

# The Grove Street Bulletin

Vol. 1, No. 6

A Publication of the Grove Street Cemetery

Fall 2006

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*The Grove Street Bulletin*  
Edward G. Williams,  
Editor

## Board of the Friends Undertakes a Bold Project

Earlier this fall, the Board of Directors of the Friends of Grove Street Cemetery, Inc. agreed to begin a nearly year-long project to produce a 30-minute video about the Cemetery. It is anticipated that the finished product will focus on the historical significance of the Cemetery as well as its beauty in all seasons of the year. Also included will be interviews with scholars, members of the Board of the Friends organization and the Standing Committee as well as others who have an interest in this, the oldest incorporated cemetery in the United States. Grove Street Cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is designated as a National Historic Landmark.



Main: Karyl Evans at work, Inset: Jeff Hoyt filming

To ensure a high degree of professionalism for the end result, the Board has engaged the services of Karyl Evans Productions, LLC to produce the video. Prior work of Ms Evans has earned her three Emmy Awards. Work at the Cemetery began in October while 'fall colors' were still in evidence. Access was gained to the rooftop of a nearby Yale University building in order to incorporate an 'aerial' view. Narration, sound effects, graphics and music will be included in the video content. One objective of this project is to fulfill a goal of the Friends organization: "Disseminate historical knowledge and other information by means of media presentations....." We expect to use the video as an educational tool in schools and other locations and segments will be prepared for fund-raising presentations. Copies of the video will be available for sale. It is anticipated that the final cost will be in the neighborhood of \$60,000 – of which \$25,000 has been provided by anonymous contributions from the Friends' Board. A generous grant of \$30,000 is being provided by the Standing Committee. The balance will be derived from grants and other individual support.

## What's New at Grove Street Cemetery?

On your next visit to Grove Street Cemetery, stop at the Superintendent's office on your way in and pick up a 'horticultural' map which identifies and locates 34 specimen trees within the Cemetery's walls. The reverse side of the map lists the common name of each tree, the species and the family. The list runs from Ash to Zelkova. Ash, by the way, is of the species *Fraxinus americana* and the *Oleaceae* family. In addition, you will find it easier to locate these trees as a result of the efforts of Horticulture Board Committee member Paul Waggoner. Trees identified on the map have been 'tagged' with a plaque which gives the common name, species and family as well as information about its origin, colors, best growing locations, conditions and other data which you will find of interest.



Sweetgum plaque



Red Maple plaque

The Horticulture Committee of the Friends' Board has continued work on its beautification plan, adding over 60 new trees and shrubs in the past few years. Of course the day-to-day maintenance of the Cemetery's landscape beauty, which is so often praised, rests in the hands of our Superintendents, Bill and Joan Cameron, and their very capable staff.

## Cemetery Tours Start Again in the Spring

During the 'tour season' of 2006 – early May to mid-November – more than 1200 individuals were guided by our team of docents through the Cemetery on nearly 60 different tours. This year only two of the regularly scheduled, free, one-hour tours were 'rained out' and the balance of the every-Saturday-at-11:00 and first- and third-Sundays at noon plan was completed. All regularly scheduled tours are free of charge. There were several special group tours for organizations and families. A number of the group tours were from local schools – the fourth year in a row for the Wexler Grant School. If you are interested in arranging for a group tour of general or special interest, please call Patti Illingworth at (203) 389-5403.

Many visitors to the Cemetery prefer a self-guided tour. Maps and other materials are available at the Superintendents' Office/Gate House just inside the entrance on Grove Street. Please note: the Cemetery is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## Burial Plots Available

It often surprises those who visit the Cemetery to learn that there are, in fact, over 1000 gravesites still available for sale to the general public. If you are interested in obtaining 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.

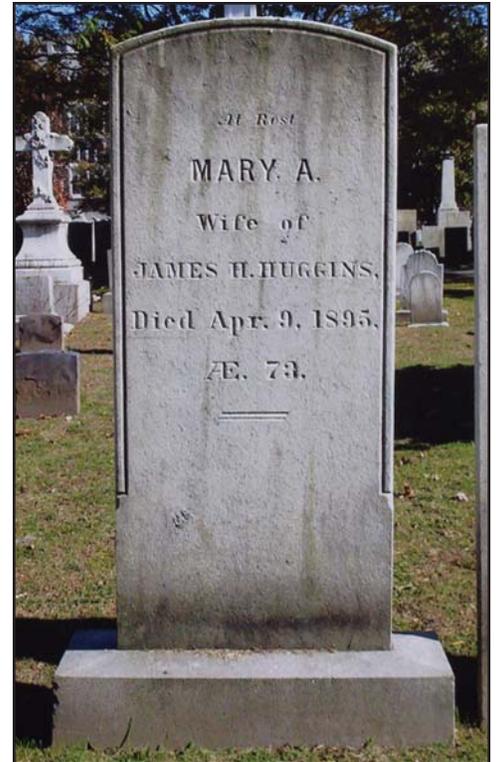
## Meeting of the Members of the Friends of Grove Street Cemetery, Inc.

Plans are underway for a winter meeting of the members of the Friends of Grove Street Cemetery. William Hosley, Executive Director of the New Haven Museum and Historical Society will be the speaker. Members of the Friends organization will receive a notice of the date, time and place of the meeting. If you are not already a member, now would be a good time to join!

## Are You Interested in Purchasing a Photograph of a Particular Gravestone?

The Board of the Friends Organization is exploring whether or not there is enough interest to establish a program which would offer (at a yet-to-be-determined reasonable price, depending on demand) to mail postage pre-paid a color photograph of a particular gravestone (family ancestor, famous personage, etc.) in the Cemetery. The picture size could be 4"x6", 5"x7" or 8"x10". If you are interested, please send us a note via e-mail at [office@grovestreetcemetery.org](mailto:office@grovestreetcemetery.org). Or: fax us at: (203) 281-6886; or call us at (203) 230-9858.

Here are some examples of gravestone pictures.



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## 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. Membership Dues and Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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 \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: Individual \$35 \_\_\_\_\_ Couple \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Not-for-profit \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Corporation \$100 \_\_\_\_\_



## More Docents are Needed



While we are happy about the increase in the number of special tours and of tour participants for our regular tours, in order to maintain the program from early May through mid-November, we need HELP! Our present docents would be pleased to provide you with the necessary training to become a tour guide and would lend you an on-site helping hand before you embark on a 'solo' 1-hour tour. Please call Patti Illingworth at (203) 389-5403 to learn more about the program and how you could help us.

Photo credits: Sue Williams

### How to Reach Us

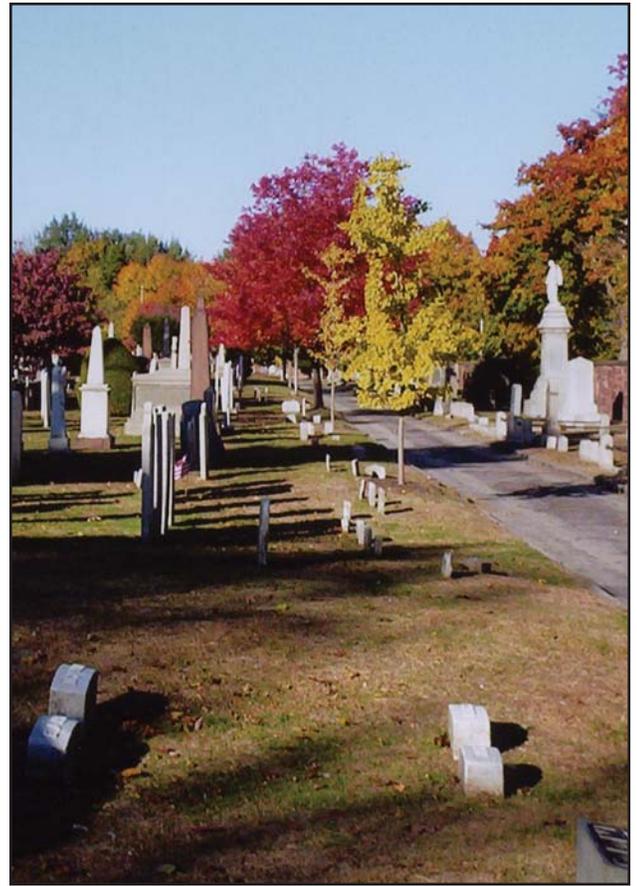
#### Grove Street Cemetery

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



#### Friends of Grove Street Cemetery

P. O. Box 9238  
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e-mail: [office@grovestreetcemetery.org](mailto:office@grovestreetcemetery.org)  
website: [www.grovestreetcemetery.org](http://www.grovestreetcemetery.org)



Fall foliage in the Grove Street Cemetery.

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Address Service Requested

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