

Scituate Burial Sites Survey

Scituate, Massachusetts



prepared by

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for the

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Scituate Historical Society*

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...and the citizens, both past and present, of the Town of Scituate, Massachusetts.

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INTRODUCTION

Project Background

The Town of Scituate has long been committed to preserving its historic resources. Many of its historic buildings have earned status on the National Register of Historic Places, including the First Trinitarian Congregational Church (Country Way), the Captain Benjamin James House (Driftway), the Woodward House (Old Oaken Bucket Road), and the Lawson Tower (First Parish Road). Its two lighthouses – Minot’s Ledge Light and Scituate Light – have been included in the Lighthouses of Massachusetts National Register Thematic Resource Area. And over the last couple of years, the town has been conducting a survey of its historic structures.

Missing from this preservation effort, are the burial sites – a total of 15 – scattered throughout the town. Included are the Men of Kent, Groveland, Union, Fairview, Mount Hope and Cudworth Cemeteries, the Cushing, Clapp, James-Clapp, Hatch, Merritt family burial grounds, and the Damon-Brown, Harrub-Northey, Vinal-Barnes, and Lawson (or Hammond) tombs. While the town owns and cares for several of the sites, others are managed by private corporations. Several of the smaller sites stand abandoned on private property, their long term ownership – and care – in question.



The Lawson plot at Fairview Cemetery is one of the many fine features of Scituate's 15 burial sites.

In 2004, through the support of Scituate’s Community Preservation Committee, the town hired Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC, Fannin-Lehner Preservation Consultants and CME Associates, Inc. (consulting engineers) to complete the following survey. The *Scituate Burial Site Survey* spanned two years, and included an inventory, assessment and recommendations for preserving and managing the 15 sites over time.

Survey Goal

The goal of the *Scituate Burial Site Survey* is to develop a better knowledge and understanding of the origins of the 15 sites, and provide a roadmap for their long term preservation and care. The town aims to make the sites more visible and physically accessible, and in so doing, broaden the public’s awareness and appreciation of them.

Organization of the Survey

The survey has been organized into four parts. It begins with an overview of the burial sites’ history, placing each of them in context with the history of the town. Second, it assesses each burial site landscape, establishing existing conditions and making preliminary recommendations for preservation

treatment based on the US Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. Third, it places the recommendations in order of importance. Fourth, the survey provides guidelines for ongoing management of the burial sites.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SCITUATE'S BURIAL GROUNDS

Settlers' Graveyard

Europeans first came to present-day Scituate in the 1620s and settled near Scituate Harbor. Almost immediately, they needed to establish a proper interment place for their dead. Around 1624 they set aside land for a graveyard, locating it on a high point approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the water. In 1636, when Scituate was incorporated as a town, settlers built their first meeting house near the burial ground. Both the graveyard (**Men of Kent Cemetery**) and meeting house (no longer extant) stood on what is known today as Meetinghouse Lane. The graveyard likely served as the only town burial place until the end of the 17th century.



The Men of Kent Cemetery, established c. 1624, is Scituate's oldest known burial ground.

Earliest Burial Grounds

Scituate's 17th and 18th century economy revolved around agriculture, ship-building, fishing, and manufacturing, as a result, the population resided either in clusters near the harbor, in the north and west ends of Scituate, and along the North River, or dispersed across inland farms. Scituate's burial places reflect these settlement patterns. In the 1630s, the northern end of town was known as the Conihasset Grant, a parcel of land granted to a group of individuals known as the Conihasset Planters. By 1699, the planters had established a burying place – known today as **Groveland Cemetery** – and it was used primarily by residents in the northwest part of town. In the 1740s, the town established **Union Cemetery**, located to the west of Men of Kent Cemetery on Meetinghouse Lane. While all of the Union Cemetery records burned in fire during the 1950s, it is likely that the town developed the site because the Men of Kent Cemetery was reaching its capacity, with its last burial taking place in the early 1800s. Today, Union Cemetery continues to serve as Scituate's main active public burial ground.

Family Plots

Several of Scituate's 18th century landowners established small burying grounds to accommodate family members and neighbors, and the Greenbush area holds several of these. Located near the North River and First Herring Brook, Greenbush held the first water-powered gristmill in Plymouth County. The Cushing family, who resided in the Greenbush area, established the **Cushing Family Cemetery** off Neal Gate Street in 1757. This small 25' x 30' burial ground holds the graves of several Cushing family members, including William Cushing, chief justice of the Supreme Judicial Court. In 1774, the Clapp family established a small family plot on the south side of Union Street – the **Clapp Family Cemetery**. The Clapps had come to the Greenbush area in the mid 1600s and established a farm southwest of the Old Oaken Bucket pond. Later generation family members served as mill operators and store keepers in the Greenbush area. The James family laid out a small plot on the south side of the Driftway in 1797. This burial ground, known as the **James-Clapp Cemetery**, holds graves of members of the James and Clapp families, who respectively occupied the nearby James House in the 18th and 19th centuries.

In the mid 18th century, Benjamin Jacob established a farm near First Herring Brook in Greenbush. His grandson, Samuel Hatch, Jr. inherited the farm in 1804 and built a home at the corner of the Driftway and Country Way. In the 1790s, the Jacobs and Hatches established a small cemetery – the **Hatch Burying Ground** – on a knoll overlooking a salt marsh and the First Herring Brook.

A fourth family burial ground lies in North Scituate, near the former farm of the Merritt family. Established c. 1811, this wall-enclosed cemetery was once accessed via a meandering path through the woods from the Merritt homestead. The **Merritt Cemetery** is maintained by a family member to this day.



The Harrub-Northey tombs, located off Chief Justice Cushing Highway appear to have been abandoned many years ago.

Tombs

In addition to its twelve burying grounds and cemeteries, Scituate has four known sets of private tombs scattered throughout the town. While all of the dates of construction for the tombs are not known, it is likely that most were built in the early to mid 1800s. Each is constructed of cut stone and set into a slope (either a hillside or a constructed slope). They hold interments for the **Damon** and **Brown** families (off Country Way), **Northey** and **Harrub** families (off Chief Justice Cushing Highway), **Vinal** and **Barnes** families (off Booth Hill Road), and **Lawson** and/or **Hammond** families (off First Parish Road). Similar to the

family burial grounds, these tombs were likely placed at the edges of family farms, and were built to accommodate members of neighboring families.

Modern Cemeteries

Farming and marine-related industries continued in Scituate into the 19th century, and the town's population grew. Following a national trend, the town established several "cemeteries" – tracts of land planned for burial with defined plots, road systems, entry gates, and plantings of street trees. Scituate created formal cemeteries in two ways. First, they added land, plots, roads and trees to existing burial grounds. Groveland Cemetery and Union Cemetery both exhibit this pattern. In each, the earliest burials appear singly in rows, with simple tablets marking the graves. Expansions to each are marked by entry gates, roadway systems, regular plantings of mature shade trees, and family plots.

Second, Scituate created four entirely new cemeteries, each reflecting the 19th century trend toward establishing planned and plotted burial areas. **Cudworth Cemetery**, begun c. 1800, contains several burial "sections," divided by roadways lined with trees. **Fairview Cemetery**, laid out in 1825 behind the Trinitarian Church, likely began as a typical churchyard, with graves tucked behind the building. By the mid to late 19th century, roads and burial sections were added, transforming the landscape into a cemetery. In the West End of Scituate, citizens laid out a garden-style cemetery in 1878 – **Mount Hope Cemetery**. Similar to Cudworth and Fairview, Mount Hope features planned burial sections separated with tree-lined avenues. A stone border wall and a formal gate mark the cemetery entrance. Finally, a fourth modern cemetery, St. Mary's, was established after 1840 to serve Scituate's Catholic population. This cemetery lies on Meetinghouse Lane, between Union and the Men of Kent Cemeteries and is

divided between an “old” and “new” section (across the street from one another). St. Mary’s Cemetery has not been included in this burial ground survey.

Burial Today

Over the last 100 years, most of Scituate’s burials have taken place in the established cemeteries including Union, Cudworth, Groveland, Mount Hope and Fairview. Most of the burial plots in each of these cemeteries are sold, and two cemeteries – Union and Mount Hope have run out of available space. The town is planning an expansion to Cudworth Cemetery, and the private owners of Groveland and Fairview Cemeteries are enlarging their burial areas respectively to the east and south. Cudworth, Groveland, Mount Hope and Fairview continue to be the most active burial places in town.



Some individual burial sites still remain open in the smaller family cemeteries, and family members intend to make these sites their final resting places. An example of this is a plot in the James Cemetery off the Driftway in Greenbush. Despite its deteriorated condition, the cemetery holds the recent burial of a Clapp family member, and has at least one plot available for additional living relative.

Mount Hope Cemetery, established in 1878, is one of Scituate's more modern cemeteries. Sugar maple trees line many of its roadways.

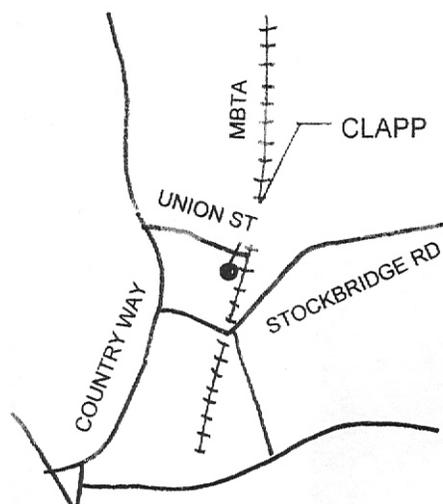
In summary, the Scituate’s 15 burial grounds include settlers’ graveyards, family plots, modern cemeteries and private tombs, and at least one dates to the earliest days of the town’s settlement. Their location, size and form reflect the changing Scituate economy as well as shifting attitudes towards cemetery design and interment. These burial sites tell the story of Scituate, from its settlement in the 1620s through today, making them some of the most important historic resources in the town.

CLAPP FAMILY CEMETERY

Union Street, Greenbush
c. 1774

Historical Development

The Clapp Family Cemetery was likely established by Colonel Thomas Clapp in the late 18th century, to inter family members who had lived in the vicinity. The earliest grave is that of Colonel Clapp (1705-1774), and the most recent burial is that of Leonard Clapp (1766-1852). Significant burials include that of Augustus Clapp (1807-1831) who served as postmaster of Scituate, Chandler Clapp (1854-1832), a justice of the peace and postmaster, and Col. Clapp, who attended Harvard College and was ordained as a minister. The Old Colony Railway was constructed in the mid 19th century, and ran past the cemetery's south side. Originally, this line stood at grade, but today the tracks lie in a cut 30 feet below the grade of the cemetery.



Assessment

The Clapp Family Cemetery lies at the eastern end of Union Street, across from the Hanson Grain Building. Shingled and clapboard barns line the street leading to the cemetery, giving this historic "Fitt's Mill" section of Scituate a distinctive character. The cemetery consists of less than one acre of land and twelve visible graves. The edge of the pavement and gravel shoulder of Union Street form the cemetery's northern edge. From here, the landscape slopes southward from Union Street upward towards a railway line. The railroad, newly upgraded but not yet operational at the time of this survey, lies approximately 30 feet below the cemetery's southern edge within a cut. The cut itself is not visible from the cemetery grounds, but a mass of rip-rap and large concrete wall (built to retain the bank on the cut's opposite side) and 6' stockade fence (erected to screen the railway from residences on the south side), prominently stand out and create a harsh cemetery edge. A crumbling dry-laid stone wall lines the cemetery's western edge, separating the burial area from an adjacent corrugated metal mini-storage building. The cemetery contains a total of 22 gravestones and footstones, all bearing the name Clapp. Cherry, oak, and maple saplings have sprouted from the wall, and bittersweet has emerged. The cemetery itself contains only a few struggling plants - a badly diseased ash, two stunted oaks, and a mass of cherry trees. While the Cemetery's turf is even and neatly mown, the remainder of its features - the edges, plants, and views across the rail line, conflict with its purpose as a commemorative landscape in a historic vernacular setting.



Recommendations

- **Edges.** The edges on each side should be upgraded to provide a barrier between the intimate cemetery landscape and adjacent industrial ones. The stone wall lining the west side should be rebuilt to a 2' minimum height, and this wall should be extended around all three sides to enclose the entire landscape. A break in the wall, marked with stone posts, should appear at the northern

apex along Union Street. Hedgerows of higher quality deciduous trees (see “trees” below) should be planted outside the south (rail line) and west (mini-storage) walls. Along Union Street, the town should plant street trees, spaced 25’ feet apart, to create a stronger edge between the road and burying ground.

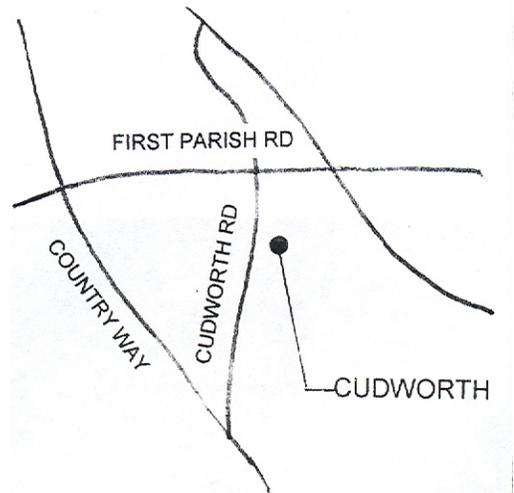
- **Gravestones.** 13 out of the 22 grave markers require conservation treatment. The town should conserve these per the recommendations of the *Gravestone Assessment*, found in Appendix B.
- **Trees.** The existing suckering trees and invasive vines should be cut and their stumps treated chemically (with Round-up or a similar commercial herbicide). New, columnar trees should be planted outside the stone wall along the rail line (south side). A mix of deciduous species should be planted outside the stone wall along the west side, and street trees, planted at regular intervals (25’ on center) should be placed along Union Street. Refer to the *Burial Site Management* section of this plan for a listing of appropriate tree species.
- **Signs.** The town should place an interpretive sign at the new entrance to the cemetery, noting its name, its importance to the history of Scituate, and the rules and regulations for visits to the cemetery.

CUDWORTH CEMETERY

Cudworth Road
c. 1800

Historical Development

Located along the eastern side of Cudworth Road, across from the Laidlaw Historical Center, the Cudworth Cemetery dates to c. 1800. The Works Progress Administration mapped the cemetery sometime in the 1930s. The map shows a stone wall enclosing the entire site, and three entrances spaced evenly along Cudworth Road, and one additional break in the wall along the northern edge. Roadways were not present on the map. The WPA documented several veterans' graves, located mostly in the northern half. Today, the nearly all of the burial space at the Cudworth Cemetery is sold, and the town plans to build an extension of the cemetery on the south side of the Laidlaw Historical Center. The cemetery is known as the veterans' cemetery, because of the numerous veterans' graves marked with commemorative American flags.



Assessment

Today, the stone wall encompasses only the north, east, and south sides. Granite posts mark each of the three entrances along Cudworth Road, and a bituminous sidewalk lies between the cemetery edge and street. Bituminous roadways have been added leading from each Cudworth Road entryway to the east side (back) of the cemetery, and the three are connected by a long bituminous road running parallel to the eastern edge.



The cemetery's structures include a perimeter dry-laid stone wall, and granite curbing surrounding two family plots - the Benjamin Whitaker plot and the Barge plot. Many portions of the perimeter wall have failed, largely due to volunteer trees taking root in or next to the wall. Neither of the plot curbs is mortared, but iron dogs hold the stones of the Whitaker plot. While some of the curb stones have shifted slightly and shrub material grows from inside the Barge plot wall, both curbs stand in good condition. Many of the cemetery's grave markers are recently-placed granite memorials, however a good number of monuments and markers date to the 19th century. Many of these early markers are in need of extensive conservation treatment.

The cemetery contains a healthy mix of deciduous, evergreen and flowering trees, and a diversity of species. Outstanding among these are white pines, red maples, many of which are 48 inches or more in caliper. Mature shade trees - largely ashes - also line Cudworth Road, providing a strong edge to the cemetery's western side. Some of these street trees have died, leaving holes in the allee. Overhead utility poles spaced along Cudworth Road at the cemetery's northern end provide service to the Laidlaw Historical Center (located on the west side of Cudworth Road), and the street trees around them have been pruned to accommodate the wires. Small ornamental cherry trees line the cemetery roadways, and ornamental shrubs decorate some of the graves at the northern end of the cemetery. Dense hedgerows,

mixed with deciduous and evergreen trees, screen the northern, eastern and southern boundaries from adjacent uses. The town maintains the cemetery lawns, and overall the cemetery is in very good condition.

Recommendations

- **Trees.** Before removing, replacing, and/or stabilizing any of the trees, the town should complete a tree inventory and assessment. The trees along Cudworth Road should also be evaluated as part of this assessment. This should be completed by a Massachusetts Certified Arborist, and at a minimum should identify species, assess health, and recommend care and new species to plant. In the meantime, the town should retain the mix and introduce new species as old ones die. The town should introduce more species that will eventually grow into large shade trees, replacing the existing mature ones.
- **Shrubs.** As the ornamental shrubs mature and decay, the town should remove them and replace them with trees. Shrubs create maintenance problems and in some communities, become hideouts for vandals. Americans began planting shrubs in cemeteries in the early 20th century – they are not appropriate for early 19th century burial grounds.
- **Roadways.** While the bituminous roadway appears in good condition, the shoulders of the roadway have eroded from vehicular traffic and parking. If the bituminous paving becomes worn, the town should replace it with chip seal paving, a permanent surface that resembles gravel. To improve the condition of the shoulders, the town should cover them with reinforced turf – six to 12 inches of compacted gravel with 6” of loam and seed on the surface. The gravel results in an equal distribution of the weight of the vehicles, and prevents ruts from occurring. Refer to the *Burial Site Management* section of this plan for standard construction details of chip seal paving and reinforced turf shoulders.
- **Walls.** The stone wall along Cudworth Road should be reconstructed to provide more separation between public the sidewalk and road and the more private, intimate cemetery. (Refer to the *Burial Site Management* section of this plan for a standard construction detail for a dry-laid fieldstone wall.) The existing perimeter wall should be rebuilt, once the volunteer trees have been removed. To stabilize the family plot curbs, the town should remove any shrubs, reset the stones in their original relocations, re-pin the curb stone joints, and replace any backfill (behind the curbs) with a light-weight material.
- **Grave Markers & Monuments.** The town should remove shrubs and small trees growing adjacent to gravestones to prevent further deterioration and overturning of the stones. Thirty-two damaged markers should be conserved per the recommendations of the *Gravestone Assessment*, found in Appendix B.
- **Utilities.** The overhead utility lines and poles along Cudworth Road should be removed and relocated across Cudworth Road. Service to the Laidlaw Historical Center should be on the same line as service to the school (abutting the Laidlaw Historical Center to the north).
- **Signs.** The town should place an interpretive sign at the center entrance to the cemetery, noting the name of the cemetery, its importance to the history of Scituate, and the rules and regulations for visits to the cemetery.

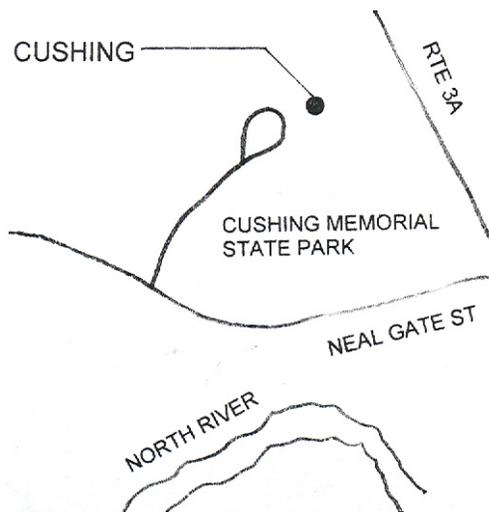
- **Connection with the Laidlaw Historical Building.** The town should consider making a stronger connection between the Cudworth Cemetery and the Laidlaw Historical Building across Cudworth Road. The center cemetery entrance aligns with the front door of the building. By upgrading the building entrance with a paved foyer and plantings, and creating a defined crosswalk to the cemetery, the town could encourage a greater number (and safer number) of visits to the cemetery from the historical society building.

CUSHING FAMILY CEMETERY

Cushing State Park, Judge Cushing Road, Greenbush
c. 1757

Historical Background

The Cushing Family Cemetery lies within the Cushing State Park off Neal Gate Street in the Greenbush section of Scituate. The cemetery was established c. 1757 to inter members of the Cushing family who had resided on nearby land. Prominent among these was William Cushing (1732-1810), who served as chief justice of the Supreme Judicial Court from 1777-1789. Cushing was born in Scituate, son of John Cushing, an associate justice of the Supreme Judicial Court from 1747-1771. William married Hannah Phillips (of the area of Scituate that is now Norwell) in 1774 and the couple had no children. In addition to the conically-marked grave of Judge Cushing, the cemetery contains at least eight other burials, including those of Edward Cushing (1794-1846) and Betsy Cushing (1814-1816), and others bearing names other than Cushing. In the late 20th century a group of Eagle Boy Scouts added timbers to the pathways to help better define the circulation to and around the burial site. Funding for care of the Cushing Family Cemetery comes from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as the site is part of the Cushing State Park.



Assessment

Visitors to the Cushing Family Cemetery park their vehicles on a cul-de-sac at the end of Neal Gate Street, and follow a pathway into a dense pine and oak forest. A sign marks the beginning of the trail - a 4' gravel pathway lined with wood timbers. Runoff from the cul-de-sac pavement has resulted in erosion at the beginning of the pathway, but otherwise, the route surface appears stable. The timbers continue lining the pathway as it meanders through the forest for approximately 200' until it reaches the rectangular-shaped cemetery. At the cemetery's southwest corner, the pathway divides. To the left, a narrow unlined footpath leads visitors around the west side of the cemetery and further into the woodlands. To the right, the timber-lined footpath - widened to 6' - continues along the cemetery's south and east sides, ending at the "east gate."



A 4' high mortared stone wall surrounds the entire 25' x 30' burying ground. This wall is mortared on its face, and contains iron dogs to secure its top stones. Overall, the wall is in good condition, with some shifting in areas where trees abut or are growing into the wall's base. The wall is stained in some areas, and lichen grows in patches in other spots. The gravestones and box tomb markers are all in good condition, although several of the stones and markers are covered with heavy biological growth. It appears that each headstone still retains its accompanying footstone.

To enter, visitors climb three stone steps at the "east gate" - a 4' break in the cemetery wall. A chain may have provided a barricade for the gate at one time. Flush stepping stones lead to the central

feature – the conical monument marking the burial of Judge William Cushing. Several 30” caliper pines stand inside the wall, and poison ivy and raspberry, mixed with pine needles, cover the cemetery floor. The entire landscape stands in shade. Overall, the cemetery is neat, tidy, and appears, along with the entry pathway, to be regularly maintained.

Recommendations

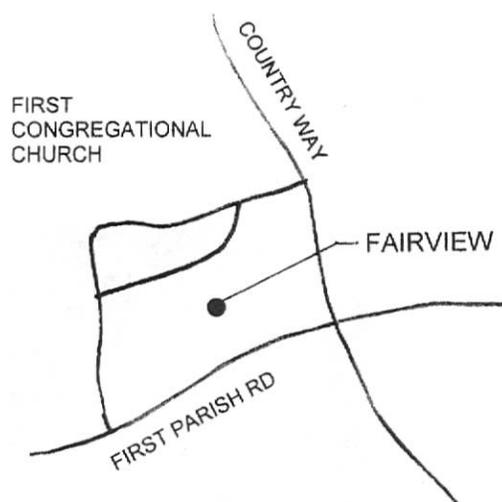
- **Pathway.** The town should continue to maintain the pathway surface as is. Gravel should be added to the eroded sections and compacted to prevent further washouts. The wood timbers should be removed as they decay, and replaced with granite edgestones. The town should consider continuing the pathway around the entire cemetery perimeter, allowing visitors views of the graves from several vantage points. A new path around the north side would help prevent the growth of suckering trees close to the cemetery.
- **Wall.** Because the wall is fairly stable, the town does not need to make repairs in the immediate future. Long term, the town should remove the trees growing near the walls, and rebuild portions that have moved as a result of tree growth.
- **Gravestones, Monument & Markers.** The town should consider cleaning each of the grave markers so that the inscriptions become more legible. The town should treat the two stones requiring conservation, as detailed in the Gravestone Assessment, Appendix B.
- **Trees.** The town should keep careful watch over the large pines inside the cemetery wall, as well as mature oaks and pines outside the wall. Trees should be removed when they show signs of disease or decay, to prevent them from falling on the grave markers and wall. Trees removed from inside the cemetery should not be replaced with new tree plantings but rather with native groundcovers.
- **Groundcovers.** The existing invasive groundcovers inside the cemetery wall, including poison ivy and raspberry, should be chemically removed with a commercial herbicide. Once they are controlled, the town should replace them with native groundcovers, including bunchberry, ginger, wood aster, and others. Refer to the *Burial Site Management* section of this plan for a complete list of groundcovers appropriate for planting in shade.
- **Signs.** The town should place an interpretive sign at the entrance to the cemetery – one that matches those used for other burial grounds in the town. The sign should note the cemetery name, its importance to the history of Scituate, and the rules and regulations for visits to the cemetery. A smaller sign, placed at the southwest corner of the cemetery, would also help direct visitors to (1) the east gate, or (2) the pathway into the woodlands.

FAIRVIEW CEMETERY

Country Way
c. 1825

Historical Development

Fairview Cemetery was laid out in the early 19th century behind the First Trinitarian Church of Scituate. The church was established in 1825, when one-half of the First Parish Church members split off as a result of opposing views on orthodoxy. The Unitarians continued to worship at the meetinghouse on First Parish Road, while the Trinitarians built a new meetinghouse on Country Way. It was completed in 1826. Judging from the age of the gravestones, first burials likely occurred closest to the church in what is referred to as Section A. It is not known when the cemetery earned the name “Fairview,” but it was likely sometime during the mid to late 19th century, when planned “cemeteries” replaced old-fashioned churchyards and burial grounds. These new cemeteries were often given names that reflected the appealing qualities of nature, such as the views.



When the WPA mapped Fairview in the 1930s, the cemetery consisted only of Sections A, B, C, and D, but the stone wall surrounded the entire landscape as it does today. Section E followed later in the 20th century, as well as a new burial section – “Trinity Park Cemetery” – added to the south side of the church and cemetery property. The cemetery contains burials of several prominent Scituate families including Curtis, Litchfield, Vinal. The most prominent grave is that of the Lawsons, which consists of two seats, carved in granite and flanked by mature yews.

Assessment

Visitors to Fairview Cemetery may enter through one of two gates – at the southeastern corner, adjacent to the church, or at the northwestern corner through a set of stone gateposts. A dry laid fieldstone wall surrounds the entire landscape, and hedgerows line most of the wall, providing a sense of privacy and intimacy within the cemetery. Some sections of this wall have failed, largely because volunteer trees have taken root either in or adjacent to the wall, causing the individual stones to heave. A green vinyl-coated chainlink fence stands in front of the fieldstone wall on the south and west sides, introducing a contemporary element into the historic site. Fairview’s grave markers range from modest marble tabletstones to large granite monuments. While many of the markers are in good condition, many others in the cemetery’s oldest sections (A and B) are in need of significant treatment. Several of these are large monuments, which require involved, lengthy treatment processes. The cemetery also contains several flat markers that have been obscured by turf and/or overgrown shrubs.



The cemetery is completely absent of trees except for a series of 30-40" caliper sugar maples planted evenly along the north and south borders, and a 48" caliper linden just inside the southeastern gate. The landscape in the dead of summer is hot and parched. In the newest section – E – mourners have planted dwarf Alberta spruce trees on either side of 30" standard markers.

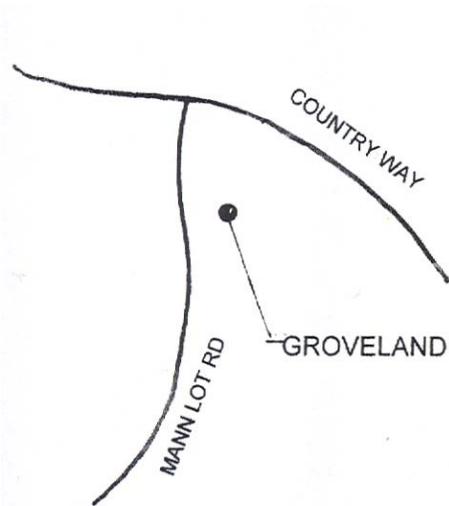
Gravel covers most of the cemetery roadways, which have been neatly maintained at a 15' width. The caretaker has located the grave spoil pile just inside the southeastern gate, creating an eyesore at a very visible part of the cemetery. Makeshift corrugated metal trash barrels have been placed at four spots within the cemetery.

Recommendations

- **Edges.** The dry laid stone wall surrounding the perimeter should be retained and restored as needed (see "wall" below). The green vinyl chainlink fence should be replaced with either (1) black chainlink (black disappears into the landscape while green stands out), or a (2) tubular steel decorative fence. The latter option would provide the greatest complement to the historic character of the cemetery, while the former would be more cost effective (but less complementary).
- **Wall.** To repair the fieldstone perimeter wall, the town should first remove the volunteer trees growing close to the wall, and then reset and/or reconstruct the damaged wall sections.
- **Entrances.** The northwest entrance is well marked with the stone gateposts and should be retained as is. To enhance the southeast entrance, the town should place a second set of stone gateposts along the roadway adjacent to the church. Both sets of posts could be fashioned with gates or a chain attachment so the cemetery may be secured after hours.
- **Gravestones & Monuments.** The town should conserve the 75 gravestones and monuments per the recommendations of the *Gravestone Assessment* found in Appendix B. Additionally, the town should identify all flat markers and begin to carefully edge the stones, as a means of controlling growth of turf and/or shrubs.
- **Roadways.** The existing gravel roadway should be retained and enhanced, as its character complements the historic cemetery landscape. Where gravel had eroded and turf has emerged, new gravel should be added and compacted in place. The exception to this is the turf roadway through the north end of Section A. This should remain as turf to complement the oldest section of the cemetery.
- **Trees.** The town should make every effort to maintain the hedgerows outside the stone wall, and if possible, encourage neighbors to plant masses of trees to screen their properties from the cemetery. This is particularly necessary at the southwestern corner, where a new subdivision is nearing completion, and the residences are visible from inside the cemetery. As the regular plantings of sugar maples age and die, the town should remove them, and replace them with a diversity of deciduous trees. Additionally, to provide some shade within the cemetery, the town should plant street trees along the central drive (between Sections B, C, D, and E). Refer to the *Burial Site Management* section of this plan for a list of recommended shade trees appropriate to the early to mid 19th century.
- **Shrubs.** As the small shrubs in Section E mature, the town should remove these and discourage plantings of replacement shrubs. Shrubs create long-term maintenance problems for caretakers,

and are inappropriate for the age of the cemetery. To eliminate shrub planting in the long term, the town should adopt a no-shrub policy.

- **Grave Spoil.** The existing gravespoil area is centrally located and therefore convenient for the caretaker, but it creates an eyesore in this very visible section of the cemetery. The town should move this pile to (1) the southwest corner, where it could be screened with a fence and/or stone wall, and/or (2) to the new section of the cemetery, where it could be used for grading to create undulations in the landscape.
- **Trash Disposal.** The existing corrugated metal trash receptacles provide only functional value, appearing both oversized and flimsy. As funds permit, the town should replace these with a more historically accurate container – one that complements the perimeter fence (if ornamental iron is chosen).
- **Signs.** The town should place interpretive signs at each entrance to the cemetery – signs matching those used for other burial grounds in the town. The sign should note the cemetery name, its importance to the history of Scituate, and the rules and regulations for visits to the cemetery.



GROVELAND CEMETERY

Mann Lot Road, North Scituate
c. 1700

Historical Development

The origins of Groveland Cemetery date to the late 17th century, when the Conihassett partners laid out a burying place between the land of Thomas Hiland and John Pierce (1699). Of the many gravestones from the early 1700s, is the gravestone of Mordecai Lincoln (1656- 1727), great, great, great grandfather of President Abraham Lincoln. Gridley Bryant, builder of the first railroad in the US is also buried at

Groveland. The receiving tomb located near the northern entry drive was built in 1853.

A survey of the cemetery prepared in 1894 and updated in 1911 shows that plans for the cemetery were never fully executed. The drawing shows the existing road network, but extends the southern roadways along the full extent the property line. The eastern eighth of the cemetery remains undeveloped as planned. The cemetery is owned and maintained by the Groveland Cemetery Association, and still accepts burials. The association is in the process of expanding burial sections on the north side of the cemetery.



Assessment

Groveland Cemetery is tucked into the east side of Mann Lot Road near its intersection with Country Way in North Scituate. Of all the town's burial sites, Groveland contains the most diverse landscape – one that spans nearly three hundred years – and reflects many different historic cemetery styles. Its shape is long and rectangular, fronting the road with nearly 350 feet, and stretching eastward, away from the road by over 1,000, covering over nine acres. The cemetery core reflects a Colonial style of burial with single graves of unrelated individuals placed alongside one another. Radiating out from the core are family plots, surrounded by copings and marked with central obelisks, typifying the Victorian style. Along the northern edges are standard 30" markers, reflective of a more contemporary, 20th century style of burial.

Visitors enter via one of three gates – two along Mann Lot Road or a back entrance at the northeast corner. The cemetery roads remain unpaved and are covered with either turf, or a combination of turf and dirt. A diverse mix of tree species, including hemlocks, maples, cedars, horse chestnuts and lindens, shades much of the landscape. An outstanding European beech, roughly 60" in caliper, stands nearly at the cemetery's center, and several outcroppings of granite punctuate the lawns. The caretaker has reserved an area along the northern border for disposal of grave spoil, and stores tools and excavating equipment in a Gothic Revival style shed at the western end (near the entrances off Mann Lot Road). The cemetery is screened from residences on the north, east and west sides from by hedgerows of deciduous trees.

The cemetery contains many structural elements, adding detail to the landscape. A mortared stone wall lines the cemetery edge along Mann Lot Road, and stone gateposts flank both the Mann Lot and Studley Road entries. A dry-laid fieldstone wall rims most of the perimeter and granite curbing surrounds several family plots. The cemetery contains two tombs – a mortared cut granite mound tomb (“receiving tomb”) and a private underground tomb. A wood frame hearse house, built in the Carpenter Gothic style stands near the Mann Lot Road entrance. The condition of these structures ranges from good (entry gates and hearse house), to fair (Mann Lot Road wall and receiving tomb), to poor (perimeter fieldstone wall and family plot curbing). The condition of the underground tomb is unknown.

Groveland Cemetery contains a broad mix of grave markers, both old and new and including many large granite monuments. The older graves lie in the central portion of the cemetery and include the burial sites of numerous veterans of past wars, including the Revolutionary War. Among the older graves is a superb collection of early eighteenth century slate markers, crafted by known carvers. Included is some of the best work of the Soule Shop, Bildad Washburn, Jacob Vinal, Jr., and others. Mowing around these markers has resulted in heavy scratching, as well as broken, tilted and fragmented stones. Groveland also contains many markers made of marble and granite. Many of the slate, marble and granite markers are in need of cleaning, resetting, and/or extensive conservation repair.

Recommendations

- **Structures.** The town should make repairs to all the structures, giving priority to those in the poorest condition. Volunteer trees growing in and adjacent to the perimeter wall should be removed and the stones reset. The poorest sections of wall should be reconstructed altogether. The family plot curbing, along with the soil supporting it should be removed, reset and pinned, and the soil replaced with light weight backfill material. The Mann Lot Road wall should be stabilized by removing soil behind shifting portions of the wall, and replacing it with gravel backfill. The receiving tomb should be restored by removing the soil behind the headwall and failed portions of the adjacent retaining wall, and replacing the soil with gravel. The headwall and retaining walls should then be reset, and an historically accurate doors hung in place of the existing steel doors. The gateposts should be cleaned and the cast iron gate painted. Vegetation should be removed from the foundation of the hearse house, the foundation (back left corner) should be repaired, and the entire structure should be cleaned and painted, with any rotted wood replaced. For more detailed treatments of the various structures at Groveland Cemetery, refer to *Appendix A: Engineering Assessment*.
- **Gravestones.** The *Gravestone Assessment* identified 119 slate markers and 155 granite and marble markers in need of conservation treatment. The town/trustees should make an effort to conserve these and, at the same time, amend the caretakers’ current practices of mowing close to the markers. In addition, the town/trustees should complete a detailed inventory of the slate markers, including a record of information found on each stone, as a means of further documenting Scituate’s history.
- **Roadways.** The turf and/or dirt surfaces of the roadways reflect the historic character of the cemetery and the town/trustees should retain them. In areas where erosion occurs or low spots emerge, the town/trustees should add compacted gravel, and cover it with 6” of topsoil and seed. This will create a “reinforced turf” surface – one that will withstand the weight of a car or truck, but retain the historic look of turf.

- **Trees.** Many of the cemetery trees are very mature and will likely reach the end of their lives with the next twenty years. The town/trustees should plan for this by (1) removing any diseased or dying trees immediately before they harm the health of other trees, (2) remove the damaged or dead limbs of healthy trees, to encourage a longer life, and (3) introduce new trees to eventually replace the dying ones. These new plantings should reflect a variety of species. Refer to the *Burial Site Management* section of this plan for a list of appropriate tree plantings.

- **Maintenance Area.** Currently, the trustees store equipment in the Gothic Revival hearse house, and park maintenance vehicles (such as the backhoe), alongside the hearse house. The building blends with the historic character of the cemetery, but the backhoe and other equipment do not. The town/trustees should consider relocating the hearse house and equipment to a central maintenance area - outside the center of the cemetery - where equipment and other maintenance tools can be screened from the larger landscape. The existing grave spoil area, located along the northern border, is an ideal location for both the hearse house and equipment - centrally located but away from the loveliest parts of the cemetery landscape.

- **Grave Spoil.** Grave spoil has been haphazardly piled along the northern border, and remains visible to visitors. The town/trustees should address this area by (1) screening the grave spoil with fencing in combination with the hearse house, and/or (2) using the grave spoil for grading in the new, undeveloped sections of the cemetery, along the eastern edge.

- **Signs.** The town and trustees should place interpretive signs at the entrances to the cemetery, noting its name, its importance to the history of Scituate, and the rules and regulations for visits to the cemetery. The roadways within the cemetery were named (likely in the 19th century) and signs noting these names would provide additional guidance to visitors.

- **Cemetery Records.** Currently, the Groveland Cemetery burial records exist in a variety of formats, including files, cards, and notebooks. None of the information corresponds to a map. To insure that the records remain safe, the town/trustees should make an effort to organize the data into a single database, link the database to a map, and make multiple copies of the both the database and map.

HATCH BURYING GROUND

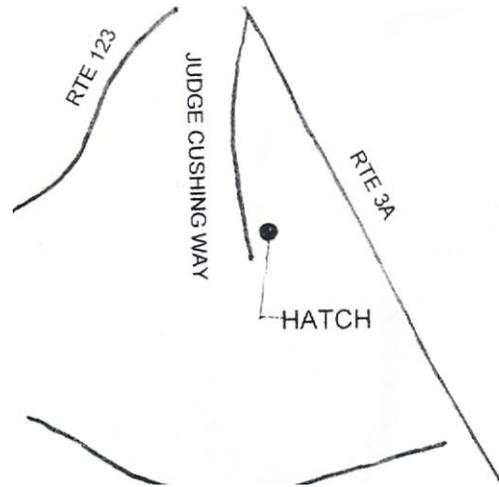
Judge Cushing Way
c. 1796

Historical Development

The Hatch Burying Ground was established c. 1796 as the family resting place of the Jacob and Hatch families.

The Jacob family farm was located near the burying ground in the late 17th and 18th centuries, and the earliest burial within the cemetery is that of Benjamin Jacob (1709-1792). Jacob's grandson, Samuel Hatch, Jr. inherited the farm in 1804 and built the house at the corner of the Driftway and Country Way. Hatch

married twice and had four children, all of whom are interred in the family burying ground, in addition to several members of the Jacob family. Deed transfers indicate that a Eunice J. Hatch owned the farm and cemetery in the 19th century, and when she died, left it to her daughter, Eunice J. Farmer. Ms. Farmer sold all of the farm in 1888, but reserved the cemetery as a separate parcel for the heirs of Sarah Jacobs, Patrick Kane, Mercy Hatch, and Adeline Hatch. The heirs still retain ownership of the cemetery.



The burying ground overlooks a salt marsh and what was once a crossing over the First Herring Brook of Judge Cushing Road (the road no longer traverses the brook). In 2004-2005, a single family residence was constructed on the lot surrounding the burying ground, making the landscape more publicly visible. As a means of securing access, the Scituate Historical Society negotiated a 4' wide pedestrian easement leading from the west side of the burying ground to Judge Cushing Road. The burying ground is and likely always has been rectangular in shape, approximately 20' by 50', or 1000 square feet in size.

Assessment

The burying ground lies atop a steep slope, approximately 50' above Judge Cushing Road. To reach the site, visitors must traverse the slope through overgrown cherry and white pine woodlands, dense thickets of viburnum, and masses of poison ivy. White pines, white oaks, and red maples surround the burying ground, which is retained by a 4' cut granite wall. Three white pines have sprouted inside the burying ground, obscuring graves. Poison ivy covers the burying ground floor. The landscape is in poor condition due to years of neglect and aggressive woodland growth.

The granite retaining wall is in very good condition, with only minor staining and growth of lichen. Several small volunteer trees have grown adjacent to the inside and outside of the wall, threatening its long term stability. By contrast, Hatch Burying Ground's gravestones are in the most serious condition of all Scituate's burial sites. Although small, several of the stones have broken (likely by vandals) into multiple pieces, requiring extensive conservation treatment. The volunteer trees, shrubs and poisonous vines have infiltrated the bases of the stones, causing further damage.



Recommendations

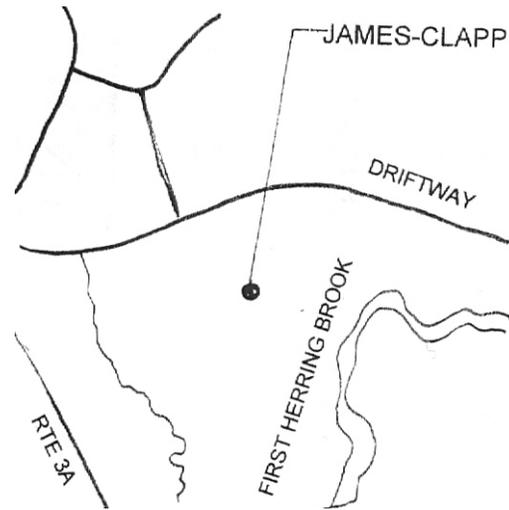
- **Access.** With the securing of the pedestrian easement by the Scituate Historical Society, access to the burying ground is possible. This action sets an excellent precedent for access to other cemeteries located on private property. Because the burying ground is on a steep slope and the easement cuts directly up the slope, steps and a moderate amount of grading will be necessary to make a walkway navigable for visitors. The walkway should contain, at a minimum, (1) a 4' wide landing at the edge of Judge Cushing Road, (2) two sets of steps set a minimum of 4' apart along the length of the path, and (3) a landing at the top to set pedestrians squarely on top of the slope. The walkway need not be paved, but the steps and should be constructed of a durable, long-lasting material such as granite.
- **Wall.** To retain the excellent condition of the wall, the town should take three measures. First, the volunteer trees growing adjacent to the interior and exterior of the wall should be removed. Second, any mortar added to the exterior of the wall should be removed, and the joints allowed to remain dry. Third the wall should be cleaned of stains and biological growth. For more detailed treatment of the wall at the Hatch Burying Ground, refer to *Appendix A: Engineering Assessment*.
- **Gravestones.** The *Gravestone Assessment* identified six stones in need of conservation treatment. While treatment of the stones will be complicated by (1) limited cemetery access and (2) the aggressive volunteer growth of trees, shrubs and vines (some of them poisonous), the town should make an effort to conserve the stones, in conjunction with the other cemetery landscape features.
- **Trees.** The Hatch Burying Ground will benefit significantly from clearing of suckering trees both around the perimeter and inside the wall. The town should clear a minimum of 4' all around the perimeter wall, and maintain the cleared area indefinitely. If possible, the town should selectively clear the slope to the south of the burying ground, opening views to the marsh. All trees should be removed from inside the wall, and new trees should not be allowed to sprout.
- **Groundcovers.** Poison ivy covers the burying ground floor, making it inaccessible to most visitors. The town should remove the plant with a chemical herbicide, and once controlled, replace it with a native groundcover or groundcovers. Refer to the *Burial Site Management* section of this plan for a list of appropriate groundcover species.
- **Sign.** The town should place an interpretive sign along Judge Cushing Road at the beginning of the pedestrian easement, noting the burying ground's name, its importance to the history of Scituate, and the rules and regulations for visits to the burying ground.

JAMES-CLAPP CEMETERY

The Driftway
c. 1797

Historical Development

The cemetery was originally part of the property owned by the James family beginning in 1734. The James family descended from John James of Dedham, who arrived in Scituate in 1640. The property also contained the James House, a structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In her *Record of the Clapp Family of Greenbush, Mass.*, Dorothy Clapp Langley noted that originally cedars, maples and pines secluded the burying ground, and visitors reached it via a cart path from the Driftway, “lined with diffuse bushes and trees; very dark and shady, and sloping up to the south end of the cemetery which was cleared of trees and very sunny.” Fields of spinach, corn and onions grew in fields adjacent to the path. Clapp also claims that the cemetery walls were built so as to provide a large enough area in the set-off parcel boundaries to allow for upkeep by teams of horses and carts. In 1907, the burying ground contained 26 graves, and in the 1930s, the WPA mapped the cemetery, delineating each individual plot. A February 2005 archaeological investigation of the cemetery confirmed that the site did not contain the remains of small pox victims, as rumors had stated.



The plan which accompanies the deed for the property shows a six foot easement around the north, east, and south sides of the cemetery, extending to 20' on the west side. Granite posts remain at the southeast and southwest corners, delineating a portion of this easement. A condominium complex is planned for the property, currently under review by the Town of Scituate Planning Board.

Assessment

The cemetery lies along the south side of The Driftway, several hundred feet from the road. The Scituate Assessor's Map shows a winding unpaved drive leading from The Driftway to the cemetery, as well as a perimeter easement (the unpaved drive is outside the easement). Granite posts remain at the southwest and southeast corners of the easement. A cut granite retaining wall surrounds the entire cemetery, elevating the burial area by approximately four feet. Narrow granite steps, supported by granite cheek walls, lead visitors up into the cemetery. Deciduous trees, including oaks, cedars, cherries and sumacs, surround the cemetery, and the grasses cover the burial area.



The overall condition of the wall and steps is very poor. The wall is significantly bowing, with a bow greater than two inches in most locations. Many small trees and shrubs have volunteered in and around the wall, further compromising the strength of the wall. It is likely that the original wall was dry laid, and that mortared was added at a later date, trapping water behind the wall

and adding further to its deterioration. The steps contain no hand rail, are quite steep and have significantly settled, making them uneven and difficult to negotiate. The cemetery contains several gravestones, most of which are in poor shape from both natural degradation and vandalism.

Recommendations

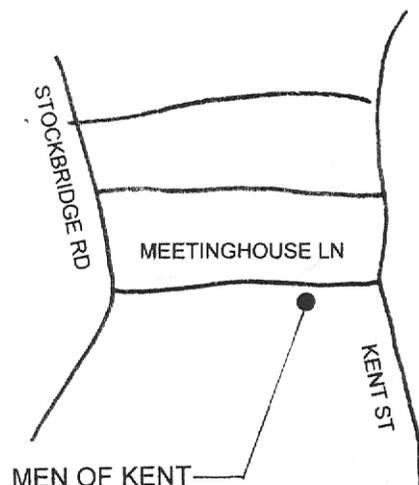
- **Perimeter Easement.** The town should clear the perimeter easement of trees, shrubs, and invasive groundcovers, and maintain this clearing indefinitely. The granite posts that remain at the perimeter corners should be retained, reset to plumb, and cleaned. New granite posts should be set in the northwest and northeast corners to match those existing. A color galvanized steel chain should be installed around the perimeter, connected by additional granite posts (spaced 8' maximum) and the corner posts.
- **Wall.** To preserve the wall and steps, prevent further deterioration, and make the cemetery more accessible to visitors, the town should take three measures. First, the volunteer trees growing adjacent to the interior and exterior of the wall should be removed. Second, any mortar added to the exterior of the wall should be removed, and the joints allowed to remain dry. Third the wall should be cleaned of stains and biological growth. Fourth, the steps should be reset and a simple tubular steel handrail (painted black) added. For more detailed treatment of the wall at the Hatch Burying Ground, refer to *Appendix A: Engineering Assessment*.
- **Gravestones.** The *Gravestone Assessment* identified a total of 17 stones in the James-Clapp Cemetery in need of conservation treatment. The town should make an effort to conserve these.
- **Trees.** The James-Clapp Cemetery will benefit significantly from clearing of suckering trees both around the perimeter and inside the wall. The town should clear a minimum of 4' all around the perimeter wall, with 20 feet on the west side, and maintain the cleared area indefinitely. All trees should be removed from inside the wall, and new trees should not be allowed to sprout.
- **Groundcovers.** Poison ivy, grasses, milkweed and bittersweet cover the burying ground floor, making it inaccessible to most visitors. The town should remove the plants with a chemical herbicide, and once controlled, replace it with a native groundcover or groundcovers. Refer to the *Burial Site Management* section of this plan for a list of appropriate groundcover species.
- **Sign.** The town should place an interpretive sign along the Driftway at the beginning of the pedestrian way leading to the cemetery, noting its name, its importance to the history of Scituate, and the rules and regulations for visitors.

MEN OF KENT CEMETERY

Meetinghouse Lane, Scituate Center
c. 1624

Historical Development

The Men of Kent Cemetery is Scituate's oldest, established c. 1624 by the first settlers of the town. They located their meeting house and burying ground $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the harbor, on what is known today as Meetinghouse Lane. The meetinghouse was constructed in 1636. The earliest legible gravestone dates to 1694 (Captain John Williams), although several unmarked graves are likely to be scattered throughout the burying ground. Several of the gravestones display the work of local carver Jacob Vinal.



It is likely that the cemetery has remained the same size and shape for nearly 400 year, although local tradition holds that part of the cemetery was destroyed when Meeting House Lane was built. The Scituate Assessor's map shows the cemetery as part of Meetinghouse Lane, suggesting that it was included in a linear strip of public way that originally included the street, meetinghouse and cemetery.

Assessment

As Scituate's oldest and most historically significant cemetery, Men of Kent has been well-marked and conscientiously tended for many years. It lies along the south side of Meetinghouse Lane on a $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of land shaped like a sliver. A dry laid fieldstone wall surrounds the entire site, and on the north and east sides, the wall retains the cemetery. Overall, this wall is in poor condition with many volunteer trees and shrubs growing into the wall, causing the individual stones to tumble. A small break in the wall, flanked by stone posts, marks an entrance on the south side. Slate markers dominate the cemetery, and most are in good condition, with the work of many well-known carvers still visible on the stones.



Dense woodlands filled with maples, oaks, and ashes, hover around the east and south sides and an unpaved roadway stands and the west. Along the north is Meetinghouse Lane, running between five and 40 feet from the cemetery edge. The cemetery contains a few trees - mostly cedars, and a few maples, ashes, and birches have begun to creep in along the southern edge. Vinca and geranium cover the ground along the southern side, and turf grows over the remainder of the cemetery. The site contains a small amount of exposed ledge.

Recommendations

- **Access.** Visitors arriving at Men of Kent Cemetery park along Meetinghouse Lane in the turf area between the cemetery and street, creating a worn area at the cemetery edge. The town should create a small parking space at the west end of the cemetery, edged by a stone wall, and marked with a sign. The town should add a small gate to the stone entry posts, bringing greater prominence to the entrance.

- **Wall.** The town should preserve the perimeter wall, as it is one of the cemetery's most distinctive features. Short term repairs can be made by resetting fallen stones, but over the long term, the town should invest in more labor-intensive measures. The volunteer trees, growing in and adjacent to the wall, should be removed. On the north and east sides, where the wall retains the cemetery, the town should remove the soil from behind the wall, and replace it with a light-weight backfill material (quality gravel), before it reconstructs the wall. For more detailed treatment of the wall at the Men of Kent Cemetery, refer to *Appendix A: Engineering Assessment*.
- **Gravestones.** The *Gravestone Assessment* identified 50 slate markers in need of conservation treatment. Given the importance of the Men of Kent Cemetery to the history of Scituate, the town should make an effort to conserve these.
- **Trees.** The cemetery is small enough so that the mature trees of the surrounding woodlands provide shade and a sense of intimacy to the landscape, making the trees inside the cemetery unnecessary. As the internal trees begin to age and decay, the town should remove them. All trees should be removed from inside the wall, and new trees should not be allowed to sprout. To strengthen the edge along Meetinghouse Lane and provide a clearer separation between the cemetery and street, the town should plant evenly-spaced street trees. Refer to the *Burial Site Management* section this plan for a list of appropriate species.
- **Groundcovers.** Turf and perennial groundcovers cover the cemetery floor. To minimize the need for mowing, particularly around graves, the town should encourage the growth of a low-growing native groundcover or groundcovers. Refer to the *Burial Site Management* section this plan for a list of appropriate species.
- **Sign.** The town should replace the interpretive sign at the west end of the cemetery with one that matches those created for the other cemeteries and burying grounds in Scituate. This sign, like the others, should note the cemetery's name, its importance to the history of Scituate, and the rules and regulations for visitors.

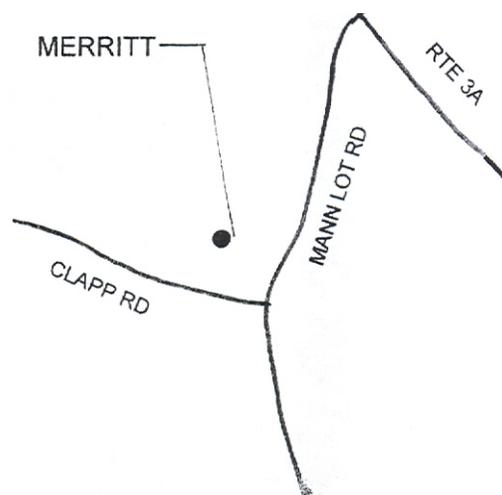
MERRITT CEMETERY

Clapp Road
c. 1811

Historical Development

The Merritt Cemetery (also known as the Kilburn-Merritt Cemetery) was established c. 1811 as the family burying ground of the Merritt family who owned land in this area of North Scituate. Surrounded on four sides by a dry laid stone wall, the cemetery was originally accessed from two points, (1) a dirt road leading from Clapp Road southward in a straight line to the cemetery, and (2) via a meandering footpath leading from the Merritt home (on Clapp road to the east of the cemetery)

through the woods. Today the meandering footpath is no longer visible, but the dirt access road remains. Other than the 1811 tomb, the earliest burials date to the 1830s and 1840s, and the most recent burial took place in 1938. Today, a descendent of the Merritt family, Robert Merritt, cares for the cemetery grounds. The cemetery covers approximately ¼ acre of land.



Assessment

Visitors reach the Merritt Cemetery via a shaded dirt path, leading southward from Clapp Road approximately 350 feet. A stone wall lines the east side of the path, and mature shade trees, interspersed with suckering deciduous trees, shade the entire route. At the cemetery, the path surface changes to turf. A dry laid stone wall encloses the entire cemetery, with a small break in the wall at the northeast corner. The condition of this wall is poor, with many sections failing. Granite posts bearing the remainder of an iron gate (the hinges), flank the entrance. Mature cedars and maples stand outside the wall, providing a secure screen between the cemetery and adjacent residences (north and east sides).



Inside the cemetery, mature cedars and maples, and a lone horse chestnut dot the perimeter. Two of the maples appear near death, and the caretaker has marked them for removal (July 2005). Turf, mixed with perennial groundcovers, covers the entire cemetery floor. Single graves stand in the eastern half of the cemetery, and four mound tombs dominate the western half of the cemetery, each with a separate set of steps and doorway. The interiors of these seem to be in stable condition, but the exterior features have deteriorated. Decay on each tomb includes shifting and leaning headwalls, shifting cheek walls and missing tomb doors. The gravestones and monuments – many of them marble – have suffered environmental damage and been vandalized.

Recommendations

- **Parking and Access.** Visitors to the cemetery find parking difficult. Clapp Road is narrow with no shoulder, and the properties surrounding the cemetery and across Clapp Road are private. The town should consider creating a small pull-off area at the beginning of the pathway leading to the

cemetery. Such an area could be defined by a stone wall and large enough for one vehicle. Its stone wall could connect to the wall lining the east side of the pathway. The addition of a second stone wall on the west side of the pathway would further reinforce the access route, and separate it from the adjacent properties. The town should cover the pathway each year with mulch to discourage growth of invasive plants, such as poison ivy. The town should also keep the pathway cleared of sprouting trees.

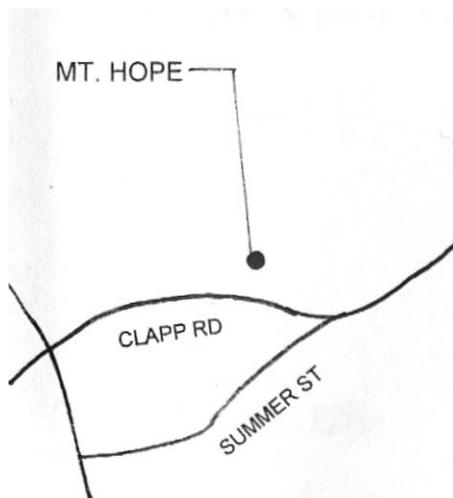
- **Wall.** The town can take both short and long term measures to preserve the perimeter wall. In the short term, repairs can be made by resetting fallen stones, but over the long term, the town should remove volunteer trees, growing in and adjacent to the wall and reconstruct the wall, where necessary. In addition to preserving the wall, the town should restore the iron gate to the stone posts marking the entrance to the cemetery.
- **Tombs.** Short term repairs to the tombs should include resetting the fallen top stone (on the eastern most tomb only). Over the long term, the town should reconstruct the headwalls and cheek walls, clean all surfaces, remove dirt and debris from the entry steps, and replace the missing tomb doors. For more detailed treatment of the tombs at the Merritt Cemetery, refer to *Appendix A: Engineering Assessment*.
- **Gravestones & Monuments.** The *Gravestone Assessment* identified 17 gravestones and monuments in need of conservation, and the town should make an effort to treat these.
- **Trees.** The Merritt Cemetery will benefit significantly from clearing of trees from within the cemetery wall. The cemetery is small enough so that the mature trees of the surrounding woodlands provide shade and a sense of intimacy to the landscape. As the internal trees begin to age and decay, the town should remove them. All trees should be removed from inside the wall, and new trees should not be allowed to sprout.
- **Groundcovers.** Grasses and perennial groundcovers dominate the cemetery floor. To minimize the need for mowing, particularly around graves, the town should encourage the growth of a low-growing native groundcover or groundcovers. Refer to the *Burial Site Management* section of this plan for a list of appropriate groundcover species.
- **Sign.** The town should place an interpretive sign along Clapp Road at the beginning of the path leading to the cemetery, noting its name, its importance to the history of Scituate, and the rules and regulations for visitors.

MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY

Clapp Road, West End
1878

Historical Development

Little is known about the origins of Mount Hope Cemetery, a three acre burying ground in Scituate's West End, laid out in a design reflective of mid to late 19th century Garden style cemeteries. In the mid 19th century, a group of West End residents formed the Mount Hope Improvement Society with ambitions to upgrade the physical appearance of their small residential area. Mount Hope Cemetery was likely an outgrowth of the efforts of this society. The W. P. A. mapped Mount Hope Cemetery in the 1930s showing a landscape very similar to what exists to this day. It is likely that the cemetery has not changed in size or layout since its inception in the 1870s, and continues to be managed by the Mount Hope Cemetery Association, a private organization.



Assessment

Visitors arrive at Mount Hope Cemetery along Clapp Road, and enter via one of two drives. A cut granite stone wall lines the street edge and breaks in the wall, flanked with stone columns, accommodate the drives. The western entrance is enhanced with a double set of stone columns. Wrought iron gates mark the entrances, each bearing the words: "Mount Hope Cemetery 1878." Four small crabapple trees have been planted just inside the wall, spaced evenly along Clapp Road.



Entering the cemetery, visitors follow long dirt/gravel/turf roadways leading northward. Each is lined on both side with rows of evenly-spaced mature sugar maple trees. The very northern end of the cemetery contains no trees, making the landscape here hot and parched in the middle of summer. A field stone wall lines the north and west sides of the cemetery, and chainlink divides it from an adjacent residence on the east side. Mature white pines reinforce the north, east and west edges, providing a quiet, intimate setting for the cemetery. A mound tomb, located near the west end, and underground tomb at the northern end are two prominent features. A front-gabled wooden maintenance shed stands in the northeast corner and the caretaker has deposited grave spoil and grave ornaments in a pile to the west of the shed.

The cemetery's southern end (adjacent to Clapp Road) is dominated by newer gravemarkers. As visitors proceed northward, however, larger, older granite and marble monuments appear. Even further to the north is an area known as the "Old Place of Interment." Here, slate and marble tabletstones stand in family groupings without identifiable lots, some having been created by known gravestone carvers. The cemetery also contains several tablets lying flat on the ground. Many of these have become overgrown with turf and volunteer shrubs.

Overall, the cemetery is in very good condition, with only some of its structures showing signs of wear. The most deteriorated is the fieldstone wall lining the north and west sides. Volunteer trees have sprouted in and adjacent to the wall, causing its stones to shift and tumble, resulting in an overall unkempt appearance.

Recommendations

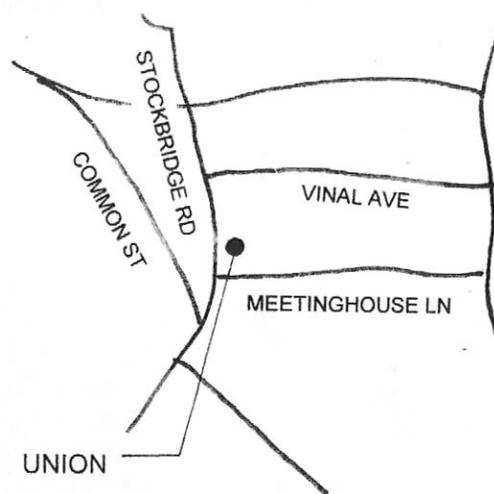
- **Edges.** The dry laid stone wall on the west and north sides should be stabilized (see walls, below), and the town/trustees should erect a new stone wall along the eastern property line to replace the chain link fence.
- **Walls.** The town/trustees should clean and re-point the wall along Clapp Road, and clean and paint the cast iron entry gates. The receiving tomb's front wall should eventually be re-built, with the existing soil behind the wall replaced with light weight backfill material (high-quality gravel). The tomb's wooden door has rotted and should be replaced, with the existing hinges re-used. Short term repairs can be made to the perimeter walls by resetting fallen stones, but over the long term, the town/trustees should remove volunteer trees growing in and adjacent to the wall and reconstruct the wall, where necessary. For more detailed treatment of the tomb and perimeter walls, refer to *Appendix A: Engineering Assessment*.
- **Gravestones.** The Gravestone Assessment identified 29 markers in need of treatment, many of which lie in the "Old Place of Interment." The town/trustees should make an effort to conserve these and, at the same time, begin to clear the flat stones of invasive turf and shrubs.
- **Roadways.** The dirt and turf roadways traversing the cemetery contribute significantly to its historic character, and should be maintained. Where erosion occurs, the town/trustees should add compacted gravel, and cover the area with six inches of topsoil and seed. This will result in a "reinforced turf" surface, which is durable enough to withstand the weight of vehicles, but retains an historic look and feel. The town/trustees should not introduce impervious paving, such as bituminous asphalt.
- **Trees.** Mount Hope's aging sugar maple trees add significantly to its historic appeal. Unfortunately, maples dominate the cemetery, resulting in a monoculture. If a maple disease were to infiltrate the cemetery, all of the trees could die at one time, creating a barren landscape. To avoid this situation, the town/trustees should introduce a diversity of new plantings of species of than maples as the maples age and die. Long-lived shade trees, appropriate to the Garden Cemetery style are best. Refer to the *Burial Site Management* section of this plan for a list of potential species.
- **Grave Spoil.** To more discretely dispose of the grave spoil the town/trustees should consider one or two options (or both), (1) adding a screen, in the form of a fence, to the existing maintenance shed, and placing the excavated material behind the screen, and/or (2) utilizing the grave spoil for grading the empty (areas without interments) portions of the cemetery. Grave ornaments should also be disposed of in containers, located near the maintenance shed.
- **Signs.** The town/trustees should add an interpretive sign along Clapp Road – a sign that matches those created for the other cemeteries and burying grounds in Scituate. This sign, like the others, should note the cemetery's name, its importance to the history of Scituate, and the rules and regulations for visitors. A sign should also be placed marking the "Old Place of Interment."

UNION CEMETERY

Stockbridge Road & Meetinghouse Lane
c. 1720

Historical Development

When and why Union Cemetery was established, and the origins of its name are all unclear. It is likely that the citizens of Scituate founded Union Cemetery sometime around 1740 to serve as the town's public burying ground (of the three town-owned burial grounds, Men of Kent is the oldest, followed by Union and Cudworth). Several of the early stones reflect the work of regional carvers. Much of the land in this area of Scituate was farmed, and it is likely that Union Cemetery replaced a farm field. It is also possible that the land for the cemetery stood in a linear that also included the Men of Kent Cemetery and Meetinghouse Lane, but there is not written or graphic documentation to confirm this.



In the 1880s, Charles M. Thatcher compiled *Old Cemeteries of Southeastern Massachusetts*, and at listed Union Cemetery as having nearly 400 burials. In the 1930s, the WPA mapped the older portions of the cemetery, locating veterans' graves. Records of burials at Union Cemetery were destroyed in a fire in the 1950s. Additions of new burial sections were made in the 20th century, and these stand along the northern edge. A loop road, lined with crabapples and flowering cherries, traverses this area, presenting a contrast to the historic sections. Up until the 1980s, the Union Cemetery Association (it is not known if this was a public or private organization) cared for the site, at which time they passed their responsibilities on to the town.

Assessment

Union Cemetery lies at the corner of Meetinghouse Lane and Stockbridge Road in Scituate Center. A mortared stone wall lines the north and east sides, and a low dry laid fieldstone wall separates it from Old Saint Mary's Cemetery, a Catholic burying ground adjacent to Union's southeast corner. The stone wall is in very good condition, with just minor shifting occurring in a few spots. Chainlink fencing rims the north and east edges, screening Union from adjacent residences. The stone wall along Meetinghouse Lane and Stockbridge is set back from the edge of pavement, allowing pedestrians to pass along a grassy strip. Aging sugar maple trees line Meetinghouse Lane in front of the cemetery wall. Several of these trees are diseased and have lost limbs, and should be removed and replaced.



Visitors enter via one of three gates – at the southeast corner from Meetinghouse Lane, or two gates at the northwest corner off Stockbridge Road. Each entry is marked with granite posts. A fourth entryway – likely the most historic one – has been gated and locked. It lies along the western edge off Stockbridge Road, across from the training ground and is marked by entry piers topped with granite

orbs, and a wrought iron gate bearing the name “Union Cemetery.” As with the perimeter wall, these piers and orbs are in very good condition, with only the wrought iron showing signs of deterioration. Stockbridge Road contains no cut in the curb at this fourth entrance to allow vehicles access at this point.

While Union Cemetery appears quite modern from a distance, its western section (along Stockbridge Road) contains many older memorials, a significant number of which are slate. Biological growth covers many of the slate stones, making their inscriptions illegible, and volunteer shrubs have sprung from many of the stone bases. Many of the cemetery’s marble and granite stones and monuments are in need of cleaning, resetting and/or complete disassembly and repair. In some areas of the cemetery – particularly along the northern edge – stones are significantly leaning, indicating instable soil conditions. Many of the stones throughout the cemetery have been scratched, chipped or dislodged by mowers cutting too close to the stone bases.

The cemetery roadways have been paved with bituminous asphalt. In the older section, large cedars, horse chestnuts, maples and spruces line the roadways and dot the burial areas. In the new section, the town has planted evenly spaced cherry and crabapple trees. Large spruces line the eastern border with Old Saint Mary’s, providing a strong boundary between the two sites. The town has erected a maintenance shed, situated between the old and new sections and placed the grave spoil area – unscreened – to the south side. A mix of turf and perennial groundcover blanket the cemetery floor, providing a variety of color and texture throughout much of the year.

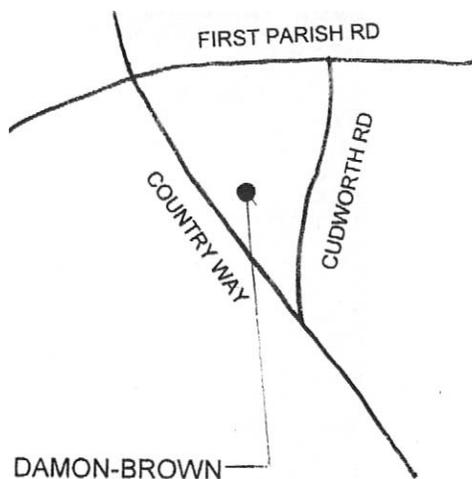
Recommendations

- **Edges.** To encourage pedestrian circulation around the cemetery perimeter, the town should consider building sidewalks along Stockbridge Road and Meetinghouse Lane leading to the cemetery entryways. To enhance the north and east sides, the town should replace the galvanized chainlink with black vinyl-coated chainlink, or, if funds allow, ornamental iron (tubular steel).
- **Wall & Entry Gate.** The town should continue to maintain the perimeter wall and gate posts by keeping vegetation away from the bases (grass, trees and shrubs) and cleaning the surfaces to remove lichens and other stains. Where the wall has shifted, the town should remove the soil behind the wall, reconstruct the wall section, and replace the backfill with a light weight material (quality gravel). The wrought iron gates and latches should be repaired and repainted.
- **Entrances.** Once the pedestrian sidewalks are constructed along Stockbridge Road and Meetinghouse Lane, the town should re-open the historic entrance to the cemetery for pedestrian access. Included in this effort should be a restoration of the wrought iron gate. The town should also install wrought iron gates at the three other cemetery entrances.
- **Gravestones & Monuments.** The town should make an effort to improve mowing practices around the historic stones. At the same time, the town should make an effort to conserve the 274 marble and granite and 74 slate gravestones identified in the Gravestone Assessment as needing conservation treatment.
- **Roadway.** The bituminous asphalt drives add a contemporary feature to this historic cemetery. As the bituminous ages and cracks, the town should gradually replace it with a chip seal (oil and stone) surface – an application that produces a permanent surface but provides the look of historic gravel.

- **Trees.** Union's aging trees add significantly to its historic appeal, and the mix of species will help ensure that the cemetery is continually shaded. As older trees become diseased and die, the town should remove them immediately so they do not harm or infect the younger, healthier trees. The town should introduce new species to replace the old with a diversity of species, including long-lived shade and evergreen trees. In addition, the sugar maples along Meetinghouse Lane (outside the cemetery wall) are dying and should be removed and replaced with species more tolerant of urban conditions. Refer to the *Burial Site Management* section of this plan for a list of potential species for both applications.
- **Groundcovers.** Turf and perennial groundcovers cover the cemetery floor. To minimize the need for mowing, particularly around graves, the town should encourage the growth of a low-growing native groundcover or groundcovers. Refer to the *Burial Site Management* section of this plan for a list of appropriate groundcover species.
- **Grave Spoil.** To more discretely dispose of the grave spoil the town should consider one or two options (or both), (1) adding a screen, in the form of a fence, to the existing maintenance shed, and placing the excavated material behind the screen, and/or (2) utilizing the grave spoil for grading the newer (areas without interments) portions of the cemetery.
- **Signs.** The town should add interpretive signs along both Meetinghouse Lane and Stockbridge Road, signs that match those created for the other cemeteries and burying grounds in Scituate. The signs, like the others, should note the cemetery's name, its importance to the history of Scituate, and the rules and regulations for visitors.

TOMBS

As noted in the *Introduction* and *History* sections of this survey, four of Scituate's burial sites consist simply of tombs, standing singly or in pairs, scattered about the town. Each of the structures is considered a "mound tomb," meaning that it is built into a slope, with the earth retained by a stone façade. Access is through a central door through which visitors step down into a subsurface area. While the tombs' construction dates are not known, it is likely they were built in the early to mid 19th century. Only one tomb – that of Isaac Harrub on Judge Cushing Highway, displays a date (1841) on its façade.



Damon-Brown Tombs

- Country Way
- Date Unknown

Historical Development

Little is known about the origins or contents of the Damon-Brown tombs. The Damon, Brown and Stetson families owned land along and around Country Way, and it is likely that the tombs contain the remains of family members. It is not known when they were constructed, but they likely date to the early to mid 1800s, when other mound tomb structures were built on other sites

throughout Scituate. In the 1930s, the WPA mapped the tombs, along with the Merritt and James Cemeteries, and placed the three sites on one drawing.



Assessment

The Damon-Brown tombs (also known as the Damon-Brown-Stetson tombs) stand on private property along the east side of Country Way, at the end of a driveway leading to #330. They consist of three separate chambers, with the Damon and Brown (north) tombs joined by one headwall, and the Stetson (south) tomb supporting its own headwall. The Damon-Brown tombs are constructed of mortared granite, with dry-laid granite cheek walls. Each of the two chambers is accessed by a separate door, covered with a steel plate. The Stetson tomb headwall is mortared granite, and

the cheek walls are dry-laid. A slate slab, secured with iron hinges, covers the door, and brick lies behind the slate, sealing the tomb. Invasive plants grow vigorously over the top and sides of both sets of tombs, and yews, clipped in the shape of boxes, obscure the doors. A series of granite "hitching" style posts stand approximately 20 feet in front of the tombs, creating a forecourt. Overall, the each of the tomb structures is in fair condition, with leaning headwalls, gaps behind the headwalls, leaning cheek walls, and vegetation growing into the tops, sides and backs.

The Damon-Brown tombs are under the care of the owners of 330 Country Way. Visitors to the tombs may feel like trespassers, as they must venture up the driveway to 330 Country Way to reach the burial site. Overhead utility lines, leading from Country Way (the street) to 330 Country Way (the building), impede views of the tombs from the street. The property owner has placed domestically-scaled plantings within the tomb forecourts.

Recommendations

- **Tomb Structures.** In the short term, the town should remove the invasive plant growth from the tops, sides and backs of the structures, and monitor movement of the headwalls. The headwall on the Damon-Brown tomb is leaning one to two inches, while the Stetson tomb headwall is leaning more than two inches. If left unchecked, the headwalls could eventually fall, exposing the interiors of the tombs. Long term, the town should remove the soil behind each tomb's headwall, replace it with gravel, seal any openings behind the headwall, reconstruct the headwall (if necessary), and replace the doors with historically accurate materials.
- **Plants.** All invasive plant materials growing around the tombs should be removed and replaced with turf or perennial ground covers. The domestically-scaled plantings, while decorative, are inappropriate for a commemorative setting. Over time, these should be removed. To frame the tombs, tall shade trees could be added to both the north and south sides.

Harrub-Northey Tombs

- Judge Cushing Highway
- c. 1841

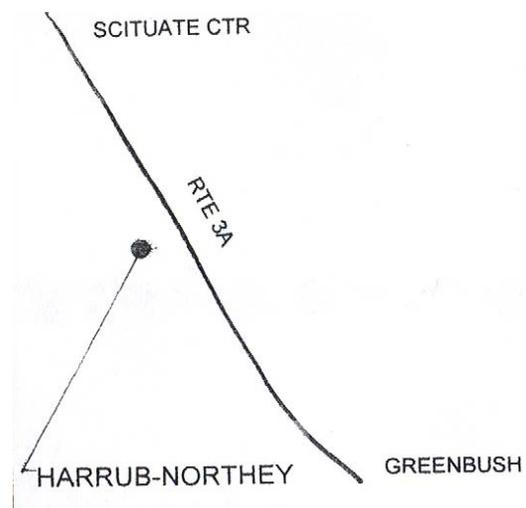
Historical Development

The Harrub-Northey tombs were constructed to inter Isaac Harrub (d. 1841), possibly his family members, and members of the Northey family. Isaac Harrub owned a mill in the Greenbush section of Scituate and manufactured nails in the first part of the 19th century. The Northey family was in Scituate as early as 1675 when John Northey purchased a farm in the Greenbush section. Several members of the Northey family are buried at Union Cemetery, but it is not known which family members were interred in the Northey tomb.

At the Scituate Historical Society, notes in the margin of *Old Scituate* indicate that the Harrub-Northey tombs were emptied in the mid 1900s by vandals at Halloween, and the remains re-buried at another, unmentioned spot.

Assessment

The Harrub-Northey tombs stand along the west side of Judge Cushing Highway, on private property, completely obscured by the woodlands, and inaccessible from the road. Currently, visitors must park on private property and bushwhack through the bull-briar filled woodlands to reach the tombs. Many mature trees and invasive shrubs and vines, including burning bush and poison ivy, cover the tomb area.





A field stone wall outlines the tomb area, and the two tombs lie within the wall. The doors of the tomb face north and entries to the doors are defined by field stone cheek walls. Granite lintels rest atop both tomb doorways, and the tomb doors have been removed. "I. M. Harrub 1841" is inscribed in the lintel of the east tomb. Overall, the tombs are in very good condition with only slight (one inch) movement in the Harrub tomb cheek wall, and no movement in the Northey tomb structure.

Recommendations

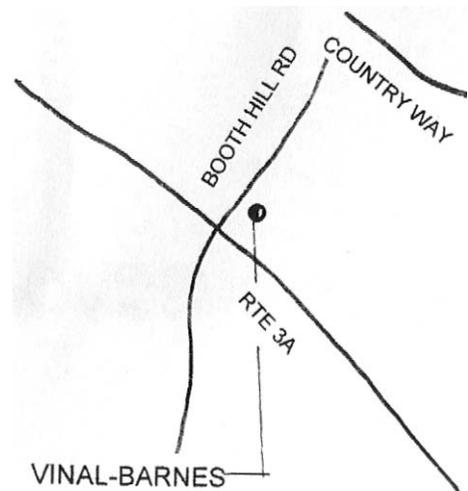
- **Parking & Access.** Improving the accessibility of the Harrub-Northey tombs is perhaps the most important first step in their long term preservation. The town should consider creating a pull-off area along the west side of Judge Cushing Highway, and mark the site with a sign. From the pull off area, the town should clear a swath through the woodlands, creating a path from the parking area to the tomb site. Lining the path with a dry laid fieldstone wall would further reinforce the circulation route from the parking area to the tombs.
- **Tomb Structures.** As noted, the tomb structures are in very good condition, with only a slight movement in one of the cheek walls. In the short term, the town should remove trees and brush from around the tombs, allowing sunlight to filter into the tomb area. Long term, the town should remove the soil behind the failed cheek wall, replace it with gravel backfill, and then reconstruct the cheek wall. Doors should be reconstructed to seal the tombs.

Vinal-Barnes Tomb

- Booth Hill Road
- Date Unknown

Historical Development

Little is known about the origins of the Vinal-Barnes tomb and the interment(s) it contains. The Vinal family has a long history in Scituate, a prominent member being Ann Vinal, a seamstress, who lived in the Greenbush area. Tradition holds that she acquired land on Booth Hill Road and bequeathed the property to her children. The Vinal-Barnes tomb like contains the remains of one or more of Ann Vinal's descendents.



Assessment

The Vinal-Barnes tomb stands along the southeast side of Booth Hill Road, approximately 150 feet from the road edge. Residences abut the tomb to the northeast and southwest. Dry laid fieldstone walls - sections of which are in poor condition - lead from the road to the tomb, creating a forecourt and framing the tomb structure. Granite bollards, spaced evenly in front of the tomb, create a smaller 20' square forecourt just outside the tomb door. Hardware remains on the bollards, suggesting that iron chains may have once connected them, making a fenced in area in front of the tomb. A total of 28 deciduous and coniferous trees, including oaks, cherries, red maples and white pines, have volunteered

within the forecourt area, creating a dense canopy. Bull briars, garlic mustard and poison ivy cover the forecourt floor, resulting in a landscape inhospitable to visitors. The tomb is difficult to find, and the site lacks a safe pull off and parking area along Booth Hill Road, making the tomb inaccessible to visitors.



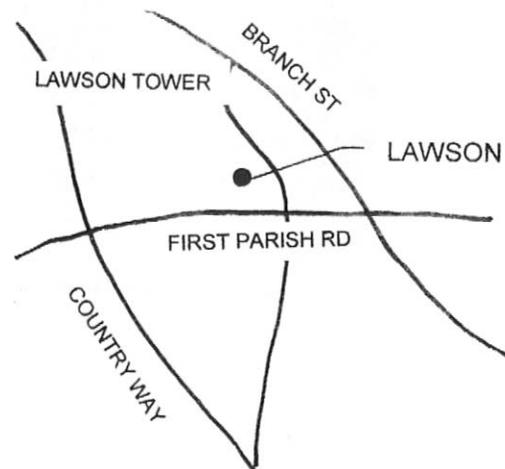
The tomb structure rests against a hillside, is constructed of cut granite, and is in fair to poor condition. The front wall has moved and the right cheek wall has failed, with stones missing. Deciduous trees have volunteered in and around the tomb, contributing the structure's deterioration. One tree has fallen on the tomb to the left of the door. While the door has been sealed with mortared brick, hardware remaining in the door jam area suggests the tomb once had a door.

Recommendations

- **Parking & Access.** The town should consider creating a small pull-off area along Booth Hill Road, below the tomb structure. This could be marked with a sign and reinforced with granite bollards (to match those in front of the tomb).
- **Plants.** The town should remove all suckering and invasive trees, shrubs and herbaceous materials, leaving only the healthiest deciduous trees. Two such trees include at 24" caliper oak growing near the tomb, and a 30" caliper ash growing along Booth Hill Road. Once the invasive species are under control, the town should plant native groundcovers to blanket the landscape floor. For a list of appropriate species, refer to the *Burial Site Management* section of this plan.
- **Tomb & Walls.** In the short term, the town should remove all suckering trees growing in and around the tomb and walls. Stones that have tumbled from the fieldstone walls can be re-stacked on the walls. The town should also monitor movement in the tomb front wall to gauge its rate of deterioration. Over the long term, the town should reconstruct portions of the fieldstone walls that have failed. To stabilize the tomb, the town should remove soil from behind the headwall and wingwalls and replace it with a high quality gravel, seal any openings behind the headwall, reconstruct the right side wing wall, and install an historically accurate door.

Lawson (Hammond) Tomb

A fourth tomb site may exist on First Parish Road, adjacent to the First Parish Unitarian Church. This tomb is known as the Lawson or Hammond tomb, and it appears as a small parcel on Scituate Assessor's Map #38. It is likely that the tomb has some relationship with the Lawson family, who owned land in this area of Scituate and gave the Lawson Tower (standing to the north of the tomb site) to the town in 1902.



A thick stand of deciduous trees – mostly Norway maples,

black locusts and red maples ~ and a deep leaf pile cover the parcel and it appears that adjacent property owners have used the site for years as a refuse pile. If the tomb exists, it lies deep beneath the pile. The project team was not able to find any trace of a tomb structure, after digging in several spots.

If the town is able to determine that the tomb exists in this location, the Norway maples and leaves should be removed. The town should place a sign near the site, explaining its origin and significance to the history of Scituate.

IMPLEMENTATION

Preservation Priorities

The following list organizes the recommendations of the *Assessment* section of the survey into a series of projects, and assigns a high, medium or lower priority to each. The highest priority projects include tasks that will affect all of the burial sites, as well as treatments of sites in the poorest condition. The lower priority projects include aesthetic enhancements to the better-tended burial sites. Medium priority projects fall somewhere in between.

High Priority Projects

- *Complete E-Forms* for Cudworth, Cushing, Fairview, Hatch, Merritt and Union Cemeteries and the four tomb sites. Update the form previously prepared for Men of Kent Cemetery.
- *Establish a legal method for the town to assume ownership* of the abandoned burial sites. Chapter 114 of the Massachusetts General Laws regulates cemeteries and burials, and Sections 17 and 18 address the preservation and care of ancient and abandoned burial sites.
- *Prepare National Register of Historic Places Nominations* for each burial site, beginning with those owned and managed by the town – Men of Kent, Cudworth and Union. Complete additional nominations once ownership of the sites is established and long term management plans are defined.
- *Preserve the Hatch Burying Ground*, including building a stepped access path from Judge Cushing Way, clearing the burying ground and its environs of invasive and suckering trees, cleaning its perimeter wall, and conserving its gravestones.
- *Preserve the James-Clapp Cemetery*, including establishing a defined pathway from the Driftway to the site, securing a legal easement around the site, clearing overgrown plant material, stabilizing the perimeter wall and steps, restoring the corner bollards, and conserving the monuments and markers.
- *Preserve the Harrub-Northey and Vinal-Barnes tombs*. This effort will include establishing parking pull off-areas, clearing overgrown vegetation, creating pathways to the tombs, and restoring the tomb structures (including replacing doors).



The Clapp Family Cemetery should be treated in conjunction with the MBTA Greenbush line project (behind the fence in the photo's middle ground).

- *Preserve the Clapp Family Cemetery*, in conjunction with creation of the MBTA Greenbush line. Include in this, removal of dead, decaying and overgrown plant material, reconstruction of the perimeter stone wall, planting of perimeter trees, and restoration of gravestones.
- *Develop an interpretive program* for the 15 sites that includes: (1) an illustrative brochure to be distributed at the historical society, town hall and other frequented locations that shows the location of the sites and summarizes their history, and (2) a sign program, that includes both design and materials for signs to be placed at each burial site.



The existing pathway to the Cushing Family Cemetery is lined with wood timbers. These should be replaced with granite edgestones as they rot.

Medium Priority Projects

- *Preserve Groveland Cemetery*, including treating its historic walls, tomb, and family plot copings, as well as its damaged monuments and markers.
- *Preserve the Men of Kent Cemetery*, including creating a pull-off parking area for visitors, rebuilding its perimeter wall, establishing a planting of street trees along Meetinghouse Lane, and conserving its gravestones.
- *Preserve the Merritt Cemetery*, establishing a pull-off parking area for visitors at Clapp Road, clearing invasive plants from around the cemetery perimeter, rebuilding the perimeter wall, removing diseased or dead trees from the cemetery interior, stabilizing the tombs, and conserving the monuments and markers.
- *Establish the Location of and Preserve the Lawson Tomb*, by conducting deed research, reviewing records of the First Parish Unitarian Church. If the tomb did, indeed exist, clear Norway maple trees and remove the leaf pile, and place an interpretive sign.



The tombs and the Merritt Cemetery, as well as the burial site's landscape, are a medium priority preservation project.

Lower Priority Projects

- *Preserve Cudworth Cemetery*, including re-routing overhead utility lines along Cudworth Road, rebuilding the Cudworth Road wall, reconstructing portions of the existing wall, repaving the bituminous roadways with chip seal, removing overgrown shrubs, and conserving monuments and markers. The town may also want to consider making a formal crossing from the cemetery to the Laidlaw Historical Center, across Cudworth Road.

- *Preserve the Cushing Family Cemetery*, including clearing a swath around the entire cemetery perimeter, replacing wood timbers with granite edging, cleaning the perimeter wall, and conserving the grave markers.
- *Preserve Fairview Cemetery*, by rebuilding portions of its perimeter wall, planting a diversity of trees species in its newer sections, repaving the bituminous roadways with chip seal paving, moving the grave spoil area to one, screened location, introducing an historically-sensitive litter bin style, and conserving its monuments and markers.
- *Preserve Mount Hope Cemetery* by cleaning and re-painting the cemetery gate, rebuilding portions of the perimeter wall, replacing the tomb door, fencing the grave spoil area, introducing a diversity of tree species to the cemetery interior, and conserving the monuments and markers.
- *Preserve Union Cemetery* by creating sidewalks along Meetinghouse Lane and Stockbridge Road, replanting street trees along Meetinghouse Lane, replacing the bituminous roadways with chip seal, and conserving the monuments and markers.
- *Preserve the Damon-Brown Tomb*, by removing invasive plant growth from the sides, tops and rears of the structures, removing domestically-scaled plant material from in front of the tombs, stabilizing the structures' front walls, and reconstructing their doors.

Preservation Costs

The following list assigns a preliminary cost to each of the preservation projects listed above as “Preservation Priorities.” Note that the cost figures are merely projections, intended as guidelines for the Town of Scituate in setting fundraising goals. Gravestone conservation costs have been included in the total for each burial site. The cost of conserving the stones at each burial site is detailed in *Appendix B: Gravestone Assessment*. Projects labeled with an asterisk (*) indicate efforts that could be undertaken by Town of Scituate staff.

High Priority Projects

E-Forms	\$	22,000	
Legal Method for Town Ownership			(*)
National Register Nominations	\$	5,000 per site	
Hatch Burying Ground	\$	37,800	
James-Clapp Cemetery	\$	40,100	
Harrub-Northey/Vinal-Barnes Tombs	\$	124,000	
Clapp Family Cemetery	\$	77,250	
Interpretive Program			(*)

Medium Priority Projects

Groveland Cemetery	\$	257,000
Men of Kent Cemetery	\$	103,500
Merritt Cemetery	\$	153,000
Lawson Tomb	\$	7,500 (*)

Lower Priority Projects

Cudworth Cemetery	\$	205,770 (*)
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Cushing Family Cemetery	\$ 27,720
Fairview Cemetery	\$ 41,100
Mount Hope Cemetery	\$ 93,700
Union Cemetery	\$ 581,170 (*)
Damon-Brown Tomb	\$ 65,000

Preservation Resources

The following organizations can supply advice, guidance and technical assistance for preservation efforts in historic cemeteries. Those marked with an asterisk (*) provide financial assistance for preservation activities. Note that funding priorities, award levels and application requirements for the various funding organizations can frequently shift. The town should contact each source for up-to-date information, prior to making an application.

The Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation. The Alliance is an organization of professionals dedicated to the preservation and conservation of historic landscapes in all their variety from formal gardens to public parks to rural and natural expanses. The organization provides a forum for communication and exchange among its members.

The Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation
82 Wall Street, Suite 1105
New York, NY 10005
www.alhp.org

American Association for State and Local History. This national organization provides leadership, service and support for preservation and interpretation of state and local history, making the past more meaningful in American society. The organization's bookstore offers dozens of titles pertaining to historic preservation.

American Society for State and Local History
1717 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37203-2991
www.aaslh.org

The Association for Gravestone Studies. AGS is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study and preservation of cemeteries and gravestones. Services include publications, a monthly newsletter, quarterly journal and annual conference.

The Association for Gravestone Studies
278 Main Street, Suite 207
Greenfield, MA 01301
www.gravestonestudies.org

Association for Preservation Technology International. The Association for Preservation Technology International (APT) is a cross-disciplinary, membership organization dedicated to promoting the best technology for conserving historic structures and their settings.

Association for Preservation Technology International
1224 Centre West, Suite 400B
Springfield, IL 62704
www.apti.org

Cultural Landscape Foundation. The Cultural Landscape Foundation seeks donations and gifts from corporations, individuals, private foundations and government grants to increase awareness and public benefit for cultural landscapes listed on, or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Project support emphasizes interpretation, education, outreach, and public awareness.

Cultural Landscape Foundation
1909 Que Street, NW, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20009
www.tclf.org

Heritage Preservation.* This organization works to ensure the preservation of American's cultural heritage, offering programs and publications relating to care of books, documents, architecture, sculpture and other artifacts. Its *Save Outdoor Sculpture!* program is a grass-roots effort to help local organizations preserve sculpture and monuments.

Heritage Preservation
1012 14th Street, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20005
www.heritagepreservation.org

Massachusetts Cultural Council.* As the state arts agency of Massachusetts, MCC provides grants to organizations in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences.

Massachusetts Cultural Council
10 St. James Avenue, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
www.massculturalcouncil.org

Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities.* This state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities supports discussion groups, workshops, conferences, lecture series, radio programs, films, and video projects in the humanities.

Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities
66 Bridge Street
Northampton, MA 01060
www.mfh.org

Massachusetts Historical Commission.* MHC is Massachusetts's state historic preservation office, maintaining the State Register of Historic Places, overseeing all nominations made to the National Register of Historic Places, and providing funding for preservation activities of many types.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125
www.state.ma.us/sec/mhc/

National Center for Preservation Technology & Training.* A program of the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, the NCPTT awards grants for information management, training and research on technical issues in preservation, with an emphasis on archaeology, historic architecture, historic landscapes, objects and materials conservation and interpretation.

National Center for Preservation Technology & Training
645 University Parkway
Natchitoches, LA 71457

www.ncptt.nps.gov

National Trust for Historic Preservation.* The trust is the leading national advocacy organization for historic preservation, providing funding for preservation-related activities through several programs.

National Trust for Historic Preservation
1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
www.nthp.org

PreservatiON Mass. This state-wide non-profit organization is dedicated to preserving the state's cultural and historic resources through advocacy, education and community revitalization. In partnership with the Massachusetts Historical Commission, PreservatiON Mass sponsors an annual meeting - a day-long gathering with symposia and workshops, and an announcement of the Commonwealth's most endangered resources.

PreservatiON Mass
45 School Street
Boston, MA 02108
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BURIAL SITE MANAGEMENT

This section of the *Burial Site Survey* will help the Town of Scituate manage the burial site landscapes. It includes strategies for the care of roads and paths, structures, metalwork, plants (trees, shrubs and turf), monuments and markers. By following these guidelines, town employees and burial site volunteers will help ensure the long term health and beauty of some of Scituate's most important historic landscapes.

Management Log

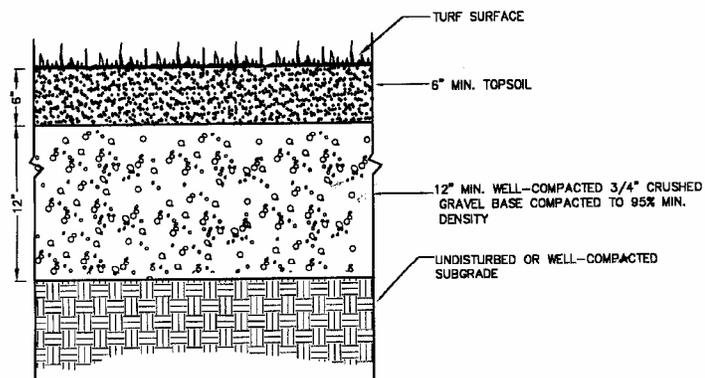
Before the town begins management of the burial site landscapes it should set up "management logs," or ongoing written records of inspections, repairs, and introductions of new features listed by date. The log should include methods and materials employed, as well as names and contact information for any specialists employed in the burial sites' care. The log should be stored, in both electronic and manual format, in a secure location within the Scituate Department of Public Works, Scituate Historical Society, and/or Scituate town administrator's office.

Roads and Paths

Dirt and turf paths provide access to most of the burial sites, with bituminous pavement covering the roadways in just three (Cudworth, Fairview and Union). The town should retain these, and under no circumstances introduce new paved surfaces. The town should inspect the turf and paved surfaces yearly, looking for damage from frost heaves or vehicle tires. If the routes require patching, the following measures should be followed to maintain an even, unblemished appearance.

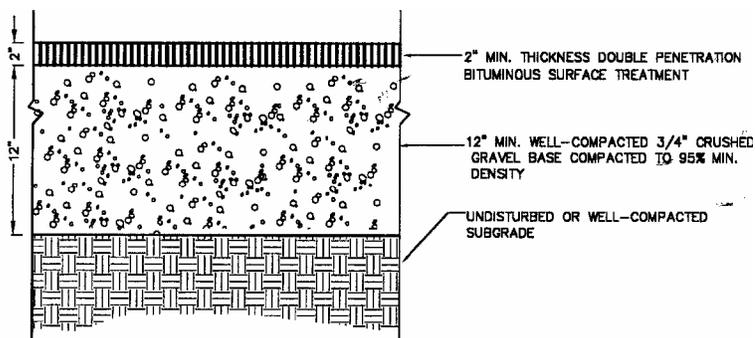
Turf Roads and Paths

When ruts occur in turf roads and paths, the town should fill holes and grooves with crushed stone or gravel, and allow turf to naturalize around filled areas. Adding four to six inches of topsoil and seed to the gravel will expedite the naturalizing process. The gravel will reinforce the turf, minimizing future wear.



Paved Roadways

For burial sites with existing paved roadways (Fairview and Union), the town should eventually replace these paved areas with either reinforced turf or chip seal. This paving, which consists of a compacted gravel base underneath

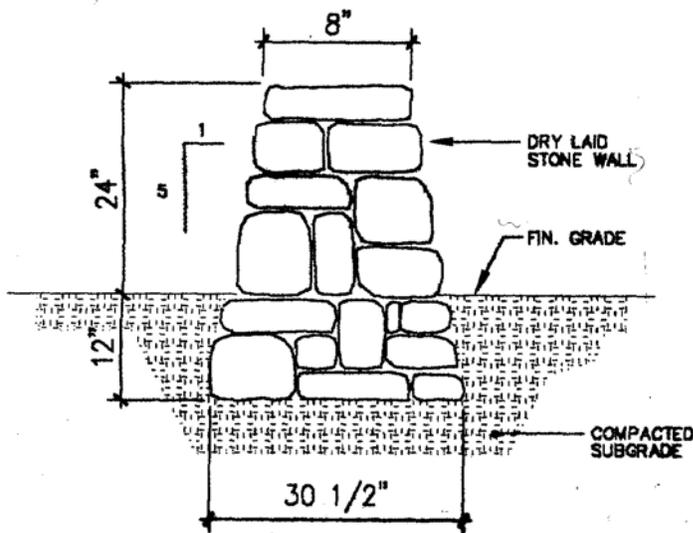


several applications of emulsion-secured gravel, provides the look and feel of gravel, yet is a permanent surface.

Structures

The *Assessment* section and *Engineering Assessment* (Appendix A) of this survey detail individual approaches to treating the burial sites walls, tombs, and family plot copings. In general, however, the town can implement the following on-going management methods to prevent further deterioration:

- Clear volunteer tree, shrub, and vine growth from the walls and tombs. Allowing these to grow and around the structures not only contributes to their decay, it creates an overall unkempt appearance, making the structures appear abandoned.
- Remove and/or discontinue the practice of piling leaves against the many feet of stone walls standing in most of the burial sites. Leaf mounds encourage retention of water near walls, creating frost, and encouraging the stones to dislodge. Allow as much air as possible to circulate around the walls.



- Where needed, re-set the free-standing walls according to the accompanying detail.
- Where more complicated measures are required – such as rebuilding a tomb fascia –, employ a professional structural engineer with experience treating historic structures. This individual will perform a detailed analysis of the structure, provide construction drawings and specifications, and oversee conservation treatment.

Metalwork

Several of the burial sites contain historic wrought and cast iron fencing and gates. Examples of these include the entry gates at Union, Mount Hope and Groveland Cemeteries, and fencing around family plots at Groveland. The town should take the following measures to insure a longer life for these historic features:

- Maintain detailed records of all maintenance measures including inspections, routine care, and repair type.
- Inspect the fences and gates twice yearly (in the spring and fall), looking for missing elements, fractures, weaknesses in the finish, structural damage, and surface dirt.
- Report any problems to an historic metals specialist, who can determine the appropriate treatment.

- For simple treatments, such as removal of superficial dirt, wash the fence/gates with low-pressure water. Always test the washing method (including the water pressure) on a small, obscure piece of the fence/gates, prior to removing all the dirt.
- When touching up areas where paint has been removed, follow instructions provided by the foundries for touch up of the fence and gates.

Plants

Existing Plants: Trees

As noted in the *Assessment* section of this survey, trees and other plant materials greatly impact the burial sites' appearance, with mature trees and an array of perennial ground covers playing dominant roles. To maintain the trees' health and ensure the long-term growth of the ground covers, the town should adhere to the measures that follow.

1. Test the burial sites' soil for quality in relationship to the mature tree population. The test will detect any soil deficiencies, and determine a remedy for correcting them. Contact the University of Massachusetts Extension Program, located in Amherst, for help in performing these tests.
2. Provide and install cables. These will help stabilize any weakly-joined tree limbs.
3. Treat trees with a systemic insecticide to minimize stress caused by leaf-feeding pests.
4. Prune trees, removing all dead wood greater than ½" in diameter.
5. Create rings of mulch around the base of each tree, as wide as possible and up to the diameter of the tree crown.
6. Where soil has built up at the base of trees, remove enough to expose the root collar.
7. Remove volunteer growth, particularly from around monuments, markers, walls and other landscape features.
8. Remove any dead trees.
9. Diversify tree plantings, gradually phasing out monocultures (such as the predominance of sugar maples at Mount Hope Cemetery). New tree plantings should include those commonly seen in 17th, 18th, and 19th century landscapes, listed below.

Existing Plants: Shrubs

Shrubs in the burial sites largely lie alongside individual gravesites and surround some family plots, providing families an opportunity for individual expression and personal commemoration. Unfortunately, gravesite shrub plantings are inconsistent with the burial sites' 17th, 18th and 19th century design (a concept introduced in the 20th century). Furthermore, they present long-term maintenance problems. They quickly become large and overgrown, obscuring grave markers and complicating lawn mowing. For the most part, families do not maintain the shrub plantings, leaving the arduous maintenance task to the cemetery maintenance crews. As existing shrubs mature and die, they should be removed and replaced with ground covers and/or turf.

Existing Plants: Ground Covers

Perennial ground covers flourish throughout the many of the burial sites, spreading many textures and hues across the landscape. The town should make every attempt to retain and encourage growth of ground cover plants. Allowing each time to bloom, wither, and cast their seeds before they are mown, will allow them to multiply. Weed killers and other such herbicides should not be used where these plants are growing (some species may be classified as “weeds”).

Existing Plants: Turf

The following fertilizing and mowing guidelines will help maintain the turf areas in the burial sites, promoting a lush, green appearance and healthier, longer living plants.

1. Fertilize sparingly, as too much fertilizer can cause grass to grow too rapidly, requiring more mowing and making the plants more susceptible to disease. Not enough fertilizer can result in weaker plants that are more susceptible to disease or stress brought on by drought.
2. Apply fertilizer three times per year – around Memorial Day and Labor Day, and finally, around Halloween.
3. Do NOT fertilize in mid-summer. At this time of year, roots have become dormant. Fertilizer will cause the leaves to grow, making the plants less tolerant of drought, heat and disease.
4. Follow these fertilizing instructions:
 - *Memorial Day* – apply 1 pound of Nitrogen per 1,000 sf (with 50% of Nitrogen slow-release). Use an N:P:K Ratio of 14-14-14.
 - *Labor Day* - apply 2 pounds of Nitrogen per 1,000 sf (with 50% of Nitrogen slow-release). Use an N:P:K Ratio of 14-14-14.
 - *Halloween* - apply 1 pound of Nitrogen per 1,000 sf (with 75% of Nitrogen slow-release). Use an N:P:K Ratio of 28-3-9.
5. *When mowing, remove no more than one-third of the height of the turf at one time, always leaving twice as much leaf height as is cut.*
6. The best level for mown grass is 2 ½ inches, with 2 to 3 ½ inches the range.
7. It is best to mow lawns on an as-needed basis, not on a regular schedule, such as once per week.
8. When mowing around monuments and markers, the town should avoid contact between the equipment and stones. Slashes near the base of stones are one of the most common causes of breakage. Weed-whackers should be used sparingly, and preferably not at all.

Existing Plants: Exotic Invasive Species

*Invasive plants are non-native species that were introduced to the United States by horticulturists as ornamental or exotic plants. They quickly adapted to the growing conditions of U.S. climates, and spread, overtaking and crowding out native species. Invasive plants are difficult to control and must be monitored closely to prevent them from eliminating other more desirable plant species. The burial sites contain several invasive species, including Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*), tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), and Asian bitterweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*). The following are general measures for controlling these species.*

*Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)*

Norway maple is native to Europe and Western Asia, and was introduced in the United States as an ornamental landscape plant. It reproduces prolifically in forests, fields, and other natural habitats, forming dense, shady stands and displacing native trees and shrubs. The tree has smooth, grey bark that becomes furrowed with age, and its leaves are dark green. The leaves have little or no fall color, which is one of the easiest ways of distinguishing it from the brilliant orange-colored sugar maple.



Norway maples spread by sending their mature fruits, or “samaras” through the wind. Small seedlings may be uprooted from the ground by hand, and small and large trees can be cut to the ground level. An application of glyphosate (Roundup) or triclopyr (Garlon 3A or Garlon 4) herbicide can also help control.* The best means of control, however, is simply not planting them.



*Wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*)*

Wineberry is a hairy-stemmed shrub reaching up to six feet in height. It was introduced into the United States in 1890, likely to be used for breeding stock for other species of *Rubus* (raspberry). It can rapidly form dense thickets that crowd out native vegetation. It produces many berries and birds pluck the fruit, dispersing it throughout the landscape.

Wineberry can be controlled by manual, mechanical and chemical treatments. The town can remove small thickets by hand with a 4-pronged spading fork when soil conditions are moist. All roots and cane fragments must be removed. The town can also bag branches of berries so they do not spread. An application of glyphosate (Roundup) or triclopyr (Garlon 3A or Garlon 4) herbicide can also help control.* The town should never plant wineberry.

*Multi-flora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*)*

Multi-flora rose is a thorny, perennial shrub with arching stems. It was introduced to the U.S. from Japan in 1866 as a root-stock for ornamental roses. Birds are responsible for spreading the seeds, which remain viable for a number of years. In the 1930s, the Soil Conservation Services advocated the use of multi-flora rose for erosion projects and as a way to confine livestock. Hedges of multi-flora rose have also been used as crash barriers and to reduce headlight glare in highway medians. Its leaves are

divided into five to eleven sharply toothed leaflets. Beginning in May or June, multi-flora rose displays clusters of showy, fragrant white to pink flowers. In summer, small bright red fruits appear and remain on the plant through the winter.



Multi-flora rose invades open woodlands, forest edges and successional fields, forming impenetrable thickets and crowding out other more desirable plants. Careful application of herbicide is the most effective means of eradication.* Systemic herbicides (such as glyphosate) may be applied to freshly cut stumps late in the growing season. Mowing can help keep larger infestations under control, but it must be done repeatedly (three to six times per season) and continuously for two to four years.

Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus altissima)

The tree of heaven is a rapidly growing deciduous tree native to Central China. A Philadelphia gardener mistakenly introduced the tree of heaven to the U.S. in 1784, believing its seeds to be those of the lacquer tree. During the California gold rush, Chinese miners brought seeds with them for uses in traditional medicines. The tree has smooth stems with pale gray bark and light chestnut brown-colored twigs. The leaves range from one to four feet in length and are compound, containing 11-25 smaller leaflets. The tree produces clusters of small, yellowish green flowers in the spring and twisted seed pods (“samaras”) in the late summer and early fall. Each tree can produce as many as 325,000 seeds per year, and the seeds are easily dispersed by the wind.



The tree of heaven grows very rapidly and can take over an entire site, forming an impenetrable thicket and crowding out other less aggressive species. Its roots can also damage sewers and foundations. The most effective way to control tree of heaven is to pull seedlings by hand before the tap root develops. Systemic herbicides, including glyphosate (Roundup) and triclopyr (Garlon 3A or Garlon 4) may also be used when the trees are in full leaf.* The chemicals should be applied to leaves and green stems, basal bark and/or cut stumps. Finally, research suggests that fungal pathogens may control the plants.



Asian Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
Asian Bittersweet is a deciduous, woody, perennial vine native to Eastern Asia. It was introduced in the U.S. as an ornamental plant and is still widely planted and maintained as an ornamental vine. Its leaves are rounded and glossy and it produces clusters of small greenish flowers. Mature plants produce green to yellow fruits which split open to show red-orange seed sacs (“arils”). Many people cut the vines containing the fruits to make floral arrangements and wreaths. While attractive, the cuttings promote further spread of the vines.

*Bittersweet invades the groundcover, shrub, understory and canopy layers of both wooded and open areas. In addition to blocking light and starving other plants, it girdles and chokes the trunks of trees. Two methods of control are possible for the plant. In areas of small investment, the vines may be uprooted before fruiting. Herbicides such as glyphosate (Roundup) or triclopyr (Garlon) may be applied after the vines have been hand-cut or mown.**

*The town should use pesticides wisely by reading the entire pesticide label carefully, following all mixing and application instructions and wearing all recommended personal protective gear and clothing. The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources should also be contacted prior to any chemical applications, as the agency may dictate pesticide use requirements, restrictions or regulations.

New Plants

The burial sites contain an array of trees and herbaceous ground covers that flourish on the coast of Southeastern Massachusetts. When introducing new plants to the burial sites, the town should select species from a palette of plants that (1) are well-suited to Scituate's climate, and (2) reflect the 17th, 18th and 19th century character of each site. When ever possible, the town should choose plants native to New England. A list of such plants and recommended planting methods follow (*indicates species native to New England).

Evergreen Trees

Picea abies	Norway Spruce
Picea glauca	Black Spruce
Pinus banksiana*	Jack Pine
Pinus rigida *	Pitch Pine
Thuja spp.*	Red Cedar, White Cedar

Shade Trees

Acer rubrum*	Red Maple
Amelanchier canadensis*	Serviceberry
Fagus americana*	American Beech
Koelreuteria paniculata	Golden Rain Tree
Liquidambar styraciflua*	Sweetgum
Liriodendron tulipifera*	Tulip Tree
Quercus alba*	White Oak
Quercus robur	English Oak
Quercus velutina	Black Oak
Salix Babylonica*	Weeping Willow
Sophora japonica*	Scholar Tree

Street Trees (Clapp, Men of Kent, Union)

Ginkgo biloba	Maidenhair Tree
Platanus occidentalis*	Sycamore
Quercus palustris*	Pin Oak
Tilia europaea	European Linden
Ulmus americana 'Liberty'	Liberty Elm

Ornamental Trees (19th century sites only)

Acer palmatum	Japanese Maple
Cedrus libani (evergreen)	Cedar of Lebanon
Cercis canadensis*	Redbud
Cornus florida rubra	Pink Flowering Dogwood
Cornus mas	Cornelian Cherry Dogwood
Davidia involucrata	Dove-tree
Franklinia altamaha	Franklinia
Magnolia acuminata	Cucumber Tree Magnolia
Stewartia malacodendron	Stewartia

Ground Covers

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*	Bear Berry
Ajuga reptans	Bugleweed
Cornus Canadensis*	Bunchberry
Gallium odoratum*	Sweet Woodruff
Housatonia caerulea	Bluets
Phlox stolonifera	Creeping Phlox
Phlox subulata	Moss Pink
Potentilla tabernaemontani	Spring Cinquefoil
Sedum reflexum, caucicola, anglicum, brevifolium	Stonecrop
Thymus serpyllum	Creeping Thyme
Viola spp.	Violet species
Waldsteinia ternata	Barren Strawberry

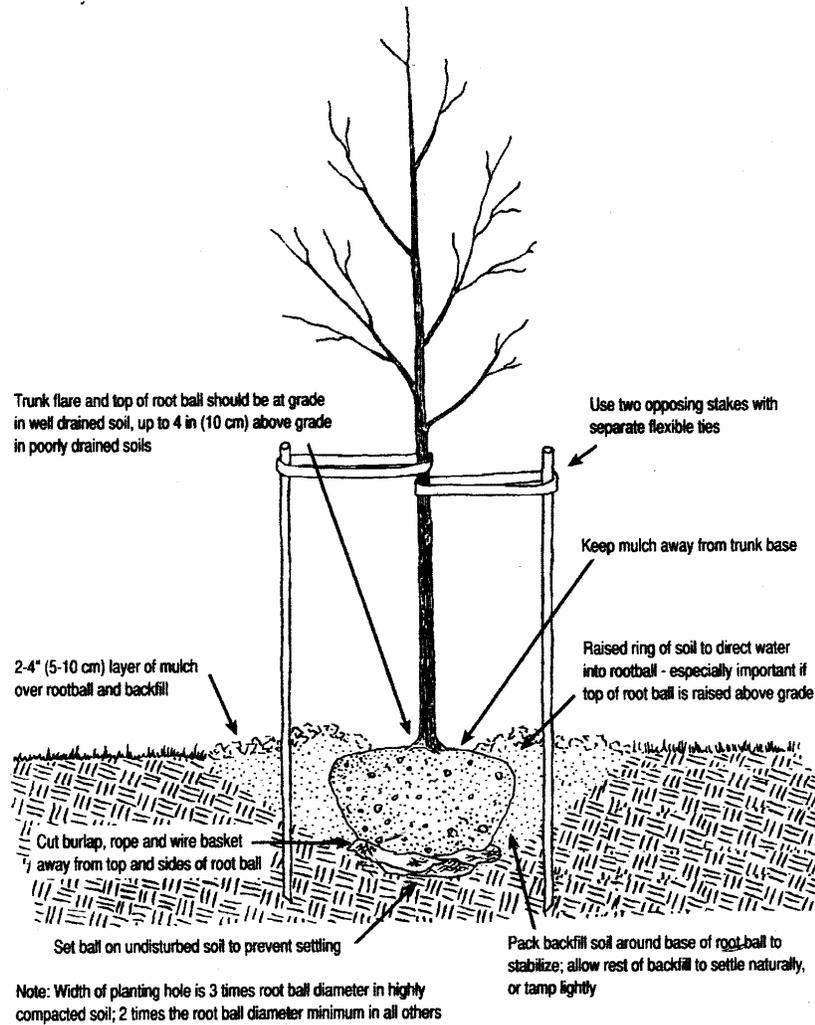
Turf

In areas where ground covers are inappropriate or not preferable, the town should apply seed and cultivate turf. The following measures will help insure long-lived, healthy turf areas:

1. A seed mixture, consisting of Kentucky bluegrasses, fine fescues and perennial ryes is best, as it minimizes the amount of mowing (each grows at a different rate) and provides a consistent green appearance. Using a mix will avoid the problems arising from monocultural plantings. A local seed market will offer mixes appropriate for the Scituate area.
2. Once applied, seed should be covered with straw mulch. Hay should be avoided as it encourages weed growth.
3. The seeded area should be watered as frequently as possible to encourage germination (approximately once inch of rainwater per week).
4. Do not use herbicides to control weeds when the turf is becoming established.
5. Once the turf is established, remove the straw mulch and follow the instructions listed above for ongoing management.

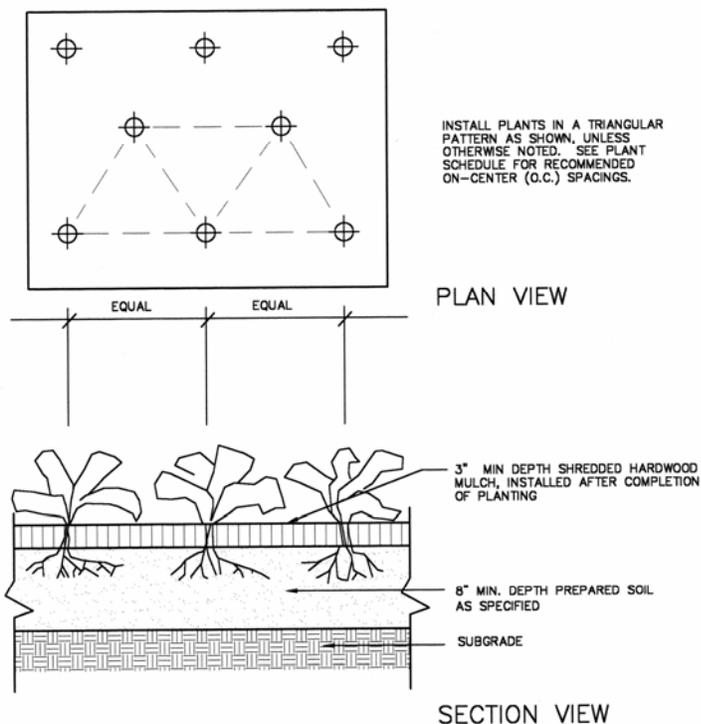
Planting Methods

When introducing new plants to each of the burial sites, the town should adhere to industry standards for planting of trees and ground covers. At a minimum, the town should adhere to the recommendations included following planting details.



Tree Planting Detail. Source: University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service.

Herbaceous Perennial Planting. Source: Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC.



Monuments & Markers

As the *Assessment* section and *Gravestone Assessment* (Appendix B) of this survey indicates, many the monuments and markers of the burial sites show signs of damage and/or decay, and receive treatment at some point in the future. Before treatment, the town should invest in a stone-by-stone assessment of the monuments and markers in each burial site. A trained conservator must complete such an assessment, using the *Gravestone Assessment* as a base. It may be completed as a project unto itself, or immediately prior conservation treatment, and should include, at a minimum:

- A review of historical documents pertaining to each burial site, including National Register of Historic Places eligibility forms and (when available) nomination forms, as well as other resources noted in the nominations; bibliography;
- A listing of each marker, including full name(s) of the deceased, date of death, material, type of stone, carver (if known), recommended treatment, and priority for repair. The inventory form should also include a photograph of the marker, before conservation treatment occurs.
- An updated annotated map of each burial site, recording the location of each marker requiring treatment; and
- An updated phasing plan for conservation treatment.

An additional approach to gravestone conservation is for the town to organize a group of volunteers to attend the annual Association for Gravestone Studies conference, held each June (refer to the *Implementation* section of this survey for more information about AGS). Here, trained professionals

provide hands-on training in simple conservation techniques. The Town of Scituate may also want to invite a stone conservator to the burial sites for a one-day gravestone conservation workshop for volunteers. *Each of these activities should occur in concert with (not as a substitution for) the professional stone-by-stone assessment and treatment.*

Finally, as noted in the *Burial Sites* section of this survey, as well as in *Appendix B: Gravestone Assessment*, stones in many of the burial sites have been scratched, chipped and/or dislodged by lawn mowing equipment. The town (and trustees of the privately-owned sites) should alert landscape crews to the problem, and request that stones be avoided when mowing. The best long-term approach to maintaining plantings around gravestones is by planting perennial ground covers (see above) instead of turf, as they required no mowing.

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