

New England Town Cemetery Restoration

On a cloudy Saturday in late September, four men gathered to remove the trees growing through the tabletop grave stones of the Rev. William Ramsey and his wife Sara. Thus began the New England Town Cemetery restoration in earnest. Pastor Mike Schuelke, Dan Hankins, Ken Pugh and Bill McLean did the work with permission of Bob Francois representing the West Jersey Presbytery (PCUSA), owner of the cemetery.

Future plans for restoration include surveying the cemetery, charting all grave markers, photographing the stones, and repairing the table stones of the Rev. and Mrs. Ramsey (Smith).

Fairfield Presbyterian Church is eager to



preserve the history revealed in the New England Town Cemetery. These solemn grounds and grave markers are an essential expression of the history of Fairfield Presbyterian Church and in the broader context, an integral part of the history of the settlement of the early colonies and the founding of our nation. This history must be preserved.

As a part of the celebration of 325 years of history, Fairfield Presbyterian Church, Fairton, is soliciting funds for the restoration work necessary to preserve the story inherent in these grounds and stones. When all is done, Fairfield Church will put the information gleaned from this restoration project into a digital form usable for many, especially for those who would do genealogical research.



Photos, Top: Bill McLean trims trees, Bottom: the graves before tree removal.



Bill McLean cutting trees; Bill initiated work at this cemetery, removing growth and underbrush from the 70 stone markers in this burial ground. Below: Dan Hankins helps.





Ken Pugh cuts a tree stump that is up against the stone. Below: the trees are gone.





As you can see, much work is still to be done in restoring the Ramsey grave sites completely. Fairfield Church has established an account to which people may contribute; all the funds collected will go to the work of restoring and preserving this historical site.

Make checks payable to Fairfield Church and note on your check "Cemetery Restoration."

Mail to: Fairfield Presbyterian Church
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For more information please call: 856-451-7687.