

Connecticut Gravestone Network

"Preserving and Protecting Connecticut's Old Burial Grounds and Cemeteries"

Volume 17 No.1

Feb. 2011

CGN 135 Wells St., Manchester, Ct. 06040-6157

Exec. Dir. Ruth Shapleigh-Brown 860-643-5652

www.ctgravestones.com



CGN Symposium

East Hartford South Senior Center
70 Canterbury St., East Hartford

March 19th
9 am – 4 pm

9:30 am - "Old Cemetery History 101 for Connecticut Genealogist"

Ruth Shapleigh-Brown, Exec. CGN Director.

Just what are you *really* looking at when you visit an old graveyard?

10:45- "The Betsy Wakeman mystery".

By Lisa Burghardt and Melanie Marks. How, one orphaned gravestone took two Fairfield researchers on a quest of novel proportion.

Lunch Break 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

1:15 pm "Thinking Outside the Fence"

Re-defining the Historic Cemetery By AGS member John Bry John will share with you his professional work that is dedicated to creating a new national dialog and initiative to assist non profit and municipal owned historic cemeteries.

2:30 pm. "Descendants of Ephraim Goodrich (1663-1739): of the Still Hill Cemetery in South Glastonbury, CT."

By Stephen Goodrich from Colorado, Still Hill Cemetery is located on land that once belonged to Stephen's 7-great-grandfather. His extensive research which includes Y-DNA testing, has revealed that the immigrants John and William Goodrich of Wethersfield and Thomas Goodrich of Rappahannock, Virginia were co-descendants of Thracian soldiers who assisted Roman legions in the conquests of Germania and Britannia (England) in the first century, AD.

Visit with Exhibitors, Try your hand at stone carving with Ty Tyron or simply visit, have some lunch and share some stories.

\$10 for general public Pay at the door

Admission \$5 for dues paying CGN, CSG & FCC members

For more information contact Ruthie at 860-643-5652

Directions: on the Glastonbury town line, Maple Ave. off Route 2 E and follow signs

To collections departments – last issue was Jan. 2010 – Vol.16 #2

Upcoming tour & events for spring 2011

More details in a next issue & website in a few weeks .

April 23 10 am – 3 pm.

work day at Greenfield Hill cemetery in Fairfield, clean up, brush trimming and resetting fallen stones

May 21 10 am – 3 pm.

Center Cemetery in East Hartford clean up, brush trimming and resetting fallen stones.

April 6 – 10

New England Regional Genealogical Conference
Springfield, Mass LINK

Connecticut Gravestone Network (booth #23) and The Gravestone Girls (booth #51) will be there so if you are stop and say hi.

April 16 10 am – 2 pm.

Old South Burying Ground in Harford, clean up and work to reset fallen stones.

May 28th 10 am – 3 pm.

Ancient Burying Ground in Hartford, clean up date soon to be announced will probably be May 28th. You can also check out Ty's page for the ABG on facebook.

June 6th 5:30 pm.

Tour at East Cemetery in Manchester sponsored by the Manchester Historical Society

June 11th 1:30 pm.

Tour at Skungamaug Burying Ground in Tolland sponsored by the Tolland Historical Society

June 14 -19

Association for Gravestone Studies Conference
Colby College Waterville Maine

<http://www.gravestonestudies.org/conferences.htm>

July 23 or 24th CGN Bus Tour to Swan Point Cemetery in Rhode Island tentatively scheduled for July 23 or 24th

For scheduled workdays for the Friends of Danbury Cemeteries you can contact Ed Siergiej at 203-241-3740 or at his email esiergiej@aol.com – or look for them on facebook.

From Executive Director, Ruthie Brown

Well this last year wasn't one to crow about in some instances. Many plans were set aside in my house and others as well because of family and health issues. This winter has been interesting to say the least and also has brought us its complications and issues. Like the storms of last spring there will be a great need to for many of us to be out there "cleaning up" our old burying grounds across the state. I'm trying to get some new angles lined up to help keep us in touch and the newsletter back on track. As always there is much to be done.

Thanks staying with us. Ruth Shapleigh-Brown

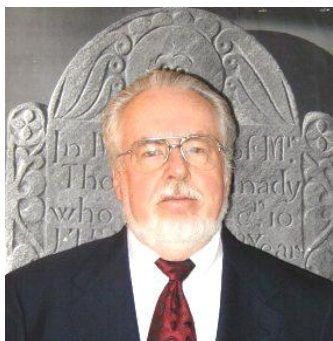
In Memory of John J. Spaulding.

Many of you through the years have met John or seen him at our various programs. Until recently John always provided the power projector for our symposiums. I first met John and his wife Betty many years ago, around 1992 I think it was, when they attended one of our Friends of Center Cemetery spring work sessions in East Hartford. Little did we know then what a valuable member to our group he would become.

Soon after John helped us organize CGN and for years helped Ruthie with editing and producing the quarterly newsletter. (Yes folks we really did have a quarterly newsletter back then.) John's interest in preserving our history through gravestone conservation provided the base for so many projects like the first restoration and plaque of the Historic Pitkin Tomb in East Hartford, removing Dr. Peters back to the family cemetery, cleaning Cheney gravestones to document them, providing database inventories of various cemeteries to online resources, GPR mapping to connect the Hale records with projects, documentation on the Bulkeley tomb project in Colchester, to the recent Talcottville Civil War monument restoration that he worked on with his grandson, for his Eagle Scout project..

John also became a fixture of the Friends of the Office of the State Archaeologist, Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni who works closely with CGN members on a number projects. Eventually John became known as FOSA's number one photographer as he took photos of all excavations and especially all cemetery projects and documented them in binders which the office proudly displays at all its events.

John gave much of himself to various other organizations as well like the Association for Gravestone Studies, Manchester Historical Society, Sons of the Union Veterans, Silktown Runners and oh so many more.



Sadly he is missed by many but we are very grateful for all his work that he has left behind that will benefit us far into the future.

SYMPOSIUM 2011

It's that time again. This year we are pleased to have Connecticut Society of Genealogist co-sponsor our event. Many CSG members are also CGN members, as well as other genealogy organizations. Each spring it becomes an issue with so many spring programs constantly causing a conflict so many CSG members don't get to come to our CGN symposium.

This year we welcome them into our CGN circle. They will be surprised at all we have available from books, T-shirts and an array of arts and crafts involving cemetery motifs and a chance to visit with our resident stone carver Ty Tyron who will provide you the opportunity to try your hand at carving stone. It's a great way to appreciate what our colonial stone carvers went through to make these old gravestones that we today.

In honor of CSG co-sponsoring we have strived to present lectures that would involve our older cemeteries with a strong accent on genealogy. The Friends of the Office of the State Archaeologist (FOSA) is very proud to announce that their contribution will be to have a display on the Venture Smith Project, complete with a display of Venture's genealogy. Member Melanie Marks and Liza Burghardt of Fairfield County have been working for two years now to resolve the "Betsy Wakeman Mystery". Her stone has been found but confirming her rightful burial place has taken them across state lines to New York and back again. Due to some press coverage on this tale Melanie also found herself involved with a family descendant and yet another orphaned stone that also was - yes - another Wakeman.

Our other guests have come from quite a distance to present their programs and I hope our members will show their appreciation in attendance and with questions and comments afterward.

John Bry is an Association for Gravestone Studies colleague that presented his program on involving the community along with the local town government in the process of caring and restoring our cemeteries in need. It should be interesting for our membership to view his perspective on various issues via that he is coming from out of the New England area.

Stephen Goodrich is a well versed genealogist that has researched his family line of Ephraim Goodrich, mind you without ever coming to Connecticut.

His ancestors owned the land that started the Still Hill Cemetery in Glastonbury, CT. Stephen has much to share with us about those early records and comparisons that he

has made. Another point of interest that Stephen has pursued quite efficiently is mapping his ancestors through DNA which has taken his family genealogy back to the time of the Roman Legion.

I know you will make an effort to come out and join us on March 19th, visit these speakers at their display tables and take your time to relax with some coffee and snacks afterward to discuss these topics with each other.

As always we will have our food buffet set up for morning coffee and snacks; lunch at Noon and snacks for the afternoon sessions. We don't over charge but always make out pretty well on this adventure, thanks to help of members that regular set up the kitchen area; Fern Strong and Irma Carper-Miller; and Wayne Skidgel of course (our #1 taste tester) to say nothing of the members that bring goodies to share and donate to the table from stews to cookies.

Admission/Membership:

All those with up to date paid dues for CGN, FCC and CSG will be admitted for a \$5 fee.

There will someone at the admissions area with appropriate information to address each organizations membership list. IF you are planning to pay your CGN dues (\$10) at the admissions table - I ask that you "completely - and legibly" fill out the form provided; payment for admission and dues needs to be noted separately please and if putting down an email address please make it as clear as possible. Thank You, Ruthie

The March 2010 spring symposium was well attended. Ruthie had thought with it being such a full spring for so many members and fellow organizations that last year would be a low one. However we had 24 first time attendees and as always they left pleased and enthusiastic about all they had learned during day and most became new members.

Although John Spaulding couldn't be with us because of illness, his presentation (printed our Jan. 2010 newsletter) on the Talcottville Civil War Monument restoration was well received even though Ruthie was filling in. Sadly it lacked many details that John could have explained better had he'd been there but everyone was understanding and appreciated the program. The program on the Pine Island Cemetery of Norwalk by Holly Cuzzone and Dana Laird about the last 5 years of their ongoing project including graphs to show their findings; well researched and documented. Very Professional and informative ladies, we were all impressed.

New organizations taking tables last year were the Friends of Danbury Cemeteries, Descendants and Founders of Ancient Windsor and the Coventry Cemetery Commission Committee display included their new brochure.

We thank Fern Strong and Irma Carper-Miller for once again heading up the kitchen area; Ruthie said she heard that lunch was very good however she never even saw the sandwich; which is OK because she wouldn't have stopped talking long enough to eat one anyway.

So all and all we had a GREAT day! Thank you all who helped set up and take down, Cheryl and Joe for taking over the admission table and all the vendors who gave up a day to spend with us; especially those that travel from out of state like The Gravestone Girls, The Association for Gravestone Studies members who come down from Massachusetts and New York.



Theft is still happening!

This issue speaks of a topic that has forever plagued our old cemeteries and that is vandalism of all forms. Many years ago I worked with a past director of AGS on this topic to attempt to compare how various states dealt with this matter. Each state is different and most revert responsibility back to the municipal level. There are no federal laws or involvement except where the FBI has pursued pieces over state lines or it involves American Indian grave disturbances.

Reporting the item as stolen is the first step – when?: what? do you have a photo? Does it look like many other like pieces – how are they to tell which is yours?

Just what are we giving the police to work with? Identifying the item is the next complication. It is not an easy task for our police to deal with unless they are lucky enough to catch someone removing a piece right at the cemetery.

In recent years the price of scrap metal has driven desperate people and outright thieves to once again dismantle and strip out any metal in cemeteries.

Those once regal Elks that guarded the plot of those from that fraternal order have often become a target losing their antlers and tails. In Bridgeport last we visited there we found one lonely fellow had also had his hooves peeled away. Note that while we call our Zinc -White Bronze monuments a metal they are toxic to those would melt them down. But still we should all be keeping a constant check on these items in our cemeteries.

Norwich thefts

In the fall of 2009 CGN received a call from a Lt. Richard Molis of the Norwich Police Department; also a fellow grave finder enthusiast, had come across a zinc monument panel that had been used in a roadside display for Halloween. He had searched his area for the family name and monument and not found a match so enlisted Ruthie's help. Ruthie was very happy to report that with one check of the Hale listings at the state library she found that the panel in question belonged to a monument located in Cypress Cemetery in Old Saybrook.



The monument in Cypress Cemetery that the found panel came from.

Lt. Molis and Ruthie were hoping for a news story that would serve to alert the public as

to these situations plus it would have been so encouraging to have been able to tell the story of how, after missing for possibly 25 years, it was returned to its rightful place. Unfortunately the care taker of Cypress cemetery did not share their concern and asked that we wait for him to confirm our find before doing anything else. As it turned out he retrieved the missing panel late at night when Lt. Molis was off duty and has had no further contact with either Ruthie or Lt. Molis. Although we are disappointed and dismayed at his uncooperative attitude it was a worthwhile effort to see a piece be returned. CGN is very grateful to Lt. Molis for making an effort that so few would do, to reuniting this piece of history.

Sarah Osgood Bronze Statue Stolen from Yantic Cemetery



Back in February of 2010 many of you may have caught the story on Fox and ABC about this beautiful full figure statute being stolen from Yantic Cemetery in Norwich. Again CGN is grateful to the Norwich Police Department for pursuing this case so diligently. Within two weeks of the initial report they had brought their investigation full circle and arrested those involved. Unfortunately and so very sadly the kneeling lady bronze of had been mutilated and cut up as it was destined for the scrap yard.

CGN member David Oat who does historic tours of Yantic Cemetery said "The female figure, marked the burial site of Sarah, Charles Osgood's wife, and is the highlight of Yantic Cemetery and a regular stop on each cemetery tour". Ruthie immediately upon hearing the news forwarded photos from David's latest tour from member Dana Laird's collection on to the police. Dana's photos were very helpful as they were not only very recent but she had taken several photos of the statue from different angles which may have helped with the indentifying of pieces that were removed.

This is what happened (extracted from the New London Day article published on March 24 2010 by Claire Bessette.

In March of 2010 Willimantic Police Lt. Mary Beth Curtis said someone walking on an abandoned property found the head of the statue perched on a stone wall. The Willimantic police brought the piece to Norwich where police there confirmed that it was the final missing piece of the 120 yr. old statue.

The statue was reported missing by the on Feb. 19th by city Public Works Department employees and on Feb. 24th after seeing news reports about the theft, workers at the Willimantic Waste Co. were suspicious when two people brought in pieces of a bronze statue to sell for scrap metal, so they set the items aside and called the police.

The family is thrilled to have the pieces back, especially the head that had been removed. They thanked the police for all their effort and are now planning on having the statue restored. However whether to place her back in the cemetery is a big concern.



David Oat, cemetery preservation advocate, and Dale Plummer, Norwich city historian, hope to set up a committee to discuss improved oversight of the cemetery. The two also are trying to get the cemetery listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Oat said he has been contacted by one artist and one sculpture-restoration company offering to help restore the statue. He will meet with City Manager Alan Bergren next Tuesday to discuss cemetery oversight and a fundraising drive to restore the statue. Oat hopes to create a "Friends of Yantic Cemetery" group to help keep an eye on the cemetery.

A sign posted at the cemetery cites a 1987 City Council resolution that offers a \$500 reward to anyone who provides information that leads to arrest and conviction of someone for vandalism in the cemetery. Oat said the city might have to make what could be the first payment in

that offer soon to the Willimantic Waste employees who contacted Norwich police on Feb. 24.

David said that three people were arrested last summer and charged with theft and desecration of a grave site. As of this date none have come to trial. All pieces of the statue were recovered. They are being held as evidence and will not be released until the trials are over and the judge releases them. When that happens the "Friends of Yantic Cemetery" will have an expert evaluate the statue parts and recommend a restoration process.

The Missing Molly Stone.

Sacred to the Memory
of Miss MARY FOWLER
daughter to Mr. WIL
LIAM & Mrs EUNICE
FOWLER who Died
Feby 1st AD 1792 in the
24th year of her age.

Molly tho pleasant in her day
Was suddenly seiz'd and sent away
How soon she's ripe how soon she's rott'n
Sent to her grave and soon forgott'n

On a late Saturday morning in Milford Cemetery, an empty hole was discovered where once stood the gravestone of Molly Fowler. The ground around it was still sharp looking and not eroded from a previous heavy rainfall. The hole looked like someone had pulled the stone straight up and out of the ground. There were no drag marks. It appears that someone knew what he was doing and had targeted that particular stone. The Milford Cemetery Association and Ray Scholl, the Superintendent were notified and Ray in turn notified the police and he said that he would also notify a network of cemetery superintendents and antique dealers, etc.

A picture can be found on the website, <http://www.findagrave.com/cgibin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSie=1&GRid=6393238&>

Thankfully after a couple days of attention from local historians the stone was actually found in the brush off on the edge of the cemetery. Obviously someone had intended to come back and retrieve the stone once things had calmed down. Local historian Dick Platt and Ray Scholl have since brought the stone inside for protection and will plan not to put the stone back until some protective measures can be taken to secure the stone from future vandals.

**Betsy Chauncey Brooks stone of Burlington
Broken , decapitated , discarded
But found and repaired.**

This story comes to us thanks to Len Alderman of Burlington. In the fall of 2009 the 'top part' of a child's stone was found in the "Hoppers" an area that is a 200 acre open space preserve in Bristol, CT. "Hoppers" is local term that refers to the huge 'kettle holes' that were formed during the Ice Age 12,000 years ago. When Mike Saman found the broken stone his first challenge was reading it. He knew that the child's name was Betsy and she was a daughter on Ens Chauncey and her mother's name was Elisabeth. However Ensign Chauncey appeared to be the only name as the surname on Betsey's stone had been broken off, except for a "B". When they checked Len Alderman's books they were able to find a Capt. Chauncey Brooks which led them to the Lamson Corner Cemetery in Burlington.

The father was an Ensign in the Navy when his daughter died and a Captain when he died. If the word "Capt" was omitted from his stone we never would have found the grave of his daughter.

Mike found his stone but couldn't find the remains of Betsy stone.....until he looked down and my shoe was touching the almost hidden base of her stone. After removing some dirt he had more information that matched the records however he never did find her mother's stone. After close examination it appears that the stone was once before glued together with a brown colored silicon rubber material. Mike said that the stone appeared to have been vandalized three or more times. Mike did his best to repair the pieces and try to make Betsy marker once more the respectable marker it was meant to be.

Ruthie Brown feels the stone was deliberately broken so that the winged face on the tympanum was the obvious target (a part still missing).

Mike said "It was indeed a great experience, complete with putting an American Flag next to his Captain Chauncey's stone and now having his lost daughter's stone next to his made it whole again."



Broken top that was found in Bristol

Betsy's stone as found and back in the cemetery.



**Betsy daughter
of Ens. Chauncey
& Mrs.
Elisabeth
.....broken here stone.....
Brooks
12-5-1788**

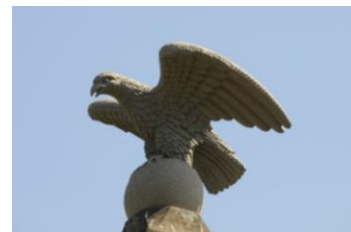


Betsy Brooks stone once more restored with a flag placed at her father's grave.

**Friends of Center Cemetery of East Hartford's
300th Birthday Celebration.**

East Hartford celebrated their Center cemetery's 300th Birthday last fall by having a Lantern Tour and a Rededication of their Civil War Monument with the Eagle sitting atop the Monument looking out to the southern battlefields.

Years ago when the monument received some restoration work the old Eagle was found to be in such a condition that it had to be removed. The Friends group headed up by President Raymond Tubbs who has for almost 10 years been nurturing and prodding along a plan to have the eagle replaced. There seemed to be many steps and complications to finding a piece of durable stone that would closely match the softer brownstone, find a carver that would do it justice and meet the bidding requirements of those grants that would apply, to say nothing of meeting requirements and deadlines, and disappointments at failed time scheduled or plan changes. But he persevered, through sickness and in health, and much to his relief the job is now FINISHED.



FCC held the dedication the afternoon of the Lantern Tour and although many of our Civil War reenactor friends were not able to make it because of their busy year a few did come in period dress to support the event. Our long time friend and famous Civil War character from the State Library - Kevin Johnson as William Webb also graced us with an appearance. His emotional portrayal and enthusiasm brought tears to many eyes in crowd as well his own. An outstanding performance!



Jonathan Fanning stone 1761 carved by David Lamb Jr.

Fanning Cemetery, Ledyard

This little cemetery that is tucked away in the woods on Lantern Hill Road and contains the burials of the Fanning Family who immigrated to New England as early as the 1650's. Henry M. Rogers of New York City is President of the Fanning Heritage Association has sent us the following:

Logging at the Fanning Cemetery in Ledyard

Some person of dubious talents has decided to vandalize one of America's most unusual cemeteries by cutting wood for a winter heating windfall at the Fanning Cemetery. The cemetery is unique in that it contains the remains of Edmund Fanning and his family, well-documented Irish Catholic Royalists sent out during the Cromwellian Confiscations of the early 1650's as white slaves to Connecticut Colony. Fanning's contract was bought by Gov. John Winthrop, Jr., they were assigned as sole stock tenders at his ranch on Fishers Island- a most highly dangerous occupation due to the predations of Narragansett raiding parties.

At the end of the contract, Edmund Fanning was granted a farm lot in what is now the Croton and Ledyard and other lands in Stonington. The family became part of the Stonington community, gradually prospered and became America's most eminent sea-faring family.

The Fanning Cemetery is a Connecticut State Monument that contains the unique remains of people who were not the typical Puritan orientation of their neighbors, but Irish and Catholic. There is no other such site in New England that contains the remains of such burial practices. Cemetery vandalism is always despicable. Swift and hard punishment should be meted out to such cowards. But once disturbed, there is no remediation. Our state and country would be all the poorer for it.

Henry M. Rogers

President: Fanning Heritage Association

Put in a picture of the one or stones from 2004

To contact Henry or make inquiries about the Fanning History write to

Henry M. Fanning

Fanning Heritage Association –

1412 Crosby Avenue, Bronx, New York, 10461.

Last Year's workshops and visits

Although Ruthie was lying low for most of the summer the spring was full and busy as always. Below are some photos and captions from the various visits and clean up efforts around the state.

Greenfield Hill Cemetery In Fairfield, CT



Workday in Easton



Friends of Danbury Cemeteries had a good year.

Ed Siergieji and his group really had a productive year last year. Not only did they make progress in their own cemeteries but have partnered up to work with Easton and New Milford area volunteers to do the same.

On Saturday, May 1st they participated in a special event scheduled. As part of "Clean City Danbury Day" and spent the day working to clean up the Wooster street cemetery on the corner of Main Street, and Wooster Street (behind the old jail) It was a day of raking and cutting down of small trees. This is Danbury's oldest cemetery and is the resting place for many of Danbury's earliest settlers.

On Saturday, May 15th they scheduled a similar effort at the Old Kenosia cemetery.

Most clean up days will find a group of regular dedicated volunteers and perhaps 12 -20 more people on board to do what they can. Most days they are able to reset, repair and clean anywhere from 8 – 14 stones.

Last summer Ed sent out the following: "Special thanks to those from the Easton Cemetery group and also to those from Ridgefield who came up to help out. Special mention goes out to Jessica who came down from Wallingford with her stone cleaning equipment and experience working at cemeteries around the state with the Ct. Gravestone Network team."

Check them out on FODC 's Facebook page



**Litchfield
school group**

**Old Farm Hill in
Middletown
below**



Our Friends groups in the Southwestern side of the state have really been making headway this past season. If you

live out that way please get involved. And yes we do have friends on the eastern side of state but I haven't heard of too many active groups forming out there? Hello are you listening?

MOCA Legislative update:

While reading the winter 2009 issue of the Maine Old Cemetery Association, page 4 I noticed the following which speaks of vandalism and enforcement of laws:

Legislative: MOCA would like the laws to be easier to use. For code enforcement officers, this would be especially helpful. The section of the laws cannot be copied, but it can be referenced. Better enforcement is needed. Very few cemeteries are incorporated. Does that mean the laws don't apply to the majority of cemeteries if they are not?

Marilyn Burgess has done a lot of follow-up on vandalism but needs help. As far as Burgess is concerned, municipal vandalism is worse than juvenile vandalism. Juvenile vandalism is more public though.

In Marilyn's article she discusses that MOCA is receiving many recent reports of vandalism and feels there is a need to track cases as to where they are occurring, what is damaged and the cost of restoration, what did the town do about it as well as local law enforcement and courts? Her goal would be to build a database or log of such incidents and working with community support contacts showing the system that we can make a difference.

To contact MOCA at www.rootsweb.com/~memoca/moca.htm or members involved Cheryl Patten; president at cwpatten@tds.net or Marilyn Burgess at Stocker7@fairpoint.net

Fighting the overgrowth at Chesterfield cemetery in Montville



Last summer many local residents and some not so local got involved in helping to clear away the brush and overgrowth that once again covered up the Old Chesterfield Cemetery. As is the case with many towns

and struggling budgets maintaining these older hillside areas is a big issue that needs help. Here we have some



blueberry bushes and particularly hard to deal with flora and fauna.. Michelle went in looking for a long lost relative and almost got lost herself. Being brought up in a military family she was appalled at the condition of this cemetery and has been working since to establish some routine care for the cemetery and the many veterans graves that are buried there. Last July she was successful in working with the town, a National Guard unit and outreach to many other military organizations to get some attention for the problem. It was amazing the difference that one full weekend of work made. However much more needs to be and done to bring the wild part of the cemetery under control. On the northwest side of the cemetery where they are more recent burials, local relatives work diligently to keep those areas from being engulfed.

Anyone interested in helping with the project in Chesterfield please contact Michelle Pedro at 860-443-8013 or email her at mimispier2@yahoo.com

Lyon cemetery in Easton Gets some personal attention

On Veterans Day members of the 11th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Company A, were present at a tribute ceremony complete with military honours at Lyon Cemetery for Pvt. Olius Lyon, who fought and died in the U.S. Civil War. Part of the celebration was to place a new headstone to memorialize Pvt. Lyon.

According to Mark Lyon, a resident of Niantic and one of Pvt. Lyon's descendants Pvt. Lyon was enrolled in the 12th Connecticut Volunteers, known as "The Charter Oak Regiment." Pvt. Lyon died at the Salisbury Confederate Prison on Dec. 11, 1864, after he was captured during the

Battle of Cedar Creek. Though Pvt. Lyon's remains were never recovered from the Confederate prison in North Carolina where he died His body was placed in a mass grave. Mark had a headstone made to memorialize him at the Sport Hill Road cemetery in North Carolina where Pvt. Lyon's three brothers and other descendants are buried. "I always felt bad," Mr. Lyon said. "He was the only one who wasn't buried locally," he said of the Civil War-era Lyon brothers. "The brother who died in the worst way wasn't memorialized locally," Mr. Lyon said.

The tribute ceremony for Pvt. Lyon included poetry readings,.

Mr. Lyon said in his reflection that Pvt. Lyon grew up in the Rock House district in Easton before moving to Bethel, where he worked as a blacksmith.

"In respecting his death today," he continued, "this stone is more than just an addition to this cemetery of something that is as palpable as solid limestone. It is, in fact, the restoration to this community of that which is as intangible as the eternal memory of one of Easton's own long-forgotten sons."

Mr. Lyon also works to maintain Lyon Cemetery for the Easton Cemetery Committee, which was appointed by the first selectman to maintain and restore historic town cemeteries. The oldest headstone in the cemetery dates to 1801, but there may be burials from as early as 1740, Mr. Lyon said.

Lyon Cemetery is one of several historic cemeteries taken over recently by the town. Volunteers from the town are working to restore and maintain the sites.

Greenfield Hill Cemetery has a productive year despite storm damage.

The Greenfield Hill Cemetery is an important part of Fairfield county history as it contains the remains of 103 of those who fought in the American Revolution as well as those veterans of the French and Indian War, War of 1812 and the Civil War. 103 is largest concentration of Revolutionary War soldiers in one cemetery in the country. A plaque stands outside the cemetery gates listing their names. The support from the community and for the project and has been strong and will entrust that the cemetery will be around for yet another 300 years. The Greenfield Hill Village Improvement Society has taken on this project with dedication and commitment that deserves kudos from all of us.

"We have seen a remarkable improvement in the cemetery since cleanup initially began," said John Jones, President of the GHVIS. "We would like to thank those organizations and town departments that have already

committed to making the day a success and for all of their past support, especially Tree Warden, Ken Placko and Department of Public Works director, Rich White.” “I would also like to thank Ruth Shapleigh-Brown with the Connecticut Gravestone Network for their continued support.” The cemetery suffered severe damage with the latest bought of storms. Many large trees came down which damaged the surrounding stone wall and many of the headstones. State Archaeologist Nicholas Bellantoni said, “It is very exciting to see a community getting so involved in such an important project. I was down recently to lend my support in helping secure FEMA money for tree removal in the cemetery and as I understand it was approved.”

The Greenfield Hill Village Improvement Society is planning another community cleanup at the Greenfield Hill Cemetery, located on Bronson Road, on April 23rd from 10a.m. to 3p.m. and welcomes volunteers to participate. They have had two successful such events in the past and then came all of last year’s damage from a series of storms that when through.

Member Melanie Marks has been a driving force for this restoration project for the last three years now. Melanie has been very pleased with the community support they have received. CGN members will once again be joining them in April so come on down!

To participate in this ongoing project of restoring this historic cemetery, please contact Melanie Marks at 203-856-6270 or email her at TennisLady2@aol.com

Cemetery Clean up changes position of stones.

Ruthie is always telling you to all to remember that the first step in evaluating an old cemetery is to research what changes have occurred in the past that would affect its present day appearance. Well here is a good example (copied exactly as found):

Farmington Valley Herald May 16, 1913 **East Granby – Beautifying Cemeteries.**

Both cemeteries in East Granby to be put into first class shape. They will become places of beauty. The organization having in charge the cemeteries in East Granby and at Copper Hill have met recently and decided on a line of action that will make them places that all will wish to look at.

It was decided to have all of the graves stones in the old cemetery in East Granby cleaned and the lettering restored as far as possible and all of them will be placed in an upright position. All of the footstones will be sunk to the level of the earth and this will make it possible to mow the lots better than it can be done now. In the fall it is planned to have considerable work done grading this cemetery and another season it will be possible to mow it with a lawn mower.

At Copper Hill cemetery the work of mowing with a lawn mower is to be undertaken -- --- and this will kept up through the season as often as is needed. That cemetery has been graded and several fine monuments were erected last year. There is in the hands of the town clerk various bank books which represent deposits of \$2,000, the interest to be used to care for the lots in the cemeteries and the interest has been allowed to accumulate to the amount of \$800. It will be seen that the committee in charge of the work has ample funds to work with without touching the principal.

Passed on to us from a library colleague Bonnie Link

Deer Hunting at Historic Pioneer Cemetery

Original article was written by Vicki Blum Vigil.

Brief overview of article tells us that Joe Clark has maintained the Phillip Dreyer Public Cemetery in Marion, Ohio since 1998. Joe is related to all 50 people buried there and has spent a good deal of his own time and money restoring the cemetery. In 1993 he requested the township consider putting in an access road to the cemetery. 3 years later with the assistance of an attorney he sent a petition signed by 25 residents asking again for an access road, which was finally completed in 1998.

In 2007 Joe noticed that someone had built a deer stand near the cemetery and learned that a cemetery trustee has given a hunter permission to hunt on the adjacent property and use cemetery access road, plus he had given the hunter a key to access the cemetery gate. Mind you this was a bow hunter so the use of bullets is not part of the issue.

As the next few years passed Joe found more deer stands being built including one within 30 feet of the cemetery line. By February of 2010 he had found more than 7 deer stands within sight of the cemetery and he had enough. When he complained to the board of trustees "he was publicly rebuked for doing so". When he took his concerns to the local Sheriff and wildlife officer finding shotgun shells in the cemetery the trustees then faulted him on that measure and countered that if he kept complaining about the hunters that his access to the cemetery would be limited!

In June Joe requested the Ohio House of Representatives prohibit hunting activities within 200 feet of any and all public cemeteries. The outcome is still to be resolved.

Joe Clark can be reached by email at Joe10082@yahoo.com.

Ohio Genealogy News; Winter 2010 issue Vo. 41, #4, pg. 20, Cemetery Chronicles contact OGS, attn: Cemeteries, State Route 97, Bellville, OH 44813 or ph: 419-886-1903

News from the State Library digital collections.

Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Litchfield, Lyme, Madison and Manchester have now been added to the towns survey collections. Altogether, there are now 77 towns

and 3,436 entries available on CONTENTdm in the WPA Architectural Survey collection. Remember, some houses have more than one photo and other houses have data but no photos.

<http://cslib.cdmhost.com/custom/WPAArchSurv.php>

From AGS newsletter Issue #91 November 2010

Article: Plot sales banned in historic portion of St. Marys cemetery

This article, posted on *The Florida Times-Union* website, is about Oak Grove Cemetery in St. Marys, Georgia. City officials have imposed a permanent ban on selling plots in the oldest section of this 222-year-old cemetery after learning that an estimated 500 unmarked graves risk being disturbed.

[Florida Times Union Website](#)

Article: Man bulldozes cemetery

This article, posted on wishtv.com, is about a farmer who bulldozed a cemetery dating back to the 1800s that was on his land. [WISHTV.com](#) BOONE COUNTY, Ind.

Pictures below are from Gilbertown cemetery Easton. work day.



Above is an Interesting preservation of a mile marker in Sharon, Ruthie had to reverse directions and go back for a photo.

To the left Gary Haines of the Easton group was able to supply a tripod for the day. Those that hadn't worked with one before found out just how useful they can be when up righting heavy stone.



The morning started off rather chilly but the group was eager to learn and to get working.

To the right we have Ruthie Brown giving the new group of volunteers the basic about gravestone art and cautions about what they are about to do. As always once they got wrapped up in the excitement of uncovering stones that have fallen and been covered up for years, it was hard to stop them.



Connecticut Gravestone Network
135 Wells St.
Manchester, Ct. 06040-6127
www.ctgravestones.com

Thanks to all that have contributed, helped with editing and otherwise been very patient.

Deadline for Next Newsletter is April 1, 2011
cemetery news, articles and related events

APPLICATION - NEW MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL

FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2011- Please circle new or renewal
(photo copy of application to accompany payment is acceptable)

Name _____

Address: _____

City/Town _____ **State** _____ **Zip+four** _____

Telephone: (Home) () _____ - _____ **Work** () _____ - _____

Please print clearly - Email _____

Voluntary Information:

Interests in Gravestone Studies: Check which apply:

Restoration _____ **Carvers** _____ **Genealogy** _____ **History** _____

Other Comments _____

If a New member - Where did you hear about CGN ? _____

Fee: \$10.00, Make Checks Payable to " CGN" - Mail to 135 WELLS St. MANCHESTER, CT 06040-6127