

ALBURY CEMETERY BOARD

On February 3rd, 1886 the Ameliasburgh Cemetery Association was formed to look after the cemetery at Albury, to build a suitable fence around the cemetery and keep it in proper repair, to improve and beautify the cemetery. Rules and regulations were drawn up, and the following officers elected: President - Peter Dempsey, Vice-President - James H. Peck, Secretary - William Peck, Treasurer - Aaron Pierson, Directors - W. R. Dempsey, William Peck, Thos. D. Onderdonk, R. N. Hunt, D. H. DeLong, R. W. Herman, S. S. Morden, H. G. Stafford, and Wm. H. Redner; Superintendent - John G. Peck. They set the second Wednesday of June as their annual meeting and Decoration Day. All interments were to be under the direction of the Superintendent and fees paid to him for digging and filling graves, etc.

Peter Dempsey continued as President of the Cemetery Association until his death in 1890. W. R. Dempsey followed him as President. The other officers remained the same for many years. A great interest was taken in the cemetery. Many monuments were purchased and erected, and inscriptions engraved. The second Wednesday in June was firmly established as Decoration Day, and prior to that day there was great activity in the cemetery as flowers were planted and graves beautified. The annual meeting was also held on the same day.

Perhaps after 27 years had elapsed some of the interest and enthusiasm had waned, for in May, 1913 Mrs. Alex Anderson, then President of Rednersville Women's Institute, brought up the matter of cleaning up and beautifying Albury Cemetery. The Institute decided to hold their annual picnic at Albury church grounds and basement the second Wednesday in June, bringing their husbands and friends to help with the work. Accordingly on June 11th, 1913 the Institute met at Albury Church basement at the annual meeting of the Ameliasburgh Cemetery Association. The ladies were given permission to organize a new Board of Directors to look after the cemetery work. They chose nine directors: Mrs. Everett Sager, Mrs. George Roblin, Mrs. Lorne Brickman, Miss Minnie Weese, Mrs. George Grey, Mr. David Stafford, Mr. Frank Dempsey, Mr. C. A. Babbit, and Mr. Lorne Brickman.

Immediately after the annual meeting the new board of directors met. The following officers were elected: President - Mrs. Everett Sager, Vice-President - Mrs. Geo. Roblin, Secretary - Minnie Weese, Treasurer - Mrs. Lorne Brickman, and Superintendent - John G. Peck who was to work under the supervision of the board. It was decided to employ help to clean up the cemetery as quickly as possible. Mr. Peck offered to work with the Board to the utmost, giving all the information he could re cemetery plot holders, etc. A committee was appointed to revise the by-laws.

On July 16th, 1913 this committee met, and after much discussion decided not to go to the expense of revising the by-laws drawn up in 1887, but to have a statement drawn up regarding the new Board of Directors. Copies were printed and presented to all plot holders. Collectors were appointed to contact all the plot holders asking them to contribute \$1.00 a plot and 50¢ a half plot towards helping to clean and beautify the cemetery.

On June 20th 1913 Mr. John Peck presented his account for payment, which was 7½ days at \$1.75 a day, amounting to \$13.12, also an account of \$10.50 for cemetery tools. In August Mr. Peck presented a second account - 12 days @ \$1.75 - \$22.77, and use of horse and cart \$2.00.

In April 1914 the directors met and decided to have 500 cards printed to notify each plot owner of the annual meeting on 2nd Wednesday of June. A fence was built on the west side of the church in 1914. A lawn mower and wheel-barrow were bought for \$10.00. The Board took care of all expenses of the cemetery caretaking. Mr. John Peck continued as superintendent until his death in 1918 when Mr. Harry Peck was appointed superintendent. He continued until his death in 1959. The Board also took on the task of collecting a yearly fee from plot owners for the care of their plots. Many of the same people faithfully collected year after year, turning in the money at the annual meeting, always held the second Wednesday in June. Mrs. Earl Weese, Mrs. Harry Peck, Mrs. Everett Sager, Mrs. Geo. Grey, Mrs. Charles Babbit, Mrs. Roy Giles, Mrs. Alex Anderson, Mrs. Hiram Adams, Mrs. Lorne Brickman, Mrs. W. H. Montgomery, also Mr. Pem Peck and Mr. Roy Williamson were some of the faithful collectors of the past.

In 1914 the W. I. held a social at Albury Church in aid of the cemetery fund. It took an active part and interest in the work of the Cemetery Board for many years. Mrs. Earl Weese was convenor of flower beds for more than 35 years. Mrs. Lorne Brickman was Treasurer for 41 years.

A cistern was built in 1924. Borders and shrubs were planted. In 1926 a fence was built down the west side of the cemetery at a cost of \$325.00. In 1929 the fee was raised from \$1.00 to \$1.50 for full plots and from 50¢ to 75¢ for half plots. In 1930 six containers were put in cemetery for refuse. The officers in 1931 were: President - Mrs. E. Sager, Vice-President - Mrs. B. Redner, Secretary - Mrs. W.H. Montgomery, Treasurer - Mrs. L. Brickman, Directors - Mrs. Grey, Pem Peck, Earl Weese, W.H. Montgomery, L. Brickman, G. Stafford and C. Babbit.