

“FOREVERMORE ON CEDAR HILL”

{And other local cemeteries revisited}

Special Issue



‘WHITE BRONZE’ MONUMENTS

ANOTHER ‘FOREVERMORE’ PROJECT

BY: GEORGE MORAITIS

AS YOU WALK AROUND ANY CEMETERY, YOU WILL NOTICE HEADSTONES AT NEWER SITES THAT ARE MADE OF 'GRANITE'. OLDER SITES WOULD ALSO HAVE GRANITE BUT ALSO YOU WILL SEE MABLE STONES AND MUCH EARLIER TIME DURING THE 1600s – 1700s, MANY OF THE HEADSTONES WERE OF 'RED' OR 'WHITE' SANDSTONE OR RED OR GRAY SLATE. HOWEVER, SOME OLDER STONES DID NOT SURVIVE INTO THE 21st CENTURY. MANY ARE CHIPPED, BROKEN, VANDALIZED AND UNREADABLE. MANY CEMETERIES WOULD ADD A NEW BRONZE PLAQUE AT THESE SITES SO THE INFORMATION IS NOT LOST. IN THE LATE 1800s, A NEW IDEA WAS BORN. MONUMENTS WERE MADE WHAT WAS COINED AS 'WHITE BRONZE', WHICH WAS ACTUALLY CASTED ZINC METAL. THE ZINC WAS MELTED AND POURED INTO A MOLD AND PIECES OF THE MONUMENT WERE MADE WHICH WOULD BE ASSEMBLED AT A LATER TIME. THEY WERE CHEAPER, EASIER TO ASSEMBLE AND LIGHTER TO SHIP TO CEMETERIES THAN STONE MONUMENTS AND THEY LAST LONGER. MOST WERE CASTED TO MAKE THEM LOOK LIKE GRANITE. ONE COMPANY, WHICH HAD SUBSIDIARIES AROUND THE COUNTRY, WAS 'THE MONUMENTAL BRONZE COMPANY' OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT. THIS COMPANY MANUFACTURED 'WHITE BRONZE' MONUMENTS DURING THE YEARS OF 1874 TO 1914 AND WERE THE BIGGEST COMPANY MAKING THESE MONUMENTS. THEY NOT ONLY MADE GRAVESITE MONUMENTS, BUT VILLAGE SQUARE MONUMENTS OF UNION AND CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS AND/OR 'FOUNDING' FATHERS. THEY HAD "OVER 500 BEAUTIFUL AND ARTISTIC DESIGNS TO SELECT FROM IN PRICES AND SIZES TO SUIT ALL" AND PRODUCED THOUSANDS OF MONUMENTS. HOWEVER, DURING WORLD WAR ONE, THE GOVERNMENT TOOK OVER THE FACTORY AND USED THE ZINC AND OTHER METALS TO MANUFACTURED GUN MOUNTS AND AMMUNITIONS FOR THE WAR EFFORT. THE COMPANY WAS NOT ABLE TO REACH THE PEAK OF EARLIER DAYS AFTER THE WAR. BY 1939, THE COMPANY FELL INTO BANKRUPTCY. IN CEMETERIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY, YOU MIGHT FIND A FEW OF THESE METAL MONUMENTS WHICH OVER YEARS HAVE A BEAUTIFUL BLUE-GRAYISH COLOR AND ARE STILL READABLE EVEN AFTER 100 YEARS OR MORE. THIS IS TRUE EVEN HERE AT CEDAR HILL.



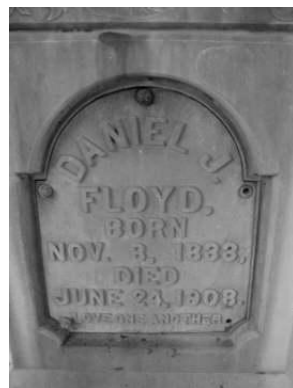
Daniel H. Skidmore (1829-1913) Family Gravesite in Section: A site: 26



William R. Satterly (1835-1890) Family Gravesite in Section: A Site: 25



Capt. Joseph L. Dickenson (1840-1887) Family Gravesite with children: Alice & Eva in Section: F Site: 25.



Daniel J. Floyd (1833-1908) Family Gravesite in Section: G Site: 2



Benjamin A. Hayes (1828-1866) Family Gravesite in Section: I Site: 37



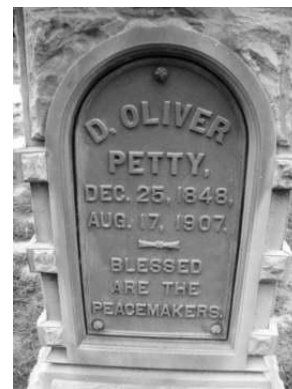
Edward B. Avery (1859-1922) Family Gravesite in Section: H Site: 163



Owen E. Wood (1839-1917) Family Gravesite in Section: H Site: 118



Daniel B. Hawkins (d. 1900) Gravesite in Section: H Site: 118



D. Oliver Petty (1848-1907) Family Gravesite in Section: H Site: 124 1/2



Charles A. Brown (d. 1894) Family Gravesite in Section: H Site: 126



Benjamin F. Reeves (1824-1901) Family Gravesite in Section: E Site 2 & 25



George D. Saxton (d. 1915) Family Gravesite in Section: C Site: 32



James E. Horton (1813-1843) Family Gravesite in Section: G Site 62



William B. Jarvis (1825-1917) Family Gravesite in Section: I Site: 111



Charles M. Hounsler (d. 1871) Family Gravesite in Section: G Site: 51

With Nathaniel "Nattie" B. Abbott, drowned Dec. 13, 1890 age: 17 yrs.



Henry M. Randall (1844-1924) Family Gravesite in Section: G Site: 44



William H. Hart (1828-1913) Family Gravesite in Section: B Site: 14

[This monument is of 'Granite' stone with a Zinc 'White Bronze' plaque]

NOW A QUICK TOUR OF OUR NEIGHBORING CEMETERIES:

ZINC 'WHITE BRONZE' MONUMENTS AT SEAVIEW CEMETERY AT MT. SINAI:



Orville R. Davis (d. 1890) Family Gravesite



Capt. Sylvester R. Davis (1827- Drowned Dec. 30, 1879) Family Gravesite



Charles A. Davis (1821-1915) Family Gravesite



Allen H. Brown (1842-1902) Family Gravesite

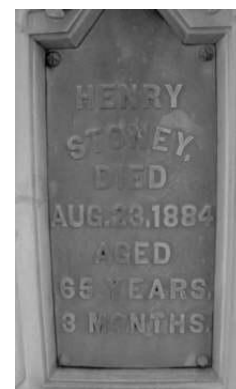


Mary E. Smith (1825-1897) Family Gravesite {script below}



William J. Colsh (1825-1894) Family Gravesite

ZINC 'WHITE BRONZE' MONUMENTS AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHYARD, SETAUKET:



William Bacon (1811-1895) / Henry Stony (1823-1884) Family Gravesite

ZINC 'WHITE BRONZE' MONUMENTS AT THE CAROLINE CHURCHYARD, SETAUKET:



Charles E. Bayles (d.1890, age 21 yrs.)

ZINC 'WHITE BRONZE' MONUMENTS AT OAK HILL, STONY BROOK:



John Edward Nichols (1843-1890) / Burton (?) Family Gravesite



James T. Addis Gravesite for his wife, Rebecca Clyde Smith (1847-1914)

RANDOM PHOTOS OF WALL PANELS THAT WERE USED TO SUIT THEIR LIVES:



Anchor



Lily of the Valley



"Suffer Little Children"



Laurel Wreath



Cross & Crown



Golden Sheaf



Immortelle



Clasped Hands



Baby's Hand



Hope



Flowered Wreath Cross



Faith

THE TOP OR 'CROWN' ALSO WAS TO ADORN EACH MONUMENT:



Monuments adorned with different styles of Urns



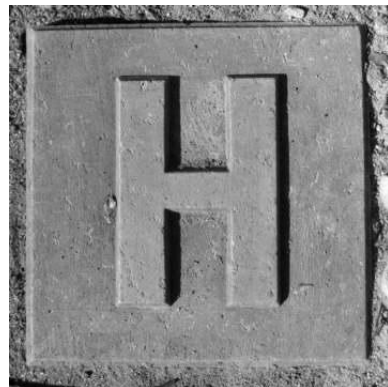
Monuments with script or 'budded' flowers

"FAITHFULL TO HER TRUSTS"



Monuments with 'pointed' or 'crown' caps

GROUND LEVEL PLAQUES:



ALL PHOTOS BY: GEORGE MORAITIS



“NO PAIN, NO GRIEF, NO ANXIOUS FEAR
CAN REACH OUR LOVED ONE SLEEPING HERE”



‘Monumental Bronze Co. Bridgeport, Conn.’ is casted in the bottom right end corner at the ‘H. M. Randall’ site. [Note: there were only two monuments of all the monuments visited that had this stamp; the other monument was at the ‘Daniel H. Skidmore’ site]. Other subsidiaries were: Detroit Bronze Co., Detroit; American Bronze Co. of Chicago; Western White Bronze Co., Des Moines; New Orleans White Bronze Works and St. Thomas White Bronze Monuments of Canada that can be found in other parts of the country. Regardless, the other monuments that are in our local cemeteries could be found in the company’s catalogue, which is how they were sold by local agents. In Port Jefferson, the local agent might have been O. B. Davis.

Further Reading:

Rotundo, Barbara “Monument Bronze: A Representative American Company.” In Cemeteries and Gravemakers: Voice of American Culture., Meyer, Richard E. ed. American Arbor, MI. UMI Press, 1989.

WHITE BRONZE.

WHITE BRONZE.

WHITE BRONZE.



No. 100. Colossal with statue of Hope.
Base 1000 inches. Height 1000 inches. With dressed edges 6 feet 8
inches high. Monumental, 1000 inches high. 4 Tablets.
Engraving on 10 feet 8 inches of the top.

THE MONUMENTAL BRONZE COMPANY.
Bridgeport, Connecticut.

MORE DURABLE THAN GRANITE OR MARBLE.

IT SUFFERS NO DISINTEGRATION OR DISCOLORATION BY EXPOSURE TO THE ATMOSPHERE.

After the severest TESTS it is found to be, and so pronounced by eminent Scientists,

THE MOST DURABLE MATERIAL

OF WHICH
MONUMENTS OR STATUARY,
CAN BE MADE



No. 100. Colossal Statue, with Angel and Flower Wreath Vase.
Base 1000 inches. Height 1000 inches. With dressed edges 6 feet 8
inches high.

THE MONUMENTAL BRONZE COMPANY,
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT.

For **BEAUTY** of DESIGN and **NEATNESS** of FINISH

IT IS UNSURPASSED.

In Price, it stands **WITHOUT A RIVAL.**

The **WHITE BRONZE** combines the three
rare and important qualities: viz.

BEAUTY,
DURABILITY,
CHEAPNESS.



OVER 16,000 WHITE BRONZE MONUMENTS ERECTED
AND ORDERS DAILY INCREASING.

EMBLEMS OF SETTABLE DESIGN WITHOUT EXTRA COST.

Medallions cast on Monuments from Photographs,
FAC SIMILES OF ORIGINALS.

SOLDIER MONUMENTS A SPECIALTY.

NO EXTRA CHARGE for LETTERING or MOTTOES.

Over 500 Beautiful and Artistic designs to
select from, in prices and sizes
to suit all.



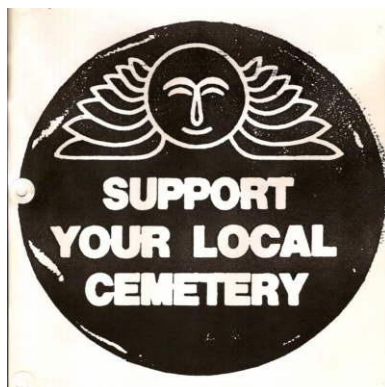
RELIABLE AGENTS WANTED FOR ALL UNOCCUPIED TERRITORY.

Parties wishing anything in the way of **MONUMENTS or STATUARY**, will find
it to their interest to consider the merits of **WHITE BRONZE**. For particulars confer with our agents
OR ADDRESS,
The Monumental Bronze Co., Bridgeport, Conn.



WRITER'S POST-SCRIPT:

EVEN THOUGH THE 'MONUMENTAL BRONZE COMPANY' OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT HAS NOT BEEN IN BUSINESS SINCE 1914 WITH REPAIRS DONE UNTIL 1939, THERE WERE SUBSIDIARIES THAT HAD THESE 'WHITE BRONZE' ZINC MONUMENT GRAVESITE MARKERS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. YET, ALL THE CASTING WAS DONE AT BRIDGEPORT. THE SEARS ROEBUCK & COMPANY, WHICH SHOWN THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO SELL MOST OF EVERYTHING AT ANYWHERE THROUGH THEIR CATALOGUE; ONE COULD ALSO PURCHASE THESE 'WHITE BRONZE' MONUMENTS. HOWEVER, THEIR EARLY EDITIONS (1897, 1902, 1908, 1923 & 1927) HAVE SHOWN THAT THEY DID NOT SELL THEM THROUGH THEIR CATALOGUE. ALONG WITH MONTGOMERY WARD & CO. (ca 1929), SOLD MOSTLY 'GRANITE' AND MARBLE OF VERMONT HEADSTONES. HOWEVER, SEARS-ROEBUCK MAY HAVE BEEN AN 'AGENT' FOR THE MONUMENTAL BRONZE COMPANY. TODAY, ONE STILL CAN PURCHASE 'WHITE BRONZE' ZINC MONUMENTS. TODAY, I THINK, THAT THE 'HAND-ARTISTRY' DONE ON GRANITE STONE STILL LEADS THE WAY.



.....GEORGE MORAITIS, PORT JEFFERSON, N.Y., SEPTEMBER, 2010

{Please note: that this article now sits in the 'Research Center Vertical File' of the
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Hartford, Ct.}