

West Sharon Cemetery

a.k.a. The Billings Cemetery
South Main Street, Norfolk County, Massachusetts

GPS: N 42.09494 W71.22168

Location: This cemetery is in the southwestern side of Sharon, near the Foxboro line. It is on South Main Street in Sharon, about ¼ mile from Rte 95, and across from a shopping plaza, and over-looking a cranberry bog.

Layout/Condition: This cemetery is surrounded by a stone wall, and is cared for by the Town of Sharon. The cemetery is basically rectangular in shape, except for one of the "sides" is a semi-circle. This is the oldest section (G & F), from this point, one can see that this cemetery was founded on top a steep hill. A newer section (A & B) was added in the early 1800's. This section now serves as the main entrance to the cemetery via South Main Street. An iron gate is chained shut to prevent vehicles from drive into this burial ground, but one can easily access this cemetery on foot. This cemetery is owned and maintained by the town of Sharon, and it is in fair condition.

This cemetery is divided up into 6 sections, by a carriage path, and several foot paths. Sections A and B run front to back and are separated by a carriage path. All the stones in these two sections face the street. Section C runs parallel to South Main St, and Sections D, E, F & G are in the back in 4 "squares", (Note: there appears to be no burials in Section E). All the stones in Sections C thru G face the carriage path. Most of front of Section A is the Morse Family Section, the back of Section A is Billings family relations. Most of the front of Section B is the Clapp family section, and the back of Section B has some Billings relations. Most of Sections C thru G are the Billings Family. (Although, there are several instances where Clapps married Billings and Morses married Billings, there are no direct burials here to link these families together.)

Usage: First burial was Ebenezer Billings, in 1717/8. The most recent burial was in 1913.

Stones: There are approximatley 130 headstone in this cemetery, and about 160 people buried here. Most of the headstones are slate tablet, about half still have their corresponding footstone. There are a few marble tablets, and a very few granite family monuments. The majority of the stones in this cemetery are in fair to good condition. They show signs of damage from pollution, time and neglect.

Cemetery History: Ebenezer Billings gave the land for this burial ground, and he was the first person to be buried here. Although, this cemetery was originially referred to as "The Dudley Hill Cemetery" and in recent years as "The Billings Cemetery", and there are many members of this family here, this cemetery is also the final resting place for several other early Norfolk County Families; Clapp, Fairbanks, Hewins, Holmes, Rhoads and Talbot.

Genealogy:

Billings: The first burial here is that of Ebenezer Billings (1655-1717/8). He was the son of Roger & Mary (?) Billings of Dorchester, Mass. He married Hannah Wales, daughter of Nathaniel Wales, about 1673. They were the parents of 13 children: Richard (1675), Ebenezer (1676), Zipporah (1679), Jonathan (1680), Elizabeth (1683), Hepsibah (1685), Mary (1687), Benjamin (1689), Samuel (1690), Beriah (1692), Bezaleel (1692) Elkanah (1694) and Hannah (1697). Four of their children, Ebenezer, Samuel, Beriah and Jonathan are buried in this cemetery along with their wives and several of their children and grandchildren.

Fairbanks: Brothers, Benjamin, Jr. (1765-1806) and Jeremiah (1767-1803) Fairbanks are both buried in Section G. They are the sons of Benjamin & Sarah (Kingsbury) Fairbanks. Benjamin married Sophia Leonard, she lays next to her husband. Jeremiah married Unity Fisher, she remarried after Jeremiah's death, and is not in this cemetery. In Section B is Jeremiah and Unity's son, Abner. He is buried with his wife, Polly Tilden, daughter Unity and his son Jeremiah and daughter-in-law Abigail Gay. Benjamin, Jr. & Sophia's son, Benjamin, III is buried in Section A, along with his wife, Hannah Morse and their daughter Hannah. Just across the carriage path in Section B is Benjamin, III & Hannah's son, Benjamin, VI and his family.

Morse: Brothers, Levi(1742-1816) and Nathaniel (1731-1822) Morse are both buried in Section A. They are the sons of John & Mary (Guild) Morse. Levi married Hannah Mann (1747-1816). Together they had 8 children, two of their sons, Jeremy (1786-1816) and Levi, Jr. (1770-1816) are buried next to them. Near by lay the remains of four of their grandchildren. Nathaniel married Susanna Bacon (1727-1809). Together they had 6 children, 3 of their children are buried near by with their spouses: Nathaniel (1770-1816) and Rebecca (Fisher) (1770-1828) Morse, Samuel & Hannah (Morse) Holmes, and Josiah & Susanna (Morse) Talbot. And many of their grandchildren are buried in this cemetery.

Clapp: Timothy(1733-1811) & Rhoda (Wetherell) (1739-1815)Clap settled in Sharon. Together they had four children; Hepsibah (1762), Thomas (1764-1851), Samuel (1769-1846) and Rueben (1772-1795). Timothy and Rhoda are buried in Section C, along with their son, Reuben. Samuel married Abigail Paul (1757-1869), they were the parents of 13 children. Jane (1806-1809) and Horace (1809-1809) lay near their grandparents, Timothy & Rhoda Clap. Samuel & Abigail are buried in Section B, with four of their children and their wives; Reuben & Lucy (Johnson) Clapp, Luther & Kezia (Estey) Clapp, Albert & Emily (Emerson) Clapp, and Horace Clapp. Also near by are five of their grandchildren.