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**FRIENDS OF BEDFORD BURYING GROUNDS**  
**P. O. Box 152**  
**BEDFORD, NY 10506**

November 2021

Dear Neighbor,

Since our last fundraising appeal in 2019, the Friends group has continued working with the Town of Bedford to preserve and protect the 30-plus historic burying grounds within our three hamlets. They are an important part of Bedford's history, its character, and its beauty.

The private/public collaboration between the Friends and the Town of Bedford has resulted in the repair of 51 headstones over the last two years, bringing the total of repaired stones since our formation to a total of 288 repaired stones in 13 different cemeteries.



*Wescott Cemetery*

In 2020, repairs were made in Buxton Cemetery, as well as the Wescott Cemetery, an overgrown burial ground in use from 1817 until 1900. The cemetery is located about a quarter mile off Cantitoe St. near the Beaver Dam River. Given permission to access the site as well as a generous donation from an adjacent property owner, we hired a tree company to clear brush and small trees. Once cleared, our professional restorers, Beyond the Gravestone, came in to work on eleven headstones.

A project to repair the stone wall surrounding Buxton Cemetery section by section continues. The wall, originally built in the 1880's, was seriously neglected for years. In 2020 and 2121, we have tackled another 250 feet of wall repairs.



*Stone wall at Buxton*



*Sherwood Burial Ground*

In 2021 work was completed in two other remote cemeteries, both surrounded by private property, and both a part of Bedford's rich and varied history. The Sherwood Family Burial Ground, in use from 1808 to 1855, contains just ten burials, including three veterans of the Revolutionary War, Oliver Sherwood, his brother Nehemiah Sherwood, and his son, Abraham Sherwood.

The Green Family Burial Ground once overlooked the Cross River, and now overlooks the Cross River Reservoir. It was founded by Benjamin Green (1741-1812), who served in the Westchester County Militia during the Revolutionary War. Eleven headstones were repaired in this cemetery, which holds some 65 burials.

Every stone tells a story, and one goal of the Friends is to keep alive the stories of the people who lived, worked, and are buried in Bedford. The Friends group meets regularly to walk Bedford's cemeteries, and explore the anthropology, folklore, genealogy, nature, art, and history that they contain.



*Green Burial Ground*

Please donate generously as you have in the past, and if you'd like to volunteer or just join us on a cemetery walk, follow us on Facebook!

Sincerely,

Jenny Weisburger, President

Email: [FriendsofBedfordBuryingGrounds@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofBedfordBuryingGrounds@gmail.com)  
Website: [FriendsofBedfordBuryingGrounds.org](http://FriendsofBedfordBuryingGrounds.org)