



NEWSLETTER

March 2022

Please send donations to:

**Friends of Middleborough
Cemeteries, Inc
P O Box 172
Middleborough, MA 02346**

Note: Your Donations are 100% tax deductible

If you are picking up our Newsletters at one of the several locations in Middleborough and Lakeville, please consider signing up for an electronic version to help us defray the cost of printing. Send an email to: clerk@friendsofmiddleboroughcemeteries.org with the word "Newsletter"

www.FriendsofMiddleboroughCemeteries.org www.FACEBOOK.COM/THEFoMC

If you get a chance, drive by the Tack Factory Cemetery on Taunton Street and see the difference your donations make. Our Preservation Team worked diligently in the Summer of 2021 documenting and cleaning the stones in this cemetery. We also had several trees removed that were deemed threatening to the gravestones. A railing has also been installed by the stairs to make it safer and easier to get in and out of the cemetery. Your contributions are needed to continue our work in other cemeteries in Middleborough as well.

WHO WE ARE

The Friends of Middleborough Cemeteries Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization operated solely by Volunteers. No one is paid therefore we depend on donations to support the organization. You can donate by sending a check to Friends of Middleborough Cemeteries Inc, P.O. Box 172, Middleborough, MA 02346 or via PayPal.

Please feel free to forward this Newsletter to anyone you know who might be interested. We are always looking for new friends and volunteers. There are many opportunities available.

WHAT WE DO

The purposes of the corporation are as follows:

1. To preserve, maintain and restore the cemeteries located in Middleborough, Massachusetts including the graves, burial grounds, and burial plots,
2. To promote and improve awareness of the history and care of Middleborough cemeteries
3. To preserve and promote the memory of those persons interred within Middleborough, Massachusetts.

If anyone is interested in checking us out, we have monthly volunteer meetings (currently held on ZOOM) on the third Thursday at 7:00 PM. Please send an email to clerk@friendsofmiddleboroughcemeteries.org if you would like to join us at the meetings and you will be sent a ZOOM invitation usually two days before the meeting..

In Memory of a Member:

George Everett Wilbur

1934 - 2022

George Everett Wilbur who was a loyal member of the Friends of Middleborough Cemeteries from 2010 – 2022 passed away March 3, 2022.

May You Rest in Peace George. Bye, Bye, For Now 

FoMC Participates in the Middleborough Herring Run Festival at Oliver Mill Park

The Friends of Middleborough Cemeteries participated in the Herring Run Festival on April 9th and 10th, 2022 at the Oliver Mill Park. It was a very successful event. Many people stopped by our booth to say hello and thank us for the work we are doing in the Middleborough Cemeteries. They were generous with their contributions and many more signed up to become Volunteers and to receive our Newsletters. Thank you to all who stopped by to say hello and learn a little more about who we are and what we do. For those who signed up to become volunteers, we look forward to working with you this Summer and many more Summers. The Preservation Team will be working at the Cemetery at the Green documenting and cleaning stones and the Veteran's Team will be working at the South Middleborough Cemetery

searching for our Veteran's who are buried in that cemetery. It is never too late to sign up for either Team. Work will commence as soon as the weather gets a little warmer. If you still want to sign up for either group, please fill out the attached Volunteer Form and indicate which function you would like to Volunteer for and send it to:

clerk@friendsofmiddleboroughcemeteries.org

This Month's Newsletter is Dedicated to the Thomastown Cemetery Stories In The Stones

By Jeff Stevens for Friends of Middleborough Cemeteries

A FAMILY'S SACRIFICE MEMORIALIZED The Maxim Brothers



While I was poking around the Thomastown Cemetery on Purchase Street, I noticed a number of Civil War markers that reflect the sacrifice that the war forced upon some families. One unique monument tells of the loss suffered by one family.

The white marble stone on the right end of the cemetery tells us about the Maxim family's two sons. It is clear how their family felt about them. The top of the stone reads "GOD BLESS THE HEROES". Next, the stone tells us it is a monument to the sons of H.F. & Bethiah Maxim. Henry F. Maxim was a farmer who lived on the Middleboro Carver line and his wife was Bethiah Atwood.

Next we are told of Eldridge Atwood (Maxim). He died at a place near Point of Rocks on July 25, 1864. Point of Rocks is in Virginia, and General Ben Butler set up a headquarters there as well as a field hospital. Clara Barton worked in the hospital. Research on Eldridge tells us he died from a fever, not wounds. More soldiers died of disease than from battle wounds during the war. An epitaph poem tells us more:

*Rest soldier in thy honored grave
Thy Duty nobly Done
Thy grave is in a strange land
From thy loved home afar
No friend to mark thy resting place
Beneath the Earth's cold sod
But may he meet in Joy and Peace
His parents and his God*

Next, we are told of Marcus Franklin (Maxim), Eldridge's younger brother. The stone tells us only his birth and death dates. Below those dates it states - *Duty was his guiding star*. He died at age 17, and some research on Ancestry tells us he enlisted in 1861 at age 13, so he served for 4 years during the war. He was released from duty in October and died of typhoid fever in Middleboro just two months later.

The stone ends by telling us both boys served in Co. E of the 23rd Mass Volunteers. On the back of the stone is a listing of eleven battles that the Maxim boys were part of in North Carolina and Virginia from 1862 through 1864. A last bit of research tells us Henry and Bethiah had one son left, Henry T. Maxim, after sacrificing two heroic sons to the Civil War.

This Newsletter is also Dedicated to the Howard W. Maxim Foundation

The Friends of Middleborough Cemeteries, Inc would like to publicly Thank the Howard W. Maxim Foundation for their continued support of our organization. You have helped to sustain our organization so we can preserve and protect our cemeteries for future generations. Your support is greatly appreciated by us all. Howard W. Maxim is buried in Wappanucket Cemetery.

For more information on The Howard W Maxim Foundation and learn about what a multi-talented and generous person Howard was and continues to be through his foundation go to

<https://howardmaximfdn.org/about-us/>

Volunteer Opportunities

For those of you who like to get out in the Fresh Air or who have computer skills and are interested in Genealogy Research check, out the opportunities below.

Cemetery Maintenance – Lawn Mowing & Cleaning up Debris After Storms

It is Important to our Organization that we keep the Cemeteries in Middleborough as presentable as possible.

We are looking for people to mow the lawns and weed wack around some of the individual gravesites in Middleborough. If you may have some free time and a lawn mower we could use your help. One of our Maintenance Team moved out of the State and another's business is taking up more of his time, so he is unable to continue. If you are interested in helping, please email your name and contact information to Ginny Kraus, clerk@friendsofmiddleboroughcemeteries.org and she will put you in touch with the Landscaping leader.

The Documentation and Cleaning Team will begin work in the cemeteries sometime in May or June weather permitting.

Anyone interested can specify if they are interested in one or both. All volunteers will be trained on the proper way to do each. Documenting is easy with a specialized form for this purpose. All cleaners will be supplied with all the tools necessary. Anyone interested in learning one or both can contact Chris Hubble, cehubble@comcast.net or by phone 774-419-3175

The Veteran's Team normally starts their Field Research May through October. Hours are usually 10 AM – 2 PM with a break for lunch. (weather permitting)

The Veterans Field Research consists of going into the cemeteries and walking up and down each aisle checking for any indication that the interred may have served in the US Military. We have a pre-existing list of names from 1982 and we know many of our loved ones have passed since then so we need to find them and add them to the list. We work in teams of two people each. One to Read the stones and One to Check the list and verify the information we have on the list against what is written on the stone. If the person is not already on the list, a form will be filled out so we can add them to the list. We generally only work from around 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM but you can leave at any time if needed. If you can walk, read and write, you are qualified to help.

Genealogy Research

For those people who want to volunteer but have mobility issues but have computer skills and are interested in the Genealogy of our Veterans, you can help by researching the Veterans from the list. This information will be used to validate that the person did serve in the Military. You will be given a Flash Drive with a list of names from our list of Potential Veterans that were identified during the Field Research. You can use one or more of the Genealogy websites

to look for records to add to the Veteran's Profile. This information may be used in a future exhibit to honor the Middleborough Veteran 's. In the past we did an Exhibit at the Middleborough Public Library on Civil War Veterans which was very successful. The information will also be entered into a searchable database that is in the process of being created for the Veterans interred in Middleborough, Massachusetts. We also hope to add all people interred in Middleborough Cemeteries to this database as well in the future.

If any of this work to Honor Our Veterans sounds like something you would like to help with, please contact Ginny Kraus, Veteran's Team Leader at clerk@friendsofmiddleboroughcemeteries.org or Tel: 508-468-5925