



The Old Burial Ground A Short History

The Old Burial Ground located on Academy Road in North Andover was established around 1650. This site holds the remains of the founding families of Andover, as well as their descendants. The graves marking the burials as well as the burials themselves are of historic significance to early New England.

The Burial Ground is now owned by the Town of North Andover and it is under the jurisdiction of the North Andover Historical Commission. Because of the historical significance of the site locally, the North Andover Historical Society and the North Andover Historical Commission often give tours of the site to interested members of the public and conduct special programs there for North Andover school children.

Since the late 1800s, the Burial Ground has been worked on by a number of amateur historians who have catalogued and mapped the site. Over time, there have been discrepancies found and some of the old slate markers have deteriorated to the point of no longer being recognizable. The three organizations that have an attachment to the site, the North Andover Historical Commission, the North Andover Historical Society and the North Parish Church were supportive of this project, which produced a digitized map updated from the old records, along with an on-line database of the known burials, now suitable for public inquiry.

---Kimberly Adams Whitworth
Project Manager

*See next page for instructions on using the database and map

How to Use This Database

For ease of use, this database is arranged alphabetically by decedent's last name. Once you find the name you are looking for, you will see a number in the left-hand column which corresponds to a number on the map, which you can download and print on ledger sized 11 x 17 paper. If available, each name also has a link to the [Find-a-Grave](#) website. The Town of North Andover is not responsible for any information found on [Find-a-Grave](#).

How the Old Burial Ground Map And Database were Created

The Map and Database are snapshots of the Burial Ground during the summer of 2013. Burial grounds can be thought of as static landscapes, where nothing changes. Yet from reviewing maps and data taken from the 1960s and the 1990s it is clear that the site has changed over time due to a variety of factors, including environmental damage and weather, destruction wrought by tree roots and occasional vandalism. Stones that were recorded in 1960 or 1991 were occasionally found as "missing" in the 2013 database.

The goal of this project was to create a digitized map and database for public use. The technology used to locate each headstone is called "GIS" or Geographic Information Systems, "a collection of computer hardware, software, and geographic data for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information."

[Click HERE for Burial Ground Database](#)

[Click HERE for Burial Ground Map](#)

Each point on the map represents the headstone for each burial site. The locations of headstones were collected using Global Positioning System (GPS) which uses satellite technology to identify a location on the earth. Each headstone now has a latitude and longitude as well as other corresponding information about the particular burial location. The accuracy of each *point* with the system used in this project is within a meter.

Once the *points* were collected, the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission helped complete the project by interpreting the data into a map suitable for use on tours or for those looking to find a specific headstone.