

# The Lively Experiment



Volume 4, Number 1

# Officers 2001-2003

## **Governor General**

Peter Arrott Dixon  
111 Duke Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-3803

## **Deputy Governor General**

Harold Winthrop Sands  
10 Cherry Creek Road  
Newport, RI 02840

## **Secretary General**

Carolyn Fish Lubker  
P.O. Box 812278  
Wellesley, MA 02482-0016

## **Treasurer General**

Thomas Mayhew Smith  
15 Tenney Street  
Cambridge, MA 02140-1311

## **Registrar General**

Lilla McKnight Licht  
490 M Street, SW, #W604  
Washington, DC 20024-2612

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Rev. D. Gene Patterson  
9 West Penn Street  
Muncy, PA 17756-1204

## **Historian General**

Betty Westcott Acker  
2145 Richvale Road  
Nashport, OH 43830-9727

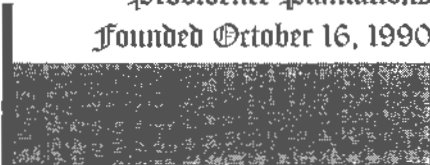
## **Chancellor General**

Marcia Holly Morgan  
4825 Drummond Avenue  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815



# The Lively Experiment

A Biannual Publication of  
The Order of the First Families  
of Rhode Island and  
Providence Plantations  
Founded October 16, 1990



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## **The Lively Experiment**

Editor

Mary Ruth Northrop

Associate Editor & Designer

Stephanie Schlick

Contributors

Lilla McKnight Licht

Marcia Morgan

For back issues, contact:

Peter Arrott Dixon, 111 Duke  
Street, Alexandria, VA  
22314-3803



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Thomas Mayhew Smith

Treasurer General

OFFRI&PP

15 Tenney Street

Cambridge, MA 02140-1311

# From the Editor

---

Welcome to the newest edition of *The Lively Experiment*. Your previous editor, Lilla McKnight Licht, has graciously passed on her position to me. I am grateful for her faithful stewardship and hope to build on her good work.

To that end, I present my credentials:

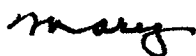
- Member of *Terror Trail*, the yearbook of the Terror Tribe, Colorado Springs High School, Colorado Springs, CO.
- In the waning years of World War II, editor of *ConstELLation*, the voice of the employees of the Intercontinental Division of TWA.
- In lieu of a yearbook, the inspiration for and coordinator of the class portrait, Georgetown University School of Nursing, Washington, DC.
- In the workaday world, contributor of a genealogy column to *RAM Richmond (VA) Area Mensa* and abstractor of colonial land grants for the *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*.
- Compiler of a genealogy—*Matthew Ryan of Enniscorthy, County Wexford, Ireland and Mary Schmitz of Dommeldingen, Luxembourg, both of North Star, Brown County, Minnesota*.

My last endeavor resulted in membership in the National Society of First Families of Minnesota on my maternal side. My paternal ancestry had already been established in OFFRI&PP.

Like my ancestors, I am embarking on a new journey. And, like them, I do not embark alone. The articles and photographs given to me by Lilla McKnight Licht formed the basis for my first issue. The article from Marcia Morgan is also a welcome addition. I am assisted by my niece-in-law, Stephanie Schlick, who will be associate editor and designer for the magazine.

I would like this magazine to reflect the genealogical interests of our membership with a special emphasis on Rhode Island. I invite you to submit articles on your first families, biographies, book reviews, and any items of interest about the early days of the smallest state with the longest name.

Best regards,



# Fall Meeting, 1999: A Tour of Westerly, Rhode Island

Marcia Morgan

Four of us arrived at Warwick Airport at the same time; so we decided to share a car. The passenger list comprised Betty Acker (Historian General), Robert Arnold (Governor General), Lilla Licht (Registrar General), and myself. I became the official group chauffeur and took control of the two-door red Grand Am. (For future reference, we recommend renting a four-door car; that is, unless you enjoy an unusual form of entertainment.)



*Stukely Westcott Memorial. Left to right: Betty Westcott Acker, Robert Carter Arnold, and Marcia Morgan.*

We decided to take the scenic tour on the drive to Westerly. The first stop was a visit to the Stukely Westcott Memorial on West Shore Drive. This stop was a must because three in our group are his descendants.

From the memorial, we drove onto Route 1 South toward our hotel on Watch Hill, overlooking the bay. Our governor general kindly showed us all the historical sights along the way.

One point of interest was the old trading post owned by Roger Williams. Colonel Elmer Palmer and his wife, Anne, now own it. We stopped to tour the outside because the building is a stone ender. To our delight, the colonel's son, Richard Palmer, gave us a personal tour of the building.

The first evening, eleven of us got together for dinner at Maria's in Misquamicut Beach. We all enjoyed a pleasant evening of good food and conversation.

On Saturday, we started out at 10:00 a.m. We led a four-car procession to the Babcock-Smith house at 124 Granite Street, Westerly. Our private tour of this house, built in 1734, was detailed and contained many added genealogical touches.



*The Babcock-Smith House*



*Babcock-Smith House (rear). Back row, left to right: Lilla McKnight Licht, Thomas Mayhew Smith, Betty Westcott Acker, and Robert Carter Arnold. Front row, left to right: John Davidson, Marcia Morgan, Barbara Davidson, Mary Ruth Northrop, Geneva DeWolf, and Colonel Elmer Palmer.*



*Shelter Harbor Inn. Left to right: Chancellor C. Owen Johnson, Governor General Robert Carter Arnold, Honorary Governor General Colonel Elmer Palmer, and Treasurer General Thomas Maybaw Smith.*



*Shelter Harbor Inn. Clockwise, from left: Geneva DeWolf, Mary Ruth Northrop, Historian General Betty Acker, Marcia Morgan, and Anne Palmer.*





After our tour, we enjoyed a luncheon at the Shelter Harbor Inn in Westerly. Our private dining room looked out at the inn's gardens.

Governor General Robert Carter Arnold conducted a short business meeting. He requested suggestions for projects that would help promote our organization and benefit Rhode Island. Thirteen members attended.

Our tour resumed after the luncheon. We went first to place a memorial bouquet of flowers at the burial ground for the Crandalls.

*Crandall Cemetery. C. Owen Johnson at Elder John Crandall's gravesite.*



*Crandall Cemetery. Left to right, back row: Colonel Elmer Palmer, Thomas Maybaw Smith, Betty Westcott Acker, C. Owen Johnson, Lilla McKnight Licht, and Robert Carter Arnold. Front row: Marcia Morgan, Barbara Davidson, Mary Ruth Northrop, and Geneva DeWolf.*



*Top: Monument honoring Elder John Crandall and his descendants. Bottom: Monument honoring Elder John Crandall who "lived in the house on this property." Both monuments erected by the Crandall Family Association.*



*Founders Monument*

This 17th century cemetery remains largely unchanged.

Next we drove from Westerly into Stonington, Connecticut, once a part of Rhode Island. We visited the Wequetequock Cemetery. There we paid tribute at the Founders Monument honoring the four founders of Stonington, Rhode Island: William Chesebrough, Thomas Stanton, Thomas Minor, and Walter Palmer.

On our way back to Westerly, we made an unscheduled stop at the Thomas Stanton house, where one of the oldest houses in Rhode Island can be found. Built in 1653, the house still belongs to descendants of the original owners. Much to our surprise, we were able to interview the present owner and have a Kodak moment.



*The Thomas Stanton House*



*Wilcox Inn. Clockwise, from left: Harold Winthrop Sands, Barbara Davidson, John Davidson, and Lilla McKnight Licht.*

While other members returned to Watch Hill, Robert Carter Arnold, Betty Westcott Acker, and Thomas Mayhew Smith, and the group chauffeur, Marcia Morgan, took the red Grand Am on a mission to find the exact location of the Babcock Cemetery. The easy part of the mission was finding the marker at Rhode Island Historical Society number 6, 132 Watch Hill Road.

The mowed and landscaped area led up an incline to a low stone fence. The hard part came when our group arrived at the stone fence. We fought through a stand of small trees, fierce undergrowth, and lethal brambles. Our mighty leader, Thomas Mayhew Smith, leapt into the brambles to locate the headstones, entering the area

backward to read a marker. Our mission completed, we then discussed a project to restore the cemetery.

Our group's final Kodak moment came when a magnificent rainbow appeared. What a special sight to bring to a close an eventful day. Piling into the car, we returned to our hotels to remove brambles and get ready for the evening.

Saturday evening, twelve of us gathered for dinner at the historic Wilcox Inn. We enjoyed a lovely evening, wining and dining with members who had become good friends. We wished all the other members could have been with us that day to share in the historic sights of Westerly and our comradeship.



*Watch Hill, RI. Left to right: Mary Ruth Northrop, Lilla McKnight Licht, and Betty Westcott Acker.*

Are you attending the 2001 annual meeting in Bristol, Rhode Island? We would appreciate reading your impressions of the event and seeing your photographs. Send your stories and photographs to:

**The Lively Experiment**

Mary Ruth Northrop, Editor  
300 West Franklin Avenue  
Apartment 401E  
Richmond, VA 23220-4904  
(sschlick@earthlink.net)



*Watch Hill, RI. Left to right: Thomas Mayhew Smith, Marcia Morgan, Barbara Davidson, and Robert Carter Arnold.*

# Annual Meeting, 2001: Bristol, Rhode Island

Mary Ruth Northrop

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Our society's annual business meeting will be held in Bristol, Rhode Island, the weekend of 12 October. Located on a peninsula between Narragansett and Mount Hope Bays, Bristol is almost equidistant between Providence and Newport. Bristol was the site of the first battle of King Philip's war in 1675, a rebellion by Wampanoag Indians against settlers who bought land from King Philip's father, Sachem Massasoit.

During the American Revolution, British troops attacked Bristol many times. Most notably on 25 May 1778, British and Hessian troops marched through the main street (now known as Hope Street), setting fire to many buildings. Most of the homes belonged to rebels, who were taken prisoner and sent to Newport. The homes left standing served as barracks for revolutionary soldiers.

To commemorate their ancestors' struggle for independence, Bristol holds the oldest, continuous Fourth of July celebration in America. First held in 1785, the celebration was

started by Bristolians who took part in the war. The celebration now lasts for three weeks, culminating in a gala parade attended by upwards of 200,000 patriots.

For those of us attending the fall meeting, Bristol provides an array of entertainment. Its historic restaurants and shops will satisfy anyone's tastes. Many of its houses date to the 1700s and 1800s. The modern America's Cup Hall of Fame will interest the sailing buffs among us.

If you are interested in learning more about Bristol and the surrounding area before you travel to the meeting, visit the website [onlinebristol.com](http://onlinebristol.com). It contains helpful restaurant, shopping, and touring guides.

I welcome you to contribute an article on the fall meeting and share your experiences with the members who could not come home to Rhode Island this year.

*Reference:* [www.onlinebristol.com](http://www.onlinebristol.com)  
(8 September 2001)

# Family History: The Babcock Family

Lilla McKnight Licht

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Written in honor of the society's Fall meeting, this short sketch is for the Babcock descendants. The original article contains many more stories about the Babcocks.

The first Babcock to come to America appears to have been James Babcock or as he called himself, James Badcock. He was born in Essex County, England, in 1612. He is found in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, about 1642, where he resided for nearly 20 years. In 1660, he joined the Newport company, headed by William Vaughn. Numbering 60 or more, the company purchased from the Pequot Indian chief, Sosoia, a tract of land (20 miles by 12 miles) known as Misquamicut. Known afterward as Westerly, Misquamicut was a place for catching salmon.

The first settlement was made the following year. In the allotment of land, James Babcock had lot 52. Westerly, which then comprised the present towns of Westerly, Charlestown, Hopkinton, and Richmond, was incorporated in 1669. At that time, there were 24 freemen in the town, four of whom were Babcocks—James and his three sons, James, John, and Job, born to him by his first wife, Sarah. James Babcock declared his last will and testament on 12 June 1679 to his sons, who testified to the truth of his will as he verbally gave it to them.

John Babcock, son of James and Sarah Babcock, was born in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, in 1644. He married Mary Lawton, daughter of George and Elizabeth (Hazard) Lawton, of Portsmouth. A tradition, not supported by fact, holds that the two people fell in love, but failing to obtain parental sanction for their union married themselves by affirmation. Stowing themselves and their meager belongings in a canoe, they headed through the rough waters of Point Judith, rounded Napatree Point, and paddled up the Pawcatuck River. When they came to Mastuxet Brook, they built a shelter. There they are said to have purchased land from the Indians and lived for some time unknown to their relatives.

John Babcock died in Westerly at the age of 41 (i.e., 1685). Mary (Lawton) Babcock outlived her husband and married for a second time to Erasmus Babbitt. Mary died in Westerly in 1711.

Captain James Babcock, son of John and Mary (Lawton) Babcock, was born in Westerly about 1663 and died there in 1736. As the eldest son, he received all of his father's real estate, half of which he deeded to his mother. He united with the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Newport and Westerly and continued as a member until he died.

He was commissioned captain of militia of Westerly. He also served for many years as town treasurer, town councilman, and moderator at town meetings. He represented Westerly in the legislature of the Colony of Rhode Island at Newport.

He was buried in the old Babcock cemetery, probably the oldest burial ground in Westerly, near Mastuxet Brook, on the east side of Watch Hill Road. His grave is covered by a horizontal tablet, six feet long and four feet wide, that reads: "In memory of Capt. James Babcock, who died on January the 17th, 1736 in the 73rd yr. of his age. Having been in his life of extensive charity and beneficence and not wholly silent in his death."

Tradition says that James was the first white male born in Misquamicut. He married first Elizabeth Saunders, daughter of Tobias Saunders, and second Content Maxson, eldest daughter of Jonathan and Content (Rogers) Maxson.

Joshua Babcock, son of Captain James and Elizabeth (Saunders) Babcock, was born in Westerly in 1707. He married first Hannah, daughter of Joseph Stanton, and second Ann, daughter of Elder John and Tacy (Rogers) Maxson, of Newport.

He was a graduate of Yale's class of 1724 and the first graduate of this college to come from Rhode Island. After his graduation, he studied medicine and surgery in Boston. In 1730, he sailed for London to serve in a hospital.

On his return to the colony, Dr. Babcock settled in Westerly, where he practiced medicine for 25 years and operated a retail country grocery store that had clientele from Boston and New York. For many years, he served as chief justice of the Supreme Court of the Colony. He was also one of the original incorporators of Brown University and remained on the Board of Fellows until his death.

His large colonial mansion is still standing. Built about 1750, the Dr. Joshua Babcock House is at 124 Granite Street. During his lifetime, at the close of the week, he called his family into the sitting room to pray or hear a chapter read from the bible.

Benjamin Franklin was a frequent visitor at Babcock's house. Tradition says that the two men had a favorite sport—catching black fish at Noyes Beach, now Weekapaug. In the ell of Babcock's house, Franklin established the first post office in Westerly in 1776 and appointed Dr. Babcock postmaster.

Dr. Joshua Babcock was buried near his mother and father in the old Babcock cemetery. The inscription at his gravesite reads: "This stone covers the mortal part of the Hon. Joshua Babcock of Westerly, who died 1 April 1783 aged 75 years."

His versatile and eccentric son, Colonel Harry Babcock, was born 26 April 1736. He served with distinction during the revolution.

*Reference: Westerly Memories.* Westerly: Westerly Historical Society, 1989.



# Family Research: Original Settlers of Providence Plantations

Lilla McKnight Licht

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Many people ask me, as Registrar General of OFFRI&PP, to list all the qualifying ancestors because they need a list to prove their ancestor qualifies. To assist in this matter, I am providing some qualifying names. Other qualifying names appear in earlier volumes of *The Lively Experiment*.

Abbott, Daniel  
Angell, Thomas  
Arnold, Benedict  
Arnold, William  
Brewit, Hugh  
Brown, Chad  
Burrows, William  
Carpenter, William  
Coles, Robert  
Daniels, Alice  
Dexter, Gregory  
Field, John  
Field, William  
Goodwin, Adam  
Greene, Jr., John  
Greene, Sr., John  
Harris, Thomas  
Harris, William  
Hart, Edward  
Hawkins, William  
Holliman, Ezekiel  
Hopkins, Thomas  
James, Thomas  
Lippitt, John

Mann, William  
Manton, Edward  
Olney, Thomas  
Painter, Thomas  
Power, Nicholas  
Reeve, Widow  
Reynolds, William  
Rickard, George  
Scott, Richard  
Sears, Jane  
Smith, John  
Sweet, John  
Throckmorton, John  
Tyler, Joane  
Unthank, Christopher  
Verin, Joshua  
Waller, Matthew  
Warner, John  
Waterman, Richard  
Weeks, Francis  
West, Robert  
Westcott, Stukely  
Weston, Francis  
Weston, Matthew  
Wickenden, William  
Williams, Robert  
Williams, Roger  
Winsor, Joshua

*Reference:* Hopkins, Charles Wyman. *The Home Lotts of the Early Settlers of the Providence Plantations. With Notes and Plats.* Providence, Rhode Island, 1886.

# Ancestors OnLine: A Tour of Ancestry.com

Stephanie Schlick

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For most genealogists, the computer has become both a repository for records, photographs, and maps and an invaluable research tool. One computer with a 10-gigabyte hard drive can store information that would fill the space taken up by several football fields filled with three-drawer filing cabinets. In other words, a genealogist could store a lifetime of research in one computer and still have room for storing records for thousands more ancestors. From the research perspective, genealogists are increasingly turning to the Internet for information.

For any genealogist, nothing beats traveling to a small town archive, donning white cotton gloves, and carefully turning the pages of ancient record books. But many genealogists have neither the time nor the money for unlimited travel. Although genealogical research conducted on the Internet does not eliminate the need for solid research, verifiable information, and official documentation, an Internet connection can significantly reduce the travel costs involved in documenting an ancestor.

One website, Ancestry.com, is gathering volumes of official information in one place. The

website maintains more than 3,000 databases, and every day a new database comes online. Perhaps the most frequently used databases are the ones containing the U.S. Federal Census for the years 1790 to 1920. Containing more than 450 million names, the census databases contains images of the original Census pages. Images can be printed or stored in image form on the computer.

## Subscription Levels

Although many online searches at this website are free, Ancestry.com maintains its presence on the Internet by charging subscription fees for access to all records. At first glance, the fees may seem expensive, but would be cheap at twice the price, considering the volume and quality of information available.

Ancestry.com has a subscription plan to fit everyone's wallet. The three most popular plans are the Super Subscription (\$99.90 per year), the Annual Standard Data Subscription (\$69.95 per year), and the Three-month Standard Data Subscription (\$24.95). In addition to access to databases, subscribers receive *Ancestry Magazine* in print or on CD-ROM and a weekly digest by e-mail.

## Learning

Ancestry.com maintains a research library containing links to articles for everyone from beginners to professionals. The library also contains links to official state and country resources. Like the databases, the library material is searchable by keyword.

## Sharing

The website maintains a surname community, a research registry, and message boards. These sections are searchable by surname and keyword.

## Recording

Here subscribers will find tools to preserve, record, and share their family heritage online. Downloadable charts and forms help subscribers organize research on their computers. An ancestral chart allows subscribers to record the ancestors from whom they directly descend. A research calendar accounts for every record source searched. A research extraction summarizes information for easy access and reference. An area for census extraction allows subscribers to record census information on official forms for the years 1790 to 1920. Other recording tools include correspondence records, family group sheets, and source summaries.

## Shopping

Like most websites, Ancestry.com maintains a shopping area for genealogical and family history merchandise. From books, CD-ROMS, and software to scrapbooks, archival supplies and gifts, the

shopping area has something for everyone. One advantage of paying for a subscription is that all these items are available to subscribers at greatly reduced prices.

## Search Engines

Ancestry.com's real service to genealogists lies in its powerful search engines. Subscribers can search all databases at Ancestry.com by name and locality. Advanced searches specify a record type (biographical and historical, church and vital records, court and probate records, etc.), date ranges, and soundex codes. If a subscriber has a fairly good idea where information can be found, an advanced search can save time and energy by narrowing the search to areas most likely to yield results.

## Rhode Island Databases

More than 40 separate databases are available for searches specific to Rhode Island. Rather than listing all of them here, the following databases may be of particular interest to society members:

- Early American Immigrations (Information on New England founders and Scandinavian immigrants in New York).
- English Origins of American Colonists.
- Genealogical Dictionary of New England Settlers.
- Great Migration Begins Index: Immigrants to New England, 1620-33.
- New England Founders (Founders and settlers through 1630).

- New England Irish Pioneers (17th century).
- Persons of Quality Original Lists (1600-1700).
- Providence Early Town Records (Land and tax records from the 17th and 18th centuries).
- Rhode Island Births, 1636-1930.
- Rhode Island Deaths, 1636-1930.
- Rhode Island Marriages, 1636-1930.

The Rhode Island databases also contain links to state resources, maps, and reference materials. Of particular interest for society members are the maps of English Colonies showing the key settlements for the years 1660-1700, 1700-1750, and 1763-1775.

### **The Website as a Research Tool**

The information available at this website is clearly documented and easy to access. Ancestry.com bills itself as the number one source for family history online. Many other websites, however, make this claim. In future articles, I will try to review these websites as well.

**Disclaimer:** A second-generation Greek-American and budding genealogist, Stephanie Soutouras Schlick is a subscriber to Ancestry.com. She did not, however, receive one penny of remuneration for this article. She merely wants to share knowledge of the site and encourage other genealogists to go online to retrieve and share information.

*Reference:* [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)  
(7 September 2001)

## **Useful Websites for Online Research**

Genealogy.com includes surname searches, message boards, and links to other genealogical sites ([www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com)).

Family Search contains a searchable database from the Family History Library, a project of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)).

RootsWeb includes surname searches, ROOTS-L resources, official state pages, and more ([www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com)).

US GenWeb Project is a site run by volunteers to provide genealogical research sites in every city and county in the United States ([www.usgenweb.net](http://www.usgenweb.net)).

Cyndi's List is a categorized and cross-referenced index to genealogical resources on the Internet ([www.CyndisList.com](http://www.CyndisList.com)).

If you find the genealogical community on the Internet useful for your research and wish to share information about it with your fellow society members, we would welcome any articles detailing your experience. Send your articles to

### **The Lively Experiment**

Mary Ruth Northrop, Editor  
([sschlick@earthlink.net](mailto:sschlick@earthlink.net))

# Call for Articles

Mary Ruth Northrop

---

We encourage you to submit articles for publication in forthcoming issues of *The Lively Experiment*. For our next issue, we would welcome a report from someone attending the annual meeting in Bristol, Rhode Island. We would also welcome photographs from members attending the meeting. (All original photographs will be returned.)

In addition to articles on meetings, we are interested in developing several sections in the magazine: founding family history and research, book reviews, and Internet research. Other sections under consideration are letters to the editor, news from members, and a cook's corner featuring authentic recipes.

Articles about founding families will be printed in the family history section. Articles dealing with several families and general articles about the colony will be printed in the family research section. Articles about genealogical websites and Internet research will be printed in the ancestors online section.

Please note: copyright laws prohibit the magazine from printing previously-published material, photographs, maps, or other artwork unless the magazine

receives permission from the originator of the work. All articles referencing previously-published work must include source information (author's name, date of publication, name of publication, place of publication, and publishing company's name).

We welcome you to transmit your articles and suggestions by e-mail, diskette (3-1/2" only), or type-written copy (double-spaced). Address your e-mail to [sschlick@earthlink.net](mailto:sschlick@earthlink.net), using the subject line "Lively Experiment." Send a printout of your article along with your diskette or your double-spaced, typewritten copy to:

## **The Lively Experiment**

Mary Ruth Northrop, Editor  
300 West Franklin Avenue  
Apartment 401E  
Richmond, VA 23220-4904

## **Production Schedule**

February, 2002  
August, 2002

## **Deadline for Submission of Articles**

December 5, 2002  
June 5, 2002

# New Members

- 164 Frances Sherman  
Brownell Moore  
(Mrs. William H. Moore)  
(Life Member)  
19345 Romar Street  
Northridge, CA 91324-1137  
Ancestor: Thomas Brownell
- 165 Virginia Roth Saenger  
(Mrs. Rudolph Alfred Saenger)  
(Life Member)  
15 Longview Avenue  
Waterford, CT 06385-1906  
Ancestor: William Freeborne
- 166 John A. O'Malley  
(Life Member)  
20 Waterside Plaza, Apt. 19H  
New York, NY 10010  
Ancestor: Roger Williams
- 167 Diane Carol Taylor Egan  
(Mrs. Robert Earl Egan)  
(Life Member)  
5314 143rd Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98006  
Ancestor: Nathaniel Browning
- 168 Donna Rae Bennett Cole  
(Mrs. Earl G. Cole)  
4346 East Cassile Avenue  
Orange, CA 92869-5404  
Ancestor: Giles Slocume
- 169 Nicholas Donnell Ward  
1684 32nd Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20007-2969  
Ancestor: Thomas Hazard

- 170 Duncan Cairnes Ely  
(Life Member)  
"Skidaway"  
605 Crystal Drive  
Spartansburg, NC 29032-2716  
Ancestor: Richard Borden
- 171 Elaine Baker Mellott  
(Mrs. Lester Ray Mellott, Jr.)  
3240 Regent Drive  
Woodland Park, CO 80863-7404  
Ancestor: Frances Latham

## Supplements

- 165 Virginis Roth Saenger  
Supplement 1: Frances Latham  
and Dungan Clark Vaughn
- 88 Marcia Morgan  
Supplement 1: Richard Maxson

## Corrections

- 161 Ann Elizabeth Merrit Corson  
Not: Alice E.M. Corson

## Address Changes

- John Francis Capron, III  
1589 Cider Mill Road  
Salem, OH 44460



# Flowers of the Field

58 Ellis Floyd Vaughn, Charter  
Member, died 19 October 1998.

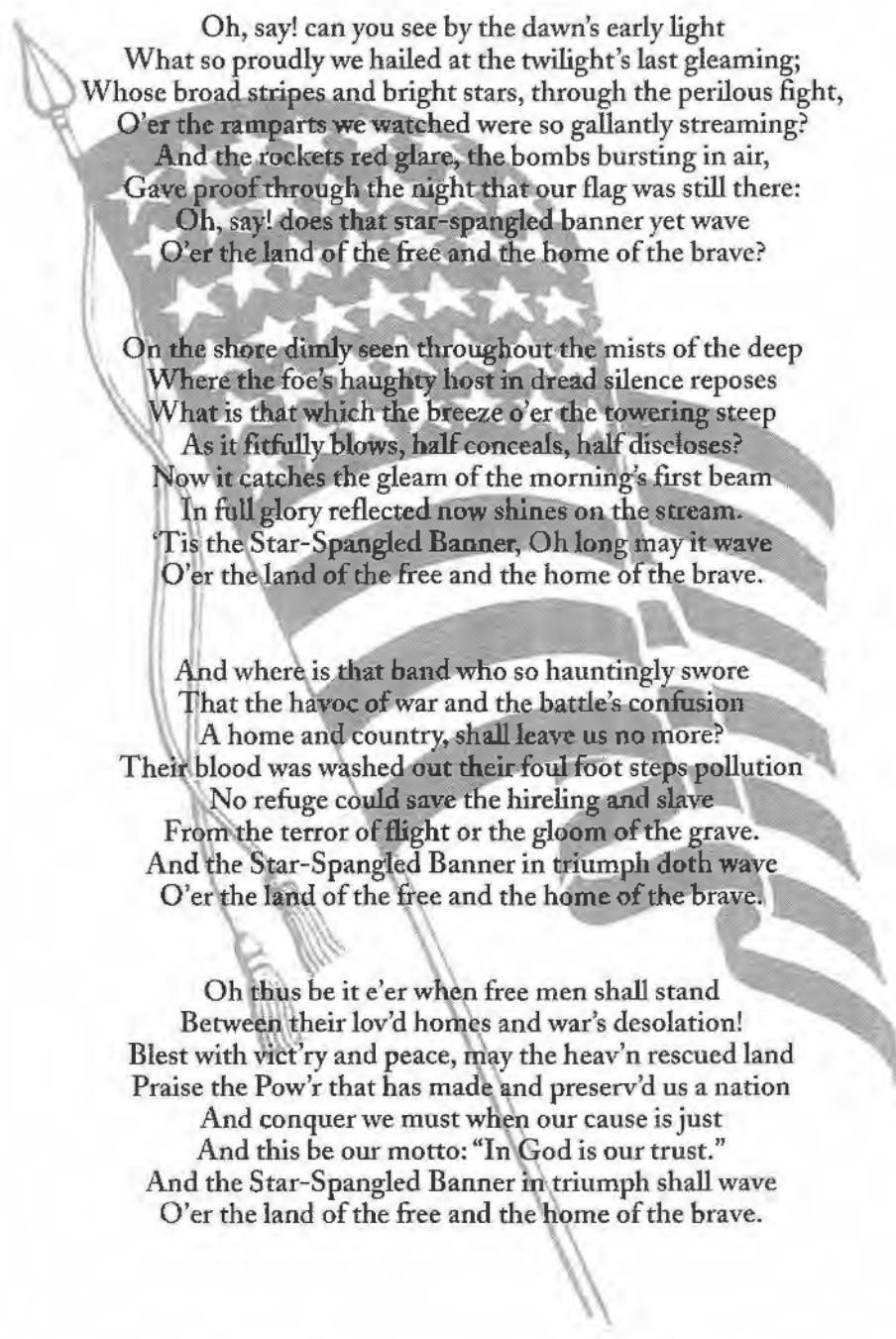
124 Monica Ellen Northrop Schlick  
(Mrs. John Joseph Schlick, Sr.)  
died at her home in  
Albuquerque, NM, on 5  
September 1999. She was the  
mother of John Joseph Schlick,  
Jr. (125) and Monica Mary  
Schlick Stockdale (Mrs. Grant  
Ellsworth Stockdale) (126) and  
the sister of Mary Ruth  
Northrop (Charter Member  
70).

36 Roger Miller Pegram, a Charter  
Life Member, died in  
Philadelphia, PA, in December,  
1999.

135 Thomas Gene Kenyon died 7  
June 2000.

Grahame Thomas Smallwood, Jr., a  
Founder and Life Member of  
OFFRI&PP, died 3 December  
2000. An article on Chips and  
his contributions to  
OFFRI&PP will appear in the  
next issue.

109 William Salisbury Olney died 3  
January 2001.



Oh, say! can you see by the dawn's early light  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming;  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there:  
Oh, say! does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen throughout the mists of the deep  
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes  
What is that which the breeze o'er the towering steep  
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam  
In full glory reflected now shines on the stream.  
'Tis the Star-Spangled Banner, Oh long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And where is that band who so hauntingly swore  
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion  
A home and country, shall leave us no more?  
Their blood was washed out their foul foot steps pollution  
No refuge could save the hireling and slave  
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave.  
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Oh thus be it e'er when free men shall stand  
Between their lov'd homes and war's desolation!  
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n rescued land  
Praise the Pow'r that has made and preserv'd us a nation  
And conquer we must when our cause is just  
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."  
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

We dedicate this page to our nation's flowers of the field.  
11 September 2001



### **Calendar of Events**

Fall Annual Meeting  
Bristol, Rhode Island  
October 12-13, 2001

Spring Luncheon  
Washington, DC  
April, 2002

### **Production Schedule**

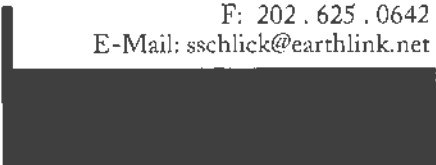
February, 2002  
August, 2002

### **Deadline for Submission of Articles**

December 5, 2002  
June 5, 2002

### **The Lively Experiment**

Mary Ruth Northrop, Editor  
300 West Franklin Avenue  
Apartment 401E  
Richmond, VA 23220-4904  
T: 804 . 649 . 7249  
F: 202 . 625 . 0642  
E-Mail: [sschlick@earthlink.net](mailto:sschlick@earthlink.net)



To hold forth a  
libely experiment  
that a most  
flourishing civil  
state may stand and  
best be maintained  
with full liberty in  
religious  
concernments.  
-Roger Williams

# The Lively Experiment



Volume 4, Number 2

# Officers 2001-2003

## **Governor General**

Peter Arrott Dixon  
111 Duke Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-3803

## **Deputy Governor General**

Harold Winthrop Sands  
10 Cherry Creek Road  
Newport, RI 02840

## **Secretary General**

Carolyn Fish Lubker  
P.O. Box 812278  
Wellesley, MA 02482-0016

## **Treasurer General**

Thomas Mayhew Smith  
15 Tenney Street  
Cambridge, MA 02140-1311

## **Registrar General**

Lilla McKnight Licht  
490 M Street, SW, #W604  
Washington, DC 20024-2612

## **Chaplain General**

Rev. D. Gene Patterson  
9 West Penn Street  
Muncy, PA 17756-1204

## **Historian General**

Betty Westcott Acker  
2145 Richvale Road  
Nashport, OH 43830-9727

## **Chancellor General**

Marcia Holly Morgan  
4825 Drummond Avenue  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

The  
Lively Experiment

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of Rhode Island and  
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Founded 16 October 1990

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## **The Lively Experiment**

### **Editor**

Mary Ruth Northrop

### **Associate Editor & Designer**

Stephanie Schlick

### **Contributors**

Evyline Anderson Canup

C. Owen Johnson

Lilla McKnight Licht

Marcia Morgan

For back issues, contact: Peter  
Arrott Dixon, 111 Duke Street,  
Alexandria, VA 22314-3803

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## Letters

### By E-mail:

30 October 2001

Good day. Received today the latest issue of *The Lively Experiment*. WELL DONE! It is an outstanding issue, complete with redesigned cover and all. It is a credit to our Society. Looking forward to future issues and seeing you in April.

John Hallberg Jones  
Founding Chaplain General  
(goodnewsjjones@sprintmail.com)

### By Post:

2 January 2002

Dear Mary Ruth,

With one thing and another, I have managed to accumulate a large amount of correspondence and am trying now to catch up. Let me say right away that I think our new issue of *The Lively Experiment* came out very well indeed, and you are to be complimented. The only change I would wish to have made at this time would be that we return to our plain, light blue cover with the logo and printing in black. The printer explained to me that it is considerably more expensive to do a color cover compared to the one we have used in the past. Also, bear in mind that our official colors are blue as the major color and yellow and white as the minor ones.

Regarding your request as to whom complimentary copies of *The Lively Experiment* are sent, the following organizations receive copies: National Society, DAR; National Society, SAR; NEHGS; Rhode Island Historical Society; New York Genealogical and Biographical Society; Colonial Dames, XVII Century; and the Library of Congress.

Sincerely,  
Peter Arrott Dixon,  
Governor General

### Response:

A few words about our most recent cover of *The Lively Experiment*. A change of cover for events as significant as a recent anniversary or an editorial change is not without precedent. The first issue of *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* during its 125th anniversary year (1995) was presented in pristine white with bright blue accents, after which it reverted to the goldenrod of the past half century. The following year *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* celebrated its 150th anniversary with all four issues in beige with black accents, after which it changed to a softer beige rather than its recent pale gray. Do not let future issues of *The Lively Experiment* surprise you.

## From the Editor

We looked on in disbelief at how fragile our beloved country seemed that dreadful day in September 2001. Then something very American happened: We took a deep breath and began our personal and collective recovery. Wasn't this what our ancestors had done over the centuries by colonizing, meeting challenges, enjoying triumphs, and growing as a people?

We reflected on our own ancestors and their neighbors: Living among the English-speaking people were the native people, French in the north, Spanish to the south, and other British along the coast and in the backcountry. Jews, voluntarily, and Africans, involuntarily, joined these new Americans. Waves upon waves of others came along, are still arriving, and are making ours the enduring nation it is today.

We thought of individual men and women who peopled the Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. Seeking the broader picture and going beyond Arnold, Austin, and Bartlett, it is not easy to find in the literature specific reference to our place in the early scheme of New England. It became, therefore, necessary to place Roger Williams's Lively Experiment in the context of New England. After all, his early colonists came through Massachusetts rather than directly from

## Searching for Context

England. Even New England belonged in the greater continental scheme, one of four cultures flowing in successive migrations from Great Britain.

The answer to my search for context was David Hackett Fischer's *Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America*, reviewed in this issue. I urge you, if you have not already done so, to read it or reread it as I did.

Similar context is found in an article by Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, director of the Great Migration Study Project of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. This study attempts to collect in a series of volumes all known information on each immigrant to New England.

Special individuals, however, are not lost in the broad picture of this issue. Evylene Anderson Canup presents an interesting study of her ancestors Richard and Joan (Fowle) Borden. Owen Johnson pays tribute to Grahame "Chips" Smallwood—one founder reminiscing about another. Lilla Licht reports on the status of our membership. Carolyn Lubker provides the minutes of our Spring 2001 meeting. Marcia Morgan reports on our Fall Annual Meeting in Bristol, Rhode Island.







*OFFRI&PP members and guests assembled outside the entrance to Blithewold.*



*Clockwise, top left: Ann and William Corson; Robert Carter Arnold and Gail Graham Thacher; Lilla McKnight Licht and Harold Winthrop Sands; Peter Arrott Dixon and C. Owen Johnson*

## Fall Meeting, 2001

This year our meeting was held in Bristol. When I first heard the name of the town, Bristol, Tennessee, the birthplace of country music came to mind, not Rhode Island. Bristol, Rhode Island, however, is also a town with lots of character.

Those members who did not attend the meeting missed seeing something you don't see every day in other towns in America. The dividing lines painted on the main streets are not just painted plain old white; this town paints them red, white, and blue. Why do they do this? Bristol's claim to fame is being the first town in the United States to celebrate the Fourth of July.

This year I decided to fly to Bristol with everyone who was sharing my rental vehicle—the first good idea I had for this year's meeting. Renting a van instead of a two-door red Grand Am was the second. In the van were Governor General Peter Arrott Dixon, Joan Dixon, Robert Carter Arnold, Lilla McKnight Licht, and I, the official chauffeur for OFFRI&PP. What a wonderful group it turned out to be.

Like last year, Bob Arnold conducted a lesson in local history during our drive from the airport to the hotel. His knowledge of the area made our ride fabulous. Bob can

ride in my car for every Rhode Island meeting.

Our hotel, the King Philip Inn, had been a student dormitory for a nearby college. Each room had a little kitchen, front door, and back door. Apartments were on the upper floors. The hotel staff was more than accommodating, something rare these days. After we settled in, we went to S.S. Dion's to enjoy a tasty dinner and socialize with other members who had arrived for the meeting. Our tables overlooked the Bristol Harbor and Yacht Club.



*Marcia Morgan*

That evening, we had great fun meeting new people and getting to know them.

One of the aspects I enjoyed most about our meeting in Rhode Island was that our tours were conducted especially for our group. We received special attention and more information from the guides, had more time to look around, and were permitted to explore areas where the general public was not allowed to go. These extra privileges made us feel so special.

Our first tour occurred on a foggy morning; the mists around Blithewold lent an eerie feeling to the mansion. The home, completed in 1896, was surrounded by thirty-three acres of gardens. The first

owner, Bessie Van Wickle McKee, brought in trees and plants from all over the world, making the extensive grounds remarkable in color and variety.

We toured both the house and the gardens. Of special interest to society members, the gardens were designed by landscape architect, John DeWolf, no doubt an ancestor of an active society member, Geneva DeWolf.

After our tour, we went to Tweet Balzano's. After our luncheon, we convened the society's first business meeting ever conducted in Rhode Island. Governor General Peter Dixon made the meeting interesting yet short. It takes talent to be able to do that.



*Thomas Mayhew Smith, Neil Holland Duncan, and Lilla McKnight Licht at the main entrance to Blithewold.*



*Robert Carter Arnold, Carolyn Fish Lubker, and Lilla McKnight Licht on the path from Blithewold to Narragannsett Bay.*



*The view of Narragannsett Bay. Courtesy of Blithewold Mansion.*



*Neil Holland Duncan and Joan Dixon*



*Geneva DeWolf*





*Joanne Sands and guest*



*C. Owen Johnson, guest, Helen Kessler, and Neil Holland Duncan*

*Entrance to Linden  
Place. Photograph by  
David Lawrence.  
Courtesy of Linden  
Place, Bristol, RI.*



After lunch we toured Linden Place, a home that also had connections to the DeWolfs. This 1810 Federal mansion was designed by architect Russell Warren for General George DeWolf. In later years, ownership passed to the Barrymores. If the name is familiar (from the famous family of actors), you are on to something. The house belonged to Ethel, John Barrymore's sister and Drew Barrymore's great-great aunt.

If the home itself looks familiar, perhaps you have seen the movie "The Great Gatsby," which featured the house and grounds. The mansion was scheduled to be torn down until the Friends of Linden Place saved it. This house should be on your list for "must sees" in Rhode Island.

That evening we went to Redlefsen's for dinner. It was a delightful place, full of atmosphere and sophistication. I could see why our tour guide at Blithewold told us it was Anthony Quinn's favorite place to dine when he was visiting his home on Narragansett Bay. It was a fun-filled evening as we had all gotten to know each other so much better. Our society is fortunate to have such interesting members.

Governor General Peter Dixon's decision to visit Bristol was an excellent one, and his choices for our itinerary were extremely enjoyable. It's a shame that more members were unable to join us. They truly missed a marvelous, educational time.

# Family History

The founders of the Borden family in America were Richard<sup>1</sup> and Joan (Fowle) Borden.<sup>[1]</sup> Richard Borden, the immigrant, was born at Headcorn, County Kent, England, and baptized 22 September 1595, the son of Matthew<sup>A</sup> Borden, churchwarden of Headcorn Parish, and Joan Reeder. Matthew Borden is traced back to William Borden, who is buried inside the old Headcorn Church. William's plaque reads: "In the memory of William Borden of this parish who died 1531 and was buried in this chapel between his wives, Joan and

## Focus on the Bordens

by Evylene Anderson Canup

Thomasine." Our lineage continues back through the Borden family to our first known ancestor, Henry Borden, who was born in the 1370s at Headcorn Parish, and his wife, Robergia.

On 28 September 1625, Richard married Joan Fowle, the second child of Richard Fowle and Mary Filkes. Richard Borden inherited land in Headcorn from his father, but in 1628 he and Joan moved to Cranbrook in County Kent, where she had relatives. Joan's brother, Richard Fowle, married Mary Sadler and came to America with



*Church of Saints Peter and Paul, Headcorn, County Kent, England.  
Courtesy of Paul Strain.*



**Notable Descendants  
of Richard and  
Joan (Fowle) Borden**

Gail Borden, inventor of condensed milk and founder of the Borden Company  
 Sir Robert Laird Borden, prime minister of Canada from 1911 to 1920  
 Lizzie Andrew Borden, accused murderer, acquitted in sensational murder trial in Fall River, Massachusetts  
 Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman  
 Frances Folsom Cleveland, wife of President Grover Cleveland  
 Marilyn Monroe, movie actress  
 Willie Nelson, country music singer  
 Ellen Borden Stevenson, wife of Adlai E. Stevenson, statesman and candidate for president of the United States in 1952 and 1956  
 Liana Turner, movie actress

the Bordens. The Fowles settled first in Massachusetts and later moved to Rye, West Chester, New York, where Richard died in 1685. (I am descended from the Bordens through my paternal line and from the Fowles through my maternal line).

Richard's youngest brother, John Borden, emigrated to New England on the *Elizabeth & Ann* in May 1635. In the mid-1630s, Richard and Joan sailed to America with five children and settled at Portsmouth, Rhode Island. Their sixth child, Matthew, born 16 May 1638, is said

in the Friends' records to have been "the first English child born in Rhode Island." Richard and Joan had twelve children in all.

In 1638, Richard Borden was one of the signers of the compact creating the government of Aquidneck (later Rhode Island). In 1640 he was appointed with four others to lay out the town of Portsmouth. He was admitted a freeman there in 1641, elected assistant at Portsmouth in 1653-54, treasurer of the United Colonies in 1654-55, commissioner from 1654-57, and deputy from Portsmouth to the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1667-70. As a surveyor he acquired large tracts of land in Rhode Island and Monmouth County, East Jersey (now New Jersey).

Richard Borden died 2 March 1671 at Portsmouth. The following obituary notice is copied from the *Record of the Friends Monthly Meeting* at Newport, Rhode Island: "Richard Borden of Portsmouth, R. I., being one of the first planters of Rhode Island, lived about seventy years and then died at his own house, belonging to Portsmouth. He was buried on the burial ground given by Robert Dennis to the Friends, which is in Portsmouth, and lieth on the left hand of the way that goeth from Portsmouth to Newport, upon the 25th day of the 3rd month 1671." Richard Borden's widow, Joan, survived him eighteen years and died 16 July 1688.

Richard Borden's will was made 31 May 1671 in Portsmouth, Rhode

Island by the Town Council, on testimony concerning the wishes of deceased. Ex. Son Matthew.

To widow Joan, the old home and fire room, with leanto and battery adjoining, and little chamber in new house, and porch chamber joining to it, half the use of great hall, porch room below, cellaring and garret of new house for life. To her also firewood yearly, use of thirty fruit trees in orchard that she may choose, liberty to keep fowls about the house not exceeding forty, and all household goods at her disposal. She was to have thirty ewe sheep kept for her, with their profit and increase, fifty other sheep kept in halves, three cows kept and their profit and to have paid her yearly a good, well fed beeve, three well fed swine, ten bushels of wheat, twenty bushels of Indian corn, six bushels of barley malt and four barrels of cider.

To son Thomas, all estate in Providence, lands, goods and chattels (except horsekind), he paying his mother Joan yearly, a barrel of pork and firkin of butter.

To son Francis, land in New Jersey. To son John, all land about new dwelling house of said John Borden, &c. To son Joseph, 10 pounds, within two years of death of his mother. To son Samuel, 10 pounds, half in six months after death of father and half in six months after

death of mother. To son Benjamin, 10 pounds, within four years of death of mother. To daughter Mary Cooke, 5 pounds. To daughter Sarah Holmes, 10 pounds, within six years after death of mother. To daughter Amey Borden, 100 pounds, at age of twenty-one. To granddaughter Amey Cooke, 10 pounds, at eighteen. To son Matthew whole estate after payment of debts and legacies, and if he die without issue, said estate not to remain to my brother older.

Their children were Richard Borden (b. 1626), Thomas Borden (1627-76), Francis Borden (1628-1705), Mary (Borden) Cooke (1632-90), Elizabeth Borden (b. 1634), Matthew Borden (1638-1708), John Borden (1640-1716), Joseph Borden (1643), Sarah (Borden) Holmes (1644), Samuel Borden (1645-1716), Benjamin Borden (1649-1728), Amey (Borden) Richardson (1653-83).

Benjamin Borden<sup>2</sup> was born 16 May 1649 at Portsmouth, Rhode Island, the eleventh child of Richard and Joan (Fowle) Borden. After 1665 he settled on some of his father's land at Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, New Jersey and was admitted 8 July 1670 as one of the associate patentees of Shrewsbury. At Shrewsbury 22 September 1670, Benjamin married Abigail Grover, daughter of James and Rebecca Grover. Abigail was born in 1653 at Gravesend, Long Island, New York.

## BORDEN MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS IN THE CHURCH OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, HEADCORN

Mrs. Lavinia (Borden) Cook presented the brass in the Lady Chapel in 1904. The brass reads: "To the memory of William Borden of this Parish who died 1531 and was buried in this chapel between his wives Joan and Thomanine this brass was placed here A.D. 1904 by Mrs. R.Y. Cook of Philadelphia, U.S.A., born Lavinia Borden his descendant."

She also presented a memorial window and donated funds for the restoration of the South Chapel. The memorial window, which depicts Saint Paul preaching at Athens, reads: "To the Glory of God and in Memory of Henry Borden, Headcorn circa 1380 and his descendants Thomas Borden 1450 John Borden 1460 William Borden 1531 Edmund Borden 1539 William Borden 1557 Thomas Borden 1592 Matthew Borden 1620 who was churchwarden of Headcorn and of Richard Borden his son born at Headcorn 1595 who died at Portsmouth Rhode Island U.S.A. 1671 being the first of that name in the new world."

On 21 September 1905, the Lord Bishop of Dover conducted a dedication service for the reopening of the chapel and the dedication of the window. In his sermon, the bishop declared of Mrs. Cook: "An American, justly proud of her country, we claim that by her birth she was a maid of Kent."

*Information courtesy of Paul Strain*

Like his father, Benjamin became a large landowner and was elected to several public offices. On 8 January 1700, at age twenty-five, he made his first plunge into the real estate business when he purchased 1,000 acres of land in New Jersey. In 1676, the first court of Monmouth County, New Jersey, was held in his house in Shrewsbury. He was a justice of the peace in 1685. In 1692 and 1694 he was elected to the General Assembly from Middletown. He was a member of the House of Representatives for Monmouth County from 1708 to 1709. They lived many years at Middletown and in 1713 moved to Evesham, Burlington County, New Jersey.

Abigail died 8 January 1720 in Burlington County, and Benjamin then married (2) Susannah Page. Benjamin Borden died eight years later in 1728, leaving a large estate. Abigail was the mother of all his ten children: Richard Borden (1672-1751); Benjamin Borden II, (1675-1743); James Borden (1677-1730); Rebecca Borden (b. 1680); Safety Borden (1682-1761); Amy (Borden) Foster (1684-1770); Joseph Borden (1687-1765); Jonathan Borden (1690); David Borden (b. 1692); and Samuel Borden (1696-1771). Joseph Borden was an innkeeper and the founder of Bordentown, New Jersey. Joseph's son, Joseph (1719-91), was the father of Mary

Borden, who married Thomas McKean, and Ann Borden, who married Francis Hopkinson. McKean and Hopkinson were signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Borden II was born 6 April 1675 at Middletown, New Jersey. In 1710, Benjamin married his first cousin, Zeruah Winter, the daughter of William Winter and Hannah Grover. Zeruah was born in 1690 in Monmouth County, New Jersey.

Benjamin's first recorded appearance in Virginia is on 21 January 1734, when he was appointed one of the justices of the newly formed Orange County. His name appears frequently in land transactions throughout the Shenandoah Valley. His most important enterprise was the settlement of Borden's Great Tract, 92,100 acres in what later became Rockbridge County, Virginia, granted to him from King George II of England. His legal requirement as proprietor of this tract was to put up a bond of 1,800 pounds and settle on the tract within a stated time a minimum number of families. He was to receive 1,000 acres of land for each cabin built.

Benjamin received his patent on 8 November 1739 after 92 cabins had been constructed. On 3 April 1742, he drew up his will and signed it, making his wife, his son Benjamin, and his son-in-law William Fearnley, the executors. His will reads:

In the name of God, Amen, the 3rd day of April, in the year of our Lord, 1742, which Benjamin Borden, of Orange County in Virginia, Yeoman, being in good state of health and of sound mind and memory, time being given to God for it, therefore, calling into mind the morality of my body, I do make my last will and testament, that is to say personally and first of all I give and recommend be buried in a Christian-like manner at the discretion of my executor, not doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by the Mighty Power of God and touching such worldly estate it had pleased God to bless me with in this life, I give and dispose of the same in manner and form following:

Imprimus-I will all the Funeral Charges and my just debts should be paid and satisfied.

Item-I shall give and bequeath to Zeruah Borden, my wife, on the improvements and what lands she has or shall have occasion to clear as long as she remains my widow, and if she should get married, then she shall have but half the improvements and what land she and her husband shall have occasion to clear of this plantation I now live on in Orange County in Virginia, on Spough Run during her married life.

Item-I shall give and bequeath my son, Benjamin Borden, and my son John Borden and my son, James Borden, to them and their heirs and assigns forever this plantation and the lot on the said Spough Run that my mill stands on, of 150 acres, that I have agreed to rent to my said three sons and to be equally divided between my son Benjamin; and my son John; and my son James Borden, in equality to be divided by way of lots drawing between my sons Benjamin, and John, and James, or Guardians, that is all this plantation, excepting 800 acres I gave to Edward Roger and his wife Hannah Roger and to heirs of her body forever, and 500 acres I gave to William Fearnley and my daughter, Mary, his wife, to them and their heirs forever.

Item-I give to my daughter, Hannah Roger, but 5 shillings, she having had her portion before. My will is that all my lands and estate that I have in New Jersey should be sold and all my land at Baulkin and my land on Smith Creek and North Shenando and all my interests thereon, and all my lands on the waters of James River, should be sold excepting 5,000 acres of land that is all good I give to five of my daughters, that is- Abigail Worthington, and Rebekah Branson, to Deborah Borden and Lydia Borden (Liddy) and to Elizabeth

Borden, that is 1000 acres of good land apiece to everyone of the five said daughters above mentioned, to them and their heirs and assigns forever and all the rest of my land to be sold as aforesaid, except this I now live on, to be all sold and equally divided between my wife, my son, Benjamin, and my son John, and my son James, and my daughter Abigail Worthington, and my daughter Rebekah Branson, and my daughter Mercy Fearnley, and Deborah Borden, and my daughter Elizabeth Borden, and my daughter Liddy Borden and my moveables to be divided between my said wife and sons, Benjamin, John and James, and my aforesaid daughters, Abigail, Rebekah, Mercey, Deborah, Liddy and Elizabeth Borden, first my moveable estate to be divided and must be taken out my great Brown Riding Horse; and my Bar Mare; out of my great hip-shot mare; and the best bed with furniture to it go that I have in the house that I give to my wife first of all, the rest to be equally divided between my wife and aforesaid three sons and six daughters, as aforesaid, devised.

I constitute and appoint my wife Executrix and my son, Benjamin Borden, and my son-in-law, William Fearnly, Executors, to this my last will and testament and to execute deeds for the lands I have sold and ordered to be sold. This will I published to

be my last will and testament and all other wills made by me found.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of us: Thomas Sharp, Edward Lorden and Thavas Hawkins.

Benjamin Borden's will was probated in the Frederick County Court in Winchester on 9 December 1743. As one might expect, many lawsuits were filed involving this large land grant. His will specified that most of the land was to be sold and the proceeds divided among the children. It took 154 years, until 1897, before all known descendants were satisfied with the division and further court battles ended.

Benjamin and Zeruiah left ten children: Hannah (Borden) Rogers (c. 1711); Abigail (Borden) Worthington Pritchard (b. 1713); Rebecca (Borden) Branson; Mercy (Borden) Fernley Burke McKay; Benjamin Borden (1715-53); Deborah (Borden) Hendry (d. 1799); John Borden, Sr. (1718-98); Lydia (Borden) Peck (1728-1800); Elizabeth (Borden) Patton Nicholas (d. c. 1752); and Joseph Borden (1734-1803).

Benjamin's widow, Zeruiah, remarried Joseph Wright three years after Benjamin's death. Zeruiah died from smallpox about 1753. John<sup>4</sup> Borden married Ann Hawkins before 1754.

*Note:* [1] Names in boldface show line of descent.

Inquiries to: Evelyne Anderson Canup (eg\_canup@bellsouth.net)

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## The Significance of One Tree

*Of all the trees that grow so fair,  
Old England to adorn,  
Greater are none beneath the Sun,  
Than Oak, and Ash, and Thorn.*

—Rudyard Kipling

Tree Song, *Puck of Pook's Hill*, 1906

The Borden's ancestral village of *Hedekaruna*, now Headcorn, is first mentioned in the *Domesday Monochorum*. A church census similar to the *Domesday Book* ordered by William the Conqueror in 1086, the monochorum places Hedekaruna in the diocese of Maidstone.

The name Hedekaruna derives from the Saxon, meaning trees cut down by Huda to make a clearing. The clearing for the village of Headcorn was probably cut from the old forest of Andred, which extended for sixty miles through the counties of Kent, Surrey, and Sussex.

The oak tree seen in the engraving below was probably the last survivor of the forest of Andred. Legend says this tree was old in the early 13th century, when King John sat under it to watch a bull-baiting contest. Almost forty-five feet in circumference, the tree stood tall for centuries, surviving the ravages of weather, war, and time. Sadly, a storm finally felled the tree a few years ago.

Yet offshoots of the original tree surely thrive there, rooted deeply in English soil. For the Borden in America, the tree, the parish, the village, and the Borden still living there are reminders of their own roots in English soil. Although this offshoot of the Borden family thrives across the sea, neither time nor distance severs their connection with their origins.

Information courtesy of Paul Strain and  
[www.VillageNet.co.uk](http://www.VillageNet.co.uk)

*Church of Saints  
Peter and Paul,  
Headcorn.*

*Courtesy  
of the Headcorn  
Local History  
Society.*



# A Remembrance

**Grahame Thomas Smallwood, Jr.**

by C. Owen Johnson

Every man who belongs to an American hereditary society and every woman who belongs to an American hereditary society that also admits men to membership know of Grahame Smallwood. Most call him Chips. I've always called him Grahame, though I've known him half of my life. Once I asked how he got the nickname Chips and he replied, "Small wood, you know."

I'm not going to list the literally hundreds of organizations to which Grahame belonged. You all know them as well as I do. Not only was Grahame a founder of our society, he was a past Governor General. He also held the national chief executive offices of more hereditary societies than any man before or since.

How did I meet Grahame way back in the 1960s? John Frederick Dorman (we called him Fred), a man I consider to be Virginia's greatest living genealogist, went to Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church, as I did. When he learned that I belonged in the New Orleans chapters of SAR, SR, Colonial Wars, and the 1812 Society, he said he wanted to introduce me to a man who would get me sponsorship to join all those groups in Washington. That man was Grahame.

Let me say right here and now that everything I know about hereditary societies I learned from Grahame Thomas Smallwood, Jr. Grahame was the genealogist for a number of hereditary societies. If your paper could not be passed, he most often would not return it to you. He would give the proper proof or find another ancestor and return the paper to you for your files or signature. The man or woman who did not receive some help from Grahame is almost nonexistent in American hereditary societies. The greatest pleasure Grahame received in life was his service to others.

Shortly after I met him, he invited me to a meeting of the Huguenot Society of Washington. He knew, as I had told him, the first hereditary society I had joined was the Huguenot Society of South Carolina. (In their beautiful churchyard in Charleston, the tombs of my ancestors are legible after almost 250 years.) At the meeting, Grahame introduced me to two of the most beautiful women I have ever known—beautiful inside as well as outside—his mother and his sister, Eleanor.

After the meeting we went in for refreshments. Mrs. Smallwood told me that while Huguenots had fine ancestry, they did love to eat, and we would have to push our way up



to the table or everything would be gone. Push we did, and the food was delicious.

The following Christmas and on my birthday, I received a card from Mrs. Smallwood. I received them thereafter, as long as she could send them. After she could not, Grahame took up the project. His last card came to me at the funeral home. He had done all but mail these last Christmas cards.

Grahame was a proud member of that most ancient fraternity of Freemasons and tried to live up to their finest tenets. He simply could not abide pomposity. At dinners where those in the reception line were dressed in white tie or dinner jackets gleaming with medals, he would bounce down the line and say to the unfortunate victims, "Hi. I'm Chips Smallwood. I've seen you about. Now, tell me your name again, please."

Grahame had at least fourteen ancestors who would qualify him for the Society of Cincinnati. Alas, other descendants represented them all. Grahame often told me that he would give up all his other hereditary memberships if he could just be a member of the Society of Cincinnati. One day, he telephoned and joyfully reported, "I've got it!" I knew what he meant.

The latest of the hereditary societies we have organized is the Scions of Colonial Cavaliers and the Dames of Colonial Cavaliers. I explained to Grahame, whose ancestry was all

New England, that he needed an ancestor who was a Cavalier—not a Puritan. He replied, "Owen, I'm not a Puritan. I'm an Episcopalian."

John Griffin Richardson Rountree, who drove from St. Augustine, Florida, to join Neal Holland Duncan and me at the organizational meeting held at the Army and Navy Club on Farragut Square, proposed Grahame as our first honorary member. The three of us joined Henry Clinton Mackall and Hartwick Smith Johnson in unanimously electing Grahame to that honor. As Governor, I notified Grahame by telephone, and he accepted. Had his health permitted and death not intervened, I have no doubt he would have attended the annual meeting in white tie with medals flashing and accepted that honor in person.

What better way to close this tribute to Grahame Thomas Smallwood, Jr. than to take the words of Horatio in the final scene of William Shakespeare's "Hamlet:"

Now cracks a noble heart. Good night, sweet Prince,  
And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest!

# Ancestors OnLine

*This article is reprinted with permission from Ancestry Magazine (Vol. 18, No. 4).*

## Genesis of the Project

The idea of the Great Migration Study Project came to me in 1976. That year was, of course, the bicentennial year, and genealogy was about to experience a boom as a result of the many bicentennial activities and the phenomenon of Alex Haley's *Roots*.

I had been involved in genealogy for about three years and was specializing in colonial New England research. Having spent the previous decade in an academic environment, I was appalled to find the lack of up-to-date bibliographic and other reference works in genealogy that I had been accustomed to finding. The colonial New England genealogist first went to the *Genealogical Dictionary of New England* by James Savage. Savage was one of the first skilled, analytic genealogists, but his four-volume set was published during the Civil War and does not reflect more than a century of subsequent research. Other more specialized reference works were also showing their age, such as Austin's *Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island*, Noyes, Libby, and Davis's *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire*, and the various works of Charles E. Banks, especially

## The Great Migration Study

by Robert Charles Anderson, FASG

*Planters of the Commonwealth* and the *Topographical Dictionary*.

Although much new research appeared in book form (mostly as genealogies devoted to the male-line descendants of one immigrant, or as volumes that trace all ancestral lines of a chosen individual), the most important new discoveries were scattered through the pages of a handful of the most respected journals, such as the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, *The American Genealogist*, and the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*. Until very recently, there had been few comprehensive indexes and other finding aids to help the researcher find his or her way through this mass of published material.

I concluded that there was a profound need for a comprehensive literature search—a survey of early New England families research that has been carried out over the last century and a half. The end result would be a series of sketches—one per immigrant—that would set forth the current status of research on the family. The researcher would be saved the effort of digging through hundreds of references to find out what was already known, and would be saved the wastefulness and embarrassment of duplicating work.

Although the sketch would take its initial form from published secondary materials, every statement would be verified, as much as possible, from original sources. This would frequently require additional research to adjudicate discrepancies among two or more existing secondary sources. The sketch would therefore be supported by a wide and complete range of citations to both primary and secondary sources.

The basic idea rattled around in my brain for more than a decade, but it wasn't until the late 1980s that I felt confident enough to seek out a sponsor for the project. In the spring of 1988, I drafted a prospectus and presented it to Ralph Crandall, executive director of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. I expected to wait six months or more for the Society to decide whether to support my proposal. To my surprise, Ralph contacted me within a month and asked me when I could get to work. The NEHGS board, especially Dean Crawford Smith and Bill Fowler, was highly supportive and wanted the project to begin as soon as possible.

Work on the Great Migration Study Project officially began on 15 November 1988. It was designed to be a self-supporting project, meeting all expenses from book and newsletter sales and from donations directed to the Project.

### **Structure of a Sketch**

After gaining a sponsor, the next step was to design a format for the

individual sketches. After some experimentation, the information was organized into five sections. The first section was a relatively brief group of entries that gave the basic migration data for the immigrant: origin (last known residence in England or elsewhere in Europe), migration (date of first arrival), first residence (in New England), removes (migrations within New England), and return trips (temporary or permanent return visits to England; also migration to other colonies).

The next section, frequently the longest, was a group of biographic items: occupation, church membership, freemanship, education (including any indications of literacy), offices (civil and military), and estate (mostly land transactions, tax assessments, and probate proceedings).

Next came the strictly genealogical section of the sketch: birth (frequently an estimated year of birth based on various life events), death, marriage, children (including first marriage, death, or related information for those who did not marry), and associations (known relations by blood or marriage to other immigrants, or clues to such relationships).

The fourth section, "Comments," could be brief and simple or lengthy and complicated. This section was a place to provide data that did not fit into any of the above categories. It was also the repository of detailed argumentation needed to prove, for example, the identity of a spouse or an immigrant's children. There may

## Excerpt of Sketch Found in the Great Migration Index

**ROGER WILLIAMS**

**ORIGIN:** High Laver, Essex

**MIGRATION:** 1631 on Lyon [WJ 1:49-50]

**FIRST RESIDENCE:** Salem

**REMOVES:** Plymouth 1631, Salem 1633, Providence 1636

**RETURN TRIPS:** To England in 1643-4 (to obtain a charter for Rhode Island [RWCorr xciii, 217]), and to England in 1651-4 [RWCorr xciv, 355-90]

**OCCUPATION:** Minister.

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:** On 12 April 1631 at "a court holden at Boston, (upon information to the governor, that they of Salem had called Mr. Williams to the office of a teacher,) a letter was written....

The rest of the sketch provides information on his education, estate, progeny, and vital information. Sources for this sketch include: *The Correspondence of Roger Williams* (Glen W. LaFantasie, ed. [Providence 1988]); *The History of New England from 1630 to 1649* (John Winthrop, James Savage, ed. [Boston 1853]); *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations... 1636-1692* (John Russell Bartlett, ed. [Providence 1856-1863]); *The American Genealogist, New England Historical and Genealogical Register, and The Early Records of the Town of Providence* (Providence 1892-1915).

Source: Ancestry Online ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com))

also have been a need to expend some verbiage in resolving, or attempting to resolve, discrepancies in the original records or in the secondary accounts of the immigrant.

Finally, a bibliographic note provided an opportunity to list the most important published treatments of the immigrant and his or her family, and to offer a thumb-nail evaluation of each of the sources.

## The Great Migration Newsletter

In addition to the preparation of sketches which would eventually be gathered into a series of books, a second publication began in 1990: the *Great Migration Newsletter*. The newsletter was intended to carry out three missions: to convey information on the Great Migration and the Great Migration Study Project; to build a constituency for the Project; and to generate revenue to support the Project. The news-



*Roger Williams with Canonicut and Miantonomi, the two Narragansett Indian Sachems who granted him the land for Providence. Courtesy of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, United States Navy, Newport, Rhode Island.*

letter has performed successfully in each of these areas.

Each quarterly, eight-page issue has four sections. The largest, the "Focus" section, covers the center four pages and generally takes an in-depth look at one of the Great Migration towns, examining the process of land granting, the formation of the church, the vital records of the town, and similar issues.

Each issue has a lead article, which may investigate a class of records (such as passenger lists or lists of freemen) or explain a particular piece of the research strategy (such as the proof and documentation of marriages). The seventh page of each issue is entitled "Recent Literature" and provides brief summaries of Great Migration-related articles and books. Finally, part of page two is reserved for the "Editor's Effusions," in which I write about the progress of the Project.

A couple of years ago, the first five volumes of the *Great Migration Newsletter* were compiled and printed in a single volume with a cumulative index. The newsletter is currently at the end of its eighth volume.

### **The Project's Accomplishments**

Although the Great Migration Study Project was intended to cover all immigrants to New England from 1620 (the arrival of the Mayflower) through 1640 (the coming of the English Civil War when the annual rate of migration dropped dramatically), we decided very early to treat New England immigrants in several stages. (It should be noted here that for much

of the seventeenth century, most of the towns on Long Island were part of New England. They had been settled by New Englanders who gave their political allegiance to either Connecticut or New Haven colonies. Thus, they are also included in the Project.)

The first stage covers the years from 1620 to 1633. Although it is nearly two-thirds of the time period of the Great Migration, this stage represents only about one-sixth of the total immigrants. The three volumes covering this period, entitled *The Great Migration Begins*, were completed in 1996. More than nine hundred sketches, from Daniel Abbott through Elizabeth Wybert, are contained in this set.

The second series of volumes, now in progress, covers only two years: 1634 and 1635. The number of sketches to be completed for this two-year period is nearly twice the number for the first series. Six volumes will be required to complete this second series, at the end of which approximately half of the Great Migration immigrants will be treated.

Two excellent genealogists, George and Melinde Sanborn have joined me for the second series. At the beginning of work on each volume, the primary responsibility for each sketch is assigned to one or another member of the group, and as the work proceeds, we discuss any problems that may arise.

The first volume in the second series, covering the letters A and B, was published in the fall of 1999, and the second volume, comprising

the letters C through F, is in the advanced stage of production and will be published late in 2000.

### Future of the Project

At its most basic state, the work is somewhere between one-quarter and one-third complete. The second series should be complete by 2005. The remaining immigrants will probably be divided into two additional series of volumes, one covering the years from 1636 to 1638 and the last covering the years from 1639 to 1643. This closing date of 1643, three years past the 1640 decline in migration, is intended to provide an opportunity for the 1639 and 1640 immigrants to appear in the colony records, as there are very few passenger lists for these years.

Two areas of change and improvement should be noted as well. First, efforts are constantly underway to improve and expand the information included in the sketches. The Great Migration team frequently makes trips to various repositories to find the original records behind many of the published primary sources we use. For example, in producing *The Great Migration Begins* volumes, we were constantly frustrated because, while the *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire* includes hundreds of abstracts of depositions that gave the ages of the deponents, it rarely provides location information of the depositions. We have determined that some of them are in the Baxter Manuscripts, published in several volumes of the *Second Series of the Collections of the Maine Historical Society*. Attempts to

locate the remainder of these depositions continue.

Second, we are looking at additional media for presentation of the information generated by the Great Migration Study Project. Currently, the New England Historic Genealogical Society and Ancestry.com are taking steps to create both CD-ROM and online versions of *The Great Migration Begins*. We hope these new channels of distribution will make the Great Migration Study Project available to a wider body of genealogical researchers.

*Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, director of the Great Migration Study Project of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, is also the co-editor of The American Genealogist and a member of GENTECH Lexicon Working Group.*

*Editor's Note: The Great Migration Begins is now available on cd-rom and online.*

If you find the genealogical community on the Internet useful for your research and wish to share information about it with your fellow society members, we would welcome any articles detailing your experience. Send your articles to

**The Lively Experiment**  
Mary Ruth Northrop, Editor  
([mrn@earthlink.net](mailto:mrn@earthlink.net))

## Book Review

### *Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America*

David Hackett Fischer

New York: Oxford University Press, 1991 [ISBN 0195069056]  
972 pp, \$27.50

Carl Bridenbaugh anticipated David Hackett Fischer when he wrote of Anglicans in the Chesapeake colonies, Congregationalists in New England, and Jews everywhere trading on the Quaker Overland Route, an inland road developed by Quakers of the Delaware Valley along old Indian paths from Maryland to Rhode Island. At its northern terminus "all of the wool needed for household weaving might be imported from the Friends in Rhode Island and Providence Plantations." Only the Appalachian backcountry was not mentioned among these English-speaking populations (Carl Bridenbaugh, *Early Americans* [New York: Oxford University Press, 1981], 75).

Our interest lies in Rhode Island's place in early New England and later. Let us consider how Fischer defined these formative years.

Folkways are "the normative structure of values, customs, and meanings that exist in any culture." There were "at least four large waves of English-speaking immigrants.

### **The Folkways of Life**

by Mary Ruth Northrop

The first was an exodus of Puritans from the east of England to Massachusetts during a period of eleven years from 1629 to 1640. The second was the migration of a small Royalist elite and large numbers of indentured servants from the south of England to Virginia (ca. 1645-75). The third was a movement from the North Midlands of England and Wales to the Delaware Valley (ca. 1675-1725). The fourth was a flow of English-speaking people from the borders of North Britain and northern Ireland to the Appalachian backcountry mostly during the half-century from 1718 to 1775." (Fischer, *Albion's Seed*, 6).

The first wave settled in eastern woodlands with swift-flowing streams, long harsh winters, and short growing seasons. The second purposefully chose a mild climate with fertile land below the fall line, watered by wide estuarial rivers and long growing seasons. The third settled in fertile valleys with a moderate climate and plentiful streams. While the fourth settled in rough upland country with a difficult climate and dependence on year-round flowing springs. Each of the four niches was not unlike that left behind in Britain. Thus each flourished in familiar terrain, establishing compact villages in New England, widespread plantations in



Virginia, orderly farms in the Delaware Valley, and isolated settlements in the backcountry.

The Great Migration immigrants of 1630 to Massachusetts came from East Anglia and named three of their first four towns for the East Anglian towns of Suffolk, Norfolk, and Essex. The fourth was Middlesex. Some West Country folk joined this migration but soon moved on. Connecticut and Providence Plantations were both established in 1636.

Two kinds of villages evolved. The first type was planned around a meetinghouse and village green; these were "church and town" communities. Primitive family shelters were hastily erected on home lots clustered around the green. These early structures were later replaced with the substantial homes and steepled churches ever after identified as New England architecture. The second type, where forest density stymied clustering, was built of homes strung out along Indian paths leading from the parent towns through the wilderness. Beyond the greens of both kinds of villages were scattered fields for each man's farming and grazing. There were common fields for all, wood lots much like the East Anglian landscape, and land lots held in reserve. Lots were truly lots in that they were distributed by chance so that no man received all the good land while his neighbor received only the poor.

In this setting religiously and socially similar groups, migrating with charismatic leaders, settled down in orderly agricultural communities, practicing unconsciously folkways brought from East Anglia. Only Rhode Island differed because it lacked the idealism of religious unity and social similarity. Consider that Rhode Island had the first Jewish synagogue in America, the first Baptist church, and a well organized Quaker establishment of weekly, monthly, quarterly, and yearly meetings. Other New Englanders were Congregationalists; Virginians, Anglicans; Delaware Valley residents, Quakers; and backcountry people, Presbyterians. Yet folkways, though persistent, are not static.

Consider that, two months before its sister colonies, Rhode Island was the first to declare independence from Great Britain. It was also the last of the original thirteen colonies to ratify the Constitution of the United States.

We have touched on without naming several of the folkways practiced in New England but common in all four migratory cultures (Fischer, 8-9). Folkways define the place of the individual in the community, his association with kinsmen and nonkinsmen, and what he does and does not do, think, or say. Other folkways define the role of husband, wife, and child and the role of family in the community. Some of those alluded to were: religious, association, social, work,

time, building, order, rank, power, and freedom.

Other folkways bear closer examination. New England *speech* ways have been said to be the purest King's English. And who does not think of Boston baked beans and Rhode Island johnnie cakes when considering *food* ways?

Male dominance occurred in *gender* ways, *sex* ways, and *dress* ways. *Marriage* ways continued with ceremonies conducted as civil contracts. Strong nuclear *family* ways played out in *naming* ways and *child-rearing* ways. *Age* ways venerated the aged. *Death* ways followed the seasons of the year, wherein death rates differed from north to south, not necessarily during the same season among men and women regardless of race or population density.

In the community, town schools in New England, church schools in Virginia, meeting schools in the Delaware Valley, and private schools in the backcountry mirrored the *learning* and *literacy* ways of the community's predecessors. The economic basis of *sport* ways was tied to *wealth* ways, which also determined *inheritance* ways. *Magic* ways were all pervasive, as evidenced by the frequency of witchcraft proceedings.

*Albion's Seed* is rich in historiography. Footnotes are expansive, meaningful, and plentiful. Clear maps locate English places of origin and show offspring of these places. There are line drawings of people,

buildings, and things. The very best of the many tables spans three pages—Four Regional Cultures in Anglo-America: A Summary of Cultural Characteristics, ca. 1700–50 (Fischer, 813–815). I have tried to capture the spirit of these in this review.

Another time we shall consider the people with whom these early Yankees rubbed elbows—Indians, French, Dutch, Spanish, German, Swedes, and Africans—in a review of Alan Taylor's *American Colonies* (New York: Viking Penguin, 2001).

#### **Books of Interest in 2002**

*The First American Revolution: Before Lexington and Concord* by Ray Raphael. . . examines the grass-roots efforts to establish democracy and gain independence in the eighteenth-century American colonies.  
(To be published May 2002.)  
New York: New Press  
ISBN: 156584730X

*Making Heretics: Militant Protestantism and Free Grace in Massachusetts, 1636–1641* by Michael P. Winship. . . takes a brave new look at the Massachusetts disputes of the late 1630s, examining how personalities and personal agendas shaped this religious and political debate.  
(To be published April 2002.)  
Princeton: Princeton University Press  
ISBN: 0691089434

*The Spring General Assembly held at the Washington Club in Washington, DC. At right: Carl Whitford Morgan and Marcia Morgan. Below, left to right: new officers, Chaplain General D. Gene Patterson; Registrar General Lilla McKnight Licht; Chancellor General Marcia Holly Morgan; Governor General Peter Arrott Dixon; Treasurer General Thomas Mayhew Smith; Editor Mary Ruth Northrop; and Secretary General Carolyn Fish Lubker. Bottom left: Eleanor Niebell. Bottom right: Lilla McKnight Licht and Carolyn Fish Lubker.*



# Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held Wednesday, 18 April 2001 at The Washington Club, 15 Dupont Circle, Washington, DC. Charter member Eleanor Smallwood Niebell, a member of the club, was our hostess.

Governor General Robert Carter Arnold welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m. Governor General Arnold read a tribute to one of our founders and Honorary Governor General, Grahame Thomas Smallwood, Jr., who died this past year.

Chaplain General Gene Patterson gave the invocation. Honorary Governor General Colonel Elmer Hall Palmer led the members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Governor General Arnold welcomed founder and Honorary Governor General C. Owen Johnson and Honorary Governor General Colonel Elmer Hall Palmer. He also welcomed a new member, Nicholas Donnell Ward, a descendant of William Arnold.

One guest in attendance was Barbara Lohr, one of the designers of our society's medal. Many other guests were introduced, and a call of the ancestral roll followed.

Governor General Arnold reported on the meeting held in Newport,

## Spring General Assembly

by Carolyn Fish Lubker

Rhode Island in October, 2000. Luncheon was held at the famous White Horse Tavern. Dinner was held at the Hotel Viking. Colonel Palmer helped with the arrangements for that meeting.

The following reports were read and approved:

Deputy Governor General,  
Peter Arrot Dixon

Secretary General,  
Carolyn Fish Lubker

Treasurer General,  
Thomas Mayhew Smith

Registrar General,  
Lilla McKnight Licht

Editor, The Lively Experiment,  
Lilla McKnight Licht

Lilla McKnight Licht asked for a moment of silence in respect for the society's Flowers of the Field. The society marked the passing of William Salisbury Olney (#109) of Westwood, Massachusetts on 3 January 2001. Mr. Olney was a descendant of Thomas Olney.

Mary Ruth Northrop reported on her attendance at the National Genealogical Conference in Providence, Rhode Island. Ms. Northrop, Geneva DeWolf, and Ruth Griffith represented OFFRI&PP at the society fair held during the conference.

The business meeting reconvened. Governor General Arnold spoke about the proposed amendment to Article V of the bylaws. The council recommended that the annual business meeting be moved from the Spring General Assembly to the Autumn General Assembly. After discussion, Lilla McKnight Licht moved, and was seconded, that the amendment be adopted. The motion carried.

Thomas Mayhew Smith, chairman of the nominating committee, delivered a report. Other members of the nominating committee were: C. Owen Johnson, Mary Ruth Northrop, Lilla McKnight Licht, and Marcia Morgan.

The nominating committee proposed the following slate of officers:

Governor General  
Peter Arrott Dixon

Deputy Governor General  
Harold Winthrop Sands

Secretary General  
Carolyn Fish Lubker

Treasurer General  
Thomas Mayhew Smith

Registrar General  
Lilla McKnight Licht

Chaplain General  
Rev. D. Gene Patterson

Historian General  
Betty Westcott Acker

Chancellor General  
Marcia Holly Morgan

Editor, *The Lively Experiment*  
Mary Ruth Northrop

Colonel Palmer moved to close the nominations. There were no nominations from the floor. Nicholas Ward moved that the secretary cast one ballot for those nominated. Governor General Arnold declared the nominees were elected.

Chancellor General C. Owen Johnson then performed the installation of the newly elected officers.

Governor General Arnold congratulated the newly elected officers and installed Governor General Dixon. The new Governor General Dixon received the gavel, the insignia, and many good wishes.

Honorary Governor General Colonel Elmer Hall Palmer moved that Governor General Arnold be elected an Honorary Governor General. Honorary Governor General C. Owen Johnson seconded the motion, and it carried.

Governor General Peter Arrott Dixon announced that members could expect to receive the dates for the autumn meeting as early as possible. The change in time for the annual meeting would take effect this year to comply with the amendment to the bylaws.

After the benediction, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Carolyn Fish Lubker,  
Secretary General

# Member News

From Lilla McKnight Licht,  
Registrar General

## New Members

- 172 Carl Whitford Morgan  
5670 Stevens Drive  
Cicero, NY 13049  
Ancestor: Stukely Westcott
- 173 Eugene Arthur Fortine  
(Life Member)  
15983 Cambrian Drive  
San Leandro, CA 94578-1102  
Ancestor: William Freeborne
- 174 Lloyd Dewitt Bockstruck  
(Life Member)  
3955-C Buena Vista Street  
Dallas, TX 75204-1167  
Ancestor: Ralph Allen
- 175 Samuel Stevens Sands V  
13601 Mantua Mill Road  
Glyndon, MD 21071  
Ancestor: James Sands
- 176 Priscilla Ann Montagu McIsaac  
(Mrs. Malcolm Craven)  
205 Elmhurst Drive  
Orchard Park, NY 14127-2940  
Ancestor: John Crandall

## Supplements

None

## Flowers of the Field

120 Geneva DeWolf passed away  
28 November 2001.

Geneva was an active member of OFFRI&PP, never missing a single meeting in Rhode Island and attending nearly every meeting in Washington, DC. She was a member and past president of the Charlestown Historical Society and the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society. She was also an active member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants, First Families of Rhode Island, and Kingston Congregational Church. She is survived by a brother, Basil E. DeWolf of Charlestown; a sister, Roberta Hopkins of Bristol; and neices and nephews. Condolences may be addressed to:

Mrs. Roberta Hopkins  
10 Dewolf Avenue  
Bristol, RI 02809

## Call for Articles

We encourage you to submit articles for publication in forthcoming issues of *The Lively Experiment*. Meeting minutes and member information will be printed regularly. In addition, we are interested in developing the following sections for each issue:

**Meeting Stories**—personal recollections and descriptions of the biannual meetings. Photographs from meeting participants are also welcome.

**Family History**—an examination of founders and their descendants. Previous issues have included articles on William Arnold, John Coggeshall, Jeremy Clarke, John Green, Samuel Gorton, John Mott, John Sandford, Stukely Westcott, and Roger Williams. Articles on founders and their descendants are especially welcome.

**Family Research**—articles dealing with several families or articles about the colony and its development.

**Ancestors OnLine**—articles discussing genealogical websites and Internet research.

**Book Review**—critiques of books written about Rhode Island and early colonial history or genealogy.

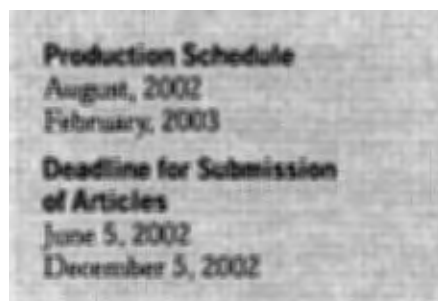
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maps, or other artwork unless the magazine receives permission from the originator of the work. All articles and accompanying artwork must include source information.

We also welcome suggestions for how we can improve the magazine for you, the readers. Please transmit your articles and suggestions by e-mail, diskette (3-1/2" only), or type-written copy (double-spaced). Address your e-mail to [sschlick@earthlink.net](mailto:sschlick@earthlink.net), using the subject line "Lively Experiment." Send a printout of your article along with your diskette or your double-spaced, typewritten copy to:

### **The Lively Experiment**

Mary Ruth Northrop, Editor  
300 West Franklin Avenue  
Apartment 401E  
Richmond, VA 23220-4904



### **Calendar of Events**

Spring Luncheon  
Washington, DC  
17 April 2002

### **Production Schedule**

August 2002  
February 2003

### **Deadline for Submission of Articles**

5 June 2002  
5 December 2002

### ***The Lively Experiment***

Mary Ruth Northrop, Editor  
300 West Franklin Avenue  
Apartment 401E  
Richmond, VA 23220-4904  
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To hold forth  
a lively experiment  
that a most flourishing civil  
state may stand and best  
be maintained with  
full liberty in religious  
concernments.

-Roger Williams

# The Lively Experiment



Volume 4, Number 3

# Officers 2001-2003

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## **Deputy Governor General**

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The  
Lively Experiment

A Biannual Publication of  
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of Rhode Island and  
Providence Plantations  
Founded 16 October 1990

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## The Lively Experiment

### Editor

Mary Ruth Northrop

### Associate Editor & Designer

Stephanie Schlick

### Contributors

Lilla McKnight Licht

Carolyn Fish Lubker

Sue Ann Gardner Shreve

For back issues, contact: Peter  
Arrott Dixon, 111 Duke Street,  
Alexandria, VA 22314-3803

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## Letters

### By Post:

21 August 2002

Greetings,

Enclosed is an article about the first wife of John Hicks, Herodias Long Hicks Gardiner Porter, one of my three Rhode Island ancestors. William Arnold and William Carpenter have been covered.

I enjoy *The Lively Experiment* and concur heartily with your review of *Albion's Seed*. I anticipate also a favorable review of Alan Taylor's *American Colonies*.

Sincerely,  
Robert L. French  
Chatham, NY

### By Email:

From: "Evylen A. Canup"  
<eg\_canup@bellsouth.net>  
Date: Wed, 07 Nov 2001

I appreciate the invitation to do an article on my Borden family for *The Lively Experiment*. If this article is too long or if I should need to add more to it, please let me know. I will be glad to adjust it. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Evylen Anderson Canup  
Marietta, GA

From: "Evylen A. Canup"  
<eg\_canup@bellsouth.net>  
Date: Thu, 28 Aug Nov 2001

So good to hear from you. We went to the Borden Reunion in Alabama in June and had a wonderful time. They were all impressed with the Borden article. I will see if I am able to send you some of these letters.

Thanks,  
Evylen

### Response:

The articles submitted by these two writers directly benefit the members who share an interest in the ancestors featured in *The Lively Experiment*. Such hard work helps preserve the legacy passed on to those who share kinship with a Rhode Island ancestor.

Indirectly, the articles benefit other researchers who use the libraries at DAR, SAR, NEHGS, the Rhode Island Historical Society, the Library of Congress, and other genealogical libraries. By reading the articles, researchers may discover their lineage includes a Rhode Island ancestor.

## From the Editor

This is our first anniversary! We've published two biannual issues, Stephanie and I. We appreciate the expressions of support and scholarly contributions we have received from members to make this publication possible. The future for this publication looks bright, and the current issue has been a pleasure to produce.

The centerpiece of this issue is Sue Ann Gardner Shreve's history of the ancestry of her husband's family, the descendants of Caleb Shreve. This branch of the family left Rhode Island early. Sue Ann Shreve adds an unusual touch to her story, something not found in many family histories of this period. Have you ever seen a photographic image of a soldier of the American Revolution? As early as age twelve, John Shreve served in the conflict with his father. He sat for his portrait as Lieutenant John Shreve at age 90 in 1852. A companion piece describes Caleb Shreve's father Thomas, his wife Martha, and the children who remained in Rhode Island.

Rhode Island genealogy is further developed in a review of the Rhode Island state and county web pages at

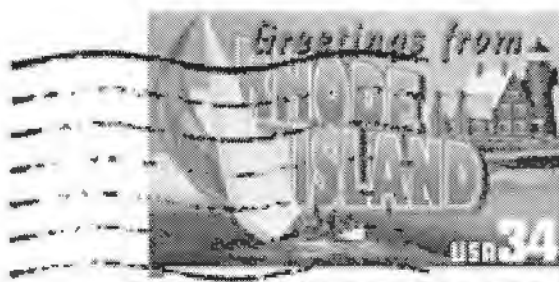
RIGenWeb™, part of the USGenWeb project. An all-volunteer effort, the pages represent the contributions of genealogists who wish to make Rhode Island data available over the Internet for everyone to use.

For those of us who prefer the printed word, the book review is a synopsis of Alan Taylor's *American Colonies*, a work that attempts to show us how we became who we are. His story leaps from Europe and Africa along the Mediterranean across the Atlantic to an unknown place where well-established people already lived. The interaction through cooperation and conflict of these cultures—the Europeans, the Africans, and the indigenous people—formed the new cultures that sprang up in this land.

Yet with all these lofty ideas, we have not forgotten the magazine features that ground us as a society. We also include the meeting minutes from Carolyn Fish Lubker and member news from Lilla McKnight Licht. We call attention to the upcoming annual meeting in Providence, Rhode Island. And we look forward to your sharing many more issues with us.







**Members and their guests are  
cordially invited to attend  
the 2002 Annual Meeting of  
The Order of the First Families of Rhode Island  
and Providence Plantations  
4-5 October 2002  
Providence, RI**

**Weekend Highlights:**

Cocktail Reception and Dinner at the Squantum Club  
Tour of John Brown House  
Annual Meeting and Luncheon at Hemenway's  
Tour of Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art  
Cocktail Reception and Buffet at the home of  
Deputy Governor General and Mrs. Harold Winthrop Sands

*The Lively Experiment* is looking for a few reporters and photographers to record the wonderful activities the society has planned for the weekend. Send your notes and snapshots to Mary Ruth Northrop, Editor, *The Lively Experiment*, 300 West Franklin Avenue, Apartment 401E, Richmond, VA 23220-4904.



# Family History

The ancestry of the Shreve family emerges from the annals of Portsmouth, Rhode Island.

**Thomas<sup>1</sup> Sheriff** is first recorded on 7 December 1641 as a complainant against James Laxford in an "action of trespass."<sup>[1]</sup> He died 29 May 1675; his estate was filed in Portsmouth on 11 June 1675. He was survived by his wife Martha and eight children: Thomas, John, Caleb, Mary, Susannah, Daniel, Elizabeth, and Sarah.

Many of the second generation descendants of Thomas Sheriff left Rhode Island (RI) in the early 1700s and settled in Burlington Co., New Jersey (NJ), where they remained for several generations. The ancestor of Eugene Sheldon Shreve II, **Caleb<sup>2</sup> Shreve** was born about 1652 in RI (possibly Portsmouth) and died in 1741 in Burlington Co., NJ. On Long Island about 1680, Caleb married Sarah Areson/Aaronson, a woman of Dutch descent and the daughter of Deidrich Areson/Aaronson and Sarah Orrest. Her date and place of birth are unknown.

No reliable authority exists for a correct tabulation of the ages of Caleb and Sarah's ten children. The church records from the Society of Friends in Burlington Co., NJ, however, may provide points for conjecture, assuming the sons

## Focus on the Shreves

by Sue Ann Gardner Shreve  
(Mrs. Eugene Sheldon Shreve II)

married at or near age twenty-one and the daughters at or near age eighteen. Thus, Caleb and Sarah had ten children, all born after 1680 in Burlington Co., NJ: (1) Martha, who married Benjamin Scattergood; (2) Thomas, who married Elizabeth Allison; (3) Joseph, who married Hope Harding; (4) Joshua (b. 1692), who married Jane —; (5) Caleb, who married first Mary Hunt and second Ann —; (6) Mary, who married Isaac Gibbs Jr.; (7) Sarah, who married John Ogborne; (8) Jonathan, who married Hanah Hunt; (9) David, who did not marry; and (10) Benjamin, who married Rebecca French.

The youngest child, **Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Shreve**, is well documented. He was born 9 June 1706 in Burlington Co., NJ. On 23 February 1729 in Springfield Township, Burlington Co., NJ, he married Rebecca French, born about 1708 in Burlington Co., NJ, the daughter of Richard French (1665 England-1745 NJ) and Mary King (abt. 1675-aft. 1745 NJ). Benjamin and Rebecca had eight children, all born in Burlington Co., NJ: (1) Kazia, born 8 March 1730, who married Moses Ivins; (2) Richard, born 10 June 1732, who did not marry; (3) Caleb, born 25 August 1734, who married Grace Pancoast; (4) William, born 4 August 1737, who

married first Ann Ivins and second Ann (Woodard) Reckless; (5) Israel Shreve, born 24 December 1739, who married first Grace Curtis and second Mary Cokely; (6) Sarah, born 18 October 1744, who married first David Scattergood, second Joseph Beck, and third John Nixon; (7) Benjamin, born 7 October 1747, who married first Hannah Vail and second Susanna Wood; and (8) Samuel, born 25 January 1750, who married twice, one wife being Mira Trout. Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Shreve died in 1751 in Burlington Co., NJ. After Benjamin's death, Rebecca (French) Shreve married second George Eysers. Rebecca Shreve Eysers died in 1785, also in Burlington Co., NJ.

Israel<sup>4</sup> Shreve was born 24 December 1739 in Burlington Co., NJ. He married first Grace Curtis, born about 1740 in Mansfield Township, Burlington Co., NJ, the daughter of John Curtis III (abt. 1695 NJ-1766 NJ) and Elizabeth Pancoast (1710 NJ-bef. 1747 NJ). Israel and Grace had four children: (1) John, born 8 April 1762 in Burlington Co., NJ; (2) Elizabeth, born 11 May 1765 and died 1769; (3) Sarah, born 1769 and died 1769; and (4) Kazia, born 4 June 1771 in Gloucester Co., NJ, who married Thomas Stevens and died in 1834 in Ohio (OH). Kazia and Thomas had ten children, all of whom died young. Grace (Curtis) Shreve died 12 December 1771 in Gloucester Co., NJ.

On 16 September 1773 at Christ Church, Philadelphia, Philadelphia Co., Pennsylvania (PA), Israel Shreve married second Mary

Cokely, born 17 August 1749 in Amity Township, Berks Co., PA, the daughter of Cornelius and Johanna Cokely. Israel and Mary had eight children: (1) Esther, born 11 August 1774 in Gloucester Co., NJ, who married William Briggs; (2) Israel Jr., born 11 September 1778 in Burlington Co., NJ, who did not marry; (3) George Green, born 14 October 1780 in Burlington Co., NJ, who went to China and was not heard from again; (4) Rebecca, born 14 May 1783 in Rancocas Creek, NJ, who married first Fergus Moorehead and second James C. Blair; (5) Henry Miller, born 21 October 1785 in Rancocas Creek, NJ, who married first Mary Blair and second Lydia Rogers; (6) Benjamin, born 27 May 1787 in Allegheny Co., PA, who married Elizabeth —; (7) Mary, born 24 February 1792 in Fayette Co., PA, who married William McMellin/McMillan; and (8) Caleb, born after 1793 in Fayette Co., PA. Israel Shreve died 14 December 1799 in Fayette Co., PA. Mary (Cokely) Shreve died 25 September 1823, probably in Fayette Co., PA.

Of further note, in 1837 Shreveport, Louisiana was officially named for Captain Henry Miller Shreve. Henry spent most of his life building and operating commercial steamboats on the Mississippi River. He was noted for naming his ship's cabins after different states, thus coining the term "stateroom." In 1827, he gave up his steamboat operations to become Superintendent of Western River



*1852 Daguerreotype of Lieutenant John Shreve at age 90.  
Courtesy of Eugene Sheldon Shreve II.*

Improvements for the U.S. Government. Several books have been written about his life, and his statue stands in Shreveport. Henry died in 1851 and was buried in Bellefontain Cemetery, St. Louis, St. Louis Co., Missouri.

John<sup>5</sup> Shreve was born 8 April 1762 in Burlington Co., NJ. On 9

September 1786 in Burlington Co., NJ, he married Abigail Ridgway, born 4 January 1765 in Burlington Co., NJ, the daughter of Solomon Ridgway (1723 NJ-1788 NJ) and Mary Burr (1727 NJ-1802 NJ). Abigail was condemned by the Quakers for marrying out of unity. Her ancestors can be traced back to

fourteen of the sureties of the Magna Charta, signed in 1215, through her maternal grandmother, Jane Abbott's line. (These sureties are William D'Albini, Roger Bigod, Henry de Bohun, Gilbert de Clare, Richard de Clare, John Fitzrobert, John de Lacie, William de Lanvallei, William Malet, William de Mowbray, Saire de Quincy, Robert de Roos, and Robert de Vere.) John and Abigail had nine children, of whom all except the first child were born in Fayette Co., PA: (1) Joseph, born 25 July 1787 in Burlington Co., NJ, who did not marry; (2) John, born 15 November 1789, who did not marry; (3) Mary, born 27 November 1792, who did not marry; (4) Israel, born 22 March 1795, who married first Elizabeth Stephens and second Sarah Bickle; (5) George William, born 20 January 1798, who married Martha Fawcett; (6) Thomas Curtis, born 8 September 1800, who married Ann Gilbert Coates; (7) Benjamin Ridgway, born 18 November 1802, who married Lydia Ann Scroggy; (8) Solomon, born 3 July 1805, who married Rachel Gilbert Coates; and (9) Eliza, born 25 October 1807, who married Caleb Jones. Abigail (Ridgway) Shreve died 4 June 1808 and was buried in Providence Quaker Cemetery in Perryopolis, Fayette Co., PA. About 1826, John Shreve removed to Stark Co., OH, to be with several of his adult children. He died 8 September 1854 in Stark Co., OH and was buried in Mt. Union Cemetery in Alliance, Stark Co., OH. (In 1997, John's great-

great-great grandson, Eugene Sheldon Shreve II, purchased a new Revolutionary War cemetery footstone and had it placed next to John's old, weathered tombstone.)

Although they were Quakers, several Shreves answered the call to arms of the New Jersey Provincial Congress in 1775. Enlisting in the New Jersey militia, Israel Shreve became colonel of the 2nd New Jersey Regiment and participated in many battles during the Revolution, including the 1777 winter encampment at Valley Forge with George Washington, the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, and the siege of Quebec. They were also present at the hanging of British spy Major Andre. Israel's son Lt. John Shreve also served with the 2nd New Jersey Regiment and accompanied his father in battle. Both father and son were disowned by the Society of Friends for their involvement in the war. It appears that the family was eventually accepted again in the Society of Friends; records show their attendance at monthly meetings and family burials in Quaker cemeteries.

Lt. John Shreve appears to have been a prolific writer and diarist. In 1837, he wrote a letter containing his recollections of the Battle of Brandywine, which occurred 11 September 1777. Handed down from generation to generation of Shreves, the letter contains a vivid account of the fate of troops in the battle. A diary from the same year provides a glimpse of life in the early days of Stark County.<sup>[2]</sup> In

1853, he wrote an account of his life, remembering particularly his mother's death when he was about age nine. When he was about age twelve, his father remarried, but "thought it not proper to leave him with a stepmother" and took John with him to the army.

Thomas Curtis<sup>6</sup> Shreve was born 8 September 1800 in Fayette Co., PA. On 27 August 1828 in Stark Co., OH, he married Ann Gilbert Coates, born 17 August 1802 in Coatesville, Chester Co., PA, the daughter of Isaac Coates (1778 PA-1853 OH) and Mary Gilbert (1774 PA-1869 OH). Thomas and Ann had three children: (1) Charles Ridgway, born 22 June 1829 in Portage Co., OH, who married Martha Bradshaw; (2) Julia Mary, born 1831 in OH; and (3) Casper Wistar, born 1833 in OH. Until 1858, Thomas and Ann resided in Stark County, Ohio; afterward they moved to White Cloud, Doniphan Co., Kansas (KS) with two of their children: Julia Mary and Casper Wistar. Thomas Curtis Shreve died 2 September 1878, and Ann (Coates) Shreve died 26 March 1897, both in White Cloud, Doniphan Co., KS.

Charles Ridgway<sup>7</sup> Shreve was born 22 June 1829 in Portage Co., OH, where he remained. On 28 October 1851, he married Martha Bradshaw, born 3 May 1824 in Potsdam, St. Lawrence Co., New York (NY), the daughter of Robert Bradshaw (abt. 1780 Canada-abt. 1862 IL) and Christiania Flinn (1787 Scotland-1834 NY). Charles and Martha had

two children: (1) Thomas Wistar, born 31 March 1858 in Roscoe, Cochocton Co., OH, who married Jennie L. Gray; and (2) Margaret Crombie Shreve, born 1861 in OH. Charles Ridgway Shreve died 25 June 1890, and Martha (Bradshaw) Shreve died 28 August 1902, both in Martins Ferry, Belmont Co., OH, and were buried there in Riverview Cemetery. Their daughter, Margaret Crombie Shreve, who died in 1877, was also buried there.

After his marriage, Charles Ridgway Shreve became affiliated with the schools in Martins Ferry, Belmont Co., Ohio. As superintendent of schools in Martins Ferry from 1850 to 1888, he was instrumental in establishing a strong educational system. The Charles R. Shreve/Martins Ferry High School was named for him at a dedication ceremony held 1 January 1924.

Thomas Wistar<sup>8</sup> Shreve was born 31 March 1858 in Roscoe, Cochocton Co., OH. On 3 July 1883 in Martins Ferry, Belmont Co., OH, he married Jennie L. Gray, the daughter of James Alexander Gray (1816 OH-1902 OH) and his second wife Martha Delilah Lash (1833 OH-1921 OH). Thomas and Jennie had four children, all born in Martins Ferry, Belmont Co., OH: (1) Charles Gray, born 1884, who married Clara Eleanor Phillips; (2) Ernest Bradshaw, born 1886, who married Millicent Margaret Weybrecht; (3) James Wistar, born 1891, who

married first Gay Ward and second Florence McKean; and (4) **Eugene Sheldon I**, born 21 March 1895, who married Rosaria Piscitelli. Thomas Wistar Shreve died in 1924 in St. Albans, Kanawha Co., West Virginia. Jennie (Gray) Shreve died in 1947 in West Virginia. Both were buried in Riverview Cemetery, Martins Ferry, Belmont Co., OH.

Thomas Wistar Shreve practiced law for twenty years and belonged to many professional, civic, and religious organizations in Martins Ferry. Among them were the Belmont County Bar Association, the Martins Ferry Fire Department, and the Champion Independent Racing Team, and the First Presbyterian Church. He was also a 32nd degree Free and Accepted Mason and member of the Hope Lodge No. 26. He advanced along the York Rite to the degree of Knight Templar. After his retirement, he became superintendent of installations at the Stanton Heater Company.

The many descendants of the four sons of Thomas Wistar and Jennie Gray Shreve are living in Florida, Georgia, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Texas. Many are eligible for membership in the Order of First Families of the Rhode Island and Providence Plantations by virtue of their distinguished lineage.

#### Notes:

- [1] Names in boldface show lines of descent.
- [2] The letter and diary are in the collection of Eugene Sheldon Shreve II. A copy of the letter is on file at

Brandywine National Battlefield. Excerpts from the letter appear exactly as written without correction.

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**Inquiries to:** Sue Ann Gardner Shreve (sue12362@aol.com) Sue Ann Gardner Shreve is a proud member of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, First Families of Ohio, and Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. She is also the author of *The Shreve Family Genealogy: an update from 1641* [LOC#97-066972].

ing off round our right, we moved to gain their front, and  
at the Brandywine, our main army crossed at Whadd's ford;

**John Shreve's Recollections of the  
Battle of Brandywine**  
Excerpts from a letter written June 1837

I have been requested to make a statement of a few occurrences which took place that day, as it is not known that there is at this time living any other persons who are acquainted with the facts.... I was Lieutenant in the 2nd New Jersey Regiment commanded by Colo. Israel Shreve ... on hearing of the British army landing at the head of Elk, we crossed the Delaware River ... the enemy being at Newport (or Christiana I forgot which) we halted & threw up an intrenchment in the evening.... As we were fatigued by hard marching some of the officers got a large Pig and said they would barbacue it ... as they expected we would not be called into action before it would be cooked ... but Captain Abraham Stout said "he could not eat any." some of the officers asked him if the busting of the shells over our heads ... had taken his appetite from him," he replied "No. you know me better than to believe that to be the cause. But from my dreams since I came to this ground I am satisfied that I shall never eat another mouthful nor see the light of another day...." The enemy numbered 8 or 10 thousand and our division had but about fifteen hundred to oppose them ... they displayed their column, & the action commenced, they fired but a few shots

my brigade, a  
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that I shall never eat another mouthful nor see the light of an  
P. 11 D. 11

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shed the Brandwine, our main army crossed at Chaddesford;

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before a cannon ball passed through the  
body of Captain Aabraham Stout  
which killed him.... In consequence of  
Captain Abraham Stouts dream,  
agriable to request. I have related our  
movements and occurrences relative to  
his dream and death. as near as I can  
recollect ... being now sixty years after  
the occurrences.... I was in the  
company of a friend named Benjamin  
Price. Who said he then lived in the  
battleground of Brandywine ... a short  
time before an English gentleman  
visited ... Who said he was a relative of  
a captain Percy who was Mortally  
Wound, and died the same day, he  
wished to find his grave, there he met  
an old schoolteacher (a friend) who was  
present when Captain Percy died &  
pointed out the grave where Percy and  
several other officers were buried, an  
american officer was buried with them  
... the English gentleman also stated  
that he received the account of Captain  
Percy death also the story of his dream,  
from a companion of his by name  
Captain Ashton. the reason of my  
being requested to write the forgoing  
account, Was that as the dispasser of  
events communicated to those two  
hostile Captains, the fate that awaited  
them, in the dreams, one of them in the  
army defending the liberties of his  
country, the other in the army from  
Great Britton sent to deprive us of  
our natural rights, they both fell near  
each other.

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me my dreamer never came to our ground, I am satisfied  
it I shall never eat another mouthful nor see the light of day  
P. 11 D . . . . .



## Ancestral Focus

Thomas<sup>1</sup> Sheriff and his wife Martha's treatment in Austin's *Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island* provides further insight into this family. Thomas<sup>2</sup>, their first child, must have died young; the role of the oldest son and heir is taken over by John, their second child. Caleb, the third child, disappears from Rhode Island (RI), seeking opportunity in New Jersey. Mary, the fourth child, marries into the Sheffield family and shares their story. Little is known about the next three daughters—Susannah, Elizabeth, and Sarah. Daniel, the sixth child, remains in RI. From him and his brother John, the Sheriff or Shreve name can be found in colony records just as Caleb's son can be traced in the migration south and west (GDRI 177-78).

Thomas Sheriff of Plymouth, Massachusetts and Portsmouth married Martha —, who died after 1691. Martha married second Thomas Hazard of Boston, Massachusetts and Portsmouth. She married third Lewis Hues, of unknown origin (177-78).

On 18 Dec 1656 Thomas Sheriff deeded to a Thomas Hazard "a quarter of a share in Misquamicut and also paid him £20, receiving in exchange thereof or 30 acres in Portsmouth, and house, orchard, &c, all to belong to Thomas Hazard for life, and at decease of Thomas Hazard

## Thomas Sheriff in Detail

by Mary Ruth Northrop

to be for Thomas Sheriff and wife Martha for their lives, and at death of both of them to go to 2d son John Sheriff and heirs, and for want of issue of John to go to 3d son Caleb Sheriff, &c" (177).

This kind of property transfer often provides care for an elderly parent, possibly Martha's parent. Thomas Hazard seems to be an older man expected to die before Thomas Sheriff. He also had a wife named Martha. Was Martha, the wife of Thomas Sheriff named for her mother? Are there two Thomas Hazards here and a collapse of generations? We do not know. The Hazard treatment shows Thomas Hazard with a first and second wife, both named Martha, the latter probably in error. At best, the information is inconclusive (320).

Thomas Sheriff died intestate. An inventory of his estate taken 11 June 1675 came to "£218, 12s, viz: house and land, £15, a horse and mare £7, two cows, three calves, five ewes, five lambs, eight shoats, a feather bed, six pillows, two bolsters, six blankets, ring, flock bed, fifty-six pounds of pewter, warming pan, silver dram cup, looking glass, &c" (177).

Before his marriage to Martha Sheriff as her second husband, Thomas Hazard recognized Martha "for her own person, without having anything

to do with her estate or anything that is hers." Did she marry a cousin, thus protecting her estate? Later, after six or seven weeks of marriage, Martha's third husband, Lewis Hues, absconded with "a great part of her estate." On 22 March 1691, Martha surrendered her estate to her son John, making provisions for herself and her heirs. Her provisions instructed "John Sheriff to pay his mother £6 on December 25th yearly for life, and thirty pounds good butter, and thirty pounds good cheese, and two barrels cider, two barrels apples, firewood, room at North-east end of house she now lives in, east part of garden, and keep of a horse or mare, &c" (178). These provisions are traditionally made for aged parents at the time their heir takes possession of the property.

Thomas<sup>1</sup> Sheriff and Martha had eight children, surname Sheriff:

1. Thomas<sup>2</sup>, born 2 September 1649, about whom nothing further is stated (177).

2. John, of Portsmouth, RI, died testate 14 October 1739, leaving an estate of £193, 8s. In August 1686, he married Jane Havens, who died before 1739, the daughter of John and Ann (—) Havens. John and Jane had five sons and two daughters (93, 177).

3. Caleb, the subject of the main article.

4. Mary, died after 1706. On 12 February 1685, she married Joseph Sheffield of Newport, RI, born 22 August 1661, the son of Ichabod and Mary (Parker) Sheffield. Joseph

served as attorney general of the colony. Joseph and Mary had four sons and three daughters. He died testate in 1706, leaving an estate of £128, 13s (175, 177).

5. Susannah, died after 1714. She married — Thomas, who died in 1728, about whom nothing further is stated (177).

6. Daniel, of Little Compton, RI, died testate in 1737. About 1688, he married Jane —, who died after 1737. Daniel's estate consisted of £78, 17s, 6d. Daniel and Jane had seven sons and two daughters (177).

7. Elizabeth, died 5 June 1719. She married Edward Carter, who died before 1719. Elizabeth and Edward had no children. As Elizabeth Carter, she left a will dated 17 March 1718/1719, probated 13 July 1719. Her will is a genealogical treasure, naming brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, and cousins. The Sheriff name becomes Shreve in this document. The date of probate suggests Quaker faith (178, TAG v. XX, no. 2, 114-15 from Portsmouth Town Council, Bk II, and copied in p457).

8. Sarah, died 24 June 1732. She married John Moon of Newport, RI, who died testate before 1723, leaving an estate of £30. Sarah and John had one son and four daughters (178).

#### *References:*

Austin, John Osborne. [1982] 1969. *Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc.

# Ancestors OnLine

## Site Exploration: RIGenWeb™ by Stephanie Schlick

If you frequent the online genealogical community, chances are you have accessed the USGenWeb™. The USGenWeb™ Project represents the prodigious effort of volunteers to host free-access web sites for genealogical research. The home page for USGenWeb™ hosts national projects and contains links to state web sites. USGenWeb™ has the admirable goal of having each state and county represented online, the county level being the basic unit of organization for the project.

Each state web site contains resources for locating vital records, posting statewide queries, and searching statewide databases. The state web sites also host special projects and mailing lists. The state web sites, in turn, provide links to county web sites.

The county web sites are created by volunteers who enlist the help of others to provide content. Content varies considerably within the county pages, depending on the newness of the page and the availability of data. In general, each county page contains links for posting queries and accessing archival data.

This article explores RIGenWeb™ ([www.rootsweb.com/~rigenweb/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~rigenweb/)), the repository for a collection of

state, county, town, and surname information of particular interest to people researching their Rhode Island ancestors. RIGenWeb™ state and Newport County coordinator, Susan W. Pieroth, and two other county coordinators Brenda Bova (Bristol and Providence) and Arlan Maguire (Kent and Washington) are amassing volumes of data. Because RIGenWeb™ is too large to encompass in one article, only the highlights can be discussed here.

### State Data

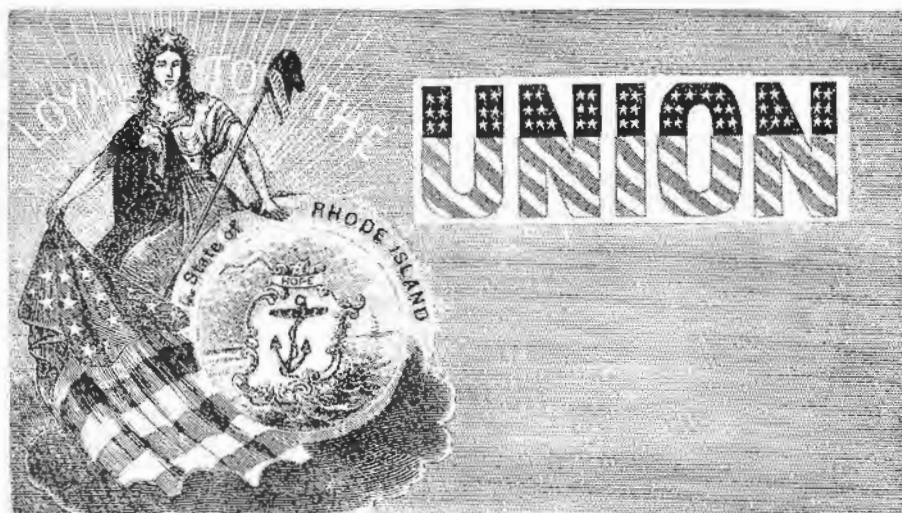
At the state level, one helpful link provides information on the Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries Transcription Project. For the past twelve years, volunteers have been constructing a database of all known cemeteries and graves in the state. The list of registered historical cemeteries has expanded from 1,862 to 2,716 and represents transcriptions of cemetery information from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. RIGenWeb™ hosts the searchable master index for the project. The index is organized according to surname, first name, and maiden name. Each record contains a coded number for a corresponding historical cemetery. A link at the top of the surname web page allows researchers to navigate to the cemetery index. For example, a search for surname

"Congdon" returns nine documents. A record for Abigail Congdon contains the code NK066. The code corresponds to the Congdon-Packard cemetery located on Boston Neck Road in North Kingstown. Additional historical notes and directions for entering the cemetery are available through another link to the Rhode Island Cemetery Database.

Another state-level link leads to maps for the Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. In addition to general maps showing changes in county and state lines, the site contains maps pertaining to each county. For example, one map divided into two sections and taken from Greene's *The Providence Plantations for 250 Years* (1886) shows the layout of the home lots of the original proprietors of Providence in 1664. For each

county, RIGenWeb™ is using images from D.G. Beers and Company's *Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations* (1870). Many map sections contain names of landowners. The images are scanned at high-resolution; therefore, researchers with slower connections to the Internet may have to exercise patience until the images load into the browser. Their patience will be rewarded because the images are easily readable and printable from the browser or an imaging program (say, Photo Deluxe). One important note for researchers: The images are the property of RIGenWeb™. No one is permitted to copy the images to other web sites or publish them.

Of all the links on RIGenWeb™, the archives may be the most intriguing. Both the state and county archives provide links to files



Pictorial envelope from the collection of The New-York Historical Society.

containing biographical information, census data, land and commercial transactions, church records, military rosters, and other information submitted by volunteers. The archival information is accessible in several ways; however, the links can be confusing for first-time visitors. For example, census data appear to reside in different portions of the web site, depending on who submitted the information. A large collection of images for census data, provided by a private company, resides in one page with links to individual images by page number. At the county level, text files contain transcriptions submitted by volunteers. Nevertheless, the archives still work well on two levels: they allow the researcher to find information specific to a particular ancestor, and they provide an opportunity for researchers to see what their colleagues are doing. In the best possible scenario, researchers finding useful information may be inspired to contribute their own work and further the volunteer effort.

Two search engines make the job of finding information go more smoothly. Within RIGenWeb™, the archive search engine may be the easiest way to find information, and the search tips are indispensable for researchers who cannot afford the time to browse leisurely through all the information RIGenWeb™ has to offer. Using RIGenWeb™ as a jumping-off point to which researchers can return, the Surname

Helper search engine locates queries and surname registrations posted on various genealogy sites located across the Internet. For example, a search for the surname "Northrup" in all geographic locations for all types of sites and for all post types posted any time turned up 230 different sites for possible exploration. At first glance, the sheer bulk of information returned might seem onerous, but the search engine has pull-down menus to allow researchers to refine their requests.

### **County Data**

Each county maintains its own home page with links to other portions of RIGenWeb™ and related web sites hosted off-site. The county query pages, arranged by posting date and surname, are where researchers can ask for assistance and read queries from other researchers.

Many links appear to be placeholders for data to be added at some future date. For example, researchers might expect some links for obituaries, wills, and bible records to lead to databases within the RIGenWeb™ archives. Instead, the links may take researchers to the search engine for all message boards at RootsWeb.com. Many more links, however, can lead to valuable information within RIGenWeb™. For example, the link for birth records in Providence County contained the beginnings of a transcription arranged by surname and coded to the city records by volume and page number.

Bearing in mind that RIGenWeb™ is a volunteer effort, researchers will find only a few areas of the county sites that could be and doubtless will be improved as time and resources permit. A simple fix could make navigating the county web sites easier, both for querying and searching for data. If the links were arranged consistently for each county web site and links leading off-site were isolated and clearly marked within the page, researchers could opt to remain at the county site, navigate to another county site, or travel off-site and return to RIGenWeb™ by using the back button on the browser.

In her lecture, "A Challenge Of Diversity: Developing A Practical Strategy For Rhode Island Research," delivered at the 2000 conference of the National Genealogical Society in Providence, Jane Fletcher Fiske stated "Rhode Islanders generated an incredible degree of diversity in their society and in their records. A researcher can quickly get lost in the multiplicity of available sources, which nonetheless represents a real treasure-trove of possibilities." RIGenWeb™ volunteers are maintaining and adding valuable new information to the state's treasure-trove.

Like all web sites, RIGenWeb™ is a work in progress. Minor glitches aside, more than a few aspects set it apart from other genealogical sites.

Many researchers make their first stop at glitzy commercial sites designed to attract them and keep them there. RIGenWeb™ is non-commercial and free. Most important, it is a central place where Rhode Island researchers can connect with their colleagues.

*Editor's Note:* If you have not visited RIGenWeb™, you are missing out on the chance to volunteer or explore new avenues of research. Many of you have been doing genealogical research for years. Since most of your work may be on paper, RIGenWeb™ may inspire you to convert your work to text files or scan your original records and pass them on for others. The quality and quantity of data available at RIGenWeb™ depends on the generosity and willingness of a few people to benefit everyone.

Would you like OFFRI&PP to have a presence on the Internet? Would you be willing to design a web page for OFFRI&PP? RIGenWeb™ would be willing to post a page for the society at their website. Send your comments and suggestions to

**The Lively Experiment**

Mary Ruth Northrop, Editor  
(aschlick@earthlink.net)

## Book Review

*American Colonies: The Penguin History of the United States*  
Alan Taylor (Eric Foner, Ed.)  
New York: Viking Penguin  
2001 [ISBN 0670872822]  
526 pp, \$34.95

I have often quite unconsciously categorized persons, places, and things as "nice" or "not nice." *Albion's Seed*, the book I discussed in a prior review, was "nice." After all, it was about us. I selected *American Colonies* for this review to further our knowledge of Rhode Island by describing her neighbors. My first reading of the book was troubling, "not nice." My second reading was more mellowing.

Having been born and raised in Washington, DC, my Latin-American classmates, whose families were attached to the embassies, revealed to me knowledge of such interesting practices as water torture, a slow drip, drip, drip until one became mad. On the other hand, I had loving cousins—one of Dutch and Shawnee descent and a whole family whose great grandmother was Cayuga. So I always knew the Spanish were cruel and the Native Americans were not. This was my mindset for my first reading of this revisionary history.

Alan Taylor, a Pulitzer prize winner and professor of history at the

### A Synopsis of American Colonies

by Mary Ruth Northrop

University of California at Davis, has written a brilliant history, the first in a multivolume set covering the history of the United States. His position is that to know a people one must know their place in their world.

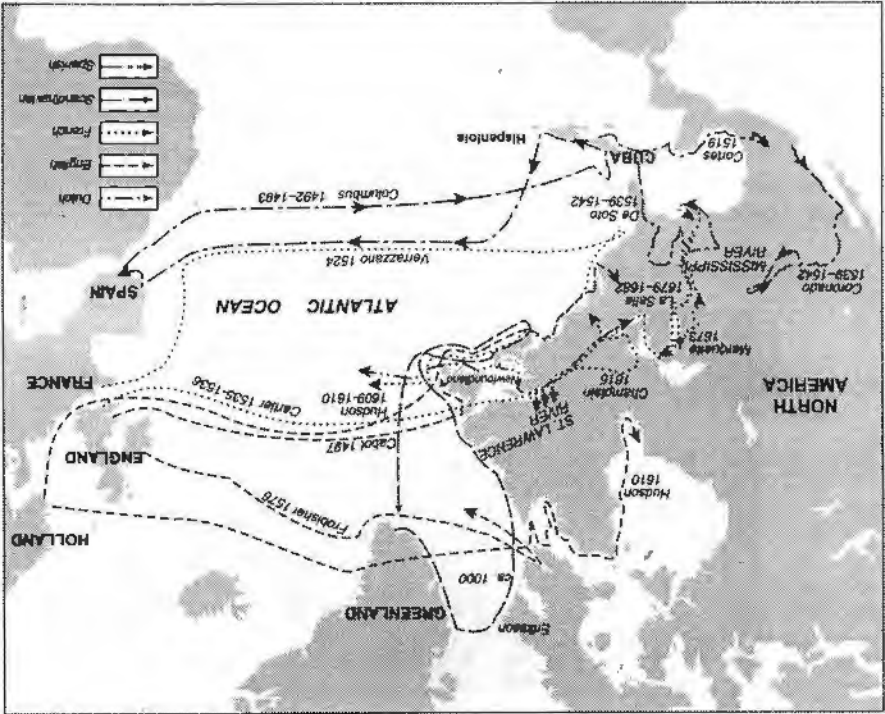
The first of three waves of people today called Paleo-Indians crossed from Siberia into Alaska over a landbridge less than 15,000 years ago. There were gathers and hunters of large mammals, drifting over time to Meso America where they developed the horticulture of beans, corn, and squash, known as the "three sisters." Archaic Indians followed, who became the ancestors of the Athabascans, Apaches, and Navajos. By the end of this period, the population had swelled to 1,000,000, spoke about 375 languages, and were scattered across North America.

The boat-building people came next: Aleuts settled the Aleutian Islands, and Inuits or Eskimos spread across northern Canada to Labrador and Greenland. About the same time, Hohokams and Anasazis living in the southwest and borrowing from more advanced Meso Americans began to build complex pueblos with ball courts, kivas, and irrigations ditches.

Descendants of these people were the natives who encountered waves

of colonizers (figure 1). The first wave consisted of the mariners. Subsequently, there came traders, planters, officials of the Spanish Crown, Franciscan missionaries, and indentured servants. The last wave consisted of indentured servants from Spain and slaves from Africa. In the 1400s, Spain was a Christian land still reeling from the invasion and expulsion of the Moors, who turning east exploited overland routes to Asia and the East Indies. Spain and neighboring Portugal began to develop their considerable shipbuilding and navigational skills. The explorers knew the world was round; they knew of early Viking

Figure 1. European exploration in North America.  
Reprinted with permission from Stone Spring Press, Inc.



exploration across the north Atlantic. They also knew of Marco Polo's travels. Yearning for their share of world trade, they dared to venture out of the Mediterranean into the Atlantic. There the explorers conquered the Azores, Madeira, and Canary islands. While Portugal turned south to explore and trade along the coast of Africa, Spain explored the West Indies. In complete and complex detail, Taylor tells of the cruel conquest and colonization of New Spain (upper South America, Mexico, lower North America, and the Lesser and Greater Antilles). Along with their development of sugar and



tobacco plantations, the colonizers introduced much that was new to the New World: seeds, animals, languages, religion and, significantly, diseases and weapons. When the recruitment of indentured servants failed and the supply of enslaved native people dwindled, New Spain turned to Africa and began the importation of black slaves. Slaves increased production; more production meant greater gain for planters, merchants, mariners, and Crown. But Spain could not keep her monopoly. France, England, and Holland soon penetrated the Spanish Main and established their own colonies in the Caribbean and North America (figure 2).

Meanwhile, the struggle for balance of power continued in Europe and on the Atlantic. The struggle for religious conversions raged between Protestant Reformation and Catholic Counter-Reformation clergy. The fish and fur traders of New France on the lower St. Lawrence competed in the north Atlantic with the market for produce from the south. The French, accompanied by Jesuit missionaries, dominated the fur trade in the 17th century. From a base in Quebec on the upper St. Lawrence, the French had access to the vast Great Lakes watershed where they encountered native people.



*Figure 2. Chief Athore with René Laudonnière, commander of the second French expedition to Florida. Engraving by Theodor de Bry, 1591. Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-374*

Indians of two distinct languages groups lived around the Great Lakes: Algonkins and Iroquois, the latter being the feared Five Nations of the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca. Furs (especially beaver) and goods (guns, ammunition, and spirits) changed hands in a relationship some call dependency, but Taylor prefers to call mutuality. This trade, however, led to unanticipated involvement for the French in the Indian wars and for the Indians in European conflicts fought in Canada and in what became the old Northwest Territory.

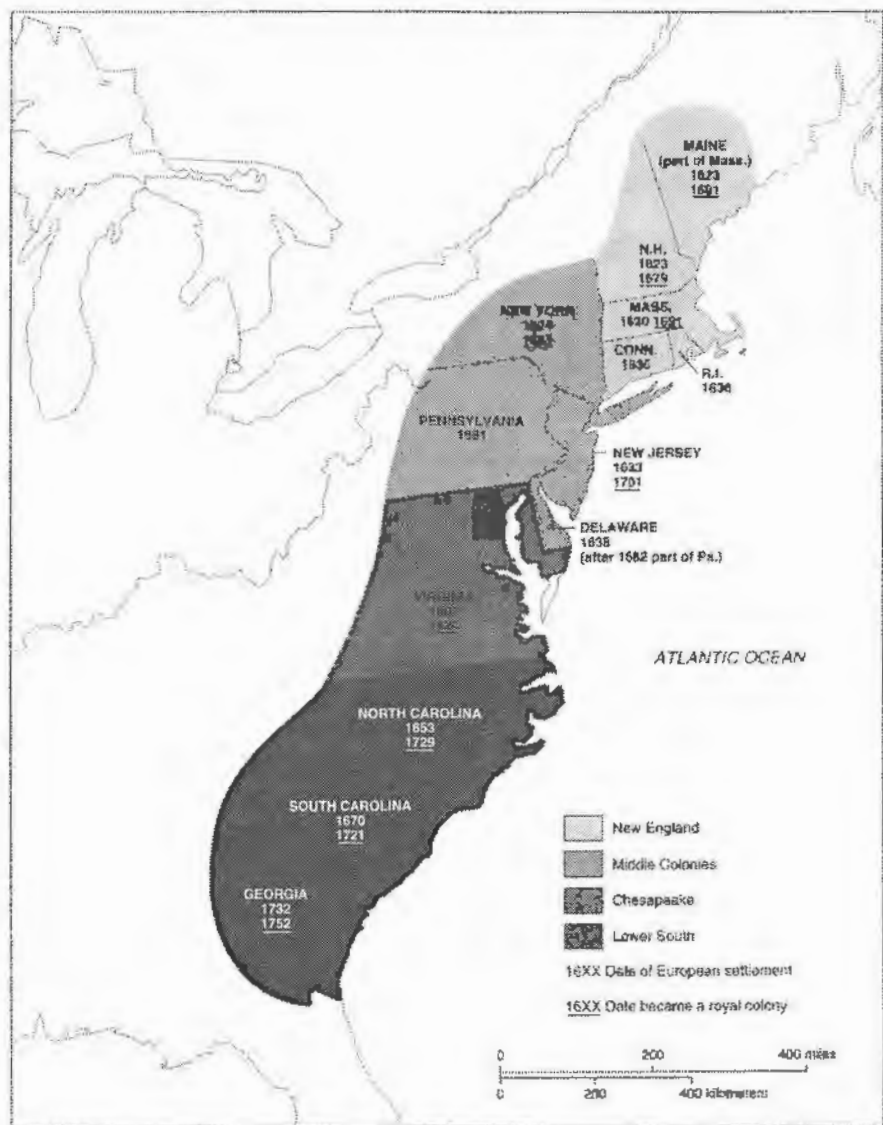
The initial contact between native people and colonizers was now complete with one exception: a vast temperate zone between torrid New Spain and frigid New France, unclaimed by either mother country. This land was neither hot enough to grow sugar and tobacco nor cold enough to sustain fur-bearing animals. This space, backed by the Appalachians and destined to become English, attracted people from many lands. The first English colony of Virginia, after a difficult start in 1607, developed a plantation society with a few elite intermarrying families. In this society, white indentured servants worked off their servitude while increasing numbers of black slaves had no hope of doing likewise. Here, too, sophisticated Anglican clergy competed for souls with backcountry itinerant circuit riders who preached a different sermon to the small farmers who

relied on their sons and themselves for labor.

The Great Migration to New England, beginning in 1630, settled five English colonies: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maine, and New Hampshire. Plymouth had been founded in 1620, and Vermont would come later. Native populations were driven from the lands as the new inhabitants took over.

At the close of two deadly Indian wars (the Pequot's and King Phillip's), the colonizing Pilgrims and Puritans, with their nonconformist or separatist clergy, and the Quakers, who had no clergy, developed a flourishing agrarian and small-crafts economy. Later came their involvement in urban shipbuilding, shipping, and commercial centers.

Figure 3 shows the expansion of European settlements into the coastal colonies. Dutch New Amsterdam became English New York. Dutch East Jersey and English West Jersey became New Jersey. Pennsylvania attracted English Quakers, Welsh, and Germans. Delaware became home to Swedes and Finns. Maryland became the refuge of Lord Baltimore's English Catholics. Carolina was settled by English refugees from Barbados. Georgia became the German buffer above Spanish San Agustín, later Saint Augustine, Florida, the oldest



*Figure 3. Colonial expansion in the early 18th century. Reprinted with permission from Stone Spring Press, Inc.*

continuously inhabited city of European origin in the United States.

These coastal colonies and those of the West Indies traded with the great commercial houses of New England by means of ocean-going fleets out of Boston and Salem, Massachusetts; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; and Newport, Rhode Island. The Appalachians, already breached by native people from the west, were poised for “the crossing,” as it came to be called by truly American colonists from the east.

At this point, *American Colonies* goes beyond the scope of this introduction to Rhode Island’s near neighbors who, like the distant Spanish and French, turned out to be equally brutal to their native neighbors.

*American Colonies* is a book you may find “nice” or “not nice” or somewhat in-between. The book raises questions, and it certainly answers many of them. It reads easily with no footnotes or endnotes to interrupt the flow. Its expansive annotated bibliography, organized by chapters, reflects modern literature—often controversial.

### Books of Interest in 2002

*War Under Heaven: Pontiac, the Indian Nations, and the British Empire*  
by Gregory Evans Dowd

Although previous treatments ascribe the uprising to trade and land disputes, Dowd argues that Pontiac’s war stemmed from conflicting perceptions of status and sovereignty.

Hardcover, 368 pages  
Baltimore, MD: Johns  
Hopkins University Press  
ISBN: 0801870798  
(Forthcoming October 2002)

*Conquering the American Wilderness: The Triumph of European Warfare in Colonial New England (Native Americans of the Northeast)*  
by Guy Chet

Chet examines how colonists in New England warring with Native Americans and later with the British relied on traditional warfare tactics borrowed from the Europeans rather than tactics developed out of a need to adapt to a new environment.

Library Binding, 248 pages  
Amherst, MA: University of  
Massachusetts Press  
ISBN: 1558493662  
(Forthcoming March 2003)

# Meeting Minutes

The annual meeting of the Order of the First Families of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations was held at Tweet Balzano's Restaurant, Bristol, Rhode Island on 13 October 2001. This was the first annual meeting to be held in the Fall in Rhode Island, replacing the prior annual meetings held each April in Washington, DC. This change of venue for the annual meeting is the result of an amendment to the society's bylaws, approved at the meeting held 18 April 2001.

Governor General Peter Arrott Dixon called the annual meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. He introduced Mary Ruth Northrop, the new editor of *The Lively Experiment*. He noted that the cover for Vol. 4, No. 1 of the magazine was a special one and that the society would be returning to the blue cover for subsequent issues.

Treasurer General Thomas Mayhew Smith read his report. The balance in the society's checking account was \$5,118.02. The certificate of deposit was \$10,500 and was earning six percent interest. The report was filed for audit.

Because of time constraints, a motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the 18 April 2001 meeting in Washington, DC. Secretary General Carolyn Fish Lubker agreed to provide a copy of the minutes for the

## 2001 Annual Meeting, Bristol, RI

by Carolyn Fish Lubker

next edition of *The Lively Experiment*. The motion passed.

Registrar General Lilla McKnight Licht reported that the society had gained ten new members. Two new members (Ann Corson and Joy Hathaway) were present at the annual meeting. The registrar then read the Call of the Ancestral Roll.

Founding Governor General C. Owen Johnson spoke about the great loss to our society of Grahame T. "Chips" Smallwood Jr., who passed away 3 December 2000. Chips was Founding Registrar General and Honorary Governor General. He helped many people with their application papers and was known for his love of fellowship in the many hereditary societies in which he held membership.

Governor General Dixon announced that following the luncheon members and guests would tour Linden Place, a federal mansion built for General George DeWolf and later owned by DeWolf's grandson, Colonel Samuel P. Colt. Linden Place hosted four U.S. Presidents and was the residence of Ethel Barrymore.

As there was no further business the annual meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Carolyn Fish Lubker  
Secretary General



# **RHODE ISLAND**

## **State Facts**

### **Tree**

Red Maple (*Acer Rubrum*)

### **Flower**

Violet (*Viola Palmata*)

### **Song**

"Rhode Island's It for Me"

### **Bird**

Rhode Island Red

### **Rock**

Cumberlandite

### **Shell**

Quahaug (*Mercenaria Mercenaria*)

### **Fruit**

Rhode Island Greening Apple

### **Drink**

Coffee Milk

### **Nickname**

The Ocean State or Little Rhody

# Member News

From Lilla McKnight Licht,  
Registrar General

## Flowers of the Field

64 Ralph LeRoy Daggett (Charter Member)

Charter Member Ralph LeRoy Daggett passed away 27 November 2001. Mr. Daggett served four terms as mayor of Emporia, Kansas. He was also a member of the Emporia City Commission from 1967-77 and taught English and journalism at Emporia State University. In addition to OFFRI&PP, he was a member of many other fraternal and professional organizations. Among them were Veterans of Foreign Wars, Fraternal Order of Eagles, First Families of Rhode Island, Sons of the American Revolution, and Sigma Delta Chi (an honorary fraternity for journalists). Mr. Daggett is survived by his wife, Lucile Sielert Daggett, and his daughter, Ralpheia Daggett Hill.

## Call for Articles

We encourage you to submit articles for publication in forthcoming issues of *The Lively Experiment*. Meeting minutes and member information will be printed regularly. In addition, we are interested in developing the following sections for each issue:

**Meeting Stories**—personal recollections and descriptions of the biannual meetings. Photographs from meeting participants are also welcome.

**Family History**—an examination of founders and their descendants. Previous issues have included articles on William Arnold, John Coggeshall, Jeremy Clarke, John Green, Samuel Gorton, John Mott, John Sandford, Stukely Westcott, and Roger Williams. Articles on founders and their descendants are especially welcome.

**Family Research**—articles dealing with several families or articles about the colony and its development.

**Ancestors OnLine**—articles discussing genealogical websites and Internet research.

**Book Review**—critiques of books written about Rhode Island and early colonial history or genealogy.

Copyright laws prohibit the magazine from printing previously-published material, photographs,

maps, or other artwork unless the magazine receives permission from the copyright holder. All articles and accompanying artwork must include source information.

We also welcome suggestions for how we can improve the magazine for you, the readers. Please transmit your articles and suggestions by e-mail, diskette (3-1/2" only), or type-written copy (double-spaced). Address your e-mail to [sschlick@earthlink.net](mailto:sschlick@earthlink.net), using the subject line "Lively Experiment." Send a printout of your article along with your diskette or your double-spaced, typewritten copy to:

### **The Lively Experiment**

Mary Ruth Northrop, Editor  
300 West Franklin Avenue  
Apartment 401E  
Richmond, VA 23220-4904

#### **Production Schedule**

February, 2003

August, 2003

#### **Deadline for Submission of Articles**

December 5, 2002

June 5, 2003



### **Calendar of Events**

Annual Meeting  
Providence, RI  
4-5 October 2002

Spring Luncheon  
Washington, DC  
16 April 2003

### **Production Schedule**

February 2003  
August 2003

### **Deadline for Submission of Articles**

5 December 2002  
5 June 2003

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Mary Ruth Northrop, Editor  
300 West Franklin Avenue  
Apartment 401E  
Richmond, VA 23220-4904  
T: 804 . 649 . 7249  
F: 202 . 625 . 0642  
E-Mail: [sschlick@earthlink.net](mailto:sschlick@earthlink.net)

To hold forth  
a lively experiment  
that a most flourishing civil  
state may stand and best  
be maintained with  
full liberty in religious  
concernments.

-Roger Williams

# The Lively Experiment



Volume 4, Number 4

# Officers 2001-2003

## **Governor General**

Peter Arrott Dixon  
111 Duke Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-3803

## **Deputy Governor General**

Harold Winthrop Sands  
10 Cherry Creek Road  
Newport, RI 02840

## **Secretary General**

Carolyn Fish Lubker  
P.O. Box 812278  
Wellesley, MA 02482-0016

## **Treasurer General**

Thomas Mayhew Smith  
15 Tenney Street  
Cambridge, MA 02140-1311

## **Registrar General**

James Kevin Raywalt  
7916 Quill Point Drive  
Bowie, MD 20720-4391  
301/352-2919  
Jraywalt@aol.com

## **Chaplain General**

Rev. D. Gene Patterson  
9 West Penn Street  
Muncy, PA 17756-1204

## **Historian General**

Betty Westcott Acker  
2145 Richvale Road  
Nashport, OH 43830-9727

## **Chancellor General**

Marcia Holly Morgan  
4825 Drummond Avenue  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

The  
Lively Experiment

A Biannual Publication of  
The Order of the First Families  
of Rhode Island and  
Providence Plantations  
Founded 16 October 1990



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## The Lively Experiment

### Editor

Mary Ruth Northrop

### Associate Editor & Designer

Stephanie Schlick

### Contributors

James Raywalt

Sue Ann Gardner Shreve

For back issues, contact: Peter Arrott Dixon, 111 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3803

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Thomas Mayhew Smith  
Treasurer General  
OFFRI&PP  
15 Tenney Street  
Cambridge, MA 02140-1311



**Members and their guests are  
cordially invited to attend  
the Spring Luncheon for  
The Order of the First Families of Rhode Island and  
Providence Plantations  
16 April 2003**

The luncheon will be held at  
The Washington Club  
15 Dupont Circle  
Washington, DC

*The Lively Experiment* is looking for reporters and photographers to record the society's activities. Send your notes and snapshots to Mary Ruth Northrop, Editor, *The Lively Experiment*, 300 West Franklin Avenue, Apartment 401E, Richmond, VA 23220-4904.


## From the Editor

Since I last wrote to you life in our country has taken a serious turn—yes, we are at war. I sense restlessness and hopelessness among the people. I wonder how the veterans of King Philip's War would react to our reaction to our war. Let's meet some of those present-day descendants.

Immediately after our October meeting, your editor stayed over to meet some resident Rhode Islanders of ancient lineage. As the guest of Patricia Wyatt, president of the Rhode Island Genealogical Society (P.O. Box 433, Greenville, RI 02828), I attended a meeting in Kingstown of the North Kingstown Genealogical Society, Sally Hilton, president. At a roll call of ancestors I learned that nearly every man and woman in that crowded room was related to me through one or more of my early Rhode Island forebears.

They were eager to hear about the Order of the First Families and to publicize it among family and friends. This was my purpose in visiting with them—to open the door of our society. We need them. We look forward to a real presence of native-born Rhode Islanders among the First Families.

In this issue we meet our new Registrar General, James Raywalt, and read his introductory piece: "Rev. Samuel Newman, Founder and First Minister of Rehoboth, MA, and His Church at Rumsford, RI." We read our standard features, including minutes from Sue Ann Gardner Shreve filling in for Secretary General, Carolyn Fish Lubker. Significantly, we welcome ten new members scattered across the country.





### **Themes for Future Issues**

We are particularly interested in developing the following themes:

The Women of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Indentured Servitude and Slavery

Ministry and Religious Practices

#### **Production Schedule**

August 2003

February 2004

#### **Deadline for Submission of Articles**

5 June 2003

5 January 2004

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## Family History

### **Rev. Samuel Newman, Founder and First Minister of Rehoboth, MA, and His Church at Rumford, RI**

From a work in progress entitled  
*Ye Olde Lookinge Glass,*  
by James Raywalt

Although the Reverend Samuel Newman's church and his settlement were part of Massachusetts during his lifetime (the 17th century), the ground upon which his church and home stood are in present-day Rhode Island. Reverend Newman and his followers, therefore, may be counted among the ancestors through whom membership may be gained in the Order of First Families.

Samuel Newman was baptized at Banbury, Oxfordshire, England on 24 May 1602.<sup>1</sup> Since church doctrine was adamant about the baptismal ceremony occurring very soon after birth (usually within two weeks), we may safely assume Samuel was born earlier that same month. His father, Richard Newman, who was born about 1575, probably in England, made his living as a glover and dealer of leather apparel. The family appears to have lived in respectable standing at Banbury, a town located approximately fifteen miles from Oxford University.

### **Focus on Samuel Newman**

by James Raywalt

The Newman family was noteworthy in England for their adherence to the Protestant religion and for their piety. Samuel's parents bestowed upon him a good education in his early life and then saw to his enrollment at Oxford. He attended Magdalen College and at age received his BA from St. Edmund's Hall on 17 October 1620.<sup>2</sup>

His theological education and association with renowned English ministers of the day led him to his stature in the pulpit at an early age. He frequently substituted for local pastors in their absence but did not have a church of his own until 1625. At the age of 23, he was installed as Rector of Midhope Chapel, Ecclesfield, in the West Riding of Yorkshire. On that occasion, his new congregation presented him with a ministerial staff of rosewood. He remained at that church for ten years.<sup>3</sup>

In 1635 William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury and member of Charles I's Privy Council, had attained enormous power in both Church and State affairs. Seeking to return the keys of the Church of England to Rome, he made a list of Orthodox and Puritan church ministers, whom he scolded or suspended from ministry. Laud's actions distressed Samuel Newman



*Newman Congregational Church, 100 Newman Avenue, Rumford, RI.  
Courtesy of James Raywalt*

and many of his friends, who realized Puritan ministers in England had little promise of a future. That same year, in the company of Rev. Richard Mather, Samuel, with his young family and his sister Elizabeth, sailed for America.<sup>4</sup>

Samuel immediately became involved with the reorganization of the local church, assisting in the drafting of a new church covenant. He resided in Dorchester, and colonial records reflect his usefulness in helping to organize their civil and religious condition. No records exist, however, to determine whether Samuel was ministering to a congregation during his four-year residence at Dorchester.<sup>5</sup>

By 1639, perhaps because of doctrinal disagreements, the churchmen in Weymouth had divided into three contending factions under three different leaders, all vying for control. Under the circumstances, the townspeople urged Samuel to lead them in the ministry of the gospel. After consulting with friends and selling his property, he took charge of the church. He remained in that capacity until the spring of 1644.

Joined by his congregation and others from the nearby village of Hingham, he purchased a tract of land ten miles square from the Massasoit Indians in exchange for a few strands of wampum.<sup>6</sup> Leaving but a small community behind after their departure, Samuel, by common

consent was constituted the founder, namer, and first minister of their new settlement, Rehoboth, the name evidently derived from the book of Genesis.

The first houses of the new village were constructed of logs and had thatched roofs and large stone chimneys. The villagers built the town in a semicircle; called the ring of the town, it was open on the west and the church occupied the center of the ring. The present structure, known as Newman Congregational Church, stands only a few feet away from the original church site.<sup>7</sup>

Inasmuch as the village did not belong to either the Massachusetts or the Plymouth Colony, the townspeople felt the need for a tribunal or court to whom they could petition. To meet their needs, Rev. Newman drafted a proposal for local government that established a council of nine men, chosen by the entire village once a year, who would deliver a majority decision in all matters of dispute. This document is the foundation of the current village doctrine.<sup>8</sup> The settlement was annexed soon afterward to the Plymouth Colony and remained part of the colony until the union of the two colonies in 1691.

### **Newman's Concordance**

Although today Samuel probably is most renowned for founding Rehoboth, in his time he enjoyed some celebrity for publishing *A Concordance for the Bible*. In the 17th century, only partial indexes to the

A LARGE  
AND COMPLETE  
CONCORDANCE  
TO THE BIBLE

*1613* IN ENGLISH, *London*  
According to the last Translation.

First collected by CLEMENT COTTON, and now much  
enlarged and amended for the good both of Schollers and  
others: far exceeding the most perfect that ever was extant in  
our Language, both in ground-work and building,

By SAMUEL NEWMAN, a poor labourer  
in the Lords vineyard.

The manifold use and benefit of this work is sufficiently declared  
in the PREFACES TO THE READER.

JOHN 3. 29. *Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of mee.*



LONDON.

Printed for THOMAS DOWNES and JAMES YOUNG  
At the Sign of the Anchor. MDCCLXIII.

*Title page of Samuel Newman's concordance, printed in  
London in 1613, the same year he settled at Seekonk.*

Bible had been printed; these were works by Cardinal Charo, published during the 13th century, and works by several others in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Newman's concordance was at one time supposed to be the first work of the kind printed in the English language.<sup>9</sup> Compiled by Newman over a period of many years, it is the one on which Cruden's concordance and later versions were based. Leonard Bliss and others report in their works that Samuel labored over his writing every night, his ideas illuminated by burning pine knots and his faith in God.<sup>10</sup>

Three editions of Newman's work, all produced in his lifetime, were printed in London: the first in 1643, the last year of his ministry at Weymouth; the second in 1650, prepared at Rehoboth; and the third in 1658, also prepared at Rehoboth. Newman's Concordance has been pronounced a monument of learning, genius, industry, and skill by many Biblical scholars and was prized in Europe and America for generations. Disastrously, Samuel's publishers at London failed and defrauded him of all pecuniary reward. About the time of his death, another edition was called for. This edition, republished at Cambridge University in 1683 under the title *Cambridge Concordance*, faintly credits his authorship with the initials S.N. A copy of his work is in the Rehoboth Antiquarian collection.

### **Newman's Diary**

Throughout his lifetime, Samuel amassed a significant library of

religious and other works; regrettably, only thirteen years after his death, it was destroyed in the burning of the ring of the town on 28 March 1676, during King Philip's War.<sup>11</sup> Only a fragment of his diary remains, but it is an important one:<sup>12</sup>

Notes or marks of grace I find in myself; not wherein I desire to glory, but to take ground of assurance, and after our apostle's rules, to make my election sure, though I find them but in weak measure: I find, I love God, and desire to love God, principally for himself,

A desire to requite evil with good,

A looking up to God, to see him and his hand, in all things that [befall] me,

A greater fear of displeasing God, than all the world,

A love [of] such Christians as I never saw, or received good from,

A grief, when I see God's commands broken by any person,

A mourning for not finding the assurance of God's love, and the sense of his favour, in that comfortable manner, at one time, as at another; and not being able to serve God as I should,

A willingness to give God the glory of any ability to do good,

A joy, when I am in Christian company, in Godly conference,

A grief, when I perceive it goes ill with Christians, and the contrary,

# Ministers of Newman Church

Gathered in 1643

Samuel Newman	1643 to 1665
Noah Newman	1668 to 1678
Samuel Angier	1679 " 1685
Thomas Greenwood	1694 " 1720
John Greenwood	1721 " 1758
John Carnes	1759 " 1764
Ephraim Hyde	1766 " 1785
John Ellis	1785 " 1796
John Hill	1802 " 1816
James O. Barney	1824 " 1867
Samuel F. Evans	1868 " 1871
Hiram F. Johnson	1872 " 1879
Leverett S. Woodworth	1880 " 1887
Leonard E. Ferris	1888 " 1900
Hutton A. Lucas	1900 " 1916
Foring B. Chase	1917 " 1936
Frank Crook	1936 " 1959
Robert D. Simonton	1959 " 1971
David F. Shire	1971 "

*Newman Congregational Church, 100 Newman Avenue, Rumford, RI.*

*Courtesy of James Raywalt*

A constant performance of  
secret duties, between God and  
my self, morning and evening,

A bewailing of such sins, which  
none in the world can accuse  
me of,

A choosing of suffering to avoid  
sin.

Rev. Newman's annual remuneration was a modest £50. He loved his followers as though they were his family. His contemporaries described him as lively, energetic, and highly eloquent. Rev. Newman died 5 July 1663 at Rehoboth. Rev. Cotton Mather presented the following epitaph to Samuel in Latin:<sup>13</sup>

Thus died the Neander of New-  
England,  
Who in his life had learned how  
to die,  
And whose death may be called  
the Art of dying well.

Samuel's last sermon, delivered 28 June, just one week before his death, was taken from the text of Job 14:14: *All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come*. Sylvanus Chace Newman indicates that although Samuel was in good health at the time of his final sermon, he informed his congregation that his mission on earth was complete. The day he died a few friends and family gathered around him while he received a few words from Deacon Cooper of his church. Samuel Newman is reported to have turned his face to the wall, said, "And now, ye angels of the Lord

Jesus, come do your office," and then peaceably expired.<sup>14</sup>

Samuel was interred in the old burying ground at Seekonk (now Rumford, Rhode Island). Although no tombstone was originally placed at his gravesite, an excellent monument, inscribed with his name, that of his son Noah, and those of several of their successors, was finally dedicated on 4 July 1860.

On 10 June 1624, Samuel married Sibel Featly, daughter of Daniel Featly. She was born 8 April 1604, presumably in Yorkshire, although her family resided in Banbury. Sibel boarded the clergymen that temporarily filled the interim between the death of her husband and succession of her son Noah five years later. She died at Rehoboth on 2 November 1672. To their union were born six children.<sup>15</sup>

1. Samuel Newman was born 6 July 1625 at Banbury, Oxfordshire, England, the son of Samuel Newman and Sibel Featly. He served as a Deacon of his father's church and died 14 December 1711 at Rehoboth, MA. He married first Bathsheba Chickering (b. 23 December 1640 at Dedham; d. 8 August 1687 at Rehoboth, MA) on 6 December 1659 at Dedham, MA. He married second, as her second husband, Theodoria (Johnson) Wiswall. Samuel and Bathsheba had eight children: Mary (who died young), Bathsheba, Samuel, David, John,



- Hopestill, Mary (again), and Antipas.
2. Antipas Newman was born 15 October 1627 at Midhope, Yorkshire, England, the son of Samuel Newman and Sibel Featly. He was a clergyman at Wenham and died 16 October 1672 at Wenham, MA. He married on 10 November 1658 at Wenham Elizabeth Winthrop (b. 24 July 1636; d. 4 December 1716), the daughter of John Winthrop Jr. (1606-76), Governor of Connecticut Colony, and granddaughter of John Winthrop (1588-1649), Governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony.<sup>14</sup> Elizabeth married second Dr. Zerubbabel Endicott, son of John Endicott, Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Antipas and Elizabeth had seven known children: John (who died young), John (again), Fitts Samuel (who died young), Samuel (again), Elizabeth, Sibel, and Waitstill. There were possibly other children.
  3. Patience Newman was born circa 1629 at Midhope, Yorkshire, England, the daughter of Samuel Newman and Sibel Featly. She married Nathaniel Sparhawke (or Sparrowhawke) (b. c. 1621 in England; d. January 1687), the son of Nathaniel and Mary (Angier) Sparhawke, on 3 October 1649 at Cambridge, MA. Patience and Nathaniel had eight children: Nathaniel (who died young), Anne, Elizabeth, Esther, Mary, Samuel, Nathaniel (again), and Sybill.
  4. Noah Newman was born 10 January 1631/2 at Midhope, Yorkshire, England, the son of Samuel Newman and Sibel Featly. Noah succeeded his father as clergyman at Rehoboth and died 16 April 1678 at Rehoboth. He married Joanna Flint, daughter of Reverend Henry Flint of Braintree, MA, on 30 December 1669 at Braintree, MA. Noah and Joanna had three children: Henry, Samuel, and Sibil.
  5. Elinor Newman was born circa 1634, in England, probably at Midhope, Yorkshire, the daughter of Samuel Newman and Sibel Featly. She married Edward Hull on 20 January 1652/3 at Boston, MA.
  6. Hopestill Newman was born 29 November 1641 at Weymouth, MA, the daughter of Samuel Newman and Sibel Featly. She died 7 March 1673/4 at Taunton, MA. She married, as his first wife, Reverend George Shove (b. 20 May 1634 at Horley [or possibly Gatton], Surrey, England; d. 21 April 1687 at Taunton), the son of Edward and Margery (Sandys) Shove, on 12 July 1664 at Taunton, MA.<sup>16</sup> They resided at Taunton, where the Dorchester churchmen ordained George the town's third minister. Hopestill and George had six children: Edward, Elizabeth, Seth, Nathaniel, Samuel, and Sarah.

## NOTES

1. Sylvanus Chace Newman, *Rehoboth in the Past: An Historical Oration Delivered on the Fourth of July, 1860*. (Pawtucket, RI: Robert Sherman, 1860), p. 11, citing Banbury Church Records.
2. Frederick Lewis Weis, *The Colonial Clergy and the Colonial Churches of New England*. (Lancaster, MA: Society of the Descendants of the Colonial Clergy, 1936), p. 149.
3. Id.; Newman, *Rehoboth in the Past*, p. 13. The rosewood staff was still owned by a member of the family as late as 1860.
4. Rev. George H. Tilton, *A History of Rehoboth, Massachusetts* (Boston, MA: privately printed, 1918), p. 18. cf. Dr. John G. Erhardt, *Rev. & Mr. Samuel Newman* (Seekonk, MA: privately printed, 1979), pp. 3-4; Leonard Bliss Jr., *The History of Rehoboth, Bristol County, Massachusetts* (Boston, MA: Otis, Broaders, and Company, 1836), p. 54, which notes that *Massachusetts Historical Collection*, Series 1, Vol. IX, p. 191 shows Newman as a member of the Dorchester church in 1636. Most earlier sources place his arrival in that settlement in 1636 but are clearly in error.
5. He may have assisted in the ministry that replaced Reverend John Warham, who removed with nearly half the church members to the Connecticut colony and settled Windsor.
6. The estimated value of the beads or shells used to purchase the land was £2,10s, "plus a coat which the chief made them throw in to boot."
- Newman, *Rehoboth in the Past*, p. 51, n.(f).
7. Id., p. 16. According to Rev. Lovett, Associate Pastor, the current structure dates from 1820. Today the Phanuel Bishop house, built in 1771 and located on Greenwood Avenue, stands at the site of the Newman homestead.
8. The document is maintained in the town's archives, and the signatures are clearly legible.
9. The title page reads: *A Large and Complete Concordance to the Bible in English. According to the last Translation. First collected by Clement Cotton, and now much enlarged and amended for the good both of Schollers and others: far exceeding the most perfect that ever was extant in our Language, both in ground-work and building, by Samuel Newman, a poor labourer in the Lords vineyard.*
10. See, e.g., Bliss, *The History of Rehoboth*, p. 55.
11. Tilton, *A History of Rehoboth*, pp. 48-49.
12. Rev. Cotton Mather, *Magnalia Christi Americana: Or, the Ecclesiastical History of New-England*. (1702; reprint, New York: Arno Press, 1972), pp. 115-16; William B. Sprague, *Annals of the American Pulpit*, Vol. 1 (New York: Robert Carter & Bros., 1866), pp. 115-16.
13. Mather, *Magnalia Christi Americana*, p. 116.
14. Newman, *Rehoboth in the Past*, p. 32.
15. Samuel made his will 18 November 1661. According to Sylvanus Chace



*Newman Church Cemetery,  
Old Burying Ground, Rumford, RI.  
Courtesy of James Raywalt*

Newman, it "seems not to have been discovered by any of the historians or genealogists." Newman's work extracts information from the will, including the reference to Samuel's children, which names his sons, making bequests to each, and also makes the provision that his son "Antipas...pay forty pounds in two years to his three sisters...", this establishing beyond doubt that Samuel sired three daughters. Until recently, all references to Samuel's children counted only his three sons and one daughter, Hopestill. See Newman, *Rehoboth in the Past*, pp. 54-55. A transcript of the will and an inventory of his estate may be found in C.H. Simmons Jr., editor, *Plymouth Colony Records*, Vol. 1 (Camden, ME: Picton Press, 1996), pp. 389-91. Erhardt, in *Rev. & Mr. Samuel Newman*, p. 4, et seq., notes the names of the two daughters who have been missing from the list. The data pertaining to the Reverend's children and their families have been culled from the published vital records of numerous towns.

16. Their place of marriage is not certainly known. Records of their marriage appear in both the Taunton and the Rehoboth record books.

Inquiries to: James Raywalt (jraywalt@aol.com). James Raywalt is a member of twenty-two lineage societies, the national head of Flagon & Trencher: Descendants of Colonial Tavern Keepers, and the founding president of the Hereditary Order of the Families of the Presidents and First Ladies of America. He is the author of seven published genealogies, the founding editor of the *Enyart Family Newsletter*, and has written for the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*.

# Ancestors OnLine

The bricks and mortar of research—birth, death, probate, and land records—are not enough for some genealogists to locate their Rhode Island ancestors in place and time. They want to see where their ancestors lived so they can fully understand their ancestor's place in history. OFFRI&PP annual meetings add to members' understanding through their tours of well-known architectural sites. Members who attend the tours see first hand where and how their ancestors lived.

But what can members do if they cannot travel to Rhode Island and see these places in person? Various sites on the Internet offer virtual tours of Rhode Island. Few showed as much potential for detail and scope as the web site for the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA). Founded by William Sumner Appleton in 1910 and headquartered at the Harrison Gray Otis House in Boston, SPNEA is committed to preserving and sharing New England's cultural and architectural history. The web site's primary function is to describe and promote SPNEA activities and properties, but it contains a wealth of information for the virtual tourist who finds beauty in the angle of a gable, the texture of a shingle, or the intricacy of a carved mantelpiece.

## Preserving Our Architectural Heritage

by Stephanie Schlick

The homepage ([www.spnea.org](http://www.spnea.org)) appears to be well organized. Each page contains a handy pull-down menu of shortcuts to other pages within the site. The index on the left side of the page and the text links at the bottom allow visitors to navigate freely between sections of the site without having to rely on the troublesome, time consuming "back" button.

### Historic Properties

SPNEA owns and operates thirty-five properties in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. The oldest property is Jackson House, built in 1664 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The youngest property, Gropius House, was built in 1938 in Lincoln, Massachusetts and was the home of Walter Gropius, founder of the Bauhaus school of architecture.

Twelve properties date to the 17th century, the period of greatest interest to OFFRI&PP members. The Rhode Island properties are Watson Farm in Jamestown, Clemence-Irons House in Johnston (built c. 1680), Arnold House in Lincoln (built c. 1687), and Casey Farm in Saundertown. Each link under "Places to Visit" contains images and text describing when the property was built, how it was preserved, and how it is used today.



*Arnold House, c. 1687, Lincoln, RI.  
Courtesy of SPNEA*

The section also features three virtual tours. The tours of Gropius House and Beauport contain narrative, floor plans, and images. The tour of Cogswell's Grant, the summer home of Bertram K. and Nina Fletcher Little, collectors of American decorative arts, is a multimedia presentation viewable with Real Player. (Real Player software is available for free download through various links on the site.)

### **Programs and Events**

For visitors who seek hands-on experience to learn how their ancestors lived, the society hosts programs and events throughout the year. The site lists activities by state and month. The Rhode Island properties feature a range of activities from sheep-shearing demonstrations to wall-building workshops to watercolor workshops. One activity for the more active members attending the OFFRI&PP annual meeting in 2003 would entail a trip to Watson Farm in Jamestown on

Sunday, October 5. Members could accompany farm managers Don and Heather Minto on a two-mile hike over the course of three hours through the farm's fields and along its shoreline. The managers will be discussing the farm's historical context as seen through changes in the land and people of Narragansett Bay.

### **Preservation and Stewardship**

Preservationists understand they can never truly possess an architectural site, although the site may possess them for a time. Like genealogists, they are stewards of history in a long line of succession stretching back into the ages and forward for future generations. SPNEA's stewardship program attracts property owners interested in protecting their property with a preservation restriction. Recorded with the deed, the preservation restriction gives SPNEA the right in perpetuity to make sure interior and exterior work preserves the architectural features that make the property unique.

This page explains how property owners in New England can become involved in the stewardship program. According to SPNEA, its effectiveness for attracting people to the program will be greatly enhanced when the page contain links to features on property owners participating in the program.

### **Resources and Publications**

SPNEA's collection of artifacts, artwork, furniture, and household ephemera from New England is the largest in the U.S. The first page of

this section briefly describes the collection, library, and archives and emphasizes the society's interest in placing objects from the collection in their original context.

### Library and Archives

For preservationists trying to restore an existing building or genealogists searching for a building built by an ancestor and torn down long ago, a book, an engraving, a photograph, a postcard, any document at all can open the door to the past. SPNEA's Library and Archives contain more than one million items, including thousands of images, architectural drawings, and family papers.

### Online Exhibitions

A fraction of SPNEA's collection is now available through well-curated online exhibitions. The site currently features *Lost Gardens of New England*, a three-part exhibition on American landscape history; *Boston Close Up*, an audiovisual tour of everyday life in the city at the turn of the century; and *Newbury Furniture*, featuring items from SPNEA's furniture collection.

SPNEA will feature a special collection, *Cherished Possessions: A New England Legacy*, online as a multimedia presentation to advertise its exhibition opening at the Colby College Museum of Art in Waterville, Maine on 18 July 2003. The exhibition of costumes, furniture, paintings, and textiles will travel to museums throughout the country. This exhibition tells the story of the everyday life of objects. From a hand-painted chest of

drawers that survived two house fires to a portrait of a wealthy gentleman who died in penury, each item in the collection is displayed with its own unique history.

### Publications

SPNEA's publications, *Historic New England Magazine* and *Old Time New England*, are each given their own page, which contains an archive of past issues for reading online or downloading in PDF. Two articles in particular would interest Rhode Islanders. *Historic New England Magazine* features "A Place Beyond Price" ([www.spnea.org/NEHM/2002FallPage02.htm](http://www.spnea.org/NEHM/2002FallPage02.htm)), an article on Casey Farm. Its 300 acres are part of land acquired from the Narragansett Indians in 1659 and owned by the Casey family for nearly 250 years. An older, more scholarly article entitled "Architec-



Casey Farm, c. 1750, Saunderstown, RI.  
Courtesy of SPNEA

tural Change in Colonial Rhode Island: The Mott House as a Case Study" ([www.spnea.org/resources/articles/pdf247.pdf](http://www.spnea.org/resources/articles/pdf247.pdf)) appears in *Old Time New England*. This article examines the distinctive forms used in Rhode Island vernacular architecture as seen through the deconstruction of the Mott House on Aquidneck Island in Portsmouth. The article and its illustrations clearly show how one house changed from a simple structure only sixteen feet square to a ten-room house over the course of 300 years.

### **Museum Shops**

The museum shop features books organized by category, decorative arts, jewelry, and furniture. SPNEA's Historic New England Collection features reproduction furnishings, wall coverings, fabrics, etc. adapted from originals in the SPNEA collections and shown in the house museums. The page links off-site to the manufacturers producing these items, but only one page contains a specific link to the collection. Only the most diligent visitor would want to wade through the manufacturer's pages to find pieces made especially for SPNEA. An online catalog of the collection would greatly improve the shopping page, even if the catalog directed buyers to the individual manufacturers.

### **Member Benefits**

SPNEA depends on member contributions to preserve its legacy for future generations. Average membership levels range from \$25 for a national membership for people

who live outside of New England to \$250 for a supporting membership. All members receive benefits according to their contribution level, including the use of the Library and Archives, a subscription to their quarterly magazine, *Historic New England*, and a copy of the *SPNEA Guide*, a directory for their properties. People interested in joining the society can call the membership office (617/ 227-3957, ext. 273) or register online.

Architectural sites are available today because organizations like SPNEA believe preserving cultural and architectural history illuminates the past and enlightens the present. SPNEA is making preservation come alive, whether visitors are tramping across a historic farm landscape in their wellies or navigating through a virtual landscape in their house slippers.

#### **SPNEA Properties in Rhode Island**

Watson Farm  
Jamestown, R.I.  
401-423-0005

Clemence-Irons House  
Johnston, R.I.  
781-891-4882, ext. 237

Arnold House  
Lincoln, R.I.  
781-891-4882, ext. 237

Casey Farm  
Saunderstown, R.I.  
401-295-1030

## Book Review

### *House Histories: A Guide to Tracing the Genealogy of Your Home*

Sally Light

Spencertown, NY: Golden Hill Press, 1989 [ISBN 8-9614876-1-5] 300pp, \$14.95

Sometimes we live in houses or apartments. Sometimes our homes are cabins or castles. Sometimes our homes belong to ourselves, our children, our parents, or our remote ancestors. We wonder about these places while we live in them, when we stroll by them on urban streets or country lanes, or when we glimpse them nestled in valleys separated by the lanes of interstate highway we are speeding along.

Who built these homes? When did our ancestors live there? What did the land look like when the homes were built?

Sally Light's *House Histories* is one approach to answering some of our questions. This book, liberally illustrated with line drawings, is said to be "a guide for owners of older homes, for preservationists, for residential real estate brokers, for historical societies, town historians, and others who have questions. . . surrounding old houses."

The first of its several sections begins with a description of the

### **Where We Lived**

by Mary Ruth Northrop

house, both exterior and interior. The sections relating to the paper chase (deeds and mortgages, wills and probates, genealogies of former owners) reminded me of my earliest awareness that houses, too, have genealogies. Many years ago on a tour of Newport, I was puzzled by the historical restoration taking place. I asked my guide how the preservationists knew what to do to make the homes historically accurate. This wise person responded, "The same way you do your genealogy." The book also contains surveyor's plats and surveys showing how roads were laid out long before interstate highways ran through the land, revealing the way it had been for our ancestors. The final chapter contains, as all good studies should, an analysis of findings. The author, a house historian, devotes a section to her profession and concludes with appendixes, a glossary, a bibliography, and an index.

How does this book relate to our experience in and with Rhode Island house history? On tour, society members have toured many of the houses captured in narrative and photographs in *The Lively Experiment*. Some houses have seemed primitive; others elegant or





*Jamestown windmill.*

unusual (such as the south Block Island lighthouse) (vol. 3, n. 1). Very different homes have been featured in previous issues: (1) the Hall-Palmer house (vol. 2, n. 4) belonging to former governor general Elmer Hall Palmer in South Kingstown is an example of early construction in the framed, massed plan common to 17th century New England and (2) the Babcock-Smith house (vol. 3, n. 4) in Westerly is an example of Georgian construction.

Other examples of the framed, massed plan homes of second generation Rhode Islanders (and from my ancestry, although I have not been inside them) have not been treated in this publication. One belonged to Stephen Northup, who resided in Wickford. Another is Edward Carr's home on Jamestown (Canonicut) Island. The homes of this generation are known as folk or postmedieval English houses.

Throughout this period, many homes or plots contained ancillary additions such as the Jamestown windmill.

"House Histories" deserves a place on library shelves among other house-oriented books. It is simple enough to meet the expectations of neophytes, yet challenging enough to appeal to experienced persons of many disciplines, such as historians, genealogists, conservationists, and so on.

If you are a direct male descendant of someone who was born in one of the six New England colonies (MA, ME, NH, RI, CT, VT) before July 4, 1776, consider joining the National Society Sons of Colonial New England



For information on its activities and eligibility requirements, contact James Raywalt, Registrar General  
7916 Quill Point Drive  
Bowie, MD 20720-4391  
e-mail: jraywalt@aol.com

### Recent Relevant Books

*Architecture and Town Planning in Colonial North America (Creating the North American Landscape)*

by James D. Kornwolf

A three-volume set containing more than 3,000 illustrations, this work examines the environmental, political, and social determinants of colonial architecture.

Hardcover, 1,904 pages

Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press

ISBN: 0801859867

(November 2002)

*The New England Landscape*

by Joseph S. Wood and Michael P. Steinitz

Wood examines the difference between the true colonial New England, comprised of modest farmsteads dispersed over a large area and organized into towns and villages, and the image of an idealized colonial landscape created in the 19th century, comprised of homes surrounding a picturesque town common.

Paperback, 223 pages

Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press

ISBN: 0801866138

(Forthcoming, August 2003)

In-print edition available in hardcover

# Meeting Minutes

## 2002 Annual Meeting, Providence, RI

The annual meeting of the Order of the First Families of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations was held at Hemenway's Restaurant, Providence, Rhode Island on 5 October 2002. Governor General Peter Arrott Dixon called the meeting to order at 1:25 p.m.

His first announcement dealt with the council meeting held 4 October 2003 at the Squantum Club. Council members in attendance were Governor General Dixon, Deputy Governor General Harold Winthrop Sands, Treasurer General Thomas Mayhew Smith, Registrar General Lilla McKnight Licht, Chancellor General Marcia Holly Morgan, and Honorary Governor General Elmer Hall Palmer. The council regretfully accepted Lilla McKnight Licht's resignation from the office of Registrar General. The council appointed James Kevin Raywalt to fill out Mrs. Licht's unexpired term of one year.

Mr. Dixon noted Secretary General Carolyn Fish Lubker's absence from the meeting and announced the minutes of the previous meeting would not be read. He also asked Sue Ann Gardner Shreve to take the minutes of the meeting.

Following this announcement Treasurer General Thomas Mayhew Smith read his report. The balance in

the society's checking account on 10 October 2001 was \$6,011.20. The balance on 18 September 2002 was \$7,573.76. Noteworthy expenses included *The Lively Experiment* (\$808.94); mailings (\$525.55); Bailey, Banks, and Biddle (\$50.94); April 2002 dinner (\$951.75); postage (\$40.80); and certificates (\$10.00).

Registrar General Lilla McKnight Licht welcomed new members John O'Malley, Carl Morgan, Steven Sands Jr., and Mary Westcott Doores. She announced there were 182 current members and 15 applications had been recently approved. Letters of acceptance would be mailed to the people who had submitted the applications. She also discussed the possibility of changing the month of the membership cut-off date of December to an earlier month in 1647. The change would be determined by official records from Providence Plantation. If the cut-off date changes, amendment to the society's bylaws will be necessary.

The editor of *The Lively Experiment*, Mary Ruth Northrop, reported names of recently deceased members would continue to be printed in the magazine. She acknowledged and thanked Sue Ann Garner Shreve, the wife of member Eugene Sheldon Shreve II, for writing an article on her husband's



*Members and guests at the dinner hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Winthrop Sands.*

ancestors. She encouraged other members to write articles about their OFFRI&PP families and submit them for publication.

Ms. Northrop suggested the society consider placing information such as membership eligibility requirements, dues, and officers' names on the Rhode Island genealogical website and with the Rhode Island Genealogical Society. Ms. Northrop's motion was seconded by Mr. Smith. The members present voted, and the motion passed to proceed.

Ms. Northrop moved to place advertisements for OFFRI&PP in publications at a minimal cost. The choice of publications would be

determined by the council. Her motion was seconded by Mr. Smith. The members present voted, and the motion passed.

Governor General Dixon asked the new Registrar General James Kevin Raywalt to update the society's roster of proven lineages and if convenient publish them in *The Lively Experiment*. Mr. Dixon adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sue Ann Gardner Shreve*

Sue Ann Gardner Shreve  
(acting for Carolyn Fish Lubker,  
Secretary General)

# Member Forum



*The Lively Experiment* is proud to introduce a new column. The member forum is meant to encourage interaction and communication between members researching their ancestors in Rhode Island and elsewhere.

Queries and answers to queries will be posted here free of charge to members. If you would like to submit a query, please make sure your query contains the following information:

- \* Full name of the person, with the SURNAME in CAPITAL letters, given name in lower case.
- \* Known dates of birth, death, and marriage for the person and family members.
- \* Most specific location known for this person.
- \* Person's spouse(s).
- \* Person's parents.
- \* Person's children.
- \* Your specific question about this person.
- \* Your full name and membership number.

\* Your correct address. If you wish to receive answers by e-mail, please include that address, too.

Submit your written queries to:

## **The Lively Experiment**

Mary Ruth Northrop, Editor  
300 West Franklin Avenue  
Apartment 401E  
Richmond, VA 23220-4904

Submit your e-mail queries to:  
[sschlick@earthlink.net](mailto:sschlick@earthlink.net)

Seeking all information concerning wife of Ebenezer<sup>5</sup> NORTHUP (William<sup>4</sup>, Nicholas<sup>3</sup>, Stephen<sup>2</sup>, Stephen<sup>1</sup>) born 25 December 1774, North Kingstown, RI (NK records). Letter of 1922 from Ernest A. Northrup to William A. Northrop states: "She was Polly Lyon, daughter of a Judge Lyon of near Hartford, CT," born possibly October 1789. Advise Mary R. Northrop (#70) at above address.

# Member News

From James Kevin Raywalt  
Registrar General

## New Members

- 177 Mary Anne (Morgan) Carter  
(Life Member)  
12423 Bristol Commons Circle  
Tampa, FL 33626-2410  
Ancestor: Roger Williams
- 178 Myron Crenshaw Smith  
(Life Member)  
2250 64th Avenue  
Greeley, CO 80634-8907  
Ancestor: Edward Wilcox
- 179 Joel Philip Jerauld  
6800 Rolando Kools Drive  
La Mesa, CA 91941  
Ancestor: Samuel Gorton
- 180 Nadine Lois (Campbell)  
Brunhofer  
7844 East Meseto Avenue  
Mesa, AZ 85208-5091  
Ancestor: William Wickenden
- 181 Virginia (Snider) Chase  
(Life Member)  
1221 Laurel Avenue  
Venice, FL 34292-2922  
Ancestor: Roger Williams
- 182 Mary Westcot Doores  
13641 Myrica Court  
Jacksonville, FL 32224  
Ancestor: Stukley Westcott
- 183 Robert Pond Vivian  
(Life Member)  
827 Lamberts Mills Road  
Westfield, NJ 07090-4771  
Ancestor: George Way
- 184 Martin Leslie Chase  
(Life Member)  
Fordham University  
411 East Fordham Road  
The Bronx, NY 10458-5148  
Ancestor: Roger Williams
- 185 Timothy Lester Jacobs  
15 North Moodus Road  
Moodus, CT 06469  
Ancestor: Roger Williams
- 186 Suzanne Butler Bell Fichter  
4502 Orr Drive  
Chantilly, VA 20151-2524  
Ancestor: John Tripp

**Calendar of Events**

Spring Luncheon  
Washington, DC  
16 April 2003

**Production Schedule**

August 2003  
February 2004

**Deadline for  
Submission of Articles**

5 June 2003  
5 January 2004

***The Lively Experiment***

Mary Ruth Northrop, Editor  
300 West Franklin Avenue  
Apartment 401E  
Richmond, VA 23220-4904  
T: 804 . 649 . 7249  
F: 202 . 625 . 0642  
E-Mail: [sschlick@earthlink.net](mailto:sschlick@earthlink.net)



To hold forth  
a lively experiment  
that a most flourishing civil  
state may stand and best  
be maintained with  
full liberty in religious  
concernments.

-Roger Williams



# The Lively Experiment



Volume 4, Number 5

# Officers 2001-2003

## **Governor General**

Peter Arrott Dixon  
111 Duke Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-3803

## **Deputy Governor General**

Harold Winthrop Sands  
10 Cherry Creek Road  
Newport, RI 02840

## **Secretary General**

Carolyn Fish Lubker  
P.O. Box 812278  
Wellesley, MA 02482-0016

## **Treasurer General**

Thomas Mayhew Smith  
15 Tenney Street  
Cambridge, MA 02140-1311

## **Registrar General**

James Kevin Raywalt  
7916 Quill Point Drive  
Bowie, MD 20720-4391  
301/352-2919  
Jraywalt@aol.com

## **Chaplain General**

Rev. D. Gene Patterson  
9 West Penn Street  
Muncy, PA 17756-1204

## **Historian General**

Betty Westcott Acker  
2145 Richvale Road  
Nashport, OH 43830-9727

## **Chancellor General**

Marcia Holly Morgan  
4825 Drummond Avenue  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

The  
Lively Experiment

A Biannual Publication of  
The Order of the First Families  
of Rhode Island and  
Providence Plantations  
Founded 16 October 1990

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## The Lively Experiment

### Editor

Mary Ruth Northrop

### Associate Editor & Designer

Stephanie Schlick

### Contributors

Lilla McKnight Licht

James Raywalt

For back issues, contact:

James Raywalt

7916 Quill Point Drive

Bowie, MD 20720-4391

(301/352-2919 or

Jraywalt@aol.com)



## Orders for Insignia

Send your order to:

Peter Arrott Dixon

Governor General

OFFRI&PP

111 Duke Street

Alexandria, VA 22314-3803

### Large Medals

Sterling	\$131.40
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Bronze finish	\$79.15
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### Miniature Medals

Sterling	\$68.70
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Bronze finish	\$47.80
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Rosettes	\$5.75
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Certificates	\$15.00
--------------	---------

All prices include shipping and handling. Make checks payable to OFFRI&PP and include your membership number.

Mail your check to:

Thomas Mayhew Smith

Treasurer General

OFFRI&PP

15 Tenney Street

Cambridge, MA 02140-1311



**Members and their guests are  
cordially invited to attend the  
2003 Annual Meeting and Fall Assembly for  
The Order of the First Families of Rhode Island and  
Providence Plantations  
3 & 4 October 2003  
Little Compton and Newport, Rhode Island**

**Schedule of Events**

Dinner at the Clambake Club  
Tour of Little Compton Historical Society  
Annual Meeting Luncheon  
Visit to Quaker Meeting House  
Lecture by Bert Lippincott  
(Registrar General of the Rhode Island Genealogical  
Society and Director of the Newport Historical Society)  
Dinner at the Viking Hotel

*The Lively Experiment* is looking for reporters and  
photographers to record the society's activities. Send your  
notes and snapshots to Mary Ruth Northrop,  
Editor, *The Lively Experiment*, 300 West Franklin Avenue,  
Apartment 401E, Richmond, VA 23220-4904.

## From the Editor

Many years ago when the librarians at the magnificent, second-floor reading room of the National Archives in Washington, DC knew their patrons by name, I frequented that room. My request for documents was often for a census record. These original records came in heavy cloth-bound volumes, two feet wide by three feet high and three to five inches thick. I remember reading beautiful, fading script on ancient paper.

One day while searching for my Northrop forbears (they spelled it "Northup") in the 1790 census of Washington County, Rhode Island, I came upon a Caesar Northup, a free, nonwhite head of a four-person household in North Kingstown—my Rhode Island town! Amazing! Now much research later I wish to share some of my findings with you. I also wish to thank Thelma Mealy (Mrs. Milton) Robinson, a descendant of free people of color in Goochland County, Virginia, for reading this article and providing a personal point-of-view. This study of slavery in the northern colonies continues with Ancestors OnLine.

Lilla Licht shares the text of her genealogical presentation at the April meeting in Washington, DC.

The luncheon was well attended by old and new members in town for the spring meetings of many patriotic societies.

James Raywalt likewise shares member news. We are a growing society and welcome our three new members. We also mourn the loss of eight, five of whom were charter members. To the families and friends of these eight, we extend our heartfelt sympathies.



### Editorial Update

Do you want to know more about the Newman Congregational Church of Rumford, featured in our last issue (Vol. 4, No. 4)? *Rhode Island Roots* has recently published "The Newman Congregational Church Marriage Records, 1897-1950" as a series in Volume 28, Numbers 1 to 4, with "...Corrections to Arnold" in Volume 29, Number 1. For more information write to the Rhode Island Genealogical Society, PO Box 433, Greenville, RI 02828.

### **Themes for Future Issues**

We are particularly interested in developing the following themes:

The Women of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Ministry and Religious Practices

#### **Production Schedule**

February 2004

August 2004

#### **Deadline for Submission of Articles**

5 January 2004

5 June 2004

### **Call for Articles**

We encourage you to submit articles for forthcoming issues. Meeting minutes, member information, and member queries will be printed regularly. In addition, we are interested in developing the following sections for each issue:

**Meeting Stories**—personal recollections and descriptions of the biannual meetings. Photographs from meeting participants are especially welcome.

**Family History**—an examination of founders and their descendants.

**Family Research**—articles dealing with several families or articles about the colony and its development.

**Ancestors OnLine**—articles discussing genealogical Web sites and Internet research.

**Book Review**—critiques of books written about Rhode Island and early colonial history or genealogy.

Copyright laws prohibit the magazine from printing previously-published material, photographs, maps, or other artwork unless the magazine receives permission from the copyright holder. All articles and accompanying artwork must include source information.

We also welcome suggestions for how we can improve the magazine. Please transmit your articles and suggestions by e-mail, diskette (3-1/2" only), or type-written copy (double-spaced). Address your e-mail to [sschlick@earthlink.net](mailto:sschlick@earthlink.net), using the subject line "Lively Experiment." Send a printout of your article along with your diskette or your double-spaced, typewritten copy to:

#### **The Lively Experiment**

Mary Ruth Northrop, Editor  
300 West Franklin Avenue  
Apartment 401E  
Richmond, VA 23220-4904

## Family Research

Slavery was already a way of life among native people of the Americas when Spanish explorers arrived in the West Indies late in the fifteenth century. Colonists following along enslaved those people as they spread from island to island. When they perceived a need for more workers on their rice and sugar plantations, they turned to Africa to meet that need. English colonists did not lag far behind. Indeed, the first Africans were brought to Virginia in 1619 to work on tobacco plantations, even before the first Pilgrims landed at Plymouth.

### The Colony

A bicentennial work, *Colonial Rhode Island, A History* (James 1975) first mentions enslavement of the Narragansetts and Wampanoags at the close of the last of two brutal Indian wars. The book brackets slavery between the close of King Philip's War (1675-76) and the American Revolution (1774-83), but is silent about precise dates.

The first mention of Negro slaves appears in John Sanford's inventory of 1653; it lists three. Earlier in the seventeenth century Negroes came into the colony from Africa through the West Indies and up the North Atlantic trading route. Direct

### Slave Owners and Slaves in Early Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

by Mary Ruth Northrop

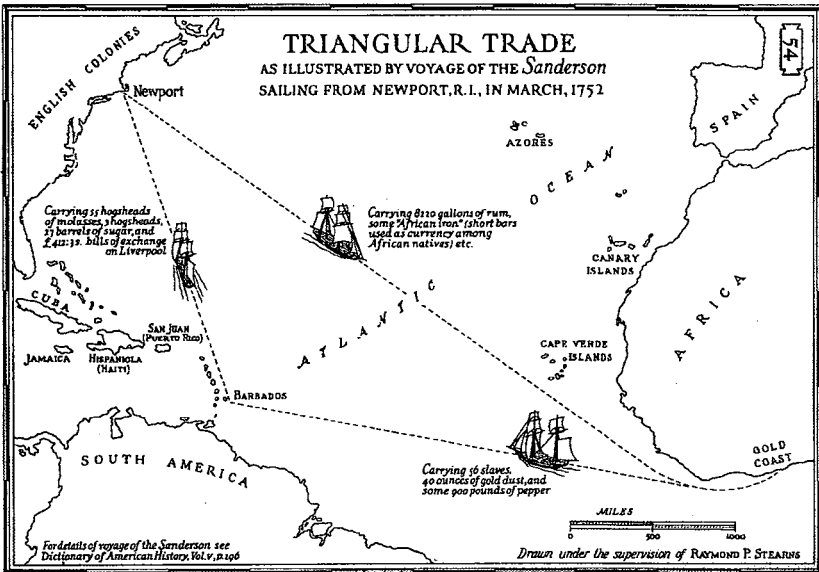
Rhode Island voyages to Africa did not begin until 1699. With religious turmoil and Indian wars behind them, the colonists entered the commercial age of shipbuilding and trading with far-off places.

Responding in 1708 to a request from London, Governor Samuel Cranston noted that the figures he provided (later published in Bartlett's *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England*) constituted the first population census ever taken in the colony. Militia counts had been made every five years. At that time, 7,181 inhabitants lived in nine towns. Of these, 1,015 were freemen (citizens), 1,362 were militia (all men between 16 and 60 years belonged by law to the militia), 56 white servants, and 426 black servants. The rest were men who were not yet citizens, women, and children.

### The Owners

*The Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island* (Austin 1982) is one of the first, if not the first, resource a family historian seeks when beginning research for a Rhode Island family. Here may be found an immigrant ancestor's Old World origin and usually a place of first settlement, not always in Rhode





*Figure 1. Map of Triangular Trade. From Atlas of American History, by Adams, James Truslow, c 1943, Charles Scribner's Sons. Reprinted by permission of The Gale Group.*

Island. Often, the immigrant ancestor moved to Rhode Island from Massachusetts. Beyond names and the basics of birth, marriage, and death dates for the man, his wife or wives, and their children, the dictionary contains a wealth of information, especially information recorded after death.

Does a man die testate with property and a will to distribute that property? Does he die intestate without a will but with property still to be distributed through administration? Or does he die without significant property and perhaps no heir, thus leaving no will and needing no administration?

Both wills and administrations require an inventory, and many aspects of a decedent's life can be explored in a study of that inventory. Was he literate? Did he own a Bible? Did he express his military status by bequeathing a sword? Had he accumulated acreage or did he leave only an urban home lot? Does a wife who survives leave a will of her own? Or is her inheritance lost to a child or new husband?

One of the most precious possessions a will conveyed was a slave. Ownership represented status and wealth; it required a will. Through these wills, we can identify the first-

generation men and women who, during the mid to late-seventeenth century, owned slaves and manumitted them or distributed them to a wife, son, or daughter.

The dictionary lists 458 men in the first generation. Yet the counting is inexact because wives are not counted apart from their husbands; children named in the second generation overlap the first and third, and slaves whether named or not are silent souls. The timeline is also quite fluid: Some first generation colonists arrived late in the century, others died early, and others lived on into the next century.

Of these 458 people, 88 men who died before 1700 left wills, 81 required administration, and 18 had neither wills nor administration. Nineteen women left wills and five required administration. Of these, nine early Rhode Island ancestors left wills mentioning slaves, and the widows of three of these men left wills.

In 1653, John Sanford of Portsmouth left a will for an estate valued at £824. The will included three unnamed Negro slaves: a man, woman, and boy of unspecified value. In 1696, John's widow Bridget left a will of unspecified value that did not mention slaves (*Dictionary* 171).

In 1671, Richard Borden of Portsmouth left a will for an estate valued at £1,572. The will included five unnamed Negro slaves: a man

and woman valued together at £30 and three children valued at £25 (*Dictionary* 23).

In 1673, William Brenton of Newport left a will for an estate valued at £10,768. The will included six slaves of unspecified value: Negroes Abraham, Antonia, Rose, Zipporah, and Samson; and Indian Edom. Abraham and Antonia were to be freed one year after his wife's death (*Dictionary* 252).

In 1681, Philip Sherman of Portsmouth left a will; neither the value of his estate nor his unnamed Indian slaves were specified (*Dictionary* 178).

In 1687, John Peabody of Newport left a will for an estate valued at £103. His will included two Negro slaves, Thomas and Honeyball, valued at £18 (*Dictionary* 145).

In 1691, Noel Mew of Newport left a will that specified neither the value of his estate nor his three slaves. His slaves were named as mulatto George, Indian Jenny, and Negro Bess. In this case the name "Mew" may be a misreading for "Tew," the first being a rare name, the second a common one (*Dictionary* 133).

In 1692, Peter George of New Shoreham left a will that specified neither the value of his estate nor that of a Negro slave named Langoe. In 1694, Peter's widow Mary left a will of unspecified value, but Langoe was not mentioned. Of all the slaves mentioned in this

study, this particular slave suggests lineal descendants living at the time of the first Federal census in 1790. An Ishmael Lango of North Providence lived in a household of four Negroes including himself (*Dictionary* 83).

In 1694, James Sands of New Shoreham left a will for an estate valued at £400, including four Negro slaves of unspecified value: Hannah, Sarah, an unnamed boy, and Rose. The will stated that the females were to be freed at age 30 and the male at age 35. In 1703, James's widow Sarah left a will with an increased value of £708, but her will did not mention the slaves (*Dictionary* 170).

Also in 1694, Caleb Carr of Jamestown left a will mentioning neither the value of his estate nor that of three slaves: Negroes Hannah and Jo, and Indian Tom (*Dictionary* 37).

In addition to these men and women, one man left a will mentioning not a slave, but a servant. Two others died intestate, but owned slaves, and required administration. The widow of one of these men left a will.

In 1685, William Field (or Feild) of Providence left a will of unspecified value, mentioning a servant John Warner, possibly although not so stated, an indentured Englishman (*Dictionary* 77).

In 1659, Ezekiel Holliman of Warwick left an estate administered at the value of £183, including a

servant Jo valued at 9 shillings. In 1681, Ezekiel's widow Mary left a will of unspecified value, but the servant Jo was not mentioned (*Dictionary* 102).

In 1688, Robert Guttredge of New Shoreham left an estate administered at a value of £659. His will included two unnamed Indian males valued together at £100 and an unnamed Indian female valued at £15 (*Dictionary* 89).

Some sons of these owners were themselves slave owners in the eighteenth century. Among them were Caleb and Edward Carr, Samuel Sands who had removed to New York, Peleg Sandford, and Samuel Sherman.

### The Slaves

Slaves in Rhode Island were thought within the colony itself and by other slave-owning colonies to lead the "good life." Each had his or her own regular duties that could be completed early in the day, leaving time for the slave's own pursuits—gardening or fishing—and the profit therefrom. In urban areas slaves could be placed with craftsmen to learn a trade such as blacksmithing. Some were sent to sea; others were manumitted. Manumission proved so alarming that, in addition to the duty already imposed in importation to the colony, owners freeing slaves were required to post bond so that a freed person would not become a charge to the town.

In January 1778, just as soldiers of the Continental Army were again settling into winter quarters at

Valley Forge, Brigadier General James Varnum of the Rhode Island line proposed to General George Washington that the two undermanned Rhode Island brigades be merged temporarily into one. He also suggested one set of officers stay with the brigade and the other return home to recruit slave troops. Washington approved and Varnum went to the General Assembly, which readily enacted legislation authorizing the recruitment. Every slave who enlisted was to receive the same treatment as regular troops and his freedom (figure 2). His owner was to be compensated for the loss of property, a cost to the colony of an estimated £10,000 or \$50,000.

*The Diary of a Common Soldier in the American Revolution, 1775-1783* (Bray and Bushnell 1978) paints a picture of this activity. Greenman, a sergeant about to become an ensign, records in the vernacular the recruitment, furnishing, feeding, traveling, and training of these Negro recruits. Training took place at East Greenwich where freed black men were at last paraded and merged into one of the reconstituted brigades. They soon departed for the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey, returned home for the Battle of Rhode Island, and after years of marching and countermarching witnessed the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia.

Gradually slave ownership fell into disfavor in large part because of vigorous Quaker abolitionism. In



Figure 2. Corporal of the Rhode Island Regiment, 1781. From *Uniforms of the American Revolution* (Copeland, 1974).

1787, the General Assembly enacted legislation forbidding the outfitting of ships for the slave trade and the importation of slaves into the colony. Sea captains, backed by merchant partners, easily got round this prohibition. They simply called at ports still receptive to their cargo.

The first Federal Census of 1790 showed 68,825 inhabitants living in

Rhode Island, the thirteenth and newest state. Compared with 1781, in 1708 the population grew from a natural increase of both blacks and whites and acquisition of settled populations as the boundaries of Massachusetts and Connecticut were fixed. There were 2,175 free nonwhites living in nonwhite households, 1,312 free nonwhites living in white households, and 958 nonfree, nonwhites—the slaves. The slaves, however, were legal. The Rhode Island General Assembly passed the Negro Emancipation Act of 1784, freeing children of slaves when male children reached age 21 and female children reached age 18. Their parents, however, remained enslaved unless their owners manumitted them.

The most interesting family in this mass of figures is that of David Secator, an Indian in Washington County at Charlestown. He was responsible for 250 tribal members, Narragansetts with a sprinkling of Wampanoag refugees living among them. Significantly, they lived adjacent to the site of the Great Swamp Fight of 1676, their traditional homeland.

Was Rhode Island's imaginative recruitment of slave troops during the American Revolution unique? Not at all. *The National Genealogical Society Quarterly* has just published "Slaves, Soldiers, and Citizens: Special Civil War Recruitment Lists

(Hager and Fleming 2003). The article focuses on the lists of Union recruitment in deeply divided Missouri. Was independent Rhode Island really "thinking otherwise" so long ago?

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### Rhode Island, the Triangle Trade & Abolition

by Stephanie Schlick

Numerous Web sites discuss slavery and abolition from the colonial era to the end of the Civil War. Almost every site discussing Rhode Island's involvement in slavery and the slave trade contains a variation on the following statement: Most people associate slavery and the slave trade with the South, forgetting that the North contributed as much to the institution of slavery as its abolition. Northerners sometimes have preferred to overlook their ancestors' dealings with slavery and the slave trade. For many, it has been more acceptable to think of northern ancestors as purely abolitionist in philosophy and ascribe to them the noble thinking Americans have slowly acquired only within the last two hundred years or so. Many Americans can trace their ancestry to both abolitionists and slave owners and traders, sometimes within the same family, sometimes within the same generation. In this regard, Rhode Islanders are no different from others who trace their ancestry to early colonial days.

Today the idea of keeping another human being in bondage is abhorrent. Discussions of slavery can be divisive, fractious, and controversial. Yet in the North American colonies and throughout

the known world at that time, the indenture and enslavement of human beings was as an immutable, accepted economic reality. Slaves and indentured servants provided cheap labor to growing colonies. While indentured servants had the promise of working off their servitude, slaves depended on their ability to find safe haven, the generosity of their owners, or legislated emancipation to gain freedom. Thankfully, the passage of time has lessened people's reticence to discuss slavery and the role Rhode Island played not only in its abolition, but its establishment in North America.

#### Slavery and the Slave Trade

Although no single Web site examines Rhode Island's role in depth, information from several sites provides a useful timeline. The earliest record of slaves in Rhode Island appears in 1652 (R.I. Chronological History n.d.). During the next fifty years, the number of African slaves in Rhode Island's population nearly doubled (11.5%), the highest proportion of slaves to total population of any Northern colony.

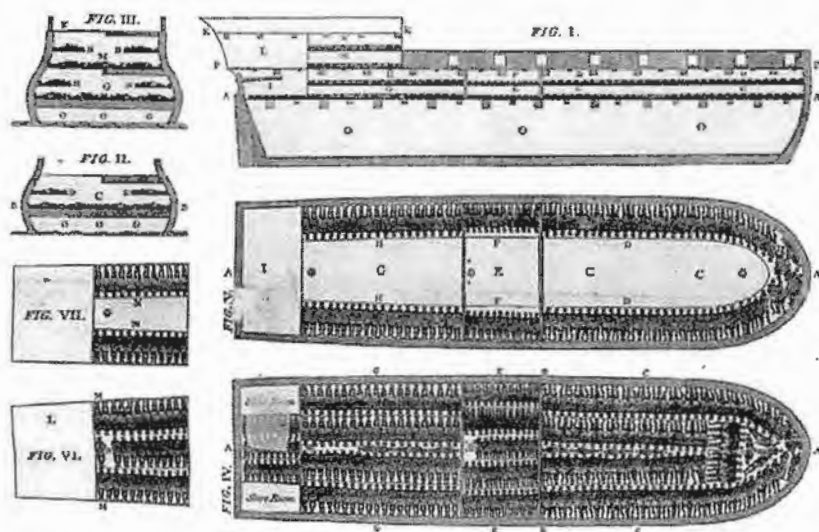
The Rhode Island shipping companies were fully invested in intercoastal and trans-Atlantic trade. They also received financing

from businessmen who invested in one or two slaving voyages apiece. Rhode Island ships were the leading carriers in North America, sailing from Newport (the fifth largest port in the colonies), Providence, Bristol, Little Compton, North Kingstown, and Warren (Kane 1998).

By the 1730s Rhode Island had bypassed Europe to trade rum directly to Africa. In exchange for slaves traded in markets in the West Indies, they received molasses and sugar to take back to Rhode Island. In 1740 Newport merchants alone owned or managed thirty rum distilleries (Kane 1998). Slaves who were not sold in the West Indies markets were sold in North

American markets or put to work aboard ship. Although Rhode Island's slave trade never accounted for more than a third of its total trade on the mainland, the slave trade persisted and expanded (Foner and Garraty 1991). By the end of the American Revolution, Rhode Island had surpassed all other slave-trading colonies and controlled more than sixty percent of American trade.

The Middle Passage was treacherous for slaves and slave owners. White crew succumbed regularly to tropical disease. Slaves died from disease and mistreatment, committed suicide by jumping overboard, or were thrown overboard by crew if they staged a



*Figure 1. Illustration of slave ship. From The History of the Rise, Progress, and Accomplishment of the Abolition of the African Slave-Trade by the British Parliament (Clarkson, 1808)*

revolt. On one perilous journey in 1765, the "Sally," owned by the Nicholas Brown Company sailing out of Newport, lost 109 of 167 slaves at sea. In monetary terms, the "Sally" lost between \$9,000 and \$12,000 (MacKay 2003), but the voyage was not unique.

Slaves died during every voyage, but slave traders had a vested interest in keeping the slaves alive and well. Sick slaves brought lower prices in the markets; dead slaves were an economic loss to the trading company. All told, Rhode Island ships lost an average of twelve slaves per hundred on every voyage (Foner and Garraty 1991).

The 1794 U.S. Slave Trade Act hampered but did not end the slave trade. By 1807, about 200 Rhode Island merchants had sponsored 900 slaving voyages to Africa and transported more than 100,000 Africans into slavery (Coughtry 1981). The U.S. Navy turned a blind eye to ships bringing slaves to American ports; officials throughout America could be bribed or bullied into looking the other way. Rhode Island merchants continued the trade until about 1820. Rhode Island slaves continued to be held in bondage until as late as 1840, when five appeared in the census (Bessel 1998). Thereafter, Rhode Island censuses no longer enumerated slaves.

### **Emancipation and Abolition**

Opposition to slavery began at the same time slaves came to the New World. As early as 1643, the New

England Confederation was helping slaves become free (Benedict, et al 1998). With few exceptions, northern colonial and state governments granted gradual emancipation, keeping people in bondage and freeing them slowly. Records from the eighteenth century reveal the government's interest in transporting African slaves and free people back to Africa (Glennon and Jenks 2001).

Although many white antislavery activists wanted to end slavery, few wanted to live in a free and equal society with blacks.

The first record of emancipation in Rhode Island was almost simultaneous with the first record of slaves in the colony. On 18 May 1652 the colony passed a law "that no black mankind or white" should be forced to serve any man or his heirs and assigns for longer than ten years or should be freed at age twenty-four if he or she had been taken before age fourteen (Lauber 1913). The legislation suggests that Indian and African slaves were in bondage there long before the first record in 1653. The colonists paid scant attention to the law.

Indentured servants were freed after ten years, but slavery for all nonwhites continued.

In 1688, the Quakers of Germantown, Pennsylvania, printed the first antislavery tract (Benedict, et al 1998). Their antislavery sentiments slowly took root elsewhere as other Christian churches began to denounce slavery as incompatible with the teachings of Jesus Christ.



## One Rhode Island Family Examines its Involvement with the Slave Trade

*Traces of the Trade* is a documentary produced and directed by Katrina Browne, the fifth-great-granddaughter of Mark Anthony DeWolf. Now in postproduction, the documentary discusses the DeWolfs, the most prominent slave-trading family in U.S. history, and their involvement in the Triangle Trade.

Ten DeWolf descendants ranging in age from 32 to 71 followed the routes their ancestors sailed—from Bristol to Africa to Havana, Charleston, and Cuba and back to Bristol. Their impressions and those of the people with whom they visited are recorded in the film. *Traces of the Trade* will probably be completed by the end of the year and shown on television. If you would like to learn more about the filming and contribute to its completion, visit the Web site ([www.tracesofthetrade.org](http://www.tracesofthetrade.org)).

The movement gained influence and momentum in Rhode Island during the years leading up to and after the American Revolution.

Antislavery activists, predominantly Quaker, used the colonial and state governments to argue for emancipation. In 1774, they pressured the Rhode Island General Assembly to prohibit the importation of slaves. In 1784, the abolitionists gained emancipation for a few when the general assembly freed children born after 1 March 1784 to female slaves when the female children reached age 18 and the male children reached age 21 (Rhode Island Black Heritage Society n.d.). The children's parents and siblings born before 1 March remained in bondage. The children's emancipation can be viewed as altruistic or economic: Either the slave owners kept these children so they would not enter society until they could

support themselves or the slave owners had them work to recoup the economic cost of raising them to adulthood. Since treatment of slaves varied from owner to owner, the children's emancipation was probably a little of both.

The antislavery activists pressed for more legislation to end slavery on the state and Federal level. In 1787 the general assembly prohibited Rhode Island citizens from engaging in the slave trade (Cornwell n.d.). This new law was the first one passed in Rhode Island to attempt to curtail the flourishing, profitable trade. In 1790, Rhode Island's ratification of the U.S. Constitution contained an exhortation that declared slavery was "disgraceful to the cause of liberty and humanity" (Ratification 1790). Rhode Island called for an amendment to the Constitution to prevent the importation of slaves.

In 1794, Congress passed the U.S. Slave Trade Act, prohibiting any citizen or foreign resident of the U.S. from engaging in the slave trade (An Act 1794). If a merchant was caught trading slaves, his vessel and goods would be seized and he would be prosecuted in the courts where his vessel was registered. The merchant and any persons caught aiding him would each pay a fine of \$2,000; the merchant would also be fined an additional \$200 per slave. If a customs official or citizen suspected a merchant destined for Africa was taking the voyage to obtain slaves, the merchant had to post bond and ensure that he would not transport Africans or any other foreigners to any port for nine months thereafter.

The law was largely unenforceable. Quakers negotiated pledges with merchants who promised to stop their involvement in the trade. If a merchant broke his pledge, the Quakers filed suit in court. The slave traders were confident that jury trials would result in acquittal and, as they suspected, juries were reluctant to convict them (Coughtry 1996).

In Rhode Island history, the most famous Rhode Island family to divide over curtailment of the trade were the Browns—Moses and John, one an abolitionist, the other a slave trader. All the brothers—Nicholas, John, Moses, and Joseph—had invested in the voyage of the “Sally.” After that tragic voyage, only John remained in the slave trade (Coughtry 1996). Moses Brown

became a Quaker in 1773; he freed his slaves, gave them land, and funded their education (MacKay 2003). In 1789, Moses became a founding member of Providence’s abolition society. He also used his influence to secure passage of the U.S. Slave Trade Act. John Brown, who ignored his brother’s demand for a pledge, was the first American prosecuted under the act in Providence’s federal district court. His ship, the “Hope,” had outfitted in Providence Island, transported slaves from Africa, and sold them in Cuba (Coughtry 1981). The court ruled against John Brown, and he forfeited his ship in August of 1797. As U.S. Congressman, John argued strenuously for the slave trade and against amendments to the 1794 act that would restrict trade further (MacKay 2003). He remained proslavery until his death.

The end of the slave trade for Rhode Island came shortly before 1820, when the 1794 Act was modified to impose the death penalty for merchants engaging in the trade (Coughtry 1996). By then, Rhode Islanders had found other commercial markets. Slavery in Rhode Island continued until the last slave was manumitted or died.

Rhode Island’s involvement in slavery and abolition is a study in contrast and contradiction. From its beginning, the colony was inhabited by people who viewed slavery as contrary to God’s will and people who believed firmly that owning slaves and engaging in the slave trade were their God-given rights as

white people. Antislavery activists worked tirelessly to outlaw the importation of slaves and curtail the slave trade, but did not demand the full emancipation of every slave held in bondage. Some slave owners manumitted their slaves, but continued their involvement by investing in slave trading. It took two hundred odd years for the citizens of Rhode Island to agree that slavery was an evil institution—a short span of history for a new nation, an eternity for a slave. The words of George Henry, taken from his autobiography *Life of George Henry* published in Providence in 1894, eloquently summarize Rhode Island's history with slavery:

"...Rhode Island owned slaves, but in those days people were not as enlightened as they are now."

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## Rhode Island, Slavery, and Abolition

For interested readers, the following print materials, both new and old, discuss Rhode Island's role in slavery and abolition:

Bingham Van Broekhoven, Deborah. 2001. *The Devotion of These Women: Rhode Island in the Antislavery Network* Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press

In the 1830s, Rhode Island became deeply involved in the abolitionist movement. According to the University of Massachusetts Press ([www.umass.edu/umpress](http://www.umass.edu/umpress)) "...twenty-five anti-slavery societies were formed under the leadership of the African American communities in Providence and Newport, several energetic Baptist and Congregational clergymen, and the wealthy elder statesman of the New England Friends, Moses Brown," but efforts to end slavery were failing. In 1843, Amaranthy Paine and other women revived the movement. The book attributes the success of Rhode Island's movement to these women, who "were more accustomed to working behind the scenes" and for little recognition.

Coughtry, Jay. 1981. *The Notorious Triangle: Rhode Island and the African Slave Trade, 1700-1807*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

The author shows how slavery provided a new profit sector for Rhode Islanders wishing to trade with the West Indies.

Jones, Rhett. 1986. "Plantation Slavery in the Narragansett County of Rhode Island 1640-1790." *Plantation Society*, 2(1986):157-70.

Rhode Island Historical Society. 2003. *Rhode Island and the African Slave Trade: John Brown and the Colonial Economy of Slavery*. Providence, RI: RIHS.

To commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's March on Washington, RIHS is publishing this interpretive booklet. RIHS, the Providence Human Relations Committee, and the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society cosponsored an event on 28 August 2003 at the John Brown House to celebrate its publication. To obtain a copy, write to RIHS, 110 Benevolent Street, Providence RI 02906

Sweet, John Wood. *Bodies Politic: Negotiating Race in the American North, 1730-1830*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, forthcoming 2003.

The author shows how Indians, African slaves, and English settlers "shaped the character of colonial New England, the meanings of the Revolution in the North, and the making of American democracy."

# Meeting Minutes

2003 Spring Luncheon  
Washington, DC

The Spring Luncheon was not a regular business meeting for the society. Members assembled at the Washington Club for a delightful luncheon hosted by Governor General and Mrs. Peter Dixon.

The following article was adapted from the speech given by former Registrar General Lilla McKnight Licht at the 2003 Spring luncheon of OFFRI&PP in Washington, D.C.

## From Rhode Island to Long Island

Most of my paternal seventeenth-century roots go back to the founders of the towns of Long Island—Hempstead, Oyster Bay, Musketo Cove (now Glen Cove), Jamaica, and Flushing (then Queens County, New York). As I documented my lineage back to the seventeenth century, I began seeking from whence they came before arriving on Long Island. Surprisingly, Long Island histories such as Thompson, Prime, and Werner and even town records made it seem as if these ancestors just appeared on Long Island.

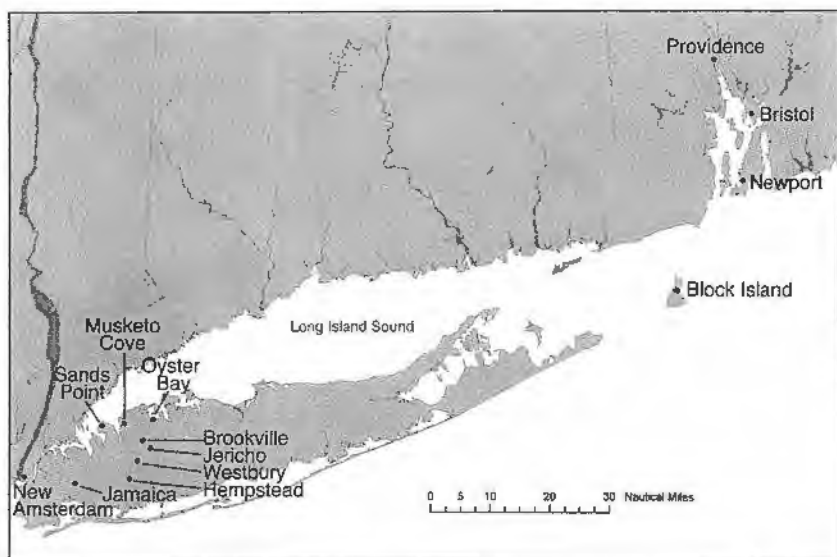
## Rhode Island Founders on Long Island

When our society was founded, I was asked if I was eligible. So I took a look at Rhode Island records. Surprise! Surprise! Here were many of my Long Island ancestors

including several of the thirteen originals with Roger Williams. Here was evidence that the Musketo Cove founders—Henry, John and Richard Townsend, Joseph Carpenter, Mattias Harvey (who married the widow of Robert Coles), and Daniel Coles—all came from Rhode Island.

Daniel Coles married Maha, daughter of Samuel Gorton; Richard Townsend was first married to Deliverance, daughter of Robert Coles. He married second Elizabeth, daughter of John Wicks. Joseph Carpenter was the son of William and Elizabeth (Arnold) Carpenter. Joseph Carpenter married his cousin Hannah, daughter of William and Abigail (Carpenter) Carpenter. Joseph married second Ann, daughter of Francis Weeks (I am descended from both wives of Joseph. I also descend from Ann's brother Samuel Weeks.)

Hannah, daughter of Joseph and Hannah (Carpenter) Carpenter, married Jacob Hicks, grandson of John and Herodias (Long) Hicks. I have written in *The Lively Experiment* about the infamous John Hicks and his wife Herodias. Since the publication of that article, I have garnered new information from their marriage record from London, England. It shows that Herodias was not twelve but



*Map of Long Island and Rhode Island, mid-17th century. Courtesy of VeeAnn Atnipp Cross, United States Geological Survey.*

twenty-one years old when they married. Further, John Hicks was born in 1613, not 1607, and cannot be the son of Robert Hicks as some Hicks genealogies have stated. The marriage record states that Herodias was the daughter of William Long and that John was of Stepney.

I knew John Hicks had come to Long Island in 1642. As I delved deeper into my connections between Rhode Island and Long Island, I learned that in 1642 Reverend Francis Doughty of Taunton (where some Rhode Islanders first lived) received a patent from Governor Kieft of New Amsterdam for 42,000 acres in the area near Flushing, Long Island. He enjoined many of his friends from Rhode Island to join him in the venture.

Among them were Richard Smith, John Fields, Richard Cornell, and at least a dozen others whose names I have yet to collect from records. These Rhode Islanders formed the community known as Middleburg near Flushing, Long Island.

In 1648 the Indians burned all the homes in this community. Some of the settlers returned to Rhode Island; others moved to New Amsterdam for safety and then later returned to Long Island. While the families were living in New Amsterdam, some children of these settlers married English or Dutch men and women. Rebecca, daughter of Richard Cornell, married a Dutchman. John Townsend married Elizabeth (surname unknown) and had two children baptized in the

Dutch Reformed Church. John's family returned to Rhode Island. Then in 1656, John Townsend and his brothers Henry and Richard were among the founders of the Town of Jamaica, Long Island, and in 1661 became founders of the Town of Oyster Bay. Other towns carry surnames originating in Rhode Island. Sands Point in the Town of North Hempstead is named for the sons of James Sands, one of the founders of Block Island.

Most of the early seventeenth-century Rhode Islanders who went to Long Island were Quakers. Thus you find few among the founders of the Town of Hempstead, which was predominately Church of England. The first Quaker meeting houses were built in Flushing and Locust Valley (Town of Oyster Bay). Later in the century Quaker meeting houses were built in Westbury, Jericho, and still later in Brookville. The Quakers who first settled in Jamaica in 1656 were so persecuted, first by the Dutch and then the English, they moved to the Town of Oyster Bay where they felt they were far enough away to avoid the attention of the authorities of New Amsterdam who governed Long Island. Men such as John Hicks, John Fields, and others from Rhode Island who were non-Quakers settled in Hempstead and adjoining towns.

### **Why Did They Settle in Long Island?**

Taking our thoughts back to the midseventeenth century when the children and some of the original settlers started going to Long

Island, one has to ask how and why they came there.

Rhode Island, although not actually an island, has many islands in Narragansett Bay. Farmers soon discovered these islands were ideal for raising cattle because they were free of predators—wolves, bears, snakes and the like. Farmers from Massachusetts would contract with the owners of these islands to keep their sheep and cattle there. By 1650 a major industry of Rhode Island was shipbuilding. Another prosperous industry in the southern grasslands of Rhode Island was the breeding and raising of racehorses.

Quakers were unwelcome in Massachusetts and fled to Rhode Island where Freedom of Conscience was respected. They were primarily merchants. These Quaker merchants traveled up and down the eastern seaboard to monthly meetings. Thus they were able to meet, network, and develop markets for their goods in the other colonies, something Rhode Islanders were among the first to do. It explains the more established growth of Rhode Island's economy by the midseventeenth century, long before the other colonies.

The Dutch of New Amsterdam were big customers easily reached via Long Island Sound by boat. By 1640 Governor Kieft began issuing patents for land on Long Island. In addition, Englishmen who had moved from Massachusetts to Connecticut began purchasing land from the Indians in what would



become Queens and Suffolk counties on Long Island. These two counties have rich sandy soil ideal for truck farming and growing of tobacco, the latter a product great in demand in the colonies.

By the midseventeenth century, the children of the first settlers of Rhode Island were becoming adults and needed land for their families. Through commerce with New Amsterdam and Long Island, they learned of opportunities to acquire land on Long Island for farming, which attracted them to leave Rhode Island.

Long Island is truly an island. Until the Brooklyn Bridge was built in 1886, the only means of leaving the island was by boat. Yet I find no records of the early Dutch and English settlers of Long Island being boat builders. They must have had them built in Rhode Island. Horse racing courses are found on Long Island by 1650, and most likely the horses came from Rhode Island. Rhode Islanders on the other hand needed farm produce for themselves as well as tobacco for trade with the other colonies. Thus we see through commerce the communication that must have taken place between the two colonies.

How many of you are familiar with Long Island and the coast of Connecticut? The south shore of Long Island is on the Atlantic Ocean with an inlet that used to be at the Far Rockaways. There are no harbors here. The north shore of Long Island, however, has a number of harbors.

Hempstead harbor with Roslyn at the end and Oyster Bay harbor are the two biggest. By 1650 the Rhode Island ship-building industry, financed by both Rhode Island and Massachusetts investors, was premier in the northern colonies. By this time, the first settlers in the Town of Hempstead would be anxious to have ships to export their produce and tobacco. Undoubtedly, as Rhode Islanders delivered these ships to Long Islanders, news of the opportunities to settle here became known.

### **Why Didn't They Settle in Connecticut?**

Rhode Islanders already were accustomed to freedom of worship, separation of Church and State. They were also used to independence in civic affairs. Connecticut was a colony founded by men of Massachusetts. Church (primarily Congregationalist) and State were not separate there. Long Islanders valued their independence and freedom of worship separate from civic government. Thus Long Island was more attractive to Rhode Islanders, particularly the Quakers and Baptists.

Long Islanders were accustomed to running their own affairs and constantly resisted first the Dutch and then the English governors' attempts to control their lives. New York records constantly refer to the rebellious behavior of the settlers when the colonial government tried to impose one church or taxes on the settlers for the Church of England. There were on Long

Island persons of every faith—Protestant, Quakers, Dutch Reformed, Church of England (Episcopalians), Anabaptists, and even nonbelievers. Because they were an island of people, they took advantage of their physical separation from the seat of government and resisted the governors who tried to impose rules of law contrary to what the people wanted. This independence, of course, was attractive to Rhode Islanders who wanted to settle elsewhere.

In the town records of Rhode Island as well as the town records of Long Island well into the eighteenth century we find that families continued to keep in touch. Marriages continued between those who settled on Long Island and families in Rhode Island. One can easily imagine the beauty of many ships plying between ports on the North Shore of Long Island and Rhode Island through Long Island Sound, picking up and delivering goods, and transporting people from both colonies who were visiting one another for a week or month's stay. It must have been a glorious sight.

I used to race sailboats on Long Island Sound. When I was fifteen a group of us chartered the "Yankee," a brigantine schooner. We sailed from Hell's Gate near New York City down the Sound to Block Island, a port in Rhode Island. We stopped overnight in some of the Connecticut ports. We visited the Hereshoff's boatyard, owned by the early Rhode Island boat-building family. Thinking of my racing days

and that special trip in the "Yankee," little did I know I was sailing the same routes my ancestors had sailed so many years before.

Well, I hope I have given you a glimpse of life and the reason we find Rhode Islanders settling on Long Island and, for that matter, Long Islanders settling later in Rhode Island. It began with Rhode Islanders going to Long Island as early as 1642 and continued with the settlement of Oyster Bay in 1661; this migration was just the beginning.

The lack of land for second generation Rhode Islanders, trade, abundant produce, tobacco, freedom of worship, independence of civic affairs, ship building and ships used to transport goods and people, all played a part in the relationships between Rhode Islanders and Long Islanders. Their common bond—the waters of Narragansett Bay and Long Island Sound—expose us to the links between the two colonies in the seventeenth and well into the eighteenth centuries.

## SNAPSHOTS FROM THE SPRING LUNCHEON, 2003

All these smiling people are OFFRI&PP members who attended the Spring Luncheon in Washington, DC. Won't you consider joining them next Spring?



*Mrs. Joan Dixon, Governor General Peter Arrott Dixon,  
and new member Michael Northup*



*Chancellor General Marcia Morgan, former Registrar General  
Lilla McKnight Licht, and Florence Stanley*



*Registrar General James Raywalt and C. Owen Johnson*



*Chaplain General D. Gene Patterson  
and Barrett McKown*



*Marcia Morgan and John J. Schlick*



*Mary Northrop and Eleanor Neilbell*

# Member Forum

The member forum is meant to encourage communication between members researching their ancestors in Rhode Island and elsewhere.

Queries and answers to queries will be posted here free of charge to members. If you would like to submit a query, please make sure your query contains the following information:

- \* Full name of the person, with the SURNAME in CAPITAL letters, given name in lower case.
- \* Known dates of birth, death, and marriage for the person and family members.
- \* Most specific location known for this person.
- \* Person's spouse(s)
- \* Person's parents
- \* Person's children.
- \* Your specific question about this person.
- \* Your full name and membership number.
- \* Your correct address. If you wish to receive answers by e-mail, please include that address, too.



Submit your written queries to:

**The Lively Experiment**  
Mary Ruth Northrop, Editor  
300 West Franklin Avenue  
Apartment 401E  
Richmond, VA 23220-4904

Submit your e-mail queries to:  
[sschlick@earthlink.net](mailto:sschlick@earthlink.net)

Seeking birth place and date of George BABCOCK, son of John and Mehitable (Sheldon) Babcock. (John, Job, John, James 1st). John was born c. 1740 at South Kingston, RI and died 10 August 1822 at Alburgh, VT. Mehitable Sheldon was born 20 July 1746 at South Kingston and apparently was still alive in 1830.

Also seek the marriage date and place of George Babcock (above) to Margaret McGowan (born c. 1777 in Scotland and died 18 November 1821 at Alburgh, VT).

Advise Herbert G. Webb (#40) at 2170 Brookridge Drive, Dayton, OH 45431-3231 or by e-mail to [H.G.WEBB@worldnet.att.net](mailto:H.G.WEBB@worldnet.att.net)

# Member News

From James Kevin Raywalt  
Registrar General

## Flowers of the Field

- 6 Elizabeth Farr O'Hanlon  
Andersen  
(Charter Member)  
d. 20 November 2002
- 104 Jean Ardrey
- 107 Ellen Rathbone  
Gardner Brown  
d. 7 May 2001
- 62 Kenneth Folger Crafts  
(Charter Member)  
d. 19 April 1997
- 145 Arlene Grace Havens  
(Life Member)
- 7 James Robert Hopkins  
(Charter Member)  
d. 9 February 2001
- 15 Arlene Harper Molyneaux  
Trawinski (Charter Member)
- 22 Doris Merchant Weiner  
(Charter Member)

## New Members

- 187 Michael Raymond Northup  
149 Waterwheel Lane  
North Kingstown, RI 02852  
Ancestor: Joseph Clarke
- 188 Kenneth Vance Olson  
(Life Member)  
35 Sylvan Road  
New Britain, CT 06053-2125  
Ancestor: William Dyer
- 189 Wayne Jerome Rogers  
(Life Member)  
44842 Grado Circle  
Temecula, CA 92592-1474  
Ancestor: Thomas Brownell

## Change of Address

- 138 Florene H. Cordell-Reeh  
150 Broadway, #1207  
New Orleans, LA 70118
- 177 Mary Anne Morgan Carter  
19385 Cypress Ridge Terrace  
Unit #1111  
Landsdowne, VA 20176-5171

# Classified Ads

Do you belong to another hereditary society that might interest OFFRI&PP members? Do you have genealogical books you want to deaccession from your library? Are you looking for a genealogical book long out of print?

Why don't you place an ad here?

Advertisements are free for members and free to hereditary societies who reciprocate by printing advertisements for OFFRI&PP.

Submit your camera-ready copy to:

## ***The Lively Experiment***

Mary Ruth Northrop, Editor  
300 West Franklin Avenue  
Apartment 401E  
Richmond, VA 23220-4904

Send your requests for more information or submit your ads by e-mail to: [sschlick@earthlink.net](mailto:sschlick@earthlink.net).

If you are a direct male descendant of someone who was born in one of the six New England colonies (MA, ME, NH, RI, CT, VT) before July 4, 1776, consider joining the National Society Sons of Colonial New England



For information on its activities and eligibility requirements, contact  
James Raywalt, Registrar General  
7916 Quill Point Drive  
Bowie, MD 20720-4391  
e-mail: [jraywalt@aol.com](mailto:jraywalt@aol.com)

### **Calendar of Events**

Annual Meeting & Fall Assembly  
Little Compton & Newport, RI  
3-4 October 2003

### **Production Schedule**

February 2004  
August 2004

### **Deadline for Submission of Articles**

5 January 2004  
5 June 2004

### ***The Lively Experiment***

Mary Ruth Northrop, Editor  
300 West Franklin Avenue  
Apartment 401E  
Richmond, VA 23220-4904  
T: 804 . 649 . 7249  
F: 202 . 625 . 0642  
E-Mail: [sschlick@earthlink.net](mailto:sschlick@earthlink.net)



To hold forth  
a lively experiment  
that a most flourishing civil  
state may stand and best  
be maintained with  
full liberty in religious  
concernments.

-Roger Williams