

Welcome to the  
**CLIFTON BURIAL  
 GROUND**



Owned and maintained by  
 the City of Newport

- Oldest dated stone 1670
- 250 burials known
- 160 inscriptions
- Also known as the Golden Hill Burial Ground
- Rhode Island Historic Cemetery #NT014

For more information about burials  
 in this site, visit the RI cemetery  
 database at [rihistoriccemeteries.org](http://rihistoriccemeteries.org)

PLEASE ENJOY YOUR VISIT, RESPECT  
 THE SITE, AND WALK CAREFULLY

**Selected notable people and  
 gravestones:**

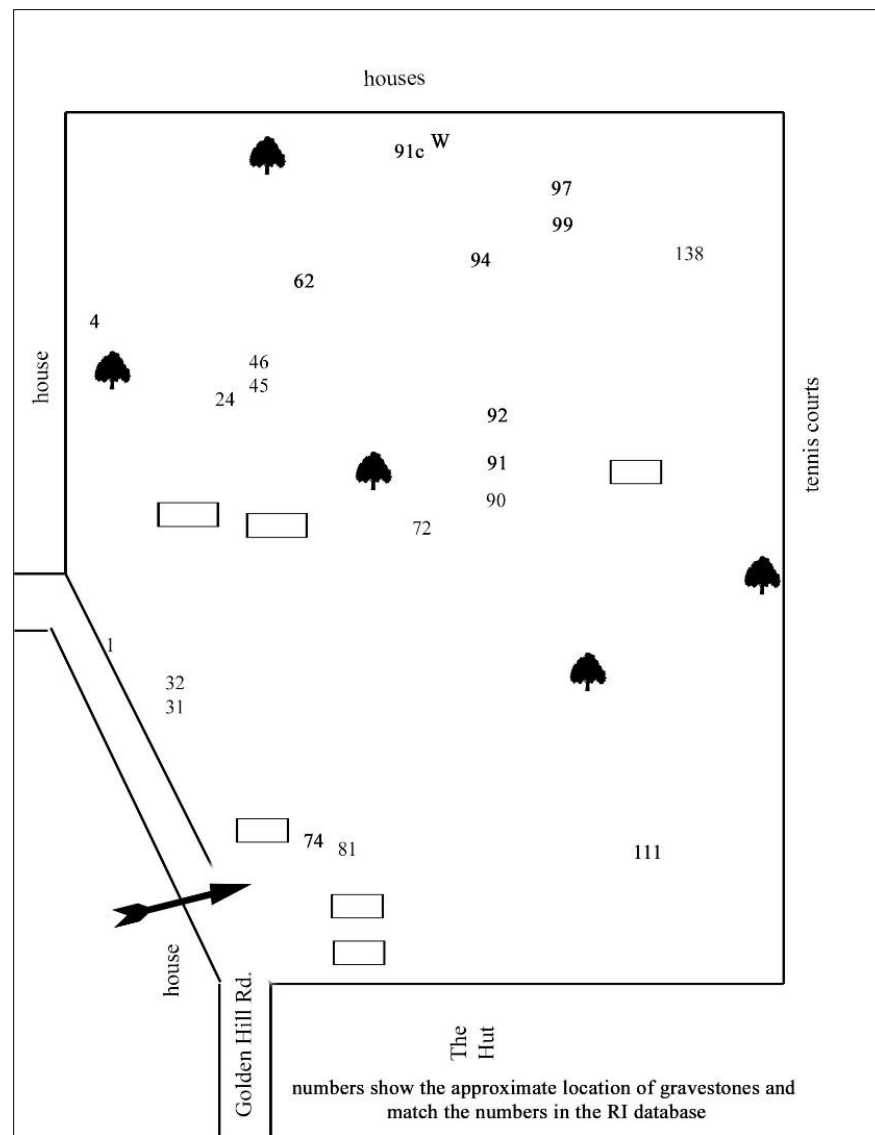
**01** Job Townsend (1765)  
 This stone carved by John  
 Bull was for the first  
 member of the famous  
 Townsend-Goddard group  
 of furniture makers.

**04** Katherine Sheffield  
 (1752) This stone was  
 carved by *William Stevens*  
 the youngest son of the  
 shop founder and the most  
 prolific of the carvers.

**24** Thomas Smith (1719)  
 This stone shows how  
 improved *John Stevens I*  
 carving was after some  
 training. John was  
 primarily a mason but he  
 and generations of his  
 family carved gravestones.

**31/32** Nicholas and  
 Elizabeth Easton (1676)  
 Nicholas was the son of  
 Peter Easton and the  
 grandson of Governor  
 Nicholas Easton. These  
 stones were carved by the  
*Spiral Carver*, his real name  
 is not known.

**45/46** John (1695) and Mary Hedley  
 (1694). Mary was descended from  
 British Royalty and she married John  
 in 1682. He was a Quaker brewer who



arrived in Newport in 1674. Both  
 stones were carved by *William Mumford*.

**62** Major Nathaniel Sheffield (1729)  
 This stone was carved by *John Stevens  
 II*, the oldest son of the founder of the

shop. John II was a mason, a patriot, and cared for his aging parents and younger siblings.

**72** Walter Newbery (1697) was a merchant and assistant to Gov. Walter Clarke. He stood with Walter Clarke to oppose the rule of Sir Edmund Andros and the Dominion of New England (1686-89). This stone was carved with earlier text (perpendicular to the ground) and reused for Walter.

**74** Joseph Bryer (1711) This stone exhibits the early work of carver *John Stevens I*. He was the only carver to etch a muffin shaped skull with a face.

**81** Deborah Tillinghast (1796) This stone was carved by *John Stevens III*, the grandson of the shop founder. The image is one used at the end of the 1700s.

**90** Dr. Clark Rodman (1752) was a Quaker minister and one of the founders of the Redwood Library. This very large stone was carved by *William Stevens*.

**91** Gov. Walter Clarke (1714) Walter was the son of Gov. Jeremy Clarke who was one of the founders of Newport in 1639. Walter was related by marriage to Roger Williams, Ann Hutchinson and other important people by the time. He served as governor during King Philips War. There is no stone for Jeremy

Clarke but his remains were moved to this site in 1648/49

**92** Mary Cranston (1710) and Freeborn Clarke (1710) Freeborn Clarke was Roger William's daughter, wife of Governor Walter Clarke and mother of Mary Cranston. Mary Cranston was the wife of Gov. Samuel Cranston, the colony's longest serving governor. Mother and daughter share a stone carved by *John Stevens I*. It states:

*Bodys of mother and daughter here interd doth rest whose precious souls without any doubt ae forever blessed*

**94** Thomas Colman (1718) This stone was carved by the *Boston Master* who taught John Stevens and sons how to carve.

**97** John Scott (1728) This stone was carved by *Philip Stevens*, second son of the founder of the shop and a gifted carver.

**99** Joseph Scott (1764) The stone exhibits a design used only by carver *John Bull*

**111-** Sarah Beere (1717) This stone was carved by the *Boston Master* who taught John Stevens and sons how to carve.

**138** Avis Norton (1757) This stone is an excellent example of the work of *John Stevens II*. It is flanked by stones on either side carved by his youngest brother *William Stevens*.

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## **The Wanton Family Vault** (#W- marble cube-like shape)

This is the only known underground colonial-era family vault in Newport. When established, it was adjacent to the Clifton site on land given by Wanton relatives James and Elizabeth Honeyman. Remains of many Wanton family members were moved to this site on October 16, 1771.

Burials include:

- Governor William Wanton and his wife Ruth
- Governor Joseph Wanton (see other side for more information)
- George Wanton, son of Ruth and William
- Capt. Benjamin Wanton
- John Wanton, son of Joseph and Mary
- Benjamin Wanton, son of Joseph and Mary
- Mary Wanton, wife of Joseph Wanton, Sr.
- Abigail Wanton, wife of Joseph Wanton, Jr
- William Wanton, son of Joseph and Ann Wanton
- Sarah Brenton Atherton Wanton, second wife of Joseph Wanton