

Longmeadow Cemetery Association Group Visit Policy

The Longmeadow Cemetery Association is a not-for-profit volunteer-run organization charged with the perpetual care and maintenance of the Longmeadow Cemetery. The cemetery is non-denominational and is not owned or run by the Town of Longmeadow or the First Church of Christ.

The oldest stone in the "Old Burying Ground" section dates back to 1682. Since these stones are of historical, genealogical, and artistic significance, the Longmeadow Cemetery Association (LCA) has developed policies to protect the stones as well as the visiting public. The Landscape Committee has worked diligently to improve the plantings in the cemetery, including maintenance and planting of trees, gardens, and pathways.

We request that any groups of more than 10 (ten) persons request written permission to visit the cemetery so that we can ensure that the visitors understand the fragility of the stones, do not interfere with funerals or interments, and enjoy a safe and enjoyable visit. Guided tours can be arranged. We reserve the right to limit access to certain areas of the cemetery if it would interfere with mourners or cemetery operations.

Rules (for complete rules and regulations, please see the LCA website)

- Park only in designated areas. Do not park on the grass. Street parking is available--either on Williams Street or in front of the Community House.
- Hours of operation are dawn to dusk.
- No pets are allowed in the cemetery with the exception of service animals.
- **No touching of the gravestones is permitted.** This includes rubbings, chalk, or any other materials. No cleaning of stones is permitted unless the visitor is the owner of the stone or has written permission by a cemetery representative.
- Photography is permitted.
- No fee is required, though donations are gratefully accepted.
- The ground is sometimes uneven, and small gravestones are easily overlooked. Dress accordingly and use caution.
- Minors must be accompanied by a supervising adult.

Date of request _____

Date of visit _____

Time of visit _____

Name of group or organization _____

Purpose of visit _____

Number of visitors expected _____

Responsible person _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

email address _____

Submit the application to: longmeadowcemetery@gmail.com or to the LCA Superintendent at: 75 Lawnwood Ave., Longmeadow, MA 01106.

This application will be reviewed and a completed copy will be forwarded to the applicant at the address provided above.

It is understood that the visit to the cemetery shall be subject to insurance coverage by the organization using the facilities with regard to any damages or injuries which may occur. We request a certificate of liability insurance naming LCA as an additional insured. The user assumes all responsibility and liability for any injury to persons, and for damage to LCA property. The user holds the LCA and its representatives harmless for any such losses or damages.

I have read the above conditions and hereby release the LCA, its representatives of and from any liability for personal injury or property damage in connection with the visit requested.

Applicant Signature _____

Approved _____

Denied _____

Insurance form received _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Longmeadow Cemetery Facts

Longmeadow Cemetery is managed by the Longmeadow Cemetery Association, a 501c13, established in 1872. See us on our website at: longmeadowcemetery.org.

Symbolism: death's head, cherub [soul effigy], willow& urn, rooster [that crows at judgment day], hourglass, cut flower, [death's] scythe, [death's] dart

Stone shapes: tables, obelisks, tablets

Carvers: We have many carvers represented: Griswold, Bartlett, Stancliff, Johnson, Holland, Burt, Stebbins, Ely, Newell, Lathrop, Taylor shops. Hermon Newell even signed some stones (see Lucy Stebbins and Richard Salter Storrs).

Earliest stone: Mary Drake "alias Colton" 1682

First burial in Longmeadow [for which there is currently a marker]: Experience Hale, 1719

Oldest person buried (that we know of!): 106

Stone material: Longmeadow sandstone from quarries in what is now East Longmeadow, redstone from Connecticut, marble, granite. Longmeadow's sandstone, originally laid down in the Triassic period is about 2000m or 6561 ft thick.

Old terms: relict (widow), consort (wife)

First cemetery was in Springfield--moved when railroad went through. Some stones/bodies moved to other cemeteries, including here. Springfield's cemetery relocated to Maple Street

Causes of death[on the stone]: Gaius Bliss gored by a bull; George Colton died of smallpox; Lewis Stebbins died after small pox inoculation; Solomon Burt from powder mill explosion [May 7th, 1777]; Jerusha Colton, cancer; Edward Crandall drowned [while bathing in the Connecticut]; Nathaniel Burt slain at the battle [near Lake George, Sept 8th 1755].

Gravestones always sold as a pair--headstone and footstone until the 1850s or 60s. Few footstones remain. Bodies in most New England cemeteries were originally buried feet to the east [head stone facing west], so they would rise up & face the rising sun on judgment day

Veterans: of many conflicts: French and Indian wars, revolutionary, war of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American, WWI, WWII (including Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Edward Wilkin), Korean, Vietnam, Gulf Wars.

Do we have Native American or graves of enslaved? Probably, but we don't know of any specific markers. Ground penetrating radar (GPR) demonstrates probable burials above which there are not currently any markers.