

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL CEMETERY PRESERVATION & AWARENESS WEEKS

APRIL & MAY 2026

April 1

Full Moon Tour, North Burial Ground

Time: 5:30 pm-7 pm

Location: meet at Rochambeau Ave pedestrian gate

Contact: Lydia Terrein lbt365@gmail.com

April 4

Bartlett Cemetery Clean Up

Time: 10:00 am - 2 pm

Location: 1 Bartlett Street, Woonsocket

Contact: Gregory Duhamel oakhillcemetery401@gmail.com

April 11

Waite-Tillinghast lot (WG-001) Clean Up

Time: 9:00 am

Location: 50 Plain Road, West Greenwich, by the Red Barn

Contact: John Harrington shazam5088@icloud.com

Scituate Spring Cemetery Restoration Event - 250th Rev War Anniversary

Time: 9:00 am

Location: N41° 46.038 W 071° 38.030 - The cemetery is approximately 130 feet west of pole 218 on Tunk Hill Road, not far northwest of the intersection of Rt 12 and Old Plainfield Pike. Look for the red and white cemetery event signs. Park on the west side of Route 12 (Tunk Hill Road)

Contact: Skye Pechie tmbgambassador@gmail.com

The Musicians in the Island Cemetery

Time: 11:00 am

Location: The Island Cemetery, 30 Warner Street, Newport, RI

Contact: Mark Stickney mark@historicmusicofnewport.org

<https://www.historicmusicofnewport.org/events/musicians-of-island-cemetery-2026>

April 12

Capron Cemetery Clean Up

Including the burials of two Revolutionary War veterans. Bring gloves and yard rakes.

Time: 10:00 am - 2 pm

Location: Cumberland Hill Road, across the street from Holiday Inn

Contact: Gregory Duhamel oakhillcemetery401@gmail.com

April 15

Celebrating a Decade of the Newport Cemetery Commission

Join members of the Newport Historic Cemetery Advisory Commission to celebrate their resurrection in 2016 and a decade of dedication to the city's burial sites. A preview of the upcoming exhibit will be on display that documents the past ten years. Brief comments will take place at 5:00 pm.

Time: 4:30 pm

Location: Newport Library 300 Spring Street

Contact: Lewis Keen nphistoriccemeteries@gmail.com

April 18

Newman Cemetery Cleanup, East Providence

As we approach our nation's 250th anniversary, East Providence is coming together to honor the 148 Revolutionary War soldiers buried in our local cemeteries. Join us in preparing for a special fall commemoration by helping preserve these historic spaces. Volunteer Activities Include:

- Grounds cleanup
- Cleaning Revolutionary War gravestones
- Locating & documenting historic stones
- Photographing markers
- Installing commemorative signs
- Trimming and protecting fragile gravestones

Bring rakes, hand clippers, pruners if you can, and let us know you're coming!

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Corner of Newman Ave. and Pleasant Street

Contact: Sandra Turgeon friendsofnewmancemetery@gmail.com

Johnston Cemetery 21 Governor King Cemetery Cleanup

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Corner of Hartford Avenue and Winfield Road, Johnston

Contact: Steve Merolla smerolla1@cox.net

Historic Hotchkiss Cemetery Clean Up

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Next to Union Cemetery, N. Smithfield Expressway. Enter Union Cemetery, turn left and follow the wall to park inside the cemetery along the stone wall by the street.

Contact: Ed Walker clockwalk@verizon.net

Earth Day Clean Up

Time: 10:00 am - Location: North Burial Ground, Providence

Contact: Annalisa Heppner aheppner@providenceri.gov

Annual Clean Up & Talk

A talk about the historic and unique Tillinghast Family Burial Ground. The last remaining private family burial ground remaining from Roger Williams' period of "A Lively Experiment"

Time: 10:00

Location: Tillinghast Family Burial Ground, 398 Benefit Street, Providence

Contact: Bruce Tillinghast, Pres Tillinghast Society, Inc. wbt213@gmail.com

Zebina Cook Lot Cemetery Cleanup

Three unmarked Revolutionary War veterans are buried here. Bring gloves and yard rakes.

Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Location: Zebina Cook Lot, 506 Elder Ballou Meeting House Road, Woonsocket

Contact: Gregory Duhamel oakhillcemetery401@gmail.com

April 19

Equal Rights School Tour: The Fight for Equal School Rights in 19th Century Providence

Time: 10:30 am

Place: North Burial Ground, Providence

Contact: Kate Blankenship kate_blankenship@alumni.brown.edu

April 21

Birds and Burials at the Norman Bird Sanctuary

Time: 10:00-12:00 am

Location: Norman Bird Sanctuary, 583 Third Beach Road Middletown

Contact: Jay Manning jmanning@normanbirdsanctuary.org

April 22

Newman Cemetery Cleanup, East Providence

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- Photographing markers
- Installing commemorative signs
- Trimming and protecting fragile gravestones

Bring rakes, hand clippers, pruners if you can, and let us know you're coming!

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Corner of Newman Ave. and Pleasant Street

Contact: Sandra Turgeon friendsofnewmancemetery@gmail.com

April 25

Clean-Up Exeter historic cemetery #99, Dawley lot

Join the Exeter Historical Association in cleaning a historic cemetery with revolutionary war patriots whose ancestors came to America around 1660 from Ireland, Nicholas and William Dawley, a placing an American Flag. Bring rakes, clippers.

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Liberty Church Road, Exeter - telephone pole #1720 or # 40 park here. Short walk to the West thru woods to cemetery. If you are late follow the red flags to the cemetery.

Contact: Dory Wagner dorwagg@aol.com

Zinky Tour (a tour of the Monumental Bronze Monuments and the families who chose them)

Time: 11:00 am

Location: North Burial Ground, Providence. Meet at the marble steps entrance where Cemetery and North Main Streets Intersect. Contact: Lexie Ludovici lexieludovici@yahoo.com

April 26

Clean-Up of Richmond historic cemetery #53, the Ezekiel Phillips lot.

We will place a flag at the burial site of a Revolutionary War Patriot, Benjamin Barber, 1755-1834. Bring rakes and clippers.

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Located on the nearly 2,000 acre state owned Decoppitt property, Richmond. Park where Small Pox Trail meets Punch Bowl Trail. Walk west on the dirt section of Punch Bowl Trail (an old farm road) for 15 minutes. If you are late just follow the red flags on the ground ▶

Contact: Dory Wagner dorwagg@aol.com

May 2

Brayton Cemetery Annual Spring Clean Up

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Brayton Cemetery across from 3445 Post Road

Contact: Sue Cabeceiras 4019219687, susan.w.cabeceiras@warwickri.gov

Celebrating a decade of the Newport Cemetery Commission Exhibit

The exhibit displays the work of the commission since it was resurrected in 2016. The panels share projects that were accomplished and the people who helped maintain the sites. The exhibition will be in place from May 2nd to June 29th and can be viewed when the library is open.

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Newport Library, 300 Spring Street

Contact: Lew Keen nphistoriccemeteries@gmail.com

Guided walking tour of the Congregational Cemetery #11 on Lake Road, Tiverton

This cemetery has the most slate gravestones of the 93 known Tiverton burial grounds. The tour will highlight some of the 16 Revolutionary War veterans and 2 Civil War veterans, including some other renowned Tiverton citizens of the past viewed Time: 10:30 am

Location: The public may park in the adjacent St. Madeleine's Church lot on Lake Road, north of the cemetery.

Contact: Susan Anderson: gsriengr@yahoo.com.

Music of Fort Adams Cemetery Tour

Time: 11:00 am

Location: Fort Adams Cemetery, Fort Adams, 90 Fort Adams Drive, Newport

Contact: Mark Stickney mark@historicmusicofnewport.org

[The Musicians of the Fort Adams Cemetery Tour — Historic Music of Newport](#)

May 3

Guided Tour of Newport's Common Burying Ground

Newport's Common Burying Ground is where 85% of the city's colonial population is buried. This remarkable site is an outdoor museum of slate stones carved by notable carvers including generations of the Stevens family. The tour will take a close look at the stones and the site. It includes God's Little Acre, the final resting place for people of African heritage.

Time: 10:00 am

Location: The tour will begin at the Warner Street entrance to the site. Parking is available in the neighborhood.

Contact: Lew Keen npthistoriccemeteries@gmail.com

May 5

Dig the Grave and Let Me Lie: New England Burial Practices from 1800-Today

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: William Hall Library, 1825 Broad Street, Cranston

Contact: John Hill jhchcc167@gmail.com

May 9

Guided walking tour of the Congregational Cemetery #11 on Lake Road, Tiverton

This cemetery has the most slate gravestones of the 93 known Tiverton burial grounds. The tour will highlight some of the 16 Revolutionary War veterans and 2 Civil War veterans, including some other renowned Tiverton citizens of the past viewed Time: 10:30 am

Location: The public may park in the adjacent St. Madeleine's Church lot on Lake Road, north of the cemetery.

Contact: Susan Anderson: gsriengr@yahoo.com.

Women's History Tour, North Burial Ground

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: North Burial Ground, Providence

Contact: Annalisa Heppner aheppner@providenceri.gov

May 14

"Living with the Dead in Rhode Island: From Cemetery Destruction to Cemetery Preservation"

A talk by State Archaeologist Charlotte Taylor on the history of Rhode Island's Cemetery Laws

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Newport Public Library, 300 Spring Street

May 16

Ancient Little Neck Cemetery Cleanup, East Providence

As we approach our nation's 250th anniversary, East Providence is coming together to honor the 148 Revolutionary War soldiers buried in our local cemeteries. Join us in preparing for a special fall commemoration by helping preserve these historic spaces. Volunteer Activities Include:

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- Cleaning Revolutionary War gravestones
- Locating & documenting historic stones
- Photographing markers
- Installing commemorative signs
- Trimming and protecting fragile gravestones

Bring rakes, hand clippers, pruners if you can, and let us know you're coming!

Time: 9:00 am

Location: South End of Penrod Ave., East Providence

Contact: Sandra Turgeon friendsofnewmancemetery@gmail.com

Oliver Matteson Lot WG-020 Cemetery Cleanup

Time: 9:00 am

Location: off of Weaver Hill Road on Big River Reservoir property, West Greenwich

Contact: John Harrington wgphc1741@gmail.com

Gravestone cleaning, resetting, and repair of Revolutionary War veterans and others at the Congregational Cemetery Tiverton

Hands-on gravestone cleaning, resetting, and repair of Revolutionary War veterans and others at the Congregational Cemetery #11 on Lake Road (near East Road intersection). No experience or supplies needed, but work gloves might help (on the job training provided). Come help for a couple of hours - or more!

Time: 10:00 am - 3 pm

Location: Parking available in the adjacent St. Madeleine's Church lot on Lake Road, north of the cemetery.

Contact: jim.spears@cox.net

Cleaning Richmond historic cemetery #65, the Edward Tefft Lot

Bring rakes and clippers and saws. No gas tools please. We hope you can join us to work or to watch.

Time: 10:00 am

Location: On route 112 and on the grounds of the Washington County Fair.

Contact: Dory Wagner dorwagg@aol.com

Guided Tour of Patriots and Loyalists in the Common Burying Ground

Newport was an important city during the American War of Independence. Everyone in the city was directly affected during the war years and the tour will feature selected people that reflect what many were experiencing. Meet loyalists, patriots, soldiers and politicians who lived and died in the fight for independence.

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Common Burying Ground. Meet at the Warner Street entrance (near Burnside). Parking available in the neighborhood.

Contact: Lew Keen nphistoriccemeteries@gmail.com

May 17

Cleaning Exeter historic cemetery #103, the Lillibridge lot

With a Revolutionary War patriot's burial. (Jonathan Lillibridge 1751-1836, Ensign in 3rd Exeter company - 1778 under Capt. George Wilcox). We will be taking photos of the headstones for the state database and we will place an American flag

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: On the dirt section of Ten Rod Rd, across from James Pond. Park near gate. Cemetery is up the farm road to the north. Follow the red flags on the ground to the cemetery.

Contact: Dory Wagner dorwagg@aol.com

Headstone Cleaning at North Burial Ground

Participants will be taught how to clean headstones and will then be able to clean certain stones at the burial ground

Time: 11:00 am

Location: North Burial Ground, Providence

Contact: Annalisa Heppner ahheppner@providenceri.gov

Edgar Allen Poe book signing with author and local Poe Historian Levi Lionel Leland

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: North Burial Ground, Providence

Contact: Annalisa Heppner ahheppner@providenceri.gov

May 22

World Goth Day Tour of North Burial Ground

A dramatic reading of The Raven and free ice cream follow the tour!

With docent Chris Belanger and Victorian historian, author, and Poe performer Joshua Rex, who will also selling and signing his book

Haunted Victorian America: Ghost Stories.

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: North Burial Ground, Providence The tour steps off from inside the NBG Rochambeau gate. This unmarked pedestrian gate is next to the bus shelter at the intersection of N. Main & Rochambeau. Park on N. Main (plenty of free parking) as NBG will be closed.

Contact: Chris Belanger wholeofthemoonyoga@hotmail.com

May 23

Naturalist Tour at North Burial Ground

Time: 9:00 am

Location: North Burial Ground, Providence. Tour will begin at Ridgeside Lake.

Contact: Greg Gerritt gerritt@mindspring.com

May 29

Headstone cleaning at North Burial Ground

Participants will be shown how to clean headstones and will then have the opportunity to clean certain stones at the burial ground.

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: North Burial Ground, Providence

Contact: Lydia Therrien lbt365@gmail.com

May 30

Gravestone cleaning, resetting, and repair of Revolutionary War veterans and others at the Congregational Cemetery Tiverton

Hands-on gravestone cleaning, resetting, and repair of Revolutionary War veterans and others at the Congregational Cemetery #11 on Lake Road (near East Road intersection). No experience or supplies needed, but work gloves might help (on the job training provided). Come help for a couple of hours - or more!

Time: 10 am - 3 pm

Location: Parking available in the adjacent St. Madeleine's Church lot on Lake Road, north of the cemetery.

Contact: jim.spears@cox.net