

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation
Commission Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, September 11, 2024**

The Chair, Cynthia Murnyack-Czarnecki, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call

Members:

Present- David Morahan; Theresa Szimpl; Vice-Chair, Ralph White; Chair, Cynthia Murnyack-Czarnecki
Also in Attendance: Rachel Markovitz, Assistant Clerk of Council

Remembrance of September 11, 2001

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated to honor the solemnity of this day they will have a short remembrance of what occurred in our country on September 11, 2001. The events of September 11, 2001, irrevocably changed the lives of millions of people not only in our country but also around the world. There were 20 people who either claimed Ohio as their place of birth or were a resident of Ohio who lost their lives that day. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated to help ensure that we never forget she asked for everyone to join her in a moment of reflection for them as well as the nearly 3,000 people who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. *[moment of reflection]*

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission Held
Wednesday, August 14, 2024

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Morahan to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission held Wednesday, August 14, 2024, and to approve said minutes as published. The vote was: Mr. Morahan, "yes"; Ms. Szimpl, "yes"; Mr. White, "yes"; Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki, "yes".

The vote was 4 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

Landmarks Nominations:

Mr. White

There were no landmark nominations.

Landmarks Letters of Recognition

Mr. White

There were no letters of recognition.

Center Cemetery – Restoration

Mr. White

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated the Commission would like to thank the Clerk of Council Ms. Brooks for her reference to the official name of the cemetery. According to the Avon Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1062 – Cemetery Regulations, the official name of the cemetery is Avon Cemetery. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki noted locally the cemetery is often referred to as the Mound Cemetery or the Center Cemetery. She added its official name is Avon Cemetery and moving forward the Commission will do its best to refer to the cemetery as the Avon Cemetery.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki noted regarding the effect the improvements at the corner of SR 83 and SR 254 will have on the cemetery, Mayor Jensen indicated that the improved intersection of SR 83 and Detroit Road will have the street a bit closer to the cemetery; however, there will still be a sidewalk between the two and no graves will be impacted. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki also noted that some trees may have to come down or be moved. Once the project is finished, the City will landscape that area to replace anything that had been removed. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised that the Mayor believes the view of the cemetery will be improved once the project is finished.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki requested the Clerk to display the documents from Gravestone Restoration Services by Kate and Jane for the Avon Mound Cemetery Group 5, Invoice No. 2421. Mr. White advised this document shows the balance and inquired if there are pictures to accompany the invoice. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki confirmed and advised the Clerk to proceed to display the Gravestone Restoration Services by Kate and Jane for the Avon Mound Cemetery Group 5, Invoice No. 2421 before and after August 2024 details.

Mr. White stated in reference to the first page, Jane, of Gravestone Restoration Services by Kate and Jane, likes to research information such as the obituaries of people whose gravestones they have restored or explain what certain engravings on the stones reference or mean.

The second page shows the process of what they did on the stone monuments they worked on, and you can see the final product looks quite nice. Mr. White noted that everything gets cleaned. The photo displays the gravestones of Sheldon, Stickney, Batton, and Crisworth.

The next slide (page 3) showed the Burlingame family, and the gravestone cleaning process turned out nicely on this one. Mr. White noted these gravestones for the Burlingame family were smaller in size, buried and broken then unearthed then repaired. He advised this is in the final bill. He added it is very nice to see this example because it provides a good idea of the work Gravestone Restoration Services by Kate and Jane completed and what the City is paying for.

The next slide (page 4) shows Clarasa Stickney and Eddie Stickney specifically, but they have done almost all the Stickney's on prior occasions. He noted in one of the final reports of Gravestone Restoration Services by Kate and Jane, Jane talks about the hand with the finger pointing upward and noted that symbol signifies pointing to heaven. Mr. White noted it looks much better in comparison to the one displayed on the far left which is the original look of the gravestone. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki commented that on this page for the Stickney monument they can really see how the base improves the look and the safety of the stone to which Mr. White agreed.

The next slide (page 5) displayed S. Whipple Chapman, Patience Naracong and Ephriam Kyes. Mr. White advised this example includes one of the broken headstones that Gravestone Restoration Services by Kate and Jane repaired. Mr. White advised you can see how they cemented the headstone together as it was broken into four pieces, and it is quite nice when they do the repair the right way with the right materials, and it makes for a better repair. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised you can see on this picture where the key fits. Mr. White agreed and stated the key goes into the slot but noted that sometimes the stones get broken and then there is no key or the key is stuck in the base. He added Gravestones Restoration Services by Kate and Jane will carve the key out of the base and they will cut the stone to make a new key. Mr. White stated sometimes a little bit of writing is lost but usually there is enough room.

The next slide (page 6) displayed Robert Payne and Sally Payne. Mr. White noted how they all turned out nice. He added you can tell by the photos how they put in the key and cemented around it. Mr. White

clarified the product used is not actually cement but it is very similar to it. He noted it is more of an epoxy type paste material and it's restoration-friendly for old marble. Mr. White noted these were done on two rows that were located on Detroit Road. He noted if you are approaching Detroit Road by SR 83 coming from the east, you can tell the rows look straighter now. Gravestone Restoration Services by Kate and Jane moved and straightened a few of the gravestones a couple inches to accommodate. Mr. White believes they look much better, and added that they were cleaned so they are nice and bright white.

The next slide (page 7) Mr. White noted the gravestones of Celestia Anderson and Joseph Harrison were in very bad shape. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated the photos displayed for Joseph Harrison truly show just how far down and around Gravestone Restoration Services by Kate and Jane had to dig. Mr. White confirmed and noted the top left how far down it was in the ground then on the far right a new piece had to be added so they lost a little bit of stone, but it is sticking up nicely, solidly and safely and you can read it better.

The next slide (page 8) Mr. White noted this was a very old sandstone gravestone. Mr. White advised these were the gravestones of Samuel Kyes, Colonel Abraham Moon and Miss Huldah Ann Wilcox and he stated you can see where they moved the footstone. Mr. White advised when Gravestone Restoration Services by Kate and Jane find a footstone, which is another stone buried at the feet in comparison to how the headstone would be by the head, and due to lawn mowing etc. they get broken and sink especially on the mound because it is all sand. He continued due to this they sink, and when Gravestone Restoration Services by Kate and Jane unearth them they put them right next to the stone in the back area, so it is easier to maintain. He added they usually put the writing facing up so you can see it better.

The next slide (page 9) displays Lucy Williams, Polina Williams, and Nellie Blackwell, and essentially shows the same thing as the previous slides. Mr. White added they could see some nice detail in the pictures.

The next slide (page 10) displays Elva Jackson (not Moon) and Arthur Jackson (not Moon). Mr. White advised sometimes when Gravestone Restoration Services by Kate and Jane write a report or a first estimate they will go to the cemetery to take photos, survey, and mark whether the stones are hard to read or dirty. Mr. White added after that evaluation, they will find more information at a later date so where it says, "not Moon," it means they thought it was Moon but realized upon reading it better that it wasn't and that sometimes happens.

The next slide (page 11) displays the gravestones of Julia Cahyl, Shilds Crager, and Mary Livingston. Mr. White advised for Mary Livingston's gravestone you can see how far that stone was leaning and basically ready to break off. He noted Gravestone Restoration Services by Kate and Jane unearthed the base and it looks quite nice in the bottom right of the photo.

The last slide (page 12) displays the notes provided by Gravestone Restoration Services by Kate and Jane. Mr. White concluded by saying they are great people who do such a great job, they have passion for what they do, they really like it, and they truly care, which is hard to find these days.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki opened the discussion in regard to the Civil War Veteran gravestone markers, which includes the GAR markers of veterans in the Civil War who were not GAR members. Mr. White advised that the installation of the GAR stars has been completed. He stated he has two GAR stars and two posts left, but all of the posts of the GAR stars in the cemetery have been replaced. He added there is a place for one more post that he has not completed yet as well as possibly depending on what they do with the Revolutionary War Veteran, John Prentiss Calkins, he may use the last post that Mr. Morahan made for the Revolutionary War Veteran provided he is able to fasten it in the same manner but

believes he would be able to. Mr. White advised two sides of it have been shown to him before, but it comes with a short post you could pull out.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised that last month they spoke about the website www.billiongraves.com in reference to documenting the graves in the Avon Cemetery. She advised the website that is currently displayed is www.billiongraves.com, and there is also a section on the site that talks about volunteering, taking photographs, and transcribing. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki requested the Clerk to go under the volunteer tab and referenced that last month when Mr. White mentioned that Jane from Gravestone Restoration Services by Kate and Jane, was willing to take pictures, using her expertise, and experience to volunteer to do so. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki inquired of Mr. White if Jane is still willing to volunteer? Mr. White advised he believes she would still be interested in volunteering. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki noted under the volunteering section there is also a transcribing component. She noted Jane did mention that she would not participate in the transcribing so that would have to be completed. She added there is also a fee schedule listed, and she forwarded these links to the members of the Commission to review them before tonight's meeting. Mr. White stated he does not know who they could get to volunteer to transcribe. He added they can discuss the possibility of trying to find a volunteer such as a Boy Scout or high school student.

Mr. White advised that the volunteering aspect may involve kneeling and holding a flashlight to get a different view so the person would have to be able to get close to the gravestones as some are very hard to read. Mr. White stated the BillionGraves site offered 3 pricing levels: a Basic which is free, a BillionGraves Plus for \$5 / month (billed annually), and a BillionGraves Plus Monthly for \$9.99 (billed monthly). Mr. White prefers the one that was free. He believes they do not need to spend any money on this, and the Basic free level would be good. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki noted in regard to the transcribing it could potentially be able to be done from the photos. Mr. White agreed that is very possible and would be great but until they have the photos he does not know. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised they will continue that discussion at another time.

Mr. White intended to mention earlier that the Avon Historical Society approved spending the money for the purchase of WWI and WWII markers for all of the veterans from those wars. Mr. White noted he would have to return to the cemetery and noted that Kerry Barvincak, Commander of the VFW Post in Avon, said he would help to go up to the cemetery and take a tally and walk the cemetery. Mr. White noted there should only be about ten gravestones total. He added they have for the most part collectively decided that they would want to get the bronze markers although they would be somewhat pricier than the aluminum. Mr. White stated he believes it would be worth it to proceed with the bronze markers.

Mr. White stated he wanted to pass a handout around as they were talking about the Revolutionary War Veteran and on www.findagrave.com, the site came up with GAR markers that were supposedly there, but he has never seen them at the Avon Cemetery. He advised with how they are placed it would be hard to cut the grass. Mr. White stated he spoke with a representative in charge of the GAR program in Washington D.C. earlier in the day, and she provided an estimate for those two markers which were made between 1910 and 1950. Mr. White advised they do not know what happened to the markers for that veteran's grave. Mr. White stated he contacted Ms. Morahan in the Service Department, and she does not have any information of what happened to the markers. He indicated Ms. Morahan would try to search for more information, but he would imagine she would not be able to locate any additional information regarding the markers. Mr. White stated if they wanted to go that route to try to locate and replace the marker, but it is expensive and time consuming. He added if someone wanted to do it, he would support that, but if not then they can get a Revolutionary War marker for about \$125, though those markers will not be GAR sponsored. He noted the marker could be purchased, ordered, and mailed. Mr. White stated this matter

would be something to discuss at a later date.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised the Revolutionary War soldier that is buried in the cemetery is John Prentiss Calkins born on August 22, 1752, died in April 1836. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki noted Mr. White is referencing purchasing a Revolutionary War marker outright as opposed to approaching the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to request or apply for one of their official DAR sponsored markers. Mr. White stated someone raised the marker and leveled it, and in this early picture with the marker it is completely sunk with grass growing around it and dirt coming over the edge. He added the subsequent present picture shows it standing and placed a little higher as well as how the leaves are cleared. Mr. White stated he mentioned this situation to Ron and Kate of Gravestone Restoration Services by Jane and Kate, and they indicated to him that they do not think they completed that one referenced. Mr. White added they worked on military markers last fall, but he did not look in the records to see if they did that one although someone did it and they did a nice job.

Avon Cemetery – Gravestone Cleaning Project

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki & Mr. White

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised she did not reach out to the faculty advisor of the Avon Leo Club to inquire if any volunteers from that club would be available to spend a couple hours cleaning the stones this fall. She advised she is waiting for them to get settled as the school year just started. Mr. White said there were some volunteers at the last Avon Historical Society meeting as well as a Boy Scout and his father that he could reach out to see if they were interested in volunteering again. Mr. White mentioned that would be two volunteers plus himself and they could probably get approximately three to four gravestones completed in a couple hours. Mr. White stated there is not much left to do but noted there is a lot of touch up work, such as going over things with the D/2 Biological Solution a second time. Mr. White noted there are some gravestones with some bad lichen and algae on them, but there are very few of those. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised they will schedule a time to arrange those gravestone cleanings as they approach fall. Mr. White advised he may do another cleaning round on his own prior to an arranged cleaning session with volunteers and noted when people are available to help; he will proceed in completing the cleaning even if it is short notice.

Avon Cemetery- Wreaths Across America

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki & Mr. White

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised the 2024 National Wreaths Across America Day is Saturday, December 14, 2024; the cutoff date for wreath orders is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving so the date to order wreaths for this year would be December 3, 2024. She added although they have made several attempts at inventorying the veterans graves if they want to participate this year and in order to have an accurate count and make wreath placement go smoothly they would have to document and locate the graves of the veterans that they have that are laid to rest from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated regarding identifying and documenting the graves of the veterans in the cemetery, in their August meeting she mentioned meeting a gentleman who was a member of the Cleveland Civil War Round Table. She noted to follow up on that, the individual was William Stark; he is passionate about history and specializes in researching and documenting veterans' burials in particular the 103rd Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry and all other Civil War soldiers and sailors from the Cleveland, Ohio, area. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised she reached out to Mr. Stark and will report back to the Commission with any insight or assistance that Mr. Stark may be able to provide them regarding the veteran's graves at the cemetery.

Mr. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated Mr. White mentioned that he and Mr. Barvinkak would be willing to walk the cemetery to locate and document the graves from WWI and WWII and inquired of Mr. White if that was correct. Mr. White confirmed that is correct. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated they already have identified the one veteran that they have from the Revolutionary War. Mr. White noted in addition to the veteran from the War of 1812 who already has a marker. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki added they also know where the grave is located. She added for the Civil War Veterans, they are still going to have to work on that a little bit more as far as identifying where they are located.

Avon Cemetery- Ohio Historical Marker Application

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated the ad hoc committee met and the subject has been researched. She advised before the proposal is taken to the Mayor and City Council, she would like to have the research reviewed by Dr. Charles Herdendorf, an Ohio State University Professor Emeritus (*Earth Sciences*). Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised following Dr. Herdendorf's approval the committee will take the next step in the application process, namely determining the title of the marker, the textual content, and the proposed location of the marker. She added they will work with the Clerk of Council to clarify the correct procedure for addressing the Mayor and City Council.

Avon Historical Landmarks Plaques

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki & Mr. White

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki inquired if there was an update regarding the bronze Avon Historical Landmarks Plaques and the purchasing of them from the Erie Landmark Company (a division of Paul W. Zimmerman Foundries) in Columbia, PA. Mr. White advised he met with the Mayor and he agreed to buy 15 plaques (3 boxes at \$5 apiece) and Ms. Seighman placed the order approximately 2-3 weeks ago. He stated he received an update from Ms. Seighman that she has been in touch with the company. Mr. White advised the first plaque will take 8 weeks. Due to reduced staffing the process will take longer. Mr. White advised it will take even longer to get the 15 plaques, but he is not too concerned about that because even if they do not get the plaques until spring that would be fine.

Member Comments:

There were no further comments.

Audience Comments:

There were no audience comments.

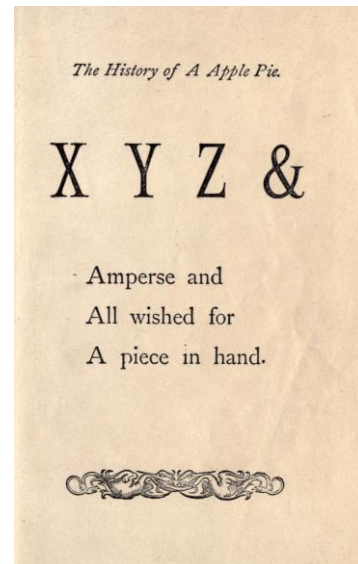
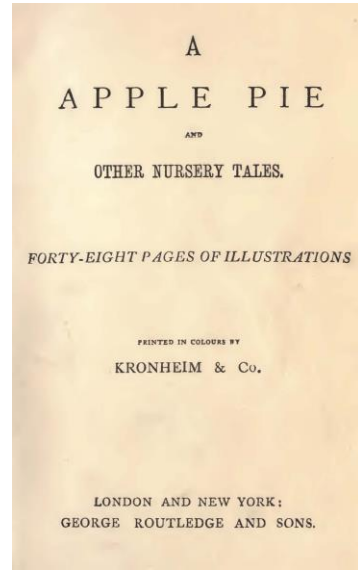
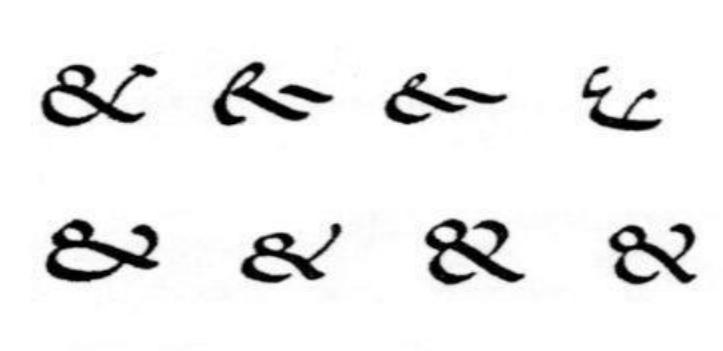
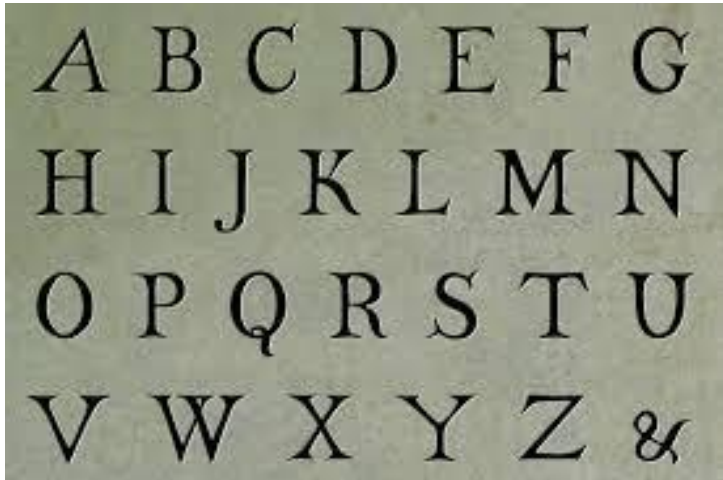
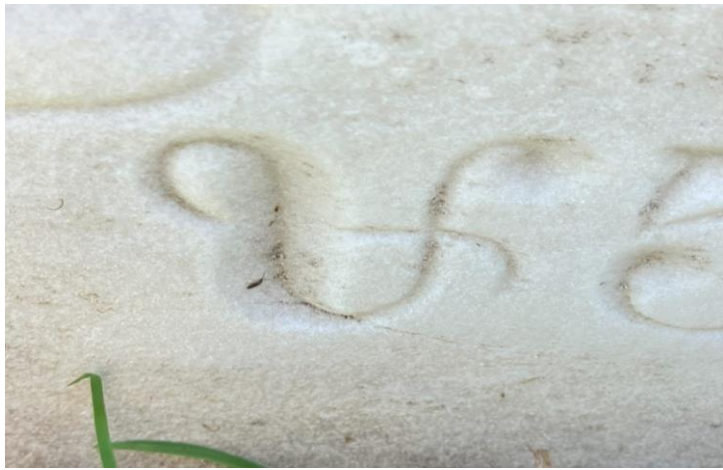
Adjourn: 7:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Ms. Szippel and seconded by Mr. Morahan to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission, and the vote was: Ms. Szippel, "yes"; Mr. White, "yes"; Mr. Morahan, "yes"; Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki, "yes".

The vote was 4 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

The Chair announced that the next Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission would be held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Markovitz, Assistant Clerk of Council



Avon Mound Cemetery

August 2024

Gravestone Restoration Services
by Kate and Jane

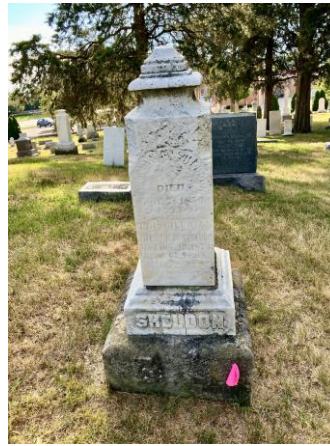
Et / amperse / & – The “and” sign, ampersand, is the logogram representing the conjunction “&” and originated from the Latin word for “and” - *et*.

The styling of the ampersand evolved over the years and was taught as the 27th letter of the alphabet until the late 1800s. *Apple Pie* ABC was a commonly used teaching primer containing the &.

The carvers used the variation of the pictured symbol to record age at death in years, months, & days. In this round of restoration it appears on Salvina Williams and S. Whipple Chapman’s gravestones.

Monuments

- Sheldon – Multi-tiered. Mechanical lift level with compaction, deep clean and D2.
- Stickney – Multi-tiered. Disassemble and tripod lift level with compaction, secure set all segments, deep clean of segments and D2.
- Batton – Multi-tiered. Mechanical lift level with compaction, deep clean and D2.
- Crisworth – disassemble and extract base. Medium sized multi-tiered. Level with compaction, secure set segments, deep clean and D2.



Burlingame

- Esther and Melvin
 - Extract stone and solid base
 - Saw cut and chisel cleared, and cleaned base to allow for a key slot set
 - Level set base with compaction
 - Mortar set
 - Deep clean and D2



- Mary
 - Small tablet but required new base pour (offsite)
 - Level set base with compaction
 - Mortar set
 - Deep clean and D2



Clarasa Stickney

- Extract stone and base
- Level set base with compaction
- Mortar set
- Deep clean and D2
- *Note - ruffled women's sleeve on pointed hand*



Eddie Stickney

- Extract stone and base
- Level set base with compaction
- Mortar set
- Deep clean and D2
- *Note - tassels representing the 10 commandments*



S Whipple Chapman

- Lift Level of base with headstone
- Compacted with 411 and backfill
- Re-clean and D2



Ephriam Kyes

- Lift level of base with headstone
- Compacted with 411 and backfill
- Re-clean and D2



Patience Naracong

- Extract stone and base
- Base had a break and was chiseled cleared of previous material and repaired
- Level set base with compaction
- Mortar set
- Deep clean and D2



Robert Payne

- Extract base and headstone
- Level set of base with compaction
- Mortar set
- Footstone located and set flush
- Re-clean and D2



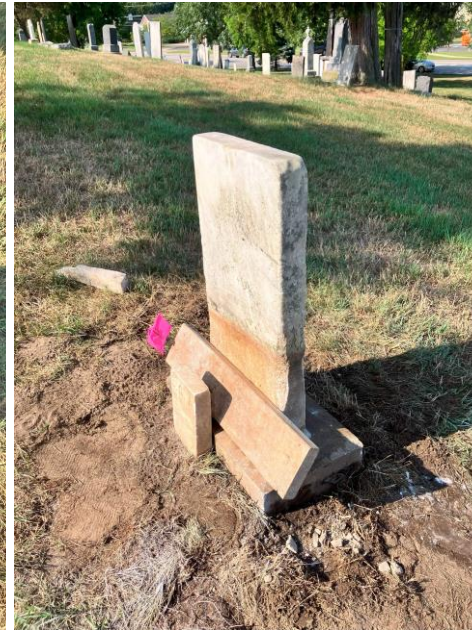
Sally Payne

- Extract base and headstone
- Level set of base with compaction
- Mortar set
- Re-clean and D2



Celestia Anderson

- Extract base and headstone
- Level set of base with compaction
- Saw cut stone and mortar set
- Footstone located and set flush
- Deep clean and D2



Joseph Harrison

- Lift level of base and headstone
- Level set with compaction
- Add putty to secure
- Re-clean and D2



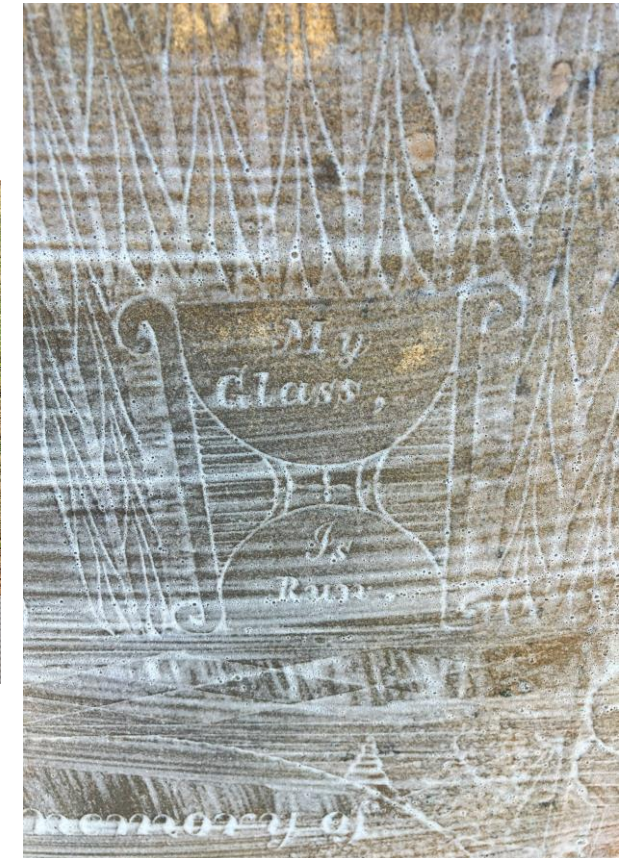
Sandstone

Samuel Kyes

Colonel Abraham Moon

Miss Huldah Ann Wilcox

- Excavate and level of tablets in place.
 - All had hard lean
 - Tree roots near Moon
 - Located and flush set footstone of Huldah
- Compacted with 411 and backfill
- Gentle clean and D2
- Consolidant application



Lucy Williams

- Extract stone and base
- Level set base with compaction
- Saw cut stone and mortar set
- Deep clean and D2

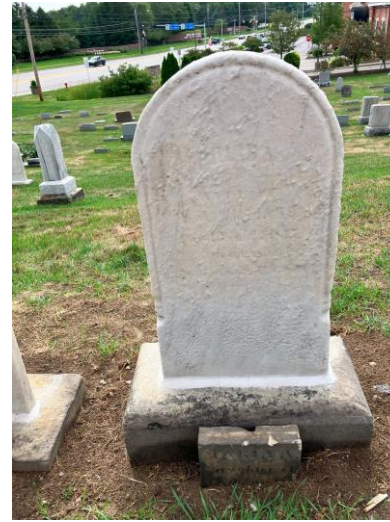


Nellie Blackwell



Polina Williams

- Extract stone and base
- Level set base with compaction
- Mortar set
- Deep clean and D2
- Partial sandstone headstone of daughter Maria located and flush set in front of Polina

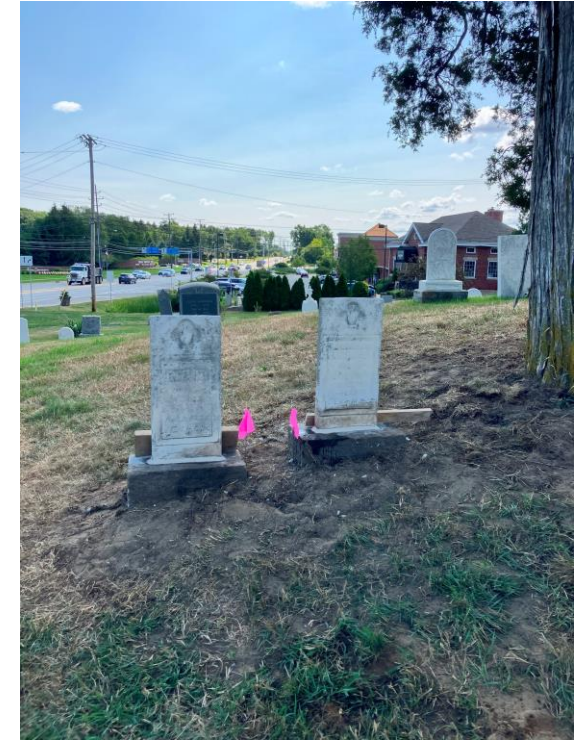


- Medium block style monument excavated and level set of support tier 1
- Secure set of tiers 2 and 3
- Re-clean and D2



Elva Jackson(not Moon)

- Extract base and headstone
- Level set of base with compaction
- Mortar set
- Deep clean and D2



Arthur Jackson(not Moon)

- Large tree roots hugging stone. Full crew job to gently lift root and push/pull on base to remove without damage to stone or tree
- Extract base and headstone
- Backfill area
- Level set of base with compaction
- Mortar set
- Deep clean and D2



Julia Cahyl

- Extract stone and base
- Level set base with compaction
- Secure set – pins good
- Deep clean and D2



Mary Livingston

- Extract stone and saw cut
- New base pour
- Mortar set
- Deep clean and D2



Shilds Crager

- Extract stone and HUGE base
- Level set base with compaction
- Mortar set
- Deep clean and D2



Notes –

D2 has been applied to all stones after deep clean or quick re-clean from restoration

- **Complimentary –**

- No charge stones – tablet set and cleaned/D2. Ursa Wilcox. Isaac Ross, and Salvina Williams



- Additional no charge stone to finish line – Candace Fitch. Extraction and re-level of base with compaction. Clear and clean key slot and gravestone. Mortar set and D2



It was truly a pleasure to provide this service at Avon Mound Cemetery. If you need any guidance or assistance in the future with Avon Mound or any other cemeteries, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Gravestone Restoration Services by Kate and Jane – Kate, Jane, and Ron

He Doeth All Things Well

I remember how I loved her, when a little guileless child,
I saw her in the cradle, as she looked on me and smiled:

My cup of happiness was full, my joy words cannot tell,
And I blessed the glorious Giver, who doeth all things well.

Months passed: that bud of promise was unfolding every hour,
I thought that earth had never smiled upon a fairer flower;
So beautiful it well might grace the bowers where angel's dwell,
And waft its fragrance to His throne, who doeth all things well.

Years fled: that little sister then was dear as life to me,
And woke in my unconscious heart a wild idolatry: I worshipped
at an earthly shrine, lured by some magic spell, Forgetful of the praise of Him, who doeth all things well.

She was the lovely star whose light around my pathway shone,
Amid this darksome vale of tears, through which I journey on:
Its radiance had obscured the light, which round His throne should dwell,
And I wandered far away from Him, who doeth all things well

**That star went down in beauty, yet it shineth sweetly now
In the bright and dazzling coronet, which decks my Savior's brow:
She bowed to the Destroyer, whose shafts none may repel,
But we know, for God hath told us, He doeth all things well.**

I remember well my sorrow as I stood beside her bed,
And my deep and heartfelt anguish, when they told me she was dead:
And, oh! that cup of bitterness—let not my heart rebel;
God gave—He took—He will restore; He doeth all things well