

Connecticut Gravestone Network

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

Volume 23 No.1

Feb. 2017

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

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www.ctgravestones.org



To Collections Dept. the last issue was Feb.2016 Vol.22 No.1

CGN Spring Symposium

April 8th 2017 9am - 4pm

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

9:30 am

"CGN and saving our old burying grounds – learn and protect them NOW " "

updates on problems laws and info links"
CGN Exe.Dir...Ruth Brown

10: 45 am

"Old Stone Church Burial Ground: East Lyme beginnings that reach beyond Connecticut"

Researcher and Historian Elizabeth Hall Kuchta

1:00 pm

"Connecticut's Early Portland Quarry History and Early Stone Carvers.

Alison Guinness

2:15 pm

"What lies beneath the Green Grass and Parking Lots in your city?"

Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni will be sharing his work on The Rediscovered burials in New Haven

Tables for displays are available contact Ruthie.

Flyer with full lecture descriptions on back page.

Spring meeting Sunday March 19,2017

1:00pm same address...

Greetings:

I'm basically repeating what I said last spring; I am making slow progress, the web site isn't where I want it yet but I hope by Symposium time it will be. We do need to regroup as time is not standing still, although some of us would like that.

We need to do a better job of covering the state and sharing programs. There is so much more that we could be doing that "I" can't keep up with. This is also why I'm asking that members consider becoming a CGN / AGS CT chapter! A move like this would help to bind the efforts of a few with the many across the nation; especially when working on laws and against situations that contribute to the demise of our old burying grounds and the history they contain.

To all in Connecticut working to save our cemetery history; Help keep CGN the supportive resource that it's meant to be. Thank You Ruthie Brown

Becoming an AGS Chapter:

This is a repeat but we still have not made the leap.

I have this time added some articles to the CGN newsletter from the fall AGS e-news so more of you might sample the educational sharing that AGS offers.

I've reprinted on page 6 brief outline of what this entails. We've had discussions and agree to go forward but we do need some extra volunteers to help keep communications moving.

Back in 1993 when I started CGN, AGS was not ready to take on regional chapters. In 2013, when AGS presented me with the Forbes Award, part of that recognition was the fact that CGN was viewed by many as the first state chapter. Now 20+ years later the game has changed and this is extra support that we should be taking advantage of. For more detailed info please go to <http://www.gravestonestudies.org/chapters>

Ruthie Brown

CGN reorganizing: Ruthie is still doing the newsletter and strongly encourages members to send in articles and events in a word document format ready to be added to newsletter. **Please do.**

Logistically it's easier for Ruthie to continue as Treasurer however Craig will assist in reviewing the books.

Secretary – Mary Carroll

Financial Review Officer –Craig Johnson

Publicity: and Facebook – Lisa Cornell

Website Assist: Christina Strong

Membership Recording – David Shortell

Presently our list of directors remains the same:

Ken Buckbee, James Leatherbee

Irma Carper-Miller and David Oat.

Ruthie Brown – Executive Director



Old Andover Cemetery

New Group is working in Andover Old Cemetery

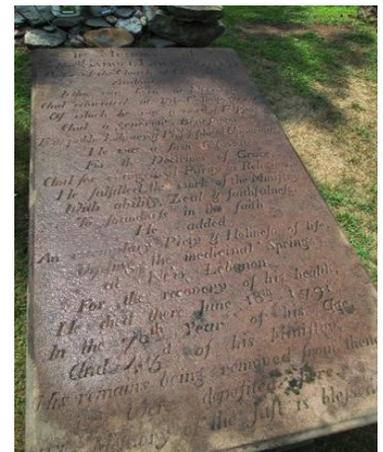
The Old Andover Cemetery in Andover just off of route 6 and up Cider Mill Road is getting some needed attention by neighbor, history and genealogy buff Michael ODonnell. He is heading up a group that is sprucing it up, documenting its history and hosting tours. They have been able to receive a small grant and interest from some descendants so they are off to a good start. For more information contact Mike at mikeheidi1127@comcast.net

Last year Ruthie attended a couple of meetings and helped steer them through a training day for cleaning stones. Mostly the basics of what you can and cannot expect to do when removing lichen or moss, tricks to reading worn stones and matching up some carver styles.

This old cemetery goes back to the early 18th century displaying a good mix of local eastern stone carvers. Many of these earliest ones are schist gravestones quarried from Bolton, yet some are eroding to the point of pieces flaking off even when being careful.

Some of these early stones are good examples for those studying our early carvers and would provide a great discussion. You'll want to visit on a day when the sun is helpful and bring that mirror, even a hand held one, to help decipher the lettering and words.

And before and after of Rev. Lockwood's table stone.



.ORG is UP but still being refined.....

New website address is ctgravestones.org ...

I'm still updating and rewriting many pages.

CGN dues paying members.

I would like to add a page to list willing members to be contacts for those searching for stones and relatives in their area.

Please let me know if you have done inventory work or photos (Find a Grave included) in your area and are willing to be contacted by those in need assistance.

This is A Cemetery

Lives are commemorated—deaths are recorded—families are reunited—memories are made tangible—
and love is undisguised.
This is a cemetery.

Communities' accord respect, families bestow reverence,
historians seek information and our heritage
is thereby enriched.

Testimonies of devotion, pride and remembrance are carved in stone to pay warm tribute to a loved one. The cemetery is homeland for family memorials that are a sustaining source of comfort to the living.

A Cemetery is a history of people—a perpetual record of yesterday and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today.
A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving and remembering—always.

The above piece was sent to us from member and Professional Genealogist Olivia Patch. This lovely piece was previously published in the Dec. 2000 issue of the The Mayflower Quarterly – and seems to have no author.

Speaking of *Cleaning* stones

This is worth repeating:

Water is still my number one choice for general purposes but I've also been using D2 for many years now. Ruthie..

D/2 announcement!

Preserve America

Presidential Executive Order 13287 -

D/2 Biological Solution

Executive Order 13287, Preserve America FY 2011 Triennial Report Department of Veteran Affairs.

For full report click on the link below.

http://www.achp.gov/section3reports/2011/2011_Section3_VA.pdf

Page 3 The National Cemetery Administration recommends D/2.

Quote: "The NCA entered into an agreement with the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, NPS, to evaluate marble cleaners in an effort to minimize damage to historic headstones.

The 3-phase study began in 2004 and was completed in 2011.

The best-practice recommendations resulted in NCA's determination to use the preferred cleaner, D/2 Biological Solution"

Please follow this link and add yourself to our email database. <http://bit.ly/1PzjuYx>
The newsletter will come out 6 times a year.

Those of you new to the circle you can also get more information about D2 at our April symposium!

Hebron Old Cemetery

Our Hebron friends, headed up by Historical Society and CGN member Mary-Ellen Gonci have been making a steady progress with the Old Hebron cemetery on Wall St. Hebron Historical Society has been working on a new inventory of stones as well as research to compare and catalogue what might be missing.

We have had many concerns that have been brought about by the layout of this particular cemetery. It dates back to the early 1700's, seems to have a significantly sized property lay out that is consistent with what little historical documentation has been found to date. As time and terrain comes forward toward the road line, the spacing of graves is inconsistent with very large open areas in-between them. These areas are large enough to have held old buildings such as barns, large sheds or perhaps even houses. Presently the cemetery association is not without space for new burials and has thankfully always avoided these areas.

After much discussion and talk about future training workshops', our State Archaeologist Dr. Brian Jones and State Soil Scientist Debbie Surabian agreed to pay a visit and see what could be found by doing a Ground Radar study. Deb agreed it was a most interesting site to work

with as well as open, dry, flat and devoid of many of the obstacles that often made this job difficult. She will be the first to tell you that the results are "guide lines" to what one might find below, not something that she can say positively "Oh yes here's a grave with a body in this spot" without doing proper excavation. The association between signals gives her a pattern to read that tells her many things about what might be below our feet. If striation lines are consistent enough according to depth, width and length, esp. if a repeating pattern is displayed then she can with some assurance say these are graves. This is expected and common when we work in burying ground with obvious burials. Not so much when graves start spreading out over a large area or are unmarked. With that said, it was a very educational and interesting morning, although a bit cold for some of us. Deb's readings did verify some of what we expected however these large open spaces are still a mystery!



Mary Ellen Gonci at CGN 2016 Symposium

For more information or to volunteer in Hebron contact Mary-Ellen Gonci at mergonci65@comcast.net
Or visit their Cemetery Guide on the Historical Society's web site <http://www.hebronthistoricalociety.org/hebron-cemetery-guide.html>

Old Suffield Cemetery

Is also making progress...

Ruthie has made a few trips up to Suffield's Old cemetery to work with the Sibbil Dwight local Kent Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) volunteers. Suffield Academy teacher, and AGS/CGN member Bill Sullivan chairperson of the committee to care for the cemetery.

As reported last spring one of the problems was the storm drains from the church were open and emptying into the cemetery. As the landscape has a downhill slope from the church, several rows of older stones have toppled as a result of the ground around them eroding from the run off. We are happy to report that the church has fixed this issue and now Bill is looking for help to get those toppled stones straightened up.

We were also able to squeak in promised visit again with the help of Dr. Jones and Deb Surabian to do some GPR work at this site. Ruthie's concern was that a few years back, the powers to be had made changes involving the

parsons house next to the cemetery which lead to the removal of the old iron fence around the cemetery on that side. When the narrow driveway was repaved, it also was widened up to almost where the fence had been. Fences are not to be removed unless replaced, Ruthie argued, as they help perhaps to protect burials that have over time become unmarked or in such older sites perhaps never had gravestones to mark them.

In this case the GPR study showed clear patterns that enable us to say, with a high probability, that "yes" the driveway is now actually over some actual burials.

Bill Sullivan and local historian Lester Smith were happy to be part of an experience to protect the history there and hope to do more work this summer. If you like to help out in that venture contact Bill Sullivan at bsullivan@suffieldacademy.org.

CGN Meetings Coming UP Sunday Feb. 26th

Feb. 12th Plymouth meeting was canceled due to snow

Sunday Feb. 26th -1 - 3pm at

Plymouth Congregational Church

Updates and discussion – ? what do you think about re-cutting lettering on Old Stones? Ruthie has some slides to share of Savannah Georgia Cemeteries. IF the weather allows a walk in the cemetery.

From Joyce: Directions: Park Street, Plymouth. (Route 6) Either Route 72 to Terryville then Rt 6 into Plymouth, or Exit off Route 8 in Thomaston Exit 37(?), then up Thomaston Hill, the church will be on the left at the top of the hill. Note: There's an adorable little antique shop across the street called "Antiques at the Green"

Sunday March 19th

1:30 pm Southend Senior Center
70 Canterbury Lane

East Hartford, CT 06118

RSVP Ruthie if you plan to attend.

ctgravelady@cox.net -- use header *CGN March 19th* please.

December CGN Meeting More on Alaska Culture

Here is a photo group from our December meeting where Mitzi Reynolds (a speaker from our 2016 Symposium) was kind enough to join us and share some more of her stories from Alaska. She really topped things off by bringing with her many of the artful items that she has collected which were handmade by the local people of the area where she lived.

Thanks to Esther Tyler for the photos.



Again I'm repeating this page about becoming an AGS chapter. Please review page 6 for some specifics. We hope to announce at the symposium that this is a done deal but we will need a couple of new volunteers to help be our correspondent.

It is also a good time to use the CGN library.

I can be there earlier if anyone wants to use the library before the meeting, just let me know.

East Hartford Friends of Center Cemetery Office.

Same place as the symposium

but use the center door.

Here's a Question --for Cornwall, CT

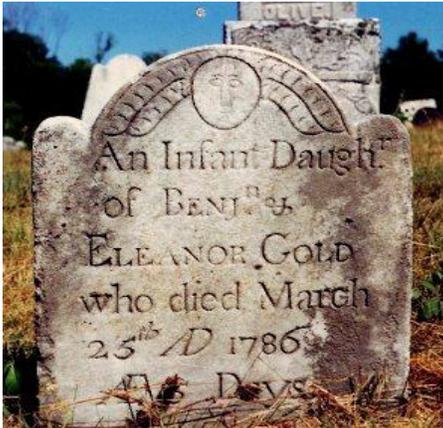
Last spring I reported that Joanne Wojutsiak had contacted me to let us know that a database of all the burials in Cornwall cemeteries had been completed as a part of Cornwall's 275th anniversary celebration.

So when I recently came across the photo below in my collection from 1996, I thought I would check the database. Upon doing so I did not find Infant Gold on the list. Unfortunately I haven't been able to reach John to ask him about this but it is a good example of what can happen within one or two decades. Hopefully the stone has just fallen and is buried and not missing.

The parents are indeed buried there:
Benjamin Gold died May 23 1847 age 85 and
Eleanor Gold died Sept. 11 1858 – and it is noted that her stone is lying face down.

My guess is that this infant was one of their first, as Eleanor would have been only 19 when she was born.

The reason I took this photo back in 1996 was probably because I saw a connection to the name and the carver.



This stone is carved by Thomas Gold of New Haven, so I am assuming that with a bit of research you would find he was somehow connected to this family.

A story to be finished at a later time!

RSB.

If anyone reading this has questions, they should contact John at Calhoun@cathedralpinesfarm.com for more information. Copies of all maps and the database are on file with Cornwall's town clerk (860-672-2709).

SAVE THE DATE:

2017 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting

June 20-25, 2017
University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

The 2017 AGS Conference will take place in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on June 20 - 25. It will be at the University of Alabama, which arguably has one of the most beautiful campuses in the South. Our co-chairs are Ian W. Brown and Ann Marshall. They inform us that we will not only be visiting the City of Tuscaloosa's beautiful historic Greenwood and Evergreen cemeteries, but tours are being arranged to explore the rural cemeteries of Tuscaloosa and adjoining counties.

Tuscaloosa County alone has over 250 burial grounds to choose from with marbles, granites, and a rich variety of local sandstone and concrete folk markers. For those of you who want to spend an extra day or two in the area, there are some wonderful museums on campus (Alabama Museum of Natural History and the Paul W. Bryant [Sports] museum), and several miles to the south of the city is the world-famous Moundville site, one of only two Native American sites bearing National Historic Landmark status in the State of Alabama.

Article: From Nov. 2016 AGS e-news
some might want to check out.

"What do you do with a neglected cemetery with no living owners?"

This article, posted on the *Lexington Herald-Leader* website is about Stewart Davidson's work on an abandoned cemetery in Madison County, Kentucky.

<http://www.kentucky.com/news/local/counties/madison-county/article104934666.html>



Ancient Burying Ground in Hartford Graffiti -- Blessings -- have been removed.

Many of you may have already heard about the graffiti damage at the Ancient Burying Ground in

Hartford; established 1640 and a place with so many connections to the entire state of Connecticut.

For those that did not know, it was a sad summer beginning when we discovered the damage; and even sadder when Ruthie realized that she had most likely knew the culprit. It was proven that it indeed was the work of an unstable homeless unstable man, that believed he'd found a new home at the burying ground. The graffiti was his way of putting blessings on the stones.

All together we found about a dozen gravestones, the Rev. Stone statue and all four sides of the founders' monument with this lovely magic marker scribbling on them. To sum things up briefly, it appears there was no arrest made due to his mental state. Some board members thought Ruthie should have gone to the press right away but she didn't want the focus of the story to be that she knew who did it. The cost for the removal was about estimated at about \$8,000. By September the details had gone through city approval but do financial constraints could not afford to do so. The Ancient Burying Ground Association stepped in. The load was lightened again when a local city improvement group stepped up and cleaned that up for them. The Founders Monument is relatively new and made of granite so a basic process use for graffiti worked well, but for old fragile gravestones the ABGA hired member and well known conservator Francis Miller to do the work.

Once this process was in place, press coverage was initiated with a more positive side of the story as Ruthie would say. She and the board have been very pleased with the coverage, responses and donations that have come in to support the effort.

As a result of this episode, last fall one might have found the burying ground locked more than unlocked. The ABGA is working to find ways to get more coverage for having gates open and keeping an eye on things.

For those wishing to visit the gates are usually open from about 9am to 4pm on weekdays; weather permitting and on weekends when support is provided.

Donations to help fund the repairs and upkeep can be made to the Ancient Burying Ground Association, P.O. Box 347 Hartford CT. 06141-0347

Please visit our Facebook page and our web site:

www.theancientburyingground.com.

Thank you to all that have reached out to help us repair this sad situation. RSB

AGS State/Regional Chapters A Getting Started Guide

Again for more explanation go the AGS web site to view this complete guide reference

<http://gravestonestudies.org/images/Chapters/chaptersguide.pdf>

Beginning a new chapter can seem like a daunting task, however it doesn't have to be and the rewards are worth it!

The following suggestions are based on the successes of other AGS chapter's founders,

First Things First:

1. Read the AGS Chapters Mission Statement and Operational Rules. This document lays out the rationale for the existence of chapters, how they are to function in relation to the central organization, and provides guidelines for what chapters can and cannot do.
3. Once you have identified at least three current members complete the AGS Chapters Application. This is a "fillable" pdf form on the AGS website which you can download.
4. ...set up a separate email account for the chapter so it can be "handed off" if you're no longer chapter chair. Most chapters also create a Facebook account at this time. (*Thanks to Liza Cornell CGN has a Facebook site already*)
5. AGS can post a notice in the e-newsletter, website, and forward an email on your behalf. (Due to privacy concerns, AGS will not provide a list of emails, but you're certainly welcome to start your own contact list as people respond to your notice!)
6. Applications will then be reviewed at the next Board of Trustees meeting.
7. Once approved, you will receive a formal letter and receive that year's AGS Tax ID card for your chapter's use.

Preparing for Meeting Helpers:

1. **Location:** ...a classroom or auditorium space, local public library, historical society, or cemetery to see if they would have a space available or simply hold the meeting at a cemetery so everything is confined to one location.
2. **Money:** while AGS does hope to be able to provide some funding to chapters...
Ruthie would like to remind members that CGN has enough in our account to fund these meetings; and a bus trip supplement, the problem has been getting a trip organized. Finding a good date and getting responses in order.
3. Have AGS Materials Available; the primary object of chapters is to promote awareness and membership in AGS.
4. Get Current AGS Members to Attend... with good advance notice your chapter meeting can be published in the e-newsletter and posted on the chapter's page.
5. Get Non-AGS Members to Come: Make sure when you invite area members to encourage them to spread the word about the upcoming meeting in their communities...

Suggestions for Meeting Formats:

There is no absolute or "right" way to have a chapter meeting. It can be as formal or as informal as you like.

1. Weekends tend to work best with busy schedules.
2. Having people email RSVPs is always helpful for planning.

Presentation sessions are helpful; no more than twenty minutes or so esp. if you have more than one presenter.

Cemetery tours or visits of course are always a welcomed with or without presentations.

Ruthie would like to see more members sharing their work with others and make meetings a learning experience

Pictures from our 2016 Symposium



Connecticut Gravestone Symposium

Sat. April 8th 2017

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 “CGN and saving our old burying grounds – learn and protect them NOW ”
CGN director Ruthie Brown: Greeting to new members. Yes change is coming; a quick look at some threatening issues and having a voice to protect state history plus upcoming program ideas.

10: 45 am “Old Stone Church Burial Ground: East Lyme beginnings that reach beyond Connecticut”
Researcher and Historian Elizabeth Hall Kuchta became involved with cemeteries and gravestones when the Niantic Community Church took over care of the town’s oldest burying ground and she has since been immersed in the history of its people and it’s documentation of old stones. Liz is a also a member of the East Lyme Historical Society and was appointed East Lyme Town Historian in 2011.

about 11:45 – 12:45 is Lunch Break
We provide sandwiches & beverages for a donation

1:00 pm “Connecticut’s Early Portland Quarry History and Early Stone Carvers.”
Alison Guinness used her degree in history and science from the University of Connecticut and Wesleyan University to preserve the history of the famous Brownstone Quarry in Portland. Since the earliest days, brownstone from Portland, CT has been used to leave monuments to ourselves and our progress. This stone has been used for grave markers, statues, and buildings all over New England and as far away as San Francisco. Alison has a long interest in brownstone. She was partially responsible for its designation as a National Historic Landmark and has curated exhibits at the Connecticut River Museum.

2:15 pm “What lies beneath the Green Grass and Parking Lots in your city?”
It’s a pleasure to have with us this year retired State Archaeologist of Connecticut Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni who for years has worked with us and supported our efforts to protect history. Dr/ Bellantoni will be sharing the details of two incidents of burials rediscovered within recent years, both being in the city of New Haven. The discovery of skeletons when a historic old tree was uprooted on the green; and those unearthed during construction at Yale Hospital. CGN members were involved in the research on this last one and are planning to publish as book about it in the near future.

Visit with Exhibitors - Bring your questions - Learn how to preserve your history

Working to Save Our History - at its Earliest Tangible Places.

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
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 –turn left at the end of exit and proceed down Maple St.;
second left is Handel Road and proceed to second right onto Canterbury Street and Senior Center is at the end of Street.
West bound on Route 2 there is no westbound 5c exit - use 5 b and reverse direction by turning left (in front of Wendy’s)
and left at light to get back up on hwy and use exit 5c..

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

www.ctgravestones.com - is changing to www.ctgravestones.org... please note that the basic information on our website is still good but until our new site is finish, including announcements of events and tours etc. consider it still under construction. We hope to have it done by Symposium time but in the mean time some links may not be current.

Deadline for Next Newsletter is April 30th , 2017
cemetery news, articles and related events

APPLICATION - NEW MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL

FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2017- **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