



**TOWN OF GILMANTON
CEMETERIES & BURIAL GROUNDS
DONATIONS**

Cemetery Trustees, P.O. Box 119 Gilmanton, New Hampshire 03237-0119
(603)267-8274 (Phone) (603)387-1109 (Cell)
cemeteries@gilmantonnh.org – www.gilmantonnh.org

The Primary Duty and Goal of the Cemetery Trustees is to insure the protection and maintenance of all sites under their management, now and in perpetuity. Funding for this work occurs in three ways:

1. From the time of the first burial in Gilmanton until 2006, families could choose whether to create a maintenance fund for the future care of a loved one's grave. The money was held and invested by the Gilmanton Trustees of Trust Funds and the annual income was used only to maintain that grave in that cemetery. During those 230+ years, a total of only 85 individual care funds were created for burials in 13 different cemeteries.

However, there are currently 36 cemeteries and burial grounds under the care of the Cemetery Trustees. Most are small, abandoned sites for which no records exist and in which no maintenance occurred. In total they hold 1,135 marked, and a significantly large but unknown number of unmarked graves. The total annual income from the existing care funds covers only approximately 30% of the annual maintenance cost of all sites. (As a note, the Smith Meeting House and Pine Grove Cemeteries are owned, managed, and funded by private Associations, not the Town)

In 2006, cemetery regulations were adopted requiring care funds as part of a grave purchase. This assures there is no further financial burden imposed by additional burials. However, that does not address the cost of maintaining existing graves for which no care funds were created.

2. The second form of funding for this work is from the Taxpayers of the Town of Gilmanton who annually consider a Cemetery Budget. The Taxpayers have been consistently supportive of maintaining these important historic grounds; but the Trustees search for alternative methods of support to lessen their ever-increasing financial burden.
3. As families, residents and other concerned individuals become aware of this financial need, some private donations have occurred. The donations are invested by the Gilmanton Trustees of Trust Funds and the annual income is made available to the Cemetery Trustees for the care of these sites.

It seems evident that achieving financial security and minimizing the taxpayer burden for these cemeteries will occur only in the form of private donations. And, like the recently established McIntyre Fund, the income from private donations will be available for all the 38 sites owned and/or managed by the Town of Gilmanton.

For this reason, the Trustees encourage everyone to consider a donation, regardless of amount, to protect our Cemeteries. Donations can occur directly or through an estate planning process. These donations to the Town are deductible under IRS Codes section 170(a)(1) and 170(c)(1). We thank you for your consideration of this option.

Candace L. Daigle
(603) 387-1109

Leonard Stockwell, Jr.
(603) 267-7502

John Dickey
(603) 267-6098

