

1 ATKINSON COMMON CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL

Augustus Cambridge (1828-)

Newburyport native, son of John H. and Dolly Ann Cambridge. Served in the U.S. Navy, 1862-1864 on the wooden sailing vessel *James L. Davis*, providing security along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of Florida intercepting schooners attempting to slip through the blockade. Cargos included coffee, stores, provisions, cotton, and other supplies in short supply in the South. In the 1860 census, Augustus lived with his wife, Rachel A., and two daughters Rachel and Susan at 31 Merrimac Street.

Evans Covington (1833-1864)

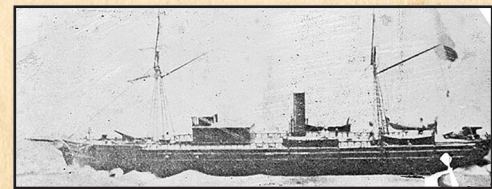
Born in Maryland, Evans and his family lived on Merrimac Street. He served 1863-1864 as Private in Company E, 54th Regiment Mass. Infantry, one of the first Civil War Black regiments. Departed Boston in May of 1863 and attracted thousands of well-wishers while boarding the transport *Demolay* to South Carolina. The heroic assault of the Battery Wagner guarding Charleston Harbor convinced military officers that Black men would fight bravely. Private Covington died "of disease" in Washington, DC, and is buried in St. Elizabeth Hospital Civil War Cemetery.

Arthur L. W. Fowler (1848-1915)

Newburyport native, son of Richard B. and Mary Ann (Bell) Fowler; lived on Boylston Street. Fowler served as a private in primarily Black soldier units Co. C 5th Regiment Mass. Calvary and in the 18th Army Corps. In 1864, Arthur served as an orderly in the 25th Army Corps headquarters near Richmond, VA., fought at the siege of Petersburg, VA, completed his service in Texas, discharged in October of 1865.

Alonzo Furbush (1818-1869)

born in North Berwick, ME; son of Joshua and Susan Furbush. Served 1862-1865. Private Furbush served in Company B in the 35th Regiment Mass. Infantry and attached to the 9th Army Corps, Army of the Potomac. He fought at South Mountain and Antietam, MD in September of 1862. Private Furbush served with the Veteran Reserve Corps in Billerica, MA, and was discharged in December of 1865 and boarded at 28 Franklin Street.



Sailor John A. Osborne served on the USS *Richmond* during the Civil War. *Wikipedia image.*

John A. Osborne (1845-1911)

Newburyport native, lived at 34 Ocean Street; son of John and Mary Ann Osborne. Navy sailor rating of landsman, 1863-1865, John served on the USS sloop-of-war *Brooklyn* and participated in the Union Blockade of the Confederate States and attacked Confederate forts and other installations on the Mississippi River. He joined the USS *Richmond* and was part of the squadron in the Battle of Mobile Bay, Alabama. Military records describe seaman Osborne as 5' 4", mulatto.

2 Jackman Shipyard

A boat builder since the 1790s, Elias Jackman constructed the first whale vessel in Newburyport, the ship *Merrimac*, 1833, 414 tons, 116 feet in length. Master George F. Howe in 1842, took command of the vessel bound for the Indian and Pacific Ocean. "There were 27 men on board...ages 15 to 51; 11 resided in Newburyport, two born in Newburyport, 1 listed as yellow, 1 listed as black, 2 listed as colored, 5 listed as dark, 1 listed as copper. The rest had fair or light complexions." Less than 10 whale vessels were built in Newburyport.

For Sale.
THE cargo of ship *Merrimac*, now landing, consisting of
50,000 gallons of Whale Oil,
57,000 " Sperm do
16,000 lbs. Whale Bone.
Apply to MICAJAH LUNT, Jr. or HENRY TITCOMB, Jr., No 13, Brown's Wharf.

Newburyport Herald advertisement for ship *Merrimac* cargo, May 23, 1837.

3 Sailors on Currier Ships

John Currier Jr., constructed the Ship *Montana* in 1865, and she took on Black sailors: The *Newburyport Herald* February 1866 described the crew: "...is expected to sail on Saturday and will touch at Mobile on her way to New Orleans. All her sailors will be negroes, the whites on board the officers, and four boys, who will take their first lessons in seamanship. The blacks come from Boston and New Bedford. Their sailing for the South indicates a change in their social and political conditions. Formerly shipmasters hesitated on taking them as they were deprived of their services in southern ports and obliged to pay their board in jail." Between 1785-1840, nine vessels registered as whale boats making 14 voyages.

At the Alms House, on Sunday morning, aged 84, Mr. Scipio Purnam, a gentleman of colour.

Headline in *Newburyport Herald and Commercial Gazette*, June 23, 1815.

4 Pomp Jackson

in accordance with Massachusetts law purchased his freedom for five shillings in 1776. Jackson was enslaved and worked in the 201 High Street household of Jonathan Jackson, a wealthy and influential citizen. Jackson writes on June 19, 1776: Gentlemen, in consideration of the Impropriety I feel & have long felt... promised my negro man Pomp that I would give him his Freedom." Soon after Pomp Jackson joined the American Revolution and fought at the Battle of Ticonderoga.

5 Lowell House

203 High Street. John Lowell, Esq. and later Massachusetts Circuit Court justice, in 1773, provided counsel to Caesar Hendrick, who brought a suit against Richard Greenleaf, Esq., of Newburyport "for false imprisonment and restraint in servitude as the said Richard's slave." In 1754, Joseph Woodbridge of Newbury sold to Greenleaf "my mulatto Slave Caesar, of about 16 years for 66 pounds 13 Shillings and four pence." Caesar Hendrick received a verdict in his favor and was awarded 18 pounds. Hendrick served in the American Revolutionary War.

6 Apropos Tracy

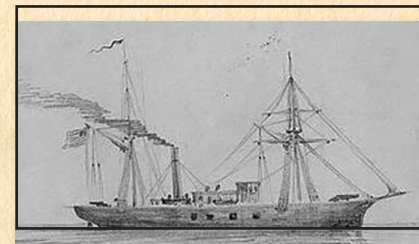
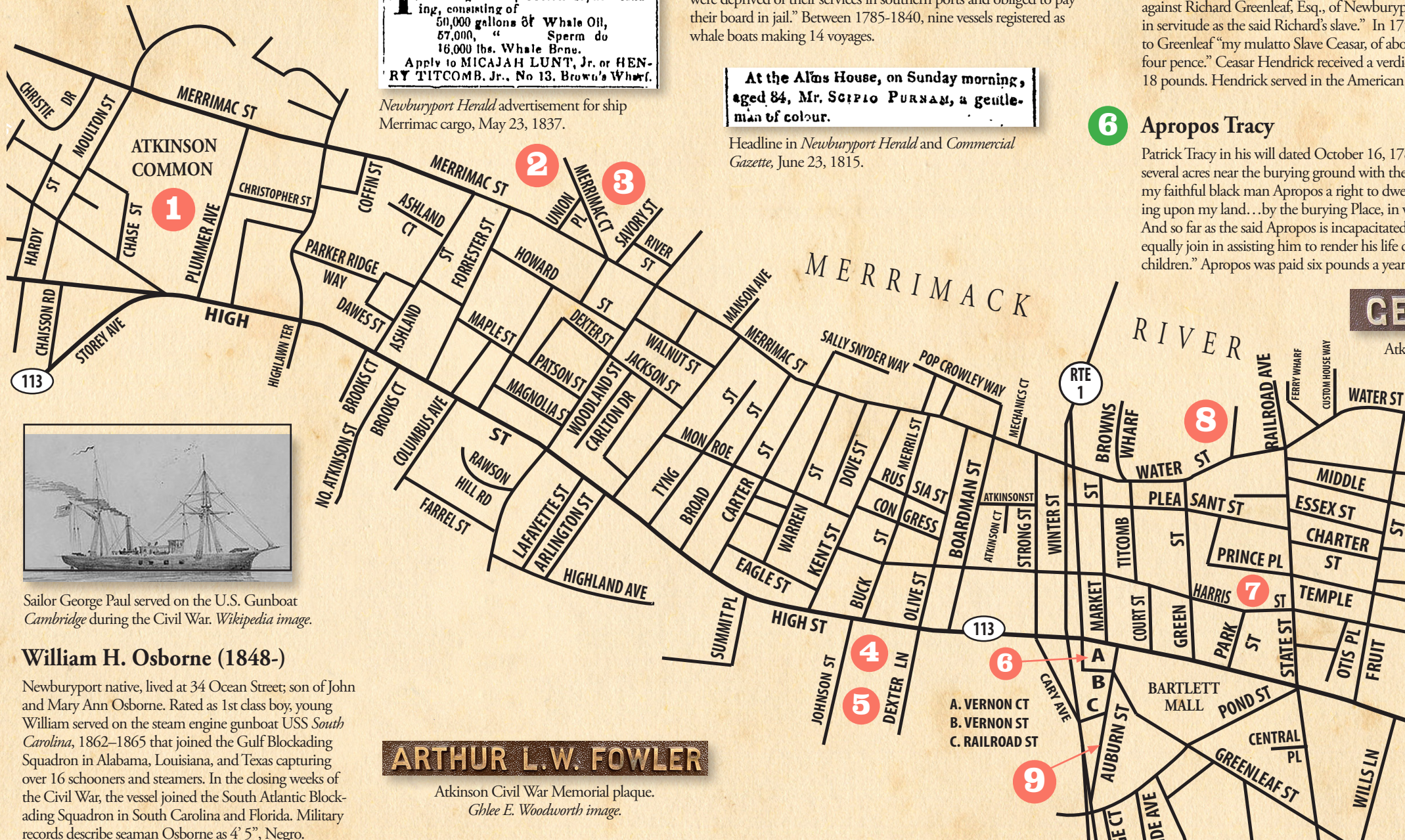
Patrick Tracy in his will dated October 16, 1788, gave to his son Nathaniel's children several acres near the burying ground with the following restrictions: "I hereby reserve to my faithful black man Apropos a right to dwell with his family in the house now standing upon my land...by the burying Place, in which he now dwells...free of any Rent. And so far as the said Apropos is incapacitated from acquiring his subsistence, that they equally join in assisting him to render his life comfortable and this I expect from my children." Apropos was paid six pounds a year.

GEORGE PAUL

Atkinson Civil War Memorial plaque. *Ghlee E. Woodworth image.*



During church services, Black families sat in the balcony. Bench carvings of initials and vessels were discovered. Artist unknown. FRS Unitarian Universalist Church.



Sailor George Paul served on the U.S. Gunboat *Cambridge* during the Civil War. *Wikipedia image.*

William H. Osborne (1848-)

Newburyport native, lived at 34 Ocean Street; son of John and Mary Ann Osborne. Rated as 1st class boy, young William served on the steam engine gunboat USS *South Carolina*, 1862-1865 that joined the Gulf Blockading Squadron in Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas capturing over 16 schooners and steamers. In the closing weeks of the Civil War, the vessel joined the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron in South Carolina and Florida. Military records describe seaman Osborne as 4' 5", Negro.

ARTHUR L. W. FOWLER

Atkinson Civil War Memorial plaque. *Ghlee E. Woodworth image.*

7 Reverend John Lowell's

household included enslaved Blacks, Lucy and Dinah. Originally on the site of the Tracy Mansion, today the public library, the homestead was removed to (10) Temple Street. In October 1767, Lucy married Gregg, the servant of Mrs. Feveryear. Rev. Lowell was the first minister of the Market Square Third Parish Meetinghouse in 1725.

8 Commander John Lee

Lee worked for John and Nathaniel Tracy who built ships on the central waterfront. Owners of privateers (outfitted as warships to capture the enemy) during the American Revolutionary War, the Tracys chose John Lee, described as: "5 foot 4 inches stature, black, swarthy complexion, 40 yrs. Age," to command the Schooner *Hawke*, 1776; Brig *Fancy*, 1777, Brig *Tom*, 1779; and the Ship *Grand Monarch*, 1781. The Brig *Fancy* was captured in August of 1777, Commander Lee and his crew were sent to Mill Prison, England where Newburyporter Charles Herbert, an inmate, recorded their arrival and eventual escape to Spain in his diary.

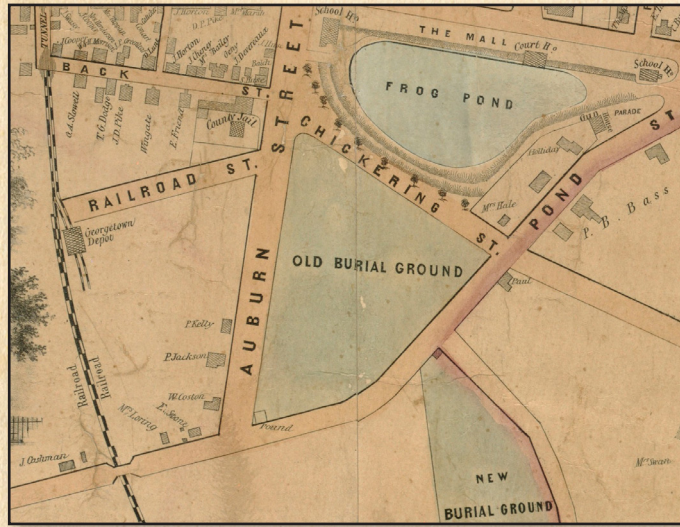
9 Nancy Gardner Prince

(1799-1859) was born free in Newburyport. Her father Thomas died soon after Nancy's birth. After taking care of her mother Mary Worton Gardner and her family for many years, Nancy married mariner Nero Prince in 1824. They sailed to Russia and worked for the Russian Emperor in St. Petersburg for 10 years. Nero (1773-1833) passed away and Nancy returned to Boston and worked as a seamstress. For the next 25 years, Nancy gave lectures about her travels in Russia, was an active member of the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society, assisted efforts in the Underground Railroad and women's rights, and worked as a missionary in Jamaica. In 1850, Nancy published an autobiography entitled "A Narrative of the Life and Travels of Mrs. Nancy Prince."

“Guinea Village”

The small area of Pond, Auburn, and Low streets was once known as “Guinea,” during the late 1700s and early 1800s. In this neighborhood lived many Black families whose enslaved ancestors arrived on vessels from West Africa, the heart of the Atlantic slave trade. “Guinea” was a common name used throughout the Northeast to describe early Black communities.

Census records of the 1780s listed 59 Black men and women living in white households, while the total population was about 4,800 residents. Twenty-five years later, when the city had grown to over 10,000 residents, the Black population was nearly 100; by 1900 the community dwindled to 50.



Newburyport Public Library Archival Center.

Election Day

Nearly two dozen New England towns and cities celebrated Negro Election Day, an opportunity to select their own dignitaries called kings. According to George W. Parsons in the Newburyport *Herald*, 1862: Jemmy Paul “was one of the kings of Guinea” and white residents joined the election celebration. Parsons shared more memories in 1893: Residents included Titus Pickering, George Paul, a fine skater and sportsman; Fred Fatal worked at the Boston Custom House; barbers Andrew Raymond, John Young, and Charlie Jackson; the acrobat John Phillips; Mrs. Taylor, and Mara Loring.

December 23 Apropos Tracy & Dinah Hill

Reverend Thomas Cary handwritten record of Apropos Tracy and Dinah Hill's marriage, December 23, 1783.
Newburyport Public Library Archival Center.

The Young Ladies of “Guinea Village”

Newburyport Herald of January 5, 1878, Oliver B. Merrill writes: “In the year of grace 1820...Some young ladies of “Guinea” not satisfied with their educational privileges dared to present themselves at one of the female grammar schools. This caused much annoyance both to parents and school committee and after considerable talk the authorities voted that “girls of color be excluded from the female grammar schools.” The Female Charitable Society maintained a half-year school for several years, and in 1825 the town voted “to adopt the African school” and furnish a teacher for \$35 to \$65 a year. In 1835, the city school department welcomed the young girls of “Guinea”.

TO THE BENEVOLENT.
Mrs. Nancy Prince, being about to establish a manual labor school for orphans and outcasts at Kingston, Jamaica, requests the aid of the benevolent and the liberal. Any donations in money, children's books, or clothing, may be left at No. 25 Belknap st.—25 Cornhill, before the last week of this month, where they will be thankfully received, and where may be found a pamphlet on the present state of Jamaica, written by Mrs. Prince. Price 25 cents. It may also be obtained at No. 25, Cornhill.
Boston, Nov. 3, 1841.

Nancy Prince solicits donations for a project in Jamaica in the newspaper *The Liberator*, 1841. *Newpapers.com* image.

Advertisement in the *Essex Journal and Merrimack Packet*, March 2, 1774.

TO BE SOLD,
A Healthy Negro Girl,
about twenty three years old, born in this country.—**L I K E W I S E**—
A serviceable M A R E,
which goes well in a Carriage. Enquire of the P. inters.



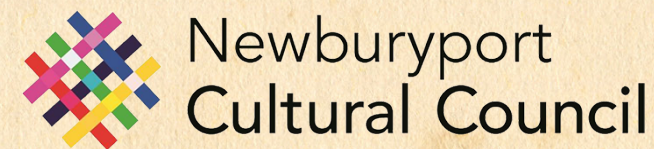
Looking south where Auburn and Pond streets merge, once the location of “Guinea Village”. *Newburyport Public Library Archival Center.*



Namesake of Guinea Village, Guinea Bridge entering Low Street, today the overpass of the Clipper City Rail Trail. *Newburyport Public Library Archival Center.*



Civil War soldier Evans Covington military gravestone. St. Elizabeths Hospital West Cemetery, Anacostia, DC.



Newburyport Cultural Council is a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

*Sponsors: Newburyport Civic League,
Caitlin Healey, FRS Unitarian
Universalist Church.*

*Sources: Newburyport Public Library Archival
Center and Museum of Old Newbury.*

Ghlee E. Woodworth

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NEWBURYPORT BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL

SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AND GUINEA VILLAGE

Newburyport's Black Heritage Trail promotes awareness of contributions by an unrecognized part of the community. Sharing their stories honors their presence, celebrates their lives, and enriches Newburyport's history.

Take a walk through our historic city and see the sites of the formerly enslaved, the Civil War memorial honoring our soldiers and sailors, and visit a neighborhood once known as “Guinea Village”. There are a multitude of stories of our small Black community during the past 300 years awaiting your discovery.