

## OFFICERS 1987-1988

President: Alex W. Snow  
P.O. Box 151, West Dover, VT 05356  
(802) 464-8844

First Vice President: Patricia MacFarland  
30 Belmont Dr., Portsmouth, RI 02871

Second Vice President: Frederick Rice  
5406 Terra Heights Dr. Manhattan, KS 66502

Secretary: Calista Vickery  
258 Mountain Rd. Princeton, MA 01541  
(617) 464-2618

Treasurer & Book Custodian: William Drury  
24 Buckman Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824  
(617) 256-7469

Historian/Membership Chmn: Corinne Snow  
P.O. Box 151, West Dover, VT 05356  
(802) 464-8844

Directors:

Cynthia Blomstrom:  
38 Indian Hill Dr. Worcester, MA 01601

Alfred G. Hough:  
15 Columbia St. No. Chelmsford, MA 01863

John E. Rice:  
4 Pleasant St. Marlborough, MA 01752

Earle Vickery:  
258 Mountain Rd. Princeton, MA 01541

Louise Trudeau:  
William Street, Chester, MA 01011

Bruce McPherson:  
81 Cornell St. Kingston, NY 12401

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

*Dear Cousins,*

*Happy New Year!*

*My first thought is to express again our thanks to Margaret Rice for opening her home to us for the Annual Meeting - everyone seems to enjoy being at her beautiful old home, even when it rains and we have to eat in the barn! Thanks also to Margaret for all the work she has done for the Association. Preparing the two supplements to the Genealogy, which are now available (see page 10, ed.), was a job for Hercules!*

*We are now looking forward to next year's reunion. This will be in the summer, again, on the weekend of August 20 and 21. Save the dates!*

*The meeting will be in Westborough and move on to Concord, Mass. There is so much to do and see there that is of historical value, and fun, too!*

*Looking forward to seeing you next summer!*

*Sincerely,*





LETTERS:

Catching Up

*Several fascinating letters were received last summer, but were held until this issue because news of the Annual Reunion took up most of our space.*

Jessie Mae (Mrs. Charles G.) Sanderson sent us a copy of a talk which she gave at the annual banquet of the Livonia, Michigan, Historical Society. At last your scribe has one tidbit of the answer to the question, "How did so many Rices happen to end up in Michigan?"

Thank you, Cousin Jessie.

You will find this tale in an edited version in the "Story" section.

\* \* \*

Arthur Laramy, of Walnut Creek, California, reports on a "small" family reunion which he and his sister, Bernice Schuiling gave on June 27, 1987, to celebrate the 90th birthday, on June 30, of their mother, Arta Laramy. Arta Rice Laramy is a long-time resident of Grand Rapids, Mich., and the party was held at the Beacon Light Home in Marne, Mich.

Nearly 70 people came to pay their respects, including three nieces, one of whom brought her daughter and grandchildren. Also, Arta's own six grandchildren and three great grandchildren attended. Arthur reports that "it was a fine opportunity for many of those present to renew old acquaintances."

We send belated but warm birthday greetings to Cousin Arta Laramy.

\* \* \*

LETTERS cont.

Phoebe Lemon Shelby sends greetings to all the cousins, and is sorry that California is such a long way from Massachusetts and the Annual Reunion. She thanks us for the Newsletter (you're most welcome, Cousin Phoebe) and asks about dues.

Cousin Phoebe, at the age of 82 in June, you do not need to pay dues! You have outgrown such things, and reached a highly privileged status. Keep on writing, though - we love to hear from you!

\* \* \*

*Speaking of dues, those of us not yet 70 or 75 still need to do our share to keep the Rice Association able to do its fine work of keeping our heritage alive - \$5.00 for those under 70, and \$3.00 for those who have graduated to the 70-75 age group. Most of you have paid promptly, and we thank you all. Those not yet paid for 1988, please take a hint!*

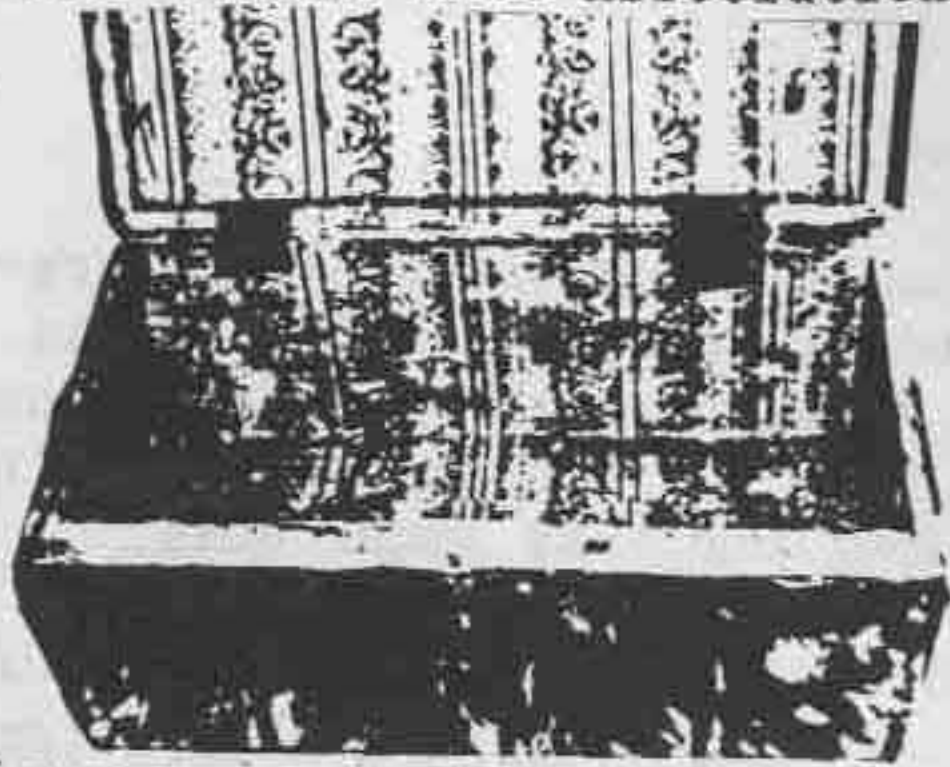
*(Incidentally, if I billed anyone wrongly, it was because I didn't realize how old you were. Do write and tell me if you're older than you look!)*

\* \* \*

Another letter from a "graduated" 82-year old, Cousin Philip Marion Rice, of Waterman, Illinois, with a story of his grandfather, more than a century ago. The details of this tale will be found in the "Story" section.

The letter includes photos of a chest which Edmund Rice brought from England (in 1638, Cousin Philip, not on the *Mayflower*). A picture of the outside of this chest is on the cover, and one of the inside of it is on the next page.





The inside of Edmund Rice's chest pictured on the cover.

\* \* \*

LETTERS; cont.

Two letters from Jane Seaver Kirk; one that she was going to West Germany to be with her niece when the expected baby arrived. Some of you may remember Emily Colson from the reunion, a young blond girl who was about to join her husband, Barry, who is stationed in West Germany.

The second letter reported that Emily did indeed have a beautiful baby girl, Aurora Lynn Colson, on December 3, 1987, at the U.S. Army Hospital in Nuremburg. If anyone is interested in sending a card to this young family so far from home, the address is:

Pfc & Mrs. Barry Colson  
HHC -- 2Bde -- IAD  
APO New York, 09066

\* \* \*

Finally, Cousin Shirley Fritsche, of Timonium, Maryland, writes to contest Mrs. Fox's assertion that she thinks she's the "only tenth generation Rice in New Jersey." Shirley's cousin, Marian Vanden Bosch, a long-time member of the Association, is in the tenth generation and lives in New Jersey. Any other New Jerseyites in the tenth generation, do write in and identify yourselves!

\* \* \*

QUERIES:

*More recently we have received several queries about family lines, which we hope some one of you may be able to answer. As you know, any information and/or questions are more than welcome here, but we give the questioner's address so that you may correspond personally.*

Joseph Comstock, 650 West Harrison Ave., Claremont, CA 91711, wants to know "What happened to my ancestor, Rachel Rice (#1133 Rice Family) b. Nov. 11, 1751, Brookfield, Mass.?"

When and where did she die?

Rachel was the daughter of Zebulon (#238) and Abigail (Forbush) Rice of Westborough and Brookfield, Mass. She was married on Feb. 25, 1773, at Brookfield, Mass., to John Hill, Sr. He was born Oct. 3, 1750 in Brookfield, and died in 1834 in Ogden (Monroe Co.) N.Y. He is listed by the DAR as Nat'l # 913283, and Rachel is presumed to be his first wife.

Have any of you who are hunting for ancestors in New York come across these people?

\* \* \*

Patricia Goitein of 1625 W. Columbia Terrace, Peoria, IL 61606, is interested in the Hamilton family of New Braintree, Brookfield and Concord, Mass. She gives no dates, but the information which she has, and the connections with the Rices, are as follows:

"Aaron Willard, son of Benjamin and Mary (Rice) Willard married, at Brookfield, Hannah Hamilton, daughter of Nathan and Ruth (Wheeler) Hamilton.

(cont. next page)



## QUERIES: cont.

Nathan's son, Moses Hamilton, and his wife, Hannah, adopted one Molly Rice. Nathan, Moses, Hannah and Molly are buried at New Braintree."

Anyone knowing anything about this family please contact Pat.

\* \* \*

Mrs. Harry Layton, of 369 Avery Rd. E., Chehalis, WA, has a query about Tamesin (or other spelling) Rice who was born April 20, 1782, probably in New York. She married Joseph L. Collins, and their fourteen children were born in Groton, Tompkins Co. N.Y. The children are:

|                |                     |                        |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Deianey,       | b. ca 1799          | Emily, b. 1815         |
| Lucy,          | b. 1801             | Phebe, b. 1817         |
| Jesse,         | b. 1803             | Joseph Jr. b. 1819     |
| Moses,         | b. 1805             | Lois, b. 1821          |
| Anna,          | b. 1807             | m. William G. Bradish  |
|                | m. _____ Curtis     | Sally (Sarah), b. 1823 |
|                |                     | m. Hiram Baxter,       |
| Tamesin,       | b. 1809             | both Aug 4, 1839       |
| Lucinda,       | b. 1811             | (a double wedding)     |
| Ruth Elizabeth | b. 1813             | in Ionia, Mich.        |
|                | m. #1 Stephen Rowe, | George, b. 1826        |
|                | #2 Dr. John J. Weld |                        |

Mrs. Layton wants information about the parents of Tamesin Rice Collins, since it seems likely, with her first name, that they are indeed descended from Edmund.

\* \* \*

## NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the following cousins who have recently joined the association:

Wally Hack, from Northborough, Mass.

Patricia Joan Kauffman, from Philadelphia, Penn.

Peggy Smith, St. Petersburg, Fla.

Col. Howland G. Taft (Ret.), New Bern, N.C. and  
Jaffrey, N.H.

Mrs. Robert B. Taylor, Glassboro, N.J.

\* \* \*

## OBITUARY

Jessie Sanderson (see Letters, pg. 4) also sent us news of the death in November, 1987, of Carl Dexter, of Leslie, Michigan. Carl is survived by his widow, Arlene, who is descended from Adam Rice #481, (see Story, pp. 12-15) and by their daughter, Delilah Moody, who is also a member of the Association. Carl was a great Rice enthusiast, and it was his custom to show visitors all the sights in the little town of Leslie, where Adam's children settled in the 1830's, including the cemetery where they are buried.

Our sincere sympathy to Arlene and Delilah; we feel that we have come to know you, and hope your interest in the Association will continue.

\* \* \*



BOOK LIST

The following books are published by the Rice Association, and may be purchased at the prices indicated by sending a check to:

William H. Drury, Treasurer,  
EDMUND RICE ASSOCIATION  
24 Buckman Drive,  
Chelmsford, MA 01824

THE RICE FAMILY: by Andrew Henshaw Ward (1858) reprint.  
A genealogical history of descendants of Deacon Edmund Rice, who came from Berkhamsted, England, in 1638, and settled at Sudbury, Massachusetts. - 379 pages.  
\$20.00 plus \$2.50 postage and packing.

SUPPLEMENT to THE RICE FAMILY: Published by the Association in 1967. Additions and corrections to the above volume. (soft cover) - 110pp.  
\$3.50 plus \$1.00 postage and packing.

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| INDEX to RICE FAMILY                   | INDEX TO SUPPLEMENT         |
| computer printout, 34 pages            | computer printout, 18 pages |
| \$4.00 postpaid                        | \$2.50 postpaid             |
| BOTH INDEXES TOGETHER: \$5.00 postpaid |                             |

A GENEALOGICAL REGISTER OF RICE DESCENDANTS: (1970) A continuation of A.H. Ward's RICE FAMILY and the Supplement to it, bringing it up to date at the time of publication. - 1594 pages.  
\$25.00 plus \$2.50 postage and packing.

SUPPLEMENT #2, Part 1. (1983) Additional lines of descent through the first eight generations, unknown at the time of publication of the above books. - 224 pages.  
\$12.50 plus \$2.50 postage and packing.

SUPPLEMENT #2, Part 2. (1987) Continuation of the above books, into the 14th and 15th generations. - 663 pages.  
\$30.00 plus \$2.50 postage and packing.

BOOK LIST cont.

The following books are "historical narratives", mostly factual, but told as a story. Much genealogical information is woven into the story line.

EDMUND RICE and HIS FAMILY: by Elsie Hawes Smith (1938)  
A charming story of the early days of the Rices in Massachusetts.

WE SOUGHT THE WILDERNESS: by Rev. Clayton Rice (1949)  
A story of some of the Rices who pushed westward after short stays in Vermont and New Hampshire.  
These two books are reprinted in one volume (1986) - 357pp  
\$17.00 plus \$2.50 postage and packing.

MORE ABOUT THOSE RICES: by Elsie Hawes Smith (1954)  
A sequel to *Edmund Rice and His Family*, with information about Rices who migrated from New England, as well as some of the more famous Rice "cousins" - 109 pages.  
\$3.50 plus \$1.00 postage and packing.

\* \* \*

There are still some copies left of *The Deacons*, (1980) a full-length novel about Edmund Rice and his family, notably his sons, Thomas and Edward, by your scribe, Corinne Snow. This book was not published by the Association, and may be obtained by writing to me at

Windy Hill Words,  
P.O. Box 151, West Dover, VT 05356.  
\$20.00 plus \$2.50 postage and packing.



## STORIES

## How Some of the Rices got to Michigan

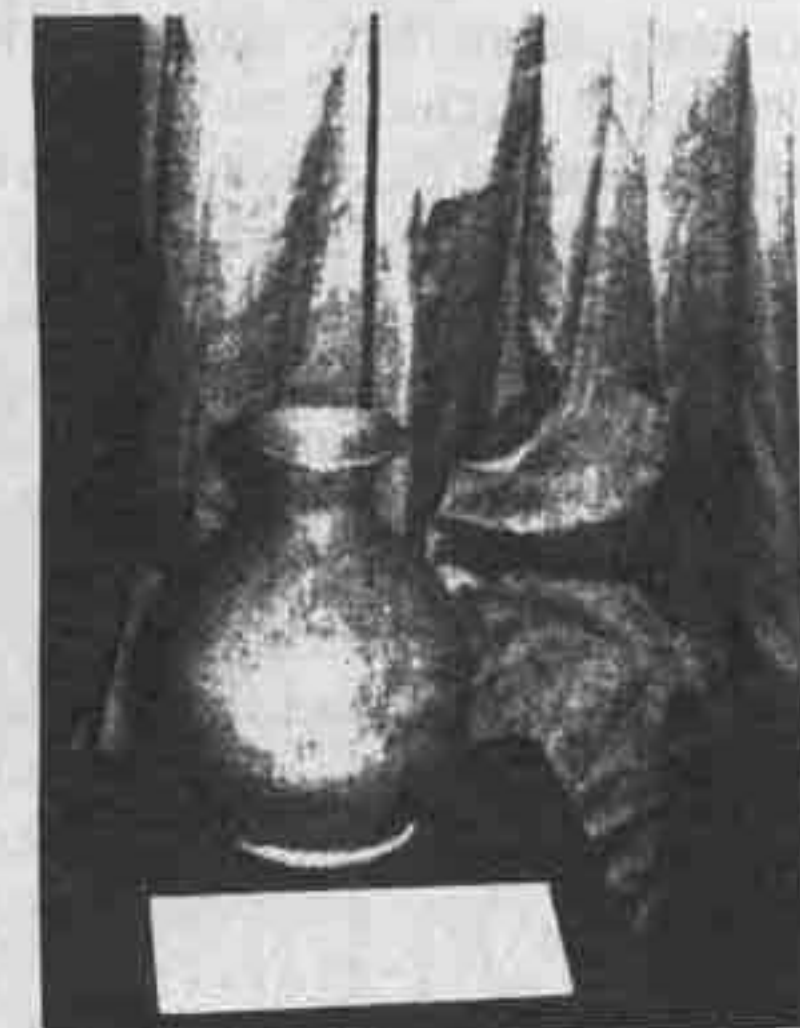
*(Adapted from a speech given in Livonia, Michigan on May 21, 1987, by Jessie Mae Sanderson)*

Adam Rice, son of Zebulon (4-28-105-238), was born in Westborough, Mass. in 1739. There he married Lois Wood in 1761, had two children and soon moved to Brookfield, where two more children were born, including a son, Ephraim, in 1770. After answering the call for Minutemen to fight at Lexington in 1775, and serving later in the Revolution as a corporal and sergeant, Adam moved his family to Hanover, N.H. in 1791. Here five more children were born, including a daughter, Polly, and the youngest, Josiah.

Ephraim married Hannah Taintor and moved with her to Sheldon, Vermont, bringing Josiah, Polly, and possibly other siblings with them. Here Josiah married Laura Stone in 1812, and Polly married Henry Meeker. Ephraim's family was growing up quickly, and in 1836 one son, Denzel, left home and followed the Erie Canal westward to Michigan. He found good land in Leslie, Mich., bought some and settled there. He must have written enthusiastic letters home, because his Aunt Polly and Henry Meeker soon joined him, followed by his parents, Ephraim and Hannah Rice, her brother, Samuel Taintor, and by Josiah and Laura.

Now Samuel Taintor was a potter by trade, and to his delight found good clay deposits in the region. He taught his craft to Ephraim and Josiah. Soon the Rice Brothers were well known in the area as brickmakers and potters. They had a kiln on the creek bank, and here they made bricks for the first brick house built in Leslie, and also for the schoolhouse.

Josiah, especially, was an adept artisan at the potter's wheel. It is said that the village children loved to watch him "throw" a piece of clay onto the wheel and then skillfully turn it into a useful pot or dish. In those days potters were an essential part of every community which boasted a decent bank of clay, but few had reputations which survived beyond the era when improved transportation and distribution made large potteries practical. That Josiah Rice's reputation has survived is a tribute to his artistry and skill.



One of Josiah's pots.

Meanwhile Josiah and Laura continued to have children, eleven in all. One, Josiah Wood Rice, left home when in his early twenties and went to California. In 1854, at the age of 29, he died there.

The oldest son, born in Vermont, was named Stillman Putnam Rice. He became the first school teacher in Leslie, teaching in the little frame building which was later replaced by one built of bricks from his father's kiln. In 1840 he married Harriet Ann Child, and began work as a Methodist minister, although he gave his occupation as "insurance agent".

His work must have been impressive, because when in 1845 the Wesleyan Methodists established Michigan Union College in Leoni, near Jackson, Rev. Stillman Rice was not only one of the trustees but a member of the executive committee as well. He was described as "a man of force and character who was successful in collecting funds".



Unlike most other institutions of higher education of the time, Leslie college admitted both sexes. However, men and women were not allowed to speak to each other outside of class, and each sex was assigned its own nights for using the library. Both classical and scientific courses were offered.

In addition to their belief in education for both sexes, the Wesleyan Methodists were strongly opposed to slavery, which was the major object of controversy at that time. Rev. Stillman Rice preached sermons expressing the heartfelt hope that soon the "eagle of freedom" would overcome "the foul beast of slavery." The controversy was such that a relative, Rev. Elijah Grout, who was a Baptist minister, was wounded when someone shot at him after taking exception to his anti-slavery views. The college at Leoni became known as a center of abolitionism, and drew its support and its students from anti-slavery groups.

The Wesleyan Methodists were also staunch temperance advocates. Between the animosity of the anti-abolitionists and the animosity of the local whiskey distillers, it was found desirable to move the college. In 1859 the college was transferred to the town of Adrian, in an area where Quakers and other law-abiding farmers sheltered fugitive slaves as part of the underground railroad. The library appears to have been the chief material asset brought to Adrian. The books were hauled out from under the surveillance of Jackson County officials in an oxcart by night, as there was much hard feeling in the community.

Rev. Rice moved his family to Adrian also, and again set about raising money for the needed new buildings. Some of his seven daughters attended the college, and one became a teacher. After the Civil War factions were reunited, and in 1870 the Rices returned to Leslie. There Rev. Stillman Rice died, in his 65th year, in 1882.

Both Josiah and Stillman Rice are worthy of note, for they had the courage to change their way of life in order to do what they felt was right.



The Stillman Rice Family

*Stillman Putnam Rice was the great-grandfather of Jessie's husband, Charles Gordon Sanderson. Arlene Dexter is also a part of this family (see page 9)*

\* \* \*

#### Some Rices in Illinois

*(Put together from and embroidered on material sent in by Philip Marion Rice)*

Martin Rice, a descendant of Joseph through his son, Caleb, (7-55-159-349-667) was born in Marlborough in 1781, on the day that Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown. He married a cousin, Sally Rice, who was also descended from Caleb, and by her he had eleven children.

The fifth child, Jonathan, was born in 1811, and as soon as he was grown he left home, as so many in that generation did. Jonathan moved westward, going as far as Peoria County, Illinois, where the land was unbelievably fertile, a seemingly endless glacial deposit of rich black earth, several feet deep. In this



welcoming land Jonathan stopped, and acquired a farm near the town of Dunlap. In Dunlap he met and married Sarah Dennis, a young lady who had come with her parents from Ohio.

They were married in 1841, and by 1845 they had two sons, Elisha and James. Jonathan enlisted in the Civil War in 1861 (at the age of 50!) and saw action at Vicksburg and Jackson, Miss. He was mustered out in 1864 in Springfield, Ill. Sixteen-year-old James joined an organization for men too young to enlist, and "rendered valuable service to the cause of the Union"

The two sons grew up, and Elisha married and had seven children. James was married also, in 1871, to one Pauline Soboleski, whose father, Paul Soboleski, was a Polish refugee from the Russians in 1845. According to an old history of Peoria County, Paul was related to "John (III) Sobieski, King of Poland". James and Pauline settled on a farm in Princeville, Akron Township, and raised six children, Paul, Inez, Edwin, Maude, Luther and Calvin. Paul and Edwin were helping to work the farm during World War I, when Edwin left to enlist. One of the sons had married and lived in his own house on the family farm.

But James did not spend all of his time farming and begetting children. Although he had only two years of elementary school, as a self-educated scholar "he had no peer in Akron Township." Around 1885 he helped to organize a business college in Chillicothe, and added college preparatory courses to it. At the same time he drew up a teaching manual for use in the local schools; the material in this



*James Rice*

manual was soon adopted as a standard by the State of Illinois. Naturally this interest in education led to James Rice being on the School Board, and he was a member of the "Board of School Directors" for 15 years.

James was also active in the Republican Party, and a member of the Peoria County Republican Committee. One son, Luther, was Town Clerk of Akron for at least six years.

Pauline Soboleski Rice died in 1901, and James Rice died in 1925. We have mentioned that at least two sons stayed on the farm to work with their father. In 1905, the wife of one of them was pregnant, and when it came time for her to deliver, the doctor was out on another delivery and unavailable. A visiting cousin, Annette Beckwith, who had become an osteopathic physician, proceeded to deliver the baby. Thus was born our Cousin Philip Marion Rice!

Philip grew up on his grandfather's farm, where his birthplace still stands. He owned it until recently, when he sold it and purchased another near Waterman, Ill. His son, Craig, operates this one.

\* \* \*

*This is a particularly nice Rice story. It includes pioneers and the typical Rice fate of becoming a leader in the town of settlement. It also includes a marriage to a "foreigner", child of a refugee, which your scribe finds good. Then it continues to the present to reveal another Rice trait, tenacity and management ability. In this day when farms in the mid-west are being lost through mistakes in management, Philip and Craig Rice own and operate what is, apparently, a successful farm enterprise. Cousin Philip, thank you. We admire you, as well as your grandfather!*

\* \* \*



## EDITORIAL

To all of our cousins;

This issue of the newsletter belongs to you! It consists almost completely of material sent in by our readers, and if anyone's letter has been omitted, do write again. (No matter how hard we try to keep organized, we are notorious for misplacing things). One purpose of this Newsletter is to keep alive the feeling of kinship among Rice descendants; two-way communication is essential for this.

Another purpose is to facilitate the sharing of information about ancestral lines; so we hope strongly that some of you can be of help for the people who sent queries.

A third purpose, which your scribe feels is important, is to bring life to some of these people who are otherwise merely dust and names in record books and on tombstones. That is the reason for the "Stories" - we hope you enjoy them, and that more of you will send in anecdotes and tidbits of information about your own family.

In the next issue, more stories, and more details about the (August 20-21) 1988 Reunion!

Affectionately, your scribe,

*Wicky Snow*

*James Rice*

## PAST PRESIDENTS of the ASSOCIATION

|            |                                    |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| 1954-1955: | Charles W. Rice                    |
| 1956-1957: | Edgar W. Rice                      |
| 1958-1959: | Stanley I. Rice                    |
| 1960:      | Donald Whittemore                  |
| 1964-1965: | William H. Hoeffler                |
| 1966-1967: | Ray Lowther Ellis (1901-1982)      |
| 1967-1968: | Erwin R. McLaughlin (1893-1968)    |
| 1969:      | Jeneve R. Melvin                   |
| 1969-1973: | Col. Allen Foster Rice (1904-1984) |
| 1973-1974: | Margaret E. Allen                  |
| 1974-1975: | Charles W. Rice                    |
| 1975-1976: | Seaver M. Rice                     |
| 1976-1978: | Henry E. Rice, Jr.                 |
| 1979-1980: | C. Whiting Rice, Jr.               |
| 1980-1982: | William H. Drury                   |
| 1982-1983: | Patricia MacFarland                |
| 1983-1985: | Janice Parmenter                   |
| 1985-1987: | Margaret S. Rice                   |



# Edmund Rice (1638)

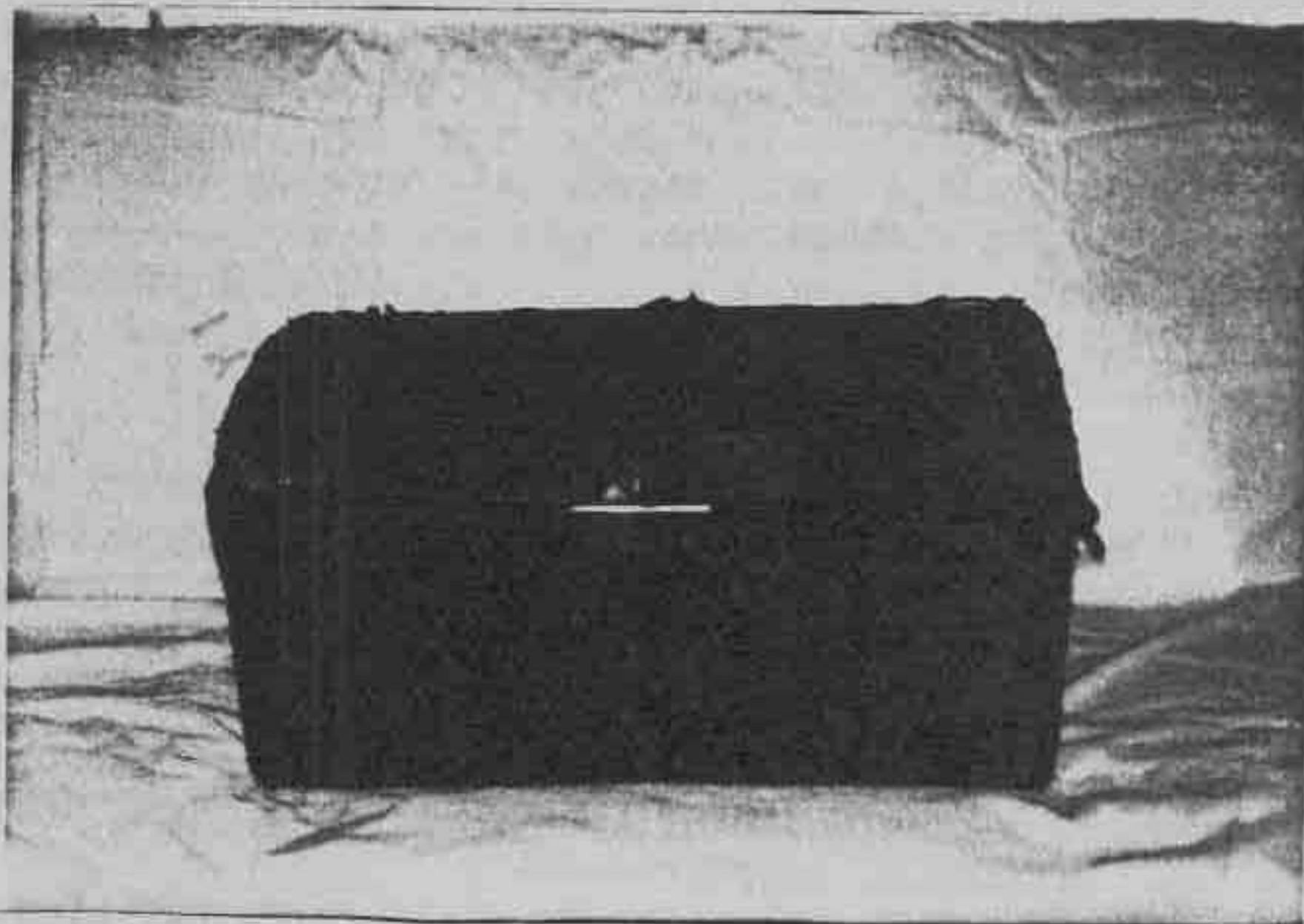
## Association

Established 1851

Incorporated 1934

News Letter;

Winter, 1988



Edmund Rice's Chest: brought from England in 1638

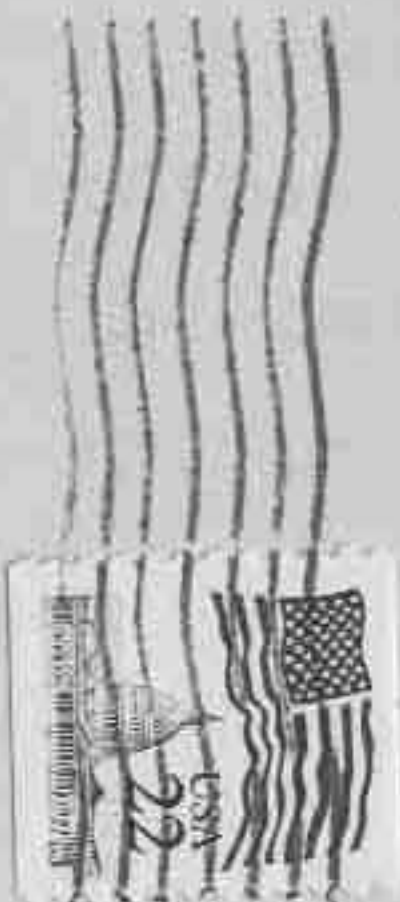
EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOCIATION

Cortine M. Snow, editor

P.O.Box 151

West Dover, VT 05356

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Mr. & Mrs. William H. Drury  
24 Buckman Drive,  
Chelmsford, MA 01824