

Patriots Day at the Old South Burying Ground, Hartford, Connecticut



Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Hartford's Old South Burying Ground were honored on Monday, April 17, 2006 – Patriots Day. Children and adults in period costumes (including this little girl, named Gillian) led the ceremonies. All photos by Pat Estill.



The M.D. Fox Elementary School, located next to the Old South Burying Ground, in the former Bulkeley High School building on Maple Avenue, sent student representatives to the ceremony. Above: Stephanie Lune, 12; Jacqueline Bracetty, 12; John Pomales, 11, and Andrew Rodriguez, 12.



Paying tribute. On the left: Barry Arpin and his daughter Cassandra. Right: Cristal and Ryan Arpin.



This gravestone belongs to Stephen Skinner, who answered the “Lexington Alarm” and rushed to Boston in April 1775 to stop the British from seizing arms and supplies stored by the Massachusetts militia. After serving two days in Boston, Skinner served twice more during the Revolution: from August 26 to November 3, 1777, and in January 1778. The information comes from Old South Burying Ground scholar Byron S. Benton.

Left gravestone: "Revolutionary War / Freeman Seymour / Capt. Prior's Co. / Col. Wolcott Regt. / Died April 29, 1800 / AE 45." ("AE" is an abbreviation of the Latin *aetatis*, or "of age.")

Right gravestone: "Revolutionary War / Barzillai Hudson / Ensign of Guard / Hartford Jail / Died July 31, 1823 / AE 81."

Byron Benton's research puts the total number of Revolutionary War veterans buried in the cemetery at 32.





Unfortunately, most of the gravestones in the Old South Burying Ground – including some belonging to Revolutionary War veterans – have deteriorated badly through neglect. This tomb belongs to the Barnard and Goodrich families.

Another damaged gravestone. The inscription begins: "In memory of Rev. Abel Flint D.D. / Pastor of the second church in this town."





Little more than stubs remain of some gravestones, like the one on the left. To help preserve and restore the cemetery, contact Friends of the Old South Burying Ground through the Connecticut Gravestone Network, at www.ctgravestones.com/CTprojects/old_south.htm.