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 3/4/2022. Please consult <u>www.preservation.ri.gov/cw-events</u> or <u>www.rihistoriccemeteries.org/events.aspx</u> for the latest updates.

APRIL	
DATE/TIME	DESCRIPTION
LOCATION	
April 2, 9am	Join volunteers to clean up the cemetery and lift sunken gravestones.
Amos Whitford Lot	Contact: Dory Wagner <u>dorwagg@aol.com</u>
Exeter	
April 3, 12pm	Join volunteers for a clean-up.
Israel Lewis Cemetery	Meet: I-95/Rt. 138 Park + Ride.
Richmond	Contact: Dory Wagner <u>dorwagg@aol.com</u>
April 5, 10am	Join naturalist Jay Manning for a Birds and Burials walking tour. Visit the Norman
Norman Bird Sanctuary	Bird Sanctuary's three burying grounds to learn about their history and take in
583 3rd Beach Rd	the sights and sounds of the Sanctuary's spring birds.
Middletown	https://www.normanbirdsanctuary.org
	Rain date April 8; repeats April 25
April 9, 10am	Pawtuxet Valley Historical and Preservation Society presents a walking tour
Maple Root Cemetery	focused on the evolution and symbolism of gravestones, as well as some
Harkney Hill Rd,	interesting people.
Coventry	Rain date 4/10
	Contact: Charlie Vacca charlesvacca@gmail.com, Julie Nathanson
	jnathanson123@verizon.net, Maureen Buffi coventrycemeteries@gmail.com
April 9, 10am	Karin Sprague will host an open studio in the space where she designs and carves
Karin Sprague Stone	gravestones by hand.
Carvers	Spaces are limited and reservations are required: call 401-934-3105.
904 Tourtellot Hill Rd	www.karinsprague.com
Scituate	
April 12, 5pm	Join Director Annalisa Heppner for a walking tour featuring some of North Burial
North Burial Ground	Ground's most noteworthy interments—Rhode Islanders who "Dared to Live
5 Branch Ave	

APRIL

Drovidonco	Different" and defied norms of their time to make an impact on history. Meet
Providence	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
April 13, 6pm	Season kick-off presentation: Lew Keen will share the Newport Cemetery
Newport Public Library	Commission's work in 2021 and preview events scheduled for 2022. Featuring a
300 Spring St	tribute to Judah Touro.
Newport	Contact: <u>ntphistoriccemeteries@gmail.com</u>
April 16, 9am	Volunteers will clean up headstones for Ladd School residents inside RI Veterans
John Rathbun Jr Lot	Cemetery.
Exeter	Contact: Dory Wagner <u>dorwagg@aol.com</u>
April 16, 10am	North Kingstown Town Historian Tim Cranston will lead a walking tour of a
Elm Grove Cemetery	cemetery that contains relocated burials spanning three centuries. Learn about
960 Tower Hill Rd	the folks who made Wickford, tales of mariners and farmers, and North
North Kingstown	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	Join volunteers for a clean-up and watch a gravestone cleaning demonstration.
Hotchkiss Cemetery	
Next to Union	Contact: Rich Keene rfkeene6@gmail.com, Denis Chamberland
Cemetery/opposite 108	denis.p.chamberland@gmail.com
Smithfield Rd	
North Smithfield	
	Historian Keith Stokes will lead a walking tour of God's Little Acre, the nation's
April 22, 3pm God's Little Acre at	-
	oldest documented and extant burying ground for people of African heritage. Its
Common Burying	many 18 th - and early 19 th -century gravestones illustrate the creative survival of
Ground	Africans and African Americans in colonial Newport.
Farewell St	https://www.colonialcemetery.com/
Newport	Limit: 20 Registration required: <u>npthistoriccemeteries@gmail.com</u>
April 23, 9am	BYO rakes and tools and friends to clean up this long-neglected cemetery.
Midville Golf Course	
Wakefield St	
West Warwick	
April 23, 11am	Cemetery clean-up. Join volunteers to clear vines, leaves, branches, and debris.
Common Burying	Wear a mask, and BYO gloves. City will provide tools or BYO.
Ground	
	Registration required: npthistoriccemeteries@gmail.com
Farewell St	
Newport	
April 23, 1pm	Join volunteers for a clean-up. BYO gloves and briar/vine cutting tools. Rain date
Old Lake Cemetery	4/30.
Furey Ave, Tiverton	Contact: Sue Anderson gsriengr@yahoo.com and Jim Spears
	jim.spears.@cox.net

April 23, 1:30pm	Public Historians Traci Picard and Bridget Hall will lead a tour of the Free Grounds
North Burial Ground	area at North Burial Ground. Participants will discuss free burial in Providence,
5 Branch Ave	the politics of memory, and the ethics of studying potter's fields and other free
Providence	burial areas. Meet at the bridge which crosses the Blackstone Canal—see map.
	https://thefreegrounds.squarespace.com
April 23, tbd	Join volunteers for a clean-up.
Brayton Cemetery	Contact: Pegee Malcolm <u>pmalcolm@cox.net</u>
3468 Post Rd	
Warwick	
April 24, 2pm	River Bend Cemetery (1849) will host an Open House, welcoming visitors to the
River Bend Cemetery	newly-renovated office (1901). Volunteers from Babcock-Smith House will give
117 Beach St	walking tours of select Westerly granite monuments and host a sale of maps,
Westerly	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 27, 7pm	Archaeologist Kimberly Smith will present a program on historic cemeteries.
Scituate Preservation	https://www.facebook.com/ScituatePreservation/
Society	
706 Hartford Pike	
Scituate	
April 30, 9:30am	Join volunteers to clean up Island Cemetery.
Island Cemetery	Contact: info@islandcemetery.com
30 Warner St, Newport	https://www.islandcemeterynewport.com/
April 30, 10am	Monument repair demonstration led by volunteers.
Rice Cemetery, 58	Contact:
Tiogue Ave, West	
Warwick	
April 30, 12:30-2pm	Island Cemetery is hosting an Open House, inviting visitors to view the ongoing
Belmont Chapel at	restoration of Belmont Chapel.
Island Cemetery	www.belmontchapelfoundation.org
30 Warner St, Newport	
April 30, 10am	Tim Cranston will lead a six-cemetery walking tour of Cooper-Whitford Lot, Old
Updike Park	Narragansett Cemetery, Fowler-Weeden-Wightman Lot, Eliphalet Young Lot,
West Main/Brown Sts	Quaker Meeting House Lot, and Wall/Llufrio Lot. Sponsored by Daffodil Days in
North Kingstown	Wickford Village.
	https://wickfordvillage.org/
	Contact: Tim Cranston gcranston@northkingstown.org
	Limit: 30
April 30, 10:30am	Heritage Alliance of Pawtucket and Public Archaeology Laboratory invite you to
Mineral Spring	discover the history of this 18 th -century cemetery and "meet" its residents,
Cemetery	including prominent Pawtucket citizens and veterans of the Revolutionary War
4815 Mineral Spring Ave	and Civil War. Also learn how ground penetrating radar was used to find
Pawtucket	unmarked graves in the cemetery.
	https://www.heritagepawtucket.org/ https://www.palinc.com/
	Limit: 20

April 30, 11am	Join volunteers to restack a stone wall. Many hands make light work, and with
Wilbur Lot	your help, the wall should be standing in under two hours!
Wilbur Ave, near Bliss	Registration required: <u>npthistoriccemeteries@gmail.com</u>
Rd/Eustis Ave, Newport	
April 30, 11am	Architectural historian Ron Onorato will lead a walking tour of this small colonial-
Coddington Burial	era burial ground, also known as The Governors' Burial Ground. Six Rhode Island
Ground	governors are interred here, more than any other cemetery in the state.
34 Farewell St	Limit: 15 Registration required: npthistoriccemeteries@gmail.com
Newport	

MAY	
DATE/TIME	DESCRIPTION
LOCATION	
May 1, 2pm	Dave Weed of the Sowams Heritage Area Project will lead a walk at the site of a
Burr's Hill Park	15 th -century royal Pokanoket burial ground.
540 Water St	Meet at the historic marker across from Town Beach.
Warren	https://sowamsheritagearea.org/wp/
May 1, 7pm	Join the Friends of the North Burial Ground and Randall Park and NBG Director
North Burial Ground	Annalisa Heppner to talk about ways to get involved with the Friends group, plus
5 Branch Ave	a short, fun program!
Providence	https://www.providenceri.gov/providence-parks/north-burial-ground/
May 7, 10:30am	Heritage Alliance of Pawtucket and Public Archaeology Laboratory invite you to
Oak Grove Cemetery	discover the history of this cemetery, established in 1832 and used in ways that
Cottage St/Central Ave	might surprise you. Also learn how ground penetrating radar was used to find
Pawtucket	unmarked graves in the cemetery.
	https://www.heritagepawtucket.org/ https://www.palinc.com/
	Limit: 20
May 7, 11am	Join volunteers for a gravestone cleaning project at a remarkable colonial burial
Clifton Burying Ground	site. Marking the graves of notable Newport residents, many of these impeccably
Golden Hill St (behind	carved headstones are encrusted with algae and lichens. The City will provide
library)	materials and training.
Newport	Registration required: npthistoriccemeteries@gmail.com
May 7, tbd	Learn about the dos and don'ts of historic gravestone cleaning from a National
Grace Church Cemetery	Park Service conservator.
10 Elmwood Ave	https://www.gracechurchcemeteryri.org/
Providence	Limit: tbd
May 11, 7pm	Scituate Historic Cemetery Committee presents a program about the Russell
North Scituate	Smith Lot and the residents buried there.
Community House	
546 W Greenville Rd	
Scituate	
May 14, 9am	Scituate Historic Cemetery Committee hosts a clean-up at the Russell Smith Lot.
Russell Smith Lot	
18 Silk Lane, Scituate	
May 14, 11am	Join volunteers to clean gravestones at "The Governors' Burial Ground." Many of
Coddington Burial	the slate stones are covered with algae and lichens. The City will provide
Ground	materials and training.

34 Farewell St	Registration required: npthistoriccemeteries@gmail.com
Newport	
May 14, 1pm	Visit the Silas Casey Burial Ground, where 32 members of the Casey family were
Casey Farm	interred from the early 18 th century through the mid-20 th century. The small
2325 Boston Neck Rd	family burying ground is a significant feature of Casey Farm's landscape,
North Kingstown	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, 1pm	Walking tour: this cemetery has the most slate stones of any Tiverton cemetery
Old Congregational	and includes markers for 16 Revolutionary War veterans and 2 Civil War veterans.
Church Cemetery	Rain date 5/21
Lake Rd, Tiverton	Contact: Jim Spears jim.spears.@cox.net and Sue Anderson gsriengr@yahoo.com
May 14, tbd	Scavenger Hunt!
Brayton Cemetery	Contact: Pegee Malcolm <u>pmalcolm@cox.net</u>
3468 Post Rd	
Warwick	
May 21, 11am	Join volunteers to paint fencing at the Arnold Plot. The City will provide paint and
Common Burying	brushes. Please wear clothing that can get messy.
Ground	Registration required: <u>npthistoriccemeteries@gmail.com</u>
Warner St entrance	
Newport	
May 21, 1pm	See May 14 (Casey Farm)
May 21, 1pm	Naturalist Greg Gerritt will lead a walking tour of amphibian habitats in North
North Burial Ground	Burial Ground, focusing on Ridgeside Lake and a small rainwater pool.
5 Branch Ave	Participants will learn how to spot amphibian refuges, and they may also
Providence	encounter young hawks about to fledge in the cemetery.
	https://www.youtube.com/user/Moshassuckcritters
	Limit: 40
May 28	Bristol Historical & Preservation Society will host a day-long event focused on
Bristol	historic cemeteries.
	https://bhpsri.org
May 28, 1pm	See May 14 (Casey Farm)
May 28-30 9am	Flagging veterans' graves
Locations tbd	Contact:
Coventry/West Warwick	
May tbd	Barrington Cemetery Commission and Public Archaeology Laboratory will co-host
, Allin Yard	a program to include: gravestone cleaning demonstration by trained volunteers,
115 Bay Spring Ave	walking tour, and presentation of cemetery mapping, inventory, and ground-
Barrington	penetrating radar survey work.
	https://www.barrington.ri.gov/cemeterycomm
	https://www.palinc.com/
	Limit: 20. Rain date tbd.
May tbd	Post 19 American Legion hosts an event to flag veterans' cemeteries and graves
•	https://www.facebook.com/ScituatePost19/
Scituate	

Contact Skye Pechie tmbgambassador@gmail.com, Fred Faria
ftfaria001@gmail.com

APRIL - MAY

Ongoing April – May	Let's play Headstone Bingo—a family friendly search and find Bingo game with
North Burial Ground	headstone iconography. Download the Bingo game from the NBG website
5 Branch Ave	(below) and take your family on a self-guided exploration of the cemetery.
Providence	https://www.providenceri.gov/providence-parks/north-burial-ground-tours/
Ongoing April – May	Celebrate NBG's earliest burials by photographing your favorite details from our
North Burial Ground	earliest headstones (1700-1799). Be creative: a perfect headstone doesn't
5 Branch Ave	necessarily make the best photo! Be careful: don't modify stones or attempt to
Providence	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	DESCRIPTION
LOCATION	
June 4/11/18/25, 10am	Join Newport Cemetery Commission volunteers in refreshing marble gravestones.
Common Burying	The City will provide materials and training.
Ground	
Farewell St	Registration required: npthistoriccemeteries@gmail.com
Newport	

DATES TBD; INFORMATION FORTHCOMING

Attleboro, MA	Contact: Ben Cote <u>tenmilefriends@gmail.com</u>
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 Cavalconte <u>ccavalconte@yahoo.com</u> , 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 <u>bmencucci@verizon.net</u> , Ron Lapierre <u>rplapierre@aol.com</u>
Central Falls	Perpetual care program at Moshassuck Cemetery Contact: <u>moshassuckcemetery@hotmail.com</u>
Charlestown	Contact: Susan Angelo- <u>susan1angelo@icloud.com</u>

Cranston	Contact: Sherry Arruda <u>historyinri@gmail.com</u> , Walter Slocumb
	walterslocumb@hotmail.com
Cumberland	Clean-ups planned at CU003Cumberland Cemetery on Dexter St and CU033
	Kimball Lot.
	Contact: Keith Hainley <u>dkhainley@gmail.com</u> , Judy Hadley <u>treelady@cox.net</u>
East Greenwich	Tbd
East Providence	Contact: Sandra Turgeon friendsofnewmancemetery@gmail.com
Foster	Contact: Foster Preservation Society <u>fosterfps@msn.com</u>
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 <u>rxenright@gmail.com</u>
Johnston	Contact: Steve Merolla <u>SMerolla1@cox.net</u>
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
Newport	Two-part tour featuring Trinity Church and Church Yard
	Contact: <u>TrinityTours100@gmail.com</u>
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- Itutal@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 PO002 William Hall Lot.
	Contact: Stephen Luce <u>Stephen Luce@uri.edu</u>
Smithfield	Perpetual care program and clean-ups.
	Contact: Skip Tuetken friendsofsmithfieldcemeteries@gmail.com
South Kingstown	Contact: Russell Dinoto russell.dinoto@hotmail.com
Warren	Kickemuit clean-up
	Contact Barbara Hail <u>barbarahail@401gmail.com</u>
	Additional events
	Contact: Judith Fardig jafl939@aol.com
West Greenwich	Contact: Charlene Butler <u>ckb39@cox.net</u>
Woonsocket	Clean-up at Bernon Cemetery
	Contact: Christine MacWilliams cmacwilliams58@yahoo.com
	Additional events
	Contact: Greg Duhamel grizroots401@gmail.com
Coventry/West Warwick	Clean-ups and monument repairs in cemeteries tbd.
	Contact: charlesmvacca@gmail.com