

## **Primrose Road Cemetery**

This cemetery is located in the Industrial Park situate off North Main Street in Laconia. The property was originally begun as an insane asylum in 1835. In the mid 1800's Belknap County added substantial acreage to the property, including the portion that now contains the industrial park and the cemetery with which we are concerned. At that time, the property was also used as an alms house or "Poor Farm".

As this was all originally land belonging to the Mathes, Ladd and Perley families it is assumed that the cemetery with which we are concerned did not exist at the time of acquisition by the County as none of those names are on the headstones. In 1903 the property was then opened as the New Hampshire School for Feebleminded Children. Additional acreage was added to that school over the next few years.

As the dates on the tombstones range in time from 1875 to 1891, we can assume that these were residents of the Poor Farm. I did research each of these names and most of them did not own property in the area. Of the two that did own property, they both lost their holdings through non-payment of the mortgages that were held on them. One more reason to assume that they would have spent the remainder of their lives in an alms house.

In 1960, Belknap County conveyed a large part of the property to Laconia Industrial Development Authority retaining the portion which is now being used as the Prison. The Development Authority immediately conveyed it to Keewaydin Shores, Inc. (of which Kent Locke, Sr. was a prominent partner). Keewaydin Shores, Inc. then developed the property into the homes along the Shore Road, Blueberry Lane and the Industrial Park.