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Additional reports to Grave News, July, August, September, 2018

1 message

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OUT OF STATE CONNECTICUT

From the *Sword of the Lord*, November 6, 2015: "A Tale of Two Graves," by Dr. Russell Dennis, Jr., Heritage Baptist College, Franklin, Indiana. The life styles of two persons whose graves are in the Mountain Grove Cemetery in Bridgeport, Connect

icut are compared. A large memorial column marks the grave of Phineas Taylor Barnum (1810-1891), an American showman who founded the Barnum & Bailey Circus. "The Greatest Show on Earth" and the three-ring circus were two of his advertising schemes. In that same cemetery is a very small one-foot by two-foot gravestone inscribed with the name of the deceased, Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) and the text, "She hath done what she could." It marks the burial plot for a blind lady whose life and poetry blessed the world. Instead of making a fortune, Fanny Crosby sought to lay up treasure in heaven by authoring thousands of hymns and poems and laboring in the city rescue missions. She gave away much of her earnings and lived very modestly. Most hymnals contain more songs by Fanny Crosby than any other author. In all of the seven thousand graves in the Mountain Grove Cemetery, the most honored one is that of a blind woman that 'did what she could.'

From the *Norwich Bulletin*, July 13, 2018:

"Town uses grazing goats to trim cemeteries," by John Penney. POMFRET, Conn. -- the Dennis Cemetery, containing roughly seven headstones and dating to the late 1700s, was becoming a struggle for the city to maintain, so officials have requested neighbors to graze their goats in the cemetery to help keep overgrowth of trees and other vegetation under control. Dennis Cemetery and other cemeteries in the area have also received Neglected Cemetery Account Grants in the amount of \$2,000 each to use to clear weeds, mow, straighten gravestones and do other repairs and maintenance. The grant money is replenished through the fees collected on death certificates by the State Department of Health. The state set aside \$29,000 for the program in 2015 and \$42,000 in 2016 -- 37 grants were awarded between 2015-2016.

HAWAII

From the *Valley Star*, Boise, Idaho, August, 2018: "Pearl Harbor survivor who pushed to identify 'unknowns' dies," by Jennifer Sinco Kelleher. Ray Emory, who survived the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, died August 20 at the age of 97. He had spent the past few decades doggedly pushing for unknown buried remains to be dug up, identified and returned to their families. In 2012, the Navy and the National Park Service recognized Emory for his work with the military and Department of Veterans Affairs to honor and remember Pearl Harbor's dead.

ILLINOIS

From the *Daily Gate City*, Keokuk, November 18, 1977: "World's strangest Babies buried in township cemetery," HIGHLAND PARK, ILL. -- Fourteen fetuses and deformed newborns that were once part of a carnival exhibit billed as the "World's Strangest Babies" have been buried in a small township cemetery. Clergy from three faiths conducted a four-minute ceremony as the tiny plastic foam caskets were lowered into a single vault. Prayers were offered for children whose remains were once preserved and displayed in glass jars. Rev. Richard Hunt said, "We also bury the idea that human life should be a grotesque spectacle ... that human life is cheap, or to be exploited." The fetuses and newborns were among 20 confiscated from a county fair.

LOUISIANA

From the web site of the National Trust for Historical Preservation, April 15, 2018: "Our Favorite Stories from Chalmette National Cemetery," by Tom Wall, associate manager of Community Outreach. In March 2016, the National Park Service, the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, with sponsorship from D/2 Biological Solution, engaged in a volunteer project in Louisiana. Included in the many inspiring stories associated with this projects were volunteers from St. Joseph Academy from Cleveland, Ohio for HOPE Crew Volunteer Month, March, 2016.

MICHIGAN

From Local 4 News, Detroit, November 30, 2015: "Hidden Eloise Graves discovered in Westland," by Jason Colthorp, Anchor/Reporter. At its peak in the 1920s, the Eloise complex was a small city with a hospital and mental asylum housing 10,000 patients. Locals had long heard about the hidden graveyard from that time. Now, those graves have been found and those who found them have a new mission: getting Wayne County to recognize the site as a cemetery. The Eloise institution dates back to 1839 and closed in 1984. John Byrnes, who grew up near Eloise, found around 3,000 stones whose graves are mostly identified only with numbers. So far, volunteers have identified and marked 400 graves and are trying to connect them with distant relatives.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

From the American Legion web site, (date not given), "Sons marker dedicated at New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery." A new marker representing the Sons of The American Legion was recently placed in the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawan, N. H., to honor our forefathers who fought in the great wars. The memorial was added to the memorial walkway along with other markers representing mostly American Legion organizations. National Commander Dave Stevens said during the dedication, "The monument is more than a piece of granite. It serves as a reminder that the Sons of The American Legion are serving the veterans, widowers and their families."

NEW JERSEY

From the *National Trust for Historic Preservation* magazine, Winter, 2018, "A Cemetery Older than the United States is Gently Restored," by Meghan White. Centuries of environmental damage and proximity to Route 10 had deteriorated the historic markers at the picturesque Whippany Burying Yard in Whippanong, New Jersey. For its 300th anniversary, the cemetery received a careful cleaning and restoration initiated by the Hanover Township Landmark Commission, which maintains the site. Stephanie Hoagland, principal and architectural conservator at Jablonski Building Conservation, and her team removed bio-growth, patched markers, inserted metal pins and designed custom armature for markers. The Commission hopes to install a hedge to separate the burying yard from Route 10 to mitigate further erosion and pollution.

From the *New Jersey Herald*, "Cemetery Tours planned for History Day," By JENNIE SWEETMAN

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NEWTON -- As a possible means of increasing interest in local history, the annual Sussex County History Day has been combined with tours of the "Old" Newton Cemetery. Sponsored by the Sussex County Historical Society and the Sussex County History Alliance, the event is planned from noon to 4 p.m. Sept. 22 on the lawn between the Tully House and the "Old" Newton Cemetery. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be held Sept. 23.

NEW YORK

From Fox News, April 27, 2018, "Entire skeletons are being unearthed due to beach erosion on a New York City island known as 'bones beach' where one million unclaimed bodies have been laid to rest," by Ryan Gaydos, editor for Fox News. Entire skeletons are sort of falling out of the hill onto the beach at Hart Island near the Bronx. Years of storms have eroded the island and advocates have accused city officials of not doing anything about it. The Department of Corrections, which runs the island, will conduct monthly inspections and speed up reconstruction of the shoreline to try and stabilize the grave sites. The city has received \$13 million in federal funding to use toward repairing Hart Island.

From the *Long Island News 12*, July 30, 2018: "Boy Scout makes historic discovery in cemetery." Joe DePinto, who was working on his Eagle Scout project at the Old Burying Ground in Cutchogue, uncovered the headstone of two young girls who had been born into slavery in 1822 and 1854. They were the daughter and granddaughter of a slave couple named Silone. "I don't think of the historical significance that this place has with African-American children being born into slavery," DePinto says. "You don't really think about that over here."

OHIO

From WCPO-TV, "Cemetery is overgrown, city says 'we do all we can,'" September 17, 2018 by Kristen Swilley. CINCINNATI -- The City of Cincinnati has been maintaining the Wesleyan Cemetery, an abandoned cemetery in Northside, since 2007, but some people have said the city hasn't done a good enough job. Some sections of the cemetery look like a grassy lot, but after digging in some spots, you come across a headstone. Spokesman for the cemetery says upkeep of the cemetery requires a great deal of financial resources, technical expertise and specialized staffing and the city is not equipped to meet those needs. The city regularly sends crews to the property to perform routine grounds keeping, which means cutting the grass and picking up litter.

PENNSYLVANIA

From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, July 6, 2018: "Historic black burial site to get memorial," by Kristen DeGroet. For generations, a children's playground in Philadelphia was covered in concrete where the remains of 5,000 black citizens have been buried since the 1800s. A portion of the playground will now be designated as the Bethel Burying Ground Historic site, due to the research and efforts of local historian Terry Buckalew.

TEXAS

From ABC 13 Eyewitness News, Houston, Texas, April 11, 2018, "The Fort Bend Independent School District discovered human remains at a work site in March," by Steve Campion and Miya Shay. The school district has been working with the Texas Historical Commission on how to proceed. Construction at the cemetery site has been halted. A historic cemetery with at least 30 bodies at the future site of the James Reese Career and Technical Center was discovered. The remains are estimated to be at least 100 years old. The State Antiquities Law is intended to protect and preserve these places.

From the *Star-Telegram*, Sugar Land, Texas, July 18, 2018: "Construction on Texas school unearthed 95 bodies of freed slaves in prison camp, researchers say," by Matthew Martinez. Researchers believe that the site was once a prison camp likely worked by newly freed slaves in the Jim Crow era, specifically 1878-1910. A judge granted Fort Bend Independent School District permission in June to exhume the graves. Plans for the new technical center have since been amended and the new construction work continues in areas that do not overlap with the archaeological find.

WASHINGTON

From the *American Legion e-newsletter*, July 16, 2018: "Restoring Honor," by Ken Olsen. When Jordan Houghton discovered road grime, moss and other debris on veterans' headstones at the Evergreen Washelli cemetery in northwest Seattle in April, he mobilized members of William C. Stacey American Legion Post 206 to clean nearly 2,000 stones with power washers, brushes and backbreaking labor. Family members and city officials have expressed their appreciation to the volunteers. The cemetery was established in 1884 by Clinton Harley, a Spanish American War veteran.

WEST VIRGINIA

Posted on Facebook by Brittany Morgan, July 1, 2018: Despite high temperatures, Angela Dowler has spent the last few days at Evergreen South Cemetery behind Parkersburg South High School cleaning grass off graves and headstones. Motivated by the upcoming holiday, Dowler feels as though this is a way for her to contribute to honoring those that have passed after noticing litter in the cemetery.



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