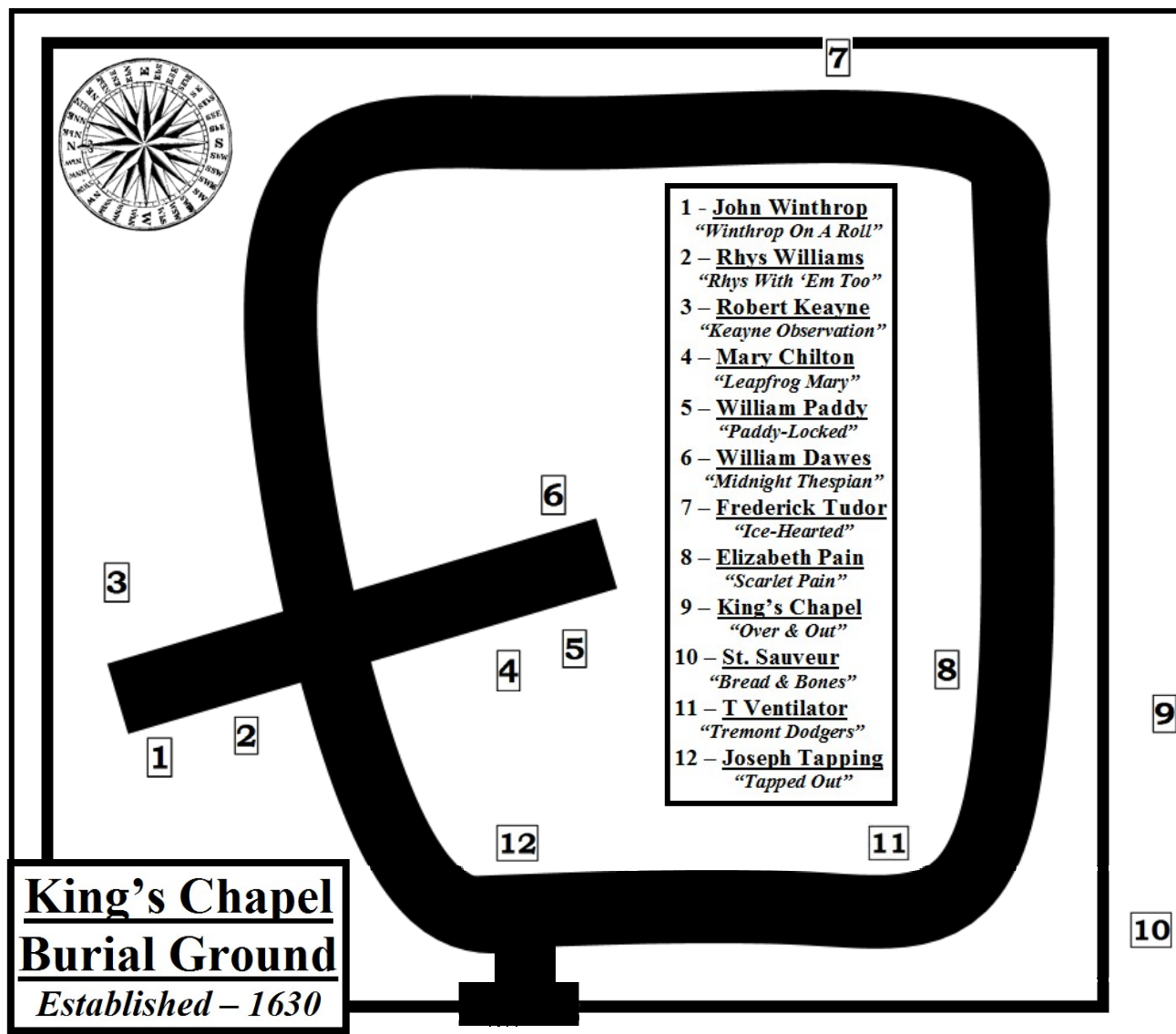




My name is Jimmy Cole and chances are you may have just met me as I hand out my guide for the Granary Burial Ground just up Tremont St. Since I can't be in two places at one time, here's the scoop:

You are free to use this little guide that me and my research partner Rob Kent put together; please just return it to Rob on your way out. Donations are accepted (but not expected) but please be rest assured that if you just return the guide in one piece we will be happy campers.

Donations go towards our printing/commuting/munching expenses and general living costs & development of my website, JimmyTangent.com.

PS: I realize my guide is a bunch of historical "snacks" that may add up to a bigger "meal" than you may want to "eat" right now. Good news! At a time of your convenience, you can scan the QR Code or head over to my website (jimmytangent.com/kcbg-guide.htm) and download a free electronic copy of my guide to your smart phone/tablet or home computer. Hint: If you have a camera, just take a photo of this page and (tada!) you will have the exclusive web address. Enjoy!



Rob & Jimmy



Dear Reader: As just mentioned on the front page, my guide is, if you will, a seven-course historical meal. I will leave it up to you to decide whether the following mini-guide is a snack or an appetizer.

“Around King’s Chapel Burial Ground In 80 Seconds”

John Winthrop: First colony Governor, best remembered for his “City Upon The Hill” speech

Rhys Williams: Pastor for forty years of the First Church of Boston and last person buried here

Robert Keayne: Founder and first commander of The Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company

Mary Chilton: Believed to be the first Pilgrim settler to touch Plymouth Rock

William Paddy: Oldest dated marker in Boston’s sixteen burial grounds

William Dawes: The other midnight rider that traveled the longer land route

Frederick Tudor: “Ice King” that perfected the transportation of New England ice to tropical locales

King’s Chapel: First Anglican Church established in the Colonies; first Unitarian church in America

Elizabeth Pain: Possible inspiration for Hester Prynne character in Hawthorne’s “*The Scarlet Letter*”

Chevalier de St. Sauveur: French officer killed by local mob; monument fulfills forgotten pledge

“T” Ventilator: Ventilation shaft for oldest subway system in America

Joseph Tapping: Elaborately carved headstone considered one of the most beautiful in Boston



Well, look at that – apparently you were historically hungry! We will start our tour with the good Governor Winthrop. Take the main path on the left and head towards the back of the burial ground for about twenty meters until you see a dead-end (no pun intended) path on the left. At the end of the path lies the tomb of...

JOHN WINTHROP (1588-1649)

- First Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony
- Headed flotilla of eleven ships containing 700 colonists to the New World
- Gave famous City Upon A Hill speech on the ship, Arbella; considered the first speech reflecting what became known as “American Exceptionalism”
- Served as Governor for thirteen terms
- Private journal begun while en route to the New World in 1630 and continued until his death in 1649
- Family coat-of-arms’ Latin inscription, “*Spec Vincit Thronum*” roughly translates to “Hope Conquers Power”
- Two sons served as governors of Connecticut



Winthrop On A Roll - In 1880 a statue of John Winthrop was dedicated to mark the 250th anniversary of Boston’s founding and placed just around the corner from this burial ground in the center of busy Scollay Square (now Government Center). After being relocated twice to make room for the construction of subway entrances, it became clear that Governor Winthrop was not going to be left in peace as long as he resided in Scollay Square.

A battle over where Gov. Winthrop would find a new home quickly ensued between the City of Charlestown, where Winthrop first built a house before relocating the colony across the river to Boston, and the First Church of Boston, of which Winthrop had been a founding member. Eventually the First Church of Boston would win the tussle and place Gov. Winthrop in front of their 1868 edifice located in the Back Bay district. On March 29, 1968 a fire destroyed a large portion of the church and during the conflagration Winthrop’s statue was knocked off its pedestal. To add insult to injury, his head was not only separated from his body but a passerby unsuccessfully attempted to “appropriate” the good governor’s noggin as a keepsake.

In the end the Governor’s head and body were reunited and, interestingly enough, the surviving portion of the church was fortified and united with a new structure to create a unique combination of old and new. And who paid for the new unified building’s construction? Why the members of the First Church & Second Church of Boston who collectively decided, in the wake of the fire, to reunite after over three centuries of separation. I guess you could call that, borrowing the hockey term, a “unification hat trick.”

If you look just to the left of the Winthrop Tomb you will see what is clearly a newer headstone placed flush with an older one. The newer headstone was placed in the memory of...

RHYS WILLIAMS (1929-2003)

- Minister of First Church of Boston for forty years
- Buried in First Church Tomb
- Last person to be buried in King’s Chapel Burial Ground

Rhys With ‘Em Too - One of the questions people ask the most is, “When was the last burial?” Or, “Are there still burials?” etc. Technically, tomb burials in the crowded downtown burial grounds were cut off in 1879 while open ground burials were phased out earlier. So how would it be that Rhys Williams managed to avoid the ban and is buried here at King’s Chapel Burial Ground?

Well, for starters, as indicated on his headstone, Mr. Williams was the minister for the First Church of Boston for forty years. That certainly didn’t hurt. Being in charge of an institution that was founded in the same year as Boston and then being buried in the



graveyard that is itself also as old as Boston would seem to be a good match. And from a cursory examination of Rev. Williams' life and the various accolades he was afforded there is no doubt that he was indeed, as his headstone denotes, beloved by many. But in the end the answer to how Rev. Williams was buried here comes down to one word – downsizing. A more traditional word would be cremation.

For years after the ban on tomb burials was put in effect, if you were a direct descendant of a family that owned a tomb - and could pull some unrecorded power strings - you could still be interred...but again only if you were cremated. While I have not been able to learn of exactly when this loophole was finally eliminated, trust me when I say that, with the exception of Rhys Williams and his historical pedigree, if tomb burials were still allowed today, there would be hundreds of burials every year. By the way – the only Rhys I could think of to make a “Punny Headline” was the actress Reese Witherspoon. Maybe the pun makes more sense now.

To find our next person of interest, turn halfway around and look just a little to your left and towards the wall and you will see a table tomb. Don't worry - nobody is buried above ground. The “table” is just an elegant marker that covers the tomb entrance. (Because only the more affluent families could afford such markers I like to call them “Table For Few”) On the front side of this particular tomb you should see both a plaque and an embedded flat stone. This stone was part of the front steps to the home of...

ROBERT KEAYNE (1596-1656)

- Wealthy merchant that bequeathed funds for construction of Boston's first Town House
- Founder of The Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company, oldest military company in America
- 53-page will longest on record in Massachusetts



Keayne Observation - After the 1638 formation of the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company (AHAC) the group was indeed an active military unit for its first measure of existence, participating in military action as late as the 1786-87 Shay's Rebellion. But as local militias became more organized and were absorbed into state and federal units the AHAC itself transformed into its honor guard role. Thus while AHAC can rightfully claim that members have fought in every national military action since the founding of the nation, their official motto, “*Acta Non Verba*” (“Deeds Not Words”) now signifies the “deeds” of members performed in state and federal military service.

This distinction gave an opening for the local Irish political firebrand James Michael Curley (four-time mayor, one-time Governor, three-time Congressman, two-time jailbird) to deride the overtly Yankee AHAC by claiming that the Company was “Invincible in peace, invisible in war.” (I highly recommend the Jack Beatty biography of Curley, *The Rascal King*) This same spirit of derision is reflected in Gloucester, RI's annual “Ancient & Horribles Parade” started in 1927 as a silly, satirical jibe at the AHAC's somber traditions. Today the parade has evolved into an opportunity for local residents to spoof all things political at both a local and national level.

Now we are going to head back towards the main path and cross directly over it and stop at the second table tomb on our right.

MARY (CHILTON) WINSLOW (1608-1679)

- Passenger on *The Mayflower*; father dies two days before Plymouth landing
- Believed to be first settler to touch Plymouth Rock
- 1877 Henry Bacon painting features Chilton as she first touches the Plymouth shore
- Married fellow settler John Winslow in 1624; gave birth to ten children
- Chilton and Winslow move to Boston in 1653
- Information plaque on Spring Street marks site of former home
- One of only two original female Plymouth settlers to leave a will
- Boston's leading women's club is named in honor of Chilton



Leapfrog Mary - Local legend has it that Mary was the first person to touch the famous Plymouth Rock when she excitedly jumped out of her landing boat and rushed to shore. Being of sound but imaginative mind, I always pictured the scene in the form of a sporting event:

Announcer – CSN (Colonial Sports Network): “So here is the main event we have all been waiting for as Governor Bradford’s landing boat approaches the shore and thus in mere moments the Governor will become...the first person to touch the soon-to-be-famous Plymouth Rock. OK...now Governor Bradford is stepping out...his left foot has just...wait a second...there is some commotion in the second landing craft...someone is rushing through the knee-deep water at great speed...number 42...(aside) number 42?...number 42 is...12-year old Mary Chilton...and little Mary Chilton is rushing right past the Governor and...and...and has just become the first person to touch the soon-to-be-famous Plymouth Rock...what an amazing turn of events...and the Governor looks...well let’s just say...not too happy.” (/silliness)

BTW: If you travel to Plymouth and visit “The Rock” take a gander across the street and you will see on a short but steep set of stairs a plaque that explains that the little hill you are standing on is called Cole’s Hill and is named after one of the original settlers, James Cole. I, your humble author, am also a James Cole. It would be easy for me

to fib and say that I was related but the truth is that the “Cole” part of me arrived in America, like millions of others, via Ellis Island.

Just to the left of Mary Chilton’s tomb you will see a somewhat green, rounded stone that appears cemented to the ground. Here lie the remains of...

WILLIAM PADDY (1600-1658)

- Oldest extant headstone in Boston’s sixteen burial grounds
- Unique poetic inscription

Paddy-Locked - On opposite sides of the path you will find a headstone and footstone dedicated to Deacon William Paddy, both of which are secured to the ground via a cement-like material. Most early burials in Boston included both a foot and headstone that essentially marked, if you will, the bed of the deceased. (I like to joke that Paddy was apparently quite the lanky fellow since his “bed” measures about twelve feet or so.)

As to why William Paddy’s headstone and footstone are both secured into the ground in such an unusual fashion (not to mention separated by the stone footpath) may be reasonably guessed if one knows the traveling habits of one of the pair.

In 1830, during an extensive repair of the 1713 Old State House, William Paddy’s headstone was discovered buried underneath the foundation. At first glance there is no obvious explanation of how a 1658 headstone would be buried under a 1713 structure. But when it is learned that the very building that burned down and was replaced by the current Old State House had originally been completed in 1658 then at least the physical location of the headstone has a chronological connection.

After the headstone’s discovery, it was placed for safekeeping at the Old South Meeting House and eventually was reunited with its footstone here at King’s Chapel Burial Ground. When this transfer occurred is again not clear (as well as why they are not located directly beside each other) but it would seem safe to say that it was at this time that both stones were “paddy-locked” via the concrete to ensure no further adventures.



Stone Told - If you look closely at Paddy's headstone (on the same side as the Chilton tomb) you will notice a unique inscription. Let me help spare your back any unnecessary stress by providing the text:

HEAR SLEEPS THAT BLESSED ONE
WHOSE LIEF GOD HELP US ALL TO LIVE
THAT SO WHEN TIEM SHALL BE
THAT WE THIS WORLD MUST LIEVE
WE EVER MAY BE HAPPY
WITH BLESSED WILLIAM PADDY

I'll leave the interpretation up to you. I do think it is safe to say that one would be hard pressed to find another 17th century headstone in Boston that includes the word happy.

At the end of the path you will see a table tomb with a large bronze plaque attached to the top, which is dedicated to the memory of...

WILLIAM DAWES JR. (1745-1799)

- Was the other midnight rider on April 18-19, 1775
- A tanner by trade; also ran small grocery
- Reputedly had his wedding suit made entirely of North American fabrics to honor boycott of British goods
- Smuggled gold coins in and out of Boston by disguising them as large suit buttons
- Fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill
- Ran a military supply company during the Revolutionary War
- Great-great-grandson, Charles Gates Dawes, served as U.S. Vice President (1925-29)



Midnight Thespian - On the evening of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere and William Dawes were given the same mission by Joseph Warren: as they progressed to Lexington, stop and inform local militia leaders that “the Regulars were out” to seize munitions/weapons stored in Concord; inform John Hancock and Samuel Adams that the troops intended to arrest them; ride on to Concord to warn local militia leaders to prepare for the inevitable clash to come.

At the time of the midnight rides of Revere and Dawes, Boston was essentially a peninsula that resembled, as one local historian put it, “an upside-down pear with the stem mercifully connected to the mainland.” The “stem” was also known as “the neck”

and it was here that the entry and exit of the peninsula was heavily guarded by Royal troops. William Dawes, a frequent traveler due to his occupation as a tanner, had gotten to know and get friendly with many of the guards (many historians believe Warren chose Dawes for this very reason.) With his mission critically depending on him getting past the gate, the apparently innate actor in Dawes came out when he feigned drunkenness and pleaded with the guards to let him through or he would catch grief from his wife. Or, in the parlance of our times (hat tip to Jeffrey Lebowsky) – “Oh, man, ya gotta let me through or my old lady’s gonna kill me.” Well, something like that. Luckily Dawes just made it through before the gate was sealed to all travelers.

Dawes second chance to make use of his thespian skills occurred after he and Revere were traveling to Concord in the company of one Samuel Prescott, a local physician and “high Son of Liberty” that had just concluded a late courting call and was returning to Lexington. At Revere’s request, Prescott, familiar with the local back roads, agreed to lead the way for the two Bostonians. As the trio reached the town of Lincoln they were confronted by a British patrol. Being the rebels that they were all three hightailed it in different directions. Revere was captured while Prescott escaped free and clear. Dawes, being chased by several “Lobsterbacks” into the yard of a nearby house, decided he needed to change the odds and yelled out in full voice, “Halloo, my boys, I’ve got two of them!” Apparently the chasing troops fell for the ruse and Dawes escaped only to soon after be thrown from his horse that then scampered away. Thus it was neither Revere nor Dawes that reached Concord but a local country doctor that completed the most famous horse ride in history.

The Midnight Ride of William Dawes

I am a wandering, bitter shade,
Never of me was a hero made;
Poets have never sung my praise,
Nobody crowned my brow with bays;
And if you ask me the fatal cause,
I answer only, "My name was Dawes"
'Tis all very well for the children to hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere;
But why should my name be quite forgot,
Who rode as boldly and well, God wot?
Why should I ask? The reason is clear --
My name was Dawes and his Revere.

When the lights from the Old North Church flashed out,
Paul Revere was waiting about,
But I was already on my way.
The shadows of night fell cold and gray
As I rode, with never a break or a pause;
But what was the use, when my name was Dawes!

History rings with his silvery name;
Closed to me are the portals of fame.
Had he been Dawes and I Revere,
No one would have heard of him, I fear.
No one has heard of me because
He was Revere and I was Dawes.

- Helen F. Moore, *Century Magazine*, 1896

Dawes' Clause - Let me say point blank that I was unable to discover exactly who Helen Moore was or what inspired her to write her poem that parodies Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's 1861, "The Midnight Ride Of Paul Revere." But in any case she managed to cleverly capture one of the main sentiments of The Descendents of William Dawes, Who Rode, Association (DWDWRA). Since 1971 the DWDWRA has been lobbying in various ways to inform the general public of the legacy of William Dawes by delicately pointing out that Paul Revere was not the only man that rode into history that evening.

Longfellow's 1861 poem does indeed omit any reference to Dawes' contribution and it may very well be true that Longfellow initially chose Revere as his subject due to the rhyming potential of the patriot's last name. At the same time the descendents of William Dawes may have been better off since Longfellow's poem was, in several ways, a historical mess. Revere's two lanterns hung by Old North Church sexton Robert Newman were not, as Longfellow contended, a signal to Revere but from Revere to patriots on the Charlestown side to expect his arrival and if he didn't arrive to go with previously agreed contingency plans. Revere surely didn't cry out, "The British are coming! The British are coming!" since at the time Revere, Dawes and all other colonialists were in fact British subjects. And, as previously mentioned, neither Revere or Dawes even made it to Concord.

But, in my humble opinion, Longfellow's choice of subject couldn't have been more spot on if you compare the "Rebel Resume" of Revere vs. Dawes. Revere was intimately involved at the highest levels of the rebel cause as a close associate of Sam Adams, John Hancock, Joseph Warren, James Otis and other leaders. He produced, by design, the infamous and historically inaccurate Boston Massacre engraving while at the same time provided the only accurate sketch of the scene of the "massacre" itself. He rode multiple times with key messages to leaders of other colonies including the night of the Boston Tea Party when he rode to New York and Philadelphia to spread the news. In regards to the actual midnight ride, it was Revere, not Dawes, that provided a detailed deposition of his role in the events of that evening. It was Revere that coordinated the hanging of the lanterns (trust me, easier said than done) and arguably had the more dangerous route out of the city via the sea infested with Royal ships (although Dawes' longer route exposed him to more roaming Royal patrols on the lookout for the likes of him and Revere.)

And possibly from Longfellow's point of view, it made sense to choose Revere over Dawes when, as a poet at the height of his popularity, Longfellow surely knew that in making Revere his main "star" the details of Revere's extensive accomplishments (part-time dentist, Masonic leader, fire marshal, copper sheathing inventor, silver smith, bell caster, not to mention sixteen kids to boot) would come to the fore. In comparison, Dawes was a tanner by trade, a necessary but admittedly lower-rung occupation, had none of the intimate high-level

associations that Revere had (except, apparently, with Warren) and died at a young age (53 vs. Revere at 83) in relative anonymity.

That all being said, let me be as clear as I can in stating that William Dawes played a very important role on that infamous evening. While there may have been several other riders sent out from Boston to warn the countryside, only Dawes and Revere were given the sensitive information by Warren as to the secret location of John Hancock and Samuel Adams. That clearly shows the high regard Warren had not just for his intimate friend Revere but also for a humble tanner such as Dawes. And who knows? If Revere had been captured crossing the water to Charlestown then maybe schoolchildren the nation over would be learning about how many words actually rhyme with Dawes.



Dawes' Paws - Today in Massachusetts Paul Revere is honored with a town named after him, a statue placed in the shadow of the Old North Church and his original home preserved as a museum. The Descendents of William Dawes, Who Rode, Association rightfully felt that it was high time that Dawes should get some of the recognition he deserved. So in 1975, only four short years after their formation, they succeeded in proposing and getting funded a unique memorial to commemorate Dawes ride that evening.

Located just a couple blocks away from Harvard Square at the edge of Cambridge Common, the memorial includes a sidewalk/footpath with a single bronze marker complete with a bronze relief map explaining Dawes' ride in conjunction with Revere and how Dawes rode past that very point on his way to Lexington. Known as "Dawes Island" the memorial includes twenty-seven bronze horseshoes embedded into the sidewalk to represent galloping hoof prints along with his name and date of the ride.

Two items of note. The date of "April 19, 1775" embedded in bronze into the footpath is technically wrong. Dawes started his ride around 10 pm on April 18th, passed through the memorial's location at around 10:45 pm and ended his ride (well actually his bucking horse took care of that) around 1:30 am. No

biggie. In fact the accompanying bronze information plaque/map actually gets it right by listing the ride as spanning April 18th-19th.

The other item of interest, as you can see in the picture above, is that the 120 ft. portion of the footpath with the embedded horseshoes actually has painted at each end a "No Bicycles" sign. Surely someone new to the area or just visiting must have looked at the painted signs and then looked at the embedded horseshoes and said, "OK, let me get this straight. It's all right for a thousand pound animal with metal shoes to rip through here but my classic 1949 Schwinn B6 bicycle is forbidden? Something doesn't compute!"

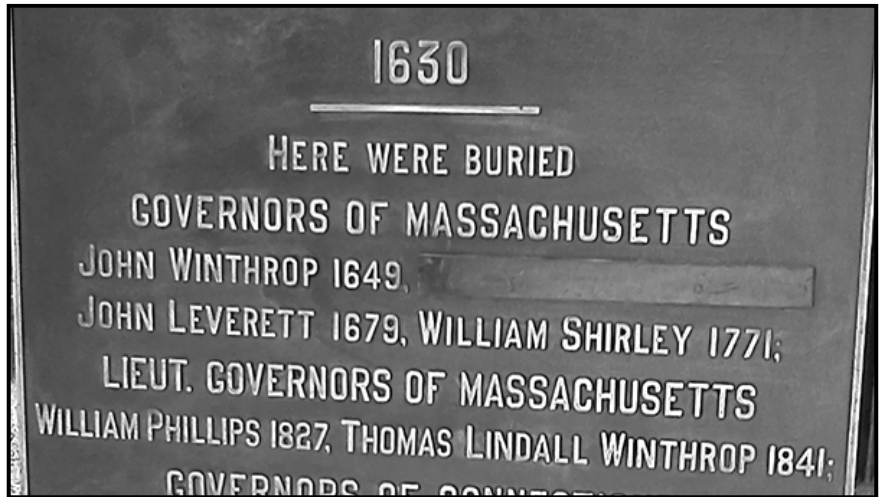
Al Maze-ings' Case - Al Maze, a local guide/historian that leads a once-a-month tour of Forest Hills Cemetery, was rifling through cemetery records in 2007 when he saw a name that jumped out at him. "There I am in my kitchen, looking over the list of Mays buried here, when all of a sudden this name jumps out at me," Maze recalled in an interview for the Boston Globe. "Dawes! William Dawes! I couldn't believe my eyes. I had seen these documents before but somehow never noticed his name."

According to the records pertaining to who was buried at the May family plot (Dawes married Mehitable May in 1768) there was this entry: "William Dawes Mar. 30, 1882 Died 1799." An additional note adds that William and thirty-five others were "...removed from Boylston Street Burial Grounds." So according to these records not only was Dawes reinterred in Forest Hills Cemetery but he also was originally buried at what is now known as the Central Burying Ground on Boston Common just down Tremont Street at the corner of Boylston Street.

Maze surmises that the historical group Massachusetts Society Sons Of The Revolution presumed that the tomb of William Dawes' grandfather, Thomas (1680-1750), was surely where William himself was buried. In 1899 they placed on the tomb the bronze plaque that we see today and local guides, both oral and written, have stated it as fact ever since.

If Dawes is indeed buried at Forest Hills Cemetery and not here at King's Chapel Burial Ground it would not be the only mistake cast in bronze. On the bottom of one of the two large bronze markers attached to the Tremont Street iron fence is a listing for the famous architect Charles Bulfinch. While Bulfinch was indeed buried here along with his wife and other family members, his son Thomas had both his father and mother moved to a tomb at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge in 1854. Charles Bulfinch only "resided" here for ten years and yet the large plaques on the Tremont Street fence were placed four decades later in the 1890's. In fact, if you look closely you will notice that the Charles Bulfinch listing, like Robert Keayne, appear to have been an afterthought since they both are small additions placed below the main plaques.

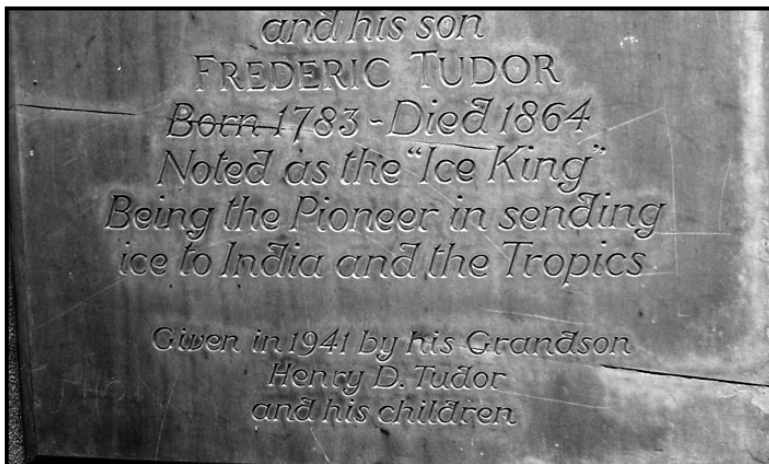
This just in!: I almost forgot to mention that until 2011, Governor John Endecott was also listed on the left front fence plaque. Apparently a spirited lobbying effort by The Endecott Family Association to persuade city officials that Endecott is actually buried up the street at The Old Granary Burial Ground saw some success. I say “was also listed” in as far as if you look at the plaque in the photo you can see a bronze-painted strip of metal over where his name used to be displayed. I guess, “Regaled By The Bronze, Obscured By The Bronze.”



Now we are going to head back to the main path and take a right. Follow the path as it turns and keep walking until you reach Tomb 13's marker attached to the iron fence (hint – follow the exterior of the building behind the fence until you come to it's far corner.) If you suddenly feel a little chilly that may be because of our next subject's unique occupation. Introducing...

FREDERICK TUDOR (1783-1864)

- Innovator that created and then dominated the export of New England ice worldwide
- Partner Nathaniel Wyeth's mechanical inventions revolutionize the industry



“Ice-Hearted” - “He who gives back at the first repulse and without striking the second blow, despairs of success, has never been, is not, and never will be, a hero in love, war or business.” - Frederick Tudor, 1805

There are few people in mercantile history that have dominated a single industry, in both the creation and maintenance, than Frederick Tudor. Author Gavin Weightman wrote a fascinating 2003 book on the subject entitled The Frozen Water Trade that chronicles in great detail the trials and tribulations of Tudor and what friends, and local society at large, first thought was a fool's errand. But they were

not laughing for long. From his shaky beginning and up until his death in 1864, Tudor shipped a couple million tons of New England ice to locales as close as South Carolina and as far away as Calcutta. In 1847 Henry David Thoreau, somewhat amused after watching Tudor's men harvest ice from his beloved Walden Pond, wrote in his diary:

“The sweltering inhabitants of Charleston and New Orleans, of Madras and Bombay and Calcutta, drink at my well. The pure Walden water is mingled with the sacred water of the Ganges.”

“Cold To The Last Drop” - Tudor was infatuated with discovering the most effective way to store his precious ice with as little melt-off as possible. Tudor fiddled with various methods of insulation from plain blankets to hay until he finally settled on an abundant byproduct of the timber industry: sawdust. He also designed a variety of icehouses, cargo holds and personal ice boxes and would constantly record the exact amount of melt off within a specific time frame and then, if dissatisfied, would tweak the design multiple times until he felt he got it right.

“Frederick & Jerry's” - Tudor learned early on that transporting ice with minimal melt off meant nothing if there was no one to actually buy the ice. He would send advance men to new shipping locations to demonstrate the wonders of ice by promoting it's therapeutic applications (reduce fevers), it's use to preserve foods longer, and its ability to quickly chill beverages. But if all else failed to sway a new market's collective opinion then the quick whipping up of a batch of ice cream and handing out free samples seemed to do the trick.

Now we are going to continue on the path and follow it as it turns right and head up towards Tremont Street. You should notice a set of metal boxes lining the left side of the path – these boxes are actually flood lights that illuminate at night King’s Chapel’s distinctive granite. Directly opposite the fourth flood light (and across the path) you will find the unique headstone of...

ELIZABETH PAIN (1652-1704)

- Headstone possible inspiration for character/story in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s masterpiece, The Scarlet Letter
- Considered one of the most sophisticated headstones in Boston for its time period

Scarlet Pain - It is true that there is no proof to be found that Nathaniel Hawthorne based the heroine of his Boston-based novel, The Scarlet Letter, on Elizabeth Pain. The fact is all there is little to learn about Mrs. Pain other than she was the wife of Samuel Pain and has a beautiful gravestone to vouch for her time here on earth.

The coat-of-arms itself does seem to suggest an “A” but other historians have pointed out that that would not explain what appears to also be an “E”. But in the end if you put the two together (note the A is overlapping the E) you come up with Æ. From what I could find out about the Æ symbol is that it stands for the Latin word ætatis and is gravestone shorthand for “in the (specified) year of his (or her) age.” Of all the possible explanations this would seem to be the most plausible.

So the next question would be, “Does Elizabeth Pain’s stone have any connection to Hawthorne and his classic book, The Scarlet Letter?” Why don’t we go directly to the source? Here is the final paragraph in the novel:

... And, after many, many years, a new grave was delved, near an old and sunken one, in that burial-ground beside which King’s Chapel has since been built. It was near that old and sunken grave, yet with a space between, as if the dust of the two sleepers had no right to mingle. Yet one tombstone served for both. All around, there were monuments carved with armorial bearings; and on this simple slab of slate--as the curious investigator may still discern, and perplex himself with the purport--there appeared the semblance of an engraved escutcheon. It bore a device, a herald’s wording of which might serve for a motto and brief description of our now concluded legend; so sombre is it, and relieved only by one ever-glowing point of light gloomier than the shadow:--

“On a field, sable, the letter A, gules.”

(last line translation: “On a black background the letter A in reddish hue.”)

Hawthorne seems to be purposely leaving clues that would lead to Elizabeth Pain’s headstone. He is essentially saying, “Look for a headstone in King’s Chapel Burial Ground that has a carving that appears to uniquely form the letter A.” If true, Hawthorne is using Elizabeth’s headstone as a stand-in for Hester Prynne thus providing a physical representation of a fictional headstone that readers could later find. (Cool!) Conversely, it is possible that Hawthorne may be cryptically admitting that personally seeing Pain’s headstone and it’s unique etching actually gave birth, in his mind, to the central device in his novel. Kind of like the same process that brought us the movie, The Santa Clause. You just know the writer started with that title and worked back from there.



Now we are going to continue up the path towards Tremont Street and stop at the corner where the path curves right.

KING’S CHAPEL

- First Anglican Church in the Colonies
- First use of Quincy granite
- First Unitarian Church in America
- Handel’s Messiah first American performance here in 1789
- “The Secrets of Pew 24”
- Largest Paul Revere bell cast

The Bloodkeeping - For the first fifty-four years of the Massachusetts Bay Colony's existence the Puritan enclave enjoyed a unique independence from the English Parliament three-thousand miles away. In a way this was by design. By having physically transferred to the New World the royal charter granted by King Charles I in 1629, the Puritan colonists were able to take advantage of a loophole purposely placed in the document. While the charter required that the colonists hold an annual meeting of stockholders in the company, it neglected to state where the location of the meeting was to be. In other words, if the powers-that-be wanted to nullify the charter, they would have to get it first.

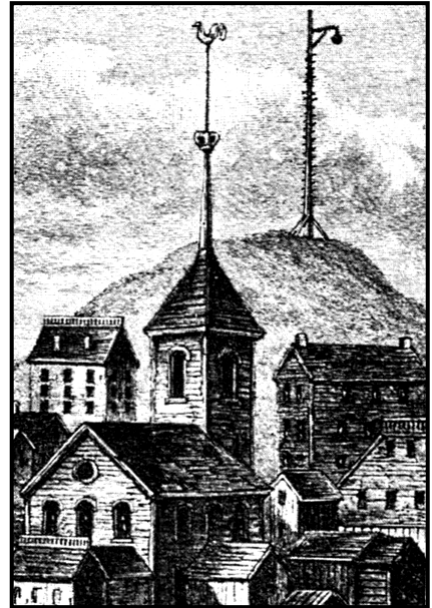
Then again, maybe not. By 1684 the Massachusetts Bay Colony's charter was out-and-out revoked by King Charles II, the monarch's administration citing among others charges that the colony ignored royal orders to close down an unauthorized coin mint, had established religious vs. property qualifications to vote and, clearly worst in the eyes of the catholic King Charles, refused to allow the establishment of an Anglican church in the colony.

After the death of King Charles II in 1685, his brother James II took over and decided to settle what he felt was leftover business from his sibling's previous reign. He revoked the colonial charter not only of Massachusetts but also Connecticut, New Hampshire, East Jersey, West Jersey, New York, Plymouth, and Rhode Island. All eight colonies were consolidated into one super-sized entity, The Dominion of New England. The king then appointed Edmund Andros as Governor of the Dominion.

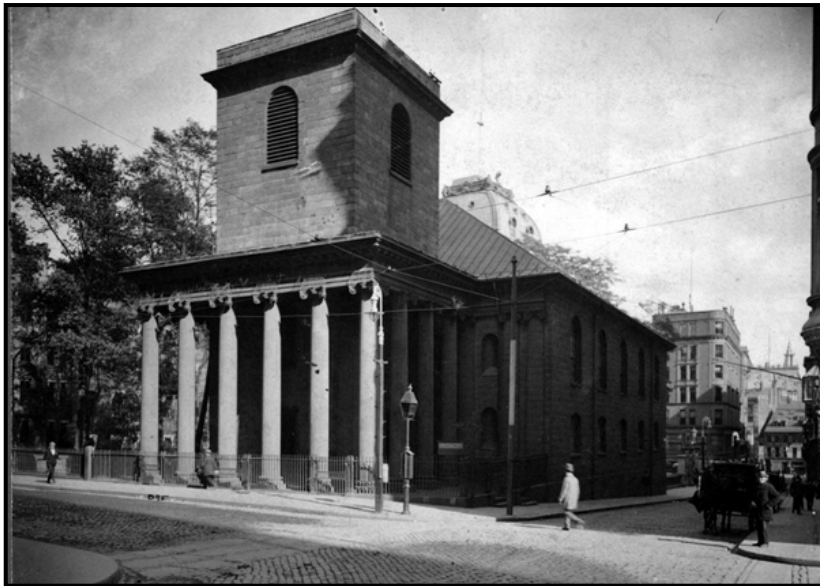
Massachusetts Bay Colony and its history of self-reliance (i.e. ignoring Royal edicts particularly in regards to trade) had earned it a reputation as the bad boy colony. Andros decided he thus was needed here most and planted himself smack dab in Boston just a few blocks away from here. He proceeded to out-bad boy the bad boys via Royal edict. He outlawed town meetings (except for annual elections), dissolved all colonial assemblies and proceeded to legally challenge the validity of all land ownership titled under the various previous colonial charters. But Andros' next move would eventually hasten his undoing.

Shortly after Andros' arrival he had commandeered the Old South Meetinghouse to conduct Anglican services after several attempts to purchase land to build an Anglican Church were refused. After two years of the community at large maintaining their "No Anglican Need Apply" land sale boycott, Andros finally decided to take the ultimate step. He seized a portion of this burial ground under the theory that the dead couldn't complain ("A bare-faced squat!" as one local put it) and proceeded to build the first Anglican Church in the New World. To say local Puritans were outraged would be an understatement. Andros' previous transgressions had been bad enough but the taking of a portion of the burial ground and establishing, both physically and organizationally, the very church the nearby-buried Puritans had risked their lives to escape was just too much. Revenge would be theirs.

In late 1688 a few months after the completion of construction of the wooded King's Chapel and continuing into the spring of 1689, what is now labeled The Glorious Revolution took place. The tyrannical James II was replaced by the "kinder and gentler" William & Mary. When word of the successful overthrow of James II reached the town of Boston the people saw their opportunity. Andros and his lead associates were arrested. The next day the majority of Andros' military support that had retreated a mile away to the protection of Fort Mary surrendered. It was a bloodless revolution that had shades of the anything-but-bloodless American Revolution begun eighty-six years later at the Battles of Lexington & Concord. Eighty-six years later...to the day. That's right - Andros and his Royal minions were finally ousted from power in the first American Revolution...on April 19th, 1689.



Over & Out - In 1748 the church congregation decided that they needed to trade-up to a newer structure of the stone kind. Peter Harrison, an architect best remembered for the numerous houses, synagogues and public buildings he designed in Newport, Rhode Island, was commissioned, site unseen, to draw up plans for the next generation King's Chapel. While completely within his expertise, the congregation had a unique request that I would like to disclose, once again in a silly fashion, in the form of a CCB (Colonial Citizens Band Radio) conversation:



Peter Harrison: "Breaker, Breaker 1-9...are you there King's Chapel Buddy? Over! ('Garble, garble.') OK. Now I received your request for the new church design and I just want to double check that I understand section 2.1. Is that OK? Over. ('Garble, garble.') As far as I can see, you want the new church to be built in the exact location as the old church but at the same time you want to continue using the old church while the new church is being constructed. Do I understand that correctly? Over. ('Garble, garble.') Well...OK...that's a...unique request. But...uh...well... I'll give it a whirl and see what I can come up with. So until then...Over & Out."

"Hmmm. Over...&...Out. Wait...that's

it! Over & Out! Breaker, Breaker 1-9! Are you still there King's Chapel Buddy? ('Garble, garble.') Great! I think I've got a solution. What we'll do is build the new church OVER the old church AND then when we are done we will throw the old church OUT the windows. Over. ('Garble, garble.') OK. Well I will get right to it. So, until then - and this will be a 2-for-1 special - Over & Out! ('Garble, garble.') (/silliness)

Just recently I learned from one of the guides at King's Chapel the fact that the original church was not so much broken down as it was disassembled. Apparently after carefully extricating the original building via the windows the entire disassembled church was shipped to the town of Lunenburg in Nova Scotia, Canada. Then, unlike Humpty Dumpty, it was put back together again in the form of the 1754 St Joseph's Anglican Church. On Halloween night, 2001, some (to be blunt) idiots decided to torch the church. It has since been rebuilt and still contains a section with bits and pieces from the original King's Chapel.

Cannonball Ram - King's Chapel was the first Boston building constructed with the soon-to-be-famous Quincy granite. I say "the soon-to-be-famous Quincy Granite" because Quincy Quarry hadn't even been dug out yet. So the same granite that would be utilized to great fame in the Bunker Hill Monument, the Franklin Obelisk and Egyptian Revival entryway at the Granary Burial Ground, the original Parker House (and many, many others) was actually surface granite. King's Chapel's granite's rustic exterior appearance was created by heating up each pre-cut 4-ft. block and repeatedly dropping cannonballs on it.

Hew Knew? - There are a lot of interesting items to be seen at King's Chapel that have been accumulated over the centuries. The pulpit and sounding board dates to 1717 ("Pulp Diction") while the communion table was a gift from the aforementioned William & Mary. The Governor's Pew is where George Washington sat during a service in 1789 while visiting Boston shortly after being elected the nation's first President. But probably the most unique object of interest to be found is hidden in Pew 24. In the large Corinthian column in front of the pew you will see a little door that opens to reveal a small, shallow closet for a pew owner to store...whatever they would store (say, a nip for courage to get through an extra-long sermon?) On the other side of the column is a similar door that when opened reveals the immense, rough-cut tree trunk that the column was constructed of.

Handel With Flair - Music has always been a big part of King's Chapel's legacy. The current organ is a mechanical track-action beauty based on a classic 18th century organ design and constructed in 1964 by renowned organbuilder Charles Brenton Fisk. The original 1713 organ was the first to be permanently installed in the then colonies. Speaking of firsts, George Frederic Handel's classic oratorio, Messiah, made it's American debut here at King's Chapel in 1786 while the Handel & Haynd Society kept the tradition alive by making their societal debut here in 1815. Today's King's Chapel still keeps the music flowing by putting on sixty concerts a year and shows no signs of slowing down. (As a quick aside: I invite you to check out an amazing video on YouTube of a rendition of Hallelujah from Handel's Messiah performed by thirty singers for some unsuspecting folks in a food court. You don't have to have an ounce of religiosity to be impressed, if not moved. Just go to YouTube and type in "messiah flash mob" - 49 million viewers can't be wrong.

Unanqcon - King's Chapel was not only the first Anglican Church constructed in America but in 1789 became the first church to declare itself Unitarian (at one time commonly referred to as "The Boston Religion".) In adopting Unitarianism, King's Chapel's leadership has long maintained an interesting hybrid of the two denominations. The church describes this unique mix as, "Unitarian in theology, Anglican in liturgy, and congregational in church government." In each pew you will still find a Bible along with a copy of King's

Chapel's own "Common Book of Prayer" a combination of Anglican and Episcopal texts that is currently enjoying it's ninth edition.

Portishow - Take a gander at the massive stone support columns for the church's front portico. Now how much do you think they each weigh? Give up? Well, so do I. What I can tell you is that they weigh less than you think in as far as they are actually constructed of wood and painted over to give the illusion of stone. Peter Harrison's original plan was to include a steeple but funds ran low and the plan was put on hold. In 1789 a hopeful campaign was waged to raise funds to complete the steeple and portico (even George Washington chipped in during his Presidential visit) but only enough funds were raised to build the portico and it's wooden support columns. I think the lack of a steeple became a plus that gives the church it's unique profile.

For Whom the Revere Tolls - As mentioned before, Paul Revere was a man of many talents: part-time dentist, silver smith, engraver, rolled copper manufacturer, fire marshal, horse rider extraordinaire. For good measure he also manufactured bells and of the nine-hundred or so that his Revere & Sons Foundry cast, King's Chapel's is the largest. Weighing in at a hefty 2,437 lbs. the bell was actually first cast in England in 1772 and shipped here after the Revolution. In 1814 the bell cracked during use for an evening service and in 1816 Revere & Sons recast the bell. Revere commented later that this particular bell was "...the sweetest bell we ever made." Just two years later the bell was rang slowly eighty-three times in honor of the death of its creator. It is still ringing it's heart out today and is only one of three sites in the city (King's Chapel, The Paul Revere House and Old South Meeting house) where a Revere bell still resides.

Look for the small obelisk tucked in the right corner. This monument is dedicated to the memory of...

CHEVALIER DE ST. SAUVEUR (d. 1778)



Bread & Bones - Underneath King's Chapel is a crypt containing a scattered collection of twenty family tombs and one known as "The Strangers' Tomb." The final tomb lives up to its moniker by containing the remains of poor departed souls whose names were never retained with their mortal coils. But there is one man buried in this tomb that may have been a relative stranger in the world in which he expired but is anything but unknown.

In 1778, after successful diplomatic negotiations by Ben Franklin that resulted in France becoming our ally, a French fleet of war ships and its 4,000+ sailors were staying as guests in Boston. One of these guests was Chevalier de St. Sauveur, an officer in the service of the fleet commanded by Count D'Estaing. This French military contingency, like any other military "on the road," contained a small battalion of sailors whose duty was to cook the food in order to feed this enormous force. The "mess hall" and its kitchens were located on the shoreline and included a group of bakers that produced daily an enormous amount of bread. The aroma of the baker's daily work would slowly sweep through the town, enticing locals that themselves were suffering through a recession that constantly created a shortage for their own baking needs.

On September 15th the situation came to an unfortunate conclusion. Some local citizen's demanded that the French bakers sell some of their fresh loaves of bread. Whether there was an outright refusal or a polite reply lost in translation, when the baker's did not honor the emphatic demand, some of the locals rioted and St. Sauveur, feeling it his duty as an officer to directly intervene, engaged the unruly local crowd and was killed.

Local officials were horrified. John Hancock Samuel Adams and other leaders offered to hold a public funeral but the French officers declined in an honorable gesture to diffuse the volatile situation. It was agreed that St. Sauveur would be buried in the basement of King's Chapel in what is now considered the first officially-sanctioned Catholic service held in Boston.

The following day the General Court of Massachusetts passed a resolution pledging to honor St. Sauveur with a monument to his memory. An inscription was prepared and then the officials in charge, being in the midst of a Revolution and all...sort of...well...forgot about their pledge.

Zoom forward 139 years. While the story is a little fuzzy, reputedly a French official "across the pond" inquired as to where the monument was located so that he could pay his respects on a future visit. Local officials, told of the request, did a hasty search, found the original resolution and publicly stated, "Whoops! Our bad!" A new resolution was passed to build the monument and, after another fifteen-year delay, a sculptor was commissioned, a design approved, and on June 1, 1916 the monument was dedicated. An inscription, contained on the rear side of the monument, sums the whole situation quite succinctly:

ERECTED IN CONSEQUENCE
OF A RESOLVE OF THE
STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY
IN SEPTEMBER 1778
AND OF A RESOLVE
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
JUNE 1 1916

Ah, yes...a "Resolve Resolved."

SUBWAY VENTILATION SHAFT



Tremont Dodgers - By 1890 the myriad of streetcars and their tracks had become so congested that it was claimed a man could walk on top of the traffic jam of street cars on Tremont Street at 5 pm on any given day and get to his destination faster (think of the opening scene in the movie, Office Space, if you are in the know.) The solution resulted in the creation of America's first subway in 1897. The ventilation shaft was placed here (yes, graves were moved) in 1904 when the subway was extended from Park Street Station to Scollay Square (now Government Center.)

While researching the genesis of the subway I read a comment about how before the subway was built, it was a

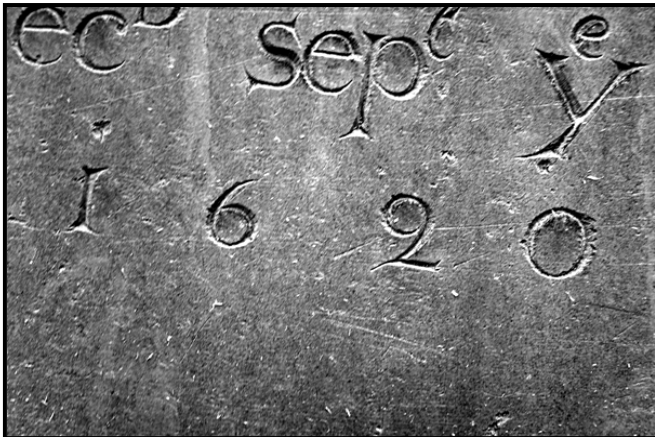
dangerous task to constantly "dodge trolleys" when trying to cross Tremont Street. That got me thinking about a question I had pondered before but had never actually taken the time to get answered: "What's the story behind the name of the baseball team, The Los Angeles Dodgers?" As you may know the LA Dodgers originally were based in Brooklyn, NY. Lo and behold it turns out that the name Brooklyn Dodgers was originally The Brooklyn Trolley Dodgers and was inspired for the same reasons (and dangers) that spawned the creation of Boston's subway.

BTW: If the name Scollay Square rings a musical bell then you have probably heard of the song by The Kingston Trio, "Charlie On The MTA." A huge 1951 hit for the group, it tells the story of poor man named Charlie that is doomed to ride the MTA (Massachusetts Transportation Authority) subway forever because he doesn't have the five cents to pay the new fee to exit the train (yes, it was a very different system.) Charlie only survives because of his loyal wife:

*"Charlie's wife goes down to the Scollay Square Station every day at quarter past two,
And through the open window she hands Charlie a sandwich as the train comes rumblin' through."*

I always wondered why Charlie's wife didn't just hand Charlie the nickel "as the train came rumbling through" or at least stash it somewhere in the sandwich.

Before we continue towards the main gate for our last item of interest, let me quickly tell you about a unique headstone...



Ain't Nothin' But a Thwing - In the grand mix of memorials on your right is the headstone of John Thwing. What is interesting about this stone, as you can see in the picture to the left, is that Thwing died in 1620, the same year as the when Pilgrims famously first arrived in Plymouth 50 miles to the south of Boston. The question then is how did John Thwing manage to get buried in a burial ground/town established ten years later? The answer is pretty simple if you now look at the photo a little closer. Do you see it? It turns out that the headstone was the victim of some practical joker. Apparently the prankster etched in a line at the bottom of the "9" and, walla, John Thwing is magically transported back in time.

Just before you reach the main gate you will see on your right the beautiful headstone of...

JOSEPH TAPPING (d. 1678)

Tapped Out - For a headstone 339 years old, Joseph Tapping's thick, ornate slab of slate is still looking pretty spry. Stone cutting has always been an art form but in the first century of the colony's existence the local talent was apparently lacking when compared to their brethren back in England. In the case of Joseph Tapping's headstone all we know about the creator is that he was known as "the Charlestown Cutter" but the end result is clearly superior to almost all headstones of the time. In fact, just compare William Aveary's 1686 headstone located to the immediate right of Tapping's eight-year "younger" version - 'Nuff said.

I think the first feature of this hefty headstone that immediately grabs one's attention is the unique shape, with its sophisticated cutting out of the scrolls. "The Charlestown Cutter" did a lot of work when preparing his "canvas."

And what use he got out of his canvas! At the top of the stone there is the hour glass bordered by the Latin inscription, "FUGIT HORA, MEMENTO MORI," - "Time is flying, remember your death." Seeing as shopkeeper Tapping died at the young age of 23 one can say that time indeed flew. Just below the hourglass we see the standard death head and wings (mortality of the body, immortality of the soul.) On the bottom left corner we have the basic info - name, year of death - and on the bottom right corner another Latin inscription - "VIVE MEMOR LOETHI, FUGIT HORA" - "Live, mindful of death, time is flying."

But the belle of the headstone ball is the middle panel at the bottom where we have Father Time trying to hold back Death as Death attempts to snuff out the Candle of Life. Again, pretty impressive carving for its time.



And as the old Looney Tunes saying goes, "That's All Folks!" I hope my guide helped you enjoy your visit here at King's Chapel Burial Ground. I'll conclude one guide by offering another:

A Guide To Life

*Be cheerful, loving and helpful...
people will pay you in kind.*

*Listen more and talk less...
no one learns anything while talking.*

*Be wary of giving advice....
the wise don't need it and fools won't heed it.*

*Do not equate money with success....
what counts most about success is how it is achieved.*

*Be tender with the young,
compassionate with the aged,
sympathetic with the striving,
and tolerant of the weak and wrong...
sometime in life you will have been all of these.*

- Anonymous