



Hiram's Tomb – North Chester

23. Hiram's Tomb Boulder

Location: North Chester (Hampden County)

Delorme Massachusetts Atlas & Gazetteer: p. 33, L30

Parking GPS: N42°18'13.38" W72°55'12.59"

Destination GPS: N42°17'56.5" W72°55'06.5"

Type of Formation: Historic Boulder **Wow Factor:** 5

Accessibility: 0.4-mile hike

Degree of Difficulty: Moderately easy

Description: Hiram's Tomb Boulder is a 10-foot-high, 30-foot-long granite boulder that contains the terse inscription: "Hiram Smith, died 1873; Sarah Toogood, died 1869."

Yes, there are actually people entombed inside the rock—something that makes this boulder unique for a Massachusetts rock.

History: Hiram's Tomb Boulder is named for Hiram Smith and his sister, Sarah Toogood. Hiram was adamantly opposed to being buried in the ground, and chose the rock to serve as his mausoleum. Sarah, it would appear, was either of like mind or, dying first, had no say in the matter.