

# ALPS

## *Attica Landmark Preservation Society*

### **Guided Tour Map & Narrative** ***Northwest Section***

**Forest Hill Cemetery  
Route 98 South  
Attica, NY 14011**

In September, 1868, a committee of three men: James Loomis, J.H. Doty and C.B. Benedict were appointed by the trustees of the Attica Cemetery Association to buy land for use as a cemetery. They contracted with Miss Samantha Gardner for land on High Street. It consisted of 12 acres, including a house, for a price of \$3,500. The house burned previous to the deed being given reducing the association's debt to the amount of \$2,500.

With lots, walks and roads plotted, the cemetery was portrayed as the most beautiful "City of the Dead" in Wyoming County (Beer's History of Wyoming County 1880.)

In 1870 the process of moving bodies from the old cemetery to the new was begun. Bodies were also moved from private properties to the new site. The bodies in the section north of the chapel on the western end were also moved. The arch at the entrance to the cemetery was a gift from James H. Loomis. It remained for many years until it was taken down due to deterioration. The vault, which was in line with the arch, still remains but has not been used to store bodies since the new vault was built in 1978.

The cemetery today, with its rolling hills, deep ravines and ample shade trees, is truly a beautiful setting to honor our dead.



#### EPITAPH

*A voice at midnight came  
He started up to hear  
A mortal arrow pieced his frame  
He fell, but felt no pain*

#### **Cemetery Symbols**

<i>Anchor.....</i>	<i>.....Hope</i>
<i>Angel.....</i>	<i>.....Heavenly Guide</i>
<i>Ball.....</i>	<i>.....Symbol of the Soul</i>
<i>Clasped Hands.....</i>	<i>.....Joined in Death</i>
<i>Clouds.....</i>	<i>.....Divine Home</i>
<i>Cross.....</i>	<i>.....Salvation</i>
<i>Crown.....</i>	<i>.....glory</i>
<i>Draped Arm.....</i>	<i>.....Sorrow</i>
<i>Flying Birds.....</i>	<i>.....Flight of Souls</i>
<i>Fruits.....</i>	<i>.....Plenty Forever</i>
<i>Hand: Upward Finger..</i>	<i>.....Redemption</i>
<i>Heart.....</i>	<i>.....The Soul is Bliss</i>
<i>Lamb.....</i>	<i>Innocence of Childhood</i>
<i>Lilies.....</i>	<i>.....Purity</i>
<i>Obelisk.....</i>	<i>.....Denotes Hope</i>
<i>Rose.....</i>	<i>.....Condolence</i>
<i>Vines.....</i>	<i>.....Wine/Jesus' Blood</i>
<i>Weeping Willow.....</i>	<i>Tree of Human Sorrow</i>
<i>Wheat Sheaves.....</i>	<i>..Living to Ripe Old Age</i>
<i>Wreath.....</i>	<i>.....Victory in Death</i>

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### **Monument Materials**

- Rough & Polished (Waterman Monument)
- Limestone
- Marble -poor durability
- Sandstone
- Slate – Dark blue gray and splits into thin leaves
- Zinc- Bluish metal, resists corrosion

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# Northwest Section

1. **St Vincent DePaul's First Catholic Church** was built on this hillside around 1856. Cost of the building was \$750.00. The present church on East Avenue was erected in 1882.



2. **Vault** erected 1874. Used to store the deceased when weather conditions prohibited burial. It was in use until the new vault was built in 1975.



3. **Hiller, Henry** (1857 – 1940) Was a self-proclaimed weather prophet.



4. **Gassman, George** – Zinc monument features angels, lily of the valley, and a cross with flowers and wheat.



5. **Bishop, Ezra** – (1797-1872) Began teaching school at age 15. Later he became superintendent of schools. He believed no one could succeed without an education. His wife donated \$800.00 to build the First Baptist Church at a cost of \$11,504.00. His son Walter was a Union soldier and is buried at Nashville, TN.



18. **Loomis, James** (1823-1914) His wealthy family came to Attica from Connecticut in 1806. He established a bank in 1865 which later became the Citizens Bank of Attica. He donated the archway that was located at the entrance of the cemetery, since demolished. His monument is located at the highest point of the cemetery.



19. **Farnham, Reuben** (1827-1902) Banker, real estate dealer, owner of Attica Brewery. His house at 152 Main St was declared the most expensive house in the county. Daughter Alice Leader became a prominent physician. She studied in Paris and was a survivor of the Titanic.



## 20. Eight Civil War graves

21. **Becker, Thomas** (1959-19-88) Modern monument with motorcycle and guitar. His motorcycle is buried with him.



22. **Williams, Deacon Simeon** Founded the first church in Attica in a log cabin. It later became the Baptist Church. Died in 1828 at 78 years of age. Interesting epitaph.



33. **Stevens, Alden** (1795-1874) Came to Attica as a teacher in 1821. The entrance to the Attica Museum is a wing of his original home built in 1822. He later became Sheriff and Superintendent of Schools. He believed in free schools and education of the masses. Alden was instrumental in bringing the railroad through Attica. Draped urn on the marker is a sign of sorrow.



34. **Stevens, Robert** (1824-1893) Son of Alden Stevens, U.S. Congressman, involved in taking the railroad westward and from Kansas to Mexico. He donated \$5000 to the Attica Academy to enlarge the school. His home was at 126 Main St. In later years, he bought Maplewood Farms for his son Frederick.



35. **Smith, Augustus** (1838-1908) Came to Attica in 1866, making his home at the corner of Walnut and Main Streets. At one time he owned all the land on the east side of Walnut St. He donated this land for the erection of St. Luke's Church.



6. **Doty, Kirtland** – A farmer who also built and operated a woolen mill. The mill burned during the Civil War. Died in 1882 at 78 years of age.



7. **Rogers, Richard J.** (1829-1910) Born in Lyme, CT. Well known Attica druggist for 50 years. Donated the beautiful stained glass memorial window on the front (south end) of the Attica Trinity United Methodist Church located on Main St, Attica.



8. **Stedman, Leo J.** (1892-1970) Well known farmer who was very active in the Attica Grange. Later gave up farming to work at the Attica State Prison.



9. **Houseknecht, Frederick** (1919-1988) Degree in Accounting from Rochester Business Institute. Active in church, Attica Garden Club, Attica Historical Society, Army veteran of WWII.



10. **Prescott, Charles** (1870-1939) Lawyer in Attica for 40 years. Chauncey Kibbe was in practice with him. Member of the Attica Town Board for 36 years. Owned a Pierce Arrow car.



23. **Gay, Edwin F.** (1853-1924) Superintendent of the Honorable F.C. Steven's famous stock farm and an extensive and successful farmer himself. Daughter Marian (1884-1960) was director of the Steven's Memorial Library from 1917 – 1959.



24. **Young, Douglas H, DDS** (1867-1943) Born in Antrim, North Ireland. Practiced dentistry in Attica from 1890-1938. Made some very important contributions to state and national conventions. His father was a direct descendant of William Penn.



25. **Timm, Frank Sr.** (1864-1923) Well known tailor in Attica. In 1915, he was appointed Postmaster by President Woodrow Wilson. His son, Frank Jr. (Mose) a WWI veteran, was appointed Postmaster in 1943. His grandson, Roger, also served as Postmaster, making three generations of Postmasters in Attica



26. **Krauss, Andrew** - Born 1829 in Baden, Germany. Came to Attica in 1849 and was a merchant who sold boots and shoes. Trustee on the Board of Education and Forest Hill Cemetery Association. Died in 1894.



36. **Tolles, Roswell** – memorial stone only (he is buried in Wisconsin.) **Amos** (1740-1806) was a Revolutionary War soldier serving in the 17<sup>th</sup> regiment of the Albany Militia. He fought in the French and Indian War. **John** (1770-1847) Settled Bennington, New York in 1802 and was a veteran of the War of 1812. He worked as a surveyor. His son **James** (1800-1885) ran lines between the farms and lots in the village of Attica He also laid out East Avenue and Genesee street.



37. **Morgenstern, C.** – Born in Bavaria 1833. Came to America in 1870 and settled in Attica. He had a carriage and blacksmith shop on Water Street. He was appointed postmaster in 1896 by President Grover Cleveland. He died in 1899.



38. **Landsittel, William** – Worked in the printing office for his uncle. A.W. Landsittel, printer and editor of the Attica News. In 1889, the paper sold for \$1.25 per year. His daughter Cora was a school teacher.



11. **Walton, Henry** (1844-1922)  
Also called William Clay. During the Civil War he was a resident of Texas and was drafted as a soldier in the Confederate Army. Returned to Attica after the war and became a prominent lawyer.



12. **Schwalenstocker, Charles** (1832-1902) Erected a hotel in 1877-78 on Exchange St, Attica, named the Berlin Hotel. After WWI it was called the Liberty Hotel. It was at the site of the present Attica Hotel and was operated by various members of the family for many years.



13. **Schwalenstocker, Georgiana** (1885-1987) Nee Wing. Was a native of Alexander. A nurse in WWI before she married Henry Schwalenstocker. Much of her military duty was spent in a hospital in France.



14. **Wilkie, Christian** – Owned property at the north village line on Route 354. From 1802 until this day there have been members of his family living there. Behind his home he could see the Indians walking the trail that led from Buffalo to Geneseo. LaFay Wilkie, his son, became a prominent lawyer. Christian died in 1884 at 91 years of age.



27. **Barrows 4 cross tombstones.**

28. **Gardner, Henry** (1851-1913)  
Father was a major in the Revolutionary War. He was appointed postmaster of Attica in 1891. He had previously served as Sheriff. Marble marker with clasped hands.



29. **Putnam, Harvey** (1793-1855)  
Came to Attica in 1817. Was a lawyer and became a congressman in 1838. Putnam Place is named after this family. Resided at 82 Market Street.



30. **Mentz, George** (1826-1883)  
Owned the Attica House, a local tavern and hotel. A large bakery was also connected with the business. This business was sold to the Erie Railroad Company around 1900 and was then demolished.



31. **Benedict, Charles Sr.** (1828-1901) In 1859, he joined Leonidas Doty as part owner of the Farmers Bank of Attica. It evolved into the Bank of Attica., located at the corner of Main and Market Streets.



39. **Batchelder, Amos** (1868-1921)  
Well known man of his time. President of the AAA and very influential in road improvement, having been the driving force to put in a concrete road between Attica and Alexander, now known as Batchelder Highway ((Route 98.) A tribute from the AAA is inscribed on a nearby monument.



40. **Clark, Leland** (1892-1967)  
Charles Clark came to Attica in 1899 to become the station agent for the New York Central Railroad. His son Leland (Rex) an aerial photographer in WWI, together with Charles operated at business at the corner of Market and Main streets for over 40 years. Leland's son, Leland Jr. was a world renowned medical research scientist with many inventions and patents to his credit.



41. **Ranger, Wesley** (1856-1924)  
Well known Attica architect and building contractor in the 1880's and 1890's. Built many of the larger homes on Main Street and was the architect who designed the Methodist Church and Stevens Memorial Library., formerly the Briggs home. Also was the inventor of the continuous door silo.



15. **Schaefer, Gustus** (1881-1952)  
Paper hanger carriage painter and member of Sam Bey's clown band. Monument features an anchor, wheat and drape.



16. **Munger, John** (1795-1875) One of the first settlers. Planned to build a saw and grist mill until he heard the sheriff was going to take it over to settle bills.  
MONUMENT ONLY  
Attica-Zinc-Brimfield, MA.



17. **Lorish, Andrew** (1832-1997)  
Civil War soldier. Earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery. Later was a lawyer and judge, known for his fairness.



32. **Hoskins, George C.** (1824-1893) Became a very popular politician and was a congressman and Lieutenant Governor of New York State. At the Republican Convention of 1880, in Chicago, he missed becoming the Vice Presidential candidate by one vote. If he had won, he would have become President of the United States when James Garfield was shot.



42. **Waterman, Orville** (1837-1905) Marker is made of rough granite chiseled to look like a tree trunk. He was an undertaker and an early principal in the Attica Union School.



43. **The Chapel** The chapel at Forest Hill Cemetery, built in the summer of 1902, graciously dominates the center of the cemetery. It was built by the West Avenue Mills and was used in its early years as a funeral chapel where services were held prior to burial. It currently is one of the only remaining structures of its kind. On Memorial Day it was the focal point where many notable men would speak to the crowd below from its large wrap around veranda. Its simplicity and charm have endured through the years, making it a cherished landmark.



Photo by Edward Toy