

Lakewood Cemetery Association

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2024 at Lakewood

As another season comes to a close, the Board of Trustees would like to thank our superintendent for his twenty-five years of service. He and his staff have done a great job in keeping the grounds in wonderful shape. The Board also welcomed the election of Don Lincourt as a Trustee. Don is the son of former long-time superintendent Gene Lincourt. He brings great knowledge to the table as he grew up at the cemetery.

The Cooper Monument was cleaned and serves as a beautiful welcome at the entrance. Humphrey Memorials has completed the restoration of thirty-eight stones and their work is obvious as you go through the East section. If you visit the West Section, you will notice that we expanded the grounds to accommodate more lots. The work is nearly complete and needs to be untouched for up to two years so that it has time to settle. The border will be marked with plantings and the open space divided into lots with corner markers. End of the season tree removal has begun as of the first week of November. -- Milo Stewart, *President*

Visiting the Cemetery

Many people avoid visiting cemeteries unless they are attending a funeral. But Lakewood is a beautiful place to spend time with nature and see interesting monuments dating back to the 1800s. This summer Tara DiLorenzo created a Walking Tour map of the Cemetery as part of her Eagle Scout project for Cooperstown Scout Troop 1254. It shows notable sites and graves, and includes GPS coordinates to guide you via Google Maps. Printed brochures are available in boxes at the main entrance and the West (lakeside) Section. The map is also on our website. We encourage everyone to visit, and we also hope you will keep in touch and share all Lakewood communications with your family. -- Kerry Lynch, *Secretary*

Treasurer's Notes

Lakewood has been a busy place this summer. Thanks to all of you who make contributions to the Cemetery for special projects and general maintenance, and appreciation to the State of New York for the monument restoration funding. We cannot accomplish all that we do without money, so we are once again asking for your help in order to keep up the good work. Our repair and maintenance budget for 2025 will be formulated in the early part of 2025 so that we can line up contractors early. We appreciate your continued contributions. Also, please remember to include Lakewood Cemetery in your estate planning. -- Margaret McGown, *Treasurer*

Cooper Monument Restoration

We celebrated the completion of the cleaning project in August with a welcome tent at the Cemetery and a reception at Christ Church Parish Hall. Local and out-of-town visitors were impressed with the before and after! A weather-proof exhibit label panel has been installed on the Pinegrove Avenue side of the monument for easy access to read it. It includes the history of the monument, biography of the sculptor, and biographical details about James Fenimore Cooper and the Cooper family. The project was featured in the Summer 2024 issue of *The Broadcaster*, news magazine of the New York State Association of Cemeteries.

Honoring Veterans

Cooperstown's Veterans Clubs have long supported the marking of veterans graves in area cemeteries with military markers and flags. Lakewood Cemetery has compiled an inventory of over 350 military burials. Email the Cemetery to find out if a family member or friend is included, or provide the following information: War, Branch, Rank, and any service notes you wish to include. Your support will be welcomed – financial or feet-on-the-ground flag marking!

John Myer Bowers (1919-1942) served in World War II as 2nd Lt. in the Army Air Corps. He flew a P-40 Warhawk. John was killed in a crash during takeoff in Karachi, India.



Ryerson Lot Project

Masonry repairs and cleaning in the Ryerson Lot (the Titanic story) have also been completed. We deeply appreciate funding from the Community Foundation of Otsego County and the Ryerson family that has made this work possible. The moss-smear German slate gravestones are now legible and the sculptured details of the Celtic cross and the memorial tablet are clearly visible. We ask visitors to be respectful when perusing gravestones – de-facing is against Lakewood Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

John B. and Jane Ryerson gravestone, before and after cleaning.



Fall Cleaning

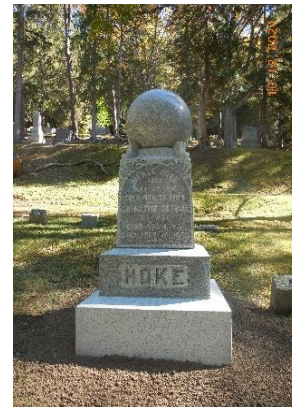
Have you removed dead plants, faded plastic flowers, and debris? Removed unused flower boxes and planters? Scaled back the quantity of mementos to avoid maintenance issues? Maintaining your lot, including gravestone cleaning, contributes to the overall preservation and care of Lakewood Cemetery. We appreciate your participation in this effort.

West Section Expansion

This major project is still a work in progress! It has to settle over the winter, so NO TRESPASSING until next summer. Then there will be border plantings and monumenting (marking) lot corners.

Monument Repair 2024

Thirty-eight monuments and gravestones have new 42" foundations and are repaired and cleaned. This program is supported by the NYS Division of Cemeteries Vandalism Fund to address hazardous conditions of eligible monuments. In 4 years, Lakewood Cemetery has addressed the restoration needs of 124 monuments. For 2025 our application will include 36 monuments.



(Left) Rev. Tertius Strong Clarke (1798-1875) was born in Massachusetts where he began his ministry in the Presbyterian Church. He served churches in New England, New York, and Ohio. He and his wife Almira had 4 children. The youngest daughter, Kate, and her husband, Schuyler B. Steers, made their summer home at "Lakelands" in Cooperstown. (Right) Menzo Hoke (d. 1894) was a prosperous farmer in Pierstown. He and his wife had a son and a daughter.

Your Support

Projects and needs are continually reviewed and prioritized, especially to accommodate emergencies and upgrades. We appeal annually for your continuing support toward operating expenses and special projects. A form for your tax-deductible contribution is enclosed with the newsletter. The back of the form is empty space for your Veteran information or comments and/or questions – we would be pleased to hear from you! Your contributions are deeply appreciated and will be acknowledged.

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