

GREENVALE CEMETERY

In 1825, Oliver and Ann Tomlinson sold John Peters, Abisha Goodell, and Solomon Ralph land for a "burying ground." The cost was \$40. The new burial ground was located on East Church Street between the road and the canal and was the first one in the growing village of Fairport. Over next several decades, Alan Ayrault and the Thomas Slocum family added to Greenvale Cemetery until it reached its present size of over two acres.

The stones in Greenvale are of many kinds, reflecting the nearly 200 years of the burial ground's existence. Throughout the 1800's, grave markers, which from the 1820's were made of rectangular pieces of marble, limestone, or sandstone, with a variety of top designs, gradually become more elaborate, often including relatively long inscriptions describing the person's character or position in the community. By 1850, Fairport had its own marble worker. W.H. Vance had his marble works near Main Street and did many stones of that period. Between the Civil War and the turn of the century, the use of obelisks increased. The Sears catalog offered a metal "stone", at least one of which, that of Omer Wilcox, can be found in Greenvale. The post-1920 stones are usually of a lower profile and may be polished. Gravestone lettering is usually either incised or raised, and a picture or a symbol is usually included. Due to erosion, weathering, and pollution, many of the older stones are unreadable.

Greenvale Cemetery, having opened in 1825, reflects the life of the town and the village over nearly 200 years. The first burial was that of Salmon Mallett who died April 7, 1825. He was one of the village's original settlers and one of the first trustees of the cemetery. Also buried at that time were three of Peter Ripley's children who died between 1813 and 1822 and were originally buried in a family plot near Ripley's mill on North Main Street. Another early burial was that of Col. John Peters, one the nine men who owned all the land that would become Fairport Village. Col. Peters owned a tavern near the present Turk Hill Road bridge and probably owned a fleet of canal boats. After speculating in the grain market, and losing his fortune in the panic of 1839, he drowned himself in his well.

Among the over 1,000 men, women, and children buried in Greenvale Cemetery are farmers, public servants, veterans, and entrepreneurs who contributed significantly to the life and growth of Perinton and Fairport. Farmers include Jeremiah Baker who owned a farm at the intersection of Turk Hill and East Church Streets and for whom Baker Road (now Turk Hill Road) was named for a time. Allen Ayrault and his family, after whom Ayrault Road is named, owned a large stock farm at the present location of Fairport High School. A member of his family also owned a home on East Church Street. Milton and Clarissa Budlong were prominent farmers in the southeast portion of Perinton, hence Budlong Road (now Perinton Parkway). They were also among the founders of Raymond Memorial Baptist Church.

Among the veterans buried at Greenvale is Col. Simeon Howard, who fought in the Civil War and returned to Fairport as a businessman. Larry Wilcox was an early settler and a veteran of the War of 1812. Dr. George Price, a prominent local physician for over sixty years, served as a director of an army hospital during World War I.

Fletcher Defendorf, Charlotte Clapp, Elizabeth Price, and Charles Dickenson all served the community in a variety of ways. Defendorf served as President of the Village of Fairport, Town Supervisor, New York State Assemblyman, and delegate to the 1890 Democratic Convention. He was also a member of the Fairport School Board and the first Water Board and Municipal Commission. Charlotte Clapp, active in business and professional areas, was the Town Clerk for 31 years and the Town Historian for 34 years. Elizabeth Price, a member of the

Albany Library College's first class to graduate women, was a school board member and library board member for 35 years. Charles Dickenson, who moved his house from Fullamtown to 10 East Church Street, served as Town Clerk, Supervisor, and Highway Commissioner, in addition to running a successful mercantile business. Both of his daughters, Julia and Emma, who were missionaries, and who also started Fairport's first library, a subscription library, are buried there as well.

George Taylor, Thomas Hulburt, and George Filkins contributed to Fairport's growth and development. George Taylor, who died in 1909, ran a patent medicine business on North Main Street. He developed and sold "Taylor's Oil of Life," which was designed to cure any and all ills of both man and beast. Apparently Buffalo Bill Cody used it on his horses. Taylor also is responsible for starting the first Fairport newspaper. Both Thomas Hulburt and George Filkins were developers. Hulbert developed the land bordered by West Church Street, Hulburt Avenue, and Potter Place. Filkins developed George and Filkins Streets and South Avenue. He also built three charming Italianate homes on South Main Street.

This large village cemetery, with its variety of markers and numbers of town and village "movers and shakers," offers a significant look into the history and heritage of our community.