

Connecticut Gravestone Symposium

Sat. March 30th 2019 9 am – 4 pm

Saint Sebastian's Church - 155 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457

Presented by Connecticut Gravestone Network

Bring your questions - Learn how to preserve your history- Visit with Exhibitors -

Caring about Cemeteries can be Complex:

9:30 am "Welcome –Beginners Basics and Should we be Reburying in old Places" Ruthie will give a rundown on basic topics of concern when dealing with older gravestones, placement, photos, cleaning and research discoveries and the issue of using or abusing old burial space to resell for new grave space. Is that OK with you?

CGN Founder & Exec. Dir. Ruth Brown for over 30 years now, is a very passionate advocate for protecting our historic burying grounds and has numerous awards from organizations i.e. CT Governors Award, CT Tourism, Assoc. for Gravestone Studies, DAR and others.

10:30 am **How sacred are our grave spaces? Who moved (or removed) Grandpa?**

Navigating the legal and ethical challenges and where do we go from here? Attorney Cheryl Jansen and Lisa Burghardt; genealogist and co-owner of Artista Studios & Monument Works. They will discuss how current cemetery statutes failed to protect Park Cemetery in Bridgeport, CT for decades as hundreds of graves were desecrated by those entrusted with its care and maintenance. They will also discuss the complications of navigating the frustrating bureaucracy to determine who has authority to protect our cemeteries and enforce the laws, and lastly how they finally got authorities to respond and ACT. Why strengthening enforcement and penalties is critical to preserving perpetual care funds and protecting sacred burial grounds. The dignity of our ancestors deserve better! Changes are needed.

11:15 am **Middletown Old Burying Ground Association and Town Cemetery Records:** Augie DeFrance will describe the relationship between the City of Middletown, CT and how MOBG came to be, why it has grown; and how the town benefits from this knowledge. (MOBG appears to be unique to Middletown as few other towns have this kind of set up.) He will also discuss the maintenance of the city's historic and abandoned cemeteries including maintenance of cemetery records and the necessity to computerize all the records *and* why you should be using a media storage that is not on cemetery premises. Augie DeFrance has been President of Middletown Old Burying Ground Assoc., Inc. (MOBG) since 1999; previously he was in Business Management, Administration, Accounting and Human Resource operations.

12:00– 1:15 is **Lunch Break** We provide sandwiches & beverages for a donation

1:30 pm **Cemetery Conservation, where it was, where it is now, and where it is going.**

Robert Mosko will present the standards of cemetery conservation from the early 90s, and 2000s. The conditions and issues are still the same but the way they are addressed, as well as the standard for which they are currently being addressed, has changed dramatically. What has influenced this change and how it currently impacts; as well as how it will impact cemeteries in the future will be presented and discussed. What needs to change and what Cemeterians, cemetery enthusiast, as well as genealogists can do to raise the standards will be presented along with the different cemetery regulations and requirements that have played a roll.

Robert Mosko, Founder and Chief Conservator of Mosko Cemetery Monument Services Group

2:45 pm **3D LiDAR: New Technology in Your Old Burying Ground–** Thomas Elmore, Founder of The GeoNAV Group, LLC Thomas Elmore will present his new technology to document your old burying ground. Using a LiDAR scanner, Tom creates fast and accurate 3D models of cemeteries in digital format. He will explain what LiDAR is, discuss current uses of LiDAR that are in the news, how it differs from ground penetrating radar (GPR), and how he got involved with it. Come learn about LiDAR and see several examples of different cemeteries that he has scanned and how that information can be used.

Connecticut Gravestone Network: Since 1993 – It's a Matter of Respect! ctgravestones.org

Admission \$15 for general public - Pay at the door

\$10 for CGN members

CGN dues - \$10 also payable at the door

For more information contact Ruthie

at ctgravelady@cox.net

Or call 860-643-5652

Directions: Middletown from Route 9 – Main St. to Washington St, between Broad and Pearl Sts.

Parking is on both sides of church and on street.

Entrance to downstairs hall is off of Broad Street which is also where the handicap parking is located.

There is also a public parking lot off Broad Street.