



Marking stone which tells of the Portsmouth Compact is examined by Sgt. John T. Pierce of Portsmouth police and his son, Ricky.

—Journal-Bulletin Photo

## Portsmouth: Real Cradle of Liberty?

By RONALD B. HARRISON

A member of the Portsmouth police force maintains Portsmouth is the birthplace of liberty in this country. And, he says, his research through old records sustains his claim.

Sgt. John T. Pierce of 52 Cedar Ave., says the Compact of Portsmouth on March 7, 1638, guaranteed liberties that were unheard of during that time.

It was Sergeant Pierce who

compact were among the intellectual elite of Massachusetts. Most had college degrees, the sergeant says.

Among these men was Dr. John Clarke, one of the original settlers of Portsmouth and later founder of Newport. It is his memory that zealous Aquidneck residents periodically attempt to immortalize.

From time to time, residents of Newport County, who traditionally regard themselves as being a cut above people from the Plantations, have started movements to rever-

home and finally in July, 1663, Charles II granted the charter.

"Clarke had more to do with the charter than Williams did," Sergeant Pierce says. "Williams wrote one, but Clarke wrote a better one," he says. And no one really knows how much either man contributed to the final form.

The sergeant, who has been studying the state's history for more than 20 of his 39 years, keeps at his hobby in other ways. He writes papers. Not for publication, but for his own benefit and amusement. He's working on one

snooty during that time. Residents carried with them proof that they owned property or had other goods. Anyone who didn't could be charged with the old equivalent of vagrancy, but with more serious consequences.

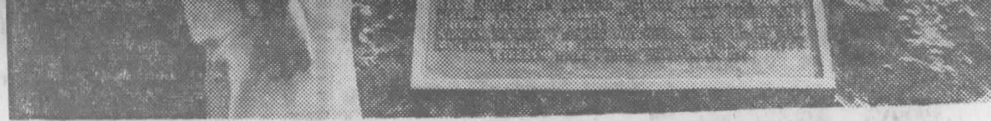
"These people didn't want anyone in town that couldn't pay their own way," he says.

The Sergeant digs too. Not only for historical facts, but for artifacts. Arrowheads, long-stemmed clay pipes that date back to the 18th Century. He's found them all. Some he's found nine feet be-

the attic. They were stored temporarily in the police department's photo lab and the sergeant, a police photographer, had a chance to pour through the books and papers.

The documents, still firm and white after centuries, are all marked with the seal of each succeeding town clerk. That is, until the present seal was adopted.

He has a theory about the seal, too. Containing seven eight-pointed stars, the seal has always been a mystery. Some maintain it has something to do with the town, but



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A member of the Portsmouth police force maintains Portsmouth is the birthplace of liberty in this country. And, he says, his research through old records sustains his claim.

Sgt. John T. Pierce of 52 Cedar Ave., says the Compact of Portsmouth on March 7, 1638, guaranteed liberties that were unheard of during that time.

It was Sergeant Pierce who told town officials recently that the state owes about \$490 to the town in overdue fees for a book borrowed at the turn of the century.

Ironically, the compact was signed to protect the religious freedom that its signers had sought when they fled England in the early 1600's. The signatories left the religious intolerance of Plymouth Colony and came to Rhode Island to seek freedom. They guaranteed this by the compact.

According to Sergeant Pierce, the 13 signers of the

compact were among the intellectual elite of Massachusetts. Most had college degrees, the sergeant says.

Among these men was Dr. John Clarke, one of the original settlers of Portsmouth and later founder of Newport. It is his memory that zealous Aquidneck residents periodically attempt to immortalize.

From time to time, residents of Newport County, who traditionally regard themselves as being a cut above people from the Plantations, have started movements to rever Dr. Clarke as the founder of the state. But the old doctor usually has finished second best to Roger Williams.

In explaining the theory, Sergeant Pierce is ready to take aim at some of the state's more sacred cows. Roger Williams, for example.

"John Clarke's the founder of the state," he says. The way history has it, both Williams and Clarke journeyed to England to gain a charter for the state. Clarke remained there for about 10 years after Williams returned

home and finally in July, 1663, Charles II granted the charter.

"Clarke had more to do with the charter than Williams did," Sergeant Pierce says. "Williams wrote one, but Clarke wrote a better one," he says. And no one really knows how much either man contributed to the final form.

The sergeant, who has been studying the state's history for more than 20 of his 39 years, keeps at his hobby in other ways. He writes papers. Not for publication, but for his own benefit and amusement. He's working on one now about the town's poorhouse that stood just south of the Raytheon plant off West Main Road. He thinks it was built during the late 1700's.

"The people didn't have it very good while they were there," he says. Their treatment depended a lot on the discretion of the keeper. The poor were committed for an indefinite period and lived in "dark rooms," dungeonlike cells with little light and air.

He implies that the people of Portsmouth were a bit

snooty during that time. Residents carried with them proof that they owned property or had other goods. Anyone who didn't could be charged with the old equivalent of vagrancy, but with more serious consequences.

"These people didn't want anyone in town that couldn't pay their own way," he says.

The Sergeant digs too. Not only for historical facts, but for artifacts. Arrowheads, long-stemmed clay pipes that date back to the 18th Century. He's found them all. Some he's found nine feet below the topsoil.

He does his digging in an area bounded by curving overpasses and the black macadam of Route 138, not far from Founders Brook.

It's in this area the first settlement stood and he maintains the first Baptist Church in America was erected here.

About four years ago, when the town hall was renovated, an historian's windfall was discovered. Dozens of musty books containing the town's original records were found in

the attic. They were stored temporarily in the police department's photo lab and the sergeant, a police photographer, had a chance to pour through the books and papers.

The documents, still firm and white after centuries, are all marked with the seal of each succeeding town clerk. That is, until the present seal was adopted.

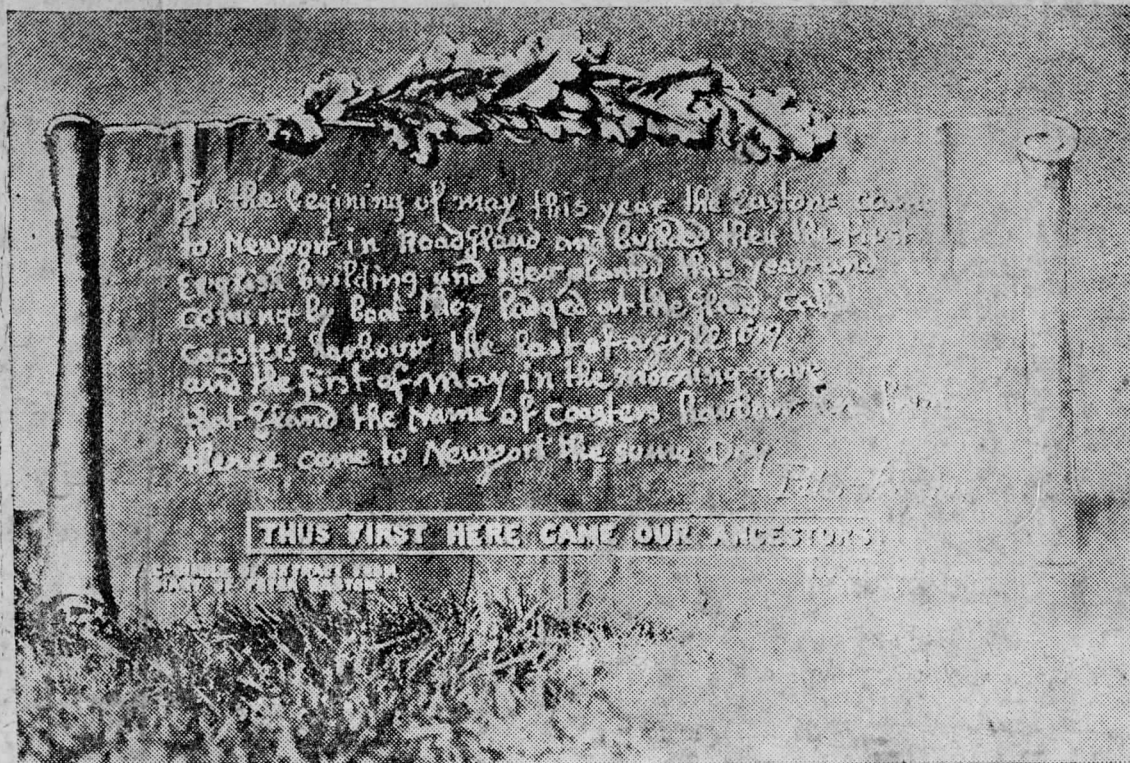
He has a theory about the seal, too. Containing seven eight-pointed stars, the seal has always been a mystery. Some maintain it has something to do with the town, but Sergeant Pierce disagrees.

"I don't think it has anything to do with the town. I think it was just the family crest of the first town clerk," he says.

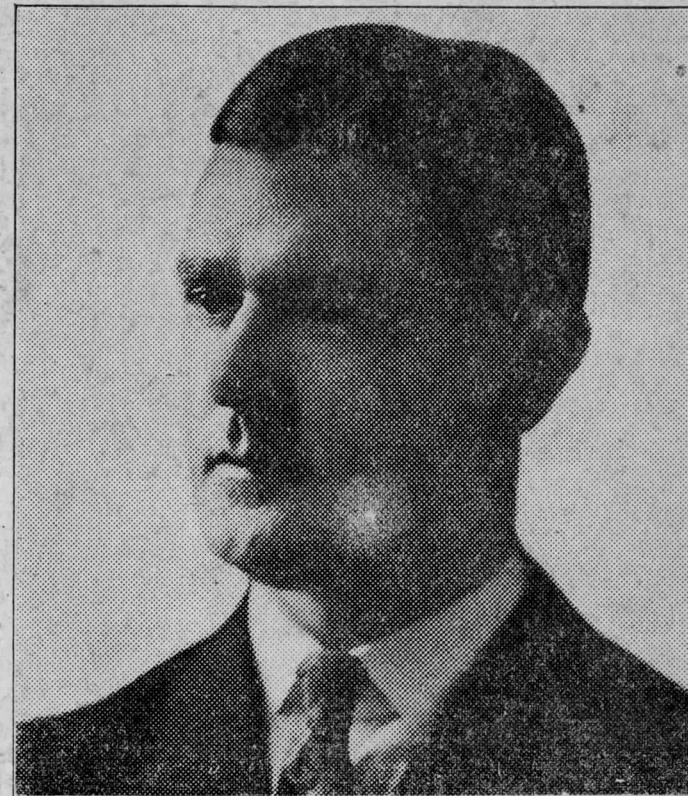
If the present-day seal of the town, emblazoned on the doors of the town's police cars, is a modern delineation of that ancient town clerk's family crest, it is still in touch with the first years of the town, for over the seal are the four words "Founded on the Compact."



# THE FIRST WHITE SETTLERS MEMORIALIZED IN BRONZE AFTER 285 YEARS.



The Bronze tablet conceived, planned and supplied by Captain Frank Taylor Evans, U. S. N.



Gov. Flynn, who paid tribute to the spirit of independence impulse and action of Newport's ancestors of the past.

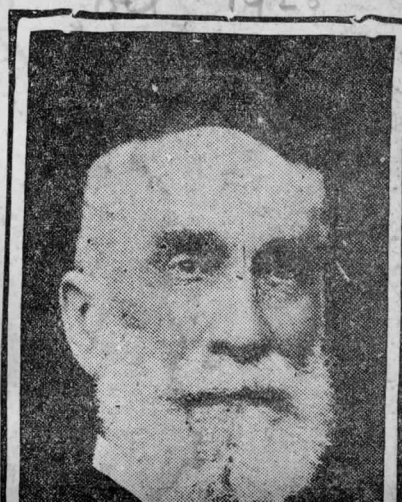
## PRAISE FOR DR. BICKNELL.

Did Much to Put State and Island in Proper Light Before World.

To the Editor of the News:

I see the papers are still rightly referring to the wonderful monogamian, Thomas Williams Bicknell, LL. D., who recently died in Providence, with what seemed at this distance to be lamented suddenness. I wonder how many there are who know how much he did for the true history of our state, and especially of Newport. Many years the truth about Rhode Island (Aquidneck) was in the official published annals, but it was practically unknown to even the citizens of this state. Learned historians wrote, following other writers who did not know the facts, until Dr. Bicknell set himself, with his remarkable vigor and picturesque fearlessness, to attack the general lack of information be-

Thomas W. Bicknell



T. W. BICKNELL, 91,  
DEAD; WELL KNOWN  
AS R. I. HISTORIAN

Providence Lecturer and Scholar  
Succumbs at Hospital Following Operation.

REPUTATION NATION-WIDE

Founded Town in North Dakota and

town, while he still was in his Junior year at Brown University. His first speech was in favor of the abolition of negro schools within the State.

He served six years as Commissioner of Public Schools, having been elected in May, 1869, at a critical time in educational organization in Rhode Island. He created the State Board of Education, now 55 years old, and in 1871 founded the State normal school, now the Rhode Island College of Education.

He published on the average of one volume a season for years on educational, historical or genealogical subjects, and at various times edited educational papers and magazines. He was well known as a lecturer, and had been President of 38 different organizations throughout the country, and active in hundreds of others.

BORN IN BARRINGTON

He was born in Barrington, Sept. 6, 1834, of Norman ancestry, being of the eighth generation of American Bicknells. The ancient name of Pavilly was changed to Byken-Hulle when some of the family crossed to England with William the Conqueror in 1066.



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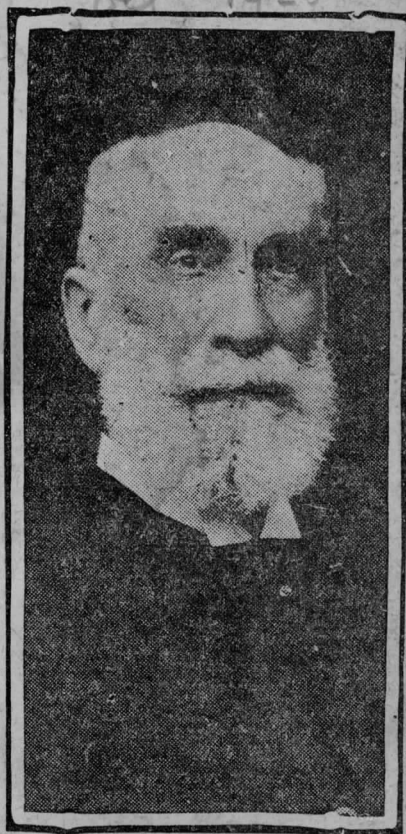
I see the papers are still rightly referring to the wonderful nonagenarian, Thomas Williams Bicknell, LL. D., who recently died in Providence, with what seemed at this distance to be lamented suddenness. I wonder how many there are who know how much he did for the true history of our state, and especially of Newport. Many years the truth about Rhode Island (Aquidneck) was in the official published annals, but it was practically unknown to even the citizens of this state. Learned historians wrote, following other writers who did not know the facts, until Dr. Bicknell set himself, with his remarkable vigor and picturesque fearlessness, to attack the general lack of information, hewing to the line regardless of what or who was sacrificed. Repeatedly he spoke in Newport, always holding close attention by his pungent, witty, fearless style of talking. He disdained all stilted language, speaking straight to the point, in plain, every-day English words, carrying conviction as he proved his points by unquestioned authorities.

It seems as if he has done more than any other man to put the state and our island—the real Rhode Island of history—in a proper light before the world. He was, among other tasks, engaged in placing monuments to the original settlers of Portsmouth, when he ceased his labors, one for Ann Hutchinson being nearly ready to unveil. While other able men are interested in the work, his leadership is sadly missed. His "Story of John Clarke" has made the world his debtor, and Newport can never sufficiently thank him for the great way in which he has showed our John Clarke to be the leading statesman and apostle of civil and religious liberty of America. His loss will long be lamented.

H. R. Wood.

Newport, Oct. 15.

Thomas W. Bicknell



## T. W. BICKNELL, 91, DEAD; WELL KNOWN AS R. I. HISTORIAN

Providence Lecturer and Scholar  
Succumbs at Hospital Following Operation.

### REPUTATION NATION-WIDE

Founded Town in North Dakota and  
Helped Make Kansas Free State  
in Early Days of Eventful  
and Notable Career

Thomas W. Bicknell, of 207 Doyle avenue, famous as a historian, lecturer and scholar, died at 10:08 last night, following an operation he underwent at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

He was taken to the institution last Friday to be prepared for what was considered to be a serious operation. Despite his 91 years, he was said to be unusually strong, and he went to the operating table in a hopeful frame of mind. Because of his advanced age, however, he was unable to withstand the shock.

### KNOWN NATION-WIDE

As educator, historian, legislator and author, Thomas Williams Bicknell for years was prominent in public affairs of Rhode Island, whence his fame and activities spread to the rest of the country.

Mr. Bicknell figured in important movements here since he was elected Representative to the General Assembly of Rhode Island from Barrington, his home

town, while he still was in his Junior year at Brown University. His first speech was in favor of the abolition of negro schools within the State.

He served six years as Commissioner of Public Schools, having been elected in May, 1869, at a critical time in educational organization in Rhode Island. He created the State Board of Education, now 55 years old, and in 1871 founded the State normal school, now the Rhode Island College of Education.

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His father, Allin Bicknell, who died in 1870 at the age of 83, was a Barrington farmer, a Colonel of the Bristol County Militia, Representative for three years and Senator for four years in the Rhode Island General Assembly. His mother was Harriet Byron Kinnicutt of Barrington.

Mr. Bicknell attended the short summer and winter terms of his district school until he was 16, when he entered Thetford Academy, Thetford, Vt. He spent his Freshman year at college at Amherst, teaching part of the time at Rehoboth, Mass., and Elgin, Ill. He entered Brown as a Sophomore, receiving his A. M. degree in 1860.

While he was in the West in the summer of 1856, Mr. Bicknell joined 70 men in helping to make Kansas a free State, and later was co-founder of the town of New England, N. D. He was imprisoned for two weeks by border ruffians at Kansas City.

His teaching career included the principalship of the Bristol high school and the Arnold street grammar school, Providence.

### OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Other accomplishments during his term as Public School Commissioner were the reorganization and building of the Rhode Island Institute of Instruction, creation of the office of superintendent of schools in each town of the State; founding of



free evening schools and school libraries, and restoration and editing of The Rhode Island Schoolmaster.

He was appointed delegate to the Vienna Exposition in 1873, when he also studied educational methods during a tour of Italy, Greece, Turkey and countries from Ireland to Asia Minor.

As founder of the New England Journal of Education, Mr. Bicknell went to Boston, where he later brought out other educational literature. The New England Bureau of Education, now Winship's Teachers' Agency, also was founded and built up by Mr. Bicknell.

At the 1878 meeting of the American Institute of Instruction, when Mr. Bicknell was its President, more than 3000 members witnessed the first public illustration of the telephone by its inventor, Prof. A. E. Dolbear. In 1880 he founded the National Council of Education at Chautauqua, N. Y. He was elected President

Continued on Page 4, Column 1.

## ENROLLED

### Continued from Page 1, Col. 3.

of the National Education Association of the United States in 1884.

From 1880 to 1890, Mr. Bicknell served as Representative of Ward 2, Boston, in the Massachusetts General Court, and was chairman of House committees on education and suffrage.

#### HIS PRINCIPAL WORKS

Principal among his books and pamphlets are: "The Life of William Lord Noyes," "Historic Sketches of Barrington," "Sowams," "History of Barrington," "Story of Dr. John Clarke," "History of Rhode Island Normal School," "The Governors of Rhode Island," "The Dorr War" and "The History of Rhode Island," in four volumes. He wrote a few poems, and was publisher and editor of the Genealogy of the Bicknell family, present members of which he organized into an association in 1879.

Leading educators of the country nominated Mr. Bicknell as chief of the Department of Education and Fine Arts in the Columbian Exposition of 1892-93, but he was set aside for local, personal and political reasons.

As a public lecturer, he gave a series before the Brooklyn Institute on "The Evolution of Democracy," and after a series of lectures on Alaska, he was asked by an eminent Boston publisher to write a book on the subject.

#### LEADER IN CHURCH

Mr. Bicknell was a leader in church and Sunday school organizations for years, serving as a superintendent in Bristol, Barrington and Dorchester, Mass. He

was founder and first President of the Rhode Island Congregational Sunday School Union, and President of the International Sunday School Association. He was leader and co-founder of the Harvard Congregational Church, Boston, and the Congregational Church at New England, Dakota.

Of his more recent activities, Mr. Bick-

nell will be used to erect a colossal bronze statue of Massasoit, and lesser statues of other historically-eminent citizens of Barrington.

A 10-acre tract of land given by Mr. Bicknell for the "Alvin-Bicknell Park and Playground" was refused by the town of Barrington in 1922 on the ground

that there was no money for the necessary improvements.

Mr. Bicknell married Amelia D. Blanding of Rehoboth in 1860. She died in 1896. Three children were born to them. At the time of his death, he lived with his daughter on Doyle avenue, this city.

Mr. Bicknell was a striking figure, with his height of more than six feet, and his patriarchal snowy beard. He had unusually good health for a man of his years, and an alert mind. He had modern ideas, believing in the present younger generation and approving of bobbed hair and knickers. He had lived in a simple manner, and expected to live to be a hundred.

On Providence's East Side there used to be a street peculiarly named "Stampers." Its name has nothing to do with the Post Office Department. Tradition says that Stampers street received its name from this incident:

Not long after Providence was settled, a body of Indians approached with the evident purpose of attack. The handful of settlers hit upon a desperate plan. They began to stamp their feet loudly to convince the enemy that the stockade was fortified with a large number of men. The ruse worked, and the disheartened red men retired in the face of such "overwhelming opposition"!

K. L. H.

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Of his more recent activities, Mr. Bicknell had been President of the Rhode Island Citizens' Historical Association since 1904. He founded the National Society, Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrim, in 1908, and the Providence Founders' Society in 1911. He was a member of the Barrington Historical Antiquity Society and of the Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Delta Phi fraternities. He was made Chief Sachem of the 1924 gathering of the New England Tribes of Indians.

In 1921, Mr. Bicknell gave two parcels of land, to be sold for not less than \$50, which had been in the Bicknell family for 250 years, to the town of Barrington. The money was to be placed in the Rhode Island Hospital Trust Company at compound interest, which must accrue for 100 years. By 2021 the town will have approximately \$10,000 to use in furthering the historic interest of the community and State.

#### TRUSTEE FOR FUND

Henry D. Sharpe of this city was named chairman of a board of three trustees to care for the fund, part of which must exist in perpetuity. Part of the fund each century will finance an anniversary celebration of the Massasoit-Plymouth treaty. Awards will be given annually to the two students most accomplished in Barrington and in Rhode Island history.

The remainder of the fund, at least \$15,-



Captain Evans desires societies arriving societies arriving as organizations to proceed directly up the hill, and they will be placed in order of arrival from the flag-staff to the eastward.

Captain Evans is particularly desirous that all attending join with the apprentice brigade in singing.

Prior to the program at the tablet, members of Weenat Shashitt Tribe of Red Men will stage a set of spectacle harking back to the days when Nicholas Easton and his party landed on what he called "Coasters Harbour Island." The entire gathering will sing "Auld Lang Syne," accompanied by the band. Rev. Harold Stearns Capron will offer prayer, and remarks will be made by Rev. Wilbur Nelson. Captain Franck T. Evans, who thought of the memorial and carried the thought into execution, will give a little historical address, followed by addresses by Mayor Sullivan and Governor Flynn. The unveiling will then take place, while the apprentices sing "America the Beautiful," accompanied by the band.

# STONE UNVEILED WITH IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY.

## MUCH CREDIT DUE CAPTAIN EVANS FOR BLAZING TRAIL TO MEMORIALIZING FIRST SETTLERS.

Captain Franck T. Evans's original settlers' tablet was unveiled on Coasters' Harbor Island yesterday afternoon with impressive ceremony before a considerable number of descendants of Nicholas Easton, who located Newport after first landing on what is now the Training Station. Beside the descendants there were Governor Flynn and members of the general assembly, Mayor Sullivan and members of the Board of Aldermen, hundreds of Newport citizens and the uniformed forces of the Training Station.

Captain Evans was showered with compliments for blazing the trail to the memorializing of the first settlers in Rhode Island and was invited by Historian Bicknell to come up-state and help in a similar event next summer.

The artistic tablet has been affixed to a granite boulder which, in turn, is set in a very firm foundation of concrete to the right of the main entrance to the administration building which was formerly Newport's poor house for more than a century. Already ivy has been planted against the boulder for further ornamentation.

A late afternoon hour was chosen for the ceremony to give opportunity to as many as possible to attend. The beautiful island, which naturally suffers from bleak winds, was perhaps as uncomfortable yesterday as Nicholas Easton and his party found it 285 years ago when they found no shelters in which to take refuge, hence it may have been that the next day they came over to what

been the case before white man made the ground such a smooth, grassy sword. In through the assembly they wended their way, squatted on the ground on one side of the boulder forming a foreground to the Easton descendants.

Dick Sears, the International Film operator, said these costumes made a grand background for the news feature pictures which he was taking of the proceedings. The roadway was filled with chairs for the public and organizations attending. Back against the building there were the older boys of the station as the leading chorus to put over the songs; on the piazza was the band, and to the west of the main walk was massed the apprentice brigade.

On the station staff and on the old frigate Constellation Sunday flags were flying and as the governor arrived on the island the state flag was broken out from the maintop.

Among the descendants are William J. Easton and Arthur H. Easton, the tenth in the direct line from Nicholas Easton; their children, James A. Easton, Mrs. John E. Wheeler, Helen F. Easton, Margaret C. Easton, James Thurston Easton, Elizabeth Weaver Easton, Roland J. Easton, Gardner C. Easton, Read Coggeshall Easton, Harry V. Easton, Mrs. Charles Tabrum, Mrs. John Cookinham, Mrs. Mary A. Easton, Herbert L. Easton, Archibald V. Easton, James C. Easton, Robert H. Easton, Mrs. Florence Riegel, George A. Easton, Mrs. Olive Easton Senebecki, Mrs. Elizabeth McKenzie, Henry Stevens

left, Rev. Wilbur Nelson spoke of the First Baptist Church having been founded by Dr. John Clarke, of the plan to properly preserve the Clarke burial ground and of the thanks due Captain Evans for his idea and the carrying out of memorializing the landing of the first settlers.

Captain Evans said: "It is perhaps, strange that part of the American Navy should today be engaged in commemorating the founding of Newport, but to those who will think back, it will be apparent that but for, or perhaps I should say, on account of, the landing on this island of Nicholas Easton and his two sons, the navy would not now have the privilege of landing and remaining on this island. To most Americans and, in fact, to most human beings, there is a date from which the passage of time is reckoned. With some it is Christmas in the year one; with others it is the Hegira; with others it is the date of the creation of the world, and others date from the

commencement of different dynasties. With Americans one of the popular dates from which to reckon time is the date of the Declaration of Independence—the Fourth of July 1776. I ask you now please to go back about twice as far and think of April thirtieth, 1629, and think a moment of what happened here on that day. Unfortunately Peter Easton neglected to say where he and his father and his brother landed, but if we, for a moment, will think of the contour of this island at that time, and will remember that Nicholas Easton and his two sons came here in a small boat, skirting the west coast of Aquidneck, it is not difficult for us to imagine that they landed at the foot of this hill, where, at that time, was a shelving, sandy beach in a sheltered cove. Also it is not difficult to believe that the Eastons, after landing, walked up this hill in order to view the country, and so it is more than probable that 285 years ago Nicholas Easton and his two sons stood where we are standing and looked about them. And, looking about them, they asked themselves, "Where are we?"

Two hundred and eighty-five years ago today the Eastons changed the name of Weenat Shassitt to Coasters' Harbor Island. Other

changes have come about. We no longer use the name Aquidneck Island. We seldom speak of Conanicut, and few of us know the meaning of "N-ntee Sinunk". While changes in names have come about, other changes too have come. Some of

final settlers' tablet was unveiled on Coasters' Harbor Island yesterday afternoon with impressive ceremony before a considerable number of descendants of Nicholas Easton, who located Newport after first landing on what is now the Training Station. Beside the descendants there were Governor Flynn and members of the general assembly, Mayor Sullivan and members of the Board of Aldermen, hundreds of Newport citizens and the uniformed forces of the Training Station.

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Shortly before two bells, ship's time, as Governor Flynn and his party came from one direction, there was observed filing up from the southern part of the island a score of Indians in full costume but without war paint or tomahawks, but peaceably inclined. Their course was irregular as would be

grassy sword. By the time the assembly they wended their way, squatted on the ground on one side of the boulder forming a foreground to the Easton descendants.

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The hour of 5 (daylight saving time) having arrived the band struck up "Auld Lang Syne" and the entire assembly broke into song. Rev. Harold Stearns Capron then offered a prayer of thanks to the pioneers for the heritage they had

[Continued on Page Twelve.]

time is the date of the Declaration of Independence—the Fourth of July 1776. I ask you now please to go back about twice as far and think of April thirtieth, 1629, and think a moment of what happened here on that day. Unfortunately Peter Easton neglected to say where he and his father and his brother landed, but if we, for a moment, will think of the contour of this island at that time, and will remember that Nicholas Easton and his two sons, came here in a small boat, skirting the west coast of Aquidneck, it is not difficult for us to imagine that they landed at the foot of this hill, where, at that time, was a shelving, sandy beach in a sheltered cove. Also it is not difficult to believe that the Eastons, after landing, walked up this hill in order to view the country, and so it is more than probable that 285 years ago Nicholas Easton and his two sons stood where we are standing and looked about them. And, looking about them, they asked themselves, "Where are we?"

Two hundred and eighty-five years ago today the Eastons changed the name of Weenat Shassitt to Coasters' Harbor Island. Other

changes have come about. We no longer use the name Aquidneck Island. We seldom speak of Conanicut, and few of us know the meaning of "Nantee Sinunk". While changes in names have come about, other changes too have come. Some of these changes are due to the visit to this island by the Eastons in 1639. On the day after, the Eastons sailed to the southward and eastward and selected the site of the city of Newport. The navy owes a debt to Nicholas Easton. The navy owes a debt to Governor Arnold. The navy owes a debt to Newport. For, by that line, did Coasters' Harbor Island come into the possession of the navy. Governor Arnold bought this Island, together with the Island of Nantee Sinunk, now known as Goat Island, on which is located the Naval Torpedo Station, and Dyer's Island, off Bradford, from the Indians for the sum of six pounds ten shillings. He later sold this island to the city of Newport. The voters of Newport in 1880 voted to transfer this island from their own city to the state of Rhode Island. The legislature of the state of Rhode Island then ceded it to the navy. Not only is this island the first English-named part of Newport, but it has been first in many ways. Here we



not agreeable. He spoke of the coming here of John Clarke to seek religious liberty and right to the expression of thought, and of 150 years later when Thomas Jefferson wrote the Constitution of the United States and of his writing into it John Clarke's belief. In Newport, he said, there was founded the first real democracy of the world and that it was now fitting, 285 years later, that the memory of the first settlers be honored by the tablet which was to be unveiled. He said that had he the power he would place a line on it which would read "Placed here by direction of Captain Franck Taylor Evans, the worthy son of a worthy sire. He said the tablet should so be marked as a memorial of the city and the nation to the commanding officer, who had done so much for both. He publicly thanked Captain Evans in the name of the city of Newport for what he had done in the erecting of this tablet.

Following Mayor Sullivan's address Captain Evans said: "The people of Newport having done their share toward turning over this island to the navy, another act was necessary before the deed could be consummated, and it devolved upon the people of the

State of Rhode Island, through their legislature, to pass the act deeding Coasters' Harbor Island to the navy. I, therefore, feel I have the right to ask His Excellency, the governor of Rhode Island, to speak on this occasion."

Governor Flynn spoke of the aspiration of the heart and soul going on and of the spirit and impulse of the Eastons, who settled here and of his hope for their continuance. He was happy to be present on such an occasion and to think of what Newport had meant to the country in its naval and civil history. He named Newporters whose names have become famous in history and the splendid traditions which had been handed down from them. He extended the thanks of the state to Captain Evans and paid his respects to the young men of the navy.

Captain Evans then said that it was his privilege to introduce another prominent man, Thomas W. Bicknell. This patriarch of Rhode Island history, in stepping in front of the stone, first paid his respects to the Red Men saying that he himself had been chief of a tribe and that it was fitting that they should take part in such a notable ceremony. Coming from the upper part of the state he said he had had his hands full of heretage and now they were full of denouncing heresy. He spoke of the early recognition of religious liberty on the Island of Rhode Island

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Easton pulled the cord which tripped the rigging for the unveiling by flying aloft the Union Jack which had enfolded the boulder. Captain Evans announced that in affixing the tablet the boulder had to be cut and that the chips had been saved and could be taken as mementoes.

After the singing of the hymn, Captain Evans said: "We of the navy deeply appreciate the signal honor paid us by our civilian neighbors in today attending the ceremonies and to show our appreciation the apprentice seaman brigade will pass in review, after which the ceremonies will be considered concluded."

The band played "America the Beautiful" and the boys burst into song again.

The viewpoint was now to change. The boys marched off to the parade ground while the audience took its new position. The troupe marched by, Governor Flynn taking the review. The brigade was then formed in front of the flagstaff and sang a number of songs ending the formalities with the singing of "America."

Following the ceremonies of the day Captain Evans invited the state and city representatives into his office. Here was a warming shelter from the breezes, while the boys were marching to barracks putting away their parade equipment and preparing for mess. The guests were then led to the mess hall of Barracks B, first staying their steps in the balcony to look down upon the boys drawn up in line on the drill floor awaiting orders to march to the mess hall and up to the serving tables. The visitors were being treated to the same service and food which the boys have. They were given aluminum trays having six compartments and, as they filed past the serving cooks, a portion of each kind of food was placed in a compartment following which they proceeded to tables where they were then served with bowls of tea. The boys came in, were served, and seated. Supper comprised hamburger steak, roasted potatoes, crab and vegetable salad, lima beans, bread and butter and cinnamon rolls. The consensus of opinion of the visitors was that the food was fine and the quantity sufficient for a good appetite.

When the boys were all seated Captain Evans escorted the governor to the centre of the mess hall.

Silence being blown Captain Evans announced it was the first time he ever had the honor of

officers and men for the state and said that the members of the assembly had so much enjoyed themselves that they were planning another trip down when the weather is more auspicious for out-of-doors and for sports.

Captain Evans called for three cheers which were given with a vim and then Sam Levine led the Training Station yell which called for applause from the visitors.

The monogenarian, educator and historian, Thomas W. Bicknell, came as a guest of the city on the repeated solicitation of Mayor Sullivan and while here Mr. H. B. Wood acted as his special escort. Mr. Bicknell has, in the past, been fearless in presenting the facts of the prior activities here for civil and religious liberty as against the claims of Providence Plantations for Rodger Williams. His claims as to Newport and her noted men have now become recognized through his picturesque speeches and writings. He made the trip by automobile and was entertained at tea at the station by Mrs. Evans.



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### At the John Clarke Ground.

President William L. Van Doorn of the Baraca Bible Class of the John Clarke Memorial Church, presided at the first exercises under a new regime, at the John Clarke grounds, and the large audience listened attentively to the inspiring and informing addresses. Mayor Sullivan and the members of the Board of Aldermen attended in a body, and everybody expressed appreciation of the great improvements. Lieutenant Colonel Shartle had sent Sergeant William A. Lee, trumpet soloist of the Seventh Band at Fort Adams, who played for the singing of the "Long Metre Doxology" and for the "Song to John Clarke" written by Mrs. Nurella E. Nelson, sung to "America" by pupils from John Clarke School. Sergeant Lee also sounded "Taps" at the close. Rev. A. A. Cambridge pronounced an Invocation at the opening.

After remarks by President Van Doorn, Mayor Mortimer A. Sullivan spoke for the City, landing the great quality of John Clarke. Captain Frank Taylor Evans, U. S. N., and Dr. Charles A. Brackett also spoke.

The tribute of Captain Evans was, of course, closely followed and applauded. Dr. Brackett spoke of the great work Dr. Storer had done for Newport, bringing to public notice the practically unknown, remarkable character and services of John Clarke, it being through Dr. Storer's efforts that the Newport Medical Society placed in the historical rooms in 1885, a tablet to the great physician and statesman, who formulated the policy of Rhode Island. Dr. Brackett eulogized the noble work of physicians in general and Dr. John Clarke in particular, as he ministered to both body and soul of his associates here.

Principal Dudley E. Campbell of John Clarke and Coddington Schools pointed out that John Clarke was the ideal, all-round missionary, who has to heal bodies, minister to souls and also be the teacher of the flock.

Rev. Mr. Nelson, successor to John Clarke as pastor of the oldest Baptist church, and promoter of the happy vein, and called on Worthy Patron H. B. Wood, of John Clarke Honor Section No. 1. Cadets of Temperance, which, with the co-operation of the then pastor, took as one of its first public duties the introduction, in 1915, the decoration of the grave of John Clarke.

Each year the bundle of arrows tied with the motto "Love Conquers All" has been a feature, and it was again repeated. Cadet Walter Lowrie Blacklock presented the nine arrows (these were nine first settlers of Newport) made by Mr. Sigvard Muller. They were received by an Indian in costume. This was Mr. J.

slavery and prepared colored missionaries to go to Africa before the Revolution. The arrows were then placed near the headstone of Dr. Clarke, the red ribbon on which "Amor Vincit Omnia" had been worked in white by Cadet Frances Willard Smith was wound around the arrows by Grand Patron Bertha L. Henderson, and an American flag was put over all.

The floral tribute of the Baraca Class to Dr. Clarke was placed by Vice President David A. Lawton; and tribute to Dr. Clarke, Rev. John Callender—scholar, a founder of Redwood Library and author of the "Centennial Sermon," Newport's first history. Rev. Erasmus Kelley and Rev. ("Elder") Michael Eddy, former pastors, all buried in this lot, were placed by a committee of the congregation—Mrs. Frank C. Morrill, Mr. Herbert C. Tilley and Mrs. Lewis A. Barlow.

Those who attend the John Clarke memorial exercises, Friday morning, will unite in saying that about \$1,000 are being well spent in the notable improvement of the little cemetery on West Broadway, where a heavy masonry wall has been put around the parts of the boundary previously indicated by decaying wooden fences, and the whole lot is being graded, while a walk, with suitable foundation and branches, is being put in. Later, landscape effects will be provided. The Men's Baraca Bible Class of the John Clarke Memorial Church has assumed care of the lot, and generous contributions from public-minded men and women all over town and even as far away as Maine, have furnished the money needed. President William L. VanDoorn of the class will preside at the exercises, to which everybody is invited, and which are to begin promptly at 10 and last not over one hour.

The speakers will include Mayor Mortimer A. Sullivan, Senator John H. Greene, Jr., Captain Frank Taylor Evans, U. S. N., representing the country at large; Dr. Charles A. Brackett, representing the medical profession as John Clarke was a regularly graduated "M.D."; Principal Dudley E. Campbell of the John Clarke School, a delegation of that school being also invited in memory of John Clarke's bequest, active since 1676, to help children to an education and Rev. Wilbur Nelson, pastor of the church founded by Dr. Clarke in 1638. In 1915, the young John Clarke Honor Section of Cadets of Temperance began, in co-operation with the pastor of

## JOHN CLARKE'S ANCESTORS.

### Additional Information Regarding Life of Clergyman.

Full Account Unobtainable Until Papers Preserved in Public Record Office, London, Are Secured.

To the Editor of the Daily News:

Dear Sir: I was much interested in reading in a recent issue of your paper an account of a lecture given in Newport upon Dr. John Clarke. As I have been much interested in his career for a number of years, I may be able to give you some additional information regarding his life.

Last winter when in England I made an extensive research regarding the family of Dr. John Clarke in conjunction with my friend, the distinguished Suffolk antiquary, Vincent V. Redstone, Esq., of Woodbridge, and in the course of my investigations I visited not only Westhorpe but the parish of Fanningham and Saxted, in which it appears all his family lived. Dr. John Clarke's ancestors were well-to-do yeomen of the Tudor period and the first home of the Clarkes was in Fanningham and the next home was in the parish of Westhorpe, where they were living at the commencement of the reign of Henry VIII. They removed into Westhorpe upon the marriage of Dr. John Clarke's grandfather to Catherine Cook, alias Carewe, of Westhorpe, whose brother, William Cook, alias Carewe, gentleman of Cotton in the County of Suffolk, held an official position in the household of Queen Elizabeth, and to whom arms were granted by the Herald's College in 1561. It was from this family that Dr. Clarke's brother, Carewe Clarke, who also came to Newport, derived his name.

Dr. Clarke's mother was Rose Kerrich, the daughter of William Kerrich of Saxted, a parish about 15 miles southeast of Westhorpe. The Kerrichs were a family of well-to-do yeomen when settled at Saxted, and I have traced their descent from a William Kerrich who was born early in the fifteenth century. The name is to be found in Suffolk as early as the year 1327.

The results of my investigations were printed in the October issue of the New England Historic Genealogical Society Register, to whom I would refer those interested.

The parish of Westhorpe is about 16 miles east of Bury St. Edmunds and lies in a pleasant agricultural upland country. It is principally noted

is unknown, but which several years ago was identified by some zealous persons as being that of the famous Rhode Island statesman. There is no real evidence upon which such a claim can be based, and until further light is thrown upon the subject it is misleading to say that it is even probably a picture of Dr. John Clarke.

No adequate account of Dr. John Clarke has as yet appeared, nor can there be any until extensive research has been made in the state papers, both colonial and domestic, that are preserved in the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane, London, because the most important part of Dr. Clarke's career was passed in London between the years 1651 and 1663, while he was the colonial agent. At the time he was engaged not only in safeguarding the interests of the Rhode Island colony, but also in assisting the commonwealth statesmen in the trying problems of the government of England in an extremely important crisis in its history, and therefore until these documents are examined and brought to light one cannot say that we have a full account of this Rhode Island worth.

G. Andrews Mortarty, Jr.  
Boston, Jan. 27, 1922.

## ALL INTERESTED INVITED.

### Settler's Stone to be Unveiled Tomorrow Afternoon.

Weenat Shassitt Tribe to Stage Bit of Spectacle Prior to Program at Tablet.

Tomorrow afternoon at 5 o'clock the tablet to the memory of Nicholas Easton, the first white settler of this island, will be unveiled at the Naval Training Station, with appropriate exercises. The ceremony is open to the public and by this Captain Evans means that every Newporter who is interested and can attend will be welcome.

Owing to the contour of the location of the "settler's stone" the handling of traffic will be possibly awkward, unless the plans are carefully followed. Captain Evans has been able to reserve a very limited space close to the stone for automobiles carrying passengers who for any reason find it absolutely impossible to leave their carriages. Captain Evans wishes that any one arriving on the Station who wishes to be present at the ceremonies, and who is unable to leave his carriage, will so inform the chief petty officer.

efforts that the Newport Medical Society placed in the historical drama in 1885, a tablet to the great physician and statesman, who formulated the policy of Rhode Island. Dr. Brackett eulogized the noble work of physicians in general and Dr. John Clarke in particular, as he ministered to both body and soul of his associates here.

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Each year the bundle of arrows tied with the motto "Love Conquers All" has been a feature, and it was again repeated. Cadet Walter Lowrie Blacklock presented the nine arrows (these were nine first settlers of Newport) made by Mr. Sigrard Muller. They were received by an Indian in costume. This was Mr. J. P. Luth, of Norse descent, and connected with the new John Clarke Chapter of the Order of De Molay. He found the arrows so fastened together that they could not be used for fighting—a token of friendship. He handed them to Isaac B. Macomber of Portsmouth, descended from first settlers and from John Borden a personal friend of King Philip. Next the arrows went to Rev. Aaron T. Peters, A. M., pastor of the Union Congregational Church, which stands directly opposite the old house in which dwelt the great Congregationalist, Dr. Hoppins, who threatened against

wooden fences, and the whole lot is being graded, while a walk, with suitable foundation and branches, is being put in. Later, landscape effects will be provided. The Men's Baraca Bible Class of the John Clarke Memorial Church has assumed care of the lot, and generous contributions from public-minded men and women all over town and even as far away as Maine, have furnished the money needed. President William L. VanDoorn of the class will preside at the exercises, to which everybody is invited, and which are to begin promptly at 10 and last not over one hour.

The speakers will include Mayor Mortimer A. Sullivan, Senator John H. Greene, Jr., Captain Franck Taylor Evans, U. S. N., representing the country at large; Dr. Charles A. Brackett, representing the medical profession as John Clarke was a regularly graduated "M.D."; Principal Dudley E. Campbell of the John Clarke School, a delegation of that school being also invited in memory of John Clarke's bequest, active since 1676, to help children to an education and Rev. Wilbur Nelson, pastor of the church founded by Dr. Clarke in 1638. In 1915, the young John Clarke Honor Section of Cadets of Temperance began, in co-operation with the pastor of the church, the custom of decorating Dr. Clarke's grave, and illustrated by a bunch of arrows tied closely together with the old Colony's motto to "Love conquers all" as a message of friendship to the Indians. By request, this will be repeated, Worthy Patron H. B. Wood briefly explaining the meaning, with the assistance of Mr. Sigvard Muller, who represents the early Norsemen, and has made the arrows; Mr. J. P. Luth, who also represents John Clarke Chapter Order De Molay, the Norsemen and the American Indians, and others.

A floral tribute to Dr. Clarke will be presented by Vice President David A. Lawton of the class; and others to other past pastors by a committee including Mrs. Morrill, Mr. Herbert C. Tilley and Mrs. Lewis A. Barlow. A song by the pupils and "taps" will close the exercises.

was in Fanningham and the next home was in the parish of Westhorpe, where they were living at the commencement of the reign of Henry VIII. They removed into Westhorpe upon the marriage of Dr. John Clarke's grandfather to Catherine Cook, alias Carewe, of Westhorpe, whose brother, William Cook, alias Carewe, gentleman of Cotton in the County of Suffolk, held an official position in the household of Queen Elizabeth, and to whom arms were granted by the Herald's College in 1561. It was from this family that Dr. Clarke's brother, Carewe Clarke, who also came to Newport, derived his name.

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The results of my investigations were printed in the October issue of the New England Historic Genealogical Society Register, to whom I would refer those interested.

The parish of Westhorpe is about 16 miles east of Bury St. Edmund's and lies in a pleasant agricultural upland country. It is principally noted as having been the residence of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, and his wife, Mary Tudor, the sister of King Henry VIII, and the ancient pew of Mary Tudor is still to be seen in the church. The rector of Westhorpe was much interested when I told him the story of Dr. Clarke and I am now in correspondence with him upon the subject.

It would be, I think, a very suitable thing if the residents of Newport who owe so much to the memory of Dr. Clarke were to place a memorial tablet at the Church of Westhorpe, where he was baptized and where his ancestors lived for many generations.

With regard to the picture in the Redwood Library, and which you state to be probably that of Dr. John Clarke, I would say that there is not the slightest indication of any sort to show that it is the picture of Dr. John Clarke much as I should like to think it were. This picture was one of a number of old pictures belonging to the Redwood Library whose history

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Captain Evans earnestly requests that all other motor vehicles take the first turn to the right after entering the Station and then follow the directions of the traffic men, who will be found at every turning point. It will be necessary to park cars closely on what is known as "the Cottage road," and Captain Evans is very anxious that all motorists realize that any restrictions imposed upon them on this occasion are necessary for the good of all.

Foot passengers and those arriving by trolley will please proceed directly up the hill inclining slightly to the left on reaching the brow of the hill.

It has been made possible to provide seats for a limited number, but the exercises will be short and Captain Evans feels that it will not be too long to stand.





AGAIN ELECTED!

## FIRST DIRECTORY RECALLED

### Dedication of Callender Centennial Sermon Reproduced.

More Than 200 Leading Citizens, With  
Names Still Well Known, Engaged  
in Maritime Occupation.

The dedication of the Callender centennial sermon, as reproduced in the first Newport Directory, reads somewhat like the dedication of the King James Bible. It ascribes wonderful virtues to William Coddington, and says "Your honored Grandfather, William Coddington, Esq., was chosen in England to be an Assistant of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, A. D. 1620, and in 1630 came over to New England with the Governor and the Charter, &c., after which he was several times re-chosen to that honorable and important Office. He was for some time treasurer of the Colony, he was with the chiefest in all public charges, and a principal Merchant in Boston, where he built the first Brick House."

In 1637, being grieved at the proceedings of the court against Mr. Wheelwright and others, finding his opposition ineffectual, he put his protest on record, sacrificed his certainty of being great, in outward things, in Massachusetts, gave up his advantageous situation in Boston, and large property and improvements at Braintree, for peace sake, and that he might befriend, protect and assist pious people who were meditating removal from that colony on account of their religious differences. He was chosen the first "judge" of the colony of Rhode Island and re-elected seven times, annually, until the island was incorporated with Providence Plantations.

The "sermon" opens with a reference to the "Indian sachems Miantonomi and the ancient Canonicus, his uncle and guardian", signing the grant of this island "to Mr. Coddington and his Friends united with him, and to Mr. John Clark the Founder under God, and the first Elder of the Church, and its liberal Benefactor, principal Instrument in the Purchase and Settlement of this Island, as he was likewise engaged in obtaining and maintaining the Patent, and procuring the Charter."

Callender says that Roger Williams

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Callender says that Roger Williams appears to have been "one of the most disinterested men that ever lived, a most pious and heavenly-minded soul." Yet he was charged with holding it unlawful "for an unregenerate man to pray for a regenerate Man to pray with him." He insisted on unlimited liberty of conscience. He opposed oath as sacred and not to be imposed on all men. He advocated renouncing communion with churches not agreeing with him, and was banished as a disturber of the peace of church and commonwealth. Several friends followed him, and after greatest hardships their "industry brought plenty and comfort. The Authority and Power of Miantonomi at all the Indians round, to assist and succor those few and feeble and poor English Men." Massachusetts then employed Williams to make a treaty with the Indians, in the event of war, and the Indians thanked him for continuous acts of kindness to them. The story of the settlement of Rhode Island follows: