Since joining the Board of the Lower Mystic Cemetery I gathered several inventories of the gravestones there and some plot plans. Then the logical next step was to combine them so that anyone could search a database for an individual or family name and then walk to that particular plot. The details of how this was done are explained below and the results are now available on the Lower Mystic Cemetery page on MRHS's website www.mystichistory.org.

An additional benefit was the creation of a list of veterans with their locations to be used by Troop 2 Boy Scouts of America for placing flags by the graves.

Sources of information:

1. An old map of the Cemetery plots with their numbers.

2. The Charles R. Hale Collection of Connecticut Cemetery Inscriptions. It contains vital information from headstone inscriptions in over 2,000 Connecticut cemeteries that were recorded in a W.P.A. project directed by Charles R. Hale ca. 1932-5. Groton cemeteries are not online but there is a copy of Headstone Inscriptions Town of Groton Charles R. Hale Hartford CT 1932 at the Mystic Noank Library in the historic books section 974.65 H Hist. Coll. Volume 1 is #19 Lower Mystic or (Fishtown Cemetery). Page 213 in Vol 2 lists Army veterans of the Civil War, Spanish-American War and the War of 1812.

3. A graphic inventory done by Alan Brush in 1996. He drew an 8 ½" x 11" page for each plot with outlines of the stones and names, dates, etc. See the Mystic Noank Library LMC Inventory – 1996 under 974.65 L Hist. Coll.

4. Johanna Case and Judy Hicks did an inventory in 2014. A CD of their files is available at the Mystic Noank Library and the Mystic River Historical Society. They assigned a number to each stone which is the Case/Hicks Number in the database.

5. Find A Grave is another source of information with photographs of each stone. Go to www.findagrave.com and select Search for a Cemetery. The endpoint URL is http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cr&CRid=103340&CScn=Lower&CScntry=4&CSst=8&

Creating the final database:

To match plot numbers with the list of graves I added the Case/Hicks numbers to the Alan Brush pages for each plot number. I then walked the cemetery to verify the combined information before adding the plot numbers to the Case/Hicks inventory to create a master list.

Louis Allyn