

# **Second Burial Ground of the North Parish**

**North Andover, Massachusetts**



A history told through headstones,  
family markers, town records,  
and the preservation efforts of many

## A Town Begins – and Grows

European settlement in this area dates back to around 1640. General Court records of 1642 included the village of Cochichewick (by the Great Pond) in the newly formed Essex County. With the arrival of more immigrants and the founding of a church in 1645, the settlement was renamed Andover. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the population had grown and spread, and a call arose for a second church in the south end of town, creating a North (or First) Parish and a South Parish for the new church. This was followed by a West Parish in 1826. Eventually the town of Andover would formally spit along parish lines into the present day North Andover (North Parish) and Andover (South and West Parish).

Following the English tradition, a town's cemetery was located next to the Meetinghouse where both religious services and town meetings were held. The first burying ground still exists today on Academy Road, although the town's first Meetinghouse has been replaced four times.

The original burying ground did not officially close until 1851, however, by the early 1800s it had reached its capacity. On March 6, 1817, at a town meeting of the inhabitants of the North Parish in Andover, the men gathered to form a committee "...to See where a piece of Land may be purchased Sutabel (*sic*) for a burying ground." About a month later on April 14 it was formerly voted to buy 1½ acres of land from Jonathan Stevens for a sum of \$243.75. A committee of three was selected to "lay out the burying ground" and "see to fencing the burying yard...with a board fence".

Jonathan Stevens  
to  
North Parish in  
Andover

Know all men by these Presents That I Jonathan Stevens of Andover in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts yeoman, in consideration of two hundred forty three dollars and seventy five cents paid by the Inhabitants of the North Parish in Andover aforesaid the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge do here by give grant sell and convey unto the said Inhabitants of the North Parish in said Andover their Successors and assigns, a certain piece of land situate in the North Parish of Andover aforesaid bounded and described as follows viz. Beginning at the North

*Extract from the Southern Essex County Registry  
Book 249, page 174*

The Second Burying Ground was carefully laid back from the road, fronted by property that Jonathan Stevens donated for the first incorporated co-educational academy in Massachusetts, the North Parish Free School, 1799-1850 (later renamed Franklin Academy in honor of Benjamin Franklin).

Again, following the English tradition, the Second Burying Ground lay adjacent to the town church/meetinghouse which had been relocated from the other end of the street. Impressive family homes that now stand on either side had not yet been built.

1856 map



First Burying Ground  
(the "Grave Yd" by O. Bailey,  
now the Parson Barnard  
House)

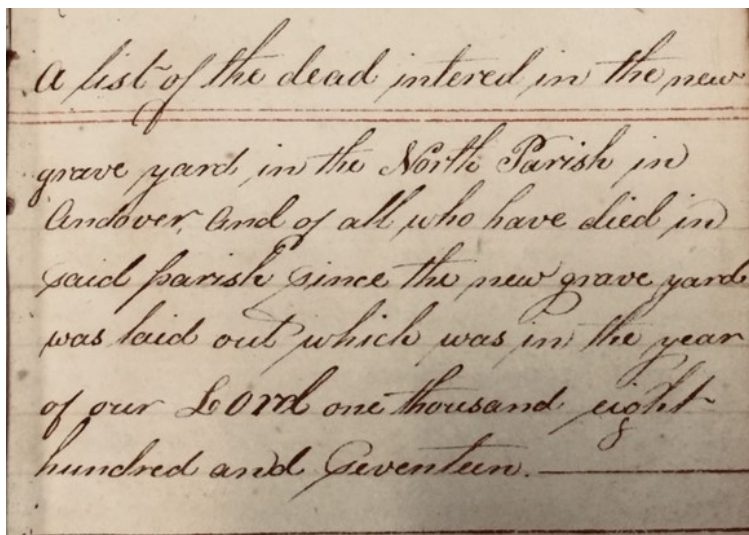
Meetinghouse

Second Burying Ground  
(*"Grave Yd"* between W. Stevens  
and Capt. N. Stevens)

The most current Meetinghouse was erected in 1836. Commonly referred to as "North Parish," it now houses the congregation of The North Parish of North Andover Unitarian Universalist. Family residences built in 1820 and 1846 and shown on the 1856 map (*above*) as the properties of "W. Stevens" and "Capt. N. Stevens," still remain. In the early 1850s, the school was relocated, leaving open space between the cemetery and Academy Road.

## Who Is Buried Here

During the years of 1817 to 1850, prior to the establishment of the town's third burying ground, Ridgewood Cemetery, approximately 715 deaths were recorded by individual(s) at Franklin Academy. With the exception of a few family sites and some remains relocated to other towns, most of those recorded deaths were interred in the Second Burying Ground.



*"A list of the dead interred (sic) in the new grave yard in the North Parish in Andover" 1817-18465.  
(on file in the Archives of North Andover Historical Society)*

Those interred in the cemetery include many descendants of early Andover settlers as well as descendants of slaves, European immigrants looking for work in local industry, veterans of the American Revolution, and founders of the Trinitarian Church.

The cemetery is laid out in family groups, with early Andover families like the Peters, Stevens and Osgoods towards the front. Stone or metal fencing surround several of the family plots. Family tombs are found in the mound midway in the cemetery. African-American families are at the back, tucked off to the side.

Town vital records have many stories to tell of lives cut short and lives fully lived. Many interred have no surviving stone, perhaps lost through damage over the years; some have simple markers, while others are ornate. Their stories are a reminder of how illness and accidents could quickly change lives.

Three children of Barzilla Lew, ages 3, 5 and 8 years old, died of dysentery over the course of one week in 1817; their graves are unmarked. Two neighbors, Mary Ann Armitage, age 5, and David Mooar, age 6, died after "falling from a plank crossing the brook on the way to school" (a walk from what is now known as downtown North Andover, up Sutton and Osgood Streets, to the River School house where Butcher Boy is today).

Occupational hazards, before health and safety laws, included being crushed by a cart at the wheelright's shop or fatal encounters with the heavy machinery at the mill, known as "the Factory." Some of the children buried here, of toddler age, may also be mill-related deaths, as they perhaps accompanied their parents to work for lack of suitable childcare.

Children, doctors, maids, businessmen, wives, tradesmen, wealthy and paupers – cemeteries claim them all. Here are stories of just a few.

### **Jonathan Stevens (1747-1834)**

A descendant of town founder John Stevens, Jonathan was a farmer and a currier of leather. A veteran of the Revolutionary War, he fathered 14 children. In addition to donating property for the North Parish Free School (later renamed Franklin Academy), Jonathan is the one who sold the land to the "inhabitants of the North Parish of Andover" for the purpose of laying out the Second Burying Ground. A family monument (*image, right*) is located at the rear of the cemetery. Smaller stones nearby note burials of other family members.



## Doctor Thomas Kittredge (1746 -1818)

Dr. Kittredge built and lived in the mansion at 56 Academy Road, today known as Kittredge Farm (*image, above*). A surgeon in the Revolutionary War, he later treated patients in his home where he also boarded and trained young medical students.



At the time of his death it was reported in the Essex Register newspaper that he was noted for his great success in surgery, general medical practice and particularly “in his treatment of such cases of insanity as were committed to him.” The Kittredge family tomb is located on the mound at the right, midway back in the cemetery.

## Isaac Osgood Esq (1755 – 1847)

Isaac Osgood and his brother Samuel, the first Postmaster of the U.S., were born in the Captain Peter Osgood House, which still stands today at 440 Osgood Street (*image, below; Gayton Osgood photo*). At the time of his death in 1847 his estate was valued at \$66,303.76, a value of approximately \$2 million in today’s dollars. His 100-acre “home farm” was worth \$10,000 alone; his businesses of “machine shop, mills, water power, together with 8 dwelling houses & 37 acres of land” were worth \$30,000. In addition, he



owned 75 acres of woodlots, 38 Osgood Street (which consisted of two houses, outbuildings and 20 acres of land), 186 shares of Bank Shares in nine banks, and Rail Road Stock in four lines: Boston & Maine, Boston & Worcester, Eastern and Lowell. Isaac's gravesite is unknown, his marker perhaps lost through an accident of nature.

## Lucy Frye (1804 - 1879)

Lucy Frye died in 1879 at the age of 75. Like most women of her age, she had an inconspicuous life, which perhaps passed with duties to her family. Unmarried and childless, her loving family honored her by erecting an expensive stone in her memory (*image, right*).



## Clarissa Coburn (1802 - 1826)

Clarissa Coburn was born in Tynsborough, MA, and died at Dr. Kittredge's house, down the road from where she is now buried, of "inflammation in the head." Her father Oliver died in October 1825. The town vital records indicate as she was not from town and arrived after her father's death. She "laboured in families," perhaps to make money for herself or to support the family. Sadly she passed away less than six months after her father. The location of her gravesite is unknown.

## Captain Amos Carleton (1802 – 1837)

Amos was a direct descendant of Edward Carleton, a founder of the town of Rowley. Born and raised here, he married Abia Towne in 1828. The youngest of their four children, Osgood Loring, was only a year old when his father drowned while working as a company agent for the Stevens family's



shipping company in Cutler, Maine. Amos' first home, which he built, can still be seen at 44 Andover Street (*image, above*). His headstone is located in the rear left side, past the ironwork remnants of the Johnson family plot.

## Captain Joshua Johnson (1756 – 1842)

One of many veterans buried here, Joshua was the son of Colonel Samuel Johnson; both father and son fought in the battle of Bunker Hill. Joshua was also involved in the Battle at Chelsea Creek, a little-known encounter between Hog and Noodle's Islands in what is now East Boston. Johnson was a member of Captain Thomas Poor's Company of Andover who helped capture and destroy a schooner, an act hailed as the first capture of an enemy war vessel by the Americans. The Johnson family plot is located in the rear left, surrounded by ironwork remnants.



*Detail from a plan of Boston harbor "humbly inscribed to Richd. Whitworth by J. De Costa; C. Hall, sc." July 29 1775, London Source: Wikipedia*

## John Frye (1805 – 1883)

John was a fourth generation descendant of town founder John Frye of Basingstoke, England. In 1826, members of the North Parish voted him to take care of the Meetinghouse, tasks which included ringing the bell and digging graves. He was known to share tales of his work on gravesites with students of the adjacent Franklin Academy (now gone). John passed away decades after Ridgewood Cemetery was established, so his burial here is a testament to his attachment to this yard. This portrait (*image, right*) was painted by local artist Sarah Peters Grozelier around 1850.





## Cato Freeman (1768-1853)

Cato was the son of slaves held by Reverend Samuel Phillips. After his release from service, he took the surname Freeman. He remained with the Phillips family until 1789, when he married Lydia Bristow. A steadfast member of the North Parish Church, he leased a modest property near the current Lawrence Airport where he lived with his wife and four (of eleven) surviving children. As part of his legacy, the area in North Andover around the corner of Osgood Street and Sutton Street was called "Cato's Corner" for years. In 1848, towards the end of his life, Cato was able to buy a house of his own which still stands today at 430 Pleasant Street. His estate was reputed to be worth \$1,000. His headstone is located with other free slaves at the rear right corner, an area known then as the "Negro Quarter."

1790 US Federal Census for Andover North Parish

<i>Andover</i>		continued.			
<i>Names of Heads of Families.</i>	<i>Free white Males of 16 years and upwards.</i>	<i>Free white Males, under 16 years.</i>	<i>Free white Females.</i>	<i>All other free Persons.</i>	<i>Slaves.</i>
<i>Gerphom Blagg</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>		
<i>Cato Freeman</i>				<i>3</i>	
<i>John Gardner</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>		
<i>Huldah Osgood</i>			<i>1</i>		

Excerpt from 1790 census for Andover's North Parish, listed by head of families. It details the number of:

- Free white males, aged 16 and upwards;
- Free white males, under 16 years
- Free white females
- All other free persons (including Cato)

## Recording and Preserving History

The mystery person(s) who recorded all the burials from 1817-1848 provided a huge service, especially since so many markers no longer exist. By the early 20th century many people were concerned about preserving information that was slipping away.

Leonora McQuesten, nicknamed “The Tombstone Lady,” spoke passionately about the need to undertake the “...copying and filing of every tombstone inscription in every cemetery in every town and city in Massachusetts.” In 1930 she first recorded all the small farm family plots around town and then undertook the Second Burying Ground (the Old Burying Ground was done in the 19th century by the Kittredge sisters). She diligently noted every single burial, even annotating after damage from natural disasters such as the Hurricane of 1938.

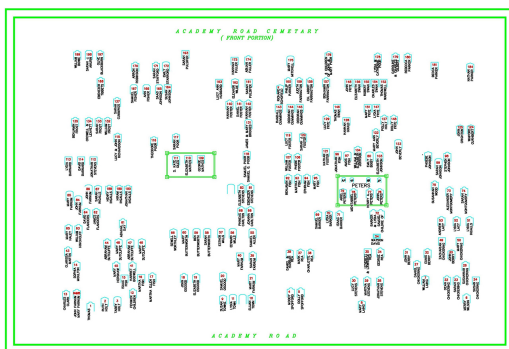
In 1986 North Parish member Carol Fisher continued McQuesten's crusade, updating the information on burials in the Second Burying Ground, creating an index and mapping them. The spiral bound volume, “Ancestors of the North Parish 1817-1909,” can be found at the North Parish, the North Andover Historical Society, and the North Andover town library. The North Andover Historical Society staff created a spreadsheet of the 715 listings, facilitating the ability to sort and search burial records.

In 2008 Bob Trezine and Kimberly Whitworth prepared digital maps of the cemetery (*image, right*), available through the website for the Veterans Exhibit of the North Andover Historical Society.

Look for the links to the Second Burial Ground –

Lower Graveyard and Upper Graveyard.

([www.nahistoricalsocietymuseum.org/veterans/revolutionary-war/](http://www.nahistoricalsocietymuseum.org/veterans/revolutionary-war/)).



Searchable records for the cemetery may be accessed online through the website Find-A-Grave ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)) using the name Second Burying Ground. John Glassford, a member of the North Andover Historical

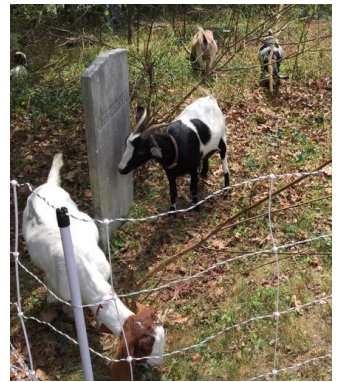
Society, made the entries based on his own extensive personal research. John's books on the First and Second Burying Ground as well as gravestones in Massachusetts are available through Lulu.com.

Other sources of information include:

North Andover Historical Society ([northandoverhistoricalsociety.org](http://northandoverhistoricalsociety.org), 153 Academy Road, North Andover, MA); Town of Andover, North Parish Records ([ma-vitalrecords.org/MA/Essex/Andover](http://ma-vitalrecords.org/MA/Essex/Andover)); North Parish ([northparish.org](http://northparish.org)); Southern Essex County Registry of Deeds (SERD, Salem, MA; the registry manages documentation, including deeds, mortgages and liens, and historical records); *Ancestry.com*

In a June 2004 reconnaissance report, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and Essex National Heritage Commission identified the Second Burying Ground as a Priority Heritage Landscape in North Andover. From their report: *"Heritage landscapes are places that are created by human interaction with the natural environment. They are dynamic and evolving; they reflect the history of the community and provide a sense of space..."*

At the 2013 and 2017 Town Meetings, North Andover voters approved requests totaling \$180,000 from Community Preservation Act monies for preservation work in the Second Burying Ground. The grant requests, co-sponsored by North Parish and the North Andover Historical Society, funded work toward a preservation master plan, repair of gravestones, and significant landscape remediation – including invasive plant control by Goats-to-Go! (*image, right*)



Fannin-Lehner Preservation Consultants, as part of their work on headstone preservation, prepared extensive documentation including before and after photos of stones as well as information about the stone itself, including the type of marker and, where known, the stone carver. Copies of their documentation are available at the North Parish, the North Andover Historical Society, and the North Andover town library.



### **Abijah Fuller 1754 – 1817**

One of the three members of the committee that oversaw the layout of the Second Burial Ground, and a veteran, he died less than two months later. The inscription (damaged by the elements) reads:

“Sacred to the memory of  
Mr. Abijah Fuller  
who departed this life June 6, 1817  
in the 63rd year of his age  
and Whose Remains Were  
The First Deposited  
In This Burying Ground.”

### **Mary Farnham 1808-1898**

Granddaughter of Captain John Farnham who served in the French and Indian Wars and carpenter Timothy Osgood. Unmarried and alone after the deaths of her sister and parents, she moved around, living with different family members. Her burial here near her sister Sarah and mother Mary is the last known interment, almost 50 years after Ridgewood Cemetery opened.



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**The North Andover Historical Society and North Parish  
are grateful for the community's recognition of the value of this  
historic property and invite all who wish and are able  
to contribute to this ongoing work.**

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