

QUOGUE CEMETERY TOUR: “*STORIES IN STONE*”

INTRODUCTION

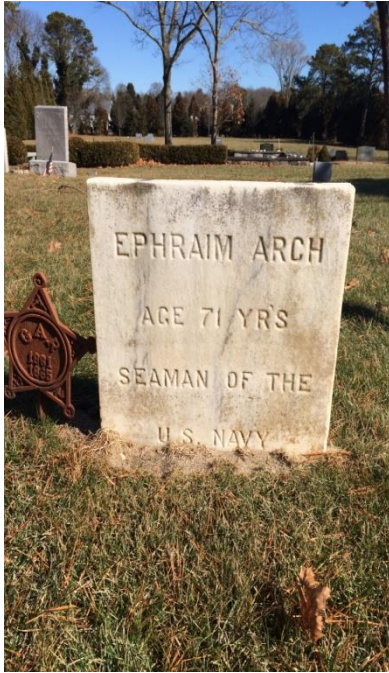
Welcome to the Quogue Cemetery! This sacred and historic place preserves the burial sites of Quogue’s earliest settlers. First laid out in the mid-1700s, the burying ground is managed as a private cemetery association and remains active today. It is listed on the *National Register of Historic Places* because of its association with the early history of Quogue.

Our tour today will look at ten of the headstones and the people they memorialize. They span over two hundred years of local history, preserve a variety of carving styles and symbols, and serve as unique records of the past. Importantly, headstones are fragile objects that are exposed to the degrading effects of time, weather and people; leaning or resting on them only increases their chance of loss, and could result in injury. Please be mindful of these considerations as we walk about the site!

Before we begin the tour, we see that headstones within the historic section uniformly face west, whereas those of the later sections do not always adhere to this tradition. We will see why this is so as we take the tour. Various stone types are represented here – brownstone, slate, marble and granite. These become clues to dating the stones when the inscriptions are not visible, and often help to explain why their deterioration happens in different ways.

Each stone tells a story. Let’s look at Quogue’s history through the stones in this cemetery.

1.



EPHRAIM ARCH

1837 – 1909

Ephraim Arch was a sailor of African American descent. Like his Native American friend Abram Enos whose grave we'll visit next, he volunteered for service in the Civil War in September 1864. Arch served on the steamer *Aroostook*. The ship was a gunboat weighing 507 tons and was engaged in a blockade in the Gulf of Mexico, functioning to intercept British vessels bringing supplies to Southern forces. Arch was a member of the Quogue community at a time when few African and Native Americans anywhere in America were given the opportunity to own land and prosper.

Legend states that Ephraim Arch was the son of a slave who washed ashore near Quogue and was granted his freedom, establishing the Arch family line which later intermarried with members of Long Island's Native American tribes. He is said to have acquired property and built a house in Quogue where his descendants continued to live for generations. Ephraim Arch, his son Isaac David Arch and grandsons Isaac Franklin and Walker Arch are all buried here in the Quogue

Cemetery. Ephraim's son Isaac David Arch, born in 1867, became a blacksmith and a hotel proprietor at the Quantuck Hotel on the Main Road. The success of these early African American Quogue residents is a testament to the forward thinking and fairmindedness of the local populace.

2.



ABRAM E. ENOS
1845 – 1920

Abram Edwin Enos was a sailor of Native American descent who volunteered for service in the Civil War in September 1864. Enos was one of only nine Quogue men whose war records have been documented. Enos served as a seaman on the ships *Vermont*, *Kensington* and *Monongahela* before being wounded and honorably discharged. After returning to Quogue, he followed his seafaring interests with cod fishing and whaling during the wintertime, sometimes traveling as far as Newfoundland. Enos, a member of the Poospatuck tribe, married Nancy Lee who was also Native American, whose father was a Presbyterian minister on the Shinnecock Reservation.

Abram and Nancy had thirteen children, 12 daughters and a son, and in the 1890s they acquired a Mansard-roofed, Victorian style house on Jessup Avenue. His daughter Tillie – Matilda A. Sutton – remodeled the house on Jessup Avenue for use as a boardinghouse, which she named the Shinnecock Arms. It accommodated the domestic help that accompanied summer visitors to the village. Abram Edwin Enos also left a permanent legacy in the form of this grey marble monument, which memorializes him and the members of his family. When he died in 1920, Enos left an estate valued at \$5,500 which included real estate, a life insurance policy and two gold filled watches which he left to his grandsons.

3.



JONATHAN COOK

1700 – 1754

Jonathan Cook, one of Quogue’s earliest settlers, is buried beneath this finely carved brownstone typical of the mid- 18th century. The headstone is signed at the bottom by the noted New York stone carver William Grant and is regarded as the best example of this carver’s work on Long Island. The signature reads “Cut by William Grant” is now buried 8” below ground. Grant moved from Boston to New York around 1740 and advertised himself as a stone cutter who “makes all sorts of Tomb-Stones and Head Stones.” His shop was located near Trinity Church in lower Manhattan. Another example of his work may be found at the North End Burying Ground in Southampton village.

The stone demonstrates the classic organization of headstone design for this period, in which the inscription bearing the name and significant dates associated with the individual are centered on the tablet beneath an arched top known as a “tympanum.” Below the inscription there is often a verse or a quotation from scripture; Jonathan Cook’s reads:

*As you are now, so once was I
In health & strength tho here I lie
As I am now, so you must be
Prepare for death and follow me.*

Many versions of this popular rhyme were carved on headstones at this time, reflecting the fatalistic resignation to death that was typical of the religious beliefs of the day. The chubby-cheeked face centered within the tympanum is both a soul effigy, as indicated by its wings, as well as a reference to Jonathan Cook himself, shown wearing a wig. Beneath the image the carver created a large, heart-shaped field containing Cook’s inscription. Decorative trailing vines carved in deep relief fill the spaces on either side of the heart and this outstanding headstone, which also preserves its companion footstone.

4.



MR. ELISHA HOWELL
1704 – 1777

Mr. Elisha Howell was one of the four original Quogue settlers, along with Jonathan Cook, John Foster and Capt. John Post. He and his wife Mary were born in Southampton village, but relocated to the new community at about the time the Quogue Purchase was subdivided into house lots in 1738. Elisha and Mary had a large family – ten children in all – the last of whom (Hannah) was born in 1749 when Mary was 34 years of age.

Howell’s headstone is one of the most ornate in the Quogue Cemetery and represents the “Ornamental Style” of stone carving characteristic of the Connecticut Valley. Brownstone deposits are found throughout that region, and their quarries exported stone to eastern Long Island for headstones as well as fireplace hearths, building foundations and other uses for over a century. This particularly fine headstone employs a scrolled top above the abstract image of Howell’s winged soul, whose bulbous nose, large almond-shaped eyes and tiny down-turned mouth contribute to its melancholic, other-worldly expression. The decorative symbols carved above the face and up-turned wings represent heavenly bodies. This is one of the most prized headstones here at the Quogue Cemetery because of its age and renowned carving style. It surely is magnificent!

5.



CAPT. HENRY GARDINER
1789 – 1867

POLLY GARDINER
1797 – 1841

Captain Henry Gardiner and his first wife, Polly, are among the more colorful figures in Quogue's history, owing to their life at sea during the heyday of the Whaling Era. Gardiner captained the whaleship *Dawn* and his wife accompanied him, passing some of her time crafting a sampler which survives with the inscription: "*Bound to the Pacific Ocean in the ship Dawn, March 16, 1828.*" Polly's voyage on the *Dawn* is the first recorded instance of a wife accompanying her husband on a whaleship on Long Island. Women like her became known as "Sister Sailors" and sometimes spent time in Hawaii with their children while their husbands continued onwards in search of whales. It was unusual at first for a wife to follow her husband to sea in an age when a woman's duty was to keep house, raise children, and maintain the religious and cultural mores of society at home. Whaleships that carried captains' wives became known as "hen frigates" and by one estimate accounted for as many as one in six whaleships by the 1850s.

The Gardiner's large, two-story house which stands at 83 Quogue Street is evidence of the prosperity that the "whale fishery" brought to families and communities on Long Island during the early 1800s. Whaling captains could amass a small fortune and retire from the sea at a young age. Henry Gardiner bought their handsome Main Street house for \$625 in 1826 at the age of thirty seven. Later in his career in the 1840s, Gardiner helped to form the Long Island Canal and Navigation Company, whose object was "to construct canals to connect the great bays on the south side of Long Island, and thus open a new and direct communication with New York." Thus whaling, canal planning and water commerce illustrate here at Capt. Henry Gardiner's gravesite how the history of Quogue is deeply rooted in the sea.

6.



CAPT. JOHN POST

1700 – 1792

ABIGAIL POST

1705 – 1772

Capt. John Post and his wife, Abigail, were among the first permanent settlers in Quogue. They moved here from Southampton village about 1734. Post purchased property from Hezekiah Howell and inherited other land here from his father-in-law, Joshua Halsey. Post had received the title of “Captain” from his service with the 1st Militia Company of Southampton. As a prominent member of the early Southampton Town community, he was appointed to numerous official positions including that of trustee, highway supervisor, assessor, and tax collector. The old Post homestead, one of five still standing in Quogue dating from the 1700s and known locally as “First House,” was moved in 1907 from its original location on Quogue Street to Ocean Avenue.

John Post’s headstone lacks a footstone. Footstones were a traditional custom in the 1700s. His wife Abigail Post’s headstone preserves its footstone, however, illustrating the significance and relationship between the two. The taller headstone

faces west and bears Abigail's inscription, whereas the footstone faces east, carved simply with her "1772" death date and set about six feet away from the headstone. The significance of the two stones and their placement is founded in the belief of the Resurrection; with the Second Coming of Christ, he would rise from the East. People were buried between a headstone and footstone, positioned in such a way that they could sit up and witness this Christian miracle.

7.



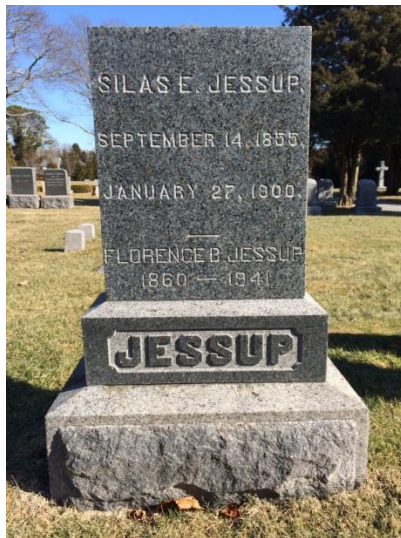
SALLY FOSTER
1855 – 1930

Miss Sally H. Foster, whose parents Erastus and Sarah H. Foster are also buried here in the Quogue Cemetery, descended from one of Quogue's founding families. Sally dedicated herself to her church and charitable work. Along with her sister Miss Julia P. Foster and her friend Miss Mary Hubbard Howell, Sally was a vice-president of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbytery of Long Island, which sent aid to foreign countries, notably to the Far East. Sally was also active with the local Ladies' Aid Society, a charitable organization begun as the U.S. Sanitary Commission during the Civil War which evolved into aid

societies that supported hospitals and war veterans in their times of need. Blankets, food and provisions were sent to soldiers because of people like Sally.

After her death in 1930, a surprise awaited Sally's beneficiaries. The appraised value of her estate, including eleven parcels of land, was \$216,280.31, including a safe deposit box containing heirloom silver, securities and mortgages valued at \$40,000. Following a brief challenge, the contents of the safe were delivered to Sally's cousins, who were her closest relatives. Her house and land were bequeathed to her friend Miss Mary Hubbard Howell. Her property included a Ford truck and a Cadillac, a Buick, a cow, some chickens, and a pig.

8.



SILAS E. JESSUP
1855 – 1900

Capt. Silas E. Jessup served as keeper of the Quogue Lifesaving Station from 1877 until 1891. He is remembered for directing the rescue of the German steamer *Europa*, which ran aground off the Quogue beach in a dense fog on the night of March 30, 1886. The *Europa* was carrying cargo from Hamburg, Germany to New York. The black mass of the ship could barely be seen, its silhouette dimly outlined in the darkness at least four hundred yards off shore. Jessup gave the alarm, and after trying a rescue line shot from a gun known as a “breeches buoy” to engage

the ship, decided to launch a surf boat instead which reached the stricken vessel. With assistance from the crews of two adjoining lifesaving stations – Tiana and Petunk – the 27 member German crew were brought safely to shore. Thirteen days after the *Europa* was stranded, the steamer was “floated off” in damaged condition and towed to New York for repairs.

The grateful captain of the *Europa* later extended his thanks by writing the following letter:

“Mr. S. I. Kimball,

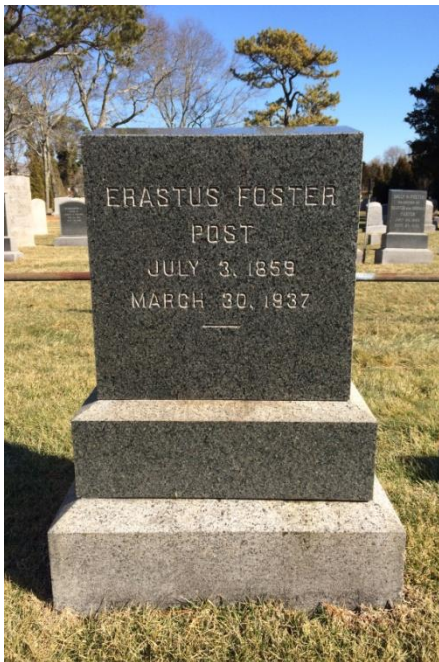
“Washington, D.C.:

“The undersigned, Captain L. A. Kessal, of the German steamer *Europa*, which went ashore March 30, 1886, near Quogue, testifies that his whole crew was saved by the life-saving crew using the cork belt (breeches-buoy). I can only say that the life-saving crew did in every respect gallant and laudable work, for which I express my sincerest thanks, especially to Mr. Jessup.

L. A. Kessal.

F. Bruhn, First Officer”

9.

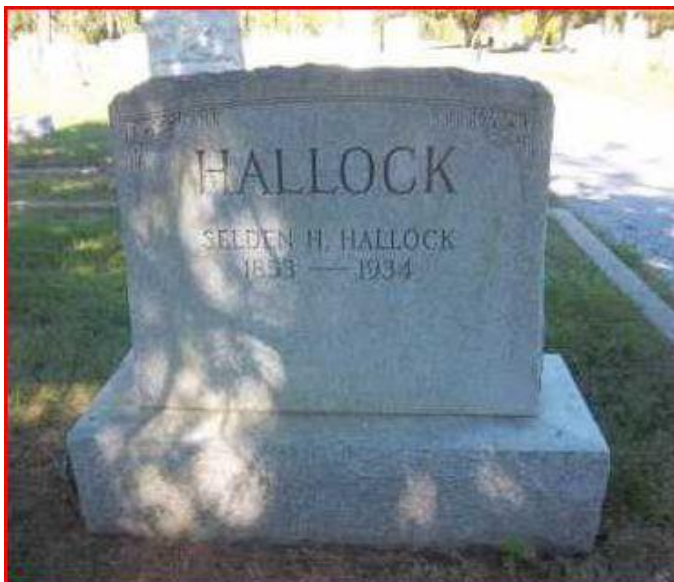


ERASTUS F. POST
1859 – 1937

Erastus Foster Post, a local banker and prominent politician, descended from the Post family that settled Quogue in the 17th century. He is remembered for his public service to the village: for organizing the Quantuck Water Company, establishing both the Quogue Gas Company and Quogue Ice Company, serving as fire commissioner and as president of the Quogue Businessmen's Association, and as superintendent of the Sunday School of Quogue Chapel. Through his service in the New York State legislature, he is credited with creating the first permanent navigable canal between the Shinnecock and Quantuck Bays in 1895. Few aspects of Quogue's civic life were untouched by Erastus Foster Post.

Early in life, Post became an engineer and surveyor, but returned to operate his ancestral farm in Quogue and to experiment with growing new varieties of flowers. "There's nothing in the seed catalogues I haven't tried," he once boasted. It was his love of the outdoors that led him to spend winters in Fort Myers, Florida, where he enjoyed fishing for tarpon. It was on one such excursion, on his 25th annual vacation spent that year at the Hotel Royal Palm, when he hooked a large tarpon which he was determined to land single-handedly. As a result, Erastus Foster Post had a heart attack and died *en route* while returning home on a train to his native Quogue. His determination and commitment to civic improvement left an indelible mark on the evolution of the village he loved.

10.



SELDEN H. HALLOCK

1853 – 1934

Selden H. Hallock and his wife Emma T. Hallock were proprietors of the Quogue House, one of the village's largest and most popular Victorian-era boardinghouses, which stood on Quogue Street. The Quogue House had served as a stage coach stop until the railroad was extended to Quogue in 1870. Selden acquired the boardinghouse from an uncle and later operated a popular bathing station on the beach known as Hallock's Beach, which was later known as the Surf Club.

Hallock is remembered for his generous donation to the Quogue Library to restore and display an anchor he salvaged from the ill-fated ship *Nahum Chapin*. The three-masted schooner, which was loaded with coal and bound for Boston from Baltimore, struck a sand bar 600 yards off the coast of Quogue during a powerful southeast gale and ran aground on the morning of January 21, 1897. The ship's Captain, S. E. Arey, and all eight of his crew were lost. Selden Hallock presented the small anchor or "kedge" to the library in 1919, where it remains on display to this day as a memorial to those sailors whom he and others in the community held in high regard for their work and sacrifice in sea-going commerce.

CONCLUSION

As you have seen from this tour, cemeteries and burial places are not just historical places to visit, but actually glimpses into the past of a community. Here at the Quogue Cemetery, we have talked about various citizens from different time periods. Their headstones are the records of this place. Sometimes they are their only records. The people we have just talked about were part of the fabric of Quogue and their lives provide an insight into its history and development. Thank you for participating and being part of Quogue's history.