



Cortland Rural Cemetery

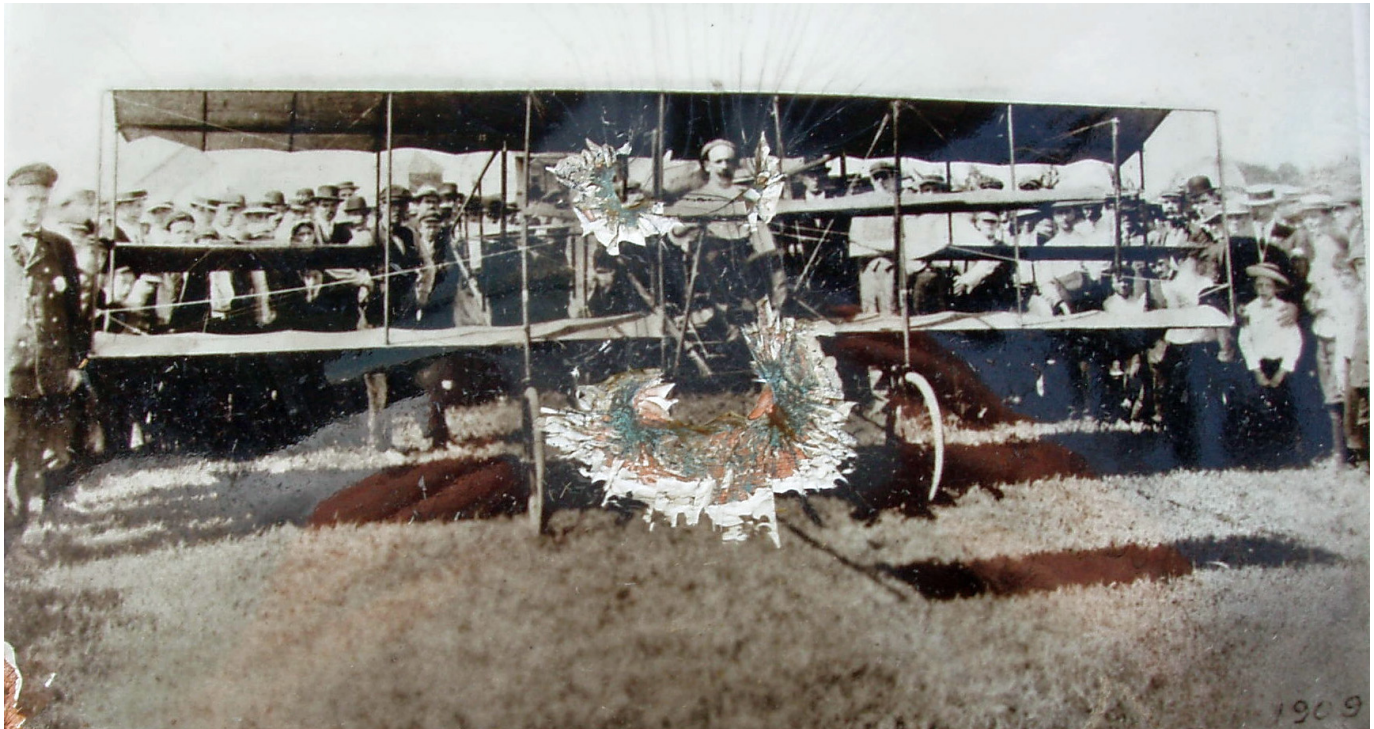
110 TOMPKINS STREET • CORTLAND, NEW YORK 13045

MAY 2011

OTTO HERMANN: INTREPID AVIATION PIONEER



Otto Hermann, an aviation pioneer and a contemporary of the Wright brothers and Glenn Curtis, was inducted into the Rhode Island Aviation Hall of Fame last year. His unique gravestone lies in the Cortland Rural Cemetery where the accompanying photographs were taken last month. A few years ago his grandson visited the Cortland County Historical Society and learned that his grandfather was well remembered in the Society's archives. *(Continued on p. 2)*



Otto Hermann at the tiller of his biplane as recorded on his gravestone in porcelain damaged by weather or stone, 1909

COME ONE, COME ALL!

Open House at the historic Cortland Rural Cemetery

Memorial Day, May 30, 2011

10:30 am to 3:30 pm

110 Tompkins Street

Enjoy a self-guided tour of its vistas and monuments. Inspect the gracious Gibson Chapel with its mausoleum and handsome niches for funeral urns. See slide presentations of Cortland County graveyards and some of their curious features, presented by Mary Ann Kane and John Hoeschele (at 1:30 pm). Meet cemetery volunteers. Light refreshments.

“Lest We Forget”

A SUDDEN DEATH AND A CORTLAND BURIAL JULY 1930



It was an exciting time in March 1930 for the Cortland Flying Club's stockholders in their efforts to have a Class A airport in the county. The farmers' fields had been closed to air traffic during the winter of 1929-30 and the 80x100-foot hanger awaited a concrete floor and the arrival of Lt. Harold Mull as the first director. The Club saw to the grading of its first real runway and the removal of the trees which lined the shoulder of the road to Groton.

The potential for success for his aviation business lured Otto Hermann from his efforts at Canastota's

developing air field. He had chased opportunities before, moving from Atlantic City to Providence, R.I., where he built his own biplane which he may have flown as early as March of 1910. Hermann determined the engine wasn't powerful enough for the weight of the plane and began by removing a wheel and then other weight-saving parts. By June 1911, he recorded that he had flown his 12 hp biplane. By 1925 he had secured a patent on a rotary engine of a semi-diesel type. At Canastota he continued to develop models for fuel injection engines which he exhibited at trade shows in Syracuse during 1929.

Incidentally, in August 1928 his daughter Helen was married aloft in an airplane piloted by Amelia Earhart who was in town to dedicate the Canastota airport.

As winter 1930 came to an end, Hermann, a native of Pach, Hungary, moved with his wife Ida to 29 Church Street, Cortland. The city directory lists two of their eight children with them – Edward, a mechanical draftsman and Arthur, a student. As inventor and president of the Century Rotary Motor Co. Inc. he established his manufacturing business at the airport.

Just a month after the celebration of the official opening of the Cortland airport, Hermann suddenly fell ill and was taken to the VerNooy Sanitarium at 84 North Main Street where he died two days later on July 30, 1930 at age 54. The minister from the Homer Avenue Methodist Church presided at a service at the family's home. Otto was buried in Cortland Rural Cemetery.

--Researched and Written by Mary Ann Kane

CRC ESTABLISHES ITS FIRST WEBSITE

We're pleased to announce that our cemetery now has an online presence! Located at the web address of www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com – our first-generation website offers visitors a wide range of information, including: descriptions of our services and rates; background on the cemetery's rich history, including interesting insights on the Gibson Chapel; back issues of our newsletter; and even areas where website visitors can sign a guestbook, post their own cemetery photographs, or become 'members' of the website. Financial supporters of the cemetery can also make a charitable gift using the secure, well-established PayPal service – or consider making a purchase from our modest online 'gift shop.' Longer term, planned enhancements to the website will include a cemetery map and (as resources allow) listings of burials at the CRC, both of interest to genealogists near and far.

--Website created and maintained by John Hoeschele

MANY CIVIL WAR VETERANS BURIED IN THE CEMETERY

2011 marks the first year of our nation's four-year commemoration of the Civil War, or the War Between the States. At 4:30 a.m. April 12, 1861, Confederate Troops began shelling Fort Sumter, an island garrison in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina, held by Union troops. The firing on Fort Sumter was the first action of the war.

At the Cortland County Historical Society is a record book of veterans buried in Cortland. Signed by Earle W. Wright, it was last updated Memorial Day, 1937. Mr. Wright was the American Legion member in charge of placing flags on veterans' graves. Among the list of veterans buried in Cortland Rural Cemetery are 250 men who served in the Civil War.

A poem copied from a newspaper dated September 3, 1868 is offered in honor of those veterans. The author was anonymous.

THE NATION'S DEAD

Four hundred thousand men,
 The brave, the good, the true,
In tangled wood, in mountain glen,
On battle plain, in prison pen,
 Lie dead for me and you.
Four hundred thousand of the brave
Have made our ransomed soil their grave,
 For me and you,
 Good friend, for me and you.

In many a fevered swamp,
 By many a black bayou,
In many a cold and frozen camp,
The weary sentinel ceased his tramp,
 And died for me and you.
From Western plain to ocean tide
Are stretched the graves of those who died
 For me and you,
 Good friend, for me and you.

Contributed by Christine Buck

NEWS FROM THE CEMETERY OFFICE

Cemetery Board President James Place reports that long-time Superintendent Andrew Palm has resigned. The office will now be led by Office Manager Kathryn Cincotta; the grounds will be under the management of a Groundskeeper who will be appointed shortly. Additional staff will be added as needed with minimal coverage during the winter months as a cost-saving measure.

DID YOU KNOW?

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.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CEMETERY

The Cortland Rural Cemetery needs your help. Due to changes in burial practices, increases in labor and fuel costs, and a decrease in investment earnings, the funds available to run the cemetery are extremely inadequate. We need monies to repair roads, remove dead trees, right fallen monuments and maintain the grounds.

Please consider making a tax-deductible gift to either the Cemetery's general maintenance fund or the endowment fund. Your gift, be it large or small, will help us in our quest to support and maintain the dignity of the cemetery and to ensure that the final resting place of our family and loved ones will be a place of beauty and peaceful surroundings.

Thank you.

Elizabeth S. Spaulding, Treasurer

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The Gibson Chapel has undergone significant renovations over the past few years. Spaces are available in its public mausoleum and its columbaria for cremation remains. Visits and consultations can be arranged by calling the Cemetery office at (607) 756-6022.

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