



TRUSTEES OF CEMETERIES

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ANNUAL REPORT 2018

The Trustees begin our annual report by acknowledging the passing of George Twigg III on December 1, 2017. George had remembered a very long-ago request and prior to his passing assured that we obtained a proper easement to forever access the Osgood Cemetery. Thank you again, George.

At the recommendation of descendants, the failing fence along the frontage of the Guinea Ridge Cemetery was replaced by a 180' long single-wide stonewall by Kevin Fife of Twin Elms



Landscaping. Webbing from the failed fencing was incorporated into a new gate by blacksmith Normand Pinette. We thank abutter Michael Fenollosa for generously allowing use of his property as a staging area for this project. We also thank the concerned neighbors who contacted us during the initial fence removal to make sure that it was an approved operation. It is truly only through the watchful eyes of neighbors that these sites are best protected.

Charlie Beede of Beede Monument Services continues our project to repair, upright and straighten gravestones. To date repairs have been completed at the Guinea Ridge, Page, Beech Grove, Buzzell, Mudgett, Hillside and Sleeper cemeteries. We have additionally contracted for the Tibbetts, Osgood and Wilson Hill cemeteries and to install granite posts along the internal driveway at the Buzzell Cemetery. A project of this type has never been undertaken before and will establish a baseline condition for the cemeteries. In the future, the sites can be evaluated on an annual basis for any single stones that need such care. Not only does this increase the aesthetics of the sites, it more importantly protects visitors from injury and the expensive, sometimes irreplaceable stones from unnecessary damage.

In acknowledgement of the stone work contracted for the Wilson Hill Cemetery, a very generous donation of \$1,875 to establish a General Care Fund for the cemetery was made by a descendant of Revolutionary War Captain Nathaniel Wilson. The interest income from General Care Funds can be expended for annual maintenance and is an alternative to tax dollars to finance that maintenance. Please remember that donations of any amount to the Town in the name of your preferred cemetery or for general town-wide cemetery use, either at present, or during

consideration of your estate planning will help protect these sites in perpetuity and lessen the long-term burden on taxpayers. Donations to the Town for the care of Cemeteries are deductible under IRS Codes section 170(a)(1) and 170(c)(1). We thank you for your consideration of this option.

We are sorry to report that the sign on the gate at the Plummer Cemetery, on the extension of Sawyer Lake Road, has gone missing. The sign was one handmade for us by Steve McClary. It's hard to understand why someone would find it necessary to take the sign. Any information on this matter or a return of the sign would be greatly appreciated.



During the clean-up of a property taken by the Town, six headstones were discovered and turned over to the Trustees. They appeared to be unused, perhaps replacement stones. None of the stones appeared to be Gilmanton burials and the Trustees broadened their search for their rightful resting place. Thanks to contacts through NH Cemetery Association five of the stones (to date) will be returned to the correct towns.

Additionally, During 2018:

- Trees were removed at the Sawyer Lake Road Cemetery.
- Graves were laid out for interment at Buzzell and for sale at Beech Grove Cemeteries
- Sale of one cremation lot at Buzzell Cemetery
- Attended the NH Cemetery Association workshops
- Set markers to delineate the Town's new easement around the Town Pound

Upcoming Projects:

- Tree removal at the Osgood Cemetery
- Post history of cemeteries on Gilmanton history site
- Post information/regulation signs at cemetery sites
- Draft Trustee Handbook
- Work with Probate Court to simplify lot ownership process

The Trustees Wish to Thank:



- Our wonderful maintenance staff, Paul Lines and Carl Moorehead; it is truly only their efforts that keep our sites in an appropriate condition
- The Selectmen and Voters of the Town of Gilmanton for their continued support for the protection of these important sites
- John Dickey, representing the Gilmanton Historical Society, who hosted a tour of the Beech Grove Cemetery in July. Opening our sites and their history in this way encourages appreciation of these unique heritage sites within our community
- Neighbors to many of the sites who remove brush and limbs, allow us access over their property and keep a watchful eye on these important community sites
- The American Legion Auxiliary, Gilmanton Ellis-Geddes-Levitt Unit #102 for "Veterans at Rest in Gilmanton". This project attempts to locate and inventory the site of every Veteran buried in

Gilmanton. The Auxiliary continues to request the help of residents to provide the name and location of any era Veteran buried in Gilmanton. Contact the Auxiliary at P.O. Box 119, Gilmanton, NH 03237-0119, or ALA102@metrocast.net

- Our great contractors who work closely with us to acknowledge the importance of these community sites and to honor the memory of the people buried within

If you plan future burials in a plot obtained prior to 1990, please confirm with us now that our records are correct as to who can be buried in your plot. The Trustees are strictly constrained by law as to who may be buried in a plot for which we do not have records. Do not wait until a burial is imminent to do this. Contact any of the Trustees below or e-mail directly to us at cemeteries@metrocast.net. Please also feel free to contact us at any time with your information, questions or comments.

Very Respectfully Submitted,

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