

January 2016

WRITTEN IN STONE

FRIENDS OF BURIAL HILL

FOUNDED IN 2010, COMMITTED TO THE PRESERVATION OF BURIAL HILL

LOOKING BACK:

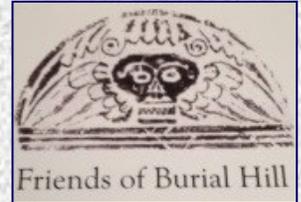
THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FIVE YEARS

FOBH recently marked a milestone year this past October with an event on Burial Hill meant to show some of what we have accomplished thus far. This event got me thinking about everything we have achieved. I made a list and I surprised myself.

In no particular order:

- Initiated and assisted in getting Burial Hill listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Wrote a successful grant application requesting funding through CPA, resulting in the CPC awarding \$551,000.00 to Plymouth's DPW for Burial Hill's gravestones needing repairs and resetting.
- Distributed *Written in Stone*, our quarterly newsletter.
- Provided assistance to countless visitors on the Hill seeking the stones of descendants and information in general.
- Collaborations and presentations with preeminent gravestone scholars offered free to the public.
- Developed and implemented a data collection program documenting and photographing markers and memorials on Burial Hill.
- Cleaned well over three hundred gravestones working within industry standards and indeed, implementing gentler methods used by our group
- Circulated a petition asking the Plymouth Board of Selectmen to save Burial Hill's trees, which resulted in all but one of the identified beech trees from being cut down.
- Participated in biannual town-wide clean ups sponsored by the Network of Open Space Friends, of which we are a proud member.
- Engaged the community and residential neighbors in clean

- ups and a cemetery watch program.
 - Assisted the Friends of Middleborough Cemeteries, Inc. in launching their organization.
 - Developed and showed a presentation on forming a "Friends" group.
 - Registering the organization as a 501(c)(3) public charity.
 - Started a Gravestone Conservation program in Plymouth sanctioned by the Cemetery Department.
 - FOBH co- founders are the recipients of a Hometown Hero award presented by Fox TV for their work on Burial Hill.
 - Held Gravestone Conservation Workshops for the Daughters of the American Revolution.
 - At the request of Plimoth Plantation and the Plymouth DPW, FOBH conducted a gravestone conservation training workshop for 60 Tourism Cares professionals. Quite possibly the largest such workshop ever offered and attended.
 - Invited the fifth grade class of the Federal Furnace Elementary School to participate in a Gravestone Conservation Workshop. Enjoyed by all.
 - Offered a variety of presentations, tours, programs, and events such as, the recent Return of the Dead: a reenactment of the 1864 funeral of three of Plymouth's Civil War dead and the man who brought them home.
 - Worked with the Town to develop rules, regulations, and standards for use on Burial Hill.
- We could not have done all of this without your continued support. I look forward to adding to this list at our next milestone to see what more FOBH will achieve!
- Thank you,
Cheryle Caputo
Friends of Burial Hill President and Co-Founder



Welcome to
Plymouth!

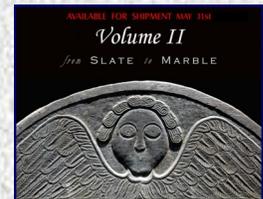
Newly located at The Landmark Building, 34 Main Street
Extension, Suite 401, Plymouth, MA 02360



Thank You

To The LeBaron Foundation for their generous \$1000.00 LeBaron Foundation Grant to FOBH and to Harvard Pilgrim who awarded us a \$500.00 Community Spirit 9/11 mini grant.

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

Don Dewey, a dedicated Friends of Burial Hill volunteer, has recently published a book, "Return Of The Dead, Plymouth, MA During The Civil War." Read the free ebook: <https://goo.gl/8CxC>



BURIED BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

At the close of the current year 2015, we take a look back at those who passed in the years 1715, 1815, and 1915. We were not acquainted with any one of them, but perhaps we can observe a moment of silence or offer a prayer; or even just to read their names is a remembrance of sorts.

1715
Honorable James Warren Esq.
d. June 29, 1715, 50 years, Section A 66
Joseph Bradford
d. July 10, 1715, 85 years, Section B 174.3
Mrs. Mary Churchill
d. December 11, 1715, 60 years, Section B 294
Samuel Ryder
d. July 18, 1715, 85 years, Section F 19

1815
Susan H. Allen Drew
d. May 22, 1815, 38 years, Section A 40
Mr. William Richmond
d. June 7, 1815, 30 years, Section A 128
Honorable William Watson
d. April 27, 1815, 84 years, Section B 29
Algernon Sydney Sampson
d. July, 15, 1815, 6 years, Section B 41
Nathan Bacon
d. November 7, 1815, 13 months, Section B 190

William R. Drew
d. October 9, 1815, 10 months, Section B 375.c
Capt. Jeremiah Holbrook
d. April 18, 1815, 31 years, Section B 505
Capt. Eliphalet Holbrook
d. February 7, 1815, 70 years Section B 537
John W. Howard
d. April 2, 1818, 2 weeks, Section B 561
Bathsheba Tribble
d. July 24, 1815, 30 years, Section CE 22
Silvanus Roberts
d. January 15, 1815, 5 years, Section C 41
Miss Harriet Wetherell
d. May 7, 1815, 23 years, Section D 2
Mrs. Thankful Bates
d. November 11, 1815, 71 years, Section F 177
Mr. Cornelius Jackson
d. August 3, 1815, 33 years, Section F 182 - Cenotaph
Adoniram D. Robbins
d. March 16, 1815, 6 months, Section G 32
Elizabeth Drew
d. November 4, 1815, 67 years, Section K 104
Desire Drew

d. November 15, 1815, 39 years, Section K 108
Simeon Drew
d. November 1, 1815, 35 years, Section K 108
Mary Tilden Watson
d. November 22, 1815, 24 years, Section K 113
Mr. Daniel Nicholson
d. March 6, 1815, 19 years, Section M 2
Hannah Barnes
d. November 1, 1815, 76 years, Section N 13
Mrs. Eliza Carver
d. November 22, 1815, 43 years, Section N 104
Hiram R. Sears
d. April 28, 1815, 19 months, Section N 116
Sylvia Cooper
d. October 7, 1815, 1 year, Section N 146

1915
Betsey B. Davis
d. March 27, 1815, 93 years, Section N 51
One third of the burials that took place on Burial Hill in 1815 occurred in the month of November. That is just on Burial Hill. Perhaps the Town was experiencing an epidemic at that time.



Gravely Speaking

FOBH wants you! for cleanup, gravestone conservation, and special events. Training provided. Join a cleanup team or form your own. **Burial Hill has never been cleaner. Thanks to all who continue to be vigilant!**

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

New FOBH clerk/secretary has been appointed - Kathy Harrington - 3 year term. Thank you!

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.

FOBH T-shirts

We have FOBH logo t-shirts for \$18.00
Sizes M, L, XL Checks made payable to:
FOBH
P.O. Box 1578
Plymouth, MA 02362



Photo courtesy of Rhonda Atchison

Burial Hill Volunteer Opportunities

FOBH Survey Workshop

January 23, 2016 and February 20, 2016, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Plymouth Public Library, 2nd floor Boardroom, South St., Plymouth
Join us for our Survey Workshop entering data collected during Burial Hill Gravestone Conservation Workshops. Instruction provided. You will need to bring your tablet or laptop.

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

Annual Fund

Your contributions to the Friends of Burial Hill's Annual Fund will help us to complete our archaeological explorations seeking the mass grave of the seamen of the Brigantine General Arnold which ran aground in Plymouth Harbor in December 1778. We are so close.

Your contributions will allow us to continue to raise awareness and engage new audiences through quality programs and events. And most assuredly, we will continue our gravestone conservation.

Please help us in our efforts to conserve and preserve Burial Hill. We were there when no one else was. Gifts in any amount are appreciated. FOBH is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) and fully tax deductible. Thank you!

Sticks and Stones

Epitaph

Epi means "to place something on"; taphos means "tomb". Epitaph now stands for just about any text inscribed on the face of the marker. Some epitaphs are a warning urging the living to be mindful of their own inevitable demise, "As I am now, so you must be, so therefore prepare to follow me." Some are poignant and express the feelings of those left behind as on the stone erected to the memory of Isaac and Rebecca Bartlett's infant sons, "How sweetly sleeps the smiling flowers, born but to blossom and decay. O God, how solemn was the hour when their blest spirits fled away. May angels watch around their bed and Jesus his kind mercy show. Till God shall bid their bodies rise and bloom where lasting lilies grow." Sometimes we can learn how the deceased died. According to the epitaph found on Miss Sally C. Robbins' stone, "she decaes'd from a fall from a chaise" while others can give a bit of insight to the personality of the person interred. The Tabitha Plasket stone is a perennial favorite with tourists for it states,

*"Adieu vain world I have seen enough of the
And I am careless what thou
say'st of me
Thy smiles I wish not;
Nor thy frowns I fear,
I am now at rest my head lies
quiet here."*



Photo Credit: Sandy Lennox

From "Here Lies Buried...." to "Memento Mori" to "Sacred to the Memory of"...just as gravestone art has evolved to reflect societal changes, so too did our parting word for the "Dearly Departed."

Gravestone Iconography

Urn



Before/After Cleaning Photos
Courtesy of FOBH member John Reilly



The urn made its appearance near the end of the 18th century here in Plymouth when all things neoclassical were in vogue, and was probably the most commonly motif used in the 19th century. However, there is evidence of earlier use, as in several stones found in Boston, such as the Jacob Elliott stone, 1693, located in the Granary Burying Ground.

Traditionally, an urn is used to contain the cremated remains which makes the popularity of this symbol curious, as cremation was seldom practiced at that time. Often seen with flames, draped, or ensconced beneath the leaning weeping willow.

BECOME A FRIEND

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

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.

Just a gentle reminder if you have not yet sent your dues for 2015/2016, please take a moment to renew or join.

Thank you to the first FOBH member, Judge Lynne Riddle (ret.), who will receive a lifetime membership with her donation of \$1000.

*Thank you everyone for your donations
this year!*

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 <http://friendsofburialhill.org/>, or email Cheryle: cheryle.burialhillfriend@verizon.net or June: june.burialhillfriend@hotmail.com