

# Grave Scrutiny Ongoing

*continued from page A5*

explained. "He was very helpful and said that he would do whatever I needed him to do to get this maintained." Once a permit is in hand, cleanup on the site with the help of volunteers can begin.

Silverglade has offered his help in restoring the Wakeman gravestones that have been shattered at the site. Marks said if repair is impossible, donations will be sought to acquire new ones to properly commemorate the four family members buried there.

Meanwhile, Marks' historic uncovering reigns on. With a little research, Marks was able to link Abigail to the Wakeman family, making the situation all the more strange. It just so happens that Abigail was a Wakeman.

John Wakeman married one Esther Bradley in the 1700s, with whom he had several children. Son Asahel married Polly Wakemen,

who was the daughter of Epaphras Wakeman. Son Aaron married Sarah Sherwood and birthed a daughter named Abigail Wakeman. Abigail went on to marry Jonathan Banks, leading to her married name.

What's more, Marks was recently notified of another headstone around the Fairfield area that is being held at the Easton Historical Society. It belongs to Betsey Ann Wakeman, who happens to be the granddaughter of Epaphras. Research on Marks' part revealed, "Her father was Eliphalet Wakeman (son to Epaphras) and her family lived in Walton, New York. Most of Epaphras' children moved to Walton. All but his son Henry who is buried with him." Marks intends to place Betsey's stone in the Wakeman family cemetery as well, seeing as her grandparents, aunt and uncle are there. Betsey,

who also was from Walton, died in 1832 on a visit to Fairfield, according to Marks.

Still more eerie is a third Wakeman gravestone of one Irving "Ervin" Wakeman, recovered at the corner of Redding Road. Ervin died Sept. 15, 1843, at the age of 15. The son of Charles Wakeman, he was Abigail's nephew.

Marks is in awe of these findings. "This is three gravestones (all Wakemans) that have been found in not even a mile radius... And a cemetery of more Wakemans that has been vandalized," she wrote in an e-mail to the paper on April 23. "Do you think these people want to be found and that is why we are finding them?"

Anyone interested in helping prune vines, remove fallen trees and make the Wakeman cemetery respectable again is encouraged to contact Marks at 254-0480.