



Cortland Rural Cemetery

110 TOMPKINS STREET • CORTLAND, NEW YORK 13045

MEMORIAL DAY 2004

Alice Cately Ettling

By CHRISTINE BUCK

Alice Cately Ettling's story is one of remarkable achievement for a woman of her time. How she lies in an unmarked grave in Section G of Cortland Rural Cemetery, just a few feet from Civil War hero Major Andrew Grover.

Born to a pioneer carriage and wagon maker Shepard W. Cately in 1850, Alice's family moved to Cortland from Tully when she was a young girl. Her father had ceased manufacturing and taken a sales position with wagon manufacturers Fitzgerald & Kinney.

Alice attended the Cortland Normal school and graduated with its second class in 1871. She taught for a few years, then trained at the New York Hospital to become a nurse. In 1881 she married Henry Ettling of Cortland, had a son Henry Cately Ettling, and was widowed in four short years at the age of 35.

While poor health and advancing years caused her father's retirement, he continued inventing carriage improvements, always the ingenious inventor. In partnership with Alice as *Cately & Ettling*, the two began manufacturing carriage specialties in 1888. Alice must



*Mrs. Alice Cately Ettling
circa 1890*

have learned well from her father, for she continued the business after his death in 1898. She excelled as a businesswoman, receiving medals, diplomas, and special recognition from her peers for marketing her father's inventions and seeing that they were adopted by the largest carriage manufacturers.

The 1899 *Grip's Historical Souvenir of Cortland* recounts her business successes as, "proprietor of patents known as Cately Carriage Attachments." Words of description included, "active, shrewd and enterprising business woman."

Mrs. Ettling was given credit for having furnished the capital to develop and manufacture her father's inventions and for marketing them nationwide.

Most noteworthy were the buggy prop spring and lever which raised and lowered the buggy top. Mrs. Ettling was touted as having been the only lady exhibitor at the National Carriage Builders' Association events and expositions over a period of many years. In a man's world of manufacturing, she recounted that she had always been treated with courtesy and had been given a cordial welcome by all.

She continued the business until 1916, in the last few years with the assistance of her son. The advent and popularity of the horseless carriage no doubt brought a halt to her business, along with numerous other Cortland wagon and buggy concerns.

Her activities in Cortland were many. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, The Eastern Star, the Tioughnioga Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Twentieth Century Club.

Along with three other ladies, she raised funds to start Cortland's first hospital and served on its board of lady managers. She was an organizer of the Red Cross in Cortland and was a life member of the Gideons (providers of Bibles to hotel rooms).

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The Cately / Ettl ing residence at 64 Lincoln Avenue, 1890s. Left to right: Shepard Cately seated in the carriage; Alice Ettl ing on the steps; and young boy with bicycle, perhaps Henry Ettl ing? The house still stands in a modernized state.

From 1920 on, Mrs. Ettl ing divided her time between Cortland and her son's home in Massachusetts. Her death from pneumonia came in 1924 while visiting California to care for her ill sister.

Her obituary remembered her as, "alive, alert, systematic and business like. Personally she was kindly, cordial and friendly, which accounted for the host of friends which she had all over the country."

In addition to her sister, Mrs. Ettl ing was survived by her son, Henry Cately Ettl ing of Springfield Massachusetts. Her remains were brought to Cortland, where she was buried next to her husband in the Cortland Rural Cemetery.

From teacher and nurse; wife and single mother; manufacturer and marketer; community fundraiser and benefactor; Alice Cately Ettl ing was a success.

Now, a bit of 21st Century internet sleuthing tells more of the story. Henry Cately Ettl ing, Jr. of Massachusetts, born in 1932, died in West Virginia. Henry Cately Ettl ing, III of West Virginia, born in 1932, died in Ohio. In 2003 two sons survived, Henry B. Ettl ing of Texas and John F. Ettl ing of South Carolina, great-great-grandsons of Alice Cately Ettl ing. Do they know of their Cortland connection? 🍄

Sources:

"Grip's" Historical Souvenir of Cortland
The Cortland Standard

Runaway in a Cemetery

By CHRISTINE BUCK

From the *Cortland Standard* October 22, 1885

On Thursday afternoon last, as Superintendent Darwin Totman of the (Cortland) Rural Cemetery was at work with his horse and dump wagon drawing stone in the west portion of the cemetery, Mrs. Frank M. Miller, of this place accompanied by Mrs. George Sears of Syracuse, drove to within about fifty feet of him where they stopped and called to him.

Superintendent Totman left his horse and went to the carriage of the ladies. Chancing to look back he saw his horse coming on a mad run towards him. The carriage occupied by the two ladies stood directly in the course of the runaway, and Mr. Totman saw at once that he must either turn his horse aside or there would be a collision.

As the horse came upon him he grasped its head and succeeded in turning the animal partially away, but was thrown to the ground himself and run over, the dump wagon striking the ladies' carriage hard enough to tip it over and throw them out.

Mr. Totman's horse continued on its way through the cemetery, freeing itself from the wagon and running down Tompkins Street. The other horse followed, and when opposite the residence of Clayton Rowley, a number of persons attempted to stop it, causing it to turn into the yard when it struck a post, and was brought to a standstill. Mr. Totman's horse was stopped on Port Watson Street.

Mrs. Miller's carriage was badly broken and her horse lamed a little, but the ladies fortunately escaped injury. Superintendent Totman was considerably bruised about the hips, legs and head, but escaped serious harm. 🍄

Your Donations Needed— *Trees, Roads & General*

The Cemetery Foundation needs you to continue your generous support of our efforts to maintain roads, plant trees, repair buildings and educate others about our beautiful, historic Cemetery.

Donations can be made in the name of a family member or friend you wish to honor. Our new tree plantings are usually provided for that way. Large trees can be planted for a \$300 donation and ornamental trees for a \$250 donation.

Road repair is expensive, but long lasting and it generally costs about \$20,000 for each segment of work we do. Many donations go into each repaving project and we all benefit from those repairs. Any size donation is helpful in road repair. We are in the process of soliciting prices and will be repairing another section of road in 2004.

General unrestricted donations are needed to cover the cost of our newsletters, fundraising mailings, administrative costs, audit and tax return preparation and the like. We make every effort to use your donations efficiently and effectively to provide maximum benefit to our donors and lot owners.

Checks can be addressed to the Cortland Rural Cemetery Foundation at P.O. Box 288, Cortland, NY and are fully tax deductible. 🌳

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New Public Mausoleum Nearing Completion!

The Cortland Rural Cemetery has been constructing a new Public Mausoleum in the rear annex to the Cemetery Chapel. The first phase in a series of planned mausoleum construction projects, this mausoleum will allow the public an affordable option for permanent entombment above ground. This is a first for the Cortland area.

Designed by Schopfer Architects of Syracuse, a firm well experienced in the mausoleum construction field, the first phase contains 36 crypts and initial construction began during the winter of 2002-03. The actual crypts are now complete and able to be used. New doors will be installed soon along with new ceilings, light fixtures and some painting to finish the project. Completed in rose and white Italian Marble, the Mausoleum is already striking in appearance.

The second and third phases of the Mausoleum will contain cremation niches along with more crypts for casket interment. And the Cemetery already offers cremation niche spaces for sale inside the beautiful historic Chapel. The Cemetery, while historic in origin, is providing a full range of contemporary choices for your loved one's final resting place.

Pricing of the Mausoleum crypts and cremation niches are comparable or less than the total cost of a mid-price range traditional ground burial and memorialization.

If you are interested in the purchase of a Mausoleum crypt, or a niche, or would like more information, please call the Cemetery Superintendent Andrew Palm at 607-756-6022 for an appointment. 🌳

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Foundation Receives Support from Tompkins Trust Company

Tompkins Trust Company has, for the second year in a row, made a very generous contribution of \$3,000 toward the cost of the improvements being made to the Cemetery Chapel. With this support, the Cemetery can install door and handicap access improvements for the new public Mausoleum being built in the rear of the Chapel.

Last year's contribution from Tompkins Trust Company is allowing us to complete



lighting, security and electrical system improvements for the Mausoleum.

Tompkins Trust Company has a full service local banking office in Cortland located on the corner of Clinton Avenue and Church Street. In addition to traditional community banking services, they also offer Trust and Investment services in their Cortland

Office.

The Cemetery Foundation solicits the support of various businesses and private foundations and these larger gifts along with the many gifts of individuals are what enable us to continue to make improvements to the Cemetery's buildings and grounds.

We'll continue to keep you updated from time to time on the generous business and foundation support we receive.



Cortland Rural Cemetery Foundation

Post Office Box 288

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