

# Connecticut Gravestone Network

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

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

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[www.ctgravestones.com](http://www.ctgravestones.com)



To Collections Dept. the last issue was March 2012 Vol.18 No.2

## Calendar listings for Spring 2013

DETAILS ON PAGE -8 & 9

### April 6<sup>th</sup> CGN Symposium

This is a full day of lectures, vendors and displays.

Full details and directions are on the back page -

*Not listed on flyer but also attending our symposium:*

Ty Tyron doing **Stone Carving Demos**, - try your hand at it.  
FOSA (Friends of the Office of the State Archaeologist) will be displaying the Danbury, "Afraid of Hawk" project, more details on that in this issue.  
And Irene Lambert will be joining us to do some professional **Hand Writing Analysis** readings, bring something with you from that is handwritten from an ancestor and she will tell you all about them. A fascinating experience.

For more information contact Ruthie at 860-643-5652

### Old South Burying Ground in Hartford

**April 27 - Spring Clean up & Youth Service Day**

Ruthie will be giving a tour at 1:30 pm.

### Fountain Hill Cemetery, Deep River

**April 28<sup>th</sup> 2 pm.**

Sponsored by the Fountain Hill Cemetery Association and Connecticut Gravestone Network. Meet at the Chapel.

### Hope Cemetery in Worcester - May 4th

The Gravestone Girls are hosting the next AGS Mass. Chapter Meeting, with lectures in the am followed by a tour.

### CGN Meeting & Social

May 5th – 12 pm – 3pm

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

### Center Cemetery, East Hartford - Activity Day

Friends of Center Cemetery, Inc., East Hartford

**May 18<sup>th</sup> 10am to 3pm**

Open to the public for those that want to learn and explore.

### Friends of Danbury Cemeteries

Workshop schedule and meetings

Find them on face book or contact ED [esiergiej@aol.com](mailto:esiergiej@aol.com)

**June 18 – 23, 2013**

Association for Gravestone Studies Conference

Willamette University, Salem Oregon

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

Greetings All – Welcome to 2013.

It was back in 1993 that the concept of Connecticut Gravestone Network first took hold. **Wow 20 years ago!**

This newsletter has been near finished several times and for various reasons its completion has been curtailed. Having my lap top stolen was the hardest hurdle to overcome, as not all from the previous night had been backed up and other backup pieces were uncooperative. The worst was not being able to open up my backup address book(S). If you know of anyone that is not getting messages from us do have them contact me.

Last year was a full one for many of us and I hope that this issue shows the tip of the iceberg as to what you all are doing out there. I would really appreciate it if members would send in complete articles on their projects so we can boast about them in the newsletter. Doing the newsletter electronically allows links to stories and provides us an even greater array of information that can be shared.

The next newsletter is slated to go out the end of June; (yes this year) it is already outlined and saved in 3 places.

Once this newsletter goes out my next step is to finally finish revamping the web site to be a better source of informational sharing among our members. I know I'm still a dinosaur about electronic technology and keeping up.

**New:** Regular meetings; as of now meetings will be bi-monthly, still on Sundays and still at the East Hartford location until we are offered other options. The next meeting will be on May 5<sup>th</sup> and there will be time devoted for talking about CGN reorganization and meeting agendas.

Any and all contributions are welcome.

Thank You for your continuing support.

Hope to see everyone at the Symposium – help spread the word.  
Ruthie S. Brown; Exec. Dir.

It was quite a year for the Buckbee's of Torrington.



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 to 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.

But that was just the beginning. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Ruthie Brown and Fern Strong attended a special luncheon at the Litchfield Country Club given by the Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, to honor and present their historic preservation medal and certificate to Ken for his 16 years of service to the states Sons of the American Revolution, Oliver Wolcott Senior Branch organization, and his work on gravestones at the historic East Cemetery in Litchfield. Awards were also given to Dane and Carol Deleppo of Harwinton. Dane and Carol are Civil War reenactors with the 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery Regiment, and have been involved in preservation projects and presenting programs at elementary schools for years. They have worked with Ruthie many times in the past on special projects. We were very proud to be there to honor such good friends. Well as if that wasn't enough after Judy Sawyer presented Ken with his award the two of them had yet another surprise for all of us. Ken reached in his pocket and put a ring on Judey's finger, then announced to us that they had also gotten married the week previous to the event.

See what hanging out in old cemeteries can do for you!

see story and photo at:

<http://www.litchfield.bz/news/mary-floyd-tallmadge-chapter-luncheon-is-memorable/>

AND THEN on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at another luncheon

The Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter (Litchfield, CT) held their DAR annual Community Service Awards luncheon where the Gov. Oliver Wolcott, Sr. Branch Sons of the American Revolution presented the Chapter Regent, Judey Sawyer Buckbee, with their Martha Washington Medal and Award for her outstanding contributions and community service citing her help with the cleaning of the monuments and headstones in the Wolcott and Tallmadge family plots in East Cemetery, and her efforts to enhance local DAR, SAR, and C.A.R. relations.

see story and photo at:

<http://www.litchfield.bz/news/hawkins-and-neller-honored-by-dar-chapter/>

We couldn't be happier and wish them all our best. All of these awardees really set a fine example and we appreciate the inspiration they give to our younger generation.

## New Books – Internet Info and Links

### Free app helps you find final resting places

Source: olivebranch.wmctv.com

Here's something Fern found that she thought might interest some of you for keeping track for family burial sites and gravestones, it's an app too! <http://billiongraves.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.

## Ireland - Genealogy and Gravestones

Last year I received an email from a friend at work- "Ruthie you'd appreciate this one", and oh did I.

CGN members, meet Jane Lyons an Irish genealogist who has a website called **from-ireland** which has been on the internet since 2001. She began transcribing Irish gravestones in 1996 and back about 9 years ago acquired my first digital camera.

In 1996-1998 she transcribed about 40 graveyards, all stones which dated pre1901. She notes that today, when she visits these same places the stones are now almost unreadable.

Jane; "I am totally passionate about what I do, absolutely utterly and entirely. This last 2 years I've paid out about 20,000 Euro to have my site re-designed and have someone work with my photos to get them out on the net."

Her web site includes 14000+ Irish Church yard gravestones and 25 albums of views of areas around the country.

The albums include the following:

- 42 albums for Kilkenny county = 4,616 photographs
- 49 Albums for Laois or Queen's Co. = 6774 photographs
- 25 albums for counties from Clare, Cork, Kerry, Kildare, Limerick and Offaly. = 2,626 photographs
- 25 albums of miscellaneous views of places in Ireland.

Please do check it out and let Jane know you visited.

photo index at:

<http://www.from-ireland.net/grave-transcriptions/all#display>

photographs at:

<http://www.from-ireland.net/photographs/index.php>

### **Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford - events list:**

Cedar Hill Foundation has many great programs to offer.

<http://cedarhillfoundation.org/visit-cedar-hill/tours-and-events/>

### **Those interested in FOSA and keeping up with Dr.**

**Bellantoni's talks can check out the schedule at**

[http://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA\\_SpecNotices.htm](http://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA_SpecNotices.htm)

### **Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries**

<http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/HCD/OCHC/>

This is another great example of what's needed.

A state Commission on Historic Cemeteries, how wonderful.

They exist in many states however not in Connecticut.

Please check out Oregon's site, also try Texas and Alabama.

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](#)."

### **Oregon is hosting the AGS 2013 conference this year**

**June 18-23, 2013, in Salem, Oregon.**

Conference contact in Salem Kuri Gill at [Kuri.Gill@state.or.us](mailto:Kuri.Gill@state.or.us) or for more information go to [Association for Gravestone Studies](#)

## 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 were 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.

You can contact Len at his email address, [lalderman@snet.net](mailto:lalderman@snet.net)

### **Bayside Cemetery, NYC - Old Jewish Cemetery - Restoration.**

For any of you that think you've got a project ahead of you... check out this story sent to me by Anthony Pisciotta [ntatap@msn.com](mailto:ntatap@msn.com) who is involved with this project.

<http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2012/07/10/the-gentle-gentile-local-catholic-man-volunteers-his-time-to-fix-up-jewish-cemetery/>

### **New Haven database for 44 Jewish Cemeteries.**

Sent to us by Rabbi Eliezer Greer

Over the last two years I with several other community volunteers in New Haven have spent hundreds of hours and created a database and mapping system, of over 24,000 Jewish gravestones in 44 Jewish cemeteries in the Great New Haven County. Please see the attached website link. Many people from across the world are finding relatives and family members.

The direct free access website address is

[www.yeshivanewhavensynagogue.org/cemetery.asp](http://www.yeshivanewhavensynagogue.org/cemetery.asp) <<http://www.yeshivanewhavensynagogue.org/cemetery.asp>> .

### **Hartford Cemeteries** – undergoing restoration.

Old North Cemetery has had some extensive restoration done on some of the brownstone obelisks as well some major revamping on the drives and overgrown back area. If you haven't been to visit for awhile you will be surprised. One can even drive around to that back of the cemetery at this point.

The Ancient Burying Ground on Main St. as well will be soon undergoing some landscape work as well. Let Ruthie know if you'd like to do a tour of both as a CGN date this fall.



## 2012 Trip to Swan Point Cemetery in Rhode Island

Well finding a date for all interested and then to fill up a bus became a real task, but finally with perseverance and renting two vans we were off!

We visited Swan Point Cemetery which was beautiful, then



stopped at Old North Burying Ground and St. John's in Providence which is where this picture was taken. On the way back home we also stopped at

Hammond Hill in Hampton, and for those that had not ever been there before were quite impressed with the older stones and the view from the top of the hill, even being entertained by a birds eye view of a farm below and sheep herding collie doing his work. It was an absolutely great day and we will be glad to share our photos with you at the next CGN meeting.

The gravestone for Edwin Way Teale (1892-1980), a local American nature writer can be found at Hammond Hill.

I (Ruthie) was first introduced to Hammond Hill cemetery and his gravestone by Dr. James Slater many years ago. I believe that Jim knew Mr. Teale as Jim also had a keen interest in plants, birds and nature, to say nothing of the fact that Mr. Teale's earlier writings were focused on insects and after all Jim was the state entomologist for sometime. Mr. Teale's gravestone depicts a robin, a praying mantis and native flowers. In the view of cemetery pictured below his gravesite would across the way in the newer section. I pray it will always remain as peaceful and serene as we found it on our visit.

Mr. Teale published 32 books, the most popular, *A Naturalist Buys an Old Farm*, which

chronicles his life spent on his 130-acre estate located in Hampton, Connecticut.

Storrs has a program series dedicated to his works.

The Edwin Way Teale Lecture Series brings leading scholars and scientists to the University to present public lectures on nature and the environment. <http://doddccenter.uconn.edu/asc/events/teale/teale.htm>  
860.486.4500



## Old town records can shed light on what we see today.

### *Old North Burial Ground, Providence, Rhode Island 1907 Superintendent's Report*

During the year there were 684 interments, making a total of 31,726 since the year 1848, that being the first year that records were kept.

During the year there were 117 bodies entombed.

215 foundations for headstones and monuments were built.

Brick graves, 98. Private lots graded and turfed, 33, containing 10,915 square feet.

Total number of lots under Perpetual Care, 1,554.

Number of lots under Annual Care, 570.

Posts and rails removed from 2 lots.

Curbing removed from 4 lots.

Old tombs removed, 2. (*Receiving tombs I'm assuming. RSB*)

Lots specially held or occupied by Resolution of the city Council.

Home for the Aged Men - C.C. Resolution, No. 38, Jan. 24, 1878

Home for the Aged Women - C.C. Resolution, No. 5, Sept. 14, 1857

Providence Monthly Meeting of Friends

First Rhode Island Cavalry Veteran Association, No. 309, July 6, 1887

Memorial to French Allies of the Revolution,

C. C. Resolution, No. 355, Oct. 1, 1881

West Burial Grd (Removals from site of Hayward Park and vicinity)

C.C. Resolution, No. 545, Oct. 31, 1888

Ebenezer Knight Dexter, Heirs,

C. C. Resolution, No. 13, Nov. 12, 1866

Prescott Post, No. 1, G.A.R., for burial of "bodies of honorably discharged soldiers and sailors of the Civil War."

C.C. Resolution, No. 273, June 28, 1886

Hopkins Burial Ground, Removals from site of Hopkins Park.,

C. C. Resolution, No. 300, July 10, 1900.

### Vandalism in our cemeteries is on the rise again.

**Milford cemetery** last spring had about half dozen older stones damaged by someone who spray painted the number 666 and similar marks on them.

**Montville to Milford** - the theft of anything metal from small markers to full size Elk monuments being stripped in pieces has been unprecedented due to the present market values.

**Pachaug Cemetery in Griswold** – damage total about \$5,000.

Police are seeking the public's help to identify who destroyed mementos at 16 sites at Pachaug Cemetery in Griswold earlier this month. Cemetery superintendent Richard Campbell said he was shocked to see the damage Dec. 1.

Flags, flowers and solar lights were pulled up and tossed aside. Figurines, including a little girl's treasured purple piggy bank, were left broken on the ground, with carefully collected pennies strewn about. "There's been (vandalism) here and there, but never to this extent," Campbell said.

Read more: [Little girl's grave among 16 vandalized at Griswold cemetery - Norwich, CT - The Bulletin](#)

A 240-year-old gravestone that had marked the final resting place of 10-month-old Samuel Latimer was returned to Connecticut this fall from Wisconsin.

For more on these stories visit Cheryl's New England Anomaly site.

<http://www.newenglandanomaly.com/>

## **New Statewide cemetery inventory still growing.**

Most of you have already heard about this but what I encourage the many CGN members have already documented their local cemeteries to contact them. This work should be combined or correlated to make for a complete project or to help not duplicate efforts. Anyone that is interested should contact the Godfrey Library.

Among the initiatives of the Godfrey Library to save the past for the future, they are sponsoring a cemetery project comprises photos of tombstones and information about the deceased. 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](http://www.godfreydata.org/cemetery_records/stmary_portland.html)

We are hoping that they will be at our Symposium so members and ask questions and share information.

### **Grant Hill Cemetery in Coventry**



Last Summer Coventry Cemetery Commission held another of the work days in Grant Hill cemetery in order to prepare for their Walktober tours. It was a well attended and session,

lots of young members of the community showed up to help and to learn. Above is a photo of Ruthie answering questions before a stone cleaning detail. CGN is always glad to support the Coventry Cemetery Commission.



One goal the Coventry crew had was to once again remove an old gravestone from a stonewall.

It was placed there when a newer replacement stone was erected. This is a common practice and why Ruthie is always inspecting stone walls when she visits new cemeteries. The stone was for Elizabeth Root died in 1790 at age 33.



## **CGN making a Connection from California to Connecticut.**

This next story was sent to us by Rae Bord [rae@holymtn.com](mailto:rae@holymtn.com) from the west coast who was doing research for the PA Toy Train Club on Harry C. Ives, the former president of the Ives Manufacturing Company, a pioneer in the manufacturing of electric toy trains. Harry Ives died on Halloween 1936 in Washington, Connecticut and was buried 2 Nov 1936 in Washington Center Cemetery

After contacting CGN to ask about the gravestone in Washington, CT. Ruth put Rae in touch with members up at Washington Depot, CT. The rest is history and the together a wealth of information was shared.



### **Ives Manufacturing Company, Washington, CT**

The Ives family of Bridgeport and Washington, CT has a long and distinguished history in Connecticut. The family is descended from William Ives who came to New Haven, Connecticut from England in 1638. There is some evidence that the family may actually have earlier French roots in the late middle ages and that "Ives" may be a corruption of the French name YVES. The family subsequently spread throughout Connecticut but the branch in whom we are interested begins with Edward Ives born in Terryville in 1839. At age 29 he founded a toy company in Plymouth in 1868 with his brother in law Edward Blakeslee. They subsequently produced a great variety of toys made of wood, cloth, tin and cast iron which were very well made and are highly collectible today. By 1914 the company was very successful as both manufacturers and jobbers (the latter meaning cataloguing and selling the toys made by others including Merriam Co. and Brown Co. also of CT). They were then regarded as the largest toy company in the United States and began to ring out a line of electric trains. Unfortunately, in the years following they made a series of unwise financial decisions where the company took on more debt than they could handle to try to meet growing competition, and they entered bankruptcy in June of 1928.

The company had remained family owned over the 60 years of its existence and its final president was Harry Candee Ives (1867-1936) the son of the founder. The Train Collectors Association of the United States has a National Toy Train Museum and Toy Train Reference Library (TTRL) at its national headquarters in Strasburg, PA. Wishing to preserve the history of toy train manufacturing around the world the TTRL seeks, archives and preserves documentation associated with any toy train company known. Obituaries and grave markers often reveal history otherwise unknown. Recently an audit of



the TTRL files revealed that obituaries and markers of most US toy train company founders/presidents were available except for those of Ives Manufacturing Co. That brought a request from genealogist Rae S. Bordua of San Francisco a cousin of Paul Stimmler a member of the TCA and its Library and Historical Committee for assistance in locating photos of Ives family grave markers in Washington Green Cemetery.



We were most grateful for the assistance of Margaret Freeland and Ruth Brown and their colleagues.  
Paul T. Stimmler: TCA Library and Historical Committee, Dec. 6, 2011

### **East Granby – Beautifying Cemeteries.**

Ruthie is always telling you that the first step in evaluating an old cemetery is to research what changes have occurred in the past that would affect its present day appearance. Well here is a good example (copied exactly as found).

#### **Farmington Valley Herald May 16, 1913**

Both cemeteries in East Granby to be put into first class shape. They will become places of beauty. The organization having in charge the cemeteries in East Granby and at Copper Hill have met recently and decided on a line of action that will make them places that all will wish to look at.

It was decided to have all of the graves stones in the old cemetery in East Granby cleaned and the lettering restored as far as possible and all of them will be placed in an upright position. All of the footstones will be sunk to the level of the earth and this will make it possible to mow the lots better than it can be done now. In the fall it is planned to have considerable work done grading this cemetery and another season it will be possible to mow it with a lawn mower.

At Copper Hill cemetery the work of mowing with a lawn mower is to be undertaken -- ? ---- and this will kept up through the season as often as is needed. That cemetery has been graded and several fine monuments were erected last year. There is in the hands of the town clerk various bank books which represent deposits of \$2,000, the interest to be used to care for the lots in the cemeteries and the interest has been allowed to accumulate to the amount of \$800. It will be seen that the committee in charge of the work has ample funds to work with without touching the principal. (end)

This type of “fixing up” has occurred over the years in many older burying places, with stones being realigned and or footstones removed and all to often totally ignoring unmarked grave spots. RSB.

### **Danbury – Robert Young’s adventure and some old bones finally go HOME.**

The Friends of Danbury Cemeteries provided some logistical support during the disinterment of Native American "Albert



Afraid of Hawk". Albert was a member of the Wild West Show that visited Danbury in 1900. Albert died of food poisoning, and was buried in Wooster Cemetery. FODC Vice President Bob Young led the effort to locate Albert's family and, at their request, return him home to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. The disinterment was led by State Archaeologist Nick Bellantoni. The project took a

week to complete, during which FODC volunteers were available to run errands for the excavation team, or help in any way needed. All who were involved found the experience very interesting and rewarding. Thanks to everyone who was involved.

Danbury patch for story on Afraid of Hawk

<http://danbury.patch.com/articles/the-spirit-of-afraid-of-hawk-free-after-112-years-b3cce791>

Bob Young is expecting to be with us at the symposium and have his display of project there AND the FOA crew will also have a special display devoted to this project.

FOA = Friends of the Office of the State Archaeologist.

### **Friends of Danbury Old Cemeteries**

A sample of the before and after work that this group accomplishes! On the left is what they started with and to right is the finished product. Good work folks!



They do this over and over again throughout the warm weather months.



### **Friends of Danbury Cemeteries** **Workshop schedule and meetings**

Find them on face book or contact ED [esiergiej@aol.com](mailto:esiergiej@aol.com)

Check out one of their stories on patch.com

[danbury.patch.com/events/friends-of-the-danbury-cemeteries](http://danbury.patch.com/events/friends-of-the-danbury-cemeteries)

### **Robinson Burying Ground in Stonington**

Fred Burdick with his son and nephew have done a heroic job restoring the stones in the Robinson Burial Ground located on Broad Street, Stonington. They have mended 30 broken stones, and reset over 75 and cleaned up after recent super storm. Thanks to the association's successful fundraising; we were able to take down two massive maple trees this summer. The graveyard really looks good now. It is well worth a visit if you are in that area. Sent by Mary Thacter.

### **Ruth receives award from AGS In June of 2012**

Anne Tait AGS Director and Ruth Brown

Ruth received the Harriet Forbes Award from the Assoc. of Gravestone Studies; an international organization that fosters the education and preservation of old burial grounds and gravestones.



What Ruthie often refers to as "our mother ship". The award is presented annually to a member that has showed outstanding interest in educating others about these historic artifacts.

The award dinner was part of a five day annual conference which was held in June at Monmouth University in New Jersey.

Ruth has been a member of AGS since 1986, serving on the board of directors for two terms and chairing the 1993 conference held at New London College in Connecticut. Ruth's award presentation included a power point program she shared with the group highlighting workshops held with various groups CGN members around the state of Connecticut and those touting old friends; memories of mentors no longer able to celebrate the day with her.

## **Calendar of events**

### **April 6<sup>th</sup> – CGN Annual Symposium**

[See details on flyer on back page](#)

### **Old South clean up & tour**

**April 27 10 am – 3pm**

Each spring Ruthie works with "Hands On Hartford" during the Global Youth Service Day. This is one chance we have to give the lonely Old South Burying Ground, which is Hartford's 3<sup>rd</sup> burying place, some care and respect.

If you are interested in joining us, to pick up branches, clean stones and reset fallen pieces then come pay us a visit. The burying ground is located off Maple Ave. between Shultas and Benton Streets.

**Ruthie will be giving a tour to introduce you to Old South's history and its connections to Colonial Groton at 1:30 pm.**

**More info see CT projects – Old South on CGN web site.**

### **April 28<sup>th</sup> – 2pm Fountain Hill Cemetery**

174 Main St, Deep River, CT 06417 ph: (860) 526-6020

The Connecticut Graveyard Network announces that The Fountain Hill Cemetery Association will host the Annual Spring Walk commencing at the Gothic Revival Chapel which was gifted to the association in 1914 and recently has undergone repairs. Fountain Hill Cemetery was recently listed on the State Register of Historic Places by the CT Historic Preservation Council. Founded in 1851, Fountain Hill encompasses approximately 48 acres of gently rolling hills, accented by natural outcroppings of stone, wildflowers and a wide variety of mature specimen trees. This "Rural Cemetery" was designed in 1869 and laid out in 21 sections.

Fountain Hill is the final resting place for entrepreneurs, former slaves who escaped through the Underground Railroad, and military veterans.

The chapel will be open for viewing, a guided tour through the cemetery is planned and maps will be available for those who prefer to wander on their own or to sit by the lake in the shade.

For more information contact: Rhonda Forristall [rforristall@gmail.com](mailto:rforristall@gmail.com)

### **CGN Meeting & Social**

**May 5<sup>th</sup> – 1pm – 4pm**

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

For members to have time for sharing we are looking to start having these meetings on a bi-monthly basis.

Topics will be discussed as needed but certainly the constant theme involves legal issues. We are fortunately to have land use attorney that will attend when able to help steer some of these discussions.

Members are encouraged to come and share stories, ask for help, use the library and bring new visitors. While there is no WiFi available sharing databases and showing off photo's on lap tops is fun to do.

Refreshments are available; an RSVP to Ruthie is appreciated. Ruthie has been thinking of putting these meetings on a goggle calendar to track responses. Is there anyone out there familiar with that kind of tool that would like to monitor it for us?

### **May 4<sup>th</sup> at Hope Cemetery in Worcester**

Western New England AGS Spring Chapter meeting hosted by The Gravestone Girls. It will be a full day program with several morning lectures on interesting and informative gravestone and cemetery topics. After lunch we will take an extended walking tour of Hope's 176 acre grounds, peering in on famous local residents, beautiful monuments and green landscapes. The Friends of Hope Cemetery have generously sponsored the cost of the meeting space on the cemetery grounds, which has all amenities and plenty of parking. Come and stay for the day to enjoy the fun! Specific agenda to come as we get closer. Hope Cemetery is located at 119 Webster Street, Worcester, MA.

[www.FriendsofHopeCemetery.com](http://www.FriendsofHopeCemetery.com)

## **Activity Day Workshop May 18<sup>th</sup>**

**10am-3pm at Center Cemetery**

**Main St., East Hartford.**

**Park behind the Save A Lot store and walk around to the front.**

This is the annual spring clean up day that Friends of Center Cemetery (FCC) have been hosting for years now. They invite you to join us to help with some or sprucing up and resetting fallen stones.

This is only one of the events that the Friends group participates in through out the year. Members dress up in historic costumes and march in the Memorial Day Parade to advertise the importance of the history in Center Cemetery which is Hartford's 2<sup>nd</sup> burial ground, and to promote their fall Lantern Tour event.

If you have an interest in history and would like to join us for either event we certainly could use some extra hands to help. Another major undertaking the FCC has taken on is a pod cast production, highlighting many of the characters that are residents in Center Cemetery. Come on down and learn more about some of the surprising historic personalities that are on the map.

For more information visit **Friends of Center Cemetery, Inc. on Facebook**, or contact Ruthie Shapleigh-Brown, events director, FCC.

### **Colonial Connecting - the shoreline to Hartford**

From Ruthie S. Brown

Here's another piece of information from the New London area that I recently found while working on the Woodbridge family Hartford connections.

According to the Mitchell family chart in the Woodbridge family book the Gardiner and Mitchell families have connections. Descendant - Jno. Gardiner, Jr., b. 1693; Y.C. 1711; d. Jan. 5, 1725 was a merchant in New London and is buried in the Salton-stall tomb there, as he was married to Sarah Saltonstall.

Question - how many bodies are in the Saltonstall tomb?

John would be the g-grandson of Lion Gardiner name sake of Gardiner's Island in the Old Saybrook days. His son David is buried at the Ancient Burying Ground in Hartford. David died while attending General Council as he was representative for the southern part of the colony.

His gravestone is one of my favorites to share with students because his epitaph tells us he was "well, sick and dead with in an hours space" and that he was "the first white child born in Connecticut". This makes great exploration for the students as I always ask them what that means?...white vs ----- and seldom do they realize it meant Indian. Or that representing the southern part of Connecticut at that time also included Long Island.

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While on our trip to Rhode Island we found quite a few interesting symbols that we questioned but still have not figured out. Below is a rather newer one for a lady that is still a query.

We will print responses in next newsletter.



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**Original Burial Permits** - are vital records and belong to the town. This Article will be in the next June issue along with other law topics we've been discussing.

### **WHAT to we talk about at CGN meetings?**

Here are some examples of the topics that come up at our CGN meetings regarding old burying grounds and laws.

Differences between terms like; abandoned, neglected and private, in light of who is responsible and who should request what from the town services?

Gravestones found outside of any cemetery boundaries – should they be checked out? YES is there a law?

Private adjacent property owners who push their yard waste over to the old burying ground?

Request for a new burial in an old burying ground, do cremations need any permissions?

Once buried can a cremation being cited as a burial or considered as the same status as an burying ground?

At our bimonthly meetings we will be devoting time for members to raise queries and share situations with each other on how to operate and care for these old sanctuaries. We realize that there are very few with consistent rules to guide us. Old burying grounds are managed by a variety of administrative structures, per the individual municipality. Some towns have cemetery commissioners, some have committees, some are managed by the town cemetery department and work with "friends groups or local historical societies" and some even refuse to be responsible for the maintenance. If you have questions please feel free to join us



# Connecticut Gravestone Network Symposium 2013



**Saturday – April 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**South Senior Center, 70 Canterbury St.  
East Hartford, CT**

Co-sponsored by  
*The Connecticut Society of Genealogist*  
*The Friends of Center Cemetery, Inc. EH, CT*

Displays & exhibits from various historic groups.  
Vendors with books, T-Shirts, Mourning Jewelry and other cemetery novelties.  
Even a stone carver working on site if you'd like to try your hand at it.

## Lecture Topics

### **“Old Cemeteries 101 for First Timers & Genealogist”**

**9:30 am – By Ruth Shapleigh-Brown, Exec. CGN Director.**  
An introduction for new attendees. What has changed over the years, how to take a GOOD photo, do's and don't do's in cleaning the old family stones.

### **“The Mysteries of the Peet Cemetery in New Milford”.**

**10:45 am –by Melanie Marks Consultant/Genealogist and  
Morley Boyd/Historian**

They will take us on a visual tour of Connecticut's most unusual family burying ground. 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 and will discuss some of their findings as they relate to the lore surrounding this hidden piece of history.

*(This lecture was scheduled for last year's Symposium but had to be postponed at the last minute due to a death in the family.)*

### **Lunch Break 12:00 to 1:00 pm.**

snacks & beverages are available for a donation.  
time to visit displays and vendors.

### **“Cemetery Resources at the State Library”**

**1:15 pm by Richard Roberts.**

After the Barbour Collection, what many genealogists next associate with the Connecticut State Library is the Charles R. Hale Collection of Connecticut Cemetery Inscriptions.. Learn about how that collection came to be plus an overview of the Hale Collection and many other cemetery-related resources available at the Connecticut State Library

### **“Silas Brainerd; Stone Carver of East Haddam”**

**2:30 pm By Dr. Karl Stofko**

Dr. Stofko, is a resident and historian of East Haddam. The Brainerd (Brainard) family is most interesting, and a major influence in the town and the stone carving trade during the 19<sup>th</sup> c. and one of Karl's favorites to talk about.

### **“Halloween Business Events: The Social Side of Scaring”**

**3:30 pm By Chris Kullstroem**

This talk focuses on how Halloween celebrations at businesses and non-profits can provide intrinsic benefits for individuals, families and communities. Demonstrated from scarecrow festivals to cemetery lantern tours, this presentation gives event organizers, volunteers and business owners the tools to enhance the well-being of their entire community.

**Admission: \$10 Pay at the door**  
**\$5 for CGN/FCC/CSG members**

### **Directions: South Senior Center, East Hartford, CT**

From route 2 east exit 5c, Maple Ave. turn left, (under hwy), turn left at stop sign onto Handel Rd. 2nd right will be Canterbury St., road is a cul-de-sac with school/now senior center at end. Going west on Rt.2 or Int. 91 use exit for Route 3 and Main St. Glastonbury, then head north to Maple St., which will be a right turn at the first intersection after the plaza. Follow signs for Symposium.

**“It's a Matter of Respect”**

For details contact Ruth Brown at 860-643-5652 or [shapbrown@cox.net](mailto:shapbrown@cox.net)  
or **CGN web site [www.ctgravestones.com](http://www.ctgravestones.com)**

**Display extras: Stone Carving Demo – Hand Writing Analysis – Archaeology Exhibit**

**Connecticut Gravestone Network**  
**135 Wells St.**  
**Manchester, Ct. 06040-6127**  
**www.ctgravestones.com**

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

**Deadline for Next Newsletter is June 1, 2013**  
**cemetery news, articles and related events**

**APPLICATION - NEW MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL**

FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2013- Please circle new or renewal  
(photo copy of application to accompany payment is appreciated)

**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**