

# Rhode Island

## Research Outline

### Table of Contents

- Records Of The Family History Library
- Family History Library Catalog
- Bible Records
- Biography
- Cemeteries
- Census
- Church Records
- Court Records
- Directories
- Emigration And Immigration
- Gazetteers
- Genealogy
- History
- Land And Property
- Maps
- Military Records
- Naturalization And Citizenship
- Newspapers
- Periodicals
- Probate Records
- Taxation
- Town Records
- Vital Records
- For Further Reading
- Comments And Suggestions

This outline describes major sources of information about families from Rhode Island. As you read this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

## RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

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The Family History Library has many of the records described in this outline. The Family History Library's major holdings include cemetery, census, church, land, military, probate, town, and vital records as well as newspaper notices of marriages and deaths, city directories, genealogical collections, and periodicals.

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, and microfiche numbers. These are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for *Family History Library*. These numbers may be used to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers.

## FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

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The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog found at the library and at each Family History Center. To find a record, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog for:

- The *place* where your ancestor lived, such as:

***UNITED STATES*** - CENSUS

***RHODE ISLAND*** - MILITARY RECORDS

***RHODE ISLAND, WASHINGTON*** - GENEALOGY

***RHODE ISLAND, WASHINGTON, SOUTH KINGSTON*** - VITAL RECORDS

- The *record type* you want to search, such as:

UNITED STATES - ***CENSUS***

RHODE ISLAND - ***MILITARY RECORDS***

RHODE ISLAND, WASHINGTON - ***GENEALOGY***

RHODE ISLAND, WASHINGTON, SOUTH KINGSTON - ***VITAL RECORDS***

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.

## ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

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The following archives, libraries, and societies have collections or services helpful to researchers:

- Rhode Island State Archives

337 Westminster St.  
Providence, RI 02903-3302  
Telephone: 401-222-2353  
Fax: 401-222-3199

- National Archives—New England Region

380 Trapelo Road  
Waltham, MA 02154  
Telephone: 781-663-0130  
Fax: 781-663-0154

- Rhode Island Historical Society

121 Hope St.  
Providence, RI 02906  
Telephone: 401-273-8107  
Fax: 401-751-7930

- Rhode Island Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 433  
Greenville, RI 02828

- New England Historic Genealogical Society

101 Newbury Street  
Boston, MA 02116-3007  
Telephone: 617-536-5740  
Fax: 617-536-7307

- American-French Genealogical Society

78 Earle Street  
Woonsocket, RI 02895  
Telephone: 401-765-6141  
Fax: 401-597-6290  
P.O. Box 830

An important inventory of manuscript records of the state, county, and town archives is Clarence S. Brigham, *Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1903*, vol. 1 (Washington, D.C.: American Historical Association, 1904; FHL book 973 C4ah; film 896553 item 2).

## BIBLE RECORDS

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Six volumes of *Rhode Island Bible Records*, copied by Josephine Keefer Short and Mrs. Bentley W. Morse, are at the Rhode Island Historical Society and the Family History Library (FHL film 022395 items 4-9). Some Bible records at the Newport Historical Society (82 Touro Street, Newport, RI 02840) are also at the Family History Library (FHL film 945224).

The Family History Library has obtained two collections that include Bible records from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). The collection for Rhode Island is on 23 films and is described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline. A collection of records from New York that also includes some Rhode Island records is on 12 films at the library. Both collections are partially indexed in E. Kay Kirkham, *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States*, vol. 2 (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984; FHL book 973 D22kk v.2; fiche 6089184).

## BIOGRAPHY

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The Family History Library collects biographical sources and important genealogical collections that contain biographical material. The Rhode Island Historical Society has the largest collection of biographical material for the state. Several collections are described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline.

A useful index is J. Carlyle Parker, *Rhode Island Biographical and Genealogical Sketch Index*. (Turlock, Calif.: Marietta Pub. Co., 1991; FHL book 974.5 D32p).

An excellent published source of biographies is *Representative Men and Old Families of Rhode Island: Genealogical and Historical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens of Many of the Old Families*, 3 vols. (Chicago: J. H. Beers & Co., 1908; FHL book 974.5 D3r; films 982090-91 item 2).

## CEMETERIES

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The Rhode Island Historical Society has the largest collection of cemetery records for the state. The Society has the *Bates*, *Briggs*, and *Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)*

collections that contain inscriptions from Rhode Island cemeteries. These collections are also at the Family History Library. They are described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline.

Other important collections and indexes available at the Rhode Island Historical Society and on microfilm at the Family History Library include:

- Charles P. Benns and Martha A. Benns, *Rhode Island Cemetery Records, 1931-1941*, 6 volumes (FHL film 022424) and index (FHL film 022392).
- Henry E. Turner, *Cemetery Records of Rhode Island* (FHL film 022421).
- Clarence I. Brown, *Rhode Island Cemetery and Genealogical Records* (FHL films 022473-74).
- Nellie Brownell Potter, *Rhode Island Burial Grounds* (FHL film 022392 items 2-4).

- Frank T. Calef, [Cemetery Records] (FHL films 022366 item 15; 022368; 022388-89; 022396 item 2).
- James Newell Arnold, [Transcripts of Cemetery Records from Coventry, Cranston, Johnston, Lincoln, Scituate, and Warwick], 25 volumes (FHL films 022370-82).

About 50 additional volumes of transcripts by James Newell Arnold are at the Knight Memorial Library, 275 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907. The towns are listed in *Rhode Island Roots*, 3 (June 1982): 22 (see the “Periodicals” section of this outline). The Family History Library does not have copies of these volumes.

Additional cemetery records have also been published in the *Rhode Island Genealogical Register* and in early issues of *Rhode Island History* (see the “Periodicals” section of this outline).

A guide to cemetery records is David W. Dumas, “Rhode Island Grave Records: A Bibliography,” *Rhode Island Roots*, 3 (Winter 1977): 2-7 (see the “Periodicals” section of this outline).

## CENSUS

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### Federal

Many federal census records are at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more detailed information about the federal records.

The federal censuses for 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920 are on microfilm at the Family History Library. The 1890 census was destroyed, but the 1890 Civil War Union veterans schedule and index are available at the Family History Library.

Statewide indexes are available for the 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses in book form and for 1790 to 1850 on microfiche. A soundex (phonetic) index is available on microfilm for part of the 1880, 1910 and all of the 1900, and 1920 censuses.

Mortality schedules exist for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. Copies of these are at the Rhode Island State Library, State House, Room 208, Providence, RI 02903.

### Colonial and State

Colonial censuses (or similar lists of names) exist for 1747 to 1754, 1774, and 1782. These generally name the head of the household and the number of persons in the family. Many of these have been published, such as John R. Bartlett, comp., *Census of the Inhabitants of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, 1774* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969; FHL book 974.5 X2pb, fiche 6046611).

A census of all males 16 or older was taken in 1777. See Mildred M. Chamberlain, *The Rhode Island 1777 Military Census* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985; FHL book 974.5 M2cm).

State censuses were taken at 10-year intervals from 1865 to 1936. (The 1936 census was actually taken during 1935-36.) The 1895 census is missing. Microfilm copies are at the Family History Library for the complete 1865, 1875, 1885, 1915, 1925, and 1936 censuses. An index to the 1865 census is on FHL films 934776-99. The original 1865, 1875, 1885, and 1905 to 1936 state censuses are at the Rhode Island State Archives. The state censuses provide information similar to that in the federal censuses.

## CHURCH RECORDS

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Before 1900 the largest religious groups in Rhode Island were the Baptist, Congregational, Methodist, Protestant Episcopal, and Roman Catholic. Many of the early settlers were members of the Society of Friends.

Some records of the Baptist, Congregational, Episcopal, Methodist, and Society of Friends churches are published in volumes 7 to 11 of James Arnold, *The Vital Records of Rhode Island* (see the "Vital Records" section of this outline). A list of churches and the types of records available in 1941 is *Guide to the Church Vital Statistics in the State of Rhode Island* (Providence: Historical Records Survey, 1941; FHL book 974.5 V2h; film 982351 item 2; fiche 6046673).

The Family History Library has an extensive collection of church records for many denominations in Rhode Island. Many denominations have collected their records into central repositories. You can write to the following addresses to learn where their records are located:

### Baptist

American Baptist-Samuel Colgate Historical Society  
1106 S. Goodman Street

Rochester, NY 14620-2532

Telephone: 716-473-1740

Fax: 716-473-1740

An inventory of their holdings is in American Baptist Historical Society, *The Records of American Baptists in Rhode Island and Related Organizations* (Rochester, N.Y.:

American Baptist Historical Society, 1981; FHL book 974.5 A1 No. 12; fiche 6093151).

Another useful guide is *Inventory of Church Archives in Rhode Island: Baptist Bodies* (Providence: Historical Records Survey, 1939; FHL book 974.5 K23n; film 982350 item 2).

### **Congregational**

The Congregational Library

14 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108-3704

Telephone: 617-523-0470

Fax: 617-523-0491

### **Episcopal**

Diocese of Connecticut

1335 Asylum Ave.

Hartford, CT 06105-2295

Telephone: 860-233-4481

Fax: 860-523-1410

### **Methodist**

Boston University Theological School Library

745 Commonwealth Avenue

Boston, MA 02215

Telephone: 617-353-3034

Fax: 617-358-0699

United Methodist Archives Center

Drew University Library

36 Madison Avenue

Madison, N.J. 07940

Telephone: 973-408-3000

### **Roman Catholic**

Diocese of Providence

The Chancery Office

34 Fenner Street

Providence, RI 02903-3695

Telephone: 401-278-4500

Fax: 401-278-4548

A helpful history of the Roman Catholic church is Thomas F. Cullen, **The Catholic Church in Rhode Island** (North Providence, R.I.: Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, 1936; FHL Book 974.5 K2c; film 1598368 item 12).

### **Society of Friends**

Archives of the New England Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends  
Rhode Island Historical Society  
121 Hope Street  
Providence, RI 02906  
Telephone: 401-331-8575  
Fax: 401-751-7930



## COURT RECORDS

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Major Rhode Island courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

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|-------------|--|
| 1647-1729   | <b>General Court</b> was a statewide court with jurisdiction over civil and criminal matters. In 1671 it became the <b>General Court of Trials</b> . Many of the records of these courts are on microfilm at the Family History Library.   |
| 1730-pres.  | <b>Courts of common pleas</b> were established in each county in 1730. They had jurisdiction over most local criminal and civil matters. The library has records of the court of common pleas for Newport and Washington counties.   |
| 1729-pres.  | <b>Superior Court of Judicature</b> replaced the General Court of Trials. After 1747 several superior courts of judicature were established as countywide courts. The Family History Library has some of these records from 1729 to 1884.  |
| 1798-pres.  | <b>Supreme Judicial Court</b> was created from the Superior Court of Judicature. This court became the Supreme Court in 1843. Many of these records are at the Providence College Archives, Phillips Memorial Library, 349 River Avenue, Providence, RI 02918. This archives is gathering pre-1905 court records. The library has copies of some of these records. |
| 1790s-pres. | <b>District courts</b> have countywide jurisdiction over minor criminal cases.   |

The Family History Library has some colonial records from minor courts including court of admiralty, court of trials, court of vice-admiralty, justices' court, and the general council. The library has 78 microfilms of petitions to the general assembly, 1725 to 1867, when the assembly often served as a general court. The library also has many court records from Newport and Washington counties. You can obtain copies of other records by contacting the clerk's office in each county courthouse.

Rhode Island court records for 1636 to 1670 were published with every-name indexes in John R. Bartlett, *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England*, 10 vols. (Providence: A. C. Green, 1856-1865; FHL book 974.5 N29r; on 7 films beginning with film 496842; listed in the Family History Library Catalog under RHODE ISLAND - COLONIZATION).

## DIRECTORIES

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Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities of Rhode Island. For example, the library has the following directories for Providence:

1798	FHL book 974.52 E4c
1826	FHL fiche 6044365
1856-60	FHL fiche 6044374-78
1861-1933	FHL films 1377340—
1930, 1932,	FHL book 974.52 E4sp
etc.	

## EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

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### People

Prestatehood settlers of Rhode Island generally were English Protestants, but liberal policies attracted French Huguenots, Blacks, Jews, and other minorities. Heavy Irish immigration began about 1830 and continued through the rest of the nineteenth century. A great influx of French Canadians began after the Civil War and continued to the turn of the century. Rhode Islanders leaving the state often went to areas such as Vermont and Nova Scotia.

Beginning about 1880, overseas emigration shifted from northern Europe to southern and eastern Europe. The Italians were the largest ethnic group to arrive at this time. Other groups who arrived in Rhode Island between 1880 and 1915 include the Portuguese colonials, Poles, and Jews from Russia.

Sources of information about ethnic groups, such as French Canadians, Blacks, and Jews, are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under RHODE ISLAND - MINORITIES.

### Records

The major port of entry to New England is Boston. The Family History Library and the National Archives have passenger lists for Boston for 1820 to March 1874 and 1883 to 1935 (listed in the Family History Library Catalog under MASSACHUSETTS, SUFFOLK, BOSTON - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION). The following indexes are also available:

- 1820-74. These years are indexed in the *Supplemental Index . . . Atlantic and Gulf Coast Ports* . . . (FHL films 418161-348). They are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION - INDEXES.
- 1848-91 (on FHL films beginning with 205656), 1902-06, and 1906-20 (on FHL films beginning with 1724620). They are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under MASSACHUSETTS, SUFFOLK, BOSTON - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

The Massachusetts State Archives also has Boston passenger lists for 1848 to 1874 and 1883 to 1891. This includes records for the nine years missing from the National Archives records. The 1848 to 1891 index described above is an index to the state lists, but it can also be used for the National Archives records.

Incomplete nineteenth-century passenger lists for *Bristol and Warren, 1820 to 1870* (FHL film 830231); Providence, 1820 to 1867 (FHL films 830245-46); and Newport, 1820 to 1857 (FHL film 830236) are available at the Family History Library and the National Archives. These lists are in *Copies of Lists of Passengers Arriving at Miscellaneous Ports . . . Atlantic and Gulf Coasts* . . . listed in the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION. For indexes to these lists, see *Supplemental Index to Passenger Lists . . . Atlantic and Gulf Coast Ports* . . . listed in the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION - INDEXES.

The Family History Library and the National Archives have passenger lists for Providence, 1912 to 1916 (FHL films 1421060-68), and book indexes, 1911 to 1934 (FHL films 1375940-54). These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under RHODE ISLAND, PROVIDENCE, PROVIDENCE - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

The Rhode Island Historical Society has:

- Custom House passenger lists and alien passenger reports, 1798-1870.
- Providence crew lists, 1803-84 (FHL film 022383 item 2 has lists for 1829-57).
- Marine Hospital records, 1798-1870.

The Rhode Island State Archives and the Family History Library have copies of maritime papers, 1723 to 1790, and admiralty papers, 1726 to 1777.

More detailed information on U.S. immigration sources is in the *United States Research Outline* (30972).

Also consult passenger lists of other New England ports and for ports in Canada. Records of Canadian border entries from 1895 to 1949 are on 400 films at the Family History Library (FHL films 1472801-1473201). There are also soundex indexes for the records from 1895-1924 and 1924-1952. The records are in the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Names of immigrants listed in published sources to about 1920 are indexed in P. William Filby, *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*, 15 vols. (Detroit: Gale Research, 1981-; FHL book 973 W32p). The first three volumes are a combined alphabetical index published in 1981. Supplemental volumes have been issued annually. There are also cumulative indexes.

## GAZETTEERS

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Rhode Island and New England histories list and describe places in Rhode Island. Other guides to place names include:

Gannett, Henry. *A Geographic Dictionary of Connecticut and Rhode Island*. 1894. Reprint. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978. (FHL book 974 E5g; fiche 6046786.)

*Rhode Island—A Guide to the Smallest State*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1937. (FHL book 974.5 E6ri.)

## GENEALOGY

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Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These must usually be searched in person.

### Manuscript Collections and Indexes

**Rhode Island Historical Society.** The largest collection of manuscript genealogical material is at the Rhode Island Historical Society. The society's catalog indexes both published and manuscript genealogies, the DAR collection, Benn's index to Rhode Island

grave records (see the “Cemeteries” section of this outline), and some genealogies of Rhode Island families that have been published in periodicals. The catalog was filmed in 1950 (FHL films 022425-26).

**Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection.** This collection consists of transcripts of Bible, cemetery, church, marriage, death, obituary, and will records. It was microfilmed in 1971 at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and is available at the Rhode Island Historical Society and at the Family History Library on 23 microfilms (on FHL films beginning with 855238). The volumes are generally arranged by county, and each is indexed. The Rhode Island Historical Society has a *DAR Records Card Index* to the volumes.

**Sidney S. Rider Collection.** This valuable, though difficult to use, collection is at the John Hay Library (Brown University, Providence, RI 02912). This collection of 5,000 books and 10,000 pamphlets includes periodicals, correspondence, newspaper clippings and index (about 1808 to 1868), church histories, military records, city directories, local histories, biographies, and many manuscript sources such as private journals, deeds, and wills.

**Bates Collection of Genealogical Data** by Louise Prosser Bates. This 88-volume collection is on microfilm at the Rhode Island Historical Society and at the Family History Library (FHL films 022275-90). It contains abstracts of deeds, land grants, probate records, genealogies, town records, and cemetery records. The index to the collection is on FHL films 022268-74.

**Genealogical Index Rhode Island Records** by Frank T. Calef. This is a card index to Rhode Island town vital records, freeman lists, cemetery burials, colonial censuses, and other records. It was microfilmed in 1950 at the Rhode Island Historical Society and is at the Family History Library (FHL films 022431-72). It is listed in the Family History Library Catalog under RHODE ISLAND - VITAL RECORDS - INDEXES.

**Briggs Collection** by Anthony Tarbox Briggs. This large collection is at the Rhode Island Historical Society. It contains typed transcripts of wills, cemetery records, vital records, and family records for families from the towns of West Greenwich, Exeter, and Coventry. The volumes and an index were microfilmed in 1950 (FHL films 022293-317).

**Collection Rhode Island Family Records** by Martha A. Benns. This is a collection of will abstracts and family records at the Rhode Island Historical Society. The Family History Library has a microfilm copy (FHL film 022423) and the index (FHL film 022392).

Many additional collections, some of which are listed in the Family History Library Catalog, are described in *Rhode Island Sources for Family Historians and Genealogists* (see the “For Further Reading” section of this outline).

## Published Genealogies and Indexes

Many genealogies have been researched and published for the colonial states. Names of the earliest immigrants and settlers have been identified. Examples of numerous published sources are:

Austin, John Osborne. *The Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island: Comprising Three Generations of Settlers Who Came Before 1690* (with Many Families Carried to the Fourth Generation). Reprint with additions and corrections. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978. (FHL book Q 974.5 D26a 1978; 1887 ed. on film 022257; index on film 022258.)

Cutter, William Richard. *New England Families: Genealogical and Memorial*. 4 vols. 1913. Reprinted and enlarged. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1914. (FHL book 974 D2c 1913; films 164686-89; and FHL book 974 D2c 1914; films 962340-41; fiche 6051510-12.) A surname index to this and other series by Cutter relating to New England is Norma Olin Ireland and Winifred Irving, *Cutter Index: A Consolidated Index of Cutter's Nine Genealogy Series* (Fallbrook, Calif.: Ireland Indexing Service, 197?; FHL book 974 D2ci; film 1036507 item 6; fiche 6046737).

*Genealogies of Rhode Island Families: From Rhode Island Periodicals*. 2 vols. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983. (FHL book 974.5 D2g.) This indexes six periodicals.

Greenlaw, William Prescott. *The Greenlaw Index of the New England Historic Genealogical Society*. 2 vols. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1979. (FHL book Q 974 D22g.) This is an index to many local histories and genealogies published between 1900 and about 1940.

New England Historic Genealogical Society. *English Origins of New England Families: From the New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. First Series, 3 vols., 1984. Second Series, 3 vols., 1985. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. (FHL book 974 D2e; fiche 6047919-21; second series 974 D2en; fiche 6047922-24.)

Rider, Fremont, ed. *American Genealogical-Biographical Index*. Vols. 1-186+. Middletown, Conn.: Godfrey Memorial Library, 1952-. (FHL book 973 D22am.) This is a continuing series. As of 1997, surnames A-Walker have been indexed. An earlier version in 48 volumes was published as *The American Genealogical Index*, 1942-51. (FHL book 973 D22am; films 1425577-86.)

Savage, James. *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England*. . . . 4 vols. 1860-62. Reprint with added cross-index. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1965. (FHL book 974 D2s; film 1321056 items 1-4.)

## HISTORY

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The following important events in the history of Rhode Island affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements:

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1636 | Religious dissenters from Massachusetts founded Providence. Settlements soon followed at Portsmouth, Newport, and Warwick. Each town kept deed, probate, and vital records. |
| 1663 | A royal charter created the United Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.   |

1747	Rhode Island gained the towns of Bristol, Little Compton, Tiverton, and Warren from Massachusetts.
1790	Rhode Island was the last of the original thirteen colonies to ratify the Constitution and become a state.
1830s-1840s	As the factory system developed, thousands of foreign laborers began moving into Rhode Island.
1861-1865	During the Civil War, 25,000 men from Rhode Island served in the Union armed forces.
1862	Rhode Island gained the town of East Providence and part of the town of Pawtucket from Massachusetts. Massachusetts received Fall River, which earlier had been the northern part of Tiverton.

A helpful source for studying the history of Rhode Island is Edward Field, ed., *State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations at the End of the Century*, 3 vols. (Boston: Mason Publishing Co, 1902; FHL book 974.5 H2f; film 1033776; fiche 6046716).

A bibliography of local histories for Rhode Island is in Roger Parks, ed., *Rhode Island: A Bibliography of Its History* (Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 1983; FHL book 974.5 H23r).

## LAND AND PROPERTY

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### Colony Records

The earliest land grants were made by the colony. The records of these grants are known as "land evidences." The original documents are at the Rhode Island State Archives. Land evidences for 1648 to 1696 have also been published in Dorothy Worthington, *Rhode Island Land Evidences*, 1921, Reprint (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1970; FHL 1921 ed. on film 564389; index on FHL film 022254).

Some land transfers and grants are recorded in the proceedings of the general assembly, 1646 to 1851. These are at the Rhode Island State Archives and at the Family History Library on 18 microfilms.

### Proprietors' Records

In the colonial period, the general assembly granted land to groups of colonists who became the proprietors of the town. These proprietors divided the land into portions owned by individuals and portions owned in common. The proprietors, in turn, sold land

to other individuals. The proprietors' records begin as early as 1659 for the Narragansett area (southern Rhode Island). Transcripts of some of the records, 1659 to 1686, are in James N. Arnold, *The Records of the Proprietors of the Narragansett* (Providence: Narragansett Historical Publishing, 1894; FHL film 1033805 item 2).

## **Town Records**

After proprietors sold their land or a town was incorporated, the town recorded deeds and mortgages. The Family History Library has copies of the town records to about 1880. From the Providence Recorder of Deeds, for example, the library has 218 microfilms of deeds and mortgages for the years 1677 to 1901. Documents from the town of Providence and other early settlements have been published in many volumes.

## **MAPS**

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The Rhode Island Historical Society's map collection is very extensive. The Family History Library has a few maps, including some of the colonial era and early plantations.

A helpful atlas is Marion I. Wright and Robert J. Sullivan, *The Rhode Island Atlas* (Providence: Rhode Island Publication Society, 1982; FHL book 974.5 E6w).

Atlases with Rhode Island maps for the years 1790, 1810, 1823, 1838, 1857, 1862, 1878, 1884, and 1917 are on FHL film 002083.

## **MILITARY RECORDS**

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The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

Many military records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more information about the federal records. For Rhode Island, the following sources are also very helpful:

### **Colonial Wars (1731-1774)**

Published rosters of soldiers include:



Chapin, Howard. M. *A List of Rhode Island Soldiers and Sailors in King George's War: 1740-1748*. Providence: Rhode Island Historical Society, 1920. (FHL book 974.5 M2ch; film 1425647 item 11.)

Chapin, Howard M. *Rhode Island in the Colonial Wars; A List of Rhode Island Soldiers and Sailors in the Old French and Indian War 1755-1762*. Providence: Rhode Island Historical Society, 1918. (FHL book 974.5 M2c; film 1425576 item 5.)

The Rhode Island Historical Society has additional military records of soldiers who served from 1731 to 1774 (FHL films 953925-30).

### **Revolutionary War (1775-1783)**

The Family History Library and the National Archives have the federal service and pension records and indexes for the Revolutionary War. The Rhode Island Historical Society also has military papers for 1774 to 1792 (FHL film 953931-37; 954925-55).

A published roster of soldiers is in Benjamin Crowell, *Spirit of '76 in Rhode Island*. . . . (Boston: A. J. Wright, 1850; FHL book 974.5 M2cbe; fiche 6046885). An index is in volume 12 of *Vital Records of Rhode Island* (see the “Vital Records” section of this outline). This volume also lists officers and pensioners living in 1820, 1835, and 1840 (FHL book 974.5 V2a; film 908273 item 2; fiche 6046912).

### **War of 1812 (1812-1815)**

The Family History Library has copies of the National Archives federal service and pension indexes. The library also has state military papers that include some enlistment certificates for soldiers (FHL films 954957-58).

### **Civil War (1861-1865)**

Indexes to service (FHL films 821940-46) and pension records of Union army soldiers are on film at the Family History Library. The service and pension records are available only at the National Archives.

A published roster of soldiers is in Rhode Island Adjutant General, *Annual Report of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations For the Year 1865*, 1866, Revised, 2 vols. (Providence: E. L. Freeman, 1893-95; FHL book 974.5 M2ri; film 982363; fiche 6046949; 1866 ed. on film 908721). This includes each soldier's residence, his date of enlistment, his dates of muster-in and muster-out, and regimental sketches.

### **World War I (1917-1918)**

World War I draft registration cards for men age 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for Rhode Island, see:

United States. Selective Service System. *Rhode Island, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1509. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987-1988. (On FHL films beginning with 1852212.)

To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board; large cities had several. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities. Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. There is an alphabetical list of cities that are on the map. For a copy of this map, see:

United States. Selective Service System. *List of World War One Draft Board Maps*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives. (FHL film 1498803.)

## **Additional Military Records**

The Rhode Island State Archives has a card index to military and naval records for the years 1774 to 1805. The Family History Library has a copy on 19 microfilms (FHL films 934758-74 and 1000369).

State records from the World War I to the present are at the Adjutant General's Office, Command Readiness Center, 645 New London Ave., Cranston, RI 02920- 3097, Telephone: 401-457-4102, Fax: 401-457-4338.

## **NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP**

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Naturalization records have been filed in the town, county, and district courts. Papers filed since 1729 are often found in the records of the superior courts of judicature and courts of common pleas. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of some files, including declarations from Newport County (1888 to 1905) and Washington County (1881 to 1900).

New England naturalization records for 1791 to 1906 were copied and indexed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the late 1930s. Some of the records are more recent than 1906. The index gives the name and location of the court, the date of naturalization, and the volume and page number (or certificate number) of the

naturalization record. The copies and index are at the National Archives—New England Region. The National Archives in Washington, D.C., and the Family History Library have microfilm copies of the index (FHL films 1429709-16).

The National Archives—New England Region also has records of the:

- U.S. District Court (1842-44, 1888-1945)
- U.S. Circuit Court (1846-84, 1893-1906)

If you need naturalization records after September 1906, contact the National Archives—New England Region or a federal office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

## NEWSPAPERS

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Rhode Island's first newspaper was published in 1732. The Rhode Island Historical Society has copies of virtually all newspapers published in the state. They have some newspaper indexes. The Family History Library has not acquired copies of Rhode Island newspapers.

Marriage and death notices for 1758 to 1833 from several major Rhode Island newspapers have been published in volumes 12 to 21 of James N. Arnold, *Vital Records of Rhode Island 1636-1850* (see the “Vital Records” section of this outline). There are surname indexes in most of the volumes.

For additional indexes, see *A Guide to Newspaper Indexes in New England* ([Holden, Mass.]: New England Library Association, 1978; FHL book 974 B32n; fiche 6051391).

## PERIODICALS

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The major periodicals and magazines helpful for Rhode Island research are:

*The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. 1847-. Published by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116. (FHL book 974 B2ne; compact disc 33 pt. 1-9; some volumes are on film.) There are cumulative indexes to 1994 in book form and on compact disc.

*Rhode Island Genealogical Register*. 1978-. Published by the Rhode Island Families Association, P.O. Box 585, East Princeton, MA 01517. (FHL book 974.5 D2ri.)

**Rhode Island History**. 1942-. Published by the Rhode Island Historical Society, 110 Benevolent Street, Providence, RI 02906. (FHL book 974.5 H25ri.)

**Rhode Island Roots**. 1973-. Published by the Rhode Island Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 433, Greenville, RI 02828. (FHL book 974.5 D25r.)

## PROBATE RECORDS

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Probate matters were recorded by town councils until each town established a probate court. Many of the published town records include references to wills and estate matters.

An excellent index to a large number of Rhode Island wills to about 1850 is Robert S. Wakefield, *Index to Wills in Rhode Island Genealogical Register, Volumes 1 through 4* (Warwick, R.I.: Plymouth Colony Research Group, 1982; FHL book 974.5 D2ri index). The *Rhode Island Genealogical Register* (see the “Periodicals” section of this outline) continues to publish abstracts of wills.

The probate records of Providence, 1670 to 1730, have been published (see the “Town Records” section of this outline). Also see Frank Calef’s index to Providence probate records of 1663 to 1775 (FHL film 022385).

The general council, also known as the Council of Probate, kept minutes and documents dealing with probate appeals for the years 1667 to 1813 (FHL films 954936-37).

You can obtain copies of the original court records by contacting the town clerk. Addresses of the town clerks are listed in ***Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*** (see the “For Further Reading” section of this outline). The Family History Library has microfilm copies of many of these records. They are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under RHODE ISLAND, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - PROBATE RECORDS. From the municipal courts of Providence, for example, the library has 39 films of probate proceedings (1798-1920), will books (1678-1899), and dockets and indexes (1646-1921).

## TAXATION

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Some tax lists are in the town records, and many are at the Rhode Island State Archives.

## TOWN RECORDS

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In New England, the town clerk is the local record keeper. The earliest records are called proprietors' records. Town records generally begin with the founding of a town and are kept to the present.

Town records may contain records of births, marriages, burials, cemeteries, appointments, earmarks, estrays (records of stray animals), freemen's oaths (men becoming eligible to vote), land records, mortgages, name changes, care of the poor, school records, surveys, tax lists, town meeting minutes, voter registrations, and "warnings out" (of town).

The Family History Library has microfilms of town council and town meeting records for most Rhode Island towns. These generally date from the settlement of the town to the 1880s. Some records have been transcribed and published, such as *The Early Records of the Town of Providence*, 21 vols. (Providence: Snow and Farnham, City Printers, 1892-1915; FHL book 974.52 N2p; on 8 films beginning with film 418109).

Related sources are:

*Certificates for Deputies and Freemen of Rhode Island Towns, 1663 to 1778* (FHL films 953922-24) and an index (FHL films 934806 item 2 and 934807-8) are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under RHODE ISLAND - OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES.

Pierce, Ebenezer Weaver. *Civil, Military and Professional Lists of Plymouth and Rhode Island Colonies: Comprising Colonial, County, and Town Officers, Clergymen, Physicians and Lawyers*. . . . 1881. Reprint. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1968. (FHL book 974 M2p; film 897454; fiche 6046832.)

Smith, Joseph Jencks. *Civil and Military Lists of Rhode Island*. 2 vols. Providence: Preston and Rounds, 1901. (FHL book 974.5 N2s; films 925437-38; fiche 6046905.)

## VITAL RECORDS

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### Town Records of Births, Marriages, and Deaths

Records of births, marriages, and deaths have been kept by town clerks since the 1630s. In 1700 the laws concerning vital records registration were made more specific, and the records after that time are more complete.

An index to many pre-1850 births and marriages in Rhode Island is the *International Genealogical Index* found at the Family History Library and Family History Centers. Also use compiled collections and indexes, such as Calef's and others described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. Town minutes and land evidences sometimes also give vital statistics information.

Many vital records have been published in genealogical periodicals and other sources, including:

Arnold, James N. *Vital Records of Rhode Island 1636-1850; A Family Register for the People*. 21 vols. Providence: Narragansett Historical Publishing, 1891-1912. (FHL book 974.5 V2a; on films beginning with film 908269; fiche 6046912.) The town records that are indexed in this collection are listed in *Genealogical Research in New England*, p. 175-78 (see the "For Further Reading" section of this outline).

Beaman, Alden G. *Vital Records of Rhode Island, New Series*. vols. 1-. Princeton, Mass.: publisher varies, 1975-. (FHL book 974.5 V2b.) This contains abstracts of probate, cemetery, marriage, death, and other records that give evidence of vital information for Kent, Newport, and Washington counties.

Snow, Edwin M., and Charles V. Chapin. *Alphabetical Index of the Births, Marriages and Deaths Recorded in Providence*. 32 vols. Providence: publisher varies, 1879-[1946]. This includes records for 1636 to 1945. (The library has vols. 1-25, 27, 29-32; FHL book 974.52 V2p; on films beginning with film 547197 item 3; fiche 6051317.)

A collection of pre-1700 marriage records in New England was compiled by Clarence Torrey. The New England Historic Genealogical Society has the original manuscript collection. The Family History Library has a film copy. An index to the marriages is Clarence Almon Torrey, *New England Marriages Prior to 1700* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985; FHL book 974 V2t; film 1320548 item 14). *Films 929494-500* have Mr. Torrey's source notes. A supplement has been published, Melinda Lutz Sanborn, *Supplement to Torrey's Marriages Prior to 1700* (FHL book 974 V2T supp.).

The Family History Library has an extensive collection of pre-1900 Rhode Island town vital records. For example, 19 microfilms from the city registrar of Providence include birth, marriage, and death records (1698-1879) and indexes (1636-1900). These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under RHODE ISLAND, PROVIDENCE, PROVIDENCE - VITAL RECORDS. You can also write to the town clerks for information.

## **State Records of Births, Marriages, and Deaths**

Statewide registration of births, marriages, and deaths began in January 1853 and, by 1915, was generally complied with. The Family History Library has not obtained copies of the state records.

Copies of marriage and death records from 1853 to 1964 are available at the Rhode Island State Records Center. All birth, marriage, and death records since 1853 are at:

Rhode Island Department of Health

Vital Records

#3 Capitol Hill Rm 101

Providence RI 02908-5097

Telephone 401-277-2812

The current fees for obtaining copies of the state's records are listed in *Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces* (Hyattsville, Md.: U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993; FHL book 973 V24wv). Copies of this booklet are at the library and many Family History Centers. You can also write to the Division of Vital Statistics for current information. Members of an incorporated genealogical society may view and copy the records.

## **Divorce Records**

Early divorce records were recorded in the supreme court records. Divorce records 1905 to present are at:

Clerk of Family Court

1 Dorrance Plaza

Providence, RI 02903

Telephone: 401-458-3200

## **Inventory of Vital Records**

The history and availability of vital records is described in *Guide to the Public Vital Statistics Records: Births, Marriages, Deaths, in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations* (Providence: Historical Records Survey, 1941; FHL book 974.5 V2h; film 982351; fiche 6046673).

## **FOR FURTHER READING**

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For more detailed information about research and records in Rhode Island, see:

Crandall, Ralph J., ed. *Genealogical Research in New England*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1984. (FHL book 974 D27gr.)

Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created.

Farnham, Charles W. *Rhode Island Colonial Records*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society, 1969. (FHL book 929.1 W893 I25; film 897217 item 23; fiche 6039409.)

New England Library Association. *A Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*. Rev. ed. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1993. (FHL book 974 D27g 1993; the 1981 edition is on fiche 6051401.)

Sperry, Kip. *Rhode Island Sources for Family Historians and Genealogists*. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1986. (FHL book 974.5 D23s.)

## COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

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The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

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Family History Library  
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Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400  
USA

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

Paper publication: Second edition July 1997. English approval: 7/97.



## Rhode Island Historical Background

### History

Effective family research requires some understanding of the historical events that may have affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, governments, laws, migrations, and religious trends may help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns. These events may have led to the creation of records that your family was listed in, such as land and military documents.

The following important events in the history of Rhode Island affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements:

1636	Religious dissenters from Massachusetts founded Providence. Settlements soon followed at Portsmouth, Newport, and Warwick. Each town kept deed, probate, and vital records.
1663	A royal charter created the United Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.
1747	Rhode Island gained the towns of Bristol, Little Compton, Tiverton, and Warren from Massachusetts.
1790	Rhode Island was the last of the original thirteen colonies to ratify the Constitution and become a state.
1830s-1840s	As the factory system developed, thousands of foreign laborers began moving into Rhode Island.
1861-1865	During the Civil War, 25,000 men from Rhode Island served in the Union armed forces.
1862	Rhode Island gained the town of East Providence and part of the town of Pawtucket from Massachusetts. Massachusetts received Fall River, which earlier had been the northern part of Tiverton.
1898	Over 300,000 men were involved in the Spanish-American War, which was fought mainly in Cuba and the Philippines.
1917–1918	More than 26 million men from the United States ages 18 through 45 registered with the Selective Service for World War I, and over 4.7 million American men and women served during the war.
1930s	The Great Depression closed many factories and mills. Many small farms were abandoned, and many families moved to cities.
1940–1945	Over 50.6 million men ages 18 to 65 registered with the Selective Service. Over 16.3 million American men and women served in the armed forces during World War II.
1950–1953	Over 5.7 million American men and women served in the Korean War.
1950s–1960s	The building of interstate highways made it easier for people to move long distances.
1964–1972	Over 8.7 million American men and women served in the Vietnam War.

Your ancestors will become more interesting to you if you also use histories to learn about the events that were of interest to them or that they may have been involved in. For example, by using a history you might learn about the events that occurred in the year your great-grandparents were married.

## Historical Sources

You may find state or local histories in the Family History Library Catalog under Rhode Island or the county or the town. For descriptions of records available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. The descriptions give book or film numbers, which you need to find or to order the records.

## Local Histories

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. Published histories of towns, counties, and states usually contain accounts of families. They describe the settlement of the area and the founding of churches, schools, and businesses. You can also find lists of pioneers, soldiers, and civil officials. Even if your ancestor is not listed, information on other relatives may be included that will provide important clues for locating your ancestor. A local history may also suggest other records to search.

Most county and town histories include separate sections or volumes containing biographical information. These may include information on 50 percent or more of the families in the locality.

In addition, local histories should be studied and enjoyed for the background information they can provide about your family's lifestyle and the community and environment in which your family lived.

About 5,000 county histories have been published for over 80 percent of the counties in the United States. For many counties there is more than one history. In addition, tens of thousands of histories have been written about local towns and communities. Bibliographies that list these histories are available for nearly every state.

For descriptions of bibliographies for Rhode Island available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. Look under BIBLIOGRAPHY or HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY.

A bibliography of local histories for Rhode Island is in Roger Parks, ed., *Rhode Island: A Bibliography of Its History* (Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 1983; FHL book 974.5 H23r).

Local histories are extensively collected by the Family History Library, public and university libraries, and state and local historical societies. Two useful guides are:

Filby, P. William. *A Bibliography of American County Histories*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1985. (FHL book 973 H23bi.)

Kaminkow, Marion J. *United States Local Histories in the Library of Congress*. 5 vols. Baltimore: Magna Charta Book, 1975-76. (FHL book 973 A3ka.)

## State History

A helpful source for studying the history of Rhode Island is Edward Field, ed., *State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations at the End of the Century*, 3 vols. (Boston: Mason Publishing Co, 1902; FHL book 974.5 H2f; film 1033776; fiche 6046716).

## United States History

The following are only a few of the many sources that are available at most large libraries:

Schlesinger, Jr., Arthur M. *The Almanac of American History*. Greenwich, Conn.: Bison Books, 1983. (FHL book 973 H2alm.) This provides brief historical essays and chronological descriptions of thousands of key events in United States history.

*Webster's Guide to American History: A Chronological, Geographical, and Biographical Survey and Compendium*. Springfield, Mass.: G&C Merriam, 1971. (FHL book 973 H2v.) This includes a history, some maps, tables, and other historical information.

*Dictionary of American History*, Revised ed., 8 vols. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. (FHL book 973 H2ad.) This includes historical sketches on various topics in U.S. history, such as wars, people, laws, and organizations.



Family History Library • 35 North West Temple Street • Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400 USA

## Rhode Island Statewide Indexes and Collections

### Introduction

In the United States, information about your ancestors is often found in town and county records. If you know which state but not the town or county your ancestor lived in, check the following statewide indexes to find the town or county. Then search records for that town or county.

The indexes and collections listed below index various sources of information, such as histories, vital records, biographies, tax lists, immigration records, etc. You may find additional information about your ancestor other than the town or county of residence. The listings may contain:

- The author and title of the source.
- The Family History Library (FHL) book, film, fiche, or compact disc number. If the words *beginning with* appear before the film number, check the Family History Library Catalog for additional films.
- The name of the repository where the source can be found if the source is not available at the Family History Library.

### What You Are Looking For

- Your ancestor's name in an index or collection.
- Where the ancestor was living.

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## Steps

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These 2 steps will help you find information about your ancestor in statewide indexes or collections.

### Step 1. Find your ancestor's name in statewide indexes or collections.

On the list below, if your ancestor lived between the years shown on the left, he or she may be listed in the source.

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1600-present | <a href="#"><i>Ancestral File</i></a><br><a href="#"><i>International Genealogical Index</i></a><br><a href="#"><i>Family History Library Catalog - Surname Search</i></a><br>To see these files, click here.                   |
| 1600-1920s   | Filby, P. William, ed. <a href="#"><i>Passenger and Immigration Lists Index</i></a> . . . (FHL book 973 W32p & supplements; films beginning with 1597960 item 4.) An excellent source for finding information about immigrants. |
| 1600-1989    | Parker, J. Carlyle. <i>Rhode Island Biographical and Genealogical Sketch Index</i> . (FHL book 974.5 D32p.) A very important index to biographical sketches and genealogies. About 19,500 names.                                |

- 1600-1720 Austin, John Osborne. *The Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island: Comparing Three Generations of Settlers Who Came Before 1690 (With Many Families Carried to the Fourth Generation)*. (FHL book 974.5 D26a, 1969; film 22257.) The film has the 1887 edition. The 1978 edition has more information but is not on microfilm. The names are indexed in Parker's book, listed above. Has information on 3 or 4 generations. About 2,000 names.
- 1600-1700 Torrey, Clarence Almon. *New England Marriages Prior to 1700*. (FHL book 974 V2t; film 1320548 item 14.) Lists 17th century marriages of colonial New England with residence, name of wife, and approximate date of marriage. Films 929494-500 list the original data and have source notes; see Alicia Williams' book below for sources. By following up the sources on the films, you might find information on a family as late as 1960. About 60,000 names.
- 1600-1700 Sanborn, Melinde Lutz. *Supplement to Torrey's New England Marriages Prior to 1700*. (FHL book 974 V2t, supp.) About 1,360 names.
- 1600-1700 Sanborn, Melinde Lutz. *Second Supplement to Torrey's New England Marriages Prior to 1700*. (FHL book 974 V2t, supp. 2.)
- 1600-1700 Williams, Alicia. *Torrey Bibliography [Key to Reference Abbreviations in the Original Manuscript, New England Marriages Prior to 1700 by Clarence Almon Torrey]*. (FHL book 974 V23w.) Alphabetical listing of Torrey's source notes indicating title, author(s), publication dates, and manuscript titles.
- 1600-present *Periodical Source Index (PERSI)* lists records (by place or surname) that were published in genealogical magazines or periodicals. This resource should not be overlooked. It is available on the Internet through Ancestry.com. (FHL book 973 D25 per, various combined indexes and, annual supplements; fiche 6016863, 6016864; compact disc no. 61.)
- 1600-1700 Colket, Meredith B. *Founders of Early American Families: Emigrants from Europe, 1607-1657*. (FHL book 973 D2cmb 1985.) Lists emigrants from Europe to the colonies in the first 50 years. Gives names, dates, brief information, and sources. By looking at the sources, you might find family genealogies as late as 1984. About 3,000 names.
- 1600-1900 *Index to American Genealogies* . . . (FHL book 973 D22m 1900; film 599811 items 2-3; fiche 6051301.) Film 599811 item 3 has a supplement for 1900-1908. Indexes genealogies, and town, and county histories. About 55,000 names.
- 1600-1850 Wakefield, Robert S. *Index to Wills in Rhode Island Genealogical Register, Volumes 1 through 4, 1636-1850*. (FHL book 974.5 D2ri index.) This book indexes the wills, family articles, and town records in vols. 1-15. About 11,000 names.
- 1600-1899 Providence (Rhode Island). Court of Probate. *Probate Records, 1646-1899*. (FHL films 915020 has index and 915254-58 has vols. 1-14.) About 35,000 names.
- 1600-1775 Calef, Frank T. *The Providence Probate Records to 1775 with Index*. (FHL film 22385.) Abstracts of wills, vols. 1-6. About 2,300 names.
- 1600-1940 Rider, Fremont, ed. *American Genealogical-Biographical Index to American Genealogical, Biographical, and Local History Materials*. (FHL book 973 D22am ser. 2, vols. 1-189+; on films beginning with 1698167.) A major index to compiled genealogies of New England. Volumes for surnames A-W are complete at this time. See item below for surnames T-Z. For FHL call numbers, see the *Key Title Index to the American Genealogical-Biographical Index* (FHL book 973 D22am Index; film 1698167 item 4; fiche 6088377). About one million names.

- 1600-1940 Rider, Fremont, ed. *The American Genealogical Index*. (FHL book 973 D22am; 10 films beginning with 1425577.) This was the first American Genealogical Index series and was supplanted by the expanded *American Genealogical-Biographical Index* mentioned above. Has surnames A-Z.
- 1600-1984 Worden, Jean D. *American Genealogist Index to Subjects in Volumes 1-60*. (FHL book 973 D25ga.) This is an index to names in volumes 1-60.
- 1600-1880 Calef, Frank T. *Genealogical Index Rhode Island Records*. (FHL films 022431-472.) This indexes birth, marriage, and death records in Arnold's *Vital Records of Rhode Island, 1636-1850*, listed below, and many other sources. About 24,000 names.
- 1600-1850 Arnold, James N. *Vital Records of Rhode Island, 1636-1850: A Family Register of the People*. (FHL book 974.5 V2a, vols. 1-21; films beginning with 908269; fiche 6046912.) Many of these volumes have town and church records of births, marriages, and deaths. Records are by town and are indexed or alphabetical for each town. Vols. 12-21 have marriage and death notices, 1758-1833. For an index, see Frank Calef source above. About 533,000 names.
- 1600-1750 Bowen, Richard LeBaron. *Index to the Early Records of the Town of Providence Volumes I-XXI: Containing Also a Summary of the Contents of the Volumes and an Appendix of Documented Research Data to Date on Providence and Other Early Seventeenth Century Rhode Island Families*. (FHL book 974.52 N2p index; fiche 6051222.) Has town meeting records; some birth, marriage, and death records; and deeds, 1643-1750. About 5,000 names.
- 1600-1900 Ireland, Norma Olin. *Cutter Index: A Consolidated Index of Cutter's 9 Genealogy Series*. (FHL book 974 D22i; film 1036507, item 6; fiche 6046737.) Two of Cutter's series are listed below. About 3,100 surnames.
- 1600-1913 Cutter, William R. *New England Families, Genealogical and Memorial: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of Commonwealths and the Founding of a Nation*. (FHL book 974 D2c 1913, vols. 1-4; films beginning with 164686.) Contains genealogical, personal, and ancestral history of prominent New England families. Well-indexed. Also, see the index above.
- 1600-1914 Cutter, William R. *New England Families, Genealogical and Memorial: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of Commonwealths and the Founding of a Nation*. (FHL book 974 D2c 1914, vols. 1-4; films beginning with 962340; fiche 6051510-12.) Contains genealogical, personal, and ancestral history of prominent New England families. Well indexed. Also see the index above.
- 1600-1940 Bennis, Charles P. *Index of Rhode Island Grave Records, 1931-1941*. (FHL film 22392 item 1.) About 26,000 names.
- 1600-1940 Bennis, Martha A. *Index to the Rhode Island Family Records*. (FHL film 22392 item 1.) This indexes the Charles P. and Martha A. Bennis genealogical collection, which is on film 22424. About 16,000 names.
- 1600-1792 Bartlett, John R. *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England*. (FHL book 974.5 N29r, vols. 1-10; films beginning with 496842.) Has Rhode Island court records (1636-1670) and town records (1636-1792). About 3,000 names.
- 1600-1950 *Catalogue of the Rhode Island Historical Society Genealogical Records*. (FHL films 22425-426.) A typed card index to genealogies, periodicals, and local histories. Alphabetical by surname and, sometimes, individual names. About 3,800 names.



- 1600-1940 Greenlaw, William Prescott. *The Greenlaw Index of the New England Historic Genealogical Society*. (FHL book Q 974 D22g vols. 1-2.) A published card index for books printed after 1900 with three generations of information. About 34,500 names.
- 1600-1930 *Genealogies of Rhode Island Families: From Rhode Island Periodicals*. (FHL book 974.5 D2gr vols. 1-2.) The volumes are indexed separately and contain genealogies with names, dates, and places from various periodicals.
- 1600-1980 *DAR Records Card Index*. (Not at FHL.) At the Rhode Island Historical Society, 121 Hope St., Providence, RI 02906. You can write and request a search.
- 1600-1970 Kirkham, E. Kay. *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States: 45,500 References as Taken from the Microfilm of the Genealogical Society of Utah*. (FHL book 973 D22kk, vol. 2; fiche 6089184.) Indexes the source below by surname. About 145 R.I. references and 3,300 for New England.
- 1600-1970 Daughters of the American Revolution, Rhode Island. *Genealogical Collections*. (On 23 FHL films beginning with 855238.) Has reports for 1926-1972. Indexed in the two sources above. Includes genealogies, wills, church and Bible records, marriages, deaths, and cemetery records.
- 1600-1970 Field, Edward. *State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations at the End of the Century: A History Illustrated With Maps, Facsimiles of Old Plates and Paintings and Photographs of Ancient Landmarks*. (FHL book 974.5 H2f, vols. 1-3; film 1033776; fiche 6046716.) Includes town, military, educational, medical histories, etc. About 1,000 names in each volume.
- 1600-1696 Worthington, Dorothy. *Index to Rhode Island Land Evidences Vol. 1, 1648-1696: Abstracts*. (FHL film 564389.) A detailed index by Genevieve N. Dougine is on film 22254. About 1,000 names.
- 1600-1686 Arnold, James N. *The Records of the Proprietors of the Narragansett: Otherwise Called the Fones Record*. (FHL film 1033805 item 2.) Land records. About 1,000 names.
- 1600-1813 Rhode Island Court of Equity. *Court Records 1741-1743*. (FHL film 954936 item 2.) Includes an index for 1667-1753. Has court records, petitions, appeals, etc. About 500 names.
- 1600-1778 *Deputies and Freeman Index, 1664-1778 [i.e. 1806]*. (FHL films 934806 item 2, and 934808.) (Films 953922-924 have the certificates.) This is a valuable source for locating ancestors in this period. About 10,000 names.
- 1600-1700 Peirce, Ebenezer W. *Civil, Military and Professional Lists of Plymouth and Rhode Island Colonies: Comprising Colonial, County, and Town Officers, Clergymen, Physicians and Lawyers With Extracts From Colonial Laws Defining Their Duties 1621-1700*. (FHL book 974 M2p; film 897454; fiche 6046832.) About 1,000 names.
- 1600-1750 *English Origins of New England Families: From the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, First Series*. Selected by Gary Boyd Roberts. (FHL book 974 D2e, vols. 1-3; fiche 6047919-921.) About 50,000 names.
- 1600-1750 *English Origins of New England Families: From the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Second Series*. Selected by Gary Boyd Roberts. (FHL book 974 D2en, vols. 1-3; fiche 6047922-24.) About 64,000 names.

- 1600-1774 Smith, Joseph Jencks. *New Index to the Civil and Military Lists of Rhode Island: Two Volumes in One, Giving Christian and Family Names, Arranged Alphabetically, Also Additional Indexes of Both Volumes.* (FHL book 974.5 N2s index; film 925437 item 2; fiche 6046904.) This indexes the book mentioned below. About 20,000 names.
- 1600-1774 Smith, Joseph Jencks. *Civil and Military Lists of Rhode Island.* (FHL book 974.5 N2s, vols. 1-2; films 925437 item 3 and 925438; fiche 6046905.) A thorough index to volumes 1 and 2 is in the book noted above. About 20,000 names.
- 1600-1945 *Alphabetical Index of the Births, Marriages and Deaths Recorded in Providence.* (FHL book 974.52 V2p, vols. 1-32; films beginning with 547197; fiche 6051317.) Has birth, marriage, and death records, 1636-1945. Some are partial lists. About 200,000 names.
- 1600-present *Rhode Island History.* (FHL book 974.5 H25ri.) A periodical containing biographies and histories. Write to the Rhode Island Historical Society, 121 Hope St., Providence, RI 02906 for search of index.
- 1600-1730, some to 1760s Savage, James. *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England Showing Three Generations of Those Who Came Before May 1692, on the Basis of Farmers Register.* (FHL book 974 D2s, vols. 1-4; films 496426 item 3, 496427, and 496428 item 1.) Contains the names of three generations of the descendants of those who came before 1692. About 3,000 names.
- 1600-1982 Fiske, Jane Fletcher, "Genealogical Research in Rhode Island," in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register.* (FHL book 974 B2ne.) Vol. 136, July 1982, pp. 210-219 has references to books about 100 of the older Rhode Island families.
- 1600-1732 Anderson, Robert Charles. *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633.* (FHL book 974 W2a vols.1-3.) These volumes contain well-documented research about the very early settlers of New England. There is also a *Great Migration Newsletter.* (FHL book 974.461 D25g.)
- 1600-1950 Briggs, Anthony Tarbox. *Briggs Collection of Cemetery Records, Wills, and Record Books of Genealogy.* . . . (FHL films 22293-299 have index; 22304-317 have volumes A-W.) About 30,000 names.
- 1600-1990 Providence Public Library. *Rhode Island Index.* (Not at FHL.) At the Providence Public Library, 150 Empire St., Providence, RI 029903. Indexes Providence newspapers, periodicals, histories, etc.
- 1600-1900 *Representative Men and Old Families of Rhode Island: Genealogical Records and Historical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens and of Many of the Old Families.* (FHL book 974.5 D3r, vols.1-3; films 982090-91 item 2.) An excellent source about many older families. Well-indexed. About 4,000 names.
- 1600-1775 Roberts, Gary Boyd. *Genealogies of Mayflower Families From the New England Historical and Genealogical Register.* (FHL book Ref. 974.4 D2gm, vols.1-3.) Contains compiled genealogies and notes on Mayflower families. The volumes are indexed separately. About 59,400 names.
- 1600-1900 *The Mayflower Descendant: A Quarterly Magazine of Pilgrim Genealogy and History.* (FHL book 974.4 D25md beginning with vols.1; films beginning with 1,250.) Information on Mayflower passengers and their descendants. See index to vols. 1-34, cumulative indexes, and annual indexes. About 156,600 names.



- 1600-present General Society of Colonial Wars. (Providence, Rhode Island). *Lineage Records, no. 1-14199, 1607-1967; Supplemental Records 1-13850, 1607-1976; Register of Members*. (FHL films 528690-694 have the Index of Ancestors.) These are records of soldiers in wars before 1775. The Family History Library has the members' applications to about the year 1967, and they have well documented information. The records have information on many generations in each lineage.
- 1600-1986 Sherman, Ruth Wilder. *Lineages of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Rhode Island*. . . (FHL book 974.5 D2L, vols.1-2.) About 9,200 names.
- 1600-1994 *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. (FHL book 974 B2ne; films beginning with 599167; compact disc no. 33 pts.1-9.) Discs 1-9 contain the periodical 1847-1994; disc 9 has an index. For indexes in book form see below.
- 1600-1896 Rayne, Josephine E. *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. (FHL book 974 B2ne index, vols.1-50.) Another version is on films 845443 items 2-3 and 845444. See source below, which indexes vols. 51-148. About 285,000 names.
- 1600-1994 *Index of Persons, Volumes 51-148, The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. (FHL book 974 B2ne index, vols. 51-148.) About 400,000 names.
- 1600-1691 Stratton, Eugene Aubrey. *Plymouth Colony: It's History and People, 1620-1691*. (FHL book 974.4 H2s.) Has biographical sketches of persons who were alive at the time of the 1634 tax list. About 3,600 names.
- 1600-present Beaman, Alden G., ed. *Rhode Island Genealogical Register*. (FHL book 974.5 D2r1 1986, vols.1-2.) This contains a wealth of information for most counties. See indexes.
- 1600-1860 Beaman, Alden G. *Rhode Island Vital Records, New Series*. (FHL book 974.5 V2b, vols.1-11.) Washington and Newport Counties: birth and marriage information from probates, cemeteries, etc.
- 1600-1990 *Rhode Island Roots*. (FHL book 974.5 D25r beginning with vol.1; film 1320743 item 5 has index to first five years.) A periodical; includes queries. Over 20,000 names.
- 1600-1850 Updike, Wilkins. *A History of the Episcopal Church in Narragansett Rhode Island Including a History of other Episcopal Churches in the State: With a Transcript of the Narragansett Parish Register From 1718 to 1774, an Appendix Containing a Reprint of a Work Entitled America Dissected, and Copies of Other Old Papers Together With Notes Containing Genealogical and Biographical Accounts of Distinguished Men Families, etc.* (FHL book 974.5 K2u, vols.1-3; films 908592 item 2.) Index is in vol.3. Includes genealogical and biographical notes on families. About 5,000 names.
- 1600-1950 *Bible Records from the Newport Historical Society in Rhode Island*. (FHL film 945224 item 1.) About 2,000 names.
- 1600-1950 Bates, Louise Prosser. *Bates Collection of Genealogical Data of Rhode Island Families With General Index to Surnames, A-Z*. (FHL films 22268-274 have an index; films 22275-290 have vols.1-88.) About 36,000 names.
- 1650-1950 Brown, Clarence I. *Rhode Island Cemetery & Genealogical Records*. (FHL films 22473-474.) About 2,300 names.
- 1650-1950 Potter, Nellie Brownell. *Rhode Island Burial Grounds*. (FHL film 22392 items 2-4.) About 3,300 names.

- 1680-1762 Chapin, Howard M. *Rhode Island in the Colonial Wars; A List of Rhode Island Soldiers and Sailors in the Old French and Indian War 1755-1762*. (FHL book 974.5 M2c; film 1425576 item 5.) For additional military records of soldiers who served from 1731-1792, see item below. About 4,300 names.
- 1680-1792 *Military Papers of Rhode Island, 1731-1792*. (FHL films 953925-930: French and Indian War; films 953925-30; Revolutionary War beginning with 953931.) Indexes at beginning of the volumes. About 4,300 names.
- 1680-1748 Chapin, Howard M. *A List of Rhode Island Soldiers and Sailors in King George's War: 1740-1748*. (FHL book 974.5 M2ch; film 1425647 item 11.) About 1,000 names.
- 1680-1755 MacGunnigle, Bruce. *Rhode Island Freeman, 1747-1755: A Census of Registered Voters*. (FHL book 974.5 A1 #7.) About 5,000 names.
- 1680-1774 Rhode Island Secretary of State. *Census of the Inhabitants of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, 1774*. (FHL book 974.5 X2pb; fiche 6046611.) Lists heads of households and the number of males and females in the households. About 7,000 names.
- 1700-1920 *Census indexes, 1742–1880, 1900, and 1920*. See What to Do Next, and click on **Family History Library Catalog**. Then select CENSUS or CENSUS - INDEXES from the topics that are listed. There is an index to the 1865 census on films 934776-799. (The 1865, 1875, and 1885 censuses give the town if the person was born in Rhode Island..)
- 1700-1783 White, Virgil D. *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files*. (FHL book 973 M28g, vols.1-4; index in vol. 4.) Includes pensions and bounty land warrants. About 400,000 names.
- 1700-1868 *D.A.R. Revolutionary War Burial Index*. (FHL films 1307675-82.) Alphabetical. Prepared by Brigham Young University from DAR records. Often lists name, birth date, death date, burial place, name of cemetery, company, and/or regiment; sometimes gives the place of birth; etc. About 67,000 names.
- 1700-1868 Hatcher, Patricia Law. *Abstract of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots*. (FHL book 973 V38h, vols.1-4.) Abstracts reported by the DAR. About 67,200 names.
- 1700-1860 Brakebill, Clovis H. *Revolutionary War Graves Register*. (FHL book 973 V3br.) Includes lady patriots, black soldiers, Jewish patriots and soldiers, Germans and French. About 53,760 names.
- 1700-1860 Daughters of the American Revolution. *DAR Patriot Index Centennial Edition*. (FHL 973 C42da 1990, vols.1-2.) Lists Revolutionary War patriots and their spouses. About 100,000 names.
- 1700-1860 Daughters of the American Revolution. *DAR Patriot Index*. (FHL 973 C42da vol. 3.) Volume 3 is helpful in locating family surnames as it lists the wife of a soldier. About 60,000 names.
- 1700-1840 *A General Index to a Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Service, 1840*. (FHL book 973 X2pc index; film 899835 items 1-2; fiche 6046771.) Lists Revolutionary War pensioners whose names are on the 1840 census lists.
- After using the general index, go to the original book (FHL book Ref. 973 X2pc 1967; film 899835 item 3.) This book gives the pensioner's town of residence, the name of the head of household where he was living, and the age of the pensioner or his widow.

- 1700-1835 ***The Pension Roll of 1835***. (FHL book 973 M24ua 1992, vols. 1-4.) Vol. 4 has the index. Vols.1-4 list Revolutionary War soldiers. Gives county of residence, state of service and often age. Has data on soldiers who received pensions and died from 1820s-1845.
- 1700-1782 Holbrook, Jay Mack. ***Rhode Island 1782 Census***. (FHL book 974.5 X2h.) Gives head of household and the number of males and females in the household by age. About 8,000 names.
- 1700-1805 Rhode Island State Archives. *Card Index to Military and Naval Records, 1774-1805*. (FHL films 934758-774.) About 81,000 names.
- 1700-1776 Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Rhode Island 1776 Military Census*. (FHL book 974.5 X22j 1776.) Prepared from military lists. The names were taken from the source below. Check the index mentioned below also. About 8,000 names.
- 1700-1783 Cowell, Benjamin. *Spirit of '76 in Rhode Island: or Sketches of the Efforts of the Government and People in the War of the Revolution; Together With the Names of Those Who Belonged to Rhode Island Regiments in the Army*. (FHL book 974.5 M2cbe; fiche beginning with 6046885.) Lists Revolutionary War soldiers. Index is in vol. 12 of *Vital Records of Rhode Island 1636-1850*, by James Arnold. (Book 974.5 V2a; film 908273 item 2; fiche 6046912.) About 8,000 names.
- 1700-1777 Chamberlin, Mildred M. ***The Rhode Island 1777 Military Census***. (FHL book 974.5 M2cm.) About 8,000 names.
- 1700-1777 Rider, Sidney S. *Sidney S. Rider Collection*. (Not at FHL.) Write to request a search of index 1808-1868, at the John Hay Library at Brown University, Providence, RI 02912.
- 1720-1906 United States. Immigration and Naturalization Service. ***Index to New England Naturalization Petitions, 1791-1906***. (On 117 FHL films beginning with 1429671.) This is a soundex index.
- 1740-1870 ***Supplemental Index to Passenger Lists. . . Atlantic and Gulf Coast Ports***. (FHL films 418161-348.) Indexes Providence and other port arrivals, 1820 to ca. 1870.
- 1740-1870 ***Index to Register of Seamen's Protection***. (FHL films 934800-802.) Registrations at Providence. About 16,000 names.
- 1740-1900 White, Virgil D. ***Index to War of 1812 Pension Files***. (FHL book 973 M22i, vols. 1-3.) Soldier and spouse. About 150,000 names.
- 1740-1815 Rhode Island. *Military Papers of the War of 1812: 1792-1794, 1812-1815*. (FHL films 954957-958 vols.1-3.) Has various papers, including some enlistment certificates for soldiers. Index in each volume. About 1,250 names.
- 1760-1894 Rhode Island. Division of Vital Records. *Vital Records & Indexes for Births, Deaths, and Marriages: 1853 to 1900*. (On FHL films beginning with 1788205.) Has birth indexes for 1853-1878 and 1879-1889; separate marriage indexes for grooms and brides, 1853-1878 and 1879-1889; death indexes, 1853-1878 and 1879-1889.
- 1789-1904 Arnold, James Newell. ***Coventry R. I. Headstone Inscriptions***. (FHL films 22370-372, vols. 1-4.) Has Coventry, Cranston, Johnston, Lincoln, Scituate, and Warwick cemeteries. About 2,000 names.
- 1800-1880 Ledoux, Albert H. *The Franco-Americans of Rhode Island*. (FHL book 974.5 F2L.) Incomplete index. About 10,000 names.
- 1800-1865 United States. Adjutant General's Office. ***Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who served in Organizations from the State of Rhode Island***. (FHL films 821940-46.) About 13,000 names.

- 1800-1934 United States. Veterans Administration. *General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934*. (On 544 FHL films beginning with 540757.) This is a card index to pension applications of Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans. Copies of the original files may be ordered from the National Archives.
- 1800-1933 United States. Veterans Administration. *Veteran's Administration Pension Payment Cards, 1907-1933*. (On over 2,000 FHL films beginning with 1634036.) Lists veterans and wives who received pension payments for Civil War, and the War with Spain. About two million names.
- 1800-1865 Rhode Island. Adjutant General. *Annual Report of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations for the Year 1865*. (FHL book 974.5 M2r1 vols.1-2; film 982363; fiche 6046949.) Often includes each soldier's residence, date of enlistment, dates of muster-in and muster-out, and regimental sketches. About 33,000 names.
- 1800-1890 Jackson, Ronald Vern, ed. *Rhode Island 1890 Special Census of Veterans*. (FHL book 974.5 X22j 1890.) Lists soldiers or their widows.
- 1810-1920 Rhode Island. State Archives. *Deaths, (1901-1943) and Index of Deaths, 1901-1920*. (FHL films beginning with 1906584.)
- 1810-1943 Rhode Island. State Archives. *Out of Town Deaths, 1905-1943*. (FHL films beginning with 1927792.) These are death certificates of persons who died in Massachusetts and other states and were buried in Rhode Island.
- 1820-1945 Rhode Island. State Archives. *Providence Death Indexes, 1921, 1930, 1931-1935, 1936-1940, 1941-1945*. (FHL fiche 6082179.)
- 1830-1954 United States. Immigration and Naturalization Service. *Passenger Lists, Providence, Rhode Island, 1911-1916; Book Indexes 1911-1916 Card Indexes, 1911-1954*. (FHL films beginning with 1412620.) A card index. Provides the passenger's name, age, sex, volume, and page number.
- 1860-1919 Rhode Island. State Archives. *Rhode Island Militia and National Guard Enlistment Papers, 1890-1919*. (On 41 FHL films beginning with 1893710.)
- 1878-1918 Haulsee, W.M. *Soldiers in the Great War*. (FHL book 973 M23s; fiche 6051244.) Lists soldiers who died in World War I. Vol. 3 has Rhode Island.
- 1878-1918 United States Selective Service System. *Rhode Island, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*. (On 25 FHL films beginning with 1852212.) Men ages 18-45 are listed alphabetically by county or draft board.

For ideas on ways your ancestor's name might be spelled by indexers or in collections, see Name Variations.

## Step 2. Copy and document the information.

The best method of copying information is to:

- Make a photocopy of the page(s) with your ancestor's name.
- Document where the information came from by writing the title, call number, and page number of the index or collection on the photocopy. Also, write the name of the library or archive.

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## Where to Find It

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### Family History Centers and the Family History Library

You can use the Family History Library book collection only at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, but many of our books have been microfilmed. Most of our films can be requested and used at our Family History Centers. To locate the address for your nearest Family History Center, [click here](#).

For information about contacting or visiting the library or a center, see *Family History Library and Family History Centers*.

### Libraries and Archives

You may be able to find the books at public or college libraries. If these libraries do not have a copy of the book you need, they may be able to order it from another library on interlibrary loan.

To use interlibrary loan:

- Go to a public or college library.
- Ask a librarian to order a book or microfilm for you through interlibrary loan from another library. You will need the title of the item and the name of the author.
- The library staff will direct you in their procedures. Sometimes this is free; sometimes there is a small fee.

You can find addresses and phone numbers for most libraries and archives in the [American Library Directory](#), published by the American Library Association. The *American Library Directory* is available at most public and college libraries.

# Maps

## Computer Resources

### **MapQuest Maps**

Summary: Must know address, city, state, and zip code; more recent maps

### **Animap**

BYU FHL – on computer

Summary: Has each state with maps. Shows county boundary changes and allows marking of cities and finds distances.

### **Google Maps**

Summary: Has address finder, allows keyword searching, and allows street, satellite, or terrain views

### **Geology.com Maps**

Summary: Has Relief, Elevation, Drainage, Political and Road Maps for each state.

Rhode Island County

Summary: Rhode Island County Formation Maps

## **Rhode Island Maps Bibliography**

Andriot, Jay. *Township Atlas a/the US*. McLean, Virginia, 1991.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref- **G 1201.F7 AS 1991**

Summary: Shows "minor county subdivisions" maps start after 1930 and are provided by the Bureau of the Census. Census county subdivisions or minor civil divisions. Does not include Hawaii or Alaska.

Evaluation of Rhode Island Maps: pp. 877-883. General history of counties with precincts, census county divisions, public land surveys and townships.

Jackson, Richard H. *Historical & Genealogical Atlas a/the Us.: East a/the Mississippi, vol.1*. 1970.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref- **G 1201 .E622S J33x 1970z**

Summary: Gives a chronological list of the counties.

Evaluation of Rhode Island Maps: Chronological list of Counties p. 144. 1960 P145; 1860p 146; 1838p147; 1823p 148; 1804p 149; Revolutionary Periodp 150.

Kirkham, E. Kay. *A Genealogical and Historical Atlas a/the United States*. Utah: Everton Publishers, Inc. 1976.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref- **G1201.E622S.KS 1976**.

Summary: Shows changes in boundaries in the United States from colonial days up to 1909. Civil War maps and information.

Evaluation of Rhode Island Maps: State historical information, p 42. Maps: 1790-1900, 64; 1823, 109; 1909,239.

Mattson, Mark T. *Macmillan Color atlas a/the States*. Toronto: Simon Schuster Macmillan, 1996.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref- **Quarto Shelves G 1200.M4 1996**

Summary: General state information.

Evaluation of Rhode Island Maps: pp. 272-278. General state information includes; Maps with highways, climate & environment, history & important events, population & government, ethnicity & education, economy & resources.

Thorndale, William and William Dollarhide. *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1947*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1987.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref- **G1201.F7 TS 1987**

Summary: Outlines counties and changes in 10 year intervals. Gives brief history on census, its growth and accuracy. Sources for maps come from state/territorial laws.

Evaluation of Rhode Island Maps: pp. 60-68. Shows modern boundaries and changes.

Map Collection on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the old section of HBLL

Clark, David Sands. *Index to Maps of the American Revolution Books and Periodicals: Illustrating the Revolutionary War and other events of the Period, 1763 - 1789*, Connecticut Greenwood Press, 1974.

Map Collection – **G 1201 .S3 C53x 1974**

Summary: Excellent index – separated by geographic area and then state and town. Also separated by date, military operations, types of Indian boundary lines and Indian tribal lands.

Evaluation: Excellent to find other maps in specific areas. Lists forts and many other hard to find maps.

Long, John H. *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island*, New York, 1994.

Map Collection - **G 1201 .F7 A8 1994**

Summary: Individual county chronologies, maps and areas from Pennsylvania. Table of colonial, state and federal censuses in Pennsylvania.

Evaluation: pp 383 – 401. Excellent for general information. Shows small towns in each county, as well as county creations and effective dates with the actual source. Gives consolidated chronology with individual county chronologies. Lists a bibliography.

Symonds, Craig L. *A Battlefield Atlas of the American Revolution*, The Nautical & Aviation Publishing Company of America, Inc. 1986.

Map Collection - **G 1201 .S3 S96x 1986**

Summary: Early American campaigns and gives suggestions for further reading.

Evaluation: Excellent to see where battles were held, their routes there. Battle lines and forts involved with dates of specific battles, with the generals in charge and chronology of what happened in each listed battle.

Map Collection~ Map Cases **G3770 - G3774**. Individual maps that illustrate things from military movement to censuses.



# FAMILYSEARCH™

## G U I D E

Family History Library • 35 North West Temple Street • Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400 USA

## Rhode Island Federal Census Population Schedules, 1790 to 1920

### Introduction

Federal censuses are taken every 10 years. Rhode Island residents are included in censuses from 1790 to 1920.

- The 1790 through 1840 censuses give the name of the head of each household. Other household members are mentioned only by age groupings of males and females.
- The 1850 census was the first federal census to give the names of all members of each household.

For more information about the U.S. Federal Censuses, see Background.

### What You Are Looking For

The information you find varies from record to record. These records may include:

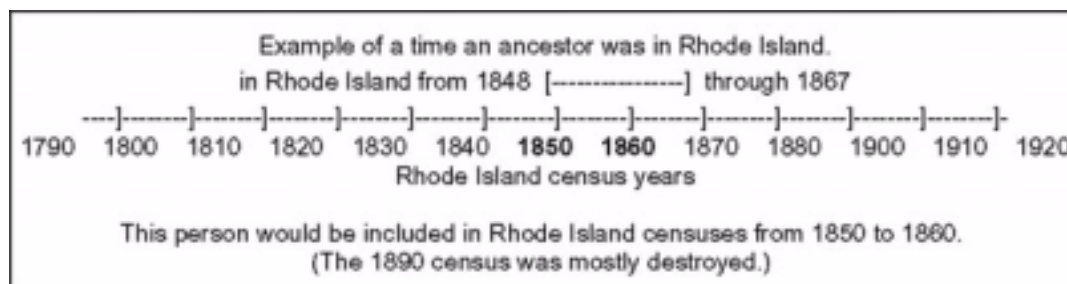
- Names of family members.
- Ages of family members, which you can use to calculate birth or marriage years.
- The county and state where your ancestors lived.
- People living with (or gone from) the family.
- Relatives that may have lived nearby.

### Steps

These 5 steps will help you use census records.

#### Step 1. Determine which censuses might include your ancestors.

Match the probable time your ancestor was in Rhode Island with the census years. This will determine which censuses you will search.



## Step 2. Determine a census to start with.

Start with the last census taken during the life of your ancestor.

The censuses from **1790 to 1840** give the name of the head of each household and the number of males and females in age groups **without** their names.

The censuses from **1850 to 1920** give more information and include the name, age, and birthplace of every person in each household.

The censuses for 1930 and later are available from the U.S. Census Bureau only.

For ways the census can help you find your ancestor's parents, see Tip 1.

## Step 3. Search the census.

For instructions on how to search a specific census, click on one of the following years:

1790 1800 1810 1820 1830 1840  
1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920

For information about archives and libraries that have census records, see Where to Find It.

## Step 4. Search another census.

Repeat steps 2 and 3 until you search all the censuses taken during the life span of your ancestor. Each census may contain additional information.

If you skip a census taken when your ancestor lived, you risk missing additional information, such as names of in-laws or other relatives who may have lived with or near the family. Those names and relationships may help you identify earlier generations.

For other information about how to search the census, see Tips.

## Step 5. Analyze the information you obtain from the censuses.

To effectively use the information from the census, ask yourself these questions:

- Who was in the family?
- About when were they born?
- Where were they born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1850 to 1920.)
- Where were they living—town or township, county, and state?
- Where were their parents born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1880 to 1920.)
- Do they have neighbors with the same last name? Could they be relatives?

For more about comparing information in several censuses, see Tip 3.

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## Tips

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### Tip 1. How can the census help me find my ancestor's parents?

Searching the census taken closest to the time the ancestor married has the best possibility of finding your ancestor and spouse living close to their parents and other family members.

## Tip 2. How can I understand the information better?

Sometimes knowing why the census taker asked a question can help you understand the answer. Detailed instructions given to census takers are in the book, *Twenty Censuses: Population and Housing Questions 1790–1980*, updated as *200 Years of U.S. Census Taking*, both by the United States Census Bureau.

## Tip 3. How can comparing information in more than one census help me?

Comparing censuses indicates:

- Changes in who was in the household, such as children leaving home or the death of grandparents or a child.
- Changes in neighbors. Remember, neighbors might be relatives or in-laws.
- Changes about each individual, such as age.
- Movement of the family within Rhode Island to a different county or town.
- Movement of the family out of Rhode Island if the family no longer appears in the census for Rhode Island.

You will eventually want to know every country, state, county, township, and town where your ancestor was located. You can then check information in other records for those places. A careful check of all available federal census records can help you identify those places.

The age and estimated birth date of an individual may vary greatly from census to census. Often ages are listed more accurately for young children than for adults.

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## Background

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### Description

A census is a count and a description of the population of a country, colony, territory, state, county, or city. Census records are also called census schedules or population schedules. Early censuses are basically head counts. Later censuses give information about marriage, immigration, and literacy. United States censuses are useful because they begin early and cover a large portion of the population.

### What U.S. Federal Censuses Are Available

Censuses have been taken by the United States government every 10 years since 1790. The 1920 census is the most recent federal census available to the public; the 1930 census will be released in 2002. In 1885 the federal government also helped 5 states or territories (Colorado, Florida, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Dakota Territory) conduct special censuses.

The 1890 census of Rhode Island was destroyed by fire. However, portions of a special schedule taken in 1890, of Union Civil War veterans and their widows in Rhode Island, have survived. The surviving 1890 veterans' schedules cover Washington D.C., half of Kentucky, and all of Louisiana through Wyoming (states are in alphabetical order from K through W). These schedules contain approximately 700,000 names.

## Types of Census Schedules

The following census schedules are available for Rhode Island and were created in various years by the federal government:

- **Population schedules** list a large portion of the population; most are well-indexed and are available at many repositories.
- **Mortality schedules** list those who died in the 12 months prior to the day the census was taken for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.
- **1840 pensioners' schedules** list people who were receiving pensions in 1840. Included were men who fought in the Revolutionary War or in the War of 1812 or their widows.
- **1890 veterans' schedules** list Union veterans from the Civil War or their widows who were living in 1890.
- **Agricultural schedules** list data about farms and the names of the farmers for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.
- **Manufacturing or industrial schedules** list data about businesses and industries for the 1810 (fragments for Kent County only), 1820, 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.

## How Censuses Were Taken

People called enumerators were hired by the United States government to take the census. The enumerators were given forms to fill out and were assigned to gather information about everyone living in a certain area or district. Enumerators could visit houses in any order, so families who are listed together in the census may or may not have been neighbors. The accuracy of the enumerators and the readability of their handwriting varies.

After the census was taken, usually one copy was sent to the state and another to the federal government. Sometimes copies were also kept by the counties. Few of the state and county copies survived.

## When Censuses Were Taken

Census takers were supposed to gather information about the people who were part of household on the following dates:

1790 to 1820: First Monday in August  
1830 to 1900: June 1 (June 2 in 1890)  
1910: 15 April  
1920: 1 January  
1930: 1 April

If your ancestor was born in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only if he or she was born before the census date.

If your ancestor died in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only if he or she died after the census date.

The census may have actually taken several months to complete and may reflect births and deaths after the census date.

## Censuses from 1930 to the Present

U.S. Federal Censuses from 1930 to the present are confidential. The 1930 census will be available in 2002. You may ask the U.S. Census Bureau to send information about:

- Yourself.
- Another living person, if you are that person's "authorized representative."

- Deceased individuals, if you are "their heirs or administrators."

You may request information for only one person at a time. There is a fee for each search. To request information, you must provide the person's name, address at the time of the census, and other details on Form BC-600, available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For the address of the U.S. Census Bureau, see *Where to Find It*.

## Colonial, State, and Local Censuses

Colonial, state, and local governments also took censuses. Nonfederal censuses generally contain information similar to and sometimes more than federal censuses of the same period. There are Rhode Island colonial censuses for 1730, 1747 through 1755, 1774, 1776, 1777, and 1782.

Rhode Island became a state in 1790. Rhode Island has state censuses for 1865, 1875, 1885, 1915, 1925, and 1936. For more information, see the census section of the *Rhode Island Research Outline* and *Ancestry's Redbook: American State, County, & Town Sources*.

Colonial, state, and local censuses may be available on the Internet, at Family History Centers, at the Family History Library, and in state and local archives and libraries.

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## Where to Find It

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### Internet

Many Internet sites include census records, census indexes, or information about censuses. You may find the following sites helpful:

- Rhode Island GenWeb and USGenWeb have links to indexes and records and may have links to archives, libraries, and genealogical and historical societies.
- Censuslinks on the 'Net includes links to Internet sites that have United States and Canada censuses and indexes. It includes information about censuses and how to use them, a Soundex calculator, census forms you can print, an age calculator, and more.
- The Archives and Libraries section of the *Rhode Island Research Outline* lists Internet addresses for several Rhode Island archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Rhode Island census records, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

### Family History Centers

Many Family History Centers keep copies of some census microfilms. Family History Centers can borrow microfilms of a U.S. Federal Census from the Family History Library. A small fee is charged to have a microfilm sent to a center.

You may request photocopies of U.S. Federal Censuses from the Family History Library. Staff at the Family History Center can show you how to request this service.

Family History Centers are located throughout the United States and other areas of the world. See "Family History Centers" for the address and phone number of the center nearest you.

### Family History Library

The Family History Library has complete sets of the existing U.S. Federal Censuses from 1790 to 1920. No fee is charged for using census microfilms in person.

For a list of indexes and other census records, click on **Family History Library Catalog** in the

window to the left. Select from the list of titles to see descriptions of the records with the film or book call numbers. Use that information to obtain the records at a family history center or at the Family History Library.

For information about contacting or visiting the library, see *Family History Library and Family History Centers*.

## National Archives

Copies of the existing federal censuses from 1790 to 1920 are available in the Microfilm Research Room in the National Archives Building and at the 13 Regional National Archives. The National Archives has a microfilm rental program for census records. Call 301-604-3699 for rental information. For information on how to order photocopies of census records from the National Archives, [click here](#).

## College and Public Libraries

Many college libraries have copies of census microfilms, particularly for their own states. Many larger public libraries have copies of the census soundex and populations schedules. Smaller public libraries may be able to obtain the records through interlibrary loan.

## State Archives, Libraries, and Historical Societies

The Archives and Libraries section of the *Rhode Island Research Outline* lists Internet addresses for several Rhode Island archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Rhode Island census records, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

## U.S. Census Bureau

To request information from the 1930 census and later censuses, you must provide your relative's name, address, and other details on Form BC-600, available from:

The U.S. Census Bureau  
P.O. Box 1545  
Jeffersonville, IN 47131  
812-218-3300

## Genealogical Search Services

Many genealogical search services will search the census for a fee. These sources can help you find a genealogical search service:

- CyndisList lists many companies and individuals who do research and mentions publications about how to hire a professional genealogist.
- Advertisements in major genealogical journals may help you find a researcher.

For more information, see [Hiring a Professional Genealogist](#).

## U.S. State Censuses

### **RHODE ISLAND**

1747-55	Rhode Island freemen, 1747-1755 : a census of registered voters.	FHC Table 7 CS49.Z99 R4 1747
	Census of the freemen	022390 item 2
1774	Census of the inhabitants of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, 1774.	FHC Table 7 CS49 .Z99 R4 1774
	Census of the colony of Rhode Island, 1774.	0947359 item 1
1777	The Rhode Island 1777 military census.	FHC Table 7 E263.R4 C48
	Rhode Island List of all male persons 16 years of age and upwards, 1777.	0947359 item 2
1782	Rhode Island 1782 census.	FHC Table 7 CS49.Z99 R4 1782
	Census of Rhode Island, 1782.	0022390 item 1
1865	Statitical Census	State Census Microfiche Cards 3 of 3
	Index to Census: Abbe- Baggs, J.	0934776
	Index to Census: Baggs, L.- Blake, Eden	0934777
	Index to Census: Blake, Edna- Browton	0934778
	Index to Census: Bruce- Case, I.	0934779
	Index to Census: Case, J.- Congden, B.	0934780
	Index to Census: Congden, C.- Darling, P.	0934781
	Index to Census: Darling, R. - Earle, L.	0934782
	Index to Census: Earle, M.- Frances	0934783
	Index to Census: Franceville- Grant, Elizabeth	0934784
	Index to Census: Grant, Ellen- Hawkes, R.	0934785
	Index to Census: Hawkes, S- Hughes, Daniel	0934786
	Index to Census: Hughes, Dora- Kerney, J.	0934787
	Index to Census: Kerney, M.- Livesey, S.	0934788
	Index to Census: Livesey, T.- McTighe, John	0934789
	Index to Census: McTighe, Julia- Money, T.	0934790
	Index to Census: Mongan-Oakley, P.	0934791
	Index to Census: Oakley, T.- Place, J.	0934792
	Index to Census: Place, L.- Robadoe, E.	0934793
	Index to Census: Robadoe, E.- Sherman, Sophia	0934794
	Index to Census: Sherman, Stephen- Stetson	0934795
	Index to Census: Stevens- Tillinghast, Harriet	0934796
	Index to Census: Tillinghast, Henry- Weaver, R.	0934797
	Index to Census: Weaver, S.- Wood, Eveline	0934798
	Index to Census: Wood, Everett-Zuel	0934799

# U.S. State Censuses

## **RHODE ISLAND** (con.t)

### Microfilm of originals (1965)

Newport County (town of Middleton)	0946443 item 3
Providence County (town of East Providence)	0902875 item 3
Providence County (town of Scituate)	0902875 item 4
Washington County (town of Richmond)	0902875 item 3
Census v. 1-2: Charlestown, Exeter, Hopkinton, Coventry, East Greenwich, West Greenwich, Richmond, Westerly	1008371
Census v. 3-5: North Kingstown, South Kingstown, Warwick.	1008372
Census v. 6-7: Cranston, South Providence, Elmwood, North Providence	1008373
Census v. 8-9: Johnston, Foster, Glocester, Scituate, Burrillville	1008374
Census v. 10-11: Smithfield, Cumberland	1008375
Census v. 12-13: East Providence, Pawtucket, Barrington, Bristol, Warren	1008376
Census v. 14-16: Newport, Portsmouth, Middletown, New Shoreham, Jamestown, Tiverton, Little Compton	1008377
Census v. 17-19: Providence, Ward I-II	1008378
Census v. 20-22: Providence, Ward IV-VI	1008379
Census v. 23: Providence, Ward VII	1008380

1875

### Statitital Census

**State Census  
Microfiche  
Cards 4 of 4**

Bristol, Warren, Barrington, Pawtucket	0947361
South Kingston, Richmond, Charlestown, Hopkinton, Newport, Coventry, East Greenwich, West Greenwich	0947362
Warwick, Portsmouth, New Shoreham, Middletown, Little Compton, Jamestown, Westerly, North Kingstown, Exeter, Tiverton	0947363
Cranston, Johnston, East Providence, Lincoln	0947364
Scituate, Gloucester, Foster, Burrilville, Woonsocket	0947365
Providence- wards 1-3	0947366
Providence- wards 4-7	0947367
Providence- wards 8-9	0947368
Providence- ward 10, Smithfield, North Smithfield, Cumberland, North Providence	0947369



# U.S. State Censuses

**RHODE ISLAND** (con.t)

1885	Statitital Census	State Census Microfiche Cards 2 of 2
	Providence- wards 1-3	0953910
	Providence- wards 4-7	0953911
	Providence- wards 8-9	0953912
	Providence- ward 10	0953913
	Cranston, Johnston, Smithfield, North	0953914
	Providence, North Smithfield, Scituate, East Providence	
	Pawtucket	0953915
	Cumberland, Burrillville, Gloucester, Foster	0953916
	Lincoln, Woonsocket	0953917
	Warwick, Coventry, East Greenwich, West Greenwich	0953918
	Westerly, South Kingstown, Charlestown, Exeter, Hopkinton, North Kingstown, Richmond	0953919
	Bristol, Warren, Barrington, Tiverton, New Shoreham, Middletown, Jamestown, Portsmouth, Little Compton	0953920
	Newport	0953921
	Another filming of the information on the above rolls of film.	0908764 item 2
1895	Statitital Census	State Census Microfiche Cards 11 of 11
1905	Statitital Census	State Census Microfiche Cards 5 of 5
	Statitital Census	State Census Microfiche Cards 12 of 12
1915	Statitital Census	State Census Microfiche Cards 2 of 2
1925	Statitital Census	State Census Microfiche Cards 1 of 1
1936	Statitital Census	State Census Microfiche Cards 3 of 3

## **RHODE ISLAND**

Arnold, Samuel Greene. History of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation. New York: D. Appleton, 1859-60. **Microfiche F79 .A76**

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Austin, John Osborne. One Hundred and Sixty Allied Families. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1977. **F78 .A94**

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Bartlett, John Russell. Records of the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England. Providence: A. Crawford Greene and Bro., State Printers, 1856-1865. **Electronic Book, Internet Resources AND F 76 .R29**

Bates, Frank Greene. Rhode Island and the formation of the Union. New York: Published for Columbia University by Macmillan, 1898. **Electronic Book, Internet Resources AND F 79 .B32**

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Bibliographies of New England History. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1995. **F4 .X1 N452 1995**

Bicknell, Thomas Williams. The history of the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. New York: American Historical Society, 1920. **CS 43 .G46x LH 9955**.

Biographical Encyclopedia of Connecticut and Rhode Island of the Nineteenth Century. New York: Metropolitan Publishing and Engraving Co., 1881. **Microfiche CS43 .G46x LH4163**

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Callender, John. Early History of Rhode Island: A Historical Discourse on the Civil and Religious Affairs of the Colony of Rhode Island. Boston: S. Kneeland & T. Green, 1739. **F82 .C15 1971**

Carpenter, Esther Bernon. South county studies of some eighteenth century persons, places, & conditions in that portion of Rhode Island called Narragansett. Boston : Printed for the subscribers, c1924 (Merrymount Press). **F 87 .N2 C3**

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Coughtry, Jay. The notorious triangle: Rhode Island and the African slave trade, 1700-1807. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1981. **E 445 .R4 C68**

Cunha, M. Rachel. The Portuguese in Rhode Island: A History. Providence: Rhode Island Publication Society, 1985. **F90 .P8 C86x**

Gammell, William. Life of Roger Williams, the founder of the state of Rhode Island. Boston: Gould and Lincoln, 1854. **Electronic Book, Internet Resources**

Goodwin, George M. The Jews of Rhode Island. Waltham, Mass. : Brandeis University Press in association with Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association ; Hanover, NH ; London : University Press of New England, c2004. **F 90 .J5 J49 2004**

James, Sydney V. The colonial metamorphoses in Rhode Island: a study of institutions in change. Hanover: University Press of New England, c2000. **F 82 .J33 2000**

James, Sydney V. Colonial Rhode Island. New York: Scribner, 1975. **F82 .J35**

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Kellner, George H. Rhode Island: The Independent State. Woodland Hills, CA: Windsor Publications, 1982. **F79 .K44**

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Knowles, James D. Memoir of Roger Williams, the founder of the state of Rhode-Island. Boston: Lincoln, Edmands and co., 1834. **Electronic Book, Internet Resources AND F 82 .W785**

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Peterson, Edward. History of Rhode Island microform. New York: J.S. Taylor, 1853. **CS 43 .G46x LH4611 AND F 87 .R4 P3 1853 AND Internet Resources**

Polishook, Irwin H. Rhode Island and the Union, 1774-1795. Evanston, Northwestern University Press, 1969. **F 83 .P63**

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Vexler, Robert I. Chronology and documentary handbook of the State of Rhode Island. Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.: Ocean Publications, 1978. **F 79.5 .C45**

Weeden, William B. Early Rhode Island: A Social History of the People. New York: Grafton Press, 1910. **Microfiche Z1236 .L5 1971 No. 20518**

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## **B**ristol County

**Date created: 1747; Parent county: Newport**

Baker, Virginia. The History of Warren, Rhode Island in the War of the Revolution, 1776-83. Warren: The Author, 1901. **Microfiche CS43 .G46x LH4289**

Bicknell, Thomas Williams. A History of Barrington, Rhode Island. Providence: Snow & Farnham Printers, 1898. **Microfiche CS43 .G46x LH4610**

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Bourne, Benjamin. An account of the settlement of the town of Bristol, in the state of Rhode-Island : and of the Congregational Church therein, with the succession of pastors, from its origin to the present time; : together with the act of incorporation of the Catholic Congregational Society, and the rules established in said society. Providence: Printed by Bennett Wheeler,, 1785. **080 Sh64 EVANS 18942**

Fessenden, G.M. The History of Warren, Rhode Island. Providence: H.H. Brown, 1845. **Microfiche CS43 .G46x LH4608**

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Munro, Wilfred Harold. Tales of an old sea port microform : a general sketch of the history of Bristol, Rhode Island, including, incidentally, an account of the voyages of the Norsemen, so far as they may have been connected with Narragansett Bay : and personal narratives of some notable voyages accomplished by sailors from the Mount Hope lands. Princeton : Princeton University Press, 1917. **CS 43 .G46x LH4211**

Thompson, C.F. Sketches of Old Bristol. Providence: Roger Williams Press, 1942. **F89 .B8 T5**

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## **Kent County**

**Date created: 1750; Parent county: Providence**

Cole, J.R. History of Washington and Kent Counties, Rhode Island. New York: W.W. Preston & Co., 1889. **Microfiche Z1236 .L5 1971 No. 16025-6**

Fuller, Oliver P. The History of Warwick, Rhode Island. Providence: Angell, Burlingame & Co., 1875. **F89 .W2 F9**

Greene, D. H. History of the Town of East Greenwich and Adjacent Territory, from

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**Microfiche Z1236 .L5 1971 No. 14756**

Rhode Island Historical Records Survey Project. Inventory of the town and city archives of Rhode Island. No. 2. Kent County. Vol. IV. West Greenwich microform. Providence, R.I.: The Survey, 1942. **CS 43 .G46x LH4650**

### **Newport County**

**Date created: 1703; Original county**

Armstead, Myra Beth Young. Lord, please don't take me in August : African Americans in Newport and Saratoga Springs, 1870-1930. Urbana : University of Illinois Press, c1999.

**F 89 .N5 A76 1999**

Bayles, Richard M. History of Newport County: From the Year 1638 to 1887. New York: L. E. Preston & Co., 1888. **Microfiche Z1236 .L5 1971 No. 13676-77 AND CS 43 .G46x LH 12257**

Crane, Elaine Forman. A Dependent People: Newport, Rhode Island in the Revolutionary Era. New York: Fordham University Press, 1985. **F89 .N5 C8**

Fowler, Orin. History of Fall River: With Notices of Freetown and Tiverton. Fall River: Almy and Milne Printers, 1862. **Microfiche CS43 .G46x LH5730**

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**Date created: 1703; Original county**

A Modern City: Providence, Rhode Island. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1909. **Microfiche CS43 .G46x LH4292**

Angell, Frank C. Annals of Centerdale in the Town of North Providence, Rhode Island: Its past and present, 1636-1909. Central Falls, RI: Press of E.L. Freeman, 1909. **Microfiche CS43 .G46x LH4312**

Bayles, Richard. History of Providence, Rhode Island. New York: W. W. Preston & Co., 1891. **F87 .P9 B3 AND Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 20511-12 AND CS 43 .G46x LH 10693**

Cottrol, Robert J. The Afro-Yankees: Providence's Black Community in the Antebellum Era. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1982. **F89 .P99 N425**

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Cole, J. R. History of Washington and Kent counties, Rhode Island. New York: W.W. Preston & Co., 1889. **Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 16025-26**

Denison, Frederic. Westerely and Its Witness: For Two Hundred and Fifty Years, 1626-1876. Providence: J. A. & R. A. Reid, 1878. **Microfiche CS43 .G46x LH4279**

Driftways into the Past: Local History of the Town of Richmond. Richmond: Richmond Historical Society, 1977. **F89 .R4 D74**

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## Other Resources Rhode Island

Minnesota Cyndi's List Links

<http://www.cyndislist.com/ri.htm>

Minnesota Rootsweb Links

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~websites/usa/rhodeisland.html>

FamilySearch Wiki

[www.familysearchwiki.org](http://www.familysearchwiki.org)

## **RHODE ISLAND TOWNSHIPS**

### **Bristol**

Barrington Township	Bristol Township	Warren Township
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### **Kent**

East Greenwich Township	Coventry Township	West Greenwich Township	Warwick Township
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### **Newport County**

Jamestown Township	Little Compton Township	Middleton Township	New Shoreman Township
Portsmouth Township	Tiverton Township		

### **Providence County**

Cranston Township	Cumberland Township	Foster Township	Glocester Township
Johnston Township	North Providence Township	Providence Township	Scituate Township
Smithfield Township			

### **Washington County**

Charlestown Township	Exeter Township	Hopkinton Township	North Kingstown Township
Richmond Township	South Kingstown Township	Westerly Township	

## Genealogical index Rhode Island records.

A listing of names found in the vital records from Rhode Island with some dates and other information, including the title of the vital record in which the person can be found.

	FILM
Aaron- Allen . . . . .	0022431
Allen- Austin . . . . .	0022432
Allen- Anthony . . . . .	0022433
Abbie- Bosmouth . . . . .	0022434
Austin- Ballon . . . . .	0022435
Ballon- Birknell . . . . .	0022436
Birknell- Bradford . . . . .	0022437
Borden- Hulling . . . . .	0022450
Bradford- Brown . . . . .	0022438
Brown- Burt . . . . .	0022439
Burr- Carr . . . . .	0022440
Carr- Clarton . . . . .	0022441
Clarton- Coleman . . . . .	0022442
Coleman- Cox . . . . .	0022443
Cox- Davis . . . . .	0022444
Davis- Easton . . . . .	0022445
Easton- Fisher . . . . .	0022446
Fisher- Gladding . . . . .	0022447
Gladding- Hall . . . . .	0022449
Green . . . . .	0022448
Hall- Hirinden . . . . .	0022451
Hirinden- Howland . . . . .	0022452
Howland- Jennings . . . . .	0022453
Horsmill- Ruttenberg . . . . .	0022454
Jennings- Kyle . . . . .	0022455
Lacy- Liscomb . . . . .	0022456
Liscomb- Mathewson . . . . .	0022457
Mathewson- Mowry . . . . .	0022458
Mowry- Olmy . . . . .	0022459
Olmy- Peck . . . . .	0022460
Peck- Potter . . . . .	0022461
Potter- Reynolds . . . . .	0022462
Reynolds- Russell . . . . .	0022463
Russell- Shepardson . . . . .	0022464
Shepardson- Smith . . . . .	0022465
Smith- Stafford . . . . .	0022466
Stafford . . . . .	0022467
Tarp- Toney . . . . .	0022468

<b>Toney- Walker</b>	<b>0022469</b>
<b>Walker- West</b>	<b>0022470</b>
<b>West- Wilber</b>	<b>0022471</b>
<b>Wilbur- Woodell</b>	<b>0022472</b>

**THIS RECORD FOUND UNDER**

1. Rhode Island - Vital records - Indexes

## **New England marriages prior to 1700.**

Author: Torrey, Clarence Almon, 1869-1962.

Andover, Mass. : Northeast Document Conservation Center, [1983?].

A record of 17th century New England marriages collected from printed and manuscript records in the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Collection lists married men, names of their wives, dates of marriages, places of residences, and sources of information.

Introduction and guide are found at the beginning of each microfilm.

~~Records are arranged alphabetically by husband's surname.~~

	FILM
Abbey - Cutting . . . . .	0929494
Dadey - Eyre . . . . .	0929495
Fabes - Hyland . . . . .	0929496
Ibrook - Lyon . . . . .	0929497
Maber - Rymes . . . . .	0929498
Sabeere - Symes . . . . .	0929499
Tabor - Zalleth . . . . .	0929500

### **THIS RECORD FOUND UNDER**

1. United States, New England - Vital records
- I. New England Historic Genealogical Society (Boston, Massachusetts)

# Index to New England Naturalization Petitions, 1791-1906

This is an index to naturalization documents in courts in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont from 1791 to 1906.

## CONTENTS

Index cards are arranged by state and then by name of petitioner, arranged according to the Soundex system. Index gives name and location of the court that granted the naturalization, date of naturalization, and volume and page (or certificate) number of the naturalization record.

Connecticut	A000 (Isaac) - A536 (Zacharis) -----	1429671
Connecticut	A540 (Antonio) - B346 (William) -----	1429672
Connecticut	B350 (Albert) - B565 (Solomon) -----	1429673
Connecticut	B600 (Abel) - B646 (Vincenzo) -----	1429674
Connecticut	B650 (Abraham) - C165 (Vincenzo) -----	1429675
Connecticut	C166 (Angelo) - C452 (Zygmunt) -----	1429676
Connecticut	C453 (Alexander) - C616 (William) -----	1429677
Connecticut	C620 (Abraham) - D126 (John) -----	1429678
Connecticut	D130 Absalom) - D451 (Virgilio) -----	1429679
Connecticut	D452 (Adam) - E146 (Martin) -----	1429680
Connecticut	E150 (Andrew) - F400 (Wladyslaw) -----	1429681
Connecticut	F410 (Adam) - F640 (William) -----	1429682
Connecticut	F641 (Alfred) - G424 (Martin) -----	1429683
Connecticut	G425 (Abraham) - G620 (Zaharia) -----	1429684
Connecticut	G621 (Abraham) - H230 (Wolf) -----	1429685
Connecticut	H232 (Andrew) - H532 (William) -----	1429686
Connecticut	H533 (Philip) - J212 (Wolfe) -----	1429687
Connecticut	J213 (Allan) - K216 (Youkle) -----	1429688
Connecticut	K220 (Adam) - K456 (William) -----	1429689
Connecticut	K460 (Agnes) - K651 (William) -----	1429690
Connecticut	K652 (Abe) - -----	1429691
Connecticut	L400 (Adam) - M165 (Leonidas) -----	1429692
Connecticut	M200 (Abram) - M252 (Zuzanna) -----	1429693
Connecticut	M253 (Abraham) - M425 (William) -----	1429694
Connecticut	M426 (Andreas) - M520 (Wicenta) -----	1429695
Connecticut	M521 (Albert) - M635 (Wilhelm) -----	1429696
Connecticut	M636 (Adamo) - N654 (Giuseppe) -----	1429697
Connecticut	N655 (Alof) - P200 (Zigemond) -----	1429698
Connecticut	P210 (Alfred) - P622 (Yadwiga) -----	1429699
Connecticut	P623 (Adam) - R216 (William) -----	1429700
Connecticut	R215 (Andrew) - R500 (William) -----	1429701
Connecticut	R600 (Frederick) - S266 (Joseph) -----	1429702
Connecticut	S300- (Fageraas) - S415 (William) -----	1429703
Connecticut	S416 (Aaron) - S531 (William) -----	1429704
Connecticut	S532 (Aaron) - T463 (Luigi) -----	1429705
Connecticut	T500 (Albin) - V542 (Ursula) -----	1429706
Connecticut	V453 (Adolfe) - W424 (Wladisaw) -----	1429707
Connecticut	W426 (Abram) - Z660 (John) -----	1429708
(W425 is not available at this time)		
Rhode Island	A100 Alphonse) - C166 (Francesco) -----	1429709
Rhode Island	C200 (Alexander) - D515 (William) -----	1429710
Rhode Island	D516 (Alexander) - G652 (Thomas) -----	1429711
Rhode Island	G653 (Albert) - L122 (Ernest) -----	1429712