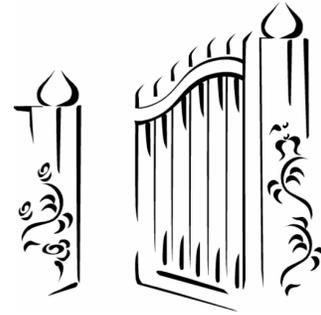


# TRUSTEES OF CEMETERIES

*Town of Gilmanton, New Hampshire*

## ANNUAL REPORT

2002



The Trustees of Cemeteries are elected to maintain municipal cemeteries placed under their management. Although the four active cemeteries in the community, Pine Grove, Smith Meeting House, Buzzell and Beech Grove, have separate management associations, the Trustees have been charged with the care of the remaining 31 burial and historic sites. Many sites have been reclaimed and require only seasonal maintenance. Some are being reclaimed with the repair and construction of walls, fences and gates, the trimming of trees to eliminate falling branches that can shatter antique head stones, the installation of steps and the repair and resetting of damaged stones. A few sites remain where reclamation has not begun.

The Trustees are heartily saddened by the end-of-year resignation of Pete Osler. Pete has been a Trustee since the positions were first created and an indispensable member of the Trustee team. His knowledge, support, experience and humor have been greatly appreciated by the Trustees and have helped to assure success in the projects we have undertaken.

The 2002 year was very special for one community cemetery. The Foss Cemetery, off Pine Hill Road was completely refurbished by Mr. Richard Foss of Gilmanton. The Foss Cemetery, located on town-owned property in lower Gilmanton is inactive, containing burial sites from Gilmanton's earlier years. Although the Trustees, along with a party of volunteers had been on site in the last few years to clear undergrowth, completing the work was a major project that had not yet been undertaken. During 2002, Mr. Foss personally completed this project. He removed trees, brush and other growth; repaired, reset and replaced headstones; repaired and rebuilt the cemetery walls and gates and erected a central stone listing the burial information for the entire cemetery. Mr. Foss has also committed to personally maintain the site and has further deposited perpetual care funds with the Trustees of Trust Funds to provide future maintenance income. This is an extraordinary example of individual effort to the benefit of personal and community heritage. The Trustees extend a very sincere thank you to Mr. Foss.

Regular maintenance proceeded on other cemeteries within the community. Some additional tree work was completed in the Guinea Ridge Cemetery and work continued to meet fencing challenges in areas adjacent to competing activities.

With Pete's concurrence we have asked the Board of Selectmen to appoint J.R. Stockwell to the vacant position until the upcoming March election. J.R. is a lifelong resident of Gilmanton, has a deep interest in and knowledge and appreciation of history, genealogy, wildlife and other natural resources and will be a great benefit to the community. We appreciate his willingness to serve in this capacity.

The Trustees would like to thank the voters and members of the community for their support and assistance in preserving and maintaining this important link to Gilmanton's heritage.

Respectfully submitted,  
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