

Terrace Hill Cemetery

South Street, South Walpole, Norfolk County, Massachusetts

GPS: N42.10739 W 71.25827

Location: The Terrace Hill Cemetery is located on Washington Street and South Street, where South St. Y's off of Washington Street in South Walpole, near the Boyden Elementary School.

Layout/Condition: The Terrace Hill Cemetery is one of the largest cemeteries in Walpole. The oldest section, which is the focus of this transcription project, sits on the South Street side of the road, behind the Jackson Memorial Chapel. It is encircled by a mortar and rock retaining wall. There are two carriage paths that provide an entrance to this part of the cemetery. One on the left, it totally over grown, mostly with poison ivy, it leads around to the back side of this cemetery. The right-side carriage path leads up the hill, and down the other side to the back of the cemetery. There are a series of foot paths that intersect these carriage paths. The cemetery well cared for, and is owned and maintained by the town of Walpole.

Usage: The earliest burials were Mary Smith and Hannah Bacon, in March and April of 1780. This cemetery has a large new addition which is still in usage today.

Stones: There are approximately 400 stones in the oldest part of this cemetery and about 860 people buried there. The oldest stones are slate or marble tablet stones, only a few still have their matching footstones. These stones are in fair condition, and show the signs of age due to weathering, erosion and pollution. There are a few marble family monuments, they too are quite eroded. At the top of the hill are many tall and elaborate granite family monuments, which are in excellent condition.

Cemetery History: Although the earliest burials occurred here in early 1780, this cemetery was not officially established until 1784 for those who lived in the village of South Walpole. Jonathan Boyden sold one-quarter of an acre on October 22, 1784 to some citizens of South Walpole for L1:15:0 to be used for a burying place. When the Methodist Church was established in South Walpole in 1830, they took an interest in this local cemetery and took care of it for many years. Many of their early members are buried there.

In 1808 Benjamin Mann sold one quarter of an acre to the South School District. This land is where, in 1905 the Jackson Memorial Chapel was built by Alfred Jackson as a memorial to his family. It seats 40 people and is heated by a fireplace. It is now boarded up and is not in use. Also constructed, about this same time (1904) (and not in this transcription) was the Blake Mausoleum.

This cemetery was privately operated until the early 1970's when the town of Walpole took over ownership.