



# Friends of RHINEBECK CEMETERY, INC.

Vol. 8, No. 1  
Spring 2021  
Newsletter

April 15, 2021

Dear Friends,

I believe I speak for our entire board when I say how grateful we are for the unfailing support we've continued to receive from our donors. While the challenges of this year cannot be understated, your response to our work has kept us going.

The distancing the pandemic has asked of us all did not halt our mission, but simply redirected our priorities. Projects that we've long talked about doing --- such as a walking map and more comprehensive landscaping --- made more sense to tackle during this time. I'm happy to report some of those projects are now coming to fruition.



Take a drive by the entrance to the Natural Burial Ground and you'll see thousands of bulbs emerging. Soon, the perennials we planted last fall will be up. And, in April, we'll be finishing that beautification project with hundreds of ferns.

With some optimism, we've decided to host our annual costumed historic tours this fall. We also plan to resume our community volunteer tree plantings then, too. We look forward to seeing some of you at those events.

Sincerely,

Michel P. Haggerty  
President

## RECEIVING VAULT REPAIR

We are grateful to the Frost Memorial Fund for awarding us \$6,000 for repair of the cemetery's original 19<sup>th</sup> century receiving vault. The receiving vault is located just through the Route 9 gates to the left. Repairs to take place this spring.



## TALES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

Theatre on the Road is scheduled to return this fall with a new cast of characters:

**George Saltford (1851-1923)** Landscaper and florist who built Rhinebeck's first violet greenhouse catalyzing the commercial violet industry in the Hudson Valley.

**Susan Elizabeth Frazier (1864-1924)** Thought leader on issues of women's and African American rights and teacher in New York City Public Schools.

**Andrew Frazier (1742-1846)** African American Revolutionary War Veteran, landowner in Milan, NY and the grandfather of Susan Elizabeth Frazier.

**Richard Schell (1810-1879)** A U.S. Congressman, Schell was married to the sister of Winston Churchill's grandfather.

**Mary Miller (1806-1881)** Founder and benefactor of the Starr Institute in Rhinebeck.

**Elisha Holdridge (unknown-1874)** Drummer boy in 150 Regiment NYSV who went on to serve in both the War of 1812 and the Civil War.

**October 9th and 10th and October 23rd and 24<sup>th</sup>.**

Performances begin at 3PM with an additional accessible tour on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM. Tickets will be on sale through our website beginning early September. Don't miss it!

**We are a New York Not-for-Profit and Federal 501(c) 3 Organization.**

**All of Your Donations are fully Tax Deductible.**

**Does Your Employer have a Matching Grant Program? Please let us know.**

NEW MAP

We’re excited to be designing a new walking map for all three areas of the cemetery (Historic, Grasmere and Natural Burial Ground) with interactive features. What would you like to see featured on it? Let us know by emailing us at [friends@friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org](mailto:friends@friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org)

PLANT-A-TREE: GROW AN ARBORETUM

Because tree planting requires close contact with other people, our community tree-planting days are on hold.

However, we will be getting several new trees in the ground this spring without volunteers: Catalpa, Red Bud, Kousa Dogwood and Magnolia Grandiflora. We hope our next collective tree planting is not too far off in the future. Please let us know if you are interested in donating to the program or sponsoring a memorial tree. For more information, please contact Suzanne at [friends@friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org](mailto:friends@friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org).

NATURAL BURIAL GROUND CLEANUP



Thank you, once again, to Rhinebeck Interact Club for coming out last October for a productive clean up of the woods.

We are so grateful the clean up can be done at a safe distance from others and that we’ve been able to keep this work going throughout the pandemic. Our next Natural Burial Ground cleanup is scheduled for **April 25<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME. MASKS REQUIRED.**

Enjoy the woods while gathering downed branches and making brush piles. It’s always a fun morning. Meet up at the entrance to the Natural Burial Ground (55 Mill Road).

Our Mission

*Friends of Rhinebeck Cemetery, Inc.* is a not-for-profit organization working to promote and optimize the history, design and ecology of the cemeteries under the Town of Rhinebeck’s jurisdiction; Rhinebeck Cemetery on Route 9 and Mill Road, Kirchehoek Cemetery (Wey’s Crossing) on Route 9; and Kerk Hof Cemetery in Rhinecliff. Nestled into the natural beauty of the Hudson River Valley, these gems are rich with national, state and local histories, architectural treasures, natural heritage, and remembrances of the dead.

We exist purely for the benefit of these cemeteries, promoting their beauty and legacy by raising money for restoration, conservation and education efforts – things not included in the Town’s cemetery budget. Current and future projects for the Rhinebeck Cemetery, in particular, include restoration of the stone walls, preservation of the entry gates, repair of historic grave markers, biannual walking tours, establishment of a memorial tree program in support of a comprehensive green plan, and habitat restoration in the newly formed natural burial ground.

Nonprofit  
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