

Finding Aid to the Cemetery Records Collection

Date Range: 1850-2015

Compiled by Arielle Nathanson,

February 2022

Summary

Creator: The Easton Historical Society and Museum

Title: Cemetery Records Collection

Dates: 1850-2015

Extent: .834 linear feet

Abstract: The Cemetery Records Collection, dates from 1850 to 2015 and contains information on or photographs of most of the cemeteries in Easton. Included in this collection are: meeting minutes, cemetery listings, historical accounts, newspaper articles, correspondence, receipts, maps and by laws.

Language: English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information: This collection is the result of various donations of newspapers, photographs and oral histories and as such there is no one source to credit for their acquisition.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected, but the collection may be updated as additional relevant materials are located and processed.

Restrictions on Access: Collection may only be accessed with the permission of the Easton Historical Society and Museum. Digitized versions of select materials are available through this finding aid and the Easton Historical Society and Museum's website at: eastonmahistoricalsociety.org

Conditions Governing Use: The Cemetery Records Collection is owned by the Easton Historical Society and Museum. It may be used for research, study and scholarship purposes. Permission to quote, publish or copy these materials requires the permission of the Easton Historical Society and Museum, which can be contacted at: eastonmahsmuseum@gmail.com or 508-238-7774.

Preferred Citation: Cemetery Records Collection, 1850-2015, Easton Historical Society and Museum, [item].

Processing Note: This collection was fully processed and a finding aid created by Arielle Nathanson. Select materials from this collection were digitized in 2022 and are accessible online. To request virtual access to non digitized materials, please contact the Easton Historical Society and Museum.

Biographical Note

Easton happens to have more cemeteries per square mile than anywhere else in the entire United States. The majority of these cemeteries are small and date back to colonial times. In total Easton has 32 of these small older cemeteries and 6 larger private cemeteries, 4 of which are included in this collection. Despite the numerous cemeteries that are well known and documented, there are many more whose records did not survive. That is the primary reason that so many series in this collection have so few materials. It is estimated that many graves or plots have yet to be found and likely may never be, due to the lack of records. The Easton Cemetery Commission is responsible for the care and operation of the town's public cemeteries.

The Easton town website has a cemetery database that is available for download by the public. It is the result of surviving records, information found on headstones and cemetery assessments. This database is the most thorough resource that Easton has to offer when it comes to its cemeteries, as it includes information about several unmarked graves. The database is updated regularly by the Society, so it is always current.

Scope and Content Note

The Cemetery Records Collection, dates from 1850 to 2015 and contains information on or photographs of most of the cemeteries in Easton. Included in this collection are: meeting minutes, cemetery listings, historical accounts, newspaper articles, correspondence, receipts, maps and by laws. This collection is arranged into three subgroups by status of the cemetery as public or private, with subsequent series, subseries, subsubseries and file levels being organized by alphabetical order, chronology, or document genre, as will be specified below. Notable materials in this collection include: headstone rubbings from the Cynthia Drake Cemetery, account books, listings of cemeteries and the people interned there, photographs of most cemeteries and miscellaneous items like the 1927 listing of Easton's veterans.

Subgroup 1: Public Cemeteries. The materials in this subgroup date from 1850 to 1984. Series, subseries, subsubseries and files are arranged by cemetery and then document genre. All groupings are presented alphabetically. Files are ordered chronologically or alphabetically where applicable. Notable materials include: plans for Central Cemetery and photographs of The Old Burying Ground.

Series 1.1: Apollos Clark Cemetery. The materials in this series date from 1972 to sometime in the recent past. There are no subseries because there are few materials in this series. There are no notable materials in this series.

Series 1.2: Asa Newcomb Cemetery. The materials in this series are undated. There are no subseries due to a lack of materials. The most notable item is a photograph of the cemetery.

Series 1.3: Central Cemetery. The materials in this series date from 1854 to 1984. Subseries and subsubseries are arranged by document genre and function. The most notable item is a listing of the original lot owners for this cemetery.

Series 1.4: Cynthia Drake Cemetery. The materials in this series are undated. There are no subseries due to a lack of materials. There are no notable materials in this series.

Series 1.5: Easton Cemetery Listings. The materials in this series date from 1985 to 2008. There are no subseries due to a lack of materials. The most recently updated list is available through the Society upon request.

Series 1.6: Doctor Edward Dean Cemetery. The materials in this series are undated. There are no subseries due to a lack of materials. The most notable item in this series is a picture of the cemetery.

Series 1.7: Elijah Copeland Cemetery. The materials in this series are undated. There are no subseries due to a lack of materials. There are no notable materials in this series.

Series 1.8: Old Burying Ground. The materials in this series are dated from 1850 to sometime in the past. There are no subseries due to a lack of materials. There are no notable materials in this series.

Series 1.9: Oliver Howard Cemetery. The materials in this series date to sometime in 2011. There are no subseries due to a lack of materials. There are no notable materials in this series.

Series 1.10: Keith Cemetery. The materials in this series are undated. There are no subseries due to a lack of materials. There are several pictures of this cemetery in this series.

Series 1.11: Thomas Manley Cemetery. The materials in this series are undated. There are no subseries due to a lack of materials. There are no notable materials in this series.

Series 1.12: William Dean Cemetery. The materials in this series date until sometime in 1984. There are no subseries due to a lack of materials. There are no notable materials in this series.

Subgroup 2: Private Cemeteries. The materials in this subgroup date from 1875 to 2015. Series and subseries are arranged by cemetery and then document genre. All groupings are presented alphabetically. Notable materials include: photographs and plans of select cemeteries.

Series 2.1: Furnace Village Cemetery. The materials in this series date from 1937 to 1998. There are no subseries due to a lack of materials. There are no notable materials in this series.

Series 2.2: Immaculate Conception Cemetery. The materials in this series date from 1964 to 1966. There are no subseries due to a lack of materials. There are no notable materials in this series.

Series 2.3: South Easton Cemetery. The materials in this series date from 1925 to 2015. There are no subseries due to a lack of materials. There are no notable materials in this series.

Series 2.4: The Village Cemetery. The materials in this series date from 1875 to 2008. Subseries are arranged by document genre and ordered alphabetically. The most notable materials are the photographs of Ames Family headstones and lot listings.

Subgroup 3: Miscellaneous Materials. The materials in this subgroup date from 1908 to 2011. Series are arranged by document genre. All groupings are presented alphabetically. Notable materials include: photographs and plans of select cemeteries.

Series 3.1: Cemetery Assessments. The materials in this series are undated. There are no subseries due to a lack of materials. There are no notable materials in this series.

Series 3.2: General History. The materials in this series date from 1973 to 2011. Subseries are arranged by document genre and ordered alphabetically. The most notable items are the drafts of Easton's Cemeteries.

Series 3.3: Photographs. The materials in this series are undated. There are no subseries due to a lack of materials. Notable items include pictures of the Captain Elisha Harvey Cemetery.

Series 3.4: Plans. The materials in this series date from 1908 to sometime in the past. There are no subseries due to a lack of materials. There are no notable materials in this series.

Series 3.5: Miscellaneous. The materials in this series date from 1927 to 1973. There are no subseries due to a lack of materials. The most notable item is a list of veterans buried in Easton from various wars.

Series Outline

The Cemetery Records Collection is arranged into three subgroups, with multiple series, subseries, subsubseries and file groupings. The arrangement is as follows:

Subgroup 1: Public Cemeteries, 1850-1984

Series 1.1: Apollos Clark Cemetery, 1972-Undated

Series 1.2: Asa Newcomb Cemetery, Undated

Series 1.3: Central Cemetery, 1854-1984

Subseries 1.3.1: Cemetery Plans, Undated

Subseries 1.3.2: Financial Records, 1854-1975

Subsubseries 1.3.2.1: Account Books, 1854-1958

Subsubseries 1.3.2.2: Correspondence, 1900-1975

Subsubseries 1.3.2.3: Receipts, 1854-1964

File Grouping 1.3.2.3.1: General Receipts, 1854-1907

File Grouping 1.3.2.3.2: Lot Receipts, 1855-1908

File Grouping 1.3.2.3.3: Lot Tax Receipts, 1892

File Grouping 1.3.2.3.4: Receipts for Labor and Maintenance,

1894-1964

Subseries 1.3.3: Original Lot Purchases, Undated

Subseries 1.3.4: Photographs, Undated

Subseries 1.3.5: Meeting Minutes, 1854-1984

Subseries 1.3.6: Miscellaneous, Undated

Series 1.4: Cynthia Drake Cemetery, Undated

Series 1.5: Easton Cemetery Listings, 1985-2008

Series 1.6: Doctor Edward Dean Cemetery, Undated

Series 1.7: Elijah Copeland Cemetery, Undated

Series 1.8: Old Burying Ground, 1850-Undated

Series 1.9: Oliver Howard Cemetery, Undated

Series 1.10: Keith Cemetery, Undated

Series 1.11: Thomas Manley Cemetery, Undated

Series 1.12: William Dean Cemetery, Undated-1984**Subgroup 2: Private Cemeteries, 1875-2015****Series 2.1: Furnace Village Cemetery, 1937-1998****Series 2.2: Immaculate Conception Cemetery, 1964-1966****Series 2.3: South Easton Cemetery, 1925-2015****Series 2.4: Village Cemetery, 1875-2008****Subseries 2.4.1: By Laws, 1879-2008****Subseries 2.4.2: History, 1991-2007****Subseries 2.4.3: Lot Listings, Undated****Subseries 2.4.4: Newspaper Articles, 1875-1990****Subseries 2.4.5: Photographs, Undated****Subseries 2.4.6: Plans, 1913****Subgroup 3: Miscellaneous Materials, 1908-2011****Series 3.1: Cemetery Assessments, Undated****Series 3.2: General History, 1973-2011****Subseries 3.2.1: Academic Reports, 1973-1994****Subseries 3.2.2: Easton's Cemeteries Drafts, Undated-1997****Subseries 3.2.3: Newspaper Articles, 1996-2011****Series 3.3: Photographs, Undated****Series 3.4: Plans, 1908-Undated****Series 3.5: Miscellaneous, 1927-1973****Related Materials**

Select materials from this series have been digitized. All materials are available upon request or at the Easton Historical Society and Museum's webpage:

<https://www.eastonmahistoricalociety.org/#/>

Easton's cemetery database and information regarding the Cemetery Commission can be found here:

https://www.easton.ma.us/boards_and_committees/cemetery_commission/easton_cemetery_records.php

Container List**Subgroup 1: Public Cemeteries, 1850-1984****Series 1.1: Apollos Clark Cemetery, 1972-Undated**

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Apollos Clark Cemetery Materials, 1972-Undated

Series 1.2: Asa Newcomb Cemetery, Undated

Box	Folder	Description
1	2	Asa Newcomb Cemetery Materials, Undated

Series 1.3: Central Cemetery, 1854-1984

Box	Folder	Description
1	3	Cemetery Plans, Undated
1	4	Account Books, 1854-1958
1	5	Correspondence, 1900-1975
1	6	General Receipts, 1854-1907
1	7	Lot Receipts, 1855-1908
1	8	Lot Tax Receipts, 1892
1	9	Receipts for Labor and Maintenance, 1894-1964
1	10	Original Lot Purchases, Undated
1	11	Photographs, Undated
1	12	Meeting Minutes, 1854-1984
1	13	Miscellaneous, Undated

Series 1.4: Cynthia Drake Cemetery, Undated

Box	Folder	Description
1	14	Cynthia Drake Cemetery Materials, Undated

Series 1.5: Easton Cemetery Listings, 1985-2008

Box	Folder	Description
1	15	Easton Cemetery Listings, 1985-2008

Series 1.6: Doctor Edward Dean Cemetery, Undated

Box	Folder	Description
1	16	Doctor Edward Dean Cemetery Materials, Undated

Series 1.7: Elijah Copeland Cemetery, Undated

Box	Folder	Description
1	17	Elijah Copeland Cemetery Materials, Undated

Series 3.2: General History, 1973-2011

Box	Folder	Description
2	18	Academic Reports, 1973-1994
2	19	Easton's Cemeteries Drafts, Undated-1997
2	20	Newspaper Articles, 1996-2011

Series 1.8: Old Burying Ground, 1850-Undated

Box	Folder	Description
2	21	Old Burying Ground Materials, 1850-Undated

Series 1.9: Oliver Howard Cemetery, Undated

Box	Folder	Description
2	22	Oliver Howard Cemetery Materials, Undated

Series 1.10: Keith Cemetery, Undated

Box	Folder	Description
2	23	Keith Cemetery Materials, Undated

Series 1.11: Thomas Manley Cemetery, Undated

Box	Folder	Description
2	24	Thomas Manley Cemetery Materials, Undated

Series 1.12: William Dean Cemetery, Undated-1984

Box	Folder	Description
2	25	William Dean Cemetery Materials, Undated-1984

Subgroup 2: Private Cemeteries, 1875-2015**Series 2.1: Furnace Village Cemetery, 1937-1998**

Box	Folder	Description
2	26	Furnace Village Cemetery Materials, 1937-1998

Series 2.2: Immaculate Conception Cemetery, 1964-1966

Box	Folder	Description
2	27	Immaculate Conception Cemetery Materials, 1964-1966

Series 2.3: South Easton Cemetery, 1925-2015

Box	Folder	Description
2	28	South Easton Cemetery Materials, 1925-2015

Series 2.4: Village Cemetery, 1875-2008

Box	Folder	Description
2	29	By Laws, 1879-2008
2	30	History, 1991-2007
2	31	Lot Listings, Undated
2	32	Newspaper Articles, 1875-1990
2	33	Photographs, Undated
2	34	Plans, 1913

Subgroup 3: Miscellaneous Materials, 1908-2011**Series 3.1: Cemetery Assessments, Undated**

Box	Folder	Description
2	35	Cemetery Assessments, Undated

Series 3.3: Photographs, Undated

Box	Folder	Description
2	36	Photographs, Undated

Series 3.4: Plans, 1908-Undated

Box	Folder	Description
2	37	Cemetery Plans, 1908-Undated

Series 3.5: Miscellaneous, 1927-1973

Box	Folder	Description
2	38	Miscellaneous, 1927-1973