

## List of Persons Interred in Hilltop Cemetery – Sorted by Grave Location.

This list of burials is a complement to the alphabetical list. It is sorted by the section of the cemetery where the grave is located and then by the plot designation. It is obvious that often family members are buried together. This information can help a researcher find relatives and build a family tree.

The alphabetical list of burials is located in the Library at the Hilltop House. One research strategy is to check the alphabetical list for your person of interest. The last two columns are the section name and the grave location. Note that information and use it with this list to find other persons buried in the same place.

For many reasons there are no signs in the cemetery to help a visitor find grave locations. The following outline of the layout of the cemetery may be helpful.

Generally the Old Yard, the Phoenix Plot, Section “Old” and Section North are between the main cemetery road and the rear of the church. This is the oldest section of the cemetery.

Sections A thru Z extend between the main cemetery road and the back yards of houses on Talmage Road. The cemetery office is located about in the middle of this area towards Talmage road.

Sections AA - GG are at the back part of the cemetery. There is no one buried in Sections EE and FF.

The cremation section is located behind the last row of tomb stones in the cemetery. It is necessary to cross the back road and look for flat markers on the ground.

The “Legacy” section (LA – LJ) is located between the main cemetery road and the parsonage of the Hilltop Presbyterian Church. This section is the Demarest memorial section. There is a monument near the entrance in honor of Mrs. Louise Forsythe Demarest. Mrs. Demarest was the benefactor who donated the eight acres to the cemetery that have now become the Legacy section.

The cemetery itself dates from the mid 1700’s to the present day. Many visitors had heard or read stories about some of the people buried here. The time period of interest is often the Revolutionary War period. The persons of interest could range from heroes to victims of circumstance. Therefore I am including some notes about the early history of the cemetery.

### **THE OLD YARD**

The “Old Yard” is the earliest part of the cemetery and is divided into 11 sections. The directory of cemetery burials, published in 1926, refers to them simply as one to eleven. I added the term “Old Yard” in my burial list because there is a later section called “Old”.

This early part of the cemetery contains some of the most famous burials. The tombstone of Daniel Beers, showing an inscription of “237 years”, is located in Old Yard 5. The burial plot of 27 Revolutionary War soldiers who died of small pox in April 1777 is also in Old Yard 5. The resting place of Mrs. Martha Drake is in Old Yard 10. Mrs. Drake died in the sanctuary after being struck by lightning during the Sunday service. Her death, described in newspapers as a “Melancholy Catastrophe”, occurred on May 16, 1813.

Many residents of Morris County have heard the story of Miss Tempe Wick (1758-1822). For a number of years people thought Tempe Wick, later Tuttle, was buried in the Hill Top Cemetery in Mendham. The confusion arose because Tempe’s parents and other relatives are interred in Old Yard 5. Tempe’s actual burial place is believed to be Evergreen Cemetery in Morristown.

In January 1781, during the Revolutionary War, Tempe Wick rode her horse from her home in Jockey Hollow to Mendham to fetch the services of her relative, Dr. William Leddell. Her mother was ill and might eventually need treatment. She did this without incident. Apparently she visited Dr. Leddell and rode home alone.

The Continental Army under General George Washington was camped near Morristown for the

winter. At this point the soldiers were suffering from extreme cold and a lack of food and pay. For this reason some of the soldiers were in rebellion.

These soldiers encountered Tempe Wick on the road and demanded her horse. Tempe was able to escape them and hide her horse in her house. For three days and night she kept her horse indoors until the danger had past. Her story lives on in the Jockey Hollow National Park and the Wick House, now part of the park.

Old Yard 5 is the resting place of Tempe's parents, Henry Wick (1707-1780) and Mary C. Wick (1718-1787). Tempe's older sister, Phebe (Wick) Leddell (1746-1806) and Phebe's husband, Dr. William Leddell (1747-1827) are also buried in this section. Dr. and Mrs. Leddell had a daughter named Tempe Wick Leddell (1779-1810), later McCrea. This child, also interred in Old Yard 5, is a niece of the legendary Tempe Wick. The similarity in names may have led to confusion over the burial places.

## PHOENIX PLOT

The "Phoenix Plot" was originally outside the boundaries of the cemetery and became a local landmark because of its unique history. It is the resting place of the early Phoenix family as well as the later Moran family. It illustrates the first two phases of Mendham history: the original settlers represented by the Phoenix family and the wealthy estate owners represented by the Moran family.

William Phoenix (1783-1860), an early settler and owner of the Phoenix House Inn, was denied a burial plot because he served intoxicating beverages at his establishment. His need for a burial plot may have occurred about 1828 when two members of his family died. Mr. Phoenix responded by purchasing a large lot next to the cemetery for a family burial plot. He enclosed the lot by building a substantial stone fence that still stands today. As time went on the cemetery expanded to include the Phoenix plot.

There are at least two generations of Phoenix family members buried in the enclosure. Over the years the descendants of William Phoenix either moved from the area or bought their own plots in Hilltop Cemetery. However there remained a large unused area inside the stone fence. Sometime before 1937 the Cemetery Association sold this area to the family of Daniel Moran.

Daniel Moran (1864-1937) owned a large estate off of Mountainside Road in Mendham. He made his money working as a Consulting Engineer on many of the world's largest buildings and bridges. His offices were in New York City. He was part of the "gilded age": a time when wealthy New Yorkers bought up small farms and combined them into large estates. There are now also about two generations of his family buried in the plot.

Note: I am still working on this introduction. I hope to eventually include a map of the cemetery. – Ruth Willis, September 2020..