

GRAVESTONE HUNTER & MONUMENT

Ruth Shapleigh Brown/
Molly Mohawk



Molly Mohawk—spelled “Mohawk” on the stone in South Windsor’s Old Wapping Cemetery—is one of my favorite stones because it truly speaks of another time. I’ve been told that there were no Mohawks in the area at that time, so we suspect this was a white man’s way of saying she was Indian or of mixed blood. The carver who cut her stone and the one next to it for “the infant son of Christmas the Negro” was Peter Buckland from Manchester. These stones were among his earliest works and probably done at a less expensive rate than he charged later. Buckland lived and worked in the area that is now so well-known for the Buckland Mall. Old gravestones are history that we can reach out and touch. They speak to us of a time that deserves remembering.

Ruth Shapleigh-Brown is executive director of the Connecticut Gravestone Network.

HIKER & VIEW

I hike or run the trails at every opportunity. The time I spend on the trails, either alone or with friends and family members, refreshes me in so many ways, and provides me with the opportunity to reconnect with the astounding beauty of the Connecticut landscape. Most often, I take advantage of the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails, an over-800-mile network of trails built and maintained by the dedicated volunteers of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association. The Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail system is unique, as much of it is hosted by private landowners on the basis of a mere handshake. This particular spot on the Mattabesett Trail in Middlefield is one of my favorites, as it traverses the knife edge of the unique traprock ridges in central Connecticut. The sharp geologic features of the ridges are the result of continental upheavals that occurred several hundred million years ago. This trail provides fabulous vistas to the west from probably the most dramatic cliffs in the entire state. The sense of exposure and distance from this vantage point is tremendous. And my trusty companion, River, loves it too!

David Platt is president of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association.

David Platt/Mattabesett Trail

