

WRITTEN IN STONE

Friends of Burial Hill

Summer Edition 2014

Federal Furnace 5th Grade Workshop

On June 6th FOBH welcomed the first group of 54 fifth grade students from Federal Furnace Elementary School. The children were educated in gravestone conservation and the importance of preserving and documenting the grave markers. The students worked in pairs



Future conservationists at work



or small groups under the watchful eyes of teachers, chaperones, and both trained and professional members of the Friends of Burial Hill. The children conducted gravestone surveys on previously cleaned stones and had a lesson in iconography as well. Those of us who have participated in the conservation workshops recognize that protective feeling we share towards the stones we've helped to conserve and the burial ground itself. Hopefully, participating in our gravestone conservation workshops will impart the same sense of protection and appreciation to Plymouth's children, our future conservationists.

June Gillette teaching two students how to document a grave marker.



- Summer on Burial Hill -
If you have a picture of Burial Hill or other information to share, email along with your name to jfsdms@verizon.net and you may see it in the next newsletter.

Slate Breaking News



- Sat, 9/13 9-10 am
FOBH Members' Meeting
Cheryle's house
- Fri, 9/19 6pm thru Sat, 9/20
Bradford Cover to Cover-
Marathon read of William
Bradford's "Of Plymouth
Plantation," Sponsored by the
Plymouth Historical Alliance
- Sat, 10/25 1 pm Third Annual
Archaeology Month Event with
Plymouth Archaeological
Rediscovery Project's principal
archaeologist Craig Chartier
- Sat, 11/15 1 pm
Mourning: Trappings and
Traditions—more information
to follow
- Sat, 12/6 1 pm
"A Christmas Carol" The
Friends of Burial Hill in
conjunction with the Plymouth
Antiquarian Society at Burial
Hill

Featured Stone: Polly Holmes 1795

*"To the memory of Mrs POLLY HOLMES
wife of Capt Eleazar Holmes and
Daughter of Capt Corban Barnes and Mary
his wife who died Sep 16 1795 AEtatis 28
and
her Infant Daughter Jenny by her side who
died Dec 5 AEtatis 1 year and 8 months"
No age exempt the tender Mother first
Bows to Deaths Empire & returns to Dust
Scarce had th' afflicted Consort wip'd his
tearful eyes
When lo Heaven calls the lovely Infant dies*

Polly, christened "Mary" but known thereafter in the records as "Polly," was born in 1766, the oldest daughter of Corban and Mary (Finney) Barnes. She married Eleazar Holmes in 1785, when she was 18 years old. She and Eleazar



Cleaned by
Tourism
Cares in
Fall 2013

had five children; the youngest, daughter Jenny, is buried beside her mother. Polly's lengthy epitaph is framed in a square panel beneath her spectacular angel face. Only the first line of the poem is now visible, the stone having sunk into the ground. The text of the entire poem was visible in 1892 when Bradford Kingman transcribed it for his book, *Epitaphs From Burial Hill*.

Polly's stone is attributed to Plymouth carver Amaziah Harlow Junior. Amaziah Harlow was active as a stone carver between 1792 and 1802. His angel faces are beautifully done, with a three-dimensional effect for the cheeks and chin. Harlow's angels can be identified by their distinctive, high-arched, heavily carved eyebrows; their eyes (and eyebrows) are generally positioned very high in the face. The mouths are generally unsmiling, but often with a small quirk slightly lifting one corner. Harlow's angels all have wings that are high in relation to the face, joined under the chin by (at least) a double scallop that narrows to a single scallop over the pinions of the wings themselves.
PMBaker 2013



Gravely Speaking

FOBH wants you! for cleanup, gravestone conservation, and special events. Training provided. Join a cleanup team or form your own-it works!

SAVE THE DATE! Backroads of the South Shore will present a "Here Lies Buried" bus tour of several South Shore cemeteries on Saturday, September 27, 2014 from 9:45 am to 4:30 pm. Cost is \$35 per person. Visit www.brss.org for more information.

Third Annual Massachusetts Archaeology Month Event will be held Saturday, October 25th at 1:00 pm. The Friends of Burial Hill and principal archaeologist Craig Chartier of Plymouth Archaeological Rediscovery Project are partnering once again for this event. Join us as Craig discusses his GPR survey findings and delves further into what lies beneath.

Mourning: Trappings and Traditions will be held Saturday, November 15th at 1:00 pm. The Friends of Burial Hill commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War with an enlightening presentation on mourning. Mourning: Trappings and Traditions will focus primarily on 19th century America when the practice of mourning was at its peak, sample 19th century funeral baked goods, and enjoy hymns and patriotic tunes of the era.

Digitization of Burial Hill Surveys—FOBH continues to upload completed survey sheets on gravestones that have been cleaned by workshop volunteers for all to access. To volunteer to enter data, contact Don Dewey at d49dewey@gmail.com

Burial Hill Photos-If you have old photos of Burial Hill, please email to Cheryle (see below for email address). **Photographers Needed**-There is a need for designated photographers to document FOBH activities.

Gravestone Conservation Workshops-free to members/\$40 for nonmembers

Fri., July 25 - 9-11 am

Sat., July 26, 9-11 am Fragment Workshop

Sat., August 2, 10am -1pm Beginners Workshop, Oak Grove Cemetery, must preregister

Fri., August 8, 2-4 pm

Sat., August 9, 9-11 am

Sat., August 23, 9-11am Beginners Workshop, Oak Grove Cemetery, must preregister

Fri., September 5, 2-4 pm

Sat., September 6, 9-11 am

Fri., September 26, 2-4 pm

Sat., September 27, 9-11 am

Sat., October 4, 9-11 am

Fri., October 31, 9-11 am Fragments and Surveys Workshop (wear a costume!)

Cemetery Watch at Work - On June 27th at the end of a gravestone conservation workshop, a FOBH member spotted a group of young adults throwing a metal object at trees in the cemetery. Police were called and responded to the incident.

Sticks & Stones

Obelisk

A tall, slender four sided stone pillar tapering toward its pyramidal top



The Gov. William Bradford obelisk was cleaned in 2012 by FOBH member Ric Sevigny. Shown is the obelisk before cleaning.

Gravestone Iconography

Obelisk

The obelisk represents rebirth, connection between Heaven and Earth; its tapering shape draws the eye heavenward.

Perhaps the obelisk was used so pervasively in 19th century cemeteries because it was a structure seen as symbolic of the early Egyptian civilization. Americans of the 19th century held a fascination for things Egyptian especially those things associated with the dead, funerary practices, imagery, tombs, and sarcophagi.

There are 6 true obelisks on Burial Hill-Robbins, Holmes, Cushman, Davee, Burns, and Bradford.

The largest, Cushman, is 25 feet high - and was erected in 1858 by Cushman descendants. The smallest true obelisk, standing at 5 feet high, is that of James and Mary Burns and 5 of their 6 children, Ellen 11, Catharine 9, Henry 7, Mary 5, and Rose 3. Five of their six children drowned when the schooner they were aboard, the Welcome Return, out of Charlottetown, bound for Boston, went aground in a storm at Rocky Hill. The obelisk was erected in 1867 when Mary, wife of James, died.

Buried But Not Forgotten

Governor William Bradford

William Bradford (1590-1657) was a founder and longtime governor of the Plymouth Colony settlement. Born in England, he migrated with the Separatist congregation to the Netherlands as a teenager. Bradford was among the passengers on the Mayflower's trans-Atlantic journey, and he signed the Mayflower Compact upon arriving in Massachusetts in 1620. As Plymouth Colony governor for more than thirty years, Bradford helped draft its legal code and facilitated a community centered on private subsistence agriculture and religious tolerance. Around 1630, he began to compile his two-volume "Of Plymouth Plantation," one of the most important early chronicles of the settlement of New England. (www.history.com)

REMINDER

Member dues are from January 1st through December 31st each year.

If you have not yet remitted, please remit ASAP. Workshops are free to members and \$40.00 for non-members.

Dues help us to continue our conservation work, and plan and organize special events.

Contributions to FOBH are tax deductible under section 170 of the Code and we are qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055,2106 or 2522 of the Code. Please see our website to make a donation or mail your check payable to: FOBH, P.O. Box 1578, Plymouth, MA 02362

Thank you for your support!

Find Friends of Burial Hill online!

<http://friendsofburialhill.org/>

Like us on **Facebook:** [Friends of Burial Hill](https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Burial-Hill)

Follow us on **Twitter:** [@BurialHillFriends](https://twitter.com/BurialHillFriends)



To contact the Friends of Burial Hill, please visit www.friendsofburialhill.org, or email

Cheryle: cheryle.burialhillfriend@verizon.net

or June: june.burialhillfriend@hotmail.com