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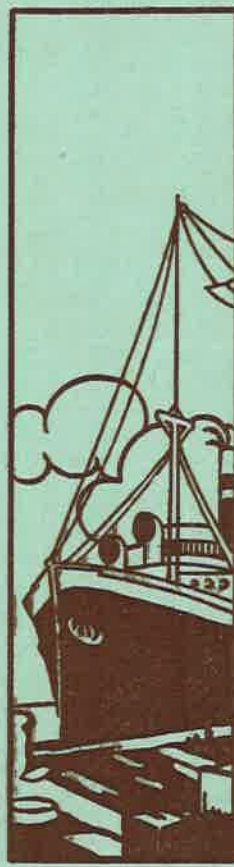
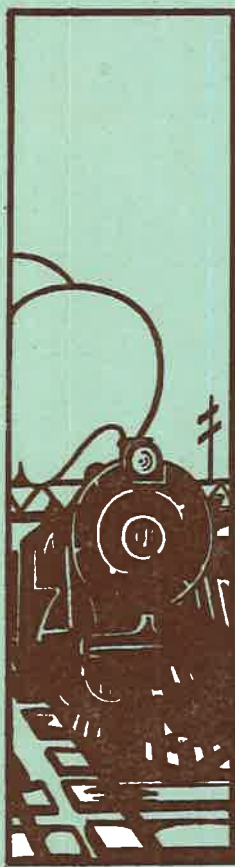
*Published by the*  
**Providence Chamber of Commerce**

*Devoted to the Interests of the Metropolitan District of Providence*

Volume XXXII, No. 10

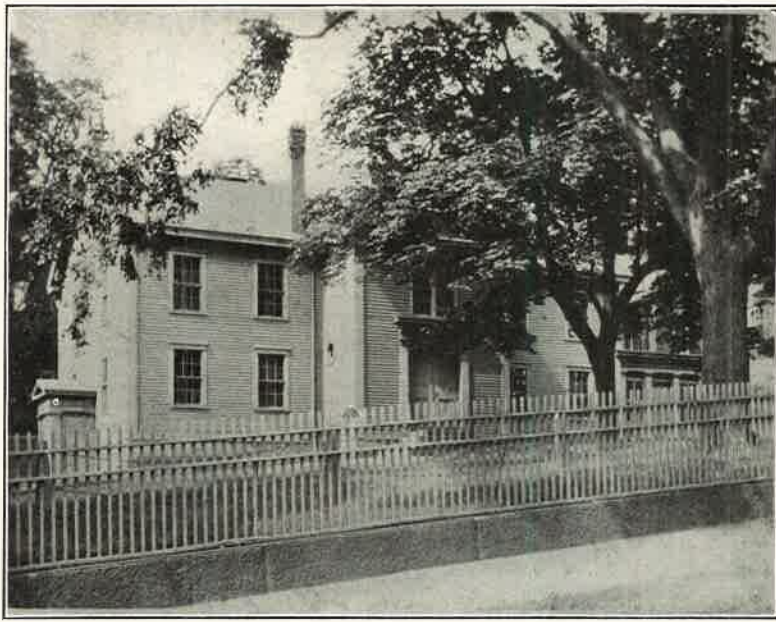
OCTOBER 1920

Single Copies 15 Cents



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BY H. BROWN



FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE, CORNER MEETING AND NORTH MAIN STREETS, PROVIDENCE.  
The original Quaker house of worship, built in 1724, was on Stampet's Hill, at the foot of Olney street. It was removed to the North Main and Meeting street location in 1745 and replaced by the present structure in 1844-45.

## Arrival of the Quakers in Rhode Island

Persecuted, They Fled from England in 1656, Seeking a Safe Haven in Massachusetts Bay Colony. Bitter Persecution and Cruelties Drove Them Through the Wilderness to Rhode Island.—Shelter Was Established on the Island of Aquidneck Where the New England Yearly Meeting Was Held.—Subsequently Some Settled in Warwick.—Two Were Hanged in Boston Common.—Others Flogged and Imprisoned.—Moses Brown's Benevolence Led to Building of School Now Bearing His Name.—Original Building Erected in 1819. First Quaker Meeting House in Providence, 1724.



THE story of the coming of the Quakers to Rhode Island is fully as interesting as that of the appearance here of Roger Williams and his companions. Like that Apostle of Soul Liberty, the Quakers were constrained to flee from Massachusetts to escape persecution.

Twenty years after Roger Williams had, in 1636, found here a secure refuge, and proclaimed that all persons who should submit themselves to the civil regulations of the Colony need have no fear of persecution because of their religious belief, came the Quakers.

George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends in England, began preaching in 1648, but it was not until 1654 that a General Meeting was held at Swannington, Leicester, of which there is any record. Two years later, to escape the persecution which had broken out in England, members of the Society were emigrating to Massachusetts Bay only to experience even more determined opposition there.

Because they would not attend Puritan worship, and had refused to contribute to the support of its ministers, they were scourged, imprisoned and mutilated, and two of their members, one of whom was Mary Dyer, were publicly hanged on what is now Boston Common.

Early in 1657 some of the Quakers, learning of the hospitable asylum to the south of the Bay Colony, began fleeing to the colony established by Roger Williams. The first of them to arrive in Rhode Island emerged from the intervening wilderness in a famished condition. They found shelter on the Island of Aquidneck, and there for years the New England Yearly Meeting in June was held, the First Day at Newport for worship, and subsequently for business. Also, one meeting was held at Portsmouth, where the first of the Friends to arrive here had found the haven of safety which they sought.

Subsequently, bands of exiles of the Society made their homes in Warwick, for two centuries giving a Quaker coloring to that shore of Narragansett Bay.

They were allowed to follow their own convictions, and soon were useful and industrious citizens. One of the exiles was Josiah Southwick, who raised a family of ten children, one of whom, Cassandra, married Jacob Mott, and became the maternal grandmother of Gen. Nathanael Greene, Washington's most valued commander in the Revolution.

Of Mary Dyer there is this recorded. In 1659 she was placed on the back of a horse by order of a Massachusetts magistrate, and escorted to the borders of Rhode Island, with



CORNER OF LIBRARY AT THE MOSES BROWN SCHOOL.

the injunction not to attempt to return to the Bay Colony. In the following year she boldly returned to Boston to protest against the unrighteous laws under which her companions had suffered death, and on June 1, 1660, she was publicly executed, as already noted.

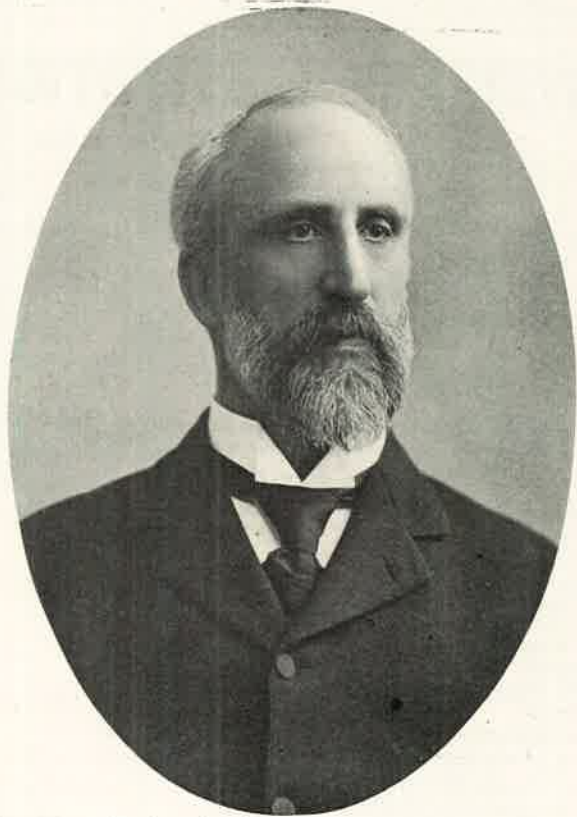
Mrs. George Gardner of Newport, having become a Quaker, visited Weymouth in Massachusetts, was arrested and by Governor Endicott's order was flogged and imprisoned for two weeks. She was then nursing an infant. Thomas Harris, who went from Rhode Island to Boston with two other Quakers to denounce the cruelties practiced upon their brethren, was severely whipped, and imprisoned for five days without food or water. Catherine Scott of Providence, for remonstrating when an officer of the law cut the ears off three Quakers, was publicly flogged and then imprisoned for two months, along with her two children.

The first definite evidence of the existence of the Rhode Island Yearly Meeting was found in the journal kept by John Burnyeat, a travelling minister, who recorded his attendance at a Yearly Meeting in the fourth month, 1671. In the following year George Fox visited Newport and attended the June meeting. This meeting lasted six days, the Governor and Deputy Governor attending daily, which so encouraged the people that they flocked in from all parts of the island.

About the same time George Fox held a meeting in Providence, making use of a large barn which was crowded with worshippers. On one occasion he is said to have preached under a tree in Old Warwick, on the land which later was owned by John Holden, and at another time to have preached at Narragansett, many coming from Connecticut to hear him.

The Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting was established by the Yearly Meeting, comprising the Monthly Meetings of

Rhode Island, Narragansett and Dartmouth, Mass. This action completed the early general organization in Rhode Island.



AUGUSTINE JONES, FORMER PRINCIPAL OF MOSES BROWN SCHOOL.

The Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, with eight others, is a member of the New England Yearly Meeting, and is itself constituted of five Monthly Meetings, Providence, East Greenwich, South Kingstown, and Swansea, Mass.

It was during the first half of the eighteenth century that the Society of Friends was at its best, for the influential men of the colony, including Governors and judges, were Quakers. It shared with the Baptists the prospect of permanent predominance in the community, and in Newport it was especially thriving under Samuel Fothergill.

In the beginning of the century one-half of the residents of the Island of Rhode Island were Quakers and they owned fully one-third the houses of worship. Then the system began to expand itself more rapidly upon the main land, erecting in quick succession meeting houses at Greenwich, Smithfield, Woonsocket and Providence. The first house of worship of any kind built on the western shore of Narragansett bay was the Quaker meeting house at Greenwich, erected in 1700, near the present centre of East Greenwich village, its site now being identified by the old Quaker burying ground.

Nathanael Greene, father of Gen. Nathanael Greene, often preached in that little meeting house. So prominent were the Quakers in that place that it was asserted that the people of Greenwich were either Quakers or nothing. Many of the leading families were members of the Meeting and for many years the Society flourished, the decline beginning after the middle of the century, owing to deaths of the elderly members, and the straying away of the younger people to more attractive forms of worship.

During this period of marked growth a meeting house was built in Lower Smithfield, now Lincoln. It was erected in 1704 by descendants of Thomas Arnold, a close friend of Roger Williams. It is still standing and is the oldest Quaker meeting house in this State. In 1719 other Arnolds of the same stock, with members of the Comstock family, built a meeting house at Union Village, Woonsocket.

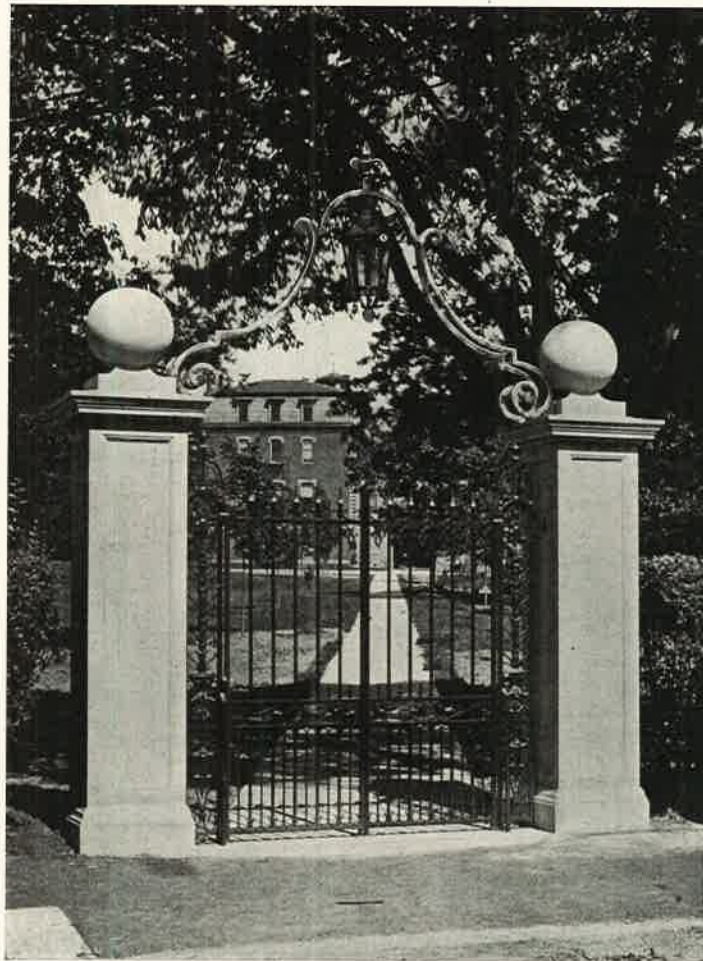
The Providence Monthly Meeting was set off from Greenwich in 1718, and about 1724 a meeting house was built by the Arnold family, on Stamper's Hill, near what is now the foot of Olney street. In 1745 it was removed to the corner of North Main and Meeting streets, and replaced in 1844-45 by the present one.

A meeting house was built in Warwick in 1721, and in 1730 one was erected in Cranston, which in later years was used by the Oaklawn Baptists.

During the Revolutionary War many of the Friends because of their aversion to bearing arms and their testimony against the sinfulness of war, were suspected of disloyalty and in a sense, persecuted. The Militia Law was modified in 1730 for the especial protection of the consciences of Friends; still, public opinion could not be held in check. Gen. Nathanael Greene was one of several whose Quakerism could not subdue the patriotic spirit that welled within them, and entering the service of their country, they were forced to act contrary to the wishes of those whom they held dearest.

In the eighteenth century Moses Brown joined the Quakers, and for fifty years was the most distinguished and influential figure among them, here and throughout New England. Belonging to a family already of importance in the State, he was able to do for the Society what no other Rhode Islander could have accomplished.

Up to the time he was 38 years of age Moses Brown was under Baptist influence. He was a direct descendant of Rev. Chad Brown, the earliest minister of the First Baptist Society in Providence. He joined the Meeting, April 28, 1774. In 1814 he offered to give the land for the site of the Friends School, now the Moses Brown School. Upon the death of his wife he liberated his slaves, and later he became one of the founders of the Abolition Society of Providence. It was he who encouraged Samuel Slater to come to Rhode Island and set up from memory the cotton machinery like that which he had helped construct in England; therefore, to Moses Brown must be given the credit of influencing Samuel Slater to establish in this State the beginning of the great cotton industry of the United States.



FRONT GATEWAY OF MOSES BROWN SCHOOL.

A broad pathway lined with beautiful forestry leads to the main buildings of this noted educational institution.

Moses Brown was one of the founders of the Providence Athenaeum, the Society for the Promotion of Agriculture in Rhode Island, whose State Fairs at Narragansett park are memorable; of the Rhode Island Bible Society, and the Rhode Island Historical Society.

Governor Arnold wrote that after erecting their meeting houses "the Quakers, from whom flow nearly all the good and perfect gifts in the early history of Rhode Island, proceeded to establish schools in the various localities."

In 1777 several men were appointed to draw up a plan for a free school among Friends. Thirteen persons, all

Quakers, including Moses Farnum, Moses Brown and David Buffam, were appointed the first school committee in Northern Rhode Island. This philanthropic zeal among Quakers stimulated such interest in educational affairs that more general measures were taken to establish public schools free to all, which in their later development have become so important a State asset.

The first steps for founding the Friends School were taken in the Yearly Meeting, at Smithfield, in 1779. The subscription was started in 1780, Moses Brown contributing \$575, which was a very large sum in those times. Not until 1784 was a real start made, when a school was opened in a little room in the Quaker meeting house at Portsmouth. Isaac Lawton, preacher and poet, was the first teacher, and he received the munificent compensation of \$50 a year. Because of poor attendance the school was given up at the end of four years.

The little of the school fund that was left was carefully hoarded by Moses Brown, as treasurer of the enterprise, and thirty-four years later, through wise investments, the little became \$9300. In making this announcement, he offered to give forty-three acres out of the westward part of his homestead farm in Providence as a site for the Friends School. Others subscribed generously in money, and January 1, 1819, the school was re-opened. It was built to accommodate 100 pupils, but on the opening day three only showed up so that the actual opening was postponed for three days. Today, the Moses Brown School is one of the most popular educational institutions in the country, the student body being very large. What Moses Brown did for Brown University needs no telling here.

In 1813 there were 18 congregations of Quakers in Rhode Island, with as many meeting houses, and 1150 members. In 1836 there were 333 Quaker families, including 1339 individuals.

In 1804 the Greenwich Meeting erected a new meeting house. Among the prominent members of the Meeting were Sylvester Wickes, Paul Greene, Robert Hall, Benjamin Howland and Thomas Howland. Among the approved preachers were John Casey, Daniel Howland, Thomas Anthony and Rowland Greene.

John Gurney, a minister of the London Yearly Meeting, preached in this State in 1838, advocating a more liberal interpretation of the doctrines and usages of the Society. A controversy arose, the claim being advanced that the orthodox traditions of the Society had been invaded. Animosity arose which led to a division, John Wilbur of Hopkinton, thinking he had discovered worklikeness among Friends that was inconsistent with the history of the Society. The majority would not be convinced, so he led a few who came to be known as "the smaller body."

Other contentions arose, even to attempts at forcible exclusion from the meeting houses. For a while the Friends School suffered considerably in attendance and prosperity because of these differences, but today it is in a most flourishing condition.

Moses Brown died in 1836, at the ripe age of 98 years. All who were prominent with him in the Society had passed on or did so a few years later.

Among the Friends who have been prominent in this State in relatively recent years are Jonathan Chace, who for a brief period was United States Senator, resigning that office before the expiration of his term; Elizabeth B. Chace, who was among the earliest advocates of Woman Suffrage, giving generously of her time and money for its advancement and having abiding faith that sooner or later women would be given the right of franchise on equal terms with men; James H. Chace, who with Jonathan Chace was a successful manufacturer of cotton, and highly connected, financially; and the late Charles Sisson, an upright citizen, loyal friend, who gave valued service to the city in the capacity of member of the City Council. Frank H. Swan, one of the Rhode Island Company receivers, is a Friend. Willis H. White is another one.



THE LATE CHARLES SISSON.  
Prominent in manufacture and an able member of the City Council.

It is said that there are now no Friends in Providence; better were it said that there are very few of them left, for it is only occasionally that either a man or a woman dressed in the sober garb of the Society, is seen upon our streets—some of the Friends appear to have ceased altogether dressing in the traditional apparel.

The Meeting, which assembles in the quaint little building at the corner of Meeting and North Main streets, has dwindled to about 60 members, and it is only on rare occasions that the meeting house is opened for marriages among the children and grandchildren of those who were wont to meet there for quiet meditation until the spirit moved them to speak.

But the Friends School, now the Moses Brown School, is marching on, and each year is becoming more and more an important cog in the great educational machinery of the State. In late years the school has undergone radical changes, and in a sense it is now a Providence institution, for largely its work is given over to the molding of the mind of the Providence boy who is only old enough to enter the lower grade, and taking him up through the various grades until he is fully prepared to enter college. It is still maintained as a residential school, and from an inspection of its

catalogue it is learned that the student body includes boys and girls coming from all over the United States and its insular possessions. Also, it is disclosed that quite a few parents who were born in other countries and have made Providence their permanent homes, are giving to their sons the very best education that money can provide for.

The Moses Brown boys have stood high in the colleges to which they went as they passed from under the elms and sought academic educations. During the last sixteen years two hundred boys have gone from the Moses Brown School fully prepared for college, and all save three or four of them have carried out that intention. Among the graduates at Brown University, last year, were Walter Gardner, James Q. Dealey, Jr., who recently was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, and Frank W. Lathrop. They were three of the nine honor men in mathematics at Brown last year. In other colleges and universities, Moses Brown boys have honored their alma mater in the high markings received and honors achieved, the foundation for which scholarly triumphs were laid in the study rooms of their preparatory school.

#### LOOKING UP FREIGHT.

##### Lively Campaign in Middle West and Western Cities to Secure Shipments for Port of Providence.

An active campaign is being conducted to secure cargoes for export through Providence to Liverpool and Manchester. Captain Nelson L. Proctor, representing Gilmartin & Company, is visiting a large number of cities in the interests of the "Providence Atlantic Line," which is the name adopted by Gilmartin & Company for their line of steamers.

Captain Proctor is talking with exporters and with secretaries of Chambers of Commerce, and in other ways acquainting manufacturers with the opportunity that is being offered by the establishment of this line to get freight to Europe by a route that will avoid the congestion and embargoes that have seriously interfered with exports in New York.

In this work Captain Proctor has been given the complete support of the Providence Chamber of Commerce, and General Secretary Cotton has written letters in advance of Captain Proctor's arrival to secretaries of commercial organizations in Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland, Akron, Sandusky, Toledo, Bay City, Erie, Saginaw, Kalamazoo, Lansing and Grand Rapids.

These letters have been of material assistance in securing hearings for Captain Proctor, who has laid stress upon the fact that the export rates by way of Providence are the same as they are by way of New York, while terminal and port charges are much less.

Among the replies received to General Secretary Cotton's letters pertaining to shipments via the port of Providence is one from V. D. Skigwartt, Vice-President of Wilson & Company, packers, who writes: "I can assure you it is very gratifying to us to know of the establishment of lines between the port of Providence and England and Continental points. There has too long been a concentration at some of the large Atlantic ports resulting in congestion, delays and shutouts, which have proven very expensive to the shipper.

I have asked our traffic department to investigate fully the facilities offered at Providence, cold storage available, etc."

President Clarence H. Howard of the Commonwealth Steel Company, St. Louis, says:

"Your very cordial letter of September 17th has been received and I have read it with a great deal of pleasure and it recalled to my mind the pleasant day I spent in your beautiful city.

"I am delighted to hear of the progress that is being made in connection with making Providence a large port."

From President C. A. Baird of James Cunningham, Son & Co., Rochester, N. Y.:

"We have your favor of the 23rd inst. and are pleased to hear the progress you are making in foreign shipments from your port."

From Vice-President Frank S. Noble of the Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N. Y.:

"Referring to your letter of the 23rd to Mr. Eastman, we shall be very glad indeed to do anything we can consistently toward building up business for the port of Providence."

From Traffic Manager R. C. Livingston of the Interstate Iron & Steel Company, Chicago, Ill.:

"Your letter of September 20 is at hand and we are very glad to hear from you again. We are in hearty sympathy with the principle outlined in your letter and will be glad to consider the handling of some of our traffic through the port of Providence if we can consistently do so. You will, of course, appreciate that we are bound to a certain extent by our customers' wishes in these matters."

#### EXPORTS AND IMPORTS DROP IN AUGUST.

A considerable drop in exports and somewhat smaller imports in August as compared with previous months are shown by official figures given out by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce.

Exports in August were valued at \$584,000,000, a drop of \$67,000,000 from \$651,000,000 in July of this year and \$62,000,000 less than the exports of \$646,000,000 in August, 1919. Exports for the eight months ended with August were valued at \$5,483,000,000, an increase of \$211,000,000 over the exports of \$5,272,000,000 in the first eight months of 1919.

Imports in August were valued at \$519,000,000, a decrease of \$18,000,000 from the amount of \$537,000,000 in July, but \$212,000,000 more than the imports of \$307,000,000 in August, 1919. During the eight months ending with August of this year imports amounted to four billion dollars, an increase of 77 per cent., or \$1,738,000,000 over the imports of \$2,262,000,000 in the same period of 1919.

The excess of exports over imports in August was \$65,000,000. For the eight months period ended with August the excess of exports was \$1,483,000,000.

Gold imports increased from \$2,500,000 in August, 1919, to \$15,400,000 in August, 1920, and for the eight months period from \$55,000,000 in 1919 to \$160,000,000 in 1920.

Gold exports in August were \$25,000,000, compared with \$45,000,000 a year ago, but for the eight months period increased from \$197,000,000 in 1919 to \$242,000,000 in 1920.

Silver imports increased from \$56,000,000 in the eight months ended with August, 1919, to \$67,000,000 in 1920, while the exports of silver for the same period show a decrease of \$164,000,000 in 1919 to \$92,000,000 in 1920.