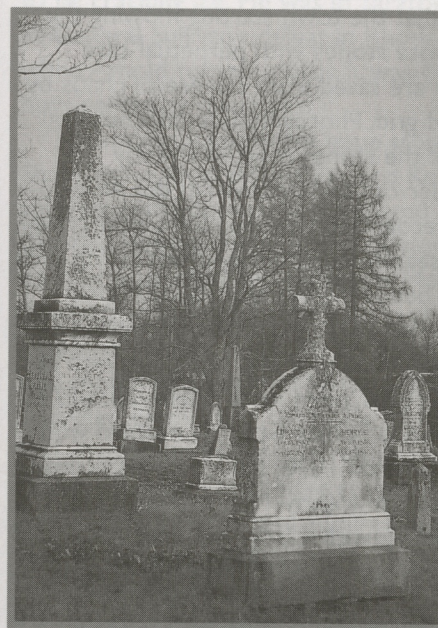


Burial Ground is heavily mounded, but has no markers to establish who is buried there, though it could contain anywhere from six to twenty bodies. The archeology professor, Mike Kimball, is awaiting results from ground-penetrating radar tests to establish the boundaries of the cemetery and the number of bodies. Mike Kimball, Marcus LiBrizzi, an English professor, and history professor Kay Kimball (No relation to Mike.) are taking a multi-disciplinary approach to the research with the goal of reconstructing the history, stories, folklore, and culture of this forgotten community. They also want to re-establish town maintenance of the graveyard and purchase a monument. For further information they can be reached by e-mail at mkimball@maine.edu.

Eastport HILLSIDE CEMETERY

Directions: From Route 1 in Perry, turn onto Route 190, which turns into Washington Avenue in Eastport. When passing through Pleasant Point be sure to follow the 35-mph speed limit to avoid a hefty fine. Take a left onto High Street. The cemetery is .3 mile on High Street.



Full of contrasts, Hillside Cemetery is a good representation of the town of Eastport.

Eastport holds a special place in my heart. It is a paradoxical island town that is as beautiful as it is distressed, doing battle with both the past and the future. This small town at the end of the earth should be totally safe, but it isn't. Glorious views that make the spirit soar and beautifully preserved period homes are juxtaposed with decaying buildings, unlit streets, and empty storefronts that speak of gloom and depression. Even so, I would go back to this enchanting town in an instant. Eastport's gifts are its wonderful history, brought alive through the remaining

19th-century architecture, a gorgeous and active port, and its genuinely friendly townspeople.

In the 19th century, Eastport was one of the country's busiest ports due to its twenty-five-foot tides and deep harbor—the deepest on the East Coast. Port-related businesses included foreign and domestic commerce, commercial fishing and packaging, and shipbuilding. The town was also home to many successful smugglers,

whose chief product for profit was flour. By the 1880s, the population had swelled to nearly 6,000. (It is currently around 1,900.) Rich sea captains, ship builders, merchants, smugglers, and an established middle class accounted for the booming economy. The social life was vibrant: opera, theater, costume balls, and an indoor ice-skating rink that also served for roller-skating in the warmer months.

The Hillside Cemetery is the perfect representation of Eastport, as it, too, is full of contrasts. There are views of the bay and Canada beyond, but you have to look past a ring of rundown houses with hanging laundry and assorted cars in the yard. This large, stately cemetery tells tales of an illustrious past and claims former usage as a park, yet it is evident that keeping it well groomed is a challenging expense. In fact, it is only in recent history that the town starting mowing the entire cemetery instead of only those stones with perpetual care. Stones that face in every direction are saved from a sense of chaos by dirt roads that create an organized grid. Photographers take heart. You'll have sun on at least some of the stones most of the day.

The feeling of ordered disorder can be explained in the development of the cemetery. The town recognized the need for a new graveyard as early as 1814, when their seaside burial ground was facing such serious erosion that caskets were becoming exposed. But Eastport remained occupied by the British until 1818, and it was not until 1819 that the old graves were transferred. Initially, graves were dug with little concern for order. Then, in the 1830s, plots were organized, and in 1846 family plots were established, and bodies were re-interred when necessary. The earliest headstone is dated 1800, though it was probably carved at a later date. There are a few early-19th-century stones, but most are from later in the century, with a large number that are of high quality. The cemetery is still accepting burials and expanding its land holdings.

The two large tombs were probably built by masons and hold more than two hundred bodies. Notice the set-in stone that is marked 5828. A Masonic calendar perhaps? In front of the tombs are the headstones of two British soldiers, Walter St. John and Thomas Raymond.

Near the tombs is a reserved veterans' section that dates back to the Civil War, though there are more than six hundred veterans throughout the cemetery. There are twelve from the Revolutionary War, but not all are marked. Local historian Terry Holt is gradually straightening out records and ordering government stones whenever it is appropriate. One such stone reads:

Daniel Granger
Drummer
Col. Wadsworth Regt.
Revolutionary War
1762-1845

Granger enlisted at thirteen to replace his sick brother and re-enlisted three more times. A story of his bravery has survived. While on guard duty, a great creaking was heard that so frightened the soldier at the next post that he shot off his musket and fled. Young Granger held his post, not at all scared by the sound, which turned out to be cracking ice. He was in Saratoga in 1777, was engaged in battle at General Sullivan's defeat in Rhode Island, and was at West Point when Arnold turned traitor. It was often the case that young enlisted boys served as musicians.

Another government-issue stone belongs to Captain John Shackford, a local shipbuilder and Revolutionary War veteran with an amazing constitution. He completed Arnold's doomed march to Quebec, despite the lack of provisions that created a hellish experience of starvation and exposure. Most of his company was captured in Quebec, where they were held in chains and suffered from smallpox. Upon his release, he broke his promise to his captors that he would not engage in battle, and joined with Washington. When the British occupied Eastport in 1812, Shackford authoritatively told them they had permission to stay. He refused, however, to sign an oath of loyalty, which normally would have resulted in the loss of his property, but the British remembered and admired Shackford's Revolutionary War activities, so he kept his holdings.

One of several recognized war heroes to be found in Hillside Cemetery is Edward R. Bowman, who served in the Union Navy and received the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery during the attempted capture of Fort Fisher in North Carolina. He served on the USS *Ticonderoga* where, despite severe wounds, he acted swiftly to lessen the impact of enemy fire upon the ship.

In the oldest section of the cemetery is a monument topped with a draped urn. It is the heaviest monument found here and belongs to Union General Henry Prince. Prince, born in 1811, graduated from West Point in 1835. He was first wounded during the Seminole Wars in 1836, and again during the Mexican War. In 1862, he was appointed

Brigadier General of Volunteers and was captured at Cedar Mountain, but upon his release continued to prove himself through the remainder of the war. At the age of eighty-one, Prince committed suicide in London, possibly because his old war wounds caused him so much pain.

In this section is a simple marble obelisk that serves as a memorial to Civil War veterans. It is the marker of Captain Thomas Paul Roach, but one side lists the men of Eastport who died in the war. The first two listed, Sgt. Corbett and JNO A. Gray, were both killed advancing colors at the same battle, Chancellor's Hill.

Someone who goes unrecognized in Maine but is famous to Texans is Theodore Lincoln Chadbourne, who was the first officer to die in the Battle of Resaca de la Palma during the Mexican War. Chadbourne has a Texas fort named after him.

Of local note is Jonathan Weston (1782-1834), who was the second lawyer to arrive in Eastport. He was well thought of and allowed to enter politics immediately, serving in many different positions throughout his life. In 1807, he bought a lumber mill that supplied wood for local housing and commerce, built a wharf, and handled the legal affairs of area businessmen. He built the Federal-style Weston House in 1810, where John Audubon stayed during his visits to the area. Today it is an elegant bed-and-breakfast reminding us of his fine taste and prosperity.

Many sea captains are buried here with markers that bear their tales of death at sea. Towards the center of the cemetery is a monument of a broken mast with a coiled rope and the relief of a sinking ship marking the 1867 death at sea of a family of four. The broken mast symbolizes a pillar of society that has been "broken" by death. The epitaph follows:

How sad their fate midst ocean waves
Where they all sunk to watery graves
But in God's word sweet hope is given
That we shall meet again in heaven.

The following is an unconventional epitaph that is carved on the hard granite found in Rockland area cemeteries:

Elijah Lincoln
1827

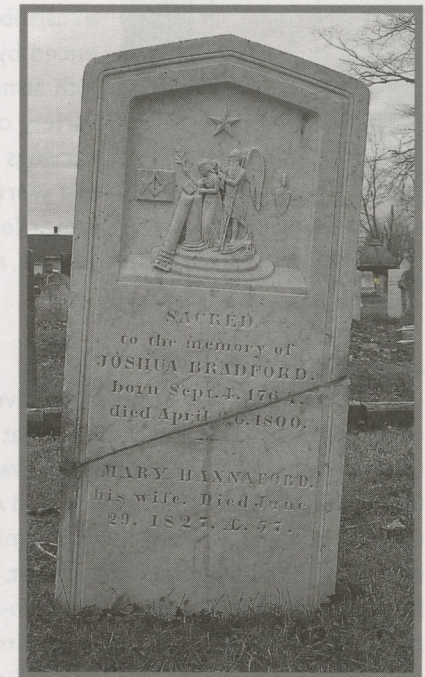
My Elijah dear thy sleep is cold
Thy form with earth is laid
Thy spirit I do hope to see
In heavenly robes array'd
This cheering thought with magic power
H(?)ets from grief its poison sling
And in this dark and dreamy hour
Bring hope and healing in its wing.

The language used is unusual: "magic power," "dark and dreamy hour," and "hope and healing on its wing." They speak more to a mystical, spiritual response in contrast to the religious wording typical of the period.

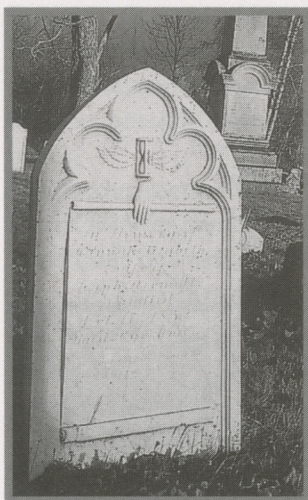
The most unusual carving is also the oldest stone. It is found in the area of the main gate, back a row. It belongs to Joshua Bradford and his wife Mary, and has recently been cleaned and repaired. The wonderful Masonic carving depicts a winged Father Time holding the hair of a weeping woman who is leaning on a broken column and holding a willow branch. The spade, scythe, hourglass, and other Mason symbols are included in the design.

Headstones are particularly effective when the epitaph and the decorative carvings work together to create pleasing aesthetics and an emotional response. This quality is found in a modestly sized marble stone that is richly carved with an ecclesiastical border framing a winged hourglass from which a hand extends to hold an open scroll. Inscribed on the scroll is the epitaph:

In Memory of
Hannah Elizabeth



An elaborate Masonic carving adorns the gravestone of Joshua and Mary Bradford.



Hannah Hornell's elaborate gravestone is carved with a winged hourglass and a hand holding a scroll, on which is written her epitaph.

wife of
Joseph Hornell
who died
Oct 17th 1852
Aged 26 yr's 6 mos
The beautiful have banished
and return not.

Hillside Cemetery, like Eastport, has an irresistible charm that can only be experienced by taking the time to absorb the rich atmosphere and history. The wide variety of epitaphs and the lovely marble carvings are engrossing. Though remote, it is a worthwhile trip, where you'll be rewarded with panoramic views, kind people, and a fascinating cemetery.

Also of Interest:

Terry Holt has done exhaustive research on Hillside's inhabitants: Michiner built steamships, Treat was the first to can lobsters, Leavitt smuggled flour, Harrington was a privateer, Coolidge patrolled for the Revenue Cutter Service, and Abbie Davis MacNichols came to town as a single woman, opened a milliner's shop, and built a three-story brick building on Water Street. That was a very short list of his fascinating characters. He also has in-depth knowledge of veterans and of Eastport's fishing and shipping history. Fortunately for us, he enjoys giving cemetery tours. Tel: (207) 853-4674.

Stop by the **Peavey Memorial Library** for a copy of *The Eastport Walk-About*, an extensive and detailed self-guided tour of Eastport's history. The tour includes 77 sites, 31 of them found in the concentrated historic district along the waterfront. Water Street, Eastport. Tel: (207) 853-4021.

The **Waponaki Museum and Resource Center** has an impressive exhibit of photographs, native clothing, tools, and baskets that the Passamaquoddys are famous for making. The exhibit is free of charge. Route 190, Perry. Tel: (207) 853-4001.

The **Passamaquoddy Cemetery**, off Route 190, is interesting. It is both similar to and different from traditional Euro-American

cemeteries. I was struck by the numerous crosses and angels, and also by the heightened color. Often a boundary of colorfully painted rocks encircles the marker, and the marker itself may be brightly painted. Besides the interesting cultural comparison, the view of the bay is stunning. Exact directions to the cemetery can be obtained from the Waponaki Museum at the main entrance to the village.