

# ANNUAL TOUR

**RIVERSIDE CEMETERY  
GOUVERNEUR, N.Y. SEPTEMBER 26, 2009**





## Gouverneur Cemetery Association

Early in August 1808 a shadow came over the settlement of Cambray in the sudden death of Emily Porter, a sprightly little girl of 2 years, and daughter of Isreal Porter. She had been out during the day with some other children gathering peas; and it is believed ate a quantity of the half-ripened kernels, which swelled in the stomach causing her death. This occasion led to the selection of the first burying ground, which was in the area of the present Presbyterian Church in a hemlock grove. Here Emily Porter was laid to rest in a pine coffin.

This first cemetery was ceded to the inhabitants of Cambray by Gouverneur Morris and consisted of 2 acres bounded by the Oswegatchie River and roughly by what are now John, William, and Church streets. In 1857 it became apparent a new and larger cemetery was necessary.

After looking over the various lots offered for sale, a committee settled upon the former Pardon Babcock farm, which had become the property of Harvey D. Smith. It lay southwest of the village on the banks of the Oswegatchie.

Thirty acres of this farm were purchased at a cost of \$1500.00 and "one burying plot" from Mr. and Mrs. Smith by the Gouverneur Cemetery Association, which had been organized on June 23, 1857 B.F. Hathaway of Brookline, N Y. was employed to layout and grade the new ground. More than 600 lots were prepared for use with miles of walks and avenues - trees were planted and everything to make the cemetery attractive was done. The first burial was that of Joseph B. Smith August 25, 1857 **(19 B31)** By 1860 records indicate 11 acres had been added, and in 1866 there is an entry in the minutes of the annual meeting noting \$800 spent that year for land.

By 1860 the public mind became reconciled to transferring the dead from the old burying ground. The most picturesque portion of the new cemetery was selected for this purpose, boxes were provided, and the whole accomplished in two weeks at the expense of the corporation. In all, 637 removals were made under the direction of Thomas Thayer. Emily Porter was relocated to her family plot. **(9 H75)** Many of the removals were from unmarked graves.

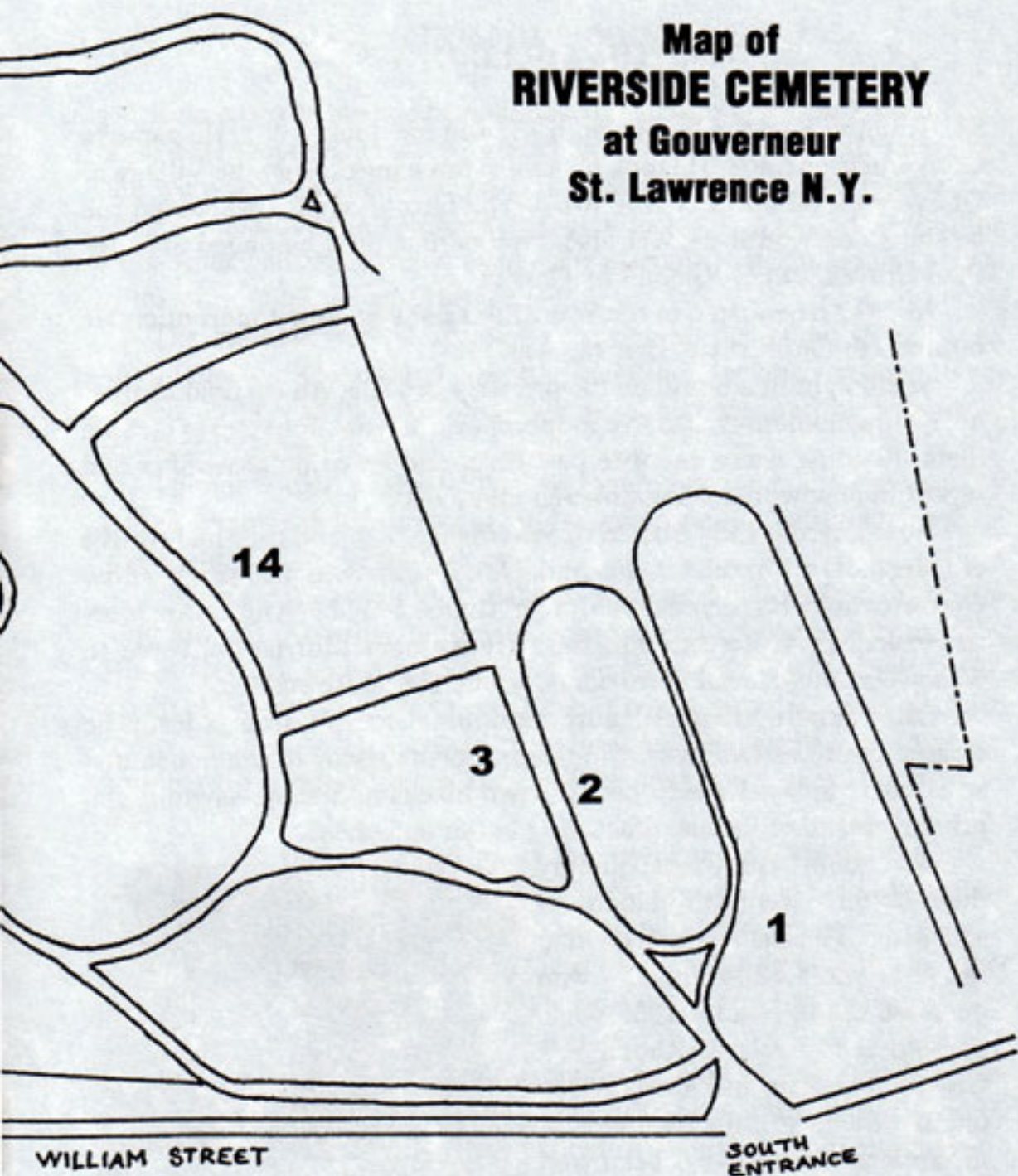
The new cemetery adopted the name Riverside at a meeting of the association held April 14, 1858, and the dedication ceremonies took place Sunday, June 23 that year.

In the year 1954 it became apparent to the officers and trustees that more ground was a necessity. All 1676 saleable lots in Riverside had been purchased, and using a figure of 3 burials per lot (actually probably more) it can be said that the population of Riverside is greater than that of the village.

A site on the east bank of the Oswegatchie was finally selected which consisted of 10 acres purchased for \$3500 and a perpetual option was granted for up to 30 more acres. This addition is designated as East Riverside and should serve the area for many years.



**Map of  
RIVERSIDE CEMETERY  
at Gouverneur  
St. Lawrence N.Y.**



The Town of Gouverneur passed a resolution in July 2008 creating sections S & GG. This allowed the association to offer additional needed lots.



## TIMOTHY SHELDON 1788 -

Timothy Sheldon was born in 1788 in Pawtucket, R.I. He came to Gouverneur in 1808. He took up a farm three miles from the Village of Gouverneur on the Richville Road. The farm today is owned and run by the Parent Family. It was also the farm that once belonged to Judge Paul Graves, son of Rhoda Fox Graves.

In 1812 he enlisted in the War of 1812 and went to the frontier. He returned to Gouverneur after the war.

Sheldon built a house on the property in 1823. An original character, quaint, humorous, incisive in speech. He had opinions and expressed them. Reading was a favorite past time, and he could remember and repeat in new words what attracted him most.

He married Nancy Bowen of Providence, R.I. and they had twelve children. On horseback he and Nancy came to Cambray (now Gouverneur) with their first child on August 1, 1829. Ann Carey Morris, executrix of her late husband, Gouverneur Morris, delivered to Nancy Sheldon a deed of 50 acres, where the house stands.

Later Timothy acquired more adjoining parcels. Using ox teams he cleared the trees and built a log cabin, predecessor to the house that still stands today. He also had his own blacksmith shop, sawmill and private creamery for manufacturing butter and cheese.

After both Nancy and Timothy died the farm went to Sheldon descendants. The last Sheldon owning the farm was LeRoy Sheldon who operated the farm until 1935 when he sold it to Perle & Rhoda Fox Graves. The farm has always been one of the most attractive ones in the area, as it has always been well maintained.



Dress worn by James Otis Sheldon  
born April 7, 1863, died Nov. 3, 1957

Grandson of  
Timothy and Nancy B. Sheldon  
Presented by daughter,  
Marion Jennings

*Tisdell*   GOUVERNEUR, NY



## ZINC MONUMENTS

Zinc monuments and headstones are common in New England.

These monuments were ordered from a sales agent with a catalog, and were very inexpensive. The price range for these monuments was from about \$6.00 for a single cast tablet, to as much as \$5,000.00. The back of the catalog features an ad asking people to become sales agents with "No capital investment needed."

The customer would decide on the overall design he wanted, and would pick out the various symbols, and other decorative elements required. Price was based on the overall monument, not the number or individual images.

The individual pieces were then molded in Zinc, and then simply bolted together with screws with decorated heads. Any text required was molded in the same fashion.

All original casting took place in Bridgeport, Connecticut, beginning in 1873. An artist, who worked at the plant, created wax models. His models were then used to create plaster molds for creating the individual pieces. Zinc was heated then poured into the joints between individual pieces. This caused the adjoining surfaces to melt together, welding them into a single unit, a much stronger process than soldering.

The zinc carbonate that gives the monuments their characteristic bluish color also creates a hard protective skin so that the castings are still sharp and clear. However, zinc has two unfortunate characteristics. It is quite brittle and may break if hit by a falling branch, and over many years its unsupported weight will creep and sag, causing some of the larger monuments to bow or crack.

The general rarity of these monuments is due to the fact that they were only produced for 40 years. This short production was caused by the fact that the public never accepted the metal monuments because people could never accept that these monuments were superior to stone. However zinc monuments have remained in excellent condition for over a century with details as fresh and crisp as the day they were cast.



**ZINC  
MONUMENTS**



**DECORATIVE  
DETAILS**





## HARVEY & EDNA NOBLE 1847 - 1925

Harvey and Edna Noble were the parents of Edward John (Mr. Life-saver), Robert and Kathleen. Harvey was born in Verona, N Y in 1847 and died in 1925 at the age of 78. His first job as a young man was telegrapher. He moved to Potsdam in 1870 as a telegraph operator for the Rome, Watertown, & Ogdensburg Railroad. Noble moved to Gouverneur in 1873 when he was promoted to station agent. He remained in that position until 1879. In 1876 he married Edna Wood of Potsdam. The Nobles moved to St. Louis until 1880 and returned to Gouverneur, securing employment at the Bank of Gouverneur as a book-keeper.

In 1883 he entered the coal business. He also sold wood, cement and feed. He ran his business for more than 40 years. The business was located along the railroad track just north of the Gouverneur Depot, about where the Farley buildings are located today. He had extensive coal sheds and they caught fire several times over the years. He moved to a new location a few rods away and had constructed the most up-to-date coal storage plant in this part of the State.

Mr. Noble was one of the group that started the Unitarian Church on Trinity Avenue. Today that building is the Masonic Temple. He was a man of distinct literary tastes, a discriminating reader and an intelligent critic. Life to him was much more than a business career. He loved his home and family. It was the center of his universe.

### CEMETERY FACTS . . .

- An estimate was given about 3 years ago for the removal of trees in Riverside that were deemed as unsafe. The cost would be \$1000.00 for each tree if that company did the cleanup and \$600.00 if the cemetery's two employees were to take on this task.
- A permanent maintenance fund is for the purpose of maintaining and preserving the cemetery for the future. Ten percent of each lot sale must be added to this fund as well as \$35.00 from each burial. Only the interest may be used for day-to-day operations.
- A Perpetual Care Fund was established years ago for the purpose of an individual grave, plot or space. This sum of money is also an endowment and can be invested with only the interest going towards care of a specific lot.
- Lot owners are the true owners of the cemetery and it is to their best interest to attend all meetings held by the board.



### **DR. BENJAMIN DRURY 1836 - 1925**

Dr. Benjamin Drury was born in Canton, N Y in 1836 and died in 1925. He spent his early life on a farm and was schooled in "Common School" At the age of 20 he commenced study of medicine in Burlington, VT He married Mary A. Ritchie in 1859. Mary was born in Dekalb in 1838 and died in 1920. Dr. Benjamin Drury served as G.P in the Gouverneur area from 1858 to 1925. Benjamin and Mary were parents to Dr. Frederick F Drury.

Photographs of doctors are on display at E.J Noble Hospital and Gouverneur Museum.

### **DR. FREDERICK F. DRURY 1868 - 1958**

Dr. Frederick F Drury son of Benjamin F Drury was born in Gouverneur in 1868 and died in 1958. He was educated primarily in the Wesleyan Seminary in Gouverneur. He graduated in 1887 His medical education was obtained in the University of Vermont and Bellevue Hospital in New York City from which college he graduated in 1891 He married Julia E. Foster in 1896. He was General Practitioner and Surgeon in Gouverneur and served as Coroner of St. Lawrence Co. Julia and Fred were parents of Frederick F. Jr., Mabel Foster and Foster Tait Drury.

### **DR. FOSTER T. DRURY 1904 - 1984**

Dr. Foster T. Drury (known as Bill Drury) was born in Gouverneur in 1904, son of Frederick F Drury and Julia Foster Drury. Grandson of Benjamin F. Drury. He graduated from Gouverneur High School and McGill University of Medicine, Montreal, Que. He was 3rd generation doctor in the family. He married Elva Raymond in 1939, a school teacher from Boonville, N Y. He interned in Detroit, Michigan, established a practice in Gouverneur at 60 Park Street, later at E.J. Noble Hospital. Dr. Drury was a member of staff at the Van Duzee Hospital and E.J. Noble Hospital. He was an anesthetist for the Clifton Fine Hospital in Star Lake and also the physician for Gouverneur Schools and N.Y Central Railroad. He received the Julius Bartlett Award in 1984 from the Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Drury died in 1984. His children are Dianne, (deceased) and Fred R. Drury (Bud) living in Vt. Dr. Drury is buried in Watertown Cemetery



## BENJAMIN F. SKINNER

Benjamin F. Skinner came to Gouverneur from Washington County. He had been a farmer, but was influenced in coming by the possibilities in iron production. In connection with a partner named Blish, whose daughter he subsequently married, he built an iron furnace at Wegatchie, in 1848, capable of making five tons of pig iron daily. The business was conducted five years, during which time about 2,000 tons of pig iron were produced and sold.

The ore used came from the Caledonia ore-bed which was well known as a producer of ore of a good grade, having been worked at intervals for more than a third of a century.

The Caledonia mine was in the Town of Rossie, about a mile from the thriving village of Sommerville. About 1852 Mr. Skinner abandoned the furnace, moved to the Village of Gouverneur, bought the dwelling then standing on the southerly side of the high school lot. He lived there a number of years before moving to a farm, which he bought and put the buildings into repair. He lived there during the remainder of his life, dying at the ripe old age of 84.

Skinner held various official positions in town, acquiring the title of "judge" by which he was universally addressed by the townsmen. Skinner was very influential in the formation of the Episcopal Church in Gouverneur. He was one of the incorporators of the Episcopal Church in 1866 and was a man held in high regard by all. He was also one of the first wardens of that Church.

Never aggressive in his opinions, he was singularly free from prejudices and in business affairs was trusted, and in his church, honored. He was always a democrat, and in the early 1860's was cool and deliberate in his judgments when so many were convulsed with passion or hatred. A just man; a worthy citizen; a model in deportment; a gentleman in dignity; such is the memory of him by those who knew him in later years.



### AMOS EGERT 1826 - 1887

Amos Egert, a long-time Gouverneur merchant, was very successful due to his habits of fair-dealing and prudent investment. Along with his brother, Charles P Egert, Amos ran a dry goods and general merchandise business. He eventually bought out his brother and ran the business alone. This store and Sterling & Cone's were the only ones in town at that time. Amos built the large brick, three-story block at the corner of Main and Clinton Streets (now the home of Jumbo's Diner). It was the first of that height in town and it was filled with the usual large variety of goods common to a country store of its time. The first floor was then the entire size of the block and was not divided into two stores until he and his successors, Killmer & Jepson, had discontinued business. Amos was known for his congenial personality and honesty in his business dealings. His store drew trade from many miles outside the usual territory that traded in town. Following his success in Gouverneur he went to Prescott, Ontario and began a distilling business with John Wiser, his former bookkeeper and clerk of many years, but the partnership was not harmonious and soon dissolved. Mr. Egert then moved to Ogdensburg and began the business of produce, forwarding and commission, which he continued until his death in 1887

### VFW

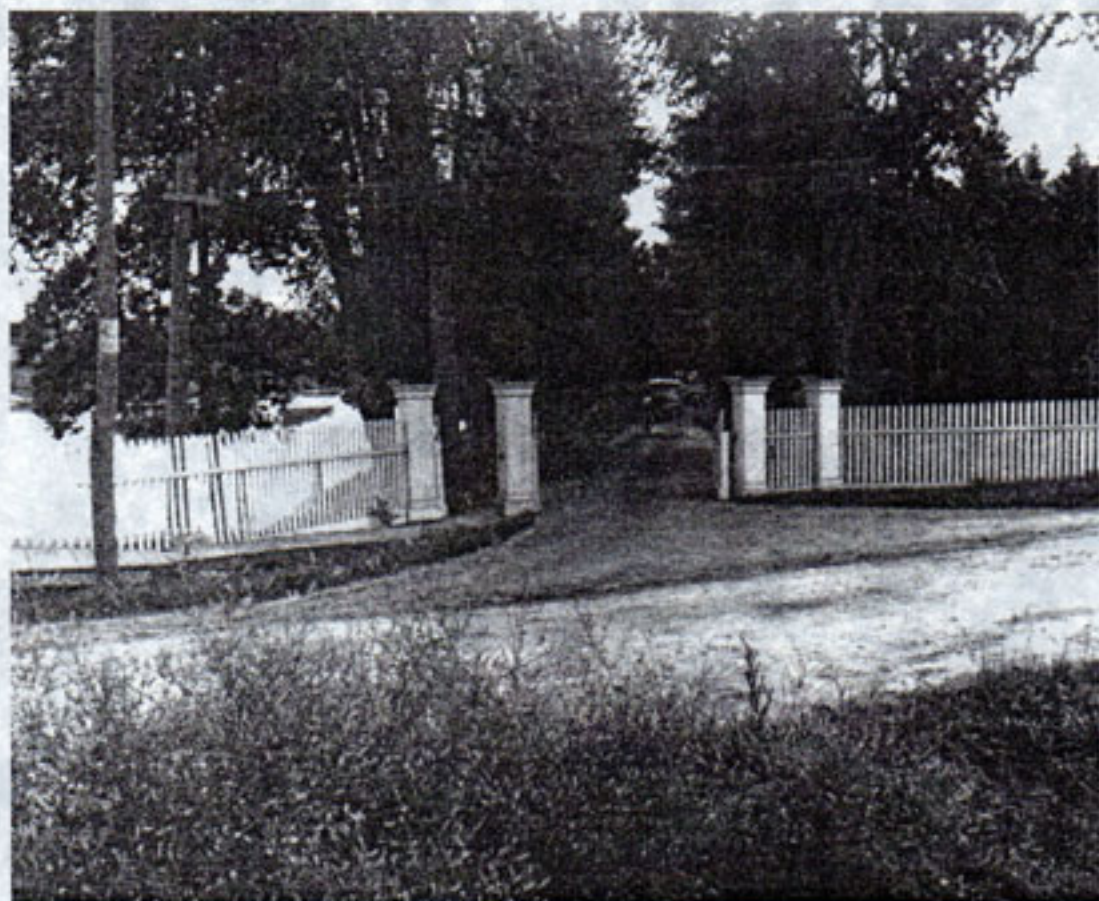
This section of the Cemetery previously referred to as Potter Field was adopted by the local Post of the VFW in 2009

This will be an ongoing project by the members. This year the post has mowed and trimmed the two sections of R & S as well as starting to clear the overgrown areas in order to someday be mowed along with the rest.

In the near future there are plans to straighten all the numbered markers, erect a memorial as well as a history of these descendents from our history

Special thanks from the community should go to this organized and well led service club.





**FIRST GATE OF CEMETERY AFTER  
CROSSING BRIDGE  
GOUVERNEUR, NY**



## **Officers of the Association - 2009**

Mike Villeneuve, *President*

Ron Taylor, *Superintendent/Vice President*

Barbara Roeser, *Secretary*

Jane Scott, *Treasurer*

### ***Trustees***

Eldon Conklin

George Love

Roxann Finley

### ***Tour Committee Members***

Gale Ferguson

Shirley Jones

Ron Taylor

Beverly Dalton

Joe Laurenza

Kris Battersby

Marilyn Scozzafava

Mary Tessmer

Jane Scott

### ***Cover Art***

Paula Towne

### ***Booklets provided by***

Joe Laurenza, Village Historian  
who along with Gale Ferguson  
are tour guides for the day.



## JAMES C. DOLAN 1870 - 1937

James C. Dolan was one of Gouverneur's most respected attorneys. He was born in the Town of Macomb September 4, 1870, the son of Patrick and Catherine Gallagher Dolan. He lived on the Dolan farm until he came to Gouverneur to enter the Union Free School, successor to the Gouverneur Wesleyan Seminary, from which he graduated in 1892. He was a graduate of St. Lawrence University and studied law in the office of Judge Vasco P Abbott, being admitted to the bar in 1898, one of fifteen local attorneys by 1905. Dolan and Abbott formed the partnership of Abbott and Dolan in 1901.

In 1908 Dolan was appointed Assistant District Attorney and served until 1915 when he became District Attorney. In 1921 he was appointed to the Supreme Court of New York State. In 1923 he became the first judge of the St. Lawrence County Children's Court. Dolan was very active in Gouverneur, in St. Lawrence County, and St. Lawrence University.

After retiring in 1935 Judge Dolan wintered in Florida. He died October 29, 1937 in New York City at age 67 on his way to Florida. The Dolan High School Annex was dedicated to him on October 6, 1937, just prior to his passing.

As you can see, his grave is marked with a huge cross in a large open space. He was Catholic, so maybe that is the significance of the cross.





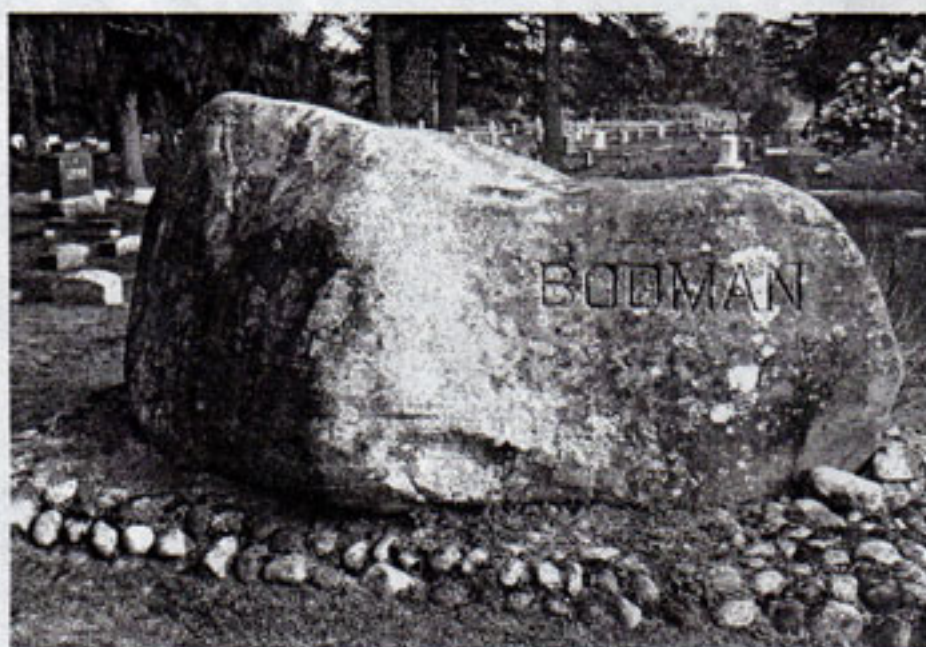
## CHARLES S. BODMAN SR. & FAMILY 1852 - 1935

Charles Bodman was born in Theresa May 20, 1852. He was the grandson of Sylvester and Relief Burt Bodman, the first settlers of the Town of Theresa. At four years old his family moved to a farm in Edwards. When he was 12 they moved to the house at the corner of Grove and Church Streets in Gouverneur. Later the family moved to a farm on the Johnstown Road. He became an expert on farming and gardening, and exhibited at the Gouverneur Fair into his late 70's. He died at age 83.

He was much sought after as an expert on gardening and agriculture. He had a very inquisitive mind and enjoyed reading books on varied subjects including science, history, philosophy and the social sciences. He taught school in the winters and worked his farm in the summers.

He married Ann Leary of Gouverneur who was a teacher until they married. They had two children, Charles Jr. and Mary. His son loved his mother's stories when he was young. He liked hearing about the real lives of their neighbors and ancestors, rather than have her read books of fiction. Charles became a lawyer and lived in Gouverneur. Everyone knew when Charles Jr. was at the Gralyn Theater, he had the strangest laugh.

The stone for this monument came from a farm on the Kearney Road. It was brought by horses or oxen, on a sleigh or buggy. Most probably a sleigh. This eight person lot sold for \$120 in 1920, that's \$15 per bed. Today one bed is \$350.





## WOODMEN OF THE WORLD

Woodmen of the World is a fraternal organization based in Omaha, Nebraska that operates a large privately held insurance company for its members.

Joseph Cullen Root founded the organization in 1890. Taking his own name of Root to heart he wanted to start a Society that would "clear away problems of financial security for its members" much as the pioneer woodsmen cleared away the forest to provide for their families.

One of the most enduring physical legacies of the organization may be the number of distinctive headstones erected in the shape of a tree stump. This was an early benefit of Woodmen of the World membership, and the headstones can be found in cemeteries nationwide. The program was ended in the late 1920's as too costly.





### **ISAAC STARBUCK 1819 - 1892**

Isaac Starbuck was born in Chestertown, NY in 1819. His parents were Charles Starbuck, born in Nantucket and Sarah Starbuck born in Nantucket. Mr. Starbuck was educated in Chestertown and married in 1842, to Ann Mead. Mr. Starbuck came to Gouverneur in the 1870's, engaging in the lumber business, being the senior partner in the firm of Starbuck, McCarty & Co., which business he continued until his death, leaving one son, Franklin Starbuck.

Isaac Starbuck had been a lumberman and tannery proprietor in Starbuckville and Horicon near Lake George. He came to Gouverneur in April 1869, and with partners, John McCarty and John Matteson, purchased the Fosgate-Porter mill on Hailesboro Street. After improving the property, it continued as a manufactory of lumber. The natural accompaniments of lath and shingles and a planing mill were carried on. Spruce logs were prepared here for the Watertown market where they were ground into pulp for paper. This mill had limited water power, and was unequal to the demands of the trade of Starbuck, McCarty & Co. A steam mill which had a capacity of 10,000,000 feet annually was erected and equipped with a modern system of handling the lumber and byproducts. This mill burned in July 1887, and was immediately rebuilt. Their shipping yard is where the lace mill building now stands, convenient to the main line of the railroad. Land between the New York Central Railroad and Prospect Street was also used as their storage yard. When Prospect Street was opened in about 1895, a short street was established leading from Prospect Street to the railroad tracks, named Starbuck Street.

Isaac Starbuck died March 24, 1892 and was succeeded in the business by his son, Frank. The business was discontinued in the fall of 1895 and the mill was dismantled and sold.

### **FRANKLIN STARBUCK 1860 - 1919**

Franklin Starbuck was born in Starbuckville, NY in 1860. His parents were Isaac and Ann Mead Starbuck. He was educated in the Gouverneur Wesleyan Seminary, and in 1881 married Sarah Sparks. They had four children Harold, Gregory, Donald, and Catherine.

Entering the employ of his father, Franklin Starbuck was engaged in lumber business for over forty years. He commenced his business career as book-keeper for Starbuck, McCarty & Co., in 1878. Later he took charge of the marketing of their stock of lumber. Upon the death of his father, he succeeded him as a member of the firm which continued until 1895 when the large mill was dismantled and later sold. In 1902 Franklin Starbuck inaugurated the Gouverneur lumber Co., where he was general manager.

Franklin Starbuck was a prominent member of Gouverneur lodge No. 217 F & A.M. and the Gouverneur Citizens' Club.

He died in 1919, at the age of 59, following a four year period of poor health.



## FRED H. NORTON 1842 - 1911

Fred H. Norton, born in Gouverneur, 1842. His parents were Milton G. Norton, born in Lanesboro, Mass., Dec. 7, 1804, and Marilla E. Foster, born in Hancock, Mass., Sept. 3, 1807. Mr. Norton was educated in G. W. Seminary and married Feb. 3, 1871, to Matilda Gray. Mr. and Mrs. Norton are the parents of Edith H. Norton Reisswig, Frank M., and Evangeline H. Norton Foster. Mr. Norton is a veteran of the Civil War and served in the U. S. Navy in the engineers corps in 1863-5. He was, attached to the Board of U. S. Naval Prize Commissioners at Washington, D. C. He was admitted to the bar in 1863. Was in active practice in Washington at the time of his appointment in the U. S. Navy.

Milton F. Norton ironically drowned August 1867 age 17 years.





## DANIEL PECK

Daniel Peck arrived in Fowler from Clarendon, VT. and began an association with the four Fuller brothers, who had built a blast furnace at Fullerville five years before. In 1846 he became a partner, the furnace was rebuilt and changed to hot-blast, and the making of bar iron which the Fullers had begun in 1835 was continued. They operated the works until 1861 upon its closing. Surrounded as the furnace was with fuel and mines of the best ore, a gigantic industry might have resulted had there been an adequate money supply. Daniel Peck enlisted as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 106th NY Infantry at Ogdensburg from July 1862 until 1864, and was promoted to Captain while at the front before being honorably discharged. From 1864 until 1876 Daniel Peck was an inn-keeper in Little York (Fowler). In 1876 he came to Gouverneur as proprietor of the Fuller House (also called the Peck House), then newly constructed, and was proprietor until 1891. The Fuller House, at the northwest corner of Main and Park Streets, was built by C.T. Fuller and owned by Mr. Peck as an inn. He was extremely popular as a hotel-keeper and many travellers journeyed miles out of their courses in order to partake of his hospitality. Daniel Peck also served in the State Assembly for three terms. As a popular statesman, he was quick at repartee, strong in invective, and often invincible to argument.



Property of Chas. Anthony, James Brodie, John Killmer, C.T. Fuller & M.D. Morris  
Gouverneur, St. Lawrence Co., N.Y



## CALEB JOHNSON 1745 - 1835

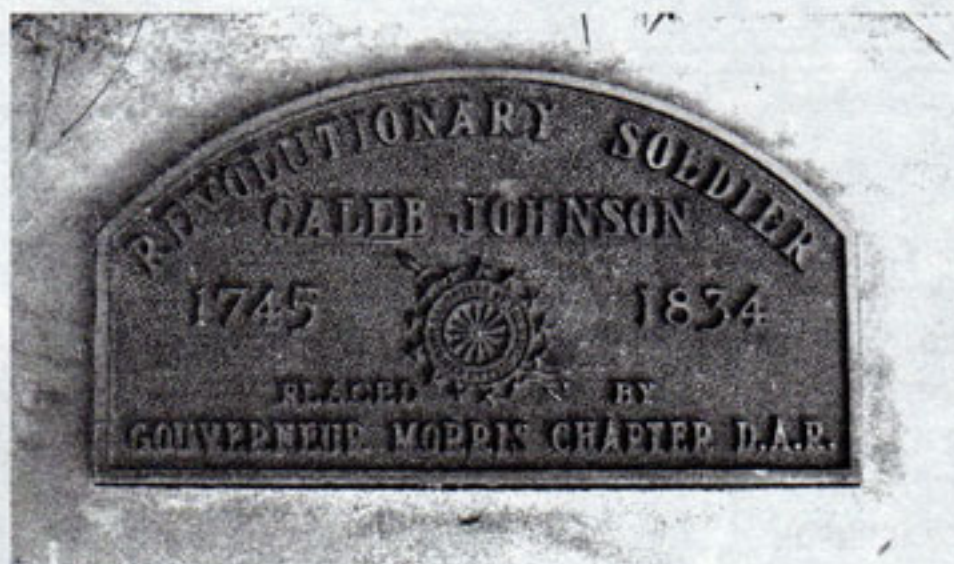
Caleb Johnson was born in Middletown, CT November 20, 1745. One of his ancestors who spelled his name "Jnoson" signed the Dedham Compact April 1, 1775.

He is one of only two Revolutionary war veterans buried in our cemetery. He enlisted in Captain Sumner's company and was at the battle of Saratoga when Burgoyne was defeated. He was said to have been present with his Company when General Washington took command of the Continental Forces at Cambridge. Caleb Johnson served in the Continental army two years.

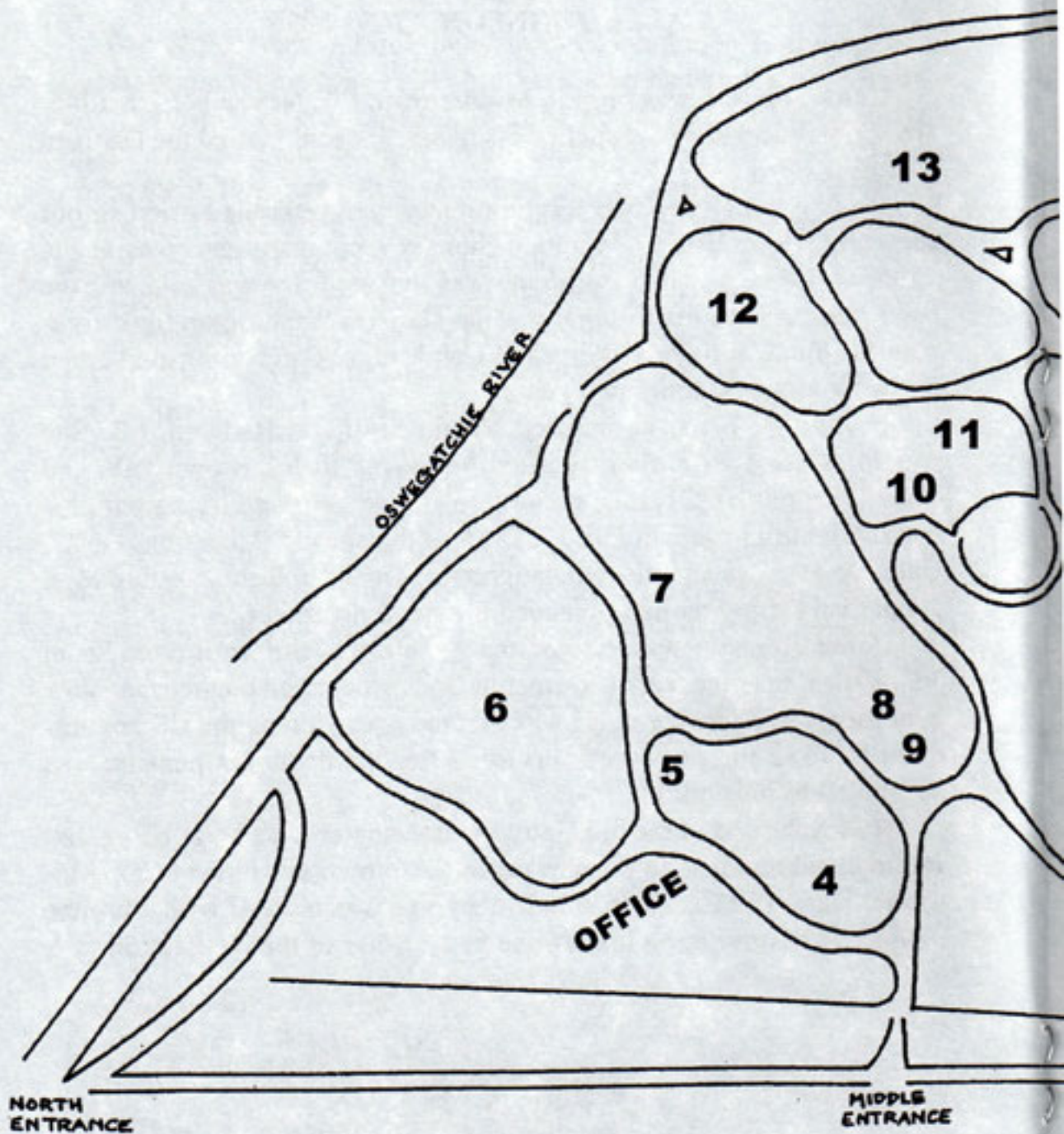
In August, 1785, he married Naomi Sutliff at Haddam, CT. She was his second wife. Shortly after, he moved to Johnstown, NY, and lived there until 1821, then moving to Gouverneur and living with his son John, until his death Jan. 17, 1835, at the age of 90. His sons Ansel, Caleb and Amasa and his two daughters, Mrs. John Robinson and Mrs. Johnathan Carpenter had preceded him to Gouverneur.

Caleb Johnson was one of many settlers who emigrated from Johnstown, thus the reason a street in Gouverneur and county road now bear the name Johnstown. He was granted a pension by the US government in 1832 for two years service. After his death his pension was continued to his widow.

He was buried in the old Gouverneur cemetery, his body being disinterred and removed to the new cemetery known as Riverside. On Memorial Day in 1930, Caleb Johnson's grave was marked with a bronze plaque commemorating his service as a soldier of the Revolution.







- 1. JAMES C. DOLAN
- 2. CHARLES S. BODMAN & FAMILY
- 3. WOODMEN OF THE WORLD
- 4. ISAAC STARBUCK - FRANKLIN STARBUCK
- 5. FRED H. NORTON
- 6. DANIEL PECK
- 7. CALEB JOHNSON

- 8. TIMOTHY SHELDON
- 9. ZINC MONUMENT
- 10. HARVEY & EDNA NOBLE
- 11. DR. BENJAMIN DRURY
- 12. BENJAMIN F. SKINNER
- 13. AMOS EGERT
- 14. VFW