



Cortland Rural Cemetery

www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com

110 TOMPKINS STREET • CORTLAND, NEW YORK 13045

Spring 2013

SPIRITED VOLUNTEERS BID FAREWELL TO WINTER IN A FOUR-HOUR SWEEP-OUT DAY

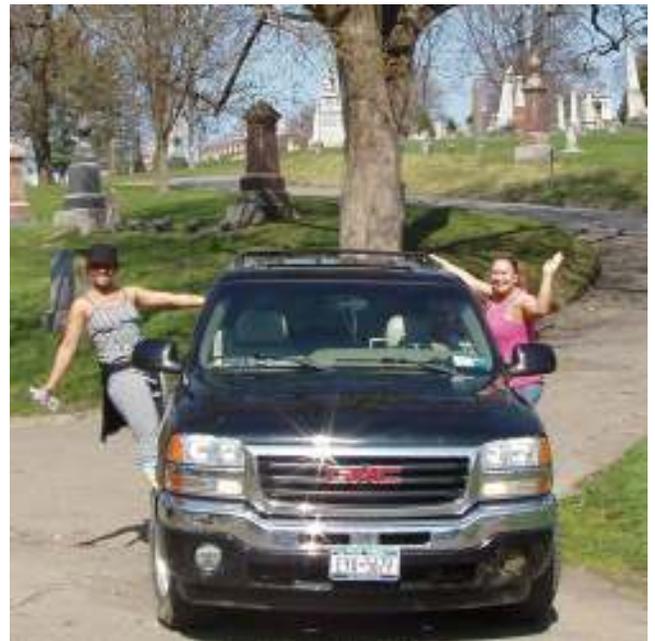
Evidencing fine community support and reflecting the energy of a rolling and rollicking athletic team that invigorated their fellow volunteers, the Crown City Rollerz led over 60 "Cemetery Sweep-out Day" participants in an effort to clean out winter debris and help prepare the grounds for late Spring and early Summer visitors.



The event was held on April 27, a beautiful Saturday morning.

Everyone knows what departing Winter leaves: broken branches and twigs blown to the ground by frigid gales, festoons of dead leaves clustered around gravestones and clinging to low-lying bushes, remains of plastic flower pots overturned by the wind and shattered by alternating freezes and thaws.

Organized by John Hoeschele, President of the CRC Board of Trustees, this first clean-up event for the Cemetery (potentially an annual or semi-annual affair) was sponsored by the Crown City Rollerz, a competitive roller derby league based in Cortland. Numbering about two dozen, members of the team are strong and motivated women who train hard, respect their teammates, and love the sport of roller derby as well as community-based philanthropy. Accompanied by their spouses, friends, and even some of their fans, the group provided both the



-- Continued on page 2

SWEEP-OUT DAY-- *Continued from page 1*



“womanpower” and the spirit that enlivened the undertaking.

Not to be overlooked were the lively members of Girl Scouts Brownie Troop based at Barry School, who could be seen clawing and pulling with all their might at the ancient ropes of dead ivy encasing the brick walls of the office building. (Incidentally, Mr. Hoeschele organized a half-dozen work crews from among the volunteers, giving them whimsical names such as “Flower Pot Patrol,” “Chapel Crew,” “Jewish Section Sentinels,” and “Stick-picker-uppers.”)

Members of the two Cemetery Boards were also on hand demonstrating their support by trimming overgrown bushes, clearing underbrush, planting decorative

flags along the Cemetery entrance drive, or donating treats and supplies for the event.

Also singled out for special recognition should be William Wood of the Cortland Water Department who volunteered his time running a very large front-end loader belonging to the Department up and down the hill ferrying leaves, twigs, and other debris to the collection area. The accumulated rubbish is to be picked up by the City’s Department of Public Works which has generously, agreed to contribute manpower, a front-end loader, dump truck, and fuel for this purpose.



All in all, it was a beautiful Spring Day blessed with sunshine and good spirits. Coffee, drinks, brownies, cookies, and similar rewards carried the volunteers through four hours of good work. And in short order, the cemetery looked much nicer -- and was better prepared -- for summer!

More information about this year’s sponsors may be found at: www.crowncityrollerz.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

Way back in memory -- probably 1942 or 1943 -- older campus school students (with supervision!) occasionally used the back, west-facing hill of the Cemetery (at the time unused for burials) for after-school sledding and tobogganing. After the fun we’d return to school (the whole College was in Old Main then) to make hot chocolate.

-- Jean Seligmann



CORTLAND ARCHITECT CARL W. CLARK, DESIGNER OF SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE

Visits through Cortland Rural Cemetery make us aware of the beautiful and often unique monuments. Names of the deceased are usually visible, but the designer or craftsperson responsible for them is generally a mystery. Two architects of major achievements in multiple areas of construction with strong connections to Cortland, are George Conable who designed the cemetery's chapel and was previously honored in these pages, and Carl Wesley Clark, whose work is seen in the Superintendent's home. Built in 1928 in the Tudor style, the house features prominent cross gables, a steeply pitched roof, and decorative half-timbering above the entry porch. Set back from the busy traffic scene, the home has retained much of its large lawn from the encroaching Tompkins Street.

It was fortunate for the city that Clark married Ann Taylor of Pitcher, as Cortland was the closest city to her home town without an architect. Born in Denver and educated in Brooklyn, Clark went to work for a general contractor in New York City from 1908 to 1911 while attending night school for a year at Cooper Union for his professional studies. His draftsman skills were recognized by his next employer who encouraged him to attend the University of Pennsylvania's College of Architecture's special two-year program which he completed in 1914. Later that year he opened his first office in Cortland in the Squire's Building with its high clock tower. War in Europe put a shadow on local building; Clark's first year's gross was only \$700.

Few people influenced the education of New York State's youth more than Carl Wesley Clark who was responsible for the design and construction of more than 150 primary and secondary schools during the mid-twentieth century. His architectural achievements also included libraries, churches, residences, commercial and industrial buildings, college facilities, as well as additions to and remodeling of a large number of buildings.

Margaret I. "Gibby" Gibson, a long time friend and supporter of the Cortland Rural Cemetery and a board member of the Cortland Rural Cemetery Foundation passed away January 22, 2013. Margaret's generous nature and community spirit was legendary, her interests many and diverse. Her love of both the Cortland and Ithaca communities was proven by the number of local organizations she supported both financially and with her strong leadership skills. As a board member of the Cortland Rural Cemetery Foundation she was instrumental in persuading others to give to the Cemetery. Not only did Margaret solicit donations from others but she and her brother, Charles, were responsible for the largest share of the nearly \$300,000 raised during the Foundation's 2008 Endowment Campaign.

The Gibson Chapel, named in honor of Charles and Margaret, was of special interest to her. She financially supported needed repairs and improvements. She is now permanently inurned in a glass niche in the Gibson Chapel.

The loss of Margaret leaves a large void in our Cemetery family. To take a quote from Margaret's obituary "She will be remembered as a little lady with a big heart, a great sense of enthusiasm for life and a wicked sense of humor". There was a simple phrase that Margaret felt strongly about and thought should epitomize the cemetery, "Lest we forget". Margaret "Gibby" Gibson will not be forgotten.

A few examples of his work are the Fernery of the 1890 House, the sunroom area of Alumni House, both A. B. Parker and Randall Schools, the bungalows along Huntington St. (built for Smith-Corona workers), and the Cortland Free Library. In 1946 Clark relocated his firm to Syracuse, but Cortland continued on his drawing board. Between 1949 and 1966 he received his largest academic commission of twelve buildings for today's SUNY Cortland: Brockway Hall (for which Clark is said to have convinced George Brockway to donate \$100,000), the Moffett Center, Neubig Memorial Hall, and nine residence halls.

His son Richard led the business after Carl Clark retired in 1972. Clark died at his Fayetteville home on November 7, 1985 at the age of 92. Among his honors, he was a fellow of the American Institute of Architecture. Carl Clark maintained his Cortland connection as a life member of the Cortland Country Club.

-- Mary Ann Kane

Cortland Rural Cemetery Trustees

Mr. John Hoeschele, *President*
Mr. Robert Morris, *Vice-President*
Mrs. Helen Hart, *Secretary*
Mr. Stephen Pearsall, *Treasurer*
Ms. Kathryn Cincotta
Mr. Warren Eddy
Ms. Patricia Place
Mr. Mark Suben

Cortland Rural Cemetery Foundation Directors

Mr. Robert C. Howe, *President*
Mrs. Deborah Geibel, *Vice-President*
Mrs. Elizabeth S. Spaulding, *Treasurer*
Dr. James M. Clark, *Secretary*
Mrs. Carol Brewer Fenton
Mr. John Finn
Ms. Mary Ann Kane
Mrs. Dianne Robinson
Mrs. Jean Seligmann



Spaces in the Gibson Chapel are available in its public mausoleum and its columbaria for cremation remains. The Chapel may also be used for memorial and other services. Please call the Cemetery office at (607) 756-6022 for costs and other information.

Tax-deductible gifts to preserve and enhance the Cemetery may be made to the Foundation. Checks should be made out to the Cortland Rural Cemetery Foundation.



Cortland Rural Cemetery Foundation

Post Office Box 288
Cortland, NY 13045-0288
www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com

A cemetery corporation derives its operating income from the sale of gravesites, from interment fees, and from investment income. As cemeteries age and become full, the income from the sale of gravesites and interments declines. The cemetery must nevertheless be kept open, tended, and avoid becoming the responsibility or liability of a municipality. The increase in cremations, use of mausoleums, shifts in aging population away from New York State, and aging of the volunteer caretakers of New York's cemeteries have altered the financial and operational impacts upon cemeteries.

--- New York State Department of State