

Highlights of Newport's Common Burying Ground

An Introduction to the Common Burying Ground in Newport

Newport was one of the five major cities in America before the American Revolution. It was a robust harbor town where fortunes were made shipping goods around the world, and it was also the seat of Rhode Island Government. Perhaps most importantly, it was a place of sanctuary for people of all faiths to live and die.

While the city includes a number of colonial-era burial sites, the Common Burying Ground is the largest. The land was given to the city by Dr. John Clarke, and 85 percent of colonial Newporters are buried here. Regardless of religion, wealth or ethnicity, if you wanted to be buried in this site, you could. Members of different congregations and their clergy are buried side by side. Wealthy merchants, shop keepers, sea captains, politicians, stone masons, and farmers and military veterans only some of the groups buried here.

Most people came to the city willingly for religious freedom and financial opportunity but not enslaved people of African heritage. Their lives became intertwined with that of their enslavers, and in death, many were buried in this site. The majority are buried in the northern section of the Common Burying Ground known today as God's Little Acre. More colonial-era people of African heritage are buried here with gravestones than anywhere else in the country.

The burials in this site have been well-documented by John Sterling, Barbara Austin, and Letty Champion and published in 2009. *Newport, Rhode Island Colonial Burial Grounds* is available from the Rhode Island Genealogical Society. The information is also available online at <https://rihistoriccemeteries.org>.

The most complete discussion about the carvers of colonial-era stones is *Mallet & Chisel; Gravestone Carvers of Newport, Rhode Island, in the 18th Century* by Vincent Luti. *A Guide to Historic Burial Grounds in Newport* by Lewis Keen contains a summary of Luti's carver information as well as some information about this site.

The Newport Historical Society has biographical and genealogical information on 15 generations (c. 1620-2024) of Newport and SE New England families.

Sources are included for many individuals for anyone interested in doing further reading.

Today the Common Burying Ground covers about 10.2 acres of ground that is the final resting place for about 8,000 people.

Using this document

This document is based on preexisting work. The two letter labeled sections (BA, BB, BC, etc.) were created by Alden G. Beaman. This guide drops the first letter (which is "B") and refers to each section by one letter (A, B, C, etc.).

Each section is divided into rows and graves are numbered left (north) to right (south). The grave numbers were assigned by John Sterling and his team and are used in this document and on the RI Historic Cemetery database. What makes finding graves challenging is that each row starts at the left (north). For example, if a row ends with grave #203, the next grave, #204 will be the opposite end of the section. The fact that the stones are not physically in a row also adds to the difficulty of finding graves.

Most sections have a chart to represent the mapping of noted graves. **Numbers are placed in relation to other stones of note** and the distance between stones may not be an accurate depiction of the distance between the stones. The name for each grave noted has been linked to the RI Historic Cemetery database entry. For most stones the entry has information and a photograph.

Selecting people to highlight is a subjective task. To assist veterans interested in flagging graves for Memorial Day, all known military graves are noted. Politicians, craftsmen, clergy, and merchants are among the other people selected for inclusion in this document.

Military Information

The information identifying military service came mostly from the Rhode Island Historic Cemetery website. Some veterans did not serve during war time but are included in this document.

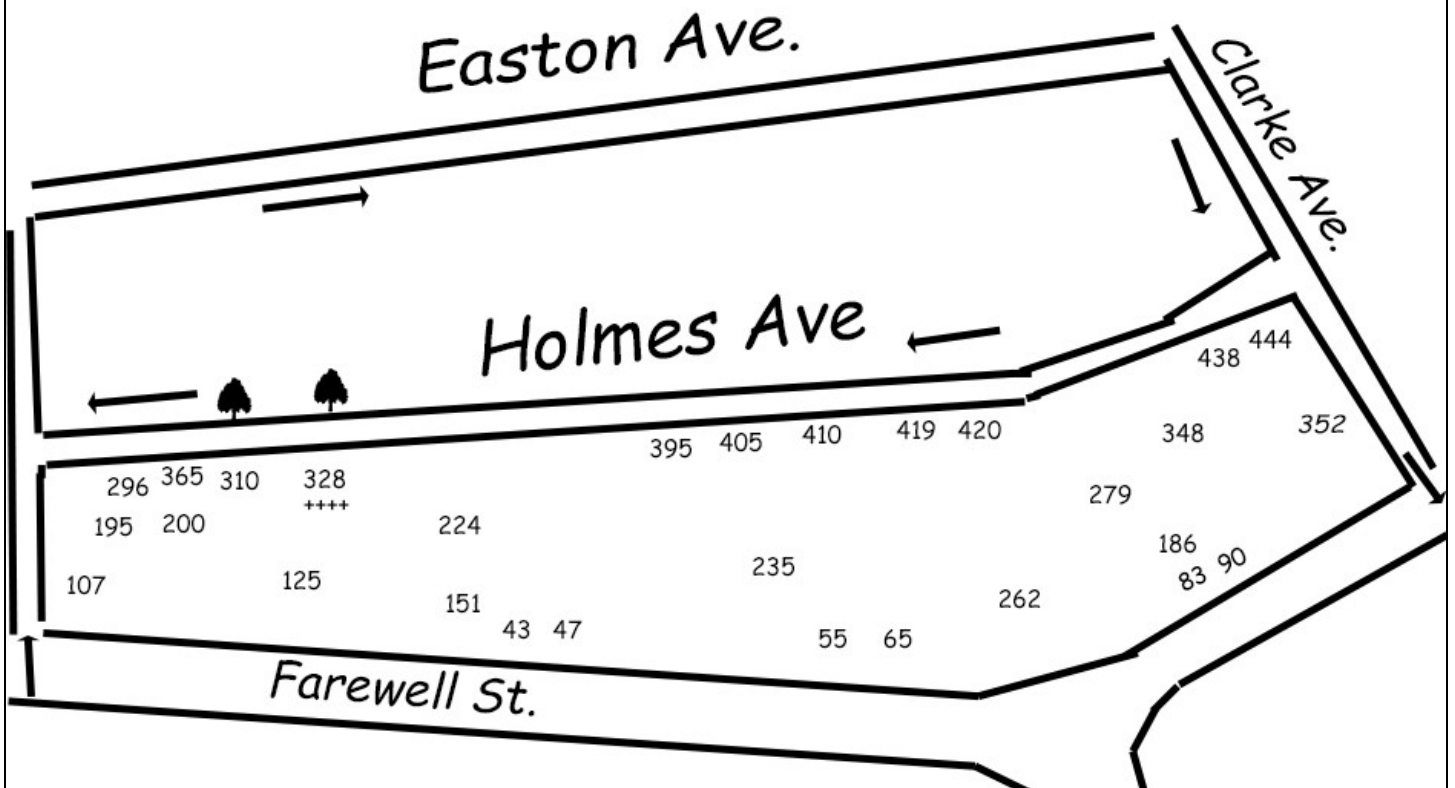
Number of identified burials for each section with military service.

Section	wars							
	Colonial	Revolution	Civil	1812	Spanish American	WWI	WWII	Korea
A		2	19			3	1	
B		2	10					
C		3	10		2	1		1
D		10	2					
E	1	13	3			2	1	
F		6	3		3			
G			8		5		3	
H	1	14	3					
I	1	14	2	1			1	
J		5	3	2			1	
K		1	4	2			2	1
L				1			1	
Total-174	3	70	67	6	10	6	10	2

Common Burying Ground (NT003)

Section BA

Highlights



Military Graves

Grave #	Name (birth-death years)	War	comments
43	Samuel Johnson Marsh (1823c-1863)	Civil War	died while serving Co. I 21st Regt. Iowa Vols. At Leon Mountain, SD
47	Charles Peckham (1831-1918)	Civil War	5 th RI Heavy Artillery
55	Earl Alvin Booth (1894-1964)	WWI, WWII	RI CWO US Navy
65	Alexander Barker (1841-1866)	Civil War	7 th Regiment RI Volunteer
83	William Wood (1838c-1905)	Civil War	USS Santee
90	John Bacheller (1841-1891)	Civil War	Company F 1 st RI
107	Theodore Battene (1849c-1865)	Civil War	7 th NH Volunteer Infantry; died Goldsboro, NC
125	Peter Bolhouse (1891-1955)	WWI	RI SCI US Navy
151	Charles Southwick (1837c-1871)	Civil War	Company F 1 st RI DM
200	Frank Gomes (1839-1924)	Civil War	Company I 7 th Regiment RI Infantry

224	William Wilbour (1832-1862)	Civil War	prisoner at Shiloh; "He volunteered to serve his country in the hour of peril and at Shiloh was made a prisoner and taken to Georgia where the great suffering he endured for six months reduced the strong man to the verge of the grave. He lived eleven days after his arrival at Annapolis. Long will his many virtues and amiable qualities be remembered by his friends and family."
235	John T. Clarke (1838c-1862)	Civil War	killed in the battle of Newbern, NC
262	John Freeborn (1840c-1875)	Civil War	Company G, RI Volunteers
279	TD Melville	Civil War	3 rd RI HA
296	Benjamin Goddard (1832-1863)	Civil War	1 st Regiment RI Volunteers; died of disease contracted during the war
310	Samuel Barker (1754c-1831)	Civil War	2 nd RI Regiment, Army
328	Amos Briggs (1762c-1828)	Rev. War	
348	Andrew Bashford (1838-1889)	Civil War	Mate US Navy Company F 1 st RIDM
352	Sgt. Frederick Peabody	Civil war	Company G 4 th RIV; killed at battle Petersburg, VA
365	George Brooks (1822c-1886)	Civil War	
395	Joseph Briggs (1749c-1830)	Rev. War	
405	John Whitehouse (1839c-1862)	Civil War	killed at the battle of Gains Mill, VA
410	Charles Cozzens (1839c-1894)	Civil War	
419	Russell Rogers (1901-1968)	WWI	Kentucky TM2 USN
420	Hubert John Bates (-1940)		RI Chief Boatswain Mate USN
438	Sherman Nason (1888-1911)		1911 class USNA
444	Amos B Sherman (1833-1864)	Civil War	

#186 Monument dedicated To the Wreck of The Sutledge (1846)

In 1846 the Brig Sutledge* departed Pictou, Nova Scotia to sail to Fall River, Massachusetts with a crew of 10 and 56 passengers. This was the first leg in a journey to take the passengers, all Scots, to Cumberland, Maryland to work in the coal mines. The ship left Nova Scotia on June 11th.

No problems of note occurred until the evening of the 26th when the ship encountered thick fog and dropped anchor. About 2:00 am the ship resumed its passage, but about 3:30 am, while sailing past an area off Cuttyhunk Island called the Sow and Rocks, the ship struck the reef. The vessel took on water very quickly and sank in about 50 feet of water.



Captain Graham quickly gave orders for passengers to get into the lifeboat and shoved it from the ship. He moved the boat around to pick up any passengers that had jumped into the water, taking on a total of 31 of the 56. A nearby



schooner, the Dusky Sally, picked up 9 more survivors. Then the two boats recovered the bodies of 4 women and 12 children*and brought everyone to Stevens Wharf in nearby Newport.

In the days that followed, a Jury of Inquest was held by the coroner and found no fault on the part of the captain. Arrangements were made for the interment of the dead while the survivors were cared for in a nearby house. Two lodges of the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows appropriated the sum of \$50 for each of the survivors, the equivalent of \$1800 in 2024. Local churches collected money for the survivors as well.

On Sunday, July 5th, the funeral took place on Banister's Wharf with prayers by the Reverends Thayer and Smith before the procession of hearses, wagons and carriages carrying the coffins of the dead made its way to the Common Burying Ground. At the cemetery Reverend Watson conducted the Episcopal Burial Service. Years later a monument at the gravesite was erected in their memory.

*The monument shows the spelling of the ship's name as Sutlegje and lists 18 deaths.

Source:

"Awful Catastrophe: Loss of the Brig Sutledge, of Pictou, N.S. Thirty Persons Drowned." *Herald of the Times* (2 July 1846), 2.

195 [William H. Peabody \(1830c-1854\)](#)

"This stone is erected by Protection Fire Co. No. 5 of which he was a member six years." The carving features a fire helmet.

#310 [Samuel Barker \(1754c-1831\)](#)

Barker was born in Middletown, Rhode Island in 1754. During the Revolutionary War he served for nearly six months in 1777 as a member of the 2nd Rhode Island Regiment of the Continental Army. In 1781 he married Sarah Smith, and in 1802 he was ordained as a deacon of the 2nd Baptist Church on Clarke Street in Newport and remained so until his death in 1831.

Source:

Military Records, Rhode Island U.S. Vital Statistics 1639-1899, and "A Sermon Preached November 26, 1829: Containing a History of the Origin and Growth of the Second Baptist Church in Newport (RI) can all found at <http://Ancestry.com>.

Section C Approximate grave location in section

Dyre Ave	Section D										Clarke Ave	
	253	278					315	327		334		
	175	178	192			214	220	223		252		
	70	77				151			173			174
	1	2	6	14	15	17	18	41a 43 53		69		
	Easton Ave											

Military Graves

Grave #	Name (birth-death years)	War	comments
2	Howard Hare (1888-1940)	WWI	RI Corp 326 Infantry 82 Division
6	Thomas Simpson (1809c-1862)	Civil War	Company A 5 th RI Volunteers
14	Thomas McCourt (1845c-1891)	Civil War	Company E 1 st US Infantry
41a	O H Casson	Civil War	Company B 1 st RI Light Artillery
43	Thomas Freeborn (1843-1906)	Civil War	
53	Capt. Asa Gates (1755c-1827)	Rev War	
69	James Taylor (1811c-1835)		3rd Regiment US Artillery
77	Franklin James	Civil War	
151	Thomas Blacklock (1840c-1911)	Civil War	Company L 9th RI Infantry
173	Robert Cochran (1930-1975)	Korea	Fireman US Navy
178	George Edgar (1837c-1908)	Civil War	USS Constitution
192	William King Olds (1847c-1864)	Civil War	2nd RI Calvery; sick on ship North America; 196 died
214	Maitland Laboyteaux (1875-1944)	Sp. Am.	music, 1 st Ohio Light Artillery
220	Otto Giudice (1848-1914)	Civil War	Sergeant Company B 7 th US Infantry
223	August G Ehrhardt (1867-1939)	Sp. Am.	USN
278	Byron Worsley (1843c-1866)	Civil War	
315	John L. Boss (1756c-1824)	Rev. War	
327	William Ennis, Esq. (1758c-1831)	Rev. War	Rev. Battle of Springfield and Siege of Yorktown

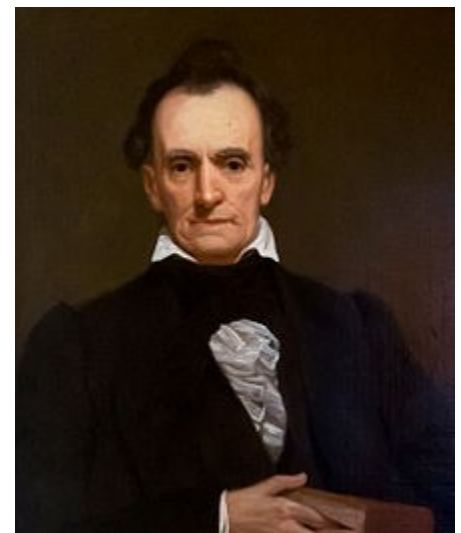
#15 [Hon. Asher Robbins \(1764c-1846\)](#)

Asher Robbins was born in Wethersfield, Connecticut in 1761 and attended Yale College, from which he graduated in 1782. From 1782-1790, he was a tutor at Rhode Island College, now Brown University. He studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1792 and began a law practice in Providence, Rhode Island. Robbins married Mary Ellery on December 24, 1791 in her home town of Newport and moved to Newport in 1795.

He was appointed United States district attorney in 1812. From 1818-1825 he served in the Rhode Island State Assembly before being elected to the United States Senate, where he served from 1825-1839. Robbins returned to the Rhode Island State Assembly to serve two more years until, in 1841, he was appointed postmaster of Newport, a position he held until his death in 1845.

Others buried in the Robbins family plot include:

[Mary Ellery Robbins \(1772-1831\)](#) - wife of Asher Robbins and niece of William Ellery, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence for Rhode Island



Christopher Ellery Robbins (1801-1866) -son of Asher Robbins; served as Rhode Island Secretary of State 1849 and 1850

Caroline Amelia Robbins (1805-1889) – daughter of Asher Robbins

Robbins Little (1832-1912) – grandson of Asher Robbins and son of Sophia Little

Sophia Little (1799-1893) -daughter of Asher Robbins – see biography below

Sources:

“Robbins, Asher 1761-1845,” *Biographical Dictionary of the United States Congress*,

<https://bioguide.congress.gov/search/bio/R000297>

Rhode Island, U.S. Vital Extracts 1636-1899, Ancestry.com,

<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/3897/images/>

“Robbins, Asher,” United States Congress, <https://bioguide.congress.gov/search/bio/R000297>.

#18 Robbins Little (1832-1912)

Robbins Little graduated from Yale in 1851, attended graduate school and was a tutor of Greek for one year. From 1865-1869, he was an instructor of International Law at the United States Naval Academy. Then Little was an examiner of claims for the U.S. War Department from 1873-1878. Later, Little was superintendent of and trustee of the Astor Library in New York until 1896 when it was merged into the New York Public Library.

Source:

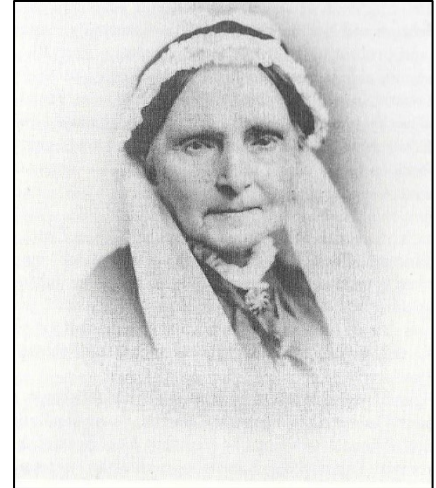
Biographies of Notable Americans, 1904, volume VI, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/11100:2022?tid>

#17 Sophia Little (1799-1893)

Sophia Little was born in Newport, Rhode Island to Asher Robbins, later a United States Senator and Mary (Ellery) Robbins in 1799. She was raised in the Quaker religion but later baptized in the Moravian Church. Not much is known about her early years except that she was educated in the Newport schools. In 1824 she married William Little and had three children. William Little died sometime in the 1830's.

Sophia Little is remembered chiefly for her work on behalf of the antislavery movement and the establishment of the Prisoners Aid Association in Rhode Island. In 1835 Little attended the famous antislavery meeting in Boston at which William Lloyd Garrison spoke. Garrison hoped to appeal to women to aid him in his cause because women had played a key role in the abolishment of slavery in England and because as chief educators of children at home, they could teach their children that slavery was wrong.

Little joined the cause and helped to lead the Rhode Island Antislavery Society and endured public criticism from her neighbors for doing so. She also wrote letters and poems which appeared in Garrison's abolitionist weekly, the *Liberator*. In addition, she wrote letters to *Stephen Douglass' Paper* many times from 1848-1852 and received praise in print from Douglass himself. Little's father and brother, both in the state and national political arena, did not share her views on slavery, and she needed both to raise her three children on her own; therefore, she chose to express her views in written form rather than in public protest.



While continuing her work with the abolitionists, Mrs. Little began making daily visits to prisoners in the Marlborough Street Jail in Newport who had been part of the Dorr Rebellion including Thomas Wilson Dorr himself. She continued to work on behalf of prisoners throughout her life, and in 1874, she helped to form and lead the Prisoner's Aid Association in Rhode Island. The group, composed mostly of women, worked to help released prisoners of both genders to reintegrate themselves into society. In 1881 the group expanded its efforts by creating the Woman's Society for Aiding Released Female Prisoners. That same year "The Sophia Little Industrial Home," a halfway house of sorts, was opened on Broad Street in Providence, Rhode Island when the two organizations merged. Soon they outgrew the building on Broad Street. Thanks to generous contributions from members of the public, the group bought a lot and built a new home on Norwood Avenue in Cranston to accommodate all who needed assistance, placing their emphasis on former female prisoners.

Sophia Little died in 1893 at the age of 94, but the work she started continued and expanded. Between 1881 and 1915, the group had helped 1276 women and 81 children. The focus of the group shifted after 1915 to help delinquent girls and unwed mothers. Although this was not the original aim of the society, Sophia Little would have likely approved of the work the home did in the twentieth century.

Mrs. Little had a great effect on her family as well. Her daughter Florence worked to aid the cause of abolition and raised a very successful son, Clarence King. King was a Yale-educated luminary of the nineteenth century, a geologist who worked for the federal government mapping out the West after the Civil War. He recalled in his memoirs that his grandmother, Sophia Little, was always on the side of the less fortunate, and he felt almost guilty at times that he had so much. King has been the subject of a number of books, but none is more fascinating than Martha Sandweiss' excellent nonfiction work, *Passing Strange*. The book details the double life that King lived: the son of a wealthy China trader, who in 1888, assumed the identity of an African American man named James Todd so he could legally marry the woman he loved, an African American woman named Ada Copeland.

Sources:

Frank L. Grzyb and Russell J. Desimone, *Remarkable Women of Rhode Island* (Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2014) 110-111.

Deborah Bingham Van Broekhoven, "A Determination to Labor: Female Antislavery in Rhode Island," *Rhode Island History* 44 (May 1985): 34-35.

Martha A. Sandweiss, *Passing Strange* (New York: Penguin Press, 2009) 23, 314.

Deborah Bingham Van Broekhoven, *The Devotion of These Women: Rhode Island in the Antislavery Network* (Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 2002) 130.

Alice W. Morse, *Pawtuxet and Edgewood Ward One* (Cranston, Rhode Island: William Hall Free Library, 1944) 50-51.

Section D Approximate grave location in section

Dyre Ave	Section E					Clarke Ave	
	453	464	462	478	494		533
	355	374	390				452
	287	304					354
	186	214		239			286
	50	63	103		152		185
	1	13	17	31	41		58
	Section C						

Military Graves

Grave #	Name (birth-death years)	War	comments
17	Capt. Henry Dayton (1752-1792)	Rev. War	Commandant of his native place after evacuation of the British
31	Ebenezer Burrill (1735-1788)	Rev War	
41	Samuel Vinson (1742c-1826)	Rev War	
63	Robert Williams (1826-1889)	Civil War	
103	John T Smith (1823-1864)	Civil War	
152	Capt. Joshua Rathbone (1748c-1799)	Rev. War	
214	Gen. Daniel Sheldon (1753c-1823)	Rev. war	member of the Society of the Cincinnati
239	William Moore (1736c-1821)	Rev War	
304	Henry Freeborn (1755c-1835)	Rev war	
374	George Champlin ESQ (1739c-1809)	Rev War	
462	Capt. James Webb (1753c-1829)	Rev War	
478	Capt. Benedict Smith (1761c-1808)	Rev War	

#13 Samuel Openshaw (1817- 1902)

According to John Sterling, this is the tallest spire monument in this burial ground.

#390 Langley children

A remarkable six-foot long stone carved by John Bull.

Sarah Dunton and William Langley were married in Newport by Rev. Gardiner Thurston on April 17, 1766. Like other colonial newlyweds, they looked forward to the birth of many children, knowing that death before the child's first birthday was a very real possibility. The Langley children were fortunate in that their parents were in good health as indicated by the fact that Sarah lived to the age of 84 and William to the age of 76. William was a successful merchant and a member of city council, and the children were raised in a home with ample resources.

A remarkable gravestone stands in the Newport Common Burying Ground for six Langley infants. Had their deaths been due to a disease outbreak, there would not be anything unusual about their deaths. A more careful examination of the death dates on the stone reveals a more unusual story. Documents suggest that between 10% and 12% of children in New England died in their first year of life. Many factors created this situation including diseases such as smallpox, diphtheria, pneumonia, measles, scarlet fever, and tuberculosis. It was not uncommon for an entire family to die due to outbreaks of disease. The six Langley infant deaths occurred over a 14-year period, so the deaths were not due to an outbreak of a disease. Records indicate that there were likely five Langley children that lived into adulthood, resulting in a 55% infant mortality rate for this family, or five times the colonial average.

Sarah gave birth to her first child at age 23 and her last child at age 46, not unusual child-bearing ages. That Sarah gave birth to eleven children is also not unusual for colonial life in New England.

The fact that more than half of Sarah's infants died is unusual.



One cannot imagine how she was affected by the loss of six infants. Since the last death carved on the stone is 1785 and John Bull stopped carving gravestones in 1798, Sarah was between 42 and 55 years old when the stone was carved. To have the monument to her infants created perhaps tells us that although she went on with her life, their deaths remained with her.

Sources:

“Rhode Island U.S. Vital Records 1636-1899,” Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/86007850:60525>

Pediatrics, 1966, vol. 38 issue 5, http://faculty.weber.edu/kmackay/history%201700_colonial%20demographics.html;
https://www.plimoth.org/sites/default/files/media/pdf/edmaterials_demographics.pdf

#464 Captain Theophilus Topham (1724c-1766)

This monument was erected by the Fellowship Club, an organization established in 1784 to help mariners and their families through hard economic times. In 1785 they became known as the Marine Society.

Source:

Charter of the Marine Society of the Town of Newport in the State of Rhode Island. (Newport, Rhode Island: Newport Mercury, 1785) 5.

#493 Harte Garde (1605c-1660) and #494 John Garde (1604c-1665)

These are the earliest dated stones in the Common Burying Ground. The stones and remains originally were located on the west side of Thames Street, close to the harbor, and moved here before 1800.

Source:

John E. Sterling, et al., *Newport, Rhode Island Colonial Burial Grounds* (Hope, Rhode Island: Rhode Island Genealogical Society, Special Publication No. 10, 2009) 101.

Section E Approximate grave location in section

		Dyre Ave					Clarke Ave	
		574	579	580a				603
Dyre Ave		517	521	524	544		573	
		487	501	503			516	
		454	455	465	488		486	
		390	391	409	413	418	439	453
		339	339			357	361	389
		293	296	297			323	338
		253	256					292
		206		215	216	229		252
		137				170		205
		59	78	89			116	136
		1				27	28	58
			Section D					

Military Graves

Grave #	Name (birth-death years)	War	comments
27	John Finch (1753c-1778)	Rev War	died in a NY prison
78	Lieut. Michael Molton (1757c-1820)	Rev War	
89	Col. John Topham (1742c-1793)	Rev War	captured in expedition to Quebec
116	John A. Allen (1894-1957)	WWI	Wagoner, 104 Ambulance Company, 26 Division
170	Col. Benjamin Fry (1755c-1850)	Rev War	officer
229	Capt. John Trevett (1747c-1823)	Rev War	Navy
229	Capt. Constant Church Trevett (1754c-1781)	Rev war	died on British prisoner ship at NY
229	Capt. Eleazer Trevett (1752-1781)	Rev War	died on British prisoner ship at NY
297	John Greene (1735c-1801)	Rev War	
357	Samuel Young (1755c-1847)	Rev War	
361	Frank E. O'Reilly (1895-1963)	WWI	
409	William Jeffers (1752c-1776)	Rev War	
413	Capt. Samuel Jeffers (1755c-1820)	Rev war	
439	George A Garcia (1915-1993)	WWII	Tech 4 US Army
465	Capt. Thomas Tew (1738c-1821)	Rev War	
501	George Tew (1776c-1801)		USN Lieutenant
503	Col. William Tew (1745c-1808)	Rev War	
521	Samuel Babcock (1842c-1863)	Civil war	1 st Sergeant Company D, 12 th RI Infantry, died at Newport News, VA
524	Joseph Thomas (1818-1893)	Civil war	served country for 40 years
544	Capt. William Turner (died 1676)	Colonial	died in battle at Great Falls, Massachusetts
579	George W. Taylor (1846c-1913)		USS Marblehead
580a	Horatio R. Brown (1833c-1881)	Civil War	lost from the USS Kearsarge at Fort Monroe

#58 Captain Christopher Bennet (1713c-1755)

This stone was erected by the Fellowship club.

#215 Elizabeth Stiles (1731c-1775), #216 Mary Stiles (1745c-1801)

Elizabeth and Mary were the wives of Dr. Ezra Stiles. He was an important Congregationalist minister and academic.

Stiles documented much of colonial Newport and left during the revolution. He was president of Yale College and a founding member of Brown University.

Source:

Rockwell Stensrud, *Newport: A Lively Experiment 1639-1969* (Newport, Rhode Island: Redwood Library and Athenaeum, 2006) 190.

#229 Capt. John Trevett (1747c-1823)

Native Newporter John Trevett entered the service of the Continental Navy soon after it was formed in November 1775 and continued serving until the spring of 1782. He quickly rose from midshipman to a lieutenant and finally captain in the Continental Marines. Although the Continental Navy was responsible for sailing the ships, the Continental Marines were tasked with the actual fighting on both land and sea.

In his more than seven years of service, he sailed on seven different ships and was responsible for the capture of at least 12 British vessels. He was also instrumental in the taking of Fort Montagu and Fort Nassau in the Bahamas and in the capture of the British governor there. A few years later when his ship had returned to Newport, he and a few of his men disguised themselves and secretly gathered information from British sailors on Long Wharf.

In June of 1780 during a battle with a British ship, he lost his right eye but was back on another Continental Navy ship the following month. During that voyage he was captured by the British and put in one of their prisons in Newfoundland for an unspecified period of time. He managed to escape and ultimately returned to Newport by the summer of 1782.

He worked as a mariner and a ship's joiner (carpenter) in Newport until his health began to fail, and during the last four years of his life, he was completely blind. He died at the age of 76 at his home in Newport.

Source:

Charles R. Smith, *Marines in the Revolution: Continental Marines in the American Revolution, 1775-1783* (Washington, D.C.: History and Museums Division, U.S. Marine Corps, 1975) 472-473.

#229 Constant Church Trevett CAPTAIN CONSTANT CHURCH TREVETT 1754-1781 and CAPTAIN ELEAZER TREVETT 1752-1781

The inscription on a stone in the Common Burying Ground indicates that these brothers from Newport died on board one of the British prisoners of war ships, the Old Jersey, just off the coast of New York City, but information is hard to find. Both Constant and Eleazer were captains of merchant ships taken by the British and kept on a prison ship in New York Harbor. The diary of a third brother, Marine Captain John Trevett, contains a record of the death of Constant Trevett. Upon hearing that Constant was captured, Captain John Brevet sent for an imprisoned British officer to exchange for his brother. The exchange never occurred, and Constant Trevett died of disease. No information exists about the death of Eleazer Trevett, but he was one of approximately 11,000 men who died on British prison ships.

Source:

Excerpt from "Diary of John Trevett, Captain of Marines," *The Frigate South Carolina in the American Revolution: 1778-1783*, <https://thefrigatesouthcarolina.weebly.com/about.html>

#256-260, #296-98 Greene family and members of the Moravian Church; additional Moravian burials #339-340,346-349, 351 Moravian

The Moravian or United Brethren sect was founded in Newport in 1749; records begin November, 1758. A house of worship was built in 1767-1768 on the site of the present Kay Chapel (built in 1869). The *Newport Mercury* of November

11, 1882 has an article "THE MORAVIAN CHURCH-The Disposition of the Remains from the Old Burying Ground." On information received from John H. Greene, the writer states that at the time the property was sold, the remains were removed by James A. Greene and Samuel Engs to the Common Burial Ground. In the family lot of John and Samuel I. Greene, a white marble monument commemorated Richard, Thomas, and Mary Hayward, as well as Mary Malling; it says that the remains were moved in July 1867. Of the 84 names, we have records of 24 stones in our database, all but one in the Common Burial Ground. The other is in the Willow section of the Island cemetery.

Source:

Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries, http://rihistoriccemeteries.org/newsearchcemeterydetail.aspx?ceme_no=NT025

#323 John Howard Benson (1901-1956)

Benson was born and raised in Newport. He always had an interest in art which was encouraged by his mother who had attended Rhode Island School of Design in the 1890s. Benson attended classes at the school of the Newport Art Museum in lithography and etching and planned to pursue a career in graphics. However, his uncle thought he might have a more financially rewarding experience with the U.S. Navy. After preparing to go to the USNA, Benson failed the physical examination due to the detection of a heart ailment.

In 1920, Benson went to New York City to train at the National Academy of Design and then the Art Students League. He returned to Newport in 1925 and taught a few classes at the Newport Art Museum.

In 1926 a local minister approached Benson about carving a grave stone for his late wife because he felt Benson would produce something worthy of inclusion in the Trinity Churchyard. To accomplish the task, Benson rented the then failing John Stevens Shop. He was so successful with the carving that he bought the shop in 1927 and had many interested clients. Many gravestone businesses used pneumatic chisel machines, but Benson preferred hand carving with his own mallet and chisel. About the same time, Rhode Island School of Design hired him to teach classes in lettering, which helped bring him financial stability.

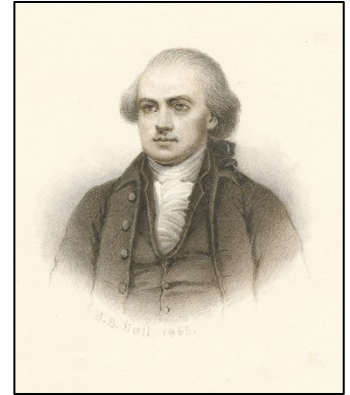
Over the years in the Stevens Shop, Benson had a number of different partners and produced works for RISD, the Groton School, the Wheeler School, Portsmouth Abbey and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In 1935, he and his partner produced the winning design for the Rhode Island Tercentenary half-dollar. They also collaborated on *The Elements of Lettering* published in 1950.

Benson died of a heart problem at the age of 55, and two of his descendants continued the work at the Stevens Shop, son John "Fud" Benson (1939-2024) and grandson Nicholas Benson (b. 1964).



Source:

Benson, Fisher (1989) "John Howard Benson and the John Stevens Shop," *Newport History*: Vol. 62: Iss. 213, Article 2. <https://digitalcommons.salve.edu/newporthistory/vol62/iss213/2>



#391 [William Ellery \(1727-1820\)](#)

Among the many notable burials in this site is William Ellery (1727-1820), one of two Rhode Island signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was a Harvard graduate and lawyer. Ellery was sent to Philadelphia after the death of Samuel Ward. Had Ward lived, he, not Ellery, would have signed the declaration.

Source:

Rockwell Stensrud, *Newport: A Lively Experiment 1639-1969* (Newport, Rhode Island: Redwood Library and Athenaeum, 2006) 180.

#418 [Henry Emmes \(1719c-1767\)](#)

Emmes was a third-generation member of a family of gravestone carvers in Boston. He relocated to Newport in 1760 to work in the John Stevens shop and influenced the carving style of John Stevens III. Vincent Luti in his book *Mallet and Chisel* credits Emmes with introducing Stevens to the three-quarter, sinuous winged effigy on the tympanum of a stone. Three stones carved by Emmes are in section "H" of the burying ground.

Source:

Vincent Luti, *Mallet and Chisel* (Boston, Massachusetts: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2002) 278.

#455 [Lymas Keith \(1731c-1796\)](#)

Keith was a member of the Free African Union Society and one of a few people of African heritage to be buried outside God's Little Acre.

Source:

John E. Sterling, et al., *Newport, Rhode Island Colonial Burial Grounds* (Hope, Rhode Island: Rhode Island Genealogical Society, Special Publication No. 10, 2009) 129.

#488 [Mercy Dyre-493 Mary Dyer Townsend](#)

The Dyre family was one of the founding families of Portsmouth and Newport. These members were originally buried on the Dyre farm and moved here on October 25, 1889 when the farm sold and the land developed.

Source:

John E. Sterling, et al., *Newport, Rhode Island Colonial Burial Grounds* (Hope, Rhode Island: Rhode Island Genealogical Society, Special Publication No. 10, 2009) 131.

Section F Approximate grave location in section

Dyre Ave	Island Cemetery				Clarke Ave	
	542			584		593
	480		507	527		540
		399	430	464		479
	266		325 328	365 368 380		398
	139	155 158				264
	90			126		138
	64					89
	1					63
	Section E	Dyre Ave	Section H			

Military Graves

Grave #	Name (birth-death years)	War	comments
155	Capt. John Cahoon (1757c-1836)		Revenue Service of the US; active member of National Marine Service
158	John Cahoon (1728c-1792)	Rev War	
264	Joseph Burdick (1831-1863)	Civil War	Killed in action CAL ICO Company A 2 Mass Cavalry
365	Daniel Dunham (1739c-1815)	Rev War	
368	Daniel Denham (1764c-1831)	Rev War	
380	Henry S Bliss	Sp. Am.	Sgt. Company F, 1 st RI infantry
399	Capt. James Burdick (1760c-1801)	Rev War	
464	Col. Richard Issac Eskridge (1840-1903)	Indian, Civil, Sp. Am	
507	Noah Barker (1756c-1826)	Rev. War	
527	Robert Dunbar (1744c-1821)	Rev War	
540	John Richards (-1919)	Civil War	Private Company C, Regiment NY Heavy Artillery Volunteers
584	L.C. DeLonge	Sp. Am.	Band 2 Tennessee Infantry

#126 [Hon. Henry Marchant \(1741-1796\)](#)

Henry Marchant was born on Martha's Vineyard in 1741. He attended school in Newport after the family relocated there and then graduated from what is now the University of Pennsylvania in 1762. He studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1767 and practiced law in Newport. From 1771 until 1777, he served as attorney general of Rhode Island before becoming a member of the Continental Congress from 1777-1779. Marchant was one of the signers of the Articles of Confederation, which is considered to be the first constitution of the country. He was also a delegate to the Rhode Island State Convention in 1789 for the adoption of the official United States Constitution. From 1790 until his death in 1796, he served as a United States district judge, a post to which he was appointed by President George Washington.



Sources:

David S. Lovejoy, "Henry Marchant and the Mistress of the World." *William and Mary Quarterly 3d ser.*, 12 (July 1955) 375-98.

Eleanor Stratton, "Signers of The Articles of Confederation," April 24 2024, <https://www.usconstitution.net/artsigndata.html/ution>

#325 [William Channing \(1751c-1793\)](#)

Channing graduated from Princeton in 1769, had a career as a lawyer and married Lucy Ellery, daughter of one of the signers of the Declaration of independence for Rhode Island. Channing served as Rhode Island state attorney general from 1777-1787 and again from 1791-1793 when he was appointed to the post by Thomas Jefferson.

William Channing had a domestic slave named Duchess Camino in his household. "Local folklore suggests that she baked her way to freedom, using the Channings' oven to make pastries that she sold to locals. Like many newly freed blacks, Quamino remained in the same household as a servant, and she was entrusted to care for the family's newest member, William Ellery Channing. Born in 1780, he later gained fame as a prominent Unitarian clergyman and abolitionist, possibly influenced by Quamino's presence in his early life."



Sources:

Edward E. Andrews, "Duchess Quamino," *Enslaved: Journal of Slavery and Data Preservation*, <https://enslaved.org/fullStory/16-23-92880/>

Jefferson (Thomas) letter appointing Henry Channing United States attorney for Rhode Island, https://www.riamco.org/search?fq=subjects_ss%7CChanning,%20William,%201751-1793#:~:text=RIAMCO,Manuscript%20Collections%20Online

#328 [Rev. Henry Channing \(1760-1840\)](#)

Channing was born in Newport, graduated from Yale in 1781 and became pastor of the New London Congregational Church in 1787. He remained in that post until 1806, when he left by mutual agreement with the church hierarchy. He knew that his strong views about the importance of the separation of church and state would clash with Congregationalist principles. After a short stint in a rural New York church, he returned to Connecticut and was elected to the Connecticut legislature where he continued his fight for the separation of church and state.

He was instrumental in the religious training of his nephew, William Ellery Channing, famous minister and orator, and for whom Channing Church on Pelham Street is named.

Source:

"To James Madison from Henry Channing, 6 May 1814," *Founders Online*, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Madison/03-07-02-0409>.

#430 [Captain John Culbertson \(1725c-1758\)](#)

This stone was erected by the Fellowship Club.

Section G Approximate grave location in section

Island Cemetery		
	Island	499
359	Island 365 398 406 416 421 452 438 462 463	
283	Island	358
229	Island 243 249 256 268 278	282
193	Island	228
145	149 150 151 152 153 155 156 157 158 159 162	193
82	95 96 97 99 100 101 112 117 118 120 123 124 130	144
35	36 37 40 44 45 46 48 49 50 51 52 61 63 70 78 79	81
1	8 13 23	34
Farewell Street		

Military Graves

Grave #	Name (birth-death years)	War	comments
13	Edward Sheets (1861c-1894)		US Marine Corp
18	Sgt. Patrick Connolly (1846c-1896)	Civil War	USMC
36	G.H. Martin		USN Apprentice
37	Paul G Lacombe (1887-1898)		USN Apprentice
40	Joseph Cole (-1900)	Civil War	
46	Gus Fretschler (1871c-1899)		USN
48	Henry A Tesch (1885c-1901)		USN Apprentice
50	Walter H Cordock (1882-1899)	Sp. Am.	
51	George Clay (1832c-1899)	Civil War	Quartermaster
52	George James (1884c-1899)		USN Apprentice
61	Lewis Borden (1885c-1901)		USN Apprentice
63	Alfred L Walsh (1877-1899)	Sp. Am.	Private USMC erected by marines and sailors of the USS Indiana
70	Lawrence William Bagger (1885c-1901)		USN Apprentice
78	Arthur Giroux (1881c-1900)		Apprentice 1 st class USN; died at sea USFS New York; erected by shipmates
79	Daniel Bernard Jones (1884-1900)		USN Apprentice
95	Chester Johnson (1886c-1906)		veteran
96	Frank John McKinnon (1884c-1905)		USN
97	John Doyle (1883c-1906)		USN
99	Arthur Slocum (1886-1905)		USN
100	Carl P Hultgren (1854-1902)	Sp. Am.	Quartermaster erected by torpedo station shipmates
101	Robert Everett Holmes (-1902)		USN
112	Makiajiro Omura (-1897)		USN Steerage Steward
118	John Drummond (1874-1903)		USN
120	William Morrison (1877-1903)	Sp. Am.	Water Tender USN erected by shipmates
123	William Preston Isaacs (1887c-1903)		USN Apprentice
124	Philip Gorman (1849c-1904)	Sp. Am.	USN
130	August Armbrecht (-1934)		USN torpedoman
149	Maynard Crockett Moore (1888c-1905)		USN
150	John Edward Barrett (-1905)	Civil War	USN
151	Ross Creamer (1884-1905)		USN

152	John Patrick Hayes (-1905)		USN Apprentice
155	Ernest August Hagen (1883c-1906)		USN
153	John Chance (1833-1906)	Civil War	USN
156	William Joseph Ortoft (1888c-1906)		USN
157	William Hudson Powel (1888c-1906)		
158	Sanford Freeman (1889c-1906)		USN
159	Robert Scott (1833c-1906)		
162	Frederick J Birttan (1886-1901)		USN Apprentice
243	Edward B. Simmons (1843-1881)	Civil War	Sergeant Company A 14 th RI Heavy Artillery
268	G.W. Easton	Civil War	Company C 14 th RI Heavy Artillery; black unit
365	Pvt. Robert Greene (1927-1947)	WWII	private
416	John W Boardley (1839c-1914)	Civil War	Company B, 11 th US Artillery
462	Alfred S Barclay (1926-1945)	WWII	Aviation Cadet Army Air Force RI
463	Archie William Stokes (1916-1972)	WWII	Sgt. 3331 QM truck Company

Section G is also known as God's Little Acre. Additional information about the site and the people buried here can be found at <https://www.colonialcemetery.com/> Additional information about individuals was obtained from Teresa and Keith Stokes, longtime historians for God's Little Acre.

#8 [Duchess Quamino \(1739-1804\)](#)

Quamino was active in the African Union Society and influential in the life of William Ellery Channing, foremost minister in the Unitarian Church. Her baking skills led her to be called the "Pastry Queen of Rhode Island," and George Washington enjoyed her frosted plum cakes on at least two occasions. She was enslaved in the Ellery house for at least twenty years before living as a free person. William Ellery Channing wrote the inscription on her stone that reads "*In memory of Duchess Quamino, a free black of distinguished excellence; Intelligent, industrious, affectionate, honest, and of exemplary piety; who died June 29, 1804.*"

#23 [Henry Seixas \(1815-1880\)](#)

Henry was the son of Peter and Sarah Beaman Seixas, founders of Newport's first free black school. A whitewasher by trade, he also served as the sexton of the First Baptist Church on Spring Street. His wife Hannah was a laundress, working out of the rear of their home at 115 Thames Street.

#44-45 [Silva Gardner \(1783c-1784\)](#), [Charles Gardner \(1794-1798\)](#), [Abraham Gardner\(1796c-1798\)](#), #49 [Limas Gardner \(died 1821\)](#)

These are wife and children of Newport Gardner, also known as Occramer Marycoo. He was a member of the First Congregational Church, a musician, music teacher, and a founding member of the Free African Union Society. He died in Africa in 1826 and is not buried here with his family.

#117 [Hector Butcher \(1683c-1720\)](#)

The oldest known stone in God's Little Acre was carved for Hector Butcher, who died at 37 years of age. The stone is one of few in this burying ground that identifies a female slave owner, Ann Butcher. While the stone identifies Ann as having come from Barbados, Hector's place of birth is unknown.

#249 [Solomon Nuba Tikey \(1780c-1785\)](#)

Tikey was the son of Arthur and Flora Flagg. While many people of African heritage were renamed when enslaved, Tikey maintained his African heritage name.

#256 [Arthur Flagg \(1733c-1810\)](#)

Flagg was enslaved to Ebenezer Flagg, a rope maker. Once a freeman, Flagg also produced rope for ships and the city. He was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church and an officer of the Free African Union Society.

#258 [Pompey Brenton \(1717c-1772\)](#)

The image on this stone appears more African than European and was carved by John Stevens III. Pompey Brenton was elected governor of the African community on 'Lecture Day, that originated in Newport in 1765 and became a multiday event incorporating African and European elements, including a parade, dancing, and voting. As the African population had no legal standing, its governor helped to resolve issues within the community.

#278 [John Mowatt \(1779c - 1859\)](#) and #280 [Patience Mowatt \(1787c-1865\)](#)

Mowatt was a free African-American grocer and a founding member of both the Union Congregational Church and Newport's first black Masonic lodge. He and his wife Patience owned two homes on Division Street that still stand today.

#398- [Elizabeth Leandrew \(1734-1760\)](#)

A free woman of color, Elizabeth was the wife of Primus Leandrew, who was also known by the surnames Grinnell and Greenhill. Primus was employed at Touro Synagogue, both during its construction and up until at least 1769, possibly in a caretaking capacity. He was also involved in chocolate-making as indicated by his 1786 probate inventory which included two dozen chocolate pans.

#361 [Peter Quire \(1806-1899\)](#)

A free African-American abolitionist, missionary, and cobbler who founded St. John the Evangelist Church in Newport (1865). The congregation originally met in his home until building a church on Poplar Street.

#369 [Phyllis Stevens \(1746c-1773\)](#)

The first wife of Zingo Stevens, a founding member of the Free African Union Society. Her stone features an image of mother with child.

#406 [Cuffe Gibbs \(1728c-1768\)](#)

The carving on this stone tells us that Cuffe Gibbs and Pompe Stevens were brothers and that Pompe carved the stone. It is the only record that provides the biological relationship of the two men. Pompe Stevens was enslaved to William Stevens and both carvers had a similar style.

#421 [Pompey Lyndon \(1763c-1765\)](#)

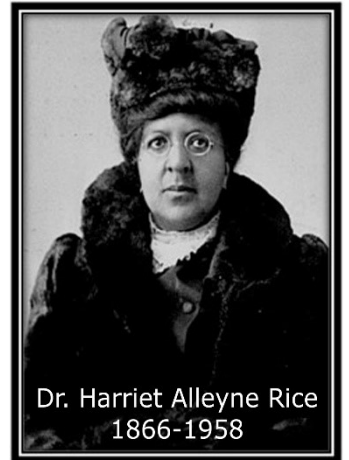
Pompey Lyndon was born into slavery in the household of Governor Josias Lyndon, where his mother, Phyllis Lyndon, was enslaved. Researching familial relationships for Newport's enslaved population is challenging, as children born into slavery were given the last name of their mother's owner, not their father's. Phyllis Lyndon was married to Zingo Stevens, who was enslaved in a different household. However, a diary entry by Cesar Lyndon, personal secretary to Gov. Lyndon and also enslaved, mentions the death: "Our little darling Pompey was born ye 2 May 1763. Taken ill in the night this day with bloody flux September 5 1765 and died Wednesday morning about one quarter after nine o'clock being the 11th of said September 1765". The stone was cut by P.S., believed to be Pompe Stevens, a stone carver of African heritage.

#452 [Prince Updike \(1711c-1781\)](#)

The ledgers of Jewish merchant Aaron Lopez, housed in the manuscript collection of the Newport Historical Society, note that Updike received payment for grinding 7,000 lbs. of raw cocoa between 1766-1769. Updike was originally enslaved by the Updike family of Wickford. He arrived in Newport, perhaps as a free man, and became known as a master chocolate grinder.

#438- [Dr. Harriet A. Rice \(1866-1958\)](#)

Dr. Rice was the first African American graduate of Wellesley College. She earned her medical degree from the Women's Medical College of the New York Infirmary for Women and Children, interned in Boston, and completed postgraduate work in Philadelphia. She then moved to Chicago, where she worked for several years with Jane Addams at Hull House, serving the city's poor. During World War I Harriet volunteered for hospital duty in France, and received the Medaille de Reconnaissance de la Française for her outstanding care of wounded soldiers.



Dr. Harriet Alleyne Rice
1866-1958

Source:

Dr. Harriet Rice files from Wellesley College, <https://ripnewport.com/Rice%20BioFile>

Section H Approximate locations

Clarke Ave.	Dyre Ave							Warner St.
	868						894	
	836						867	
	775	783		812 819		828 830	835	
	720		742	757			774	
	693						719	
	646					685 690	692a	
	558			611			645	
	475		518			557		
	394		428				474	
	294	307	313	323 337		366 384 387 388 390	393	
	246						293	
			258 259				houses	
	196	197		205 207		241 244	245	
	152		161	168 169			195	
	110			134			151a	
	84					103	109	
	59						83	
	32					55	58	
	1					31		
Section I								

Military Graves

Grave #	Name (birth-death years)	War	comments
168	Benjamin Almy (1724-1818)	Rev. War	
197	William Lawton	Civil War	Company G, 4 th RI Infantry
205	Capt. Thomas Forrester (1740c-1794)	Rev. War	
207	Capt. William Dennis (1750c-1843)	Rev War	Commander of different armed vessels
323	Benjamin Holt (1753c-1830)	Rev. War	
337	John Henshaw (1758c-1825)	Rev. War	officer
384	Samuel Vernon (1757-1834)	Rev. War	served under Sullivan 1778, battle of RI
387	William Vernon (1720c-1806)	Rev. War	Navy Board, provided home for Rochambeau
428	Jonathan Almy (1747c-1821)	Rev. War	
518	Christopher Ellery (1736c-1789)	Rev. War	
685	Samuel G. Fowler (1757c-1799)	Rev War	
690	Randal Eldred (1747c-1795)	Rev. War	
742	Charles Davenport (1754c-1824)	Rev. War	
757	Samuel Fowler (1720c-1794)	Rev. War	
812	Major John Roger (1678c-1761)	Col. War	
819	Capt. Jonathan Rogers (1719c-1794)	Rev. War	
828	Patrick G. Turner (1896-1948)	WWI	RI Private, 39 th Infantry, 4 th Division
830	Capt. William G. Turner (1833-1917)	Civil War	2 nd Regiment, RI Volunteers
832	Capt. Peter J Turner	Civil War	3 rd Artillery, RI Volunteers

#1 [Rev. Gardner Thurston \(1722c1802\)](#)

Gardner Thurston was the Assistant Pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Newport from 1748-1759 and the Pastor from 1759 until his death in 1802.

Sources:

"A Sermon Preached November 26, 1829: containing a history of the origin and growth of the Second Baptist Church in Newport (R.I.)." Ancestry.com.

Portrait of Gardner Thurston,

<https://newportalri.org/items/show/7335>

#55 [Henry Bull \(1687c-1774\)](#)

There were many men in Newport named Henry Bull. This Henry Bull was orphaned at early age, raised by an aunt and apprenticed as a carpenter. He decided to be lawyer and later served as the colony's attorney general. In 1749 Bull became the first Chief Justice of the RI Court of Common Pleas.

Source:

Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries, <https://rihistoriccemeteries.org/newgravedetails.aspx?ID=144440>

#103 [Ebenezer Richardson \(1700c-1785\)](#)

Richardson served on City Council 40 years, 32 as president.

Source:

Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries, <https://rihistoriccemeteries.org/newgravedetails.aspx?ID=144394>

#134 [Edith Chapman](#), #135 [George Chapman](#)

These stones were carved by Henry Emmes in 1769.

Source:

John E. Sterling, et al., *Newport, Rhode Island Colonial Burial Grounds* (Hope, Rhode Island: Rhode Island Genealogical Society, Special Publication No. 10, 2009) 214.

#161 [Charles Bardin \(1700-1773\)](#)

This stone, carved by John Bull, was considered controversial for its depiction of Moses or possibly God. Biblical images on stones were extremely rare.

Vincent Luti, *Mallet & Chisel: Gravestone Carvers of Newport, Rhode Island, in the 18th Century* (Boston, Massachusetts: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2002) 252,269.

#169 [Mary Gould Almy \(16 December 1735- 1808\)](#)

Mary Gould Almy was born in Newport, Rhode Island to James and Martha Gould as the fourth of their eight children.



Born into a Quaker home, she was baptized at Trinity Church in 1754. Her marriage to become the second wife of Benjamin Almy took place in 1762 at Trinity. Benjamin, also born in Newport, was previously married and fathered three children in his first marriage. Only two children survived at the time he married Mary. The couple welcomed eight additional children into the household between 1763 and 1776, and during the siege of Newport, August 1778, six of the children were at home with Mary.

In 1775 Benjamin Almy was questioned by authorities who suspected he was a Loyalist. He joined the Patriot effort and was not in Newport during British occupation (1776-1779). This situation was the reason Mary wrote a journal for her husband detailing life in the city at this troubled time. Her words indicate not only a loving relationship with Benjamin but a difference in opinion with regarding the war. Mary supported the King while Benjamin fought for American independence from the crown at a time when few women expressed their disagreement in writing with their husbands on important matters like the war. One indication of this was a journal excerpt she wrote for Benjamin on August 13, 1778: "I am for English Government and an English fleet. I Care not who takes the Frenchmen."

How odd that despite her Loyalist ideas, Mary and Benjamin moved into the Jahleel Brenton townhouse in 1775, a property that was confiscated by local authorities because of Brenton's Loyalist views. In addition to serving as the family home, Mary conducted the Brenton house as a boarding house, perhaps the finest in the city. This idea may be supported by the fact that in June 1784 Thomas Jefferson was a guest at the house, and President Washington spent the night of August 17, 1790 in Mrs. Almy's boarding house.

Mary's journal of her experiences in British-controlled Newport during the war is one of the most important historic documents of the American Revolution. Her Loyalist views, Patriot husband, and diary make her a remarkable woman in colonial America. Documentation of events from the American Revolution penned by women are rare, and the Almy diary is incredibly valuable to historians today.

Source:

Mary Gould Almy, *Mary Gould Almy's Journal, 1778: During the Siege at Newport, Rhode Island, 29 July to 24 August 1778*, ed. John Hattendorf (Pennsauken, New Jersey: BookBaby, 2019).

#241 [Elizabeth T Allen and children](#)

The Gale of 1815 was one of the strongest hurricanes ever to hit Rhode Island. Wharves and buildings were swept away by the waters of Narragansett Bay, which had risen 3 ½ feet higher than it had in other storms.

The Allen family's house was located on Long Wharf, and despite repeated attempts by Andrew Allen to save them, five members of the household perished: Mrs. Allen, three children and Abigail Spooner, who was living with the family. Their bodies were recovered and the funeral was held the next day.

Source:

"Awful and Destructive Storm," *Newport Mercury*, September 30, 1815, 1.

#244 [Edward Davis \(1715c-1716\)](#)

This is the only known stone in Newport that features a skeleton. It was carved by John Stevens II. The use of skeletons is common in New England.

#258 [James \(1697-1735\)](#) and #259 [Ann Franklin \(1696-1763\)](#)

James Franklin was the first official printer for the Colony of Rhode Island and the brother of Benjamin Franklin. After his death, his wife Ann became the official printer for the colony and the first female printer in the colonies. The family started publishing *the Newport Mercury* in 1758. The original press is located in the museum of the Newport Historical Society.

Rockwell Stensrud, *Newport: A Lively Experiment 1639-1969* (Newport, Rhode Island: Redwood Library and Athenaeum, 2006) 117-119.

#307 [David Melvill \(1756c-1793\)](#)

Melvill was born in Newport and carried on a trade in pewter from about 1775-1790 on Thames Street. The porringer pictured below is in the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Melvill was only 38 when he died, and he was "Interred under military honours of the Company of Newport Guards (now the Artillery Company) of which he was an officer."



Melvill maker's mark



Porringer made by Melvill

"David

Source:

Melville," American Silversmiths

<https://www.americansilversmiths.org/makers/silversmiths/150211.htm>

#313 [John Morgan 1763](#)

This stone was carved by Henry Emmes.

Source:

John E. Sterling, et al., *Newport, Rhode Island Colonial Burial Grounds* (Hope, Rhode Island: Rhode Island Genealogical Society, Special Publication No. 10, 2009), 225.

#366 [Thomas Vernon \(1718-1784\)](#)

The engraving on Vernon's gravestone tells the whole story: "An American Loyalist, for nearly 30 years prior to the Revolution Postmaster at Newport, Register of the Court of Vice Admiralty and Senior Warden of Trinity Church." Newport was divided into two sides when the American Revolution began: the Patriots and the Loyalists. Like other Loyalists at the time, Thomas Vernon was banished from Newport by the Rhode Island General Assembly. He returned to Newport after the war and died there in 1784.

Source:

"The Diary of Thomas Vernon, a Loyalist, Banished from Newport by the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1776," (Providence, Rhode Island: Sidney S. Rider, 1881).

#384 [Samuel Vernon \(1757-1834\)](#)

Son of William Vernon, the slave trader and owner of Vernon House. He fought under the command of General Sullivan in the Battle of Rhode Island in 1788 during the American Revolution. As his gravestone indicates, he was the president of the Rhode Island Insurance Company and the Newport Bank.

Sources:

“Samuel Tertius Vernon,” White family tree, Ancestry, https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/110188/person/382036387506/story?_phsrc=bBb1132&_phstart=successSource

Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries, <https://rihistoriccemeteries.org/webdatabase.aspx>

#387 [William Vernon 1720c-1806](#)

He was instrumental in the formation of the Colonial Navy and his house in Newport was Rochambeau's headquarters during the American Revolution.

Source:

Rockwell Stensrud, *Newport: A Lively Experiment 1639-1969* (Newport, Rhode Island: Redwood Library and Athenaeum, 2006) 227, 380.

#388 [Samuel Vernon \(1712c-1792\)](#)

Samuel Vernon was a silversmith like his father, but he is chiefly remembered as a prominent member of the Sons of Liberty. He was a leader of the Stamp Act Riot of 1765 along with William Ellery, signer of the Declaration of Independence for Rhode Island.

“The Stamp Act Riot of 1765,” Newport Historical Society, <https://newporthistory.org/resource-center/digital-resources/stamp-act-crisis-timeline/>

#390 [Samuel Vernon, Esq \(1683-1737\)](#)

Vernon is credited by the RISD Museum as being the first silversmith in Newport. He plied his trade from 1705-1737 and had a shop on Thames Street near Marlborough. Some of his works are in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Yale University Art Gallery and numerous others throughout the country.

He held a few public offices in Newport including Justice of the Peace, assistant to the General Assembly and an assistant to the governor.



Vernon's stamp



Tankard in collection of RISD Museum

Sources:

"Samuel Vernon," American Silversmiths,

<https://www.americansilversmiths.org/makers/silversmiths/17521.htm>

Samuel Vernon tankard, RISD Museum, <https://risdmuseum.org/art-design/collection/tankard-46557>

557 [Joseph Anthony \(1799-1869\)](#)

Anthony was a state legislator. His elaborate and large monument is unique for this site.

#611 [Col. Samuel Lyndon \(1706c-1786\)](#)

Colonel Lyndon served in King George's War. He was first a major and then a colonel. He also served as a member of Councils of War in 1745, 1747 and 1748.

Source:

"Rhode Island Colonial War Servicemen, 1740-62, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/3445:4055?tid=&pid=&queryId>

#783 [John Stevens \(1647c-1736\)](#)

John Stevens arrived in Newport in 1705 and supported his young family as a mason. The business he established also carved gravestones and that work was continued for six generations of the family at two Thames Street locations. His unique greenish slate stone was carved by his son, William.

Source:

Vincent Luti, *Mallet and Chisel: Gravestone Carvers of Newport, Rhode Island, in the 18th Century* (Boston, Massachusetts: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2002).

#830 [Capt. William G Turner \(1833-1917\)](#)



William G. Turner was born in Newport in 1833. He practiced dentistry before enlisting in the Union Army in 1861. A member of two different Rhode Island regiments, he served as a lieutenant in one before being promoted to captain in another. He was wounded in Virginia in 1863 during the Chancellorsville Campaign and mustered out of the army. After recovering, Turner's uncle sent him to Florence, Italy to pursue his interest in art. Turner stayed there for 30 years, returning to Newport in 1901.

He is the sculptor of the Oliver Hazard Perry statue in Washington Square and Robinson Crusoe, at the Redwood Library. His works are also in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Academy of Design in Philadelphia as well as other museums and in the homes of private collectors.



Source:

Obituary for "William G. Turner," *Newport Mercury*, 28 December 1917, 7.

#868 [John Stevens II \(1702c-1778\)](#)

John Stevens II was the son of John Stevens, mason and gravestone carver and Mercy Stevens. He was the oldest of four sons and continued the family business when his father retired in 1721. He cared for his aging parents, younger siblings, and conducted the Stevens stone shop. During the American Revolution he was a Patriot. His son, John Stevens III later conducted the shop.

Source:

Vincent Luti, *Mallet and Chisel: Gravestone Carvers of Newport, Rhode Island, in the 18th Century* (Boston, Massachusetts: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2002) 55-91.

Section I Approximate Locations

Clarke Ave.	Section H						Houses on Warner St.	
	694					726		733
	612		635		665 668 670	671 693b		
	537	558			577 584a	594 597		611
	479					535		536
	415	422 427	430		444 446			478
	350				409			414
	302				332			349
	271					289 290 300		301
	219	224	238		258			270
	180	190			202	213		218
	127	131	146		159	167a		179
	79	83						126
	1				66			78
		Section J						

Military Graves

Grave #		War	comments
83	Edward Thurston (1758c-1782)	Rev. War	2 months on prison ship
131	William Langworthy (1769c-1828)	Rev. War	
139	Capt. Christopher Champlin (1760c-1782)	Rev. War	
167a	Robert Franklin 1760c-1850 rev war	Rev. War	
190	Jonathan Thurston (1749c-1780)	Rev. War	
213	Lorentz Peterson (1912-1983)	WWII	
224	Capt. James Wallace (1749c-1820)	Rev. War	officer
238	Solomon Southwick (1732c-1797)	Rev. War	
258	James Anthony (1785c-1857)	1812	USN, 18 years
300	Benjamin Lawton (1825c-1894)	Civil War	Company I, 4th RI Volunteers
409	Gov Samuel Ward (1726c-1776)	Rev. War	
427	Jonathan Simmons (1755c-1803)	Rev. War	
446	Ebenezer Flagg (1747c-1781)	Rev. War	major; died May 14, 1781 in combat and buried in NY
558	William Lyon (1750c-1819)	Rev. War	
577	William B West (1833-1910)	Civil War	Company G, 4th RI Infantry
584a	John Shaw (1737c-1816)	Rev. War	
635	Nathan Wood (1840c-1904)		USS Macedonia
668	Maj Isaac Martindale (1671c-1703)	Colonial	
693b	Capt. Jacob Smith (1760c-1839)	Rev. war	
726	Edward Davis (1740c-1782)	Rev. War	

Section I is where the earliest burials took place.

#66 [Peter Bours \(1706c-1761\)](#)

Bours was one of three owners of a ship involved in the slave trade. He was also Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Deputies from 1744-46 and from 1757-59. In 1738 he was named to the building committee for a new Colony House in Washington Square. One of the founders of Redwood Library, he was selected to be the first librarian.

Sources:

“Peter Bours,” PoliticalGraveyard.com, <https://politicalgraveyard.com/geo/RI/NE-buried.html>

Michelle Farias, “Documenting the Redwood’s Origins, *ETC.: The Magazine of the Redwood Library*, Spring 2024, vol. 2, 15.

“The Grist Mill,” *Newport Mercury*, March 2, 1973, 4.

#146 [Edward Scott \(1703c-1768\)](#)

Scott was one of the original founders of the Redwood Library in 1747 and elected as one of its eight directors at that time.

Source:

Michelle Farias, “Documenting the Redwood’s Origins, *ETC.: The Magazine of the Redwood Library*, Spring 2024, vol. 2, 15.

#159 [Edmund Townsend \(1736c-1811\)](#)

Edmund Townsend was one of the many members of the family of cabinetmakers who made beautiful pieces of colonial furniture at their business in Easton’s Point. Townsend’s father Job Townsend started the business and then partnered with Daniel Goddard, and members of subsequent generations of each family continued the business for 120 years. Their pieces were sold throughout New England and exported to the West Indies. Some of their pieces can be seen at Hunter House, a property owned by the Preservation Society of Newport County. Pieces are also in the collections of RISD and in major museums in Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Houston. The pictured item is in the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.



Source:

“John Goddard,”

<https://web.archive.org/web/20060907013736/http://www.redwoodlibrary.org/notables/goddard.htm>

“Goddard and Townsend,” Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goddard_and_Townsend

#202 [Rev Daniel Wightman \(1669c-1750\)](#)

Wightman was the co-Pastor of the Second Baptist Church with James Clarke, nephew of John Clarke. He was ordained in 1704 and continued at the church until his death in 1750.

Source:

"A Sermon Preached November 26, 1829: containing a history of the origin and growth of the Second Baptist Church in Newport (R.I)." Ancestry.com, https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/16589/images/dvm_LocHist004325-00005-1?treeid=&personid=&query

#238 Solomon Southwick (1732c-1797)

A Newport native, Southwick was a member of the first graduating class of Philadelphia College, now the University of Pennsylvania. He was a printer and the publisher of the *Newport Mercury* from 1768-1787. His strong anti-British views in the paper forced him to flee Newport during the British Occupation of the city; however, before leaving, he buried the printing press in the backyard of a house on Broad Street (Broadway). He fled north but continued to publish the *Mercury* from his home in exile.

In 1776 Southwick was a member of the Rhode Island General Assembly, and in 1778 he was appointed Deputy Commissary General, in charge of supplying goods to Continental Army members in Rhode Island.

After the British left the city, he returned to his house on Third Street in Newport in 1780. He continued to publish the paper until his retirement in 1787.

Sources:

Solomon Southwick 1731-1797, <http://archives.upenn.edu/penn-people/biography/solomonsouthwick>.

"Press Which Printed the First Copy of the Newport Mercury on View Here," *Newport Daily News* (9 May 1958) 4.

#289 Francis Vaughan (1611-1677)

Francis Latham Dungan Clarke Vaughan is often referred to as the "Mother of Governors"

The following governors, deputy governors, or lieutenant governors either descend directly from Frances, or married one of her descendants:[10]

Governors who are direct descendants:

Walter Clarke, her son, Rhode Island governor 1676-1677, 1686, and 1696-1698

Samuel Cranston, Rhode Island governor 1698-1729

William Greene, Jr., Rhode Island governor 1778-1785

Goodwin Knight, California governor 1947-1953

Nehemiah R. Knight, Rhode Island governor 1817-1821

Henry Lippitt, Rhode Island governor 1875-1877

Charles W. Lippitt, Rhode Island governor 1895-1896

John R. Rogers, Washington governor, 1896-1902

Theodore F. Green Rhode Island governor, 1933-1937

John Chafee, Rhode Island governor, 1963-1969

Lincoln Chafee, Rhode Island governor, 2011-2015

Deputy or lieutenant governors who are direct descendants:

John Gardner, Rhode Island deputy governor 1754-1755 and 1756-1764

Samuel G. Arnold, Rhode Island lieutenant governor 1852-1853 and 1861-1862

William Greene, Rhode Island lieutenant governor 1866-1868

Governors who are related by marriage:

Jeremy Clarke, her husband, Rhode Island president 1648-1649

John Cranston, Rhode Island governor 1678-1680

Caleb Carr, Rhode Island governor in 1695

William Wanton, Rhode Island governor 1732-1733

William Greene Sr., Rhode Island governor for 11 years from 1743-1758

Charles C. van Zandt, Rhode Island governor 1877-1880

Deputy governor related by marriage:

James Barker, Rhode Island deputy governor 1678-1679

Sources:

Louise Tracy, "An Historic Strain of Blood in America: Frances Latham--Mother of Governors". Reprinted from *The Journal of American History* (New Haven, Connecticut, 1908).

Alfred Rudolph Justice, "Genealogical Research in England: Clarke" *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* (Boston, Massachusetts: New England Historical Genealogical Society, 1920) 74: 110-117, 80-89.

Charles Pastoor and Galen K. Johnson, *The A to Z of the Puritans* (Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2007) 35.

Cherry Fletcher Bamberg and Judith Crandall Harbold, *John Clarke's World* (Hope, Rhode Island: Rhode Island Genealogical Society, 2018) 306.

#290 [Gilbert Stuart 1755-1828; Jane Stuart -1888](#)

Jane Stuart (1812-1888) was an accomplished artist and daughter of Gilbert Stuart (1755-1828), Colonial America's foremost portrait painter. Trained by her father, Jane Stuart assisted with many of his portraits when his health failed. She was able to support herself and family members with her talents and was a lively member of Newport society. Gilbert is noted on this monument but is buried in Boston Commons.

Sources:

Charlotte Streifer Rubinstein, *American Women Artists* (Boston, Massachusetts: G.K. Hall and Company, 1982) 43-45.

Frank L. Grzyb and Russell J. Desimone, *Remarkable Women of Rhode Island* (Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2014) 45.

Berit Hattendorf, "Newport's First Woman Portraitist: Jane Stuart," *Newport History*: Vol. 67: Iss. 232, Article 3, 8-9. <https://digitalcommons.salve.edu/newporthistory/vol67/iss232/3>.

#332 [Thomas Arnold 1734c-1828 silversmith](#)

Arnold worked as a silversmith in Newport from 1760-1817 and had a shop on Thames Street. He received a degree from a college in Providence (Brown) and was later a faculty member and trustee there. In 1774 he was appointed a delegate to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia that was discussing how to deal with the problems King George was causing the Colonies. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in Newport and later an Inspector of Customs in East Greenwich.

Pieces of Arnold's silver are in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Yale University and the United Congregational Church of Newport.

Source:

"Thomas Arnold," *American Silversmiths*,

<https://www.americansilversmiths.org/makers/silversmiths/57105.htm>

#409 [Samuel Ward \(1726c-1776\)](#)

Ward served the colony as governor twice, 1762-1763 and 1765-1767. His main political rival was Stephen Hopkins of Providence. Ward was a delegate to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia where he contracted small pox and died. Had he lived four more months he would have signed the Declaration of Independence for Rhode Island. William Ellery was his replacement and was able to sign the document.

Source:

Rockwell Stensrud, *Newport: A Lively Experiment 1639-1969* (Newport, Rhode Island: Redwood Library and Athenaeum, 2006) 177-180.

#422 [Wait and William Tripp \(1779-1780\)](#)

This stone, carved by John Bull, is for two children of Desire and William Tripp. What makes it unique is that Desire's amputated arm is also buried here and pictured on the stone.

#430 Edward Simmins 1779c-1830

As his gravestone indicates, he was a member of the Rhode Island Legislature for several years.

#444 Gov Samuel Cranston (1659c-1727)

Cranston was the longest serving governor of Rhode Island (about 30 years). Legend is he was captured by pirates. Cranston, RI was named for him. His stone was recut in 2007 and is a replica of the original stone.

Source:

John E. Sterling, et al., *Newport, Rhode Island Colonial Burial Grounds* (Hope, Rhode Island: Rhode Island Genealogical Society, Special Publication No. 10, 2009), 281.

444 [John Cranston \(1626c-1680\)](#)

Cranston was the first physician appointed by the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1664. He served as governor 1678-1680. He son Samuel also served as governor.

John E. Sterling, et al., *Newport, Rhode Island Colonial Burial Grounds* (Hope, Rhode Island: Rhode Island Genealogical Society, Special Publication No. 10, 2009), 281.

#535 [Gov Richard Ward \(1690c-1763\)](#)

Ward served as governor of the colony (1740-1743) and served the colony in a number of different positions. For a time, he lived in the home on Broadway known as the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House. He and his wife Mary had fourteen children. Their son Samuel also served as governor.

Source:

John E. Sterling, et al., *Newport, Rhode Island Colonial Burial Grounds* (Hope, Rhode Island: Rhode Island Genealogical Society, Special Publication No. 10, 2009), 285.

#594 [Christopher Champlin ESQ \(1731c-1805\)](#)

Christopher Champlin was a merchant and ship owner in Newport, Rhode Island. He partnered with his brother, George Champlin (1739-1809), a shipmaster, and traded goods including oatmeal, beans, pork, butter, and molasses with fellow

merchants including John Powell of Boston, Massachusetts. Champlin also was a slave trader. As his gravestone indicates, he was also the first Grand Master of the Grand Masonic Lodge in Newport.

Source:

Christopher Champlin Papers, 1700-1840, Rhode Island Historical Society, <https://www.rihs.org/mssinv/Mss020.htm>

#597 [Temperance Grant \(1710-1791\)](#)

Temperance Grant lived in Newport with her husband Sueton, a privateer, and one of original subscribers of the Newport Reading Room and Charter member of the Newport Artillery Company. The couple ran a shop on Long Wharf that carried fabrics of all types as well as other items Sueton Grant picked up on his trips.

In 1744 Captain Grant was killed in an explosion in the waterfront area. After his death Temperance petitioned for and was granted a letter of administration to continue running her husband's business. "She became a merchant princess left in command of a sizeable fleet of ships left to her by her husband." Once, when convinced that her court council in one case wasn't doing a good job for her, she stood up in court to argue her own case. She secured her verdict and "may have been the first woman to practice law in any English-speaking country."

Temperance Grant did well in business. The 1760 tax rolls for Newport listed 36 women as taxpayers, and Grant was the second highest on the list.

Source:

George Champlin Mason, *Reminiscences* (Newport, Rhode Island: Hammett, 1884) 359-36.

Elaine Forman Crane, *The Poison Plot* (Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 2018), 46, 74-75, 142, 225.

#665 [Mary Arnold \(1653c-1690\)](#)

In 1677, Governor Benedict Arnold established a family burial site on his land (today Pelham Street). In 1857 development of the site was approved and all the Arnold remains were relocated to other burial sites. The plan met strong opposition by the public and most of the remains were reinterred in the family site. Mary Arnold is one of a few of the remains that did not get returned to the family site.

Source:

John E. Sterling, et al., *Newport, Rhode Island Colonial Burial Grounds* (Hope, Rhode Island: Rhode Island Genealogical Society, Special Publication No. 10, 2009), 292.

#670 [Christopher Grant Champlin \(1768c-1840\)](#)



Champlin was the only son of Christopher Champlin, a merchant, ship owner and financier in Newport. Christopher Champlin made his money in different kinds of trades—privateering, the slave trade and the West Indies trade. Christopher Grant Champlin benefitted from his father’s affluence. He graduated from Harvard and was sent on a European tour. After returning to America, C.G. Champlin married Martha Redwood Ellery in 1793. In addition to helping with his father’s business, he decided to run for Congress.

Based on lies, he was elected to Congress and served from 1797 to 1801 and was appointed again later and served from 1809-1811. After returning to Rhode Island, he eventually served as president of the Bank of Rhode Island and continued with his business ventures. His only son died young, and the Champlin line ended.

Sources:

“Christopher Champlin Papers, 1700-1840” Rhode Island Historical Society, <https://www.rihs.org/mssinv/Mss020.htm>

“Champlin, Christopher Grant 1768-1840,” Biographical Dictionary of the United States Congress, <http://https://bioguide.congress.gov/search/bio/C000289>

#671 [Martha Redwood Ellery Champlin \(1773c-1847\)](#)

Matha Champlin was the wife of Christopher Grant Champlin and the niece of William Ellery, signer of the Declaration of Independence for Rhode Island. She is also the older sister of Abrahm Redwood who founded a library in Newport.



Source:

“Martha Redwood Ellery,” FamilySearch,

<https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/K6MK-YDK/martha-redwood-ellery-1772-1847>

Section J Approximate locations

Clarke Ave.	Section I							Houses On Warner St.	
	258	262	264	285			301		
	203	223			242				257
	164	182							202
	119	143							163
	70	76	77	100					118
	35	38	43	45					69
	1	30 31 32 33							34
	Section K								

Military Graves

Grave #		War	comment
30	John Kaul (1749c-1839)	Rev. war	
38	Earl Bacheller (1896-1943)	WWI	Private 151 Depot Brig
43	Joseph S Ewart (1894-1917)	WWI	lost in collision on the USS Chauncey machinist mate 1 st class
45	Alton Spooner (1907-1985)	WWII	Private First Class, US Army
75	William H. H. Thompson (1840-1910)	Civil War	
76	William H. H. Thompsons (1884-1952)		C T M USN (Cryptologic Technician Maintenance)
100	Col Benjamin Sherburne (1715c-1771)	Colonial Wars	
182	Andrew Hanley (1843c-1894)	Civil War	Company C 3 rd RI Heavy Artillery
229	Edward Vose (1755c-1823)	Rev. War	
242	Richard Bush (1754c-1835)	Rev. War	
262	David Nason (1758c-1807)	Rev. War	
264	Robert Ingham (1828c-1877)	Civil War	served country for 21 yrs. 7 months
285	Samuel Billings (1740c-1825)	Rev. War	

#31 [Harry Easton \(1706c-1729\)](#)

The stone states he was negro and the son of Dick and Giffe

#32 [Muirear Easton \(1702c-1733\)](#)

The stone states she was the wife of Caesar and servant to (enslaved by) Peter Easton.

#33 [Tobe Brightman \(1681c-1721\)](#)

The stone states he was a 40-year-old negro.

These three graves are unusual in the Common Burying Ground as the majority of graves for people of African heritage are in section "G," known today as God's Little Acre.

#143 [Stephen Mumford \(1639c-1707\)](#)

Mumford was born in London, a founder of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in America and the original owner of the Wanton Lyman Hazard house.

Sources:

Newport Historical Society

“Sabbatarian Churches of God in Rhode Island-Our Heritage,” <http://https://unityinchrist.com/history/historycog1.htm>

#223 [Capt. Nathaniel Waldron \(1743c-1769\)](#)

Waldron was the captain of a ship involved in the triangle trade. At one point, James Lucena of Georgia sent a letter to Aaron Lopez in 1768 saying that Captain Waldron would be bringing a shipment from Georgia to Rhode Island, sell it for rum and then proceed to the coast of Africa to obtain slaves. His stone is one of the finest carved by John Stevens III and features classical images.

Source:

Elizabeth Donnan, *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to America: New England and the Middle Colonies* (University of California: Octagon Books, 1965), volume 3, 244.

Section K Approximate locations

Clarke Ave.	Section J				Houses On Warner St.	
	188	190				202
	153	161	163			187
	83	111		124 132 139		152
	35	46		69		82
	1					34
Section L						

Grave #		War	comment
46	E.F. Oatley (-1868)	Civil War	Company D, 1 st RI Cavalry
69	Jonathan Wilson (1756c-1831)	1812	soldier in Captain James Perry company at Ft. Adams
124	Dr. Isaac Senter (1754c-1799)	Rev. war	captured in Quebec
132	Jeremiah Greenman (1794-1884)	1812	
139	Roger A Champlin (1917-1974)	WWII	Private First Class, US Army
161	P Wanton Wilkey (1833c-1864)	Civil War	1 st RI Calvery transferred to the Navy gunboat Iroquois
163	James Walker (1837c-1862)	Civil War	
171	Mitchell Hardaman Ashe (1906-1969)	WWII, Korea	OMSC US Navy
190	C.R. Gifford	Civil War	

#111 [Jeanette Phillips](#)

The gravestone states Jeanette was “a good and faithful servant in the Philips family for more than 50 years.” Information from a will shares that she was a person of African heritage, and based on the years the family members lived, she was enslaved to them. Jeanette is one of a few enslaved people buried with members of the family rather than in God’s Little Acre.

#124 Dr. Isaac Senter 1754c-1799

Dr. Isaac Senter (1753-1799) was born in Londonderry, New Hampshire and came to Rhode Island in his youth. He studied under Dr. Thomas Moffat, then began his practice in Cranston. After the battle of Lexington, he joined Rhode Island volunteers marching for Boston.

He was appointed surgeon on the secret 1775 expedition to Quebec under Col. Benedict Arnold. The expedition turned out to be disastrous for the regiment. All the troops were either killed or taken prisoner. While Senter was a prisoner he cared for the sick and wounded. He was released after several months and returned to Cranston. He was chosen Surgeon-General of Rhode Island in 1776 and from 1778-1780 he was the Cranston representative to the Rhode Island General Assembly. He resigned from continental service in 1779.

Dr. Senter was one of Rhode Island's most eminent physicians, holding honorary memberships in several American and European medical societies and writing for several medical journals in both America and Europe. He had an extensive library of medical, scientific, and literary lore. He was the physician/surgeon in the State Officers of Militia from 1779-1799 and was director of military hospital from 1794-1799.

Source:

Dr. Isaac Senter Papers; Doctor of Newport, Rhode Island, Rhode Island Historical Society Manuscripts Division

<https://www.rihs.org/mssinv/Mss165.htm>

Section L Approximate Locations

Clarke Ave.	Section K			Houses On Warner St.		
	103				107	
	70				102	
	32	36	42		69	
	1				26	31
	Farewell Street					

Grave #		War	comment
26	Walter Allen Mead (1884-1959)	WWII	NY CY USN
42	Elmer Greenman (-1936)	WWI	

#36 [Ida Lewis \(1842-1911\)](#)

Ida Lewis (1842-1911) is perhaps the most famous woman buried in the site. She became the highest paid lighthouse keeper in the country during her 39 years on Lime Rock. Lewis is officially credited with saving 18 lives in Newport harbor, but 36 may be a more accurate number. People flocked to Newport to meet her and her most well-known admirers included Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and President Ulysses Grant.

Sources:

Newport Historical Society

Rockwell Stensrud, *Newport: A Lively Experiment 1639-1969* (Newport, Rhode Island: Redwood Library and Athenaeum, 2006) 337.

