

**GRAVESTONE INSCRIPTIONS AND
RECORDS OF TOMB BURIALS IN
THE GRANARY BURYING
GROUND, BOSTON, MASS**

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Gravestone inscriptions and records of tomb burials in the Granary Burying Ground, Boston,
Mass by Various

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INTRODUCTION

In 1856, Thomas Bridgman published "The Pilgrims of Boston and their Descendants . . . also, Inscriptions from the Monuments in the Granary Burial Ground." The volume contains 515 inscriptions, many of which are only inscriptions on tombs indicating ownership. A casual inspection of the volume would seem to indicate that it included all the gravestone inscriptions in the burying ground, but such is not the case. Mr. Bridgman selected only those stones representing certain families to which he added biographical sketches. About 1863, Thomas B. Wyman, jr. copied the inscriptions in this ground and found, 1826, a number of them containing on one gravestone the record of several deaths. When William H. Whitmore printed his volume of Copp's Hill Epitaphs, he stated in the preface that "faithful copies of the inscriptions in the other grave-yards in old Boston" had been made for him by Thomas B. Wyman, jr. and it was hoped that these also might shortly be printed. Joel Munsell of Albany was his printer and several years later Mr. Munsell began to print the inscriptions in the Granary and Central Burying Grounds. When the volume was nearly completed, a fire destroyed the entire edition. A single set of the printed sheets, pages 1-128, was in the possession of Mr. Whitmore and after his death this unique copy was sold at the auction of his library and purchased by the late Frederick L. Gay of Brookline. Through the courtesy of his brother, the late Ernest L. Gay, it has been placed at our disposal in the compilation of the present volume. No further effort was made by Mr. Whitmore to print the inscriptions in the Granary or Central Burying Grounds.

About 1905, the late Henry A. May was employed by the Boston Cemetery Department to copy the inscriptions in the Granary Burying Ground and his copy, through the courtesy of the Department, has been utilized at this time. The earlier copy made by Mr. Wyman has been used as the basis for this compilation and any differences appearing in the May copy will be found here included within brackets.

In addition to the inscriptions on gravestones and tombs the following pages also include records of deaths from tomb burials between 1810 and 1849 taken from the record of Boston deaths in the custody of the City Register. This record was compiled by William H. Whitmore from various sources and includes burial permits issued between 1810 and 1849 which, during that period, indicated not only the burial ground but the numbered tomb in which was made the interment.

The list of tombs with their inscriptions and partial list of owners is taken from the May copy now in possession of the Cemetery Department.

OGDEN CODMAN.

New York City,
October 28, 1917.

THE GRANARY BURYING GROUND

The Granary Burying Ground was laid out in 1660 for burial purposes and fronts on Tremont street between the Park Street Church and the Tremont Building. It originally was a part of the Common and until 1662 extended nearly to the present Park street. That year, however, the frontage on Park street was taken for town buildings and a Granary, Almshouse and Bridewell or House of Correction were erected. The Granary was located where the Park Street Church now stands and was a long wooden building capable of containing about twelve thousand bushels of grain which annually was purchased by the town authorities and sold to the poor at a small advance on the wholesale price. From association with the building, the burying ground received its name. At first it was called the "New Burying Ground," the "South Ground" and the "Common Ground." The first tombs, fifteen in number, were built in 1720 and by 1738 a total number of eighty-five had been erected. The older tombs are located in the middle of the ground and the majority have a horizontal monument over them. Number 203, in the center, is the "infants' tomb" and over it formerly was a large wooden urn.

Tablets record the fact that many men prominent in the history of Massachusetts were buried in this ground, among others John Endecott, John Hancock, Samuel Adams, James Otis, Robert Treat Paine, Paul Revere, Peter Faneuil, Samuel Sewell, Governors Bellingham, Bowdoin, Dummer, Gore, Sullivan and Sumner, the parents of Benjamin Franklin and the victims of the Boston Massacre. The French Protestants, who sought refuge in Boston after revocation of the edict of Nantes, were buried southwest of the Franklin

Monument. The oldest gravestone is that of John Wakefield who died June 18, 1667.

The trees about the ground were set out in the spring of 1830, but as early as 1762 Major Adino Paddock and John Ballard planted eleven English elms along the line of Tremont street which in time grew to be fine, stately trees, and remained until after 1860. The walk along the street for some time was known as "Paddock's Mall." The iron fence and stone foundation were built in 1840, one half of the cost being defrayed by private subscription.

ABBREVIATIONS

ae. — age.

C. P. — coffin plate.

ch. — child.

d. — daughter; day; died.

fam. — family of.

h. — hours.

M. C. — May copy. Copy of inscriptions made by Henry A. May about 1905 and now in the possession of the Boston Cemetery Department.

m. — month; married.

No. — number.

unm. — unmarried.

W. C. — Wyman copy. Copy of inscriptions made by T. B. Wyman, jr. about 1863; from the unique proof sheets in possession of the late Ernest L. Gay of Boston.

w. — wife.

wid. — widow.

y. — year.