

# Old Town Cemetery Workshop



Saturday, June 3, 2017

Hosted by the Town of Hillsborough

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## Workshop Description

The Town of Hillsborough received a \$2,900 grant from the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office Certified Local Government Grant Program to host a professional training workshop at the Old Town Cemetery. The Town provided \$600 in matching funds, therefore the workshop was free to attend with lunch and refreshments included. Approximately 50 attendees from as far as Winston-Salem, Edenton, and Pittsboro attended the workshop and represented state agencies, local governments, and nonprofit organizations.

The workshop was planned by volunteer Cheri Szcodronski, a historical consultant specializing in historic preservation training events and a member of the Hillsborough Historic District Commission. The Hillsborough Cemetery Committee and Historic District Commission provided planning oversight and assistance, as well as Stephanie Trueblood and Jamie Johnson from the Town's Public Space department. The workshop's welcome and introductions took place at the Hillsborough United Methodist Church, sessions were conducted at the Old Town Cemetery, and refreshments were provided by the Alliance for Historic Hillsborough at the Hillsborough Visitors Center.





## Gravestone Damage & Repair

### Dean Ruedrich, Ruedrich Restorations

Dean Ruedrich has over 25 years of experience in the historic building trades and is one of the few gravestone conservators in North Carolina. Dean's session taught participants how to identify damage from iron-jacking, sugaring, vandalism, lawnmowers, structural instability, and natural causes, as well as how to repair stones in accordance with best practices.



## Ground Penetrating Radar

### Shawn Patch, New South Associates

Shawn Patch has 20 years of experience as an archaeological geophysicist doing battlefield archaeology, GIS, GPS, metal detecting, and laser transit mapping. Shawn's session introduced participants to the science of ground penetrating radar, the value of GPR studies, and gave participants an opportunity to use GPR equipment to search for unmarked graves in the Old Town Cemetery.



## Rural Cemetery Preservation Peter Sandbeck, Orange County

Peter Sandbeck is one of the foremost authorities on historic preservation issues in North Carolina and serves as the Cultural Resources Coordinator for Orange County. Peter's introductory session reviewed the challenges and special considerations for preserving rural cemeteries using several Orange County cemeteries as case studies.

# Working Lunch

Workshop attendees participated in a working lunch with discussions about photographing & transcribing gravestones, cemetery stewardship & sensitivity, grounds maintenance & community engagement, cemetery operations & records, gravestone cleaning & care, slave cemetery preservation, genealogy, and historic district commissions. The lunch discussions gave the Hillsborough Cemetery Committee an opportunity to highlight their contributions to cemetery preservation and allowed participants to deep dive topics of special interest.





## Hillsborough Cemetery Committee Exhibit

The Hillsborough Cemetery Committee produced an exhibit introducing Hillsborough's historic cemeteries, emphasizing the importance of cemetery preservation, and celebrating their recent preservation projects. The exhibit includes photographs, artifacts, and an introductory video housed at the Hillsborough Visitors Center. The Visitors Center is operated by the Alliance for Historic Hillsborough, who partnered with the Town for the workshop by hosting attendees to view the exhibit, as well as providing refreshments and guided tours.

# Guided Walking Tours

At the conclusion of the workshop, attendees were invited to participate in one of three guided walking tours:

- ◆ Historic Downtown Hillsborough with Michael Verville from the Alliance for Historic Hillsborough
- ◆ St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Cemetery local historian Steve Peck
- ◆ Margaret Lane Slave Cemetery with David McCullough from the Hillsborough Cemetery Committee





## Resources provided to attendees

At the conclusion of the workshop, the following resources were provided to attendees for their ongoing reference:

- ◆ Gravestone Damage & Repair Handout
- ◆ Ground Penetrating Radar Handout
- ◆ Rural Cemetery Preservation Presentation
- ◆ Lunch Discussion Notes
- ◆ Video Clips of Presentations & Sessions
- ◆ Workshop Attendee Contact List

Attachment A:  
Workshop Program



# ***Old Town Cemetery Workshop***

**Hosted by the Town of Hillsborough  
Cemetery Committee and Historic District Commission**

**June 3, 2017  
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**8:30 am – 9:00 am**

## **Registration and Refreshments**

*Hillsborough United Methodist Church, 130 West Tryon Street*

Free parking available on-site. Coffee and light breakfast provided by Cup-A-Joe.

**9:00 am – 9:10 am**

## **Welcome**

Hillsborough Mayor Pro Tempore Kathleen Ferguson

**9:10 am – 9:20 am**

## **Cemetery Challenges of Orange County**

Learn about Orange County's amazing rural cemeteries and the challenges in caring for them from Peter Sandbeck, Orange County Cultural Resources Coordinator

**9:20 am – 9:30 am**

## **The Hillsborough Cemetery Committee**

Hear how the Hillsborough Cemetery Committee came to be, and learn about its role in caring for the town's three cemeteries from Hillsborough Cemetery Committee Member Rachel Bowman.

**9:30 am – 9:45 am**

## **Participant Introductions**

**9:45 am – 10:00 am**

## **Break and Refreshments**

**10:00 am – 11:30 am**

## **Sessions**

*Old Town Cemetery, 102 West Tryon Street*

*Restrooms and water fountains are available at the Hillsborough Presbyterian Church. Water bottles will be available at the cemetery. Please help us reduce plastic waste by refilling your bottle throughout the day.*

### **Group 1: Gravestone Preservation and Repair**

Learn to identify preservation and repair issues in cemeteries, including iron jacking, sugaring, vandalism, mower damage, and structural instability, then discuss different methods of cleaning monuments with Dean Ruedrich, Ruedrich Restorations

### **Group 2: Ground Penetrating Radar**

Learn about the importance of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and its role in Historic Preservation studies from John J. Mintz, Deputy State Archaeologist at the NC Office of State Archaeology. Then discover the science that allows one to see below the ground surface with Archaeological Geophysicist Shawn Patch, New South Associates, Inc.

**11:30 am – 1:00 pm**

## **Lunch**

*Hillsborough United Methodist Church, 130 West Tryon Street*

Hear about recent projects completed by the Hillsborough Cemetery Committee from Ashley Campbell, Hillsborough Cemetery Committee Vice-Chair, then discuss these projects in detail with members of the committee. Tables are labeled by discussion topics and there is open seating. Lunch provided by Saratoga Grill.

Discussion topics include: Photographing & Transcribing Headstones, Genealogy, Cemetery Stewardship & Sensitivity, Community Engagement, Cemetery Operations & Records, Cemetery Laws, Stone Cleaning & Care, Ground Penetrating Radar, Slave Cemeteries, and HDCs & Cemetery Preservation.

**1:00 pm – 2:30 pm**

## **Sessions**

*Old Town Cemetery, 102 West Tryon Street*

### **Group 1: Ground Penetrating Radar**

### **Group 2: Gravestone Preservation and Repair**

**2:30 pm – 3:15 pm**

## **Hillsborough Visitors Center**

*The Alliance for Historic Hillsborough, 150 East King Street*

View a display detailing the work of the Hillsborough Cemetery Committee and learn about the history of the town with Michael Verville, Alliance for Historic Hillsborough. Refreshments provided by the Alliance for Historic Hillsborough.

**3:15 pm – 4:00 pm**

## **Walking Tours**

Please enjoy one of the tours provided below. Sign up at registration and meet at the Hillsborough Visitors Center. Or feel free to visit downtown Hillsborough on your own and enjoy our historic sites, restaurants, and shops! Information and maps are included in your registration packet.

### **Historic Hillsborough Walking Tour**

Take a tour of the seat of government for Orange County and learn about Hillsborough's colonial legacy and signs of its importance in North Carolina with Michael Verville, Alliance for Historic Hillsborough

### **Hillsborough Town Cemetery Tour**

Visit the second town cemetery, established in about 1871, after the Old Town Cemetery had run out of space, with Lisa Williams, Hillsborough Cemetery Committee Member.

### **Margaret Lane Slave Cemetery Tour**

Explore the Margaret Lane Cemetery, which is believed to have been established in 1854 for the enslaved laborers of the Ruffin and Jones families, with David McCullough, Hillsborough Cemetery Committee Member.

### **St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Cemetery Tour**

Tour this 1854 churchyard cemetery with Steve Peck, local historian.



Attachment B:  
Workshop Budget

**KEN**  
Ken Badgett  
Raven Knob  
Boy Scout Museum  
Camp Historian  
& Summer Director

## ***GRANTS***

CLG Grant	\$2,900.00
Town Match	\$600.00
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TOTAL INCOME	\$3,500.00

## ***EXPENSES***

Dean Ruedrich, Ruedrich Restorations	\$500.00
Shawn Patch, New South Associates	\$1,834.00
Morning Refreshments from Cup-A-Joe	\$194.70
Lunch from Saratoga Grill	\$420.00
Soda and Water	\$52.59
Name Tags	\$13.04
Linens purchase and pressing	\$303.86
Centerpieces	\$95.49
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TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,413.68