

St. Joseph Cemetery & Holyhood Cemetery



N E W S

Volume three

Spring 2011

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Titanic Victim Memorialized

Catherine Buckley had no idea that she was about to become a part of history when she stepped on board of the Titanic for what was supposed to be its maiden voyage to the United States.

Buckley, 22 had lived her life in County Cork, Ireland when she accepted an invitation to join her sister Margaret who had been living in West Roxbury as a domestic worker.

"She was very typically a farmer's daughter," said Bob Bracken of the Titanic International Society. "She grew up with her family and her faith as the cornerstones of her life.



Beneath an engraved cross, the stone read:

BUCKLEY
Catherine
June 3, 1889
April 15, 1912
Lost on RMS Titanic
Beloved daughter and
sister



The Titanic sank on its maiden voyage, less than two days before its final destination of New York City

Her sister contacted her about coming to the United States and she decided she was going to do that."

As most people are aware, the Titanic never made it to America, with over 1,500 people perishing. Although Buckley did not survive, her body was recovered and completed the journey to West Roxbury, where it was buried at St. Joseph Cemetery. Buckley's grave had been left unadorned, ninety-eight years later, Buckley's grave will finally get a memorial stone.

On May 22, 2010 members of the historical society and Buckley's descendants gathered at St. Joseph Cemetery where a new marker and headstone was unveiled. Thomas Carrigg and Son Monuments donated and inscribed Catherine's beautiful headstone. Msgr. William Helmick enthusiastically promoted the ceremony to the Irish community and to his parish. He also recommended Police Sgt. Timothy Horan as piper for the occasion to lend traditional Irish music and hymns to the service. Sgt. Horan graciously offered his talent for the dedication. The end result of all these efforts was a beautiful and emotional dedication ceremony, attended by over 200 people.



Msgr. William Helmick offered a blessing.

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Letter from the President

The Association continues to embrace history and the heritage left to us by our ancestors. The story of the Titanic tragedy displayed on the first page of our volume three newsletter is a perfect example. The Titanic catastrophe touched so many and brought compassion from around the world. This event is part of history and a young woman casualty was laid to rest at St. Joseph.

The Board of Directors and General Manager have continued the long term commitment of Capital Improvements. A great deal has been accomplished this year relative to grounds maintenance, chapel restoration, and the completion of our maintenance facility.

The Fitzpatrick Chapel at Holyhood received extensive maintenance with the repointing and waterproofing of the Northside of the structure. This will enhance the appearance and historic value of the Chapel.

Holyhood being the oldest of our cemeteries continues to be the location choice of many. As a result the Board has approved the development of a master plan. This plan when complete will embrace the history and beauty of the cemetery and identify areas for additional full and cremation burials. The implementation of the plan will be completed in phases after extensive review by the Board.

Requests for cremation burials continue to increase. Approximately 25% of our burials last year were cremains. It is expected this percentage will continue to increase. We have made provisions to provide areas for

cremation burials. The Maguire Chapel as part of the Capital Improvement Program has been retrofitted with 90 beautiful niches to accommodate requests. Work has also been completed on the Cremains Wall adjacent to the chapel. Improvements were made to enhance the appearance and condition of the wall.

The maintenance facility was completely renovated this year and is now occupied by our very capable workforce. The facility was designed to blend with the historic surrounding area and to accommodate the everyday needs of our employees.

St James the newest section of the cemetery received an additional 121 crypt graves this year which are now available for purchase. In addition to this capital expenditure a landscape screening project has been designed. This project will be completed in phases and will cover an area along the VFW Parkway.

St Vincents received extensive landscape maintenance with a considerable amount of tree work. As a result additional full burial graves have been identified and will be available later in the year.

The downward trend in full interments continued this year but the Association's financial condition remains sound. The economic environment over the past few years has made budgeting very challenging. We continue to conduct cemetery operations effectively with a reduced workforce. This workforce is supplemented by Tru Green Land Care our ground maintenance contractor. The Association's Perpetual Care Fund remained stable for

2010. These funds are managed by two professional investment counsel who report to the Finance Committee quarterly. The long term policy of the Board is to place 50% of the purchase price of every lot into the fund. The Association's financial statements, including the Perpetual Care Fund are professionally audited annually. A portion of proceeds from this fund subsidizes the operating budget.

The Board of Directors held four regular meetings as did the Finance and Cemetery committees. In addition select committees were formed and reported to the Board as requested. Richard T. Leary retired as General Manager after 12 years of outstanding service. A. Thomas DeMaio former Commissioner of Public Works for the Town of Brookline assumed the position in January 2010. The Board also approved the Nominating Committees recommendation to fill three vacant Board positions. Mrs. Peggy Goode and Mr. Al Sexton after many years of dedicated service retired in 2009. These positions became available as well as one long standing opening. Mr. William Driscoll, Mr. Edward Goode and Mr. Richard T. Leary were approved to fill the positions bringing the Board to a full compliment of ten members.



D. Michael Collins, President

New Maintenance Building

The existing brick and concrete structure was built in early 1960. The facility contained areas for employees, storage and vehicle/equipment maintenance. Safety codes and space requirements were addressed and the entire building was renovated. The design of the building complied with its historic appearance and blended with the surrounding area. Employees now have a building which is safe, clean, and meets the needs of our daily work schedules.



Cremation Niches

The McGuire Chapel is a dominant feature of St. Joseph Cemetery. Built in the early 1900's this beautiful chapel has been completely renovated and is available for graveside service. In addition 90 glass encased niches have been installed as an alternative cremation burial option. These secure glass cases can be visited during the day by family members. When the family purchases a niche they are given a secure pass key which allows access to the Chapel seven days a week. If you would like more information about this aspect of the Chapel please call the office and speak to a staff member.



Cremation Niches provide a serene, indoor setting, beautifully appointed with benches, for year-round visitation

Holyhood Chapel Restoration & Waterproofing



The Fitzpatrick Chapel at Holyhood Cemetery was built in 1890. This historic jewel is located at the highest point in Holyhood Cemetery. As you look up at the Chapel you very quickly appreciate the history which surrounds this beautiful stone structure.

The structure requires a considerable amount of annual maintenance to preserve its historic wealth.

This year the entire North wall was repointed and waterproofed. The interior was repainted and the original beams and benches were refurbished. The chapel is available for graveside services upon request.

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Memorial Day Mass

The Memorial Day Observance continues to be the highlight of the year at Holyhood and St Joseph Cemeteries. In 2010 there were approximately 800 in attendance at St. Joseph Cemetery and approximately 60 gathered at Holyhood. Monsignor Helmick, ably assisted by his staff from St. Theresa of Avila, said the Mass at St. Joseph Cemetery, while Father Jack Ahern, former pastor at St. Mary of the Assumption in Brookline, said Mass at Holyhood Cemetery. Families of those buried at the cemeteries, many of whom were veterans, and those who live nearby or who have moved away often return each year for the ceremonies. The weather was perfect and the condition of the grounds excellent.

Memorial Day

masses are

longstanding

traditions at both St

Joseph Cemetery and

Holyhood Cemetery

**Monsignor Helmick, St Theresa
Rectory, West Roxbury, MA**



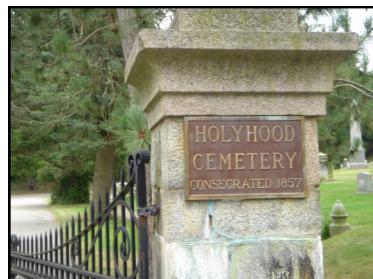
Memorial Day St. Joseph Cemetery 2010



Father Jack Ahern, St. Ambrose Rectory, Dorchester, MA



Holyhood Masterplan



A primary catalyst for this master plan is recognition of the need for future availability of interment

space and understanding that these decisions can impact the overall landscape character of this historic cemetery. The balance between the natural landscape and built elements must be maintained to insure that the overall landscape character, including the layout and treatment of grave sites, is reinforced and maintained.

The purpose of this master plan is to develop cemetery wide recommendations with an implementation plan for the entire property and its relationship to adjacent lands that can be used as a guide for both long and short term planning .

General Manager Retires

Dick Leary, Our General Manager for the past twelve years, retired on December 31, 2010. We have been extremely fortunate to have Dick at the helm during that period, and the Association has benefited greatly from his exemplary management and leadership skills. He implemented numerous capital projects and brought a professional approach to all areas of cemetery administration and operations. We would like to thank Dick for his many contributions to Holyhood and extend best wishes for a healthy retirement.

We have been fortunate as well in the appointment of Dick's successor. Tom DeMaio, former Commissioner of Public Works for the town of Brookline, brings impressive credentials and broad experience to the General



Richard T. Leary

A. Thomas DeMaio

Manager's post. At a time when cemetery administrators are being challenged by new trends and forces, we are confident that Tom will furnish the vision and judgment to move the cemetery forward.

Cremation wall repairs completed

The Cremains Wall provides another burial option for cremated remains at St. Joseph Cemetery. Located at the top of Chapel Hill it adds to the serenity of the entire area. This year extensive maintenance was completed on the wall to enhance the beauty and integrity of the stone. The granite cap was chosen to match the granite stairway to the Chapel. The masonry joints on the wall were refurbished and the entire wall cleaned. If you would like additional information please call a member of the Administrative Staff at 617-327-1010.



St. James the Apostle

St James the Apostle continues to be improved. This year 121 double depth crypt graves were installed as part of a capital project. This being the newest area of our cemetery reinforces the commitment of the Board to continue development and landscape improvement in future years. As you approach the entrance from the VFW Parkway a landscape screening project has been designed for the perimeter. It is our hope the first phase will be completed in the Fall of this year. This project will enhance the peaceful and quiet nature of the grounds and surrounding area.



Spring 2011

*The Cremation
Wall offers a
serene setting for
the interment of
cremated remains*



St. Joseph Cemetery & Holyhood Cemetery

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West Roxbury, MA 02132

Phone: 617-327-1010
Fax: 617-327-0526
Website: www.holyhood.com

Office Hours
Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

The gates of the cemeteries are open
7 days per week from 7:00 am to
7:00 pm and in winter 7:00 am to
5:00 pm

Please note that our staff is always available to assist you.. They are well versed on every aspect of the Cemetery operation and can provide you with a wealth of information and compassionate advice.

This year the Board approved a change in the number of cremation burials allowed per grave. The policy change is at the discretion of the General Manager and administered by the staff. It is designed as an additional option for families during the decision process.

On behalf of the entire staff and Board of Directors we would like to thank our churches, families, monument dealers and funeral directors who support our service effort throughout the year. We encourage you to call with constructive suggestions or any questions.

Thank you

A. Thomas DeMaio
General Manager



Holyhood Cemetery Association

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