

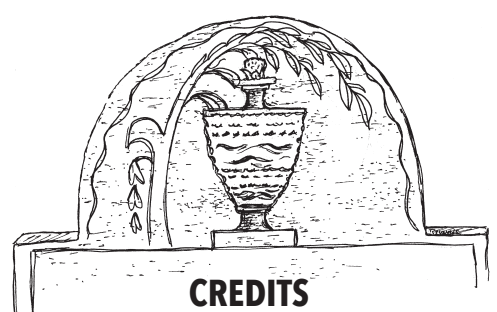
J&D CIVIL ENGINEERS, LLC

LEGEND

- 1. **ALDRICH (Coman)**
85 Brickyard Road
No. Grosvenordale
- 2. **BATES***
73 Bonnette Avenue
Thompson
- 3. **JOSLIN***
2 Long Pond Road
Thompson
- 4. **UPHAM* (Cortiss)**
91-93 Quinebaug
Road
No. Grosvenordale
- 5. **DIKE***
126 Brandy Hill
Road
Thompson
- 6&7. **EAST THOMPSON***
290-306 East
Thompson Road
Thompson
- 8. **JACOBS***
406 Lowell Davis
Road
No. Grosvenordale
- 9. **NEW BOSTON**
(Fabyan*)
49 Parker Road
No. Grosvenordale
- 10. **NORTH GROSVENORDALE**
100 Main Street
No. Grosvenordale
- 11. **PORTER**
18 Babula Road
Thompson
- 12. **QUADDICK***
42 Townes Lane
Thompson
- 13. **ROSS***
142 Hill Road
Thompson
- 14. **ST. JOSEPH'S***
12-26 Main Street
No. Grosvenordale
- 15. **SWEDISH***
853 Riverside Drive
No. Grosvenordale
- 16. **TOURTELLOTTE***
272 Wilsonville
Road
No. Grosvenordale
- 17. **WEST THOMPSON***
37 Thompson Road
No. Grosvenordale
- 18. **WHITTEMORE**
17 Thompson
Hill Road
No. Grosvenordale
- 19. **WILSONVILLE***
39 Wilsonville Road
No. Grosvenordale
- 20. **CARPENTER***
18 Sand Dam Road
Thompson
- 21. **WINTER**
97 Mountain Hill Rd.
No. Grosvenordale
- 22. **THOMPSON POOR FARM**
818 Quaddick Town
Road
Thompson
- 23. **JUNIA JOSLIN**
2 Fred Davis Road
Thompson

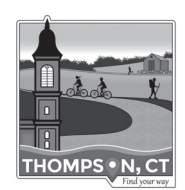
*Searchable by cemetery name on Google maps

NOTE:
All addresses are approximate.



CREDITS

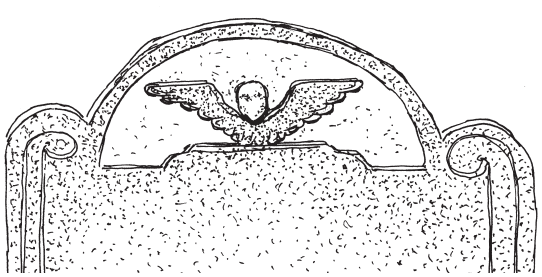
Thank you,
Beverly DeFilippo, Kathy Guertin,
Joe Iamartino, Tracie Lombardy,
Lucille Langlois, Dan Malo, Norma O'Leary,
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<https://ctvisit.com/eastern-connecticut>
www.thompsonct.org/conservation-commission
www.thompsonhistorical.org

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BURYING GROUNDS

"Cemeteries are like museums. They preserve and exhibit an early American Art Form and tell stories of many past lifetimes." (*Thompson Bicentennial Memory Book*, 1785-1985 (1985) pg.20)

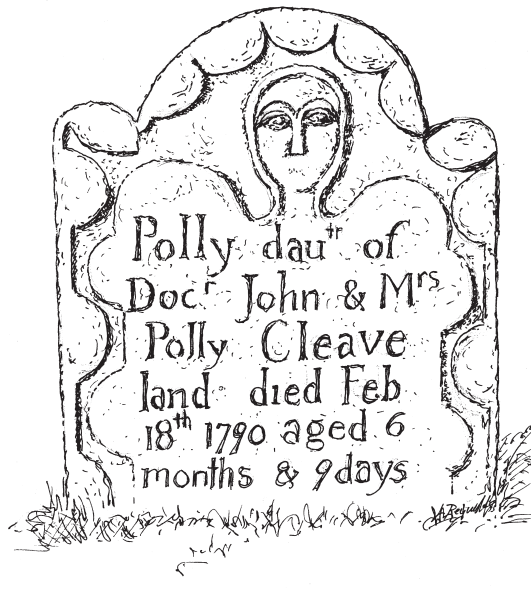
Burying grounds, burial grounds, graveyards, cemeteries different terms used to define where the bodies of those who have died are placed. Cemetery comes from Old French cimetiere which comes from the Greek word Koimeterion, which is the word for 'sleeping place.'

In modern day usage all locations used to bury the dead are cemeteries; however, only those within the confines of a church property are a graveyard. Thompson has twenty-three identified cemeteries with only one, St. Joseph's Cemetery, defined as a graveyard. Providing a place for the dead was originally a family obligation. Many Thompson cemeteries were started as family or neighborhood cemeteries; many remain as such today.

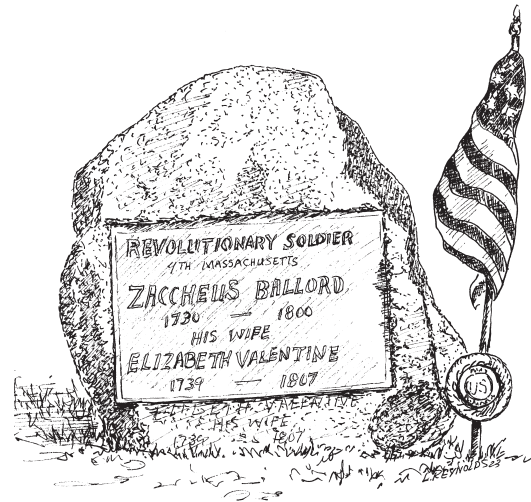
Of the identified Thompson burying grounds, only six (6) allow burials. Two of those, Wilsonville and the Swedish Emanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery, have restrictions.

Thompson was once considered the North Parish of Killingly. When Thompson was established as an independent town in 1785, birth, death, marriage, and land records prior to this date remained in Killingly.

The Hale Collection is a compilation of cemetery inscriptions collected through a Works Progress Administration (WPA) effort in the mid-1930s under the guidance of Charles R. Hale.



**A Guide
To
Burying Grounds
In
Thompson, Connecticut**



1. Aldrich Cemetery (Coman)

The signage at this cemetery reads: "Coman Cemetery Established in the 1840's by John G. Coman who had the foresight to set aside this quiet plot of land for his family and generations of Coman's who had and will follow." The first record of a cemetery on this land is a 1917 deed of the John G. Coman farm which explicitly names the "Coman Cemetery Lot".

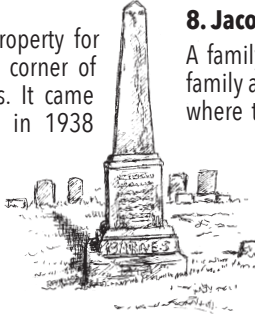
How it became known as the Aldrich Cemetery is unknown since all written references to it are the Coman Cemetery.

According to the Hale Collection, its first burial was that of John G. Coman who died December 4, 1877. In 1932, Ida Aldrich Martin and several others created the Coman Cemetery Trust. As late as 1990, contributions were still being made to the Trust. This continues to be a family cemetery; the most recent burial was in 2010.

Two Civil War soldiers as well as other veterans from more recent wars are interred here. The cemetery is listed with its own Thompson Map ID 40/89/22, although it is located on privately held property.

2. Bates Cemetery

This cemetery initially was on family property for family and neighbors in this northeast corner of Thompson, bordering on Massachusetts. It came under the Bates Cemetery Association in 1938 and incorporated in 1940. The area has a right of way from Bonnet St. to access it. The earliest grave is of Welcome Bates, son of John and Chloe (Fuller) Bates, age 9 months, May 6, 1790. Also interred are John's parents Jacob and Molly (Clark) Bates in 1795 & 1798. There are at least three American Revolution Patriots, War of 1812 two, Civil War two and veterans of other wars since then.



3. Joslin Cemetery

This is a cemetery for several generations of the Joslin family of northeast Thompson. The oldest grave, 1822, is of Edward Joslin age 72 years. He and his brother, Benjamin (d. 1846), are both buried here and served in the American Revolution. There have been more burials since then. The earliest Joslins in this area (and ancestors of these Joslins) were Israel Joslin and wife, Sarah (Bailey) Joslin. They are buried in Old East Thompson Cemetery.

Veterans of War of 1812, Civil War and wars since then are interred in this Joslin Cemetery.

4. Upham Cemetery (Cortiss)

According to the Town land records there is no deed for this property; it contains .51 acres.

The earliest burial is that of (unknown first name) Cortiss widow of Bethiah who died 22 Jan 1810. In reviewing the wording on the stone, it clearly states "In memory of the widow Bethiah Cortiss"; thus, emphasizing that transcriptions may have errors. Genealogy records show that Bethiah is the mother of the only Revolutionary Soldier buried in this cemetery. There are War of 1812 and Civil War veterans and those from later conflicts.

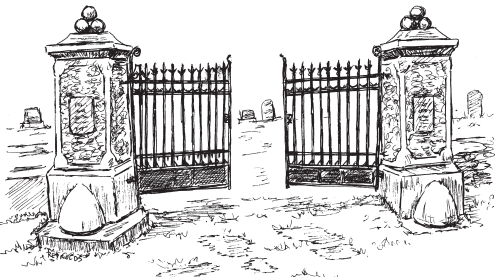
Of note in this cemetery is George Gilbert Smith whose book *Leaves from a Soldier's Diary* published in Putnam in 1906 is available on-line at Google books

5. Dike Cemetery

The Dike Cemetery is located on property that was originally purchased by Samuel Narramore in 1729. In 1750 he deeded the property to his son-in-law James Dike. In 1913, George P. Dike established a trust for the Dike Cemetery "to hold and maintain said land as a burying ground for the persons already interred therein and for such other members of the Dike family, or other persons as said trustee or his successors shall permit to be interred therein...."

In 1954, George Dike, Trustee of the Cemetery Trust, deeded the cemetery along with its trust funds to the West Thompson Cemetery Association. Only a portion of this cemetery has its own deed; it is in volume 38, page 62 and is recorded as .28 acres in the Thompson land records.

Family lore tells that during the second smallpox epidemic, the James Dike homestead was used as a hospital since James had already survived the first epidemic. His wife Mary Narramore died from smallpox in 1761 and hers is the oldest recorded grave. Others who were hospitalized with the smallpox and died were also buried in this family cemetery but without markers. Veterans of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 are buried here.

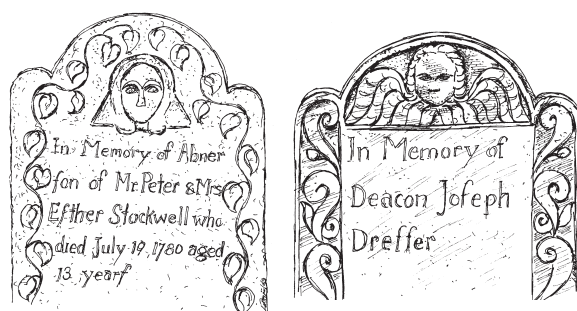


6-7. East Thompson Cemetery

The East Thompson Cemetery is composed of two sections. Originally referred to as the Jacobs Cemetery, the oldest part of the cemetery became known as the "Old East Thompson (West)". In 1865, across the road, one acre of land was opened to later become the "New East Thompson (East)" Cemetery. Since 1947, it has been one cemetery under the East Thompson Cemetery Association.

Burials in both sections of the East Thompson Cemetery began long before the properties were deeded. On the West side, burials are documented from the mid-1700s and on the East side, from the early 1800s. James A. Slater describes a number of engraved slate stones in his book, *The Colonial Burying Grounds of Eastern Connecticut* (1987; repr. 1996).

In 1850 the Town bought a hearse for the Burial Ground in District #11 (East Thompson). This hearse was used



until around 1885 and was stored in the cemetery's hearse house. It later disappeared. After the East Thompson Cemetery Association was formed, one of the first goals of the group was to find the "Old Hearse." It was found at an antiques dealer's shop in Abington, returned, and restored. In 1984 it was moved to Old Sturbridge Village.

The cemetery has grave markers for military who served as early as the French and Indian War. Military interred in East Thompson reflect all the major conflicts and all branches of service. Each year on Memorial Day, the names of all military persons buried in East Thompson are recited in remembrance.

8. Jacobs Cemetery

A family cemetery for several generations of the Jacobs family and their descendants, located in the neighborhood where they resided. Most of the surnames are Jacobs. Others are Coman (2 children of Oscar & Anna (Jacobs) Coman), Joslin (3) and Mills (2). The earliest grave is of David Jacobs, died Aug 2, 1815, 25 years old. American Revolution-John Jacobs, War of 1812-Ezra Jacobs & Capt. Silas Jacobs, and Civil War-George H. Jacobs

9. New Boston Cemetery (Fabyan)

The name of this village within the Town of Thompson was originally New Boston. It was changed to Fabyan in the early 1900s; thus New Boston Cemetery.

From Bayles, Richard, *History of Windham County Connecticut*, 1889, pgs 701 & 702:

"A burial lot for the use of the neighborhood was given by Mrs. Chapin and enclosed and made ready for occupation by the adjacent residents. The first interment was that of Lucy Robbins in 1812." But the gravestone reads: Lucy Robbins died Aug 18, 1813, age 19 yrs. This as the earliest grave conflicts with the earliest noted on Hale's List as that of Amasa Comstock, died June 1, 1789, age 11 mos, son of Wonton & Elizabeth. They are buried here along with another child. This is a large cemetery for families and neighbors with over 400 graves. Some were residents of the neighboring towns of Woodstock, CT, and Dudley, MA. Burials continue here to this day.

Military: American Revolution Patriots (4), War of 1812 (9), Civil War (9) and veterans of wars since then.

10. North Grosvenordale Cemetery (North Grosvenor)

Land records do not show any deeds for this cemetery; it does state that it is .7 acres.

According to the Hale Collection, the earliest burial was the infant son of Lyman and Sarah P. Whittemore who died April 10, 1831, followed by his father who died December 12, 1833 at age 27.

Veterans of the War of 1812, the Civil War and more recent conflicts are buried here.

11. Porter Cemetery

Porter Cemetery is an .83 acre section of a tract of land conveyed to Ira A. Porter in 1855. Subsequent transfers of the property continue to include the provision for access to the cemetery: "Reserving the cemetery on said premises with right of passway at all times for burial (sic) or work on same...."

According to the Hale Collection, the earliest burials in Porter are in March 1824. On March 9, Sarah Porter, aged 2 years, 4 months and 21 days died, and on March 20, Patience Kimball, wife of William, died at age 30.

The five Civil War veterans interred here have Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) markers indicating that after their service they joined this fraternal organization. There is one World War I soldier who died in the war.

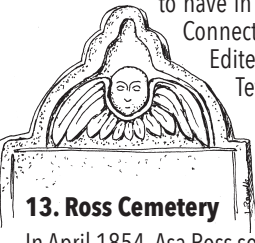
The most interesting story in this cemetery is that of Alice Watson's tombstone. Found by a volunteer in 2013, research has shown that she was buried in Exeter, Rhode Island. The whole story can be read via the Thompson Historical Society Cemetery link under "Places & Properties." (<https://thompsonhistorical.org/>)

12. Quaddick Cemetery

Quaddick Cemetery is located on the north westerly side of the Quaddick Reservoir and contains .41 acres. In October 1865, this cemetery was identified as a "neighborhood burying ground...with a free and convenient pass way to and from said burying ground to the Public Highway." The Warranty Deed for 42 Townes Lane Lot 12C currently allows a ten (10) foot right of way that gives access from the Town Road to the end of the peninsula.

The earliest burial is that of Israel [sic] Fefft in 1810. Given that over time, the tombstones and their engravings disappear, the Thompson Historical Society is fortunate to have in its holdings "Epitaphs at Quaddick, Connecticut," Collected, Arranged, and Edited by Mrs. George Washington Tefft, in 1925. Five (5) veterans are interred: three (3) Revolutionary War, one (1) War of 1812 and one (1) Civil War.

In April 1854, Asa Ross sold 200 acres of land known as the Wheaton Farm to his son Lowell N. Ross. The deed refers to "the burying lot on said farms as laid out. ..." This is clearly a family burial ground with only three surnames appearing, Ballou, Ross and Thomton. Asa's daughter Roxa married Arnold Ballou, and his daughter Mary E. married Joseph Fenner. The earliest burial is that of Asa's grandson Fenner Thomton, in 1815.



13. Ross Cemetery

This cemetery is located on private property although the deed continues the right of way to the cemetery (Thompson Land Records, vol. 465, p. 294).

14. ST. JOSEPH'S CEMETERY

St. Joseph's is the only cemetery in Thompson that is a graveyard, i.e., it is part and parcel of the Church.

In 1872, the Reverend Eugen Vygen, Pastor of Putnam, purchased twelve (12) acres of land between the villages of Grosvenordale and North Grosvenordale. Two years later, the cemetery was consecrated. There are basically only two places that the Roman Catholic Church consecrates as Holy Ground and those are a church and a cemetery. The consecration of a cemetery is an extremely ancient custom of the Church that can be traced back as far as Saint Gregory of Tours (d. 593 AD).

Rules that control usage of this cemetery are dictated by church protocols. At one time, only those baptized by the church could be buried there; anyone who committed suicide could not be buried; only persons of the Catholic faith were allowed burial; cremations were not allowed. All this has changed over the years and is now allowed.

According to the Hale collection, the earliest burial was Toussant [sic] Larose who died November 1, 1859, followed by his wife Phiblomene Dutremble who died in 1864.

Both the Hale Collection and the "Sons of Veterans Memorial Day List" identified numerous military burials starting with these from the Civil War, but neither show any beyond World War I.

The Town of Thompson has very few veterans of the Spanish American War; the war only lasted from April 21 through December 10, 1898. One of these is Napoleon Girard who served in Co. G, 3rd Connecticut Infantry, died in service from a tetanus infection and is interred in St. Joseph's.

15. Swedish Cemetery (Emanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery)

The area now known as the Swedish Cemetery was the location of the first Lutheran Church in Thompson; the property was donated in 1882 by the Grosvenor Dale Company for "a church and enough for a cemetery lot." In 1935, when the church was demolished, the foundation stones of the church were used to construct the burial vault still seen at street level below the cemetery on Riverside Drive. The cemetery gates were designed and constructed by Eddie Anderson in 1935. The Emanuel Lutheran Cemetery became an independent nonprofit on November 10, 2018.

According to the Hale Collection, the oldest stone in the Swedish Cemetery is that of Kristiana Anderson Svenson who died in 1859. However, the cemetery records, written in Swedish, indicate that the first interment was that of "Albergs Barns Begravning" translated as "Abergs Infant Burial" in March 1883.

Buried here is Oscar Wilford Swanson, who was the first Thompson resident to die in action in World War I; he was honored with the placing of a marker and the naming of a small public park at the nearby intersection of Riverside Drive and Market Street. There are other veterans buried here. Burials in this cemetery are limited to members or relatives of members of Emanuel Lutheran Church.

16. Tourtellotte Cemetery (Holmes)

A family cemetery on the land formerly owned by Joseph Tourtellotte and possibly even before him by his father, Abraham Tourtellotte. Abraham Tourtellotte is noted by Ellen Larned in her *History of Windham County*, as living in Killingly in 1770. Note that Thompson was part of Killingly until 1785. Abraham supplied salt peter to support the Revolutionary War effort in 1777. The earliest graves in this cemetery are that of Abraham, May 1779, and his wife Phebe (Thornton), May 1808 and then their descendants. Lucy Tourtellotte married Stephen Holmes and thus started the Holmes line. Not on Hale's List are some members of the Ballard Family. Other family names are of neighbors living nearby. There is a cenotaph (memorial obelisk) for brothers, John Tourtellotte and Jacob Tourtellotte, Civil War veterans with distinguished careers. John is buried in Arlington National Cemetery and Jacob in Winona, Minnesota. Jacob and his wife Harriet were the benefactors who gave Tourtellotte Memorial High School to the town of Thompson. American Revolution (3), War of 1812 (1), Civil War (3).

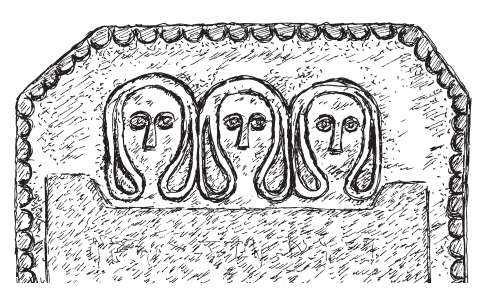


17. WEST THOMPSON CEMETERY

Although the West Thompson Cemetery is one entity, it is described in the Thompson town records as two separate lots with both under the auspices of the West Thompson Cemetery Association; one came under their jurisdiction in 1935 and the other in 2000. There are major entrances to the cemetery from both Riverside Drive (Route 12) and Thompson Road (Route 193).

The first piece of land recorded for this cemetery is in the North Society of Killingly Church Records which state that in 1735, Daniel Shapley gave a "piece of land near the French River a mile or more southwest of the meeting house, for a burying place for said society." The first deeded land transaction for this cemetery occurred in 1848 when George Nichols sold to Hezekiah Ramsdell "one undivided and equal half of said premise for a cemetery or burying ground reserving the other half to myself and my heirs." Other property has been obtained over the years.

The older Shapley section, closer to Route 193, has a significant number of engraved stones from the early 1700s described by James A. Slater in *The Colonial Burying Grounds of Eastern Connecticut*. This is where the



earliest residents of Thompson are buried. The earliest tombstone, according to the Hale Collection, is that of four-year-old John Allton who died January 8, 1711.

A notable monument is that placed by the Elizabeth Porter Putnam Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution in 1906 with the inscription "In Memoriam Soldiers of The Revolutionary War Who Rest in this Yard"; the bronze marker lists the majority of Revolutionary soldiers buried in this cemetery but not all of them. Veterans of the many conflicts since that war are also buried here. This is an active cemetery.

18. Whittemore Cemetery

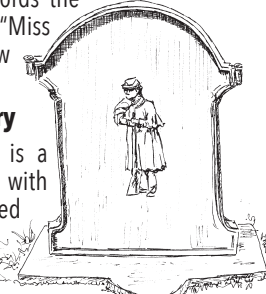
The Whittemore Cemetery is a family cemetery adjacent to the American Legion Parking lot, across the street from the old Whittemore Tavern.

There are eleven (11) stones with only four (4) different names, Aldrich, Whittemore, Sawyer and Witherell.

The earliest burial is that of Lucia Witherell, who died May 13, 1814, at age 2 years and nine months. Mary Jane [Witherell] wife of Thomas Aldrich, and three of their children all died between July 19, 1852, and February 8, 1853; one can only wonder what happened during those seven months to cause their deaths. Research in the Town records only records the February 8, 1853 death of "Miss Aldrich" age 7, "By a blow from a cart."

19. Wilsonville Cemetery

The Wilsonville Cemetery is a neighborhood cemetery with the earliest burial recorded in the Hale Collection as Nathaniel Shieffield who died December 28, 1791.



This cemetery is identified in Thompson Town records as block 77, lot 63, lot 5 and encompasses .72 acres; there is no deed. Numerous veterans of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and the Civil War are buried here, although the Thompson Historical Society cannot verify the military service of Captain Laban Thurber Wilson.

Dyer Arnold Upham (1824-1907), who is buried here is credited with reviving the barred Plymouth rock hen. Because this breed provides both good quality meat and good egg production, it was encouraged by the federal government during World Wars I and II.

20. Carpenter Cemetery

This is a family cemetery. The earliest recorded death and burial is 1849 for Eugene Ephraim Carpenter, 1yr, 1mo old. He was the grandson of Richard and Cynthia (Walker) Carpenter, owners of the property at that time. There are only 14 graves in this cemetery, sadly 4 of these are infants/babies. Three of these young ones have both maternal and paternal grandparents buried here. Two Carpenter brothers married two Ballard sisters. Hence the Carpenter and Ballard surnames. Hale's List (about 1932) lists four by the name of Joslin but they were moved to East Thompson Cemetery. No recent burials as this is a family only cemetery. War of 1812-Richard Carpenter

21. Winter Cemetery

When the Hale survey was done in the 1930s, there were a number of fieldstones and only one stone with an epitaph, that for Ebenezer L. Hill. This family cemetery is located on private property. As early as 1942, there has been a stipulation that "The grantors reserve the right of way to a family cemetery in the northeast section of said land." This is currently identified in the deed associated with map 42, block 88, lot 161 in the Town of Thompson Assessor's files.

22. Poor Farm Cemetery

The Thompson Poor Farm was originally located on land that is now the entrance to Quaddick State Park. This cemetery was not surveyed by the Hale volunteers in the 1930s. There are no burial listings for this cemetery. Research has shown that some of the deceased residents of the Poor Farm were buried in other local cemeteries.

23. Junia Joslin Cemetery

This cemetery was not identified in the Hale Collection because it was not found until the Thompson Conservation Commission, in 2013, did its review of cemeteries.

In 1859, the deed from Patty Joslin to Junia S. Joslin states "The said 1/2 acres is to be fenced and used only for the purpose of a family burying lot for the heirs and descendants of Junia Joslin." There is no documentation that anyone was ever buried here.

