

# RHODE ISLAND HISTORY

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THE GLEBE AT NARRAGANSETT

*From a photograph in the R.I.H.S.*

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ISSUED QUARTERLY AT PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

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# RHODE ISLAND HISTORY

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VOL. v	JULY 1946	NO. 3
<p style="font-size: small;">HENRY D. SHARPE, <i>President</i>    HOWARD W. WILSON, <i>Treasurer</i>  M. RANDOLPH FLATHER, <i>Secretary</i>                  WILLIAM G. ROELKER, <i>Director and Librarian</i>  CLIFFORD P. MONAHAN, <i>Asst. Librarian</i>                  BRADFORD F. SWAN, <i>Associate Editor</i></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;"><i>The Rhode Island Historical Society assumes no responsibility for the statements or the opinions of contributors.</i></p>		

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## Roger Williams and the Insane

by BRADFORD F. SWAN

One of the aspects of Roger Williams' humanitarianism which has not been stressed by his biographers is his concern for the insane of 17th Century Providence — the "distracted persons," as they were called in the language of that day.

Our records of insanity cases in the Colony's early years are meager indeed, but I have unearthed two in which Roger Williams had a hand. Both involved women: Mrs. Adam Goodwin and Mrs. Robert Pike.

Consider first the case of Margaret, wife of Adam Goodwin. Other writers<sup>1</sup> have given attention to this episode in early Providence history, but no one, I believe, has heretofore noticed Roger Williams' connection with the case.

The facts are relatively well known. The pitiable lady was the object of official solicitude on 25 March 1651, when the Town Council voted to take custody of her property and provide for her maintenance.<sup>2</sup> She died a little

<sup>1</sup> Richard LeBaron Bowen, in *The Providence Oath of Allegiance and Its Signers, 1651-2* (Providence, 1943) at p. 86, gives an excellent documentary summation of the case. James H. Nutting, writing the section on "The Poor, The Defective and The Criminal" in Edward Field's *State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations At the End of the Century: A History* (Boston & Syracuse, 1902), III, 390-391, also gives an account of this case, but because he misread the Old Style date he did not connect Williams with the affair.

<sup>2</sup> *Early Records of the Town of Providence*, II, 55.

more than a month later, on 2 May 1651, the coroner's jury reporting that "we find so neare as we can judge, that either the terribleness of the crack of thunder on the second of the third month or the coldness of the night, being she was naked, did kill her."<sup>3</sup>

Two letters to the Town, one of them from Roger Williams, had spurred the Town Council into taking action in Mrs. Goodwin's behalf. The author of the other letter<sup>4</sup> is not known, since the signature is lacking.<sup>5</sup> The letter:

Sirs take it not unkindly that I once more p<sup>r</sup>esent you w<sup>th</sup> the distracted case of the wife of Adam Goodwin, it cannot be expected that long she should liue in this condition haueing no harbour from these pinching nights, our selves (who I believe are beter prouided for the inside then her-self Considering her fol[ly] can hardly beare such an inconvenience of want of fire and h[ ] I am sorry we should bring our selues under such a reproa[ch] to the contry about vs as to sufer her in her willfullnes: th[ey] will sartainly retaine and encrease their old opinion of vs t[hat] wee are a people void of Reason because void of Gouernment w<sup>ch</sup> they will p<sup>r</sup>esent this case in their arguings to proue it. Sirs w<sup>t</sup> should I say or doe more then I haue, you are the eyes of this poore Towne to see search and view the miscarriages, and if she should miscarry in this condition how euer the Law [in view?] of her willfulness might free you,, yet the staine of Bloud [tear] and stick so fast that it may put you to hearty sorrow. if [tear] power had been owned to be in my handes in this case I hop[e] [tear] this I should haue forced her to haue liued w<sup>th</sup> her husband who [tear] of right she belongeth vnto but it hath been concluded and pleaded that I haue no power especially in this case: Only I will not free my selfe from Charity i<sup>st</sup> to the poore distracted creature so farr as show you her woefull condition 2<sup>ndly</sup>/ to yo<sup>r</sup> selues to keepe you from the staine of blood and to the Towne in Gennerall to retai[n] or rather to regaine their name. I hope I shall not haue [tear] further ocasion to put you in mind of your place about thi[s] but Judge a hint is sufficient to the wise Thus desirring a [tear] construction to be made

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., II, 104.

<sup>4</sup> In the possession of the author, who purchased it from a Providence dealer a few years ago.

<sup>5</sup> Although the handwriting is similar to that of Thomas Olney it also bears a strong resemblance to that of John Smith of Warwick, at the time president of the Colony, and from its context the letter appears to have been written by someone in official position. Smith, having been a neighbor of Mrs. Goodwin, when she was the wife of Francis Weston (the fact that Mrs. Weston and Mrs. Goodwin were the same person will be presently demonstrated) might very naturally have written this appeal.

of my poore lines to you and that you will Judge it my loue to you I shall take my leaue but rest

yo<sup>r</sup> Lo neighbour  
[signature clipped]

i<sup>st</sup> day mor<sup>ng</sup>

On 22 January 1650 (i.e., 1650/1) Roger Williams wrote a long letter<sup>6</sup> to the Town. It contained five requests or propositions. The third of these is of interest to us, as can be seen:

For (3rdly) I craue yo<sup>r</sup> Consideration of y<sup>t</sup> lamentable obiect (what shall I say of all o<sup>r</sup> censure or pitie I am sure) of all our wonder & Astonishm<sup>t</sup> m<sup>rs</sup> weston:<sup>7</sup> my experience of y<sup>e</sup> distempers of persons elsewhere<sup>8</sup> makes me Confidant, y<sup>t</sup> (although not in all things yet) in a great measure she is a distracted woman. My request is y<sup>t</sup> you would be pleased to take what is left of hers into yo<sup>r</sup> owne hand & appoint some to order it for her supply: & if it may be, let some publike Act of mercie to her Necessities stand upon Record amongst y<sup>e</sup> mercifull Acts of a mercifull Towne, y<sup>t</sup> hath received many mercies from Heauen, & remember<sup>s</sup> y<sup>t</sup> We know not how soone o<sup>r</sup> wiues may be widowes & o<sup>r</sup> children orphans, yea & o<sup>r</sup> selues be deprived of all or most of o<sup>r</sup> Reason, before we goe from hence, except mercy from y<sup>e</sup> God of mercies preuent it:

There is no doubt but that it was these two letters which convinced the Town Council that something should be done for Mrs. Goodwin. Unfortunately the woman succumbed to her illness, but at least the Town followed Roger Williams' advice and thus there is in the town records of

<sup>6</sup> Providence Town Paper No. 043. It is printed in *Early Records of the Town of Providence*, XV, 38-39.

<sup>7</sup> As I pointed out in my first footnote, Nutting misread the dates in this case; he failed to see that 22 January 1650 means 1651. Thus he thought there were two cases of insane women occurring a year apart, Mrs. Weston's in January, 1650, and Mrs. Goodwin's in March, 1651. But when the dates are "corrected" to their actual relative positions, it will be seen that the Town Council acted in the Goodwin case two months and three days after receiving Williams' letter in behalf of Mrs. Weston. Furthermore, when the fact that the given name in both instances is Margaret is also taken into consideration, it seems highly improbable that there would be two women of that name insane in Providence at the same time. What is a much simpler explanation, and one that clears up all difficulties, is that Williams, either by force of habit or through error, referred to Mrs. Goodwin by her first husband's name—Weston. Incidentally, this shows what became of the Widow Weston after her husband, Francis, died some time before 4 June 1645 as a result of his imprisonment at Massachusetts Bay during the Gorton troubles.

<sup>8</sup> This would seem to indicate that Williams had had some actual experience in this field; possibly when he was working among the London poor in 1643 and 1644.

Providence "some publike Act of mercy" toward the mentally ill within less than two decades of the founding of the town.

Williams' second intercession on the behalf of the mentally ill had a happier ending. Sixteen years after his letter in the Goodwin case, on 12 February 1666 [1666/7], he wrote a letter which he signed in the name of Thomas Olney as Town Clerk,<sup>9</sup> to a Mr. Nathaniel Patten of Dorchester in Massachusetts Bay, who was a relative<sup>10</sup> of the object of his solicitude:

"S<sup>r</sup> Lo: Salut

We wish we had a more pleasing occasion to salute you with but We all know y<sup>t</sup> such is y<sup>e</sup> Misery of Mankind (vnto w<sup>ch</sup> We are all subject) y<sup>t</sup> Trialls & Crosses are our dayly Portjions from y<sup>e</sup> Wombe to y<sup>e</sup> Graue, & our departure out of this Miserable world

S<sup>r</sup> So jt hath pleased God to dispose & order jt y<sup>t</sup> 2 of our Neighbo<sup>rs</sup> Robt Pike & his wife are now striken in yeares so far & so weake y<sup>t</sup> although they haue bene very laborjous these many yeares amongst vs yet now (& by reason of y<sup>e</sup> hardnes of y<sup>e</sup> Country for Poore Labourers,) they are not able to supply themselues with necessaries for thejr subsistence euen now when thejr strength js decayed & gone. So y<sup>t</sup> we haue been forced in Charitie & Humanitie, according to our power to afford them (by publike gathering) an assistance in time of neede. Besides S<sup>r</sup> jt hath pleased God to afflict y<sup>e</sup> ancient woman with an extraordinary Afflictjon to all of vs: This hard winter she fell downe into a former distempure of Weakenes & distractjon of mind. So y<sup>t</sup> we haue bene forced all of vs (y<sup>e</sup> Whole Towne) to take our Turns & to watch with her, day & night least by her

<sup>9</sup> Original in the John Carter Brown Library, Tg7, MSS. III. Except for its appearance in the 18 copies of the photostat edition of *Letters and Papers of Roger Williams*, the document has not been printed heretofore. There is no mistaking the literary style and the handwriting; both are obviously Roger Williams'. Furthermore, the *Early Records of the Town of Providence*, III, 92, explain how this letter came into existence:

"It is ordred that the letter which m<sup>r</sup> Williams hath drawne up for the Towne to send to m<sup>r</sup> pattent of Dorchester concerning Robert pike, and his wife, shall be Transcribed by the Towne Clarke, & by him subscribed on the Towns behalfe, the which Transcription shall be sent downe to dorchester to the said m<sup>r</sup> pattent, & the said Draught which was drawne by Roger Williams; to be kept upon file amongst the Town Records:"

<sup>10</sup> Mrs. Robert Pike was, according to Austin, *Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island*, p. 153, a sister-in-law of Mrs. Patten, who was apparently Justina Pike before her marriage. Mrs. Robert Pike's first name was Catharine, but her maiden surname is not known. Catharine Pike received a legacy from Justina Patten in 1675, according to Austin.

Distemp & Bitternes of y<sup>e</sup> Season she should prish amongst vs.

S<sup>r</sup> we had some Agitation whether jt were Conuenjent to trouble you with these Relations, but having heard of your Loving & kind Helpfullnes to them form<sup>erly</sup>, we hoped you would not be displeased if we only acquainted you in plainnes & Truth, how jt pleaseth God to deale with vs: And howeuer it shall please God to affect yo<sup>r</sup> Loving heart with thejr Condjcion We dare not see them want while We are able to helpe them as knowing y<sup>e</sup> changes of this World & y<sup>t</sup> the Richest may be poore for y<sup>e</sup> trjal of others, & God js wont to measure to vs in our Wants as we haue measured to others in thejr

S<sup>r</sup>we pray yo<sup>r</sup> gentle acceptance of thjs our boldnes who desire to approue our selues S<sup>r</sup>

yo<sup>r</sup> uery Lo: frjends & Neighbo<sup>rs</sup>

The Towne of Providence

Providence 12. of  
Feb 1666 (as calld)

Signed in y<sup>e</sup> behalfe & by y<sup>e</sup> Townes  
order T.O. jun<sup>r</sup> Town clarke

[*verso*]

Postscript

S<sup>r</sup> Since this letter was writ & ordred by y<sup>e</sup> Towne in full meeting, to be sent to you but Could not by reason of y<sup>e</sup> Depth of Snows wjt w<sup>ch</sup> jt pleased God to visit vs: I thought fit to acquaint you with Gods mercifull hand toward y<sup>e</sup> Aged woman in recovering her in a great measure from her distemper & distractjon: although jt js feared y<sup>t</sup> she js like againe (while she liues) often to fall into jt:

S<sup>r</sup> yo<sup>r</sup> frjend & servant  
T.O. ju<sup>r</sup> Town Clark.

[*indorsed*]

To M<sup>r</sup> Pattent  
at his howse in  
Dorchester  
these  
pres<sup>t</sup>

As early as 3 November 1655 the Town had taken official notice of the Pikes' difficulties. On that date, according to the records,<sup>11</sup> the Town

Ordred y<sup>t</sup> since o<sup>r</sup> neighbo<sup>r</sup> Pike hath diuers times applied himselfe with Complaints to y<sup>e</sup> Towne for helps in this his sad Condition of his Wiues distraction he shall repaire to y<sup>e</sup> Towne

<sup>11</sup> *Early Records of the Town of Providence*, II, 89.

Treasurer who js hereby authorized & required (as moneys Come into his hand) to Pay vnto y<sup>e</sup> said Pike to y<sup>e</sup> Summe of fiftie shillings: And y<sup>e</sup> Towne Promiseth vpon his further want & Complaint, he shall be supplied though to y<sup>e</sup> Value of 10<sup>£</sup> or more

It is interesting to note that Roger Williams was moderator of this meeting and that, in the absence of his son-in-law, John Sayles, town clerk, he wrote the minutes.

As for Mrs. Pike, she lived at least until July, 1679, despite her illness as noted in 1655 and 1666.

## An Appeal for "The Glebe"

*Communicated by* CHARLES R. HASLAM

On the old Narrow River Road in South Kingston is the Glebe of the Old Narragansett Church, the home for 23 years of Rev. James McSparran, D. D., the most famous of the Church of England missionaries sent to this Colony by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. He arrived in 1721. Built at about that time and bought by him in 1733, the house served not only as an unpretentious dwelling for the Doctor and his beautiful young wife, but also as a place of worship for the Narragansett Planters when winter snows and storms made the Church itself (almost two miles distant) inaccessible. Probably additions and changes were made by the Doctor to suit his needs. From this house he diligently ministered to a parish extending from Narragansett Bay to the Connecticut boundary and from the ocean to the Providence Plantations. This humble dwelling has been woven into the tradition and legends of the South County, and particularly into the history of the Old Narragansett Church, then known as St. Paul's in Narragansett.

In 1940 this house and an acre of surrounding land was presented to the Diocese by Mrs. Charlotte A. Kent. At that time, unfortunately, it was in a bad state of repair and

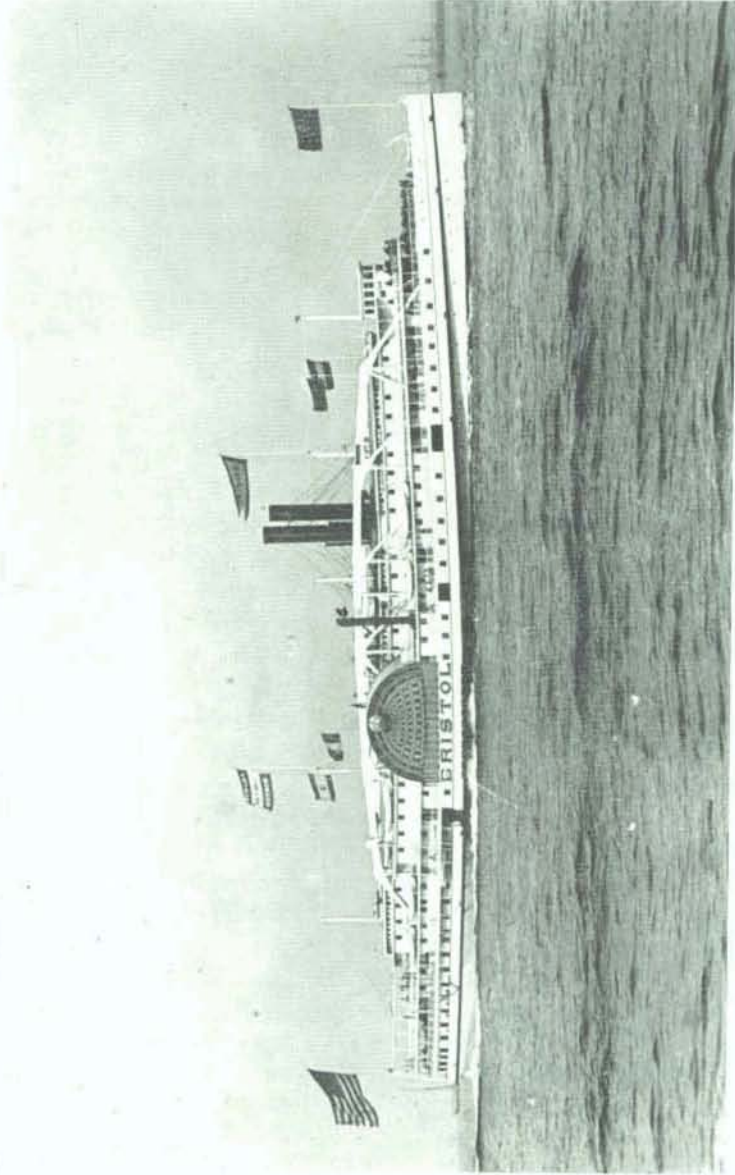
before plans for its protection could be taken, it was gravely damaged by vandals who broke into the house several times. Squirrels, woodpeckers, and the elements have also caused further damage and deterioration.

Architects, however, have advised that the house can be saved and restored, if proper steps are taken promptly. This will require a new roof, new floors, replacing some window frames, the reconstruction of the old stone chimney, the construction of a small ell which was part of the original house and used by the Doctor as a study, and the replanting of the small enclosed garden in front. Probably additional land would be needed for a parking place and for a site for a small house for the caretaker.

All this would, of course, require considerable money for construction and future maintenance, probably \$10,000. But the project is worthwhile. Like the restoration of the Birthplace of Gilbert Stuart (who was baptized by Dr. McSparran), it would stimulate interest in the way of life in Colonial times and save from destruction one of the best known old houses in the South County. If restored, this old house will revive again the memories of this stalwart, colonial missionary, and the garden planted by his wife two hundred years ago will bloom again. Few visitors will fail to be effected by the charm of this ancient humble dwelling and to be quickened by its associations.

The work, however, must be done at once. Further neglect and damage will make the restoration of this historic house impossible. This would seem to be the last opportunity for those who are interested in its restoration and the preservation to save it from ruin and oblivion.

*Contributions for this project should be sent to Albert F. Newman, Treasurer, P. O. Box 1406, Providence, R. I.*



S.S. BRISTOL

Photograph taken at New York about 1880, probably by Gubelman of Jersey City.

By permission of Edwin M. Eldredge, New York City.

## Steamship Exhibition

*The following notes and the accompanying illustrations were prepared for RHODE ISLAND HISTORY by William King Covell of Newport to give our members some idea of the recent exhibition held in John Brown House by the Boston Chapter, representing Southern New England, of the Steamship Historical Society of America.*

The Rhode Island Historical Society very kindly made available space in its headquarters, John Brown House, in which an exhibition of steamboat pictures, records, and other material was assembled and arranged and displayed to the public early in May.

Due largely to the energy and initiative of Mr. Edwin A. Patt of Barrington the exhibition was a decided success. Material was loaned not only by members but also by friends of the society. The Rhode Island Historical Society not only provided exhibition space but also loaned to the exhibition several models and other material from its collections. The Fall River Historical Society and the Fall River National Bank generously loaned valuable records of the early days of the Fall River Line and paintings of some of the early steamboats. Many interesting relics were loaned by Capt. Robert B. Clark, for many years U. S. Inspector of Hulls in the Providence office of the Steamboat Inspection Service, U. S. Department of Commerce. Another prominent lender was Capt. George F. Ollweiler, for more than 50 years a commander of Long Island Sound steamboats.

Other lenders to the exhibition included Mr. Wallace E. Randall of Providence, Dr. Allen R. Tetlow of Taunton, Mr. Clifford D. Heathcote of Providence, Mr. Leland D. Wood of Norwich, Conn., and such professional dealers, photographers, etc., as R. Loren Graham of Boston, William Mills and Son of Providence, The Old Print Shop of New York, and Van Ryper of Vineyard Haven.

It is estimated that the exhibition attracted nearly a thousand visitors between May 5 and May 17.

## BRISTOL

*Bristol* and her sister ship *Providence* were the largest steamboats on Long Island Sound in the days just after the Civil War. They were begun in 1865, but due to failure of the original owner, caused by the loss of two of its steamboats, and transfer to other owners, the steamers were not finished until 1867. They were originally to be named *Pilgrim* and *Puritan*, but the change in name was made before they were completed; the names *Pilgrim* and *Puritan* were assumed later by larger steamers built for the Fall River Line in the 1880's.

*Bristol* and *Providence* were longer, of greater tonnage, of greater passenger and freight-carrying capacity, and of greater engine power and speed than any steamer that had previously run on the Sound. They were the largest American steamboats then in existence, with the exception of two of the People's Line boats on the Hudson River, *St. John* and *Drew*, which exceeded them slightly in length but not in tonnage, power, or speed.

These steamers were advertised as the "World Renowned, Mammoth Palace Steamers", and even after due allowance for the style of contemporary journalism the term is not unduly exaggerated. Their world renown can justifiably be based on the fact that they were referred to often, and sometimes illustrated, in European books of travel. In view of their size, then unprecedented, the term "mammoth" is not too wide of the mark. The "palatial" claim is justified in view of the elaboration of their interiors. The principal room, or "Grand Saloon" (never "Salon"), extended through two decks and this arrangement permitted the inclusion of the open well or gallery, surrounded by an elaborately carved black walnut railing. The main stairway, also of black walnut, was the focal point of interior decorative work: there the Victorian, or American Baroque as it might be termed, had its greatest chance for display. The furniture, of carved black walnut, was a definite part of the ensemble, as were also the carpet, with its naturalistic flower patterns, the large

gas chandeliers with their crystal pendants, the "frescoed" ceiling, in elaborate patterns in color, and last but not least the conspicuous series of cuspidors—all in harmony with the most luxurious of hotels and private homes ashore. This was distinctly in contrast to the furnishings of the



S. S. BRISTOL: THE GRAND SALOON

Photograph made from a stereograph in the collection of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

earlier steamers, most of which had been furnished comfortably, in terms of the standards of the day, but in a much simpler manner.

When finished, these steamers were put on a new line between Bristol and New York, in opposition to the Fall

River Line, which was then running principally out of Newport. For three years they ran on that route; then the Bristol and Fall River lines were consolidated, the Bristol connection was given up, and the steamers ran between New York and Fall River, stopping at Newport en route.

During the 1870's, these two steamers had no equal and no near rival on the Sound. Much of the travel between New York and Boston was carried by them, as the railroad connection then was broken by ferries and hence was slower and less satisfactory than it has been in recent years. Presidents, congressmen, visiting statesmen from foreign countries, as well as the vast multitude of the less well known, travelled upon and came to know these vessels. Hence their "world renown"!

Not until 1883, when the Fall River Line brought out a new iron steamer, *Pilgrim* were *Bristol* and *Providence* surpassed in size and in what were termed "luxurious appointments". *Bristol* continued in service several years longer, however, until she was accidentally burned, at Newport, on December 30, 1888. Her sister ship remained in use until the middle 90's, but was retired after *Priscilla* came out, in 1894, and thereafter saw little service. She was laid up for a while at Newport, later at Providence, and finally, in 1901, was sold, towed to Boston, and there dismantled. Hence ended the era of "Mammoth Palace Steamers"—one of the most interesting illustrations of the spirit of the Reconstruction Age, or of the Grant Era: whichever one prefers!

The principal dimensions of these steamers, and other data relating to them, are as follows:

*Hull*—of wood, built by William H. Webb, at New York. Length of keel, 362 feet; length over all, 373 feet; breadth of beam, 48 feet 4 inches; breadth over guards, 83 feet; depth of hold, 16 feet 6 inches; average draft of water, 10 feet; tonnage: gross 2962; net 2064.

*Engine*—simple beam, built by the Morgan Iron Works of New York. Diameter of cylinder, 110 inches; stroke, 12 feet. Revolutions per minute, 19.

*Boilers*—three, of iron, in hold; each 35 feet long and 13 feet in diameter. Average steam pressure, 18 pounds.

*Paddle Wheels*—radial: 38 feet 8 inches in diameter.

#### MOUNT HOPE

*Mount Hope* was one of the most successful steamboats of her size and type ever built. She was the last of the numerous side-wheel boats of medium size built for local service on Narragansett Bay. From an engineering point of view she is interesting in that she was provided with feathering paddle wheels—one of the earliest such installations in this country and perhaps the first in a steamboat of her type.

She was built from designs of George Peirce, then superintendent of the repair shops of the Old Colony Steamboat Company at Newport and also designer of several of the Fall River Line steamers. She was built at Chelsea, Mass., at the shipyard of Montgomery and Howard, where the hull was launched during the winter of 1887-88 and the machinery installed and superstructure constructed. In the Summer of 1888 she was placed on the Providence-Newport-Block Island run, where she remained for 47 consecutive years—a remarkable record indeed.

During this long career, *Mount Hope* was singularly free from accidents, albeit minor mishaps occurred now and then, as is inevitable with any vessel. The only serious accident occurred during the Summer of 1902, when the engine was disabled while the steamer was off Point Judith en route to Block Island. She was taken to New York that winter, and the engine was reconstructed by its builders, the W. and A. Fletcher Company of Hoboken.

Judged as an example of naval architecture, *Mount Hope* was outstanding. The symmetry of her lines, based upon the design which Mr. Peirce was then evolving in the Fall River Line boats, was something new in sidewheelers of the 200-foot class. The position of masts, stack, engine, wheels, pilot house and the like was not accidental; each was placed in the most appropriate position in relation to the others rather than being set in the haphazard fashion so long followed by steamboat builders. The influence of





S.S. MOUNT HOPE

Photograph taken in the Providence River in the 1890's.

Negative in R.I.H.S.

this steamer was immediate: *Mayflower*, of the Nantasket Line in Boston harbor, three years later (1891), as originally built, showed many points of similarity to *Mount Hope*, as did contemporary steamers of similar size on the Great Lakes, such as *Frank E. Kirby*, 1890, and the several steamers built on Lakes Champlain and George shortly after 1900. Even as far south as Chesapeake Bay, three small sidewheel boats, *Pocahontas*, 1893; *Mobjack*, 1899, and *Hampton* (later *Smithfield*), 1901, show influence of ideas as to arrangement that seem first to have been tried out in *Mount Hope*.

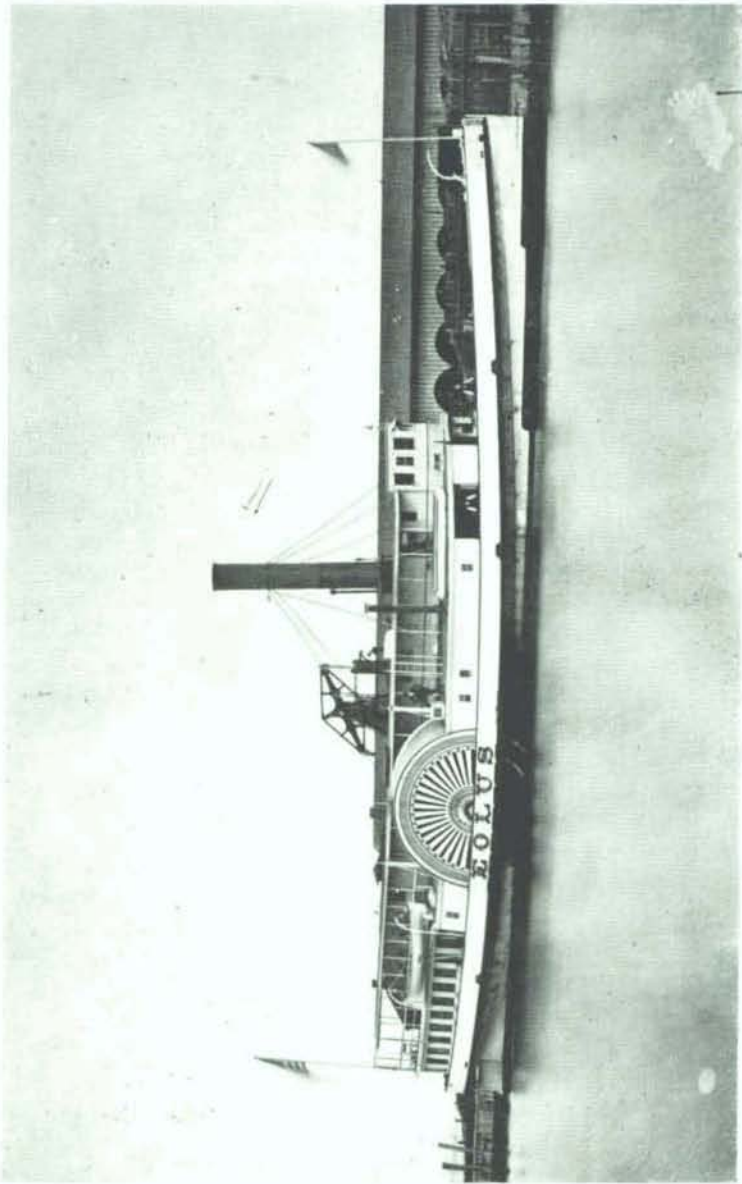
This steamer was an excellent sea boat, and is known to have made the trip out to Block Island many times when an approaching storm drove other, and sometimes larger, vessels to shelter. Season after season she made her daily trips throughout the Summer without interruption. Only an occasional "line storm", such as sometimes occurs late in August or early in September, could keep her from venturing out to sea. When she did stay at her wharf, the storm was severe indeed!

The Summer of 1934 saw the end of *Mount Hope's* active service. After running special trips to the yacht races, she made her last trip up the bay in September, and was tied up at Providence for the Winter. She spent all of 1935 at her dock, and early in the next year she was sunk by the effect of ice in the river scraping caulking from the seams of her planking. She was raised, but was soon afterward dismantled. The hull was towed to East Providence, where it later sank once more. Two years later, the 1938 hurricane destroyed the remains of the superstructure, but the hull timbers are still in place and doubtless will remain there for many years more.

Hull and Engine dimensions, etc., of *Mount Hope*:

*Hull*—of wood. Built by Montgomery and Howard, at Chelsea, Mass., in 1887-88. Length, 193 feet; breadth, 58 feet; depth, 11 feet: Tonnage: gross 880, net 440.

*Engine*—simple beam. Built by the W. and A. Fletcher Company, Hoboken, N. J. Diameter of cylinder, 48 inches; stroke, 10 feet. Horsepower, 1200.



S.S. EOLUS

Photograph taken at Wickford Landings, probably prior to 1880, about which time *Eolus* underwent alterations. The steamer is shown as she first appeared on Narragansett Bay.

From wet-plate negative in William King Correll Collection.

*Boilers*—two, of steel. Length, 24 feet; diameter, 101 inches. Steam pressure allowed: 45 pounds.

*Paddle Wheels*—feathering. Steel arms and rims; wooden buckets, 10 buckets to each wheel.

#### EOLUS

This steamer was built at Newburgh, N. Y., in 1864. She saw service first on Chesapeake Bay, where she was owned by the Old Bay Line and used for local service out of Norfolk. In 1869 she was sold to the newly founded Newport and Wickford Railroad and Steamboat Company, and was brought to Narragansett Bay to open a line between Newport and Wickford Landing. This provided a route from Newport to New York, chiefly by rail, as an alternative to the Fall River Line. For those who preferred the rail journey, the Wickford Line had advantages.

For about 20 years, except for short intervals when withdrawn for necessary overhauling and repairs, *Eolus* ran continuously on this route. She was smaller than the steamers on the Providence River, and being on a regular rather than an excursion line was not so generally known as they, except among such passengers as travelled regularly between New York and Newport.

In 1891, *Tockwogh*, a new and larger steamer, was purchased in Baltimore for the Wickford Line. *Eolus* was retired as a spare boat; but as *Tockwogh* was destroyed by fire at the Wickford dock on April 11, 1893, *Eolus* was returned to service for a short time. A few months later *General* was purchased, to replace *Tockwogh*, and *Eolus* was then sold. She was dismantled in 1894.

#### Data:

*Hull*—of wood. Built by Thomas Marvel. Length, 144 feet; breadth, 25 feet; draft, 10 feet. Tonnage: gross 731, net 275.

*Engine*—simple beam. Built by the Washington Iron Works. Diameter of cylinder, 40 inches; stroke, 8 feet. Horsepower, 285.

*Boiler*—one, of iron; in hold.

*Paddle Wheels*—radial.

## More on the Old Stone Mill

In our last issue we printed a note on an article by Frederick J. Pohl on Newport tower which appeared in the December, 1945, *New England Quarterly*. In the March, 1946, issue of that same magazine, G. Andrews Moriarty, one of our members, replied to Mr. Pohl's article.

Mr. Moriarty points out that the Plowden Patent referred to by Mr. Pohl did not include the Island of Rhode Island. He also argues that "there is nothing" in Mr. Pohl's reference "that suggests that it refers to any tower then in existence." Furthermore, he writes, such a tower, on Rhode Island, "would have been utterly useless, under 17th Century war conditions, to defend a colony located on Long Island. . . ."

Mr. Moriarty sums up:

"It is, therefore, inconceivable that the writer of the document [the one referred to by Mr. Pohl] had in mind any structure already in existence but separated from the proposed colony by a long stretch of open ocean. The reference, I submit, merely suggests the building of a round stone tower for defense at the place of settlement; a tower such as was very familiar to anyone living in the British Isles. To read more than this into the passage is to indulge in wishful thinking."

In the June issue of the same magazine, Mr. Pohl and Mr. Moriarty submitted their rebuttal arguments. Mr. Pohl suggested that it was Mr. Moriarty who was indulging in "wishful thinking." He also discussed some of the theories advanced by the late Philip Ainsworth Means in *Newport Tower* (New York, 1942).

In his communication Mr. Moriarty emphasized once more that no contemporary writer ever mentioned the structure and pointed out that since all the documentary evidence indicates that it was a stone-built windmill the burden of proof that it was anything else lies with those who advocate such a theory.

B. F. S.

## The Relationship between the Patriotic Society and the Historical Society with Particular Reference to Genealogy

*A Lecture delivered before the Rhode Island Historical Society*

by DR. ARTHUR ADAMS  
*Librarian, Trinity College, Hartford, Conn.*

One of the characteristic traits of the human being is his desire to know about the past. No animal, so far as we know, has any curiosity as to its pedigree, though many human beings are keenly interested in the pedigrees of their dogs and their horses, often perhaps more interested in them than in their own. By way of contrast, it may almost be said that in proportion as man develops in civilization, he becomes increasingly interested in the history of his family, his tribe, and his race. History is for larger units what memory is for the individual.

Some of the earliest records that have been preserved for us have to do with those human relationships that become the concern of the genealogist. Indeed, many relatively primitive peoples seem to have a high degree of interest in genealogy. We think of the Biblical genealogist — the "Begats" as we sometimes call them. And the heroes in Homer and Beowulf want to know whose son a stranger is, who his progenitors were.

So then, an interest in history and in genealogy — if we want to draw such a distinction — is a primitive and a deep-seated trait of human nature. It is one of the many qualities that distinguish man from other living beings, and it manifests itself in many ways and in all varieties and stages of human society.

Since this is so, it seems strange that practically none of the records used by the historian and the genealogist were made for their benefit. If they had been, perhaps the task of each would be simpler and easier, if not so interesting. As it is, the historian has to reconstruct his pictures of the

past from the chance remains of records made in the first instance for quite other purposes. The genealogist must work out his pedigree — the skeleton for his family history — from those same records, made no more with his use of them in mind than was the use the historian makes of them in the minds of their maker.

This at once suggests a most important and fundamental fact, namely, that the historian and the genealogist use the same materials and use them in the same way. Or, to put it a bit differently, genealogy is but a special case — a variety of the more general subject, History.

The historian, perhaps at first sight at least, seems to use a larger variety of material and of sources than the genealogist. Yet, this difference is more apparent than real, at least if the genealogist does more than make his pedigree — if he decides to clothe these dry bones with flesh and blood, and make the men and women of the past live and move and have their being before us. And the historian, too, has to assemble his dry bones of names and dates before he can clothe them with flesh and blood and make the men and women of the past he is recreating live and move, and love and hate, before our mind's eye.

In each case, to a large degree, the methods and materials are the same — they are the same in kind. They differ only in the special ends toward which they aim and direct our efforts.

The biographer is concerned with the individual, the genealogist with the family, the historian with larger units — the town, the state, the nation, or with some one aspect of these larger units; for example, with the economics, the social, or the political aspects of his chosen unit of organized society.

For some reason, the historian seems to regard himself as a superior sort of creature compared to the genealogist, or at least he seems to regard history as a superior sort of discipline to the genealogist's. Just why this is so, is not apparent to me, for as I have said, both historians and genealogists use the same methods and materials, or should. Perhaps in that *should* we have the explanation. Perhaps

it is the fact that the genealogist should share the spirit of the historian and use his methods, but *doesn't* that causes the feeling of superiority on the historian's part.

He sees the genealogist dealing with an historical subject in a way no self-respecting historian can tolerate. He sees the genealogist content with his "skeleton". He sees pedigrees consisting of only names and dates, often with even places and occupations lacking. He sees the genealogist, falsely so called, making his skeleton by industriously copying from secondary sources, without any attempt to verify or "document" his statements, believing naively that whatever he sees in print is so, and quite unaware that genealogy is, or ought to be, anything either better or different. It is no wonder that the historian comes to regard genealogy as at best the harmless pastime of idle women or silly men.

It must also be owned that the biographer often falls somewhat under the same condemnation — or that at least some writers of "romantic" biography do — and doubtless with equal justification. Historians are too likely to forget that such masters of their craft as Stubbs and Greene and Round, to mention only a few, held genealogy in high esteem and regarded it not only as a handmaid to history, but as *essential* to historical studies, at least in some periods.

Well, then, it is no accident that historical societies are supported and their libraries and collections used both by students of history and devotees of genealogy. Indeed, it is probably not too much to say that ten times as many of the persons working in our historical societies are there because of their interest in genealogy, and that three-fourths of the members of our historical societies who support them by their dues are members because of this same genealogical interest. This simple fact, namely that genealogists and persons interested in genealogy support our societies materially in large measure entitles them — genealogically-minded persons — to the best service the historical society can give them. For the most part, historical societies realize this and live up to the obligations, even if historians, especially those of the professional type, are inclined to regard them as unmitigated nuisances!

I have said that, generally speaking, the records used by historians and genealogists were not brought into being primarily or originally for the use of either historians or genealogists.

At first, it might seem that vital records and the pedigrees compiled by the Heralds in England at the Visitations are exceptions to this general statement. However, I do not think they will be found to be exceptions when the reasons for making them are carefully considered.

In any case, the class of records of greatest use to the genealogist in constructing the skeleton for his family history certainly is no exception. The backbone of every pedigree, the prime source for the construction of the pedigree of a family, is the documents whose primary purpose is to record the ownership and descent of land. The instruments used for this purpose or these purposes, differ widely in different ages and different countries, yet they have one purpose and characteristic — recording the ownership and changes of ownership of the soil. Instruments to accomplish these purposes served most commonly by our deeds and wills have existed from the time of the Babylonians, and may be studied by the curious and by scholars interested in the problems of these various ages and countries from the clay bricks with their cuneiform inscriptions, through the parchment charters of the medieval period, to our typed paper documents of today.

I dwell on this fact that both history and genealogy depend on documents made in the first instance for other purposes as one indication of their common methods and materials, and so of their essential identity.

Now this interest in genealogy, which is of so great importance to the historical society, and consequently to historians and historical studies in general, is awakened in many ways, for though usually present in the normal human being, it often needs to be stimulated to real activity.

Now, one of the chief stimulants to an interest in the past and in one's own ancestors is the American hereditary patriotic society.

I use the word "American" advisedly, for so far as I know, these societies, so numerous and so active among us, have no counterpart in any other country. England has nothing like them; indeed, I have difficulty in making my English friends understand their value and their appeal. They do not see why membership in the Colonial Dames, the Colonial Wars, or the Cincinnati should be so highly esteemed and carry with it a sort of social prestige.

The fact that they have no such societies is not due to a lack of interest in history or genealogy. They have historical societies and societies for the preserving of records of national and local interest. They trace their descent from a companion of the Conqueror — often as erroneously as we deduce the same sort of pedigree. They take pride in their royal descent or their descent from a Magna Charta Baron, but they have no societies of persons of royal descent or of descendants of the Barons of Runnemede. The nearest approach to such societies as we have that I can think of is the Huguenot Society of London, and that is chiefly a society for printing records of the Huguenot churches in England. So, in general, we can say that our hereditary-patriotic societies are distinctively American.

At all events, they are with us. They are numerous and their members are literally legion.

It may be objected that their members in many, perhaps in most cases, become members, not because of any interest in either history or genealogy, but rather because of the social distinction, real or imagined, that attaches to membership. Doubtless many people are attracted by this consideration, but a fairly extensive acquaintance with these groups leads me to think otherwise.

The very human pleasure we derive from association with our fellow men, of meeting with them socially, of eating a common meal, are strong and perfectly proper and worthy reasons for becoming members of such societies as the Colonial Dames, the D.A.R., the Colonial Wars, the S.A.R., or the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War or of the Daughters of the Confederacy, and many persons do become members for these excellent reasons. Nevertheless,

though other reasons may not be so obvious, they are nevertheless real.

Many a man or woman is proud of the fact that his or her ancestors were among the founders of this great nation, that this or that ancestor fought for the freedom of the Colonies in the days that tried men's souls. They feel a kinship with other persons of a like origin and background, and they want to do their part in glorifying the deeds of the men of those remote days.

So they set industriously to work to verify a family tradition that great-grandfather Hezekiah fought at Bunker Hill, or Aunt Elizabeth's daughter's remembered statements that grandfather Brown was descended from an ancestor who came over in the *Mayflower*, or that this or that family was among the early settlers of Rehoboth or Newport or Providence.

Where do they go to find books and records to aid them in their self-imposed undertaking? Of course, to the historical society. Generally they are received sympathetically and expect guidance is given them by the trained and experienced librarian. Most often, if the seeker after genealogical light knows the facts of his descent, with dates and places, back as far as, let us say, his great grandfather, it is not difficult to carry the descent back to the Revolution and so verify the accuracy of the family tradition. If the person is fortunate, here in New England, he may find a genealogy of the family carefully compiled with all the facts he needs to know for his immediate purpose. If not, he may find the vital records of the town where his ancestor of the Revolutionary period lived accurately printed.

If he has been fortunate and has found what he wanted and that his progenitor had a fine Revolutionary record, probably his interest increases and he wants to know more about the family. The genealogy, if he has found one ready to his hand, gives him the data for his descent from the immigrant ancestor of the family. He wants to know more than the bare names and dates. Often these are all that even good genealogies supply — necessarily so, for the compiler could not take the time to work up full accounts

of each person mentioned in his book, nor afford to print them if he did. So he begins to read the town history. This stimulates him to read histories of the State, or of special periods of that history. He comes to know the careful and scholarly histories dealing with his State and nation in their several periods, and so comes to have an understanding of the times and of the events in which his several ancestors lived and in which they played a part, however small and relatively insignificant.

Indeed, I know of no better way for a person to get a cross-section of our history than to work out carefully the outline biographies of his ancestors in their successive generations. If his search and readings take him into original records, the ultimate source of what he has learned from genealogies and histories, so much the better for him, for in this way he gets a more intimate knowledge and understanding of the times and knows better what manner of men and women those ancestors of his were. He gets a new and more intelligent idea of the conditions under which they lived, of the hardships they endured, and of the triumphant way in which they overcame difficulties, made homes for themselves, and became the founders and builders of our towns and commonwealths.

He will, of course, discover that he had many ancestors, descended from families most of which he had never even heard of, or if he had heard of them, had no idea that their blood flowed in his own veins.

Of course, there are snobs who, having found a descent from a distinguished ancestor, forget all the rest and talk only of him. There are even those who are all too credulous when it comes to a descent from a distinguished person, perhaps of their own family name, and through wishful thinking, instead of vigorous tracing of the evidence, promptly adopt him as their own. Such cases, I am persuaded, are relatively few; most such persons, when their errors are shown to them, accept, however regretfully, the facts with good grace. Occasionally we find a person who holds to his belief, or seems to, in spite of any amount of evidence, and resents bitterly any attempt to show him his

error. Such people must simply be left to get what satisfaction they can out of their mistaken belief.

Our seeker after genealogical knowledge soon finds that he had ancestors not only in the War of the Revolution, but also in the Colonial Wars, and he becomes a member of a society requiring descent from a soldier of that period as a condition of membership. He learns, too, that some of his ancestors were of French Huguenot origin, some of Scottish origin — prisoners sent over after Dunbar, for example — and becomes interested in societies whose objects are to study the history and record the descent from ancestors of such origins.

He learns that, in fact, there is hardly a war, or a social group, that has not its appropriate society. Naturally he will not find that he can qualify for them all. Perhaps two or three will interest him sufficiently for him to become a member. Here in New England descendants of almost any of the old families can qualify for the Revolutionary societies, for the Society of Colonial Wars, or the Colonial Dames, perhaps for the Huguenot Society. Many qualify for the War of 1812 Society, but few for the Aztec Club of 1845 — the Mexican War Society. Few will qualify for the Hallard Society or the Pennsylvania German Society. In the Middle States more will qualify for these societies or for such societies as the Welcome Society — descendants of settlers who came over with William Penn, or for the Ark and the Dove, descendants of Calvert's settlers who came to Maryland. In New England, indeed in all parts of the country, many qualify for the Mayflower Society. Many more societies might be named. The oldest and perhaps most prized of our hereditary patriotic societies is the Society of the Cincinnati. This society, formed at the close of the Revolutionary War by the officers of the Continental Army, requires descent, generally speaking, in the direct male line from a Continental officer.

This bewildering array of societies by no means exhausts the possibilities either of possible membership or of interesting ancestry.

Perhaps our genealogical "bug" — for by this time he doubtless has been badly "bitten" — finds among his ancestors a few whose English ancestry is known.

Contrary to what used to be piously believed, the great majority of our immigrant ancestry were of quite simple and humble origin. "Dukes don't emigrate." Our ancestors came from yeoman stock for the most part, with some of even more humble origin, but with a sprinkling from "gentle" families.

Possibly the English origin of one family in ten in New England is known. Our genealogist studies all he can find concerning this English family of gentle blood from whom he is descended. In doing this, he learns of the Heralds' Visitations and of the great histories of the counties of England. So he is introduced to another new and fascinating subject for study: Heraldry.

He may even discover that he has a "royal" or a Magna Charta "line", or a proved descent from the great Charlemagne himself. For there are a considerable number of such proved descents for New England families.

I have known many people who have disclaimed any interest in such ancestry — either poo-pooing the possibility of proving anything of the kind, or saying that of course it can be mathematically shown that everybody must have such ancestry. But I have never known a person who became aware of such a descent who wasn't gratified by the discovery — whether or not he would freely admit it. As Mr. G. Andrews Moriarty said years ago in the *Register*: "Occasional perusal of the genealogical department of the *Boston Evening Transcript* and other publications has convinced me that in spite of the fact that 'all men are created equal' and in spite of the good old American contempt for royalty and the 'effete nobility of Europe,' the American genealogical public have an exceedingly strong desire to deduce their descent by hook or crook from the same 'effete' royal and noble houses of Europe. Furthermore, an investigation of these claims usually shows that not one in twenty of such pedigrees can stand up under the searching test of modern scientific investigation."

I am confident of the substantial accuracy of Mr. Moriarty's estimate of the proportion of "good" claims to royal descent. Recently I went through the list of the American ancestors by virtue of descent from whom members had been admitted to one of our most flourishing Magna Charta societies. I found that about one-third of the members had been admitted on ancestors with perfectly well-established Magna Charta descents — descending from a small group of ancestors; that about one-third had been admitted on claims that every well-informed genealogist knows have been exploded over and over again; and that one-third had been admitted through ancestors about whom I know nothing.

This state of things is due chiefly to the ignorance, sometimes willful, I fear, of the officers of the societies. Most of the claims, I doubt not, were made by the members in good faith. They found the pedigrees in works which they, in their innocence, supposed to be authoritative — such as Browning's *Americans of Royal Descent* or Jordan's *Your Family Tree*, and the societies, it would seem, still accept as sufficient evidence these uncritical and erroneous books. Of course, these books do have some "good" pedigrees in them, and, after all, it does take a considerable amount of special training, knowledge, and experience to determine the accuracy of a medieval pedigree. Nevertheless, the worthlessness of many of these pedigrees has been exposed so often and in such readily available sources that there can be no excuse for any self-respecting genealogical society accepting them.

Now to conclude. The historical society and the genealogist, or the societies having a genealogical qualification for membership, have reciprocal obligations and duties.

It is the function of the historical society to collect original records, documents, manuscripts, and printed matter illustrating the life and activities of the period or the region with which it deals. In making its collections, whether of source material or of secondary works, it will not undertake to determine whether it will be useful to the historian or to the genealogist. It has equal obligations to both, and

without question, the material will be used by both. Take for example, a book like Mr. Bowen's first volume on Rehoboth. Mr. Bowen doesn't care whether his books are used by genealogists or historians. He doesn't care if the historians think of him as an historian and the genealogists regard him as a genealogist. The terms, I take it, do not mean much to him. It is all history and all genealogy, or it is the raw or finished material for either or both. What he is aiming at is the presentation of the life and work of the people of Rehoboth, and neither historian nor genealogist can work properly in water-tight compartments. He finds, too, that he cannot write the history of Rehoboth or the history-genealogy of a Rehoboth family without becoming aware of the importance of what was going on outside of Rehoboth for his history, or conversely, the import of what was going on in Rehoboth for the rest of New England.

The function of the Historical Society is to provide the materials for the work of both historian and genealogist; to give members or prospective members guidance in the use of the accumulated material; to have a staff familiar with the resources of the library and able to warn of pitfalls, to say this or that book is admirable and to be trusted, this or that one is worthless or to be used with caution, and able to show why this or that judgment is valid.

The study of the history of a family — genealogy, family history — is not less worthy and dignified than the history of a town or a state. Both are to be pursued in the spirit of the search for truth; both will use in large measure the same materials and methods. And let not the historian think family historians are less important because there are more of them — to reduce it to an absurdity. The historical society, at least, will realize that the money coming in from them is as good as the money paid by the historians, and that there is more of it. They have equal claims on the historical society, and they should work together in amity and mutual respect.

Further, many of the hereditary patriotic societies have printed and are printing source-material no less useful to



the historian than to the genealogist, as witness the admirable series of publications issued by the Rhode Island Society of Colonial Wars and the Society of Colonial Dames.

Let us all, then, work together in our desires to enlarge our understanding of the past, remembering that the larger units of society are made up of individuals and families, and that the activities of the larger units cannot be fully or properly understood without an understanding of the lives of the individuals and of the families.

### Some Recent Accessions

From Mrs. John S. Holbrook, *The Manning Families of New England*.  
From the author, Cora E. H. Smith, *Certain Early Ancestors*, containing material on the Butterfield, Parker, Hohn, Johnson, and Heath families.

By purchase, *Fahnestock Genealogy* and *Pittis Genealogy*.

From the John Hay Library, *Fairchild Family*.

From the author, Richard LeBaron Bowen, *Early Rehoboth*, vol. I.

From Mr. Arthur B. Lisle, *Walton Family of New York*.

From Mrs. William O. Todd, *The Todd Family in America, or Descendants of Christopher Todd*.

From Mr. Marshall Morgan, *Snoce Family Manuscripts: Miscellany*.

By purchase, *The Trowbridge Family*.

From the author, Gertrude Flory Dinkey, *Genealogy of the Flory-Dinkey Family*.

From Mrs. Alice F. Davenport, *Stukeley Westcote*.

By purchase, *Family History of Anthony Taylor of Hampton, N. H.*: additions by Harold Murdock Taylor; and *The Calvin Families*.

By purchase, notes compiled by Harrison S. Taft on Nicholas Brown and allied families.

From Mr. John Churchill of Wareham, Mass., Zachariah Allen material for the museum, including a carpet bag, laundry bag, autograph album, needlepoint picture, card case, etc.

From Mrs. John O. Ames, an oil portrait of Sarah Smith Brown, wife of John Brown.

From the author, Maude Howe Elliott, five books.

From the author, Frederick R. Weis, *Rev. Samuel Skelton* and *Colonial Clergy and Colonial Churches of New England*.

From Mr. John Nicholas Brown, miscellaneous material on Newport and the United Nations Organization.

By purchase, *Sibley's Harvard Graduates*, vols. IV-VII.

By purchase, 13 letters of Francis and Saunders Malbone, 1768-1807.

## What Every Good American Wife Should Be: A Patriot's Estimate

*Communicated by* SIDNEY I. POMERANTZ<sup>1</sup>

The War for Independence was almost over in the Summer of 1782, but the battle of the sexes, seemingly, was destined to go on with undiminished intensity. Turning from martial concerns to marital matters, a male pundit set forth in the June 1 *Newport Mercury* what he deemed were "the mental and personal qualifications of a wife." Perhaps, even in 18th Century America, he was apprehensive of stirring up a hornets' nest of controversy. Accordingly, hiding behind the security of anonymity, he spoke his mind freely and frankly:

*The mental and personal Qualifications of a WIFE*

GREAT good nature, and a prudent generosity.

A lively look, a proper spirit, and a cheerful disposition.

A good person, but not perfectly beautiful.

Of a moderate height.

With regard to complexion, not quite fair, but a little brown.

Young, by all means.

Old, by no means.

NIMIA TENUITATIS? MINIME.

A decent share of common sense, just tinged with a little seasonable repartee, and a small modicum of wit; but no learning, no learning, I say again and again either antique or modern, upon any consideration whatever.

Well, but not critically, skill'd in her own tongue.

In spelling, a little becoming deficiency; and in the doctrine of PUNCTUATION (or what is generally called STOPPING.) by no means conversant.

A proper knowledge of ACCOUNTS and arithmetic; but no sort of skill in FRACTIONS.

A more than tolerable good voice, and a little ear for music; and a capability of singing a canzonet, or a song, in company, but no peculiar and intimate acquaintance with MINEMS, CROTCHETS, QUAVERS, &c.

No enthusiasm for the GUITAR.

Ready at her needle, but more devoted to plain work than to fine.

<sup>1</sup> Department of History, The College of the City of New York.

No enemy to knitting.

Not always in the parlour, but sometimes in the kitchen.

More skilled in the theoretic, than in the practice part of cookery.

To tea and coffee no objection.

An acquaintance with domestic news, but no acquaintance with foreign.

In conversation, a little of the lisp, but not of the stammer.

Decently but not affectedly silent.

If the piece went unanswered in the columns of this Rhode Island newspaper, it is extremely doubtful that the embattled patriot women let the subject rest in the privacy of their own homes. Having fought along with their men for independence, they were in no mood to forego learned accomplishments. The number of both sexes who thought intellectual deficiencies and political ignorance admirable in a wife must have been steadily decreasing, for it is a fact that the Revolutionary women were not indifferent to the many issues raised by the war. One must conclude, therefore, that our unknown adviser was thinking in terms of the pre-Revolutionary generation and looking back to an age that was slowly but surely passing.

### Recent Publications of Interest

"A Bibliography of New England: 1945," by Allyn B. Forbes, in *New England Quarterly*, XIX, No. 1 (March, 1946), 131-142.

"The Newport Synagogue," by Leo M. Friedman, in *Old-Time New England*, XXXVI, No. 3 (January, 1946), 49-57.

"The Goddard and Townsend Joiners," by Mabel M. Swan, in *The Magazine Antiques*, XLIX, No. 4 (April, 1946), 228-231; and No. 5 (May, 1946), 292-295.

### News—Notes

Edith R. Blanchard, former reference librarian at the John Hay Library, Brown University, has been engaged to prepare an index to the first five volumes of *Rhode Island History*.

William Greene Roelker, the Society's director-librarian, has been appointed a library research associate by the American Philosophical Society, founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin, to edit for publication the correspondence between Franklin and Mr. Roelker's great-great-grandmother, Mrs. Catharine (Ray) Greene. Other scholars currently holding similar appointments are Carl Van Doren, Prof. Gilbert Chinard, Charles Coleman Sellers, and George W. Comer.

Two of our members, Richard LeBaron Bowen and Dr. Arthur Adams, have been elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society.

Two extensive exhibitions have been held in John Brown House this Spring, attracting many visitors to the Society's quarters. One of these was arranged by the Steamship Historical Society and is reported on at greater length elsewhere in this issue. The other was an exhibition of souvenirs of World War II. It was installed by the assistant librarian, Clifford P. Monahan, with Westcote H. Chesebrough as chairman of the committee on arrangements.

During the Spring the fence around the Society's property has been repaired and painted.

By vote of the Executive Committee the Society's building will be closed from August 10 through August 25, although Mr. Monahan will be available for special appointments during this period. The building will also be closed on Sundays during July and August and on the first Sunday in September. At other times during the Summer the building will be open Mondays through Fridays.

New Members of the  
Rhode Island Historical Society

Since April, 1946.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Miss Alice B. Almy<br>Bristol, R. I.           | Mr. Frank Jones, Jr.                        |
| Mr. C. Tracy Barnes                            | Mr. E. Sheldon Knowles                      |
| Mr. John Lippitt Beckwith                      | Mr. Edgar J. Lanpher                        |
| Mr. Norman T. Bolles                           | Mr. Frederick Lippitt                       |
| Mrs. Norman T. Bolles                          | Mr. Henry Lippitt<br>San Diego, California  |
| Mr. Sam W. Burchiel                            | Mr. Stanley Livingston, Jr.                 |
| Mr. Thomas E. Burgess<br>Hamilton, R. I.       | Mr. Herbert A. Luther<br>Johnston, R. I.    |
| Mr. Robert T. Cairns                           | Miss Jessie Luther                          |
| Mr. Wallace Campbell, 3rd<br>Peace Dale, R. I. | Mr. Kenneth D. MacColl<br>Newport, R. I.    |
| Mr. Arnold B. Chace, III                       | Mrs. Kenneth B. MacLeod                     |
| Mr. Malcolm G. Chace, Jr.                      | Mr. Frank H. Malley                         |
| Mr. Richard H. Chase<br>Barrington, R. I.      | Mr. Howard R. Merriman                      |
| Mr. Mason F. Cocroft                           | Mr. George T. Metcalf                       |
| Mr. Alan Philip Cusick                         | Mr. Charles G. Morgan                       |
| Mr. Frank A. Decker<br>Thompson, Conn.         | Mr. Stephen L. Nichols<br>Riverside, R. I.  |
| Mr. Harold J. Field                            | Mr. Paul C. Nicholson, Jr.                  |
| Mr. R. Henry Field                             | Mr. Edwin A. Patt<br>Barrington, R. I.      |
| Mr. F. R. Hazard<br>Saunderstown, R. I.        | Mr. Philip Munroe Shires<br>Cranston, R. I. |
| Mr. Thomas P. Hazard<br>Peace Dale, R. I.      | Mr. P. Edward Thayer                        |
| Mr. W. K. R. Holm, Jr.                         | Mr. John Chester Anderson<br>Watkins        |
| Mr. William C. Huntoon                         | Mr. William W. White                        |
| Mr. Richard A. Hurley, Jr.<br>Rumford, R. I.   | Miss Dorothy Whitman<br>Concord, Mass.      |

This brings the Society's membership to 1,244.