

The Grove Street Bulletin

Vol. 1, No. 16

A Publication of the Grove Street Cemetery

Summer 2015

A National Historic Landmark

Standing Committee of the Proprietors of Grove Street Cemetery

Charles H. Long, *President*
Eleanor C. Babbitt
Anne T. Calabresi
Marcia Chambers
Charles D. Ellis
Gerald E. Gaab
Judith A. Schiff
Lorraine D. Siggins, M.D.
Regina L. Starolis
C. Michael Tucker

Honorary Members of the Standing Committee

Harry B. Adams
Howard R. Lamar
Curtis L. Patton, M.D.
John G. Simon, Esq.
G. Harold Welch, Jr.

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

Edward S.K. Bottomley, *Chairman*
Nancy E. Ahlstrom
Cordalie Benoit
Darlene M. Casella
John N. Deming, Jr.
John M. Edwards, Jr., Esq.
Gerald E. Gaab
John C. Gambell
E. Robert Gregan
Channing Harris
Patricia B. Illingworth
Karin Krochmal
Millie Legenhausen
Benjamin L. Sandweiss
Judith A. Schiff

Honorary Board Members

Herrick Jackson
James C. Niederman, M.D.
Phyllis Seton
Paul E. Waggoner
Margaret Watley

Superintendents

William Cameron, Jr., *Superintendent*
Joan Cameron, *Assistant Superintendent*

The Grove Street Bulletin

Channing Harris, *Editor*
Karin Krochmal, *Design*

The Graphic Design of Monuments Evolves, But Timeless Techniques Persist

The Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery and the Faculty of Graphic Design at Yale School of Art hosted a fascinating tour and lecture this spring by Nicholas Benson titled, “Colonial Gravestones & the Typographic Standard”. Benson, a third-generation stone carver and proprietor of the John Stevens Shop of Newport, Rhode Island, is also a recipient of both MacArthur Foundation and NEA Fellowships.

Benson described the history of monuments’ design and lettering styles from colonial times into the early 20th century, illustrating both the tour and slide lecture with examples from Grove Street and that of his firm, which still does stone carving by hand. The earliest local carvers, including Thomas Gold and Thomas Johnson, had few printed references except bibles and adapted their own lettering styles and simple decorative motifs. With the import of more printed material in the later 18th century, carvers began to copy typographic letter forms, and memorials’ layouts became more uniform, similar to printed broadsides.



Nicholas Benson points out some characteristic features of early brownstone grave markers, some originally carved by Thomas Gold.

Most of the pre-1797 monuments of predominantly brownstone were removed from the original burial ground on the New Haven Green and arranged against the rear wall, so are easily seen as a group, representing approximately 150 years. Benson went on to describe the often more ‘romantic’ and figurative sculptural styles of the 19th century, particularly using softer marble. Since then the trend has been to various granites, including the once popular “Westerly”, a fine-grained tan granite from Rhode Island, now no longer available.



The second part of the program was a slide lecture at Yale, which allowed Nick to show examples of other stone carving, including architectural pieces by his firm such as the Franklin Delano Roosevelt, World War II and Martin Luther King Memorials in Washington, D.C. Thanks particularly to John Gambell for helping to arrange this program. For further information visit their website, www.johnstevensshop.com. Also see Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery Facebook page for links to videos of Benson’s tour.

The notable 1957 headstone for Carl Lohmann uses Roman style letters in a contemporary interpretation of a colonial era stone, designed by Nick’s grandfather, John Howard Benson, and carved by Jim Casey.

Civil War Veterans' Monuments Tour on 150th Memorial Day



The 150th Memorial Day was recognized at Grove Street Cemetery with a compelling tour of the monuments of Civil War veterans. 50 visitors joined Myles Alderman who offered the tour, pointing out that the holiday, first called 'Decoration Day', began during the Civil War. Alderman described a little of what is known of 20 men whose monuments were visited, some of which mark graves but others are honorary memorials.

Alderman noted that over 4,000 volunteers from New Haven served in the war, approximately 20% of the male population at that time. 128 were killed in combat and 378 died otherwise, particularly of disease (including 37 in Andersonville prison). Four soldiers who died at Gettysburg and four at Fredericksburg are honored at Grove Street.

Others include Theodore Winthrop, the first Union officer killed in battle; Col. Noah Farnham, commander of the 'Fire Zouaves' (former NYC firemen), who died at the First Battle of Bull Run. Theodore Woolsey Twining died from yellow fever, along with three-quarters of the men on his ship while serving in Florida. Rear-Admiral Andrew Hull Foote was acknowledged, who worked closely with General Grant to secure the Mississippi River. He was also an important abolitionist, based partly on his naval experiences on the coast of Africa suppressing the slave trade.

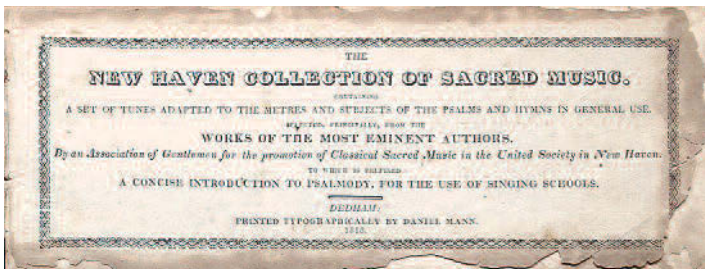
Veterans in Grove Street Cemetery who survived the war include Admiral Francis Gregory, who also served the Navy in the War of 1812 and the Mexican War; Cortland Van Rensselaer Creed, 1st Lieut. and surgeon of the 31st Regiment US Colored Troops, the first African American to receive a Yale degree and medical degree; and Major General Alfred Howe Terry, who recruited regiments from Connecticut and commanded them during several campaigns.



An unusual curved, rustic marker remembers Capt. Crawford at Gettysburg.

Daniel Read, New Haven's 18th Century Singing Master

Last fall a participatory "singing school" was conducted by Ian Quinn, Professor of Music at Yale University, with biographical notes and readings from Daniel Read's letters and diary by John Gambell, in conjunction with the New Haven Museum. One of the most popular composers in America during his life, 1757–1836, Read's monument is at 55 Cedar Street within Grove Street Cemetery. Thanks to John Gambell for organizing this unique event.



Docent Volunteers Maintain A Tradition of Welcoming Visitors — And Welcome More Docents to Their Group

Approximately two dozen trained guides have sustained an interpretive oral history of the cemetery over the past two decades. Chief Docent, Patricia Illingworth, reported on another busy past year of visitor groups and organizations for whom the docents provided tours. Since the group began, hundreds of schools, universities, family and historical societies, professional and business groups, military veterans, horticultural, religious and other organizations have visited the cemetery, including groups from many foreign countries. Recent special tours have been provided for New Haven's International Festival of Arts & Ideas and for the New Haven Preservation Trust.

Prospective docents are welcome and training is provided. Some weekend availability during the warmer months is required. It's an opportunity to study and share important moments and people of New Haven and U.S. history. If interested, please contact Patti Illingworth at (203) 389-5403 or at p.b.i.newhaven@att.net for more information.

Gates within the Gates

A number of older family plots in the cemetery have fenced enclosures with notable gates. The St. John family monument has brownstone piers carved in an Egyptian style with a cast iron gate and fence featuring the winged sun and serpents, ancient symbols of protection. These are strikingly similar to the main cemetery gate and fence, designed by architect Henry Austin, but it is not known who did the St. John monuments. Another cast and wrought iron gate mounted between granite obelisk-like piers names the Osborn family and features a clever spring latch.



Visit 'Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery' on Facebook!

Thanks to the efforts of many, we now have a new presence in the social media world. Our new Facebook page allows us to share our current news, photos, events and even videos with a much wider world. Here you can find links to cemetery news, including recent pieces in the New York Times, Daily Nutmeg and New Haven Register, as well as coverage of events such as the Nick Benson stone carving tour, Memorial Day Civil War Veterans tour, Governor's Foot Guard and Boy Scouts honoring Revolutionary era heroes on July 4th and announcements of up-coming events. Please note this and other electronic communications such as our main website will gradually replace the current form of the Bulletin, as it can be so much more timely, and all may contribute! Visit us on www.facebook.com/grovestreetcemetery.

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 _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Dues:

Individual \$35 Couple \$50 Not-for-profit \$50

Corporation \$100 Additional Contribution \$ _____

Please check areas of participation that interest you:

Preservation Program Publication Horticulture

Docent Fund Raising

Send check payable to Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc., with completed form, to: P.O. Box 9238, New Haven, CT 06533-0238.

Order your DVD of the documentary film, "Grove Street Cemetery — City of the Dead, City of the Living", produced, directed, and written by five-time Emmy Award winner Karyl K. Evans

Copies of the 30 minute Grove Street Cemetery DVD, nominated for two Emmy awards, 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. Buy it, watch it, and then give it to your local library or school!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

No. of DVD copies _____ @ \$15.00 = \$ _____

Send check payable to Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc., with completed form, to: P.O. Box 9238, New Haven, CT 06533-0238.



*Left: Memorial Day Magnolia.
Right: An example of a Revolutionary War era stone moved to Grove Street after the cemetery opened in 1797. This commemorates the death of Benjamin English during the British attack on New Haven in 1779 and of his wife in 1769.*



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 the 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
social media: www.facebook.com/grovestreetcemetery

Burial Plots are available in Grove Street Cemetery

Contact the Superintendent's Office for further information: (203) 787-1443



www.grovestreetcemetery.org

Address Service Requested

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



Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc.
P.O. Box 9238
New Haven, CT 06533

