

## HINGHAM CEMETERY FACTS

Compiled by: Lucinda Day, Director

The year in which the older part of the Hingham Cemetery was first used for burials is uncertain, but burials date at least from 1672. As was customary in England at the time, early settlers buried their dead behind the meeting house, which in Hingham was a privately-owned six-acre lot of land originally granted to Thomas Gill, one of the town's early settlers. In the next 150 years the property changed hands many times yet burials continued among the grazing farm animals. It wasn't until Adam Thaxter bought the property in 1838 from Thomas Loud that the Cemetery was incorporated under his direction, in order to perpetuate "those feelings of respect and gratitude ... towards those distinguished ancestors whose remains are interred within its limits."

As more property was added, the Hingham Cemetery modeled its new grounds after the trend-setting Mt. Auburn Cemetery of Cambridge, MA (founded seven years earlier) and was thus at the forefront of the American rural garden cemetery movement. The concept of the garden cemetery, which was to sweep throughout the country for the next 75 years, turned rural burial grounds into park-like places for passive recreation, with walks, roadways, and arboretums (as seen in the Hingham Cemetery), as the Victorian appetite for horticulture from around the world grew strong.

### Fact Sheet

16 acres located in the Lincoln National Historic District; oldest and largest cemetery in Hingham; privately owned by lot owners (Proprietors); run by a volunteer Board of Directors; non-sectarian; non-profit; ACTIVE.

Earliest artifact: carved soapstone effigy of harbor porpoise, late archaic period (2,000-1,000 BC) now located in MA Archaeological Museum, Middleboro. (Who, when, and exactly where it was unearthed while digging a grave is unknown)

Replica gravestone with earliest date: Wm. Hersey, b.1592 in Reading England, d. 1638 in Hingham.

Oldest gravestone now standing, North Burial Ground: Thomas Barnes (1602-1672)

Second oldest headstone: Capt. John Thaxter (1625-1686/7) – early ancestor of Cemetery founder Adam Thaxter. Located at foot of walk leading to Adam Thaxter Monument

1837 - Land bought by Adam Thaxter from Thomas Loud. Land donated by Adam Thaxter and Cemetery incorporated on February 28, 1838. Modeled after Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA.

### Subsequent additions in:

1838 – acquired from Jacob Loud

1848 - acquired from Atherton Tilden

1865 – acquired from Jacob Loud

1871 - acquired from the Hon. Albert Fearing

1875 – adjoining land given by heirs of Capt. Isaac Hinckley

1839 – Town of Hingham – Settlers’ Monument. Depicted on Hingham town seal.

1870 – Town of Hingham - Soldier’s and Sailors’ Monument (Civil War Monument)

1872 - Potter's field established. (Water St. entrance, to left of bend of road going up hill)

1886 - Gothic Chapel erected, designed by J. Sumner Fowler

1985 – Water St. area opened

1994 – Veterans’ area established around Civil War Monument

2001 – Memorial Cremation Garden opened

Noteworthy burials:

1. "Three Ministers' Tomb" containing remains of Hingham's first three ministers monument erected 1871?
  - a. Rev. Peter Hobart (1604-1679) - First minister
  - b. Rev. John Norton (1651-1716) - Second minister
  - c. Rev. Ebenezer Gay (1696-1787) – third minister
2. Thomas Joy (1638-1678) - Builder of first state house (1657)—made of wood
3. William Hersey - one of first Hingham settlers (came to Hingham in 1635); town Selectman 1642, 1647, 1650
4. Col. Samuel Thaxter (1665-1740) - one of "His Majesty's Council and Col. of his Regiment"; delegate to the General Court; town Selectman.
5. Col. Benjamin Lincoln (1699-1771) - father of Major General Benjamin Lincoln; town Selectman; Town Clerk; Representative of the town at the General Court; member of His Majesty’s Council.
6. Madame Sarah Langley Hersey Derby (1714-1790) – founder of Derby Academy, oldest continuing coed day school in New England. School founded after her death with money she inherited from her first husband Dr. Ezekiel Hersey.
7. Benjamin Lincoln (1733-1810) – Maj. Gen. in Revolutionary army; served with Geo. Washington; received sword of Gen. Cornwallis at end of Rev. War; Sec. of War 1781; Lt. Gov. of MA 1787; a founder and president of the Society of the Cincinnati; Collector for the Port of Boston.
8. Captain Thomas Hersey (1734-1810) – Soldier in French & Indian War; Captain in Revolutionary War.
9. Mary Revere Lincoln (1770-1853) – daughter of Revolutionary War hero Paul Revere

10. Rev. Joseph Richardson (1778-1871) – Minister at Old Ship Church (1806 - ?); state representative; US House of Representatives.
11. Adam Wallace Thaxter (1779-1858) – Hingham benefactor, Hingham Cemetery founder and first president
12. Rev. Calvin Lincoln (1779-1881) – Minister at Old Ship Church from 1855-1881
13. Gov. John A. Andrew (1818 – 1867) – Attorney; Gov. of MA 1860-1865. Instrumental in founding the 53<sup>rd</sup>. Regiment (first Negro Regiment) during Civil War
14. Gov. John Davis Long (1838-1915) – Attorney; State Rep.; Lt. Gov. 1879; Gov. of Comm. of MA 1880-1882; Congressman 49th and 50th Congress of U.S.; U.S. Sec. of the Navy 1897.
15. Wilmon Brewer (1895 – 1998) died at age 103; Hingham benefactor - gave Old Ordinary and More-Brewer Conservation area to town; made purchase of World's End possible; author and poet.

### Noteworthy Monuments

1. Thomas Joy (1638-1678) – Builder of first state house (1657)—made of wood
2. William Hersey - one of first Hingham settlers; town Selectman 1642, 1647, 1650
3. Fort – Site of fort built during French and Indian War. Located where Settlers' Monument now stands.
4. Circle of earliest original and replicated slate headstones of Hingham settlers, collected when Main St. was lowered for horse-drawn trolleys in 1830's. (Site of early Hingham fort see above)
5. Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument (Civil War) – 30 feet, Quincy granite, inscribed with names of all those from Hingham who died in Civil War. 1870
6. Monument to and burial place of 6 British seamen from Bark Kadosh, drowned after wreck on Point Allerton, Hull, Dec. 1872, and interred in lot donated by Cemetery.
7. Settlers' Monument – Placed over remains of earliest settlers who were originally buried along Main St. and moved to burial mound under monument when Main St. was lowered for horse-drawn trolleys about 1835. Site of early Hingham fort (see above)
8. “Recording Angel” by Larkin Meade (1835-1910) of Brattleboro, VT. Given to Cemetery by Stuart and Margaret DeBard. Sculpted originally in snow in 1856 in Brattleboro, 10 feet tall. DeBard's great, great grandfather poured ice over sculpture to freeze it. This snow sculpture launched his career. His sculpture of Ethan Allen located in Hall of Statues, Washington, DC. Replica made of Carrara marble in Florence, Italy

9. 9.Sergeant Peter Ourish – youngest Hingham volunteer to Civil War, participated in 15 major battles, died at 19 years of age. 1845-1864
10. Numerous Victorian zinc monuments
11. Gov. John Andrew statue – created from Carrara marble in Florence, Italy, by noted American sculptor Thomas R. Gould; erected 1875
12. Cemetery Chapel – erected in 1889, Queen Anne style, designed by J. Sumner Fowler, used for funeral services for those from out of town not affiliated with a church. (NOT officially named the Ames Chapel)
13. “Ames” stained glass window in Chapel – see above. Given by her friends.
14. Hooper “Angel of Grief” – designed in Italy by noted American sculptor William Wetmore Story of Salem, MA. in 1894. Replica made of Carrara marble in Florence, Italy. Original in Protestant Cemetery in Rome.
15. “Seal” monument – commemorating “beloved adventurers” Edward Farnsworth and Suzanne Clark, cast in bronze by sculptor Bud Bottoms of San Diego, CA 1988

#### Noteworthy Plantings

1. Turkey Oak – *Quercus cerris* (3)
2. Beech:
  - a. American Beech – *Fagus grandifolia*
  - b. European Beech – *Fagus Sylvatica*
    - i. Weeping Beech – *Fagus Pendula*
    - ii. Copper Beech – *Fagus Cuprea*
    - iii. Fernleaf Beech – *Fagus Asplenifolia*
3. 6-7 varieties of maples including:
  - a. Silver Maple – *Acer sacharinum*
  - b. Red Maple – *Acer rubrum*
  - c. Boxelder – *Acer negundo*
  - d. Hedge Maple – *Acer campestre*
4. Larch – *Larix deciduas*
5. Swiss Stone Pine – *Pinus cembra*
6. Autumn Purple White Ash – *Fraxinus Americana*
7. Tupelo – *Nyssa sylvatica*
8. Scarlet Oak – *Quercus coccinea*
9. Pendant Silver Linden – *Tilia petiolaris*

## Trees planted since 1990

1. Katsuratree (2) – *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* (1999, 2001)
2. Weeping Alaska cedar - *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis pendula*
3. Yellowhorn – *Xanthoceras sobifolium* (1999)
4. Chinese ash – *Fraxinum chinensis* (1999)
5. Hornbeam – *Carpinus turczaninouii* (1999)
6. Jack tree – *Sinojackia xylocarpa* (1999)
7. European ash – *Fraxinus excelsior* (1999)
8. Japanese cornelian cherry (2) – *Cornus officinalis*
9. Pee Gee Hydrangea (4)
10. Kousa dogwood (6) – *Cornus kousa* (4 in 2000, 2 in 2001)
11. Red Oak (2) – *Quercus rubra* (1996)
12. Red Maple (2) – *Acer rubrum* (1996)
13. Silverleaf linden – *Tilia tomentosa* (1999)
14. Sweetshrub – *Calycanthus floridus*
15. Lavalley cork – *Phellodendron lavalleyi* (1999)
16. White ash – *Fraxinus Americana* (1999)
17. Green ash – *Fraxinus Pennsylvanica* (1999)
18. Chinese paper birch – *Betula albosinensis* (1999)
19. European larch (3) – *Larix deciduas* (1999, 2000, 2001)
20. Stewartia (2) – *Stewartia pseudocamelia* (2001, 2002)
21. Japanese tree lilac – *Syringa reticulata* (2002)
22. Japanese yew – *Taxus cuspidata capitata* (2002)
23. Leyland cypress (6+) – *Cupressocyparis leylandi*
24. Witch hazel – *Hamamelis mollis pallida* (2002)
25. Dawn redwood – *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (2000)
26. American holly (2) – *Ilex opaca* (2000)
27. Dogwood hybrid (2) – *Cornus rutkins (aurora)* (2000)
28. Coral Bark Maples (2) – *Acer palmatum sangokaku* (2003)