

Quaker Cemetery

Located in woodlands alongside the Artichoke Reservoir, the Quaker Burial Ground is a place of [quiet peace and beauty](#)—a fitting tribute to those who rest there. A [2010 Newburyport News story](#) explained how the cemetery came to be: “The original Quaker Cemetery—there are three in the area—was along Washington Street in Newburyport. However, sometime during the 1850s, some of the bodies interred there were relocated to the Artichoke Reservoir to allow for development” in the bustling port city.

The earliest known marker in this cemetery belongs to [Micajah Brown](#), a [great-grandson](#) of John and Ruth Huse Brown, whose home was the site of the 1695 Indian raid. Micajah Brown died in 1808, and must have been among those transferred after [1855 when the Society of Friends acquired their acre](#) just inside the West Newbury line. The latest known gravestone memorializes [Abbie M. Brown](#), who died in 1882 at the age of 19 years, 10 months, and 20 days. She was a [3x great-granddaughter](#) of John and Ruth Huse Brown. Members of the Brown, Sawyer, and Rogers families are among the 30 or more buried at this site.

As the [Newburyport News](#) article makes clear, the larger story here concerns the citizen volunteers committed to preserving and sharing our history. Susan Follansbee took note of the Quaker Cemetery’s deterioration and “decided to take action. . . . Follansbee and a team of volunteers began to restore the site. They removed a large amount of poison ivy that had infested the cemetery and cleared out the saplings. Then they began to probe the ground in search of marker stones that had collapsed and been buried as much as a foot beneath the vegetation.

Using mortar and epoxy, the group repaired the broken stones and placed them on top of their bases.”

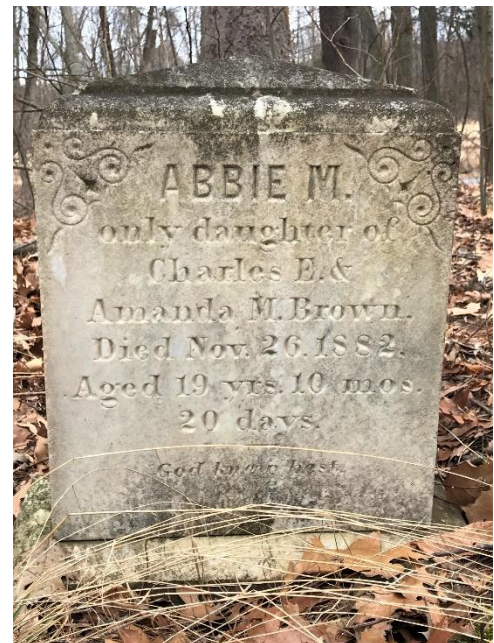
Susan Follansbee’s [Newburyport Daily News obituary](#) listed contributions including a 2011 book, [West Newbury \(Images of America\)](#), co-authored with her friend, Jane Wild, “a culmination of years of work locating historic photos of West Newbury as she visited with residents.” Follansbee also wrote [Cemetery Records of West Newbury](#) in 1997.

History is about recognizing that we stand on the shoulders of those who came before—and we cannot do that without taking action in the present to pass glimpses and echoes of our past on to the future. West Newbury’s [Historical Society](#) and [Historical Commission](#) will need our citizens’ support to make this happen into the future. [Indeed, the Town now owns the Quaker Cemetery.](#)

Town historians ranging from [Dr. Orin Warren, whose Town Improvement Society](#) first installed our historical markers in the 19-aughts, to [Gregory Jennell, who in 2004 became an Eagle Scout upon completion of a project to replace the Town’s historic markers](#), have helped our history survive and flourish. We have many more to thank and expectations for many more to come.

Among our Town’s greatest treasures is its deep and rich history. As this Bicentennial year comes to a close, we hope that now and into the future townspeople will take up the stewardship that Susan Follansbee, Orin Warren, and many others over the years have assumed with energy and dedication.

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Marker Location: 134-36 Turkey Hill St., West Newbury, MA Latitude: 42.795828
Longitude: -70.925840