

Rhode Island General Assembly Records
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2000

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm83085753>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009023>

Prepared by Bradley E. Gernand and Patrick Kerwin

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2010 April

Collection Summary

Title: Rhode Island General Assembly Records

Span Dates: 1653-1747

ID No.: MSS85753

Creator: Rhode Island. General Assembly.

Extent: 24 items

Extent: 6 containers

Extent: 2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm83085753>

Summary: Minutes, acts, and proceedings of Rhode Island's colonial legislature sitting in various towns.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

Organizations

Rhode Island. General Assembly.

Subjects

Justice, Administration of--Rhode Island.

Legislative bodies--Rhode Island.

Places

Newport (R.I.)--History.

Portsmouth (R.I.)--History.

Providence (R.I.)--History.

Rhode Island--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775.

Warwick (R.I.)--History.

Provenance

The records of the Rhode Island General Assembly were received by the Library of Congress in two accessions. Group I was received from an unknown source during the nineteenth century. Group II was purchased by the Library in 1912 from the Rhode Island Law Library in Providence.

Processing History

From its acquisition in the nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century, Group I of these records comprised a collection of documents entitled "Records of the Rhode Island Legislature." Group II of these records, purchased in 1912, was a separate collection entitled "Records of the Rhode Island General Assembly." The two groups were consolidated during the 1960s at which time they were arranged and described under the present collection title.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Rhode Island General Assembly is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The records of Rhode Island General Assembly are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Rhode Island General Assembly Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the Rhode Island General Assembly span the years 1653-1747. They consist of two separate groups of minutes, acts, and proceedings of Rhode Island's colonial legislature sitting at various towns. One set dated 1653-1747, provides almost unbroken chronological coverage of General Assembly affairs. The second group is dated 1699-1700, 1704, 1731, and 1744-1747.

Providence united with the towns of Portsmouth, Newport, and Warwick in 1647 to form the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. In 1663, King Charles II granted Rhode Island a second royal charter providing for the greatest degree of local self-government of any English colony. These records document the legislative and judicial histories of the four towns as well as the colony as a whole.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in two groups; within each, acts and proceedings are arranged chronologically.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Group I
BOX 1	Acts and proceedings
BOX 1	1653, May-1678, Oct.
BOX 2	1679, May-1705, Aug.
BOX 3	1706, May-1719, Oct.
BOX 4	1720, May-1738, Oct. (6 folders)
BOX 5	1738, Dec.-1747, May (5 folders)
BOX 6	Group II
BOX 6	Acts and proceedings
BOX 6	1699-1704, 1731, 1744-1747 (8 folders)
BOX 6	List of acts and proceedings, undated