

**SEVENTEENTH REPORT UPON THE  
REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS,  
MARRIAGES AND DEATHS, IN THE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND, FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1869**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649423804

Seventeenth Report upon the Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths, in the State of Rhode Island, for the Year Ending December 31, 1869 by Edward T. Caswell

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**EDWARD T. CASWELL**

**SEVENTEENTH REPORT UPON THE  
REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS,  
MARRIAGES AND DEATHS, IN THE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND, FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1869**



COMMITTEE ON REGISTRATION  
OF THE  
RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY.

---

EDWIN M. SNOW, M. D., *Providence.*  
EDWARD T. CASWELL, M. D., *Providence.*  
SYLVANUS CLAPP, M. D., *Pawtucket.*  
THEOPHILUS C. DUNN, M. D., *Newport.*  
JAMES H. ELDRIDGE, M. D., *East Greenwich.*

NAME LIBRARY

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE, }  
Providence, November 16th, 1870. }

*To the Honorable the General Assembly :*

GENTLEMEN :—The Seventeenth Annual Report upon the Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths in Rhode Island, is herewith presented.

This report has been prepared by Dr. Edward T. Caswell, and presents the vital statistics for the year ending December 31st, 1869, with the usual recapitulatory tables, and with additional comments.

The number of births for that year was 5,245, or 127 less than in 1868 ; the number of marriages was 2,289, or 4 more than in 1868 ; and the number of deaths was 3,882, or 470 more than in 1868, and more than in any year since the publication of these reports.

During the seventeen years and six months since the commencement of the present system of registration, i. e., from June 1, 1852, to December 31, 1869, the records in the whole State have been as follows : Children born, 69,390 ; persons married, 58,434 ; persons died, 45,054, showing in the aggregate, a record of the birth, marriage or death of 172,878 persons. In this report will be found for the first time the returns of Divorces authorized by the law of 1868. Many imperfections in the law have been shown in a subsequent page of this report ; others will probably suggest themselves to your honorable body. It is to be hoped that the law may be so amended as to remove the defects now existing in it. The number of divorce suits disposed of in the State for the year 1869, was 185.

102594

The returns are, on the whole, very complete, but there are some instances of glaring omissions, to which attention must be called. Thus some of the towns in Providence county maintain an unenviable notoriety in deficient returns. In Cumberland, 55 deaths were reported, and in no instance was the cause of death assigned. In Pawtucket, 97 deaths were reported, and the cause of death was given in about one-tenth only. In Scituate the return of deaths came in, with the cause of death entirely blank; subsequently the cause of a majority of these deaths was filled according to the *knowledge and recollection* of the *selectmen*,—evidently a very poor substitute for the physician's certificate required by the law. Such gross neglect is worthy of severe censure. The law states that the town clerks are "authorized and required" to collect these returns in due form. This duty is often delegated to incompetent persons, and in this way the returns are made less complete. There is another point in which many of the town clerks are derelict, and that is the time at which the returns shall be forwarded to this office. The law requires that they shall be forwarded "on or before the first Monday of March annually." It is to be hoped that the members of your honorable body will interest themselves in their several districts to see that the provisions of the Registration law are more faithfully carried out, since the value of these reports depends upon the fulness and completeness of the returns.

JOHN R. BARTLETT,

*Secretary of State.*

## CONTENTS.

	Page.
TABLE I. General abstract of the births, marriages and deaths in 1869; showing the number of births, the sex and parentage of those born; the number of marriages, with the nativity of those married; the number of deaths, with the sex and parentage of those who died; the aggregate and average age of the decedents of each sex, and of the whole number of decedents whose age was given; also the population of each town and division of the State by the census of 1870.....	2-3
TABLE II. Births; showing the number of each sex born, in each month of the year, in the several divisions of the State.....	4-5
TABLE III. Plurality births; arranged by months, sexes and divisions of the State; and showing the nativity of the parents.....	6
TABLE IV. Marriages; showing the number of marriages in each month, and in each quarter of the year, in the several divisions of the State.....	7
TABLE V. Ages of persons married; showing the number of each sex married within certain stated periods of life.....	8
TABLE VI. Deaths; showing the number of each sex who died in each month, in the several divisions of the State.....	9
TABLE VII. Deaths; showing the number of each sex who died at certain stated periods of life, in each town and division of the State; also the population of each sex in every town and division, with the percentage of deaths to population.....	10-15
TABLE VIII. Causes of death in 1869; arranged alphabetically, showing the number of each sex who died from each cause, in each month, and in the whole year.....	16-20
TABLE IX. Causes of death; arranged alphabetically, and showing the number of each sex who died from each cause, in each period of life; and also the number of American and of foreign parentage, who died from each cause..	21-25
TABLE X. Classification and percentage; showing the number and percentage of deaths from each cause and each class of causes, in the whole State, and in each division of the State.....	26-31
TABLE XI. Occupations and ages at death; showing the aggregate and average age at death of the decedents in each occupation and class of occupations, in the whole State, in Providence city, and in the rest of the State; ages under 20 omitted.....	32-35



	Page.
TABLE XII. Occupations and causes of death; showing the number in each occupation and class of occupations, who died by each specified cause; omitting ages under 20 .....	35-39
TABLE XIII. Meteorological; showing the mean altitude and range of the barometer, the prevailing winds, the mean relative humidity, the mean cloudiness of the sky, the number of days of rain or snow, and the quantity of rain or melted snow, for each month of the year 1869.....	41
TABLE XIV. Meteorological; showing the mean temperature, the highest and lowest temperature, the monthly range, the mean daily range, and the greatest change in twenty-four hours, for each month of the year 1869.....	42
Observations on the relations of the meteorological phenomena of the year to disease in 1869, (TABLE).....	42-45
RESULTS AND OBSERVATIONS, 1869.....	47-50
Births, marriages and deaths in sixteen years, (TABLE) .....	47
Number and proportion of births, marriages and deaths in 1869, to the population by the census of 1870, in each town and county in the State. (TABLE.)	48
Births, marriages and deaths in each town and county in Rhode Island, in each of the three years 1867, 1868, 1869. (TABLE.).....	49
Remarks on the preceding tables.....	50
BIRTHS, 1869.....	51-59
Sex of children born in 1869.....	51
Number and proportion of each sex, in each of seventeen years. (TABLE.)..	51
Proportion of the sexes born in each division of the State, in 1869.....	52
Proportion of the sexes born in each division of the State in each of the last seven years.....	53
Season in connection with proportion of sexes born.....	53
Season in connection with whole number of children born for seventeen years.	54
Percentage of the children born in the last twelve years.....	54
Percentage by parentage of children born in Rhode Island .....	54
Towns with more children born of foreign than of American parentage.....	55
Colored children; number born in each town in 1869.....	55
Plurality births in 1869.....	56
Plurality births in Rhode Island for seventeen years .....	56
Still-born children in 1869; sex, parentage, season .....	56
Summary of still-born in seventeen years and seven months.....	57
Number of children of same mother, thirteen years. (TABLE.).....	58
Percentage of first, second, third, &c., children for ten years. (TABLE.).....	59
MARRIAGES, 1869.....	60-63
Season in connection with marriages, seventeen years. (TABLE.).....	60
Nativity of persons married in Rhode Island in last twelve years. (TABLE.)..	61
Percentage of persons married, of American and foreign nativity, for twelve years .....	61
Ages of persons married, male and female. (TABLE.).....	62
Percentages of persons married at different ages, ten years. (TABLE.).....	62
Marriages of colored persons, number and locality .....	63

CONTENTS.

vii.

	Page.
<b>DIVORCES, 1869</b> .....	63-66
Imperfections in the law for the return of divorces.....	63
Extracts from the report of the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island for Providence County in 1868 .....	63
Table showing the number of divorce suits disposed of in each county of the State in 1869, with the party applying, the causes alleged, and the disposition of the same .....	65
Remarks on the preceding table.....	65
<b>DEATHS, 1869</b> .....	66-90
Sex of the decedents .....	66
Percentage of the sexes among decedents, and among children born, seventeen years. (TABLE.).....	67
Season and mortality; proportions at different seasons, seventeen years.....	67
Order of the months in respect to mortality in Rhode Island.....	68
Parentage of the decedents in Rhode Island.....	68
Number and proportions according to parentage. (TABLE.).....	69
Age of the decedents; average in the several divisions of the State for twelve years.....	69
Percentage of decedents at different ages, seventeen years. (TABLE.).....	70
Colored decedents in Rhode Island.....	71
Sex, season, average age of colored decedents .....	71
Births, marriages and deaths among colored population, nine years. (TABLE )	72
<b>CAUSES OF DEATH, 1869</b> .....	73-90
Causes not stated in 1869, number and proportions in each county.....	73
Causes not stated, number and proportions for each county, seven years.....	74
Thirteen principal causes of death in several years in Rhode Island.....	74
Scarlatina in Rhode Island by counties, fifteen years. (TABLE.).....	75
Proportion of deaths from Scarlatina in different divisions of the State.....	76
Monthly number of deaths from Scarlatina, from October, 1868, to December, 1869.....	76
Sex, ages and parentage of the decedents from scarlatina in 1869.....	76
Causes of death; number of decedents in 1869 from sixteen principal causes, showing the relations of the causes to sex, parentage, season, age and local- ity. (TABLE.).....	78-79
Remarks on the preceding table.....	80-81
Consumption; number and percentage of deaths in each county in the State, in ten years. (TABLE.).....	82
Remarks on preceding table.....	83
Monthly number of deaths from Consumption in Rhode Island, ten years.....	83
Ages of the decedents from Consumption in each of the last ten years.....	84
Sex and parentage of decedents from Consumption.....	85
Diseases of the Heart .....	86
Number, percentage and proportion to the population, eleven years. (TABLE.)	86
Number in each county, proportion to the population, eleven years. (TABLE.)	87
Remarks on these tables.....	87
Apoplexy and Paralysis .....	87

	Page.
Number, percentage, parentage, proportion to the population, ten years. (TABLE.)	88
Ages of decedents, ten years. (TABLE).....	89
Number of decedents in each division of the State, ten years. (TABLE).....	90
Remarks on these tables and conclusion .....	90
Registration Law of Rhode Island.....	91
Amendment to Registration Law .....	93
Law for the registration of divorces.....	94