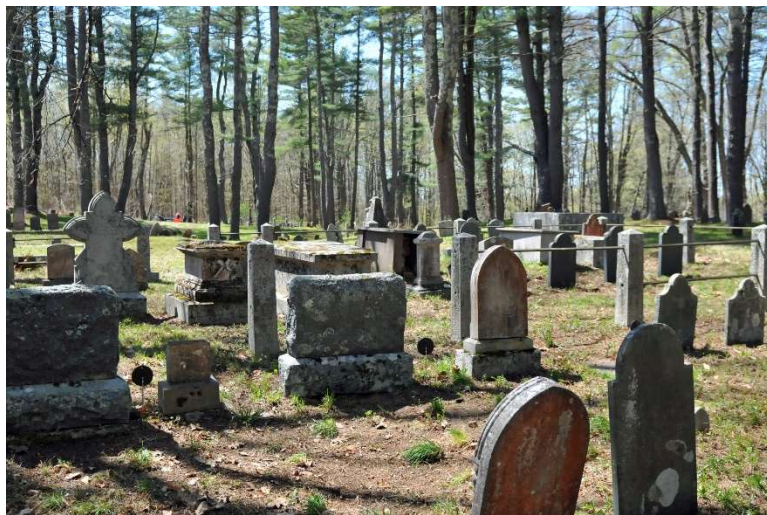
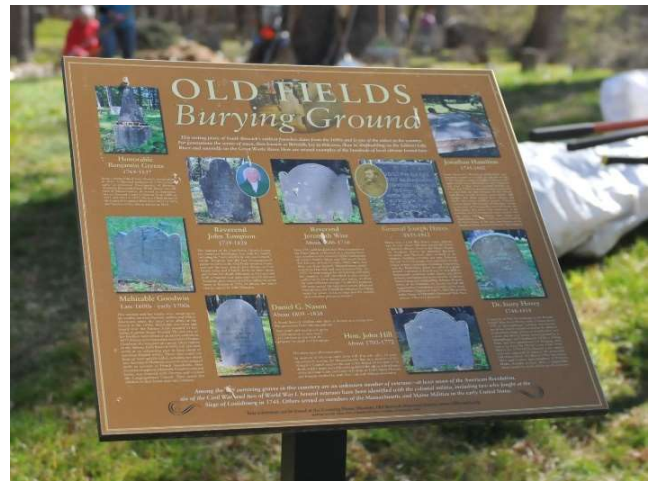


**April 28, 2025: South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744, along with “Liberty Torchbearers” from Liberty Mutual’s Portsmouth Campus, gathered to clean the Old Fields Burying Grounds on Vine Street in South Berwick. This project involved the removal of downed limbs and branches, and clearing away the accumulations of leaves, pine needles, and pinecones. These efforts will enable the Town of South Berwick to provide important upkeep.**

Overlooking Leigh's Mill Pond, Old Fields Burying Ground, dating from the 1600s, is one of the oldest cemeteries in the United States. It is the main burial place of the town's first European settlers – including those of Thomas Spencer (c. 1596-1681), William Chadbourne (1562-1682), and Humphrey Chadbourne (1615-1667) families.



Hundreds of citizens are buried in this cemetery, many in graves no longer visible or where only fragments of headstones remain.

Among some 339 identified graves in the cemetery are several former soldiers from the 1700s to the 1900s,

including several that have been tied to the colonial militia, two who fought at the Siege of Louisburg in 1745, and others who served as members of the Massachusetts and Maine Militias. There are also seven veterans from the American Revolution, six from the American Civil War, and two from World War I.<sup>1)</sup>



VFW's mission includes a "Still Serving" endeavor. Notwithstanding the service we provided our country, we now strive to actively involve ourselves in our community. At right is Roger Guptill.

Liberty Mutual, with its "Serve with



At right is Robin Givens.



Leaves, pinecones and pine needles were deposited near the road.



Liberty" program, empowers its employees to pursue their volunteer interests during National Service Month. At left are Sarah Favazza, Lisa LaChance, Dawn Croteau, and Brian Poirier.



Mike Murray operated one of the haul tractors.

Jeff Chase operated the other haul tractor.







Dawn Chase and John Ford seen picking up branches and sticks.



Eric Oberg with a rake in hand.



Shannon Morrisette is surrounded by leaves!



Marc Scheele, Roger Guptill, Brian Poirier, and Mal Kenney are gathering leaves.





Mike St. Pierre alternated between taking pictures and raking.

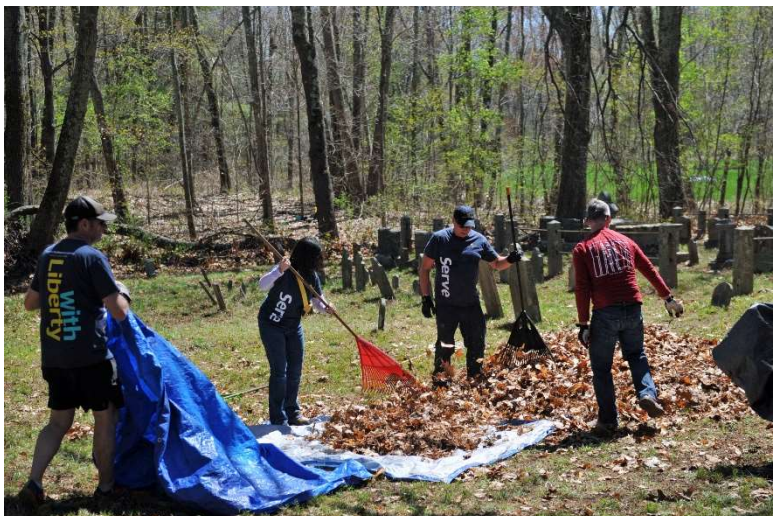


Marc Scheele and Richie Meenagh loading trailer.



Calvin Butler, almost lost among the stones.

Robbie MacPherson, raking between the graves stones.



One last push after lunch!

Liberty Mutual's Eric Oberg, Lisa LaChance, Corey Ladue and Richie Meenagh seen gathering leaves onto tarps for dumping onto the hauled trailers.





Front: VFW – Dawn and Jeff Chase with “Major”, Roger Guptill.  
 Back: LM – Brian Poirier, Eric Oberg, Dawn Croteau, Robbie MacPherson, Sarah Favazza, Corey Ladue, Lisa LaChance, Calvin Butler, Richie Meenagh;  
 VFW – Mike Murray, Mal Kenney, Marc Scheele. (Missing: LM - Robin Givens, Shannon Morrisette; VFW – John Ford) Photo by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

VFW – Post 5744 sincerely appreciated this “Serve with Liberty” team’s unwavering support of this cemetery cleanup project.

The end results – this cemetery has truly never looked so good!



(1) Information from the Old Berwick Historical Society  
 Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian