



**ANCIENT
BURYING
GROUND
ASSOCIATION**

*Preserving a history
carved in stone*

P.O. Box 347
Hartford, CT 06141-0347
(860) 337-1640
contact@theancientburyingground.org

Dear Friends,

We are hard at work, but we cannot preserve Hartford's oldest historic site without you!

Located on Main Street for almost 400 years, the Ancient Burying Ground (ABG) has witnessed wars, depressions, and epidemics. Over those centuries, much of the artistry and history on the gravestones has faded and worn away. The ABGA is fortunate in this challenging time to be able to continue working on the restoration and documentation of the burying ground.

Please make a contribution to ensure that we can continue to maintain the burying ground not only for Hartford residents and visitors from around the state, the country, and beyond, but also for future generations. Your donation will help us provide educational experiences for children and adults, restore irreplaceable stone carvings, and create a new online database of photographs and epitaphs that will be available to researchers around the world.

Winner of the Award of Merit

from the Connecticut League of History Organizations 2020

Uncovering Their History: Africans, African Americans, and Native Americans

Our Uncovering Their History project was recognized in 2020 by CLHO, the prestigious statewide museum organization. The project documents almost 500 individuals of color buried in the ABG and the accompanying website, africannativeburialset.org, had over 5,000 visitors in 2020. This cutting-edge research is the basis for new community education programs and events that help to connect the residents of the past to those of today. Your support will allow us to reach out to schoolchildren and teachers as part of a partnership with the Witness Stones Project and the Old State House Museum. Please make a gift that will bring to the classrooms and the public the stories of all of Hartford's early citizens, free and enslaved.

Making Gravestone Information Available Online

We have received a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office to have high quality photographs of the over 400 existing stones taken and to create an online database of photographs and epitaphs. This will make essential information available remotely for visitors, historians, educators, historic preservationists, genealogists, conservators, students, art historians, and others interested in the history of the Connecticut Colony's earliest residents, as demonstrated by the stories of those interred in the Ancient Burying Ground. The project will be the first of its kind in Hartford and could serve as a model for the documentation of additional city-owned cemeteries. Your support will help create and develop this valuable resource!

Restoring Connecticut's Earliest Art Form

The cost is not insignificant -- the region's best conservators and craftsmen undertake the work in the ABG. In 2020, we contracted to have the broken John Sargeant headstone reattached to its base, to replicate the badly dissolved marble marker for the Skinner-Pratt families, and to engineer a solution to conserve the Ruth Flagg schist headstone.

Your gift helps to ensure the future of the Ancient Burying Ground. I hope you will join us in this very important work.

Sincerely,

Ty Tryon, President