

Lakewood Cemetery Association

Post Office Box 1314, Cooperstown, NY 13326

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

www.CooperstownLakewoodCemetery.com

Fall 2025 – This Year at Lakewood

The season at Lakewood was busy. Superintendent Bill Truax and his crew mowed, trimmed grass on the banks, removed overgrown brush and autumn leaves, and replaced a drainage pipe, in addition to doing burials. Timberworks Tree Service removed some large decaying trees. Humphrey Memorials restored and cleaned old monuments that were at risk of falling. With regret we accepted the resignation of Trustee Hank Nicols after many years of dedicated service, and we welcomed a new Trustee, Beth McGown, the daughter of our Treasurer, Margaret McGown. - Milo Stewart, *President*

From the Secretary

When I tell people I volunteer at a cemetery, they give me... a weird look. And they probably picture a typical cemetery on level ground with neat rows of modest small gravestones. But then I tell them about *Lakewood* – its history as part of the “rural cemetery movement” of the 1800’s, the beautiful location overlooking Otsego Lake, the many striking monuments from the 19th century, and the life stories of the people buried here. And then they get interested! It is a special place. One moment you can stand under towering pine trees admiring the view of the lake, the next you can read this moving inscription on a monument: “Jared C., Only Son of Wm. A and Mercy A. Fuller, Killed in Battle at Spotsylvania, May 10, 1864, age 22 years.” It’s important to honor that soldier’s grave, and the graves of *everyone* buried or memorialized here.

We are deeply grateful for your financial support, which helps us to do this, and which we use for maintenance, repairs, and improvements. – Kerry Lynch, Secretary

New Bylaws, and New Rules & Regulations

The lot owners approved new bylaws at a special meeting in October. We announced the meeting via our website, emails, and legal notices in the *Daily Star*. This was a necessary update of old bylaws that, as far as we know, had not been officially updated for decades. Separately, the Board of Trustees approved new Rules and Regulations in October. This, too, was long overdue.

The new Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations will take effect when they are approved by the NY State Division of Cemeteries. Please be prepared for changes, particularly regarding decorations and new plantings in family lots. We have tried to balance the desire to honor loved ones with the goals of safety, aesthetics, and maintenance. We understand that decorations are very personal, and we appreciate your cooperation as we transition to the new rules.



Before and after restoration. Leslie Pell-Clarke (1853-1904) and wife Henrietta Pell-Clarke (1853-1934). Leslie was one of the founders of the Otsego Golf Club, which opened in 1894.

Monument Repairs – 2025

Humphrey Memorials of Herkimer restored 44 hazardous monuments and gravestones this summer. The monuments were given new 42-inch foundations and cleaned. This work was totally funded by the New York State Division of Cemeteries' Fund for Vandalism Restoration and Monument Repair. This Fund is largely financed by a \$5 fee that cemeteries are required to pay for each burial or cremation, and it is overseen by the state Cemetery Board. This Board, in turn, awards money to pay for vandalism claims and the repair of dangerous monuments. It takes considerable work on the part of our volunteers to apply for these funds each year. **Since 2021, we have had 174 monuments repaired, mainly due to the work of Trustee Merrillyn O'Connell.** We plan to apply for another round of repairs next year.



Catherine "Kate" Fuller Barrows (1838-1865) died of typhoid fever at age 26. Her father, the Rev. Eleazer Storrs Barrows, was a Presbyterian Minister.

A Bit of History...

The first person ever buried at Lakewood was Winfred E. "Winnie" Beadle of Cooperstown, who died of croup at age 4 on November 16, 1856. His family's monument was among those restored this year.

Thank You!

Thank you for your contributions, which enable us to maintain and improve our beautiful cemetery. Mowing and other maintenance requires extra crew, and projects like tree removal are expensive. A form for your tax-deductible contribution is enclosed with this newsletter. You can also donate online at our website. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to contact us. And please share this newsletter with family and friends; previous newsletters are available on our website.



Monument for Ralph Worthington (1777-1828) and wife Clarissa (1784-1871). He had a hat and fur business in Cooperstown, and the house he built in 1802 on Main Street, known as the Worthington House, still stands.

The Board of Trustees

Milo Stewart, *President* mstewart5@stny.rr.com
Merrilyn O'Connell, *Vice President* merrioc88@gmail.com
Kerry Lynch, *Secretary* kerrylynch100@gmail.com
Margaret McGown, *Treasurer* mmcgown1@hotmail.com

Bruno Hofmann, *Trustee* bhcharliebrown@aol.com
David Jackson, *Trustee* dufferdave45@yahoo.com
Donald Lincourt, *Trustee* lincourtd@com
Beth McGown, *Trustee* bethmcgown@gmail.com
Peggy Poulson, *Trustee* poulson1@yahoo.com