

## Loop Map: [Walden](#)

Parking: Orton Cemetery

Short Loop 4.3 miles (Green): Turn **right out of the Orton Cemetery**. Stay straight at the 3 way intersection, **Orton Road will turn into Richards Crossing**. Stay on Richards Crossing for 1.4 miles then make a **left onto Noyestar Road**. Continue 1 mile to find the North Walden Cemetery on the right. Turn left out of the **North Walden Cemetery** to briefly retrace your steps on Noyestar then make a **right onto Orton Road**. Go down Orton Road for 2 miles then make a **right at the three way intersection to stay on Orton Road** and return to the Orton Road Cemetery.

Long Loop 7.8 (Green + Blue): Turn **right out of the Orton Cemetery**. Stay straight at the 3 way intersection, **Orton Road will turn into Richards Crossing**. Stay on Richards Crossing for 1.4 miles then make a **left onto Noyestar Road**. After 200 meters turn **right onto Bayley Hazen Road**. Continue for 2 miles, the South Walden Cemetery will be on your right. Just past the cemetery make a **left on Keene Road**. Stay on Keene Road for 1.9 miles then make a **left on Noyestar Road**. In about 400 meters North Walden Cemetery will be on your left. In another 200 meters make a **right turn on Orton Road**. Go down Orton Road for 2 miles then make a **right at the three way intersection to stay on Orton Road** and return to the Orton Road Cemetery.



### Orton Cemetery

Started in 1812, the Orton Cemetery has 34 graves and closed in 1908. It contains good examples of fieldstone markers in the front row, and if you look at the back of the largest fieldstone in the first row, you can faintly see remnants of carving marks. This cemetery has been maintained by the surrounding land owner, Brain Blundell of the surrounding Christmas Farms, instead of the town.



1. Joel (1771-1852) and Hannah Shurtleff (1770-1839): Joel and Hannah immigrated to Reading VT, and became early settlers of Walden, VT from Carver, MA in the early 1800s. They had 6 kids, three of which are Abial Shurtleff (buried in North Walden cemetery), Jennett Shurtleff Hubbard (buried in Orton Cemetery along with her husband, Harvey Hubbard, and children, Lovina Hubbard Miller, and Joel Hubbard) and Joel Shurtleff Jr.. Joel Shurtleff Jr.'s first wife was Melinda Sabin (a member of the family with 26 kids) and his second wife was Sarah Smith Shurtleff, of Greensboro. They had 7 children, two of whom are Abial Shurtleff and Gilman Shurtleff, also buried in the Orton Cemetery.

Location: Four rows back to the right of the entrance gate



2. Sarah Shurtleff (1803-1873): Wife of Joel Jr, mother of Abial and Gilman Shurtleff (Joel Jr: burial location unknown but likely unmarked next to Sarah)  
Location: Just in front of Joel and Hannah, 3 rows back to the left of the entrance gate



3. Abial Shurtleff: Civil War Veteran, son of Joel Shurtleff Jr. and Sarah Smith Shurtleff, and the first husband of Rachel Gilcris. Their monument is a rare zinc monument, also seen in the Rowell Cemetery. Their epitaph reads: Not lost blest thought, but gone before where we shall meet, to part no more.

This monument is especially unique because it is made of zinc, which was a completely newfangled product at the time of Abial's death. The idea of metal headstones occurred to cemetery manager M.A. Richardson in the late 1800's in Connecticut. He figured there would be great demand for longer lasting headstones than the deteriorating rock headstones. After partnering with two foundries which failed at making the zinc headstones, Richardson and his partner, O.J. Willard, created their own backyard foundry to prove their product then sold the rights to a New Jersey metalworker. The New Jersey metalworker then resold those rights to a foundry in Connecticut, The Monumental Bronze Company, which took off with great success. During WW1 this foundry was taken over by the US government to manufacture war materials, and the zinc headstones were put on hold, never to truly regain their footing. You may occasionally find a zinc headstone, but clearly not to the extent of rock headstones. If you feel the material, it is obviously lighter, and longer lasting. The process of creating a metal gravemarker is quite involved, requiring a plaster cast of a wax carving, then creating a sandmold of the cast plaster, then pouring molten zinc into the sand mold.

Location: Next to Sarah Shurtleff

4. Gilman Shurtleff: Son of Joel and Sarah Shurtleff, and brother of Abial Shurtleff, his epitaph reads: Dear as thou wert and justly dear, We would not weep for thee: One thought shall check the starting tear, It is that thou art free.  
Location: Just in front of Sarah, and Abial, 2 rows back, just to the left of entrance



### **North Walden Cemetery**

The North Walden Cemetery began in 1819 until 1957, it remains closed with 308 graves.

1. Bell Family: Four generations of the locally active Bell family are buried at the North Walden Cemetery, including former Governor of Vermont, Charles J. Bell, who served as governor from 1904-1906. James Bell and his wife, Lucy, settled in Walden in 1804. James was a member of the Legislature for 10 consecutive years. They had James Dean Bell who was involved in many community affairs, including being Town Representative, State Senator, Side Judge, US Revenue Assessor, Deacon of the East Hardwick



Congregational Church and Director of the St. J and L C RailRoad. He married Caroline Warner and they had former Governor, Charles Bell in 1845. Charles began the Caledonia Grange No. 9 in East Hardwick, which continues to be the longest continually operating grange in New England. The governor's mansion can be seen on Belfry Road (continue down Noyestar Road towards Rt 16, it will turn into Belfry Road and the mansion will be on your right).

Location: 6th row in, right of pathway

2. The Vincent Family Monument. Two more of the rare billboard style monuments exist in this cemetery belonging to the Vincent family. Thomas Vincent and Huldah (Wood) Vincent were Massachutes natives but moved to Walden where they had 7 known children, but likely more who go unrecorded. Theirs is the monument on the left. To the right are their three teenage children, Martha, 16, Walter, 17, and Mary, 18, who died of "consumption", now known as tuberculosis, which largely affected young adults. The small gravestone located in between these two billboards commmemorating Isabel



Bridgman, which links these monuments to the Bridgman billboard in Hardwick. Isabel's mother is Ann Vincent, daughter of Thomas and Huldah. Ann married John Bridgman III, the son of the married couple on the Bridgman billboard in the Hardwick Center Cemetery.

Location: 4th row in, left of path

\*Note these also feature the special notched support system only seen in the NEK billboards, and the capstone, also only found on the NEK billboards.



3. Joel Sabin: Grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Gideon Sabin, who are mentioned in both Hardwick and Walden early history, notable for having 26 children. Speculation is that they were 13 sets of twins, but there is no record to confirm that. For a time the Sabin family inhabited the blockhouse in Walden with all 26 children (which was located on the Bayley Hazen Road toward Cabot), which temporarily housed many early settlers after the war. Joel's father and son of Gideon Sabin, Elihu, was the first settler of Goshen's Gore (what is now Stannard). Elihu is buried in the Batchelder Cemetery in Stannard, but I could not find burial records for Gideon and his wife.

Location: Fourth row back, 6th stone to the left of the path

### South Walden Cemetery

The South Walden Cemetery began in 1808, contains 500 graves and is still being used today.

1. A Gypsy Baby's Gravestone: "In the summer of 1909, a group of Gypsies traveled a part of the Bayley Hazen Road that passed the South Walden Cemetery.



People knew neither where they were from nor where they were going, but farm families along the route where Gypsies were known to travel by horse and wagon train of three or more two-horse teams could expect to have their barns and gardens pilfered. When Edmund Eddy, who lived next to the South Walden Cemetery, went for his cows the afternoon after a Gypsy caravan had passed through, he saw a small blanket lying beside the cemetery gate. On further investigation, he found a dead infant wrapped inside the blanket. He remembers seeing a Gypsy woman carrying the bundle when she tried to tell his fortune earlier that day. After getting the cows into the barn and reporting the find to his family, he took his shovel and buried the baby in the back part of the cemetery, marking the spot with a row of fieldstones. About 1972, when the cemetery was being refurbished, an unused piece of granite was found and through the efforts of Roger La Perle and Maurice Eddy, Edmund's son, a permanent marker was placed to commemorate the unknown child."

Location: Way back toward the woodline, on the left side of the cemetery

2. Moses and Sally Robinson: The township of Walden was granted in 1780 and in August 1781 the town of Walden was chartered to Moses Robinson by the Vermont Legislature, along with 64 other charters. They were the 8th family to settle in Walden.

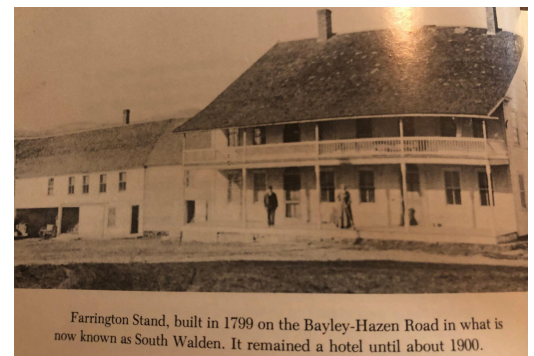
Location: From the gate, all the way back to the large maple tree in the pathway, 1st row after the tree, on the left from the tree.



3. Farringtons: The Farringtons came to Walden in 1799 from New Hampshire. They ran the first stage coach inn in town on the corner of Bayley Hazen Road and Rt 15, owned the only hotel in town for a number of years, were the first merchants in town and also built the first gristmill in Walden on the Morrill Brook. Nathaniel Farrington Sr also sat on the Legislature for 6 years. They quickly acquired a lot of land and had great influence over the town.

Location: Back left corner of cemetery

- There are also Rowells and Leavitts in this cemetery (third row on the right of path, 5/6/7 stones in) with similar plaques to those of Albany Center and Rowell Cemetery.



Farrington Stand, built in 1799 on the Bayley-Hazen Road in what is now known as South Walden. It remained a hotel until about 1900.

### Cemetery Trivia

Competition amongst marble workers in the mid-1800's led them to creating many fonts, styles and imagery in an attempt to show the public their abilities. They would very often sign their work at the bottom of a stone, sometimes it is located just

under the ground. Sometimes practice strokes or letters are found on the part of the stone underground.

**Scavenger Hunt Question:  
(North Walden)**

How many veterans are in the North Walden cemetery (Noyestar Road)?