

# Lakewood Cemetery Association

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## Summer 2025 at Lakewood

The season at Lakewood is off to a busy start. We've had major tree work done, removing large decaying trees that posed a threat to nearby gravestones if they fell. Humphrey Memorials will return for a sixth year to restore hazardous monuments – 44 this year. Our Superintendent Bill Truax and his crew have been busy mowing, trimming, making repairs, and keeping drains clear amid a rainy Spring. We're also keeping an eye on the new expansion in the West (lakeside) Section. This project began last year and will open up about 9-10 more lots. You'll notice the area is taped off – we need to let it settle for another year before the new lots will be available for purchase.

Milo Stewart, *President* ([mstewart5@stny.rr.com](mailto:mstewart5@stny.rr.com))

## From the Secretary

We encourage everyone to visit our beautiful cemetery. And we try to keep in touch with you through our newsletters and website. Please let us know if your contact information changes or you want to confirm that it's up to date.

Send changes or inquiries to [LakewoodCemeteryAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:LakewoodCemeteryAssociation@gmail.com). We

encourage you to share all Lakewood communications with your families, and we are deeply grateful for your financial support. Kerry Lynch, *Secretary* ([kerrylynch100@gmail.com](mailto:kerrylynch100@gmail.com))



*The expansion in the West Section*

## Treasurer's Review

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Our November 2024 fund raising was very successful, allowing us to do more work at the cemetery to maintain it in a way that honors our ancestors who are laid to rest there. The expansion of the west portion of the cemetery has been through one winter with a little settling that we will take care of this summer, and it will go through one more winter before we are able to use that space, however that will alleviate any concerns of having plots to sell to those who want to be buried at Lakewood. We continue with taking down and trimming trees, some that are very old, and restoring staircases through the cemetery. All of this work and hiring the workers to do it is a result of your interest and financial support. Margaret McGown, *Treasurer* ([mmcgown1@hotmail.com](mailto:mmcgown1@hotmail.com))

## A New Sign for the Cooper Monument

Last year we power washed the Cooper Memorial Monument, restoring it to its original beauty. This work was made possible by generous donations from the Cooper family and others. This Spring we installed a historical sign nearby that provides a brief history of the monument and James Fenimore Cooper. Please come see it and check our website for more photos.

## Honoring Veterans

By our latest count, there are 127 veterans of World War II and 45 veterans of World War I interred or memorialized in our cemetery. There are two veterans of the Revolutionary War, three from the War of 1812, two from the Mexican-American War, 101 from the Civil War, four from the Spanish American War, 17 from the Korean War, seven from the Vietnam War, and one from the Persian Gulf War. This information is not in our burial records; Marilyn O'Connell, our vice president, gathered it by walking around the cemetery and painstakingly compiling a list of names and service records. This year, beginning Memorial Day, you will see about 330 American Flags in honor of the men and women who served and fought to keep our country free. These are placed by volunteers from the Cooperstown Veterans Club. We're grateful for their efforts.



*The new Cooper Monument sign*

### *A Revolutionary War Soldier's Gravestone*

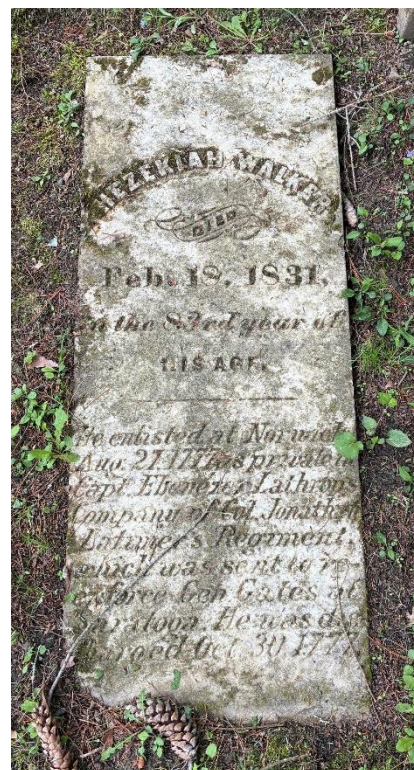
Hezekiah Walker (1748-1831) is one of two Revolutionary War veterans memorialized at Lakewood. His gravestone (pictured right) reads:

*He enlisted at Norwich August 27, 1777 as private in Capt. Ebenezer Lathrop's Company of Col. Jonathan Latimer's Regiment, which was sent to re-enforce Gen. Gates at Saratoga. He was discharged Oct. 30, 1777.*

Latimer's Regiment was part of the Connecticut Militia. During the Battles of Saratoga in 1777, this militia played a significant role in the American victory. Two regiments, commanded by Colonel Thaddeus Cook and Colonel Jonathan Latimer, were called to assist General Horatio Gates against General John Burgoyne. They arrived on September 10 and participated in both battles, suffering heavy casualties. Burgoyne surrendered to Gates on October 17, 1777.

Hezekiah Walker was born in Union, Tolland County, Connecticut, was living in Plainfield, Otsego County by 1800 (census), and died in Middlefield.

We would like to restore this gravestone by next year to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America's Independence.



*Hezekiah Walker's memorial stone*

### *Monument Repairs and Trees*

This year 44 monuments and gravestones, many over 100 years old, are scheduled to get new foundations, be repaired, and cleaned. This project is supported by the NYS Division of Cemeteries Vandalism Fund to address the hazardous condition of monuments. In five years, Lakewood has had 162 eligible monuments restored. Prior to this year's monument work, Timberworks Tree Services of Cherry Valley removed several large decaying trees.

### *Thank You!*

Lakewood Cemetery was incorporated in 1856 and nearly 5,000 people are now buried here. The monuments and memorials represent lives that shaped the families and history of Cooperstown and the surrounding area. James Fenimore Cooper (memorialized here), Dr. Mary Imogene Bassett (for whom Bassett Hospital is named), Samuel Nelson (a Supreme Court Justice), Arthur Ryerson (the *Titanic* story), Betsey Stockton (born a slave, became a freed woman and missionary), and more. Plus the farmers, shopkeepers, tradesmen, and professionals whose unsung efforts shaped the evolution of this historic area of upstate New York. And, of course, your loved ones. Thank you for your contributions, which enable us to maintain and improve our beautiful cemetery.

### *2025 Annual Meeting*

Check our website <https://cooperstownlakewoodcemetery.com/> for the August Annual Meeting date, place, and agenda. All lot owners are invited to attend. It is your opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions.

### *The Board of Trustees*

Milo Stewart, *President* [mstewart5@stny.rr.com](mailto:mstewart5@stny.rr.com)

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