

FORM E - BURIAL GROUNDS  
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

1. Town Chelmsford

Location Westford Street & Littleton Road, Center Section.

Religious affiliation None

Name Forefathers' Cemetery

Owner Town of Chelmsford

Condition: Well kept up Neglected  
(if neglected, explain how)

Who has further information about burial ground?

Not neglected, but there is a Bad vandalism problem. Stones

William H. Drury

constantly being knocked over and thrown around.

(Address) 24 Buckman Dr. Chelmsford

What type information: lot plans inscriptions  
gravestone descriptions other

Approx. number gravestones 1500

some history

Earliest death date 1690

Most recent death date Current

2. HISTORY OF BURIAL GROUND

See attachment

3. MONUMENTS-Overall condition: upright fallen (approx. no.) 10 good inscription legibility

4. MAP: Footage from street 6-8 feet from Littleton Road  
6-150 feet from Westford Street  
100-150 feet from Bridge Street

See attached map

Name of Recorder William H. Drury

Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission Date 2-10-73

For MHC use: USGS

Form # \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. INDIVIDUAL STONES

## A. Architectural or Sculptural Monuments

| Family Name | Date of Monument | Type | Sculptor/Artist |
|-------------|------------------|------|-----------------|
|             |                  |      |                 |
|             |                  |      |                 |
|             |                  |      |                 |
|             |                  |      |                 |
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|             |                  |      |                 |
|             |                  |      |                 |
|             |                  |      |                 |
|             |                  |      |                 |
|             |                  |      |                 |

B. Pre-1830 Stones Since there are about ~~50~~ 600 pre-1830 stones, I have limited my initial list to those through 1700. An attached sheet gives those through 1725. Stone

| Key Words | Status | Last Name    | First Name | Sex | Date       | Age    | Shape | Design | Condition        | P |
|-----------|--------|--------------|------------|-----|------------|--------|-------|--------|------------------|---|
|           |        | Chamberlaine | Mary       | F   | 2-8-1692   | 88     | E     |        | good             |   |
| hltbo     |        | Clark        | Mary       | F   | 12-3-1700  | 53     | E     |        | good             |   |
|           |        | Fletcher     | Samuel     | M   | 2-1-1697   | 11days | E     |        | good             |   |
| hltbo     |        | Fletcher     | Samuel     | M   | 12-9-1697  | 65     | E     |        | good             |   |
|           |        | Fletcher     | Thomas     | M   | 4-3-1698   | 4      | E     |        | good<br>repaired |   |
| hltbo     |        | Hildreth     | Richard    | M   | 2-23-1693  | 88     | E     |        | good             |   |
|           |        | Livermoar    | Grace      | F   | 1-14-1690  | 75     | E     |        | good             |   |
| hltbo     |        | Richardson   | Ezekial    | M   | 11-27-1696 | 29     | E     |        | good             |   |



3. Pre-1830 Stones

| Key Words    | Status   | Last Name   | First Name   | Sex | Death      |     | Stone |        | Condition |
|--------------|----------|-------------|--------------|-----|------------|-----|-------|--------|-----------|
|              |          |             |              |     | Date       | Age | Shape | Design |           |
| flatbo       |          | Hilldreath  | Elizabeth    | F   | 9-4-1716   | 14  | E     |        | good      |
| all in Latin | Reverend | Clark       | Thomas       | M   | 12-7-1704  | 51  | E     |        | good      |
| flatbo       | Capt.    | Adams       | Joseph       | M   | 1-22-1717  | 45  | E     |        | good      |
| flatbo       |          | Chamberlin  | Anna         | F   | 4-21-1720  | 28  | E     |        | good      |
| flatbo       | Capt.    | Barron      | Moses        | M   | 9-16-1719  | 50  | E     |        | good      |
| flatbo       |          | Prockter    | Gershom      | M   | 11-8-1714  | 66  | E     |        | good      |
| flatbo       | Serjeant | Butterfield | Benjamin     | M   | 3-31-1715  | 35  | E     |        | good      |
| flatbo       | Cornet   | Perham      | Benoni       | M   | 3-14-1724  | 48  | E     |        | good      |
|              |          | Perham      | Jonathan     | M   | 4-7-1724   | 13  | E     |        | good      |
| flatbo       |          | Barrit      | Sarah        | F   | 5-23-1716  | 24  | E     |        | good      |
| flatbo       | Lieut.   | Richardson  | Josiah       | M   | 10-17-1711 | 46  | E     |        | good      |
| flatbo       |          | Perham      | John         | M   | 1-21-1721  | 88  | E     |        | good      |
| flatbo       |          | Perham      | Lydia        | F   | 6-26-1710  | 66  | E     |        | good      |
| flatbo       |          | Blodget     | Nathaneel    | M   | 10-12-1710 | 40  | E     |        | good      |
| flatbo       |          | Richardson  | Elizabeth    | F   | 5-9-1722   | 50  | E     |        | good      |
| flatbo       |          | Richardson  | Rememberance | F   | 2-20-1718  | 78  | E     |        | good      |
| flatbo       | Deacon   | Spoldin     | Andrew       | M   | 5-5-1713   | 59  | E     |        | good      |
| flatbo       |          | Spaulding   | Henry        | RM  | 4-5-1718   | 38  | E     |        | good      |
| flatbo       | Lieut.   | Spoldin     | Edward       | M   | 1-10-1707  | 73  | E     |        | good      |
| flatbo       |          | Bates       | John         | M   | 5-22-1724  | 16  | E     |        | good      |

B. Pre-1830 Stones

| Key Words  | Status | Last Name   | First Name | Sex | Death      |     | Stone |        | Condition      |
|--|--------|-------------|------------|-----|------------|-----|-------|--------|----------------|
|  |        |             |            |     | Date       | Age | Shape | Design |                |
| hltbo  | Capt.  | Richardson  | Josias     | M   | 7-22-1695  | 61  | E     |        | good           |
|  |        | Richardson  | Thomas     | M   | 5-6-1698   | 8   | E     |        | good           |
| hltbo  | Deacon | Waldo       | Cornelius  | M   | 1-3-1700   | 75  | E     |        | good           |
| These eleven entries comprise the total stones through 1700.             |        |             |            |     |            |     |       |        |                |
| The list commencing here comprises those stones dated 1701 through 1725. |        |             |            |     |            |     |       |        |                |
| hltbo  |        | Chamberlain | Susanna    | F   | 12-2-1717  | 26  | E     |        | good           |
| hltbo  |        | Hill        | Jean       | F   | 11-15-1711 | 30  | E     |        | sunken         |
| hltbo  |        | Hill        | Jonathan   | M   | 3-24-1710  | 36  | E     |        | good           |
| hltbo  |        | Fletcher    | Mary       | F   | 12-13-1721 | 39  | E     |        | sunken         |
|  |        | Fletcher    | Samson     | M   | 3-1720     | 2   | E     |        | good           |
|  |        | Fletcher    | Joanna     | F   | 4-13-1718  | 2   | E     |        | good           |
| hltbo  | Lieut. | Fletcher    | William    | M   | 5-23-1712  | 55  | E     |        | good           |
| hltbo  | Cornet | Hill        | Nathaniell | M   | 5-14-1706  | 64  | E,B   |        | good           |
| hltbo  |        | Parker      | Elizabeth  | F   | 9-23-1709  | 33  | E     |        | sunken         |
| hltbo  |        | Foster      | Edward     | M   | 2-22-1715  | 59  | E     |        | good<br>sunken |
| hltbo  |        | Foster      | Esther     | F   | 4-16-1702  | 70  | E     |        | good           |
| hltbo  |        | Foster      | Rebeckah   | F   | 10-30-1722 | 62  | E     |        | sunken         |
| hltbo  | Deacon | Foster      | Samuel     | M   | 7-10-1702  | 83  | E     |        | good           |
| hltbo  |        | Foster      | Sarah      | F   | 12-27-1718 | 62  | E     |        | good           |
| hltbo  |        | Hilldreath  | John       | M   | 3-17-1714  | 16  | E     |        | good           |

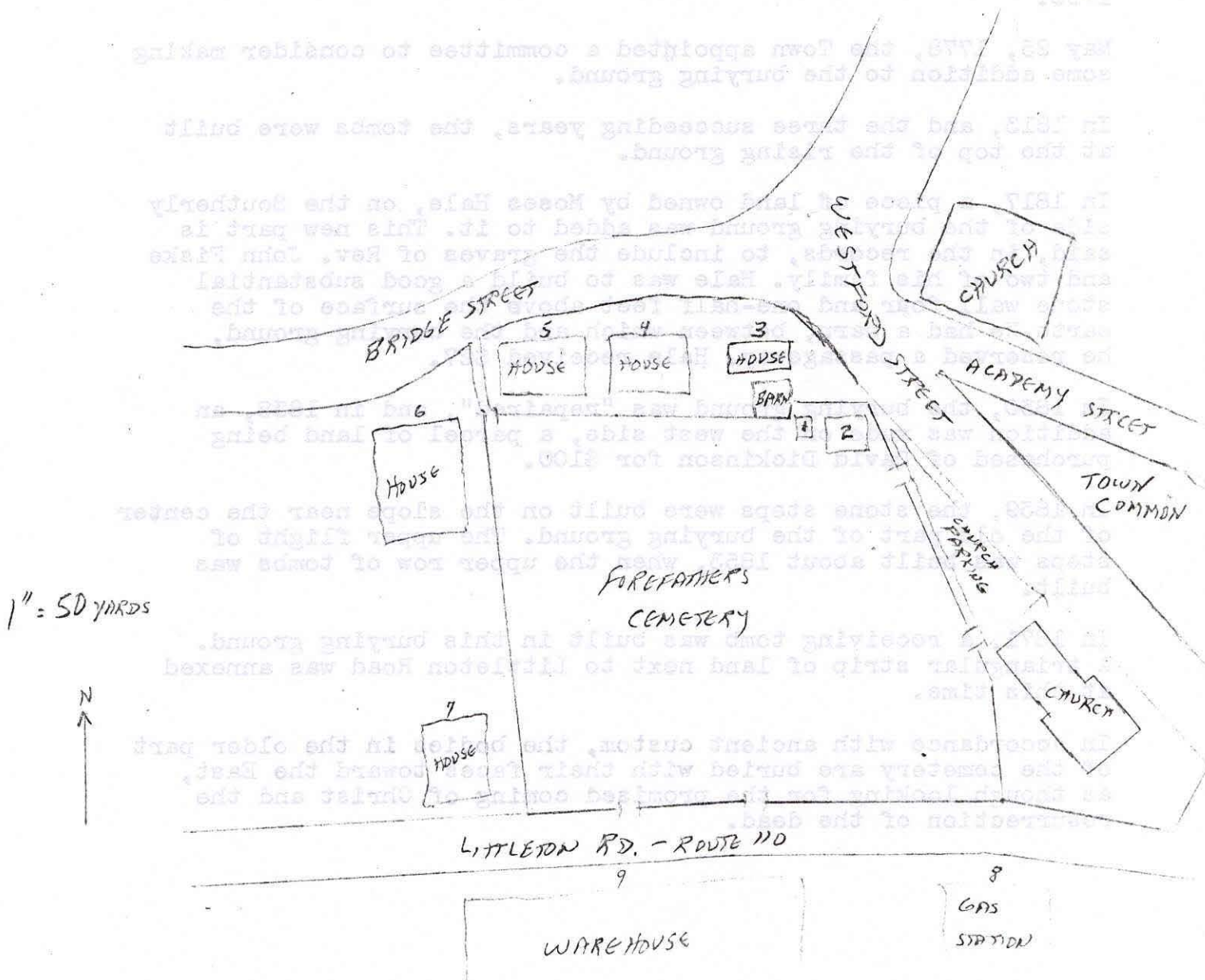


B. Pre-1830 Stones

| Key Words | Status | Last Name | First Name  | Sex | Death Date                              | Age | Stone |        | Condition |
|-----------|--------|-----------|-------------|-----|---|-----|-------|--------|-----------|
|           |        |           |             |     |   |     | Shape | Design |           |
| hltbo     |        | Bates     | John, Senr. | M   | 4-17-1722                               | 80  | E     |        | good      |
| hltbo     |        | Bates     | John        | M   | 5-1-1722                                | 53  | E     |        | good      |
| hltbo     |        | Bowers    | Elizabeth   | F   | 3-4-1721                                | 75  | E     |        | good      |
| hltbo     |        | Hildreath | John        | M   | 3-10-1724                               | 20  | E     |        | good      |
| hltbo     |        | Fletcher  | Mary        | F   | 1-30-1704                               | 28  | E,B   |        | good      |
| hltbo     |        | Fletcher  | Samuel      | M   | 1-24-1704                               | 40  | E,D   |        | good      |
| hltbo     |        | Dutton    | Mary        | F   | 2-9-1724                                | 53  | E     |        | good      |
| hltbo     |        | Howard    | Nathaniel   | M   | 1-21-1709                               | 67  | E     |        | good      |
|           |        | Parker    | Rebeckah    | F   | 12-12-1724                              | 5   | E     |        | good      |
| hltbo     | Major  | Hinchman  | Thomas      | M   | 7-17-1703                               | 74  | E     |        | good      |
|           |        | Hinksman  | Elizabeth   | F   | broken off, but about same age as above |     |       |        |           |
| hltbo     |        | Stratton  | Richard     | M   | 4-8-1724                                | 60  | E     |        | good      |
|           |        | Bowers    | Jarathmel   | M   | 5-7-1715                                | 15  | E     |        | good      |
|           |        |           |             |     |   |     |       |        |           |
|           |        |           |             |     |   |     |       |        |           |
|           |        |           |             |     |   |     |       |        |           |
|           |        |           |             |     |   |     |       |        |           |
|           |        |           |             |     |   |     |       |        |           |
|           |        |           |             |     |   |     |       |        |           |
|           |        |           |             |     |   |     |       |        |           |
|           |        |           |             |     |   |     |       |        |           |
|           |        |           |             |     |   |     |       |        |           |

# Plan of Forefathers Cemetery, Chelmsford, Mass.

1. Middlesex Canal Toll House. Historical building owned by Town and temporarily stored here.
2. Historical Schoolhouse built in 1802. Owned by Town.
3. #4 Westford Street
4. #2 Bridge Street
5. #4 Bridge Street
6. #10 Bridge Street
7. #31 Littleton Road
8. Service Station - #4 Littleton Road
9. Warehouse - Old Chelmsford Ginger Ale Co.





History of Forefathers' Cemetery  
Chelmsford, Mass.

From: Waters: History of Chelmsford, 1917

It was probably some years after the settlement of the Town before there was any established burying place. The first grave is said to ~~be~~ have been upon the land of Thomas Henchman, later owned by Mr. E.H. Warren. A few uninscribed stones of rough surface appear to mark the earliest graves in Forefathers' burying ground, but the year 1690 is the date of the first stone bearing an inscription. In 1702, a "rough fence", and in 1708, a "board fence" was placed around the burying ground. This was replaced in 1717 by a stone wall, and in 1790 one of more permanent character was built; this was repaired in 1793.

May 25, 1778, the Town appointed a committee to consider making some addition to the burying ground.

In 1813, and the three succeeding years, the tombs were built at the top of the rising ground.

In 1817, a piece of land owned by Moses Hale, on the Southerly side of the burying ground was added to it. This new part is said, in the records, to include the graves of Rev. John Fiske and two of his family. Hale was to build a good substantial stone wall four and one-half feet above the surface of the earth. He had a barn, between which and the burying ground, he reserved a passageway. Hale received \$27.

In 1830, the burying ground was "repaired", and in 1838, an addition was made on the west side, a parcel of land being purchased of David Dickinson for \$100.

In 1839, the stone steps were built on the slope near the center of the old part of the burying ground. The upper flight of steps was built about 1853, when the upper row of tombs was built.

In 1871, a receiving tomb was built in this burying ground. A triangular strip of land next to Littleton Road was annexed at this time.

In accordance with ancient custom, the bodies in the older part of the cemetery are buried with their faces toward the East, as though looking for the promised coming of Christ and the resurrection of the dead.

Lowell Weekly Journal, November 5, 1886

At a Town meeting, held Jan. 10, 1817, a committee submitted a report which was accepted, recommending the enlargement of the cemetery, and an extract bearing upon the subject of the article here follows: - Tradition informs that certain ancient monuments on land of Mr. Moses Hale, adjoining the graveyard, and upon the southerly side of the same, cover the graves of Rev. Mr. Fiske and two of his family.....Your committee: recommends that the Town purchase of Mr. Hale land containing the graves of Rev. Mr. Fiske and two of his family, and add the same to the graveyard, on terms proposed by Mr. Hale.

While therefore it is assured that Mr. Fiske's ashes repose on consecrated ground, it is true, as first stated, that no stone marks his resting place.

Mr. Fiske was the first minister, and he died Jan. 14, 1676-7



Cemetery Information of Varied Importance

HEART POND CEMETERY:

A Book of the Records of the Church of Christ in Chelmsford

Memorandum by the Rev. Ebenezer Bridge, located at rear of book, turned up-side-down:

There was a new burying place began in the year 1774 - near the Baptist meeting place, South End - By the burial of a child of one Elisha Rich a Baptist teacher, as well as a blacksmith by trade - & who was ( ) after, ordained, viz: 5th October 1774.

Dec: 26 Infant child of Thos Hutchins

However, I did not look upon myself as called to keep a record of the burial in the burying place, so I left off early.

Town Order Books 1843 - 1860

Orders by Selectmen to Joseph Manning, Town Treasurer

February 24, 1854

No. 35

Pay to Mr. Solomon E. Byam, or order \$21.00

Being for building a wall around the South Burying ground in Chelmsford

FOREFATHERS' CEMETERY:

The earliest marked grave is that of Grace Livermore, wife of John, but until just recently it has been not known who she was or why she happened to be buried here.

Livermore Family of America, by Walter Eliot Thiving, 1902

"Grace Livermore, his wife, was an obstetrician, and was sometimes summoned to court as a witness in cases where she had acted professionally. She died January 14, 1690, in Chelmsford..... buried near the gate. Her will, dated December 19, 1690, proved June 16, 1691, mentioned her son and daughter, Abraham and Martha\* of Chelmsford, where she died; also son John Coolidge; grandson James Townsend; her sons John, Nathaniel and Samuel, but not Daniel."

According to a descendant, Bennie Larj, Grace Sherman was the wife of John Livermore, who died in Watertown, Massachusetts in 1684.

Lowell Courier-Citizen

July 24, 1916

The hedge about Forefathers' cemetery is receiving a much needed pruning. The cemetery property is under the conscientious care of J. Roland Parkhurst, who has had charge of the grounds for the past ten years. He is deeply interested in the work and knows the old cemetery by heart. The Pine Ridge cemetery is also under his care, and he is able to tell the exact location of the 100 or more unmarked graves to be found there.

\* Chamberlain



## FOREFATHERS BURYING GROUND

Forefathers is an example of a well preserved burying ground . The location of the grave stones is in their original configuration and not in neat rows as was done to most cemeteries in the late 19<sup>th</sup> early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many footstones remain. Purchase of a pair of stones meant head-stone and foot-stone, many footstones include decorative designs as well as initials. This identified the location of the coffin head to foot when further burials took place. This burying ground has 9 stones that date before 1700. and over 300 before 1800. Carved on many stones is "Memento Mori" (Remember death) or "Hora Fugit" (Time flies.) Early slate stones are thick, short, wide rather than tall. Later slates were much taller, approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of a marker is below ground. The back of a slate is an indication of its age; very thick with rough-cuts early, then with chisel marks, finally the back as smooth as the front. Materials used were schist (to mid 1700's,) slate (mid 1700's to 1840's,) marble (1840's to early 1900's,) then granite (with use of power tools.) There was much overlap in above time frame depending on carver, material available etc.

There was a religious movement in the mid 1700's called the Great Awakening. One of the beliefs was followers were supposed to be buried facing east so when the great day arrived they would arise from their graves and face the Lord. This is an explanation for some of the graves facing the east.

**1 EARLY BOULDER** This boulder has initials "JB." Many early markers were of wood (which quickly decayed) or fieldstone with or without carved initials. Very few fieldstones remain in cemeteries today, because cemetery caretakers believed them to look unkempt.

**Most of the simple** to elaborate early to mid- 18<sup>th</sup> century stones were carved by the Lamson family of Charlestown; Joseph, 2 of his sons - Caleb, & Nathaniel, 2 grandsons and 3 great grandsons. The earliest markers were without borders or very simple ones, then eventually using very elaborate borders and designs. Joseph's dominant design was; a skull with eyebrows turned up at the end, two rows of teeth, and wings. Later soul effigies (transition between a skull and a face) replaced the skull. His sons basically followed the same designs. Notice Rev. Thomas Clark's (1704) elaborate marker, carved by Joseph Lamson in comparison to the not as intricate marker of Stephen Scales carved by one of the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation. About 1715 the Lamson carvers began to use slate from a new quarry stripped with colors. Chelmsford has an unusually large number of these reddish stones with the grain running horizontally, diagonally or vertically. The 4<sup>th</sup> generation followed with changing styles, eventually the popular urn and willow. However, once there were other carvers in the area, the purchase of stones from the Boston area carvers diminished, it was cheaper to buy locally. Some early stones were carved by other Boston area carvers. Following are some Lamson stones. Lamson and Worcester stones appear in the same time frame.

**2 Grace Livermore** Earliest dated grave is 1690. She moved to Chelmsford from Watertown in 1685 to live with daughter, Mary Chamberlain whose grave is nearby. Grace was a midwife. Notice spelling of her name.

**3 Richard Hildreth** Died 1693. One of the original settlers of the town. To preserve the stone the Hildreth family Asso. had the original slate mounted in Rockport granite.



**4 Samuel and Thomas Fletcher** Children of Samuel and Mary Fletcher; Samuel died in 1697 age 11 days and Thomas in 1698 age 4 (see tiny footstones.) It was unusual at this time to purchase stones for little children. Families had little cash money to spend, bartering usual way to trade. Both parents died in 1704, ages 40 and 28. Children's stones were carved by Lamson cost "0-24-0" (pounds-shillings-pence) compared to **5 Ezekial Richardson's** stones which cost "for funeral charges, for the coffin, digging ye grave and stone 1-14-0" in 1699.

**6 Cornet Nathaniel Hill** Died 1714. He served in the Province Wars in 1670's-1680's, continued to use title of Cornet (officer of lowest rank frequently carried the flag.) He held many local offices. At this time the continued use of military titles was very common throughout life.

**7 Capt. Moses Barron** Died 1719. Capt. in Province Wars, innkeeper, selectman, etc. Notice color of slate.

**8 Thomas Clark** Died 1704. 2<sup>nd</sup> Minister. The town paid 50 shillings to erect a monument over his grave. Look at the detail, the imps of death etc. The inscription in Latin reads "Here to the dust are committed the remains of the Rev. Master Thomas Clark the distinguished pastor of the flock of Christ in Chelmsford, who in the faith, and in hope of eternal resurrection, breathed forth his soul into the bosom of Jesus, the 7<sup>th</sup> of Dec. the year of our Lord 1704 in the 52<sup>nd</sup> year of his age."

**9 Stephen Scales** Died 1772. Also a lengthy inscription in Latin, this language was used for minister, scholar, etc. Epitaph also tells how he died, age 31 from measles.

**Number of stones carved by Worcester family** (Wooster-Worster) At the same time the Boston area carvers were carving stones with impressive designs, there were carvers in the Merrimack River Valley carving much cruder and simpler designs. Jonathan, (who learned the craft from Richard Leighton) and his son, Moses lived in Harvard. Their slate came from Pin Hill quarry and was an excellent slate. It is the reason so many of these stones are in good condition today. The face is an effigy, decorations include coils, six pointed star, ye (with the small e in the y.) Many examples of their work are here. Some stones taper top to bottom.

**10 Samuel and Esther Adams** Died 1745. Frequently double stones were used for deaths occurring close together. She was 32, her son 10.

**Box tombs** there are three in the cemetery. Usually used for someone prominent or wealthy. The years have not been kind to box tombs they collapse. Internment was not in the box but in the ground.

**11 Stoddard- Harrington** This box tomb was erected after the death of Elizabeth Stoddard (1743) wife of Rev. Samson Stoddard 3<sup>rd</sup> Minister. The inscription is for Elizabeth, and other family members. The exact location of Sampson's grave is unknown. He committed suicide in 1740 by drowning in the well. The town paid his widow 132 pounds for funeral expenses. Funerals for ministers were expensive, gifts given, etc. In 1740 his daughter, Sarah married Rev. Bridge 4<sup>th</sup> minister.



**William Park** came from Scotland in 1757 and settled in Groton. He and his sons carved markers from simple to increasingly sophisticated designs. Skulls with/without wings and/or crossbones, soul effigies, faces with wings, fat faces with almond shaped eyes and wigs, women with hair. Portrait stones (the faces on Rev. Bridge's and Jonas Clark's markers were supposed to represent the face of the deceased) were carved by William's son Thomas. Noted for: elegant side panels with vines, flowers, sometimes thistles; very neat lettering; good quality slate.

**Skulls** include a variety of designs of skulls with and without cross bones.

**12 Oliver Fletcher, Esq.** Died 1771. One of the most important men in town, lived in Rev. Thomas Clark's house, then in 1765, began a new house that took 1-1/2 years to build. He was a good friend of Rev. Bridge who kept an excellent diary. To quote "A worthy man, my true friend & neighbor; a great loss sustained in this death to the town and country as well as his own family." Cost of marker, "paid Park 2-19-9."

**13 Rev Ebenezer Bridge and Madame Sarah Bridge** He died 1792, she died 1783, (both stones by Park) his a portrait stone, wearing his clerical collar. **He wrote a gossipy diary that provided much of material for town's history.** During his term as 4<sup>th</sup> minister the Baptists or Separatists drew away from the established church to form their own in South Chelmsford. This caused him much grief. He was one of the best educated men in town and had many prominent Boston friends. Madam Bridge's marker, with skull and cross bones, like Oliver Fletcher's is old fashioned for its time the late 1700's. Their footstones are decorated. Their daughters are in row behind, Elizabeth who died at 7 and Kathryn at 1, (8 days apart.)

**Space was** not kept in the graveyard to bury family members side by side, usually space kept by husband for wife or vice versa but not for children. Large families were the norm and parents never expected all their children to live to adulthood. Contagious diseases killed many children; consumption and childbirth were other leading causes of death. Yet it is remarkable how aged many were at the date of death (80's and 90's.) It seemed that if one survived childhood, one was destined for old age. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century it was necessary for a couple when one died, the other to marry again relatively quickly. A wife could not support herself and/or the children; a husband needed a wife to cook and care for his family. Very few had the financial means to remain independent. The graveyard was buried coffin to coffin. Families washed the dead, dug the graves, carried the bodies to the graveyard, and the prayers were said by the grave. The following Sunday in church, the minister would pray for and eulogize the deceased. Only minister's or important citizen's funerals would be held in the church. It was only in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, the coffin became a casket and the burying ground or graveyard a cemetery. Cemetery means sleeping place.

The terms relict means widow and consort wife.



**The Church records** do not show that any of the following are buried here:

Martha Barrett Sparks who was sentenced to jail in Cambridge as a witch and finally freed. Probably buried at her homestead.

There were 36 negro deaths recorded between 1747 and 1830. Before slavery was abolished in Mass in 1780 when all slaves were declared free, 17 of the leading citizens of town owned slaves.

Of the many citizens who fought in the Revolutionary War 45 are recorded as being buried here.

**14 Jonas Clark and Mrs Elizabeth Clark** Col. Jonas Clark was oldest son of Rev. Thomas Clark. He died 1770. His sister was grandmother of John Hancock. Wonderful symbolism-cherub with book taking him to heaven, another blowing a trumpet. (One of William Park's masterpieces.) Elizabeth died 1767. Look at faces on side panels- old belief that soul left the body after death from mouth. The daughter **Elizabeth's** marker gives no date of death- assume from church records, she is Elizabeth Clark who died in 1794. Perhaps stone was erected before her death and date never added. Son, **Timothy's** stone carved by Parks cost 3-10-8.

**15 Jonathan Barrett** Died 1773. Notice the thistles, to left is **Ebenezer Barrit** (sp) with crown. This not uncommon design but only one here.

**16 Foster children** William died 1749 age 4, Aaron 1753 age 2, the second William died 1756 age 1, (different design on each stone, carvers Worcester- Park- unknown.)

**17 Lt. John Parker** Died 1763. "From deaths arrest no age is free." On left is double stone with double footstone for John and Rebekah Parker his parents.

**18 Andrew Fletcher** Died 1769. Notice details and spelling.

**Next major stylistic change** were soul effigies instead of skulls still including wings. Note the number of husband and wife stones, the husband- a face with wings, the wife- a face in a niche. Many of these carved by either Paul Colburn or John Ball who lived in Harvard and southern NH. After 1826, Lowell carvers; Benjamin Day, David Nichols, and Theodore Warren work appeared. Basically their slate stones are all the ubiquitous urn and willow. The urn was an ancient burial for ashes the weeping willow for mourning. This design first appeared as early as 1790 but not in this area.

**19 Ruth Spaulding** Died 1754, age 21. This begins the change in style from skull to face. Probably Worcester's work because it used his border design.

**20 Samuel Chamberlain** Died 1767. It shows a skull without teeth but not yet a face. He lived in the Pine Hill House Charles Parlee restored.



**21 Lucy Adams** Died 1785. Notice the design over her head (umbrella) also classical columns on side, trees (?) come from her ears. John Dwight carved this stone, he used many different decorative designs, including palm leaves.

**22 Deacon Benjamin Adams** Died 1762. (no relation to Lucy) Notice flying up wings.

**Story telling time** There are so many wonderful tales about the people buried here.

**23 Hannah Fletcher and her four children** Died 1778. She was 30, the children; Rebekah died on Sept 24, Jephthae died Sept 26<sup>th</sup> and was buried with his mother, Mary died Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sarah died Oct 4. The history of Chelmsford does not give the cause of death, probably smallpox for the parent and children to die at the same period. Number of smallpox epidemics occurred in Chelmsford around time of the Revolutionary War.

**24 Jonathan Harwood and his wives** **Lieut Jonathan** died in 1783. (Dwight stone): his first wife, **Joanna** 1737 (Lamson stone) (barely readable covered with lichen;) 10 months later he remarried 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, **Mary Parker** 1754 (Worcester stone;) 3<sup>rd</sup> marriage to **Judith** 1766 (Dwight stone;) 4<sup>th</sup> to **Mrs Lucy Proctor** 1774 (Colburn stone) (she is buried next to 1<sup>st</sup> husband William Proctor,) (Lucy's stone is in a line with front corner of the schoolhouse;) 5<sup>th</sup> wife **Mrs. Mary Cummings** who survived him, is not buried here, perhaps in Westford. Jonathan was a difficult man to live with, a number of times Bridge's diary mentioned difficulties with him. It is a wonder he managed to find 5 women to marry him.

**25 Betty Blood** Died 1771. Her stone tells that "7 children lie at her feet." There are no markers for these children, one grown son's stone is nearby. Notice her husband's stone and stones of **John and Elizabeth Davis** to left. Men have wings, wives have faces in niches.

**26 Nathaniel and Levi Marshall** Died 1820. They died in the explosion in powder mill, ages 26 & 22.

**27 Glass workers Hirsch, Sticklemire, Hay etc,** All buried in same area. **John Sticklemire** 1814 age 48 "dropsy by intemperance;" **James Hay** 1826 age 52 listed as "engraver & worker of stone, artist and liberal Catholic;" **Lewis Hirsch** 1830 age 18 "fall from carriage;" **Francis Hirsch** 1847; **Barnabas Bradt** 1828 "fever;" **Henry Bradt** age 32 "drowning". Hay carved **Mary Thompson's** marker and some of these. Look for his distinctive rosette and willow tree.

**Glass works** began in Middlesex Village about 1802 and moved to Suncook NH. about 1840. Their major product was window glass. The Barrett-Byam house has wonderful collection of other glass items.

**Once marble** was available, no one wanted the "old slate." Marble was pure, white etc. Extensive use of marble depended on railroad transportation to bring it from Vermont quarries at a reasonable cost.



**Epitaphs** changed. Once it was "Behold my child as you pass by, as you are now so once was I, as I am now so you must be, prepare for death and follow me" change to words like "At Rest," "Gone but not forgotten," "Till we meet again."

**28 Thomas Marshall** Died 1860. Notice the finger pointing to book.

**29 Ephraim Spaulding** (look up steps stone is on right) Only plow I have ever seen on a tomb stone.

**30 Alva Hildreth** Died 1883. Shaking hands meant that we will meet again. Hands are sometimes carved with male and female hands displaying different cuffs, one with ruffles, the other plain.

**White Bronze** Material is actually zinc. They were manufactured in Bridgeport CT. and sold by catalogue over much of US. It was not sold as cheaper material but claimed it would last forever. Nothing damages it, does not split like slate, decay like marble, nothing grows on it etc. It could be purchased in number of styles and designs- Angels, Confederate soldier, Union soldier, large and small monuments. Panels were ordered with decorative design and family information. When needed, blank or design panels could be replaced with information about newly deceased. Small cemeteries in rural areas have many of these markers. Was this because there were no local carver available at the time.

**31 Andrew Park & Calvin Allen** Information is easy to read. **Spaulding** stones are nearby, parents names on one side, children on the reverse.

**32 Ministers : John Fiske** Died 1676. This cenotaph erected in 1899, (cenotaph means body is not buried here.) His marker was probably wood, exact location is not known. He was first minister to come here in 1656. Ministers kept all the records of the towns; births, marriages, deaths etc. His house was across Littleton Rd near RR tracks.

**Wilkes Allen** Died 1845. 6<sup>th</sup> Minister, wrote *History of Chelmsford* in 1820. It was the first published history of a town in US. (look to left and up two rows from Fiske obelisk to see Allen's marker- marble -dove flying to heaven.) Rev Allen lived at 16 Westford St where his predecessor Hezekiah Packard once lived .

**Wilson Waters** Died 1933. He was the 4<sup>th</sup> rector of All Saints, came here in 1892. Like Allen, a historian, and he wrote using all the previous records he could locate, the second *History of Chelmsford* published in 1917. (The monument is a large cross)

**I have used the spelling** on names as they are in use today. Many variations, some may have been the carver's fault, others as the family spelled the name at the time the markers were carved. I am indebted to Jane Drury and her husband, William, for their untold hours of work in cataloguing and recording the information of the stones in the town cemeteries. Without their maps and identification of every grave, locating the grave one wished to find would be extremely difficult.

Also thanks to my husband, John Goodwin, for his support and encouragement.

**Catherine L Goodwin**

Gravestones & Their Builders - Forefathers' Cemetery

|                               |             | Map #  |  |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--|--|
| B. Day, Lowell                |             |  |  |
| Henry Bradt                   | d. 1830     | #682   |  |
| Barnabus Bradt                | d. 1828     | #682   |  |
| Lucinda Bryant                | d. 1830     | #435   |  |
| John Semple                   | d. 1836     | #437   |  |
| Edward Smith                  | d. 1836     | #434   |  |
| Rachel Warren                 | d. 1836     | #168   |  |
| husb. Jeremiah                | d. 1810     | #168   |  |
| dau. Sybil                    | d. 1816     | #168   |  |
| Azariah Proctor               | d. 1838     | #613   |  |
| Joel Parkhurst                | d. 1841     | rear section                                       |  |
| Rev. Wilkes Allen             | d. 1845     | #431   |  |
| John Carlton                  | d. 1846     | #428   |  |
| wife Sarah                    | d. 1825     | #428   |  |
| T. Warren, Lowell             |             |  |  |
| Samuel Parkhurst              | d. 1849     | #344   |  |
| Reuben Parker                 | d. 1850     | #470   | probably, builder's name difficult to read |
| wife Mary                     | d. 1803     | #470   |  |
| D. Nichols, Lowell            |             |  |  |
| C. B. & S. B.                 | d. no date  | #440   |  |
| Susan B. Barrett              | d. 1823?.18 | rear section; age 55; wife of B. F. Barrett        |  |
| Andrews & Wheeler, Lowell     |             |  |  |
| Betsy Proctor                 | d. 1852     | rear section; wife of Daniel Proctor               |  |
| Sewall Parkhurst              | d. 1860     | rear section                                       |  |
| Charles Parkhurst             | d. 1861     | rear section                                       |  |
| Mary B. Clodston              | d. 1891     | rear section, next to John G. Clogston, "his wife" |  |
| Lucinda Parkhurst             | d. 1892     | rear section                                       |  |
| Wm. Andrews Co., Lowell       |             |  |  |
| William Hunter                | d. 1883     | rear section, marble monument                      |  |
| G.(?) F.(?) Witherell, Lowell |             |  |  |
| William Barron                | d. 1854     | rear section; marble monument                      |  |
| John G. Clogston              | d. 1868     | rear section, next to Mary B. Clogston             |  |
| A. Stone, Groton              |             |  |  |
| Mr. Abram Parkhurst           | d. 1840     | rear section; d. Aug. 31, 1840                     |  |

*Lucy Parker  
J Parks*



089 ADAMS, ABLJIAH 6-656 1757  
23

070 ADAMS, DEA. BENJAMIN # 2-144 1762  
fam. info./diary/father of Lucy 2-129/house 171 Mill Rd.

092 ADAMS, EBEN 5-443 1856  
b. Westford, d. Middlesex Vill.

043 ADAMS, JOEL # 6-572 1864  
lawyer, Waters

071 ADAMS, LUCY ## 2-129 1782  
suddenly/dau. of Benjamin 2-144 & Abigail/diary-affair, illig.ch./ family info.

100 ADAMS, MARY 1-02 1785  
wife of Benj.

022 ADAMS, SAMUEL & ESTHER 4-351 1745  
age 16 & 32/ double stone/father of Dea. Benj./prob. house

011 ALLEN, MARY, SARAH, ISRAEL # 5-433- 1821, 1815  
Waters/ church rec.

010 ALLEN, MRS. MARY 5-432 1864  
Waters

009 ALLEN, REV. WILKES 3 5-431 1845  
Waters/ house

091 B., C. & S. 5-440 1848-1870  
by their children

077 BARRET, RACHEL # 2-146 1785  
Widow of Thos. - Barrett/Byam #1/diary d. 3/29/1785 a real good Xian

119 BARRETT, EBENEZER 8-715 1752  
"only s." of Jonathan & Lydia/sisters much younger

064 BARRETT, HANNAH #? 2-147 1759  
daughter Thomas & Rachel, Barrett/Byam #1

123 BARRETT, JONATHAN 7-711 1773  
80-11-14/father of Ebenezer 8-715/no diary then/some family info.

120 BARRETT, LYDIA 7-710  
BAD SLIDE

055 BARRON, CAPT. MOSES 3-202 1719

061 BARRON, JONATHAN 3-193 1748

024 BATES, ROBERT #? 4-312 1791  
85/diary ill, death, Bridge neighbor/Waters Sergt. Robert 1775/prob. hse 1747

066 BETTEY, ANDREW # 6-515 1786  
house/much

074 BLODGETT, ELIZABETH 1-23 1769

023 BLOOD, BETTY 4-309 1771  
mother of 7 all of whom lie at her feet/some fam. info.

107 BOWERS, JERATHMEL 8-714 1715(13?)  
son of Jonathan & Hannah/grandson of 1st - still, house

029 BRADT, BARNABAS 7-682 1828  
fever, 45

008 BRIDGE, ELIZABETH & KATHRYNE 2-134 1756  
diary

006 BRIDGE, REV.. EBENEZER \* 2-149 1792  
Much/ diary

007 BRIDGE, SARAH 2-148 1783  
diary

028 BUTTERFIELD, CAPT. JOHN # 6-649 1766  
house - much/diary almost drowned Merrimack River, Sharp, palsy, ill, death

087 BUTTERFIELD, REUBEN, ANNA, SILOUS 6-648 1775  
children of Benjamin Butterfield/nothing in diary

049 CARLTON, WILLIAM 5-422 1864  
Civil War

052 CHAMBERLAIN, ABIGAIL #? 4-352 1760  
ch. rec Deacon Chamberlain's wife, v. sudden/wife Capt. Samuel 7-704/ae 76-4-10

036 CHAMBERLAIN, BETTY 1-027 1795  
wife of Capt. Isaac/diary blacksmith shop burned down 6/15/1791

027 CHAMBERLAIN, CAPT. SAMUEL # 7-704 1767  
house - much/wife Abigail 4-352/diary fit in church 9/10/1764

093 CHAMBERLAIN, ISAAC 5-418 1834  
wife Olive, dau. Harriet

021 CHAMBERLAIN, MARY # 7-698 1692  
daughter of Grace Livermore/ 88

069 CHAMBERLAIN, SUSANNAH 1-39 1801  
wife of Benjamin

079 CLARK, COL. JONAS 5-483 1770  
Waters much info/ Middlesex Tavern, ferry/diary found him just expiring, fun.5/1



081 CLARK, ELIZABETH 5-480 no date  
d. Col. Jonas & Eliz./ch. rec. Elizabeth bur. 1/28/1794 ca 70-same 1?? crazy

080 CLARK, MRS. ELIZABETH 5-4820 1767  
74/wife Jonas/diary 4/27&8 very bad, dies ca midnight/son of Rev. Thomas Clark

002 CLARK, REV. THOMAS # 2-143 1704  
much/ translation in Waters p.71

082 CLARK, TIMOTHY 5-481 1790

047 DAVIS, CAPT. SAMUEL # 6-609 1855  
house, H.W. Dresser, Lowell

050 DAVIS, MOSES 5-401 1806  
fever/ gravestone - afflictions sore

040 FARRAR, JONAS 6-566 1806  
Cassie list: says John, who is at 6-565/Jonas - Ch. rec. consumption, ae 45

001 FISKE, REV. JOHN # 5-409 1676  
much

117 FLETCHER (B.F.) 4-321  
fieldstone

058 FLETCHER, JONATHAN 1-55 1739

075 FLETCHER, MRS. HANNAH, 4 CHILDREN # 1-78 1778  
wife of Lt. Benjamin/ children Jephtha, Rebecca, Mary, Sarah/fam.info. Lt. Benj.

053 FLETCHER, OLIVER # 1-75 1771  
much house, lawyer, Waters, diary hse. raised 6/4/1764, death & buried

015 FLETCHER, SAMUEL #? 3-233 1697 Feb.  
some family - V.R. to 1850 - son Sam. & Mary ae 11 d.

104 FLETCHER, SAMUEL & THOMAS 3-233+ 1693 & 8  
11d/4y/parents Sa. & Mary die 6d apart/kids d.1or2mo. apart/4 other children

020 FLETCHER, SERGT. SAMUEL 3-250 1695 Dec.  
known Lamson/ bur. next to child. of Joshua & Elizabeth Fletcher

016 FLETCHER, THOMAS # 3-234 1698  
family - V.R. to 1850, Sam. Sr. 4-304, Mary 4-302

101 FOSTER, EBENEZER 1-46 1756  
ae 65/wives Mary 1787 & Lydia 1737

094 FOSTER, EDWARD 49or64 1715/6or41

073 FOSTER, HANNAH 1-33 1795  
double with son Noah (1777), widow of William

098 FOSTER, MARY 1-44 1787  
Cassie lst says Spaulding/ae 88/relict of Ebenezer - Lydia also wife 1737 #45

062 FOSTER, WILLIAM, AARON, WILLIAM 1-29+ 1750,3,6  
young chil. of William & Hannah, no details, only ages/diary interest.drunk etc

035 GIBSON, DR. ICHABOD #? 6-569 1810  
house, Waters, church record - cancer/ Cassie could take picture

005 HARRINGTON, SARAH 1-024 1843  
Box with husb. & E. Stoddard

004 HARRINGTON, TIMOTHY M.D. # 1-024 1802  
Box with wife & E. Stoddard,church rec.

084 HARWOOD, JUDITH 5-472 1766  
3rd wife Lt. Jonathan/of Woburn/diary/he 2 hung, 1 Crown Point/she illJune/Sept

025 HARWOOD, LUCY #? 5-553 1774  
65/wife of Lt. Jonathan/diary 12-7-1778 bad man,quarrelled w. wife as prev. 1

031 HAY, HANNAH 7-672 1830  
V.R. - Mrs., fever, age 55

030 HAY, JAMES # 7-672 1826  
church rec./ Cassie re stone maker & glass works

124 HAYDEN, DANIEL, GRENVILLE, SALLY 6-650+ 1803,06,06  
7m  
5y lung fever after 1 1/2 yrs. convulsions/+ 4 younger of Daniel & Sarah

045 HENCHMAN, MAJOR THOMAS # 5-468 1763  
Waters, house

041 HILDRETH, ALVA 5-448

105 HILDRETH, DORCAS 4-318 1727  
48/mother of Jonas, wife Ens. Richard/ some family info/some diary

106 HILDRETH, MARY 4-317 1757  
33/middle wife of Jonas/diary: Jonas bereaved 1757 but intemperance, etc.

014 HILDRETH, RICHARD 4-355 1693  
could be lots

111 HINCHMAN, MAJ. THOMAS 5-468 1703  
74

032 HIRSCH, FRANCIS 7-679 1829  
Joseph probable brother (sim. age)/stone broken, d. 1823/ blower from Germany

116 HOWARD, BENJAMIN 4-335 1760  
68-9/family info/father of Sam. #5-475/d. very sudden/diary 1760, 1754

110 HOWARD, SAMUEL 5-475 1764  
1-4-10 s. Sam.(s. Benj.4-335) & Mary/unexciting family info.

013 LIVERMORE, GRACE # 7-699 1690  
Cemetery info.

044 LOVERING, HENRY 5-452 1872  
white bronze - Cassie



072 MANNING, BENJAMIN 1-10 1793  
son of Jonathan & Martha/ house

051 MARSHALL DR. JONAS FAMILY # South 1776  
not earliest burial, smallpox, Barrett/Byam

038 MARSHALL, NATHANIEL & LEVI # 2-171 1820  
church rec. - explosion

039 MARSHALL, OTTIS 2-172 1837  
V.R. to 1850 - younger brother of Levi & Nathaniel

042 MARSHALL, THOMAS ## 5-526 1799  
house/ch. rec. v. sudden & lamented (v. crossed off)/diary well drown,premat.ch

065 NICHOLS, DANIEL 7-666 1768

063 PARKER, CAPT. JOSEPH 1-35 1738  
Family info./Waters Capt. Snow-Shoe, prob. res. Middlesex Village area

121 PARKER, LT. JOHN 4-366 1763  
51-2-5

076 PARKER, REBECCA 1-34 1791  
relict of Capt. Joseph/88/diary 8/7/1761 Titus, old negro of Wid. Reb. Parker

085 PARKER, SARAH 6-598 1784  
31st yr/w. of Jonathan Parker Rev. soldier Waters p.336/no diary

096 PARKER, SARAH 6-620 1771  
35/d. Lt. Benj. & Elizabeth/MUCH Waters p.541/res. Pine St. Lowell/family info.

118 PARKHURST, ABIGAIL & BENJAMIN 8-717 1737  
children of James & Abigail

125 PARKHURST, BENJAMIN & ABIGAIL 8-717 1736-7  
4-3-11 & 2-2-12/hse, fam. info/later old mother hard preg. & after,twins die

078 PARKHURST, PHILLIP 8-727 1810  
house/ ch. rec. description of BIG hernia/hired Rev. War subs/brother of 8-717

057 PERHAM, JOHN 3-236 1721

095 PIERCE, REBEKAH 6-634 1789  
ae 9/dau. Oliver & Deborah

067 PROCTOR, CAPT. DANIEL 2-120 1775  
Waters - 1755 taught 3 mos. read., writing, cypher., very bad handwriting!

056 PROCTOR, GERSHOM 3-206 1714  
Waters - res. Stony Brook Valley/banded slate stone

054 PROCTOR, ISRAEL 6-561 1755  
diary - 7/13/1754 child Luc bapt., Israel & Sally forsake Hyde

090 PROCTOR, PETER 5-544  
house/diary-much, inc. battered dau./BAD SLIDE

|   |        |      |
|---|--------|------|
| 068 PROCTOR, SUSANNAH   | 2-121  | 1785 |
| 026 PROCTOR, WILLIAM<br>63  | 4-348  | 1767 |
| 112 PUTNAM, JONATHAN<br>affliction long time+/some hse, family info/diary 2 mos. 10-20-1784+          | 5-533  | 1754 |
| 019 RICHARDSON, CAPT. JOSIAH<br>65  | 3-245  | 1695 |
| 102 RICHARDSON, CAPT. JOSIAH<br>wife Remembrance 1718/9   | 3-245  | 1695 |
| 017 RICHARDSON, EZEKIAL<br>29   | 3-199  | 1696 |
| 088 RICHARDSON, JOHN<br>52  | 6-643  | 1764 |
| 018 RICHARDSON, THOMAS<br>ca 8  | 3-225  | 1698 |
| 097 ROBBINS, JOHN & SUSANNAH  | 6-579  | 1775 |
| 086 ROBBINS, JOSEPH   | 6-638  | 1775 |
| 060 SCALES, STEPHEN #<br>Waters p. 719 Latin translation, more info./diary measles, death, background | 7-676  | 1772 |
| 109 SHEDD, AMOS   | 5-412  | 1842 |
| 099 SPALDING/PARK/STROUT<br>uncertain which one   | 5-454+ |      |
| 083 SPAULDING, ABIGAIL  | 5-591  | 1708 |



048 SPAULDING, COL. SIMEON ## 3-271 1785  
much - house

059 SPAULDING, DEA. ANDREW 3-261 1713  
Cassie - Lamson

122 SPAULDING, EPHRAIM P. family 11 b. 1813  
plow/top of Perham/Spaulding tomb/212 No. Rd./Perley Perham m. Emeline Spalding

114 SPAULDING, HANNAH 3-262 1730  
77th yr./wife Deac. Andrew 203 Boston/she ex Billerica/9children

115 SPAULDING, HENRY 3-262 1720  
son of Hannah 3-263 & Deac. Andrew/willed 203 Boston to s. Henry/wife of Nashua

046 SPAULDING, JOB 8-738 1835  
Rev. War pensioner

103 SPAULDING, LT. EDWARD 3-260 1707/8  
ae 73

108 SPAULDING, MARY 8-713 1733  
dau. of Henry & Mary

113 SPAULDING, RUTH 6-592 1754  
21

033 STICKLEMIRE, JOHN # 7-671 1814  
church record - dropsy by intemperance, 48/ glass works/ Cassie - Hay carved

003 STODDARD, ELIZABETH # 1-024 1743  
much/ box, with Timothy & Sarah Harrington

034 THOMPSON, MARY  
Cassie - Hay carved

037 WARREN, JEREMIAH # 2-168 1810  
church record - hung himself, Baptist & back, etc./Waters priv. 1787 ag. Shay

012 WATERS, REV. WILSON 5-399 1933  
Waters/ house



*Forefathers  
Burying  
Ground  
1655*







1864 CHRISTOPHER GEORGE ARMSTRONG 1936  
HIS WIFE

1870 MARY HENDRICKS HALLETT 1936

1869 WILLIAM BUTLER 1945  
HIS WIFE

1869 EDITH ARMSTRONG 1946

1848 S. JENNIE ARMSTRONG 1889  
WIFE OF JOHN BYFIELD

1874 MILDRED ARMSTRONG BYFIELD 1891

1885 ANNIE MOORE BYFIELD 1885

HENRY P. DAVID  
BORN NOV. 8 1824  
DIED FEB. 27 1893

ELIAS M. SMITH  
HIS WIFE  
BORN MAR. 10 1810  
DIED













**Forefathers  
Burial  
Grounds**

VISITING HOURS 8 AM to 5 PM  
*All burials will be provided*









Forefathers Cemetery

7/2/2005 F. Merriam