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The foundation for the development of a genealogy in Rhode Island was laid in Providence in 1822 with the formation of the Rhode Island Historical Society "for the purpose of procuring whatever relates to the topography, antiquities and natural civil and ecclestial history of the state".

In the early years emphasis was on offerings of historical data by local scholars while efforts were made to collect books, manuscripts, maps, newspapers and other material related to Rhode Island.

Although some interest in family genealogy was evident in the early years, it was not until 1875 that the word "genealogy" first appears in annual reports of the society. In that year a committee on genealogical research was formed to mobilize volunteers to collect or copy vital statistics and other data in city and state records, churches and cemeteries. Publications of the society from then until the 1920's included land evidences, cemetery and court records as well as articles citing contributions by various Rhode Island families to early settlement and development of the state. Emphasis was on the relationship of families to Rhode Island history. In 1923 the first strictly genealogical articles appeared in the form of listing of descendants.

As genealogy increased as a popular pursuit beginning in the 1890's, more and more users of the society's library were genealogists. The society's holdings increased until they formed one of the larger collections in New England.

In 1853 the Newport Historical Society was organized. Particularly in the 1920's and 1930's valuable genealogical articles appeared in their publications. The library developed an excellent collection of family genealogies, land evidences, maps and newspapers for Newport and surrounding towns.

Outstanding genealogical collections were published by James N. Arnold and John O. Austin. In the year 1882 Mr. Arnold became editor of "The Narragansett Register", a quarterly magazine devoted to genealogy and historical matters for southern Rhode Island, through eight volumes and two numbers into the ninth, ceasing in 1891. From the "Register" grew "The Vital Records of Rhode Island" (1630-1850), the first volume of which appeared in 1891. The first six volumes were devoted to births, marriages and deaths in the state and other volumes covered newspaper and church records.

John O Austin in 1883 and in nine subsequent years turned his attention to Rhode Island families. In 1887 he published "The Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island", dedicated to James Savage whose "Genealogical Dictionary of New England" formed a basis for tracing Rhode Island families. In 1889 Mr. Austin published "The Ancestry of Thirty-three Rhode Islanders" and in 1891 "The Ancestral Dictionary".

The works of Mr. Arnold and Mr. Austin constitute the most important collections of genealogical data available for Rhode Island, even today, although Mr. Austin's "Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island" leaves numerous early Rhode Island families untouched.

Another important contribution of Mr. Arnold was his extensive collection of gravestone records in the state from family burial grounds, collected be-

tween 1880 and 1900. An index is maintained in a cabinet at the Elmwood branch of the Providence Public Library and the burial records filed by towns nearby. These records are of exceptional value because many of the gravestones have crumbled or have been destroyed since the time they were copied by Mr. Arnold. Besides the gravestone collection, Mr. Arnold also contributed notebooks on some Rhode Island families, along with clippings from the Boston Evening Transcript genealogical pages and some vital records not included in his printed records.

The Rhode Island Historical Society library also has a handwritten volume by Mr. Austin of additional family material which includes some families not covered in his printed volumes.

One of the finest collections at the Rhode Island Historical Society library, "Providence Town Papers", came from Providence City Hall. They consist of original town records of all kinds, dating from 1640 to the early 1800's, all mounted, bound and indexed by subject matter.

One of the best known collections at the library is that of the late Louise Prosser Bates, genealogist. Because of the poor present condition of her records they are now available only on microfilm. An extensive genealogical collection of the late Ruth Story Devereux Eddy is more modern and easier to use.

Of prime genealogical importance are the New England Friends' Meeting records now housed at the library with a custodian in charge on Thursdays. She does research for an hourly fee. The collection also includes Friends data from some other states. Private papers of Moses Brown, noted Quaker, dealing with Friends' matters are also available at the library.

Other genealogical collections at the library include boxes filled with family data by the late Rev. James P. Root and Anthony Tarbox Briggs collection which provides information on families of the towns of West Greenwich and Coventry, along with some gravestone records.

Notes of the late Miss Nellie Potter offer family data on those who lived in the Foster and Scituate areas. The late Clarence Brown contributed genealogical notes dealing mainly with descendants of Chad Brown of Providence.

Dr. Frank Calef compiled manuscript volumes listing Mayflower descendants and another group of records of descendants of Roger Williams. He also copied early gravestones of the ancient North Burial Ground in Providence. Since many of these stones no longer exist or are no longer readable, the records are of great value. An index is provided.

Another important group of volumes is that compiled by Peleg Pierce. Two volumes present abstracts and probate for early North Kingstown and the third volume contains genealogical data. A typewritten index of names is provided.

Providence Custom House Papers, an important genealogical source because they cover the years of the state as a major port, occupy a sizeable section of the library stacks. A card catalog of the Register of Seamen's Protection,

starting about 1790, lists age, complexion, place of birth and date of certification of the applicant, sometimes providing the only clue to the birth of an ancestor.

Nine boxes at the library are filled with data on descendants of Capt. Randall Holden. Two boxes contain genealogical manuscripts by the late Benjamin F. Wilbour of Little Compton. Mr. Wilbour also offered a manuscript volume, "Little Compton Families". Other collections include data on the Andrews family of Rhode Island, notes by the late William H. Chapin on Greene families and 17 envelopes filled with genealogical material by the late Georginia Guild, professional genealogist.

One valuable listing is the Index of Rhode Island Grave Records compiled from 1931 to 1941 by Charles P. and Martha A. Benns. The six volumes of this collection are microfilmed with an index to the individual volumes.

The Graves Registration Commission of the Division of Veteran Affairs has a Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries masterbook in which each historical cemetery and war veterans buried there are listed, with no index. A copy of the master book is available at the Rhode Island Historical Society library.

The Society is fortunate in having a fine collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century census records. Although not really a census, a list of freemen admitted to Rhode Island in the years 1747 to 1754 is available with names arranged by towns, with an index.

The first real census taken in 1774 is in printed form by towns with an alphabetical index. The 1776 and 1777 censuses are in manuscript only in the State Archives.

The 17⁹0 census, known as "Heads of Families" is in printed form. The original and typescript with an alphabetical index of the 1782 census are in the Historical Society library. Also included are zeriographic copies of the 1800, 1810 and 1820 censuses, with microfilm available, and the 1830 and 1840 census on microfilm.

The 1850 census was the first to list names of each household member, along with ages, places of birth and occupations of males over 15. The Historical Society has a ^{published} ~~surname~~ index ^{of Heads of Families}. The 1860 census is in manuscript form for Providence County with a surname index, which is ~~superceded by an accelerated finding system~~. Other counties are on microfilm with no index. The late John H. Wells made a great contribution to the Rhode Island Historical Society by indexing the 1850 and 1860 census records by surname and providing complete family names in the 1865 census. The 1870 and 1880 censuses are on microfilm without index. The 1875 and 1885 censuses are in manuscript form at the State Archives. The 1890 federal census was destroyed by fire and copies of the Rhode Island census for 1895 have not been located. State censuses for 1905, 1915, 1925 and 1935 are in the State Records Center. (to be continued)

(continued from Volume 4 Number 1)

For those seeking records of Rhode Island Revolutionary War soldiers, Benjamin Cowell's "Spirit of '76", published in 1850, provides a listing of soldiers, muster rolls for Rhode Island companies, and the names of many non-commissioned men. The volume is indexed in Arnold's Vital Records.

Smith's Civil and Military List of Rhode Island, (1647-1850) in two volumes with an index, names only officers of state units. His compilation is also useful for names of men who served in the Revolution in other than military capacity.

State Archives at the Rhode Island State House has files of records of Rhode Island Revolutionary soldiers not to be found elsewhere but for the most part they comprise service records with only occasional genealogical information.

The Revolutionary War pension and bounty land warrant applications at the National Archives in Washington contain the names of many Rhode Islanders. The Rhode Island Historical Society has started a project to collect a selected list of these records on microfilm with the help of donations.

Besides the collection of Rhode Island Revolutionary War soldiers' records the Rhode Island Archives in the State House at Providence contains an index of thousands of names which appear on petitions to the state General Assembly, lists of those accepted as freemen, a partial 1777 military census of those capable of bearing arms, some of the earliest court proceedings and the first record book of the Island of Rhode Island. This book contains the Compact made and signed before the signers left to found Portsmouth.

Court records are sometimes a rich source of genealogical information. The Court Records Center at the Providence County Courthouse in Providence includes early lower court records for Washington and Kent Counties, Supreme Court records and other material,

The Rhode Island Record Center, Veterans' Memorial Building, 83 Park Street, Providence, houses lower court records for Providence County and for the town of Bristol, packed into tin boxes identified only by year and term and with no index of cases now available.

Rhode Island differs from Massachusetts, for example, in that each town has kept its own probate, land evidence, town council and town meeting records instead of filing probate and land evidence at the county seat.

The town council records probably surpass the early council records of any other colony. One of the duties of each council was keep alert for strangers who appeared in the town. They were warned out of the town unless they bought land or gave bond from their last legal place of residence. These warnings not only gave the name of the stranger but sometimes the names of his wife and children and the various places they had lived before coming to Rhode Island. The town meeting and town council records for Providence are on microfilm at the Providence Public Library.

The town meeting records include the election of town officers and names of new residents and strangers often appear as well as records of the care of the poor of the town.

Rhode Island has only five counties, each supporting a variety of cities, townships, villages and hamlets as follows:

BRISTOL COUNTY, incorporated 17 Feb. 1746/7 with county limits as at present. Originally the county consisted of two towns, Bristol and Warren. In June, 1770 Warren was divided and Barrington was incorporated. Previous to 1746, Bristol was a part of what is now Massachusetts and earliest probate and land evidence can be found at the Taunton, Mass. Registry and Probate offices.

KENT COUNTY, incorporated 11 June 1750, was taken from Providence County with the same town limits as at present, except that West Warwick was formed from Warwick in 1913. Towns include Coventry, taken from Warwick and incorporated 21 Aug. 1741 with offices in the village of Washington; East Greenwich, incorporated 31 Oct. 1677 with its name changes to Dedford 23 June 1688 and the original name restored the following year; West Greenwich, taken from East Greenwich and incorporated 6 April 1741. The town house is 3½ miles north of Exit Five north of Interstate 95.

NEWPORT COUNTY was incorporated 22 June 1703 as Rhode Island County and on 16 June 1729 incorporated as Newport County.

Newport was settled in 1639, incorporated as a city 1 June 1784 with the city charter repealed three years later. The city was incorporated for a second time 6 May 1853.

Middletown was taken from Newport and incorporated 16 June 1743.

Portsmouth was settled in 1638. Its Indian name was Pocasset. The name Portsmouth was confirmed for the town in 1640.

The island of Jamestown was incorporated 30 Oct. 1678. Its Indian name was Conanicut.

Little Compton, incorporated 27 Jan. 1746/7, was one of five towns received from Massachusetts pursuant to royal decree of 28 May 1746. It was annexed to Newport County 17 Feb. 1746/7. The area had been incorporated by Plymouth County in 1682. The Indian name was Seaconnet.

Tiverton, incorporated by the Province of Massachusetts in 1694, was one of the five towns received from Massachusetts by royal decree. It was incorporated as a town 26 Jan. 1746/7 when it was annexed to Newport County.

New Shoreham, was originally a part of Newport County but since 1963 has been joined to Washington County.

PROVIDENCE COUNTY was originally incorporated 22 June 1703 as County of Providence Plantations. The name was changed to Providence County 16 June 1729.

Towns in the county include:

Cranston, taken from Providence and incorporated 14 June 1754.

Cumberland, one of the five towns received from Massachusetts by royal decree, until incorporated in Rhode Island was known as Attleboro Gore. It was annexed to Providence County 17 Feb. 1746/7. A portion of Cumberland was incorporated as the town of Woonsocket 31 Jan. 1867. The town office is in the village of Valley Falls.

Glocester was taken from Providence and incorporated 20 Feb. 1730/1 with town offices in Chepachet. The town of Burrillville was set off from Glocester 17 Nov. 1806 with town offices in Harrisville.

Foster was taken from Scituate and incorporated 24 Aug. 1781 with town offices in Foster Center.

Johnston was taken from Providence and incorporated 6 March 1759. Land evidence is found at the Johnston town hall but early probate, town council and town meeting records have been retained at the Providence City Hall probate office.

North Providence was taken from Providence and incorporated 13 June 1765. A small portion was reunited with Providence 29 June 1767 and 28 March 1873. The town was divided 27 March, 1874 with a portion annexed to the City of Providence and a part annexed to Pawtucket. Records for the colonial period are in the city clerk's office at Pawtucket City Hall.

Scituate was taken from Providence and incorporated 20 Feb. 1730/1. The town office is in North Scituate.

Smithfield was taken from Providence and incorporated 20 Feb. 1730/1. Probate, land evidence, town meeting and town council records are in the Central Falls city clerk's office.

WASHINGTON COUNTY was originally called Narragansett County and was named King's Province on 20 March 1654. Boundaries were established 21 May 1669. The county was incorporated as King's County in June 1729 and included the towns of North Kingstown, South Kingstown and Westerly, the same territory as at present. The name was changed to Washington County 29 Oct. 1791.

The towns:

North Kingstown was incorporated 28 Oct 1674 and the first settlement was in 1641. It was incorporated under the name Kings Towne with incorporation reaffirmed in 1679. The name was changed to Rochester 23 June 1686 but was restored to Kings Towne the following year. Kings Towne was divided into North Kingstown and South Kingstown in February, 1722/23 with the North Kingstown town offices in Wickford. A fire many years ago damaged all of the town books with vital records receiving the most serious damage but the greater part of the land evidence is still intact.

Exeter was taken from North Kingstown and incorporated 8 March 1742/43.

South Kingstown as Pettaquamscutt was settled 20 Jan. 1757/8. It was incorporated 22 Feb. 1723 with town offices in Wakefield.

Westerly was incorporated 14 May 1669 as the fifth town of the colony with the original name of Misquamicut. The name was changed to Westerly in 1689. Town offices are in the town of Westerly.

Charlestown was taken from Westerly and incorporated 22 Aug. 1738. Town offices are on Route 2.

Richmond was taken from Charlestown and incorporated 18 Aug. 1747. Town offices are at the junction of Routes 138 and 112. Two record books of Richmond were destroyed by fire many years ago.

Hopkinton was taken from Westerly and incorporated 6 Nov. 19 March 1757 with town offices in the village of Hopkinton.

New Shoreham was incorporated 6 Nov. 1672, purchased and occupied in April 1661. It was admitted to the colony as Block Island 4 May 1664. When incorporated its name was changed to New Shoreham. It had been a part of Newport County until 17 Sept. 1963 when it was joined to Washington County.

Knowledge of the divisions from original towns into separate towns is important to those searching for ancestors in Rhode Island. For example, a man may have purchased land in Westerly before 1738. He may have lived out his life in this same land, yet was a resident of Charlestown after 1738 and after 1747 was living in Richmond when that town was set off from Charlestown. It thus becomes advisable to search the records of all three towns, Westerly, Charlestown and Richmond.

James N. Arnold and John O. Austin have been called the giants of Rhode Island genealogy. Three other genealogists of more modern years should be mentioned as worthy contributors to the knowledge of Rhode Island families; the late G. Andrews Moriarty of Ogunquit, Me., the late Edward H. West of Laurel, Md. and the late Richard LeBaron Bowen of Rehoboth, Mass.

Of value to those whose early ancestors lived on Block Island are two lengthy articles on "Some Notes on Block Islanders of the Seventeenth Century" which appeared in the July 1951 and October 1951 issues of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register.

Mr. Moriarty, who died 12 July 1968, was born in Newport and his earliest genealogical contributions appeared in the Newport (R.I.) Mercury which for many years published a column of genealogical queries and answers. Especially during the 1920's and 1930's he published frequent notes in the genealogical columns of the Boston Evening Transcript, offering well documented suggestions and conclusions. For nearly sixty years his articles appeared in genealogical journals and he was a frequent contributor to the New England Historical and Genealogical Register and The American Genealogist with numerous subjects dealing with Rhode Island families. In the latter magazine he presented additions and corrections to Austin's Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island.

Edward H. West, a native of Newport who died 12 Feb. 1960 at 83 years, was a careful genealogist. He was the author of "The History of Portsmouth, 1638-1936" and his articles included "Portsmouth Under the Hutchinsons" (New England Historical and Genealogical Register October 1951). "Some Corrections on the Langworthy Family (The American Genealogist, April 1953), and to the Rhode Island

Historical Society collections he offered "Counterfeiting in Colonial Days" (Vol.27), "The Records of Rhode Island, "The Signing of the Compact and the Purchase of Aquidneck" and New Interpretations of the Records of Rhode Island" (all in Vol. 32).

He was elected President of the National Genealogical Society (1942-1944) and he contributed an article on the Cook family in the quarterly magazine of that society. His ancestral interests extended to the John West, John French, John Coggeshall and Sweet families.

Richard LeBaron Bowen (1878-1969) was perhaps best known for his published volumes on early Rehoboth, Mass., but his articles on early families and history appeared in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register. He was also a contributor to "Rhode Island History", the quarterly publication of the society. From 1948 to 1951 he was President of the society.

One major work was his "Index to the Early Records of the Town of Providence", published in 1949 and he supervised the facsimile reprint of the scarce Volume 21 of the same records.

In 1942 the Rhode Island Society of Colonial Wars published Mr. Bowen's "The Providence Oath of Allegiance and its Signers, 1652/1" and in the same year issued his book on "Rhode Island Colonial Money and its Counterfeiting", both of which contain a wealth of genealogical information.

Another genealogist who was distinguished for her thorough research was the late Miss Bertha Clark of Boston, Mass. Among her manuscript genealogies were those of the Wood, Congdon and Tucker families of Rhode Island.

White Austin's Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island covered three generations of many Rhode Island families, little attention has been paid to further development of some of these lines. The Thomas Arnold family of Providence, Smithfield and Glocester had extensive descendants and except for an inadequate outline of the Arnolds in "The History of Woonsocket" little has been done toward presenting a comprehensive genealogy. The same may be said for the large Sweet family, the Richard Brown family of Providence, the Warners of Warwick, the Cahoons of Westerly and the Place, Card, Owen and Sheldon families. There is a printed Potter genealogy, with many errors and a definitive genealogy would be welcomed to place the complicated lines in order.

Rhode Island has become a melting pot of ethnic groups, Irish, Italian, French-Canadian and Portuguese, attracted to the state by economic opportunities in the 1800's but only a few of these families are represented by genealogies.

One of the difficulties in genealogical research has been the tracing of descendants of families who lived in Rhode Island for generations but moved to other New England states and to New York state after the Revolution, and sometimes before the war, selling their Rhode Island lands and leaving no clue to their destinations in the records of their native towns. New York state was a focal point for many families but since records were sparse there, the 1790 New York state census has been an important aid to searchers, along with church records that are available.

In recent years the Rhode Island Historical Society policy for its quarterly magazine, "Rhode Island History", has been to publish articles of historical interest in the state to the exclusion of genealogical matters. To remedy this lack, The Rhode Island Genealogical Society, Inc. was formed on 29 April, 1975 with the purpose of collecting and distributing genealogical data; the promotion of sound techniques through seminars, workshops and publication of genealogical material; and to aid in the preservation and cataloging of state, local and church records of genealogical value.

The society has a publication, "R.I. Roots", issued several times yearly, including articles of genealogical interest, with a query column. Alden C. Saunders, Box 296, Apple Hill Drive, North Scituate, R.I. 02857 is President. Meetings are omitted in summers but resume for the season in the fall, with the annual meeting in May.

As a cooperative effort, The Rhode Island Historical Society has reinstated a genealogical committee with Henry L.P. Beckwith as chairman. The society, with some members of the Rhode Island Genealogical Society serving the group.

The fast growing national popularity of ancestor hunting is reflected in Rhode Island by the increasing use of libraries which maintain genealogical collections. The Bicentennial year for the nation has encouraged publication of additional town histories in the state which can be scanned for family date.

In using printed biographical books and county histories printed many years ago which include Rhode Island family material the reader should be aware that the genealogical material may not be documented and should be used as only a guide for research in original records.

The future of genealogical research in Rhode Island appears bright. Classes for the instruction of the inexperienced in tracing ancestors are fast increasing in various parts of the state. The popularity of the workshops of the new Rhode Island Genealogical Society Inc. testifies to the enduring interest in genealogy, arguing well for additional printed genealogies and manuscripts that may be added to Rhode Island collections.

A partial list of printed genealogies which involve Rhode Island families, not including manuscript genealogies, has been taken from the shelves of the Rhode Island Historical Society library as follows:

Aldrich, Allen, Alverson, Angell, Anthony, William Arnold family, Armington.

Babcock, Ballou, Barber, Bicknell, Brownell, Bishop, Bliss, Bosworth, Bowen
Bowler, Briggs, Brown, Browning, Buffington, Burdick, Burlingame.

Cady, Capron, Carpenter, Carr, Chase, Chesbrough, Church, Clarke, Cleveland,
Coggeshall, Cole, Colvin, Cornell, Champlin, Cushman.

Davis, Dennison, DeWolf, Dexter, Dodge, Durfee.

Earle, Eddy, Evans.

Field, Fiske, Follett, Foster.

Gardiner, Gibbs, Greene, Goff, Gorton, Guild.

Hall, Halsey, Hazard, Harris, Hart, Hill, Hopkins, Horton, Howland, Hoxie.

Irish.

Jenks, Jones.

Kent, Kenyon, Knight, Knowlton.

Langworthy, Lapham, Leonard, Lewis, Lincoln, Lockwood.

Martin, Mason, Maxon, Miner, Mowry, Northup.

Paine, Palmer, Parker, Peabody, Peck, Peckham, Pierce, Potter.

Randall, Rathbone, Reynolds, Rhodes, Richmond, Robinson, Rodman, Russell.

Salisbury, Sanford, Saunders, Scott, Seamans, Sherman, Slater, Slocum, Smith, Snow, Soule, Southworth, Sprague, Stafford, Stanton, Steere, Stone, Street.

Taber, Tallman, Tanner, Taynor, Teft-Tifft, Thayer, Thurston, Tiffany, Tillinghast, Tingley, Tucker, Tyler.

Vinton.

Wade, Warner, Westcott, Wetmore, Waterman, Whipple, White, Wightman, Wildbore-Wilbur, Roger Williams, Wilson and Wood.

The writer wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs. Nancy F. Chudacoff, librarian of the Rhode Island Historical Society library, in gathering data on the early years of the society.

DAWLEY: For the past sixty years, collection, posting and indexing of DAWLEY DATE has been a part time interest of James R. Case, 39 Highland Ave., Bethel, CT 06801, Grand Historian: The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Connecticut. His search has been primarily for Dawleys outside of Rhode Island, supplementing the records of those in the home state. The total number of sheets exceeds 1200, each for a Dawley who married and had children. There are indexes for Dawleys by first name, other family names, wives by first name, and localities of birth, marriage, death a/o residence. Mr. Case invites correspondence from anyone interested, whether a Dawley, a descendant or in-law.

We will welcome family charts and Bible records and cemetery records etc. from our members. Please mail them to the Publication Chairman.