

# WRITTEN IN STONE

Friends of Burial Hill

Winter Edition 2014/15

## 2014-A Year of Discoveries

This has been a year of discoveries for the Friends. During our last gravestone conservation workshop of the season, an FOBH member, while cleaning the 1767 stone of Bathsheba Drew, discovered a thumbnail sized winged head effigy among the clouds and blowing winds of a scenic composition by stone carver William Coye. A nice little discovery that may prove useful to those researching this carver.

Two FOBH members in the process of verifying data collected during gravestone conservation workshops realized that the Jane F. Rogers stone hadn't been recorded nor ever transcribed in any of the published Burial Hill resources such as the Drew, Kingman or Robinson books. We have assigned a number to the stone following the identification system used in the Robinson survey of the 1990's.



On June 6th FOBH welcomed 54 fifth grade students from Federal Furnace Elementary School. The children surveyed previously cleaned



stones and recorded their findings. The children learned that there was much to be discovered by

learning to "read" not just the inscription but the iconography and the stone itself. We are hoping to be able to offer this workshop each year to a different Plymouth fifth grade class, promoting appreciation and respect for the Hill.

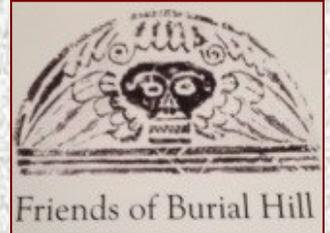
Again this past Summer the Friends of Burial Hill and Plymouth Archaeological Rediscovery Project continued their



Craig Chartier and Sara Gale

archaeological exploration aided by ground penetrating radar (GPR). We were joined by Sara Gale of GSSI. Our methods continue to be non invasive and non destructive. All of our work is done above ground as we are mindful of the fact that we are working in a burial ground.

We have confirmed that the area marked as the site of the watch tower is correct. We have discovered a number of unmarked burials and we are making strides in detecting the location of the mass grave of at least 60 of the crew on board the Brigantine General Arnold which ran aground in Plymouth Harbor in December of 1778. We are also hoping to discover evidence of the fort and palisade as well. With your help, we hope to raise enough funds to continue this search in 2015. Please help make this happen with a donation today.



### Save Burial Hill's Trees

The Friends of Burial Hill are planning to present the Save Burial Hill's Trees petition to the Selectmen on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at their Board of Selectmen meeting. Thank you to all of you that have signed the petition and if you have not, please take a moment. We would ask something more of you. We feel it would make a statement to have the Mayflower Room at Town Hall filled to capacity with concerned citizens. We ask that if you are able, to please attend this meeting in support of the petition on **February 10, 2015 at 6:00, Mayflower Room, Plymouth Town Hall, Lincoln Street, Plymouth.** Please remember, we should accept nothing less than the removal of those trees from the cutting list. As of now the Selectmen have voted only a short term reprieve. **THE BEECH TREES HAVE NOT BEEN SPARED.** Cheryle & June

## Featured Stone: ICHABOD HOLMES JUNIOR



Photo was taken after cleaning and was illegible prior to

"In memory of  
M<sup>r</sup> ICHABOD HOLMES JU<sup>R</sup>  
who Deceast March 29<sup>th</sup> 1802  
in the 44<sup>th</sup> year of his age"

Ichabod Holmes Junior was born in 1757, the son of Ichabod and Rebecca (Ellis) Holmes. He married Rebecca Harlow; they had twelve children. It is not known where Rebecca is buried, but Ichabod is not far from a "group stone" commemorating three of their children who died young. During his lifetime, Ichabod served in the Revolutionary War as well as serving as a selectman of the Town of Plymouth.

The "neoclassical" urn, sometimes combined with a weeping willow, was introduced in the late 1700s. The urn and willow are the final step in the evolution of gravestone motifs. Carvings evolved from winged skulls,

to spirit carvings, to angels, and then to urns, the motifs growing ever further removed from the actual process of dying and even from the ultimate destination of heaven. The urn, a secular symbol, focuses the attention not on the deceased, but rather on the viewer remembering the deceased, as the curtains are drawn back to reveal the urn. An important note: In the days of ancient Greece and Rome, urns contained the cremated ashes of the deceased. Ichabod was NOT cremated. Cremation was not acceptable in America until the late 1800s, and even then the custom spread very slowly. The urn is a metaphor only.

-PMBaker2013

### Slate Breaking News



**February 10th 6:00 pm**  
Board of Selectmen Meeting,  
Mayflower Room, Town Hall.  
Check <http://www.plymouth-ma.gov/> for cancellations.

**March 7th 9 am - 10 am**  
Member's meeting - Cheryle's  
house. Email or phone for  
directions.

**May 30th 1:00 pm**  
"WILLIAM COYE : Plymouth's  
First Resident Stone Carver"  
- more information to come.

## Gravely Speaking



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

**Gravestone Conservation Workshops**-We are planning two training gravestone cleaning workshops for beginners. Please email us to save your place. Workshops are free to members/\$40 for nonmembers. Trained volunteers will meet at the top of Burial Hill. It would be appreciated if each of you would stop by the Powder House (at Russell St. parking lot) and pick up a water bucket and tools.

Please advise when you can join us. Our volunteers share an important role in conserving and preserving Burial Hill. Thank you for your time and effort.

**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](mailto:d49dewey@gmail.com)

**Burial Hill Photos**-If you have old photos of Burial Hill, please email copies to Cheryle (see below for email address).

**Photographers Needed**-There is a need for designated photographers to document FOBH activities.

**Many thanks** to Chairman Tavares and Selectman Mahoney for voting to save two of the six beech trees, B13 and M1. We urge the board to reconsider trees A1, G1, J1, and L2 before this process moves any further.

**While researching the Civil War, the following article was discovered by member Don Dewey. Timing...**

*Old Colony Memorial and Plymouth Rock, August 19, 1864*

### Burying Hill.

Mr. Editor:

We were glad to see in your last paper that you approved of the action of the Committee who have the care of this "Hill of Graves," that is so often the special object of thought and interest to visitors to the Old Colony, and often, whose visit to the Land of the Pilgrims is to trace back amid these silent mementos of the past much of, perhaps, his own history and generation.

A short time since, we visited the hill, and after looking around us, we could not help expressing the thought that the people of Plymouth had but little thought or care for their reputation, or to make what few gifts had been given them of interest to the traveler. When we saw beautiful monuments defaced, marble head-stones broken in pieces, hedges broken down by careless teamsters, beautiful flowers placed by loving hands on graves where

*The loved ones lie sleeping the cold sleep of death,*

Scattered to the winds, or trampled underfoot, in thoughtlessness or want of sympathy with affliction, deep-worn foot paths across graves whose head-stones had been broken down, merely that laziness might make a short cut to market – we could not help saying that in our belief no other town, in this or any other State north of Mason's and Dixon's line, would have suffered such wanton destruction and desecration of this home of the dead, this last resting place of the dust of our Pilgrim Fathers.

In our opinion, there should be but one general entrance to the hill, and a good fence around the hill, high enough to prevent boys, young or old, from climbing over; and no team should be allowed to enter there except by special permission of the Committee. And we believe that nearly all of those who have an interest in the preservation and care of this hill, will gladly take the few more steps necessary to visit it, in consideration of the action of the Committee in rendering the place more secluded, and better fitted for the hour when, seated by the graves of our friends, we can weep their loss and cherish their memories without being disturbed by children at play or annoyed by the idle gaze of "short-cut" business travelers.

## Sticks & Stones

### Cenotaph

A memorial marker built in remembrance of a deceased person or group of people buried elsewhere; a structure built to honor the people who were killed in a war or lost at sea.



Above is the cenotaph of Adoniram Judson who died at sea enroute to America.

## Gravestone Iconography

### Father Time



<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=20608765>

- Mortality personified. A figure representing the passage of time. The symbols depicted in this composition, the sickle, the hourglass, and the cut flowers all serve to remind us that time passes and we must too. That life is fleeting and the life memorialized on the stone has come to an end. The 1767 Bathsheba Drew Stone, was carved by William Coye. If we could always rely on dates, then the year 1767, the date of Bathsheba's death, William would have been but 16 years of age when he carved this stone. Even if the stone had been backdated, it would have been done quite early in his career as a stone carver.

## BECOME A FRIEND—with a donation and/or membership

Please remember the Friends of Burial Hill with a donation to help defray the costs of workshops and events. As always 100% of your donation is used in Burial Hill's preservation.

Individual Membership: \$25

Family Membership: \$40

Corporate Membership: \$200

Donations in any amount are appreciated.

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 !*

**Just a gentle reminder if you have not yet sent your dues for 2015, please take a moment to renew or join.**

**Find Friends of Burial Hill online!**



<http://friendsofburialhill.org/>

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To contact the Friends of Burial Hill, please visit [www.friendsofburialhill.org](http://www.friendsofburialhill.org), or email

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## Buried But Not Forgotten

### Adoniram Judson

(b. Malden, Mass., Aug. 9, 1788; d. at sea, Apr. 12, 1850). The first Baptist foreign missionary from the United States. Son of a Congregational minister and a graduate of Rhode Island College (Brown University, Judson entered Andover Seminary in 1808. With other Andover students, he petitioned the General Association of Massachusetts for advice as to how they might realize the desire to take the gospel to "the heathen." In 1810 this Congregational group responded by organizing the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the first agency to send foreign missionaries from the United States. With his new wife, Ann Hasseltine, the couple sailed for India as missionaries of the Congregational board. Forced out of India by the British East India Company, the Judsons settled in Burma in 1813. Ann (Hasseltine) Judson died in 1826, and in 1834 Judson married Sarah Boardman, widow of missionary George Dana Boardman. Shortly after her death in 1845, Judson returned to America for his only furlough. Receiving a hero's welcome, he stimulated interest in foreign missions wherever he went. In 1846 he married Emily Chubbuck, a well-known writer, and later that year they sailed for Burma. Judson's latter years were spent largely in work on a Burman-English dictionary. Chronic illness became more severe, and in 1850 his death occurred on an ocean voyage which had been prescribed as his only hope for improvement.

[http://www.sbhla.org/bio\\_adoniramjudson.htm](http://www.sbhla.org/bio_adoniramjudson.htm)

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=11609>