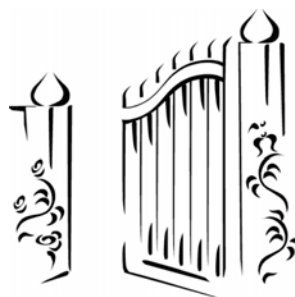




TRUSTEES OF CEMETERIES

Post Office Box 56
Town of Gilmanton, New Hampshire 03237-0056
cemeteries@metrocast.net www.gilmantonnh.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2012



This has been a year of Loss, Opportunity and Discovery for the Trustees. First and foremost is our sincere regret at the resignation of Marion McIntyre. Marion has been a Trustee since 1989, 23 years! So many of us joined Marion for work parties, cleaning out cemeteries, and finding numerous head stones that had fallen over and been covered by turf. Such fun! Such important work! Marion provided even more years to solving family searches for genealogy information. In many other ways Marion's volunteer work in the community helped preserve and honor Gilmanton's Heritage. We hope she will continue to help us solve our History Inquiries! John Dickey very graciously agreed to fill her term until the upcoming election. We welcome John on board and hope he will consider staying with us for the long-term.

Over the years, the Trustees have been able to secure easements to some of the cemeteries that have to be accessed over private property. We are always anxious to permanently preserve such access and a wonderful opportunity arose unexpectedly this year for the Osgood Cemetery which is located off Loon Pond Road. George Twigg, the abutting landowner, has always allowed us access over his property to the Cemetery, but when we learned that this lot was one of the bundle of properties that the Gilmanton Land Trust, Gilmanton Conservation Commission and Five Rivers Conservation Trust were attempting to preserve "*For Everyone, Forever!*", we rushed to see if they would consider a permanent easement to the cemetery as part of the project. Although this was a very complex and difficult undertaking for those involved, they were welcoming to our request and at no cost to the Town (with the exception of the access survey) George and Anna Mae donated the access to the Town and the other parties to the transaction worked diligently to make it a reality. Access to another Gilmanton cemetery has now been permanently preserved.



During the year, new residents in one of the Corner's historic homes discovered a headstone being used as a doorstep. The headstone was of Moses N. Dustin, 1830–1895. Little is known about Moses, but a recent news article indicates that he was Gilmanton's first African American and that he was a Civil War Veteran who lived and worked as a laborer in Town until the day he died at age 64. Anecdotal history tells us that his final wish was to be buried far away from the graves of those who knew him; he said if they didn't like him when he was

alive, he didn't want to be near them when he was dead. Knowing that his burial site in the Beech Grove Cemetery already contained a headstone, which was not a duplicate of the stone found, the Trustees undertook an investigation. It was learned that a prior occupant of the home had researched Moses and found that his original headstone did not accurately reflect his entire military career. A new stone was commissioned and erected in place of the original headstone. The Trustee's Policy on such headstones is that they are a sacred








memorial of the life and death of the deceased and that they should be returned to that protected resting place. Such activity is also regulated under State law. The stone was readily returned to the





Trustees and has joined the newer stone at Moses' gravesite.

It is not unusual to find such gravestones and other cemetery markers outside of their intended cemetery. If you know of such items, please just contact the Cemetery Trustees. The items will be returned to their original site if known, or placed within a protected environment so that their original status as a memoriam is preserved.






Other 2012 Cemetery projects included:

-  Re-erection of a Mack family headstone found at a private residence into the Mack family lot in Beech Grove Cemetery (2011)
-  Adoption of a Policy to address duplicate and unknown gravestones located in the community
-  Attendance at NH Cemetery Association and NH DRA workshops
-  Completion of a 265' section of wall at the Beech Grove Cemetery. The work was completed in December and Trustees appreciate the cooperation of the abutting landowner, Anastasy, who allowed the contractor to access the site over their property.
-  Adoption of a Policy to prohibit Geocaching within Town Cemeteries

Our 2013 "*List of Things To Do!*"

-  Install granite posts across the new section of the Buzzell Cemetery to delineate the access drive
-  Post information/regulation signs at cemetery sites and erect easement and access markers
-  Draft Trustee Handbook
-  Work with Probate Court to simplify lot ownership process

The Trustees wish to thank:

-  Our contractors, Carl Moorehead, Courtney Kelly of ArborTech, and Kevin Fife of Twin Elms Landscaping for their great work this year
-  The Voters of the Town of Gilmanton for their continued support of these important sites
-  Richard Foss for his continued support of the Foss Cemetery maintenance
-  Neighbors to the Sawyer Lake and other cemeteries who help to maintain the sites, remove brush and limbs, allow access over their property to the cemeteries and keep a watchful eye on these important community sites
-  Others who voiced their interest in "adopting" a site for future care and protection

Additional information on sites, including available lots can be accessed on the Town website. Please contact us at any time with your information, questions or comments.

Very Respectfully Submitted,

Candace Daigle
(603) 267-8274

Leonard (JR) Stockwell, Jr.
(603) 267-7502

John Dickey
(603) 267-6098