

**Worden Cemetery - ca. 1640**  
**Route 6A, Dennis**

Worden (Werden) Burying Ground with only 85 marked burials can be found behind Worden Hall, just off Route 6A in the Old Kings Highway Historic District. Peter Worden (1569-1639), who may have been the first permanent English resident, rests there in an unmarked grave in a plot laid out by his son, Peter Worden Jr. (1609-1681).

The oldest engraved headstone, also the oldest engraved stone in the Town of Dennis, is that of Mercy Winslow (d. Sept. 22, 1688), daughter of Peter Worden Jr. and wife of Kenelm Winslow (d. Nov. 11, 1715). It displays a winged skull and scroll border on slate with a strong diagonal grain done in the style of Lamson carvers, Boston. There are many fine examples of the Lamson style in this small cemetery. This cemetery became known as the Winslow Cemetery as additional family members were interred here.

Also buried in this ground is Hon' r Thomas Winslow Esq' r (1704-1779), son of Kenelm Jr., a Colonel of the Militia and a Selectman of the town of Harwich, together with 9 of his children all of whom died in infancy. The epitaph on Col. Winslow's slate with winged skull contains an optimistic rather than grim tone:

"Beneath this Stone here lies the Dust  
Of one who's numbered with the just  
He Died lamented, lived below'd  
And now is gone to dwell above."

Two markers with the same date of death, Aug. 30, 1751, are those of Theophilus Crosby (age 19, son of Theophilus Crosby & Thankful Winslow) and Josiah Hopkins (age 17, son of John Hopkins & Mehitable Crosby). They both drowned that day along with Nathan Howes, Priscilla Rogers, and Mercy Laha in what must have been a great tragedy for their families.

A winged portrait head in the style of Soule carvers, Plymouth, adorns the headstone of Mrs. Sarah Burges (d. April 17, 1755).

In the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the cemetery took on the name of the Homer Burial Ground because many members of the Stephen Homer family, a descendent of Benjamin Homer who settled in Yarmouth during the early 1700's, were interred here.



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Kenelm Winslow died Nov. 1715



Kenelm Winslow died March 20, 1728



Kenelm Winslow died June 28, 1783