



TRUSTEES OF CEMETERIES

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ANNUAL REPORT 2019

The Trustees begin our annual report by thanking Carl Moorehead who has successfully managed town cemetery maintenance since the early 1990s. Carl retired this year and his guidance and knowledge is missed!

The Trustees are very excited to say that a \$26K private donation has been made to establish a general cemetery fund, not specific to any one cemetery, the income from which may be used for the administration, care, maintenance, repair, improvement, security or expansion of cemeteries and burial grounds including all appurtenances owned and/or managed by the Town of Gilmanton. This unexpected, generous donation was made by the Marion McIntyre family. Marion served as a Gilmanton Cemetery Trustee from 1989-2012. Many townspeople remember Marion as the founder, heart and soul of a still-continuing effort to locate, reclaim and protect our cemeteries and very fondly remember the work parties she led locating dozens of gravestones that had fallen in years' past, were covered by leaves and soil and, but for her initiative would have remained lost. The McIntyre Fund, so named, will be invested by the Trustees of Trust Funds.



During Marion's tenure as Cemetery Trustee, the Trustees came to understand that, to guarantee permanent protection of these sites, the cemeteries must become, to some extent, financially self-sufficient. Towards that end we have made changes in our Regulations and encouraged private donations into the cemetery funds. The McIntyre Fund, itself, will not achieve this goal and we encourage others to consider donations to the cemeteries either directly or as part of your estate planning process. Success 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. Marion is proud of the work that continues. Thank you, Marion!

From time to time, additional, previously unknown burial grounds or cemeteries are located within the community. This year, the Trustees once again visited the site of an apparent burial ground off Route 129. Although previously we had been uncertain, this year we had the assistance of a 1910 picture of "...Gravestones on the old Samuel Sheppard Farm.." dated 1910 to lead us.

We did, indeed, find the site and determined it to be an historic burial ground. We have contracted with TurfPro to erect granite posts and chain to permanently mark and protect the site.

We are very sorry to report two instances of theft/damage:

- One of two matching historic gates was stolen from the Friends Cemetery. The cemetery, previously owned by the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), was transferred to the Town in 1992, the earliest known burial occurring in 1810.
- In the nearby Beech Grove Cemetery, several granite sections were pulled from a vault wall, and two granite corner markers were disturbed. Granite posts and one corner marker were stolen. In addition, a gravestone was toppled; however, this may be a separate incident as we have a report that older children have been seen playing “leapfrog” over the gravestones. This cemetery has been in use since 1813.



As a result, signs are being erected that state the applicable regulations. These activities are Class B felonies and such notice will assist in enforcement and prosecution. Security cameras have also been added. Any information to assist in the return of the stolen items or the prosecution of those involved would be greatly appreciated and can be forwarded to the Gilmanton Police Department. The Plummer Cemetery sign stolen in 2018 has also not been recovered.

Additionally, During 2019:

- Paul Lines was appointed as Sexton to our cemeteries and we welcomed Karen Stockwell to our seasonal maintenance staff. The cemeteries looked great this year! Thank you both!
- Two lots were sold this year, corner stones set, and three inurnments occurred.
- Arbor Tech completed very difficult tree removal in the Osgood Cemetery.
- Beede Cemetery Lettering continued the difficult work of locating, repairing and re-erecting gravestones, this year in the Wilson Hill and Osgood Cemeteries.
- We've started to experience groundcover damage this year from wild turkeys.
- Staff commenced maintenance of the Foss cemetery. The family had previously established a trust fund to fund this maintenance but had been maintaining it themselves until this year.
- Trustees attended NH Cemetery Association workshops.

Upcoming Projects:

- Beede Lettering gravestone work in Tibbetts and Merrill Cemeteries; a descendant has offered to cover the stonework cost in Merrill! The donation will be deposited into the cemetery fund.
- TurfPro Landscaping will install granite posts at the Buzzell Cemetery to delineate the interior driveway and initiate a weed mitigation effort.
- Erection of additional signs and gates.
- Tree trimming/removal and fence/wall maintenance will continue as necessary.
- We work to continue to find the rightful homes for orphan stones in our possession.
- Post history of cemeteries on Gilmanton history site.
- Draft Trustee Handbook.
- Work with Probate Court to simplify lot ownership process.

The Trustees Wish to Thank:

- Our wonderful maintenance staff, Paul Lines and Karen Stockwell.
- The Selectmen and Voters of the Town of Gilmanton for their continued support for the protection of these important sites.
- Road Agent Paul Perkins who assists our staff during the year.
- The Gilmanton Historical Society, who hosts tours of some of the community cemeteries encouraging appreciation of these unique heritage sites.
- Mr. Chad Sanborn, abutter to the Leavitt Road cemetery, who cleared some problem trees at the cemetery. He and other neighbors to many of the sites assist in keeping them safe and cleared, 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 list is available at <https://www.gilmantonnhhistory.org/organizationsmilitary.asp> 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 send info to ALA102@metrocast.net.
- 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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