

**THE EARLY RECORDS OF THE TOWN
OF PROVIDENCE, VOLUME III:
BEING PART OF THE BOOK OF
RECORDS OF TOWN MEETINGS NO.
3 1677 TO 1750 AND OTHER PAPERS**

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The Early Records of the Town of Providence, Volume III: Being Part of the Book of Records of Town Meetings No. 3 1677 to 1750 and Other Papers by Providence Record Commissioners

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PROVIDENCE RECORD COMMISSIONERS

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THE EARLY RECORDS
OF THE
TOWN OF PROVIDENCE

VOLUME VIII

BEING PART OF THE BOOK OF RECORDS OF
TOWN MEETINGS NO. 3 1677 TO 1750 AND
OTHER PAPERS

PRINTED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF PROVIDENCE BY

HORATIO ROGERS
GEORGE MOULTON CARPENTER AND EDWARD FIELD
Record Commissioners

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PREFACE

THIS volume continues the collecting and printing of the Early Records of the Town of Providence, authorized by several resolutions of the City Council passed from time to time, the first of which was as follows:

"RESOLVED, That Horatio Rogers, George M. Carpenter, and Edward Field, are hereby appointed record commissioners, who shall serve without compensation, for the purpose of collecting and printing the early records of the town of Providence. And said commissioners are hereby authorized to expend the sum of one thousand dollars for collecting and printing said records, said sum to be charged to the appropriation for printing."

The records herein follow in chronological order the records contained in volume V of the printed series.

The period succeeding the time embraced in the last named volume was one of disaster to the town, for the Indian War which had raged with varying success throughout the New England Colonies was then brought within the confines of Rhode Island. During a part of this period, previous to

March, 28, 1676, and for some time thereafter the town was practically deserted, its business well nigh suspended and a portion of it destroyed by the ravages of the Indians. The townsmen however carried on such governmental affairs as were actually necessary, and during this time Roger Williams held the office of Town Clerk. Some of the records during his incumbency are now extant, but it is not thought that all have been preserved. Such as have been found are on loose scraps of paper, and for many years these have been preserved among the manuscripts of the Rhode Island Historical Society, where they were deposited by vote of the City Council in 1845.

It was owing to this disorder and to the hiatus that existed in the volumes of records now in the City Archives that the commissioners found it necessary to examine with great care the thousands of manuscripts belonging to the city, both those in its own custody and those deposited with the society, in order to complete, as near as might be, the chronological chain of records during this period.

At first, from the examination then made, it was thought that the time during which the records were incomplete would cover a considerable period and the commissioners on a previous occasion so stated; but as the examination progressed a much more gratifying result than was then expected, has been attained.

Among the volumes of ancient records in the office of the City Clerk there was one marked "Town Meetings No. 3, 1677-1750," and although there were *four* record books appar-

ently preceding it, yet all of them were really later in date than that. This book of "Town Meetings No. 3" consists of a variety of records besides those relating to town meetings, such as layouts of highways, notices of stray cattle, births, marriages and deaths, indentures of apprentices, records of coroners' inquests, etc. From this volume and the loose scraps of paper there has been made up as nearly as it is now possible to do so, a chronological record of the proceedings of the town from April 27, 1676 to October 16, 1691. This printed volume contains the first part of the records thus made up. The remaining entries in the book, consisting of the various records heretofore referred to, will comprise part second.

Upon the completion of that volume the books numbered one and two of the town meeting and town council records will be printed.

The same course has been pursued in printing this volume as has been followed in the other volumes, but for the sake of convenience an account thereof is repeated here.

The figures at the top of the pages, and enclosed in brackets, indicate the paging of this present volume.

The heavy figures enclosed in brackets [153] represent the paging of the original book as it now stands; and heavy figures of another style [0231] represent the distinguishing numbers of the Providence Town Papers which are copied.

This mark | shows the beginning and end of interlineations in the original.

Words or letters printed in parentheses are so found in the original.

Brackets enclosing blank space, thus, [] signify that something is missing, or illegible in the original.

The sign ꝥ is used to represent a contraction or double letter, which, in the original, stands for pr, and is used as the representative of syllables containing those letters with a vowel.

In very many cases the marks or signs manual made by illiterate persons to instruments, in lieu of their own proper written signatures, are reproduced in fac-simile on the records by the recording officer, but in print in this volume these signs are usually represented by an X, being the conventional sign commonly used for that purpose.

Four indexes follow the text in this book, viz. : an Index to Names; an Index to Indian Names; an Index to Subjects, and a Miscellaneous Index.

HORATIO ROGERS,
GEORGE M. CARPENTER,
EDWARD FIELD.

PROVIDENCE, April, 1895.

TOWN MEETING

RECORDS

[PART ONE]