

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

December 2011



Gravestone Services of New England, Kai Nalenz, restoring the John Goffe Gravestone.

Dear Friend,

The mission of the Friends is the restoration and preservation of Bedford's four historic cemeteries and the promotion of public awareness of these treasures through our newsletter *Bedford Cemetery Views*, our evening programs and other activities such as the Strawberry Festival we held last June. In serving the community, we have opted to keep our annual membership fees low.

Membership has allowed us to complete many projects over the past few years, including:

1. Restoration of badly damaged historic gravestones in all four cemeteries, including the gravestone of Colonel John Goffe, (Shown at left)
2. Cleaning of selected gravestones in all four cemeteries,
3. Installation of replacement gates at Beals Road, and Joppa Hill Cemeteries,
4. Sponsorship of the Strawberry Festival in June,
5. Cemetery tours highlighting the interesting history of Bedford's past citizens,
6. Evening programs on gravestone cleaning and other topics.



Friends of Town of Bedford Cemeteries cleaning grave stones.

We have many new and interesting projects planned for the upcoming year and your membership fee will assist in making those plans a reality. We are a 501 (c) (3) charity so your contributions are tax deductible. Membership is only \$10 per year for an entire family. We also have a "Restorer" class of membership: just add \$15 to your family membership for a total of \$25. We plan a private and interesting cemetery tour for our Restorer members!

Please fill out the form below and return it with your check.

Sincerely,

John Wood
Chairman

Please return this form with your check in the enclosed envelope to:

Friends of the Town of Bedford Cemeteries
24 North Amherst Road
Bedford, NH 03110

Type of Membership: () Family \$10.00 () Restorer \$25.00

Name: _____

Address: _____


Phone (Optional): _____

Email (Optional) _____

We do not sell our membership lists

Friends of Town of Bedford Cemeteries is a 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code so your contributions are tax deductible.

Many Thanks...

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Bedford Cemetery Spotlight

Uncle Ody

compiled by Julie Schappels



Theodore Goffe, (1769 -1860) was great grandson of Squire Goffe and grandson of Colonel Goffe. He was shrewd, thrifty and deemed a bit eccentric. Claiming he did not want to wear out his horse, he once walked the sixty miles to Boston and back. He walked around with butternuts in his pockets and used his walking stick to plant them wherever he thought suitable. The descendents of his trees still line some ponds and brooks. He kept up the mill Squire Goffe started a hundred years before but modernized it by replacing the wooden overshoot wheel with a cast iron turbine and using newfangled circular saws instead of the slower “up and down”. He saw the first train come to Bedford in 1842 and marveled that the cars went so fast it was a wonder a man could breathe at such a speed. After Uncle Ody, the Goffe line was “daughtered out”. Uncle Ody and his wife, “Old Connecticut” (who kept silkworms in a mulberry tree) died at nearly the same time and are buried in the Back River Road cemetery.

Save The Date

Friends of the Town of
Bedford Cemeteries
4th Annual
Recognition to an
Outstanding
Bedford Resident
Wednesday
January 19th, 2012
Bedford Public Library
7:30 pm

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Please don't forget to mail your membership fees to:
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Bedford, NH 03110