

## Contributors to the Rose Cemetery Project\*

Fire Place History Club, including Marty Van Lith, project manager; John Deitz; Eben Ludlow; Faith McCutcheon; Ron Kinsella; Diane Martens; Ben Savage; Helen Geraghty; and with gratitude for all those who donated items to, worked on and patronized our Fall yard sale.

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*\* Brookhaven Hamlet residents unless noted.*

Brookhaven and South Haven Hamlets are blessed with many small family 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.

**The Fire Place History Club is already planning its next project — the restoration of the Azel Hawkins Cemetery off Stillwood Road. Your continuing support will be welcomed. Contributions may be mailed to the Brookhaven Village Association, PO Box 167, Brookhaven, NY 11719, designated for the "Cemetery Fund."**

### 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. A plot diagram and photographic documentation of the site following gravestone excavations and before they were repaired and reset (and in some cases relocated) may be found at <http://BrookhavenSouthHaven.org>, then navigate to the **Cemeteries-Rose Cemetery** section. Hard copy documentation has been deposited with the Town of Brookhaven Historian and the Post-Morrow Foundation.
3. The Brookhaven Town Historian's 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 Russell, (631) 451-8038, [brussell@brookhaven.org](mailto:brussell@brookhaven.org).

### 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, Bellport..." 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, gleaned more information from them.

## Guide to the Rose Family Cemetery, Brookhaven, NY



### The First Family of Fire Place

The historic Rose Cemetery is located off Jared's Path in the Hamlet of Brookhaven, in what was once farmland but now is a new development. The preserved tract is approximately 53 feet east-west and 125 feet north-south.

In it are interred family members of the earliest settlers on Fire Place Neck. Since the cemetery use was discontinued as a family burying ground in the middle 19th century, it had significantly deteriorated.

Thanks to a concerted community effort, the Rose Cemetery has been restored, assuring preservation of what is arguably the most important historical cemetery of the Fire Place, the original name of today's Brookhaven Hamlet.

Current documentation 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.

## 2008 Restoration

The Fire Place History Club, a group of Brookhaven and South Haven hamlet residents interested in local history, decided in the fall of 2007 to make this cemetery their highest priority for conservation.

During 2008, members of the club excavated, laid out and inventoried the headstones. They then hired a professional stonemason — Peconic Monument Works of Riverhead, New York — to repair and set them. With generous financial support from about 50 people in the community and the Brookhaven Village Association, over \$2,800 was raised for the project, headed by Martin Van Lith, Brookhaven Village Association Historian.



*Representatives of the Brookhaven Village Association, Post Morrow Foundation, Fireplace History Club and neighbors look on as Hollis Warner, proprietor of the Peconic Monument Works, Riverhead, New York examines gravestones in the Rose Cemetery in preparation for their restoration.*

In August 2008, the restoration project was completed. A total of 14 headstones were repaired, and all fallen or tipped headstones were reset. In addition, two headstones that were beyond repair were laid flat in a bed of gravel to discourage weed growth, and provide drainage — hopefully minimizing further deterioration.



*On Saturday, November 17, 2007, student members of the Bellport High School History and Environmental Clubs surveyed the Rose Cemetery and cleared a number of gravestones some of which were previously recorded as missing.*

### 20. William Rose (1.1.4.5)



William Rose was a son of Jesse and Mary Rose. He was born about 1779 and died 2 May 1845. While he had a son Timothy, recorded in the 1930's as being interred in this cemetery<sup>3</sup>, his headstone is missing.



### 21. Catherine B. Rose (1.1.4.4.2.1)



Catherine Brewster Rose was the first child of William Brewster Rose and Parnal Reeve, and grand daughter of Joseph and Hannah Rose.

She was born about Jan 1835 and died 15 Sep 1838.

William Brewster and Parnal were interred at the “new” Rose cemetery that was located near the Brookhaven Free Library.



### 22. Jessie Rose (1.1.4)



Jesse Rose was the fourth child of Capt. Nathan Rose.

He was born 30 Dec 1738 and died 2 Oct 1821.

He married Mary Greene. They had at least nine children.



### 23. Mary Greene (1.1.4a)



Mary Greene, wife of Jesse Rose, was born 6 Apr 1747 and died 25 Jul 1819.





## 16. Oliver Scudder Ketcham (1.1.1.2.3) & Timothy Ketcham (1.1.1.2.2)



Two names are inscribed on this headstone — Oliver Scudder Ketcham and Timothy Ketcham, both sons of Scudder Ketcham and Elizabeth Rose. Both died from drowning in the same year — Oliver in the Spring, Timothy in the Fall. Timothy was also memorized on the adjacent stone.



Oliver was born 3 Aug. 1794 and died 12 May 1819. He was one of three men memorialized in the cemetery who died from drowning. This headstone was one of the few that required little restoration work.

## 17. Scudder Ketcham (1.1.1.2b)



The Ketcham family was one of the early prominent families of Fire Place Neck. Scudder Ketcham's headstone is arguably the most prominent of the original stones. Scudder was born in Huntington 15 Mar 1761,



married Elizabeth Rose 15 Nov 1789, and died 6 Jan 1799. Except for minor resetting, no restoration work was required. The "before" photo shows it about 1981.

## 18. Elizabeth (Rose) Ketcham (1.1.1.2)



Elizabeth Rose was Nathan and Sarah Rose's second child. She was born 19 Sep 1762 and died 28 Jan 1835.



## 19. Jerusha Ketcham (1.1.1.2.5)



Jerush was the youngest of Scudder and Elizabeth Ketcham's children. She was born 30 Nov 1797 and died 2 Jan 1821.



unidentifiable headstone stump was the likely the location of her headstone.

The restoration effort also discovered several apparently scattered footstones that could not be associated with any known headstones; additional headstones may therefore lay buried and undiscovered. The stones have been reset at the south end of the site, though these new locations are not indicative of possible original headstone sites.



*Ben Savage, Ron Kinsella, Eben Ludlow and John Deitz are laying out grid lines preliminary to documenting monument locations.*

## History

Thomas Rose, a weaver and farmer, is reputed to be the first permanent Anglo settler on Fire Place Neck. Records of the Town of Brookhaven record that on Oct. 12, 1700, Thomas Rose recorded an earmark for his cattle, indicating that he had a farm here on Fire Place Neck. In 1704, he purchased Lot 25 from Richard Floyd and Lot 26 from Benjamin Smith. He and his son Nathan continued to acquire tracts of land along Beaver Dam Road on both the north and south sides. By the end of the 18th century, the family was perhaps the largest single landowner on Fire Place Neck.

Monuments for four generations of the Rose family and in-laws may be found in this cemetery — starting at the grandchildren of Thomas (the weaver). Neither Thomas Rose nor his son Nathan has monuments in this cemetery, and monuments elsewhere have not been found. It is likely that they were originally buried in this cemetery, but that their memorial stones are no longer extant.

In the early 19th century, the Rose family began to sell their holdings, and by the end of the century much of their original lands were no longer in the Rose family. A major tract, on both sides of Beaver Dam Rd., was sold about 1830-1840 to John L. Ireland (1796-1879), a wealthy New Yorker with land interests in Greenwich Village

and Upstate New York. This sale was attributed to William Rose (1807-1847), grandson of the Lt. Thomas Rose buried in the Rose Cemetery. While the precise boundaries of this purchase have not been determined, it seems to have included most of the farmland east of Bay Road to at least Mott Lane, and from Beaver Dam Rd. to the Bay. It also included some tracts north of Beaver Dam Rd., including the “Senator” John Rose Homestead just to the west of Beaver Dam Creek (although Rose family members continued to live there until the early 20th century). The Ireland estate therefore encompassed the old Rose family cemetery.

The Ireland family occupied this estate until well after John's death. His wife, Mary Gelston Floyd, was a granddaughter of William Floyd of Mastic Neck who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The Irelands appear to have been active in the affairs of the local community. While both John L. and Mary were Presbyterian, they deeded the land for St. James Episcopal Church in 1872.

Another Rose family cemetery also existed in Fire Place, approximately where the Brookhaven Free Library now sits. This “new” Rose family cemetery was apparently established after the Irelands purchased the lands surrounding the old Rose cemetery. However, some Rose family burials continued at the old cemetery, the last being of Hannah Cobb Rose in 1855. It is in this “new” cemetery that “Senator” John Rose, a son of Lt. Thomas of this cemetery, and other family members of later generations were buried. Sometime



Looking northeast. Believed to have been taken about 1981 when the cemetery was in the middle of a farm field.

shortly after 1890, their memorial stones, and likely their graves, were moved to Brookhaven Hamlet's newly established Oaklawn Cemetery.

After the Irelands' stewardship, the property

passed to a series of speculators and farmers, including William S. Tiger (1890-1967) and Walter E. Corrigan (1884- ) who established the

## 12. Ede (Rose) Hallock (1.1.1.4.2)



Ede was the second daughter of Major Timothy Rose. She married Daniel Hallock.

She died on 11 June 1832, apparently from complications in childbirth, three days after the birth of her daughter. She was born about 1812.



## 13. Ede R. Hallock (1.1.1.4.2.1)



Ede was the infant daughter of Ede Rose and Daniel Hallock.

She was born 8 June 1832 and died on the following 31 July.



## 14. Charles B. Hallock (A)



Following Ede Rose's death, Daniel Hallock remarried (the name is illegible on Charles' headstone). Charles B. Hallock was a son by this marriage, who died 28 May 1835 at age 1 year, 28 days. He was therefore Ede's half-brother. This gravestone was uncovered 3 Apr 2008. It was not found on any known earlier inventories.



## 15. Timothy Ketcham (1.1.1.2.2)



Timothy Ketcham, a son of Scudder Ketcham and Elizabeth Rose, died from drowning on 19 Sep 1819. He was born about Nov. 1792.

He was one of three men memorialized in the cemetery whose death was due to drowning.

His name also appears on the adjacent headstone of his brother, Oliver Scudder Ketcham.





## 8. Hannah (Cobb) Rose (1.1.4.4a)



Hannah Cobb was wife to Joseph Rose, born 25 Nov 1784 and died 23 Apr. 1855. She was likely the last interment in the cemetery.



## 9. Phebe Desire Rose (1.1.1.4.1)



Phebe Desire, daughter of Major Timothy and Phebe Rose, was born 15 Feb. 1809 and died as a young woman, 22 June 1835.



## 10. Major Timothy Rose (1.1.1.4)



Timothy Rose, third of Capt. Nathan Rose's sons, was born about Sept. 1769 and died 11 Jun 1830.

His headstone did not require repair, and was only cleaned and reset, perhaps protected by the nearby cedar tree..

The source of his title is uncertain,

perhaps from the War of 1812, although his name has not yet been found on any military records for the period.



## 11. Phebe Rose (1.1.1.4a)

Phebe, wife of Major Timothy Rose, was recorded on the c. 1939 Town of Brookhaven Historian's Cemetery Inventory<sup>3</sup>, but her headstone was not found. She was born about 1773 and died 28 Feb 1817.

This stump, near to Major Timothy Rose's headstone, was nearly completely buried, with only the upper right corner partially exposed. It was excavated and reset in the original location. This stump, a nearby indecipherable rubble pile, and a fragment with the number 28 visible, are likely all that remains of her headstone.



well-known Tiger Nursery on the site. It was during their tenure that the original Ireland house was torn down. The site was also used for the filming of the 1961 Elia Kazan movie *Splendor in the Grass*.

By the 1930s there had been serious deterioration of the cemetery. In a 1933 talk given by then Brookhaven Town Historian Osborne Shaw at the Brookhaven Free Library, Shaw complained that our Revolutionary War veterans, Lt. Thomas Rose and Capt. Nathan Rose, and their families, "lie buried in the shameful and unkempt little burying ground . . . a



Believed to have been taken about 1981. They are thought to be the headstones of Major Timothy Rose (right) and his daughter Phebe Desire.

disgrace your Village Improvement Association should remedy." However, neglect by the Town of Brookhaven (who are required by State law to provide minimal care'), ill-defined boundaries in the middle of farmland, and destructive farmer intrusions, led to its further deterioration. In 1980, the Williams and Sack families cleaned up the cemetery and arranged for the installation of a split-rail fence. By that time, however, most of the stones had fallen, were broken and partially buried.

In 1981, through community action, modern monuments were erected for the two Revolutionary War soldiers buried there — the brothers Capt. Nathan and Lt. Thomas Rose.

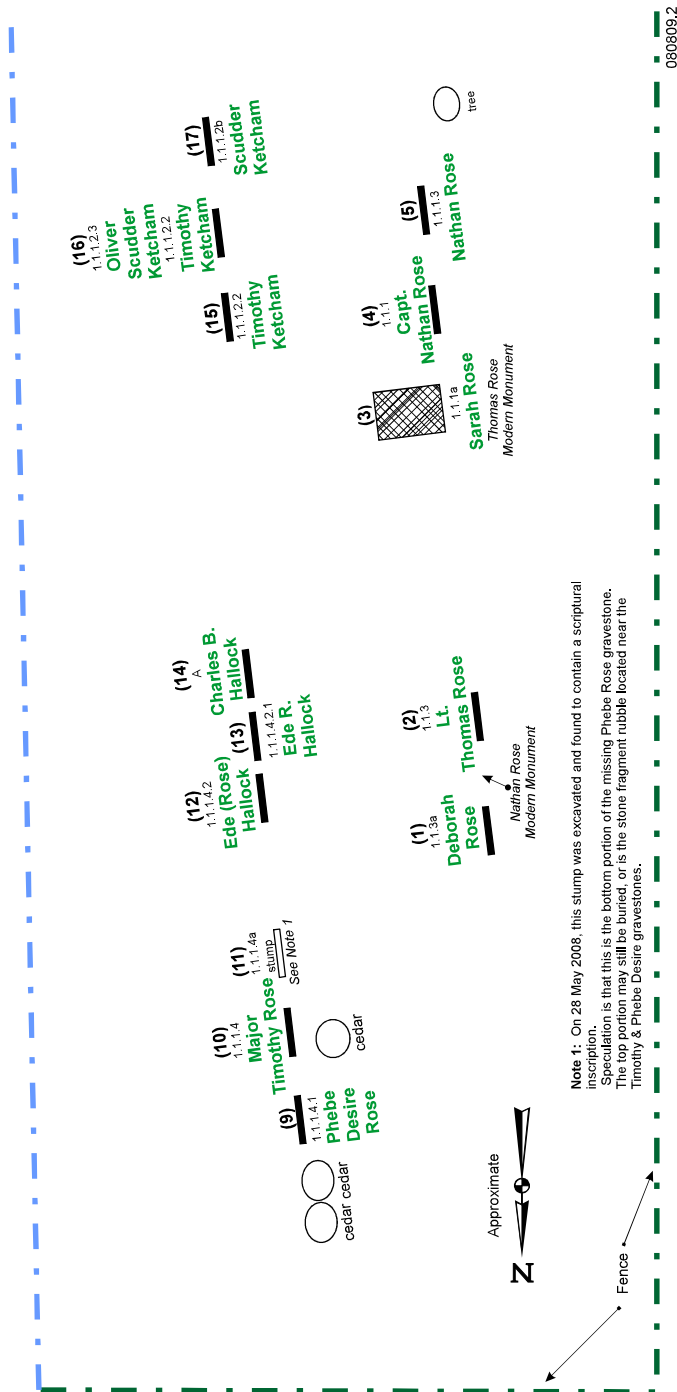


Modern Monuments to the Revolutionary War soldiers Capt. Nathan Rose (right) and Lieut. Thomas Rose.



## Approximate Headstone Locations

# North End



080809.2

I who is  
On (24, 1)  
in the 65th  
1965

MARRIED 1890  
Who died  
Oct 24 1996  
in the 65th year of  
her life

### 5. Nathan Rose (1.1.1.3)

A photograph of a white, arched gravestone for Nathanial. The inscription reads: "Nathanial", "son of", "NATHANIEL", "who married", "Aug. 17, 1823", "Ella, daughter", "of", "John". The stone is set in a cemetery with trees in the background.

### 6. Frances C. Rose(1.1.4.4.2.2)



## 7. Joseph Rose (1.1.4.4)



ALBERT  
 JOSEPH R. C.  
 who died  
 APRIL 1844  
 at the age of 69 years  
 his age

His headstone was almost completely buried and nearly overlooked.



# Headstones

Headstones are keyed to the Cemetery Key Map and the Relationship Chart. Some of the headstones were excavated at locations far removed from where the individuals were likely to have been first interred.<sup>2</sup> They have been reset near to where they likely were originally located based on family relationships and other evidence.

## 1. Deborah Rose (1.1.3a)



Deborah was Lieut Thomas Rose's wife. Born about 1745, she died 29 Dec. 1812. Little is known of her except that which appears on her headstone.



## 2. Lieut. Thomas Rose (1.1.3)



He was born 27 Sep. 1736 and died 3 Apr. 1780.

A Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War, he served in the Third Company, First Regiment of Suffolk County (minutemen), probably under his brother, Nathan. He was father to "Senator" John Rose who built the Rose homestead on Beaver Dam



Road, west of Beaver Dam Creek.

## 3. Sarah (Rumsey) Rose (1.1.1a)

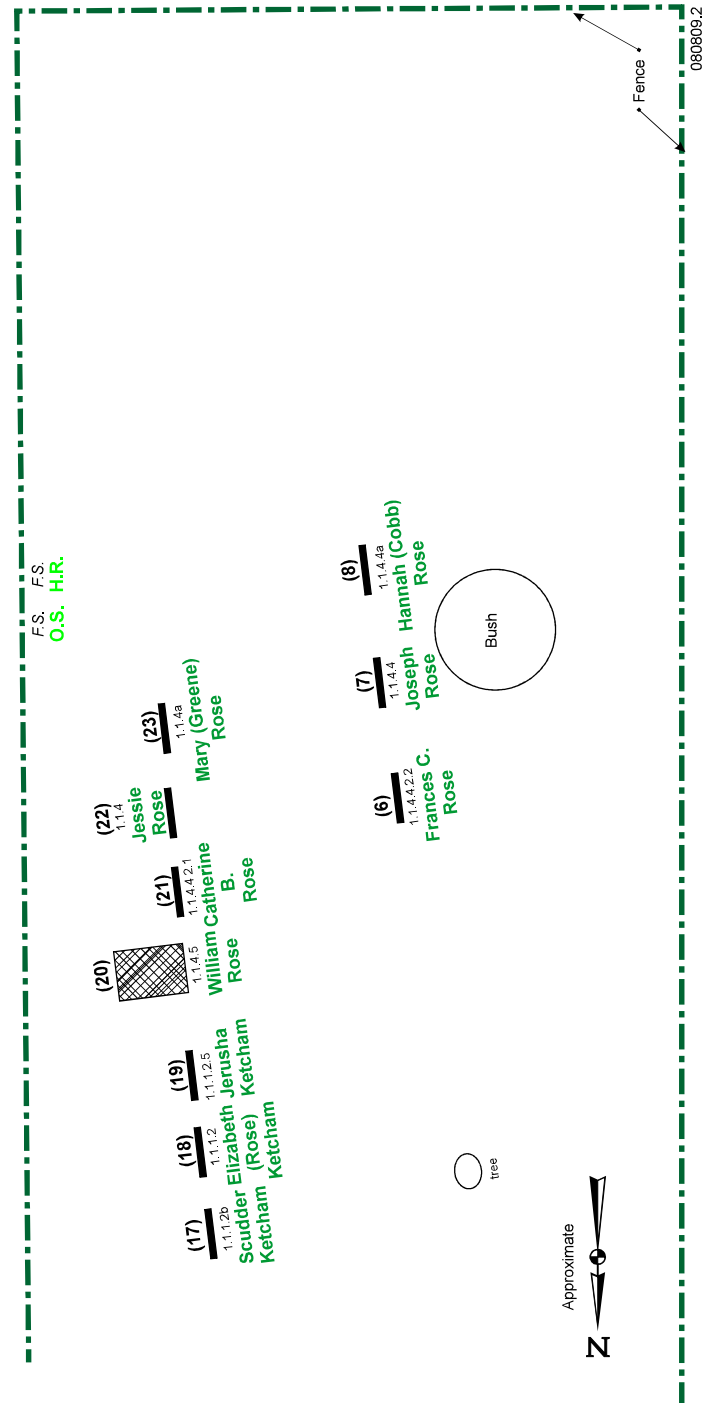


Sarah Rumsey was the wife of Capt. Nathan Rose, Jr. Born about 1730, she died 20 Mar. 1800. She was the daughter of Simon Rumsey and Phebe Rose of Southampton. Phebe may have been a daughter of John Rose, brother to Thomas Rose (the weaver).



Her headstone was too badly damaged to repair; instead it has been set in gravel to control weeds and provide for drainage.

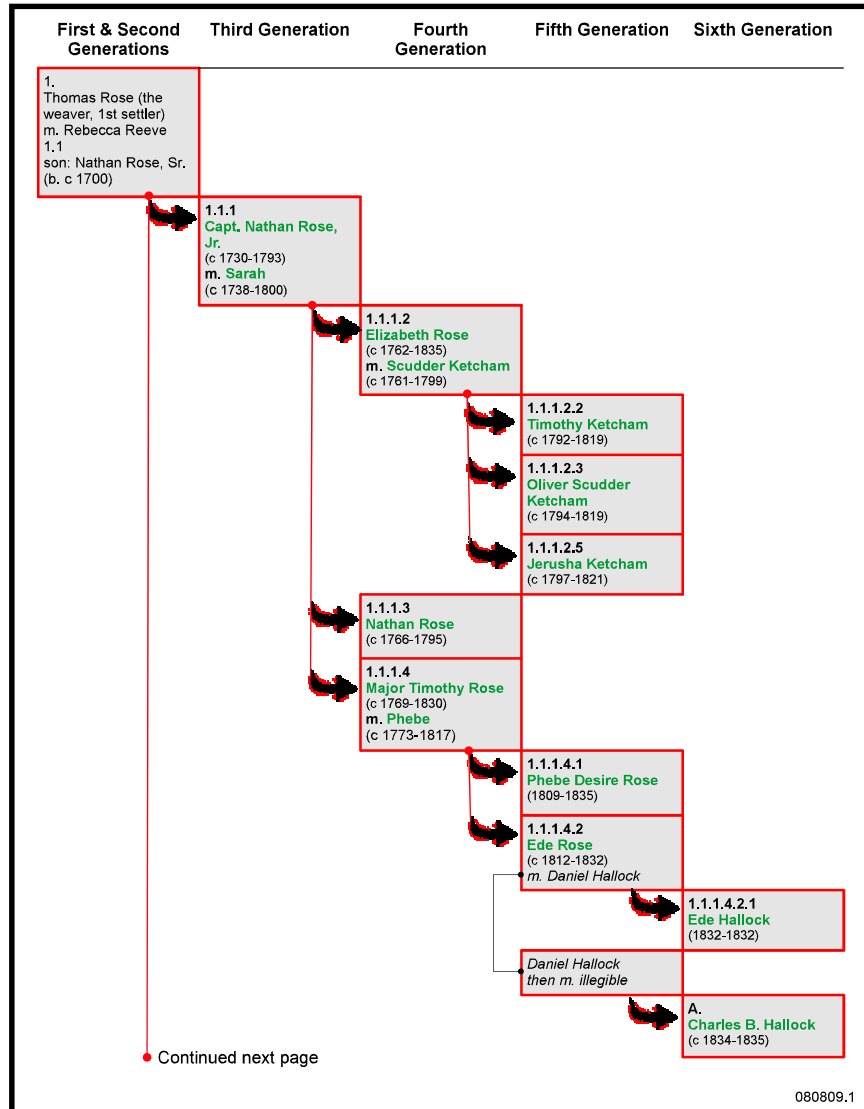
South End



# Family Relationships

The following chart indicates the relationship of the individuals whose headstones are found in the Rose Family Cemetery.

Only those individuals actually interred in the cemetery are recorded on these tables, except where a generation is needed to provide continuity. The genealogy of the Rose family is uncertain in part; while this compilation is based on many sources, it is subject to correction as additional information becomes available. More complete genealogy information, including family members not on this chart, may be found at



the community web site: <http://BrookhavenSouthHaven.org>

The numbering system for this genealogy chart is based on the the D'Aboville System. In this system, the progenitor (Thomas Rose, the weaver and first settler in Brookhaven Hamlet) is number 1. His first child becomes 1.1 (Nathan Rose, Sr.), his next child would be 1.2 (not identified on this chart). The first child of number 1.1 is No. 1.1.1 (Captain Nathan Rose, Jr.). The pattern is continued through all the headstones in the cemetery.

A lower case letter following the D'Aboville number (such as a) indicates a spouse. A capital letter (such as A) indicates that their relationship to the Rose family has not been determined, or they are not in a direct family line.

Since only individuals with headstones are listed, gaps in the numbering sequence indicate other family members.

