

# Lakewood Cemetery Association

Post Office Box 1314, Cooperstown, NY 13326

Telephone: (607) 547-9226 email: [lakewoodcemetery13326@gmail.com](mailto:lakewoodcemetery13326@gmail.com)

## *Spring 2023 at Lakewood*

Our season at Lakewood started with the usual Spring cleaning and hiring of new seasonal workers. The cemetery was also in need of a new truck which was purchased recently and will serve us for many years to come. There has been an increased interest in lot care by owners, mainly monument cleaning and repair. The Board helps facilitate by connecting owners with contractors. If anyone has questions regarding lot care, please direct your concerns and questions to Trustee Merrilyn O'Connell. The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, August 12 at 11 am. See details below.

Milo Stewart, *President*, [mstewart@baseballhall.org](mailto:mstewart@baseballhall.org)



Superintendent Bill Truax shows off the recently purchased 2014 Chevy Silverado Z71 truck.

## *From the Secretary*

We continue to improve our website – [www.cooperstownlakewoodcemetery.com](http://www.cooperstownlakewoodcemetery.com) – after fully updating it last Fall. We've added more photos and information, including a growing section on "Notable Graves."

Did you know that a recipient of the Medal of Honor is buried at Lakewood? His name was Andrew Davidson, and you can read about him and others there. We have more names to add – Lakewood is steeped in history and we want more people to be aware of it! You can also make donations on this secure site, using PayPal or your credit card. We also invite you to help us keep in touch by giving us your latest email address – send it to [LakewoodCemeteryAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:LakewoodCemeteryAssociation@gmail.com). We do not share your address with anyone. And if you have any feedback on the website – good or bad – please let us know! Kerry Lynch, *Secretary* ([kerrylynch100@gmail.com](mailto:kerrylynch100@gmail.com))

## *Treasurer's Report*

2022 was a good year for the cemetery in that we were able to accomplish a number of projects above and beyond our regular maintenance. Driving through the cemetery, the repairs and cleaning of many staircases is evident, along with state-funded monument restoration of eligible monuments. However, this year we are currently operating with less cash, due to the market and an audit by the Division of Cemeteries which required us to move \$32,000 from our operating cash to the Special Endowment Fund. This was due to a gift received in 2002 which may have been improperly placed in the operating account. We have purchased a 2014 truck to replace a 2000 model truck that would no longer pass inspection. We have the cash to pay for the annual maintenance, thanks to our investments and your donations, but may not be able to do as many extra projects. As always, your donations are appreciated, and again ask you to remember Lakewood Cemetery in your estate planning. Margaret McGown, *Treasurer* ([mmcmgown1@hotmail.com](mailto:mmcmgown1@hotmail.com))

## *Monument Restoration, Group 3*



Twenty-four more monuments in the East Section are eligible for restoration. The project is funded by a grant from the NYS Division of Cemeteries. Again, the contractor is Humphrey Memorials Inc. of Herkimer. Monuments are disassembled section by section, concrete foundations poured 42" deep, stones reassembled and power washed.

Van Horn Monument – restored and cleaned in September 2022. Cornelius Van Horn (1812-1892) and wife Henrietta (1819-1861) are buried in this lot along with brothers James Van Horn and George Van Horn.

## *Cooper Monument Update*

Plans are in place to clean the Cooper Monument, a special focal point in the cemetery. Funding for the project is being provided, in part, by support from the Cooper family and the James Fenimore Cooper Society. We invite your contribution to the project to return this beautifully sculpted monument to its original beauty. Donations may be sent to Lakewood Cemetery at the above address, marked Cooper Monument.

## *Gravestone Cleaning*

Several lot owners have contracted with Humphrey Memorials for power washing 45 monuments later this summer. Lakewood facilitated the arrangements. We invite you to participate in the next group. If you are unable to visit, photos will be provided. Lot owners will receive an estimate from Humphrey Memorials; payment is made directly to the contractor.

## *West Section Plans*

This summer, Phase 2 of the survey by Rasmussen Land Surveyors will focus on monumenting all of the lots (marking corners) and preparing a detailed map which will include other features such as water lines and drainage.

## *Veterans Buried in Lakewood*

An inventory was completed this Spring and includes over 300 veterans from all wars. The Cooperstown Veterans Club arranged for 90 additional flag markers for graves found unmarked. The research continues and we invite your help. If you know of a veteran ancestor, family member or friend who is buried in Lakewood, we will be glad to verify the current list or add the name. Information needed includes full name, birth and death dates, branch of service and rank, service notes. Email Merrilyn O'Connell at [merrioc88@gmail.com](mailto:merrioc88@gmail.com).



Capt. George S. Cooper II (1916-2015) grew up in Cooperstown in a family of military veterans. He entered the Army in 1941 and served with the 44<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Europe. On January 6, 1944, he was taken prisoner and served 16 months in a Nazi prison camp. Prior to his capture he participated in Rhineland and Northern France campaigns and earned the Distinguished Service Cross, Purple Heart, and Presidential Unit Citation. He was released by Allied armies in April 1945 and returned home.

## *Burial Planning*

A frequent question – “Is there room for me?” We can assist you by researching burial records for a specific lot and providing a lot diagram. Lot owners reach out to other family members to determine interest in Lakewood burial and participation in planning. Lot diagrams are kept on file in the Cemetery office.

## *Annual Meeting of Lot Owners and Board of Trustees*

All lot owners are invited to the Annual Meeting which will be held Saturday, August 12 at 11 am. Weather permitting, we will meet at the Clark Circle in the West Section of the cemetery. Please bring a lawn chair. Watch our website for updates.

### **The Board of Trustees**

Milo Stewart, *President* [mstewart@baseballhall.org](mailto:mstewart@baseballhall.org)

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Bruno Hofmann, *Trustee* [bhcharliebrowna@aol.com](mailto:bhcharliebrowna@aol.com)

Margaret McGown, *Treasurer* [mmcgown1@hotmail.com](mailto:mmcgown1@hotmail.com)

Dave Jackson, *Trustee* [dufferdave45@yahoo.com](mailto:dufferdave45@yahoo.com)