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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

Historic 250-year-old Brighton burial ground to open to public for rare tours

Posted by Matt Rocheleau October 16, 2012 02:59 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A historic, 248-year-old burial ground in Brighton will be open to the public this Saturday for the first time in modern history, according to the Brighton-Allston Historical Society.

The historical society said in a statement that it will host a series of four tours of the Market Street Burying Ground on Saturday, Oct. 20. The free tours are scheduled to begin at noon, 12:30, 1 and 1:30 p.m.

A rain date for the tours is set for the following Saturday, Oct. 27, organizers said.

The site was founded in 1764, according to the [City of Boston's website](#).

At the time, there was no burial ground in the area, then owned by Cambridge

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and known as "Little Cambridge," so settler Nathaniel Sparkhawke gave a small portion of his land to serve as one, the website said.

The grounds were used for burials by the Third Church of Cambridge until 1807 when Brighton split from Cambridge and became its own town, Boston officials said. The site then served as Brighton's primary burial ground until the 1850s when Evergreen Cemetery was established.

Burials at the Market Street grounds stopped in 1872, according to the website.

The site is marked with the graves of many of the original settlers of Little Cambridge. Some of its gravestones were carved by 18th century stone cutter Daniel Hastings, officials said.

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