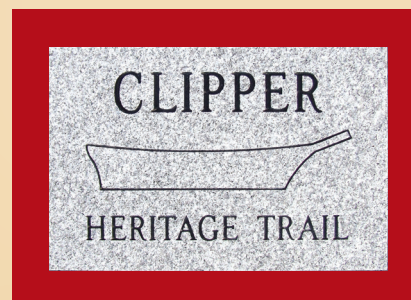


- ① Monument of Peter Romily (1838-1898), African American business owner
- ② Monuments of Pearson Family, bakery proprietors
- ③ Monument of Sarah Smith (1831-1873), a Civil War nurse
- ④ Monument of James Averill (1845-1901), a Civil War soldier
- ⑤ Monument of Joseph Alley (1804-1880), organ builder
- ⑥ Monument of Laura Coombs Hills (1859-1952), a well known artist
- ⑦ Monument of George C. Gray (1849-1927), African American businessman



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Images courtesy of Gblee Woodworth



HIGHLAND CEMETERY

Originally known as New Hill Cemetery, Highland Cemetery was established in 1800.

It is the final resting place of sea captains, immigrants and Caleb Cushing, an advisor to U.S. Presidents. Take a walk and visit gravesites of a nationally known artist, a Civil War nurse, and African Americans. There is a gravestone restoration project underway supported by a Community Preservation Act Grant.

1 Peter Romily (1838-1898) arrived in Newburyport on a Barbados, Caribbean vessel owned by Captain Robert Bayley, whose family owned a wharf at the foot of Fair Street.

Mr. Romily was a cook and worked on fishing boats.

In the 1860s, he opened a downtown restaurant near the entrance of Elbow Alley where many blacks owned businesses, and moved to Liberty Street in the 1890s. Peter Romily and his family lived on Market Street in the brick house directly behind St. Paul's Church.



2 Pearson Family. In 1792, Joseph Pearson Sr. of Newburyport opened Pearson's Bakery and supplied hardtack biscuits to ships sailing all over the world. Joseph's sons Harris, John Jr., and Theodore, joined the business and managed the bakery until the late 1800s. In 1890 Pearson and Sons merged with another bakery and became known as the New York Biscuit Company. Six years later, the New York Biscuit group joined several dozen others and was renamed the National Biscuit Company. In the 1950s, another name change took place, one recognizable to most people today: Nabisco.

3 Sarah E. Smith (1831-1873), a Newburyport native, volunteered her services as a nurse during the Civil War. Sarah worked as a Union Army nurse at the Trinity Church Hospital in Georgetown on the edge of Washington, D.C. She frequently traveled to the battlefields to help the wounded men in the Army of the Potomac. Sadly she contracted consumption (tuberculosis), an often fatal disease and passed away at her brother's Boston home.

4 James Averill (1845-1901) was born in Frankfort, Maine and enlisted in the Civil War as a private with Company L, First Maine Heavy Artillery. Private Averill was in charge of the Company's wagons, horses and supplies going into battle. Discharged in 1865, James settled in Salisbury Point, now known as Amesbury. James and his son Ernest built boats along the banks of the Merrimack River, an area well known for its shipbuilding.

5 Joseph Alley (1804-1880) was born in Kennebunk, Maine and is considered one of the first organ builders in New England. In Newburyport, Joseph built a large organ for the First Religious Society, Unitarian Universalist. The 1834 organ was rebuilt in 1889, and again in 1957, but still retains most of its original pipes and mechanisms, as well as its beautiful mahogany casework. Visit the Unitarian Church on Pleasant Street to view Joseph Alley's organ.



6 Laura Coombs Hills (1859-1952), a Newburyport native, became a well known artist who specialized in miniatures for 30 years and won medals at expositions in Paris and throughout the United States. Eyesight

failing, Laura in her 60s, turned to floral pastels in the 1920s often using flowers from the family garden tended by her sister, Lizzie. To learn more about Ms. Hills's work, visit the nearby Historical Society of Old Newbury, Cushing Museum, Lepore Fine Arts, or the Newburyport Art Association.

7 George C. Gray (1849-1927), a native of Brooklyn, New York, was a Civil War veteran, having served in the Navy. An African American, George was employed for many years as a chef, worked for a local mackerel and cod fishing firm, and sailed on vessels engaged in the West India trade. Later, he owned a coffee house in Market Square. George was a longtime member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, living just a few yards away on Market Street.

