

General Information – Lancaster, MA Cemeteries

Information provided by the Lancaster Historical Commission

updated by Heather Lennon -- January 14, 2017

Public Cemeteries:

1st - Old Settlers' Burial Field - Located off Main Street east of the Meeting House Hill and the railroad tracks in South Lancaster. It contains approximately 207 gravestones with the earliest identifiable death date of 1674 and the most recent being in 2006 (in a Thayer family plot). Three Revolutionary War soldiers are buried here. *Access by permission only through the Lancaster Department of Public Works or Police Department.*

2nd - Old Common Cemetery -- Established in 1706. Located on Old Common Road opposite site of the 3rd Meeting House marker. It contains approximately 320 gravestones with the earliest death date 1716 and the most recent 1874. Six Revolutionary War Soldiers are buried here.

3rd - Middle Cemetery -- Established in 1798 and enlarged in 1843. Located on east side of Main Street (Rt. 70) and south the Nashua River. It contains approximately 500 gravestones with the earliest death date 1798 and most recent death date 1969. No less than thirty Revolutionary War soldiers are buried here. *Access by permission only through the Lancaster Department of Public Works or Police Department.*

4th - North Burial Ground – Established in 1805. Located east of the intersection of Shirley Road and the old Union Turnpike abutting Fort Devens fencing (near Route 2). It contains approximately 212 gravestones with the earliest death date being 1790 and most recent 1969. Three Revolutionary War Soldiers are buried here.

5th - North Village Cemetery -- Established in 1855. Located on Otis Street in the North Village. There are approximately 594 gravestones, earliest death date 1807. *Still in active use for those with pre-purchased plots. Sign at entrance reads: NO TRESPASSING EXCEPT CEMETERY BUSINESS NO DOGS ALLOWED*

6th - Eastwood Cemetery -- Established in 1876. Located on Old Common Road near the town line in Bolton (the greater part of the cemetery is actually in Bolton). It contains over 1800 gravestones with earliest death date being 1868. This cemetery was designed by professional landscape architect of national reputation, Horace W.S. Cleveland who was a native of Lancaster. A cemetery office building is located at the west side of the entrance to the cemetery. *Still in active use.*

Other Cemeteries:

Shaker Burial Field -- Located just north of Rt. 2 and parallel to Rt. 2 Shirley Road on the campus of the MCI facility Lancaster/Shirley. The road leading to it is to the east of one large gravestone. The exact number of graves cannot be ascertained but some names are recorded and the dates were all before 1850. *Access by permission only -- through MCI.*

St. John Cemetery -- Located on Parker Road almost to the Clinton line. This cemetery was relocated to the present site when the Wachusett Dam was constructed in the early 1900's and the town of Clinton was forced to move the graves to the present location. *Still in active use.*

Thayer Family Cemetery -- Located off Bull Hill Road in an area designated "Thayer Woods" by the New England Forestry Foundation. It is owned by descendants of the Bayard Thayer Family.

Lancaster Industrial School for Girls Cemetery -- Located off Old Common Road on the R.F.K Action Corps portion of the campus of the school which closed circa 1973. The burial ground is fenced off but the burial markers have been submerged to protect them from vandalism.