



Highlights of the Colonial Jewish Burial Ground

map #, name, year of stone- additional information

A1, 2, 4, - unreadable

A3. Edwin Rosenstein 1866

B5. Judah Touro 1854- son of Isaac Touro (B#7), Judah was America's first great philanthropist whose substantial donation helped fund the Bunker Hill Monument in Boston; made his fortune as a merchant and shipper in New Orleans; monument designed by Isaiah Rogers

B6. Rebecca Lopez 1833- daughter of Isaac Touro (B#7); successfully fought to implement her brother Abraham's (B#8) bequest to the synagogue; wife of Joshua Lopez and daughter-in-law to Aaron Lopez (C#19)

B7. Reyna Hays Touro 1787- wife of Isaac Touro; sister of Moses Michael Hays (C#27) of Boston

B7. Isaac Touro 1784- spiritual leader of Newport's colonial congregation; died and buried in Jamaica but memorialized here

B8. Abraham Touro 1822- son of Isaac Touro (B#7); bequeathed funds to maintain the synagogue and pave the street between it and the Burial Ground which led to the street name being changed to Touro Street

B8.5. Phila Elcan 1820

C9. Moses Seixas 1809- his letter as Parnas (president) of the Jewish congregation to President Washington prompted the famous response from Washington; founder of the Bank of Rhode Island; his brother, Gershom Mendes Seixas, was the first American born rabbi

C10. Moses Levy 1792- purchased land for the synagogue with Jacob Rodriguez Rivera (D#38) and Isaac Hart

C11. Isaac Mendes Sexias 1780- born in Lisbon; husband of Rachel Levy (an Ashkenazi Jew); father of Moses Sexias (#C9)

C12. Bilah Levy 1781

C13.14. Judith Levy 1788

C15.16. Benjamin Levy 1787

C17.18. Isaac M. Seixas 1786- son of Moses Seixas (#C9)

C19. Aaron Lopez 1782- born in 1731 in Lisbon as Duarte and lived as a crypto Jew; moved to Newport in 1752 and changed his name to Aaron; openly declared he was Jewish; became the wealthiest man in Newport; made his fortune as a merchant and spermaceti candle manufacturer

C20. Slowey Hays 1836, Catherine Hays 1854

C21.22 Sarah Ann Levy 1809

C23. Judah Hays 1832

C24. Rachel Lopez 1789

C25. Rachel Hays 1810

C26. Abigail Lopez 1792

C27. Moses Michael Hays 1805- brother in-law of Isaac Touro (#B7); helped raise Isaac's children (B#8, #B6, #B5) after his death; founder of the Bank of Boston and King David Masonic lodge

C28. 29. Jacob Lopez 1822

C30. Rebekah Hays 1802

C31. Isaac Jacob Polok 1782- donated the center candelabrum

C32.33. Moses Lopez 1830- stone mounted in granite 1986

C34. Abraham Minis 1801

C35.35b Myer Benjamin 1776

D36.37. Martha (Lazarus) Moravia 1787

D38. Jacob Rodriguez Rivera 1789- partner and father-in-law to Aaron Lopez (#C19); son of Abraham Rodriguez Rivera (#D43); spermaceti candle maker and Parnas of Newport congregation

D39.40 Isaac Lopez 1762- stone carved by John Stevens II

D41.42. Jacob Lopez- stone carved by John Stevens II

D43. Abraham Rodriguez Rivera 1765- marble monument was imported from Amsterdam and inscribed in Ladino (Spanish and Hebrew); was a crypto Jew who later served as president of Shearith Israel in New York City

D44. Moses Alvares 1766- Portuguese inscription on stone

D45. Rachel Rodriguez Rivera 1761- oldest visible stone in the burial ground; inscribed in Latin, Hebrew, Spanish, and English

D46. Moses Lopez 1767- brother of Aaron (#C19); manufacturer of snuff and potash; his Portuguese name was Jose and he arrived in Newport in 1743; stone was carved by the Stevens shop

D47. Abigail Lopez 1762 -born in Portugal as Anna; the first wife of Aaron Lopez (#C19)

D48. Isaac Polock 1764- stone carved by the Stevens shop

D49.50 Rebecca Polock 1764- stone carved by William Stevens

D51. unknown

Additional information:

- burial ground was established in 1677 and expanded 1768
- restoration work- 1822, 1843 (gate, fence designed by Isaiah Rogers), 1889, 1898, 1940's, 1960's, 1986 (ledger stones raised from ground, some stones encapsulated); small plaques ca 1960, 1940, or 1898
- Longfellow visited 7/9/1852; inspired to write poem about burial ground
- 42 stones currently stand on the site
- SAGDG can be found on many stones which stands for "Su bedita alma goze de ls divina gloria" "May his blessed soul enjoy divine glory."

Sources- Gradwohl, David Mayer, "Like Tablets of the Law Thrown Down; The Colonial Jewish Burying Ground Newport Rhode Island", Sigler Printing, 2007
 Segal, Rabbi Joshua L., "The Old Jewish Cemetery of Newport: A History of North America's Oldest Extant Jewish Cemetery", Jewish Cemetery Publishing, LLC, 2007; Urofsky, Melvin, "A Genesis of Religious Freedom: The Story of the Jews of Newport, RI and Touro Synagogue"