

# Rural Cemetery

Pemberton Street, Walpole, Norfolk County, Massachusetts

**GPS:** N42.15465 W71.24840

**Location:** The Rural Cemetery begins where Pemberton Street and North Street meet to form a Y, and continues up the hill on the Pemberton Street side.

**Layout/Condition:** This is a large cemetery. It is sort-of triangular-with-the-pointy-top-cut-off shape. The two sides that face a road, and the third side at the top of the cemetery have a mortar and stone wall, the fourth side is open to the private properties it abuts. There is a center carriage road that begins at the bottom of the hill and runs the length of the cemetery but does not divide the 5th and newest section of the cemetery, and then there are four carriage-roads that intersect the center road, cutting this cemetery into 9 distinct sections. The town of Walpole owns and cares for this cemetery. It is always well maintained, and in very good condition.

**Usage:** The first burial was Daniel Nason in 1793, although this could be a cenotaph, because the next two burials occurred in 1804, David Nason and 1805 Rebecca Day. This cemetery is still used today.

**Stones:** There are approximately 525 headstones listed in this transcription, and about 1030 people buried in the sections counted. Because this is such a large cemetery, there are many different kinds of headstones; from Slate and Marble tablets, and many marble and granite elaborate family monuments. They also run the gambit for condition, from very poor to excellent.

**Cemetery History:** The "North Burying Ground" was established in 1820 between North and Gill Streets. Although it appears there are a few who were buried here earlier. In 1842 a committee was formed to enlarge and improve the cemetery. In the same year they purchased 3 acres of abutting land for \$75.00 from Joshua Stetson, and in 1850 they voted to complete the receiving tomb. More land was purchased in 1861 from Charles Hartshorn, Jason Ellis and E.W. Clapp, then in 1862, 1874 and 1876 the cemetery was enlarged again with 3 purchases of land from Ira Gill.

**Transcription Notes:** This appears to be the second transcription of the Rural Cemetery. The first being done in the early 1970's by Betty Cottrell of the Walpole Historical Society. There is appear to be a transcription in November 2000 by Dorothy Ciriello, but her location references seem to be from Betty's typed pages, not from where stones are really located.

This second transcription, by Laurie Kearney and Sandy Andressi, starts at the base of the hill, where the earliest burials are located and goes up to the 4<sup>th</sup> entrance of the cemetery, directly across from Robbins Road. There are at least 200 more headstones, and probably close to over 1000 souls more.