



Missing and Presumed Here

by Dwight "Harry" Harrington, Cemetery Commissioner

Amsey Matott, May 26, 1896 – 1950, son of Charles and Lucy (Lucia) Matott

Amsey Matott spent most of his life in Barre, Vermont, but he was born around 1896 in Champlain, New York. His parents, Charles and Lucy (Lucia) Matott moved the family to Barre in 1909 and Charles took a job with the city street department. The couple had a total of seven children, Amos, Eunice, Amsey, Bert, Clifford, Emma, and Mary. Unfortunately, vital records for Champlain, NY are not readily available, but the 1910 federal census showed the Matott family still in Champlain – a minor point of difference from the 1909 moving date shown above as taken from Charles's obituary. In the photo above, the headstone at the center belongs to the Charles Matott lot and the flag to the otherwise unmarked grave of Amos Matott.

Amsey, born in 1896, fell into the prime age group for service in the Great War. He filled out his draft registration and stated he worked in the granite industry as a lumper for Thomas Abare of Barre. [*a LUMPER moves the granite products around on carts, with cranes, etc.*] Amsey's father passed away in January of 1916 and Amsey stated on the draft registration he provided support for his widowed mother and gave his address as 37 Branch Street in Barre.

Amsey J. Matott served in the army during the Great War. The adjutant general's roster for soldiers of World War 1 has an entry for him on page 838. We also know his older brother Amos Joseph Matott also served, his entry in the roster is just above Amsey's. The brothers stood in the processing line together and Amsey got his serial number first with Amos getting the number just one digit greater. Here are the entries, listed alphabetically as in the roster:

Page 838 of the Vermont Roster

MATOTT, AMOS JOSEPH Serial No. **2,722,820**

Resided: Barre. Born at Champlain, N. Y. Inducted: May 24, 1918, Montpelier at age 26 8/12 years. Organizations: 151st Depot Brigade, to June 15, 1918; Company "G," 303d Infantry, to Sept. 10, 1918; Company "G," 125th Infantry, to discharge. Overseas: July 7, 1918 to Dec. 17, 1918. Slightly wounded in action: Oct. 7, 1918. Discharge: Jan. 24, 1919, Camp Devens.



MATOTT, AMSEY J. Serial No. **2,722,819**

Resided: Barre. Born at Champlain, N. Y. Inducted: May 24, 1918, Montpelier, at age 22 years. Organizations: 151st Depot Brigade, to June 15, 1918; Company "G," 303d Infantry, to Aug. 5, 1918; Company "A," 162d Infantry, to Aug. 15, 1918; Company "I," 18th Infantry, to discharge. Overseas: July 7, 1918 to March 19, 1919. Severely wounded in action: Oct. 2, 1918. Discharge: Apr. 3, 1919. Remarks: Cited in G. O. 1, 1st Division, dated Jan. 1, 1920. [*General Order 1 not found.*]

Judging by the two entries, it appears there could be some confusion between the brothers, Amsey J. and Amos Joseph, and sure enough, confusion would later surface. The passenger list for the "*City of Poona*" prepared at Hoboken, NJ and dated July 7, 1918, had the list of soldiers for Company G of the 303rd Infantry. Passenger #150: Matott, Amsey J., 2722819, private. For some reason, Amsey listed his next of kin as Mr. Amos Matott, brother, 37 Branch Street, Barre, VT. In that same manifest for Company G of the 303rd, passenger #17: Matott, Amos J., 2722820, private, next of kin, Mrs. Lucie Matott, mother, 37 Branch Street, Barre, VT. The ship departed from Montreal, apparently headed for England.

The two men stayed together for a while and they can be found on a passenger manifest for the *HMS Archimedes*, departing from Winnall Down Camp [*an American army camp near Winchester, England*] circa 26 July 1918. Page 3 of a roster of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 303rd Infantry shows the brothers aboard and undoubtedly bound for France. According to the Vermont roster, Amsey left the 303rd infantry first, transferring to the 18th Infantry via the 162nd Infantry in August, 1918. Amos moved on to the 125th Infantry in September that year.

That confusion suggested above showed up in the casualty list from Washington, DC published in the December 2, 1918 Barre Daily Times which showed, under missing in action, "Private Amsey J. Matott (Amos Matott), Barre, VT" hinting Amsey and Amos were the same person. Here in town, the same newspaper ran an article about Amsey and his family; that article listed his siblings, including brother "Amosey." The Burlington Free Press of the same day actually stated it was Amos who was missing and not Amsey as they were "probably identical." Finally, a news note in the Barre paper of January 8, 1919 said Amsey had been found in a hospital recovering from wounds. The USS Seattle departed Brest, France on March 6, 1919 with the Saint Aignan Casualty Company on board, including Private Amsey J. Matott, 2722819, son of Lucy Matott, 37 Branch Street, "Barry," Vermont.

Home again, Amsey is listed in the 1920 federal census. He lived in his mother's home on Branch Street along with three of his brothers including Joe Amos. The census listed his native language as French and his job as a lumper. A 1929 fall from the second floor piazza took the life of Amsey's mother and the Matott siblings scattered. Amsey showed up again in the records when he married Pearl Abare of 33 Branch Street, Barre, on October 15, 1931. He had changed his residence to Pleasant Street in Barre. The couple had a quiet wedding at the Bethany Church in Montpelier and made their home in Barre. Unfortunately the marriage did not last and Amsey and Pearl divorced on October 3, 1936; the couple had no children.

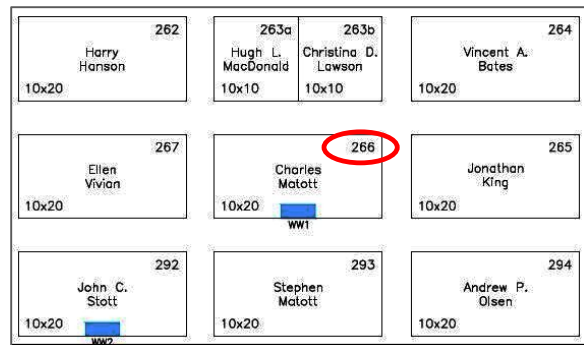
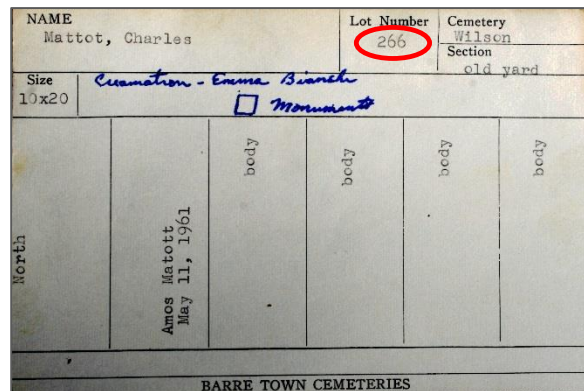
There is another interesting family connection found in the marriage of Amsey and Pearl. According to the index cards for the records in Barre City, Pearl, born circa 1904, was the daughter of Robert and Nora Abare. Nora, born 1885, is the younger sister of Thomas Eli Abare who purchased the family lot at Wilson Cemetery for Charles Matott. She married Robert Hebert [pronounced "Abare" in French?] in 1900, he died in 1905. Nora married a second time to Hiram Matott in 1908, but he passed in 1918; one of their sons being Fred Matott. Nora married a third time to Claude Martin in 1924, he passed in 1950 and Nora in 1959. At Wilson Cemetery in Old Yard 1, Lot 255, one of the graves belongs to Nora Martin and the lot is adjoining with the lot belonging to the Thomas Abare family, Lot 254. In nearby Lot 293, Stephen Matott, next to Charles, are the graves of Hiram and Fred Matott.

Amsey Matott disappeared from the records as found on the internet until resurfacing in the death records on February 17, 1950. The Barre Daily Times of that date reported an employee of the Central Hotel in Barre found Amsey lying on the floor in his room. The medical examiner said he had died overnight of natural causes. After an investigation by the State's Attorney Reginald T. Abare – son of Thomas and Lillian Abare, Amsey went to the funeral home. His obituary mentioned he had worked as a mason for Guido Bettini on the Barre City Hospital and referred to him as an experienced mason. The article also mentioned his service during World War 1 and his membership in the American Legion. Survivors included his siblings, Eunice Simmons, Mrs. Attilio [Emma] Bianchi, Clifford Matott, and Amos Matott. His funeral took place at St. Monica's Church on February 19 and Amsey went into the vault at Elmwood Cemetery where he disappeared again.

The day before Memorial Day of 1951, the Barre Daily Times ran an article concerning the decorating of veterans' graves in cemeteries around the Barre area. The article had a listing of veterans who received these honors for the first time, and listed under "World War 1 veterans buried during the past year" was Amsey Matott in Wilson Cemetery. So we know Amsey is in Wilson, the question is where. There is a Burial – Transit Permit filed in the records in the Town Clerk's office vault: "Amsey Joseph Matott, Died Barre 17 Feb 1950. Burial Wilson Cemetery. Transported by Pruneau Brothers, 9 May 1950 and buried on 10 May 1950 in Wilson Cemetery," but the lot number or section are not listed.

So Amsey Matott is somewhere in Wilson Cemetery. So consider the burial card for Old Yard 1, Lot 266 under the name "Charles Mattot." Burial cards are only as good as the preparer, and the first thing to notice is the spelling of the surname. The other records use the spelling "Matott." The lot is six graves wide with Amos buried in the second grave from the left as you face the monument. The first grave is blank with only the word "North" shown on the very edge to orient the lot card with the compass. In the cemetery, north is to the left when facing the monument. The remaining four lots to the right of Amos are all labeled "body." Hand writing on the card shows Emma Bianchi's ashes, she is a daughter of Charles and Lucy.

Cemetery Deed book 1, page 122: Town of Barre to Thomas Abare; Wilson, Section Old Yard 1, Lot 266, 20 x 10, 26 Jan 1917. The current schematic shows Charles Matott buried there, the blue veteran's box belongs to Amos,



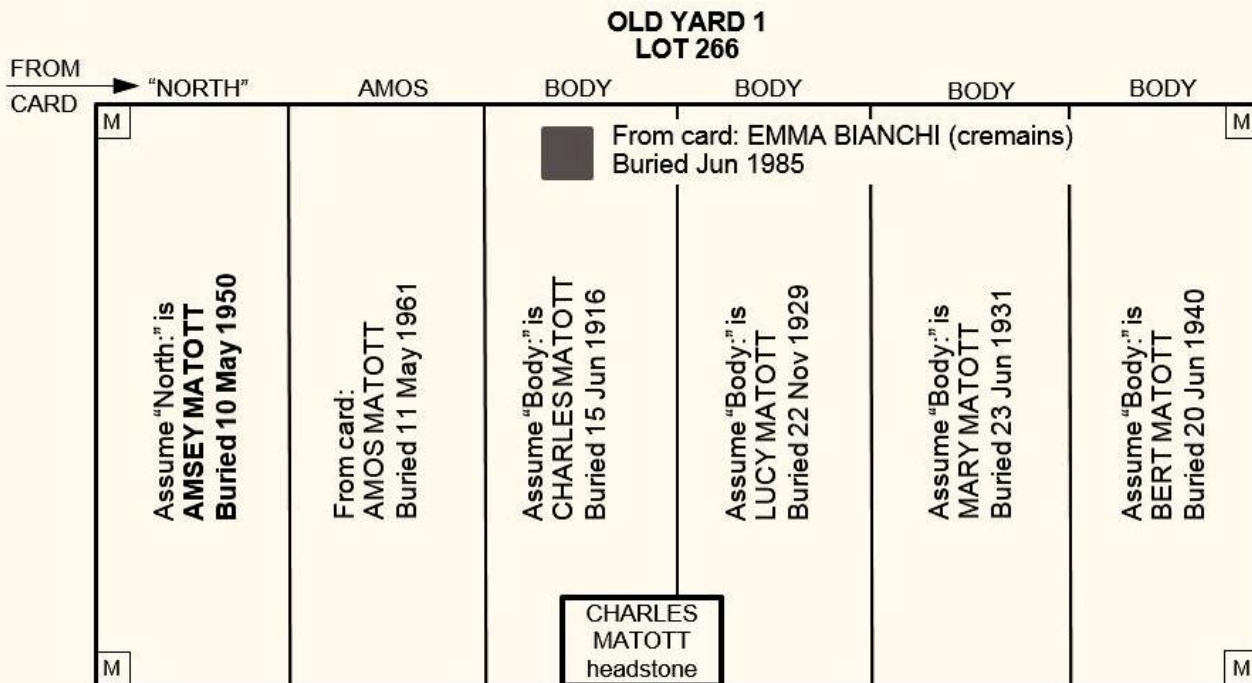
as he is a World War 1 veteran. No definitive link between the Abare and Charles came to light. Thomas Abare married Lillian Matott, but she is the daughter of Stephen and Juliann. Stephen has the six grave Lot 293 adjacent to Charles. Searching back in the available records, no tie could be found between Charles and Stephen. As shown above, Amsey worked for Thomas Abare in the granite industry, but doesn't explain why he purchased a cemetery lot for the Stephen Matott family.

A quick visit with a camera to Lot 266 did not yield much more information. There are definitely corner markers with an "M" on each one to define the lot layout. The only marker within the lot limits is a small granite headstone for Charles Matott. The location of the headstone is a bit to the left of the centerline of the lot and perhaps marks the location of Charles and his wife, Lucy in the center two of the six grave lots. The burial card on file with the sexton shows Amos Matott to be in the second grave in counting from left to right. The first grave to the left on the card has no markings at all. The last two graves on the right just have the word "body" written in as do the center two graves which might be Charles and Lucy.

We know from vital record and newspaper searches that Amos and Amsey did many things together including their enlistments to serve in World War 1 and their service numbers differ by a single digit. We also know that Amos never married and Amsey was divorced at the time of his death. Could it be that Amsey is in the unmarked grave?

In the photograph at the top of this article, there is a Matott monument clearly visible. This belongs to Stephen Matott and his wife Juliann Stone Matott. A genealogy search failed to find familial connection between Stephen and Charles, although both are from the same area of New York State. The lot for Charles and his family lies directly behind Stephen's lot. There is but one marker on Charles's lot shown below.

Consider who might be in Lot 266. It can be assumed Charles and his wife Lucy must be in the lot. The monument for Charles is slightly off center, but it might be safe to assume Charles and his wife are in the middle two graves. Another consideration would be the children of Charles and Lucy, which could bring the count is seven occupants in the lot. Checking newspapers and official Barre Town records, a probable layout can be constructed for burials in the lot. Adding names, the card might look like this:



DEED REF: Book 1, Page 122: Thomas Abare, Lot 266 in Old Yard 1, dated 26 Jan 1917.

The lot card is a bit confusing due to the sketched in position of the monument. Holding up the card in the cemetery aligned with the lot and graves, you would put north in the south due to the graves being behind the monument, not in front of it as suggested by the sketch. But perhaps the bit more space to write in at the top of the card played a role in the sketched in location of the monument. In the cemetery beginning on the driveway, the Stephen Matott family members lie beyond the monuments. The next lot belongs to Charles Matott, his family members also rest beyond his monument.



Charles died in 1916 and buried in June of that year. The cemetery deed is in the name of Thomas Abare and dated January 1917. The burial permit for Charles showed he spent the time between his death and burial in the vault at Elmwood Cemetery in Barre. His wife Lucy joined him at Wilson in November of 1929. She had fallen from the porch of her second story apartment. One doctor said she had died of heart failure rather than her crushed ribs. Her death index card shows her death as accidental and from three broken ribs on her left side.

The next burial in the lot proved a bit more difficult to find. The death record for Mary "Matotte" has her last name misspelled. Further checking of the data revealed her parents to be Charles and Lucy, and the informant on the certificate as her brother-in-law, Atillio Bianchi. Mary passed away in June of 1931 and there is a burial certificate that puts her at Wilson Cemetery. Later, in June of 1942, Mary's brother Bert joined the family at Wilson. Bert never married so there would be no need to reserve a space for a spouse. The records have a burial permit for Bert referencing Wilson Cemetery.

Now the family lot is down to two open graves. Amos would join the family at Wilson in 1961. He is the only family member to be shown on the burial card when it was created. Amos died at the age of 70 at home in Barre in February 1961. As with Bert, Amos never married either so there would be no reservation for a spouse for him. A burial permit is on file follows Amos to the vault at Elmwood Cemetery to await a spring burial in Wilson on May 11, 1961.

The last recorded burial is for Emma Bianchi. The lot card for Lot 266 showed she had been cremated and her ashes in the third grave which can be the assumed location of Charles Matott, her father. She died in June of 1985. Cemetery rules in Barre Town allow for a full burial and a cremation urn in a single grave.

As noted, Charles and Lucy had seven children, and four of them can be connected with the Matott lot; Amos, Bert, Mary, and Emma. But what about Amsey's other siblings? His sister Eunice married James Pierce Simmons, he passed away in 1952. Eunice died in 1995 at the age of 100 years and is buried at the St. Augustine Cemetery in Montpelier. Brother Clifford died in 1991 in Brandon and is buried at the Pine Hill Cemetery in that town.

That leaves the unrecorded grave in the Matott family lot open for Amsey. The empty slot has the word "North" written in it, this would orient the lot with the compass in the cemetery. There would be no other reason for the notation, for example, none of the families of the Matott clan have the surname "North." So is Amsey Matott buried in Lot 266? We will probably never know for sure, but the assembled circumstantial evidence certainly suggests he is.

There are four burial grave lot cards located in Old Yard 1 and referenced in this article, the three noted but not shown in the main article with lot OY1, Lot 266 are shown below:

FROM CARD	Blank	Margaret	Rutherford	Romulus	Lillian	Thomas
From card: Blank "NORTH"		MARGARET ABARE 2 Sep 1920 – 8 Apr 2016 Buried 13 Apr 2016	RUTHERFORD J. ABARE 24 Oct 1919 – 27 Jun 1973	ROMULUS F. 1 Nov 1920 – 30 Apr 1934	LILLIAN R. ABARE 24 Feb 1880 – 6 Feb 1937 [wife of Thomas]	THOMAS ABARE 1 May 1883 – 6 Jan 1935
		Margaret C. Abare marker	Rutherford J. Abare marker	Romulus F. Abare marker	Lillian R. Abare marker	Thomas E. Abare marker

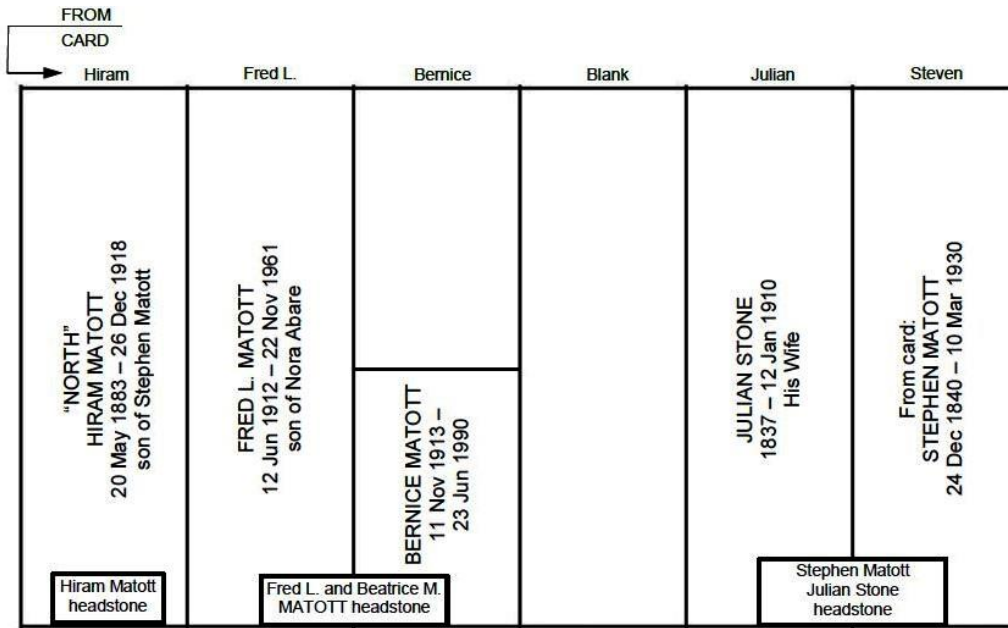
DEED REFERENCE: Book 1, Page 301: Thomas Abare, Lot 254 in Old Yard 1, dated 8 May 1934.

Lot 254 above: Thomas Abare. Thomas bought the lot for Charles Matott and Lillian is the daughter of Stephen and Lucy Matott. Their son Reginald was the State's Attorney who investigated Amsey's death.

Lot 255 below: Joseph Rabideau. Mrs. Claude Martin is Nora Matott Martin, sister of Thomas Abare. Mother is Harriett Rabideau, once married to Hiram Matott and is Nora's mother.

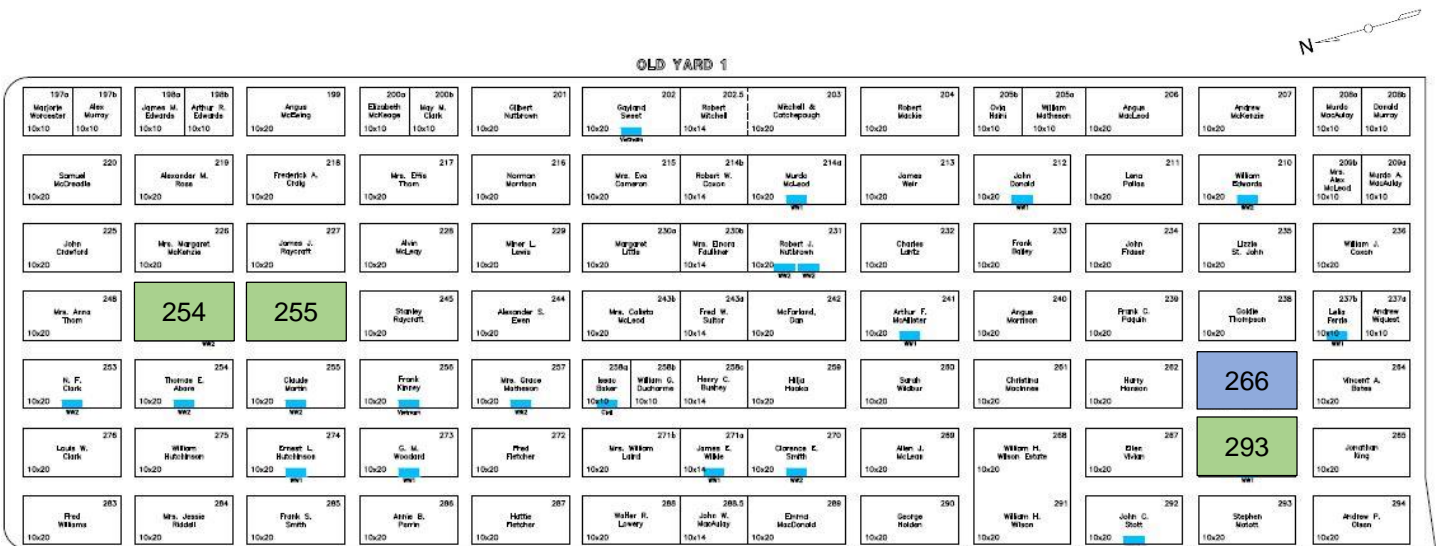
FROM CARD	Raymond	Nora Martin	Annie Abare	A. J. BARE	Mother	Blank
"NORTH" RAYMOND ABARE 10 Aug 1906 – 1 Jun 1953 buried 6 Jun 1953		NORA MARTIN 22 May 1885 – 19 Oct 1959 buried 22 Oct 1959 Mrs. Claude Martin	JOHANNA VOGEL ABARE 12 May 1892 – 14 Apr 1963 "Future Burial" wife of Acle J. Abare	ACLE JOSEPH ABARE 15 Sep 1888 – 28 Apr 1944 son of Harriett Laventure	HARRIETT RABIDEAU 15 Oct 1840 – 22 Jul 1928 mother of Nora Martin and Acle Abare	
	Raymond L. Abare marker	Nora Martin marker	Joanna Abare marker	Acle J. Abare marker	Mother Harriet Rabideau marker	

DEED REFERENCE: Book 1, Page 250: Joseph Rabideau, Lot 255 in Old Yard 1, dated 13 Aug 1928



DEED REFERENCE: Book 1, Page 64: Stephen Matott Lot 293 in Old Yard 1, dated 1 Feb 1910

Lot 293: Steven Matott. Spelled Stephen in the vital records but Steven on the card. Hiram is his son and once married to Nora Abare. Julian Stone is Stephen's wife and Fred L. Matott is one of the Hiram and Nora's sons.



Above is the schematic for Old Yard 1 in Wilson Cemetery to show the general locations of the four lots discussed in this document. Abare 254 and Rabideau/Martin 255 are on the left and Charles Matott 266 and Stephen Matott 293 are on the right. Amsey Matott is likely on the left side of Lot 266 shown in blue.