

# Connecticut Gravestone Network

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

Volume 21 No.2

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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 2015 Vol.21 No.1

## AGS Conference June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>

[www.gravestonestudies.org](http://www.gravestonestudies.org)

2015 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting

Westfield State University  
Westfield, Massachusetts  
June 23-28, 2015



Our 2015 Conference Logo  
Longmeadow Cemetery Massachusetts  
Naomi Woolworth (1760)

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

<http://www.gravestonestudies.org/conference/register>.

Lectures ---Bus tours -- Workshops

(page 7 for more info)

### Upcoming Programs

Hebron Old Cemetery Workshop – May 9<sup>th</sup>

Old Cemetery, Westbrook May 16<sup>th</sup>

Center Cemetery, East Hartford May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Wintonbury Cemetery Tour Bloomfield May 31<sup>st</sup>

East Cemetery Tour, Manchester - June 8<sup>th</sup>

Ancient Burying Grd, Hartford Tour June 13<sup>th</sup>

Next CGN Meeting & Social –Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>

Details inside...pgs. 4&5

**CGN reorganizing:** Here are some changes that were recently made to help Ruthie out. Ruthie is still doing the newsletter and strongly encourages members to send in articles and events, on a word document, so it can be added to newsletter.

Ruthie will also continue as Treasurer as it is logistically easier, but we will now have someone to review the books and assist with management of reports.

**Secretary** – Mary Carroll

**Financial Review Officer** –Craig Johnson

**Publicity: Website and Facebook** – Lisa Cornell

**Newsletter Editing** – Will Cornell

**Presently our list of directors remains the same:**

Ken Buckbee, James Leatherbee

Irma Carper-Miller and David Oat.

Thank you all for the assistance and with a few more meetings, we hope to be back on track.

Ruthie Brown – Executive Director

### 2015 Spring Symposium

Our 2015 Spring Symposium was another great success. I would like to thank everyone that supported our event and especially those loyal members who take care of all the kitchen responsibilities, man the tables and help me to set up and take down tables and chairs. I've heard nothing but good comments about programs and vendors; it seems as if we all had another high energy fun filled day. I know I was busy as always and missed saying hello to many familiar faces. I'm happy to report that we covered all expenses and now have 14 new members! The photo collection on the next page is thanks to Dick Roberts. I had others sent to me but a computer fix made them disappear. If anyone has some good photos to send me please do. Ruthie

# CGN Symposium April 11 2015

Thank You All For such a Great Day...  
Here are some to the comments I collected.  
Ruthie you did it again, another great day!

Ruth, I just wanted to tell you that I thought you did a super job putting this symposium together. Just to mention a few who did a great job, Wayne, Fern, Irma, Mary Carroll, Cheryl and many other people I may have missed. It was a great opportunity to network with other like minded people. The lectures were so engaging and helpful. Keep up the good work.

Great symposium on sat.

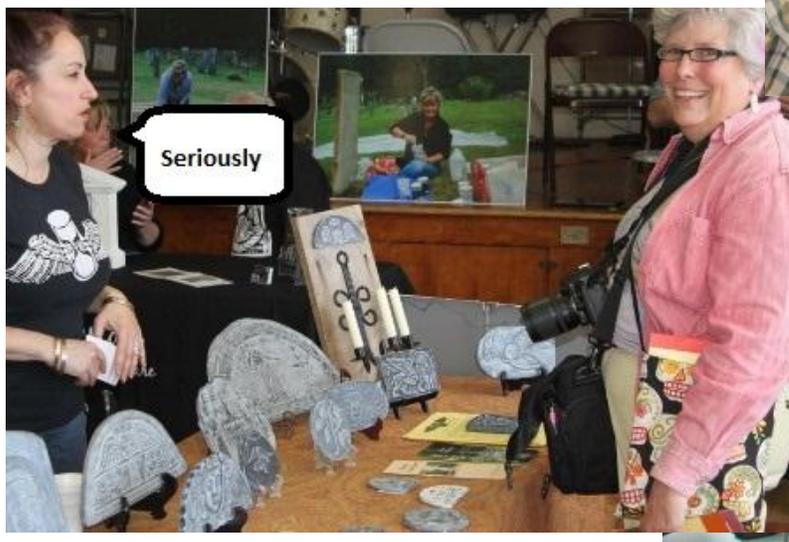
Thanks again for letting me be a part of this year's event.

I learned so much - this is great - do it again!!

I had a nice time meeting new people and the presentations were great..



Ty at his stone carving corner...



It's not spring without our annual get together!



Above photo from lecture in 2014.

## Lyme – Old North Cemetery Workshop

The Lyme Public Hall Association, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to the appreciation of Lyme's history, culture, and community through the preservation and use of the historic hall, its archives and historical programs.

Among the many projects we did last summer was to hold a presentation on Preserving Ancient Burial Grounds in Lyme, sponsored by this association. William Denow and Parker Lord were of course, in the middle of all this and invited Ruthie to come and do a presentation and to hold a workshop in the North Cemetery the following Saturday.

The Lyme crew has been working with selectman Parker Lord for some years now and doing a great job in restoring order to their old burying grounds. For Ruthie, her visit was a bit nostalgic, as she grew up in Old Lyme, and worked with a theater group that used this same hall.

The presentation was held the evening of June 12<sup>th</sup>, and was nicely attended. On Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup> the weather was perfect for a workshop. CGN members Fern Strong and Wayne Skidgel also came with Ruthie to help out. The following are photos from that day.



**Above: lifting out a leaner to reset it nice and straight.**

**Bill monument before and after a simple cleaning with water**



**It was a nice day with quite a few helpful and concerned volunteers that came out to work with us for day. Lyme is lucky to have those on board that care. Our hats are off the Parker, Bill and the crew in Lyme.**



## Hebron Old Cemetery Workshop – May 9<sup>th</sup>

Members of the Hebron Historical Society are taking steps to do some clearing and conservation work in their oldest burying place. They have joined together with members of the boy scouts to start work on a plan that has been outlined that will continue throughout the summer. One of things they hope to address is many stones that have fallen and are partially buried. Another task will be to clean stones with appropriate means and plan for some possible repairs. It is also hoped that they will have enough volunteers to do some brush clearing in the back and proceed with a project to document and photograph the present day gravestones and do a comparison with older listings to establish how many might be lost. If you would like to come and visit or become a volunteer please contact Mary-Ellen Gonci with the Hebron Historical Society at [mergonci65@comcast.net](mailto:mergonci65@comcast.net)

## Old Cemetery, Westbrook May 16<sup>th</sup>

The Historical Society is sponsoring a workshop day to get volunteers in to help clean and reset stones that need attention. Come prepared to learn about taking good photos with a mirror, gentle cleaning to remove lichens from stones and resetting toppled stones. The Cemetery address is 1353 Old Clinton Rd. and Historical is just around the corner at 1196 Boston Post Rd, Westbrook, CT 06498, for more information you can contact the Historical Society at (860) 399-7473.

## Center Cemetery, East Hartford

**Activity Day May 23<sup>rd</sup> - 10am – 3pm**

This day is devoted to cemetery clean up, helping visitors explore and find various ancestors. It is often forgotten that this is Hartford's 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest burying place and many of the first families of Hartford are among our residents. Our Friends of Center Cemetery members will be working on resetting toppled or leaning stones and doing some cleaning projects as well as clipping away at overgrown bushes. We would more than welcome any of you to participate, especially those wishing to learn how to do these tasks, or for those genealogists that want to learn how to properly, and safely, clean their family stones, or how to take a really good photograph of the old colonial gravestones.

This past fall Friends of Center Cemetery members

planted daffodils on each side of the roadway, winding up the hill to highlight our Civil War monument. They were also able to have Abigail Pitkin's stone repaired as well as five table stones righted and stabilized.



If you visit look for the 3 dozen new sign posts that mark some of our historic gravesites. This is the beginning of our new venture into



the future; a Pod Cast walking tour, something will soon be a tour that is interactive with a Smartphone. We would love to hear your comments and remarks on these additions.



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

or go to the Friends of Center Cemetery facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Center-Cemetery-Center-Cemetery-944-Main-St-East-Hartford/124562170953370>

## Old Wintonbury Cemetery Tour

Bloomfield, May 31<sup>st</sup>

As part of "Celebrate Bloomfield" week, Sunday, May 31 will be Bloomfield History Day. To celebrate our ancient (1739) Old Wintonbury Cemetery, we will inaugurate self-guided walking tours from noon to 4:00 p.m. Twelve of the many interesting stones will be highlighted and there will be a small prize for anyone who finds all those stones. Old Wintonbury (the latest of several names) is small, only two acres, which has long since been supplanted by a bigger cemetery elsewhere in town, so almost all the stones are of from the earlier era.

You will find this cemetery just north of Bloomfield center, on route 189, Tunxis Avenue, across from Filley Pond Park, which is also a good place to park. For more info contact: [libbie.merrow5@gmail.com](mailto:libbie.merrow5@gmail.com)

## East Cemetery Tour, Manchester - June 8<sup>th</sup>

Join Susan Barlow and Ruthie Brown at 5:30 pm for a walk and talk to pay respects to our local history while admiring our old gravestones. This is an annual event sponsored by the Manchester Historical Society. [http://www.manchesterhistory.org/MHS3\\_Home.html](http://www.manchesterhistory.org/MHS3_Home.html)  
This year's theme is "Who's Who" from the 1880's.

## Ancient Burying Ground in Hartford Tour on June 13<sup>th</sup> - 11:30 am

(At the corner of Gold Street and Main Street.)

On this walk we will be highlighting some "Down River Connections."



Join the Board members of the Ancient Burying Ground Association (ABGA) for a tour around the oldest burying ground in Hartford. This is an excellent opportunity to visit and explore; look for family connections or

admire the new landscaping, pathways and old gravestone carvings. If it's a nice sunny day, we will have a mirror available for taking photos, as well as our maps and some genealogy information for your perusal. You can find out more about the Ancient Burying Ground at their website: <http://theancientburyingground.org/> or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ancient-Burying-Ground-Association/>

## Friends of Danbury Cemeteries

### Workshop schedule and meetings

The Friends of Danbury Cemeteries are working to restore the abandoned and underserved cemeteries in the City of Danbury. Please contact Ed Siergie directly at [Esiergiej@aol.com](mailto:Esiergiej@aol.com) to receive their e-newsletter.

### Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hartford

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

### *Other Interesting finds of interest....*

### 15 acres wasted on dead people – now a parking lot.

This is not a new story but amazing one all the same. It might do us good to realize what does happen out there and why we should pay more attention. Not only did they decide to destroy the cemetery but gravestones and monument pieces can now be found scattered under the bridge. Irma Carper-Miller rediscovered this story and if you've not seen it before, you will be shocked.

<http://thecemeterytraveler.blogspot.com/2011/05/how-monument-cemetery-was-destroyed.html>

### Whitman Mass. 75 Stones Damaged

Member John Davis sent in this story and photos. Over 75 stones were damaged in January 3<sup>rd</sup> before the snow fell. The destruction at the Colebrook Cemetery on Essex Street did bring many of the towns people together in the resetting of the stones and giving the cemetery a cleanup. Severe weather Saturday removed any fingerprints that may have been on the gravestones. Most were modern stones



but a few older 1850 or so were broken in half will need more professional services. This happened right across the street from the police station, so apparently whom ever did this has no fear of the law or the here after.



## Have you visited Gen Proxy?

[http://www.genproxy.co.uk/old\\_trades\\_occupations.htm#s](http://www.genproxy.co.uk/old_trades_occupations.htm#s)

Some of you may already know about this one. When reading and deciphering old documents we often find unfamiliar words especially when referencing Old Occupations. Besides listings for Old Jobs, Trades and Professions which I found very useful, they also have interpretations for Latin, Medical and Smiley.

Here are some examples:

Chesterman: Guard  
Chiffonier: Wigmaker  
Delver: One who digs ditches  
Devil: Printer's errand boy  
Kellogg: Slaughter man  
Lavender: Washer woman, personal attendant  
Todd: Fox hunter  
Vaginarius: Sheather / scabbard maker  
Whitewing: Street sweeper  
Stuff Gown / Gownsmen: Junior barrister  
Tipstaff: Policeman  
*(rsb – makes you wonder doesn't it)*  
Wharfinger: Owner of a wharf  
Rotarius: Wheelwright  
Wheelwright: Builder / repairer of wagon wheels  
Millwright: One who designs or builds mills  
Mason: Stone carver, cutter  
Macon / Macun / Marson: Mason  
Quarrier: Quarry worker  
Quarryman: Stonecutter  
Peever: Pepper-seller  
Palmer: A pilgrim; one who had been, or pretended to have been, to the Holy Land  
Marshall: Horse servant or groom  
Bluestocking: Female writer  
Necessary Woman: Servant to empty chamber pots & clean privvies; female private

### Medical Terms

Acute Mania Severe insanity *(rsb – not just a little)*  
American Plague Yellow Fever  
Bronze John also Yellow Fever  
Dock Fever also Yellow Fever  
Atelectasis Collapsed Lung or lungs  
Black Fever Acute infection with high temperature and dark red skin lesions and high death rate.  
Bone Shave Sciatica  
Black Pox black small pox  
Cachexy Malnutrition

Corruption Infection  
Flux of Humour Circulation *(rsb- not funny I guess)*  
French Pox and Great Pox and Lues Disease are all Syphilis  
King's Evil Scrofula, a tubercular infection of the throat lymph glands; also sometimes syphilis  
Jail Fever and Ships Fever are all Typhus  
AND how many of you have ROSE COLD right now? That would allergies, hay fever etc.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## CGN Meeting & Social – Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>

Meet at **Maharaja Indian Restaurant, 466 Storrs Rd. Mansfield Center CT. 06250** for some lunch and a business meeting, following that we will walk over to Mansfield Center Cemetery for some exploration. You don't have to be a member to attend, new friends are welcome.

### Items for discussion:

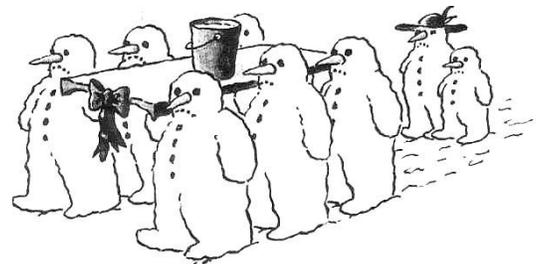
We will review the old by laws for needed changes and discuss the status of becoming an AGS Chapter. "AGS Chapters expand public awareness and support for research, preservation and conservation of grave markers and places of burial. The main purpose of state or regional chapters is to work as local extensions of the national AGS and to be able to offer meeting and workshops opportunities at the local level. State chapters operate, not as independent organizational entities, but as local (and, in certain cases, regional) bases from which members will work to expand interest and membership in the AGS."

**We are looking to do a bus tour to Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx perhaps in August and a fall symposium – perhaps on a smaller scale for**

Nov. 7 or 8 – stay tuned!

For more information contact Ruthie Brown at 860-643-5652 or ctgravelady@cox.net

### Snowman's Funeral



Yeah! – Spring is finally here!

## AGS CONFERENCE PROGRAM NOTES

*This is a condensed version please go to website for a more detailed listing.*

**Lead-Off Speaker:** Nick Bellantoni, retired Connecticut State Archaeologist and a long-time friend of AGS, will be the featured speaker on opening night.

**Lectures:** This year, many of the evening lectures will be about New England gravestone studies. Other topics will include: Sephardic Jewish tombstones in Jamaica; yellow fever in Norfolk, Virginia; Gay Rights in the cemetery; Buddhist gravestones in New Jersey; vandalism in New Orleans; early English emblem books; and unclaimed cremains in Oregon.

**Participation Sessions:** Classroom Participation Sessions are scheduled for Thursday and Saturday, will include: cemetery mapping and documentation; cemetery research in libraries and archives; cemetery law; cemetery tours (including “Ghost Tours”); self-publishing; electronic media; and “Stones and Bones.”

**A schedule of lectures and participation sessions, along with self-guided tour information, will be posted later this Spring.**

**Bus Tours:** In Westfield, and throughout the lower Connecticut Valley, gravestones were made from sandstone, from the late seventeenth century, well into the nineteenth century. On our **Connecticut Valley Sandstone Tour** – one of three tours scheduled for Friday, June 26 – we will visit four cemeteries established during the Colonial era. Along the way, Ruth Shapleigh-Brown and Al and Betsy McKee will introduce us to the work of many of the local stonecutters. The first stop will be Longmeadow, Massachusetts. Al and Betsy – live across the street from the cemetery, in a house formerly owned and occupied by stonecutter Hermon Newell. Other stops will be Enfield, South Windsor and East Granby, Connecticut.

On our **Berkshire County Tour** on Wednesday, June 24, we will visit cemeteries in the Housatonic River Valley, viewing the work of several local marble cutters, beginning in Stockbridge, then north to Lenox, Lanesborough and Pittsfield. Stockbridge (inc. 1739), now a popular tourist destination, was initially, an Indian mission and Native American people are buried in the Center Cemetery, and others are buried at the “Indian Burial Ground” nearby. Several members of the local African American community are also buried at the Center Cemetery, including Elizabeth “Mum Bett” Freeman and Agrippa Hull. In Lenox, we will visit the Church on the Hill Cemetery, located on a hilltop, next to the Congregational Church. There, and at the Center Cemetery in Lanesborough, we will see more of the work of local marble cutters – Lemuel Johnson, Elijah Phelps, Elijah Sikes and the Sturges Brothers, to name a few.

Those who choose to go on the **Metro-Springfield Tour** on Friday will visit other cemeteries established by other nineteenth-century immigrants. In West Springfield, we will visit Beth El Cemetery. At Beth El, Joshua Segal will offer his expert commentary and Forestdale Cemetery in Holyoke, an industrial city built during the second half of the nineteenth

century. At Forestdale, Holyoke’s garden cemetery, Penni Martorell, director of the Wistariahurst Museum, will join us and share her knowledge of the cemetery and those buried there.

At Forestdale, elaborate monuments and mausoleums preserve the memory of Holyoke’s elite – most of the people who built the city and worked in the mills are buried elsewhere, in cemeteries established by Irish, French Canadian and Polish immigrants during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. To conclude the Metro-Springfield tour, we plan to visit one or more Roman Catholic cemeteries in the Springfield area. Other cemeteries established by Irish, French Canadian, Polish and Jewish immigrants will be included on the list of self-guided tour destinations.

On Friday, conferees may also choose to visit cemeteries in the uplands west of the Connecticut Valley. On the **Berkshire Hills Tour**, we will first visit Blandford (inc. 1741), one of four Scotch Irish settlements in western Massachusetts. We will then visit one or two small cemeteries in Chester, then proceed westward to cemeteries in Becket and Lee. On this tour, we will see stones by Connecticut Valley sandstone carvers, schist and marble stones by Elijah Sikes, and marble stones by the Sturges family. As we travel, east to west, and through time, from the late 1700s, into the nineteenth century, we will witness the transition, from sandstone to schist to marble markers and monuments.

**STONECUTTERS’ ROUNDTABLE** In addition, we will offer a stonecutting demonstration and discussion, featuring four professional stonecutters, on Thursday afternoon. And Bill Harding, a charter member of AGS, has offered to lead a small group of conferees, via car pool, to Bennington County, Vermont, where during the 1970s, he did research on a number of local marble workers.

### **Workshops:**

- **Conservation Workshops, Classroom Session:** Thursday June 25th 9 AM - Noon, on campus
- **Conservation Workshop, Field Session:** Saturday June 27, location and additional details tba.
- **Photography Workshop, Classroom & Field Session:** Saturday June 27 -- bring your camera, extra batteries and/or a charger.

**Self-guided Tours:** information will be posted a few weeks before conference time

The Annual Meeting will be held on Friday evening, and the conference will conclude with the Awards Banquet, evening lectures and late night on Saturday.

**We hope to see you in Westfield in June!  
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

<https://www.gravestonestudies.org/conference/register>

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

[www.ctgravestones.com](http://www.ctgravestones.com) - please note that the basic information on our website is still good but until our new site is up the events and some links are not current.

**Deadline for Next Newsletter is July 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**