

## **Gilmanton Annual Report for 1988**

### **REPORT OF CEMETERY TRUSTEES**

We have had an active season in our initial year as Trustees of Cemeteries. The Board was created by vote of the March 1988 Town Meeting. We volunteered our services and were duly appointed by the Board of Selectmen. In previous years, the duty was administered by one person, a Town employee.

Our first meeting was on May 18th to formulate a plan for continued maintenance and restoration of the ten Town owned and private cemeteries, some of which have funds invested in a Common Trust to provide for their care. Our next meeting was spent on a tour of the Town, investigating each cemetery location, as well as the Mary Butler Eastman Homestead Marker on Rte. 140, and assessing what work needed to be done on each.

We acquired the services of Edward R. Kelley & Son of Barnstead, who was familiar with our Town cemeteries having worked on them in 1987. We accepted the offer of Miss Debbie Colman of Tilton, who has a personal interest in the Guinea Ridge Cemetery, to keep that cemetery maintained during the season.

Before Memorial Day, we had general spring cleaning-up done, i.e., rake, brush and mow. Those cemeteries with funds permitting were mowed again before the 4th of July. We met two more times with Mr. Kelley, going over budget appropriations and outlining further maintenance for the year. In a few locations a third mowing was done before Old Home Day in August. Mr. Kelley donated his services for a third mowing at the Shellcamp Road location as Trust Fund income for the year had been depleted. We have had the Hillside Cemetery, off Old Stage Road in the Iron Works, mowed more frequently, and fertilized and limed the top half-side in the fall, this cemetery being more heavily endowed than the other Town cemeteries.

We have made a special attempt to restore two particular Town cemeteries, endowed by only one or two Care Funds, which have deteriorated in the past several years due to lack of money. Forty-six percent of the Town appropriation was expended on the Rte. 140 to Alton cemetery and twentyfive percent on the Upper City Road (rear of Bosiak farm) cemetery. It is hoped that this plan can be continued in the future until these two cemeteries are restored to a suitable condition. Here are buried Revolutionary War Veterans and first residents of the Town. Their gravestones provide a permanent record of the men and women who helped settle the Town of Gilmanton.

Doris P. Jones, Chairman  
H.J. Osler (Peter)  
Mildred H. Aylward