

## **Rhode Island**

Roger Williams left England in 1631 and settled in Salem in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Soon after, he became a minister. He was popular among the people and had many followers. He began to speak out against some Puritan ways. For example, he did not think it was fair for people to be punished if their beliefs were different from the Puritan leaders.

He stated his beliefs in his sermons at a church and also in a letter he wrote to Governor Winthrop. He became very unpopular with other ministers and with the Governor. In 1635, the Puritan leaders voted to force him to leave the colony.

Roger Williams fled from Salem to an area known as Narragansett Bay. There he was helped by Narragansett Native Americans.

In 1636, many of his followers from the Massachusetts Bay Colony left and joined Williams. He bought land from the Native Americans and began a settlement he called "Providence." He set up a government that was based on the agreement of the settlers and religious freedom.

Soon after Roger Williams was forced to leave the Massachusetts Bay Colony, another person began to speak out against strict Puritan practices. Her name was Anne Hutchinson. She began to hold meetings in her home where she criticized the Puritan ministers. These meetings began to attract many followers.

In 1637, Anne Hutchinson was brought to trial for speaking out and acting against the Puritan leaders. She was found guilty and ordered to leave the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

She moved with her family and many of her followers to the area of Narragansett Bay and began a settlement on an island near Providence.

Later, her settlement joined with the one Roger Williams had founded. This became the Rhode Island Colony.