

Maple Grove Cemetery

Kendall Street, Walpole, Norfolk County, Massachusetts

GPS: N 42.14954 W 71.24060

Location/Condition: Maple Grove is one of Walpole's larger cemeteries. It is approximately 3 or 4 acres. The original part of the cemetery is located on a hill. There is a mortar and stone wall along the street side, with 2 entrance gates, and a tarmac road that parallels the street just on the inside of this wall. It is possible to drive up the side roads, but it is not recommended as these side roads are narrow, and more like footpaths. There is a receiving tomb in this older section, which is no longer in use. This older section is dotted with ancient maple trees, which makes this cemetery one of the shadiest cemeteries in town. A newer section of Maple Grove was added in the late 1800's / early 1900's. It has its own (a third) entrance. This section has larger roads that can handle cars. The Maple Grove Cemetery is owned and maintained by the town of Walpole, and it is in very good condition.

Usage: The first burial was 18 year old Hannah Allen in 1817, and Maple Grove is still being used today.

Stones: There are approximately 325 headstones contained in the oldest part of the cemetery, and there are about 800 people buried there too. There are a variety of stones in Maple Grove. Some of the older slate and marble stones are broken or eroded, but the newer granite stones are in very good condition.

Cemetery History: In an article published in the Walpole Star in April of 1884 said that "Maple Grove Cemetery was dedicated some 75 years ago" and mentions that the "first burials were of the family of Allen and Lewis." This would make the dedication in about 1806, but the first burial is that of Hannah Allen in June of 1817. On her headstone it says: "She was the first here laid, Her journey short in life she made. But she was brought to love the Lord. And clos'd her eyes to see her God." The second burial was Abigail (Bullard) Lewis, (Dec. 1817) she was the wife of Isaac Lewis, who is believed to be a co-founder of this cemetery. In the late 1890's or early 1900's Isaac Newton Lewis organized and incorporated the Maple Grove Cemetery. Like his reorganization of the Plains Cemetery in 1905, his purpose must have been to prevent further decay, and to protect and maintain this Cemetery. The cemetery was enlarged in about the same time Isaac N. Lewis reorganized Maple Grove.

There is an area at the top of the hill in the old section, that is designated as a Pauper's Field. There are several people buried here in unmarked graves.

And One More Thing: In his own family plot, Isaac Newton Lewis has erected a memorial to the Revolutionary War Veterans who came from Walpole, and locals near by. Outlining the perimeter of his plot are 44 white marble, standard government issue marker stones. The names on these stones are: Ichabod Read, Sam'l Copp, Aaron Fales, John Lewis, Benoni Morse, Nichol Harris, John Dexter, Asa Clap, Sam'l Rhoades, Jonathan Dexter, William Dunbar, Jeremiah Dexter, Bezaleel Turner, David Walker, David Turner, John Evans, Aquilla Cheney, Abel Baker, Moses Chamberlain, Anthony Brackett, Geo. Bleu, Philip Bardins, Benj. White, Sam'l Thompson, Belling Clap, Aaron Beale, Jos. Tucker, John White, Amos Turner, Geo. Cleaveland, Timothy Walker, Aaron Clap, Christopher Smith, John Cleaveland, Thos. Howard, Elihu Lawrence, Levi Cheney, Stephen Dexter, John Ellis, David Farrington, Benj. Carryl, and Elisha Lawrence. (There are two more that were too eroded to read)