

PLYMOUTH CEMETERY RECORDS

Riverside Cemetery

Compiled by

Norton R. Bagley

and

Michael O. Vacca

Volume II

1987

PLYMOUTH CEMETERY RECORDS

These notebooks have been revised by Nancy Bird, Pease Public Library Volunteer in 2009.

Some pages have been copied or condensed.

The original order has been revised to make the contents easier to read and understand.

Volume I- Index to all Plymouth Records

Volume II- Riverside Cemetery Records- 1987 updated and revised version and original 1963 version.

Volume III- Other Plymouth Cemeteries and Family Plot Records- 1987 updated and revised version and original 1963 version.

Also included in Volume III are cemetery lists compiled by other individuals; 1. Unknown compiler and date

2. Sargent List (compiled by Augustus Sargent for the town history in 1895)

3. X List (Unknown compiler, believed done between 1926-1930)

The final section of Volume III is a copy of Cemetery Account Records from May 1899 to August 1927.

Volume IV & V. Index to Area Cemeteries

Cemetery Inscriptions in the Town

of

Plymouth, New Hampshire

Transcribed and Indexed

by

Norton R. Bagley

Michael O. Vacca

The Plymouth Historical Society
1983
Revised 1987

Other Lists of Inscriptions

A list of inscriptions for some Plymouth cemeteries was found in the New Hampshire Historical Society. A copy is included. It is not known who made the entire list. Under the cemetery opposite the Grafton County Fairgrounds is typed "submitted by George M. Russell, July 11, 1892". Some of the lists, however, include burials through 1900. There are lists for Union, Lower Intervale, Grafton Fairgrounds, Spencer, Blodgett (Bartlett), Stearns and Plymouth Town (1872-1900).

Whoever made the lists confused some cemeteries, e.g., some burials known to be in Spencer are listed in Cookville. There is some confusion among the Spencer, Cookville and Hull Cemeteries but not the Stearns, Lower Intervale and Union. The first one and a quarter pages of the Russell List were misplaced and go with the Lower Intervale Cemetery.

Also referred to is a cemetery near Alfred Cook's where Jacob Merrill, Sr., and Mary, wife of Ezekiel Merrill, also about 20 others (not named) are buried. According to the 1890 map of Plymouth, the Cooks lived in what is called Cookville, which has a small yard, but while a Jacob appears on the list, a wife of Ezekiel Merrill does not now appear.

Mrs. Alida Buckland, long a member of the cemetery committee and compiler of the very fine map of Riverside used in this book, found several volumes of old records in the town vaults which were given to the care of the Plymouth Historical Society. These include the Augusta Sargent lists, compiled for use in writing the town history. There are lists for Trinity in Holderness; and Smith Bridge (Old cemetery-Spencer), Smith Bridge (Pleasant Valley), Lower Intervale, Turnpike, Dearborn Hill, Riverside and Union, in Plymouth. These lists go to about 1895. A transcript of these is in the back of this book.

Also found was a book done sometime between 1926-1930. The author is unknown and these lists will be referred to as the X lists. They include Bartlett, Pike Hill, Glover Farm, Dearborn-Ellis, Stearns, Spencer, Hull, Cookville, Riverside, Union, Lower Intervale, Pleasant Valley, Turnpike, Seavey, and two graves near highway west of Hukcins Hill. (Lists included in this volume. Miss Caroline Mudgett has been suggested as a possible author of this book because of the Mudgett family notes.

Both Sargent and X refer to a list for Spencer made by Russell Jacobson, not found.

The Sargent and X lists contain the epitaphs found on the stones which our inscriptions do not. From time to time they make notes on people buried there. Sometimes they include maiden names which are not on the stones. We have included these materials in the transcripts of their books.

In addition, a partial listing of Turnpike cemetery was found which agrees with the other lists. An account book was also found for the Plymouth cemeteries from 1899-1926. This book has been transcribed because it gives names of people who bought lots, who set up perpetual care, and who worked in the cemeteries.

At some time some stones in the older cemeteries have been reset so that the configuration of family lots has been lost. Some stones have been repaired so that part of the inscription has been obscured. Some have been recarved. Some have been sunk in the ground so that some parts can not be read. A stone, occasionally, lies on the ground, fragmented so that the inscription has to be pieced together. Time has weathered many stones so that the inscriptions are difficult to read even with chalking. Marble stones are especially vulnerable to weathering and acid rain. Distinctions between G's and C's are difficult to make. A's have lost their slant and become l's. 8's and 5's are hard to decipher. All these difficulties make the finding of earlier lists valuable since present readings can be compared with earlier readings.

Our original volume compared our findings with those of Russell's list. The revised version continues this comparison with the Sargent and X lists. If our finding agrees with Russell, Sargent and X, no notation is made. Where we do not agree the difference is noted after our entry. Only differences are noted; e.g., if Russell and X agree with our reading but Sargent does not, only the Sargent difference is noted.

Where the earlier lists refer to inscriptions which we did not find, these have been added to the revised book. With time, some stones have been lost, stolen or destroyed.

The X list contains a couple of pages of inscriptions, or names of people, in Pleasant Valley. These are included in the transcripts of the X lists found in the back of this book and in the Pleasant Valley section and index. These names and inscriptions are not included in the Sargent lists even though they are within her time-frame. Where these came from is not known. We have made a check of town records and the town history and have put available data in the main transcript. It seems reasonable to assume all might have been buried in Pleasant Valley from dates and family connections but it is not certain. Perhaps X found some other source to warrant their inclusion.

It is hoped that a comparison of these lists makes possible more accurate information than can be conveyed from a single reading of inscriptions. Even then, some mistakes will be found.

In some instances, Sargent and Russell found older, single stones, which have since been removed and the name inscribed on family monuments. The old inscriptions have been included since they sometimes contain more specific information than the family monuments.

Index to Cemeteries

Cemeteries have been index by name or cemetery location.

In some instances, such as Pillsbury and Pilsbury, or Cumings and Cummings, the names have been indexed as one group.

There are instances in which there will be repetitions of the same person's inscription, e. g., when a person have a separate gravestone but may also appear on a family monument.

Where the maiden name of the wife is given, the name will appear as Mary (Smith) Snow or Mary Smith, wife of John Snow.

In some instances where there are names of children with names or initials of parents, and the parents may or may not appear on tombstones, the entry will read son or dau of so and so that the children may be identified. Such an entry may help researchers who must have lived in town but who may not have inscriptions or who may have removed from town but once resided here.

In each index, a separate index is given for maiden names, where given. In these the woman is index by her maiden name and her married name is placed in parentheses, followed by wife of _____, where the husband's first name is known.

Riverside Cemetery

This is the largest cemetery in town and is located on Fairgrounds Road.

Inscriptions, so far as possible, have been listed by lot in order to show possible family relationships. In some instances where a monument shows one family on one side and a different family name on the other, the families will be in close proximity in the manuscript.

There is a map of the cemetery, mainly done by Mrs. Alida Buckland. The map does not contain all the names of families holding lots and is complete through about 1972. We have taken all inscriptions as of January, 1983. We have added a list of persons known to have been buried in the cemetery before and after that date taken from the burial records of Mr. Madison, Sears, and of subsequent burials where the vital records of the town show a person to have been buried in Riverside. In the older parts of the cemetery some vacant spots have been filled in with graves, and these sometimes do not appear on the map. In some situations, the map gives the name of the person who owns the lot or who put it in perpetual care but whose name may not appear on inscriptions. We have tried to indicate these in the text.

In the far south of the cemetery, many lots are new and do not appear on the map; also true for the far east of the cemetery. In these sections, we have tried to indicate where the vacant lots are. If there are lots which appear on the map under some person's name, we have tried to indicate the name of the person in the interest of researchers since it is obvious that some lots which appear vacant have burials on them.

At the end of each of the older sections appears a list of names which appear on the map, but which we can not identify from inscriptions. In some sections, mainly the new sections, we have indicated vacant lots. This means that the lot appears to be vacant and is not listed on the map as being owned. Otherwise, we indicate that the lot is held in a certain person's name but that there are no inscriptions.

To aid the person who wants to find a lot, a record of inscriptions approximately follows the pattern of the map. In all instances, inscriptions listed under a certain division of the map will be found in that division. Copies of the map will be found in the rear of the text.

Russell made lists of inscriptions in this cemetery up to 1900. Augusta Sargent made a list for use in preparing the town history. These go to about 1895. Names on Russell list are starred in the index. Where our readings do not agree with Russell or Sargent, or where they do not agree, we have put thier information in parentheses. In some instances they give additional information because they transcribed old stones which have since been removed and the names placed on a single family monument with less information.