

EPITAPHS

THE GROVE STREET CEMETERY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2, No. 2 Fall 2024

Hidden in Plain Sight

An exciting discovery was made last October when the earliest records of the Grove Street Cemetery were carried down from the attic above the cemetery office and taken to the New Haven Museum's Whitney Library. What were thought to be the earliest records—the minutes of the Standing Committee of Proprietors and other documents from 1796 onward—had been at the library since 1978, but the cemetery's financial records were not among them. And that's just what had been up in the attic all this time: boxes of papers dating back to 1793, before the Standing Committee was even formed.

They include accounts of funds donated by thirty-two Subscribers so land could be purchased (now we know they each gave \$14), and the deeds for the first ten acres acquired. Also present are the minutes of Subscribers' meetings, and the records of the Expense and Valuation Committee (Simeon Baldwin, Joseph Drake, James Hillhouse, Isaac Mills, and Elias Shipman) who tabulated the total cost of the burying ground so to set sale prices for the individual lots. Preparations entailed leveling the land, fencing in the grounds, creating carriage roads, and surveying, fencing, and marking of family lots, as well as the planting of many trees (the first were poplars, elms, and willows). Once all this advance work was done, the Standing Committee began their management of the cemetery and welcomed the first burial in November 1797.

An interesting item is a small receipt dated November 24, 1797, for the purchase of a lot for Roger Sherman, a Founding Father, who had had died in 1793 and was buried in the old burying ground at Center Church. The Sherman family did not enter the public lottery held to chose and purchase family lots, and only paid one dollar for their lot, though those along that avenue (now named Maple) were sold for fifteen dollars each. Perhaps the Standing Committee (or James Hillhouse) wanted to ensure that Sherman and his elegant table tomb were moved into the new ground to enhance the prestige of this empty field located beyond the Nine Squares, so to attract both tourists and new proprietors alike?

Also in the records, which span from 1793 to 2013, are invoices and receipts for maintenance of the grounds, purchase of equipment, repair of gravestones, upkeep of lot enclosures (painting the post-and-rail fences and lettering signs with the lot owners' names), and other operating expenses. Included are documents for constructing the stone walls, iron palisade, and the great Egyptian revival gateway (1845), and for the design and construction of the chapel/gatehouse/office, in which these important records had been hiding in plain sight for well over a century.

(continued on page 5)



The attic over the office held surprises including records of the building's design by New Haven architect Rufus G. Russell and its construction in 1871. The new information kiosk stands at left (see story on page 3).

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Timothy Phelps of
Daniel Barnes - paid
Elias Shipman - paid
Jonathan Mix - paid
Elias Shipman - paid
Nathaniel Beers - paid
Joseph Darling paid
Elias Shipman paid
John Nicoll - paid
Moses Sumner paid
Joseph Bradley paid
Abram Bishop - paid
Purson Edward - paid
David Daggett paid
Fraud Beers paid
Nathaniel Fitch paid
Jeremiah Atwater paid
Mad. Hotchkiss paid
John Mills 2 - paid
Ant. Bagnelle, paid
Ant. Sams and Jun. paid
Henry Daggett paid
J. K. Townsend paid

GROVE STREET CEMETERY

227 Grove Street
New Haven, CT 06511

(203) 787-1443

grovestreetcemoffice@gmail.com

grovestreetcemetery.org

facebook.com/grovestreetcemetery

Grounds are open daily from
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Office hours are
Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Burial plots are available.
Contact the office for information.

Jacob S. Jennings, *Superintendent*
Rosa Rodriguez, *Office Manager*

Standing Committee of the Proprietors of Grove Street Cemetery

Charles H. Long, *President*
Gerald E. Gaab, *Vice President*
J. Lloyd Suttle, *Treasurer*
Eleanor C. Babbitt, *Clerk*
Anne T. Calabresi
Charles D. Ellis
Ellen Kelly Ginsberg
Judith D. Hackman
Cindy Leffell
Lorraine D. Siggins
C. Michael Tucker

Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery

P. O. Box 9238
New Haven, CT 06533-0238
friends@grovestreetcemetery.org

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Epitaphs Newsletter

Channing Harris, *Editor*

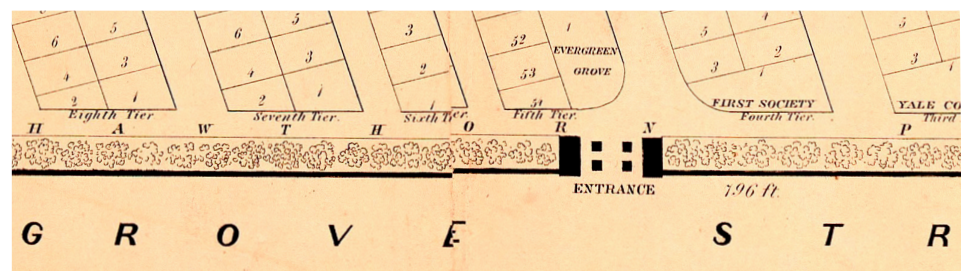


Historical Maps Record the Cemetery's Many Changes

A new feature was added to the Grove Street Cemetery website last fall: images of all seven of the known maps of the New Haven City Burial Ground—or Grove Street Cemetery—documenting the graveyard's development between its founding and 1932. The earliest two are hand-drawn plans (1800, 1802), the next three are printed maps that fold out of booklets published in the nineteenth century (1822, 1839, 1862), and the last two were drawn by professional surveyors for the use of Grove Street's superintendents (1897, 1932). The maps show the expansion of the graveyard and the addition of roads and family lots over the decades, in addition to the change in entrances from one gate on what is now Maple Avenue (1802), to two gates on Maple and Cedar Avenues (1822), to a single gate on Central Avenue (1862); the last is the beautiful Egyptian revival portal we use today. Also of interest is the closing of three pathways that paralleled Myrtle Path, so they could be developed into family lots (making two rows of lots with half-numbers) and the moving of sections designated for the free burials: Strangers, People of Color, Potter's Field, for those ineligible for interment in lots owned by families (see Dignity Project Report article, page 4). By 1897, these special lots had disappeared altogether, and all the property, including border areas along the walls, had been divided and sold to families. The final map, from 1932, is the one that hangs on the wall in the superintendent's office and is used by the cemetery staff today. A 2001 digital survey is also used for planting plans, utility locations and dimensional accuracy, but it does not have monuments nor family lot boundaries.

These plans also help document the cemetery's early landscape architectural history. For some time we've had the 1839 report of recommended improvements including the proposed plantings around the inside perimeter, to distinguish this solemn place. As the report suggested, "after the ground is enclosed in such a manner as to protect the contemplated improvements, nothing can contribute so much to the beauty and sacredness of the spot, as judicious plantations of trees and shrubs. Such plantations always strike the eye with pleasure in any ground, but seem peculiarly suited to the quietness and solemnity appropriate to the repose of the dead."

Now we can see the evidence of this in the 1862 plan, where a band of vegetation encircles the grounds just inside the walls. This is also described in the *Albany Argus* newspaper, who had a reporter attend the ceremony of the dedication of the cornerstone of the Egyptian gateway in July 1845: "Around the whole area also, inside the wall, is a wide belt of trees, shrubbery and hedge, which already form an almost impenetrable screen—in which may be found every variety of tree and shrub, many of them procured from abroad and rare in this country." Unfortunately from the landscape perspective, all of this planted border except that along Grove Street was removed to create more lots for sale by the time the 1897 map was completed. 🌿



Detail of the 1862 "Plan of the New Haven City Burial Ground" showing a vegetation band inside the wall between Grove Street and Hawthorn Path. Note also an "Evergreen Grove" in alignment with the entrance gateway, which was removed when the chapel was constructed there in 1871. The border along Grove Street is currently being replanted.

THE MAPS CAN BE ACCESSED HERE: grovestreetcemetery.org/explore/history/historical-maps or found via the website's landing page by following the links Explore/History/Historical Maps. Further descriptive notes and directions for downloading the images for close inspection are on the Historical Maps page.

Seeley Jennings Jr., 1946–2024, Grove Street Cemetery Superintendent



structure for the storage of funerary urns holding cremated remains of the dead. A U. S. Navy veteran, he was venerated with military honors at his memorial service on July 10th in Stratford. An inscribed granite bench is now installed as a Grove Street Cemetery memorial to him, outside the superintendent's office. Seeley is remembered with his smile and a twinkle in his eye, and he succeeded as superintendent by the former assistant superintendent, Jacob Jennings, his grandson.

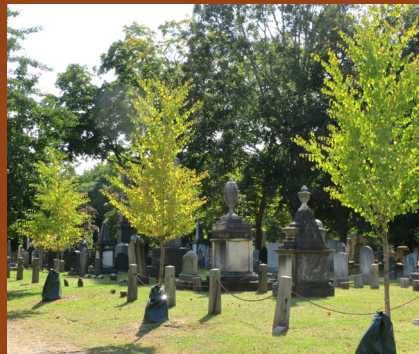
These thoughts were shared by Michael Morand, Chair of the Board of the Friends:

The passing of Superintendent Seeley Jennings Jr. on June 27th, 2024, was sadly observed by the Grove Street Cemetery staff, the Friends Board, the Standing Committee of the Proprietors, and his many colleagues and friends. Seeley served us for eight years and brought a wealth of professional experience to the organization, having come from thirty-four years as superintendent of Bridgeport's Lakeview Cemetery. Among his many contributions to the cemetery was introducing a columbarium, a

“What a blessing it was to know Seeley and to see how magnificently he superintended Grove Street Cemetery. I feel particularly blessed by the lessons he gave about how to live and die with dignity and grace. His loss is great. His legacy is greater still.”

Arboretum Growth and Tree Replacements

Over the past several years, storms, disease, and insect pests have required the removal of many trees and a program of replacements is underway, particularly for the street trees lining the avenues. The current goal is to plant about 130 trees, forty of which were installed last year. This is also an opportunity to expand the variety of species, in keeping with the guidelines of the arboretum plan to promote diversity for sustainability and for educational purposes. Once more trees are established, more labels will be added to the forty notable trees currently listed and labeled in the Arboretum brochure. New plantings include several disease-resistant “Jefferson” American elms, northern red oak and pin oak, sweet bay magnolias, star magnolia, “Ann” and “Ricky” purple-flowered magnolias (all on Magnolia Avenue). Also planted are a number of American hornbeams, Katsura trees, Ivory Silk tree lilacs, columnar sweetgums, a



pepperidge tree (tupelo or sweet gum) and blue atlas cedars. A yellow-flowered magnolia was also planted this year in memory of Mimi and Jim Niederman who both passed in early 2024, as a gift from the Friends Board. It was a favorite of theirs. Jim was a leading, founding member of the Friends of Grove Street Cemetery and Mimi also served on the board.

Editor's Note: This issue of *Epitaphs* has a theme of archival discoveries, historical research, and the sharing of facts, stories, and biographies. Even with decreasing legibility of our gravestones today, many of us wonder about the lives of the people memorialized in our burial ground. Several of these articles speak to the methods and techniques of pursuing these questions, but an important digital tool available to anyone is “Find a Grave.” This was founded in 1995, linked with Ancestry.com in 2013, and its mission is “to help people ... work together to find, record and present final disposition information as a virtual cemetery experience.” Volunteers create the online memorials, upload photos of grave markers (and sometimes the deceased), transcribe texts of the monuments, add links to obituaries, and more. Over 75% of the more than 14,000 people entered for Grove Street in this international database now have photographed gravestones. Another helpful tool for discovery is the Registry found on our website. Although also not complete (it is based on the paper records held by the cemetery), it contains entries with gravesite locations for over 14,000 names, but no photographs.



A painted metal document box that held eighteenth-century records in the attic is now at the New Haven Museum's Whitney Library.

Cradle Graves Care

The twenty-four cradle graves in the cemetery continued to have care this summer, led by new Friends board member Emma Norden. Grove Street Gardeners volunteers installed new plantings, transplanted older plants and provided weeding. The group welcomes new members. Contact: friends@grovestreetcemetery.org.

Grove Street Cemetery— Dignity Project Report on Ongoing Research



Some of the stones relocated along the north wall, presumably with the remains, c.1900. The smaller stones are those for children.

Editor’s note: Samantha White is a 2023 Yale graduate who has a long-held interest in the Grove Street Cemetery, especially concerning the transfer of remains within the cemetery. She first began research on this topic in 2019 for a class project and continued her research this past year with support by a Gordon Grand Fellowship from Yale and by the Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery. While the broad outlines of the removal of remains within the cemetery were generally available in the past in the writings of Abbe Gluck and Henry Townshend (the latter available on the cemetery’s website), ongoing research has uncovered more detail to permit fuller understanding in contemporary context. As the research continues, we will be developing approaches to sharing this information more broadly with the public. The following is compiled from Samantha White’s research on what she has named “The Dignity Project.”

Recent research has determined that as space for burials in the cemetery became limited at the end of the nineteenth century, the cemetery’s leadership confronted the challenge of how to manage the limited space while continuing to operate, as the sale of lots and burial fees were their main source of income. Their decision led to the disinterment and reburial of over 300 individuals, between the years of 1897–1901, which allowed for the resurvey and sale of additional private lots. Of those who research indicates were moved, about half were children. Two-thirds were Black, and one-third were white. These remains were removed from sections designated as the “City of New Haven” lots, the “Strangers” and “People

of Color” lots, and the “Potter’s Field,” and assigned to new areas, including a strip of land along the north wall which had previously been reserved for landscaping.

In January 1897, the secretary of the Standing Committee, Edward Beecher, proposed this removal as a “radical move in the way of improvements.” A statement in the minutes at that time notes, “Be it remembered that the lots and parts of lots in the north westerly section of the burying ground . . . belong to the common burying ground. Whoever may have taken of said lots have no title, they have no deeds . . ., they have paid no money and . . . they have no exclusive right to use them. . .” This seems to be a justification for their action.

The Dignity Project deployed ground-penetrating radar (GPR) to better understand the scope and scale of the relocations within the cemetery. Work also included review of cemetery records, including materials recovered this year and described in the cover article. Research strongly suggests there was group reburial along the north wall, though it is qualified as not totally definitive.

Relocating burials was not new in 1897, nor unique to New Haven. Countless old-world cities, notably London, and other American communities have such histories of removals, reburials, and of rebuilding on and above older graves. New York City has the rediscovered example of the African Burial Ground, now National Monument, when the roughly six-acre seventeenth and eighteenth century burial ground of enslaved and free Blacks was researched and memorialized. It had had over 15,000 burials, many now covered by tall buildings. Philadelphia has a legacy of disinterment with more than 50,000 remains from five city cemeteries removed to suburban memorial parks—as late as the 1950s and without grave markers—and the land repurposed for public housing, schools, and playgrounds. The Quabbin Reservoir built in the 1930’s in central Massachusetts involved relocating cemeteries and 7,600 graves from several small towns, before the land was flooded for water storage. And here in New Haven is the curious example of the Ancient Burial Ground on the Green, which has roughly 5,000 unmarked graves, but only a few remains were dug up and removed to Grove Street Cemetery when Center Church changed their foundation walls in 1812.

As the Dignity Project continues its research, the Friends will work with the Standing Committee and community stakeholders on a path forward that acknowledges this history and seek to restore more dignity to the individuals moved and their families.

Scholar and Author Regina Mason Visits

Regina Mason, great-great-great-granddaughter of William Grimes, freedom seeker and author of the first “fugitive slave narrative,” accompanied the Friends Board in May for an especially memorable event at the cemetery. The meeting began with a tour by board chair, Michael Morand, pointing out some of the stones of early New Haven leaders who discouraged African American progress, including some who were enslavers. He described some of their actions such as voting against the establishment of a Black college in New Haven in 1831. Graves of early New Haven Black leaders and their white allies were also noted, including John and Vashti Creed, Bias and Margaret Stanley, John Warner Barber, and Nathaniel Jocelyn. Morand has been instrumental in the recent Yale and Slavery Research Project and is lead curator of the exhibition at the New Haven Museum, “Shining Light on Truth: New Haven, Yale

and Slavery,” co-curated with Friends member Charles E. Warner Jr.

Mason then described her own genealogical research of many years, which verified and expanded the story of William Grimes (1784–1865). He liberated himself from enslavement and eventually had to purchase his freedom while living in Connecticut. He wrote and published *The Life of William Grimes* in 1825. Grimes is buried in Grove Street Cemetery with his name on a white marble obelisk beside the office building (formerly chapel). Collaborating with author William Andrews, Mason created an annotated republishing of her ancestor’s story from Oxford University Press in 2008. She also helped create a film, *Gina’s Journey: The Search for William Grimes*, with Sean Durant. She concluded her fascinating talk: “I am the keeper of his legacy, his heritage.” Her ancestor’s grave site is now an official part of the Connecticut Freedom Trail. 🌿



New Greeting Sign/ Kiosk Installed

Visitors to the cemetery are now greeted by a unique sign and kiosk beside the superintendent’s office, with pocket drawers containing various brochures and maps. It provides a contemporary welcome to visitors and holds key information, especially on weekends when the office is closed. The design is modelled on the arched gable end of our historic superintendent’s office, and the shape evokes some of our gothic headstones. (It was recently discovered that the chapel was originally designed by New Haven architect Rufus G. Russell in 1871, seventy-five years after the cemetery’s founding.) The kiosks’s Forest Park green panel is flanked by brown posts matching the building’s trim. The panel is accented with gold lettering and features a carved copy of the iconic moth on the peak of the building.

Originally sketched on a paper napkin, the design was advanced by a committee including Sandra Markham, Channing Harris, Karin Krochmal, and several members of the Friends board, with graphic design by Karin. Colors and materials mock-ups were reviewed by the working group and members of the Standing Committee of Proprietors. The kiosk was fabricated in powder-coated aluminum with mechanical hinged plexiglass pockets. This and the installation were done by SIGNLite of North Haven, Connecticut, under the direction of Ken DeTulio and company designer Rick Heller. Underwritten jointly by the Friends of Grove Street Cemetery and the Standing Committee, the installation was also assisted by cemetery staff, led by Jacob Jennings. 🌿



Members of the Board of The Friends of Grove Street Cemetery: Ben Sandweiss, Henry Dynia, Tine Burgett, Emma Norden, Cordalie Benoit, Karin Krochmal, John Deming Jr., presenter Regina Mason, Darlene Casella, Channing Harris, Michael Morand and Millie Legenhausen at the William Grimes monument.

Hidden in Plain Sight (continued from page 1)

At a recent meeting of the Board of the Friends held at the New Haven Museum’s Whitney Library, members Sandra Markham and Emma Norden shared a collection of some of these and other early records from the cemetery’s archives. These included some of the first

maps (1800 and 1802), superintendent’s reports, meeting minutes (one stating James Hillhouse’s intention to provide lots for family burials) and documentation of some of the first Black residents to purchase family lots in the 1820s. 🌿

The Visual Arts in Grove Street Cemetery

On the 226th anniversary of the cemetery's first burial, that of Martha Townsend, an illustrated talk by Friends board member Channing Harris explored some of the painters, sculptors, architects, and arts patrons memorialized in the Grove Street Cemetery. Begun as a walking tour at the request of an arts group a few years ago, names have been added to a list covering about forty individuals currently. Biographical notes, works of art, design of monuments, and some of the connections of cultural and historical contexts were shared. A walking tour brochure is planned. The program, including an introduction by board chair Michael Morand, was recorded and is available via link on our FaceBook page: facebook.com/grovestreetcemetery/videos/658633646421434. Among the notable individuals discussed are:

Amos Doolittle, 1754–1832, engraver, map maker, illustrator, Revolutionary War patriot

Ithiel Town, 1784–1844, architect, inventor and bridge engineer

John Warner Barber, 1798–1885, illustrator, engraver, publisher, abolitionist

Henry Austin, 1804–1891, architect; designer of the Grove Street Cemetery gateway

John Ferguson Weir, 1841–1926, painter and first dean Yale School of Fine Art; and his wife **Mary French Weir**, 1846–1927

Rudolf Zallinger, 1919–1995, painter, Yale Peabody Museum muralist

Jean Farquarson Day Zallinger, 1918–2007, illustrator, painter

Vincent Scully, 1920–2017, Yale professor of art and architectural history for 61 years, author

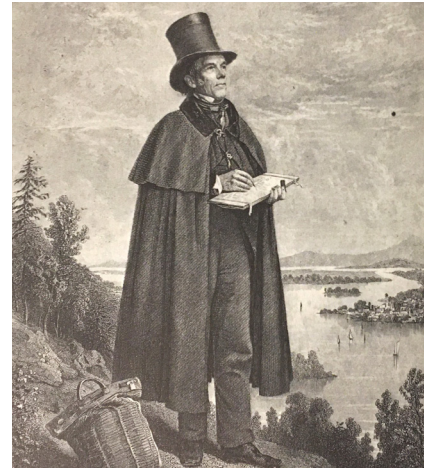
Cesar Pelli, 1926–2019, architect, Yale School of Architecture dean

Diana Balmori, 1932–2016, landscape architect, Yale lecturer

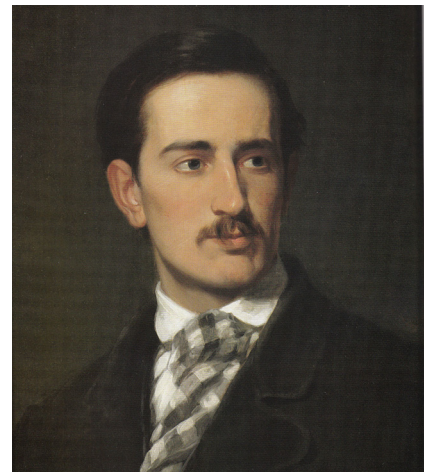
Herbert S. Newman, 1934–2023, architect, teacher at the Yale School of Architecture for 53 years; and **Edna Newman**, 1935–2018, interior designer

Robert James Reed, 1938–2014, painter, color theorist, Yale professor

Sylvia Ardyn Boone, 1939–1993, first Yale Black female art history professor



COURTESY OF CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN, NEW YORK, NY

Above: John Warner Barber. Below: John Ferguson Weir, portrait by his father, Robert Walter Weir

Remembering Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert Du Motier, marquis de Lafayette



COURTESY OF CITY OF NEW YORK

On Wednesday, August 21, 2024, a group of twenty travelers followed Preservation Connecticut's Christopher Wigren for several blocks around New Haven to trace the footsteps of the Marquis de Lafayette on that very day two hundred years before, when the hero of both the American and the French revolutions visited New Haven on his fourteen-month tour of the country. General Lafayette (1757–1834) traveled by land, river, and sea between

Portland, Baton Rouge, St. Louis, and Buffalo. At all towns and cities he was met by hundreds of grateful Americans who cheered his arrival and feted him at receptions that often centered on veterans of the Continental Army or their widows and children. The general and his entourage passed through twenty-eight towns in Connecticut between August 20 and September 4, 1824, but spent nearly a full day in New Haven on Saturday, August 21, his first time in the city since 1778.

Above: Marquis de Lafayette, by Samuel F. B. Morse 1825

Lafayette was welcomed by Governor Oliver Wolcott and local government officials, a cohort of distinguished veterans, and members of the clergy and faculty of Yale College. He enjoyed breakfast at Morse's Hotel with about one hundred prominent citizens, and then reviewed the troops on the Green. He was received at the homes of Nathan Smith, David Daggett, David C. DeForest, and Benjamin Silliman, and toured the college library. At about 1:30 pm, Lafayette was escorted to the "New Burying Ground," where he paid his respects at the graves of two men he had known during the war: Timothy Dwight (1752–1817), chaplain of the Connecticut Continental Brigade (later president of Yale College), and Colonel David Humphreys (1752–1818), who had served as General George Washington's *aide-de-camp*, and afterward, as Benjamin Franklin's secretary in Paris.

While all but one of the New Haven buildings Lafayette visited are now gone—and that one, the Silliman house, has since been moved to a new location—the Dwight and Humphreys monuments remain as they were in 1824. Only in Grove Street Cemetery were Wigren and his history-minded party able to see just what Lafayette saw when they trod the same path two centuries later.

Docent Tours



Above: Warm yellow fall foliage and tiny yellow flowers of a native American Witch Hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana*, grace the grave of former Yale President Kingman Brewster.

The docent-led tours begin in April each year so that visitors can enjoy the early spring flowers and foliage, and run through the end of November for viewing of the beautiful fall colors on a variety of trees in the cemetery. In addition to the regularly scheduled Saturday morning tours, chief docent Darlene Casella has added some weekday tours at noon to accommodate visitors who often take a walk in the cemetery on their lunch hour. Another docent, Henry Dove, was providing additional tours on Sundays, and docent Daniel Lovins provided tours on occasion to fill in, all of which increased the number of visitors to the cemetery. Occasional landscape history/horticultural tours have also been conducted by Channing Harris.

Word has spread throughout the Yale University community increasing the number of requests for private group tours as well, such as the Tsai Center, Yale Health

Center, Auditing Department, Gifts Office, Yale Alumni reunion classes. Other private tour groups have included Fellowship House, Choate School, and the Essex Meadows Retirement Community. Since April approximately 120 tours have been provided in 2024. Two Halloween tours are planned this year.

Some of the most interesting exchanges are not necessarily on tours, but conversations with individuals visiting loved one's graves or inquiring about locations of famous people buried here. Visitors are sometimes from Europe and other more distant locations, Yale graduates returning for a reunion, or individuals walking through the cemetery admiring the landscape of this arboretum. There is something for everyone to see and experience at Grove Street Cemetery in addition to the beautiful stones and grave sites. New docents are welcome; training can be provided. 🌿

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 January 1 to December 31. Membership Dues and other contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Contributions in excess of Membership Dues are welcome and will be allocated to its General Fund. Funds 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

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CITY

STATE

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Dues:

- Individual \$35 Not-for-profit \$50
 Couple \$50 Corporation \$100
 Additional Contribution \$ _____

Please check areas of participation that interest you:

- Preservation Program
 Publication Horticulture
 Docent Fund Raising

Order your DVD of the documentary film, "Grove Street Cemetery — City of the Dead, City of the Living"

Produced, directed, and written by six-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 (postage pre-paid) per copy.

No. of copies __ @ \$15 = \$ _____

Become a member or purchase DVD on grovestreetcemetery.org or send check payable to Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc., with completed form, to: P.O. Box 9238, New Haven, CT 06533-0238

In May 2024, Channing Harris and Michael Morand discussed Grove Street Cemetery's landscape history with Mary Donohue for *Connecticut Explored* magazine's podcast "Grating the Nutmeg." Their interview can be accessed here: gratingthenutmeg.libsyn.com/186-new-havens-pioneering-grove-street-cemetery


“Memories in Stone: The Geology of Grave Markers of the Grove Street Cemetery”

Geology Talk

Sunday, November 10, at 2:00 pm

Register: bit.ly/3YdBfom

The Grove Street Cemetery is many things: a site of memory and contemplation, a resource for studying the people and history of New Haven, and an arboretum with notable trees, but above all, it is a collection of geological specimens that were carefully selected and sculpted to mark the graves of local residents and families. A wide variety of sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic stones are present on the grounds, and the differences in their composition and character offer an opportunity to explore their distinctive qualities. In some cases, the source of the stone can even be traced to regional quarries, which have their own storied pasts.

Join the Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery at 2 pm on Sunday, November 10, for an online talk by geologist Daniel Coburn of Southern Connecticut State University, about the cemetery’s collection of gravestones and family monuments, as well as some of the notable figures in the history of earth science who are buried there. Announcements with a link to the talk will be provided on the Grove Street Cemetery’s website and FaceBook page. 



A monumental brownstone fence at 21 Laurel Avenue, West, surrounds the graves of the Ritter family of stone carvers.

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