

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Worcester Cemetery
Collection

2003.FIA.12

Processed by Judi DeSoto Vega
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Collection Information

Abstract : The Worcester Cemetery Collection encompasses information about four principle Worcester, MA. Cemeteries: Worcester Rural Cemetery, the Old Catholic Burial Ground, The Chebra Kadishah, the Hebrew Cemetery Corporation, and the Old Mechanic Street Burying Ground. Also included (in the miscellaneous series) is a list of Confederate soldiers graves in Worcester, and records of Revolutionary War Soldiers from Worcester and others.

This collection spans the time from 1830 (with the Old Mechanic Burying Ground records) into the mid-twentieth century (with the finished compilation of Revolutionary War Soldiers grave records). The collection also contains records in three bound volumes.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Found In Archives

MARC Access :

Historical/Biographical Notes

The first place in Worcester to be designated a cemetery was near what is now the corner of Summer and Thomas Streets. The spot was selected in 1713; the first burial took place in 1717.

It was used for about 13 years and 29 people were buried there. A new cemetery was begun in 1730 on the town common. In 1795, another downtown cemetery was founded and was located on the north side of Mechanic Street. This cemetery closed in 1860 due to the extension of Foster Street. About 450 people were buried there and most were moved by 1878.

Pine Meadow Cemetery opened in 1828 and was used for about 30 years. Quinsigamond Cemetery founded in 1826. The city's first Roman Catholic cemetery, near Monroe Ave, which runs off Pleasant Street. This land was purchased in 1835 from Rejoice Newton for \$75.00 and deeded to the Rt. Rev. Benedict F. Fenwick. Known as Tatnuck, the cemetery was used by a number of Worcester's Irish Immigrants. It was open until 1847, when a purchase of land on Cambridge Street became St. John's Cemetery. In 1838, Rural Cemetery was founded and in 1854, Hope Cemetery was founded.

Scope and Content

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Series Descriptions

Series 1: The Rural Cemetery

Series 2: The Old Catholic Burial Ground

Series 3: The Chebra Kadishah

Series 4: The Hebrew Cemetery Corporation

Series 5: Miscellaneous

Series 6: Old Mechanic Street Burying Ground – Bound Volumes

The Worcester Cemetery Collection
2003.FIA.12
Series 1, Rural Cemetery

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2003.FIA.12.1.1	Letter from Henry J. Howland, Worcester, MA. to

Trustees of the Rural Cemetery. August 6, 1860.

1	1	2003.FIA.12.1.1a	Aqp
1	1	2003.FIA.12.1.2	"The Rural Cemetery, Worcester, Mass. Contents"
1	1	2003.FIA.12.1.2a	Aqp
1	1	2003.FIA.12.1.3-21	Handwritten book on the history of Rural Cemetery.
1	2	2003.FIA.12.1.22-52	Handwritten book on the history of Rural Cemetery
1	3	2003.FIA.12.1.53-62	Handwritten list of lot holders of Rural Cemetery.
1	3	2003.FIA.12.1.63	Handwritten proposal to write history of Rural Cemetery.
1	3	2003.FIA.12.1.63a	Aqp
1	4	2003.FIA.12.1.64-76	Handwritten, alphabetical list of the lot holders of Rural Cemetery.
1	4	2003.FIA.12.1.78	Deed for lot of land at Rural Cemetery to Andrew Hutchinson dated May 11, 1847.
1	4	2003.FIA.12.1.79	Deed for lot of land at Rural Cemetery to Samuel Stratton dated September 29, 1856.

The Worcester Cemetery Collection
2003.FIA.12
Series 2, Old Catholic Burial Ground

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	5	2003.FIA.12.2.1	Richard O'Flynn's transcription of gravestones at Old Catholic Burial Ground.

1	5	2003.FIA.12.2.2	Handwritten account of where Old Catholic Burial Ground
1	5a	2003.FIA.12.2.1a-b	Photocopy of O'Flynn's transcription of gravestones at the Old Catholic Burial Ground.

The Worcester Cemetery Collection
2003.FIA.12
Series 3, Chebra Kadishah

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	6	2003.FIA.12.3.1	Incorporation papers for Worcester Ladies' Chebra Kadishah. Dated November 2, 1904.
1	6	2003.FIA.12.3.2	Permission given to Chebra Kadishah to use parcel of land for burials. Dated December 14, 1925.

1	6	2003.FIA.12.3.3	Letter to Morris W. Ulman from Taylor, Smith and Gaskill. Dated December 21, 1925
1	6	2003.FIA.12.3.4	Letter to Holy Burial Society, Worcester Chebra Kadishah from Thomas Kenney, Director of the Board of Health. Dated Ocotber 20, 1925.
1	6	2003.FIA.12.3.5	Oath of office for Chebra Kafishah by Solomon Cotton, March 19, 1929.
1	6	2003.FIA.12.3.6	Certification of election of officers, March 19, 1929.
1	6	2003.FIA.12.3.7	Legal document to Board of Health, Leicester, MA, September 9, 1925.
1	6	2003.FIA.12.3.8	Legal copy of certificate of Incorporation, August 23, 1983.
1	6	2003.FIA.12.3.9	Legal document by Worcester Ladies Chebra Kadishah, September 30, 1904.

The Worcester Cemetery Collection
2003.FIA.12
Series 4, Hebrew Cemetery

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	7	2003.FIA.12.4.1	Corporate charter or certificate of incorporation of the Hebrew Cemetery Corporation of Worcester, October 7, 1896.
1	7	2003.FIA.12.4.2	Photocopy of deed to property transferred by the Hebrew Cemetery Corporation to Congregation of the Sons of Abraham, June 23, 1916.

1	7	2003.FIA.12.4.3	Petition for abolition of private crossing, November 23, 1923.
1	7	2003.FIA.12.4.4	Agreement to organize the Hebrew Cemetery Corporation, October 7, 1896.
1	7	2003.FIA.12.4.5	Minutes of a special meeting of the Board of Directors of Worcester Hebrew Cemetery Corporation, March 19, 1963.

The Worcester Cemetery Collection
2003.FIA.12
Series 5, Miscellaneous

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	8	2003.FIA.12.5.1	Graves of Confederate Soldiers in Worcester.
1	8	2003.FIA.12.5.1a	Aqp
1	8	2003.FIA.12.2	Short history of Mechanics Street Burial Ground.
1	8	2003.FIA.12.2a	Aqp
1	8	2003.FIA.12.3	Records of Revolutionary War Soldiers from

Worcester and Others Buried in Worcester
Cemeteries.

The Worcester Cemetery Collection
2003.FIA.12
Series 6, Mechanics Street Burying Ground

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	9	2003.FIA.12.6.1	Key to Names of Persons Buried in the Mechanic Street Burial Ground.
1	9	2003.FIA.12.6.2	Alphabetical list of those buried at Mechanic Street Burying Ground.
1	10	2003.FIA.12.6.3	Volume of Mechanic Street Burying Ground Inscriptions.

