

# **Sagamore Cemetery Preservation Program Wed, June 8th & Thurs, June 9th, 2016**



**GREAT CAMP SAGAMORE  
1 Sagamore Rd, Raquette Lake, NY 13436**

For many people, cemeteries are sacred sites, locations that not only provide spiritual comfort for both the living and the deceased, but also help communities maintain connections with their collective cultural history. Over time, however, many small cemeteries fall into disrepair and decay, as loved ones move on and communities grow. For its part, New York State is home to thousands of neglected or abandoned cemeteries, many of which are technically the responsibility of their surrounding communities.

Over the past decade or so, many individuals in these same communities have come to recognize the value of abandoned cemeteries, and their important role in honoring the deceased and preserving local history. What they lack, however, are the tools -- legal, instructional and physical -- to help them in their efforts to restore these important places.

To address this need, and building on an introductory program held last year, Great Camp Sagamore is pleased to offer a special two-day program which will not only help you to determine whether and how to restore a neglected local cemetery but will also provide instruction on how to physically restore gravestones and monuments properly.

Speakers include:

**David Fleming**, Town Supervisor of the Town of Nassau and a sought-after consultant on matters surrounding cemetery regulations, operations and management;

**Dennis Montagna**, Director of the Monument Preservation & Research Program for the U.S. National Park Service.

**Joe Ferranini**, Founder/Owner of Gravestone Matters, a professional cemetery preservation firm in Hoosick Falls, NY.

**Reed Antis**, Town of Moreau Planning Board Member, and founder of the Friends of Moreau Cemeteries, a volunteer cemetery preservation organization.

Cost (accommodations include lodging, breakfast and dinner):

- 1) 2-day Program activities plus 3-night (Tue/Wed/Thu) accommodations: \$279/person
- 2) 2-day Program activities plus 2-night (Tue/Wed or Wed/Thu) accommodations: \$239/person
- 3) 2-Day Program activities plus Wednesday night accommodations: \$179/person
- 4) 2-Day Program activities only, including lunch each day: \$99/person.

Register today by contacting Sagamore's Registrar  
Winter Phone (before May 1): (315) 240-7568.  
Seasonal Phone (after May 1) 315-354-5311 x21  
Or email: [info@greatcampsagamore.org](mailto:info@greatcampsagamore.org)



## *Cemeteries, Materials and Care 2-day Workshop*

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### **Wednesday, June 8th:**

Our program will begin on Wednesday, morning, with a presentation by David Fleming, a sought-after consultant in cemetery regulation, operations and abandonment with the Albany, New York firm of Featherstonhaugh, Wiley & Clyne, LLP. David will provide an overview of town cemetery management, and the legal responsibilities and obstacles that communities face when they attempt to preserve or restore abandoned local cemeteries.

Following David's talk, Dennis Montagna will introduce workshop participants to the key elements of preservation planning, materials used in cemetery settings, the varied ways and extent to which these materials fail in outdoor exposure over time, available treatment options, and programs of long-term care. Dennis is Director of the Monument Research & Preservation Program of the U.S. National Park Service.

After lunch, we'll reconvene to examine some of the practical aspects of gravestone preservation and restoration. First, we'll hear from Reed Antis of the Town of Moreau, NY about his journey into the world of lost and abandoned cemeteries. Reed's presentation will focus on the steps he has taken to locate forgotten cemeteries and rescue them from disappearance and disrepair by using proper preservation techniques. Mr. Antis has rallied his local government and volunteers to assist in his efforts to restore dignity to these places of remembrance, and will provide some insight and advice about how to solicit help in the process of cemetery restoration.

Following Reed's presentation, Joe Ferrannini, founder of Gravestone Matters, will discuss the process of proper gravestone restoration, including the most current tools and techniques used in gravestone maintenance today.

**Thursday, June 9th:**

Participants will join our hands-on restoration technique workshop being held at a local cemetery.

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Before restoration [below] is a headstone disappearing into cemetery soil  
Date of death June 18, 1854  
After restoration [right photo] is the same headstone being restored with meticulous care



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**We look forward to welcoming you to Great Camp Sagamore!**

Great Camp Sagamore, Sagamore Road, Raquette Lake NY 13436