

Riverside Cemetery Tour set for Sunday, May 20

FAIRHAVEN, MA --Fairhaven's lovely Riverside Cemetery is the setting of an Office of Tourism walking tour on Sunday, May 20 at 2:00 p.m. It begins inside the cemetery's entrance at 274 Main Street. Fairhaven tourism director Christopher Richard will act as guide.

The cemetery was created in 1850, on land donated by Warren Delano II, grandfather of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. It is considered one of the most beautiful rural-style burial grounds in the region.

The walking tour route traces the quiet winding paths past the final resting places of some of the town's most famous residents, including the Delano family tomb designed by Richard Morris Hunt, the H.H. Rogers mausoleum designed by Charles Brigham, and the grave sites of Captain William H. Whitfield, artist William Bradford, William F. Nye, John I. Bryant, and others. At each site, the guide discusses some of the history connected with the people buried there.

Nature lovers will see a wide variety of trees such as beech, black tupelo, birch, holly, cherry, dogwood, weeping willow, ash, sugar maple and more. Those interested in tombstone art will find fine examples of monuments and early slate markers bearing carvings of angels, willow trees, urns and other traditional symbols.

Copies of the new 8-page Riverside Cemetery booklet created this year by the Office of Tourism will be available for free to all walkers.

The tour is free of charge and lasts about 90 minutes. There is no need for advance reservations. Walkers are urged to wear comfortable shoes and to be prepared for some hills and uneven ground. The tour will be cancelled in the event of rain. For more information, call 508-979-4085 or email Fairhaventours@aol.com.