



Woodlands Cemetery Update and History.

Welcome to October, a most beautiful time of year in our town. Glorious foliage and cool nights bring a promise of the winter to come.

We have begun work on identifying and documenting the residents of Northeast (Old Westfield Road) and Main Road cemeteries. This will continue over the winter.

For those who may have visited, or at least driven by Woodlands cemetery, you may have noticed the long, beautiful stone wall. It was built in the early 1900's, probably around 1912, about the time the Woodlands Association was formed. It is 218 feet long, 3 feet high, and 23 inches thick with a single 10 foot entrance. Mr. Charles M. Billings, a master stonemason from Southbridge, MA built it for a fee of \$300. The minutes of the Woodlands Association have the recollections of several young men, Stephen Roberts, Pearl Phelon and Edson Fielding, as they watched and sometimes helped Mr. Billings. They describe how a large boulder across the street from the cemetery was blasted to provide the smaller rocks for the wall, with Pearl and Edson moving the rocks across the street for use in the wall. Mr. Billings is described as not only an excellent stonemason but also an impressive wood chopper



who could chop wood with both hands. He lived to age 90. The wall was "finished" and gates added in 1918 for \$100.

The cemetery is home to many Granville residents. Not everyone was famous or had renowned contributions. Joseph and Mary Carney lived in Granville at the turn of the century (1900). They both emigrated from Ireland in 1884. Joseph



was 29 and Mary was 34. We haven't found yet where they landed, whether it was Ellis Island or a different port of entry. However, they did live in Granville in 1892. The Valuation and

Taxes document for Granville has them owning 1 poll, 3 swine, and 10 hens for a total value of \$22 and owing \$2.57 tax. A poll is a dehorned bovine and it seems that everyone was allowed at least one without being taxed for it.

The 1900 Federal Census says that John and Mary were married in 1884, the same year they immigrated. We don't know if they were married in Ireland, in the US, or perhaps on board ship. There is no record of children. Joseph died in 1909 and Mary in 1913 in Northampton. Their headstones are identical and modest and were perhaps donated by a benevolent person or association. Their location is directly in front of the cemetery pump.

From the members of the Woodlands Cemetery Association,
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28

Names and Valuation.	Total Val.	Total Tax	Names and Valuation.	Total Val.	Total Tax
10 hens, \$4			Decker Charles N. :		
1 house, 200			1 poll,		
2 barns, 200			2 stags, \$30	\$30.00	\$2.78
200 a. homestead, 700	1452.00	\$44.95	Dutton Fred :		
Clark Benjamin W. :			1 poll,		
1 poll,			Machinery, 500		
2 houses, 200			3 horses, 250		
1 colt 4 y. old, 125			1 cow, 25		
1 colt 3 y. old, 100			12 hens, 4.80		
9 cows, 225			1 house, 150		
3 one-y-olds, 30			2 barns, 150		
3 swine, 18			150 a. land, 400	1479.80	40.47
12 hens, 4.80			Frisbie Theron :		
1 house, 200			1 poll,		
1 barn, 100			1 horse, 20		
150 a. land, 700	1702.80	46.27	1 colt, 3 y. old, 150		
Carney Joseph :			2 stags, 3 y. old, 50		
1 poll,			3 cows, 75		
3 swine, 18			1 cow, farrow, 18		
10 hens, 4	22.00	2.57	1 one-y-old, 10		
Coe Ward :			8 hens, 3.20		
1 poll, 2.00			1 house, 50		
Decker Sherman :			2 barns, 150		
1 poll,			180 a. land, 600	1126.20	31.28
1 horse, 20			Frisbie Nelson :		
2 stags, 3 y. old, 40			1 poll,		
1 cow, farrow, 18			1 horse, 40	40.00	3.04
1 cow, 25			Frisbie Baldwin :		
4 one-y-olds, 40			1 house, 200		
7 sheep, 28			2 barns, 200		
1 sow, 10			250 a. land, 600	1000.00	26.00
12 hens, 4.80			Frost Ariel :		
1 house, 175			1 poll,		
1 barn, 150			1 horse, 100		
196 a. land, 650	1160.80	32.18	2 oxen, 75		
Decker Fred :			1 cow, farrow, 18		
1 poll, 2.00			2 cows, 50		