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Pages From RHODE ISLAND'S ALBUM 1636 1936

Mary Dyer Fulfilled Her Destiny as a Martyr

By J. Earl Clauson

Reading about martyrs, sometimes you must catch a little glinting suspicion that martyrdom is a very keen and special kind of pleasure. A martyr is a person who dies for the sake of a principle, esteemed better worth while than life itself; true martyrs from Stephen, first to die for the Christian faith, to John Brown at Harper's Ferry seem all to have been happy in death.

Mary Dyer on the morning of her hanging on Boston Common when asked whether she believed her foolishness about being able to live in Paradise on this earth replied firmly:

"I am in Paradise. I have been for days."

Feeling that way about it, the tragedy of her execution bore only on her relatives and on those who ordered it. It had in this sphere the beneficial effect of ending persecution of Quakerism in Massachusetts Colony.

Mary Dyer's journey to martyrdom began when she took ship for England in 1651 with her husband, William Dyer, long secretary of the colony. Up to that hour her life had been for the times and country reasonably uneventful.

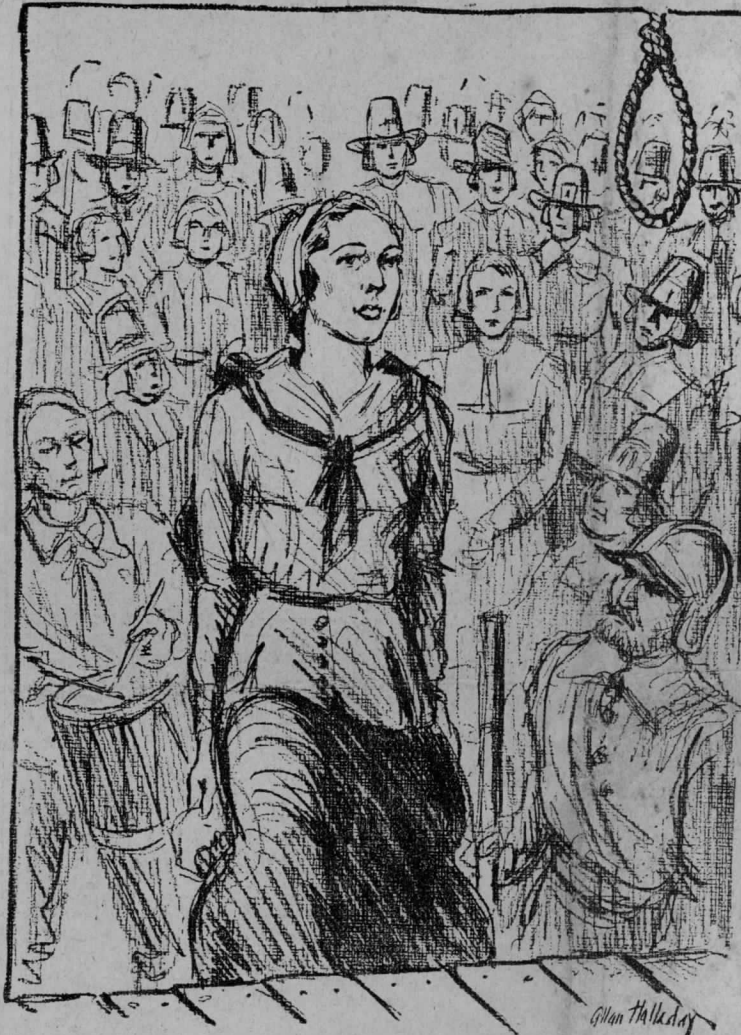
She was English born, of good family, educated, "a very proper and fair woman," wrote a contemporary, but of "very proud spirit." In 1635 she and her husband arrived at Boston.

It was not long after that that she espoused the doctrines of Anne Hutchinson, who was teaching the efficacy of faith and never mind about the good works. Convinced of the rightness of an idea, no thought of personal danger could dissuade Mary Dyer from cherishing and practising it.

Followed Anne Hutchinson

Thus it was that with characteristic fearlessness, when Anne Hutchinson was excommunicated at Boston, Mary Dyer rose from her own seat and taking the other woman's arm walked out of the church with her. In 1637 she followed Anne Hutchinson to Rhode Island.

From that year until she sailed to England in 1651 she was busy with family cares. On the ship



..... SHE WAS IN PARADISE

as she said, that Mary Dyer went to Boston in 1659. William Robinson, Marmaduke Stevenson and Nicholas Davis also journeyed there at the same time and with the same purpose. They were promptly told to get out. Robinson and Stevenson, not obeying, were imprisoned.

A month later Mary Dyer and Hope Clifton of Rhode Island arrived at Boston "to minister to Friends in prison." It was so clearly a suicidal journey for the former that friends who followed brought linen for her shroud.

Sentenced to Hang

Robinson, Stevenson and Mary Dyer were sentenced to death.

She was taken back to her cell, warned once more and conducted to the border of the colony.

Six months later, in May, 1660, she was back again. There is little doubt that it was in her mind the example of her death would draw attention to Massachusetts' bloody laws and react to the benefit of her co-religionists. But this time there was no escape for her. She was speedily arrested, condemned and hanged within stone's throw of where now busy crowds throng Tremont street.

She had fulfilled her destiny as a martyr. But martyrs seldom die in vain, nor did she. A year later Charles the Second,

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From that year until she sailed to England in 1651 she was busy with family cares. On the ship with the Dyers for the fateful voyage were John Clarke and Roger Williams. No doubt they had some lively religious discussions en route.

In England Mrs. Dyer was converted to the teachings of the Friends. Quakerism was introduced into New England via Boston in 1656. From the outset the authorities set about stamping it out, imprisoning, cutting off ears, banishing and finally hanging professed Quakers.

It was in pure defiance "to look the bloody laws in the face,"



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Robinson, Stevenson and Mary Dyer were sentenced to hang. The gibbet was built under an elm tree on the common, with three nooses suspended therefrom, and thither the victims were marched with loudly beating drums to drown out popular expostulation. The nooses were adjusted around the necks of all, Robinson and Stevenson were duly hanged, and at the last minute a reprieve for Mary Dyer was announced.

It had all been arranged hours earlier, but the authorities could not forego the pleasure of letting her taste the pangs of death.

She was taken back to her cell, warned once more and conducted to the border of the colony.

Six months later, in May, 1660, she was back again. There is little doubt that it was in her mind the example of her death would draw attention to Massachusetts' bloody laws and react to the benefit of her co-religionists. But this time there was no escape for her. She was speedily arrested, condemned and hanged within stone's throw of where now busy crowds throng Tremont street.

She had fulfilled her destiny as a martyr. But martyrs seldom die in vain, nor did she. A year later Charles the Second, to whom word of these strange doings was conveyed as speedily as might be, directed a sharp order to Gov. Endicott of Massachusetts to stop murdering his people. It was a bitter pill for the proud ruler to swallow, but swallow it he must and did, and thereafter there were no more executions of Quakers in Boston.

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This feature appears
Wed
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THE PORTSMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

presents

A Candlelight Musicale



BY THE
SILVER STRING ENSEMBLE

DIRECTED BY
ARTHUR A. COHEN

WITH
MISS EMMA F. BELDAN, *Soloist*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 1959
AT THE GLEN



Program

Opening Address (by Miss Sarah A. Birkett, President)

Moderato (from Military Symphony) Haydn
 Gavotte and Musette (from 3rd English Suite) Bach
 Little Fugue Handel
 Theme from Sonata in A Mozart
 Menuett in G (with the 4 little Menuett's) Beethoven
 Gavotte Celebre in F Major Martini
 Moment Musical Schubert
 Voi Che Sapete (from the Marriage of Figaro) Mozart
 MISS EMMA BELDAN

Canzonetta Mendelssohn
 Amaryllis Ghys

— Intermission —

Gold and Silver Waltz Lehar
 Because D'Hardelot
 To A Wild Rose (featuring solo clarinet) MacDowell
 by PAUL L. DARBY

In the Garden of Tomorrow Deppen
 O Dry Those Tears Riego
 The Song of Songs Moya

At Dawning (Miss Emma F. Beldan) Cadman
 (Violin obligato by Arthur A. Cohen)
 It is a Grand Night for Singing Rogers and Hammerstein
 MISS BELDAN

Emperor Waltz Strauss
 The World is Waiting for the Sunrise Seitz
 Romany Life Herbert

HAZELTON PIANO FROM
 TOM DUFEE

PIANO CRAFTSMEN INC.
 Second Street Fall River, Massachusetts

Program subject to change

Artists and Ensemble Personnel participating in the program.

Miss Emma F. Beldan, Soprano

VIOLINS
 Arthur A. Cohen (director)
 Mrs. Dorothy Dannin
 Arthur H. Freeborn

CELLO
 Mrs. Bernard Richards

VIOLA
 Edward J. Craig

PIANO
 Mrs. Marion Desotnek

CLARINET
 Paul L. Darby

BASS
 Bruce Murray

THE FOUR MENUETT DANCERS

Anne Formwalt
 Patricia Hayward

Charlotte Osborne
 Jeanne LaPerche

Producer Arthur H. Freeborn
 Director Arthur A. Cohen
 Accompanist (for Miss Beldan) Mrs. Marion Desotnek
 General Chairlady and Dance Director
 for the four Menuett's Mrs. Ruth Earle
 Ticket Chairlady Mrs. Mary McCain
 Publicity Mrs. Nancy Lantz
 Printing and Publications Mrs. Judy Hillard
 Refreshment Chairlady Mrs. Margaret Chase
 Properties John Pierce
 Floral Decorations Portsmouth Garden Club
 Electrician John J. Brandt

PORTSMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It is a pleasure to welcome you, as friends of the Portsmouth Historical Society, to our first program of the year. It is for us a memorable occasion.

In past years it has been the custom of the Society to observe this date, the twenty-ninth of August, the anniversary of the Battle of Rhode Island, with an Open House at the Society's museum.

Circumstances dictated a change for this year; and so, we present the program "A Candlelight Musicale" for your pleasure.

We, the members, are grateful to the artists of the evening; to Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Taylor who have provided the beautiful setting; and to others that contributed to, or worked in individual ways for the success of this undertaking.

Sarah Alice Birkett, *President*

COUNTY NEWS

Heritage Week Tourists Visit Island's Historic Sites

The founding of Rhode Island at Aquidneck two years after the settlement at Providence Plantations and the role Anne Hutchinson played in the establishment of the first "bodie politick" on the basis of freedom of worship was described by David Patten, author and historian and former managing editor of the Providence Journal - Bulletin, at Founders Brook, Portsmouth on Saturday.

He said "This is the most precious heritage in Rhode Island" as he stood before the tablet bearing the Portsmouth Compact and the names of the signers which does not include Anne Hutchinson's name, although she was the "most important founder of all."

Patten addressed about 50 persons on the final stop of the Heritage Tour taken by Providence area residents to Newport County in conjunction with Rhode Island Heritage Week.

Anne Hutchinson's controversial

religious beliefs, he said, caused her excommunication from the Puritan church in Boston and banishment from Massachusetts Bay Colony. Her followers, including John Clarke, her husband William Hutchinson, and William Coddington first tried to settle in New Hampshire. They later started in a vessel for Delaware and were turned down by Plymouth Colony in their attempt to settle Sowams (now Warren).

Through their friendship with Roger Williams, the purchase of Aquidneck Island from Miantonomi and Conanicus was arranged and the settlers came by boat into what is Town Pond and established the first settlement around the brook. They later found the pond would not make a good harbor and moved to Newtown Village on the shore of the Sakonnet River.

Although Patten said, the water was "bold" the shore was unprotected and some of the founders moved to Newport which had the excellent harbor which became one of the largest seaports on the east coast until the Revolutionary War.

The stop at Founders Brook was preceded by a visit to the Colony House in Newport, a walking tour of Clarke Street and Washington Square including visits to the Bric Market and the Stephen Decatur homestead. Also visited were White Horse Tavern, Redwood Library, Trinity, Channing Memorial and the United Congregational Churches in Newport, the chapel at St. George's School in Middletown and St. Gregory's Chapel at the Portsmouth Priory.

Guides were at the several locations and Leonard J. Panaggio of the Heritage Week Committee, was at the historic sites. Others at the brook included Russell Smith, a Portsmouth historian and former Rep. Maurice F. Borden of Portsmouth.

Portsmouth Council, Chamber Plan R. I. Founders Day Observance

Newport News - 11 June '61
The Portsmouth Town Council is cooperating with the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce in commemorating the founding of Rhode Island with a U.S. Navy band concert planned for Aug. 6 at Founders Memorial Grove.

The event will pay tribute to the signers of the Portsmouth Compact as founders of Aquidneck Island.

Council President Jesse Ferreira has written Adm. Charles A. Buchanan, commanding officer of the Newport Naval Base, inviting the band to participate. Naval personnel whose families are a part of the island communities have been invited to attend.

The Council last night received a report from Councilman Richard D. Kuhn Jr. and Fire Chief Henry W. Wilkey on an inspection of the emergency generator installed at the rear of the Recreation and Civil Defense Center. A representative of a Providence concern has inspected the generator and will

be asked for an estimate of costs to put it into operation.

The Council canceled a list of delinquent personal property taxpayers from the rolls due to the statute of limitations. On the request of Tax Collector Edward Cunningham taxes totaling \$3,204.36 for the period between 1944 and 1953 were cancelled. The taxes were on cars and were considered uncollectible.

The Council will seek further information from the state on the proposed installation of a 6 inch cast iron sewer outfall into the Sakonnet River near Sandy Point Beach.

Notification of the installation was received from Henry Ise, chief of the state Division of Harbors and Rivers which will lay the outfall. Protest must be made before July 17. Placed on file was notification from the same division of dredging at the Melville basin. The dredgings will be placed at Dyer Island.

The New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. was granted permission to install buried cable along 2,635 feet of Sprague Street and 103 feet of East Main Road and also to install a new pole on Sprague Street.

Councilman Lloyd Anthony and Joseph Carvalho will inspect the westerly end of Rhode Island Boulevard at Attleboro Avenue where a nearby resident has asked that brush be cut. Carvalho will investigate whether the property is privately owned. The petitioner has volunteered to pay for the cutting costs.

John Furtado of Fountain Avenue was appointed a special constable and Ilmari Sundelin of Prudence Island was appointed police constable.

The Common Fence Point Improvement Association was granted a bingo license for parties to be held on Saturday nights in the Community House.

The police department will be requested to check on door-to-door salesmen reported working in the town. A local ordinance requires all such salesmen to apply for an annual permit from the department.

The Council set up a list of fourteen streets needing signs.

Only two matters came before the probate court session.

On the estate of Gertrude Bison inventory was accepted and ordered recorded.

On the estate of Walter I. Faulkner, George C. Faulkner Jr. was named, George C. Faulkner Jr. was set at \$6,000 with surety. James Correia was named appraiser.

Pages From RHODE ISLAND'S ALBUM 1636 1936

Anne Hutchinson Set Puritan Massachusetts by the Ears

By J. Earl Clauson

Had Anne Hutchinson been born into the America of today, undoubtedly she would have been the country's foremost woman leader. She would have dominated her home town women's club, headed the D. A. R., and just possibly might have run for President of the United States.

She had that kind of intelligence and spirit. As it was she set Puritan Massachusetts by the ears and proved too far out of line even for Newport, which considered itself ultra-liberal. Probably it was fortunate for Roger Williams's peace of mind that she chose to settle in Aquidneck rather than in Providence.

The great Antinomianism struggle in Boston which sent many an alleged heretic traveling Providence-ward centred in Mrs. Hutchinson. Antinomianism isn't as difficult to understand as it sounds. It is the doctrine that faith, not works, insures salvation.

Martin Luther appears to have been its first promulgator. Carried to its logical conclusion, it might be interpreted to justify any misconduct since personal behavior had no effect on the individual's chances of Heaven.

This was the teaching around which Anne Hutchinson rallied the women of Boston during the years 1634 to 1638. She had come over from Lincolnshire, England, in the former year with her husband, William. He was a gentle soul seemingly quite content to bask in the sunshine of fame reflected from his wife. Both were of good English birth and breeding.

Banished from Boston

Antinomianism was subversive of everything the Puritan fathers stood for. But such was Anne Hutchinson's magnetism that in no time at all she was holding weekly meetings.



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In the infant settlement on the Island of Peace Mrs. Hutchinson found a new field for doctrinal leading. The settlers were too busy preparing homes for themselves to be concerned over greatly at the outset about religious controversy, although surely it never was very deep in the background of their minds.

They were chiefly of Baptist leanings at the outset. Later Newport was to become the

der of a drunken riverman on the Hudson by an Indian precipitated that very year a war between the Dutch and the natives of Long Island and the mainland. There were massacres on Staten Island and in New Jersey. Richard Smith, who has the name of being the Narragansett country's first settler, fled to Manhattan from Newtown in Queens, where he had taken holdings. The red men descended on Anne Hutchinson's cabin and killed her and all her children

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Antinomianism was subversive of everything the Puritan fathers stood for. But such was Anne Hutchinson's magnetism that in no time at all she was holding weekly meetings of women in her Boston house attended by as many as 60 at a time. Mrs. Hutchinson expounded her creed and was in a fair way to establishment of a church which squared at no point with that of the Puritans when the authorities stepped in. At the Cambridge Synod in 1637, 82 erroneous opinions were read, "some blasphemous, others erroneous and all unsafe." That was quite a number of errors for one woman to be teaching.

Among her notable adherents at Boston were Rev. John Cotton and Sir Henry Vane. Cotton argued himself out of the predicament. Vane, disgusted, went back to England. Mrs. Hutchinson was banished, but permitted to remain through the winter in a private house at Roxbury on condition that she didn't talk too much; in March, 1638, with about 30 followers, she took the old trail through the woods



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Thorns To The Spirit

But even among the pioneers at Newport Mrs. Hutchinson's teachings began after a while to be felt as thorns to the spirit. Her husband William set up as a merchant; there was a proper family of children; but despite household cares the dominating woman found time to express her personality.

In 1642 William Hutchinson died. Newport through its chief men intimated to Anne Hutchinson their thought that she was doing the colony no good. In consequence of their representations she moved with her children in 1643 to a new home in what now is the Bronx, near Hellgate, New York City.

Her end was tragedy. The mur-

der of a drunken riverman on the Hudson by an Indian precipitated that very year a war between the Dutch and the natives of Long Island and the mainland. There were massacres on Staten Island and in New Jersey. Richard Smith, who has the name of being the Narragansett country's first settler, fled to Manhattan from Newtown in Queens, where he had taken holdings. The red men descended on Anne Hutchinson's cabin and killed her and all her children save one, the baby Susannah, whom they carried away.

Susannah lived with the natives for some time, was redeemed and married John Cole, one of the early settlers of Wickford. One older child who was not with his mother, survived. He was Capt. Edward, who by a singular coincidence was killed by Indians during King Philip's war.

Hutchinson River and the Hutchinson River Parkway in Westchester County, New York, perpetuate Anne Hutchinson's name. Even without them her fame is permanent as New England's first woman teacher, a leader of high intelligence and great courage.

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This feature appears Wednesday and Saturday Providence Journal.

PORSTMOUTH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



JULY 1954 — JUNE 1955

Program

July 10, 1954

Picnic at home of President,
J. Fred Sherman
Union Street

August 29, 1954

Open House
Anniversary of the Battle of
Rhode Island

October 13, 1954

Regular Meeting
Program in charge of
Miss Mary A. Shea

December 8, 1954

Christmas in Many Lands

April 13, 1955

Old Portsmouth Landmarks

June 8, 1955

Annual Meeting
Reports and Elections of Officers
Loan Exhibit of Old Jewelry

Spring Glen
Danville, Illinois

March 9, 1928

To

The Superintendent of schools,

Portsmouth, Rhode Island,

Being interested in Anne Hutchinson I am anxious to know whether your town was founded by her and what memorials of her exist there or in other parts of New England.

Any help you can give me as to how her memory is held among you and what statues or memorials you know to exist to her honor, will be gratefully received.

If there is a historical society in the neighborhood perhaps they would take pleasure in helping you to reply.

Thanking you for all trouble

Very truly,

Mrs. Frances Pearson Meeks

Historical editor, National Pilgrim

News.

Have you any streets, drives, parks etc. named for her?