

THE CREATION OF A CEMETERY

The Christ Church cemetery officially began on March 4, 1813 when Eleanor Mulholland and her grandson, Thomas Derbyshire, deeded 60 rods of land in lot 98 to the wardens and vestrymen of Christ's Church for a burying ground. They stipulated that this land was to be a public burying ground for the inhabitants of the village of Manlius and its vicinity. One half of the property was to be used for the interment of strangers and poor people.

On March 12, 1813 James O. and Hannah Wattles and Ralph R. and Abigail Phelps conveyed identical lots to the wardens and vestrymen of Christ's Church. These properties were in lot 87 and lay directly north of the Mulholland/Derbyshire burial ground. Ten feet from the east portion of the Phelps' sale and an equal amount from the west side of the Wattles' property were to be used for a lane leading northerly from the south line of lot 87 to the Seneca Turnpike. The 427' lane was to be enclosed with a strong and decent fence. At the time the turnpike was farther south than it is today. Numerous alleys ranging from five to fifteen feet were created over time, and the 20' lane was extended southerly.

The lots were numbered from the northwest point to the northeast point, then south always going west to east. Lots 1-8, 17-24, 33-41, and 50-58 are in the Phelps' portion. The Wattles section contains 9-16, 25-32, 42-49 and 59-66. In the Mulholland area are lots 67-74, 75-82 and the larger public lots 83-90.

In March 1815 the vestry resolved that the sexton be allowed \$1.50 for digging an adult grave, \$1 for a grave of a child under 12, \$.25 for ringing the bell in case of a death and \$.50 for tolling at a funeral.

On September 20, 1832 the vestry purchased 66 feet on the east side of the cemetery from Eben Williams. On the same date the vestry bought 66 feet on the south side of the cemetery and a 20-foot right-of-way from Azariah Smith. The lane, which adjoined Samuel L. Edwards' property, led from the cemetery to the Cherry Valley Turnpike (Academy St.). A June 5, 1843 reconfirmation of these purchases was filed at the Onondaga County Clerk's Office on March 3, 1849.

On May 1, 1855 a 175' by 22' area just above the Wattles and Azariah Smith sections was purchased from Alonzo M. and Laura Williams. On April 12, 1856 a lot about 99' x 22' was purchased from John Calvin Smith. The Smith lot was west of the Williams' purchase. On April 21, 1864 88/100 of an acre was acquired from Alvin W. Nourse east of the Azariah Smith and Alonzo Williams purchases.

On June 9, 1909 Appleton Grannis, Frederick A. Flichtner, Stanwood E. Flichtner and Ellen A. S. Doughty conveyed land south of the Nourse purchase. Most of this land was used for the roadway that runs to Military Dr.

The last sections of cemetery property were deeded by the Verbeck Corporation to Christ Church in 1921 and 1933. These portions contain the memory garden, and have not been prepared for regular interments.

The earliest burials in the Christ Church cemetery area occurred before the church bought the property. They were Eliza Tousley, the daughter of Betsey and Sylvanus Tousley, who died on June 10, 1809, age seven months and an infant of Hannah and James O. Wattles, age seven hours who died on March 25, 1809. According to Joshua Clark, a child of Abigail and Ralph R. Phelps also was buried in the Phelps' section before 1810. This would have been Mary F. Phelps, who died on March 29, 1806, age seven months. References to William Ward being the oldest burial in the cemetery are in error. The Ward cemetery originally was on W. Seneca St. in today's Kinloch Cemetery area. William Ward, who died in 1795, was reinterred in Christ Church cemetery sometime before 1821.