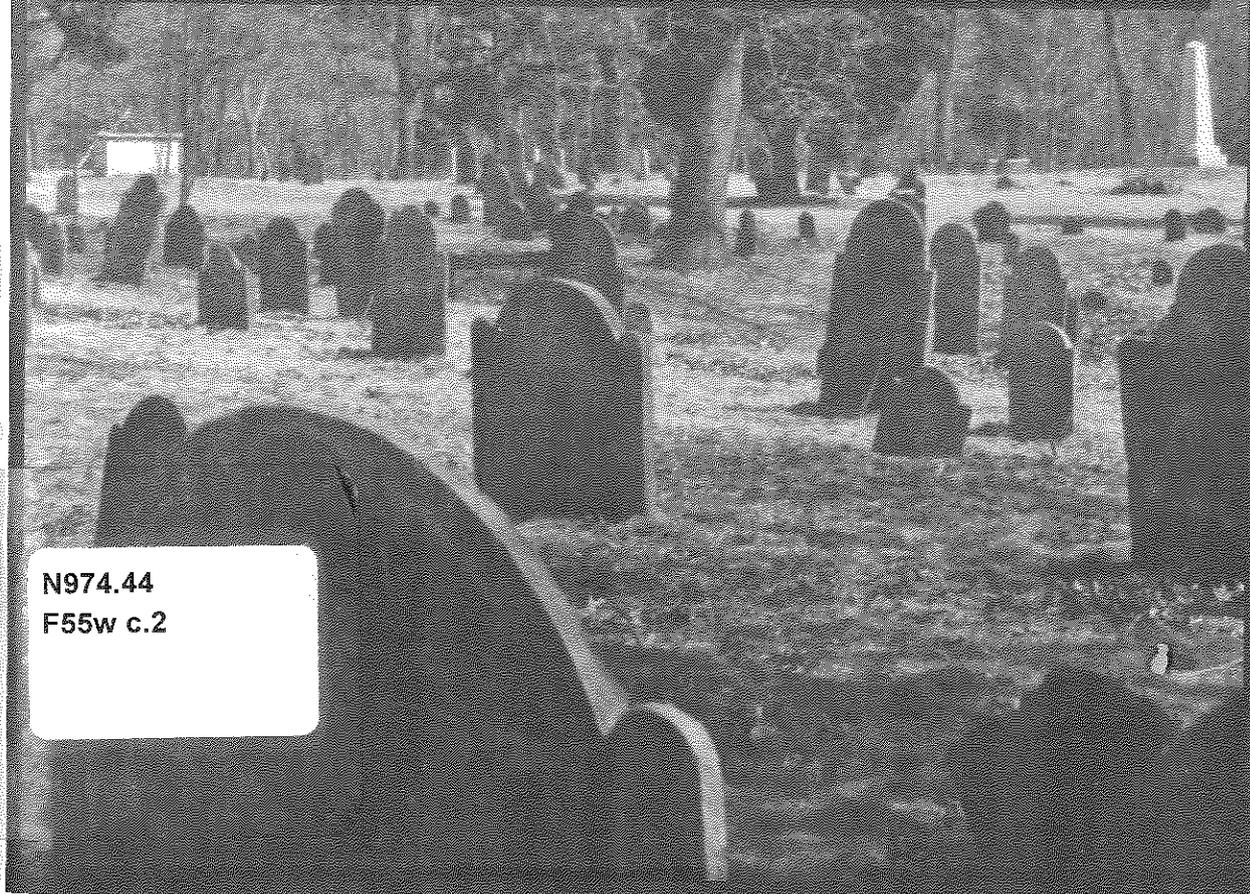


# WHERE NEWTON BEGAN

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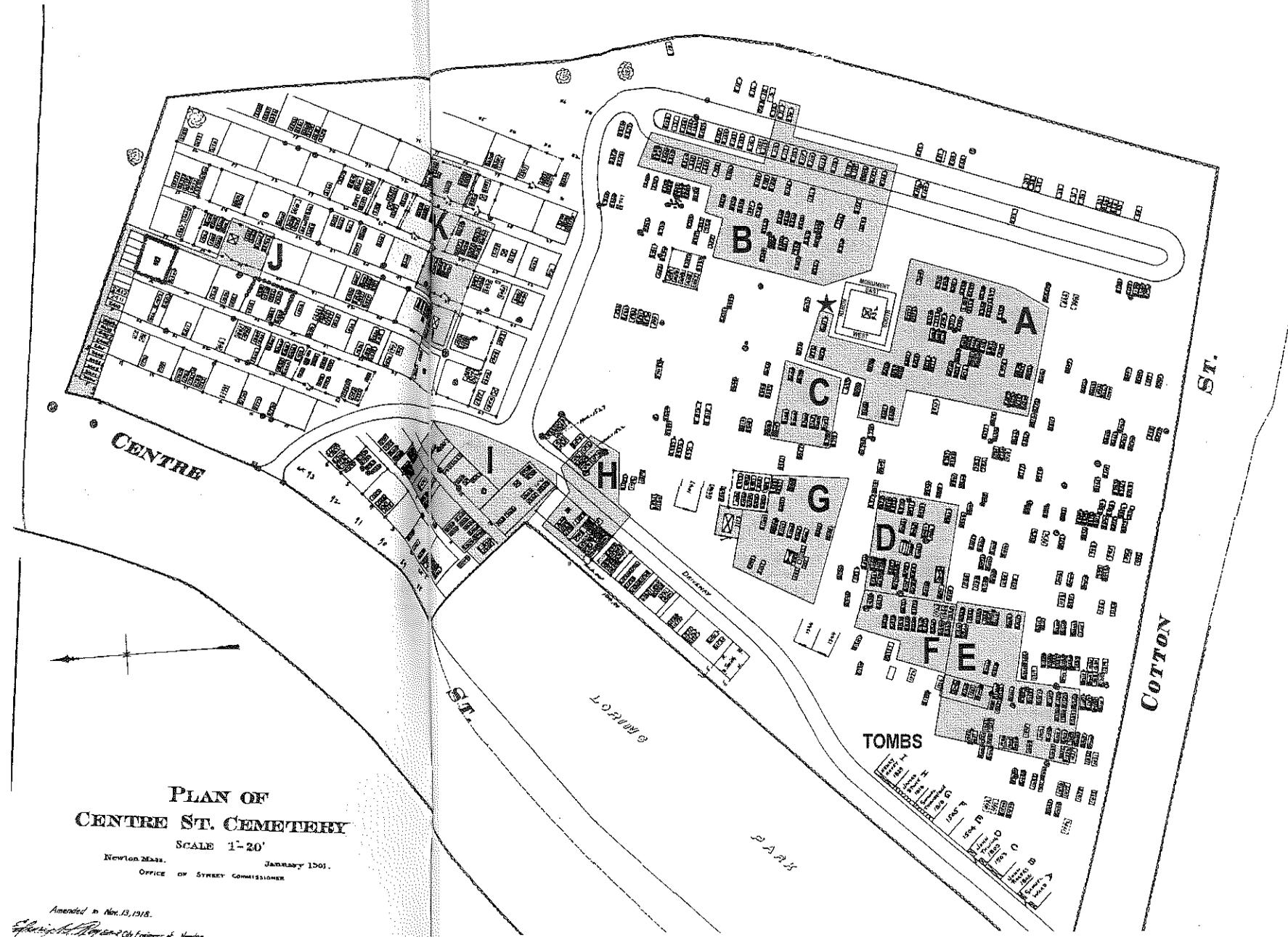
NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
THE JACKSON HOMESTEAD  
527 Washington Street  
Newton, MA 02458

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

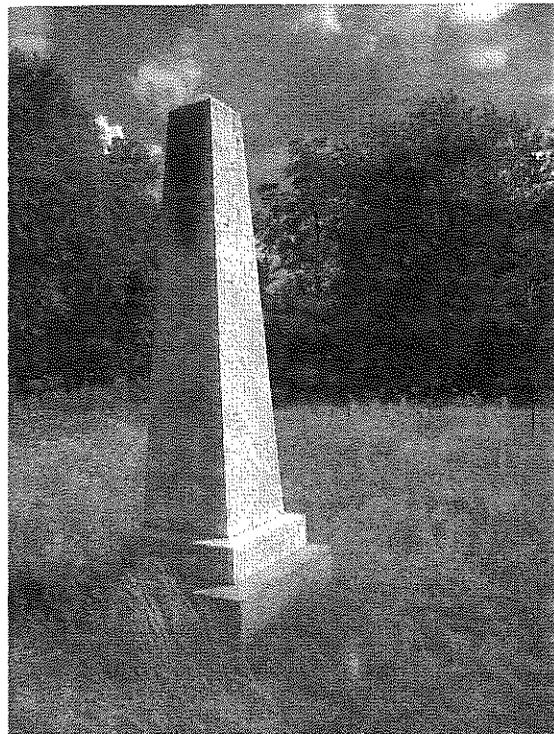
The plan is a reduced version of the original prepared for the Street Department in 1901 and revised by the City Engineer in 1918. All the then extant grave-markers, tombs, and monuments were plotted and the names of the deceased (approximately 800) recorded alphabetically. The original (handwritten) 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](http://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.

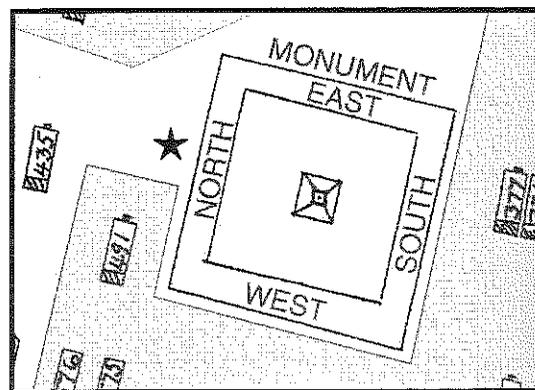


# THE SETTLERS' MONUMENT



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.)

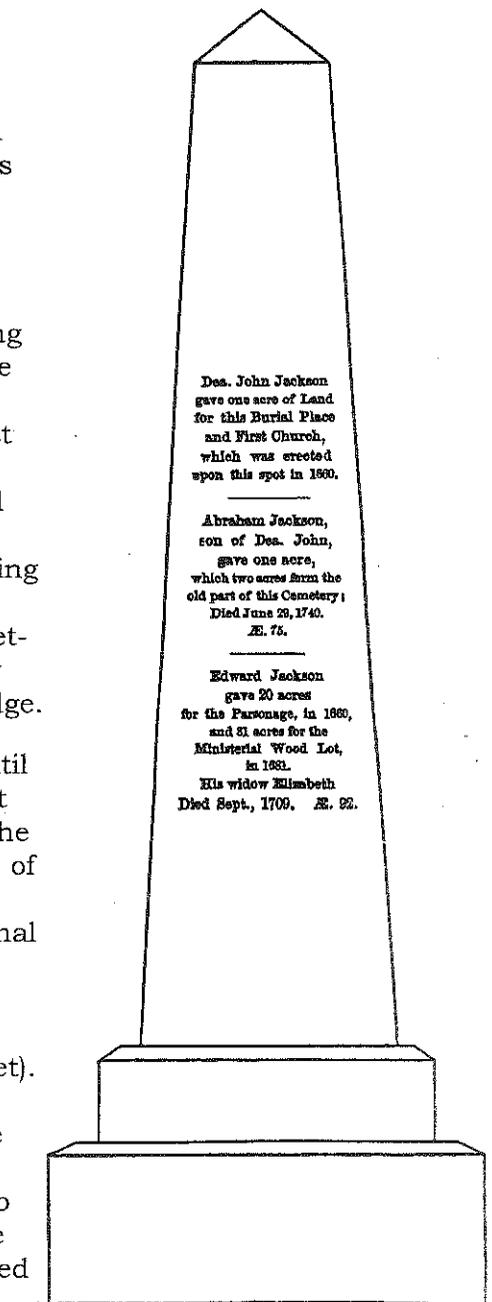
Time and weather have all but obliterated the inscriptions. These drawings of the obelisk are reproduced from the Museum's copy of a "printed pamphlet" containing "some facts relating to the first settlement of the Town" that was deposited at its base. The author was almost certainly Francis Jackson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

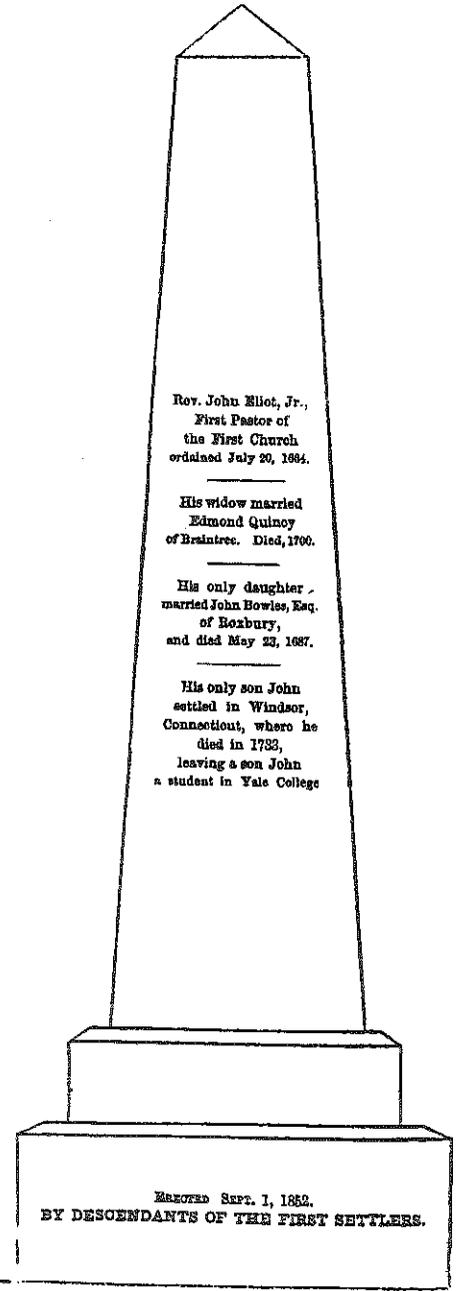


## NORTH SIDE

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





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.

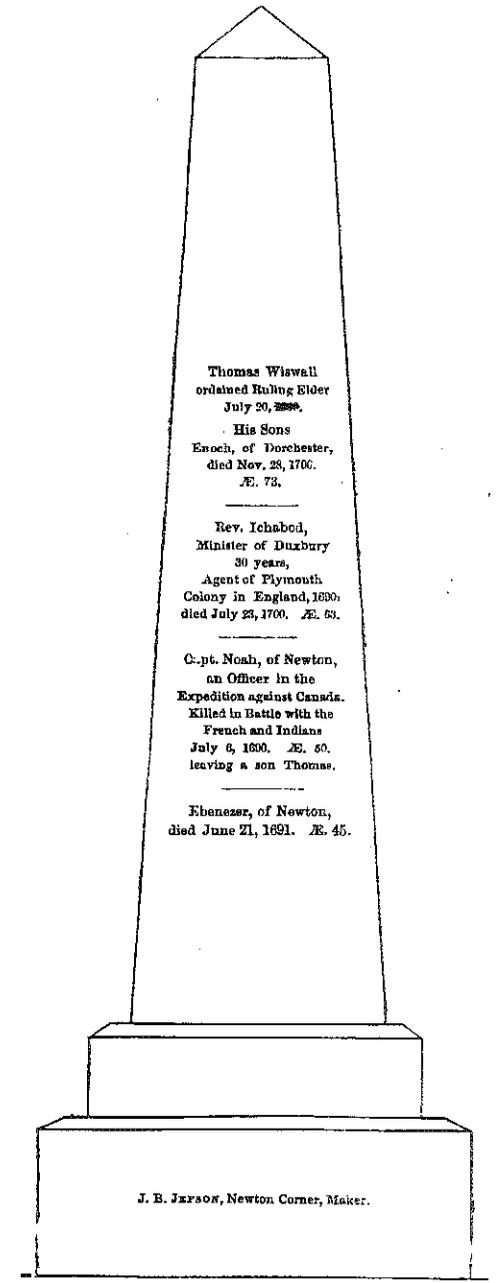
Although there is no record of her grave, John Jr.'s first wife, Sarah (Willett), who died in 1665, was probably the first person buried here.

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-



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

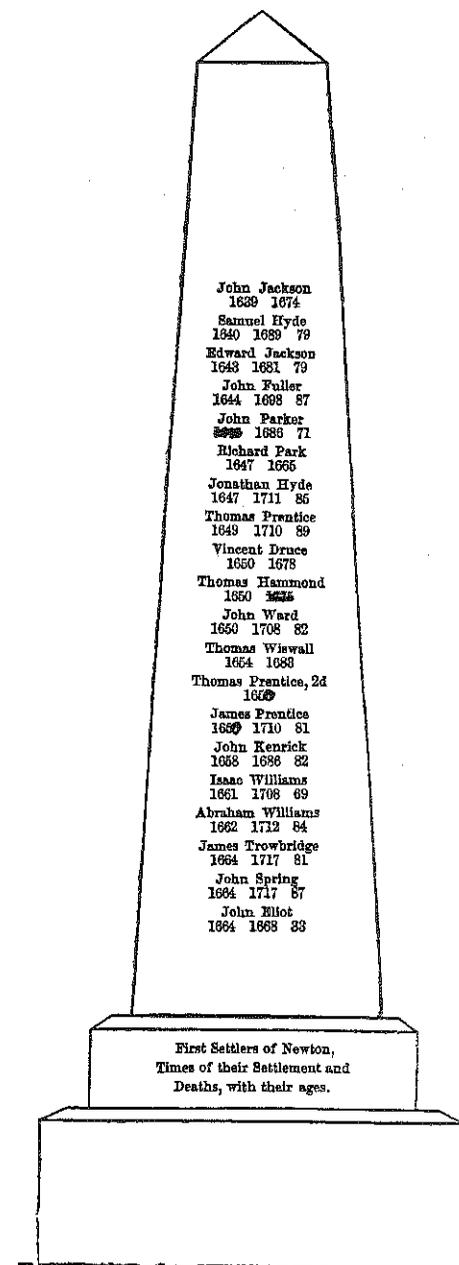
The names of twenty "ancient worthies" are listed in the order in which they settled in Newton. The graves of the following cannot be traced.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 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.

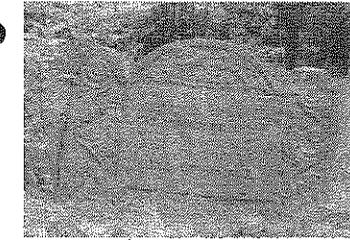
**Jonathan Hyde** eventually owned about 350 acres in Newton Centre and Oak Hill. In 1702 he gave half an acre for a school to serve the south part of Town, and is believed to have given the northern part of what is now the Newton Centre Common for a training ground. There is no deed, will, nor inventory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

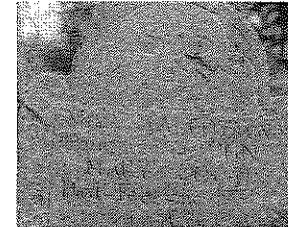


1. The earliest markers were small and "chunky", with no decoration. Inscriptions are in upper case.



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.

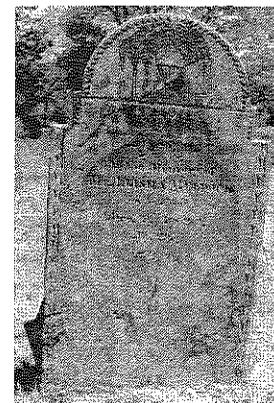


3. From about the 1730s, borders became simpler and death's-heads less threatening.

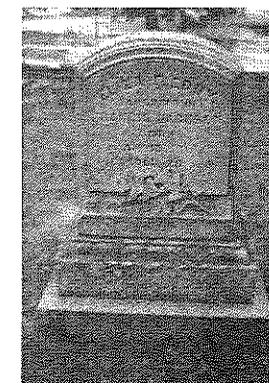


4. By mid-eighteenth century, faces (cherubs or stylized "portraits") replaced death's-head. Upper- and lower-case lettering was used. Classical Revival architectural

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.



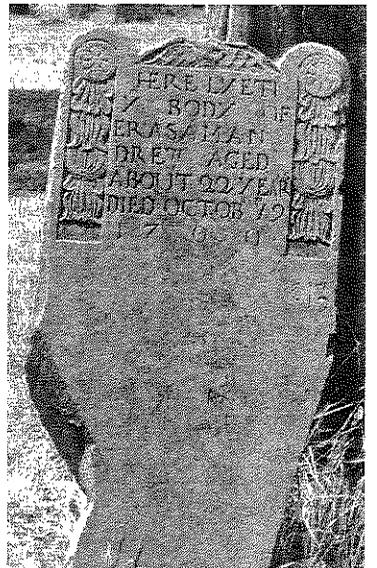
# SECTION A

**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.

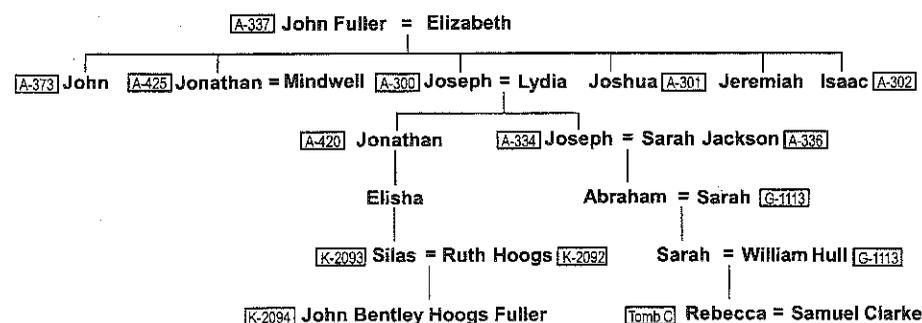
**A-337 John Fuller (1611-1699)** Of the twenty-two Fullers who served in the Revolutionary army, all were descended from Newton's fifth permanent resident, John Fuller (as were three of the five selectmen elected in 1784). The granite block on his grave almost certainly dates from the 1890s, when a "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).

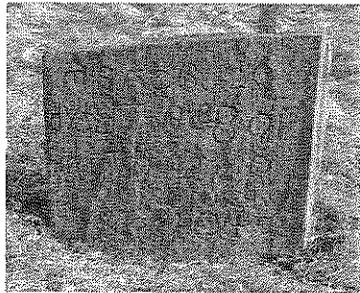
**A-425 Jonathan Fuller (1648-1722)** was the third son of John and Elizabeth. In 1694 he was paid for building the Town's first stocks. There seems to be no record of their use. Twenty years later they were stored in the school house, before being moved, probably at the same time as the Meeting House, 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.

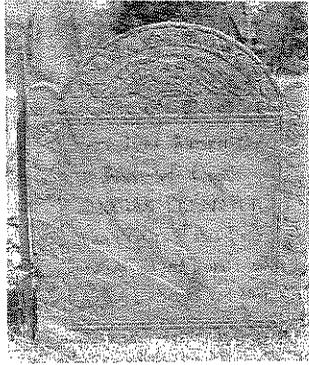
**A-518 Ebenezer Stone** was a third generation New Englander. In 1686 he married Margaret, daughter of James Trowbridge (A-427) and moved to Newton, buying property first near the (present) Eliot Church in Newton Corner, and then close to the Parker house on Hammond Street, now at 137 Suffolk Road.

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

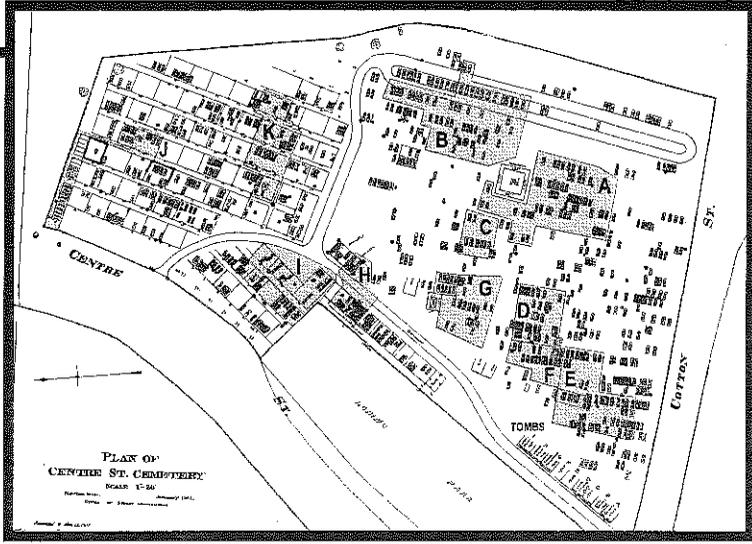
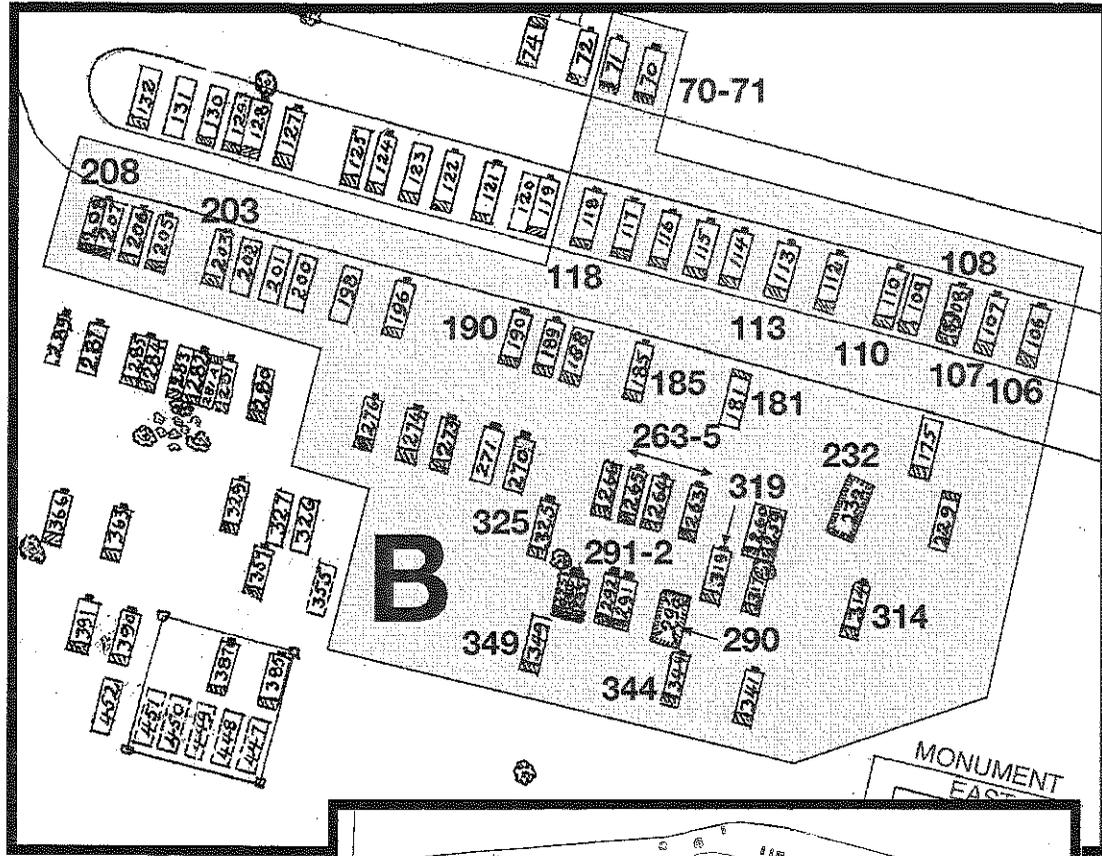
County Troopers; six years later as a captain he served with distinction in King Philip's War (1675), becoming, according to Jackson, "a terror" to the hostile Indians. In contrast he had the trust and confidence of those who were friendly. Soon after the war began, he was put in charge of moving about 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

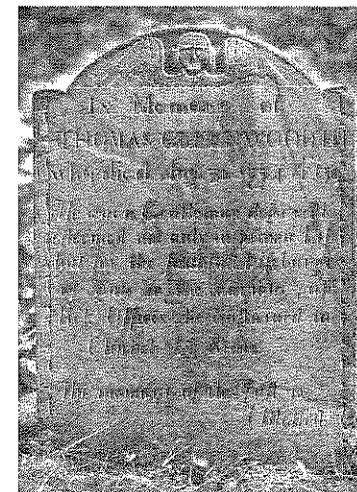
the General Court for ten years.

**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.

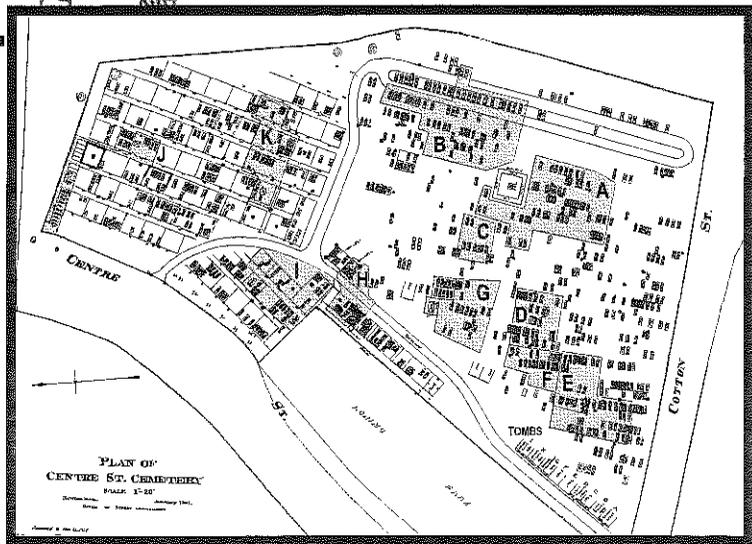
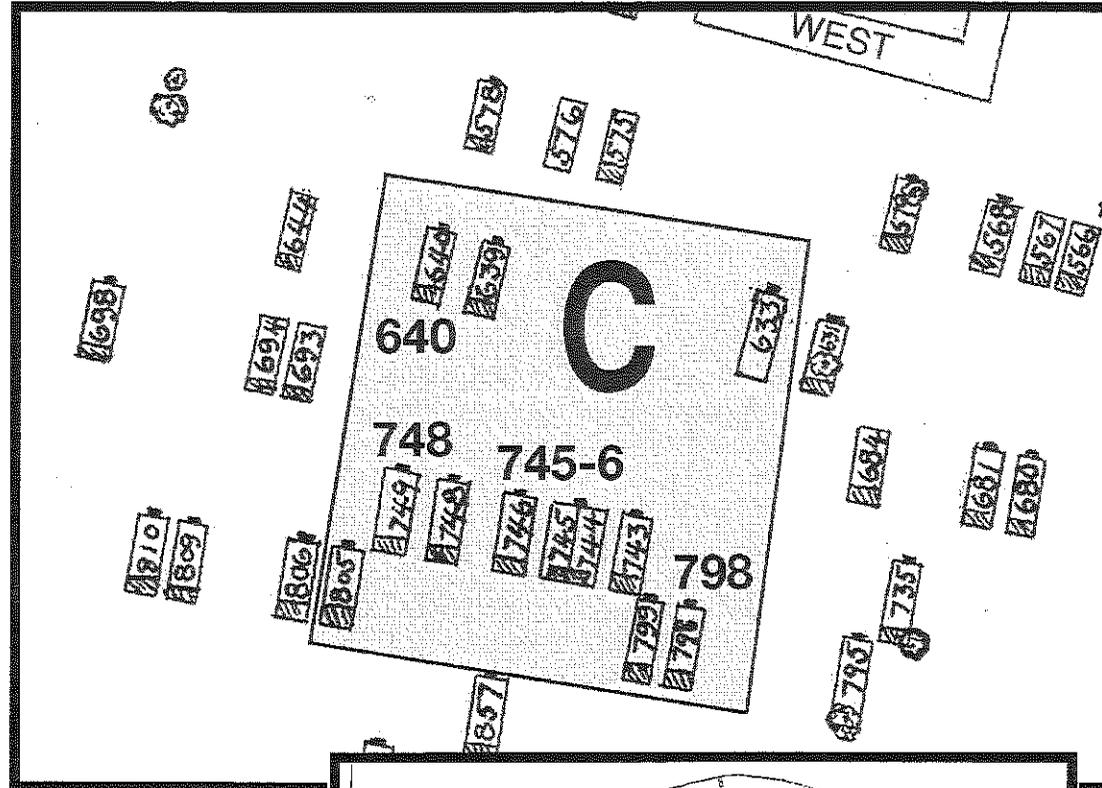
In 1706 he started a commonplace book, recording births and deaths as well as summarizing sermons, a practice, continued after his death by his son Noah, that proved invaluable when, in 1770, the church records were lost in a fire that destroyed Mr. Meriam's house. (The Museum has one notebook (1711-1713),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

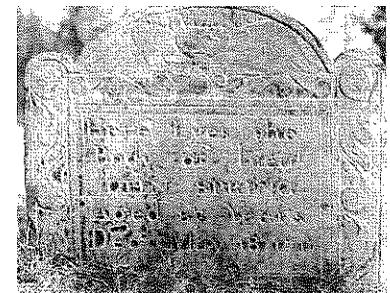
**B-349 Mary Hyde** (c. 1633-1672) was the first wife of Jonathan Hyde (see Monument). She was the great-great-great-great-grandmother of James F.C. Hyde, the first mayor of Newton. This is the oldest surviving grave marker in Newton.





# 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.

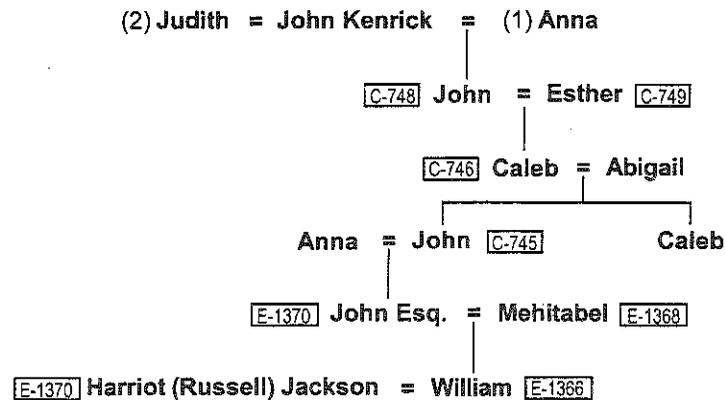
**C-798 Stephen Cook** (1647- 1736) lived in the house near the Watertown line that his father had bought from Abraham Williams (see Monument). Like Spring, Cook operated a grist mill on Smelt Brook. Both the dam and the mill were in the Watertown "wear lands". (Approximately thirty acres on the south 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).

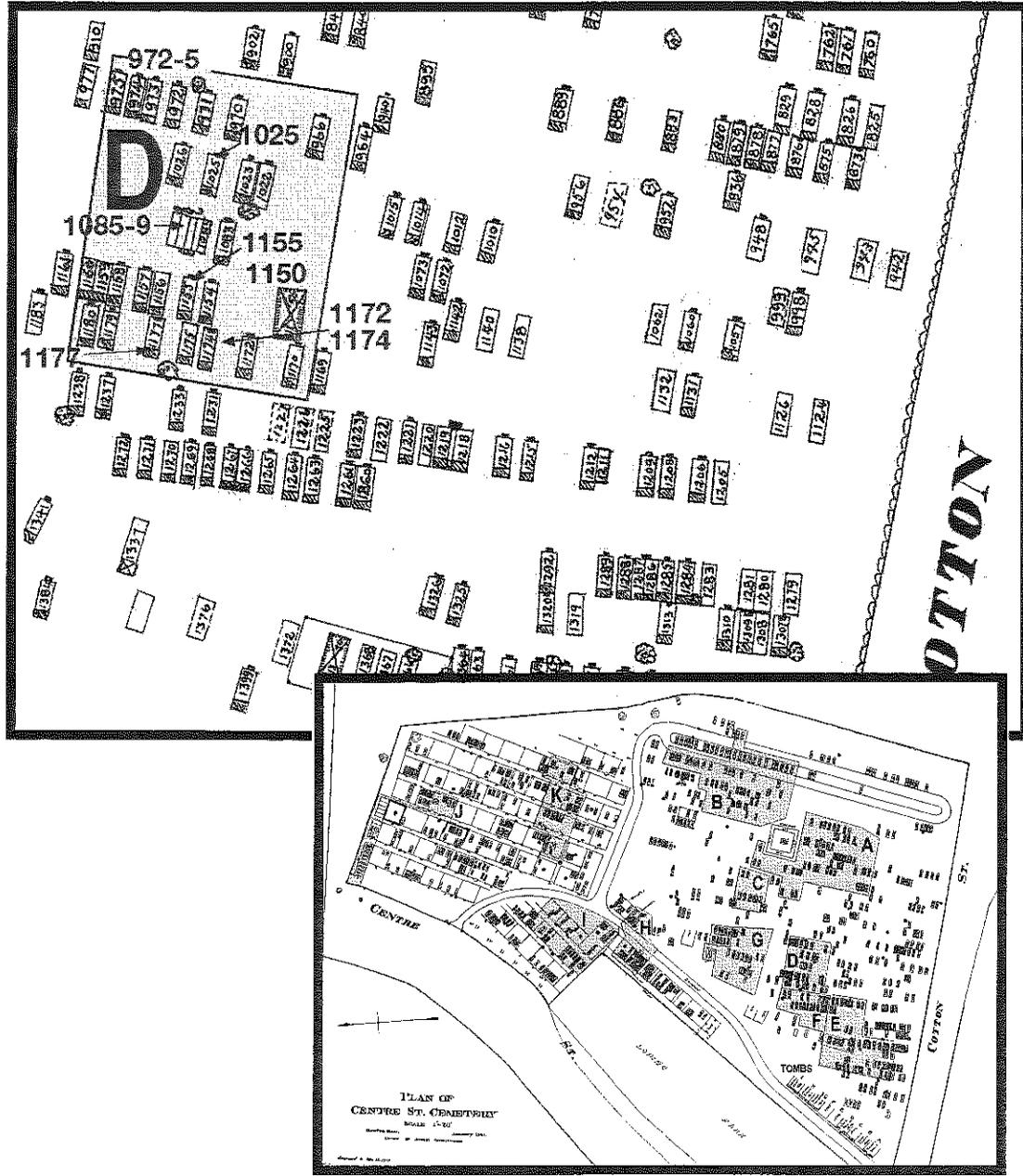


**C-746 Caleb Kenrick (1694-1771)** inherited the homestead from his father, John (d. 1721). Caleb performed the routine duties of hayward, constable, assessor, and surveyor of highways before serving as selectman and moderator. He audited the treasurer's accounts for several years and was on the committees 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).