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It appears that the cemetery was possibly used as a burial ground prior to the establishment of Paxton as a town and that there may have been burials prior to the earliest stone found. The earliest dated gravestone is 1769.

The vital records show the following deaths:

September 17, 1756 Beulah Moore  
April 30, 1767 Christian Newton  
November 12, 1767 Hannah Moore  
1768 Samuel Gould  
1769 Elizabeth Hunt  
1769 Mary Goodenow

Most of these individuals belonged to families living in the area. A search of the Old Burial Ground, Rutland, Mass. failed to find any of these individuals buried there. Graves of other members of some of these families can be found in Center Cemetery. It is thought that these individuals were possibly buried in Center Cemetery and their graves were never marked, or, if so, the stones have become lost or broken and disordered. There being no record of burials, no plot or lot plan of the cemetery and many unmarked graves it becomes hard to ~~prove~~ burials within the cemetery such as those mentioned above.

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Within Center Cemetery, Paxton, Massachusetts, various types of gravemarkers, products of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, can be found. In order to more clearly understand the inventory for headstones, monuments, and markers, within this cemetery, a brief explanation of each category seems justifiable.

A. HEADSTONES:

a headstone, in most instances, bears one name and is placed at the head of a single grave. In some instances two or more names appear on the stone, but, if that is the case, the grave may contain more than one person: (example: mother and stillborn child)

Material used in making headstones changed over the years. Slate was the primary material used during the 17th, 18th, and early part of the 19th century. Field stone was used, in some instances, in the 17th and 18th centuries. White marble became popular about the middle of the 19th century and is still in use today. Granite is the primary material in use today and appeared late in the 19th century.

The shape of the slate stone may vary but the basic style was with the curved top with the only change being at the base of the curved top. The shape, at this point, for the 17th century being rounded and for the 18th century being flat. (see examples rear of 1830 stone inventory).

The basic white marble stone was a simple stone, square top, measurements being  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " - 2" thick and approximately 24" wide.

In recent years the individual headstone has been replaced with what is called a monument. Due to cemetery regulations and rising costs these monuments vary in size and mark two or more graves within the lot. The family name appears on the face with the names of the individuals listed on the rear.

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VETERANS BURIED OR MEMORIALIZED IN CENTER CEMETERY  
PAXTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
(revised list May, 2005)

FRENCH-INDIAN WAR

Ezekiel Bellows, Sr.

Jason Livermore

Paul Howe

Phineas Moore

Samuel Wicker

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Ezekiel Bellows, Sr

Pliny Moore

Ithamar Bigelow

Willard Moore

David Goodenow

Jonas Newton

Micah Harrington

David Peirce

Nathan Harrington

Francis Pike

Jonah Howe

John Pike

Jonathan Hubbard

Absalom Russell

Thomas Hunt

Nathan Swan

Thomas Lamb

Seth Swan

Jason Livermore

Prince Thompson

Adam Maynard

Abraham Whitney

Phineas Moore

Samuel Wicker

WAR OF 1812

Ezekiel Bellows, Jr.

Amasa Earle

Philip R. Howe

INDIAN WARS 1815-1820 PERIOD

Charles P. Howe

CIVIL WAR

Simon C. Abbott

Edward D. Bigelow

Henry A. Browning

George F. Cheney

Daniel W. Cummings

John A. Cummings

George W. Dodd

Alanson H. Dodge

CIVIL WAR (cont)

Horace L. Fisk  
David Gotha  
Alvin S. Gratton  
Leander T. Kirby  
Foster T. Merriam  
Samuel A. Newton  
Frederick Parkhurst  
George O. Peirce  
Francis W. Pike  
Hezekiah S. Sargent  
Austin Skiff  
Samuel W. Stratton  
Benjamin F. Ware  
Joseph D. Whitney

John Frink  
George W. Gould  
Charles A. Harrington  
Ansel Lakin  
Nahum S. Newton  
Samuel C. Osland  
Hiram N. Parkhurst  
John D. Peirce  
Joseph Preston  
Walter S. Shaw  
Edward Sliney  
Henry C. Ward  
William M. Warren  
Eustis W. Woodis

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Charles S. Pike

PHILIPPINE-INSURRECTION 1899-1901

Walter H. Pike

WORLD WAR ONE 1917-1919

Scott Curry

Charles R. Livermore

WORLD WAR TWO 1941-1945

Adelbert E. Gotha

George Tufts Dewey, Jr.

Herbert J. Gotha