

Second Center Cemetery Tour

Sunday June 27th, 1993 2-3 P. M.

Written by Joan Tennyson

Presented by Grace Cone and Joan Tennyson

(starting at Southwest corner, moving north.)

Welcome to our 2nd tour of Center Cemetery. This tour will highlight the early ministers of Rocky Hill as well as other <sup>stones & people</sup> ~~notables~~ of interest. We will start with later dates and

move backward to the earliest burial which was in 1731. If you have questions, please as we will answer if we can, if not we'll take note for future reference. Now if you'll come this way we'll begin. walk Here we have

1. Aunt Susan Webber, <sup>she was</sup> born 1875, <sup>in</sup> died 1952 at age 77. Susan Webber survived the sinking of the Titanic in 1912. She was traveling to Rocky Hill from England to meet her nephew, Charles E. Webber of Forest Street. She became a U. S. citizen, and resident of Rocky Hill, kept house for her nephew, and raised his daughter, Gladys Webber, who resides on Forest Street at present.

2. <sup>next</sup> ~~(McNamara)~~ We'll move up the hill to the McNamara stone. walk The placement of this stone is interesting in that this section of land was owned by the McNamara family. Their house stood here at the top of the hill. After fire destroyed their home, they sold the land and moved to West Street. The land became part of the burying ground and when Mr. McNamara passed away, he was buried here where his back doorstep had been. His twin daughters, Katherine and Josephine live together on Elm Street. Neither of them married. Their stone are here in place waiting for them.

3. ~~(Jerusha)~~ The next grave site is that of Jerusha Smith Goodrich Rogers, seamstress. walk With her are her children from her first marriage who all died in infancy, her first husband and her sister, Emiline, who owned a military shop in Hartford. She was the daughter of Levi Smith, farmer and tanner. They lived at the corner of Garden & Main St. Her first husband, Joseph Goodrich, was a tinsmith, her second husband, Theodore Rogers from Wethersfield, invented the Wethersfield Seed Sower, one of which we have at the museum. Her descendants have given us many family artifacts, and some of them are on display at present at the Congregational Church. We have a good deal of information on Jerusha and her family and descendants which may be presented on a later tour.

The more information we find, the more real a person becomes to us until it's almost as though ~~we~~ <sup>we</sup> know them personally.

(There are many, many GOODRICHS throughout the cemetery) <sup>we have no idea how many are related to each other.</sup> ~~walk~~ This is <sup>walk</sup> We'll move on to the first table top, ~~one~~ of two in the burying grounds, The other is in the next section and we will stop to view that one as well. We don't know their history as yet, but find them interesting non-the-less and wonder for what reason the families chose a table-top monument.

4. (~~Ephraim Goodrich~~) This one reads "Here lies the body of Cpt. Ephraim Goodrich who died Feb. 28th, 1739, age 74 yrs, having 9 children, 43 grandchildren and 4 great grand children. Quite an accomplishment!

This table was placed here 9 years from the beginning of this cemetery and this section holds some of the oldest stones. <sup>If you look around you, you will see</sup> ~~they~~ they are among the most deteriorated in the burying grounds, having been made from brownstone quarried across the river at Portland, Ct.

5. (~~Soldiers buried overseas~~) Now, over here in this little valley are the stones dedicated to Rocky Hill veteran's buried overseas. <sup>walk</sup> Antonio Campilo, buried in France, fought in WWI. <sup>The other 7 fought in WWII</sup> Two are brothers, Frank and Horace Bennino. Both died and were buried in France. Their mother did not want their bodies brought home.

<sup>moving on</sup> <sup>walk</sup> 6. (~~Robbins Crept~~) Over here we have the Robbins Crept. This is another name you will find throughout the cemetery from the beginning to end. They were among the first residents in town and descendents are still living here. There are 20 people here in the crept from the Robbins and Merriam families. Also Justus Candee, husband of Delia Merriam. A great deal of damage has been done to the inside <sup>of the crept</sup> by vandals. Caskets have been destroyed and strewn about. We don't know the reason. They may have been looking for jewelry or other valuables. You can also see damage here on the outside where someone has tried to break inside. The original damage done inside was done by digging in through the top.

7. (~~Rev. Henry Trinkhaus~~) Just behind the crept is the mounument of Rev. Henry Trinkhaus. <sup>walk</sup> He was pastor of the Methodist Church in the early 1890's. He had left the Rocky Hill church and was serving another in Waterville when he became engaged to Esther Beldon who was the organist at the Rocky Hill church. They married, and had a son. They are all buried here together. <sup>If you look back from here to the last section, you will have another view of the damage & deterioration of the stones</sup>

(walk)

8. (~~Edward Buckley~~) The second tabletop comes up next. Again, we don't know its history at present, but find it interesting non-the-less. It reads "Here lies buried the <sup>body</sup> of Cpt. Edward Buckley who departed this life Aug 27th A.D 1748, in his 75th year of his Age".

~~If you will look back from here to the last section you will have another view of the damage and deterioration of the stones.~~

9. (~~Ames Children-directly in back of table~~) We have heard some families buried more than one person to a grave, but this next stone was the first evidence we came accross since research-  
walk  
ing the grounds. As you can see, the earth mounds somewhat here and the stone indicates three children, John, Mehitabe and Eunice Ames who died of smallpox, are all here together.

(~~Ministers~~) The four congregational ministers and their families are in close proximity here in the oldest section. walk (£ 1 = \$3.33)

10. (Rev. Daniel Russell) The incription on the stone of Rev. Mr. Daniel Russel reads "Here lies Interr'd the remains of Rev'd Mr. Daniel Russel who wisely and faithfully fulfilled his ministry for more than 37 years with a shining pattern of piety in his Christian and Ministerial caractor and fell asleep the 11th of Sept, AD 1764, aged 62 years" Along side of Rev. Russel are the stones of his family. Starting on the left his sons Daniel and Benjamin, <sup>Then</sup> a small stone of interest with the name Thomas Hooker Rawton. We aren't sure of it's place in the family. Daughter Hannah, daughter Lydia, son John, and another daughter Lydia. On the right of Rev. Russell is the stone of first wife Lydia, <sup>his</sup> second wife Catherine, and Rebbecca, his daughter-in-law who died from small pox. 11 stones altogether.

Rev. Mr. Daniel Russel was the first pastor installed June 7, 1727, the same day the church was organized, and served for 34 years. He was 25 years old, the son of Rev. Noadiah Russel of Middletown, Ct., one of the founders of Yale. He graduated from Yale in 1724 and received his theological training from his brother William. Terms agreed upon were L80 annually or <sup>80 lbs</sup> 60 lbs L60 with the use of the parsonage (land) for first four year's, to be increased L5 a year <sup>5 lbs</sup> until it amounted to L 100: to furnish his wood: to give him L 160 toward his building, <sup>100 lbs</sup> <sup>160 lbs</sup> "one-half in labour and <sup>the</sup> other half in money as soon as Mr. Russell shall call for it":

and the eight acres of land "that the town hath given to our first minister for his own and his heirs forever, if he don't leave us".

The next minister was Burrage Merriam walk

10. (~~Burrage Merriam~~) ~~(Walking on to Burrage Merriam)~~, He was Mr. Russel's colleague, probably all of 1764. The society voted in Dec., 1764 to settle on him and he was ordained, and installed Feb. 27, 1765 and served eleven years. He supposedly came from Meriden, and graduated from Yale in 1762. His stone reads "This monument is sacred to the memory of the Rev'd Burrage Merriam, Pastor of the church of Christ in Stephney, who departed this life Nov. 30th AD 1776, in the 38th year of his age and 12th of his ministry, ready and active in service through a series of bodily distresses endured to the end".

200 lbs

30 lbs

The terms of settlement offered him were "L200 settlement, L 80 lawful money salary annually when he sets up housekeeping, 7 cords of green wood a year and after that 20 cord a year, the use of the parsonage on the north side". With Rev. Merriam are the graves of Burrage his son who died Dec. 11, 1776, age 4, and Hannah Seldon, his wife who died Jan. 9, 1816, age 72.

After the Rev. Mr. Merriam's death, 5 other ministers supplied the pulpit until Rev. John Lewis of Southington was settled June 24th, 1781.

↔ Grace will take the rest of the tour from here. ↔

11. (John Lewis) We are fairly certain these two stones belong to Rev. Lewis and his wife Mary, and if lifted up, would read as follow. (We think, though these inscriptions are long, you will find them interesting.)

His wifes-

This monument speaks the wishes of a disconsolate husband to perpetuate to the ruin of all things, the dear remembrance of his beloved wife Mrs. Mary Lewis/ wife of John Lewis A.M. and Daughter of Col Leverett Hubbard of New Haven/ who was born April 13th, 1752, and died Aug't. 11th, A.D. 1786. If duty to her parents, kindness to her friends/ And/ the most amiable conduct to her husband, are qualities which deserve recording, this stone shall declare she possess them all. Her husband knew her worth and felt - to part was agony! O, let not wedded bliss forge the parting hour. (they must have been a very close and loving couple)

**John Lewis' inscription would read-**

In memory of the Rev'nd John Lewis, A.M., Pastor of the ch,h in Stepney. He departed this life April 28th, A.D. 1792, in the 47th year of his age, and twelfth in his ministry. He received a public education in Yale College, in which he was distinguished for <sup>e</sup>rudition, and of which he was for several years a tutor. In him were united the Gentleman and the Scholar, the learned divine and the cheerful Christian, the tender husband and the affectionate parent, the successful instructor and the faithful friend.

Rev. Lewis was a graduate of Yale, 1770. His settlement terms were "for his encouragement L200 lawful silver money settlement or other payment equivalent to silver money at time of payment: to give him L80 lawful silver money salary; 16 cords good green wood first four years and after that 20 cords green wood and sole use and improvement of 20 acres of parsonage." The Revolutionary War was then being fought and this offer was amended to make the salary L100 "So long as the present war between Britain and North America continues; after that his salary to stand as before." He was not entirely satisfied, but accepted. He served as pastor for 11 years and died in 1792.

12.(Calvin Chapin) The last of the ministers is Calvin Chapin. His monument is quite different from the previous ministers. It reads simply "Rev/ Calvin Chapin, D.D., died March 16, 1851, aged 87. I shall see him as he is". Also Jerusha, his wife, ag 72 "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord" and, Jerusha their daughter, was born April 2, 1802, Died Nov. 26, 1856. "This mortal must put on immortality."

In Oct., 1793, Rev. Calvin Chapin agreed to supply the pulpit in January while conferring with the committee to see if he would settle here as minister. He accepted and was ordained Ap.30, 1794. His ordination serman was preached by Dr. Nathan Perkins of Hartford whom Dr. Chapin studied thealogy under. His sermon was published by the press.

Terms offered Dr. Chapin were "L200 settlement, payable four years in quarterly installments, L100 salary and the sole use of the parsonage land." He preached his 50th anniversary serman May 5, 1844. The records state he "closed his pastoral charges and labours with the church and congregation in Rocky Hill, Thanksgiving day, Thursday, the 25th of Nov., 1847." He retired from active service to give the church opportunity to choose a successor. Because they weren't immediately successful, Dr. Chapin was asked to resume service, but declined.

However, he did preach occasionally. He died on March 16, 1851 at 88.

These four ministers covered a period of 124 years.

13. (Chapin service stone) If we step over here, we see Calvin Chapin's military stone. It tells us he was a fifer in Capt. Pratts co. during the Revolutionary war. His age at death varies one year from the date on his family monument. It reads 87 rather than 88.

14.(First stone- Deming baby) Last, but certainly not least, is the first burial in our cemetery. It reads: Here lies the body of the daughter of Benjamin and Mary Deming, Born and died June 2, 1731. The first buried in this year.

This concludes our tour for this month. We hope you have enjoyed it and will join us again on our next tour. It will be held Sunday July 25th at 2.P.M. and will be highlighting our town physicians and other noteables.

You are all invited back to the museum on Old MaIN Street for light refreshment and to view our varied exhibits.