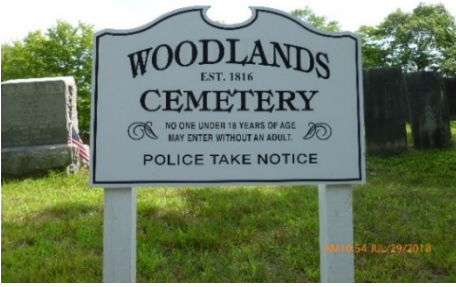


Woodlands Cemetery Update and History



The GPS project has been completed. A listing of all graves in Woodlands Cemetery is available and now contains the GPS coordinates of each grave to six decimal places. By using a smartphone or other GPS device to direct you to those coordinates you will be within sight of any specific grave in Woodlands. This list is available on-line through the Granville Historic Image Library via the Town of Granville's home site. Also a photo of any specific headstone can be found on the Image Library by doing a search on surname. A "plastic" copy of the list will soon be available in the Information box attached to the front gate. We will be happy

to email a copy of the list to anyone requesting it via WoodlandsCem@comcast.net.

Woodlands remains an active cemetery; sites are available for purchase this summer for \$600.

Historically speaking, Woodlands Cemetery lays claim to Alpheus Bancroft, the grandson of Granville's very first settler, Samuel Bancroft...and we have stories to tell of both of them.

By all accounts Samuel Bancroft was Granville's first settler in 1735. He came here from West Springfield and was followed soon thereafter by his younger brother Nathaniel. Both are buried in the Main Road Cemetery. Reportedly Samuel built a house/fort in 1744 on what is now Old Westfield Road. The fort was intended as protection from the native Indians who, as it turns out, were no threat at all. He came with his wife, Sarah White, a Mayflower descendant, and had 10 children. It is said that Samuel Bancroft was noted here for his full formal Sabbath day apparel including the triangular cocked hat and white wig. He died in his sleep in 1788.

It is Alpheus, grandson of Samuel, who is buried with his wife Orpha Rose and several children in Woodlands Cemetery. Alpheus served in the War of 1812 as a musician in Captain William Marvin's Company, Colonel Evans Foot's Regiment. In the war of 1812, each company was assigned 1 drummer plus 1 fifer OR 1 bugler. It is assumed that Alpheus was one or all of these. Musicians carried no firearm and were issued only a sword. Alpheus returned home to Granville and lived as a carpenter succumbing to typhoid at age 63. Orpha lived to age 67.



The War of 1812 is somewhat less well known to many people. It was the result of Britain's war with France. Britain attempted to restrict our trade with France and in addition captured and compelled US sailors to fight in the Royal Navy against France. During this war Britain burned a number of landmarks in Washington DC. And in Baltimore Harbor, a 15-star flag flew over Fort McHenry inspiring Francis Scott Key to write the Star Spangled Banner. It is the only war where a 15-star flag was officially flown. The 2 extra stars were added to the original 13 in 1795 to represent Kentucky and Vermont.

This information is from Albion Wilson's *History of Granville*, www.ancestry.com, the Smithsonian and various historical websites.

From the members of the Woodlands Cemetery Association, WoodlandsCem@comcast.net.