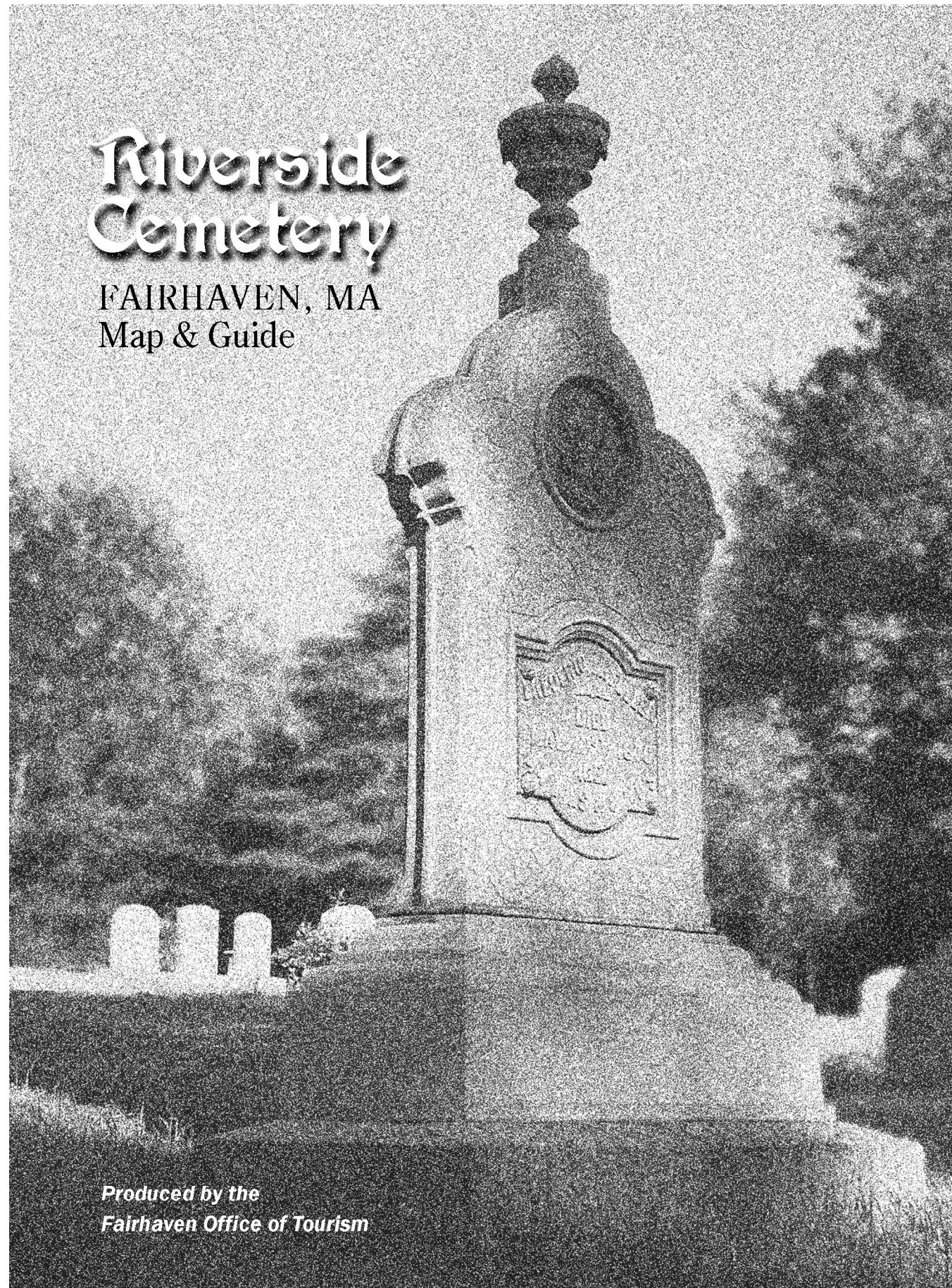


Riverside Cemetery

FAIRHAVEN, MA
Map & Guide



Produced by the
Fairhaven Office of Tourism

IN THE 1830S AND 1840S New Bedford and Fairhaven were at the height of their prosperity due to the whaling industry. The local population was growing, Fairhaven's old burial grounds soon would not be able to accommodate the town's needs and the plan for the Fairhaven Branch Railroad would require the closure of part of the old burial ground at the south end of William Street in the town center. About this same time, there was a movement to create rural or garden-style cemeteries, a style pioneered by Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA, which was opened in 1831. The idea was that the burial place be landscaped more naturally as a place to be enjoyed by the living.

Riverside began in the winter of 1846-47, when Warren Delano II, a Fairhaven native, a China trader and the grandfather of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, purchased a parcel of land that had once been part of the farm of Jonathan Nye. The cemetery was laid out and a corporation was formed in March 1850, with Delano's father, Warren I, serving as its first president. The cemetery was consecrated on Sunday, July 7, 1850. The first burial, that of Miss Mary E. Delano, took place in August. In 1881, the sexton's home was built at a cost of \$1,800 and Delano added more land in 1889. The trustees have since acquired additional property and the cemetery now totals about 44 acres.

Since 1931, Riverside Cemetery has been superintended by three generations of the Reid family. Peter Reid is currently the superintendent. His grandfather, Hay Reid, came to Fairhaven from the Delano estate on the Hudson River in 1931. Following Hay Reid's death in 1948, Peter's father Norman H. Reid took over and cared for the cemetery for about 47 years, retiring at the age of 87. Norman Reid died in 2005 at the age of 96.

1. **Henry Huttleston**, 1868-1832, and **Rhoda (Merrihew) Huttleston**, 1771-1841. Henry Huttleston was a shipping merchant and the grandfather of Henry H. Rogers (# 21). Ships he owned were captured by privateers during the War of 1812. Huttleston Avenue was named for him. The Huttlestons' remains were moved here from Acushnet Cemetery.

2. **Capt. Alexander Winsor**, 1810-1891. Winsor was captain of the famed clipper ship *Flying Cloud*, father of banker Walter P. Winsor (#24) and grandfather of horticulturalist Bancroft Winsor (# 21). Capt. Winsor set a speed record sailing the *Flying Cloud* from New York to London in 18 days.

3. **Atkins Adams**, This monument to merchant Atkins Adams (1782-1849) was the first one to be erected in Riverside Cemetery. It was moved from the old village burying ground at the south end of William Street.

4. **Martha (Jenney) Coggeshall**, 1849-1916. She was a member of the Fairhaven Colonial Club, which was founded in 1912. In her will she bequeathed her home at 6 Cherry St. to the group for use as a meeting place and to house its collection of art and artifacts from Fairhaven's history.

5. **Ruby (Eldredge) (Merrihew) Allen**, 1750-1835 and **Stephen Merrihew**, 1742-1783. They were great grandparents of Henry H. Rogers (# 22). Stephen built the house at 39 Middle Street that became Rogers' childhood home. The house passed from Ruby to her daughter Rhoda Huttleston (#1), then to Mary E. Rogers.

6. **Thomas Whitfield**, 1882-1944. The second-longest serving selectman in Fairhaven history, he was a grandson of William H. Whitfield (#8). Whitfield operated clambake pavilions at Fort Phoenix and at Lincoln Park amusement park in Dartmouth. Sometime around 1920 he built the Princess Theater on Main St., the town's first movie house. The building has been owned since 1946 by the American Legion.



Riverside Cemetery's first monument

7. **Ahira Kelley**, 1833-1884. Moving his cod fishing and packing business A. Kelley & Sons from Cape Cod to Old South Wharf in Fairhaven in 1863, he founded what became known as D.N. Kelley and Sons Shipyard, one of Fairhaven's longest operating businesses. Four generations of the Kelley family owned the wharf and marina until 2008, when it was sold to Fairhaven Shipyard. (Also see #23.)

8. **Capt. William H. Whitfield**, 1804-1886. Captain of the whaleship *John Howland*, Whitfield rescued Manjiro

Nakahama from an island in the Pacific Ocean and brought him to Fairhaven, where Manjiro became the first Japanese person to live in America. Whitfield later served as a selectman and as state representative. This gravesite has been visited by Emperor Akihito of Japan.

9. **Charles Dean Waldron**, 1856-1916. Waldron was the founder and editor of the *Fairhaven Star*, the town’s weekly newspaper, published from 1879 to 1966. Waldron’s editorials inspired community spirit and civic pride. Following his death, Waldron’s son Henry operated the paper. Bound, indexed copies of the *Star* in the archives of the Millicent Library are an important resource for historical researchers.

10. **Joseph K. Nye**, 1858-1923. The son of William F. Nye (#11), Joseph was an engineer who oversaw the drainage of the Mill Pond to create Cushman Park and was president of the Fairhaven Water Company. He also was president, from 1910-1923, of the Nye Oil Company, which had been founded by his father.

11. **William F. Nye**, 1824-1910. The founder of what is now Nye Lubricants, Nye began refining whale oil in the kitchen of his Fairhaven home. His company was the nation’s largest refiner of fine watch and machine oils, which were sold around the world.

12. **Isaac N. Babbitt**, 1811-1905, Babbitt was a blacksmith who engaged in metal-working with his brother-in-law Joseph B. Morse on Fort Street. They operated a wind-mill just north of Fort Phoenix for the purpose of sharpening whaling harpoons and other tools. The family-run company Babbitt Steam is still operating in New Bedford.

13. **Everett S. Allen**, 1916-1990. A journalist and editor of the New Bedford *Standard-Times*, Allen is best known for seven non-fiction books of regional interest, including *This Quiet Place*, *A Cape Cod Chronicle* (1971), *Martha’s Vineyard*, *An Elegy* (1982), *The Children of the Light* (1973), *A Wind to Shake the World* (1976), and *The Back Ships: Rumrunners of Prohibition* (1979). On his first day as a *Standard-Times* reporter, September 21, 1938, Allen had to cover the Great New England Hurricane, which struck that day.

14. **Mabel Hoyle Knipe**, 1906-1997. An English teacher at Fairhaven High School from 1932 to 1974, she was also a poet, playwright, drama coach and historian. As a volunteer of the Millicent Library she began the *Fairhaven Star* Research Project, which involved repairing and indexing back issues of the weekly newspaper. She also compiled several booklets on Fairhaven history. In April 1975, the second floor auditorium at Fairhaven High School was named in her honor.

15. **Elizabeth I. Hastings**, 1898-1989. A teacher and then principal in the Fairhaven public schools from 1921 to 1968, she was principal of Tripp School, Anthony School and the Fairhaven Junior High School, which was renamed in her honor during her final year as its principal. She was well known for forming the school orchestras and for directing the band for Fairhaven High School. She also served 12 years on the school committee, up to the age of 82, and was very active in many town civic groups.

16. **Walter Silveira Sr.**, 1901-1988. The longest serving selectman in the town’s history, Silveira was first elected following the death of Thomas Whitfield in 1944 and continued in office until his death in 1988. He was the first Fairhaven selectman of Portuguese descent.

17. **Dr. Martha E. Cummings**, 1930-2004. An educator with volunteer service in many Fairhaven civic and historical organizations, including the Fairhaven Historical Society, the Fairhaven Improvement Association and the Unitarian Memorial Church, she also served as president of the board of trustees of the Riverside Cemetery Corp.

18. **John I. Bryant**, 1850-1929. Bryant, a native of County Cork, Ireland, was the town’s third-longest serving Selectman with 24 years in office in nonconsecutive terms. A stone mason by trade, Bryant served as assistant superintendent of streets. He was also postmaster, a county commissioner, a constable and a member of the Board of Health.

19. **Zephaniah Pease**, 1861-1933. The editor of the *New Bedford Mercury*, Pease worked for the newspaper for 53 years. He was also an avid historian who wrote and/or edited a number of articles and publications on local history. He was widowed in 1921 and married the widow of Dr. Charles W. White (#20).

20. **Charles Warren White Jr., M.D.**, 1859-1904 Possibly at the invitation of Henry H. Rogers, White came to Fairhaven following the death of physician George Atwood (#34). He married Eliza Childs, a teacher at Rogers School, and operated his practice from the home he built at 14 William St. He died at the age of 44 on his own operating table during surgery for gallstones. In 1907, Henry H. Rogers built the White Home for Nurses at St. Luke’s Hospital in New Bedford in memory of Dr. White.

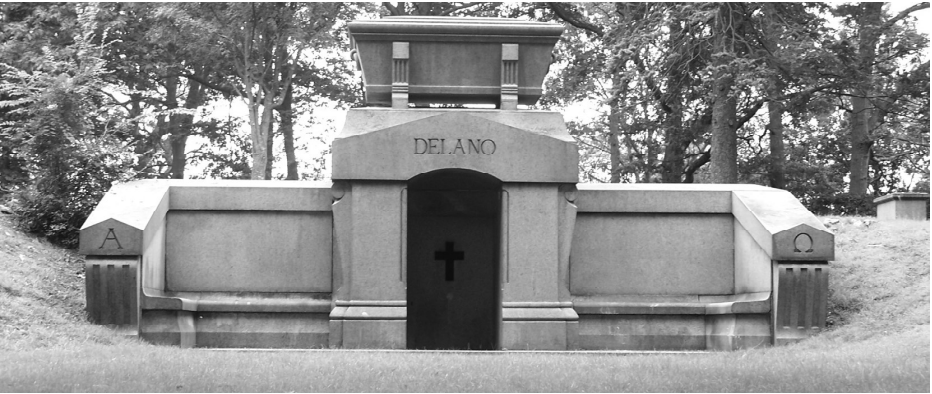
21. **Bancroft Winsor**, 1889-1939, and **Beatrice Winsor**, 1893-1975. Bancroft Winsor, grandson of Capt. Alexander Winsor (#2), gained recognition in horticultural circles for raising gladiolas and selling the bulbs nationwide. Today his legacy is due to starting a 35-acre orchard in Acushnet, which he named after his grandfather’s famous ship *Flying Cloud*. After his death, Bancroft’s wife Beatrice ran the Flying Cloud Orchard into the 1970s and was known locally as “The Apple Lady.”



Henry H. Rogers mausoleum

22. **Henry H. Rogers mausoleum**, built 1893. Henry H. Rogers (1840-1909) was born and brought up in Fairhaven and started a small oil refinery in Pennsylvania at the age of 21. He became one of America’s wealthiest men, eventually serving as second in command in John D. Rockefeller’s Standard Oil Company. Beginning in 1885, Rogers financed a number of public buildings in Fairhaven, including Rogers School, Fairhaven High School, the Town Hall, the Millicent Library and the Unitarian Memorial Church. The mausoleum, designed by architect Charles Brigham, is modeled after the Temple of Minerva in Athens. It is the final resting place of Rogers, his first wife Abbie, three of their children, Rogers’ parents, sister, daughter-in-law Mary and grandson H.H. Rogers III.

23. **David N. Kelley**, 1856-1942, and **Hon. David L. Kelley**, 1889-1969 David N. Kelley incorporated his father Ahira’s (# 7) waterfont business as D. N. Kelley & Sons, and shifted the focus away from fishing and into pleasure-craft building and



The Delano family tomb, designed by architect Richard Morris Hunt.

repair and boat storage. David Leon Kelley, the third generation owner of the business, was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1916 and served as postmaster for Fairhaven from 1924 to 1936.

24. **Walter P. Winsor**, 1846-1911 The son of Capt. Alexander Winsor (#2), Walter P. Winsor became the president of the First National Bank of New Bedford and was a close friend of Henry H. Rogers (#22), often handling Rogers’ local business for him. He was also a director of the Union Street Railway and Wamsutta Mills. He served as a Selectman from 1896 until his death in 1911.

25. **Norman Reid**, 1908-2005. The superintendent of Riverside Cemtery for 47 years, Reid came to Fairhaven from Algonac, the Delano family estate on the Hudson River in 1931 when his father Hay B. Reid (1878-1948) became the caretaker of Riverside. He assumed the position upon the death of his father in 1948 and retired at the age of 87. Many trees and shrubs found throughout the cemetery were propogated and planted by Norman Reid. He often shared his boyhood memories of the Delano estate with visitors. Following his retirement, Norman’s son Peter took over as the cemetery’s superintendent.

26. **Delano Family Tomb**. The tomb was built in 1859 by Edward Delano, a brother of Warren Delano II (1809-1898) and an uncle of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. There are 24 receptacles within the tomb and twenty people have been interred there. Most of the immediate descendants of Warren Delano I (1779-1866) are inside the tomb except for Sara Delano Roosevelt, the mother of F.D.R., who rests with her husband James and her son Franklin at Hyde Park in upstate New York. The tomb was designed by Richard Morris Hunt, who was later the architect of the The Breakers mansion in Newport, RI. Atop the hill, many other members of the Delano family are buried.

27. **Frederic A. Delano**, 1863-1953. He was an American railroad president born in Hong Kong and an uncle of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He was Chairman of the Committee on the Regional Plan for New York and Its Environs and was a member of the Commercial Club of Chicago which impacted the development of Chicago in the 19th and 20th centuries. He also served as the first vice-chairman of the Federal Reserve from 1914 to 1916. Frederic A. Delano was the last family owner of the “Delano Homestead” at 39 Walnut Street in Fairhaven. The home was sold at auction in 1942.

28. **Nathan Church**, 1785-1859. Church was known as the wealthiest man in town during the early days of the whaling era. He was the owner/agent of a number of whaleships. In 1840 he built the large brick house at the northeast corner of Center and Green streets at a cost of \$22,000. The obelisk that marks his grave features a carving of a hand pointing upward toward Heaven.

29. **Ebenezer Akin**, 1784-1870, and **Ebenezer Akin Jr.**, 1817-1905. In 1812 when Fairhaven was incorporated, Ebenezer Akin Sr. became its first Tax Collector. His father Bartholomew Akin was a Selectman of New Bedford before Fairhaven was incorporated and served as Selectman several times after 1812. Ebenezer Akin Jr. followed the family tradition of public service. He was Fairhaven’s Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Treasurer for a total of about 25 years and was a Selectman and Fairhaven’s Postmaster as well. Manjiro Nakahama stayed with the Akin family for a short time and it was Akin who asked Manjiro if he wanted to go to school. The Akins’ next door neighbor Jane Allen started tutoring Manjiro. Akin was also a trustee of Riverside Cemetery.

30. **Lemuel D. Eldred**, 1850-1921. An artist noted for paintings and etchings of local scenes and foreign locales, Eldred studied for about five years under William Bradford (#49). He eventually bought Bradford’s old studio building and moved to Poverty Point. Eldred wrote a number of newspaper articles on local history and was an early member of the Fairhaven Colonial Club. At Eldred’s suggestion, the club began collecting the work of local artists.



The graves of Nathaniel Pope and his wife Mary Barstow were moved from the old burying ground in the village.

Revolutionary War. Pope had been placed in charge of one of the town’s militia companies in 1775 by the local Committee of Safety, of which his father, Col. Seth Pope was a member. Prior to the war he had been engaged in whaling and in trade with the West Indies and with southern ports.

32. **Lt. Caleb Church**, 1728-1771. and other **Church family members**. The earliest part of the old burying ground near Fairhaven Village was on the Church family’s property and Caleb Church is believed to have been the first one buried there. His remains, as well as those of other family members, were removed to Riverside Cemetery prior to the construction of the Fairhaven Branch Railroad.

33. **Noah Stoddard**, 1755-1850. A mariner and businessman, Stoddard was a privateer during the Revolutionary War. His most celebrated adventure was the capture of the town of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, on July 1, 1782. Along with the captains of three other privateering vessels, Stoddard, commanding the brig *Scammell*, landed a party of men on the shore of the small town and took a large quantity of food and rum.

34. **George Atwood**, 1815-1888. Dr. Atwood practiced medicine in Fairhaven for 38 years. His home/office was at the northeast corner of Center and William streets. Atwood was elected the first president of the Fairhaven Library Association when it was formed in 1860 and served until his death. He was president of the Bristol South District Medical Society in 1863. From 1864 to 1879 he was president of Riverside Cemetery.

35. **Ellery Taber**, 1809-1890. Taber, a descendant of some of the town’s earliest settlers, was a sea captain. He also served as a selectman in 1864. This monument was toppled by the Great New England Hurricane of 1938.

36. **Ezekiel Sawin**, 1792-1870. Sawin was the owner/agent of whaleships and was elected the first president of the Fairhaven Bank and of the Fairhaven Institution for Savings. He was also president of the Fairhaven Branch Railroad. In 1840 he built the Greek-revival mansion at the southwest corner of William and Washington streets, but later had to sell it after losing his fortune in the financial “panic” of 1857.

37. **Deac. Joseph Bates**, 1750-1828, and **Deborah (Nye) Bates**, 1765-1828 Joseph Bates Sr., a native of Wareham and a veteran of the Revolutionary War, moved to Fairhaven in 1793. He was one of the original subscribers to build the New Bedford Academy (later the Fairhaven Academy) and oversaw the purchase of a lot and the building of the private school. He was a senior deacon of the Congregational Church and was placed in charge of a local militia company during the War of 1812. He and Deborah (Nye) Bates were the parents of Joseph Bates Jr., who was a founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

38. **F.R. Whitwell**, 1793-1861. A businessman with whaling and shipping interests, Furman R. Whitwell was an original incorporator of the Fairhaven Institution for Savings and served as a selectman in 1841. His son, F.R. Whitwell Jr., 1835-1910, was also involved in whaling and other business interests. The book “My Dearest Anna: Letters of the Richmond Family” outlines some of the history of the Whitwell family.

39. **Phineas Terry monument** The Terrys were a seafaring family. Phineas Terry (1778-1867) was born in the Long Plain area of Acushnet and returned to Fairhaven after years in merchant shipping as a captain. His sons Phineas and Clinton were also captains. Another Terry was a ship builder and another a cooper. Several Terry daughters married sea captains. In 1849 during the Gold Rush, Terry ships carried people and supplies to California. A couple of family members settled there. Paul Terry, the cartoonist who started Terrytoons, is descended from the Fairhaven Terry family.

40. **John A. Hawes** 1823-1883. A graduate of Harvard in 1845, Hawes was a lawyer who was very active in local politics. During the Civil War he was Captain of Company E, Third Massachusetts Regiment. He was a State Senator in 1871 to 1872 and again 1874 to 1875. He was Selectman 1857-1860 and also served on the School Committee. He was president of the Bristol County Agricultural Society. He was a founder and the first commodore of the New Bedford Yacht Club.

41. **Franklyn Howland**, 1843-1907. Howland, a resident of Acushnet, was a Civil War veteran who had spent nearly a year in a Confederate prison. Upon moving to Acushnet, Howland became active in the community, serving on the school committee and on other committees. In 1888 he was elected a state senator. Howland is best known as a local historian, whose book “A History of the Town of Acushnet” was published shortly after his death.

42. **Rita Steele**, 1921-1985 The director of the Millicent Library from 1953 until her death, Miss Steele brought new life into the library, oversaw its expansion with a new addition in 1968 and kept alive the town’s historical ties both with the Rogers family descendants and with the families of Capt. William Whitfield and Manjiro Nakahama.

43. **Charles H. Gifford**, 1839-1904. A marine artist who built a home and studio at 7 Lafayette Street overlooking New Bedford Harbor, Gifford earlier had been a prisoner of war during the Civil War. At a young age he had been inspired by an exhibit of the works of Albert Bierstadt, but his parents discouraged his artistic interests and he worked as a carpenter and shoemaker. In 1865, after selling a painting of Palmer’s Island for \$10, he opened an art studio in New Bedford and worked in New York before returning to Fairhaven. Today examples of his work are in several local collections.

44. **Eli Bence**, 1865- 1915 A druggist at D.R. Smith’s Drugstore in Fall River in 1892, Bence played a role in the infamous Lizzie Borden case. He claimed that the day before Andrew and Abbie Borden were murdered, Lizzie Borden came into the shop where he worked and asked to buy Prussic Acid, a deadly poison. Bence refused to sell it to her. He was brought to the Borden house and positively identified Lizzie. Bence’s testimony, was not admitted at the trial however, because it was considered to be “too remote.” In 1894, two years after the murders, Bence opened a pharmacy of his own in New Bedford. His second wife was Annie Maxfield of Fairhaven and he is buried with his wife here in the Maxfield family plot.

45. **George H. Taber**, 1808-1901. Taber became a sea captain in the merchant service in 1832 and sailed many voyages before retiring from the sea in 1842. He served as a Selectman in 1851, 1863, 1869-1878 and 1886 and was an assessor for 15 years. He was President of the Fairhaven Institution for Savings and a trustee of the Millicent Library. Taber became a Freemason in the Star-in-the-East Lodge of New Bedford in 1850 and remained active in Masonic affairs for more than fifty years. In 1901, the Concordia Lodge, F.& A.M. changed its name to the George H. Taber Lodge, F.& A.M. in his honor. Taber’s nephew Henry H. Rogers (#21) gave the lodge its building at the northwest corner of Main and Center streets the same year. Taber married Eliza Parker Bates, the daughter of Seventh-Day Adventists founder Joseph Bates Jr.

46. **Donald R. Bernard**, 1932-1993. The Fire Chief from 1984-

1992, Bernard was also a historian and author. He founded the Fourth Old Dartmouth Militia in the late 1960s and organized several historical battle re-enactments. He wrote *Tower of Strength, the History of Fort Phoenix* in 1975 and *The Life and Times of John Manjiro* in 1992. Bernard was an original member of the Fairhaven-New Bedford/Tosashimizu Sister City Committee and traveled to Japan in 1987 for the signing of the Sister City agreement. From 1991 to 1992 he was president of Riverside Cemetery Corp. Bernard wrote the scripts for several historical tours in Fairhaven and guided tours following his retirement from the fire department.

47. **Civil War Monument**. In 1866 a town committee was appointed to build a monument to the soldiers who had died during the Civil War. A year later Town Meeting allocated \$1,700 and architect George F. Meacham was selected to create the monument. On May 30, 1868, the first Memorial Day ordered by General John Logan, Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, townspeople and veterans gathered at this monument to honor the fallen servicemen. That tradition has been followed every Memorial Day since then.

48. **Holding Tomb**. This tomb was used for temporary storage when burials were delayed because of frozen ground during the winter.

49. **William Bradford**, 1823-1892. Marine artist of the “luminist” school, Bradford achieved international fame and was sponsored by European nobility, including Queen Victoria. After failure in the business of dry goods, Bradford built an art studio at the south end of Main Street in 1851. He shared his studio for three years with Dutch painter Albert Van Beest. Bradford raised money for voyages to Labrador and Greenland where he painted and photographed Arctic scenes. After finding fame in Europe, he worked in studios both in New York and in Fairhaven. John Greenleaf Whittier dedicated the poem “Amy Wentworth” to Bradford and lines from the poem are engraved on his stone.



Grave of artist William Bradford

This brochure was produced in 2011 by the Fairhaven Office of Tourism, 43 Center St., Fairhaven, MA 02719. The Office of Tourism has been offering walking tours of Riverside Cemetery at least twice a year since 1995. The tour was originally developed by Natalie S. Hemingway and was expanded and updated by Sandy Main and Christopher J. Richard. For more information, email FairhavenTours@aol.com.

Special thanks are extended to historian and Riverside Cemetery trustee Cynthia McNaughten and to Riverside Cemetery superintendent Peter Reid.

