

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE OLD GRAVEYARD ASSOCIATION / SUMMER 2007

**2006 NHOGA OFFICERS &
COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

President

Arthur G. Jillette, Jr.
PO Box 1016, Goshen NH 03752-1016
863-2788 / agj@world.std.com

1st Vice President

Barbara Benoit
23 Garden Wall Lane, Center Harbor NH 03226-3344
253-6744

2nd Vice President

Ingrid Smith
Box 308, Center Harbor NH 03226
253-6997

Recording Secretary

Joan Casarotto
630 Cleveland Hill Road, Tamworth NH 03886
323-8639

Corresponding Secretary

Richard Maloon
117 Amherst Road, Merrimack NH 03054-3820
424-5621
richard.maloon@worldnet.att.net

Newsletter

Arthur & Bea Jillette
PO Box 1016, Goshen NH 03752
863-2788 / beajil@yahoo.com

Treasurer/Membership

Jean Mertinooke
24 Highland Road, Kensington NH 03833-5850
394-7817

Auditor

Ann Sottery
280 Center Street, Wolfeboro NH 03894-4811
569-1848

Records Clerk/Computer Committee Chair

Clark Bagnall
82 Stillwater Drive, Nashua NH 03062-2227
888-6057 / cbagnall@elcom.com

Scrapbook Chair

Nancy Van Doorn
PO Box 442, Farmington NH 03835
755-2001

Consultant

Louise Tallman
PO Box 364, Rye Beach NH 03871
964-5750

Web Master

Trina Purcell
1566 High ST, Unit A, Denver CO 80218-1716
720-865-1817
tpurcell@denverlibrary.org

Front Cover: Hershey Cemetery, Wolfeboro

2007 Meeting Schedule

May 12 - Wolfeboro

July 14 - Nashua

September 15 - Newbury

Minutes for May 2007 meeting

The May 12, 2007 meeting of NHOGA was held at the Wolfeboro Historical Society's Pleasant Valley School House. President Arthur Jillette, Jr. presided.

Recording Secretary Joan Casarotto read the minutes of the September 9, 2006 meeting which were accepted as read.

Treasurer Jean Mertinooke gave the Treasurer's report from September 1, 2006 to April 30, 2007 and the Annual Report from May 1, 2006 to May 1, 2007. Both reports were approved. Jean read Ann Sottery's audit report. A board meeting was set for 10:00am on June 2, 2007 at Jean Mertinooke's.

Jean read a letter from Nancy Welch of Dayton, Maine about how pleased she was with an article in the Spring 2007 Rubbings about following rules relating to distances from cemeteries for other things to be built.

No decision was made about having NHOGA tee shirts.

Corresponding Secretary Richard Maloon reported on the Cheswell gravesite. Is anyone interested in helping at Pawtuckaway? Merrimack Historical Society has a list of three cemeteries in town that need work done. Is anyone interested in working on one?

Arthur Jillette talked about working in a graveyard in Goshen. Barre Pack used an epoxy to reset stones in their bases which works by pressure only. They also replaced bad metal ones with fiberglass pins. They sprayed D2 saturated solution on granite to prevent damage from rain. The solution gets under dirt and lifts it up to float away.

The Wolfeboro Historical Society President offered the "History of the Town of Wolfeborough, New Hampshire" by Benjamin Franklin Parker to those present.

Wolfeboro Historical Society President James Rogers spoke about the Wolfeboro Historical Society's background. It was formed in 1926. Property was bequeathed to the town in 1917. There are three buildings on this property: Pleasant Valley Schoolhouse built in 1805, the Clark House built in 1798 and the Firehouse which is a replica built in 1984. This one room schoolhouse was added in the 1950's.

(MINUTES continued on page 3)

The old barn was torn down and will soon be replaced by an 1824 barn from Hampton.

Governor John Wentworth was highly esteemed up to the Revolutionary War. In 1778 he moved to Nova Scotia where he died in 1820. Wolfeboro was originally called Kingswood and had several names. The town incorporated in 1770 and was named for General James Wolfe. William Rogers in 1762 was the first settler. His father was Lt. Charles Rogers who was in the French & Indian War. He was a Tory. The first permanent settler was Ben Blake. He walked barefoot from Vermont to Wolfeboro. James Rogers listed some names to look for when we go out into the cemeteries.

Glenn Knoblock is a member of the Wolfeboro Historical Society Board. He recently moved to Wolfeboro. He had previously lived in the Portsmouth area where he worked with Louise Tallman on documenting and improving cemeteries. On July 25, 2006 Glenn was one of the people that presented Louise with a plaque for her work with the Portsmouth Mayor's Blue Ribbon Cemetery Committee. Portsmouth Mayor Steve Marchand also presented Louise with the Blue Ribbon Cemetery Committee award July 25, 2006.

Glen has authored books of gravestone photos taken throughout the state such as *Historic Burial Grounds of the New Hampshire Seacoast Area* and *Cemeteries Around Lake Winnepesaukee*. He looks for genealogy, art work and settlement patterns. Most older stones are in the seacoast area. Wolfeboro was granted in 1759. The first successful settler was here in 1767. Governor John Wentworth was a driving force settling the area and had a road from the seacoast to Wolfeboro built. South Wolfeboro was settled first and North Wolfeboro was next. In most cases, a cemetery would be next to a church, but there is an interesting Isaiah Orne stone in the Orne Cemetery, North Main Street. He talked about interesting stones in local area cemeteries. He also wrote a book about .

We then adjourned for lunch. After lunch each group chose their own cemeteries to visit. Directions to each one were given.

Joan A. Casarotto,
Recording Secretary

Many thanks to
Joan Casarotto
Ruth E. Hammon
Richard D. Longo
Addie Pickett
Carleton Vance
for contributions to
this issue of
Rubbings.



Pine Tree undertakes a Cemetery Quest

CONWAY: Fourth graders at the Pine Tree School in Center Conway have put together a Cemetery Quest for the Center Conway Cemetery. This quest is part of a larger community quest project that was written as part of a technology grant by Paul Getchell, tech aide at the school.

The Cemetery Quest takes participants on a historical tour of the oldest part of the Center Conway Cemetery. Each participant receives a map of the cemetery, a set of 18 quest clues, and an informational brochure. The brochure has pictures and interesting information about grave markers, types of granite used in headstones, local history about important Center Conway families, and much more.

Through a generous contribution from Ben Falcey of Arthur's Memorials in Redstone, each quest site is marked by a numbered granite stone. The beginning of the quest is marked by a large granite stone which is inscribed on both sides. This stone is behind the mausoleum at the cemetery's northeast corner.

Center Conway Cemetery Quest maps, brochures and clues can be found at the Center Conway Cemetery where the Quest begins.

Locals and tourists alike will enjoy this quest while learning about the history of our community. For more information, please contact either Penny Merrill or Sally Smith at Pine Tree School.

The Conway Daily Sun, 9/25/06

Cemeteries Seek Breathing Clientele

PHILADELPHIA: The dinner was first-class, with butlers serving hors d'oeuvres and the strains of "Blue Danube" tastefully muffling the festive din. This nine-course recreation of the last supper aboard an ill-fated ocean liner was the culmination of Titanic Day at Laurel Hill Cemetery, one of a growing number of historic cemeteries to re-brand themselves as destination necropolises for weekend tourists.

Historic cemeteries, desperate for money to pay for badly needed restorations, are reaching out to the public in ever more unusual ways, with dog parades, bird-watching lectures, Sunday jazz concerts, brunches with star chefs, Halloween parties in the crematory and even a nudie calendar.

Laurel Hill, the resting place of six Titanic victims, promotes itself as an "underground museum." The sold-out Titanic dinner, including a tour of mausoleums, joined the "Dead White Republicans" tour ("the city's power brokers, in all their glory and in all their shame"), the "Birding Among the Buried" tour, and "Sinners, Scandals and Suicides," including a visit to the grave of "a South Philly gangster who got whacked when he tried to infiltrate the Schuylkill County numbers racket."

As Americans choose cremation in record numbers, Victorian cemeteries like Laurel Hill and Green-Wood in Brooklyn are repositioning themselves for the afterlife: their own.

Repositories of architectural and sculptural treasures, like Tiffany windows and weeping marble

maidens atop tombs, the cemeteries face dwindling endowments, years of vandalism and neglect, shrinking space for new arrivals and a society that, until recently, collectively distanced itself from their meandering byways.

The new cemetery tourism – a subterranean version of the History Channel – is also a means of developing brand loyalty in the wake of what Joseph Dispenza, president of the historic Forest Lawn in Buffalo, calls a "diminishing customer base."

A decade ago, prostitutes and packs of wild dogs populated the city's oldest burial ground, which has monuments designed by Benjamin Henry Latrobe, designer of the Capitol. Then the preservation association began courting dog owners. Today, the 33-acre cemetery serves as a historical dog park where dogs run in Elysian fields, free to commune with the headstones. Owners pay \$125 a year for the privilege, plus \$40 a dog – bringing in \$80,000 so far. In many ways, it is a throwback to the days of old, when the then-rural cemeteries like Green-Wood and Mount Auburn in Cambridge, Mass. (1831), rivaled Niagara Falls as romantic tourist destinations. These "gardens of graves" were settings for Sunday picnics and a precursor to Central Park and other great public spaces.

The Titanic tour was the brain-child of J. Joseph Edgette, a professor at nearby Widener University who is tracking the graves of Titanic victims and plans to document all 2,200. "We're rebranding ourselves as a heritage tourism destination," Mr. Mitchell said.

At a daffodil brunch in April at the Oakwood Cemetery in Troy, N.Y., omelet chefs whisked eggs amid Siena marble walls and soaring Tiffany windows, in the Gardner Earl Memorial Chapel and Crematorium. The 1848 cemetery has burial space for the next 200 years and an annual operating deficit of more than \$100,000, according to Theresa Page, president of the board of trustees.

Its issues are dire: volunteers have been clearing brush that made about 10,000 graves invisible. The gravesite of Samuel Wilson, the man behind "Uncle Sam," America's national symbol, has been inaccessible for years, since 125-year-old water pipes burst beneath the roads. The cemetery has asked Congress for \$1.7 million for reconstruction.

To raise its profile and money, Oakwood will stage a Renaissance fair this summer, with jousting matches among knights in shining armor. It was inspired by a medieval-style wedding there, for which the groom made his own armor.

"We want them to think, "Wow, I think I'd like to spend my eternity here," Ms. Page said of efforts to lure visitors. "It's a way of saying, "We would love you to stay with us permanently."

Excerpted from an article by Patricia Leigh Brown, New York Times, 5-25-2007

Cemeteries, burial grounds, mausoleums and volunteers sought

ROCHESTER: It seems to me that every time we put an article into The Rochester Times we invariably end up with more previously unknown – to us, anyway – cemeteries, burial grounds and mausoleums. This is good for the City of Rochester, because they need to know where each and every cemetery, burial ground or mausoleum is located so that they can be entered onto the current Rochester tax maps.

The inclusion of a cemetery, burial ground or mausoleum does not mean anything to the taxpayer, because it does not increase or decrease your yearly tax bill. This aids the city Planning Board, Zoning Board and other boards or commissions that deal with contractors and people who wish to purchase or sell land – they can now say that there is a cemetery, burial ground or mausoleum at such and such a location on the property involved, and that the NH RSAs clearly state that no one can construct, destruct, excavate or otherwise alter the land within a cemetery, burial ground or mausoleum, or within 25 feet of the boundaries of said cemetery, burial ground or mausoleum.

The state calls this a “buffer zone” and it is considered sacred ground, as is the cemetery, burial ground or mausoleum itself. Nothing can be added or taken away.

Please do not assume that just because a cemetery, burial ground or mausoleum has been located on your property for as long as you have resided there that we know about it and its location. We would gladly receive information on cemeteries, burial grounds or mau-

soleums that we already know about rather than miss finding out about one that we do not yet know about. So, if any resident knows of a recently found cemetery, burial ground or mausoleum – no matter how small (remember, one headstone constitutes a cemetery, burial ground or mausoleum) – please contact me at 335-5704 or email storia@metrocast.net.

Any resident or property owner has absolutely no responsibility to do anything at all with a cemetery, burial ground or mausoleum on their property -- except to remember that nothing may be removed from it, not even a stone from its stone wall. It is against the law! Also remember: You may own the property that a cemetery, burial ground or mausoleum is located on, however, you do not own the cemetery, burial ground or mausoleum itself or the 25-foot “buffer zone” surrounding it.

The task of properly locating, identifying and chronicling the interred at the approximately 150 cemeteries in the City of Rochester has become daunting for the small group of citizens who began this work in late 1989, when only 72 cemeteries were known. Using lists and maps from previous research done by Ethel Marzda, Florence Smith, Edward and Shirley Leslie, as well as the work of more recent volunteers, I have compiled a list

with vital statistics of over 14,000 names of people interred within Rochester’s cemeteries, which we figure is about a third of the total number. Using information from many helpful citizens, over 100 more cemeteries have been physically identified and verified.

The additional work that needs to be done on each burial ground consists of: visibly inspecting each; accounting for every person who is said to be interred there and find those headstones of the people who cannot be accounted for; taking photographs of each burial ground; doing GPS readings on each burial ground; transcribing all of the information available on each headstone, foot stone, obelisk and monument, then transcribing all of this acquired information into various computer programs and placing all these burial grounds into the detailed city tax maps.

If you like to be outdoors, often in the woods, performing physical labor (sometimes heavy, most times not), have an interest in the preservation of the city’s history, and would like to be a part of this incredible project, please contact me. I am seeking additional volunteers – both individuals and groups – to complete this work before the information on the grave markers and headstones is lost forever, or any burial ground disappears beneath fallen leaves or a contractor’s bulldozer, never to be found again.

At the present time, my “team” consists of three other longtime volunteers – Michelle V. Smith, Laura C. Thomas and John R. Quinn, our resident artist. Please contact me at 335-5704 or storia@metrocast.net for further information and to sign on with this great team.

By Richard D. Longo, Rochester Times, 2-15-07

Letters

Dear Arthur Jillette,

This letter is an introduction to *The Society For The Preservation Of Rochester Burial Grounds*, a new organization that was formed for the purpose of the caretaking and preservation of all of Rochester's burial grounds, cemeteries, mausoleums and memorials. Besides the caretaking and preservation of these sacred grounds, we also visit each location and transcribe all of the information available on every headstone, footstone, monument and obelisk; first onto paper, then it is entered into our numerous computer programs for eventual final compilation and publication.

We also take photographs of each burial ground or other location for visual evidence of its existence and future reference. Every location is also exactly located with a hand held G.P.S. unit. This information will eventually be added on to the Rochester Tax Maps. The G.P.S. coordinates will also be used to locate each location because in the old Deeds and other documents concerning the property, the reference points (old trees, large rocks, old reads, etc.) used in the past are mostly long gone the way of so called "progress."

We also fight to see that the state laws – the New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated; the R.S.A.'s as they are commonly known, are strictly enforced because there are no local laws concerning any of the old Family Burial Grounds and Mausoleums. There are very few local laws on the books concerning cemeteries and every one of them is concerned only with municipal cemeteries; cemeteries that the city inters people in. We will do whatever it takes to make sure that these laws are enforced, even if we have to go through the State government to do it. Passive resistance is another method we use concerning enforcement of the State laws.

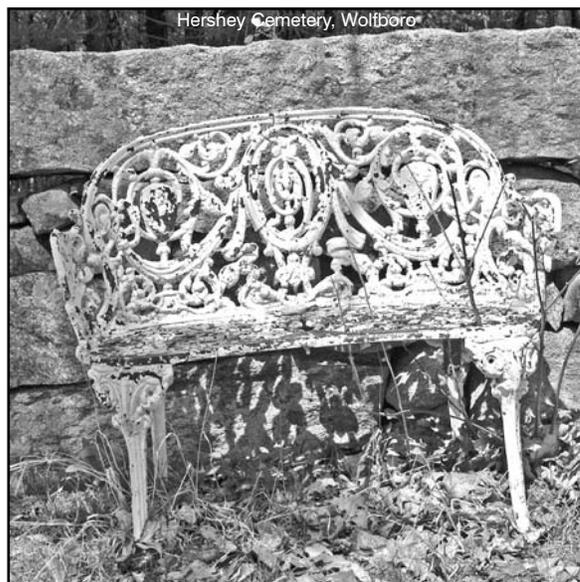
One of our computer programs will list every person who has been interred within Rochester's boundaries. At present we have over 16,500 names listed – with birth dates (when available); death dates and maiden names (again, when available) – which we figure is about half of the eventual total. When the initial transcriptions are made we

also draw diagrams of each plot, numbering each object, so that future genealogists and historical researchers can find any particular headstone, etc. that they are interested in.

We also hope, in the near future, if it can be arranged, to handle all of the perpetual care money that has been set aside by numerous local families' estates solely for the purpose of perpetual care of their respective burial grounds. At present there is no person or organization performing this critical chore. We are also working on becoming the Rochester Cemetery Trustees, of which, presently, there are none. The R.S.A.'s state that every municipality must have Cemetery Trustees to do exactly what this Society was formed for. One of the main obligations of the Cemetery Trustees is to disperse the Perpetual Care money and keep accurate records of the same.

We also find the "homes" of any found headstones, etc. that obviously do not belong where they were found. If you have any further information or have any questions, comments, or would like to join our Society, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Thank you. Historically,
Richard D. Longo, President
603-335-5704 / storia@metrocast.net



SHARE your problems, projects, tips and research!!!
Please send letters, photos, and articles to
Bea Jillette, PO Box 1016, Goshen NH 03752
or e-mail beajil@yahoo.com

The dead tell her their tales

'The Cemetery Lady' gathers secrets in the graveyards

If the cemeteries of Henniker could talk, they would reveal 349 untimely deaths over the past two and a half centuries, the vast majority of which were of men. They would recall a young girl scalded to death in a tub of beer in 1808 and a young man poisoned by chestnuts in 1840. But since the cemeteries' secrets have long been buried, it is left to Martha Taylor, archives chairwoman of the Henniker Historical Society, to unearth them.

Taylor, 65, a retired accountant, recently finished compiling a record of the town's untimely deaths from 1761 to 1999. That's nearly 250 years of accidents, suicides, murders, justifiable homicides and military deaths. She spent four years working on the project, which supplemented work she has done in her official positions as a cemetery trustee, a member of the board of directors of the new cemetery association and a member of the historic district commission – which oversees the town's old cemetery.

"She's known as the cemetery lady," joked her husband, Ron Taylor.

Taylor's interest was sparked after a historical society volunteer's granddaughter asked whether there had been any murders in Henniker. Taylor discovered eight, the first in 1894 and the last three in the 1970's. There were three more justifiable homicides.

"It just interested me, and I don't know why." Taylor said.

Taylor spent months at town hall and the historical society poring over death certificates, vital records and history books. Although a town history book published in 1880 listed accidents and suicides, later information had to be obtained by finding each death certificate – a task that took hours a day, three days a week, over a couple of months.

The result is a thick binder of neatly typed records of names, ages, dates and causes of death, along with related newspaper articles.

She noted that the causes of accidents (of which there were 220) and manner of suicides (76) have changed significantly over the years. The first auto accident was in 1923, but since then, accidents involving cars and motorcycles have become the major cause of accidental death, with 69 over the years. Earlier accidents were generally from burns or drowning. "They had hot water in barns to clean the cows after milking, and children would fall in," Taylor said. "Or children would fall into a cauldron of hot water for cooking near the fireplace." Early suicides were by hanging; later ones tended toward gunshots.

Some of the stories tell sagas worthy of any soap opera. Henry Young, 48, was a dwarf who, in 1900, became jealous of his wife and in the middle of the night slit her throat from ear to ear before turning the razor blade on himself. The first murder, of 14-year-old Nettie Douglass in 1894 was by her 21-year-old boyfriend who thought she was going to break up with him. He shot her three times as she was riding in a buggy. One 71-year-old man jumped into the river after

a 1914 murder investigation found him living with a 10-year-old girl. Two men hung themselves on the same beam in the same West Henniker barn, about 25 years apart.

The data also give insight into historical events. There was a spike in the percentage of every type of death relative to population between 1900 and 1950. The new automobile may have accounted for the jump in accidents, Taylor suggested, and a rise in suicides could have been due to two world wars and the Great Depression. The large imbalance between men (78 percent of deaths) and women, may be due to men's inclination to take risks, in addition to men until recently being the main drivers in the family and the one's fighting wars.

War buffs may be interested in knowing that 29 Henniker residents died in the Civil War. The first military death in the town was James Reed, killed at Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775. Although one man died in an airplane crash during the Korean War, the last death in action before the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan was in World War II, when four Henniker residents were killed. Sgt. Russell Durgin, who grew up in Henniker, was killed in combat in Afghanistan this year.

Taylor has considered publishing the book but has since decided not to. "Some volunteers think it's too macabre or too sensitive information to publish," she said.

So for now, the binder will stay on the shelf at the historical society to be available for researchers and public viewing.

Excerpts from an article by Shira Schoenberg, Sunday Monitor, 8-15-06

**Next NHOGA Meeting – July 14, 2007
Nashua Historical Society, Nashua, NH**

- 9:30 Registration and refreshments at the Nashua Historical Society.
- 10:00 Business Meeting chaired by President Arthur Jillette. The Speaker will be Clark Bagnall, Nashua Historical Society and member of NHOGA. He will talk to us about cemeteries in Nashua and their historical and social significance. We will also have an opportunity to learn about the Nashua Historical Society and visit its extensive museum.
- 12:00 Bring a bag lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Prepare for an interesting meeting!

**Directions to the
Nashua Historical Society**

Get onto Route 3 by your favorite method. In Nashua, get off at Exit 7 and follow the signs to Downtown Nashua or Nashua Business District. At this point you should be driving down Amherst Street heading East on Route 101A. Eventually you will see the Hollman Stadium on your left. *(If you see it on your right, turn around, as you are somehow heading West.)* After you pass Hollman Stadium, the second street on your left is Abbott Street. Turn left on Abbott Street, and the building you are looking for is the second building on your right (# 5) after you turn onto Abbott Street.

Rubrics



New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association
PO Box 1016
Goshen NH 03752

Visit our web page at www.nhoga.org