



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

FALL 2023

A few of the famous folks interred at the CRC Buried Treasures

BY JOHN HOESCHELE, CRC TRUSTEE

With over 19,000 people interred at the CRC, it's with a touch of hesitation that we sometimes shine a spotlight on the more renowned people in our care. Still, the CRC does have some notable people the public should know about. Here are some of them (in bulleted form for brevity's sake). For more expansive narratives on these folks — and bios on some not listed here — visit the “buried treasures” section of our website at:

cortland-rural-cemetery.com!

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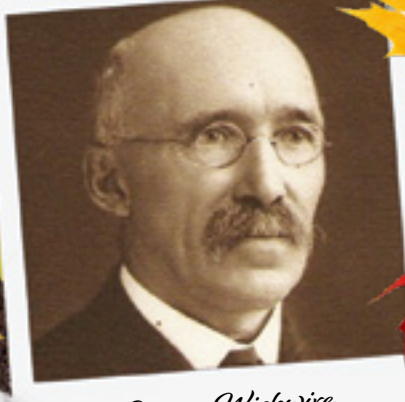
*“...it's with a touch of
hesitation that we sometimes
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Governor Miller

Governor Nathan Miller

- Born in Solon on his father's farm
- Received education at the Cortland Normal School and went on to study law
- At 35, appointed to State Court and married Elizabeth Davern of Marathon
- In 1920, became NYS governor — defeating renowned New York City politician and 1928 presidential candidate Al Smith
- Lost 1922 re-election bid and returned to practice corporate and labor law
- Died at the Hotel Pierre in NYC in 1953



Chester Wickwire

The Wickwire Family

- Chester and Theodore Wickwire brought their farmer's work ethic to the ‘village’ of Cortland in 1866
- At first, they repaired bicycles and sold hardware — then converted a carpet loom into a wire-weaving loom
- Starting with their first building on South Main (1881), Wickwire Bros., Inc. became Cortland's largest employer by 1900
- Remembered for five impressive homes on Tompkins St., the Wickwires also contributed to Cortland hospital, Cortland Free Library, Wickwire pool, among other civic contributions



Mjr. General Levi Chase

Major General Levi Chase

- Born in 1917, this Cortland native was a highly decorated veteran of WWII, the Korean War & the Vietnam War
- Began military career as Army-Air Force Pilot, enlisting as a Private, 1941
- After flying 500+ missions, earned honorary title of “Double Air Ace” for his 12 aerial victories and retired as Major General, 1973
- County airport bears his name
- Died in 1994





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Buried Treasures... CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Dr. Lydia Hammond Strowbridge

- Born in Freetown in 1830 and moved to Cortland in 1853
- An "invalid" in her teens, Strowbridge entered medical school in NYC when husband enlisted for the Civil War
- She practiced homeopathic medicine at the corner of Monroe and Court Street; fought for women's suffrage; and wore the controversial 'uniform' of women's movement: bloomers!
- Arrested for performing abortions, though no records found to support the charge
- Dr. Strowbridge died in 1904 from cancer

Captain Andrew Grover

- Commander of the Union Army's NY 76th Volunteer Infantry
- Born in West Dryden, NY, Grover fought in the battles at Rappahannock Station, Warrenton Springs and Gainesville where he was badly wounded
- After recovering in Washington, DC, Captain Grover resigned to become a pastor — but was appointed Major of his Regiment and returned to duty
- Ultimately, Grover led his troops into battle at Gettysburg, where — it is believed — he was the first Union officer killed in that battle (July 1, 1863)

Dr. Charles Walton Sanders

- Dr. Sanders was a local teacher and author of world-famous Sanders Readers & Spellers — developed when he felt teaching materials were dry and boring
- Sanders and his brother sold the books throughout New York and to the west
- A still-impressive thirteen million copies were sold during his lifetime (1805-1889)
- Note: The Sanders family mausoleum, among the most prominent structures in the CRC, is slated for a restoration in the Spring of 2024 — funded by a bequest from the last remaining member of the family Sanders family, Susan Dee "Sudee" Sanders (born 1945, died 2020).

Joseph Reynolds

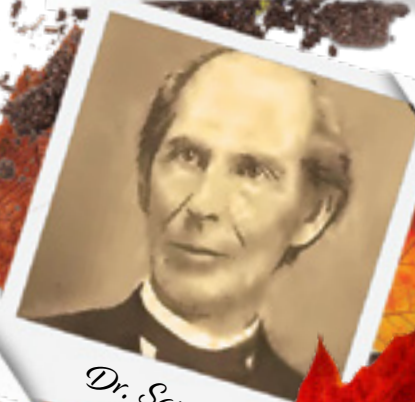
- Served in the War of 1812 as a Brigadier General
- Judge Reynolds' impressive record as a public official. Served in NYS Legislature, in U.S. Congress, and as Cortland County Justice of the Peace and Judge.
- Was also the first "President" of the village of Cortland
- And helped found both the Cortland Academy and Cortland Rural Cemetery, where he personally clear-cut lumber for its original construction!



Dr. Strowbridge



Capt. Grover



Dr. Sanders



Joseph Reynolds

CRC's Rich History and Beauty Arrive in the Classroom...

CRC's Board Treasurer and Past President Presents to SUNY Cortland Class!

Invited by Dr. Kent Johnson, a professor in SUNY Cortland's Sociology/Anthropology Department, CRC board member John Hoeschele was honored to be a guest speaker in Dr. Johnson's Fall 2023 class entitled "Archaeology of Death." Hoeschele's presentation included an introduction to the history of the CRC, details on the cemetery's operation, and some of our challenges and successes. Not long afterwards, Dr. Johnson's class visited the cemetery (shown here) to learn more and experience the beauty and history in person. Thank you, Dr. Johnson and students, for engaging with us!



"Saluting Branches" Tree-Care Program Honors CRC Veterans for the Second Year!

We were blessed, once again, to be the beneficiaries of the **Saluting Branches** initiative this year!

If you've not yet heard, this annual one-day program inspires, enlists, and coordinates thousands of volunteer arborists and other tree-maintenance professionals from regional tree-removal companies to repair, trim, and remove deceased/dangerous trees located within veterans' cemeteries across the U.S. The CRC was included in the program, this year and last, because we have thousands of veteran graves on our grounds — including those stemming from the War of 1812, the Civil War, WWI and WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Iraq War, the War in Afghanistan, and other conflicts.

Once again spearheaded by Cortland's Mike Dexter and Jim Maloney — a highly experienced arborist at Niagara Mohawk and consultant to the City of Cortland's tree management efforts — this year's effort resulted in the removal of several large, dead or fast-declining trees, and proactive trimming of others. Not only did the day's activities save the CRC tens of thousands of dollars, they improved both the aesthetics and the safety of our cemetery.

Those interested in learning more about Saluting Branches are encouraged to visit www.SalutingBranches.org or follow/Like the Saluting Branches Facebook page.



CRC participates in Cortland's Cabinet of Curiosities.

The CRC was excited to participate in "Cortland's Cabinet of Curiosities" at the end of October. Organized by the team at the Cortland County tourism office (aka: Experience Cortland), this Halloween-season event – held at Homer's Center for the Arts – explored Cortland's "curious and paranormal past." On hand to mingle with and inform attendees were tourism folks, representatives from several area historical societies, the 1890 House Museum, and CRC board members, among others. Refreshments were served; short films and storytelling ensued; and attendees even had a chance to participate in an actual paranormal investigation of the event's 130 year-old venue. Thanks again to Experience Cortland: We appreciated the invite and chance to inform the public about our historic cemetery!



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Cortland Rural Cemetery
Cortland, NY 13045-0288
Web: www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com

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a member of our Angel Society.
www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com*



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