

2025 RI Historical Cemeteries Awareness and Preservation Weeks - April – May

Events and Proposals listed by community

BARRINGTON-

BLOCK ISLAND-

BRISTOL-

BURRILLVILLE-

Cemetery Clean-up and Gravestone Resetting Demonstration. Saturday, April 5th – 9 am – 1 pm Looking for volunteers to help clean Cemetery #26, the Riverside Cemetery (opposite Harrisville Fire Station) on Callahan School Street, Harrisville. Bring rakes, leaf blowers, brush loppers, gloves and water to drink. We will also need a few barrels, carts, tarps, etc. to haul the leaves into the woods. There will be gravestone resetting and gravestone cleaning demonstration, weather permitting. **Rain date:** Sunday, April 6th. Free coffee and doughnuts. The beautification project in this cemetery will continue in May (date to be determined) with the planting of flowering shrubs and native wildflowers. Contact Betty Mencucci – bmencucci@verizon.net.

Cemetery Clean-up of Cemetery #12- Saturday, April 12th – 9 am – 12 pm. located at the intersection of Charles Street and Howard Avenue in Pascoag. Bring rakes, leaf blowers, brush loppers, gloves and water to drink. We need volunteers with pickup trucks/trailers to haul the leaves to the town's compost facility. Contact Betty Mencucci – bmencucci@verizon.net.

CENTRAL FALLS

CHARLESTOWN-

COVENTRY/WEST WARWICK- For info- coventrycemeteries@gmail.com

CRANSTON- Contact- Paul - mptog@protonmail.com

CUMBERLAND

EAST GREENWICH-

EAST PROVIDENCE-

Gravestone cleaning demonstration- Saturday- April 12- 10:00-12:00 Newman Cemetery gravestone cleaning demonstration by TNT Gravestone Solutions, learn how to document cemeteries on Find a Grave, and self- guided walking tour. Please bring rakes, loppers, trimmers if possible. Contact Sandra - friendsofnewmancemetery@gmail.com

Gravestone cleaning demonstration- Tuesday- April 22- 10:00-12:00 Newman Cemetery grounds clean- up/ gravestone cleaning demonstration by TNT Gravestone Solutions, learn how to document cemeteries on Find a Grave, and self-guided walking tour. Please bring rakes, loppers, trimmers if possible. Contact Sandra - friendsofnewmancemetery@gmail.com

Gravestone cleaning demonstration Wednesday May 14 10:00-12:00 Littleneck Cemetery grounds clean-up, gravestone cleaning demonstration, learn how to document cemeteries on Find a Grave, and self- guided tour. Please bring rakes, loppers, trimmers if possible.
friendsofnewmancemetery@gmail.com

Gravestone cleaning demonstration- Saturday May 17- 10:00-12:00 Newman Cemetery grounds clean up, gravestone cleaning demonstration by TNT Gravestone Solutions, learn how to document cemeteries on Find a Grave, and self- guided walking tour. Please bring rakes, loppers, trimmers if possible. Contact Sandra - friendsofnewmancemetery@gmail.com

EXETER-

Hiking tour- April 19, Saturday- Meet at 10 am on Pardon Joslin Rd at the parking lot for Fischerville Brook wildlife management area. Level, 2–3-mile trail hike. Exeter historic cemetery committee will lead a hike to EX #140, unknown lot AND EX #93, Gardner lot. We will also place a flag at the grave of John Gardner, a revolutionary war veteran. Contact Dory Wagner dorwagg@aol.com

Cleaning- April 26- Saturday- at 10 am we will be cleaning **EX # 108**, an unknown lot located in the Arcadia management area. Meet at 10 am at Frosty Hollow Road off route 165 and we will drive to this cemetery. Bring rakes, saws, shovels, clippers, garden hand claws, gloves and tick spray. Contact - Dory Wagner dorwagg@icloud.com

Restoration- May 3, Saturday at 10 am we will meet at **Ex #35** to lift and straighten the 80 headstones of the Ladd school residents. They so deserve to have their inscriptions read! Bring shovels, hand claw tools, gloves. Contact - Dory Wagner dorwagg@icloud.com

FOSTER- Contact – Ed Robinson - edwinrobinson2a@gmail.com

GLOSTER-

HOPKINTON-

JAMESTOWN-

JOHNSTON-

Johnston Clean-up - April 12, 2025 - 9AM to 12 noon. #JN021 The Governor Samuel Ward King Cemetery Hartford Avenue at Winfield Road (Park on Winfield). Bring rakes and gloves. Bring rakes and gloves. Contact Elise-wardenclyffe@cox.net

LINCOLN-

Guided Waiking Tour with Park Ranger Allison Hourrocks - Saturday- May24, 10am

Take a walk-through Lincoln Woods with a park ranger. Begin at the historic Olney Burial Ground and enjoy a guided walk around Olney Pond. Duration: Approximately 2.3 Miles. Use Route 146/Twin River Road Entrance and bear right. Free Parking is available. Contact: Tyler_Shepard@NPS.GOV.

Guided Waiking Tour with Park Ranger Allison Hourrocks - Saturday- May31, 10am Lonsdale Cemetery Tour... Tour the Christ Church Cemetery (#28) and learn about the history of Lonsdale, a mill village. **Meet** in the Blackstone River Bikeway Bike Path Parking, John Street Parking Area, **121 John St, Lincoln, RI**. Contact: Allison_Horrocks@nps.gov

LITTLE COMPTON- Stone Cleaning - Friday and Saturday – May 9th and 10th at 9am to 11am. Stone cleaning at the Adamsville Cemetery located at the corner of John Dyer and Colebrook. Contact Elizabeth McCurdy- elmccur@gmail.com

MIDDLETOWN-

Display at the Hall Lobby-

During the month of April the Middletown Historical Society will sponsor and present a display of local historic graves in the **Middletown Hall Lobby** located at 350 East Main Rd. Middletown RI 02842 - The display is FREE and open to all visitors - Mon – Fri 8am-4pm - Contact- Janice Hart- j.m.hart@cox.net

Guided Walking Tour- Norman Bird Sanctuary and 3 cemeteries-

Tuesday- April 1st- 10am – 12 noon- (**rain date** - April 3rd- 10am- 12noon Located at 583 Beach Road Middletown, RI 02842. In collaboration with the Norman Bird Sanctuary, take a walking tour of the three historical cemeteries found on sanctuary property. The group will also observe some of the early spring migrants along the way. Hiking boots are suggested as the trail could be muddy at this time of year.

Guided Walking Tour- Norman Bird Sanctuary and 3 cemeteries- Tuesday- April 29th- 10am – 12 noon- (**rain date** – May 1st 10am- 12noon Located at 583 Beach Road Middletown, RI 02842. In collaboration with the Norman Bird Sanctuary, take a walking tour of the three historical cemeteries found on sanctuary property. The group will also observe some of the early spring migrants along the way. Hiking boots are suggested as the trail could be muddy at this time of year... Kelsey Mullen kelsey.mullen@preservation.ri.gov

NARRAGANSETT-

NEWPORT-

Clean-Up Day- April 12- Saturday 9:30am – 12pm. Island Cemetery, Newport Volunteer Clean-up Day. Please bring a friend but leave your four-legged friends at home. Garden gloves, spades & edgers to clear ground markers. For headstone cleaning, rubber kitchen gloves, buckets and small brushes are good to bring. Leaf raking & bagging is another opportunity! Pizza and refreshments will be provided!! The Belmont Chapel will be open so you can check out the awarding winning restoration. A volunteer form can be found at: www.islandcemeterynewport.com/volunteers - Pre-sign-ups helpful but not required Robert Vitello, robert@islandcemeterynewport.com or Zach Russell, zach@islandcemeterynewport.com **Rain date** Sunday April 13th)

Presentation- April 23- Wednesday-1 pm- The Kings of Newport- presented at the Edward King House - located at 35 King St. Newport, RI 02840. The name “King” is everywhere in the city of Newport and in the Island Cemetery. The Edward King House, Newport’s Senior Center, and Kingscote, owned by the Preservation Society of Newport County, are only two of the significant buildings the King family built or owned in the city. The family members were numerous and important members of society. This presentation features the Kings who built their castles in Newport and impacted the city. **Reservations are required for this lecture.** Visit the [Edward King House website](http://EdwardKingHousewebsite) to reserve a seat.

Walking Tour- April 26- Saturday- 10am Trinity Church Yard – located at 1 Queen Anne Sq, Newport- 02840. Guests can park on the surrounding streets or in the city’s Mary Street parking lot. Contact - Mary Jo Valdes - thinwatersailor@verizon.net TrinityTours100@gmail.com

Interpretive Sign Dedication-April 26- (Saturday) – 10 am- noon, Coggeshall Burial Ground Open House and (10:30 am) - Coggeshall Burial Ground is located on Coggeshall Ave near Victoria Avenue. The Coggeshall family was one of the founding families of Portsmouth and Newport. John Coggeshall served as President of the colony and established this burial site. Abraham Redwood, founder of a library in Newport is one of the notable family members buried here. Graves will be marked with information for visitors during the open house. A brief ceremony will take place at 10:30 am officially dedicating the recently installed interpretive signs. Coggeshall is one of seven sign locations. npthistoriccemeteries@gmail.com

Presentation- April 27- (Sunday) 2 pm- Farewell St. to Newport, Belmont Chapel in Island Cemetery

Farewell Street is the artery many people use to enter Newport, and it is also surrounded by sites used by many as they exit life. The core of Newport's burials sites is located along this highway and provides, for many, their first and last glimpse of the city. If you ever wondered about the graves as you travel Farewell Street, this presentation will answer your questions. It will explain the creation of the six burial sites and share some highlights for each. The lecture is free, but **registration** is requested- npthistoriccemeteries@gmail.com

Exhibit- May 1-31- Exhibit- Newport library, Opening the Book on Newport Burials - The exhibition is in the Spring Street lobby of the library. People buried in Newport are important figures in history. This exhibit focuses on several stories that are told in books. Some, like Richard Morris Hunt are internationally known while others, like George Champlin Mason, are local celebrities. Featured books about Newport burial sites and stone carvers are included in the exhibit.

Tour- May 3- (Saturday) 10 am- Wilbur site and Bliss house- The Judge Anthony Wilbur burial lot is a small family site that is the only family site in Newport that was established after 1800. The Wilbur family, originally from Tiverton, married members of the Peckham and Hazzard families, longtime Newport residents. The event will start with a brief history of the burial site and an explanation of recent stonework completed. The event continues inside the John Bliss house, one of the oldest in the city. **Space on this tour is limited, and reservations are required.** To reserve a place, send a message to npthistoriccemeteries@gmail.com. Please include your name and how many people will attend. This is a free event.

Lecture- May 11- (Sunday) 2 pm, Newport Neighborhood Burial sites presented at the Belmont Chapel. This lecture takes place in the historic Belmont Chapel at Island Cemetery- While Newport's larger burial sites get the most attention, the smaller ones scattered throughout the city are worthy of exploration. Most date to colonial times and provide pockets of history and artistry for residents and visitors of the city. This lecture will include sites related to Newport's religious congregation, among them the oldest existing Jewish burial ground in the country. Family burial sites will be visited and the story of the Arnold site and its savior, Alice Brayton, will be shared... The lecture is free, but **registration** is requested- npthistoriccemeteries@gmail.com

NORTH KINGSTOWN-

Presentation – Saturday- April 12th 9:00 AM-1:00 PM NK47 George Thomas Lot - St Bernard Church, 275 Towerhill Rd, North Kingston, RI - Discussion led by Larry Hunter, a local Resident of Westerly, a Commissioner on the RI Advisory Commission of Historic Cemeteries, A Board Member of Rediscovering History, Inc. and a local source of knowledge on Historic Cemeteries. Larry will lead a presentation about historical cemeteries in the meeting hall and then progress out to the Cemetery to oversee a clean-up of RI historical cemetery NK47 on the church grounds. Please feel free to join us. Contact- lphunter53@yahoo.com

NORTH PROVIDENCE-

NORTH SMITHFIELD- *Contact Eward Walker* clockwalk@verizon.net

PAWTUCKET- contact@heritagepawtucket.org

PORTSMOUTH-

PROVIDENCE-

Earth Day Clean Up: Sunday- April 27, 10-1 pm, Cleaning & mulching the Pollinator Garden with Councilor Sue Anderbois. Meet @ the Rochambeau Gate on North Main St. Contact person- Brianna Hutchins – bhutchins@providenceri.gov

Headstone Cleaning Workshop: Saturday - May 3, 11-1 pm, meet at North Burial Ground Office located at 5 Branch Ave Providence, RI 02904. Wear clothes, you don't mind getting a little dirty/wet! Contact person- Brianna Hutchins – bhutchins@providenceri.gov

Guided Walking Tour with Allison Horrocks Park Ranger – May 10, Saturday, 10am - **Distressed of Conscience** Climb College Hill in Providence, Rhode Island, and learn the story of Roger Williams. Walk past Williams's original property and explore a historic landscape. Program begins and ends at Roger Williams National Memorial, **located at 282 North Main St.** Please note: this route includes a steep walk on city streets. Contact: Andrew_Schnetzer@nps.gov

RICHMOND-

Cleaning- May 31, Saturday at 10am we will be cleaning **RD #2**, Robert Reynolds lot, on Tug Hollow Rd next to the pond. Bring rakes, saws, clippers, gloves and tick spray. -Contact Dory Wagner dorwagg@icloud.com

Contact- Dory Wagner dorwagg@aol.com

SCITUATE-

Cemetery Clean-up- April 26, 9am-12 noon of the Barded SC#39 or Ponagansett Cemetery located along Ponagansett Rd across from the reservoir. We will be doing the focus on performing stone clean-up, tidying, repairing, and resetting stones. Helpful items to bring include drinking water, sanitary alcohol, snacks, gloves, knee pads, sunscreen, hat, and tools such as clippers, shovels, rakes, and saws (marked with initials). Long sleeves and pants are recommended. Drive in from Route 102 (Plainfield Pike so that cars face towards Central Pike. **Parking** is on the left side of Ponagansett Rd. A decision will be made the night before if the event is to take place on the Rain date. Questions... 401-680-0747 Contact- Skye Pechie - tmbgambassador@gmail.com

SMITHFIELD-

SOUTH KINGSTOWN- *Contact Deb Suggs*

TIVERTON-

Guided Walking Tour- May 3- Saturday, 10:30 AM of the old Congregational Church Cemetery #11 on Lake Road (near East Road intersection), having 16 Revolutionary War veterans and 2 Civil War veterans, and the most slate gravestones of the 91 known Tiverton burial grounds. The public may **park** in the adjacent St Madeleine's Church lot on Lake Road, north of the cemetery. RSVP Contact - Sue Anderson gsriengr@yahoo.com

Gravestone restoration- May 17- Saturday- 10am-3pm Gravestone cleaning, repair, and resetting. The Tiverton Historical Cemeteries Commission welcomes volunteers to help clean and reset stones at The William Gray Lot #5 on Main Road (adjacent south of 3580 Main Road). No experience or supplies needed. Come for an hour or more! **Parking** is available on Main Road near the cemetery. Contact Jim Spears jim.spears@cox.net

Presentation on Tiverton Historical Cemeteries- on Tuesday, May 27 at 6 PM at the Tiverton Public Library. Jim Spears, co-Chair of the Tiverton Historical Cemeteries Commission, will talk about:

- comparison between the several phases of cemetery practices used from colonial times to the present;
 - some of the 91 known historical cemeteries in Tiverton.
 - some noteworthy examples of gravestones including Elizabeth Rogers, a resident of Newport who came to Tiverton, died of unknown causes in 1704 and was buried in the Philip Cory Lot. Her well-preserved slate headstone is the oldest known memorial in town.
 - discussion of past, current and planned cemetery and gravestone restoration projects taken on by THCC.
- Contact- Jim Spears – jim.spears@cox.net

Gravestone restoration- May 31- Saturday- 10am-3pm Gravestone cleaning, repair, and resetting. The Tiverton Historical Cemeteries Commission welcomes volunteers to help clean and reset stones at The William Gray Lot #5 on Main Road (adjacent south of 3580 Main Road). No experience or supplies needed. Come for an hour or more! **Parking** is available on Main Road near the cemetery. Contact Jim Spears jim.spears@cox.net

WARREN-

Cemetery Clean-up- Saturday, April 26, 9:30 AM-12:00noon. North Burial Ground located on Main Street/Warren; R I. Volunteers Needed/ Call Judy 401 556-5951

WARWICK- Clean-up- Saturday- , April 26th- 9:00 am to 11:30am – WK#34 Braton Cemetery located at 3478 Post Rd. Bring rakes and gloves if you have them. A limited amount can be provided. We will provide water and snacks. Community service hours are available. Please join us. Contact- Sue Cabeceiras- susan.w.cabeceiras@warwickri.gov

Self-guided scavenger hunt. You're invited to participate in a self-guided **Brayton Cemetery** Scavenger Hunt during April and May, aiming to find 25 specific items on the headstones. Contact- Contact- Sue Cabeceiras- susan.w.cabeceiras@warwickri.gov

- 1.Gravestone with your first, middle, or last name
- 2.Religious symbol on a headstone
- 3.Gravestone with the last name Brayton
- 4.Gravestone with a US President's last name on it
- 5.Gravestone of Thomas Vaill who was on the IRonclad ship Monitor
- 6.Gravestone with a flower or leaf on it
- 7.Gravestone of someone who died before 1900
- 8.Gravestone with an epitaph mentioning God
- 9.Gravestone of someone who died as a baby(less than 4 years old)
- 10.Gravestone with a crack in it
- 11.Gravestone with more than 2 names on it
- 12.Gravestone that mentions a place of death
- 13.Gravestone that mentions the deceased accomplishments
- 14.Male name beginning with W
- 15.Female name beginning with M
- 16.Gravestone of a woman Naval veteran
- 17.Gravestone with a lamb on it
- 18.Gravestone with moss or lichen on it
19. Gravestone with an animal on it
- 20.Any slate headstone
- 21.Picture of a mouse on a vault
22. Gravestone with a heart on it
23. Gravestone with a willow tree
- 24.Gravestone in the shape of a tree
25. Gravestone with a fraternal order symbol

WEST GREENWICH-

WESTERLY-

Discussion / Club Dinner- Monday- April 14th 5:30-7:00 PM Westerly Rotary Club Dinner located at the Frank Orlean Center - 93 Airport RD, Westerly, RI. Cemetery 101 Discussion led by Larry Hunter, a local Resident of Westerly, a Commissioner on the RI Advisory Commission of Historic Cemeteries, A Board Member of Rediscovering History, Inc. and a local source of knowledge on Historic Cemeteries.

Larry will discuss Historic Cemeteries, positioning of stones, type of stones and stone materials and a bit of history and some of the roles of the RI Historic Cemetery Commission. This meeting is a Rotary Club dinner open to anyone, but you must sign up and pay for the dinner in advance. Contact six07co@att.net

Walking Tour- Sunday- April 27th 2pm – 3pm – River Bend Cemetery- 124 Granit Street Westerly, RI. This tour at River Bend is a repeat of the tour done in the summer of 2024. There is no rain date. Contact Ellenmadison1945@gmail.com

Clean-up & tour- Saturday- May 10th 10:00 AM-1:00 PM – WY#07 James Babcock Lot/ clean-up and tour with Phebe Greene Chapter DAR and Westerly Lion's Club located 42 Watch Hill RD, Westerly, RI. In conjunction with the Phebe Greene Chapter of the Daughter's of the American Revolution and the Westerly Lions Club, we will conduct a spring clean-up of this lovely cemetery. Bring your rakes, gloves tarps and/or leaf blower.

Stick around for a tour and history lesson and discussion of some of the Revolutionary Soldiers resting there, including Joshua Babcock who was also a personal friend of Ben Franklin and hosted him at his house which is now the Babcock/Smith Museum. Contact – lphunter53@yahoo.com