

Pastors Ray and Diane Melograne of the North Shore Assembly of God Church, 84 Orchard Street, are very grateful to the Town of Oyster Bay and their quick response to tidy a long-abandoned Old Baptist cemetery near their church.

The old warped, rusted fencing has been replaced with a new white picket front fence and black chain link side fence. Overgrown shrubs and old tree stumps have been removed. Lilac bushes, forsythia and grass seed were planted around the faded headstones of historic town figures.

The driveway leading to the burial ground -- tucked behind a backyard in downtown Oyster Bay -- was even restored with new gravel and cement.

Scout Travis Urlich is now working on his Eagle project to trim some trees and researching the names of the deceased for a new entryway plaque, which the town also will purchase.

The Melogranes also hope to work with restoration experts in an effort to re-align and re-set some of the more damaged and toppled-over gravestones. If you are interested in assisting with this project please contact the Melogranes at 516-922-2547.

The Orchard Street lot holds the remains of some of the most early settlers of Oyster Bay hamlet; including the Rev. Marmaduke Earle, who headed its first schoolhouse, and Molly Cooper, who kept a famous diary of her pre-Revolution life on a local farm.

Town Officials plan to hold a Dedication Service some time after Memorial Day.