



How Can I Help?

The “Friends of the Van Gordon Road Cemetery” is organizing to save the oldest multi-family cemetery in Barrington. It is historically known as the Barrington Baptist Cemetery, or the Wright Cemetery.

A group of citizens known as the Barrington History Group, part of The Dundee Area Historical Society, is helping the Friends raise funds and find volunteers to save this important part of Barrington history. Funds are needed to pay for a survey, fencing, an access path, and gravestone restoration. Volunteers are needed to help clear the area, map the boundaries, write grants, raise funds, restore stones and for ongoing maintenance.

If you are able to help please return the attached information sheet with your name, contact information, and how you can help. If you would like to send a donation – please mail your check to the Dundee Area Historical Society, 26 Seneca St, P.O. Box 153, Dundee, NY 14837. Be sure to reference BHG/Friends of the Van Gordon Rd Cemetery. Your donation is tax deductible.

You can also contact us by email at: friendsofbarrington@gmail.com or call Sue Lange at (315) 536-2493. Visit the website www.friendsofbarrington.com.



4/27/08

1865 Map

The Old Barrington Baptist Cemetery



Its Past, Present & Future

Cemeteries are a great source of history. Each stone represents the life of a particular person, stories of a family and the area's history. If history is to be preserved, saving our cemeteries is crucial.

A lot of history on a small plot of land

Sunderlin Hollow was settled around 1812 by a group of settlers from Putnam County, NY. The Sunderlins were the largest family so the area took on the family name. This area is now known as Crystal Springs.

In 1815, before the town of Barrington was organized, what was to become the Second Baptist Church of Wayne held its first meeting in Sunderlin Hollow. The church was formally organized after a revival meeting in the spring of 1819. They decided to hold their meetings the first Saturday of each month at John Wright's home. Elder Simon Sutherland was the preacher. The meeting house was erected in 1821 on John Wright's farm. When the town of Barrington was separated from Wayne in 1822, most of the members lived in Barrington so the name was changed to The Barrington Baptist Church.

The first Barrington town meeting was held in February 1823 at the old Teeples Tavern on Bath Road. Richard Eddy was elected supervisor; Daniel Rapalee, Town Clerk; James A. Swarthout, Jeremiah Shaw and Lodowick Disbrow Commissioners of Highways. The second supervisor was Alexander Patten who served from 1824 – 1827. He was buried in the cemetery in 1847.

In 1864 gas bubbled by a deer lick at the headwaters of Big Stream. The people of Sunderlin Hollow had dreams of oil. Erasmus, John Wright's son, and Delazon, Dennis Sunderlin's son, formed a company to look for oil and salt. The drill struck rock and water gushed up 75 feet. Wright, Sunderlin & Co. had discovered Crystal Springs mineral water. This led to a resort that prospered till the early 1900s.

According to historical records there are at least 80 early Barrington settlers buried at the Barrington Baptist Church Cemetery. Possibly the first settler to be interred in 1825 was Nathan

Crosby. He had come to the area in 1812. His oldest son, Selah, was said to be the first baptized in the church, perhaps in Big Stream. Selah was one of Barrington's first school teachers.

Another familiar name is Swarthout. Betsey Swarthout, buried in 1832, was James Swarthout's 1st wife. He was one of the Commissioners of Highways in 1823 and supervisor 1830 – 1831.

John Wright died in 1858 and is also buried there. He was rumored to have died as a result of being poisoned with strychnine by his son-in-law, Baxter Kinne. John's son, Erasmus and Delazon Sunderlin were the founders of the Crystal Springs Resort.

The full list of families buried in the cemetery is: Bailey, Baker, Bennett, Cooper, Crosby, Disbrow, Dumond, Durkee, Farr, Faucett, Forrester, Kenyon, Ketchum, McDowell, Moon, Oakley, Patten, Proper, Robyler (Rapalee), Seymour, Shaw, Sunderlin, Swarthout, Taylor, Terril, Townsend, Townsend, Tuttle, VanDoren, Vangordon, Wells, Winters, Wixsom, Wortman and Wright.

Currently the entire cemetery is overgrown, in the middle of a stand of trees. Many of the gravestones have fallen, a large number are broken or hidden from view. The obelisk stone of Ephriam Wright, who owned the farm on which the cemetery and its associated church stood, has tumbled. Even the boundaries of the cemetery are uncertain because of the undergrowth. It is not noticeable from the roads and is on private land. **The cemetery may be accessed only with the permission of the owners.**



----- Cut Here -----

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address: _____

email: _____ Relative in cemetery (if any) _____

I can help with:

____ Grant Writing ____ Fund Raising ____ Clearing Land ____ Stone Restoration

____ Surveying ____ Ongoing Maintenance

I am usually available:

____ Weekends ____ During the week ____ Daytime ____ Evenings

I am enclosing a tax deductible donation payable to the Dundee Area Historical Society in the amount of \$ _____. Please reference BHG/Friends of the Van Gordon Rd Cemetery.

Mail to: Dundee Area Historical Society, 26 Seneca St, P.O. Box 153, Dundee, NY 14837