

# HILLSIDE CEMETERY

## NOTES ON MAP FOR

### OLD HODGDON YARD

### & NORRIS YARD

This map is an approximation, created May-June 2014 as follows:

1. Unskilled volunteers used a 100' tape measure to determine distances between headstones, stone curbs, fences, and other visual cues for lot boundaries.
2. Those dimensions were drawn on paper using a scale of 1"=20'.
3. Minor adjustments were made as needed to reproduce, as closely as possible, the layout as it appears on the ground. While there are a few places that do not match specific points on the 1987 boundary survey, it was determined that the drawing was adequate for documenting headstone locations in their positions relative to each other. (*N.B.* Various deeds state different dimensions for some boundary lengths.)
4. The starting point for the drawing was the Norris family lot with curbing, designated on the map as Lot C-16, along with the adjacent Stetson family lot, also with curbing, designated C-17.
5. The Metcalf family lot (Ranges 12a&b, Lot 1) and Merrill family lot (Range 8, Lot 8), both with curbs, were used similarly as anchors for the layout of the Old Hodgdon Yard.

The following documents were consulted in the process of creating the map:

1. Hillside Cemetery Boundary Survey by Lincoln Engineering of Damariscotta, dated September 3, 1987; from the files of Maine Coast Surveying, Damariscotta.
2. Deed from Royal & Zetta Hall to the Hillside Cemetery Association, dated December 29, 1919; book 354, page 384 (*cf.* 484/435 and 1323/61); available at Lincoln County Registry of Deeds, Wiscasset.
3. Deed from Hillside Cemetery Association to Inhabitants of Damariscotta, dated January 30, 1956; book 526, page 312; available at Lincoln County Registry of Deeds, Wiscasset.
4. Deed from Hillside Cemetery Association to Mertilla House, dated February 16, 1954; book 515, page 36; available at Lincoln County Registry of Deeds, Wiscasset.
5. Deed from Hillside Cemetery Association to Olaf Johnson, dated August 7, 1954; book 518, page 161; available at Lincoln County Registry of Deeds, Wiscasset.
6. Ortho aerial images based on photos taken in April 2013, enlarged to 24" x 36" and printed in color by Rod Craib of Maine Coast Surveying, with a scale of 1"=20'; accessible online with password provided by Damariscotta Town Office.
7. Google Earth 2012 satellite image, enlarged to 17" x 28" and printed commercially in black and white (no scale).
8. Bound "Record Book" (red spine) of Hillside Cemetery Association; in Town Office vault.
9. Bound "Book A" (mottled) recording deeds for sales of church pews and cemetery lots; in Town Office vault.
10. Bound "Standard Indexed Record" book (brown) with alphabet tabs; in Town Office vault.
11. Association documentation sheets for individual lots, including information on perpetual care payments, work done, stone inscriptions, lot numbers, and lot size; in Town Office vault.
12. Cemetery deeds on file in 4-drawer cabinet; in Town office.

Documentation is scarce, and it is hoped that additional details will be located over time.

A “Standard Indexed Record Book” of the Hillside Cemetery Association was found in the Town Office vault. A portion titled “Endowed Lots” listed individual names alphabetically, with dollar amounts, a column containing various letters and numbers, and cryptic notes. The letters and numbers turned out to match the locations of lots in the Norris Yard, starting with Row A at the intersection of Church Street and the cemetery’s paved lane, and proceeding to Row Q at the top of the hill, nearest Hodgdon Street. Within the rows, lots were numbered east to west, with Lot 1 being nearest the cemetery paved lane. Once the map was drafted, it became apparent that the lot numbers do not line up north-south (e.g., C-9 is not directly north of B-9), though the east-west sequence on the ground coincides with the numbers in the book. Not all lots were included in this list.

Pages 230-232 of the “Record Book” contain a list of deeds signed by the Association’s Secretary, *pro tem*, Winnifred W. Harrington, between Nov. 30, 1934 and Nov. 20, 1940. The lot numbers on those deeds are three-digit, number-only designations. (Lot 47 is suspected of being a clerical error that was intended to be 147, given the proximity of Lots 145 and 146.) All 18 deeds listed coincide with lots in the Norris Yard that have letter-number combination designations, as follows:

<b>Lot #</b>	<b>Map</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Name</b>
47	A-1		Hanson, Oscar E.
145	A-4		Pierce, Ella W.
146	A-2	1/2	Pierce, E. H.
146	A-3	1/2	Waltz, Randall
152	C-2		Blake, Ada C.
153	C-1	1/2	Vannah, Geraldine Albee
155	D-2	1/2	Baker, Mildred
161	E-1		Glidden, E. Wilbur
175	I-3		Hall, James
181	J-2		Oliver, George & Charles J.
182	J-3		Gross, Mary L.
185 1/2	K-3		Young, Thomas
186	K-2		Gray, James
194	M-2	1/4	Avery, Frederic
194	M-2	1/4	Gordon, Albert
208	P-2		West, Joseph T.
210	P-4		Freeman, Edward W.
211	P-4	1/2	Freeman, Edward W.
212	Q-1		Griffin, Martha

For Norris Yard lots identifiable on the ground but with no lot number documented, the next number in sequence was inserted, utilizing the “1/2” designation for lots between whole numbers. For Old Hodgdon Yard lots with no documentation, lot lines were inserted based on family groupings of headstones.

There was no page for C-21, and there is no space on the ground between C-20 and C-22; therefore, there is no lot designated C-21 on the map.

“Book A” in the Town Office vault contained hand-written deeds documenting the sale of several lots from Charles Norris to various parties. Each of those referenced a survey done by John H. Converse in September 1875. That survey has not been located. The deeds in “Book A” referred to specific lots using

a digit-only numbering system; no other documentation was found that would complete or explain that numbering system. Following is an estimated cross-reference list, along with a possible numbering pattern for the 14 lots documented in “Book A”.

“Book A” lot number cross-reference:

<b>1875 Converse Survey</b>	<b>Map</b>
15	A-23
23	E-24
30	E-18
31	E-17
33	E-14
36	D-13
41	D-17
46	D-22
51	C-15
56	B-12
61	B-18
74	?
75	D-10?
95	?

A possible pattern for most of the numbering system in the 1875 survey by John H. Converse is:

- assume Converse Lot 1 is Map Lot E-11
- proceed south along the column to A-13
- turn west across A-14 through A-26
- turn north along the column to E-24
- turn east along the row to E-12
- drop south to D-13 and proceed west to D-22
- drop south to C-20 and proceed east to C-12
- drop south to B-11 and proceed west to B-21

This does not account for Lots 74 (Joseph Smith), 75 (Mary Chase; possibly D-10), or 95 (George Clapp).

The deed from Royal R. & Zetta P. Hall to the Hillside Cemetery Association mentions her family lot (Plummer) and refers to it as “Lot No. 79”. That lot is designated E-24 in the numbering system used for this map.

A manila envelope of papers was also found in the Town Office vault. Each page in the envelope corresponds to a lot in the Norris Yard, using the letter-number combination numbering system. As this was the most complete documentation found for that area, the decision was made to use this numbering system, though evidence exists for at least two other systems from earlier years (e.g. E-24 was referred to as 23 by Converse, and as 79 in the 1919 Hall deed).

“Book A” also included deeds for lots sold by the Damariscotta Village Cemetery Corporation to various parties, with designations of Range and Lot. Those turned out to be in the Old Hodgdon Yard. Range 1, Lot 1 is the southeast corner of that area, with Range numbers proceeding east to west and Lot numbers

proceeding south to north. The incomplete records of this book included some Lots in Ranges 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 20, 21, 22, and 26. The gap between 12 and 20 proved problematic. Ownership records coincide with headstones for Ranges 1 through 12. Ranges 20 through 26 coincide if one counts backwards from the westernmost Range as being Range 30. There are 8 rows, rather than 7, from Range 13 through Range 19. Because the large Metcalf lot covers the equivalent of two rows, and begins at Range 12, the decision was made to consider what might appear to be Ranges 12 and 13 as a single Range 12, divided by a dotted line on the map and designated as Range 12a and Range 12b.

The deed from Royal R. & Zetta P. Hall refers to a well on the property, near Hodgdon Street, and gives instructions as to the availability of its water for the cemetery and for Mr. Hall's barn "on Elm Street". Given the land description in the 1919 deed, the 1987 boundary survey, and on-site observation, it appears that the portion of present-day (2014) Church Street that passes the cemetery was referred to as "Elm Street" in the 1919 deed. According to Dr. Griffin, whose family owns lot Q-1 (AKA No. 212), the well was located immediately west of his lot. He stated May 24, 2014, in conversation with the Cemetery Committee Chairman, that the well was located in the next lot west, presently visible as mounded earth, that it originally had a wooden cover, and that when it became unsafe the well was filled in and covered over. It is surmised that the pipes visible near lots A-16, A-17, B-13 and B-14 were those used for piping water from the well to Mr. Hall's barn. Further research is needed to determine the location of a barn across the street and to confirm ownership of that property by Royal & Zetta Hall. Further research is also needed to determine the path of the piping from the well site near Hodgdon Street to the visible pipes near Church Street, as the visible pipes are not directly in line with the well.

*Note added 2 October 2014:*

A map of Damariscotta Village 1898 shows "CEM." located such that it appears to incorporate the Old Hodgdon Yard and the land directly south of that, *not* including the portion that runs north-south immediately west of the current (2014) paved lane. The 1898 map may indicate that the original Norris Yard was only that portion immediately south of the Old Hodgdon Yard. If so, then the following lots on the 2014 map would have constituted the original Norris Yard: A-13 through A-26, B-10 through B-22, C-10 through C-24, D-12 through D-23 and E-11 through E-24. The following lots on the 2014 map would *not* have been part of the original Norris Yard: A-1 through A-12, B-1 through B-9, C-1 through C-9, D-1 through D-11, E-1 through E-10 and all of rows F-Q.

This 1898 map was published on page 90 of *"No Pluckier Set of Men Anywhere": The Story of Ships and Men in Damariscotta and Newcastle, Maine*, by Mark Wyman Biscoe, ©1994; third edition June 2001; ISBN 0965274608. The image is credited as "Courtesy Pictorial Studios, Newcastle, Maine".

It is hoped that future research will reveal definitive boundaries of the original Norris Yard. Absent such data, the 2014 map refers to all lots in Rows A through Q as constituting the Norris Yard.