

The Upswept Wing Carver (1780's-1820's)

The identity of this carver has yet to be established, but from the distribution of his works, he was probably of the Bolton "school".



His work is typified by a face with puffy cheeks and narrow chin and a simple roll of hair somewhat like a cap. The eyes and nose are rather like a simplified Gershom Bartlett style. The wings are distinctive being somewhat like a crescent moon lying horizontally beneath the chin. The soul effigy is framed by a scalloped edge of large semi-circles.

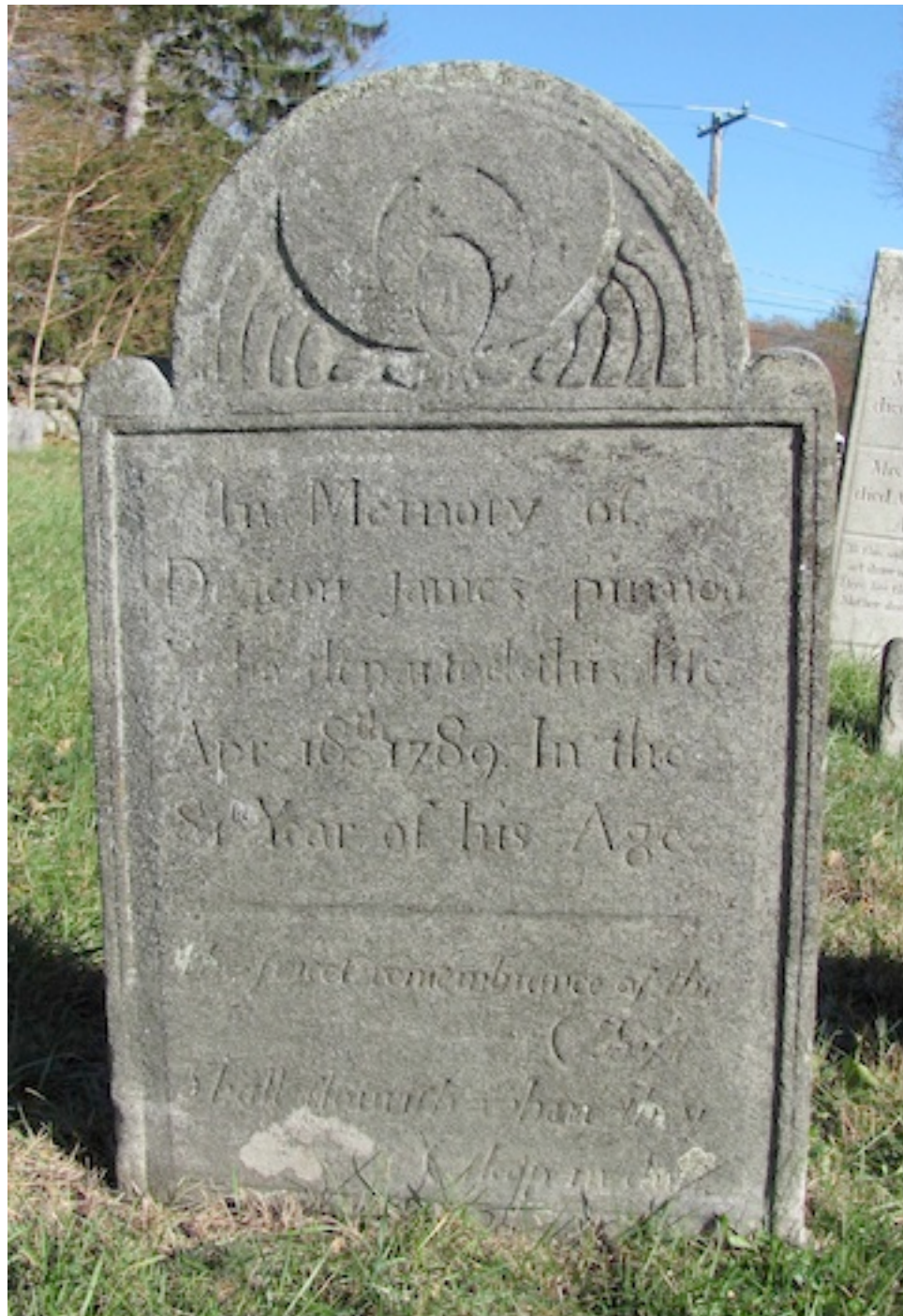
Because this style disappears after twenty years or so, it is assumed by some that he also turned to the urn and willow design early in the 19th century. There are 19 works by this carver in the Old Yard, a good example being the stone for Deacon Israel Woodward (1797)



Columbia Nun Carver (1780-90)

This name is used to designate the carver of two stones of rather unique design, those for Deacon James Pinneo (1789) and Priscilla Pinneo (1792). These works are characterized by a face with curved elements surrounding it, much like a nun's cowl.

No other works like these exist in the area. Here's a chance for the gravestone art lover to solve an intriguing mystery.



Now that you have been introduced to the styles of these artists, see how many of their works you can identify in the Old Yard. Visit other colonial burying yards in the area, and see not only more of their work, but more unique expressions of this early American art.

### Old Yard Gravestones

Carver	Number of Stones
Z. Collins	66
B. Collins	41
Haskins	24
Upswept-Wing carver	19
Mannings	8
Bartlett	6
A. Loomis	5
Wheeler	3
J. Loomis	2
Columbia Nun carver	2
D. Ritter(?)	1
Pelles carver	1

## Symbols Found in the Old Yard



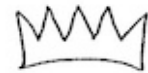
Circle: eternity



Coat of arms: family status



Column, broken: sorrow, broken life



Crown: righteousness

Drapery: mourning

Effigy, winged: flight of the soul

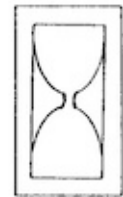


Flower: brevity of earthly existence

Fruit: eternal plenty

Garlands: victory in death

Grapes: blood of Christ, the sacrament



Heart: soul's love of God

Hourglass: passage of time, brevity of life

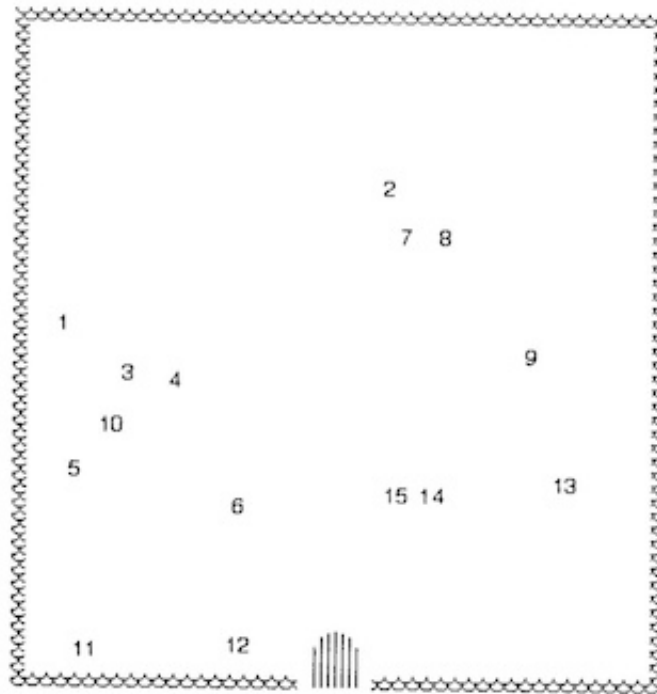
Sun, Moon & Stars: reward of Resurrection

Urn: mortality



Weeping Willow: Nature's lament

## Old Yard Map



## Legend

1. Annah Lymand (1737) Obadiah Wheeler
2. Richard Lyman (1746) Benj. Collins
3. Zerviah Buckingham (1748) Benj. Collins
4. Lydia Kingman (1755) Benj. Collins
5. Josiah Lyman (1760) Zerubbabel Collins
6. Mrs. Lydia Bennitt (1791) Zerubbabel Collins
7. Eleazer Wheelock (1744) Gershom Bartlett
8. Sarah Maltby (1746) Gershom Bartlett
9. Ichabod Freeman (1782) J. Loomis
10. Samuel Dunham (1779) Josiah Manning
11. Abraham Porter (1801) Aaron Haskins
12. Mary Loomis (1799) Amasa Loomis
13. Israel Woodward (1797) Upswept Wing Carver
14. James Pinneo (1789) Columbia Nun Carver
15. Priscilla Pinneo (1792) Columbia Nun Carver

References for further information:

Slater, James "The Colonial Burying Grounds of Eastern Connecticut and the Men Who Made Them" Memoirs of the Connecticut Academy of Arts & Sciences Vol. XXI, Hamden, CT: Archon Books, 1987

Fredette, A.M. An Age of Angels: Windham Gravestone Carvers of the 18th Century Willimantic, CT Eastern Connecticut State College, 1981

Association for Gravestone Studies at  
[www.gravestone studies.org](http://www.gravestone studies.org)

NB: See especially their publication Markers V. 8

CT Gravestones Network at [www.ctgravestones.com/](http://www.ctgravestones.com/)

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