

# WRITTEN IN STONE

## Friends of Burial Hill

Founded in 2010 committed to the preservation of Burial Hill in Plymouth, Massachusetts

### Friends of Burial Hill Fall Events

#### Preservation in Progress

On Saturday, October 31st Friends of Burial Hill celebrated its five year anniversary with self guided tours of our conservation and exploration areas. Visitors viewed conservation in progress with demonstrations of gravestone cleaning and data collection. They also learned about the various methods of detection and preservation that we employ, and some tried their hand at dowsing. Thank you volunteers for your participation and making the day a success!



Photos courtesy of Rhonda Atchison

#### Return of the Dead

Join the Friends of Burial Hill for a Civil War re-enactment of the 1864 funeral of three of Plymouth's Civil War soldiers and the man who brought them home. Featuring the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Recreated and the Standish Guards Drum and Bugle Corps.

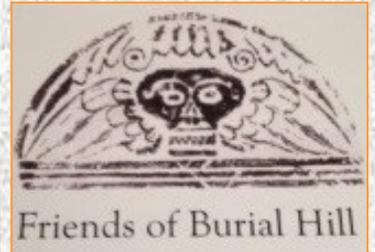
We extend a special invitation to the descendants of Seth Paty, George Wadsworth, Thomas Hayden, and Thomas Collingwood.

Refreshments following in the historic 1749 Courthouse Museum.

Free to the public. Steep terrain.

November 14, 2015 1 pm

Town Square and Burial Hill



#### FOBH T-shirts

We have FOBH logo t-shirts for \$18.00 in sizes M,L,XL Checks should be made payable to: FOBH

P.O. Box 1578

Plymouth, MA 02362



Photo courtesy of Rhonda Atchison

### Featured Stone: FRANCIS LEBARON

Not much is known about Dr. Francis LeBaron. While there are many theories about his origins none have been verified as yet. What is known is that he hailed from France and arrived on our shores in 1694 as the surgeon aboard a French privateer. The vessel sailed into waters just off of the Falmouth coast and was assumed to have piracy as the intent and was captured. The officers and crew were taken as prisoners and led to Boston for to be charged. All save Francis LeBaron, His skill as a physician was needed in Plymouth at the time and the townspeople petitioned the governor for him to be allowed a pardon and be "permitted to tarry in the town of Plymouth." This request was granted and Francis remained. Francis married Mary Eames Wilder on September 6, 1695. They had three sons James, Lazarus, and Francis. Lazarus followed his father into medicine thus continuing what would become a long tradition of LeBaron physicians. His life was short.

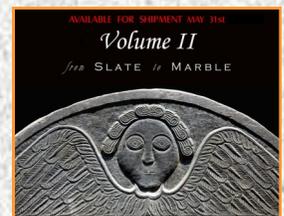


Photo courtesy of Donna Shea

HERE LYES Ye BODY  
OF Mr FRANCIS LEBARRAN  
PHYTICIAN WHO  
DEPARTED THIS LIFE  
AUGst Ye 8th 1704.  
IN Ye 36. YEAR  
OF HIS AGE

Dr. Francis LeBaron died on August 8, 1704 at 36 years of age and is buried on Burial Hill in section L. His legacy is one of kindness and generosity, especially to the poor. In his will he left 90 acres to the Town of Plymouth to be used "for the benefit of the poor of Plymouth." The marker for Francis is a small slate stone that benefited from early conservation efforts. It probably broke off at ground level and was then cut even and subsequently encased in a granite surround. While this is not a conservation measure that would be used today it has been successful for this stone, as it still remains. The stone was probably carved by James Gilchrist of Boston. The tympanum is carved with a nicely coiffed winged head and hourglass. The borders are carved with gourds/breasts and pumpkins. This marker was cleaned and surveyed by he Friends of Burial Hill in 2012. The survey can be found from our website.

Credit—Cheryle Caputo



#### FOBH Supporter James Blachowicz

"from Slate to Marble Gravestone carving traditions in Eastern Massachusetts 1750 - 1850" Volume II by James Blachowicz is now available and can be ordered through <http://www.graverpress.com> "A remarkable effort whose quality and depth challenges all previous work on gravestone carving....Highly recommended." J.C. Wanser, Choice



## Gravely Speaking

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

**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 at: [cheryle.burialhillfriend@verizon.net](mailto:cheryle.burialhillfriend@verizon.net)

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

**Handyperson Needed**—We need a wooden sandwich board type sign to advertise our workshops. Is there a handyman or handywoman out there who could make one for the "Friends"? We will supply the material.

## Burial Hill Volunteer Opportunities

Check Facebook and website for cancellations due to inclement weather. You must reserve your space in advance. Please email to register or for more details. Space is limited. Free to members.

**Sat, Nov. 7 10 am-12 pm** We will be tidying up the burial ground collecting litter and landscape debris. We meet at the top of the main staircase. All invited. Please bring work/garden gloves, loppers, rakes, or brooms

**Sat, Nov. 14 at 1:00** Return of the Dead  
We still need volunteers for this event to help set up and to bake. Email June or Cheryle if you can help out.

**Our volunteers share an important role in conserving and preserving Burial Hill. Thank you for your time and effort.**



Photo courtesy of Rhonda Atchison

## Sticks and Stones

### **Tympanum**

The semi circular top upper section on a tablet stone.



Photo courtesy of Rhonda Atchison

## **Carvers of Burial Hill**

**Nathaniel Holmes (1783 - 1869)** was born in Plymouth. He learned stone carving from Amaziah Harlow of Plymouth. He most likely also was influenced by William Coye and Lemuel Savery. Holmes moved to Barnstable about 1805 to become the first resident carver on Cape Cod. During his long career he made the transition from carving winged heads on slate to carving urn and willow on marble. The marble markers of the nineteenth century make up the bulk of his work. It has been reported he carved over 1300 gravestones on Cape Cod. None of his nine children took up stone carving. Holmes carvings on slate included small winged heads, trumpeting angels and sunbursts. The winged heads have high foreheads due to the eyes being placed low on the face, small mouth and hair parted in the middle. Note that he used a variety of interesting tympanum shapes.

<http://www.capecodgravestones.com/carvers/holmes.html>

## Gravestone Iconography

### **Hourglass**



Photo courtesy of Donna Shea

The hourglass is almost always depicted with the sands accumulated in the bottom of the glass, signifying that time has run out, a life runs its course. If carved with the sands running, it would suggest that life had ended too soon. Wings would seem to indicate the ascension of the soul.

## **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/>



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](http://www.friendsofburialhill.org), or email

Cheryle: [cheryle.burialhillfriend@verizon.net](mailto:cheryle.burialhillfriend@verizon.net)

or June: [june.burialhillfriend@hotmail.com](mailto:june.burialhillfriend@hotmail.com)