

Fifth Street Cemetery

A 1878 Map of Warren and it's Additions shows the Fifth Street Cemetery being on the corner of Fifth and East Streets, Lot numbers 60 and 61. The 1895 Map of Warren and Vicinity shows lots 60 and 61 broken up into 5 different building lots and the Fifth Street Cemetery gone. To drive by the old cemetery site one would have a hard time believing that homes with cellars now stand on this spot. Research as to where the remains are have lead me to the Oakland Cemetery.

One must drive west through the cemetery to where the kept grounds end and the woods begin. A short walk into the woods up a dirt road brings you to what Oakland calls "Potters Field" and the Warren Historical Society call "Pioneer Cemetery." The location is wooded and on a hillside covered in ferns. I believe the cemetery has been recently cleared. As I have been lead to understand, Warren had many cemeteries throughout the town and when Oakland was opened, the remains from the various small cemeteries were moved and placed there. To be certain I had found the remains of the persons buried in the Fifth Street Cemetery, I referred to an article that was delivered by the Hon. S.P. Johnson on Saturday, October 24, 1863 (a portion pertaining to the Fifth Street Cemetery is quoted below). The names found in the Pioneer Cemetery/Potters Field that have been found have been underlined.

"In the Spring of 1823 two lots in the town plot, near the bank of the Conewango, containing two-thirds of an acre were selected and purchased by the people of Warren for a burial ground. It was then sufficiently rural and remote from the actual residences of the few settlers who lived along the river bank. In April of that year, a portion of this ground was hurriedly cleared off to make room for the last tenement of its first tenant Mrs. Putiencs, widow of John Gilson who died April 4th, of that year, aged 70, the pioneer of the dead to this new settlement, as she had been to the living in the local history of Warren.

The ground had been purchased by subscription and a bee was made to clean it. Among the workers was one Eli Granger, an early settler and previous to 1807, one of the proprietors of the property known since that date as Hook's mill. In a fit of stimulated merriment, he selected a spot under a hickory in the NW corner, where he desired to be buried, and specially charged Judge Hackney and Zachariah Eddy with the execution of this request. A few weeks after, He was drowned in the Conewango, and was buried in his chosen spot, the second corpse deposited in the new graveyard.

As no record of interments was kept, it is impossible to ascertain after the lapse of forty years, the date or order of burials there, except as indicated by the few head stones erected by surviving friends, in spite of the absence of both marble and mechanics.

Guided by these historians, the body of Caleb Wallace, shot by Jacob Hook on the 25th day of March, 1824, was the next one there deposited. A large native stone at the head of his grave has been rehearsing that melancholy occurrence for nearly forty years to all passer-by, and is yet read by many with unabated interest.

Next in order of deceased adults is Margaretta, wife of Archibald Tanner, who died Jan. 28th, 1825, aged 25 years; and next to her in time Climena, the wife of David Mead, aged 24 years. Harvey Jones, who died May 1st, 1826, aged 43, is the next whose record is preserved; and after him, Sarah D. the wife of Dr. H.S. Newman, who died July 30th 1827.

Thus the first five years furnish but six grave stones of adults. The inscriptions on these six rude stones, all native to the soil, contain a volume of local and biographical history and are invaluable to friends and descendants. How much of the same kind, and of equal value has passed into oblivion for want of monumental preservation, many here will regret.

During the same five years, two similar memorials of parental affection with tender and touching inscriptions, were placed over the graves of two infants--one of Dr. Newman, close to its loving mother and the other of Ethan and Matilda Owen. Close beside the latter, whose age was but five weeks, is a marble stone that records the death of John Owen--in 1843, aged 107 years, 10 mo., and 8 days--thus presenting in strong contrast the extremes of age, at which the insatiate archer seeks his prey in the same family.

In about thirty years this two thirds of an acre became filled so that it should have been entirely abandoned, when the two lots adjoining on the west were appropriated to burial purposes.

About this time, the purpose of procuring a new and more commodious location for a Cemetery beyond the Borough limits was generally adopted and the interments on the new lots have therefore been generally considered as but temporary deposits, to await the event we this day consummated. The old ground, in the meantime, has been still used and crowded until there is left no place whereon to stand without treading on the ashes of the dead."

The placement of the stones do not necessarily correspond with the placement of the remains. I have been told the stones have been knocked down and moved around in the 132 years since the above writing. Time, weather and vandals have done their job to this remote yet peaceful place.

I have been told a story where one woman claimed hearing stories of an ancestor playing in the empty field and finding old coffin handles and such in lots 60 & 61. The way bodies were buried in the early 1800's and without the modern technology of removing the remains, I wonder just how much, or how thorough they could have been at that time.

Oakland Cemetery has also used this final resting ground as a Potters field. A list of those found in their card file that have been buried are also listed. There are no stones to mark their resting place and I doubt if their exact location is known. There are only indentions in the ground where the various graves can be found. I have been told they no longer use these grounds for burials. Thus, this burial ground takes its place in Warren's history.

Pioneer Cemetery/Potters Field

Field Study By:
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Oct. 1995

1. J.M.E.
2. M_____R
3. M.A.D.
4. (can not read)
5. A.D.
6. Warren Payne, 1905
7. E.M.
8. (can not read) M (or N?) R.?
9. In Loving Memory of Harriett daughter of
Hiram S. & Sally D. Newman Aug. 21, 1824 -
Oct 11, 1825
10. Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Mary, wife of
Robert McKinney who died May 3, 1841
11. (missing top half of stone) and Agness who died
May 22 1835 age 1 yr __ mo.
12. In Memory of Caleb Wallace who in the
discharge of his duty to which he was caled by
a civil officer was inhumanly shot dead while
in an attempt to arrest Jacob Hook on the 25th
of March 1824 age 28 years
13. (bottom missing) John Z. _____amiah son of
John & Abiorn? Denton 1828
14. Secured to the memory of George TRJOY? son of
S.T. & M.M. Nelson who departed this life
Oct. 16, 1836
15. Louisa(can not read fully)
.....Shipman
16. Julia Anna, Consort of Francis Melong (or Pelong) died
Oct. 12, 1832 age 14 years
17. Elizabeth wife of Maarir Lorinz died Jan 21, 1845
age 41 yrs.....
18. Benson, son of P. A? Flood died Jun 13, 1817
age 4 yrs & ___ mos. (stone hard to read)
19. In Memory of Aaron P. Owens who departed this
life Jan 20, 1826 age 24 years
20. Joseph Owen died Oct 13, 18?4 (?2,6,5?)
21. Mary Ann Ditmars died Feb 26, 1846 in her
29th year
Joseph Gordon Ditmars died Jan 24, 1846
age 5 mos. 6 days
22. C.W.
23. In memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Buchanan who died
April 6, 1837 aged 44 yrs, 4 mos, 13 days
24. In memory of Harvey Jones who died May 4, 1826
in the 43 year of his age
25. In memory of Martin Rees who dep. this life
Aug 21st 1837 aged 87 years
26. In memory of Mrs. Sarah D. loving wife of
Dr. H.S. Newman who died July 30, 1827
age 26 years
27. (can not read stone)
28. E.L.

29. Matilda M. daughter of Ethan & Elizabeth Owen
aged 5 weeks
30. S.N.
31. Ralph Elliott, Dec 30, 1882 - May 27, 1944
32. Mervin D. daughter of P.I.? & P.O.? Bron? (mossed over
and very hard to read)

*Records of Lots - Oakland Cemetery labeled "Potters Field"

Nash, Lester W.
Needinger, E.H. (Child of)
Larry, Mrs. Minnie (Child of)
Kinney, Child of Iva
Johnson, Child of John E.
Indian's grave
Hotelling, Child of Florence
Haggerty, Ed
Daley, Ed Floyd
Vitto, Andrew
Vestling, Daughter of Flora
Unknown Child
Scrumb, Child of Fred
Scrumb, Mrs. Fred
Piscerno, Joe
Perrone, Peter
Payne, Infant of Orrin
Nolan, William
Child found in creek
Child's grave
Albaugh, Vilva (child of)
Adamson, John
Baby Wooster
Unknown man found in river near Irvington (Now supposed to
by Glade Wood)
Howard, Charles (colored)
Stratton, Warren (colored)
Unknown Infant
Johnson, Eric (Killed by auto on Sheffield Highway)
Unknown man found in woods near Sheffield, Pa.
Donohue, James
Rinfrette, Prosper (Found in Allegheny River at Warren)
Hurd, Della (Died at State Hospital, North Warren, Pa.)
Pool, Infant of Edgar - Marian
Unknown man about 55 years old found in river at Hemlock.
Johnson, Oscar ne. August March 26, 1937
Seeley, Elmer July 30, 1937
Hamblin, Infant of Fred May 2, 1941

#1933 Robinson, Child of Jesse 11-12-1907

*From Oakland Cemetery Office Card File

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(old 5th Street Cemetery)



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