Miller Plot

A. Mary Henrietta Miller
... (Dec 1827 - 9 Sep 1839). She was the daughter of Sineus.

B. Sineus C. Miller, Esq.
... (abt 1793 - 7 Aug 1829). He was a judge on the Suffolk County Court of Common Pleas, and a 2nd Lieutenant in the New York State Militia. The Miller homestead still stands on Montauk Highway in South Haven, NY.

Brookhaven and South Haven Hamlets are blessed with many small family cemeteries and burying grounds, some of which predate the Revolutionary War. These cemeteries help provide a window to our community heritage. With study, they provide insight into lives of those who built these now unique hamlets. They are a valuable educational resource for our youth and adults, and future generations.

They are a fragile resource. For them to survive, each generation needs to insure their protection and maintenance.

"Show me your cemeteries, and I will tell you what kind of people you have."
Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

Notes:
1. For a summary of New York State Town Law § 291 with regard to cemeteries visit http://brookhavensouthhaven.org, then navigate to the Cemeteries section.
2. Sites of historical significance within the Hamlets of Brookhaven and South Haven have been assigned inventory codes. For most, fact sheets and other supplemental information have been developed. For more information, visit http://brookhavensouthhaven.org, then navigate to the Historic Sites section.
3. The Brookhaven Town Historians Cemetery inventory list was originally compiled by Osborn Shaw, Brookhaven Town Historian, somewhere between 1938-1939. It is currently maintained by the Brookhaven Town Historian Barbara Russelt (631) 451-8038, brusselt@brookhaven.org.

Guide to the Carman-Miller Private Cemetery South Haven, NY

The Carman-Miller private cemetery contains two adjacent plots located in the Hamlet of South Haven, 970 feet south of Montauk Highway on land of the former Carmans River (Robinson) duck farm, now within the bounds of property owned by Suffolk County. The Miller plot is approximately 40 feet by 30 feet, and the Carman plot, immediately south of the Miller site, is approximately 40 feet by 70 feet. The Miller plot contains only two extant stones; the Carman plot contains nine.

In a survey of the cemetery in 2003, both plots were in poor-fair condition, having receive some recent volunteer maintenance by community members Faith McCutcheon and Marty Van Lith, who have provided some of the photographs in this guide.

The site was again visited in 2007. It had already become badly overgrown, and a large tree had fallen, shattering at least one monument in the Carman plot. The site was nearly inaccessible.

As far as can be determined, the site receives no organized maintenance by the Town of Brookhaven as required by New York State Town Law. As of this date, the site is not receiving any maintenance by Suffolk County, although it is hoped that the county will provide care in the future.

This is clearly an endangered historic cemetery that may be totally destroyed before another generation arrives, unless it receives immediate care.

This cemetery has Brookhaven/South Haven Historic Sites Ref. ID SH02.1-S, and is #79 on the Town of Brookhaven Historian's Cemetery inventory. The Miller plot has approximate global coordinates of Latitude N40° 47.937' Longitude W72° 53.245'. The Carman plot is slightly to the south with approximate coordinates Latitude N40° 47.929' Longitude W72° 53.245'.

Current research results on this and other historic cemeteries in Brookhaven and South Haven Hamlets may be found at http://BrookhavenSouthHaven.org. Navigate to the Cemeteries Section, then to the cemetery of interest.

Fire Place History Club

Over the past 100 years, each generation of residents of the former Fire Place, today’s Brookhaven Hamlet, has passed down our history, through both oral tradition and in writing. In 1968, Elizabeth Post Morrow, a member of one of the oldest families in the hamlet, created a foundation in her family’s name whose mission is to “...preserve and conserve the historic rural countryside of Brookhaven, South Haven, Belleport, ...and environs. The Foundation’s headquarters at the former Post Morrow home is now the repository for our historical collection. In 2005, after several years of research at the Foundation, John Deitz, Marty Van Lith and others formed The Fire Place History Club to promote our history by sharing it with the community and, in return, gleaning more information from them.

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6. Thodosie (Carman) Smith

(17 Mar 1791 - 4 Mar 1869). She was the youngest daughter of Samuel Carman, Sr. She married Seth Smith (apparently no relation to the Tangier Smiths). Little is know of him. She resided, along with her daughter, Thedosias (and servants and farm hands) in a handsome brick house at 2777 Montauk Highway that still stands. Her daughter never married.

7. Thomas and Elizabeth Jennings

At the time of Elizabeth's death (b. about 1784 - 16 May 1845), they were living in South Haven, NY. She was likely then interred in the Carman family cemetery. At the time of his death (b. abt 1777 - 18 Jan 1864), he was living in East Hampton, NY, and likely requested that he be interred along side his wife. They emigrated from England in 1816. He was a farmer.

8. Samuel son of Samuel and Caty Carman

(Abt Jul 1816 - 19 Apr 1823). He died as a young boy. Shortly after his death, Samuel, Jr., and Katy had another son whom they named Samuel. This son is interred in Bellport.

9. John Carman (Probably)

By 2003, this monument was not readable. The Town of Brookhaven Historian's listing (c. 1939) identified this stone with John Carman, son of Samuel Carman, Jr.

Date of death: 7 Sep 1844
Age at death: 23-05-29.
4. Samuel Carman, Jr.

(31 Jan 1789 - 27 Feb 1869). Captain Samuel Carman was the sole male heir to his father’s estate. He became a prominent businessman in his own right. Said to have been very personable, he promoted his hotel and the Carman lands along the river as a destination for sportman. Eventually, he leased (later the family sold), a large tract to a group of wealthy New York City sportsmen who established the Suffolk Club. He was active in politics, and for many years was a Trustee of the Town of Brookhaven, serving for a while as its president.

In the Records of the Town of Brookhaven there is the following reference to Samuel, which demonstrate what impact this family had on the area:

"The following memorial and token of respect to Capt. Samuel Carman, a former member of the Board was unanimously adopted, and then the Board adjourned - sine die - that is without day. In Memory of Samuel Carman who died Feb 27th 1869 aged 80 - Whereas Samuel Carman of South Haven in this Town of Brookhaven has lately departed this life in good old age, and whereas he was Trustee of this Town in 1828 and after holding United States office of Coast Inspector for several years was Trustee Overseer of the Poor and President of the Board of Trustees in 1849; and we trust all who knew him will bear testimony to his honesty as a man, and to his integrity as an officer, we offer this tribute to his memory to be sent to his family, and order that the Clerk enter the same in the Town Records of our town of Brookhaven April 6th 1869 - Wm. H. Clark Pres., Natnl Tuttle, Edwin Bailey, Cyrus E. Griffin, Thomas Terry, Chas S Havens Supervisor, Benjm T. Hutchinson T. Clerk"

5. Katy Carman (Catherine Homan)

(17 Aug 1795 - 4 Jan 1861). She was Samuel Carman, Jr.’s wife.

Carman Cemetery Plot

1. Thomas Warren

(b. about 1771 - 25 Feb 1832). Little is known of Thomas Warren except that which appears on his gravestone.

2. Samuel Carman, Sr.

(about 1740 - 21 Dec 1821). He was likely a Loyalist who came to South Haven from Hempstead about 1780. It is said that he purchased the South Haven mills from Ebenezer Homan.

In addition to being proprietor of the mills, he became a prominent merchant, hotel keeper, and farmer. The family eventually owned much of the land along the west side of the river (then known as the Connecticut) from north near Yaphank to the south near its mouth on the Great South Bay.

His eldest daughter, Hannah (1785-1862), married William Smith "Tangier" (aka Point Billy). William claimed ownership of the river itself and is said to have renamed it in her honor as the Carman’s River. Hannah is buried in the Smith family cemetery at the Manor of St. George in Mastic.

3. Theodosi (Latting) Carman


The Latting’s were a prominent family of Nassau County (then Queens), New York, and the founders of Lattingtown.

She is the earliest interment in the cemetery.