

NOT DEAD YET PRESERVATIONS

February 12, 2023

Hello. I hope you and yours enjoyed a happy and healthy holiday season as 2023 begins with renewed anticipation and vigor.

This letter has been sent to you to reintroduce this gravestone preservation project. What began in 2015 as a "hobby" concept, has turned into a passion project with far-reaching potential. Over the years, this project morphed from snapping pictures of some interesting gravestones to preserving all the Massachusetts colonial era gravestones from 1600-1799. The current address of the initial website is gofundme.not-dead-yet.org. This provides a basic introduction to the project's goals.

A short but more detailed descriptions is found here;

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/16jh-DD-Rv9YCCxIIekTViKf2BWxRAoXY1DDr7RFHKSw/edit?usp=sharing>

The longer most detailed description is found here;

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1jeHb40CGRyKEcvoJKcOrbqDg-LZSkt_jwNSUNQ9IST8/edit?usp=sharing

The charter for the project is here;

https://docs.google.com/document/d/19XftjX_FpDQBBn3EsXN-MJFDROAeaZK1V5rnZyqK7go/edit?usp=sharing

As 2023 begins, let's review the progress achieved. This was the fifth full year of daily chasing this quest. The processes continue to evolve as to how best photographically save the artwork on these irreplaceable historical monuments. Efficiency and a more consistent quality of image capture have been the results. This past season's work brought the total number of graveyards surveyed up to 147 generating 51,165 images.

Over this past year, two external considerations demanded increased attention; the weather and the price of gasoline. Both required a more judicious application of resources. In previous years, our early efforts focused on our state's nearby West and Central regions. This year, Middlesex County proved particularly fruitful. As the locale of many significant colonial settlements, these graveyards provided stunning examples of the regional stonemasons' art and their stories. Forefathers Graveyard in Chelmsford, Old Burying Ground in Lexington, South Burying Ground in Billerica, and Bedford's Old Burying Ground were all noteworthy and provided stunning results.

Now, along with the seasons, the work moves inside. The next few months represent an annual opportunity to undertake the following administrative work on the collection;

- Provide a rolling list of cemeteries that have been surveyed - this has recently been published on my gofundme site

- Continue organizing and retouching the 51k+ images I've already amassed - new software enables improved vastly results and options
- Upload these retouched images onto the online database
- Begin my outreach to the various historical organizations that blanket Massachusetts. As I contact the towns where I've completed my survey, I will offer to perform a slide show about their cemeteries and discuss the project's inception and direction.
- Work towards providing public access to the database before the year's end. Once a cemetery is published on my site, each town will be offered regular-resolution digital copies of the images on their user-supplied media.

These outreaches intend to increase awareness about this project and its objectives. When meeting people in the field, they invariably ask questions and I love answering and learning from them. We both walk away with new awareness.

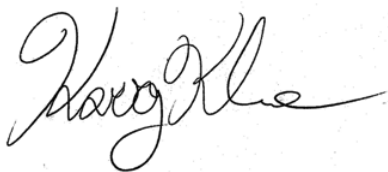
Besides an omnipresent feeling of satisfaction, over these years, comments from the many great encounters in the field provide strong moral support. Everyone's appreciation for what we all acknowledge as a unique commitment to future generations aligns, and adheres, perfectly with my original motivations. Based on this enthusiasm I've already encountered, the more people aware of the project stimulate my increasing need for support through my gofundme site (<http://gofundme.not-dead-yet.org>) and/or direct contact.

As this work progresses, spreading this info to interested parties from either a historical, artistic, or photographic aspect intrinsically adds to the work's long-term value. If, after reviewing the list of completed surveys, you'd like to discuss a presentation, or any other aspect of this work, please feel free to advise us of anyone we could contact that will benefit.

Soon, I will publish a more detailed list of the increasingly necessary capital expenditures on the gofundme site. When you consider the scope of this project, and the significant effort needed, these needs define "modest."

Please accept my appreciation for your attention to the past, present, and future of this history-preserving work. As always, please feel free to contact me with any comments, questions, requests, or information about the project.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Klane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and a stylized "K".

Harry Klane