



West Neck Cemetery Association

Newsletter – April 2012



Annual Meeting Date



Mark your calendar: the Annual Meeting of the West Neck Cemetery Association (WNCA) is scheduled for **Sunday, April 29th, 2012 at 4:00 PM** at the Meeting House behind the Seventh Day Baptist Church at 206 Great Neck Road. Your attendance and insights are invited and will be greatly appreciated.

Association Officers, 2011-2012

Kristen Widham – President
 Stephen Percy – Vice-President
 John Morgan – Secretary/Treasurer/Sexton
 David Tracy – Caretaker/Sexton
 Francis Fetrow – President Emeritus;
 Funeral Home Liaison Officer



Yet Another “Break-Even” Year

The past year continued to be “close-to-the-bone” times financially for WNCA, as it has for so many everywhere. The interest we earn on our perpetual funds has continued to be low, and we are always at risk of drawing down on some of the principal held in CDs for annual care. Fortunately, our donations matched our outlays for cemetery care, even with Irene’s damage. As always, every donation to our perpetual fund is a greatly appreciated help in meeting necessary annual maintenance and beautification expenses while increasing the prospect of “growing” the Fund for improvements. Make your check payable to “*West Neck Cemetery Association*” and remember it is tax deductible. No donation is too small, too large, or too late: bequests have been an important way some of our donors have shown us they care!

Unused Burial Plots / New Purchases

Do you have or know of any burial plots available for re-sale to the WNCA? While WNCA has no burial plots for purchase right now, there are over 100 3’x3’ plots available for cremains and/or flat memorials, which can be for those interred elsewhere but have local family or roots.

Inventory & Reclamation Project: Current Data

We are hopeful that our ongoing research into plot-usage will allow us to reclaim for resale some of the long-abandoned full-burial sites within the year. Our efforts are bearing fruit: we have identified a list of 17 reclamation prospects representing as many as 145 single spaces, prepared a legal notice for publication that is now under review, and have enlisted the aid of two of the state’s top experts in finding unmarked graves!

Later this month, Nicholas Bellantoni, the Connecticut State Archaeologist, and Dan Cruson, the president of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut with six generations of ancestors in West Neck and Old Rogers cemeteries, are going to preview the cemetery. They will then set a date to return in

July with a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) team to identify as many unmarked graves as possible.

Veteran Information: 49 known service members

- War of 1812: 4
- Civil War: 10
- Spanish American War: 1
- WWI: 3
- WWII: 24
- Korea/Korean-era: 3
- Vietnam: 2
- General service: 2

Most of the veterans have no flag holders by their grave. We will raise the subject of funding generic veteran flag holders and flags at the meeting.

Thanks for Old Rogers Cemetery Care

Paul Mullen is the most recent volunteer caretaker of the Old Rogers Cemetery, the “predecessor cemetery” of West Neck, and we salute his commitment regarding the job. “Without these people, we wouldn’t be here,” he said once as he explained his dedication and sense of reverence.

As most Newsletter recipients know, the Old Rogers Cemetery was the cemetery used by several generations of Seventh Day Baptists of Great Neck before the creation of West Neck Cemetery. It has been tended for decades by its neighbors, most notably Paul Johnson, who coached his neighbors Gene Ryan and Paul Mullen in recent years. Many thanks to them and others who have cared for this cemetery!



Cemetery Rules

The WNCA maintains a strict set of rules on size, height, and width of memorials and markers. These rules also spell out the limits of use of both burial and cremation plots. The rules can be found on the website, www.WestNeckCemetery.com.



Cemetery Care

Don Dimmock continues as the primary grounds keeper. His reverent attention to keeping the cemetery a well-tended place for quiet remembrance is greatly appreciated. He even made time to take care of clean-up after Irene blew the large tree north of the gate into the cemetery. (Fortunately, the stones the tree covered were undamaged.) Thanks!

Thanks for the Help

Thanks to the many members who have given generously to our annual appeal for financial help. It is a comfort to know our investments are relatively stable, but even more heartening is the ongoing support of our steadfast friends.





West Neck Cemetery Association Newsletter – April 2012



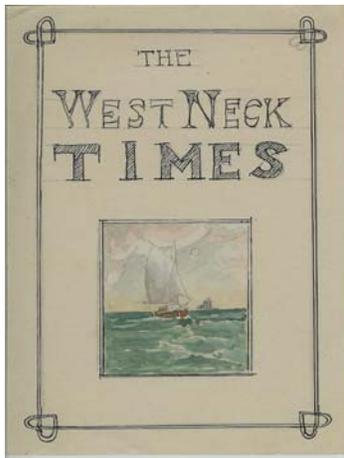
Annual Meeting Announcement: Spread the Word!

Sunday, April 29th, 2012 at 4:00 PM
The Seventh Day Baptist Church
206 Great Neck Road
Waterford, CT 06385

The meeting will be in the little meetinghouse behind the church.

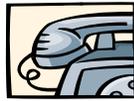
There will also be a pre- and post-meeting look-around for maintenance ideas.

If interested, meet at 3:45 in the cemetery, or go as a group after the meeting adjourns.



Art by Burtus A. Brooks (1853-1935—Lot 74)

West Neck Cemetery Association
c/o John R. Morgan, secretary/treasurer/sexton
P. O. Box 231
Waterford, Conn. 06385
www.WestNeckCemetery.com
main@WestNeckCemetery.com



How do you get in touch with the Association?

Any questions or concerns can be directed to John Morgan at (860) 447-1926 or email: main@westneckcemetery.com

If you RSVP for the annual meeting to the email above, we will bring enough donuts!

CREMATION PLOTS

Cremation plots (3' x 3') are still available along the front wall of the cemetery for \$250, though a price increase is likely within the next few months. They can also be used for flat memorial stones inscribed for loved ones interred elsewhere.

WEBSITE – If you have internet access, you can get a cemetery map, cemetery rules, genealogical links, and more at www.WestNeckCemetery.com

YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS WOULD HAVE BEEN SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE!

But this year, like last, it was easier to use an envelope than go tri-fold and let the USPS crumple our mailers.

PLEASE write, email, or call-in changes to your name and/or address: we will WORK HARD to ensure they take effect immediately!

Also, please respond by any method to let us know which plot(s) and stone(s) are in your family or under your control: this will help us keep track of active versus abandoned graves as well as being able to notify you of any grave or stone that needs personal attention.

Finally, PLEASE email us your email address.

We will be able to give occasional notices and save on mailings for those who would prefer to receive the Annual Newsletter electronically.

[This Newsletter will be posted online, too!](#)

Over, please →