

## GRAVESTONE ART SYMBOLISM PRESENT IN CHURCH STREET CEMETERY

- Anchor** - hope; life eternal; may signify seafaring profession  
**Angel** - guide; messenger between God and man  
- flying (rebirth), trumpeting (call to the resurrection), weeping (grief)  
**Branch, severed** - mortality, end of life cycle  
**Celtic Cross** - circle on it symbolizes eternity, union of heaven and earth  
**Coffins** - mortality  
**Cross** - salvation  
**Dove** - Holy Ghost; peace; innocence; messenger of God carrying the soul to heaven  
**Drapery over anything** - sorrow, mourning  
**Easter Lilly** - modern flower symbolic of resurrection  
**Flowers** - Goodness of life, abundant life;  
**Flower, broken** - premature death  
**Garland** - victory in death  
**Hand of God** - (pointing upward) ascension to Heaven; the reward of the righteous confirmation of life after death, (downward) calling the earth to witness; mortality, sudden death  
**Hands** - devotion, prayer;  
**Handshake** - farewell to earthly existence  
**Hands Clapsed** - in death as in life, the devotion of these two is not destroyed  
**Heart** - the abode of the soul, the soul in bliss, charity, love  
**Ivy** - abiding memory, friendship, fidelity  
**Lamb** - meekness, sacrifice, innocence - frequently used on a child's grave; on an adult grave it represents a devout Christian  
**Lily, lilies** - purity, devotion, humility  
**Obelisk** - tall monuments symbolic of wealth and position; eternal life, regeneration; when draped it means mourning  
**Poppy** - symbolic of sleep, therefore, death; rest, peace  
**Scroll** - the law; Scriptures; mortality  
**Shell, Scallop** - the resurrection, birth, new life, baptism  
**Tree stump or broken limb** - life cut short, death is inevitable  
**Urn** - soul, mortality (a receptacle of earthly remains); Draped - sorrow, mourning  
**Vine** - Christian church, the sacraments

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## Church St. Cemetery Tour 2021



Little Falls Historical Society

# CHURCH STREET CEMETERY INTRODUCTION

The Octagon Church Cemetery (first Little Falls cemetery) was closed to interments in 1834 due to concerns regarding water supply pollution. Disinterments were made and the coffins were re-interred in Church St. Cemetery

The Catholic community was gifted a plot of ground adjacent to Arthur Street by Richard Ward in 1834. In 1839, Nicholas Devereaux purchased an additional one-half acre from Mr. Ward and it was added to the Catholic section. Mr. Ward had specified that this land could not be sold directly to a Catholic.

Church St. Cemetery [officially] opened in 1842. A 15-acre lot was purchased by the village from Mr. Ward. At the time, the cemetery was located outside the village with very few homes in close proximity. A wagon road entered the cemetery from Church St., and another rose diagonally from Monroe St.



Originally, the southern arm of the cemetery was reserved for the most prominent or wealthiest people. Numerous monuments are found in this section. The northern end of the cemetery was allotted to the poor. The “colored peoples” section is in that area. The middle of the cemetery was intended for the “middle class.” Behind the present caretaker’s shed lies the “village section” or, as it is more commonly known, the “potter’s field.” Individuals that could not afford a cemetery plot, or that were under “community care,” were interred in that area. Gravestones are sparse for the over two hundred people that are buried there. The last interment was made in the “village section” in 1977. As time went on, little class distinction was given to the location of gravesites and the “common” people began to be interred alongside the “noteworthy.”

The lower section (220 lots) was opened in 1931, after Cemetery Creek was diverted underground.

# TYPES OF FENCING

There are several types of fencing that were used in cemeteries. Some are still used today.

- Cast Iron
- Chain Link
- Closed Curb
- Iron Pipe
- Open Curb
- Stone Wall
- Tree Lines
- Wire
- Wooden



Closed Curb



Cast Iron



Open Curb



Iron Pipe

## MARKER STYLES

There are several types of marker styles. Some of them include:

- Bedstead
- Corner Markers
- Foot Stones
- Gothic Head
- Head in Socket
- Head with Shoulder
- Mausoleums
- Military (Bronze)
- Pedestal Obelisk
- Pedestal Vault
- Pedestal with Urn
- Pulpit
- Scroll
- Sculpture
- Straight Head
- Tablet Head
- Table Top
- Tree Stump
- Vaults



Tablet Head



Straight Head



Table Top



Tree Stump



Head with Shoulder



Balanced Pitch Rock



Tree Stump

## CHURCH STREET CEMETERY TOUR

### 1. Rebecca Batteson (1885) -

Former slave. Witnessed George Washington crossing the Hudson River when Independence was declared. She was purportedly 117 years old when she died. (N 43°02.793 W 074°52.045)

### 2. Dean Miller (1876) -

Born of slave parents who were among Gen. Herkimer's 33 slaves. Was a servant to Sanders Lansing and upon Mr. Lansing's death, Miller was given a nearby cottage that she shared with friends and boarders until her death. Herkimer descendants erected a monument to her. (N 43°02.831' W 074°52.089')

### 3. Enoch Moore (1882) -

Helped build first AME Zion church in 1850's. Likely Little Falls area manager of Underground Railroad. Recruited 45 African Americans for 54th Mass. Reg. He and wife Cornelia were considered the best caterers in Little Falls. (N 43°02.829' W 074°52.073')

### 4. Charles Peterson (1914) -

Barber by trade. Was famous for arranging the annual African American ball that attracted the black elite from Syracuse to Albany. Member of the black Masonic Lodge of Utica. (N 43°02.833' W 074°52.094')

### 5. William Gray (1862) -

Corporal in the 34th NY regiment during the Civil War. Killed at the battle of Antietam at the age of 50. Four year old daughter had died just two months earlier from burns suffered in a fire she had started while playing with matches. (N 43°02.824 W 074°52.091)

### 6. Nathaniel Benton (1869) -

First president of the village of Little Falls for two terms (1827 and 1828). Attorney for 50 years. New York State senator and Secretary of State. Ran for Lieut. Governor in 1858. United States District Attorney. Adjutant General for the 34th NY Regiment during the War of 1812. Authored a history of Herkimer County. Namesake of Benton Hall Academy and Benton's Landing. (N 43°02.815 W 074°52.114)



**7. Gilbert Mausoleum** - Contains the remains of both the Gilbert and Van der Gracht families. John Gilbert (1795) - Revolutionary War veteran. Joshua Judson Gilbert (1881)

- Owner of the Little Falls Knitting Mill. Nelson Rust Gilbert (1910). Arthur Van der Gracht (1982) - Born in Holland.

Engineer for the Little Falls (Gilbert) Knitting Mill. Esther Rust Gilbert (1995) - Founding member of the Mohawk Valley Center for the Arts and granddaughter of Nelson Rust.

(N 43°02.815' W 074°52.114')



**8. William G. Milligan (1904)** -

Born in Little Falls of parents who had emigrated from Scotland. Was a prominent fixture in the local business community for nearly 60 years. A



cabinet maker by trade, he travelled extensively, returning to Little Falls to marry.

Starting as a cashier, he spent 50 years with the National Herkimer County Bank retiring as president. He served on the boards of several local businesses. Milligan Street is named for him.

(N 43°02.802' W 074°52.095')

**9. Homer P. Snyder (1937)** - Only a grade school education. Manufacturer of knitting machines and bicycles. Director of the Little Falls-Johnstown railroad and the LF National Bank. U.S. congressman for 10 years. Chairman of the committee of Indian Affairs. Proposed the Indian Citizenship Act.

(N 43°02.805 W 074°52.074)

**10. Johann D. Frederiksen (1926)** -

Born and educated in Denmark. Came to Little Falls in 1881 as the representative for Christian Hansen. Oversaw the building of the factory on Hansen's Island (now Redco Foods). Was manager of the factory for 43 years,

and VP of the Hansen Company. Knighted by the King of



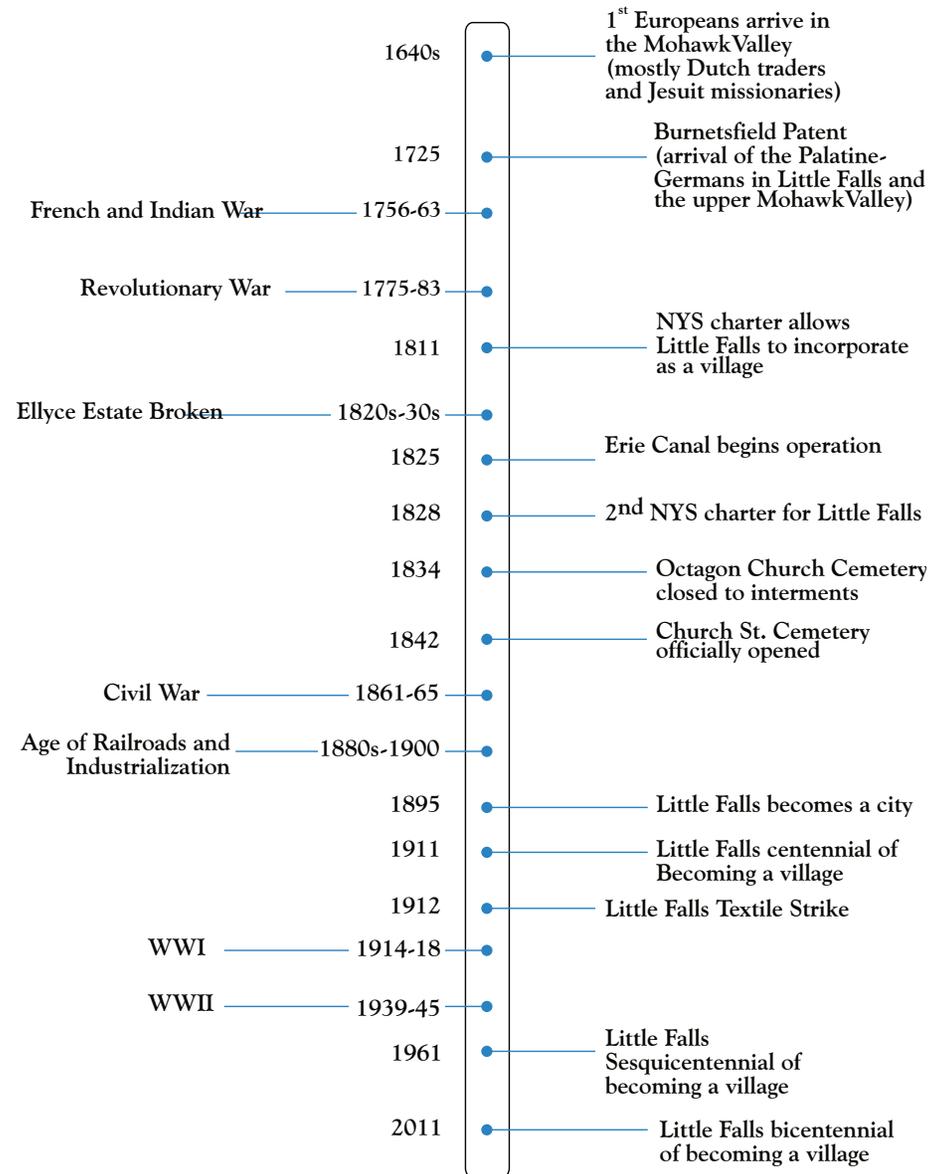
Denmark for his support of the allies in WWI. Leader, along with his wife Mattie, in the campaign to erect the Pine Crest Sanatorium for tuberculosis patients which is currently the Bethany Bible Center.

(N43°02.802 W 074°52.066)

**11. Peewaush (1863)** - Gravestone reads "Son of Dr. Maungwadaus of the Chippewa nation." Son of Maungwadas aka, George Henry, an ordained Methodist minister and herbalist from the Objway or Chippewa tribe. Buried in the community or "Potter's Field" section.

(N43°02.793 W 074° 52.045)

## TIMELINE OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS



**32. Dr. Fred Sabin (1967) -**

Longtime local physician, chairman of the sesquicentennial committee, Vietnam War draft board commissioner. Park was named after him.

(N 43°02.776 W 074°51.933)

**33. Andrew, Ralph and Bill Burrows (1949) (1986) (2014) -**

Father, son and grandson were all presidents of the Burrows-Mohawk Paper Mills (established 1919), a leading manufacturer of lightweight specialty paper. Ralph and Bill expanded the business nationally and internationally. The business was acquired by Twin Rivers Paper Company in 2016 and remains a large Little Falls industrial employer. The Burrows Foundation engages in much community service.

(N 43°02.799 W 074°51.992)

**NOTE:** GPS coordinates appear in the brochure following each grave narrative. Using these coordinates and a GPS device, individuals can self-guide themselves through this Church Street Cemetery walking tour.



Church Street Cemetery Vault

**34. Harvey Feldmeier (1935) - RPI**

graduate. Came to Little Falls to help build a Little Falls Mohawk River dam and became chief engineer for the Cherry-Burrell Corporation. Credited with 56 patents. His engineering expertise has come “full circle” now that Cherry-Burrell has become Feldmeier Equipment. Sons, Lieut. Colonel Alan Feldmeier (1993) and Edward Feldmeier (1945), are buried in adjoining graves.

(N 43°02.802 W 074°52.022)

**35. Gary Chapadeau (1968) - Local**

1960’s era musician. Mainstay of the rock groups the Cruisers and the Kingbeats.

(N 43°02.812 W 074°52.038)

**12. Dr. Lester Green (1849) -**

Graduate of Fairfield Medical College. Began practicing medicine in Little Falls in 1821. Early version of Dr. Burke, never left the village for more than a week in his 28 years of practice.

(N 43°02.785 W 074°52.070)

**13. Seth Richmond(1895) - Little**

Falls village president for 4 terms. President of the and LF Gaslight Company. Herkimer County sheriff and state Assemblyman.



Owner of the Saxony Mill, a lumber yard and a paper mill. During the Civil War was president of the village’s Union clubs, and, with his wife, Sarah Osborne Richmond, was responsible for the collecting and sending of sanitary supplies to the Union troops.

(N 43°02.773 W 074°52.040)

**14. Martin W. Priest (1878) -**

Little Falls village president for 12 terms throughout the years 1838 - 1873. Superintendent of the Mohawk Mill for 30 years.



(N 43°02.773 W 74°52.020)

**15. Arphaxed Loomis (1885) -**

Lawyer, political leader, quiet philanthropist, county surrogate and judge, congressman, and delegate to the NYS constitutional convention. Owned more property than anyone in Little Falls. Helped break the Ellice estate and helped village get a new charter in 1827. Member of the first board of directors of the Herkimer County Bank, and village president in the 1830s.

(N 43°02.771’ W 074°52.003’)

**16. Titus Sheard (1904) -**

Industrialist, politician and Methodist Church trustee. Founded the Eagle Knitting Mill (LF Knitting Mill) in 1872. Elected to the New York State Assembly in 1877.

Assembly Speaker in 1884 and New York State senator. Namesake of Sheard Park and the Titus Sheard steamboat (famous canal boat explosion.)



(N 43°02.754 W 074° 52.015)

**17. Thomas Murray, James Kenna & William Fralick -**

Comrades in the 97th NY regiment in the Civil War. Appear to have wanted to be buried together. William Fralick died of starvation on January 5, 1865 in a Confederate POW camp in Salisbury, N.C.

(N 43°02.751 W 074°52.006)

**18. George Hardin (1901)** - Served as Herkimer County district attorney and in 1861 was elected as state senator. He also held the positions of Supreme Court Justice and chairman of the first Little Falls waterworks. Authored the "History of Herkimer County" in 1893. Built a home on East Gansevoort St. which is now the site of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

(N 43°02.761 W 074° 51.995)

**19. Samuel S. Dale (1940)** - Internationally known expert on wool. Was a prominent wool commodity dealer in Boston. Started the Dale Fund with a bequeathal of two million dollars.

(N 43°02.723' W 074° 51.957')

**20. Anson Casler (1865)** - Casler is believed to be the only Little Falls law enforcement official killed in the line of duty. He was likely murdered on September 17, 1865 while in the process of serving an arrest warrant. He name was added to the New York Police Officers Memorial on May 8, 2018.

(N 43°04.550 W 074°86.580)

**21. Albert Story (1900)** - Quartermaster in the 121st NY during the Civil War. President of the Herkimer County Bank for 19 years. Organized the LF Academy and introduced gas lights to LF.

(N 43°02.733 W 074°51.915)

**22. Zenas Priest (1887)** - Conductor of 1st train between Utica and Little Falls. Superintendent of the Albany to Syracuse section of the railroad for 34 years. Annually received a \$1,000 bonus from Cornelius Vanderbilt. Brigadier General of the militia. President of the Herkimer County bank. Inventor of the soda cracker. The president of the New York Central Railroad attended his funeral.

(N 43°02.726 W 074°51.905)

**23. Burrell Family**- The Burrells were arguably the most prominent family in Little Falls history and certainly the most philanthropic. David Burrell, builder of Overlook Mansion, was an inventor extraordinaire, founder of Cherry-Burrell Corporation, and instrumental in building City Hall, the Burrell Bank building, the Y.M.C.A. and gifting the W.C.A. to the city.

(N 43°02.729' W 074°51.901')

**24. Victor Adams (1938)** - Owned a box making factory on Mill Street in the last half of the 1800's.

He served as Fire Chief in 1880 and 1881 then on the Police and Fire board in the 1890's.

He was involved in a lengthy court battle with then mayor Timothy Dasey over allegations of abuse of power. Adams was cleared of any wrongdoing by the courts.

(N 43°02.708' W 074°51.902')



**25. Bucklin Bench** - Myers Bucklin born in 1873 operated a photographic studio in Little Falls at 559 East Main Street, during the late 1800s and early 1900s. He is noted for his photographic documentation of the local landscapes of the area at that time. He died in Utica in 1955 at the age of 82.

(N 43°02.728 W 074°51.888)

**26. Charles King (1926)** - Village president when Little Falls became a city in 1895.

Very decorative monument.

(N 43°02.722 W 074°51.887)

**27. George W. Boyle (1970)** - Railroad man, telegrapher, messenger, county purchasing agent. Served on the Board of Education for 16 years, Board of Public Works for 15 years, assessor and alderman. Pillar of the Universalist Church, good citizen and community volunteer who gave thousands of hours to his native city. An auxiliary City reservoir is named after him.

(N 43°02.722' W 074°51.875')



**28. Dr. & Mrs. Kenyon Arnold Bushnell (1896) (1893)** -

The most unique monument in the entire cemetery. Health officer, doctor for the poor and prominent

Mason. Daughter, Olga, died at age nine. (N 43°02.752' W 074°51.907')



**29. Casler Monument** - Six person metal monument. Great piece of monument art. Infant son died unnamed in 1860.

(N 43°02.733 W 074°51.923)

**30. Major Wells Sponable Vault (1911)**

- Came to Little Falls in 1847, became a mason. Recruited Company B of the 34th New York Infantry Regiment. Captain in the Civil War. Donated land for the Masonic Temple.

(N 43°02.761' W 074°51.924')



**31. John Nelson Mausoleum (1795)**

- Revolutionary War captain and quartermaster. Originally earthen burial lots. Mausoleum constructed later.

(N 43°02.753 W 074°51.951)

