

# CONNECTIONS

## Horace Wells Lecture in the Fall

In recognition of the 175th anniversary of the discovery of anesthesia, Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation, in collaboration with Bushnell Park Foundation, will present the illustrated lecture, **Lost in a Laughing-Gas World: The Life of Horace Wells in Fact and Fiction** on Sunday, October 6 at 2:00 pm. Michael Downs, author of *The Strange and True Tale of Horace Wells, Surgeon Dentist*, will share how Wells' tumultuous life became the subject of his recent historical fiction.

In his book, Downs mines the gaps in the historical record to imagine the life of Wells, the 19th-century Hartford dentist widely credited with discovering anesthesia. Moving through New England to Paris and back again, the novel reflects on Wells' obsession with

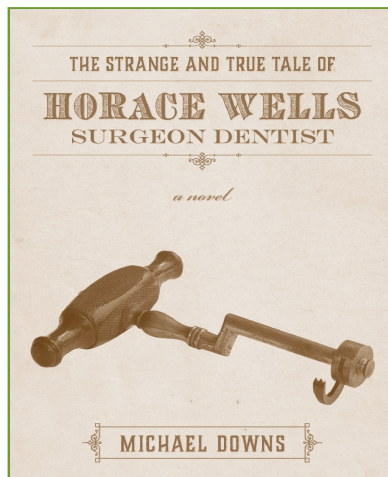


*A professor at Towson University, Michael Downs is the author of three books set in his hometown of Hartford.*

to immerse readers in the 19th century and the tragic life of a dentist who gave everything to rid the world of suffering.

The lecture, like his novel, will provide engaging access to this complex story which examines how Wells' discovery led to scandal, financial ruin, and a madness that now looks like addiction.

The lecture, generously funded by **Connecticut Humanities**, will take place at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main Street, Wethersfield. Admission is \$15 (nonmembers) and \$12 (members) and will include a copy of *The Strange and True Tale of Horace Wells, Surgeon Dentist*. Members of Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation, Bushnell Park Foundation, Hartford Medical Society, and Wethersfield Historical Society qualify for the member admission rate.



*Downs' illustrated lecture will include selected readings from his book.*

pain and its destruction which ultimately threatened his family, his finances, and his sanity. Downs will discuss the creative process used to fashion the rich physical descriptions and telling dialogue needed

## Upcoming Tours & Events

### Stories in Stone

Thursday, July 11, 6:30 pm

### Mark Twain's Companions & Cohorts

Saturday, July 13, 10:00 am

### Discover Cedar Hill – Highlight Tour

Wednesday, July 17, 10:00 am

### Remarkable Women

Saturday, July 20, 10:00 am

### The Prosecution Rests

Tuesday, July 23, 10:00 am

### Music Among the Memorials

Featuring *The Meadows Brothers*

Friday, July 26, 6:00 pm

(Rain Date: Saturday, July 27, 6:30 pm)

Free for All

### Sunset Notables Tour

Thursday, August 8, 6:30 pm

### Notable Architects

Saturday, August 10, 10:00 am

### Arts & Letters

Saturday, August 17, 10:00 am

### Discover Cedar Hill – Highlight Tour

Wednesday, August 21, 10:00 am

### Movie Night: On Golden Pond

Thursday, August 22, 7:30 pm

(Rain Date: Friday, August 23, 7:30 pm)

### Mushroom Walk

Saturday, August 24, 10:00 am

### A Monumental Man: The Art of James Batterson

Tuesday, August 27, 10:00 am

### Mystery Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, September 7, 10:00 am

Reservations Required

(860) 956-3311

# The Tragic Story of Horace Wells

Horace Wells (1815-1848) studied dentistry in Boston prior to establishing his practice in Hartford in 1836. Eight years later he attended a nitrous oxide exhibition and noticed that a participant had cut his leg, but feeling no pain, was unaware of it. He immediately grasped the implications of his observation and was determined to explore the possibilities of nitrous oxide.

Wells invited colleagues to administer nitrous oxide to him prior to extracting a tooth. Under the influence of the gas he felt no pain during the procedure. After this, Wells used nitrous oxide frequently to painlessly extract teeth. In 1845, he traveled to Massachusetts to demonstrate the use of nitrous oxide in a surgical operation. Unfortunately the patient cried out, the audience booed and jeered, and Wells departed disheartened.

Shortly thereafter, Dr. William Morton, who had been associated with Wells for a short time, began working with Dr. Charles Jackson to manufacture an anesthesia that combined nitrous oxide

and ether. This formula was successfully used in operations at Massachusetts General and the two sought to establish themselves as the discoverers of the principle of anesthesia.

Meanwhile Wells traveled to Paris where his claims to the discovery and his intent to give it to the world without monetary benefit were recognized. Upon his return to the U. S., he found that Morton and Jackson had placed patents on their product with the intent to create a monopoly. Wells disclaimed their rights to the patents on the grounds that their product was nothing more than his original nitrous oxide compound.

In New York on January 21, 1848, his 33rd birthday, Wells was arrested for throwing acid at two women while under the influence of chloroform and was taken to the Tombs. The next day he was permitted to return home to retrieve a razor and other personal necessities. He also retrieved a bottle of chloroform. After attending church services in the Tombs, he self-administered the

chloroform and cut the major artery in his leg, thus, committing suicide.

Although the debate surrounding the beginnings of anesthesia continued after his death, Horace Wells was recognized for discovering the principle of anesthesia by the American Dental Society in 1864 and the American Medical Association in 1870.



*Horace Wells is laid to rest in Section 4.*

## Music Among the Memorials - Free Concert in July

Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation's annual concert, *Music Among the Memorials*, will be held **Friday, July 26 at 6:00 p.m.** on the lawn between the Garden and Cedar Mausoleums. We invite you to bring blankets, chairs, and picnic dinners for a musical evening to remember.

The free concert features the folk-rock-grass-blues duo, ***The Meadows Brothers***. Hailing from the Connecticut River Valley, Ian and Dustin Meadows have been making music together for more than a decade. The countless hours spent singing and playing together eventually resulted in their unique blend of stripped down rock n' roll, country, blues, and folk music.

Since taking the stage as *The Meadows Brothers* they have logged tens of thousands of miles, written numerous songs, and recorded three albums. Dustin says "There aren't too many things that beat getting to travel around and play music with your brother. We do it because

"Singing guitarists Dustin and Ian Meadows prove that roots music is an unending resource, turning early influences gleaned from The Band and Gillian Welch into an engagingly twangy sibling sound all their own."

BOSTON GLOBE

we absolutely love it. The fact that people connect with the songs just makes it better."

Chip McCabe of *Hartford.com* noted "Blending folk and country with a blues edge, the brothers Meadows pack a powerful punch for being just two dudes armed with only a couple acoustic guitars and a harmonica. But their harmonies are the type of stuff only siblings can usually muster and their songs smack of souls much older than their earthly years would let on."

*The Meadows Brothers* will perform two sets with a 15-minute intermission. The

rain date is Saturday, July 27 at 6:00 p.m.

This free concert is made possible through the generous support of the **Evelyn W. Preston Memorial Trust Fund, Bank of America, N. A., Trustee.**



*The Meadows Brothers were named the Best in Connecticut at the 2015 New England Music Awards.*



# Movie Under the Stars at Cedar Hill

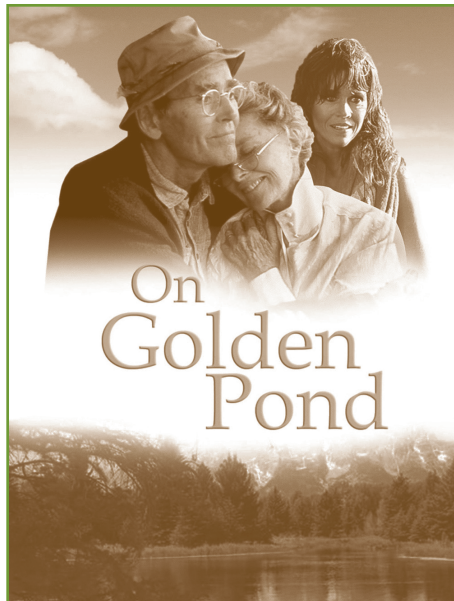
Join us for our annual Movie Night featuring cemetery resident Katharine Hepburn in ***On Golden Pond***. The Oscar-winning film, also starring Henry Fonda and Jane Fonda, will be presented on Thursday, August 22 at 7:30 pm.

Cantankerous Norman and his appeasing wife Ethel spend summers on Golden Pond. Although Norman has a tense relationship with daughter Chelsea, they agree to care for Billy, the son of her new fiancée, while the couple travels to Europe. A surprising relationship blossoms between the two encouraging Chelsea to attempt to repair her long-strained relationship with Norman before it's too late.

Filmed in New Hampshire, *On Golden Pond* was the 2nd highest grossing film of 1981. It was also critically acclaimed, receiving 10 Academy Award nominations. Henry Fonda won his only Best Actor Oscar and Hepburn won her fourth and final Oscar for Best Actress. The film also won for Best Adapted Screenplay.

The movie will be shown on an outdoor screen on the sprawling lawn between the Garden and Cedar Mausoleums. Bring a blanket or chair to enjoy the show.

Admission is \$5.00 per person and free for Foundation members. Free popcorn while supplies last. The rain date is Friday, August 23 at 7:30 pm.



## Horace Wells Monument

Charles T. Wells arranged to have a monument erected at Cedar Hill in honor of his father, Horace Wells, in 1909. Horace and his wife Elizabeth were originally buried in Hartford's Old North Cemetery and were moved here in 1908.

Artist Louis Potter of New York and architect Montague Flagg of Hartford designed the monument. The bronze bas relief was the work of Potter who was educated at Trinity College. He also studied under portrait painter Charles N. Flagg (Montague's father) who had



*The Wells monument celebrates triumph over tragedy proclaiming "There shall be no pain."*

founded the Connecticut League of Art Students. Potter later studied in Paris.

The main bronze depicts a recumbent figure symbolizing suffering with an angel bearing relief. *The Hartford Courant* noted "This bronze is sure to be reckoned among the finest productions of American art and will add to Mr. Potter's growing reputation...It is one of those combinations of idealism and reality which constitute great art, and Hartford is to be congratulated that it has something which is a 'possession forever.'"

Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation, Aetna Foundation, the Horace Wells Society, and the Hartford Medical and Dental Society raised funds to clean and restore the Wells monument, including replicating missing end pieces. Undertaken in 2003-04, this was Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation's first completed monument preservation project. The memorial is included in several of our walking tours including the *Sunset Tour* and *Notable Physicians*.

## Upcoming Tours & Events Cont.

**Discover Cedar Hill – Highlight Tour**  
Wednesday, September 18, 10:00 am

**Stargazing at Cedar Hill**  
Thursday, September 19, 7:30 pm  
Free for All

**We've Got the Cure:  
Notable Physicians**  
Saturday, September 28, 10:00 am

**When Disaster Strikes**  
Saturday, October 5, 10:00 am

**Discover Cedar Hill – Highlight Tour**  
Wednesday, October 16, 10:00 am

**Hallowed History Lantern Tour**  
Friday, October 25, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Admission: \$15.00  
Reservations Required  
(860) 956-3311

**Tree Tour**  
Saturday, November 2, 10:00 am  
Free for All

**Program admission is \$5.00 or free for Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation members unless otherwise noted.**

Sign up for our **eNewsletter** at [cedarhillfoundation.org](http://cedarhillfoundation.org) to be kept up-to-date on tours and events.

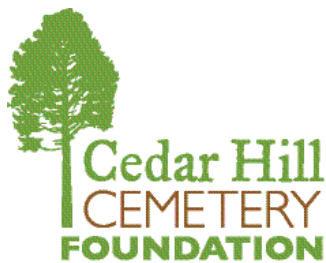
**On Facebook?**  
Become a **Fan of Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation** to learn about upcoming programs as well as other "happenings" at Cedar Hill Cemetery.



*Foundation Director Beverly Lucas leads the popular Sunset Tour annually held in August.*

## OUR MISSION

*Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation is committed to preserving, protecting and promoting in perpetuity the art, culture, history and natural beauty of Hartford's nationally-recognized Cedar Hill Cemetery. As advocates of one of America's most distinguished rural cemeteries, Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation serves to provide an unexpected experience to all who visit. Through continuous restoration and preservation of Cedar Hill's grounds, and through fundraising efforts, the Foundation actively ensures that the stories of history, nature and culture at Cedar Hill Cemetery are, and remain to be, alive and well.*



*Connecting with our past.  
Protecting our future.*

453 Fairfield Avenue • Hartford, CT 06114

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[cedarhillfoundation.org](http://cedarhillfoundation.org)

## Support Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our **Annual Giving Campaign** thus far. Your generosity supports our efforts to preserve, protect and promote our nationally-recognized cemetery.

There is still time to support the Foundation for the 2019 fiscal year. Giving opportunities include:

- Making an unrestricted gift that results in becoming a member of CHCF;
- Making a restricted contribution that supports a project of importance to you, such as the Tree or Monument Funds;
- Making a significant contribution (\$5,000 or more) that results in CHCF recognizing your contribution on the Remembrance Memorial; and/or
- Making a charitable gift through planned giving that results in recognition as a member of our Legacy Society.

To support Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation, please send contributions to:

**Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation**  
453 Fairfield Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06114

To restrict your contribution, please identify what your gift is restricted for on the memo line. Gifts made in memory of someone will be recognized in Cedar Hill's *Book of Remembrance* located in Northam Memorial Chapel.

Contributions made by September 30th will be recognized in the Foundation's next *Annual Report*.

By engaging in our educational opportunities and preservation endeavors, you are ensuring Cedar Hill remains an inspiring landscape to remember and celebrate loved ones and to experience Connecticut history and culture.



*The Fitzgerald Monument on Section 11 was made by New England Granite Works, 1906-07.  
(photo by Jeffrey Dutton)*