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A List of Rhode Island Lotteries (18th and 19th Centuries)

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A
LIST
OF
RHODE ISLAND LOTTERIES

(18TH and 19TH Centuries)

(Revised 10/02)

Compiled
by
Russell DeSimone

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Middletown, Rhode Island
2002

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TO THE READER

This list is a compilation of compilations. Sources used include Judge John Stiness' *A Century of Lotteries in Rhode Island 1744 – 1844*, Rhode Island Historical Tracts, Second Series No.3, Sidney S. Rider, Providence, 1896; John Ezell's *Fortune's Merry Wheel*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1960; and Charlotte Lowney's unpublished master degree thesis, *The Heyday and Death of Lotteries in Rhode Island 1820 – 1842,* Brown University, Providence, 1965. Judge Stiness' work is a definitive history; unfortunately, it is all text without index and as such does not lend itself to ready reference. *Fortune's Merry Wheel* contains a comprehensive list of lotteries of the Colonial and Confederation periods but is sketchy for other time periods and Ms. Lowney's thesis focuses exclusively on the years from 1820 to the end of lotteries in Rhode Island. This list I believe is therefore the first time a complete compilation has been made. Undoubtedly there are errors; these must be attributed to the current compiler and not to those who came before. Other sources referenced in completing this list include Rhode Island *Acts and Resolves*, various years; John Russell Bartlett's *Records of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England*, ten volumes various years and dates; John Russell Bartlett's series of five newspaper articles *History of Lotteries and the Lottery System in Rhode Island*, published in the *Manufacturers and Farmers Journal*, Providence, 1856 and Hamilton Tompkins' *Newport County Lotteries*, Bulletin of the Newport Historical Society, Newport 1912.

In the process of compiling this list there were occasional discrepancies noted between past histories and compilations. These ranged from differences in the year or month of a grant from the General Assembly to the amount of the grant. In some cases lotteries were completely omitted. Where possible the entries of this compilation have been compared to the official records and the occasional discrepancy resolved.

All lotteries listed, with one notable exception, were granted by the Rhode Island General Assembly.[1] The exception occurred in 1779 when Maj. General Richard Prescott, commander of the British forces occupying Newport, granted the Loyalists inhabitants a lottery "to carry into execution such measures as may be necessary for the promotion of His Majesty's service." The list following shows for each lottery the year and the month the General Assembly made the grant. The amount shown in the middle column is the amount of the initial grant, although it was not uncommon for a grant to be amended in value or purpose by subsequent assemblies. The last column in the list is an abbreviated description of the purpose for each lottery. From a casual look at this column the reader will come to understand the significant role lotteries played in providing the revenue for public works such as the building and maintenance of roads, bridges and wharves. They were also used by towns as well as civic and religious societies to provide the necessary capital to build school and meeting houses, churches, Masonic halls, and armories. In fact lotteries were used for a variety of innovative purposes including payment of personal debts of the citizenry and in one case for the payment of a ransom. Towards the end of their existence in the 1830's lotteries were the primary source of revenue for the nascent public schools of the state. The list of lotteries is long, in fact Rhode Island granted more lotteries than any other state during the Colonial and Confederation periods, however it should be noted that for a variety of reasons not all lotteries granted culminated in actual drawings or in achieving their monetary purposes. In a period when taxation was limited and banks almost non-existent it fell to the lottery to be the state's primary source for raising funds.

[1] Lotteries were outlawed by an act of the General Assembly in January 1732, conceivably lotteries must have existed before this date or there would have been no need for the act. Unfortunately lotteries before 1732 are unrecorded. In October 1744 lotteries were again allowed with the "leave of the General Assembly."

RHODE ISLAND LOTTERIES
18TH and 19TH Centuries

YEAR	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
1744(Nov)	£3,000	Bridge across Weybosset River. Providence
1747(Feb)	£10,000	Pave streets leading to Colony House, Newport
1748(Jan)	£3,000	Debts of Joseph Fox of Newport
1749(Feb)	£2,400	Repair bridge, Pawtuxet Falls
1750(Jun)	£10,364	Debts of Col. Joseph Pendleton of Westerly
1750(Oct)	-----	Bridge over Pawtucket River, Cumberland
1752(Oct)	£10,000	Reimburse directors of Pawtucket River Bridge lottery for amount expended over previous lottery
1753(Jun)	£30,000	Complete Kent County Courthouse, build two bridges, and a fence and jail in Kent County and Hunt's bridge, Scituate
1756(Aug)	£10,000	Repair and arm Fort George, Goat Island
1758(Aug)	£30,000	Debts of Handley Chipman
1759(Jun)	$2,000	Rebuild colony house and library, Providence
1759(Jun)	$2,400	Mason's Hall, Newport
1760(Feb)	$1,200	Re-establish library, Providence
1760(Feb)	$1,000	Land for Providence Courthouse
1760(Feb)	£24,000	Construct public granary and market house, Newport
1761(Feb)	£6,000	Pave lower end of Thames Street, Newport
1761(Feb)	£6,000	Pave streets from bridge down town, and westward, Providence
1761(Feb)	£6,000	Construction of artificial harbor, Charleston
1761(Oct)	-----	Meetinghouse, Baptist Society of the Ancient Order, Johnston
1761(Oct)	£1,500	Build passage around Pawtucket Falls

1762(Mar)	$1,000	Repair Anglican Church, Providence
1762(Mar)	-----	Construct poorhouse, Kent County
1762(Mar)	£4,500	Ransom for Samuel Dunn's mate held hostage by the French
1762(Mar)	£2,200	Repairs on highway, Providence
1762(Mar)	£6,000	Pave streets in north end, Providence
1762(Mar)	$4,500	Compensation for loss of merchandise by fire to W. & H. Wall
1762(Mar)	£2,000	Rebuild a bridge over Woonsocket Falls
1762(Mar)	£4,000	Repair road from Providence into Connecticut
1762(Mar)	-----	Open passage from great pond to sea New Shoreham
1762(May)	Sell property	Relieve Nathaniel Helme, jailor, left with prisoners' unpaid board bills
1762(Jun)	Sell property	Pay debts of Captain Edward Wells, Jr. Hopkinton
1763(Feb)	£6,000	Wharf at Church's harbor, Little Compton
1763(Feb)	£560	Build parsonage Presbyterian Society, Providence
1763(Feb)	£90	Build a draw at Weybosett bridge, Providence
1763(Feb)	£100	Open new street west from the Great Bridge, Providence
1763(Feb)	£400	Bridge at Furnace Unity, Cumberland County
1763(Aug)	£600	Nachecot bridge over Pawtucket River
1763(Oct)	£8,000	Repave Thames Street, Newport
1764(Feb)	£300	Repair and extend a wharf, John Franklin
1764(Feb)	£130	Build a workhouse, West Greenwich
1764(Jun)	£106	Repair bridge at Fulling Mills, Warwick
1764(Sep)	£2,000	Reimburse directors of Pawtucket River bridge lottery for amount expended over previous lottery

1767(Jun)	$2,500	New steeple, church of Trinity Parish, Newport
1767(Jun)	£150	Finish Baptist parsonage, Warren
1767(Oct)	£225	Pave Mill Street, Newport
1768(Feb)	$500	Pave King's Street, Newport
1768 (Jun)	unlimited	Repair Great North Road leading from Providence through Plainfield, Ct
1769(Feb)	-----	Repair Nachecot bridge on Pawtuxet River, Warwick
1769(Feb)	£1,350	Succor for the company building Long Wharf, Newport
1769(Sep)	£120	Workhouse, North Kingston
1770(Oct)	$400	Repair Whipple's Bridge between Smithfield and Cumberland
1770(Oct)	$300	To aid a "Sect called Baptist", Cranston
1771(Feb)	-----	Reimburse directors of previous lottery and finish market house, Newport
1771(May)	$400	Rebuild Greene's Bridge, Warwick
1771(Aug)	-----	Pave Court House street and build a public market, Providence
1771(Oct)	-----	Complete Whipple's Bridge, Cumberland
1771(Oct)	£60	Repair North Providence Road
1771(Oct)	$600	Episcopal steeple and clock, Providence
1771(Oct)	$150	Bridge over Hunt's River
1772(May)	$350	Repair the South Killingly road in Gloucester
1772(Aug)	-----	Pave King Street, Newport
1772(Aug)	£40	Repair bridge at Furnace Unity
1772(Aug)	£165	Repair Congregational meetinghouse and roads, Barrington
1772(Aug)	$2,500	Rebuild forge destroyed by fire, Coventry
1772(Aug)	$500	Baptist meetinghouse, East Greenwich
1772(Aug)	$500	Rebuild town wharf, Warwick Harbor

1772(Aug)	-----	Pave Pelham Street, Newport
1772(Oct)	$1,500	Build Congregational church, East Greenwich
1772(Oct)	$400	Bridge and road, Gloucester
1772(Oct)	$500	Finish meetinghouse, Johnston
1772(Oct)	$1,000	Finish steeple and buy clock, King's Church, Providence
1772(Dec)	$500	Repair Wonscut road (Uxbridge to Providence)
1772(Dec)	-----	Build hospital, Coaster's Harbor
1773(May)	£700	Presbyterian tower and clock, Providence
1773(Aug)	Sell property	Benjamin Wickham, Newport
1773(Oct)	$500	Build meeting house Baptist Church, Coventry
1774(May)	$500	Aid Abial Brown and family, South Kingston
1774(May)	$600	Lot and schoolhouse, East Greenwich
1774(May)	$500	Rebuild ironworks, Griffin Greene, Coventry
1774(Jun)	$600	Rebuild ironworks, Benjamin Greene, Coventry
1774(Jun)	$300	Parsonage, Pawtuxet
1774(Jun)	£2,000	Build meeting house Baptist church, Providence
1774(Jun)	$1,200	Aid Gideon Almy, Tiverton
1774(Dec)	$600	Aid Nathaniel Stoddard, Little Compton
1774((Dec)	$50	Repair gristmill dam, William Holden, Warwick
1774(Dec)	$200	Buy tools for gunsmith, Jeremiah Hopkins, Coventry
1778(Oct)	£300	Repair Pawtucket bridge
1779(Mar)	£2,100	Loyalist fund, British occupied Newport, authorized by Maj. Gen Prescott

1779(Dec)	£800	Rebuild Pawtucket bridge
1780(Feb)	$40,000	Build school house, East Greenwich
1780(May)	$30,000	Pave Union Street, Providence
1782(Jun)	Sell 3 lots	Allow George H. Peckham of Charlestown to pay debts
1783(Jun)	£180	Repair Whipple's bridge over Pawtucket River
1783(Jun)	$2,500	New Baptist Church, Newport
1783(Jun)	$2,000	Town of Newport to purchase lots on south side of Parade for public use
1784(Feb)	£1,000	Bridge and market house, Providence
1784(Feb)	$1,500	Repair meeting house Congregational Church, Tiverton
1784(Feb)	$1,000	Build Episcopal Church, Bristol
1784(May)	$1,200	Repair parsonage, First Congregational Church, Newport
1785(Feb)	$800	Repair Episcopal Church, Providence
1785(Feb)	$1,250	Rebuild church and parsonage, Second Congregational Church, Newport
1785(Aug)	$1,000	Navigation of Pawtucket River
1785(Aug)	Sell property	Sell land and livestock of William West
1785(Aug)	£180	Congregational Church, West Coventry
1786(Feb)	£500	Build meeting house Baptist Church, Gloucester
1786(Feb)	$400	Repair Furnace Unity bridge, Pawtucket
1787(Mar)	£600	Build parsonage house, United Congregational Society, Little Compton
1787(Jun)	£200	Repair of bridge over Pawtucket River at Furnace Unity
1787(Oct)	£900	Build bridge at Woonsocket Falls
1788(Dec)	£2,100	George Peckham of South Kingston, to build a shop for nail making
1789(May)	£400	Build Baptist meetinghouse, Hopkinton

1790(Oct)	£3,000	Build bridge over Weybosset River, Providence
1790(Oct)	$1,200	Discharge debt of Second Congregational Church, Newport
1791(Feb)	£150	Complete meetinghouse, North Providence
1791(Feb)	$1,500	Repair Trinity Church, yard and road, Newport
1791(Feb)	£900	Pave streets from Amasa Gray's house Providence towards Pawtucket
1791(Feb)	$500	Repair South Road from Providence, through Cranston to Voluntown, Ct
1791(Feb)	$500	Repair North Road from Providence, through Scituate and Forster to Norwich, Ct
1791(Feb)	-----	Build a wharf at Point Judith, John Robinson of South Kingstown
1791(Jun)	Sell property	Settle estate of Nicholas Easton, Newport
1792(Feb)	$625	Repair and finish St. Paul's Church, North Kingstown
1792(Feb)	$1,250	Repair Country Road leading from Providence through Glocester to Woodstock, Ct
1792(Jun)	$250	Erect works for manufacturing of nails, Pardon Allen, Exeter
1794(Oct)	-----	Finish meetinghouse, Warren
1795(Jan)	$25,000	Rebuild Long Wharf, Newport and build hotel for benefit of public schools
1795(Jan)	$4,000	Complete and furnish hotel/Coffee House exchange, Providence
1795(Jan)	£800	Erect meetinghouse, Catholic Baptist Society, Cumberland
1795(Jan)	£400	Reimburse managers of 1791 lottery for cost of paving street, Providence
1795(Jan)	$5,000	Finish meetinghouse, Congregational Society on the east side of the river, Providence
1795(Jan)	$600	Build meetinghouse, Congregational United Society, Little Compton

1795(Jun)	$5,000	Purchase lot and build parsonage, St. John's Church, Providence
1795(Jun)	$4,000	Complete meetinghouse, Rev. Joseph Snow, Providence
1795(Jun)	£300	Mend highway from Westport, Ma to Howland's Ferry, Tiverton
1795(Jun)	$4,000	Build bridge over Martin's Wading Place, between Smithfield and Cumberland
1795(Jun)	$4,000	Repair road from Providence to Killingly, Ct
1795(Jun)	$2,000	Build meetinghouse, Baptist Society, Foster
1795(Jun)	$2,500	Pave street from court house to jail, East Greenwich
1796(Feb)	$2,300	Beneficent Congregational Society, Providence
1796(Feb)	$25,000	Use of the college, Rhode Island College
1796(Feb)	$4,00	Rebuild Whipple's Bridge over Pawtucket River
1796(Oct)	$2,000	Finish meetinghouse, Catholic Baptist Society, Pawtucket
1798(Jan)	$3,000	Complete house of worship, United Congregational Society, Barrington
1800(Jun)	$4,000	Build glebe house, Episcopal Church, Bristol
1800(Jun)	$2,000	Debts and repairs, First Congregational Society, Newport
1801(Feb)	$2,500	Build academy, South Kingstown
1802(Feb)	$3,000	Perpetual fund, Catholic Baptist Society, Pawtucket
1803(Feb)	$2,500	Masonic building, St. John's Lodge, Newport
1803(May)	$5,000	Washington Academy, North Kingstown
1803(Oct)	$4,000	Repair road from Smithfield to Worcester county by Wallum Pond
1803(Oct)	$10,000	Repair road, Providence and Norwich Turnpike Society

1804(Feb)	$1,000	Road from Douglas to Providence
1804(Feb)	$600	Rebuild Union bridge, Coventry
1804(Feb)	$1,200	School and meeting house, near Cory's Pond, East Greenwich
1804(Feb)	$2,000	Town house, Charlestown
1804(Feb)	$8,000	Deepening channel in Apponaug River and improve road leading westward from the village
1804(Oct)	$4,000	Repair the Cumberland road to Worcester
1804(Oct)	$2,500	Build town house, Noose Neck hill, West Greenwich
1804(Oct)	$2,000	Repair road from Warren to Bristol Ferry
1805(Feb)	$1,200	Finish meeting house and school, Hopkinton
1805(May)	-----	Additional classes allowed, Frenchtown Catholic seminary
1805(Jun)	$1,000	Repair and finish meeting house, Union Baptist Society, Johnston
1805(Jun)	$600	Repair road from Miller's Landing across Price's Hill to Sterling, Ct.
1805(Jun)	$1,000	Build bridge from Salt Water creek to Elamsville, Wickford
1805(Jun)	$600	Build school house, Four Corners, South Kingstown
1806(Feb)	$1,800	Repair public road, East Greenwich
1806(Jun)	$8,000	Repair road from Providence to Worcester
1806(Jun)	$2,500	Buy lot and build meeting house, Baptist Society, Cranston
1806(Oct)	$3,000	Repair building and acquire books, Redwood Library, Newport
1807(May)	$8,000	Methodist Congregation, Newport
1807(May)	$4,000	Build meeting house, Smithfield
1808(Feb)	$700	Complete repairs, Pawtucket Bridge
1808(May)	$10,000	Defray expenses in searching for coal, Perkins Nichols

1808(Oct)	$2,000	House of worship, Warwick and Coventry Baptist Society
1808(Oct)	$875	Erect academy on the Smithfield Turnpike, North Providence
1808(Oct)	$2,000	Smithfield Academic Society
1809(Oct)	$10,000	For the relief of Benjamin Case of Newport, for expenses incurred in searching for coal
1810(Feb)	$1,500	Building, Smithfield Academy
1811(Jun)	$10,000	Build stone pier, Block Island
1811(Oct)	$20,000	Build steward house and general use, Brown University
1811(Oct)	$2,500	Enlarge and repair meeting house, Catholic Baptist Society, Pawtucket
1812(Feb)	$2,200	Building academy, Smithfield
1812(Feb)	$30,000	Aquidneck Coal Company
1812(Jun)	$12,000	Explore for coal in Cumberland
1812(Oct)	$40,000	Rhode Island Coal Company, (grant reduced in 1813 to $30,000)
1813(Feb)	$2,000	Second Baptist Society, Providence
1814(Jun)	$10,000	Use of St. John's Church, Providence
1814(Oct)	$8,000	Pay debt, First Baptist Church, Bristol
1815(May)	$4,000	Completion of Water Street, Providence
1815(Oct)	$25,000	Rebuilding bridge, Rhode Island Bridge Co.
1817(Jun)	$6,000	Scituate and Foster Academy
1820(Oct)	$12,000	Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry
1821(Jun)	$5,000	Meetinghouse, Pacific Congregational SocietyProvidence
1822(Jun)	$2,000	Meetinghouse, Free Will Baptist Church, Smithfield
1822(Oct)	$3,000	Meetinghouse, West Baptist Society, Providence

1822(Oct)	$8,000	Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry
1823(Jan)	$7,000	Meetinghouse and school, Old Warwick
1823(Jan)	$2,000	Repair of Buck Hill Road, Burrillville
1823(May)	$2,000	Meetinghouse, Rhode Island Union Society, Portsmouth
1823(Jun)	$8,000	Straightening of road from Providence to Worcester
1824(Jan)	$500	Repair of meetinghouse and yard, Second Baptist Society, Coventry
1824(Oct)	$1,000	Road to Charity Bridge and repair of bridge, Portsmouth
1825(Jan)	$1,000	Bridge over Johnson's Pond, Coventry
1825(Jan)	$2,000	Fourth Baptist Society, Providence
1825(May)	$1,000	Complete meetinghouse, Six Principle Baptist, Scituate
1825(Jun)	$5,000	Bridge over Blackstone River near Central Falls, Smithfield
1825(Jun)	$2,500	Build meetinghouse, Scituate
1825(Jun)	$2,000	Erect wharf in Church's Cove, Little Compton
1825(Jun)	$6,000	Redwood Library, Newport
1825(Jun)	$10,000	Support public schools, Newport
1825(Oct)	$4,000	Completion of building, Union Meeting-house, Pawcatuck (Westerly)
1825(Oct)	$10,000	Scientific purposes, Franklin Society, Providence
1825(Oct)	$4,000	Masonic hall, Washington Lodge No. 5, Wickford
1829(Oct)	$2,000	Map of Rhode Island, John Stevens
1830(Jan)	$600	Second Baptist Society, Coventry
1830(Jan)	$3,000	Scientific purposes, Franklin Society, Providence
1830(Jan)	$5,000	Rhode Island Historical Society

1830(May)	$4,000	Debts of society, First Universalist Society, North Providence
1830(May)	$4,000	Construction of channel from Charlestown Pond to the ocean
1830(May)	$3,000	Providence Bar Society
1830(May)	$800	Armory, Newport Artillery Company
1831(May)	$3,000	Meetinghouse, First Universalist Society, Woonsocket Falls
1831(May)	$10,000	Public schools, William Dinneford
1831(Jun)	$10,000	Public schools, Yates & McIntyre
1831(Jun)	$10,000	Public schools, John L. Clark
1832(Jan)	$10,000	Public schools, Paine and Burgess
1832(Jun)	$10,000	Public schools, Yates & McIntyre
1833(Jun)	$10,000	Public schools, Paine and Burgess
1833(Jun)	$10,000	Public schools, Yates & McIntyre
1833(Jun)	$10,000	Encouragement of military exercises and public schools, Newport Artillery Company
1834(Jun)	$10,000	Public schools, Yates & McIntyre
1835(Jan)	$10,000/year – 4 years	Public schools, Philip Case
1837(Jan)	$4,000	Rhode Island Historical Society
1839(Jan)	$9,000/year – 5 years	Public schools, Philip Case