

Governors

Nicholas Easton 1592c-1675 (#42)

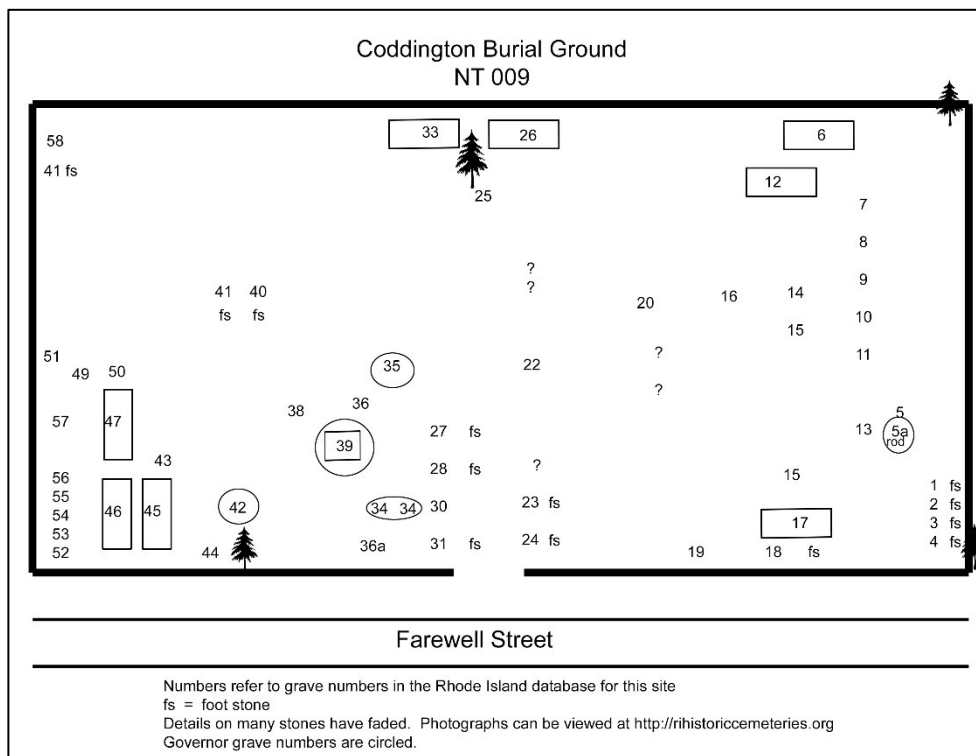
Easton immigrated from England to Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1634. As a supporter of Anne Hutchinson, he was banished from the colony and joined her in relocating to Portsmouth, Rhode Island in 1638. His family and 8 others moved again in 1639 to establish Newport. From 1640-1644 he assisted Governor Coddington. In 1650 and 1654 he served as President of the colony that included Providence and Warwick. Easton Point and Easton Beach are named for Nicholas.

William Coddington 1600c-1678 (#34)

Coddington arrived in Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630, was very involved in the government and built the first brick house. He joined Ann Hutchinson in leaving for Rhode Island and was one of the founding members of Portsmouth and Newport. His displeasure with forming a colony that included Providence and Warrick prompted him to obtain a commission separating Newport and Portsmouth into their own colony under his leadership. Others disapproved of his actions and had his commission revoked. Coddington withdrew from public life in the 1650s and became a Quaker. He reentered public life decades later and was elected governor in 1674.

This burial site sits on land Coddington gave to the Society of Friends for use as a burial ground.

In addition to the gravestone that has the inscription written within a heart, there is also a monument for him erected by the town It states:



“This monument erected by the Town of Newport on the 12th day of May 1839 being the 2nd centennial of the settlement of this town. To the memory of William Coddington, Esq. That illustrious man who first purchased this island from the Narragansett Sachems Canonicus & Miantunomo for, and on account of himself and Seventeen others his associate in the purchase and settlement. He presided many years as chief Magistrate of the Island and Colony of RI. And lived much respected and died on the first day of November 1678 age 78 years and ...

William Coddington Jr. 1651c- 1688 (#35)

William Coddington, Jr. was the 13th of 16 children father by the former governor. Born and raised in Newport, Coddington, Jr. never married. He was governor of the colony 1683-1685.

Henry Bull 1609c-1694 (#39)

As with Easton and Coddington, Bull followed Anne Hutchinson and was a founder of both Portsmouth and Newport. He too became a Quaker and in the early years kept the prison for the colony. He served as governor 1685-1686.

John Easton 1621c-1705 (#48)

John was the son of Governor Nicholas Easton and immigrated to Massachusetts with his family at the age of 9. He served the colony in many positions and as governor 1690-1695. He was the last man who served as governor and had been exiled from Massachusetts for religious beliefs. His stone was last seen in 1996 and described as horizontal and made of sandstone. The location is not known today.

John Wanton 1672-1740 (# 5a)

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

A complete listing of burials in this site is at http://rihistoriccemeteries.org/newlistgraves.aspx?ceme_no=NT009

Nathaniel Coddington 1653c-1723 (#6)

In 1705 Coddington sold land to John Stevens which became his home and shop at 30 Thames Street. He was not a governor of the colony.

Welcome to

Coddington Burial Ground

(also known as the Governors Burial Ground)

Rhode Island Historic site # NT009



This burial site is located on part of the original land owned by William Coddington (1600c-1678). It was started as a family burial site and given to the Society of Friends (Quakers) for use in 1675.

- ❖ There are at least 94 burials in this site
- ❖ Some burials are documented in the Quaker records but have no stone
- ❖ There are 58 stone markers
- ❖ Some of these families were the original English settlers of Portsmouth in 1638 and Newport in 1639
- ❖ Six colonial governors are buried here.

This site is owned and maintained by the City of Newport.

For more information contact the Newport Historic Cemetery Commission at nphistoriccemeteries@gmail.com or the Newport Historical Society.

Stone Carvers

William Mumford

(stones # 34, 34b, 35, 37, 43, 44)

A gifted carver from the Boston area, William Mumford (1641-1718), has many exquisitely carved stones in Newport dating between 1685 and 1700.

John Stevens I (stones #13, 22, 23, 24, 25, 56)

John (1645-1736) arrived in Newport in 1705. Primarily a mason, his early gravestone work is more etched than sculptural. Training from a Boston area carver helped Stevens improve his stonework. The Stevens family carved stones for six generations and the shop continues to this day under the care of the Benson family (since 1927).

John Stevens II (stones #7, 27, 40, 49, 57)

John Stevens II (1702-1778), like his father, was primarily a mason. He worked on major buildings including the Redwood Library and Touro Synagogue. As a stone carver, his style matures and solidifies the Stevens style that featured a front facing bald soul effigy with wings carved in black flinty slate. John II **bought 29 Thames about 1757, the current Stevens Shop**, but lived and worked at 30 Thames.

William Stevens

(stones #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 14, 15, 28, 38, 51)

The youngest of the John Steven I sons, William (1710-1790) grew up and had a variety of occupations including seaman, merchant, and stone carver. Of all the Stevens carvers, William is credited with carving the greatest number of stones. His carving style featured wiggled effigies and etched eyelashes.

Philip Stevens

(stones #16 and some work on 25, 56)

The second son of John Stevens, Phillip (1706-1736), had a carving style very much like the Boston teacher that arrived in Newport and taught his father. Stones carved by Phillip are masterfully carved and he was, perhaps, the best carver in the family. Sadly, his life was cut short when he died in 1736. A notation in the ledger of John II simply states that Phillip was murdered.

John Bull (stones #17, 18, 31)

John Bull (1734-1808) was contracted to indentured servitude to his brother-in-law William Stevens (1747) and trained to be a stone carver. The two men did not get along, Bull left Newport for years and earned his living at sea. When he returned to Newport, he returned to carving gravestones. Stevens sued Bull for breaking his contract and the court eventually ruled in Bull's favor. Bull is credited with carving some of the most artistically rendered stones in Newport.

