

2022 RI Historical Cemeteries Awareness and Preservation Weeks

APRIL – MAY 2022

The RI Advisory Commission on Historical Cemeteries and the RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission present **2022 RI Historical Cemeteries Awareness and Preservation Weeks**. Learn about Rhode Island's historic cemeteries and burial grounds by participating in clean-ups, tours, open houses, gravestone conservation workshops, and other programs.

All events are free and open to the public. Please note:

- Many programs have a limited capacity, and some hosts have requested registration by email (noted in description).
- All programs are subject to change. Please check the website to confirm details before you head out.
- Please be respectful of mourners and property stewards.

This calendar was prepared on 2/28/2022. Please consult www.preservation.ri.gov/cw-events or www.rihistoriccemeteries.org/events.aspx for the latest updates.

APRIL

DATE/TIME LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
April 2, 9am Amos Whitford Lot Exeter	Join volunteers to clean up the cemetery and lift sunken headstones. Contact: Dory Wagner dorwagg@aol.com
April 3, 12pm Israel Lewis Cemetery Richmond	Join volunteers for a clean-up. Meet: I-95/Rt. 138 Park + Ride. Contact: Dory Wagner dorwagg@aol.com
April 5, 10am Norman Bird Sanctuary 583 3rd Beach Rd Middletown	Join naturalist Jay Manning for a Birds and Burials walking tour. Visit the Norman Bird Sanctuary's three burying grounds to learn about their history and take in the sights and sounds of the Sanctuary's spring birds. https://www.normanbirdsantuary.org Rain date April 8; repeats April 25
April 9, 10am Karin Sprague Stone Carvers 904 Tourtellot Hill Rd Scituate	Karin Sprague will host an open studio in the space where she designs and carves gravestones by hand. Spaces are limited and reservations are required: call 401-934-3105. www.karinsprague.com
April 12, 5pm North Burial Ground 5 Branch Ave Providence	Join Director Annalisa Heppner for a walking tour featuring some of North Burial Ground's most noteworthy interments—Rhode Islanders who “Dared to Live Different” and defied norms of their time to make an impact on history. Meet artists, circus performers, suffragettes, philanthropists and more! Meet at Rochambeau Gate (near corner of North Main St/Rochambeau Ave) https://www.providenceri.gov/providence-parks/north-burial-ground/ Limit: tbd

Updated 2/28/22

April 12, 6pm Island Cemetery (virtual) Newport	A virtual presentation about the garden cemetery movement and the Island Cemetery in Newport. Presented on Zoom. Contact islandcemeterytours@gmail.com for details.
April 13, 6pm Newport Public Library 300 Spring St Newport	Season kick-off presentation: Lew Keen will share the Newport Cemetery Commission's work in 2021 and preview events scheduled for 2022. Featuring a tribute to Judah Touro. Contact: ntphistoriccemeteries@gmail.com
April 16, 9am John Rathbun Jr Lot Exeter	Volunteers will clean up headstones for Ladd School residents inside RI Veterans Cemetery. Contact: Dory Wagner dorwagg@aol.com
April 16, 10am Elm Grove Cemetery 960 Tower Hill Rd North Kingstown	North Kingstown Town Historian Tim Cranston will lead a walking tour of a cemetery that contains relocated burials spanning three centuries. Learn about the folks who made Wickford, tales of mariners and farmers, and North Kingstown's unique connection to the movie "12 Years a Slave." Sponsored by Historic Wickford, Inc. https://histwick.org/ Meet at Cranston family plot near southernmost entrance. Limit: 40
April 16, tbd Hotchkiss Cemetery Next to Union Cemetery/opposite 108 Smithfield Rd North Smithfield	Join volunteers for a clean-up and watch a headstone cleaning demonstration. Contact: Rich Keene rfkeene6@gmail.com , Denis Chamberland denis.p.chamberland@gmail.com
April 22, 3pm God's Little Acre at Common Burying Ground Farewell St Newport	Historian Keith Stokes will lead a walking tour of God's Little Acre, the nation's oldest documented and extant burying ground for people of African heritage. Its many 18 th - and early 19 th -century gravestones illustrate the creative survival of Africans and African Americans in colonial Newport. https://www.colonialcemetery.com/ Limit: 20 Registration required: nphistoriccemeteries@gmail.com
April 23, 11am Common Burying Ground Farewell St Newport	Cemetery clean-up. Join volunteers to clear vines, leaves, branches, and debris. Wear a mask, and BYO gloves. City will provide tools or BYO. Registration required: nphistoriccemeteries@gmail.com
April 23, 1:30pm North Burial Ground 5 Branch Ave Providence	Public Historians Traci Picard and Bridget Hall will lead a tour of the Free Grounds area at North Burial Ground. Participants will discuss free burial in Providence, the politics of memory, and the ethics of studying potter's fields and other free burial areas. Meet at the bridge which crosses the Blackstone Canal—see map . https://thefreegrounds.squarespace.com
April 23, tbd Brayton Cemetery 3468 Post Rd Warwick	Join volunteers for a clean-up. Contact: Pegee Malcolm pmalcolm@cox.net
April 24, 2pm River Bend Cemetery	River Bend Cemetery (1849) will host an Open House, welcoming visitors to the newly-renovated office (1901). Volunteers from Babcock-Smith House will give

117 Beach St Westerly	walking tours of select Westerly granite monuments and host a sale of maps, books, and DVDs. Refreshments. https://riverbendcemetery.org/ https://www.babcocksmithhouse.org/ Rain date: May 1
April 25, 10am	See April 5 (Norman Bird Sanctuary) Rain date April 28.
April 26, 6pm Island Cemetery (virtual) Newport	A live presentation about architects and real estate tycoons represented at Island Cemetery in Newport. Presented on Zoom. Contact islandcemeterytours@gmail.com for details.
April 27, 7pm Scituate Preservation Society 706 Hartford Pike Scituate	Archaeologist Kimberly Smith will present a program on historic cemeteries. https://www.facebook.com/ScituatePreservation/
April 30, 10:30am Mineral Spring Cemetery 4815 Mineral Spring Ave Pawtucket	Heritage Alliance of Pawtucket and Public Archaeology Laboratory invite you to discover the history of this 18 th -century cemetery and “meet” its residents, including prominent Pawtucket citizens and veterans of the Revolutionary War and Civil War. Also learn how ground penetrating radar was used to find unmarked graves in the cemetery. https://www.heritagepawtucket.org/ https://www.palinc.com/ Limit: 20
April 30, 11am Wilbur Lot Wilbur Ave, near Bliss Rd/Eustis Ave, Newport	Join volunteers to restack a stone wall. Many hands make light work, and with your help, the wall should be standing in under two hours! Registration required: npthistoriccemeteries@gmail.com
April 30, 11am Coddington Burial Ground 34 Farewell St Newport	Architectural historian Ron Onorato will lead a walking tour of this small colonial-era burial ground, also known as The Governors’ Burial Ground. Six Rhode Island governors are interred here, more than any other cemetery in the state. Limit: 15 Registration required: npthistoriccemeteries@gmail.com
April 30, 10am Udike Park West Main/Brown Streets North Kingstown	Tim Cranston will lead a six-cemetery walking tour of Cooper-Whitford Lot, Old Narragansett Cemetery, Fowler-Weeden-Wightman Lot, Eliphalet Young Lot, Quaker Meeting House Lot, and Wall/Llufrio Lot. Sponsored by Daffodil Days in Wickford Village. Limit: 30 Contact: Tim Cranston gcranston@northkingstown.org

MAY

DATE/TIME LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
May 1, 2pm Burr’s Hill Park 540 Water St Warren	Dave Weed of the Sowams Heritage Area Project will lead a walk at the site of a 15 th -century royal Pokanoket burial ground. Meet at the historic marker across from Town Beach. https://sowamsheritagearea.org/wp/
May 1, 7pm North Burial Ground 5 Branch Ave	Join the Friends of the North Burial Ground and Randall Park and NBG Director Annalisa Heppner to talk about ways to get involved with the Friends group, plus a short, fun program!

Providence	https://www.providenceri.gov/providence-parks/north-burial-ground/
May 7, 10:30am Oak Grove Cemetery Cottage St/Central Ave Pawtucket	Heritage Alliance of Pawtucket and Public Archaeology Laboratory invite you to discover the history of this cemetery, established in 1832 and used in ways that might surprise you. Also learn how ground penetrating radar was used to find unmarked graves in the cemetery. https://www.heritagepawtucket.org/ https://www.palinc.com/ Limit: 20
May 7, 11am Clifton Burying Ground Golden Hill St (behind library) Newport	Join volunteers for a gravestone cleaning project at a remarkable colonial burial site. Marking the graves of notable Newport residents, many of these impeccably carved headstones are encrusted with algae and lichens. The City will provide materials and training. Registration required: npthistoriccemeteries@gmail.com
May 7, tbd Grace Church Cemetery 10 Elmwood Ave Providence	Learn about the dos and don'ts of historic gravestone cleaning from a National Park Service conservator. https://www.gracechurchcemeteryri.org/ Limit: tbd
May 11, 7pm North Scituate Community House 546 W Greenville Rd Scituate	Scituate Historic Cemetery Committee presents a program about the Russell Smith Lot and the residents buried there.
May 14, 11am Coddington Burial Ground 34 Farewell St Newport	Join volunteers to clean gravestones at "The Governors' Burial Ground." Many of the slate stones are covered with algae and lichens. The City will provide materials and training. Registration required: npthistoriccemeteries@gmail.com
May 14, 1pm Casey Farm 2325 Boston Neck Rd North Kingstown	Visit the Silas Casey Burial Ground, where 32 members of the Casey family were interred from the early 18 th century through the mid-20 th century. The small family burying ground is a significant feature of Casey Farm's landscape, stewarded and interpreted by Historic New England. https://www.historicnewengland.org/property/casey-farm/ Repeats May 21, May 28 Limit: 40 Meet at Casey Farm Market information table
May 14, 9am Russell Smith Lot 18 Silk Lane, Scituate	Scituate Historic Cemetery Committee hosts a clean-up at the Russell Smith Lot.
May 14, tbd Brayton Cemetery 3468 Post Rd Warwick	Scavenger Hunt! Contact: Pegée Malcolm pmalcolm@cox.net
May 21, 11am Common Burying Ground Warner St entrance Newport	Join volunteers to paint fencing at the Arnold Plot. The City will provide paint and brushes. Please wear clothing that can get messy. Registration required: npthistoriccemeteries@gmail.com
May 21, 1pm	See May 14 (Casey Farm)

May 21, 1pm North Burial Ground 5 Branch Ave Providence	Naturalist Greg Gerritt will lead a walking tour of amphibian habitats in North Burial Ground, focusing on Ridgeside Lake and a small rainwater pool. Participants will learn how to spot amphibian refuges, and they may also encounter young hawks about to fledge in the cemetery. https://www.youtube.com/user/Moshassuckcritters Limit: 40
May 28 Bristol	Bristol Historical & Preservation Society will host a day-long event focused on historic cemeteries. https://bhpsri.org
May 28, 1pm	See May 14 (Casey Farm)
May tbd Allin Yard 115 Bay Spring Ave Barrington	Barrington Cemetery Commission and Public Archaeology Laboratory will co-host a program to include: gravestone cleaning demonstration by trained volunteers, walking tour, and presentation of cemetery mapping, inventory, and ground-penetrating radar survey work. https://www.barrington.ri.gov/cemeterycomm https://www.palinc.com/ Limit: 20. Rain date tbd.
May tbd Scituate	Post 19 American Legion hosts an event to flag veterans' cemeteries and graves https://www.facebook.com/ScituatePost19/ Contact Skye Pechie tmbgambassador@gmail.com , Fred Faria ftfaria001@gmail.com

APRIL - MAY

Ongoing April – May North Burial Ground 5 Branch Ave Providence	Let's play Headstone Bingo—a family friendly search and find Bingo game with headstone iconography. Download the Bingo game from the NBG website (below) and take your family on a self-guided exploration of the cemetery. https://www.providenceri.gov/providence-parks/north-burial-ground-tours/
Ongoing April – May North Burial Ground 5 Branch Ave Providence	Celebrate NBG's earliest burials by photographing your favorite details from our earliest headstones (1700-1799). Be creative: a perfect headstone doesn't necessarily make the best photo! Be careful: don't modify stones or attempt to move them. To share: Tag @pvdnorthburialground on Facebook or Instagram—or—DM your photo to NBG on fb or ig—or—Email northburialground@providenceri.gov with subject "1700s Photo Contest." We put our 10 favorite photos to a vote on NBG's Facebook and Instagram! https://www.providenceri.gov/providence-parks/north-burial-ground/

JUNE

DATE/TIME LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
June 4/11/18/25, 10am Common Burying Ground Farewell St Newport	Join Newport Cemetery Commission volunteers in refreshing marble gravestones. The City will provide materials and training. Registration required: nphistoriccemeteries@gmail.com

DATES TBD; INFORMATION FORTHCOMING

Attleboro, MA	Contact: Ben Cote tenmilefriends@gmail.com
Barrington	Perpetual care program/clean-ups. Contact: Steve Kirey loftynotes@aol.com
Block Island	Perpetual care program/walking tour/clean-up. Contact: Pam Gasner pamgasner@icloud.com , Mike Shea cemeteries@new-shoreham.com
Bristol	Contact: Charlie Cavalcante ccavalcante@yahoo.com , Carol Gafford nebg02809@yahoo.com
Burrillville	Burrillville Historical & Preservation Society will host three programs: 1) a cleanup of the Riverside Cemetery in Harrisville with gravestone cleaning and conservation demo. 2) a tour of the Sayles Cook Cemetery in Pascoag, featuring the history of the nearby mill and the mill owners buried in the cemetery, as well as a discussion of conservation projects. 3) Hands-on Gravestone Conservation Workshop in the Pascoag Cemetery. Contact Betty Mencucci bmencucci@verizon.net , Ron Lapierre rplapierre@aol.com
Central Falls	Perpetual care program at Moshassuck Cemetery Contact: moshassuckcemetery@hotmail.com
Charlestown	Contact: Susan Angelo- susan1angelo@icloud.com
Coventry/West Warwick	Contact: Charlie Vacca charlesvacca@gmail.com , Julie Nathanson jnathanson123@verizon.net , Maureen Buffi coventrycemeteries@gmail.com
Cranston	Contact: Sherry Arruda historyinri@gmail.com , Walter Slocumb walterslocumb@hotmail.com
Cumberland	Clean-ups planned at CU003Cumberland Cemetery on Dexter St and CU033 Kimball Lot. Contact: Keith Hainley dkhainley@gmail.com , Judy Hadley treelady@cox.net
East Greenwich	Tbd
East Providence	Contact: Sandra Turgeon friendsofnewmancemetery@gmail.com
Foster	Contact: Foster Preservation Society fosterfps@msn.com
Glocester	Perpetual care program and clean-ups. Contact: Bill Brown- billbrown8686@gmail.com
Hopkinton	Contact: Jim Chabot jchabot4@gmail.com , hopkintonhistorical@gmail.com
Jamestown	Contact: Rosemary Enright rxenright@gmail.com
Johnston	Contact: Steve Merolla SMerolla1@cox.net
Lincoln	Clean-up and restoration project at LN014 Lydia Harris Lot located 250 feet east of Eddie Dowling Highway and 45 feet NE of Sherman Ave. Flagging veterans' graves. Contact: Ken Postle postle6@cox.net
Little Compton	Perpetual care program and clean-ups. Contact: Marjory O'Toole Ichistory@littlecompton.org
Middletown	Contact: Chuck DiTucci history@middletownsociety.org
Narragansett	Contact: Russell Dinoto russell.dinoto@hotmail.com
North Kingstown	Clean-up and demonstration tbd. Sponsored by Daffodil Days in Wickford Village. Contact: Carrie Mitchell carriemitchell@gmail.com .

North Providence	Clean-up and restoration project at NP002 Peach Hill Cemetery. Contact Ken Postle postle6@cox.net for info on how to enter cemetery. Contact Joe Giammarco- ltutal@aol.com
Pawtucket	Flagging veterans' graves. Contact: Ken Postle postle6@cox.net
Portsmouth	Cemetery tours at Portsmouth Abbey and Lawton Valley (limited availability). Clean-up of P0002 William Hall Lot. Contact: Stephen Luce Stephen_Luce@uri.edu
Smithfield	Perpetual care program and clean-ups. Contact: Skip Tuetken friendsofsmithfieldcemeteries@gmail.com
South Kingstown	Contact: Russell Dinoto russell.dinoto@hotmail.com
Tiverton	Two events: 1) cemetery clean-up and 2) walking tour of one of Tiverton's oldest cemeteries (many Revolutionary War veterans buried here). Contact: Jim Spears jim.spears@cox.net
Warren	Kickemuit clean-up Contact Barbara Hail- barbarahail@401gmail.com Additional events Contact: Judith Fardig jafl939@aol.com
West Greenwich	Contact: Charlene Butler ckb39@cox.net
West Warwick/ Coventry	Contact: Mike Gadoury gadourym@gmail.com
Woonsocket	Clean-up at Bernon Cemetery Contact: Christine MacWilliams cmacwilliams58@yahoo.com Additional events Contact: Greg Duhamel grizroots401@gmail.com