

ISCHUA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CADIZ HISTORICAL MARKER - CADIZ CEMETERY FALL 2014

How many people drive by the small cemetery on the Cadiz Road completely unaware of the historic significance of this tiny plot of land? Some of the earliest pioneers of our area rest here. There are three veterans of the American Revolution and seventeen soldiers from the War of 1812 buried here. There are also a large number of men who fought in the Civil War.

A meeting was held at the home of John McNall in 1832 and it was determined that land was to be set aside as a burial ground. The first recorded burial in 1837 was Abigail Curtis, the wife of Solomon Curtis. He first came to the Franklinville area in 1805 with Joseph McCluer to survey the area for the Holland Land Company. Curtis returned the following year with his family to become one of the original settlers.



Members of the Burlingame and Searls families also rest here. In the early 1840's they risked prison, heavy fines and the possibility of losing their property in order to work actively in the Underground Railroad. This system provided sanctuary for escaping slaves and assisted with their transportation to safe sites. They were Abolitionists who were against slavery and were willing to break the law to support equality for all human beings no matter what race they belonged to.

Near the front of the cemetery is a monument to Theophilus Howard. His father, who was also named Theophilus, was one of the men who dressed as an Indian and dumped tea in the Boston Harbor. This became known as The Boston Tea Party. This group of men was willing to commit what was considered an act of treason against the Crown of England. They believed their actions were needed to free themselves from tyranny.

Bruce and Maggie Fredrickson, Historians for the Town and Village of Franklinville, recently learned that the grant they had applied for to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation has been approved. The pioneers and veterans buried at Cadiz Cemetery will be honored with a New York State historic sign.

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This Foundation was started by Mr. Pomeroy, the CEO of CXtech and TERACAI, which are two multi-million dollar technologies located in Syracuse New York. The purpose of his Foundation is two-fold: one is to support bone marrow drives and the other is to provide historical signs for places worthy of preservation. Mr. Pomeroy received a life-saving bone marrow transplant and provides funds to support this important technology. His love of history has demonstrated itself by helping communities recognize their historical sites with New York State signage. Recently the Foundation also began providing signs for sites listed on the National Register.

The two historians are currently working on projects for signs to recognize Ischua Creek and the part it played in the Underground Railroad, Bryant Hill Road, an integral part of the Old Chautauqua Road and several areas within the village. They also hope to obtain a National Register Sign for the Miner's Cabin.