

LIGHTHOUSE/MERRIMAN CEMETERY:

Located adjacent to Owls Head Light State Park
Lighthouse Road, Owls Head, Knox County, ME
GPS: 44.088795, -69.048561

Transcribed and submitted by Mac Jackson 10/08/1999
Updated and edited December 2022 by Lea Carver

V: Veteran (1)
*****: Informational only

This cemetery may not be on State property as previously thought. Ownership is being researched.

There are 17 known burials in this cemetery dating from 1821 to 1914.

Oliver Gray (b.1838-1840) Died Aug. 28, 1866 AE 28 y'rs. (Parents Oliver Gray and *1) Lydia Merriman, 1860 Census "disability - Idiotic")

V Capt. Nath'l Merriman, (b. 22 Apr 1776) Died Aug 12, 1821 AE 45 y'rs. (War of 1812)

Mary, (Merryman) Wife of Capt. Nath'l **Merriman** (b. 25 Dec 1782)
Died Aug. 27, 1867 AE 86 y'rs.

Their Children in birth order, those with ***** **not** buried here:

*1) Lydia b. Apr 1802, d. 9 Dec 1879 (erysipelas) m. Captain Oliver **Gray** buried in Hall Cemetery

2) **Almira** Merriman (b. 4 Sep 1804) Died Feb. 6, 1882 AE 78 y's (unmarried)

*3) Henry b. Circa 1806, died young

4) **Nathaniel** Merriman Born 1809 - Died 1867 Aged 59 yrs. (m. Eliza J. Haskell, APC) 3 daughters

*5) Hannah b. 1808 d. 1862 m. John **Wade**, 3 sons - burial unknown

6) **John**, Born Aug 8, 1811 Died Mar 20, 1859 (m. Deborah (Spring) Weeks 1836, 7 children)

7) **Frances** Merriman (2nd) Wife of Johnson **Pillsbury** (he's at Hall Cemetery) (b. 1817) Died Aug. 5, 1893, AE 76 years. (No issue)

8) **Jacob** Merriman Born Aug 25, 1819 - Died Aug 23, 1896
 Nancy Merriman his wife, Born May 14, 1836 - Died Apr 27, 1908

Mary Frances their daughter Born Sep 17, 1870 -
 Died Oct 3, 1876

George B. Merriman (their son) 1869 - (28 Dec) 1914 At Rest

*9) Joel b. 1816, d. April 23, 1874 South Thomaston (RG death notice 4/30/74), June 1874 (probate papers) - burial unknown but likely here.

Capt. Llewellyn Samuel **Norwood**, b. 19 Mar 1849, d. 13 Apr 1911. (He was the keeper at Owls Head Light for 15 years and died on duty. NO Headstone. Spouse Amanda (Sawyer) Norwood is buried elsewhere. 1972 MRHS/Nathan Hale record for him - must have had a stone or marker until at least 1989 during Nichols transcription)

Freeman **Smith** (b. 24 Dec, 1812) Died July 30, 1885, AE 72 y's y m's & 6 ds.

Rhoda A. (Allen) Wife of Capt. Freeman **Smith** (b. 4 Mar 1816) Died Apr. 22, 1876 AE 60 y's & 18 d's.

Weston G. **Smith** (their son) 1847 - (25 Jan) 1893 (Married Elizabeth Hinckley)

Clara A. Wife of L. (Leverett, son of Freeman & Rhoda) E. **Smith** (b. 16 Jun 1858) Died Oct. 8, 1887, AE 29 y's 3 m's & 27 ds.

Gracie dau. of L. E. & Clara A. **Smith** (b. 1 Oct 1887) died Nov. 22, 1887 AE 1 mo & 21 ds.

Notes:

According to deeds, in May 1807, Nathaniel Meriman of Harpswell bought 80 acres in OH from James Randell (Book 13, p.22 (Deeds WHL)). The property included a house and barn. In June of 1816 Nathaniel Merriman purchased 121.5 acres from abutting owner Thomas E. Randell (Book 18, p. 240 (Deeds WHL)).

On November 23, 1824 (date of sale) heirs (all minors) Almira, Hannah, Henry, Jacob, Joel, John, Lydia & Nathaniel via their guardian, James Orr of Harpswell, sold 17.25 acres to the US Government for the purpose of a lighthouse. (Deed WHL book 24, p. 435)

There is a base without a headstone next to Frances which could be Henry, Joel or Hannah Merriman Wade. Most likely it is Joel since he died in town.

According to the 1870 South Thomaston Census, the **Smith** family lived near the OH Light. Freeman and wife Rhoda, his parents, and 5 of their children (including Leverett) are listed just before George D. Wooster, the light keeper. They may have rented the Merriman property. Freeman & Rhoda are still in the area in 1880 (no children or parents with them).

It is possible Leverett E. Smith is buried in this cemetery with his family. He was born circa 1851 (Matinicus?) and died after the 1920 Census (Rockland). Also, Freeman's parents Jacob (b. 1792 on Matinicus) and Jane T. Smith (b. 1791 on Matinicus) could be buried here. They were living with Freeman in Owls Head in 1870 (Census).