



The Grove Street Bulletin

Vol. 1, No. 12

A Publication of the Grove Street Cemetery

Winter/Spring 2011

Standing Committee of the Proprietors of Grove Street Cemetery

Milton P. DeVane, Esq.,
President
Eleanor C. Babbitt
Anne T. Calabresi
Charles D. Ellis
Gerald E. Gaab
Judith A. Schiff
Lorraine D. Siggins, M.D.
John G. Simon, Esq.
Regina Starolis

Honorary Members of the Standing Committee

Elias Clark, Esq.
Marjorie Hemmingway
Howard R. Lamar
Henry H. Townshend, Jr.

Board of the Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc.

John M. Edwards, Esq.,
Chairman
Nancy E. Ahlstrom
Edward S.K. Bottomley
Darlene Casella
Milton P. DeVane, Esq.,
Gerald E. Gaab
E. Robert Gregan
Sondra S. Haller
Channing Harris
Patricia B. Illingworth
Birgitta W. Johnson
Jean C. Kashgarian
Daniel S. Lovins
James C. Niederman, M.D.
Miriam C. Niederman
Judith A. Schiff

Honorary Board Members

Marjorie Hemmingway
Herrick Jackson
Phyllis Seton
Paul E. Waggoner
Margaret Watley
Paul E. Waggoner

The Grove Street Bulletin

Daniel S. Lovins
Editor

The Good, The Bad, and the Beechers

In a program jointly sponsored by the Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery and the New Haven Museum, Debby Applegate gave a fascinating talk entitled “The Good, The Bad, and the Beechers,” about one of the most colorful and influential families in Connecticut history. Lyman Beecher, the “last great Puritan preacher”, is buried in Grove Street Cemetery. Lyman’s children (totaling 13) include Uncle Tom’s Cabin author Harriet Beecher Stowe, educator and author Catharine Beecher, and Henry Ward Beecher, the subject of Applegate’s Pulitzer Prize-winning biography, *The Most Famous Man in America* (2005).



Above: View of Canal Street



Above: View of Elm Trees on Lock Street

Landscaping

Street-scape improvements made during the spring of 2010 include new granite street curbs, concrete sidewalks, antique-style street lamps and salvaged bluestone curbs reused as lawn edge along Lock, Canal, and Prospect Streets. New lawns have been planted, as have disease-resistant American Elm trees along Lock Street. These trees are of the Valley Forge variety developed by the National Arboretum and recommended by Paul Waggoner’s colleagues at the Agricultural Experiment Station. The newly-planted trees along Canal Street are native Scarlet Oaks. The improvements were sponsored by Yale University and implemented under the direction of the City of New Haven Engineering Department, as part of

the Yale-New Haven Development Agreement. They were designed by Cardinal Engineering and Towers|Golde, and implemented by Laydon Construction and Glen Terrace Landscaping.

Walking Tours

The Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery was founded in 1997 to support and raise public awareness of this treasured National Historic Landmark. One of the ways we do this is through docent-led historical walking tours. We are happy to report that the number of participants continues to increase, with as many as 2,000 visitors taking the tour in 2010. If you are interested in applying to be a docent, or would like to schedule a group tour, please contact Patti Illingworth at (203) 389-5403.

“One of the Most Beautiful Cemeteries in the World”

Nathaniel Parker Willis, Yale graduate of 1827, and an author, editor, and publisher, founded what became Town & Country magazine. A friend to many important writers and others in his day, including Horace Bushnell, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Edgar Allen Poe, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, James Russell Lowell and Charles Dickens, he is now rather forgotten. Here (below) is his early description of the Cemetery from his book American Scenery (published in London, 1840). Note that it was written before the building of Henry Austin’s Egyptian Revival gate and large surrounding walls in 1845.

From the chapter, “The Gothic Church, New Haven”:

“The trees in the magnificent avenue in front of these churches [on the Green] were planted by a single individual, the Hon. James Hillhouse. His example decided the character of the town, for it was followed in every street. To the enterprise of the same public spirited gentleman, New Haven owes one of the most beautiful cemeteries in the world. The square in the rear of the churches was formerly, according to the English custom, used as a churchyard, and encumbered with graves, which soon threatened to overrun its limits. Mr. Hillhouse, some years since, purchased a field in the western skirt of the town, laid it out and planted it, and subsequently removed to it all the tombstones and remains from the Green; among them the headstone of the regicide Goffe. It is now one of the most beautiful of burial places. The monuments are of white marble, or of a very rich verd antique found in the neighbourhood; and the natural elegance of the place has induced a taste and elegance into these monuments for the dead, found in no other spot of the same character.”



Above: Illustration from Nathaniel Parker Willis, “American Scenery”, 1840. A view of the New Haven Green with Old State House on left, Trinity Church (viewed from behind) on right, and Center Church in background on left

In fact, several of Willis’s statements are doubtful. Board member and historian Judith Schiff points out that, although the headstones were moved from the Green to the Grove Street Cemetery, 5,000 or more remains were left under the Green, and there is some doubt about William Goffe’s final resting place. (There is a marker

and small stone associated with him in Center Church, and other accounts place his burial in Hadley, Massachusetts. He is not on the current list of the Cemetery’s “Eminent People”.) Schiff also notes that, in his 1942 book, New Haven, George Dudley Seymour questions the source of the “verd antique” stone found in the neighborhood. Seymour writes, “it was a sprightly fancy of Willis to locate a very rich verd antique in the neighborhood of New Haven.” Perhaps “rouge antique” would have been the better phrase, to characterize the various red local sandstones then in use.

Obelisks of New England

This past August, University of Tokyo’s Kana Kitazawa arrived in New Haven to study obelisks and other Egyptian Revival monuments in the Grove Street Cemetery. She was looking for items that pre-date the craze for all things Egyptian (“Egyptomania”) that broke out following the Napoleonic campaign of 1798, the re-discovery of the Rosetta Stone in 1799, and the deciphering of hieroglyphs (thanks to the Rosetta Stone) in 1822. She had previously found examples in India from the 18th century and is seeking similar examples in colonial-era New England. According to a recent paper, Kitazawa’s research involves “how, why, and when this design rooted in ancient Egyptian monuments was employed for Western tombs,” and what this might say about the “relationship between mourning, imperialism, and Orientalism.”

In Memoriam: David Musto

David F. Musto, Yale professor, U.S. drug control policy expert, member of the Grove Street Cemetery Standing Committee and Board Member of Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, died on Oct 8, 2010. He has been buried in the Grove Street Cemetery.

David Franklin Musto was born January 8, 1936, in Tacoma, Washington. He received a B.A. in 1956 and an M.D. in 1963 from the University of Washington. Before completing his medical degree he studied the history of science and medicine at Yale on a fellowship and was awarded an M.A. there in 1961. He completed an internship at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia and a psychiatric residence at Yale, and also worked and taught at the National Institute of Mental Health and Johns Hopkins before joining the Child Study Center at Yale in 1969.

As published in the New York Times obituary, “Dr. Musto broke new ground in 1974 with *The American Disease: Origins of Narcotic Control*, a comprehensive account of drug use and government drug policy from the 1860s to the present.” It was reissued in an expanded edition in 1987 and in 1999. A great fan of Sherlock Holmes, his writings include the essay “A Study in Cocaine: Sherlock Holmes and Sigmund Freud” published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Changes on the Board

We are pleased to welcome new members to the Board of Directors of the Friends: Darlene Casella, Sondra S. Haller, Channing Harris and Milton P. DeVane, Esq. We also congratulate Judith A. Schiff on her election to the Standing Committee.

Getting to know the Website

The Grove Street Cemetery website is a collection of web pages, images, videos and other digital assets available at <http://www.grovestreetcemetery.org>.

The website provides a 24-hour global presence with resources to keep all interested parties and members of the Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery informed and updated, it facilitates communications and provides a repository for the cemetery's publication, the Grove Street Bulletin. The website provides access to an online registry that includes over 14,000 burial records as well as information about cemetery tours, history, genealogy, scheduled events, plot purchases and burial arrangements, a photo slide show and video clips.

During the past three years of operation, the site has been accessed about 130,000 times – an average of 3,700 visits each month. In the overwhelming majority of cases the visits have been by first-time users – primarily touring the cemetery via the tour maps, the Chronicle of Eminent People, gravestone transcriptions and four video clips, as well as the Burial Registry. Site visits have mostly originated in the United States, France and the United Kingdom; however, 33 other countries were also represented. Within the U.S., the major users have originated from the New England states (more than one-third of all users) as well as California and New York. If you haven't toured the cemetery through the website, we invite you to take a look.

How to Order YOUR Copy of the Grove Street Cemetery DVD

Copies of the Grove Street Cemetery DVD are available for purchase at \$15.00 (postage pre-paid) per copy. Please complete the form below to receive your copy. You should also consider purchasing copies for family members and for friends.

Name _____

Address _____

No. of DVD copies _____ @ \$15.00 = \$ _____ sent to the above address.

No. of DVD copies _____ @ \$15.00 = \$ _____ sent to the individuals whose names and addresses appear on the separate enclosed list.

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

Individuals, organizations and corporations interested in Grove Street Cemetery and 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 other contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Contributions in excess of Membership Dues are welcome and, unless otherwise specified, will be allocated to its General Fund. We also maintain two additional funds which may be of interest to donors. The Landscape and Landmark Funds were created to support the on-going horticultural programs of the organization and the ever present need for support of the Cemetery's renovation and restoration efforts.

Name _____

Address _____ Tel.: _____

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

Please check areas of participation that interest you:

Preservation _____ Program _____ Publication _____ Horticulture _____ Docent _____ Fund Raising _____

Checks for DVD orders, Dues and Contributions 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.



Join us as a Docent



The Cemetery welcomes inquiries and applications from prospective docents (tour guides). Training opportunities are available and current docents are happy to co-lead tours until new recruits are ready to “fly solo”. Being a docent is both intellectually stimulating and socially rewarding. It’s an opportunity to study and share important moments and monuments of New Haven and U.S. history. If interested, please contact Patti Illingworth at (203) 389-5403 or at p.b.illingworth@worldnet.att.net for more information.

How to Reach Us

Grove Street Cemetery

Open daily from
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
227 Grove Street
New Haven, CT 06511
Phone: (203) 787-1443



Friends of Grove Street Cemetery

P. O. Box 9238
New Haven, CT 06533-0238
Phone: (203) 782-0485
e-mail: office@grovestreetcemetery.org
website: www.grovestreetcemetery.org

Wreath-Laying for Michael Rostovtzeff

Each year the Yale Classics Department hosts the “Rostovtzeff Lecture” around the time of the eponymous scholar’s birthday in November. This past year the event took place on Nov. 16th and 17th and included a wreath-laying ceremony by his monument in the Grove Street Cemetery. “A titan of Ancient History,” the Departmental Web site explains, “and one of the greats of twentieth-century historical scholarship, Rostovtzeff taught at Yale from 1925 until his retirement in 1944. He served as President of the American Historical Association in 1935–1936. Rostovtzeff was a world authority on Hellenistic and Roman history and wrote widely on ancient history, particularly in the field of economic history.”



Address Service Requested

New Haven, CT 06533
P.O. Box 9238

Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc.



NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 946

