

# CONNECTIONS

## Monuments Cleaned – Thanks to You

Thanks to your generous support, seven granite monuments were cleaned in 2023.

Over time, granite monuments suffer from soiling, discoloration, and organic growth caused by long-term exposure to airborne pollutants. These issues take away from a monument's historic beauty by concealing decorative details and lettering.

TaMara Conde of Historic Gravestone Services cleaned the Smith, Chamberlin, Talcott, Klett, Plumb, Korper and Calhoun monuments. Cleaning that would not have been possible without the support of Monument Fund donors.

The cleaning process included using biocides followed by a water rinse to remove stubborn staining and organic material. The dramatic improvement cleaning provides can be seen with the Talcott monument (pictured).

Located in Section 1, the monument marks the grave of Cynthia Talcott who tragically died of diphtheria at age 2. She is laid to rest with her parents, grandparents and other family members.

It is not known if the angelic child on the monument is Cynthia, but we would like to think so.

Thank you again for your generous support of the Monument Fund and this project. The Foundation looks forward to undertaking additional cleaning in 2024.



*Before (top) & After (bottom)  
TaMara Conde of Historic Gravestone  
Services cleaned the Cynthia Talcott Monument  
in Section 1. Cleaning greatly improved the  
appearance of this beloved memorial.*

## Tours & Events

### Highlight Tour

Saturday, May 4, 10:00 am

### Bird Walk

Saturday, May 11, 6:30 am

### Arts & Letters

Wednesday, May 15, 10:00 am

### Remarkable Women

Saturday, May 18, 10:00 am

### Tree Walk

Saturday, June 1, 10:00 am

### The Graduates – Hartford High

Wednesday, June 5, 10:00 am

### Planes, Trains & Automobiles

Wednesday, June 19, 10:00 am

### When Disaster Strikes

Saturday, June 22, 10:00 am

### The Plot Thickens

Saturday, June 29, 10:00 am

### Mark Twain's Companions & Cohorts

Saturday, July 13, 10:00 am

### Celebrate West Hartford

Wednesday, July 17, 10:00 am

### Oh, The Places We'll Go!

Saturday, July 20, 10:00 am

### Music Among the Memorials

Friday, July 26 6:00 pm

### Sunset Notables Tour

Thursday, August 8, 6:30 pm

### Barnstormers & Aviators

Saturday, August 10, 10:00 am

# Beach Monument in Need of Preservation

The Beach Monument, erected in 1868, was one of the first major memorials installed at Cedar Hill.

**Now over 150 years old, time has taken its toll on the impressive monument.** It is in dire need of preservation.

Conservator Francis Miller completed a condition assessment and treatment



*The Beach Monument in Section 2 is in need of restoration. A multi-year project to clean and stabilize the historic monument will address critical preservation concerns. Monument Fund donations will support this important project.*

plan for the Beach Monument. The detailed document will guide a multi-year project to clean and stabilize the historic monument.

The highest priority is to address the preservation needs of the four relief sculptures that adorn the pedestal. A microclimate created by existing enclosures has resulted in organic growth, soiling and staining, and areas of stone loss.

**With the support of Monument Fund donors,** preservation will begin with the south relief sculpture.

The project will improve the appearance of the relief sculpture, inhibit further deterioration, and protect the artwork from damaging elements.

Preservation of the relief sculpture includes cleaning the marble to remove growth and staining. This will improve the relief sculpture's appearance and will dislodge organic growth within the marble.

Stone consolidation will be achieved by applying a solution that penetrates the marble to form chemical and physical bonds designed to strengthen the stone. This will stabilize the relief sculpture prior to enclosure.



*South Relief Sculpture (one of 4 relief sculptures in need of preservation) Conservator Francis Miller removed the protective plexiglass to carefully examine the fragile marble and to document its conservation needs.*

The conservator will redesign the existing enclosure to better protect the relief sculpture. The new system will improve air movement and reduce trapped moisture thus limiting further deterioration of the sculpture.

Once the preservation project is completed, visitors to Cedar Hill will be able to clearly view the south relief sculpture for the first time in many, many years.

## About the Beach Monument

The Beach Monument marks the resting place of a prominent Hartford family. Sixty-eight people are buried in the large lot, including leading financiers, industrialists, philanthropists, and even a Confederate soldier.

New York architect Richard M. Upjohn designed the monument. Upjohn is best known as the architect of the Connecticut State Capitol, which he undertook after completing the Beach Monument.

The Gothic memorial consists of a pedestal surmounted by four corner

columns and an elaborate peaked roof. There are four relief sculptures, one on each face of the pedestal.

Other decorative elements include pilaster reliefs of foliage, fleur de lis on the points of the canopy's arches, and a cross at the top. A center sculpture was never installed.

The detailed relief sculptures, which grace each face of the pedestal, illustrate *The Passion of the Christ*. They are the work of British sculptor John Moffitt. Moffitt also sculpted the Civil War monument of General Griffin Stedman at Cedar Hill.



*Detail, Beach Monument (photo by Jeffrey Dutton)*

## More Trees Planted - Thank You

Thank you for your support of the Tree Fund.

Your donations purchased 29 trees! Trees that were planted throughout the cemetery in the spring and fall of last year.

Cedar Hill boasts over 2,000 trees. Many of which have graced the memorial grounds for over 100 years.

Age and inclement weather have taken their toll. Windstorms, snow, lightning and more have all contributed to their decline. As a result, Cedar Hill had to remove numerous trees in recent years.

**With your support new trees were planted throughout the cemetery.**

The trees replaced stumps and filled gaps in the memorial grounds. The cemetery's horticultural staff selected species and varieties to complement the existing landscape.

New trees include Atlas Blue Cedar, Serbian Spruce, Hackberry, October Glory Maple, Sugar Legacy Maple, Siberian Cypress, Japanese Maple, Red Sunset Maple, White Oak, Sugar Maple, Kousa Dogwood, Scarlett Oak, and Pignut Hickory.



*An October Glory Maple planted on Section 3*

The trees bolster Cedar Hill's rural character and enhance recently-developed areas. They contribute to the natural beauty of Cedar Hill. A beauty which brings peace and serenity to all who visit.

### Tours & Events (cont.)

#### **A Monumental Man**

Wednesday, August 21, 10:00 am

#### **Cinema at the Cemetery**

Thursday, August 22, 7:30 pm

#### **Mushroom Walk**

Saturday, August 24, 10:00 am

#### **Mystery Scavenger Hunt**

Saturday, September 7, 10:00 am

#### **Lest We Forget**

Saturday, September 14, 10:00 am

#### **Eternal Homes**

Wednesday, September 18, 10:00 am

#### **The Prosecution Rests**

Saturday, October 5, 10:00 am

#### **Stories in Stone**

Wednesday October 16, 10:00 am

#### **Fall Foliage Tour**

Saturday, October 19, 10:00 am

#### **Hallowed History Lantern Tour**

Friday, October 25, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

For more information or to register for a program, visit

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

## How You Can Help the Beach Monument

An exceptional example of Gothic funerary art, environmental conditions have taken their toll on the Beach Monument.

Enclosures, installed to protect the fragile marble sculptures, are no longer effective. Over many years, a microclimate developed resulting in organic growth, soiling, and stone loss.

The south relief sculpture is particularly fragile. A thick, organic gel, has formed in some areas. And in other areas, stone exfoliation has resulted in a loss of artistic detail.

**But you can help.** A donation to the Monument Fund will preserve the south relief sculpture. **Gifts, up to \$2,500, will be matched by a generous donor.**

Your support will remove the organic growth and soiling. It will consolidate the marble, making it stronger. And it will create a new enclosure that better protects the sculpture.

To make a donation, you can mail a check to Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation, 453 Fairfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06114.

Or donate securely online at [www.cedarhillfoundation.org](http://www.cedarhillfoundation.org).



*Detail, Beach Monument (photo by Jeffrey Dutton)*

## 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.*

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## 2024 Annual Giving Campaign

Thanks to our generous supporters, the Foundation is actively engaged in preserving, protecting, and promoting our nationally-recognized cemetery. For this kind support, we are truly grateful.

**Please consider joining our circle of supporters.** There are several giving opportunities, including:

- Making an unrestricted gift that results in becoming a member and taking advantage of membership benefits
- Making a restricted contribution that supports a project of importance to you such as

**Tree Fund:** Contributes to the care and planting of trees

**Monument Fund:** Contributes to the care of historic monuments

- Making a significant contribution (\$5,000 or more) that results in recognition on the *Remembrance Memorial* alongside Lake Llyn Mawr.
- Making a charitable gift through planned giving that results in recognition as a member of our *Legacy Society*.

Whether you have a loved one at Cedar Hill, enjoy the peace and tranquility that come with walking the grounds, or value the importance of our art, culture, and history, preserving Cedar Hill enriches us all.

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 for on the memo line.

Gifts made in memory of someone will be recognized in our *Book of Remembrance* located in the Northam Memorial Chapel.

Your support and generosity are sincerely appreciated. Together, we will ensure Cedar Hill remains an inspiring landscape for all who visit.



*Oswin Welles Monument, Section 1, was one of the Foundation's first preservation projects.*