

A-

Name: Ellen B. Wilson

Name and address of museum, historical society, historic house, etc. that you have chosen to visit:

Old Burial Ground in Norwichtown

end of Cemetery Lane, Norwichtown, CT

Date of visit: 6-16-95

- 1) Description of artifact you have chosen: size, color, shape, possible uses, etc.:

A gravestone for Hannah Arnold, mother of "the" Benedict Arnold. This

stone sits by ^{ITS} herself with no other stones too close. This granite

stone is approximately 31"x27" rounded at the top with smaller rounded (cont...)

- 2) Information about the artifact provided by signage (label):

Please see inscription on Page 2.

- 3) Information provided by curator, docent, other staff members:

N/A --none available

- 4) Information from secondary sources:

This stone is in remembrance of Hannah Arnold. Not only was she the

mother of the traitor Benedict Arnold, but she was the daughter of a

prominent Norwich citizen. (O'Keefe & Doroshevich, 47). This stone appeared

to be the only one of it's kind in this burial ground. James Slater

thinks it was probably carved by John Stevens II of Newport, RI. (Slater, fig.132)

(Cont...)

- 5) Describe how this artifact represents the culture of its maker. (Please use the back of this form as necessary.)

Please refer to Page 3.

- 1) shoulders on either side. The stone is weathered and cracked. On the top center of the stone is carved a cherub effigy with feathered wings as if poised for her journey to heaven. The face is rounded and deeply cut making the features stand out. The eyes are detailed and appear to be staring at you, the nose is long, thin and slightly rounded at the bottom. The scrolling leaf design flows down both sides and across the bottom.
- 2) The inscription on the stone is as follows:

IN MEMORY of
 Hannah ^e well beloved
 Wife of Cap^t. Benedict
 Arnold & Daughter of
 M^r John & Elizabeth
 Waterman (She was a
 Pattern of Piety, Patience
 And Virtue) who died
 Aug^{ft} 15th 1759
 AEtatis Suae 82

- 4) This is a strong possibility because Benedict Arnold's grandfather was the Governor of Rhode Island. [The Stevens Stonecarvers were the elite in stonecarving. It was very likely family connections could have obtained this stone. Together their carvings ranged over 200 years. (Jacobs, 58) They elevated their work "from status of craft to fine art" (Tashjian, 212) John Stevens II particularly carved ornate details in his work. He favored cherubs with wings swept upwards as on Hannah's stone. (Jacobs, 58). Piety, Patience and Virtue was a common inscription put on female stones.

FOR WOMEN

- 5) This gravestone ^{PIECE}~~piece~~ of artwork memorializing Hannah Arnold's grave is unique to the Norwichtown Burying Ground. The Arnold family was a very important affluent part of Norwich society. The/associated with the Huntingtons, the Leffingwells, and possibly George Washington. Hannah's husband was also a Captain in the military. If Benedict Arnold, her son, had not become greedy and betrayed us to the English, he would have been one of the most ~~sure~~^{POPULAR} heros of all time. Therefore, it was most appropriate for this family to obtained her memorial from the most sought after stonecarvers of this time. The Stevens family had connections to the elite of Newport Society. The stone could have been brought by land or by sea into the Norwich Harbor.

When I located her stone and resting place, I felt so sorry for her for being by herself. Perhaps in the past there had been other markers and they since been destroyed. But now she rests by herself or is it possible due to her son's betrayal, they were keeping her at bay? Hannah had quite a lot of bird droppings, I cleaned 'off' the stone especially on the top where the carving of the cherub is. The stone came quite clean except for a bird dropping kept returning from her left eye like a giant tear.

Gravestone of Hannah Arnold
Old Burial Ground in Norwichtown



WORKS CITED

O'Keefe, Marian K. and Doroshevich, Catherine S. Norwich Historic Homes & Families. The Pequot Press, Inc. 1967: p.47.

Slater, James A. The Colonial Burying Grounds of Eastern Connecticut and the Men Who Made Them. Archon Books, Hamden, CT. 1987: fig.132.

Tashjian, Dickran and Ann. Memorials For Children of Change. Wesleyan University Press, Middletown, CT. 1974: p.212.

Jacobs, G. Walker. Stranger Stop and Cast An Eye. The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vermont. 1973: P.58.