

COLLECTION 100

Hope Cemetery Corporation

In 2006 Hope Cemetery Corporation gave The Brick Store Museum its maps and the card system for identifying the location of graves. Representatives of the Corporation are always to have access to the card system.

The cemetery was started as a small burying ground owned by John Low, next to the First Parish Church around 1800. The widow of Colonel Joseph Storer, who died in 1790, was the first person buried in the cemetery. In 1816 a group of Kennebunk citizens organized the Kennebunk Burial Ground, now known as the Old Church Yard or Old Cemetery, when they purchased $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre of land from Mr. Low, including the burial grounds.

In 1854 a corporation was formed and purchased six additional acres to the north of the present cemetery. The first lots were sold on November 15, 1854, and the first burials were the bodies of George Wise's family.

The cemetery developed in six parts. The oldest part, the Old Church Yard or Old Cemetery, was the original burying ground, to the northeast of the First Parish Church or Unitarian Church. This portion houses the oldest graves in the cemetery.

The next portion built was the Main Yard, Division I, followed by the Main Yard, Division II. Division I is a simple, straight-forward design, with rows of graves marked in the center by picturesque focal point. In the focal point are graves of Littlefields, Perkins, Cobbys, Lords, and Curtis's. Division II, added later in the nineteenth century, is the most picturesque portion of the cemetery. Division I and II were developed in the garden style, popular in the later part of the nineteenth century. The garden style of landscaping is noted for a creation of park-like settings, with curving paths and specifically placed plantings, to give a feel of rest and repose for the visitor. In Division II a large focal point, in the shape of a flower, is in the middle, surrounded by curving lanes and carefully placed plantings, creating a park-like setting. The graves of four of the Parsons family members form the petals of the flower.

Sections A, B, and C were laid out next. Section A is straight rows of graves, to complement the Main Yard, Division I. Section B followed the general design of Division II, with curving paths and plantings. Instead of the flower shaped focal point of Division II, Section B has two smaller focal points, triangular shaped plots. The graves of members of the Ward and Parsons families are in the triangles. As the century progressed the graves were laid out in straight rows, which make up about half of the Section. Section C was also laid out in straight rows, with the largest single focal point in the cemetery, a rectangular shaped piece of land, the home of the Parsons family's graves.

Initially there were wooden gates at the main entrance to the cemetery. In 1904 Hartley Lord gave the corporation the granite, iron and marble gateway. Throughout the years the gateway has been the victim of several accidents, necessitating the repair of the stone and ironwork.

The first receiving tomb was constructed in 1863, and the present one was built in 1905. Still in use today, a receiving tomb is a vault where the dead are held until a final burial place is prepared. The tomb is usually used until spring, when the ground has thawed.

In 1952 a new office and storage building for the cemetery was built. From the time of the incorporation in 1854 until 1894, one person served as the administrator of the cemetery, Edward W. Morton. From 1894 on the duties were performed by people at their businesses and with their own equipment. By 1952 the need for a structure to serve as both an office and equipment storage was apparent, and a building was constructed and named to honor Edward W. Morton.

A map of the cemetery is available for use by the public. It is marked as such.

E. C. Jordan drew the original maps of the cemetery. Two of his maps remain, on linen and paper. These maps were used by William E. Barry and Joseph Dane to make copies. Other copies exist, copies of originals no longer extant. The most common map maker is R.T.C. Others include the Conservation District Engineers, Ralph Walker, Technician, and Dow, Coulombe and Brown of Saco. Most of the maps do not have a maker named.

The maps are in two large boxes.

If a researcher is trying to find a grave or a family, he/she should look at each pertinent drawing of the cemetery, including the front and back of each page.

The acquisition number for the Collection is 2006.084.0001-0139.

Rosalind Magnuson
March, 2010

Box 1

OLD CHURCH YARD

Old Church Yard, c. 1926

one (1) copy

Old Church Yard c. 1953

two (2) copies

Old Church Yard c. 1953, linen copy

one (1) copy

THE BURYING GROUND

The Burying Ground, 1805, copied from paper drawing, 1960

four (4) copies

COMPLETE SETS OF DRAWINGS

Hope Cemetery, including Sections A, B and C, and Main Yard,
Divisions I and II, n.d.

six (6) sets

Hope Cemetery, including Sections A, B and C, and Main Yard
Divisions I and II, drawn by R.T.C., linen, n.d.

one (1) set

SECTION A

Section A, n.d.

two (2) copies

Section A, n.d.

six (6) copies

SECTION B

Section B, n.d.

four (4) copies

Section B, n.d.

eight (8) copies

SECTION C

Section C, n.d.

four (4) copies

Section C, n.d.

six (6) copies

SECTIONS A, B and C

Sections A, B and C drawn by W. E. Barry from the original survey,
1921

five (5) copies

Section A, B and C, drawn by E. C. Jordan, 1899, linen and paper

one (1) copy

SECTION D (proposed only)

Section D c. 1933

two (2) copies

SECTION E (proposed only)

Section E, n.d.

three (3) copies

MAIN YARD DIVISION I

Main Yard Division 1, n.d.

two (2) copies

Main Yard Division 1, n.d.

two (2) copies

MAIN YARD DIVISION II

Main Yard Division 2, Plan by E. C. Jordan, 1876; copy by W. E. Barry, 1910; copy by Joseph Dane, 1926. Revised to conform with card system established in 1925. one (1) copy

MAIN YARD, DIVISION I and II

Main Yard, Division I and II, linen and paper, n.d. one (1) copy

Box 2

MISCELLANEOUS

HOPE CEMETERY CORP.

Hope Cemetery Corp. map of the entire cemetery. one (1) copy
(This is the map from which copies were made for use by the public.) three (3) copies

Hope Cemetery drawn by W. E. Barry, 1921 from a survey one (1) copy

Hope Cemetery drawn by W. E. Barry, 1921, Section B and C,
part of Section A one (1) copy

Hope Cemetery Plan, c. 1876 by E. C. Jordan, copy by W. E. Barry
c. 1910 one (1) copy

Hope Cemetery Veterans Graves, c. 1930s three (3) copies

Study for proposed additions, 1933 three (3) copies

Map showing evolution of Hope Cemetery through 1936, plastic one copy

Hope Cemetery Property Owners, c. 1854, linen copy one (1) copy

Hope Cemetery Abutters, 1805, redrawn c. 1960 by R.T.C., linen one (1) copy

Hope Cemetery Drainage system c. 1963, by Conservation District
Engineers, Ralph Walker, Technician one (1) copy

Plan of Longview Terrace, 1973 one (1) copy

Plans for Hope Cemetery and Surrounding Property Owners, 1983 three (3) sets

Land owners, Portland Road and Fletcher Street, from a 1983 survey five (5) copies

undated pencil drawing of proposed Section D one (1) copy

Miscellaneous drawings, n.d., (on velum) four (4) copies

Map showing a survey of a triangular portion of land made for Hope Cemetery by Dow & Coulombe, 1983. The plan was not recorded.
Plastic- two pages one (1) copy

Plan for site review of Kennebunk Free Library, 1994 five (5) copies

OTHER CEMETERIES

Evergreen Cemetery, Old Yard, n.d., linen one (1) copy
Evergreen Cemetery, New Yard, n.d., linen one (1) copy
Evergreen Cemetery, c. 1933 one (1) copy

Mount Pleasant Cemetery, n.d. four (4) copies
Mount Pleasant Cemetery, n.d. one (1) copy
Mount Pleasant Cemetery, linen copy, n.d. one (1) copy

Pine Hill Cemetery, Wells, Maine, c. 1960 two (2) copies
Pine Hill Cemetery by Thomas Chick, c. 1960, linen copy one (1) copy

METAL CASE 3, FOLDER 6

The Old Church Yard, from a map of 1816 updated to 1837 one (1) copy
The Old Church Yard, (similar to above), slightly later one (1) copy