

As the old "Burying Ground" seems to be a popular topic for consideration just now, made so by the preposterous suggestion of turning it into a public school site, would it not be well for some one interested and competent in ancient lore and history, to give the public the true facts and data regarding this "ancient city of the dead". An attempt was made to do this in the last issue of the "Corrector", but the effort seems to have been a failure, so far as authentic information is concerned, as the writer has evidently confused in his mind two burial plots. He quotes "May 5, 1767 At a meeting of the Trustees, held by adjournment, voted and ordered by said Trustees, that Wm. Rogers and David Woodruff shall purchase a piece of land at Sag Harbor near the Meeting House, not to exceed 3/4 of an acre to be for a burial place, and that at the town's cost. A little study of the geography of the village, and the allotments and boundaries as given in the records will show that this entry refers to the old burying ground which once occupied the site now covered by the premises of John DeCastro Mrs. William Bennett, and the market of George J. Howell, and the meeting house mentioned was the Old Presbyterian Church, corners of Church & Sage Streets. There was no meeting house at that time near the present old burying ground, not until 75 years later. The piece of land quoted as being given in exchange for this "old burying ground" plot to David Hand was presumably a portion of the lot now owned and occupied by George Kiernan and the "coming to a point" now forms a part of Madison Square. The above is given by the Corrector scribe as the "Oldest Burying ground at Sag Harbor"; if so where were all the bodies buried between 1730 and 1767? The writer says, "We find that persons were buried in it nine years before the Revolutionary War." Also the last interments which were made in the Old Burying Ground were in the year 1784. This may be true, referring to the old burying ground on lower Madison Street but if the writer presumes to refer to the old Burying ground now in question, he is evidently half a century "off". It is a well known fact however that the oldest tombstone in the now old burying ground bears date July 2, 1780. Query - If the last body was buried in this old ground in 1784, where were the people buried, who died during the next fifty years, up to the time Oakland Cemetery was opened?

Again we can find no evidence either in fact or history of houses being built west of the Old Hag Neck bridge on the Cove, but authentic records of a settlement east of Main Street, near the water. Will some competent person lead us out of the dark.

(Student)