

# The Story of Woodside

## The Sears Family

In the earliest days of Yarmouth Port, Summer Street was known as Cow Lane and was only a rough dirt pathway used by the settlers to lead their cattle to water. The Hawes family moved to the lane, and for a while it was known by their name. Other families followed, and then, more than 225 years ago, the Sears family established a family burial ground within the bounds of the present Woodside Cemetery.

The Sears family plot was probably started by Ebenezer Sears and the earliest burial in the Sears plot is from 1788.

Ebenezer was born in 1755 and served in the Revolution as a soldier. Later, as a sea captain, he was master of the first ship flying the American flag to round the Cape of Good Hope en route to India. He died in 1835 and is buried in the family plot. A very rich man, he left just \$1 to his son Joshua because "he is a man of wealth and neither needs nor desires any part of my estate."

Joshua did well, indeed. Born in Yarmouth Port in 1791, he went to Boston and became a merchant and ship owner, trading in tea and cotton in the Far East. He died in 1857 and his tomb near the southwest corner of Woodside Cemetery highlights the original 15,000-square-foot Sears family plot.

## The Village Cemetery

Apparently, a small village cemetery was also established near the Sears plot. And in 1855, Charles Sears, another of Ebenezer's 11 children, joined with two others as a committee of trustees to purchase a tract of land to enlarge that burial ground. He conveyed to the trustees a parcel of 1.25 acres adjoining the village cemetery.

Then in 1868, leading citizens of Yarmouth Port organized the nonprofit, nonsectarian Woodside Cemetery Corporation to take over the village cemetery. Capt. Bangs Hallet, Henry C. Thacher and Nathaniel C. Simpkins were among the 40 incorporators. Cemetery records show that by 1868 there had been at least 250 interments dating back to 1797.

In 1880, Joshua Montgomery Sears, the son of Joshua Sears, gave an additional 1.75 acres and, later in the same year, Henry C. Thacher donated another 3 acres. Helen Sears, great-granddaughter of Ebenezer, donated the Sears family plot in 1910. Later, Mabel S. Agassiz conveyed the 10 acres to the south and in 1956, Guido Perera and his cousins presented two more parcels on the north and east totaling more than 9 acres.

**WOODSIDE CEMETERY**

Summer Street

P.O. Box 259

Yarmouth Port, MA 02675

# WOODSIDE CEMETERY

*A Cape Cod village cemetery  
rich in history, beauty and care.*

**Summer Street,  
Yarmouth Port, MA - Cape Cod**



## Why choose Woodside?

Woodside has been a cherished part of historic Yarmouth Port Village for centuries and offers a glimpse of Cape Cod history through those who rest here.

Its rolling landscape, winding paths, benches and historic markers contribute to the park-like setting and complement the natural beauty. The grounds have beautiful specimen trees and other plantings, some of them more than 150 years old. Woodside abuts the quiet Nature Trails maintained by the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth and overlooks the peaceful waters of Dennis Pond.

Access is off Summer Street, through the lovely gates of the long-standing post-and-rail granite fence. We welcome visitors and walkers during daylight hours.

### Directions

Take Route 6, (Mid-Cape Highway) to Exit 7 (Willow St.)  
 Turn Right (North) onto Willow St.  
 Travel (1/2 Mile) to the end, at Route 6A in Yarmouth Port  
 Turn Right onto Route 6A  
 Follow Route 6A for 1/2 mile  
 Turn Right (South) onto Summer Street  
 Woodside is less than a quarter mile on left.

### 8 Grave Lot 13' x 26'

2 Upright gravestones permitted

### 4 Grave Lot 13' x 13'

1 Upright gravestone permitted

### 2 Grave Lot 13' x 6.5'

2 Flush markers permitted

### Cremation Lot 3.25' x 3.25'

Single flush marker

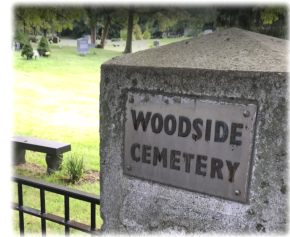
*Optionally, any single grave may also be used for as many as four cremations.*

**There are no residency or other requirements for the purchase of lots at Woodside Cemetery**

Pricing and detailed information regarding monuments, care, decorations, and administrative fees are all listed in a separate accompanying document. For the most current information, please visit us online at:

[www.WoodsideCem.org](http://www.WoodsideCem.org)

## Woodside Today



Woodside Cemetery now totals more than 26 acres, although only 10.5 acres have been developed. The latest expansion was in 1997-99, when the 4 acres of woodland closest to Dennis Pond were transformed into a new area with a large variety of decorative trees and curved roadways connecting to the original cemetery.

Woodside Cemetery is now a nonprofit corporation administered by a Board of Directors and is maintained through the sale of gravesites and contributions to the endowment fund. Contributions are deductible and are used to care for this lovely and important piece of Cape Cod history.

The Cemetery does not maintain an office on site.  
 For information, please call 508-362-3746  
 or email: [woodsidecem@verizon.net](mailto:woodsidecem@verizon.net)

