

Loop Map: [Craftsbury Common and Village](#)

Parking: Village Cemetery on Cemetery Road

Loop: (5.1 miles) Start at the Village Cemetery on Cemetery Road. Turn **right out of the cemetery on Cemetery Road** and continue for .6 miles. Turn **left on South Craftsbury Road** and in about 200 meters turn **right on Creek Road**. After about .5 miles turn **left on King Farm Road**. Head up King Farm Road for 1.75 miles then turn **left on Dustan Road**. In about .5 miles turn **left on North Craftsbury Road**. The Common Cemetery will be on your left after about 500 meters. Continue down North Craftsbury Road for 2.25 miles then **turn right back onto Cemetery Road** to return to the Village Cemetery.

Common Cemetery

The Common Cemetery was first used in 1798 and with over 700 graves is still used today.



1. The Crafts Family: Ebenezer Crafts was one of the proprietors when Craftsbury was chartered in 1781, and the founder of Craftsbury (formerly known as Minden). After fighting in the Revolutionary War



Ebenezer came from Sturbridge, MA with his wife, Mehitable, daughters, Matilda, Augusta and son, Samuel in 1790. The move was a response to economic hardship after the war. Many New England businesses suffered, including the Crafts' inn and tavern in Sturbridge, the Publick House (which



remains open today). Due to monetary disaster, he sold his estates in Sturbridge and put his faith in his new town in Vermont, along with many other relatives from Sturbridge, who make up the majority of other proprietors. Many of his relatives sold their land rights in Vermont to Ebenezer, and by 1789 he owned more than half the land rights of the entire town. Ebenezer's son, Samuel C. Crafts went on to sit on the state legislature, became chief judge of Orleans County, Congressman for three terms, the Governor of Vermont for three terms, and a Senator. But best of all, he was an excellent farmer and could split wood "with considerable skill almost up until the day he died (Craftsbury, A Brief Social History)."

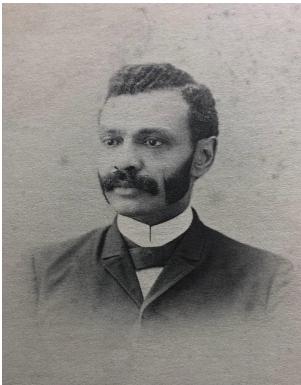


Location: First row to the left after entering the cemetery from the entrance closest to the common.

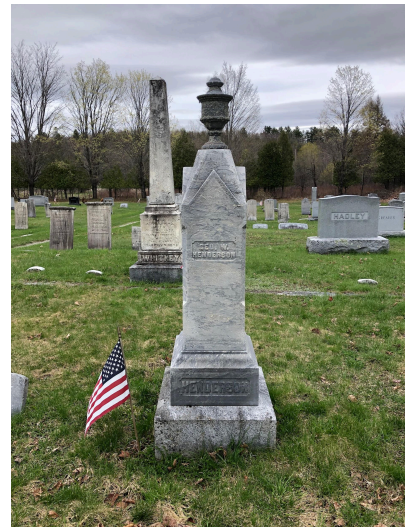
*Margaret Rowell unknowingly owned the upper half of Samuel Craft's headstone for a number of years. When digging a spring in 1998 at the Spaulding house, the dowser discovered the top half of the gravestone. Years later Dave and Margaret were noticing how the stone was white marble when they realized they were standing on a white marble slab, a part of a stone walkway to the entrance of the home. They flipped it over and it turned out to be the bottom half of the headstone. Speculation is that the old headstone was removed when the more formal monument replaced this original, which eventually made its way to the Spaulding property in pieces. This hypothesis was proven true when Raymond Reil, a mason, shared that he found the stone in a gravel pit in 1970, and finding it interesting, brought it to his parents home where he placed it in the yard.

2. George Washington Henderson: George Henderson was a former enslaved person who served as headmaster of Craftsbury Academy for 5 years, 1877-1880, and 1886-1888.

Henderson was born enslaved in Virginia and was brought to Vermont after the Civil War by a graduate of UVM who served in the Union army. He had no formal education before coming to Vermont where he was then tutored at the soldier's home and graduated from Underhill Academy. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from UVM and went on to become principal of Jericho Academy, Craftsbury Academy and Newport Graded School. As stated in *Craftsbury, A Brief Social History*, "It was a town turned outward toward the world. In the 1870's few citizens of Craftsbury had so much as set eyes on a dark skinned person, but they were fully aware of the bitterness of the



struggle that had led to abolition...He was much loved and Craftsbury people spoke of him as 'Our Mr. Henderson.'" He built the school's first library, and when the school burned down, he spearheaded its reconstruction. He and one preceptress, who was white, taught 100 Craftsbury kids Greek, Latin, French, German, science and math, music, elocution, and accounting. They fell in love, got married and had a son. While they were in Newport she and their infant son died of illness. He continued to sit on the Board of Trustees of the Academy for many years.



Location: From the second entrance from the Common, it is about halfway down the road/path on your right. It is an obelisk with a cup shape on the top.

3. Horace Graham/Isabelle Graham: Horace Graham had a celebrated political career as governor, legislator, auditor, and long-time involved Craftsbury community member. He is also the only Vermont governor to be convicted of a major crime while in office. Graham was accused of embezzlement of nearly \$30,000 of



state funds. He was found guilty but Graham's successor, Clement, pardoned him the day he took office, stating that his service to Vermont was unmatched. The infamous Ms. Jean Simpson of East Craftsbury, and good friend of Graham's, later disclosed that he was indeed guilty and took funds to "meet a private emergency." Buried next to him is his sister, Isabelle Graham, who is known to haunt her old Craftsbury home.

Location: From the entrance closest to the Common, it is about 8ish rows, back on the left. They are a pair of matching headstones.

4. The Davidson Monument: Another billboard monument, this one memorializing the Davidson family of Massachusetts, who were early settlers of Craftsbury. This marble slab has a dry weight of 425 pounds. Of the 225 people in New England commemorated on a billboard monument, only 6 lived to be in their 90s, and two of those 6 are on this monument, Daniel Davidson and his son, Capt. Daniel Davidson, both lived to be 90.

*Note this monument is consistent with the other located in the Northeast Kingdom with its cut out ledge posts and capstone, suggesting they all came from the same maker.

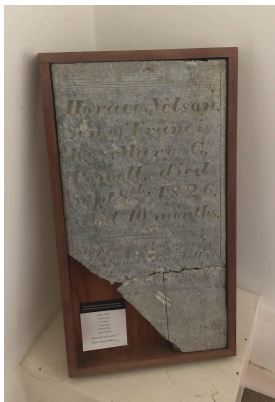
Location: In the middle of the two entrances/roads, about 4 rows back.



Village Cemetery

The Village Cemetery was first used in 1851 and is still in use today.

1. Francis K Powell 1825-1905: Brother of child whose headstone was found under North House on the Common: When reconstructing the back porch of the North House on the Common, the former home of the Sterling College president and currently a dormitory, construction



workers unearthed a gravestone of a child who died almost 200 years ago. It read: Horace Nelson/ Son of Fransis K & Mary C. Powell/ died Sept 8th 1826/ Aged 10 months/ Sleep on sweet babe securely rest/ No pain nor sorrow shall molest. This led to much speculation: was the North House built on a cemetery? Adding to the curiosity, it happens that past North House residents include three generations of morticians, but this was not until 1870. Looking more closely at the carving, the possibility that this stone was

created by a novice became evident. The lines are off-kilter and the carver did not space the epitaph correctly, leading to the use of 'carrots' to fit all the letters in the words. Maybe the stone was rejected and tossed aside or perhaps the father tried his hand, inexpertly, at engraving. There was also the chance that this stone had been replaced with a newer stone, but there are no records of a replacement or



even the death of Horace Powell in any local cemeteries. No parents or grandparents of Horace could be identified, but the gravestone of who is likely his brother was identified at the Village Cemetery. The explanation of the location of Horace's gravestone remains a mystery. The headstone is now displayed in the corner of the Reading Room of Sterling's Brown Library, open to the public throughout the summer.

Location: Directly to the right in the first row after entering through the arched entrance.

Cemetery Trivia

Gravestone imagery is greatly symbolic. Here are a few of the many gravestone symbols and their meanings:

- Weeping willow with urn: Grieving of the living, sorrow, mourning. Most abundant imagery on stones from 1800-1850. The urn represents an imperial Roman container of ashes. This was popular after the Revolution when the Americans adopted Greek and Roman symbolism for their new Republic. This detailed carving worked best on soft slate, then became out of fashion once harder stones began being used which did not lend itself to carving in such detail.
- Clasped Hands: Marriage or Heaven/God welcoming the deceased
- Finger pointing up: Acceptance of the soul into heaven
- Sun: life, resurrection, new day in afterlife
- Lamb: death of a child
- Oak Leaves: Longevity
- Flowers with broken stems: A life cut short
- Roses: Love, beauty, hope, popular for women, the fuller the rose the longer the lifespan of the woman who was buried there
- Ivy- faithfulness to family, fidelity
- "In memory of" means there is no body at that location (common in war era stones)

Scavenger Hunt Question: (Common Cemetery)

What animal makes up one stone in its entirety? (Hint: located in the right half of the cemetery)