



Valley Update

A private – public partnership with the City of Manchester dedicated to restoration and maintenance of the historic Valley Cemetery.

News Briefs

March 2007

Volume 7, No. 2

Firms Hired for Continued Restoration Work

Two firms have been contracted for restoration of the Valley Street fence and the Pine Street gate.

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Valley Spotlight

Each edition of the Valley Update features a different historic figure associated with the cemetery: read about Charles T. Durgin, early Manchester pioneer.

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Calendar of Events

Spring is coming! Cemetery and Arboretum tours, Historical Vignettes presentation, Strawberry Festival, and more.

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Restoration Continues

Meeting held with T.F. Moran about restoration planning.

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Relocation of the Charles T. Durgin Home



The historic home of Charles T. Durgin was moved from beside the Currier Art Museum to the corner of Beech and Orange Streets to allow for the expansion of the museum. Learn more about Durgin at a program at the Manchester Millyard Museum on March 14th. See details about this program on page 3.

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Restoration Update: Contractors Hired for Pine Street Gate and Valley Street Fence

The Friends of the Valley Cemetery recently contracted two construction companies, selected through a formal bid process, for the ongoing cemetery restoration.

This Spring, **DeAngelis Iron Works, Inc.** of South Easton, MA will remove and restore the fence on Valley Street. This company previously completed the difficult job of painstakingly restoring the fence along the cemetery's Auburn Street side and we are pleased to work with them again for this next phase of fence restoration. A side note: One of DeAngelis Iron Works' achievements was repair of ornamental metal work during the 2002 restoration of the prestigious Boston Opera House, a building placed on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 11 Most Endangered list.

Soucy Industries, Inc. of Lowell, MA has been selected to dismantle and remove the Valley Cemetery's Pine Street gate for repair. Pine Street gate is the main gated entrance to the cemetery. Soucy Industries will also manufacture a new, arched sign for installation over the gate. Sadly, the original sign was destroyed several years ago when hit by a truck, but the new sign will be reproduced from the original, displaying the word Valley.

Funding for these two restoration projects was provided by the Manchester Capital Improvement Program.

More Restoration News: The Chapel Building

Planning is currently underway to run underground utilities from Pine Street to the chapel building. The chapel will be modernized in to a welcome center. New street lights will also be installed in the cemetery.

Valley Spotlight



Charles T. Durgin (1810 –1890) was an early pioneer in Manchester, arriving here in 1846. He was an overseer of the wool sorting department of the Amoskeag Mills for over thirty years. He was the first occupant of the home built by the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company in 1867, a building now owned by the Currier Gallery of Art and, due to the Currier's expansion, recently moved to 180 Pearl Street in the rear of the former Women's Aid Home.

Mr. Durgin was one of the initial founders of the Merrimack chapter of the Odd Fellows and became a prominent member of the Machinists Lodge of the Odd Fellows. His gravestone proudly displays the Odd Fellows symbol.

If for nothing else, Mr. Durgin will go down in the history of Manchester as the man who named "Cat Alley", the narrow thoroughfare that leads from Elm Street to the rear of the Carpenter Hotel. According to folklore, he gave the street this name because of the "fierce fight he once saw there between two felines."

Information compiled by John Jordan

Valley Notes

The Friends of Valley Cemetery are pleased to have a grant writer onboard.

Barbara Corman is working with the Board of Directors to obtain funding for the cemetery's ongoing restoration and historic preservation projects. Ms. Corman was hired through Manchester's VISTA program and is grant writer for that program also.

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Calendar of Events

Wednesday, March 14	Valley Cemetery Vignettes Presentation Held at the Millyard Museum	7:00pm
Saturday, April 14	Valley Cemetery Tour with John Jordon	10:00am
Saturday, May 12	Valley Cemetery Tour with Clare Callaghan	10:00am
Saturday, June 9	Strawberry Festival	10:00am

Valley Cemetery Vignettes

When: Wednesday, March 14th, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Where: Presented at the Millyard Museum

What: The Valley Cemetery is the burial place for many of Manchester's most interesting citizens of the 19th century. Local historians Dick Duckoff and John Jordan will present biographical sketches of some of these notable people, connecting their stories to the Victorian homes that are still standing in the city today. This illustrated lecture is presented in collaboration with the Manchester Historic Association. Light refreshments will be served.

Cost: \$8.00 for members of the Historic Association and Friends of the Valley Cemetery, \$10.00 for others

Valley Cemetery Tours

Tours of the Valley Cemetery and Arboretum will begin at 10 AM on the second Saturday of each month, starting in April and continuing through November. Tours are free to the public but donations are appreciated. Meet in front of the chapel building near the Pine Street gate.

We are very sorry to hear that long time Friends supporter and well known photographer, Robert H. Raiche, passed away on January 15, 2007.

Mr. Raiche was highlighted in the January edition of the Valley Update. He will be sorely missed. We extend our condolences to the Raiche family.

Correction: In a photo caption in January's Valley Update, we identified the Superintendent of Manchester Cemeteries erroneously. Our apologies to Judy Aron, the actual Superintendent of Manchester Cemeteries.

New Members

Herbert Ainsworth

William Dougan

Daniel & Susan Leach

Margaret Wiggin



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In addition to membership, I would like to make a tax-deductible gift of \$ _____

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Tax-deductible gifts to the **Restoration Fund** are always welcome. Consider a gift in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Please make checks payable to the **Friends of the Valley Cemetery**
P.O. Box 1316 - Manchester, NH 03105

Restoration Continues...



Pictured from left is Jennifer Porter and Jeff Kevan, Civil Engineers with T.F. Moran, Chuck DiPrima, Deputy Director of Manchester Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department, and Martha Lyon, cemetery preservationist, reviewing plans for the installation of utilities for the chapel building.

Discovered something in the cemetery that needs some cleaning or have a question about restorations? Call us at 624.6514 to report it.

To receive our bi-monthly newsletter or to have any question answered, send a request to info@valley-cemetery.com

Visit our web site for information on our progress on the restoration and upcoming events at www.valley-cemetery.com

VALLEY CEMETERY INFORMATION

Friends of the Valley Cemetery
P.O. Box 1316
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