

## A Manchester Minute: Shaving St/Pioneer Cemetery

On Dewey Rd., between the villages of Manchester and Clifton Springs, lies the Pioneer Cemetery. This cemetery was originally named the "Shaving St. Cemetery" because Dewey Rd was called Shaving St at the time the cemetery was founded. The name was changed in 1908 to "Pioneer Cemetery", but the burial ground has been around a lot longer. The Town of Manchester's oldest cemetery had its beginning on May 4, 1812 when Joseph Barney deeded to Peleg Redfield, Joshua King and Jedediah Dewey, 26 ½ rods of land for the purpose of a public burying ground. Around the same time, George Spencer and his wife deeded a similar amount of land next to the first deed for the same purpose. Later, William Bement and Harvey Harmon also contributed land.

On February 15, 1908, about 15 people gathered at the YMCA in Clifton Springs and took steps to incorporate the burial ground into Pioneer Cemetery. Additions were made on the west, north and east sides.

The first burial in the cemetery was that of Silas Dewey who died on March 17, 1810. He was initially buried on the farm of Peter Savage, but his remains were moved to the the new burying ground when it opened.

In the cemetery are buried veterans of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War.

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