



WELCOME TO THE COMMON BURYING GROUND

Owned and maintained by
the city of Newport

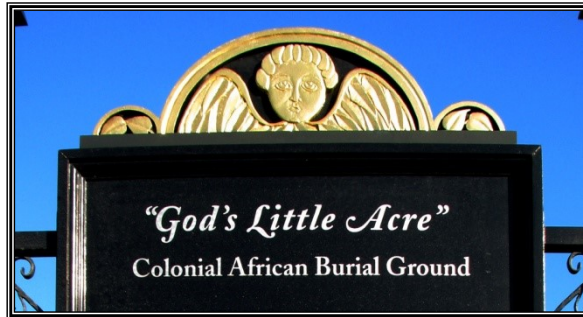
- Established 1665
- 10.2 acres of ground
- First burial in this ground 1666
- 7986 documented grave stones
- Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974

*Please enjoy
your visit,
respect the
site, and walk
carefully.*



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God's Little Acre has been recognized as having the oldest and largest surviving collection of markers of enslaved and free Africans in the country.

Located in the northern section of the burying ground, this unique site helps document the colonial African story in Newport. The earliest known grave is 1720 for Hector Butcher.

Stones in this section are known to have been carved by members of the Stevens family, John Bull, and Pompe Stevens. Pompe was enslaved in the shop of William Stevens and signed two stones.

*For information about God's Little Acre
www.colonialcemetery.com*

The map indicates the approximate location of the stones. Look for the marker near each stone.

The Stevens Shop

John Stevens began carving stones in Newport in 1705 and his family crafted some of the best stones in Colonial America for five generations.

The shop and business have been masterfully continued by the Benson family since 1927.



The earliest gravestone images used on slate were flying death heads (skulls) and winged cherubs (effigies). These images were appeared on stones for people of all religious groups in colonial New England.



1-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.

2-Samuel Cranston (1659-1727)

Longest serving governor of Rhode Island (about 30 years). Legend is he was captured by pirates.

Cranston, RI was named for him.

3-Charles Dyre (1650-1709)

The Dyres were one of the original families to settle Newport. Charles was the son of Mary, a Quaker hanged in Boston for her religious beliefs in 1660. The Dyre graves were moved here in 1889 as a result of

development of the family farm.

4-William Ellery (1727-1820)

A Son of Liberty and Harvard-educated lawyer who signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776 as a delegate from R.I. to the Second Continental Congress.

5-Arthur Flagg (1733-1810)

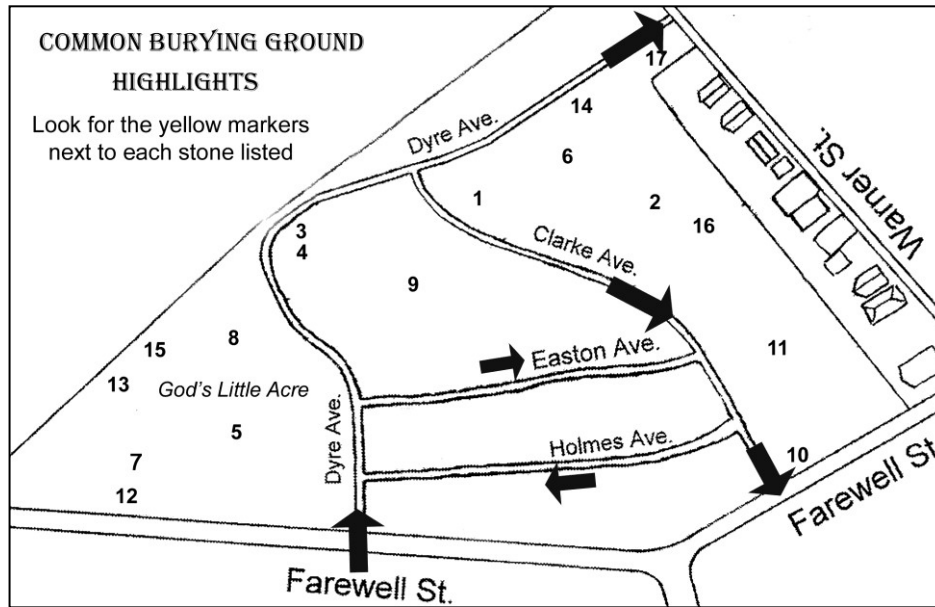
Also known as Arthur Tikey, he was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church, a rope maker, and a prominent member of the Free African Union Society.

6-James (1697-1735) and Ann Franklin

(1696-1763) James 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.

7-Newport Gardner family

Silva (1783c-1784), Charles Quamine (1794-1798), Abraham (1796c-1798),



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

8-Cuffe Gibbs (1728c-1768) This stone was carved by Pompe Stevens, brother to Cuffe. Stevens was a talented enslaved carver in the shop of William Stevens.

9-Langley children Sarah(x2), Nathaniel, Royal, William(x2) This stone was carved by John Bull for the six infant children of William and Sarah Langley. The children died between 1771 and 1785.

10-Ida Lewis (1842-1911) Lighthouse keeper of Lime Rock for thirty-nine years. Ida was credited with saving at least eighteen lives.

11-Stephen Mumford (1639-1707)

Born in London, a founder of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in America and first owner of the Wanton Lyman Hazard house. The stone was carved in Boston.

12-Duchess Quamino (1739-1804)

Active in the African Union Society and influential in the life of William Ellery Channing, foremost minister in the Unitarian Church.

13-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.

14-John Stevens (1647c-1736) Founder of the Stevens stone carving business in 1705. His son William carved the stone.

15-Phillis Stevens (1746c-1773) The first wife of Zingo, a founding member of the Free African Union Society. Her stone features an image of mother with child.

16-Jane Stuart (-1888) An accomplished artist and daughter of Gilbert Stuart (1755-1828), colonial America's foremost portrait painter.

17-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.

For additional information about Newport's historic burying grounds- rihistoriccemeteries.org, ripnewport.com, or contact the Newport Historical Society. Contact the cemetery commission at npthistoriccemeteries@gmail.com