

The Memorialization Committee Report 2021

In 2020-2021, the Memorialization Committee devoted much of its efforts to the restoration of the Dr. Benoni Delano marker located in the Myles Standish Burying Ground in Duxbury. In late July 2020, Terry Delano and Tom Delano stopped by the burying ground and reviewed the generally poor condition of Benoni's marker. This marker is believed to be one of the oldest OR the oldest Delano marker still in the burying ground since Benoni's Delano parents' (Dr. Thomas and Rebecca Alden Delano) and Delano grandparents' (Philip and Hester Delano) markers no longer exist.

Terry gave Tom the OK to get the approval of the Duxbury Cemetery Trustees to allow the Delano Kindred to remove and restore the Benoni Delano marker. Once we had this approval, in late September 2020, Tom contacted Colonial Stone in Kingston which is noted for its excellent work in marker restoration. Colonial Stone's crew removed the marker in early December 2020 and took it to its Kingston plant. After a 4 month restoration process, the Benoni Delano marker was returned to the burying ground in early April 2021. Colonial's work involved: re-cementing the top and bottom halves of the marker which were broken some 80 years ago; adding about 8 inches to the bottom of the marker to return it to its original height; adding a simulated stone back to the marker to significantly strengthen it; and, lastly, reinstalling it in a new concrete base to keep the marker upright.

Colonial Stone works throughout Eastern Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Southern New Hampshire restoring cemetery markers and has already pointed out several old Delano markers in need of refurbishing or restoration. It is recommended that the Delano Kindred encourage Colonial Stone, through its owner, Frank Drollett, to let the Delano Kindred know of the Delano markers that he finds in poor condition so that the Kindred can decide if a marker is a good candidate for future refurbishing or restoration. The Memorialization Committee also encourages the Delano Kindred members to tell the committee of any markers that they may know of which are candidates for refurbishing or restoration.

Respectfully submitted by:

Tom Delano
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