

## A LITTLE BACKGROUND ABOUT WOODLANDS CEMETERY

In June of 1852 Mr. John M. Stevenson Esq. sent for H. C. Sidney Esq., an English born architect, engineer and landscape designer from Philadelphia. Mr Sidney was hired to choose a site and design a new cemetery for Cambridge. In 1859 Gardeners Monthly touted Sidney as the best landscape gardener, perhaps in the country.

Mr. Sidney decided in favor of the present site and sketched a map of the same. On January 16th, 1858 this site was purchased and on April 1, 1858 Mr. Sidney commenced in laying out roads, walks, avenues and burial lots. Woodlands Cemetery was dedicated June 2nd, 1858.

Within the first year, 87 remains from the old burial yard were moved to Woodlands Cemetery. The location of Woodlands includes a flat area of the valley floor where the entrance is located. The road winds through a wooded area up the hill where the remaining lots are situated on the south slope overlooking the village and mountains beyond.

Originally, the entire cemetery was enclosed by a five-foot picket fence. The handsome entrance gate was installed in 1917 as a memorial to John M. Stevenson by his wife. It was Mr. Stevenson who initiated the creation of Woodlands and he who called Mr. Sidney to Cambridge.

The impressive receiving vault just inside the gate was built as a memorial to Granville Gustavus Wright, husband of Anna Law Wright. Mrs. Wright's father, George Law, was born locally and left to make his fortune. He built High Bridge of the Croton Aqueduct and had 16 steamships on the ocean. He was a candidate for President of the United States on the No Nothing Party in 1856 and he improved railroads around New York City.



**1.** The vault was constructed by monument maker, William Dudley Hoyt, of Cambridge in 1905. It is constructed of 220 tons of granite blocks from Jones Bros. Co., Barre, VT and panels and columns of Quincy granite. Slate beams from Penrhyn Slate Co. in Middle Granville, NY carried the weight of the ceiling. The bronze doors came from Paul E. Cabaret & Co. NYC. There are thirty five catacombs inside and it is lit by two stained glass windows from Tiffany Studios in NYC. They are entitled "David, the Shepherd Lad" and "David the King".

Below the hill, the cemetery included a Poor Lot at the far northeast corner and Methodist Lot for the burial of Methodist ministers. Just right of the receiving vault, there are a number of marble obelisks made by Eliphalet Brown Hoyt (father of W. D. Hoyt) and signed E. B. Hoyt.

Left of the vault follow the dirt road up the hill to see the most beautiful and interesting section of Woodlands. **2.** As you face up hill, on your right, is a tall granite obelisk (1873) marking the final resting place of Philip



Embury, who is actually interred in the flat marble sarcophagus at the base. Philip Embury (1728-1773), born in Ireland, was the earliest Methodist preacher in America. His ministry was encouraged by Barbara Heck and started in New York City, and was involved in the building of Wesley Chapel in 1768.

He later moved to West Camden and Ashgrove, New York in 1770. After his untimely death his body was buried on the farm of Abraham Bininger in the Camden Valley Burial Ground. In 1832, his remains were reinterred at Ashgrove with a marble slab inscribed with words by Rev. John Newland Maffitt. During the American Methodist Bicentennial in 1866, Embury's bones were moved to Cambridge, three miles west of Ashgrove at Woodlands Cemetery... These two sites have now been approved as historic sites by the General Commission on Archives and History.



**3.** Behind the Embury monument is the Civil War Monument erected in 1868 -by the Citizens of Cambridge. Individual monuments surround it.

To the far right along the woods, you will see beautifully laid stone work which was the base for a rustic log and twig gazebo which has only been gone a few years.

Beyond the Civil War Monument and to the right is the Mary Walker marble obelisk with swags of flowers signed by "O'Keefe, Lansingburgh". Two other O'Keefe obelisks are within the two granite and iron fences up the hill, one to the left (Woods - 1857) and the other at the top of the hill (Gray- 1868).



**4.** To the left, midway up the hill, is the imposing Wright-Williams monument, a mass of Quincy granite carved "like a mound of rusticated blocks with a huge tree-like cross of Barre granite covered in carved ivy. Information about it was found in the May 1894 issue of the *Washington County Post* by Dick Wilson (AGS). It was commissioned by Mrs. Lawrence Williams, another daughter of George Law who summered at his farm called Content Farm. William Dudley Hoyt, Cambridge monument maker, had been working on it since October 1893. The Williams monument, to be erected in our cemetery, has at last begun to move from its winter quarters, in the shed north of the depot. The stone rests upon a tram-car, with four flanged wheels, constructed for the purpose, which runs upon tracks of railroad iron. The ponderous heft of this piece of granite, weighing upwards of 75,000 pounds, makes it an undertaking of no small dimensions to transport to the cemetery. Mr. Hoyt has constructed two heavy pontoons, 8x15 feet, of solid oak timber, securely rodded and bolted together, upon which the railroad iron is spiked. As the car, containing the stone advances from one pontoon to the other, the rear pontoon is moved in front and the car again advanced, repeating these changes until the foundation of the monument is reached. The means of propulsion was by means of a capstan and windlass. It took more than two weeks to move the monument to Woodlands.



**5.** Near the Wright-Williams monument is an obelisk for Rev. Henry Gordon (1897) and his wife, Julia. Their two smaller monuments are of interest, one represents a pulpit with open Bible with the text of Rev. Gordon's last sermon, crossed swords on the base and thistles engraved on the column. Julia's also has an open Bible and scroll beneath. Probate records indicate that W. D. Hoyt was paid \$200.00 for a Henry Gordon monument, which one?

As you wander through the cemetery, you will notice many of the pre-1858 stones that were moved here from the old cemeteries. Some are buried so deep that it is difficult to look for signed stones.



**6.** In the middle of the hill is the red sandstone Gothic sarcophagus in memory of the Mc.Kie family. It is signed by J. G. Batterson, Hartford, CT. Another red sandstone Batterson monument is up the hill, to the left, for the families of Baker, Poor and Hanna c.1843.



**7.** High on the hill, you will notice a rustic marble tree in the Warner Lot. The tree is signed at the base G. F. White, Rutland, VT. Four tree stumps are positioned at the corners and three other monuments are of interest. They are the same design and one is also signed White as above.



**8.** Mary Judson's 1872 stone is signed the same on the roll of the scroll.



**11.** The pump-house is located at the top of the hill against the woods on the left. It was given to Woodlands by Anna Wright and Sara Williams. It is rusticated stone with a slate roof. A cistern above it holds 2300 gallons of water. The pump is operated by a single cylinder gas engine with a jack shaft.

In front of the pump house is a large marble monument with a carved urn on top marking the grave of Dr: Jonathan Dorr who died in 1825. It has a very complete signature: "Wrought by Lansing Allen in Moses McKee's shop in Arlington, County Of Bennington, State of Vt."

Also on top of the hill and far right is the Hoyt monument, the final resting place of the three major monument makers in Cambridge. The business was established in Cambridge in 1846 by Eliphalet Brown Hoyt, father to Frank Brown Hoyt and William Dudley Hoyt. The monument business was successfully operated by one or another of them until 1914.

It is interesting to note a stone on the lower -right side of the hill for Bennajah Cooke d.1854. Is this B. Cook we find signed on stones in Washington County?

**The cemetery records for Woodlands Cemetery can be obtained at the cemetery office across the street or at [www.interment.net](http://www.interment.net) choose: New York then Woodlands Cemetery.**



## WOODLANDS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION INC.

### Welcome to Woodlands Cemetery

Woodlands Cemetery is a historic cemetery located in the Village of Cambridge, New York. The 40+ acre property features large shade trees, well maintained driving and walking avenues, historic markers and lovely views from the top of the hill.

Many people use the cemetery as a place to walk for exercise (the hill can be a good work out) or for a quiet stroll in nature. Please be mindful and clean up after your pets if you do bring them along.

Inside this brochure you'll find a map to the cemetery, with some sites highlighted. Please be respectful of the property and markers while enjoying a brisk walk or a leisurely stroll through the grounds.

**We hope you will consider donating to Woodlands Cemetery to aid us in maintaining the roadways, trees and grounds of this historic cemetery. Woodlands Cemetery Association, Inc. is a 501C(13) not-for-profit organization and donations are tax deductible.**



**Beautiful plots in 2 sizes are available for sale throughout the cemetery.**

**Please contact us for more information.**

**7 CEMETERY AVENUE**

**PO Box 173**

**CAMBRIDGE NY 12816**

**518-677-3515**

**[WWW.WOODLANDSCEMETERY.ORG](http://WWW.WOODLANDSCEMETERY.ORG)**

**MAP KEY**

- 1. THE VAULT
- 2. PHILIP EMBURY
- 3. CIVIL WAR MONUMENT
- 4. WRIGHT-WILLIAMS
- 5. REV. HENRY & MRS. GORDON
- 6. MCKIE SARCOPHAGUS
- 7. WARNER LOT
- 8. MARY JUDSON
- 9. THE GRAY LOT
- 10. J. B. RICE
- 11. THE PUMP HOUSE

