

BOWKER CEMETERY

This obscure and heavily overgrown cemetery is located on Bowker Street directly across from the entrance to the former Meadowcroft Camp. The area is bounded by stone walls and is approximately 50 feet by 200 feet. There is only one badly damaged, visible headstone. The most prominent feature is the Bowker monument dedicated to Elijah Bowker and his ten children. It is unknown whether the children are buried here. There is also evidence of a mounded tomb, although the entrance is no longer visible. No other headstones have been visible in over 100 years.

CHURCH HILL CEMETERY

Established in 1728, Church Hill Cemetery is located off Common Avenue, in the area formed by River Street, Church Street, Common Avenue, and Tiffany Road. Located on a hill, it is a rather large burial ground measuring 1,000 feet by 500 feet. The oldest section of the cemetery is located near River Street. Originally, this area was a private burial ground of the Palmer family but later included the graves of many shipbuilders including the Stetsons, Torreys, and Winslows. Buried here in 1838 is Captain Thomas Stetson who is Norwell's only veteran of the War of 1812.

The central section, located in a lower area, contains both old and newer graves dating from 1807 to 1990, and a single tomb.

The north section, marked by a Celtic Cross, was the original site of St. Andrews Episcopal Church, which existed from 1731 to 1811. This area has a mixture of both very old and recent burials and many war veterans. There are two family plots dedicated to the Leavitt and Haskins families. Some of Norwell's well-known families are interred here including the Stockbridges, Stetsons and Sylvesters.

The lower section runs along Common Avenue. Currently there are two tombs and one grave. However, this area is open to further expansion.

DAMON CEMETERIES

There are two small burial grounds of the Damon family off Grove Street. One of them is located at the corner of Prospect Street, and the other is near the Water Department. These graveyards were close to the Damon homesteads and are the burial grounds of Browns, Damons, and Northeys.

FIRST PARISH CEMETERY

First Parish Cemetery is one of the largest and most well-known cemeteries in Norwell. It was established in 1725 when the Town of Scituate set aside some land on Herring Brook Hill for the Second Parish to set up a training field and burial ground. Located in Norwell Center between Main Street and River Street, it is maintained by a caretaker. It wasn't until 1908 that it was incorporated under the name of First Parish Cemetery of Norwell. Many of Norwell's well-known families are buried here including the Merritts, Tildens and Turners. Also, other notable people including author John Cheever and Madame Cushing (the widow of the first Chief Justice of Massachusetts who designed the original state seal). There is also a special lot where the ministers of First Parish Church are buried. This cemetery is still open for cremation burials.

JACOBS-COLLAMORE CEMETERY

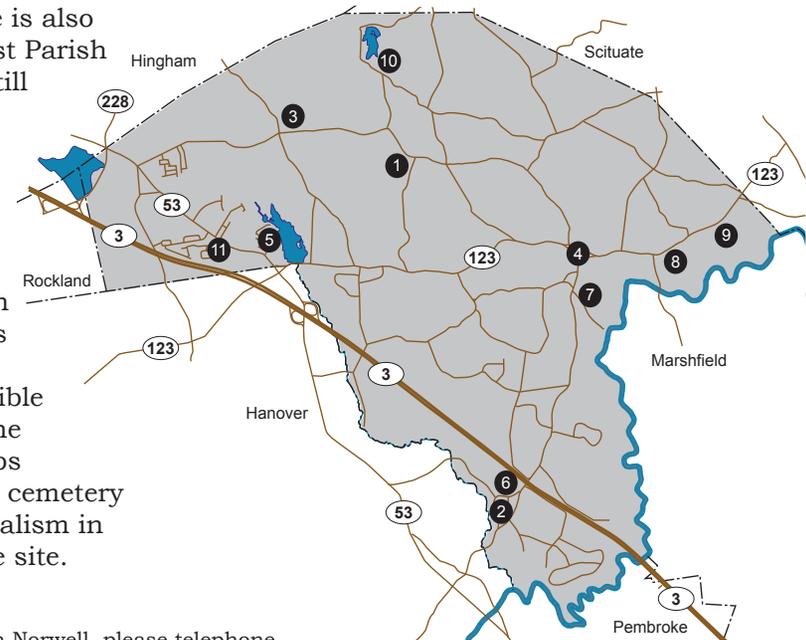
This is a burial lot located on Jacobs Trail between Wendall Avenue and Doris Avenue. It is approximately 30 feet wide by 100 feet in depth. Between 1780 and 1913, members of the Jacobs and Collamore families were buried there. Until recently, there were no visible headstones (just a commemorative stone marking the site). In 2012, three Jacobs gravestones that were previously at the cemetery but had been removed because of vandalism in the mid-1900s were placed again at the site.

PINEHURST CEMETERY

This cemetery is currently in use, and is located off Common Avenue across from Church Hill. It is approximately 500 feet by 500 feet, and is situated on different levels. It was established in 1870 after a feud between several families and the Church Hill Association. Consequently, they set up their own cemetery across the street. In addition to the graves, there are five tombs containing the remains of the Barstow, Copeland and Stetson families.

QUAKER CEMETERY

The old Quaker Cemetery was believed to have been located on the banks of the North River close to Wanton Shipyard. Vague, inexact written documentation indicated its location to be on higher ground in a pine grove. This burial ground originated as early as 1661 with the interment of John Rogers and his wife. Here also was the location of the old Quaker Meetinghouse. However, no evidence of this cemetery exists today despite an archeological dig in a presumed location.



For more information on cemeteries in Norwell, please telephone
The Norwell Historical Society at 781-659-1888, or write to
The Norwell Cemetery Commission at 345 Main Street, Norwell, MA 02061.

SECOND CHURCH CEMETERY

Relatively quiet and set back from the busy roadway, this picturesque cemetery is located on Main Street, one thousand feet east of Bridge Street. Poison ivy, tall grass, and verdant shrubbery engulf the headstones. Some of the stones are unreadable, and others have been vandalized. This cemetery contains some of the oldest stones in the town dating back to 1689. Many well-known Norwell families are buried here including the Tildens, Hatchs, Turners, Fords and Fosters. The stones are scattered about the fifty by three-hundred foot graveyard, and many tend to be arranged by family. The site for the burial ground was owned by Timothy Foster in 1680 and was also the site for the Second Church of Scituate which later relocated.

SECOND CHURCH GRAVEYARD AT WILSON HILL

This cemetery on Main Street at the corner of Old Meetinghouse Lane was established in 1644. The meeting house of the Second Parish Church was located nearby from 1645 to 1680. In the early 1800s, the graveyard was heavily vandalized--removing all traces of the stones that might have been there. Years later two stones were found. One belonged to Thomas King who died in 1691. The other was that of Cornelius Briggs, who died in 1694. The Torrey, Hatch and Robinson families were among the notable families buried there.

No sign of this graveyard remains today except for a boulder on the edge of Main Street commemorating the site of the Second Church in 1642.

STOCKBRIDGE CEMETERY

Stockbridge Cemetery is a picturesque, well-maintained burial ground concealed by shrubbery on a quiet street. It is located on the north side of Mount Blue Street across from where School Street intersects. The cemetery is the family burial ground of the Stockbridges (west side) and the Stoddards (east side). Other noted Norwell families

include the Litchfields, Turners and Williamsons --all of whom were descendants of the Stockbridges. The earliest stone dates back to 1758. An intriguing memorial is dedicated to Meshach Litchfield and his son, Ben, who were lost at sea on August 16, 1846. A portion of this cemetery is elevated and bounded by stonewalls with in front. This mounded area covers two underground tombs and is the final resting place for six Revolutionary War soldiers who were members of the Stockbridge family.

WASHINGTON STREET CEMETERY

In 1892 the Town of Norwell purchased 19 acres of land on Washington Street from the Jacobs family for a cemetery. Upon completion of the layout for the front part of the cemetery, burials started in 1893. Lots at that time cost \$10 and \$20. A soldiers' monument was placed at the entrance to the cemetery. Originally anyone could purchase lots, but eventually ownership was restricted to residents of the town. The Cemetery Commission, appointed by the Selectmen, was in charge of the cemetery. Workers were hired to dig graves and maintain the upkeep of the grounds. In the 1980s the cemetery was expanded. When the SE Expressway was built, it went right through the middle of the 19-acre parcel of land, making the back half unreachable and therefore unusable.

The current care of the cemetery comes under the responsibility of the Tree and Grounds Department. The cemetery lots are nearly all sold. However, some remain that can be purchased for the burial of town residents.

PRIVATE BURIAL GROUNDS & TOMBS

In earlier times it was customary to bury ones kindred on the family estate, and a number of private burial grounds and tombs still exist in town. On Pleasant Street, a cemetery is located on the Ephraim Otis estate. This graveyard had a unique feature in that slaves belonging to the family were buried in unmarked graves around the perimeter.

Another family tomb is the Joseph Cushing tomb on Old Oaken Bucket Road.



Historic Cemeteries in Norwell



Produced by
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