

Welcome!

We hope this updated and greatly amplified pamphlet Information for Visitors to Lyme Cemeteries --- especially Section II highlighting links to and usage of wonderful on-line resources--- will greatly facilitate answers to your inquiries, and make any visit to Lyme more efficient and successful. Your search should most likely begin with Section II, but to provide necessary background information we suggest you first take a moment to become aware of the material in Section I. In the Attachments, each cemetery is numbered to correspond with its circled location on the Map of Lyme Cemeteries (available online--see Section II D below). Note that this numbering differs completely from that in the Hale Collection and/or 2008 Update (see Section II).

For those planning a visit here, copies of this pamphlet and Attachments are available at the Town Clerk's Office, 480 Hamburg Road (860 434-7733), and the adjacent Lyme Library. A larger-size printed version of the Map is also available at those two locations, but in limited supply, and must be returned there when no longer being used.

Section I --General Information:

Supervision: The Town of Lyme boundary currently includes 26 cemeteries: (a) 12 supervised by the Town through the Lyme Cemetery Commission (designated "Town"); (b) 4 privately supervised by an Association for each cemetery ("Assn."). These 16 are detailed in Attachment A. The remaining 10 ("Private") are supervised by the respective property owner(s) or family representative ("Custodian") -- reachable through the Commission Chairman-- are detailed in Attachment B.

Active/Inactive:

Only one cemetery, Eight Mile River Cemetery (#24) is formally designated "Active", i.e. offering burial plots for purchase, suitable for casket and/or cremation interment, with appropriate gravestones, with all arrangements through the Cemetery Commission. Eight Mile River Cemetery was established in 1974 by the Town specifically for use restricted to its own residents, past or present, and their close relatives.

The four cemeteries each owned and run by its private Association -- #2 Ely, #4 North Lyme, # 10 Cove, and #13 Pleasant View -- are for the most part fully subscribed, with only a limited number of cremation plots available. Arrangments are by the Association concerned. Contact the Commission Chairman.

All the rest of the cemeteries are inactive, with no plots available for sale, and no interments permitted. By virtue of being at least 100 years in existence, all but one (Eight Mile River) of the 26 Lyme cemeteries have been formally designated by the State as an "Ancient Burial Place", subject to certain regulations.

Access: Currently 16 cemeteries, listed in Enclosure A, may be visited at any time during daylight hours, without need to make prior arrangements, although the Chairman of the Cemetery Commission can usually be useful in answering location/access questions. We must stress that unaccompanied access is only for visiting gravesites; anyone witnessing incidents of vandalism, picnics, loud music, dogs running loose, or other unauthorized activities should inform the Chairman or Town Clerk ASAP. Currently 10 cemeteries, listed in Enclosure B, cannot be visited without prior arrangement with the Custodian(s) involved, arranged by calling the Chairman --currently (June 2014) Gordon Krusen 860 434-1564 well in advance.

Parking: Please pay careful attention to specific instructions concerning parking at certain locations. At several cemeteries this is to avoid blocking access to private lanes, gates, or parking sites; at several it is to avoid trespassing on adjacent property. But most importantly in some locations "blind" to traffic, it is to avoid high-risk exposure to your car or passengers on foot being struck by onrushing vehicles.

Don't Touch! Please refrain from touching any headstone or monument. Great damage has been done in cemeteries everywhere by unknowing visitors attempting to take "rubblings" of the inscriptions, or even cleaning the stone with inappropriate materials or technique. If you feel that certain stones want attention, contact the Commission Chairman. Experienced counselors, assistance, and proper materials can be arranged in due course.

Other Considerations:

- (a) Be aware that the black-legged tick, renowned vector for Lyme and two other serious diseases, is endemic throughout New England, can be present in rock walls as well as grass and foliage, and is so small as to be almost invisible in the field. The easiest and best protection is to wear trousers tucked into socks, a long-sleeved shirt and hat, followed by close inspection of the body after removing these clothes.
- (b) If you plan to leave flowers or other memento of your visit to a clearly defined gravesite, please arrange in advance with the Chairman and/or appropriate Custodian.
- (c) These cemeteries are historic as well as hallowed ground; kindly conduct your visit accordingly.

Section II. Info & Suggestions for Persons Seeking Information About Gravesites in Lyme and Environs

A. Intent

The Town of Lyme receives occasional inquiries about a deceased relative "supposed to be buried in some cemetery in Lyme". Too often these are "drop-ins" at the Town Hall or Library, whose staff can only forward the request to the answering machine of the Chairman of the Cemetery Commission, with subsequently delayed response. This site is intended to head off all that inefficiency and wasted time by directing you to wonderful on-line resources that will not only determine-- before you leave home-- whether Great-great-Uncle Egbert Smith's gravesite is recorded as being in a Lyme cemetery: if so, which one, often along with amplifying info on Egbert, such as dates of birth and death, family relationship, military service, etc. which will help you sort him out from all the other Smiths listed. Most important, if he is not listed in one of the 26 cemeteries currently contained within the Town of Lyme boundaries, you can determine whether he is listed in one of the many additional cemeteries in portions of the adjacent towns of East Haddam, Salem, East Lyme, and Old Lyme, which prior to 1855 were included in the 90 square miles of the original Town of Lyme established in 1667. Plus hundreds more in surrounding New London County! More on this below...

B. Preliminary Notes:

(1). Caution: While perhaps collaterally useful in genealogical research, the primary mission of this material is to assist searches aimed at locating the gravesite for a specific named deceased --- hereafter called "Target". It does not discuss procedures for finding all possible relatives with the same surname, for which a vast number of genealogical resources are usually more efficient, and certainly more far-reaching.

(2). Print vs. On-line: While the on-line data bases are the starting point for searching for the particular cemetery(s) containing the Target, the print versions are often helpful to find the gravesite location within

each cemetery: the majority of the on-line lists of inscriptions are arranged alphabetically, whereas the order of the written lists generally reflects the movements of the recorder as he/she moved through the family plots or the rows of gravesites. This is important because the legibility of the inscriptions on many headstones has badly deteriorated during the eighty years since recorded in 1934 due to acid rain, erosion, mishandling by visitors, damage by falling limbs, etc., so that noting the names of a few of the inscriptions above and below your Target in the written list may increase your chances--and ease--of finding it in the cemetery.

C. Principal Original Sources (print) for Town of Lyme:

(1) The Hale Collection of Connecticut Headstone Inscriptions contains vital information from headstone inscriptions in over 2,200 Connecticut cemeteries recorded 1932-4 in a WPA project directed by Charles R. Hale. For the Town of Lyme the written version consists of 91 pages of 2,120 inscriptions (all recorded in 1934), segregated by each of 22 cemeteries, with 22 pages of alphabetical index. Three cemeteries---Thurston, Emerson, and Hartman Park --were apparently missed by the Hale survey, and their inscriptions are included in the supplemental Update #2 (next paragraph). Eight Mile River Cemetery was not existent until 1974 and is covered in its separate List of Interred below.

(2) Headstone Inscriptions Town of Lyme: Update of the Hale Report (1934-2008) compiled 2008 by Parker Lord and a group of dedicated volunteer recorders, with a list of 16 cemeteries and an alphabetical index of surnames, contains an additional 1,116 inscriptions dating from 1934.

(3) List of Interred at Eight Mile River Cemetery. The alphabetical by surname list of those interred 1974- - June 2014 at subject cemetery, data mostly taken currently from memorial stones. Some of these gravesites do not yet have memorial stones or plaques; those available in future will be added.

D. On-line Resources:

(1) The wonderful new Lyme Archives Excel spreadsheets (a) Lyme Gravestones by Alphabetical Surname, and (b) List of Interred at Eight Mile River Cemetery contain data from every gravesite ever recorded in every one of the current 26 cemeteries in the current Town of Lyme, providing for each surname entry: the name of the cemetery, and usually first name, often middle name or initial, the dates of birth and death, and sometimes family relationship. These two Lyme Archives spreadsheet incorporate all three of the original written sources discussed in C. above. If your Target is absent from it, you should revisit for further details the family or other information that provoked your Lyme-centered inquiry; and/or research the additional cemeteries that may have been included in the original Town of Lyme prior to 1855, as outlined above in A. Intent, and discussed below.

Access: www.lymepublichall.org; then "Lyme Local Historical Archives"; then "Headstones and Cemeteries"; then scroll down to the links to the two Excel spreadsheets.

Also available at the same location is a PDF Map of Lyme Cemeteries, which can be explored more easily by using the PDF zoom feature to enlarge details.

(2) On-line Hale Collection: Google "<http://hale-collection.com>"; then "New London County Cemetery Records". Here you can scroll down to search all Hale-recorded cemeteries in three of the four towns where a portion of their cemeteries were included in pre-1855 Lyme: (303) East Lyme; (315) Old Lyme; (317) Salem. The fourth, East Haddam, is covered in "Middlesex County Cemetery Records" at 705. If Target is not found anywhere here, there is still a possibility that it might exist in the printed Hale Reports --which sometimes include a few cemeteries not included in the on-line lists-- available at the libraries listed below.

(3) Find A Grave: (www.findagrave.com/). This site's home page sets out many procedures to access its huge data base; it is not only a complementary source of additional gravesite info, but also in some cases provides the only source of adjacent-town inscriptions absent from the online Hale Collection. For example it furnishes an elaborate presentation of Duck River Cemetery, Old Lyme's largest, with over a thousand inscriptions dating from 1676, all absent from Hale--or at least from the online site; perhaps the Duck River list was for some reason not transferred from the print Collection.

Find A Grave provides inscriptions for the following Salem cemeteries that are not otherwise listed: Lathrop; Fox; Harris; Wesley Brown; Ransom; Rogers; Whittlesey; Morgan; Salem Green. It currently lacks 6 Lyme cemeteries covered in Hale, but on the other hand covers those established since 1934. One drawback of this site, however, is that the smallest geographical area category is entire New London County, which in the absence of a specific cemetery name requires endless pages scrolling through thousands of surnames in 609 cemeteries!

The following on-line resources are primarily genealogical and therefore often too far-reaching to serve as primary search sites, but can often offer additional info--- sometimes bios, photos, maps, etc.---once the Target full name and/or other identifying data (especially the cemetery) are known

(4) New London County Genealogy CTGenWeb: (www.ctgenweb.org/county/conewlondon/) Cemetery section lists 23 cemeteries in East Lyme, and 5 in Salem, some not found in Hale, but some lack inscription lists. Offers many genealogical links.

(5) ePodunk: (www.epodunk.com/) Cemeteries section contains a list of 177 cemeteries in New London County, with excellent map locations for many of them outside the Lyme Cemeteries Map.

(6) CT State Library: Google "Connecticut State Library" click on "History and Genealogy"; then "Cemetery Resources"---for pages of info and resources that might augment your family research.

(7) Heritage Quest (www.iconn.org) provides online access to searchable records, books and articles of interest to genealogists. Materials available include U.S. census records, family and town histories, articles, Revolutionary War pension and bounty-land warrant applications. It requires a library card barcode, usually located on the back of your library card. Any Connecticut town's library barcode should qualify. Click on "Individual Resources" then "History, Biography and Genealogy" then "Heritage Quest" to access the data base.

Local Libraries: A vast amount of cemetery and genealogical information--unfortunately most not available online--awaits a visit:

East Haddam	-- Rathbun Free Memorial Library, 36 Main St., East Haddam	860 873-8210
Salem	-- Salem Free Public Library, 264 Hartford Road (Rt. 85), Salem	860 854-1130
East Lyme	-- East Lyme Public Library, 38 Society Road, Niantic	860 739-6926
Old Lyme	-- Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library, 2 Library Lane, Old Lyme	860 434-1684

The Phoebe Griffin Noyes is a first stop, with an entire room devoted to history and genealogy, lined with books, documents, photos, and maps, including bound copies of the Hale Collection, appendix, and maps for both Old Lyme (REF 929 OL) & East Lyme (REF 929 EL).

2. The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records is a multi-volume set listing births, marriages and deaths from ancient records in each town. The Old Lyme PGN Library owns several volumes for local towns that can be used for genealogy research. There are often vital records in other volumes as well, sometimes including church records and land records. Historic persons living in the

current area of Old Lyme may be listed in vital records of modern nearby towns. Old Lyme has been part of several towns in the past, below is a timeline that may assist you in locating the appropriate town.

Lyme. (Town records start 1667); Lyme was set apart from Saybrook on February 13, 1665 in an act called "The Loving Parting." It was named Lyme in 1667. Lyme includes the villages of Hamburg and Hadlyme. Lyme covered a large area from the Long Island Sound north to Haddam (and Moodus) along the east bank of the Connecticut River. (Barbour Collection 1667-1852.)

Old Lyme. (Town records start 1855) Old Lyme broke apart from Lyme in 1855. It was first called South Lyme, but in 1857 was renamed Old Lyme. The current town of Old Lyme includes the village of South Lyme. (No Barbour volume for Old Lyme, see Lyme for most historical records.)

East Lyme was incorporated 1839 (taken from Lyme and Waterford). It is, as the name implies, east of Old Lyme and Lyme. It includes the towns of Flanders and Niantic. Vital records start in 1839. (Barbour Collection 1839-1853.)

East Haddam, including the village of Moodus, is located across the Connecticut River from Haddam, just north of the village of Hadlyme. Vital records start in 1743. (Barbour Collection 1743-1857).

Attachment A: Cemeteries open to visit without prior arrangement

Note: The easiest way to locate a cemetery and the roads to it is by first finding its number on Map (found at website: <http://archives.lymepublichall.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/lyme-cemetery-map.pdf>). The mileages and directions given for each cemetery are only intended to supplement the Map.

- 1. Lord** Town. Situated on the east side of Rt. 156, about 50 yards north of the intersection of Ely's Ferry Road. There is a red wooden fence and sign on the wooden entrance gate which are visible from the road. SAFETY ALERT!!!! This cemetery is located in a blind curve at the foot of a long, steep downhill run of Route 156, posing a dangerous threat from northbound traffic. This, coupled with the absence of any shoulder, precludes parking (and even makes stopping to discharge visitors very hazardous) on the east (cemetery) side of the highway. There are two options: (a) several cars could park on the right shoulder of Ely's Ferry Road, (beyond the lawn of the yellow house on the corner.); if more cars are to find parking (b) there is plenty of space on the north (opposite the houses) shoulder of Park Side Road just north of the cemetery and on the same side of Rt. 156. Be careful of the curb which often lies invisible beneath vegetation. Safest walking to/from cemetery is on the west (opposite) side of Rt. 156.
- 2. Ely** Private. This cemetery fronts Tinker Lane, about 100 yards in from Ely's Ferry Road. Tinker Lane is a left turn half- mile west on Ely's Ferry Road from Rt. 156. The cemetery is controlled by the Ely Cemetery Association.
- 4. North Lyme** Private. Situated behind the Lyme Congregational Church on Rt.156 in Hamburg, the cemetery is controlled by the North Lyme Cemetery Association. The main entrance -- with limited adjacent parking-- is at the head of the Church driveway whose entrance is on Rt. 156 opposite Reynolds Market. If that area is taken by church activities, alternative parking is on the north side of Sterling City Road, and there is access to the cemetery through a short path between the end of the church fence and the cemetery wall.
- 6. Joshuatown** Town. Fronts the west side of Joshuatown Road, about 100 yards south of the intersection (dead end) of Tantomarantum Road. This intersection is 2.1 miles north on Joshuatown Road from Rt.156, or about 3 miles from the intersection of Rts.148 and 82 at the Hadlyme Post Office. Parking is on the grass between the road and the cemetery wall.
- 9. Cedar Hill / Selden** Town. Because of its site on a promontory high above Joshuatown Road, this cemetery is virtually unrecognizable from the road below. To facilitate access, a round sign with a green "9" on a white background marks the entrance to a rutted lane that leads upward to the cemetery entrance on the right. This sign is 2.5 miles north from the intersection of Tantomarantum Road, or about 150 yards south of Selden Road, which in turn is

.4 mile south of Ferry Road (Rt.148). The lane is best entered coming southbound, and despite its daunting appearance, can be safely driven if taken dead slow, with careful attention to avoid bottoming on rocks at several points. Several cars can park in the flat area just outside the cemetery entrance. It is dangerous to park on Joshuatown Road--- the shoulder is narrow and steeply banked, and the visibility of and by oncoming traffic is limited.

10. Cove Private. Fronts Ferry Road (Rt.148) 1.3 miles west of Rt. 82 (Hadlyme Post Office & store), or .7 mile west of the intersection on the left of Joshuatown Road. This cemetery is controlled by the Cove Cemetery Association. There is parallel parking for one vehicle between the wall and the shoulder, near the entrance gate, and head-in parking for possibly two vehicles in the small area just east of the corner of the wall.

11. Luther Town. Although this cemetery is close to Ferry Road (Rt.148), its elevated location keeps it from being seen or accessed from the road. A round sign with a green "11" on white background (1 mile west on Ferry Road from Rt. 82, or .45 mile west of the intersection of Joshuatown Road) marks the entrance to a private driveway (also a sign on tree: "103"). Several hundred yards up this driveway turn right into a short driveway, and park on the right shoulder at end of the paved area. Straight ahead is a row of trees outlining a path that curves to the right and leads to the entrance of the cemetery. Kindly respect the privacy of the two houses whose property this path crosses..

13. Pleasant View Private. The cemetery is situated at the intersection of Salem Road and Rt.156, immediately north of the conspicuous crossing of high-tension power lines. Turn right into Salem Road, and find ample parking in the cleared area to the left of the cemetery entrance. This cemetery is controlled by the Pleasant View Cemetery Association.

14. Sisson Town. Located close to the south side of Salem Road .95 mile east of Rt.156, just west of the Town of Salem boundary. Because the cemetery is elevated and screened by trees, it is visible only from the foot of the path leading up to its entrance, so a round sign with a green "14" on white background marks the turn-in to a small clearing where two vehicles can safely park, being careful to avoid obstructing the outward-swinging gate at the rear of the clearing.

15. Griffin Town. Fronts on the south side of Beaver Brook Road, .85 mile east from Rt.156, clearly visible from the road. On certain days this road can be subject to the threat of large gravel trucks traveling fast, so vehicles should parallel park on the grassy area, fully clear of the shoulder. The east gate (on the right) is easier to use, but may be chained; if so, be careful handling the somewhat flimsy west gate.

16. Coult (called "Colt" in the Hale listing). Town. Fronts on the north side of Beaver Brook Road, 2.25 miles east of Rt.156. Safe parking faces the same gravel truck threat noted for # 15 above; perhaps the safest site is close up to the wall at the east end, near the fenced-in section for the Caulkins family. Avoid impinging on the adjacent driveway.

19. Grassy Hill Town. Located well off Grassy Hill Road 1.05 miles south from Beaver Brook Road, several prominent memorials make the cemetery easily visible from the road. Due to high banks on both sides and limited visibility, there is no safe parking on Grassy Hill Road in the vicinity of the entrance opening in the stone wall. With hazard lights flashing, turn the vehicle into this opening, remove the two wooden bars in the gate, and park in the path (15-foot wide easement) that leads straight to the gateway through the cemetery fence. Kindly replace the wooden bars when leaving.

20. Gillett Town. Fronts the east side of Grassy Hill Road 1.56 miles south of Beaver Brook Road. The steep slope on the cemetery side of the road precludes parking there; the opposite shoulder, while flat, is so narrow that even a small vehicle parked within six inches of the wall is not entirely clear of the active roadway --less than satisfactory from a safety standpoint. On the other hand, visibility of the car in both directions from oncoming traffic is good.

23. Marvin Town. Fronts the west side of Rt.156 about 1 mile south of the Town Hall, or a few hundred yards south of Mt. Archer Road.

SAFETY ALERT!!!! This cemetery fronts a double-blind curve on heavily traveled Rt.156. With portions of its wall less than two feet from the passage of southbound traffic, even pausing by the wall to discharge passengers is very hazardous, inviting rear-end crashes. There is only one spot -- a small clearing at the north end of the cemetery right next to the end of the wall --where one or possibly two cars can park safely clear of the road. The safest procedure is to come slowly southbound on Rt. 156 and pull off into this space, so that the vehicle(s) will be properly positioned to emerge safely in to the traffic flow. Safer parking is found on the wide grassy area off the shoulder on the east side of Rt.156, opposite the junction of Mt. Archer Road, but then pedestrians walking back to the cemetery must be very vigilant of the traffic hazard.

24. The Eight Mile River Cemetery Town. Fronts the east side of Mt. Archer Road a few hundred yards in from Rt. 156. Park on the shoulder of the cemetery driveway.

25. Hartman Park Town. Very little is known about this "burial site"; consisting of 31 field stones (no inscriptions) atop a small knoll in Hartman Park -- a large preserve whose entrance and parking area are located on Gungy Road .7 mile north of Beaverbrook Road. The trails to the cemetery are shown on a large map next to a bulletin board reached by a 5-minute walk up the Park Road.

Attachment B: These cemeteries are all Private; not to be visited without prior arrangement ("PA") with the Owner or Custodian.

Contact well in advance the Lyme Cemetery Commission Chairman --- currently (June 2014) Gordon Krusen (860) 434-1564.

3. Sterling PA. Located on the south side of Sterling City Road, .6 mile from Rt. 156. (Note that Sterling City Road intersects Rt. 156 at two locations: (a) beside the Congregational Church in Hamburg, and (b) further south by Tiffany Dairy Farm. The .6 mileage is from the southern intersection). Sterling Hill Road is narrow and winding, with restricted visibility, so parking along the roadway is hazardous. There is just room for head-in parking for one, possibly two, vehicles in a small space just past a short bridge (beside a dam). Facing the pond, at about 10 o'clock on your left, the cemetery wall and two large pines are in view about 75 yards up a small hillside. The privacy of this cemetery is important to the Sterling family, which uses it frequently for family visits and reunions. Note that the wall is continuous, with no gate. CAUTION: Utilizing the small, cantilevered stone steps is tricky, demanding care by all and additional assistance for those with balance or mobility problems. Even with prior arrangement, kindly have consideration for the privacy of the owners of the property surrounding the cemetery, including its access, and whose adjacent house, backyard and pool are in full view.

5. Daniels PA. This cemetery is inland from a section of Joshuatown Road on which there is no safe parking available. Access is difficult and directions are available only from the property owner/Chairman, by prior arrangement.

7. Thurston/Holbrook PA. This small cemetery, lying next to the south wall of Joshuatown Cemetery (#6 Attachment A), was evidently overlooked by the Hale recorders; the Thurston family has furnished a list of the 6 remaining inscriptions, which we have placed at the back of the Hale List.

8. Brockway PA. Because of difficult access and previous problems, the Chairman must be consulted.

12. Emerson / Jewett PA. Located off the east side of Mt. Archer Road about .2 mile west of the sign "Mt. Archer Farm", this small cemetery contains 11 headstones --- 3 Jewett and 8 Emerson---and 7 footstones. Apparently missed by the Hale recorders, we have placed a recent list of the legible inscriptions at the end of the Hale List. For many years this cemetery has been owned and maintained by the Jewett family on whose property it was situated. In 2005 the Town of Lyme, together with The Nature Conservancy, acquired the property surrounding it, excepting Mt. Archer Farm on the east (the fenced lane is the boundary), with the Jewett family retaining ownership and control of the cemetery itself. The small size and low wall make it hard to see from the road, especially through the dense intervening foliage. The only safe parking is on the shoulder opposite the cemetery, close to the sign for the Chauncey Eno Preserve. Enter (on foot only!) the fenced lane through the (unlocked) wooden gate, and walk the short distance to the cemetery. Do not touch the fragile (chained) iron cemetery gate; the wall is low enough to carefully step over.

17. Indian PA. This remote burial site(?) consists only of the solitary headstone named in the Hale List.

- 18. Beebe** PA. Located on Beaver Brook Road 2.6 miles east from Rt.156, at the intersection of Grassy Hill/Gungy Road. Safe parallel parking for one vehicle is on the grass between the wall and the shoulder, near the conspicuous white entrance gate. Slightly more exposed parking for one vehicle is on the shoulder by the stop sign on Gungy Road.
- 21. Becket Hill** PA. Only one of the four headstones listed in the Hale report is extant, inscription illegible, and most of the twelve fieldstones are unable to be found. The cemetery is owned by the owners of the property on which it is located, and the Chairman must be consulted in advance to make arrangements for any visit.
- 22. Bill Hill** PA. Because of previous problems and difficult access, the Chairman must be consulted.
- 26. Richards** PA. Recently (summer 2014) this burial site was rediscovered, and is in process of rehabilitation. Contact the Chairman.