

## Historic Cemetery Advisory Commission 2020 Annual Report



The commission met ten (10) times during the year; 8 in person and 2 digitally. A quorum was not present for 1 meeting.

### Activities/accomplishments

1. **Stonework completed- 62 stones:** Due to the effects of the Corona virus on the city budget, there were no CIP funds available in 2020 for gravestone work. Funding for the 62 stones came from the second part of the National Trust Grant (20 stones), the Braman Trust (31 stones), and a private donor (11 stones).
2. Work in God's Little Acre was the feature **article (and cover image) in Preservation Magazine**, the national publication of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
3. A high-resolution digital map of God's Little Acre was completed by a team at Brown University to facilitate future site work.
4. The commission authorized a cooperative effort with the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society to develop a self-guided walking tour of God's Little Acre
5. Trained volunteers cleaned every slate stone in God's Little Acre.
6. A general assessment of the **gravestone work needed in the Common Burying Ground** was conducted and indicates that at minimum, \$500,000 is needed.
7. **Braman Cemetery-** City crews cleared Braman excessive vegetation along the railroad tracks and in overgrown burial lots. Documentation of about 2500 burials was completed and shared with the RI state database. Tours of Braman Cemetery were offered to the public in July and August, complying with COVID-19 guidelines. 81 people took the tour and \$1328 was donated to gravestone and burial site work.
8. Part of the donated funds from Braman tours was used to refurbish the iron **gate at the Coddington Burial Ground** on Farewell Street
9. **Old City Cemetery-** Burials were documented, gravestones photographed and shared with the state cemetery database.
10. **Fencing between Island Cemetery and Common Burying Ground** – Sections of fencing that had storm related damage were removed. Discussion continues regarding the removal of additional sections.
11. The commission was pleased to support the rehiring Beyond the Gravestone for the next 3 years.
12. **University of Rhode Island gravestone relocation-** The commission is working with Professor Ron Onorato to relocate 15 slate gravestones currently in a campus collection. One stone was successfully returned to the Barrington Historic Cemetery Commission.
13. The commission was able to assist Trinity Church in their application for a grant to clean the Admiral De Ternay gravestone
14. 2 tours of the Clifton burial site were conducted in October and attend by 25 people.

*We continue to be very appreciative of the support of the City Council and staff.*



## 5. George Blake

