

2014

SPRING & SUMMER

Old Graveyard News

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE OLD GRAVEYARD ASSOCIATION

**2014 NHOGA OFFICERS &
COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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Vacant

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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 object of the association is to promote knowledge of New Hampshire history by bringing together people interested in old graveyards; to foster interest in the discovery, restoration and maintenance of these graveyards; and to preserve records and information which relate to them.

COVER: East Unity Cemetery, Unity NH

September 14, 2013 Meeting

Unity Town Hall, Unity NH
892 2nd NH Turnpike
Host: Unity Historical Society

Officers present:

Richard Alperin, President
Ingrid Smith, Vice President
Bea Jillette, Corresponding Secretary
Richard Maloon, Treasurer
25 attendees

A welcome was extended by the Unity Historical Society President, who introduced Pres. Alperin. Pres. Alperin explained how he got involved in NHOGA, which was after he began restoring an old graveyard near his home in Newmarket, NH. He noted in particular his efforts to change state laws to allow better legal maintenance of graveyards, and in June, 2011, Gov. Lynch signed the new law. On Jan. 1st, 2012 the law went into effect. Now, to work on and maintain graveyards, you need to just obtain permission from town government or their designee (RSA 289:14A).

Pres. Alperin called the meeting to order at 10:15am.

Richard Maloon gave the Treasurer's report: as of Aug. 31st, 2013, there was a balance of \$2,249.51. Bea Jillette read the minutes of the May meeting held in Newport. On motion made and seconded, the minutes and Treasurer's reports were approved as read.

New Business: Richard Maloon mentioned that the 2014 edition of the *Handbook for Preservation and Restoration of Old Graveyards* is on the NHOGA website. We are looking for comments before final publication. Please let Richard know any errors or omissions.

Richard also made an announcement about D-2, a biocide used for cleaning headstones. Discounts are available for non-profits. There was some discussion about cleaning overall. The Association for Gravestone Studies is referenced on the NHOGA website and has pamphlets available. Jonathan Appell, who also has a website, is a professional gravestone cleaner. While NHOGA recommends you hire a professional, much can be done with simple water and Simple Green Stone.

Pres. Alperin asked the membership about recent interest in accepting ads in our newsletter. We will check our by-laws and vote in Spring. A member also raised the issue of liability.

Other Business: Pres. Alperin noted that the number of paying members is decreasing and we need to have the association remain viable. Please encourage new members. Dues are only \$10 annually. Membership forms are available on the website and on page 7 of this newsletter. Members who have stopped paying dues are still getting newsletters. We need to do more electronically and decide what to do with non-members who are still on our mailing list. Perhaps send them a note

(MEETING continued on page 3)

NHOGA Presentations & Hands-On Workshop

April 10 — Sanbornton Historical Society: 7:00pm

“What Do You Do With an Old Graveyard?”

Sanbornton Public Library, 27 Meeting House Hill Road

May 20 — Alton Historical Society: 7:00pm

“What Do You Do With an Old Graveyard?”

Gilman Library Lower Level, 100 Main Street

June 14 — Goshen: 10:15am

Gravestone Repair, a Hands-On Demonstration

Four Corners Cemetery, Route 31 and Four Corners Road

(MEETING continued from page 3)

indicating they will be removed from mailing list unless they “rejoin”. This will be on the agenda at the next meeting. The fiscal year ends at the end of April.

Motion made, seconded and passed to adjourn, 10:40 am.

Program Speaker: Fred Bellimer, Sexton for Unity cemeteries, gave an overview of his involvement and some of the issues he has encountered regarding grounds and cemeteries. Unity has a \$7,500 budget currently for cemeteries, including 2 people/20 hours weekly. Oldest cemetery in East End, on Gen. Stark’s Highway. 4 active cemeteries, with burials in 3. They have experienced theft of at least one gravestone, sadly. The oldest stone found was 1772/4 in the East End cemetery. He suggested that visitors go to this cemetery on Gilman Pond Rd. There’s one stone that looks like a puzzle, and truly the gravestone was found in 5 pieces, and restored.

Mr. Bellimer indicated they have been using scrap stones from a local quarry to shim gravestone bases that need repair, and works very well. He then answered questions regarding carving styles/designs. Unity cemeteries have mostly marble stones, with some slate. They also have some soapstone stones which he was able to repair. Discussion followed in general about repairs.

They have records of all their cemeteries as well, and a book of photos of many of the gravestones. They are fortunate to have a 1997 Early Families publication, compiled by Kathleen Beals, Historical Society Member. This excellent publication include cemetery inscriptions as well as vital records.

Pres. Alperin reopened meeting at 10:55. He appointed Ingrid as chair of the nominating committee, who asked for 2 volunteers to serve. Martha & Sue Hunt to serve. The nominating committee will present a slate of officers at May meeting. Sue Hunt was appointed auditor to serve until May. On motion made, seconded, and passed, the reopened meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

Following lunch on their own, interested members were taken on a tour of some of the cemeteries in Unity.

*Respectfully submitted,
Martha Hunt, Secretary pro tem*



Were I so Tall to Reach the Pole
Or grasp the Ocean with my Span
I must be mesuer'd by my Soul
The Mind's the Standard of the Man.

Amos Tute, Vernon Vermont

Notable Names

Unity Center Cemetery

Licera
Florilla
Hezekiah
Ransom
Prosper
Ucal

East Unity Cemetery

Matson
Octavius
Chiomata
Zeroyda
Orpha
Martly
Tappan

Carroll Brook Cemetery

Soviah
Glynda
Eliphalet
Lewman
Paschal
Lurena
Relief

Your Letters

March 13, 2014

Dear members of the New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association,

I was exploring New Hampshire in *familysearch.org* this morning and discovered your website when I was searching information about NH cemeteries. This is such a fantastic organization and I must commend you all for your desire and efforts to preserve the old cemeteries in New Hampshire. I've been researching the Dickinson family in New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts since I began my genealogy "hobby" in 2007 when I retired from teaching elementary school. As a descendant of the Dickinson family living "way out in California," I appreciate your informative association and website and as long as my budget can handle it, I hope to support your efforts by being a member in the coming years.

I recently purchased the wonderful *History of Monroe, New Hampshire* by Frances Anne Johnson, published in 1954, and have several references to those whom I believe to be the ancestors of my great grandfather. Reuben Dickinson, b. 24 Dec 1817 in Bradford VT (not proved but was written in the family bible) then moved to Johnstown, Rock County WI (then Wisconsin Territory) in 1836 (according to my great grandmother's obituary) and raised his family. One of his daughters was Sarah Edith Dickinson, my maternal grandmother. FYI: the Reuben Dickinson memorial is on Find-A-Grave in N. Johnstown Cemetery, Rock County, WI, memorial #13203399.

Perhaps you could let me know my next steps in securing available cemetery information in New Hampshire, specifically in the town of Monroe, formerly Lyman.

Thank you for letting me be a part of your ongoing efforts to preserve the cemeteries in New Hampshire which will secure the success of today's and tomorrow's descendants and genealogical researchers!

Sincerely,
Donna Burleaud
dunafishi@gmail

Carroll Brook Cemetery, Unity



Members “Adopt” a Cemetery:

Sisters Take on Task of Documenting North Newport, NH Cemetery

Sue and Marty Hunt have been frequenting the North Newport (Northville) Cemetery all their lives, as several generations of their maternal ancestors are buried there, as well as their parents.

At a Newport Historical Society meeting in the spring of 2013, they listened to NHOGA Treasurer Richard Maloon talk on cleaning and restoration, and met up with Ken Dennis, Newport’s Buildings, Grounds & Cemetery Manager, and Ray Reid, a local retiree who was then voluntarily taking on the task of restoring broken and leaning stones in the North Newport Cemetery.

They found these two men passionate about their work and sorely lacking in manpower to verify or document the older sections of cemeteries. On the way home, the sisters decided there was a mission to be taken on – documenting all the graves in their favorite cemetery!

They already had a head start with records they found online. Julie Cooper had transcribed data from cemetery records stored at the Newport Library. The Hunts entered all that data into a spreadsheet, sorted it by grave number, and headed off one weekend to start validating the information. Painstakingly Marty read all inscriptions while Sue compared, corrected, and added info by hand into the spreadsheet. Marty also took photos of each stone, identifying them with the appropriate grave number.

By fall, they had finished just the “A” section, with over 400 graves identified. As soon as the snow leaves, they will start on the “B”



section, which includes some of the oldest stones. They anticipate this might go more slowly as they attempt to read the weathered inscriptions. Marty is excited to try the “tinfoil” method to assist in reading worn stones. Just wrap the gravestone in the thinnest foil you can find (dull side out) and press in to the stone. There is no need to attach it to the stone. This does no harm, and allegedly enhances the clarity of the carving!

Once finished, they look forward to making this information available online, as well as to the town, library, and Historical Society.

“This is definitely a labor of love!” says Sue. “It involves a sharp eye, a sense of curiosity, and of course humor when all else fails.”

Marty agrees, and both sisters feel a sense of closeness to all those buried there. They would encourage anyone to help in documenting a cemetery where current records are lacking or incomplete; it’s a service to many generations to come!

*By Marty Hunt,
NHOGA Recording Secretary*

Police chief considering cemetery security system in Claremont

There have been no arrests yet in relation to the two vandalism attacks at the West Pleasant Street Cemetery, and Police Chief Alex Scott is looking for ways to prevent any more.

More than 100 gravestones have been damaged at the historic cemetery this year. One vandalism attack in July saw 75 graves desecrated, and almost 40 more were damaged in another attack earlier this month.

Scott said this week he is looking at ways to safeguard the cemetery against any future attacks. Police are investigating different surveillance systems that would not only capture images of any suspects, but also alert officers when someone was in the cemetery.

Scott wants to have the right system that could be used in other parts of the city as needed.

“We wouldn’t want it to be a fixed system that couldn’t be used in any other location,” he said.

Scott has considered using game cameras that hunters sometimes deploy to help track game, but those devices would not be

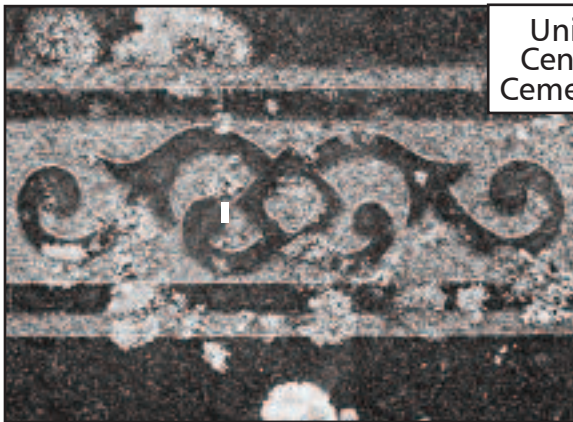
(SECURITY continued on page 7)



NHOGA Visits Unity, NH



East Unity Cemetery



Unity Center Cemetery



Carroll Brook Cemetery



(SECURITY continued from page 5)

able to cover enough territory for the cemetery, Scott said. While there are some high-end security systems that will do what he wants, Scott is anxious to find a cost effective way to secure the cemetery.

Police were last called to the cemetery on Sept. 15 to respond to the second reported case of vandalism. Officers found 37 gravestones broken, knocked over, or otherwise damaged by the vandal or vandals. Police are still searching for those behind the July vandalism attack that saw 75 gravestones hit, doing several thousand dollars worth of damage.

The West Pleasant Street Cemetery dates back to the 1840's and is the final resting place for many notable Claremont citizens including William Henry Harrison Moody and Samuel P. Fiske.

The damage from the attacks has been repaired, and Scott would like to catch whoever is behind the vandalism. Scott said police are looking at whether or not the same suspect or suspects are behind both attacks.

"The first inclination is that (the two acts of vandalism) may be related, but it could also certainly be a copycat case," he said.

There is a \$1,000 reward being offered for anyone who brings police information that leads to an arrest and conviction in the case. Anyone with information is urged to call police at 603-542-9538.

By Damien Fisher, The Eagle Times, 9-27-13

**The New Hampshire
Old Graveyard Association
would like to extend special thanks
to ccinspire.com
for their generosity.**

A note from the NHOGA Vice President

At one of the graveyards we visited we noticed the symbol F L T (each letter enclosed in a circle) and we all wondered what it stood for!

It's "Odd Fellows." I was writing to my daughter about it (she's in Florida) and she immediately looked it up and sent me the detailed information! The letters stand for Friendship, Brotherly Love, and Truth. Sometimes there's a dove on top of the marker. We saw the one with the three links of chain.

Ingrid Smith



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 "2014" 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

**This is your last issue if you have not paid dues for 2 years.
*Please renew your membership (see page 7).***

2014 Spring & Summer NHOGA Meetings

May 10, 2014 Canterbury NH The Meeting Room

North or South: Take Rt. 93 to Exit 18. Go left at the end of the exit ramp, and head east toward Canterbury on W (West?) Road which becomes Carter Hill Road. At the end turn right onto Route 132, then first left onto Center Road. Follow Center Road to The Library at 9 Center Road. The Meeting Room is to the right of the library.

9:30am
Registration and coffee

10:00am
Host and NHOGA
Business Meetings

10:30am
Presentation by host

12:00
Bring a bag lunch.
Drinks and desserts will be
served by the host.

1:00pm
Tour of several local
cemeteries

July 12, 2014 – Grantham NH Historical Society Museum 34 Dunbar Hill Road

