

Reverend Ezra Fountain, Jerusha, Hosea and Matilda Fountain

In 1798, the Baptist Society was formed, and the First Particular Baptist Church of Bedford was built. The Church stood on the green that is now marked by the Bedford Cross. The first minister of the Church was the Reverend Ezra Fountain, who served in that post from 1802 to 1837. He was born in May of 1763, and came to answer the call of the Baptist Society. His grave is found near to the retaining wall on the Succabone side of the Buxton Cemetery, and on his gravestone are the words:



A dying preacher I have been
To dying sinners such as you;
A dying preacher I remain,
To all who come my grave to view.

Next to Ezra are the graves of Jerusha. "Consort to the Reverend Fountain,"* and Hosea, their son who died at the age of eighteen. The inscription on Hosea's tombstone is in the form of a beautiful yet sorrowful poem. It reads,

Ah death couldst thou not spare his youthful bloom
But summon him so early to the tomb
The lovely youth, his parents hope is gone
The Beauteous flower is nip't before its blown
Tears trickle down his tender parents cheeks
Their inward sighs and agonies bespeak
Weeping brothers and sisters feel the pain
A loss that they can ne'er regain.



A small stone marks the grave of the Fountain's daughter Matilda, who married a man named Daniel Woolsey. The Woolsey's name their first and only child Cardinal (as tribute to Cardinal Wolsey of Henry VIII's Court.) Young Cardinal Woolsey died in 1822 after only one month of life. Matilda died 10 months later at the age of 23.

*In the early to middle nineteenth century, it was not uncommon to refer to the wife of a clergyman as “Consort.” The term sounds more interesting in today’s world, but was actually quite proper. By the way, Jerusha was the daughter of Eli and Esther Tyler. Eli Tyler was one of the original subscribers for the purchase of the land that now makes up the northern section of the Buxton Cemetery. The land was purchased on the first day of April in 1788 from Roger Lyon. Many of the family members of the original subscribers are buried in this cemetery (Barretts, Mosemans, Sarles, Higgins, Holmes’, Lyons, Clarks, and Hights.)