



# SOUTH BUXTON CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

INCORPORATED 1859

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

### South Buxton Cemetery Association Board of Directors

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Greetings and welcome to The South Buxton Cemetery Association's September 2020 update. Unsurprisingly, this spring the cemetery year began with some challenges related to the pandemic. These include delayed burials and adherence to state safety guidelines at graveside services. At this time, we are working closely with funeral directors to assure that the number of participants, social distancing and use of facial coverings is in accordance with state guidelines.

In 1859 when The South Buxton cemetery was incorporated, rules and regulations were established, with amendments added throughout the years, to accommodate present day requirements. In August 2020 the officers and directors adopted the latest amendment; this information is available at southbuxtoncemetery.com and at the cemetery office. AS communicated in past newsletters (2018, 2019) and on our website, April 2020 has been the target date for full implementation of the cemetery's rules and regulations. Progress has been made toward this goal, although there are still lots that require additional adjustments. The SBCA continues to work toward the goal. We hope for compliance by the final cleanup in late October.

Recently Brent Hill presented a SBCA memorial display featuring the names, pictures and dates of service of past Presidents of the SBCA dating back to the founding of the cemetery in 1859, now displayed in the cemetery office. Thank you, Brent, for your research and dedication.

During my 15 years as President of The SBCA I have learned that it takes a strong diversified Board of Directors and many caring people to keep this cemetery successful. The SBCA has been privileged to have The Town of Buxton and individuals step forward to sponsor projects. These projects include additional fences and repairs, road and avenue work, and office renovations. Thank you to all. Your contributions, large and small, are what keep South

Buxton Cemetery a well-maintained historic cemetery that preserves the rich legacies of those who came before us.

As I walk through our cemetery and pause to read the inscription on monuments. I am often left with questions about the lives of the departed. The answer to these questions are in obituaries. We are exploring software programs that may be used to publish obituaries to our SBCA website. These online memorials will help us share stories of those who came before, also helping our cemetery become a "story place", as well as the "connecting, pondering and safer place" described in Love in the Greenwood by Hunter Howe. (see next page)

Sincerely,

Richard "Sandy" Atkinson



Join us for  
**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**  
December 19



# LOVE IN THE GREENWOOD

*By: Hunter Howe*

Oliver Smith wrote, "I Love everything that's old: old friends, old times, old memories, old books, old wine."

**I'll add old cemeteries to Oliver's List.**

Most of these cemeteries lie on the edge of Maine towns. They stand in disrepair, their towns struggling to find the funds to adequately maintain them. Visitors confront creeping weeds, fallen branches, dead wheelbarrows, cracked and leaning gravestones. Spreading lichen and fungus hiding the names and dates of those from the old neighborhood. An exhausted place.

Many folks regard cemeteries as grave atmospheres: creepy, weird eerie, and morose. Like the dentist office, they avoid them as much as possible. And when they do pass through the iron gates or under the granite arches, these self-anointed intruders' steps slow to a snail's pace, wary, afraid to disturb the inhabitants. Sensing unfriendly spirits, they cast a vigilant glance, expecting the Grim Reaper, with his sharp scythe and black cloak and hood, to grab them. A scary place.

Robert Frost "In a Disused Gravery" wrote,

*"The Living come in grassy tread,  
To read the gravestones on a hill;  
The graveyard draws the living still,  
But never anymore the dead"*

Other folks take a different view, They come to cemeteries to have a private conversation, to celebrate life, to remember family and friends. They come to reconnect with them, to find comfort deep in hearts, to express respect, to embrace the memory, to walk the bridge from there to now. A connecting place.

John Scalzi wrote, "It's easier to miss her here at the cemetery, where she's never been anything but dead, than to miss her at all the places she was alive."

Many cemeteries take names like Shady Acres and Greenwood. I like Greenwood. It reminds me of Robin Hood and his merry men slipping deep into Sherwood Forest, seeking refuge and protection in the green wood. A quiet place. A safe place.

I enjoy sitting on benches beneath birches and sturdy oaks, benches scattered throughout the graveyard. These sanctuaries provide an escape from life's noise, other than the soothing sounds of squirrels scurrying, birds chattering, and care keeper's lawnmower whirring. It's here, that I find tranquility in the solitude, an inner stillness. It's here, that I think about my internal life, my outer life, and what happens to my soul in the afterlife. A pondering place.

I like wandering about, down pebbled lanes, around wooded knolls, along worn, sunken paths, leading to gravesites. It's like walking through an old neighborhood noting mailboxes with names, here, markers with names and their departure dates.

I wonder who those people were and what they did, their buried hopes, unfulfilled dreams, hardships, and hard-fought victories. I feel their eyes on me, I hear their soft voices whispering, listen to my tale, my life's journey. I wonder, should cemeteries have libraries of sort with a history for their yarns? A story place.

Many markers have epitaphs, inscriptions etched in the stones, offering a glimpse into the life of the storyteller.

One epitaph reads:

*What I was some relate,  
What I am now is all man's fate;  
What I am shall be none can explain  
Until he that called calls again.*

Have you ever considered one? I'll share with you a draft of mine:

*To those who pass by  
I hope you'll pause  
And think, who was I  
It's all I ask.*

It's here within this transported old neighborhood in the green wood, that emotions surface - grief, anger, guilt, joy, loneliness, longing, sadness, a potpourri of acute feelings in this emotional terrain. It's here, that we remember our loved one's laughter, last words, last smile, last touch, last breath. Trips drip. An emotional place.

But, there's another emotion, one that trumps all, the powerful emotion of love. We see it in the faces of those who kneel and stand motionless before gravestones; we witness the fierceness of the undisguised love. They say death robs the living, but does it steal the love? A loving place.

You see, we return to the cemetery, to say, I Love You. Perhaps Mary Frye said it best:

*Do not stand at my grave and cry  
I am not there, I did not die  
I did not die. Love not lost.*

The Greeks regarded a cemetery as a sleeping place. Many refer to it as a resting place. When you think about the words sleeping and resting, they don't suggest permanence, do they?

It's why, in a place called Greenwood, the love lives on, beyond and forever.



# WREATH SPONSORSHIP FORM

*Wreath Orders must be received by November 30th*

**Veterans:** Individual (1/\$15) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (4/60) \_\_\_\_\_ Small Business (10/150) \_\_\_\_\_  
Corporate (100+/Contact us) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Non-Veterans** (Wreath/\$20) \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Sponsorship Instructions:

**\*For Veterans Wreaths:** Please make checks payable to: Wreaths Across America

PLEASE NOTE ON YOUR CHECK MEMO: Group ID - ME0009; Location ID MESBCB

**\*For All Other Wreaths:** Please make check payable to: South Buxton Cemetery Association (SBCA)

**Mail To:** South Buxton Cemetery Association  
P.O. Box 405  
Bar Mills, ME 04004

### \*For ALL Orders Please Include:

Lot # (if known) \_\_\_\_\_ Owner of Lot: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) on Stone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery Section (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person(s) ordering: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Wreath orders without a designated lot will be randomly placed \**

Please join us on **Saturday December 19th, 2020 at 11:30 AM** at the South Buxton Cemetery for our memorial service and wreath laying presentation.

**Thank you for your sponsorship and joining Wreaths Across America™ in their mission to remember, honor & teach.**

**\* Face Masks & Social Distancing Required \***

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## HOLIDAY SEASON

*AS we enter the Holiday season, you may wish to contribute in memory of a friend or loved one. Your contribution of \$25 or more will be listed on the South Buxton Cemetery website.*

Name in Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Or to assist in our continued improvement programs at SBC*

General fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Avenue improvement: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Comments or Suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

South Buxton Cemetery Association  
Po Box 405  
Bar Mills, ME 04004

SEND IN THIS FORM WITH YOUR INFORMATION, OR  
EMAIL US ANY TIME AT: [ratkin5850@aol.com](mailto:ratkin5850@aol.com)

# FRIENDS OF SOUTH BUXTON CEMETERY

We are thankful for each of you who think of us as part of your gift-giving. The Friends of South Buxton Cemetery Association Account is used to beautify and improve the cemetery, also to bring our endowment fund to a healthy level. Gifts are offered in memory of a loved one, as thanks for helping with genealogical research, or just because you care.

## 2020 GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

Nancy Atkinson  
Joan Berry  
Richard Emmons

## 2020 GIFTS TO SBCA

Ruth Brooks  
Malcom Washburn, Jr.  
Evlyn T. Doyle

## NEVER TOO EARLY TO CONSIDER...

There are several six-grave lots available in the Locke section. There are many lots available in the Woodman Section (single, double and family).

- Columbarium Niches are also available: One niche accommodates two cremation urns. A purchase offers two separate interments plus the decorative brass plaque.
- Cremation urns.
- Veteran and Fireman flag holders available at SBC office.
- Monument Cleaning now offered call or email for a quote.
- Please call 207-929-4773 or email [sales@southbuxtoncemetery.com](mailto:sales@southbuxtoncemetery.com) for more information.



## SOUTHBUXTONCEMETERY.COM

*(Official web site)*

How many of you have researched our website for correct names and location of deceased family, relations, veterans, fireman? Take the time to review the entries of your families and notify SBC cemetery of errors and omissions. Thank you ([sales@southbuxtoncemetery.com](mailto:sales@southbuxtoncemetery.com))

*There'll be two dates on your tombstone and all your friends will read 'em, but all that really matters is that little dash between 'em.*

*Live the "dash" my friends.*

CAROL NOONAN - STONE MOUNTAIN ARTS CENTER

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

*Saturday, December 19th*

*11:30am South Buxton Cemetery - Woodman Section*

This is our 15th year we will gather to take part with over 2000 locations across the country and beyond in simultaneous wreath laying ceremonies to honor our veterans. Please join us.

Your purchase of wreaths for our veterans make this program successful. Our challenge this year is 560 wreaths for all Veterans at SBC.

Please support this program. (*Request form included for details*)



**South Buxton Cemetery Association**  
**P.O. Box 405**  
**Bar Mills, Maine 04004**

“As we express our gratitude, we must  
never forget that the highest appreciation is  
not to utter words but to live by them”

*~ John F. Kennedy*

We wish all our friends a glorious  
autumn season and continued health  
and happiness.

*South Buxton Cemetery Association*

**IMPORTANT**  
**HELP SAVE POSTAGE**  
**SEND YOUR EMAIL TO:**

[sales@southbuxtoncemetery.com](mailto:sales@southbuxtoncemetery.com)

Please go to our web page for information, pricing, upcoming events,

Wreath Across America videos

Web page: [www.southbuxtoncemetery.com](http://www.southbuxtoncemetery.com)