



A Busy October 15 and 16, 2022 I Nottingham

Steve Soreff, MD

This is a report on a remarkably active Saturday, October 15, and Sunday 16, 2022 in Nottingham. On Saturday there was the Wordfest and Cilley Burial Ground tour and on Sunday there was the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association (PLIA) clean-up on NH Route 156 and the Vintage Baseball game. Let us look at each one of them.

On Saturday, October 15, 2022, at 2 PM at the Nottingham Community Church, Priscilla Carr convened the [15th Wordfest](#) before a small but very appreciative audience. It began with Gary Hume playing on the violin, *Both Sides of the Tweed*, and later an *Ashokan Farewell*. Carr then welcomed the group and introduced the keynote speaker, Steven Jones, MD. He talked about biographies of women who had won the Noble Prize. He started with a chronicle of the history of misogyny in the sciences and the Noble Prize selection process.



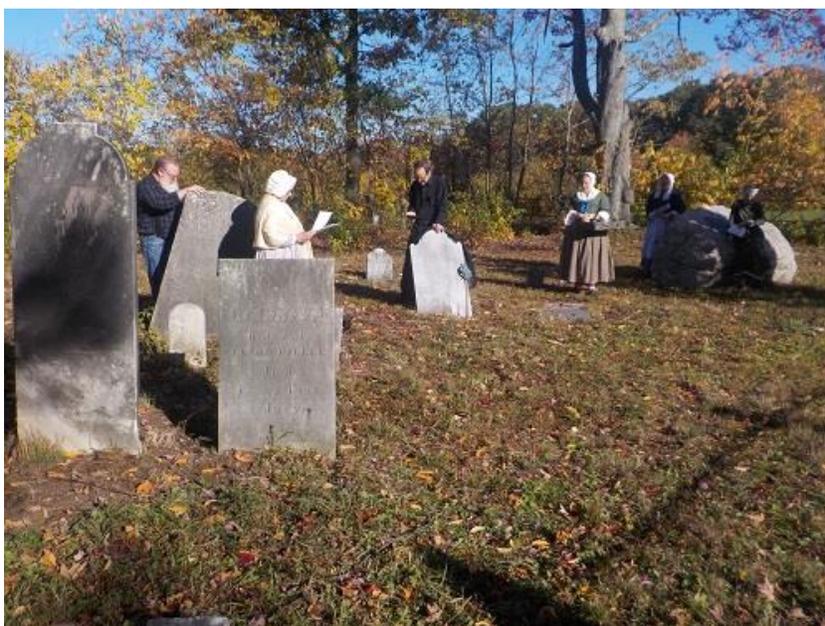
Gary Hume



Priscilla Carr and Steven Jones, MD

Later in the program, Craig Werth sang his original Nottingham song. Lara Hayhurst sang from South Pacific; *You Have to be Carefully Taught*. There was a watercolor exhibit by Keefe House Mentor Val and Mentee Dorothy entitled *Two over Severity*. Peggy Tucker sang *I'll Never See Maggie Alone*. The group also enjoyed a pizza donated by Liar's Paradis.

The 15th Wordfest fulfilled its mission of on encouraging aspiring people of any age and background to become emerging artists in a wide variety of areas through its mentorship program.



The Joseph Cilley Burial Ground with Historical Society members portraying folks buried there

At 4 PM Saturday afternoon, at 4 PM, members of the Nottingham Historical Society (NHS) portrayed persons buried in the Joseph Cilley Burial Ground. This event was part of Nottingham's 300th Anniversary yearlong celebrations. There are 16 gravestones in that burial ground along with 11 unidentified small stones and a large boulder with a D.A.R. plaque. NHS members selected persons in that fenced-in burial grounds off Ledge Farm Road. In chronological order, from the first Cilley family to come to Nottingham, folks, many in period outfits, stood by the appropriate grave marker to their person. There they gave that person's history. This included where and when they were born, their careers, and their accomplishments. They would also point out the various symbols and their meanings on the tombstones. Often, additionally, they would identify and stand by the graves of their children.

Here are the names of the persons portrayed in chronological, historical order along with their dates of birth and death, followed in **BOLD CAPITALIZED LETTERS** are the names of Nottingham residents who played them. Capt. Joseph Cilley 1701-1786 **STEVE WELCH**. Else Rawlins 1701-1801 **ROBIN PROULX**. Sarah (Longfellow) Cilley 1739-1811 **HEATHER FERNALD**. Anna (Cilley) Williams 1775-1810 **KAT FERNALD**. Bradbury Cilley 1760-1831 **STEVE WELCH**. Martha (Poor) Cilley 1767-1841 **JOAN LEBLANC**. Joseph Cilley Jun'r 1764-1779 **HEATHER FERNALD**. Jacob Cilley 1774-1831 **TRAY SLEEPER**. Harriet (Poor) Cilley 1781-1838 **JOAN LEBLANC**. Enoch Poor Cilley 1781-1820 **JOAN LEBLANC**. John Osgood Cilley 1809-1885 **STEVE SOREF**. and Henrietta (Butler) Cilley 1813-1888 **MARY COLVARD**



Tina Cooke gave the history of Joseph Cilley Burial Ground

Before the different NHS members spoke, Tina Cooke, co-chair of the NHS gave the history of that burial ground. She offered definitions of the various sites where the dead are buried. Cemeteries are places where unrelated people are buried. A graveyard is associated with a church or religious institution. A burial ground, such as this Cilley Burial Ground is the place, where all or many members of a particular family are buried. She talked about the East-West orientation of many of the gravestones in Nottingham. Those gathered, about 25 people, learned a great deal about the Cilley family and about more than over one hundred private burial grounds in Nottingham.

On Sunday, October 16, 2022, at 9:30 AM members of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association ([PLIA](#)) gathered to clean up its adopted section NH Route 156. They found a great deal of trash along the highway. They collected and separated two types of roadside materials- trash and recyclables. Thanks to them for improving the road.



PLIA with their morning pick-up

Then at noon Oct 16, 2022, on the ballfield next to Community Center there was an 1860s vintage baseball game played between the [Dirigo Vintage Base Ball Club](#) and the newly constituted Nottingham Swingers. “The Dirigo Vintage Base Ball Club is a non-profit, educational, and living history organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the game of Base Ball as it was played during its formative years in the mid-nineteenth century and other historic eras.” You can see the Dirigo team in action on this WMUR’s [Chronicles](#). “Dirigo” is the Maine state motto and means in Latin “I Direct” or “I Lead.”

This was part of the 300th Committee’s yearlong celebration of the town’s anniversary. It was played using 1860’s equipment and followed 1864 rules. That meant no baseball gloves, a softer leather baseball than now used in Major League Baseball, pitching underhand, only calling balls -three and three strikes when invoked, catching the ball on the first bounce was an out and the pitcher threw from a square. There was no pitcher’s mound at that time.



A Dirigo batter at the plate



A Dirigo player showing an 1864 style baseball



The two teams after nine innings.

They played nine innings. No one kept score but all the players and approving crowd enjoyed the game and the day. It was a fun time for all.

It was a very busy October 15 and 16, 2022 in Nottingham

