

March 2012

Greetings Friends! We are so pleased with a very productive first year. An enthusiastic group has joined together and we are making a difference! It is interesting to note that we have folks of all ages getting involved and not only are the Friends from the town of Plymouth but from surrounding communities.

The nomination of Burial Hill for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places is in progress. The application for submission to the MHC is nearing completion. As we have said, this is a very lengthy process. All is going well.

We conducted the first gravestone preservation workshop in October. A group of 10 participated in conserving 35 stones. All are anxious for our first spring workshop which we plan on offering in late April. More to come in the next couple of weeks on that.

The November cleanup was very successful with 27 volunteers, some of them new to the Friends. We welcomed a few high school athletes, several Diversion Program individuals, and a ten year old who worked alongside her dad. At the end of the day we had filled 125 bags of leaf debris and litter for collection. We are easily identified by our new sign: Friends of Burial Hill at Work. The next town wide cleanup is scheduled for May 19th. We will meet at 10:00 at the Bradford Monument. Bring your gloves, rake, scoops, hand saw, wheel barrow, loppers, whatever you have.

We have begun the process for not-for-profit – tax exempt status. FOBH member Skip DeBrusk kindly offered his help. We recently met with Skip to get the ball rolling. We will likely have need of the pro bono services of an attorney. Does anyone know of someone who might be willing to volunteer their time and expertise?

We are excited to announce the first in a series of talks/lectures. Rob Gregg will be presenting “Digging Deeper - Burial Hill’s Buried Treasures” on Saturday, April 21, 2012, at 10:30 am at the 1749 Court House. Gregg is the president of the Vine Lake Cemetery Preservation Trust, a Director of The Medfield Cultural Council and a contributing member to AGs. In addition to the remarkable job he has done with Vine Lake Cemetery, Rob has worked closely with the staff of the famed Mount Auburn Cemetery of Cambridge. He is a friend and mentor to us.

We plan to feature a gravestone with an interesting carving, epitaph or story in the newsletter. Below is the first.



In Memory of

Frederic son of Mr. Thomas

Jackson & Mrs. Lucy his wife

who died March 15, 1788 aged

1 year & 5 days

O! Happy probationer accepted without being exercised!

It was thy peculiar privilege, not to feel the slightest of those Evils,

Which oppress thy surviving kindred.

Gray slate stone in very good condition with plain unadorned sides which was typical for a child's gravestone. Within the tympanum is carved a winged cherub with a scalloped collar and nicely feathered wings.

Stone carving attributed to Lemuel Savery of Plymouth

We will be notifying you soon with info on an upcoming members meeting. We have much to discuss.

Do we need a name for the newsletter? Some to consider – Engraved in Stone, Stonehearted (Frank Mand's article heading), Silent Voices, Dem Bones and Happenings on the Hill. Other ideas are welcomed. Let us know.

We would like to express our thanks to Brandon Prentiss who did an outstanding job, as part of his Scout Project, rebuilding and refinishing the three park benches on the Hill. If one did not know better you might think they were new. A job well done.

We are pleased and more importantly grateful for the support we have received and the interest expressed by the townspeople of Plymouth. Many thanks to the 1749 Court House Committee for the use of the Court House.

We hope you will all join us for our April 21st meeting. It will be very interesting and inspiring! You will receive a follow-up regarding this. Invite a friend. Everyone is welcome!

“One can tell the morals of a culture by the way they treat their dead.”

Benjamin Franklin

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