



WHO are you?

GENEALOGY ·N·E·W·S·



MAY 2018

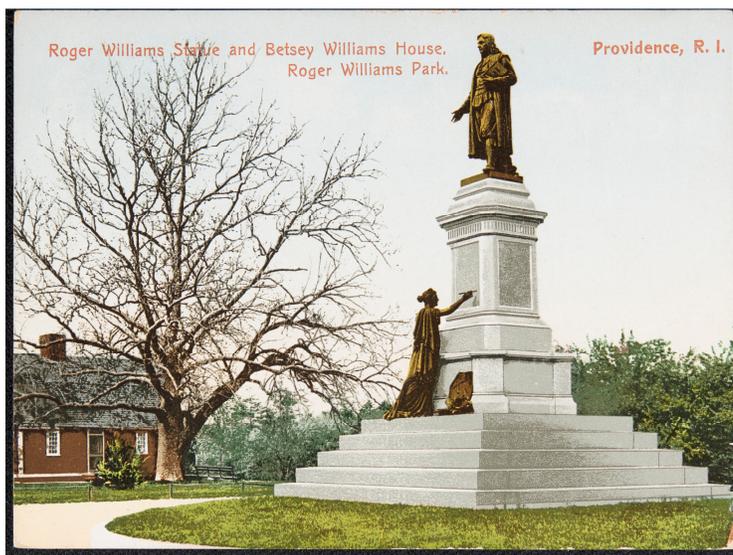
Roger Williams Family Association...

Wednesday, May 9th --- 5:30PM

So you don't think you're related to Roger Williams, founder of Rhode Island? Why you should care?

Roger Williams Family Association is only one of numerous similar organization. In fact if your heritage does not date back to the 1600's in America and Roger Williams you may wonder why you should be interested in this group. Let me tell you. First, as a Rhode Island native or transplant, you are here and learning about Rhode Island is a cool thing to do. Secondly, you can learn about what this organization has to offer, and this will help you understand what a similar organization for your relatives can help you with. And if you are related to Roger Williams, you have hit the jackpot.

Check the Association website for details and information: <http://rogerwilliams.org/>



Roger Williams Statue and Betsy Williams House, Providence, R. I.

"Roger Williams Statue and Betsy Williams House. Roger Williams Park, Providence, R.I.", PC7949, Rhode Island Postcard Collection, Providence Public Library, Providence, RI.

4:30 Regular time – short program TBA

Roger Williams and the Apple Tree Root

From the National Park Service website:

In 1860, the people of Providence decided to create a suitable memorial to the founder of Rhode Island. Community leaders went in search of Williams's remains. When they dug up the spot where they believed the remains to be, they found only nails, teeth and bone fragments. They also found an apple tree root. The tree root looked as if it had taken on the form of Roger Williams. It had traveled the length of Williams's body, splitting at the hips, bending at the knees and turning up at the feet. Since 1860 the Rhode Island Historical Society has cared for this special tree root as representative of Rhode Island's founder, and has had it on display in the John Brown House since 2007. the name in stride here in RI, but nationally, Williams is well known as the father of the division of church and state. <http://nps.gov> 2015 – Sparkle Bryant

Trip to NEHGS, Boston

While speaking to NEHGS this morning, I asked about a trip and an orientation to the library. The reduced cost would be \$15.00 per person, and I am looking at a Wednesday afternoon in July, August or September. The dates are a bit fluid as NEHGS will be getting back to me – lots of variable, for sure.

Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail. ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Mohr Library Genealogy Group

2nd Wednesday, 4:30 Special Program times vary

Library Hours

Mon – Thurs 9-8/ Friday 9 – 6// Saturday 9 -5

This newsletter is created and written by **Grayce Moorehead, MILS**

In the Magazines

Family Tree Magazine

The May/ June issue has a main article on Ellis Island, but following up on our fantastic program on **DNA** by **Heather Pouliot Kisilywicz** in April you will note the article on page 42, **DNA Direction** of primary interest. The article outlines in detail, three "next steps" to do with your results – helping you find your next of kin! I will bring a copy to our next meeting.

Who was Betsy Williams?

Most school kids learn of **Betsy Williams Cottage** in **Roger Williams Park** (at least they used to), but the lesson usually stops there (or perhaps I forget). The National Register of Historic Places Inventory clears this up. The land was originally her family's farm. Betsy Williams Cottage was built in 1773 by Nathaniel Williams for his son James, the father of Betsy. Betsy Williams willed one hundred acres to the City of Providence in 1871, with the stipulation that the land be used for a public purpose and be named for Roger Williams, Betsy's great, great, great grandfather.

Question ??

Recently, a question was asked of me and I thought I would pass it along for further discussion or contemplation of an astute genealogical audience:

Does it make a difference – if any – that you are descended from the 2nd or later marriages/ unions rather than the first?

While I cannot explain WHO she was, I can tell you why she was important and how it relates to Roger Williams –

Anna Hawke Man



You've been paid for by people who never even saw your face. Your mother's mother, your father's father. And so it behooves you to prepare yourself so you can pay for someone else yet to come. Whose name you'll never know. You just keep the good thing going.

~Maya Angelou

New Books

How to Archive Family Keepsakes: learn how to preserve family photos, memorabilia & genealogy records

by Denise May Levenick, *The Family Curator*

If you have a bit of patience to read through the ideas in this book published by "Family Tree Books" you will gain a lot of organizational knowledge.

While detailed, the book appears to be well-organized (which you would expect undoubtedly) and also approachable. I really liked the author's introduction and decided to quote here:

In every family, someone ends up with "the stuff." I had my first glimpse at a family archive when I was about seven years old. My elderly grandmother Arline held me by the hand to lead me into a shadowy back room that smelled of cologne and BENGAY ointment. She reached under a bureau and pulled out an old-fashioned suitcase, leaving a trail of dust on the wooden floor. I held my breath as she flipped open the metal latches, certain that great treasures would be revealed inside. But instead of jewelry or etched silver, all I saw was paper, paper and more paper filling the interior.



Inventing Irish America: generation, class, and ethnic identity in a New England City, 1880- 1928

by Timothy J. Meagher, University of Notre Dame Press

This is a detailed tome, but if you are Irish you will want to make mincemeat of the material, and it will prove fascinating in respect to understanding the Irish population at the turn of the century.

*Friends come and go,
but relatives tend to accumulate. ~ unknown*



Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library

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■ fax: 401-231-4984 ■ website: <http://www.mohrlibrary.org>

