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# RECORDS

—OF THE—

TOWN OF EAST-HAMPTON,

LONG ISLAND, SUFFOLK CO., N. Y.,

—WITH OTHER—

**Ancient Documents of Historic Value.**

VOLUME I.

This volume includes the Records from 1639 to 1679-80 transcribed under direction of Committee appointed to reproduce the Records, by Town Meeting, April 3, 1883, with an Introduction by Hon. H. P. Hedges, published at the expense of the Town and by its authority.

JONATHAN T. GARDINER,

JONATHAN BAKER,

JOSEPH S. OSBORNE,

Committee.

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SAG-HARBOR:

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## OLDEST BURIAL GROUNDS.

In East Hampton Town are many old burial lots, many of them private burial plots. By the Duke's Laws of 1664 private burial was forbidden, the restriction stating "that no person free or Servant, shall be buried in any other place than those so appointed." The law, however, was not observed, or enforced, and many bodies were thereafter buried close to, or upon farmsteads. Some of these graves were unmarked. The markers of others have long since disappeared. An attempt has been made to preserve a record of such grave-markers as are legible in the years 1919-1921. These quaint old cemeteries are located all over Suffolk County, often times to now be found in dense woods, or at old abandoned farms, and by woodside roads.

Such is one at Northwest, where the Bennetts are buried, in the back yard, and very near where the house once stood, on the west side of Three Mile Harbor (the road leading to Monks' place). This custom of the first settlers has been the cause of considerable trouble, some places where the lands have passed into stranger ownership; the new owners having little, if any, respect for the head-stones, or graves. Some persons have destroyed the markers and leveled the graves. In one instance, at Mecox, in Southampton, the public highway has been built over a small burial place. At Montauk, in 1926, where roads were laid for the first time, a detour has been made to avoid passing over the most ancient burial spot of the aborigine in the town, at Point Burial Ground, on the east side of Great Pond.

The Russell-Payne burial spot is at Little Northwest, very near the edge of a road (passing highway) and about a hundred feet S. or S. E. from an old house, now in a very badly neglected condition. Some headstones are broken; some have fallen. In some places where there are ancient cemeteries, in Southampton, notably at North Haven, the town has placed metal railings around the plots. The road passing

the burial ground at Little Northwest is much used. It leads to the shore at Northwest Harbor and a place called Barcelona picnic grounds or grove. A brief description is given of other private and public burial places:

### Ranger Burial Ground.

West of Three Mile Harbor and not far from the Van Scoy plot. There are ten or more graves in it.

#### Correction and addition to the Ranger Cemetery Information:

David Dering Ranger was born 17 Aug 1839 died 24 Sep 1869 the son of Sylvester Dering Ranger.

#### Sources:

1. He is listed in census records as born abt 1839.
  2. Records of the Town of East-Hampton, Long Island, Suffolk Co., N. Y., - with Other - Ancient Documents of Historic Value. Volume II, IV, & V, Deaths. 24 Sep 1869  
Name: David D. Ranger Age: 30 years Comment: Billious Typhoid fever.
  3. "The Corrector, Sag Harbor," Suffolk County Library Digitized Files, Oct 2, 1869, pg.2.
  4. His mother Mary Hedges Conklin \* was born 27 Jan 1808 making it improbable that she had a son born in 1858.
- \*Mary Hedges Conklin b. 27 Jan 1808 Wainscot d. 07 Sep 1886 Northwest daughter of Elisha Conklin b. 20 Mar 1763 and Mary Hedges b. Abt. 1775

### Bennett Burial Ground.

Not far from the shore of Northwest Harbor and located in a dense grove of white pine trees. Graves in this plot are:

Jeremiah P. Bennett, died Feb. 3, 1844, ae 43.  
 Clarissa I., his widow, died Jan. 5, 1856, ae 52.  
 Nancy, died May 9, 1816.  
 Jeremiah Bennett, died April 27, 1823, ae 69.  
 Eliza Van Scoy Bennett, died Oct. 11, 1858, ae 98 yrs., 5 mo.  
 Miller Bennett, died Nov. 8, 1868, ae 71.  
 Fanny Osborn, died Sept. 3, 1881, ae 91.  
 Stafford T. Payne, died April 12, 1865, ae 56.  
 Martha P., wife of Abraham Bennett, died March 23, 1827, ae

47.

Cynthia, wife of Nathan Miller, died March 3, 1857, ae 69.  
 Wellington W. Harkness, died March 22, 1915, ae 79.  
 Also six (6) graves with no markers.

### Van Scoy Burial Ground.

In the Van Scoy family burial ground, at Northwest, west of <sup>Three Mile</sup> Harbor, and not far from the shore of the bay:

Ephraim Person, died April 4, 1845, ae 88.  
 Isaac Van Scoy, died Nov. 2, 1816, ae 85.  
 Mercy, his wife, died Oct. 5, 1782, ae 50.  
 Hannah B. Van Scoy, died March 23, 1851, ae 44.  
~~John, wife of~~ Jeremiah Terry, died Aug. 29, 1830, ae 82.  
 Jeremiah Terry, died Jan. 19, 1792, ae 54.  
 John Terry, 4/21, 1814, ae 4.  
 Ephraim Edwards, died Sept., 1846, ae 77.  
 Eliza T., his widow, died June, 1855, ae 84.  
 Elizabeth S., their daughter, died Aug. 18, 1884, ae 83.

Phebe, their daughter, died May, 1832, ae 27.

Sarah M., their daughter, died May, 1830, ae 27.

Rhoda P., wife of J. Austin Van Scoy, died March 27, 1863,  
ae 55.

Also six (6) graves with no markers.

### Terry Burial Ground.

At Northwest; located one and one-half miles S. E. of Cedar Island lighthouse, and near shore of the bay, and west of Three Mile Harbor. Graves in this plot are:

Mehetable Terry, died Feb. 19, 1815, ae 38, wife of Jeremiah.

Jeremiah Terry, died Dec. 10, 1850, ae 79.

Elizabeth, widow of Jeremiah Terry, died Feb. 28, 1865, ae 82.

Nathaniel Terry, died 2/28, 1835, ae 36.

Henry P. Terry, died Sept. 11, 1839, ae 37.

Elizabeth Terry, died June 1, 1842, ae 36.

Sibyl Terry, died Aug. 27, 1875, ae 66.

Abigail C. Terry, died March 16, 1888, ae 66.

Also two (2) graves with no markers.

### Nominick Hills Burial Ground.

At Napeague, on main road to Montauk, near cellar of the old First House, or house at the Hither End of Montauk. Graves in this plot are:

Beulah Hand, died March 23, 1828, ae 58.

Jacob Hand, died Sept. 21, 1813, ae 80.

Abigail Hand, his wife, died Oct. 13, 1805, ae 70.

Mrs. Lucretia, wife of Jared Hand, died Oct. 20, 1786, ae 23.

Jonathan Hedges, died Nov. 12, 1769, ae 40.

Jonathan Hedges, died Jan. 16, 1763, ae 57.

John Parsons, died Dec. 2, 1824, ae 82.

Mrs. Mary Hedges, wife of Philip, died Aug. 3, 1787, ae 45.

Alethea, wife of Benjamin Hedges, died May 7, 1797, ae 83.

Benjamin Hedges, died March 21, 1812, in his 99th year.

Philip Hedges, died March 3, 1834, ae 92.

Also twelve (12) graves with no markers.

### Russell-Payne Burial Ground.

At Little Northwest, or Russell's Neck, S. of Northwest Harbor or S. W., and N. E. of Sag Harbor-East Hampton State Highway. Graves in this plot are:

Peleg, son of John and Fanny Russell, died Jan. 30, 1795, ae 3.

Elizabeth, daughter of David and Elizabeth Russell, died May 13, 1797, ae 17.

David Russell, died Oct. 27, 1819, ae 75.

Elizabeth, his wife, died June (?), 1804, ae 60 yrs, 6 mo, 20 d.

Fanny M., daughter of Silas and Sally Payne, died April 19, 1837, ae 13 mo.

Silas Payne, died July 19, 1840, ae 44.

Sally, relict of Silas Payne, died Jan. 6, 1842, ae 49.

Sally M., wife of Sylvester Randall, and daughter of Silas and Sally Payne, died Jan. 11, 1840.

Harriet A. Payne, died — 1819, ae 19.

Rozel Baker, died of smallpox, Feb. 29, 1797, ae 35.

Several markers with names not legible; also several graves with no markers, are in this burial ground. One marker "N. R."

This burial place is twenty (20) feet S. of the road to Barcelona and about 500 feet S. of an old house; it is about 1,000 feet N. E. of another old house, and almost in a direct line with them.

### Jericho Burial Ground.

In the little Jericho burial place S. W. of East Hampton, are the graves of many Jones, and Millers (several of the eighteenth century.) There are ten (10) or more Millers buried in one long row; and twelve (12) or more Jones buried in one long one—not in plots, (as is usual.) Many of the old markers have quaint carvings; some, of their kind, are works of art. It would take a good craftsman to copy them. Some of the slate-slabs are still in good preservation. One, especially, appears to be good for another 50 years or more.

### Other Burial Grounds.

In East Hampton there are old burial spots on old farms. Such is one at Lily Hill, where are interred Dominys.

At Sag Harbor, earliest burials were at Jerry Mulford's Hill, a part of the Joseph Conkling farm. There is no vestige remaining to show where this burial ground was.

At a place called "Ninevah," the Baker and late Conkling farm, near Sag Harbor, were several graves and markers. One remains in 1897, surrounded by woods. The gravestones were utilized by irreverent families who occupied the old farmhouse, in modern times, before it burned. The stones made door steps and well curbs.

On the road from turnpike to Powder Hill, in front of the Ranger farm, is a lone grave, marked by a stone; the last resting place of one who died of smallpox. There are many lonely graves of persons who died from pestilential disease. Most of the old family burial plots, near East Hampton, are done away with. Relatives have removed remains to modern cemeteries. Some still cling to the old custom of private burial. They bury their dead "on the farm."

Archie Ritchie, monument dealer and stone cutter, a few years ago removed the bodies of Capt. John Dayton and his wife from their resting place, opposite the "old Gate House" (on the Herter place), Montauk highway. They were given new burial at the South End Cemetery. This is the militia captain, John Dayton, who fooled the British, by a ruse, in the year 1775.

There were several family burial plots located on farms at Wainscott, and nearby East Hampton town line, at Sagg and Bridgehampton. Such burial grounds were of families of Isaac, Pierson, Loper, Woodruff, Mitchell, Halsey, Hedges, etc. All buried therein, have been removed to cemeteries at Sagg or Mecox, or the Edgewood Cemetery, at Bridgehampton. The Scuttle Hole Cemetery was obliterated in 1912, and most of those buried there (including several Woodruffs; the Rev. James Brown, one of the first Bridgehampton ministers) were removed to Main Street Cemetery, at Bridgehampton.

The Gardiner burial ground, on Gardiner's Island, where were habitations by the English, in 1638, has graves of the seventeenth century.

The oldest burial grounds are probably at Montauk, and contain the bodies of Indians only at "Burial Place Point" on Great Pond.

There is a more modern Indian Cemetery, with mounds and heaps of stone only for markers at Fort Hill, east side of Fort Pond. In 1896 there could be traced the lines of the fort, and the place of 134 graves. One grave was marked by a stone bearing carved numerals "1802," or "1812." The fort seems to have been built, after an old fort at Nominick Hills, the latter fort abandoned in 1648. The time this fort at Fort Pond stood is estimated as the decade 1650-60, when the Narragansetts slaughtered most of the Montauk tribe. Many are believed to be buried where they fell.

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