

OWLS HEAD CEMETERY COMMITTEE

This has been a busy year for the Committee. The two biggest projects have been the restoration of Rose Hill Cemetery and Lea's research to document our cemeteries.

Rose Hill (aka Additon) Cemetery restoration took a bit more than 3 days and roughly 200 volunteer hours. While the cemetery is one of the town's smallest, nearly every stone needed repair and it was a difficult effort involving the conservator, 2 MOCA volunteers, the entire Committee, plus 2 other volunteers. This doesn't even count a supporting "staff" that helped feed and encourage. Additionally, Bruce Peacock and his sister Cynthia Gaylord, gave us a generous donation for their relatives', John and Margaret Emery, headstone repairs. We are proud of this restoration and the result is well worth all the effort. Walter has a video on our Facebook page that will give you an idea what the restoration involved.

Lea spent most of the fall and winter doing extensive research to find previously unknown veterans. She has also added/updated more than 2,000 photographs of the majority of headstones in the Town's cemeteries onto Find A Grave. She has updated maps where available and records for burials occurring since 1980. This is an ongoing project, and you can help by letting us know about any veterans who do not have a veteran's marker. Lea would also like anyone who knows about a burial that does not have a headstone to contact her at lhcarter@icloud.com or (207) 542-6304.

Jesse is working with Girl Scout Troop 191 to help with veterans' flags that are put out each Memorial Day. Additionally, she oversees tree care and has created a Facebook page for the Committee, an email address: owlsheadcemeterycommittee@gmail.com, and is working on our website. She and Lea are guiding Harmony, a Girl Scout, in a veteran's project for credit in that Troop. Jesse also has the responsibility for grant writing.

Walter has been the liaison and right-hand man with our conservator, Joe Ferannini of Grave Stone Matters, and does much of the "heavy lifting" for our restorations. Thanks to Walter, Lea, and Dick Carver, we are picking up a lot of technical experience that will be invaluable in future restorations.

Bill resolved the numerous day-to-day issues (with minor help from Michael) that always come up, but which should be the responsibility of a Sexton if we can get one. No luck so far.

Ordinance revisions are on hold until the ownership of the Airport (aka Town) Cemetery is worked out with the County (a special thanks to Gordon Page for facilitating).

We now have a Savings Account for our Capital Reserve Account that will help us and the Town track deposits and expenditures. Additionally, since tree maintenance expenses are always a variable, a new, separate account from our annual budget was set up just for that.

The research has been done for the abandoned cemetery process for the Cooper (aka Cooper's Beach) Cemetery and a warrant article has been written for the Town vote at the August meeting to accept this cemetery. Afterwards, before the weather turns, we hope to work on getting the headstones upright, cleaned, and repaired.

One surprise this year: Lea and her husband, Dick, did some research on the Lighthouse (aka Merriman) Cemetery and discovered that the cemetery may not be on Federal or State land as was believed to be. More research will be needed, but since there is an 1812 War veteran buried there, as well as a former lighthouse keeper, they and others interred there deserve the best care we can give.

Our big project for Labor Day will be a partial restoration of Holiday Beach Cemetery. There is so much to do that we do not have the money or the time to finish, however, the plan is to complete the restoration in the fall of 2023.

As always, a special thank-you to Terry Morang for keeping our cemeteries looking so nice and for those, like Dick Carver, John Walker, Girl Scout Troop 191, and others, who unselfishly volunteer their time to help.

Respectfully submitted,

William Gay Michael Voncannon Walter Guptill Jessie Ellis Lea Carver

Owls Head Cemetery Committee