

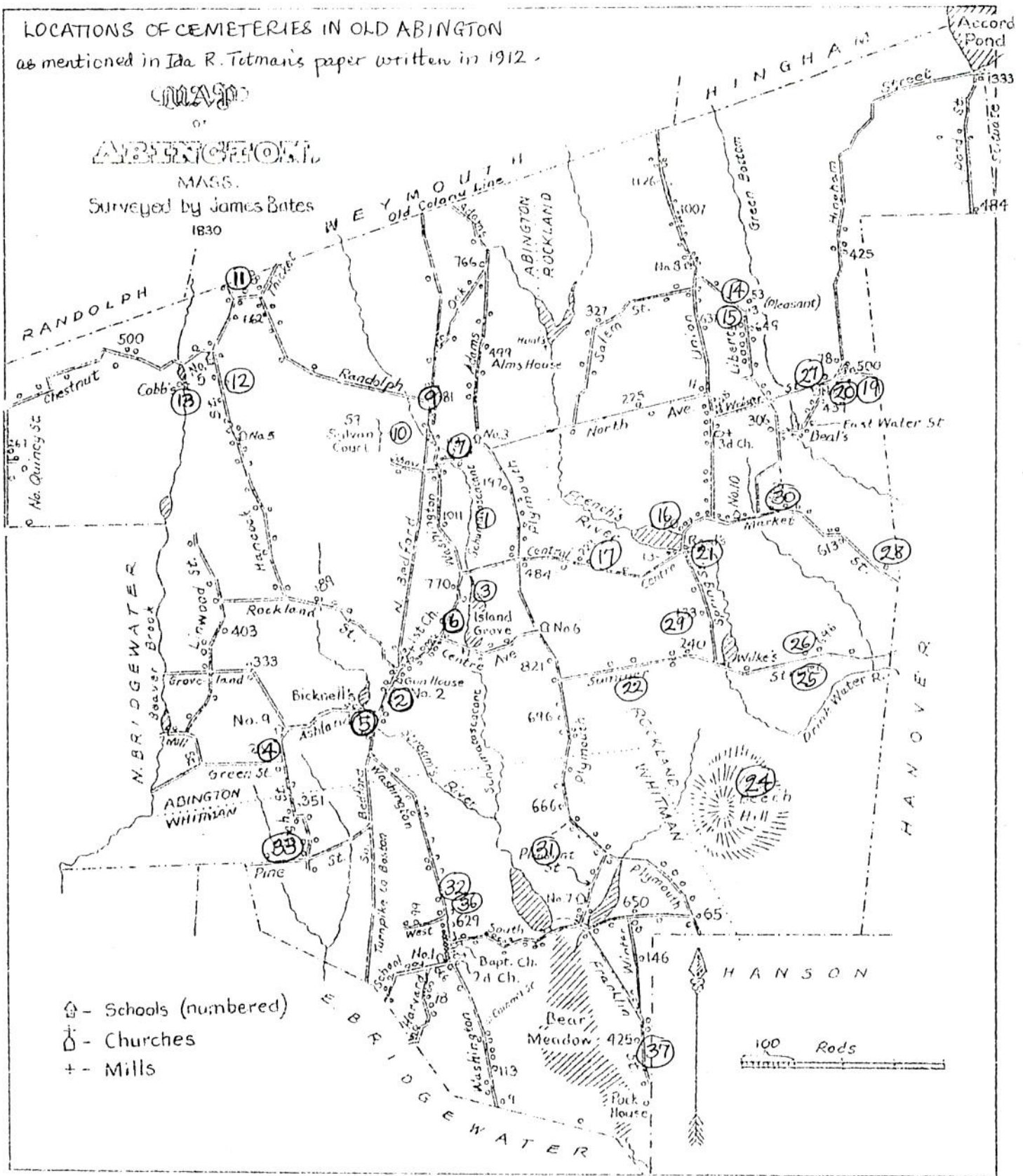
THE CEMETERIES OF ABINGTON

by

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Paper Prepared for the Bicentennial
of Abington
1912

LOCATIONS OF CEMETERIES IN OLD ABINGTON
 as mentioned in Ida R. Tetman's paper written in 1912 -



Reduction of 1830 map of Abington showing modern street names, a few identifying house numbers, and the boundaries of present towns of Rockland and Whitman which fall within the old Town. (Historical Society of Old Abington - 1959)

THE CEMETERIES OF ABINGTON

The center of every New England village was the church, and around it were always associated the earliest and latest thoughts of man, woman and child in the olden time. When the land was deeded for a church edifice, with it was a plot for a burial ground. In the field back of the Martin Brown place on Washington street we find the few traces of it that remain at present. There are no whole stones left, but on fragments lying around are such words as these:

"Mifs Ma(rgaret Wo)odbri(dge)---1717"
"Mat(the)w P(r)att---1746"
"Remains of Mary---"
"Dodge" "--79" "17".

The piece with "Dodge" on it may be a remnant of the first stone erected in memory of the Rev. Ezekiel Dodge, who died in 1770.

When the new church was built this lot was left so unprotected that many of the stones were broken, and when the time came to remove the bodies to Mt. Vernon⁽¹⁾ it is very doubtful if all were found and transferred. Those of the first two ministers and their families are on the "Town Lot" in the center of the latter grounds.

The epitaphs on these stones are of the biographical type commonly used at that time to perpetuate the memory of prominent men. That on the stone of the Rev. Samuel Brown reads as follows:

"In Memory of the Rev'nd
SAMUEL BROWN
In ye Gift of Preaching & ye Pastoral Office
He was Faithful & Vigilant,
Among the Controversities of Divines

*See list of Cemeteries in Appendix

Moderate & Pacifick,
 Ever ready for all the Duties of Piety.
 Among Husbands, Fathers, Friends he had
 few Equals,
 And his Carriage to all Mankind was
 eminently benevolent.
 In imitation of his Saviour he went about
 doing Good
 And healing all manner of Diseases.
 He was born in Newbury, Anno 1687
 Commenced A.B. at Harvard College, Anno 1700
 Ordained ye Firft Pastor of ye Church of Chrif
 In Abington November 17th 1714
 Died (Sept) 19, 1749. Aged 62 Years & 7 Days.

Some time previous to 1733, Deacon Joshua Shaw gave a strip of land near Deacon Cleverly's residence on Adams Street to be used as a cemetery. ⁽³⁾ This is known as the "Cleverly Lot" or the "Adams Street Burying-ground." The first person buried was Mr. Benjamin Shaw, who died in 1732. Deacon Shaw died in 1733 and was buried with a wife on either side. Until about 1885 this cemetery was undisturbed by the progress and growth of the town, but at that time the land was needed for other purposes and by vote of the town the bodies were disinterred and removed to Mt. Vernon. During the process of removal a number of unmarked graves were found which have never been identified. Some of these were of men of gigantic proportion and powerful frame who were buried in the heavy homemade clothing and boots worn in the early days of the last century. They had been buried so many years that even the oldest citizens had forgotten them.

Before this general removal some bodies had been carried to the family lots of the younger generation, and at that time many others were claimed and similarly placed. For those who had no descendants here a lot in one corner of Mt. Vernon Cemetery was purchased, and about sixty bodies were laid there with the old tombstones set in

place above them.

This corner is now brier-grown and neglected; the stones slivered by the frosts and storms of more than a century, yet the epitaphs are nearly all legible. Dr. David Jones, one of the first to practice medicine in the town, and also a surgeon in the American Army of 1776¹ is buried in this plot. The inscription on his stone is a little unusual in wording. It is as follows:

"January ye 10th 1783
Died David Jones
Physician, in ye 67th
Year of his
Age.

Yes! Here I lie among ye awful dead,
Nor know ye feet that on my ashes tread.
A lump of dust only remains of me,
'Tis all Thou art & all ye Proud fhall be."

His wife, Mrs. Esther, has an equally unique inscription, as it is the only mention found of the change from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar, adopted by an Act of Congress in 1752.² Her record reads:

"Born July 16th 1722, O.S.;
Died September 28, 1758, N.S."

Deacon Daniel Shaw, son of Deacon Joshua, the family of Ensign Joseph Bicknell, Mr. Micah Reed and wife, the Thomas Tirrell family, and those of John Cobb, Jonathan Clark and Jonathan Hill are among those buried here.

At the side of the old lot on Adams street Mr. Seth Hunt had a tomb in which he and his wife were buried. It was used as a receiving tomb until 1869. Miss Belle Cleverly is the last one known to

1. The Army Surgeon was Dr. David Jones Jr., who removed to Maine where died.

2. This should read "Act of English Parliament in 1752." - Ed.

have been placed therein.

The next place known to have been used for burial purposes is in Whitman (South Abington) on Washington street, a little south of Mt. Zion Cemetery. In the hollow back of Dr. Hastings' house ⁽³⁶⁾ some twenty children were buried before 1743. A child of Jonathan Hearsey was the last known to have been buried there. Later, or perhaps in the same year, Mr. Ebenezer Reed buried a child on land which had been given for that purpose by Capt. Obadiah Reed. ⁽³²⁾ This spot, from now on, became a public burial place and the little cemetery in the hollow was abandoned. Ten years later Capt. Reed was laid at rest in his family lot just south of the center of the field.

In this cemetery is the grave of the first male child born in the town of Abington - Mr. Christopher Dyer, who died August 11, 1786, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. A metal marker bearing a suitable inscription has been placed beside the headstone, on which is the following cheerful couplet:

"Death is a debt to Nature due.
I have paid it and fo muft you."

There are fifty-four S.A.R. markers in this cemetery, the largest number found in any one place.

Easterly from Abington on the road to Hingham the Whittings buried a child in 1740. This stone is not in existence, but as the date of the oldest stone in what is now known as Maplewood Cemetery ⁽¹⁹⁾ is 1754 (Capt. John Burrell), it is not at all unlikely that the earlier date is correct. We know there are many unmarked graves here, and when the grounds were laid out after Webster street was widened and straightened driveways were made over the old burial lots.

From 1754 to the present time the dates stand in an almost unbroken line.

Not far from here a gravestone with the name "Dunham" was discovered by workmen digging a cellar on the premises of Mr. E. T. Wright. No remains were found, so it is thought that it was a stone brought from this or the old burial place on Liberty street.

About the same year a hill to the north of this road was used by Mr. Laban Stetson as a burial place for his child. This is the site of the Liberty street burying ground.⁽¹⁵⁾ The oldest stone standing there is dated 1770, but all the older citizens say that their fathers have told them it was used considerably before that. The land is thought to have come from a Mr. Shaw, probably the father of Mr. Daniel Shaw, whose wife Lydia died in 1770.

In this cemetery is the grave of Caleb Chard, who served His Majesty in the Colonial Army during the French and Indian War, and later fought under Washington in the War of 1776. There is no stone to mark the grave but the S.A.R. marker has been placed there.

These two cemeteries are the oldest in the eastern part of the town, and in them we find the graves of the Beales, Shaws, Pools, Whitings, Vinings, and Curtises, the earliest settlers of East Abington.

On the pine-clad hill overlooking Nash's, now, Island Grove Pond,⁽³⁾ Molley Reed was buried in 1775. Capt. Daniel Reed, a veteran of the Revolution, was buried here in 1776. His stone, with eight others and the fragments of six more, are all that is left of a much abused cemetery. There are probably quite a number more bodies here than the stones would indicate, for there are several people known

to have been buried here who cannot be traced to any other cemetery.

At one time the Reeds, the original holders of the land, built a family tomb near the bank of the pond. Who built it, or when it was built is unknown at present. The oldest people in that section remember it as a ruin when they were children.

Capt. Daniel Reed, John Puffer, Levi Stetson and Capt Ephraim Spooner, all soldiers in the War of Independence, rest here.

Several bodies have been removed to Mt. Vernon, and a few were taken to a small cemetery on Spring street, Rockland.

Mr. David Ellis came to East Abington from Hanover and settled on Summer street. In the scrubs and bushes back from the homestead lot is the family burial place. ⁽²⁵⁾ There are no whole stones left, but on pieces lying near we find portions of the inscriptions:

"Mr. David Ellis---1778, aged 38 Years," "El---," "1777," "Ch," "--13," and "1803, aged 60--" are some of the legible words and dates.

"Beech Hill" in Rockland had a strange burial place on its summit. Just to the east of the road and almost opposite the reservoir are the graves of a few small pox victims ⁽²⁴⁾ who were buried there many years ago. There are a number living who know that it exists, but the names of the people and the date of their death is forgotten. For years the Ellis burying-ground has been called the "small pox" place. This is not true, however, for the descendants of the Ellis family have a history of their ancestors which shows that none of their people died of the small pox.

Almost into Hanson on the road from Whitman is a lonely grave in the woods. ⁽³⁴⁾ A small slate stone marks the resting place of the seven year old son of Mr. Amos Whitmarsh, who buried him there near

*East of
Parley Hill
buried
Daniel T. C. G. G.
Pox victims
D. 1811 - 15*

his home in 1778.*

Previous to this time we have no knowledge of the use of anything except an ordinary grave. Mr. Josiah Torrey, who lived on the place now owned by Mr. Trufant of High street, selected a spot in his orchard and had workmen build a brick sarcophagus there, leaving the top about twelve inches above the ground. After his death the top was completely covered with a slate slab, bolted to the brick walls and suitably inscribed. The slab now lies flat on the ground in Mt. Vernon Cemetery. It is broken in several places, making it necessary to omit a few words of the epitaph, which reads as follows:

"Secure from the Sto-----
 The Relicks of Josiah Torrey, E--
 He descended from an ancient and -----
 of Weymouth. Was born Novbr. ye 5th 17--
 He was educated at the Univerfity of Cambridge
 And at the ufual time received the Honors of the ---
 Having finifhed his Collegiate Studies
 he fpent feveral years in preaching
 the Gofpel and though warmly
 importuned to Settle in the
 Miniftry declined, preferring the
 Tranquility of Retirement to the
 trials and dangers of Publick Life.
 Was a zealous advocate for the
 Chriftian religion, and
 exemplified its Precepts by exemplification in his Walk,
 Sobriety in his Conversation and patience under Suffering.
 At the clofe of a long and deftreffing Sicknefs
 He met the approaches of death with apparent Fortitude
 and in firm hope of a joyful Refurrection
 he fell afleep Septbr. 24th 1783
 Aged 63 Years."

In the field back of Mr. Albee Ford's house on Randolph street, that section of the town known as "Thicket," stands a solitary stone marking the grave of a veteran of the war against France in 1758. It is that of Mr. Joseph Richards, who died Novbr. 11th, 1785.

*This is an error. Amos Whitmarsh, son of an E. Bridgewater family, died in the "Pock House" which stood at present site of 573 Franklin St.

On the opposite side of the road and a little farther toward the Weymouth line is another burial lot⁽¹²⁾ from which the stones have been carried away but the remains undisturbed. Capt. Elisha Cobb and his wife Abigail died in 1797, and they with some of their children who died young were buried on the home lot. The stones now stand in a small cemetery almost into Weymouth.⁽¹¹⁾

This cemetery was used by the family of Capt. Cornelius Dunham as early as 1796. That is the date of the oldest stone there and is in memory of Mr. Dunham's son Cornelius. Within the last thirty years an association has been formed and a once neglected burying-ground is now neatly and well kept. The Faxons (1827), early settlers in this section, are also buried here.

Deacon Nathaniel Stoddard built his house on Spring street, near the present almshouse,⁽²⁹⁾ and in the field adjoining buried his little son who died in 1803. From that time until after his own death in 1855, all members of his family who passed away were laid in this field. Later they were removed to Spring Lake Cemetery⁽¹⁶⁾ on the bank of Reed's Pond.

This beautiful spot was originally the burial place of the Reed family. Lieut. Samuel Reed, who died in 1805, gave the land reserving for himself and heirs the top of the hill. His infant son was buried there the year before.

Other members of the Reed family, Messrs. Ebenezer, Goddard, and Thomas had lots nearby, and until its incorporation in 1850 it was known as the "Reed Burying Ground."

In the field adjoining this hill and a little nearer the site

of the old ice-house, several children and a few grown people were buried before a regular cemetery was established there. They were soon removed and placed within the enclosure.

On High street, or "Locust" as the older folks still call it, the Noyes family gave a small piece of land for a neighborhood cemetery. ⁽³³⁾ This land is on one of the highest hills in the town and overlooks the country for miles. In spite of the fact that the people of a century ago are said to have been indifferent to the beauties of Nature it is hard to believe that Mr. Noyes, Mr. Asa Fullerton, Mr. Isaac Drinkwater and their families failed to appreciate the charm of their hill-top house.

There are several graves here marked by boulders placed at the head and foot. Two of these mark the remains of Mr. and Mrs. Asa Fullerton. The oldest stone is that of Mr. Josiah Noyes 1805.

Later a Mrs. Hutchinson, whose land bounds the cemetery on the east, gave another strip of land, and about 1873 those using the premises organized the High Street Cemetery Association.

The Thomas Lane lot ⁽²³⁾ on Liberty street, Rockland, is near one of the oldest houses in that section. Seven bodies now remain there: Mr. Daniel Lane, a Revolutionary soldier, and his son Isaiah, a veteran of the war of 1812; Mrs. Thomas Lane and several small children. The others who once rested there are now in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. Mr. Daniel Lane was in his eighty-second year when he died Feb. 16, 1808. On his stone is the following odd inscription:

"Pause here my friends,
duft thou art & unto duft fhalt thou return."

His wife, Hannah, died one year later, and on her stone we read the lines:

"When I lie bury'd deep in dust
 My flesh shall be thy care,
 These with'ring limbs with thee I trust,
 To raise them strong and fair."

Bicknell Hill, the highest point between Abington and Whitman, was settled by the Bicknells. In the field north of Mr. Arthur D. Nash's residence, his great-grandfather, Jacob Bicknell, built a tomb.⁽⁵⁾ He died and was buried there in 1820. Between that time and 1863 his wife and four other members of the family were placed within its walls. When the tomb was toun down the bodies were carried into Mt. Vernon and placed in the family lots of their descendants.

At the eastern end of Market street is the Doane place. On a pine knoll in the back part of the yard⁽²³⁾ the family of Mr. Barnabas Stetson was buried from 1823 to 1849. Mr. Barnabas Stetson, Mr. Amos Stetson, Deacon Ephraim Stetson and the three children of Mr. Martin Stetson rested there until the Mt. Vernon Cemetery was well established.

From 1828 to 1850 the Jenkins family of East Abington used a part of their field for a burial place.⁽²⁶⁾ Three brothers and their wives were buried here, and six small children of their sister, who had married a Loud. After Concord street was built across the field, Mr. Emery Burgess, the son of Matilda Jenkins, had the bodies taken to his lot in the Centre Hanover Cemetery. The Loud children were carried to Mt. Pleasant.

The cemeteries were so shamefully neglected that many people refused to put their dead in such places - hence the large number of

tombs and private burial grounds. Two children, one the infant son of Mr. Beals (died 1827) and the other a daughter of Minister Wilder, were buried in the yard back of the "Nat" Beal house on Webster street. ⁽²¹⁾ Mr. Wilder was a Methodist clergyman whose duties took him from one place to another; he, therefore, made arrangements with Mr. and Mrs. Beal to care for the grave and remove the body at such time as seemed best to them. About twenty-five years later these bodies were removed to the John Winsor Beal lot in Mt. Vernon.

On Summer street, to the west of Spring street, was the old Wilkes farm. After 1830, when Miss Mary Wilkes passed away, a knoll in the woods on the south side of the road was used as a family lot. ⁽²²⁾ There are seven grave-stones left there, those of Mr. John Wilkes (1848) and his wife Sarah (1849); Miss Caroline (1854), aged seventy-two years; Miss Sarah and Miss Elizabeth (1854) aged respectively seventy-three and eighty-six years; and in 1858 Miss Matilda.

Back of the Thomas Beal place on Bedford street ⁽⁸⁾ was the tomb of Ephraim Hunt, who died in 1832. Mr. Hunt had no children, and it is supposed that he and his wife are the only ones ever placed in it. There is a stone on the Thomas Beal lot in Mt. Vernon with corresponding name and date.

When Death entered the family of Abiah Reed, who lived on the top of "Mill Hill," he did not see fit to use the cemetery on the opposite bank of the pond, but chose a place south of his home. ⁽²¹⁾ Two of his children were buried there in 1834. In 1849 an association was formed which named the lot "Evergreen" Cemetery. At a subsequent re-organization this was changed to "Spring Street" Cemetery.

In this cemetery is buried the first Jenkins who settled in Abington. The bodies were brought from Island Grove with the bodies of Lieut. David Hearsey's family. Mr. Jenkins' epitaph reads thus:

"ERECTED
In Memory of
Mr. David Jenkins
who departed this
Life February ye 25th
1792 in the 77th
year of his
AGE.

With heavenly weapons I have fought
The battles of the Lord.
Finished my course and kept the faith
And wait the fure reward."

Capt. Nathaniel Nash and his brother owned the land opposite the Universalist Church, between Washington street and the pond. In the back part of the lot near the corner of Washington and Chapel streets was the family tomb⁽⁶⁾. Capt. "Nat," as he was known, died in 1835. Several members of these families were buried there for a time and were removed to the larger cemetery about 1855.

Until 1836 we find no traces of a tomb in the eastern section of the town. About that year Mr. William Torrey, the grandfather of Mr. J. A. Torrey, built one near his residence at "Torrey's Corner."⁽³⁰⁾ This has been torn down and the bodies removed to Mt. Pleasant. Mr. Torrey and nearly a dozen of his family had been buried there.

As this was the only tomb in East Abington it was used as a receiving tomb by the people living in that part of the town. It was the custom of those owning tombs to accomodate their neighbors in this manner, especially during the winter months when poor roads and frozen ground made any other interment almost impossible. This was especially true of those in outlying districts.

About the same time Mr. Noah Beals decided to bury his wife on a shaded knoll to the south of Webster street.²⁰ He then gave permission to other members of the family to use it when they wished. Mr. Beals was a veteran of the Revolution and died in 1839 at the age of eighty-nine. Mr. David Beals was in the War of 1812. The present generation are still using this secluded spot, and two of the men buried there followed the patriotic example of their ancestors and took part in the Civil War.

Although many traces of the Indians have been found here there is but one Indian burying-ground. There are mounds said to be Indian graves in several parts of the town, but there is one place on Lincoln street, North Abington, where there are the graves of five Indians.⁽¹⁰⁾ This is on the Gould or Mitchell homestead. It has been rumored that Mrs. Gould's mother, Lydia Tuspaquin, was buried there in 1823, but Mr. Alonzo Mitchell, a grandson of Mrs. Phebe Gould, says that his grandmother was the first one buried there. She died in 1839. Mr. and Mrs. Brister Gould, Mr. Thomas Mitchell, the husband of Zerviah Gould Mitchell, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, and the child of Mrs. Robinson are buried there. The mounds are plainly seen today.

Mrs. Gould was a lineal descendant from King Phillip. This whole family have been well educated; some have taught school while others have assisted in compiling books of history and genealogy. Two of them, Mrs. Joseph Robinson, and Mr. Alonzo Mitchell are living in Abington, but the others have gone back to their ancestral home on the banks of Lake Assawamset, in Middleboro.

Near Harwood's Corner, but on Bedford street,⁽⁹⁾ was the old

Cushing tomb. As late as 1850 the tomb was in use, but whether Maj. John Cushing (died 1843) or his father built it is uncertain. These bodies were moved to Mt. Vernon about 1865.

There was a lot on Pleasant street, Whitman, where it is said the Jenkins family had a private cemetery.⁽¹³⁾ There is no trace of it now and it is unknown to what cemetery the stones and remains have been removed.

In 1849 the residents of the northeastern section decided to have a cemetery and organized for that purpose. They chose a spot nearly opposite the old grounds on Liberty street and gave it the name of "Mount Pleasant."⁽¹⁴⁾ It was dedicated in October 1849. At this service reference was made to "the neglected condition of the cemeteries in our own degenerate town" and a resolution was made to keep this one according to the example set by Abraham when he bought the field of Ephron for a burying-place.

There is one private tomb on the grounds, built by Mr. Abner Curtis in 1850. All the old stones here have been brought from the old grounds across the street, or from private lots and tombs. The G.A.R. lot is here in memory of twenty-six "unreturned" soldiers. This is the largest cemetery in Rockland.

In each town is a Catholic cemetery. The oldest of these, St. Patrick's,⁽¹⁷⁾ is connected with St. Bridget's, and was laid out in 1850. The new one in Rockland, connected with the Church of the Holy Family,⁽¹⁸⁾ was arranged under the direction of the Rev. Charles A. O'Connor, who was the first person to be buried there in September 1907. In Whitman the cemetery is of still later date.⁽³⁴⁾ These cemeteries have

no old stones of historic value, but in them rest the remains of many citizens respected for their integrity and loyalty to their adopted country and the native land of the present generation.

About 1850 people began to pay more attention to the burial places, feeling that a well kept cemetery was a token of respect to the dead. In that year Mr. Jared Whitman deeded the land on which Colebrook Cemetery⁽³¹⁾ stands to the association then formed. There are very few old stones here as the older cemetery (Mt. Zion) is so centrally located that the remains of the early settlers can be cared for there.

When Mr. Whitman gave the land it was covered with trees. There are two men living who saw the first tree cut when the work of clearing began. These are Mr. Alfred Reed of West Street, Whitman, and a Mr. Nash who lives in Brockton. Mr. Reed sees a great change from the wooded field to the finely kept cemetery of today.

The "Lot of the Unreturned" is here, and there are one hundred and thirty-three graves of Civil War veterans.

In Abington the pastor of the Universalist Church, Rev. Nathaniel Gunnison, was very anxious to have a decent cemetery, and spoke on the subject at every opportunity. He, with Messrs. Joseph Vaughn, Stetson Vaughn, Noah Reed, Josiah Vining and others, met in 1852 and formed the Mt. Vernon Cemetery Association. The grounds were dedicated in 1852 and Mr. Benjamin Dunham was the first to be buried there. Since the cemetery grounds have greatly enlarged until it is several times its original size. It is now one of the largest in town.⁽¹⁾

In 1871 the Association presented Post 73, G.A.R. with a lot for

the "Unreturned Soldiers." The "Town Lot" was given in 1863.

This cemetery is the final resting place of all those once buried in private grounds. There are probably more "transplanted" stones here than in any other cemetery. The Thomas Hunt lot contains bodies brought from Island Grove and from the Howe tomb, which once stood on Washington street near Col. Hunt's Corner. The date of the erection of the tomb is unknown. One large marble slab is erected on the lot bearing the following names:

"James Davis, 1768-1821
 Sarah Reed, 1722-1802
 Joshua Howe, 1721-1801
 Hannah Howe, 1723-1792
 Nathaniel Howe, 1755-1814
 Ruth Howe, 1766-1800
 Sarah Howe, 1770-1825
 Elizabeth Howe, 1789-1808
 William Shedd, 1798-1830
 Mary Shedd, 1790-1865"

These, together with the Hunt dates (1827), cover the longest period represented by the dates on any private lot.

Mr. Josiah Vining's wife and child were once buried in the tomb belonging to Dr. Thaxter. This tomb stood beside the one mentioned above, but nothing more definite is known as to its erection. When the bodies were removed it was necessary to have new boxes made to enclose the fast decaying coffins.

This brings us to the present time, and those coming after us will carve no gruesome words above our resting places. Today we emphasize the beauty and nobility of life instead of harping on the imaginary horrors of death and the grave. The passing years have driven out the doubts and fears until today we can live a life of hope and trust.

INTERESTING EPITAPHS

These epitaphs are grouped according to the ideas expressed therein.

I. Biographical.

In Memory of
 Rev'd Ezekiel Dodge
 ye second Minister of
 Abington who was seized with
 an Apoplexy on ye 5th of June 1770
 in the morning & died at night in ye
 48th year of his Age, having ye day before
 his Death completed ye 20th year of
 his Ministry. Pious & faithful as a Min-
 ister, well accomplished as a Scholar,
 truly benevolent as a Man & amiable----
 (Sunken into the ground.)

Mt. Vernon.

MEMENTO MORI

S a c r e d

To the Memory of
 Col. Aaron Hobart, Esq.
 He was born June 18, 1729
 & died March 11, 1808
 Aged Seventy-nine Years.
 He represented the Town of Abington
 in the Legislature of the Commonwealth
 For 14 Years successively.

 Hark! from the tombs a doleful sound,
 My ears attend the cry.
 Ye living men come view the ground,
 Where you must shortly lie.

Mt. Zion.

CONSECRATED

To the Memory of
 Deac. Daniel Shaw
 who was born Septbr. 20, 1739
 and died Feb'ry 22, 1812;
 Aged 72 Years
 5 Months & 2 Days.

He sustained and faithfully filled
 the Office of Deacon in the Church
 the last 34 years of his life
 and died in the triumphs of faith.

 The memory of the just is blessed.

ERECTED

In Memory of
Mr. Alexander Vining
who died Oct'br 27, 1818
in the 34th Year
of his Age.

The Husband, the Parent, the amiable &
Social friend and companion, the respected
Citizen; Cut down in the prime of manhood
while engaged in the busy scenes & occupations
of life, & consigned amidst weeping friends
to the cold & silent mansions of the grave,
such is human life; & such are all earthly
enjoyments.

God only is immortal; man not so.
Life to be paid upon demand we owe.

From humbly serving at the sacred board,
Where mystick rites display'd his dying Lord,
He's called on high to celebrate his name,
And join the marriage supper of the Lamb. (1830)
Deac. David Torrey, W. Abington.

His words were truth, his actions kind and good,
His friends will drop the parting tear;
In justice firm, he always stood,
His death was calm, without a fear.
Elisha Faxon, 1842, W. Abington.

II. Brevity and Uncertainty of Life.

My loving friends as you Pass by
On my Cold Grave Pray Cast an Eye:
Your Sun Like mine may Set at Noon,
Your Soul be Cal'd for Very Soone.
In this Dark Place how quickly be,
Prepare for Death and Follow Me.
Mrs. Molley Hearsey, 1779, Mt. Zion.

Pause youthful reader, take one ferious thought,
Confider, soon the grave must be your lot.
Make sure of Chrift while life and hope remain,
Then Death will be your foul's eternal gain.
For when the Soul's released 'twill rise above
To realms of blifs & fing redeeming Love.
John and David Shaw, 1796, Mt. Vernon.

See sudden Death has seized my breath
 And snatched my soul away,
 My friends beware, with speed prepare
 For such a solemn day.
 Elias Pool, 1802, Liberty Street.

Draw near my friends & take a thought,
 How soon the Grave may be your lot;
 Make sure of Christ while life remains,
 And death shall be eternal gain.
 Mrs. Elizabeth Hearsey, 1803, Spring St.

My mourning friends, think on the day,
 How soon from Earth I'm snatched away;
 A solemn warning to you all
 That Death for you now loudly calls.
 Mary Pratt, 1805, Spring Lake.

Her sudden change and shortened date
 Bid Age and Youth prepare;
 Here lifeless clay describes our fate,
 And shows how frail we are.
 Mrs. Susanna Dunham, 1809, W. Abington.

Youth oftimes healthful & at ease
 Anticipates a day it never sees.
 Polly & Delphia Hersey, 1813, Mt. Zion.

Draw near my Friend, and think how soon,
 The great I AM may seal your doom.
 Awake! Arise! with speed prepare
 To meet at God's impartial bar.
 Mrs. Debby Beal, 1821, Beal Lot.

Our life is ever on the wing,
 And death is ever nigh;
 The moment when our lives begin,
 We all begin to die.
 Noah Pratt, 1825, Spring Lake.

Short is our longest day of life,
 And soon its prospect ends,
 Yet on that day's uncertain date
 Eternity depends.
 Susanna Nash, 1806, Mt. Vernon.

III. Death the Fate of All.

Beneath these Clods in Silent Duft,
 I fleep where all the living muft.
 The Gayeft Youth and faireft face
 In time muft be in this Dark Place.
 Sarah Vining, 1776, Island Grove.

Stop here my Friend, look down & See
 This Silent Grave pofeft of me,
 I once had life and health like you,
 Was active, gay and Merry too,
 But now, I'm mouldered unto Duft,
 Your fate's the Same for Die you muft.
 N. and E. Pratt, 1779, Mt. Vernon.

Remember, Man, thou art but dust,
 And unto that return thou muft.
 Noah Beal, 1794, Maplewood.

Time was, like me, she life pofeft,
 And time fhall be when I fhall reft.
 Elizabeth Beal, 1796, Maplewood.

How lov'd, how valued once, avails thee not,
 To whom related, or by whom begot,
 A heap of Duft alone remains of thee,
 'Tis all THOU art! and all the PROUD fhall be.
 Asa Whitman, 1808, Mt. Zion.

O RELENTLESS DEATH
 The Remains of
 Capt. Woodbridge Brown
 are here deposited
 died Dec'r 28, 1810
 In the 48th Year
 of his Age.
 My flesh shall slumber in the ground.
 'Til the last trumpet's joyful sound,
 Then burst the chains with sweet surprise
 And in my Saviour's image rise.

With swiftest wing our moments fly,
 And mortal state soon passes by.
 When once the thread of life is run,
 Death aims a dart and all is done.

A heap of dust we soon must be,
 In health prepare to follow me.

Ezekiel Townsend, 1833, Mt. Vernon.

IV. Children

So falls the tender flower,
 Nipt with early frost.

Gideon Hearsey, 1773, Spring St.

Happy the babe who privileged by fate,
 To shorter labor and a lighter weight;
 Received but yesterday the gift of breath,
 Ordered tomorrow to return to Death.

Whiting, 1802, Maplewood.

Cropt as a bud from yonder tree,
 She's gone to rest from trouble free.

Pratt, 1814, Mt. Vernon.

When blooming youth is snatched away
 By Death's ruthless hand,
 Our hearts the mournful tribute pay,
 Which Pity must demand.

"O let us fly to Jesus, fly,
 Whose powerful arm can save,
 Then shall our hopes ascend on high
 And triumph o'er the grave.

Zenas Gurney, 1806, Mt. Zion.

This bud of hope which promised fair,
 Nipt by the frost here withered lies;
 Yet mourners yield not to despair,
 But seek the hope that never dies.

Noah Shaw, 1811, Mt. Vernon.

Sweet lovely child, how short thy stay
 Upon this world of strife.

Why didst thou fly so soon away,

Averse from mortal life?

Sarah Porter, 1830, Mt. Vernon.

This little babe has gone to sleep,
 We never more shall hear her weep;
 She's gone to God, above the sky,
 Where streams of comfort never dry.
 Thayer, 1834, W. Abington.

Come hither all ye tender souls that know,
 The heights of fondness and the depths of woe,
 Our firstborn Son to duft, oh, solemn found,
 How great the stroke is, and how wide the wound;
 Ah, cruel death, it called him in his bloom,
 And we must go, God only knows how soon.
 Dunham, 1796, W. Abington.

V. Hope of Resurrection

Through infancy and age I've trod
 The round of 70 years;
 I now lie slumbering in the dust
 Til Christ my Judge appears.
 Benj. Bates, 1800, Mt. Zion.

Depart my friend, wipe off your tears,
 Here I must lie till Christ appears.
 Mary Pratt, 1805, Mt. Vernon.

Her dust and ruins that remain
 Are precious in our eyes;
 These ruins shall be built again,
 And all this dust shall rise.
 Phoebe Dyer, 1813, Mt. Zion.

Corruption, earth and worms
 Do but refine this flesh,
 Till our triumphant spirits come
 To put it on afresh.
 Abigail Whitman, 1814, Mt. Zion.

How cold the mansions of the silent tomb,
 How still the solitude, how deep the gloom;
 Here sleeps the dust, unconscious, close-confined,
 But far, far distant dwells the immortal mind.
 C. Bates, 1817, Mt. Zion.

Youth & vigour in a moment gone,
 And to the silent grave the sad remains are borne,
 There to remain till the last trumpet's call.
 Salmon Reed, 1823, Mt. Zion.

Stop, O death! don't boast of victory.
 Hark and hear what faith can say
 Of one Jesus, who on Calvary
 Died, and in the Grave did lay,
 See him rising, hear him crying,
 I, O Death, have conquered you.
 Woodbury, 1827, Spring Lake.

Departed saint! thy conflict o'er,
 Blissful thy spirit flies;
 In peace we trust thy ashes rest,
 Destined in joy to rise.
 Lane, 1831, Spring Lake.

Receive my body, earthly bed
 Beside my long departed dead;
 I'll lay me down to sleep
 Here till the resurrection morn.
 Retain, O grave, my wasting form,
 And God my spirit keep.
 Mary Porter, 1842, Mt. Zion.

VI. Miscellaneous.

There is nothing round the spacious earth
 That suits my large Desire;
 To Boundless Joy & solid Mirth
 My nobler Thoughts aspire.
 Tirrell, 1764, Mt. Zion.

My dust applies to mortals yet alive,
 The lessons which eternity will give.
 Benj. Beal, 1795, Liberty Street.

In life's gay morn, when all is youthful bloom,
 And hopes are raised of a long life to come;
 Disease invades, a fever stops the breath.
 Our hopes are lost, he falls a prey to death.
 Now view his once robust and healthful form,
 A lifeless clod and food for ravenous worm.
 Calvin Shaw, 1805, Mt. Vernon.

STOP TRAVELLER!
 Reflect on the sudden exit
 of
 Enoch Noyes
 son of
 Mr. Benjamin &
 Mrs. Mary Noyes.
 In the Vigor of life
 He fell and instantly expired
 April 2, 1810
 Aged 11 years.

He mourns the dead who live as
 they desire.
 Beneath this stone
 Lies deposited
 All that was mortal of
 Luke Bicknell, Esq.,
 Who died
 In the 65th Year of his Age
 Aug. 22d
 1814.

Blame not the monumental stone we raise,
 'Tis to the Saviour's, not the sinner's praise;
 Sin was the whole that he could call his own,
 His good was all deprived from HIM alone.
 To sin, his conflicts, pains and griefs he owed,
 His conquer'ing faith and patience HE bestowed.
 Reader mayst thou obtain the precious faith
 To smile in anguish and rejoice in death.

APPENDIX

Cemeteries in Abington CentrePages

1. Mt. Vernon Cemetery (No. 1 in Abington Vital Records)----1,2,15
South entrance from Central Street at head of Island
Grove Pond. North entrance from Pearl Street between
houses numbered 43 and 49. Old west entrance from
Washington Street, north of house numbered 907.
2. Old Church Burying Ground*(No. 14 in Abington V.R.)-----1
East side of Washington Street, south of Summer
Street, behind house numbered 325.
3. Island Grove or Centre Burying Ground (formerly French's
Burying Ground)*-----5
On the hill in Island Grove Park, north of path
leading in from Park Street.
4. Torrey family Burying Ground*-----7
Northwest corner of High and Green Streets.
5. Bicknell Family Tomb*-----10
West side of Washington Street, north of house numbered
174, toward Streame's River.
6. Nash Family Tomb*-----12
Southeast corner of Washington and Chapel Streets.

Cemeteries in North Abington

(Note that Mt. Vernon Cemetery serves both Abington and
North Abington)

7. Adams Street Burying Ground* (No. 16 in Abington V.R.)-----2
In curve on northwest side of Adams Street at junction
with Pearl and Birch Streets.
8. Hunt Family Tomb*-----11
Bedford Street
9. Cushing Family Tomb*-----14
Near Harwood's Corner, present intersection of
Bedford Street and North Avenue.

*Removed, abandoned or unused.

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|--|-------------|
| 10. Gould family Burying Ground*----- | 13 |
| About 200-300 feet east of end of paving of Sylvan Court (south of Lincoln Street) on property of Mr. Sven Leivo, 59 Sylvan Court. | |

Cemeteries of West Abington

- | | |
|---|---|
| 11. West Abington Cemetery (No. 17 in Abington V.R.)----- | 8 |
| Northeast side of Randolph Street near Norfolk-Plymouth County line. | |
| 12. Cobb Family Burying Ground* (No. 18 in Abington V.R.)----- | 8 |
| East side of Hancock Street, near house now numbered 759. | |
| 13. "The Plain" Cemetery* (No. 19 in Abington V.R.)----- | 7 |
| West of Hancock Street, behind house now numbered 780, near Cleveland's Pond. | |

Cemeteries in Rockland

- | | |
|--|------|
| 14. Mt. Pleasant Cemetery (No. 9 in Abington V.R.)----- | 5,14 |
| Northeast side of Liberty Street, west of junction with Pleasant. Across the road from "Old Town Cemetery." | |
| 15. Old Town or Liberty Street Burying Ground (No. 5 in V.R.)---- | 5 |
| In curve on southwest side of Liberty Street, west of junction with Pleasant Street. Across the road from Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. | |
| 16. Spring Lake Cemetery (formerly Samuel Reed Burying Ground). (No. 4 in Abington Vital Records)----- | 8 |
| East side of Studley Pond near Market Street. Entrance from Prospect St., east of house numbered 60. | |
| 17. St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery----- | 14 |
| North side of Central Street. Entrance between houses numbered 131 and 145. | |
| 18. Holy Family Catholic Cemetery----- | 14 |
| Southeast side of Centre Avenue. Entrance between houses numbered 110 and 128. | |
| 19. Maplewood Cemetery (No. 2 in Abington V.R.)----- | 4 |
| South side of Webster Street near Hanover Town line. | |
| 20. Beal family Burying Ground (No. 8 in Abington V.R.)----- | 13 |
| Southeast of junction of Webster and E. Water Streets. Entrance east of 417 Webster St. | |

*Removed, abandoned or unused.

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21. Spring Street Cemetery (formerly "Evergreen," and originally "Abiah Reed Burying Ground"). (No. 3 in Abington Vital Records)-----11
East side of Spring Street. Entrance south of house numbered 40.
22. Wilkes family Burying Ground* (No. 7 in Abington V.R.)-----11
South side of Summer Street. Entrance behind side yard of house numbered 193.
23. Lane Family Burying Ground* (No. 6 in Abington V.R.)-----9
Summer Street.
24. "Small Pox" Cemetery* (No. 15 in Abington V.R.)-----6
Top of Beech Hill, east side of road opposite water stand pipes.
25. Ellis family Burying Ground*-----6
South of Summer Street, about 300-400 rods from road, opposite house numbered 542.
26. Jenkins family Burying Ground*-----10
North side of Summer Street, near present corner of Concord Street.
27. Nat Beal family Burying Ground*-----11
North side of Webster Street, near house numbered 354.
28. Stetson Family Burying Ground*-----10
North side of Market Street, near Hanover Town line.
29. Stoddard Family Burying Ground*-----8
West side of Spring Street, near house numbered 133.
30. Torrey Tomb*-----12
Near intersection of Market and Liberty Streets.

Cemeteries in Whitman

31. Colebrook Cemetery (No. 13 in Abington V.R.)-----15
South side of Essex Street, opposite Whitman High School athletic fields.
32. Mt. Zion Cemetery (No. 12 in Abington V.R.)-----4
East side of Washington Street, south of house numbered 751.

*Removed, abandoned or unused.

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33. High Street Cemetery (formerly Noyes family Burying Ground). (No. 10 in Abington Vital Records)-----9
North side of Pine Street, behind 182 High Street
34. St. James Catholic Cemetery-----14
East side of Harvard Street, south of Auburn Street,
near East Bridgewater Town line.
35. Jenkins family Burying Ground*-----14
Pleasant Street.
36. Hersey Children's Burying Ground*-----4
East side of Washington Street, behind house numbered 685.
37. "Pock House" Burying Ground* (No. 11 in Abington V.R.)-----6
East side of Franklin Street at site of Whitman-Hanson
Consolidated School.