

Cynthia B. Robertson
(Address and telephone)

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To Great Cranberry Island Historical Society

My name is Cynthia Brown Robertson, a summer resident of Northeast Harbor and winter resident of Worcester, MA. I guess you can call me the mystery grave stone digger along with my husband and close relatives, who recently uncovered several buried grave stones in Spurling Point Cemetery on GCI this summer. This cemetery is located near the waters edge on the Point.

According to Thomas Vining cemetery book of the area, there is a Revolutionary War Soldier, named Joseph Legrow (spelled L'grow on the stone), buried on Spurling Point. After finding this grave site, we discovered Joseph Legrow's stone was the only stone standing. All the other stones were knocked over and buried under years of soil accumulation and grass growth. After poking and prodding around, we spend the afternoon digging up more stones. We discovered the stones of Benjamin Spurling, Fanny, his wife, and his sons Benjamin Jr., Robert and Edward Spurling. We also found Sarah Legrow, Joseph's wife. We reset these stones by digging a hole then set the grave stones with beach rocks and filled the rest of the hole with soil, so the stones are temporarily set.

According to a GCI Cemetery booklet by Leslie Fay Stanley, 1972, there are 32 lots in this cemetery with headstones that need to be discovered and unburied. As you can see we only did a small portion of what needs to be done.

My interest in Joseph Legrow has increased through my genealogy research. I believe that Joseph was my fourth great grandfather or brother to my third great grandmother, Hannah Legrow Brown. Hannah was married to Jonathan Brown, another Revolutionary War Soldier, who served with the US Navy under John Paul Jones, and is buried in Manset.

I also discovered the following on Joseph Legrow. He was found living in Manset in 1782 married to Sarah Homan. Sarah's sister was Margaret Homan married to Sans Stanley. In his will Joseph mentions Thomas Stanley his cousin and his friend Thomas Manchester. All of these families originated from Marblehead, MA. I only mention all these connections to show you that these people came together to MDI, live together and would be nice to keep them together. According to Thurston's Tradition and Records book of Southwest Harbor, Benjamin Spurling agreed to take care of Joseph and Sarah Legrow in their old age in for his \$39/ year pension. That's why he is buried on GCI on Spurling Point.

As a preservation group, I would like to encourage you to consider the continuation of this cemetery restoration project in the near future. This is such a gem of a cemetery with enormous amount of history with graves of original settlers that should be preserved for future generations.

I would be happy to help...my tools are ready.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Cindy Robertson
(Email address)