

South Kingstown,
Rhode Island
Tax Lists
1730-1799

Compiled by
Judith Green Watson



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lists useful in analyzing naming patterns, particularly South County's penchant for giving males three last names.

When coupled with the other extant records for South Kingstown, including deeds, Town Council records, probate records, Town Meeting records, census records, diaries, court records, and Justice of the Peace records, a marvelously complete picture of life in South Kingstown emerges. South Kingstown researchers are indeed fortunate that so many of these eighteenth century records have survived.

These lists name many men that the census did not, including single men, hired men, and other non-heads of families who were living in someone else's household.

It should be noted that the absence of a name from the tax lists should not be construed as an indication that that individual did not reside in South Kingstown. The Town Meeting forgave taxes—both poll and regular—for various reasons, including indigence or straitened financial circumstances.⁷ There were numerous men named in the Town Council records whose names did not appear on contemporary tax lists.⁸

In addition to their obvious genealogical value of placing a particular individual in South Kingstown at specific points in time, these lists convey information that may not be found elsewhere, including:

- Occupation—for example, Benjamin Allen, carpenter, and John Nichols, cooper.
- Name of the father—for example, Thomas Eldred son of Holden, Champlin Gardner son of Clarke, and George Peckham son of Josephus.
- Location of the residence—for example, John Babcock “above littlerest,” and “Land of Benjamin Weight” by Teffts Pond.

⁷ For example, see South Kingstown *Town Meeting Book* entry for April 18, 1798: John Albro's poll tax was forgiven (p. 414) and Oliver Tennant's regular taxes were forgiven “so long as he supports his aged Mother” (p. 415).

⁸ For example, in Town Council meetings of January through April 1782, Noah Willcox, Stephen Wightman, Joseph Money, and Joseph Goodin—all apparently residents of South Kingstown—were mentioned by the Town Council but did not appear on the tax lists of January and May 1782; Jean C. Stutz, *South Kingstown, Rhode Island Town Council Records, 1771-1795* (Kingston: The Pettaquamscutt Historical Society, 1988), pp. 128-31.