Jonathan Edwards was an 18th century theologian and writer who preached in Northampton for more than twenty years. The spiritual and intellectual richness of Edwards's inner world was matched by the dramatic events of his life, including the ambiguities in his role as a slave owner. Sylvester Graham was a 19th century health reformer best known as the inspiration for the graham cracker. Sally Maminash was a 19th century weaver and spinner whose heritage was Mohegan, Podunk, Nonotuck and/or Pocumtuck. A visit to her grave is an opportunity to consider some of the historical context of her life.

The event is part of the Local History/Local Novelists 2011/12 Series at Forbes Library, bringing together poets, novelists and history experts for explorations in story, fact and memory. Includes evenings inspired by Sally Maminash (November 21) and Sylvester Graham (May 2). For more, see http://www.forbeslibrary.org/

Forbes Writer in Residence Susan Stinson is an award-winning novelist and poet, as well as a writing coach, mentor and editor. She recently completed Spider in a Tree, a novel about Northampton in the time of Jonathan Edwards. For more, see http://www.susanstinson.net/

Location: Go to the Parsons Street entrance of Bridge Street Cemetery in Northampton. Look for the red trike with the Jonathan Edwards tour sign.

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Artist's conception of Northampton in 1786, by Maitland de Gogorza (1936), courtesy of Forbes Library