

COURTESY

MURCH CEMETERY ASSOCIATION 2022-2023 Annual Newsletter

Greetings to lot owners and friends of the Murch Cemetery in South Casco. The trustees hope you were able to visit the cemetery this summer and that you found the grounds acceptable to you. With all the rain this year it has certainly been a challenge to keep the grass under control.

For several years now the trustees have had their annual meeting at the Raymond Casco Historical Society grounds on Roosevelt Trail in Casco, for which we wish to thank the Society and their dedicated volunteers for their hospitality. They are enthusiastic this summer because they opened the old Watkins blacksmith shop, which was painstakingly disassembled, moved from South Casco where it had stood since the early 1800s, and reconstructed at the museum campus. The Society is hosting well-attended, scheduled hands-on blacksmithing workshops for those interested in learning that old craft. The Society museum is also the repository for the Murch Cemetery Association's historical records and files.

We need to report the resignation of Barbara Thorpe as cemetery trustee. It is impossible to overstate the contribution Barbara and her family have made over the years to the Murch Cemetery. She has been a trustee for many years as was her father Ernest Thorpe before her. Barbara grew up on Raymond Cape Road just across the street from the cemetery and remembers mowing and clipping the grass at her father's side at the cemetery in the 1950s and 1960s. Those were times when the Association had almost no money so Ernest and Barbara's dedication was surely one of extraordinary love and caring for the community. Thank you so much Barbara for everything.

Meanwhile we can happily report that Raymond Dingley has agreed to serve as a Murch trustee. All of Raymond's paternal and maternal Dingley and Watkins ancestors rest at Murch, a fact of which he is keenly aware. Thank you Raymond for beginning what we are sure will be many years in this community service.

We want to give a special thank you and to express our appreciation to two persons who have become good friends of the Murch Cemetery. Firstly, to Carey Martin, of Denmark, Maine, who mows the grass and trims around the monuments at the cemetery. Carey is diligent and conscientious and tries his best to be careful and caring of plants and flowers you have at the cemetery. And we want to mention Eric Nelson, who owns and operates the Hall Funeral Home on Quaker Ridge in Casco. Eric has become a good friend of the Murch Cemetery and a benefactor. He always stands ready to give guidance and advice, gained from years of experience in funeral and cemetery affairs. Since taking over from the Hall family four years ago Eric and his family have become valued members of the community and we appreciate them very much.

We wanted to remind you that artificial flowers are not permitted at Murch. This policy, instituted by the trustees some seven or eight years ago, has been well received in the community. You have probably noticed that the cemetery is more attractive now with the many new perennials loved ones have planted on their lots. Please know that as in years past the cemetery grounds will be closed to vehicles from around December 1 this fall until after the frost has left the ground sometime in April next spring.

Lastly, the most enduring thank you goes to each of you for your support for the upkeep of the cemetery with your annual dues. It would not be possible to maintain the Murch Cemetery and preserve it for the future without your generosity. You note that this Newsletter is for 2022 and 2023. If you didn't receive a newsletter last fall and so didn't send along dues feel free to be extra generous this year. Dues remain at \$25 dollars per lot per year.

Below are the names and contacts of the trustees. Please feel free to contact any of them if you have comments or concerns at all.

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