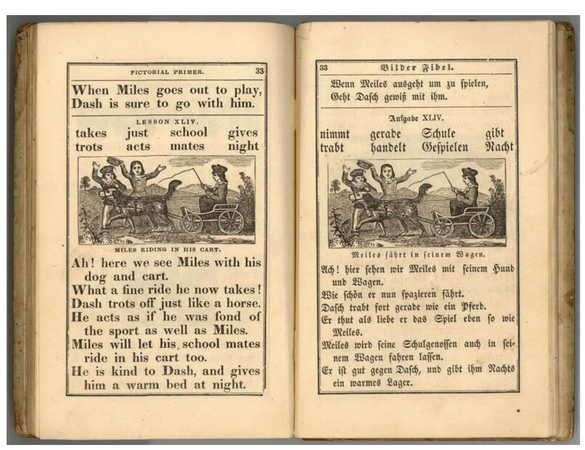
CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Tour stop 1

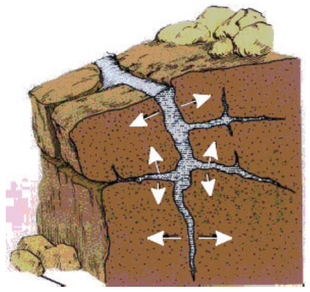
Section T: Sanders Family Vault: Includes the remains of local teacher Charles Sanders, author



of the world - famous Sanders Readers & Spellers. Developed when he felt teaching materials were dry and boring, Sanders and his brother sold the publications in New York and to the west. A still-impressive thirteen million copies were sold during his lifetime (1805-1889).



Geology: There are three main types of weathering that can cause deterioration of cemetery headstones. *Physical*: for example, freeze/thaw



action. *Chemical*: for instance, acid rain. And *Biological*: for example, when lichens grow on, or nearby tree roots grow



into, the stone. The type of stone, climate, and environment determine the degree and speed of the weathering.



Art: Freestanding buildings, in lieu of markers or monuments, mausoleums house the remains of the deceased. Besides being an elaborate



resting place for the departed, mausoleums are a symbol of wealth and status. Some mausoleums feature classical architectural elements, such as a pediment supported by a short portico of fluted columns; others feature intricately decorated doors and stained glass windows. However, this is not always the case, as many monuments can be modest, with only a family name engraved over the doorway.

About the cemetery:
The Cortland Rural Cemetery is a non-profit, non-denominational cemetery established in 1853. Still a fully operational cemetery with 50-75 burials per year, it has a physical footprint of over 44 acres and attributes typical of the mid-19th century "garden" or "rural cemetery," including rolling hills, many trees, curving roads, and an overall asymmetrical design.



Above is an early 20th-century photographic postcard of the cemetery. Note the public mausoleum on the right: This structure still exists, but it is only visible upon entering the Gibson Chapel, which was added onto the front of the mausoleum in 1922.

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CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Tour stop 2

Section F, Lot 008: The Miller monument is a poignant reminder of family losses due to unchecked 19th century illnesses such as yellow fever, cholera, and typhus. While the exact disease is not noted in the Miller family's case (there was a



major outbreak of typhus in NYC in 1864), surely the dates of death are the tell-tale sign of sickness at work: Delia, age 14, January 24, 1864; James, age 6, June 6, 1864, Elizabeth, age 26, June 16, 1864, and both Alice, age 9 and Delila, age 14, on June 20, 1864.

Geology: *1 of 4 on marble*

Marble is a metamorphic rock formed under



intense heat and pressure. This meta-morphic process creates a very tight, crystalline structure, which enables marble to take a high polish and makes this type of rock relatively resistant to physical weathering.

Attach 4x4 sample of marble

Most marble markers in this cemetery are white with black 'stains' and feel sandy to the touch due to weathering.

Art: Gothic-style tablets stand out due to their simple architectural form.



They most often have steep curves angling to a point, reminiscent of Gothic-era windows or doors. This differentiates them from other domed and curved, upright markers. They are also differentiated, in many cases, by a lack of ornamentation and and intricate details.

About the cemetery:

Colonial American grave-yards were sited in urban areas, where they quickly filled and — due to yellow fever, small pox, typhoid, diphtheria, and malaria — often became health hazards. Recognizing this, and noting park-like cemeteries seen in Europe (e.g.: Pere LaChaise, Paris; High Gate, London), urban planners of the mid-1800s began to establish similar cemeteries here, among them Mt. Auburn in Boston (below), Green-Wood in Brooklyn, and yes, Cortland Rural Cemetery in Cortland, NY.



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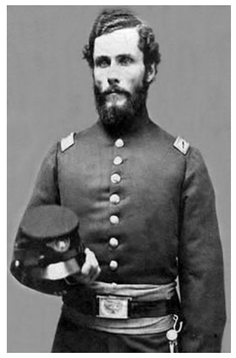
CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Tour stop 3

Section G, Lot 15: Grave of Major Andrew J. Grover, commander of



the NY 76th. Born in West Dryden, NY, Grover fought in the battles at Rappahannock Station, Warrenton (Sulphur) Springs, and Gainesville where he was



wounded. After recovering in Washington, DC, he resigned his commission to become a pastor, but was appointed Major of his Regiment and felt compelled to return to duty. Ultimately, he led his troops into battle at Gettysburg, where he was the first Union fatality in that battle (July 1, 1863).

Geology: *2 of 4 on marble*
While marble's crystalline structure makes it resistant to physical weather, its calcium carbonate composition makes it highly susceptible to acidic agents such as chlorides, nitrates, and sulfates. Over time, this chemical weathering (made worse by acid rain and pollution) causes the deterioration or "melting" appearance seen on many marble cemetery markers.



Picture of a weathered marble statue from 1944 (left) and the same statue 58 years later (right).

Art: Members of the fraternal benefit society known as the Woodmen of the World were buried in graves with markers shaped like logs or tree stumps. The organization was founded in 1890 and these log-shaped grave markers were prominent



until the 1920s. Along with their natural form, the markers may include the maul and wedge; an axe; and often a Dove of Peace with an olive branch. A common headstone inscription is "Here rests a Woodman of the World."

About the cemetery:
Before the widespread development of public parks in the U.S., metropolitan and small town "rural" cemeteries offered a place for the



general public to enjoy refined outdoor recreation amidst art, sculpture, and a wide range of flora previously available only to the rich. They also served as forerunners to urban green-spaces like NYC's Central Park. And they helped build momentum for the budding conservation movement, later led by the likes of Frederick Law Olmsted, John Muir, and President Theodore Roosevelt.

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CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Tour stop 4

Section S, Lot 40: Dr. Lydia Hammond Strowbridge



was born in Freetown, NY, in 1830 and, with her husband, came to Cortland in 1853. In her teens, she was described as an "invalid," however, upon her husband's enlistment in the Civil War, she decided to enter medical school in New York City. She practiced homeopathic medicine on the corner of Monroe and Court Streets; was a member of the Universalist Church; fought for women's suffrage; and wore the uniform of the women's movement – bloomers! Dr. Strowbridge was arrested for performing abortions, however arrest records cannot be found to document this charge. She and her husband lived at 29 Monroe Heights with their two sons. Dr. Strowbridge died in 1904 from cancer.

Geology: *3 of 4 on marble*

When marble is white in color, it is composed of mostly limestone. Impurities such as clay, or iron oxides can cause colored marbles. In this cemetery, most of the marble is white, though there are some gray, dark gray and pink marble tombstones.

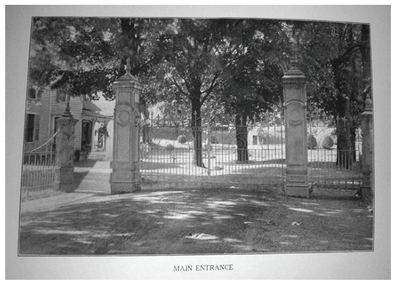


Art: An obelisk is a tall, rectangular structure with a pyramidal top. The obelisk has its origins in Ancient Greek and Ancient Egyptian architecture. For the Greeks, as well as in most modern cemeteries, obelisks are monolithic, adding an increased level of dignity, or hinting at success in a manner that a simple headstone cannot do. In Christian terms, obelisks, like church steeples, point to the sky, suggesting a connection with or path to heaven.



About the cemetery:

This early photo of the original Superintendent's House shows an impressive wrought iron gate at the front entrance. Board minutes from the time shed some light on the situation: In 1888, the fence was purchased from the Champion Iron Fence Co. (Kenton, OH); the Superintendent's house shown in the photo was moved to 11 Sands Street in 1929-34 (where it still stands today); and the fence was sold in 1943 as a contribution to the WWII effort for use in making munitions, war-craft, or some other necessity for the troops.



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CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Tour stop 5

Section S, Lot 38: Jewett boulder affixed with a bronze plaque to identify this lot. This is an unusual method of memorializing the dead, with only three or four examples of boulder-only markers in the CRC. Most likely, this unadorned monument is a symbolic statement about the preeminence and inherent beauty of the natural world.



Geology: *4 or 4 on marble*
Marble became a popular grave stone material after 1780 because of its color, its ability to be cut into elegant statues, and its sugges-tion of wealth and status. Marble also appealed to Americans during this “Neoclassic” period because it was a material often used in ancient Greek and Roman architecture. Much of the marble used in 19th and 20th century cemetery markers throughout the Northeast came from Vermont.



Art: Flower symbolism is quite common on grave markers of all shapes, sizes and periods. Lilies symbolize the restored innocence and purity of the soul at the time of death and are among the most popular floral symbols. The white lily is seen as a symbol of acceptance and hope as opposed to one of mourning and grief. Other floral symbols are the weeping willow ("mourning"), the lotus ("rebirth"), the daisy (innocence for children who have passed), laurels or evergreens ("everlasting memory"), poppies ("eternal sleep"), among many others.







About the cemetery:
The Cortland Rural Cemetery is a non-profit, non-denominational cemetery (501c13) regulated by New York’s Department of State, Division of Cemeteries. This regulation manifests itself many ways, including approval of the prices that may be charged for burials; semi-annual financial audits; and a mandated “permanent maintenance fund” to care of the grounds when the cemetery one day ceases to operate.

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CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Tour stop 6

Section Y, Lot 2: George W. Conable was a



Cortland native, graduate of Cornell, and the architect of the Gibson Memorial Chapel located near the entrance of the Cortland Rural Cemetery. Conable became a renowned architect (mainly working in the NYC area) and also designed other notable Cortland



structures, including the Cortland Democrat building on Central Avenue (a bygone weekly newspaper) and the Central High School (now the Cortland County Office Building).

Geology: *1 of 3 on granite*

Granite is a highly durable igneous rock (hardness of 6-7) resistant to both chemical and physical weathering. Composed mostly of potassium and plagioclase feldspar, quartz, biotite, and amphibole, granite can be easily recognized by its visibly granular texture. To wit, in this cemetery,

Attach 4x4 sample of granite — or two 2x4 samples (pink and gray)

most of the granite markers are gray or pink with a “salt and pepper” look stemming from the presence of individual crystals.

Art: Among many "fraternal" symbols one will find in cemeteries are those of the Freemasons which are typically composed of a "Square and Compass.” The square stresses the idea of "squaring" one’s actions (aka: The Golden Rule of



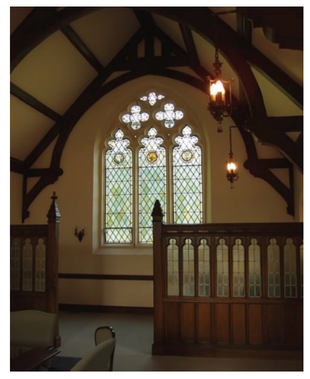
Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.) While the compass teaches us to limit our desires and passions (per Aristotle's teaching of *moderation in all things).* The "G" stands for both geometry and God, because both help the members unravel the mysteries and wonders of nature.

About the cemetery:

In 1922, a cemetery chapel designed by George W. Conable was added



to the front of an existing, public vault (shown above). Used for decades of funerals, memorial services, and at least one wedding, the structure began to deteriorate until 2008, when a capital



campaign launched by the Cortland Rural Cemetery Foundation — with notable financial support from former CRC Trustee and President, Charles Gibson and his sister Margaret — funded a full-scale renovation.

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CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Tour stop 7

Section G-32: The Corwin family plot's variety of markers are from several



eras. The tall, slender rectangular stones are early monuments removed, along with remains, from an earlier Cortland cemetery. (Note the symbolic weeping willow and antiquated terms "relict" for "widow" and "consort" for "spouse.") The pre-fabricated metal monument (aka: white bronze) is one of four such markers in the cemetery. Sold by the Monumental Bronze Co. of Bridgeport, CT, such markers are notable for their durability compared to marble monuments of the same period.

Geology: *2 of 3 on granite*

Granite's minerals weather differently. The quartz is very resistant to weathering; potassium feldspar, biotite, and amphibole, undergo hydrolysis where exposure to the environment causes them to degrade into clay and salt water; and biotite and amphibole have a high content



of iron that will oxidize or rust. As a result of all this varied mineral content, granite's colors vary widely also. In this cemetery, dark gray, pink, and light grey granite are the most common, with the light gray variety most likely originating from Barre, Vermont.

Art: Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal service organization founded in 1882. Named in honor of Christopher Columbus,



the society is dedicated to promoting Catholic education and providing charitable services. The society's emblem features a shield mounted on a cross with a fasces (symbolic of authority), an anchor (representing Columbus), and a dagger (the weapon used by medieval knights). The emblem signifies "Catholic Knighthood in organized merciful action" and often appears on members' tombstones.

About the cemetery:

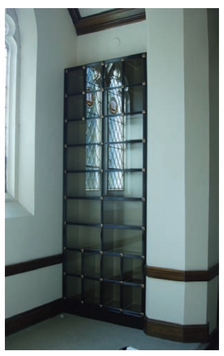
Traditional outdoor burials are declining in America due to changing



demographics, mobility, and a fast-increasing acceptance of, and even preference for, cremation.



The resulting decline in present-day burial revenues have led this cemetery like others to



offer new options such as indoor mausoleum spaces and wood or glass cremation "niches."

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CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Tour stop 8

Section M, Lot 063: Henry S. Randall, a beloved figure in Cortland's history, lived at 18 Tompkins Street and owned a farm south of Cortland. Secretary of State, lawyer, author of a biography of Thomas Jefferson, president of Cortland Normal School Board – Randall was even a sheep farmer! *"All of Cortland mourned Mr. Randall when he died; every place of business was closed; every inhabitant of Cortland followed him to his grave and the hush over the community was so great that it seemed as if the Angel of Death had visited every household."* (Blodgett)



Geology: *3 of 3 on granite*

Granite is most often quarried as a "dimension stone." This means it is a natural rock that has been cut into blocks or slabs of specific length, width, and thickness. Around 1860, it became more popular for grave-stones because it outlasted previously popular stones such as marble or sandstone. It was, and still is fairly expensive: The slanted stone shown in this 1880s Sears, Roebuck advertisement cost $8.80. (Today, it would cost $1,400!)





Art: Reflecting the societal shift away from religiosity and its related symbolisms, many modern-era tombstones have engravings of the deceased's favorite pastimes, including fishing, hunting, or music symbols. Some even include symbols that allude to one's profession, such as a medical emblem.







About the cemetery: Established in 1853 just two days after the incorporation of the Village of Cortland, this cemetery's first burials were actually remains that were removed from earlier and smaller cemeteries nearby. One such graveyard was located near what is now Courthouse Park; another was a small family grave-yard (most likely the Hubbard family) located on the hill behind today's 50-60 Tompkins Street; and a third was located at the juncture of Homer Avenue and West Main Street. The first 12 acres of land for the cemetery was purchased from David Hubbard for $1478 (or about $40,000 today).



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CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Tour stop 9

Section M, Lot 065-066:



Vault for the Honorable Joseph Reynolds and his family. He served in the War of 1812 as a Brigadier General; was elected to the NYS Legislature in 1818; and served as a Cortland County Justice of the Peace and Judge. Elected to the U.S. Congress, Reynolds was first President of the village of Cortland; he helped found the Cortland Academy; and he was instrumental in the founding of the Cortland Rural Cemetery — personally clear-cutting lumber for its original construction.

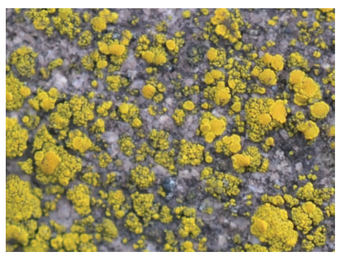


Geology: *1 of 2 on lichens*

Lichens are an important weathering agent on cemetery gravestones.



Lichens produce organic acids that slowly dissolve some minerals in the stones. The lichens grow only a few millimeters per year.



Examples of actual lichens found in this cemetery. Photos and lichen identifications courtesy of Dr. Timothy Baroni.

< Candelariella aurella crustose



< Phaeophyscia orbicularis



< Parmelia saxatilis



< Acarospora fuscata

Art:

During the 18th century, it became popular to decorate headstones with *momento mori,* or symbolic reminders of mortality. Often frightening by today's standards, these motifs included, but are not limited to, engravings of skulls, a grave-digger's pick and shovel, clocks, hourglasses or the emblem of Father Time.



Few, if any, such symbols can be found in this cemetery. (If you happen upon one, let us know!)

About the cemetery:

This cemetery is honored to be the final resting place of hundreds upon hundreds of American veterans. Across the cemetery, and particularly in two Veterans sections, you will find headstones for men and women from all American wars and conflicts. (A small sample is shown below.)



Revolutionary War



War of 1812



Civil War



World War I



World War II



The Korean War



The Vietnam War



The Persian Gulf War

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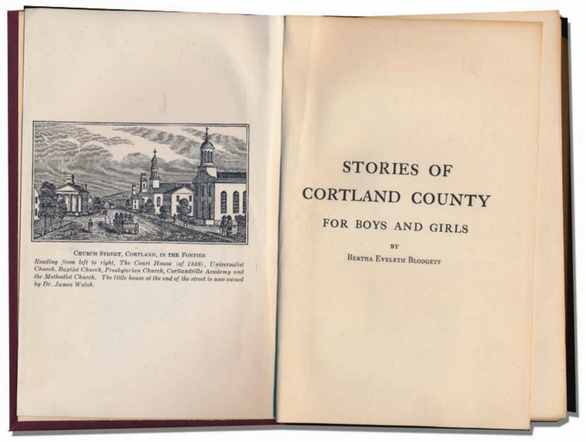
CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Tour stop 10

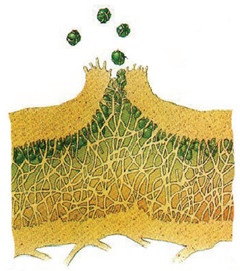
Section M, Lot 78: Note the adjacent graves of Bertha Blodgett, author of *Stories of Cortland County for Boys and Girls* (1932) and her daughter



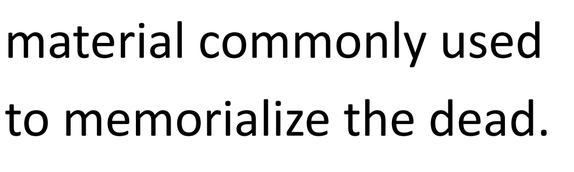
Eleanor Blodgett, who later revised her mother's book. They are buried in a family lot which also includes the grave of Nathan Blodgett – a Sergeant in the Revolutionary War.

Geology: *2 of 2 on lichens*

Lichens are organisms composed of a fungus and either a green alga or a photosynthetic bacterium. Lichens reproduce and disperse by special packages, called soredia, that carry bits of fungi and algae to a new surface.



Art: Stone is not the only material commonly used to memorialize the dead. Bronze, too, can be seen through cemeteries like this one. Attractive, ideal for forging, and durable — bronze can be used as a decorative accent on a stone marker; as a memorial or commemorative plaque, such as those made available to veterans by the U.S. government; or as an ornate flush-mounted marker itself, where it can 'double' as a base for a matching bronze vase or urn (shown below).





About the cemetery:

Maintaining this 44-acre cemetery requires multiple commercial-grade riding mowers, string-trimmers, chainsaws, trailers, a front loader, tractor, and other equipment. Grave excavation is handled by a contractor, to reduce costs. A grounds crew of 4-5 is seasonal, with only one grounds person employed year-round. The cemetery also makes use of individual volunteers and laborers donated by municipal programs.









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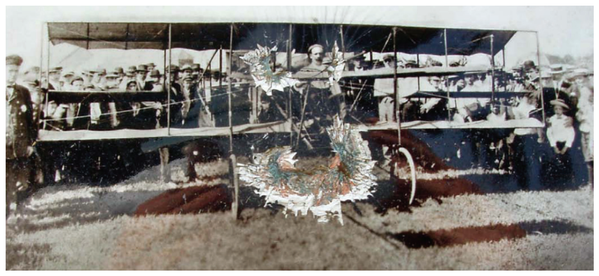
CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Tour stop 11

Section I, Lot 131: The grave of Otto Hermann (1876-1932) features a unique photo of a bi-

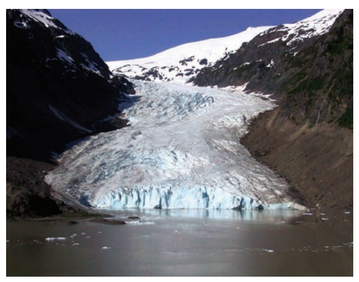


plane. (Is that Hermann at the controls?) An early aviator and contemporary of the Wright Bros. and Glenn Curtis, Hermann built and flew his own plane as early as 1910. A native of Pach, Hungary, he resided at 29 Church Street in Cortland, after founding a factory in Canastota based on his patented rotary engine. A month after the opening of the Cortland airport, where he'd just moved his factory, Hermann died at the VerNooy Sanitarium (84 North Main St) on July 30, 1930 at the age of 54.

Geology: The hillside on which the Cortland Rural Cemetery and SUNY Cortland campus



are situated is an eroded bedrock hill covered by glacial till. The bedrock was deposited in a warm shallow sea in the Devonian Period over a third of a billion years ago.



The sedimentary rocks produced in this sea later lifted and became land, with unsorted deposits of glacial till left by a glacier just 24,000 years ago.

Art: Some of the most common icons seen on



headstones are those symbolizing the religious beliefs of the deceased. Some symbols include Bibles or books, which represent a person's good deeds or accomplishments as recorded in the "book of life;" a harp, which symbolizes prayer; a dove for peace or a bird that represents the messenger of God; a Eucharist with vectors of sunlight; clasped hands in



prayer; hands pointing up to heaven; or the hand of God reaching down to earth.

About the cemetery: While this cemetery's operations are managed by a paid staff and governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees, we are fortunate that the meager revenues realized from burials and plot sales are augmented by funds from the Cortland Rural Cemetery Foundation. This separate, non-profit entity secures grants, encourages individual donations, and (in 2013) established an *Angel Society* focused on major and legacy giving. The Foundation also manages a donor-designated endowment fund that generates interest that may be used for operations each year.

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CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Tour stop 12

Section 5, Lot 54: Major General Levi R. Chase



(1917-1994) was a well-known and respected Cortland native and highly decorated veteran of WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. He began his military career as an American Army-Air Force Pilot, enlisting as a Private, 1941. After having flown 500+ missions during the aforementioned wars, earning the honorary title of “Double Air Ace” for his 12 aerial victories, Chase retired as Major General, 1973.

Geology: Gneiss ("nice") is a rock of great variety with large



mineral grains arranged in colorful bands. It is formed by regional metamorphism. During metamorphism, sedimentary, igneous, or other metamorphic rocks are deeply buried and subjected to high temperatures and pressures. In this cemetery, most of the

Attach 4x4 sample of gneiss

gneiss markers were originally granite and are weathering similarly.

Art: The gravestones of infants may hold symbols alluding to their youth and innocence at the time of their death. Icons such as small shoes, a lamb, a small chair, or a daisy are often included



to symbolize death at infancy or to suggest that the deceased passed in a state of purity.

About the cemetery: Two of the earliest-known images of the CRC are the stereo view photographs shown at right. The first, circa 1870s, shows a statue (long gone), which memorialized Jamie Carmichael, “an only child” of Civil War veteran James Carmichael. The second, also from the late 1870s, shows the Sturtevant monument (still standing in Section B), though the chain link partition, chair, and urns are lost to time.





The images above come to us courtesy of one-time Cemetery Trustee and local historian Christine Buck.

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CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Tour stop 13

11 Section O, Lot 101:

The Civil War Veteran's monument was erected



by Grover Post 98 of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) to mark the graves of indigent Civil War veterans. The post was named for Major Andrew Grover (NY 76th), with the large lot being donated by the cemetery. The other veterans section is embedded in nearby Section 6 where a second flagpole is located.



Geology: *1 of 4 on stone quarries*

Unlike early American stone quarries,



where blocks of stone were guided using elaborate rope and sled systems, today's



quarries move stone with a backhoe or excavator, and then lift it onto nearby transports using a crane.

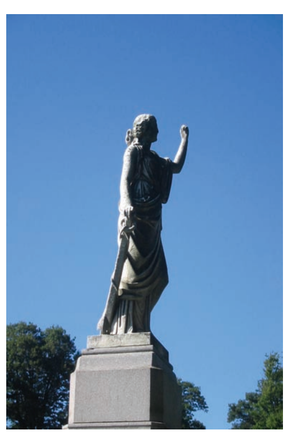


Art:

Some more common miscellaneous symbols seen on tombstones may include the anchor (hope), column (noble life), cherub (divine wisdom or justice), drape or cloth covering



(closing of life), a broken sword (a life cut short), an unbroken sword or crown (reward and glory), seashell (birth and resurrection) or palm



leaves (martyrdom and victory over death).

About the cemetery:

1 of 3 on the Morehouse/ Gallagher Legacy

Until recently, the CRC was overseen by a paid Superintendent. Seen as a community leader (not unlike the local Postmaster, Town Supervisor, or even Bank President), this was a highly esteemed position. One such Superintendent was Burton B. Morehouse. A successful South Cortland farmer and bridge-builder, Morehouse was named Superintendent in 1890, moving with his family into the CRC's original Superintendent's home (now located at 11 Sands Street) and earning an annual salary was $600.



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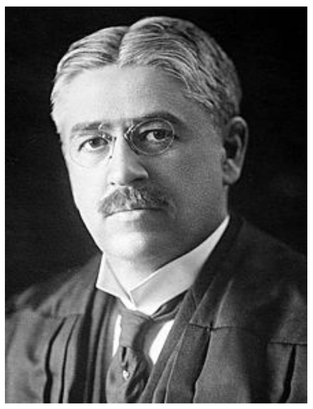
CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Tour stop 14

#12 Section C2 Lot 174:



Nathan Miller died in his suite at the Hotel Pierre in NYC in 1953. Born in Solon, NY on his father's small farm, he received his education at the Cortland Normal School and went on to study law. At 35 he was appointed to the State Court and married Elizabeth Davern of Marathon, NY. Together they had seven daughters. In 1920 he defeated Al Smith in the race to become governor of New York State. Losing his 1922 re-election bid in a re-match with Smith, Miller returned to practice corporate and labor law.

Geology: *2 of 4 on stone quarries* | Before the advent of the Erie Canal,



stone for Cortland's earliest head-stones was transported almost entirely by wagon or sled from local quarries, slightly



more distant New York quarries, or from as far away as Vermont and Connecticut. With the construction of the canal (1825), stone could be transported mainly by freight boats that could carry up to 30 tons of cargo!

Art: Art Nouveau is a style that was popular from the late 19th century to the beginning of WWI. This approach to art broke away



from the utilization of classical motifs and drew



inspiration from natural forms and structures, even including deep sea botany and organisms. These aesthetically pleasing motifs gave credence to the emerging philosophy that art should be a way of life



and that inspiration could come from anywhere.

About the cemetery: *2 of 3 on the Morehouse/ Gallagher Legacy* | While residing in the cemetery's first Superintendent's residence (shown here),



Burton Morehouse oversaw many cemetery grounds improvements: Stone steps were installed; toppled grave-stones were repaired; foundations were mandated for new monuments; and lawns, shrubbery, and flower beds were improved. Morehouse also directed the 1892 construction of the cemetery's receiving vault (now adjacent to the chapel) — as well as establishment of a lot for indigent Civil War soldiers.

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CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Tour stop 15

Section C2: The Brewer family monument doubles as a classical sculpture.



Hailing from West Hartford, CT, the Brewster family arrived in Cortland in 1820. A father-son duo founded the Cortland Carriage Goods Co., purveying trunks for carriages, stylish horse-wear, and carriage-top bow sockets. The company adapted to changing times, and, by 1906, was the world's leading maker of one-man bow sockets for automobiles. The company's products were also found in the Hoover Dam. And, in WWII, it was the among the largest producers of forgings for planes, tanks, and guns.

Geology: *3 of 4 on stone quarries* | During the late 19th century, stone transportation moved from the canal system to America's extensive network of railroads. By



The Barre Railroad's *Mountain King* moving a granite monument down Quarry Hill in 1899.

the 1920s, the mode of transport began to shift yet again with the introduction of the automobile and commercial trucking — which all but entirely supplanted rail transport of stone by the mid 1960s due to lower costs and trucks' ability to deliver to the doors of local monument companies.

Art: Art Deco is an artistic style that originated in France and gained popularity between WWI and WWII. This style is characterized by its utilization of geometric shapes, vivid colors and symmetrical ornamentation. The influence of the interwar period is reflected in the industrial and symmetric motifs that give a clean, modern appearance. To those of the time, this style suggested luxury,





glamour, exuberance, and faith in social and technological progress.

About the cemetery: *3 of 3 on the Morehouse/ Gallagher Legacy* | After 12 years of service, Burton Morehouse died on April 1, 1902. But the very same day, his son and namesake, Burton Gallagher, was appointed to the post having gained experience working at the cemetery. Mr. Gallagher's term lasted 40 years, until his retirement in 1942. At this point, his own son Floyd ("Dutch") was next appointed, serving until July 1, 1971. This family dynasty supervised the cemetery's operations for 81 years, from 1890 to 1971: Quite an achievement and noteworthy legacy!



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CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Tour stop 16

Section C2 (continued):
The Wickwire family mausoleum. Chester and Theodore Wickwire



brought their work ethic, learned on the farm, to the village of Cortland in 1866, where they first repaired bicycles and sold hardware. Turning a carpet loom acquired in a debt settlement into a wire-weaving loom led to their first industrial building on south Main Street at the railroad



tracks in 1881. Wickwire Bros., Inc. became Cortland's largest, most prosperous local manufacturer by 1900. While remembered for the family's five beautiful homes on Tompkins Street (one of which is now The 1890 House Museum), the family also contributed to the building of the Cortland hospital, donated land for the Cortland Free Library and the construction of the Wickwire swimming pool, and made many other civic contributions to the city. Their Grecian temple-styled memorial provides underground burials.



Geology: *4 of 4 on stone quarries* | The Danby, VT Quarry is the world's largest underground quarry, spanning 25 acres. In order to quarry rocks at the Danby Quarry today, a "room and pillar" technique is employed, wherein 30 x 40 ft. 'rooms' are created by removing blocks. (Each block can weigh as much as 93 tons!) Between the rooms, marble pillars are left in tact to hold up the roof of the mine.



Art: With the late 19th century invention of the camera came the concept of memorializing a loved one with a photographic portrait, usually on ceramic, placed on the headstone of the deceased. This also allowed those who had no personal connection to the deceased a chance to gain a sense of who the person was. The use of technology on grave markers continues today, with the introduction of 'bar codes' that visitors 'scan' with a mobile phone in order to read an online obituary — or even play a brief video of the departed.



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CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Tour stop 17

Sections A&B: The Jewish Cemetery of Temple B'rith Shalom is located on the western border of the cemetery and SUNY Cortland. Its two sections were established in 1953 and are reserved for use by members of the Temple. Jewish law requires the fence of shrubbery surrounding these sections. Note the striking line of Norway maple trees which grace the front of the grounds.



Geology: *1 of 2 on sand-stone* | A popular early American gravestone, sandstone is a sedimentary rock composed of sand-sized minerals, rock, or organic material. It is formed by the build up

Attach 4x4 sample of sandstone

and layering of sediments deposited by wind, gravity, ice, or water. The distinct layers of some sandstone make it prone to infiltration by water and, thus, damage due to our freezing and thawing cycle.



Art: Less common today, decorative urns have been a common sight at cemeteries for decades. Festooned with elaborate scrollwork, Greek or Roman iconography, and geometric and floral patterns, these cast-iron, bronze, or stone structures — symbols of life in their own right — were employed by both mourning families and cemetery managers as flower-filled accents to family plots, pathways, and mausoleums particularly during summer months.



About the cemetery: Speaking of decorative urns, the cemetery was pleased to locate and restore in 2013 several of its own long-forgotten urns. After layer upon layer of paint were removed, two were identified as having originated from the renowned (now defunct) Kramer Bros Foundry in Dayton, Ohio.



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CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

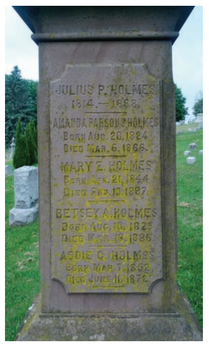
Tour stop 18

Section B, Lot 3:

Dr. Julia Spalding, a homeopathic physician, hailed from Pennsylvania. Her medical training was gained from various sources but she completed her studies in Chicago. Dr. Spalding came to Cortland in 1883 and specialized in chronic diseases. Her practice was located on North Main Street, in one of the oldest buildings in Cortland. She and her husband had one daughter. (Note: Look north to the Section D. The circular Freer family plot was once surrounded by an iron fence.)



Geology: *2 of 2 on sandstone* | Sandstone comes in many colors; however, sandstone that is brown, red, purple, or pink is commonly called 'brownstone.' Not unlike the renowned "brownstones" in New York City, brownstone markers in this cemetery (especially evident in many of the obelisks in the lower sections) most likely came from Portland, CT. They are homogenous, rich with quartz, and absent of distinct layers, making them resistant to both physical and chemical weathering. In *older* Cortland County graveyards, a less durable, local gray sandstone was used.



Art: Associated with death because of their distasteful diets — or simply because they are nocturnal — cats, owls, bats, vultures, and crows



are sometimes included in headstone epitaphs or poetic references. That said, these creatures of the night are rarely depicted on markers in their physical form.

About the cemetery:

Designed by Carl W. Clark and built in 1928, the cemetery's Tudor-style Superintendent's house and office include distinctive features like prominent cross gables, steeply pitched Vermont slate roofs, and decorative half-timbering. Born in Denver and educated in Brooklyn, Clark attended the University of Pennsylvania's College of Architecture, after which he opened his first office in Cortland in the Squire's Building (Clock Tower Building). His works included more than 150 primary and secondary schools across New York. While his other projects in Cortland included the fernery of the 1890 House, the sun-room area of the Alumni House, the A. B. Parker and Randall Schools, and the Cortland Free Library.





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CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Tour stop 19

Section J: Note the concentration of brownstone monuments, particularly popular during the 1860s. Also note monuments commemorating people for whom some of Cortland's streets were named: Hubbard, Calvert, Rickard, and Medes.

Geology: *1 of 2 on limestone* | Onondaga limestone — which is used in several of the cemetery's private mausoleums and is also used as the base for other stones throughout the cemetery — originated in the Middle Devonian period over a third of a billion years ago. This limestone was most likely quarried in Syracuse, NY.



Attach 4x4 sample of limestone

Art: This is a photo of some of the many "tree stones" one can find in the Cortland Rural Cemetery. Such headstones may be associated with the Masons-like Woodman of the World groups formed in the late 1890s (WOW stones tend to be elaborate, featuring additional club symbols, etc.). Or they may be traced to the earlier 'rusticity' movement and symbolize 'a life cut short' or mortality.



About the cemetery:
While this cemetery is over 160 years old, its administration has made a concerted effort to keep up with, and leverage, current technology. Recent strides include digital scanning of key records, deployment of a computerized record-keeping system, and public outreach through a cemetery website and social media.



The cemetery's website, located at: www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com

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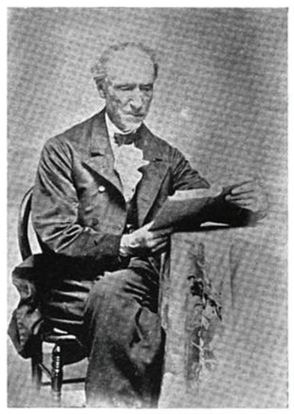
CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Tour stop 20

Section J, Lot 036:

Dr. Miles Goodyear was a member of the first Yale Medical College graduating class of 1812. He served in the War of 1812, served as a highly-regarded physician in Cortland for over 50 years, and in his 70th year insisted on going to war and enlisted as Assistant Surgeon during the Civil War. He carried 20 ruffled shirts to war and gave them away to patients. He lived on Tompkins Street and his epitaph "The Beloved Physician" reflects the community's respect for him.



DR. MILES GOODYEAR

Geology:

2 of 2 on lime-stone | About a third of a billion years ago, during the Devonian Period, the Onondaga Limestone was being formed in Syracuse. At that time, the Syracuse area was a warm, shallow crystal clear sea, teeming with life and resembling today's great barrier reef. During this time, calcareous sediments were deposited, forming the limestone; indeed, if you look closely at this rock you can often see fossil corals, crinoids, and mollusks.



Art:



Among this cemetery's thousands of stone markers you may spot a handful of blue-gray monuments with clear, raised lettering and symbols. Referred to as "white bronze," these curiously durable metal (actually zinc) markers were fabricated by the Monumental Bronze Co. of Bridgeport, CT and sold by regional salesmen.

About the cemetery:

Aside from the obvious challenge of mowing 44 acres of grass, several not-so-obvious challenges face this and other cemeteries:

> *Tree damage* — Gusty days bring down countless branches and oftentimes whole trees, which can topple even the largest monuments. (In 1986, a tornado destroyed 30+ large trees in a matter of minutes, with clean-up lasting for months.)



> *Woodchucks* — Cute or not, these critters are a nuisance to cemeteries, where their holes under-mine gravestone founda-tions, distress mourners, twist ankles, and break lawnmower axels.

> *Vandalism* — Sadly cemeteries, including this one, have fallen prey to society's most disrespectful and inconsiderate members, resulting in damages costing tens of thousands.



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