

Historical sketch

The Evergreen Cemetery Association began when a need for a cemetery arose in the Town of Kingston. In response to this problem, the citizens of Kingston formed a voluntary association and acquired the original hilly site located between Green Street and Evergreen Street in 1853. The Cemetery was extended west in 1887 and again extended east in 1895.

The first interment was for Julia D. Parris, the widow of Reverend Martin Parris (who served as Kingston's schoolmaster before settling in Marshfield as their pastor). Widow Parris was about to be the first person buried in the Cemetery (lot 125) when during her services at 4:00pm, the great thunderstorm of 1854 struck. During the thunderstorm seven or eight trees in the Cemetery were struck by lightning, several dwellings were damaged and the spire of the (three – year – old) First Parish Church was shattered, stopping the clock.¹

In 1936, Thomas Prince of Oregon willed \$20,000 for a cemetery memorial. This bequest eventually allowed for the Prince Memorial Chapel to be built and dedicated in 1956.

The Association remained unchanged until its incorporation in 1942, which was due to the need to remove personal liabilities assumed by trustees. After the incorporation, the Association continued to meet once a year (as had been custom) to elect trustees, chairman, secretary – treasurer, and a five -person executive board who determined management and maintenance policies.

The Cemetery is separate from the Old Burying Ground, which was established in the early eighteenth-century. The Old Burying Ground contained in 3.7 acres, is located directly next to the Unitarian First Parish Church on Main Street.

Scope and Content Note

The Evergreen Cemetery Collection consists of records of lots sold, and in some cases, transferred and sold again. The majority of the Collection focuses on bound volumes of deeds and interments, which of primary interest as they contain hundreds of original signatures of Kingston residents. Two of the interment volumes and one volume of deeds have been partially transcribed to allow searching by name, deed and/or lot number and date.

Additionally the Cemetery's collection of 49 photographs (box 9), taken in 1916, are especially interesting as they show the Cemetery grounds in great detail.

¹ Doris Johnson Melville, *Major Bradford's Town: A History of Kingston 1726 – 1976*. pg. 116.

Box and folder listing

- 1 Deeds 1 – 282, sold between 1856 – 1887. One bound volume, 10.5 x 8 inches, green with brown edging, spine not present. [Transcribed.]
- 2 Deeds 1 – 398, sold between 1888 – 1952. One bound volume, 11 x 9 inches, black with maroon, duct tape on spine. [Partially transcribed.]
- 3 Deeds 399 – 699, sold between 1952 – 1987. One post-bound volume 13 x 10 inches, blue with black edge.
 - 4.2 Deeds, loose
 - 4.3 Deed related correspondence.
 - 4.4 Lots 1 – 1000, with information on corresponding deeds, date of burial, age of death, and additional remarks regarding place or cause of death in book, tan suede with red edging.
- 5 Interments in lots 1 – 500, Book 1. Information on corresponding deeds, date of burial, age of death, and additional remarks regarding place or cause of death. Tan cloth with red edging. [Transcribed and added to KICK database]

Interments in lots 501 – 1000. Book 2. Information on corresponding deeds, date of burial, age of death, and additional remarks regarding place or cause of death. Also includes information regarding specific sections such as infant graves, single graves, rear border path and sections A and B. Tan leather with red edging. [Transcribed]
- 6.1 Key to map of Evergreen Cemetery containing names and plot numbers: includes map with no corresponding plot numbers. SEE 1887 map in O/S 2.

“Old Cemetery” lot listings: alphabetical from 1853 – 1975.
Lots by section: includes hand drawn sectional maps.
Method of interment 1968 – 1988.
Order of Services at the Consecration of the Cemetery, 1854 (NOTE: This item was found in the LHR and is not part of the original Collection)
- 7 Minutes 1853 – 1899
Minutes 1900 – 1948 “Records No. 2 Kingston”
Minutes 1949 – 1991 “Kingston Evergreen Cemetery Association Records”
- 8 Minutes of the Association 1988 – 1992, unbound and loose.

Lots, sale of. Information regarding how to sell lots, restrictions on lots, burials, fees and old lots.
Permits: burial and removal 1953 – 1959 not conclusively.
Wills: (sic) Paine, date unknown; George Holmes, 1877, 1877; Abigail H. Adams, 1885; Irene Paine, 1886; Edward Chandler, 1887; William Adams, 1890;

Henry Soule, 1890; Winslow Sever, 1895; Frederic C Adams, 1895; Alden S. Bradford, 1900; Rebecca D. Holmes, 1901; Kimball Stetson, 1903; Rosa Cole, 1912; Dr. Henry N. Jones, 1926; Louise E. Heath, 1927; George T. Prince, 1927; Lucinda A. F. Baker, 1927; Rosalind Norton, 1932; Millard O. Dalton, 1937; Edmund A. Whitman, 1953; Edward Howe, 1979.

Perpetual Care Funds: includes listings of lots, with monetary amounts left for care.
Maintenance of grounds, general: correspondence.

Chapel: Bids; specifications; blueprints.

Bates Deed (land grant) ca. 1940s: deed; blueprint.

Murders: information on Holmes/Andrews murder of 1868 and Meinholz/Benoit murder of 1990.

Correspondence, 1971 re: satisfaction with Cemetery. *Then and Now* article from the *Kingston Reporter*, 1984.

Laws. State and federal: Right-to-know law.

9 *Photographs*

Album containing 49 7.5 x 9.5 inch black and white prints of Evergreen Cemetery in 1916 (contains views of the grounds and of headstones). Also on cd

8 x 10" black and white reprint of Evergreen pond

8 x 10" possible albumen print of cast of play (play unknown)

- 10 Deeds 700 – 941, sold between 1987 – 2003. One post-bound volume, 10 x 12.75 inches, blue cover.

Acquisition: Donated in October of 2002 by the Kingston Evergreen Cemetery Association. Note that the bound deeds in Boxes 1, 2, and 3 were removed by the KECA from the Library collection in 2003 and returned in 2016, along with the bound deeds in Box 10, which was not part of the 2002 donation..

Access: Unrestricted to the general public.

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Processor: Survey conducted by Volunteer Ruth Ryan. Archivist, Carrie Elliott boxed and processed the material, as well as created the folder list and created the finding aid.