

## CEMETERY LAUNCHES VIRTUAL TOUR OF HISTORIC BURIAL GROUND IN A WALKTOBER EVENT

**Pomfret, September 23, 2023, (10:00 to 12:30)** - The Pomfret Cemetery Corporation is pleased to announce a Walktober event in the South Cemetery in Pomfret which will include a guided tour of the prominent gravestone carvers, and stories about some of Pomfret's earliest settlers who are buried in the Colonial section of the burial ground. Participants will learn how to use the QR CODES posted at the cemetery exit gate to gain access to the virtual tour website and self-guided tour. I-phones, or android cell phones are recommended.

The project *Written in Stone: A Virtual Tour of the Gravestone Carvers of South Cemetery*, was funded by a CT Humanities Community Engagement Grant. It began with a workshop in October 2022, led by renowned gravestone preservationist, Ruth Shapleigh Brown, Gravestone Carver expert, Keegan Day, and local historian, Donna Dufresne. Web designer Janet Booth worked with the content provided by Day and Dufresne to create an interactive website which includes the biographical data of the gravestone carvers represented in the burial yard, as well as the stories of some of the early settlers derived from primary sources and interpreted by Dufresne.

Visitors from afar may access the Virtual Tour from the comfort of their homes to learn about the remarkable funerary art and social history on display in the outdoor gallery of the South Cemetery. Those who would prefer to visit in person can learn how to access the interactive maps and create their own self-guided tour at their own leisure. The workshop on September 23<sup>rd</sup> will introduce guests to the interactive features of the virtual tour website. Those who are interested in stewardship and conservation can participate in a workshop on safely removing lichen from Colonial gravestones.

For registration, contact: [windsong@snet.net](mailto:windsong@snet.net)

To visit the *Written in Stone Virtual Tour of the Gravestone Carvers of South Cemetery*, visit this link or use the QR Code in the poster.

<https://storymaps.com/stories/e76fdf895fc249cb84596f3f786efb31>