

his Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor-General could be procured. This opinion they charitably sent over, signed with their own hands ; which was accordingly printed in Rhode Island, and dispersed throughout the Plantations. I heartily wish it may produce the intended effect.

1739. Rev. John Callender.

The Rev. John Callender (1706–1740) became, in 1728, the pastor of the Baptist Church in Swansea, and, in 1731, was called to the Baptist Church in Newport, where he remained until his death. In 1739, he published *An Historical Discourse on the Civil and Religious Affairs of the Colony of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, in New-England, in America, From the First Settlement, 1638, to the End of the First Century*. This is usually known as his "Centennial Discourse." The following extract is from p. 19 of the *Discourse*.

In 1730 the Inhabitants of the *whole Island* were *Five Thousand four Hundred and Fifty Eight*, and of this Town [Newport] *Four Thousand six Hundred and Forty*, who are no doubt by this Time increased to *Five Thousand Souls*.

The Trade and Business of the Town at the first, was but very little, and inconsiderable, consisting only of a little *Corn* and *Pork* and *Tobacco*, sent to *Boston*, for a few *European* and other Goods, they could not

subsist without, and all at the Mercy of the Traders there too.\*

At present there are *above one Hundred Sail* of Vessels belonging to this *Town*, besides what belong to the *rest of the Colony*. GOD grant, that as we increase in Numbers and Riches, we may not increase in Sin and Wickedness; but that we may rather be lead, by the divine Goodness, to reform whatever may have been amiss or wanting in us.

there are at this Time, *seven worshipping Assemblies*, Churches of Societies, *in this Town*, besides a large one of the People called *Quakers*, at *Portsmouth*, the other Part of the Island. . . .

There are in the *nine Towns on the main Land* *eight Churches* of the People called *Baptists*, one in every Town, except *Greenwich*, where there is however a Meeting House in which there is a Meeting once a Month.

Of the People called *Quakers* there are *seven Meeting Houses* on the main Land, and *one* at *James-Town* on *Conanicut Island*; and a constant Meeting at *Westerly*, tho' no Meeting House yet erected.

There are *four episcopal Churches on the Main*, one at *Providence*, . . . and one at *North-Kingston*, . . . besides one at *Westerly*, and one on the Edge of *Warwick*, adjoining to *East-Greenwich*, which are occasionally supply'd by the Missionaries at other Towns.

There are *three Presbyterian or Congregational Churches* at *Providence*, *South-Kingston* & *Westerly*.

\* Perhaps it may be agreeable to some Persons, to observe, that about 1660, and many Years after, *Provision Pay* was 100 per Cent. beneath *Sterling Money*. In 1687 the Prices of Goods set to pay Taxes in, were, Wool 8d. per Pound, Butter 4d. Indian Corn 1s. 6d. per Bushel. If the Tax was paid in Money, then there was to be an Allowance or Abatement of one sixth Part, and that perhaps will nearly give the true current Price, of those kinds of Provisions, at that Time.