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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 Section III, 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 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, must be returned there promptly.

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 Section III (A). The remaining 10 ("Private") listed in Section III (B) are supervised by the respective property owner(s) or family representative ("Custodian") --- reachable through the Commission Chairman/Co-Chairman.

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. Arrangements 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 Section III (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 the 10 private cemeteries, listed in Section III (B), cannot be visited without prior arrangement with the Custodian involved, arranged by calling the Chairman --currently 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 --- herein after 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!

E. Genealogy Resources

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

(1) New London County Genealogy CTGenWeb: (www.ctgenweb.org/county/conewlondon/research.html) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) CT State Library: Google "Connecticut State Library" click on "History and Genealogy" for pages of info and resources that might augment your family research.

(4) 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).

Godfrey Memorial Library, 134 Newfield St. Middletown has a collection of over 200,000 books and periodicals, including biographies; genealogies; state & local records; cemetery, funeral, church records, military histories, family bibles. Currently in process of photographing burial memorial stones in CT.

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).

Section III (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. If further questions, contact the Commission Chairman Gordon Krusen (860 434 1564).

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. Contact the Commission Chairman.

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. Contact the Commission Chairman. 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 sign with a red "9" and "Selden" 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. Contact the Chairman. 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. One 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 with 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. Contact the Chairman.

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 red "14" and "Sisson" 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

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.

Section III (B)

These cemeteries are all Private; not to be visited without prior arrangement with the Owner or Custodian. Contact well in advance the Commission Chairman --- currently Gordon Krusen (860) 434-1564.

- 3. Sterling**
- 5. Daniels**
- 7. Thurston/Holbrook**
- 8. Brockway**
- 12. Emerson/Jewett**
- 17. Indian**
- 18. Beebe**
- 21. Becket Hill**
- 22. Bill Hill/Harding**
- 26. Richards**

Section IV: Items for Consideration by Persons Contemplating Purchasing Burial Plots at Eight Mile River Cemetery

1. Since Eight Mile River Cemetery's mission is serving the Town of Lyme, only current or former residents of Lyme, or their Immediate Family, are eligible to purchase plots and/or be interred in this cemetery. The term Immediate Family is limited to grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses or household partners, children, grandchildren, and adopted children---- in each case only the specified individuals themselves, and not their own families -- i.e. a sibling, but not his/her spouse and children, etc.

2. If the plot selection is for an imminent interment, it may be necessary to act too promptly to be able to be concerned with what follows below, which assumes adequate time available for these actions. Contact the Commission Chairman Gordon Krusen 860 434-1564, Co-Chairman Marilyn Warren 860 434-4311, or the Town Clerk at 860 434-7733.

3. The most important--and usually overlooked-- element in the plot selection process is the family giving serious thought, discussion, and planning for future interments and adequate grave marker space for their inscriptions. We believe this approach is so important in avoiding future problems and disappointments that we suggest the following preparatory procedure prior to making any plot selections:

(a) Discuss with relevant members of the Immediate Family each's desire whether or not to be interred here, and whether casket or cremation receptacle.

(b) While it is admittedly difficult to anticipate future grave marker inscriptions, we strongly recommend that all concerned give thought to their possible variety and space requirements: from the minimum one-line name and date of death, expanding for additions of full name, title, nickname, date of birth, military rank and service, relationship ("Wife of..."), family message, prayer, eulogy, and artwork.

(c) Rules & Regulations for Eight Mile River Cemetery will soon be found on-line at www.TownLyme.org/cemeteries. Printed copies of the full regulations are available in the kiosk at the cemetery, the Town Clerk's Office, and the Town Library. On-topic pages are pages 6,7, and 8. Focus first on Page 8, Plot Potential Utilizations. The positive aspect here is the provision of ample sites for many cremation receptacles offering large families a low cost means of accommodating many members. Current prices are \$600 for a standard plot, and \$300 for a cremation plot. Page 6 gives the specifications and utilization which must be complied with for each of the various markers, and Page 7 illustrates them. Again, the decision about how many and which type of plot(s) depends on the choice of markers and adequate space for inscriptions. Be sure to note that each cremation plot can have only a flush marker, while each standard plot can have an above-ground headstone and flush footstone. Also note that only two adjacent standard plots qualify for a "Double" marker, situated on the common boundary, with a flush footstone in each plot.

(d) Once you have at least a rough idea of the potential inscription requirements, we suggest you discuss them with a memorial contractor, for advice on meeting your space and aesthetic considerations, and cost/ budget. Three that have created markers for Eight Mile River Cemetery and are familiar the Rules & Regulations and complying therewith are: Bottinelli Custom Monuments in Waterford (860

443-5374), Shoreline Memorials in Old Lyme (860 434-5954), and Shelley Brothers Monuments in Guilford (203 453-9129).

(e) If you have questions or wish to discuss more specific points of your particular situation, contact the Chairman at 860 434-1564, or Co-Chairman Marilyn Warren 860 434-4311.

4. When you feel ready to make a selection, arrange to meet the Chairman or his substitute at the Cemetery. Bring along a check payable to the Town of Lyme, with amount left open dependent on the number/type of plot(s) selected. Once your selection has been made, you will receive a small map with the location(s) indicated, and a copy of the Rules & Regulations. You must give the full name(s) and address of the official Owner(s) of Record to appear on the deed; as well as the address (not necessarily the same -- i.e. a postal box) to which the completed deed will be mailed. You will not need to sign or even be present at the deed processing by the Town Clerk; only the Chairman's notarized signature is required.

Section V. TOWN OF LYME CEMETERY COMMISSION ----- RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE EIGHT MILE RIVER CEMETERY

MISSION

The Town of Lyme created the Eight Mile River Cemetery to serve the residents of the Town of Lyme by providing a cemetery dedicated to their needs for interment, solace, and veneration.

AUTHORITY

These Rules and Regulations were prepared, under the authority vested in it by the Connecticut General Statutes, by the Lyme Cemetery Commission of the Town of Lyme, which is responsible for the management and operation of the Eight Mile River Cemetery, owned and operated by the Town of Lyme. The members of the Commission are all appointed by the Board of Selectmen in accordance with the Ordinance establishing the Cemetery Commission and adopted at the Lyme Town Meeting on May 21, 1976, as amended. The Ordinance stated that the Commission should consist of three members. A subsequent Ordinance, voted at a Town Meeting held on May 24, 1979, amended the number on the Commission to seven members. On January 7, 1983, an Ordinance was adopted that raised the number of members to nine, where it remains at the present time.

These Rules and Regulations apply to all activities concerning the Eight Mile River Cemetery.

PURCHASES AND SALES OF PLOTS

Since Eight Mile River Cemetery's mission is serving the Town of Lyme, only current or former residents of Lyme, or their Immediate Family, are eligible to purchase plots and/or be interred in this cemetery. The term Immediate Family is limited to grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses or household partners, children, grandchildren, and adopted children---- in each case only the specified individuals themselves, and not their own families -- i.e. a sibling, but not his/her spouse and children, etc. To uphold the mission given above, the Commission reserves the right to limit the total number of plots purchased by a single individual to a number consistent with the intended interments therein of deceased entitled per above limitations. In special circumstances, a prospective purchaser may apply to the Commission for an exemption from these limitations.

The sale of cemetery plots is handled by the Chairman of the Cemetery Commission, or his or her designated representative, through the Town Clerk's Office located in the Lyme Town Hall, 480 Hamburg Road (Route 156), in Lyme. Persons wishing to purchase a plot or plots should call the Town Clerk (860) 434-7733 between 9 AM and 4 PM Monday through Friday, and arrange to discuss the purchase with the Chairman, or one of the members of the Commission, who will schedule a visit to the cemetery to assist them in selecting the plot(s), and will furnish them with a copy of these Rules and Regulations. The purchaser shall then present to the Town Clerk a check payable to the Town of Lyme for the cost of the plot(s), and will receive a notarized Lyme Cemetery Deed granting title and full ownership thereto.

Those who are making the purchase for an imminent interment should allow at least two days for the accomplishment of the above procedure, which must be completed prior to the staking of the plot for excavation.

GENERAL RULES (Rules Revised to be Effective May 1, 2016)

1. The Cemetery will be open to the general public during the daylight hours, but will be closed from dusk to dawn.
2. All motor vehicles must keep within the areas designated for vehicles unless a special permit has been issued by the Selectmen or the Chairman.
3. No persons carrying firearms, except at military funerals, shall be permitted in the cemetery and no dogs, except seeing eye dogs accompanying their owner, shall be permitted in the cemetery.
4. Workers, both those who are employed by the Cemetery Commission or the Town and those employed by outside parties, who may be working close to where a burial is taking place, must suspend their labor during committal services.
5. No money shall be paid or gratuity given to any person in the employ of the Selectmen or the Commission as a reward for any personal attention.
6. All persons are prohibited from picking flowers or greenery, disturbing the birds or wild animals, marring a memorial, or defacing the cemetery in any way.
7. Masons, stonecutters, marker repairmen or cleaners, and all other workers must have the approval of the Chairman prior to commencing any work in the Cemetery. They must remove all residue and debris and leave the site in good order. They and their employer will be responsible for making good any damage done to driveways, lawn, plants, beds, gravesites, stonework, etc. Anyone failing to comply with these regulations may be excluded from working in the cemetery.
8. Any person intending to remove any material other than potted plants or floral arrangements with their containers must first obtain permission from the Chairman.

9. The Town will take reasonable precautions to protect the owner's plot(s) within the cemetery from loss or damage, but the Town disclaims responsibility for any loss or damage beyond its reasonable control and especially from damage caused from the elements, acts of God, common enemies, thieves, vandals, malicious mischief makers, and accident.

10. All persons are advised that the provisions of state and local law pertaining to cemeteries will be enforced by the Town of Lyme, pursuant to the authority vested in it under the Connecticut General Statutes Section 19a-295, et seq., as may be amended from time to time.

DEFINITIONS

Applicant: The term Applicant refers collectively to the person or persons, usually, but not limited to, the plot Owner(s), who requests an interment or disinterment, designates the specific plot, and employs a funeral service or Contractor to handle the arrangements and execute the work. If the Applicant is other than Owner or Immediate Family, written authority to act in behalf of the family must be provided to the Commission.

Cremains: Remains from a human cremation, enclosed in a **Cremains Receptacle**.

Contractor: The independent contractor hired by the Applicant or funeral service to excavate a plot for interment or disinterment, replace the removed material, restore the surface, and/or install footings for memorials. A Contractor approved by the Commission shall be the only person permitted to do this work.

Coordinates: The term Coordinates refers to the specific location of a plot in the **Plan for Eight Mile River Cemetery (1982)**, and is given in terms of **Quad/Row/ Plot Number**, as follows:

(a) **Quadrant:** The Plan shows 614 standard plots, 567 with axes aligned East-West (paralleling the driveway running East from the entrance on Mt. Archer Rd.), divided into 4 **Quadrants:** NE (Northeast), NW (Northwest), SE (Southeast), and SW (Southwest).

(b) **Row:** The Plan shows 24 rows of plots oriented North-South (paralleling Mt. Archer Road), numbered ascending from West to East, and identified by Row Number Marker Pins in the ground every 16 feet.

(c) **Plot Number:** In each Row, each **Standard Plot** is numbered in order ascending toward the North in NE & NW Quads, and toward the South in the SE & SW Quads. Each **Cremation Plot** bears the number of the standard plot it occupies, plus the suffix "A" for the Easterly half, or "B" for the Westerly half.

(d) **Loop:** The center Loop has 47 standard plots and 17 cremation plots. Coordinates are Loop/Row/Plot Number, but the location requires reference to the Loop Plan (**Plan** page 2). See the Chairman.

Head/Foot: Excepting plots in Row 1 and the Loop, the head of a plot refers to the Easterly boundary of the plot, and the foot refers to the Westerly boundary of the plot.

Immediate Family: The term Immediate Family is limited to the Owner's: grandparents, parents, siblings, spouse(s) or household partner(s), children, grandchildren, and adopted children--- in each

case, only the individuals themselves, and not their own families--- i.e. a sibling, but not his/her spouse and children, etc.

Lot: A group of two or more adjoining standard plots owned or occupied by members of the same family.

Marker: A term for various types of inscribed stone memorials denoting the occupant or occupants of one or more graves. For an illustration of the types of markers permitted, see pages 6 & 7.

Memorial: A general term including any monument, marker, tablet, headstone, or bench, whether extending above the ground or flush with the surface of the ground.

Monument: An upright section of cut granite or some other stone deemed acceptable by the Cemetery Commission, which extends above the surface of the ground.

Owner: The term Owner refers to the person(s) recorded in the Deed of Title to a plot or lot, as well as their heirs and assigns. Except in special circumstances, a new Owner must be a current or former resident of Lyme, or the Immediate Family thereof.

Plot: A **Standard Plot** is 4 feet wide by 10 feet long. A **Cremation Plot**, one-half the size of a standard plot, is 4 feet wide by 5 feet long. The terms grave and gravesite are synonymous with the term plot.

PLOTS AND PLOT OWNERS

1. The standard plot size is four (4) feet wide by ten (10) feet long. The cremation plot, one-half the size of a standard plot, is four (4) feet wide by five (5) feet long. The number of interments per plot is given on page 12 --- **Interments/Disinterments**
2. The prices of a standard plot and a cremation plot will be determined by the Lyme Cemetery Commission as adopted at a regular meeting of the Commission.
3. No interments, disinterments, or removals of human remains will be allowed in or from any plot against which there is any unpaid charge due to the Town of Lyme, nor any further obligation be incurred or any permanent marker be put in place until the plot is free of indebtedness.
4. No plot shall be used for any purpose other than the burial of the human dead.
5. All plots are sold with the following provision for ongoing maintenance:
 - Mowing the grass on and around each plot.
 - Maintenance of reasonable access to each plot.
 - Maintenance of such roadways and parking areas, as shall be provided, in reasonable condition.
 - Maintaining a generally proper and orderly appearance of the cemetery.

6. No fences, walls, copings, railings, stones, or permanent mulches will be permitted.
7. Plots shall not be elevated above grade. Owners must not grade or alter the surface of their plots.
8. The Cemetery Commission reserves the right to require sunken plots be filled whenever they become unsightly or dangerous, and unsightly plots be restored by sod or reseeding.
9. No sale or transfer of ownership of a plot will be recognized by the Commission until a quitclaim deed returning title to the Town of Lyme, and issuance of a deed to the new Owner, have been executed at the Town Hall. An Owner may relinquish an unused plot, or a plot from which all interments have been removed and the plot restored, by quitclaiming it back to the Town and receiving back the original purchase price.
10. The Deed record of Title to Plots will be entered on the Land Records at the Lyme Town Hall and shall be the only evidence of ownership recognized by the Selectmen or the Cemetery Commission. It is the duty of the Owner to notify the Chairman of any change in postal address.
11. Advance notice must be given to the Commission of any intended transfer or assignment of the title to any plot or lot.
12. The Cemetery Commission shall have the right to correct errors made by it in the deeding of any plot or lot by cancelling the deed and substituting another plot or lot of equal value, and similar location as far as possible, or refunding the money paid for the original purchase.
13. The laws of the State of Connecticut govern the descent of title to cemetery plots, as well as other matters pertaining to assignments, conveyances, devises, trust deeds, and inalienability.

INTERMENTS / DISINTERMENTS

1. To be interred in Eight Mile River Cemetery a deceased must be (a) a current resident, or former resident for at least three years, of the Town of Lyme; or (b) member of the Immediate Family of the Owner(s) of the plot (see Definitions).
2. At least three (3) days advance notice shall be given to the Chairman of the Cemetery Commission prior to any interment, and at least a week's notice prior to any disinterment. The cemetery will be open for interments and funeral services from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.
3. The Applicant (see definitions), or the funeral service, shall advise the Chairman, or one of the members of the Commission designated to act in his absence, of the proposed arrangements for the interment, and the name of the Owner and the Coordinates (see definitions) of the specific plot to be used --- critical when multiple plots are deeded to the same Owner. If the Applicant is unfamiliar with the Coordinates of the plot, the Chairman will provide that information, but the Applicant must choose the specific plot to be used --- plus the specific site within the plot for a cremains receptacle, visiting the Cemetery with the Chairman if necessary. The Chairman will then stake the plot and cremains site to identify them for the Contractor. The precise location of each cremains receptacle

shall be noted on a map of the plot by the Contractor and/or the Chairman for Commission records, with a copy to the Applicant. If this procedure is not followed neither the Commission nor the Town shall be responsible for any errors.

4. Only the following interments may be made, except in special circumstances when application for exemption can be made to the Chairman or his designated representative(s):

(a) Standard plot (4 feet x 10 feet): (Refer to Plot Potential Utilizations chart).
One casket/vault, plus up to four (4) subsequent cremains receptacles; or
Without casket, up to eight (8) cremains receptacles.

(b) Cremation plot (4 feet x 5 feet): (Refer to Plot Potential Utilizations chart).
Up to four (4) cremains receptacles. (See receptacle size limitation at #5 below).

5. All caskets must be encased in a lined, sealed vault in accordance with the State of Connecticut Statute 53-332 (Burials: Proximity to Dwellings). Cremains receptacles are not to exceed 15 inches in any dimension, and shall be placed in an excavation of sufficient depth so that the top surface is not less than 15 inches below ground level. A cremains receptacle that is to be interred over a casket vault shall not exceed 9 inches in height. Scattering of ashes in the cemetery is not permitted. It is the custom to inter a husband to the left of his spouse, as observed from the foot of the plots(s).

6. Following the interment or disinterment, the Contractor shall replace or remove all excavated material, and restore the surface of the plot by replacing the sod and/or reseeding with grass. The execution of the excavation and restoration work in timely and proper manner shall be entirely the responsibility of the Contractor employed for the purpose by the Applicant and/or the funeral service. The Cemetery Commission is not a party to this work and neither it nor the Town is responsible for the outcome. If dissatisfied, the Applicant must pursue the Contractor or the funeral service for redress, and not the Commission or the Town.

7. When an interment or disinterment takes place, a Removal, Transit & Burial Permit issued by the State Department of Health, or an Affidavit of Cremation issued by the crematory, shall be delivered to the Chairman, who shall attest to the date and location of the interment or disinterment and deliver the permit to the Town Clerk.

GRAVE MARKERS

In order to maintain a symmetrical and uncluttered appearance in the cemetery, the number and maximum size of the grave markers permitted is detailed below. The following not-to-exceed dimensions are given in the standard order used in the marker trade: Length x Width x Height. In the upright markers, Length is the horizontal distance across the face of the marker; Width is the depth of the marker from front to back; Height is the distance of the top edge above ground level, including a base if used. Base Height refers to that portion visible above the ground level. Refer to the drawings and the plot layouts.

1. Single Standard Plot:

(a) At the head of the plot, a flush marker not exceeding 3 ft x 1 ft; or a single slope bevel marker not exceeding 2 ft x 1 ft x 8 inches; or a single slant marker not exceeding 2 ft x 10 inches x 20 inches height above ground, including base if used, base not to exceed 3ft 2inches x 1ft 4inches x 4 inches visible above the ground; or a single vertical stone monument (without base called a "tablet") not exceeding 20 inches x 5 inches x 20 inches.

(b) At the foot of the plot, only a flush marker is permitted.

2. Two adjacent Standard Plots: Note! Double markers below are not permitted on any single plot!

(a) At the head of the **Lot**, centered on the boundary between two adjacent standard plots: a double flush marker, not exceeding 3 ft x 1 ft; or a double slope bevel marker not exceeding 3 ft x 1 ft x 8 inches; or a double slant marker not exceeding 3 ft x 10 inches x 20 inches above ground including base if used, and a base of no more than 4 ft x 14 inches x 4 inches visible; or a double vertical monument not exceeding 3 ft x 8 inches x 20 inches above ground including base, and a base (if used) not exceeding 4 ft x 14 inches x 4 inches visible; or a bench not exceeding 4 ft x 18 inches x 18 inches above ground level (including base if used), and base not exceeding 4 ft six inches x 2 ft x 4 inches visible. The bench must be no closer than twenty (20) feet from a bench that is already installed.

(b) At the foot of the plots, only flush markers are permitted.

3. Cremation Plot(s):

Each Cremation Plot will have only one flush marker:

(a) only at the head (Easterly end) of cremation plots "A"

(b) only at the foot (Westerly end) of cremation plots "B".

4. The Owner(s) of a **Lot** containing four or more standard plots may apply to the Cemetery Commission to place a marker pin flush with the ground at each corner of their lot.

5. All markers shall be made of "memorial-grade" granite or marble, and no other material will be permitted except in exceptional circumstances with the written permission of the Commission. Nothing may be fixed or applied to a marker or base without prior permission by the Commission. Each marker shall be set on a suitable support footing of sufficient depth below ground level to avoid frost heaving.

6. All proposals for markers and foundations must be submitted for advance approval by the Cemetery Commission on the "Application for A Marker" form attached as the final page of these Rules and Regulations, together with a sketch showing dimensions and inscriptions, both signed by the plot Owner and the marker contractor, with a copy for the records of the Cemetery Commission. The Commission reserves the right to reject any marker it deems inappropriate. Before any marker is installed, the exact intended location must be marked by the Chairman or designated member of the Cemetery Commission.

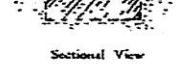
7. Before any marker can be installed, all plots must be paid for in full and any charges against the owner settled. Any markers placed on a plot are the property of the plot Owner(s) and not the Town of Lyme.



Single flush marker
No larger than 2 ft x 1 ft

FLUSH MARKER

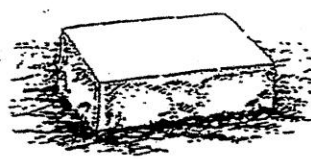
SETS FLUSH WITH GROUND



Sectional View
Set 4" deep



Double flush marker
No larger than 3 ft x 1 ft



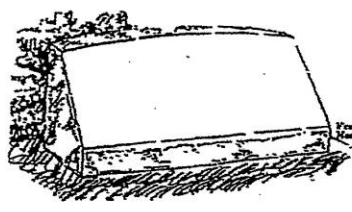
Single slope bevel marker
No larger than 2 ft x 1 ft x 8 inches

SLOPE BEVEL MARKER

SETS ABOVE GROUND

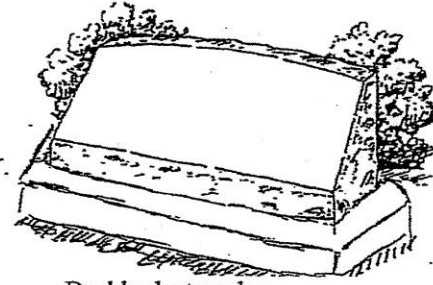
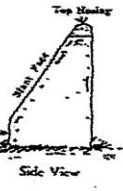


Double slope bevel marker
No larger than 3 ft x 1 ft x 8 inches

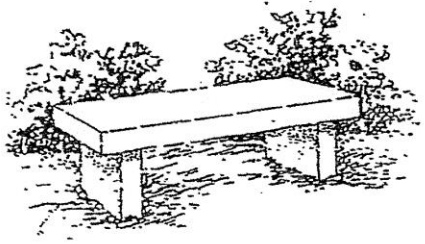


Single slant marker
No larger than 2 ft x 10 inches x 20 inches
above ground level, including base if used.

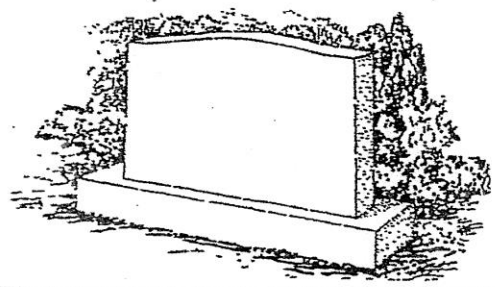
SLANT MARKER



Double slant marker
No larger than 3 ft x 10 inches x 20 inches above ground
level, including base if used. Base no larger than 4 ft x
14 inches, no higher than 4 inches visible above ground

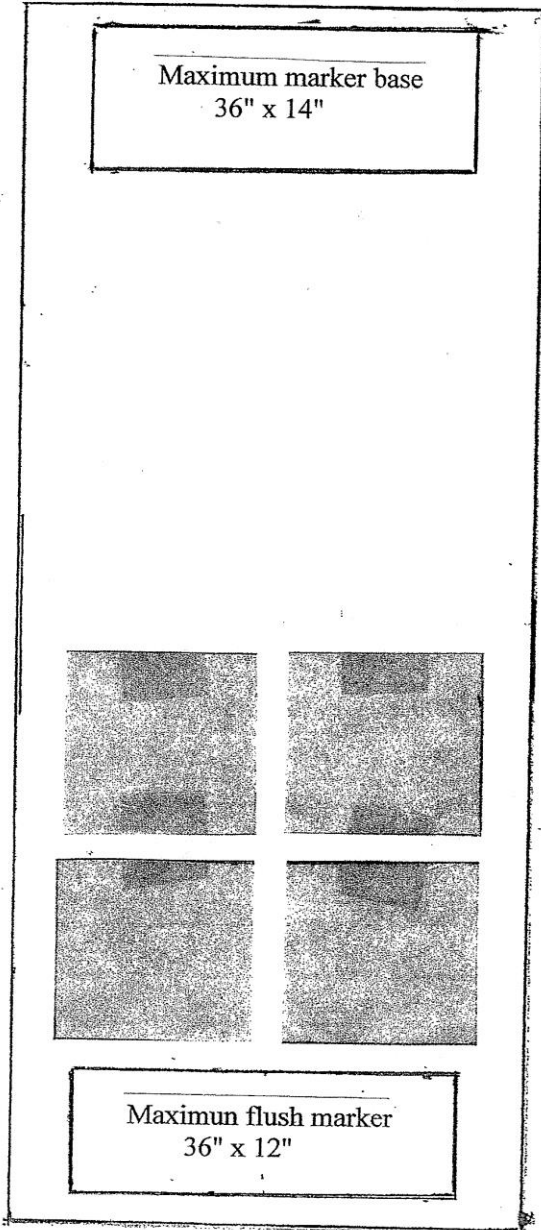


Bench Marker
No larger than 4 ft x 18 inches x 18 inches
above ground level, including base if used.
No closer than 20 feet from another bench

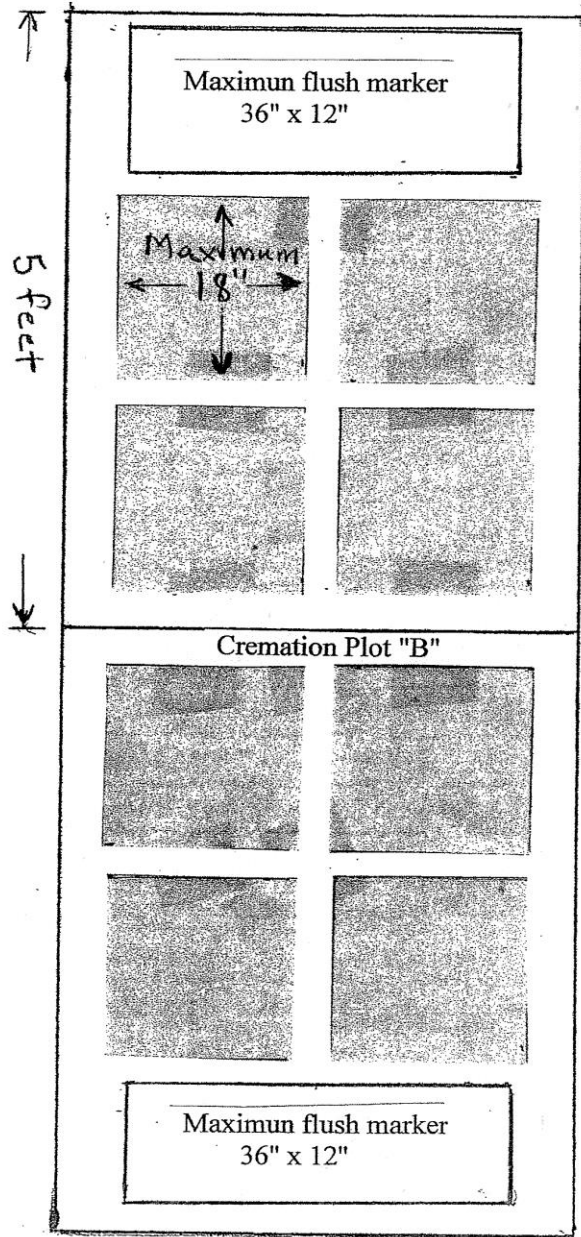


Double Vertical monument
No larger than 3 ft x 8 inches x 20 inches above ground
level including base. Base no larger than 4 ft x 14 inches
and no higher than 4 inches visible above ground level.
Single Vertical Monument ("Tablet" without base)
(not shown) not exceeding 20 " x 5" x 20"

Standard Plot with one casket/vault plus up to 4 subsequent cremains receptacles



Cremation Plot "A"



Each Cremation Plot is four (4) feet wide x five (5) feet long.
Darkened squares indicate 18' maximum excavation for each cremains receptacle.

Standard Plot (4' x 10') shown with one casket/vault plus up to four (4) subsequent cremains receptacles. If not used for casket/vault, up to eight (8) cremains receptacles may be interred in manner similar to layout of the two cremation plots.

GRAVESITE DECORATIONS

These Rules and Regulations are intended to effect good appearance, safety, and trouble-free maintenance of this cemetery. While the Cemetery Commission embraces the wide variety of the ways by which people express their mourning and celebrate the memory of the departed, we believe that we are at the same time charged with the obligation to uphold as best we can, in the common interest of all parties invested in the cemetery, a set of commonly accepted standards of cemetery appearance --- beauty, tranquility, and the harmony that stems from a certain level of consistency.

Inasmuch as the deed to a plot conveys only the right of interment therein, it shall be the duty of the Cemetery Commission, on behalf of the Town of Lyme, to enter upon any plot and prohibit, modify, or remove any object or adornment which it deems objectionable or contrary to the intent of these Rules and Regulations. Persons contemplating adding such adornments, if in doubt as to their acceptability, should contact the Commission via the Town Clerk for approval prior to expending funds for their purchase or installing them on the site.

1. The placement of flowers or plants in pots/containers on individual graves is a traditional way of remembering and honoring the departed, subject to the following qualifications:

- (a) Limit of two containers, or unbreakable figurines, per gravesite.
- (b) Glass in any form is an unacceptable safety hazard and is strictly forbidden.
- (c) Containers must not exceed 12 inches in height above grade, 12 inches in diameter, nor 24 x 12 inches if rectangular, and must not be damageable by string trimming.
- (d) Containers must rest on the plot surface, and must not be dug into the ground.
- (e) Containers should be chosen to blend tastefully with the memorials in the vicinity.
- (f) The use of seasonally appropriate artificial flowers in pots/containers is permitted.

Owners are encouraged to remove or renew faded or deteriorated displays, whether artificial or natural; if not, the Commission will remove them when in their judgment they have become unsightly. Winter or Christmas decorations must be removed by March 15th. Funeral displays will be removed from a grave when they become unsightly, or after three weeks in place. Anyone desiring to retain any part of the display should remove them within this period.

2. Except with prior approval by the Commission, the placement of any other adornment on or alongside any gravesite, or the attachment of anything to a marker --except during and immediately following interment -- is not permitted. The Commission shall have the right to remove such materials to the Maintenance Building without notice, where they can be reclaimed by their owners within a period of two months, whereafter they shall be disposed of without recourse.

3. Planting anything other than grass seed or sod on the gravesite is not permitted. Digging holes, removing turf, raising mounds, or otherwise disturbing the gravesite surface is not permitted, except by a Contractor in the act of preparing for interment or disinterment and restoring the site, or installing footings for memorials. Holes and surface irregularities are a serious hazard to visitors as well as maintenance personnel.

4. Placement of US flags in special holders is permitted on the graves of veterans (only). Fire Fighter Service flags are appropriate for the graves of deceased fire service personnel. The Commission is not responsible for the placement or replacement of these flags or holders.

5. Staking or securing decorations to the ground so that they cannot be moved aside for string trimming is not permitted, nor is the use of weed killers or other chemicals.

LYME CEMETERY COMMISSION
APPLICATION FOR GRAVE MARKER(s)
in the Eight Mile River Cemetery

Lyme, CT.....,

20.....

I hereby apply for permission to place marker(s) on the plot(s) located in Section,

Row.....,

Plot(s)....., standing in the name(s)

.....'

Show a sketch of the marker(s), with dimensions and inscriptions, on the reverse side of this sheet.

(Note: The following not-to-exceed dimensions are given in the standard order used in the marker trade: Length x Width x Height. (Width is the depth of the marker from front to back). Kindly refer to Rules.

1. Single Standard Plot:

(a) At the head of the plot, a flush marker not exceeding 3 ft x 1 ft; or a single slope bevel marker not exceeding 2 ft x 1 ft x 8 inches; or a single slant marker not exceeding 2 ft x 10 inches x 20 inches height above ground; or a single vertical stone monument (without base also called a "tablet") not exceeding 20 inches x 5 inches x 20 inches.

(b) At the foot of the plot, only a flush marker is permitted.

2. Two adjacent Standard Plots:

(a) At the head of the **Lot**, centered on the boundary between two adjacent standard plots: a double flush marker, not exceeding 3 ft x 1 ft; or a double slope bevel marker not exceeding 3 ft x 1 ft x 8 inches; or a double slant marker not exceeding 3 ft x 10 inches x 20 inches above ground including base, and a base of no more than 4 ft x 14 inches x 4 inches visible; or a double vertical monument not exceeding 3 ft x 8 inches x 20 inches above ground including base, and a base (if used) not exceeding 4 ft x 14 inches x 4 inches visible; or a bench not exceeding 4 ft x 18 inches x 18 inches above ground level (including base if used), and base not exceeding 4 ft six inches x 2 ft x 4 inches visible. The bench must be no closer than twenty (20) feet from a bench that is already installed.

(b) At the foot of the plots, only flush markers are permitted.

3. Cremation Plot(s):

Each Cremation Plot will have only one flush marker:

(a) only at the head (Easterly end) of cremation plots "A"

(b) only at the foot (Westerly end) of cremation plots "B".

4. All markers shall be made of "memorial-grade" granite or marble, and no other material will be permitted except in exceptional circumstances with the written permission of the Commission after a petition submitted at least two weeks in advance. Nothing may be applied or fixed to a marker or base without prior permission by the Commission. Each marker shall be set on a suitable support footing of sufficient depth below ground level to avoid frost heaving.

5. All proposals for markers and foundations must be submitted for advance approval by the Cemetery Commission on the "Application for A Marker" form attached as the final page to these Rules and

Regulations, together with a sketch showing dimensions and inscriptions, both signed by the plot Owner and the marker contractor, with a copy for the records of the Cemetery Commission. The Commission reserves the right to reject any marker it deems inappropriate. Before any marker is installed, its precise intended location must be approved by the Chairman or designated member of the Cemetery Commission.

Signature(s) of plot Owner(s).....

Signature of marker contractor.....

Approved by Chairman, Lyme Cemetery Commission