



Front section, called the old cemetery, has two areas with markers for those that served in the military.
Photo, Bing Maps

History of

Hamilton Cemetery

The Hamilton Cemetery, in 2018, encompassed 19.7 acres.⁸⁶ Adjoining Bay Road, across from the First Congregational Church, the property stretches back about 1,800 ft.

It was created in 1705. The oldest readable headstone, dated 1707, is on the John Dane grave.

Two Large Parcels

The cemetery has two basic parcels.

The first is off of Bay Rd. It is about 150 ft. wide at the entrance and about 1,400-ft. long, and covers about 5.5 ac. Two parallel one-way streets run the full length: Main Ave., into the cemetery, and Central

Ave., exiting. Intersecting these roads are 4 narrow roads: from front to back, Woodland, Ave. Pleasant Ave., Hamilton Ave. and Eastern Ave. There are 10 sections in the parcel.

A second parcel of about 14.2 ac. is at the southeast corner (*corner of Main and Eastern*). The irregular lot has 7 roads parallel to Main Ave.: Greenwood Ave., Linden Ave., Highland Ave., Laurel Ave., Forest Ave., Maple Ave. and Willow Ave. Ave. Four roads intersect these roads: Broadway Ave., Grove Ave., Oak Ave. and Walnut Ave. There are 16 sections in this parcel.

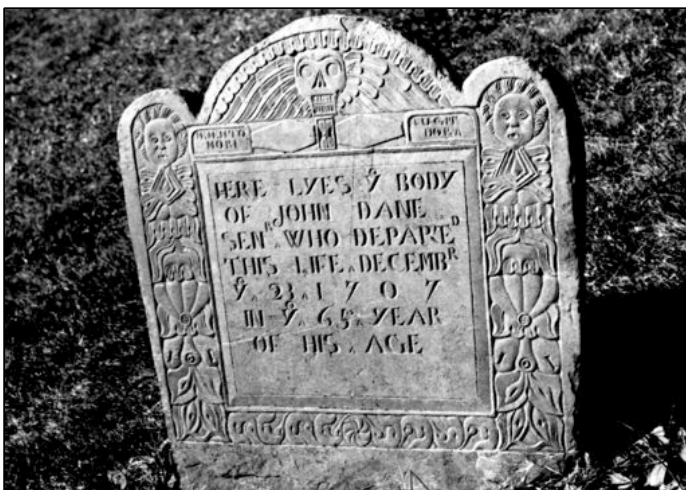
The sections in both parcels are divided into lots that are individually owned. There are single-grave, 4-grave and 8-grave lots.

Began in 1705

The cemetery began in 1705, when Ipswich gave the Hamlet Parish 1 acre of common land for a burial place.^{1,6} A year later, John Dane exchanged a half-acre of his land on the main road (130 ft.) for the as-yet unused acre that was¹ not by the road.

The rectangular Dane lot, 165 ft. deep, was between land owned on the north by Dane and on the south by land owned by John Hubbard.¹²

Dane, in 1707, was buried in the cemetery. His grave is #128 in sect. 8.¹⁰ Up through 2017, at various locations, 67 Danes have been buried in the cemetery.



Oldest readable stone, that of John Dane, who died in 1707. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society.

The first enlargement of the burial ground occurred in 1763. John Hubbard gave the Hamlet a quarter of an acre ¹ on the southeast side of the Dane lot. Hubbard's wife, Mary, was buried here (#B005 in sect. 1) in 1766. ⁹²

In 1797, Daniel Roberts, Sr. gave the cemetery 3/8ths of an acre on the south side of the Hubbard lot. Also that year, the town built a fieldstone face wall along the cemetery front on Bay Path (*now Bay Rd.*) ⁶

Another enlargement was in 1846. Jacob Kinsman sold the town a half-acre. The "L" shaped lot was partly behind the Dane lot and also a narrow strip that now is the first 575 ft. of Main Ave. ⁶ The deed required a fence to be built and "forever" maintained on all sides adjacent to surrounding land. ¹³

The next enlargement was in 1866, when Daniel Roberts, Jr. (1822-1909) sold the town an acre. The rectangular lot (165 x 260 x 174 x 260 ft.) is on east end of the former Kinsman area. ^{3, 14, 27}

In 1886, Roberts, Jr. sold another lot, 1.25 acres, to town cemetery. ¹⁵ The rectangular (175 x 515 x 202 x 550 ft.) lot is on the cemetery's east end. W. Austin Brown (1820-1908) laid out the lots in the Roberts' area. ³

Genealogist Alfred Poore of Salem, in 1886, refers to the cemetery having an old graveyard and a second yard. (*Graveyard originally denoted a burying ground within a churchyard.*) The old graveyard likely included what now are sections 1 to 4. The second yard likely included what are now sections 5 and 6.

A large expansion occurred in 1907, when the town bought, from Mary E. Safford, 7.5 ac. at the southeast corner of the cemetery. ¹⁶ Shaped as a truncated rectangle, the property is about 870 ft. long (*west to east*) and 320 ft. wide on its west side and 245 ft. wide on the east side. ¹⁶

Cemetery Property Purchases			
Year	Size, Ac.	Seller	Deed
1706	0.50	John Dane	Bk. 19, p. 162
1763	0.25	John Hubbard	Ref. 2
1797	0.38	Dan'l Roberts, Sr.	Ref. 2
1846	0.75	Jacob Kinsman	Bk. 430, p. 291
1866	1.08	Dan'l Roberts, Jr.	Bk. 703, p. 24
1886	1.25	Dan'l Roberts, Jr.	Bk. 1,176, p. 88
1907	7.40	Mary Safford	Bk. 1,873. Pg. 121
1978	3.98	Sarah Trussell	Bk. 6,557, p. 151
1998	1.53	John Pirie	Bk, 14,831, p. 573
Total	17.12		

Note: 2018 Hamilton Assessors map shows the cemetery covering 19.66 ac. Deeds and reference documents account for 17.12 ac.

In 1924, to gain access to the Safford area, the commissioners had the east end of the boundary wall along Main Ave. removed. They then had trees and bushes removed from 2 ac., in the area. ⁴⁵

The town built off the east end of Main Ave. a road (*Broadway Ave.*) along the west end of the Safford lot; and parallel to Broadway, Grove Ave. in the center; and Oak Ave. on its east side. Seven roads intersect these roads: Greenwood, Linden, Highland, Laurel, Forest, Maple and Willow. It has 12 sections. There are 320 single plots. ³³

On the east side of Oak Ave., there is an irregularly shaped part of the Safford lot. ³³ It was cleared of trees and roads into it in 1922. ⁸¹ It has 6 sections, including a section with cremation lots, created in 1999. ⁶⁸ These lots can hold up to 6 cremations. ⁶⁸ Previously, cremations were interred, along with coffin burials, in various parts of the cemetery.



Sections Acquired

- 1 – Dane, 1706
- 2 – Hubbard, 1763
- 3 – Roberts, 1797
- 4 – Kinsman, 1846
- 5 – Roberts, 1866
- 6 – Roberts, 1886
- 7 – Safford, 1907
- 8 – Trussell, 1978
- 9 – Pirie, 1998

Seventy-one years after the Safford expansion, Sarah H. Trussell sold the town about 4 ac. The rectangular lot, about 180 ft. x 980 ft., is on the southwest side of the cemetery, below the Safford area.¹⁶

The west side of the Trussell area was cleared of trees and leveled in the winter of 1987-88. The area is expected to hold about 500 graves.⁷⁹ In 2018, a road was built on the perimeter of the area.

In 1998, the town accepted the Pirie family gift of about 3 ac.¹⁹ The L-shape lot is on the southeast corner of the Safford area.⁶⁹ Several old "mast pines" stood tall on the lot, in 2018.

In 2013, the town's Department of Public Works computerized all the cemetery burial records to assist people in locating gravesites and relevant information. Previously, cemetery records were on paper maps and index cards. The database is searchable via the town's website, <http://hamiltonma.cemetery.vt-s.net/search/form>.

Military Sections Created

The cemetery has two areas dedicated to men and women that died while serving in the military. Both areas are in the cemetery's old section. One at the front and the other near the back.

The town created the front section, in 1903, to commemorate those who served in the French and Indian war and the Revolutionary war. The Cemetery Board stated, "It is the purpose of the commissioners, to remove to this lot every soldier and sailor in the cemetery entitled to such burial and who now lies sleeping in a lone grave."³¹ (*The word cemetery comes from the Latin word coemeterium, to put to sleep.*)³¹

The town, using small headstones, formed 2 crosses on the front area, one on each side of Central Avenue. Each cross has 24 markers (*there are no graves*).⁵

No information was found to explain why this area had not been used before. Perhaps, lots at the back were preferred for they would have less foot-traffic of people visiting the cemetery. There are 4 graves at the front, on the northeast corner (*earliest dated 1788, Charles H. Tuttle*).

In 1912, the federal government sent 4 headstones to be set on graves in the soldiers' lot. Also received was a headstone from a private party.³⁶

In the 1920s, the Cemetery Commissioners created a second military area, initially called the soldiers' lot.⁴⁶ Now a memorial lot for former members of all military branches, the lot has four 8-grave lots (*174, 175, 188 and 189*) in the old cemetery (*sec. 10*). Located between

Hamiltonians Who Died While in Armed Forces Buried in Cemetery*

Name	War ⁺	Location Sec./Lot
Appleton, Charles W.	WW2	7/77
Burnham, Elam W.	Civil War	9/134
Chase, James A.	Civil War	7/84
Dodge, Isaac K.	Civil War	5/34
Dodge, Thomas J.	Civil War	8/110
Dodge, William H.	Civil War	6/8
Folsom, Hiram T, Jr.	WW2	18/320
Greeley, Bernard P.	WW2	18/327
Jones, John	French-Indian Wars	10/187
Kinsman, Austin S.	Civil War	6/7
Meyer, Saul B.	WW2	10/199
Meyer, George von Lengerke, Jr.	WW2	27/0
Morrow, Robert S.	Korea	16/436
Oser, Albert H.	WW2	18/312
Smith, John L.	WW2	10/186
Stelline, John A.	Korea	16/433
Tibbetts, Alvah	Civil War	5/35
Whittredge, John E.	Civil War	5/29

* Records of those from Hamilton that served in wars prior to 1924 are not complete.

+ There are no recorded deaths from Revolutionary War (1775-1783), War of 1812 (1812-1815) and the Spanish-American War (1898)

Hamilton Ave. and Eastern Ave., it has 2 rows and 17 headstones (*12 are for interments, 4 are markers*).

The town erected a new flagpole, in the center of the soldiers lot, in 2017.⁷⁹ At the base, there is a marker, with a brass plate, dedicated to Pvt. Silas W. Grant, WWI (*buried in sec. 15, lot 272*). In 1919, at the Annual Town Meeting, he led a group of veterans calling for the town to establish a meeting place for Post 194.⁴¹

The federal government, in 1920, enacted a law requiring towns to pay for military graves, not paid privately or by cemetery trustees.^{43,21}

In addition to the individual cemetery graves for veterans of WWI and previous wars, Hamilton built, in 1924, a Soldiers' Green memorial (*no graves*) next to the Congregational Church and across from the cemetery.⁴⁵

All the stones in the soldiers' lot are the same white marble stone with a slightly rounded top. They are 42 in. high, 13 in. wide and 4 in. thick. The inscription includes the name, rank, regiment, division, date of death.

In front of each headstone, there is a bronze pentangle star marker. Engraved on the star's points are the letters: L for loyalty, C for charity and F for fraternity; and symbols to indicate branch of military served.

The Works Progress Administration (*W. P. A.*), in 1937, placed a bronze marker and a marble headstone on 140 graves of war veterans from the Revolutionary War (74), French and Indian War (1), Civil War (57), War of 1812 (3), and WWI (5).⁹

The bronze cross shape marker has the letters A, S and R, for Sons of American Revolution, and the date 1776. The plaque signifies male descendants of people who served in the American Revolutionary War or who contributed to establishing the independence of the United States.

The War Department, in 1928, gave the town 4 Civil War siege mortars. The brass barrels were placed on concrete foundations at 4 corners of the back military lots.⁴⁶

In 1942, the town offered to the United States Army, for war materials, the 4 mortars and 3 guns and carriages from the Soldiers' Green next to the Congregational Church.⁵² The government did not accept them.

The town sold the mortars, in 1999, to a museum in Pennsylvania.⁸⁴ The money from the sale, \$40,000, was to be put in a special account for the care and upkeep of memorials. However, this could not be done. The money was put in the stabilization fund, with the understanding it would be used for that purpose.⁷⁰

The crabapple tree on Central Ave., beside the military section, is the only tree within the front area of the cemetery. Likely, it was planted about 1980.¹⁰⁰

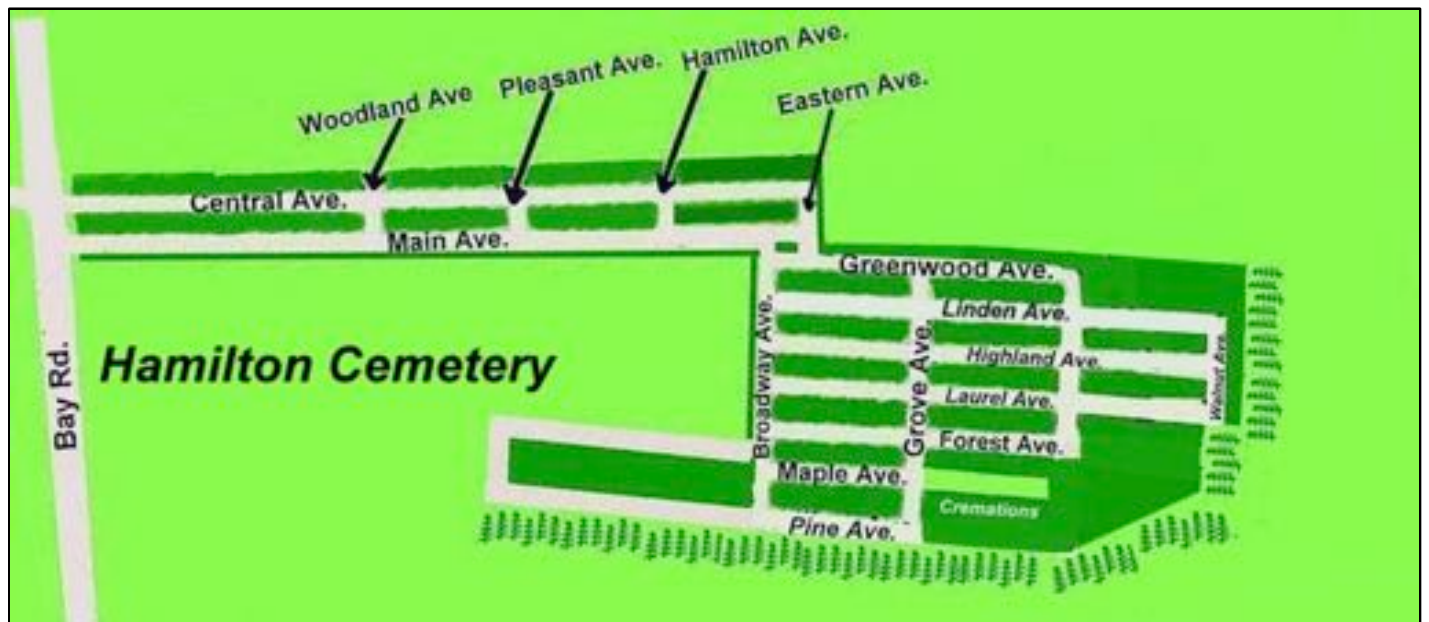
Many graves for those who were in the military are in other sections of the cemetery. They are most notable after Memorial Day, when the American Legion places small American flags on a stick on the more than 800 military graves. The flags remain until spring of the following year, when the cemetery staff removes them.

There are 16 graves for those who died while in service. In total, through 2018, 28 men have died while in military service.

There is a headstone for Maj. Gen. Clarence Q. Miller, however, he is buried in the Arlington National Cemetery, Washington. The stone is beside that of his wife Alice, who died in 1948. Gen. George S. Patten and Maj. Gen. George S. Patton, both of Hamilton, also are buried in the Washington's Arlington National Cemetery.

18 Interconnected Roads

With the cemetery being less than 600 ft. long off the Bay Path. It had only a single carriage lane in the middle. Likely, it was named Central Ave., when the town acquired the Kinsman property, in 1846. It included a narrow strip about 575-ft. long on the west side of the cemetery, next to what, in 2018, the Puhl family owned. The Kinsman expansion allowed the town to build a second road on the narrow strip on the west side of the cemetery. Named Main Ave., it became the entrance road for carriages.



Cemetery, in 2018, had 18 interconnected roads.
J. Hauck, 2018

The Cemetery Commission, in 1918, shortened the 4 tombs abutting Main Ave.⁴⁰ This likely was done so they did not extend onto the road and impede vehicle traffic going further into the cemetery.

Records do not indicate when the roads that cross the two entry avenues were built.

In the 1700s and 1800s, the cemetery roads were dirt paths. When spring rainwater soaked the dirt roads, they were closed to carriage traffic.

Gravel was first applied to Main and Central, around 1900.³⁶ This allowed carriages to access the area year-round. An oil coating, applied in the summer, minimized dust when the horse-drawn carriages used the roads.⁸⁰

Another problem was that carriage wheels pressed the gravel into the subsoil: the roads periodically required an additional gravel layer.³⁶ In 1918, the cemetery applied binding gravel and rolled the road to provide a compacted surface that resisted soil penetration.⁴⁰ By 1934, all the roads had binding gravel surfaces. The entire cemetery was open to vehicle traffic year-round.⁴⁸

The federal government's Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.), in 1935, rebuilt five avenues in the Safford area.⁴⁹ Unemployed men from Hamilton were among those on the work crews.

The first mention in town records of the hot-topping (*asphalt paving*) cemetery roads is in 1969.⁶² Soon after, other roads began to be paved. In 2018, a few road extensions (*Pine, Maple and Laurel*) remain unpaved in the southeast corner.

The paved roads require periodic sealing of cracks and replacement of potholes caused by winter freeze-

ing. As part of the DPW's road repair program, cemetery roads are sealed and repaired.⁸⁵

All the roads are single lane. Passing is restricted, since some burial sites border directly by the road. Main Avenue is one-way into the cemetery and Central Avenue is one-way to the exit.

Prior to the Safford expansion, in 1908, the cemetery did not have street signs.³³ Families kept handwritten instructions and maps to show where relatives were buried. Wood signboards, with painted names similar to those on the town's roads, were added when burials began in this area. However, by the mid 1900s, none remained. In 1987, the cemetery installed metal posts and signs.⁸⁹

Some of the road names in the cemetery are the same as names for town roads (*e.g., Highland, Hamilton, Pleasant*). Fittingly, 11 of the roads have names related to trees (*Pine, Maple, Willow, Laurel, Linden, Oak, Walnut, Forest, Woodland, Maple and Grove*).

Fieldstone Walls on Perimeter

The town built, in 1797, on both sides of the cemetery entrance, a fieldstone wall. A fieldstone wall also was on the north and south sides.⁶

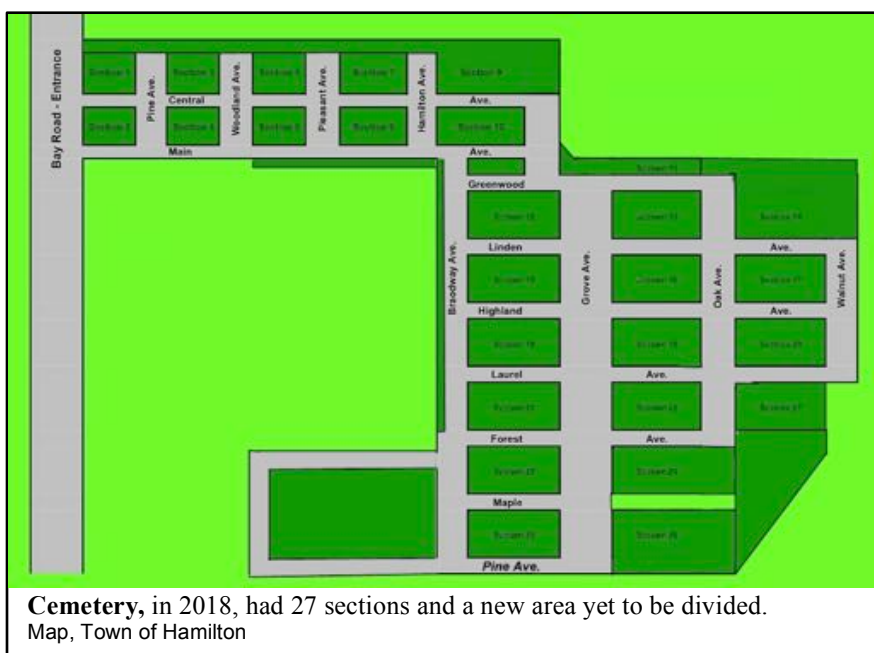
The wall, often repaired, remained until 1865, when it was removed.²⁷ A wood fence was built, in 1867, at the front and fieldstone walls built on the sides and back.^{28, 104}

About 1900, the town replaced the wood fence at the front with an iron fence. It was painted in 1902.³⁰ Twenty years later, Alice A. Meyer gave the town a new iron fence and gates, and brick pillars.⁴⁴ In 1960, a car crashed into the iron fence.⁵⁹ The town repaired the fence and moved the gates to the Meyer burial section on Forest Ave.^{3, 44}

The brick pillars remained. The two at the exit have plaques: one has the von Lengerke family crest and the other the donor's citation.

The redbrick gateway pillars with limestone caps are similar to the gates that surround the Harvard Yard in Cambridge. George von Lengerke Meyer was an 1879 Harvard graduate. (*Note: the first Harvard gate was built in 1889.*)

Fieldstone walls line much of the cemetery's perimeter. For the most part, they are in good condition. As part of the purchase of the Safford property in 1908, the town built, on the northwestern boundary line on Broadway, a fieldstone face wall along its entire 320-ft. length.³³



Cemetery, in 2018, had 27 sections and a new area yet to be divided. Map, Town of Hamilton

In addition to the fieldstone walls, there is a single strand chain link fence around the wooded Hyland section (#28). The 34-lot section, about 18,000 sq., ft., is at the far back of Walnut Ave. In 2018, it had two graves: Patricia E. Hyland, who died in 1986, and her husband, Samuel F., who died in 1990.⁹²

A pipe fence is around the wooded 51-lot Meyer section (#27) that is about 35,000 sq., ft. It was bought in 1918. The single 1-in. pipe is connected to metal stanchions that surround the section. The entrance on Laurel Ave. has two brick pillars, similar to those at the cemetery exit on Bay Rd. Each pillar has a plaque: one has the von Lengerke family crest and the other the Appleton family crest: Marian Alice Meyer was a descendant of Samuel Appleton, who came to Ipswich in 1635. Through 2018, the Meyer section had 11 interments.⁹²

Various Trees and Shrubs

All 19.7 acres of the cemetery have been, for the most part, cleared of their original trees and bushes. The Pirie area remains wooded, as do the Meyer and Hyland lots.

Hurricanes Carol, in 1954, did a lot of damage in the cemetery's old section. Tall pines and other trees fell and broke stones. Their roots tore up the ground, affecting nearby graves.⁵⁸

By the late 1980s, disease had killed all the Dutch elm trees. Since then, the front area, the old cemetery, has been an open lawn plan. There are no impediments to view the expanse of the cemetery. There are no walls, curbs, or iron fences setting off individual lots. Trees, English maple,⁸³ were planted,

by the town, along the north and south sides.

Originally, the front of the cemetery was open and directly viewable from the church across the road. In 1924, Alice A. Meyer paid for the planting of pine trees and shrubs and building of a metal fence and gates at the front. This was done to commemorate her husband, George von Lengerke Meyer.^{44, 45}

The front area, in the spring of 1973, was widened to allow new shrubs to be planted and wood chip mulch added.⁹⁵

Hemlock trees, one on each side of the Central Ave. exit, eventually spread above the road forming an arch. Insects infected the trees and they were removed.¹⁰⁰

In 2009, the town planted new shrubs at the cemetery front. Added to existing rhododendron and leucothoe were: viburnum, azalea, several varieties of hydrangea, deutzia, and perennial flowers (*day lily and daisies*).

The Safford area behind the old section at the front has trees and shrubs along the roads. Most of the trees are maples, planted by the town. Some tall pine trees remain from when the town bought the Safford property. At the back of the cemetery, behind Willow Ave., a wooded area typifies how the undeveloped cemetery areas once looked.

In the early 1900s, the cemetery planted many English maple trees. In 1919, six were planted in front of the stonewall on Broadway Ave.⁴¹ These medium-size trees have small leaves with five rounded lobes. The leaves turn to ochre in the autumn.⁴¹

The English maple has deep roots. Most of the trees in the cemetery have shallow roots. As they age, trees close to the roads develop larger roots that lift up the paved roads. This has become a problem along Main Ave. and many of the roads in the Safford area.

In the Safford area there are a few flowering trees, including cherry, dogwood and crabapple. Grave lot owners planted these trees.

Over the years, families of the deceased have planted evergreen trees and shrubs. Many have become very large, in some cases, completely obscuring the headstone. Two family lots, Goodwin and Safford have dense evergreen shrubs on all 4 sides.



Trees and shrubs, originally small, have become very large, in some cases, completely obscuring gravesite. Photo, J. Hauck, 2018

Trees are shelters for birds. This apparently presented a problem for the cemetery. Gravestones became covered with bird droppings. Some people were shooting the birds. In 1903, concerned for the safety of cemetery visitors, the town established a rule prohibiting the "discharging firearms of any description in the cemetery, and from attempting in any manner to destroy or annoy the birds."³¹

More Than 2,400 Interments

In 1834, Joseph Felt in his History of Ipswich, Essex and Hamilton wrote that at burials, in the 1600s and 1700s, nothing was read and no sermon. Friends and family and minister gathered at the tolling of the bell and followed the coffin as it was carried to the grave and they stood by as it was buried. When burying females, women were at head of procession, and men when burying a male.¹

Only residents of Hamilton may purchase lots. However, the purchasers can bury people from any location. In 2017, there were 23 cremation urn and 15 casket burials.

All the burial lots in the old cemetery are sold, but occasionally there is a burial. In June 2017, Edward A. Haraden was buried in sec. 8, lot 103, the Haraden family lot purchased in 1920.

Early in the 20th century, burial vaults began to be used to prevent the collapse of burial sites from the weight of soil over the deteriorating wood coffin. The lined and sealed concrete vault protects the coffin. Since 1980, all casket burials require a concrete vault.

No data are available for the annual deaths of people in the early Hamlet. However, Felt wrote in his history there were 517 deaths, in Hamilton, from 1793 to 1833, or about 13 each year.¹ At the start of the 1900s, about 30 people died each year.

From 1910 to 1913, interments were slightly higher due to graves being moved from the Wigglesworth cemetery on Main St. to the town cemetery. About 30 graves were transferred.^{35, 36} The Wigglesworth cemetery, created in 1850, had been out of use from about 1885 and was being converted to a town park, first called Central Park.³

For many years, bodies were brought to the cemetery from other

towns. A high was in 1935, when 13 were brought in.^{49, 80}

From 1920 to 1950, there were 20 to 30 interments annually, except for 1929, when there were 37 and the 38 in 1944. Six of the 37 interments in 1929 were children.^{44, 23}

In the 1950s, Hamilton's population doubled.. Interments, in the 1960s, rose to the mid forties. From the 1970s to 2000, interments were about 41 each year, with a jump to 53 in 1979.⁶⁴

By 1919, all the burial lots in ten old area sections were sold, except for a few lots for single graves.⁴¹ All the lots on these sections are for 8 graves. Family (8-grave) lots comprise the largest portion of the cemetery: in 2018, there were 910.

Annual cemetery reports, starting in 1921, used the term "interments," instead of burials. Another terminology change, beginning about 1992, was using grave openings rather than grave digging. No explanations were given.

In 1953, the cemetery completed a building project for 58 eight-grave family lots in the Safford area.⁹⁴ Twenty of the lots were sold the next 3 years. Sales began to dwindle the years following. The cemetery stopped creating family lots in 2012, because there was very low buyer interest.¹⁰⁰ The eras of the nowhere generations had ended.

Single grave lots (12 x 3 ft.), 710, are second most. In 1947, the cemetery cleared and graded part of the Safford area to create 36 single-grave sites. There had been a shortage of single graves. The new area joins the old single graves.⁵⁶



West side of the Trussell area, cleared of trees and leveled in 1988, is expected to provide about 500 gravesites.. Photo, J. Hauck, 2018



Prominent People Buried in Hamilton Cemetery

Elisabeth Howard Elliot (1926-2015) a Christian missionary, (*right*)

Mary Abigail Dodge (1833-1896) a Hamilton-born writer and essayist. She wrote under the pseudonym Gail Hamilton. Photos, J. Hauck, 2018.



There are 330 4-grave (8 x 20 ft.) lots. Most are in the Safford area, at the back of the cemetery.

Ten tombs remain: Along Main, there are four; on the north side of the old section, there are six. All are permanently closed, since about the time backhoes began to be used to dig graves.

Generations of many early residents of the Hamlet and Hamilton are buried in the cemetery. There are more than 160 Dodges, the earliest being Paul Dodge (1710-1773); and more than 140 Danes.¹¹

Several distinguished people buried in the cemetery are:

Dr. Manasseh Cutler (1742-1823) was a U.S. congressman, a Congregational minister, military chaplain in 1776, a doctor, a founder of the Ohio Company formed to colonize the Ohio Territory, a Federalist in Congress, and held in esteem for his knowledge of botany and astronomy. He is buried in the old cemetery near Central Avenue and Pine Avenue. The top of his brick vault is a flat inscribed slate slab.

George von Lengerke Meyer (1858-1918) was a U. S. diplomat, a director and major stockholder of several banks, railroads, insurance companies, and manufacturing concerns, a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and House Speaker, an ambassador to Italy and Russia, President Theodore Roosevelt's Postmaster General, and President William Howard Taft's Secretary of the Navy. He is buried in a wooded area on the east side of Walnut Ave. There is a shingled roof above horizontal stones.

Elisabeth Howard Elliot (1926-2015) was a Christian missionary, writer and radio host, called by Christianity Today as "one of the most influential Christian women of the 20th century." Her grave, with a boulder headstone painted white, is in section 14, at the end of Greenwood Ave. She is buried next to her second husband, Addison Hardie Leitch, who died in 1973.

They both taught at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, in Hamilton.

Mary Abigail Dodge (1833-1896) a Hamilton-born writer and essayist, who wrote under the pseudonym Gail Hamilton. Her writing, more than 2 dozen books, is noted by a focus on women's on equality of education and occupation. Her grave is off of Central Ave., near Woodland Ave.

Two Memorials

There are two memorial monuments:

On Main Ave., near the exit, there is the Dea. Nathaniel Whipple monument. It was erected by his descendants, in 1868. Dea. Whipple, 1720-1809, was the moderator at the first town meeting, Aug. 1, 1793. Following a 1954 storm, when many trees fell, a low rise on which the stone sat was removed.

In 1955, the police erected a memorial, on Main Ave. near the American Legion area. Annually, on the Sunday prior to Memorial Day, officers march to the monument for a memorial service for those that died



Monument erected in 1985 honors service of members of the police and fire departments. Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.

while a member of the department. Through 2017, 13 police officers died while members of the force.

The monument was replaced, in 1985, by another honoring the service of members of both the police and fire departments. Throughout the cemetery, graves for those who served on the fire department, have small red flags and cross markers. (*Known as the St. Florian Cross, the patron saint of firefighters.*)

The town planned to erect, in 1935, memorials to the George H. Gibney, who served as Cemetery Commissioner (1902-1930) and Lewis B. Norton (1856-1935). The Gibney monument was to be placed where a pump house had been, at the entrance to the Safford area.⁴⁸ No site was indicated for the Norton stone. However, neither monument was erected. The proposed site for the Gibney monument, in 1995, became the Smith lot. Walter Addison Smith (d. 1998) is buried here.

Headstones Back to Early 1700s

Being more than 300 years old, the Hamilton Cemetery contains a history of headstone changes. For the taphophile, they reveal how the type of material, stone design and size, engravings and placement have advanced.

The graves can have two types of gravestones: headstones and footstones. The latter are at the foot of the grave and on the sides. They are small and have few inscriptions, in some cases only initials. Located on lots with multiple graves, the footstones, for the most part, are flat with the ground, although some are slightly raised.

There also are some flat headstones. These are level with the ground. An exception is the Cutler stone that is on top of a raised brick tomb. There are many flat headstones and footstones, in the Safford area.

Most of the vertical headstones in the front section are slate and sandstone. These sedimentary rocks were the dominant gravestone materials, in the 1600s and 1700s. They were abundantly available and carved well. Grey was the most common color of sandstone markers, with some being white.

Delamination occurs when moisture gets between the layers of these rocks. Many of the original sandstone markers, in the front area, through the physical effects of weathering, have disappeared, are damaged, or are unreadable. Stones along Main Ave., the entrance road, are covered with lichen.

Many graves in the cemetery's old section no longer have gravestones or little of the stone remains. The reason is weathering.

Slate engraves well and retains engraving. However, slate is prone to delamination. Moss and lichen grow along surface cracks.

Marble was first quarried in America, in Dorset, VT, in 1785. Off-white and grey marble is attractive when it is new. Marble was said to be a weather-resistant material. However, with the advent of industrial pollution, acid rain attacks the historic marble gravestones. Surfaces develop a granulated layer, known as sugar. As a result, lettering and motif are reduced. Some marble markers have a black surface due to mold growth.

Headstone Art



From terrifying skulls ...



to frowning cherubs ...



to smiling and whig-wearing cherubs ...



to pleasant urn and willow.

Before marble began to be commercially quarried in America, wealthy patrons imported it from Europe.

Colors other than pure white, was considered an impurity. Carved details in memorials and statues were much easier to hand carve in the even grained, pure white marble, as opposed to the marble with veining and uneven grain.

In the late 1800s, some gravestones were of cast zinc, called "white bronze." With weathering, the monuments turn a bluish grey, such as was the case with the Tuck monument off of Central Ave.

These monuments are made by carving designs into wax forms used to make plaster forms used to make sand molds, into which molten zinc is poured. Sandblasting the zinc casting creates a stone-like finish. A lacquer, applied to the surface, oxidizes the hollow casting, creating a bluish-grey patina.

Being hollow, they are very light compared to stone. A stone monument that might weigh 1,000 pounds, weighs about 150 pounds in white bronze. However, the bronze monuments are frangible, as evident by the broken Tuck family monument by Central Ave. (*sec. 7, lot 87*) It was fractured when a nearby tree fell on it and removed in 2018.

In the 20th century, granite gravestones became the preferred markers. The earliest use of granite in New England was in 1754. By the latter part of 1800s, the use of granite greatly increased on larger simple headstones and obelisks with less detailed carving.

A very hard igneous rock, granite is available in a variety of shades and colors. Granite, the heaviest gravestone, weighs about 180 pounds per cubic foot. Granite stones often are 2 to 3 ft. high, 3 to 4 ft.

wide and 4 to 12 in. thick and, thus, can weigh more than a ton.

Granite holds up to the elements, clearly shows engraved lettering and can be polished to have a brilliant shine. Granite however, was very difficult to cut and finish, due to its hardness and uneven grain.

Rectangular headstones dominate the old cemetery. They are mainly about 2 to 4 in. thick. Their main difference is the top edge. Stones in the 1600s and 1700s have a round top, some with either small flat or rounded shoulders on the sides of the center section. Stones in the 1800s have squared top edges.

Not all the headstones are rectangular. In the area next to Main Ave., there are many granite obelisk stones that were erected in the 1800s. Symbolically, the obelisk represents fatherhood, thus it typically is on graves for a fathers, such as the Kinsman stone next to Main Ave.

At various locations, there are Christian crosses carved from granite. Most are the plain Latin cross. Celtic crosses are on Duignan and Reilly graves, with the Duignan being metal. A metal lily sculpture on a boulder is at the grave of the Carl V. Swanson grave (*d. 2012*), the lily being a symbol of rebirth.

Granite bench gravestones and bench additions are on many lots in the Safford and Trussell areas. The police and fire monument has two. A lone bench is beside Broadway and in front of the fieldstone wall. With weathering, the inscription can barely be read: Dexter Richards and Alberta R. Merrill Hunneman.

Some vertical headstones, with flat tops, have pebbles and seashells on them. These indicate that someone visited the site and the deceased is not forgotten. A shell can indicate that the body buried was only a shell for the soul that lives on.

Computer aided design combined with computer numerical control are used to cut headstones have complex shapes. In 2009, a family had a horsehead shaped stone made. Other shapes are hearts and a tree stump.

There are many glacial boulder headstones. They provide a natural look, as seen by the Sprague stone on Grove Ave. The irregular surface of boulders leaves little space for inscriptions. Plates, placed level with the ground near the boulder, are inscribed. Some boulders have a machined flat side that is inscribed.

Large monuments are at the center of some family lots, such as the Dane family lot on Main Ave. Small footstones mark the graves of family members. A few of the family sites have stones marking the perimeter. Others, such as the Goodwin and Proctor lots, are densely surrounded by evergreen trees.



Pebbles and seashells on headstones are indicators of visitors to the site and the deceased is not forgotten.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.

Inscriptions on many of the old stones in the front are worn away or are difficult to read. However, stones for burials before 1800 are listed in *The Essex Antiquarian* of Jan. 1907.⁸⁸ More are in a report handwritten, in 1867, by the noted genealogist Alfred Poore of Salem. Among those recorded by Poore is the marker, now unreadable, for Sarah Lummus, wife of Samuel, who died on Dec. 22, 1709.⁸⁷

Poore's records also provide the inscriptions for the four Tuttle stones, at the front of the old section.⁸⁷ All are very worn and have lichen, making them difficult to read.

Stones of the 1600s and 1700s use words and abbreviations distinctive of the times, such as: Depar'e^d, Decemb^r, Sen^r, Daugh^r, Y^e, Jan^y, and "M^r." Many have ÆT, a Latin abbreviation for "age at death" and have what appears to be an "f" for the letter "s." The long "f" was used at the start and inside of words, while the round "s" was used at the end of words. (e.g. "fīnfulnefs" for "sinfulness").

The dates, on some stones, have a "/", between the last two numbers. This was to indicate the death both in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. The Julian calendar, which began with March, was replaced, beginning in the 1750s, by the Gregorian calendar.

On most 17th and 18th century stones, the inscription begins with "Here lies ye body of" name and the date of death and age. Another frequent inscription begins with "In memory of."

There are many stones with long solemn inscriptions. The stone for Charles Tuttle, who died in 1788, reads, "As I am now so you must be, prepare for death and follow me."

Late in the 1700s, instead of stark and foreboding messages about life and death, epitaphs began to reflect new ideas about resurrection and the afterlife.

The Dea. John Patch stone has, "How still & peaceful is thy grave ..." He died in 1787.

Some have Bible verses, such as the Lucy Appleton stone, John XI, 25: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

A few stones on tombs begin with "Property of ...," such as the John Dane tomb, signifying that the inheritors own the burial site purchased by the deceased. In the 1700s and 1800s, certificates of ownership were given to people when they purchased a grave lot.

Some gravestones have raised lettering, produced by various methods.

Raised lead lettering is made by drilling holes into the stone (*generally granite*) behind where the letters are to be. A lead sheet is beaten on the surface: this pushes lead into the drill holes. Next, the lead sheet is etched to create the letters above the filled drill holes. Prior to cutting the letters, the sheet can be painted.

Raised polished lettering also is made by carving away the area around the letters, leaving the raised polished surface, as on the Abate Hall grave.

Large lettering is possible with cast white zinc.

Gravestones in the 1600s and 1700s often had memento mori symbols (*reminders of death*), such as skulls, and crossbones. Other decorative motifs accompanying the death's head were the hourglass, elaborately carved side panels with florets, finials, foliage and fruit.

By the late 1600s, etching deaths heads had evolved to skulls with wings, symbolizing the soul flying to heaven. There also are winged cherubs and faces. head. The death's head and cherub continued to be used into the late 1700s.

Widely used images in the late 1700s and early 1800s were the willow, chalice and urn. The willow was a mourning symbol. The urn a symbol of the soul remaining in this world. The chalice a symbol of bonding with Christ.

A chalice is on the headstone for Mrs. Betsy Woodberry, which also has a very long inscription: more than 90 error-free etched words. She died in 1824.

In the mid 1800s, headstones began to have images depicting peace, such as a dove. Next, in the late 1800s, there were few stones with symbols and motifs. They had only names and dates.

In the 20th century, the prevailing engraved art on headstones became the Christian cross.

Cemetery Caretakers		
Began	Names	Yrs
1849	Porter, Joshua	3
1852	Hoyt, David	16
1868	Tibbetts, John	12
1880	Tibbetts, Edward	18
1909	Roberts, George	13
1921	McKay, William	1
1922	Haraden, Rudolph	1
1923	Wilkinson, Richard	6
1937	MacGregor, Ernest	10
1946	Caverly, Luther	7
1953	Plummer, Philip	17
1970	Douglas Cann	15
1986	Shea, Joseph	Current



Computer-controlled laser produces very fine artwork and portraits. Photo, J. Hauck, 2017

The cemetery's headstones in the 1600s and 1700s were engraved by hand. Skilled workers used hammers and chisels. Chiseling prevailed until the latter part of the 1800s.

Sand blasting, using stencils to outline letters and design, began to be used in the 1870s. Civil War headstones, with raised letters inside a recessed shield, were among the earliest to use the process. By the late 1920s sand blasting was the predominant method for inscribing headstones.

Laser engraving, which started in the 1990s, allows copying of very fine detail, but of shallow depth. Computer controlled laser etching tools produce fine artwork and portraits.

Early colonial headstones and those of the 1700s and 1800s are in fact much larger than they appear. Half of their length is below ground level. This was done to ensure the headstone would remain straight, as soil around the grave shifted with time.

Gravestones in the front sections of the old yard do not have foundations. Most of the stone's length is buried, in order that it remain stable. By the early 19th century, many headstones were made shorter in length, and were set into or onto stone bases.

The headstone section, called the "die" or "tablet," stands on a base stone. The two, which are attached with a bonding agent, are set on a poured concrete foundation in the ground.

Since about 1970, dies and bases in the cemetery have been set on concrete foundations poured by cemetery personnel.⁹⁶

In 2000, the cemetery established a size limit for gravestones. New monuments were restricted to being 3 ft. wide, 3 ft. high, and no wider than 18 in. The 1903 town cemetery rules and regulations did not restrict the size of gravestones, monuments or other

structures.³¹ The tallest gravestone in the cemetery is the 12-ft. high Burnham family rose-colored granite Tuscan column, near the Cutler brick tomb.

Two Buildings Remain

In 2018, two buildings remain in the cemetery.

A former coffin holding building is on Main Ave., about 100 yds. in from the entrance. Shrubs on three sides screen the brick building, which has a slate roof. The building occasionally is used for storage.

The cemetery first had a receiving tomb in 1877.⁷⁵ The tomb temporarily stored bodies during the winter, when the ground was too frozen to dig. Built on Main Ave., it was closed about 1970, when a backhoe began to be used, replacing gravediggers.¹⁰⁰

The other remaining building is in the back area on Broadway Ave. It is a garage for equipment and supplies. It was built in 1965, refurbished in 1998 and expanded in 2010.^{69, 74, 106}

A previous building was a garage for a hearse the cemetery bought about 1815: built in 1814, the hearse house was at the front of the cemetery.¹ In 1904, the town sold the hearse and removed the hearse house.³

Another early structure was a water pump house. Built in 1901, it was on the corner of Main and Pleasant avenues, in the center of the old cemetery.²⁹ The pump was replaced in 1915.³⁸

The cemetery dug a second well in 1919. It was on the corner of Highland and Grove avenues, the center of the Safford area..⁴¹

In 1928, the cemetery built a new water plant and refurbished the Highland and Grove pump house.⁴⁶

Also that year, the town built a comfort station on Main Ave.⁴⁶ There is no record of when it closed nor when removed.



Backhoe replaced grave diggers. Wood form is used to check depth and width of grave. Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.

The water system, in 1934, unable to supply the entire cemetery was replaced with new equipment. A larger pump was installed and another well connected.⁴⁸ The new system replaced wells that were at Main and Pleasant, and Highland and Grove.

In 1939, the cemetery was connected to the town water system. A manhole installed at the exit on Central Ave. houses a water meter and shutoff valve.⁸²

The water system was expanded, in 1951, to supply water from the front of the cemetery to the back, Oak Ave. Nearly 2,000 ft. of new pipe were laid.⁵⁷ The system, in 1993, was again updated.⁶⁶

Care of Grounds

Care of the cemetery and grave digging, in the beginning, was assigned to the church sexton, as part of his overall maintenance duties. In addition, families of those buried in the cemetery were expected to care for their lots.

In the early 1800s, the town hired people on as-needed basis for burials and building and repairing stonewalls. They also cut trees and removed stumps.

The Cemetery Board appointed undertakers, who drove the town hearse, cared for the hearse house, did ground work and submitted the official "returns of deaths," to the town clerk.³

In 1849, Joshua Porter was appointed "undertaker of the burial of the dead." He shared the duties later with William B. Jackson.³

From 1853 to 1866, David M. Hoyt, of 643 Main St. was the "burial undertaker."³ Following Hoyt was Aaron Tibbetts, who lived 52 Bridge St. A wheelwright by trade, he was followed by his son, John and next his son, Edward C.³

In 1903, the town established a Board of Cemetery Trustees, having 3 Commissioners. The Board had charge of and managed the cemetery, sold burial lots and hired workers.³¹

The Board established a Cemetery Superintendent, in 1907, to work in the cemetery and hire workers. George E. Roberts, became the Superintendent of the Cemetery, in 1908,³³ a position he would hold until 1931. George H. Haraden, who had been acting superintendent, replaced Roberts.⁴⁷

Labor came from various sources. Often, during the fall, young boys raked leaves.⁶¹ During the recession years in the 1930s, there were W.P.A. laborers,⁴⁹ as well as workers hired by the town's Unemployment Committee.⁴⁸

The Board of Cemetery Commissioners, ended in 1966.⁶¹ The town created, In 1968, a Department of Public Works, headed by a 3-member Commission, with charge of 6 departments; highway, cemetery, park, water, sanitation and tree.⁹⁷

With the consolidation, equipment owned by the town could be shared among the various services of the DPW. The same applied to DPW workers.

In place of a Cemetery Superintendent, the town created, in 1969, the position of a Cemetery Foreman.⁶² Philip "Mike" Plummer was the first to have this job. He retired a year later. In 1986, Joseph Shea, became the Foreman: he started working at the cemetery in 1985. Preceding Shea, for 15 years, was Douglas Cann.¹⁰⁰

Shovels, picks and rakes were used to dig and close graves up to the early 1960s, when a backhoe did the job much faster.¹⁰⁰ One time, in 1874, an ox was used for cemetery work, likely to remove tree stumps.¹⁸⁷⁴

Not just an ox was in the cemetery. During the 1700s and up through the mid 1800s, the town leased the cemetery to the highest bidder for herbage: cows and sheep grazed on the cemetery, thereby, keeping the grass and weeds low.



Garage, built in 1980, contains equipment and supplies. Vehicles are kept at town's Public Works area, behind town hall.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Casket holding house, built in 1877, was last used about 1970. Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.

The cemetery had its first push mower about 1905.¹⁰⁷ The use of push reel-mowers continued until 1940, when a gasoline powered rotary mower was bought. Mowing time was reduced 50%.¹⁰⁸

In 1947, the cemetery had another used rotary mower.⁵⁶ In 2001, the cemetery began using a zero-turn, ride mower: the ability to turn without moving greatly reduced the time to mow around gravestones.

¹⁰⁰ The cemetery had its first truck about 1930, a model T Ford. In 1938, a second-hand model A Ford replaced it.⁵¹ In 1999, the DPW assigned a 1-ton dump truck for use in the cemetery. Previous truck lasted 15 years.¹⁰⁰

Much of the cemetery work is labor intensive. Workers use push spreaders to seed and fertilize. Other labor intensive work: spreading soil on low areas and edging stones.

Insects have been major problems to the cemetery grounds and trees. From the early 1900s to the late 1930s, gypsy moths were attacked with chemical sprays, including DDT. In the 1990s, Japanese beetles became a problem. There was a noticeable improvement, in 1998, in the fight against grub damage from Japanese Beetles and the moths using natural controlling agents rather than pesticides.⁶⁹

A recurring cemetery maintenance problem is drought damage. Particularly severe were the droughts of 1967, 1989 and 1998. The 1989 drought was said to have been the most serious in twenty years.⁹¹ The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported the drought from May 1 to Jul. 31, 2016 was the driest for those three months in Massachusetts, since 1966 and the ninth driest on record.



In old section, many headstones lean in the same direction.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2017.

The cemetery is on a part of the town where the groundwater table is high. The long dry periods cause the dry soil to compress, which can cause gravestones to lean. Other causes for stones to lean are: freezing and thawing, compaction of filled soil, and coffin collapse.

In the old section of the cemetery, many headstones lean in the same direction. In the old burial ground, where there are monolith headstones that lean forwards, towards the grave, because of the wood coffin collapse.

In 1976, local historian Donald Beattie called for restoration of many of the cemetery's old graves. The State provided \$2,000 of matching funds for the project. Stones, 150, from the 1700s and 1800s were reset and restored, as were 55 Revolutionary War stones.⁶³

Various methods have been used to repair broken stones. Some poorly done, such as fastening with metal strips and adhesives that produce crack lines of a different color than the stone.

Cleaning gravestones is a responsibility of grave owners. The cemetery cleans the stones in the front military area.

Many Changes in Funding

During the early years of the cemetery, money from the sale of grave lots paid for the care of the small cemetery. As late as 1866, grounds care annually was \$28.²⁷ In 1900, the annual cost had risen to only \$50.³⁴ Families of the people buried were required to care for the individual graves. The town paid for burying indigents, but did not erect a headstone.

However, some owners apparently were neglecting their burial lots. The Commissioners notified owners of lots that worsened "the general appearance of the cemetery."³¹

To cover costs for maintaining lots that owners neglected, the cemetery, in 1903, created endowed cemetery lots with a guarantee of perpetual care.³¹ The town accepted perpetual care endowments, in addition to the cost for the burial lot. The endowments provided for graves to be forever mowed and trimmed and seeded, as needed, and stones cleaned.³¹

The endowed care program began with the expansion into the Trussell lot. Graded perpetual care lots cost \$150.^{31, 33} 8-grave lots without perpetual care, in early 1900s, cost \$10 to \$25. In the 1920s to 1940s, the cost was \$25 to \$50. The cost was \$100 in the 1950s and 60s.

The treasurer invested the perpetual care endowments as required by State law. Only the income on the principal could be used for maintenance of a grave.³¹

Separate perpetual care accounts were opened at local banks. The town transferred income from the accounts into a Cemetery Sale of Lots and Graves Fund.^{44, 55}

Finances were in good shape. In 1922, the Cemetery Commissioners reported, "Many of the endowed lots were having so much surplus interest accumulate that special work has been done in cleaning the monuments and markers on such lots, thus making them look as good as new."⁸¹

In the 1930s, with the country being in a depression, the endowment accounts did not yield any interest. By 1940, the Commissioners reported, "The interest rate of the endowments held by the Town for perpetual care has decreased to such an extent that the appropriation had to be increased, to offset the low rate."⁸⁰

The first mention of the cemetery handling interments is in the 1940 Hamilton Annual Report. The cemetery received \$190 for interments.¹⁰⁸ In the 1950s, interments were about 30/yr.; and there were about 40/yr., in the 1960s.

Following WW2, many families purchased endowed graves. The town treasurer, in 1945, said that it was, "Gratifying to have so many people endowing their lots for perpetual care, as this insures revenue for the care of them, for all time."⁵⁴ There were 132 accounts.

In 1960, 16 of the 22 lots sold were perpetual care lots. There was about \$42,500 in perpetual care fund. The interest paid was \$872.⁵⁹

By 1963, at various banks, there were 237 individual endowment accounts. To reduce the time for managing the accounts, the town consolidated all of them, at each bank, into a single perpetual care grave account.⁶⁰

In 1970, there was about \$78,000 in the perpetual care fund, which earned about \$4,700 interest. The sales of lots and graves fund was about \$22,700.¹⁰³

A new source of income began in 1971, when the cemetery began laying gravestone foundations: did 5 for \$20 each.⁹⁶

The town began accepting, in 1973, voluntary donations for perpetual care of the cemetery. A separate cemetery perpetual care income fund was established.⁹⁵ After 1993, an amount for perpetual care was included as part of the price for all grave lots.⁶⁶ In 2018, a single grave lot cost \$450 (*included \$250*

for perpetual care) and a 4-grave lot was \$1,450 (*included \$750 for perpetual care*).¹⁰¹

The late 20th century saw a return of low interest rates for bank deposits and other forms of investment. This continued into the 21st century.

In 2000, the total cemetery cost was about \$42,500. The price for single grave lots was \$350 and \$1,200 for 4-grave lots. Other income for operating the cemetery, in 2000, came from perpetual care trusts, a flowers trust, interments, and laying of gravestone foundations. The total amount was \$31,300.⁷⁰

Three years after the 2000 increase in grave prices, the cemetery again increased them in 2003: \$450 for a single lot (*includes \$250 for Perpetual Care*) and \$1,450 (*includes \$750 for Perpetual Care*) for a 4-grave lot.¹⁰² Foundations for a gravestone cost \$100.

A new source funding began in 2006, when voters approved \$6,000, to be taken from Community Preservation Funds, for renovations to cemetery headstones.⁷¹ The Community Preservation Act of 2000 (*M.G.L. Ch. 44B*) allows communities to create a special fund through a property tax surcharge. The State matches, at variable rates, the funds raised by the town. Among the uses allowed for these funds is restoring of historic burial grounds.

In 2007, cemetery income was: \$4,400 from sale of lots, \$5,000 from Perpetual Care, and \$29,900 from interments and laying burial stone foundations, for a total of about \$39,300.⁷² This was about \$5,000 above the average for the previous decade.

The CPA provided \$13,000, in 2009, for renovations of the two cemetery buildings, as well as repair of the Bay Road fence and landscaping the front shrub area.⁷³

Cemetery expenses, in 2000, were about \$44,000, of which wages were about 82%.⁷⁰ From 2013 to 2017, annual cemetery expenses were from about \$82,000 to \$86,000. Wages accounted for about 85% of the expenses.

During this period, the town took \$2,000 annually from the Cemetery Sale of Lots and Graves Fund. The Fund, in 2017, had about \$169,000.¹⁰⁵

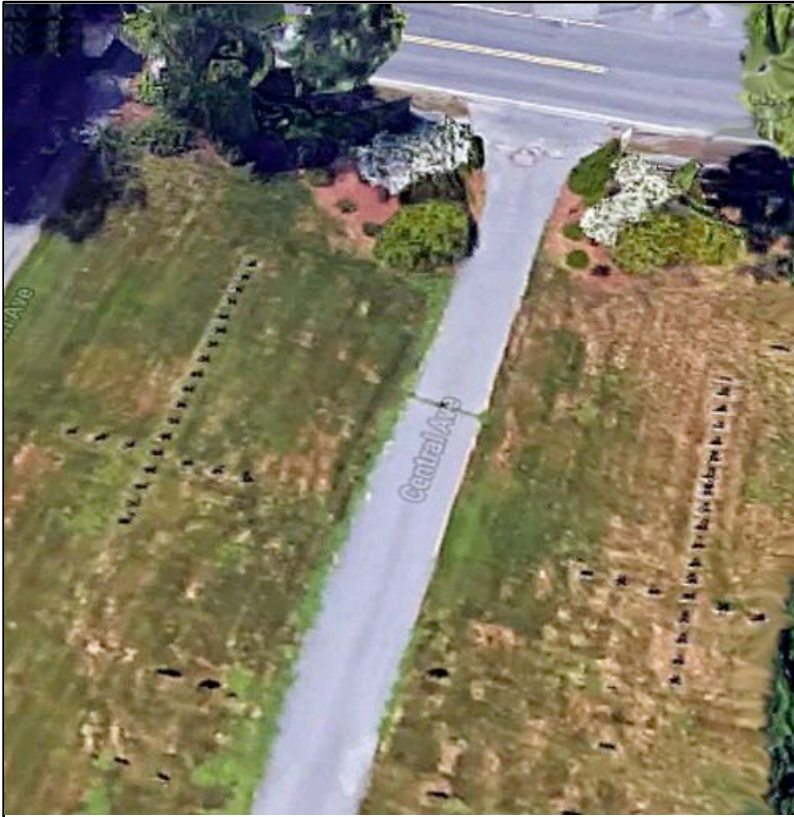
Other funds came from interments and foundations performed and interest earned by Perpetual Care funds. From 2010 to 2017, annual Perpetual Care Fund deductions were \$10,000 or \$20,000, except in 2011 when it was \$40,000. In 2017, the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund had about \$207,000, in principal and⁹⁸ there was \$59,000 in interest.¹⁰⁵

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Very helpful in providing information were: Joe

Shea, Cemetery Foreman, and Delores Sheehan, Administrative Assistant.

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Crosses, one on each side of Central Avenue, have 24 markers to commemorate those who served in the French and Indian war and the Revolutionary war. *(there are no graves).* Photo, Bing maps.



Alice A. Meyer, in 1922, gave cemetery a new iron fence and gates, and brick pillars. Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.

FRONT AREA



Flowering shrub bed, at front, comes into bloom in the spring. Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Church building across from cemetery was built in 1634. Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



American Legion, Post 194, provides flags for all military veterans just before Memorial Day. Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Backs of four tombs line entrance road, Main Ave.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.

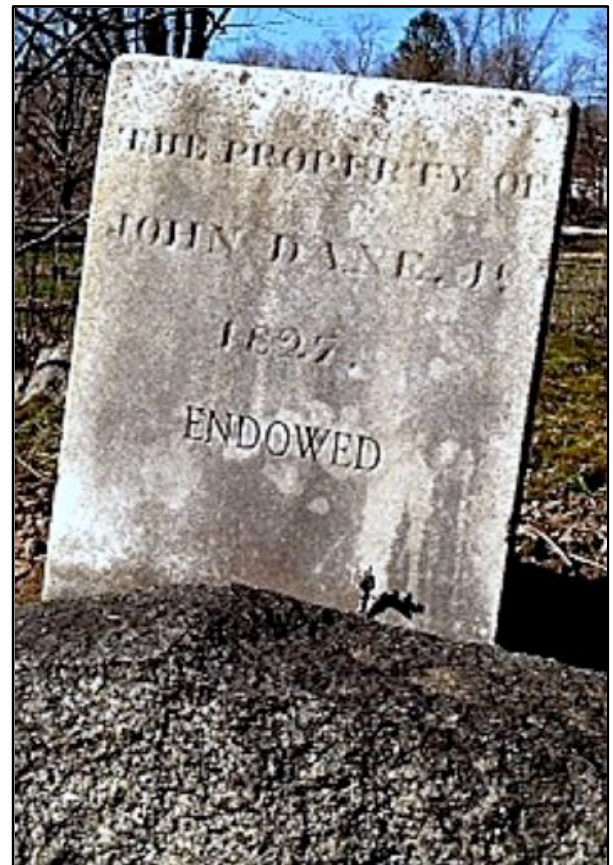


Fronts of tombs on Main Ave.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Lamson tomb, one of four, on north side.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.

TOMBS AT FRONT



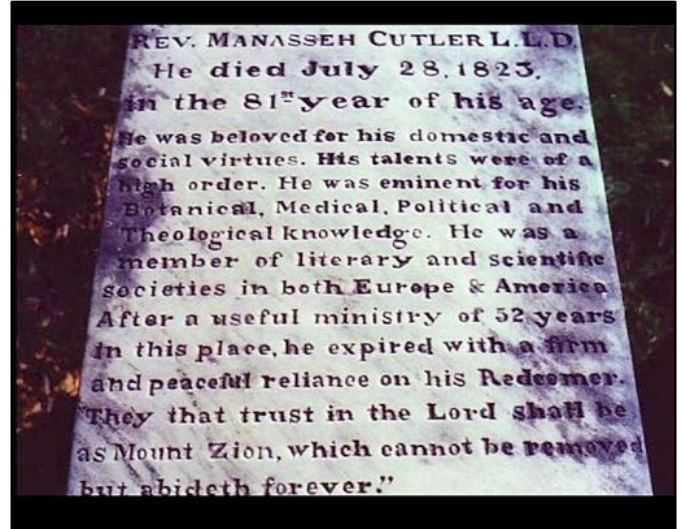
Stone on Dane tomb.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018



Dane tomb on north side.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Cutler brick monument, front, and tall Burnham family stone, at back. Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Tablet on Cutler brick monument.
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

FRONT ALONG CENTRAL



Whipple family monument beside Central Ave.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Tuttle gravestones at northeast corner
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Tuttle gravestones at northeast corner.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Civil War
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Sons of the American Revolution
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Fire department St. Florian Cross
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.

SERVICE MARKERS



American Legion bronze medallion.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Stones in second military section, near back of old cemetery, are white marble with a slightly rounded top. They are 42 in. high, 13 in. wide and 4 in. thick. The inscription includes the name, rank, regiment, division, date of death. Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.

MILITARY SECTION



Lone marker, center of second military section, for Pvt. Silas W. Grant. Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Afternoon sunlight seems to make a marker, in second military section, glow. Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Mortars, four, were on corners of second military section from 1928 to 1999. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



Lengerth crest
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



George von Lengerth Meyer gate.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Appleton crest
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.

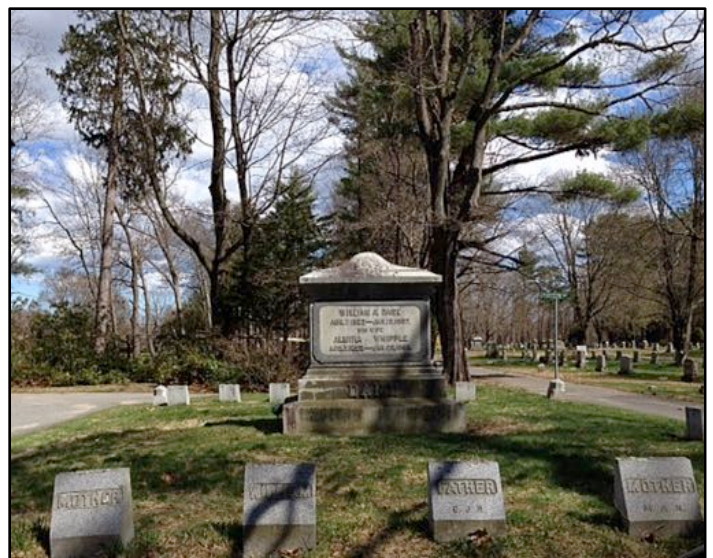


Covered von Lengerth graves and daughter's stone.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.

**MEYER,
HYLAND
&
DANE
AREAS**



Hyland family lot on Walnut Ave.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Dane family lot, at intersection of front and back areas.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.

ROADS



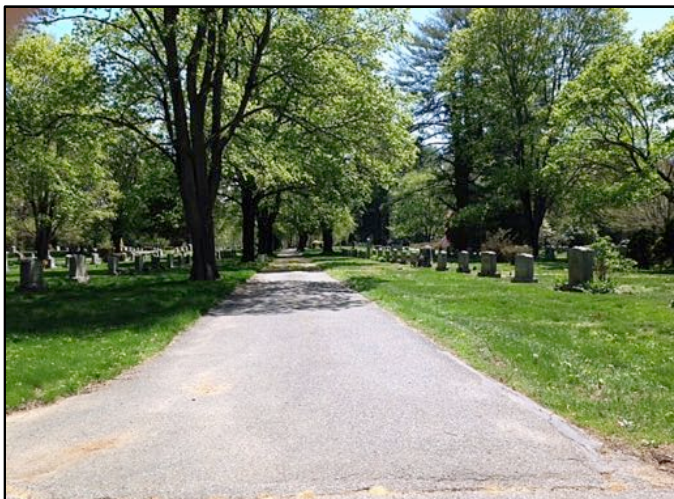
Central Ave., from Eastern Ave. Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Greenwood Ave. , from Broadway Ave.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Linden Ave, from Broadway Ave. Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Highland Ave. , from Broadway Ave.. Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



New road in construction. Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.

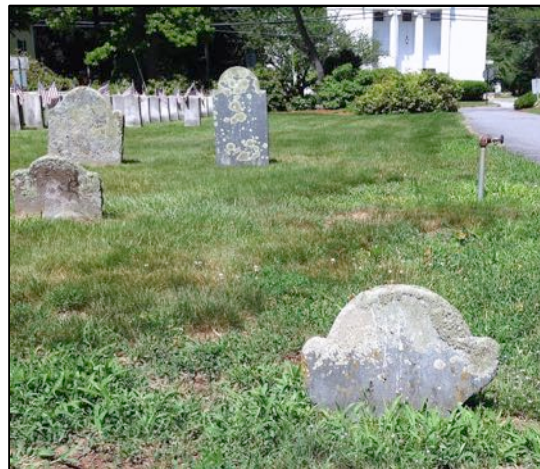
DAMAGED



Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



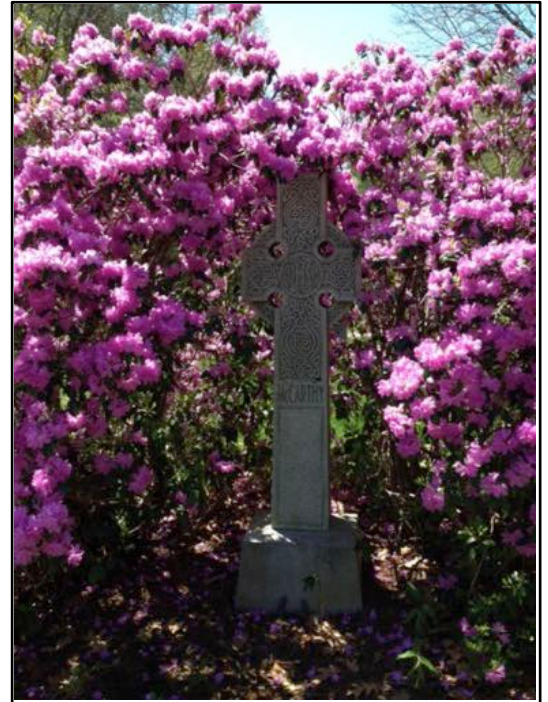
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Photo, J. Hauck 2018



Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.

IN BLOOM



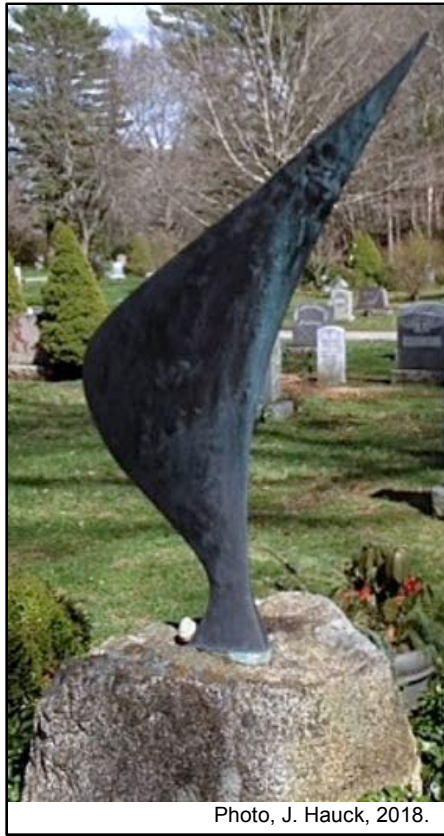
Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Photo, J. Hauck 2018



Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.

SHAPES



Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.



Photo, J. Hauck, 2018.