

**Quaker Cemetery - R. 1720
Mayfair Road, South Dennis**

Quaker Cemetery rests on a northerly knoll along Mayfair Road in South Dennis, within the bounds of the Old Kings Highway Historic District. There are only seven simple white marble headstones, as early tradition did not allow for the ostentatious marking of burials. The cemetery is quite large prompting speculation of more graves. A Meeting House was built nearby in 1714 on land owned by David O'Kelia (now Kelley), a fervent Quaker ancestor of the prominent Kelley family. The house was moved to Yarmouth in 1808 by cutting the building into quarters and floating them down Bass River.

Quakerism reached this area about 1660, partially due to persistent persecution by Plymouth Separatists and Massachusetts Bay Puritans which caused many followers of the faith to move to less populated or more tolerant areas. Two such families were the Dillinghams and Wings of Sandwich, who moved to what is now known as West Brewster. Others soon moved to vacant land around Follins Pond, one of whom was Francis Baker who married the Quaker girl Isabel Twining in what was the first recorded marriage in Yarmouth.

The earliest headstone belongs to Hattil Kelley (1720-1809). He owned a wind grist-mill which sat in the middle of the town beside the Old Quaker Road (from Brewster) near Old Chatham Road. Hattil was evidently imprisoned for refusal to pay taxes that were used at that time to pay the militia and to support "approved" religious activities, both of which the Quakers opposed on principal. In 1757 he petitioned the Court seeking his release.

Another headstone is that of Cyrenius Kelley (1770-1840), son of Hattil Kelley and husband of Jerusha Baker, who was a dedicated blacksmith, performing many services for the town's people.

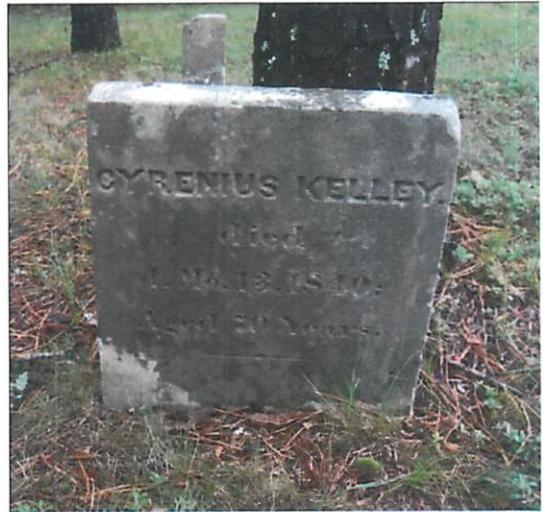
Local names who were prominent in the community and adherents of the Quaker faith were Chase, Kelley, Baker, Eldredge, Wing, Gifford, Smith, Crowell, Gage, Ellis, Covel and Nickerson, all numbered among the very earliest settlers of the region.



Quaker Cemetery



Hattil Kelley
died March 8, 1809



Cyrenius Kelley
died Jan. 13, 1840