

SALEM STREET BURYING GROUND

The Heart of Medford Square

Brief History



A private interment lot before 1683, the Salem Street Burying Ground is the oldest cemetery in Medford. Four hundred headstones memorialize more than six hundred of the City's founding mothers and fathers. It remained an active cemetery for two hundred fifty years, ending in 1938. Today, the Burying Ground is a historic reminder of the community's rich and colorful past and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

2011 Gravestone Preservation

Following years of decline, the Salem Street Burying Ground received much needed attention. The City of Medford was awarded grants in 2009 through 2011 to document and preserve a majority of the headstones.



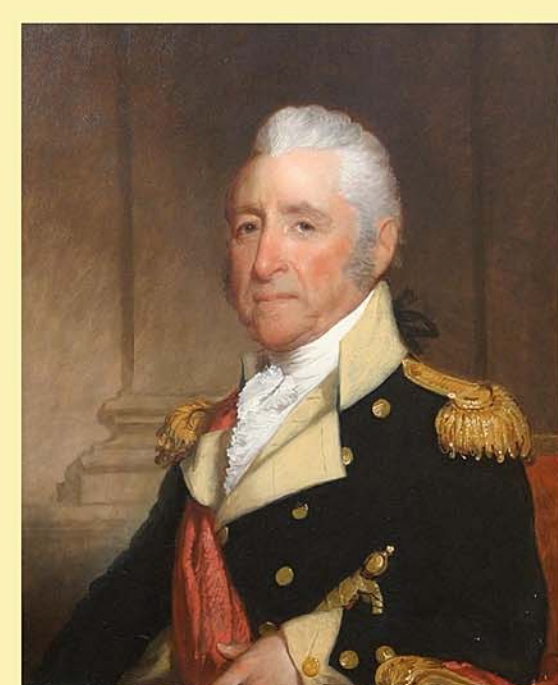
Some Notables:



*Reverend
David
Osgood*



*Sarah
Bradlee
Fulton*



*Governor
John
Brooks*

Sacred Space for All

The Salem Street Burying Ground is a sacred place. The final resting spot of our civic ancestors, it belongs to our community!



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An Outdoor Art Gallery

Talented artisans from Massachusetts hand-carved each stone. Using symbols, they conveyed the attitudes towards death and eternal life that were popular in their society. Their beautiful art work, some over two hundred years old, has been preserved but must be protected for future generations to enjoy.



Urn

A funeral urn held ashes. Later, it symbolized death followed by immortality.



Willow Tree

A willow's long branches "weep." The tree was a perfect symbol of grief and mourning.



Skulls

Winged skulls represent the fleeting nature of life and constant nearness of death.



Faces

Winged faces replaced skulls. They were hopeful reminders of resurrection.

