

**Old South Dennis Cemetery – ca. 1700**  
**Old Bass River Road (behind Dennis Town Offices), South Dennis**

In a section of the Old King's Highway Historic District once known as Bass Ponds for its abundance of fish, the Ancient Cemetery is nested on land originally owned by Nicholas Nickerson who settled here shortly before 1656.

Many graves are unmarked or marked only with a large natural boulder ending with a smaller rough stone as a footstone. Engraved stones indicate members of the Baker, Nickerson, Crowell and Berry families who were some of the earliest residents of South and West Dennis Villages. For reasons that have not been discovered a group of the earliest burials are laid out with headstones facing Northwest to Southeast, contrary to the Colonial burial tradition of headstones facing from West to East aligned with the Cardinal points of the compass, facing the sun rise ready to rise up to heaven at God's call.

The earliest slate is shaped like a cradle end and was engraved in the style of Boston carver Joseph Lamson for Marcy Beery (sic. Berry), who died Nov. 15, 1713 at the age of 19.

A large rough boulder facing North with almost undecipherable hand hewn initials appears to read M H died MA 1711.

Revolutionary War Veteran and Yarmouth Selectman Lieutenant Israel Nickerson, who died in the fall of 1791 along with 4 of his children during a period of 2 weeks from a sickness about which no records have been found, is buried here. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 American Veterans Post 33 held a memorial observance here and dedicated a commemorative boulder honoring Lt. Nickerson as well as 2 other veterans of the Revolutionary war Allen Bangs (1733-1793) and Jeremiah Baker (1748-1840) and to War of 1812 veteran Captain Josiah Baker (1784-1835).



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Marcy Beery died Nov. 15, 1713



Lieut. Israel Nickerson died Sept. 30, 1791