

by Frank Connors, Cemetery Sexton

## Captain Millay is almost home

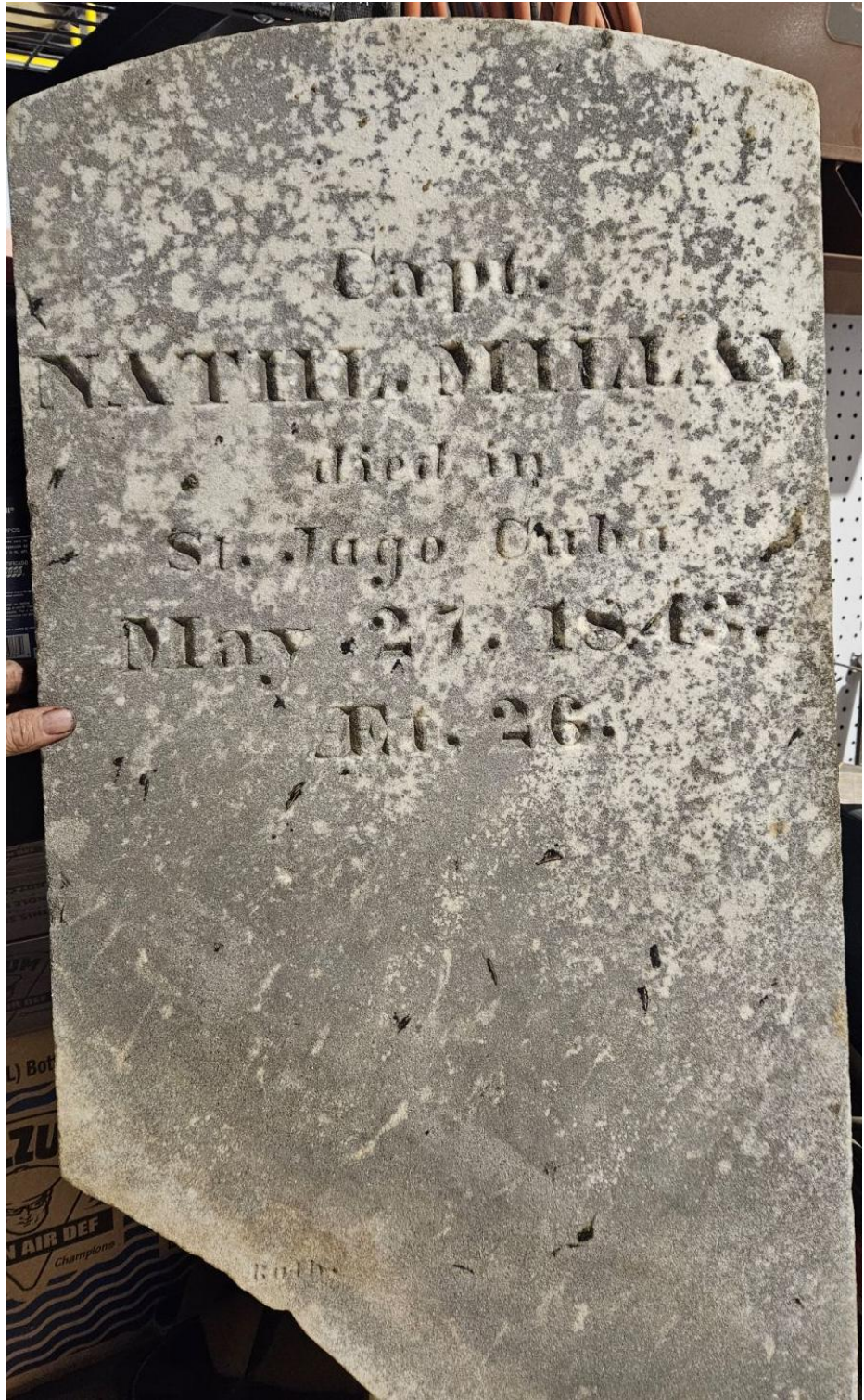
Almost 181 years after his untimely death, Bowdoinham sea captain Nathaniel Millay's grave marker is about to come to rest. Again. "I can't be happier," offered Linda Temple, member of Bowdoinham's Cemetery Advisory Committee (CAC), and a cemetery evaluator, "this has been a long time coming."

The story opened nearly 60 years ago, when Interstate 295 was being constructed through Bowdoinham. An old house on Millay Road was being razed, and workmen happened to find an old Marble gravestone being used as a stepping stone in the basement of the place. Saved from the wreckage, the stone was picked up, carried to safety free of the right-of-way, and leaned against a tree for safe keeping. There the stone rested for a decade or three, until our Linda Temple happened along on a horse ride and noticed it. She went home, reported it to "someone," and waited for something to happen. Nothing did. But Linda is nothing if not determined. She retold the story over several decades more, taking anyone who seemed interested to visit the stone.

Last fall, Toby Frizzle and Thomas Egan in the town's Public Works department went and got it, and carried it to their garage, where it has spent the winter, patiently awaiting spring. Frizzle has spent some time trying to clean it. Last fall, the CAC identified a Jeremiah Millay stone in the Village Burying Ground (a father?, a brother?) and has decided to return the stone to what is believed to be his family site. If all things happen "just so," the stone celebrating the life of Captain Nathaniel Millay, aged 26, who died in St. Jago, Cuba, on May 27, 1843, will be set on the family site in the Village Cemetery, just 181 years after his death. You know Linda Temple is pleased.

**Edit note:** *Bowdoinham is home to some 60 cemeteries, of all shapes and sizes. If you have questions about cemeteries, contact your CAC or Sexton, and any information available will be provided. We're pleased to use this space to provide interesting tidbits of local stones and graveyards, in this and in future editions of the Bowdoinham News.*

**IMAGE BELOW...**



Capt.  
NATHAN MULLALAN

died in  
St. Jago Cuba  
May 27. 1845.  
Aged 26.

L) Bot  
ZU  
AIR DEF  
Champions

Ruby