



Maplewood Cemetery  
Upper Farwell Street  
Barre, Vermont

Located in Barre Town, Maplewood Cemetery occupies about three and a half acres of ground at the four – way intersection of Farwell Street, Nichols Road, and Pine Hill Road, more specifically, at the northwest corner between Farwell and Nichols. As for the neighborhood, this cemetery has neighbors dedicated to the living. Across Farwell Street, a riding stable provides relaxation and stimulation to those with equestrian interests. On the opposite corner, all types of people gather at the Knights of Columbus hall for many and varied events. Beyond the edge of Nichols Road, the woods undoubtedly provide a place for our neighbors of the animal kingdom.

The cemetery, over 200 years old, serves as the final resting place for some of Barre's early residents. As you scan the cemetery grounds, your eyes are drawn across a diverse mixture of stone styles. The grounds resemble a typical old time cemetery. Our ancestors probably chose the sites for their cemeteries based on the agricultural potential of the site. Once you enter the cemetery from Farwell Street at the main gate, it is pretty much all uphill. The grounds near the gate have a more level profile, this section of the cemetery is still in use whereas some of the upper, sloped sections are not. The site is mostly open, there are a few trees and lilac bushes to provide color.

Maplewood Cemetery may not have always been Maplewood. For example, in her remarkable series of historical articles, Abby Maria Hemenway's collection included an article on Barre. In the listing of Civil War soldiers interred within town borders, a group of soldiers appears under the heading, "Farwell Cemetery." The soldiers listed match the names found in today's Maplewood Cemetery. As her series published between 1867 and 1891, the list would not have listed all of the soldiers there today. Another hint comes from Barre Town Cemetery Deed Book #1, page 2. A lot sold to the family of William Farwell listed the cemetery as Farwell Cemetery, not Maplewood. The deed carries a date of June 12, 1903, subsequent deeds have Maplewood as the cemetery name.

The local American Legion has provided a monument next to the flagpole to honor the veterans, but the Flags for Veterans organization ensures each veteran has a flag each year adding a splash of patriotic color to the graves of our veterans.

You won't find a paved road in Maplewood. A pair of wheel tracks serve the site, into the main gate on Farwell Street, up and across the "L" shaped path and out onto Nichols Road. An inspection of the wrought iron fence will reveal other gates that might allow access to the site, the gates closed and the potential driveways grassed over. Could these driveways provide access to the cemetery or could they already have bodies resting beneath them? No one can say for sure.

Maplewood suffers from the same lack of historical data as the other Barre Town cemeteries. This lack of information has two major effects on the grounds, no one knows exactly who owns what or is interred within the cemetery fence, and certain sections of the cemetery have to be taken out of use due to uncertainty as to whether or not the ground is already occupied.

The Vermont Old Cemetery Association referenced the oldest stone as 1808, the Murphy index file referenced a stone from 1803. Unfortunately, none of the really old records concerning the Maplewood Cemetery can be found in Barre Town, or Barre City, either. Without really knowing how old this cemetery might be, the use of photographic evidence in Maplewood uncovered the following stone: "In Memory of Josiah, Son of Stephen & Susan Everett, died Apr 3, 1803 AE 13d." Other Everett children share the family lot at Maplewood, the accompanying article concerning early American residents resting at Maplewood discusses this early Barre family.



Maplewood continues to expand, and still in use, has the potential for growth well into the future. The very oldest sections are not used in current cemetery operations, nor are lots sold in the older areas. Over in Section South 1, some of Barre Town's earliest settlers can be found. Several Revolutionary War and War of 1812 veterans have been laid to rest in this section. By strolling through the existing monuments, evidence can be found linking many of the early families together through marriage. Some of these families can be found at rest next to each other.



Maplewood has a wide variety of grave stones scattered throughout the cemetery. In the old section, the rows don't necessarily follow the edges of the modern driveways. Among the sections, visitors can find old style New England slates, some remarkably readable, others, decayed beyond recognition. On one of the more unusual slates, a proofreader's mark can be found where a letter had been left out but etched in above the name. At the other end of the spectrum, granite monuments mark graves throughout the cemetery, some old and hard to read, others with the modern etching

techniques of placing photos on the stone. Our local craftsmen personalized headstones for many of the families interred here. Marble monuments can be found, too, and as with the other stones, some readable and some decayed.

At some point in time, a schematic map had been developed to show the Maplewood Cemetery. Although schematic, the map did not have any particular scale factor that would allow the proper placement of lots, some of them leaked out over the boundaries and into the street. The one feature on the map that would be carried forward, the lines and roads that divided the cemetery into sections would be held, more or less.

The cemetery commission addressed the issue during the assembly of data for the town webpage. After labeling a schematic with the existing name(s) for each section, they adopted a new system, now shown on the current schematics. To assist with older data, the names of the old sections have been included on each schematic.

The records from the earlier eras of the nineteenth hundreds had different designations, this fact shown in the older deed books. At some point during a more recent consolidation of cemetery records, the current designations came into use. The card file contains almost no lot cards for the oldest sections, only those areas within the cemetery actively used since the time of the card file creation. Several methods have been used and several sources consulted in order to present the most accurate picture of who makes up this cemetery and where they can be found. By matching the names

on the cards with the older schematic of the cemetery and current photographs, a general snapshot of where each section lay emerged.

The deed books currently found in the Barre Town clerk's office only reach back to 1902, the first Maplewood deed carries a date of 1903, 100 years after the burial of young Josiah Everett. The first documented lot belongs to the William Farwell family, bought on behalf of the family by C. N. Barber, apparently the town clerk at the time. The lot cost \$20 for six graves. [Mr. Barber and family are also in Maplewood.] The deed actually refers to the site as the Farwell Cemetery.

Lot information, compared to the schematic map, didn't always line up with the stones in the cemetery. Many different designations could be found for the same areas as shown on the schematic map. The cemetery commission reviewed the resulting data files and adopted an updated sections designation map. The above mentioned dividing lines and roads came forward to become approximate boundaries for the new designations. The new and the old are shown below:

Old sections appear in the deeds or on the map as:

Westerly area ..... West, Section 1  
Southerly area ..... Center, Section A, Section 2, Front, East, New  
Northerly area ..... Section 3, Section B, Section E, North  
Center area ..... North, Section 3, Section B, Section E

Adopted sections:

**West [W]** ..... West side of Nichols Road gravel access drive  
Mostly unavailable, seldom used  
**South 1 [S1]** ..... East side of Nichols Road drive, south of main gravel drive  
No longer used for burials  
**South 2 [S2]** ..... South of main gravel drive, west of Farwell Street  
Still in use, partially undeveloped  
**North 1 [N1]** ..... North of main gravel drive, east of West section  
Still in use, partially undeveloped  
**North 2 [N2]** ..... East of North 1, west of Farwell Street  
To be developed for future use  
**Center [C]** ..... Center of cemetery  
Still in use, limited availability

The sections have been rearranged to make them easier to depict on lot layout schematics, these drawings are also available on this website. The west section and center section have been left in much the same configuration as shown on the previous map. The north and south sections have been divided along the section lines, also from the old map, to make them easier to show on the schematics.