

Tompkins County Historical Commission

The Tompkins County Historical Commission was created by Resolution of the Tompkins County Legislature on August 7, 2018 to advise the Legislature on all historical matters relevant to Tompkins County including commemorations, events, monuments, historical publications, and grant opportunities.

The Commission is composed of a diverse group of community members who have an academic, professional, or personal interest in local history. Among its many initiatives, the Commission encourages, sponsors, and publishes manuscripts such as this pamphlet that are intended shed new light on unique aspects of the County's history.

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The featured cemeteries are on the traditional, ancestral and contemporary homelands of the Gayogohó:nq' Nation (Cayuga Nation), one of Six Nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, which is the alliance of the six sovereign nations: Mohawk, Oneida, Tuscarora, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca. Indigenous people have been on the land and water for more than 12,000 years. We acknowledge dispossession of the Gayogohó:nq' Nation during wars, settlements, and colonialization of Tompkins County and New York State. We support the Haudenosaunee Confederacy's historic and modern presence on this land and water.

Introduction

P*ermanent Residents* is an eclectic collection of biographies about people who are buried in cemeteries throughout Tompkins County in the state of New York. These permanent residents are introduced to us by twenty-two authors, some of whom are appointed city, town or village historians, while others are by those interested in contributing an interesting or quirky biography. The first entry dates from the early 19th century, others go up to our own times. They tell short histories about thirty-six interesting people. There are war heroes and heroines, medical professionals, servants, educators, authors, architects, benefactors, scientists, and elected government officials. Some essays highlight their artfully designed gravestones.

The essays were chosen without prejudice or favor; some monuments, gravestones, obituaries or writings featured were of their time. The editor's and contributors' intentions were to present the facts as they were written. History shows us that language, opinions, beliefs, trends, norms, ideologies and philosophies can be reflections of their era. Our contemporary lens allows us to reveal these conditions, and to learn from our collective histories.

Permanent Residents is one in a series of booklets published by the Tompkins County Historical Commission.

— **Susan Herlands Holland**, editor
Executive Director, *Historic Ithaca*

EUNICE TRACY
(1774-1815)
and
unnamed infant daughter (d. 1815) • Tracy Double Grave

🌿 Quaker Settlement Cemetery, Town of Ulysses



I used to collect pictures of double graves, those indented stones from the past that visibly mark the resting place of two individuals. Often couples are buried with one stone, demarked in the middle with a dip or line to show that both are buried there.

The stone that has moved me the most is that of Eunice Tracy and her child located in the Quaker Settlement Cemetery in the Town of Ulysses. That stone marks the burial place of Arza Tracy's wife, and their unnamed child who died in the year 1815.

The baby was born and died on April 12, 1815, and just thirteen days later, on April 25, 1815, Eunice, age 42, also died. Their stone, of slate, is for both mother and daughter, the baby indicated by the small side section on the right-hand side.

At the bottom of Eunice's stone, is written:

Come see the place where I doo lie
As you are now so once was i
As I am now soon you must be
Prepare yourself to Follow me.

Eunice was probably born in Connecticut, in 1774, daughter of Samuel and Eunice Cutler. She married Arza Tracy sometime before 1797 and

moved with him to Vermont where two of their children were born. Arza Tracy was born in 1771 in Norwich, Connecticut. Their children were a son named Lucius, born in 1797 and a daughter Phylance, born in 1801.

Sometime before 1815, the Tracy family moved to the Town of Ulysses (then located in Seneca County and not brought into Tompkins County until 1817). In this newly settled land Eunice had an unnamed daughter who lived for one day. Eunice soon followed.

After Eunice's death, Arza Tracy married Dorcas (born 1793), who became the children's stepmother. Arza died in 1842 at the age of 72. His grave at the Quaker Settlement Cemetery sits between that of Eunice, and of Dorcas who died in 1873. Arza's gravestone was signed by its maker, who advertised at the very bottom: "Thos. N. Perkins, Trumansburg, N.Y."

Arza and Eunice's son Lucius Tracy married Polly Griswold and the two lived in Watkins Glen where they had a child. By 1820 they had moved into Steuben County, by 1825 they were in Tioga County, and in 1835 in Erie County, Pennsylvania. By 1850, according to an online genealogy and the federal census, Lucius was living in Richland, Wisconsin where his burial was the first in Button County, that too, a frontier community popular with New Yorkers seeking a better life.

As with so many American families, Lucius and Polly's son Alexander Dorman Tracy, grandson of Arza and Eunice, who had been born in Watkins Glen, moved even further west, and in 1903, he died in Seattle, Washington.

The Quaker Settlement Cemetery is located at the corner of Perry City and Applegate roads. The information here comes from the federal census, and from GENi where the Tracy family can be found.

— **Carol Kammen**, Tompkins County Historian

JERUSHA LORD
(1756-1821)

and

JERUSHA LORD
(1790- 1857)

✿ Danby Cemetery, Town of Danby



I was on a quest to learn about Jerusha Lord. On Find-a-Grave I discovered two Jerusha Lords in Danby. There was Jerusha Webster Lord, my prime research target—the older sister of the dictionary man, Noah Webster, born January 22, 1756 in Hartland, Connecticut. She died February 21, 1821 in

Danby, at the age of 65. But the interesting statistic is when Jerusha and her husband, Joel, settled in Danby in 1818, Jerusha was sixty-two years old. Why Danby? Why so late in life?

The confusion cleared up when I learned the second Jerusha Lord was the daughter of the first; unmarried when they arrived in Danby. Jerusha, the daughter, married the Reverend Samuel Parker, pastor of the Danby Presbyterian Church for 15 years, the man responsible for locating missions in the Pacific Northwest during the 19th century. Thinking Rev. Parker too old, at 56, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions refused to fund his travel. Parker set out to collect money, and in the process met both Dr. Marcus Whitman and Miss Narcissa Prentiss whom, a year later he encouraged to marry and go west to establish a mission station in the Oregon Territory. Parker wrote a book about his experiences.

Parker Street in Ithaca is named for the family.

— **Mary Ann Barr**, Danby Town Historian

JOHN APPLGATE (1777-1825)

✦ Rolfe Cemetery, Town of Enfield



John Applegate was a local politician and surveyor. Born in New Jersey, he died on December 14, 1825 in Enfield. Applegate Corners reflects his presence in the Town of Enfield. From the inscription and symbols on his headstone, located in Rolfe Cemetery, he was a Freemason and a religious man. He was reported

in the *Ithaca Daily Journal* as a Republican residing at “Bucktail Corners” constantly battling with the Democrats of Tompkins County. His life can be found in documents in the Town of Enfield Historian’s records and in the proceedings of the Board of Supervisors of Tompkins County.

He hosted many meetings held to divide Tompkins County to create the Town of Enfield in 1821. He ran for Governor of New York State, legislative positions in the county, and became Enfield Town Supervisor in 1822, then again in 1824. Applegate was a member of the Board for the Ithaca Academy in 1820. He operated a tavern at Applegate Corners, and operated a post office there in 1823. He also surveyed the “official roads” in Enfield in 1822. He married Mary Rightmire on May 13, 1802. They had four children.

— Sue Thompson, Enfield Town Historian

THOMAS LUDLOW (1766-1838)

🌿 Pine Grove Cemetery, Ludlowville, Town of Lansing



Thomas Ludlow, first arrived in the Town of Lansing with his father Henry, and Thomas' Uncle Silas in March 1791. His father Henry Ludlow fought in the Revolutionary War. He returned with his father, Henry and Uncle Silas and their families in March 1792 at the age of 26 years and settled on Military Lot # 76.

In his diary, Thomas Ludlow wrote, “we proceeded up the lake on the ice. After about eight miles we came to Salmon Creek, which flows into the lake. Here we decided to land and, upon reaching the shore, passed up the ravine a short way until we came to some falls which would give water-power for the mill.”

Ludlow was the nephew of Judge William Cooper of Cooperstown, father of James Fenimore Cooper. The Coopers and the Ludlows exchanged visits by riding horseback between the two places.

In 1795 Thomas Ludlow built the first grist mill of logs on Salmon Creek, at the base of Ludlowville Falls. He also built a tavern nearby. He was active in public affairs. Ludlow was the president of the first temperance society in 1828, one of the first trustees of the Presbyterian Church organized at Ludlowville in 1817, and a presiding elder at his death. He died March 15th, 1838, age 72 years, 9 months.

— **Louise Bement**, Town of Lansing Historian

ADALINE HOLLISTER
(1838–1844)

Isaac Hollister Family Burial Ground on Beaver Creek Road,
Brooktondale, Town of Caroline

Adaline Hollister died in 1844 when she was six years old. Although we do not know what she died of, such early deaths were not uncommon in a period rife with childhood diseases that later medical advances and vaccines would eradicate. Children living on farms in the countryside were also prone to accidents that could kill and maim. Although Adaline is buried in



the Hollister Family Burial Ground (above the University Gravel Company in Brooktondale, Town of Caroline), it is not known to which of the eight other Hollisters buried there she was related.

Please note that this family burial ground is not accessible to the public.

— **B. Buettner**, Independent researcher

LUCY CRIDDLE
(1845-1861)

Pleasant Grove Cemetery, Ithaca

MONTGOMERY CORNELL
(1842-1861)

Ithaca City Cemetery, Ithaca



Lucy Criddle



Montgomery Cornell

Lucy Criddle, also known as Addie Lucy, lived in Free Hollow, now Forest Home in the Town of Ithaca. She was, the 16-year-old daughter of cabinetmaker William Criddle. Montgomery Cornell was the 19-year-old nephew of Ezra Cornell, who lived at the intersection of Judd Falls Road, Pine Tree Road and Route 366, now the Dilman Hill Farm. The young couple had been “keeping company” for a year or more, but Montgomery’s father, Elijah Cornell, did not approve, apparently because Lucy was from a working-class family. Montgomery was told to break off the relationship.

It is reported in the Tompkins County Democrat that on the night of June

26, 1861, Cornell picked up Lucy in his buggy and shot her with both barrels of a double-barreled pistol. He then drowned himself by jumping into Fall Creek at a place still known today as Lover’s Leap. When Lucy’s

body was discovered in Montgomery's buggy the next morning, a warrant was issued for his arrest. Twenty or thirty men turned out to search for the murderer, and many people hurried to the scene. It didn't take long to find his body.

Lucy's father asked that the couple be buried side by side, but Montgomery's father refused. Lucy is buried in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery, and shares a headstone with her parents, and with her brother William, a soldier who died in the Civil War.

Montgomery shares a headstone in the City Cemetery with eleven of his family members, including three siblings who predeceased him, ages 1, 3 and 6.

— **Bruce Brittain**, Historian of Forest Home

JOSEPH H. GREGG
(1836-1863)

Bank Street Cemetery, Town of Newfield



Joseph H. Gregg was born in Troy, New York in 1836. By 1850 he was living in Newfield, with his mother, two sisters, and stepfather. Joseph is listed in the 1860 census as a blacksmith.

In 1859 he married Hannah Puff, whose father ran a hotel on Bank Street. Joseph and Hannah had a daughter who died in infancy in February 1862, and is buried beside her father. Six months later, at age

26, Joseph enlisted in the 137th NY Infantry regiment. Joseph, a respected man in the community, was named Captain of Company I, and recruited troops in Newfield, Ulysses, and Ithaca.

In March 1863, after less than six months in the service, Captain Gregg resigned from the army “on account of physical disability.” Less than seven weeks later, however, he rejoined the 137th and was once again commissioned as Captain of Company I.

From July 1 to 3, 1863, the 137th NY, part of the Twelve Corps of the Army of the Potomac, fought in the battle of Gettysburg. On July 2, the 137th was stationed on Culp’s Hill, and when most of the rest of the Twelve Corps moved to the Union left, the 137th became the extreme right flank of the Union line.

At a pivotal moment in the fighting, Captain Gregg and a squad of men fixed bayonets and attacked the Confederates who were about to turn the regiment’s flank. The charge was successful in driving the Confederates

back down the hill and relieving pressure on the flank. Unfortunately, Captain Gregg was shot in the chest and shoulder while leading the attack, surviving only twenty hours. He died in a field hospital on July 3, shortly after the repulse of Pickett's Charge.

Captain Gregg's body was brought home to Newfield, and buried in Bank Street Cemetery. Joseph Gregg deserves to be remembered as a hero, someone who, to quote Abraham Lincoln, gave his "last full measure of devotion ... that this nation ... shall have a new birth of freedom."

— **George Boyer**, Professor College of Industrial and Labor Relations
Cornell University

CINDERELLA BROWN
(1834-1868)

Grove Cemetery, Village of Trumansburg



No handsome young prince for our poor Cinderella Brown. According to Grove Cemetery's "First Burial Book," Miss Brown died on January 20, 1868 at the age of 34 years and 9 months; she had been born in 1834. According to Find-a-Grave she was the daughter of Lilah (perhaps Zulah)

M. Bodle Brown and Roger Brown. Both Lilah Brown (1809-1890) and Roger Brown (1802-1870) eventually joined our Miss Brown on Plot 487. In the "First Burial Book," she is listed as "Cinderella" Brown. Her tombstone is clearly engraved with the word, "Cinderella."

The literary concept of the "persecuted heroine" who is "eventually rewarded with good fortune" can be identified in folk tales from many early cultures. A popular version of this genre was written in the French language in 1697 by Charles Perrault whose heroine was given the name "Cendrillon." The Brothers Grimm's heroine in 1812-1815 was "Aschenputtel." There is no "Aschenputtel" or "Cinderella" story in the first English translation of the Grimm's book in 1823 and in the 1826 translation it was "Aschenputtel" ... not "Cinderella." Translations into English that have used the name "Cinderella" were published well after the birth of our Miss Brown.

What did they call their daughter as she was growing up? "Cindrella" or "Cinderella?" Sad that our Miss Brown never get a chance to attend a fancy ball...or meet a Prince Charming.

— **John Wertis**, Town of Ulysses Historian

SAGE CHAPEL MEMORIAL ANTECHAPEL

Ezra Cornell, Andrew White, John McGraw,
Jennie McGraw Fiske, others and family members
Cornell University campus, Ithaca

While Cornell University was explicitly non-sectarian, Trustee Henry W. Sage donated funds for religious services. Sage Chapel opened in 1875. After the death of Ezra Cornell, Andrew Dickson White proposed that “a memorial chapel be erected, beneath which his remains and those of other benefactors of the university might rest, and that it should be made beautiful.”

In 1883, a “Memorial Antechapel” was constructed, funded by the executor of the estate of Jennie McGraw Fiske as “funeral expenses,” and by



the university, for the remains of Ezra Cornell, John McGraw, and Jennie McGraw Fiske. The building is described as “middle French Pointed School,” with a ribbed vault ceiling and walls of Ohio stone, supported on red marble columns, with a crypt below. The room contains four sarcophagi: the largest, a recumbent figure of Ezra Cornell (1807-

1874), carved in white marble by the American sculptor William Story. A sarcophagus for Jennie McGraw Fiske (1840-1881) includes a recumbent figure by Moses Ezekiel and plaques commemorating her, her father John McGraw (1815-1877), and her husband Willard Fiske (1831-1904). The third sarcophagus, for White’s first wife Mary Outwater White (1836-1887) is decorated with a similar recumbent figure. A small plaque near it commemorates their daughter Ruth Mary White Ferry (1866-1936). Andrew Dickson White’s (1832-1918) tomb has a memorial inscription

only. Above White is a memorial tablet for Helen Magill White (1853-1944), White's second wife; for two children who died in infancy, Hilda (1891-1892) and Edward Magill White (1896); and their daughter Karin Andreevna White (1893-1971).

The Memorial Antechapel is also decorated with mosaic memorial plaques for Mary Ann Cornell (1811-1891) and for their eldest son Alonzo Cornell (1832-1904) and his wife Ellen Covert Cornell (1834-1893).



Bronze plaques memorialize other Cornell family members interred in the chapel: son Charles Ezra Cornell (1855-1947) and his wife Katherine Bouck Cornell (1860-1946), and daughter Mary Emily Cornell (1847-1935). Another son, Franklin Cuthbert Cornell is buried in Lake View Cemetery, but commemorated in a me-

memorial plaque in the Antechapel. Also interred in Sage Chapel are former president Edmund Ezra Day (1883-1951) and Emily Sophia Emerson Day (1883-1980). Most recently, in 1996, some of President Deane Waldo Mallott's ashes were added to the crypt. Additionally, plaques commemorate other major figures in the early history of the university: George Schuyler, Erastus Brooks, Louis Agassiz, and Hiram Sibley, who is surmounted by a bronze bust.

— **Elaine D. Engst**, Cornell University Archivist, retired

HERMON CAMP
(1787 or 1788-1879)

Grove Cemetery, Village of Trumansburg

Dominating all monuments on Grove Cemetery's Presbyterian Hill is a gigantic stone piece that memorializes the individual who dominated the economic and social life of the Village of Trumansburg through the middle years of the 1800's. Erected after his death in 1879, this stele also bears the names of four of his five wives and several of his children.



Camp, at the age of 18, was installed as a storekeeper in the hamlet of Shin Hollow, or Treman's Village, in 1805. This enterprise was financed by his mother and brothers, newly arrived in Owego from Connecticut. For some period of time the only merchant in town, Hermon prospered, married Lucy Forsythe, made speculative purchases of farmland in the area, organized a cavalry unit that saw service on the Niagara frontier in the War of 1812, and after the war returned to Ulysses to hold various local political positions.

After divorcing the barren Lucy in 1823; he remarried; and during the religious fervors of the 1830's "got religion" and became a staunch supporter and driving force in the local Presbyterian Church. He became a strong temperance advocate and an advocate of colonization as an answer to slavery. In all he had five wives, but only five children survived the rigors of the early 1800's to grow to maturity.

Throughout the mid-1800's, Camp continued to own and operate a large retail mercantile store, a regionally renowned flax mill on Trumansburg Creek, and loaned money and held mortgages. He was among those who founded the bank that evolved into the Tompkins County Trust Company and was the first president of that institution.

In 1847 he commissioned the building of the "Camp House." In this home he entertained both the local populace and wealthy acquaintances from around New York State. This building and the marker in Grove Cemetery are the only visual reminders of this once well-known resident of Trumansburg.

— **John Wertis**, Town of Ulysses Historian

EDGAR K. APGAR
(1842-1885)

Ithaca City Cemetery, Ithaca

Few Ithacans active in 19th century New York State politics and government have received the widespread press coverage or the posthumous recognition as did Edgar K. Apgar. Nominated but never elected to public office, Apgar was known for serving those who were, whether as confidant, advisor or campaigner. A young man of slight build, he was a diligent student and astute assessor of the populace, politicians and political matters, his insights conveyed in intimate conversations or by widely praised oratorical skills.

Edgar Apgar attended Yale University in 1859, subsequently joining the Army and then leaving to return to private life, studying law in a local



office. His involvement in political campaigns during the 1860s gave him audiences for his voice and ideas, and an opportunity to serve as a Clerk for Governor John T. Hoffman. Subsequent positions as Deputy State Treasurer and Deputy Secretary of State made Edgar Apgar a familiar Albany figure by the mid-1870s,

and his official and political activities often received notice—sometimes dramatic or satirical comment—in papers from Albany to New York City, Binghamton, Buffalo and beyond. Apgar himself did not hesitate to

communicate with the press, and would take an editorial position with a Worcester, Massachusetts paper for a time when he was not in Albany.

Participation in public and political life was not unusual in Edgar Apgar's family. His father, Peter, a carpenter and builder, had served as a Village of Ithaca trustee and would remain active in local Democratic activities. His older brothers, George W. and DeWitt J., would be involved in local journalism and hold appointed government positions. DeWitt served as Business Manager and co-proprietor with John H. Selkreg of the Republican-oriented *Ithaca Daily Journal* in the 1870s, while George, a bookseller and newsstand operator, would purchase a half interest in the *Ithaca Democrat* in 1889. Both men held Internal Revenue and U.S. Postal Service appointments, while DeWitt also held a post with the New York State Canal Commission in Albany.

Following his death in Albany on August 18, 1885, Edgar K. Apgar was buried at the family's gravesite in the Ithaca City Cemetery and was the subject of a memorial publication in 1886. He is more dramatically recognized by the large monument of reddish Long Meadow stone near the University Avenue entrance to the cemetery, erected in 1890 with funds raised by friends in Ithaca and Albany on a site donated by the City of Ithaca Common Council. The design of the monument and its bronze medallion with a bust of Apgar were by a young Albany artist, Charles M. Lang, while its roughly rounded surfaces with palm fronds and a laurel wreath surrounding an inscription were the work of stone carver Louis J. Hinton, one of the English artisans who had come to Ithaca in 1869 to work on Ezra Cornell's mansion and who had gone on to Albany where he was involved in carving decorative stonework at the new State Capitol.

—**Mary Raddant Tomlan**, City of Ithaca Historian

DANIEL JACKSON
(1814-1889)

Ithaca City Cemetery, Ithaca

Daniel Jackson's gravestone is a good example of a stone that captures important historical information about a formerly enslaved person who made his way to Ithaca via the Underground Railroad. The inscription reads:

"1814 FAITHFUL DANIEL JACKSON 1889, Born a slave, he followed the North Star to freedom. He returned to bring his aged Mother and ten-



derly cared for her as long as he lived. They were not long parted for she survived him but five days. Daniel was 75 and his Mother 103 Years of Age. This tribute belongs of right to Faithfulness and filial affection."

Born in Virginia, Daniel Jackson escaped from chattel slavery in 1858 and made his way to Ithaca. Edward S. Esty gave Jackson work at his tannery and mentored him. After the Civil War, Jackson returned to the South to search for and reunite with his mother. They then returned to Ithaca together and made their home on Green Street.

After Jackson's death in 1889, Esty wrote a tribute to him in the *Ithaca Journal* "Few of our citizens are aware that at one time Ithaca was an important station on a great thoroughfare known as the underground railway. The efficient agent of this organization was the pastor of Zion's church ... In all my life's experience I have never known such devotion and affection as well as honorable, conscientious discharge of duty as were exemplified in the life of Daniel Jackson."

—Historic Ithaca

SOPHRONIA E. BUCKLIN
(1828-1892)

Lake View Cemetery, Ithaca

Sophronia E. Bucklin was born in 1828 in Ithaca. As a young woman she worked in the children's orphanage in Auburn, New York but when Dorothea Dix, Superintendent of Nurses, put out a call in 1862 for nurses for the wounded, Bucklin responded. She was not yet 35, the age prescribed, and Dix refused her service, but Bucklin reported anyway and was put to work in the Judiciary Square General Hospital in Washington, D.C.. Bucklin spoke and wrote frankly about her experiences, noting that surgeons could make the lives of nurses miserable and she felt herself victim of authority, against whom she railed. She also discussed drunken doctors. Yet, she was a willing and comforting nurse to the wounded, sitting with them during their struggles with death, and comforted all, including the Confederate soldiers who were brought to Union hospitals. Sophronia Bucklin was one of the first nurses to arrive at Gettysburg and describes her army life in her book *In Hospital and Camp: A Woman's Record of Thrilling Incidents Among the Wounded in the Late War*, published in Philadelphia in 1869.



The book was intended to provide Bucklin with an income after the war; it did not, however, and she worked as a book agent, was on the list of those aided by the Newfield Poor master, and only received a Civil War

pension late in her life. The National Archives holds her pension file including letters of support from a variety of officers, including one from George Caldwell, professor of chemistry at Cornell University.

Regarding her service and pension, Assistant Surgeon of the 24th Pennsylvania Regiment wrote that she

“always discharged her duties faithfully and cheerfully. She never was called upon by those who were suffering for aid that she did [so] promptly. As regards her moral character it was whilst she was connected with me irreproachable.”

Sophronia Bucklin died in 1892. Her will is registered in the Tompkins County archives directing her estate to pay Lake View Cemetery Association \$25 for her cemetery lot and \$160.00 to her lawyer J. B. Storms to erect a “monument to myself.” The remainder of her estate was bequeathed to the State Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Ithaca. Bucklin’s plot is to the right, as one ascends Lake View Cemetery, nearly to the top of the first hill, according to Alan Chaffee, Town of Newfield Historian.

A monument to Sophronia Bucklin, and to the other three women of Tompkins County who served as nurses during the Civil War, was erected by the Tompkins County Civil War Commemoration Commission in 2016. It can be seen at Tompkins Cortland Community College, on the pathway to the main building. Four large silhouettes of nurses, dressed in blue with white aprons, each holding a lantern, commemorate the bravery of those women who went to help, when “War was no place for a woman,” as reported in Susan Graham’s *Aunt Becky’s Army Life* (N.Y. 1868) as told to Aunt Becky.

— **Carol Kammen**, Tompkins County Historian

WEALTHY HOOKER
(1825-1907)

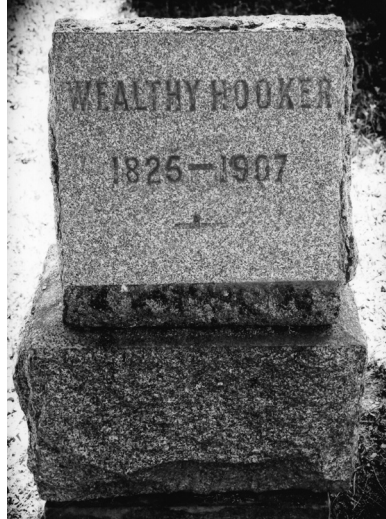
South Hill Cemetery, Ithaca

Wealthy Hooker's name on her gravestone causes us to smile, as 'hooker' became the name connected with the armies of "soiled doves" who followed and were encouraged by Major General Joseph Hooker's Civil War Army.

Our Wealthy Hooker, however, was born and named in 1825 and is sometimes listed as Wealta. She was never wealthy, as far as the records show, and was most likely not a "hooker."

She lived with her parents until their deaths, and then with her brother and his family in Danby afterwards. She worked as a seamstress, left a vague trail in the public records, and died in 1907. She willed what money she had, according to county records, to her nephew, Culver Little.

— **Carol Kammen**, Tompkins County Historian



ZACHARIAH TYLER
(1817-1896)
and
JOHN TYLER
(1845-1909)

Ithaca City Cemetery, Ithaca

Zachariah Tyler, his son John, and several others buried near them, are remembered because in December 1863 and January 1864 twenty-six African American men from Tompkins County enlisted at The African Church, now St. James AME Zion Church on Cleveland Avenue [then Wheat Street], to serve in the 26th United States Colored Infantry. The Emancipation encouraged black men to take their place in the ranks. New York was reluctant until it realized that many Black New Yorkers were enlisting in other states' regiments and so New York allowed Black men to join the United States Colored Troops (USCT) 20th and then the 26th regiment.

The regiment was presented its colors in New York City by John Jay and then boarded a ship, and sailed to South Carolina where the men partic-



ipated in a number of battles, including that at James Island. They also fought in Florida, finally ending the war in Brownsville, Texas, where they waited until August 1865 to return to their homes. Several other Black men from the county served in the 8th USCT recruited in Pennsylvania, one in the 32nd USCT and one in the 3rd USCT. Two of these soldiers were discharged for disability. Edward Sorrell was killed on December 24, 1864 in South Carolina while standing picket duty.

Young men enlisted first to prove that they were men and that they too, were Americans, true to the Union. They fought too, to free their brothers and sisters in the south from slavery.

John Tyler was born in 1845 in Ithaca, son of Zachariah and Julia Ann Tyler. On December 25, 1863 he enlisted in the USCT. Five days later, his father the Rev. Zachariah Tyler, age 46 enlisted to go to war with his son. Another father-son pair enlisted from Dryden, John and Edward Sorrell.

Rev. Zachariah Tyler returned to Central New York where he served in a number of different AME Zion parishes, maintaining his home on Plain Street. He was a widower and father of five children. On the adjacent lot, on Cleveland Avenue, John Tyler lived out his life as a laborer, white washer, and in the summer time as “the ice cream man.” Born enslaved in Maryland, Rev. Tyler died in 1896.

Others of the 26th USCT buried nearby in the City Cemetery are marked by regulation markers. There is a black granite monument, in the pocket park on Cleveland Avenue erected in 2013 by members of the St. James’ congregation and the Sons of Civil War Veterans that lists the names of the 26 soldiers from Ithaca and Tompkins County who served in the 26th Regiment.

— **Carol Kammen**, Tompkins County Historian

JANNETTE CONE WICKHAM
(1844 -1897)

Budd Cemetery, Town of Enfield



Jannette Wickham's gravestone is a granite carved tree trunk, an interesting example of gravestone art. Tree stones were popular from the 1880's to 1920's. Wickham was born in Enfield Falls to Henrietta Cone and Robert Wickham, owners of the Enfield Falls Hotel, located in the Robert H. Treman State Park. Jannette

Wickham was educated in the Elmira New York Female College and was the first women teacher of elocution in Girard College in Philadelphia. She moved to East 23rd Street, Manhattan, New York City around 1881. She taught in private schools and gave lessons in elocution. She performed at the Waldorf Hotel reciting interpretations of Robert Browning's poems. She became ill with Bright's Disease and died in Manhattan.

— **Sue Thompson**, Enfield Town Historian

DINAH TENBROOK
[Ten Broek] (1812-1902)

Pleasant Grove Cemetery, Ithaca

Dinah Tenbrook was born in 1812 in Ulster County; she grew up in the Bogardus family household, first as an enslaved person and later, as a servant. Her name is carved on the grave marker for the Bogardus family in Pleasant Grove Cemetery in the Town of Ithaca. The household was headed by Captain Jacob Bogardus (1784-1859) and Ann Bruyn Bogardus (1793-1865); they moved Lansing in 1833 where they purchased a 200+ acres farm and Tenbrook moved with the family then.

The state of New York's Emancipation Law eventually ended the institution of slavery on July 4, 1827. Minors would remain in place; men to the age of 28 and women to the age of 25.

She died in 1902 and census records show that Tenbrook was listed as a servant and remained so during her lifetime. On March 19, 1903, the *Ithaca Daily Journal* published "In Memory of Dinah," that gave her great praise and noted she was a respected member of the Lansing community.

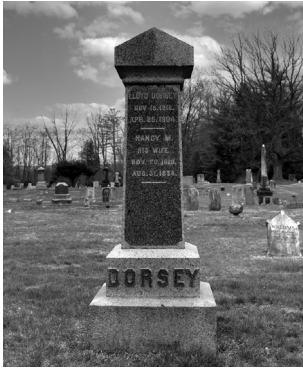


— **Historic Ithaca**

LLOYD DORSEY (1818-1904)

Grove Cemetery, Village of Trumansburg

On the outskirts of the village of Trumansburg a historic roadside marker identifies the former home of Lloyd Dorsey. Although no direct documentation has been found, according to *Landmarks of Tompkins County* and the *Free Press and Sentinel*, Dorsey was born enslaved in Maryland and escaped in the early 1840s, making his way first to Montrose, Pennsylvania, and then to Trumansburg. He



married Nancy M. Hemans, a free black woman from the Town of Caroline who had moved to Trumansburg, and is recorded as a member of the First Baptist Church of Trumansburg in 1839. Together they had nine children. Lloyd worked as a drayman, hired to move goods in and around Trumansburg with a horse and wagon. Nancy worked as a laundress and domestic.

In 1851 they purchased an acre of land for \$430 from Erastus R. and Mary Treman. At that time, African American males were required to own property valued at a minimum of \$250 in order to vote and Dorsey is believed to be the first African American to vote in the Town of Ulysses. As a landowner, Dorsey added market gardening to his regular work, which was hauling goods around the community. He won prizes at the Union Fair for his Northern Spy apples and Bartlett pears.

Dorsey died in 1904 at the age of eighty-five and is buried in Grove Cemetery. In 2014, the section of King Street that had long been known to locals as Dorsey Hill was officially named that and a marker put in place.

— Karen Laun

JULIA COOK **(1832-1908)**

Green Hills Cemetery, Town of Dryden

Julia Cook is remembered as a Civil War nurse. She was born in 1832 as Julia Rummer in Broome County and when orphaned, grew up in Dryden living with her grandparents. She married Enos Cook and they had two children. One was James H. Cook, who enlisted in the Civil War in 1861 in the 10th NY Cavalry. Shortly after, Enos enlisted. He fell ill at Lookout Mountain in Tennessee and died in December 1863.



Home alone, after her daughter married, Julia Cook attended a Sanitary Commission meeting in Dryden where there was a call for nurses. Cook volunteered, and made her way to Washington, D.C. She reported to Dorothea

Dix, who assigned her to the fever hospital in Washington where Julia Cook worked for thirteen days in 1864 until she fell ill and, as they said in those days, “was despaired of.” She was nursed at the Washington home of a friend and then returned to Dryden where she tended her orphaned grandchild. Julia Cook made a living as a seamstress.

In 1886, Cook received a Civil War widow’s pension of \$12 a month. In 1893, when Civil War Nurse pensions were offered, she was denied additional funds on the basis that she had never been enrolled as an official nurse. In 1888 her son John died and Cook became blind and bedridden. On her behalf, in 1903 a pension request was made to the federal com-

mittee on Invalid Pensions requesting an increase to \$30 a month to pay for someone to care for Cook. She died in 1908 at the age of 85.

The funeral for Julia Cook was held at the Methodist Episcopal Church of Dryden, with several local ministers taking part. A memoir of her life appeared in the *Northern Christian Advocate* (May 28, 1908) and her pension request to the House of Representatives can be seen in the 37th Congress, Report 3220. Julia Cook was buried in Green Hills Cemetery.

One of the final acts of the Tompkins County Civil War Commemoration Commission was to place a marker on her grave. The original marker had her name carved at the very bottom of the stone dedicated to her husband, Enos Cook. There is also a memorial stained-glass window in Cook's honor at the Dryden Methodist Episcopal Church. It is located behind a closed door.

In addition, there is a 2016 monument in the form of four large silhouettes dressed in blue, each holding a lantern, located at the entrance to the main building at the Tompkins Cortland Community College. The figures honor Julia Cook, Sophronia Bucklin, Susan Hall and Sarah Graham Palmer (also known as Aunt Becky) and to more than 20,000 women who were nurses during the Civil War.

— **Carol Kammen**, Tompkins County Historian

JOHN MILLER
(1843-1908)

Green Hills Cemetery, Town of Dryden.

John Miller was born October 29, 1843 at his parent's homestead on Irish Settlement Road in the Town of Dryden. At the age of 18, in 1861, Miller began clerking for J.W. Dwight & Co. and became Jeremiah Dwight's partner three years later. In 1879, he ventured into the Dakota Territory and helped organize the Dwight Farm and Land Company, consisting of 17,000 acres where he remained until 1889, when the territory was divided into North Dakota and South Dakota. He reluctantly accepted the nomination to



become the first Governor of North Dakota, elected November 20, 1889. He declined to run for re-election. In 1896, the family moved to Duluth, Minnesota where John organized a grain commission business.

When John Miller died October 26, 1908, his body was returned to his native Dryden and rests in Green Hills Cemetery, near his mentor,

Jeremiah W. Dwight. In 1910, Adelaide Miller, his wife, had a handsome family mausoleum constructed of granite in his honor, with the bronze star marker and the North Dakota flag, funded by North Dakota residents.

—**Deborah Fisher**, Dryden Town Historical Society

WELTHEA M. BACKUS MARSH (1841-1909)

Grove Rural Cemetery, Town of Groton

Mary Welthea Backus was born on January 2, 1841, the daughter of Artemus and Sophia (Mix) Backus. Reversing her first and middle names, she became known as Welthea Mary Backus. She lived all her life in Groton, New York.

Welthea married Dexter Hubbard Marsh at the Congregational Church in Groton on December 3, 1862. A founder of the First National Bank of



Groton, Dexter became president in 1890. He died of pneumonia on November 28, 1895, leaving Welthea with 1/3 of the bank stock. At the January 14, 1896 meeting of the Board of Directors, Welthea was elected president of the bank. Each following January through 1901 she was re-elected president of the bank.

Welthea also took control of Dexter's interests in Crandall Manufacturing

Company and the Groton Carriage Company. She was the eighth woman in the U.S. to be a bank president, the fourth in the state of New York; and the first in Tompkins County.

Welthea died at her home on Williams Street on October 23, 1909 from breast cancer. The Backus and Marsh families are buried in Section H of the Groton Rural Cemetery on Clark Street as recorded in the cemetery records and the *Groton and Lansing Journal*, Oct 27, 1909.

— **Rosemarie Tucker**, Town of Groton Historian

IRA M. DEAN
(1846-1912)

Grove Cemetery, Village of Trumansburg

Seeing Ira Dean's extremely simple gravestone, you would not guess that he had an original, well-developed sense of fun. His obituary tells a bit more: "In many respects he was a remarkable man. He was a mechanical genius, at his trade, blacksmith, he had few equals and no superiors. He was of a peculiarly happy and genial disposition, always seeing the bright side of the world. He had no enemies."



Dean was born in Covert, a bit north of Trumansburg where "he spent the larger portion of his life." His lasting claim to fame, initially the deep, dark secret of a hoax shared by just three or four, happened in July 1879, when the larger-than-life figure of a man (sculpted and planted by none other than Mr. Dean!) was unearthed at a construction site near today's Taughannock Overlook. For several months, this discovery was examined by the general admission-paying public, as well as learned gents, some of whom declared it a petrified man. Dean's family, who knew the secret, compiled a scrapbook of the affair, which included waggish poems that noted the Giant's ostensible kinship to the Cardiff Giant of ten years earlier. Thanks to coverage in the New York World, word of Dean's creation was picked up and reprinted in such far-flung venues as Kansas and Indiana.

Dean was employed in Trumansburg by the Gregg Iron Works, from which he gathered some of the components for his Giant. Eventually, he followed the Gregg concern to Ithaca where it evolved into Morse Chain.

Working there in 1912, he suffered a grievous accident and lost an arm. At first, in spite of this severe injury, he rallied and appeared to be mending, but within months, he went downhill and passed away. Dean was brought home to Trumansburg for burial.

— **S.K. List**, Village of Trumansburg Historian

WILLIAM H. MILLER
(1848-1922)

Lake View Cemetery, Ithaca

William H. Miller, undoubtedly the best-known Ithaca architect active during the half century around 1900, is buried in Lake View Cemetery, not far from the mausoleum he had designed for the Cornell family. Miller came to Ithaca in 1868 to enroll in newly founded Cornell University, where his interest in architecture led president Andrew D. White to offer him modest design opportunities and subsequently provide him with a set of the architectural journal, *The*



Builder. Although architecture was cited as Miller's major in his junior year, there would be neither a professor of architecture nor a degree program until the following year, and Miller left his studies in spring 1871, to open his own architectural office.

Within the first decade of his practice, Miller worked with a succession of three partners, and designed or remodeled more than thirty buildings—primarily residences, but also two hotels, two churches and a school. He traveled in Europe in 1874-75 and again in 1886, bringing back ideas, sketches and various architectural and decorative objects. Miller employed former Cornell architecture students, taking Phillips Mallory as his partner in 1914.

Miller's early association with Cornell President White set the stage for commissions from faculty members, fraternities, sororities, and the

university—Barnes Hall, University (now Uris) Library, Boardman Hall (demolished), Stimson Hall, and Risley Hall. Numerous alumni, benefactors, and their family members and associates erected Miller-designed buildings across New York State and in locations from Detroit and Chicago to Newport and Washington, D.C.

Whether in his own chalet-style frame dwelling, the dramatic McGraw-Fiske mansion (destroyed by fire) or the Greycourt Apartments; the Congregational (now Greek Orthodox), Baptist or Unitarian Churches; the Sage Block downtown; the Ithaca High School (now DeWitt Mall); or the Southworth Library in Dryden or Goodyear Memorial (now Groton Public) Library in Groton, Miller's creativity in the design of forms and spaces and use of materials confirms an 1896 observation that he had been, "kept more than busy making the world beautiful."

— **Mary Raddant Tomlan**, City of Ithaca Historian

DR. HERMANN M. BIGGS
(1859-1923)

Grove Cemetery, Village of Trumansburg

In Dr. Hermann M. Biggs, Trumansburg can claim a native son with truly international renown. He was born in Trumansburg, Town of Ulysses, in the family home on McLallen Street to Joseph Hunt Biggs and Melissa A. Pratt Biggs, on September 29, 1859. Biggs grew up in the village, then went on to study at Cornell University and to further medical education, becoming a physician, professor and an international pioneer in the field of public health.



Indeed, he became known as “the father of public health.” Specializing in bacteriology, he innovated distinguished work in combating and controlling infectious diseases, in particular tuberculosis. He was director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research when it was established in 1901, and his life sto-

ry was told by C. E. A. Winslow, himself a major figure in public health, in a biography over 400 pages long. Dr. Biggs was among the first medical experts to have a radio program, broadcasting over station WGY in Schenectady, NY on Friday evenings with discussions of common diseases and illnesses.

Biggs’s name is carved, alongside those of Louis Pasteur (who discovered vaccines for rabies and anthrax, and initiated the pasteurization of milk) and Joseph Lister (who established the critical importance of sterile surgery), and among some 20 others, on the frieze of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He was among the first commissioners

of health in New York State and, in 1908, was knighted for his work in the field of sanitation by the King of Spain.

At one time, the Tompkins County hospital buildings on West Hill were known as the Biggs complex. Following Biggs's death in 1923 at his home in New York City, his remains were returned to Trumansburg, for burial in Grove Cemetery.

A marker was placed at his birthplace in November 2019 in the Village of Trumansburg.

— **S.K. List**, Village of Trumansburg Historian

**WILLIAM REUBEN GEORGE, JR.
(1866-1936)**

Willow Glen Cemetery, Town of Dryden

William Reuben George, Jr., was born in 1866 on the family farm in West Dryden, New York. At the age of 14, he moved to New York City with his parents. There, he saw the poverty and lawlessness of youth in the city and established a relationship with some of the hooligans.

In 1890, with money from the New York Tribune Fresh Air Fund and help from his relatives and fellow parishioners, he brought a group of boys and girls to a rented farm in Freeville, New York. Each summer the group got larger, with churches and local citizens contributing to give the group a healthy summer break from their lives in New York City.

In 1894, after the realization that the children were expecting gifts of food and clothing, the concept of “Nothing without Labor” was adopted. After a case of thievery at the camp, Mr. George insisted the children find the culprit and decide among themselves, punishment. Thus, the concept of self-government arose and the “Junior Republic” idea was born.



1895 is considered the founding year of The George Junior Republic. That was the year “Daddy George” (as he came to be known) and several boys wintered in Freeville. Until his death in 1936, William George, Jr. consulted with and received scholars, politicians, penologists, and religious leaders from around the world. His ideas and philosophy led to the founding of other Junior Republics and were used extensively in prison reform movements.

William George, Jr. is buried in Willow Glen Cemetery, in Lot 4, Section 22, in Dryden, New York along with many members of the George family.

— **Patricia Sprague**, Historian, William George Agency

LYMAN H. GALLAGHER
(1874-1945)

Charles Mulks Cemetery, Slaterville Springs

Lyman H. Gallagher was born September 23, 1874 in Slaterville Springs, New York, to Dr. William Crawford and Samantha Lyman Gallagher. After attending school in Slaterville Springs, he graduated from Ithaca High School and then attended Cornell University graduating with a law degree in 1895. He practiced law in Cort-

land and sat as a City Judge in Cortland for four years. He also practiced law in Ithaca.

After the death of his father, Gallagher became the owner and manager of the “Dr. Gallagher Historical Collection,” noted as one of the finest collections in New York State. His love of history was seen in his collections, and especially in articles



he wrote for the *Ithaca Journal*, including: “Canaan in the Hills,” “Bald Hill,” “Connecticut Hill,” “Slavery in Caroline,” “Post Mistress Wattles,” “General Cantine,” “Ellis Hollow,” “Ludlowville” and “Lone Island.” He served as chairman of the Tompkins County Draft Board, census enumerator, and was a known as an authority on local history.

He died unexpectedly on July 4, 1945 in Cortland, New York at age 70 and was buried in the Charles Mulks Cemetery in Slaterville Springs, New York.

— **Barbara Kone**, Town of Caroline Historian

JUANITA BRECKENRIDGE BATES
(1860-1946)

Lake View Cemetery, Ithaca

In 1917 when New York voters—all males—considered the suffrage amendment, the husband of the leader of the Tompkins County Suffrage Association returned from voting to say he had forgotten to vote for the amendment. Was this a joke or true? Whatever the case, his wife, Juanita Breckenridge Bates would not have been amused.

Juanita Breckenridge was born in Illinois in 1860. She attended Wheaton College, received a divinity degree from Oberlin College and became pastor of the Brookton [now Brooktondale] Congregational Church. There, she met Frederick Elmer Bates, the Town Supervisor, married him, and moved to Ithaca early in 1895. She became an active community leader, member of the Women's Club, leader of the Equal Suffrage Club, and president of the Tompkins County Suffrage Association.

She was also the first woman to speak to the Ithaca City Council (about the issue of maintaining the health of city trees), and represented Tompkins County at the state level of the New York State Woman Suffrage Party. She was a registered Republican and thought sufficiently informed and well-known, to be suggested by the Tompkins County Democratic Party, as an appropriate person to hold political office—a dare to the Republicans to nominate a woman. She was never on a ballot, although she was a delegate to the state Republican Party convention.

She encouraged women to register to vote, insisting that the election bureau would not divulge their ages to the public, as she had listed her age and no one outside the officials knew it.

When New York failed to pass the Suffrage Amendment in 1915, she said “we will fall forward,” and went to work to see that women won the right to vote in 1917.

Her work is central to *Achieving Beulah Land: The Long Struggle for Suffrage in Tompkins County, New York* (Ithaca, 2019) by Carol Kammen, and Elaine D. Engst. The Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Service apartment building at the corner of Seneca and Cayuga streets in Ithaca was named in her honor.

— **Carol Kammen**, Tompkins County Historian

LIBBIE J. SWEETLAND
(1869-1958)

Green Hills Cemetery, Town of Dryden

Libbie J. Sweetland was an early leader for women's rights and an educator. She dedicated her whole life to advancing the study of nature and reading as the path to education for all.

Sweetland was born March 28, 1869 in Dryden and died December 16, 1958. She is buried in Section 2, Lot 28, Green Hills Cemetery, Dryden.

Sweetland was the first woman to be elected District School Commissioner in Tompkins County in 1899, a position she held for 10 years. At a time when men dominated all political roles, Sweetland won the election



with more than a 600-majority vote over her male incumbent competitor. She won with the votes of women in the school district who were deemed eligible to cast a ballot if they were taxpayers in the district or mothers of children in the schools.

Libbie J. Sweetland was a beloved teacher all her life. She taught in

area schools in Caroline, Dryden, Groton, Lansing and Moravia high schools, and for two years in Michigan. She was educated at Cortland Normal School and Cornell University, and held a Michigan State teaching certificate.

Sweetland was a member of the New York State Teachers' Association, State Science Association, National Education Association and a contributor to several educational publications of her day. She was a keeper of a botanical collection with specimens in Liberty Hyde Bailey Herbarium at

Cornell, and a founding member of Dryden Literary Club. Sweetland was skilled at encouraging students to observe nature and be curious. She offered premiums for their work at the Dryden Agricultural Fair.

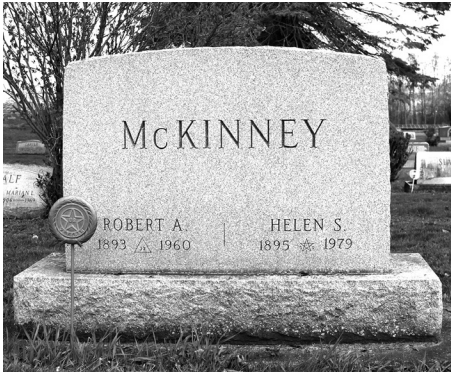
During WWII, Sweetland brought friendship and news from home through her correspondence with servicemen overseas.

—**Gina Prentiss**, Dryden Town Historical Society

ROBERT ASA MCKINNEY, DVM
(1893 – 1960)

Willow Glen Cemetery, Town of Dryden

Doc McKinney, as he was affectionately known to everyone, was a lifetime resident of Dryden. He received his veterinary medicine degree from Cornell in 1920. His studies were interrupted for two years while serving in France in WW I in the 306th Field Signal Battalion, 81st Division. After receiving his degree, Doc McKinney treated all animals, large and small, in Dryden and beyond in his private



practice, lasting until his death. He also served as Tompkins County veterinarian from 1921 until the office was eliminated in 1951. During his career he was a member of professional organizations, including the American Veterinarian Association, the NY State Veterinary Medical Society and the

Southern Tier Society. As a leader in civic affairs, Dr. McKinney was a member of the Dryden village board and mayor for two three-year terms and ran for town supervisor. He was president of the Board of Education when the Dryden and Freeville schools were centralized. He was the first commander of the American Legion in Dryden, and county legion commander. He served as chief of the Dryden Fire Company and president of the Tompkins County Fireman's Association. Dr McKinney was a high-ranking Mason. Most of all Dr. McKinney was a husband and father, with his wife raising their four daughters in Dryden, the town he loved.

— **Craig Schutt**, Independent historian

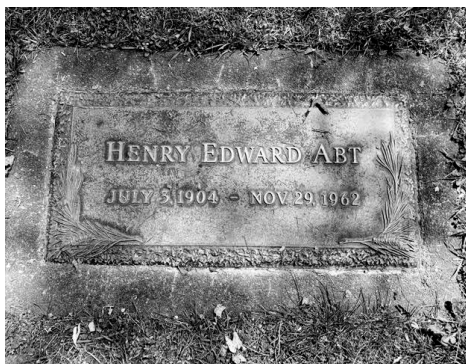
HENRY E. ABT
(1904- 1962)

East Lawn Cemetery, Ithaca

The twentieth century saw an uptick of interest in local history. Along with this, came the founding of historical societies and the appearance of pamphlets and books about the county.

One of those books was Henry E. Abt's *Ithaca*, published in 1926. The book is dedicated to Walter Francis Willcox, with "affection and gratitude," and published by Ross W. Kellogg, a regional tourism promoter

who issued the magazine, "*The Beautiful Finger Lakes Call You*," and other promotional literature issued by the Finger Lakes Association of New York.



Henry Edward Abt was born in Chicago in 1904. He came to Ithaca to study at Cornell University and graduated

1925. In 1924 he published a book, an unusual event for an undergraduate. This came about because Abt had taken a sociology course given by Walter R. Willcox, a legendary figure at Cornell at the time and around the world.

Abt's interest in disabled children was certainly prompted by Professor Willcox. His class paper was expanded and published by the International Society for Crippled Children, whom they called the "little unfortunates." It appeared in 1925 as *The Care and Education of the Crippled Child*. In 1925, this nomenclature was common but today, the correct verbiage a child with a disability.

Abt also created Abt & Associates, sales consultants, with two Cornelians while still an undergraduate. They published one or two issues of a magazine titled *Children*. Abt also worked as an advertising manager for Rothschild Brothers Department store in Ithaca, and then moved on to New York as an account executive for the United Advertising Agency in New York.

In 1927 Abt married Dorothy Van Antwerp of Montclair, New Jersey, an Ithaca Conservatory student. They lived in New York City where Abt eventually became the President of the Brand Names Foundation located on Madison Avenue. The Abt family also maintained a home on West Shore Drive in Ithaca. Abt was also known as an authority on local stamps, those issued by city postmasters before the Federal Government issued its first postage stamps in 1847.

While on a business trip in Nov. 1962, Henry Abt died at the age of 58. He is buried in the East Lawn Cemetery, Ithaca.

— **Carol Kammen**, Tompkins County Historian

SETH HARVEY STEVENSON (1889-1976)

Hayts Cemetery, Town of Enfield

Seth Harvey Stevenson was born on June 8, 1889 on Harvey Hill Road, son of S. Frank Stevenson and Carrie Harvey Stevenson. He graduated from Cornell University in 1912. He was on the Cornell track team and earned a medal. He married Norma Boice and fathered two children, Betty and Robert. Harvey and Norma lived on a dairy farm on Halseyville Road, their son Robert stayed on the farm in his adult life.



S. Harvey was a deacon of the Baptist Church of Enfield Center in 1917, elected at the first annual meeting. In 1923, he was a member of the building committee of the Enfield Valley Grange, which purchased land and contracted for the building that was dedicated on August 24, 1926. Harvey was also a Charter and Life

member of the Enfield Fire Company and building chairman in 1948 to oversee construction of Enfield Volunteer Fire Company House.

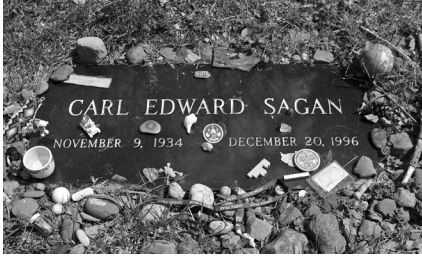
S. Harvey was a longstanding chairman of the Tompkins County Board of Supervisors from 1950 to 1961.

S. Harvey Stevenson, who died in 1976 is buried with his family in Hayts Cemetery. His parents, grandparents are located under the Harvey Monument, with other family members.

— Georgianna Stevenson

CARL SAGAN
(1934-1996)

Lake View Cemetery, Ithaca



Carl Sagan was a world-famous astronomer, cosmologist, astrophysicist, astrobiologist, author, science popularizer, and science communicator. Born in Brooklyn in 1934,

Sagan died of pneumonia on December 20, 1996. He is best remembered as a proponent for knowledge about the universe and in 1968, he became the director of Cornell University's Laboratory for Planetary Studies as the David Duncan Professor of Astronomy and Space Sciences. After residing in the Egyptian Revival-style building at 900 Stewart Avenue from 1981 to the mid-1990's, Sagan built a house on Tyler Road. He was often the object in Ithaca of "sightings."

He was on the team that selected the landing sites for the Viking probes on Mars, and created, with his wife Ann Druyan, the coded messages from Earth attached to Pioneer and Voyager space probes. Sagan was a dominant personality on the Cornell campus, and nationally. He gained a following due to his 26 television appearances in the 1970s and 1980s on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. Carson was known to don a black wig and perform Sagan impersonations delighting in parodying Sagan's phrase, "billions and billions." Sagan wrote a number of books, one of which, *The Dragons of Eden*, won the Pulitzer Prize for Non-Fiction in 1978. He was also the original writer, along with his wife and Steven Soter, of the popular television series, *Cosmos* and was a presenter on that show.

— **Carol Kammen**, Tompkins County Historian

PAUL MUNSON
(1930-2011)

McLean Cemetery, Village of McLean

Paul Munson, born November 24, 1930, was a volunteer firefighter and businessman in the village of McLean in Groton. According to his widow Julia, he worked hard as a car salesman but his real interest was in farming. He owned a small piece of land that he carefully tended for many years. Paul Munson died September 12, 2011 and he was buried in McLean Cemetery.

His grave marker is a dark rose-colored stone with the image of a tractor etched on it. Opposite the tractor is the figure of a couple walking hand-in-hand off into the distance.



Paul's birth and death dates are etched into one side of the stone; Julia's birth date is seen on the other. Engraved above those is the date of their marriage. On the foundation stone someone placed three

small model tractors, echoing the carved tractor above. A crisp flag of the McLean Volunteer Firefighters stands on one side of the stone, and fresh and colorful mixed flowers adorn a pot on the other.

This beautiful and moving tribute to Paul Munson is a wonderful modern example of an ancient practice of using grave markers to honor the dead. Funerary art and architecture, and the cemeteries in which we find them can tell as much about a community as do the homes of the living.

— **Donna Eschenbrenner**, Archivist
The History Center in Tompkins County

CONSTANTINE “GUS” PERIALIS
(1935-2011)

Lake View Cemetery, Ithaca

Gus” Perialas became at the end of his life, the Eminence Metropolitan Epiphanius of Vryoula in the Greek Orthodox Church. “Gus” was born on January 23, 1935 in Ithaca, New York. His parents were Georgia and Alexander Perialas. “Gus” attended Cornell University, began graduate work at Fordham University, and earned a Doctorate from Syracuse University where he served as the debate coach while also teaching secondary school English, Speech and Drama.



For 29 years, Professor Perialas taught Speech Communication at Ithaca College where he was also chair of the department and Vice President for Student and Campus Affairs. In 1997 the college established the Perialas Prize in his honor.

In 1984, Perialas was ordained, taking at that time the name Epiphassios. The next year he was elevated to Archimandrite and served in a number of parishes, including fifteen years at St. Catherine’s Greek Orthodox Church in Ithaca. In 2003 he became the Metropolitan of Spain and Portugal. He also helped establish a Greek Orthodox Church in Hong Kong and served the church in a number of other places. Upon his retirement in 2007, the church named him Metropolitan of Vryoula. After his travels, Father Perialas returned to Ithaca, where he died in 2011.

— **Carol Kammen**, Tompkins County Historian

MARY RIDGWAY TINKER (1908-2014)

Lane Cemetery, Town of Caroline

Anyone who lived in the town of Caroline for most of their lives or at least before 1998 (when she retired) has a story about the town's beloved practicing physician, Dr. Mary Ridgway Tinker. Born in 1908 and passing away at the age of 106 in 2014; Dr. Tinker was born in Caroline and was named after her aunt who was a doctor in Philadelphia. When she was born, her father proclaimed that she would



be a doctor like her namesake. His prophecy proved true as she would go on to be a student at Cornell Medical School.

When she completed her degree, she returned home to become the next town doctor after her own childhood doctor passed away. From that time on, Dr.

Mary was a practicing doctor in the Caroline area having regular office hours in the mornings and then taking off in her well-known jeep to make house calls to those who couldn't make it to see her on their own. To quote from her obituary: "Perhaps the 'awards' she most appreciated were the baskets of fresh strawberries, the plates of Christmas cookies, the boxes of Valentine's chocolate or the birthday cards that her patients gave her."

Dr. Mary married Dr. Martin Tinker Jr. and whose father Martin Tinker Sr. was a surgeon. Dr. Mary is buried in the Lane Cemetery on White Church Road in the hamlet of Brooktondale with her husband.

—Jennifer Johnson, Town of Caroline Deputy Historian

Resources

- **Ithaca City Cemetery**
<https://www.cityofithaca.org/173/City-Cemetery-Records>
- **Lake View Cemetery**
<http://lakeview-ithaca.org/>
- **Willow Glen Cemetery**
<https://www.willowglencemetery.org/wg/index.php>
- **Historic Ithaca**
www.historicithaca.org
- **The History Center in Tompkins County**
<https://thehistorycenter.net/>
- **Tompkins County Historian**
<https://www2.tompkinscountyny.gov/historian>
- **Find-A-Grave**
<https://www.findagrave.com/>

Upon visiting a Tompkins County cemetery, please go with care and respect for those who are buried there and their families.

If you do go, use Find-A-Grave for most cemeteries and of grave-stone locations. Some gravestones are not easily located even with the resources provided online. The large cemeteries that have web-sites are noted above; but many do not.