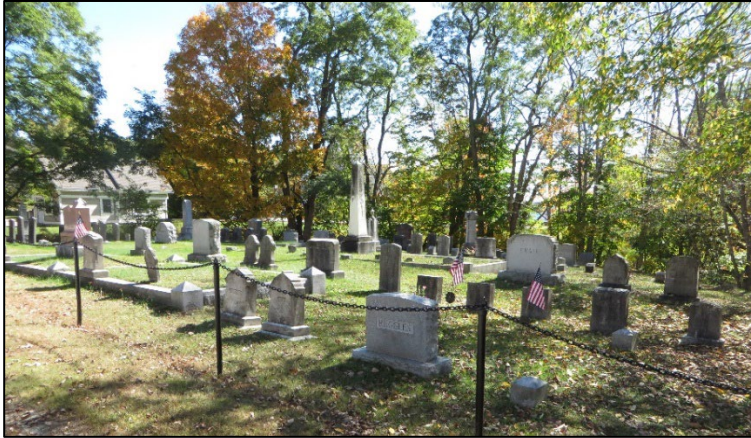


Georges Mills Village Cemetery

1016 Main Street – Georges Mills

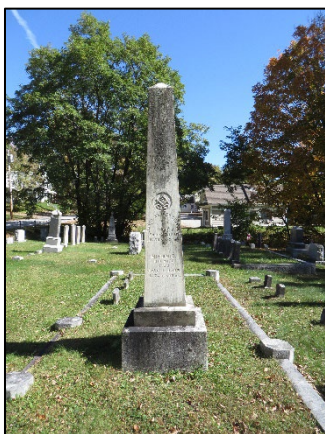


Year Built:
1865

Use:
Public Burial Ground

2018 photo from Sunapee Historical Society Collection

Property History: This cemetery is located in Lot 10 of the 7th North Range that was not granted by England's King George in 1771, but held as reserve land. In 1812 Saville proprietor John Wendell's widow sold the lot to miller Daniel George who had purchased the Icabod Hearsee grist mill a few years earlier. In 1850 his son, Daniel George Jr. sold 40-acres on the west side of Otter Brook to Joseph Colcord. A few months later, Colcord sold this land and his cooper shop to Andrew Jackson Kidder. In 1855 Kidder allowed Theodore Abbott, who lived in the village, to be buried on part of his homestead near Meadow Brook and the lake shore. In 1860 the Kidder homestead was sold to Elbridge Gary Chase (1815-1895), a blacksmith and cooper by trade. Elbridge formally established the village burial ground when he sold 30-square rods (8,300 sq-ft) where Theodore Abbott was buried for \$35 to Daniel A. George and William Russell. The deed only allowed use as a burying ground. Daniel and William were community leaders who assumed the responsibility for laying-out and selling plots, and keeping burial ground records. In this sale, Elbridge Chase reserved one lot for his own use. When Elbridge sold his homestead seven months later, this deed specifically excluded the burial ground from the land being sold. Elbridge and his family moved to Warner and did not use their burial plot.



Over time, rock walls were built along the west and south sides to raise grade at the cemetery for more plots. A main aisle, extending from Main Street south to the last row, provides access to 48 plots, each 10 by 16-feet in size, (except for a few at the edges) arranged in eight rows. At the center of the cemetery, shown at left, is the largest plot, 10 by 32-feet in size, edged with granite curbing, and marked with a tall granite obelisk for the George family. This cemetery is unusual because graves face south to the lake, rather than east to the rising sun in conformance to burial tradition in which the spirit rises to face the sun of a new day.

From 1865 onward, Georges Mills village families who had previously interred their dead at Old Eastman Cemetery, bought lots at the village burial ground. In 2022 there are 176 graves at the village cemetery for families including the Abbott, Bean, Blood, Chase, Colby, Collins, Eastman, George, Holmes, Jones, Martin, Morey, Putney, Ruggles, Russell, Stickney, Whittemore, and Whipple families.