

Rhode Island

Atlas of Historical County Boundaries

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A Project of the Dr. William M. Scholl Center for American History and Culture
The Newberry Library
Chicago, Illinois

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Atlas online: www.newberry.org/ahcbp

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Connecticut Colony

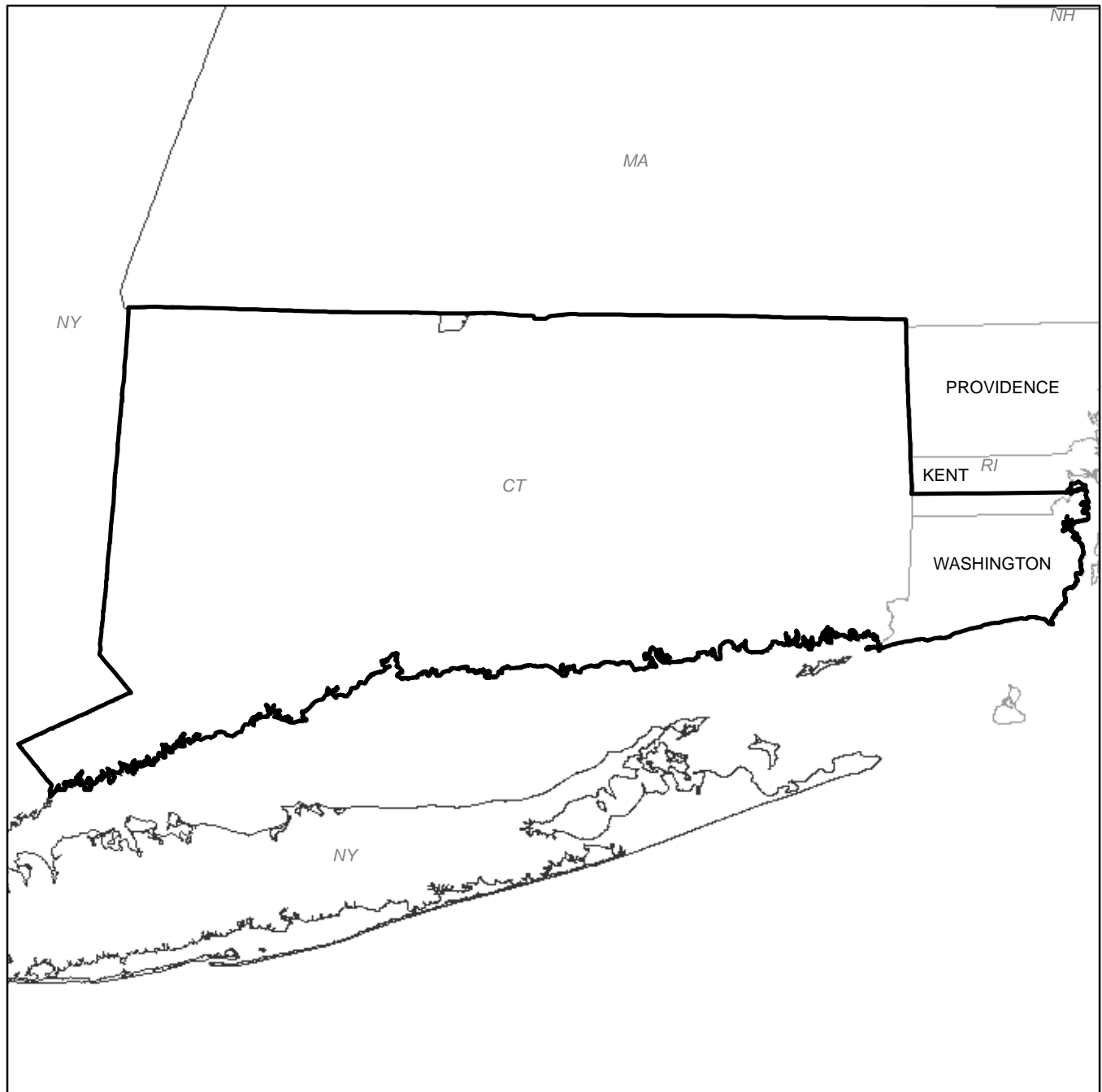
Version 1

Map scale is unavailable.

4/23/1662 - 4/7/1665

Heavy line depicts historical boundary.
Base map shows present-day information.

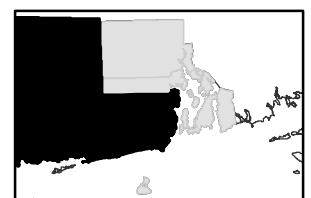
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King Charles II granted Connecticut a charter as a self-governing corporate colony, with an eastern boundary at Narragansett Bay. R.I. did not concede its claim to area between the Pawcatuck R. and Narragansett Bay, but Conn. took control of the area.

5,376 sq. mi.

(Bowen, Disputes, 32; Swindler, 2:135-136)





New Plymouth Colony

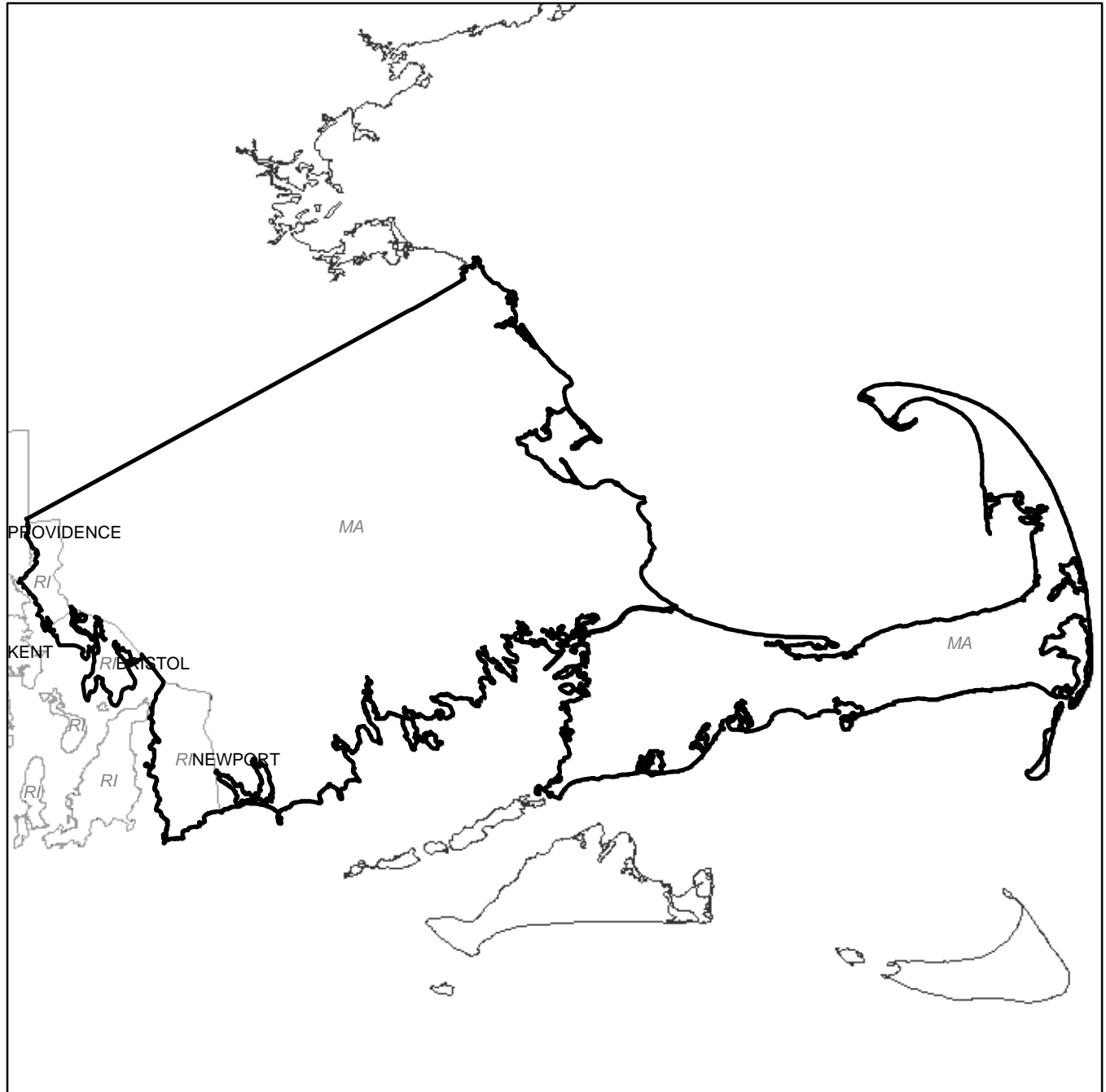
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1/13/1630 - 7/7/1663

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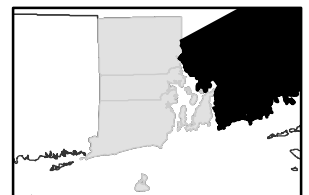
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[13 January 1629/1630] The Council for New England issued a new land patent (the "Old Charter") that granted land title and trading rights, but no powers of government, to New Plymouth colony. New Plymouth Colony included part of present Rhode Island.

1,688 sq. mi.

(Andrews, 1:295; Paullin, 28, pl. 43A; Swindler, 5:28)





New Plymouth Colony

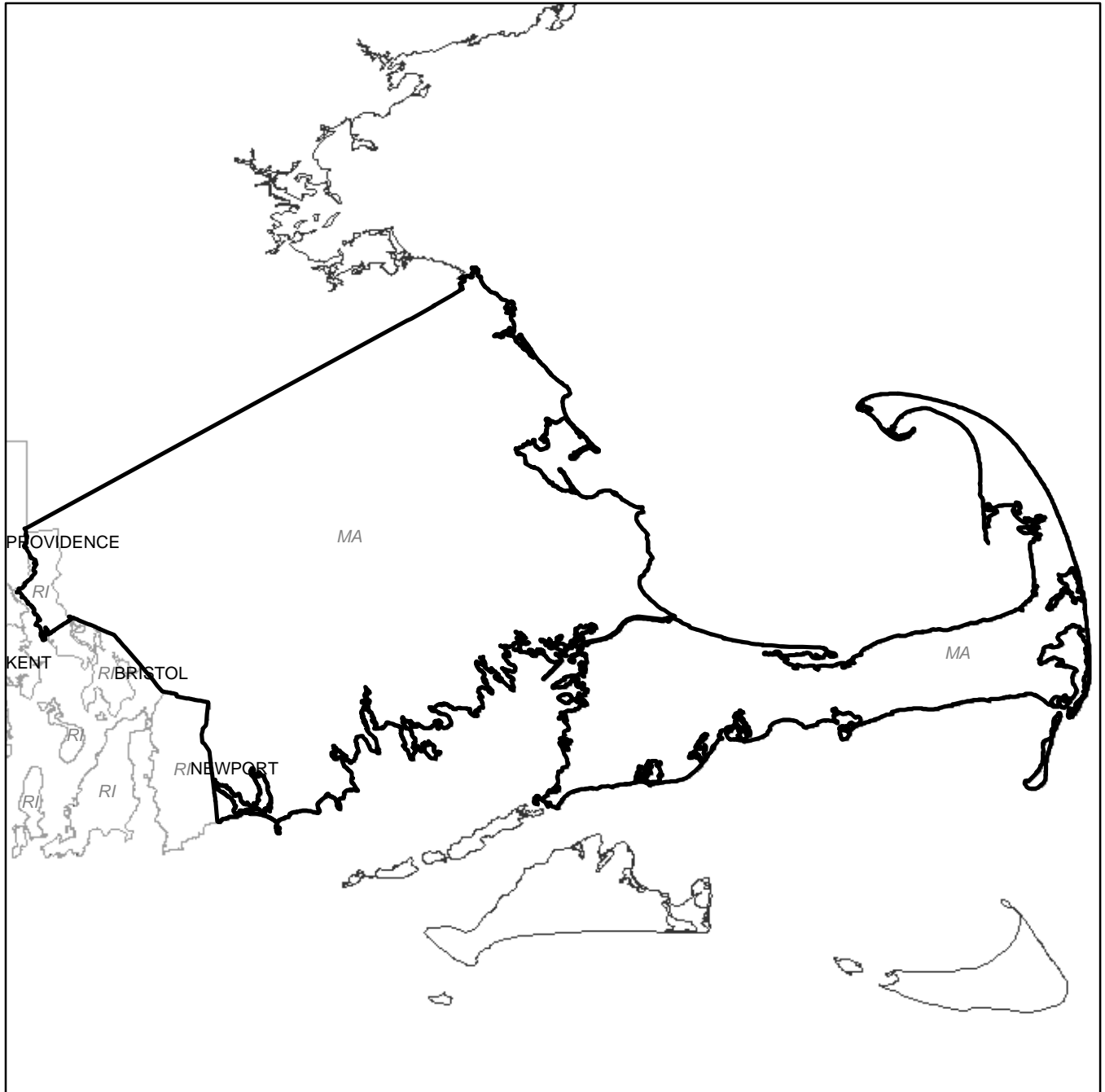
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7/8/1663 - 5/30/1664

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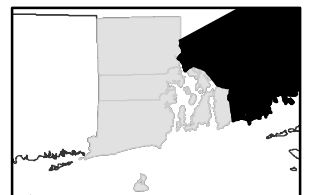
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New Plymouth Colony lost to Rhode Island when King Charles II granted Rhode Island a charter as a self-governing corporate colony.

1,609 sq. mi.

(Bowen, Disputes, 33; Swindler, 8:368)





New Plymouth Colony

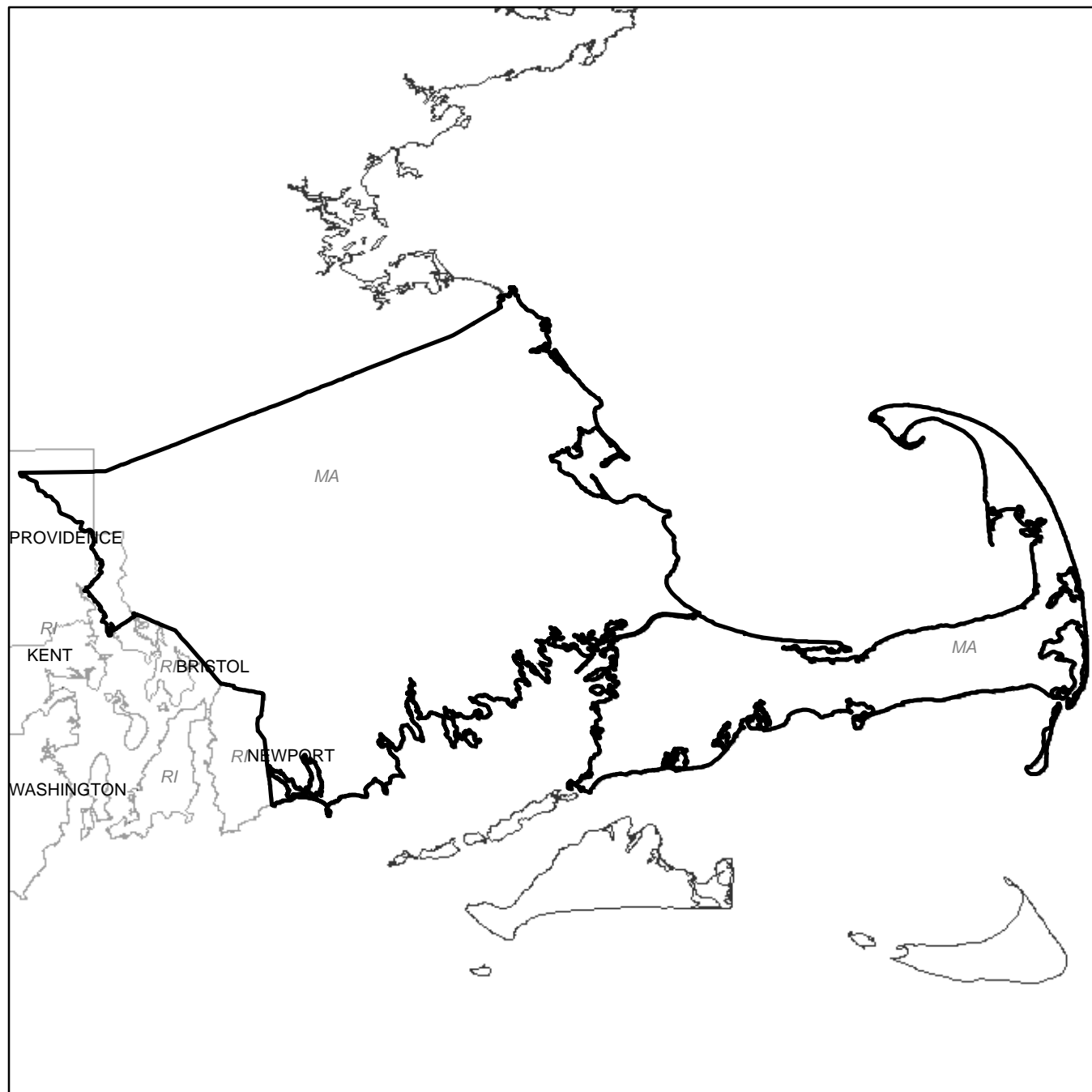
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5/31/1664 - 2/26/1665

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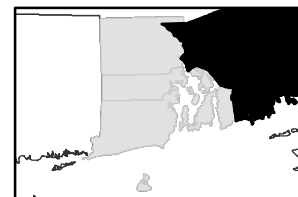
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[May 1664] New Plymouth Colony gained from SUFFOLK (Mass.) and Rhode Island Colony when a joint commission from Massachusetts and Plymouth demarcated their mutual boundary ("Old Colony Line").

1,701 sq. mi.

(Bradford, 427 n.)





New Plymouth Colony

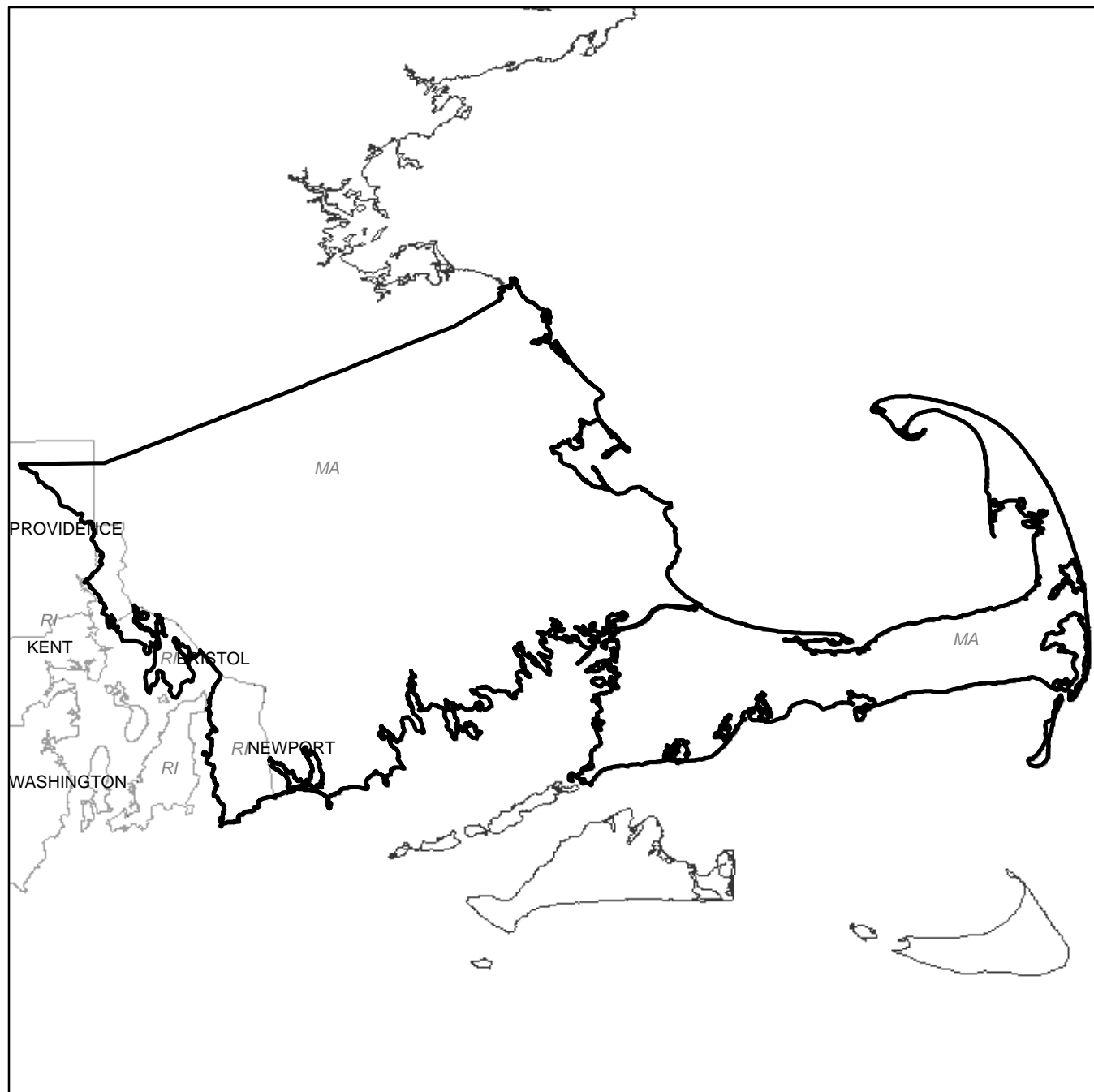
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2/27/1665 - 6/1/1685

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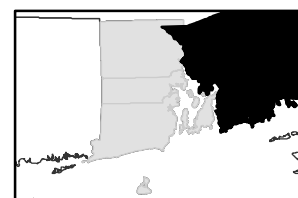
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[27 February 1664/1665] New Plymouth gained from Rhode Island Colony when royal boundary commissioners set Rhode Island's eastern limit along the Blackstone River and east coast of Narragansett Bay, pending a conclusive royal decision.

1,779 sq. mi.

(Arnold, 1:315)





Pawtuxet Settlement

Version 1

Map scale is unavailable.

12/31/1642 - 5/25/1658

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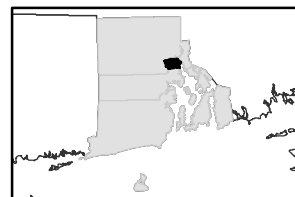
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In 1642, Massachusetts, responding to a request from disgruntled Rhode Islanders, extended its jurisdiction over the settlement at Pawtuxet.

10 sq. mi.

(Arnold, 1:111)





BRISTOL (Mass.)

Version 1

Map scale is unavailable.

6/2/1685 - 2/16/1747

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Base map shows present-day information.

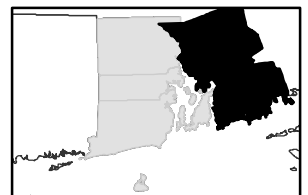
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BRISTOL (Mass.) created as one of three original counties in New Plymouth Colony.

698 sq. mi.

(Ply. Laws, ch. 6/p. 19)





BRISTOL (Mass.)

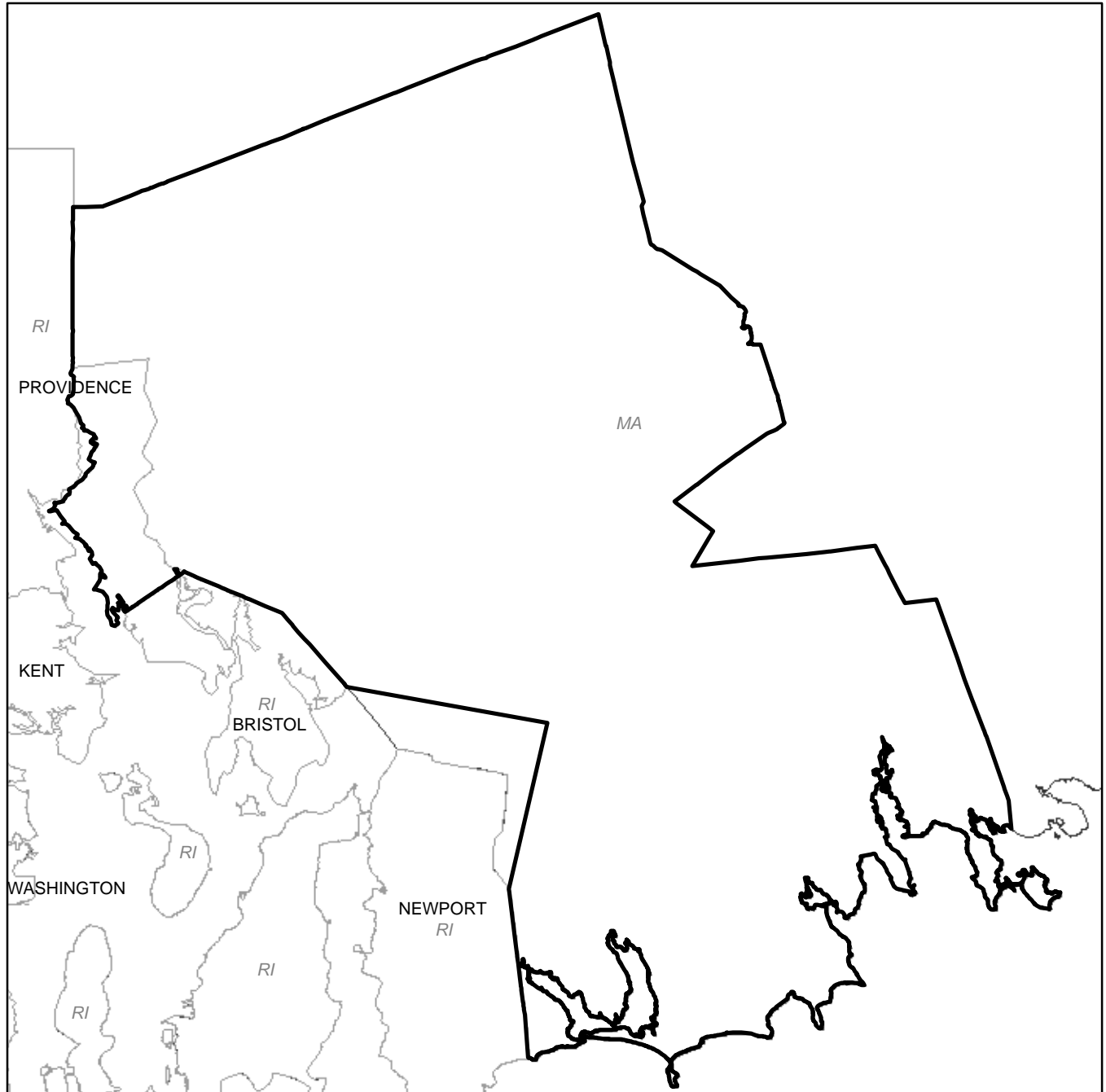
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2/17/1747 - 2/28/1862

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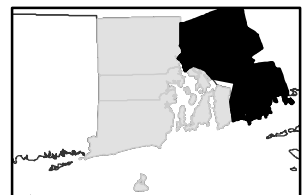
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[17 February 1746/1747] BRISTOL (Mass.) lost to NEWPORT and PROVIDENCE, and lost to creation of BRISTOL when Rhode Island implemented the 1746 royal settlement of the boundary with Massachusetts. BRISTOL (Mass.) included part of present Rhode Island.

(Arnold, 2:157; R.I. Recs., 5:207-209)

588 sq. mi.





SUFFOLK (Mass.)

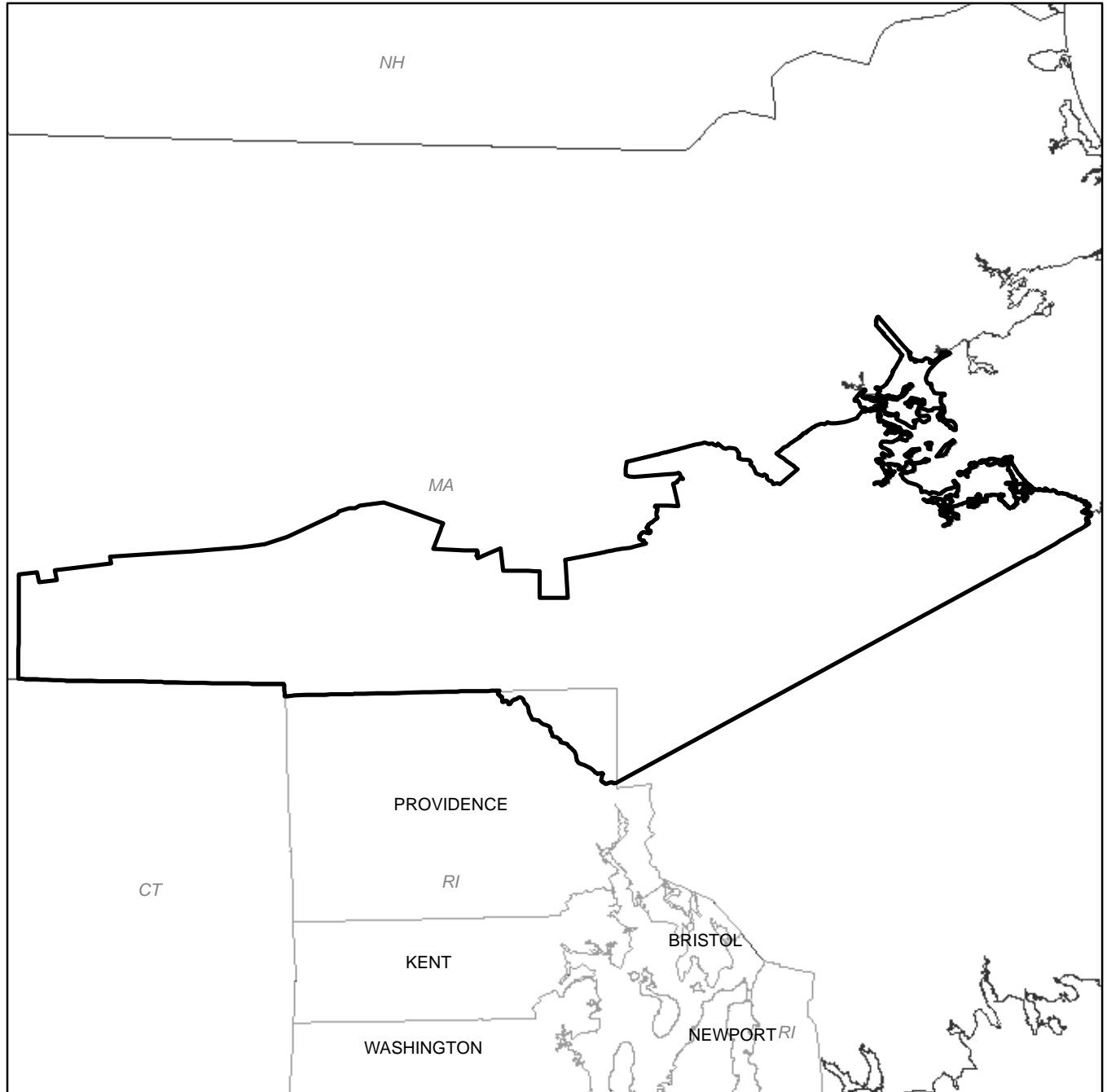
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5/10/1643 - 7/7/1663

Heavy line depicts historical boundary.
Base map shows present-day information.

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SUFFOLK (Mass.) created as one of four original counties in Massachusetts. Part of SUFFOLK (Mass.) was in present northeastern Rhode Island.

1,007 sq. mi.

(Mass. Recs., 2:38)





SUFFOLK (Mass.)

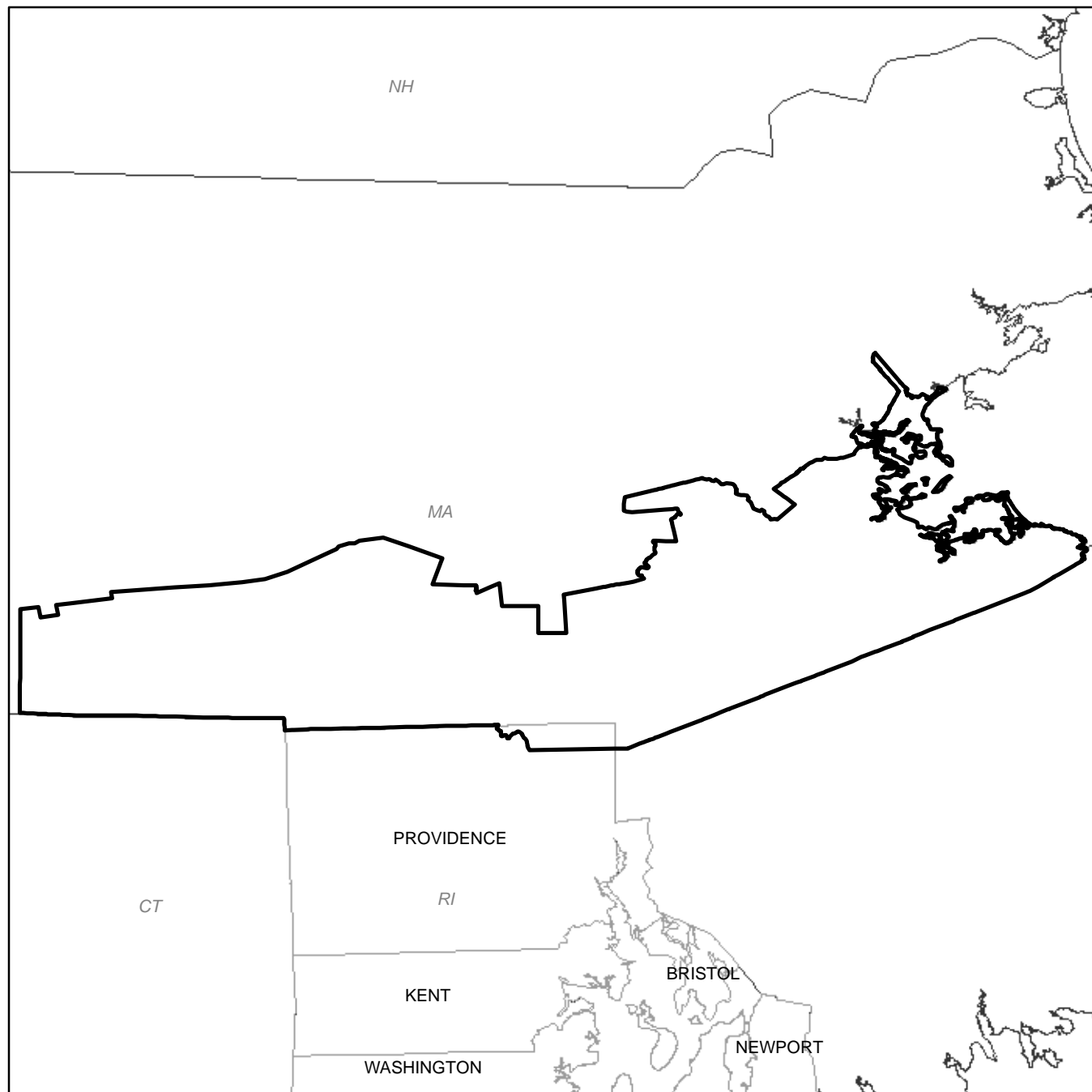
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2/27/1665 - 3/14/1690

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Base map shows present-day information.

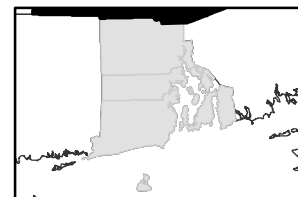
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[27 February 1664/1665] SUFFOLK (Mass.) gained from Rhode Island Colony when royal commissioners set the provincial boundaries of Mass., New Plymouth, and R.I. along Blackstone River and east side of Narragansett Bay, pending a conclusive royal decision.

916 sq. mi.

(Arnold, 1:315)





SUFFOLK (Mass.)

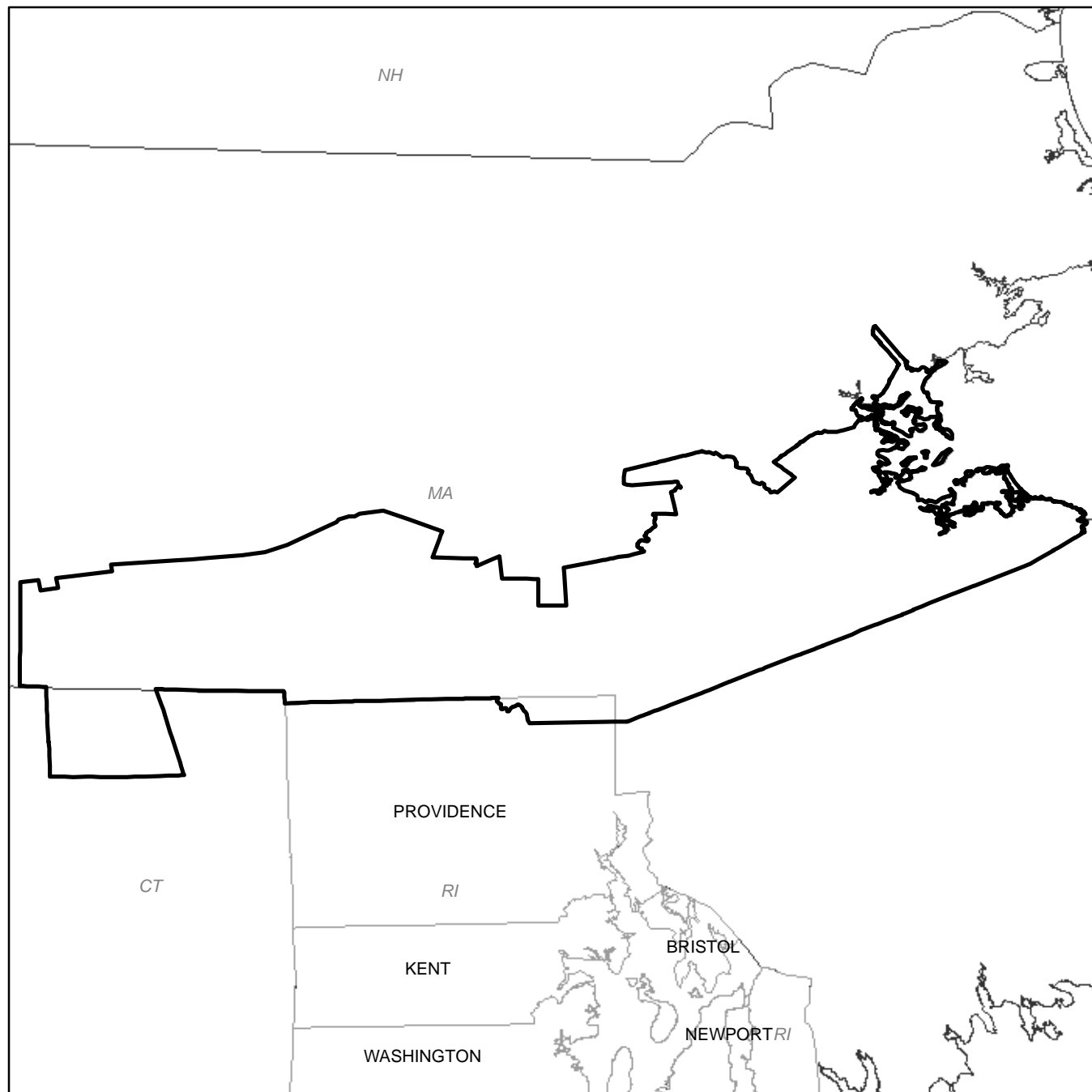
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3/15/1690 - 7/9/1731

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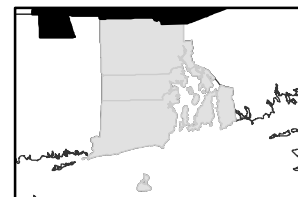
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[15 March 1689/1690] SUFFOLK (Mass.) gained from Connecticut when Massachusetts created the town of Woodstock within present Connecticut; area within present Rhode Island was unchanged.

978 sq. mi.

(Bowen, Disputes, 53-58; Bowen, Woodstock, 1:31)





SUFFOLK (Mass.)

Version 4

Map scale is unavailable.

7/10/1731 - 2/16/1747

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Base map shows present-day information.

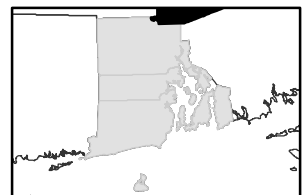
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SUFFOLK (Mass.) lost to creation of WORCESTER (Mass.). Area within present Rhode Island was unchanged.

506 sq. mi.

(Mass. Col. Acts, vol. 2, ch. 8 [1730-1731], sec. 1/p. 584)





King's Province

Version 1

Map scale is unavailable.

4/8/1665 - 5/11/1703

Heavy line depicts historical boundary.
Base map shows present-day information.

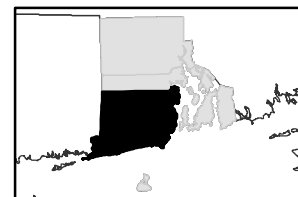
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King's Province established by royal commissioners who decided dispute over the Narragansett Country by dismissing Mass. claim, putting Conn. claim in abeyance, and placing area under royal jurisdiction. R. I. given temp. authority over Kings Province.

394 sq. mi.

(Arnold, 1:315; James, 86-87; Potter, 178, 181)





Narragansett Country

Version 1

Map scale is unavailable.

4/23/1662 - 4/7/1665

Heavy line depicts historical boundary.
Base map shows present-day information.

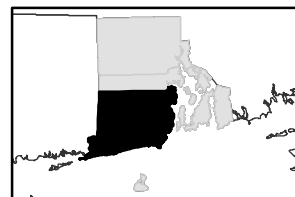
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King Charles II granted Connecticut a charter as a self-governing corporate colony, with an eastern boundary at Narragansett Bay, overlapping part of the R.I. patent. R.I. did not concede its claim to the territory, but Conn. took control of the area.

394 sq. mi.

(Bowen, Disputes, 32; Swindler, 2:135-136)





Rhode Island Colony

Version 1

Map scale is unavailable.

3/14/1644 - 5/25/1658

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Base map shows present-day information.

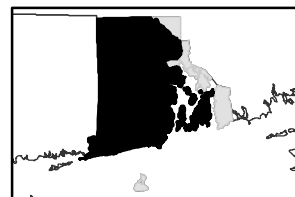
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[14 March 1643/1644] Roger Williams secured a Parliamentary patent for Rhode Island (called "Providence Plantations") that granted authority for self-government; western boundary is estimated.

938 sq. mi.

(James, 57; Swindler, 8:360)





Rhode Island Colony

Version 2

Map scale is unavailable.

5/26/1658 - 7/7/1663

Heavy line depicts historical boundary.
Base map shows present-day information.

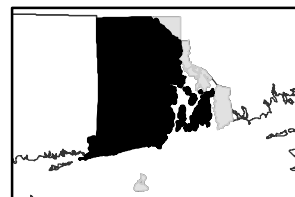
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The Pawtuxet settlers, who gave their allegiance to Massachusetts in 1642, returned to Rhode Island jurisdiction.

948 sq. mi.

(Arnold, 1:267)





Rhode Island Colony

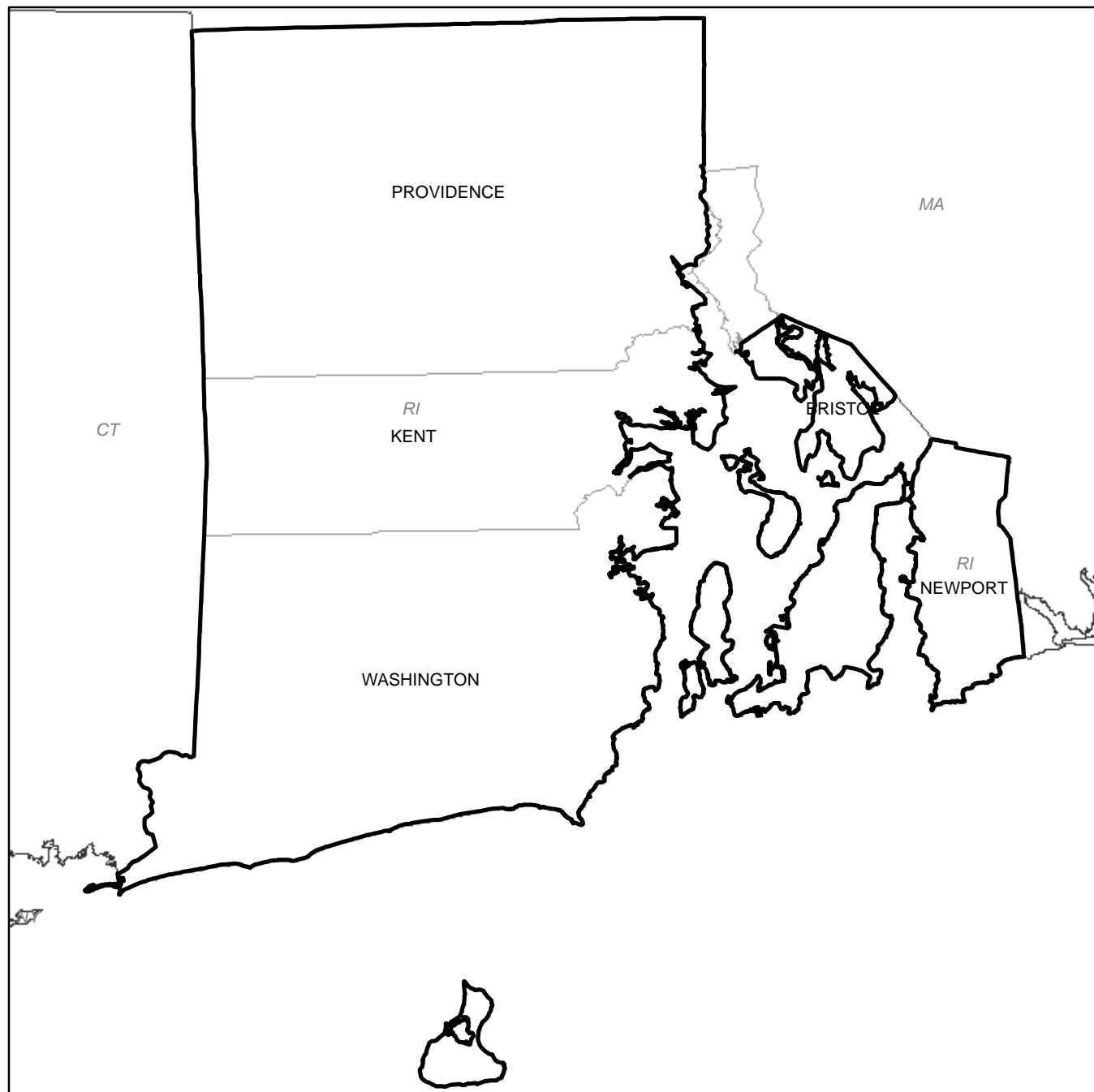
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7/8/1663 - 5/30/1664

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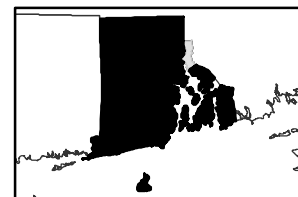
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King Charles II granted Rhode Island a charter as a self-governing corporate colony. The charter's boundary descriptions included Narragansett Country, and also resulted in gains from New Plymouth (in Narragansett Bay), and from SUFFOLK (Mass.).

1,069 sq. mi.

(Bowen, Disputes, 33; Swindler, 8:368)





Rhode Island Colony

Version 4

Map scale is unavailable.

5/31/1664 - 2/26/1665

Heavy line depicts historical boundary.
Base map shows present-day information.

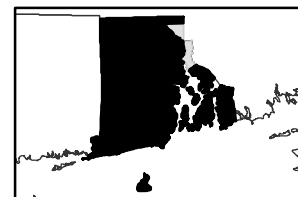
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[May 1664] Rhode Island lost the northeast corner of the present state to New Plymouth when a joint commission from Massachusetts and Plymouth demarcated their mutual boundary ("Old Colony Line").

1,051 sq. mi.

(Bradford, 427 n.)





Rhode Island Colony

Version 5

Map scale is unavailable.

2/27/1665 - 4/7/1665

Heavy line depicts historical boundary.
Base map shows present-day information.

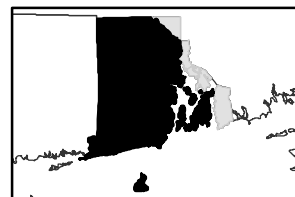
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[27 February 1664/1665] Rhode Island Colony lost to SUFFOLK (Mass.) and to New Plymouth Colony when royal boundary commissioners set eastern boundary of R.I. along Blackstone River and east side of Narragansett Bay, pending a conclusive royal decision.

958 sq. mi.

(Arnold, 1:315)





Rhode Island Colony

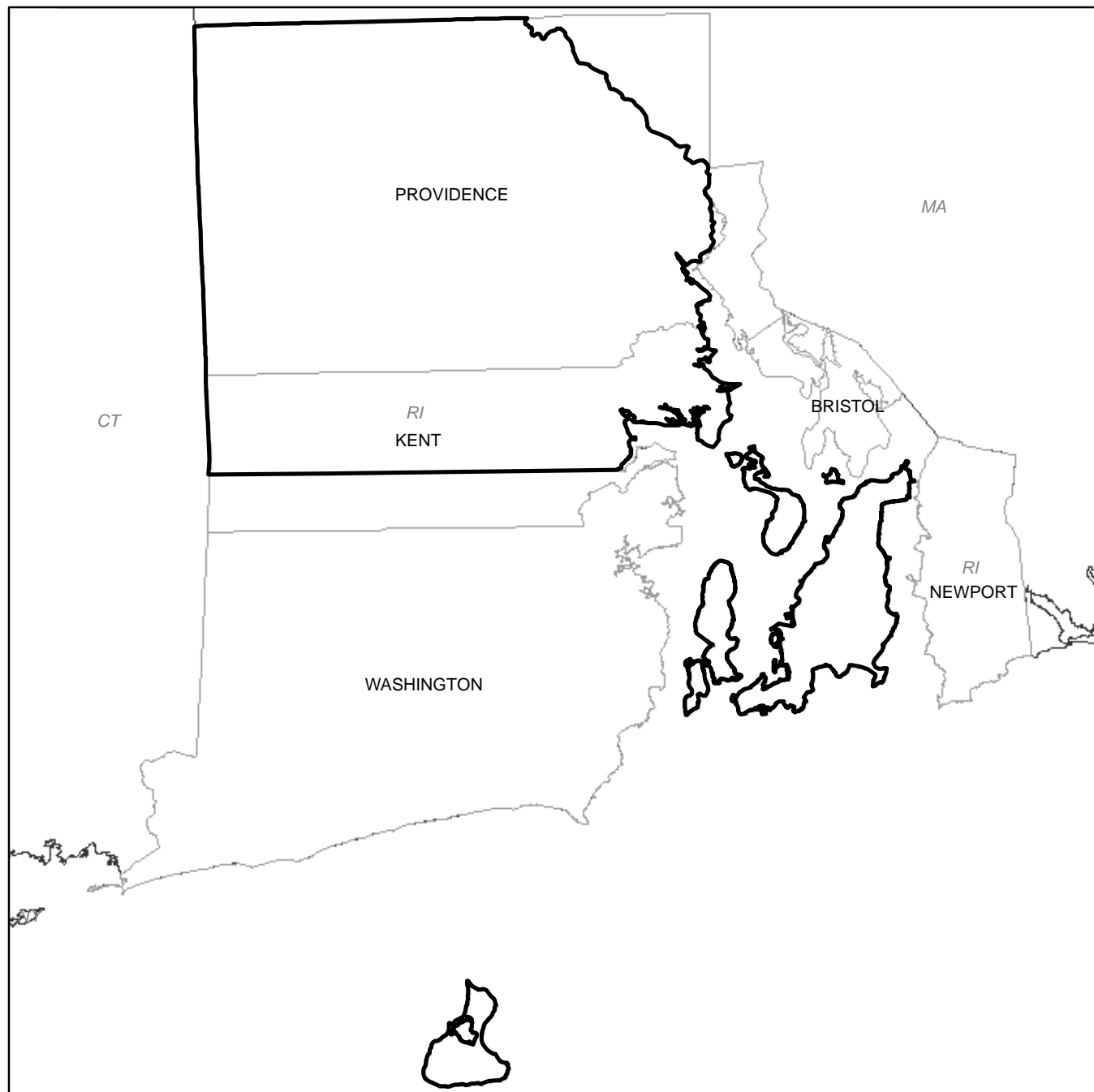
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4/8/1665 - 5/11/1703

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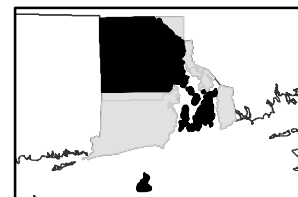
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Royal commissioners decided dispute over the Narragansett Country by placing it directly under royal jurisdiction. Named King's Province; R.I. given temp. authority pending royal decision. King's Province treated here as separate from Rhode Island.

564 sq. mi.

(Arnold, 1:315; James, 86-87; Potter, 178, 181)





Rhode Island Colony

Version 7

Map scale is unavailable.

5/12/1703 - 6/21/1703

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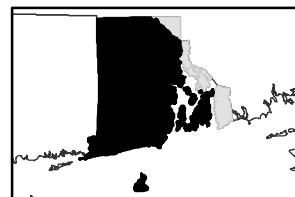
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Rhode Island and Conn. agreed on their mutual boundary substantially along the line established by colonial agents in 1662, described in R.I.'s 1663 charter and claimed since then by Rhode Island. This boundary became effective almost immediately.

(Potter, 206-211; R.I. Rec., 3:474, 477-478; Van Zandt, 71)

958 sq. mi.





BRISTOL

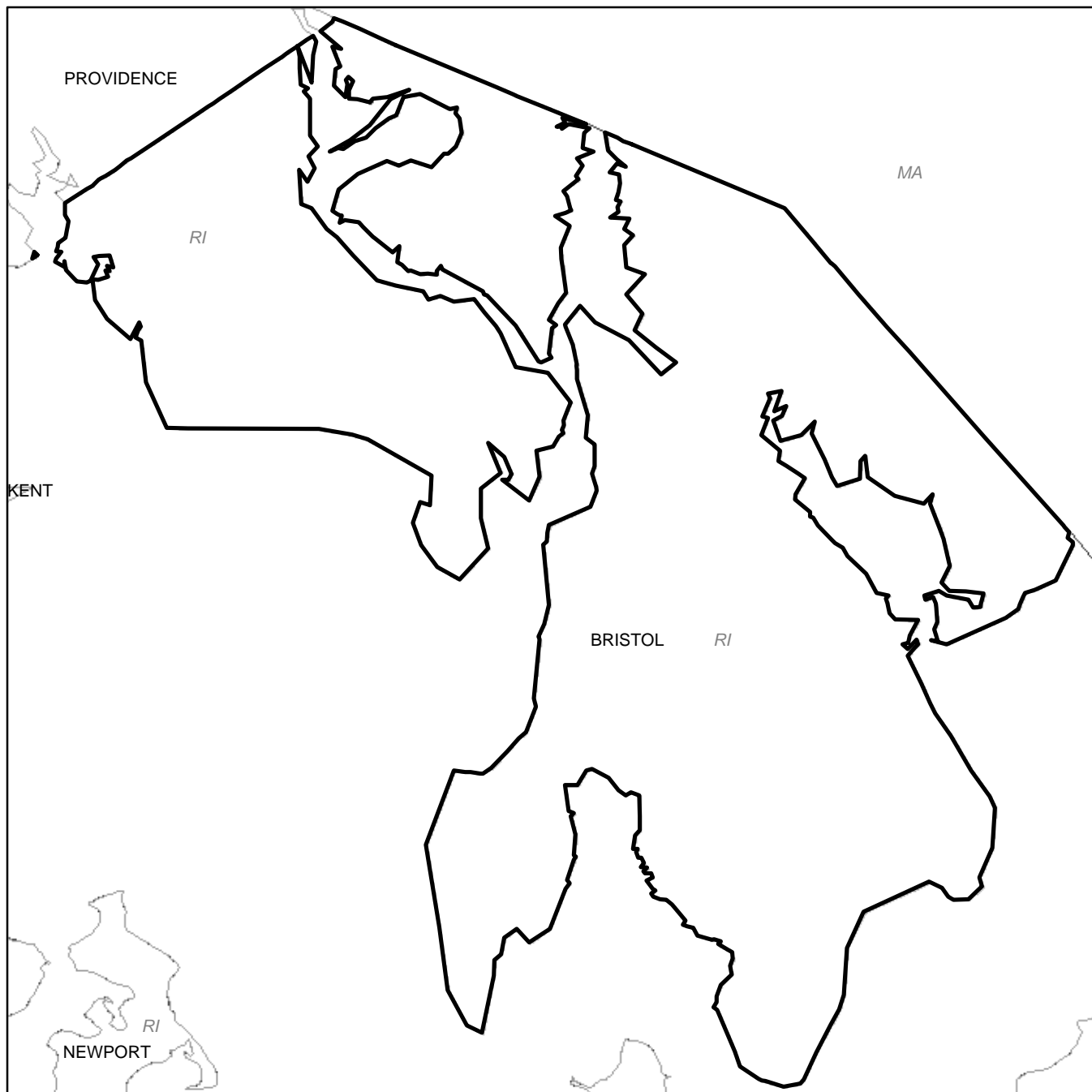
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2/17/1747 - 12/31/2000

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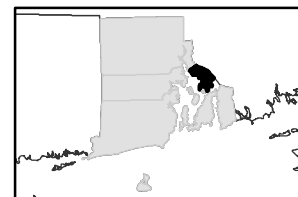
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[17 February 1746/1747] BRISTOL created from BRISTOL (Mass.) when Rhode Island implemented the 1746 royal settlement of the boundary with Massachusetts.

25 sq. mi.

(Arnold, 2:157; R.I. Recs., 5:207-209)





KENT

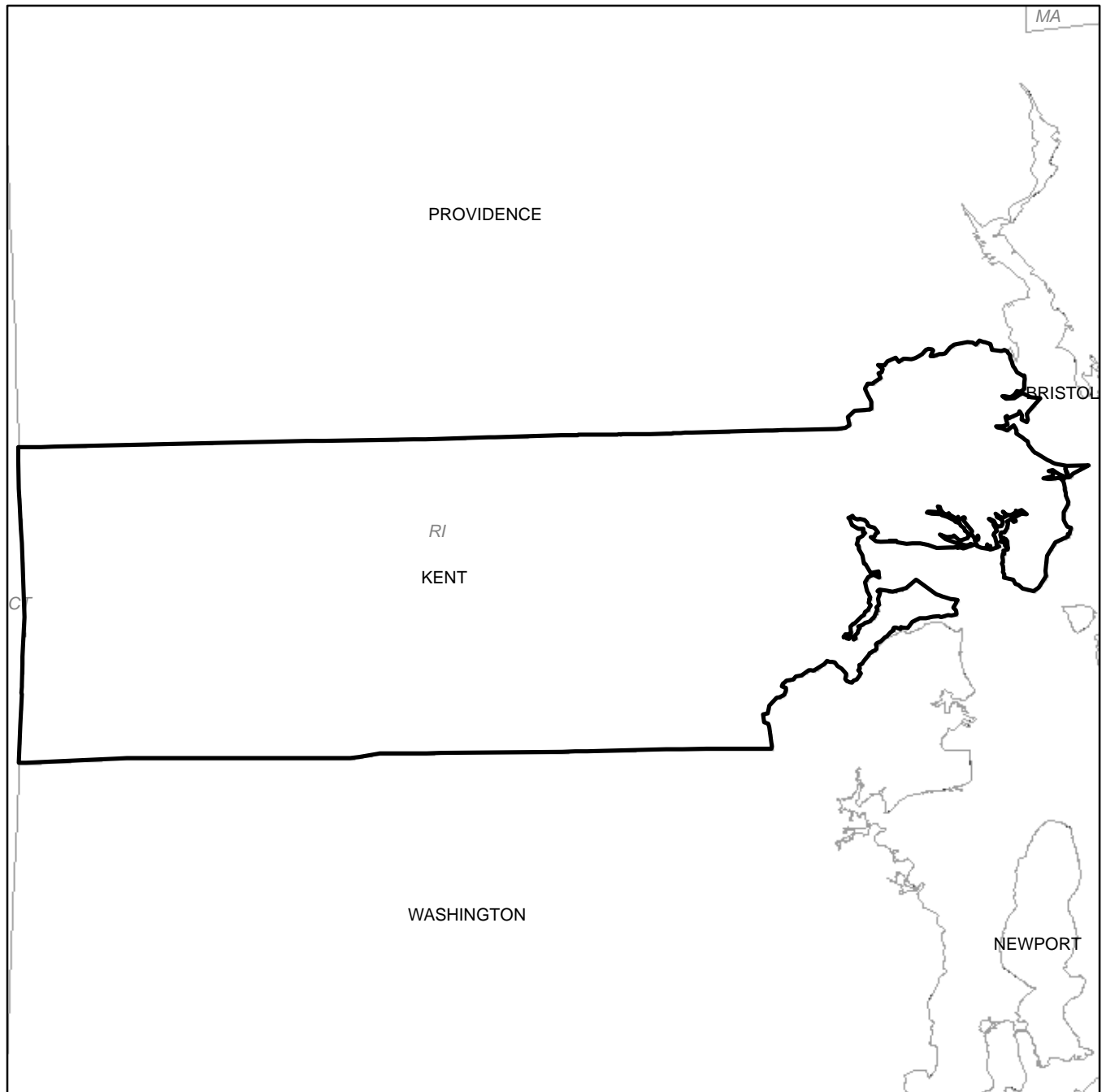
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6/11/1750 - 12/31/2000

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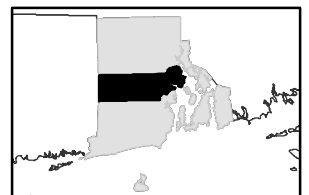
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KENT created from PROVIDENCE.

174 sq. mi.

(R.I. Recs., 5:301)





RHODE ISLAND

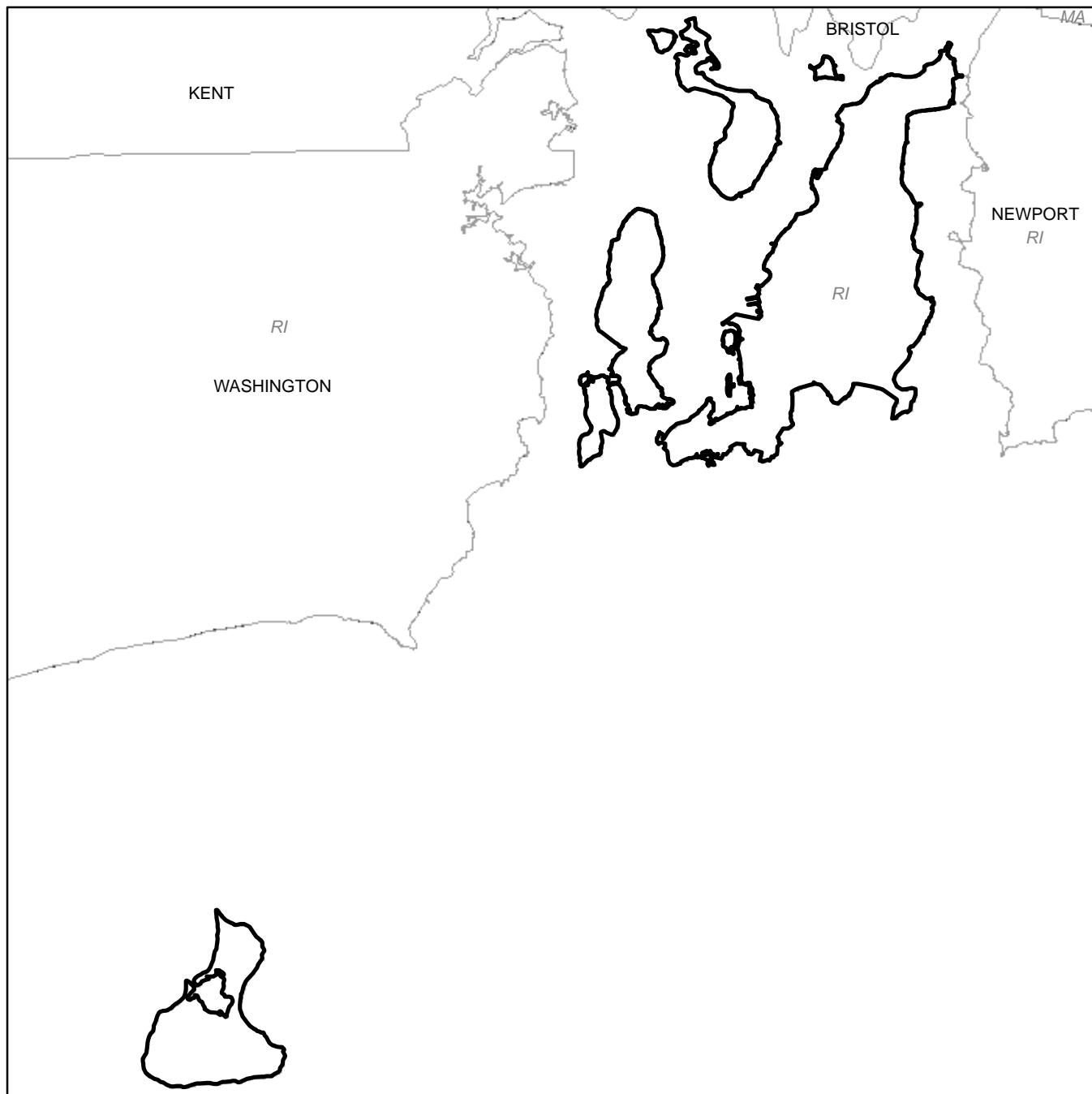
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6/22/1703 - 6/15/1729

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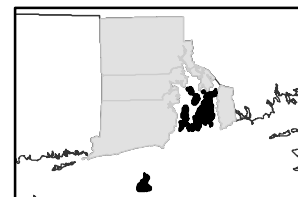
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RHODE ISLAND County (now NEWPORT) created as one of two original counties, consisting of Block Island and the islands in Narragansett Bay.

65 sq. mi.

(R.I. Recs., 3:477-478)





NEWPORT

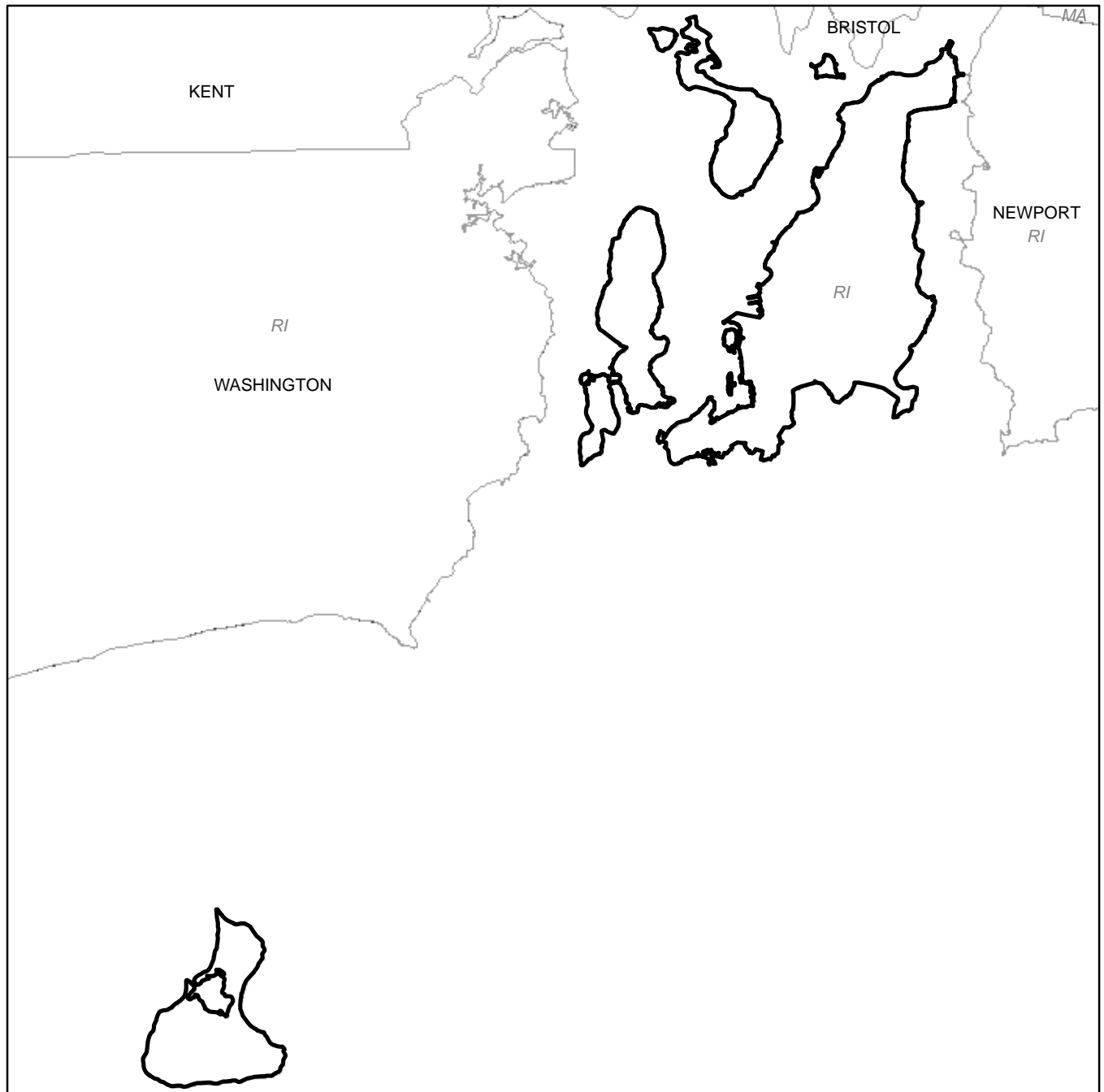
Version 2

6/16/1729 - 2/16/1747

Map scale is unavailable.

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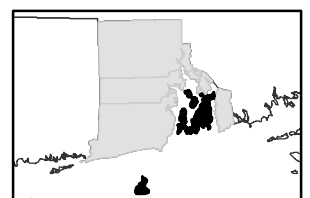
Heavy line depicts historical boundary.
Base map shows present-day information.



RHODE ISLAND renamed NEWPORT.

65 sq. mi.

(R.I. Recs., 4:427)





NEWPORT

Version 3

Map scale is unavailable.

2/17/1747 - 2/28/1862

Heavy line depicts historical boundary.
Base map shows present-day information.

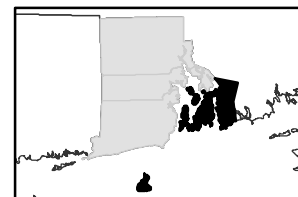
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[17 February 1746/1747] NEWPORT gained from BRISTOL (Mass.) when Rhode Island implemented the 1746 royal settlement of the boundary with Massachusetts. NEWPORT included part of present Massachusetts.

133 sq. mi.

(Arnold, 2:157; R.I. Recs., 5:207-209)





NEWPORT

Version 4

3/1/1862 - 5/5/1963

Map scale is unavailable.

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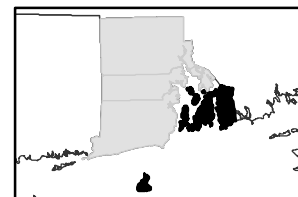
Heavy line depicts historical boundary.
Base map shows present-day information.



NEWPORT lost to BRISTOL (Mass.) when Massachusetts and Rhode Island implemented the U.S. Supreme Court settlement (31 Dec 1861) of their boundary to the Atlantic Ocean.

119 sq. mi.

(Bayles, Providence, 1:29; R.I. Acts and Resolves, 1861, ch. 379, sec. 2/p. 4; Ullman, 83-84; Van Zandt, 68)





NEWPORT

Version 5

Map scale is unavailable.

5/6/1963 - 12/31/2000

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Base map shows present-day information.

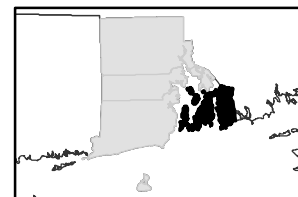
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NEWPORT lost Block Island to WASHINGTON.

108 sq. mi.

(R.I. Acts and Resolves, 1963, ch. 84, sec. 1/p. 300)





PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Version 1

Map scale is unavailable.

6/22/1703 - 6/15/1729

Heavy line depicts historical boundary.
Base map shows present-day information.

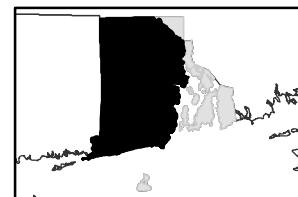
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PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS (now PROVIDENCE) created as one of two original counties, consisting of the mainland part of Rhode Island.

893 sq. mi.

(R.I. Recs., 3:477-478)





PROVIDENCE

Version 2

6/16/1729 - 2/16/1747

Map scale is unavailable.

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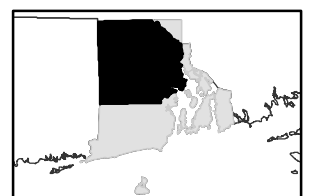
Heavy line depicts historical boundary.
Base map shows present-day information.



PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS renamed PROVIDENCE; lost to creation of KINGS (now WASHINGTON).

552 sq. mi.

(R.I. Recs., 4:427)





PROVIDENCE

Version 3

2/17/1747 - 6/10/1750

Map scale is unavailable.

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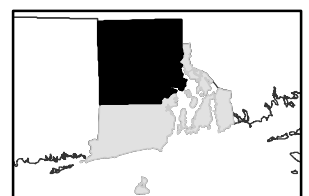
Heavy line depicts historical boundary.
Base map shows present-day information.



[17 February 1746/1747] PROVIDENCE gained from BRISTOL (Mass.) and SUFFOLK (Mass.) when Rhode Island implemented the 1746 royal settlement of the boundary with Massachusetts.

585 sq. mi.

(Arnold, 2:157; R.I. Recs., 5:207-209)





PROVIDENCE

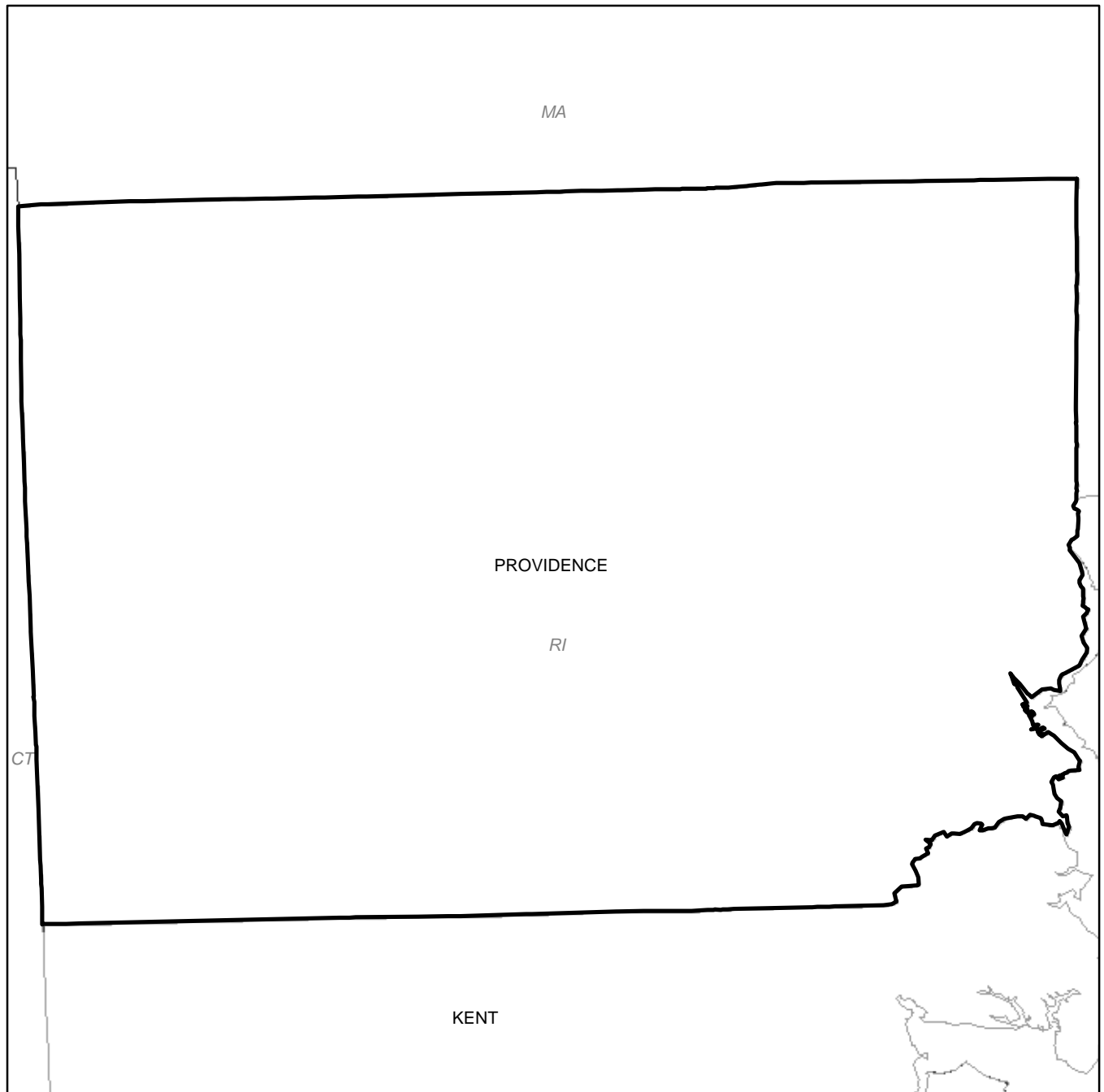
Version 4

6/11/1750 - 2/28/1862

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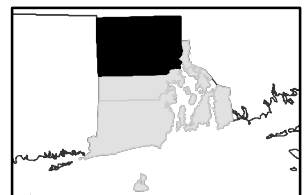
Heavy line depicts historical boundary.
Base map shows present-day information.



PROVIDENCE lost to creation of KENT.

411 sq. mi.

(R.I. Recs., 5:301)





PROVIDENCE

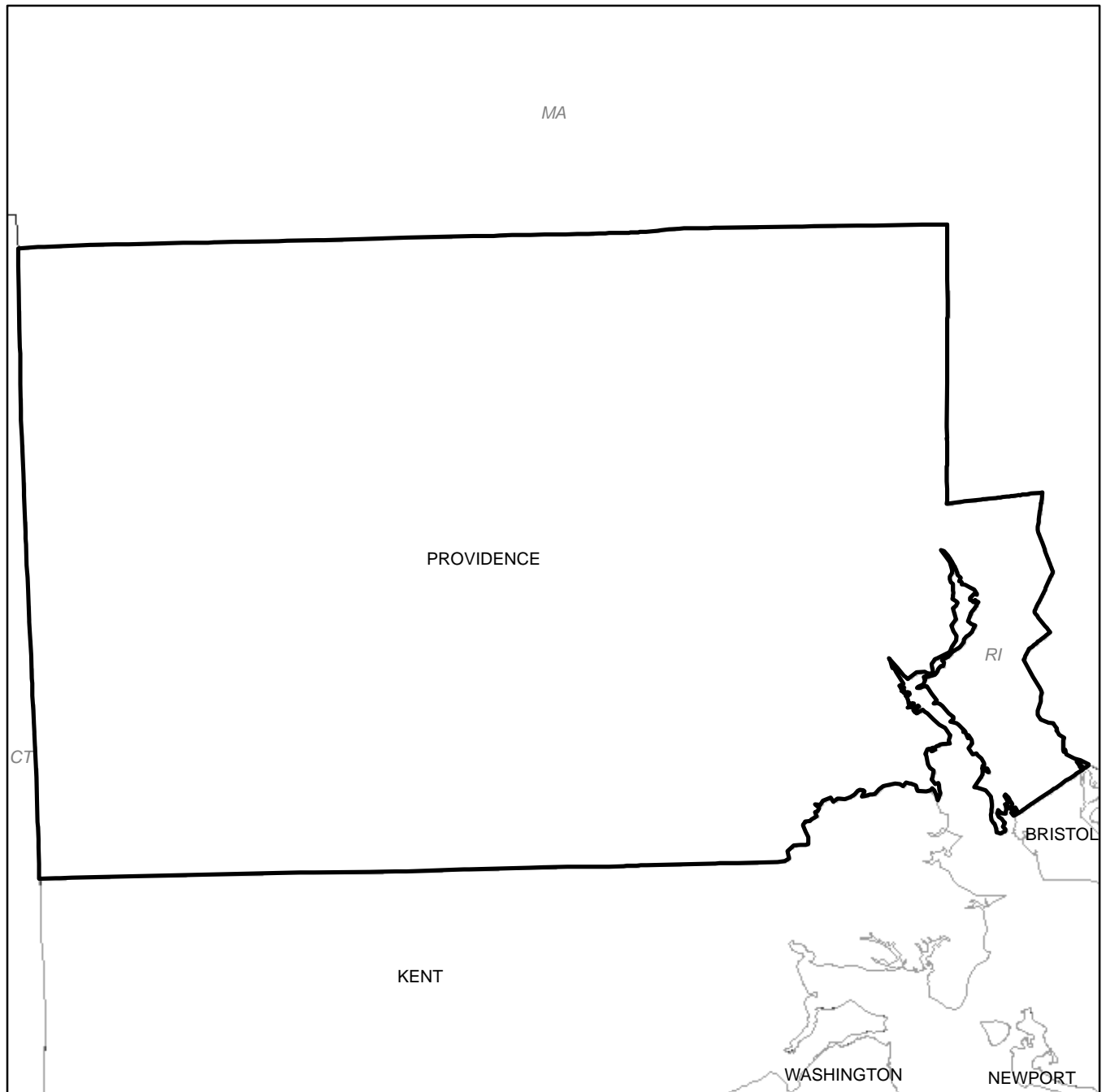
Version 5

3/1/1862 - 12/31/2000

Map scale is unavailable.

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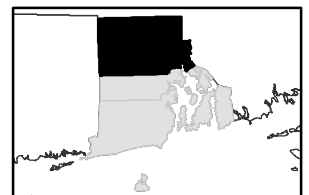
Heavy line depicts historical boundary.
Base map shows present-day information.



PROVIDENCE gained from BRISTOL (Mass.) when Massachusetts and Rhode Island implemented the U.S. Supreme Court settlement (31 Dec 1861) of their boundary to the Atlantic Ocean.

430 sq. mi.

(Bayles, Providence, 1:29; R.I. Acts and Resolves, 1861, ch. 379, sec. 2/p. 4; Ullman, 83-84; Van Zandt, 68)





KINGS

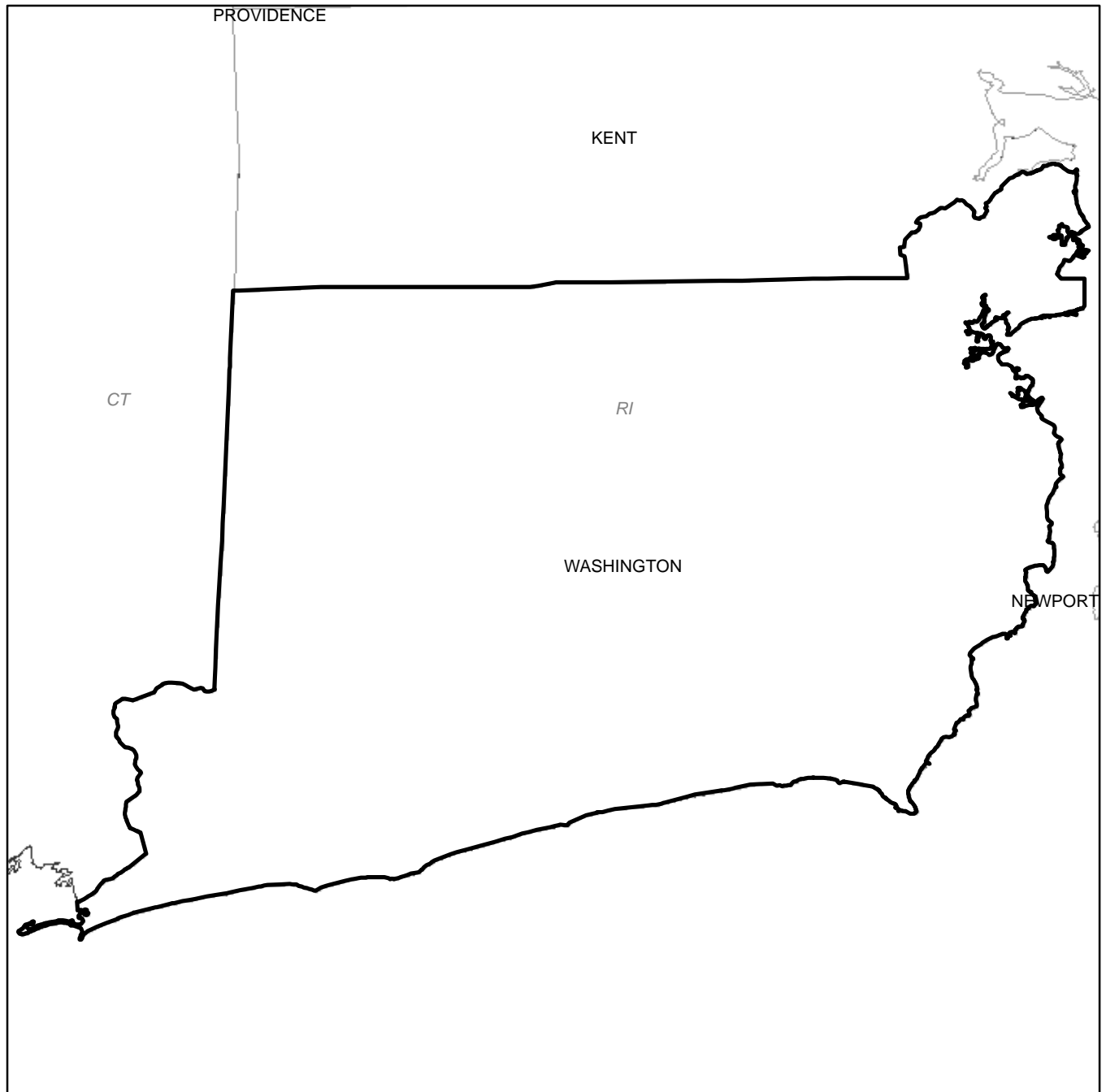
Version 1

Map scale is unavailable.

6/16/1729 - 10/28/1781

Heavy line depicts historical boundary.
Base map shows present-day information.

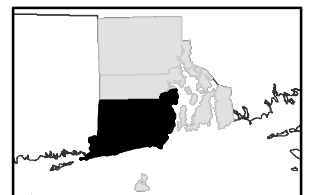
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KINGS (now WASHINGTON) created from PROVIDENCE.

341 sq. mi.

(R.I. Recs., 4:427)





WASHINGTON

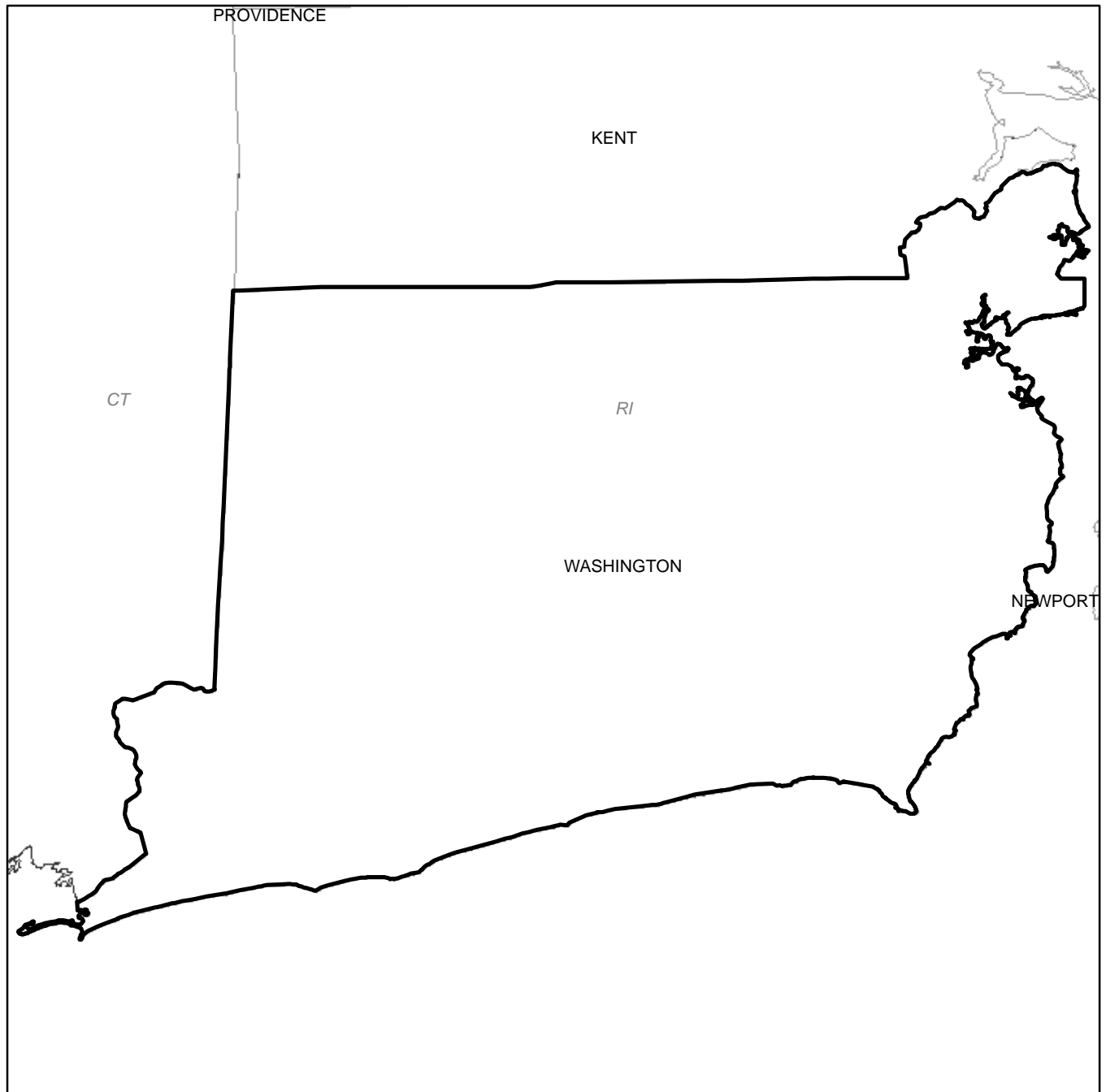
Version 2

Map scale is unavailable.

10/29/1781 - 5/5/1963

Heavy line depicts historical boundary.
Base map shows present-day information.

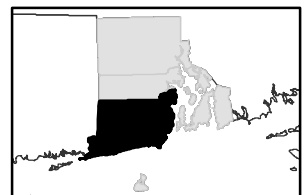
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KINGS renamed WASHINGTON.

341 sq. mi.

(R.I. Recs., 9:484)





WASHINGTON

Version 3

Map scale is unavailable.

5/6/1963 - 12/31/2000

Heavy line depicts historical boundary.
Base map shows present-day information.

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WASHINGTON gained Block Island from NEWPORT.

351 sq. mi.

(R.I. Acts and Resolves, 1963, ch. 84, sec. 1/p. 300)

