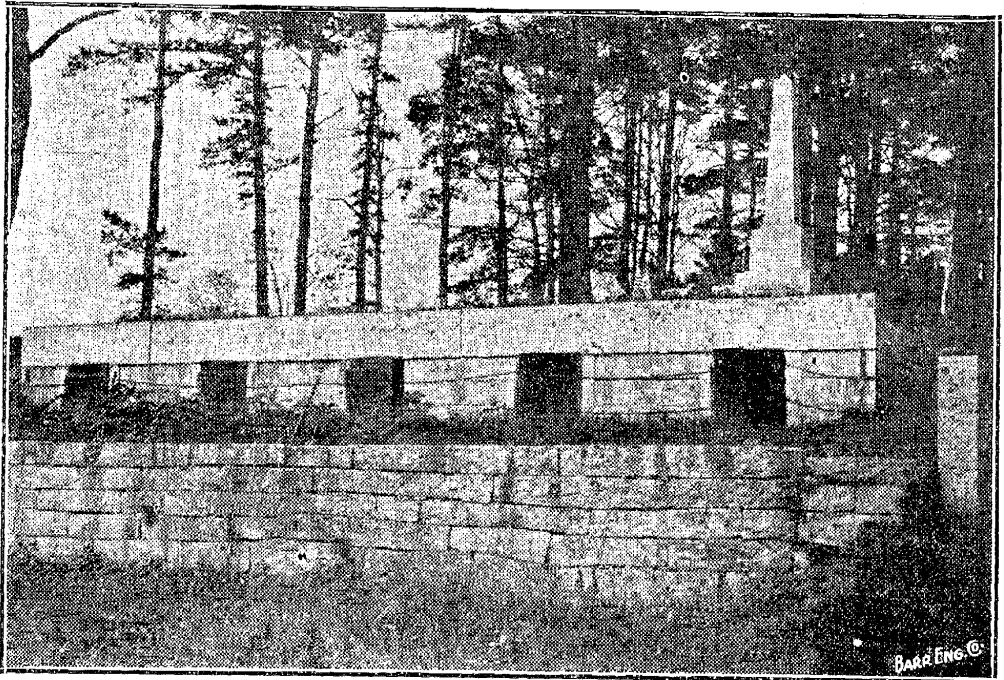


Lawless Vandals Break Into Historic Richardson Family Tomb In Pelham



RICHARDSON TOMB IN BUTLER CEMETERY, PELHAM

Rivalling the legendary excavations in Egyptian mythology and the more recent exploitations by the late Lord Carnavan at the tomb of King Tutankhamen, the constabulary of Pelham, N. H., yesterday uncovered one of the most startling examples of vandalism ever committed in the history of the town, when they found that a century-old vault in the ancient Butler cemetery on Mammoth road and containing the remains of Gen. S. M. Richardson and his descendants, had been forcibly broken open during the past two weeks, and the interior disturbed to a great extent, while it is not known that anything was taken from the iron and rock-bound repository, the fact remains that the sacredness of the tomb was interfered with maliciously, caskets ripped open and ashes scattered about the place promiscuously.

Health Officer James O. Titcomb of Pelham reported the matter to the state health department at Concord, N. H., as soon as the break was brought to his attention. This morning he stated that the town authorities are

at a loss to account for the disturbance of the vault, one of the oldest and most familiar in the township, while Constable John G. Jeannott is inclined to believe that the work was that of irresponsible boys. There are no traceable clues to work on, they say, but should the culprits be apprehended, they will be dealt with severely. The punishment for such an offense is usually a jail sentence in the state of New Hampshire.

There have been no burials in the Butler cemetery for more than 15 years, towns-people, stated today. The descendants of the Richardsons are long since dead and gone and even the memory of their residential life in Pelham has passed into history. Gen. S. M. Richardson, as far as could be learned from the inscription on the obelisk surmounting the vault was the son of Daniel Richardson, who died on May 23, 1833 at the age of 84 years, and Sarah H. Richardson, who died on Aug. 25, 1841, at the ripe old age of 32. The

title of "General" was conferred on the son because of his endeavors to organize a military unit in the town before the outbreak of the Civil war. He died on March 12, 1853, aged 82 years. His first wife, Abigail, died at the age of 62 years on June 21, 1838, while a second wife, Hannah, passed away on June 9, 1867. All are buried in separate compartments in the huge vault.

Small stone steps lead to the interior in each of the five compartments, enclosed by heavy iron doors and bolted. The locks were broken by the marauders and some of the doors ripped from their hinges. The wooden caskets, of obsolete design, were torn open. In one of the vaults lie the remains of a baby, whose name does not appear on the obelisk. This casket was left untouched.

Constable Jeannott was informed by state authorities that the damage, which he characterized as "disgraceful," will be repaired by the state as soon as possible.

PELHAM, N. H.

Pelham, N. H., Oct. 28. Funeral services for Miss M. Amanda Clord were held at Congregational church Friday afternoon. Rev. Milton V. McAllister of Bar Mills, Me., officiating. A quartet consisting of Mrs. Bertha A. Greeley, Mrs. Ethel H. Johnson, Ernest G. Sherburne and Richard H. Currier sang several selections. Burial was in the family lot in the Centre cemetery. Miss Clord passed away last Tuesday in Lunenburg, while visiting there with relatives. She would have been 80 years of age on her next birthday anniversary May 20. About a year ago she left Pelham, after residing here nearly 65 years, to make her home with her niece, Mrs. Bagley, at Amesbury. She was a member of the Congregational church, Pelham and had always been closely associated in church work, both here and in Lowell. She leaves an adopted daughter, Mrs. Lawrence Keezer, now of Proctor, Vt.

Funeral services for Mrs. Ella Atwood Marsh were held at the Congregational church at Pelham, N. H., yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. M. V. McAllister of Bar Mills, Me., officiating, assisted by Rev. Charles S. Haynes of South Merrimack, N. H. The choir, consisting of Mrs. H. S. Frost, Mrs. Josie Richardson, Mrs. Ethel Johnson, Mrs. Matilda Seavey, George Woods, Amos Woods, Richard Courter and Edward Sherburn, sang appropriate selections, with Mrs. Frank Hillman at the organ. The bearers were Sherman Hobbs, Edwin J. Atwood, Fred A. Greeley, Frank H. Hillman, Henry M. Currier and George P. Wood. Burial was in the family lot in Gibson Annex cemetery, Pelham Centre, where Rev. Mr. McAllister read the burial prayers. The funeral arrangements were in charge of Undertaker Hiram C. Brown.

Timothy Donovan, well known in this city and one of Pelham's best known residents, died last evening at St. Joseph's hospital, Nashua, N. H., aged 89 years. He had been a resident of Pelham for over 60 years and was a veteran of the Civil war, being a member of Post 185, G. A. R., of this city. For many years he held the position of color-bearer of the past and was a familiar figure whenever the post appeared on parade. He is survived by two sons, Edward J. of this city and Joseph H. of Farmington, N. H. The body will be brought to the home of his son, Edward J. Donovan, 67 Westford street, by Undertakers James F. O'Donnell & Sons.