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September 2013

Vermont Old Cemetery Association Founded by Prof Leon Dean (1899-1982) Oct 18th 1958

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fall 2013

As I am typing this report, I have noticed that the sugar maples on the mountain tops are beginning to turn their distinctive fall, red tint. I did have a report from a colleague who lives in Chelsea that there is already substantial color in the higher peaks in his town. I do not think I am ready for sound of geese headed south! I am not sure where the summer has gone. I think we might have had one during the two weeks we had the 90 degree temperature in July.

I received very few reports of cemetery projects that were in the works this year and suspect that many were delayed or suspended due to the tropical rainfall we experienced this year. Hopefully, some restoration work can be accomplished this fall before the snowflakes reappear. Please send the editor pictures or articles on any of your projects so we can publish them in a future newsletter.

The House of Corrections Cemetery project in Rutland, which I reported on in the Spring Newsletter, was completed this September. The MSJ Football team sent several players to this unique burial ground to raise and straighten the marble monuments. Several of these stones only had a few inches of marble showing above ground to mark the burial sites. The neglected burial ground had a fence and gate repaired, brush/trees removed and two new signs erected. This project was accomplished for the sole cost of the materials for the signs, approximately \$130.00.

The Rutland Middle School Social Studies students also spent two days working in Rutland's two oldest burial grounds (West and Old Congregational) in June. This is the 3rd year that the students from the RMS Yes Plan have participated in cemetery work for the city. The amount of brush and trash that students removed was quite substantial, and the city did supply a large wood chipper to assist in the removal the brush. This RMS school unit has been a wonderful experience for the students as well as for the adults who participate. We anticipate a long relationship with the school. I always try to highlight my personal restoration projects in this forum to encourage other members of what can be accomplished with community resources.

I received a call from the Chicago area in August from an individual representing the Kathan Family Association, who was inquiring about a grant to help restore the historic Kathan Cemetery in Putney. Captain John Kathan, a well known Vermont Revolutionary War soldier is buried there and, for those of you who know the area and its history, his former residence is the current Putney Inn. What made this a very interesting phone call is that I am a direct descendant of Captain Kathan, and I was privileged to give a VOCA presentation at the Kathan meeting and gain some new members. VOCA Footstone, Ruth Barton,

was also in attendance at the event. The Kathan Society has paid the expenses to install new signs at the Kathan burial ground and it is to their credit that the site is being reclaimed. This is another successful example of a group working on restoring an historic Vermont burial ground. If interested in the Kathan Family, their historian can be reached at bvstorlie@deskmedia.com.

VOCA's publication "Burial Grounds of VT" is now available on CD and can be purchased for \$20 by contacting 1st Vice President, Diane Leary.

The Vermont Department of Corrections work crew program continues to expand statewide. I have recently received several phone calls from town officials about using these crews for the summer of 2014. If you are interested in the availability of a Department of Corrections work crew to help with the upkeep of your cemetery, contact DOC Field Office Director, Keith Tallon, at (802) 786-5099.

We have had some administrative issues with the membership list recently. Please check the expiration date on your newsletter, and if you do not believe it is correct, please contact Assistant Grants Administrator, Robert Hooper. His correct contact information is in the newsletter, and I regret the error in the last one. If you have a change of address, send your changes to Bob so it can be updated.

VOCA has a Facebook page, and I encourage everyone to join and post what is going on in your area regarding cemetery issues and/or projects. Please continue to recruit new VOCA members. Our \$10 membership fee is very reasonable and with an unpaid volunteer board, all monies go to our mission of the restoration of Vermont's old burial grounds. If you are aware of an organization that is looking for a presenter for their monthly meeting, please have someone give me a call.

Hope to see many of you at our fall meeting in Morrisville. If you have agenda items for our October 5th meeting, please give me a call at (802) 773-3253 or at tgifvt@msn.com.

Tom Giffin
VOCA President

from the Kathan Family Reunion website

- **Tom Giffin**, President of Vermont Old Cemetery Association (VOCA) and a ninth generation descendant of Captain John Kathan. Tom gave us some wonderful information about the good work his organization does in Vermont and how to get help for improvements to a damaged or dilapidated cemetery in your area. Go to voca58.com to find out more. There is a copy of the *VOCA July 2013 Newsletter* at the bottom of this page.

Arthur Leonard Hyde
(July 14, 1925 - August 28, 2013)

Bradford, VT- Arthur Leonard Hyde of Bradford, VT Died August 28, 2013

Born in Lowell, VT on July 14, 1925 on his mother's birthday and delivered by his grandfather, Dr. George B. Hyde. He was the son of Charles and Ruth Leonard Hyde, the second of three children. By the time he was five, they were living in West Windsor, VT where his folks had a small farm and where all three of the siblings graduated from the Brownsville Grammar School and where they all eventually were married. In 1939, while in the eighth grade, he served as a page in the VT Legislature.

He graduated from Woodstock, VT High School and enlisted in the U.S. Navy Air Corps V5 program. In 1945, he married June Young of Weathersfield in the Weathersfield Bow Church and moved to Walpole, NH where he became the Herdsman on a large farm and where they lived when their first two children were born at Bellows Falls Hospital. From there, they moved to Pine Plains, NY, where he milked test cows three times a day and then became Herdsman. In 1951, they moved to Springfield, VT, where their third child was born at Bellows Falls Hospital and where they rented a farm for seven years, building up a small herd and equipment. Then in 1958, they bought a farm on the Lower Plain in Bradford, VT.

In 1961, his wife June died suddenly and in 1962, he married Frances Putnam, a long-time family friend. In 1968, they bought an additional farm on the Upper Plain in Bradford and they expanded their herd to 250 milkers.

Arthur was always interested and active in farm organizations. Over the years, he served on several boards including Farm Bureau County & State, Soil & Water Conservation District, Yankee Milk Inc., Dairy Herd Improvement Assoc., and twelve years on local Farm Credit Association Board. He served twelve years on the First District Farm Credit Board. He was active in local government and served several terms on the local school board, Board of Selectmen, and Board of Listers.

After selling the milking herd in 1979, they raised heifers and crops for a few years. They became active in the Vermont Old Cemetery Association, and enjoyed camping and extensive traveling. They camped in every state except Hawaii and traveled in many countries all over the world. In 2012, he and Frances celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Frances, of Bradford, VT; his sister, Mary Craig and husband Ed of Colorado; son Bruce and wife Karen of Bradford, VT; daughter SallyAnn Carson and husband Kenneth of Mosheim, TN; daughter Rebecca Gardner of Conway, NH; grandchildren June Pilcher and husband Stan, Dean Hyde, Brian Carson and wife Erin, Jamie Hyde and his partner, Bess, Kristin Carson and her partner, Todd Donnelly; great grandchildren, Courtney Benway and her partner Johnny, Benjamin Carson, Katrina Gadue; and one great-great grandchild, Aryanna; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his first wife, June Young and her two sisters and four brothers and by his sister, Helen Speed and her husband Gordon.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, September 7, 2013 at 1 pm in the Bradford United Church of Christ in Bradford, VT with Rev. Karen Lapinczyk officiating. There are no calling hours. Burial will be private and held at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations in Arthur's memory made be made to the

Bradford Cemetery Association, PO Box 339, Bradford, VT 05033. The Hale Funeral Home of Bradford, VT is in charge of arrangements. To view an online guestbook go to www.halefuneralhomes.com.

Editor's note: *Mr. Hyde served as VOCA grant administrator for over 20 years. He also was instrumental in doing the research for VOCA's "Burial Grounds of VT." Our heartfelt condolences go out to Mr. Hyde's family on their loss.*

Kathan Family Association Dedicates 257 Year Old Cemetery in Putney, VT.

by Susan T. Kathan, President of the Kathan Family Association

On August 11, 2013, several members of the Kathan Family Association along with members of the Putney and Dummerston Historical Societies gathered together at a very old and little known cemetery called the Kathan Cemetery, located at the end of Old Depot Road in the town of Putney, VT. They came with the purpose of dedicating a special cemetery marker installed at the cemetery's newly groomed front entrance. The dedication led by Rev Boardman Kathan included a prayer which read, in part, as follows: *"We are gathered here to dedicate a memorial marker in this old family cemetery, which was the final resting place of Captain John Kathan, members of his family and early settlers of this town. We remember their courage in venturing out in this frontier, and their strength of character as they tamed the wilderness, laid the foundations of this community, built the houses, mills and churches, fought for freedom and independence in the beginnings of a new country.... and may it help to mark and preserve this place, so future generations will know of the sturdy folk who lived and worked here."*

Research has indicated that the first interment may have been as early as 1756 with the latest occurring as late as the 1860s when the cemetery eventually became idle and neglected for the next 100 years. Originally containing a substantial number of graves spanning over an approximate two acre area, the Kathan Cemetery, suffered much damage from grazing cattle knocking down headstones as well as local vandalism occurring in the early 1890s using "axes and crowbars". Some of the graves were moved to other locations. On others the headstones were smashed and the pieces were scattered about leaving many graves unmarked. The cemetery now contains little more than 7 or 8 headstones with much of the area being overcome by trees and shrubs. The graves that are marked with headstones or footstones are either damaged or half-broken and barely legible.

In 1996, the Putney Historical Society placed a public service announcement in the Brattleboro Reformer looking for volunteers from the Putney and Dummerston communities who would be willing to help "clear brush and attempt to identify some of Putney and Dummerston's earliest settlers" in the cemetery. For several years now it has been through the wonderful efforts of Laura Heller and Laurel Ellis, both of Putney Historical Society, and the many volunteers who have become involved since that time, that the cemetery's condition has been greatly improved. We, the Kathan Family Association members, are deeply grateful for all their hard work and we know that there still is much work yet to do. If you are interested in this cemetery and want to find out more about how you can help, please write to: Kathan Family Association c/o Vickie Storlie, P.O.Box 83, Clarks Grove, MN 56016 or email: bvstorlie@deskmedia.com We would love to hear from you.

A note from Grace Frizzell

I am writing for Mr. Richard Colburn Sr. who is a VOCA Representative for Essex. He does not have email. For several years he has copied the inscriptions on the gravestones of local towns. This information is cataloged into spiral bound books for sale with all proceeds going to the Charleston (VT) Historical Society. He requested that I send you the current list so that you can replace the outdated one on the VOCA bookstore link and include it in the Newsletter.

Thank you, Grace Frizzell

The Charleston Historical Society has the following items for sale:

A COMPILATION OF NEWS ARTICLES, VOLUME I, 1831 TO 1895, 107 pages, VOLUME II, 1896 TO 1903, 127 pages and Volume III, 1903 TO 1907, 128 pages each for \$23.00 by mail.

*A CATALOG OF CHARLESTON, VT CEMETERIES 142 Pages 2400 Names
Printed in 1993 and revised and updated in 2002 \$28.00 by mail.
*A CATALOG OF MORGAN, VT CEMETERIES 50 Pages 960 Names
Printed in 1993 and revised and updated in 2001 \$15.00 by mail.
*A CATALOG OF HOLLAND, VT CEMETERIES 67 Pages 1100 Names Printed
in 1995 and updated in 1998 \$15.00 by mail.
*A CATALOG OF BROWNINGTON AND WESTMORE, VT CEMETERIES
119 Pages 2300 Names Printed in 1996 and updated in 1999
\$18.00 by mail.
*A CATALOG OF ISLAND POND, VT CEMETERIES 141 Pages 3440 Names
Printed in 1997 and updated in 2001 \$23.00 by mail.
*A CATALOG OF CONCORD, VT CEMETERIES 125 Pages 2900 Names
Printed in 1999 \$23.00 by mail.
*A CATALOG OF DERBY, VT CEMETERIES 199 Pages 5185 Names
Printed in 2000 \$28.00 by mail.
*A CATALOG OF COVENTRY, VT CEMETERIES 82 Pages 1866 Names
Printed in 2002 \$18.00 by mail.
*A CATALOG OF SUTTON, VT CEMETERIES 97 pages 1976 Names
Printed in 2002 \$18.00 by mail.
*A CATALOG OF NEWARK/EAST HAVEN, VT CEMETERIES 59 Pages
1100 Names Printed in 2003 \$18.00 by mail.
*A CATALOG OF IRASBURG, VT CEMETERIES 104 pages
1670 Names Printed in 2004 \$23.00 by mail.
*A CATALOG OF BARTON, VT CEMETERIES 113 pages
2800 Names Printed in 2005 \$23.00 by mail.
*A CATALOG OF ST. MARY'S CEMETERY IN NEWPORT, VT 123 pages
3113 Names Printed in 2006 \$23.00 by mail.
*A CATALOG OF ORLEANS VILLAGE CEMETERIES 95 pages 2300 names.
Printed in 2007 \$23.00 by mail.
*A CATALOG OF GRANBY, VICTORY AND KIRBY CEMETERIES 47 pages
650 names. Printed in 2008 \$18.00 by mail.
*A CATALOG OF ST. THERESA AND ST. PAUL CEMETERIES 57 pages 1200
names. Printed in 2009 \$18.00 by mail.
*A CATALOG OF BURKE, VT CEMETERIES 175 pages 4200 names.
Printed in 2009 \$28.00 by mail.
*A CATALOG OF WATERFORD, VT CEMETERIES 135 pages 3366 names.
Printed in 2011 \$23.00 by mail.

These may be purchased from the Charleston Historical
Society, Inc., P. O. Box 46, East Charleston, VT 05833

Photos from the House of Corrections Cemetery Revitalization

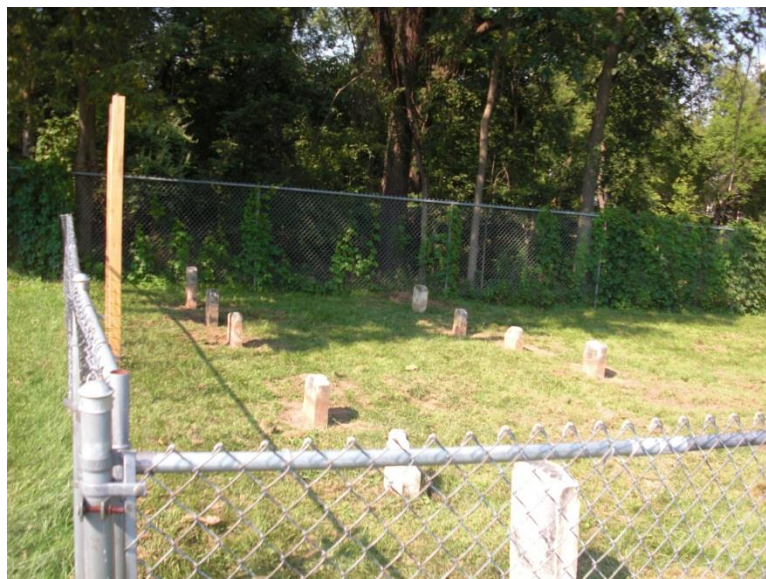


VOCA’s FALL MEETING

The Fall Meeting of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association will be on Saturday, October 5th at the Morrisville Methodist Church. Coffee hour is at 9:00 with the meeting beginning at 10:00. The speaker will be Scott McLaughlin and he will be doing a presentation on the archaeology of the St Johnsburry Cemetery and the people buried there. Tours of the Morrisville Historical Society Museum will be available after the meeting which includes their current special exhibition on the Brothers Grimm and their fairy tales. Come and bring a friend. There will be two menus for the luncheon, Roast chicken/ham, potato casserole, tossed green salad, homemade applesauce, rolls, dessert, and beverage for \$12.00 or cold meat platter including turkey and ham, salads, rolls, dessert and beverage for \$10:00. The price also includes coffee hour. Please make out your checks to Puffer UMC and mail them to Tom Giffin, 61 East Washington St. Rutland, VT 05701. If you plan on lunch, please send out the check as soon as possible so we will have an accurate count.

VOCA County Representatives (These are people who will come help you with your VOCA grant application.)

ADDISON	Betty R. Bell 802-423-3947	LAMOILLE	Deanna French 802-522-2050
BENNINGTON	Jean Kosche 802-447-2241	ORANGE	Vacant
CALEDONIA	Vacant	ORLEANS	Wanda Webster 800-525-3550
CHITTENDEN	Robert Hooper 802-862-0708	RUTLAND	Cliff Giffin 802-773-3743
ESSEX	Richard Colburn 802-723-4833	WASHINGTON	Vacant
FRANKLIN	Edmund Wilcox 802-524-3318	WINDHAM	Charles Marchant 802-365-7937
GRAND ISLE	Vacant	WINDSOR	Ken Barrett 802-875-2941



Robert Hooper
3 Grey Meadow Drive
Burlington, VT 05408

Thomas Giffin, President

Dianne Leary, 1st VP & Grants Administrator

Robert Hooper, Asst. Grants Administrator

Chris Book, Treasurer

Harry Fisher, Membership & Asst. Newsletter Editor

Justin Giffin, Asst. Treasurer

Charles E. Marchant, Secretary

Edmund Wilson, Executive Board

Bill Wiles, Newsletter Editor

Darryl Harris
VOCA Website

2012-2013 Headstones

61 East Washington St.

Rutland VT, 05701

4670 Greenbush Rd.

Charlotte, VT 05445

3 Grey Meadow Drive

Burlington, VT 05408

44 North Main St.

Rutland, VT 05701

PO Box 3282

Nampa, ID 83653

61 East Washington St.

Rutland VT, 05701

PO Box 132

Townshend, VT 05353

4996 Georgia Shore Rd.

St. Albans, VT 05478

1342 Meadowlake Drive

Rutland, VT 05701

tgifvt@msn.com

802-773-3253

Dleary123@yahoo.com

802-881-2754

hooper9999@gmail.com

802-862-0708

802-773-6252

800-675-8815

justingiff@hotmail.com

802-779-1671

cemassoc@svcable.net

802-365-7937

802-524-3318

bwilesvt@gmail.com

802-558-6009

WEBMASTER

webmaster@voca58.org

www.voca58.org