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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
EARLY MUSIC IN RHODE ISLAND CHURCHES . . . 1775-1834	33
II. Music in The First Baptist Church, Providence by William Dinneen	
THE ROELKER ROOM	44
THE WILLIAM GODDARD HOUSE	48
by John Hutchins Cady, F.A.I.A.	
NEWS—NOTES	55
THE GOOD SHIP HAIDIE	57
by Harriett Wood Weeden	
NEW MEMBERS	61
136th ANNUAL MEETING	62
OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY	64
REPORT OF THE TREASURER	Inside back cover

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

From a water color owned by William Davis Miller and used by his kind permission, The view shows the First Baptist Church from Benefit Street, and the presence of the poplar trees indicates that the painting was made before 1832. See Professor Dinneen's article in this issue, p. 42.

RHODE ISLAND HISTORY

VOL. 17

APRIL, 1958

NO. 2

EARLY MUSIC IN RHODE ISLAND CHURCHES

II. Music in The First Baptist Church, Providence, 1775 - 1834*

by WILLIAM DINNEEN

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WHEN HISTORIANS lack original records, it is often difficult, if not impossible, to reconstruct the actions of the past. In the case of the old First Baptist Church in Providence, Rhode Island, there are no authentic records prior to 1775, which is a regrettable loss for all except possibly a historian interested in the musical life of that venerable church. To state the situation simply, music was not allowed by the congregation until 1775.

At the same time it may well be that music has much to do with the lack of records. The early Baptists, like the Quakers, did not use music as part of their worship, and the introduction of music into their services was resisted both here and in England. The first recorded use of music in England by any Baptist group dates from 1690, and it was fully a hundred years before acceptance was complete throughout the denomination.

Apparently, The First Baptist Church in Providence did not come to grips with this problem until 1730, when in a letter from Governor Joseph Jencks to James Brown dated Newport, March 19, 1730, he tells of the problem caused by a Mr. Walton's coming to settle in Providence. Mr. Walton had been invited to preach at the Meeting House, but there arose considerable opposition, chiefly on the score of his liberal views in reference to the "singing of psalms." As a

*This is the second in a series of articles on early music in Rhode Island churches, the first having appeared in the January, 1958, issue of *Rhode Island History*. A complete history of music in The First Baptist Church by Professor Dinneen will be published by the church at a later date.

result of this and other issues the church split and another minister was appointed in 1732.

The *History of the First Baptist Church in Providence, 1639-1877*, by Dr. Samuel L. Caldwell and Professor William Gammell notes that the church condemned and discarded singing and music in its worship for one hundred and thirty years after its founding.

The whole matter came to a head with the arrival of Dr. James Manning as pastor when the Rev. Samuel Winsor, Jr. wrote to the church on the subject, noting that the use of music was "highly disgusting" to him. "After a series of church meetings the whole matter was decided in favor of Dr. Manning, who thence became the pastor of this church, while Mr. Windsor [*sic*] afterwards became the founder of a new church in Johnston, which exists to this day."¹

The first reference to matters of music in the minutes of the Charitable Baptist Society of Providence, the incorporated body of The First Baptist Church, occurs on May 21, 1787, when it was voted that "Nicholas Brown, John Brown and John Jenckes, Esq. be a committee to get the Bell recast as soon as possible after a Sufficient Sum be raised by Subscription for that purpose." The bell, which was hung in the graceful spire of the famous old Meeting House built in 1775, became a matter of concern again in November of the same year, 1787, when it was voted "That Mr. John Jenckes and William Holroyd be a Committee to agree with Mr. Branch [the sexton was Nicholas Branch] to ring the Meeting House Bell."

On May 12, 1788, the Society was still trying to settle the account for casting the bell. Only by visiting the steeple and studying the inscription on the bell itself is it possible to tell anything further concerning the bell, which is not mentioned again in the early minutes.²

The First Baptist Church, established by Roger Williams, did not

¹As reported in *Hague's Historical Discourse* (Providence, 1839), p. 106, the suspicion that Mr. Winsor, who as minister was in a position to have access to the records, took the records of the Meeting House with him to Johnston is possible. In any case the records appear to be permanently lost.

²The inscription on the bell reads: "This bell was imported from England in 1775. Recast at the Hope Furnace, R. I. in 1787. Again recast in Boston 1844 by Henry N. Hooper & Company." In 1831, the minutes report a bill from Messrs. Staples & Thurber for providing timber to repair "Bell frame and axle," noting that the Town was to pay part of the expense. On June 10, 1833, it was noted that the Town still had not paid its share for repairing woodwork around the bell.

lead the way in the musical life of the colony. There is evidence that the First Congregational Church (now the First Unitarian Church) had an organ of some two hundred pipes in use at least occasionally as early as 1770, making it the first Congregational body in America to use a pipe organ, and there is also evidence that the First Congregational Church was operating a singing school under the direction of William Billings, of fuguing-tune fame, in 1773.³

Choral music makes its appearance in the records of the First Baptist Society on July 15, 1793. Something happened just prior to this date in the church which seemed important enough at the time for the minutes to mention females for the first time. The account suggests trouble, but does not give the details, as the following indicates:

Voted. That Collr. John Whipple be and he is appointed and requested to wait on all the females of this Society who have and do now occupy the Choristers Seat in the Meeting House and that he Solicit those who have Left the Seat to resume it and urge them all to with their best endeavour to promote their Best endeavour in the practice of Sound Musick amongst themselves and that they will Continue to assemble in the Choristers Seat and assist all they can in the Solemn performance of that Delightful part of Divine worship.

However, this is not actually the first reference to women in point of time. Because the minutes have become confused over the years, 1791 follows the record of 1793 in the book. The Society voted thanks on June 25, 1791, to Miss Hope Brown for "donation of the painting the inside of the Meeting House Compleat, with Chandeliers for the House and branches for the Pulpit . . ." and to Mrs. Avis Brown for "donation of Fifty Pounds for . . . support of the Ministry."

The record for June 25, 1791, locates for the first time the "Choristers Seat" in remarkably clear style:

On Motion of Doctor Manning [minister of the church and first president of Brown University] Voted. That two Seats inclosed in one Pew in front of the Gallery and South of the Choristers Seat be finished at the expense of the Society and appropriated to the use of the members of the College till the further orders of this Society. Also that two other seats inclosed in one Pew be finished

³For further information see Joyce Ellen Mangler, I. "Music in the First Congregational Church, Providence, 1770-1850." *Rhode Island History*, v. 17, no. 1, January, 1958, p. 1.

at the expense of the Society on the North Side of the Choristers Seat for the use of such as may join in the Musick. till the further orders of this Society, and that the aforesaid seats be made under the direction of Doctor Manning.

According to the minutes of July 22, 1806, the students of Brown University were given permission to occupy gallery pews 13-14 and 16-17 "until further orders of the Society." By this means undergraduates were separated from the singers. But on April 28, 1807, the Reverend Stephen Gano being absent according to the record, it was

Voted. That the Seats in the Gallery of the Meeting House be so altered as to accomodate the Singers and that Samuel Eddy procure the same to be done and that a Sum sufficient to make said alterations be raised by the same Subscription that shall be opened to procure supplies for the Pulpit during the absence of the Revd. Stephen Gano.

The Reverend Stephen Gano apparently came up before the Society for reappointment at least once a year, and more often in some years. At the start of his ministry he was paid \$500 yearly, and very often the Society was behind in its payments to him. There was no embarrassment over this, apparently, because a reappointment vote recorded in 1796 shows "80 for, 27 against, 53 majority." The salary was later raised to \$750 a year.

The record contains numerous references to the sexton, who was paid \$50 yearly. Nicholas Branch filled this important post in the early days of the Meeting House, and on June 25, 1791, it was

Voted. That the Sexton be directed to preserve order and Decorum in the Gallery during the time of Divine Services.

The minutes of September 14, 1795, mention disorderly persons once more, and the subject appears again in 1797. On October 9, 1804, "Nicholas Hoppin the Sexton" is made responsible for the "conduct of Boys in the Tower and Galleries of the Meeting House," still at \$50 for the year. In 1806 John Newman succeeded to the position of sexton, but no mention is made of conduct in the gallery. Apparently the Brown students put up there in pews 13-14 and 16-17 in that year disciplined themselves.

The vote of April 28, 1807, which moved the singers to the gallery included a vote that

a Subscription be opened to raise Sixty Dollars to defray the ex-

pense of altering the Gallery seats, to accomodate the Singers and also to raise the necessary sum for the Supply of the Pulpit during the absence of Rev. Gano. Voted that Nathan Waterman, Jr. be appointed to hand round the subscription Paper. . . .

The minutes of April 12, 1808 voted

That Samuel Eddys account as a committee to alter the front gallery of the Meeting House, amounting to Sixty-six Dollars and seventy cents be allowed.

Earlier in 1807, at the meeting of January 13, the Society finally decided to support a singing school. The records of this movement appear at various points in 1807 and into 1809, but in contrast to the listing of ministers, both regular and supply, and to the record of the sextons, there is no mention either of the name of the director or of any payments as salary in this period. The record of the votes may be of interest:

13 January 1807. Voted. That William Holroyd, John Whipple & Nathan Waterman, Jr. be a Committee to contract with a Suitable person or persons to Teach a Singing School in the Baptist Society, and that they form a Subscription to be presented to the members of the Church & Society at large to defray the expense thereof and that they have the Superintendence and direction of the School when formed.

11 October 1808. Voted. That a singing school [using lower case letters this season!] be kept in the Vestry of the meeting house the coming winter & that the shool be permitted to use the fuel provided by the society. And that the same be under the direction and supervision of the Messrs. Samuel Eddy and Nathan Waterman, Jr. who are hereby appointed a committee for that purpose and authorized to provide a suitable Master.

11 September 1809. Voted. That the Baptist Musick Society be permitted to use the candles furnished for the Society.

The years 1810 to 1816 are barren of references to music in the official records of The First Baptist Church. This might be attributed to a variety of reasons, including the War of 1812. Actually, however, the incident of the War of 1812 seems to have affected the meetings of the Charitable Baptist Society as little as the events of 1775 did the building of the Meeting House, for we read with interest that a major concern during 1812 was the installation of a "Russian stove" in the vestry. Another vote during these years was to "wait on the neighbors and request them to keep their children from the Meeting House Yard."

The singing school appears again at the meeting of June 10, 1816, when permission was given to hold one with Nathan Waterman, Jr., and John Newman as a committee to "attend to the same." Finally, in 1818, comes an insight into the personality which directed this activity when it was voted on December 14, 1818,

That Mr. John Hill be a Committee to raise, by subscription the sum of one hundred Dollars, for the purpose of paying Mr. William Aplin for his service, in part, as singing master, and also the arrearages incurred by last year's Singing School.

Curiously, William Aplin vanishes from the record after this reference until the meeting of June 9, 1834, when it was voted to pay him \$85 for an unnamed purpose but presumably again for working with the music.

The period from 1820 to 1828 contains a considerable number of references to the second musical figure to be identified as connected with the music of the Meeting House. On March 13, 1820, it was

Voted — That Deacon John Hill be a committee to endeavor to raise, by subscription, fifty-two Dollars, as a compensation to Benjamin Wade, for his services as Singing Master for one year ending October 1st, 1820.⁴

Benjamin C. Wade was admitted a member of the Society at the December meeting in 1820, and in March, 1821, we find him involved with the "Russian Stove" when it was voted

That Mr. Wade, when using the Vestry for a Singing School, be particularly requested to see that no wood be put into the stove after 8 o'clock, and that the Society look to his personal care of the fire and room, when used by him, that it be not exposed to danger; and that he continue the care of said Vestry, until the Sexton relieves him, and that he have a Copy of this order.

Two other votes help put Mr. Wade into perspective. On March 10, 1823, it was voted

That Job Carpenter, Mr. Bogman and Mr. Fox be a Committee to endeavor to raise a sufficient sum, to pay arrearage due Mr. Wade as chorister, by subscription, and at the same time to use their influence, in raising fifty-two Dollars as a compensation to Mr. Wade for his services for the ensuing year.⁵

⁴In 1819 the sexton's salary had been raised to \$60 per annum. The minister was voted \$750 a year.

⁵Apparently the money was slow in coming, because on Sept. 8 Mr. Hugh H. Brown was added to the committee appointed to raise fifty dollars for the chorister.

and on March 8, 1824, it was voted

That a committee be appointed to endeavor to raise, by subscription, the sum of one hundred Dollars to pay Mr. Wade for his services as Chorister for the ensuing year, and also to raise the sum of thirty-six dollars for balance now due him, and that Hugh H. Brown, Charles Robbins and N. Waterman, 2, be said Committee, and that said money pass through the hands of N. Waterman, Jun.

Actually, it would seem that the title *Chorister* was first used in 1822, and that in its early stages the position carried no salary, as the vote of March 11, 1822, indicates.

Voted — That the thanks of this Society be Communicated to Mr. Richard E. Eddy, for the services he has rendered as chorister, during the past winter, and that it would be gratifying, if he would continue his services in assisting in singing when convenient. Voted that the clerk present Mr. Eddy with a copy of this vote.

The financial affairs of the Society during this period offer some examples of quaint charm, at least where music (as well as musicians) is concerned. In 1825 George Dods was appointed a committee to try to raise one hundred dollars for the chorister, and it was voted that he be paid a "five per Cent premium on all sums he may collect." Presumably this was for Mr. Wade's salary. We next find Benjamin C. Wade in the records when he is added to the committee to raise salary past due Rev. Dr. Gano in 1826.

In addition to the singing master and chorister there was a bass viol used occasionally at the Meeting House before the installation of the organ. Norman M. Isham, writing about the architecture of the Meeting House, notes "There was trouble over the bringing in of a bass-viol in 1804. This was, no doubt to accompany the 'choristers,' for singing was already a part of the service." Mr. Isham also remarks "The bass-viol came to stay and, on April 20, 1807, the Society voted that the seats in the gallery 'be so altered as to accommodate the singers.'"⁶

Unfortunately the source of this information is not clear. As in the case of the chorister in the very early stages we judge that no salary went with the position of bass viol player and so the person or persons who assisted in this way do not appear in the minutes of the Society. It is possible in the records of other similar societies to find where

⁶Norman M. Isham, *The Meeting House of The First Baptist Church in Providence*, . . . (Providence, 1925) p. 19-20.

payments were made specifically for new strings for the instrument, but this is not the case here.

It is only by inference, actually, that we associate the name of John D. Hendley with this position. On December 8, 1823, it was voted

That two Dollars and sixty Cents be paid to Mr. John D. Hendley, for services rendered the singing Society, and that the Treasurer be authorized to pay the above out of any moneys, not appropriated.

This sum would be in order for a new set of strings. The same sum was voted Mr. Hendley in September, 1824, and again in January, 1825. In 1826 the Society approved payment of "three dollars and ninety eight cents" and in 1827 the sum of "Three Dollars and Thirty-six cents" was paid to Hendley.

Mr. Hendley, like Mr. Wade earlier, seems to have been cast in several roles, for in 1828 (Minutes of January 14) it was

Voted, that Mr. John D. Hendley be appointed a Committee to collect by Subscription, means enough to pay the bills for repairing the Parsonage House and painting the same, which work was done last fall. Voted, that the aforesaid John D. Hendley be allowed for all monies collected by him Five Per Cent Commission.

The bass viol player reached a salary scale in 1828, but the records, most unfortunately do not identify the performer. The inference is that Mr. Hendley had either died or left Providence and thereby produced a minor crisis, because it was voted

That Mr. Richard E. Eddy be Empowered to employ a suitable person to play on the Bass Viol at a price not exceeding Thirty Dollars per year.

Mr. Hendley's name does not appear again in the minutes, nor does that of the performer in 1828 and succeeding years. This is a real gap in our knowledge of the musical life at the Meeting House, which would be worse except that the coming of the organ in 1834 brought an end to the position of bass viol player.

The name of Nicholas Brown, the second of this name active in the affairs of the Charitable Baptist Society, seems to have been connected with the idea of installing an organ from the first. On June 17, 1817, we read that

Mr. Brown, who was requested to write to England to inquire the price of an Organ for the use of the House reported—that an Organ might be procured for 2,000 or 2500 Dollars.

This report led nowhere, but the issue apparently remained alive though underground. A twentieth century reader, used to psychological testing, might read several implications into the next mention of this subject, for on December 13, 1824, the Society voted

That if an Organ can be obtained and erected in the Meeting House, it will fully meet the approbation of this Society.

Mr. Brown was still not prepared to act, for on January 14, 1828, we read that

Mr. Joseph Rogers, Mr. Hugh H. Brown, Mr. Moses Brown Ives and Mr. Richard E. Eddy be appointed a Committee to endeavor to raise by Subscription money for the purchase of an Organ, every way suitable for this house.

It was not until 1834 that the organ finally appeared, and the series of votes which went with this development will close this portion of the musical history of the Meeting House.

Before coming to that, however, we must consider the decline and fall of Mr. Wade and the rise of Mr. Eddy in the musical life of the First Baptist Church. Benjamin E. Wade first appears in the minutes in 1820 as a professional musician. Richard E. Eddy appears in 1822 as a volunteer. The last active reference to Mr. Wade is in 1826 when he was appointed to help raise money for the pastor's salary. This appointment apparently ended his musical career. It seems also to have turned Mr. Eddy into a professional musician, for on June 11, 1827, the Society voted

that Hugh H. Brown, be a Committee to solicit by subscription the sum of Seventy-Five Dollars for the Chorister, for the last year, and also to collect enough to pay a balance due Mr. Benjamin. C. Wade for services as Chorister.

As in some other cases Mr. Brown was to be allowed five per cent of all monies collected. Probably no significance is to be attached to the fact that \$100 was voted for the chorister in 1825 as against \$75 for 1826, especially since it appears that the larger sum was not actually raised at the time. From the record it would appear that Mr. Eddy's position, financially at least, continued to deteriorate, for in 1828, at the meeting held on June 9 we read

Voted: That a Special Committee be appointed to collect a sum of money to pay Mr. Richard E. Eddy our Chorister for his services the last year and to collect a sum to pay a balance due Mr. Benjamin Wade for services as Chorister and that Mr. Hugh H. Brown

be a Committee. Voted, that Mr. Richard E. Eddy be requested to serve as Chorister for the year ending.

By 1829 the entire situation had reached a danger point, resulting in a vote which reveals that there seems to have been a "Musical Society" in the background during part or all of the years when attention focused on the chorister. The record speaks for itself:

Voted that the sum of One Thousand Dollars be endeavored to be raised by subscription for the purpose of paying the arrearages due the different Pastors, for supplying the Pulpit, the Chorister, the Bass Viol player and debts due the Musical Society & for Note Books, and also to supply the pulpit and to pay the Chorister, etc. for the present year and other contingent expenses.

Whether the Musical Society and the Singing School were one and the same thing is not clear. If they were the same, then we must note a break in continuity in 1828, or at least the semblance of a break, because it was necessary in September, 1829, to vote

that Messrs. Richard E. Eddy, Charles Robbins and Mr. Nathan Waterman, Jr. be a Committee for the purpose of endeavoring to establish a Singing School in the vestry for the Society.

The presence of Mr. Eddy on this committee would seem to indicate that there had been a breakdown of some sort. Under ordinary circumstances Mr. Eddy would most probably have continued the activities of the Musical Society without the aid of a committee or a special vote of this kind. Since none of the standard works which treat the history of the Meeting House discuss this, it remains unclear what caused the decline.

By 1830 the trend had reversed itself. The pastor's salary was raised to \$900 per year; a committee was formed to set out elm trees; and the library increased to nearly 200 volumes. In 1831 the library had reached 202 volumes; the bass viol player and chorister (note the order of listing) were apparently paid on time; and in October of that year the Society turned its attention to getting permission to change the size and shape of all the pews.

The year 1832 was mostly concerned with renovation of the Meeting House. In June it was voted to cut down the poplar trees [see cover] on the property, from which we gather that our now impressive elms were doing well. In September the concern was to prevent lining the new pews with "any kind of cloth or other things, or paint said Pew—improvements—shall be uniform and alike in

all the Pews on the lower floor of said House."

Samuel L. Caldwell, D.D., pastor from 1858 to 1873, writes: "In 1832, the one hundred and twenty-six square pews, with aisles crossing from door to door, were removed, and the present one hundred and forty-four long pews were put up. The second gallery at the west end . . . was taken down; the high pulpit was altered."

Neither the minutes nor the material in Dr. Caldwell's discourse support Norman M. Isham's claim that "A change in the musical part of a ritual generally involves a change in ecclesiastical architecture, and to this rule, which is nearly if not quite as old as Christianity, the First Baptist Meeting House is no exception." Mr. Isham continues "It is difficult for us to imagine the meeting house without the organ. . . . To make room for it, the old upper gallery had to be taken down. The entrance to this was plastered up, with the lunettes which lighted it from the two round windows still to be seen on the outside, one on either side of the tower. It soon became a tradition and few of the younger people know that it ever existed."⁸

It may be that Mr. Isham is correct in part, since no mention of the upper gallery (not the same as the present balcony level) occurs in the minutes. We gather, however, that it was removed in 1832 at the time of the general renovation of the Meeting House. The question is whether this was all done as part of a revival which came about beginning in 1830 and in relation to which the organ was incidental, or whether, as Mr. Isham says, the expected arrival of the organ set in motion all the changes. In spite of the ancient rules of architecture, in this case it would seem that the organ followed the changes.

From the minutes of 1832 it appears that the pews in the gallery were erected by individuals on condition they should pay annually to the Society "one Dollar and Twenty-Five cents, ground rent, for each pew." On one of these, listed under the name of one Waterman Williams, no rent had been paid since 1803. At the same time the pews on the main floor were valued at sums varying up to \$150 each per annum.

However long it was expected the first reference to the organ as

⁷Samuel L. Caldwell, "Historical Discourse" in *The Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Formation of the First Baptist Church . . .* (Providence, 1889), p. 52.

⁸Isham, *op. cit.*, p. 19-20.

a reality does not come until December 9, 1833, with a vote that immediately upon arrival of the organ, the Treasurer be requested to effect an insurance upon the same to the amount of Five Thousand Dollars.

This was followed in March, 1834, with a vote that

Messrs. Amasa Mason, Pardon Miller, Truman Beckwith and Jonathan Pike be a committee to attend to putting up the organ when it arrives.

When the Society met again on June 9, the organ had apparently been installed and it was

Voted that Messrs. Amasa Mason, Truman Beckwith, Deacon Waterman and Pardon Miller, be a Committee to contract for an organist and blower, with power to draw upon the Treasury for payment of the same.

Voted that Mr. Pardon Miller be a Committee to keep the key of the organ and attend to the presentation of the same.

Voted, that the thanks of this Society be presented to the Hon. Nicholas Brown for his liberal donation to the Society of an organ, and that a committee to cause a plate to be affixed to the same, with a suitable inscription for the liberal donor.

Voted, that Messrs. Amasa Mason, Alexis Caswell and Pardon Miller compose the Committee for the purpose named in the last resolution.

The plate, elegantly made of sterling silver, still stands on the case of the organ in the Meeting House where it was placed in 1834. It may be truly said that with the placing of this memorial the old musical tradition ended, and the type of music which continues to the present at the old Meeting House had its beginning.

THE ROELKER ROOM

ON SUNDAY, January 12, 1958, the southwest room on the third floor of John Brown House was dedicated to the late William Greene Roelker, Librarian-Director, 1940-1953. Speakers on the occasion, introduced by President Lownes, were the Honorable John Nicholas Brown and Dr. Lawrence Counselman Wroth. In concluding his address Mr. Brown said, "This, then, is the kind of man we are honoring today — a man who would not forego the glory of the future for the sake of the greatness of the past. He saw the challenge

that this ancient mansion offered the Society and accepted it with vigor. Never satisfied, always dreaming, always pushing forward, Bill Roelker, nevertheless laid a firm foundation of stalwart support upon which the Society will rest secure for the time which is to come."

Dr. Wroth in telling of Mr. Roelker's work in the Society remarked "... [he] came to the Society in 1940 after observing and learning in his business experience that small things could be made into large things if the right abilities and the fullest vigor were applied to the task. Though he came to his office without the advantage of long familiarity with its problems, he possessed and from the very first strongly expressed his conviction that a local historical society owed a duty to the whole people of its state and, as a corollary, that the community owed the society the duty of helping in its support. For the terms of the corollary to become operative it was necessary that the Society show its intent of service to the whole people. With these principles in mind he set about at once upon the enlargement of the membership of the Society and the broadening of its base, affirming and putting into operation the idea that the history of the state was the heritage of every man and woman living within its borders.

"Upon this simple and well-defined basis, he went boldly and effectively into action. I repeat these words. He did not wait for the idea to fade gently into the limbo which is the resting place of so many good ideas — *He went into action*. The result is familiar to most of us. Within a few months of the beginning of his campaign the membership had been doubled. Today through the continuous attention to its enlargement by himself and his successors the membership stands at 1750 persons, a figure five times greater than that of 1940. What that means to the standing and repute of the Society in the community need not be spelled out. What it means in the easing of the financial burden of administering the institution is easily calculated by anyone remotely acquainted with the multiplication table. The financial strain was further relaxed by another of his innovations, the annual appeal for voluntary contributions from the members over and above their prescribed dues.

"There is no question that this broadening of the base of membership has been a motivation in the generosity the State has displayed in twice increasing its annual contribution to our expenses, and in the willingness shown by both state and city to make contributions



Painting by John Lavallo

Courtesy of Nancy L. Roelker

WILLIAM GREENE ROELKER

Librarian - Director 1940-1953

1958]

The Roelker Room

47

towards special purposes. . . .

"At the time of William Greene Roelker's death, a fund was formed in his memory by contributions of his friends. It was decided by the Society that the income from a part of this fund should be employed in the purchase of books in which would be placed a bookplate bearing his name. It was further decided that the board room on the third floor of this building should hereafter be called the William Greene Roelker Room and a plaque with a suitable inscription be placed in the room as testimony of that intent. Before you is that plaque, designed and beautifully lettered by Mr. Wallace Howe and carved in wood under his direction. I think that having this room, looking out upon the old Providence of river and wharf and dock and warehouse which he loved, having this beautiful, sunlit room called by his name and so designated in a simple inscription would have been in William Greene Roelker's consideration a suitable and pleasing memorial. It is in such a belief that we are holding this meeting today."

The inscription on the plaque is as follows:

This Room is dedicated to
WILLIAM GREENE ROELKER
1886 - 1953

Librarian and Director 1940-1953
who brought to the ancient Society
a fresh Conception of its Function
as a unifying Agency in the
RHODE ISLAND COMMUNITY

The expense of the plaque and the dedication of the room has so reduced the William Greene Roelker Fund that the income for many years will be insufficient for the purchase of books. Additions to the fund will make it possible to purchase historical works annually in Mr. Roelker's memory.



THE WILLIAM GODDARD HOUSE

by JOHN HUTCHINS CADY, F.A.I.A.

A LANDMARK familiar to many generations of Brunonians stands facing the College Green on George Street, a physical and sentimental link between the old college buildings and the new. It has figured conspicuously in the annals of Brown as the home of two distinguished alumni, William Giles Goddard, 1812, and his son Colonel William Goddard, 1846.

William Giles Goddard was a professor at the university for seventeen years and upon his resignation in 1842 was chosen a trustee, and the next year became secretary and a fellow. Colonel Goddard was elected a trustee nine years after graduation and served as chancellor from 1888 until his death in 1907.

In 1762, two years before Brown University (originally known as Rhode Island College) was founded, an earlier William Goddard, a native of Connecticut and grandfather of the chancellor, had opened a printing office in Providence and commenced publishing the *Providence Gazette and Country Journal*. Five years later he went to Philadelphia, leaving his Providence printing office in the hands of his mother, Sarah (Updike) Goddard. She resumed publication of the *Gazette* after an interval of six months, assisted by John Carter, who later became its owner and editor.¹

Mr. Goddard was editor and part owner of the *Pennsylvania Chronicle* for seven years. He moved to Baltimore in 1773 and began publishing the *Maryland Journal*, assisted by his sister, Mary Katherine Goddard. While there he took the initiative in establishing the continental post office, which was adopted by the Continental Congress in 1775 as the postal system of the united colonies. He served for a year as Surveyor of the Post Office under Postmaster-General Benjamin Franklin.² In 1786 he married Abigail Angell, daughter of James and Mary (Mawney) Angell of Providence. Six years later, in 1792, he sold his press and returned to Rhode Island where he resided in Johnston in the farmhouse built by Thomas Clemence in 1680, which his wife had inherited.³ It was there that William Giles

¹Carter published the *Gazette* and maintained a book shop and the post office "at the Sign of Shakespear's Head," in a house erected by him at 21 Meeting Street, now owned and restored by Shakespeare's Head Association.

²Lawrence C. Wroth, "William Goddard and Some of his Friends," *Rhode Island Historical Society Collections*, v. 17, p. 33.

³John Hutchins Cady, "The Thomas Clemence House," *Rhode Island Historical Society Collections*, v. 34, p. 65.

1958]

The William Goddard House

49



38 Brown Street, Providence, 1924

Goddard was born. The house is now owned by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

William Giles Goddard, in 1821, married Charlotte Rhoda Ives, eldest daughter of Thomas Poynton Ives. Mr. Ives was a native of Beverly, Massachusetts, who had come to Providence in 1782 at the age of 17 as a clerk in the office of Nicholas Brown. Ten years later he married Mr. Brown's daughter Hope and became a partner in the house of Brown, Benson, and Ives. Later he was associated with Nicholas Brown, Jr. in the firm of Brown and Ives, a name perpetuated in succeeding generations. Thomas Poynton Ives built the house at 66 Power Street into which his family moved early in 1806 when Charlotte was fourteen.⁴

Brown and Ives were owners of a three-lot tract of land at the southwest corner of George and Brown streets. It had a frontage of 150 feet on George Street and extended southerly to the old stone wall of Joseph Crawford, midway between George and Benevolent

⁴John Hutchins Cady, "The Thomas Poynton Ives House," *Rhode Island History*, v. 4, p. 1.

streets. In 1827 Mr. Brown deeded his joint interest in the land to Mr. Ives, whose daughter Charlotte Ives Goddard built the house upon the two easterly lots. She became owner of the land in 1837, after her father's death, by gift of his widow and his other children.⁵

At the time of his marriage William Giles Goddard was proprietor and editor of the *Rhode Island American*, and four years later he was appointed a professor at Brown University. Prior to the erection of their house the Goddards dwelt in the brick block on Benefit Street at the foot of George Street, and at Potowomut. They had nine children, seven of whom grew to maturity.

When the Goddard house was erected, the college grounds had not yet been extended to George Street, and the only academic buildings were University Hall and Hope College. The house was built with its front wall butting on George Street and its easterly wall set back thirty-five feet from Brown Street, which was platted but not

⁵Harrison S. Taft, *The Brown Family*, v. 7, p. 61-63. Manuscript in the Rhode Island Historical Society.



Library looking toward the Southeast

yet paved. In its exterior design it closely resembled Hope College, erected in 1822, and may have been the work of the same unrecorded architect. The brick walls, rising from a granite base, are dignified and well-proportioned. There is a low hipped-roof and a wood classic cornice ornamented with dentils. Aside from the large panes of window glass the house has colonial character. The floor plan of the main block originally conformed to such early republican mansions as the John Brown and Thomas Poynton Ives houses. The main entrance was on George Street with two-way steps on the sidewalk. Adjacent to the central hall, facing Brown Street, were two drawing rooms. To the west of the hall were the library on the north and the dining room on the south. The kitchen, pantry, and rear stairs were in a wing, where Mrs. Goddard kept a watchful eye on the culinary department and personally washed her fine Canton china.

The inside finish followed the traditional motives of the early republican period. The windows were recessed with shutters folding back into splayed jambs. Some of the doorways were capped with carved and moulded cornices and friezes with applied ornaments of Adam design. The furniture, as a rule, was mid-Victorian; in one of the drawing rooms it was made of carved cherry wood, upholstered in red damask.

Professor Goddard died in 1846, but his widow survived him by thirty-five years, during which period the seven children married and moved to homes of their own. She bequeathed the estate to her son, William Goddard, who had married Edith Jenckes, daughter of Thomas A. Jenckes, member of Congress 1863-71 and author of the present Patent Law. In the Civil War William Goddard enlisted in the Second Rhode Island Regiment, and was commissioned Colonel of Volunteers for gallantry at the Battle of Bull Run, later serving on General Burnside's staff. He was brevetted Brigadier General, which title he modestly refused.

Following their marriage Colonel and Mrs. Goddard resided at their country estate, Warwick Lodge, at Potowomut Neck. Before returning to his ancestral home in 1882 William Goddard made alterations to the main block and erected a large addition to the south end. Stone and Carpenter were the architects. The original entrance on George Street was eliminated, and the former library



Dining Room looking toward the Northwest

was lengthened to include the north section of the central hall. The old stairs were removed, and a new stairway was built at right angles to the hall, running in four stages from the first story to the third. This was elaborated with mahogany rails, newels, and twisted balusters and a fine paneled wainscot, all copied from the Joseph Brown house at 50 South Main Street. Stained glass windows were installed on the landings.

The three-story walls of the addition conformed to those of the original block, with ornamental features confined to the new Brown Street entrance. The Roman Doric porch, recessed in the angle between the original block and the new hall, is composed of pilasters, columns, a crowning entablature, and roof balustrade in the manner of the classic revival. The wide doorway and elliptical toplight, lined with banded Gothic colonnetts, may be the original George Street entrance. The second story above the porch has pilasters and an entablature, the latter broken for a center window, and above the

pilasters are brackets supporting a widened cornice.

The porch opens into a spacious entrance hall, leading into the original block through a wide archway. To the left of the entrance are two large rooms, a library and dining room. Above them on the second floor are the master bedrooms. The interior *decor*, designed in the lavish style of contemporary English manor houses, contrasts strongly with the post-colonial simplicity of the older rooms. The wood finish is largely mahogany with highly ornamental mantels, bookcases, and other details; and the ceilings are beamed and paneled, some of them decorated with hammered gold.

Two marble figures on the lawn, flanking the path leading to the entrance porch, were brought to Providence from Charlotte Ives Goddard's country estate "Hopelands," at Potowomut. The statues became targets for the pranks of undergraduates, however, and were moved to less vulnerable spots on the porch, and subsequently taken to Mrs. Iselin's estate on Long Island.

Upon completion of the alterations Colonel and Mrs. Goddard established their residence in the house, occupying the master bedrooms in the new wing. Their daughter, Hope Goddard, moved into the old northeast room that had been her grandmother's. In ensuing years the house was full of life and gaiety. Many distinguished persons of the political, educational, musical and theatrical worlds were entertained there. The annual Christmas parties were a feature of the life of Providence during that period, carried out in the Elizabethan manner with wassail bowl and carols, the guests often in fancy dress. Distinguished Brown alumni and recipients of honorary degrees at Brown commencements were entertained annually.

Hope Goddard was married to C. Oliver Iselin of New York, banker, yachtsman, and co-owner and manager of the cup defenders *Vigilant*, *Defender*, *Columbia*, and *Reliance*. The wedding took place in the drawing room, and the reception was held in a marquee set up in the garden. Mrs. Iselin started on her honeymoon seated beside her husband on his four-in-hand coach, and they drove to her father's country place at Potowomut.

William Goddard died in 1907 and bequeathed a life interest in the homestead to his widow, leaving the estate to his daughter. Mrs. Iselin presented a gate to Brown University in 1910 in memory of her father. It was designed and made in Italy by Michelucci and

erected in the George Street fence east of Rhode Island Hall. A bronze tablet on one gatepost has the following inscription, composed by Dr. G. Alder Blumer, a lifelong friend of Mr. Goddard:

IN MEMORIAM
INTEGER VITAE
SINGULARI HUMANITATE
PRAEDITUS
EXCELLENS DIGNITATE
ELOQUENTIA PRAESTANS
JUSTUS IMPAVIDUS

Since the death of Mrs. Goddard in 1924 the dwelling has been closed except for occasional occupancy by Mrs. Iselin after Mr. Iselin's death. She has carried on certain traditions established by her parents. For many years she held an annual commencement party for the Brown faculty and distinguished visitors and on one occasion entertained Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes, one of whose predecessors in office, John Hay, had been similarly entertained by her father.

Shortly after commencement in June, 1928, Mrs. Iselin received



Second Floor Living Room

a letter from President Faunce expressing thanks for her hospitality and continuing as follows: "Now please allow me to say something that may seem to you audacious or even impertinent . . . I do not know what is to become ultimately of your beautiful home here at Brown and George streets. Certainly it must never be torn down for a century to come . . . My dream is that some day that home should become a home for the Classics, for the teaching of Greek and Latin in Brown University. Is it possible that my dream may come true? Your father was the finest classical scholar that I have ever known among business men. I have often said to my friends that Latin phrases seemed on Commencement Day as familiar to him as sentences in English. He had a certain stateliness of language, as well as of manner, that I shall always remember with admiration, and his very presence was rebuke to the crudity and vulgarity of some phases of American life."

A decade after his death President Faunce's dream came true, in part at least. In June, 1940, Mrs. Iselin informed President Wriston that she had deeded the house to Brown University in memory of her father. In expressing gratitude for her generous act Dr. Wriston stated that "it fitly symbolizes the long and interesting connection of the Goddard family with this institution."

NEWS—NOTES

A Rhode Island Preservation Seminar for persons concerned with the care and upkeep of historic buildings in this area will be held on May 9, 10, and 11, 1958, with the co-operation of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Sponsoring organizations will be the Heritage Foundation of Rhode Island, the Newport Historical Society, the Preservation Society of Newport County, the Providence Preservation Society, and The Rhode Island Historical Society.

Those attending the Seminar will benefit from the experiences of nationally known experts in the field of historic preservation. The carefully planned series of lectures, demonstrations, and tours is intended to help those active in local maintenance of old buildings.

Among the speakers are Abbott Lowell Cummings, Assistant Director, Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities; Helen Duprey Bullock, Historian, National Trust for Historic Preservation; Nina Fletcher Little, Consultant, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Art Collection, Williamsburg, Virginia; Antoinette F. Downing, author of *The Architectural Heritage of Newport, Rhode Island*; Herbert C. Darbee, Director of Craft Demonstrations, Old Sturbridge Village; Barbara Wriston, Lecturer to the Schools, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Richard H. Howland, President, The National Trust for

Historic Preservation; John M. Patterson, Executive Vice President, Crusade for Freedom, Inc.; and John Phillips Coolidge, Director, Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University.

The meetings on Friday, May 9, will be held at the Historical Society followed by a dinner and lectures at the Providence Art Club, and on Saturday there will be a tour of Newport and luncheon at the White Horse Tavern. After the return to Providence on Saturday there will be a dinner meeting at the Agawam Hunt. Registration for the Seminar, which is limited to 85, will be under the supervision of John Nicholas Brown, chairman of the committee, which includes Mrs. Malcolm G. Chace, Jr., and Mrs. George Henry Warren.

A grant of \$4,000 from the Rhode Island Foundation will help provide the Society with long-needed attractive and modern exhibition space. The two rooms at the rear of John Brown House are to be remodeled in accordance with plans drawn up by Conrad E. Green. It is expected that the work will begin in the near future.

For many years the Society has been the official custodian of newspapers purchased by the State. This outstanding collection now amounts to more than three million pages. Unfortunately modern wood pulp paper deteriorates rapidly, and many of the papers printed since 1870 must be microfilmed if they are to be preserved. Since 1952 all papers printed in Rhode Island are being microfilmed currently, and the publishers of the *Providence Journal* and the *Evening Bulletin*, the *Woonsocket Call*, and the *Providence Visitor* have filmed their entire files. The *Westerly Sun* and *Pawtucket Times* have been filmed in part.

In order to save the files of newspapers no longer being published a bill (H 1203) has been introduced in the Rhode Island House of Representatives providing for an appropriation of \$6,000 for microfilming a part of them during the coming year. It is expected that the entire program can be finished in ten years if an annual appropriation of \$6,000 can be obtained.

The Society has recently received a bequest from the late Judge Elmer J. Rathbun. The pertinent provision of the legacy reads as follows: "To the Rhode Island Historical Society, a Rhode Island corporation, the sum of One Thousand (1,000) dollars, to be known as the Judge Elmer J. Rathbun Fund, to be added to its Investment Fund, and the income only thereof used for the general purposes of said Society."

The thoughtfulness of our friends in leaving such bequests is greatly appreciated. As our invested funds increase, our operations expand and our influence in the Rhode Island community grows.

The Society is grateful to the publishers of the *Newport Daily News* and the *Westerly Sun* for the cases to house their microfilm and to the Rhode Island State Council, Knights of Columbus, for a case for the *Providence Visitor*. These gifts of microfilm cases, each of which holds about 575 reels, relieve the Society-owned cases for storage of its own material.

THE GOOD SHIP HAIDIE

by HARRIETT WOOD WEEDEN

THE LAST CLIPPER built in Providence, Rhode Island, was launched from the shipyard of Frank Allen at Fox Point in February, 1854, and anchored a short way down the harbor ready to be towed to New York to take on cargo and have the sails bent. She was named *Haidie* (the beauty of the Cyclades), 150 feet over all, 37 feet beam and 11½ feet draft, about 500 ton burthen. Her mainmast stood 64 feet above the deck; main topmast was 36 feet, and lower mainyard 60 feet long. She was painted black with gold stripe, spars and bright work varnished, and all cotton rigging. She was certainly a beauty. Father has said, when she was light he could stand in the eyes, back against the foremast, and touch both sides.

Her captain, and part owner, Joseph H. Tillinghast, had hoped to take as cabin boys the sons of two of his friends, but Mrs. English decided Sam was too young, and my grandfather was not inclined to let father go; so he recruited two boys from the reform school, which stood at that time on Tockwotton Street. They were set on board the night before she was to sail, but in the morning they had disappeared, having swam ashore in the night; so she went on without them. Before she was ready for sea, Captain Tillinghast returned to Providence for a last visit home, and this time Mrs. English consented to let Sam go back with him, while grandfather said if father was still determined to go, he would take him to New York later, which he did, and father writes: "Came on board Friday [this should have been Thursday] April 13th, 1854, 2 inches of snow on deck." This was the last snow he was to see until he reached home in January, 1856. My father, Edgar B. Wood, was fifteen years of age. Samuel J. English was about one year younger.

Haidie sailed from New York April 27th, 1854. The first port of call was Melbourne, Australia, with a mixed cargo including grave-stones. Certainly father enjoyed this part of the voyage; he loved the water; was never seasick and would climb the rigging and sit on the cross-trees until it blew so hard the captain would call him down saying, "I promised your father I would bring you home, now you come down before you fall overboard." The boys lived in the captain's cabin, ate with him, studied navigation, made their own clothes of white canvas trimmed with blue, wore the sailors' neckerchief, rowed the captain's gig and attended him on shore, a sort of midshipman.

They crossed the line June 1st, 12 o'clock midnight, rounded the Cape of Good Hope Monday, June 25th, and arrived at Melbourne on August 7th. The harbor is a very open roadstead, and at that time almost filled up with prison ships; so they anchored well off shore. Melbourne was a tough town and the captain kept the boys well with him. There was not much to see or buy and the only thing I have from there is a horn whiskey jigger Father picked up in a bar-room. The gold rush was on all over the world, and most of the crew deserted for the gold field, but many men wanted to get to California; so with some from the hulks they managed to pick up a crew, though not a very desirable one, and sailed from Melbourne on September 6th. They were chased by pirates in the Straits of Sumatra, but she was a fast sailer and the winds being fair they didn't have to use the guns though she was equipped with two 18 pounders.

They crossed the line October 3d and arrived at Hong Kong October 29th. Here they unbent the sails, swung the hammocks on deck, and bent awnings. The crew was eager to get away and Captain Tillinghast was just as eager to get rid of them; so one night he said to the boys, "We will forget and leave the longboat astern," which they did and in the morning the crew had left and the longboat was on the beach. The boys went ashore in the gig and brought the boat back and the captain didn't have to pay the men off. Then, while waiting for orders and refitting ship, they really enjoyed life; shipped a Chinese cook, had a barrel of fruit sent on board each morning, went ashore where they exchanged a silver dollar for Chinese coins, which were eight to one cent. They were strung on a string and for a few pennies a day they hired a boy to carry the money and guide them to the shops. Here father exchanged his sea chest for the camphor one I now have.

Being now refitted and ready for sea, the *Haidie* sailed from Hong Kong January 9th, 1855, having picked up a full crew of men eager to get to the gold fields in California, and made a fast voyage to San Francisco where they arrived February 26th, 1855, and the first thing the crew did was to desert for the gold fields; but there were many on the beach anxious to return east and many sailors amongst them. Giving notice the *Haidie* was bound for New York *via* Hong Kong, they shipped a full crew, 1st mate Treadwell (a native of Maine) and 2d mate Childs, and sailed from San Francisco March 9th and

arrived in Hong Kong May 1st, 1855.

Whether there was no order from home or she was chartered by a British firm I don't know; however, she took on a cargo and sailed for Manila May 1st and arrived there on the 23d, and while there took on a few lascars as part crew, sailed from Manila June 6th and arrived at Whampoa June 16th; on June 21st sailed from Whampoa and on the 24th of June, 1855 sailed from Hong Kong with a cargo of Chinese money for Foochow. By this time the mate and other Americans were impatient to get home and there was some grumbling amongst the crew. They arrived June 30th and at the Pagoda July 3d. *Haidie* was the first American ship (after Commodore Perry) to enter Foochow, and there were no white men there. Here Captain Tillinghast became suddenly very ill, was brought on board one night delirious and the next day, Monday morning, July 9th, 1855, at a quarter of two he died. There was a British mission a few miles up the river, and the captain's body was taken there and given burial.

The first mate then took command and discharged the cargo. The boys were now on their own, but did not wander far from the ship. The ancestral tablet which I have came from there.

Captain Treadwell then loaded her in ballast, stones, gravel, etc., and August 14th, 1855, sailed from Foochow direct for New York. On October 16th they arrived off Batavia and laid well outside the harbor while two of the crew set the captain ashore to lay in a few necessary supplies, as she was poorly stocked for a long voyage, and to check the chronometer. On the 18th got under way again.

Captain Tillinghast had a pet monkey and soon after leaving Batavia he got loose, ran up the rigging and refused to come down. Captain Treadwell ordered father to go up and get him, but he was ugly and Father came down without him. At this the captain got angry and went up himself and the monkey bit him in the hand. From this time the captain stayed below until after rounding the Cape of Good Hope (and Father entered in the journal which he had kept from Foochow), "couldn't take observations and wouldn't let the mate," and on December 4th the mate's slate reads, "The Chronometer has not been used since November 24th, and if it is not used and the ship navigated and sailed as it should be, I shall enter all such occasions in the log book for whom it may concern, as long as it is in my charge." The next day the captain turned the

ship over to the mate, who brought her home. In the meantime the boys had the captain's cabin to themselves as the new captain kept his mate's berth below. They did a lot of wondering about what was to be done with the ship and themselves, as it seemed that the captain and mate did not agree on a plan, but the boys did think the mate was more kindly disposed to them, and after rounding the Cape began to think the plan was to cast the ship away on the Jersey coast and not bring her into port.

On Christmas Day, 1855, they opened the last barrel of beef with only one-half bag of black bread on hand. They sighted Bermuda Light December 29th, 1855, and plotted a course for New York. Running into heavy weather the ship was hove to under double reefed fore and main topsails for hours at a time. No observations could be taken. Luckily they were sighted by a pilot and picked up, but the storm grew worse, snow, hail, etc., and the ship was blown off shore for two days before they could set a course for New York. When they arrived, there was no food on board and the lascars had frozen their feet, being thinly clad and barefooted. The pilot took the boys to the office of Bucklin & Craine, the agents, and the captain and mate disappeared.

All newspaper reports about the *Haidie* say her first voyage was to Australia, that she was too small for a trader, and with much canvas required too large a crew to handle her, and came home heavily in debt and could not pay her way; but they also say her second voyage to China was very quick and successful, that she not only paid for the losses on the first voyage but also a large part of her cost. This may show some of the circumstances which caused her to be a pickpocket.

It was well into January, 1856, when the boys reached home. Father took the journal he had kept from Foochow and Captain Tillinghast's Bowditch, on which he had pricked the course from the Cape of Good Hope.

Whether there was any log kept by Captain Treadwell we have never heard. The boys had kept their own personal logs, and exchanged them. Sam's was very fragmentary; in fact had no entry after leaving Batavia. Many years ago my sister met Mr. Frank Bucklin who had married Sam English's niece, and he told her he had father's log, which gave a full account of the entire voyage.

Mr. English had no children. He died in 1886. Sam had had enough of the sea, while father wanted to go on another voyage, but when he came home he found his brother, next older than he, had been drowned while swimming in Providence Cove in August, 1855, and grandfather bitterly opposed it, so he gave it up and never went to sea again.

NEW MEMBERS

December 1, 1957 — February 28, 1958

Mrs. Gammell Cross	Miss Gladys Segar
Mr. Claude Littlewood Eaton	Hope Valley, R. I.
Mr. Basil W. Gilbert	Mrs. Edgar K. Sewall
Mr. Robert H. Goff	Mr. Roger Shattuck
Lloyd E. Hawes, M.D.	East Providence, R. I.
Wellesley Hills, Mass.	Mrs. Roger Shattuck
Miss Grace M. Holton	East Providence, R. I.
Mr. Robert W. Kenny, Jr.	Mr. Samuel S. Sheffield
Mr. Dudley C. Maxfield	Cincinnati, Ohio
Rumford, R. I.	Mrs. John H. Smith
Miss Doris M. McElroy	Mrs. Ward Stickley
Warwick, R. I.	Arlington, Virginia
Mrs. Harold T. Merriman, Jr.	Mr. George H. Utter
Tiverton, R. I.	Westerly, R. I.
Mrs. James H. Murray	Mrs. Nathaniel M. Vose, Jr.
Conimicut, R. I.	Barrington, R. I.
Mrs. William T. Neal	Mrs. Otis C. Wyatt, Jr.
Mrs. Charlotte Reardon	Lakewood, R. I.
Dr. Robert O. Schulze	Mrs. Charles W. Young
	Rumford, R. I.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Except Holidays

Monday through Friday	nine to five
Sunday afternoon (except holiday week ends)	three to five
Tuesday evening (Library only)	seven to nine
<i>Closed Sundays and Tuesday evenings, June, July and August</i>	

136th ANNUAL MEETING

THE 136TH ANNUAL MEETING of The Rhode Island Historical Society was held at John Brown House on January 9, 1958. President Albert E. Lownes called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. The Secretary read the call of the meeting and declared a quorum to be present. The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting were approved.

Mr. Nathaniel M. Vose, Jr., Treasurer, read a report for the year ending June 30, 1957. A copy of Mr. Vose's report is printed in this issue on inside back cover.

The Membership Committee, Mr. H. Cushman Anthony, Chairman, reported that there was a net increase of 142 members during the year and that the total membership, as of December 31, 1957, was 1,769. He called special attention to the work of Dr. Reuben C. Bates, who had brought in 75 new members during the year.

The Publication Committee, through its Chairman, Mr. Garrett D. Byrnes, reported that an INDEX to *Rhode Island History* had been published, covering the years 1947 to 1956, and also that the Society's Charter and By-Laws, as recently amended, had been printed.

Mr. Robert H. I. Goddard, Jr., reported for the Building and Grounds Committee that the trim of the house and the fence had been painted during the summer months and that our elm trees had been treated against the Dutch elm disease.

Mr. Clarkson A. Collins, 3rd, then read his report as Librarian, mentioning some of the recent additions to the Society's library, among them being the excellent work by John Hutchins Cady on *The Civic and Architectural Development of Providence*.

Mr. Clifford P. Monahan presented his annual report as Director of the Society. He referred to the fine work of the Membership Committee and stated that our general financial picture was good. He emphasized, however, that an additional member of the staff of John Brown House is needed, particularly to carry out the work of the Society as an educational institution and to work in the Museum.

In his annual address, President Lownes outlined some of the specific matters which he had worked on during the past year. A bill is to be introduced in the General Assembly which would enable the Society to put the newspaper files on microfilm. The need for a new library and auditorium is being studied, and the Audit Committee is continuing its work of analyzing the Society's gifts and bequests.

As the members stood in respect, Mr. Clifford P. Monahan read the names of members who had died during the period July 1, 1956 through December 31, 1957:

Mr. Edward B. Aldrich
Miss Virginia Boyd Anderson
Mr. Frederick W. Arnold
Mrs. Charles E. Bartlett
Mrs. Anthony Bartolomeo
Mr. Sailing P. Baruch
Mr. Zenas W. Bliss
Mr. Spencer Borden
Mr. Sevellon Brown
Mr. Walter G. Browning
Mr. Mortimer L. Burbank
Mrs. Edwin A. Cady
Mrs. Elmer S. Chace
Mr. Zechariah Chafee, Jr.
Mr. E. Lindsey Cummings
Mrs. Fuller Davenport
Mr. Earl R. Davis
Mr. Robert T. Downs
Mr. M. Antoine Gazda
Hon. Peter G. Gerry
Mr. Philip C. Gifford
Mrs. Howard B. Gorham
Mrs. Harry L. Grant
Hon. William B. Greenough
Mrs. Livingston Ham
Roland Hammond, M.D.
Miss Mary P. Hill
Mrs. John W. Holton
Miss Ann A. Hoxie
Mrs. Henry L. Jacobs

Mr. Henry E. Judd
Mr. Francis B. Keeney
Mrs. Robert L. Knight
Mr. Duncan Langdon
Mr. Charles W. Littlefield
Mr. Arthur McCrillis
Mr. G. Pierce Metcalf
Mr. Arthur W. Newell
Mr. Albert E. Noelte
Ira Hart Noyes, M.D.
Harold J. Pearce, D.D.S.
Mr. Ubaldo U. M. Pesaturo
Mr. Alexander VanCleve Phillips
Emery M. Porter, M.D.
Mrs. Elmer J. Rathbun
Mr. Rodman G. Rathbun
Mrs. Marion Nicholl Rawson
Dr. Alexander Hamilton Rice
Mr. Kenneth Shaw Safe
Mr. George Paul Slade
Hon. Nathaniel W. Smith
Mr. Myles Standish
Mrs. James G. Staton
Miss Mary Sturtevant
Mrs. A. P. Sumner
Mrs. J. P. Thorndike
Miss Kathleen S. Trowbridge
Miss Adelaide W. Vernon
Prof. Arthur E. Watson
Mrs. Dudley Abeel Williams

Mr. Ivory Littlefield, Jr., Chairman of the Lecture Committee, reported that the lecture program for the year had been an excellent one and that attendance had been good in spite of attractive competing events.

Mrs. Charles A. Robinson, Jr., Chairman, reported for the Museum Committee that a beginning had been made in the expert restoration of some of the Society's best paintings. She also mentioned some of the outstanding gifts made to the Museum during the year.

For the Finance Committee Mr. Harry B. Freeman, Chairman, reported that \$5,000 in new money had been invested and other funds reinvested during the year and that the \$25,000 bequest known as the Jonathan Chace Fund had been separately invested in bonds.

The special Chariot Committee reported through its Chairman, John Francis Brown, that the John Brown Chariot had been sent to Staten

Island to be restored by Colonel Paul Downing and that a generous grant from the Rhode Island Foundation had helped to make the work possible.

Mr. F. Morris Cochran, Chairman of the Audit Committee, reported that the accounts of the Society had been audited by Mr. Arthur L. Mulligan and found to be in order.

Mr. Bradford F. Swan then read the report of the Nominating Committee for officers for the ensuing year. There being no other nominations, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the nominations were closed and the Secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for the slate as read. The officers being duly elected, Mr. Albert E. Lownes, who was re-elected President of the Society, said a few words of appreciation and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

FRANK L. HINCKLEY, JR., *Secretary*

Officers elected at the Annual Meeting, January 9, 1958

Albert E. Lownes	<i>president</i>
Henry B. Cross, Edward Winsor	<i>vice presidents</i>
Frank L. Hinckley, Jr.	<i>secretary</i>
Clarence E. Sherman	<i>assistant secretary</i>
Nathaniel M. Vose, Jr.	<i>treasurer</i>
George C. Davis	<i>assistant treasurer</i>

MEMBERSHIP

Robert H. Goff, *chairman*
Robert S. Davis
Mrs. Harold J. Field
Elmer S. Horton
Mrs. Richmond Viall

GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS

John C. B. Washburn, *chairman*
Norris G. Abbott, Jr.
Conrad E. Green
J. Harry Marshall
Mrs. William G. Roelker

LIBRARY

Mrs. Clifford K. Rathbone, *chairman*
Mrs. Axel A. Christensen
Knight Edwards
Stuart C. Sherman
Bradford F. Swan

MUSEUM

Mrs. Charles A. Robinson, Jr., *chairman*
John Nicholas Brown
Mrs. George E. Downing
Mrs. M. Randolph Flather
Leonard J. Panaggio
Mrs. Henry D. Sharpe

LECTURE

Ivory Littlefield, Jr., *chairman*
William P. Buffum, Jr.
Miss Nancy A. Dyer
James L. Hanley
Mrs. Albert Harkness

FINANCE

Harry B. Freeman, *chairman*
Bayard Ewing
S. Foster Hunt
Charles B. Rockwell
William W. White

PUBLICATION

Garet D. Byrnes, *chairman*
Francis H. Chafee
Houghton P. Metcalf, Jr.
Paul C. Nicholson, Jr.
Lawrence C. Wroth

AUDIT

F. Morris Cochran, *chairman*
Fred Piggott
E. Russell Davis, Jr.

The Executive Board is composed of the officers; chairmen of the standing committees; members at large: Richard LeBaron Bowen and Henry C. Hart; and Dr. Grace M. Sherwood, State Librarian, *ex officio*.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

For 12 Months Ending June 30, 1957

INCOME

Dues	\$ 9,527.00	
Investment Income (Net)	9,954.03	
John Brown House Fund Income (Net)	187.74	
State of Rhode Island	8,500.00	
City of Providence	2,000.00	
Contributions—General	\$2,025.50	
Corporate	1,125.00	3,150.50
Patriotic Societies		350.00
Sale of Publications, Books, etc.		491.27
Outside Parties and Services		291.19
Miscellaneous		344.51
From Chace Fund		500.00
		\$35,296.24

EXPENSE

Salaries	\$17,227.80	
Social Security Taxes	343.72	
Director's Discretionary Fund	605.75	
Supplies	364.03	
Telephone	314.28	
Membership	370.36	
Museum	800.00	
Lectures	441.94	
Publications	3,374.01	
Heat, Light and Housekeeping	2,060.67	
Grounds	1,258.77	
Buildings	1,795.21	
Insurance	973.35	
Miscellaneous	126.23	31,824.98
		\$ 3,471.26
Other Net Income during year		3,657.18
		\$ 7,128.44

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS		LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND SPECIAL FUNDS	
Cash	\$ 15,683.26	John Brown House Fund	\$ 7,955.00
Special Funds	25,000.00	Jonathan Chace Fund	25,000.00
Investments	175,884.92	Life Membership	2,550.00
John Brown House Fund	7,955.00	John Brown Chariot	2,221.59
Real Estate, Furniture and Fixtures	50,000.00	William G. Roelker Fund	416.00
Books and Manuscripts	50,000.00	Publication Fund	850.20
Accounts Receivable	923.52	Library Book Fund	396.63
Prepaid Expense	1,120.02	William A. Wing Fund	970.00
		Anticipated Expense	1,112.67
		Fireproof Library Building	(630.50)
		Quaker Material Purchases (Chace)	(161.06)
			\$40,680.53
		General Endowments	\$241,928.49
		Wilbour Fund Reserve	41,102.41
		Irene Seabury Cummings Fund Reserve	5,000.00
		Deficit	(2,138.71)
	\$326,572.72		\$326,572.72

NATHANIEL M. VOSE, JR., *Treasurer*