

Seekonk Public Library
Seekonk History Frequently Asked Questions
6/2009

General Research Tips:

Seekonk as it exists today is the result of several land reconfigurations. Seekonk was originally part of the Town of Rehoboth and included areas now in Pawtucket and East Providence. Depending on the time period you are researching, you may need to contact other resources in nearby cities and towns. Below are some relevant dates to remember:

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| 1812 | Seekonk became independent from Rehoboth. |
| 1828 | The Pawtucket region was separated from Seekonk. |
| 1862 | The East Providence region was separated from Seekonk. |

General

1. What resources do you have at the Seekonk Library for historical research?

The library has both Reference and Circulating copies of our three most popular resources Seekonk research:

- *History of Seekonk, 1619-1983*. Seekonk High School.
- *Seekonk in the Twentieth Century*. Dupere, Phyllis. 1997.
- *Historical Seekonk, Massachusetts, Volumes 1-5*. Erhardt, John G.

Other resources in our historical collection are listed on the

[Seekonk History Resources](#) link on the [Seekonk Library - Town Documents page](#).

[http://www.seekonkpl.org/History_of_Seekonk_Books.pdf]

2. Where can I find old Polk city directories for Seekonk?

Polk city directories for Seekonk are available in print from the Special Collections department of the [State Library of Massachusetts](#) for the sporadic years that they were printed.

3. Are there Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps available for Seekonk?

Sanborn maps are available in print from the Special Collections department of the [State Library of Massachusetts](#) for the sporadic years that they were printed.

4. Where can I find current general statistics for Seekonk?

Go to www.mass.gov— Cities & Towns – [Seekonk](#)

[<http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=mg2localgovccpage&L=3&L0=Home&L1=State+Government&L2=Local+Government&sid=massgov2&selectCity=Seekonk>]

See also the current edition of *Massachusetts Municipal Profiles* at the library Information Desk.

Places

5. How can I find age, history, and property map information for my property in Seekonk?

[Northern Bristol County Registry of Deeds](#) – Taunton, MA office

[<http://www.tauntondeeds.com>]

[Online Property Map access](#)

[<http://host.appgeo.com/NBMapPortalMa/>]

See also the *Massachusetts Historical Commission – Survey of Historical Seekonk Buildings* binder at the library Information desk.

6. Where can I find out the current property value on a house in Seekonk?

Use the [Property Value Information](#) link on the

[Seekonk Library - Town Documents page](#).

[<http://csc-ma.us/PROPAPP/Opening.do?subAction=NewSearch&town=AllCommunities>]

7. Where are the graveyards and cemeteries in Seekonk?

There are two cemeteries in Seekonk: the Seekonk Cemetery on Newman Avenue and the Holy Cross Cemetery that is owned by a church in Central Falls. The records for the Seekonk Cemetery are available at the [Town Clerk's Office](#) in [Seekonk Town Hall](#).

People

8. Where can I find out about the birth, marriage, and death records for Seekonk?

Visit the [Town Clerk's Office](#) in [Seekonk Town Hall](#) for birth, death and marriage records from approximately 1860 to the current. Many of the old records were never recorded so many of the 1850-1870 records are not available. Also note that records for deaths or births in RI hospitals are not available at Town Hall because of the different states involved.

9. Where can I find obituaries for Seekonk residents?

There are several area newspapers to check for obituaries. Online searches are generally only available for recent listings (2000 – present):

- [Seekonk Star](#)

<http://eastbayri.com/town/seekonk/town.html>

Available at the library (print only, no index, 1970's –present).

- [Pawtucket Times](#)

<http://www.pawtuckettimes.com/>

See [Pawtucket Public Library](#) for previous issues in print.

- [Providence Journal](#)
<http://www.projo.com>
[SAILS online database](#) (appx. 2000 – present).
See also [Providence Public Library](#), Reference dept for previous issues in print.
- [Sun Chronicle](#)
<http://www.sunchronicle.com/>
See also [Attleboro Public Library](#) for previous issues in print.

10. What other online resources are there to help with genealogical research?

The website [Cyndi's List](#) has a large collection of links for beginners to experts.

<http://www.cyndislist.com/>

Also, as a Massachusetts resident you can get an ecard from the [Boston Public Library website](#) and access the database *Heritage Quest* for census records and more.