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READING PRESERVES EIGHT CIVIL WAR GRAVESTONES
Restored Stones Can Be Viewed at Laurel Hill Cemetery

The Town of Reading is pleased to announce that the preservation work to repair eight Civil War gravestones at Laurel Hill Cemetery has been completed. In honor of the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War, funding was approved in the Massachusetts state budget for preservation grants. The purpose of the grants was to “preserve objects and documents in the Commonwealth which are significant to the history of the Civil War.” The guidelines stated that matching funds would be granted up to 50% of the total project costs, but could not exceed \$7500. The Town applied for the full amount of the grant and was selected.

27 Reading soldiers who died as a direct result of the Civil War and whose names are on the Civil War monument, are buried at Laurel Hill. Eight of those stones were chosen because they were in the worst condition due to their age and exposure to the elements in New England. Most of the stones were broken, some in several pieces. Others had been previously repaired and the repairs had failed.

“This project would not have been possible without the generous donations of many Reading individuals, organizations and the Reading 350th Preservation Trust,” said Reading Town Manager, Bob LeLacheur. “I would like to especially thank Everett and Ginny Blodgett for all of their hard work, and the State for providing Reading with this important grant.”

Daedalus, Inc. of Watertown, MA performed the work. Many stones that were missing pieces were infilled with marble repair mortar. Several had been held together with iron pins that had rusted. Those stones were drilled out to remove the old pins and new stainless steel pins were inserted. Then a final cleaning took place. The results speak for themselves as can be seen in the accompanying photographs of the Sergeant George J. Bartlett gravestone before, during, and after preservation.

(Courtesy Photos Below)







HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR HIS COUNTRY

SERG T GEORGE J. BARTLETT
Co. D.
50th Reg. Mass. Vol.
died at Baton Rouge, La.
July 2, 1863.
aged 36 yrs. 2 ms. 9 ds.
He shall never die



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