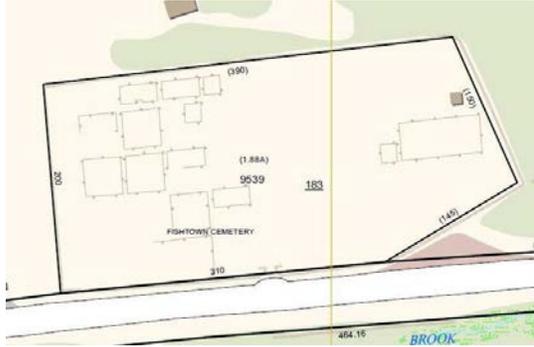


Lower Mystic Cemetery – Part 1 Physical Description

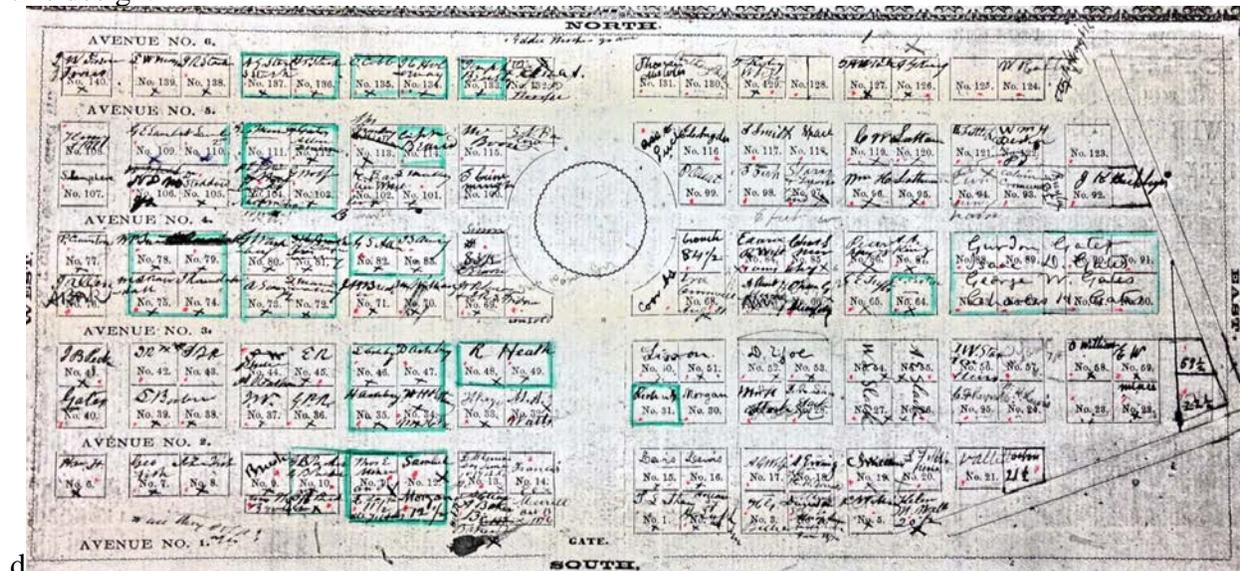
In the January-February 2015 issue of *the Portersville Press* I promised you a series of seven articles about the historic Lower Mystic Cemetery; this is the first.

When you leave Mystic on Route 1 (New London Road) and go past the Fire House, at the bottom of the hill on the right is the Lower Mystic Cemetery. A handsome granite wall runs along the south side. If you wish to visit the cemetery limited parking is in the small area between the angle of the wall at its east end and the road. There is a chain on the gate but no lock; please close securely when you leave.

Town of Groton GIS Tax Map – note that the name shown here is Fishtown Cemetery



The Lower Mystic Cemetery located at 183 New London Road, is 1.879 acres in size and is assessed at \$28,200. Its design is a formal street and avenue grid with a circle in the center containing a well. The original layout was with six numbered avenues running East/West and eight unnumbered avenues running North/South. There were numbered 140 full plots plus 14 half plots. The Explanatory Remarks that are at the bottom of the diagram below are: “The regular lots in the Cemetery are 18 feet North and South, 16 feet East and West. If 4 lots are taken together, each lot will be 18 feet square, the 4 making a square of 36 feet as seen in the diagram, but if enclosed separate a space of 4 feet will be left, running North and South. Parts of lots that are not numbered in the diagram, if taken with the lot that joins it will be the same number, but if disposed separately will be designated by adding half. The space or road through the centre is 24 ft. wide, passes round a circle 40 ft. across the centre, and a well in the centre of said circle; the road around it is 12 ft. wide. The South Avenue joining the Highway [I suspect that the granite wall was added later.] is 9 feet wide; the North 8 feet; East and West 7 feet; 4 running East and West 6 feet each; the Avenues running North and South, the 4th from the road through the middle, both East and West is 7 feet each; the rest is 4 feet.” I’d say a lot of thought went into this design.



The satellite image below from Google Earth shows the parking area to the right, the main gate in the middle of the south wall, and the well in the circle in the center of the cemetery. The Buckland crypt (picture below) is to the upper right hand. The dark square to the right just inside the gate is the fenced plot of the Delano family (pictured below). Notice that the avenues run from left to right and the streets north to south. The streets are barely visible in the grass at ground level but are plain to see from above.



An enclosed lot - #31 Delano family



The well in the circle



Buckland crypt



John K. Buckland



The next issue will discuss the early history of the cemetery, the founding families and the By-Laws. Lou Allyn