



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Department of Social Welfare
Soldiers' Welfare Services
46 Aborn Street
Providence, R. I. 02903

Louis P. Alfano, Jr.
Chief

April 21, 1970

Mrs. Beverly Dobson
Ridge Road
Smithfield, R.I. 02917

Dear Mrs. Dobson;

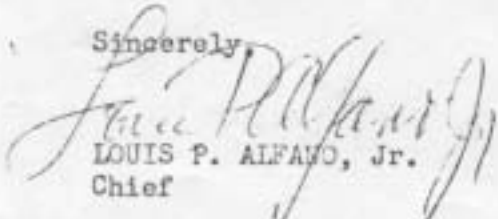
Thank you for your interest in cleaning up all Sixty-six (66) Historical Cemeteries in the town of Smithfield. In reviewing the latest survey conducted by the Graves Registrar, the majority of them certainly need "rehabilitation".

I am enclosing copies of a listing of all Sixty-six (66) cemeteries in Smithfield noting their location, condition, etc. With regards to procedure, please understand that if the owner of the land on which these cemeteries are located is known you must obtain his (her) permission before undertaking your project. In 99 out of 100 cases there has never been any objection for "obvious" reasons. In the case of those cemeteries where veterans are buried we can authorize the care of those graves (Section 30-25-10, Chapter 25, General Laws of R.I.) In those cases where the owners are not known or cannot be located, the town or city governing body can take possession of neglected and abandoned cemeteries and undertake their care. Unfortunately unless there is a Trust Fund, most towns show little interest in the law. (Section 45-5-12, Chapter 5, General Laws of R.I.)

I have instructed the Graves Registrar, Mr. William F. McTernan to cooperate with you and offer the assistance of this office in this worthy project.

Again thank you for your interest and please keep us advised of your progress.

Sincerely,


LOUIS P. ALFANO, Jr.
Chief

lpa/mcs
enc

cc: W.F.McTernan