

Note by Richard Gifford for the Palmer/Briggs genealogy

BF Wilbour's "Little Compton Families" has Susannah Briggs marrying (---) Northway, but also has the incorrect line of a Susannah Cook marrying William Palmer of Dartmouth. Three of Susannah's brothers lived in Little Compton: William Briggs (1650-1716) is buried with his wife with inscribed stones at their farm at the west end of Shaw Road. What is still called Briggs Beach is just to the south. John Briggs (b.1642) had a farm on the LC/Tiverton line near Windmill Hill. Job Briggs (d.1733) lived near Adamsville. The original Palmer lands seem to be east of Long Highway between the Snell/Pottersville and William Sisson Road intersections.

John Palmer's youngest son Simeon is connected to the most intriguing gravestone at Old Commons Burial Ground, that of Elizabeth (Mortimer) Palmer, who "should have been the wife of Simeon Palmer." Marjorie O'Toole has researched this and concluded that what I had read long ago, and thought to be a facetious legend, is in fact true. Rev. Mase Shepard somehow hit on the idea that it was a laudable thing to cook and eat cats, and urged his congregation to follow his example. Being a religious man, Simeon demanded his wife prepare such a meal for him. Horrified, Lydia left him and moved back in with her parents, taking with her their infant daughter. Simeon would visit them each Sunday for dinner, without his desired feline main course, but otherwise they had no further contact for the rest of Elizabeth's life, much to Simeon's displeasure. As a parting shot, when Elizabeth died Simeon had the "should have been the wife of" language inscribed on her gravestone before he packed up and moved to upstate NY.