



WHERE ARE THEY SLEEPING?

A COMPLETE LISTING OF CEMETERIES & BURIAL SITES

COMPILED BY:
GENESEE COUNTY HISTORIAN
&
MUNICIPAL HISTORIANS

FIRST PRINTING – 1997
SECOND PRINTING – 2000

A GUIDE TO

GENESEE COUNTY

NEW YORK

CEMETERIES

AND BURIAL SITES

Bicentennial Book
No. 2

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And
The Municipal Historians
Of
Genesee County

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DEDICATION

The Genesee County Historians Association began working on this book in 1995. During the past two years our Association lost two former members and an active member. This book is dedicated to them as a tribute to their devotion to local history.

MARTHA SAILE

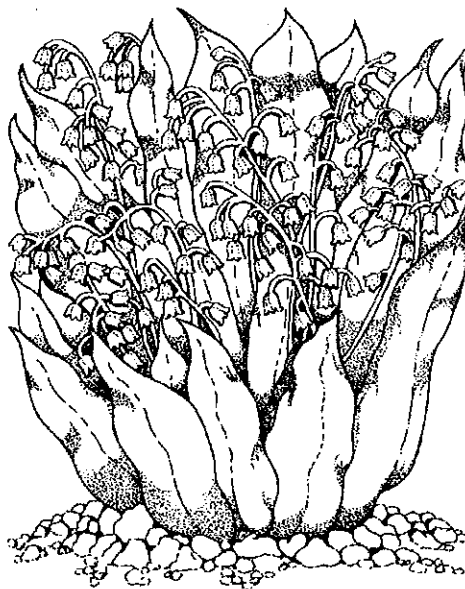
Served as the Town of Batavia Historian
1975 - 1981

MARION BOWMAN

Served as the Town of Batavia Historian
1982 - 1992

WANDA MAC VEAN

Served as the Town of Bergen Historian
1989 - 1997



*"Those who believe in me,
even though they die, will live ..."*

John 11:25

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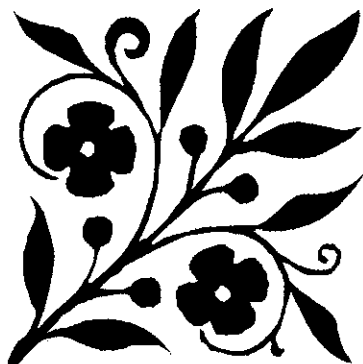
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CEMETERY INFORMATION DIRECTORY



INTRODUCTION

In Genesee County there are approximately 110 cemeteries and burial sites. It is important to preserve our cemeteries as they provide a wealth of information about local families and the development of communities. Soldiers graves often have been identified by military organizations, prominent citizens are noted by elaborate stones, and children are lovingly beheld by angels or lambs.

Genealogists use cemeteries to track descendants. Sometimes a headstone is the only record of an individual and the information may provide the date of birth and death, who they married and their occupation. School teachers use cemeteries as an extended classroom for teaching local history. Students discover the first settlers, realize the effects wars have on a town, and collect funny epitaphs. Historians record stones to preserve the data. Due to the effects of our environment, stones are slowly disintegrating and we are losing an important resource.

During 1996 the Municipal Historians assisted the History Department with creating this guide to cemeteries. They carefully recorded each cemetery and burial site, which provided the foundation for this project. The book is arranged alphabetically by town with a location map. Each cemetery's listing includes:

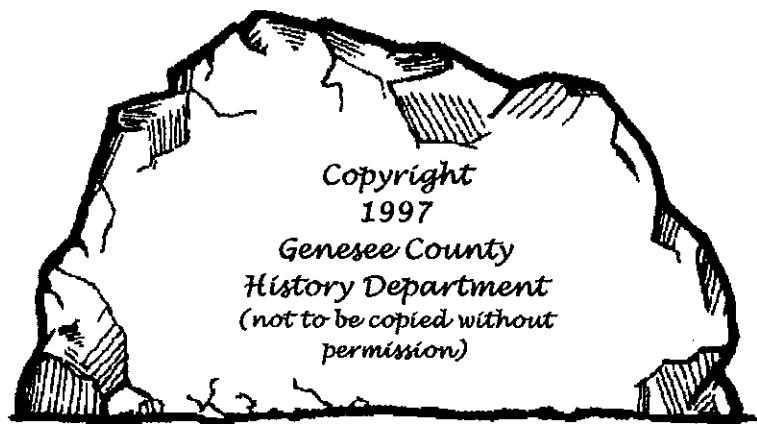
1. The **NAME** of the cemetery as it is most commonly referred to and names it may also have been called.
2. The geographical **LOCATION**.
3. If the cemetery is **ABANDONED** (no longer being used).
4. The **FIRST BURIAL** (if known).
5. If the department has copies of the burial listing, which is identified by **GCHD** (Genesee County History Department).

Occasionally other information is also provided. During 1952 Mr. LaVerne C. Cooley compiled a listing of Tombstone Inscriptions from the Abandoned Cemeteries and Farm Burials of Genesee County. If an abandoned cemetery is listed in this publication it is noted along with the page number.

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Throughout this book you will find epitaphs, art work, and useful information. The goal of this project was to record each cemetery and to encourage people to visit them. If you require additional information please contact your local Municipal Historian or the Genesee County History Department.

Susan L. Conklin
Genesee County Historian
1997



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cemetery Information Provided By:

ALABAMA (Town) - Edward Harrison
ALEXANDER (Town & Village) - Katie Goodman, Historian
BATAVIA (Town) - Scott Benz, Elba Historian **
BATAVIA (City) - Corrine Iwanicki, Historian
BERGEN (Village) - F. E. (Tally) Almquist, Historian
BERGEN (Town) - Wanda MacVean, Historian
BETHANY (Town) - Ellen Kingdon, Historian
BYRON (Town) - Dora Jones, Historian
DARIEN (Town) - Elmer Heiman, Historian
ELBA (Town & Village) - Scott Benz, Historian
LEROY (Town & Village) - Irene Walters, Historian
OAKFIELD (Town & Village) - Herbert Wolcott, Historian
PAVILION (Town) - Virginia Rigoni, Historian
PEMBROKE (Town) - Lois Brockway & Shirley Kern, Historians
STAFFORD (Town) - Martha Heddon, Historian

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Lois Brockway, Genesee County History Department Clerk
Typing and Layout Design

Bob Patterson, Genesee County Planning Department
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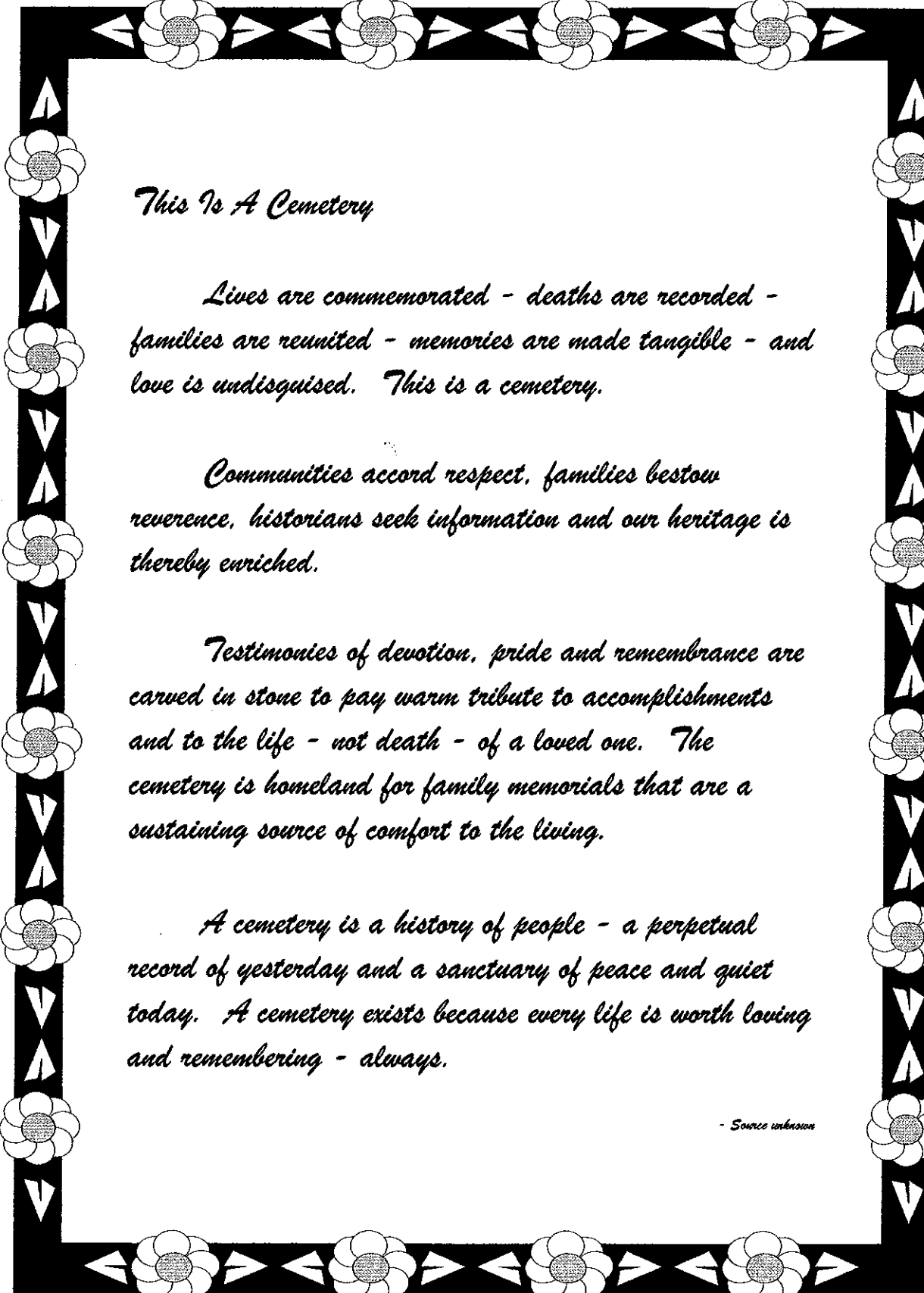
Clif White, Genesee County Printing
Printing

Christauf Wright, Art Student at Pembroke High School
Creative Pen and Ink Drawings

Genesee County Historians Association
Providing Funding to Print This Book

Masonic Lodge of Batavia #475
Financial Assistance

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This Is A Cemetery

Lives are commemorated - deaths are recorded - families are reunited - memories are made tangible - and love is undisguised. This is a cemetery.

Communities accord respect, families bestow reverence, historians seek information and our heritage is thereby enriched.

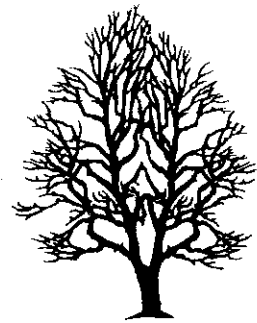
Testimonies of devotion, pride and remembrance are carved in stone to pay warm tribute to accomplishments and to the life - not death - of a loved one. The cemetery is homeland for family memorials that are a sustaining source of comfort to the living.

A cemetery is a history of people - a perpetual record of yesterday and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today. A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving and remembering - always.

- Source unknown

PLANTS GROWN IN A CEMETERY OR
CARVED ONTO STONES
AND THEIR MEANINGS

DAISY	Innocence
FORGET-ME-NOT	True Love
GRAPE OR GRAPE VINES	Emblem of Christ "I am the Vine"
HONEYSUCKLE	Resurrection
IRIS	Protection
IVY	Friendship or Remembrance
LILY	Purity or Resurrection
LILY OF THE VALLEY	Humility
MORNING GLORY	Resurrection
MYRTLE	Love or Triumph
OAK	Strength, Endurance or Majesty
PINE AND CONE	Fertility and Regeneration, or Healing
POINSETTIA	Birth of Hope
POMEGRANATE	Resurrection



PLANT'S GROWN IN A CEMETERY OR
CARVED ONTO STONES
AND THEIR MEANINGS

DOPPY	Sleep, Rest, or Consolation
PRIMROSE	Love, Memory, Youth or Sadness
ROSE	Human Love or Passion
SHAMROCK	Trinity
THISTLE	Sin or Fall of Man
TULIP	Charity or Love
VINE	Blood of Christ or Followers of Christ
VIOLET	Modesty
WILLOW	Grief



GRAVESTONE SYMBOLS AND THEIR MEANING

- ANGEL Messenger of God to Man
- ANCHOR Hope or Safety
- BIBLE Charity
- BOOK (Open) Perfect Knowledge
 (Closed) Concealed from Man
- DOVE Spirit of God, Spiritual Peace
- HAND (Clasped) Fellowship of Love
 (Single Hand with a Finger Pointing Up) Rest in Heaven
 (Shaking) Meeting in Heaven
- I.H.S. or
I.H.C. Greek Letters = "Jesus, Saviour of Man"
- LAMB Innocence or Modesty
- ROSE Human Love or Passion
 (If you find a hand folding a rose that is broken it is usually for
 a young woman who died before becoming a mother.)
- URN Death (A vessel for ashes of a cremated body)
 This motif was borrowed from Greek and Roman Art.
- WILLOW Grief or Sadness

TOMBSTONES

1790 - 1830 Slate or Sometimes Sandstone
(These stones were also used for children stones into the mid 1840's)

1830 - 1840 Hard Marble
Popular Motifs: Weeping Willows and Urns

1840 - 1870 Softer Marble
Decorative Designs and Cursive Inscriptions

1870 - 1900 Marble, Cast Iron, Zinc Alloy ("White Bronze")
Creative Designs: Books on Pedestals, Tree Trunks and Monuments

1900-2000 Polished Granite
Bold Lettering to Computer Generated Designs

KEY

The following terms are used in this directory:

The numbers assigned to cemetery descriptions will match the # symbols on the corresponding map locations.

Name or Names of Cemetery

Location

Type of Cemetery (active, inactive or abandoned)

First Burial (if known)

GCHD - Indicates records are available at the Genesee County History Department

Cooley's - Refers to: *"Tombstone Inscriptions from the Abandoned Cemeteries and Farm Burials of Genesee County"* by LaVerne C. Cooley

Epitaphs - Are from Local Cemeteries although not not necessarily from the cemetery on the page they appear.