

Gravestones and Stonecutters in the Quabbin Region, c. 1740-1840

The *Friends of Quabbin* Annual Meeting
Ware, Massachusetts April 14, 2019

Presented by Bob Drinkwater,
Member of the Association for Gravestone Studies

Origins of the four Quabbin Towns

- **Greenwich** (inc. 1754), Narragansett Township No. 4, one of seven townships granted to descendants of some of the veterans of King Philip's War; settled in late 1730s, originally known as *Quabbin Plantation*
- **Dana** (inc. 1801), formed from parts of Greenwich, Hardwick and Petersham
- **Enfield** (inc. 1816), formed from parts of Greenwich and Belchertown
- **Prescott** (inc. 1822), formed from parts of Pelham and New Salem

Colonial-era Burying Grounds

Greenwich

Greenwich Plain (est. 1737)

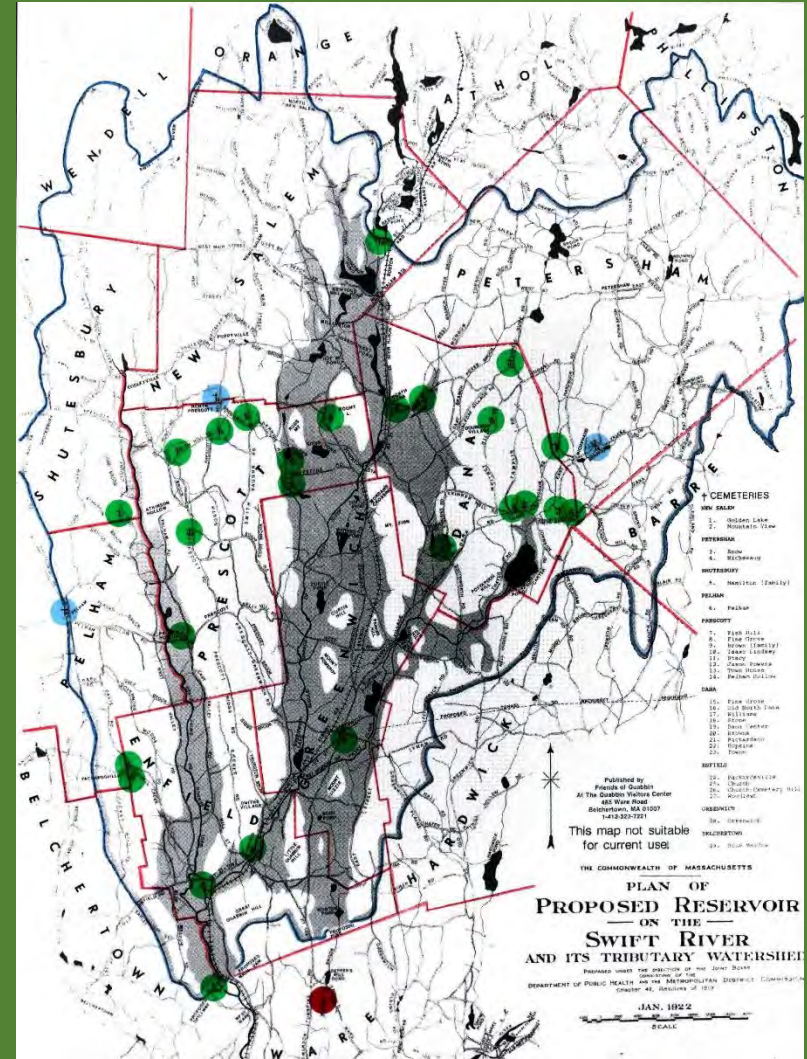
Prescott

Pelham Hollow (est. 1744)

Fish Hill (est. c.1772)

Dana (?)

Williams Cemetery and two other small cemeteries located in the area which was part of Petersham prior to 1801



Greenwich

Old Burying Ground at Greenwich Plains (est. 1737)

“Most of the early settlers, especially of the north part of the town, are buried in this cemetery, although some were never honored with tombstones, and those erected to the memories of others have crumbled away. . . . The ground is in good condition, and contains a number of handsome stones and monuments.”

There was another burying ground in the south part of town, in what in 1816 became part of Enfield.

Source: *History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts*, Vol. I (Philadelphia: L. H. Everts, 1879) 540.

Prescott

Pelham Hollow: “The oldest burial-place is situated in the west part of the town, near ‘Bobbinville’ is still in a good state of preservation, and contains the remains of many of the earliest settlers. It was laid out in 1744 . . .”

Fish Hill: “The next ground in point of age lies on the hill above the mill of Eli W. Chapin, in the north part of the town. It was probably first used by the Baptists when they established themselves near that point in 1772.”

Source: *History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts*, Vol. I (Philadelphia: L. H. Everts, 1879) 562.

Dana (formerly in Petersham)

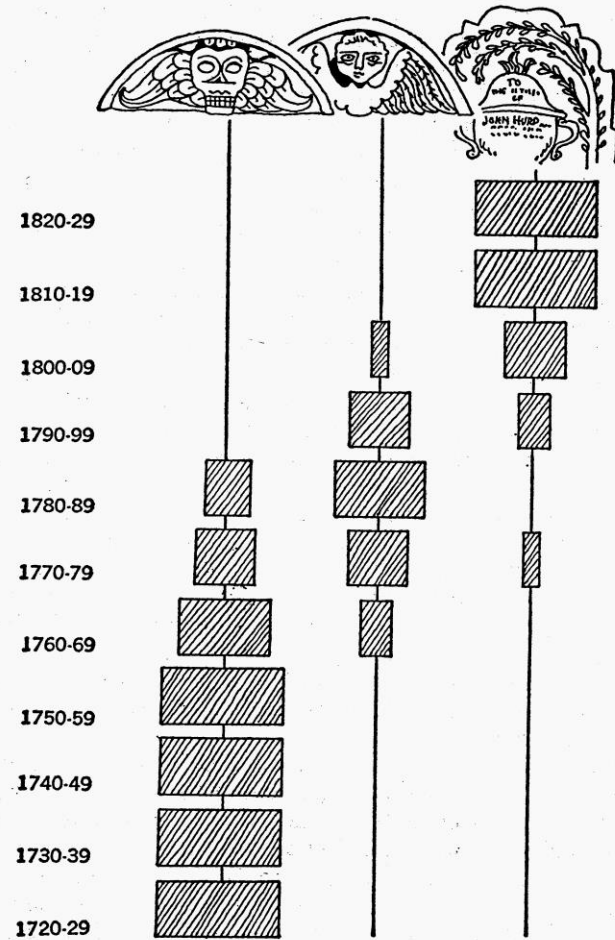
The territory taken from Petersham to create the town of Dana included **three small cemeteries**, as follows:

- Near the corner of Camels Hump Rd. and Dugway Rd. [#17]
- Near the post marking the junction of Dana, Petersham, Barre and Hardwick [#22]
- A few rods east of Storrsville Four Corners [#21]

Source: Mabel Cook Coolidge, *The History of Petersham, Massachusetts* (Hudson, Mass.: The Powell Press, 1948) 254-55.

Gravestone Imagery, c. 1650-1850

- Plain (text only)
- Urns ± Willows
- Folk Portraits
- Winged faces
- Winged skulls
- Plain (text only)



Succession of gravestone designs, Stoneham cemetery, Massachusetts

What you see when you look at a gravestone depends on how well it is illuminated . . .

a mirror can be used to re-direct sunlight



New England Gravestone Studies

Harriette Merrifield Forbes

GRAVESTONES

of Early New England

And the Men who made them

1653-1800

By

Harriette Merrifield Forbes

With illustrations from Photographs by the Author

BOSTON

Printed by *The Riverside Press* for HOUGHTON MIFFLIN
COMPANY in PARK STREET near the COMMON

MDCCCXXVII



The Quabbin Region:

Gravestone sources, 1750s to 1770s

- Worcester: William Young, 1750s
- Northampton: Nathaniel Phelps, late 1750s
- Barre: Soule Family, late 1760s to 1770s

William Young (1711-1795) was a surveyor and map maker as well as a gravestone cutter, and did the original survey of the town of Pelham



Nathaniel Phelps (1721-1789) and sons, Northampton



Soule family, Barre and beyond, late 1760s to 1770s

Ebenezer Soule Sr. (1711-1792) and several members of his family left Plympton and settled in Barre, 1767; sons:

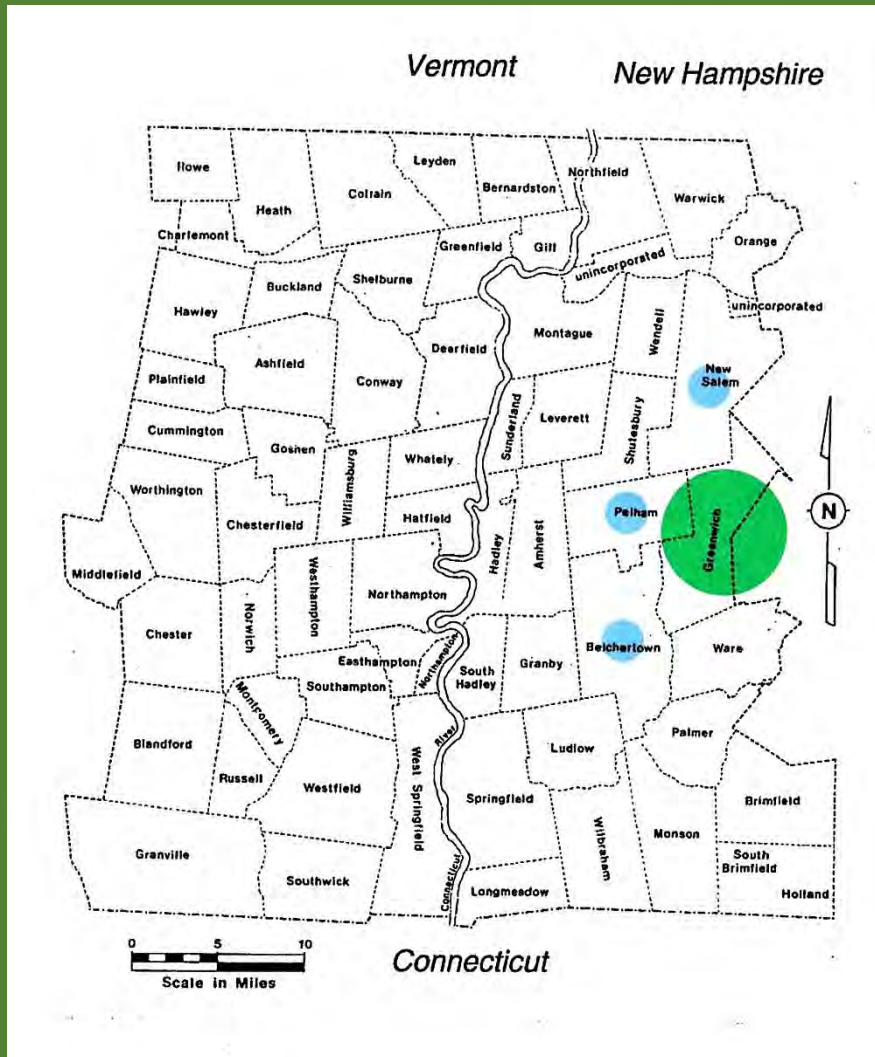
- Coomer (1747-1777)
- Beza (1750-1835)
- Ivory (1760-1846), to Hinsdale, NH

While based in Barre, two or more of the Soules travelled to the Connecticut Valley and beyond – Beza and Coomer worked in Deerfield during the early 1770s

Elizabeth, wife of Rev. Robert Cutler of Greenwich (d. 1774)



Gravestone sources, 1770s to early 1800s



New Salem:
*Ebenezer Felton and son,
1780s to early 1800s*

Pelham:
*unidentified stonecutters,
1770s to early 1800s*

Belchertown:
*Joseph Sikes and son(s),
1770s to early 1790s*

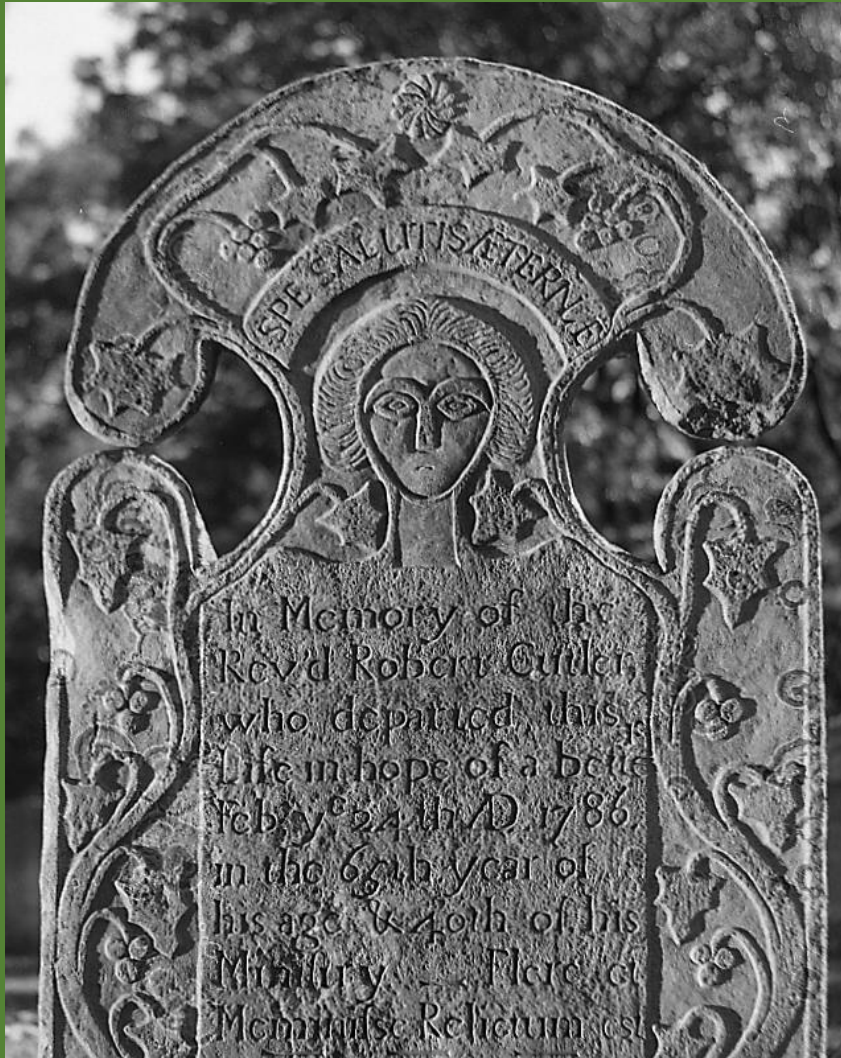
Joseph Sikes and sons, Belchertown



Sacred to the Memory of
the Rev'd David White
who died Jan'y: 6th 1784
in the 74th year of his age.
He was the first Minister
settled in the Town and
faithfully and conscienti-
ously performed the sacrē
functions of his office for
almost 50 years to the great
edification and enlargement

Sacred to the Memory
of M^{rs} Susanna White
Consort of the Rev'd
David White; who died
July y^e 17th 1783 in the
69th year of her age.
She lived a life of unex-
ampled Piety and Virtue
and of the greatest Patience
and Resignation under
her long-continued bo-

Sikes stones at Quabbin Park



Sikes family



The Sojourner



Elijah Sikes – signed stones: Hannah Dwight (d. 1792)



The Feltons, New Salem, 1780s to early 1800s

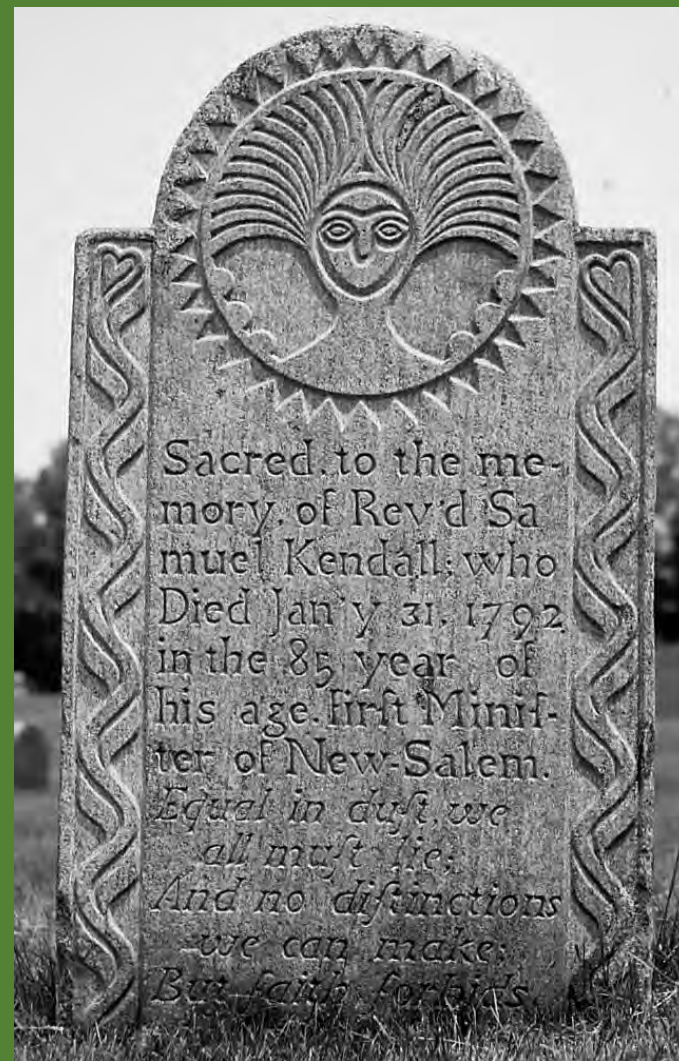
Ebenezer (born c. 1741), date and place of death unknown

- His family lived in the southwest part of town, in the vicinity of present day Hamilton Orchards.
- Paid for gravestones for William Cady of Shutesbury, 1801

Robards (c. 1769-1825), son of Ebenezer and Hannah (Page)

- Nathaniel Chamberlain's account book: on fourteen occasions, from November 30, 1799 to February 16, 1808, Chamberlain, a blacksmith, charged Robards for gravestone-related services – sharpening chisels, use of oxen . . .
- moved to Hamilton, NY < 1810

Ebenezer Felton & son, New Salem



Pelham Stonecutters, c. 1770 to 1800 +

“A coarse dark grey stone was much used and was probably quarried, split out and inscribed by the people here. These grey stones are covered with moss [i. e., lichen] and the inscriptions are so much obliterated as to make it almost impossible to decide whose remains lie beneath them.”

*History of Pelham, Mass.
From 1738 to 1898 . . .
compiled by C. O. Parmenter*



Swift River Carvers, Phases 1-3, c. 1770-1800



Swift River Phase 1 – Worcester connection



Swift River Carvers, Phase 1

1770s



Swift River Carvers, Phase 2

1780s



Benjamin Kidd (1788), Chesterfield



Swift River Carvers, Phase 3

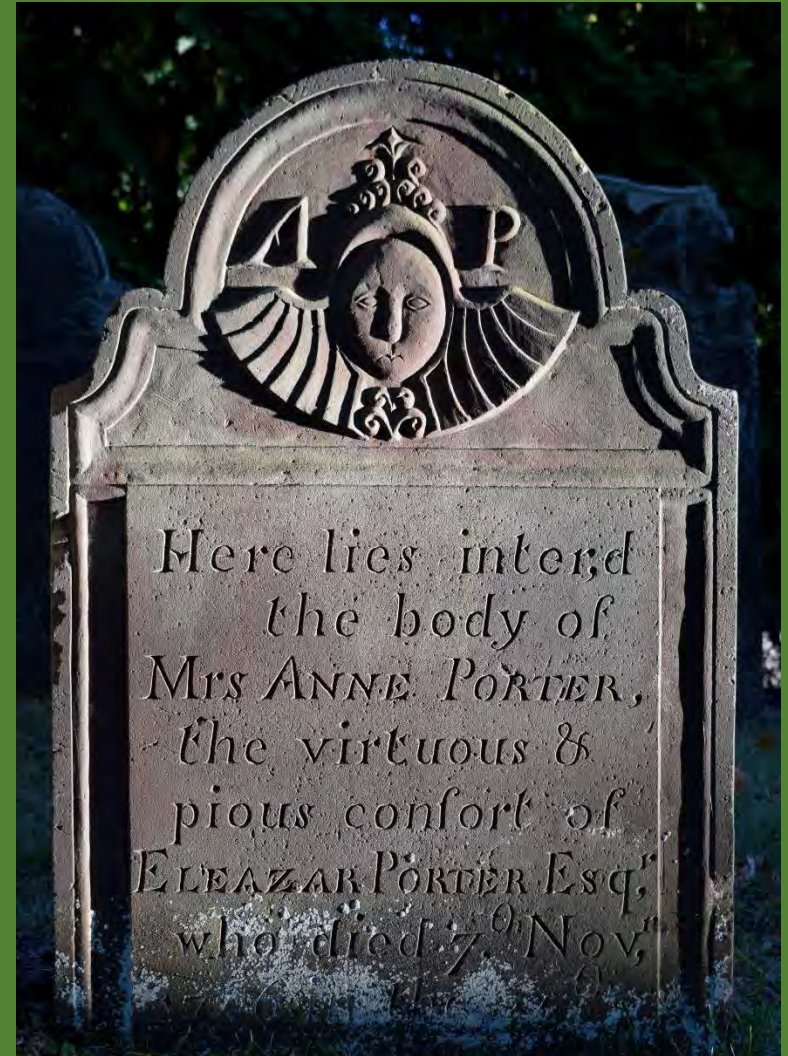
1790s



Swift River Phase 3a



Ely shop, West Springfield



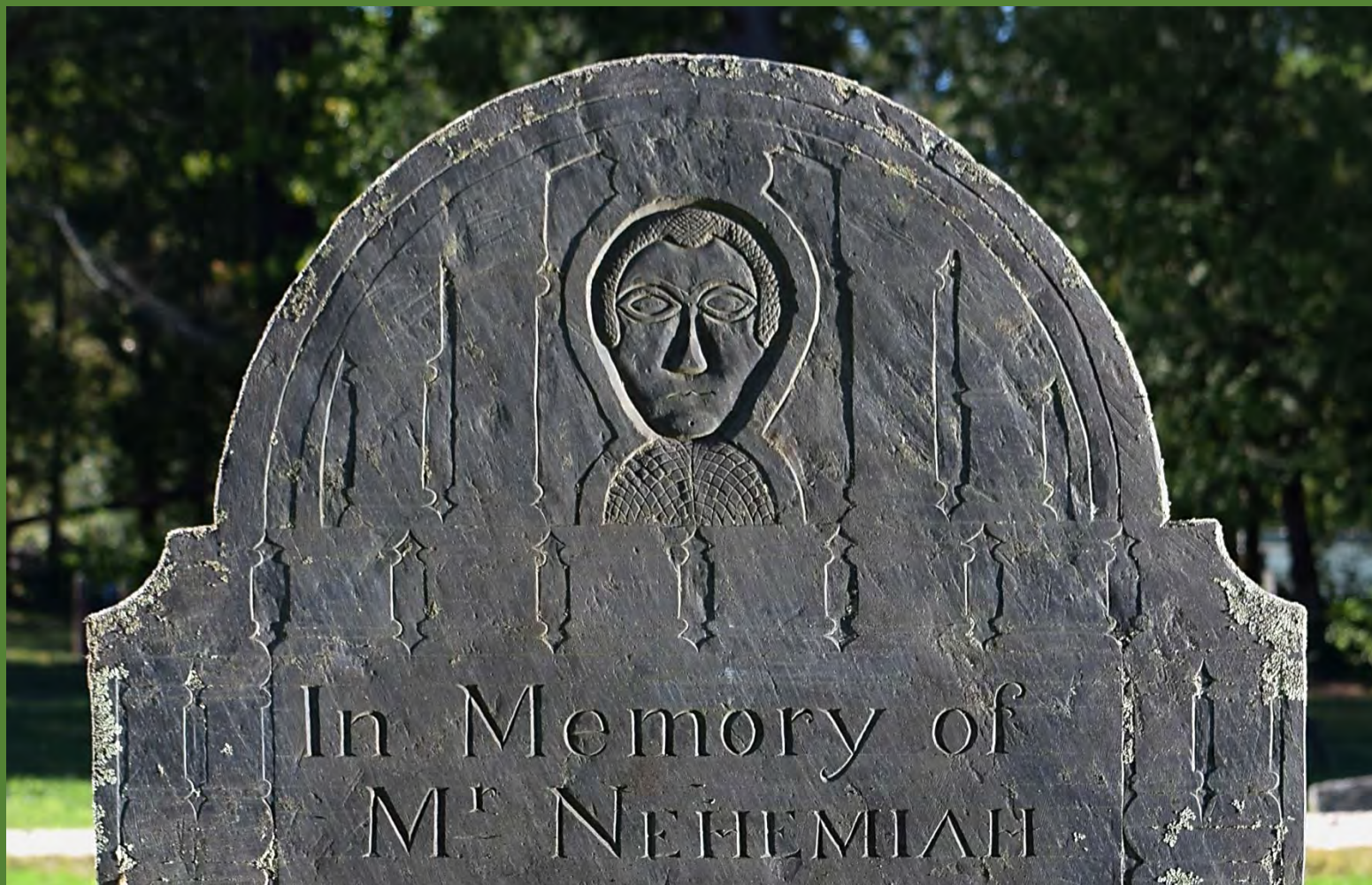
Swift River Carvers, Phase 3b (no wings)



Swift River Carvers, Phase 4



Nehemiah Hinds (d. 1792), Quabbin Park (Greenwich)



Gravestone sources, c. 1800-1850

Belchertown:

Samuel Daugherty and the Woods family

Moses Goodale

Pelham:

James and David Abercrombie

The Rankin family

Wendell:

Isaiah Soule

The Woods Family

Jonathan Woods Jr. (c.1762-1830) m. Lydia Barr in Nov. 1784

CHILDREN

Anna (b. c.1786) married **Samuel Daugherty** in 1805

Martin (1787-1859) married Electa Bacon of Whately

Jonathan III (1788-1824) married Aletha Gilbert of Whately

Asa B. (c.1790-) married Panthea Pease (Somers, CT)

Lydia (b. c.1792) married Joseph Henshaw

Joseph (1798-1864) married Rebecca Vining (from Plainfield)

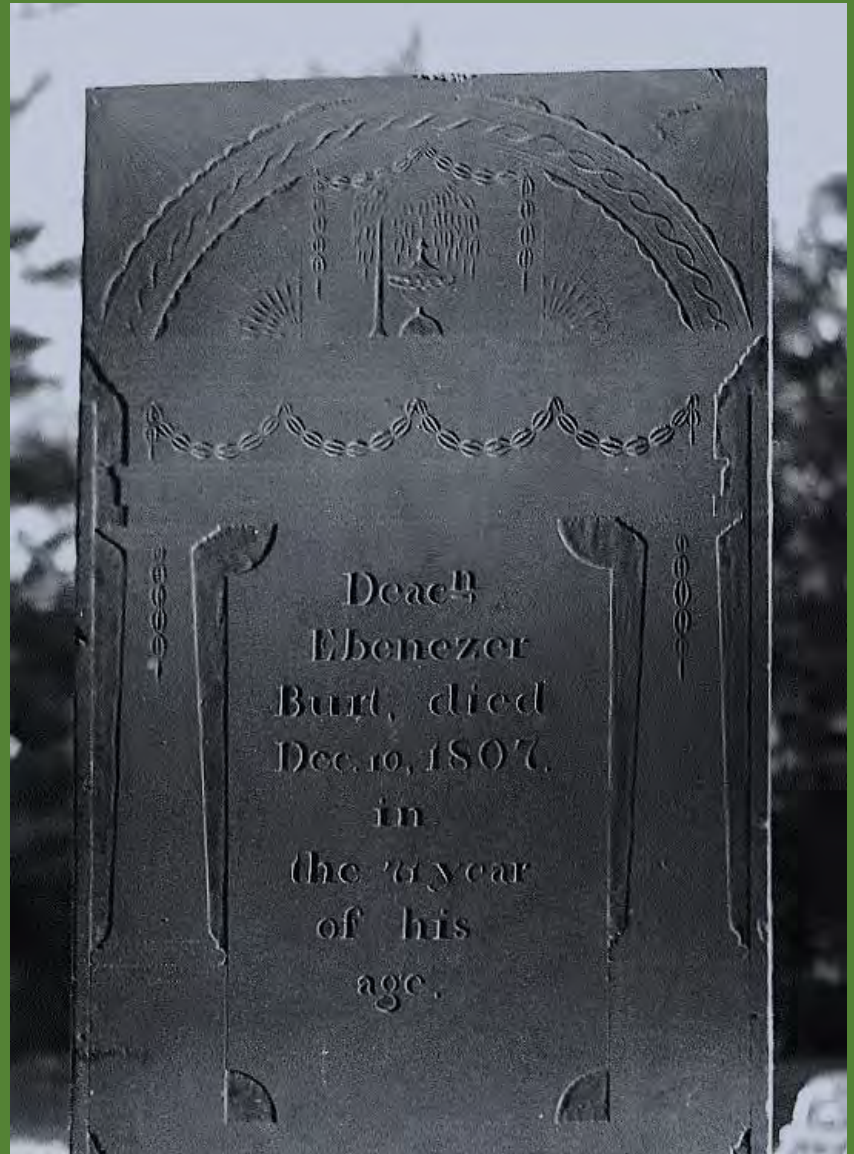
Susan (no dates) married George Vining of Plainfield

Meliscent (b. 1800) married **Moses Goodale** (from Amherst)

William (c.1803-1815)

J[onathan] Woods

Deacon Ebenezer Burt
Quabbin Park



Samuel Daugherty (c. 1778-1861)

Goshen, Massachusetts early 1805

Feb. 1805 – marriage intention, Samuel Daugherty of Goshen and Anna Woods of Belchertown

May 1805 – marriage, Samuel Daugherty of Goshen and Anna Woods of Belchertown, in Belchertown

A year or so after their marriage, they settled in Whately.

Samuel was then in his late twenties, Anna was in her late teens.

Samuel Daugherty, early 1810s

- Mar. 1809** Samuel Daugherty, stonecutter, of Whately – bought 8.5 ac. lot in Hatfield (just south of Whately)
- 1810** resident of Belchertown (1810 U.S. Census, etc.); lived in Blue Meadow district (1810 voters list)
- Dec. 1810** Samuel Daugherty of Belchertown bought $\frac{1}{4}$ part of saw mill and privileges and $\frac{1}{8}$ part of mill yard on west branch of the Swift River
- May 1811** Samuel Daugherty, stonecutter, of Belchertown bought additional land and buildings in Belchertown
- 1813** admitted to Belchertown Congregational Church

Signed stones in Palmer

S. Daugherty Belchertown



S. Daugherty

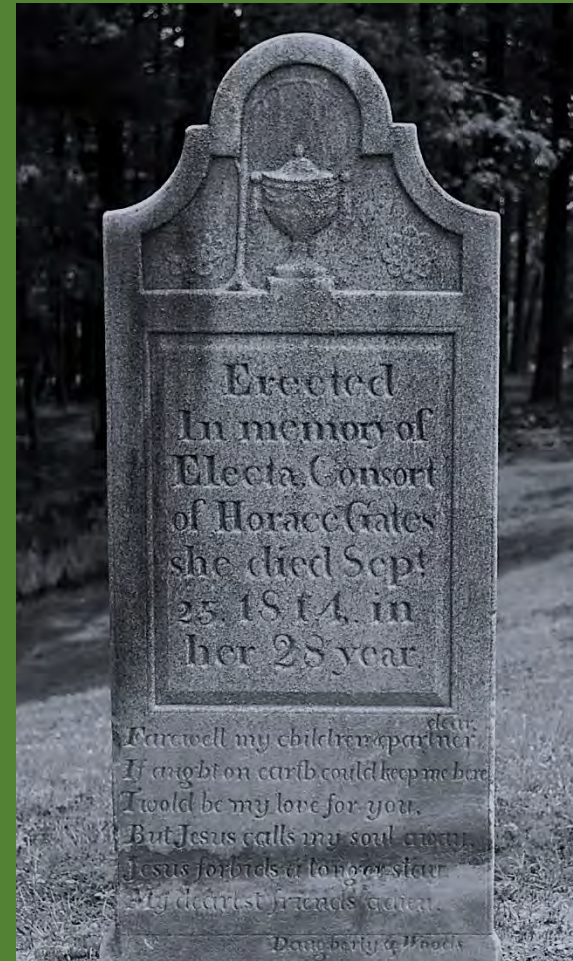


Signed marble stones, Belchertown

S. Daugherty



Daugherty & Woods



Gravestones signed or initialed by members of the Woods family, Western Massachusetts, early 19th century

	Slate	Marble
Samuel Daugherty	19	2
Martin Woods	3	5
J[onathan] Woods	2	
Asa B. Woods	1	1
Daugherty & Woods		1
Ansel Kenfield	1	

Moses Goodale (1797-1872)

Amherst and Belchertown



Marble, Stone Cutting, In all its branches, Tables, monuments, gravestones, etc. Marble from best Swanton and Berkshire Quarries; The former superior to any in the United States executed with neatness and attention by Moses Goodale, Amherst, Feb. 21, 1821
Hampshire Gazette, Feb. 27, 1821

Pelham area: Swift River Carvers, Phase 5

Stuart J. Park grandson of stonecutter William Park, spent winters in Pelham from mid-1790s until 1812

The Abercrombies James Sr. (c. 1754-1836) and David (1788-1851), father and son, described as stonecutters in land records

The Rankin Family stone masons and gravestone cutters: Zebina (1791-1854), Abial (1796-1844) *et al.*

Stuart J. Park (1773-1859), Pelham

He purchased a farm in Pelham in the mid-1790s, spent his winters there until he moved back to Groton in the Fall of 1812.



Gravestones from the Park Shop ?



James Abercrombie paid for gravestones



The Abercrombies

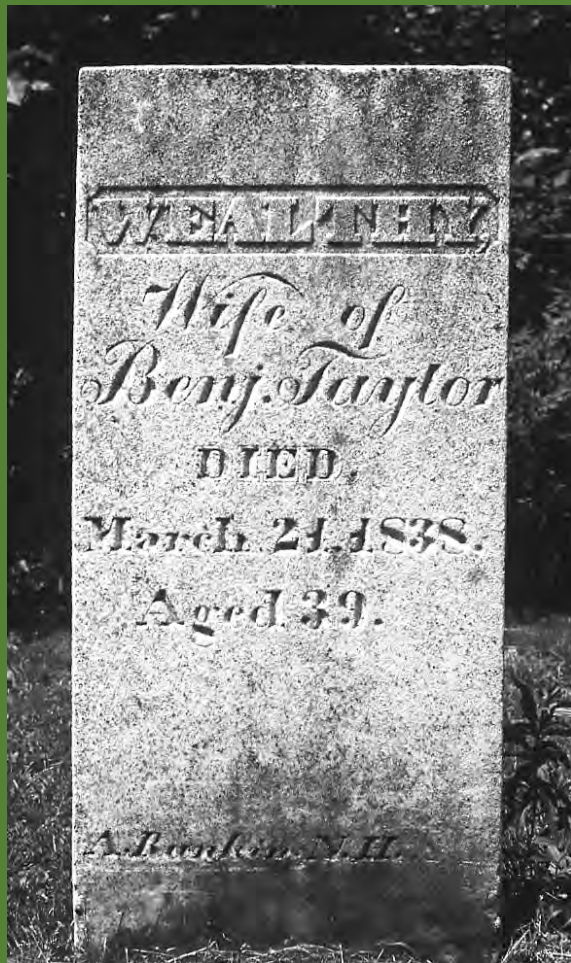
- James Sr. (c. 1754-1836), *stonecutter of Pelham* married Margary [Margaret] Conkey; children:
 - David (c. 1788-1871), *stonecutter, Esq.*
 - James Jr. (1790-1859), *not a stonecutter ?*

James Sr. and his wife, Margaret; James Jr. and two siblings are buried at Quabbin Park

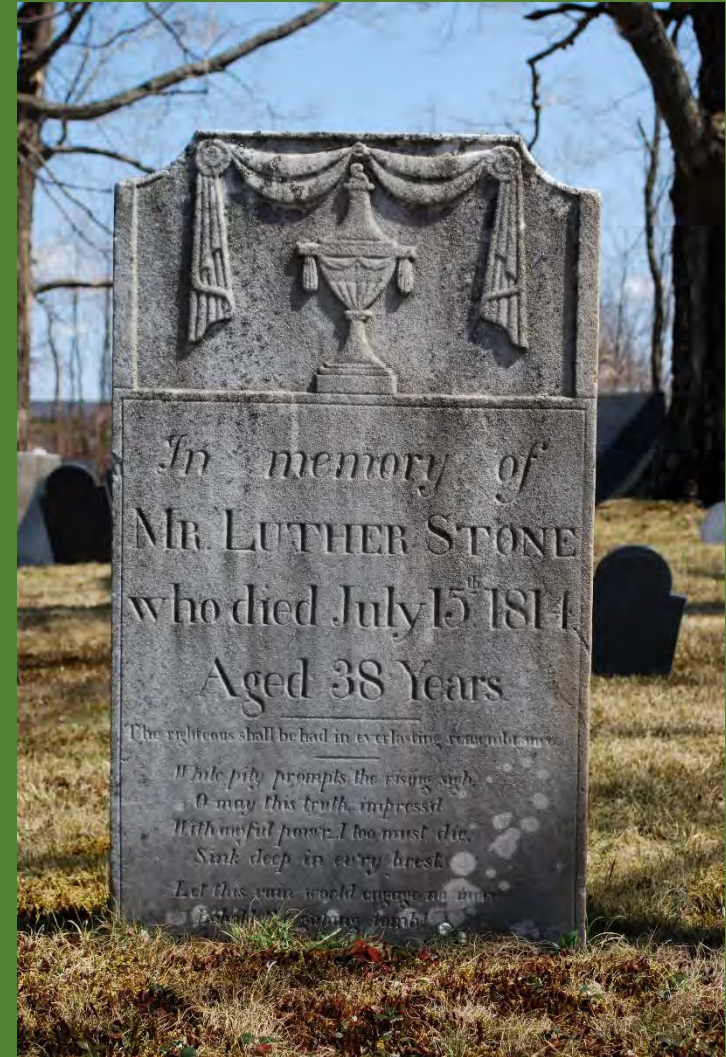
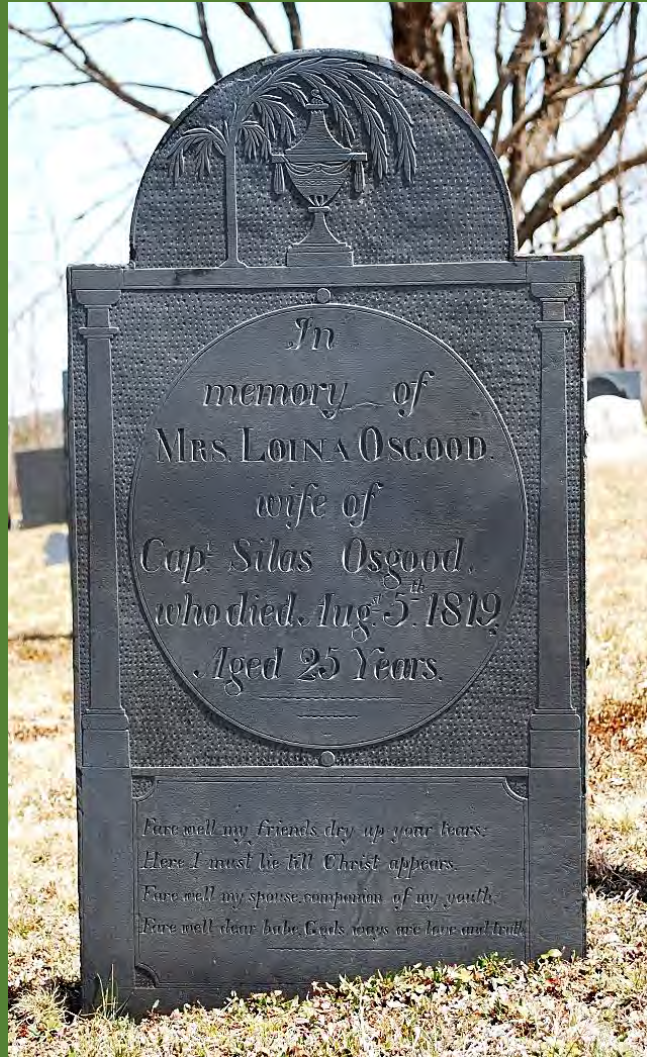
Rankin Family, Pelham and Northampton



Abiel Rankin (1796-1844), son of Lt. John & Mary, born in Pelham, died in Northampton



Isaiah Soule (1787-1877), Wendell



Isaiah Soule . . . The Monument Trade c.1840 +

In December 1862, Isaiah, then in his mid-70s, purchased a 40 acre lot in the northwest corner of Prescott from his son-in-law, Ira R. Alden, and there he spent his remaining years. He and his wife are buried at the Wendell Center Cemetery.



The Association for Gravestone Studies Western New England Chapter

Spring Meeting

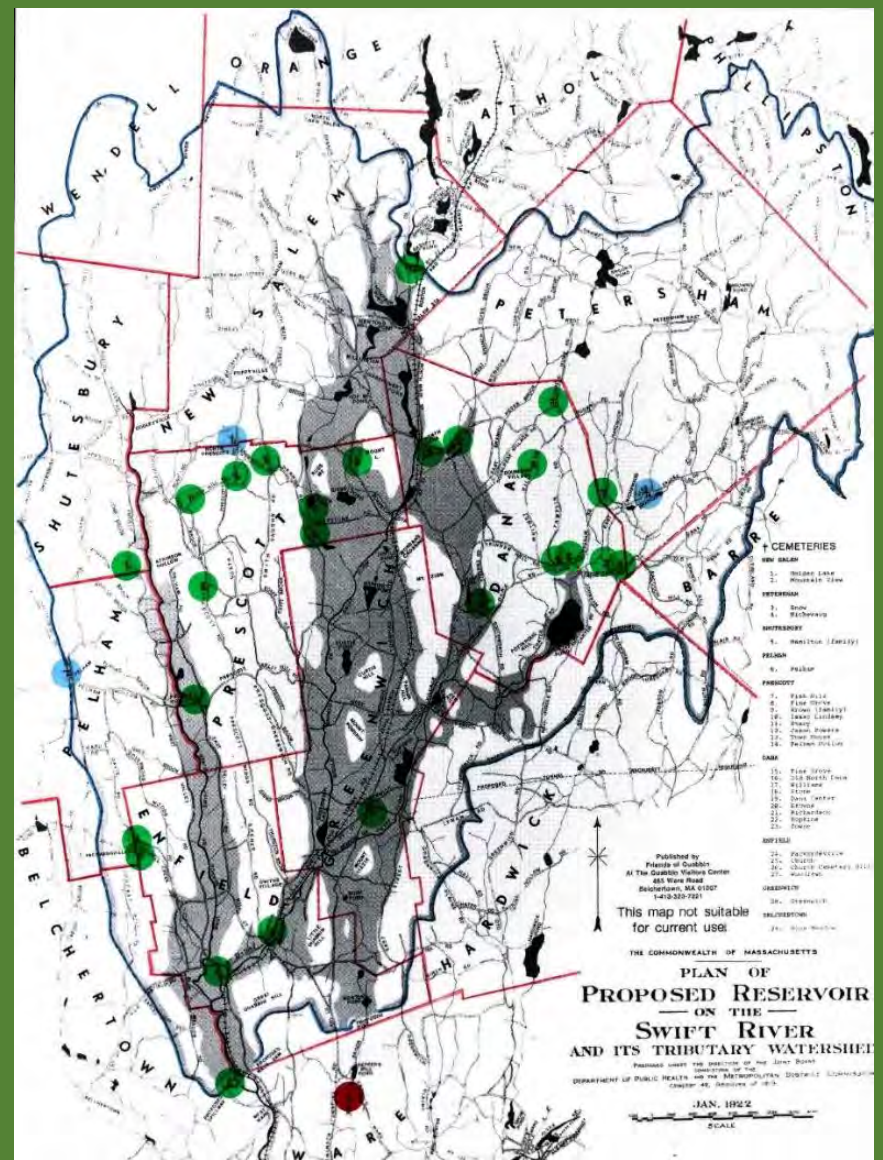
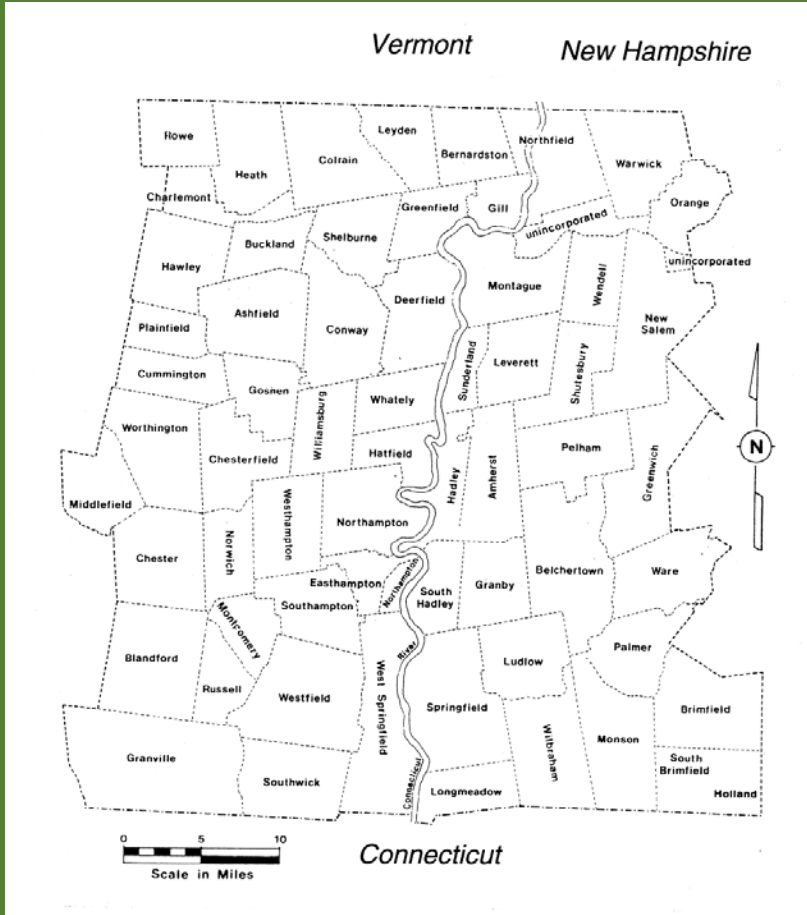
April 27, 2019
10 AM to 3 PM

Downtown Campus,
Greenfield Community College
270 Main St.



Addenda

Hampshire County c. 1800



PELHAM is one of four western Massachusetts towns which were founded by Scots Irish families, members and descendants of a group which settled in Worcester in 1718.

Some of the earliest gravestones at the Pelham Hill Cemetery (est. 1739) are slate stones which Harriette Merrifield Forbes believed to be the work of William Young, her “thistle carver of Tatnuck”. Young was a surveyor and map maker as well as a gravestone cutter, and did the original survey of the town of Pelham.

Tally: Swift River Phase 1

Town	# Stones
Pelham	≥ 16
Amherst	≥ 9
Quabbin Park	≥ 3
New Salem	1
Shutesbury	1
Goshen	6
Chesterfield	1
TOTAL	≥ 37

Tally: Swift River Carvers, Phase 2

Town	# Stones (no wings)	# Stones (winged)
Pelham	≥ 10	≥ 1
Amherst	6	1
Quabbin *	≥ 8	3
Palmer	1	
Chesterfield	1	
Colrain		1
Rowe	1	
Worcester Co.	3	
TOTAL	≥ 30	≥ 6

Tally: Swift River, Phase 3a (winged)

Eastern towns		Western towns		Outliers (Worc. Co.)	
Quabbin towns	≥ 7	Goshen (schist)	11	North Brookfield	3
Pelham	5	Conway	2	Athol	1
Hadley	4	Blandford	1	Hardwick	1
Sunderland	4				
Leverett	3	TOTAL	14	TOTAL	5
Montague	1				
Shutesbury	1				
TOTAL	≥ 25				

Tally: Swift River 3b (no wings)

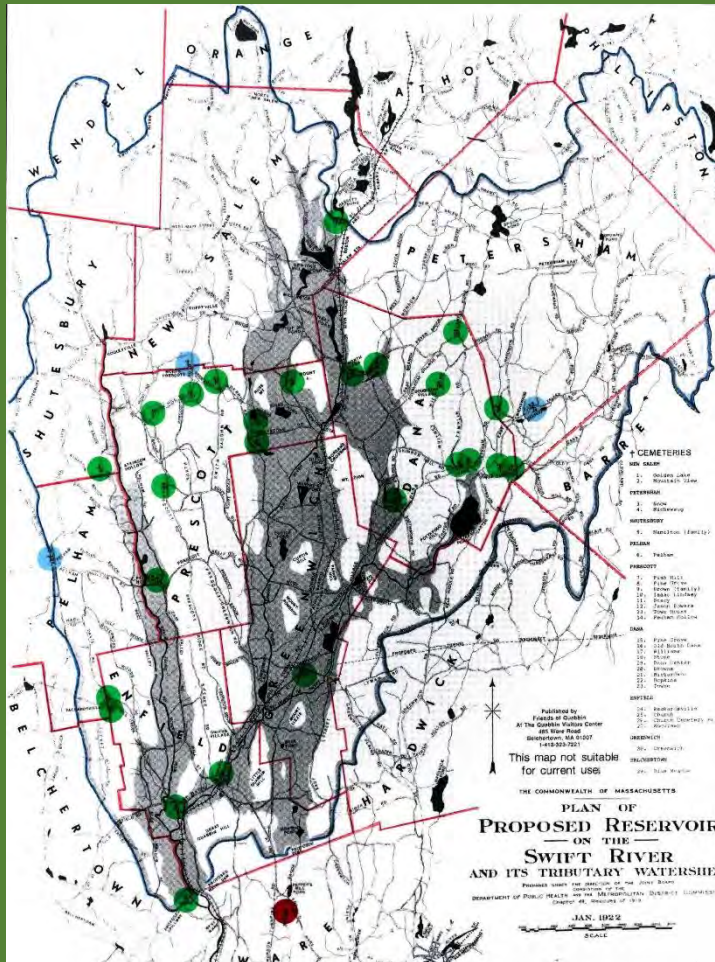
Eastern Group		Western Group		Outliers	
Amherst	7	Cummington	25	N. Brookfield	1
Hadley	4	Goshen	19		
Pelham	≥ 2	Conway	3		
Quabbin	1	Chesterfield	1		
TOTAL	≥ 14		48		1

Tally: Swift River Phase 4, slate

Towns	# Stones
Quabbin	11
Hardwick	4
Leverett	4
Pelham	3
Amherst	3
Shutesbury	1
West Brookfield	1
TOTAL	27

Quabbin Park Cemetery

MDC: "... 7,613 graves were disinterred from **thirty-four cemeteries** scattered throughout **eight towns**. A majority of these [6601] were moved to the QPC ..."



	Plaque	Map
Belchertown	1	1
Dana	9	9
Enfield	4	4
Greenwich	1	1
New Salem	1	2
Petersham	1	2
Prescott	6	8
Shutesbury	-	1
Pelham	-	1
TOTAL	23	29

From: www.mass.gov/service-details/quabbin-park-cemetery

Prior to moving any graves, the MDWSC **plotted and mapped all the known cemeteries** on the 81,000 acres of land bought for the project. **Photographs were taken of every gravestone and all data was recorded.** Families with recorded deeds were contacted and asked where they wanted to have their ancestors' remains reinterred. If the family chose Quabbin Park Cemetery the bodies were reburied by the MDWSC in new lots in the same position as their original lot layout.