

**Roberts Road Cemetery**  
**Sandisfield, Mass.**

Starting from the road on the west side. The gravestones go from right to left.

**Row 1.**

1. (Has an American flag.)

In memory of **Benjamin Person** who died June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1814, in the 37<sup>th</sup> year of his age. [Is it possible he died in the War of 1812?]

2. In memory of **Lucina A. Parsons**, consort of **Benjamin Parsons** who died March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1817 in the 57<sup>th</sup> year of her age.

**Row 2.**

3. In memory of **Rensselaer Persons** who was killed Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, 1860, ae. 56

4. (In front of white stone.)

**Eliya**, wife of **Rensselaer Parsons**. Died July 3, 1838, ae. 29

Also an infant buried by her side. (No name or date.)

5. **Elihu Persons** Died March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1855, age 75 years.

(The other side of the stone reads:) **Polly**, wife of **Elihu Persons** died Sept. 21, 1869, age 92 years.

**1<sup>st</sup> row**

6. (This is a four-sided stone;) **side 1** reads: **Torrel Persons** died May 16, 1879, age 79 years, 5 months; **side 2** reads: **Sylvania Bristol**, wife of **Torrel Persons** Born in Oxford, Conn. June 24, 1804. Died in Sandisfield, Mass. Oct. 24, 1897. **side 3** reads: **Romania**, daughter of **Torrel Persons** and **Sylvania**. Died - - 9, 1865, age 23 years; **side 4** reads: **Maria L.** daughter of **Torrel & Sylvania Persons** died April 28, 1859, age 13 years.

**2<sup>nd</sup> row**

7. **Amariah Smith** 1781-1858

**Lucy Phelps**, his wife. 1789-1876

**Jerome Smith**, their son. 1830-1847

8. **Christiana Smith**, wife of **Ebenezer Holt**. Died August 2, 1854, age 92

(The headstone is marked: **A.S., C. S., D.D.S.**)

**3<sup>rd</sup> row**

9. Beneath this stone lies **Richard Chapel**, who died Feb. 21, 1825

10. In memory of **Grace Chapel**, wife of **Richard Chapel**. Died 3 May 1790

11. In memory of **Mathew W. Smith**, who departed this life Febr. 19<sup>th</sup>, 1808, in the 62<sup>nd</sup> year of his age.

**4<sup>th</sup> row**

12. In memory of **Mr. Lusha Smith**. Died 12<sup>th</sup> November, 1797, in the 35<sup>th</sup> year of his life.

13. **Phebe**, wife of **Capt. Benjamin Smith**. Died Mar. (or May) 19, 1852, age 91.

14. **Henry Smith** died Jan. 22, 1847, age 84.

15. **Ruth**, wife of **Henry Smith**. Died Nov. 13, 1828, age 62.

16. **Russell Smith** died Apr. 9, 1862, aged 62.

**Maria E.** his wife, died March 10, 1875, aged 59.

(On the back – Father and Mother)

17. **Clarriss**, wife of **Russell Smith** died Oct. 17, 1813 ae. 36 yrs.
18. **Mathew H. Smith** was drowned July 22, 1832, ae. 27.
19. (Between row 2 and 3 near the stone wall; has a flag.)  
**Eli Simons** died April 12, 1828, ae. 92.
20. **Emeliaea**, only daughter of **Benonia** and **Caroline Simons** died Sept. 20, 1842, ae. 8 yrs. (There is an American flag and an iron stand.)
21. **Benonia Smith** died Aug. 8, 1865, aged 68. (@ American flags.)  
**Caroline** his wife died Jan. 5, 1889, aged 85.  
*[This is strange – how can one say “Simons” and the other “Smith”?]*

5<sup>th</sup> row

22. In memory of **Mr. Isaac Kneeland**, who died July 1[?- illegible number] 1804 in the 63<sup>rd</sup> year of his age.
23. In memory of **Mrs. Hannah Kneeland**, relict of **Mr. Isaac Kneeland**, who died May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1808 in the 61<sup>st</sup> year of her age.
24. Sacred to the memory of **Russell Kneeland**, youngest son of **Mr. Isaac & Mrs. Kneeland**, who by the pressure of a loaded sled died a sudden & violent death on 17<sup>th</sup> day of Dec., 1799 in the 16<sup>th</sup> year of his age. “Reader, attend, thy setting sun is, dream not of life in haste prepare nigh.”
25. **Abigail**, wife of **Andrew Buley**.
26. **Charles**, son of **Abigail & Andrew Buley**. Died August 6, 1828, ae. 6 y.
27. In memory of **Emily**, wife of **Henry (Hill or Hawley)** May 31, 1831.
28. (Probably) **Herman Thorp**, died Apr. 11, 1855, ae. 72.

6<sup>th</sup> row

29. In memory of **Moses Baxter**, who died May 26, 1866, ae. 12.
30. **Electetx (Electrix?)**, daughter of **Moses & Esther Baxter**. Died 1803, 6 mos.
31. In memory of **Esther**, wife of **Moses Baxter**. Died Oct. 10, 1821, ae. 54

7<sup>th</sup> row

32. **Edwin A. Smith**. Died Sept. 8, 1855, ae. 29
33. Small headstone marked **M. S.**
34. **Daniel Sears**, Esq. Died May 30, 1853
35. **Edy**, wife of **Daniel Sears**, Esq. died Aug. 18, 1851, ae. 83

8<sup>th</sup> row

36. (Broken stone)
37. **James H. Roberts** 1858-1925.  
**Mary A. Geddes**, his wife, 1848-1895.  
**Elizabeth E.**, their daughter, 1883-1902.  
(**Roberts** is the last family to be buried in the cemetery.)
38. **Theron R. Wolcott** died July 20, 1888, age 77.  
**Cynthia A. Smith Wolcott**, his wife. Died Nov. 21, 1892, ae. 81

**Louisa M. Wolcott**, died June 24, 1862, ae. 16.

**Delia L. Wolcott**, died April 25, 1896, aged 52

There are 4 headstones; #1 from the road is marked **T. R. W.** #2 is **C. A. W.** #3 is **D.L.W.**, #4 is **L. M. W.**

As in most of the local cemeteries, some of the flags for veterans are obviously misplaced. Some of this happened in the 1960s and 70s when war protestors and pot-smoking hippies pulled up these markers, especially the bronze ones and melted them down to make pot pipes. When (or if) they were replaced, sometimes with plastic, the deserving graves had been forgotten.

The last name “Persons” and “Parsons” seems to be interchangeable; some members of the family spelt it one way, others another. This is also true for another family represented in this graveyard, and that is “Simons” or “Simonds” I know for a fact that this is the case both in Colebrook and in Sandisfield. Ed Simonds gave me a book entitled “The World As It Is”, written in 1842, and his father’s name was written on the inside front cover very clearly “Simons”. During the summer of 2010, an official of the state government visited the Colebrook Historical Society on business and was quite interested in the material we had on the Simonds family, and cast light on the reason for the two spellings. She is a direct descendent of this branch of the family, and gave us this account: Ed’s father (Ed was born in 1864), while on a trip to New York, became aware that there were Jewish immigrants who spelled their name “Simon, or Simons”, and as he didn’t want anyone to mistake his ancestry with those who had recently arrived on these shores, changed the spelling, (or at least began inserting a “d” to dispel any confusion.) The family settled in this neighborhood prior to the Revolutionary War, when the road past the cemetery was called “Hardscrabble Road”. Ed’s ancestors built overlooking the pond, hence the name “Simons Pond” until 1904, when the McClaves, as new owners of all the land surrounding that body of water renamed it “Lake Marguerite” after their eldest daughter.

The condition of some of these headstones is getting worse by the year, especially the limestone ones. This is mainly due to acid rain. The headstones that are best preserved are not stone, but zinc. This one has a bullet hole in it from some idiot who didn’t know how to use a rifle. There are quite a few of these zinc headstones in the area probably due to the fact that Solomon Sackett, who lived in all of these contiguous towns at one time or another, had the franchise from the manufacturer, located in Bridgeport, Conn. As a consequence, Colebrook, Sandisfield, Winchester and Norfolk, plus more that I don’t know about, have many examples in their cemeteries.