



Reverend Nathaniel Gunnison, pastor of the Universalist Church in Abington, saw the need for a formal, well-run cemetery in town. In 1852, along with Joseph Vaughn, Stetson Vaughn, Noah Reed, Josiah Vining, and others, they formed the Mt. Vernon Cemetery Corporation. Mount Vernon Cemetery was consecrated on May 31, 1853. Speakers at the ceremony included the old town's ministers at that time – Reverend Mr. White, Reverend J. W. Ward, Reverend Mr. Goldsmith, Reverend H. D. Walker, and Reverend N. Gunnison. An original consecration hymn, written by Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, was read by Reverend Joseph Pettee and music was provided by the Abington Brass Band. One hundred years after the first burial of Benjamin Dunham, there were over 7500 internments at Mt. Vernon, making the cemetery one of the largest in the area at that time. With the addition of several acres, Mt. Vernon is now several times its original size.

In 1863 the association gave Abington (at that time the town included what is today Rockland and Whitman) a town lot to be used as the final resting place for those once buried in private grounds. There are remains at Mt. Vernon that were once interred in private family grounds, long lost church cemeteries, and now-defunct cemeteries. In 1871, the Mt. Vernon Cemetery Association presented G.A.R. Post 73 with a lot for veterans.

Mt. Vernon Cemetery Corporation continues to operate under its original mission – “to purchase, hold, improve and manage lands on the town of Abington ...as a burial for the dead, and of memorials to perpetuate the fact of their life on earth.”