

The Grove Street Bulletin

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A Publication of the Grove Street Cemetery

Winter/Spring 2012

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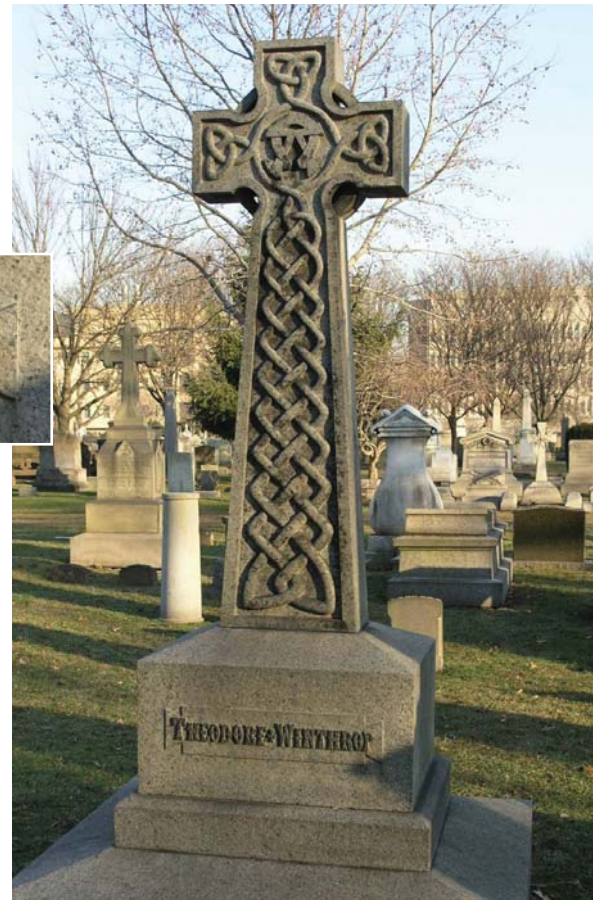
Gettysburg, Grove Street And Ground Zero; Cemeteries And Civil War Memory

Noted Civil War historian David W. Blight, The Class of 1954 Professor of American History and Director of the Gilder Lehrman Center at Yale University, gave a fascinating and moving talk of the above title on November 9 at The New Haven Museum, co-sponsored by the Friends of Grove Street Cemetery and the New Haven Museum. He focused on the importance of maintaining memorials as historic landmarks to keep alive the values that motivated heroes of the past. Blight introduced highlights of his new book, *American Oracle: The Civil War in the Civil Rights Era*, published by Belknap Press of the Harvard University Press, that recalls the era of the centennial celebration of the emancipation proclamation of 1863.

David Blight is the author of *A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped to Freedom, Including their Narratives of Emancipation*, (Harcourt, 2007). This book combines two newly discovered slave narratives, including that of William Grimes (1784–1865), who is also buried in the Grove Street Cemetery.



Theodore Winthrop was the first Union officer killed in battle during the Civil War. "His body was received at New Haven with military honors and followed to the grave by the students of Yale, and crowds of his fellow citizens. ... He was laid in the family burial plot in the New Haven Cemetery. An address was delivered by Prof. Porter of Yale College (now President), and the peaceful and scholarly old town put on mourning for her son, and gave him all the honor she could bestow." —*The Life And Poems Of Theodore Winthrop*; ed. by his sister; Holt, New York 1884. *(continued on page 3)*



Information is sought regarding any Civil War veterans, soldiers and sailors, buried in Grove Street Cemetery and any civilians or others with particular war-time roles, such as women who worked as nurses or in other capacities during that time. Business and industry leaders who manufactured war supplies would also be of interest. At this 150th anniversary of the war we would like to particularly recognize and document these individuals, to feature in a future issue. Please contact Board member Judith Schiff at judith.schiff@yale.edu or by calling 203-432-1743.

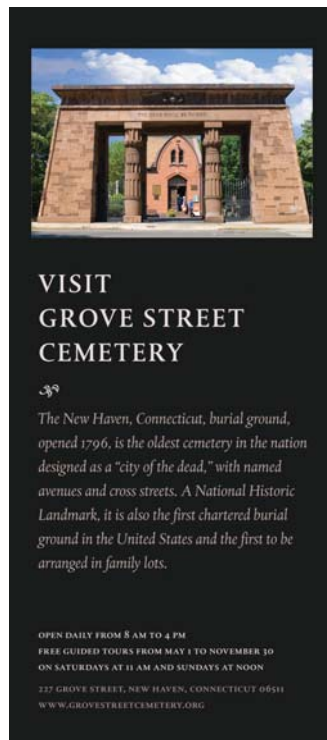
Grant Received for Meeting House Restoration

The Standing Committee has been awarded a grant of \$104,500. from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism (CCT) for the first phase of the restoration of the meeting house, just inside the main gate on the cemetery grounds. We are very grateful to the CCT for their support of our restoration efforts. This initial phase of work will include replacement of the composition shingle roof with a slate stone roof in keeping with the original 1871–1872 design of the structure and addition of a sloped stone (ADA approved) walkway to the entrance of the building.

The grant is a 50% reimbursement matching grant; thus, the CCT will reimburse expenses up to \$104,500. after the cemetery has expended \$209,000. for qualifying improvements. This is phase one of a multi-phase project planned for the building and contributions of cash, stocks, bonds, etc. in support of this project will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to contribute, please contact Jerry Gaab at (203) 562-5222. The Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Promotion News

- An excellent, lengthy article, “What Lies Beneath”, by Yale student Sophie Grais in the Yale Daily News of October 28, 2011 features an engaging discussion about the cemetery, particularly from the Yale students’ point-of-view, while noting many University notables now in the cemetery. See the story on the News’ website: <http://www.yaledailynews.com/news/2011/oct/28/what-lies-beneath/>. Thanks to Board member Judith Schiff, University Archivist, for providing background for Grais’ interview, and helping to clarify many common misconceptions.
- The Cemetery has a new handout titled, “VISIT GROVE STREET CEMETERY”, a full-color, two-sided card promoting the cemetery, to be placed at visitor centers and distributed to potential visitors. Featuring a view of the Egyptian style entry gates, it notes location, hours, availability of tours and notable burials. Special thanks to Board member Birgitta Johnson for heading-up this effort and Yale University Printer, John Gambell, who provided expert consultation in creating this very elegant printed piece.



A Stormy Year!

There has been extensive storm damage to trees in the cemetery and related, unusual costs for clean-up, during much of this past year. Record-breaking snowfalls in January, February and late March, followed by heavy spring and summer rains (summer precipitation was over 150% of normal); then Hurricane Irene August 28 (bringing down three very large trees in GSC); followed by Tropical Storm Lee September 5, and finally the October 29–30, 2011 blizzard of snow while leaves were still on the trees, resulting in more damage. Ben Sandweiss, arborist (and new Board member), noted the last storm seemed to cause less damage in the cemetery than in some parts of the region, perhaps because previous storms had already thinned out the canopies and removed the weak and dead wood.

Tours

There have been a number of special and unusual visitor groups this year, with tours provided by the cemetery docents. Docent Coordinator Patricia Illingworth does report however, a large drop-off in the number of public school group visits, presumably due to budget cut-backs:

- Every twenty years the Garden Club of New Haven hosts a regional meeting of the Garden Club of America, which this fall included touring the Cemetery. Eighty-five visitors from as far away as Pennsylvania were impressed by the early botanical aspects involved in the cemetery’s planning in 1796, among other things. Thanks to Board member Sondra Haller for coordinating this effort.
- An October Tour was conducted recognizing Grove Street Cemetery as one of New Haven’s “Gems”, part of a series of tours organized for the fiftieth anniversary of the New Haven Preservation Trust.
- The brethren of Wyllys-St. John’s Lodge #4 of Connecticut Free Masons conducted a service June 26 honoring MW William Storer, former Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, who had died in 1872. Other important early members of their organization in Grove Street Cemetery include David Wooster and Pierpont Edwards.
- The Second Company Governor’s Foot Guards and the Sons of the American Revolution conducted services and a program on July 4th, recognizing early veterans. Steven Berizzi from the faculty of Norwalk Community College spoke at the graves of patriots Roger Sherman and David Humphreys.



Docent, Birgitta Johnson

Special thanks are due to the Friends of Grove Street outgoing board members Jean Kashgarian, Mimi Niederman, Milton Devane and Daniel Lovins. New members joining this fall include Cordalie Benoit, John Deming and Ben Sandweiss. A very particular and resounding “thank you” goes to Milton Devane, who has also presided over the Standing Committee of the Proprietors of Grove Street for some years.

Tax Savings

If you are able to donate appreciated stock that you have owned for at least a year, you may be able to avoid capital gains taxes and gain a tax deduction for the full market value of the stock on the date you make the gift. This can yield a possible double tax savings while, at the same time, supporting the cemetery. Contact your own personal tax adviser to assess your tax situation, and call Jerry Gaab at (203) 562-5222 if you would like to make such a contribution.

(continued from page 1)

The Winthrop monument is singularly beautiful with its Celtic Cross and the endless chord signifying eternity. It is distinguished as one of the first in Grove Street of granite, as was his wish, and it features unusual lettering and contrasting honed and polished surfaces. Rather modern in some respects for its date of the 1870's, it was designed by then eminent English architect Richard Upjohn, who was known for Gothic church design in the United States, including New York's Trinity Church. Again to quote Winthrop's sister, "He was left beneath the shadow of the old elms he loved so well, and under the tender care of his Alma Mater."

How to Order YOUR Copy of the Grove Street Cemetery DVD

Copies of the Grove Street Cemetery DVD 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.

Name	Telephone	
Address	Email	
City	State	Zip Code

No. of DVD copies _____ @ \$15.00 = \$ _____ sent to the above address.

Contact Nancy Alstrom at (203) 865-2028 for more information.

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	Telephone	
Address	Email	
City	State	Zip Code

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

Checks for DVD orders, dues and contributions 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.

May Program –“Flowers and Remembrance”

Join us for a spring program celebrating the cemetery’s resurgent blooming, with tours and a reception (place to be determined) on Wednesday, May 16th at 5:00 PM (rain date Thursday May 17th, same time). Watch your mail and the website for more information, www.grovestreetcemetery.org.

Join us as a Docent

The Cemetery welcomes inquiries and applications from prospective docents (tour guides). Training opportunities are available and current docents are happy to co-lead tours until new recruits are ready to “fly solo”. Being a docent is both intellectually stimulating and socially rewarding. It’s an opportunity to study and share important moments and monuments of New Haven and U.S. history. If interested, please contact Patti Illingworth at (203) 389-5403 or at p.b.illingworth@worldnet.att.net for more information.

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 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



In spite of their sharp appearance, the needles of the Cemetery’s Blue Atlas Cedars, botanically-named *Cedrus atlantica glauca*, are surprisingly soft to the touch. This relatively young one is on Cedar Avenue.



www.grovestreetcemetery.org

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