

The Grove Street Bulletin

Vol. 1, No. 4

A Publication of the Grove Street Cemetery

Fall 2005

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The Grove Street Bulletin
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Descendants of Roger Sherman Attend July 4 Ceremony

The annual Fourth of July commemoration in Grove Street Cemetery to honor signers of the Declaration of Independence, Roger Sherman and David Humphreys, took place under bright, sunny skies with over 100 people attending. The ceremony, sponsored by the General David Humphreys Branch Number One, Connecticut Society, Sons of the American Revolution, with participation by the Second Company, Governor's Foot Guard and a local Boy Scout troop, was made especially significant this year by the attendance of two direct descendants of Roger Sherman: Kenneth Herbert and his son Glenn Sherman Herbert, who traveled from Tom's River, New Jersey especially for this event. Glenn had 'discovered' the ceremony through our website while researching his Sherman ancestors. To the best of anyone's memory, in the 50+ or so years of this annual commemoration, no other descendant of Roger Sherman had ever before been present for the ceremony.



Second Company,
Governor's Foot Guard



Ken and Glenn Sherman Herbert
at Roger Sherman's Gravesite



Musket Volley by
6th Conn. Regiment

Articles and Listings Draw Attention to Grove Street Cemetery

Earlier this year, four newspaper articles – three with pictures – about the Cemetery appeared in the *New Haven Register* and the *Hartford Courant*. Columnist Randall Beach of the *Register* entitled his lengthy piece "Grove Street Cemetery a buried treasure in the city's back yard" and featured a large photo of Henry Austin's majestic Egyptian Revival gate. Just before July 4, Editor Emeritus of the *Register*, Robert J. Leeney, devoted nearly 90% of his weekly Saturday 'editorial' to "Saluting the roots of our freedom." Mr. Leeney provided his readers with some thought-provoking ideas about the history of the Cemetery's Independence Day ceremony and its meaning to us in 2005. A day or two later, Marissa Yaremich, a *Register* staff reporter, presented a "Declaration awakens patriotism at July 4 event" with a picture of Roger Sherman's memorial gravestone. Her 'review' of the commemoration detailed the extent of the activities. And on June 11, starting on page 1 of Section D of the *Hartford Courant*, there was a multi-pictured article titled "A Historic Cemetery Comes to Life." Subheadings included: "Benefactors of Grove Street Graveyard in New Haven Are Trying to Get the Living More Interested in the Dead" as well as "Tours, Website Seek To Boost Interest In Historic Cemetery." The article focused not only on the historic significance of the Cemetery, but also the activities sponsored by the Friends organization, including its tours.

Grove Street Cemetery is usually listed among 'places of interest' to visit in local directories about New Haven. The Cemetery was also recently included in *Connecticut* and *Yankee* magazine summaries about outstanding historical sites worthy of attention. Another venue, *Connecticut: An Explorer's Guide*, in its 6th edition, also includes a paragraph describing the Cemetery.

Beautification Program Continues

The Master Plan for beautification of the Cemetery, prepared by Balmori Associates and presented in 2001, has been the guide for the work of the Horticulture Committee of the Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc. during the last four years. While some aspects of the Plan, including a few not directly related to horticulture, remain on our 'to be done' list, a major portion of the recommended plantings of trees and shrubs has been completed. In the Spring of 2006 more will be accomplished to carry out the basic theme of the original Plan.

Cemetery Tours an Increasing Success

This year's schedule of one-hour guided tours of the Cemetery was scheduled from early May to late November. Regularly scheduled tours were given every Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m. and on the first and third Sundays of the month at noon.

Although this section of Connecticut experienced an unusually dry 'summer season' – until 9 straight days of rain in October, only two or three scheduled tours were cancelled by inclement weather. We estimate that there will have been over 1,000 people escorted through the Cemetery in 2005. Most were part of our regularly scheduled tours, but some were members of specially arranged 'private' tours for schools, families, club groups, etc. The same schedule will prevail for 2006, starting in early May. For information on special group tours, for which there is a modest fee, please contact Patti Illingworth at (203) 389-3404 or by email at p.b.illingworth@worldnet.net.

Many visitors to the Cemetery prefer a self-guided tour. Maps and other materials are available at the office just inside the gate. Please note: the Cemetery is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.

Tombstones of Eminent People Being Added to Website

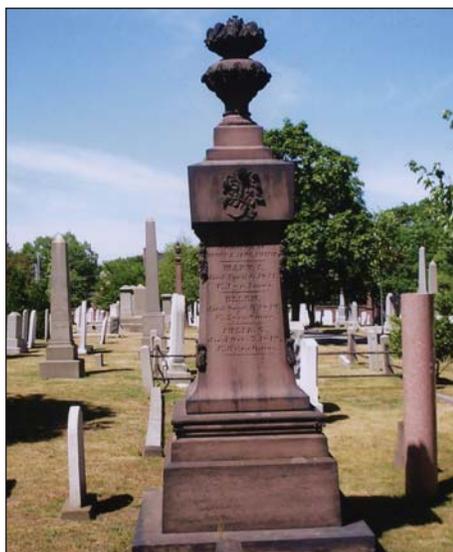
We expect that gravesite photographs, taken by Sue Williams, of the 89 Eminent People listed in our "History of Grove Street Cemetery" brochure will have been added to our website before year-end 2005. It should be noted that not everyone on the list is, in fact, buried in the Cemetery; but for those who are not, there is a monument to honor that individual. For example, General David Wooster is buried in a cemetery in Danbury, Connecticut. But there is a monument memorializing him in Grove Street Cemetery. Here is a sample from the Eminent People tombstone photographic library:



**Martha Townsend,
first interment in
Grove Street Cemetery**



**James Hillhouse,
establisher of
Grove Street Cemetery**



**Henry Austin,
designer of the
Cemetery's' gate
as well as houses
and public buildings**



**Mary A. Goodman,
of African descent,
left her earnings for
the education of men
of color in Yale for the
Gospel Ministry**

Newsbytes from the Website

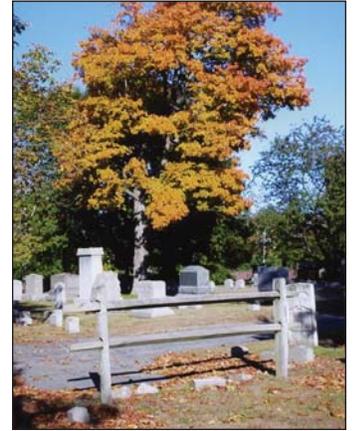
Our **website** at: www.grovestreetcemetery.org continues to be well used and has received high praise from a number of viewers who have emailed us at: office@grovestreetcemetery.org. In fact, during the month of September, 2005, there were over **4,500 'hits' and/or 'visits'** to the site. Many of the emails (and phone calls) have been 'sparked' by the array of information on the site. And in some cases the contacts are unrelated to Grove Street Cemetery. By the start of 2006, we expect to be able to accept membership dues in and contributions to the Friends organization via **credit card**. When that service is available, instructions will be posted on the website. Information about **meetings** to which members of the Friends organization are invited will be listed on the site and sent by mail as well.

Year-end Contributions and Income Tax Planning

Now would be a good time to consider making a year-end contribution to Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc., which is a 501(c)(3) organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a qualified charitable organization. Checks may be made payable and mailed to the Friends as noted. And the Friends can also receive contributions 'in kind' in the form of stocks and/or bonds. Please contact the Treasurer [(203) 230-9858] for transfer instructions. And as the Horticulture Committee prepares to submit its spring planting orders, we encourage you to contribute to the cost of one or more of the trees on our 'planned' list. The price of each tree we expect to plant in 2006 will be in the \$200 - \$300 range and would be a fitting gift in memory of a loved one.

Burial Plots Available

It often surprises those who visit the Cemetery that there are, in fact, over 1000 gravesites still available. If you are interested in purchasing a burial plot, a conversation with Mr. or Mrs. Cameron, the Superintendents, is the best way to begin. To contact them, please call the Cemetery at: (203) 787-1443.



How to Join Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc.

Individuals, organizations and corporations interested in Grove Street Cemetery and supporting the objectives of the Friends are encouraged, to become members. Annual membership dues are shown below. The membership year is October 1 to September 30.

Contributions in excess of membership dues are welcome and, unless otherwise specified, will be allocated to the Landmark Fund, which was created to complete the renovations and restorations of the Cemetery's physical plant and park-like setting. Checks should be made payable to Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc. and mailed with this completed form to: P. O. Box 9238; New Haven, CT 06533-0238.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Telephone _____

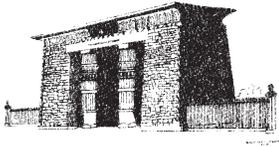
Dues: Individual \$25____ Couple \$40 ____ Not-for-profit \$50 ____ Corporation \$100 ____

Interested in Becoming a Docent?

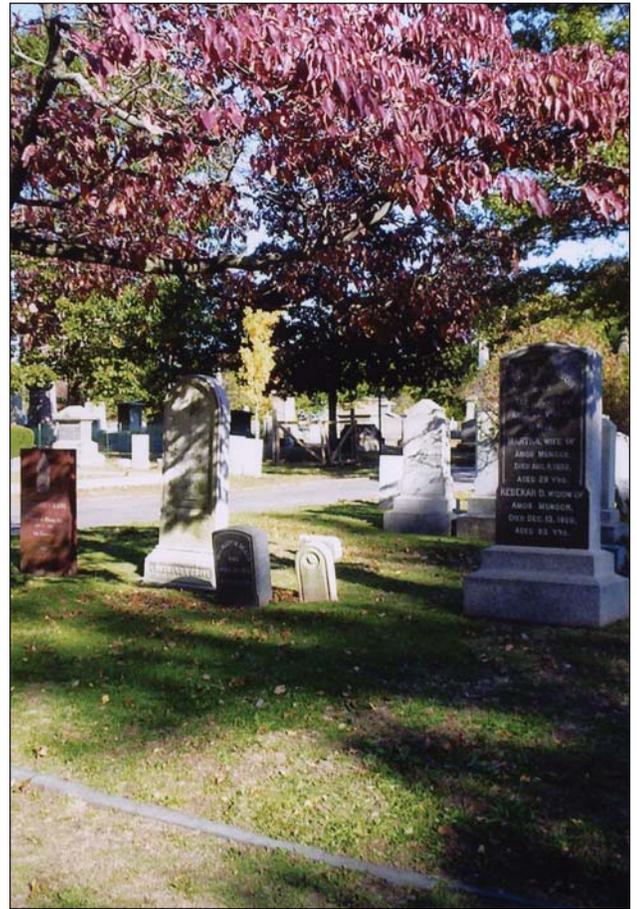
The Cemetery needs more docents to maintain its scheduled program of tours from early May through mid-November in 2006. Several of our present docents would be happy to provide you with the training necessary to become a tour guide and would lend you an on-site helping hand before you embark on a 'solo flight.' If you are interested in becoming a docent or want to learn more about what is involved, please contact Patti Illingworth by phone at: (203) 389-5403 or by e-mail at: p.b.illingworth@worldnet.net.

How to Reach Us

Grove Street Cemetery
 227 Grove Street
 New Haven, CT 06511
 Phone: (203) 787-1443



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 P. O. Box 9238
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 e-mail: office@grovestreetcemetery.org
 website: www.grovestreetcemetery.org



Address Service Requested

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