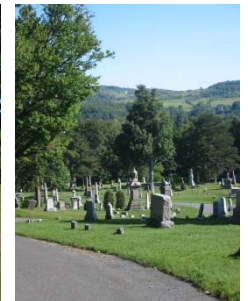
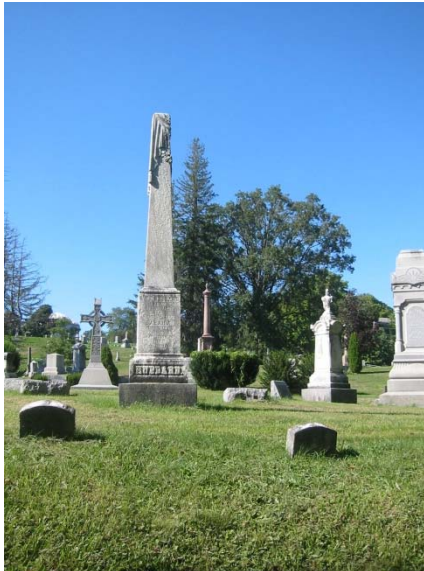




CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Lest we forget.

Since 1853



www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com

Agenda

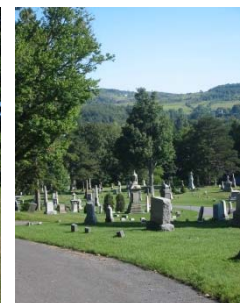
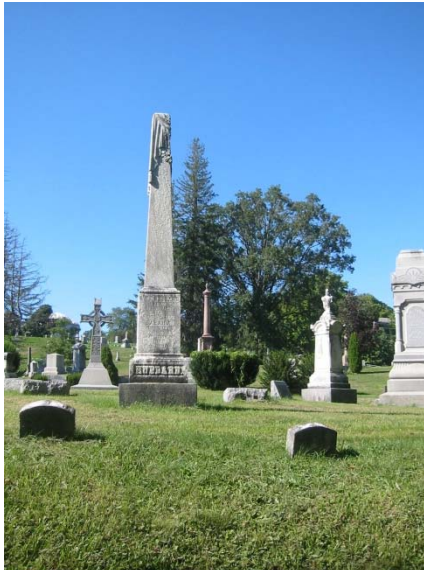
- Overview
- Challenges
- Strategic goals & opportunities
- Q&A/Discussion



Overview



CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY



www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com

The basics

- Established 1853
- Approx 44 acres; 19,000 graves; a Jewish section; Veterans section(s)
- Non-denominational
- Non-profit (501c13) governed by Board of Trustees & regulated by NYS DoS DoC
- Rural/garden style design
 - asymmetric, hills, trees, paths
 - modeled on Pere Lachaise, Paris; High Gate, London; Mt. Auburn, Boston; Green-Wood, Brooklyn, etc.
 - precursor to Central Park & catalyst to conservation movement



More on Garden / Rural Cemetery design at [wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garden_cemetery)



“Here lies”...

See tour map on website for more!

<p>A Civil War Veteran... Major Andrew J. Grover, commander of the NY76th Regiment; killed at Gettysburg</p>	<p>An early doctor... Dr. Miles Goodyear, a member of the first Yale Medical College graduating class of 1812 & highly regarded Cortland physician for 50 years</p>	<p>A NYS Secretary of State... Lawyer Henry S. Randall served as NYS Secretary of State and wrote a biography of Thomas Jefferson</p>	<p>An early aviator... The grave of Otto Hermann has unique photo of a bi-plane attached to the front. Could it be Mr. Hermann at the controls?</p>
<p>A famous author... Buried in a family vault visible from Tompkins Street, local teacher Charles Sanders authored the world famous Sanders <i>Readers & Spellers</i>. ..which sold thirteen million copies during his lifetime (1805-1889).</p>	<p>A NYS Governor... After serving as NYS Comptroller, Nathan Miller defeated Al Smith in the 1920 race for the governorship.</p>	<p>A suffragette... Following her medical studies after the Civil War, Dr. Lydia Hammond practiced homeopathic medicine, advocated for women’s rights, and was an “abortionist” at a time when being one was illegal</p>	<p>A politician & cemetery founder... Joseph Reynolds served as Brig General in the War of 1812; was a NYS Legislator; served as Cortland County Judge for 18 years; was elected to Congress; was first President of the village of Cortland; and <u>still</u> found time to be chief founder of the CRC!</p>

A walk through the CRC reveals a historical “who’s who” of Cortland:
Blodget, McGraw, Lusk, Brewer, Wickwire, Van Hoesen, McDonald, Titchener...



Historic & architecturally significant structures

- **Gibson Chapel**
George W. Conable: also designed the Cortland Democrat building on Central Avenue, the Central High School (now the Cortland County Office building)
- **Office & Superintendent's House**
Carl W. Clark: also designed the Cortland Free Library, Fernery in 1890 House, Cincinnatus Library, Freeville Elementary, Randall School
- **Tompkins Street Historic District** in National Register
- Also a residence on Sands Street



2013-14 Save the Slate campaign funded copper replacement on cemetery office; also just completed renovation of copper on Superintendent's House



Operations & revenues

- **Operations**

- 2 staff members; seasonal added; Cemeteers!
- ...burials
- ...lot & niche sales
- ...monument foundations & Veterans markers
- ...mowing, road maintenance, etc.



- **Revenues**

- Modest revenues from operations (above)
- Grants, eg:
 - ...Cortland Rural Cemetery Foundation
 - ...JM McDonald Foundation
 - ...CNY Community Foundation
 - ...Ralph R. Wilkins Foundation
 - ...Cortland Community Foundation
 - ...Pumpkinfest Committee
- Individual donors
- ASC parking lot lease



- **About our *Permanent Maintenance Fund***

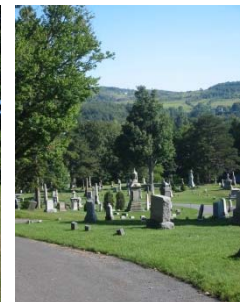
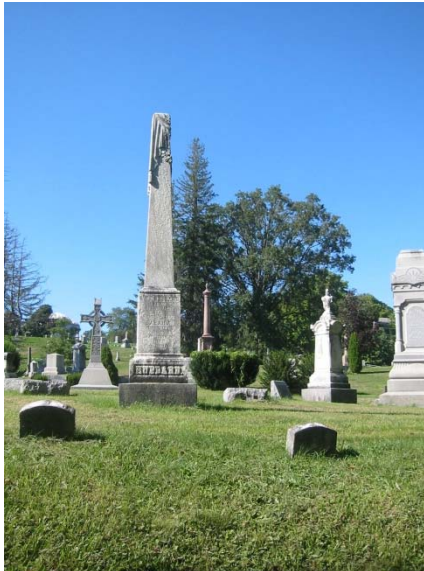
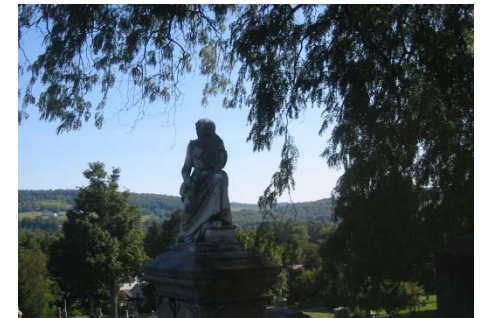
- NYS-mandated reserve (est 1949) for care of cemetery if / when it closes
- acts like an endowment: interest can be used for operations, but principle can't be touched



Challenges



CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY



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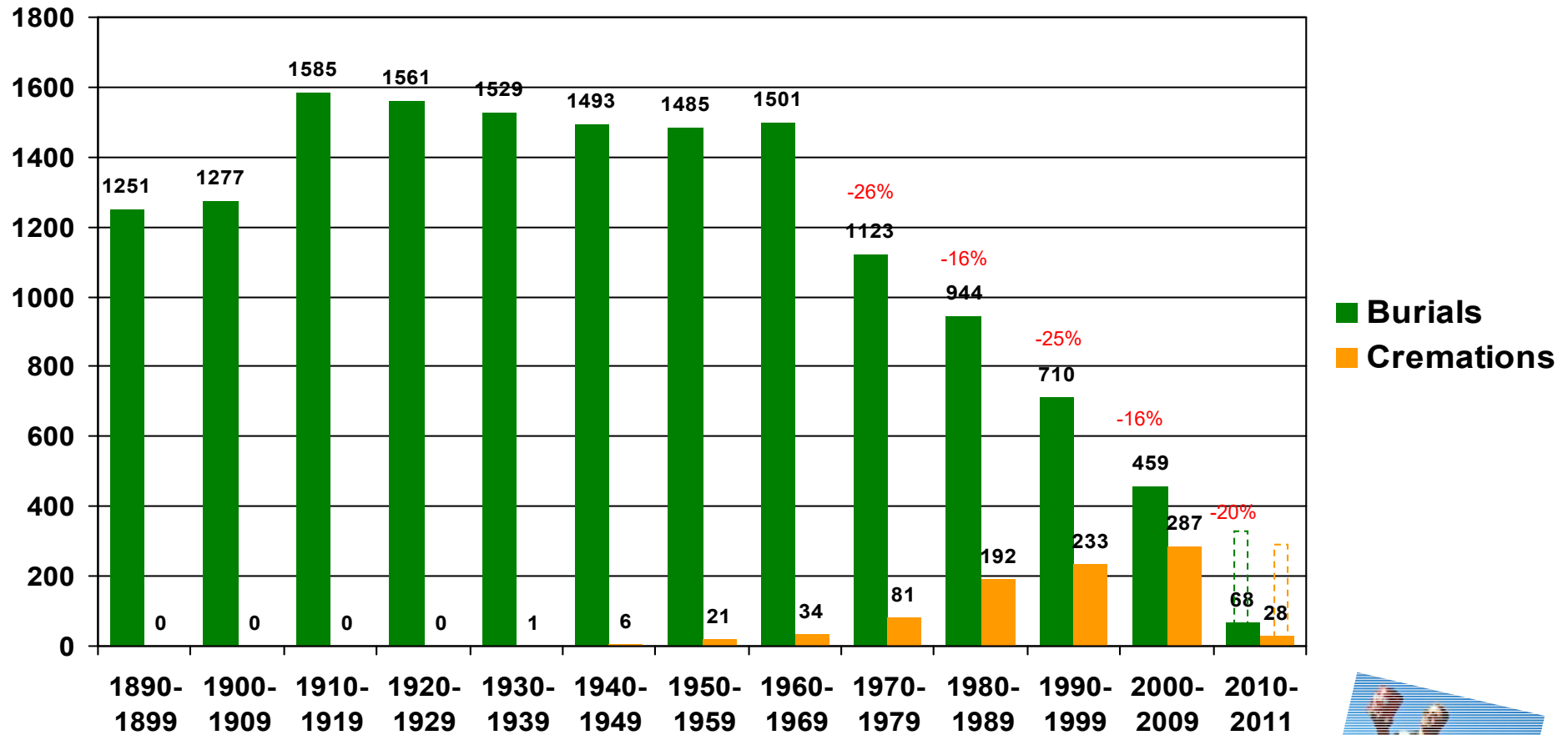
Cortland Standard – June 2012

Rural Cemetery standards need raising

“My wife and I visited the Cortland Rural Cemetery on Saturday, May 26... Having seen the decline of the care of the cemetery through the recent years, I was not surprised by what I saw. It looked as though a hayfield had been cut and left there. As we were coming down the hill ...there were areas that had not even been mowed and the grass was probably 2-3 feet tall.”



The data



- NYS implements Perm Maintenance Fund Law (1949)
- Those buried in the CRC prior to 1853 (approx 10,000) are essentially being maintained for "free"
- PMF fees collected during 1950s-90s worth far less today when adjusted for inflation

- Projection for current decade
 - 368 burials
 - 250 cremations
- National trend, re: Cremations: *As a percentage of US deaths, cremations have risen from 3.6% in 1960 to 40.8% in 2010 (source: Cremation Association of North America).*



No excuses, but certainly some hard realities

- **Expenses up:** labor, fuel, insurance, etc.
- **Besides regular upkeep, major projects:** fallen markers; roads; 100 yr-old structures; vandalism; etc.
- **PMF issues:**
 - yields hit by recent recession (like pensions)
 - PMF inappropriately accessed in 80s/90s (\$260,000); now paying that back
- **Price increases limited** by NYS & the market (like “milk”)
- **Public misconceptions:** city-owned/operated; ‘perpetual care’ myth; etc.
- **Cultural shifts:** mobile population; attitudes toward death; abdicating responsibility for grave care; etc.



Justified or not -- the net result has been a gradual decline in the condition & service quality of the cemetery...

So, two options:

Succumb – or *turn it around*



What happens if we succumb

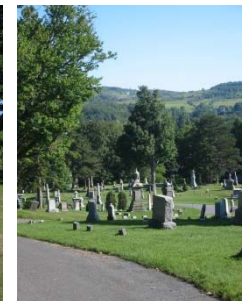
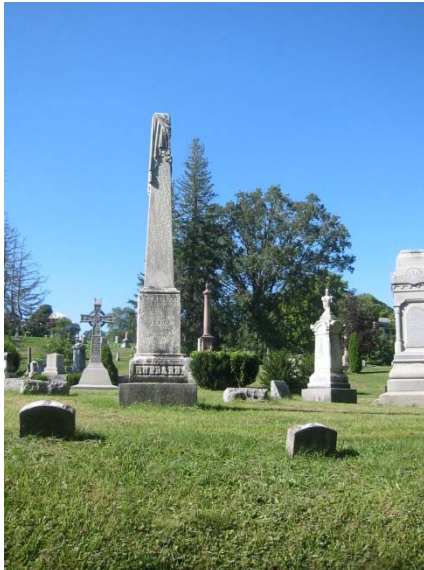
- **What NYS law says:** Unlike villages & towns, a city may assist but is not required to take over a failed cemetery
- **What the reality would be:** a 44 acre “mess” in the middle of the City & county – and adjacent to SUNY Cortland campus... Eyesore, dangerous, public outcry



Strategic goals & opportunities



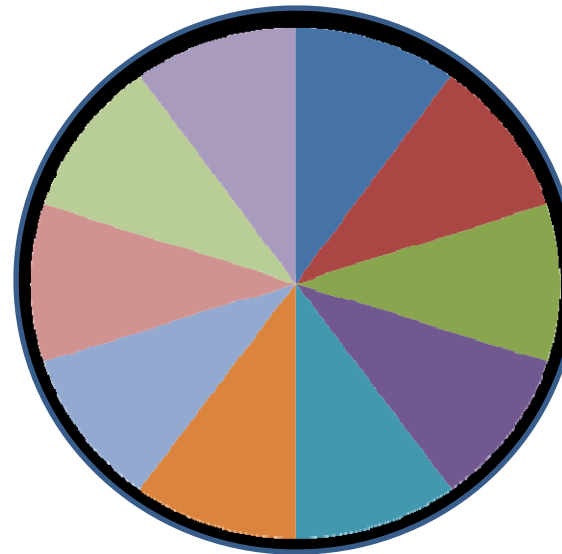
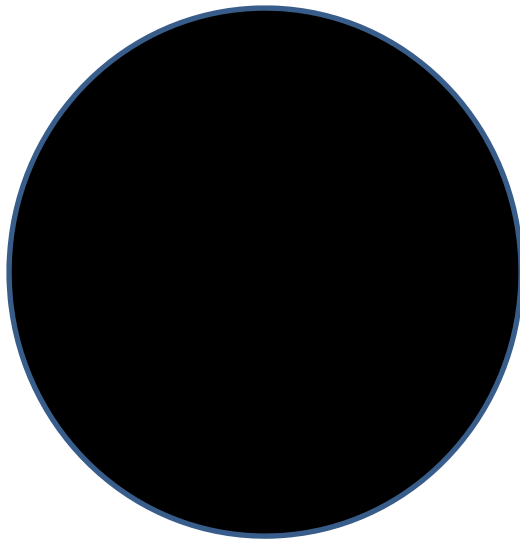
CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY



www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com

Key concept

Shift from a “single-use” facility for the deceased –
to a “multi-use” facility shared with the living



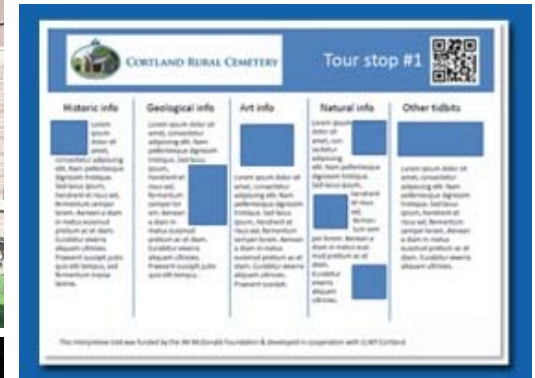
- Trails
- Nature
- Genealogy
- History
- Veterans
- Garden
- Arboretum
- Art
- Music
- Programming



Reimagine roads as “cemetrails”



Entrance sign



Interpretive trails & signs (i.e.: cem history, famous burials, etc.)
 – under development now w/
 SUNY Cortland departments
Ribbon cutting – Spring 2015!

Operation Greenspace! – funded through a generous grant from
 the JM McDonald Foundation

Ancillary benefits of grant

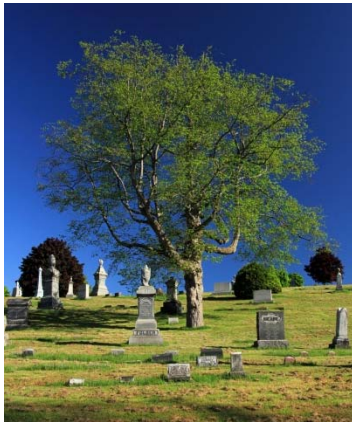


Bird boxes (birding!)

Community flower garden

www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com

Establish cemetery as an arboretum



1. Planting program

- dev strategies for best species & placement
- modest nursery

2. Label, educate & promote

- working with Dr. Steve Broyles
- counted /mapped 300 trees
- 30 of are 'notable'
- need to get to 100 species for Nat. Arbor Society cert
- promote to schools, community, tourism
- Ribbon cutting Spring 2015!

3. Preventive maintenance, take-downs & removal

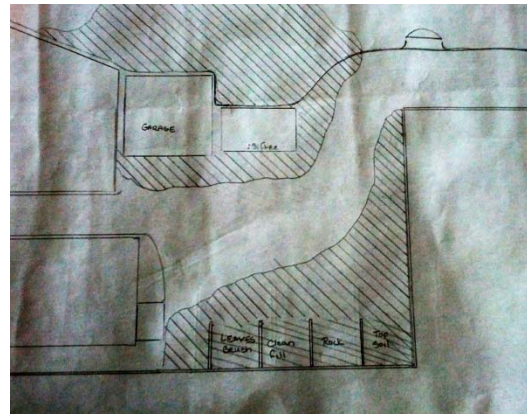
- trim, repair, monitor
- ID imminent safety threats to grounds, staff, public
- remove & use as fuel, mulch, etc.

4. Other possibilities

- garden (pollination, Victorian, etc.)
- birding opportunities
- duck pond
- conservatory
- others?



Introduce sustainable waste management practices at 9 Sands Street property



Ongoing cleanouts by DPW
(including massive effort the week
of July 22, 2013...video on website)



Sustainability-minded
productivity stations



And leverage the cemetery's 'cultural' assets



CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

&



- CCC office & gallery now located in our super's house
- Cemetery Art Show Sept 5-Oct 3, 2014 (with grant from CNY Arts)



THE
TIOUGHNIOGA
RIVER
ANTHOLOGY
by Bill Whiting



- Tioughnioga River Anthology (Sept 27, 2014)
- In conjunction with members of UPC' Trope Troup & CHS theater club
- Watch on YouTube!



Cortland Rural Cemetery
Angel Society

- **First music event' (aka: *Songs in the Cemetery*)** in conjunction with launch of Angel Society. Other possibilities include:
 - ...Organ concert
 - ...CHS Musical Paws
 - ...Cortland Area Flute Ensemble



www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com



OTHER OPPORTUNITIES



Genealogy research center

Gloria Elaine Young



This Remembrance Code provides a permanent link to the life and memories of Gloria. Download a barcode reader application for any smart phone to scan the Remembrance Code and view Gloria's memorial.

Online memorials



Grief management & groups



Historical hayrides



Educational workshops

The point being...

By bringing more life to the cemetery –
we have a chance at extending
the life of the cemetery



By the way, we're not "alone"

GW GREEN-WOOD

TICKETS SHOP BLOG CONTACT

Please Note: Holy Name of Jesus Church will be conducting an All Souls' Day Mass at Green-Wood Cemetery's Historic Chapel on Sunday, November 2, 2014 at 3:00 PM

ABOUT US VISIT TOURS & EVENTS SUPPORT GENERALITY

EVENTS VISITING NEW EXHIBITION COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

FOREST LAWN

the future is our past

About Us Arrangements News, Tours & Events Preservation FAQs Contact Us

Stories of life. Stories of love.

At Forest Lawn, you decide how to tell your life story. Whether sculpted in marble or carved in granite, cast in bronze or reflected in a garden, there are countless ways to be remembered.

In fact, for more than eight generations, this not-for-profit, non-denominational cemetery has served as the final resting place for more

Brand New

[Click Here to Buy Tickets for Forest Lawn Events!](#)

OPENING AUGUST 10, 2014
MARGARET L. WENDT ARCHIVE AND RESOURCE CENTER

An archival center of excellence for protecting, conserving, and making publicly accessible for genealogical research one of WHNY's most precious assets - the Forest Lawn archives. [Click here to view construction progress.](#)

50.9°
Overcast
[See more weather info >](#)

MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

About Store Archive Graves Donate

What Makes This Place Special? News Calendar Visit Give Join Functions Cemetery

Guidelines for visiting Mount Auburn
Our gates are now open until 6 PM. Washington Tower is OPEN until 5 PM. [Learn more](#)

NEWS & EVENTS PLAN AHEAD



Please visit us online!



CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Mail to: PO Box 288
Cortland, NY 13845

Located at: 110 Tompkins Street
Office open Monday-Friday, 8-12 p.m.
607.756.6022
Email: contact@cortland-rural-cemetery.com

Home History Historic Facilities For Veterans Records & Maps Donate More

Sign in or Register



Missed our performance of Bill Whiting's Toughnioga River Anthology? Watch it [here](#), on YouTube (run time 1 hour 5




MEMORIALIZING CORTLAND'S LOVED ONES FOR 150 YEARS - AND COUNTING.

Located just moments from the heart of the Cortland, NY, the Cortland Rural Cemetery gently rises northward from historic Tompkins Street. Spreading graciously among fifty acres of winding drives, lawns, shrubs, and trees - amid islands of individual graves, family mausoleums, and monument groupings, and honoring the original, 19th century concept of a "rural cemetery."

The cemetery is a restful environment far from the rush of modern life. Since 1853, its traditional character and classic landscape have made it - and continue to make it - a special place for families of the region's deceased. Visits are encouraged. Plots remain available for sale for new interments. Beautiful, peaceful, and inspirational settings with perpetual care are available throughout the park-like grounds for multiple graves, cremation burials, family plots, and private estate mausoleums.

Additionally, one hillside has been dedicated to burials for veterans and their spouses. In agreement with Cortland's Temple Birth Shalom, two sections are reserved for Jewish burials. And the intimate, newly restored Gibson Chapel is available for memorial services or group visitations, with seating arrangements for up to sixty people.

(A word about our funding: The Cortland Rural Cemetery is a non-profit cemetery not



Cortland Rural Cemetery

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Cortland Rural Cemetery

Cemetery · Historical Place · Tourist Attraction

Timeline About Photos Reviews More

719 likes 143 visits


Max Hoeschele, Robin Farewell and 34 other friends like this or have been here.

Cortland Rural Cemetery shared a link. October 13

Thanks to our friends Jerome Natoli and Lisa Hoeschele for sharing this story with us. Thankfully, we've got some good momentum going of late and the support of a whole bunch of people! http://www.slate.com/blogs/rattus_obscura/2014/10/

Recent 2014 2013 Founded


See Your Ad Here




Cortland Rural Cemetery

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia


The **Cortland Rural Cemetery** is located in Cortland, New York, USA. A non-profit, non-denominational cemetery established in 1853, the still operational cemetery has a physical footprint of approximately 44 acres and features the attributes typical of the mid-19th century garden cemetery or rural cemetery, including rolling hills, copious trees, curving roads, and an overall asymmetrical design. The cemetery is regulated by the New York State Department of State IV's Division of Cemeteries and as such has the special designation of 501(c)(13) reserved by independent, non-profit cemeteries in New York. It is managed by a volunteer Board of Trustees and funds its operations with a combination of revenues from operations such as burial fees, plot sales income, and marker foundation installation fees, ongoing donations from Cortland Rural Cemetery Foundation, and donations received from individual donors, other foundations, and in-kind assistance from the City of Cortland. Adjacent to the State University of New York at Cortland, located at 110 Tompkins Street, and an included in the Tompkins Street-Main Street Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places, the cemetery has over 19,000 individual graves on its grounds, including those of many notable figures in Cortland's history. The cemetery's grounds also include noteworthy historical architectural structures, including the Gibson Memorial Chapel designed (circa 1922) by noted architect George W. Conable and an office/garage and superintendent's mansion designed by Carl Wesley Clark (circa 1928). The cemetery has dedicated Veterans sections and is also home to a decades-old Jewish Cemetery associated with Cortland's Temple Birth Shalom.



Cortland Rural Cemetery, hill-top view looking South toward Tompkins Street



Historic Gibson Memorial Chapel, designed by George W. Conable



One of numerous large markers in the Cortland Rural Cemetery; this one marks the grave of Chauncey Keator

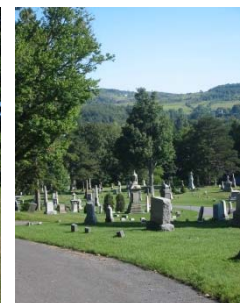
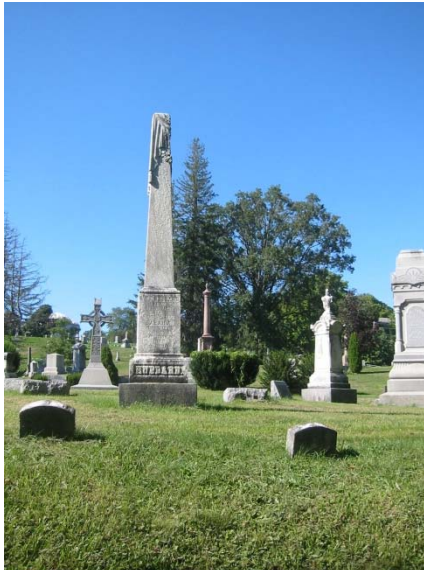


www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com

Q&A/Discussion



CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

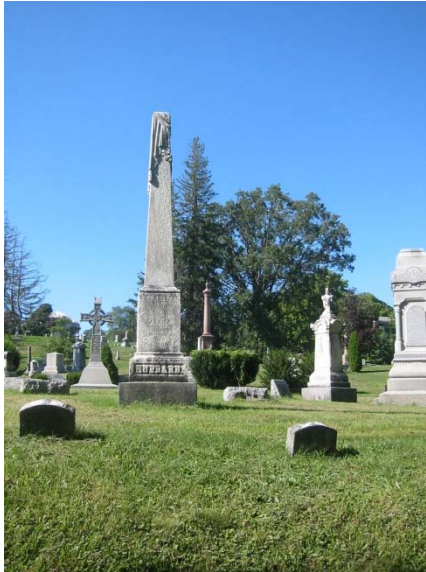


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CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Thank you for your time!

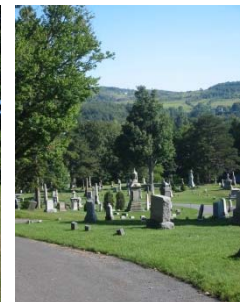
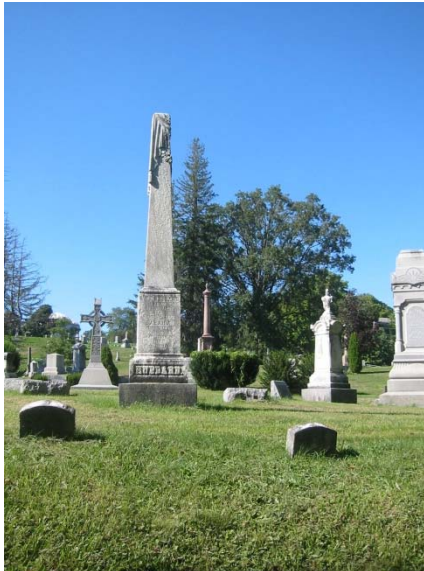


www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com

Addendum



CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY



www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com

A critical new update to the NYS municipal law

An act to amend the general municipal law, in relation to voluntary assistance to public cemetery corporations -- became a law May 5, 2010. The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new section 165-a to read as follows:

§ 165-a. Voluntary municipal assistance to public cemetery corporations.

Any municipal corporation may appropriate and provide funding to a public cemetery corporation as defined in article fifteen of the not-for-profit corporation law. In lieu of or in addition to providing funding to a public cemetery corporation, any municipal corporation may provide goods and/or services to a public cemetery corporation as defined in article fifteen of the not-for-profit corporation law.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

