

Alexander Cemetery Report 2022

The Alexander Cemetery Restoration Project continues. Over the past year, 24 stones have been repaired and restored. The restoration of the remaining cracked and broken stones, approximately 17, will be worked on throughout the summer, which would then complete the first phase of this project. Albert Stehle, our gravestone preservationist who did the restoration work last year, has agreed to return this year to continue the work at Sand Hill Cemetery. The next phase involves straightening about 49 leaning stones by resetting their bases plus resetting 39 loose and leaning footstones. The cleaning of stones should be nearing completion this year. Once the restoration project is well underway, attention will be turned to the grounds. Dips, divots, gullies, and rough ground need to be filled in and grassed over. The roads will also need attention and new roads need to be established in the north end of the cemetery. In addition, a new fence and sign need to be purchased.

Over the past year, the Restoration Project has been the grateful recipient of generous donations, both monetary, in kind, and by way of a flagpole and flags. Thank you very much to all. The new cemetery ordinance has been updated and was approved by the voters at the March 2022 town meeting. The main changes are to remove floral and other displays by November 15th instead of October 1st; no glass containers; any trees, shrubs, etc. that are damaged or causing damage will be removed; following the ordinance adoption, all trees, shrubs, etc. are to be planted in containers; winter interment is not permitted. Wreaths Across America was well represented again this year and 59 wreaths were donated and laid on our Veterans' graves last Christmas. Honor was once again displayed this spring when homeschoolers proudly and respectfully adorned each Veteran's grave with the United States flag.

Last, but certainly not least, is a word of gratitude for John Dudley. It was John, who along with much knowledge of Pliney Frost, who compiled the town's cemetery maps and records and history. Without John's dedication and love of history and his surrounding towns, so much of this knowledge would have been lost. Thankfully, John put so much down in print, organized it in the Archive room, and shared his stories. We, and the town, are forever grateful. Thank you, John. You are loved and missed.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhonda Oakes & Jane Manza
Cemetery Co-caretakers