



Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State

Reference Resources at the Rhode Island State Archives

A quick start guide to commonly used collections at the State Archives.

Legislative

1647-2015	Public Laws, General Statutes published
1636-1851	Colony records and proceedings of the General Assembly
1728-2014	Public Laws, Acts & Resolves
1790-2014	Charters/Private Acts/Local Acts
1896-1959	Articles of Incorporation (For Profit and Non-Profit)
1725–1970's	Petitions to the General Assembly
1636-1913	Boundary Records (MA/CT/NY and municipalities)

Vital Records

1636-1850	James Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island published
1640-1850's	Microfilm copies of local vital records filings
1853-1921	Statewide filings of births and marriages
1853-1971	Statewide filings of deaths

Other Collections

1774-1935	Census Records (Colonial and State)
1790-1930	Census Records (Federal)
1850-1880	Agricultural and Products of Industry (Federal)
1770's >	Military Returns of the militias and independent charter companies
1850-1940	Maps, Atlases and Fire Insurance Maps
1900-1950	Hussey bridge negatives - statewide
1920-1940	Preston Collection – Half the collection covers the municipalities
1905-1909	Mill images – mostly Providence County, Coventry, West Warwick

Visit the us online and view the State Archives catalog to learn more: catalog.sos.ri.gov!

Have a Question?

Contact us:

Rhode Island State Archives
33 Broad St. | Providence, RI 02903
Phone: 401-222-2353 | Fax: 401-222-3199
Web: sos.ri.gov | Email: statearchives@sos.ri.gov