

Cemetery Survey
Groton, Connecticut

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INTRODUCTION

During the summer of 1996, an intern for the Planning Department in the Town of Groton conducted a survey of all known cemeteries in Groton. The survey included information about conditions of grounds and markers, design elements, carving types, general age of a cemetery, and some family names and significant individuals buried there. In addition, potential hazards were noted and recommendations for improvements were made. Finally, a summary of significance of the cemetery, directions and photographs were added to give further information about them.

While researching and visiting the cemeteries for this report, it became obvious that many people were not aware of the information available. Thus, a secondary focus of this study became explaining what resources are available in the various libraries and historical societies throughout Groton. Statewide and national organizations were contacted as well to find out what services they provide.

Other explanatory information is included in order to make the report fully useful for a spectrum of interested individuals. A glossary of terms, explanation of symbolic carvings and design elements, and explanation of maintenance problems act as introductions, or perhaps re-introductions for users of the report. In addition, a detailed map locates cemeteries to make them easier to find.

Many individuals were very helpful and are due thank you's. Betty Chapman and Carol Kimball took time out of their busy days to share their knowledge of cemeteries; Bill Beaman and Marty Schoonman in the Parks and Recreation Department and Horace Newbury in the Public Works Department provided information on maintenance and locations of some hidden cemeteries; and Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, the State Archaeologist aided in finding information on Native American Burial Sites. Finally, thanks is due to the staff in the Planning Department who provided insight and help in preparing the report, in particular, Paul Duarte for mapping the cemeteries in the GIS system and Nicki Boenig for helping with the organization of the report.

Although this survey is meant to be as complete and correct as possible, some information may have been incorrectly interpreted. This survey is perhaps the first complete report of Groton's cemeteries which notes conditions and historic significance and not just an inventory of names on gravemarkers. Hopefully this survey will be an information base and spark further reports, in which information can be corrected if need be.

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Throughout this report, terms are consistently used in describing cemeteries, gravemarkers and conditions concerning them. This is meant to define the terms used so as to keep confusion nonexistent, or at least, to a minimum. Where noted (1), definitions are taken from Lynette Strangstad's A Graveyard Preservation Planner.

conservation: a specialized field involved with the stabilization, protection from deterioration, and preservation from loss of historic and artistic value (1).

preservation: the act of protecting, maintaining, and saving...[cemeteries] and documents as well as the procedures applied to the stones themselves (1).

replica: An exact copy of an artifact, in this case, gravemarkers, in order to preserve the original in a more controlled state (1).

restoration: the act of restoring- that is, reconstructing, replacing, renewing (1).

rustic: unfinished, natural state of a material, in this case, stone.

finished: shaping, cutting of a material to give it a more formal look.

motif: type of image, in this case, the artistic images found on gravemarkers.

carving: the act of shaping a material, including the shaping of a stone's surface into relief images.

symbol: a carved motif which has spiritual, personal, societal meaning.

excellent: near perfect or near new condition of both the grounds and the gravemarkers.

good: high levels of maintenance are obvious, but a few more things could be done to spruce up appearance. Problems are minor and can easily be corrected.

decent: average condition, basic maintenance is conducted. markers are endangered because of overgrowth. If problems are not corrected, permanent damage to markers will probably occur.

poor: worst level of condition, perhaps even abandonment of cemetery, or lack of maintenance for many years. Markers are difficult to discern. Markers are permanently damaged by deterioration and may or may not be able to be salvaged.

DESIGN ELEMENTS AND SYMBOLS

Cemeteries provide a wealth of information making them useful resources on their own. Historic events are recorded or hinted at through markers inscriptions, such as the Battle of Groton Heights. Societal influences are reflected as well, from the way in which the cemetery's setting is designed or not designed, to the way in which the gravemarkers are inscribed and decorated.

A cemetery's layout tells a great deal about a society's perception of death. Our oldest cemeteries can be classified as burying grounds, simply, places to put loved ones once life had ended. Death was simply the end to a life of repression from the Puritan viewpoint. Death was not sentimental but rather remembered in fear.

A major transformation in views of death and health which occurred in the early parts of the nineteenth century changed society's views on how to bury the dead. Doctors became worried that the old burying grounds were not healthy places to visit, and at the same time new influences were changing the thinking of what happened after death. Suddenly, death became an eternal life, and a beautiful place was required in order to experience a tranquil and spiritual eternity. Mount Auburn Cemetery just outside Boston, Massachusetts is the first of these new cemeteries and is exemplary in design and use of flora and fauna.

Many cemeteries in Groton contain designed elements which aim to make them more than a place to be buried. Many have path systems which bring the visitor through the cemetery. Sections are planned into plots or individual sections. Trees and flowers are often incorporated in order to accent the cemetery and to make it more beautiful. On occasion, tree screens are evident, where trees line the cemetery's frontage along the road in order to keep everyday movement out of the peaceful setting. Centenary trees march along the pathways giving them definition and guiding the visitor's eye to a dramatic focal point are seen in a number of cemeteries. Benches are also placed in some of the cemeteries in order to provide places for personal contemplation.

Carved images on the markers symbolize a society's perception of death. Inscriptions not only aid in genealogy, but also frequently tell cause of death and other personal characteristics. In addition, the artistic symbols carved into the markers act as explanations, so to speak, of feelings about death.

An index follows which explains the meanings held by the carvings, and where they can be located throughout the town. This index of symbol types is not meant to be all inclusive but rather to give an idea of what some of the more common carvings are in this area and when they were commonly used.



Death Head

Expresses the stern view Puritans took on life and death. The skull is meant to instill fear of death in those passing by.

This carving type does not appear very often in Groton, probably because Puritan influence was not dominant here as in other areas of New England.

Examples can be found in Crary Burying Ground and in Niles Cemetery.

Soul Effigy

The soul effigy is less fearsome than the Death Head motif and is a step in an evolution of carvings. The soul effigy represents the "symbols of new life" (Jacobs).

This carving is very popular in Groton and there are many variations of it. All have large faces with apparent bulging eyes.

Many cemeteries in Groton have markers with soul effigy carvings on them, especially Avery-Morgan Cemetery, Starr Cemetery, and Packer Cemetery 1.





Angel

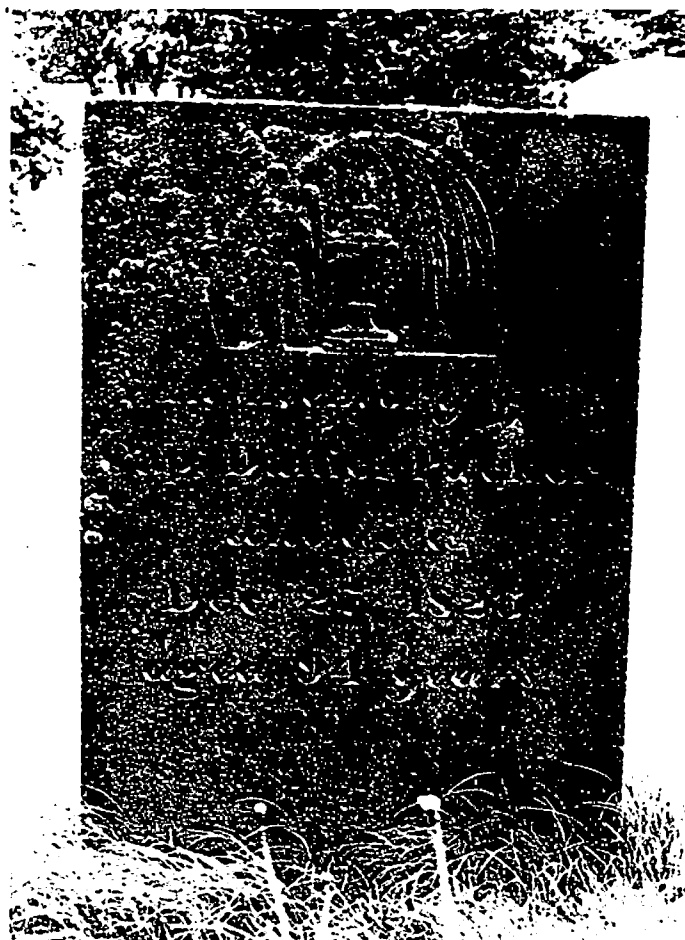
Angel motifs can easily be confused with soul effigy carvings. The main difference is in the carving of the face. Angel motifs have more refined and more cherubic faces, whereas soul effigy carvings have bulging features, as described earlier.

Although not as popular in this area, many can still be found in Starr Cemetery, Avery-Morgan Cemetery, and Packer Cemetery I.

Willow and Urn

By far the most popular carving for the middle 1800's. According to Jacobs: "the urn,...contains the remains of human life from which arise the soul to heaven...more a sign than a symbol. The willow symbolized both mourning for the loss of earthly life and the joy of celestial life".

Nearly all cemeteries in Groton have at least one example of a willow and urn carving. A variety of styles are found in Packer Cemetery, Noank Valley Cemetery, and Turner Cemetery.





Architectural Elements

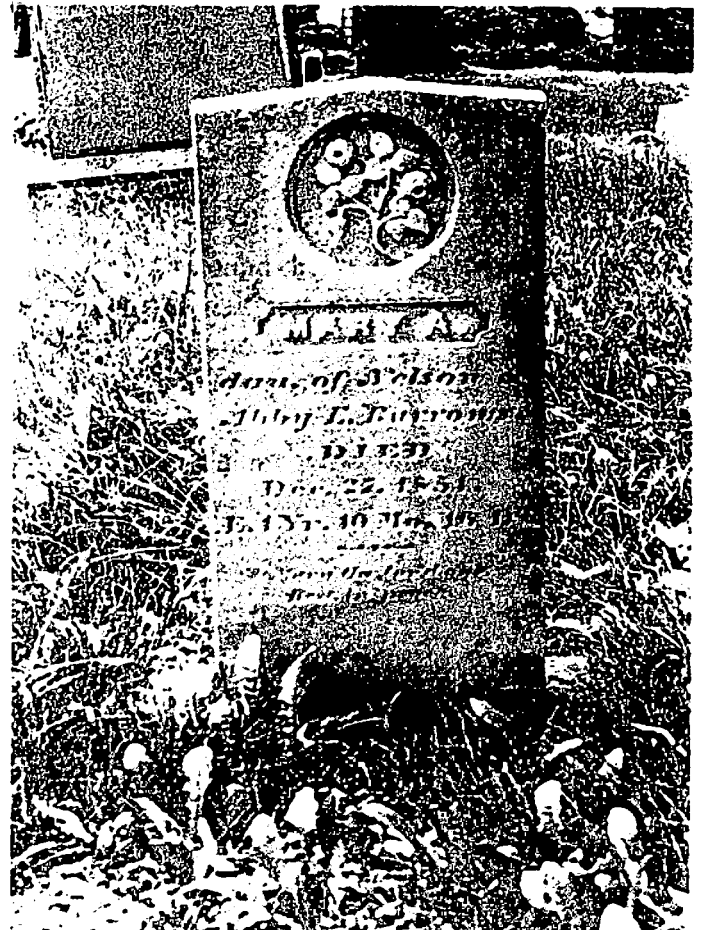
Gothic pointed arches, opening gates, draped cloth and tassels over round arches all fall into this category which represent entrance into the afterlife.

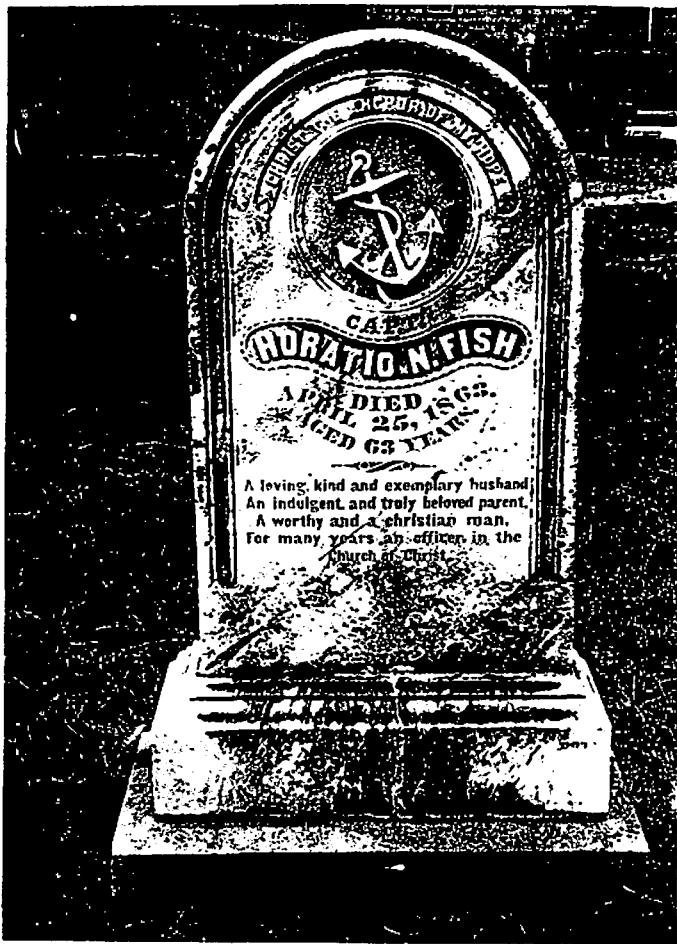
Examples can be found in Chipman-Fish Cemetery, Noank Valley Cemetery, Lower Mystic Cemetery, and Colonel Ledyard Cemetery.

Flowers

In Groton, flowers are usually found on children's markers, and occasionally on women's markers. They symbolize the "beauty and brevity of life" (Jacobs).

Markers with flower carvings can be found in Noank Valley Cemetery, Lower Mystic Cemetery, Colonel Ledyard Cemetery.





Station-In-Life

This symbol represents the occupation of an individual such as sea captain or sailor, or military rank on the marker through carvings such as ships anchors, or flags.

Examples of station in life symbols are found in Lower Mystic Cemetery, Avery-Morgan and Silas Burrows Cemetery.

Open Bible

"The word through which one gains revelation" is symbolized in markers carved to look like bibles, or on markers with bibles depicted opened to a verse of the Bible.

Markers with these symbols can be found in Avery-Morgan Cemetery, and Lower Mystic Cemetery.





Continuous Lettering

Three markers were found in Avery-Morgan cemetery which have a unique lettering use. Words are carved straight across these simple round markers, without breaks in between them. Words are also cut off in strange places because the carver ran out of room on that line. These are the only examples found during this survey, and they are in excellent condition.

Battle of Groton Heights Martyrs

On September 6, 1781, the Battle of Groton Heights occurred in Groton and New London. Local patriots were "murdered" by the British after Colonel Ledyard surrendered Fort Griswold to Major Montgomery. Passionate inscriptions on markers for many patriots clearly represent the hatred felt toward the British, calling Benedict Arnold a traitor and a coward, and declaring the soldiers who died martyrs.



MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS

In the upkeep of a cemetery, many seemingly innocent tasks can greatly harm the markers in the cemetery. This list does not aim to give solutions to all problems, but aims to point out some things not to do while maintaining the cemetery.

mowing: Do not get too close to marker or be very careful not to hit it with the blade because old stone mark or nick easily.

lichen: In shady, moist areas this becomes a problem because the marker has a greater chance of staying damp for long periods of time. Lichen need to be removed gently through cleaning in a non-abrasive manner. There are a number of cleaning techniques which can be used, but consult a conservator before conducting any work and to hear the best options.

resetting: Again, there are a variety of ways to reset a marker which has fallen over or is leaning and a conservator should be consulted again to review the best options for the situation. If a leaning marker is not reset, the marker could snap at its base from its own weight.

flaking: Document through photographs and transcription the marker now before the problem gets worse and consult a conservator for ways to best stabilize if not to end the problem, but to slow the process as much as possible.

broken: Remember that the marker should be noticed and brought back as close to the way it was as possible. Thus, patches should closely match the stone in color and should be as thin as possible and still get the job done properly. Iron rods can be inserted vertically through the marker so as not visible in order to fix the broken marker.

LOST CEMETERIES

Over the years, some of Groton's cemeteries have been "lost" forever to development and associated construction, neglect or to overgrowth. Usually, they have been family plots which were possibly overgrown or simply in the way of bulldozers. Nevertheless, they have disappeared. There are a few as well which are assumed lost because no one seems to know their exact locations, and combing through the brush and woods has not produced results. These are the cemeteries which seem to be lost, with guesses to their location:

Adams: Adams farm, maybe off Briar Hill Road near Latham lake.

Crouch: Crouch farm, possibly off Lower Mystic Road.

Edgecombe: Between Fort Hill and Hazelnut Hill Road.

Hannah Lester: On South Pleasant Valley Road, near Walker Hill Road.

Mitchell: Off River Road, South of St. Patrick Cemetery.

Morgan: On Morgan Farm, which is now the site of the Groton-New London Airport.

North Lane: On South Pleasant Valley Road near Lestertown Road.

Park 2: Off Indigo Lane in Fieldcrest, now a backyard.

Rathbun: Brook Street and Elm Street in Noank.

NATIVE AMERICAN BURIAL SITES

Groton was home to the Pequot Tribe's main village until the battle with troops led by John Mason, which essentially obliterated the Pequots. Because of their presence in the area, there are a number of burial sites throughout Groton. Most of the sites contained one or two graves and many were excavated already, with artifacts in collections at the University of Connecticut, the Smithsonian in Washington, DC, and at the museum house at Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park. Much of the information available is vague, including information concerning the locations of the graves. Anyone interested in locating Native American Burial Sites or in finding more information about them can contact Dr. Nick Bellantoni, State Archaeologist, at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, or Ed Herrick in City Utilities, Groton, CT.

MISPLACED CEMETERIES

Three cemeteries could not be visited during this survey either because they were relatively inaccessible or because they simply could not be found. However, they are still in existence, and given more time should be located, visited and documented.

James Bailey

Roughly in the middle of the South side of Pine Island, a single marker stands to mark James Bailey's grave. According to legend, during the Revolutionary War, Bailey's body washed up on shore of the island presumably after drowning. Because he lived on the island, it was decided that he should be buried there.

Chester Cemetery

In Haley Farm, a small family plot for the Chester family is supposed to be located off to the right, in a field, near the foot of a hill. The two attempts made to find the markers were unsuccessful.

Daniels Cemetery

This cemetery was unknown until a conversation with Ed Herrick who said that City Utilities maintained it. Its approximate location is between Buddington Road and Route 117, South of Route 184. Markers located here are all rustic footstones.

Smith Cemetery

A path can be taken from River Road, just North of the I-95 underpass, which leads onto the State-owned Oral School Property. Smith Cemetery is supposed to be off to the right on a side path. When attempts were made to visit this cemetery, the side path could not be found because of overgrowth.

OLD CEMETERY NAMES AND SPELLING

In going through the various cemetery lists available for the town, discrepancies in names were found. Some were simply spelling differences, but others were complete changes to how cemeteries were referred. This is a listing of all discrepancies found, which list has the discrepancy, and what the cemetery is called in this report.

| <u>Discrepancy</u> | <u>List</u> | <u>Name in report</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Benjamin Burrows | unknown | South Burrows |
| Burrows (7) | Hale | Daniel Burrows |
| Burrows (17) | Hale | Silas Burrows |
| Denison-Smtih | unknown | Smith |
| Fish #2 | Hale | Chipman-Fish |
| Ledyard | Hale | Colonel Ledyard |
| Lower Burrows | Hale | Packer #2 |
| Morgan-Avery | Hale | Avery-Morgan |
| Old Cemetery | Hale | Wallsworth |
| Old Town Burying Grounds | unknown | North Burrows |
| Old Town Hill Cemetery | Hale | North Burrows |
| Packer-Burrows | Hale | Packer #1 |
| Parkes #1 | unknown | Parks #1 |
| Parkes #2 | unknown | Parks #2 |
| Smith-Denison | Hale | Smith |
| Turner-Daboll | unknown | Turner |
| Valley Cemetery | unknown | Noank Valley |
| Welles | unknown | Wells |
| Wrightman | town | Wightman |

Hale: list obtained from the Hale report conducted in 1932

unknown: list found in the Bill Memorial Library whose author is unknown

Town: list provided by the Town Department of Parks and Recreation

TOWNWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Create a Groton Cemetery Association.

Some cemeteries have their own associations, while others are maintained by the Town. A townwide group could provide a resource center for cemeteries, activities to gain more interest in the stories told by cemeteries, and better conservation of markers and cemetery integrity. In addition, a townwide association could monitor the upkeep and potential threats to all cemeteries involved.

2. Encourage volunteers to conduct inventories of markers.

Not only the name and date, but also the full inscription should be recorded so they will not be lost to weathering and deterioration.

3. Create a master plan for Town managed and association managed cemeteries.

Master plans can state a preservation and conservation philosophy, note how funds will be raised to care for the cemetery, and contain a map which locates all graves. A good example is Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

4. ALWAYS consult a conservator for work to be done on grave markers.

No matter how simple a task may seem, always, always consult a professional to learn the best way to clean, reset, etc., markers. An uneducated, but well meaning individual can alter beyond repair fragile markers without knowing it until too late.

5. Keep cemeteries well maintained and free of vandalism.

A clean, well kept cemetery is inviting to those who wish to learn from the cemetery, and can scare away those who wish to harm it.

6. Consult an archaeologist before digging into the ground.

Whether resetting a marker or planting new trees, a call to an archaeologist can prevent problems from arising if remains are inadvertently found.

7. Consider raising public interest through events and activities involving cemeteries.

More people involved means more people interested in the preservation and history of our cemeteries.

MOST ENDANGERED CEMETERIES

Although there are many cemeteries with minor maintenance problems, these need the most care and concern today. These cemeteries have serious threats to them such as development encroachment, or maintenance problems which have gotten out of hand. Without action soon, irreversible damage could occur. This list intends to highlight the Town of Groton's greatest problems in its cemeteries, however, it does not prioritize the problems.

1. Colonel Ledyard's stone marker, Colonel Ledyard Cemetery

Sometime during this century, well meaning Groton citizens decided to put Colonel Ledyard's marker under glass in order to protect it from falling apart due to souvenir takers and weathering. However, the marker still remains outdoors, and water is seeping into the glassed-in marker, creating an even worse problem than before. One suggestion from the Connecticut Graveyard Network, which was made by someone from the organization without actually seeing the situation, is to cut openings into the glass in order to let air into the opening to dry the stone out.

2. Niles Cemetery overgrowth

The Mystic Junior Woman's Club is taking care of the cemetery, however, their visits seem not to be frequent enough. Last year they held a major clean up day at the cemetery and cleared much of the brush but it has grown back this year. There are many beautifully carved markers in this cemetery, at least what can be seen of them, for when the cemetery was visited the overgrowth was nearly as tall as the markers. Brush needs to be cleaned away permanently, if possible by destroying the roots. Obviously, this could be a problem if the roots are underneath the markers, however, the problem needs to be addressed more thoroughly, or at least more often.

3. Palmer Cemetery hazards

Palmer Cemetery is located just beyond a rapidly growing residential subdivision off Brookview Court in Noank. Although not part of the subdivision, there is a hazard from the development because machinery can cause enough movement in the ground to topple markers. Already, a small iron pipe has been added to the cemetery, probably from a surveyor. One careless move, and markers will fall because of the deteriorated state of the cemetery itself.

CEMETERY FORM EXPLANATION

Cemetery Number: Number assigned to cemetery to locate it on a map of the Town

PIN #: Parcel Identification Number assigned by the Town to the land upon which the cemetery is located

Name: Common name for cemetery

Address: Specific location of cemetery

Status: In use: burials continue to occur in cemetery/ Not in use: cemetery is no longer used for burials/ Abandoned: cemetery has been forgotten and is not cared for

Lot Size: Total acreage of cemetery

Directions: How to get to the cemetery from the main routes in town

Caretaker: The caretaker of the cemetery: cemetery association/ family members/ Town of Groton

Number of Markers: Approximate number of markers in the cemetery based on a quickly calculated estimate

Earliest: Earliest date found on walk through of the cemetery

Family Names: Some common names found while recording information on walk through of cemetery

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Types of carvings as described earlier in this report. Also, interesting or elaborate inscriptions.

Design Elements: Elements in the layout of the cemetery which appear to have been planned by a designer or other individual such as controlled views, tree screens, centenary trees, family plots, plantings

Enclosure: Type of fence, wall, or barrier which separates cemetery from other property or the street

Ground Conditions: A critical examination of how the grounds appeared in the day the cemetery was visited on a basis of excellent, good, decent and poor.

Stone Conditions: A critical examination of how the stone markers are maintained on a scale of excellent, good, decent, and poor

Historic Significance: A brief synopsis of the cemetery's history including elements which make the cemetery unique

Hazards: Possible threats to the cemetery's existence

Recommendations: Suggestions for improvements which are maintenance, documentation, or awareness related.

Date: Date on which the cemetery was visited

Avery-Morgan Cemetery

The first Avery and Morgan families in America lived in Groton and are buried here, with a marker memorializing the beginning of the family tree in the 1680's, making the cemetery one of the oldest in Groton. Interesting markers, both old and modern, can be found, such as three early Morgan markers. These simple fieldstones are carved with letters cut straight across, and words cut off in strange places simply because the carver ran out of space on the line. A marker shows the location of the original Morgan house, located to the right of the cemetery entrance. There are gravestones leaning against this marker, and have been for as long as the caretakers can remember, however, research might lead to the location of the graves which they once marked.

Smith Lake Cemetery

Originally Smith Lake Cemetery was located on the edge of Smith Lake, which was the Town's reservoir. After a long debate in the early part of this century, it was moved to Avery-Morgan cemetery because many feared that the cemetery would pose a threat to the water supply and that graves would become unearthed by silt movement. The move was not well documented and was conducted hastily, making it difficult to know if all interred bodies found a new resting spot, or if only their markers did. Many still remain at the original location which is on Groton Utility Land. Within Avery-Morgan cemetery, the Smith lake cemetery is located near the entrance, taking up the first few rows of the central section of the cemetery.



Cemetery Number: 12 (Avery-Morgan) and 13 (Smith Lake)

PIN #: 168906485743

Name: Avery-Morgan and Smith Lake Cemeteries

Address: next to Water Filtration Plant

Status: in use

Lot Size: 6.64 acres

Directions: from route 117, turn left onto route 1 South. Turn right into Water Filtration Plant Driveway and follow small green signs which say "Smith Lake Cemetery"

Group in Charge: Avery-Morgan Cemetery Association (Gregory Johnson)

Number of Markers: approximately 200

Earliest: 1689

Family Names: Avery, Morgan, Smith, Ackley Ashbey, Graham, Edgecomb, Clark, Williams

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Many willow and urn, soul effigies and angels. Open bible. Obelisk for Avery family. Marker for Morgan House site. Marker for Avery and Morgan Families. Oldest markers: continuous lettering

Design Elements: Pine and Oak trees scattered throughout the cemetery. Stone ledge outcropping create quiet, serene setting.

Enclosure: Stone wall- rustic and finished.

Ground Conditions: Good- very well kept

Stone Conditions: Good: Some are leaning against Morgan House marker

Historic Significance: Smith Lake Cemetery moved here. First Avery and Morgan families in America

Hazards: None are obvious

Recommendations: 1) Decide what to do with fallen markers and stacked markers. 2) Create a map locating significant markers and family plots.

Date: 5/29/96

Beth-El Cemetery

Beth El Cemetery is "young" (1934) compared to other cemeteries in the town and has excellent design elements in its layout. It was expanded recently after receiving site plan approval from the Town in November of 1992. An axial driveway extends through the original section out to the expansion with three large trees spaces along it. In the original section, large family markers and individual footstones run perpendicular to the driveway, with smaller single markers around the edge near the stone walls. An opening in the stone wall leads to the expansion, where the large family markers and individual footstones are parallel to the driveway. Symbols on the markers often relate to family names or are religious symbols with Hebrew inscriptions.



Cemetery Number: 14

PIN #: 168910469673

Name: Beth El Cemetery

Address: Lestertown Road, South Side

Status: in use

Lot Size: 4.2 acres

Directions: From Route 12 North, turn left onto Walker Hill Road and then right onto Pleasant Valley Road South. Turn left onto Lestertown Road. Cemetery is on left after Russ Sims Heights.

Group in Charge: Beth El congregation (Robert Schwartz)

Number of Markers: approximately 250

Earliest: 1937

Family Names: None are dominant

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Most are family plots with large family stone and individual footstones. Many Star of David and flowers are carved into markers. Hebrew inscriptions carved into footstones.

Design Elements: Very axial: central axis of trees perpendicular to Lestertown. In older section, plots are perpendicular to driveway. In newer section, plots are parallel to driveway.

Enclosure: Finished stone wall around original cemetery. Chain link fence around newer section. Iron entrance gates.

Ground Conditions: Good: very well maintained grass and trees. Main driveway in new section needs repaving.

Stone Conditions: Excellent: all markers appear to be in "new" condition

Historic Significance:

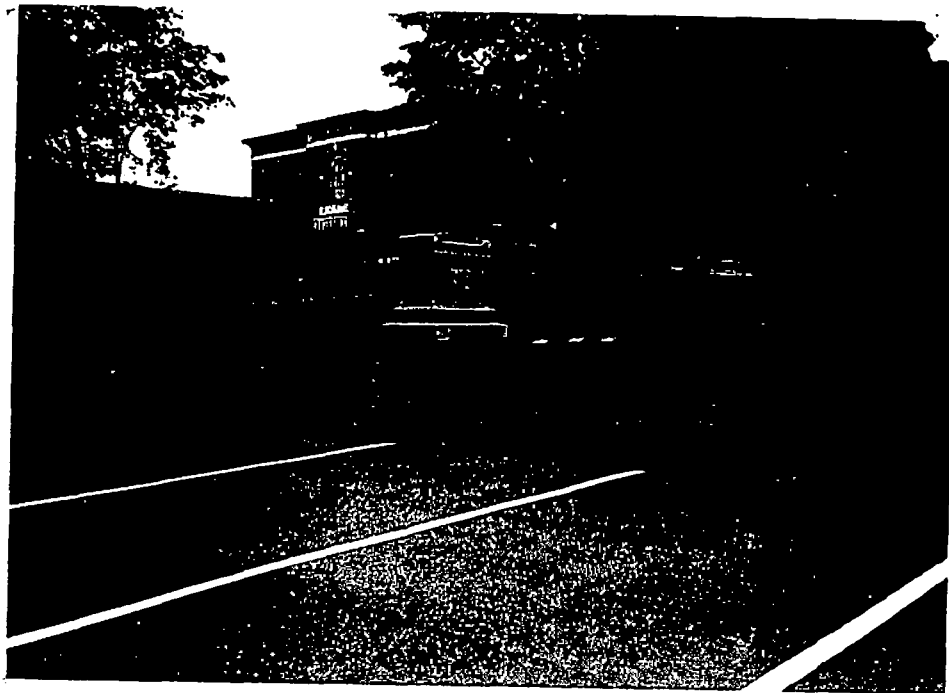
Hazards: None are obvious

Recommendations: 1) A different fence in newer section would keep housing scenery out of cemetery and make new section more serene. 2) Main driveway in new section needs to be repaved or replaced with concrete similar to older section.

Date: 6/5/96

Bill Cemetery

Frederic Bill founded, built and endowed the Bill Memorial Library, behind which he is buried in a family plot. His first wife, Lucy F. Denison, and his second wife, Julia O. Avery, who was also the first librarian, are buried there as well. According to some stories, elsewhere on the library's grounds is the pet cemetery for the Bill family's animal friends. While visiting, be sure to leave some time to stop over at Fort Griswold, the library's next door neighbor.



Cemetery Number: 32

PIN #: 168918410131

Name: Bill Cemetery

Address: Monument Street, directly behind Bill Memorial Library

Status: Not in use

Lot Size: Part of larger lot

Directions: At light on Meridian Street and Mitchell Street, go straight across. At stop sign, turn left onto Monument Street. Follow Monument Street to Library and park behind library in lot or on street.

Group in Charge: Bill Memorial Library

Number of Markers: 3 plus family marker

Earliest: 1894

Family Names: Bill

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Large red marble family marker with footstone for each grave

Design Elements: 5 large randomly spaced trees throughout the space

Enclosure: Chain link fence

Ground Conditions: Good: grass needs to be cut, but it is early in the season and probably will be soon.

Stone Conditions: Excellent

Historic Significance: Bill family plot. Frederic Bill founded library and Julia was first librarian.

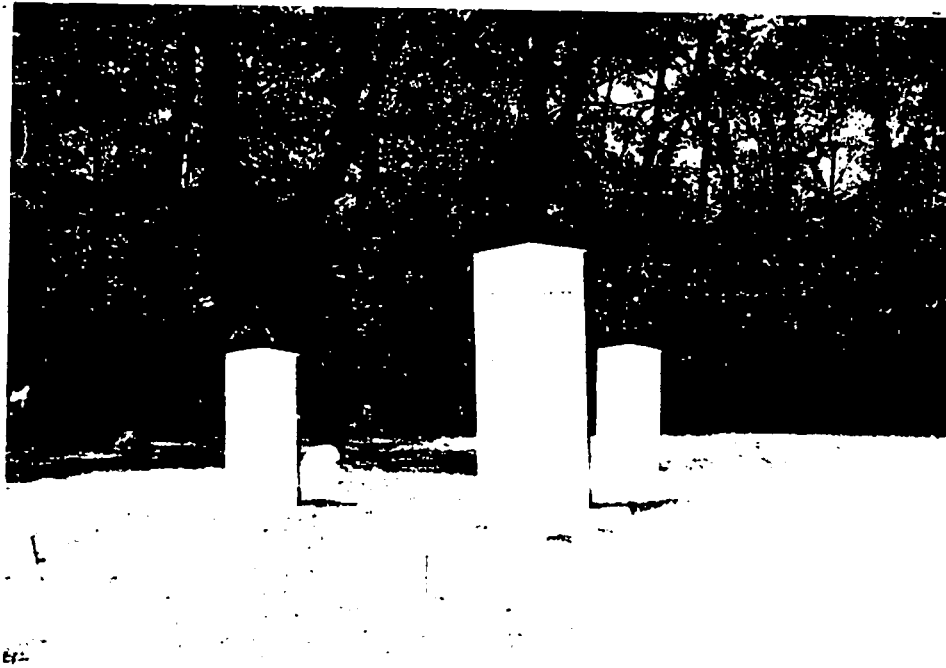
Hazards: None are obvious

Recommendations: 1) A sign marking the plot would be helpful, but is not necessary.
2) A different fence or no fence at all would add to the cemetery

Date: 5/22/96

Binks Cemetery

Chain link fence separates Binks Cemetery from Route 117 and from any visitors because the cemetery is on Groton Utilities property. According to sources, the Binks family was of African and or Native American descent, which is supported by the Binks marker in Starr cemetery which states that the interred was of Naragansett Indian descent. Binks Cemetery's setting is peaceful, despite the chain link fence and its location adjacent to a busy road.



Cemetery Number: 30

PIN #: 169911558390

Name: Binks Cemetery

Address: Route 117

Status: Not in use

Lot Size: Part of larger lot

Directions: From Route 1, turn onto Route 117. Follow past I-95 interchange. Cemetery is on left, on Groton Utilities Property, almost directly across from Paulson Road

Group in Charge: City Utilities, Groton (Ed Herrick)

Number of Markers: 3 plus footstones

Earliest: 1817

Family Names: Binks

Symbols/Unusual Stones: None

Design Elements: Markers are all facing road

Enclosure: Chain link surrounds Groton Utilities property. Cemetery is in open space on other side of fence

Ground Conditions: Excellent

Stone Conditions: Excellent

Historic Significance: According to one cemetery list, Binks cemetery is a Black and Indian cemetery. (A Binks marker in Starr cemetery says interred in a descendent of Narragansett Indians)

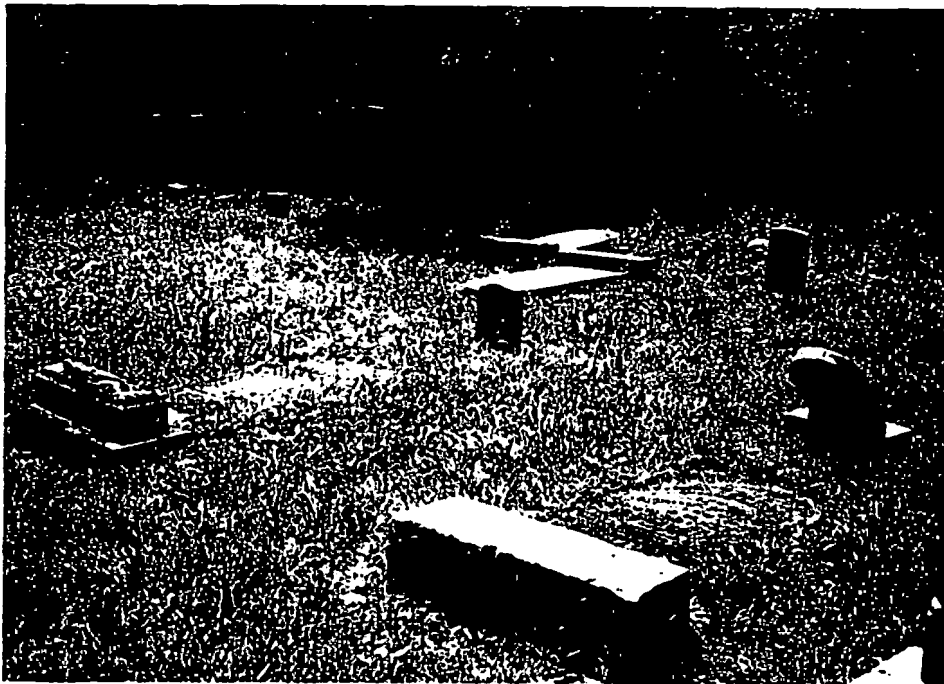
Hazards: None are obvious

Recommendations: 1)Erect a sign marking cemetery and significance.

Date: 7/10/96

Chipman-Fish Cemetery

This small family cemetery appears to be a victim of vandalism, for the majority of markers are on the ground with no sign of unsettled ground around them. The Chipman monument has an interesting gate to heaven carving on it and a number of markers have interesting inscriptions. There are also old stones which are leaning against a tree in a corner which are in poor condition. Unfortunately , the iron fence which used to run along the street fell and was removed long ago.



Cemetery Number: 15

PIN #: 260814444353

Name: Chipman-Fish Cemetery

Address: Brook Street, west side

Status: Not in use

Lot Size: .07 acres

Directions: From route 215 (Groton Long Point Road), turn right at first entrance to Brook Street (Old Brook Street). Cemetery is on right

Group in Charge: Town of Groton

Number of Markers: Approximately 20

Earliest: 1813

Family Names: Chipman, Fish, Brown, Latham

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Chipman monument: gate to heaven. Tassels on Lydia M. Fish and Anthony Fish and Sarah W. Latham. "Stout" obelisk with geometric detailing for Brown monument.

Design Elements: Markers are in straight lines perpendicular to road except for markers leaning against a tree

Enclosure: Stone wall on three sides. open to road: iron fence used to be there but has disappeared.

Ground Conditions: Good: grass is 1 foot high and needs to be mowed. OK other than this.

Stone Conditions: Decent: vandalism seems to be a problem: many are knocked over. A few are leaning. A few are leaning against a tree in the corner and are the only difficult markers to read. All others are in decent condition except for being on the ground.

Historic Significance:

Hazards: vandalism

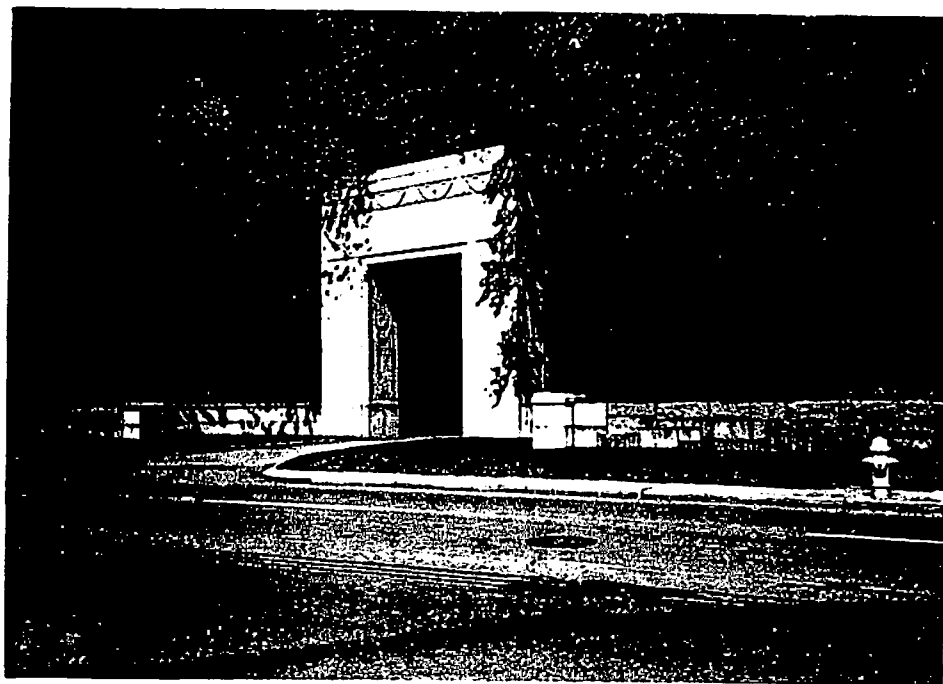
Recommendations: 1)Reset all markers. 2) Put up a fence along street- preferably iron like the original. 3) Erect marker with name of cemetery and history

Date: 6/5/96

Colonel Ledyard Cemetery

The closest cemetery to Fort Griswold, the Colonel Ledyard Cemetery has a large number of Battle of Fort Griswold martyrs buried there including Colonel Ledyard, whose marker is now under glass because of deterioration. A monument to Ledyard and the battle martyrs stands to commemorate the battle and the bravery of the soldiers who fought there. The majority of the old stones are to the right when entering the cemetery, in the southeastern section. Many interesting carvings can be found not only on the older markers, but also on the modern markers in the cemetery, especially some of the newer monuments. In addition to Battle martyrs, many members of local families are interred here.

The cemetery has interesting design elements including centenary trees framing views of the chapel and the battle monument. Other trees and flowering bushes are scattered throughout the cemetery.



Cemetery Number: 16

PIN #: 168807597196

Name: Colonel Ledyard Cemetery

Address: Mitchell Street

Status: In use

Lot Size: 22.39 acres

Directions: From Meridian Street, turn left onto Mitchell Street. Cemetery is .5 miles on left side of Mitchell

Group in Charge: Colonel Ledyard Cemetery Association (Don Byles)

Number of Markers: Approximately 1000

Earliest: 1770

Family Names: Ledyard, Avery, Chipman, Ashbey, Fisk, Latham, many others

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Interesting modern markers. many soul effigies and willow and urn motifs. Many obelisks. Cut boulder for Ebenezer Avery

Design Elements: Centenary trees leading toward chapel and Ledyard monument: frame views of them. Many colorful bushes. Placed and natural boulders and rock formations. Monumental entrance gate: art deco style.

Enclosure: Stone wall, chain link fence, stone formation.

Ground Conditions: Good: grass is well maintained. Centenary trees are overgrown and block views they're supposed to frame. A few potholes in driveway.

Stone Conditions: Most are in good condition. A few have fallen and broken. Col. Ledyard marker has serious water problem because water leaks in behind the glass which is supposed to protect it.

Historic Significance: Many soldiers from Battle of Groton heights are buried here. Many Groton families have plots.

Hazards: None are obvious

Recommendations: 1) Repave pathways. 2) Cut back centenary trees. 3) Consult a conservator for best way to preserve/stabilize Ledyard marker. 4) Create a map locating all markers and highlighting significant family plots and individual markers.

Date: 5/22/96

Crary Burying Ground

This old and well known cemetery has some very interesting markers both for their inscriptions and for their carvings. There are a few Battle of Groton Heights soldiers buried here whose markers have passionate inscriptions on them. In addition, there is a death's head carving, one of the few in Groton and it is in excellent condition. The fence surrounding the cemetery is odd at best, consisting of concrete pylons with pipe fencing, and is starting to rust badly. If possible it should be replaced with something which better reflects the character of the cemetery.



Cemetery Number: 3

PIN #: 271014237223

Name: Crary Burying Ground

Address: Packer Road, near route 184

Status: Not in use

Lot Size: .14 acres

Directions: Follow Allyn Street (name changes to Cow Hill Road) and turn right onto Packer Road. Cemetery is on right near intersection with route 184

Group in Charge: Town of Groton

Number of Markers: Approximately 30

Earliest: 1739

Family Names: Crary, Babcock, Smith, Ayer, Eldredge, Hicks.

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Death head, soul effigy, willow and urn motifs.

Design Elements: Markers are in straight lines facing road.

Enclosure: Metal pipe segments on concrete pilings.

Ground Conditions: Good: grass needs to be mowed though

Stone Conditions: Decent to good: some are leaning and a few have lichen problems

Historic Significance: A few soldiers who died in the Battle of Groton Heights are buried here. One of the few locations of death head carvings found in the Town.

Hazards: None are obvious

Recommendations: 1) Replace fence, especially rusted areas. 2) Mow grass 3) Gently clean and reset markers.

Date: 6/24/96

Cushman Cemetery

Cushman cemetery is a sad commentary on what can happen to a cemetery when it is abandoned for too long. Heavily overgrown with trees and other brush, the cemetery is out of sight for many, making it an easy target for vandals. Sometime this year, the cemetery lost most of its markers except for one sinking marker, and one which is broken and lying on the ground. A few rustic footstones have been spared, probably because they were thought to be nothing more than a stone pushing up out of the ground. Cushman Cemetery is an example from which to learn.



Cemetery Number: 26

PIN #: 271013137249

Name: Cushman Cemetery

Address: Packer Road, next to #306

Status: Abandoned

Lot Size: Part of larger lot

Directions: From Route one in Mystic, turn onto Allyn Street (name changes to Cow Hill Road). Turn right onto Packer Road. Cemetery is on left, on top of hill next to house #306. Difficult to find because of overgrowth and missing markers.

Group in Charge: None

Number of Markers: 2 plus rustic footstones (probably more markers at an earlier time)

Earliest: 1859

Family Names: Cushman

Symbols/Unusual Stones: None were visible

Design Elements: None were visible

Enclosure: Stone wall, logs on ground

Ground Conditions: Poor: trees and brush are overgrown, making it difficult to find any markers at all.

Stone Conditions: Poor: most have been stolen or vandalized. One is broken into pieces, the other is sinking.

Historic Significance:

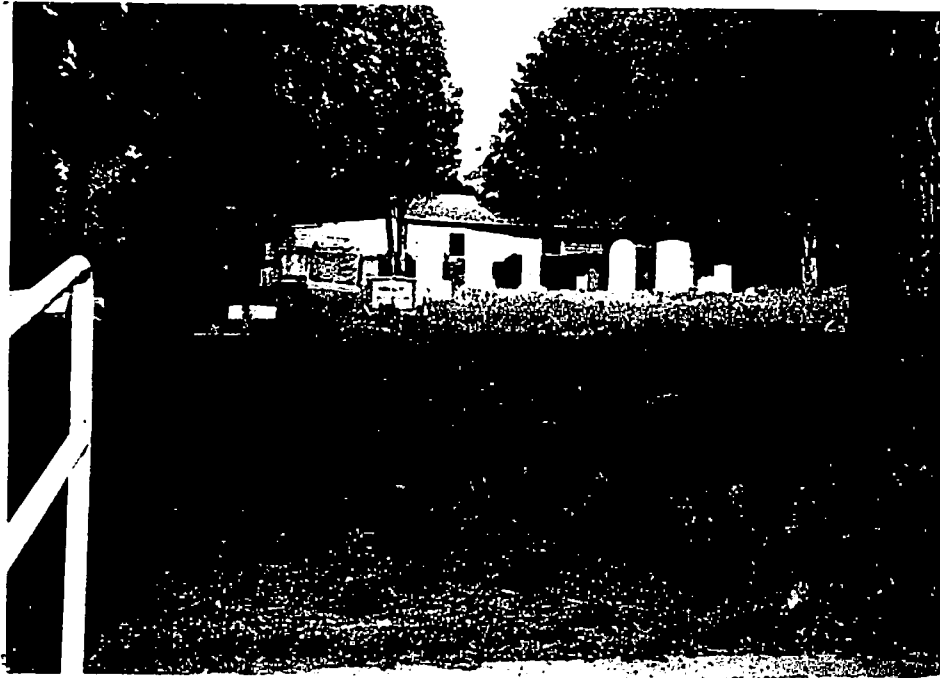
Hazards: Vandalism has already been a hazard.

Recommendations: 1) Document what is left. 2) Set up general guidelines for all cemeteries so this doesn't happen again.

Date: 7/17/96

Daniel Burrows Burial Plot

Captain Daniel Burrows and Captain Silas Burrows are buried here along with other family members and descendants of the large Burrows Family of Mystic. This cemetery stretches up a hill with the oldest markers near the top of the hill. Steps have recently been added to make access to this cemetery easier for many to enter, however, the concrete used does nothing to add to the character of this small cemetery.



Cemetery Number: 17

PIN #: 261918218456

Name: Daniel Burrows Cemetery

Address: Edgecombe Street, Mystic

Status: In use

Lot Size: .21 acres

Directions: Follow route 1 past Allyn Street turn. Turn left onto Elm Street and follow to end. Turn right onto Burrows Street, and then left onto Edgecombe Street. Cemetery is on left before turn in road.

Group in Charge: Neighbors or family members

Number of Markers: Approximately 30

Earliest: 1821

Family Names: Burrows, Lamb

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Willow and urn, arches, flowers. Modern marker with urns on either side.

Design Elements: Markers in straight lines, both facing and facing away from the road.. Oak trees flank entrance gate. other randomly placed trees within cemetery.

Enclosure: Stone wall on all sides. Iron entrance gate

Ground Conditions: Good to excellent: grass needed to be cut on day visited

Stone Conditions: Most are good: bad patch work on Capt. Daniel Burrows' wife's marker. Lichen growth makes some difficult to read.

Historic Significance: members of Burrows family are buried here, including two sea captains: Daniel Burrows and Silas Burrows

Hazards: none are obvious

Recommendations: 1) Gently clean markers to remove lichen

Date: 6/17/96

Fish Cemetery

A very simple, elegant design is obvious in this cemetery, which is broken up into square sections with grass pathways separating one section from another. Fish cemetery is a large family plot of nearly 30 markers, with all interred there related to the family in some way. Interesting markers can be found here as well, including a unique marker carved to look like a pile of rocks with a cross lying on top of it.



Cemetery Number: 18

PIN #: 261909158627

Name: Fish Cemetery

Address: Pequot Avenue, Mystic

Status: In use

Lot Size: .59 acres

Directions: From route 1, turn onto Allyn Street. Turn right onto Sandy Hollow Road and then left onto Pequot Avenue. Cemetery is on left.

Group in Charge: Family members (Paul Ingle)

Number of Markers: Approximately 35

Earliest: 1825

Family Names: Fish

Symbols/Unusual Stones: One willow and urn motif (badly flaked). Stout obelisk, Boulder with name plaque. Marker carved to look like a pile of rocks with a cross.

Design Elements: Cemetery is arranged into rectangular plots wither by granite ties or by spaces.

Enclosure: Stone wall on all four sides. wooden picket gate which doesn't open.

Ground Conditions: Excellent: grounds are very well maintained

Stone Conditions: Good to excellent: a few markers have lichen growing on them. One is badly flaking

Historic Significance:

Hazards: None are obvious

Recommendations: 1) Clean markers. 2) Replace missing marker to fill hole . 3) Create map which locates plots by generation and explains the history of the families

Date: 6/17/96

Knowles Cemetery

The overgrowth of trees and vines on three sides of the cemetery create its tranquil setting and also make its entrance difficult to find. The Eliza Jane Church marker is perhaps the most interesting in the cemetery, with a hand pointing upward with its index finger as if pointing the way toward heaven. A minor lichen problem exists on a few markers, and vandalism, unfortunately appears to be culprit of a few fallen and broken markers.



Cemetery Number: 19

PIN #: 169905272704

Name: Knowles Cemetery

Address: Northeast corner of route 184 and Toll Gate Road

Status: Not in use

Lot Size: .46 acres

Directions: From route 184 turn onto Toll Gate Road. Immediately turn right and pull into the unpaved driveway which is blocked by boulders (there is enough room to park safely). Walk down blocked off path to get to entrance opening for cemetery.

Group in Charge: Town of Groton

Number of Markers: Approximately 25

Earliest: 1838

Family Names: Lamb, Daboll, Sterry, Knowles, Perkins

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Eliza Jane Church: closed hand with index finger pointing up toward heaven. Willow and urn for Mrs. Sarah Daboll's marker. Knowles: obelisk. Granite ties for a family plot which was never finished, or the markers have disappeared.

Design Elements: Markers are in straight lines. no other design elements

Enclosure: Rustic stone walls with overgrowth on three sides. Overgrowth only on fourth. Cut opening in growth for entrance (correct entrance?)

Ground Conditions: Good: grass needs to be mowed, but good maintenance otherwise.

Stone Conditions: Decent: many markers are leaning, some due to an uprooted tree. Some have lichens growing on them. Vandalism may be a problem.

Historic Significance:

Hazards: Overgrowth may/has made this cemetery a target for vandalism

Recommendations: 1) Gentle cleaning of markers with lichen cover. 2) Reset leaning markers 3) Create a better entrance closer to beginning of driveway or mark current entrance. 4) Erect a sign to mark cemetery

Date: 6/5/96

Lower Mystic Cemetery

Also known as Fishtown cemetery as this area of Mystic was previously called, Lower Mystic Cemetery is a designed cemetery with many Mystic sea captains buried there. Large rectangles are arranged throughout the cemetery, which are broken up into smaller family plots. The Lower Mystic Cemetery Association has an original map of the cemetery and are in the process of creating a database listing those buried there. Many interesting markers and monuments exist in this cemetery.



Cemetery Number: 20

PIN #: 260920709539

Name: Lower Mystic Cemetery (Fishtown Cemetery)

Address: Route 1, Mystic

Status: In use

Lot Size: 1.88 acres

Directions: From Allyn Street, turn left onto route 1 South. Cemetery is on right, down the hill from the Mystic Ice House

Group in Charge: Lower Mystic Cemetery Association, Barry V. Connell, president

Number of Markers: Approximately 250

Earliest: 1783

Family Names: Fish, Morgan, Merritt Gallup Rathbun, Latham, Eldredge, many others

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Willow and urn, station in life, open bibles, architectural elements. A number of obelisks and monuments. Mausoleum

Design Elements: Family plots set off by granite ties or iron fencing. Grass paths between plots. Randomly placed trees

Enclosure: Rustic stone wall and trees. Finished stone retaining wall along road.

Ground Conditions: Good: grass was 3 inches high, but was mowed second time cemetery was visited

Stone Conditions: Decent to good: some older markers have fallen and broken, a few are sinking into ground, lichens are growing on a few.

Historic Significance: Many sea captains and sailors buried here.

Hazards: None are obvious

Recommendations: 1)gently clean and reset markers. 2)Create a map locating markers and family plots

Date: 6/12/96

Niles Cemetery

Located near the apple orchards on Whittle's Farm, Niles cemetery is difficult to find because it is severely overgrown. A local volunteer group is taking care of the cemetery's maintenance, however, it appears that they have not done so yet this year. Hopefully, they will find the time to complete their hard work because there are beautifully carved markers in this small cemetery, including one of the few death's head markers in Groton.



Cemetery Number: 28

PIN #: 270019603570

Name: Niles Cemetery

Address: Noank Ledyard Road, on Whittle's Farm

Status: Not in use

Lot Size: Part of larger lot

Directions: From Flanders Road, turn right onto Noank-Ledyard Road. Whittles is on left. Park in front of farm stand. Follow path just beyond stand. Cemetery is on left just before apple orchard. When visited, it was difficult to see markers because of overgrowth.

Group in Charge: Volunteer group

Number of Markers: 10, maybe more

Earliest: 1768

Family Names: Avery

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Face of Death and Willow and Urn

Design Elements: Markers are in straight lines

Enclosure: Stone wall

Ground Conditions: Extremely poor: cemetery is completely overgrown with vines which are 3-4 feet high. Nearly impossible to see markers and to get to them.

Stone Conditions: As far as could be seen, good for now.

Historic Significance: Excellent examples of carvings and one of the only death head carvings found in Groton

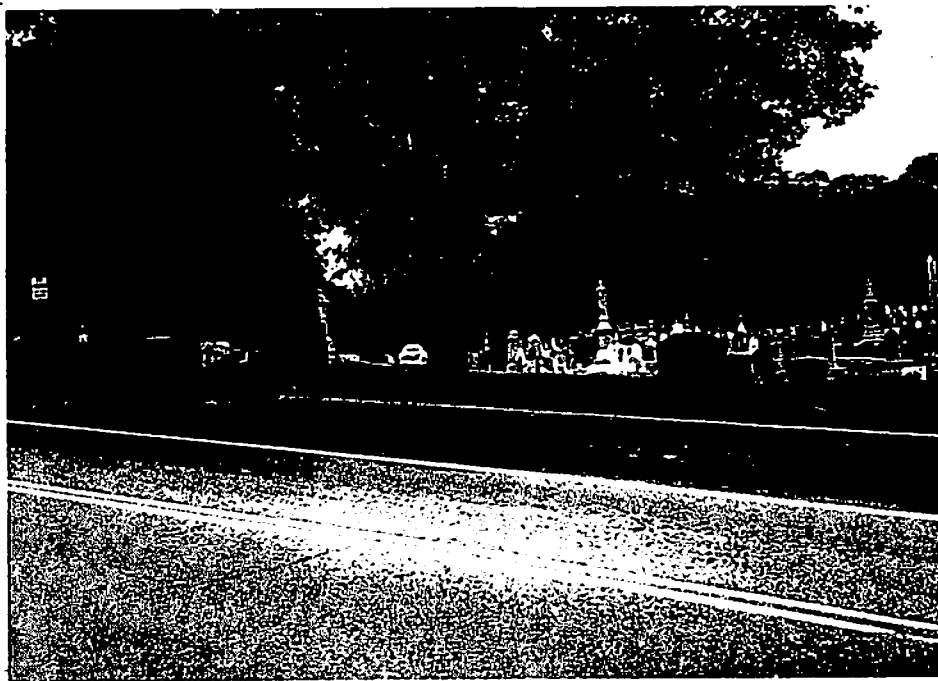
Hazards: Overgrowth

Recommendations: 1) Cut back growth and maintain the cemetery. 2) Document the markers in case the cemetery falls into lack of care in the future

Date: 6/24/96

Noank Valley Cemetery

Old markers and new one intermingle, making it an exciting place for hunting for interesting markers. Many of the Noank captains and native families are buried here, making it rich for Noank history. A large variety of carving types are found in this cemetery, including one unique marker which has small cobbles making up its surface. Some of the markers pre-date the 1839 opening of the cemetery, such as some of the Spicer family's markers, which appeared to me some of the oldest in the cemetery.



Cemetery Number: 21

PIN #: 260820811067

Name: Noank Valley Cemetery

Address: Elm Street (route 215), Noank

Status: In use

Lot Size: 5.42 acres

Directions: Follow Route 1 up Fort Hill and bear right onto Groton Long Point Road (Route 215) near top of hill. Turn left onto Brook Street and follow straight down hill. At stop sign, turn right onto Elm Street (Route 215) and follow to cemetery.

Group in Charge: Noank Valley Cemetery Association, David Blacker, president

Number of Markers: Approximately 450

Earliest: 1794

Family Names: Fitch, Rathbun, Packer, Palmer, Fish, Latham, Chipman many others

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Flowers, open bibles, willow and urn, animals (cats, doves), chain links, scroll and flowers. Many obelisks/monuments. Marker made of small cobbles. Mausoleum.

Design Elements: Grass/dirt path. Very scattered organization: not many family plots or organization by age of markers. Trees flank entrance: an oak and a juniper (?). side entrance also. Iron fence gone.

Enclosure: Stone wall, shrubs on three sides. nothing along main entrance (iron fence used to be there).

Ground Conditions: Excellent: trees, grass are well kept.

Stone Conditions: Good to excellent: some have lichen problems, a few need to be reset. Some have been patched (not very well).

Historic Significance: Many sea captains buried. Many Noank families also.

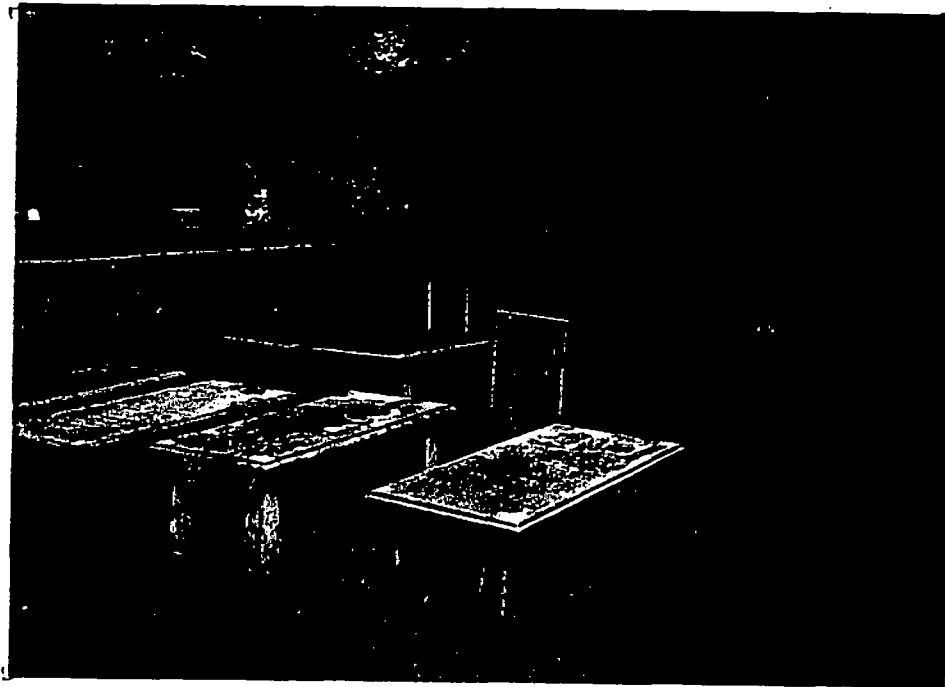
Hazards: None are obvious

Recommendations: 1) Put up a gate and fence along Elm Street. 2) Erect a sign with name and significance of cemetery. 3) reset and clean gently the markers with problems. 4) create a map locating significant markers/monuments.

Date: 6/19/96

North Burrows Cemetery

From the road, North Burrows Cemetery looks like a house foundation because of the high stone wall which surrounds it. Inside the wall are 11 markers: 6 tabletops and 5 standard markers. Unfortunately, the tabletops cannot easily be read because they are covered with dark lichen, but the inscriptions on the other markers are readable and interesting. The Old Town Hall used to be on top of Fort Hill next to this cemetery, and there are stories that hitching spots can still be seen on the exterior of the south wall of the cemetery.



Cemetery Number: 22

PIN #: 260806288258

Name: North Burrows Cemetery

Address: Route 1, Fort Hill

Status: Not in use

Lot Size: .06 acres

Directions: Follow Route 1 up Fort Hill. Cemetery is on right, just past water tower.

Group in Charge: Town of Groton

Number of Markers: 11 plus footstones

Earliest: 1773

Family Names: Burrows, Avery

Symbols/Unusual Stones: 6 tabletops: all with long inscriptions (which are difficult to read). 5 willow and urn motifs, some with interesting inscriptions.

Design Elements: Markers in rows facing road. 2 large trees, randomly placed.

Enclosure: Finished stone wall on all four sides: looks like a house foundation from street. Steps to enter from street and once inside cemetery

Ground Conditions: Decent: severely overgrown grass: 2 feet high in some places. However, later in the summer grass was moved.

Stone Conditions: Decent to poor: lichen problems on some. table tops are dirty (something growing on them?) and difficult to read.

Historic Significance: Old Town Cemetery is old name for cemetery. Groton Town Hall used to be located next to it

Hazards: None are obvious

Recommendations: 1) Maintain grass more frequently in cemetery. 2) Gently clean markers to remove lichens and dirt. 3) Erect a sign to mark cemetery.

Date: 6/12/96

Odd Fellows

A grove of trees surround this cemetery, creating a serene pocket in a field of grass. Members of the International Order of Odd Fellows were buried here in the first half of the century, but it appears that the cemetery is no longer in use. A beautiful view of the Thames River is available from the Fairview Fellowship Manor's perch on top of the river bank.



Cemetery Number: 29

PIN #: 168906278786

Name: Odd Fellows Cemetery

Address: Fairview Fellowship Manor, Lestertown Road

Status: Not in use

Lot Size: Part of larger lot

Directions: From Route 12 North, turn left onto Walker Hill Road and then right onto Pleasant Valley Road South. Turn left onto Lestertown Road and follow up hill to Fairview Fellowship Manor. Cemetery is in a tree grove beyond flagpoles.

Group in Charge:

Number of Markers: Approximately 40

Earliest: 1902

Family Names: No dominant family names

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Mostly flat markers with name and dates. Two larger granite markers . One black marble marker (fallen over)

Design Elements: In a pine grove of large trees which create shade. A few stone benches. Beautiful view of river from Manor.

Enclosure: No enclosure- in open space except for trees

Ground Conditions: Decent: grass is 3" high by cemetery but all other is cut. Lots of pine needles on the ground.

Stone Conditions: Good: pine needles cover all markers and grass is beginning to grow over the edges of the markers.

Historic Significance: Cemetery for members of the International Order of Odd Fellows who choose to be buried there.

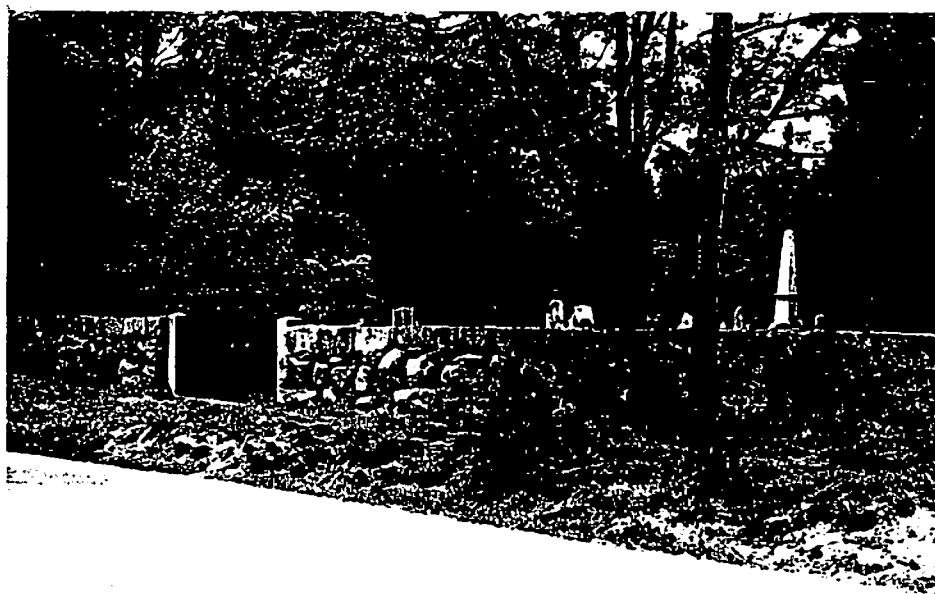
Hazards: None are obvious

Recommendations: 1) clear needles and overgrown grass from markers.

Date: 5/22/96

Packer Cemetery #1

Despite its location along busy Route 1, Packer Cemetery is quiet because of the pine trees scattered throughout the cemetery. Many members of the Packer family are buried here including Captain Daniel Packer. The markers have interesting inscriptions and a variety of carving designs on them. Some sections of the cemetery are overgrown, and the trees may overtake the stones if they are not cut back, such as the family plot which used junipers in place of iron fence to mark its lot boundaries.



Cemetery Number: 9

PIN #: 261917005451

Name: Packer Cemetery #1

Address: Route 1, Mystic

Status: Not in use

Lot Size: .85 acres

Directions: From Allyn Street, turn onto Route 1 south. Cemetery is just before Mystic Ice House. Park at Ice House

Group in Charge: Town of Groton

Number of Markers: Approximately 150

Earliest: 1722

Family Names: Packer, Eldredge, Burrows, Tift, Sawyer, Latham, Marston, Niles, Wrightman, Fish, Morgan

Symbols/Unusual Stones: A variety of types of soul effigies and willow and urn motifs.

Design Elements: Markers are in rows perpendicular to road. Lots of trees. A tree surrounded family plot (trees are overgrown now)

Enclosure: Rustic stone wall with iron entrance gate.

Ground Conditions: Good: grass is well maintained, but many trees are overgrown and block some markers.

Stone Conditions: Most are in good condition. Some old sandstone markers are badly flaked and have little or no carving left. Some are leaning, stacked or broken.

Historic Significance: Sea captains and their families. Notably: Captain Daniel Packer

Hazards: None other than the trees

Recommendations: 1) Reset, mend markers. 2) Cut back trees. 3) Create a cemetery association. 4) Document markers which are in poor condition. 5) Sign marking cemetery and significance. 6) Map locating family plots and significant markers.

Date: 6/12/96

Packer Cemetery #2

Surrounded completely with stone walls, and screened from Ocean View Avenue by overgrown trees, Packer Cemetery #2 seems secluded from the quiet subdivision which surrounds it. Entrance to the cemetery is from a path at the end of the road, however, the entrance gate is now long gone. Carl C. Cutler, one of the founding fathers of the Mystic Seaport and a local historian is buried here. In addition, there are a few markers which have willow and urn motifs on them. Unfortunately, some of them are very close to the wall, and face the wall, making them difficult to read. The overgrown brush also makes it difficult, or even impossible to read some of the markers.



Cemetery Number: 10

PIN #: 261805071772

Name: Packer Cemetery #2

Address: Off Ocean View Avenue

Status: Possibly in use'

Lot Size: .95 acres

Directions: From route 1, turn onto Ocean View Avenue and follow to end. Follow grass path to cemetery : entrance is on left

Group in Charge: Town of Groton

Number of Markers: Approximately 35

Earliest: 1824

Family Names: Packer, Tillinghast, Cutler, Irving

Symbols/Unusual Stones: A few willow and urn motifs. Large family monument markers

Design Elements: Markers are in straight lines, almost in sections by family. Randomly placed trees

Enclosure: Stone wall on all sides. Entrance opening, but gate has been removed

Ground Conditions: Decent to good: grass is mowed but left on ground. and is not trimmed near markers. Trees/bushes are overgrown and block markers near wall. It is possible that maintenance had not been finished for the day.

Stone Conditions: Most in good condition. some are leaning. a few have lichen problems. some are broken or knocked over

Historic Significance: Carl C. Cutler is buried here

Hazards: None are obvious

Recommendations: 1)cut bushed back. 2)reset, clean, fix markers after consulting conservator. 3) erect a sign for the cemetery

Date: 6/17/96

Palmer Cemetery

Completely landlocked, Palmer Cemetery can be reached by walking up past houses on Brookview Court. The Brookview subdivision poses threats to the cemetery simply by being so close to it. Already, damage may have been done by workers entering the cemetery to conduct survey work and not being careful with the markers. A few sandstone markers with willow and urn symbols can be seen here, however, they are badly flaking and are difficult to read.



Cemetery Number: 23

PIN #: 260815535186

Name: Palmer Cemetery

Address: At north end of Brookview Court, beyond housing subdivision

Status: Not in use

Lot Size: .23 acres

Directions: Follow Route 1 up Fort Hill and turn onto Groton Long Point Road (Route 215). Turn right at second entrance to Brook Street. Turn right onto Brookview Court and park at end of cul de sac. Walk up dirt path to cemetery entrance.

Group in Charge: Town of Groton

Number of Markers: 25 plus footstones

Earliest: 1768

Family Names: Palmer, Brown, West, Franklin, Chipman, Mason

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Death head

Design Elements: Markers are in straight lines all facing same direction

Enclosure: Rustic stone wall on all sides

Ground Conditions: Good: needs mowing

Stone Conditions: Decent to poor: most either need to be reset or cleaned. Some are badly flaked and cannot be read anymore.

Historic Significance: Cousins of the Stonington Palmer family are buried here

Hazards: New development all around cemetery could be a hazard

Recommendations: 1) Cut grass 2)Reset and gently clean markers 3) Erect a sign with name and stating history/importance of cemetery 4)Make sure cemetery is protected

Date: 6/24/96

Park Cemetery #1

Located behind a water tower, Park Cemetery must be reached by paths from a driveway off Nantucket Drive. The cemetery is surrounded by trees, which drop a large number of pine needles into the cemetery. The markers are simple, without symbols carved on them and are all Parks family members. Unfortunately, Park Cemetery #2 has disappeared and become a backyard.



Cemetery Number: 6

PIN #: 271017102683

Name: Park Cemetery #1

Address: Behind water tower, off Lamphere Drive and Nantucket Drive

Status: Not in use

Lot Size: .25 acres

Directions: From Route 1, turn onto Allyn Street (name changes to Cow Hill Road). Turn left at light at top of hill onto Lamphere Road. Turn right onto Nantucket Drive. Turn right into driveway leading to playground and water tower. Follow path next to water tower down hill a short distance, and then take a different path to the right back up the hill to cemetery

Group in Charge: Town of Groton

Number of Markers: 10 plus footstones

Earliest: 1843

Family Names: Park, Avery, Curry

Symbols/Unusual Stones: None really. interesting inscriptions on a few.

Design Elements: Markers are clustered and in straight lines facing Nantucket Drive

Enclosure: Chain link fence on two sides. Trees on the others

Ground Conditions: Good: pine needles and branches on ground need to be removed

Stone Conditions: Decent to poor: most have fallen or broken and are very dirty

Historic Significance:

Hazards: Vandalism could be a problem

Recommendations: 1)reset and clean markers. 2)remove pine needles and branches

Date: 7/17/96

Perkins Cemetery

Perkins Cemetery is one of the more difficult cemeteries to find because it is hidden by trees. Walking along a chain link fence will lead you to the cemetery, which is in poor condition. It is a family plot, with only two markers, only one of which is still standing. Unfortunately, the family has decided to let nature guide the care of the cemetery, but it is protected from potential vandals by a closed chain link fence and gate.



Cemetery Number: 25

PIN #: 178011561042

Name: Perkins Cemetery

Address: Off Ohio Avenue and Florida Avenue

Status: Not in use

Lot Size: Part of larger lot

Directions: From route 12 North, turn right onto Gungywamp Road and then left onto Pleasant Valley Road North. At stop sign, turn right onto Ohio Avenue and follow up hill. Turn right onto Florida Avenue. Walk along chain link fence and under tree cover to find cemetery

Group in Charge: Family members

Number of Markers: 2 plus footstones

Earliest: 1849

Family Names: Perkins

Symbols/Unusual Stones: None

Design Elements: None

Enclosure: Chain link fence

Ground Conditions: Poor: very shady from trees and heavily overgrown with vines

Stone Conditions: Decent to poor: markers are leaning or fallen. Stone itself is in decent condition.

Historic Significance:

Hazards: Overgrowth could damage markers further

Recommendations: 1)Document cemetery in present condition. 2)Decide whether to maintain or to let further fall into ruin.

Date: 7/10/96

Potter's Field (Spicer Home Cemetery)

A cemetery for those living in the former Spicer Home, which was Groton's poor house, is located on the Fitch Senior High School grounds and is marked by a sign. All markers are the same small numbered footstones, which are catalogued on the sign, stating name and date of death of each person. There are two markers which are different, one a black marble marker with a name on it in front of the numbered marker and the other, a separate grave added last year.



Cemetery Number: 34

PIN #:

Name: Potter's Field (Spicer Home Cemetery)

Address: Between Fitch Senior High School and St. Mary Church

Status: In use

Lot Size: Part of larger lot

Directions: From Route 215 (Groton Long Point Road) turn right into Fitch Senior High School driveway. Cemetery is on right before parking lot. Sign is visible from driveway.

Group in Charge: Town of Groton

Number of Markers: Approximately 50

Earliest: 1910

Family Names: No predominant family

Symbols/Unusual Stones: All markers are small footstones with numbers. Numbers correspond to list on sign which gives name and dates. Two are different: a black marble stone was added next to one marker. In the far corner, a single grave with traditional modern markers lies by itself.

Design Elements: Numbered markers form two straight lines: 1-26 and 25-46, 50, 52, 48

Enclosure: Stone wall on two sides and brush along third side. Small opening for entrance.

Ground Conditions: Good: grass needs to be mowed and replanted in some areas where it has disappeared.

Stone Conditions: Markers are in good condition, however, some are sinking

Historic Significance: Cemetery is for people who lived in Spicer Home, which was the poor house for Groton earlier in the century.

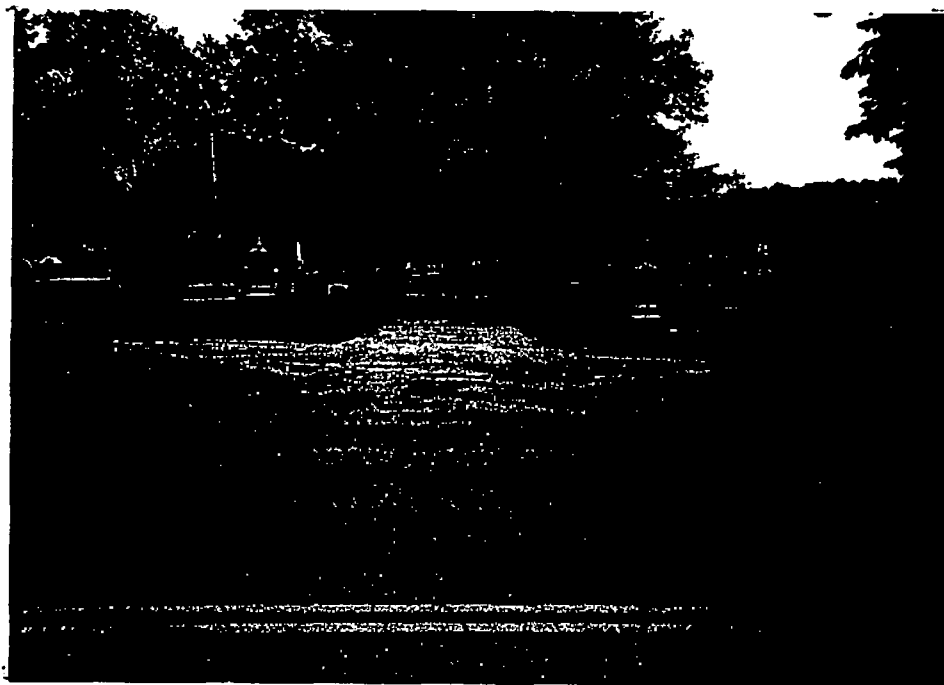
Hazards: None are obvious

Recommendations: 1) Replant grass where needed. 2) Mow grass 3) Reset sinking markers. 4) Add names for marker numbers 50, 52, and 58

Date: 6/5/96

Saint Patrick Cemetery

This beautifully designed cemetery is situated along the Mystic River with paved driveways which meander through the cemetery in large loops. Religious statues are scattered throughout the cemetery, with paths leading to them. It's perch along the Mystic River adds to the serene and tranquil feel of the cemetery, and benches are placed along the river for further contemplation. All markers are modern in their design, and there are a number of vaults and mausoleums located throughout the cemetery.



Cemetery Number: 24

PIN #: 271019527112

Name: St. Patrick's Cemetery

Address: River Road

Status: In use

Lot Size: 4.72 acres

Directions: From Allyn Street, turn onto Cow Hill Road. Turn left onto Bindloss Road. At stop sign, turn left onto River Road and follow to cemetery

Group in Charge: Saint Patrick Church congregation

Number of Markers: Approximately 250

Earliest: 1860

Family Names: None are dominant

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Interesting modern markers and monuments. Clasped hands, Statues of religious figures

Design Elements: Tree lined central driveway. Sparse tree screen along road. Trees placed along paths, and randomly also. Reproductions of Pieta flanked by benches. Altar. Benches by river for meditation.

Enclosure: Cobblestone wall along River Road. Trees and chain link fence. River on East. Two entrances from River Road

Ground Conditions: Excellent: driveway could use repair/repaving

Stone Conditions: Excellent: no signs of deterioration on markers.

Historic Significance:

Hazards: none are obvious

Recommendations: 1)Erect a sign for the cemetery. 2)Fix potholes in driveway

Date: 6/19/96

Silas Burrows Cemetery

Because of previous bouts with vandals, Silas Burrows Cemetery is missing many of its stone markers. The ones which are left tell interesting stories of the sailors and sea captains who died at sea on voyages. It also appears that the original entrance to the cemetery is overgrown because the current entrance is over toppled stones in a stone wall through a trailer park. There are a few willow and urn carvings here, along with station in life carvings which have the elaborately detailed inscriptions on them.



Cemetery Number: 31

PIN #: 261914236097

Name: Silas Burrows Cemetery

Address: Off High Street in Mystic, in mobile home park

Status: Not in use

Lot Size: .21 acres

Directions: From Allyn Street heading North, turn right onto Sandy Hollow Road. At stop sign, turn right onto High Street. Turn into Mystic Mobile Home park and follow driveway to left. Cemetery is on left and is visible from driveway

Group in Charge: Town of Groton

Number of Markers: 15 plus footstones

Earliest: 1843

Family Names: Burrows, Whelan, Sawyer, Leeds, Rathbun

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Willow and urn. Long and very interesting inscriptions: Ambrose Burrows

Design Elements: Markers are all perpendicular to driveway and face away from High Street

Enclosure: Stone wall on all four sides. Original entrance is overgrown

Ground Conditions: Good: grass is well maintained

Stone Conditions: Decent: many are knocked over (vandalism?) and a few are broken. A few need cleaning also.

Historic Significance: Sea captains and members of the Burrows family are buried here. Some captains, sailors lost at sea.

Hazards: None except for vandalism. Perhaps if the mobile home park expands, however, the cemetery has survived to date, so this does not seem to be a threat

Recommendations: 1) reset markers. 2) Sign stating significance of cemetery

Date: 6/12/96

South Burrows

Both the markers and the grounds of South Burrows Cemetery are beautifully maintained, including the wonderful iron fence which runs along Route 1. The cemetery caretaker's preservation philosophy for older markers is interesting: When a marker breaks, it is left along the back wall, and a replica replacement marker is put in its place. The old marker should probably be put into storage somewhere in order to preserve it better, but seeing them along the wall is interesting.



Cemetery Number: 11

PIN #: 260806278659

Name: South Burrows

Address: Route 1, top of Fort Hill

Status: In occasional use

Lot Size: .13 acres

Directions: Follow Route 1 up Fort Hill. South Burrows Cemetery is on right

Group in Charge: Family members ((D. Belton A. Burrows)

Number of Markers: Approximately 30 plus footstones

Earliest: 1822

Family Names: Burrows, Gallup, Allen, Colby- all somehow related to the Burrows

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Large family marker for Gallup family. Intricate carving on Burrows marker

Design Elements: All markers are in straight lines parallel to road. A single flowering bush near the center of the cemetery which blocks a marker because it is overgrown

Enclosure: Finished stone wall on three sides and iron fence on street side with entrance gate.

Ground Conditions: Good: grass is high, but is cut regularly. Bush is overgrown (is there a reason for the overgrowth?).

Stone Conditions: Good: decent repair for Alice C. Interesting preservation philosophy: replica of stones which have broken have been made and the broken stones are left leaning along the back wall of the cemetery.

Historic Significance:

Hazards: None are obvious

Recommendations: 1) A sign marking the cemetery is a good idea. 2) is there a significance for flowering bush's overgrowth? If not, it should be cut back so it doesn't block marker.

Date: 6/12/96

Starr Burying Ground

This is another cemetery within which a concentration of Battle of Fort Griswold martyrs are buried, along with a concentration of Groton family plots. The markers extend up a hill, with the oldest at the bottom of the hill. Many of the older markers have interesting carvings and inscriptions, with equally interesting modern markers and monuments. The driveway is lined by dogwood trees which create a strong and beautiful design quality for the entry. The cemetery caretakers choose to preserve fallen markers by attaching a similarly shaped slab behind the old marker or by encasing the marker in concrete. Both solve the problem, but are not terribly sensitive to the original markers.



Cemetery Number: 7

PIN #: 168911571139

Name: Starr Burying Ground

Address: Pleasant Valley Road South, west side

Status: In use

Lot Size: 10.56 acres

Directions: From Route 12 North, turn left onto Walker Hill Road. Then, turn right onto Pleasant Valley Road South and follow .3 miles. Cemetery is on left.

Group in Charge: Starr Cemetery Association (William Gregory)

Number of Markers: Approximately 600

Earliest: 1750

Family Names: Buddington, Perkins, Starr, Binks, many others

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Many with soul effigies and willow and urn motifs. A few table top markers. A number of monuments.

Design Elements: Cemetery is on a hill with dogwood trees marching up the hill along the driveway. Trees scattered throughout the cemetery.

Enclosure: Stone wall on three sides. Chain link fence along Lestertown Road.

Ground Conditions: Good- grass could be shorter near markers, but work is probably not over for the day yet.

Stone Conditions: Most in good condition. some older markers have fallen and broken. a few have been reset with granite slabs attached to the backs of them.
Preservation philosophy: set fallen markers in concrete representing the original shape of the marker..

Historic Significance: Many old Groton families have plots here. A number of Battle of Groton Heights soldiers killed are buried here as well.

Hazards: None are obvious

Recommendations: 1) Document and look into preservation of some of the older slate and sandstone markers which are weathered and difficult to read. 2) Create a map which locates significant family plots and graves. 3) Consult a conservator for more sympathetic means of resetting fallen markers..

Date: 5/22/96

Turner Cemetery

The reservoir spillway not only creates a beautiful setting for this cemetery, but also creates Turner Cemetery's enormous lichen problem along with the help of some large shady trees. Two Battle of Groton Heights martyrs are buried here the markers for which are both well preserved and have passionate inscriptions. Joseph Moxley's marker appears to have broken at some point and was reset without the part of the marker which broke. Moses Jones' marker has an obvious mistake: the carver must have spelled his name incorrectly the first time because there is an erased section where his name is now carved.



Cemetery Number: 1

PIN #: 179011556228

Name: Turner Cemetery

Address: Gales Ferry Road, next to reservoir spillway area

Status: Not in use

Lot Size: .23 acres

Directions: From route 117 North, turn left onto Gales Ferry Road (just after Farquhar Park). Cemetery is on right just after spillway but before fenced in utility area. (Only parking is a drive in spot for utility vehicles just beyond cemetery).

Group in Charge: City Utilities, Groton (Ed Herrick)

Number of Markers: Approximately 25 markers. Footstones and fieldstones also

Earliest: 1781

Family Names: Moxley, Turner, Daboll

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Two markers for soldiers who died in Battle of Groton Heights (Moxley and Jones) with soul effigies and interesting inscriptions. Also, markers with willow and urn motifs.

Design Elements: Markers are in lines and also scattered throughout space. All face the road. A number of large oak trees which provide a lot of shade

Enclosure: Stone wall on all four sides. Iron entrance gate (doesn't open easily)

Ground Conditions: Good: grass is mowed and trees are in good condition

Stone Conditions: Moxley and Jones markers along with a few others are in good condition because they are in the sun. The rest of the markers are in decent to poor condition because of lichen problem caused by constant moisture. Many are leaning.

Historic Significance: Some Battle of Groton Heights soldiers with interesting markers.

Hazards: None are obvious

Recommendations: 1) Gentle cleaning of markers with lichen problems. 2) Reset leaning markers. 3) Erect a sign to mark cemetery

Date: 6/5/96

Wallsworth Cemetery

Unfortunately, Wallsworth Cemetery was visited by vandals a few years ago, who left virtually no headstones in the cemetery. Or, perhaps it was just neglect on the part of the Town, the cemetery's caretakers. Never the less, all that remains in Old Cemetery are rustic footstones, which still mark the graves whose identities are now lost. A few broken markers still remain on the ground. Entrance to the cemetery is through fence posts and down a path which is overgrown to the right, land which may have been part of the cemetery in the past.



Cemetery Number: 8

PIN #: 260914423921

Name: Wallsworth Cemetery

Address: Flanders Road, Mystic

Status: Not in use

Lot Size: 1.34 acres

Directions: From Route 1, turn onto Flanders Road. Follow .3 miles. Cemetery is on right, in between #344 and #364. Go through stone posts and follow path back to the cemetery.

Group in Charge: Town of Groton

Number of Markers: 30 rustic footstones with a few broken markers on ground

Earliest:

Family Names: Wallsworth

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Only footstones survive

Design Elements: Hard to tell because of lack of markers

Enclosure: Rustic stone walls on all sides

Ground Conditions: Excellent: grass is mowed and trees are well maintained

Stone Conditions: All headstones are gone: vandalism? neglect?

Historic Significance: One of the older cemeteries in the Town

Hazards: None now, but it appears that vandalism was

Recommendations: 1) Erect a sign explaining history , vandalism, and listing those who are buried there.

Date: 7/22/96

Wells Cemetery

This family plot is well maintained and has some elements of design to it. Large planting urns flank concrete steps which bring the visitor up an embankment to the cemetery. A large tree branch hangs perilously over the cemetery, and needs to be cut down because it is in striking range of the markers. There are two spellings of the last name evident on markers in this cemetery, some spelling it Wells, and others Welles.



Cemetery Number: 2

PIN #: 271014337813

Name: Wells Cemetery

Address: Welles Road

Status: In use

Lot Size: .08 acres

Directions: From Route 184 easterly, turn left onto Welles Road. Cemetery is on right up a small embankment. Park at the old school house just past the cemetery

Group in Charge: Family members (Ed Welles)

Number of Markers: 9

Earliest: 1844

Family Names: Wells, Welles

Symbols/Unusual Stones: None are used

Design Elements: Marker are all in straight lines perpendicular to road. Large planting pots flank steps leading up to cemetery

Enclosure: Stone wall on three sides. Open to the road

Ground Conditions: Excellent except for a large low hanging branch from a tree

Stone Conditions: Good: one marker has rust on it from a patch job. Lichen is growing on a few.

Historic Significance:

Hazards: Tree branch could knock marker over

Recommendations: 1) Erect a new sign for cemetery. 2) Cut branch back

Date: 6/24/96

Wightman Cemetery

The first Baptist Church in Connecticut was next to the Wightman Cemetery, and the First Baptist minister is buried in the cemetery. In addition, a wolf stone, perhaps the only one in Groton exists here and is visible from the entrance to the cemetery. Wightman cemetery has an active cemetery association, however, the upkeep of the grounds seems to have slipped so far this year. A field of rustic footstones lies in between two sections of markers, many of which have soul effigies or willow and urn carvings on them.



Cemetery Number: 4

PIN #: 270015721874

Name: Wightman Cemetery

Address: Cold Spring Road

Status: In use

Lot Size: .98 acres

Directions: From Route 184, turn onto Cow Hill Road. Turn left onto Packer Road. When road splits, take left fork onto Godfrey Road. At stop sign, bear right onto Cold Spring Road. . Cemetery is on left. Follow dirt path up slight hill to cemetery

Group in Charge: Wightman Cemetery Association (Dan La Capra)

Number of Markers: Approximately 100, plus approximately 100 rustic footstones

Earliest: 1747

Family Names: Wightman, Lamb, Denison, Burrows, Lamphere/Landphere, Holdridge, Haley, Colver/Culver, many others

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Soul effigies, Willow and urn. Wolf stone.

Design Elements: Markers are in rows but face many directions. Generally grouped by families. Randomly placed trees.

Enclosure: Finished stone wall. Iron entrance gate.

Ground Conditions: Good: grass is 2 feet high in some places

Stone Conditions: Most are in good condition. Lichen problems on old slate (?) markers. Some are badly flaked

Historic Significance: Site of first Baptist church in Connecticut. First Baptist minister buried here.

Hazards: None are obvious

Recommendations: 1) maintain grass. 2) Map cemetery locating markers and significance off those buried there.

Date: 6/26/96

Wood Cemetery

Despite its location adjacent to Navy housing, Wood cemetery has retained its quiet character, completely surrounded by stone walls, with large oak trees providing cover for the cemetery. A local group of volunteers created a stone lined walkway leading the visitor into the cemetery. Many of the stones have interesting willow and urn symbols carved on them, but they are badly flaked so names are illegible or gone altogether. One Battle of Groton Heights martyr, Samuel Allyn, is buried here along with other revolutionary war veterans.



Cemetery Number: 5

PIN #: 178019510556

Name: Wood Cemetery

Address: Corner of Pleasant Valley Road North and Catalpa Drive

Status: Not in use

Lot Size: .15 acres

Directions: From Route 12 North, turn right onto Gungywamp Road. Then, turn left onto Pleasant Valley Road North. Cemetery is on right on corner of Catalpa Road.

Group in Charge: Town of Groton

Number of Markers: Approximately 20

Earliest:

Family Names: Wood, Forsyth and Allyn

Symbols/Unusual Stones: Samuel Allyn: interesting inscription and soul effigy carving. Also willow and urn motifs on some illegible markers

Design Elements: Stones recently added create an entrance path

Enclosure: Rustic stone walls on all four sides.

Ground Conditions: Good: many large oaks create heavy shading. Grass is well maintained.

Stone Conditions: Some are in decent condition, most are in poor condition: heavy flaking of sandstone makes many illegible. Many have fallen over and have been left with new stones marking their spots.

Historic Significance: Some soldiers from Battle of Groton Heights are buried here as well as other Revolutionary War veterans.

Hazards: None are obvious. Perhaps if Navy housing expands, but the cemetery was not harmed to date and it is already part of Navy housing.

Recommendations: 1) Document legible markers 2) Look through Vargason's book and DAR report to find documentation of illegible markers. 3) Erect a marker for cemetery which explains the history of the cemetery and its missing and illegible markers, perhaps with photographs of illegible markers or ones which have disappeared.

Date: 6/5/96

LOCAL RESOURCES

Association for Graveyard Studies

This is a New England based organization which focuses on the history and preservation of graveyards and the conservation of markers within them. Appropriate techniques for conservation can be recommended as well as conservators in the local area. In addition, the AGS has a number of publications which they send out to interested individuals which cover various topics including the preservation of cemeteries, listing cemeteries on the National Register of Historic Places, and the do's and don'ts of conservation.

Bill Memorial Library

The "Groton Room" upstairs has two resources not available elsewhere. The first is a photo scrapbook which documents gravemarkers of Battle of Groton Heights "martyrs" with complete inscriptions, which is called the DAR scrapbook and was put together in the 1930's. The other is a tin box which contains information about cemeteries not only in Groton, but also in New London, Ledyard, Preston and a few other towns. Listings of burials are included in the Groton folder as well as maps from the Hale report. A list of cemeteries on a pink 11x17 piece of paper is useful, however its source is unknown. In addition, a careful reading must be given for some of the names used are different than on other lists, and old route numbers and street names are given. Smith and Vargason's book as well as other eyewitness accounts of the Battle of Groton heights are available as are books about Groton's history.

Blunt-White Library (Mystic Seaport Museum)

A library pass can be obtained from either entrance gate to the Seaport for those who are not members. Only staff can check resources out of the library or wander through the stacks, however, the staff is very helpful and finds the information for you. Oral history accounts, original maps and volumes concerning maritime and local history are available, but not much concerning cemeteries. One book found here and not in other locations is Lynette Strangstad's A Graveyard Preservation Primer.

Connecticut Graveyard Network

A newly formed organization, the Connecticut Graveyard Network (CGN) plans to draw together individuals throughout the state who are interested in the variety of subjects related to graveyards. To date, the group has held tours of cemeteries in a number of towns and hopes to host a symposium in the fall covering a related topic. Information about conservation, which conservators to call, history and many other subjects can be obtained from CGN.

Groton Planning Department

The Town of Groton has a recent history of involvement with historic preservation, including a preservation plan for the Town which was finished this summer. Any town resident interested in cemetery information can look through or copy the resources available in the Planning Department during business hours. All photographic records from this report are indexed and for a fee can be copied. In addition, copies of the survey are available for reading, and may be purchased for the price of reproduction. The cemetery map produced for the survey is available to take on cemetery hunting sprees.

The Department also has three pamphlets produced by the Association for Graveyard Studies which can be copied or simply looked through by interested individuals. They are: "The Care of Old Cemeteries", "Guide to Forming a 'Cemetery Friends' Organization", and "National Register Cemeteries".

Groton Public Library

The "Local History Room" next to the meeting rooms covers not only Groton but also other towns in the area. Access is granted by asking at the information desk and leaving a form of identification as collateral. The Hale Report for Groton is located here as well as the Noank Valley and Smith Lake Cemetery Burial listings. Slater's book on Early Connecticut Burials is available, as are as Smith and Vargason's book and a variety of other books about Groton, Mystic, and Noank history. Copies of Stonington Historical Society's graveyard guide can be checked out along with Jacobs' book Stranger Stop and Cast an Eye.

Indian and Colonial Research Center

Open only limited hours on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, this interesting research center holds much information on local history, and some information on Groton cemeteries. Its main Groton resource is the Hale report.

Mystic-Noank Library

The local history section is upstairs, and is kept locked up when not in use. Not much is available about Groton cemeteries, but it has many book about Groton, Noank, and Mystic history. The Hale reports for Groton and Stonington and the Stonington historical Society guide are available. Make sure to play with Emily, the library cat, on your way out.

ADDRESSES FOR RESOURCES

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Association for Graveyard Studies 278 Main Street Suite 207 Greenfield, MA 01301 | (413) 772-0836 |
| Bill Memorial Library 240 Monument Street Groton, CT 06340 | (860) 445-0392 |
| Blunt-White Library Mystic Seaport Museum Greenmanville Avenue Mystic, CT 06355 | (860) 572-0711 |
| Connecticut Graveyard Network 135 Wells Street Manchester, CT 06040 | (860) 643-5652 |
| Groton Planning Department 45 Fort Hill Road Groton, CT 06340 | (860) 441-6610 |
| Groton Public Library Route 117 Groton, CT 06340 | (860) 441-6750 |
| Ed Herrick Grounds Maintenance City Utilities | (860) 446-4073 |
| Indian and Colonial Research Center Main Street Old Mystic, CT 06372 | (860) 536-9771 |
| Mystic-Noank Library 40 Library Street Mystic, CT 06355 | (860) 572-8191 |
| State Archaeologist Dr. Nicholas F. Bellantoni Connecticut State Museum of Natural History University of Connecticut Storrs, CT 06269-3023 | (860) 486-5248/486-4460 |

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hale, Charles R. Headstone Inscriptions: Town of Groton. Hartford, CT: 1932.

An WPA project which lists all headstone inscriptions until 1932 by cemetery and also alphabetically with page references. Veterans of Foreign Wars are listed by cemetery and alphabetically by war with page references as well. Name, birth and death dates, and relationships are included, however, complete inscription transcription was not conducted.

Jacobs, G. Walker. Stranger Stop and Cast an Eye: A Guide to Gravestones and Gravestone Rubbing. Brattleboro, VT: The Stephen Greene Press, 1973.

Excellent source for information about symbols carved on markers and for the proper techniques for gravestone rubbings. Sketches and photographic examples accompany the text to give a clearer view of types. Explanations of stone carvers and their styles are given as well.

Parks and Recreation Department, City of Boston. The Boston Experience: A Manual for Historic Burying Grounds Preservation. Boston, MA.

A guide which explains how to conduct a complete survey of burying grounds including marker surveys, creating a preservation or conservation philosophy, finding conservators, and conducting conservation work.

Rathbun, Benjamin F. Noank Cemetery Burials. 1986-7.

Alphabetized listing of burials in Noank Valley Cemetery with plot numbers, name, maiden name, title, birth and death dates.

Slater, James A. The Colonial Burying Grounds of Eastern Connecticut and The Men Who Made Them. Hamden, CT: The Shoestring Press, 1987.

This book is written in two parts, the first explains who carved gravemarkers, and how to identify them. The second part details colonial burying grounds in locations around the state, discussing a number of the older cemeteries in Groton.

Smith, Carolyn, and Helen Vergason. September 6, 1781: North Groton's Story. New London, CT: New London Printers, Inc., 1981.

A twentieth century account of the Battle of Groton Heights, which explains how the battle happened, who was involved, and where the "martyrs" are buried. In addition, headstone inscriptions are transcribed and photographed, along with directions to the cemeteries.

Smith, Walter B. III. Smith Lake Cemetery 1723-1905 in Groton, CT. 1992.

A pamphlet written about the history of Smith Lake Cemetery and its move to its present location near Avery-Morgan cemetery. Includes a list of burials alphabetically and chronologically. May not be complete because the move was not well documented.

Stonington Historical Society. Stonington Graveyards: A Guide. Stonington, CT: 1980.

An excellent reference which gives location, historical significance and general conditions for all cemeteries and graves in the Town of Stonington. In addition, carvings and symbolism are briefly described along with stonecarvers. The Hale report for the Town of Stonington is included in full.

Strangstad, Lynette. A Gravestone Preservation Primer. Nashville, TN: The American Association for State and Local History, 1983.

Explains the importance of preserving graveyards, and how to preserve, conserve, restore graveyards. In addition, concerns caretakers should take into account are explained with possible solutions, including gravestone rubbing, working with volunteers, public awareness and security. Instructions are also given on how to conduct accurate gravestone inventories and maps and how to do basic conservation.

CEMETERY MAP KEY

| | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | Turner Cemetery |
| 2 | Wells Cemetery |
| 3 | Crary Cemetery |
| 4 | Wightman Cemetery |
| 5 | Wood Cemetery |
| 6 | Park Cemetery #1 |
| 7 | Starr Burial Ground |
| 8 | Wallsworth Cemetery |
| 9 | Packer Cemetery #1 |
| 10 | Packer Cemetery #2 |
| 11 | South Burrows Cemetery |
| 12 | Avery-Morgan Cemetery |
| 13 | Smith Lake Cemetery |
| 14 | Beth El Cemetery |
| 15 | Chipman-Fish Cemetery |
| 16 | Colonel Ledyard Cemetery |
| 17 | Daniel Burrows Burial Plot |
| 18 | Fish Cemetery |
| 19 | Knowles Cemetery |
| 20 | Lower Mystic Cemetery |
| 21 | Noank Valley Cemetery |
| 22 | North Burrows Cemetery |
| 23 | Palmer Cemetery |
| 24 | Saint Patrick Cemetery |
| 25 | Perkins Cemetery |
| 26 | Cushman Cemetery |
| 27 | Smith Cemetery |
| 28 | Niles Cemetery |
| 29 | Odd Fellows Cemetery |
| 30 | Binks Cemetery |
| 31 | Silas Burrows Cemetery |
| 32 | Bill Cemetery |
| 33 | James Bailey Cemetery |
| 34 | Potters Field |

CEMETERIES

Town of Groton, Connecticut

