Robt. C. Arnold, Treas. Gen. Thos. M. Smith, & Registrar Gen. Lilla M. Licht); Richard Palmer & wife; Dorothy & Evert White gathered Friday night at the Squantum Association, a private club on a point overlooking Narragansett Bay, for a black tie reception and dinner.

Saturday, we were up early to catch the 9 AM ferry at Galile in S. Kingston. Gov. Palmer's son chauffeured his large van which he loaned to the Society for the day. Accompanying us was Henry A. Brown, historian of Block Island.

One of the highlights was the cemetery where we located the 17th C. graves of the earliest settlers. Harold Sands, a descendant of James Sands, delighted in the discovery of the graves of his ancestors. Henry A. Brown guided us all around the island, pointing out historical places. We visited both lighthouses - one on the north end, the other on the south end of the island.

Due to storms, particularly hurricanes, none of the homes are older than the 1860's. Still, the sites where early

1998 Fall Meeting in Rhode Island

R.I. families lived could be visualized; the hardships of trying to grow anything here. Its mostly scrub grasses and sand. One can envision cattle roaming freely during the summer months, but winters, must have been harsh; they still are.

We lunched outdoors at a restaurant in town overlooking the harbor; then continued the tour. Our last stop was the Block Island Historical Society.

NEW MEMBERS Since April 1999

- #162 Ruth Burr (Stevens) Powell
(Mrs. Harold Frederic Powell)
52 Yacht Club Drive #204
North Palm Beach, FL 33408-3909
ANCESTOR: William Wilbore
- #163 Richard Harley Calendine
Life 111 Webster Park Avenue
Columbus, OH 43214
ANCESTOR: John Townsend

ADDRESS CHANGES

- #97 Dorothy Elizabeth Angell Miller
33 Stanton Avenue
Narragansett, RI 02882
- #94 Barbara Jean Wesslen Davidson
6032 Greenbriar Terrace
Fayetteville, PA 17222

Settling the Narragansett Country

Westerly, the first new town founded after the creation of the original four (Providence, Warwick, Portsmouth and Newport), was a product of the entrepreneurial impulse and land short conditions engendered by Newport's small space.

A private company formed in Newport in 1660 successfully petitioned the Rhode Island General Assembly the following year for title to a tract of land in the southwestern corner of the Narragansett Country.

The Misquamicut Company, as it was called, had already obtained title to the area from Sosoia, an Indian Captain. The proprietors of the company, some 80 men, were not really interested in settling the area, but in land speculation. Most of the lots in the proposed new settlement were sold to men from many parts of New England. The Rhode Island General Assembly acted favorably upon the petition because it wished to found a new town in the area to help establish the colony's claims to the Narragansett Country.

Some settlers moved to Misquamicut in 1662, but Stonington, CT claimed they were within its jurisdiction. The Rhode Island government answered these rival claims by incorporating the Misquamicut settlement as a town in 1669, changing its name to **Westerly**.

The first whites that visited the shores of **Westerly** were Dutch traders in

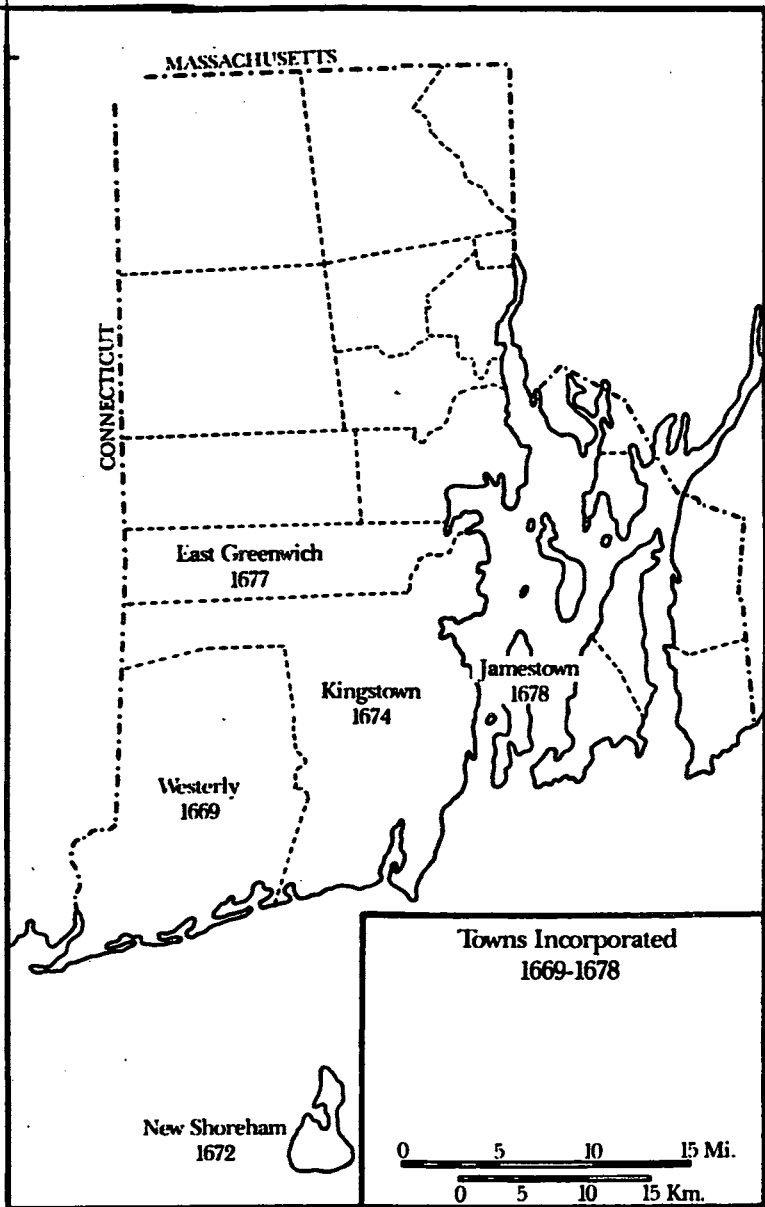
Settling the Narragansett Country

quest of furs, for which they exchanged cloth and instruments of metal. However, they built no trading houses; their pinnaces entered the mouth of the river, and their markets were on the open shores. The coast was first explored in 1614 by the famous Capt. Adrian Block. The first map of the coast was sketched by the Dutch geographer, De Laet, in 1616, from the journal of Captain Block in which the Pawcatuck is called 'East River.' Some of the Dutch keels entered a harbor that anciently existed on the shore east of Watch Hill, and which is now known as Quonocontaug Pond. The harbor mouth became filled with sand by the pressure of gales.

The first really historic band of Europeans that trod the ancient wilderness here was the military force of Capt. John Mason, on their hazardous march to the attack upon the Pequot fort at Mystic. On the 24th of May 1637, the second night before the fiery battle, the hero band, having marched from Narragansett Bay, halted and spent the night by the side of Ninigret's fort, now Fort Neck.

Tradition reports that John Babcock came from Plymouth, MA to Aquidneck and engaged to labor for Thomas Lawton, in Newport, then a hamlet. Mr. Lawton's daughter Mary shared the heart and fortunes of John. Thus John and Mary became, says the story, the first white settlers in **Westerly**, R.I., a region then known by its Indian name, Misquami-

(Continued page 10)



The Saga of Sara Tefft

[Reference: "Researcher rewrites history behind 'oldest' gravestone," by Ellen Liberman, The Providence Sunday Journal, 15 March 1998.]

"For more than a century, Sara Tefft's sole distinction was to be buried under the oldest marked gravestone in New England. As befits such an artifact, the 250 pound fieldstone was pried from her burial plot off Occupess-atuxet Cove and stored with other things of rare vintage in what was once a wine cellar under the John Brown house in Providence.

"As far as historians were concerned, Sara Tefft was no more than that - a rough chunk of stone crudely inscribed:

HERE LIETH

THE BoDYE of SARA

Tefft IN thE MARCH 16 1642

"She was cast as a spinster, childless. Her presence, in Warwick 7 months before the first settlers purchased land there, was a mystery.

"But Craig Anthony, an 11th generation Rhode Islander with a fierce pride in his state's heritage, thought Sara Tefft's life was worth examining. After six years of trawling a sluggish sea of Colonial-era documents, Anthony has had the rare privilege of rewriting history.

"Sara Tefft actually died in 1672.... Anthony has discovered far from being a barren, single woman, Tefft bore two children and was twice married to murderers who were executed for their

(Continued page 14)

STUKELY WESTCOTT

[Talk given by Betty Acker, Historian General, OFFRI&PP at Annual Assembly 19 April 1999. Betty is also Historian, Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America.]

One of my dreams came true in September of 1997 when I made my first trip to England with 20 more Westcott cousins.

The airline had a lot of trouble with all the "Westcotts."

A place of special significance was the Church in Yeovil where Stukely Westcott and Juliana Marchante were married on 5 October 1619.

It was a very strange feeling to sit in the church and look at the same walls and windows that Stukely and his family had looked at 380 years ago.

We visited both Dartmouth and Plymouth. We didn't know it at the time, but when we got back home, I learned that their ship left from Dartmouth instead of Plymouth. (Info. from Mr. Burt Spear of the Mary & John Clearing house). We also met Stephen Westcott in Dartmouth. Stephen is an advocate for protecting the Grey Seals.

The family sailed from England 1 May 1635 on an unnamed ship. All of the families aboard came from the West Country as did the "Mary & John" passengers in 1630. According to the book, "The Arnold Memorial," the Arnolds, the Westcotts, and the Hopkins came from Ilchester, Somerset (4 miles N. of Yeovil).

(continued page 9)

Stukely Westcott

We traveled around the countryside, drove the narrow backroads, and saw the Hedgerows around Yeovil.

Stukely and Juliana had 6 children born in England: (Note: number of descendants listed after each name refer to number Betty has in her computer).

1. ROBERT - killed in the King Phillips War. 1969 Desc.
2. DAMARIS - m. Benedict Arnold. 5210 Desc.
3. SAMUEL - He was 13 yrs. old when he came to America. Nothing more heard of him.
4. AMOS - m/1 Sarah Stafford; m/2 Deborah Stafford. 258 desc.
5. MERCY - m. Samuel Stafford. 4071 desc.
6. JEREMIAH - m. Eleanor England. 28,545 desc.

The Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America does not recognize Rosanna Hill as being married to Stukely.

We find no proof of a Rosanna Hill marriage, but the suggestion continues to exist.

After Stukely Westcott was excommunicated in MA, He followed Roger Williams to RI. Stukely was one of the founders of the "First Baptist Church" in Providence.

Each year at Easter time, the Westcott Society sends a Memorial contribu-

Settling the Narragansett Country

cut (signifying salmon).

The forest retreat of John and Mary, near Mastuxet Brook, remained for a time unknown to their relatives. The story is appropriately recited in a ballad entitled, "The Pioneers." Their son James, in Old Babcock Burying ground, which we'll visit in Oct., was the first white child born within the town's limits.

The name Misquamicut was given by the Indians to the neck of land near the mouth of the river, embracing Watch Hill and the Naps, but afterwards extended to the country north and east.

In 1649, Thomas Stanton had a trading house on the Pawcatuck, and a monopoly of the trade at the mouth of the river, for a season granted by the Connecticut authorities. The earliest efforts of Rhode Island men to purchase lands of the Indians in Misquamicut, if one excepts John Babcock and one or two others, seems to have been made near 1658.

The first occupants under the Misquamicut Purchase entered upon the lands about the first of Sept. 1661. They were: Toby Saunders, Robert Burdick, and Joseph Clark, Jr. Immediately, difficulties arose with Connecticut and Massachusetts in respect to jurisdiction. The purchasers were sustained by the royal charter given the colony in 1643, and by the deed obtained of Sosoa. But the adjacent colonies, envious of and hostile to Rhode Island, pleaded old claims from Indian conquests.

Settling the Narragansett Country

Massachusetts attempted to enforce her claim. Robert Burdick and Tobias Saunders were forcibly seized and confined in prison at Boston till they should pay a fine of 40 pounds, and give security on 100 pounds for their future conduct. In 1662, Connecticut, under her new charter, preferred a claim reaching even beyond Misquamicut, as far as Narragansett Bay.

"In 1663, a house that had been built by residents of Southertown (Stonington), being within the asserted jurisdiction of Rhode Island was torn down. William Marble, a deputy of the Marshal of Suffolk, MA, bearing a letter to the **Westerly** men upon this subject, was arrested, sent to Newport, and confined in prison for eleven months. In 1671, John Crandall and others were carried off by the Connecticut authorities, and imprisoned in a Hartford jail."

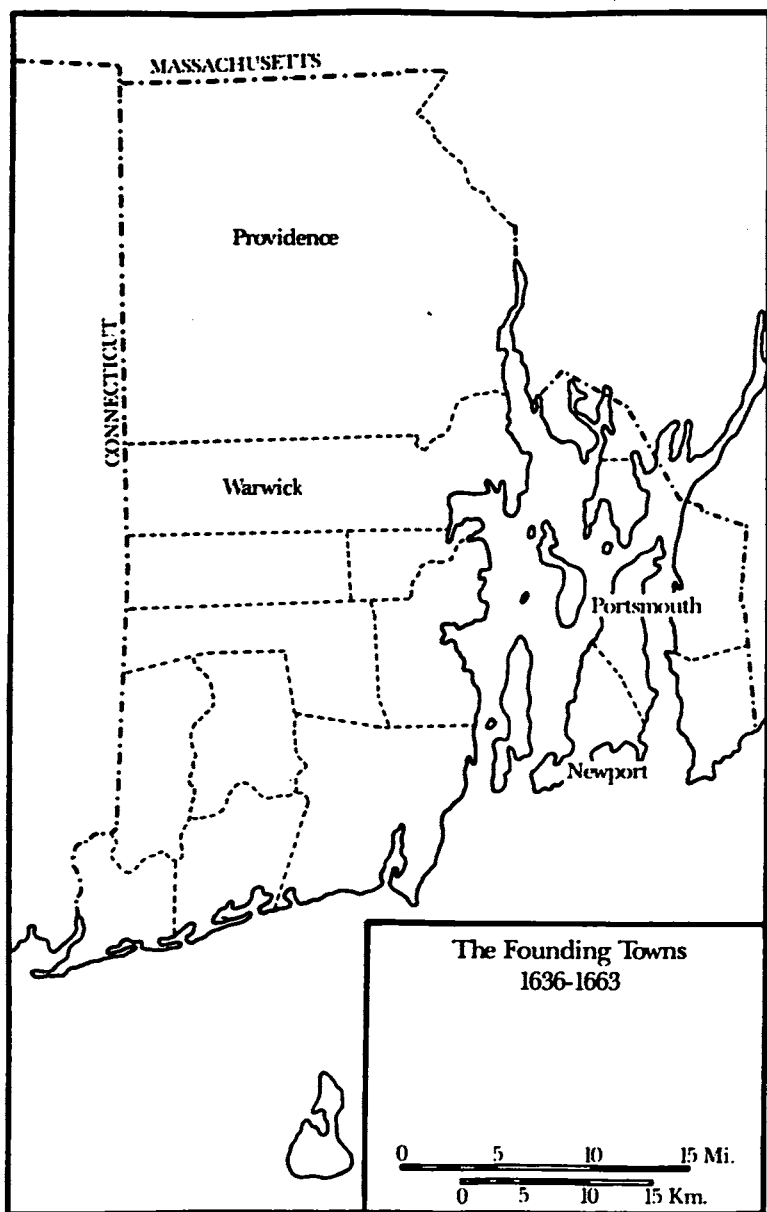
This complex dispute of jurisdiction led to arrests, imprisonments, fines, appeals, and the appointment of various commissions between the colonies, till, from weariness, the boundary was settled in 1728.

In 1669 the whole region then embraced by **Westerly** contained only about thirty white families.

"A List of the Free Inhabitants of the Towne of Westerle, May 18th 1669:

John Crandall	John Fairfield
Edward Larkin	Daniel Cromb
Stephen Wilcox	Nickolas Cottrell

(Continued page 15)



Stukely Westcott

tion to the church in honor of Stukely Westcott.

Stukely Westcott is recognized as one of the 13 original Proprietors of Providence Plantations.

The Rhode Island Historical Society library has the Bible that the family brought with them from England in 1635.

I have had the honor of holding this bible in my hands!

In Warwick, our Society has a monument on the old home site. No grave has ever been found for Stukely and Juliana. The marker is on Old Shore Road near the corner of Stoney Lane.

By 1647, Warwick had 31 settlers. Among the property owners that are listed were: Stukely as the 7th; Robert as the 17th; and Amos as the 27th.

In 1642, Stukely was on the Town Council. In 1652, he was a jurymen. For several years after that, he was an assistant to the Colonial Governor. In 1663, and again in 1671, he was the representative from Warwick at the Colonial Assembly.

We have to be thankful to Judge J. Russell Bullock for his Westcott Genealogy of 1886 and to Roscoe L. Whitman for his Vol. I in 1932 and his Vol. II in 1939. Also many individual family histories have been published.

WATCH YOUR MAIL FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF Fall Meeting in Westerly, RI 23 & 24th Oct.

The Saga of Sara Tefft

crimes...

"Sara Tefft was born Sara Greene, most likely the illegitimate daughter of John Greene Jr., a Warwick man who was eventually elected deputy governor of the colony in 1690.

"Anthony first found a reference to her in court records - she was called to answer for the crime of fornication. Sara Greene avoided four sessions before the Colonial magistrates; her father eventually paying the 40 shilling fine.

"Greene, sic, Sara Tefft, appears next as the wife of Thomas Flounders... In 1670, two years after they were wed, Flounders had a land dispute with a man named Walter House. One day, they came to blows over it in Flounders Narragansett shop. Flounders beat House to death and fled....The R.I. constables found Flounders. The court convicted him of felonious manslaughter and he was executed that November.

"Young widow Sara Flounders next married Joshua Tefft, who eventually became a prominent villain in the Puritan accounts of Colonial Rhode Island. But she did not live to see this ignominy. Sara died 16 March 1672 two days after giving birth to a son Peter. There is no record of how old she was."

According to the "Greene Family Genealogy," published privately, no author in 1901, John Greene Jr. was born 1620 and married 1648. Assuming Sara was his illegitimate daughter prior to his marriage she was born sometime between 1638 and

(Continued page 20)

Settling the Narragansett Country

"A List of the Free Inhabitants of the Towne of Westerle, May 18th 1669 (continued):

John Lewis	Shubael Painter
James Cross	Tobias Saunders
Jonathan Armstrong	Robert Burdick
John Maxson	John Randall
Jeffree Champion, Sr.	John Sharp
John Matkoon	Danniel Stanton
James Babcock Sr.	Thomas Painter
James Babcock Jr.	John Babcock
Job Babcock	Josiah Clark"

The colony immediately appointed John Crandall and Tobias Saunders conservators of his Majesty's peace," with power to summon juries and hold courts. To these 24 men was committed the guardianship of a territory 20 miles in length, and 10 in breadth, mostly a dense forest traversed only by trails.

So numerous were bears, foxes, wolves, and wild cats, that the people sometimes, for their own safety as well as that of their stock, would set apart days in which all the able bodied men, armed with musket, pouch, and horn, and accompanied with their deep mouthed dogs, would unite and 'drive' the forests, hills and swamps to diminish the insatiate carnivora. In 1696, the colony paid a bounty of ten shillings per head on wolves. in 1697, the authorities of **Westerly** voted "twenty shillings in money to an Englishmen, and ten shillings to an Indian, for every grown wolfe

(Continued page 16)

Settling the Narragansett Country

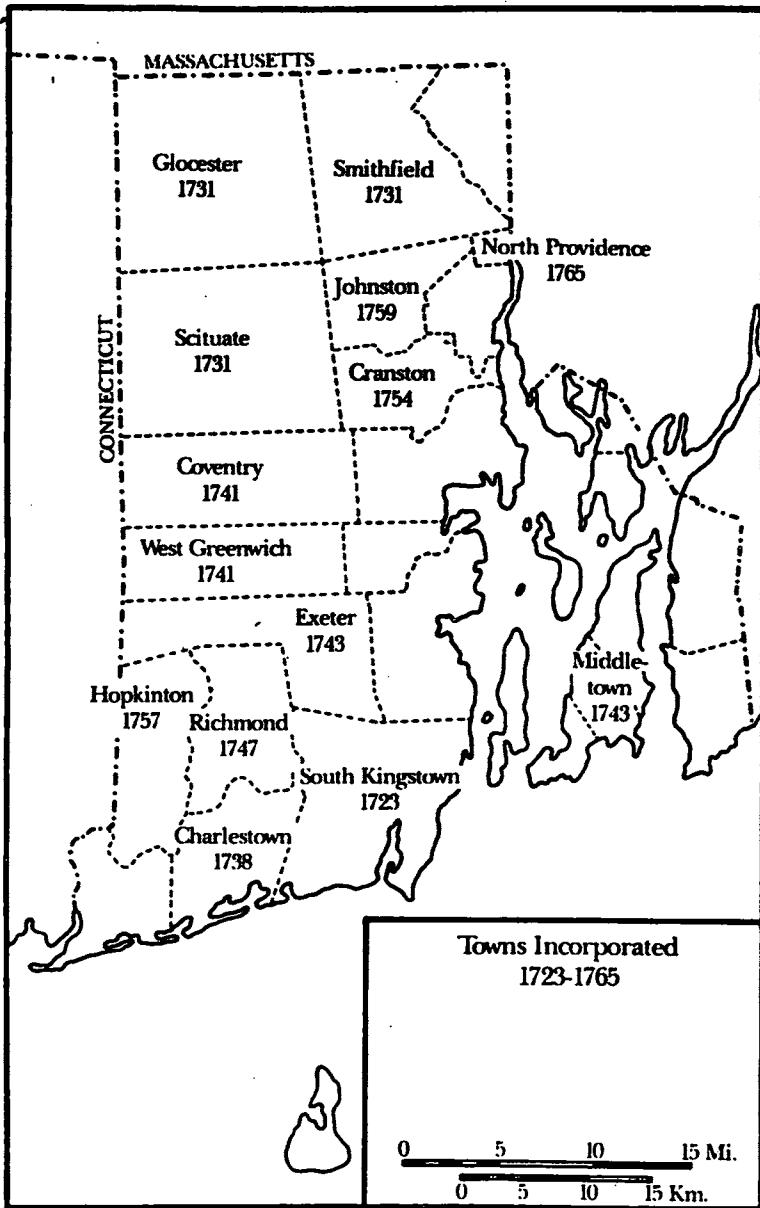
that is 'ceht,' sic, caught, or killed." A colt or a calf had to be 'folded,' sic, penned or enclosed, at night. The keeping of sheep was impracticable for many years.

The imperfectly drawn boundary line between Kingstown and Westerly was satisfactorily adjusted in 1695.

Between 1728 and 1765, fourteen new towns were formed from territory in towns founded prior to 1678. Six of these separated from Providence, three from **Westerly**, two from Kingstown, and one each from Newport, East Greenwich, and Warwick. The old towns were so large physically that residents living in remote areas found it an unacceptable hardship to travel long distances to take part in town political life or to obtain governmental services. In a few cases, economic, social, and partisan political factors influenced the decision to become independent towns.

In 1738, petitioners in the eastern and northern parts of **Westerly** argued that the existing town should be divided into three parts. It "is so very large that some of us are obliged to go ten miles or more to a town meeting and have a great and difficult river to go over," they wrote. And "sometimes we cannot without wetting ourselves and when we come to the place of our meeting the house will not contain us. So many of us are obliged to neglect going to town meetings and so either lose our privileges or expose ourselves to the dangers

(Continued page 18)



Settling the Narragansett Country

of the river and extremity of the weather." This petition contained 48 signatures and another one, a few days later, contained 56 more. A large number of **Westerly** residents opposed the division and the town meeting voted by a majority of 89 to send a counterpetition to the assembly. It stated that the division would result in "the poverty of the inhabitants...a burden too heavy to carry ..."

However, the town was divided: Charlestown in 1738, Richmond in 1747 and Hopkinton in 1757.

The next two towns founded on the mainland after **Westerly**, (Kingstown in 1674 and East Greenwich in 1677), were at first principally paper creations designed to help fight the political war with Connecticut over the Narragansett Country. Kingstown, east of **Westerly**, and on the southern coast of Rhode Island, traced its origins to 1637. Roger Williams and Richard Smith had each established trading posts there. Smith purchased a vaguely defined but considerable tract of land from the Indians in 1641; ten years later, he bought the rival trading post from Williams and became the sole proprietor of 'Smith's Castle.' The original tract taken up and owned by Richard Smith was three miles wide and nine miles long.

Cole states that "Smith located at the head of what is now called Point Wharf Cove where he established a trading post and erected upon the site

Settling the Narragansett Country

of the present Congdon House the first English dwelling in the Narragansett Country. He was a native of Gloucestershire, England...."

"Updike, speaking of the landed aristocracy of Narragansett said, 'In Narragansett resided the great landed aristocracy of the colony. Their plantations were large, some of them very extensive.' Some were five, six and ten miles square."

The court of commissioners from the Rhode Island assembly on 20 May 1671, recorded the following as inhabitants of Wickford or Acquidnessett: Daniel Gould, Samuel Dyre, John Andrews, William Downing, Samuel Pratt, George Browne, George Wightman, Lodowick Updike, Thomas Waterman, James Reynolds, Henry Tibbetts, Henry Greene, John Briggs, Wm. Helme, Robert Wescott, Richard Updike, Thomas Gould, John Sweet, Sr., Samuel Waite, John Pratt, John Greene, Daniel Greene, and Robert Spink.

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2. Frederic Denison, "Westerly And Its Witnesses 1626-1876," Providence: J. A. & R.A. Reid, 1878, pp. 37, 38, 40, 43, 44, 50, 51, 52, 58.
3. J. R. Cole, "History of Washington & Kent Counties, R.I.," New York: W.W. Prenton & Co., 1889, pp. 49, 50, 56.

The Saga of Sara Tefft

1648. Perhaps the earlier 1642 date referred to her birth year.

"In 1675, war broke out between the English of Plymouth Colony and the Wampanoag Indian nation of Southeastern Massachusetts. The United Colonies of New England, a confederation formed by the Plymouth, Connecticut and Massachusetts Bay colonies, decided to make a preemptive strike against the Narragansetts to prevent them from joining forces with the Wampanoags.

"Rhode Island sought to join the United Colonies, but was denied because of its policy of religious liberty. Most of the colony's inhabitants retreated to Aquidneck Island for safety.

"Joshua Tefft remained to defend his South Kingstown farm, where he was dragged into the United Colonies troops. He escaped and went back to his home - only to be captured by the Narragansetts who enslaved him.

"Craig Anthony began his journey to a new perspective on Sara Tefft and her place in Colonial Rhode Island history at the Tefft family plot in South Kingstown."

One sentence in an unpublished 1880 manuscript caught Anthony's eye: "It was in this sequestered place that the celebrated Joshua Tefft was captured and afterwards taken to Wickford where he was drawn and quartered, the only execution of the kind in Rhode Island so far as we know.

"Anthony maintains that Tefft was

(Continued page 23)

APRIL 1999 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Our new Sect'y Gen. Carolyn E. F. Lubker,
Jo Siliman, Nita Helmer, & new member
Richard Calendine



John Hallberg Jones, Brig. Gen.
Greene, & John Mark Hilliard



1999 Annual Assembly

Betty Ailine Westcott Acker, guest, &
Mary Ruth Northrup



Joan Orton, C. Owen Johnson, Eleanor
Niebold & Graham T. Smallwood Jr.



The Saga of Sara Tefft

forced to fight alongside the tribe during the Great Swamp Fight of December 1675, when several hundred Narragansetts - mostly woman and children - were slaughtered at their winter refuge inside the West Kingston swamp. Tefft wounded Capt. Nathaniel Seeley, of Connecticut who later died.

"Tefft was wounded while raiding the outlying farms around Providence and was captured by English troops. In January 1676, Tefft was taken to Richard Smith's garrison (now called Smith's Castle in North Kingstown). Various Colonial accounts laid out Tefft's crimes - scalping a miller, firing at Colonial soldiers and wounding Seeley.

"The United Colonies tried him for high treason. The 1647 law dictated that the condemned person would be drawn and quartered and forfeit all of his land and possessions....

"Nonetheless, the R.I. government, in its guardianship order, saw to it that Joshua's son, Peter, inherited his father's land - in defiance of the legal penalty.

"As Anthony sees it, Peter's inheritance and a handful of legal maneuvers to protect Tefft's land, proves that Rhode Island did not regard Tefft as the traitor that the United Colonies did.

"The misinterpretation of Sara Tefft's stone began in one cemetery and ended in another. Her bones lie in a grave on the Greene family homestead in

The Saga of Sara Tefft

Warwick. In 1868, the historical society removed the stone for safekeeping. A descendant put up a slate copy that repeated the earlier transcription and tacked on the phrase, 'in the 67th year of her age,' (obviously wrong since she died from childbirth).

ROGER WILLIAMS - PROPHET IN THE WILDERNESS

(taken from a pamphlet of the Roger Williams Memorial).

Roger Williams was deeply interested in the Indians among whom he preached and traded. "Many solemn discourses I have had with all sorts of Indians," he wrote, "from one end of the country to another." He visited frequently in their lodges, making friends, learning their languages, and recording their customs.

Williams respected the Indians without romanticizing them. Partly out of this regard, he took a controversial stand in defense of Indian property rights. The British took for granted their ownership of the lands they "discovered." Williams objected to this high-handed dispossession of the Indians, and in America, was the most ardent champion of their legal rights.

Some of Williams concern for Indian rights grew out of his trading activities. His frontier trading post near Wickford Point in R.I. provided the main

(Continued page 25)

Roger Williams, Prophet In the Wilderness

support for his growing family. He was known for his honest dealings and his refusal to sell liquor and firearms. Even after he sold out his interest in the trading post to Richard Smith, Williams often returned to Wickford to visit, preach, and perhaps trade with his old friends.

Williams was a sensitive, articulate observer of native cultures and languages. In 1643, he published his "Key Into The Language of America." He hoped it would "unlock some 'Rarities' concerning the natives themselves, not yet discovered," and improve communications between the races. The book was the first of its kind in North America. It was a sympathetic guide to Indian cultural patterns as well as a phrase by phrase translation of Indian languages, "chiefly after the Narragansett Dialect."

In a time when most New World colonizers piously announced their intentions to "Christenizing" the Indians, and then proceeded either to ignore or repress the objects of their zeal, Roger Williams chose to live an exemplary Christian life among them and to respect them as fellow human beings. It was one of his greatest achievements.

HAS YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS? HAVE A 2ND ADDRESS? PLEASE notify Secretary General so new Roster of Membership is correct. REMINDER - DUES for Annual members due 1 January 2000
