

April 2023

Tax Deductible Donations

may be sent to:

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



Headstone History

Civil War Service by a Woman ???

By Jeff Stevens for the Friends of Middleborough Cemeteries

Central Cemetery is the final resting place for a great number of Civil War veterans. The Friends of Middleborough Cemeteries have cleaned all the Civil War headstones we could find in Middleborough's historic cemeteries, about 400 headstones. Most are white marble stones that were stained orange or even black by molds and lichens and dirt. Now these stones stand out and are back to their gleaming white.

While looking at some of these stones, an unusual metal marker was beside an old white marble stone. The marker was for the "WOMANS RELIEF CORPS MASS. DEP'M'T.CORPS 8 W.R.C.

The white marble stone was for Hannah K. Peirce, daughter of William S. And Prudence K. Peirce. She was born on Sept. 8, 1837 and died Sept. 29, 1865. A quick google on the WRC tells you that this was the only recognized group of women whom the military identified as part of its war efforts. Just like the men of the Civil War, the WRC women formed "veterans" associations for their members after the war, and in the early 20th century they strongly advocated for women's right to vote.

It is not clear if our Hannah helped the troops in active war zones, medical facilities or military training camps. She may well have helped in Camp Joe Hooker in Lakeville where many soldiers were trained. She died young at age 29 from "consumption", according to the Middleboro Town Clerks' records.

Very near Hannah's stone are Civil War stones that have been cleaned by the FOMC with D2 Biological solution. James Wady of Middleboro enlisted in the 18th Mass. Volunteers and later died in a Philadelphia hospital in 1862. His stone is probably a "cenotaph" as usually Civil War soldiers are buried near where they died if they were far from home. His Middleboro stone honors his service but probably does not mark his true grave.



Middleborough Tourism Committee presents the:

Herring Run Festival

Saturday & Sunday
APRIL 15 & 16
11 AM - 4 PM
@ Oliver Mill Park

Free shuttle parking at HBB/MKG, Jackson St., and Town Hall
\$5 parking at 99 North Street
Handicap parking at COA

WWW.DISCOVERMIDDLEBOROUGH.COM

 @MIDDLEBOROTODAY  @DISCOVERMIDDLEBORO

 **Mass Cultural Council** This program is supported in part by a grant from the Middleborough Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Stop by our booth at the Annual Herring Run Festival to see the many ways in which people can donate time throughout the year.

We have a Preservation Team that document and clean stones, a Veteran's Team that is building a database of veteran's buried in Middleborough for those doing genealogical family research and a Landscaping Team that keeps these cemeteries looking neat by mowing and clearing brush and leaves.

**Is Your Ancestor's Headstone Unreadable?
Does it need Cleaning by a Professional?**

Look No Further!

Friends of Middleborough Cemeteries Inc can help!

Many of the graveyards and cemeteries in Middleboro have historic headstones of ancestors of present-day citizens in them. Unfortunately, many of these historic stones are made unreadable and discolored by lichens, fungi, and other growths that cover the images on the headstones, causes damage to the stones and make it impossible to see the names and dates on the stones.



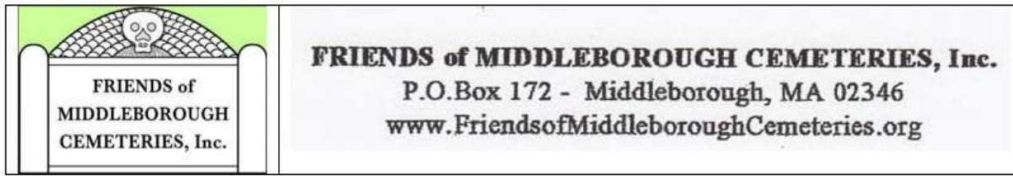
The Friends of Middleborough Cemeteries members have been cleaning and straightening the headstones in our historic cemeteries for years, using techniques that do no damage to the stones or to the environment.



As a fund raiser for the Friends of Middleborough Cemeteries, we will clean and straighten up your families' gravestones, making them readable and much more attractive.

Send the form below to:

clerk@friendsofmiddleboroughcemeteries.org or email us for more information.



**Headstone Cleaning Fundraiser Project
Information Form**

Cemetery Name: _____

Location in the Cemetery (Plot #): _____

Name of Ancestor on the Stone: _____

Stone Material: _____

Requestor's Information (In case the Team has questions)

Name: _____

Full Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Any other information you would like us to know

Please make checks payable to: Friends of Middleborough Cemeteries Inc

Please mail the checks to: Friends of Middleborough Cemeteries Inc

P O Box 172

Middleborough, MA 02346

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:

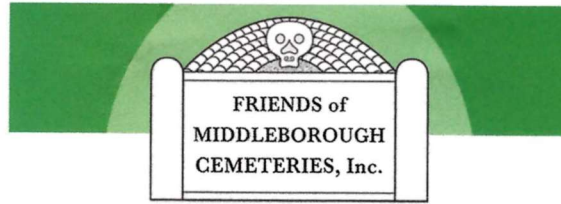
1. To preserve, maintain and restore the cemeteries located in Middleborough, Massachusetts including the graves, burial grounds, and burial plots,
2. To promote and improve awareness of the history and care of Middleborough cemeteries
3. To preserve and promote the memory of those persons interred within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

If you are 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.

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

Visit our Facebook page at www.FACEBOOK.COM/THEFoMC



FriendsofMiddleboroughCemeteries.org
www.Facebook.com/TheFoMC



WE NEED YOU!



WHO WE ARE:

The FoMC is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Our purpose is to preserve, restore, and maintain the burial sites in Middleborough, Massachusetts. We aim to promote a greater awareness of the history and care of our local cemeteries, and preserve the memory of those interred within.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

JOIN the group by attending meetings.

VOLUNTEER to help clear an overgrown cemetery or maintain a cleared burial ground.

USE your technology skills to help document cemetery data or update our website.

PHOTOGRAPH gravestones to create a lasting visual documentation for our database.

LEARN how to properly clean and care for our gravestones.

HELP with outreach and fundraising through writing news releases or by organizing events.

MAKE a tax-deductible monetary donation.

WHO WE NEED:

ANYONE! We're looking for those *who would like to help us preserve our historic gravestones* before it's too late and they become unreadable! Graveyards are essentially outdoor museums, and must be managed as such.

We're looking for those *who like to do yardwork, wield a shovel, and get dirty!*

We're looking for those *who would like to honor our ancestors by doing research and preserving records.*

We're looking for those *who would like to get experience being on a board of directors.*

We're looking for younger folks *who would like to do community service.* It looks great on your resume!

IN OTHER WORDS—WE NEED YOU!

