

New Hampshire
Old Graveyard News

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE OLD GRAVEYARD ASSOCIATION / FALL 2012

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Cover

Old Center Cemetery, Washington NH

The New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association was organized on April 10, 1976. It was incorporated as a voluntary association with the New Hampshire Secretary of State on April 12, 1977. The Association's mission is "to discover, restore, maintain, map and record inscriptions in the old burial places before they become completely lost."



July 2012 Minutes

The NHOGA met on July 15, 2012 in Washington NH at the Seventh Day Adventist Church. It was hosted by the Washington Historical Society.

Business Meeting

NHOGA President Richard Alperin opened the meeting with the Treasurer's and Secretary's reports which were read by Treasurer Richard Maloon. Both were accepted.

Under new business Richard Maloon discussed the NHOGA and Find-A-Grave (FAG) websites. Both sites use data from historical societies to form the databases. The NHOGA site has 4,350 records and references the FAG site, but does not have pictures. With Find-A-Grave one can start off with the graveyard name and name of one person, and later add photos and other information; each grave has a code number to aid research. NHOGA members are encouraged to cross-reference names on both sites and to report inconsistencies to Richard Maloon (richard.maloon@att.net). NHOGA would also like feedback from historical groups.

Upgrading the NHOGA brochure and handbook will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Richard Alperin related his efforts to restore a headstone from a private cemetery which ended up involving the police and threatened arrest. At that time work on a private cemetery required the written permission of a family descendent. With help from NHOGA and Representative David Watters, RSA 289:14A was passed in June 2011 to ease the way for volunteers. Now, if someone wants to restore a private graveyard, approval from town officials and abutter notification is all that is necessary. (The property owner does not own the cemetery, and the cemetery location should be noted in the deed.)

Washington Historical Society

Phil Barker, President of the Washington Historical Society, said there are half a dozen private cemeteries in Washington, at most, and three public cemeteries (one in East Washington and two in the village). The private cemeteries are very small, and perhaps were created when there was illness and quarantine. The corners of stone walls were often used to form small walled areas without gates. Some family names for these are known but no stones or sites have been identified.

Washington was first settled in 1768 and incorporated and named in honor of General George Washington in 1776. It had previously been named Camden, then New Concord and then Monadnock #8. The historical society is 30 years old and has three museums (a school house in East Washington, a house which is the main museum and a restored barn full of artifacts). Washington was the first town in the world to house an Adventist church.

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Cemeteries of the Upper Valley of New Hampshire

I grew up near a cemetery and my family thought nothing of packing a picnic lunch, finding a sunny spot, and leaning up against a Mr. or Mrs. Somebody who had long departed the world we knew. They're quiet, the dead, and they don't mind sharing their final patches of earth.

The Upper Valley of New Hampshire is flush with old graveyards, as is much of Northern New England, and can provide a unique glimpse into the lives and deaths of people who tread here before.

Lyme, New Hampshire – Old Cemetery

This spot combines good grooming with hints of rugged New England life -- many stones are tipped and jostled by the roots of grown pine trees but the grass is cut, the fences are upright and painted, and a tall white steeple rises from the church across the street. Woodpeckers knock about is right, willing to be mistaken for haunts. And not everything about gravestones has to be sad; Albert and Alice Stark seem joyful about their permanent residence. Their adjacent stones read: "We part no more," and, "We Alice.

Lebanon, New Hampshire – School Street Cemetery

Cemeteries adjacent to schools always strike a poignant tone -- evidence of life at both ends of the spectrum. Shouts from children and the occasional brightly colored ball float over the chain link fence that separates the living from the dead. A woman with the first name of Submit was buried here during a time when names were supposed to lead us overtly toward the values of those who named us. Humor resides next to tragic: while Ira Greeley was lucky enough (or

unfortunate, depending on how they got along) to be buried with "His Wives," Hannah and Sophronia, Daniel and Anna Driscoll had the sad misfortune to outlive all four of their children who all died before the age of 22 over a fifteen year span.

Hanover, New Hampshire – Pine Knoll Cemetery

For those people, living or dead, with a great appreciation of organization, this cemetery might serve as a sweet spot to pass an hour.

Plotted on a grid system, Pine Knoll rivals any modern city for accomplishing a blend of pedestrian-friendly paths and roads for vehicles if the weather is a bit chilly or one's knees a bit stiff. Benches and water spigots are plentiful, and wildflowers grow abundantly during summer months in their own Wildflower Area.

A bit of a contrast can be found down the road on Dartmouth Campus where the Wheelock Family grave anchors a winding, multi-tiered cemetery complete with winding wooded paths, crumbling stairs, and lots of shade. A fantastic place to climb, hike, roll, sled, and ponder gravestones from as earlier the seventeen hundreds to as recent as this century.

Enfield, New Hampshire – Pine Grove Cemetery

The residents and visitors of Pine Grove Cemetery have what is arguably one of the most spectacular views of any local cemetery. Lake Mascoma spreads in the near distance and several benches accommodate those who wish to linger. Older graves, including a Civil War Medal of Honor recipient, dominate the hilly area closest to the Community Lutheran Church. More contemporary sites -spread up the hill, bordered by fields on both sides and topped by yet another cemetery, Lakeview, distinguished by the abundance of stone angels propped against headstones and the rusted corpse of a blue pickup truck alongside the dirt drive.

An excerpt from "Cemeteries of the Upper Valley of New Hampshire and Vermont," by Andi Diehn

Find-A-Grave Success Story

Dear findagrave, (www.findagrave.com)

I was recently contacted by "Kathy" who had found my findagrave memorial for my husband's grandfather. During the 1960's, Kathy's grandmother had purchased a picture frame at a yard sale in Texas. When she opened the frame to remove the picture there was a marriage certificate in the back of it for Ogden Christy and Martha Bacon from Philadelphia dated 1877. Kathy's family kept the document for over 50 years hoping to return it to the family it belonged to. She found me . . . thanks to findagrave. Words cannot express my appreciation. I have been a member of findagrave for over eleven years. I have appreciated having a place to keep all of my ancestors death and burial information, and being able to share it with other researchers as well. I had no idea this miracle would be the result. Thank you!

NHOGA Visits Washington, NH

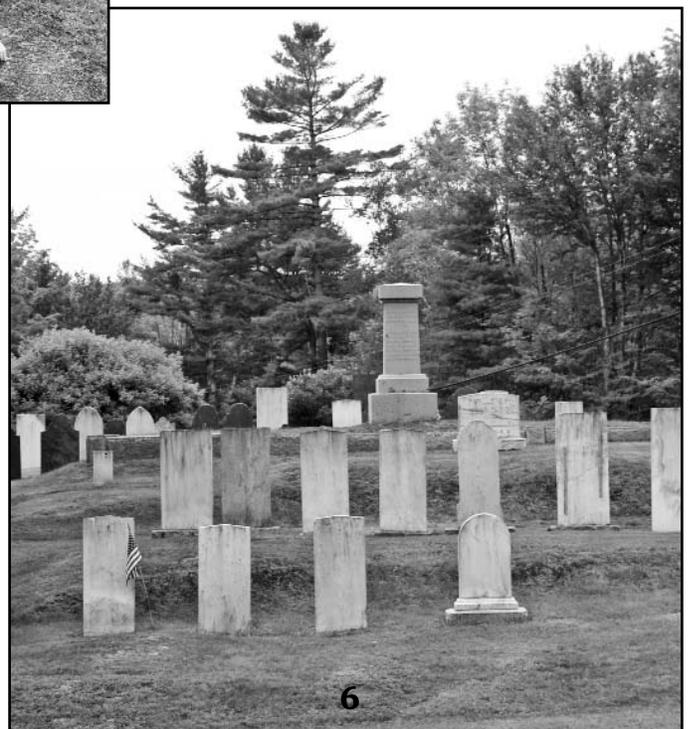


Seventh Day Adventist Cemetery (1, 2, 3)
Old Center Cemetery (4, 5, 6)



**Notable Names
in Washington
Cemeteries**

- Jepthae*
- Worcester*
- Jabin*
- Sumner*
- Lurinda*
- Alonzo*
- Loring*
- Tristan*
- Amellia*
- Alpha*
- Chauncey*
- Hepzibah*
- Ebenezer*
- Gustine*
- Luman*
- Philomelia*
- Artemas*
- Lianna*
- Eliphalet*
- Letitia*
- Ozias*
- Nabby*
- Lovey*



NHOGA May 2012 Meeting

The spring meeting of the New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association was held at the historic Weeks home-
stead in Greenland, NH on May 12, 2012. President Richard Alperin called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM. Treasurer Richard Maloon gave the Treasurer's report. He reported a balance of \$5,205.98. Recording Secretary Clark Bagnall read the minutes of the September meeting.

The summer meeting will be held at the Seventh Day Adventist church in Washington, NH. The meeting will be held on Sunday, July 15th so as not to conflict with their Saturday worship services. The fall meeting will be held Saturday, Sept. 8th in Bethlehem, NH.

Richard Alperin spoke about the history of RSA 289:14A, formerly HB 358 and the role of NHOGA members in getting it passed. Representative David Watters was the bill's sponsor.

The following 2012 slate of officers was proposed:

President: Richard Alperin
First Vice President: Ingrid Smith
Second Vice President: vacant
Corresponding Secretary: Bea Jillette
Recording Secretary: Clark Bagnall
Treasurer: Richard Maloon

A motion was made, seconded and passed that the Acting President cast one vote for the proposed slate.

Adele Wick introduced Paul Hughes, a second-generation expert on Greenland cemeteries, who spoke extensively on Greenland's history and the town's burial sites.

Native Americans were the first settlers and their remains have been located at various locations. Whether they had a permanent settlement or only a seasonal one is still debated.

Greenland was originally part of Portsmouth, then known as Strawberry Bank. Francis Champernowne was the first settler of European descent. He lived on a farm that he called "Greenland" and the name spread to that section of Portsmouth and was adopted as the official name when Greenland separated from Portsmouth in 1706. Another early settler was Samuel Haines, who was shipwrecked on the ship Angel Gabriel during his passage to America. The Weeks family was

also early in the area.

By 1651 this section of Portsmouth was becoming settled, and by 1672 a burial site had been established on the banks of the Winn cut River. A recent survey of this site using ground-penetrating radar revealed the location of about 150 burials.

Indian attacks were common. Settler John Kinston was killed in an early attack. In 1696 the Indian attacked the Portsmouth Plains district and many residents were taken captive. The captors stopped for breakfast at a location ever since known as Breakfast Hill. A rescue party from Portsmouth was able to overtake them there and free the captives. The site is located between Greenland and Rye, but is actually within the boundaries of Greenland.

Around this time a new burial site, known as the Meeting House Cemetery, was established as witnessed by the dates on the earliest stones. The Weeks house where our meeting was held was built from local bricks about 1710. In 1721 the separation from Portsmouth became complete with Greenland becoming a town in its own right.

In 1756 a new church was constructed. This was during the period of the Seven Years' War. A Mr. McClintock was the minister with the famous Jeremy Belknap as the Teacher. By 1767 the population had grown to 850.

Greenland was early involved in the fight for independence, with anti-tea meetings held as early as 1774. Paul Revere rode through town as part of his ride to warn the Patriots in Portsmouth about British plans. In all, about 100 men served in the Revolution.

George Washington visited town briefly in 1789 as part of his tour of the country as its first President. Around this time one of Martha Washington's slaves named Ona Judge escaped and made her way to NH. She settled in Greenland where she died in 1848.

Early in the 19th century the Congregational church installed a Paul Revere bell. In 1809 a Methodist Society was formed, that would survive until the 1920s. John Wingate Weeks, who gained fame at the Battle of Chippewa during the War of 1812, was later elected to Congress, the only resident of Greenland to be so honored.

In 1824 General Lafayette visited Greenland while touring NH. The same year the Brackett Academy was established in town. The 1820s also saw the beginnings of the anti-slavery movement, but the minister of the Congregation Church was ordered not to express his anti-slavery opinions during his sermons. In 1839 one

MAY continued on page 6

MAY continued from page 5

of the deacons of the church was excommunicated for his use of “ardent spirits”.

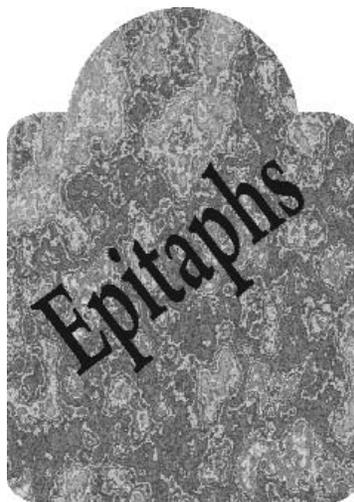
In 1840 the Eastern Division of the Boston and Maine (B&M) Railroad was constructed through town. Nine years later the Portsmouth and Concord Railroad came through. Greenland has three railroad stations still standing.

Early in the Civil War, Greenland was strongly against the war. The Congregational Society passes an anti-equality resolution, but the Minister, Mr. Robie, ignored it. The resolution was later rescinded. In 1865 the town passed a measure that attempted to disenfranchise the Democrats in town. The town’s debt from the war was \$18,000. After the war the Democrats had their voting rights restored.

The year 1877 saw the town’s first telephone installed – in the railroad station. The first residential telephone came in 1882. In 1895 the town passed an ordinance targeting “aggressive cyclists”. A trolley line was introduced in 1902.

After lunch Mr. Hughes lead a tour of several Greenland graveyards.

*Respectfully submitted,
Clark H Bagnall, Recording Secretary*



**Stop my friends as you pass by
Here on this grave cast an eye
Oh think on death and judgement too
For soon you’ll bid this world adieu.**

In Memory of Mrs. Comfort,
wife of John Barney
Who died Nov. 23, 1820
Ae. 70

Washington Center Cemetery



MINUTES continued from page 2

Gwen Gaskill, Archivist, displayed three large binders of public cemetery records. Volunteers used cards to record the cemetery name, row and lot number, birth and death dates, spouse, and genealogical information for each stone. They also took photographs. This information was entered into a computer and the cards were stored in a notebook. The records are being kept up to date by historical society members. (Summer people enjoy this work).

Gwen described the recent restoration of the Washington Town Hall which is “The Heartbeat of Washington.”

She said there is a man in Hillsborough who volunteers to locate graves for people. The Department of Vital Records charges \$10 per search except for older names which are free of charge. The New Boston Library has a collection of history books from New Hampshire towns which are a good source for genealogy research.

Washington recently acquired the diaries of deceased resident “Clara” which cover the years 1872-1911. Volunteers have transcribed the diaries into files stored on a dedicated computer. They provide an excellent record of births, marriages, deaths and life at that time. Gwen has created a program for groups based on the diaries which she presents in period costume.

In the afternoon Phil and Gwen led tours of the Seventh Day Adventist Church Cemetery and the Old Center Cemetery in Washington.

*Respectfully submitted,
Bea Jillette, Acting Secretary*

**NHOGA is for:
Historians,
Cemetery Commissioners,
Genealogists, and
Anyone interested in old graveyards.
Join us in September!!!**

Founder of Dead Poets Society visits bards' graves

On the big screen, the leader of the Dead Poets Society at an all-boys prep school was an inspirational teacher played by Robin Williams.

In real life, it's a balding amateur poet who drives around in his "Poemobile," visiting and documenting the graves of dead poets and calling attention to their works.

Walter Skold, founder of the Dead Poets Society of America, just finished a three-month road trip in which he visited the graves of 150 poets in 23 states. Skold boasts that he set a literary land speed record of 1.66 gpd (graves per day) over the course of his 15,000-mile journey.

While his graveside poetry readings and occasional cemetery sleepovers evoke the macabre, Skold insists his intentions are honorable.

"It's not really a morbid project but rather a way to honor our liter-

ary forebearers and to historically resurrect their works," Skold said.

His reports, which sometimes include offbeat tombstone art, are posted online; he encourages others to get out and find the graves of dead poets and to post their video and photos online.

Skold, 49, of Freeport, founded Dead Poets Society of America a year ago, leaving his job as a public school technology teacher to pursue his passions of poetry and photography. For his trip, he bought a used cargo van with a rack for cameras and supplies, shelves for books and a desk that, in a pinch, doubles as a bed.

Over the course of his 90-day journey, Skold visited the gravesites of giants of the poetry world including Robert Frost, Walt

Whitman, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, as well as lesser known poets like Dudley Randall, whose Broadside Press published many leading African-American writers.

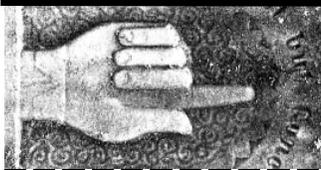
He's making a film documentary called "Finding Frost: Digging Up America's Dead Poets." Next year, he hopes to scout out America's dead poets buried in Europe.

He was especially intrigued by poets who've been forgotten altogether. He calls them the "doubly dead" because they suffered a second death when their works were "slowly consigned to literary oblivion." Some of those include Madison Cawein, Eugene Fields, Virginia Boyle and Elizabeth Hollister Frost, he said.

The Library of Congress believes Skold's effort is the first such literary undertaking, said Peter Armenti, digital reference specialist whose focus is poetry.

Condensed from an article by David Sharp, NH Sunday News, 11-01-09

Please send interesting articles to Bea Jillette, PO Box 1016, Goshen NH 03752 and note publication name, date and author.



Dues are paid from May to May of each year, and are used to cover the cost of the newsletter and various NHOGA projects. If "2013" is on your mailing label you are up to date!!!

New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / DUES PAYMENT

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street or PO Box: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

DUES \$10.00 / GRAVEYARD RESTORATION HANDBOOK: \$4.00

Make checks payable to NHOGA and send to Treasurer:
Richard Maloon, 117 Amherst Road, Merrimack NH 03054-3820



New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association
PO Box 1016
Goshen NH 03752

Visit our web page at www.nhoga.org

**Next NHOGA Meeting
Saturday
September 8, 2012
Bethlehem Visitors Center
Historical Museum
Bethlehem NH**

- 9:30: Registration and refreshments
- 10:00: NHOGA business meeting.
The Bethlehem Historical Society will describe the restoration of the Mt. Washington Cemetery which was initiated in 2006.
- 12:00: Bring a bag lunch. Beverages and desserts will be provided by the Bethlehem Historical Society.
- 1:00: Tour of Mt. Washington Cemetery.

**Directions to
Bethlehem Visitors Center
Historical Museum
2182 Main Street**

Most people, unless they live in the very north of New Hampshire, should take I-93 North.

Then take exit 40 onto Route 10 / 202 / Main Street to Bethlehem. Bear right to the Visitors Center.

The Visitors Center is across the street from the post office.

