

Connecticut Gravestone Network

"Preserving and Protecting Connecticut's Old Burial Grounds and Cemeteries"

Volume 18 No.1

Jan. 2012

CGN 135 Wells St., Manchester, Ct. 06040-6157

Exec. Dir. Ruth Shapleigh-Brown 860-643-5652

www.ctgravestones.com



To Collections Dept. the last issue was Feb.2011 Vol.17 No.1

CT Gravestone Network Symposium

2012

East Hartford South Senior Center
70 Canterbury St., East Hartford, Ct.

March 31

9 am – 4 pm

9:30 am - "Old Cemetery History 101 for New Comers & Ct Genealogist"

By Ruth Shapleigh-Brown, Exec. CGN Director.

An introduction for new comers. Just what are you *really* looking at when you visit an old graveyard?

10:30- "CT Militia Who Fought in the War of 1812"

Presented By Betty Oderwald and Stephanie Lantiere

"1812 the forgotten war - the forgotten veterans"

This is the bicentennial year of the War of 1812.

A Real Daughters project with a goal of collecting cemetery records for the 5,000 Connecticut Militia veterans.

How you can find and use these records which involve every town known to have 1812 Veterans?

Hero's of the War of 1812 will highlighted.

11:30 am "Pere Lachaise Cemetery: Collective Effervescence in Dark Tourism"

By member Christine Kullstroem

Come on a journey through Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris. Considered "the most visited cemetery in the world," Pere Lachaise is the burial place of Jim Morrison,

Oscar Wilde and Frederic Chopin. Our journey will include the exquisite architecture of stones, crypts, and even pyramids. One of the greatest benefits, referred to as "collective effervescence," includes

a collective emotional energy shared by visitors.

Chris Kullstroem is a life-long Halloween, horror and dark tourism enthusiast. Her publications include Making a Monstrous Halloween, Monster Parties and Games and Deadly Roles: Interactive Games of Murder & Mystery.

Lunch Break 12:30 to 1:30 pm.

Lunch-snacks & beverages will be available for a donation.

1:45 pm "The Mysteries of the Peet Cemetery"

By members Melanie Marks and Morely Boyd

Historic Researcher/Genealogist Melanie Marks and historian Morley Boyd will take us on a visual tour of one most unusual family burying ground in New Milford.

You'll see a boulder where it is said the original 18th century settler, Samuel "the Hermit" Peet, prayed several times a day. Six generations of the Peets lived on this hauntingly beautiful land. Melanie and Morley have uncovered startling new information about the family that relates to the lore surrounding this hidden piece of history.

3:00 pm. "John Isham, stone carver from East Haddam."

By member Irma Carper-Miller and Dr. Karl Stofko

A resident of East Haddam and apprentice of the Brainerd, his stones are easily recognized for his under the chin wing design. Learn what we've learned about John to date and help us find more clues about his life.

Visit with Exhibitors and share some stories.

\$10 for general public Pay at the door

Admission \$5 for CGN members

And for co hosting organization members CSG & FCC

CGN Spring Symposium March 31st 2012

For more information contact Ruthie at 860-643-5652

Directions: see next meeting pg 3..or events on
www.ctgravestones.com

Calendar listings for spring 2012

Full details on page 8

Old South Burying Ground in Hartford

Clean up & Global Youth Service Day

April 21 – 10am – 2pm

Center Cemetery East Hartford

Activity Day Workshop May 19th - 10am-3pm

Open to the public for those
that want to learn about cleaning stones.

June 19 – 24, 2012

Association for Gravestone Studies Conference

Monmouth University,

West Long Branch, New Jersey

<http://www.gravestonestudies.org/conferences.htm>

July 15th CGN Bus Tour to Swan Point Cemetery

In Rhode Island, a poster will up at symposium for those interested. An email reminder will be sent in April.

Ruth is speaking Feb. 15th at 7:30 pm.
Suffield Senior Center, on Bridge Street.

Contact Suffield Historical Society

www.suffieldhistoricalsociety.org

Friends of Danbury Cemeteries
Workshop schedule and meetings
Find them on face book.

Also now on facebook are the following

Hartford Cemeteries:

Ancient Burying Ground

Center Cemetery of East Hartford

Hale Collection Reminder

The Hale Collection of Connecticut Cemetery Inscriptions, which is property of the Connecticut State Library, has been microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah and is available through LDS Family History Centers. At the library you can use books by town or for surname searches you can use the alpha card file.

From Executive Director, Ruthie Brown

When final counts were done at the end of the CGN symposium last year we were once again successful at with a profit, including our refreshment table donations.

Membership was a bit low this year. I surmise it is due to my inability to keep the newsletters coming out on a timely manner and that I now send them out via email without checking for current dues payments.

If anyone wants to help maintain a mailing list vs dues– let me know, as we do not have someone doing that job right now. We do have an overall listing that David Oat keeps for updating dues when they come in. Email address changes need to be sent to me directly.

Current members do get a discount for symposium entry and on bus tour fares. Our last effort at doing a bus tour was not successful because of trying to find a date that is good for all, but many had expressed interest we are trying again. And I might add so many of us are busy working programs in the spring that's not a good time.

This issue speaks of a topic that has forever plagued our old cemeteries and that is vandalism of all forms. Many years ago I worked with a past director of AGS on an to attempt to compare how various states dealt with this matter. Each state is different and most revert authority back to the municipal level. With no federal laws and involvement concerning the FBI was only pursued when pieces of great worth was taken over state lines.

Reporting the item as stolen is the first step – when? What? (*Do you have a photo? Does it look like many other pieces? – How is yours different?*) Just what are we giving the police to work with? However if you do not file a report with the local police then the item is not technically stolen. Secondly, as already mentioned, identifying the item is the next complication; this is not an easy task for our police to deal with unless they are actually catching someone in the act of taking it out of a cemetery, or selling it a shop when it is obviously a memorial marker.

As for tardiness in getting this newsletter out in a timely fashion, there is no excuse except the old “too much to do and too little time to do it.” I keep busy with trying to pursue many angles, working with local groups and responding to many requests.

Thank you for your patience. My apologies again, for not keeping a more organized schedule.

Ruth Shapleigh-Brown

Ruthie would welcome members sending her already edited articles that she can add to future newsletters.



Our 2011 Christmas Fair was a weekend of good friends and good energy.

For the past few years CGN along with Friends of Center Cemetery, Inc. (FCC) has been participating in East Hartford's Holiday Fest by holding a "Unique Christmas Gift Fair" at the South Senior Center where we hold our symposium and share office space with Friends of Center Cemetery, Inc. of East Hartford. This year with the help of Billie-Jo we welcomed in four new vendors to our creative circle. Stained Glass art pieces, Hooked Rug art, plaster replica pieces, all sporting iconography from our cherished gravestones. Our goal is to: raise awareness for cemetery history, provide space for vendors to share ideas and get exposure to the public while selling their one of kind offerings, and all with an emphasis on having a holiday get-together to be enjoyed! This year the goal was absolutely met on all accounts.

Saturday our vendor's lunch was highlighted by Wayne's Turkey Chili and Sunday by Billie's Pumpkin Soup. Then we have what is fast becoming a staple at these events is Chef Sabrina's roasted vegetables - yum!

We had everything from T-shirts and coffee cups to Neck Ties, rubber ducks and soothing bath salts.

The jewelry vendors displayed the most unique and colorful collections. While we missed Mary with her Mourning Jewelry, Heather added her beaded collection to our venue with an array of very tasteful selections.

This year we also had some creative sculpture, enchanted stones, crystals and spell makers as well as tarot card readings and our own expert handwriting interrupter.

Below are some photos of our enjoyable weekend.. hope you can join us next year!



Report on November Meeting

These meetings are set up so that members can meet, share and discuss concerns that affect the care and preservation of our old burying grounds and cemeteries. The time is divided between free time to socialize and time for open discussion on certain topics. We supply coffee, tea, soda and snacks. Any food donations to share are certainly welcome. If anyone has questions or certain topics of interest to inquire about, email Ruthie ahead of time and she will try to direct you to others that have had experience with the topic or put it on the agenda for open discussion.

Next meeting....

Sunday afternoon Feb. 19th - Noon - 3pm..

For those coming for the first time – these are explicit directions. It's really very easy but there is NO Exit for Maple St. coming from the south/west so read on carefully.

East Hartford South Senior Center 70 Canterbury St., East Hartford, Ct.

(Just off Maple St. on the Glastonbury/EH town line.

Directions: People Coming from the south often have a problem because in that direction there is no exit on Route 2 for Maple St. only coming from the north direction, so please read the following: use Route 2 Exit for Glastonbury Main St., **or 91 N** - Exit for Route 3 Putnam Bridge and then Glastonbury Main St., Head north on Main St. past Putnam Plaza on west side and Dunkin Donuts on east side.. Continue through to 4 way light, right is Maple St. (also exits to get back on route 2). For those using **route 2 east (from 84 E or W or 91 S** - signs may say Route 2 east to Norwich) take exit 5C for Maple St. and turn left.

Once on Maple go to Stop sign, left on to Handel Rd. and second right is Canterbury, go to the end.

Once you get to Maple St. we have signs to follow.

Snow date if needed will be the following Sunday Feb. 26th. Call or email Ruthie Saturday before and she will send you out a return with decision.

More Cemetery Theft

From Ruthie Brown - This last year showed a rise (as expected) in thefts of metal objects from our cemeteries and memorial gardens. With the rise in economic stress comes the greed that leads to stealing and turning these objects into cash. I can only recommend that you not promote installing anything new along those lines at this time and move to protect those that you are aware of.

Certainly there are ways that some items can be mounted or installed that help too prevent one from lifting them off a monument but when vandals are brazen enough cut up complete life size monuments or continue to visit and

steal pieces from a larger than life sculpture until it is transformed from a beautiful spirit that guarded the graves

of those beneath it to a twisted skeleton of what it once was, there is no fail proof protection.

Document what you have. Years ago we suggested methods of marking your items with a signature or earmark to help identify it; even a method of using an invisible paint that would be tainted with your own personal DNA. This was great when vandals were stealing whole monuments to sell as "Shabby Chic and Garden Art pieces" But if vandals are cutting monuments up into pieces then even this would not help the situation

Theft stories

Yantic Cemetery Association and the owner of the Bronze Lady (story was in Feb. 2011 newsletter) have agreed to have it repaired and returned to the family plot.

The update on the Osgood statue that was taken from Yantic Cemetery in Norwich in the spring of 2010..

Three people were arrested and charge with theft and desecration of a grave site. All pieces of the statue were recovered. Restoration of the badly damaged statute has begun and the Yantic Cemetery Association is helping with the cost. The family was



extremely hesitant about having the historic statute reinstalled in the cemetery but have decided to go forward with this plan but have will also include replacing the fence work that once surrounded the family plot. The "Friends of Yantic Cemetery" has been formed and will be taking measures to keep a close eye on the cemetery. Local resident, CGN Director and Cemetery Preservationist David Oat has been doing tours at Yantic Cemetery for some time now. He has also been in touch with an artist who is interested in reproducing miniatures of the statute that may be sold for fund raising purposes. For more information contact David at daveoat@gmail.com

Riverside Cemetery in Waterbury is one of the state's largest and oldest rural cemeteries.

If you have ever visited the first thing to see when entering the cemetery are two lovely bronze ladies sitting on either side of a large urn. Well unfortunately early last December one lady and one other bronze, a figure of a woman writing on a polished granite monument for the Smith family were taken.



Both have been recovered, they were found at an out-of-town scrap yard but one has been destroyed beyond repair. Again an employee of the scrap yard (as in the Yantic case) recognized the pieces and reported it to police and the thief was arrested. Dan Lynch who provided the Smith bronze photo said this is second time that one of these figures has been stolen.

St. Joseph's Cemetery in Waterbury was hit by a group of vandals in early Dec. 2011 and about 250 headstones were toppled. Some stones dated back to the 1800's and the estimated damage is in the thousands. Six people have been charged with first degree criminal mischief and interference with a cemetery or burial ground. Amazingly these were not teenagers but so called adults in their 20's.

Most recently this past January it was discovered that 16 monuments were vandalized at The **Griswold cemetery**.

St. Catherine's Cemetery on Rye Street in **East Windsor** a dozen 100 year old stones were knocked over.

Graffiti has been showing in **Milford, New London** cemeteries, the Comstock Cemetery in **Montville** was hit by a white racist group. (see page 6 for photo)

*For more details on these and many more cemetery related stories go to Cheryl LeBeau's great web site!
Link below **New England Anomalies**
<http://www.newenglandanomaly.com/>*

Regarding Laws on theft – a few state representatives have been looking into trying to purpose some new legislation. Check out page 5 where I've printed a copy of the research response for such a request. It gives you everything in a nutshell regarding laws we already have on the books..

We've been here before....

Long ago Ruth had hoped that CGN could build a committee that would pursue reviewing our state laws regarding old burial grounds and cemeteries. The Connecticut Cemetery Association is active on many fronts with active cemeteries but we who deal with older burying grounds have really come up a variety of different issues from around our state.

CGN will schedule meetings for members to present their situations. Ruth has collected a lot of material and she would welcome one or two members that might be willing to come forward and help steer this committee

On the next page are some samples of purposed bills and topics from the *PAST* that may interest you and perhaps should be reviewed and revisited in an effort to find some resolves for our present situations. Ruth has learned that it no simple task find this language as discussion move in and out of committees and such, but it is interesting to know that these subjects have been broached before.

Titles on some old bills just for the curious researcher.

1939 - HB #1028 - Public Welfare & Humane Institutions
Perpetual Care of Rural Cemeteries.

1943 -HB #1021 - Committee on Judiciary
Care of Neglected Cemeteries

1947 – HB #1346 - Authorizing Danbury to remove
the remains from the Episcopal Burial Ground.

1949 - HB -1253 - *Coventry - Care of Neglected Cemeteries*
Mandatory for Selectman

1957 - HB #1494 - Sterling - \$1,000.00
Stated Aid to towns for Cemetery Care

1955 - SB #233 - From the 18th District (Groton/New London)
Concerning Defacement of Veteran's Memorials
moved to Judiciary committee.

1957 - HB #2250 - *Act Concerning care of Veterans Graves*

CEMETERY THEFT PENALTIES

January 19, 2012 2012-R-0043
By: Duke Chen, Legislative Analyst

For complete report with all laws cited follow this link
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2012/rpt/2012-R-0043.htm>

Depending on the value of the stolen items, the penalties for these offenses range from a class B felony (punishable by one to 20 years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$15,000, or both) down to a class C misdemeanor (up to three months imprisonment, a fine of up to \$500, or both).

One way for law enforcement to become aware of potential cemetery theft is from scrap metal processors and junk dealers who must immediately notify and give them the name and license plate number of anyone who is offering to sell certain historical items. Violators are subject to misdemeanor penalties ([CGS § 21-11a\(c\)](#)).

Anyone who steals from a cemetery may be charged with any or all of the following crimes, depending on what is stolen and its value. The penalties do not increase for objects with historical value

Scrap Metal/Junk Dealer Reporting Requirement (CGS § 21-11a(c))

Scrap metal processors and junk dealers are required to notify and give local law enforcement the name and license plate number of anyone who is offering to sell a bronze statue, plaque, historical marker, cannon, cannon ball, bell, lamp, lighting fixture, lamp post, architectural artifact, or similar item.

Failure to report is a violation. The first violation is a class C misdemeanor, the second violation is a class B misdemeanor, and a subsequent violation is a class A misdemeanor.

<i>Degree of Larceny</i>	<i>Amount of Property Involved</i>	<i>Classification</i>
First Degree	Over \$20,000	Class B felony
Second Degree	Over \$10,000	Class C felony
Third Degree	Over \$2,000	Class D felony
Fourth Degree	Over \$1,000	Class A misdemeanor
Fifth Degree	Over \$500	Class B misdemeanor
Sixth Degree	\$500 or less	Class C misdemeanor

New Statewide inventory is in the works.

Among the initiatives of the Godfrey Library to save the past our history for the future, they are sponsoring a cemetery project to initiate a new statewide cemetery inventory. I wish our old friend John Spaulding was still with us as he would be right on top of this one. The project is headed up by Ed Laput who has been taking photos of gravestones to update records and inventories. One of the goals is to compile a digital database that will compare these present day photos to those taken in the past. Ed has recently received an achievement award from the genealogy groups for his efforts. As a volunteer Ed Laput has taken photos of the tombstones and researched funeral home and cemetery records, death notices, obituaries, and town and city records. The compiled information includes a description of the cemetery and directions to the cemetery. Names, information, and tombstone photos are hyperlinked with one click for online access, thereby preserving the information and making it accessible for the future through the Internet. An example of the work completed to date is: http://www.godfreydata.org/cemetery_records/stmary_portland.html

Many CGN members have already done this work or at least taken a multitude of photos and collected new inventories. This project would certainly benefit by CGN members contacting Godfrey Library and offering to share.

New Haven's First Catholic Cemetery

Many of you heard about the discovery this past summer of some skeletons that were found in New Haven while they were excavating for an addition to the emergency room of the Yale New Haven hospital. Well our member Toni Griego has been researching this area for sometime looking for lost clues to missing history.

Below a story that we may have printed long ago but under the newly discovered remains Toni has updated it. Ruthie thought it worthwhile to print again. This topic was presented by Toni and Dan DeLuca at our November meeting and there will in the near future be a book by Dan (who wrote the recent book on The Leatherman).

In 1845 there was a cemetery. The first Catholic Cemetery in New Haven served it's parishioners for less than a decade and then disappeared.

This is not the last you'll hear about this topic.

New Haven's First Catholic Church and Cemetery

During 1833 area Catholics purchased a lot on the corner of Davenport and South Streets in New Haven to build the first Catholic Church in New Haven. A wooden church sixty feet by thirty-five feet with an adjoining cemetery was put in place. March 5, 1834 the first two burials were made in the small cemetery.

The Feast of the Ascension, May 8, 1834 was the date assigned for the dedication of Christ Church. On that date Bishop Fenwick from Hartford and Father James McDermott started the official ceremony at ten in the morning. As the ceremony started a balcony designed for the choir gave way and fell into those assembled below. A fourteen year old boy, Abraham Lloyd Bryan was killed instantly and his grandfather Abraham Hardyear of Orange died the next day. Several others were injured but recovered. The grandfathers dying wish was to be buried in the same grave with his grandson. They became the third and fourth burials in the small yard.

The following Sunday, May 11, 1834 Bishop Fenwick said mass and dedicated the church as, "Christ Church." At that mass Bishop Fenwick confirmed four people

In October of 1834 Christ Church was broken into and the altar was stripped of its ornaments. The Protestants of New Haven were so appalled by the theft that they provided the church with a handsome silver chalice to replace the one stolen.

The small church and cemetery continued to serve the Catholic community until June 11, 1848 when a fire burned the church to the ground. At the time it was

thought that the fire had been set. The church was insured for \$5,500 but was valued at \$9,000. The cemetery was

still used to bury church members up until about 1851 when a plot of land was purchased near the Boulevard for St. Bernard's Cemetery. Christ Church cemetery had between 400-500 burials by 1851.

On April 18, 1858 Bishop MacFarland laid the corner stone for what was to be St. John the Evangelist Church. This second church was built on the spot of the earlier wooden church. The church was dedicated on September 28, 1858 and Father John Smith became its first pastor. Father Smith died in 1864 and was succeeded by Reverend Doctor Hugh Carmody.

Because the small cemetery was unused, Father Carmody decided to remove about seventy of the stones near Davenport Ave. Church members received a court injunction against the removal. Years later the stones were again removed to the rear of St. Johns. Father Coyle had the stones removed to St. Bernard's cemetery and reset. By about 1870 the cemetery had been forgotten as there were no longer any stones to mark the site.

St John's continued to serve the community until it was purchased by Yale-New Haven Hospital. St John's Church was demolished and in August of 1979 construction started at this site for the new Emergency Room. The fill from this site was transported and dumped at another location on Kimberly Ave and at that time two human skulls were discovered. It was unclear what site the fill had come from.

On July 11, 2011 while work was being done at the York and South Street location for an addition to the Emergency Room a worker discovered one human femur bone. Work at the site was suspended by the hospital and the State Archaeologist Nicholas F. Bellantoni, Ph.D was called to the location. Along with his students he conducted an archaeology dig and discovered the remains of four humans and coffin nails. During that time members of the Hospital clergy and Catholic officials performed a blessing ceremony for the remains.

The dig was concluded on July 15, 2011 and all remains were removed for additional study. They will be respectfully reburied at another area Catholic cemetery.

O'Donnell, James H. Rev. History of the Diocese of Hartford 1900 Vital Records of New Haven Vol. 2 1917-1924, Lists burials 1640-1850. Anthony Griego 2011



Graffiti at Comstock Cemetery in Montville from Ellen Hillman



Picture taken by Mark McEachern, Director of the Torrington Historical Society.

Litchfield Celebrates their History July 2012

In the above photo you see CGN Director Ken Buckbee presenting a CGN certificate of appreciation to Director Tom Donaldson with the Torrington Area Youth Services Bureau for running a program in which young students are cleaning gravestones at Center Cemetery in Litchfield. Ken feels that rewarding their effort is a good way foster future generations in caring for older cemeteries and respecting the history within.

This past year Ken who is a member of the Gov. Oliver Wolcott Sr. Branch of the Sons of the American Revolution, and Judy Sawyer, a member of the Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, spent many long and hot days working in the cemetery this past summer.

In this cemetery lie the graves of Gov. Oliver Wolcott Sr., a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and Col. Benjamin Tallmadge, a Revolutionary War spymaster, prominent people with rather large monuments. So in preparation for the 33rd annual Independence Day ceremony, supported by members of the Gov. Oliver Wolcott Sr. Branch of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter of the American Revolution, as well as the First Litchfield Artillery Regiment and local veterans organizations, Judy and Ken decided these graves needed cleaning. Buckbee said. "What an honor it was to clean the stones of two patriots who helped forge this nation." And Judy agreed that "It was the right thing to do for two very significant patriots."

Buckbee sought permission from the Litchfield Cemetery Association first of course. They used nylon brushes, water and a lot of elbow grease to clean the marble monuments. They avoided the use of chemical cleaners for fear of damaging the marble, some of which is in

brittle condition. It appears that these stones had not been cleaned previously so we are talking years of lichen and moss build up. This was Judy's first venture at this kind of work but she felt it was disrespectful to these prominent graves so covered with moss that the legends and inscriptions were totally illegible. Sawyer said. "It was sad to see the condition they were in."

The difference they made was like night and day and much appreciated by those attending the ceremonies.

Ken and Judy are very devoted to keeping an eye on these and other patriot graves in their area.

NEXT ISSUE IS MAY 2012

In our next issue for May 2012 there will a story about the The Christ Church project in Norwich which David Oat is working on. For years we have heard about the old gravestones that lie underneath the church. Years ago what is now the parking lot at the church was an old burial ground! David is working with the church to bring this artwork back out into the light so we can inspect the artwork that hasn't seen the light for almost 200 years!

Also in our next issue Ruthie will be posting a lot of information on laws concerning cemeteries in the hopes of getting more members involved and interested in following up on creating a committee to work on such topics as, Who is responsible for keeping old cemeteries from looking neglected? Why are they allowed to fall into disrepair to the point of not being able to "find" them anymore? Why is there not an organized effort in our state government or townships to respond to these concerns? . Why all laws are not enforced and allowed to be used only when convenient to do so? Why should a town be allowed to change its cemetery boundaries without proper research and review by our historic preservation office?

Hope to see you all at our Feb. 19th meeting or the March 31st Symposium. Stay safe and thank you for caring.

Ruthie Brown

Symposium – Come on Down





Calendar of events

CGN Meeting & Social – Feb. 19

Our November meeting was so interesting we are encouraged to do it again and look to start having these meetings on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.

For the moment Sundays seem to work best for most of us as many whom are interested do work on Saturdays as well or have commitments with other organizations.

Topics will be discussed as needed but certainly the constant theme is “how” we are protecting these historic resources across the state. You don’t have to be a member to attend, new friends are welcome.

Refreshments will be available, please RSVP Fern so we have a head count and let her know if you are planning to bring a food donation. . redbarnrugs2@yahoo.com

Old South clean up date - April 21

The next clean up date for Old South will be in coordinating efforts with Global Youth Service Day on Saturday April 21. Contact Ruthie if you would like to join us that day. Work that day will include, gathering branches, planting bulbs, up righting downed stones and cleaning stones. Anyone interested in coming is welcome to come take a look as this is one of the few days the cemetery is open. We could also use a team to “re” check our inventory and database as it hasn’t been done in awhile and we are losing stones quickly. .

Activity Day Workshop May 19th

10am-3pm at Center Cemetery East Hartford.

Friends of Center Cemetery in East Hartford will hold their next Activity Day on May 19th from 10 am to 3 pm. For those that have been asking for a workshop on “cleaning and resetting downed stones” this is a good opportunity for you to join us. Come prepared to work; bring your own gloves, bucket and scrub brush if you have it. Bring a bag lunch; friends will supply water and beverages. There are a few local restaurants nearby also if you wish to walk to them for a lunch break.

Come for the day or for a few hours.

RSVP centercemetery@gmail.com if you are planning on coming or have any questions

Danbury

For scheduled workdays for the

Friends of Danbury Cemeteries you can contact

Ed Siergiej at 203-241-3740 or at his email esiergiej@aol.com – or look for them on facebook

Bus Trip to Swan Point Cemetery in Providence Rhode Island.

Lunch and then over to

North Burying Ground in Providence.

Sunday July 15th Time: 8:30 am. & return about 7pm.

Swan Point is a lovely rural cemetery for more information go to <http://www.swanpointcemetery.com/>
North Burial Ground is older with more mixed style and colonial stones <http://www3.providenceri.com/parks-and-rec/north-burial-ground>

We will meet at the East Hartford South Senior Center where we have the annual Symposium as there is plenty of parking on a Sunday. We will have a couple of pick up stops along the way depending on attendees and certainly there will be one in the Norwich area. Those on the west side of the Ct river may wish to car pool to East Hartford. Let Ruthie know and she’ll put you in touch with others in your area. If time allows on the way back we might stop at Mystic’s Elm Grove Cemetery..

Price: \$20 for CGN members and one guest at the same price –all others \$30 **RSVP /ASAP –**
We need a minimum of 25 to make the bus rental worth it.
Payment can be sent to: Ruth Brown
CGN, 135 Wells St., Manchester, CT. 06040
Call Ruthie if you have any questions 860-643-5652.
An email will go out to all who respond to keep you informed on pick up locations and or any cancelations that might occur.

New Books – Internet Info and Links

“Final Thoughts: Eternal Beauty in Stone”

Foreword by Doug Keister

*Photographer John Thomas Grant provides a unique and emotional look at the melancholic beauty of American cemeteries. **Final Thoughts: Eternal Beauty in Stone** is simple storytelling through 224 beautiful photographs that display epitaphs spanning the last 300 years and capture the beauty, sensitivity, and emotion of the cemetery.*

“John Grant takes what he sees with his eyes and feels with his heart and soul and somehow magically extracts the essence of his subject and makes a picture”.

-Douglas Keister, Chico, California

Within each placid scene and through heartfelt words displayed upon markers, join photographer John Thomas Grant in his one-of-a-kind study of an American tradition.

After 30 years in the music business, John Thomas Grant’s new creative outlet came through the lens of his camera. **We hope to have a copy on display at the March Symposium... look for it on the CGN Table.**

Schiffer Publishing Ltd, Atglen PA,
(610)593-1777, heidim@schifferbooks.com

Book Details

ISBN: 978-0-7643-3910-3 Hard Cover Price: \$34.99

Size: 11" x 8 1/2" Illus.: 174 color photos Page Count: 160

Oregon State Cemetery Website

[Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries page](http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/HCD/OCHC/)
<http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/HCD/OCHC/>

This is another great example of what's needed.

Please take a moment to check out the State of Oregon Parks and Recreation website. You'll find online booklets about a variety of topics, including "[Historic Cemetery Preservation](#)," "[Legal Concerns for Historic Cemeteries](#)" and "[Cemetery Vandalism: Tips to Avoid It and to Respond to It](#)."

Burlington Connecticut, Cemetery Records

Len Alderman has been collecting research and documenting the old cemeteries in and around the Burlington area for some years now and is our go to guy for that area in our CGN circle.

Here are some inventory listings that Len has for sale:
(all sold separately) price is \$25.00 including shipping..

Canton Connecticut, Cemetery Records
Harwinton Connecticut, Cemetery Records
New Hartford Connecticut, Cemetery Records
Plainville Connecticut Cemetery Records
Plymouth Connecticut, Cemetery Records
Bristol Connecticut, Cemetery Records

All these Cemetery Records were based on the 1934 Charles Hale Records. To these records he searched genealogies etc. for additional data. Burlington and Harwinton records are up to 1997 or later. Southwest and Lower Calvary in Canton are also brought up to 1997. He wanted to bring all the other Cemetery lists up to date but needed some help. Len is now working with Ed Laput and Dan DeLuca via the new statewide gathering of data. We are hoping Len will join us at the symposium and have these on display. If you wish to contact him before then here is his email address, lalderman@snet.net

From Association for Gravestone Studies ENews

Stone-related booklets added to Stone Quarries and Beyond website

This information comes from Peggy Perazzo. She writes: "I wanted to let you know that I've added the following cemetery- and stone-related booklets to our web site,

Stone Quarries and Beyond, in the 'Cemetery Stones & Monument' section.
http://quarriesandbeyond.org/cemeteries_and_monumenta1art/cemetery_stones.html

1. Book of Epitaphs (circa 1890s) (pdf) - Provided by the Office of S. B. Sargent, Manufacturer of & Dealer in All Kinds of Marble & Granite Work, Tilton, New Hampshire (The title and date of publication are unknown; the S.B. Sargent company is listed in an 1893 publication. The last half of the booklet is in German.) [Epitaphs Booklet](#)
2. Georgia Beauties: Catalog Number Twenty-Two (pdf), The Georgia Marble Finishing Works, Builders of Fine Monuments, Canton, Georgia (no date of publication - possibly 1940s - catalog of cemetery monuments, urns, and vases) [Georgia Marble Company November 1974 Price List](#) (pdf) (Price list of designs illustrated in Georgia Marble Finishing Works design Book No. 22.)

Here's another link for sharing sent in by Fern Strong:

Free app helps you find final resting places

Source: olivebranch.wmctv.com
Want to keep track of where your ancestors are buried? You never have to remember a specific location in a cemetery with this app, because it marks the location on a map. using the GPS location using the phone. It is an app called Billion Graves ...

<http://olivebranch.wmctv.com/news/public-spaces/57530-free-app-helps-you-find-final-resting-places>

Coventry Research on Carpenter Family & Cemeteries

Jan Ramos has changed her link and made it easier for everyone to view her pages devoted to the work done at Coventry's Old South Cemetery last year. Jan is a genealogist that has ties in Coventry but actually lives in Florida, but thanks to internet she provides a wonderful resource for Coventry's history. She would love to be with us New Englanders but collects the photos from Ruthie puts them up for all to appreciate. Thanks Jan.

Here is the link to the new page, about replacing the footstones and headstones:

<http://home.att.net/~CoventryCT/complete.html>

This is the direct link to the original "discovery" and project page: <http://home.att.net/~CoventryCT/project.html>

New blog spot Memento to Stones.

by member Alison Pierz

Alison has is an artist that has always been interested in gravestone designs. Originally from Wethersfield but now living in NY City she has had displays in the past at our symposiums <http://mementostones.blogspot.com/>



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Thanks to all that have contributed, helped with editing and otherwise been very patient.

Deadline for Next Newsletter is April 19, 2012
cemetery news, articles and related events

APPLICATION - NEW MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL

FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2012- Please circle new or renewal
(photo copy of application to accompany payment is acceptable)

Name _____

Address: _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip+four _____

Telephone: (Home) () _____ - _____ Work () _____ - _____

Please print clearly - Email _____

Voluntary Information:

Interests in Gravestone Studies: Check which apply:

Restoration _____ Carvers _____ Genealogy _____ History _____

Other Comments _____

If a New member - Where did you hear about CGN ? _____

Fee: \$10.00, Make Checks Payable to "CGN" - Mail to 135 WELLS St. MANCHESTER, CT 06040-6127