

County Historian's Cemetery Survey (1944-1947) Collection

A Finding Aid

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Part 2
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NAME	RELATIONSHIP	RELATIVES	DOB	DIED	AGE
Mad Wadsworth				8/31/20	77
Elizabeth	wife	Mad		7/1/22	70
Helen	wife	" & Edy		4/27/23	86
Frank				5/11/27	47
Edy	wife	Frank		6/16/28	77
Mad Humbery	wife	" & Edy		1/10/46	52
J. Romeo		Richard & Susan		11/25/15	51 yrs
Wesley B.	son			8/17/27	1
Harriet N.				6/12/33	2
Henny	wife			6/24/33	1
Romeo		Charles W. & Mary		5/22/30	14
Elizabeth Whitney				12/27/25	67
Elizabeth	wife	Elizabeth		7/24/28	83
Orville	son	" & B.		7/1/32	15
Samuel A.		E. & A.		1837	16
John Humbery				7/29/21	46
Edy	wife	John		5/14/46	61
Henny B.	wife	" & Edy		3/13/17	
J. E.			St. James Station	4/21/24	43
John W.			St. James Station	9/20/22	53
W. Morrison	wife	Edy E.		11/24/22	67
Emily F.	son	" & W.		10/5/40	1
Thomas N.	son			9/20/41	6 mos.
Charles M.				3/13/47	2 mos.
Ellen A.	son			9/11/47	6 mos.
George E.	son			7/15/51	2
John T.			St. James Station	7/10/62	20
James H. Morrison				9/13/72	35
James H. Morrison				1845	

Image of a survey sheet, C167

Livingston County Historian's Office
5 Murray Hill Dr.
Mt. Morris, NY 14510
October 2019

I. Collection Summary

Title	County Historian's Cemetery Survey (1944-1947) Collection
Collection No.	C167
Extent	.83 linear feet
Date Range	c. 1928-1947 (bulk 1945)
Abstract	<p>This collection comprises original handwritten and typed cemetery survey sheets created and/or collected by the Livingston County Historian's Office between about 1944 and 1947. They encompass all known cemeteries in Livingston County, New York, at the time, and record all legible stones in those cemeteries bearing dates between about the 1790s and 1885, with occasional entries of veterans' gravestones through the 1930s. Several lists copied from 1928 D.A.R. inscriptions are also included.</p>
Languages	English.
Access and Restrictions	<p>Use of the documents in the collection is for serious research and by request and permission of the Livingston County Historian's Office. Any use of the material in publications must be cited as follows, "Courtesy of Livingston County Historian's Office, New York". Additionally, all documents should be handled with care.</p> <p>To arrange to conduct research with the documents in the collection, contact the Livingston County Historian by mail at: 5 Murray Hill Drive, Mount Morris, NY, by phone at (585) 243-7955, or by e-mail at Historian@livingstoncountyny.gov.</p>
Copyright	There are no items subject to copyright.

II. Background Information and Scope

As early as 1943, County Historian Karl D. Hartzell was planning a county-wide cemetery survey. The purpose was to first identify all cemeteries and burial grounds in Livingston County and then create lists of individual burials within them. The main purpose was to remedy a serious gap in vital statistics prior to about 1885, when New York State had recently mandated town clerks to record births, deaths, and marriages. A survey of headstones would help to lessen this information desert. The survey therefore recorded the inscriptions of the earliest stones, from about the 1790s, through about 1885. A few markers from up to the 1930s were occasionally recorded, however, primarily those of veterans of war.

The County Historian's Office undertook the survey mainly between 1944 and 1946, with Dr. Hartzell performing much of the work himself with the help his secretary, Miss Sylvia Colt (c.1897-1949) and an unnamed "paid assistant," according to Hartzell's Annual Report of 1944. Miss Colt marked the original survey sheets with her initials as she checked them. Another set of initials, M.E.C., frequently also appear, and are almost certainly Mary E. Cooney's.¹ It is probable that she is the unnamed paid assistant. There were also numerous town historians and other citizen historians who furnished information, including Miss Mary Hopkins (1884-1952), research secretary of the Livingston County Historical Society and librarian at the Wadsworth Library in Geneseo, Jason S. Hewitt of Portage, and Allen H. Wattles of Geneseo.

In 1947, Karl Hartzell published a notice in newspapers that promised a reward of \$5 to anyone bringing inscriptions from small abandoned private burials that were unknown to the County Historian's Office. Nine more cemeteries turned up, as published in papers, totaling over 12,000 names from headstones by December 1947. Some of the local discoverers of these cemeteries submitted surveys of the legible stones there.

In about 1982 and 1983, the County Historian copied the pages for a reference binder and made small notations on the original sheets. Additionally, the "Marked Graves File" or Cemetery Survey index cards were microfilmed in 1986 by the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah. A retyped alphabetical list of all graves was also microfilmed, probably around this time.

The card file persisted until about 2005 when Amie Alden, newly appointed County Historian, photocopied them and oversaw their addition to a new online database. The index cards were then destroyed. Although the entries that make up the online database today have been expanded greatly since the 1980s, the original 1940s survey makes up a significant portion of the entries and is sometimes known as the "Marked Graves File." These entries are indicated by a "Y" for "Yes" in the Marked Graves column on the database, whereas new additions to the series after the 1980s feature an "N" for "No." This does not denote the presence of a headstone or lack thereof; it only identifies the provenance of the information. These entries are searchable on the database by the public.

¹ "Society News" [Miss Mary E. Cooney assisting Karl Hartzell.] *Dansville Breeze*. 29 Aug. 1944

III. Arrangement Notes

The files in the collection are kept in a designated cubic foot box and arranged alphabetically by town. They are generally in fair condition, many of the original pages being dog-eared and frayed from use and due to being a fragile, likely acidic type of paper. Most individual cemetery surveys are clipped to preserve order. All original sheets have been digitized and are kept as PDF files, each discrete cemetery list comprising a separate file.

Because the many of the sheets presumably record most burials in a methodical order, as the surveyor moved through the cemetery, and the lists have not been alphabetized, they can be used by researchers to determine an approximate location of a headstone in a cemetery using other legible stones recorded on either side or nearby. In some instances, the site of a burial where a headstone no longer exists can be determined this way. Therefore, the original lists are a valuable resource as the effects of weather, time, and vandalism play upon historic cemeteries in Livingston County.

Since these files of surveys were foundational to the County Historian's cemetery records, other surveys, maps, articles, and lists were added to the folders over time by subsequent historians. Nearly all items that are dated after the 1940s and some miscellaneous ephemera were removed from the box in 2018 and 2019 by County Historian staff. This aimed to preserve the original collection rather than allow it to become a subject file. The more recent surveys, primarily from the 1970s and 1980s and submitted by local historians, were relocated to reference binders in the Research Room at the County Historian's Office.

There are remaining in the collection several sets of typed sheets dated 1928. These were copied by a member of the Irondequoit Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) from holdings at the Rochester Public Library. Although they were not created in the field during the cemetery survey, they were utilized by the Historian's Office for the project, based on initialed notations by Sylvia Colt, et al.

As an aside, by about the 2000s, this collection erroneously was believed to have been accomplished by members of a local D.A.R. chapter. It is possible that those few 1928 lists generated by the D.A.R. initiated this presumption, or perhaps some of the ancillary people associated with the project were also involved with the D.A.R. In any case, through the research for this finding aid, no mention of the D.A.R. conducting the project was discovered.

IV. Contents List

Each item represents a list of inscriptions from that cemetery; parenthetical numbers indicate number of separate lists.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Box 1 Avon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avon Cemetery (3 lists, including one from 1928) Bronson Hill Cemetery (2) Dutch Hollow Cemetery East Avon Cemetery (3) Littleville Cemetery Pole Bridge Cemetery South Avon Cemetery (3) St. Agnes Cemetery |
| Box 1 Caledonia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mumford Rural Cemetery (2) St. Coumba Cemetery United Presbyterian Cemetery |
| Box 1 Conesus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alger Cemetery Arnold Cemetery Jewell Farm Cemetery McMillan Cemetery Union Cemetery (2) |
| Box 1 Geneseo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alkali Lot Cemetery McCallion Cemetery Mt. Pleasant Cemetery (2) St. Mary's Cemetery Temple Hill Cemetery (2) |
| Box 1 Groveland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glenwood Cemetery (2) Lakeview Cemetery (3) Pioneer Cemetery Williamsburg Cemetery (2) |
| Box 1 Leicester | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leicester Cemetery (2) Parker Cemetery Taunton Cemetery |
| Box 1 Lima | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baptist Cemetery Chet Dalton Cemetery Cummins Corners Cemetery George Ryan Farm Cemetery Heath Farm Cemetery Oakridge Cemetery (2) |

Box 1 Lima (cont'd)

New Methodist Cemetery
 Old Methodist Cemetery
 Presbyterian Cemetery
 St. Rose's Cemetery (2)

Box 1 Livonia

Harder Cemetery
 Hartson or Decker Road Cemetery
 Oakridge Cemetery
 Pennemite Cemetery
 Powell Cemetery
 Short Family Cemetery
 St. Michael's Cemetery
 Union Cemetery

Box 1 Mt. Morris

Alvord Cemetery
 Conklin Cemetery
 Dutch Street Cemetery
 Mt. Morris Cemetery (5)
 Old Cemetery (2)
 Riverview Cemetery (2)
 Scipio Cemetery
 St. Patrick's Cemetery

Box 1 North Dansville

Greenmount Cemetery (7)
 Holy Cross Cemetery
 Instructor Park Cemetery
 Kidd-Fronk Cemetery

Box 1 Nunda

Chautauqua Hollow Cemetery
 Coopersville Cemetery
 Dalton Cemetery
 Guy's Corners Cemetery
 Oakwood Cemetery
 Seager's Cemetery
 Union Cemetery

Box 1 Ossian

Ossian Centre Cemetery
 Westview Cemetery
 Whitney Cemetery
 Wood Cemetery

Box 1 Portage Colonel Williams Cemetery
Hunt Hollow Cemetery
Oakland Cemetery
Pennycook Cemetery

Box 1 Sparta Clark District #1 Cemetery
Kiehle Cemetery
Oak Hill Cemetery
Reed's Corners Cemetery
South Sparta Cemetery (2)
Sparta Center Cemetery

Box 1 Springwater Ashley Cemetery
Capron Cemetery
Christian Church Cemetery
Erwin Cemetery
Evergreen Cemetery
Green Gull Cemetery
Mt. Vernon Cemetery
Old Cemetery or Old Hunt Hollow Cemetery
Pleasant Valley East Cemetery
Pleasant Valley West Cemetery
Notes on Springwater cemeteries

Box 1 West Sparta Byersville Cemetery
Kysorville Cemetery
Miller Road or Jacob Byers Cemetery
Oaklawn Cemetery
Stoner Hill Road Cemetery
Union Corners Cemetery
Woodville Cemetery

Box 1 York Forks Cemetery (4)
Fraser Cemetery
Greigsville Cemetery
Inverness Cemetery
Job Wood Cemetery
Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Newton Cemetery
Old Scotch Cemetery
Olivet Cemetery
Toggetown Cemetery

IV. Related Materials

Livingston County Historian's Office

Mt. Morris, New York

- **Marked Graves Index Cards, A-Z** (6 reels microfilm) – these were generated by the original handwritten survey pages in the County Historian's Cemetery Survey (1944-1947) Collection, so they are very closely related.
- **Livingston County Marked Graves through 1885** (1 reel microfilm) – these pages are typed and arranged alphabetically by name, encompassing all county burials. It evidently is a consolidated list of all the original handwritten surveys and was almost certainly created by the County Historian's Office.
- **Cemetery Records – Assorted Surveys** (2 binders) – these reference binders contain copies and original typed and printed surveys and lists collected by the County Historian's Office after the creation of the original 1944-1947 survey. Many are dated from the 1970s-1990s and may complement the first survey with more recent inclusions.
- **Douglas Morgan Digital Photograph Cemetery Survey (C191)** – An updated County-wide survey accomplished between about 2004 and 2006 which captured all legible stones. Complements the earlier surveys with valuable images of the gravestones.