

# WRITTEN IN STONE

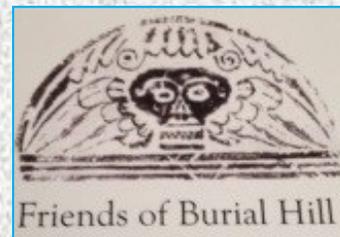
Friends of Burial Hill

July 2015

## Survey Sheet Workshops

Over the winter months FOBH offered a series of survey sheet workshops at Plymouth Library led by member Don Dewey. These tutorials are offered to instruct folks on how to upload the data collected. The survey sheets were developed for FOBH to use for data collection during gravestone conservation workshops. The surveys are used to document a marker's present condition, inscription, motif, and more. We offer links to the Town of Plymouth with GIS data, Find-A-Grave, and the Drew, Kingman and Robinson publications on Burial Hill. Often included is cited historical information on the person interred and a carver attribution if known, as well as photos of the marker's present condition. These

surveys are a useful tool for students, teachers, historians, genealogists, conservators, and others. They will also prove useful in tracking conservation efforts and a stone's deterioration over time. FOBH believes this project is the first of this kind and that we are the only organization to do this. **We are very pleased and proud to announce that the first one hundred plus surveys are available for viewing from our website, <http://friendsofburialhill.org>** Just click on the Gravestone Surveys tab and have a look. We will be adding more as they are completed and plan to offer additional survey sheet workshops again this winter. We hope you will join us in this important endeavor. Dates TBD.



### Gift Memberships

Give the gift of preserving history with a gift membership to FOBH.

Please see our website to make a donation or mail your check payable to: FOBH, P.O. Box 1578, Plymouth, MA 02362

### Featured Stone: MERCY OTIS WARREN

GEN. JAMES WARREN  
died November 28, 1808;  
aged 82  
MERCY WARREN  
his wife,  
daughter of James Otis  
of Barnstable  
died October 19, 1814  
aged 86



Portrait by John Singleton Copley

Mercy Otis Warren nee Mercy Otis was born in Barnstable on

September 14, 1728, the fifth of thirteen children to Colonel James Otis and Mary Allyne. She is descended from Edward Doty on her mother's side.

Mercy had no formal education like most girls of her time. She was, however, allowed to sit with her brothers as they were tutored and evidently absorbed all she could.

Mercy married James Warren in 1754. The couple had five sons.

James' involvement in the patriotic movement inspired Mercy to write and was an outlet for her keen intellect. She was a prolific and influential writer. Her published writings, which include satirical plays, poems and the first history of the Revolution, "History of the Rise, Progress and Termination of the American Revolution" are testaments to her life as an ardent patriot. She counted both John and Abigail Adams among her circle of friends

and influenced political leaders of the time such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

Mercy was 86 years old when she passed away on October 19, 1814. She is remembered for accomplishing things unknown to women of her time. Mercy is laid to rest with her husband James and other Warren relations in the enclosed Warren Yard on Burial Hill.

The marker used for Mercy and James is a marble tablet and is devoid of ornamentation save the inscription. It was cleaned and surveyed by FOBH in 2012 and is now completely legible.



### Summer is Here!



## 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

**Burial Hill Photos**-If you have old photos of Burial Hill, please email copies to Cheryle at 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.

## Scheduled Gravestone Conservation Workshops

**Check Facebook and website for cancelations due to inclement weather.**

### Burial Hill — for trained members only

**July 10** 9 - 12

**July 12** 9 - 12

**August 1** 9 - 12

**August 7** 9 - 12

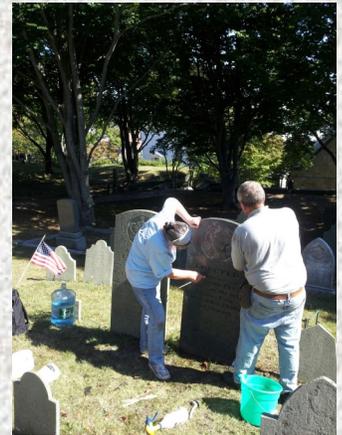
**August 28** 9 - 12

**August 29** 9 - 11

**September 4** 3 - 5

### Gravestone conservation workshops for new trainees

**July 18** 9 - 11



**You must reserve your space in advance.**

**Please email to register or for more details.**

**Space is limited. Free to members.**

## Burial Hill Tree Update

All but one of the original beech trees (G1) slated for removal have been saved. However, at the eleventh hour another beech was thrown on the wood pile for cutting (L4). The L4 beech tree had not previously been mentioned for removal. Still awaiting the Board of Selectmen's vote is another late entry, a lovely and quite healthy linden, now known as L6.

## Gravestone Iconography



### **Clasped Hands**

Clasped hands are often used as a symbol of matrimony and unity. The cuff of one hand might appear masculine while the other might look feminine. The hands are sometimes shown with the spouse who died first holding the hand of the other, as in guiding the husband or wife to Heaven.

The clasped hands are also a symbolic gesture of farewell. Clasped hands are also used as a fraternal symbol.

## **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](#)

Follow us on **Twitter**: [@BurialHillFriends](#)

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

Cheryle: cheryle.burialhillfriend@verizon.net

or June: june.burialhillfriend@hotmail.com

## Gravestone Repair Update

Gravestone conservation repairs and resets are set to begin this summer on over 300 stones on Burial Hill. The long awaited work is made possible by a \$550,000.00 CPA grant. The request for funding was written by FOBH co-founders Cheryle and June on behalf of the Plymouth DPW. This first phase will attend to the needs of 339 stones with similar groupings over the next few years.