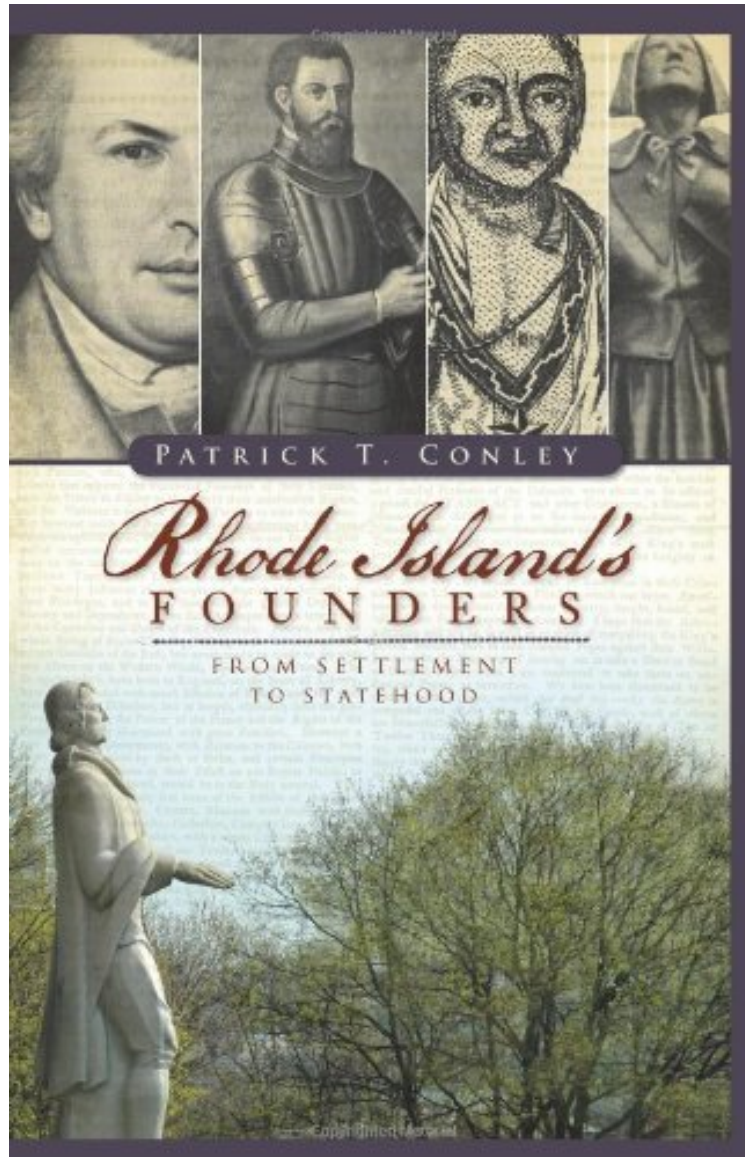


[Download free ebook] Rhode Island's Founders: From Settlement to Statehood

## Rhode Island's Founders: From Settlement to Statehood

*Patrick T. Conley*

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**Patrick T. Conley : Rhode Island's Founders: From Settlement to Statehood** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rhode Island's Founders: From Settlement to Statehood:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Enjoyed learning about RI founders. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A bit dry at times but plenty of interesting nuggets along the way. By Paul Tognetti Recently my wife received a copy of the noted Rhode Island historian Patrick T. Conley's 2010 book "Rhode Island's Founders: From Settlement To Statehood" as a gift. This is not a book that I would have purchased for myself

but being a history buff I could not resist the opportunity to read about some of the most significant figures in the early history of what would eventually become my native state. While "Rhode Island's Founders" is by no means a great cover-to-cover read it was still fascinating to learn about the diverse and courageous cast of characters who helped to forge our nation's smallest and most religiously tolerant state. Dr. Conley divides his book into three parts. Part 1 focuses on those he refers to as "The Pioneers: Pre-1700". Included in this group is the Italian explorer and navigator Giovanni da Verrazzano who in the service of the King Francis I of France explored the Atlantic coast of North America between the Carolinas and Newfoundland, including New York Harbor and Narragansett Bay in 1524. Conley also offers up portraits of the most significant Indian leaders of the period including Massasoit, Canonicus, Miantonomi and Metacomb. Now when Roger Williams was banished from the Massachusetts Bay Colony for his "radical" religious views in 1636 he established the colony of Providence Plantations. Williams was a firm believer in the tenets of "religious freedom" and the "separation of church and state". Conley points out that "Williams sought this separation not to protect the state from the dominance of the church but to free the church and the individual conscience from the interference and coercions of the state". Very interesting given what is going on in our nation in 2013! Williams was an honest and sincere broker who sought to deal with Native Americans on a fair and equitable basis. Williams strove for peaceful co-existence with Native Americans and had no intentions of stealing their land. Conley also presents thumbnail portraits of R.I.'s first permanent English settler William Blackstone and Anne Hutchinson who many historians consider to be the first white female leader in the colonies. You will also learn about Dr. John Clarke who was instrumental in obtaining Rhode Island's Royal Charter and the Rev. Gregory Dexter who was a minister at the First Baptist Church in Providence and who also helped to establish the Lime Rock Quarry in Lincoln which continues to the present day and is among the oldest continuous businesses in the United States. Meanwhile, I was surprised to discover how many of these early settlers were avowed abolitionists. It seems that slavery was already becoming a very divisive issue even in the colonial period. My favorite portion of "Rhode Island's Founders" was Part 2 "The Stabilizers: 1700-1763". In this section you will meet a number of individuals who helped bring about order from the chaotic early years of the colony. I particularly enjoyed reading about the craftsmen who operated in and around Newport during this period. Being a huge fan of the PBS series "Antiques Roadshow" I was pleased to read about cabinetmakers John Goddard and John Townsend. I have heard their names numerous times over the years but knew very little about them. Their work is highly coveted by collectors and Conley reveals that a six-shell desk/bookcase crafted by John Goddard was sold at auction in 1989 for a record \$12.1 million. You will also be introduced to William Claggett Sr., a leading clockmaker of the period, Samuel Casey the noted silversmith and the architect Peter Harrison. Dr. Conley also discusses the life of Bishop George Berkeley and reveals why his name was selected in 1866 for the University of California, Berkeley and the city that grew up around that school. The final section of the book is devoted to "The Revolutionaries: 1763-1790". Here you will learn about the lives of some famous and not-so-famous Rhode Islanders who played a crucial role in beating back the British and establishing the new nation. Of course the most notable among this group was Nathaniel Greene who locally was instrumental in the creation of a militia company that would come to be known as the Kentish Guards. Greene would quickly make a name for himself in the Continental Army and would go on to become one of George Washington's most trusted friends and advisors. Then there are the Brown brothers who hailed from perhaps the most prominent family in all of colonial Rhode Island. Conley presents brief portraits of Joseph and Moses in this volume. Moses was a prominent merchant, reformer and philanthropist who was a vigorous opponent of the slave trade. This would put him at odds with his more wealthy and influential brother John Brown. In 2007 author Charles Rappleye would write a terrific book chronicling the decades long rift between these two siblings called "Sons of Providence". Now I am embarrassed to admit that there were several names in this section of the book that I was not at all familiar with. As such, I greatly appreciated the opportunity to learn about the significant contributions that these people made to the cause of freedom and to the establishment of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in 1790. Reading "Rhode Island's Founders: From Settlement to Statehood." has given me a new respect and appreciation for the sacrifices these brave souls made to establish our state. It was fascinating to discover just what motivated them and how they went about their business. Although I found the writing to be a bit tedious from time to time this is still a book that is well worth a look especially for history buffs.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Pocket Survey of Early Rhode Island History By Auggie This book was an excellent survey of a "who's who" in early RI history. A native of this state and former student of Professors Conley and Alice H. R. Hauck (cited in this book) at Providence College over 40 years ago, I downloaded this book to read on a recent business flight. RI certainly had an enviable history during this period with a great line up of historical notables. As little attention is given to such studies in the public school system, very little is known of native history. Conley's survey certainly brings to light and life many historical characters whose names currently adorn street signs and other mapped locations throughout our Lilliputian state. Too bad there are so many notables who do not have decent biographies written about their deeds and follies. This subject should be taught with pride to future generations who do not appreciate the relevancy and experience of this forgotten age.

Dr. Patrick T. Conley, Rhode Island's preeminent historian, journeys with us to early America, where Rhode Island's

founders laid the groundwork for America's policy of religious freedom. Learn what led Roger Williams to write *The Bloudy Tenent of Persecution* and discover how James Franklin, older brother of Benjamin, left a lasting impact on the future of American publishing. Find out why Mary Dyer fought for her religious beliefs until she became one of the "Boston martyrs"; how Anne Hutchinson overcame a male-dominated society to allow women the right to preach and teach; and how General Nathanael Greene helped to liberate the South during the American Revolution. These colorful biographies of political, military and religious leaders, artists and craftsmen, scientists and philanthropists illuminate the beginning of America's smallest state, but one that has always exhibited remarkable diversity.

About the Author Dr. Patrick T. Conley holds an AB from Providence College, an MA and PhD from the University of Notre Dame with highest honors and a JD from Suffolk University Law School. He has published eighteen books, including *Catholicism in Rhode Island: The Formative Era* (1976); *Democracy in Decline: Rhode Island's Constitutional Development, 1775, 1841* (1977); *An Album of Rhode Island History, 1636, 1986* (1986); *The Constitution and the States* (1988); *The Bill of Rights and the States* (1992), with John Kaminski; *Liberty and Justice: A History of Law and Lawyers in Rhode Island, 1636, 1998* (1998); and *The Rhode Island Constitution: A Reference Guide* (2007), with Justice Robert G. Flanders, as well as more than a score of scholarly articles on history, law, ethnic studies, religion and political science. The youngest person ever to attain the rank of full professor at Providence College, Dr. Conley also practices law and manages a real estate development business. He has served as chairman of the Rhode Island Bicentennial Commission, chairman and founder of the Providence Heritage Commission, chairman and founder of the Rhode Island Publications Society and general editor of the Rhode Island Ethnic Heritage Pamphlet Series. In 1977, he founded the Rhode Island Heritage Commission. Dr. Conley was also chairman of the Rhode Island Bicentennial (of the Constitution) Foundation and chairman of the U.S. Constitution Council. In May 1995, he was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame, one of a handful of living Rhode Islanders who have been accorded that honor. Presently, he is president of the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame, president of the Heritage Harbor Museum and chairman of the Rhode Island Senior Olympics. Pat, who is the father of six children and the grandfather of seven, lives in Bristol, Rhode Island, with his wife, Gail, and their dog, Bridget.