

# Connecticut Gravestone Network News

"Preserving and protecting Connecticut's old burial grounds and their inscriptions"

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



## April 17th CGN Symposium

Last year CGN enjoyed the Symposium location and layout that the Wapping Church provided us. We had a good location, convenient parking with easy access for loading, plenty of presentation and display space, a marvelous lunch and of course, a cemetery right outside of the door. Our presentations were popular as always, and many commented on the quality of the educational information we make available. First timers thought the event was great for meeting people and networking on similar projects and opportunities.

This year we are looking for more displays from groups or businesses throughout Connecticut. Tables are already being reserved and we encourage groups to get a table for display as soon as possible. Reservation charges are \$10 for one 6-foot table space if you're a member, and \$15 for non-members or those selling items.

Cemetery Associations or local historical groups are welcome to be represented as long as the displayed information is cemetery related. Groups that wish to be represented but don't feel they

have enough display material to warrant a whole table are welcome to reserve a half table space for \$6 and share the table space with another group. The main focus for the symposium is sharing information about our old cemeteries from around our state! A display of photos, inscriptions, records or maps of where cemeteries in your area are located will be of great interest to the CGN membership and will be appreciated. To make inquiries or to reserve your space, contact Ruth S. Brown - 860-643-5652 or [shapbrown@cox.net](mailto:shapbrown@cox.net).

Admission is \$5.00 for CGN dues paying members and \$10 to the public.

Lunch will be provided by the church members for a nominal charge, last year's lunch was outstanding. We are still working on a list of vendors as the date was moved so please keep in touch for more details. Presentation time schedules will be announced by e-mail or please check CGN web site at [www.ctgravestones.com](http://www.ctgravestones.com) later in March.

### **Presentations are:**

**"The Bartlett Family Carving Dynasty."** By Rick Gagne, **"Connecticut Cemetery Archaeology: 18th Century Tombs"** By John Spaulding, **"Smallpox and Cemeteries: What each tells of the other"** By Tom Howard

Flyer is enclosed with directions and more information - please help pass the word.



Above are photos from the 2003 Symposium (L) Civil War display by author Blaikie Hines, (C) Barbara Kerr ready to welcome you at the admissions table (R) story board for Old South Burying Ground in Hartford

## CGN Meeting March 14<sup>th</sup>

**Sunday at 1:30 pm**

East Hartford South Senior Center on Canterbury St., Friends of Center Cemetery, Inc. office. Business to be discussed;

newsletter help, Symposium staffing, advertising. Discussion with John Probert from the PSI Center, bring your stories and your photographs. Please RSVP Ruth as we'll need a head count for refreshments and notification list if we should have to cancel because of bad weather conditions. See article on page 2 for directions.

**Reserve your Symposium Table soon.**

## Collection Record Correction

Correction in newsletter issue dates for 2003. First CGN (Ruth) only published two issues for the year 2003. The second issue was incorrectly labeled. The vol. # was changed on the masthead but the month of issue was not. The correct issues are as follows:

Vol. 9 – No. 1 – January 2003

Vol. 9 – No. 2 – April 2003

If someone feels they did not receive the second issue and would like to receive a copy, let Ruth know and one will be sent out to you.

## Double Thick issue:

This is a double issue with more pages than usual, as a result of the fact that I was not able to get a newsletter finished and out to the membership last year. As the CGN newsletter publication has no staff responsible for its production, I apologize. I have not been neglectful, just busy with other life happenings and CGN business.

On that note I wish to say thanks to the editors that have been helping me out. John J. Spaulding has, since the inception of CGN, been our chief newsletter editor, while Ruth plugs away at putting it together. For a short time Irma Carper-Miller took over the publishing. At present and for the past year Bob Klisiewicz and Jim Smith have been helping out through email connections. I would like to acknowledge their efforts and our appreciation for the time they have donated to the cause.

Ruth S. Brown

## CGN Meetings for 2004

Meetings will be held at the East Hartford Friends of Center Cemetery Office at the South Senior Center on Canterbury St. in East Hartford. Friends and CGN are joining efforts to build a library on gravestone and cemetery references at the office, with publications and other media items available for sharing. This partnership will allow us to have meetings at a regular location as well as time for members to use references and share information or personal research. It is also my hope that having more frequent meetings will encourage people to contribute both relevant research materials and topics for group discussion.

**Our first meeting is scheduled for Sunday afternoon 1:30 pm, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004. After some business issues we will be having a special guest, John Probert of the Paranormal and Supernatural Investigation Center. Many members who are intrigued by John's photos and topics have requested that John pay us a visit.** Many of us have photos with some curious or surprising anomalies on them that have become subject to some grand speculation. So bring in your questions and your photos to show him. So bring in your questions and your photos to show him. John has been investigating paranormal happenings and phenomena for a number of years and is always open to gather more information and share his interest. For more information on John and his interest you can go to his web site PSI at [www.geocities.com/dvipier1978/main.html](http://www.geocities.com/dvipier1978/main.html). If the weather should cause us to cancel, we will move the meeting to another date. Please email an RSVP to Ruthie, at [shapbrown@cox.net](mailto:shapbrown@cox.net) with subject title of **CGN Mar.14**, so I

can send out cancellation notices the night before, otherwise call Ruthie at 860-643-5652.

At the same meeting we will also need to discuss the Spring Symposium i.e. a count of who will be able to help as staff and who will be setting up displays. If you would like to display, but are concerned that you do not have enough material to fill a whole table, please consider sharing a table with another group. A map of your town showing cemeteries and some photographs is great. Many folks come to visit us looking for the burial places of their ancestors

**CGN meeting directions:** The Senior Center is just up the road from the Connecticut Society of Genealogy Office, for any of you that have visited there. Directions are from Rt. 2 – Maple St. exit #5c coming from Hartford (and #5d coming up from Glastonbury), east on Maple St., ¼ mile to Stop sign, turn left on to Handel Rd. (following signs to senior center), then right at next Stop sign and right onto Canterbury. This is a cul-de-sac road and the school is at the end. Come in through the first set of double doors. Follow hallway to right and the Friends Office is the first door on your left. (only a short walk but with a few twists) Signs will be posted to direct you.

## Membership E - MAIL List

Please let me know if you have not been getting any emails from CGN headquarters.

This list of undeliverable emails is getting longer all the time. Many of us have been battling with spam and junk filters. CGN messages have either bounced back or are not being accepted by recipient. I will put **CT Cem.** or **CGN** in subject title for all future mass mailings to help identify my mailings.

I have been mailing out event notices and calendar listings; some last fall and two in January, especially in lieu of not having a timely newsletter going out. If you did not receive these messages please do whatever you can to allow these subject titles through. A few of you have been having sporadic problems with receiving emails; perhaps it is something connected to your ISP filters.

**Address Updates:** let me know if your e-address has changed or to check if I missed putting you on the list, thanks.

Ruth S. Brown

## Carver David Ritter

### About the Hat!

Ruth recently found the following advertisement while searching old newspapers:

“Wanted Immediately, A smart active boy from 14 to 15 years of age at the STONE CUTTING business, to whom good encouragement will be given—such as schooling, clothing, &c. DAVID RITTER. - N.B. The person that took two Hats instead of one out of the meeting-house last Sunday evening, will do well to send it where the subscriber can obtain it, or he will in a most disagreeable way be called on. D. R.”

Connecticut Herald – New Haven, May 14, 1811.

I assumed this to be an advertisement David Ritter 1779-1842 stonemason, and son to John and nephew to David Ritter also stonemasons. Ruth S. Brown.



### **Cedar Hill New History Programs are Popular**

#### **Cedar Hill Tea & Sympathy tour full house.**

On Saturday July 12, 2003, Hartford's Cedar Hill Cemetery held their 3<sup>rd</sup> "Tea and Sympathy" program and it was a "full house". This talk was held under a tent set up on Elizabeth's Colt's plot, in front of the Colt Monument. A Civil War Reenactor, Holly Cole from Wallingford, joined us to speak of the Victorian Mourning Dress or "Widows Weeds". She explained that in the mid to late 1800's one could tell for whom and in what stage of mourning, a widow was in by the way she was dressed. From undergarments to bonnets; to the types of material used in mourning clothing, the story would be told.

Irene McHugh, Cedar Hill's Program Coordinator had a wonderful display of various photos, coffins styles and other symbolic pieces of that era. Ruth Brown added her collection of photos, mourning stationery and information on local cemetery projects in Connecticut.

This year another reenactor, Jane Sabatelli from Torrington, who plays Mrs. Flint for the East Hartford Lantern Tour, attended as well, in her mourning costume. She also shared with us her exquisite collection of mourning jewelry; which was generally made from weaving clips of hair from the deceased.

The program was so well attended that we ran out of brochures and chairs! All parties commented on how educational this program was. Other costumed reenactors, who always come to support this event, were pleased to work with our audience and pose with for photographs after the event.

**Cedar Hill's first Civil War Walk** October 4, 2003 was also a big success considering that it was raining right up to one hour before the walk. This program is something that Cedar Hill's Irene McHugh has wanted to do for sometime. There were stops to visit at the gravesites of those soldiers that fought in the war, some with reenactors representing the person and speaking of his affairs of the time. Among the most famous are Col. Stedman, Gideon Welles, Henry Beach

and Samuel Colt. For a full list of Civil War veterans you can contact Irene McHugh at Cedar Hill or Ruth Brown at CGN.

Author Blaikie Hines also joined us and displayed his collections of Civil War pieces.

To join us for these and other Cedar Hill programs check the Cedar Hill events calendar at [www.cedarhillcemetery.org](http://www.cedarhillcemetery.org) - most events are free.

### **Voluntown QSHC Cemetery Tour**

CGN hosted a tour for the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor Walking Weekend program on Saturday Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> starting at the Robbins Cemetery at the Jct. of routes 49 & 138 and finishing up at the Kennedy Cemetery on Wylie School Rd. Ruth Brown was the tour leader assisted by members Iva Arpin and Cheryl LeBeau.

Neither of the cemeteries is as old as Ruth likes, regarding colonial carvers, but while Iva was speaking to the group about some local families and history, Ruth was finding plenty of interesting features through out the cemetery to share with the group. Cheryl provided the walkers with some local folklore as well and a popular story about Elmer Bitgood who is buried there. At the Kennedy cemetery we broke up in two groups; Ruth and followers went looking for various stone designs and carvers while Iva worked with those interested in local family names. We all enjoyed ourselves and several of the 50+ people in attendance have joined CGN or contacted us since. Ruth is looking forward to having CGN on the QSHC calendar next year. To find out more about QSHC go to [www.thelastgreenvalley.org](http://www.thelastgreenvalley.org).

### **East Hartford Lantern Tour brings out the town**

Last October the Friends of Center Cemetery of East Hartford held their second Lantern Tour Event. Many local residents were being introduced to their local history for the first time and were very surprised at what they learned along the way.

The 2003 event had to be moved to the Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> rain date, which turned out to be a gorgeous evening and perfect for the program. It was so picturesque; a full moon over the east end of the hill and the Congregational Church steeple with clock, all lit up in the western view. At 7 pm. the fife and drums heard and 60+ people were taken in escorted groups through the cemetery. Each walk lasted about 60 minutes and groups moved through 'till 9:00 pm. All together there were 10 stations with historical local characters and two being historical information stops.

The actors were members of Friends and the East Hartford Historical Society, dressed in period costume, who played each character like they were part of their own family; and indeed some were. Tent and booth areas were set up at the front of the cemetery for refreshments and information about Center Cemetery. John Spaulding, also the Friends Archivist had his laptop and database of the cemetery inventory as well, so that visitors could do family look-ups.

Friends Event Planner and Vice President, Ruth Shapleigh-Brown and the group are already working on another similar event for 2005.

## Cars Crashing through Cemeteries:

**East Hartford, Center Cemetery:** Damage was done last summer to several stones in the newer section as a car driving on Central Ave. left the road and appears to have driven diagonally across the lower section, damaging five stones and a public water line faucet. Neighbors heard noise but evidently, although badly damaged, the car was able to leave the scene.

No police report was filed and the damaged will be repaired when funds are available.



**Manchester, West Cemetery:** July 8<sup>th</sup> a car was hit from behind at the intersection of Spencer St. and Inter.384, which sent it crashing through the fence at West Cemetery, damaging six stones before it came to a complete stop. Thank goodness no persons were seriously injured. However several marble stones were smashed beyond repair. A settlement with the insurance company is being arranged for repair and replacement of the damaged stones.



## New Archaeology Center Planned for UCONN

The University of Connecticut has officially announced it's plan for new exhibit space to be added to the State Museum of Natural History. The Connecticut Archaeologist Center is scheduled to open next fall. UConn will be renovating the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of the Apple Sales building and turning them into state of the art labs, classrooms, offices and exhibit space that will used to display some of the extensive collections presently held by the Office of State Archaeology. State Archaeologist Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, is excited and encouraged, and believes that this new undertaking will be a special benefit not only to the University but to the heritage of

Connecticut and it's people. The center is being modeled after a similar facility at the University of South Carolina's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, and although smaller will provide Dr. Bellantoni with a long awaited new office space as well as more work area for present ongoing operations. Those of us that have worked with Dr. Bellantoni over the years are very pleased with this recognition and look forward to being a part of the new momentum to preserve Connecticut's history.

## Old South Burying Ground, Hartford Informational Newsletter Available

A newsletter publication was mailed out in January to promote the history and preservation efforts that have been ongoing for the Neighbors of Old South Burying Ground on Maple St., Hartford, Ct. The Old South Burying Ground is Hartford's second oldest cemetery. In colonial times Center Cemetery in East Hartford was Hartford's second burial place, but using present day boundaries Old South Burying Ground takes the role, as Old North Cemetery was initiated 7 years after Old South.

Headline articles are as follows: "City Manager Erdmann Visits OSBG, Mayor Perez Meets with OSBG Committee, First Mayor of Hartford is buried at Old South, South Cong. Church Connections to OSBG, GPR Survey Yields Information and Colonial Heroine Hannah Bunce Watson - first Female Publisher of The Connecticut Courant and more." The group is has been receiving recent publicity though television (i.e. the Cross Roads Program which is produced by the Arch Diocese which featured Ruth Brown and Byron Benton and aired on WTXN on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004), plus a mention from Ruth in an article titled "Graveyard Shift" that ran on Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> in the Hartford Courant, and members are presently preparing for a publicity segment on WDRC radio. Neighbors of Old South Burying Ground hold monthly meetings on the 1st Monday of each month unless otherwise notified, at 5:30 pm. at the Jubilee House on Clifford St. in Hartford's south end (about two blocks north of Cedar Hill and the Goodwin Golf course on Maple Ave.), anyone with an interest in Old South history and it's residents are welcome. Byron will also have information, records, maps and photos on display at the CGN Symposium April 17<sup>th</sup>. If you would like a copy of the newsletter sent to you please contact CGN member Byron Benton at 5 Avery Heights, Hartford, CT 06106-4201 or call him at 860-953-2753 for more information. To receive a PDF version of the newsletter you can email Ruth Brown at [shapbrown@cox.net](mailto:shapbrown@cox.net).

## "Graveyard History 101" at Manchester Community College

Adult Education Credit Free Courses

Ruth has done 3 successful classes titled "Graveyard History 101" to acquaint attendees with basics of old cemetery topics, from what's a footstone and who are carvers to basic maintenance with some genealogy assistance to boot. This spring she will be adding another course, which will consist of five colonial cemetery walks from Glastonbury to Vernon. CGN and other local cemetery organizations will be advertised and presented at these classes.

## **Additions to the State Register of Historical Places.**

**The Fanning Cemetery**, located on Lantern Hill Road in Ledyard, Connecticut was issued honorary designation on the State Register of Historic Places on August 6, 2003.

Henry M. Rogers of the Fanning Heritage Association has worked very hard through the years, researching and writing about the Fanning family, beginning with Edmund Fanning who came to this country from Limerick, Ireland in the 1650's. This cemetery, with its fieldstone markers represents the earliest of Irish settlers in America as well as the origins of the Fanning ancestry in America. According to Henry's research the family was actually exiled to the area that is now Ledyard/North Stonington. The remains of the old homestead and the old burial ground fieldstone memorials are testament to those early inhabitants. The later dated marble gravestones continue to represent the family heritage into the present time. The overview of an intact family plot of this nature can be read almost as a genealogy family map that flows from one side of the cemetery to the other. The Fanning cemetery holds monuments for at least 80 graves. For more information about the Fanning Family please write to the Fanning Heritage Association, Henry M. Rogers, President, 14121 Crosby Ave., Bronx, NY 10461 USA. The complete story of the Fanning Family history in Ireland and the events that lead to them coming to America can be found in Connecticut History; Fall 2001, Vol. 40, No.2 Special Issue: Genealogical Studies of Southeastern Connecticut, "Edmund Fanning: From Limerick, Ireland to Stonington, Connecticut": by H.M.Rogers – published by the Association for Connecticut History.

## **Montville has a National Registry Addition**

The Johnson-Leach Cemetery, located on Route 32 in the Uncasville section of Montville, Ct., was nominated and accepted to the National Registry because of the significance of the stonework enclosure, a superb example of the expert skill of one Native American stonemason and craftsman name Henry Mathews (1818 – 1904).

In the past, road and sewer construction has raised the ground at the front of the cemetery, making it now appear to be hanging off the side of the hill. The cemetery contains 23 gravesites for the family of the once leading industrialist and landowner of that area. The plaque attached to the iron gate, which is flanked on either side by two granite posts, dates the area to 1860. The cemetery is enclosed completely by an expertly fitted granite block wall that varies in height from 4 feet to 6 feet high. The interior walls are battered (being fashioned to a design that narrows the thickness of the wall from the base up to the top), which is most appealing to the eye and representative of craftsmanship that is rare to find. Mathews was a member of the Mohegan tribe, situated in that area, where he learned this native stone working craft well. Like many other artisans, he also worked in other mediums, such as wood, creating kitchen items that, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, became popular at the local annual church sale. For more information please contact The Montville Historical Society or John Geary at 860-848-9981.

## **Historic Commission And National Registry Status**

In 2003, the Connecticut legislature abolished the Connecticut Historical Commission as a small independent state agency responsible for the identification and protection of the state's historic, architectural, and archaeological resources, including historic cemeteries and burial grounds. However; the Historical Commission's State Historic Preservation Office was retained, and merged with three other small agencies into a new Commission on Arts, Tourism, Culture, History and Film (CATCHF). As an integral component of the new agency, the State Historic Preservation Office continues the various functions and duties of the former Historical Commission, including the consideration of historic cemeteries for National Register and State Register of Historic Places designation. The State Historic Preservation Office also remains the pertinent state office with regards to the preservation and respectful treatment of historic gravestones throughout Connecticut. Administrative and organizational adjustments necessitated by the merger of the four agencies into a new approach are on going, and hence, some delays are anticipated with respect to the National and State Register programs over the next few months. Nonetheless, inquiries about the potential designation of historic cemeteries are welcome and should be addressed to Mr. J. Paul Loether, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer or Dr. David A. Poirier, Staff Archaeologist, at 59 South Prospect St., Hartford, Ct 06106 – 860-566-3005

## **Progress from Other States**

Over the years our State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Staff Archaeologist Dr. David A. Poirier has been keeping CGN office informed on programs offered in other states around the country. You will find links on the CGN web site to some of these sites. Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance held there their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cemetery Workshop last year. The workshop was sponsored by the Alabama Historical Commission and the Montgomery Genealogical Society. One of their topics for the workshop was "Effective Cemetery Laws and Legal Actions". For more on their progress go to [www.alabama-cemetery-preservation.com](http://www.alabama-cemetery-preservation.com).

West Virginia just published a wonderful calendar for 2004 that features its cemeteries and National Register of Historic Places, sponsored by West Virginia Division of Culture and History, State Historic Preservation Office. The front inside cover of this publication is devoted to educational information regarding cemeteries. "While West Virginia encompasses thousands of cemeteries, the exact number is unknown. They exist as church graveyards, small family plots, community cemeteries, and memorial parks and gardens. Cemeteries are a part of West Virginia's heritage. ...many also are associated with historic events and people, include significant examples of funerary architecture, and contain important information about the past. As such cemeteries can be considered for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under one of the four main Criteria." (cont.on next page)

The following is a brief description of the four main Criteria points:

**Criteria A** - a property must associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. For historic cemeteries, this association can be evidence of an important event or showing the broader pattern of history as it relates to the area, such as, the overall settlement and development of a neighborhood, village or the town and that the cemetery includes grave's of some the region's early settlers and families.

**Criteria B** – association with an important historic person or persons.

**Criteria C** – association with symbolic architectural elements that depict or represent a period of style, culture or features significant to a body of people or time in history. For cemeteries, is the funerary art, landscaping, or overall design characteristic or reflective of a particular time in the development of the community, of a particular view and/or treatment of the deceased, of a particular cultural perspective about gravestone iconography, etc

**Criteria D** – primarily used for archaeological sites, but could apply to historic cemeteries where further research might offer important information about Connecticut's earliest settlers.

And I ask “Where are we in Connecticut that has so much early history?” We have worked to have programs offered that are supported by pertinent state agencies, but never have we gotten the recognition or support needed to make this kind of progress. Because of the recent merger of the State Historic Preservation Office into a larger agency, the task may become even harder and place more responsibility on local organizations to fill this need and protect our history.

This calendar will be available for review at the CGN meeting in March. For further information from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History at 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East – Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0300 or on the internet at [www.wvculture.org](http://www.wvculture.org)

### **Flour Dusted Stones at Hartford's Ancient Burial Ground**



This summer, while doing a tour at the Ancient Burial Ground in Hartford, Ruth discovered that someone had visited the cemetery earlier and dusted several brownstones with flour, and not done lightly, either. It's assumed that this was done to make

the inscriptions easier to read, however, this is just conjecture, as they were not difficult to read to begin with.

Perhaps this technique was used to enhance a photograph of the stones, but what an ugly photograph it would have made. Many genealogists still tout this method as a convenient way to make stone inscriptions more visible, but fail to recognize that flour turns to “glue” when it rains. On a return trip the following Saturday, Ruth found that a few schist stones had



been done since her 2<sup>nd</sup> visit the day before, therefore deducing that the culprit was probably an out-of-town visitor coming in early on Saturday mornings. The stone dusting only seem to occur on those two Saturdays and then it ceased. The process looked horrible and on one visit, Anne Holcomb and Ruth tried cleaning off the flour with a light brushing but as these sandstones were already flaking and very fragile, they soon decided to let them be. It would

appear that eventually the flour did dissipate (perhaps a local ant colony was feasting on the glutinous mess at the bottom of the stones) and all appears to be fine again. Please remind your local genealogists that light dusting on dirty marble stones in the Midwest is not a technique we prefer to use here in New England on brownstones.

### **Smallpox Victims Wanted**

Headstones are the best source and the best indicators of past smallpox outbreaks for the pre-vital record period and "there are thousands of cemeteries in Connecticut." Once a time and a place is discovered, Tom will search the related records for still more information. Tom Howard is compiling a database listing every known death from smallpox in Connecticut and needs your help. If you know of any smallpox victims from any time period, from any place in the state, and from any source please let him know, preferably by e-mail at: [tvhowsearch@snet.net](mailto:tvhowsearch@snet.net); or phone 860-658-0232. Digital images are welcome with cemetery name and location. By post; Tom Howard, 59 Old County Road, East Granby, CT 06026.

Check with Tom before sending bulk information as he has been collecting for a few months now and has already tapped many resources. He thanks everyone in advance for his or her assistance.

Tom will also be doing a presentation at  
the

Farber Photo Collection online

Tree Damage in  
Middletown's Mortimer Cemetery.



The gale force of winds last November took down one of the oldest trees in Middletown's Mortimer Cemetery. The great oak tree was measured at 20 feet in diameter and stood about 80 ft. high. This wonderful tree stood as a silent guardian for over 200 years (imagine what it has witnessed in it's time!),

and as is the way with old trees, the trunk had a hollow area. Until this event, no one knew just how extensive that hollowness had become, and unfortunately, the unstable base could no longer support the weight of the upper limbs, and down came the tree.

Although the damage was difficult to assess at first, it turned out that up to 20 gravestones, including two small brownstone obelisks, were among those that laid hidden under the mighty branches. Several marble stones were rocked out of the ground from the branches pushing against the iron plot railings and they, in turn, toppled the granite posts they were attached to.

A full account of the damage can not be had until all branches are removed and more will be known when spring clean up begins. August DeFrance and other Cemetery Associated friends stayed on top of the situation and were successful in getting the Marino Bros. Crane Service (who donated their time) to take on the job of delicately lifting the large limbs up and out of the area without further injuring the gravestones.



This past fall, the Association for Gravestone Studies announced the online address where the Daniel Farber Gravestone Photographs can now be viewed. Antiquarian Society: <http://www.davidrumsey.com/farber/>

Lewis Cemetery in Voluntown  
Has New Gate

A new gate for the Lewis Cemetery was donated and installed by Voluntown resident and Historical Society member Walter Jabs. In addition to the donation of the gate, Walter also repaired portions of the stone wall near the gateway, as a result of damage to the wall caused by the fall of a huge rock. It's volunteers like Walter that make the difference and he is very much appreciated by Terri Kula and others who have been working so hard to restore the cemetery (Terri did send us a photo but it was not clear enough for reprinting

Here are some web site address  
that were sent in to share.

**WOLA Gravesites**

That's Western Outlaw Lawman History Association. If your interested in who fought the law way back when – then this is the site for you. Tombstone Cemetery, villains, traders, trappers and those that wore the badges.

[/www.westernoutlaw.com/gravesites/index.html](http://www.westernoutlaw.com/gravesites/index.html)

Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven now have its own web site: [www.grovestreetcemetery.org](http://www.grovestreetcemetery.org).

What every town should make available about it's cemeteries.

**Cemeteries in the Town of Mansfield**

There are 21 known cemeteries in the Town of Mansfield. Most are inactive; however there are two, which are active and are owned by the Town: [http://www.mansfieldct.org/town/departments\\_and\\_services/town\\_clerk/vital\\_statistics/cemeteries.htm](http://www.mansfieldct.org/town/departments_and_services/town_clerk/vital_statistics/cemeteries.htm)

**Let us know if find a site to share.**

## Huntington Tomb in Norwichtown Rebuilt

Thanks to the initiative of the Norwich Historical Society and the generosity of individuals in the area, the tomb for Samuel and Martha Huntington, in the Norwichtown burying ground, has been rebuilt at a cost of \$31,000. On October 20, 2003, the tomb was opened so that state archaeologist Nick Bellantoni could remove the remains, which were carefully stored at the Church and Allen Funeral Home on Sachem Street in Norwich while the reconstruction was being done. During this period Dr. Bellantoni had an opportunity to examine the remains in detail. Samuel Huntington, born in Scotland, Connecticut, was president of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia at the time the Articles of Confederation were ratified in 1781, so many believe that he could, in fact, be called the first president of the United States. However, George Washington was the first elected president under the constitution so he gets the credit. Samuel Huntington not only presided over the congress but also signed official documents and treaties as the chief executive. Huntington returned to Connecticut in 1781 and held several



positions including governor of the State of Connecticut from 1786 until his death in January 1796. His house, adjacent to the cemetery is still in use.



**At right is a photo of Nick with Funeral Director checking the new coffins with old coffin plates attached.**

The remains of Samuel and Martha were returned to the tomb on November 24, 2003,

with the pomp and ceremony befitting a president. The honor guard and pallbearers were from the Governor's Foot Guard who also provided a 21-gun salute. The remains of the Huntingtons were reentombed in authentic coffins provided by the funeral home.

After being polished, the original silver-plated coffin plates were attached to the new coffins. The reconstructed tomb will be rededicated next spring. John Spaulding - AGS, CGN & FOSA

This just in from state office: The Governor Samuel Huntington Homestead (Scotland), a National Historic Landmark, has been designated as Connecticut's 16th State Archaeological Preserve by the Connecticut Historic Preservation Council.

Photos for FOSA articles were provided by John,

**John will be presenting this information and more at the April CGN Symposium.**

## **So how have you been spending YOUR DASH?**

There are several versions of this little poem about the dash and Fred Bitgood sent this one in for us to enjoy.

### **I'm Glad You Are in My Dash**

I read of a man who stood to speak.  
At the funeral of a friend  
He referred to the dates on her tombstone  
From the beginning...to the end.  
He noted that first came her date of birth  
And spoke the following date with tears,  
But he said what mattered most of all  
Was the dash between those years.(1934-1998  
For that dash represents all the time  
That she spent alive on earth...  
And now only those who loved her  
Know what that little line is worth.  
For it matters not, how much we own;  
The cars....the house...the cash,  
What matters is how we live and love  
And how we spend our dash  
So think about this long and hard...  
Are there things you'd like to change?  
For you never know how much time is left  
That can still be rearranged  
If we could just slow down enough  
To consider what's true and real,  
And always try to understand  
The way other people feel.  
And be less quick to anger,  
And show appreciation more  
And love the people in our lives  
Like we've never loved before.  
If we treat each other with respect,  
And more often wear a smile.  
Remembering that this special dash  
May last only a little while  
So, when your eulogy's being read  
With your life's actions to rehash...  
Would you be proud of the things they say  
About how you spent your dash?

## **Bison Brook Farm Family Cemetery**



Another cemetery has been found in the northeast corner of North Stonington. The Hale Collection had listed 98 cemeteries in this town but now we find that there are 99. When a contractor found human remains in filler used in a driveway that he was constructing, they were traced back to the gravel bank where the material was quarried. (See Figure 1) State Archaeologist Nick Bellantoni was called in to investigate. Dr. Bellantoni enlisted the aid of CGN and the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology (FOSA) to try to identify the cemetery. It is located about one quarter mile east of the Browning Cemetery and the two cemeteries are separated by a brook. The first effort at the gravel bank was to strip the overburden to determine the extent of the cemetery. There were no markers on this site. Archaeologists sifted the material on the face of the gravel pit to find any remains that may have fallen from their graves. Ultimately, only four graves were found. There were two adults, ages 77 and 74, with the surname initial K on the remains of their coffin lids, while the other graves were for children. Based on other investigations it is believed that they date between 1775 and 1825. Examination of the town records has not yet yielded the identity of this family. The remains were removed along with pieces of the coffin, buttons and a small piece of a coat. They will be reinterred in a nearby cemetery after the investigation is complete John Spaulding



To the left is a photo of bones that were protruding from the hillside.

For those of you interested in more of this information and our work with through the Friends of the Office of the State Archeologist, John has photos posted at <http://oldbones.net> - titled as Archaeological Investigations in Connecticut as an over view for the following tomb sites:

Gates-Throop Tomb, East Haddam Connecticut

Bulkeley Tomb, Colchester Connecticut

Squire Pitkin Vault, East Hartford Connecticut

Samuel Huntington Tomb, Norwichtown Connecticut

## **CGN Member Helps Reunites Family**

**By Sharon Harvey**

Last Fall Ruth Brown approached me to help with some genealogical research for a gentleman who had contacted her regarding his father. I quickly emailed Mark Hall in Texas and agreed to help with his project. I learned from Mark that his father was born in Lyme, CT; had divorced his first wife with 2 daughters, then moved to Texas and Mark's mother in 1966. The only information that Mark knew regarding his father was what had been told to him by his mother. He knew his father was Albert Hall born in 1932 and that Albert was the son of Ella and Edmund Hall. Mark had researched the Mormon Church records on line and thought his grandfather was Charles Henry Hall. Joshuatown Cemetery in Lyme had several Halls buried there but he wasn't sure how they were related.

I contacted the Lyme Town Clerk and received Edmund's birth record and learned that, yes, Edmund's father was Charles Henry Hall who married Hattie Belle Frink Clark in 1900. However, Edmund had not died in Lyme, now was stumped - what to do next?

I found Joshuatown's record keeper Parker Lord. Mr. Lord told me that Edmund had died in Essex in 1940. *However* - Essex had no record of his death.

Time to bring in the some reinforcements. I contacted Marilyn Davis, New London Chapter DAR President and she found Edmund dying in 1943 not 1940. When I received his death record I discovered that someone had typed his x-wife's name on the certificate. Her name was Ella Hall Everitt. I quickly accessed SS Death Index and found an Ella Everett dying in Portland, CT in 1999. The next day I drove to the Russell Library in Middletown. *YES*, there was the obit and it listed Ella's children, a son Albert and a daughter Alice, with an address in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

The really scary part for me now was *do I dare call this woman!* I held my breath while my stomach felt like it had become home to a million butterflies

I found there was a number. -the phone was ringing -and to my relief, once I explained why I was calling, she was very happy to hear from me. *SHE CRIED - I CRIED*. I couldn't wait to e-mail Mark in Texas and tell him *I FOUND HIS AUNT!* What a wonderful thing had happened.

To make a long story short a family has been reunited. Mark has found his aunt and uncle and three half-sisters. They are all in contact now sharing pictures, e-mails, phone calls and family stories. What a wonderful ending you say? Not quite yet. -- Wait - There's more.

I met his Aunt Alice yesterday when she came to CT for a short visit. Yes, on one hand it's truly amazing how we are all connected but even more than that, is how happy it makes my heart to bring this kind of joy to a family. I started out doing it for them but along the way they have brought more love and kindness into my life, than I could have ever imagined.

### **Antique Dealers – Beware** **Stolen Statuary Alert**

Last spring Ruth received the following information regarding a stolen piece of memorial art.

Reported by Prof. McGuire an Archaeologist at Binghamton University who has been doing research on the Ludlow Massacre and the Colorado Coalfield War of 1913-1914. At Ludlow, Colorado in 1914 National Guard troops fired on a tent colony of striking miners and killed 20 people including 2 women and 11 children. The United Mine Workers erected a granite memorial to the slain at the site in 1917. The memorial is a rectangular granite column with approximately 3/4s size statues of a miner and a grieving woman with a baby. ***Someone has cut the heads off of the two statues.*** The cuts are quite clean and there was no other damage done to the monument.



**Full view of the Ludlow Massacre Monument  
a memorial the coal miners that were killed in 1914..**

### **A closer view of what the missing sculptural heads .**



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The story below appeared on Dick Eastman's weekly online newsletter. To many gravestone enthusiasts this is a popular topic of discussion. It is followed by a return comment from member and Exec. Director of A & L Bill Hosely

### **- Who Owns Tombstones and Tomb Markers?**

Who owns a tombstone or other markers at a grave?  
Who retains ownership rights to these memorials centuries after the family paid for them?  
Do later museum directors, art collectors, and outright thieves have the right to remove these objects for their own use?

These and other questions are highlighted in a recent article in the Philadelphia Inquirer. Staff writer Michael Currie Schaffer describes the quest of Shirley Donan, a Grove City, Pennsylvania genealogist.

Donan went to England to visit St. Lawrence Church in the tiny English village of Brundish, about 100 miles northeast of London. She went there to research several members of the Colby family, direct ancestors of her husband, who were buried in the church under intricate brass carvings, according to a nineteenth-century genealogy book. When arriving at the tomb of Francis Colby, whose brother was a direct ancestor of Donan's husband, she found a 20th-century replica in the place of the 1570 original brass carving.

Donan investigated and found that the ornate brass plate had been stolen from the unlocked church many years ago by persons unknown. Eventually, it surfaced in the collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, not far from Donan's home.

The article describes in some detail Shirley Donan's efforts to have the brass plate returned to its rightful place on Francis Colby's grave. After all, the Colby family paid for the marker and expected it to remain in place for eternity.

The Philadelphia Museum of Art has refused to return the object to the Colby family. Perhaps even more disturbing is the museum director's quote of a policy of many major museums: "Objects acquired in earlier times must be viewed in the light of different sensitivities and values, reflective of that earlier era." In other words, if enough years pass after the theft, the museum claims that the recipient of these stolen goods does not have to return the item in question.

Response From Bill Hosley:

(Written as a gravestone enthusiast who has witnessed similar situations over the years and in defense of museums.)

"I know museums have bent over backwards to repatriate art stolen during WWII but legitimately (if unwittingly) purchased from dealers in the 50s and 60s. Seems like museums have made genuine sacrifices to be on the right side of this issue when it concerns war booty. Whether the same standards are applied to the sorts of common theft we see all the time from graveyards I don't know. I do know that the vast majority of trafficking in stolen cemetery art goes on between dealers and collectors and that museums and most major dealers and auction houses have stayed clear of it. Vigilance keeps it that way!"

### **CGN Symposium is Coming –** **Please Join Us and** **SHOW OFF your cemetery**

Below is the Friends of Center Cemetery display from 2003 with President Emeritus Doris Suessman reviewing a new book.



## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**CGN Meeting March 14**

**Sunday at 1:30 pm**

Location: East Hartford South Senior Center on Canterbury St., Friends of Center Cemetery, Inc. office  
Business meeting agenda: newsletter help, Symposium staffing, and publicity.

Speaker: John Probert from the PSI Center; bring your stories, questions, your photographs and bring a friend.

Please RSVP Ruth as we'll need a head count for refreshments and notification list if we should have to cancel because of bad weather conditions.

Directions to Senior Center- See article on page 2.

## **March 9 to April 8**

### **Connecticut Collectors & Explorers Series lectures:** **Rocks & Relics: Connecticut's Statuary,** **Stonework, and Sculpture**

Sponsored by the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society this series should be of special interest to gravestone enthusiasts.

**Where:** 4 Sites: for more detailed scheduling please contact A&L or their website [www.hartnet.org/ALS](http://www.hartnet.org/ALS)

**South Congregational Church: Tue. at 5:30 PM:**  
277 Main Street, Hartford - 860-249-8627

**New Haven Colony Historical Society: Wed. at 5:30 PM -**  
114 Whitney Ave. New Haven – 203-562-4183

**The Florence Griswold Museum: Thur. at 2pm:**  
96 Lyme Street Old Lyme – 860-434-5542

**The William Benton Museum of Art: Thur. at 5:30pm:**  
245 Glenbrook Road, U-2140, Storrs - 860-486-5084  
Presentation descriptions:

The first lecture, "America's First Sculpture: A New Look at Early Connecticut Gravestones, 1650-1840," explores one of Connecticut's earliest industries and the largest body of surviving art from the pre-industrial era. This talk traces the growth of the stonecutting industry and explores the changing styles in gravestone art, as well as ongoing preservation issues. Presented by **Bill Hosley**, A&L's executive director and the co-author of *By Their Markers Ye Shall Know Them*.

"Stone Walling as Folk Art: Weaving with Stone Instead of Fiber," the second lecture, examines the creation of stone walls as a form of folk art. Each landowner needed to clear land and had the opportunity to rearrange their landscape in a one-of-a-kind way. Using local raw materials, these personal choices took place as part of a broadly distributed enterprise. Presented by **Dr. Robert Thorson**, author of *Stone by Stone; The Magnificent History in New England's Stone Walls*.

The third lecture, "Art of the City: Sculpture and Civic Embellishment in Victorian Connecticut," explores Victorian Americans' interest in creating public art, both to decorate public buildings and as sculpture and statuary in parks, and town greens. The program will emphasize Connecticut's State Capitol and the work of James Batterson who, in addition to founding Travelers Insurance Company, built one of America's most successful monument companies. Presented by A&L's executive director, **Bill Hosley** author of *Colt: The Making of An American Legend*.

The fourth lecture, "Legacy at Risk: Connecticut's Outdoor Sculpture" surveys Connecticut's outstanding collection of over 500 outdoor sculptures and explores how neglect and vandalism puts this important legacy at risk. This talk will focus on what is being done to restore the state's outdoor sculpture heritage. Presented by **Mary M. Donohue**, Architectural Historian with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Save Outdoor Sculpture Coordinator.

The fifth and final lecture, "Written in Stone: The Legacy and Heritage of Connecticut Brownstone" explores the importance of Connecticut's brownstone industry, especially in the Portland region. Widely utilized, this material impacted this region economically, aesthetically, and socially. Used for a variety of building projects, including Hartford's Sailor and

Soldiers Arch, brownstone also marks the final resting places of countless valley residents. Presented by **Alison Guinness**, former curator of the Connecticut River Museum.

**Registration:** Reservations are not required *but* advanced payment guarantees a seat. Members: \$5 per lecture or \$15 per series/ non-members: \$7 per lecture or \$25 per series (*Includes members of A & L, Florence Griswold Museum, the New Haven Colony Historical Society, and the William Benton Museum of Art*)

Check or Credit Card via phone to:  
Antiquarian & Landmarks Society  
255 Main Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hartford CT 06106  
For reservations, please call: 860-247-8996, ext. 10

## **CGN Symposium April 17**

**Saturday from 9am to 3pm**

**Wapping Community Church in South Windsor.**

**Admission is \$5.00 for CGN members  
and \$10 to the public.**

**18<sup>th</sup> century cemetery on site and good parking.**

**Lunch will be provided for a nominal charge.**

**We are still looking for more vendors and exhibits.**

**Presentation time schedules and directions will be  
announced by e-mail or please check CGN web site at  
[www.ctgravestones.com](http://www.ctgravestones.com) later in March.**

**Presentations at this time are:**

**"The Bartlett Family Carving Dynasty.**

**By Rick Gagne**

**"Connecticut Cemetery Archaeology: 18th Century**

**Tombs " By John Spaulding**

**"Smallpox and Cemeteries: What each tells of the  
other" By Tom Howard**

**Flyer is enclosed with directions –  
please help circulate.**

## **April 24 – Workshop**

### **Killingworth Cemetery**

(Light rain or shine)

Basic cleaning, looking for footstones and general clean-up starting by 10 am.

River Road Cemetery on Green Hill Road. Before the day is done we will visiting the Union District Cemetery on North Roast Meat Hill Road to look over what needs to be done there next work session.

Contact Deb Bodnar at (860) 663-2840 for more information.

Directions: From Route 81 South (Clinton). head north and take a left on Stevens Road. At the intersection, go left on Green Hill Road, about 1.5 miles to intersection of River Road and turn left. Cemetery is about .25 mile on the right. From Route 81 North or Route 80...go to rotary and take Route 81 South. Take second right, Green Hill Road. Go about 2 miles to intersection of River Road and turn left. Cemetery is about .25 mile on the right. (Park on side street across from the cemetery or back off the road near Green Hill intersection).

## **May 15 – Workshop**

### **East Hartford Center Cemetery**

(Light rain or shine)

The annual Friends of Center Cemetery Activity Day will start at 10 am. until about 3 pm. Friends invite the public to learn about Center Cemetery – Hartford's second burial place of the Colonial period, or join in to help us straighten toppled or leaning gravestones. It's a good opportunity for those wanting to get more involved, to learn how to clean a gravestone or reset one; ask questions, use our walking guide book or look up family ancestors with the help of our database and archivist. Center Cemetery has a great collection of colonial carvers and many famous and interesting residents as well. Please come on down to 944 Main St., East Hartford, CT; parking is available next door in the public lot behind Walgreen's pharmacy. Directions: From Interstate 84 – east or west- take Governor St. exit, follow through to Main St. junction and Walgreen's will be across to your right. For more information contact Ruth Brown or check out the project page for Center Cemetery on the CGN web site.

## **June 5 – Tag Sale**

### **Benefit for Center Cemetery, East Hartford**

(Details and plans in progress)

Place: Town Green in front of Raymond Library –

Rain or Shine

We will be selling spaces and inquiries should contact Ruth Brown at 860-643-5652 or at [shapbrown@cox.net](mailto:shapbrown@cox.net).

## **June 10 – 12 Work Days**

### **Middlefield Old North Cemetery**

These are tentative dates and will depend on weather. Middlefield requires more hands-on to help reset toppled stones. Last year four CGN members worked through the rain, and in one day we were able to straighten up three marble tablets and four footstones. If we could enlist a few more members this year we could really make some progress. All who join us will be treated to lunch by the Historical Society so please RSVP Ruth on this so we can plan ahead.

## **June 24 - 27**

### **AGS Conference in Connecticut**

The 2004 Association for Gravestone Studies Annual Conference will be held from June 24-27, 2004, at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, CT. Co-hosted by The Danbury Gravestone Project and The Danbury Museum and Historical Society, Chaired by AGS/CGN member Robert Young, who is also President of both Danbury organizations. CGN member Dr. Cynthia Toolin will give a presentation on Mourning Quilts regarding the history of burial, coffin and casket quilts in the United States.

Please stop by and visit us at the CGN table in display area.

Go to [www.gravestonestudies.org](http://www.gravestonestudies.org) for more detailed reservation and program information.