

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

The Bridge: A Joint Issue of the Journals of Newport History and Rhode Island History

“The Peoples’ Independence: Reflections on Rhode Island in the Revolutionary Era”

Submission Deadline: February 1, 2025



American soldiers at the siege of Yorktown, by Jean-Baptiste-Antoine DeVerger, watercolor, 1781

In 2026, the United States will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. To commemorate this historical milestone, and in an effort to recognize the invaluable contributions of historically marginalized groups in the founding of Rhode Island and this nation, the Newport Historical Society and Rhode Island Historical Society are excited to announce a call for submissions for *The Bridge: A Joint Edition of the Journals of Newport History and Rhode Island History*.

The editor of this special combined issue, which is slated for publication in the spring of 2026, seeks submissions from authors whose work critically examines the experiences of historically underrepresented individuals and groups in Rhode Island during the era of the American Revolution (circa 1770 to 1790). Articles that examine Rhode Island within a larger Atlantic World framework during the Revolutionary era are also welcome.

We seek submissions from authors whose research and archival methodologies center the perspectives of individuals and communities in Rhode Island whose stories remain largely untold. Women, the poor, people of color, and people with disabilities are everywhere in the records that we study, and yet these same populations are glaringly absent from most histories that have been written about this defining moment in Rhode Island and American history. Individually and collectively, these groups

reconfigured existing social and political conventions to meet their most immediate needs. Women's work assumed newfound political significance and advanced the war cause. Enslaved men enlisted and served in Rhode Island regiments or worked for the British army in exchange for the promise of freedom. Enslaved women, lacking formal avenues to obtain their freedom vis-à-vis military service, self-emancipated in great numbers and served as laundresses, nurses, and cooks during the war. Articles that explore these less celebrated contributions to the revolutionary cause are especially encouraged. Suggested topics for articles include, but are not limited to:

- the daily interactions between enslaved individuals (African and Indigenous) and formal authorities (local, state, and military) during the American Revolution
- enslaved labor (during and after the Revolution)
- Indigenous Rhode Islanders' experience(s) of war
- refugees of war and camp followers
- violence (on the home front and on the battlefield), including: sexual violence, domestic violence, and interracial violence
- the lives and embodied experiences of people with disabilities (e.g., how individuals with disabilities navigated the war, the disabling consequences of wartime service for soldiers and civilians, etc.)
- the gendered experience—and terrain—of military occupation (and the aftermath of occupation for specific groups)
- the formation of free Black communities and mutual aid societies in the Revolutionary era
- articles that present innovative archival research methods or analyze historical documents or artifacts related to a specific group of people whose stories are not traditionally included in narratives of Rhode Island and the American Revolution.

The submission deadline is February 1, 2025. All article submissions should be sent as Microsoft Word documents and should range in length between 5,000 and 10,000 words and should include endnotes. Articles should reflect the use of primary source materials. All citations and general formatting should adhere to the *Chicago Manual of Style, 17th ed.* Submissions will undergo an anonymous peer review process. After careful consideration, the editor will work with successful authors to prepare their essays for publication.

For additional information or questions regarding submission guidelines, please contact ipeters@newporthistory.org. All submissions should be emailed as Microsoft Word attachments to estevens@newporthistory.org. Please include the title of your submission in the subject line of your email.