

Bedford Cemetery Views

A Public-Private Partnership

The mission of the Friends of Town of Bedford Cemeteries is to support the restoration and maintenance of the four cemeteries

April 2012

Cemetery Tour

Saturday, April 14-10:00 am-Noon

Bedford Center Cemetery, Church Road

Tour conducted by Vinnie Toland, Civil War Historian



VINNIE TOLAND Civil War Speaker

There are many Civil War Veterans buried in Bedford Cemeteries, former Manchester Fire Chief, Vinnie Toland, will conduct a tour of our Bedford Cemetery and share some very powerful stories about the Civil War.


Vinnie Toland has done extensive research and has written 28 booklets, including "Who Was Who in the Civil War: Bedford, NH statistics, information and stories featuring Bedford Veterans".

Bedford Cemetery Spotlight Bedford's Unknown Soldier


compiled by Julie Schappals

In October, 1862, the Civil War had raged for seventeen months and already claimed the lives of several Bedford men and 28 would be lost by the end of the war. Our unknown soldier of Bedford, age 18 enlisted in the 16th New Hampshire Regiment with two other Bedford boys. After a grueling trip in an unseaworthy side-wheel steamer, they arrived for duty in the swamplands of Louisiana and the Mississippi River. While they engaged in usual infantry work and gunboat service, not one soldier was lost to combat yet their group was still decimated by an enemy: disease. Twenty three percent of the Regiment died of disease, the highest percentage of any New Hampshire Regiment. Dysentery claimed several men including the assistant surgeon after three weeks of suffering. In July of 1863, six men perished of malaria in one day. As the end of the nine month enlistment period approached in August, 1863, the surviving men of the Regiment boarded a stern wheeler to travel North up the Mississippi, leaving soldiers too sick to travel in Natchez, Vicksburg, Memphis, Mound City and Cairo Illinois. Our unknown soldier became sick and on August 13, he was left at Vicksburg. He lingered there and died one week before his enlistment expired. Another Bedford man in his Regiment, Robert French, also became sick and was left at Memphis where he died the day after his enlistment expired so his death did not qualify as a "war death." Our unknown soldier was eventually shipped to Bedford and he lies in the Bedford Center Cemetery.

Many Thanks...

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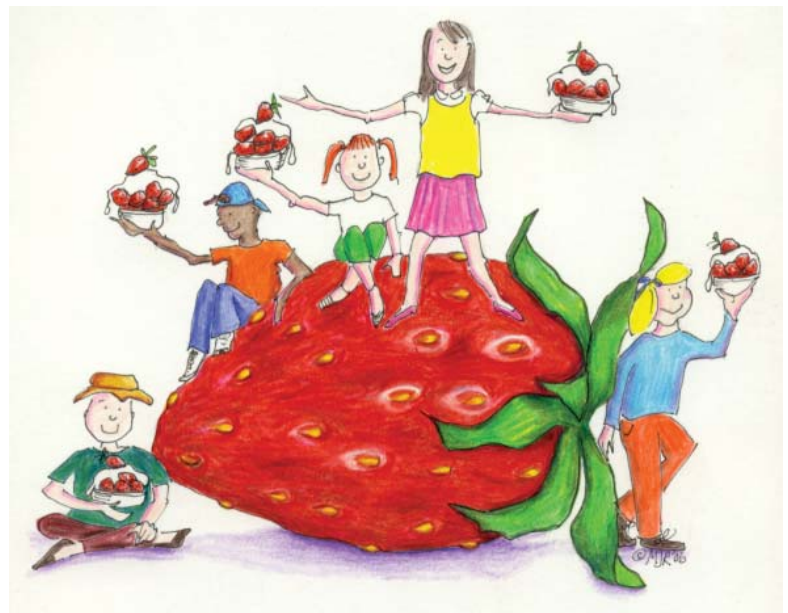
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Send form and check for \$10.00 made payable to
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Friends of Town of Bedford Cemeteries
 24 North Amherst Road, Bedford, NH 03110

(Please disregard if you are already a member)



4th ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 2, 2012

10:00 am- 2:00 pm

Bedford Town Pool Field

2012 is going to be bigger and better..

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_____ YES, I would like to help with planning and
 organization.

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Mail form to Friends of Town Bedford Cemeteries

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