



West Neck Cemetery Association Newsletter – May 2013



Annual Meeting Date



Mark your calendar: the Annual Meeting of the West Neck Cemetery Association (WNCA) is scheduled for **Sunday, May 19th, 2013 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, 2012-2013

Kristen M. Widham – President
Stephen Percy – Vice-President
John Morgan – Secretary/Treasurer/Sexton
David Tracy – Caretaker/Sexton
Francis Fetrow – President Emeritus



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 SS-Sandy’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

As mentioned last spring, we were finally able to get a ground-penetrating radar (gpr) crew to come last July and survey many of the long-abandoned full-burial sites we have identified for requisition and resale. With a very few exceptions, they could not find either questionable objects or signs of soil layer-changes that typically occur when dirt is ‘stirred’ through digging and filling a grave. We are now reviewing our bylaws and articles of incorporation to determine if they allow us to return long-abandoned plots to WNCA control.

Memorial Day 2012 Fund-Drive Report

Last spring we noted that many of our veterans had no flag holder. Thanks to a very successful fund drive, all known veterans have a flag holder and fresh flag.

Veteran Information: 53 known service members

- War of 1812: 4
- Civil War: 11
- Spanish American War: 1
- WWI: 4
- WWII: 25
- Korea/Korean-era: 4
- Vietnam: 2
- General service: 2

Last year’s research found several more veterans, moving the total of known vets to 53.

Hendrahand Former-Slave Grave Mystery

Did you know there is a Civil War stone for Joseph Ross Hendrahand, who was “Born in slavery in Washington NC / Died in the service of his country a freeman”? Or wondered how he and his brother, Marcus (d. May 8, 1860), also identified on the stone, came to be buried here? No Civil War or census searches for Hendrahands produced anything, but a recent close look at the Seventh Day Baptist church records shows that these brothers joined the church in 1858 under the surname Henryhand. Then a census review for 1860 showed that Joseph was listed as farm help for David Rogers, whose sister, Charlotte (Rogers) Greenman of Mystic was involved in the Underground Railroad. We expect Mystic Seaport’s research into Charlotte Greenman’s abolitionist work to support our theory that he came to David’s farm through her family and church connections here. Interestingly, about the same time, the members here borrowed the blueprints for the Greenmanville Seventh Day Baptist Church to build the current one on Great Neck!

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 Super-Storm Sandy. In addition, Mark Bottinelli set upright two 19th century marble stones, one that had been blown over by Irene and one that had been lying flat for over ten years; he re-set the latter one after Sandy blew it down yet again. Thanks!



Ongoing 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.

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.



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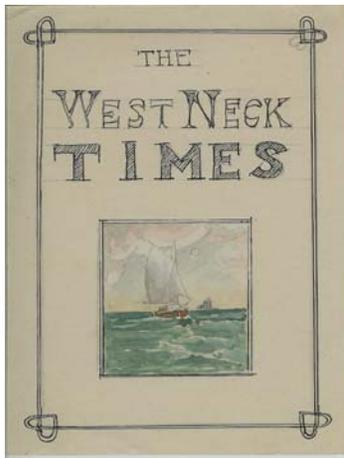
Annual Meeting Announcement: Spread the Word!

Sunday, May 19th, 2013 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 \$300, 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 so many now, 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 →