

Please Show Respect

for these sacred places by being quiet and treading carefully.

Do not lean on the monuments, wear sturdy walking shoes and be aware that some cemeteries are billy and steep!

There are some 25 cemeteries, large and small, in the Town of Middletown.

This driving tour will tell you how to get to several of them and will introduce you to a few of the people who rest there. If you'd like to learn more, DVDs of four "Living History Cemetery Tours" are available for purchase.

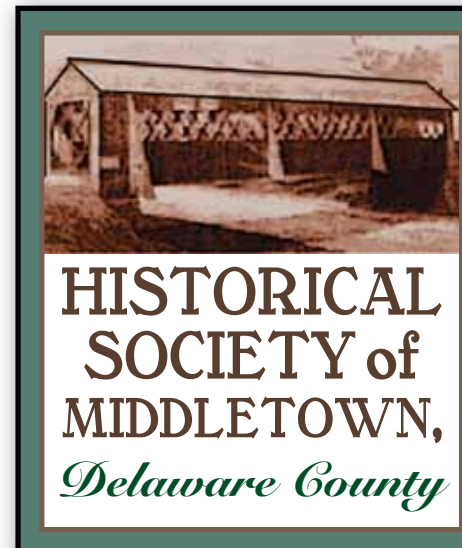
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THE CEMETERIES OF MIDDLETOWN DELAWARE Co. N.Y.

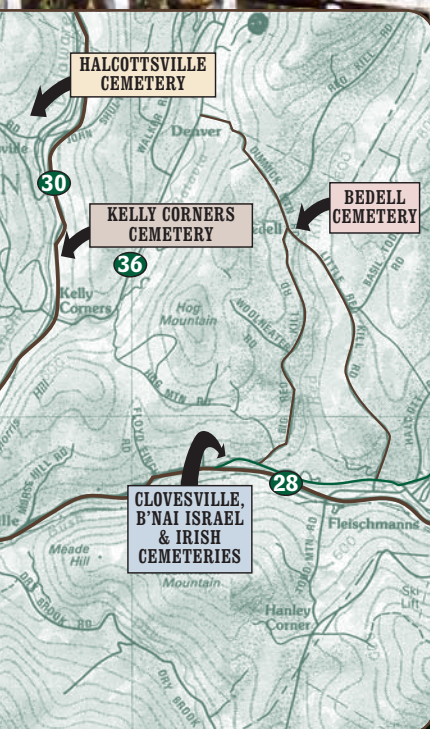
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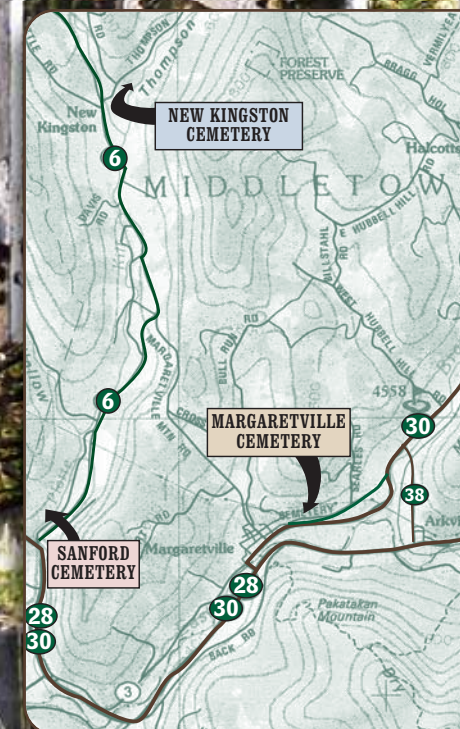
Cemeteries

are havens of peace, beauty and memory.

Each monument represents a life story; a walk through a cemetery can introduce us to the layered chapters in our community's rich history. We invite you to visit these sanctuaries, where the past is present and perhaps recognize your place in the never-ending story.



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NEW KINGSTON VALLEY CEMETERY

THOMPSON HOLLOW RD, 1/2 MILE NORTH OF NEW KINGSTON.

Park along the main road (though it is a busy stretch!) or drive through the iron gate to follow a loop road that exits through this same gate. The monument to Myron Faulkner, store keeper, postmaster, news correspondent and unofficial ‘mayor’ for many years, is straight ahead and to the left. At least two folks buried here met death by water: Revillow Haynes (on the left, near the stone wall) who in 1910 was trapped in a stream under an overturned wagonload of hay, and James Sanford (center rear), who was just 7 years old when he drowned in the Mill Brook in 1867. As the road circles back around to the gate, note the stone to Lincoln Long, State Assemblyman and school superintendent; and, to your left in the front corner, Charles Halleck, who traveled the country as an opera singer and taught music at the general store here.



SANFORD CEMETERY

DELAWARE CO. RTE 3 (NEW KINGSTON RD), 1 MILE FROM NYS ROUTE 28.

Park in the grassy area take a leisurely stroll through this lovely cemetery where some of the earliest settlers in Middletown are buried. These include Smiths, Sanfords and Waterburys who founded the Old Stone School in Dunraven. The central cemetery section contains some very old graves relocated from areas inundated by the Pepacton Reservoir. A few were carved by an itinerant stone carver nicknamed The Coffin Man for the coffins he would etch in the bottom of the headstones. Look for George Sands’ monument to see an example of his work. To the right of this section, meander towards the back under the trees to find the resting place of Thankful VanBenschoten, who started the commercial cauliflower growing industry in the Catskills in the 1890s. Facing the cemetery from the parking area, in the far left corner is the grave of Karl Amor, an Estonian war refugee who gained fame in the folkart world for his distinctive grapevine and reed baskets.

HALCOTTSVILLE CEMETERY

BACK RIVER ROAD, 1/2 MILE NORTH OF HALCOTTSVILLE OFF NYS ROUTE 30.

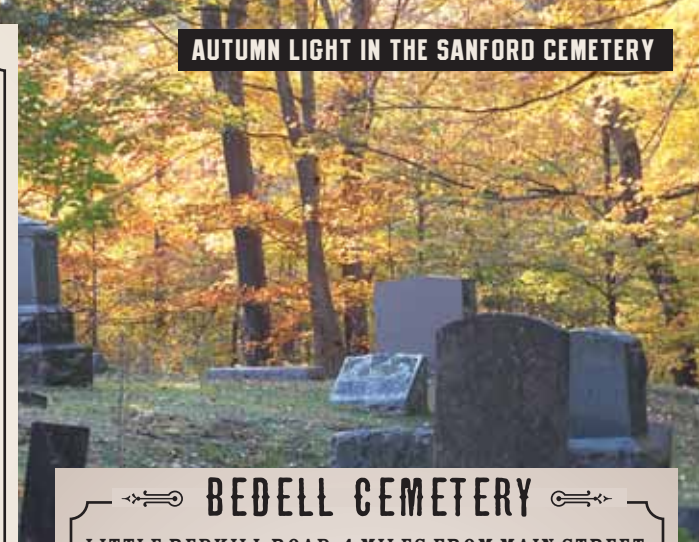
Watch for the cemetery sign on the left, and proceed through the open iron gate up the one-lane access road. Don’t be surprised if you startle a deer or a flock of wild turkeys when you break into the clearing at this secluded hilltop burial ground. Enter through the impressive stone wall and note the granite-and-iron enclosed plot of Isaac and Maria Weld Hewitt. Like John D. Hubbell, buried in the Kelly Corners Cemetery, Isaac led a congregation of the Old School (Primitive) Baptist Church which was once dominant in the area. Nearby is a marble monument to J. Foster Roberts, whose father established a homestead in Bragg Hollow in 1815. Look for monuments to David, Norman and George Kelly who in 1899 built the Round Barn just south of the hamlet. In the far left front corner of the cemetery is the grave of Virgil Meade whose family ran the Round Barn farm for many years after the Kellys.

KELLY CORNERS CEMETERY

NYS ROUTE 30, 3 MILES NORTH OF MARGARETVILLE (ALSO KNOWN AS EUREKA CEMETERY).

Park in front of the fence and enter on foot through either of two unlocked gates. The prominent monument near the right front memorializes John D. Hubbell, an elder in the Old School Baptist Church who established the cemetery, and members of the family whose homestead is nearby. Two rows behind Hubbells, look for the monument to Jason Morse, who, with three brothers marched off to the Civil War. The pink marble stone near the top of the central knoll, belongs to Grant and Lina Kelly who kept a popular boarding house near here for decades. The climb is steep but the view of the East Branch and mountains to the east from the top of this hill was a striking scene in the 2000 film “You Can Count on Me” starring Mathew Broderick, Mark Ruffalo and Laura Linney.

AUTUMN LIGHT IN THE SANFORD CEMETERY



BEDELL CEMETERY

LITTLE REDKILL ROAD, 4 MILES FROM MAIN STREET, FLEISCHMANNS.

Park along the road and enter through the gate with the arched sign overhead. You will be struck by the number of Kellys in this cemetery! Blishs, too. Seven monuments on a concrete wall one row from the rear of the cemetery memorialize Civil War veteran Silas Blish and family members. An especially poignant double stone remembers two of Chancy and Catharine Hicks’ daughters who died in 1861 and 1863, both at the age of two. Find them to the right of the entrance, about five rows from the road, in the middle of the old section. By far the longest inscription belongs to Bryan Burgin, 1908-86, legendary state game warden (second row from the front, midway between the first and second gates). Find an unusual hand chiseled memorial set in 2002 in the shape of a large wrench in the top right corner of the cemetery.

MARGARETVILLE CEMETERY

CEMETERY RD, JUST OFF MAIN ST, MARGARETVILLE. Park in the lot directly in front of the receiving vault. The driveway loop into this part of the cemetery is open from May 1 to Nov. 1. Foot entry at other times of the year is via the ramp in front of the vault. Note the old section to your right. Look upslope to see ALLABEN in white marble; Dr. Orson Allaben helped develop the village in the mid-1800s. Continue around the loop—in the center are the monuments of later entrepreneurs: Clarke Sanford (*Catskill Mountain News*), Sheldon Birdsall (Margaretville Telephone

Company) and Lafayette Bussy (Bussy’s Store). Exit to the parking lot if driving, or, just before the exit, walk up the drive to your right that sweeps uphill and across the terraced hillside and into the oldest part of the cemetery. Look to the left of the driveway for the distinctive concrete bench where Pakatakan Art Colony artists J. Francis and Adah Murphy are buried. To the left of the driveway’s exit onto Cemetery Road is a section devoted to reinterments from Arena and other communities that were claimed for New York City’s Pepacton Reservoir in the 1950s.

CLOVESVILLE, B’NAI ISRAEL & IRISH CEMETERIES

OLD NYS RTE 28, 2 MILES WEST OF FLEISCHMANNS. Three distinct cemeteries can be accessed by turning onto dead-end Grocholl Road. Park in pull offs, or drive into the main Clovesville Cemetery entrance and park to the side. (The nearby church parking lot is not cemetery property.) Look up the bank to the right of the driveway to see a large stone for John and Delia Blish. John sold land to the Fleischmanns distilling family who established a summer compound near the village that was later named for them. Note two unusual stones to the left of the roadway—a “white bronze” (zinc) monument to John and Rachel Munson beneath a

square of four pine trees, and, in an enclosure on the knoll beyond, a concrete tree stump and bible inscribed to James and Mary Ostrum Richard. Closer to the church, look for the headstone of Samuel Todd, Revolutionary War veteran. Follow the driveway to the rear of the cemetery to find the entrance to B’nai Israel, the Jewish cemetery established in the 1920s. It is closed to visitors on Shabbat (Saturday). On other days, walk through the center gate and to the rise towards the rear of the cemetery. There you will find a large monument—Edelstein/Berg—the resting place of Gertrude Berg, aka “Molly Goldberg” of radio and TV fame, her parents

and husband. Gertrude got her start in show biz at her family’s Fleischmanns boarding house.

Across Old Rte. 28 from the Clovesville Cemetery is a small burial ground where several Irish immigrants and their descendants are buried. Due to the poor condition and uneven terrain, it’s advisable to view it from the roadside. Many Irish came to the area in the mid-19th century to work in tanneries and mills. One who is buried here, Michael McCormack, served in the Civil War along with two of his sons.