

West Cemetery Record Recovery

Meriden, Connecticut · Initial recovery edition · September 8, 2026

What has been recovered

Collection	Included in this package
Cemetery-specific references	48 person-level entries; mixed evidence strength
Official Meriden death index	57,451 source rows, separately labeled
Historical evidence	18 original page scans, including Bela Carter portrait
Original death / burial certificates	0 obtained
Complete Hale survey / internal lot plan	Not obtained

This package is incomplete. The 57,451 death-index rows do not identify cemetery of burial and must not be treated as West Cemetery interments. The 48 cemetery entries include published burial references, selected survey transcriptions and unverified search-index leads. The reported loss of association records was supplied by the requester and has not been independently verified.

The strongest recovery lead

Meriden Public Library explicitly lists the 1934 Hale headstone survey, volumes 26 and 27. Ask for the complete **West Cemetery / Old Cemetery entry, code 211-10**, including section headings, index sheets and any map. Selected extracts identify Lynn C. Webber, October 5, 1934, starting at printed page 421. A full page range has not been established.

[S004 | Meriden Public Library — History & Genealogy](#)

[S008 | Osborne Origins — Connecticut cemetery extracts](#)

Search and use the archive

Extract the entire ZIP, then open **START_HERE.html**. Search a name, date, section or keyword. Search works offline; outside source links require internet access.

Choose **Cemetery references** for the 48 person-level records, **Meriden death index** for the separate official reference collection, **Historical scans** for page images and OCR, or **Source catalog** for repositories and follow-up.

Open **records/Cemetery_Research_Index.xlsx** to sort, filter and edit the cemetery research table. This workbook and the HTML are separate snapshots; workbook edits do not automatically update the search page.

Open **sources/Historical_Evidence_Searchable.pdf** for the 18 historical pages. Text recognition is uncorrected. Read the original image whenever spelling, dates or relationships matter.

The JSON source files and SQLite full-text database are included for future expansion. File hashes are in SHA256SUMS.txt.

Data quality

The state download contains one invalid placeholder date, **0000-00-00**, and 35 duplicate complete row values. Both are retained without alteration. Five candidate links to cemetery leads are listed separately: three share first name, surname and full death date; Julio Jaramillo matches name and year; Albert H. Fairchild has a conflicting year that may refer to a different person. None substitutes for checking the underlying certificate.

What the photographs and newspaper material are

The portrait is a printed historical photograph of Bela Carter from the 1906 publication. No verified headstone-photo collection was acquired. The Nellie Shaw Baker record is a factual abstract of a modern transcription of the July 9, 1936 Daily Argus notice; its original clipping image is not included. Its planned interment is not verified completed burial.

S013 | Nellie Shaw Baker obituary transcription — Daily Argus, July 9, 1936

Recover the remaining records

1. City Clerk / Registrar

cityclerk@meridenct.gov | 203-630-4030 | 142 East Main Street, Meriden, CT 06450

Request death records for deaths in Meriden or Meriden residents. For deaths elsewhere, identify the appropriate town/state. Death certificates are public, with Social Security number restrictions. The city says 2022-forward deaths can be requested at any Connecticut town hall.

S002 | Meriden City Clerk — Death Certificate

2. Meriden Public Library

Jane: jconnolly@meridenct.gov | 203-630-4748; Joanna: jziarnik@meridenct.gov | 203-630-4756. Historical collection visits: wguzman@meridenct.gov.

Lists Hale headstone inscriptions (1934), volumes 26 and 27; Meriden newspaper microfilm 1863–2020; Sanborn maps 1884–1950; Barbour Meriden vital-index microfilm 1806–1853. Newspapers.com and Ancestry Library Edition are available in the library.

S004 | Meriden Public Library — History & Genealogy

3. Connecticut State Library

CSL.ISREF@ct.gov | 860-757-6580 | 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

Ask about the complete Hale 211-10 pages, survey order, map/index sheets, cemetery association filings and records deposited independently of the association.

S017 | Connecticut State Library — History & Genealogy reference

4. Meriden Historical Society

info@meridenhistsoc.org | 203-639-1913

Ask about cemetery lot plans, family plot deeds, undertaker ledgers, photographs, association papers, city directories and newspaper clipping files. No West Cemetery collection has been confirmed with staff.

S018 | Meriden Historical Society — institutional directory

5. Engineering, Assessor/GIS and Parks

Ask for internal cemetery plans, boundary surveys, historical aerials and maintenance or association files. A tax parcel outline is not a map of individual graves. Holdings have not been confirmed.

S019 | Meriden government departments

Five request drafts are included in guides/Records_Request_Drafts.txt. No messages have been sent and no costs have been authorized. Ask for a holdings inventory and written estimate first; a bulk index or survey copy may be more practical than ordering individual certificates immediately.

Reconstructing plots carefully

Preserve the Hale survey's original order, headings and printed page references. Survey sequence can help research proximity but is not a legal or surveyed grave location.

Current clues include Lewis Osborne in Section 1 (selected Hale p.424), several Osborn/Osborne entries following the Section 4 heading, and memorial-reported sections 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6. No authenticated coordinates, row plan, lot dimensions or grave-level map have been recovered.

Keep Wilhelmine Goralski's reported "plot 4" unresolved; it may refer to a section rather than a lot. The historical statement that Charles Griswold lies beside his mother Eliza is only a proximity clue.

Record each marker's literal text, all faces, condition, date, photographer, nearby marker IDs, GPS and location accuracy. Preserve provisional survey IDs separately from historical lot numbers. Do not move stones to make a proposed plan fit.

Require multiple independent matches before reconciling a historic plan to modern field observations. An apparently empty surface is not evidence of an unused burial space. Retain information about removals, reinterments and lot transfers.

Keep unknown dates blank. Record ambiguous spellings and contradictions. Do not assume that listed relatives share a grave or are buried in the same cemetery.

False matches excluded

Lucy Ann Kirtland Way's record points to West Cemetery in Bristol; William Ridley's record points to Walnut Grove in Meriden. Edward Maschmeyer's biography names Hilton Head, South Carolina, while his wife Augusta is the West Cemetery burial reference. County histories also contain West Cemetery passages about Madison and Guilford. These were excluded.

This archive can be expanded with the complete Hale survey, clerk returns, family papers, photographs and funeral-home records. Each new item should receive a source citation, a stable file name, an original scan and a separately reviewed transcription.