

## 22. Esther Rose 1771 - 1789

She was the daughter of Hannah Mulford and David Rose. Hannah was the first wife of David Rose.

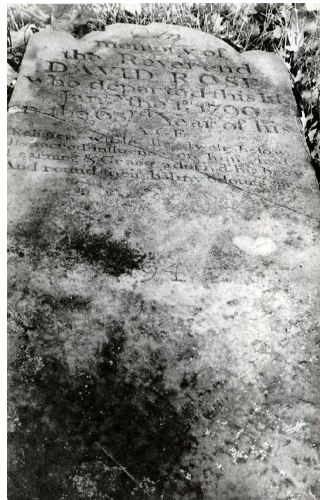
## 23. Rev. David Rose 1736 - 1799

Priest Rose was Pastor of the South Haven Parish Between 1765 and 1799. He was a prominent Patriot who did much to ensure that this region was strong in Independence sentiment. He was a member of the Suffolk Militia. When the British took control of Long Island, he was forced to flee to Connecticut.

He ministered to the entire south Town of Brookhaven region, including Middle Island. He was also trained as a physician, and was one of the few trained medical practitioners in the Town. As was the custom, he was also granted a large tract of land (called a manse, or parsonage lands) for his benefit, which included nearly all of the section north of the LIRR between South Country, Montauk and Old Stump Roads, to farm.

His gravestone was subscribed to by many in the community, including General William Floyd (one of his parishioners). It reads.

*In  
Memory of  
the Reverend  
DAVID ROSE  
who departed this life  
Janry the 1st, 1799  
the 63rd Year of his  
AGE  
Religion while he dwelt below  
Its sacred influence on him shed  
Learning & Grace adorned his brow  
And round them balmy odours spread*



David Rose gravestone about 1935

# Guide to the South Haven Presbyterian Church Cemetery

South Haven, NY

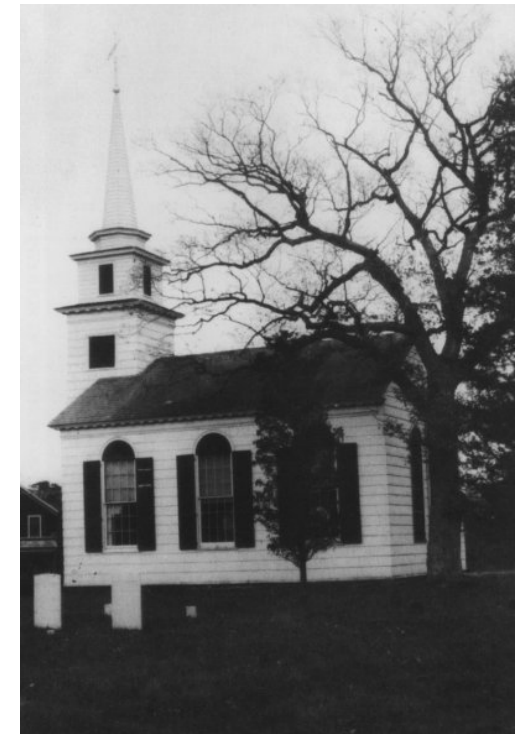
1 April 2009

The Old South Haven Presbyterian Church cemetery is located south of Montauk Highway about 1000 feet west of where the highway crosses the Carman's River. This was the original location of several early church meeting houses erected after the establishment of the parish about 1740. The last church structure, erected in 1828, was located adjacent and immediately northeast of the cemetery.

When the Town of Brookhaven was first settled, as was the custom, the first proprietor's established a Town church in Setauket. It survives as the Setauket Presbyterian Church. The minister, Rev. Phillips, traveled throughout the town ministering to the needs of its citizens and conducting worship services. Except for the Setauket meeting house, there were no other dedicated religious meeting places. Rev. Phillips died in 1739, and shortly thereafter a meeting house was built in South Haven (then called "at South" or "the Fire Place." At about the same time a minister was procured, and it is believed that the cemetery itself started to be used.

The earliest headstone with a date is that of Sarah Hudson, died 11 Sep 1746. However, gravestones were expensive and difficult to procure, and there is evidence of fieldstone markers, some of which may predate 1746. Unlike today, most families had private burial sites. The church cemeteries were most often used by merchants, tradesmen, and mechanics who did not own farms or had larger estates.

During the Revolutionary War, the original church structure was destroyed, probably by patriots to prevent its use by the Tories. Shortly after the war, a second structure was built. Then in 1828, the present structure was built.



Church, 1930s. Note gravestones in foreground.

More information on the South Haven Presbyterian Church Cemetery, and the people buried there may be found by visiting <http://BrookhavenSouthHaven.org> and navigating to Cemeteries

In 1960, the 1828 church structure itself was moved about 3 miles southwest to the Hamlet of Brookhaven. The original site in South Haven is marked with a New York State historical marker.

Among those buried in the cemetery is Priest David Rose, minister of the congregation throughout the tumultuous Revolutionary War period. The church congregation was, for the most part, strong patriots, with Priest Rose their leader. A member of the congregation, William Floyd, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Another prominent member was General Nathaniel Woodhull, who died of wounds inflicted by the British in Jamaica, Queens during the Battle of Long Island.



Rev. David Rose modern Revolutionary War Monument.

A record of the community members who contributed to Rev. Rose's gravestone survives and includes William Floyd.

Through the efforts of many community members, lead by Marty Van Lith and the Fire Place History Club, the cemetery is to receive a major renovation this year, which will include headstone repairs, resetting of stones, and conservation of those that can't be repaired to minimize further damage.



South Haven Church about 100 years ago.

currently identifiable memorial in the South Haven Church cemetery. Her death occurred shortly after the Parish of South Haven was established. The quality of her gravestone suggests that she or her family were of means -- the Tinker family was prominent in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

*Robert C. and Sherry Stancliff Comment: "The stone for Sarah Hudson widow of Jonathan Hudson, clearly reads age 72, which after considering all related facts must be considered an error and should read 82. A child born 1674 could in no way be considered a daughter of John Tinker, specially since her mother was married to William Measure that date, and aged 45. If born 1674, she was married at age 12 and had first child at age 13, while not impossible, that is certainly not likely."*

## 15. Thomas Hulse 1785 - 1862

Little is known of him.

## 16. James Miller

All we know for sure is that James was a native of Edinburgh, Scotland. He was perhaps related to the Miller family who lived next to the church and are buried in the nearby Miller/Carman burying ground.

## 17. Huldah Hand Platt 1804 - 1871

Oliver and Huldah are reported to have had a total of seven sons and three daughters.

## 18. Oliver Platt 1802 - 1883

He was a carpenter.

## 19. Deborah Topping Reeve 1717 - 1759

By 1993 her gravestone was not readable. Pictured is what the investigators in 1993 believed were the remains of the stone. In 1938, it was transcribed as follows:

"Here Lyes intwrr'd  
The body of Deborah  
wife of Abner Reeve  
who died the 18 Day  
of November 1759  
aged 42 years"



The Rev. Abner Reeve was minister of the South Haven Presbyterian Church from 1755 - 1763.

## 20. Phebe [Rider] 1819 - ?

She was the wife of James Rider.

## 21. Bershua [Rose] 1748 - 1784

She was the second wife of the Rev. David Rose (Priest Rose). He had three wives.

after Nehemiah's death by drowning.

## 7. Nehemiah Hand 1772 - 1813

*On 5 Nov 1803 there occurred "one of the most tragic disasters in the history of Brookhaven Town. Eleven men, namely, William Rose, Isaac Woodruff, Daniel and Lewis Parshall, Benjamin Brown, Nehemiah Hand, James and Henry Homan, Charles Ellison, James Prior, and John Hulse, went off South Beach in their small boat, to fish. According to tradition, the men landed on the sand bar several hundred yards off shore, which at low tide is above water, to shake the sea-weed out of their nets, and hauled their boat upon the sand. They carelessly failed to anchor it, with the result that in the darkness they did not see that the rising tide was washing around and lifting it, until finally a wave carried it off the bar. When they made the discovery that their boat was gone, and felt the tide rising above their feet, they began to shout so loudly that they were heard across the beach and bay by people on the mainland at Fire Place. It was a beautiful, calm night. One woman went to her neighbor's and remarked that she thought that something was wrong at the Beach as she was sure she had heard her husband's voice. It has always been a mystery why a rival fishing crew, which that night was in a house on the Beach, did not hear the men's cries, and rescue them. One tradition declares that a man who had heard the shouting of the stranded fishermen, broke into the house to ask them to get the men. They evidently had been drinking, for one man drunkenly replied in answer to the intruder's plea: "Damn 'em, let 'em drown." All eleven were drowned, and the next morning there were eight widows in the parish of South I Haven. Several victims of this tragedy lie buried in the South Haven church yard." George Borthwick, 'The Church at the South, A History of the South Haven Church.' p. 180. avid*

## 8. David C. Hansen 1854 - 1856

Young son of Seaman & Angeline Hansen.

## 9. Elizabeth Raynor Hawkins 1789 - 1865

Wife of Joel Hawkins

## 10. Joel Hawkins 1785 - 1867

While a farmer, he appears to never have owned a farm and worked as a farm laborer.

## 11. Angeline Homan 1802 - 1864

She was wife of Charles Homan and daughter of David and Bathsheba Homan, whose gravestones are adjacent.

## 12. Bathsheba [Homan] 1770 - 1859

Wife of David Homan.

## 13. David Homan 1769 - 1845

Little is known of him.

## 14. Sara [Tinker] Hudson 1664 - 1746

She was wife to Jonathan Hudson. This gravestone is the oldest

## Gravestone Descriptions

Brief gravestone descriptions are given below. They are keyed to Plot Plan in the center fold. In cases where the gravestones are no longer readable, transcriptions based on surveys done in the early 20 century are included.

### 1. Justice Nathaniel Brewster 1713-1772

Justice Nathaniel Brewster was a prominent citizen of the Town with an estate in Mastic and property elsewhere. He was murdered by one of his slaves.

*Source: New York Gazette and Weekly Mercury, June 19, 1772:*

*"Justice Nathaniel Brewster, Bellport, Brookhaven (1772). About four o'clock last Monday afternoon [June 15th?] Nathaniel Brewster Esq. being in the woods with one of his negroes, attempted to correct him for some misdemeanor, which the negro resented, and wounded his master by giving several such heavy blows on his head with a billet of wood, that he expired the next morning [June 16th?]. The negro was tried the next day [Wednesday, June 17th], and being found guilty of the murder of Mr. Brewster, was to be executed last Friday [June 19th?]."*

### 2. Joseph Conklin 1700-1780

He was the brother to Elizabeth, whose gravestone is adjacent. He never married. Joseph Conklin was a miller who moved from Southold, NY to South Haven. He left his property to Jeremiah Havens, his sister Sarah's grandson. His sister married a John Havens. Jeremiah named his first son ( b. 1781) Joseph Conklin Havens.

### 3. Elizabeth Concline 1703 - 1756

She was the daughter of John & Sarah Concline. She was also the sister to Joseph Conklin, whose gravestone is adjacent.

### 4. Philothea Corwin 1802 - 1858

She was the widow of William H. Corwin. Philothea was likely originally interred in the small Homan family cemetery (now abandoned and within the Wertheim Wildlife Refuge) and reinterred here between 1925 and the mid-1930's.

### 5. William H. Corwin 1805 - 1852

William H. Corwin and his wife Philothea Homan were said to have been originally interred in the now abandoned Homan family cemetery now deep within the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge. The stones were reportedly moved to the South Haven Church cemetery following vandalism that occurred to the Homan family plot (1920's or early 1930's.) The bodies reportedly were not moved. That they should eventually be memorialized in the South Haven Presbyterian Church cemetery is a bit ironic. William H. Corwin was apparently one of the founders of a break away Congregational Church which formed in Fire Place in 1842, ten years before his death, but did not survive.

### 6. Mary [Mapes] Hand 1784 - 1871

She was the wife of Nehemiah Hand, later of T. W. Rowland, still later of David De Forrest. She had five children by Nehemiah Hand, the youngest born



# South Haven Presbyterian Church Cemetery

Brookhaven Town Cemetery #4  
Suffolk County Tax Map 200-849-03-5  
South Haven, NY

