

Lorana Jordan casket plaque.

This article first appeared in *The Jordan* the Winter 2016 newsletter of the Rev. Robert & Sarah (Winter) Jordan Foundation. John Webster is a descendant of Rev. Robert and an officer in the Jordan Foundation.

My home here on Orr's Island, Maine is within sight of the Orr's Island Cemetery. The first internments were in 1838 on a one third acre plot donated by the Orr family. The cemetery is now in excess of three acres and making plans for a modest expansion. I will be interred here one day and my marker is already in place. I am also a trustee for the Orr's Island Cemetery Association a Maine non-profit corporation.

The president of OICA was making plans to retire after serving 30 or more years and set into motion a few years ago the needed cleaning of grave stones and markers. Upgrades to our documents, board membership and most important having the cemetery graves mapped. This process is nearly completed and soon a virtual website will be available to the public for research. In "cleaning out the files" some interesting finds have emerged and one such discovery is a Jordan mystery!

I was presented with a silver plated casket plaque marked Lorana Jordan, Aged 45 yrs. What little information I can find on casket plaques is that they were sometimes buried with the casket and other times removed as a keepsake before burial.

Lorana (Rowe) Jordan was the first wife married in 1863 to Albert Jordan #3411 of the *Jordan Memorial* data base. They are listed in the 1870 Census for Danville Post Office, Auburn, Maine. A 1 year-old child is listed as Alice. Lorana is "at home" Albert is a "farmer". Lorana was born Aug. 13, 1837 and died 1882 by my calculation she would have been 45 as the plaque indicates however the Family Jordan Volume 1 says she was 44. Volume 1 also lists her burial place as Pine Street Cemetery, Auburn, Maine. She is NOT buried at Orr's Island Cemetery, so how did her casket plaque end up in the files at OIC is a mystery.

Albert Jordan later remarried to Clara McKenney. My Webster family has many Albert Webster's, McKenney's and of course Jordan's. Lorana's casket marker is another mystery to follow up on especially since it is here on Orr's Island.

The only Jordan identified in the cemetery records is Cordelia H. (Jordan) Huntington 1838-1899. There are most likely other female Jordan's who last names were changed due to marriage and these Jordan surnames are not part of the record at OIC.