

The Pittsford Cemetery Association was formed in 1842 by an act of the New York State legislature. Nathan B. Cole sold six acres of land to the Association for \$300.00 which was the original parcel. Since that time, many other parcels have been added.



Ira Bellows was the first president of the newly formed Association and he chose for himself and his family, a very prominent plot. It is just across from the cannon and the Veterans plot. Four other men served on the Board. Today, in 2008, we have nine volunteer trustees who meet monthly and strive to keep the grounds in good condition.

In 1922 the land on the east side of Washington Road, now known as Pittsford East (formerly The Annex), was purchased from Claire Davis. In total there are 29 acres of land owned by the cemetery - much of it is not surveyed - but is available for use when more grave sites are needed.

This cemetery is the only one of the four located within the town still accepting burials and it is a private organization whose income is in the sale of graves and generous contributions from residents residing in a "Friends Fund". Other cemeteries no longer operating are the Pioneer Cemetery, The East Street Cemetery, and the Joshua Lilly graveyard on S. Wilmarth Road. These are all officially closed for burials but are kept mown by the town of Pittsford.

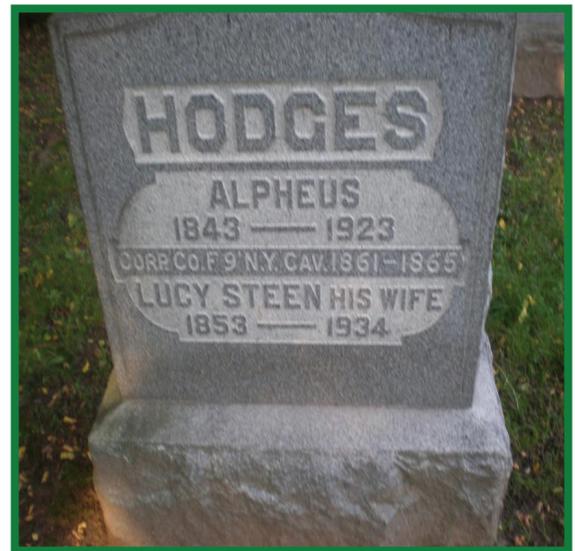


Buried in the Pittsford Cemetery are veterans from every war in which the United States has been engaged. There are at least three Revolutionary War veterans at rest here. They are Captain Henry Gale, Major Ezra Patterson, whose stone is shown here, and Timothy Barnard who was bodyguard for General George Washington during 1777 - 1778. Fifteen other Revolutionary War veterans are buried in the Pioneer Cemetery and Simon Stone is in an East Street plot.



Also in the Pittsford Cemetery is buried one veteran from the Civil War who wore the gray of the Confederate Army. His name is John Thurmon and he fought against the Yankees in Missouri and Mississippi. He eventually moved to East Rochester where he worked at the car shops. He was considered a fine upstanding citizen of that community and he marched every year in the Memorial Day Parade, wearing his confederate uniform. John married and raised five sons. He died in 1919 and his grave is marked with a confederate flag and marker. The Pittsford American Legion tends his plot and makes sure there is a flag.

Another interesting veteran is Alpheus Hodges. He was credited with firing the first shot at the battle of Gettysburg. Hodges was only 20 years old when he fought in that famous battle. He lied about his age when he joined the Army in 1861. Captured by confederate troops, he was slated to go to the infamous Andersonville Prison but was instead sent to Belle Isle. That probably saved his life. Interestingly, Hodges also settled in East Rochester and was employed by the car shops.



If you stroll through the Pittsford Cemetery, you will discover the tombstones marking the final resting places of many well known and prominent families. The roads are well marked, the grass is mown, and the venerable trees are trimmed. We, the trustees, endeavor to keep this burying ground neat and well cared for to show our respect for the many persons entombed here. Our efforts were rewarded by the Landmark Society in 2007 and by the award given by Historic Pittsford in July, 2008. We ask for the help of all members of the community to keep our graveyard in fine condition.