



**P.O. Box 12, Cranberry Isles, ME 04625**

June 6, 2014

This is an open letter to residents of the Cranberry Isles, to the Stanley family and their descendants, and to all who value our local history. The Stanley cemetery on Dolly Hill on Great Cranberry Island is one of seven cemeteries on the island, and it is in the worst shape of the seven. Many of the gravestones are fractured, leaning, or broken. Several lie face-down.

We have formed a committee with the mission of restoring and maintaining the cemetery, preserving this part of the island's rich history. This Committee to Preserve the Stanley Cemetery on Dolly Hill is a subcommittee of the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society. We have engaged Fred Wieninger of Milbridge, Maine, who has extensive experience in cemetery restoration, to do the work. The work will take place in late summer and into the fall.

The first Stanley settler of Great Cranberry Island was Thomas Stanley. He was the son of Margaret and Sans Stanley. In 1792, the widow Stanley was deeded 100 acres of land on the south side of Great Cranberry Island by Mme deGregoire, granddaughter of Cadillac. Thomas Stanley and his wife Hannah (Manchester) raised their family on this land. When their grandson, Thomas Stanley III, died on Dec. 4, 1838, his parents, Thomas Stanley II and Mary (Lurvey), started a new cemetery on their land. This cemetery has been cited in deeds ever since as "the family burying ground." For nearly two centuries, Cranberry Islanders from the Alley, Bulger, Gilley, Hamor, Joy, Richardson, Spurling, Stanley, and other families have been interred in this hillside.

We need your help. The conservation work will cost about \$18,000. Donations are tax-deductible under the 501(c)(3) status of the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society and should be sent to the above address. Please make the check payable to GCIHS and write "Stanley Cemetery" in the memo line. This summer we plan to have escorted tours of, and talks about, the cemetery. Go on-line to [stanleycemetery.com](http://stanleycemetery.com) for more information and updates on progress of the work.

Thank you.

*R. Christian Johnston*

Chris Johnston, Chair

Committee members:

Malcolm Donald - Anne Grulich

Charlotte Harlan - Susan Michalski

Louise Millar - Patty Pinkham

Tom Powell - Ralph Stanley

Phil Whitney

