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They're identifying and documenting people enslaved in Bristol.

Now, they're getting some help.

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A group focused on uncovering the forgotten history of Bristol's Black and Indigenous residents is getting a grant to expand that work.

The Research BIPOC History Project announced this week that the Tufts University Research and Scholarship Program, "Tufts Springboard," has awarded \$35,000 in funding for the ongoing, volunteer-led efforts.

Researchers have been working to identify all the African, African-American, and Indigenous people who were enslaved in Bristol between 1680 and 1808, and have created an extensive database with approximately 1,200 entries.

They've also created a 56-foot long "timeline of enslavement" that names each of those individuals, making a powerful visual statement.

Additionally, Research BIPOC History volunteers have been unearthing the lost history of New Goree, a free Black neighborhood found in Bristol during the 19th century.

How Research BIPOC History plans to use the grant

Lynn Smith, a volunteer with the group, said in an email that the grant will make it possible to expand that work and create a "Descendant Advisory Council."

The intention, she explained, "is to empower descendants with information to tell their own history, to create open and accessible resources for their use as a way to activate the individual and collective African and Indigenous histories that have shaped New England and America, and bring attention to this overlooked aspect of our shared history."



Research BIPOC History is a grassroots, volunteer-led group that often collaborates with local institutions such as the Bristol Historical & Preservation Society, the Warren Preservation Society, and Linden Place Museum.

Their stated goal is to make the results of their primary source research "accessible, public, free, and shareable to all."

This small blue-and-white house on Wood Street is different. It's built on a 12-foot span, it was built in 1805 by a freed black man named York Usher, back when the neighborhood was "Goree" or "New Goree." *David DelPoio/The Providence Journal*

<https://www.providencejournal.com/story/news/local/2024/02/06/bristols-research-bipoc-history-project-gets-support-from-tufts/72423784007/>