

Lakewood Cemetery Association

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2022 at Lakewood

We started the season with the usual intensive Spring cleaning followed by tree removal and drainage repairs. Highlights included a tour with visitors from Hawaii to visit the grave of Betsey Stockton, condition assessments of the keeper's house and stone steps, and watching the monument restoration process by Humphrey's Memorial of New Hartford, NY. The Annual Meeting was held in August and Bruno Hofmann and David Jackson were elected Trustees. I'm also pleased to announce that Merrilyn O'Connell was named Vice President. Her years of dedication and knowledge of the cemetery is one our largest assets. We were saddened by the death of long-time Board member Jim Dow. Hank Nicols stepped down as Secretary and remains as a Trustee. He is succeeded by Kerry Lynch who joined the Board last year. We hope you will continue to be a part of the Lakewood Cemetery "connection" and be supportive of the annual fundraising appeal. – Milo Stewart, *President*

Introducing Our New Website

We totally revamped the website in October – www.cooperstownlakewoodcemetery.com. The new site is easier to navigate, works well on mobile phones, and has more information and photos. You can also read and print our Fall Newsletter there. We plan to keep the site fresh by adding news notes, announcements, and more photos. We welcome your feedback and suggestions. Please check it out and let us know what you think. – Kerry Lynch, *Secretary* (kerrylynch100@gmail.com)

Treasurer's Notes

This has been another good year at Lakewood Cemetery. Your donations have allowed us to continue with the removal of dead trees, removal, and repair of stone steps, and to hire three summer workers to maintain the cemetery, along with Bill Truax, who works with them and supervises the work. When I drove through a few days ago, I thought I had never seen the cemetery look better! However, there is more to do. More trees are dying and or dead, and the stair project is not complete. Mowing and leaf pickup are a constant activity all summer and fall. Wages are higher each year.

Our investments have lost value as the markets are fluctuating, however we are still in a good position and have been able to maintain the cemetery with your donations and the income from our investments. Lakewood Cemetery can accept the gift of securities, and we encourage you to remember the cemetery in your estate planning. Please contact me if you wish to receive specific financial reports. Margaret McGown, *Treasurer* (mmcgown1@hotmail.com)

More Monument Restoration

Another group of 36 monument and gravestone repairs was completed in October by Humphrey Memorials Inc. of Herkimer. Stones were removed piece by piece, concrete foundations poured 42" deep, stones reassembled, and power washed. Quite a transformation! It is worth a visit along Pinegrove Avenue and up around the south curve to Chestnut Hill Road.



William H. (1825-1911) and Mary Jane (1849-1925) Tuller and Abner (1801-1881) and Mary (1808-1874) Graves of Cooperstown were among the earliest lot owners. The monument is located on Chestnut Hill Road (south end).

Hawaiian Mission House Group Tour

Members of the Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives visited Cooperstown on October 21 as part of the commemoration of the Second Company Bicentennial in New Haven, CT and Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, NJ. Fourteen members of a Second Company of missionaries left from New Haven in November 1822 on a whaling ship and arrived in the Sandwich Islands (Hawaiian Islands) in April 1823. Included in the group were the Rev. and Mrs. Charles Stewart, early residents of Cooperstown, and Betsy Stockton, a freed slave, of Princeton.

In Cooperstown, the museum group visited Lakewood Cemetery where the Stewarts and Betsy Stockton are buried. Rev. Stewart retired in 1862 after a distinguished career as a missionary and navy military chaplain and returned to Cooperstown, where he died in 1870.



Photo by Milo Stewart

Military Veterans Buried at Lakewood

During the summer, volunteers compiled an inventory of over 300 military veterans of all wars from the American Revolution to Desert Storm. Information includes birth/death dates, war, branch of service and rank, special notes. By next summer the inventory will be available in print at the Cemetery and the Cooperstown Veterans Club as well as digital. Please contact Merrilyn O'Connell to verify if a veteran family member or friend is on the list or use the back of the donor form to provide the details.

Stone Steps and Stairways

More stone steps in hazardous condition or encroaching on roadways were removed or repaired and cleaned. The largest project was the Field stairway on the south end of Lakeview Avenue which was disassembled and rebuilt.



Burial Planning

NYS Cemetery Law requires that cemeteries maintain lot ownership records, deed holder changes, transfers by will, and Permission to Bury. We continue to research burial records and diagram the lots(s) as well as update contact information. We advise families to share burial plans with other members, their funeral home, and Lakewood Cemetery. If a copy of the deed is needed, please contact Merrilyn O'Connell. Please provide snail mail and email.

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 glad to hear from you! Your contributions are deeply appreciated and will be acknowledged.

The Board of Trustees

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