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| **ROCKY HILL'S CENTER CEMETERY TIMELINE** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **DATE** | | |  | | **EVENT** | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **SEVENTEENTH CENTURY** | | | | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |
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| 1637 |  | |  | | Wethersfield burial ground first used for burials | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **EIGHTEENTH CENTURY** | | | | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |
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| 1730 | 19-Jan | |  | | Stepney Parish voted new Burying Ground at Coles Hill | | |  | The History of Ancient Wethersfield, by Henry R. Stiles, A.M., M.D., The Grafton Press, New York, 1904 |  |  |  |  |
| 1730 | 3-Mar | |  | | Wethersfield TM approves committee to lay out cemetery | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1731 | 2-Jul | |  | | Daughter of Benjamin & Mary Deming first burial in Coles Hill | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1737 | 31-May | |  | | Stepney Parish voted to carry on funerals among us | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1764 | 16-Sep | |  | | Rev. Daniel Russell, Congregational Minister died (1st CC Minister) | | |  | Rocky Hill Life, "A Walk Through History", by Barbara Wysocki (research done by Beverly Matthews), 9/2009 edition. |  |  |  |  |
| 1776 | 30-Nov | |  | | Rev. Burrage Merriam Congregational Minister died (2nd CC Minister) | | |  | Rocky Hill Life, "A Walk Through History", by Barbara Wysocki (research done by Beverly Matthews), 9/2009 edition. |  |  |  |  |
| 1785 |  | |  | | Coles Hill Cemetery expanded to southwest | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1792 | 28-Apr | |  | | Rev. John Lewis, Congregational Minister died (3rd CC Minister) | | |  | Rocky Hill Life, "A Walk Through History", by Barbara Wysocki (research done by Beverly Matthews), 9/2009 edition. |  |  |  |  |
| 1797 | 18-Jul | |  | | Dr. Joseph Higgins died | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **NINETEENTH CENTURY** | | | | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |
| 1800 |  | |  | | The burying ground was widened, on the west side about 180 feet. | | |  | The History of Ancient Wethersfield, by Henry R. Stiles, A.M., M.D., The Grafton Press, New York, 1904 |  |  |  |  |
| 1804 |  | |  | | Dr. Aaron Hosford died (believed to be the Town's first doctor) | | |  | Rocky Hill Life, "A Walk Through History", by Barbara Wysocki (research done by Beverly Matthews), 9/2009 edition. |  |  |  |  |
| 1821 |  | |  | | Ct. Gen, Assembly gives School Societies control of cemeteries | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1843 | 16-Dec | |  | | Dr. Daniel Fuller died. Practiced medicine for 39 years in RH | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1844 |  | |  | | Susanna Shailer (1801-1844), weaver of the first cotton cloth made in Connecticut) | | |  | Wethersfield Post, "A Visit to Rocky Hill's Oldest Cemetery", by reporter Ted Simons, August 8, 1968 edition. |  |  |  |  |
| 1847 |  | |  | | Coles Hill Cemetery expanded to Northeast | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1848 |  | |  | | The burying ground was extended north between the roads. | | |  | The History of Ancient Wethersfield, by Henry R. Stiles, A.M., M.D., The Grafton Press, New York, 1904 |  |  |  |  |
| 1851 | 16-Mar | |  | | Rev. Calvin Chapin, Congregational Minister died (4th CC Minister. Served for 54 years) | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1856 |  | |  | | School Societies abolished by General Assembly | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1856 |  | |  | | Stepney Society presumed to be in control of cemetery | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1858 |  | |  | | Coles Hill Cemetery expanded to the North | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1859 |  | |  | | The burying ground was extended further north. This extension was divided into lots of 20 by 10 feet, and sold by the single lot to the highest bidder-all expenses of lay-out and fencing covered by sales. The right of burial only was sold, the land remaining in the possession of the Town. | | |  | The History of Ancient Wethersfield, by Henry R. Stiles, A.M., M.D., The Grafton Press, New York, 1904 |  |  |  |  |
| 1886 |  | |  | | Coles Hill Cemetery extended to the South | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1893 |  | |  | | RH Town Meeting allows $50.00 for repairs and improvements | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1894 |  | |  | | Dr. Rufus W. Griswold estimated 3,000 burials to date | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1894 | October | | | | RH Town meeting receives report of $44 spent on repair & improvements | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **TWENTIETH CENTURY** | | | | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |
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| 1909 |  | |  | | Installation of memorial gate of William H. Bradford, by his wife Anna Augusta (Dexter) Bradford. William was eighth in direct descent from William Bradford, governor of Plymouth Colony. | | |  | Information provided by The New York Times. January 2, 1896 and December 1, 1919 editions, the website of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the website of the Schenectady Digital History Archive, the Lennox Church on the Hill Burial Grounds burial records in Lenox, Massachusettes. Minutes of the May 9, 1909 records of the Rocky Hill Cemetery Trust Fund committee, and the minutes of the October 17, 1909 records of the Rocky Hill Board of Selectmen. |  |  |  |  |
| 1917 | January | | | | Rocky Hill Cemetery Association incorporated to manage cemetery | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1917 | 4-Jul | |  | | The flagpole in Center Cemetery was dedicated. | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1919 |  | |  | | Samuel Ashwell dies. He was the last resident who'd served the Union cause in the Civil War. | | |  | Rocky Hill Life, "A Walk Through History", by Barbara Wysocki (research done by Beverly Matthews), 9/2009 edition. |  |  |  |  |
| 1943 |  | |  | | Dennis McNamara dies. He was buried in the southern part of the cemetery, where the back door of his farmhouse once was. After the house burned down, he moved to West Street, but asked to be buried where his back doorstep had been on the land he once owned. | | |  | Memories surface at Center Cemetery, by Melissa Miller, Herald Correspondent, New Britain Herald, 4/16/93 edition. |  |  |  |  |
| 1944 | 24-Jun | |  | | Pvt. Horace H. Bennino was the first Rocky Hill to give his life in World War II. He was reported killed on June 24, 1944, of wounds received in action in France. | | |  | Story from Hartford Courant (?) |  |  |  |  |
| 1944 | 6-Aug | |  | | Cpl. Frank Bennino lost his life in France on August 6, 1944. | | |  | Story from Hartford Courant (?) |  |  |  |  |
| 1971 | March | |  | | Vandals destroyed 23 brownstone grave markers dating back to the Revolutionary War era or before. | | |  | March 19, 1971 newspaper article (Hartford Courant? New Britain Herald?) |  |  |  |  |
| 1979 |  | |  | | Rocky Hill Cemetery Association turns cemetery over to the Town of RH | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1991 | November 18? | | | | Quit claim deed from RH Cemetery Association to Town of RH | | |  | There was an item in the 10/24/91 Hartford Courant(?) about a deed transferring ownership of the burial grounds from the Rocky Hill Cemetery Association to the Town being filed with Town Clerk Marion Palmer earlier in the day (what day?) |  |  |  |  |
| 1992 |  | |  | | Center Cemetery expanded by 2.9 acres, with the addition of 2,100 new plots | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY** | | | | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |
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| 1) | When was the cemetery's name changed from Cole's Hill cemetery to Center Cemetery? | | | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | a) Who were the Cole's? (Samuel Cole from Wethersfield?) | | | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |
| 2) | Research the fire of Dennis McNamara's house (see 4-16-1993 article in New Britain Herald). | | | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |
| 3) | Look for Ray Sweezy's comments on Center Cemetery. | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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