

# 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 January 2014 Vol.20 No.1

From Executive Director, Ruthie Brown

Last year's January newsletter (unfortunately the only newsletter of the year) I started out with saying – "**Greetings everyone, I hope you are all looking forward to a new year and NEW changes.**" - At the risk of sounding oh so redundant, I would still like to see THIS YEAR actually go forward with some of those changes for CGN coming into realization.

CGN members had a busy year. Our symposium was well attended and loaded with positive energy in all directions. I went into it thinking it might be our last symposium but with all that energy I couldn't bring myself to say it, and here we are with plans for 2015; that's 22 years since I started all this. CGN members do need to consider new options to keep the group and our efforts together. I will be planning for more meetings and hopefully by the end of the year we will have some new decisions and new members taking up lead.

First and foremost we need to restructure our office responsibilities; and have a functioning board of directors again. I would very much like to get back to our quarterly newsletters. One consideration is to become an AGS chapter. One of the reasons many of my AGS colleagues presented me with the Forbes Award was because the founding of CGN was fact the first movement of this kind (back in 1993 AGS was not interested in supporting chapters). Now it is thought to be an example of what the newly sponsored AGS chapters should be about.

For more on information on becoming a chapter of AGS go to the AGS website at ...<https://www.gravestonestudies.org/>

Member Liza Cornell has opened up a facebook page for CGN so those of you that can and do use facebook by all means please visit the page, like us and add away! Ctgravestones...

As for addressing our CGN website, again the ball drops in my court. I made several attempts at redesigning it and before I can finish it's time to revamp some other part. Although the basic information is not out of date, its presently locked on a server that is unavailable, so adding current event information is not happening. I hope to address this soon.

For those of you with an interest in keeping CGN going forward or possibility become an AGS chapter I hope will keep in touch. I need your input and opinions. Thank You. Ruthie Brown

## CGN Symposium

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

**April 11<sup>th</sup> 2015** 9 am – 4 pm

Presentations:

Longer descriptions for lectures are on flyer – see last page.

**9:30 am "Welcome for new attendees"**

A recap of old burial ground basics, maintenance dos and don'ts and found genealogy/historic connections. By Ruth Brown

**10:45 am "Restoring the Old Yard, Columbia, CT"**

2014 restoration efforts and stone carvers, esp. the Collins family, and a focus on footstone icons. By Joan Hill

**11:45 – 12:45 Lunch Break**

We provide sandwiches & beverages for a donation

**1:00 pm "Data Set In Stone"**

An Anthropological/Archaeological analysis of mortality rates from gravestones and their importance... By Kate Schunk

**2:15 pm "The graveyard is now a parking lot."**

Early pictures clearly show a graveyard to the right of the church but it's where did it go... By David Oat

Visit with Exhibitors, enjoy the lectures,

**This year we will have a array of books for sale !**

Try your hand at stone carving  
Delicious refreshments and Lunch

**\$10 for general public Pay at the door**

Admission \$5 for CGN members

CGN dues - \$10 can be paid at the door.

For more information or to have a display table

contact Ruthie at [ctgravelady@cox.net](mailto:ctgravelady@cox.net)

or call 860-643-5652

**A Moment for Mentors and Memories**

Unfortunately as time goes forward we lose many that have paved the way for our studies. Although some of you might not know these names Ruthie felt the need to have them remembered for the time and energy they gave to our Connecticut gravestones and history. We pray that their work will help inspire a new generation to carry on the task.

**Anne Shepardson**, a Durham resident and artist who worked on identifying various area colonial stone carvers. She was most interested in trying to prove out the differences in the Johnsons generations and their various apprentices. I remember her and Dr. Slater having many discussions over what to publish. She did published an article identifying the stones of John Huntington a contemporary of Obadiah Wheeler and Benjamin Collins in the Lebanon, Ct area, which can be found in the AGS Markers Journal XIII.

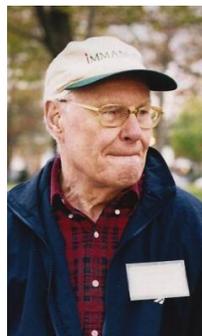
**Rick Gagne** from New Hampshire presented his work on Gershom Bartlett for us way back at one of our symposiums about 12 years ago. He had worked diligently and continued documenting the stones that were done by Gershom's father, Robert Bartlett (whose stones are similar to Griswold stones), as well as his most recent efforts of trying to resolve the mystery of what we call the Glastonbury Lady carver.

**Roberta Halporn** of Brooklyn, NY, many of us knew her as the Rubbing Expert. At AGS conference this small framed lady would tackle rubbing a stone or monument 3 times her size. Her secret to the best work was to take your impression as detailed as possible but then do the "filling in" coloring later on a table surface and she would often sit through late night lectures doing just that. Roberta was also known as the Book Lady. She operated the Center for Thanatology Studies (the study of death). It might sound morbid but she immersed herself in publications that would question and explain memorials and how the subject was treated and processed in all cultures;



in all centuries; religiously, socially and in later years the treatment of terminal illnesses and hospice care.

**Byron Benton** was more a local historian and the reason why Ruthie and others have fought for over 14 years to keep the history of Hartford's 3<sup>rd</sup> colonial, Old South Burying Ground (late 1700's) from being forgotten. Byron reached out to me as it was once land owned by his descendents and was truly being neglected by the city and so many historians. Although it a bit too late to save most of the crumbled stones this we do presently have a contract with the city of Hartford to finally put some new plans in place for this historic property. Byron (an SAR member) constantly did research and wrote about the people buried there. His compilation of stories (mostly fact blended with touch of dramatic expression) is available in PDF format on the CGN site at



[http://www.ctgravestones.com/CTprojects/old\\_south.htm](http://www.ctgravestones.com/CTprojects/old_south.htm)

We have a new law in place as of last Oct. 2014 concerning neglected cemeteries. I hope that members will read up on this one and follow how it's being administrated. Please let us know how it's being used when the time comes.

The legislative Planning and Development Committee unanimously approved a bill that would create a separate fund to help towns and cities spruce up Connecticut's neglected cemeteries and burial grounds.

**Introduction of Bill:**

per Rep. Michael D'Agostino, 91st Dist. is a co-sponsor. The money would be funded from fees for death certificates collected by the state Department of Public Health, which collected about \$43,300 a year. If passed in the House and Senate and signed into law, the fund would take effect October 1 and total about \$32,000 in the fiscal year starting July 1; and \$43,300 in the following year, the first full year of the program.

**Explanation** The bill results in a General Fund revenue loss of approximately \$31,800 in FY 15 and \$42,300 in FY 16 and a revenue gain of the same amounts to a neglected cemetery account. It allows municipalities to apply to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for funding under this account for maintenance of neglected burial grounds and cemeteries. Currently, the fees for death certificates collected by the Department of Public Health (DPH) are deposited in the General Fund as unrestricted revenue. In FY 13, DPH generated approximately \$42,300 from death certificate fees. This revenue will be deposited into a separate, nonlapsing account known as the "neglected cemetery account" under the bill. As the bill is effective 10/1/14, nine months of revenue is reflected in FY 15 and twelve months of revenue is reflected in FY 16. There is no anticipated cost to OPM to administer this account.

House "A" clarified that an employee, officer or agent of a municipality shall not be held civilly or criminally liable for the undertaking of the care and maintenance of a burial ground or cemetery and does not result in a fiscal impact.

**The Out Years** The fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of death certificates issued by DPH.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**HB 5557 (as amended by House "A")\***

**AN ACT CONCERNING NEGLECTED CEMETERIES.**

**SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a "neglected cemetery account," funded by fees the Department of Public Health receives for death certificates, as a separate, nonlapsing General Fund account and requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary to use the account's funds to maintain neglected burial grounds and cemeteries. It allows municipalities to apply for funds on a form and in the manner the OPM secretary prescribes.

The bill protects municipalities and their employees, officers, and agents from civil or criminal liability arising from their care and maintenance of a neglected burial ground or cemetery.

It also specifically allows municipalities to mow the lawns of neglected burial grounds or cemeteries, and makes minor and technical changes regarding municipal authority to care for such sites.

By law, municipalities can undertake certain maintenance of burial grounds or cemeteries that (1) have more than six places of interment; (2) are not under the control or management of a functioning cemetery association; and (3) show certain signs of neglect, including weeds and damage to fences. Such maintenance includes clearing weeds and repairing fences.

\*House Amendment "A" extends the liability protection to municipal employees, officers, and agents.

**EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014**

Using the link below you can read up on all aspects of this bill and view testimony and votes. Ruthie's testimony was lengthy but was trying to raise questions and bring out the particulars that in the past have prevented "good ideas" from producing the benefit as originally planned. Knowing how many neglected cemeteries there are, how various towns negate the responsibility of said grounds and the degrees of neglect verses necessary "proper" care, she has concerns about how these new funds will dealt out as well fairly and properly utilized.

Here's the link to follow the bill in the General Assembly  
[http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill\\_num=5557&which\\_year=2014&SUBMIT1.x=21&SUBMIT1.y=10](http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=5557&which_year=2014&SUBMIT1.x=21&SUBMIT1.y=10)

This is Ruthie's reply – *(LONG yes, but trying to stress some points that need to be thought about for this fund to work!!)*

To Public Health Committee

H. B. Bill 5557 – neglected cemetery care and funds

From Ruth Shapleigh-Brown

Executive Director: Connecticut Gravestone Network March 18, 2014

**Points of concern via H.B. Bill 5557 regarding establishing a fund for the care of neglected cemeteries.**

- 1) How will these monies be allocated?
- 2) Will Commissions, non-stock holding associations and Friends group be entitled to apply?
- 3) Laws already in existence should be enforced?
- 4) Before H.B. Bill 5557 goes forward we should update statutes already in place to reflect current issues and address this in a more consistent manner affect various statewide conditions.

**Of the over 2,200 cemeteries we have within our state, how many of these come under the heading of "neglected" and in light of statutes which address "ancient burying grounds being those that are over 100 years in age", how many since the date of that statute are now within that description?**

In the past 20 plus years of being involved with burying ground history and preservation I've constantly seen our state statutes concerning cemetery maintenance being ignored and abused with no accountability or concern expressed at any legal level.

**Why do we make laws if they cannot be followed?**

If penalties are not enforced and/or if there is in fact "no authority" to respond to these cases, what's the use?

Seeing the proposal of this H.B. Bill 5557 to establish funding to help our strapped municipalities provide respectable care of these older burying grounds and cemeteries is a good idea.

**Our concern is to question how it will be administered and what will determine how these funds will be allocated?**

**Can one town with over 2 dozen small old cemeteries apply every year?** Will it matter if the town happens to have a cemetery commission or not? Please keep in mind that the structure of municipal commissions is not equal or consistent what so ever. In one town it may be set up with funds and in another it is a volunteer position with little to no funds. **This inconsistency needs to be addressed and needs attention first!**

And how may the wording of this proposal confuse or complicate existing statute wording; which in turn gives us another statute that cannot be enforced.

Penalties of these statutes are to be enforced or brought to justice by whom?

**A right to enter certain cemeteries to do this work or to prevent property destruction comes under the authority of WHOM?** I have often listened to cases where this question is tossed back and forth from the General Attorney's office to the State Archeologist without any resolve what so ever.

Examples:

One is in **statute Sec. 19a-308**. The 3 letter word "may" has been a point of contention in many cases where the municipality has been tasked to help care for these old places. And if they choose NOT care for the said cemetery to what is the recourse?

**Sec. 19a-308. Care of neglected cemeteries.** In any town in which there is a burial ground or cemetery containing more than six places of interment and not under the control or management of any currently functioning cemetery association, which has been neglected and allowed to grow up to weeds, briars and bushes, or about which the fences have become broken, decayed or dilapidated, the selectmen of such town may annually cause such burial ground to be cleared of weeds, briars and bushes, and may cause its fences or walls to be repaired and kept in orderly and decent condition and its memorial stones to be straightened.

On the flip side **in recent years some municipalities have stepped up to seek legal wording to assist them in acquiring legal responsibility** for these abandoned cemeteries so that they could take care of them.

**Sec. 19a-308a. Abandoned cemeteries. Acquisition by municipality.**

Notice requirements. Objections. Vesting of title with municipality. (a) As used in this section, "abandoned cemetery" means a cemetery...

**(f)** If title to an abandoned cemetery vests with a municipality pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, such municipality shall maintain title to such cemetery, shall not transfer title to such cemetery, and shall maintain the characteristics of such cemetery and make no changes in the use of such cemetery land. The municipality may appoint a superintendent or sexton for such cemetery pursuant to section 19a-297, and may appropriate funds as necessary for the care, maintenance and support of such cemetery.

**The following statute seems to only be useful when someone brings a person or organization to court for misuse of funds or embezzlement.**

**Sec. 19a-301. Establishment and management of perpetual funds. Accounting...**

...The treasurer shall annually, on or before July first, make a report to such society or association, stating the income received, to whom

it has been paid, the amount and condition of the fund and how it is invested. A copy of such report shall be filed with the probate court for the district within which the cemetery owned or controlled by the society or association is located. Any treasurer who fails to file such report with the probate court shall be fined not more than fifty dollars.

**Would these fifty dollar fines (if collected) be something that could be contributed to this new fund if only the law was enforced?**  
(She posed the questions – now it goes where ??? )

### Attention – New laws being introduced

As of January 2015 here are some new bills be introduced you may want to go online and check these out as well. It's really nice now that you can add your testimony online. This should allow so many more of us to have a say or question the decisions BEFORE they are made.

<http://cga.ct.gov/> and put in bill number

#### **Proposed H.B. No. 5977**

##### **AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR RIVERSIDE CEMETERY IN THE CITY OF WATERBURY.**

To provide funding to the city of Waterbury for the restoration of Riverside Cemetery.

#### **Proposed H.B. No. 6379**

##### **AN ACT PROVIDING REIMBURSEMENT FOR INSTALLATION OF VETERAN GRAVE MARKERS.**

To expand the current practice of providing reimbursement for up to one hundred dollars of costs for veteran grave installation incurred less than one year after the death of a veteran to one year or more in the rare cases where burial occurred more than one year after the death of the veteran due to slow processing by the federal Department of Veterans' Affairs, weather, cremation or other circumstance

#### **Proposed S.B. No. 647**

##### **AN ACT CONCERNING THE DESECRATION OF PROPERTY LOCATED IN A CEMETERY.**

That section 53a-218 of the general statutes be amended to (1) expand the list of persons whose authorization is required before a **person may interfere with or disturb a cemetery or burial ground** to include the deceased's surviving spouse, and (2) prioritize the order in which a person must seek such authorization.

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### Old laws regarding burials in Catholic Cemeteries

CGN members often ask about how burials were done at during various times; who *is* and who *can't* be buried in or at certain locations in the cemetery?

Most often questions about baby sections come up; something established in Catholic and Episcopal cemeteries but not in early burying grounds.

Ruthie came across the below reference in an old English Law book and thought it worth sharing (*it may help to read the translation of the felo de se first.* )

#### Definition of Felo de se - From uswow.com

*Felo de se*, Latin for "felon of himself", is an archaic legal term meaning suicide. In early English common law, an adult who committed suicide was literally a felon, and the crime was

punishable by forfeiture of property to the king and what was considered a shameful burial – typically with a stake through his heart and with a burial at a crossroad. Burials for *felo de se* typically took place at night, with no mourners or clergy present, and the location was often kept a secret by the authorities.<sup>[1]</sup> A child or mentally incompetent person, however, who killed himself was not considered a *felo de se* and was not punished post-mortem for his actions. The term is not used in modern legal practice.

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*Gibson's Law Notes- Vol. I, No.10 Oct. 1882, page 321*

**a monthly magazine for Law Students and Others**

Edited by Albert Gibson, Solicitor.

Published in London by Reeves & Turner,

100 Chancery Lane, W.C.

#### **The Interments FELO DE SE ACT. (45 & 45 Vict. C. 19.)**

Sect. 1 of the Act repeals 4 Geo. 2, c. 52, a statute relating to the interment of the remains of a person found *felo de se*. Sect. 2 enacts that a coroner shall not have power to direct the remains of a person found *felo de se* to be buried in any public highway, or with any stake driven through his body, but shall direct his remains to be interred in such churchyard or burial place in which the remains might have been buried if a verdict of suicide or *felo de se* had not been found; but by sect. 4 no Christian rites are to be performed on the burial of such a person, though the interment may, by Sect. 3, be made in any of the ways prescribed by the Burial Laws Amendment Act, 1880.

The Act extends to the Channel Isles, but not to Scotland and Ireland.

#### **For online info: "New Advent" Catholic Encyclopedia - Burial Laws Amendment Act of 1880**

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03071a.htm>

and the chapter on Christian Burials.

##### **Other Topics discussed:**

The law of the Church regarding burial

The ritual of burial

The burial of little children

The "Rituale Romanum" provides a separate form of burial for infants and children who have died before they have reached years of discretion. It directs that a special portion of the cemetery should be set aside for them and that the bells should not be tolled in joyous peal.

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#### **Rev Sam Tudor gets his footstone back....**



(Story on Next page)

CGN wants to thank Kris Simmons for contacting us about this lonely old footstone she found on her property in Chaplin, CT. Kris "I just found a gravestone in the backyard of the new house we just purchased. Our home was built in 1991 so we are unsure how it may have gotten there. We were concerned that it may have been stolen and wanted to return it to the rightful owner. After much research, I found your website and was relieved when your husband said that you could probably help us."

Ruthie did a search and sure enough Rev. Samuel Tudor was buried in South Windsor's ancient Timothy Edwards burying ground. This old burying ground, like so many, had many of its footstones removed long ago. How this one made its way out to Chaplin, over 25 miles away from the burying ground is a mystery we may never understand.

Ruthie picked up the stone while out that way for another program. She knew it was a stone done by carver Gershom Bartlett of the Bolton quarry, but had forgotten just how large some of the older footstones can be – (approximately 3ft x 4ft) but with the help of Kris and her children they managed to get it into her car trunk.

Once back in home Ruthie contacted member Joan Clapp and the South Windsor Cemetery Assoc., and member Jeff Virr was all too happy to come and get it. He had it



reinstalled next to Rev. Sam's headstone by the next day!

### Some history about Rev. Samuel and his family.

In R. R. Hinman's "Catalog of the First Puritan Settlers of Connecticut" he states that "Owen Tudor was from Wales and a descendant of Owen Tudor of the early part of the 15<sup>th</sup> c and the royal house of Tudor." The family line works this way; Owen probably was in Dorchester, Massachusetts before coming to Windsor. Town Records for Windsor show an Owen Tudor as a first settler in 1840. He had a 2 acre lot in the part of town called "The Island", which was on the west side of the Connecticut River now owned by the Loomis Chaffee School. Owen married a Mary Loomis Skinner, daughter of Joseph and they had 5 children and were referred to as the "Loomis Family". Their children were; Samuel and Sarah who were twins, Owen, Jane and Mary.

Samuel Tudor I was born Nov. 1652 and died July 1727, buried in SE corner of Old South Windsor Cemetery. He married 1st Abigail Filley Bissell in Oct. of 1685; she was the daughter of John Bissell. Abigail died in 1707. His 2<sup>nd</sup> wife was Joanna Taylor whom he married in Feb. of 1708.

Samuel was a farmer by trade and for a short time a school teacher when needed. He and his father's name shows up in Rev. Timothy Edwards's records as a signer of the 1680 petition

where the residents of the east side of the river were asking for a separate township and minister.

Samuel I's children, by 1st wife Abigail Bissell were six girls and one son. Son Samuel II was born March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1705 and died Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, 1757. He married a Mary Smith on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1729; she was the daughter of Joseph Smith of Middletown. Samuel II was well prepared by Rev. Timothy Edwards for college and graduated from Yale in 1728. After graduating from Yale, Samuel preached in various locations in around Connecticut; the 4<sup>th</sup> church of Guilford and the Presbyterian Church of Goshen, to name a couple.

In January of 1740 Samuel was ordained as the second pastor of the Congregational Church of Poquonnock Parish. Samuel has been described as "...a gentleman of very high classical attainments, a faithful and beloved pastor, and a sincere follower of this master."

In 1757 Samuel II had moved his family to a farm in East Windsor and not long after that he died at the age of 52, of "camp distemper" or dysentery communicated from his son. His son Theophilus, born Sept. 20, 1730 and died Sept. 10, 1757, age 27 was with the English army during the terrible campaign between Albany and the Lakes region in 1757. He returned from camp to his father's house in a feeble state with dysentery and lived only a few weeks.

Rev. Samuel's wife Mary survived her husband and lived to age 76 passing in June of 1785. The family graves lie in the SE corner of the Old Cemetery in South Windsor.

His other son Elihu had an interesting history as he married Lucreita Brewster of the Mayflower line of Brewster's. Elihu live to the age of 93 and was known as an officer and gentleman. A Yale graduate also he was a Greek scholar and a surgeon in General Wolfe's Army. In 1762 he was part of the Havana Expedition. After the war he studied in London for 2 years and then returned to East Windsor where he practiced. Elihu was said to be the leading surgeon in New England at that time and in 1792 he chaired the first meeting to organize the Hartford County Medical Society.

Samuel Tudor III son of Samuel II was born June 22, 1737, he married Naomi Diggins. . In March of 1775, the Connecticut Assembly in New Haven made Samuel a Lieutenant of the first company or trainband in the town of East Windsor; the 19<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the colony. They also attended the Lexington Alarm and on July 1, 1776 Capt. Amasa Loomis (*a Coventry/Bolton stone carver*) and Lt. Samuel Tudor signed for 6 guns which were loaned to the company by the selectman of East Windsor. After the war Samuel III opened a country store in South Windsor. His obituary touted him as the oldest man in Hartford and for many years one of the wealthiest. He died at this residence on Main Street at the age of 92.

His son Samuel IV also was a community leader; one of the founders of the Phoenix Bank and its director for many years, and at the same time a director of the Aetna Insurance Co., an office he held till his death, the oldest member of the Masonic fraternity of Hartford, one of the founders of Christ Church parish, a founder of Trinity College, was a lifelong contributor to the Asylum for the Deaf & Dumb, the Hartford Orphan Asylum and Hartford Hospital. Mr. Tudor also purchased the site of the Retreat for the Insane and deeded it to the city. Such a lineage, that gave so much. We don't know if there are any family descendants still in the area but we were certainly honored, to have played a part in putting this little piece of history right.

## Stone from Mass. returned at Symposium

A happy ending for the stone for Jonas Adams Whitney of New Salem, Ma., who died in 1816 at the age of 2 months. It's doubtful that he did much traveling in his short life but his gravestone was another story, it made its way to Meriden, Ct. What little of the story we know goes like this; about two



decades ago it was found in the woods near Draper Ave. Meriden. Gary Shamock who has been working on the restoration of East Cemetery; East Main St., Meriden found and took care of the stone all these years. From time to time he did research and asked several genealogy contacts for help but nothing ever came to light.

Then CGN member Jan Franco, with the Meriden Library got involved and she was able to trace Jonas's birth back to New Salem, Ma., which back in 1816 was a small village of perhaps a 1,000 residents. Jan has tried but has found no evidence that Jonas parents Jacob and Lucy

Whitney ever came to or had a connection with Meriden, Ct. It is assumed now that the stone was removed as a college prank (as often the case) as UMass is not far from the New Salem Cemetery.

Tamara Conde, fellow Association for Gravestone Studies member with Ruthie Brown and many other CGN members is also chairwoman of the New Salem Cemetery Commission agreed with this theory as she knows the little cemetery has often attracted students and for many reasons. Tamara was pleased to find that the stone was still intact, not broken and only too happy to meet Gary at the CGN symposium this last spring to finally bring Jonas home and put his stone back where it belonged.

We would like to thank Gary for persistence in saving this little grave marker.

## **Cedar Hill Cemetery's Burial Records Now Available On-line**

Cedar Hill is delighted to announce that its cemetery records, including a mapping feature, are now available on-line at [www.cemeteryfind.com/CedarHill.aspx](http://www.cemeteryfind.com/CedarHill.aspx)

A web-based records management system, CemeteryFind allows the public to access Cedar Hill's records and enables you to map the location of burials via Smartphone, tablet or computer.

Cedar Hill would like to thank the William and Alice Mortensen Foundation for its support of the recently completed mapping project. The Mortensen Foundation's generous funding enabled the conversion of Cedar Hill's hand drawn maps into a digital format.

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## Here's an interesting twist

One of our members sent this website over and thought perhaps we should share it with the group... I admit it's another place that I've never thought about before ..

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

But some genealogists maybe curious to check it out... if there's no gravestones to be found did they have a cremation?

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## Indian Hill Chapel - Middletown

### **Cemetery On The Hill - Gets A Restoration Grant**

**Abstract highlights from:** April 19, 2014|BY ERIK HESSELBERG, SPECIAL TO THE COURANT, The Hartford Courant - this direct link to full article should still be available:

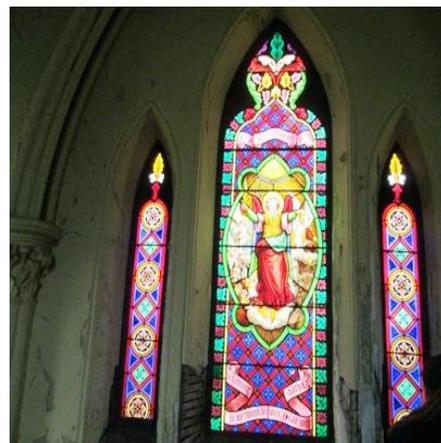
<http://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-indian-hill-renovation-20140419.0.7626491.story>

MIDDLETOWN Tom D'Aquila, president of the Indian Hill Cemetery Association, likes to tell people that the Keynesian economist John Kenneth Galbraith was 6-feet, 8-inches tall. Galbraith, who died 2006 at the age of 97, was married to Catherine Merriam Atwater, from a prominent Middletown family with a plot at Indian Hill. "No one knows where [Galbraith] is buried, but we do," D'Aquila says with a grin

The landmark Indian Hill Cemetery, where 9,000 people are buried on the rising ground above the city, is full of life. Indian Hill Treasurer August DeFrance describes the beautifully landscaped 45-acre grounds, just beyond Wesleyan University, as a city park. 1850 Indian Hill Cemetery belongs to the garden or "rural" cemetery movement. Nestled amid trees and shrubs in rolling terrain it's meant for ... "People to walk, jog, or just enjoy the place," DeFrance says.

Indian Hill recently secured a \$200,000 grant from the state's Historic Preservation Office to restore the brownstone chapel at the foot of the hill. The small Gothic structure was built in 1867 at the direction of Frances Hubbard Russell, wife of the China trader Samuel Russell, (1789-1862), who's monument stands near the summit of the hill.

From the summit of Indian Hill you can see the Connecticut River bending eastward. This grassy peak is known as Sagamore Summit in honor of the Wangunk Indian Sachem, Sowheag, who had his fort here at the time of the English arrival in the 1630s.

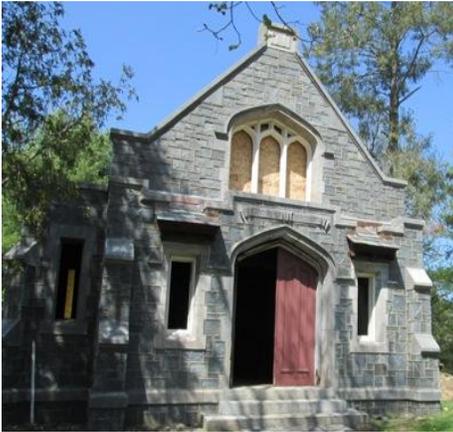


Connecticut's own story might be told on a stroll through Indian Hill. The wealth produced from shipping Connecticut River agricultural products to the slave-worked sugar plantations of the West Indies is seen in a huge brownstone crypt built in the hillside, the Alsop mausoleum containing shipping magnates Richard and Joseph Wright Alsop and their family members.

Better known is 1940s Gov. Raymond Earl Baldwin, of Baldwin Bridge fame, buried on the quiet slopes of Indian Hill. DeFrance wants people to know there are still 3,000 plots available. "People think we are a closed cemetery, but we still have a lot of space," he said. "We are an active community." In fact, the cemetery association has a Facebook and a Twitter account to keep people up-to-date. For more information contact Augie DeFrance at [august.defrance@snet.net](mailto:august.defrance@snet.net)

(and while still on the Chapel theme)

### Fountain Hill Cemetery –Deep River CHAPEL RESTORATION



The Fountain Hill Cemetery Association would like to thank all who donated to the window-replacement phase of the Wooster Chapel restoration project. The installation of leaded glass and storm windows has been completed.

These replace plastic inserts that have been there for decades.

The Board of Directors would like to thank Gary Elliott for donating his time and expertise in creating the templates of our new leaded glass windows and also for installing them. His efforts are very much appreciated and the results are beautiful. We hope everyone will stop by to see the finished windows.

While we have come a long way in our fund raising efforts, there is still much to do and many ways for people to contribute to the chapel restoration. New trim around the front door will complete the exterior of the building project. In the main auditorium, electrical wiring and lighting fixtures need to be updated. Also, heat would be very nice as it has been a long, cold winter.

All donations are tax deductible. Checks can be made out to Fountain Hill Cemetery Chapel Restoration and sent to Fountain Hill Cemetery, 57 High Street, Deep River, CT 06417. Plots are available throughout the cemetery and the newly opened Pet Cemetery. For more information contact Rhoda Forristall [rcforristall@gmail.com](mailto:rcforristall@gmail.com)

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### Plymouth's Restoration Project

By Judy Giguere Plymouth Town Historian

The restoration efforts for the Old Plymouth Burying Ground continue. The most recent is the replacement of the gravestone of David Warner, soldier from Plymouth with the Connecticut Militia in the War of 1812. Mr. Warner's original gravestone, signed by "N. Bolles" was too badly damaged to be salvaged. Mike Angelicola, a stone mason from Plymouth who specializes in stone restoration work, volunteered to either restore the former stone, or create a new one. The effort resulted in a new

beautifully hand carved stone of granite and installed on November 8, 2014. Mr. Angelicola has honored Mr. Warner's service by adding the symbol of the American eagle with the motto of "We Owe Allegiance to No Crown" and an intricately carved rose as a symbol of loss.

Restoration efforts continue on this historic cemetery. Presently, a significant section of the stone retaining wall has collapsed and additional portions are also at risk. Mr. Angelicola has again volunteered his time and expertise, with the help of Jerry Milne of the Plymouth Land Trust to restore and stabilize this portion of the wall. Other sections are in need of repair in the near future.

A partial survey has been done to assess the condition of the gravestones. More than a dozen gravestones will need to be replaced. This replacement is important. The original records of this cemetery have been missing for more than two centuries. Many veteran graves are marked with a flat State of Connecticut stone, but the original grave markers no longer exist. The brownstone table monument of Rev. Andrew Storrs, second minister to Plymouth Congregational Church and Chaplain to the troops in the Revolutionary War, is in serious need of stabilization. The table portion is eroding as water comes off the table and runs underneath it causing the underside of the table to be damaged. The fear is that if it is not stabilized and supported, the monument will collapse. Rev. Storrs died in 1785. Other gravestones have broken and fallen over, some were vandalized and some have broken brownstone bases in need of replacement.

There is a great deal of work that needs to be done to continue the restoration of this historic treasure. The earliest known grave is that of Nettice (or Lettice, the lettering is barely legible) who died in 1749 from the epidemic that claimed as much as one third of the population of Northbury and area communities at that time. There are six hundred known graves with many children buried there, some stones listing three or more children on a single stone. Rev. Samuel Todd and his wife, Mercy, have three daughters buried there. The gravestones of Rev. Todd's daughters were replaced through the efforts of Mike Angelicola to repair one stone and recreate two others. The stone of Rev. Todd's daughter Lucy is believed to have been carved by Peter Barker, an itinerant carver of that time period. Rev. Todd came to Plymouth, then known as Northbury, and settled as the first minister in 1739. The theory is that when Rev. Todd left Northbury, the original records went with him. The Hale Collection and the recent surveys are the only available records for this ancient cemetery.

Tax deductible donations are needed so the restoration efforts can continue for the Old Plymouth Burying Ground can be made to the Plymouth Land Trust, Post Office Box 76, Plymouth, CT 06782.

[http://www.plymouthlandtrust.org/Home\\_Page.php](http://www.plymouthlandtrust.org/Home_Page.php)

For more information on the history of the Town of Plymouth, please see the Town of Plymouth history section at: <http://www.plymouthct.us/index.cfm?fuseaction=content.faq&faqTypeID=40019>

Mike Angelicola's website and contact information

<http://eastfarms.org/gravestones--stone-carvings.html>



**Old Columbia Yard restoration**

Columbia Historical Society had a very productive summer in 2014. Under the direction of Joan Hill and a host of volunteers they accomplished a lot. Joan and colleagues would like to thank the Boy Scouts and the town for DPW labor and supplies. Joan has also been using D2 to clean stones and it's made a big difference and she will be doing a presentation on this project at our spring symposium.

**A list of accomplishments:**

- Headstones cleaned & photographed: 158
- Headstones re-set: 43
- Footstones cleaned & photographed: 59
- Footstones re-set: 118
- Stonewalls on E & N sides repaired
- Trees removed from frontage and within Old Yard
- Expenses: \$140 supplies & tools
- Man Hours (not including town DPW) : 233.5

# of volunteers: 18

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**Join us at an event**

**CGN Meeting & Social –Sunday March 22**

East Hartford South Senior Center  
 70 Canterbury St., East Hartford, Ct.  
 Sunday afternoon 1pm – 3pm

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. This is also a good time to use our library. 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](mailto:redbarnrugs2@yahoo.com)

It was our intent to schedule CGN meetings on more regular basis last year. Many of us are already working with several other organizations it is difficult to find convenience times. Please do communicate to us your interest and availability as we wish to accommodate the majority.  
 Thank you – Ruthie

**Cemetery Workshops**

Plans are in the works for workshops in Westbrook, Hebron-- other towns are also planning local work days.. Any definite dates that are sent in will be listed in the next newsletter..

**Center Cemetery East Hartford**

**Annual Activity Day May 23<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> 10am-3pm**  
 Stone Cleaning Workshop for Genealogist -  
 Open to the public for those that want to learn about photographing, cleaning and resetting stones

**Friends of Danbury Cemeteries**

**Workshop schedule and meetings**

The Friends of Danbury Cemeteries  
 Working to restore the abandoned, and underserved cemeteries in the City of Danbury  
 Check them on facebook Or contact Ed Siergiej directly at [Esiergiej@aol.com](mailto:Esiergiej@aol.com) to receive their e-newsletter.

**Sunday, April 12 1:30 PM**

**The Stone carvers of the Old Yard**

Joan Hill, member of the Columbia Historical Society, will give a one hour walking tour of the Old Yard, (gravestones 1725-1850's) focusing on the granite stones of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and their carvers. A free hands-on workshop on stone cleaning methods will follow. Old Yard, Columbia CT on RT 87, just south of the intersection of Rt.87 and 66

The walk is free, and no registration is required. Please call or email to register for the workshop. 860 228 2849  
[jhill003@charter.net](mailto:jhill003@charter.net) Rain date: April 20

**Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hartford**

website for spring tours and programs  
<http://www.cedarhillcemetery.org/>

**For more information contact**

**Ruthie at 860-643-5652**  
[www.ctgravestones.com](http://www.ctgravestones.com)



# Connecticut Gravestone Symposium

**April 11<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**9 am – 4 pm**

**East Hartford South Senior Center  
70 Canterbury St., East Hartford 06118**

**Presented by  
Connecticut Gravestone Network**

**Hosted by  
Friends of Center Cemetery, Inc.  
East Hartford**

## **Presentations:**

**9:30 am “Welcome for new attendees” By Ruth Brown**

A recap of old burial ground basics, maintenance dos and don'ts, ending with a story or two about some interesting genealogy/historic connections from last years adventures.

**10: 45 am “Restoring the Old Yard, Columbia, CT” By Joan Hill**

A member of the Columbia Historical Society, Joan will tell of the 2014 restoration efforts carried out in the Old Yard (gravestones 1725-1850's). She will touch upon the carvers, especially the Collins family of Columbia.

**11:45 – 12:45 Lunch Break**

**We provide sandwiches & beverages for a donation**

**1:00 pm “Data Set In Stone” By Kate Schunk**

An Anthropological/Archaeological analysis of morality rates from gravestones associated with the populations from the Georgian & Victorian eras within Fairfield County, Connecticut Kate has a B.A. in Anthropology/Sociology and has begun her graduate degree at WCSU to pursue writing educational books for all age groups about the historical importance of gravestones and the data that lies within them!

**2:15 pm “The graveyard is now a parking lot.” By David Oat**

Christ Church established in 1752 in Norwich, Ct., had a graveyard located on the right side of the church. But, today this area is a parking lot. What happened to the graveyard and its tombstones? In the summer of 2012, an effort was made to uncover these lost colonial tombstones and record their information. Local historian David Oat will discuss this ongoing project and show pictures of the tombstones and recovery areas from which they were retrieved.

**Visit with Exhibitors**

**Try your hand at stone carving**

**Admission \$10 for general public - Pay at the door**

\$5 for CGN members

CGN dues - \$10 payable at the door.

For more information contact Ruthie

at [ctgravelady@cox.net](mailto:ctgravelady@cox.net)

Or call 860-643-5652

Directions: Senior Center is on the East Hartford Glastonbury town line,  
Maple Ave. -off Route 2 E - E bound use exit 5c – west bound use 5 b and reverse direction  
by turning left (at Wendy's) and left at light back up on hwy and use exit 5c..then follow signs

**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 March 15, 2015**  
cemetery news, articles and related events

**APPLICATION - NEW MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL**

FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2015- **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**