

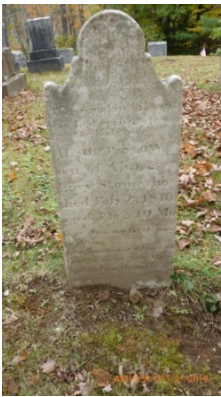
Welcome to the story of Woodlands Cemetery, Granville’s little country cemetery on the shores of Degano Pond. We’d like to share with you some of the ongoing work to preserve and safeguard the cemetery as well as some items of historical interest.

Woodlands is in a quiet corner of Granville on Blandford Road. It is 203 years old with plenty of character and lots of history. Check out some of the familiar names: Cooley, Barnard, Gibbons, Rose, Stow, Seymour, Roberts, Shaughnessy, and Bancroft.

Maintaining such a cemetery takes some tender loving care. Many of the oldest stones are marble, thin and fragile. Newer ones are granite and long-term durable.

This past autumn Liberty Hill did some substantial tree work to prevent risky trees and branches from damaging headstones. The toppled Seymour stone from 1877 was righted by Smith Monuments and we are attempting to repair the fence around the Cooley family plot. This winter we will apply for Community Preservation funds to repair and secure broken and hazardous stones.

Historically, we’d like to introduce you to Woodlands first resident, Alsop Paine Stow. It was his grandfather Elihu Stow who donated the land for Woodlands probably due to the death of his grandson Alsop in 1816. Elihu reserved a small section for their family. It is located on a knoll in the front row near the southwest corner.



The inscription reads:
*The ground in this yard
Was first opened to receive
the body of
Alsop P. Stow
son of Alva &
Lucy Stow who
died Feb 2, 1816
aged 3 yrs 10 mos
Here lies our little son
within
Free from sorrow & from sin
Lent to us for years & hours
And then cut down
like _____*

In later years, Woodlands became the home to many soldiers from the Revolutionary War forward to WWII and on. According to the Stiles family genealogy, John Stiles enlisted as a minuteman in 1774, serving under Capt. Lebbeus Ball. His equipment consisted of a musket, bullet pouch, powder horn, knapsack, hatchet and blanket. To be ready, he attended all drills and exercises which were taught by British deserters. He eventually became a sergeant. They were called into action on April 19th, 1775 (now known as Patriot’s Day) in response to the fight in Lexington and Concord and were stationed in Boston at Gore House. Later in the war he served at Ticonderoga and Bennington. During a short respite back in Granville in 1776, he married Ruth Roberts of Middletown, CT at Pynchon’s Hotel in West Granville. They had 5 children. He died in 1835 at the age of 84. Ruth, known in Granville as “Granny Stiles”, received a pension for John’s war service and died 15 years later at the age of 94/95.



Well, we could go on and on but we’ll have to save some items for future Caller editions. We’d love to hear from you.

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