



Bedford Cemetery Views

A Public-Private Partnership

The mission of the Friends of Town of Bedford Cemeteries is to support the restoration and maintenance of the four cemeteries

September 2010

Please join us as we go
back in time..

VINNIE TOLAND

Civil War Speaker
Will be our special guest

Wednesday, September 29
7:30 pm
McAllaster Room
Bedford Public Library

There are many Civil War Veterans buried in Bedford Cemeteries. Former Manchester Fire Chief Vinnie Toland, a well known lecturer will present interesting program on many of these of these brave soldiers.

He has done extensive research and has written 28 booklets, including Who was Who in the Civil War: Bedford, NH-statistics, information and stories regarding Bedford veterans. A copy of this booklet is at the Bedford Public Library.

Bedford Cemetery Spotlight

compiled by Julia Schappals

The McPherson Brothers

Charles and George McPherson were brothers, both sergeants, who were killed in service during the Civil War. Both enlisted in 1862. Their monument is in the Bedford Center Cemetery. Charles was in Co. I, 7th Regiment, NH Volunteers. He is listed as missing after the siege of Ft. Wagner on July, 18th 1863 at age 30. This was the same battle in which the famed colored soldiers featured in the movie "Glory" were nearly annihilated. The 7th NH assaulted the same moat around the fort at 8:30pm where casualties "lay 3 and 4 deep, some drowning in sea water that filled the moat with the rising tide." Of the several sergeants lost by the regiment that day, his regimental history says, "They were the best we had... men we would have chosen for any emergency." His body was not recovered and is presumed buried by the Confederates in a mass grave of Union dead after the battle. George McPherson taught at the high school level in Bedford in 1856 and 1857. He was in Company H of the 10th NH Volunteers. On October 27, 1864 he was among 600 Union soldiers captured during a counterattack by Confederates at the Second Battle of Fair Oaks in Virginia. He was sent to the overcrowded Salisbury Prison North Carolina as a POW where he died at age 29 on February 19, 1865 a few months before the end of the war. His body is buried in an unmarked mass grave for Union prisoners at the prison.

Strawberry Festival 2010



Photo by Jerry Hanauer

Thank you Bedford for all your support. It was huge success! We look forward to seeing you next year.

Many Thanks...

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Craig S. Donais
Attorney
15A High Street
PO Box 1778
Manchester, NH 03105-1778
Craig.Donais@Donais-law.com www.Donais-law.com

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24 North Amherst Road, Bedford, NH 03110

(Please disregard if you are already a member)

Cemetery Trustee Corner

Town of Bedford Cemetery Trustees

Ralph Dieter, Chairman
Elizabeth Hosang, Secretary
John Wood, Trustee

(Editor Note: Each issue will feature an update on activities of the Bedford Cemetery Trustees.)

Dates for public meetings in regard to Bedford Cemeteries have been set. Interested residents are urged to attend.

Memorial Garden at Cemetery September 27th

The trustees have proposed to the Bedford Town Council a new area at the Bedford Center Cemetery that will be used exclusively for burial of urns and the spreading of ashes. Indication are that more and more are choosing cremation. The Manchester Union Leader on August 12, 2010 quoted a source saying that

58% of deaths in New Hampshire in 2008 involved cremation. A public meeting will be held on Monday, September 27th at 7:30 in the Bedford Public Library to discuss this proposed new area of the cemetery.

Cemetery Rules – October 18th

Discussion of new rules for the Bedford Cemeteries has been scheduled for Monday, October 18 at 7:30 in the Bedford Public Library

Cemetery Restoration Fund

The Strawberry Festival sponsored by the Friend of the Town of Bedford Cemeteries in June was a big success and rose over \$ 1,000 for the Cemetery Restoration Fund.

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Town of Bedford Cemeteries at a Special Meeting on August 26th, 2010 voted to hire Gravestone Services of New England to restore seven gravestones at the Bedford Center Cemetery and at the Joppa Hill Cemetery.

Work will be done this fall.