



**For Immediate Release  
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## **Center Announces Fall Program Series “Eternal Rest: Death, Mourning & Memorials”**

**Kingston, RI-** The South County History Center is pleased to announce its fall 2017 program series, “Eternal Rest: Death, Mourning & Memorials.” The series of four programs will explore Rhode Islanders’ practices for memorializing death in order to make the lives that preceded them meaningful and memorable to themselves and their broader communities. All programs are open to the public, free of charge, on a first-come, first-served basis.

“Eternal Rest: Death, Mourning & Memorials” is made possible through major funding support from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, an independent state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council seeds, supports and strengthens public history, cultural heritage, civic education and community engagement by and for all Rhode Islanders.”

Programs in the series include:

### **Unfortunate Ends**

Saturday, September 16, 2 p.m.

South County History Center (2636 Kingstown Road, Kingston, RI)

Local historian Bob Geake will discuss the evolution of the obituary in local papers and reveal how those death notices reflected the day-to-day dangers that people faced in early Rhode Island as well as the eccentric and unusual obituaries that found their way into print.

### **Gone But Not Forgotten: Death & Mourning in the Victorian Era**

Saturday, September 30, 2 p.m.

South County History Center (2636 Kingstown Road, Kingston, RI)

Have you ever wondered why black is worn to a funeral, or why the deceased is surrounded by flowers? Where did the terms "saved by the bell" and "graveyard shift" come from? Did people really take pictures of the dead? Kathy Hartley, president of Friends of Hearthiside, will lead a look back to the Victorian Era for answers to any questions about death customs and rituals.

### **Ground-Penetrating Radar Demonstration & Gravestone Iconography**

Saturday, Oct. 21, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Tower Hill Cemetery, SE Corner of Rt. 1 and Torrey Road, South Kingstown

Technological advances, including ground-penetrating radar, are making it possible for archaeologists to learn about important sites without disturbing the ground. Salve Regina's Dr.

Jon Marcoux will be conducting a demonstration with cutting-edge equipment, and Center representatives will be on hand to discuss the cemetery's headstones and Tower Hill's history.

The demonstration will take place from 1-3 p.m., and attendees can visit the site at any time within that period. Parking is available at All Outdoors (4060 Tower Hill Road, South Kingstown). In case of inclement weather, the demonstration will be postponed until Sunday, October 22, from 1 - 3 p.m.

*This program is presented in partnership with the Kingston Congregational Church.*

**What Lies Beneath: A Look Below Rhode Island's Historical Burial Grounds**

Tuesday, Oct. 24, 6:30 p.m.

Kingston Free Library's Potter Hall

Joseph (Jay) N. Waller, Jr., Senior Archaeologist at The Public Archaeology Laboratory, will discuss the unseen world lying beneath the slate and marble gravestones of our historic burying places. Drawing from archaeological projects in Rhode Island, he will discuss nineteenth century burial practices and provide examples of common artifacts recovered from historic graves. He also will highlight a recent project in which archaeologists, with private landowner support, identified and relocated internments from a formerly "lost" historic burial ground.

*This program is presented in partnership with the Kingston Free Library.*

For more information about these and other South County History Center programs and events, please visit [www.SouthCountyHistoryCenter.org](http://www.SouthCountyHistoryCenter.org) or call 401-783-1328.

**About the South County History Center**

The South County History Center's mission is to lead the discovery and stewardship of South County's unique historic resources through meaningful and enriching learning opportunities. To achieve this goal, the Center preserves and interprets the material culture of South County through exhibits and study of archival, library and artifact collections. For more information, please visit [SouthCountyHistoryCenter.org](http://SouthCountyHistoryCenter.org).

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