

**West Dennis Cemetery - 1833  
Fisk Street, West Dennis**

This Cemetery, located at the corner of Fisk and Pond Streets in West Dennis Village, originated ca. 1700 as the Crowell Family Burying Ground. In 1857 the Methodist Congregation voted to purchase an adjacent acre then owned by Capt. Freeman Crowell which later became known as the Church Burying Ground. As additional land was added it became known as the Village Cemetery. Finally it was taken over by the town, became known as West Dennis Cemetery and continues to be used as an active burial ground.

The earliest inscribed headstone belongs to Caroline Crowell (d. 1833) although spacing of the remaining slates suggests many unmarked burials may exist. Crowell, Baker and Kelley family members, some of the earliest settlers of "Crow Town" and "South Village" are thought to be buried here.

West Dennis Village borders Bass River whose deep water supported a thriving maritime and fishing industry. A memorial honor roll at West Dennis Community Church lists 123 sea captains many of whom rest in this cemetery. Descriptive of the many seamen lost at sea, the epitaph of Zenas C. Kelley (1812-1853) reads:

"For him break not the green turf  
Nor tum the dewy sod  
His dust shall rest beneath the surf  
His spirit with its God"

Around 1870, Providence stonecutter James Harvey Jenks established a monument company on Main Street which thrived thru the 20<sup>th</sup> century under his son, J. Harvey Jenks Jr., and his associate Robert C. Baker. Both Jenks Jr. and Baker are buried here marked by stones of their own carving.

Sometimes Yankee thrift is not successful. Capt. Oliver Kelley Baker (1828-1907) sought to save money by digging his own grave and bricking his own vault ahead of time, but when burial time came the space was not large enough and needed to be re-dug and re-bricked at additional expense. Buried here is publisher Thomas Y. Crowell (1836-1915) founder and owner of a company which still bears his name and inventor Luther Child Crowell (1818-1896) whose patent for the flat-bottom paper grocery bag was one of 280 patents he held.

At the May 1950 Town Meeting Article 78 was passed with a motion by Ena Crowell "to raise and appropriate \$1,000 to clear, survey the land and relocate the fence around the property purchased at the last Town Meeting as an addition." With the assistance of the Town of Dennis, federal funds and Community Preservation Committee funds, burial markers were stabilized in 2006 and two raised crypts were repaired in 2008.



West Dennis Cemetery



Vaults of Charles G. Kelley died Oct. 31, 1889  
Flora B Kelley died Dec. 3, 1887  
Chloe Kelley died March 3, 1895



Caroline Crowell  
died Oct. 29, 1833