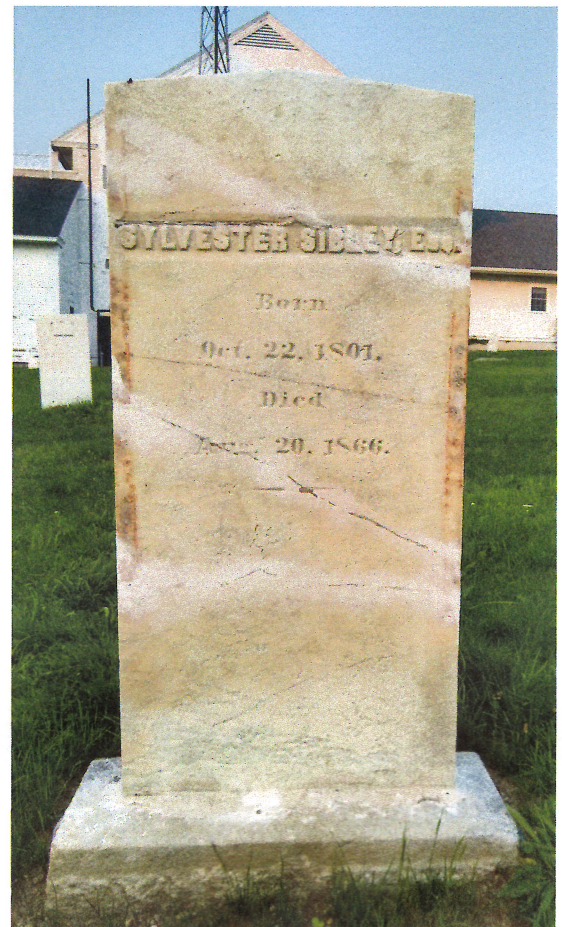


The Sutton Historical Society restoration project for Sutton Center Cemetery started in August of 2019 and was completed in July of 2022. All tolled 68 gravestones were repaired and reset. Below are before and after photos of three.



This gravestone for Sylvester Sibley was one of about a dozen that had been reassembled long ago - probably more than a century - using iron straps and bolts. As the bolts corroded, the expanding rust broke more of the stone. On the positive side, a hundred or more years later, the pieces were still there.



Repairing of a broken gravestone or grave marker can be the simplest part of the restoration process. Some stones found with cracks but intact were repaired in place using grout to fill the cracks to reduce the amount of water getting into the stone.

Repairing of a broken gravestone, marker or monument can be the most complex and time consuming part of the restoration process.

Repairing of shattered stones starts with finding as many of the pieces as possible – and hoping that those are not fragmented or granular.

Access to a location with work benches, electrical power and an enclosure to shield from rain and heavy wind was needed.

A concrete base was needed for many of the repaired stones – designed with a gap that is filled with lime mortar to contact the stone surfaces.

On several of the more severely damaged stones, backside reinforcements were added to support the stone. Granite and quartz countertop materials were used for this purpose.

Resetting requires several people working together. For the larger of the stones the tripod and hoist were needed.