

The First Prophet of Freedom



LANDING OF ROGER WILLIAMS. From the Paintings by Chappel

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON



HE various tercentenary celebrations which have been held in Massachusetts this year have revived public interest in the historical events of long ago, and have brought again to the attention of Americans the names of many men who are all but forgotten. Some one has suggested that the Bay State might well round out its tercentenary program with one more celebration of an important event which took place 300 years ago. Such a celebration would be held next February, for it was in February, 1631, that a man named Roger Williams arrived in Boston from England.

The only trouble with that suggestion is that Roger Williams is a man whom Massachusetts is little likely to honor with any special ceremonies, even though it would seem that after three centuries had passed all ancient prejudices should be dispelled and the harsh judgments of those far-off days considerably softened. At least, one might logically draw such a conclusion from these facts:

In 1635 the Great and General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony wrote upon its records the following: "Whereas, Mr. Roger Williams, one of the elders of the church of Salem, hath broached and divulged divers new and dangerous opinions against the authority of magistrates; and also writ letters of defamation, both of the magistrates and churches here, and that before any conviction, and yet maintaineth the same without any retraction; it is therefore ordered, that the said Mr. Williams shall depart out of this jurisdiction within six weeks now next ensuing, which if he neglect to perform, it shall be lawful for the governor and two of the magistrates to send him to some place out of this jurisdiction, not to return any more without license from the court."

In 1628 the Massachusetts house of representatives accepted without debate a report by the judiciary committee recommending "leave to withdraw" on a bill by Representative John W. Hawkins to revoke the sentence of banishment of Roger Williams. Thus the Bay State passed up its chance to make a graceful gesture which would show that the spirit of intolerance which once characterized Massachusetts, the colony, had been succeeded by a more generous spirit in Massachusetts, the state, and it missed an opportunity to utter even this smallest thanks for Williams' service when at the greatest risk to himself, he dissuaded the Narragansett Indians from joining in the Pequot war against the colony which had expelled him from its borders.

But, quite aside from this question of whether or not the Massachusetts of today is likely to pay belated honor to the man whom the Massachusetts of 300 years ago considered dangerous, feared and sent into exile, is the question which one might logically ask as the result of recalling the name of a man who has been gone from the American scene these 247 years— "Why is the arrival of Roger Williams on the shores of New England important enough to justify a celebration 300 years later?"

The answer to that question may be found in these words "Roger Williams was the first prophet of freedom in America, the land of the free," a man whose liberalism was not confined to religion alone but who stood staunchly for civil liberty as well. Surely in these days when Americans are becoming concerned about the liberties guaranteed them in the foundation stone of our Republic, the Constitution, to know something of such a man is worth while. Recently there has appeared a biography of him which brings out strongly the importance of this man in American history. It is "Roger Williams, Prophet and Pio-

neer," written by Emily Easton and published by the Houghton Mifflin company."

If Roger Williams had been no more than the pioneer, he would still be interesting and worthy of study. But it is in Roger Williams, the prophet of freedom, that our main interest lies, and with him in this role his new biographer is chiefly concerned. The year of his birth is uncertain. It was probably 1602 or 1603. The scene was in London on the edge of Smithfield where were held both the fairs and the executions of the day. His father was a merchant tailor, but young Roger does not seem to have had any desire to follow in his father's footsteps. He began the study of stenography and became an adept at writing shorthand, taking down sermons at Saint Sepulchre's church and speeches in the star chamber, the awesome and terrible court at Westminster hall, where offenders against the crown were summarily and secretly tried.

Williams' talent attracted the attention of Sir Edward Coke, the great judge and leader of the Puritans, who saw to it that the boy was admitted to the Charter house school. In 1629 he received his degree from Pembroke college, Cambridge, and became chaplain in the country house of Sir William Masham. Naturally a free thinker, he allied himself with the most extreme of the Puritans. Belief in the separation of church and state prevented his taking a parish in England and he resolved to come to America. He arrived in Boston on February 5, 1631, but soon found that he was no better off in New England than in Old England. So he went to Plymouth, the pioneer settlement.

The Plymouth people could not agree with his "strange opinions," so he went to Salem, where he was repeatedly summoned and finally banished. It was in January, 1636, that Roger Williams was compelled to leave his wife and babies and tramp through the snow-covered forests. He was saved through the aid of Indians toward whom he had ever assumed a kindly and generous attitude.

Chief Massasoit of the Pokanoket Indians gave him a tract of land on Seekonk river, where he was joined by old friends from Salem, and a settlement started. But upon receiving friendly hints that complications were liable to arise with the Plymouth colony, he moved to the present site of Providence, R. I., and in June, 1636, started the settlement that was destined to become Rhode Island. The land there was given by his old friends, Canonius and Mantonius, sachems of the Narragansetts.

Williams soon had a chance to return good for evil for such was his influence over the Narragansetts that he easily prevailed upon this powerful tribe not to join the Pequots under Sassacus in their plan to destroy all the English settlements in that part of the country.

Williams, in 1638, assisted John Clarke and William Coddington in purchasing Aquidneck, or Rhode Island, from the Indians. He saw to it that the Indians were not swindled but liberally paid for their holdings.

In 1648 he went to England and obtained the charter for the Providence and Rhode Island settlements. While there he blossomed forth as an author of some of the "best sellers," producing "Key Into Language of America," "The Bloody Tenet of Persecution for Cause of Conscience," and "Mr. Cotton's Letter Examined and Answered." Williams made such a hit in England that several members of parliament gave him a letter which was virtually a passport through Massachusetts upon his return in 1644.

In 1651 he was obliged to again visit England in order to obtain the revocation of the commission of William Coddington as governor of Rhode Island and Connecticut. He not only got what he went after, but found



ROGER WILLIAMS

some time to do some more writing. He returned home in 1654 and participated in the reorganization of the colonial government, and accepted the presidency of the colony which he held until 1658. In his administration he obtained toleration for the Quakers who were then coming to New England.

It seems a somewhat strange paradox that the settlers of Massachusetts, who fled from England to secure religious liberty, should become so intolerant toward others whose religious ideas did not agree with theirs. But it must also be admitted that the Quakers gave them plenty of provocation, for, unlike the gentle, peaceful persons whom we are accustomed to associate with the idea of the Society of Friends today, the Quakers of the Seventeenth century were firebrands and disturbers of the peace wherever they went.

Williams himself had little more use for them than did the Puritans. "Amongst Jews and Turks, Protestants and Pagans (with all of which I have conversed)," he wrote, "I never met with such a judging, censuring, reviling spirit as is the spirit of the Quakers." But, though he disliked them, he would not deny them the right to worship as they pleased any more than he would deny that right to any others who were driven out of Massachusetts because of their beliefs. Rhode Island had very little trouble with the Quakers, for the simple reason that they were allowed to talk all they wanted to, hence they had little desire to cause a disturbance. Just the opposite was the case in Massachusetts. The more they were persecuted there and their right of free speech suppressed, the more determined they were to exploit their views. There is food for thought in those facts in considering some present-day problems in America!

Not only did Williams stand firm for religious liberty in his colony but for civil liberty as well. He had revolted against the theocracy which ruled New England, and in revolting he rebelled against the magistrates as well as against the clergy. Eighteen years after he had founded his islet of defiant freedom he could boast, in a letter to Sir Henry Vane: "We have not felt the new chains of the Presbyterian tyrants, nor in this colony have we been consumed with the over-zealous fire of the (so-called) godly Christian magistrates. (Sir, we have not known what an excise means; we have almost forgotten what tithes are, yea, or taxes either, to church or commonwealth.)"

A new charter was granted Rhode Island in 1653. This charter established such liberal republican government that the Revolution in 1776 made no change in it, and it was not superseded until 1842. For the next 14 years he was actively engaged in public life.

The death of this remarkable American pioneer was announced in this quaint fashion in a letter written May 10, 1683, by John Thorndyke of Providence to Rev. Samuel Hubbard: "The Lord hath arrested by death our ancient and approved friend, Mr. Roger Williams, with divers others here." (By Western Newspaper Union.)

OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Assembled for Information of Our Readers.

A huge gold nugget valued at about \$400 was on display at Medford. It is from the Big Six mine near Jacksonville.

Klamath county's biggest fair closed at Klamath Falls recently with all attendance and gate receipt records broken.

The Columbia county paving crew has just completed five miles of asphaltic pavement on the Nehalem highway.

A female deer with forked horns was killed in the Ochoco woods by Mrs. John W. Lawrence of Bend. The doe was a three-pointer.

Clearing of the county road to extend from Westlake, on Siltcoos lake, to the new Oregon coast highway has been started, according to reports sent to the Lane county court.

Oregon's receipts from the gasoline tax have aggregated \$30,547,855 since the tax became effective in February, 1919, according to figures from the state highway department.

The Bergman Seed & Commission company's warehouse in Baker was damaged and 500 bales of hay and 117 bales of straw were destroyed by a fire of undetermined origin.

Recent storms in the mountains of southern Oregon have opened up areas in Crater national forest which have been closed to travel since June, Hugh B. Ranking, supervisor, said.

The Eugene box factory, burned in July, will be rebuilt as soon as a suitable site has been obtained. The plant when rebuilt will be three times as large as the one destroyed.

With 80 per cent of all crafts of the Salem labor unions employed, union labor conditions in the city look more bright, according to Frank Marshall, business agent for the central labor council.

The city council of Salem has postponed indefinitely a proposal to install a civil service system in city affairs. The matter will probably come up to the voters in the election of 1932.

Knocked down and trampled by a huge buck mule deer, Virgil Bewley of Klamath Falls was able to arise and bring the animal down with one shot before it plunged out of sight in the brush.

The Lake county fair, scheduled for October 11, will not be held this year, according to a decision of the fair board. The season is getting late and crops this year have not been up to standard.

Curry county's assessed valuation exclusive of the valuation of public utilities approximates \$5,761,944, according to Assessor Moore. This is about \$151,000 less than the valuation of last year.

A great battle between Indians armed with stone-age weapons was fought on a ridge nine miles east of Bend many years ago, it is the belief of Roy Cook, Bend resident, who found a vast number of arrowheads and spearheads on the old battleground. Cook collected several hundred pounds of artifacts in a short time.

THE MARKETS

Portland

Wheat — Big Bend bluestem, 83c; soft white, western white, 74½c; hard winter, northern spring, western red, 73½c.

Hay—Buying price, f. o. b. Portland: Alfalfa, \$18@18.50; valley timothy, \$16.50; eastern Oregon timothy, \$18.50; clover, \$14; oat hay, \$14; oats and vetch, \$14.

Butterfat—37c.
Eggs—Ranch, 19@33c.
Cattle—Steers, good, \$7.50@7.75.
Hogs—Good to choice, \$10.50@11.75.
Lamb—Good to choice, \$5.50@6.50.

Seattle

Wheat—Soft white, western white, northern spring, 78c; hard winter, western red, 77c; bluestem, 94c.
Eggs—Ranch, 19@33c.
Butterfat—41c.
Cattle—Choice steers, \$6.75@7.25.
Hogs—Prime light, \$12@12.15.
Lamb—Choice, \$6@7.

Spokane

Cattle—Steers, good, \$6.25@6.75.
Hogs—Good to choice, \$11.25@11.35.
Lamb—Medium to good, \$4.25@5.25.

Polar explorers manage to remain admirably cheerful, despite the temptation to talk by radio about the weather.

It seemed like old times the other day to pick up an architect's plans and find a room in the proposed dwelling called a "den."

Why is it that so many people who consider our country, our customs and our language all wrong, insist upon coming to our shores and living among us?

A two-headed snake was found on the Pfaff farm in the Silverton hills. The snake was nearly eight inches long and both heads were perfect and seemingly normal in every way.

Construction of the highway cutoff that will shorten the distance from Marshfield to Empire to three miles has begun by the contractors, who were awarded the contract on their bid of \$27,800.

The Union high school has been dismissed for ten days to enable the students to assist in harvesting the prune crop. Three packing plants are handling the crop, to be shipped to eastern markets.

Contracts totaling \$75,850.95 for rebuilding the city water system at Grants Pass have been let by the city council. Work started October 1, the date the city assumed ownership of the water system.

G. B. Nightingale, 48, high climber for the Clark-Wilson Lumber company, was hurled 120 feet to his death near St. Helens. As the top left the spar and he was swung violently back and forth, his belt broke.

To arrive at a more scientific method of treating criminals the University of Oregon school of law will conduct a survey of the penal institutions of the state and present the findings to the coming legislature.

Two hunters at Warrenton recently killed, inside the city limits, a five-point buck that dressed 299 pounds. The deer was killed two miles west of the Warrenton business section, between the city and the ocean.

Another sawmill for the Lakeview district is assured, with the announcement of the purchase of 6,000,000 feet of yellow pine from the Fremont national forest east of Lakeview. The mill will cut 25,000 feet in an eight-hour shift, and, due to the short season in the woods, two shifts probably will be put on.

The Pacific Power & Light company of Hood River has tied in with its million-dollar high voltage line extending from Yakima to White Salmon, Wash., which has just been completed. The new line is nearly 100 miles in length and is connected with the company's large power houses at Hood River and White Salmon.

Petitions signed by more than 100 farmers, together with a large number of letters and telegrams, were received at the executive department urging Governor Norblad to appoint a special inspector to investigate the alfalfa weevil situation in Jackson county and determine whether the disease actually exists.

Plans for the formation of a gopher control area in the territory between the Willamette and McKenzie rivers and extending as far east as Natron on the Willamette and Hendricks bridge on the McKenzie were completed at a meeting of a committee recently. The cost of poisoning gophers will be assessed to the land.

Four truck drivers employed by lines operating freight carriers through the Columbia gorge had cause to remember the warning against overloading recently issued by Justice Meredith of The Dalles, when fines of \$125 each were levied against two of them and warrants were issued for the arrest of the others on their failure to appear.

The number of Douglas county farms has increased from 2275 in 1920 to 2488 in 1930, a gain of 213, or 9.4 per cent, according to a census report. For census purposes a farm includes all the land directly farmed by one person. A tract of at least three acres used for agricultural purposes and which produced to the value of \$250 the year before is classed as a farm.

The electric apple and pear box nailers installed by the Apple Growers' association have been running to capacity for the past month. These machines take the place of a large number of men who have heretofore been employed in nailing apple and pear boxes for the association and growers. Each machine will do the work of about five men. As high as 2575 boxes have been nailed in one day by one machine.

According to James H. Owen, general manager of the Owen-Oregon Lumber company, the company will operate the Medford sawmill and logging camp at Butte Falls with one full shift all winter to keep as many men employed as possible.

Plans for the 1930 turkey pool in Jackson county are under consideration by the Farmers' Exchange cooperative. The pool will be conducted on the same general lines as that of last year. The crop of the valley will be larger than last year.

"Hands up!" in a telegraph office seems to be a collect message.

Most important discoveries in polar regions are those relating to lost explorers.

A Columbia professor has defined the perfect child. But who wants a perfect child?

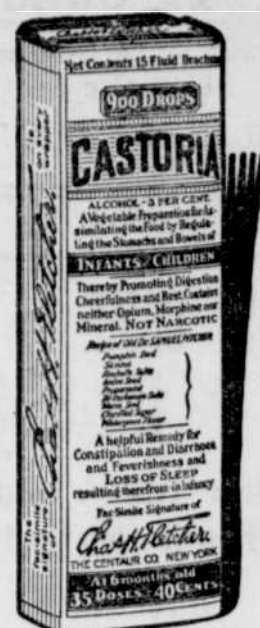
All-Star Cast: Any collection of 14 or more entertainers, in which you recognize two of the names.

Castoria corrects CHILDREN'S ailments

WHAT a relief and satisfaction it is for mothers to know that there is always Castoria to depend on when babies get fretful and uncomfortable! Whether it's teething, colic or other little upset, Castoria always brings quick comfort; and, with relief from pain, restful sleep.

And when older, fast-growing children get out of sorts and out of condition, you have only to give a more liberal dose of this pure vegetable preparation to right the disturbed condition quickly.

Because Castoria is made expressly for children, it has just the needed mildness of action. Yet you can always depend on it to be



effective. It is almost certain to clear up any minor ailment and cannot possibly do the youngest child the slightest harm. So it's the first thing to think of when a child has a coated tongue, is fretful and out of sorts. Be sure to get the genuine; with Chas. H. Fletcher's signature on the package.

Successful Search for Pet

The love of a Portland (Maine) man for his dog, which led him to institute a search extending from Maine to the Middle West, was rewarded when Tam, the Scotch terrier of H. Ben Eastman, which disappeared from Portland simultaneously with the departure of a circus on June 3, was found frolicking with the other animals of the circus menagerie in Dayton, Ohio. Tam was in the possession of an animal trainer, who said he purchased the dog for \$10 when the circus played Portland.

Not for the Laity

Eleanor, who lives in Greencastle, had heard much discussion on the general subject of miniature golf courses. Passing one of these in a car with her mother, she exclaimed: "Oh, mother, there is another one of those minister's golf courses." Indianapolis News.

Poor Meester Mussolini

Friend—You look bored.
Mussolini—I am at peace with the world.

Time, patience and industry conquer all things.

Famous Clock Restored

The famous clock over the entrance of Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, is running again, after being out of order for many years, says a dispatch to the New York Herald Tribune.

The clock has a double face, the hour being read both from the hall and from the entrance. Far out of the grounds striking of the hour can now be heard as it was in Jefferson's time.

Among the recent sight-seers was a jeweler who offered to put the clock in condition at his own expense. Because of his interest and labor, this ancient timepiece once again performs its allotted duty.

Youthful Assumption

"How is your son getting on in his new position?"

"First rate," answered Farmer Cornstossel. "He knows more about the business than the boss does. All he has to do is to convince the boss."

Misunderstood

"Have you ever been abroad?" asked the chance acquaintance.
"No," replied the little man. "I've always been this thin."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

ASPIRIN..

Beware of Imitations



DEMAND

Unless you see the name Bayer and the word genuine on the package as pictured above you can never be sure that you are taking the genuine Bayer Aspirin that thousands of physicians prescribe in their daily practice.

The name Bayer means genuine Aspirin. It is your guarantee of purity—your protection against imitations. Millions of users have proved that it is safe.

Genuine Bayer Aspirin promptly relieves

Headache Sore Throat Rheumatism
Colds Neuralgia Neuritis

SAFE

No harmful after-effects follow its use. It does not depress the heart.

Aspirin is the trade-mark of Bayer Manufacture of Monocetateester of Salicylicacid

Oversight
Doris went with her mother to an art exhibit one afternoon. When she returned, her father asked her how she had liked the pictures.
"Oh, they were all right," Doris conceded, "but I didn't see a single picture of Mutt and Jeff!"

Nothing Doing
"Didn't you get your life insured?"
"No; I couldn't. The agent found out I was a pedestrian."

If you are going to tell a lie, tell an interesting one.

Slightly Confused
"Poverty," said the cynical philosopher, "is no disgrace. On the contrary, it may be an honor."
"Yes," answered Mr. Dustin Stax; "I feel that way about it. But my tastes are so expensive I can't afford to be poor."

A Place to Stay
"How does it come about that you are in prison?"
"Well, one must be somewhere!"

Better say only half you think than think only half you say.

When you **meter** **Cuticura** preparations **Should Be Used**

To keep the skin in good condition. Anoint with Cuticura Ointment, bathe with Cuticura Soap and hot water. Cuticura Talcum is an ideal toilet powder.

Soap Mfg. Plantation Mfg. and Mfg. Talcum Mfg. Proprietors: Potter Drug & Chemical Corporation, Malden, Mass.