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Garlington Florist, Inc.  
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Periwinkles, New Bedford Cemetery Board and Personnel,  
The Tuxedo Shop at Sullivan Brothers, mediumstudio,  
What's Up Magazine

TOUR COMMITTEE:

Chair- Mark P Fuller, Louise Wheeler, Boyd Rourke  
Volunteer Coordinator- Diane Berube, Marketing- Keri Cox

NEW BEDFORD  
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

PRESENTS

6th Annual

Cemetery  
tour



10.18.09



## HISTORY OF RURAL CEMETERY



*"Great truths are sometimes embodied in single words, and this is so with the word cemetery. That word means sleeping place; it is a truly Christian name to give a burying place; it implies that such as slumber there, sleep for a great awaking."* BOYD

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The land for this cemetery was laid out about one mile from the center in what originally were the outskirts of the city. The first purchase of land was by Timothy Dyre, who prepared it for use by clearing off stone, laid out path and carriageways, and divided the enclosure into lots. In April 1837 the proprietors, John Perkins, Isaiah Burgess and Gideon Allen, formed a corporation to establish and maintain a burying ground. The City purchased the property from the proprietors in 1849 for \$5,000. In 1868, the City purchased an additional 70 acres of land to expand the cemetery. Today the cemetery encompasses over 100 acres. In 1895 a Board of Cemetery Commissioners was established to oversee the operation of all the cemeteries in the city.

Rural Cemetery was laid out with avenues, trees were planted, a sexton house erected, and later storage sheds and greenhouses were erected. The greenhouses allowed for flowers for the cemetery, especially on Memorial Day and on Flower Day in September. Many of the flowers were planted in the Soldiers and Sailors Graves section in the central part of the cemetery. Additional space was designated in 1950 for veterans of the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II. Veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars were also allocated space.

There had been a pond with an island in the center of the cemetery for many years, but in 1945 the building on the island was condemned, and it was felt that the area posed a danger. The building was demolished and by 1952 the pond was infilled. In 1963, a new main office was erected, and records for all cemeteries were consolidated there.



## PORTRAYALS

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Arthur Motta . . . . . Albert Bierstadt  
Chuck Martins . . . . . Paul Howland Jr  
Suzanne Bergeron . . . . . Caroline Hillman Pierce  
Ed Baldwin . . . . . Mayor Charles Ashley  
Mark P Fuller . . . . . Maximilian Broadmeadow  
Juliette Rocha . . . . . Minna Grumbt Webb  
Gil Cardona-Arazo . . . . . Harold Winslow

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