# PUBLICATIONS OF THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, VOL. IV, 1896

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# **VARIOUS**

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VOLUME IV. 1896



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# Publication Committee:

JOHN H. STINESS, WILFRED H. MUNRO, J. FRANKLIN JAMESON, Amasa M. Eaton, Amos Perry, Fred A. Arnold.

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## **PROCEEDINGS**

OF THE

## RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

# 1895-96.

At a meeting held Jan. 23, 1895, Hon. Thomas W. Bicknell, LL.D., read a paper entitled, "Rev. John Myles, the Associate of Roger Williams in the Matter of Religious Toleration."

February 5th, Col. T. L. Livermore, of Boston, read a paper entitled, "A Narrative of the Appomattox Campaign."

February 19th, the Rev. Dr. E. Benj. Andrews, President of Brown University, read a paper entitled, "Roger Williams, the Founder of Rhode Island."

March 5th, the Rev. Henry M. King, D. D., read a paper entitled, "A Summer Visit of Three Rhode Island Men to the Massachusetts Bay in 1651."

March 19th, the Hon. Edward L. Pierce, LL.D., read a paper entitled, "Personal Reminiscences of John Bright, Kossuth, Garibaldi and Mazzini."

At each of the above-mentioned meetings the Society extended its thanks to the speaker of the evening.

The first quarterly meeting for 1895 was held April 2d. The secretary read the record of the last annual meeting, and the librarian presented a report of additions to the library. Special mention was made of the receipt of the Earle, Rodman and Chadsey genealogies, and of the Watertown and Dedham town records.

On motion of Mr. A. V. Jencks, chairman of the nominating committee, Mr. Henry Clinton Clark was elected an active member.

Judge Stiness reported in behalf of a committee appointed at the annual meeting to memorialize the Commissioners of the State House in favor of having a statue of Roger Williams surmount the dome of the State House, which report was ordered to be recorded and placed on file. It was as follows:

#### To the Rhode Island Historical Society:

The committee appointed at the annual meeting to present to the State House Commission the resolution of this Society, expressing its opinion that a statue of Roger Williams should surmount the dome of the new State House, respectfully report: That on Saturday, Jan. 12, 1895, they met the commission at its rooms by appointment, and were most courteously received. They presented the resolution of the Society, with brief remarks setting forth some of the reasons on which it was based; whereupon the commission passed a vote of thanks to the Society for the interest it had taken in the matter, and some time was spent in an informal discussion of the subject. The commissioners assured your committee that the opinion expressed by the Society should receive due consideration. That it has met with popular favor is evident from the numerous articles approving it which have appeared in the public press.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. STINESS, J. FRANKLIN JAMESON, CHARLES H. SMITH,

The secretary read an extract from a letter addressed to him by Gen. A. W. Greeley, of the War Department, Washington, in relation to the Rhode Island military rolls during the Revolutionary War, and also gave an abstract of a letter of Col. F. C. Ainsworth, who has charge of the Rhode Island military rolls in the War Department. These communications suggested the inquiry whether the national government has not better facilities for collecting and publishing the military records of this State during the Revolutionary War than the State itself. After an animated conference, decisive action was, on motion of Judge Stiness, deferred to an adjourned meeting to be held on the 16th instant.

On motion of Mr. William D. Ely, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That John Nicholas Brown, Esq., be respectfully requested to allow the Society to have copies made (either photographic or type-written) of the valuable documents which he purchased at the sale of the "Leffingwell Autographs." This Society considers these documents of highly material moment to Rhode Island history. They are of the first documentary authority,—and they relate to a very special epoch in the relations of Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay and Shawomet.

Resolved, That the chairman of the library committee make proper application to Mr. Brown, and have full authority to procure copies, to

be made when the request of the Society is granted.

The adjourned quarterly meeting was held April 16th. Mr. Arthur May Mowry, of the Harvard Graduate School, read a paper entitled, "The Rhode Island Tariffs." Mr. Mowry received a unanimous vote of thanks for his valuable paper.

A letter from Col. F. C. Ainsworth, in relation to the publication of the Rhode Island military rolls during the Revolutionary War, was then read. At the conclusion of the reading, on motion of Mr. Charles H. Smith, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Society will to the fullest extent cooperate with the National Government in the policy indicated in the letter of Col. F. C. Ainsworth, Chief of Record and Pension Office, to our secretary, dated March 29, 1895, and to this end the librarian is directed by and with the advice of the president and library committee, to loan to the United States Government any military papers in the possession of the Society.

The July quarterly meeting was held July 2d. The librarian presented his quarterly report.

The secretary read a letter from Miss Caroline Hazard, expressing interest in the Society, and her readiness to comply with a request that she should bring out a volume under the auspices of the Society on Friends in Narragansett. The communication was referred to the publication committee.

John Nicholas Brown, Esq., received the thanks of the