

FIRST PARISH CEMETERY GRAVESTONE RESTORATION PROJECT IV
Completion Report, October 2025

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| EXPENSES: | Colonial Stone Restoration Fees | \$23,110 |
| | TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES: | \$23,110 |
| | | |
| INCOME SOURCES: | First Parish Cemetery Association | \$2,450 |
| | Norwell Historical Society | \$250 |
| | Community Preservation Act | \$20,410 |
| | TOTAL INCOME: | \$23,110 |

For the first time since this ongoing restoration project began four years ago, the estimates from Colonial Stone (our restoration contractor) were off—by a lot. As a result, fewer stones were restored so that the total cost could remain the same. The number associated with the monument (i.e. 1=Fogg) is the same as in the original CPC request. Stones not restored are noted at the end of this report.

1) FOGG FAMILY MONUMENT

Colonial Stone estimate: \$1,200
 Actual restoration cost: **\$1,400**

1 large marble monument: *This 7-piece monument was covered in mold and most likely had never been cleaned. It was cleaned, the voids were filled, and the tree limbs were trimmed to prevent further mold issues.*



4) BENSON FAMILY BURIAL PLOT

Colonial Stone estimate: \$2,400
Actual restoration cost: \$4,200

6 slate headstones: *All six stones are covered in mold and 2 of the stones could not be read. All were cleaned, voids were filled with color-matched lime mortar, and they were re-set with new foundations of compacted stone dust.*



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER

5) DAMON FAMILY STONES

Colonial Stone estimate: \$3,000
Actual restoration cost: **\$4,500**

5 marble headstones: *These 2-piece stones need new foundations and new internal carbon fiber pins (that won't rust in the future), then they will be re-set.*



10) STUDLEY FAMILY GRAVESTONES

Colonial Stone estimate: \$1,550 (for 2)
Actual restoration cost: **\$1,550 (for 1)**

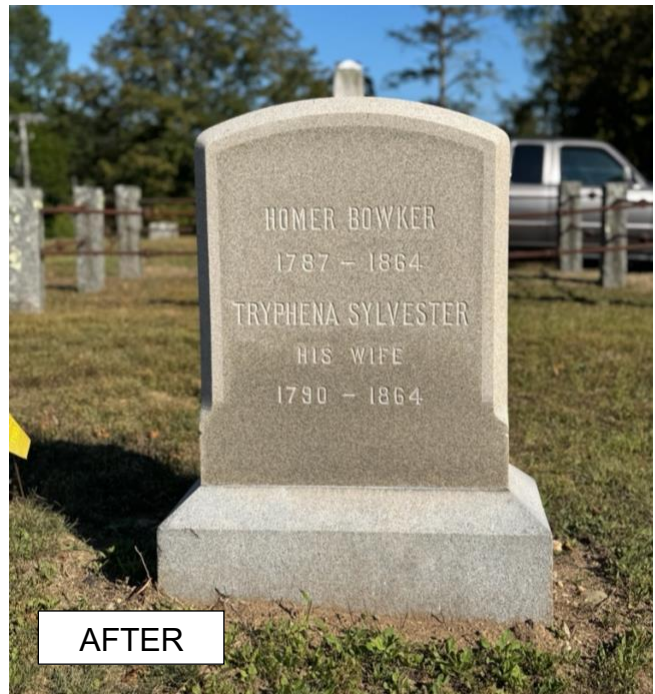
2 marble headstones: *Request was for two 2-piece stones with slotted bases to be cleaned of old mortar, re-set with new mortar, and re-set on new foundations of compacted stone. Only William Studley was completed.*



9) JOSEPH BOWKER (actually, HOMER BOWKER...)

Colonial Stone estimate: \$600
Actual restoration cost: **\$1,150**

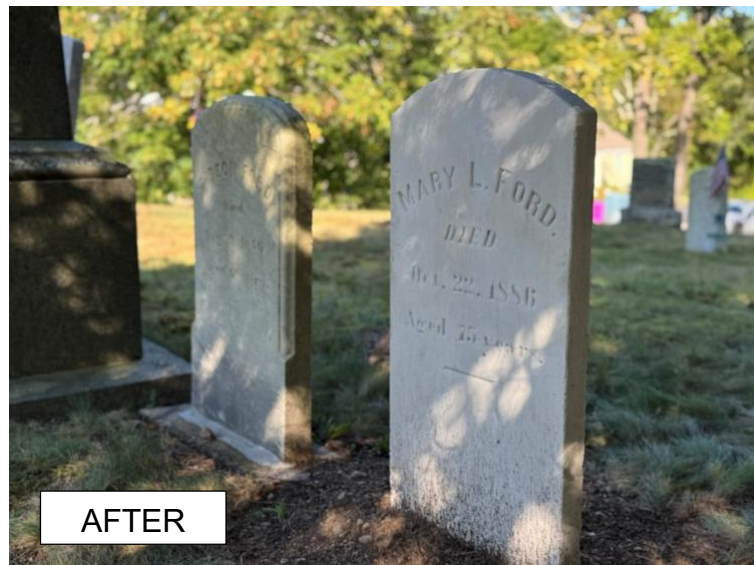
1 granite headstone: *This (almost unreadable) 2-piece headstone was cleaned, the foundation repaired, and the stone re-set to level. After cleaning, we realized it wasn't Joseph Bowker at all—it was more than "somewhat" unreadable as it was HOMER Bowker!*



11) MARY FORD GRAVESTONE = \$965

Colonial Stone estimate: \$965
Actual restoration cost: **\$1,250**

1 marble headstone: *This 2-piece stone has a slotted base that needed to be cleaned of old mortar and the headstone re-set in it. A former "repair" placed the stone in the wrong direction and buried its base, so Mary's stone was re-set in the correct direction of the rest of her family.*



18) GEORGE TOLMAN GRAVESTONE = \$0

Colonial Stone estimate: \$0
Actual restoration cost: \$0

1 marble headstone: *This Civil War veteran's stone will be cleaned and re-set for free by Colonial Stone, in honor of his service to the country.*



13) BRIGGS FAMILY GRAVESTONES = \$1,850

Colonial Stone estimate: \$1,850
Actual restoration cost: \$4,000

2 slate headstones: These stones had old iron repairs that were destroying the stone by rusting. Each was removed from its current setting, the iron straps were removed, they were cleaned, the break areas were repaired with a 2 part commercial epoxy, and the stones were reset with a new foundation of compacted stone dust.



Back side of the Briggs stones showing the old iron strapping.



Front side shows the iron bleeding through.



15) ELEAZER HATCH GRAVESTONE

Colonial Stone estimate: \$950
Actual restoration cost: **\$1,550**

1 marble headstone: *This stone had an old repair that used a patio block to fix the break area! The old block was removed, the broken stone was repaired and cleaned. Repairs included using carbon fiber rods and epoxy, and the break area will be filled with color-matched lime mortar. The stone was also re-set with a new foundation of compacted stone dust.*



16) ELIZABETH GRIGGS GRAVESTONE

Colonial Stone estimate: \$875
Actual restoration cost: **\$1,450**

1 marble headstone: *This 3-piece stone needs carbon fiber internal rods (replacing the old metal ones) to fit the two pieces together and it will be cleaned and re-set on a new foundation of compacted stone dust.*



14) ISAAC PACKARD GRAVESTONE = \$785

Colonial Stone estimate: \$785
Actual restoration cost: **\$1,200**

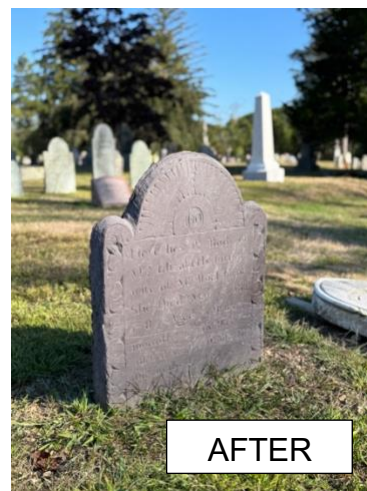
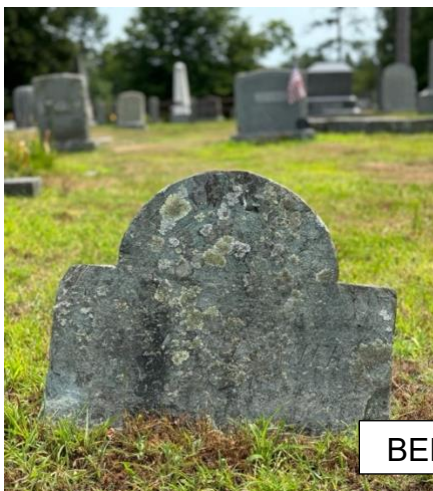
1 marble headstone: *This 2-piece stone received carbon fiber internal rods (replacing the old metal ones) to fit the two pieces together and the stone was cleaned and re-set on a new foundation of compacted stone dust.*



7) TURNER FAMILY GRAVESTONES = \$800

Colonial Stone estimate: \$800 (for 2)
Actual restoration cost: **\$860 (for 1)**

2 slate headstones: *There was only money to do one stone (Elizabeth Turner shown below), and Abial Turner will hopefully be done next year (shown below at left). The one stone was removed from its failed foundation, cleaned, re-set with a new foundation, and voids were filled with a color-matched lime mortar.*



STONES NOT DONE:

(may be done next year pending both prioritization and CPC and Town Meeting 2026 approval)

2) CUDWORTH GRAVESTONE = (2025 quote) \$375

1 3-piece granite headstone (shown at right):
This stone needs to be cleaned and the old foundation repaired.

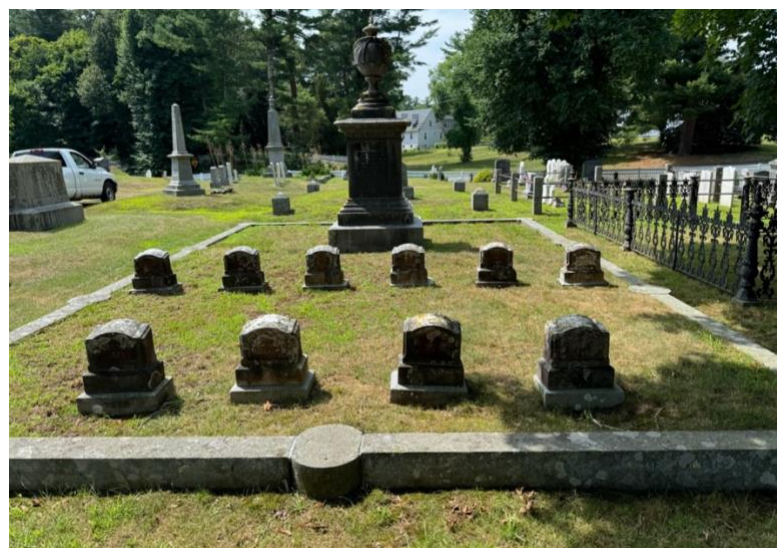


3) TORREY FAMILY PLOT = (2025 quote) \$2,765

1 large marble monument: *This 8-piece monument needs to be cleaned and the cracks need to be filled. (\$2,000)*



Detail of Torrey monument shown at left, full plot shown at right and below.



10 small 3-piece gravestones: *All need to be dismantled, the eroded internal pins removed and replaced with carbon fiber rods, and new foundations of compacted stone need to be installed. All pieces will also be cleaned and reset. (\$765)*

6) PERKINS CLAPP GRAVESTONE = (2025 quote) \$950

1 marble headstone: *The base of this headstone is perhaps missing (will need to be excavated and hopefully it is there!). If not, a replacement base will be used. The stone will be cleaned and reset with a new foundation of compacted stone dust.*



8) LITCHFIELD FAMILY GRAVESTONES = (2025 quote) \$900

2 marble headstones: *These 2-piece stones both have failed foundations. They will need carbon fiber internal rods (replacing the old metal ones) to fit the two pieces together, and they will be cleaned and re-set.*



12) DAMON FAMILY GRAVESTONES = (2025 quote) \$1,400

2 marble headstones: *These headstones are displaced from their bases, which are missing, and laying in the grass at the cemetery. The stones will need to be cleaned and re-set into new bases with new carbon fiber rods (you can see the holes for the rods in this photo at right).*

NOTE: these stones were taken away and stored because of concern regarding theft.



17) RANDALL FAMILY PLOT = (2025 quote) \$1,745

4 slate headstones: *All stones need to be cleaned and re-set with new foundations of compacted stone dust. All voids will be filled with color-matched lime mortar. Two of the names are unreadable, but perhaps will be again with cleaning.*



Finally, the tally of the stones did not total to the exact original estimated cost. As a result, the Town of Norwell paid Colonial Stone \$60 more than necessary. **The First Parish Cemetery Association will be sending a reimbursement check to the Town as soon as possible.**

| Stone Name | Actual Cost | Estimated Cost |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Fogg | \$ 1,400.00 | |
| Benson | \$ 4,200.00 | |
| Damon | \$ 4,500.00 | |
| Studley | \$ 1,550.00 | |
| Bowker | \$ 1,150.00 | |
| Ford | \$ 1,250.00 | |
| Tolman | \$ - | |
| Briggs | \$ 4,000.00 | |
| Hatch | \$ 1,550.00 | |
| Griggs | \$ 1,450.00 | |
| Packard | \$ 1,200.00 | |
| Turner | \$ 800.00 | |
| | | |
| 2025 TOTAL | \$ 23,050.00 | \$23,110.00 |
| FPCA \$ | \$ 2,450.00 | \$2,450.00 |
| NHS \$ | \$ 250.00 | \$250.00 |
| FPCA \$ to send | \$ 60.00 | |
| CPC \$ | \$ 20,410.00 | \$20,410.00 |

As a result of the overages from last year’s project, the FPCA and the Historical Society will be doing the following to ensure “history doesn’t repeat itself.”

- Only stones in dire need to restoration will be tackled in future applications—stones that are in danger of completely crumbling or being lost to the earth.
- A small (10%) contingency will be added to the project to ensure that all the stones requested to be restored can, indeed, be restored.
- We will stress to the contractor (who in all other areas we are very pleased with) that costs need to be accurate and overages will not be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

The First Parish Cemetery Association
The Norwell Historical Society