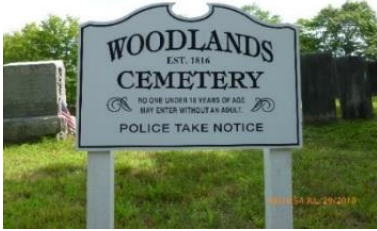


Woodlands Cemetery Update and History



Keep the faith; Spring is coming to Granville...eventually.

The GPS projects for Northeast and Main Rd cemeteries have been completed. All known graves in each of those two cemeteries are documented along with the GPS coordinates of each grave and a picture of the headstone. In addition, the immediate families for each deceased is identified. These are available online on the Granville Historic Image Library.

Of all the people in Woodlands Cemetery, Daniel (Elihu) Spelman was the earliest born. July 12, 1738. He had 11 siblings. According to the Spelman Genealogy, Daniel married Mary Carpenter and spent a great deal of his life as a soldier...including the French and Indian War and the Revolution. His rank in the Revolutionary War was that of Drum Major. Drums were crucial in battlefield communications from the officers to the troops. It is assumed that, as in the war of 1812, a drum major's only weapon was a sword. The published family Genealogy says that Daniel's sword was in the possession of his descendants. Perhaps it still is. Daniel lived to age 90 and is buried in Woodlands Cemetery.



WORD BORN IN THE REVOLUTION BY CAPTAIN DANIEL SPELMA

Daniel had a sister Elizabeth (1740-1836), married to Samuel Bancroft Jr. Her descendants speak of her: →

Elizabeth (Spelman) Bancroft was one of the most estimable members of the Spelman family, and we may look back upon her record as one typical of all that is most admirable in those traits of character which our Puritan grandmothers possessed, and which every true American must reverence. She lived to the grand old age of ninety-six years, her life having been set in stirring times. She saw her husband, son, and other near relatives depart from the quiet mountain town of Granville to brave the perils of war in the struggle for the independence of the Colonies. Serene, faithful, and unshaken in her devotion to her family, she walked in the "even tenor" of her tranquil ways, rearing her family of nine children, and "training them in the way they should go." She was a woman of great piety, and had a wonderful influence over her own immediate family, and upon her friends and neighbors.

Her grandson, Mr. Ashley A. Bancroft of San Francisco, wrote of her: "I remember her slightly. She was of medium size, a devoted Christian, and highly esteemed by those who knew her. She lived to a great age, retaining her faculties to the last."

Her son, Azariah, wrote: "She was a woman of great endurance, though slender, and had a faculty for accomplishing work which was a marvel. She did not possess great physical force, but managed to accomplish no inconsiderable amount in rearing a large family and providing for their temporal and spiritual wants, clothing them, according to the custom of the time, with the wool and flax of her own spinning. The raw material entered the house from the farm and never left it except as warm durable garments upon the backs of its inmates."

Back in the day when almost no one commuted daily out of town to make a living, life consisted of town, neighbors and family. If a spouse died at an early age, remarriage was rather customary. Daniel had an older brother, Aaron (1733-1821). Aaron owned a home at 275 South Lane and was married 3 times. He first married Elizabeth, the sister of Justus Rose. Elizabeth died at age 61. Aaron then married Deborah, the widow of the same Justus Rose. Back when Deborah was married to Justus, they had a daughter also named Deborah. Daughter Deborah married Aaron's younger brother Stephen. Aaron and his wife Deborah (the mother) were, at the same time, step-father and mother, uncle and aunt, brother and sister-in-law to Stephen and Deborah (the daughter)....who, by the way, had 12 children.

Aaron had a son, Elijah (1766 - 1846), buried in Woodlands. Elijah was a Deacon of the church and had 13 children with his first wife, Mary Chapman, and 4 children with his second wife, Temperance Bailey, who brought with her to this marriage 6 stepchildren. His third wife, Jemima Winchell, brought 8 stepchildren, totaling 31. It isn't known how many children were living at home at any one time but it suffices to assume that it was a busy household much of the time.

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Woodlands Cemetery Update and History Cont'd



Aaron Spelman's home, 275 South Lane



The extended Spelman family came to Granville from Durham and Middletown, CT, most in the mid 1700's. Their individual families were large and over time occupied numerous homes in Granville. In addition to Aaron's home on South Lane, there were two Spelman houses originally on the town green. Those two, both in somewhat poor condition, were demolished in 1996 making way for "Citizens' Park", our town green.



Spelman homes, Town Green



From the members of the Woodlands Cemetery Association,
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Credits: Spelman Genealogy, ancestry.com, and the Image Library at GranvilleHistory.omeka.net.

Woodlands Cemetery has sites available:
48 Blandford Road

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