



# **SOUTH KINGSTOWN, Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries**

*John Eylers Sterling*

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## **SOUTH KINGSTOWN, Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries** John Eylers Sterling

This book is truly a BIG book at 688 pages and 5 pounds. If your ancestor has a gravestone anywhere in South Kingstown you will find it in this book. It covers every gravestone in 203 historical cemeteries. Many are abandoned in the woods and are very difficult to find without this book as a guide. Lovers of history and genealogy have come to rely on the books generated by the Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Project. This is book #8 in the series, the product of more than a decade of research, is much more than just a record of all the gravestones in South Kingstown, Rhode Island. Many previously unrecorded fieldstones inscribed only with initials and dates were read, sketched, and identified with probate and land records. Three eighteenth and nineteenth-century diaries were consulted to identify many of the people buried under unmarked fieldstones and others who died under unusual circumstances like James Eldred, a conductor, who fell from a train and was killed in 1851. All previous transcripts of South Kingstown cemeteries that could be found were compared and then checked in the cemeteries to maximize the accuracy of the data in this book. The true author of an important but anonymous transcript done in 1880-1881 was discovered after decades of mistaken attribution. Five archaeology reports on digs in or near historical cemeteries were used to add information not available to those who simply read the data on the gravestones. Photographs of coffin plates from two of these reports are included. Readers will find carefully documented descriptions of each of the 203 historical cemeteries recorded for this book, as well as updated directions to them supplemented with maps and the GPS coordinates. Some fifty burial grounds that could not be found are also discussed. An appendix presents information on Revolutionary War veterans and soldiers who died as a result of the Civil War. The book features both a name index and a maiden name index.

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