

JAMESVILLE COMMUNITY MUSEUM
Post Office Box 76
Jamesville, New York 13078-0076
Phone: 492-4890
jamesvillemuseum.org



Museum Hours

- May through December
Sundays 1-4 p.m.
- March through April
Sundays 2-4 p.m.

The museum is open anytime by appointment. Please call Greg Titus at 469-6681.

NOTE: Your membership is current for December 31st of the year shown on the mailing label.

Membership Application 2017

Jamesville Community Museum
P. O. Box 76
Jamesville, New York 13078-0076

Supporting \$50
Family \$25
Individual/Senior/Student \$15

*Patron \$150
*Sustaining \$75
*Suitable for Corporate Members

Membership runs from January 1st, 2017 through December 31st, 2017

Please make your check payable to: Jamesville Community Museum. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

Check here if Membership cards are desired.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____
(As you would like it to appear on museum list)

Address: _____

Email: _____

I am interested in:

- helping with Memorial Day parade activities
- landscaping and gardening
- planning exhibits for coming year
- helping with refreshments
- planning children's activities (field trips from the elementary school and/or kids' corner)
- telephoning
- carpentry, exhibit setup, etc.
- publicizing
- helping with cataloguing and record keeping
- serving as host/greeter on Saturday and Sunday afternoons

Museum News

Jamesville Community Museum March 2017



Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

The Jamesville Community Museum will reopen for visitors on Sunday, April 2nd from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The 2016 calendar year was one of our most positive. At the annual Holiday Party, in addition to our quilt raffle, a formal recognition ceremony was held to honor Mrs. Nancy Strait. Nancy was, for many years, the curator and exhibit coordinator for the museum. Her surviving husband, Dr. Bradley Strait, was in attendance and spoke after a special plaque was dedicated to Nancy.

As in the past years, the museum is closed to visitors during the extreme winter months of January, February, and March. We have used this down time to begin the very important project of bringing water and sewer into the building. This will allow us to have both a bathroom and a separate sink area. Thanks to the skilled work of Marv Bodley, Greg Titus, and Fred Harle, the project is ahead of schedule and under budget. If you have not yet had an opportunity to renew your museum membership, we would appreciate your continued support.

The Jamesville Museum Board meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2017. All members are invited to attend.

Robert T. Catney
Museum President

Scenes from Jamesville's History

On April 15, 1901, the first prisoners were moved by train to Onondaga County's new penitentiary in Jamesville. It was so new, in fact, that it wasn't even finished. These 20 prisoners were transferred early to help work on the project by providing physical labor with



tasks such as grading and cleaning up the penitentiary grounds. The penitentiary wouldn't be completed until the fall of 1901 and the remaining prisoners were transferred shortly after. This new penitentiary was needed because the old one had outgrown its capacity considerably.
– Dan Connors, General Manager of OHA's Ska*nonh - Great Law of Peace Center



Percy "Angel Face" Geary at the Syracuse Police Station in 1937 after being caught after escaping from Jamesville Penitentiary. Geary had been arrested for his involvement in the July 7, 1933 kidnapping of John O'Connell Jr. of Albany.
Photo by Herald Journal photographer Frank Monell.

Jamesville Walnut Grove Cemetery

Have you ever strolled through the peaceful grounds at the Jamesville Walnut Grove Cemetery (JWGC) on route 173? Most folks driving from Jamesville to Manlius do not realize that there are four individual cemeteries located there.



The oldest cemetery is in the rear southeast corner with the next oldest just to its right. Unfortunately, records for these two cemeteries have been lost. Some of the individuals buried in the oldest cemetery were born prior to the American Revolution. They were some of the first to settle in Jamesville. One was Henry G. Morehouse who owned Morehouse Flats, currently along Gates Road. Those who served in that war have a bronze marker on their headstone to signify their service. Sadly, many of those markers have been stolen and are no longer there.

In 1875, the citizens of the Hamlet of Jamesville were confronted with a serious situation due to the fact that the cemetery was practically filled and there were no vacant lots available. Chapman W. Avery, a life resident of the hamlet, took the subject under consideration and purchased two acres of land adjoining the Old Cemetery on the west. It was surveyed into lots, drives, and walks. Trees and shrubs were planted and a fence built enclosing the property. Gertrude B. Weston was the impetus for installing the fence. She had generously provided \$1000.00 "towards the erection of a substantial iron fence in front of the cemetery." (p. 70, *Water, Wheels & Stone*) The

current JWGC Association is continuing their ongoing efforts to repair and restore the aging fence and asking for donations and/or bequests from the community to keep this landmark intact. You can go to jamesvillecemetery.com for information, or our Facebook page at Jamesville Walnut Grove Cemetery.

The Walnut Grove Cemetery was incorporated in 1881. In 1910, the unsold portion of this cemetery, consisting of over 100 lots, walks, drives, etc. were deeded to a new corporation formed by Henry C. and Timothy M. Avery as Jamesville Cemetery. Approximately two acres of the original purchase, plus an additional three acres on the west bought by T. M. Avery, were known as the Jamesville-Avery Purchase. Six lots were then set aside by T. M. Avery as the Jamesville-Avery Memorial. No interments other than those of the Avery families were to be allowed in the confines of the memorial without written permission submitted to either Harry C. or T. M. Avery.

Additional land was given to both cemeteries prior to the Solvay Process/ Allied Chemical Company leaving Jamesville. They are the east and west ends of the cemetery. Adequate fill was also given by Allied Chemical to build up enough earth from the bedrock to allow for burials in these new sections.

When the Avery Memorial was set up in 1910, Timothy M. Avery made it very clear in his deed that the two cemeteries should NEVER be joined. It seems that he, president of the Jamesville Cemetery, and G. Bernice Weston, president of the Walnut Grove Cemetery, had some differences which revolved around the idea of "who would fill their cemetery first?" T. M. wanted Jamesville filled first; Bernice chose to ignore his desire.

On February 4, 1997, the president of the Jamesville Cemetery/Avery Memorial came to the Walnut Grove Association's Board of Trustees requesting a merger of the two cemeteries. The president stated, "The bottom line of Jamesville/Avery Memorial's financial picture is that our expenses exceed our income." It took eight and a half years of struggle before the merger was accomplished. So on July 27, 2005, the combining of the two cemeteries into one was allowed.



So take a stroll through the iron gate and look at the various monuments and you may find these interesting epitaphs:

On Stephen Hungerford's it reads:

"Death conquers all the sons of men.
Few reach three score years and ten.
Though here and there you may one day trace,
Let none presume 'twill be their case."



Margery Gay who died at the age of 53 has these lines cut into her stone:

"Depart my friends, dry up your tears.
Here I must lie till Christ appears."

The tribute upon the stone of Polly White reads:

"Lo! Where this marble weeps,
A friend, a wife, a mother sleeps,
A heart within whose sacred cell,
The peaceful virtues love to dwell.
Affection warm and love sincere
And soft humanity were there."

Other stones have elaborate carvings and images. There are a few monuments made from metal that have endured the test of time. Of course, we have the Hungerford monument with a beautiful sculpture of a woman reaching to the heavens watching over all who reside there.

The most unusual monument is the boulder erected in memory of Robert Dunlop. This unique stone is symbolic of Dunlop's lifetime work in the plaster business, that was so dependent upon the quarrying of limestone. A team of eight horses is said to have drawn the stone up Penn Hill from the Dunlop quarry. (p. 69, *Water, Wheels & Stone*)

The rules and by-laws have changed since then. For example, one rule stated that "Riding and driving faster than a walk is forbidden, horses must be left untied and when tied, it must be to the tying posts provided for that purpose. Visitors must keep in the roadways and walks, carriages and other vehicles must keep in the roadways..... Automobiles will not be permitted in the grounds. No person admitted on horseback. No cattle, sheep or hogs allowed on the grounds...." (p. 70 *Water, Wheels & Stone*) The cemetery still has rules and regulations, but they have been updated for modern times!



In 1901, the cemetery acquired the former schoolhouse for Joint District No. 14 of DeWitt and Pompey. In 1929 the former schoolhouse was converted to a stone and brick chapel for the sum of \$4323.00. The chapel is used as a receiving vault and a storeroom for necessary tools.

At the back of the property is a wooden structure called the White Cottage. The White Cottage was dedicated to a former trustee of the JWGC Association, Mary Garlow, for her valuable contributions to the cemetery board for many years. Originally it was used as a chapel and housed rest rooms and a pump for watering plants. Currently it stores various items but the Association would like it to become a usable space in the future.

The current Jamesville Walnut Grove Cemetery Association is continually working to keep the grounds in good condition, restoring the fence and pillars, and making sure the cemetery remains a profitable entity. There are many available gravesites for sale. Again, you can go to jamesvillecemetery.com for pricing and contact information.

-by Maria Cargian,
with many thanks to Naomi Titus