

## Wixon Family Burying Ground – ca. 1718 Summer Street, Dennis Port

The Wixon Family Burying Ground is located on the east side of Summer Street, Dennis Port Village, known in colonial days as Crook's Neck or Crooked Neck or Crocker Neck, nearly in the center of the original Wixon property. The site, now in a heavily developed area, is marked by a granite boulder and plaque.

Robert Wixon, an early settler of Eastham and prominent in colonial affairs, married an Indian woman of the Nauset tribe according to family tradition. By 1711, his sons Titus and Barnabas, who served in the Indian wars in Piscataqua (Maine), purchased nearly a square-mile of land from an Indian named Jacob Crook. Over the years this family produced soldiers, fishermen, shipbuilders, sea captains, and also a justice of the peace. They greatly influenced economic development on the south shore of Dennis by building fisheries and vessels and developing the early "coasting" trade including eider-down trade between Cape Cod and Labrador. Members of the Wixon family still reside on portions of this land.

The brothers Barnabas (1762-1849) and Joshua (1761-1849) Wixon, who died of fever within a month of one another, are the only two headstones recorded here, but they disappeared about 50 years ago. Examination by the Dennis Historical Commission estimates that the burying ground extends farther than its "preserved" plot. At least 50 graves can be identified based on soil compaction, plant growth and ground contours. No burials of the Wixon family are found elsewhere in the Town before 1850 and it is reasonably concluded that they may rest here.



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