

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

September 2011

“Under the gravestones, the patriot lies beside the pitiful; the peasant sleeps next to the prosperous; the powerful nestle against the poor; the preacher at rest with the profane. Their moments of shame and cowardice, of courage and valor, their conniving and despair are the explosive triumphs and passions of a nation, all slumbering under slate or marble or granite. They are gone and yet they are here, in the story of every human.”

The headstones were intended for you and future generations to pause and contemplate, to refresh and reflect. Nature, pollution and time can savage them and their beautiful, tender artwork. Help preserve this voice from our past; these little pieces of stone that say so much.

2011 Friends of Town of Bedford Cemeteries Board of Directors

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Gravestone Cleaning Presentation

Thursday, September 22nd
7:30 pm
At Bedford Public Library



Presented by
Kai Nalenz
Monument
Conservation
Specialist
Gravestone Services of
New England

Gravestone Cleaning Morning

Saturday, September 24th
9:00 am
Bedford Center Cemetery
Church Road

Friends of the Bedford Cemeteries will supply all cleaning materials.

If you cannot attend instructional class on Thursday evening, help will be available on Saturday, the 24th at the Bedford Center Cemetery to show you how to clean the stones.

Many Thanks...

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(Please disregard if you are already a member)

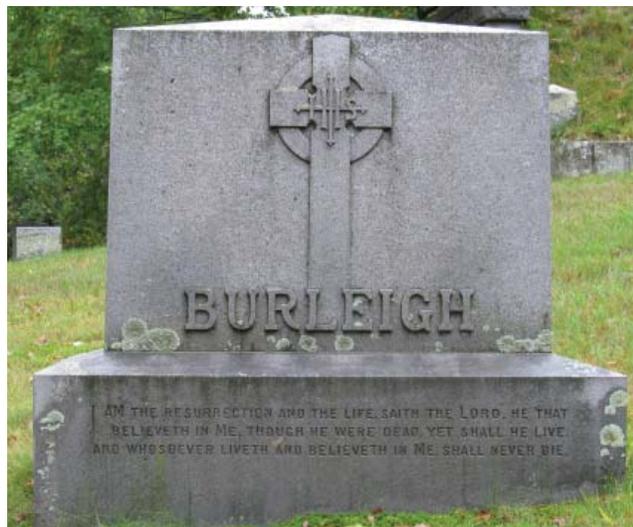
Bedford Cemetery Spotlight The Burleighs

compiled by Emily Weiss

William Russell Burleigh was the father of John Riddle Burleigh, who made many contributions to Bedford. In 1926, he sold land to the town to expand the New Center Cemetery. He demonstrated his commitment to cemetery preservation by serving as president of the Bedford Center Old Cemetery Association.

According to the town history, he “planned, supervised, and paid for the construction of the dam” to create a reservoir on his Church Road property. The reservoir was a water supply that could be used to fight fires in Bedford Center.

Mr. Burleigh also demonstrated his commitment to the town and preserving Bedford’s history by serving as a charter member and director of the Bedford Historical Society when it was founded in 1967.



Gravestone Restoration Contract Issued

At the Board of Directors meeting of the Friends of the Town of Bedford Cemeteries on September 8th a contract was issued to have Gravestone Services of New England restore several stones at the Old Bedford Cemetery on Back River Road.