

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

January 2010

Please join us for the
Second Annual Meeting of
Friends of the Town of
Bedford Cemeteries

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

7:30 pm

McAllaster Room

Bedford Public Library

Refreshments will be served

Agenda

Short Business Meeting followed by a
Special Program Honoring
Chief Ralph Wiggin



Photo by Jerry Hanauer

Many people think of Chief Wiggin only as our long-time dedicated fire chief.

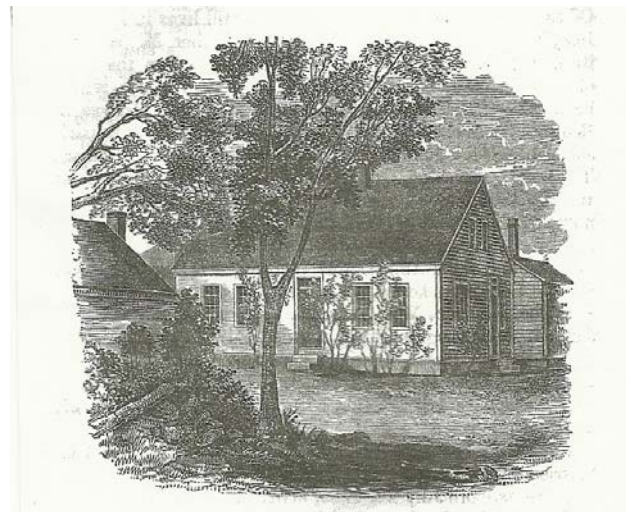
However, he has been an active volunteer in many capacities for Bedford Cemeteries performing duties from grass cutting, Treasurer of the Bedford Center

Old Cemetery Association and as a Town Trustee of the Bedford Cemeteries

Bedford Cemetery Spotlight

compiled by Julia Schappals & Doris Peck Spurway

The Barnes Family of Joppa Hill



During King Philip's War (1675), when New Hampshire was part of Massachusetts, the colony encouraged military enlistment by paying soldiers or their heirs through grants of free land in the "uninhabited" frontiers. John Barnes of Hingham was one such soldier and received land in the "Narraganset #5 Grant" which later became Bedford. Due to boundary disputes between New Hampshire and Massachusetts, 57 years passed before his grandson, Asa Barnes, cleared the land and built the house standing on Joppa Hill. Folklore claims that the initials "AB" that he cut into an attic board still exist. After Asa, the home passed to his son, "the talented and keen-witted" Nathan, who was commissioned a Captain in the New Hampshire militia. Captain Nathan Barnes is buried in the Joppa Hill Cemetery.

Captain Barnes son, The Honorable Isaac O. Barnes, was born in 1798 seems the most notable of the Barnes family. Married to Hanna Woodbury, sister the prominent Dr. Peter Woodbury, he settled in Boston and was Naval Officer of Customs for the District of Boston. He was later the US Marshall for Massachusetts. In 1850 he addressed the Bedford's Centennial Celebration: reading a 34 page reflection on Bedford History which apparently out-shined the speech Horace Greeley of New York Tribune fame gave at the same event.

Many Thanks...



The Town of Bedford has received a grant from the Citizens Bank's "Ann DeNicola Charitable Foundation" to continue work on a Memorial Garden for the spreading of ashes at the Bedford Center Cemetery

ROCK OF AGES
Manchester Memorial Co. Inc.
 603 622-9013 Fax 622-7696
 305 Calef Road
 Manchester, NH 03103

GOODWIN FUNERAL HOME
 187 Chestnut St., New Bedford, MA
 508-435-5785

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Many Accomplishments...

The Friends of the Town of Bedford Cemeteries, a private organization, has worked with the Trustees of the Bedford Cemeteries during the past year. Here is a list of Friends' accomplishments during 2009:

1. Worked with the Town of Bedford to develop a cemetery database for the web. www.bedfordcemeteries.org
2. Obtained a \$5,000 grant from Citizen's Bank to pay for the services of Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture to complete the plan for the Memorial Garden in the Bedford Center Cemetery.
3. Organized a gravestone cleaning effort with training provided by Kai Nalenz, a monument conservation specialist and owner of NE Gravestone Services.
4. Sponsored a Strawberry Festival which brought together many town organizations for a day of fun and information.
5. Contracted with local resident Roger Arel to build and install a new cedar gate for the Beals Road Cemetery.
6. Executed a contract with Gravestone Services of New England to repair the broken gravestone of the famous Colonel John Goffe in the Old Bedford Cemetery on Back River Road .



The Friends of Town of Bedford Cemeteries has contracted Roger Arel, a Bedford resident, to build a new gate to replace the rotted gate at the Beals Road Cemetery.

ARE YOU A MEMBER?

We hope that you will join today!
 Family Dues \$10.00
 (through December 2010)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Send form and check for \$10.00 made payable to the FTBC to

Friends of Town of Bedford Cemeteries
 24 North Amherst Road, Bedford, NH 03110

(Please disregard if you are already a member)

FTBC Plans for 2010

- ❖ Cemetery "Open Houses" on May 8th
- ❖ Organized gravestone cleaning weekend.
- ❖ Strawberry Festival at Bedford Common on June 26th
- ❖ Workshop "How to Give a Cemetery Tour" September 11th
- ❖ Present programs on gravestones