

**SOUTH SIDE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
OF
SARATOGA SPRINGS**



LIBERTY TREE

Wayne T. Senecal, President

PRESS RELEASE

November 21, 2021

**HISTORIC SARATOGA CEMETERY
BACK UNDER LOCAL CONTROL**

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The historic and oldest still-existing cemetery in the City of Saratoga Springs, the Southside, (formerly Whitford) Cemetery, the earliest burial in which dates back to 1801, recently had control returned to a local Board of Trustees.

On October 19th, a meeting was conducted by the sole remaining trustee, and renowned tombstone photographer, Thomas L. Dunne, of Schenectady at the cemetery, which is located on Crescent Avenue, just east of South Broadway, adjacent to the Four Winds facilities.

At that meeting, Mr. Dunne appointed Mary Ellen Ryall and Wayne T. Senecal, both of Saratoga Springs as trustees. Mary Ellen appeared representing her Ryall family ancestors buried in the cemetery and Wayne representing his wife Susan's Eddy family ancestors buried there.

Corinne Scirocco, also of Saratoga Springs, was nominated to become a trustee representing the Saratoga Chapter of the DAR, (Daughters of the American Revolution), there being five American Revolutionary War veterans buried in the cemetery. Corinne's nomination was set for election at the next board meeting, which later took place in the Walworth Room at the Saratoga Historical Museum in Congress Park on November 3rd. At the October 19th meeting, officers were elected as follows, Thomas L. Dunne, Treasurer & Historian, Mary Ellen Ryall, Secretary, and Wayne t. Senecal, President. The board is seeking additional trustees, hopefully from the over 30 Saratoga Pioneer families with ancestors in the cemetery.

At the November 3rd meeting, which was also attended by Leonard G. Breen, Inspector for the New York State Board of Cemeteries, plans were agreed to reorganize anew the South Side Cemetery Association of Saratoga Springs, which has owned the cemetery since 1869, when the cemetery was purchased from the Whitford family. As a symbol of the five American Revolutionary War Veterans buried in the cemetery, the Liberty Tree was chosen as the association's logo. The association has been inactive for many years, which has resulted in the cemetery becoming severely overgrown and rundown.

After reestablishing the association's tax and legal standings, plans call for a fund raising campaign to be followed by an extensive cleanup and restoration of the cemetery beginning in the spring and summer of 2022. Below is a table of Saratoga Pioneer Families having five or more ancestors buried in the cemetery. [Descendants interested in more details or becoming Trustees or Friends of the Cemetery should write to SSCA-Historian, P.O. Box 711, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. 12866, or email: \[wsenecal@nycap.rr.com\]\(mailto:wsenecal@nycap.rr.com\).](#)

Saratoga Pioneer Families with Five or More Graves in Southside Cemetery					
Rank	Family Name	# Graves	Rank	Family Name	# Graves
1	Davis	42	16	Hudson	8
2	Curtis	29	17	Ramsdill	8
3	Whitford	29	18	Face	7
4	Crawford	23	19	Freeman	7
5	Ostrander	21	20	Barhyte	6
6	Ramsdale	21	21	Rosa	6
7	Knickerbocker	17	22	Ryall	6
8	Degroff	16	23	Abel	5
9	Snyder	13	24	Cromwell	5
10	French	12	25	Shonts	5
11	Kratzer	12	26	Sweet	5
12	Black	9	27	Turner	5
13	Eddy	9	28	VanBunschoten	5
14	Riley	9	29	Wait	5
15	Gilbert	8	30	Weatherwax	5

The Oldest Surviving Historical Cemetery in Saratoga Springs, New York