

Rules of The Gilford Historic Cemeteries

1. Gates will be closed at all times unless work is being performed.
2. All cemeteries close to the public at dusk. Any person found in a historic cemetery, after dark, without permission from the cemetery trustees/steward will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
3. Children, below the age of sixteen (16), must be accompanied by a responsible adult, while in the historic cemeteries. The trustees, sexton, nor the Town of Gilford, will be held responsible for any damages caused by the children, including but not limited to: memorials, plants, flags, holders, new grass, and any other object within the cemetery boundaries. Cemetery grounds are NOT a place for children to play.
4. State law requires written permission from the closest living descendent, for a burial to take place in one of the historic cemeteries and permission must be granted by the Board of Selectmen. Arrangements for the purchase of any lot or grave must be made with the cemetery trustees/steward after approval of the Board has been granted.

Note: Most historic cemeteries in Gilford do not have lots available for full burials. These cemeteries are considered closed. Cremations may be accepted, in the urn or box, that does not require the installation of a vault but must have the proper permission and paperwork completed.

5. All domestic animals (i.e.: dogs, etc.) brought to any of the Gilford cemeteries must be under the control of its owner or on a leash at all times. The trustees, steward, nor the Town of Gilford will be held responsible for damage done by animals or persons visiting these hallowed grounds. Also, it is required that owners will be kind and pick up any waste that may be left behind by their animal(s).
6. ALL workmen, volunteers, tree service, stone repair, restoration helpers, debris removers, leaf removers, will notify cemetery trustees of work schedule. All heavy equipment must be approved by trustees or steward.
7. Disinterment and removal of ANY remains shall NOT be allowed until a written order has been filed and approved by the cemetery trustees/steward, written and notarized permission by the next of kin of the person whose body or remains is to be removed, after consent of the lot owner(s), AND the appropriate State permit. State law requires that written authorization from the State Board of Health be given prior to any removal.

8. State Law prohibits any person from writing upon, defacing, or injuring any monument, stone, marker or structure in, or belonging to the cemeteries. The law also prohibits plucking of flowers, injuring or breaking any trees, shrubs, or plants without prior permission.

9. No “rubblings” to markers, stones, structures, or monuments without written permission from the Trustees/Steward as rubbings can create damage. In the event permission is granted, a cemetery trustee or steward shall be notified and present during the rubbing(s) and the requesting party shall adhere to all policies in order to protect markers, stones, structures, or monuments. Written, notarized permission from the closest living kin of the private historic cemeteries must be obtained and given to trustees/steward prior to any rubbing(s).

10. All visitors to the historic cemeteries will adhere to the New Hampshire rules of cemetery etiquette:
 - A. Take only photos, leave only footprints.
 - B. Do not touch memorials or artifacts. They are privately owned sculptures.
 - C. Do not bring alcohol, weapons, or entertainment items into cemeteries.
 - D. Show respect for the dead.
 - E. Supervise your children & teach them to respect the dead.
 - F. Keep pets under control & clean-up after them.
 - G. Do not litter, including cigarette butts.
 - H. Do not interfere with the plants or wildlife that inhabit the cemetery.
 - I. Keep your vehicle on designated roadways or parking areas.
 - J. Do not leave vehicles idling, this can cause damage to historic structures & sculptures.
 - K. Please stay on designated walkways and footpaths.
 - L. Obey posted times of operation or refer to local rules on this matter.
 - M. Promptly report suspicious activities or vandalism to local authorities.