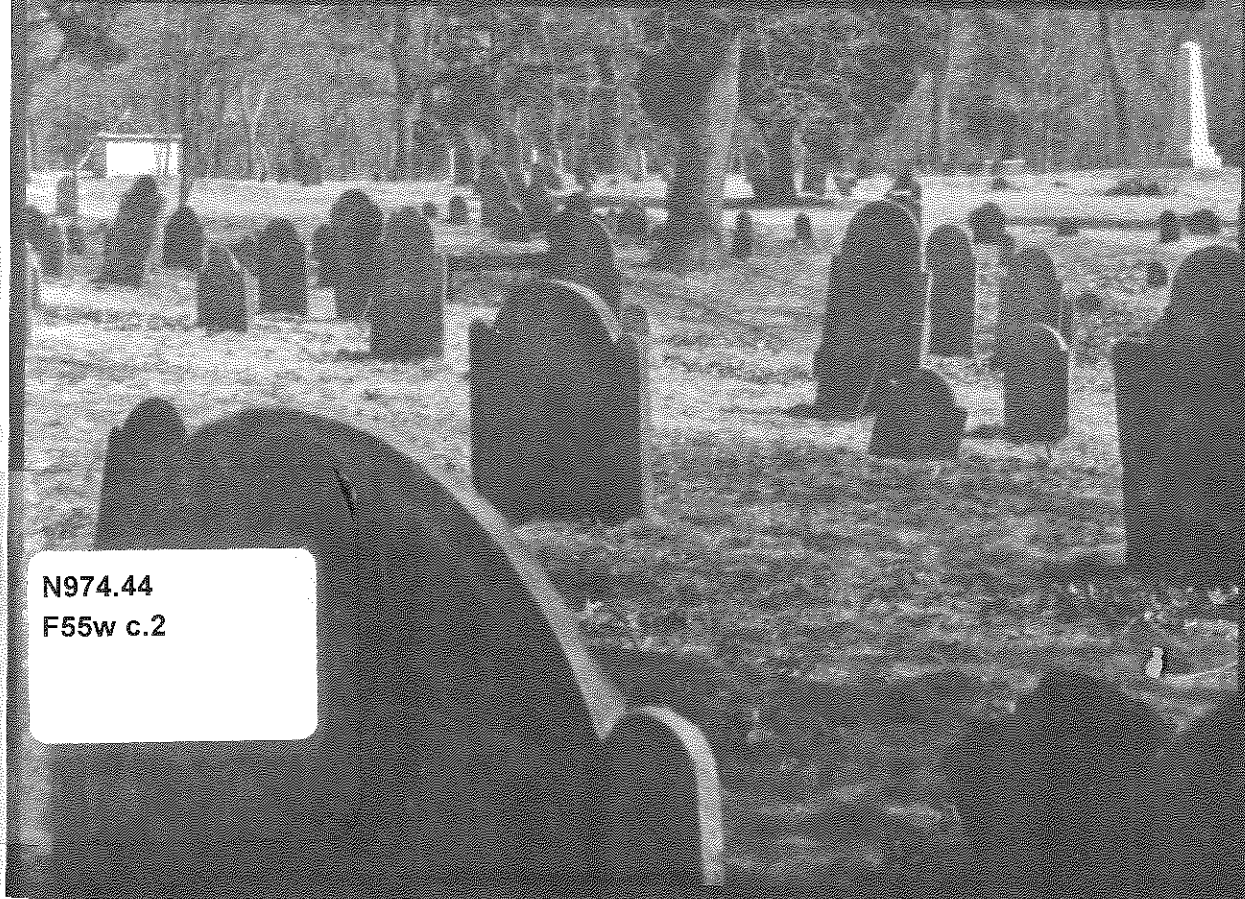


WHERE NEWTON BEGAN

A GUIDE TO
THE
EAST PARISH
BURYING
GROUND

Thelma Fleishman



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WHERE NEWTON BEGAN

A GUIDE TO THE EAST PARISH BURYING GROUND

The burying ground at Centre and Cotton streets is the oldest of three owned by the City. Covering just under three acres, it is also the largest. It has never had an official name, but has been known variously as "the burying place" (in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries), the First or East Parish Burial Ground (after 1781, to distinguish it from "River Street" in the Second or West Parish) and more recently, since Newton streets have had names, the Centre or Cotton Street Cemetery. It has been on the National Register of Historic Places as the East Parish Burying Ground (EPBG) since 1983.

Closed to burials since 1982, the oldest section of the burying ground was in continuous use for almost two hundred years, and though many have disappeared, the slate markers that remain are representative of the work of several generations of stonemasons active in the Boston area from the last quarter of the seventeenth century until well into the nineteenth. Two, Ebenezer Howard and Daniel Hastings, lived in Newton. There can be few better places than the EPBG in which to follow the changes in iconography and design that took place over the years, or to appreciate the extent to which the carvers were influenced by contemporary trends in other decorative arts and architecture. This guide, however, focuses on neither this progression of styles, nor on the work of individual carvers, but on the men, women and children who are buried here, who they were and what they did, concentrating particularly on those whose activities helped shape the Town or whose names are still attached to local ponds, streams, streets and schools.

Originally graves were marked with a headstone and a (much smaller) footstone. To ensure that they would rise facing the right direction when the last trumpet sounds on Judgment Day, the dead were buried facing east, heads behind the headstones, feet towards the footstones. Thus the carved

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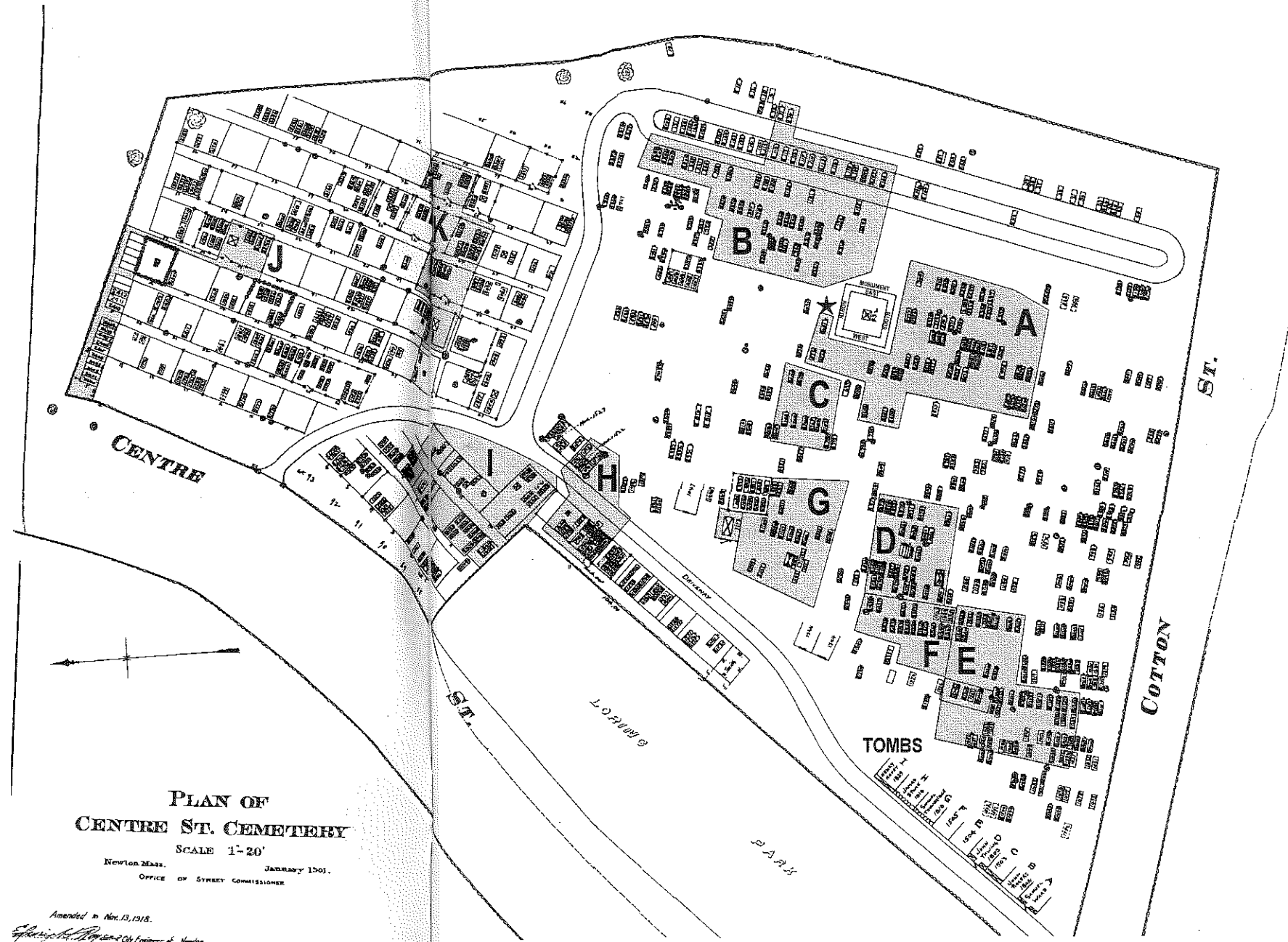
NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THE JACKSON HOMESTEAD
527 Washington Street
Newton, MA 02458

surfaces of the headstones always face west and are most easily seen in early afternoon.

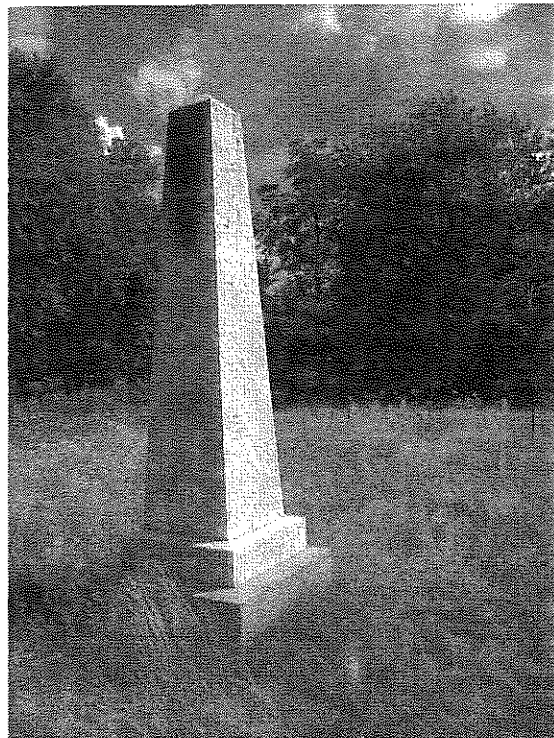
The plan is a reduced version of the original prepared for the Street Department in 1901 and revised by the City Engineer in 1918. All the then extant grave-markers, tombs, and monuments were plotted and the names of the deceased (approximately 800) recorded alphabetically. The original (handwritten) list is kept in the Engineering Department at City Hall and copies are available at the Newton History Museum (the Museum) and on the web at www.interment.net. Also on file at the Museum is a complete set of recently updated inventory forms.

For the purpose of this guide the plan is divided into sections, A through K. Each of the graves mentioned is identified by section and plot number, e.g. Francis Jackson (I-1692). They are introduced in neither numerical nor chronological order.

Use the pedestrian entrance at the corner of Centre and Cotton streets and at the end of the row of vault tombs turn right and continue up the rise to the white marble obelisk known as the Settlers' Monument. Beginning on the North side at the ★ proceed clockwise around the monument, then follow the trail as marked on each section of the plan.

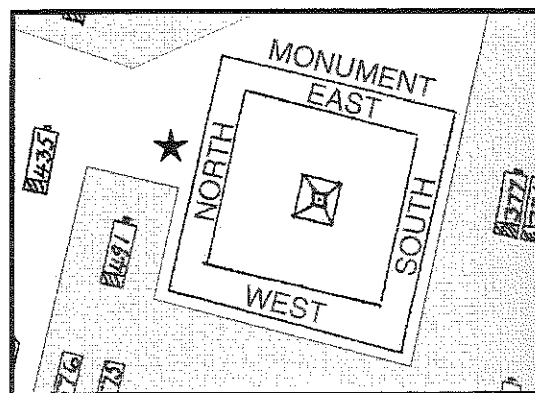


THE SETTLERS' MONUMENT



The Settlers' Monument was erected on the site of the first Meeting House in 1852, (when its cellar hole "was not quite filled up"), to perpetuate the memory of Newton's first twenty settlers. (Forty-three of their descendants contributed towards the cost.)

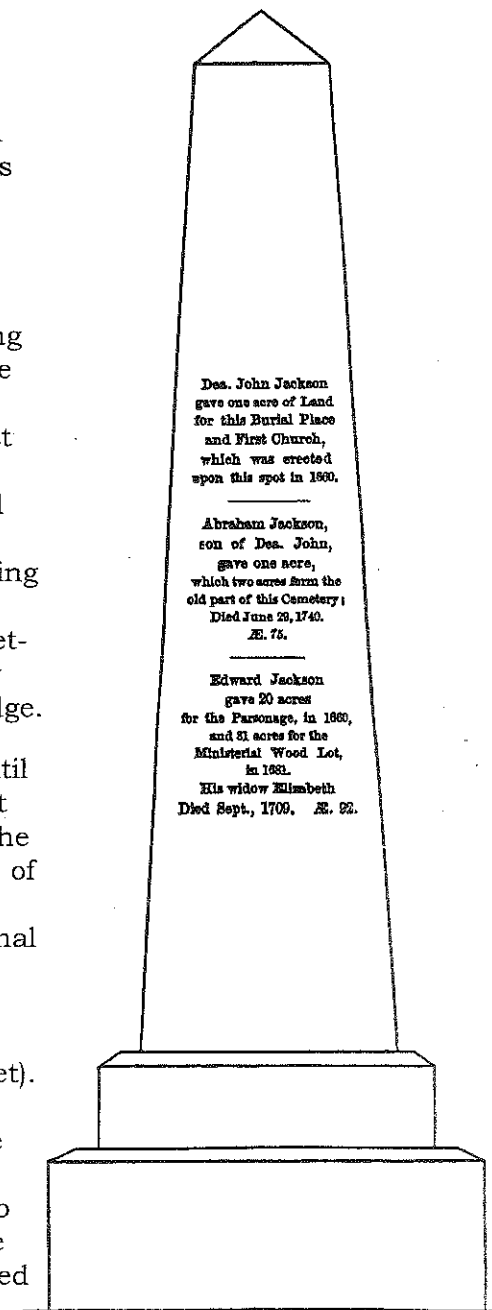
Time and weather have all but obliterated the inscriptions. These drawings of the obelisk are reproduced from the Museum's copy of a "printed pamphlet" containing "some facts relating to the first settlement of the Town" that was deposited at its base. The author was almost certainly Francis Jackson (I-1692) whose *History of Newton* was published two years later.

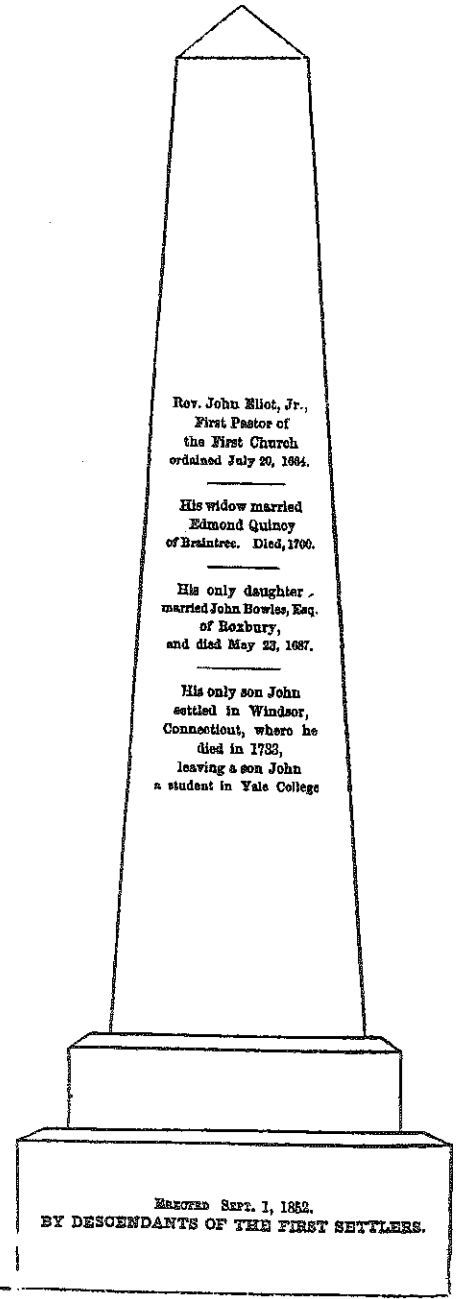


NORTH SIDE

When, in 1643, Newton's first permanent resident, **John Jackson**, "a most valuable and worthy man", was joined on the south side of the Charles River by his brother, Edward, the area, now Brighton and Newton, was still part of Cambridge. By the mid-1650s, a number of families finding the meeting house near Harvard Square inconveniently far, started holding religious meetings locally, probably in the "hall" of **Edward Jackson's** "mansion house". A petition for a separate precinct presented by John Jackson and Thomas Wiswall was turned down by the General Court in 1656. However, in 1660, John's gift of land made building a second Meeting House possible, and from 1661 families living more than four miles from the meeting house were no longer required to pay for its support of the ministry in Cambridge.

Neither John nor Edward survived until complete independence was achieved but John's son, **Abraham Jackson**, did, and he was one of the signatories of the Articles of Separation from Cambridge in 1688. By 1700, when he gave the Town an additional acre for a school, a training field and for enlarging the burying ground, a second Meeting House had been built "near" the first (on the opposite side of Centre Street). In 1765, when Abraham's grandson, another John, questioned the bounds of the burying ground, it was surveyed and bounded once more, and finally deeded to the Town with the proviso that a fence be maintained forever. In 1771, it was fenced





Rev. John Eliot, Jr.,
First Pastor of
the First Church
ordained July 20, 1694.

His widow married
Edmond Quincy
of Braintree. Died, 1700.

His only daughter
married John Bowles, Esq.
of Roxbury,
and died May 23, 1687.

His only son John
settled in Windsor,
Connecticut, where he
died in 1733,
leaving a son John
a student in Yale College

ERECTED SEPT. 1, 1882.
BY DESCENDANTS OF THE FIRST SETTLERS.

for the first time, and from then until about 1800, according to Francis Jackson, the sexton pastured his cattle there and "from this practice, doubtless, some of the grave-stones have been displaced or broken ...and lost".

The twenty acres **Edward Jackson** (B-291) gave for the parsonage were conveniently situated "a few rods" to the north on the opposite side of Centre Street; the parcel for the ministerial woodlot was part of the Great South Meadow, and at least some of it is now included in the restricted wetland near the South High School. (Part of the minister's salary was paid in goods and services, such as "cutting and carting" his wood, for which a day and a rain date were set aside in the fall.)

Edward married **Elizabeth Newgate Oliver** shortly after arriving in this country. Known as "the Mother of the Village", she was present at the birth of every child born there for nearly fifty years.

EAST SIDE

John Eliot Jr. (see B-290) was the son of John Eliot, the Apostle to the Indians, whose successful mission to Waban and his band is commemorated on the City seal. Also dedicated to the memory of John Eliot, Sr. is the Eliot Memorial at the end of near-by Eliot Memorial Road. Built in 1876 on land donated by the Kenrick family (see E-1366), it overlooks the generally accepted site of Nonantum, the first village established for the Praying Indians where the original converts lived until

they were moved to Natick in 1652.

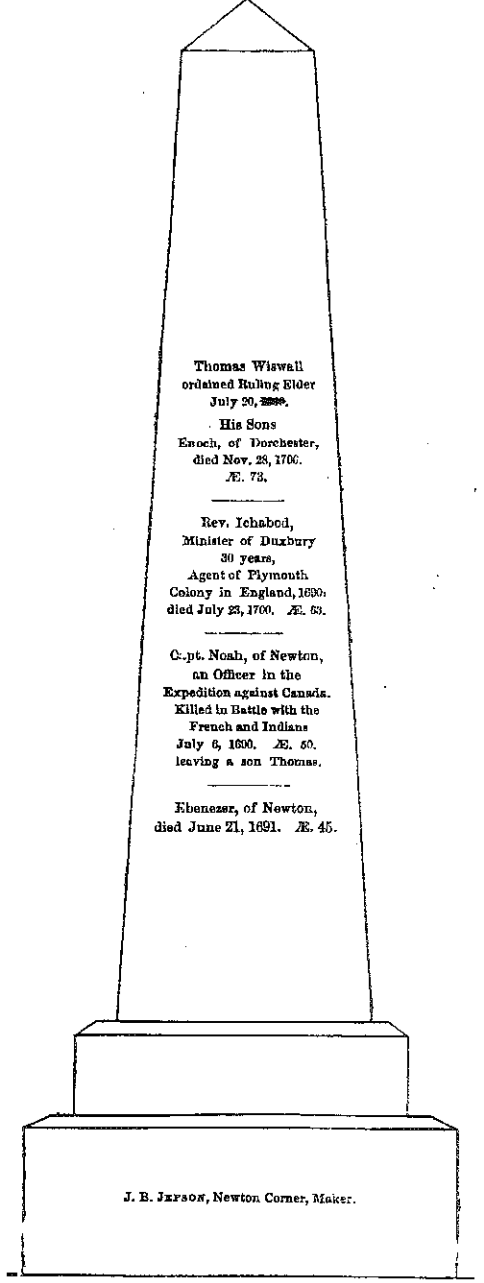
Although there is no record of her grave, John Jr.'s first wife, Sarah (Willett), who died in 1665, was probably the first person buried here.

Eliot's second wife, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Daniel Gookin whose *Historical Collections of the Indians in New England, of their Several Nations, Numbers, Customs, Manners, Religion and Government*, written after many years as their magistrate, is the prime source of information on Nonantum and the Praying Indians.

SOUTH SIDE

When **Thomas Wiswall** moved from Dorchester to Newton, probably in 1654, he bought the pond and about 400 of the 1000 acres (straddling Newton Centre and the Highlands) granted to John Haynes in 1634. Although Haynes never lived there, both the farm and the pond bore his name for several decades. Wiswall built his homestead in "a delightful spot" on the southern shore of what in time became known as Wiswall's Pond. In 1781, Newton's first Baptist Meeting House was built overlooking the pond on land given by Thomas's great-grand-son Noah (1699-1786), an early convert, and in time, "Baptists' Pond" was the name most commonly used. "Crystal Lake" first appears in the 1870s.

In 1656, soon after he arrived, Thomas Wiswall joined John Jackson in petition-



Thomas Wiswall
ordained Ruling Elder
July 20, 1694.

His Sons
Enoch, of Dorchester,
died Nov. 28, 1700.
Æ. 73.

Rev. Ichabod,
Minister of Duxbury
30 years,
Agent of Plymouth
Colony in England, 1690;
died July 23, 1700. Æ. 63.

Capt. Noah, of Newton,
an Officer in the
Expedition against Canada.
Killed in Battle with the
French and Indians
July 6, 1690. Æ. 50.
leaving a son Thomas.

Ebenezer, of Newton,
died June 21, 1691. Æ. 45.

J. B. Jackson, Newton Corner, Maker.

ing the General Court to release inhabitants living on the south side of the river from paying for the support of the church in Cambridge. Later, during the unsettled years between the death of John Eliot in 1668 and the ordination of Nehemiah Hobart in 1674, it fell to him, as the ruling elder, to defend the Town in the suit brought by unpaid ministers (see B-232). He was one of only a dozen who did not sign the petition for complete separation from Cambridge. His son, Noah, was one of the 52 who did.

Noah Wiswall. Tradition has it that either Thomas or Noah (or possibly a descendant) gave the land for the southern part of the Common in Newton Centre (see also Jonathan Hyde).

The first town meeting on the south side of the river, in what soon became known as Cambridge Village, was held in 1679, the date on the original version of the City Seal used until the 1880s. Three selectmen and a constable were elected, and two years later, Noah, with John Ward (B-110), was appointed to transcribe the meeting records from the old book to the new. However, the villagers were still liable for the support of the school in Cambridge, for their share of the county and country taxes, and for the upkeep of the Great Bridge over the Charles River. In 1689, Noah was a member of the committee appointed to negotiate the Articles of Agreement prior to complete separation.

Ebenezer Wiswall's involvement in public affairs was minimal; neither **Enoch** nor the Rev. **Ichabod** lived in Newton.

In 1767, a later Wiswall, Jeremiah, son of Noah the Baptist, acquired the house, built by Robert Murdock in 1719, that for two centuries stood at the corner of Dedham and Brookline streets in Oak Hill. Moved in 1964 to Carlson Avenue on the grounds of Mount Ida Junior College, it now serves as the home of the college president.

J. P. Jepson, the maker, whose name appears on the base of the monument, may have owned the marble shop in Newton Corner shown on the 1855 map. Several monuments and slate

(urn and willow) headstones bear his signature, but as yet no more is known about him.

WEST SIDE

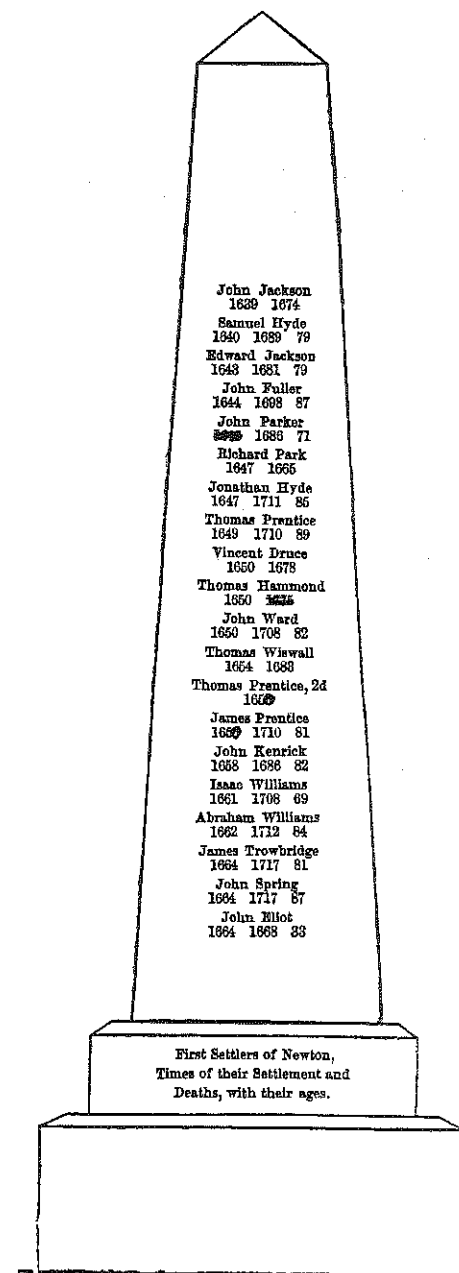
The names of twenty "ancient worthies" are listed in the order in which they settled in Newton. The graves of the following cannot be traced.

Richard Park lived in Newton Corner "within a few feet" of the present site of the Eliot Church. He was not interested in being set off from the Cambridge Church.

John Parker came from Hingham with Hammond and Druce (see below) and settled in Chestnut Hill. Part of the house at 137 Suffolk Road was possibly built by his son, another John, in the 1680s. These Parkers were not connected with those who lived in Newton Centre after whom Parker Street is named.

Thomas Prentice 2nd, sometimes known as Sr., is often confused with Captain Thomas Prentice (A-491) or the latter's son, another Thomas. Little is known about Thomas 2nd or his twin brother, **James Prentice**, who served two terms as selectman and signed the Articles of Agreement in 1678.

Abraham Williams, no relation to Isaac (B-325), came to Newton in about 1660 when he married the sister of John Ward (see below). He moved to



Marlborough some ten years later.

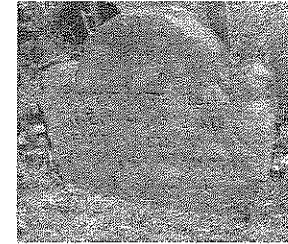
Samuel Hyde, Newton's second permanent resident, arrived in 1640, his brother **Jonathan** in 1647. Between then and 1652 they bought about 250 acres, which they held jointly until 1661. When they divided their holdings, Samuel's share was in Newton Corner and included the old Indian Field (once part of the village of the Praying Indians) and the modern Hyde Avenue and Hyde Brook. His house was on the Dedham Road (Centre Street) where it stood till 1909 when part of it was moved to 27 George Street. It was home to seven generations of Hydes, including a later Samuel who, with his son George (George Street) ran one of two once well-known Hyde Nurseries until the 1930s.

In 1657 Samuel served on the committee appointed to "lay out and settle as they [found] necessary" the highways on the south side of the river, thus helping to establish, at least in part, Newton's basic street pattern.

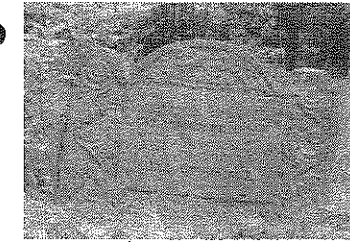
Jonathan Hyde eventually owned about 350 acres in Newton Centre and Oak Hill. In 1702 he gave half an acre for a school to serve the south part of Town, and is believed to have given the northern part of what is now the Newton Centre Common for a training ground. There is no deed, will, nor inventory (see also the Wiswalls).

Thomas Hammond and **Vincent Druce** (with John Parker, see above) came from Hingham in the 1650s. In the next few years they bought, jointly, several hundred acres in Newton and Brookline, roughly today's Chestnut Hill. When, in 1664, they divided their holdings, Hammond's share, including the brook and the pond that still bear his name, was mostly in Newton and Druce's almost entirely in Brookline.

HOW STYLES CHANGED

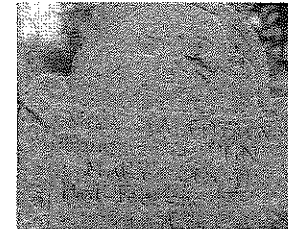


1. The earliest markers were small and "chunky", with no decoration. Inscriptions are in upper case.



2. Use of the winged death's-head began in the last decades of the seventeenth century and

lasted until about the middle of the eighteenth. Borders were elaborately carved. Lowercase lettering was not used until the 1720s.

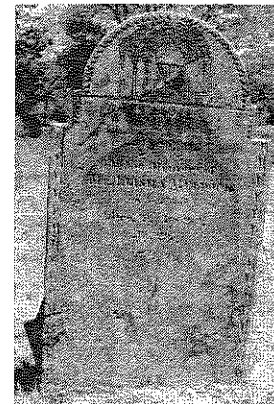


3. From about the 1730s, borders became simpler and death's-heads less threatening.

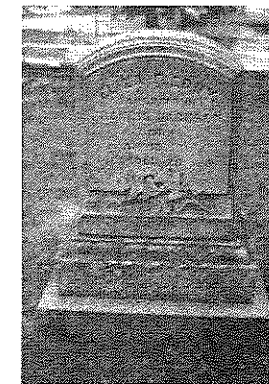


4. By mid-eighteenth century, faces (cherubs or stylized "portraits") replaced death's-head. Upper- and lower-case lettering was used. Classical Revival architectural

elements and other motifs appear towards the end of the century.



5. The classical urn and willow were used extensively from the late eighteenth century to the early years of the nineteenth.



6. By the time the "new" section of the burying ground was laid out in the 1840s, the Romantic Revival had reached Newton, and white marble began replacing slate.



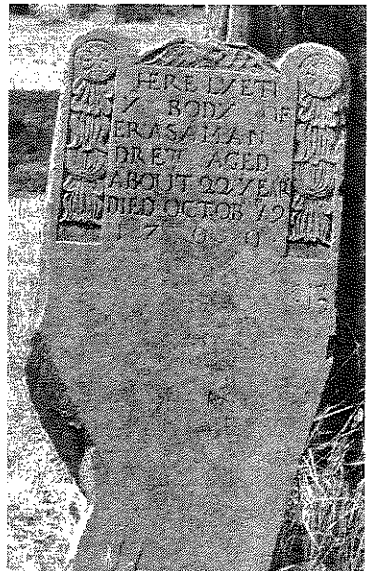
SECTION A

A-570 Mary (Druce) Drew (1651-1719) was Vincent Druce's daughter. She married Erasamon Drew, who in 1683, built the mill from which Saw Mill Brook and the parkway take their names. For years the mill, which straddled the Newton-Brookline line, was one of the bounds marking the line between the two communities. Four Drew children are buried near their mother:

A-521 Abigail Drew (1689-1715) whose grave is unmarked, **A-568 Ebenezer Drew (1689-1700)** whose marker is displaced, **A-567 Jonathan Drew (1680-1700)** whose marker is damaged, and **A-566 Erasamon Drew jr. (1678-1700)**, whose headstone was buried for safekeeping in 1982.

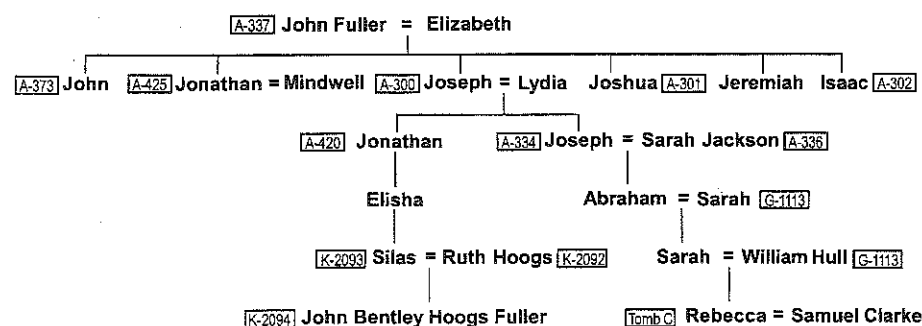
A-337 John Fuller (1611-1699) Of the twenty-two Fullers who served in the Revolutionary army, all were descended from Newton's fifth permanent resident, John Fuller (as were three of the five selectmen elected in 1784). The granite block on his grave almost certainly dates from the 1890s, when a "lineal descendant", finding the original slate marker "almost entirely loose" ("although in just about perfect condition"), appealed to family members for contributions towards "inserting it into a new granite stone". The "insert", probably of metal, has disappeared.

John, probably with his wife Elizabeth, arrived from England in 1644. There appears to be no record of any land transaction before 1658 when he bought 750 acres in West Newton. Over time he became one of the largest land-owners in the Town. Part of the Fuller holdings was included in the 640 acres annexed to Waltham in 1847.



John signed the petition to the General Court requesting independence from Cambridge and, when it was granted, served on the committee to negotiate the terms of separation. A matter of controversy for years was the tax for the upkeep of the Great Bridge, that like its successor, the Larz Andersen Bridge, benefitted residents of Brighton more than those of Newton.

John and Elizabeth had six sons. There is no marker for Jeremiah (whose grandson, Nathan, gave the land for the West Parish Burying Ground in 1781), but those of the other five Fuller brothers are still in place: John (A-373), **Jonathan (A-425)**, **Joseph (A-300)**, Joshua (A-301), and Isaac (A-302).



A-300 Joseph Fuller (1652-1739) married Lydia (A-299), daughter of Edward Jackson who gave them twenty-three acres in Newtonville as a wedding gift. This was the nucleus of the farm that eventually extended from the Massachusetts Turnpike to the Newton Cemetery. Joseph was a selectman for eight years and served the Town in several other capacities. He was on the committee that surveyed and bounded Abraham Jackson's gift of land to enlarge the burying ground and to accommodate the first schoolhouse, and was involved in its construction. Some twenty years later he participated in the siting of an additional school in the west part of the Town. With others he negotiated the terms for hiring John Cotton as the third minister, and was one of the petitioners to the General Court to prevent the families living in what, in 1837, would become Roxbury, from withdrawing their support from the

Newton ministry.

Joseph and Lydia had five sons.

A-334 Joseph Fuller (1685-1766), second son of Joseph and Lydia, married Sarah, daughter of Abraham Jackson. Joseph served on a committee to oversee the capital fund for supporting the Great Bridge (see John Fuller) for twenty-eight years. He was a lieutenant in the militia, and when he retired in 1735 he gave 136 rods of land in Newtonville to his successor, Ephraim Williams, for the use of the military company then under his command. The land reverted to the Fuller family in 1787.

A-420 Jonathan Fuller (1686-1764). Like his brother, Joseph and Lydia's third son, Jonathan, was an overseer of the fund for the Great Bridge for sixteen years, and, in addition, served as an assessor for thirteen years and auditor for eighteen. His descendants were active in the Town until well into the nineteenth century (see Silas Fuller J-2093).

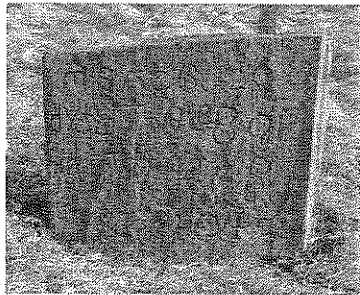
A-425 Jonathan Fuller (1648-1722) was the third son of John and Elizabeth. In 1694 he was paid for building the Town's first stocks. There seems to be no record of their use. Twenty years later they were stored in the school house, before being moved, probably at the same time as the Meeting House, to Newton Centre where Francis Jackson, when a boy, "often eyed that remnant of the Inquisition...with a shudder." In 1716 Fuller was a member of the committee reporting to the General Court that the Town had, at last, decided on a site for the new Meeting House (see Rev. Hobart, B-232).

A-426 Mindwell (Trowbridge) Fuller was married to Jonathan (A-425). Attached to the inventory of her assets taken at her death, was an authorization for her executors to pay James Foster for gravestones. Foster belonged to the second generation of a family of stonecutters working in Dorchester, thus there is no reason to doubt that he was the carver of Mindwell's stone. Other similar carvings, of which there are several in the burying ground, can tentatively be attributed to

him, or at least to his workshop. So-called "probated stones" are rare. Early wills and inventories in the Middlesex Registry of Probate have yielded information on just over a dozen in Newton.

A-427 James Trowbridge, Mindwell's father, succeeded his father-in-law, John Jackson, as deacon in 1675. James was one of the three selectmen chosen at the first town meeting, and served for a further eight years. In 1688, when Newton was incorporated as a town, he was appointed by Middlesex County to record the local births and deaths and served as deputy to the General Court from 1702 to 1704. He was a member of the committee that surveyed and bounded Abraham Jackson's gift of land to enlarge the burying ground

A-554 William Trowbridge, the son of James, married, as his first wife Sarah, the daughter of John and Mary (Spring) Ward (see John Spring C-640), thus becoming the owner not only of the west end of his father-in-law's house, but also of a quarter share of the dam and grist mill in Newtonville, which passed from him to his son and grandson. (Trowbridge Avenue is two blocks north of Bullough's Pond.)



William Trowbridge's services to the community were many and varied: he was active in the militia, rising from the rank of sergeant in 1723 to captain by 1740, and there was hardly a town office, from fence viewer to moderator of town meeting, that he did not fill. In addition, he was a member of the first Board of Overseers of the Poor and served on numerous ad hoc committees: to seat the Meeting House, to petition for the return of the Roxbury families to the Newton ministry (A-300), and several relating to the upkeep of the Great Bridge.

Of the thirty-six documented slaves in Newton, he owned four.

A-513 MS According to an "appendix" to the alphabetical list,

the "stray stone", now #513, was found in "Nathaniel Trowbridge's Burying Place 1840" (grave numbers 1575-77 near the Loring Park fence). Cut by an unskilled hand, the inscription reads: M.S. AGED 28 / dyed the 28 of / December 28 / THE WIFE OF/JOSH S. 1701/2.

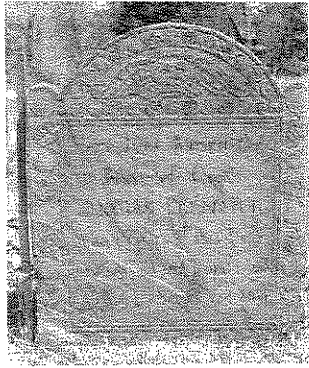
A-518 Ebenezer Stone was a third generation New Englander. In 1686 he married Margaret, daughter of James Trowbridge (A-427) and moved to Newton, buying property first near the (present) Eliot Church in Newton Corner, and then close to the Parker house on Hammond Street, now at 137 Suffolk Road.

Between 1693 and 1740, he held just about every town office from hogreeve to selectman (nine years) and was the representative to the General Court for ten years. By 1722 he was addressed as "justice". A long-time deacon, he was involved in the affairs of the Ministry in the unsettled years following the death of Nehemiah Hobart (B -232) serving on several committees: to supply the pulpit, to petition the General Court to settle the dispute over the location of a new Meeting House, to choose the site and, finally, to build it, and request the return of the families permitted to worship in Roxbury (see also E-1364)

A-684 Mehitabel Hammond (1665-1704). Eighteenth century carvers rarely signed their work. The only known example in Newton is the headstone that marks the grave of Mehitabel Hammond. Partly chipped away, but clearly discernible in the tympanum, the initials "J.N." are probably those of John Noyes, a silversmith whose work can be seen in the Museum of Fine Arts. Similar carvings in the burying ground, particularly in Section B, could, with further study, possibly be attributed to him.



A-576 Thomas Prentice (d. 1730). The Captain Thomas Prentice who died in 1730 instructed his executors to pay Nathaniel Lamson for gravestones. Lamson and his brother Caleb plied their trade in the Charlestown workshop started by



their father Joseph. The recurring motif, an elongated gourd, used by both brothers on footstones and in the borders of headstones, is so characteristic that identifying their work presents little or no difficulty even to the newly initiated. Thus, although the grave of Thomas Prentice (d. 1730) is marked by a headstone only, it is fair to assume that the missing footstone is not lost, but misplaced on the grave (A-491) of his grandfather, Thomas Prentice, who died in 1710 (see also B-272).

Thomas Prentice (d. 1730) spent several years filling "routine" offices such as surveyor of highways, tithingman and assessor. He was a selectman for four years, two of them as moderator. He was on the committee to arrange the ordination of John Cotton (see D-1150) as well as several connected with the new Meeting House: firstly to find an acceptable site (at the corner of Centre and Homer streets), then to negotiate its purchase from Nathaniel Parker, and finally to provide building materials and supervise construction. In addition he was appointed to the committee to petition the General Court for a grant of land to help pay for the upkeep of the Great Bridge.



A-491 Thomas Prentice (d. 1710), "The Trooper", who is buried with the mismatched head-and-footstones, was one of the most widely-known of Newton's early inhabitants.

It is unclear when he first came to New England. He may have been here as an indentured servant in the 1630s, returning to England when his employer died. He was almost certainly the Thomas Prentice who served in Cromwell's army, which would explain his subsequent success as a military leader. What is certain is that he was in Cambridge in 1648 (or 7) and, in 1652, bought eighty-five acres on the south side of the river (on the east side of Newton: Prentice Street near Ward).

By 1656 he was a lieutenant in a company of Middlesex

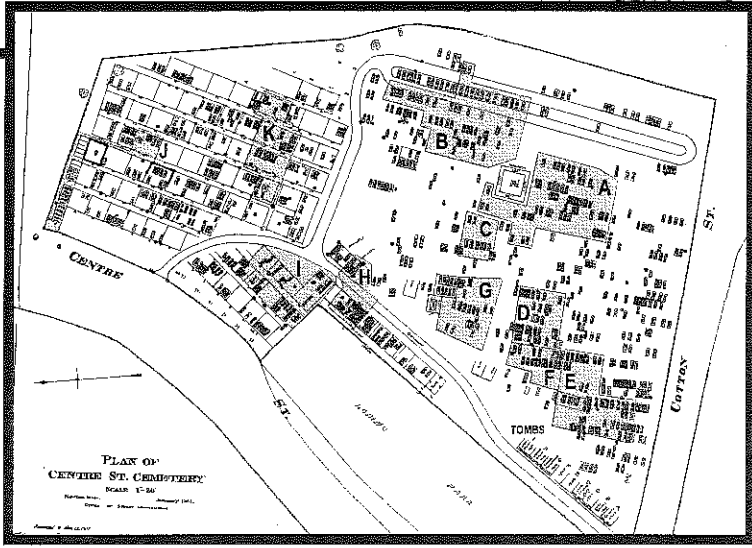
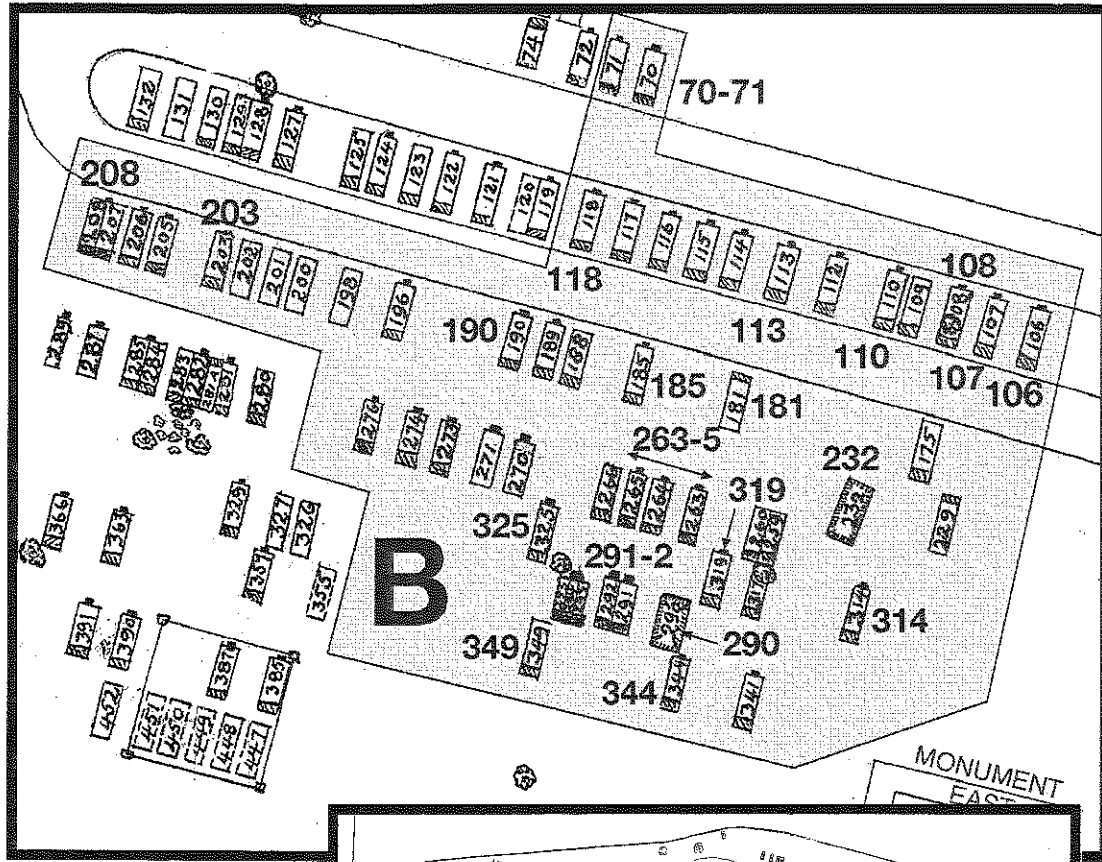
County Troopers; six years later as a captain he served with distinction in King Philip's War (1675), becoming, according to Jackson, "a terror" to the hostile Indians. In contrast he had the trust and confidence of those who were friendly. Soon after the war began, he was put in charge of moving about two hundred Praying Indians from their village in Natick to Deer Island, where they were interned for the duration of the war, and, when hostilities ceased, escorting them back as far as "The Pines" on the Charles River in Brighton where they spent the winter of 1676/7. At about the same time he kept at his house a group of Nipmucks who, with their sachem, John, had surrendered and been pardoned.

In 1689, after the removal of James II from the English throne and Governor Edmund Andros from office in New England, Prentice was chosen by the new Governor and Council of Massachusetts to retrieve Andros from Rhode Island prior to his being sent back to England.

In 1691, in response to a petition submitted by the Indian converts, Prentice was appointed their magistrate, a position left vacant by the death of Daniel Gookin (see Monument).

Locally, in 1664 he was a member of the committee to decide what highways were necessary on the south side of the river, and three years later he was part of the surveying party that laid out what would become the Town of Worcester. He represented Cambridge in the General Court from 1672 to 74, and was one of the three original Village selectmen chosen in 1679, an office he filled five times over the years. In 1696 he helped plan the new Meeting House, and five years later, the first school.

In 1695, before there was a Poor House, he looked after his neighbor, Susannah Clements (Clements Road) when she was "old and blind and delirious". (Susannah and her husband William were the first couple in Middlesex County to sue for divorce: it was not granted). In the same year he was in charge of rebuilding Lancaster which had been destroyed by the Indians during King Philip's War.



SECTION B

B-344 Thomas Oliver (d. 1715) was Thomas Prentice's (d. 1710) son-in-law. He came to Newton (probably) in 1649 when his widowed mother became the second wife of Edward Jackson (see Monument). In 1670 he bought "The Pines" where the Natick Indians spent the winter on their way home from Deer Island during King Philip's War. His 67 acres were on the north side of the River so that, although he remained a member of the church in Newton (he was elected deacon in 1709), he was a resident of Cambridge, where he served as representative to the General Court, a Justice of the Peace and councilor.



B-291 Edward Jackson (d. 1681)

B-292 Elizabeth Newgate Oliver Jackson

There is no way of knowing how much Edward's present stone resembles the original, which, according to the inscription was "repaired" in 1825 by his great-great-grandsons: William (H-1595), Stephen (J-2210), Francis, the historian, (I-1692), George (H-1549), and Edmund (I-1699), nor is there any trace of Elizabeth's grave, although her name is listed and her head and footstones shown on the revised plan of 1918. (She was Thomas Oliver's mother).

Edward came to New England with his family in 1643, and bought his first ten acres the same year. By the time he died he owned upwards of 1600 acres (and two slaves). In 1670 he gave his son, Sebas, 150 acres and the first house built on the site of the Jackson Homestead. Edward is believed to have lived in the house built by Thomas Mayhew, generally accepted as the first in Newton, before moving to his "mansion house" in Newton Corner (see Monument)

By 1647 Edward was the Cambridge representative (then known as a deputy) to the General Court, an office he held for

seventeen years, and, in the 1650s, served several times on the Commission to End Small Causes (i.e. under forty shillings). In addition, he served as a selectman, was appointed by the Governor's Council to "effect a Poor House in Cambridge as directed by the General Court" and on several occasions was involved (with others) in surveying and laying out highways on the south side of the River, creating the basis of our modern street pattern. He and his brother John appear to have been in charge of procuring wood and rebuilding "Mr. Mayhew's bridge" near the Watertown mill: not to be confused with that bone of contention, the Great Bridge over the Charles River in Cambridge.

Edward's involvement in church affairs ranged from catechizing children to accompanying the Rev. John Eliot Sr. to nearby Nonantum and recording the Reverend's sermons to the Praying Indians.

Finally, Edward Jackson is remembered for his crucial role in establishing Newton's independence from Cambridge: the petition he and John submitted to the General Court in 1672 was unsuccessful, but as a result of another in 1678, "no doubt drawn up by Edward Jackson Sr." and signed by all but a dozen inhabitants, the first town meeting was held on June 27, 1679.

B-325 Isaac Williams (d. 1707) came from Roxbury, probably in 1660 when he bought 500 acres extending from West Newton, where he built his house near Cheesecake Brook, to Auburndale (hence the Williams School). In addition he acquired a quarter share in the gristmill on Smelt (now Laundry) Brook (see John Spring C-640). He was a selectman five times and in 1696 represented Newton in the General Court. In the same year he was involved in building the new (the second) Meeting House, and ten years later was chosen to serve on what was in fact Newton's first school committee, appointed to choose the first schoolmaster.

Isaac's youngest son, Ephraim, (b. 1691) married Elizabeth, daughter of Abraham Jackson: a small triple headstone (B293-4-5) marks the grave of three of her siblings who died in childhood.

B-185 Elizabeth (Jackson) Williams was the daughter of Abraham Jackson. In 1714 she married Ephraim, youngest son of Isaac Williams (see B-325). Their son, another Ephraim, was born the following year. She died three years later, her husband remarried, and the boy was brought up by his Jackson grandfather. After a career at sea, Ephraim settled in central Massachusetts. He was the founder of Williams College.

B-190 Samuel Truesdell (d. 1694/5) was killed, according to Judge Sewall, when "pulling hay from an undermined Mow in the Barn, which fell upon him"

Nearby are the unmarked graves of:

B-263 Margaret Jackson (d. 1684) wife of John (see Monument), the only woman to sign the 1678 petition for separation. Her damaged headstone was buried in situ for safe keeping in 1981.

B-265 Sarah Jackson (d. 1680) their daughter, whose headstone was found in Rowley, Massachusetts several years ago, and is currently stored at the History Museum.

B-264 John Jackson Jr. (d. 1675) their son, whose marker has been buried for safe keeping.

B-290 Rev. John Eliot Jr.

B-232 Rev. Nehemiah Hobart and Rev. Jonas Meriam

At the town meeting in 1823 "It was voted that the selectmen be a committee to carry into effect the report of a former committee accepted May 10, 1819 respecting repairs of certain tombs in the old burying ground containing the remains of the three former ministers." It was voted in addition that the four clergymen of the Town be a committee to prepare "suitable" inscriptions.

It is possible that John Eliot (d. 1668) "supplied the pulpit" in Cambridge Village before he was ordained in 1664. Graduating from Harvard in 1656, he started preaching in 1657 and for the

next few years assisted his father in his mission to the Indians. Having achieved a "considerable proficiency" in the Algonkian language he continued to visit the Praying Indians in Natick and Stoughton after settling in the Village.

Eliot's death in 1668 was followed by six years without a settled minister. Several were invited to preach at various times, but none was deemed suitable nor were they paid until they brought suit in the County Court. This may have been the cause of the divisions among members of the congregation that lasted until the arrival of Nehemiah Hobart.

Nehemiah Hobart, "the healer of breaches", was born in Hingham, Massachusetts, the fifth son of that Town's first minister. Educated at Harvard, in 1708 he was elected an overseer and served briefly as vice-president of the college.

Hobart came to Cambridge Village in 1672 and "supplied the pulpit" for two years before his ordination in 1674. Three years later he married Sarah, daughter of Elizabeth and Edward Jackson, who gave them thirty acres on Centre Street, near Cabot, where they built their home across the road from the first Meeting House. Both the homestead and the new Meeting House, erected in 1697, were shown to his friend Judge Samuel Sewall (of the Salem witch trials) while under construction.

Hobart's ministry covered the unsettled early years of the Village and, partly because of the demands of King Philip's War and its aftermath, there were often insufficient funds to cover his salary, which, on at least two occasions, he returned. An "unshaken harmony" is said to have existed between him and his parishioners and, when he died, a great number of people attended his funeral, including more than forty Harvard graduates, according to Judge Sewall who came from Boston in a caleche drawn by two horses.

After Hobart's death most of the inhabitants who lived in the more remote areas of Town, towards the south and east and who, during his ministry, had apparently without complaint

made the tedious journey to the Meeting House for town meetings and religious services, were no longer prepared to do so. For nearly a decade petitions and counter petitions for a separate precinct or a more centrally located Meeting House were presented to the General Court. Eventually, a surveyor was hired, the "centre of town" determined and by 1721 there was a new Meeting House at the corner of Centre and Homer streets. Still unsolved was the problem of the six (sometimes seven) families living in the vicinity of the future Brook Farm, who worshiped in Roxbury but were not excused their ministerial rate in Newton.

The Reverend Jonas Meriam (1730-1780) was Newton's fourth minister. (For the third, the Rev. John Cotton, see D-1150). Though buried in Boston, Meriam shares the memorial tablet on Hobart's grave. Born in Lincoln, Massachusetts, he graduated from Harvard in 1753 and was ordained in Newton in 1758. In 1770 his house on Centre Street just northwest of Homer burned down and the church papers, including the records of births, marriages and deaths, were lost. With the help of a committee appointed to inquire and report on the church membership, and the Hyde Diaries (see B-203), he started the records afresh. It is to his credit that Newton's Vital Records published at the beginning of the twentieth century are as comprehensive as they are.

He was a scholar of "considerable talents" and "his natural temper" we are told, was "mild and amiable." On one occasion at least, he turned back half his salary.

B -314 Grace Jackson first wife of Deacon Edward (d. 1727).

B-319 Sarah Hobart, daughter of Edward Jackson (d. 1681), married the Rev. Nehemiah Hobart.

B-181 Thomas Greenwood (c. 1643-1693) came to Newton in 1667, settling eventually in Chestnut Hill where, by 1691, he owned upward of thirty acres (Greenwood Street, however, is in Oak Hill). In 1667 he married Hannah Ward, who died before 1687.

Present at the 1679 town meeting, he was appointed Newton's first constable and possibly (according to Jackson) the first town clerk. He is recorded as holding that office in 1693. In addition he served three or four terms as selectman.

B-110 John Ward (1626-1708), a turner, came from Sudbury, probably in 1650, the year he married Hannah, eldest daughter of Edward Jackson (d. 1681). Their wedding present was approximately forty-five acres in Newton Centre and Chestnut Hill. Ward subsequently increased his holdings (in West Roxbury and Chestnut Hill) so that when he died more than 500 acres were divided among his heirs. (The homestead, the first house on Ward Street, went to his third son, Richard).

At the first town meeting John Ward was elected one of the three selectmen, an office he filled for a further eight years. In 1682, he and Noah Wiswall were given the task of transcribing the town records from the old book to the new, and in 1686 he was on the committee that negotiated the Articles of Separation with Cambridge. In 1689 after the final incorporation of the Town he was appointed Newton's first representative to the General Court (at one shilling and sixpence a day), a position he held for the next seven years. His wife, Hannah is buried beside him (B-109).

B-106 is the footstone missing from the grave of John Ward (B-108).

B-107 Mary Ward (1659-1731) instructed her executors to "pay Caleb Lamson for gravestones" (see Thomas Prentice A-576), whether for John's or hers, or whether the two pounds five shillings covered the cost of head and footstones for both, is unclear.

B-108 John Ward (1656-1727) was the eldest son of John (d. 1708) and Hannah. By marrying Mary, daughter of John Spring (C-640), he became a quarter-owner of the grist mill on Smelt Brook, bequeathed on his death to his son-in-law William Trowbridge (A-554). He served three years as selectman before following in his father's footsteps and representing the Town in

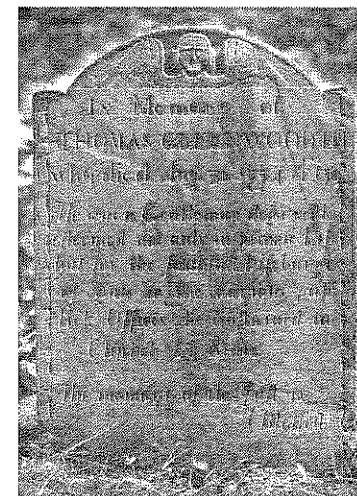
the General Court for ten years.

B-113 Richard Ward (1666-1739), third son of John (d. 1708) and Hannah, inherited the garrison house that had been built, with financial help from Edward Jackson, during King Philip's War. Demolished in 1821, it was the first of several houses on Ward Street lived in by successive generations of Wards, including the family of Charles (1841-1863), who died at Gettysburg and has given his name to the Charles Ward Post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Richard Ward filled the positions of surveyor of highways, tithingman, constable, and assessor before serving as selectman (for some years as moderator) and representative to the General Court (eight years), and on several ad hoc committees including one appointed in 1721 to dispose of the old Meeting House. (Waltham, newly set off from Watertown, took it). He was also a church deacon.

B-118 Joseph Ward (1677-1742), youngest son of John (d. 1708) and Hannah, received his inheritance in Oak Hill and, in 1713, signed the petition to the General Court for a more centrally located Meeting House (see B-232), then served on the committees to supervise its construction and finally to "seat" the congregation. He served as selectman for eleven years (two as moderator) and on committees to locate new schools and to study legislative bills of credit.

B-70 Thomas Greenwood (1696-1774), the grandson of Thomas (d. 1693) owned eighty acres (on Woodland Road) in Auburndale. He was a captain, deacon and justice of the peace. Starting as a hogreeve in 1717, he worked his way up, through tithingman, assessor (six years), constable, and selectman (four years), to representative to the General Court (thirteen years). He served on committees on highways, on schools, on regulations for the workhouse, to encourage the Reverend Jonas Meriam (B-232) to accept the



pulpit and to seat the Meeting House; on repairing Pratt's Bridge (in Lower Falls) and, with selectmen from Cambridge and Lexington, on the joint committee acting as trustees for the funds for repairing the Cambridge Great Bridge. But he is best remembered for the detailed (and legible) records he kept during his twenty-three years as town clerk and treasurer.

His gravestone is probated to Daniel Hastings who, in 1778, was paid eighteen pounds ten shillings, enough, perhaps to cover the cost of his wife's as well.

B-71 Hannah Greenwood (d. 1777), "consort of the Hon. Thomas Greenwood". However, the name of Thomas's wife who bore him five children (see Newton Vital Records) was not Hannah but Lydia. She was the only child of Joseph Bush who according to his will (copy at the Museum) bequeathed to his "daughter Lydia the wife of Thomas Greenwood the one half of my outbuildings and land..." In *Greenwood Genealogies*, published in 1914, Frederick Greenwood says "We think most likely a mistake was made by the stonecutter or the one who ordered it..." (Lydia's mother and Thomas's grandmother were both Hannahs.)

B-203 William Hyde (1690-1756) was the grandson of Jonathan (see Monument). When in, 1710, during Queen Ann's War, there were too few volunteers from the local militias to fill the Massachusetts quota of 900 men, he was one of twelve from Newton drawn to go to Porte Royale (Annapolis) in Nova Scotia.

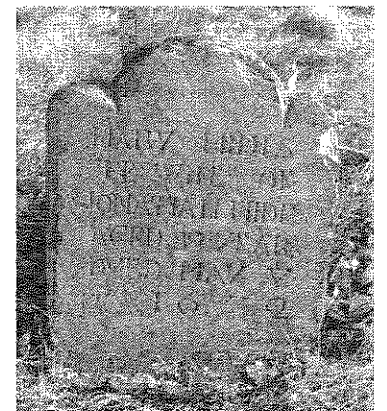
Beginning in the 1720s, he held many town offices, including fenceviewer (seven years), assessor (nine years), selectman (ten years), surveyor of highways and tithing man. He served on committees dealing with town finances such as auditing the treasurer's accounts, bills of credit, on making up the account for a town loan, and on auditing the accounts for the Cambridge Great Bridge. He was also concerned with public and private bridges over the Charles. In addition, he was on committees to instruct the representative and to represent the Town at the General Court in a dispute over a fence.

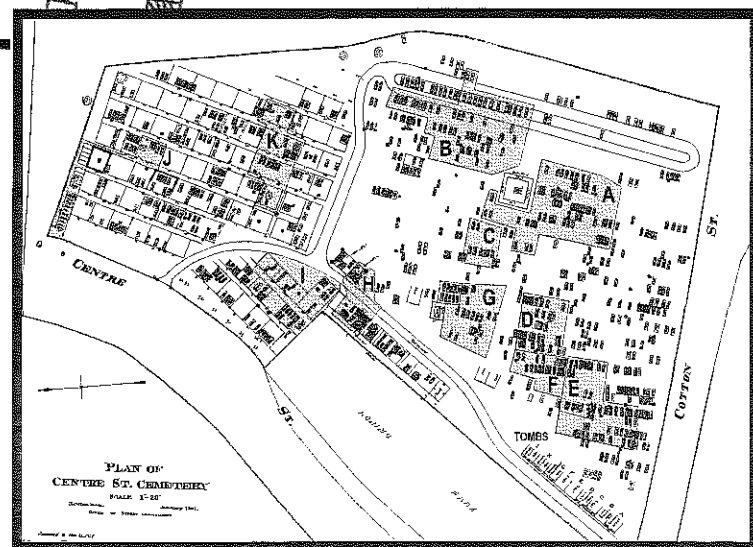
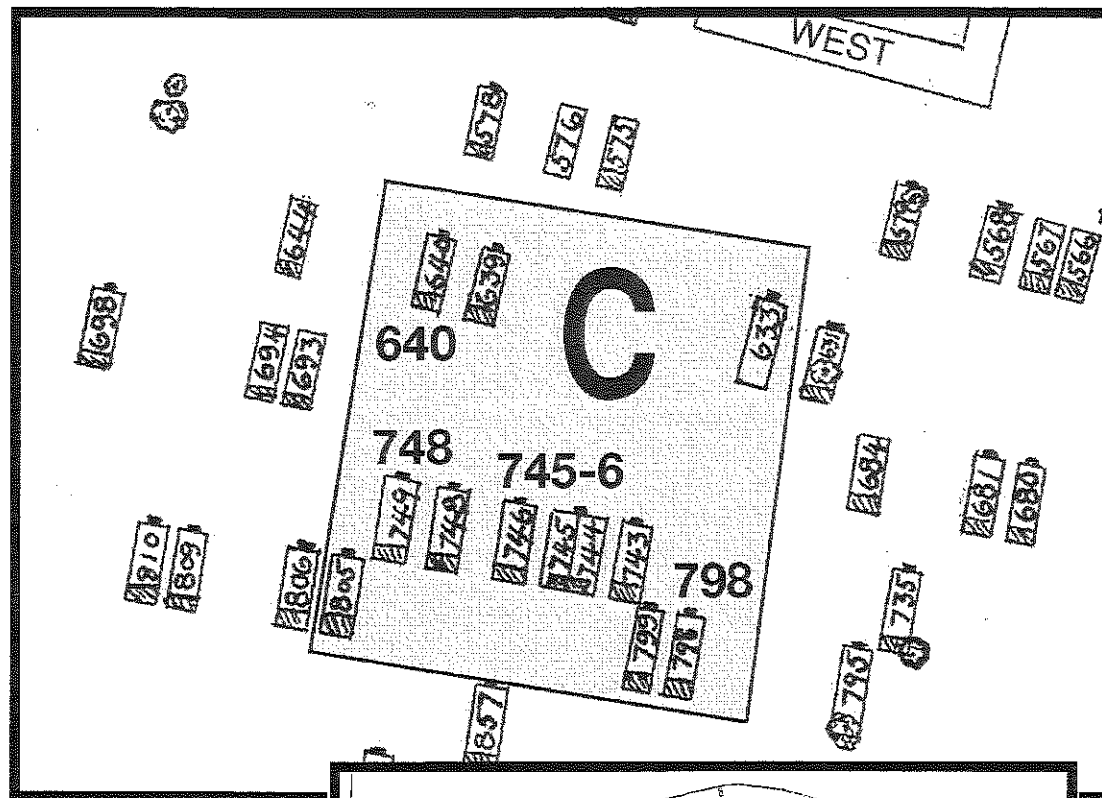
In 1706 he started a commonplace book, recording births and deaths as well as summarizing sermons, a practice, continued after his death by his son Noah, that proved invaluable when, in 1770, the church records were lost in a fire that destroyed Mr. Meriam's house. (The Museum has one notebook (1711-1713), the New England Historical Genealogical Society has the others).

B-208 Noah Hyde (1717-1786), the only surviving son of William and Ruth (Seger), Noah continued the commonplace books begun by his father and carried on by his daughter Ruth (b. 1740). He held several local offices, including selectman for two years, and served on a number of committees, notably: to audit the Treasurer's accounts as well as those of the officers and military committees; to instruct the representative and, in 1778, to study the draft of the new constitution for Massachusetts.

[B-272] is not shown on the plan. This is possibly the footstone missing from the grave of Thomas Prentice (d. 1709). Jackson, however, was of the opinion that the verse was written by Elizabeth Hammond, daughter of Thomas Prentice (d. 1730), to be inscribed on her father's footstone. But see A-491 and A-576.

B-349 Mary Hyde (c. 1633-1672) was the first wife of Jonathan Hyde (see Monument). She was the great-great-great-great-grandmother of James F.C. Hyde, the first mayor of Newton. This is the oldest surviving grave marker in Newton.





SECTION C

C-640 Lt. John Spring (1630-1717) was born in England and lived in Watertown before settling in the Village in the 1660s. His property extended from Centre Street westward as far as Smelt (Laundry) Brook, which he dammed to provide power for the Town's first grist mill. (The path, trodden from his house opposite the burying ground to his mill, known first as the Mill Lane, survives as Mill Street). Spring bequeathed a quarter share of the mill and water rights to his son-in-law, John Ward (B-108), and from him it descended through three generations of Trowbridges (A-554) before the pond eventually took its name from Joseph Bullough, the owner for a brief period in the nineteenth century.



Starting as a constable in 1688, Spring filled the positions of assessor, tithingman, and clerk of the market before being chosen selectman (eight years) and representative (three years.) Between 1681 and 1731 he was intermittently the sealer of weights and measures (a conflict of interest?). He signed the 1688 Articles of Agreement with Cambridge.

Like most millers at that time, he must have been, of necessity, a skilled carpenter/builder. After serving on the committee to site the 1697 Meeting House, he was involved in its construction as well as that of the two schools (for which he supplied the materials), and also, possibly, the pound. He was the first pound-keeper. In addition he made coffins.

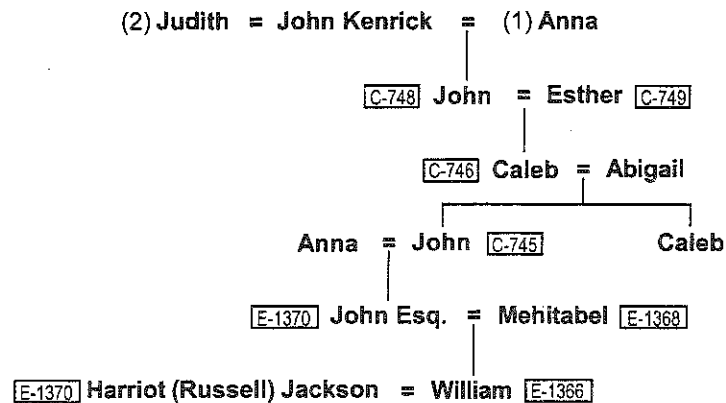
C-798 Stephen Cook (1647- 1736) lived in the house near the Watertown line that his father had bought from Abraham Williams (see Monument). Like Spring, Cook operated a grist mill on Smelt Brook. Both the dam and the mill were in the Watertown "wear lands". (Approximately thirty acres on the south side of the River were retained by Watertown to protect its rights to the fish weir when Newton/Brighton were annexed to Cambridge in the 1630s). The millpond, which extended into

Newton, was drained in the 1890s, and is now the Lincoln-Eliot School playground.

Cook served as constable, hayward and surveyor of highways, five times as selectman (once as moderator) and on the committees to find a site, and then build, the second Meeting House. He was, in addition, involved in building the school house for which he supplied bricks and lime.

Three generations of Kenricks are buried nearby:

C-748 John Kenrick (1641-1721) inherited the house and 250 acres in Oak Hill that his father John (1605-1656) bought when he moved from Boston in 1658. He (John d. 1721) was a selectman for nine years, and worked on the (Oak Hill) school house. He was on the committee to adjust the Meeting House accounts and to negotiate terms with John Cotton for filling the pulpit, and signed the petition to the General Court for a more centrally situated meeting house. In 1711 the Town bounded what had been a private way (Nahanton Street) through his property, from Brookline Street to the Charles, where the bridge still bears the family name. (His marker is presently lying face down).



C-746 Caleb Kenrick (1694-1771) inherited the homestead from his father, John (d. 1721). Caleb performed the routine duties of hayward, constable, assessor, and surveyor of highways before serving as selectman and moderator. He audited the treasurer's accounts for several years and was on the committees to negotiate with the General Court for relief from the expense of maintaining both public and private (including his own?) bridges over the River, to study bills of credit and to consult with other towns about a work house. He was also involved with the negotiations with Mr. Meriam (B-232).

C-745 John Kenrick (1722-1805) was the son of Caleb and the father of John Kenrick Esq. (see E-1370).



The Durant-Kenrick House on Waverly Avenue, bought by John Kenrick, Esq. in 1782



SECTION D

D-975 Margaret Trowbridge (1649-1727) was the daughter of John Jackson Sr. and the widow of James Trowbridge. The stonecutter Caleb Lamson was paid for her gravestones.

D-972 Edward Jackson (1652-1727) was the son of Edward (d. 1681) and his second wife Elizabeth. Except for a year (1684) as a fenceviewer, he seems to have by-passed the routine lower-echelon offices. He served as selectman for seven years (from 1687), as town clerk and treasurer for nineteen (from 1694) and as representative to the General Court for one (1707). In the same year he was elected deacon. He was a member of the committee that negotiated terms with the third minister, John Cotton, and then on another that arranged his ordination. In 1701 he was appointed to the committees to bound the addition to the burying ground that would accommodate the school, and to persuade John Staples (see D-1155) to become the first schoolmaster. In 1705, he was a member of the committee that negotiated with Watertown over the ever-troublesome line dividing the weir lands from Newton.

D-973 Samuel Jackson (1695-1742) was the son of Edward (d. 1727) and his second wife, Abigail Wilson. After serving as constable and assessor, he was a selectman for three years and audited the treasurer's accounts before becoming town clerk and treasurer himself. From 1735 until he died, he was also the Town's representative to the General Court and on a committee dealing with funds derived from a land grant to support the Cambridge Great Bridge. In addition he was on the committees to pave around the Meeting House, on the work house and on highways. On three occasions he was paid for "keeping school". His marker is probably the work of Nathaniel Lamson.

D-974 Oliver Munro (1748-1803) married Borrodell, daughter of Samuel Jackson. He joined the militia company raised in Newton during Shays's Rebellion in 1787. His name appears on the payroll drawn up by William Hammond (see F-1264).

D-1155 John Staples (1658-1740), a weaver, settled in Waban in about 1688. (The house at 1615 Beacon Street, the second on the site, incorporates the foundation and structural timbers of the original building). In 1670 he married Mary Craft (D-1154). Their wedding ceremony was probably the last one performed by Rev. John Eliot, Sr. They had no children, but Moses Craft (D-1179), probably Mary's nephew, "lived under [Staples's] roof" and inherited much of his estate. Among his bequests, Staples left seventeen acres to the Town "towards the support of the minister's fire". In 1781, when the Second Parish was incorporated, this west ministerial woodlot became a matter of dispute, not resolved until 1801 when it was conveyed to the West Parish.

Staples had served as fenceviewer and constable when he was persuaded to become the first schoolmaster (see Monument). In the same year he was elected selectman (eight years) and in 1714 was appointed town clerk and treasurer, an office he held until 1734. He was, in addition, a deacon and on committees to negotiate with John Cotton (D-1150), to choose a site for a new Meeting House (1714) and to dispose of the old building. In 1725 he was thanked by the Town for his services.

D-1085-6-7-8-9 Katey, Katey, Samuel, Mary and Sarah Craft, were the children of Samuel and Rebecca, and the grandchildren of Moses Craft (who lived with Staples).



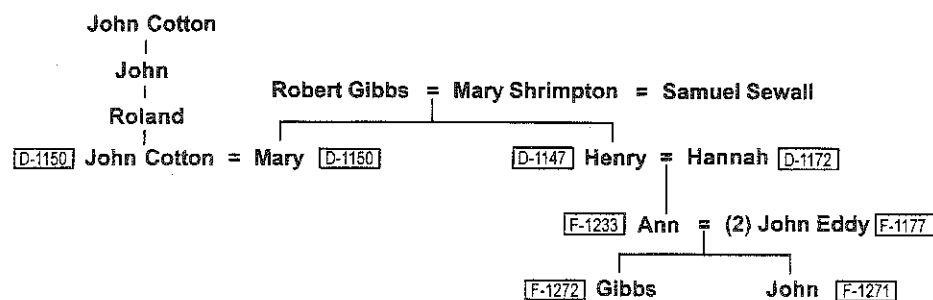
D-1025 Mary (Shrimpton) (Gibbs) Sewall (1667-1746) was the widow of Judge Samuel Sewall. By her first husband, Robert Gibbs, she was the mother of Henry Gibbs (D-1174) and Mary, the wife of Rev. John Cotton (D-1150), with whom she was living when the Judge courted her. They were married in 1722. (The Museum of Fine Arts owns a portrait of Robert Gibbs as a child (1670) painted by an unknown artist.)

D-1150 Rev. John Cotton (1693-1757) was the great-grandson of John Cotton of Boston, Lincolnshire, who settled in New England in 1633. A Harvard graduate, Cotton was offered an additional fifty pounds a year and a one-time payment of one hundred pounds "for his encouragement" when he was selected from among five candidates (including a future president of the college) to fill the pulpit. He was ordained in 1714 at the age of twenty-one.

D-1174 Henry Gibbs (1694-1761) and his wife, Hannah moved from Boston (where their children were born) to Newton Centre (Gibbs Street) about 1742. In the 1800s his "mansion house" on Centre Street was the home and office of Marshall Rice, the last town clerk before Newton became a city.

Between 1747 and '58, Gibbs was a selectman or moderator, or both simultaneously, as well as the representative to the General Court and a Justice of the Peace. He served on several committees, including those appointed to build a new pound (the stone building would stand on Pound Lane, now Cypress Street), to build a workhouse (1750, though not completed until 1763); to petition the General Court to be relieved of the expense of maintaining the Cambridge Great Bridge; to oppose a petition from Watertown for enlarging the weir lands (1757), and, after the death of his brother-in-law, John Cotton, the committees to find a new minister and, subsequently, to "encourage Mr. Meriam".

D-1172 Hannah Gibbs (1699-1783).





SECTION E

E-1221 Joshua Murdock (1721-1799) was the grandson of Robert, who came from Roxbury and built the Murdock-Wiswall House now in the grounds of Mount Ida Junior College (see Monument).

Joshua's house was on Homer Street near the Meeting House which, for a time, was under his care. After filling several routine offices, he was on the committee that established regulations for the workhouse and was one of the first overseers, and in the year that the first woman teacher was appointed (1766) was on the committee on schools. Present at Concord and Lexington, he was active during the Revolution, serving on several committees of correspondence, inspection and safety, and subsequently on several others including those appointed to take care of the families of non-commissioned officers and privates, to study the draft of the new state constitution, and, in 1781 on yet another to support the repeal of the "act regulating the market", thereby removing "all impositions...that infringe on the liberties of a great number of people in the Commonwealth". He was a sergeant in the army and lent the Town sixty-four pounds to pay soldiers. He continued to fill minor town offices for several years after the War.

E-1364 Jonas Stone (1722-1804) was the grandson of Ebenezer (A-518). His house, on Dedham Street in Oak Hill, was probably inherited from his father, John, as was a right to a place in the noon house where people rested between church services. Of three later Stone houses on Dedham Street, one might have been built by Jonas's son.

Between 1749 and the outbreak of the Revolution, Jonas served as surveyor of highways, assessor, constable, overseer of the poor (in and out of the workhouse), tithingman and selectman, as well as on committees on schools and school-houses, on the Cambridge Great Bridge and as a trustee for its maintenance; on supervising the south ministerial wood lot and, in 1773, to consider the request from families living in the

West part of town for an appropriation for winter preaching. It was denied.

In 1774 he served on a Committee of Correspondence and on committees to instruct the representative to the General Court, and, the next year, the delegate to the Provincial Congress. He was twice a member of a committee to raise soldiers (appointed in response to the decision of the Continental Congress) and in 1778 and '80 he served on the committees studying the draft constitution for Massachusetts. After the War he filled several less demanding town offices.

E-1359 Abigail Stone (1698-1788) was the wife of John, and mother of Jonas. Note the price of her stone carved just above ground level on the left: Two pounds, no shillings and six pence.

E-1353 Dr. Samuel Wheat Jr. (1703-1770) and his wife, Hannah, were living in Newton in 1727 when their son, another Samuel, was born. Samuel Jr.'s father, Samuel Sr. who by then had moved back to Boston, had owned land in Newton since 1703; the Wheat House on Waltham Street, which dates from about 1735, was probably the work of William Williams, a grandson of Isaac (B-325). Samuel Jr. was a selectman for a year (1753), on the committee to seat the Meeting House in 1751 and for several years on the committee on schools.

E-1352 Hannah Wheat (1706-1792) was married to Dr. Samuel Wheat Jr. by 1727. Daniel Hastings was paid for her gravestones.

E-1436 Samuel Hastings (1701-1776) was born in Cambridge. In the 1730s he moved to West Newton where he established a tannery on Cheesecake Brook. He was not very active in town affairs, except, in 1764, when he was one of three men chosen by residents in the west part of Town, (where there had been occasional winter preaching) to form a committee to raise funds to build another meeting house. (Building started that year but, despite repeated requests, the West Parish was not incorporated until 1778.) In the 1760s Hastings moved to New-

ton Corner, where his son-in-law, Ebenezer Howard, and later his son Daniel Hastings, operated the workshop that produced so many of the carvings still marking the graves in the East and West Parish burying grounds.

E-1370 John Kenrick Esq. (1755-1833) was the son of John Kenrick (d. 1805, see C-745). In 1780 he married Mehitabel, daughter of the Rev. Jonas Meriam, and two years later bought the house on Waverley Avenue built by Edward Durant in 1732. (The Durant-Kenrick House is open to the public on a limited basis.) By the 1790s Kenrick had established the "first nursery of much importance in New England, known particularly for peach trees raised from stone". In 1828, thinking it would be an advantage if the Poor Farm were stocked with fruit trees, he offered the overseers young apple, English cherry, and peach trees and as many large currant bushes as they would like.

In 1818 he was appointed to a committee that investigated "the subject of dealing with the Town's poor", and maybe it was as a result of this that in 1825 he gave the first, and the largest, of several donations towards establishing the fund, the interest from which was to be used for "the aid and relief" of Newton's industrious poor "through all generations". The Kenrick Fund is still administered by the Board of Aldermen.

In 1826, he was a founding member (with the second largest contribution, \$5,) of the Newton Association for the Promotion of Temperance and, in 1832, he was elected (the second) president of the New England (later, the Massachusetts) Anti-Slavery Society.

In addition, he served as selectman, representative to the General Court and on a committee to draw up a Remonstrance disapproving of the embargo on foreign goods.

E-1368 Mehitabel (Foxcroft) Meriam (1723-1770) was the wife of Rev. Jonas Meriam; mother-in-law of John Kenrick Esq.

E-1367 Harriot (Russell) (Jackson) Kenrick (1794-1874), widow of Steven Badger Jackson, (grandson of Michael (see G-

1191)) married William Kenrick in 1824.

E-1366 William Kenrick (1790-1872), son of John Esq., was a partner in the nursery business before inheriting it from his father. (His brother, John A., took the homestead. William's house on Nonantum Hill was subsequently moved to 144 Franklin Street). A founding member of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, William became widely known for the introduction of new strains of apples and for his publications. His first catalogue, in 1836, was followed by *The New American Orchardist* and *The American Silk Growers' Guide*. His interest in silk production led to experiments in mulberry growing in the South, and when, in the 1840s the venture failed, he sought to recoup his losses by developing part of his estate, creating Newton's fourth suburban subdivision, known first as Woodland Vale, and now as Kenrick Park.

In 1843, William was one of Newton's representatives appointed to meet with the committee of the General Court to discuss the division of the Town. Beginning as a dispute over where to build a Town House, in Newton Centre or in West Newton, the controversy threatened to split the Town along parish lines (see K-2094).

SECTION F

F-1265 Joshua Hammond (1720-1792) was the great-great-grandson of Thomas (see Monument) and the grandson of Mehitabel (A-684). Starting as a hogreeve in his early twenties, Joshua held just about every minor office, serving in due course on committees concerned with schools and school-houses, on drawing up regulations for the workhouse, and eventually as selectman and overseer of the poor. He was on the committee in 1773 that rejected the request of the inhabitants in the west part of Town for funds for winter preaching. In the years preceding the Revolution he was on the committee to

draft measures pertaining to the emergency, on another to respond to the tea embargo, and on Town Committees of Correspondence (four times).

When the war broke out, he was concerned with hiring soldiers and certifying their equipment. He was at Concord and Lexington and lent the Town 190 pounds to pay soldiers. He died of smallpox.

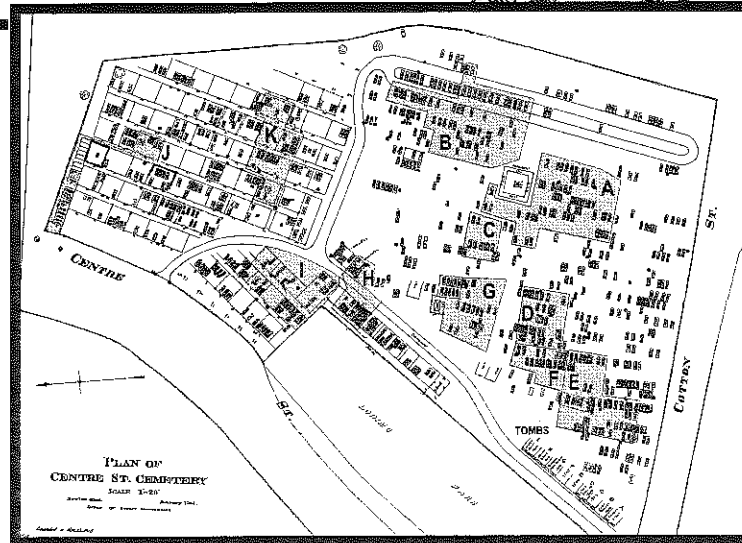
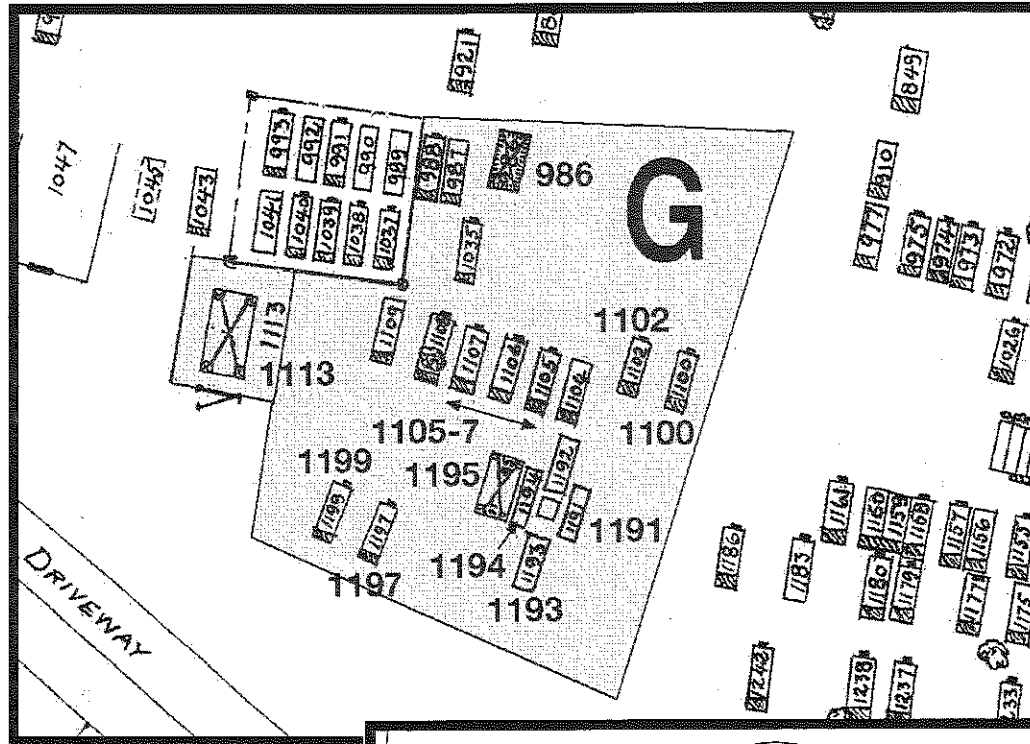
F-1264 Elizabeth (Prentice) Hammond (1714-1798) was the daughter of Captain Thomas Prentice (d. 1730) and may have written the verse on B-272 (see also Thomas Prentice (A-576) and Thomas Prentice (A-491)). She and Joshua Hammond were married in 1739. Their son William, born the following year, grew up to become a captain in the Newton militia during Shays's Rebellion. When, later, he moved to Maine, he took with him a copy of the payroll and a collection of other Prentice and Hammond papers recently acquired by the Museum.

F-1233 Ann (Gibbs) Eddy (1749-1793), the daughter of Hannah (D-1172) and Henry Gibbs (D-1174), married as her second husband, John Eddy (E-1177). Daniel Hastings was paid for carving her gravestones. (This stone, badly damaged, is lying on the ground.)

F-1177 John Eddy A.M. (1745-1787) taught at the grammar school in 1767 and was a collector of taxes in 1784 and 1785.

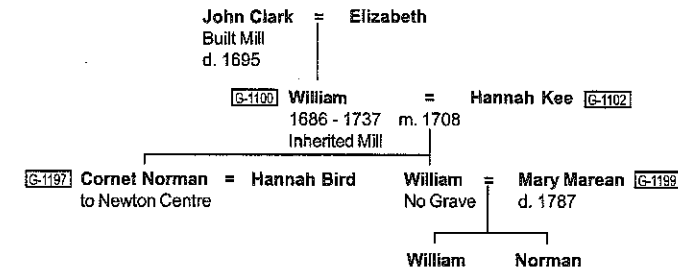
F-1271 John Eddy (1787-1805) was the son of Ann and John A.M.

F-1272 Gibbs W. Eddy (1783-1805) was the son of Ann and John A.M.



SECTION G

G-1100 William Clark (1686-1737) was the son of John (d. 1695) from whom he and his brother John (d. 1730) inherited the sawmill at Upper Falls. Built in 1688, it was the first mill on the Charles in Newton. By 1725, when William sold his share to Noah Parker, a fulling and a grist mill had been added.



G-1102 Hannah (Kee) Clark married William (d. 1737) in 1708.

G-986 Timothy Jackson (1756-1814).

Sarah (Winchester) Jackson (1755-1815), his wife.

Abigail Jackson (1763-1851), his youngest sister.

Timothy Jackson (d. 1814), son of Timothy (1726-1774), was born in the old homestead on the Natick Road (Washington Street) built in 1670 by his great-great-grandfather, Edward (d. 1681), for his son Sebas. Timothy was at Concord and Lexington, and the following year shipped out of Salem on a privateer, leaving the farm in the care of his newly widowed mother and his sisters. (The eldest, Lucy, gave her name to one of Newton's two chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution). On his return five years later, Timothy married Sarah Winchester, taught at the local school, revitalized the farm and, by 1802, had a share in a soap and candle factory in Boston (making him one of Newton's earliest commuters). At the

same time he became involved in public affairs: in 1791 he was appointed deputy sheriff for Middlesex County, in 1793, a major in the Middlesex Brigade and, shortly thereafter, a justice of the peace. He served as representative to the General Court from 1797 until his death, but ran unsuccessfully for Congress. Locally, beginning in 1779 as a hogreeve, he served in several capacities: tithingman, constable, overseer of the poor and, for six years, as selectman and sometimes as moderator. He was also a member of several special committees, such as those to raise soldiers, and, before he became one, to instruct the representative. On several occasions he was appointed to committees concerned with the schools, including that charged with approaching General Hull, as the executor and legatee of Judge Fuller, to inquire about the three hundred pounds left for building an Academy in Newton (see G-1113). In 1807 he was involved in the process of dividing the Town into wards for the first time.

In 1809 he rebuilt the homestead, incorporating the old saltbox in the present Federal Style building, now the Newton History Museum at 527 Washington Street.

Timothy and Sarah had six children; all buried here: H-1595 William (1785-1855), G-987 Lucretia (and her husband, Enoch Wiswall), J-2210 Stephen W. (1787-1847), I-1692 Francis, the historian, (1789-1861), H-1549 George (1792-1867) and I-1699 Edmund (1795-1875).

G-1107 Stephen Winchester (1723-1798) was the son of Stephen (d. 1751) from whom he inherited the mansion house and fifty-seven acres in Newton Highlands (once part of Haynes's farm) through which the highway to Upper Falls (now Winchester Street) had previously been bounded.

When Stephen died in 1798, he left all his Newton assets to his son Amasa, who gave three-quarters of an acre to enlarge the South Burying Ground. (Laid out in 1802, deeded to the Town in 1833).

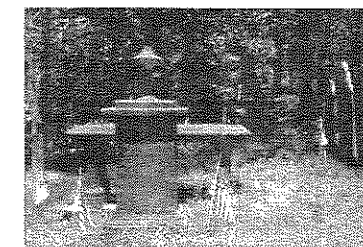
Stephen held a number of town offices including selectman

and overseer of the workhouse, and was involved in the care of several of the Town's needy: he provided a cow for the use of a family of Neutral French from Acadia quartered on the Town during the French and Indian War.

G-1106 Hannah (Hastings) (Aspinwall) Winchester (1740-1801) was the sister of one stonecutter, Daniel Hastings, (possibly responsible for this cluster of family markers) and the sister-in-law of another, Ebenezer Howard, who married her sister Mary. Hannah married Stephen Winchester in 1764; a second marriage for both.

G-1105 Stephen Winchester (1762-1786) was the son of Stephen (d. 1798) and his first wife, Beulah.

G-1193 General Michael Jackson (1734-1801) was a great-great-grand-son of Edward (d. 1681), and, like his (distant) cousin, Timothy (1756-1814), lived on Washington Street, their properties separated by the brook now culverted under Jackson Road. Michael filled several low-level town offices before 1775, but it is as a soldier that he is remembered. A lieutenant in the French and Indian War, he was chosen to captain the Newton Minutemen when they assembled on April 19. Promoted lieutenant-colonel after Bunker Hill, he was a full colonel by 1777 and, for the three weeks before he was discharged at the end of the war, he was a brevet-major.



Michael took part in most major engagements and was a member of Washington's personal staff. He was wounded twice.

Michael was accompanied by his wife Ruth (G-1192) and their five sons; only two of whom, Michael and Simon (who is buried in G-1195) were of military age when he presented them to the muster master in January, 1777. The younger three, Ebenezer, Amasa and Charles, initially rejected, were eventually allowed to join his battalion as drummers and fifers.

All were among the 340 original members of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Cincinnati.

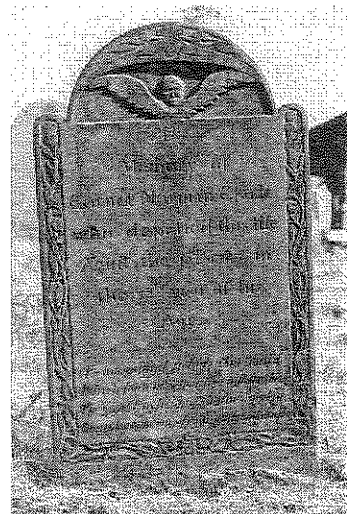
Ruth (Parker) Jackson (1731-1810), wife of General Michael, spent the winter of 1777-8 with him and their sons at Valley Forge, where her care for the sick and wounded earned the praise of General Washington, who called her "the angel of the army". Later, at West Point, she entertained the General and Mrs. Washington and, on the afternoon before he defected, Benedict Arnold. After General Michael's death, she lived with their son, Ebenezer, first in South Carolina and then in Middletown, Connecticut, where she died and is buried.

G-1191 Michael Jackson (1759-1802), the eldest son of Ruth and Michael (d. 1801) served in the army from January 1777 until he was marshaled out as a captain at the end of the war. In 1814 he married Sarah Badger and settled in Medfield. Their son, Steven Badger Jackson, was the first husband of William Kenrick's wife Harriot Russell (E-1367).

G-1194 Charles Jackson (1767-1801), the youngest son of Michael and Ruth was allowed to join his father's battalion in 1777 as a fifer: he eventually attained the rank of ensign. After the War he moved to Georgia and is buried there.

G-1195 Simon Jackson (1760-1818) held office occasionally during the 1780s and '90s. There is a portrait in oils of his son, Charles Augustus (1790-1868), in the Museum.

G-1197 Cornet Norman Clark (1711-1787), the son of William and Hannah (G-1100, 1102) lived on the Sherborne Road (Clark Street) in Newton Centre. He filled several local positions, was a selectman for five years and served on committees concerned with soldiers' pay, with the schools, on the workhouse, on the bridge near Upper Falls, and on the 1781 Committee of Correspondence. He was a trustee of the fund for the Cambridge Great Bridge and lent ninety pounds to pay the



soldiers.

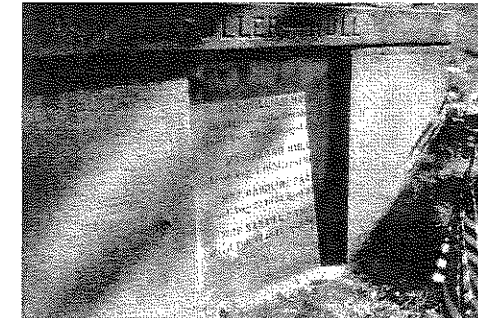
G-1199 Mary Clark (1707-1787) was Cornet Norman's sister-in-law: the wife of William and Hannah's son William.

G-1113 Fuller-Hull Tomb.

Judge Abraham Fuller (1720-1794), son of Joseph (A-334) and Sarah (Jackson), inherited the family farm on his father's death, by which time the property extended from Newtonville Square almost to Beacon Street.

Fuller filled several lower level offices before being elected selectman and, from 1766, serving for twenty-seven years as town clerk and treasurer. At the same time he was Newton's representative to the General Court for eighteen years, senator, on the Governor's Council and a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. In addition, he was on a committee to oppose a petition from Watertown to annex additional acres to the weir lands (see C-798), and another to oppose the amount of water diverted through Mother Brook (in Dedham) from the Charles River to the Neponset (1767). Local committees of which he was a member dealt primarily with schools and the ministry.

Abraham Fuller represented the Town at the Convention at Faneuil Hall (1768) and at the Provincial Congress in 1775. He lent funds for the support of the French Family (see G-1107) and for paying soldiers.



Top: The Fuller-Hull Tomb before emergency restoration work. Middle and Bottom: Interior views of the vault.

Always interested in education, as a young man Fuller ran a private grammar school, and in his will he left three hundred pounds for an Academy in Newton. Because of the poor state of the finances of the legatee, his son-in-law William Hull, the Fuller Academy did not become a reality until the 1830s (see below).

General William Hull (1753-1825), born in Derby, Connecticut, took his law degree at Yale and was admitted to the Bar in 1775. He had a distinguished military career during the Revolution: commissioned major in 1777 and lieutenant-colonel in '79. In 1781, he married Sarah, only surviving child of Abraham and Sarah Fuller, and, after the war, settled in Newton Corner (where he built Nonantum House), started a law practice and became involved in the affairs of the Town. He filled several routine offices before representing Newton in the legislature and sitting as a justice on the Court of Common Pleas. He served on committees to present petitions to the General Court objecting to taxes levied for the upkeep of the County Bridge at Lower Falls (1784) and the Great Bridge in Cambridge (1795); and another requesting permission to tax non-residents. In 1797 he was a member of a local committee appointed to settle the line between the East and West Parishes.

In 1786 on behalf of the Town, he drafted a letter declining to take part in Shays's Rebellion, and as a major general in the Massachusetts militia, played a major role in its suppression.

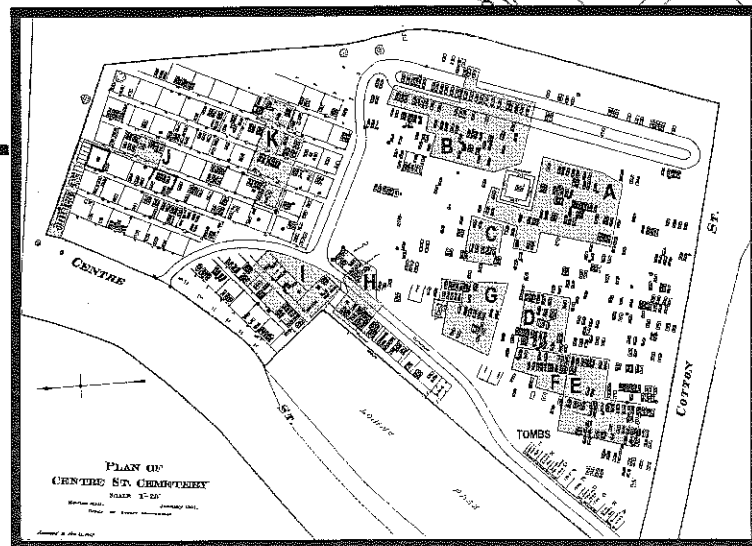
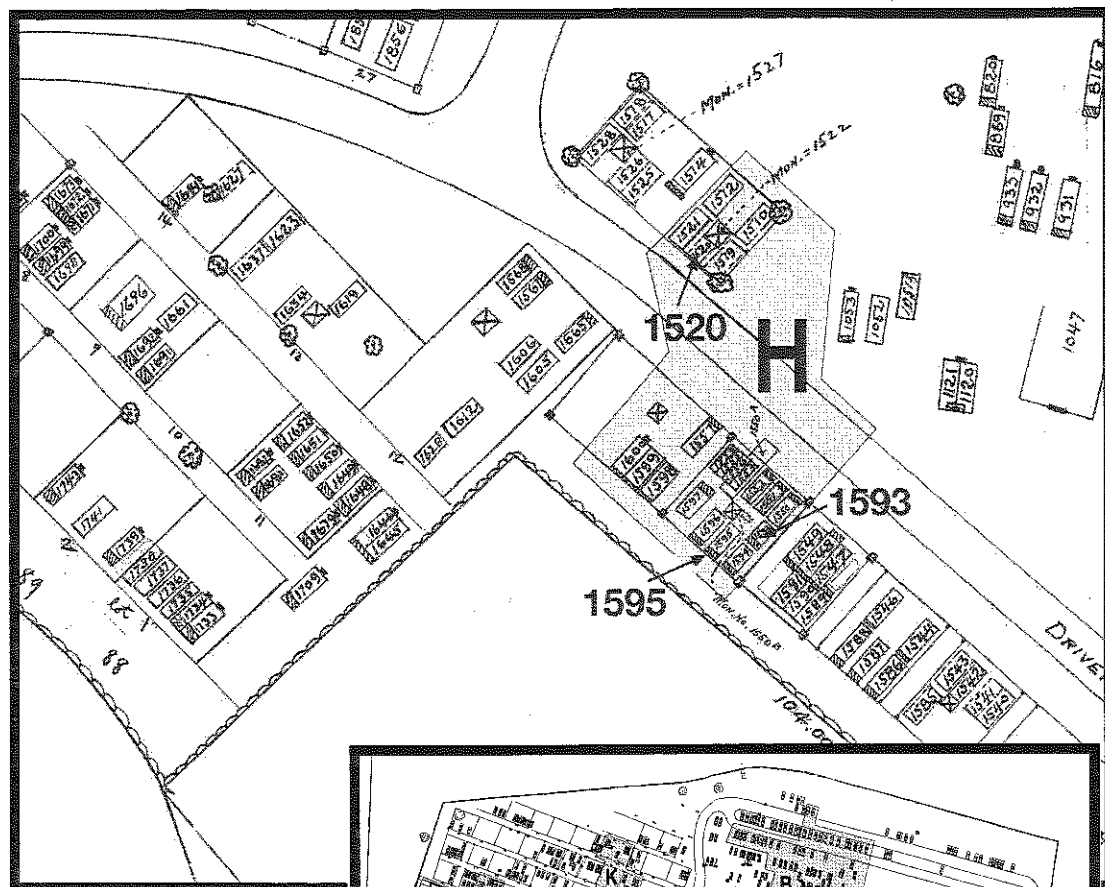
In 1805 he was appointed Governor of the Michigan Territory. When the War of 1812 broke out he was he was commissioned Brigadier-General of the North-Western Army. Besieged in Detroit (with several thousand women and children), he surrendered to the British, was sentenced to be shot, but was pardoned by President Madison.

In 1814, he and Sarah were able to return to the family farm in Newtonville, but in such straitened circumstances that he was unable, as legatee and executor, to pay the Town the three hundred dollars bequeathed by his father-in-law for an "

Academy". (The Fuller Academy, built after Hull's death, was short-lived. The building was subsequently used by Horace Mann for the Normal School, and then by Nathaniel T. Allen for the West Newton English and Classical School.)

G-1113 Sarah (Fuller) Hull (1757-1824), daughter of Abraham and Sarah Fuller, accompanied her husband on his campaigns during the Revolution and later to Michigan. One of the two Newton chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution is named after her.

G-1113 Othello Freeman, said to have been the last slave in Newton, belonged to William Hull. Commonly known as Tillo, tradition has it that he was buried "near" the General, whom he outlived by several years.



SECTION H

The burying ground was enlarged twice in the nineteenth century. In 1804 the Proprietors of Tombs bought the strip of land bordering Loring Park, and in 1834 the Town bought the abutting acre to the north on Centre Street. Six years later a committee was appointed to lay out family plots, sell them and use the proceeds to “improve and beautify the grounds”. Although most of the approximately 100 lots appear to have been sold by the mid-1840s, some owners subsequently chose to be buried (or have family members reburied) in the, by then, more fashionable Newton Cemetery on Walnut Street (consecrated in 1855). Thus, a number of lots are unoccupied. There are several differences between the old burying place and the nineteenth century additions: carved surfaces no longer necessarily face west, white marble rather than gray slate is the material of choice, and in addition to markers, monuments, often bearing the names of family members buried elsewhere, are not uncommon.

H-1595 William Jackson (1783-1855) was the eldest son of Timothy (G-986) and Sarah. After being educated in Newton (part of the time at the school in which his father taught), he lived for several years in Boston while working in Timothy’s soap and candle factory (and serving a term as state representative).

Back in Newton, his involvement in local affairs began in 1823, when he served as selectman and on a committee to see to the inoculation of cattle against swine-pox, and continued until just before his death.

The intervening years were a period of steady growth for Newton; administering the Town became more complex and as the number of offices proliferated there was hardly one of importance that William did not fill. Schools were an ongoing interest: he was on the first (1827) and several subsequent committees to “take over the general superintendance of schools agreeable to the commonwealth”, to “apportion” money

among the growing number of schools, and, in the early 1850s, to study the necessity for a "pure high school". (When the high school eventually opened in 1859 one of the first pupils was William's grandson, William Jackson Fuller, who kept a diary, now at the Musuem.) William also helped start, and was the president of the first Board of Trustees of the Newton Female Academy, a private high school in Newton Centre (attended by at least two of his daughters). He was several times on committees concerned with the Poor House, including one to "provide better accommodation for idiotic and insane paupers."

He was a member of committees that approached General Hull, then his widow, and finally, his heirs, on the matter of Judge Fuller's bequest (see G-1113), and in the 1840s was involved in the discussions concerning the division of the Town along parish lines, and then, when those proposals were turned down, the choice of a site for a new Town House (see E-1366).

William was a member of the committee that applied successfully to the postmaster general for a post office in Newton Corner, and on others to explore more effective means for collecting taxes and repairing highways. With his brother-in-law, Elijah F. Woodward, he was on the committee charged with laying out and improving the addition to the burying ground.

A founding member and first treasurer of the Newton Temperance Association, William was the first president of its offshoot, the Newton Savings Bank. He served at various times as Newton's state representative, and, for one session, in Congress.

In addition to being a deacon of the First Church, he helped gather the Eliot Church (1845) and was the first president of the Sunday School Union.

An early advocate of railroads, as opposed to canals, as a means of connecting the east coast to points further west, it was due largely to William's efforts that the Boston and Worcester Railroad was laid through Newton (rather than Waltham) in the 1830s, and that frequent commuter service was introduced a decade later. Among the first to anticipate the effect on the real estate market, he was the developer of

Walnut Park, Newton's first residential subdivision, and later of Waban Park, and was one of the directors of the North Auburndale Land Company. He was involved in seven railroad companies.

It is unclear who among the members of his family, two wives: Hannah Woodward and Mary Bennett and seventeen children, are buried here. For instance, William Ward Jackson (1831-1881) whose marker has no plot number is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Lower Falls.

H-1593 Ellen Dorinda Jackson (1825-1902), the fifth daughter of William and Mary was a talented artist; her flower paintings are currently reproduced as note cards by the Newton Historical Society.

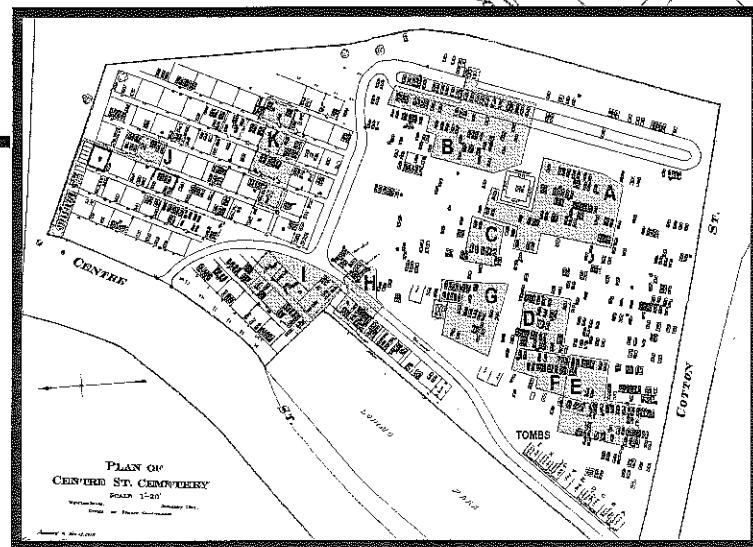
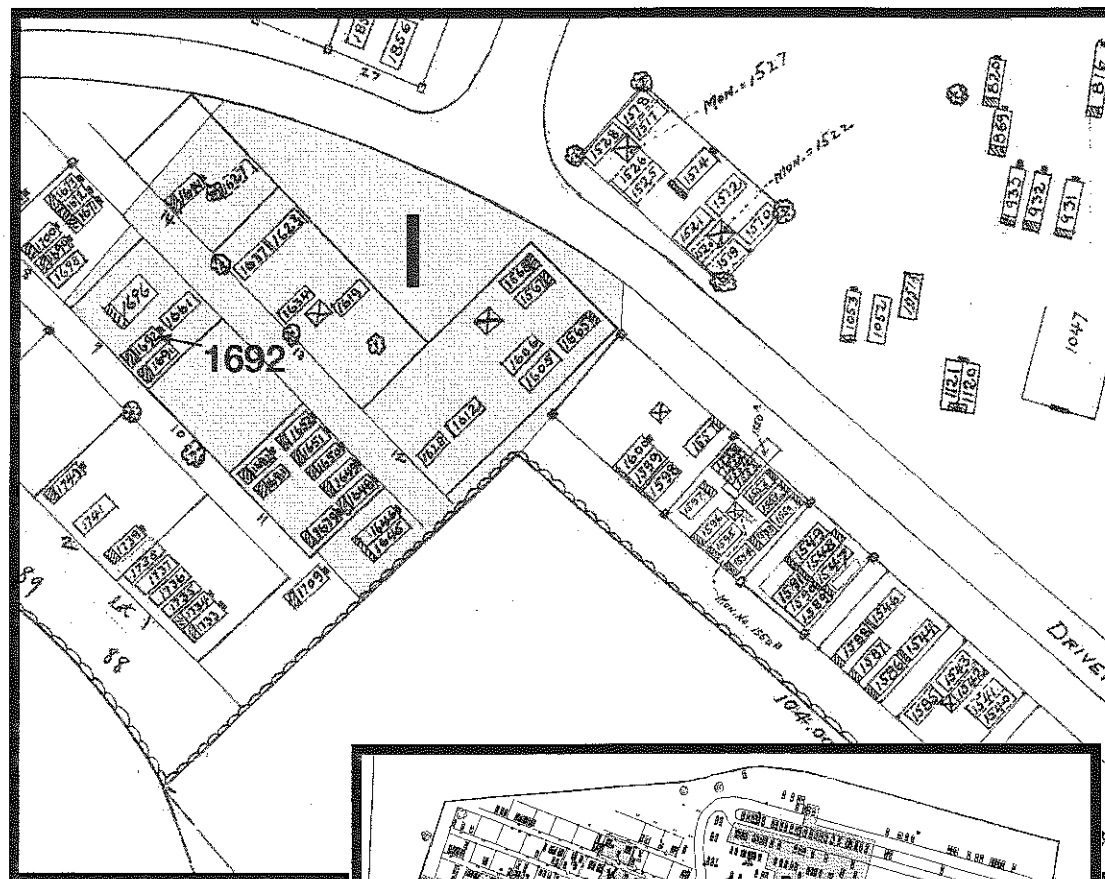
In April 1865, she organized the local branch of the New England Freedman's Aid Society, becoming the first president, an office she held for thirty-seven years. The society's sewing circle, which met every two weeks, made and collected clothes and similar items that were sent to southern institutions such as Tuskegee and the Hampton Institute.

Ellen's *Annals from the Old Homestead* written in 1894, is the main source of information on the house as a station on the Underground Railroad.

H-1520 Reverend Jonathan Homer (1759-1843) was ordained in 1782, the year after Newton was divided into two parishes.

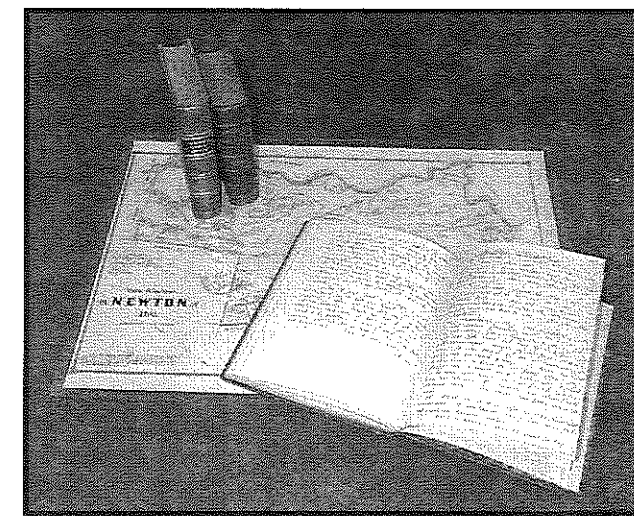
In 1898, the Massachusetts Historical Society published his *Description and History of Newton in the County of Middlesex*. Anecdotal rather than chronological, he dwells largely on John Eliot and the Protestant Mission, but also notes that in the (then) sixteen years of his "pastoral office" he endeavored "to recover the wrecks of history, civil and religious" lost in Mr. Meriam's fire.

Although his memorial tablet, and those of his wife, Anna (Curtis) Homer (H-1519) and their son, Jonathan, (H-1521) are here, they are buried with her family in Tomb C.

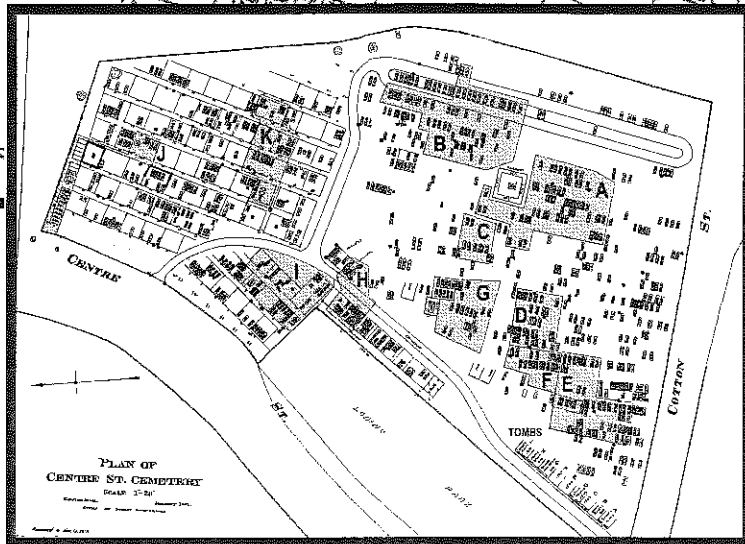
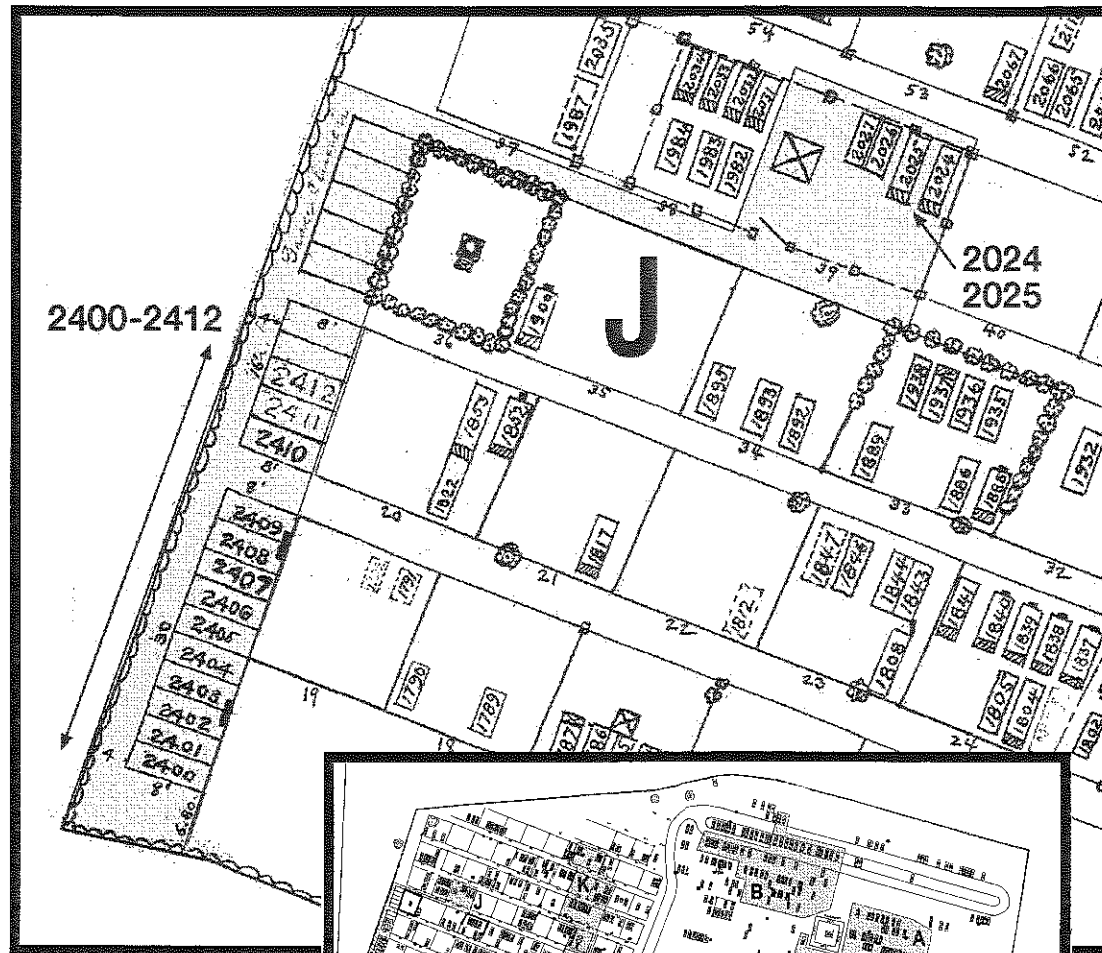


SECTION I

I-1692 Francis Jackson (1789-1861), third son of Timothy and Sarah, though peripherally involved in some of his brother William's real estate ventures, spent his adult life in Boston. "A generous friend of anti-slavery reform", in 1844 he resigned his position as justice of the peace because he could not continue to support the constitution of the United States while "it regarded the slave code as lawful in the states that enacted it". He was for many years the president of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society and treasurer of the Vigilance Committee. He was an early champion of women's rights. Locally, however, he is best known for his *History of Newton*, which includes the *Genealogical Registry of its Inhabitants prior to 1800* from which much of the material in this guide is drawn.



Map, notebook and 1st edition of Jackson's *History of Newton*.



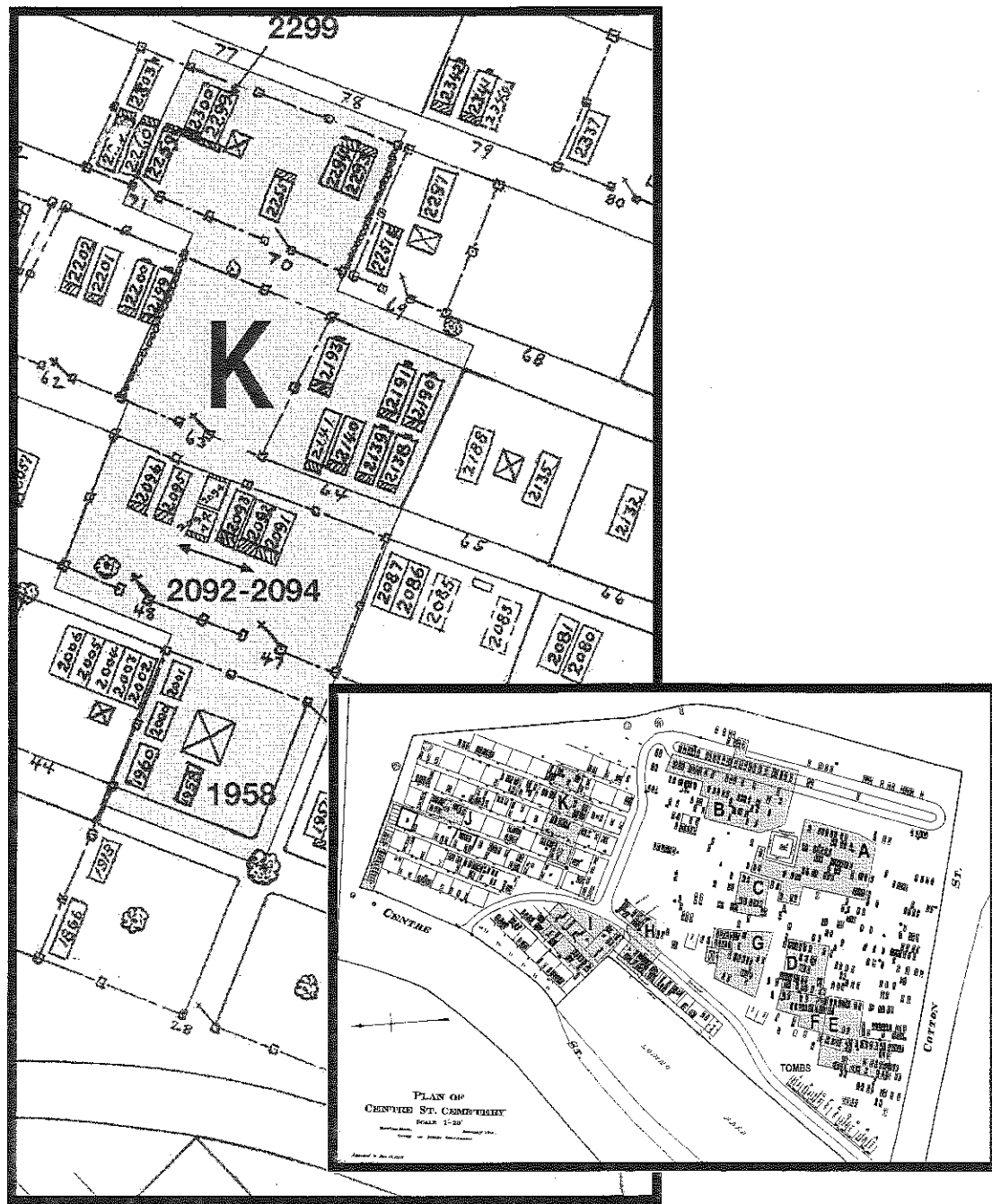
SECTION J

J-2400-2412 The Grace Episcopal Church has owned these and seven additional unnumbered lots along the fence since 1902, as well as ten graves in an unidentified plot acquired in the 1880s.

J-2034 Matthias Collins (1745-1785). The elder Collins, a blacksmith, bought 100 acres on Beacon Street in 1778. Added to by his son, the younger Matthias, the Collins farm was one of four that were subdivided to create the village of Waban in the late nineteenth century.

In the few years he lived in Newton, this Matthias held various town offices and was on the committee to study the draft constitution for Massachusetts.

J-2025 Matthias Collins (1776-1856). There was hardly a year between 1809 and 1832 that the younger Matthias was out of office, serving mostly in those concerned with town finances, such as assessor, collector, auditor, and on committees to audit the accounts of the Kenrick Fund and the Poor House, and to "apportion" school money. He was a selectman, state representative and the first treasurer of the Newton Female Academy (see William Jackson). When he died his estate was divided among his three sons: Amasa (J-1982) is buried here, but better remembered are Frederick, who built the Greek Revival house still standing at 1734 Beacon Street, and Edward, active in town, county and state government and treasurer of the Newton Savings Bank.



SECTION K

K-1958 Joseph Bacon (1782-1854) was born in Sudbury, Massachusetts. He married Beulah Fuller in 1805 and came to Newton probably in the same year, settling first in West Newton and then in Newton Corner (by mid-century there would be three Bacon houses on Bacon Street). One of Newton's first successful businessmen (he made his money as "a country trader" and in real estate), he regularly filled low-level positions such as sealer of leather, fireward, fenceviewer, as well as that of selectman. He served on committees "to better regulate the schools", to "better accommodate idiotic and insane paupers", two on building a new Town House (see J-2094), as well as others on providing a fire engine, on safeguarding the Town's fishing rights on the river, and on several occasions on auditing the Town accounts. He was a member of the first Board of Directors of the Newton Savings Bank. When, in 1843, he declined serving as a fenceviewer, his place was filled by his son, Joseph Newman, the first of several future generations of Bacons who contributed significantly to the commercial, political and cultural life of Newton, town and city.

K-2093 Silas Fuller (1765-1844), a great-great-grandson of the original John (d. 1699), served at times as poundkeeper, tithingman and constable, but, most frequently, as surveyor of lumber.

In 1804 he was on the committee to build the new Meeting House in the First Parish. It is possible that, like two of his sons, he was a builder.

K-2092 Ruth (Hoogs) Fuller (1774-1837) was the daughter of William Hoogs who built the first dam across the river below Washington Street at Lower Falls. She married Silas Fuller in 1793.

K-2094 John Bentley Hoogs Fuller (1795-1870), eldest son of Silas and Ruth, was a builder. Constantly serving as surveyor

of lumber, he was appointed in 1833 to the committee to "attend to the building of the Town House" (later the Lyceum on the Common in Newton Centre) and, in 1844, to another "for building the Town House", this time in West Newton, which began the deliberations leading eventually to the purchase and renovation of the Second Church on Washington Street that became Newton's first Town Hall. He was also involved in the building of the Female Academy in Newton Centre.

K-2299 Elijah F. Woodward (1786-1846) inherited the house at 50 Fairlee Road in Waban that his great-grandfather had built in 1681. (The house descended through his younger son to the seventh generation before it was sold in the 1960s; his elder son, Ebenezer, one of Newton's earliest commuters, built the house at 488 Centre Street).

Woodward was a surveyor, and with William F. Ward (great-great-grandson of Newton's original John) was responsible for the 1831 map of Newton and, in 1840, for the plan for the addition to the burying ground. After his death a handwritten version was found on which, no doubt as a member of the committee charged with selling the lots, he had written the names of the purchasers. His interest in the burying ground was not new: in 1822, he had been a member of the committee appointed to repair the tombs of the former ministers (see John Eliot B-290).

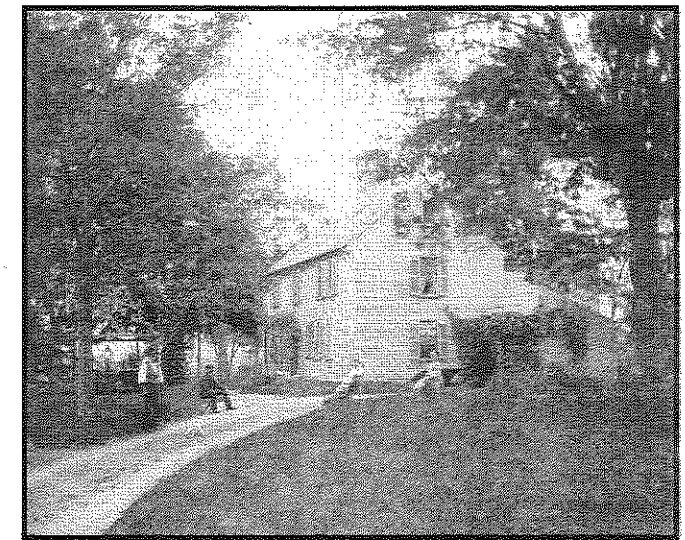
He was a deacon of the First Church, lead the choir (he was a member of the Newton Musical Society) and organized the Sunday School, which he ran for thirty-seven years. He acted as secretary to the committee formed to organize the Female Academy in Newton Centre and served on the building committee.

His involvement in Town government began in 1810 with the usual routine appointments and lasted until his death. He served as selectman several times, and four years as state representative. He was town clerk and treasurer from 1826 until he died. His primary interest seems to have been education: he served on committees on schools and schoolhouses, to

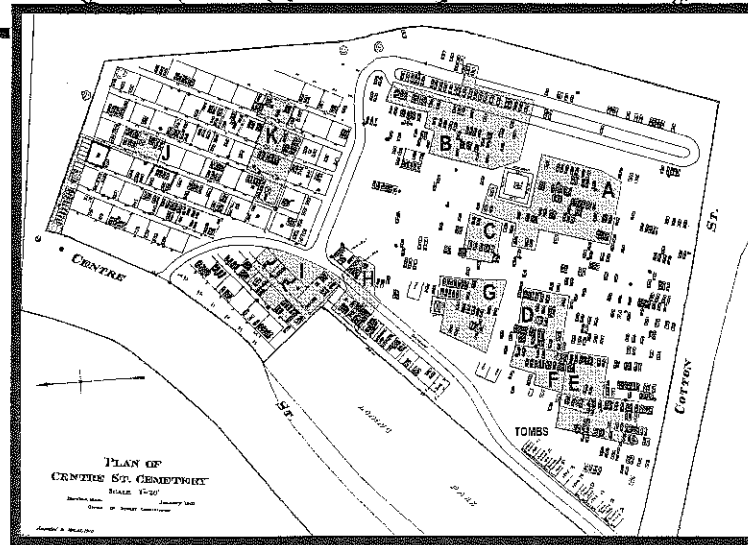
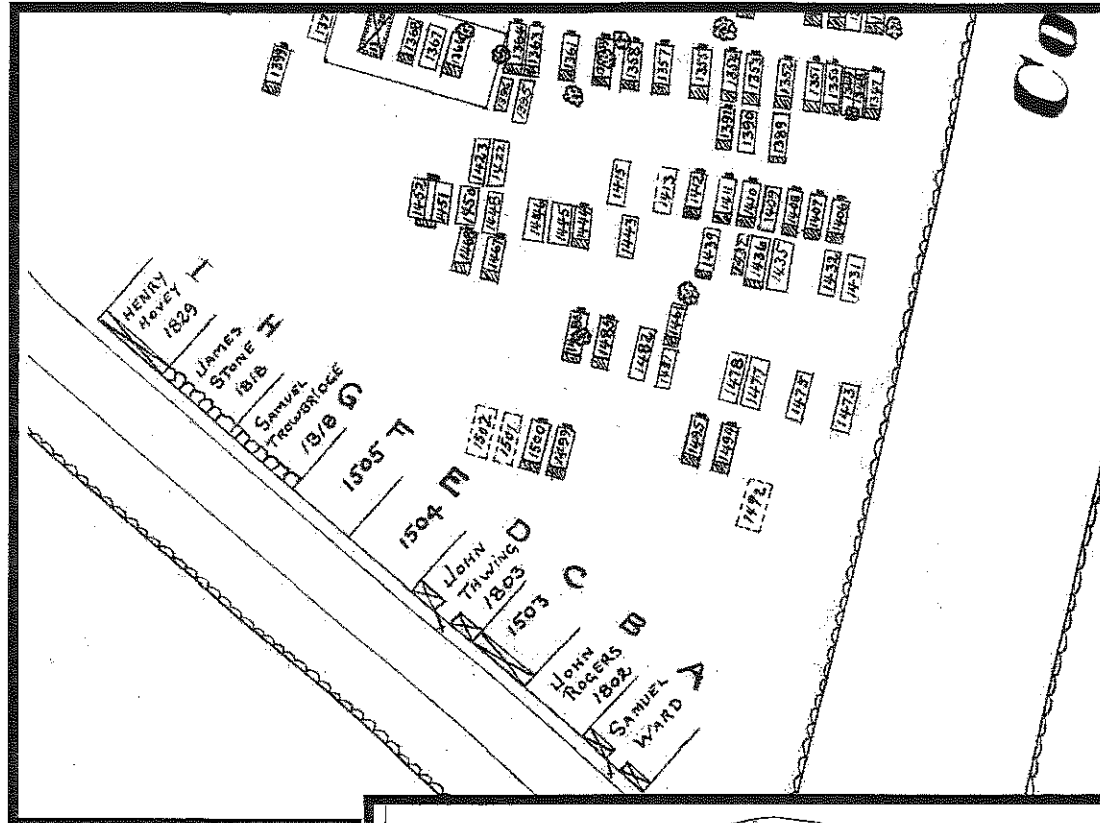
appoint teachers, to "apportion" school money (1817), for the "better regulating of schools" (with the ministers from the First, Second and Baptist Churches), and to carry into effect the state laws relating to public schools by setting up committees to supervise them (1826), among others.

He was on a committee to provide better accommodation for "idiotic and insane paupers" and another to meet with the State Legislature to discuss the division of the Town (1844), and, the following year, to consider building a new Town House in West Newton (see K-2094).

Recording his death, the minutes of the town meeting add: "In this inflicted event the Town has sustained a loss unprecedented in its history."



The Woodward Homestead on Fairlee Road in Waban.



TOMBS

Tomb F: John Woodward (1725-1801), grandson of the original settler, was the third generation to live in the Fairlee Road house. His involvement in public affairs began in 1752, and for the next four decades he filled a variety of offices carrying varying degrees of responsibility: tithingman, surveyor of highways, assessor, overseer of the poor, and as a member of the committee to draft rules and regulations for the workhouse. He served on committees concerned with the schools (and taught at two in his neighborhood), was appointed to another to appear at the General Court to answer the petition of residents in the west part of Town who wanted to be "put off" as a separate parish, and on others to save the Town from the expense of the Great Bridge in Cambridge and the County Bridge in Lower Falls, and, in 1797, on yet another to join with the mill-owners at Upper Falls to "defend their natural rights against any invaders (i.e. mill-owners on the Neponset) in attempting to turn the stream of the [Charles] River out of its natural course" through Mother Brook in Dedham.

He was active before and during the Revolution. In 1774, he was on the committee considering the tea embargo, on three occasions on Town Committees of Correspondence, on another to draft instructions for the Town's delegate to the Provincial Congress, and on others to raise Newton's quota of men, to audit the accounts for hiring them (he lent money to pay them), and to care for the families of non-commissioned officers and privates.

He was at Concord and Lexington, by which time he had risen from ensign to captain.

Tomb C: Obadiah Curtis (d. 1811) and Martha Curtis (d. 1816) moved from Boston to what was then known as East Newton in the 1780s where they and subsequently their descendants lived on Waverley Avenue. A wheelwright, he had taken part in the Tea Party and played an active role in the Revolution. He held minor offices in Newton. The Curtis's had

two daughters: Anna who married the Reverend Jonathan Homer and Martha who married, first, Dr. Samuel Clarke of Boston, and after his death, the Reverend James Freeman.

For the **Reverend Jonathan Homer (1759-1843), Anna Homer (d. 1824) and Jonathan Homer Jr.** see memorial tablets **H-1520**.

Tomb C: Samuel Clarke (d. 1830) and Rebecca (Hull) Clarke (1790-1865). Samuel was the son of Dr. Samuel Clarke of Boston and Martha Curtis. In 1805 he married Rebecca, daughter of General William Hull (G-1113). After living briefly in Newton, they moved to Hanover, New Hampshire, where he graduated as a physician from Dartmouth. Returning to Newton, he practiced medicine from their home near the burying ground on Centre Street for several years, during which he developed an interest in the manufacture of drugs and chemicals, which took them briefly to Boston. Back in Newton once again, they built the original wing now part of the house at 168 Homer Street, and in 1826 bought from Sarah Hull (Rebecca's mother) approximately thirteen acres at the southern extremity of the old Fuller Farm. Included in the purchase was the right to dam Cold Spring Brook and create a pond to supply water power for a mill for grinding chemicals. Samuel died shortly after production started and Rebecca moved to Boston where, for many years, she ran the boarding house at 3 Somerset Street frequented by Horace Mann, the Peabody sisters, and their friends and associates.

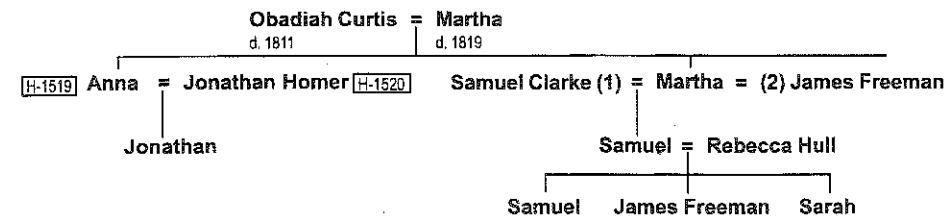
The millpond, somewhat modified, is now one of several linked waterbodies that dominate the landscape in the Newton Cemetery.

Tomb C: Reverend James Freeman (d. 1835) and Martha (Curtis) (Clarke) Freeman (d. 1841) James Freeman, Martha (Curtis) Clarke's second husband, was for forty years the rector of King's Chapel in Boston, the first church in the vicinity, according to Samuel Francis Smith, "to declare itself in favor of the new theology" (Unitarianism). After commuting for many years, he retired to the house on Waverley Avenue where he

was host to many distinguished scholars and, this time according to King's Handbook, raised the first tomatoes in Massachusetts (from seed he brought from Baltimore).

Tomb B: John Rogers (1724-1815), a blacksmith, was, according to the Rev. Jonathan Homer, "noted for his singular skill displayed in various mechanical inventions". In 1761 he made and presented to the Meeting House, "an excellent clock", which, when the First Church closed its doors, was among the "singular objects" donated to the Museum of Fine Arts.

Beginning in 1754 as a surveyor of highways, Rogers served the Town in various capacities, including, three years as selectman, and in 1773 on the committee that rejected the request of the residents in the west part of Town for funds for winter preaching. Then, in 1777, his name and that of Joseph Bullough (who, for a brief period operated the mill on the pond that now bears his name) were added to the list of "inimical persons". No reasons are recorded, and in both cases a declaration of loyalty was accepted later in the year and Rogers went on to serve on committees to regulate the price of sundry articles, to raise soldiers and to study the new constitution for Massachusetts. In 1798, at the age of seventy-four, he filled what appears to have been his last office, that of weigher of bread.



It took little more than a generation for the railroad to transform Newton from a tightly knit community in which everyone was related to nearly everyone else, to a rapidly expanding residential suburb in which new names soon outnumbered the old. The Newton Cemetery opened in 1855, and from then on, interest in the old burying ground waned. But, despite periods of low maintenance and incidents of vandalism (the vaults had to be sealed early in the last century), the oldest, most fragile, and the most evocative of the city's historic sites has endured, a reminder of when and how Newton began.

SOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Material for *Where Newton Began* was culled from several sources, principally the Newton Town Records and the Document Collection at the Newton History Museum. (*Newton Massachusetts, 1679-1779, A Biographical Directory* compiled with Priscilla Ritter is a good short cut to the Town Records.) In addition, I have used the standard histories of Newton, the Middlesex County Registry of Deeds and the Registry of Probate. I am indebted to Laurel Gabel, now Director Emerita of the Association of Gravestone Studies, for the names of the stone cutters mentioned in Newton wills and inventories.

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T.F., 2004

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