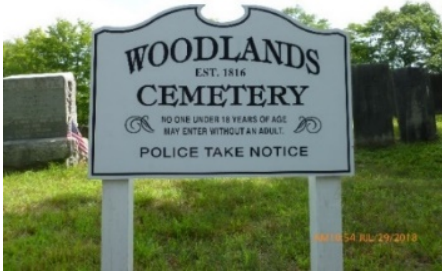


Woodlands Cemetery Update and History



Winter has settled in, all is quiet. The Welcome sign and the Information box have been removed until Spring. The veterans' flags were removed just after Veteran's Day as they should be according to the Veterans Administration and the VFW thus preventing the flags from being damaged and disrespectfully flown over the winter. New flag holders have been purchased and placed to accommodate those sites that had no holder.

The repair project for this year, funded by the Community Preservation Act, was completed in September. We are happy to say that the hazardous stones have been secured and the fallen and broken stones previously noted in the Caller have been righted and repaired. This gets our cemetery in very good shape. We expect that there will be only a few

leftover items to address next year. The 3 stones that had fallen and broken happened to be children's stones. We're happy to now have them upright. They are Mary Griswold age 9 months, Frank and Lillianetta Phelon ages 9 and 2, and Luella Williams age 3.



We are attempting to rally interest and commitment to address similar and badly needed repairs in Main Road and Northeast (Old Westfield Road) Cemeteries.

243 years ago, in 1776, not only were we waging a war of independence but there was also a major threat in the form of a smallpox epidemic. In Granville, it is reported that smallpox took the lives of 7 people. And being that the townspeople were understandably afraid of the continual spread of the disease, those who died from it were buried in a separate area. The Smallpox Cemetery is unmarked and the most specific location documented anywhere is "on the mountain". Children were especially susceptible to smallpox. According to the records of Reverend Timothy Mather Cooley, the seven who are buried there are Amena Stiles age 4, Mary Seward age 6, Asa Simons age 25, Asa Haven age 25, Mary Sweatman age 88, Nathaniel Bates



Age 2 and Hannah Gibbons.

Hannah Gibbons was only 2 when she was stricken and did not recover. She was the daughter of Peter and Sarah Green Gibbons (Main Rd. Cemetery) and the sister of Timothy and Jedidiah Gibbons (Woodlands Cemetery).

Hannah's father, Peter, built the house at 502 South Lane in 1771 and it is still standing.

Before the house was built, Peter and Sarah had a cabin at that location where, it is said, that in August of 1752 Hannah's mother Sarah chased a black bear away from her outdoor bread oven with a club. Oven Rock is reportedly still there. The house was featured in the Granville Bicentennial Tour Book in 1954. Peter served in



the Revolutionary War under Capt. Lebbeus Ball.

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The very next year in 1777, as soldiers returned from the war, they brought with them what was then known as Camp Fever. It was known also as Camp Distemper and today it is typhus. During that time other ailments could have been lumped into the Camp Fever category; in any case, it was very contagious and as such, very alarming. Similar to the creation of the Smallpox Cemetery, the town established a Camp Distemper Burial Ground... also unmarked, also located "on the mountain". Again children were especially susceptible. It is documented that 37 Granville people died of Camp Fever in 1777. At least 29 of them were children. Sarah Bancroft, age 5, and Malenda Bancroft, age 1, died within 7 days of each other. They were the daughters of Samuel Jr. and Elizabeth Spelman Bancroft and the granddaughters of Granville's first settler, Samuel and Sarah White Bancroft. Both Samuel and Samuel Jr. fought in the Revolution. Parents and grandparents are buried in Main Rd. Cemetery.

We hope that sometime in the not too distant future, we can have a sign or plaque at either Woodlands or a different Granville cemetery that will list the known names of those who are buried in each of the 2 cemeteries "on the mountain".

Credits to Albion Wilson, the Granville Library Historical Room and Ancestry.com.

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