

# RHODE ISLAND HISTORY

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JAMES MANNING, D.D., 1738-1791

First president of Brown University, 1765-1791. Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Providence, 1771-1791. Engraved by William Hamlin for the *Rhode Island Literary Repository*, v.1, no. 12, March, 1815.

# RHODE ISLAND HISTORY

VOL. 20

APRIL, 1961

NO. 2

## WILLIAM HAMLIN, PROVIDENCE ENGRAVER

by EUGENE VAN WYE

THERE IS currently on view in the Society's exhibition room all the known prints of Providence's first engraver, William Hamlin. Much of our knowledge of this man is derived from an article written by Gladys R. Lane, assistant librarian of the Shepley Library in Providence, and published in the magazine *Antiques* in March, 1925. After the death of Colonel Shepley the Library was sold in 1938, and most of the books and prints were purchased by The Rhode Island Historical Society. With this addition the Society's collection of prints by William Hamlin became the largest in existence. The only other sizable collection was owned by the late Edward Barnes Hamlin of Providence, a direct descendant of the engraver. In that collection, now owned by Daniel J. Higgins of Providence, there are nineteen prints.

William Hamlin's long life spanned the Revolutionary and Civil wars. He was born in Providence, October 15, 1772, and died there November 22, 1869, at the age of ninety-seven. His father, Captain Samuel Hamlin, and his brother, Samuel Ely, were both pewterers, but William served his apprenticeship under a silversmith, Samuel Canfield of Middletown, Connecticut. It does not appear, however, that he ever worked as a silversmith, for soon after his apprenticeship he returned to Providence and took up engraving as a trade. But he undoubtedly made his living by selling, repairing, and perhaps manufacturing such nautical instruments as sextants, quadrants, and compasses. The port of Providence was busy enough to afford him a living in this special field, but the engravings must have provided only a small part of his income. During his entire lifetime he probably engraved less than one hundred plates, and at present we know of sixty-nine prints. Although it is usual to call them engravings, it

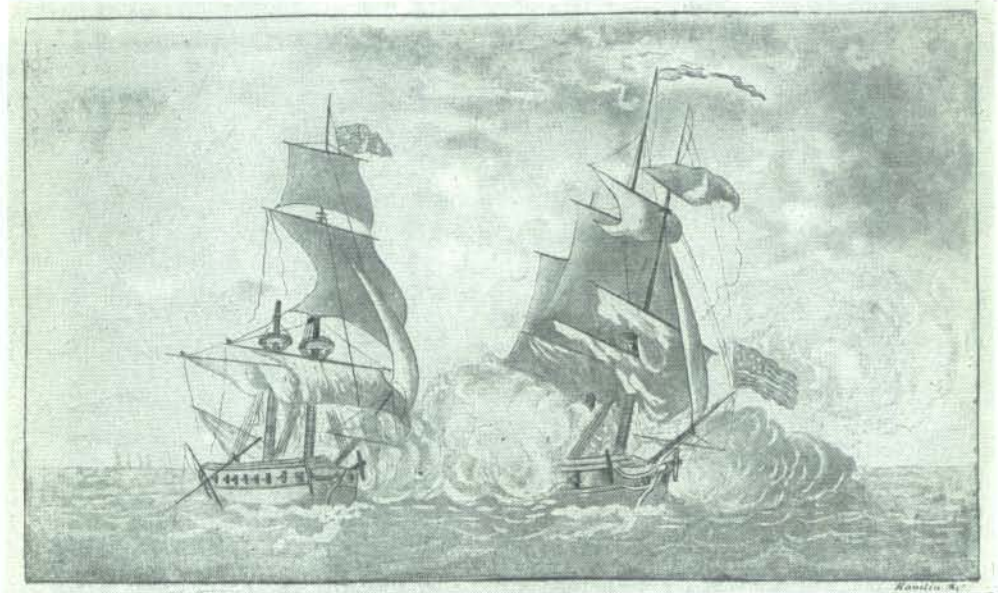
would be more accurate to call them etchings, for all of his plates were etched rather than engraved. He also made several mezzotints and aquatints, both of which are good etching techniques.

We know that William Hamlin was engaged in engraving as early as 1798, when he made the certificate for the Providence Marine Society, which, incidentally, contains the earliest extant view of Providence. Copies are fairly plentiful, since the same plate was used whenever the Marine Society needed more certificates, down to the present century.

Hamlin's first shop was on North Main Street, just north of St. John's Church. By 1806 he had moved farther down the same street to 11 Cheapside, where he advertised for sale such musical instruments as flutes, violins, clarinets, octave flutes, fifes, and flageolets.



William Hamlin's own trade card used when he was located at 131 South Water Street.



The engagement between the *Peacock* and the *Epervier* off Cape Canaveral, Florida, April 29, 1814.

In 1809 he occupied a shop directly across from the Baptist Meeting House. There was at least one more location before he set up shop at 131 South Water Street, which place he called The Sign of the Quadrant. It is pictured on his own trade card, a building on a busy wharf with shipping in the background. Hamlin occupied this shop from 1847 to the time of his death in 1869. The trade card advertises compasses, quadrants, sextants, spyglasses, telescopes, and microscopes. Hamlin was interested in astronomy, and it is said that he was the first man in the United States to construct a telescope. He also tried for many years to perfect a reflecting telescope, though he never completed the work to his own satisfaction.

His engravings are quite varied. Most of them were done on order, such as the certificates, bank notes, bookplates, watch papers, portraits, and pictures of Providence churches. However, some seem to have been done on speculation or even for fun, such as the humorous,

trick picture entitled *Courtship - Matrimony*. Another which may have been done just to delight his friends was the very small miniature of Washington.

In her article Miss Lane assigned numbers 1 through 45 to Hamlin's prints. I have found it necessary to add eight more numbers to account for eight bank notes which she listed together under No. 43. While there were fifty-two known prints by Hamlin in 1925, today we can list sixty-nine. Numbers 53 through 69 were all discovered among the treasures at The Rhode Island Historical Society.

One of the more interesting prints is of the First Congregational Church with its twin towers, an impressive building which was burned in 1814 by a local firebug. Hamlin's print shows smoke curling out of the top of one of the wooden columns. A rare second state shows two rows of trees in the background.

Another interesting print is a ticket for the *Experiment*, a boat built in 1808 by Varnum Wilkinson for the inventor, David Grieve. It was driven by a propeller, with power supplied by horses on a treadmill. This revolutionary craft appears to have made but one voyage, a rather unsuccessful one, before being seized by Grieve's creditors.

Hamlin made six different prints of Washington, five of which were simply copied from the famous print by Savage. The largest print is 17 inches high; the smallest is a miniature, oval in shape, measuring only .11 x .14 inches.

The article in *Antiques* contained a portrait of William Hamlin which was probably taken from a photograph. It shows an old man with an expression both modest and alert, holding a folded telescope in a large hand. His obituary in the *Providence Journal* of November 23, 1869, said:

Mr. Hamlin had lived far beyond the appointed bound, he had discharged with scrupulous fidelity all the duties of life; he had dispensed joy and light and gladness over a large household through all his days, he had seen his children grow up to respect and honor, he had set an example of industry and usefulness to his fellow-men. . . . We shall miss him in the street and in the social circle, we shall miss his kind words and his example of philosophy and wisdom.

The following pertains to the ten prints which are not represented in the exhibition. No. 2 is a portrait of General Butler and the only print listed is in the Rider Collection at Brown University.



ISAAC WATTS, D.D.

[St. Cecilia seated at the organ]

The 1925 article in *Antiques* lists numbers 4 and 5, which are supposed to be two different states of a portrait of Benjamin Franklin. Gladys Lane does not give the location of any print for no. 4, the first state. The second state, no. 5, has the face erased and "rocked over," so that Ben is looking down, and we see only his brows and his nose. This print is in the collection and may be the only one in existence. After looking at this print, it is fairly apparent that there was a first state, although perhaps Gladys Lane should not have assigned number 4 to a state which cannot actually be shown to have existed.

Print no. 11, a portrait of Enos Hitchcock, is a second state of no. 10. There is supposed to be a restrike of this state in the Society's collection, but I could not find it.

All we know about no. 17, a portrait of Washington, is that it measures 5.9 x 7.4 inches and that it is

numbered 232 in Hart's *Catalogue of Prints of Washington* and no. 1238 in Stauffer's *Catalogue of American Engravings*. The location of the print is not given.

No. 20 is another portrait of Washington. According to Gladys Lane's article, there should be two prints at The Rhode Island Historical Society and one in the Edward Barnes Hamlin collection, but I was unable to find any. This print, oval in shape and measuring 3.1 x 3.3 inches, is numbered 223 by Hart and 1240 by Stauffer. It was done in 1800 for Farnsworth's Edition of the *Life of Washington*.

No. 21 would be the first state of the miniature of Washington. We have four copies of the print to compare, but they are all quite

certainly the second state (no. 22). There is a note pasted on the back of one print, which was probably written by Hamlin himself. He explains that in 1848 he entirely reworked the plate and that "this impression is from the altered plate." No example of the first state, no. 21, is represented in this collection.

Numbers 36 and 37 are supposedly two states of a portrait of William H. Harrison, listed only in Fielding's *American Engravers*. Location of these prints is not given in Lane's article.

No. 40 is listed as a plate for a trade card for William Hamlin. I could not find the plate.

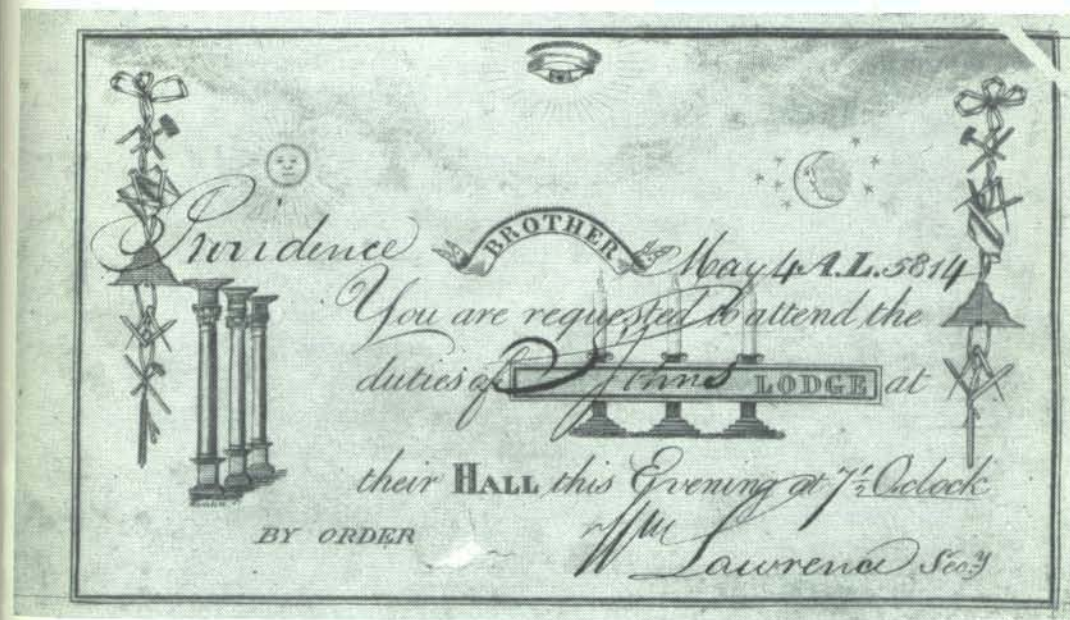


The Society has the plate from which this bill was made; Hamlin used the other side of the plate to engrave a bill for another bank.

Another plate which I was unable to find was no. 41, a perpetual calendar. No prints are listed for this number. So much for the ten prints not represented in this exhibition. Now follows an account of the seventeen recently discovered prints.

No. 53 is simply a first state of no. 12, which had not been previously noticed. It is a portrait of James Manning, D.D. This the first state is purely stipple engraving, with no lines employed (see front cover). For the second state the engraver added many fine lines throughout the background.

Now for the complicated business of the plate which Hamlin did when he was ninety-one years old. It is a profile view of Washington, after the portrait by the sculptor Houdon. Gladys Lane lists 14, 15, and 16 as three different states, all printed from the same plate, of course. My belief is that a much younger man helped him by engraving the line "Wm. Hamlin Sc at 91 years of age" as well as the line "From Howdan's Bust, Richmond, Va." In the second state, no. 15, according to my theory, the old man decided that he was still able to engrave his name himself. He therefore burnished out the printing and then put it back in again, but this time in the old, distinctive way. The third state, no. 54, was not noticed by Gladys Lane. The most noticeable differences in this state are changes in the contour of the back of the head and the queue. There is also a slight change in the contour of the nose as well as very slight changes to the mouth and chin and a covering up of the lobe of the ear. To a variant of the



A form used by various lodges to announce Masonic meetings. This particular one was for a meeting of St. Johns Lodge, May 4, 1814.

third state, one printed in dark green, I have assigned the number 55. The fourth state, no. 56, also was not mentioned by Gladys Lane. Here the engraver burnished out the 91 and etched it in again. Even more apparent are changes to the famous Washington chin. The mouth now seems to be smiling. This effect is increased by a slight raising of the eyebrow. The ear lobe has reappeared again, but the contour of the head is very much altered. The fifth state, no. 16, is pitiable. The plate had been worked over so much that no one could have pulled a good print from it. Once more the old man had burnished out the 91 and put it in again, but this time it looks more like 96. Perhaps he actually was ninety-six years old.

As I mentioned earlier, Gladys Lane listed eight bank notes under no. 43. I have given them numbers 43 and then 46 through 52. The eight additional bank notes which I have found have been numbered 57 through 64. Hamlin's bank notes are primitive, spontaneous, and surprisingly offhand. It would seem that none of the banks gave the engraver any rigid specifications. Apparently he was free to design and execute the plates according to his own fancy. None of the notes contains pictures of the banks, as we might expect. One note, for the Farmer's Exchange Bank in Glocester, Rhode Island, has a whimsical team of oxen, executed in line and in a hurry. Four of the notes are dated in pencil on the back. The earliest date is 1800 on a five-dollar note for the Central Bank in East Greenwich; the latest date is 1811. These sixteen bank notes conjure up an age when currencies and banks were not always very stable.

The Rhode Island Historical Society also has an interesting counterfeit, a five-dollar note of the Providence Bank, a copy of one by Hamlin, which the Society's collection does not have in the genuine note. Needless to say, I have not assigned a number to the counterfeit.

The next print is no. 65, a trade card for Matthew S. Cushman, a Providence gunsmith. The date 1824 is written on the back.

Print no. 66 is a Master Mason certificate printed on parchment. There are two prints, both with blue ribbons and seals attached. Having made a few etchings myself, I can imagine some of the problems Hamlin encountered when he had to print on parchment.

No. 67 is a watch paper printed on pink paper: "Spectacles, Pardon Miller, Watch Maker, No. 47 North Main St., Providence, R. I., W. Hamlin." Three cherubs, a clock, a sickle and spectacles

are all within a circle measuring 1.75 inches across.

No. 68 is also a Pardon Miller watch paper, giving the same address with the addition of the name Cheapside. This print does not have Hamlin's name on it but it is undoubtedly his.

No. 69 is a notice of meetings of St. Johns Lodge, dated 1814. It has many of the familiar Masonic symbols.

This accounts for the seventeen prints recently discovered. There are certainly other prints to be found. Perhaps some more of his delightful, left-handed bank notes will turn up. And I am sure that there are more business cards and bookplates to be discovered. In fact, I have found at least two in the Society's collection of bookplates which are probably by Hamlin, although they are not signed. Perhaps, after another thirty-five years, someone else will add more to the record, and I hope that he will find no more inaccuracies in my article on Hamlin than I have found in Gladys R. Lane's.

#### CHECK-LIST OF WILLIAM HAMLIN'S ENGRAVINGS

1. *Rachel Baker* . . . . . 3.6 x 2.1  
Stipple. Half-length; seated, face 3/4 left. *INS: Hamlin Sc/ Miss Rachel Baker.*
2. *General Butler* . . . . . 2.1 x 2.4  
Mixed. Oval frame. Full bust in uniform; cocked hat on head, face 3/4 right. *INS: Wm Hamlin—sc/ Gen. Butler Decd.*
3. *William Eaton* . . . . . Diam. 2.4  
Stipple. Circular. Bust, profile right. *INS: Hamlin Sc/ Genl: Wm: Eaton.*
4. *Benjamin Franklin* . . . . . 4 x 3.6  
Mezzo. Oval. Half-length, seated facing left; right hand to chin, left holding paper; drapery left background. From the Martin portrait. *INS: Wm Hamlin Sculpt — Providence/ Benjamin Franklin/ LLD FRs.*
5. *Benjamin Franklin*  
Same as No. 4, but face erased and "rocked over"; other changes in drapery. *Plate at R.I.H.S.*
6. *Stephen Gano* . . . . . 3.6 x 4.6  
Stipple, oval, full bust; face slightly to right. *INS: Young, pinxt — Hamlin Sculpt/ Rev. Stephen Gano A.M./ Providence R. I./ 1819.*
7. *Stephen Gano* . . . . . 5.1 x 4.1  
Mezzo. Rectangular. Full bust, face 3/4 left. *INS: T. Young pinx — W Hamlin Sc/ Rev. Stephen Gano.*
8. *Stephen Gano*  
Same as No. 7. Blue ink.
9. *Enos Hitchcock* . . . . . 2.1 x 3.1  
Stipple, rect. Half-length, in robes, face 3/4 left. *INS: Hamlin Sc/ Revd. Enos Hitchcock, D.D./ Engrav'd for the R.I. Literary Repository.*
10. *Enos Hitchcock* . . . . . 3.9 x 4.3  
Mezzo, oval in rect. Full bust in robes with wig and bands; face 3/4 left. *INS: Wm. Hamlin Sc/ Revd. Enos Hitchcock, D.D. Three dots under left corner.*

11. *Enos Hitchcock*  
Same as No. 10, with dots erased, shape of head slightly altered.
12. *James Manning* . . . . . 3.7 x 4  
Stipple, rect. Half-length, holding book in both hands, face  $\frac{3}{4}$  right. *INS: Hamlin Sc./ Revd. James Manning, D.D. From R.I. Literary Repository, March, 1815. 2nd state. No. 53 is 1st state.*
13. *George Washington* . . . 13.1 x 17.1  
Mezzo, rect. Nearly full length, in uniform, seated at table. On pedestal at right, an urn inscribed: "G.W./ Obt. Decbr. 14th/ 1799 AE 68" and plan inscribed "Eastern Branch." On side of pedestal, "The Grateful/ Tribute/ of his Admiring/ Countrymen." On front, "Death ere thou hast slain another/ Wise and Great and Good as He, Time shall throw his dart at thee." *INS: E. Savage Pinxt—Wm Hamlin Sculp/ Genl. George Washington/ Published July 1800, by Wm. Hamlin, Providence, R.I.*
14. *George Washington* . . . 2.1 x 2.12  
Mixed, rect. Bust, profile, left. *INS: Wm Hamlin Sc. at 91 Years of age./ Washington/ From Howdan's Bust, Richmond, Va. 1st state of 5 states.*
15. *George Washington*  
Same as No. 14, with "at 91 years of age" altered to "AE 91" 2nd state.
16. *George Washington*  
Same as No. 15 with "91" altered to "96" 5th state.
17. *George Washington* . . . 5.9 x 7.4  
Mezzo, rect. Nearly full length, in uniform, seated at table. Order of Cincinnati on left breast, waistcoat unbuttoned, hilt of sword resting against table. An urn, inscribed "G.W." surmounted by Fame with Trumpet. *INS: E. Savage pinxt—Wm Hamlin Sculp. Providence/ Genl Washington/ Obt Decbr 14th 1799 AE 68.*
18. *George Washington* . . . 5.1 x 7.4  
Mezzo, rect. Three-quarter length, seated to right at table, legs
- crossed. On table a large cocked hat with rosette and plan marked "Lo 00 00 La 38 53." *INS: E. Savage pinxt—Wm Hamlin. Sculp. Providence/ George Washington Esqr./ Obt., Decbr, 14th, 1799, AE 68.*
19. *George Washington* . . . 5.1 x 7.4  
Mezzo, rect. Three-quarter length, seated to right at table, legs crossed. On table a large cocked hat with rosette and plan marked "Lo 00 00 La 38 53 N." *INS: E. Savage pinxt—Wm Hamlin Sculp. Providence/ Genl George Washington/ Obt. Decbr. 14th, 1799, AE 68.*
20. *George Washington* . . . 3.1 x 3.3  
Stipple, oval. Bust, in uniform, face  $\frac{3}{4}$  right. *INS: Farnsworth's Edition./ E. Savage, Pinxt—Wm Hamlin, Sculp. Providence/ Genl George Washington. From Farnsworth's Edition of the Life of Washington, 1800.*
21. *George Washington* . . . 0.1 x 0.14  
Stipple, oval, surrounded by rays. Bust, in uniform, face  $\frac{3}{4}$  right, name on ribbon under oval. *INS: Genl. George Washington., Wm Hamlin, Sculp.*
22. *George Washington*  
2nd state of No. 21. Pasted on back is following inscription: Presented by William Hamlin, Sept. 1848. This plate was originally engraved by Wm. Hamlin soon after the publication of Savage's large engraving of Washington; and during the present year (1848) has been altered and entirely retouched by Mr. Hamlin. This is an impression from the renewed plate. 2nd state.
23. *Isaac Watts* . . . . . 2 x 3.1  
Mezzo, mixed. Oval in rect. Full bust, face  $\frac{3}{4}$  right. In oval below, St. Cecilia seated at an organ. *INS: Wm Hamlin Sculp. Provid/ Isaac Watts. D.D.*
24. *St. John's Church,*  
*Providence, R.I.* . . . . . 4.1 x 7.1  
Mixed, rect. *INS: Hamlin Sc./ A S.W. View of St. John's Church/ Providence, R.I./ Erected 1810.*

25. *First Congregational Church,*  
*Providence, R.I.* . . . . . 5.7 x 6.1  
Mixed, rect. *INS: Hamlin, Sc/ A N.W. View of the first Congregational Church, Providence, R. I./ Erected, 1795. Destroyed by Fire, June 14th. 1814.*
26. *First Congregational Church,*  
*Providence, R.I.*  
Same as No. 25, with trees added at either side.
27. *Plan of Providence* . . . . 15 x 25  
Line, rect. Map. *INS: Engraved by Wm. Hamlin/ A Map of the Town of Providence, from Actual Survey/ by Daniel Anthony/ 1803 Plate at RHS.*
28. *Peacock and Epervier* . . . 3.1 x 5.1  
Aquatint, rect. A naval combat. *INS: Hamlin, Aqt. An otherwise unlettered proof. Title in pencil.*
29. *U.S. Ship Philadelphia*  
*at Tripoli* . . . . . 2.6 x 3.1  
Aqua, rect. An American warship on fire in a harbor. Unlettered proof.
30. *Horseboat Experiment* . . . 2.5 x 3.3  
Line, vignette, showing boat Experiment and a sloop. *INS: This Ticket Entitles the Bearer to One Passage/ To New-Port or Providence/ In The/ Experiment/ Grieve's Patent/ Hamlin Sc.*
31. *Providence Marine Society,*  
*Certificate of Membership of*  
. . . . . 9.8 x 15  
Line, rect. At top Neptune between two marine views; in base, view of the harbor of Providence. *INS: T. Young Del.—Wm Hamlin Sculp. Provid.*
32. *Hamlin Business Card* . . . 1.1 x 2.1  
Line. Vign. Seaport view, ships, warehouse, dray, etc. *INS: Wm. Hamlin/ Providence R.I./ 131 S. Water St./ Hamlin Sc./ Manufactures & Repairs Compasses Quadrants Sextants Spy Glasses Reflecting Telescopes Microscopes & Nautical (Instruments).*
33. *Hamlin Business Card* . . . 3.8 x 4.2  
Aquatint, rect. Venus reclining in a shell, attended by Neptune. *INS: Wm. Hamlin/ Wm. Hamlin Sc./ Repairs & Rectifies Compasses, Quadrants, Sextants, & Nautical, Optical, & Mathematical Instruments Generally; also Engraving & Copperplate Printing/ S Water Street, No. 131 Sign of the Quadrant/ Providence R.I.*
34. *Lottery Ticket* . . . . . 2 x 2.4  
Line, vign. Hope with upraised hand, leaning on anchor, telescope marked "Hamlin." *INS: R. E. Hamlin's Reflecting Telescope, No/ W Hamlin Sc.*
35. *Courtship-Matrimony* . . . Diam. 3.2  
Mezzo., circular. Two profiles, male and female. When reversed, these show different expressions.
36. *William H. Harrison* . . . 2.2 x 2.9  
Stipple, oval. Bust to left, above eagle holding scroll with name. *INS: William H. Harrison/ W. H./ B Otis/ Born Feb. 1773—Died April 1841/ 1841./ pint/ The Late/ President Of/ The United States.*
37. *William H. Harrison* . . . 2.1 x 2.1  
Same as No. 36 with the exception of outer oval extended to octagon. Lower inscription space reworked, all above last three lines except "W.H." erased.
38. *Book Plate* . . . . . 3.4 x 2.1  
Line, vignette. Cupid to left supporting a blank oval, trees and church in background. No inscription.
39. *Musical Sodality* . . . . . 1.1 x 2.4  
Line, rectangular. Main title in German, with musical instruments on sides. *INS: Musical Sodality Concert, at—Admit the Bearer. William Hamlin Sc.*
40. *Hamlin Business Card* . . . 2.4 x 2.7  
Line, circle in rect. *INS: Wm. Hamlin Providence R.I./ 131 S. Water St./ Sign of the Quadrant Plate*
41. *Calendar* . . . . . 2.1 x 2.1  
Line. Perpetual Calendar. Plate
42. *Bookplate of John H. Hamlin*  
Line, rectangular. *INS: John H. Hamlin's/ Property/*

43. *Bank Note* . . . . . 2.4 x 5.7  
Exchange Bank, Providence, 50 cents. INS: *Wm Hamlin*. Plate
- [44. *Providence Association of Mechanics & Manufacturers*, Certificate of Membership . . . . . 9.1 x 13.8]  
Line, rect. Large monument with figures at top. Smaller monuments at each side, with figure on one, representing Justice and on the other, Industry. INS: *Wm Hamlin, Sculpt. Provid.*
45. *Federal Adelpi Society*, Certificate of Membership . 6.4 x 8  
Line, rect. Wreath and arms of United States at top. Wording in Latin. Printed on parchment. INS: *Wm Hamlin Sculpt, Provid.*
46. *Bank Note* . . . . . 2.7 x 6.3  
Farmer's Exchange Bank, Gloucester, R. I. One Dollar. INS: *Wm Hamlin Sc* Plate
47. *Bank Note* . . . . . 1.7 x 6.4  
Farmer's Exchange Bank, Gloucester, R. I. Three Dollars. INS: *Wm Hamlin*.
48. *Bank Note* . . . . . 2.8 x 6.7  
Farmer's Exchange Bank, Gloucester, R. I. Five Dollars. INS: *Wm Hamlin S.* Plate
49. *Bank Note* . . . . . 2.7 x 6.3  
Smithfield Union Bank, Smithfield, R. I. Three Dollars. INS: *Wm Hamlin Sc.* (Reverse side of plate has No. 46) Plate
50. *Bank Note* . . . . . 2.6 x 6.1  
Portsmouth, R. I. Bank, Three Dollars (Reverse side of plate No. 48) Plate
51. *Bank Note* . . . . . 2.8 x 6.3  
Nantucket Bank. Two Dollars. Plate
52. *Bank Note* . . . . . 2.8 x 6.3  
Nantucket Bank, Four Dollars. (Reverse side of plate No. 51) Plate
53. *Rev. James Manning* . . . 3.7 x 4  
This is a first state of No. 12. Stipple only.
54. *George Washington* . . . 2.1 x 2.1  
This is a third state of No. 14.
55. *George Washington* . . . 2.1 x 2.1  
This is a variant of the third state. Printed in green ink.
56. *George Washington* . . . 2.1 x 2.1  
This is the fourth state of No. 14.
57. *Bank Note* . . . . . 2.8 x 6.3  
Smithfield Union Bank, R. I. Five Dollars. INS: *Wm Hamlin*.
58. *Bank Note* . . . . . 2.7 x 6.3  
Warren, R. I. Bank, Three Dollars. INS: *Wm Hamlin*.
59. *Bank Note* . . . . . 2.8 x 6.3  
Exchange Bank, Gloucester, R. I. Two Dollars. INS: *Wm Hamlin*.
60. *Bank Note* . . . . . 2.7 x 6.4  
Gloucester, R. I. Bank, One Dollar. INS: *Wm Hamlin*.
61. *Bank Note* . . . . . 2.7 x 6.3  
Portsmouth, R. I. Bank, Three Dollars. No engraver's name.
62. *Bank Note* . . . . . 2.2 x 5.7  
East Greenwich, R. I. Central Bank. Five Dollars. INS: *Wm Hamlin*.
63. *Bank Note* . . . . . 2.2 x 5.8  
East Greenwich, R. I. Central Bank, Two Dollars. INS: *Wm Hamlin*.
64. *Bank Note* . . . . . 2.1 x 5.8  
Providence Bank, One Dollar. INS: *Wm Hamlin*.
65. *Trade Card* . . . . . 2.5 x 3.6  
Line, vignette, Matthew S. Cushman, Gunsmith, Prov. INS: *Wm Hamlin*.
66. *Master Mason*, Certificate of Membership . . . . . 9.1 x 13  
Line, rectangular. Contains many Masonic symbols. Printed on parchment.
67. *Watch Paper* . . . . . 1.75 Diam.  
*Spectacles, Pardon Miller, Watch Maker, No. 47 North Main St., Providence, R. I, W. Hamlin.* On pink paper.
68. *Watch Paper* . . . . . 1.75 Diam.  
*Watches, Jewelry, No. 47 Cheap-side, Pardon Miller, Watch Maker, Providence.* No Engraver's name. Seven stars over eagle with ribbon.
- [69. *Notice of Meeting of St. Johns Lodge* . . . . . 3 x 5.2]  
— Brother ——— You are requested to attend the duties of ——— Lodge at their Hall this Evening at — O'clock  
BY ORDER ——— Sec'y.

## EXILE OR EDEN? THE CHILEAN EXPERIENCE OF A RHODE ISLAND YANKEE

by ALAN S. TRUEBLOOD

Associate Professor of Spanish, Brown University  
[continued from January, 1961, v. 20, no. 1, p. 12]

### II The First Years in Chile

We shall not dwell on the voyage by sailing ship that began for Samuel Ward Greene on August 10, 1827 and took him in thirteen weeks to Valparaiso in the newly independent republic of Chile. The thoughtful thirty-three-year-old Rhode Islander in a long and remarkable letter recorded for his family in Providence and Potosi the impressions of his three months in the *Florida*: the dreamy hours spent on the fantail gazing into the ship's wake, the brilliant phosphorescence of the tropical seas, the Southern Cross shining in the star-studded nights of the equator, the gales that blew the vessel nearly to Africa, the loss of a man overboard, Cape Horn with its millions of sea-birds, its desolation and its fury. None of the classic aspects of the journey to be made familiar a few years later by Richard Henry Dana is missing.

Arriving at last at his destination, Greene found it no easy task to go ashore: "There are no wharves and piers—everything and everybody being landed upon the beach where you are almost deafened by the cries or pulled [to] pieces by the boatmen." His first reaction is definite enough: he is simply horrified by Valparaiso. "A more disagreeable, miserable, filthy, forbidding place human eyes never saw," he writes. "Men and women half clad and filthy, houses of one story formed sometimes of mud, often of nothing but canepoles, roofed with a kind of long grass, no windows to one half of them . . . hardly any chairs, the women sitting on the floors." Still, he does find some old acquaintances and make some new, and he stays on in Valparaiso three weeks "getting information as to trade, habits and customs." But his distaste persists: "There is no market house, everything being laid upon mats placed upon the ground and in no tempting shape . . . Every supply [is] brought about sixteen miles upon mules—milk, butter etc.—and in sheepskins, having with the articles a most agreeable quantity of wool and imparting a smell and taste somewhat repulsive."

At this early date Samuel is already displaying an Anglo-American awareness of germs. About December 1 he starts out overland by



stagecoach for Santiago, one hundred miles away, to see his cousin Jerauld. Inevitably the germs overtake him on the way and he reaches Santiago over the rough mountain roads more dead than alive. He puts up at an English hotel, suffering from acute dysentery, an ailment "common to strangers," he adds. For three weeks he lies deathly ill, watched over by three Rhode Islanders whom chance had brought together in this far corner of the earth: his cousin Jerauld, a carpenter named Munday from Wickford, and Samuel Larned, the American chargé d'affaires; and by a Chilean woman who "brought her little mattress and slept on the floor at my feet."

His Chilean stay had indeed started badly, simply prolonging ten years of frustration at home. The illness left him "emaciated to a skeleton." Though he was penniless—he had even had to pawn his watch to pay his medical bills—it is not strange that instead of seeking employment he was willing to settle at Colina, a few miles north of Santiago, on the farm of his cousin, Horatio Jerauld, amid people and activities reminiscent of Potowomut. On Jerauld's 150 acres he found a grist mill, fields of wheat and corn, apple orchards, orange and lemon groves, vegetable gardens, strawberries an inch across, huge fig trees, pastures full of grazing horses, cows and oxen. With a Chilean partner, Francisco Javier de Urmeneta, older brother of a future Brown graduate, Jerauld also operated a distillery. On his farm grew the first rye Chile had seen and he was providing the country not only with rye whiskey but with another product of Anglo-American civilization—gin, distilled from imported juniper berries. Samuel planned to stay a few months, helping out the overburdened Jerauld by handling his accounts and in the process learning something of the country and the language in preparation for launching forth on his own. "With economy and good friends here," he writes hopefully, "something will appear before long for my advantage."

Colina is situated in a narrow valley rimmed on the west by the first hills of the coast range. To the east the foothills of the Andes rise abruptly, dry and speckled with thornbushes; close behind them the eternal snows of the cordillera loom high in the sky. It was then a region of large farms and cattle ranges and its mineral springs made it a favorite watering place for wealthy *santiaguinos*. It lay on the road to Santa Rosa de los Andes, starting point for the journey over the mountains into Argentina. At the time Samuel arrived in Chile

the country was still in the throes of the civil struggles into which it had been plunged as soon as the Spanish yoke was removed, for Spanish rule had left the new republic totally unprepared and untrained for self-government. The president at this period, General Pinto, was a neighbor and friend of Jerauld's in Colina and Samuel is soon telling his family, with some satisfaction, of the visits they receive from him and taking vicarious pleasure in Jerauld's prestige: "From the President down to your bootblack," he writes, "a friend of Don Oracio, as he is called, is sure to be well received."

As the months pass at Colina his hope of easy riches fades. Soberly he records that Chile is no longer a good country for men of no capital, though offering unrivaled advantages to those who have it. Yet with no apparent effort he gives himself up to the unhurried pace of country life. Time begins to assume for him a special Latin American elasticity; he shows none of the impatient resistance to this process so common in Anglo-Americans. After three months, in April of 1828, he writes he will go down to Valparaiso "early next month" to a clerkship, but in July he is still there, "although every day thinking to take my departure." In November he writes, still from Colina, that Jerauld is sure to make a large fortune soon "and may perhaps be the means of helping me to a small sum." Twenty months later, in July 1830, he writes from Colina: "I shall probably remain here for a year or more, perhaps longer. . . . In no other place on this side Cape Horn could I have placed myself so pleasantly." He adds that the civil war which had been raging since the previous October is over "and something like stability may be expected." His forecast proved accurate, for from this time on, under the modified democracy of what historians call the "autocratic republic"—certainly the best arrangement for the time—Chile was to enjoy till the end of the century the most stable régime of any Latin American country. "The only misfortune," he adds, "has been by overturning the Govt. I lost my chance of employment"—apparently General Pinto had thought of using his accounting abilities. The new government of the constitutional president Prieto, intelligently directed behind the scenes by the businessman Diego Portales, had similar ideas, for, a month later, Samuel is writing to his brother Richard: "They still talk of giving me employment under the idea that I am the only disengaged man in the country that can systematize their

accounts—but until I am certain of not being turned out as soon as I have restored or rather *made* order to their affairs I shall remain here where I am well situated.” This is the closest the prudent Samuel ever came to political activity. As he writes at one point: “We are on friendly terms with all parties and make it a rule never to make a remark or to listen to one that has any bearing on politics.”

The months at Colina stretched on and on. “Years glide away here like months with you,” he observes; it would be six before Samuel made the promised move to Valparaiso. Meanwhile his situation at Colina, on a North American farm reminiscent in many ways of Potowomut—the foreman of the distillery and the cooper were also Americans—yet close to the capital and with frequent friendly visits to and from the Chileans who owned the surrounding estates was favorable to his gradual acclimatation in the new country. He was soon looking after more than Jerauld’s accounts. “I have never a great deal to do,” he writes, “but always something to see to or direct for the laboring class of this country are very ignorant and constantly need watching and scolding, of which latter, having had a good deal of practice, I can now acquit myself well, in good set terms . . . In the summer the custom of this country is for everyone to retire to his or her room immediately after breakfast where the morning is passed in reading, writing or in the occupations that may offer, the parlour and eating room being shut up to exclude the heat. Thus we seldom see each other until the hour of dinner (4 or 5 o'clock) when all assemble and generally remain together until it be time to retire for the night. As the Houses are of one story, it frequently happens that some members of the family are quite remote from others. Jerauld and myself however are, of course, a good deal together superintending the Distillery, Mills etc. In the rainy season, what they call winter, the case is different, for as we have fires in our house, we all live more or less in the parlour.” Jerauld’s stove was a refinement then almost unheard of in Chile.

Samuel grows accustomed to Chilean cooking, despite the fact that, as he writes, “they hardly have anything but stews—roasting almost unheard of—and nothing esteemed unless strongly impregnated with garlic and saturated with grease.” Moreover, “when these people give dinners they fairly fill you up—furnishing course after course to the number of 8-10 and sometimes more—all of them how-



*Courtesy of Thomas Casey Greene*

SAMUEL WARD GREENE, 1794-1872

ever of stews, soups . . ."

Samuel enjoys the luxury of a private servant and the satisfaction of being able to "pass many an hour playing" the piano. In the retired life of Colina, too, he finds a new use for skills acquired in childhood which had little practical value at home. Jerauld sets up new flour mills and Samuel writes: "There was no one that knew anything about taking care of them and for a month past I have been a Miller.—How many thousands [of] times have my thoughts carried me to Potowome during the last four weeks.—Tell Father we take the eighth part for toll. . . . In this new and in some degree ignorant country one finds everything useful." He regrets never having worked in the Forge at home, for in Chile "there is a great scarcity of every kind of mechanic. . . . There is not a single ox cart that has any description of Iron Work whatever upon it—a plow is made from two branches of a tree . . ."

Colina being on the road over the mountains to Argentina, they were often hosts to travelers who spent the night there; once they were even visited by the newly elected President Prieto with all his retinue. "I am getting to talk away in Spanish pretty stoutly," Samuel writes to a sister in 1829, "partly from necessity for it frequently happens that a party of Gentlemen and Ladies of the Country stop to pass a night with us when Jerauld is in [Santiago], and it is rather a difficult job to entertain 20 or 30 people at a time when you don't speak a word of their language. The people of the City here when they travel in the Country, to the baths or to their Haciendas (plantations) always go in enormous carts, much more clumsy and ugly than ours and drawn by oxen! They place their Beds upon the bottom and make a covering of cane poles and a curtain or two and gather in a whole family. I used at first to be much amuzed at their appearance—one of their appendages, without which a family never makes a journey here, is a Silver Chamberpot, generally suspended from a corner of the cart—rather an odd sight for people brought up as we were, especially when placed in a conspicuous situation."

The trace of puritanical modesty evident in these words—so much in contrast to Latin matter-of-factness—on occasion becomes outright moral indignation; yet it is interesting to see how Samuel's judgments softened as time went on, especially in respect to women. In his second letter from Chile, in early 1828, he had written: "The

Spanish females of the common class are a miserable race, dirty and grossly immoral. Indeed the best of the Valparaiso ladies, I am told, are of somewhat doubtful character, although"—he adds magnanimously—"I am persuaded there are many exceptions." Still, he was not averse to taking a second look: "The Spanish ladies wear no bonnets," he writes, "substituting a large shawl, which is supported on the head by their combs and often answers also for a gown, for frequently when by accident the shawl gets out of place you will perceive among the ordinary class of females nothing but a pettycoat and chemise. . . . The ladies . . . have much less formality than ours of similar rank." Many other travelers to Chile in this period make the same observation but Samuel adds a touch of his own: "It is common for young men, myself sometimes, say twice or thrice, being able to go out but little before I left Santiago, hearing of a handsome woman, to call at the Door and enquire of the porter if *senor Don*—(naming someone that you know lives in another street) is at home. The lady hearing the question comes forward and if you are good-looking, always invites you in. This is sufficient, you may now go as often as you please."

If Greene thus showed himself remarkably adaptable to the Spanish ladies' informality (he does not even call them Chilean at first), it was a while before he ceased to censure them and the men, too, as dirty, bigoted and ignorant, though from the start he admitted exceptions. A few families, he wrote, notably the Urmenetas, were "cultivated and enlightened, refined and delicate," "conscientious and liberal." Six months after settling in Colina he is learning to make adjustments for his own point of view: "The amazing freedom of manner common to the females, so different from our New England reserve and decorum," he concludes, does not mean "a corresponding freedom of conduct" and perhaps results in "nothing improper."

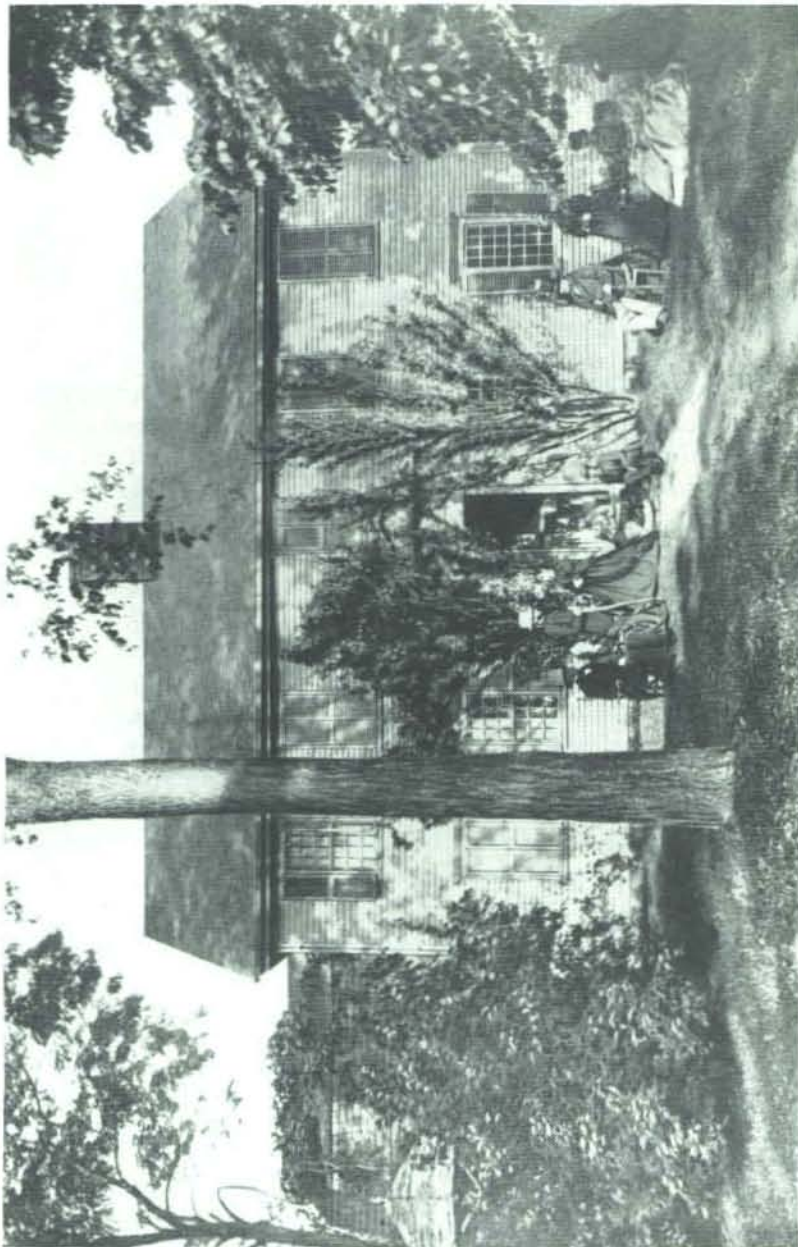
During the years of Greene's stay at Colina, and even later, his letters repeatedly express his disappointment at not having achieved financial independence more rapidly so that he might return home. Yet during these years he is gradually finding for himself in Chilean life a place he had not been able to find at home. His views on Chile and the Chileans pass, not without some wavering, from qualified disfavor to qualified appreciation. His reflective nature prompts him to move, sometimes hesitantly, from passing judgment to seeking

understanding. "This country improves very much upon acquaintance," he writes after nine months, "and many things repulsive to a Stranger, after a short time become first bearable and then sometimes agreeable." The independent Rhode Island blood in his veins responds, as he phrases it, to "a certain independence common to everyone in a new country like this." He begins to admire what he calls the "talent and disposition" of the Chileans, forecasts that the progress of education, already noticeable, will permit the country to attain greatness and notes that Jerauld and others who have seen the strides forward made by the Chileans in just ten years are most favorably impressed. Moreover, he adds, one must recall "the entire mental and bodily slavery under which they were held by Old Spain—a bondage worse than language can describe."

The exaggerated tone of the last observation shows that the atmosphere in Chile is still charged with the anti-Spanish feeling aroused by the struggle for independence. Undoubtedly his words reflect also the standard bias of a Protestant New Englander reared in the tradition of the so-called Black Legend of Spanish iniquity.

Indeed the religious issue was one that Greene never succeeded in viewing altogether dispassionately. Bred to the Rhode Island tradition of complete liberty of conscience, used to Quaker worship which dispensed with clergy, ritual and any form of religious art or ornamentation, he looked askance at all Catholic practices and saw in priests and friars ignorance, bigotry, superstition and vice. In his very first letter he notes disgustedly that "You can't pass a church door without taking off your hat and at sunset a bell rings when all and company must stop for about two minutes—supposed to be repeating a prayer. When the host passes through the streets you must not attempt to avoid the procession on any account and as it passes you must plump down upon your knee or be insulted—perhaps stabbed." (The reference to stabbing is unduly apprehensive but the rest is confirmed by contemporary witnesses.) At first he is convinced that all but the few enlightened families whose acquaintance he has made "are under the dominion of the priests"—"abandoned, dissolute wretches" he calls them, who "encourage every folly

← THE FORGE, POTOWOMUT *c.* 1860. Samuel Ward Greene is the first on the left, seated. His brother Richard is the fifth person from the right, also seated.



Courtesy of Thomas Casey Greene

and vice by their example. For instance, at our Table a day or two since some ladies were speaking of a young man. I asked the name of his family (for here they never mention more than the Christian name) and was answered: He is one of the Bishop's natural sons that he had by the señora that he kept such a number of years. These things are quite common." His New England fundamentalism protests that "one is in danger of forgetting the Sunday altogether, for the shops are open, games playing—theatres etc. like any other day in the week." When his mother grows alarmed about possible Catholic influence on him, he answers that a man is in less danger of becoming a Catholic living among them than living where she is. When she suggests dispatching Protestant missionaries, he reminds her that no other religious establishments are permitted.

If his ideas on the priesthood and its influence do not change fundamentally, they do eventually admit of some attenuation. If almost all the females are under their sway and the lower class of men governed, insofar as anything can penetrate their ignorance (he says), by priestly advice, the higher class of gentlemen, having "dissipated the darkness and obscurity in which the clergy have kept them, hasten from the extreme of bigotry into absolute infidelity" while the young gentlemen simply give no thought to religion at all. Still, he says, there are some exceptions; in fact, surprising as it may seem, "there are as good Catholics as of any other class"—and this goes even for the priesthood. The parish priest of Colina, whom he meets at a Fourth of July dinner at Jerauld's, he finds "very excellent company," adding that he likes very much to go to his house. Here again we see Greene's tractability smoothing away the sharp edges of his set attitudes. It must be stated that his observations on the clergy and on the state of Catholicism in Chile at this time have a considerable grounding in fact; it was not for nothing that freemasonry played a key role in the War of Independence.

By the end of his stay in Colina Samuel finds himself between two worlds. Shortly after his arrival he had written that "however much foreign travel may gratify curiosity, amuse the fancy and perhaps increase our knowledge of men and things, the feelings of the heart are but little concerned; home, with its quiet scenes and its loved inmates is a thousand times worth them all." In 1833 he is still quoting "the old yet beautiful song" of Byron's friend, Tom Moore:

"Oft in the stilly night 'ere slumber's chains have bound me  
Fond memory brings the light of other days around me  
The smiles and tears of boyhood's years, the words of love then spoken."

"I am not much given to the tearful mood," Samuel continues, "but truly when I hear this song in this Country it produces an extraordinary effect on my feelings." Yet it is evident that he had come to feel himself part of the Chilean life of Colina and Santiago. Though he had originally compared Chilean society unfavorably to that of the foreign families resident in the capital, he tells us after his arrival in Valparaiso in December 1833 that he feels "a little strange" in the American society there with its lack of real intimacy. He has lost the habit, he says, of speaking to ladies in English. "I lived so long amongst the Chileans," he writes sixteen months later, "that I almost prefer them. . . . They are all musical, the language is so beautiful, their conversation is so playful and lively that on my first coming to Valparaiso the superior education of the English and American ladies hardly compensated for the absence of the vivacity of the Chilean ladies." His friend Jerauld had married one of the Urmenetas and the establishment at Colina had been changed from a household into a home through the ministrations of this excellent woman in whom Samuel was to find a lifelong companion and friend. But the decline of the distilling business and, even more, Jerauld's failing health—he was to die of consumption in 1834—had brought the happy life at Colina to an end.

[to be concluded]

#### PLACE-KNIGHT BIBLE RECORDS

[continued from p. 62]

The following genealogical note is added to the Bible record:

Arca Place seems to be the son of John<sup>4</sup> (Peter<sup>2</sup>, Joseph<sup>2</sup>, Enoch<sup>1</sup>) Place of Gloucester, Rhode Island.

#### REFERENCE:

Central Falls, R. I., Probate Records, v. 2, p. 582. Deed: Peter Place *et al* to James Place, dated Sept. 30, 1812. "A certain lot or tract of land . . . is the home that our honored Mother, late of Gloucester, died seized of."

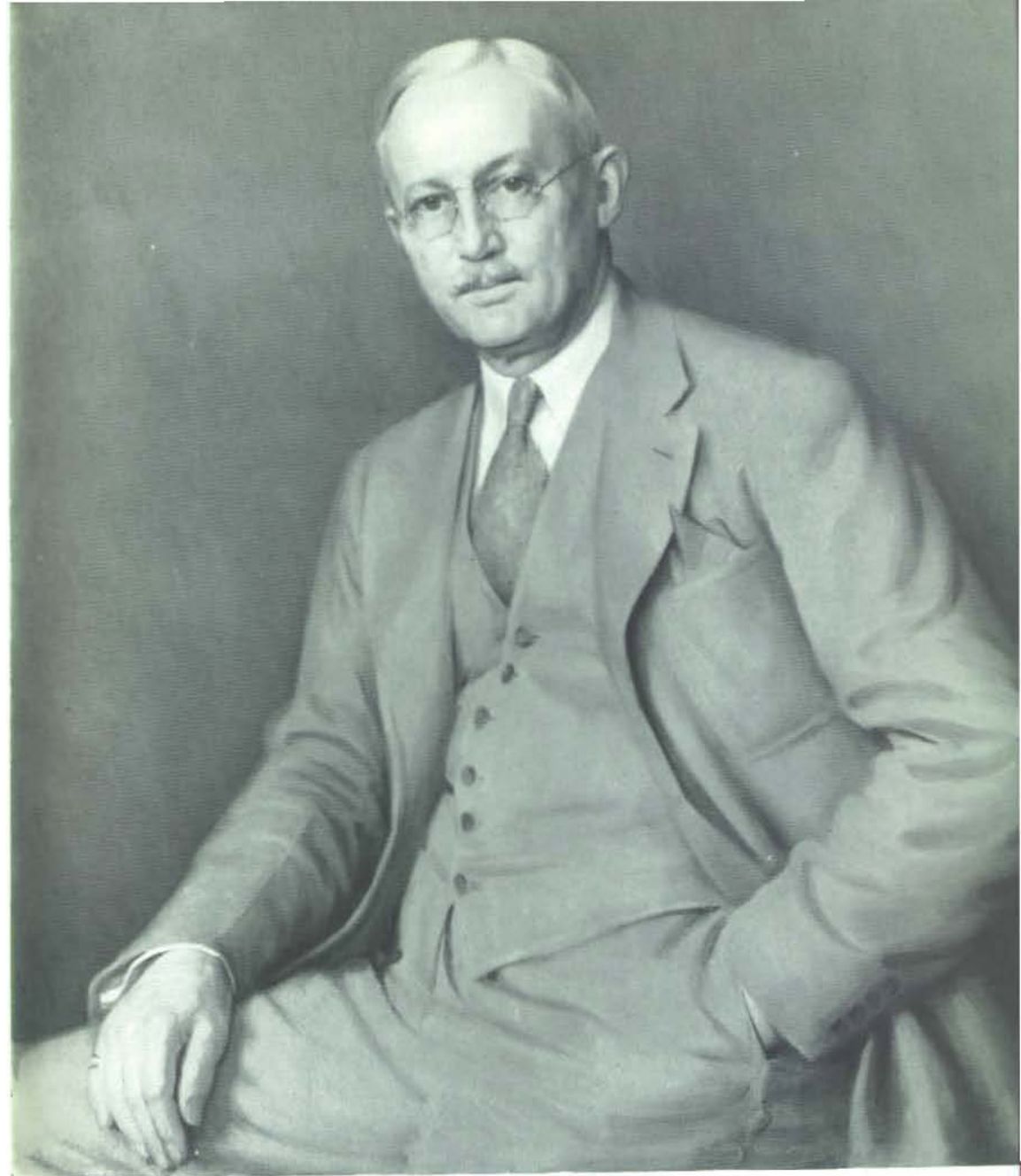
## THE WILLIAMS BEQUEST

THE SOCIETY has recently received a bequest which more than doubles its endowment, from the estate of Dudley Abeel Williams, M.D., who died on January 16, 1960, at the age of eighty-six.

Dr. Williams, a member of the Society since 1941, had long been interested in historical subjects, and had served as surgeon of the Rhode Island Society of Colonial Wars. He was a graduate of Stevens Institute of Technology and received his medical degree from the School of Medicine of Boston University. Among positions which he held were the vice-presidency of the American Institute of Homeopathy, the presidency of the Rhode Island Homeopathic Medical Society, and the presidency of Phi Alpha Gamma Fraternity. He also served as Chief of Staff of the Homeopathic Hospital of Rhode Island.

As a consequence of the Williams bequest a special committee has been appointed to study the requirements of the Society and draw up plans for its future. This committee in a preliminary report reiterates what has been stated in annual reports over many years: the need for an auditorium, a new library building, an increased staff, greater funds available for purchase of Rhode Island materials. It concludes, however, that even with the Williams legacy, welcome though it is, added to our previous resources, we can accomplish only a small part of what is necessary. Drives for further funds will be required, and it is also to be hoped that other friends will remember the Society as generously as Dr. Williams has.

CLARENCE E. SHERMAN



*Oil by Wilfred L. Duphiney, 1938*

DUDLEY ABEEL WILLIAMS, M.D., 1874-1960

## THE PARENTAGE OF CAPT. SIMON RHODES (1716-1784) OF NEWPORT AND STONINGTON

by CHARLES WILLIAM FARNHAM

Financial News Editor, (Providence) *Evening Bulletin*, author of  
many articles on Rhode Island families.

OVER THE YEARS requests for the parentage of Capt. Simon Rhodes (progenitor of the Rhodes family in the Stonington, Connecticut, area) have appeared in various genealogical publications, without result.

Wheeler's *History of the Town of Stonington* expressed the belief that Capt. Simon Rhodes might have been the son of John Rhodes of Newport<sup>1</sup> whose gravestone in Clifton Burial Ground on Golden Hill Street was inscribed: "John Rhodes, Esq., died Mar. 13, 1745, formerly att'y gen'l, grandson of Sir Godfrey Rhodes of Howden, York." But the proof of Captain Simon's parentage lies in two deeds at the Newport City Hall, recorded by Henry Rhodes of Southampton, Long Island, son of Captain Simon.

In the first deed dated July 5, 1792 (Newport Land Evidence, book 5, page 96) Henry Rhodes, mariner, of Southampton, and his wife Hannah, for 1,359 Spanish milled dollars conveyed to Daniel Brown, mariner, of Newport, two lots in Newport, one with dwelling house abutting Thames Street and the land of Abigail Rhodes "always excepting passing and repassing as expressed in the will of Samuel Rhodes, deceased, under whom the present grantor claims and holds the premises . . . which is owned by proper state of inheritance." With the first deed in 1792 was the record of the rights in the Samuel Rhodes property quitclaimed by Martha Rhodes of Hopkinton, Rhode Island, to Daniel Brown of Newport.

The second deed, dated October 9, 1799, by Henry and Hannah Rhodes (Newport Land Evidence, book 7, page 112) conveyed to Francis Brinley of Newport for 875 Spanish milled dollars, a lot of seven acres in Newport "formerly the estate and inheritance of Simon Rhodes, deceased, father of the grantor, Henry Rhodes, and deeded in absolute estate of inheritance in fee simple."

It becomes clear that Capt. Simon Rhodes, first of Newport and

<sup>1</sup>Richard A. Wheeler, *History of the Town of Stonington . . .* (New London, 1900) p. 554.

later of Stonington, was the son of Samuel Rhodes of Newport, and that among Captain Simon's children was Henry Rhodes of Southampton. Westerly vital records list the marriage of Capt. Simon Rhodes of Newport and Anne Babcock of Westerly, daughter of Capt. James and Content [Maxon] Babcock) December 15, 1757,<sup>2</sup> and his second marriage to Martha Babcock, daughter of George and Susannah [Potter] Babcock) is recorded in Hopkinton vital records August 22, 1769.<sup>3</sup> Martha Rhodes, the widow of Simon, married on May 12, 1800, James Rhodes of Westerly and died in Westerly March 31, 1809. Tradition has it that James Rhodes as an infant was left with a family named Rose in the southern part of the state, and that he later adopted the name Rhodes.

The will of Samuel Rhodes, housewright, in Newport Town Council Records, v. 16, p. 75, at the Newport Historical Society, leaves to his wife Joyce, real estate; to daughter Zerviah Hunting, wife of Samuel Hunting of Long Island, land abutting east of the Church of England property, south on land leading from Thames Street and westerly on land belonging to heirs of Nathaniel Potter, dec.; to son Simon, after the death of Samuel's wife, "dwelling house where I now live in Newport, with shop adjoining to it which I rent to Isaac Pollock"; to daughter Abigail Rhodes, "all of the dwelling house which John Hadwen and Edward Thurber Jr., now rent from me, adjoining the shop." The will was made in 1762 and proved August 9, 1769.

Samuel's gravestone in Newport places his death in 1769 at 84 years (born 1685). His wife Joyce was buried in 1773. Also buried with Samuel are Mary, who died at fifteen in 1720, Benjamin at three months in 1723, and Mary, second of the name, in 1742 at twenty-one. Samuel's daughter, Zerviah Hunting, died in Southampton, Long Island, Nov. 22, 1780, at sixty-six, and it is quite probable that Abigail Rhodes, buried in Southampton in 1806 at seventy-nine, was Zerviah's sister, who had removed to Long Island after the death of her mother.

Apparently Capt. Simon Rhodes was a mariner. *Stonington Chronology* records: "1784, Apr. 22 Capt. Simon Rhodes died,

<sup>2</sup>James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island, 1636-1850* (Providence, 1894) v. 5, part 7, p. 23.

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*, v. 5, part 4, p. 54.

aged 68 years., a large landowner who lived in Pawcatuck, progenitor of this family here."<sup>4</sup>

The children of Capt. Simon and Anne (Babcock) Rhodes are listed in Wheeler's *History*:<sup>5</sup>

- I. James, b. 4 November 1757, bapt. 15 July 1761, d. aged 4 y's. 6 mos.
- II. Mary, b. Stonington 11 December 1758, bapt. 9 August 1761; m. Lt. Robert Rogers of Coventry, 2 April 1780.
- III. Simon b. 22 June 1760, bapt. 9 August 1761.
- IV. Henry, b. Stonington 25 April 1762, bapt. 14 August 1762 [Mather's *Refugees* identifies Henry's wife as Hannah Cooper, daughter of Abraham Cooper.]<sup>6</sup> Henry was a sea captain and settled in Southampton, L. I., where he died 7 January 1848. Among his children was Foster Rhodes, who was a ship builder and was employed by Britain and Turkey.
- V. Anne, b. Stonington 19 September 1764, m. Benjamin Hunting of Southampton, 6 November 1784, and died 9 February 1789.
- VI. Abigail, b. 27 October 1768, bapt. 27 August 1769, m. Col. Job Greene of Warwick, 29 November 1785, and died 18 April 1845.
- VII. George, b. 30 July 1771; d. 3 May 1776, a child of Simon by his second wife Martha.

Wheeler's *History* includes further data on the children of Simon Rhodes, Jr.

The parentage of Samuel and Joyce Rhodes remains to be discovered. The paucity of Newport vital records and of land evidence presents a difficult problem of research. A William and a John Rhodes were members of the Second Baptist Church of Newport when it was formed in 1644. Possibly Samuel was descended from one or the other. Not the slightest evidence has been found that these Newport Rhodes families were connected with Zachariah Rhodes, progenitor of the Pawtuxet, Rhode Island, Rhodes family.

<sup>4</sup>Williams Haynes, *Stonington Chronology . . .* (Stonington, 1949) p. 44.

<sup>5</sup>Wheeler, *op. cit.*, p. 555.

<sup>6</sup>Frederick Gregory Mather, *The Refugees of 1776 from Long Island to Connecticut* (Albany, 1913) p. 311.

## BOOK REVIEW

*The History of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, 1677-1960, with Related Genealogy*, by Martha R. McPartland. East Greenwich, East Greenwich Free Library Association, 1960. 300 p. illus., maps. \$5.00

The histories of many towns and villages in Rhode Island are to be found on the shelves of local libraries, some of them called Historical Discourses and written for celebrations, some included in the histories of churches compiled for special anniversaries. Here and there, however, a native son or daughter has set out specifically to put down the history of his birthplace. The end of 1960 saw the publication by the East Greenwich Free Library Association of such a town history, written by the librarian of the East Greenwich Free Library, Miss Martha R. McPartland. It is called *The History of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, 1677-1960, with Related Genealogy*, and the author has done a fine job.

This is the first history of this town to appear in over eighty years and is superior in many ways, in the opinion of this reviewer, to Dr. Daniel H. Greene's history, which was published in 1877: it has an index and bibliography; it contains a map of the area; and it is charmingly illustrated by S. Jerome Hoxie, who also drew the map.

As the author tells us in her preface, "It is chronologically arranged to the end of the Revolutionary War. After that period it is arranged chronologically under topic." Miss McPartland's style is colloquial and readable, and although there are a few minor errors in her work, the balance is still in her favor, for she has corrected several errors in Dr. Greene's *History of the Town of East Greenwich and Adjacent Territory, from 1677 to 1877* and other errors of long standing.

Seven years of patient digging through old records, newspapers, and scrap-books has unearthed a vein of pure gold in the form of facts. The result is a book full of information for all Rhode Islanders; and for the residents of "East Greenige," as an early diarist called it, it should prove especially useful. With this book in hand they will have a chance to become acquainted with their historical sites, their ancient houses and cemeteries, and even their old families, for Miss McPartland has included the genealogies of some of the settlers of East Greenwich: Spencer, Tarbox, Greene, Tillinghast, Casey, and Fry. The indexes contain additional relevant material.

Woe to the writer of histories! He exposes himself to attack on many fronts; and faulty family legends implicitly believed are often used as ammunition to fell him. The author of this history has spiked the guns of the opposition by including in her volume a delightful chapter called "Legends and Characters of East Greenwich."

Miss Martha R. McPartland is to be congratulated for her diligent research and the successful completion of this work, and the East Greenwich Free Library Association is to be commended for its public-spirited undertaking, the publication of *The History of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, 1677-1960, with Related Genealogy*. It is an accurate, engagingly written addition to the histories of the towns that make up our state.



## PLACE-KNIGHT BIBLE RECORDS

THE FOLLOWING RECORDS are from a Bible published in 1839 by Hogan and Thompson, 30 North Fourth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Bible belonged to Miss Maude Marvin, formerly of Harrison and Dayton, Ohio. A typescript is in the library of The Rhode Island Historical Society.

Arca Place married to Elizabeth Knight, Oct. 25th A.D. 1796, Springfield, Vt.

William Bennett and Elizabeth Place married Nov. A.D. 1827 (Ohio)

Amaziah Dodge and Elizabeth Bennett married January 3rd A.D. 1840

Dr. John Ramsdale of Cincinnati and Elizabeth Dodge were married 8th of November 1849 near Harrison, Hamilton Co. O.

\* \* \*

Arca Place was born in Gloucester, R. I. Feb. 14, 1766

Elizabeth Knight was born in Cranston, R. I. Sept. 24 A.D. 1777

\* \* \*

Ira Knight Place was born in Springfield, Vt. July 30 A.D. 1797

Willard Allen Place was born in Hamilton, N. Y. Feb. 14th A.D. 1801

Orin Place was born in Oxford, N. Y. May 10th 1803

Laury L. Place was born in Oxford, N. Y. July 29, 1805

Julia Ann Place was born in Oxford, N. Y. July 23rd A.D. 1808

Alzina Place was born in Oxford, N. Y. June 1st A.D. 1810

Nelson Thatcher Place was born in Bloomfield, N. Y. March 7th A.D. 1817

\* \* \*

Arca Place died in Camden, Ohio Jan. 6th A.D. 1827

William Bennett died in Camden, O. July 1st 18—

Dr. John Ramsdale died in Cincinnati, Ohio 10th of April 1850 at the age of 80 years. Buried in Township Graveyard.

Elizabeth (Knight) Place-Bennett-Dodge-Ramsdale died June 15th 1862, aged 84 years 8 mo 21 days near Harrison, O. buried in the S. W. corner of lot #176 (Marvin lot) Harrison, Ohio

[continued on p. 55]

## THE 139th ANNUAL MEETING

THE 139<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING of The Rhode Island Historical Society was held at John Brown House on January 12, 1961. President Winsor 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 his report for the year ending June 30, 1960. A copy of Mr. Vose's report is printed in this issue on the inside back cover.

The membership committee, Mr. O. G. Boynton, chairman, reported that 181 new memberships had been received during the year, and that the total membership as of December 31, 1960, was 1,941.

As the members stood in respect, Mr. Boynton then read the necrology. Members of the Society who died during the previous year were:

Arthur Adams, M.D.  
Mr. Stuart M. Aldrich  
Mrs. Gilman Angier  
Miss Mary Carpenter  
Mr. John Franklin Clarkin  
Mr. Russell G. Colt  
Mrs. Robert C. Davis  
Mr. Charles D. Davol  
John E. Donley, M.D.  
Mr. Horace Grant  
Mrs. William T. Halloran  
Mrs. Henry J. Hassenfeld  
Mrs. Lauriston H. Hazard  
Mr. W. Layton Heath  
Mr. M. A. DeWolfe Howe  
Mr. Wallis E. Howe  
Mr. Paul Howland  
Mr. Henry C. Jackson

Mr. John Davis Edmands Jones  
Mrs. John W. Kilborn  
Mr. Russell W. Knight  
Mr. Herbert Luft  
Mrs. Reune Martin  
Mr. Isaac B. Merriman  
Mrs. Henry S. Newcombe  
Mrs. Frank F. Newth  
Herman C. Pitts, M.D.  
Mr. Earl F. Prout  
Franz E. Robinow, M.D.  
Mrs. Amory S. Skerry  
Mr. Craig M. Smith  
Mr. Russell C. Smith  
Mr. Waldo Sprague  
Mrs. Edward C. Stiness  
George A. Waterman, M.D.  
Dudley A. Williams, M.D.

Mr. John C. B. Washburn, chairman of the buildings and grounds committee, reported that Rusco combination windows have been installed on 72 per cent of the windows of John Brown House over the past ten years, and this has helped considerably both in comfort and in reduced heating cost. The turf surrounding the house is being treated in accordance with suggestions made by the Agricultural Department of the University of Rhode Island. It was necessary to replace certain joists in the third floor which had rotted over the years, and the cost of this work was partly offset by generous contributions from members. Mr. Washburn concluded by saying that John Brown House now stands as firmly as it did when John Brown moved into it in 1788.

Reporting for the museum committee, Mr. Burges Green, chairman, spoke of the acquisitions by the Society during the past year. Included among the gifts were portraits, photographs, and other articles donated by the estate of Miss Helen Gay Wheeler, estate of Mrs. Laura Collins, Mrs. Alex Burgess, Miss Bertha Greenough and Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin. The chairman expressed his gratitude to all of the donors.

The publications committee, H. Cushman Anthony, chairman, reported the publication of *Counterfeiting in Colonial Rhode Island* by Prof. Kenneth Scott, and also announced the planned publication of the William Harris letter purchased last year, which is being edited by Prof. Douglas E. Leach of Vanderbilt University.

Mr. Clarkson A. Collins, 3rd, gave his annual report as librarian. The most important acquisition during the year was the Carrington papers received from the Rhode Island School of Design. These papers contain invaluable material for the history of Rhode Island commerce and relating to the development of the textile industry in the state. Mr. Rudolph Haffenreffer III has donated manuscripts concerning the history of Bristol and a collection of autographs of signers of the Declaration of Independence. Other acquisitions include manuscripts relating to Dr. Zuriel Waterman, of Cranston, a 1731 imprint by James Franklin of Newport, and additions to our fine genealogical collection.

In his annual report as director of the Society, Mr. Clifford P. Monahan mentioned the very generous bequest received under the will of the late Dr. Dudley A. Williams, which is expected to become available to the Society during the early part of this year. A special committee on Future Programs and Goals of the Society has been appointed and is to report to the Executive Committee. Mr. Monahan also thanked Mr. John H. Wells for his assistance and also expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Marshall H. Cannell, Sr., who acted as head of the hostess committee. He concluded by stressing the need for additional staff and increased space to house our museum and library.

President Winsor made a brief address and outlined some of the matters he had worked on during the past year.

The report of the nominating committee for officers for the ensuing year was then submitted by Mr. Norman T. Bolles.

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. Clarence C. Sherman, who was elected president of the Society, said a few words of appreciation and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK L. HINCKLEY, JR., *Secretary*

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

for 12 months ending June 30, 1960

INCOME			
Dues		\$10,369.00	
Investments (net)		11,364.05	
John Brown House Fund		255.77	
State of Rhode Island		8,500.00	
City of Providence		2,000.00	
Contributions — General	\$1,820.00		
Corporate	755.00		
Special	500.00	3,075.00	
Patriotic Societies		300.00	
Library Sales		290.88	
Outside Services (net)		351.00	
Miscellaneous		1,170.82	
From Chace Fund		500.00	\$38,176.52
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries		\$18,935.80	
Social Security Taxes		478.64	
Director's Discretionary Fund		477.42	
Supplies		830.18	
Telephone		416.70	
Membership		521.69	
Library		1,701.83	
Museum		151.10	
Lectures		522.13	
Publications		4,026.68	
Heat, Light, and Housekeeping		2,282.99	
Grounds		1,312.55	
Building		6,579.51	
Insurance		1,214.92	
Miscellaneous		421.43	\$39,873.57
Net operating deficit			<b>\$1,697.05</b>

### BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS		LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND SPECIAL FUNDS	
Cash	\$ 9,433.14	John Brown House Fund	\$ 7,955.00
Special Funds	32,955.00	Jonathan Chace Fund	25,000.00
Investments	211,301.35	Life Membership Reserve	2,250.00
Fixed Assets	100,006.00	Roelker Memorial Reserve	303.50
Other Assets	557.36	Revolving Publication Fund	1,701.27
		Library Book Fund	58.17
		Quaker Material Purchases Reserve (Chace)	441.71
		Wing Fund Purchases Reserve	25.00
		Anticipated Disbursements Reserve	479.18
			\$ 38,213.83
		General Endowments	\$267,928.49
		Wilbour Fund Reserve	41,102.41
		Irene Seabury Cummings Fund Reserve	5,000.00
		Wing Fund Reserve	1,000.00
		Mauran Fund Reserve	5,000.00
			320,030.90
		Surplus (Deficit)	<b>3,991.88</b>
	<b>\$354,252.85</b>		<b>\$354,252.85</b>

NATHANIEL M. VOSE, JR., *Treasurer*

# THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEW MEMBERS

*January 4, 1961 – March 16, 1961*

- |                                                            |                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Mr. Milton S. Altshuler<br>Boston, Massachusetts           | Mrs. Clifford E. Marston<br>North Scituate, Rhode Island |
| Mr. David C. Anthony                                       | Mr. Ernest J. Meyer                                      |
| Mr. and Mrs. Albert G. Arcaro                              | Mr. Harry W. Morse<br>Boston, Massachusetts              |
| Miss Jane J. Arcaro                                        | Mrs. Gennaro Patrone                                     |
| Mr. Marshall H. Cannell, Jr.<br>Ridgewood, New Jersey      | Mr. Paul James Quinn                                     |
| Mr. Edwin W. Connelly, Jr.<br>Newport, Rhode Island        | Mr. and Mrs. Arthur R. Robinson                          |
| Mrs. Alexander A. Di Martino<br>West Warwick, Rhode Island | Mrs. Allan Schumacher<br>New York, New York              |
| Mr. and Mrs. Edwin F. Drew<br>Rumford, Rhode Island        | Mr. Victor B. Schwartz                                   |
| Mr. Allen R. Freedman<br>Warwick, Rhode Island             | Mrs. Meyer Stanzler                                      |
| Mr. Harold A. Grout<br>Barrington, Rhode Island            | Mrs. Charles Richard Steedman                            |
| Mr. Ralph J. Hartman                                       | Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Swan<br>Barrington, Rhode Island   |
| Mr. and Mrs. Ernest A. Jenckes                             | Mrs. C. George Taylor                                    |
| Mrs. Lloyd W. Kent                                         | Mr. Anthony J. Testa                                     |
| Mrs. Clifton Norman Lovenberg<br>Pawtucket, Rhode Island   | Colonel James W. Tingley, Jr.<br>Warwick, Rhode Island   |
|                                                            | Mrs. E. Thurston Towle                                   |
|                                                            | Mr. Harold W. Tucker<br>West Barrington, Rhode Island    |

## OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

*Summer Hours*

*May 29 — September 30*

Monday through Friday

nine to five

*Closed Saturdays and Sundays*

*Closed May 30, July 3 and 4, August 14, and September 4*