



2014 Princeton Historical Commission Annual Report

The Princeton Historical Commission (PHC) would like to use this opportunity to thank Alex Fiandaca for her years of service to the Town. Alex resigned from the Commission in 2014 and will be sorely missed. She was the driving force behind our work to restore Meetinghouse Cemetery (MHC) and she brought her singular commitment, energy and intellect to every project she tackled. We wish her well in the career endeavors which have claimed her time and hope that all of Princeton will join us in thanking her.

During 2014, the PHC continued work on MHC by resetting some of the fallen footstones and securing sturdy vaults suitable for storage of the many gravestone fragments that have turned up during restoration. We thank the Town for granting our request for additional funds for Meetinghouse Cemetery at last year's Town Meeting. We have discussed the Cemetery Superintendent's interest in the restoration of old gravestones in other cemeteries.

In March 2014, the PHC gratefully accepted a gift from Barbara Charles and Bob Staples of a long missing 18th century gravestone of the child, Daniel Parkhurst. By virtue of diligent research and generosity, Daniel's headstone will be returned to MHC.

The PHC worked with the Congregational Church to host a successful event at Meetinghouse Cemetery in honor of the Church's 250th anniversary. Members recognized the significance of the Church in the Town's history and the appropriateness of celebrating the strong link between the two. The successful event started at the Church with a presentation by the Gravestone Girls followed by a guided tour of MHC.

We have also begun drafting guidelines for the preservation of the Town Common and have shared our experience restoring the Redemption Rock Tercentenary marker with other Historical Commissions in the Commonwealth, and have begun to identify other sites qualified for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dubman