

~Lebanon's Colonial Cemeteries~

Some of the finest examples of the early stone carving tradition unique to eastern Connecticut can be found in the old burying grounds in Lebanon. In the 19th century, the word "cemetery" became the most common designation for burial grounds, and they are now called by that term. **Trumbull Cemetery** Obadiah Wheeler of Lebanon was considered the greatest of the rural carvers in the area. There are 82 of his stones in this cemetery as well as stones by many other fine carvers, including John Huntington, Benjamin Collins, Lebbeus Kimball, the Manning family, and the old master John Hartshorne. Many of the founders of our nation are buried here, including Revolutionary War Governor Jonathan Trumbull and William Williams, signer of the Declaration of Independence. **Exeter Cemetery** Although primarily a 19th-century cemetery, there are a number of very old stones dating back to the 1720s. They are located in the rear of the cemetery. Carvers include John Huntington, the Bozrah Devil, Collins, Bartlett, Upswept-Wing Carver, Haskins, and John Johnson. The transition from late 18th-century carvers to the urn and willow design can be studied here. **Goshen Cemetery** The best work of another Lebanon carver, John Huntington, can be seen here, as well as impressive stones by the Bozrah Devil, Obadiah Wheeler, the Mannings, L. Kimball, Upswept-Wing Carver, and Benjamin Collins. There are also two sandstones of John Isham.

Directions: The Town Hall, at the junction of Routes 87 and 207, provides the starting place for directions. The Trumbull Cemetery is 0.75 mile east on Route 207 at the bottom of the hill. The cemetery is on the left. For Exeter Cemetery, follow Route 207 west 3.3 miles where the graveyard is on the left. You will find the cemetery just before the junction of Routes 207 and 16. Continue on to Goshen Cemetery by driving 0.1 mile to this junction. Turn left onto Route 16, continue 0.7 mile to Goshen Hill Road. Turn left onto this road and continue 1.5 miles to McCall Road. There is a sign pointing to the Goshen Church at this corner. Turn right and continue 0.5 mile on McCall Road. Turn left onto Church Road. The cemetery is on the left.



Reference: James A. Slater, *The Colonial Burying Grounds of Eastern Connecticut and the Men Who Made Them* (1987).

~ Outdoor Museums ~

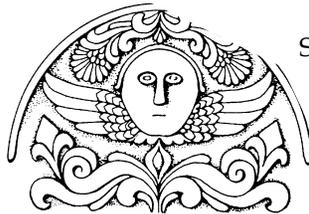
The weathered old stones in the three ancient burying grounds in Lebanon tell many stories of the past. Their poignant inscriptions and symbolic imagery are eloquent reminders of the people who settled here over 300 years ago.

The hand-carved stones are an early form of American art, reflecting the religious and social history of the colonial period. The historian, family researcher, sociologist, medical researcher, folklorist, artist – all find knowledge and inspiration from their wanderings among the stones.

They are peaceful places, too, worth seeking out. The natural beauty of their settings among the rolling hills, valleys and streams provides a restful change from the hustle of daily life.

Wind, rain and lichen have taken their toll, but the old stones are irreplaceable artifacts of the past. They are truly outdoor museums, as worthy of preservation as the museums that celebrate the town's heritage around its equally ancient town green.

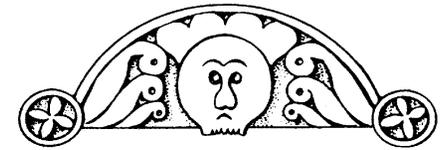
*Text: Alicia Wayland. Map: Lindy Brunkhorst Olewine. Graphics: Grace Sayles
Lebanon Historical Society 8/03*



START YOUR VISIT at the Lebanon Historical Society Museum & Visitors

Center, located at 856
Trumbull Highway (Rt.
87), near the intersection

of Routes 87 and 207. The Museum features exhibits on local history and offers a research library, visitor information, an orientation video, rest rooms, and a gift shop. Handicap accessible. For information about all of Lebanon's historic sites, travel directions, and group visit arrangements, call the LHS Museum at (860) 642-6579 or email us at museum@historyoflebanon.org or Visit us on the web at www.lebanontownhall.org or www.ctquietcorner.org.



Colonial Cemeteries in Lebanon, Connecticut

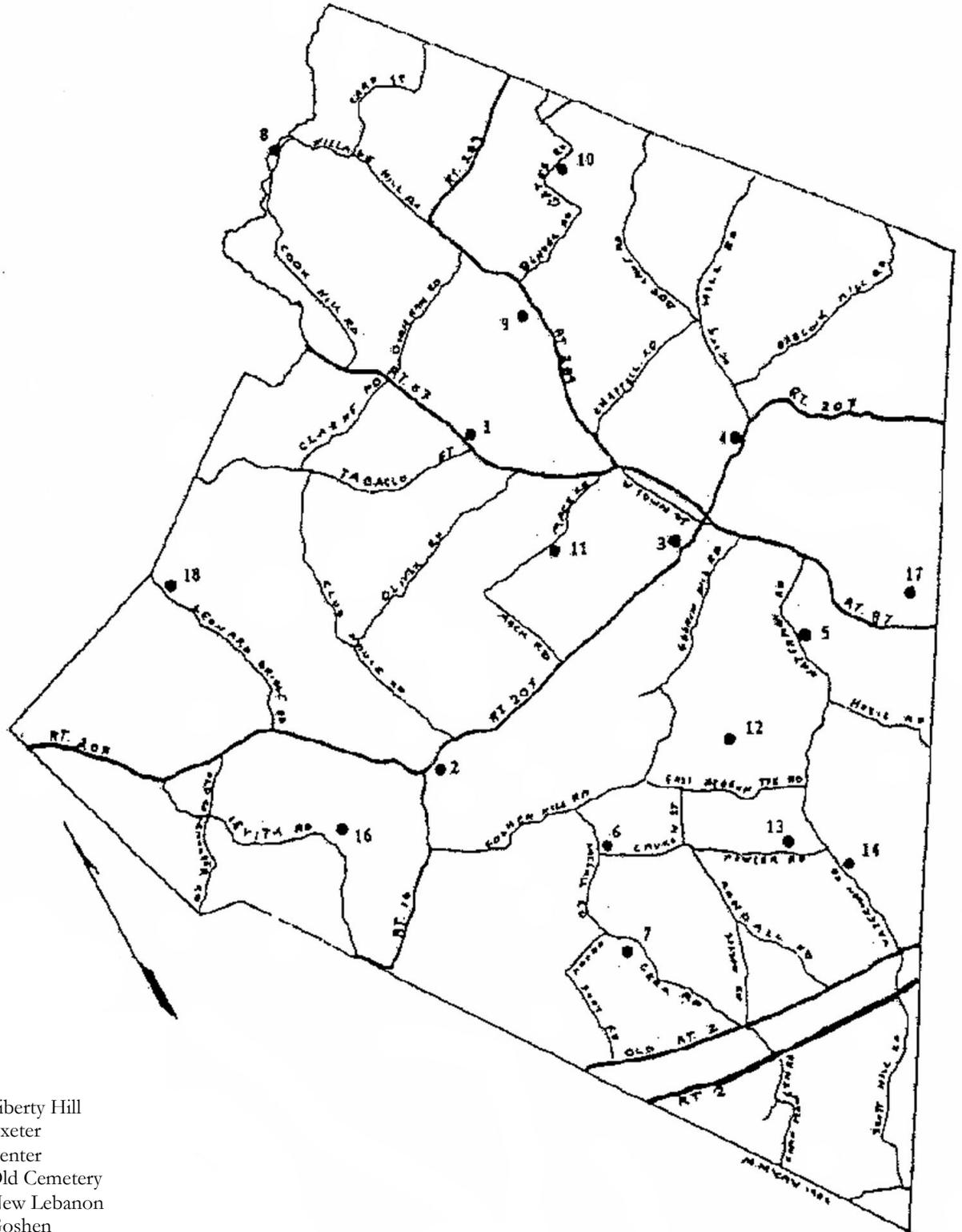
With a map showing the
locations of all the
cemeteries in Lebanon

An elaborately-carved stone in the Goshen Cemetery marks the last resting place of the Rev. Jacob Eliot, first minister of the Goshen Society. It was carved by one of the three Manning family carvers, whose work is difficult to identify individually. The Goshen Cemetery is one of three colonial burying grounds in Lebanon.



Lebanon Historical Society, photo by David Day, gift of Lucia Day.

The Cemeteries in Lebanon, Connecticut



Key

- 1. Liberty Hill
- 2. Exeter
- 3. Center
- 4. Old Cemetery
- 5. New Lebanon
- 6. Goshen
- 7. Geer
- 8. Scovell-Buckingham
- 9. Segar-Swift
- 10. Greenman
- 11. Loomis
- 12. Bliss
- 13. Mackall
- 14. Fowler
- 15. Young*
- 16. Webster
- 17. Powers
- 18. Woodworth

*location undetermined

Cemetery Map redrawn by Lindy J.B.Olewine, February 1994, from original map titled "Lebanon School Districts and Cemeteries," prepared by Margaret T. Mccaw, in George McLean Milne, *Lebanon: Three Centuries in a Connecticut Hilltop Town* (1986), p.172. Reprinted courtesy of the Lebanon Historical Society.