

Braman Cemetery

established 1898

North Common Burying Ground

established circa 1865

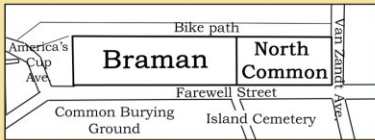


This cemetery includes two sites:
Braman and North Common

Braman Cemetery was established on the family farmland by sons Daniel and David and John Fell. The site was forfeited to the city of Newport in 1980.

Burials reflect 20th century Newport. Many people buried here immigrated to America for a better life.

They became patriotic Americans who were proud of their heritage. Education, hard work and community service were attributes reflected in their lives.



North Common Burying Ground, also known as the Old City Cemetery, was the city's effort to provide graves for the growing Newport community. People buried here share characteristics with those in Braman.



Scan for more information.

There are three, fenced Jewish sections.

- Jewish law requires separate burials from non-Jewish graves.
- In 1895, 6 lots were bought in the North Common Burying Ground for Jewish graves.
- In 1896 additional lots were bought in Braman by individuals, the Touro congregation and later, Congregation Achavas Achim.
- Since the purchases were made over time, they are separated in the cemetery.



Members of Newport's vibrant Greek and African American community are buried here.

Many African Americans moved to Newport from the South after the Civil War and joined an existing African heritage community. They worked in a variety of professions and many belonged to one of the historic Black churches: Shiloh Baptist, Union Congregational, African Methodist Episcopal, & Mt. Olivet Baptist.

- Arthur Burton (1897-1918) served during WWI and was the first African American killed in action in the war.
- Armstead Hurley (1854-1932) was a businessman and active officer of Shiloh Baptist Church
- Major William Gaines (1923-2012) was the first African American in the US Army Ordnance Corp (1994) Hall of Fame. He was also the brother of Paul Gaines, New England's first Black mayor.

Greeks arrived in 1896 and were involved with fishing and food related businesses.

- Apostolos B. Cascambas (1879-1950) was a candy maker who operated a store on Long Wharf for more than 40 years.

- The Spiratos family operated a number of businesses that catered to the Navy stationed in the city. Many in the Greek community were active in forming St. Spyridon Church.

The **United States Navy Hospital** bought large lots in Braman. In addition, numerous Naval veterans bought individual or family lots. While many graves are marked with government issued stones, some are marked with non-government monuments.

- Axel Sundquist (1867-1910) born in Finland, served in the US Navy. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for clearing mines from Guantanamo Bay during the Spanish-American war.

- Joseph J. Henry (1889-1908) died when his clothing got caught in the gears of a gun turret, breaking his neck. His monument was installed by his shipmates.

Information presented by Newport's Historic Cemetery Advisory Commission



Notable graves include:

William Ellery (1727-1820)

William Ellery was a Son of Liberty and Harvard-educated lawyer who signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776 as one of the delegates from Rhode Island to the Second Continental Congress.



James (1697-1735) and Ann Franklin (1691-1763)

James Franklin was the official printer for Rhode Island. After his death, his wife, Ann, became the official printer for the colony. The family started publishing the Newport Mercury in 1758. James was the older brother of Benjamin Franklin. The Franklin press is on display at the Museum of the Newport Historical Society.



Ida Lewis (1842-1911)

Ida Lewis was the lighthouse keeper of Lime Rock for thirty-nine years. She was credited with saving at least eighteen lives but she likely saved thirty-six. People came to Newport to meet her and among them was President Grant.



Dr. Harriet Rice (1866-1958)

Dr. Rice was an outstanding student at Rogers High School. She was the first African American to graduate from Wellesley College (1887). She treated wounded soldiers in France during WWI and was honored by the French government for her work. For a time, Dr. Rice treated patients at her home on Spring Street.

The Common Burying Ground was established in 1665 to provide a final resting place for everyone in Newport. The land was given to the city by John Clarke.

People of all religions were welcomed here as were the wealthiest to the poorest individuals.

85% of colonial burials in Newport were in this site.

The slate gravestones are uniform in their text and ornamentation.

The site covers 10.2 acres and contains the remains of more than eight thousand people.

It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

God's Little Acre, the northern section, has the largest collection of colonial gravestones for African heritage people in the country.



Scan for more information.

Presented by the Newport Historic Cemetery Advisory Commission

Newport Gravestone Carvers

John Stevens (1645-1736)

Started carving stones in Newport in 1705. Generations of his family carved the majority of the stones in Newport and their work can be found all along the Atlantic Coast.



John Bull (1734-1808)

Bull learned to carve stone in the Stevens Shop and his early work is in that style. He developed his own designs and created unique stones.



carved by John Bull

John Howard Benson (1901-1956)

Benson bought the Stevens Shop on Thames Street in 1927 and revived the stone cutting business. He was a sculptor, calligrapher, and educator. His son, John Evert Benson, and grandson Nicholas Benson continued the work in the shop, elevating it to national prominence.





Clifton Burial Ground

established circa 1670



The site is also known as the Golden Hill Burial Ground.

The land was originally owned by Thomas Clifton and later used by the Society of Friends.

The upper section was added in 1771 for the Wanton family.

There are 250 known burials in this site and 160 headstones.

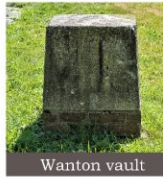
The oldest death date on a stone is 1670 but Quaker records record a burial here in 1669.

Many of the slate stones were created by important Newport carvers. Members of the Stevens family and John Bull carved stones for this site. William Mumford and another Boston carver also cut stones located here.

Clifton is maintained by the City of Newport.



Scan for more information. Presented by the Newport Historic Cemetery Advisory Commission

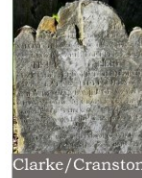


Wanton vault

The Wanton family vault is marked with a marble cap and is the only known colonial era vault in Newport.

The land for the vault was given to Joseph and William Wanton, sons-in-law to James and Elizabeth Honyman.

Nine family members including Gov. Joseph Wanton (circa 1670-1733) and Gov. William Wanton (1705-1780) are buried in the vault.



Clarke/Cranston

The stone is for Freeborn Clarke (circa 1634-1710) who was a daughter of Roger Williams and the wife of Gov. Walter Clarke.

Her daughter, Mary Cranston (circa 1663-1710), is also memorialized on this stone. Mary was the wife of Gov. Samuel Cranston.

Colonial Images on Stones



Mumford

Death's Head- This image reflects the end of a life and its body. This stone image, carved by William Mumford, was one of the oldest, used by many carvers.



John Stevens II

If you look for the different styles displayed in this site, you'll find a simply etched death's head. This was the work of John Stevens who started carving stones in Newport in 1705. Generations of his family carved gravestones.

Soul Effigies- This image replaced the death's head on later stones and reflects the dead person's soul rather than their body. Carved by John Stevens II, this stone exhibits the style of the carvers in the Stevens Shop. This face has many variations and sometimes has a wig.



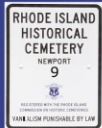
John Bull

Side Facing Effigy with Hourglass and Scythe
This image was only carved by John Bull. The hour glass indicated time has run out for living and the scythe that life was cut short.



Newbery

The Walter Newbery stone was created on a previously cut stone. The arrows show the earlier inscription at the bottom of the stone. This section should be below the ground and not visible.



Coddington Burial Ground

established before 1675



This burial site is located on part of the land owned by William Coddington. It started as a family burial site and in 1675 was given to the Society of Friends for their use.

There are 94 burials in this site but only 58 have stone markers.

Many of these people were the original founders of Portsmouth and Newport.

Six governors of the colony are buried here. This site is often referred to as the Governors' Burial Ground.

The home of William Coddington was built circa 1640 and stood until 1835 near the White Horse Tavern.



Scan for more information

Colonial Governors

William Coddington (circa 1600-1678) map #34

Coddington arrived in Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630 and was involved in the government. He left with Anne Hutchinson and was a founding member of Portsmouth (1638) and Newport (1639). Coddington served as governor of the two settlements, 1640-1644. Political disagreements resulted in his withdrawal from public life in the 1650s. He became a Quaker, later returned to public life and was elected governor of the colony in 1674. He gave this land to the Society of Friends for use as a burial ground.

Nicholas Easton (circa 1592-1675) map #42

Easton arrived in Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1634 and left with Anne Hutchinson in 1638 to settle Portsmouth. In 1639 he was one of the nine to settle Newport. From 1640-1644 he assisted Gov. Coddington. Easton served as President of the colony in 1650 and 1654. Easton Point and Easton Beach bear his name.

William Coddington, Jr. (circa 1651-1688) map #35

Coddington was the 13th of 16 children born to the former governor, William Coddington. Born and raised in Newport, he did not marry. He was governor 1683-1685.

Henry Bull (circa 1609-1694) map #39

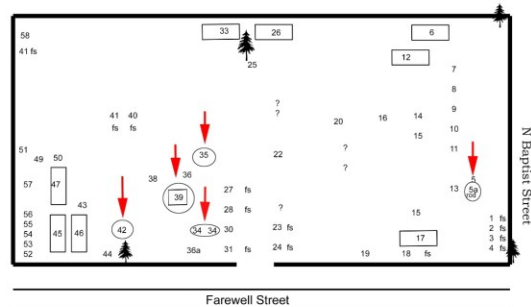
Bull arrived with Ann Hutchinson and was a founder of Portsmouth and Newport. He was a Quaker and served as the town constable before he was elected governor (1685-1686).

John Easton (circa 1621-1705)

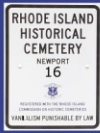
Easton served as governor 1690-1695. He is buried in this site but the exact location is not known. He was a son of President Nicholas Easton.

John Wanton (1672-1740) map #5a

Wanton was a Newport Quaker merchant. He served as Deputy Governor to his brother, William, from 1721-1734. When William died, John was elected governor and served the colony in that role from 1734 to his death in 1740. There is no grave stone for John Wanton.



Numbers refer to grave numbers in the Rhode Island database for this site
fs = foot stone
Details on many stones have faded. Photographs can be viewed at <http://rhisitoriccemeteries.org>
Governor grave numbers are circled.



Coggeshall Burial Ground

established circa 1647



This burial site was created for the Coggeshall family who were one of the nine families that founded Newport in 1639.

There are 50 burials in this site and there are 36 stone markers.

The stone for John Coggeshall who died in 1647 is the oldest carved stone in the state and inspired Newport stone carver John Stevens. It is believed the stone was cut in 1684 when John's wife died.

Coggeshall was the first president of the colony under the patent obtained in 1643 by Roger Williams.

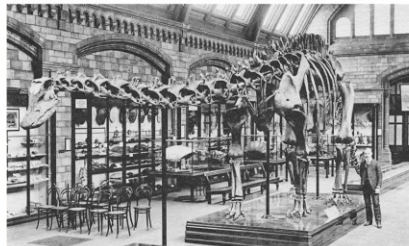
Notable graves include Abraham Redwood, library founder, and Benjamin Ellery, brother to a signer of the Declaration of Independence, William Ellery.

The gate and walls were added to the site in 1854 by Russell Coggeshall who earned his money in the whaling industry. He died and was buried here in 1864.



John Coggeshall (1591-1647)

Arthur Sterry Coggeshall (1873-1958, 8th generation) was a prominent American paleontologist and museologist. His work is found mostly in New York City, Pittsburgh and Santa Barbara.



Arthur Coggeshall with a 1905 dinosaur relic he created in London

Information presented by the Newport Historic Cemetery Advisory Commission.

Among the family members buried here are three men named John Coggeshall:

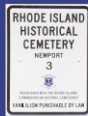
John Coggeshall (1591-1647) is the oldest of his name buried here. **Major John Coggeshall (1619-1708)** was the son of John Coggeshall. He served in the militia and in government.

Captain John Coggeshall (1756-1827) was the great-great grandson of John Coggeshall. He was removed from membership in the Quaker Meeting for his participation in the American Revolution.

Russell Coggeshall (1788-1864) was the son of Capt. John Coggeshall. He paid for the obelisk in the center of the site, the stone wall and entrance gate. He also left \$50,000 to the aged poor of Newport.



Abraham Redwood's grave is the box tomb the arrow points to near the back wall of the site. The library he built with others in Newport, was one of the first in America.



God's Little Acre

Section BG

Common Burying Ground



While everyone was welcome to be buried in the Common Burying Ground, graves for people of African heritage were laid out in this section in 1705. The oldest death date on a stone is 1720.

The area was later referred to as God's Little Acre.

This is the most intact burial site with grave stones for people of African heritage who lived in colonial America.

Although the total number of individuals buried here is unknown, there were at one time approximately 275 professionally carved slate headstones.

The number of stones in this site for African heritage people is greater than all such stones in the rest of New England combined.

While the size of the collection is remarkable, each stone is an important historic and artistic artifact. The information, the images, and the grouping of the stones informs us about the people for whom they were carved and the society in which they lived.

Additional notable people in this section are in the guide available at the entrance to the site or can be downloaded by scanning the code



This stone was cut by Pompe Stevens in Memory of his brother Cuffee Gibbs

Stones like the one for Pompey Brenton exhibit faces that are more African in design than European. These stones were carved by John Stevens III.

Any African who owned a pig was able to vote in June of each year (starting in 1756) for a governor of the Newport African community. Pompey was one of the people who was elected. He died a free man in 1772. (map location PB)

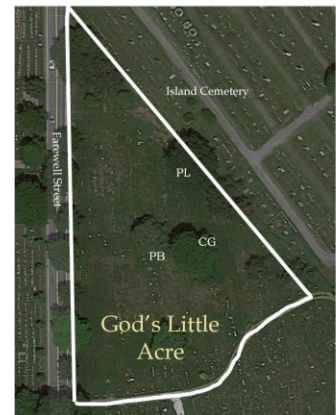
The stone on the right was carved for a mother and child who died during childbirth. The stone states Phillis was enslaved by Josias Lyndon but it is known she was the wife of Zingo Stevens. Church records, probate records, diaries, wills, and information on gravestones provide important documentation of the African experience in colonial America. (map location PL)



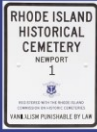
This stone is carved in the style of William Stevens but states it was created by Pompe Stevens.

Pompe was enslaved to William and his carving style reflects William's style.

Pompe is credited with carving two additional stones in God's Little Acre. (map location CG)

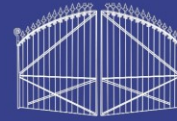


Information presented by Newport's Historic Cemetery Advisory Commission



Island Cemetery

established 1848



Island Cemetery began in 1836 when the city bought land adjacent to the Common Burying Ground. In 1847, lot owners bought the remaining city-owned lots and the Island Cemetery was established in 1848.

Additional acreage was added to the site into the 1870s.

The cemetery is the final resting place of notable Newport summer and year-round residents.

Middle class and wealthy people buried here reflect the diversity of the city.

Burial lots are still available in the cemetery.

Use this QR code to access a list and map of notable burials in the cemetery



Names in bold reflect some of the notable people buried in Island Cemetery

The chapel was gifted by the Belmont family to the cemetery for all to use in 1886. It was designed by local architect **George Champlin Mason** and in 1891 enhanced by **Richard Morris Hunt**. Mason was an important Newport architect and Hunt is America's most important.

August Belmont was a Gilded Age financier and socialite. His wife, **Caroline Slidell Perry**, daughter of **Matthew C. Perry** was also the niece of **Oliver Hazard Perry**. Oliver was the hero of the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812.

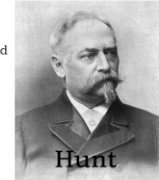


Belmont

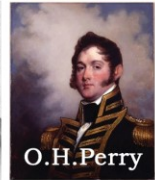


Downing

George T. Downing was a business and civil rights leader in the state and the nation. He was active in the Underground Railroad and desegregating Rhode Island schools. He was instrumental in the election of **Mahlon Van Horne**, the first person of color elected to the state legislature. Downing was also involved in the arrival of **Dr. Marcus Wheatland** in Newport. Wheatland was the first doctor in Newport to use x-rays as a diagnostic tool.



Hunt



O.H. Perry



The monument was designed by Oscar Lenz, who studied with sculpture Augustus Saint Gaudens.

It marks the grave of the daughter of **Alfred Smith**, local real estate tycoon.

Gaudens, John La Farge, Richard Morris Hunt and George Champlin Mason, Jr. designed monuments in the cemetery.

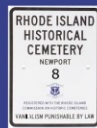


The Wetmore monument designed by Richard Morris Hunt marks the family plot that includes:

George P. Wetmore who served as governor and senator.

Edith and Maude Wetmore, his daughters.

Maude was active in politics and was the first president of the Preservation Society. The family home, Chateau-sur-Mer is a Preservation Society of Newport County property.



Friends Burial Ground

established circa 1743



This burial site was created for members of the Society of Friends, also known as Quakers. It was initially referred to as the Meadow Field. Part of the site was later sold for streets and house lots.

There are 500 burials in this site and there are 363 stone markers.

Some stones show the Quaker use of numbers rather than names of the month.

The last known Quaker burial in this site was in 1918. Island Cemetery bought this site in 1932.

Members of Newport's Greek and Cape Verdean community are buried here alongside veterans from the Spanish-American to the Vietnam War.

This site is owned by the Island Cemetery Company and the information is presented by the Newport Historic Cemetery Advisory Commission.



Gideon Wanton (1693-1767)
Wanton served as governor of the colony from 1745-46 and 1747-48. He was the nephew of Governors John and William Wanton.



John Townsend (circa 1732-1809)
John trained under his father, Christopher, and became one of Colonial America's best furniture makers.

The chest pictured on the right is part of the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.



This stone is dated in the Quaker style. It uses "7th" rather than "July" as the death month.

Some Quakers believed the names of the month had pagan origins and should not be used.

Quakers in Newport

Quaker women, Ann Austin and Mary Fisher, introduced the Quaker faith in Newport in 1657. Afterwards, many of the earliest settlers converted to it from other Protestant sects.

The Great Friends Meeting House was built in 1699 and expanded over time. It is owned and maintained by the Newport Historical Society.

The oldest stone date in this site is 1743 but Quaker records share that not all graves were marked with stones. It is likely earlier burials took place in this site.

Colonial Quakers were buried in many sites in Newport including Clifton Burial Ground, Coggeshall Burial Ground, and Coddington Burial Ground.

Some of these sites started as family burial plots but were later used by members of the Quaker faith.



George Fox
(from the Library of Congress)