



The Grove Street Bulletin

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A Publication of the Grove Street Cemetery

Spring 2007

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Video Project Nearing Completion

The project to produce a 30-minute video about the Cemetery—its beauty in all seasons, its history, and its significance—undertaken late last summer is nearing completion under the direction and guidance of its producer, Karyl Evans, who has garnered several Emmy Awards for some of her previous work. This past winter's weather was relatively 'snowless' until, finally, in March two storms provided the necessary 'white blanket' so that the video could include a few views of the Cemetery after a snowfall. Last fall's brilliant colors and this spring's outstanding flowering trees and shrubs were pictured at their peak. It is anticipated that the video will be completed on schedule by early fall. Ms Evans has worked closely with the Board of the Friends at its regular and occasional special meetings in order to review the project's progress and accomplishments to date as well as plans for each of the remaining phases.



James Niederman and Karyl Evans at a meeting of the Board of the Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc..

In addition, Ms Evans has conducted fourteen interviews with scholars, members of the Standing Committee, members of the Board of the Friends organization, and numerous others from the wider community who have a special knowledge of the importance of the Cemetery.



Karyl Evans prepares to conduct an interview with docent Daniel Lovins

Yale University Honors its First Black Medical School Graduate

The 150th anniversary of the graduation of the University's first black Medical School student was commemorated on Saturday, June 2 with the unveiling of a black granite memorial at the base of Dr. Cortland Van Rensselaer Creed's gravestone in Grove Street Cemetery. The event was attended by about 50 people, including 20 or so descendants of the Creed family. *The New Haven Register* reported that "...Creed was one of the first African Americans to obtain a medical degree, and the first to earn that distinction at an Ivy League school." The memorial details Creed's accomplishments in his career as a distinguished physician practicing in New Haven and in his country's service during the Civil War. At the time of President James Garfield's assassination, Dr. Creed was asked for his medical opinion. Dr. Curtis Patton, now a Yale professor emeritus who was the featured speaker at a meeting of the members of the Friends organization last year, spoke at the dedication and said "...We hope those who do not live in New Haven will come to see this historic place."

Jack Sandweiss Lectures on Josiah Willard Gibbs

On Thursday, May 10, Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery sponsored a lecture for its members by Jack Sandweiss, Donner Professor of Physics at Yale, on Josiah Willard Gibbs. The illustrated presentation about Gibbs, a distinguished scientist who is buried in Grove Street Cemetery, focused not only on his achievements in formulating the modern system of thermodynamic analysis, but also on his personal and academic life in New Haven and abroad during the last half of the nineteenth century. Professor Gibbs had many extraordinary achievements and received the most prestigious awards of his era, including the Rumford Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2005, Gibbs was included in a block of commemorative stamps featuring outstanding scientists issued by the U. S. Postal Service.



Josiah Willard Gibbs Tombstone

Quinnipiac University Senior Focuses on Cemetery's Early Tombstones

Worth M. Bagley, a resident of Oxford, Connecticut, and now a just-graduated senior from Quinnipiac University in Hamden, sought our assistance for one of his final year's assignments in media production. With the help of Patricia Illingworth, Chairperson of the Docents for tours of the Cemetery, Mr. Bagley produced a video highlighting not only tombstones of the well-known but also many of the early tombstones (moved from the New Haven Green) which line the Cemetery's north and west walls. Bagley received a "B" grade for his efforts and has graciously offered copies of the video to us at no charge and for our use as we may see fit.

Cemetery Tours Growing in Popularity

During last year's 'tour season,' over 1200 people were welcomed through the Henry Austin Gate for guided tours of Grove Street Cemetery. The current year's program for tours has already started and will continue until mid-November. Except in extremely inclement weather, guided tours are given every Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m. and on the first and third Sundays of each month at 12 noon.

As part of our outreach program into the community, we are active in responding to requests from the area's schools to provide tours which can be coordinated with the students' class work. There has been a marked increase in the number of families who join together for tours which will include the gravesites of their relatives buried in the Cemetery. To arrange for such special tours of the Cemetery, which could focus on families, or subjects such as the Civil War or on noteworthy scientists for example, please call Patricia Illingworth at (203) 389-5403. For special group tours, we would appreciate at least a modest contribution. 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 Grove Street entrance. Please note: the Cemetery is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Smoking Gun Research Agency Members Tour Grove Street Cemetery

On Saturday, April 28, several local members of the Smoking Gun Research Agency joined a regular tour group. The SGRA investigates claims of paranormal activities—in cemeteries and elsewhere. Jon Nowinski, Director of the Agency, explained that his group was interested in Grove Street Cemetery because “...some people have reported seeing apparitions and strange lights at the Cemetery...and some have also reported hearing whispering.”

William Hosley Lectures on Cemeteries

On February 28, William Hosley gave an illustrated presentation to members of the Friends organization about cemeteries in general and because of its historical significance, Grove Street Cemetery was of course included. He spoke of the importance of cemeteries to their communities and their reflections of differing tombstone styles through, among things, changes in funerary art. Mr. Hosley is the Executive Director of the New Haven Museum and Historical Society and was the former director of Connecticut’s Antiquarian & Landmarks Society.

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.

Members of the Glenn Miller Orchestra May Play a Tune at Memorial Stone

The Glenn Miller Orchestra was officially ‘commissioned’ as the 418th Army Air Forces Band in March, 1943 and was permanently stationed at Yale until June, 1944. Many will recall the local concerts given by the Band, some for War Bond rallies; those who were around Yale during those months remember listening to the Band rehearse both military and dance music from its campus corner perch. The Glenn Miller Orchestra, as it is now constituted, will perform at Meadowbrook Park in Hamden (near the Miller Memorial Library) on Friday, August 3, as part of that town’s summer concert series. It is hoped that, while in the local area, some members of the Orchestra will come to Grove Street Cemetery to play a brief musical tribute at the Glenn Miller Memorial stone on Central Avenue.

Interested in Becoming a Docent?

The Cemetery urgently needs more docents to maintain its scheduled program of tours from late April through mid-November in 2007. Several of our present docents would be happy to provide you with 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.att.net.

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 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 _____ 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 ____

Fourth of July Annual Celebration

The annual Independence Day commemoration in Grove Street Cemetery is sponsored by the General David Humphreys Branch Number One, Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, with participation by a local Boy Scout troop, and is held at the gravesites of Roger Sherman and David Humphreys. The public is always invited to attend this yearly event, which starts just inside the Gate on Grove Street.

How to Reach Us

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Phone: (203) 787-1443



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website: www.grovestreetcemetery.org



July 4 Celebration

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ORGANIZATION	_____
U.S. POSTAGE	_____
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Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc.
P.O. Box 9238
New Haven, CT 06533
Address Service Requested

