

Lakewood Cemetery Association

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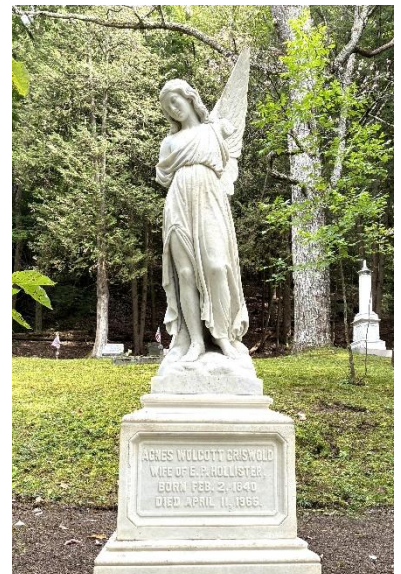
www.CooperstownLakewoodCemetery.com

2026 – *The Year at Lakewood*

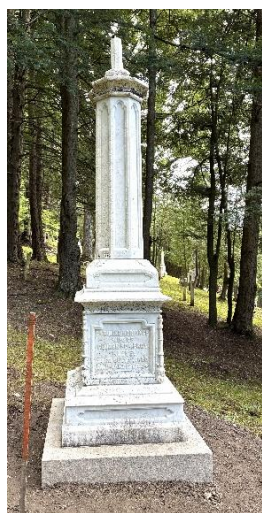
As the season winds down at Lakewood, on behalf of the board of directors, I would like to thank those who donated to our annual fund drive. Last year's appeal raised over \$37,000. Your generous support helps keep the cemetery in full operation and looking beautiful. If you haven't visited this year, it is completely worth setting aside some time to take a tour. Thirty-five monuments have been restored this year (see photos). This is the sixth year we have restored monuments. All of this has been paid for by funds obtained through the NYS Division of Cemeteries. This was all made possible by the tireless work of Merrilyn O'Connell and Kerry Lynch. Kudos to both. And thank you to our cemetery employees - Jessie, Rob, and Ralph - for their hard work. It really shows. – Milo Stewart, *President*

From the Treasurer

It has been a very interesting year at Lakewood Cemetery. At the end of April we found out that our Superintendent, Bill Truax, would not be employed by the cemetery. It was the beginning of the busy season, so there might have been a few moments of panic, but all has gone well all summer. Fortunately, there was an employee who worked at the cemetery last year, Jesse Hagle, who indicated his interest in taking charge. He has worked with Kerry Lynch and me all summer at learning the policies and procedures, making sure all burials have taken place without problems, and has sold a few lots. He is a very personable man, and is currently the acting superintendent pending a permanent arrangement. Please say hello when you are there.



Before and after restoration. Edward P. Hollister (1838-1876) and wife Agnes Griswold Hollister (1840-1866). He was a lawyer and banker and wrote a biography of the Marquis de Lafayette.



Before and after restoration. George Pomeroy Keese (1828-1910) was the president of the Second National Bank of Cooperstown, the great-grandson of Judge William Cooper, and one of the founders of Lakewood Cemetery.

The Keeper's House has been emptied, along with the grounds around the house and the garage. We do not yet have a plan for the house. The furnace is not usable, so we will be draining the pipes for the winter. There are several possible uses for the property, but all of them will require large amounts of money. The Trustees will be working to determine what plan will be viable in the future.

Lakewood Cemetery is able to operate with our endowment money, our burial fees and lot sales, and your contributions to our annual fundraising. We always need support for the extras that we try to do every year, including tree cutting, repairing stairs, and purchasing equipment such as lawn mowers and leaf blowers. If you are able, we appreciate every dollar that you send to us. We are a 501(c)(13) corporation, so your contributions are tax-deductible. Also, please remember the cemetery when you are drafting your will. Estate gifts also help increase our ability to care for this special place.

As always, if you would like a copy of any financial statements, or have any questions, please email me at mmcgown1@hotmail.com. – Margaret McGown, *Treasurer*

From the Secretary

The NYS Division of Cemeteries awarded Lakewood \$61,516 to repair, pour new foundations, and clean 35 hazardous monuments this year. The work was again done by Humphrey Memorials of Herkimer, NY. We began repairing monuments in 2021. **In six years, we have received \$414,666 and restored 210 monuments!**

In recent years, we cleaned the Cooper Monument and cleaned and repaired the Ryerson “Titanic” lot using designated donations and a community-fund grant. We’ve also repaired two stone staircases using generous donations from private individuals – this year, it was the Getman staircase, thanks to Heinrich Bantli (whose late wife Pat’s family bought the nearby McLean lot in 1884). And with your donations, this year we repaired the “Leaning” staircase (see photo). All these projects have added to the beauty, safety, and accessibility of Lakewood.

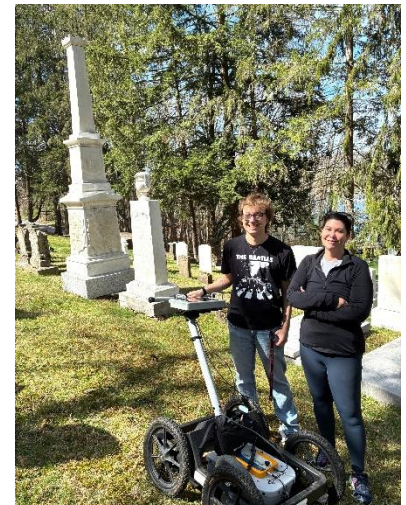


Staircase below the Leaning monument. Dr. John K. Leaning (1823-1902) practiced medicine in Fly Creek and Cooperstown, was a surgeon in the NYS Militia, and was a founder of the NYS Medical Association.

If you can’t visit the cemetery and would like a picture of your family’s gravestones, let us know. We can also assist you with getting cleaning estimates. – Kerry Lynch, *Secretary*

America’s 250th Celebration

We were part of the celebration! There are eight Revolutionary War and War of 1812 veterans and notable figures in Lakewood who now have special flag markers on their graves. Service in the American Revolution: Obadiah Dunham, Hezekiah Walker, and Robert Wilson (all memorials). Also, Martha Stewart Wilson (memorial), who met and entertained many important Revolutionary War figures, including George Washington. Service in the War of 1812: Abner Dunham (memorial), William Lewis (burial), Simon Van Sice (burial), and Calvin Richardson (memorial). In April, Prof. Renee Whitman of the SUNY Oneonta Anthropology Department kindly came and used ground-penetrating radar to see if Martha Wilson is buried, rather than only memorialized, in the Bowers Family lot. She did not find any evidence, but the technology is fascinating!



SUNY Oneonta Prof. Renee Whitman (right) and student Maggie Reynolds-Rauch with their ground-penetrating radar equipment.

Rules and Regulations

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of Lakewood’s updated *Rules and Regulations*, which have been approved by the NYS Division of Cemeteries. Please read all, especially the sections on *Interments* and *Decorations*.

Thank You!

We hope this newsletter shows that we use your donations thoughtfully and that we work to supplement them with other funds for specific projects. We’re very grateful for your support. Please consider making a gift. You can donate by mail or donate securely using a credit card or PayPal at our website.

The Board of Trustees

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