



The Grove Street Bulletin

A Publication of the Grove Street Cemetery

227 Grove Street New Haven, Connecticut 06511

Cemetery: (203) 787-1443

Friends: (203) 230-9858

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Standing Committee of the Proprietors of Grove Street Cemetery

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The Grove Street Bulletin

Edward G. Williams,

Editor

Landmark Fund Established by the Standing Committee

Maintenance of the physical attributes of an 18-acre cemetery more than 200 years old, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and a designated national Historic Landmark, is a major responsibility. The Cemetery's age and its exposure to both natural and some man-made elements have taken a toll on its infrastructure. While the Cemetery's financial resources have been sufficient to manage upkeep of its grounds on an annual basis and, now and then, to complete some of the needed capital restorations, during the past several years it has become increasingly apparent that more work needs to be done in the near term than can be accommodated by currently available funds.

The first task undertaken by the Standing Committee of the Cemetery's Proprietors for this challenge was to complete a detailed survey and analysis of the Cemetery's physical plant needs and their costs. Next, the Committee determined that, for the first time in its history, the Cemetery would have to undertake a campaign to raise funds for the expense of the capital improvement requirements it had identified. That determination led to the creation of **The Landmark Fund** under the auspices of the Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc.

The Landmark Fund's initial goal is to seek contributions of \$1,000,000 in the next two to three years from a wide list of individuals, corporations, organizations, agencies and foundations who have an interest in the preservation of the past and protection of the future of The Grove Street Cemetery through participation in its present program for its physical renovation and restoration. A Development Committee, with members from both the Standing Committee and the Board of the Friends organization, has been established to raise funds to meet the initial goal of \$1,000,000. You can expect to learn more about the Cemetery's restoration needs and their costs in the future.

The Landmark Fund is but another aspect of one of the objectives of Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc. to preserve and protect this historically important portion of our city's and our country's heritage.

Gift-Giving through Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc.

The Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc. is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization. Therefore, contributions and membership dues paid to the Friends are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

In addition to accepting gifts of cash and/or appreciated securities, which may be a beneficial plan for some donors, we also encourage individuals to consider naming The Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc. as the recipient of a bequest under the terms of their wills. A representative of the Friends organization would be pleased to discuss this method of future giving with you and your attorney.

For those interested in horticulture, the Friends organization is always pleased to accept donations to **The Landscape Fund**, which is designated exclusively for the implementation of its plan for the restoration and improvement of plantings and trees with the Cemetery.

One-Hour Guided Walking Tours through Grove Street Cemetery

The last of this year's one-hour guided walking tours of the Cemetery is planned for 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 20. Tours will begin again in May, 2005: every Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m. and at 12:00 noon on the first Sunday of each month.

During this year's 'tour season,' our docents were happy to welcome a number of special groups, including some from the West Haven Historical Society, the Association of Gravestone Studies, and New Haven's International Festival of Arts and Ideas among others. If you belong to an organization that has an area of special historical interest, such as the graves of Civil War soldiers, or prominent women, or noted educators, for example, and would like to arrange a tour of those gravesites for your group, please contact Patricia Illingworth at (203) 389-5403 (or at p.b.illingworth@worldnet.net) to make arrangements. The fee for special group tours is \$50.

Superintendents of Grove Street Cemetery

Bill Cameron and his wife, Joan, are the Cemetery's Superintendents and record-keepers. Their son, Bill, is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the Cemetery's grounds, repairs to gravestones, refurbishing 'street signs' and some fences as well as many other tasks.

If you are interested in purchasing a burial plot, a conversation with Mr. or Mrs. Cameron is the best place to begin. It may surprise some who have visited the Cemetery, but there are in fact over 1000 gravesites still available. To contact Mr. or Mrs. Cameron, please call the Cemetery at (203) 787-1443.

The Cemetery is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. If you visit us, the Camerons will answer questions and provide maps and other materials for self-guided tours.

Visit our Website: www.grovestreetcemetery.org

Our website contains much information about the Cemetery, including its history as well as activities sponsored by the Cemetery's Standing Committee and the Friends organization. A photographic tour of the Cemetery is available and, in addition, a Registry of the Cemetery's more than 14,000 burials within its walls can be accessed. We encourage you to visit the website to learn more about the Cemetery and its National Landmark status, its horticulture, how to purchase a burial plot, how to contact the Cemetery, guided tours and self-guided tours, a map of the Cemetery, a list of eminent people buried there, how to make genealogy requests, etc.



Changes in Leadership and Membership of the Standing Committee Announced

At the annual meeting of the Standing Committee of the Proprietors of Grove Street Cemetery on October 19, Milton P. DeVane was elected its President to succeed Howard R. Lamar, who had served in that capacity for 7 years. Mr. Lamar was praised for his years of devoted service to the Cemetery. At the same meeting, Henry H. Townshend, Jr., a long-time member of the Standing Committee, was elected an Honorary Member. In his place, Ms. Eleanor C. Babbitt of New Haven was elected a member of the Standing Committee.

< Milton P. DeVane, President,
Standing Committee of the Proprietors

Program on Henry Austin, Architect of the Cemetery's Gate

On Saturday, September 18, the blustery and rainy weather so evident in the morning cleared by early afternoon so the planned walking tour and program devoted to Henry Austin, architect of the Cemetery's Grove Street gate and other New Haven structures, could proceed. The Standing Committee and the Board of the Friends organization sponsored the event, which featured Alexander Purves, retired Professor of Yale's School of Architecture, as the tour guide and presenter of an illustrated lecture on Henry Austin, showing examples of his work. The presentation by Mr. Purves took place in Dwight Chapel, originally designed by Henry Austin as a library.

Alexander Purves chatting with Marjorie Wynne
v following his lecture on Henry Austin.



Reflections About a 'Notable' Person

[From time to time, *The Grove Street Bulletin* will feature a few paragraphs about one of the 'notable,' rather than 'eminent,' people buried in Grove Street Cemetery. We are indebted to John Kirby of Branford for this information about Charles F. Tuttle. A more complete presentation about Mr. Tuttle can be found on our website.]

Charles F. Tuttle was born in New Haven in 1831 and died there in 1899. He was buried in Grove Street Cemetery. His Tuttle ancestors arrived on these shores in 1635. He succeeded his two brothers in the family grocery business on Broadway in 1856 and later added a 'spirits' store to his retail business interests. Tuttle also successfully ran a substantial farm in Cheshire.

At the time of his death, Mr. Tuttle's obituary mentioned one of his – and the city's – more newsworthy experiences. In August 1857, a small group of New Haven men hired Mr. S. A. King of Philadelphia to bring his hot-air balloon, named "Queen of the Air," to New Haven to undertake a short flight with two local men: Tuttle and P. A. Pinkerman. On August 11th, after inflating the balloon with gas provided by the local gas company, all was in readiness and at 3:43 p.m. the balloon and its passengers lifted off.

The New Haven *Daily Palladium* reported the flight in some detail. It was estimated that between 20,000 and 40,000 area residents witnessed the balloon's ascension from the Public Square (i.e.: now known as the New Haven Green). In addition to its 'captain' (Mr. King) and the two passengers riding in its "car," the wicker basket contraption also carried sandbags as ballast, a limited number of "supplies," and a rabbit (!) attached to a parachute.

Tuttle and his companion, Pinkerman, who together were dubbed as "wanderers of the sky," later told a *Palladium* reporter that once well aloft (presumably, though never confirmed, at nearly 10,000 feet) and sailing over Saltonstall Lake, they could easily see Montauk Point at the eastern end of Long Island. The rabbit, affixed by lines to the parachute, was dropped from the basket while over East Haven and landed in a treetop. It was quickly recovered and taken to a nearby store.

Fearing the prevailing winds might carry the balloon and its passengers out to sea and over the Atlantic Ocean, Mr. King chose to make an early landing – aiming for the beach at Indian Neck. After releasing some of the gas and jettisoning a portion of the ballast, the balloon descended sharply, dunking the basket with its riders several feet into the waters of Long Island Sound. The still airborne balloon dragged the basket along the water's surface until it finally came to rest next to a large rock on one of the Thimbles: Governor's Island. The "Queen of the Air" was saved and the riders, including Mr. King, arrived back in New Haven via horse drawn wagons before midnight.

How to Join Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc.

Individuals, organizations and corporations interested in Grove Street Cemetery and the objectives of the Friends are encouraged to become members. Annual membership dues are shown below. The membership year is October 1 to September 30.

Contributions in excess of membership dues are welcome and, unless otherwise specified, will be allocated to the Landmark Fund.

Checks should be made payable to Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc. and mailed with this completed form to: P. O. Box 9238; New Haven, CT 06533-0238.

Name _____

Address _____

Dues: Individual \$25 _____ Couple \$40 _____ Not-for-profit \$50 _____ Corporation \$100 _____



The Lost is Found – More or Less!



In the first issue of *The Grove Street Bulletin* we asked for help in locating the Cemetery's only copy of a register of all the gravestones which had been moved to it from the New Haven Green. Fortunately, the New Haven Colony Historical Society was able to provide us with a copy of such a list from a compilation of all the inscriptions of New Haven's gravestones prepared in the 1930s. We are indeed grateful to the Society for its help. While our original copy of the register has not yet been found, the Cemetery's office now has a list of the inscriptions on the stones which were moved from the Green and which are placed against the North and West walls of the Cemetery.

Notes about the Mailing List

Owners of burial plots and their families rarely notify a cemetery of an address change. The mailing list for this issue of *The Grove Street Bulletin*, then, includes names and last known addresses of burial plot owners or members of their families in addition to a long list of others who have an interest in the Cemetery.

How to Reach Us

Grove Street Cemetery

227 Grove Street
New Haven, CT 06511
Phone: (203) 787-1443

Friends of Grove Street Cemetery

P. O. Box 9238
New Haven, CT 06533-0238
Phone: (203) 230-9858
Fax: (203) 281-6886
e-mail: office@grovestreetcemetery.org

Address Service Requested

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