

OWLS HEAD CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The centerpiece of our efforts this year was the restoration project at Hall (aka Head-of-the-Bay) Cemetery. With the help of the restorer, Joe Ferannini, and a few hard working volunteers, 100 headstones were cleaned and 43 were repaired. The result of ten day's effort was remarkable for the Town's oldest cemetery and the Committee is very gratified that so many people have noticed the difference. Barbara Barnes has volunteered to photo document the headstones and Walter Guptil, who was one of the volunteers on this project, has offered to "adopt" the cemetery and work with the Committee to help keep it in good condition.

A comprehensive Cemetery Ordinance, which is posted on the Town's website, was approved by the residents at the August 2017 Town Meeting. At the same time, the Town also accepted ownership of Ingraham Cemetery from the heirs of Malcolm Ingraham, who was the previous owner. Mr. and Mrs. Brooks, who own the abutting property to the right of the cemetery, have generously donated that land to the Town pending acceptance by the residents at the 2018 Town Meeting.

A plot of land within Ash Point Cemetery, originally donated by Mr. and Mrs. Thayer, was formally transferred to the Town from the Ash Point Cemetery Association. Also, a military headstone for Oliver H. Wiggins, Sr., which had been lying on a pallet for some time, has finally been erected on its proper plot.

The Town has decided to pursue the acquisition of the Ancient Burial ground known as Rose Hill (aka Addition) Cemetery off Knoll Road. The purpose would be to maintain it to comply with State statutes for such cemeteries. It needs work on the portion where old stones and burials exist, among which is that of Deacon Jon Emery who served as a private during the War of 1812. Thus, it also falls under the State requirements for maintenance of war veteran's grave sites.

A special thank you for those who have donated in any manner and/or who have volunteered their time, advice, and efforts. We couldn't have done these things without you.

As always, we appreciate the work that Terry Morang does maintaining the Town cemeteries.

The Town is making a concerted effort to identify veterans who are buried in our cemeteries and the Committee has been placing a veteran's marker on their grave if there wasn't one already. There are unidentified veterans in our cemeteries and we would appreciate your help finding them. If you know of a veteran who is buried in one of the Town's cemeteries who doesn't have a veteran's marker or whose headstone doesn't have veteran identification, please notify the Town at 594-7434 and the Cemetery Committee will make sure that they are recognized. Thanks to a donation by Charlie Johnson, flags have been placed on all identified veteran's graves for Memorial Day this year and we hope to continue this tradition for all future Memorial Days.



Luca Curtis-Young putting out flags for Memorial Day in Ash Point Cemetery

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Carpenter

Dan Clough

William Gay

Michael Vonnannon

Owls Head Cemetery Committee