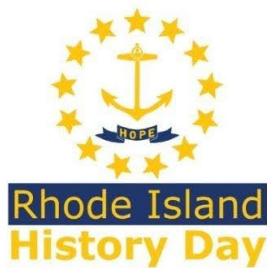




THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

RI HISTORY DAY GUIDE TO RHODE ISLAND ARCHIVES



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Also visit the [Directory of Historical Repositories](#) maintained by the RI Historical Records Advisory Board. Click on “Contact an Organization” for their spreadsheet with contact information and how to access archives

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This is a working document which will be periodically updated as more information is gathered. (Last updated: Fall 2021)

Bristol Historical and Preservation Society

Contact information	Hours W-F 1:00-5:00 PM (available during 'off hours') (401) 253-7223 Email: info@bhps.necoxmail.com https://bhpsri.org/
How do I schedule an appointment?	Call or email.
Do they offer staff assistance?	Yes, they are willing to help students connect with their collections. Appointments can be scheduled during 'off hours' so they can focus on your project exclusively.
What should I bring?	Phones and computers, but permission is needed to use photos beyond school research use. No food or drink is permitted, including gum, candy, water, and cough drops. Patrons must leave all personal belongings in designated areas. All personal items brought into the BH&PS are subject to staff inspection upon exit. (https://bhpsri.org/research-%26-reproduction)
How much does it cost?	Fees waived for students.
What are the Covid protocols?	Masks required.

Burrillville Historical and Preservation Society

Contact information	16 Laurel Hill Avenue, Pascoag, RI (401) 568-8449 http://www.bhps.org/
How do I schedule an appointment?	Call and ask for Betty Mencucci.
Do I need a parent/guardian/adult with me?	No
Do they offer staff assistance?	Yes, if they have helpful materials for you then Betty will be able to assist further.
What are the Covid protocols?	Masks required if unvaccinated.

Foster Preservation Society

Contact information	180 Howard Hill Rd, Foster, RI (401) 397-5687 http://www.fosterpreservationsociety.org/collections.htm
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Glocester Heritage Society

Contact information	1181 Main Street, Chepachet, RI (401) 568-8967 http://www.glocesterheritagesociety.org/archives.htm
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Herreshoff Marine Museum

Contact information	1 Burnside Street, Bristol, RI (401) 253-5000 Librarian and Archivist Email: n.rickson@herreshoff.org https://herreshoff.org/library/
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Historical Society of Smithfield

Contact information	220 Stillwater Road, Smithfield, RI (401) 231-7363 contact@smithapplebyhouse.org https://smithapplebyhouse.org/historic-documents/
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Jamestown Historical Society

Contact information	93 Narragansett Ave, Jamestown, RI (401) 423-7202 Tuesday and Thursday 9-12 contact@smithapplebyhouse.org https://smithapplebyhouse.org/historic-documents/
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John Carter Brown Library

Contact information	Monday, Tuesday, Friday 9-5, Wednesday 9-3, Thursday 9-7 (401) 863-2725 jcb-digitization@brown.edu https://jcblibrary.org/
Due to Covid, the physical archives are closed to the public	
Digital Archives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Image search- Collections search- Rhode Island History Digital Collection

Little Compton Historical Society

Contact information	548 W. Main Road, Little Compton, RI (401) 635-4035 https://littlecompton.org/historical-resources/lchs-online-collection/
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Middletown Historical Society

Contact information	Paradise Avenue, Middletown, RI (401) 849-1870 https://www.middletownhistoricalsociety.org/
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Newport Historical Society

Contact information	82 Touro Street, Newport, RI Monday-Friday 9-12 401-846-0813, ext. 190 Email: research@newporthistory.org https://newporthistory.org/
How do I schedule an appointment?	Email or call.
How do I get there?	Small parking lot or metered street parking.
What should I bring?	Notebooks and pencils will be <i>provided</i> . Personal laptops and tablets are permitted for note-taking, but cases must be stored with other personal belongings.
How much does it cost?	Library appointments are free, archive appointments are \$5/hour.

Do they offer staff assistance?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quick research questions: Staff will answer specific questions about the history of Newport county and resources in our collection without charging a fee. These are questions that can typically be answered with 30 minutes or less of staff research. Beyond that time, requests will be charged - Remote research services: For researchers who cannot visit the NHS in person, NHS staff can conduct research on their behalf. The first half hour of staff research is free, after which fees apply
What are the Covid protocols?	Masks required.
Digital Archives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Artifacts, photographs, and manuscript collections - Digital Resources

Portsmouth Historical Society

Contact information	870 East Main Road, Portsmouth, RI (401) 683-9178 Email: PHSInfo@PortsmouthHistorical.org https://portsmouthhistorical.org/collections/
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Providence City Archives

Contact information	25 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI M-F 8:30-4:30 (401) 680-5314 https://www.providenceri.gov/cityarchives/
How do I schedule an appointment?	Walk-ins welcome.
How do I get there?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enter the library when you visit, please ring the buzzer to the left of the front entrance doors. Once inside, proceed to the sign-in desk, which is just inside the double glass doors across the entrance lobby - An accessible entrance is available via a paved pathway to the right of the front

	entrance stairs, through a gate in the picket fence surrounding the library. Please ring the bell to the left of the rear door for entrance to the Reading Room
What should I bring?	Laptops, pencils (no pens allowed), notebooks, cameras (no flash) no food, limited drink.
Do I need a parent/guardian/adult with me?	No.
How much does it cost?	No fees.
Do they offer staff assistance?	Finding aids are available for research assistance. They will provide you with a general description of a specific collection, the volume of records within that collection, as well as a detailed box and folder inventory (Archives request form).
What are the Covid protocols?	Masks required.
Digital Archives	Assorted topic collections

Providence Public Library

Contact information	150 Empire St, Providence, RI Tuesday 10-12, 1-5; Wednesday 1-5; Thursday 10-12, 1-5 (401) 455-8021 Special Collections Email: special_collections@provlb.org RI Collections Email: ricoll@provlb.org https://www.provlb.org/
How do I schedule an appointment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Click 'Schedule an Appointment' - Request Materials form
How do I get there?	Special Collections is located on the 3rd floor of the Library.
What should I bring?	When you arrive we'll ask you to leave your coat, bag and other belongings in one of the lockers outside the reading room (view locker instructions here). You may bring pencils (no pens), paper, laptops and cameras into the reading room. You do need clean hands, so we'll ask you to visit the restroom around the corner to wash them (we encourage using hand sanitizer, but not directly before handling collection materials). You can find some general advice about handling materials in the reading room though this page (courtesy of Harvard Library).
Do I need a	No.

parent/guardian/adult with me?	
How much does it cost?	No fees.
Do they offer staff assistance?	<p>Researchers must access the collections with the assistance of Special Collections Staff. Collection materials do not circulate and must be used in the Special Collections Reading Room on the 3rd floor of the Library.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special Collections - Rhode Island Collections <p>Reference staff is happy to assist with basic reference questions about the Rhode Island Collections for free. Questions are answered in the order in which they are received – please allow up to a week turnaround.</p>
What are the Covid protocols?	Masks required in the reading room.
Digital Archives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Various online databases (including <i>Providence Journal</i> archives from 1981-today) - PPL Digital Collections - Digital Books

Rhode Island Black Heritage Society

Contact information	<p>Email: origins@riblackheritage.org Online Exhibit on Black Entrepreneurs: https://www.riblackheritage.org/black-entrepreneurs/</p>
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Rhode Island Historical Society

Contact information	<p>121 Hope Street #2028, Providence, RI Wednesday-Friday 10-4 (401) 273-8107 x410 Email: reference@rihs.org https://www.rihs.org/</p>
How do I schedule an appointment?	Email or call to set up a reference interview and to make an appointment for your 2-hour visit.
How do I get there?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parking: 2-hour street parking - Bus: RIPTA routes 1, 40, and 92 have stops within a 5-10 minute walk

What should I bring?	Notebooks, pencils, laptops, phones, tablets, and chargers allowed. They ask visitors leave pens, bags, food/drink, & coats outside/in the lobby.
Do I need a parent/guardian/adult with me?	Students who do not have a state ID/License (i.e. 18 and under) should be accompanied by an adult.
How much does it cost?	No entrance fee. Copy charge of \$0.25 per scan.
Do they offer staff assistance?	You are able to schedule a reference interview for free (Via phone, e-mail, or video chat) and up to 1 hour of research and scanning. RIHS staff are happy to make scans of their materials to send.
What are the Covid protocols?	Masks required.
Digital Archives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RIHS Collections - NEOP Basic Search (Use to find collection items using single-term keywords) - NEOP Advanced Search (Use to find collection items using multiple terms in multiple fields)

Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

Contact information	(401) 331-1360 Email: info@rijha.org http://www.rijha.org/collections/
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Rhode Island State Archives

Contact information	33 Broad St, Providence, RI Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30 (401) 222-2353 Email: statearchives@sos.ri.gov https://www.sos.ri.gov/divisions/state-archives
How do I schedule an appointment?	Email the reference team and include what your topic of research is and what you are looking for, if possible.
How do I get there?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parking: In the parking lot, only park in spots labeled "Reserved for Secretary of

	<p>State". To enter the lot visitors should turn down Greene Street and then turn right into the parking lot on the right. Designated spots are on the far end, facing back towards Broad Street. There is also metered street parking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bus: There is an R line stop for RIPTA across the street from the building, and also Kennedy Plaza is about a 10 minute walk away
What should I bring?	Notebook, pencil, cell phone or camera to take pictures (No flash allowed).
Do I need a parent/guardian/adult with me?	Yes, especially if you are under the age of 14.
How much does it cost?	No entrance fee. Photocopy charges of \$0.15 per page for B&W, or \$0.50 for color.
Do they offer staff assistance?	Staff are willing to help gather resources and find materials around your chosen topic.
What are the Covid protocols?	Masks required.
Digital Archives	Assorted topic collections

South County History Center

Contact information	<p>2636 Kingstown Road, Kingston, RI M-Th 11-4 (401) 783-1328 Email: erica@southcountyhistorycenter.org http://southcountyhistorycenter.org/</p>
How do I schedule an appointment?	Research appointments are currently available Monday through Thursday, but appointments must be scheduled in advance by filling out this form . Hour and a half max
How do I get there?	Parking lot available, old Washington County Jail
What should I bring?	Notebook, pencils provided, phone for photos
Do I need a parent/guardian/adult with me?	Yes for middle school students, no for high school students.
How much does it cost?	.25 per page for copies and scans

Do they offer staff assistance?	Help navigate other collections, digitized information can be provided upon request.
What are the Covid protocols?	Masks required.

Tomaquag Museum

Contact information	390 A Summit Road, Exeter, RI Wednesdays 10-5, Tuesdays 10-2 (401) 491-9063 Research Email: ambelz@tomaquagmuseum.org Tour Email: slarose@tomaquagmuseum.org https://www.tomaquagmuseum.org/
How do I schedule an appointment?	Students are encouraged to schedule a tour visit in order to gain perspective and context of the museum so that they are better able to form research questions. Students would be encouraged to set up research visits later, or depending on their interests Mr. Belz could help focus on suitable archival materials.
How do I get there?	Parking is free and is adjacent to the building and in an overflow lot next door.
What should I bring?	Pencils, notebook, camera (no flash).
Do I need a parent/guardian/adult with me?	Students 13 and under must be accompanied by a parent/guardian/adult.
How much does it cost?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$5 for the 1 hour tour - Photocopies (Black and White): \$1.50 per page, Photocopies (Full Color): \$3.50 per page, Digital Scanning: \$25 per image
Do they offer staff assistance?	Yes.
What are the Covid protocols?	Masks and social distance required.
What will I find there?	The Archival Collection and library is limited in scope and focuses almost exclusively on the very late 19th century, 20th and early 21st century material. The Tomaquag Museum Archival Collection is dedicated to acquiring and preserving cultural materials of historical significance specifically related to Indigenous culture, history, storytelling, ecology, politics and

	sovereignty. The archive focuses on the Indigenous people of the Northeast United States and Southern New England, primarily the Narragansett/Niantic people, but the museum also collects relevant materials related to Indigenous people throughout the Western Hemisphere. See website for archival collection highlights and other notable collections.
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Warren Preservation Society

Contact information	Email: info@preservewarren.org http://www.preservewarren.org/p/collections.html
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Warwick Historical Society

Contact information	25 Roger Williams Circle, Warwick, RI (401) 467-7647 Wednesday 11-2, or by appointment Email: warwickhistoricalsocietyri@gmail.com http://www.whsri.org/
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Westerly Historical Society

Contact information	Email: whsarchivist@gmail.com https://westerlyhistoricalsociety.org/collections/
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Secondary Sources:

[Encompass Rhode Island History Textbook](#)

[African American History Resources](#)

[RI History Journal online](#)

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Rappleye, Charles. *Sons of Providence: The Brown Brothers, The Slave Trade, and The American Revolution*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2006.