

# Hope Cemetery & Woods

Summer 2020 Newsletter

Volume VI, Issue 2

## From The Presidents of the Boards...

THE WONDERS OF HOPE WOODS! For many of us the threat of the pandemic and of living in self-imposed social isolation created challenges to our way of life. How do we cope? What can we do to connect safely with our family and friends? We strive for a normal life but it's not always evident how to do that. Zoom, Skype, Instagram, and Facebook work for some people, but others reach out to the natural world for solace.

Every day we who live in or near Kennebunk are grateful that we can escape to the beaches, rivers, lakes, mountains, forests — and Hope Woods. To make Hope Woods accessible to those who are mobility impaired, our new Universally Accessible Trail (UAT) will allow access to nature and the peace that it can bring. By late October the UAT will be complete, along with adequate parking.

From the parking lot at the upper end of the Cemetery, the UAT starts in a mixed hardwood forest of oaks, maples, and white pines. The 5 foot wide new trail weaves around some of the large trees. Pull-outs allow passing or stopping to relax and enjoy the scenery. The UAT crosses the field, enters a dense pine grove, and emerges onto the old central trail before it heads onto a short boardwalk over a small wet area and then curves to head through mixed forest and hemlocks to the parking area.

What can you see along many of our trails? Watch for seasonal changes. From Spring to Fall, the field goes from grasses to daisies, red clover, black-eyed Susans, milkweed to goldenrod. In the woods, the spring wildflowers include Fringed Polygala, Yellow Clintonia, Starflower, Trout Lily and more. The nesting bird diversity includes Brown Creepers, Chickadees, Ovenbirds, Pine Warblers, Crows, Barred Owls and Red Shouldered Hawks—all of which have distinct calls to let you know they are there!

We hope you will visit Hope Woods.

George C. Harrington, President, Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods

Betsy T. Stevens, President, Hope Cemetery Corporation

### Hope Cemetery Corporation, Barnard Lane, PO Box 211, Kennebunk, ME 04043

Email: [hopecemetery@yahoo.com](mailto:hopecemetery@yahoo.com)

Phone: 207-985-7846

Website: [www.hopecemeterykennebunk.com](http://www.hopecemeterykennebunk.com)

Superintendent: Thomas Litchfield

#### Board of Directors:

Betsy T. Stevens, President George C. Harrington, Vice President Gail Preble, Secretary Tom Dobens, Treasurer  
Rick Dempsey, Pam Eagleson, Tom Kasprzak, Betsy MacDonald, Steve Mahler, Cheryl Price

### Hope Cemetery & Woods, PO Box 1550, Kennebunk, ME 04043

Email: [friendsofhcw@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhcw@gmail.com)

Website: [www.hopecemeterykennebunk.com](http://www.hopecemeterykennebunk.com)

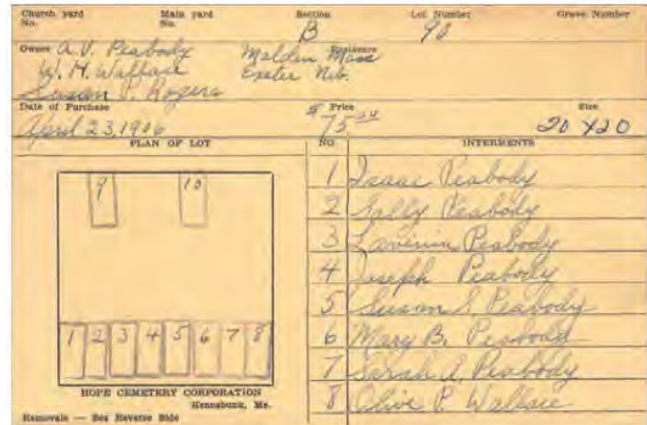
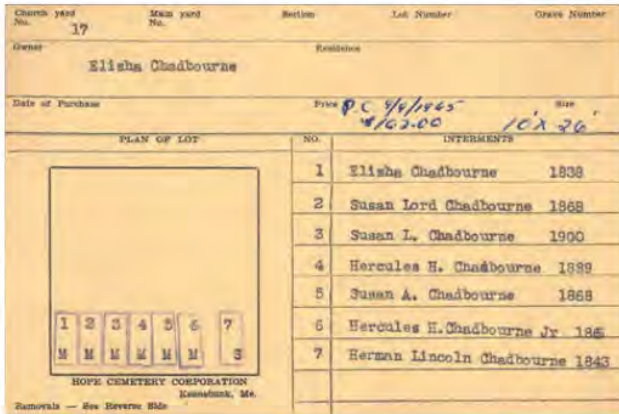
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**Hope Cemetery Burials Database Project**

A lot of history is found in Hope Cemetery and on its tombstones. There are burials dating back to the 1700s, including people who fought in every war since the American Revolution. Board member Betsy McDonald has been working diligently for the past several months building a searchable database of Hope Cemetery's burials. Using information from the Cemetery's burial cards, the database will provide information such as lot location and owner, date of purchase, burial date and other notes. This database will make it easier for people conducting research and is tentatively planned to be added to the Cemetery's website in late Fall 2020.



**Kennebunk's Bicentennial Celebration Changed by Covid**

Due to the pandemic, most of the public events planned in celebration of Kennebunk's bicentennial were postponed to 2021 while others were held virtually. Hope Cemetery plans to participate in activities in the "Upper Square" (northern end of Main Street) when the celebration occurs. This Fall, however, we will be planting a disease-resistant American Liberty Elm tree in the Cemetery in commemoration of Kennebunk's - and Maine's - 200th birthdays. Elm trees played a significant role in Kennebunk's history and we're pleased to be able to be part of bringing them back.

**Did You Know...**

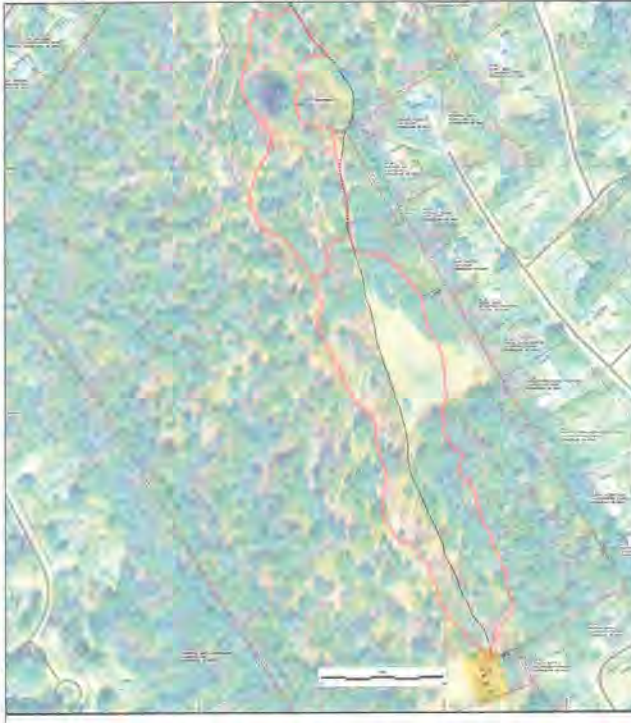
*The representation of the hourglass, another popular nineteenth-century mortality symbol, is clear. Time is passing rapidly, and every day one comes closer to the hour of their death.*

*Hannah Barker's tombstone adorned with the hourglass reads: In memory of HANNAH wife of Capt. John W Barker who died at sea July 28, 1858 on the passage from New Orleans to Leghorn in Lat. 27 49 N. Lat. 79 46 W aged 39 yrs. Her epithet reads: Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them (Note: this comes from Revelation 14:13).*





### Universally Accessible Trail Installation Begins



Work began on the installation of the 0.9-mile Universally Accessible Trail the week of August 17th. Caribou Recreation Development LLC (owned by Michael Cooper, a Kennebunk resident) has been hired for this project.

Workers are scheduled to be on site Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM each day. The project is scheduled to be completed by mid-October (weather permitting).

While every effort will be made to minimize the impact of the work on the existing trails in Hope Woods, trail closures will be necessary.

Updates will be posted on signs at the trail entrances, on our Facebook page (Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods), and will be posted on our website ([hopecemeterykennebunk.com](http://hopecemeterykennebunk.com)).

### Hope Cemetery & Woods Following CDC Protocols and State Mandates

When walking in Hope Woods, we kindly ask that you maintain social distance and that dogs are kept on leash at all times. Those needing to conduct business in the Cemetery office must wear a face covering and make an appointment.

### Donations Received

We offer our sincere thanks to the following generous donors for gifts received since the publication of our last newsletter:

Mary Aaskov  
Ann Cox & Ryan Moore  
Constance & Richard Deck  
Linda DeFelice  
Regina Fife  
Barbara Hall  
George C. & Diantha C. Harrington  
Patsy Hemeon  
Peter Mahler  
Robert Ness, Jr.  
Cheryl & John Price  
Alexander Purves



Judith Reed  
Richard & Barbara Sharood  
Betsy T. Stevens  
Lou Ann Watson  
Dr. & Mrs. Ross Wyman  
Fields Pond Foundation  
Tommy McNamara Charitable Foundation

Gifts were received in memory of:

John H. Hall  
Linda Litchfield



PO Box 1550  
Kennebunk, ME 04043

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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## **We Need YOU!**

### **Volunteer**

Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods and Hope Cemetery Corporation are looking for new committee members. Committees include Communications, Stewardship, Finance, Long-range Planning, Cemetery Records & Archives, and more. Committee descriptions can be found on our website: [hopecemeterykennebunk.com](http://hopecemeterykennebunk.com) by clicking on the "Volunteer" tab at the top of the page. We also welcome volunteers to serve as Trail Stewards.

If you are interested in volunteering with us in any of these roles, please email us at [friendsofhcw@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhcw@gmail.com), or call Betsy at 207-985-2627.

### **Donate**

Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods continues to seek support for ongoing maintenance of Hope Cemetery (such as road repairs and tree work) and improvements to Hope Woods (such as the Universally Accessible Trail, interpretive signage, and kiosks at trail entrances). We're thankful for your ongoing enthusiasm and support!

Checks payable to Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods may be mailed to:  
PO Box 1550, Kennebunk, ME 04043

Or you may make a credit card donation via the Friends page on our website:  
[hopecemeterykennebunk.com](http://hopecemeterykennebunk.com)