



NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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Cemetery Tombstone Epitaphs

In the past two articles, I've written about cemetery matters in North Greenbush. Now as a change of pace, I'd like to share some humorous inscriptions I've run across in my research. In the spirit of full disclosure, these epitaphs are not found on North Greenbush tombstones, however you might enjoy them.

"Here lies an Atheist. All dressed up and no place to go"; or "Here lies Ann Mann, who lived as an old maid, but died as an old Mann"; "Here lies Johnny Yeast. Pardon me for not rising".

Here are two "cowboy" themes: "Here lays Butch, we planted him raw. He was quick on the trigger but slow on the draw"; Or how about: "Here lies Lester Moore, four slugs from a .44, no Les No More". A lawyer's epitaph in England: "Sir John Strange. Here lies an honest lawyer, and that is Strange" Also from England: "The children of Israel wanted bread and the Lord sent them manna, old clerk Wallace wanted a wife, and the Devil sent him Anna" This one is for John Penny from Wimborne, England: "Reader if cash thou art in want of any, dig 4 feet deep and thou wilt find a Penny". Two more from over the seas: "on the 22ed of June Jonathan Fiddle went out of tune". Owen Moore in Battersea, London England: "gone away, owen more than he could pay".

This is more of an advertisement than an epitaph: "Sacred to the memory of my husband John Barnes who died January 3,

1803. His comely young widow, aged 23 has many qualifications of a good wife, and yearns to be comforted"

Here's someone who is determined to be anonymous: "I was somebody. Who is no business of yours". An optimist to the end: "Here lies Ezekial Aikle, aged 102: The Good Die Young". These two would be in the "oops" category: "Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake, stepped on the gas instead of the brake". "Virginia: She always said her feet were killing her but nobody believed her".

This one is local from Albany: "Harry Edsel Smith, born 1903 died 1942. Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the car was on the way down".

Finally, from the world of entertainment: Merv Griffith, "I will not be right back after this message".