

Introduction: Barre Town Cemetery Records on the Internet

Welcome to the Barre Town, Vermont cemetery website. There are seven cemeteries within our town's borders, only three belong to the citizens of the town, the others being privately owned. The cemeteries represented on this webpage include Wilson Cemetery, our largest; Maplewood Cemetery; and West Hill Cemetery, our supposed oldest. Wilson and Maplewood are both active cemeteries, West Hill is no longer used. (The other Barre Town cemeteries not included are St. Sylvester, Sherman Cemetery, Gould Cemetery, and Averill Road.) As it is early in our publication process, documents will continue to evolve and new versions of them will appear from time to time.

In August of 2000, Mr. Robert M. Murphy published a listing of the gravestones in the Maplewood Cemetery. His visual list included the names and dates of the cemetery occupants as he traveled from stone to stone. Using the old maps and schematics, Mr. Murphy's work presented a fairly accurate picture of what the cemetery looked like in 2000. The following August, Mr. Murphy published a visual inventory of the Wilson Cemetery. Again, he went stone to stone, section to section and provided information as to the occupants of this cemetery. Mr. Murphy's work, previously published on the town webpage, became a skeleton for the database attached to this webpage and a framework to build on as further information came to light. The Commission has decided to carry on Mr. Murphy's important works.

The Cemetery Commission began the process of getting cemetery information into a usable database during the cemetery year 2011. By the end of the season, members had decided on a rough format and set early goals for getting the data into spreadsheets. As commissioners, the group had access to the card index kept by the cemetery sexton and data from the cards went into the spreadsheets. Many lots did not appear in the Murphy index, most of those unmarked and only referenced in the card files, a place Mr. Murphy may not have had access to. The process of elimination combined data from the cards and from the Murphy index leading to a single entry in the spreadsheet for each lot owner. Cemetery photos came into play as visual checks against information found in other sources. As Mr. Murphy published his findings more than 10 years prior to the latest attempt to consolidate information, more data could be entered into the spreadsheet as new owners and occupants showed up through the cards and photographic evidence.

Over the years, several maps have been generated for use at the Maplewood and Wilson cemeteries. Most of the maps contained more schematic information than actual lot dimensions and didn't always match with the tombstones on the ground. Using the old maps and new photographs, a comprehensive and up – to – date schematic mapping system has been developed for use by the sexton in the daily operations of the cemeteries as well as the public interested in finding the graves of family members. As noted above, the maps do not always match what is found on the ground, but the resulting depiction of the cemeteries provide useful tools for maintenance workers and finding grave locations. The spreadsheet with the resident's names also contain the cemetery section and lot to locate who is where.

Data has a funny way of becoming out of date in a hurry. In an attempt to keep the cemeteries spreadsheets current, the sexton, town officials, and the commission will be working together to keep them current and to provide updated spreadsheets at the end of each cemetery year if possible. Normally, the season ends in mid – November and a new spreadsheet might be added to the webpage the following calendar year if circumstances permit. Hopefully, the spreadsheet might never be more than one year out of date. Be sure to follow along with the companion documents such as the veterans' information and the layout schematics, they will change and be updated from time to time as well.

The resulting spreadsheets presented here are the 2019 versions, an attempt to consolidate all the information at hand. Through efforts of the sexton, the town officials, and the members of the cemetery commission, the work will continue and hopefully we can massage our data down into a more accurate representation of our cemeteries as time and data resources allow.

A cemetery index usually includes only information found in the cemetery. This means that most of the vital statistic type documents and information are not available inside the index. You will see some items in the spreadsheets in [brackets] that indicate data added as found in other sources to further clarify who might be in our cemeteries. This data is included as hints and should be verified with other sources. While cemeteries provide the only opportunity to meet our more distant ancestors, a visit to the Town Clerk's Office or other public records repository may be necessary to track down vital statistics documents. Our sexton does not keep copies of documents such as death certificates, as they are not necessary for cemetery operation. The death certificate would provide more information about the individual concerned and in theory, can be found at the town clerk's office in the town the individual passed away in. Be advised, however, not all death certificates are presented to the town clerk for filing. Other sources can be found on the internet, beware that some sites will charge admission to their information databases.

Disclaimer: The data presented represents a best guess snapshot of the cemeteries of Barre Town, Vermont as of the date shown at the top of the spreadsheet. The list has been compiled using information gathered in the cemeteries, by information found on individual headstones and grass markers, and data extracted from an existing card index. Members of the commission donated their own time to verify the data entered with the stones in the cemeteries. Although the data shown is a best fit to what has been found in the cemetery, errors and omissions are bound to occur as not all of the stones in the cemeteries are readable, some are missing, and some graves have never been marked. The card index, though comprehensive, did not include many of the earliest cemetery lot owners, and other cards did not present a full picture of the lot configuration nor its occupants. This is an on – going project and still in the development stage, we regret any errors and omissions found herein.

Respectfully,
Dwight D. Harrington, Commissioner