

56-1885



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Talcottville Cemetery

other names/site number N/A

related multiple property listing N/A

2. Location

street & number 2052 State Route 12-D N/A not for publication

city or town Talcottville N/A vicinity

state NY code 36 county Lewis code 049 zip code 13309

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Signature of certifying official/Title [Signature] Date 9/25/2017

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government Republic State Historic Preservation Office

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 12/8/17

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Talcottville Cemetery
Name of Property

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Funerary: Cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Funerary: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: N/A
walls: N/A
roof: N/A
other: N/A

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Talcottville Cemetery is located at 2052 State Route 12-D in the hamlet of Talcottville, Lewis County, 0.25 miles south of the intersection of Route 12-D and Denley Road. It is the second oldest cemetery in the Leyden township and the last to be still active.¹ The eighteenth and nineteenth century parts of the property are a central rectangular plot of 1.9 acres; a rectangular section was added on the north in the early twentieth century; and a rectangular section on the southeast corner was added in 2006. Almost a thousand monuments have been counted, but records list only 704 known burials, the first occurring in 1812 with several others suspected of being earlier. Not all the burials are marked, and many of the excess stones seem to be footstones or other small markers within family plots. The nomination includes the entire cemetery.

Location and Site



Figure 1: Aerial View of Talcottville Cemetery. (Google Maps, 2017).

The Talcottville Cemetery is aligned south to north along State Route 12-D and is elevated above the road by about three feet. An ornamental iron fence was installed along the front of the cemetery in 1928. Due to years of salt use on the adjacent state route during the winter, this fence suffered extreme deterioration and was removed in 2013. The rest of the cemetery is bounded on the east and partially on the north by a chain link fence and on the south by a farmer's garage and a barbed wire fence.

The entrance to the cemetery is located in the center off State Route 12-D, with access to other parts of the cemetery provided by short dead-end lanes. There are no other formal roads or paths. Hardwood trees are scattered throughout, predominately maple and oak. A scattering of fir trees and lilac, juniper, and hydrangea bushes is located around the perimeter.

¹ The Lord (Leyden Hill) Cemetery at Locust Grove is the oldest cemetery in the township and contains the 1797 grave of Calvin Miller, the first person to die in the town of Leyden – "of all the adults in this yard do lie I was the first eternity to try."

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A 1936 survey of the cemetery by S. J. Neff indicates the family plots and sections (A-D) in existence at that time. (The order of the sections – A-D – does not represent the chronology of burial and seems to have little

meaning.) Section D is the oldest part of the cemetery. Section A dates from the 1850s, while Section B dates from at least the late nineteenth century. Section C was acquired in several parcels in the early twentieth century.



Figure 2: S. J. Neff, "Talcottville Cemetery, Talcottville, N. Y." [Survey] (1936).

Section D is located along the main road (State Route 12-D) and to the left of the entrance. It contains the first settlers of the town of Leyden and their family members – the Talcotts, Coes, Halls, Toppings, and Millers. The burials are close together and form neat rows; many people are buried in order of death and not by family, although there are some family groupings. The oldest headstone (lot 18) is located here; it belongs to Mary Thomas Brainard (died April 23, 1812), 58-year-old wife of Jesse Brainard.

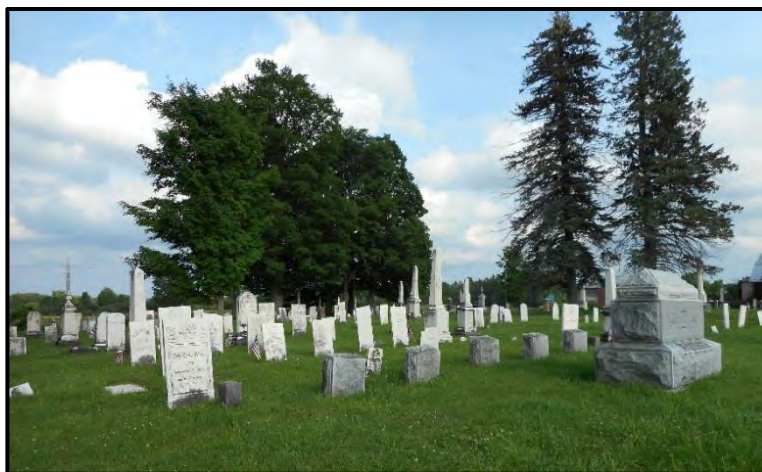


Figure 3. Section D from State Route 12-D.

William Topping (1764-1840), the first settler in the Town of Leyden, is also buried here.

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The majority of the monuments in Section D are white marble tablets, many with early nineteenth-century funerary motifs and inscriptions. Burial dates advance, moving from the front of the cemetery to the back, where there are monuments from the period after the Civil War. Here are the only two zinc (“white bronze”) monuments in the cemetery; lot 29 holds a stunning obelisk sporting a century plant that was erected in honor of Henry and Eva Weist, while lot 118 contains a square monument belonging to Albert and Almira Talcott. The major exception to this dating pattern is the large Baker family plot at the front of Section D. The Bakers (see Section 8) acquired most of the founding Talcott family’s property by marriage and were at one time the most prominent family in Talcottville – though not everyone in town accepted their position.

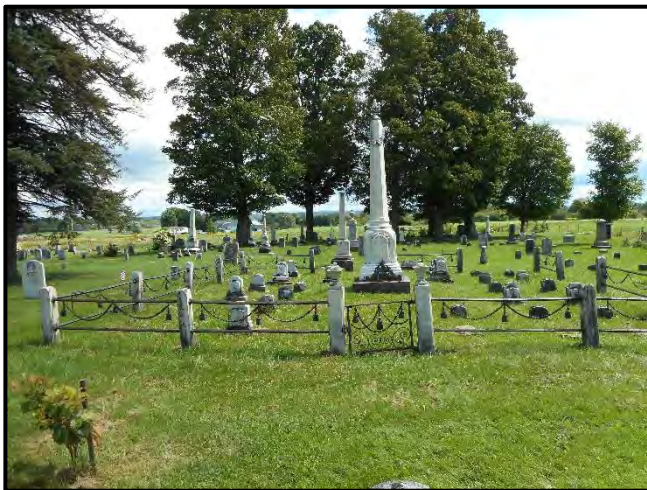


Figure 4. Section A, Munn family plot.

The burials to the right of the driveway (Section A) begin later, in the 1850s, and are more widely spaced in family plots, many quite elaborate. Among them is the Munn family plot (lot 18), with its large obelisk and the only intact iron fencing in the cemetery. (The fencing has been dated to 1861 from a plaque that was once attached to the gate.) Similar fencing surrounded the nearby Hurlburt family plot (lot 45), but only the concrete posts remain. Coincidentally, the Hurlburt family plot also contains an obelisk, and its small grave markers are nearly identical to the markers in the Munn plot. Most of

the larger monuments in the cemetery are in this section and commemorate several generations of a single family. The south side of Section B continues the pattern of Section A, with large family plots and elaborate monuments from the 1870s. The north side of this section remained empty until the twentieth century and contains twentieth and twenty-first century burials.²

Section C appears to have been acquired in the early twentieth century, in at least three purchases or donations. Unlike the rest of the Talcottville Cemetery, it is divided into a very regular pattern of 48 lots of one square rod.³ However, there are some older burials in this section. Steve Fox, 2017 president of the

² Deed dated August 19, 1936 (Liber 176, page 331). Lewis County Clerk’s Office, Lowville, NY.

³ Deed dated August 15, 1936 (Liber 176, page 364). Lewis County Clerk’s Office, Lowville, NY.

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Figure 5. Section C, early twentieth-century Malcolm family monument, marking earlier graves.

Talcottville Cemetery Association, believes that the Malcolm family owned the adjoining farm and took advantage of the incorporation of the cemetery in 1927 to donate an area containing the family graveyard; at least fifteen Malcolms, whose deaths date back to 1837, are buried in Section C. In addition, the records of the cemetery association refer to the twelve easterly lots of this section as the Trenham Block, as Caroline Trenham and her brother, Archibald, donated part of their farm to the cemetery around this time.

There is also a 1926 newspaper reference to land being purchased and donated to the cemetery to create a monument for Elizabeth Reed Furbish, a cousin of author Edmund Wilson. This monument consists of a large boulder that straddles lots 21, 22, and 44. It adjoins but is outside of the Trenham Block and seems to represent a separate gift.⁴

Not included on the 1936 survey map are sections E and F (140' x 28'), which were added in 2006; they adjoin the original cemetery along the south side of Section B and part of Section A.⁵ These sections contain twenty-first-century monuments, including a freestanding columbarium for above-ground interment of ashes installed in 2015. They also hold two graves (with the original late nineteenth-century monuments) marking the 2015 reburial of a Civil War veteran and his wife from a nearby field.

Monuments

The Talcottville cemetery contains 994 stones, including small markers (such as "Mother"), one large boulder (with brass memorial plaque), and fifty-four obelisks. There are fifty-six small lot stones (small squares with a letter) that identify family plot boundaries. The Munn family plot is the only plot that retains its iron fencing, though the Hurlburt family plot retains its concrete fence posts. Three stone posts that once surrounded Burnham plot #3 (Section A) are stored behind the garage.

⁴ Numbers of lots and deeds do not always line up. The Malcolm family plot is part of the "Rector Block," seemingly only seven of the 48 lots in this section. It was deeded to the cemetery association on August 15, 1936. However, when Neff's survey map was drawn that same year, all of Section C appears to be included in the cemetery.

⁵ Deed dated July 10, 2006 (2006-03714). Lewis County Clerk's Office, Lowville, NY.

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The material and style of monuments changes with each section of the cemetery. The oldest part (Section D) contains small marble tablets with funerary art and inscriptions. Three stone cutters are known to have produced stones for the cemetery in the 1860s and 1870s – Lewis L. Lewis, a Welsh immigrant marble worker living in Utica and S. S. Rowland and R. W. Rowland of the Rowland and Bush marble works in Boonville. A few of their stones are in Section D, but the rest are in Section A, which is mainly composed of family plots and larger monuments added after 1850 under the influence of the rural cemetery movement. By this time, mourners had a larger choice of more elaborate monuments; larger markers, obelisks, columns, and zinc monuments produced in New England and Utica were available from local dealers and found their way to Talcottville. By the end of the nineteenth cemetery, the material and style of monuments changed again to machine-polished and carved granite – simpler and less picturesque but more solid than the monuments produced after the Civil War. The twentieth century saw a pattern of increasing standardization in monument design, due equally to cost and to popular taste.

Both Sections B and C are still being used for burial. As a result, both hold a mix of late nineteenth-century and twentieth-century granite monuments. One of the most striking monuments in Section C is a boulder with a bronze plaque. This naturalistic memorial is very different from the monuments that surround it. Sections E and F hold the most contemporary monuments, including a columbarium. In this area, two simple marble markers identify the reburial of a Civil War veteran and his wife and present an interesting contrast to current materials and styles. They also provide evidence of renewed, twenty-first century interest in the Talcottville Cemetery as a local historic resource and in recognizing the contributions of local veterans.

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Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SETTLEMENT

SOCIAL HISTORY

FUNERARY ART

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Period of Significance

1812-1967

Architect/Builder

N/A

Significant Dates

1812

Period of Significance (justification): Date of earliest known interment (1812) to 1967 in recognition of the cemetery's continued use and importance to the community.

Criteria Considerations – Criterion D: The Talcottville Cemetery is a civic cemetery (without religious affiliation) and the second-oldest cemetery in the Town of Leyden, having been established about a decade after the first settlers began to arrive in Lewis County. It contains the remains of many of these early settlers and is primarily important for the information it provides about the settlement period and social history of the community. Finally, its graves represent a variety of styles and clearly express the aesthetic principles related to funerary design in this section of upstate New York.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Talcottville Cemetery in Lewis County, New York is locally significant under **Criterion A: Settlement** and **Social History** and under **Criterion C: Funerary Art**, as one of the earliest cemeteries in the county and the second oldest in the town of Leyden. The first settler in Leyden, William Topping (1764-1840), is buried here, along with many other early and important members of the community. The Talcottville Cemetery also provides information on early residents of the community and supplements much of what is known about these people from local histories and the book *Upstate*, by Edmund Wilson (1895-1972).⁶ Wilson – literary critic, social reporter, novelist, chronicler, historian, and one of the most distinguished men of letters of his generation – spent his summers in Talcottville from 1951 to 1972 in an old stone house (Edmund Wilson House, NR listed, 1973); many of the people who also lived in that house are buried in the cemetery and described in his book, as are many of Wilson’s mid-twentieth century relatives.⁷ In a very direct way, the burials mostly corroborate Wilson’s account, providing evidence of the social structure of the community from settlement to the present time; however, they also serve as a historical counterpoint to Wilson’s gossipy compendium. The clustering, size, and location of family plots indicate the important role that certain families played – and still play – in the community. In addition, the Talcottville Cemetery provides information on social history topics like child and maternal mortality. Finally, the cemetery contains monuments made from a wide range of materials, including limestone, granite, marble, zinc, and natural stone. Its funerary art – the type, imagery, and inscriptions on these monuments – further illuminates the personal, civic, and religious identities and beliefs of residents in this rural part of northern New York State.

Criterion A: Settlement and Social History

Context

Lewis County is bisected by the Black River, running roughly southeast to northwest. On the east side of the river are the Adirondack foothills; on the west side are the beginnings of the Tug Hill region. Both sides of the river have very fertile soil suitable for farming, and the river and its tributaries contain many waterfalls that provide waterpower. This part of New York State remained closed to settlement until after the Revolutionary War. Two events facilitated change. In 1784, the New York State Legislature established a land commission to sell patents and raise money to pay off war debts and, in 1788, the Oneida Nation was persuaded to surrender ownership of most of its lands through the Treaty of Fort Stanwix. In 1792, Alexander Macomb, William Constable, and Daniel McCormick purchased more than 3.6 million acres of land for the purchase price of 8

⁶ Lewis Dabney, *Edmund Wilson: A Life in Literature* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005), 5.

⁷ Edmund Wilson, *Upstate: Records and Recollections of Northern New York* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1971), *passim*.

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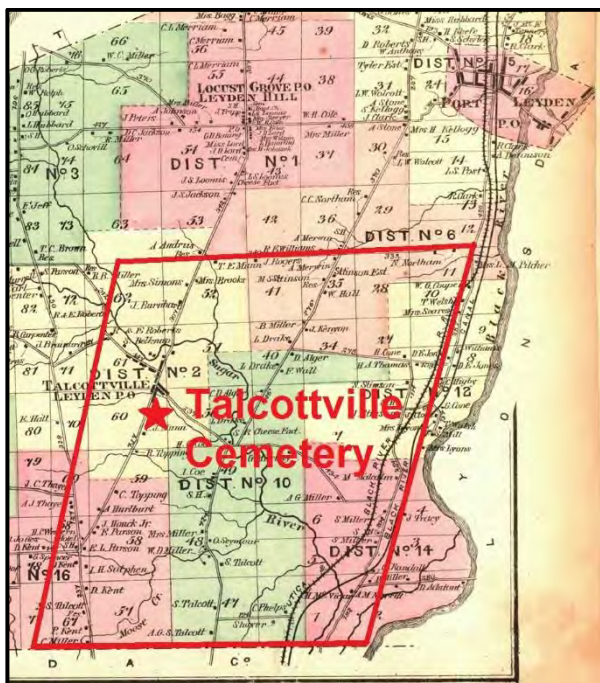
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pence per acre. Great Tract No. 6 (of 6) was granted to Macomb on January 10, 1792, and a triangular, 26,250-acre area around Talcottville was subdivided out to William Inman (an agent for Patrick Colquhoun, high sheriff of London and a friend of William Constable) on February 20, 1793.⁸ “Inman’s Triangle” was split into lots and the first deeds granted in 1795, mostly to settlers from the area of Middletown, Connecticut. By 1797, there were 40 settlers in the region, most of them voters – people with enough property to receive the privilege.

The Town of Leyden was formed from the Town of Steuben in 1797. At that time Lewis and Jefferson Counties were still part of Oneida County, and it would take another eight years until Lewis County became a separate political entity. Of the five original townships of Lewis County (Lowville, Turin, Martinsburgh, Leyden, and Harrisburgh), Leyden was initially the largest, comprising nearly all of Lewis County adjoining both sides of the Black River. However, as the population grew, the town was continually subdivided until it comprised only the original 26,250 acres of Inman’s Triangle. In 1852 the western tip of the triangle seceded to form part of the Town of Lewis. Now Leyden is one of the smallest townships in Lewis County.

Talcottville



The Town of Leyden has had six cemeteries; the Talcottville Cemetery in the hamlet of Talcottville is the only one still active. Most of its interments are of people who settled and lived in the area extending several miles beyond the hamlet, north from Talcottville to Leyden Hill, south to the county line shared with Oneida County, and east along the West Road as far as the Black River. The following context focuses on Talcottville but includes information about the area outlined in Figure 6.⁹

Figure 6. Detail, Town of Leyden. Beers’ *Atlas of Lewis County*, 1875.

⁸ Verplanck Colvin, *State of New York Report on the Topographical Survey of the Adirondack Wilderness of New York for the Year 1873* (Albany, NY: Weed, Parsons and Company, Printers, 1874), 249, 251, 258-259.

⁹ Much of the narrative is taken from Jerry Perrin, *Leyden Common School No. 2* [National Register Nomination, 16NR00007] (Waterford, NY: New York State Historic Preservation Office, 2016).

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The first recorded settler in the Town of Leyden was William Topping (1764-1840), a Revolutionary War veteran from Meriden, Connecticut, who is buried in the Talcottville Cemetery. In 1794, he arrived with his family. He and Bela Butterfield were the first settlers to winter in Leyden, and Topping received a deed for Lot 60 (139 acres northeast of the Sugar River) the following year, in 1795.¹⁰ Other settlers soon followed, primarily from Haddam, Middlefield, and Middletown, Connecticut. These early pioneers included Johnson (1778-1850) and Jesse Talcott (1775-1846), David (1751-1835) and Jesse Brainard (1754-1839). Joel Coe (dates unknown), Elias Miller (1778-1855), Isaac (1775-1857) and Abijah Hall (1782-1859), and Joseph Wetmore (1776-1851). For the most part they settled along the first road through town – the East Road, where the land was relatively flat and suitable for farming. (So many of the descendants of David Brainard Miller owned farms along this road that locally it became known as Miller Town.) Later, when the state road was put through from Boonville to Talcottville (State Route 12-D), the land directly south of Talcottville was settled.

Bela Butterfield seems to have owned most of the land that became the hamlet of Talcottville. In 1795, he built the first sawmill in Lewis County (the Sugar River provides a head of nearly 100 feet in a quarter mile) but lost it the following spring during the annual flood. In 1798, he sold his land to the Talcott families (father Hezekiah and two sons, Elisha and Daniel) when they arrived from Middletown, Connecticut. For the next thirty years, the Talcotts played a prominent but hindering role in the development of the hamlet of Talcottville. Hezekiah chose to retain the water power rights on the Sugar River for his family and built a grist-mill in 1803. Around the same time, he and his sons (Jesse and Johnson, both buried in the Talcottville Cemetery) built themselves a fine stone house with stone from the river bed (later owned by writer Edmund Wilson and listed on the National Register in 1973 as the Edmund Wilson House). Although entrepreneurial, the Talcotts were not land speculators – they refused to sell lots in their village to “mechanics.” As a result, the hamlet stayed small.

Talcottville did develop some basic institutions. The Talcott’s stone house was often used as a meeting place; a memorial service for George Washington was held there in the winter of 1800, and five years later people assembled to decide the dividing line between Lewis and Oneida Counties. The First Baptist Church of Leyden was organized in 1803 with five members at the house of Thomas Brayton. Benjamin Starr opened the first store in the Town of Leyden, perhaps before 1807, when he is listed in the Census of Electors.¹¹ He may have run the first post office as well; however, another report suggests that the pantry between the dining room and kitchen of the stone house served as the first Leyden Post Office.¹² The first known burial in what became the Talcottville Cemetery took place in 1812, when Mary Thomas Brainard (Jesse Brainard’s wife) died. Local

¹⁰ Franklin B. Hough, *History of Lewis County, NY* (Syracuse, NY: D. Mason & Co., 1883), 260-261.

¹¹ Hough, 266.

¹² Hamilton Child, *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Lewis County, N.Y., for 1872-73* (Syracuse, NY: Journal Office, 1872), 114.

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people made an unsuccessful effort to incorporate an academy in Talcottville in March 1829, but the subscribers lacked sufficient funds for approval by the state university regents.¹³

With limited opportunities to settle in Talcottville, many people looked at an area one mile north of the Sugar River called Leyden Hill. Located on the south end of a minor plateau stretching north toward the county seat in Lowville, the surrounding country was ideal for farming and had a spectacular view of the Adirondacks to the east. Here the oldest cemetery in the Town of Leyden (and Lewis County) was established in 1797. Here was the first school house in the town (1802) and the first school organization (December 27, 1813). The first church building erected by the First Baptist Church was also built in Leyden Hill (not Talcottville) in 1821.

The focus of development shifted south in the 1830s, when the Talcotts finally began to sell lots to new arrivals. One family that took advantage was Otis (1792-1880) and Permelia (1795-1876) Munn from Greig. Otis was commissioner of highways for twenty years and became notable for building the first bridge over the Black River at Lyons Falls. He sold his farm in Greig and removed to Leyden about 1835, buying another farm which he cultivated for the next forty years.¹⁴ His wife, Permelia, inherited an estate worth \$150,000 from her brother in 1854 and invested the money in land. Most of the "Munn Tract" was located on the east side of the Black and Moose Rivers in the western Adirondacks. Later, Permelia used some of her finances to become involved in cheese making and owned a factory on Leyden Hill. Munn descendants often lamented the sale of the Munn Tract.

As transportation links improved, the village started to expand. Robert Harvey (1813-1883) helped build the first plank road with General Ela Merriam of Locust Grove, and the first cheese factory in Lewis County with William Hall.¹⁵ The Turin Turnpike came into existence in 1847 and ran through the village from Boonville to Turin. In 1850 the Black River Canal started operations two miles east of Talcottville, and the Black River & Utica Railroad reached Boonville in 1855. After the Civil War, the reorganized Utica & Black River Railroad reached Lyons Falls (1867) and Lowville (1868). More settlers came into the area around Talcottville, as these new forms of transportation provided the means to send local products (mostly dairy) to markets outside of Lewis County.

¹³ Hough, 267.

¹⁴ "Obituary," *Lowville Journal and Republican* (September 8, 1880), 3.

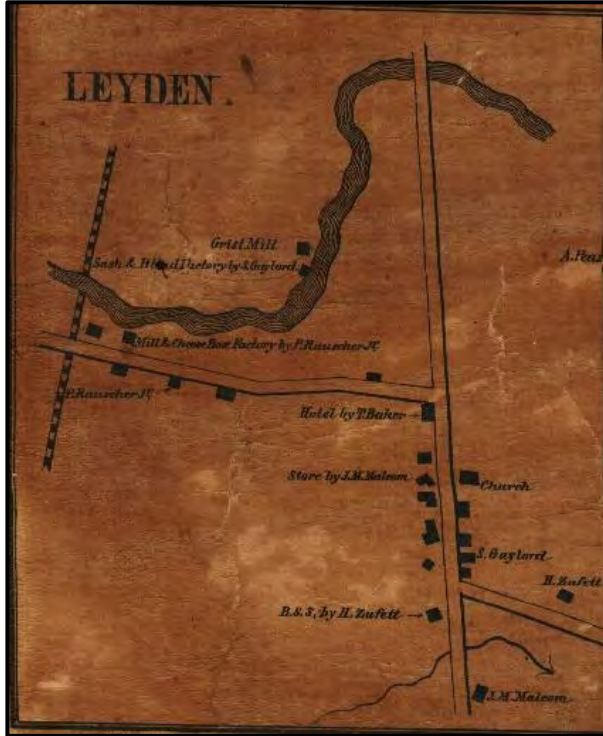
¹⁵ "Leyden," *Lewis County Democrat* (October 17, 1883), 3.

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The village grew, if not by leaps and bounds, at least steadily. A vignette from an 1857 map of Lewis County shows a tiny hamlet with two mills, hotel, store, a church, and about fifteen houses. (The location of the cemetery is just a bit further south.)

Figure 7. Inset, A. Ligowsky, *A Topographical Map of Lewis Co., N.Y.*, (Philadelphia: S. & R. S. Traintor Jr. & Co., 1857). Note: Talcottville is sometimes referred to as Leyden in documents and on old maps.

The First Baptist Church of Leyden moved back to Talcottville from Leyden Hill in 1862, erecting a new building that could seat 300 (for a membership of 67) on a new side street. The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Leyden (with a membership of 20) built a new building in 1868 that could seat 275.¹⁶ The 1871 Asher & Adams map still showed Leyden Hill in preference to Talcottville, but the village had grown significantly since 1857. Child's 1872 *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Lewis County, N.Y.* described Talcottville as:

...a thriving village of about 175 inhabitants, and contains three churches, (Baptist, Methodist and Universalist) one hotel, a saw mill, cheese box factory, a grist mill, sash, door and blind factory, two stores, two blacksmith shops, a quarry (the stone quarried here is highly esteemed for building purposes), and a wagon shop. Its smooth, macadamized streets, neat dwellings and out-buildings, supplemented by charming flower gardens, and the deep interest manifested in its schools, evince the industry and property of its citizens, many of whom are retired farmers, who are engaged in mercantile and mechanical pursuits.¹⁷

¹⁶ The first Methodist church shows up in Ligowsky's 1857 map; the congregation was founded in Talcottville in 1832.

¹⁷ Child, *Lewis County*, 111-112.

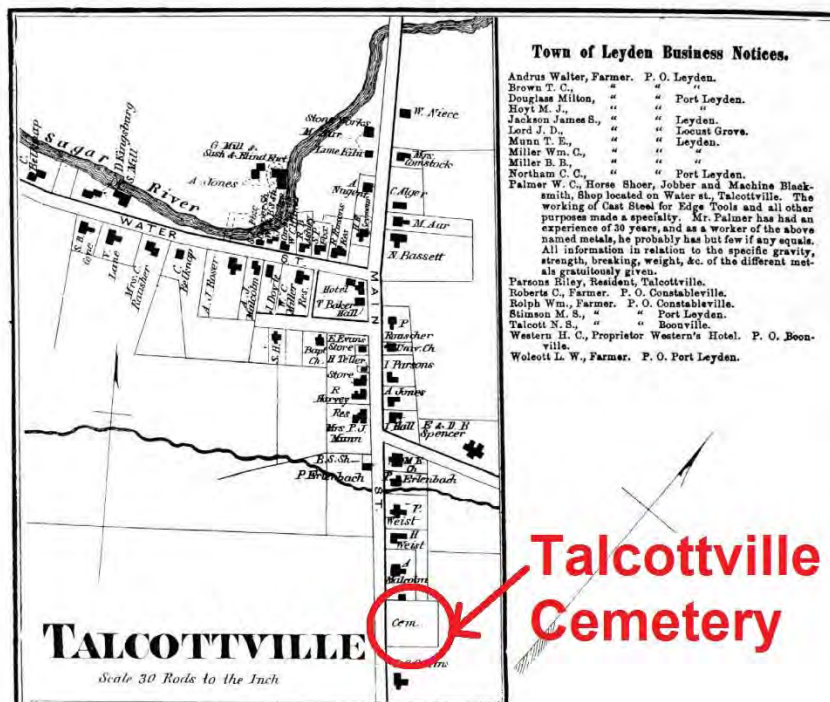
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The 1875 Beers map of Lewis County shows this growth. More houses have been constructed on Main Street and along the south side of Water Street; School Street has been extended beyond the new Baptist church, with a new school built to accommodate the growing number of families. And a large square of land represents the cemetery at the south end of the village.

Figure 8: D. G. Beers, *Atlas of Lewis County* (Philadelphia: Pomeroy, Whitman & Co., 1875).

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A comparison of the names of the business people on Beers' map with the roster of interments shows that, with one or two exceptions, the Talcottville Cemetery was their final resting place. But not everyone buried in the cemetery was from the village. The land south of the village was excellent farm land. Another Beers map shows farms along the main road between Talcottville and Boonville (now State Route 12-D). Among the owners were Phineas (1826-1909) and Dwight Kent (1829-1899), Cephas Topping (1836-1915), and Chester (1824-1907) and Thaddeus (1835-1892) Munn – all descendants of early settlers and all buried in the cemetery.

Talcottville remained the commercial center of the surrounding community until the advent of the automobile; its only competitor was Barrett's Corners, at the intersection of State Route 12-D and West Road, which at one time had a hotel and school. Everything changed after the completion of State Route 12 along the Black River (to the east) in 1933.¹⁸ It replaced State Route 12-D as the main route from the substantial community of Boonville (Oneida County) in the south to the county seat of Lowville in the north. State Route 12 was more direct, wider, and avoided the intervening hills. By 1965 there were but one store and one church left in Talcottville.¹⁹ Today even those establishments are only a memory.

¹⁸ G. Byron Bowen, Ed., *History of Lewis County 1880-1965* (Boonville, NY: Willard Press, 1970), 269.

¹⁹ Bowen, 252-257.

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Until the passage of the New York State Rural Cemetery Act in 1847 allowing for commercial burial grounds, burial of the dead was traditionally limited to churchyards and private property.²⁰ An exception was the New England Puritan tradition of secular cemeteries that served the whole community.²¹ The early settlers of the Town of Leyden brought this tradition with them from Connecticut. As a result, the Talcottville Cemetery is neither associated with a religious organization nor limited to one family. In fact, many of the trustees of the area's many churches are buried there.

The first documented burial is that of Mary Thomas Brainard (died April 23, 1812), 58-year-old wife of Jesse Brainard (1754 - 1839).²² However, there may be earlier unmarked burials, as the first person to die in the Town of Leyden died fifteen years earlier.²³ Before 1847, legal ownership of the burial ground is unclear but, once the cemetery act was passed, the Town of Leyden designated what are now Sections D and A of the cemetery as a common burying ground.²⁴

The legal standing of the cemetery changed again in the early twentieth century. A meeting was held at Grubel Hall in Talcottville in February 1927 to discuss the possibility of incorporation.²⁵ A second meeting was scheduled the next month to vote on the issue, and all plot owners were encouraged to vote yes. The Talcottville Cemetery Association was approved and incorporated in April 1927, and the Town of Leyden officially transferred the cemetery.²⁶ The deed outlined the dimensions of the cemetery as north 3 chains 61 1/2 links, east 3 chains 2 1/2 links, south 3 chains 62 links, and west 3 chains 8 links containing 1.1 acres. This almost rectangular lot covers Sections D and A and probably all of Section B. However, according to Talcottville Cemetery Association president Steve Fox, there are older graves in Section C that were also incorporated into the new cemetery around this time. These graves are associated with the Malcolm family, who had owned the adjoining farm. The rest of Section C seems to have been donated by Caroline Trenham and her brother, Archibald, (the "Trenham Block") and possibly by Thomas Baker Jr., who acquired a parcel as

²⁰ New York State Office of General Counsel, *Cemetery Regulations of New York State* [Legal Memorandum CE01]. Available at: <https://www.dos.ny.gov/cnsl/cemreg.html>

²¹ The Puritans thought churchyard burials to be papist and rejected all burial traditions associated with the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches.

²² Mary Thomas Brainard's monument in section D, lot 18, is marked "J. Brainard" for her husband Jesse, though he is actually buried in the Lord Cemetery at Leyden Hill.

²³ Hough, 262.

²⁴ Sections A and D – and probably B – appear to have been the areas deeded to the Talcottville Cemetery Association by the Town of Leyden in 1927.

²⁵ "Incorporation of Cemetery Association Under Consideration," *Lowville Journal and Republican* (February 3, 1927), 3. Grubel Hall was Talcottville's Grange building.

²⁶ Deed dated May 19, 1927 (Liber 154, page 419). Lewis County Clerk's Office, Lowville, NY.

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a memorial to Elizabeth Reed Furbish around 1926. In any case, by the time the cemetery was surveyed in 1936, it included all of Sections A-D.

The first bequest to the association was made in 1929 by Martha Munn Collins for the perpetual care of the Munn and Johnson Talcott lots.²⁷ A large bequest from the estate of Nellie Belknap in the amount of \$2,100 was left in 1935.²⁸ Of this amount, \$100 was for care of the Belknap family plot, and \$1,000 was used to purchase a wrought iron fence and two driveway gates for the front of the cemetery from the Stewart Iron Works Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio. The purchase also included chain link fencing and posts for the back and sides of the cemetery.²⁹ For more than ninety years, the Talcottville Cemetery Association has been an important community organization, with an all-volunteer board arranging for burials and supervising maintenance of the cemetery.

Family Histories

The families who settled Talcottville have a rich history, but nineteenth century accounts often gloss over the crises associated with close living and intermarriage in a small community. Part of our understanding of the Talcottville Cemetery comes from the writings of Edmund Wilson (1895-1972). His classic book, *Upstate* (1971), is taken from his diaries and describes time spent in Talcottville, as well as a history of the community from its settlement by Wilson's ancestors and near relations in the late 1790s.³⁰ Wilson often quotes oral history to describe his relatives and provides a veritable "Who's Who" of Talcottville settlers, residents, and those buried in the cemetery. While the cemetery did not influence the book, the book provides additional documentation for understanding the cemetery, as well as a counterpoint to some of its more apocryphal stories.

Wilson was one of the most important literary critics of the mid-twentieth century and a friend of such writers as Eugene O'Neill and Ernest Hemingway.³¹ He wrote for *Vanity Fair*, *The New Republic*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Review of Books* in a career that started in the 1920s and ended with his death in 1972.³² During his summers in Talcottville, writers, artists, and poets would visit Wilson in residence in the Talcott's old stone house. Wilson provided them with a diamond pointed pen so that they could sign their names or write

²⁷ Will of Martha Munn Collins recorded July 5, 1929. Lewis County Clerk's Office, Lowville, NY.

²⁸ "Will of Nellie Belknap," *Lowville Journal and Republican* (September 12, 1935), 1

²⁹ With the widening of State Route 12-D, road salt subsequently damaged the front fence; it was removed in 2013.

³⁰ Edmund Wilson, *passim*.

³¹ Dabney, 5.

³² Louis Menand, "Missionary: Edmund Wilson and American Culture," *The New Yorker* (August 8, 2005). Available at: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2005/08/08/missionary-2>

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poetry on the glass window panes of his home.³³ These same writers wrote tributes and biographies after his death and left their impressions of Wilson's relationship with the people of Talcottville.³⁴ Edmund's daughter, Rosalind, also wrote about her father in *Near the Magician: A Memoir of My Father, Edmund Wilson*, giving a firsthand account of his time in the community.³⁵

Wilson occupied the stone house during a time of economic, political, and social changes in the world, United States, upstate New York, and Lewis County. He often compared the once grandeur of his family (and their seigneur place in Talcottville) to what it was during his failing years:

*Our position was so unquestioned in this little corner of Lewis County that I have never ceased to derive from it a certain conviction of superiority... There is little of that old life now left, and the glamour has largely vanished.*³⁶

Yet sometimes he would "act the country squire," declaring, "I am Talcottville."³⁷

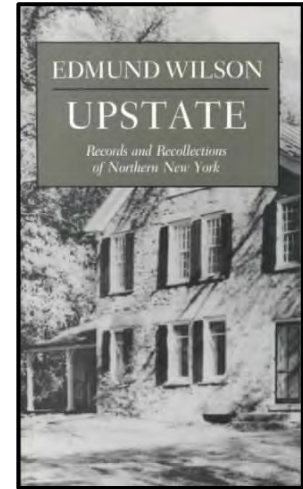


Figure 9. Cover of *Upstate*.

In some cases, Wilson's vignettes of Talcottville and his relatives have superseded more historical accounts of the community. They should not be taken as documentation but are helpful in understanding the founding families of Talcottville – especially the Talcotts, Bakers, Munns, and Coes. The Talcottville cemetery itself, in the order of its early graves and the placement and focus on family plots, also reflects the histories of these families. Seen together, the insertion of the Baker plot at the front of the old section of the cemetery makes more sense; the feud between the Talcotts and Bakers seems to have spilled into the cemetery from the hamlet.

Talcotts: The patriarch of the Talcotts was Hezekiah Talcott, who came to the area in 1798. The Talcotts' stone mansion, built in 1799, became Wilson's summer home. Hezekiah chose to be buried in the older Leyden Hill Cemetery, but all his sons and descendants are buried in the Talcottville Cemetery. Hezekiah's sons Daniel (1772-1847), Johnson (1778-1850), and Parsons (1781-1849) were veterans of the War of 1812. Daniel's grandson Andrew (1842-1864) was killed in the Civil War. As in any early settlement with a small local population, many of the important families intermarried – the well-to-do sons marrying the daughters of

³³ Edmund Wilson, 153

³⁴ Richard Hauer Costa, *Edmund Wilson: Our Neighbor from Talcottville* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse Press, 1980), *passim*.

³⁵ Rosalind Baker Wilson, *Near the Magician: A Memoir of My Father, Edmund Wilson* (New York: Grove Press, 1989).

³⁶ Edmund Wilson, 45.

³⁷ Rosalind Baker Wilson, 8.

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well-to-do fathers. For example, Hezekiah's daughter, Sally, married Joel Coe, one of the first people to settle in Leyden. A granddaughter (Sally Cooley Talcott) married Jonathan Collins Jr., the son of the first judge in Lewis County. Another granddaughter, Sophronia Talcott (1807-1877), married Thomas Baker (1799-1883), who acquired the Talcott Stone House with the marriage.³⁸

Bakers: Thomas Baker (1799-1883) was born at Hoosick, Rensselaer County, on December 10, 1799, and later removed to Russia, New York, where he was a merchant for several years.³⁹ He married Laura Shaw (1804-1848) and, in 1825, they came to Talcottville and he established a general store. After five years, Thomas sold out and engaged in the business of cattle dealing. Laura died in 1848, and three years later Thomas married Sophronia Talcott, daughter of Johnson and Altamira (Cooley) Talcott (1792-1840). Johnson Talcott and his brother Jesse had built the stone house and, after his second marriage, Thomas Baker and his wife moved into the building. They subsequently ran it as a hotel, later associated with their son, Thomas Jr. (1844-1925).

Thomas Baker Sr. became a citizen of high standing and large influence in the community. He was active in public affairs and was elected to various offices of trust and honor, representing Lewis County in the State Assembly in 1844. In Talcottville, he also operated a farm and a gray limestone quarry, shipping the stone to market on the Black River Canal. The quarry became one of the largest industries of its kind in the area, employing some twenty-five hands. He became town clerk and supervisor of the town of Leyden, and during the twelve years that he was a member of the board of supervisors, Thomas Baker Sr. was one of the best known and most popular men in public life in the county. He died April 7, 1883, at Leyden.⁴⁰

By virtue of his marriage to Sophronia Talcott, Thomas Baker had been able to sell off much of the Talcott land in the village, and, as Wilson shows, the Talcott clan never forgave him. When Sophronia died in 1877, it was discovered that her will left the stone house to Thomas's son, Thomas Jr., rather than to her younger sister, Jannett Talcott Daniels (1815-1893). Jannett had moved back to Talcottville after her husband's death and spent many years taking care of her sister in her old age. Jannett sued Thomas Jr., but in the end the house remained in possession of the Bakers. This caused a family feud, as Wilson writes:

This ... split the village in half ... between those who sympathized with the Bakers and those who sympathized with the Talcotts. The latter would not pass the Stone House but went to the trouble of

³⁸ To illustrate the complications in such intermarriages, Sophronia's younger brother Jesse Talcott previously married Thomas Baker's daughter Jane. The two marriages made Thomas Baker Jesse Talcott's brother-in-law **and** father-in-law.

³⁹ William Cutter, *Genealogical and Family History of Northern New York* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1910), 887.

⁴⁰ "Death of Thomas Baker," *Lewis County Democrat* (April 11, 1883), 3.

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*circumventing it; if one of the women met a Baker, she would step off the village sidewalk so as not to have to brush past.*⁴¹

Tellingly, one of Wilson's aunts described Thomas Baker as "an old man with a round rosy face who would ... burst into tears when she [the aunt] left," while those on the Talcott side of the family described Thomas as an interloper and "gentleman (?) adventurer" and treated him with scorn.⁴²

Two of Thomas Sr.'s daughters married into other Talcottville families. His daughter Adeline S. Baker (1835-1915) married into the Munn Family (see Munn family). Another daughter, Helen Matilda Baker, married Scott Kimball, and their daughter married Edmund Wilson's father. During family visits to Talcottville, Wilson's mother grew fond of the stone house. As a result, Wilson's father bought it from her uncle, Thomas Baker Jr., in the early 1900s. Wilson inherited the house from his mother in 1951.

Two of Baker's daughters never married and lived in the stone house with him and Sophronia; they were Laura Ann (1827-1892) and Rosalind (1825-1910). Wilson quotes his cousin Dorothy in opposing descriptions of Aunt "Lan" and Aunt "Lin":

Aunt Lan was a remarkably handsome tall woman, who must have been beautiful in her youth – of force and elegance – cultivated, although rarely out of the hamlet. She worked all day like a slave, seeing to provisions and meals for a family that waxed and waned unexpectedly.

On the other hand:

*Aunt Lin, who was older than her sister, was a professional fading lily and exquisitely lady like. A fiancé was supposed to have been lost at sea, and she kept up the role of an invalid.... "leaving all the work to be done by others" – except for one day in the year, when she suddenly rose from her chair and made delicious apple jelly.... To call on her ... was a kind of august ceremony. An appointment had to be made, and she received you in her invalid's chair and talked like the people in old novels.*⁴³

The Talcottville Cemetery shows the prominence of the Baker family, whose family plot has been inserted at the front of the Section D – its oldest section. The large, late nineteenth-century family monument includes smaller granite headstones marking Thomas's descendants. It presents a strong contrast to the irregular rows of small marble tablets behind it, where members of the earlier Talcott family are interspersed amongst other burials in death order.

Munns: One of the most impressive plots in the Talcottville Cemetery is the Munn plot with its towering obelisk and iron surround. Fourteen Munns are buried there, and at least two daughters are buried in other plots. The

⁴¹ Edmund Wilson, 51.

⁴² Edmund Wilson, 49, 53.

⁴³ Edmund Wilson, 54.

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Munn family's wealth came from farming but also, in part, from Permelia's inheritance of the Munn Tract in the western Adirondacks.

Otis and Permelia Munn came from Massachusetts and arrived in the area in 1815, but quickly became part of Talcottville. Otis's son Chester married Lodemia Talcott (1823-1893); another son, Thaddeus Eugene (1835-1892), married Adeline S. Baker (1835-1915). Both men were involved in their mother's cheese factory. However, Thaddeus Eugene sought out the wider world. He entered Lowville Academy under Professor Mayhew and was a student there for two and a half years. He then entered the employ of F. W. Northrup as clerk in his general store at Lowville; a year later, he went with his employer to Zanesville, Ohio, where he worked two years as clerk in the Northrup's new dry goods store. Upon Thaddeus Eugene's return, he took a preparatory course at Fairfield in Herkimer County, New York, and afterward attended Williston Seminary in Easthampton, Massachusetts. He entered Union College as a second term freshman and graduated in the class of 1861. During the next four years, "through the eventful struggle of the Civil War, he devoted much of his time to public speaking at patriotic meetings held to raise funds and secure volunteers. He won a reputation for his ability as a public speaker and as an earnest and able supporter of the Union."⁴⁴ Subsequently, he served six terms as supervisor of the town in 1870.

Edmund Wilson described his cousin and contemporary Otis Munn (1901-1974), grandson of Otis and Permelia:

*Otis Munn, the only relative left who represented for me the original upstate race – broad farmer with big stomach but not fat – brawny; with self-assurance, ease and authority.*⁴⁵

*Otis must lie awake at nights – he so often returns to the subject – thinking about the fifty thousand acres that once belonged to the Munns. He wishes he could find some defect in the titles of the present owners.*⁴⁶

Direct descendants of Otis and Permelia still live near Talcottville.

Coes: Joel Coe arrived in the late 1790s and established a homestead on the East Road, east of Talcottville. He married Hezekiah Talcott's daughter Sally. Joel's son Chester (1796-1863) had his own stone house built in 1841, which still stands at the intersection of Denley and East Road. Family legend has it that the house was to be finished by the end of summer in time for the birth of Chester's son Horatio (1842-1924). The Coes

⁴⁴ Cutter, 742.

⁴⁵ Edmund Wilson, 78.

⁴⁶ Edmund Wilson, 133.

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became large farmers, big enough to ship produce by canal and railroad. A branding iron used in marking their boxes is in the collection of the Lewis County Historical Society.

Chester served in the War of 1812 with his brothers Talcott (1791-1867) and Alva (1799-1867). Chester's son, Lieutenant Alonzo Coe (1831-1864), served as Second Lieutenant of Battery 1, Illinois Light Artillery. He was in Sherman's March to the Sea and was killed at age 33 by cannon shot in a skirmish near Savannah, Georgia, on December 9, 1864.

Edmund Wilson's daughter Helen played with descendants of the Coes during her infrequent summer visits to Talcottville.

The family are with me now. Helen has made friends with the Coes, who live in an old stone house, built about a hundred years ago and now in rundown condition. They have a compass that belonged to a Topping who was the first settler in this part of the country. I find that the Talcotts intermarried with the Coes at the end of the eighteenth century. The Coes are very nice and goodnatured.⁴⁷

After Upstate: Almost all of the early settlers buried in the Talcottville Cemetery are related to one another. No direct descendants of the Talcott and Baker families live in the area, but the Munns are well-represented and one of the Coes who played with Helen is on the Talcottville Cemetery board. As might be expected, Edmund Wilson is himself remembered by the people in Talcottville with mixed feelings, including some pride. People interested in his life still travel to Talcottville to see the house and visit the cemetery.

Social History

Other themes in social history have associations with the Talcottville Cemetery. It has been analyzed to understand issues of child and maternal mortality in this part of Lewis County, and is the burial place of a local abolitionist, whose association with the Underground Railroad is well-documented. Veterans from the Revolution to the Second World War are also buried there. As a result, the cemetery has been an important site for the commemoration of military service since the beginning of the twentieth century – and is reclaiming that role in the twenty-first.

Infant and Maternal Mortality: Life for children in early America was difficult due to lack of nutritious food, lack of clean water and sanitary controls, and inaccessibility to medicines and proper medical treatment. One in five could expect to die before they reached their first birthday and the remainder might live to about 40 or 50,

⁴⁷ Edmund Wilson, 168.

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depending on gender.⁴⁸ By 1870, many advances had been made in medical science including: the use of anesthetics (1846), recognition of germs as the cause of disease (1857), and the use of antiseptic surgical methods (1867). More important, by the 1930s vaccines had been developed against many childhood diseases: cholera (1879), rabies (1882), typhoid fever (1896), diphtheria (1923), whooping cough (1926), and tuberculosis (1927).⁴⁹ In 1872, there were thirty-one physicians in Lewis County with two living in the Town of Leyden.⁵⁰ Twenty-five years later, the number of doctors had remained constant, with two in Martinsburgh. However, there were thirteen members of a new medical profession, “nurse” (though none lived in the Town of Leyden itself).⁵¹

A recent analysis of interments shows eighty children aged ten years or younger buried in the Talcottville Cemetery – a bit less than 10 percent of all known burials. Of the eighty children, sixty-five were 5 years or younger and died primarily before the Civil War – seventy-one died in the period up to 1870, six from 1871 to 1900, and three in the entire twentieth century.⁵² However, detailed information on the cause of death is not available. Early obituaries are very brief and to the point and rarely note why or how someone died – and this is even more true for children. As a result, only a couple of references can be found for Talcottville. In 1863, one-year-old Nellie Shedd died of typhoid fever, as did her mother a few months later.⁵³ Nine-month-old Pearl Drake died of cholera in 1884, while her twin sister, who also suffered from the illness, survived.⁵⁴ Ten-year-old Emma Auer died of diphtheria on January 16, 1894, a few days after a neighboring child had died of the same disease.⁵⁵ Many families lost more than one young child. William and Maria Topping lost five children between 1825 and 1844, five years old or younger. The Joseph Banning family lost four-year-old Lydia and five-year old Ellen in 1854. Two years later, they lost Helen, Ellen’s twin. The parents, perhaps grief-stricken, appear to have moved on, as they are not buried in the Talcottville Cemetery. Oliver and Sarah Phelps lost all of their children between 1840 and 1866, each two years old or younger.⁵⁶

Mothers too suffered increased rates of mortality in the early nineteenth century – the typical woman had a life expectancy of less than 40 years and had between seven and eight live births. In national statistics, child birth

⁴⁸ Michael Haines, “Fertility and Mortality in the United States” in *EH.Net Encyclopedia* (Economic History Association, March 19, 2008), edited by Robert Whaples. Available at: <http://eh.net/encyclopedia/fertility-and-mortality-in-the-united-states/>

⁴⁹ “Medical Advances Timeline,” *Infoplease*. Available at: <https://www.infoplease.com/science-health/health/medical-advances-timeline>

⁵⁰ Child, *Lewis County*, 300.

⁵¹ William Adams, *Business Directory of Lewis County, N. Y.* (Syracuse, NY: J. P. Fralick, 1895), 605-608.

⁵² *Talcottville Cemetery Records*. (Lewis County Historical Society Archives)

⁵³ *Talcottville Cemetery Records*.

⁵⁴ “Leyden,” *Lewis County Democrat* (October 1, 1884), 3.

⁵⁵ “Leyden,” *Lewis County Democrat* (January 24, 1894), 3.

⁵⁶ *Talcottville Cemetery Records*.

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was the leading cause of death for women, with death from fires second.⁵⁷ The interment analysis for the Talcottville Cemetery identified over 252 first wives, 22 second wives, and three third wives. However, no evidence has been found that any of the first and second wives died while giving birth.

The one major pandemic, the Spanish Influenza of 1918-1920, killed relatively few people in Lewis County. The *Lowville Journal and Republican* noted that the disease had gotten into country districts and placed a heavy burden on the dairy farmers.⁵⁸ However, at Talcottville, no children died in that time period.

Abolition: The hamlet of Talcottville was on one of the Underground Railroad routes out of Utica, and members of the Miller family buried in the Talcottville Cemetery became known locally for aiding fugitive slaves on their journey northward – “They considered it a righteous principal [sic] in those days.” David and Adah Miller arrived in the area from Middletown, Connecticut in 1796. They had at least eight children, three daughters and five sons. Elias Miller (1778-1855) was a veteran of the War of 1812 who operated a large lime kiln in the area.⁵⁹ His brother Ezra (1785-1866) was also a War of 1812 veteran who married Lucy Topping (1787-1865), daughter of the first settler in the county. Ezra became a land agent and helped sell most of the farmland in the town of Leyden; however, by trade, he was a millwright and built a sawmill on Moose Creek south of Talcottville. He helped build the Universalist Church in Talcottville and donated the sawing of all the timber. Later he joined the Methodist Church and was one of six to vote the Abolitionist ticket in the township.⁶⁰

Ezra’s son William Daniels Miller (1818-1871) and grandson Dwight Miller (1851-1927) helped deliver an escaped slave to the Turin area. According to family tradition, William Daniels Miller’s farm on East Road along Moose Creek was part of the local Underground Railroad. One cold day a runaway was brought to Miller with a request to get the man to the next station. The fugitive was hidden under a load of manure in a one-horse wagon, and Dwight, probably ten years old at the time, was ordered to deliver his cargo as swiftly as possible without stopping to talk to anyone. The poorly-attired runaway safely reached his destination, but was nearly frozen to death.⁶¹ In a *Boonville Herald* article dated January 27, 1916, Dwight Miller repeated the story with more details of the abolitionist network.⁶² The Wells family in Utica worked to get the fugitives to the Davis family in Steuben. From there, many were routed through Boonville before making their way into Leyden,

⁵⁷ James and Dorothy Volvo, *Family Life in 19th Century America* (Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood Press, 2007), 33.

⁵⁸ “The Epidemic Situation,” *Lowville Journal and Republican* (October 17, 1918), 5; *Talcottville Cemetery Records*.

⁵⁹ Frank E. Miller, *A Genealogy of the Family of Millers from 1570 to 1925* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse Press, 1925), 307.

⁶⁰ Miller, 315.

⁶¹ Miller, 316-317.

⁶² James P. S. Pitcher, “The Underground Railroad in Upstate” [Manuscript, Boonville Town Historian]. Dwight Miller’s version of the story is that he was asked by his father to take a man to Captain Miller in Constableville, who in turn helped the runaway work his way north to Canada.

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Turin, Houseville, and so on. Halsey Miller, cousin to Dwight, was the connection in Houseville. Eventually many of the fugitives passing through the area ended up in Brownville, where the noted Brown family played a leading role in the abolitionist movement.

Military Service: Third amongst the themes of social history is the war service of the people of Talcottville. There are three Revolutionary War, twenty-two War of 1812, eighteen Civil War, two World War I, and four World War II veterans buried in the Talcottville Cemetery and, by at least 1905, the cemetery had become an important site for commemoration.

Revolutionary War: David Brainard Miller, William Topping, John Utley (1751-1858)

- William Topping was the first settler of Lewis County.

War of 1812: Chauncey Andrus, James Brooks, Alva Coe, Chester Coe, Talcott Coe, Ezekiel Comstock, Abijah Hall, Isaac Hall, Daniel Kent, Solomon Loomis, Elias Miller, Ezra Miller, Elihu Parsons, Isaac Parsons, Jeremiah Seymour, Daniel Talcott, Johnson Talcott, Parson Talcott, Hosea Thayer, Eliphalet Thomas, Elnathan Tolls, William Topping Jr.

- In anticipation of the coming conflict with Great Britain, militias were formed by the states, mainly for local defense, beginning in 1805.⁶³ The first Troop of Horse of Lewis County was formed in 1809 with Johnson Talcott as Cornet.⁶⁴

Civil War: Leander Banning, John Bassett, Almon L. Birdsey, James Brainard, Lieut. Alonzo Coe, Ebenezer Gaylord, Isaac Hall, Maj. Newton Hall, Jerome Hamblin, John Hamblin, Edwin Higby, Wendell Niece, Charles Parsons, William Parsons, Andrew Talcott, Harvey Teller, Clinton Thomas, Elisha Woodcock

- Four casualties: Lt. Alonzo Coe (cannon shot), Jerome Hamblin, Edwin Higby (typhoid fever), Andrew Talcott
- The 97th Regiment, NY Infantry was mustered in on February 18, 1862 in Boonville and mustered out on July 18, 1865. Most of the recruits enlisted from the Town of Leyden (Lewis County) and Boonville (Oneida County), many serving in Company B under Captain William Parsons.⁶⁵ Isaac Hall enlisted in Company D, was later promoted to Captain of Company A and served until the

⁶³ Hough, 138.

⁶⁴ Hough, 139.

⁶⁵ Hough, 153.

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close of the war. After the war he was promoted brevet major for gallant and meritorious service. He went on to author and publish a history of the NY 97th regiment volunteers (Conkling Rifles).⁶⁶

- In June 1860 Newton Hall began to enlist men for a cavalry company and succeeded in forming what became known as Company G, 3rd NY Cavalry. He entered as captain and was promoted to the rank of major in the last year of the war.⁶⁷

WWI: Clarence P. Morrison, Dewey Trenham.

- Caroline Trenham (1880 – 1968) donated land in 1946 for a Talcottville Community Memorial in her brother Dewey's (1898 – 1921) memory.

WWII: Frederick Cyr, Emmett Fox, Henry King, John McGuire.

- Mrs. Thomas Sloven (1869 – 1951) donated the flag for the Community Memorial in memory of her son-in-law John McGuire (1922 – 1945) as well as her husband, a Spanish-American veteran who is buried elsewhere.

Newspaper accounts from 1903 note Memorial Day exercises conducted at the Talcottville Cemetery as part of a full-day event by G. A. R. (Grand Army of the Republic) Post Betchford in Port Leyden:

*In the morning the members of the post went to Talcottville where, at the cemetery, the following program was carried out: Prayer, post chaplain; decoration of graves; short address, Comrade Kline; benediction, taps, bugle.*⁶⁸

The morning ceremony at Talcottville was followed by a visit to three other cemeteries and an afternoon meeting at the Van Hoytte Opera House with a reading of the Gettysburg Address, songs, more readings, and an address by General Winslow (probably, General Bradley Winslow of Watertown, 1831-1914). Similar stories appear over the next three years under the auspices of the G. A. R. Throughout the twentieth century, veterans' graves continued to be identified with flags, with Mrs. Thomas Sloven giving a large flag for a community memorial. In the twenty-first century, commemoration continues with individually-marked graves, a new Veteran's Monument (2015), and participation in "Wreaths Across America," a national charity that coordinates December ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and more than 1200 other sites.⁶⁹

⁶⁶ Isaac Hall, *History of the Ninety-seventh Regiment, New York Volunteers (Conkling Rifles) in the War of the Union* (Utica, NY: L. C. Childs & Son, 1890).

⁶⁷ Hough, 145.

⁶⁸ "Port Leyden," *Lowville Journal and Republican* (June 4, 1903), 1.

⁶⁹ Wreaths Across America.org

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Criterion C: Funerary Art

Talcottville Cemetery is also locally significant under Criterion C for its funerary art in terms of materials, types, symbolism, and epitaphs. Most of the people buried in the cemetery are Protestant; two Catholic cemeteries are located within six miles.⁷⁰ The one thousand stones reflect evolving Protestant burial traditions from the beginning of the nineteenth century to the present.

Talcottville was settled by New Englanders, whose own forms of burial and mourning practices were adaptations of English traditions. The Massachusetts Puritans focused on human sin and heavenly redemption and dissented from Anglican traditions, which were considered too close to those of the Catholic Church. Monuments often used foreboding images of skulls, weeping willows, and shrouded figures and were made of simple local materials; women and children mourned by dressing in black and removing themselves from social activities. Life in frontier Lewis County probably minimized mourning – settlers had too much to do to withdraw entirely from society – but the tradition of simple stones with religious elements was observed through the mid-nineteenth century. The earliest stone in the Talcottville Cemetery is marked with a weeping willow and marks the grave of Mary Thomas Brainard (died April 23, 1812).

Thereafter, traditions became more elaborate, more visually oriented – and somewhat more hopeful.⁷¹ The formal process of mourning included specific types of mourning garb, jewelry that contained hair from the dead loved one, and crepe decorations for the home. Photographs of dead children became a specialty of most photographers. The rural cemetery movement had a great influence on burial customs – graveyards became parks, and people regularly walked the grounds to admire the landscaping and monuments. Hundreds of rural cemeteries opened after 1831 (when Mount Auburn Cemetery opened in Boston), and Lowville acquired its own rural cemetery in 1867. The Talcottville Cemetery shows the effects of the movement with more trees and elaborate monuments.

The symbolism associated with death became more gentle and included angels, lambs, flowers, and hands pointing toward (not down from) heaven. Families still buried the body from home, but the profession of undertaker and the commercial funeral industry were developing quickly, with premade caskets, embalming services, and department stores specializing in mourning goods. In Child's 1872 *Gazetteer and Business Directory*, Charles Riggs & Sons of Turin (8 miles from Talcottville) was one of five listed undertakers, as well

⁷⁰ The Catholic Church of St. Martins in the village of Port Leyden, the only Catholic Church in the township, maintains its own cemetery six miles away from Talcottville. The Catholic cemetery in Boonville (Oneida County) is three miles away.

⁷¹ "Funerary Traditions," *Dictionary of American History in Encyclopedia.com*. Available at:

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/history/dictionaries-thesauruses-pictures-and-press-releases/funerary-traditions>

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as one of “the largest carriage manufacturers in northern New York,” a hardware and dry goods dealer, and seller of furniture, ready-made caskets, coffins, and shrouds.⁷²

Materials: The earliest monuments in the Talcottville Cemetery may have been wood, which would explain the presence of unmarked graves. However, the earliest stone is the simple marble tablet for Mary Thomas Brainard (1812). Stone was long-lasting, and a good marker for the Second Coming of Christ and eternal life. The Talcotts and Bakers operated a stone quarry on the Sugar River, and the current cemetery board thinks that some of their stone was used to manufacture headstones that were used in Talcottville. For evidence, they note that the same quarry was owned in the 1890s by Melchor Auer, who is listed in the 1896 Directory of Lewis County as a dealer in “rough and finished building stones” and “cemetery work” – meaning finished headstones.⁷³

By the mid-nineteenth century, local newspapers advertised ready-made headstones. In 1867 the Old Forest Hill Cemetery Marble Works of Utica targeted seven counties of central and northern New York State, offering. “...Quincy Granite, Fitz William Silver Granite, also, the Scotch or Aberdeen Granite Monuments, Headstones, &c.”⁷⁴ Around this time, a Civil War casualty was buried in Talcottville under a stone marked with the name of its maker – Lewis L. Lewis, a Welsh immigrant living in Utica who is listed in the 1850 and 1860 censuses as a stone cutter and marble worker. Several other stones have been identified with the names of S. S. Rowland and R. W. Rowland, of Rowland and Bush in Boonville. This partnership was in operation from 1867 to 1871, when Charles Bush moved away.⁷⁵ In 1872, J. H. Sawyer of Boonville (3 miles from Talcottville) was also offering headstones and monuments that are believed to be in represented in the cemetery. Using modern selling gimmicks he stated, “Money being very scarce ...will for the next sixty days **Sell at Cost for Cash**, so as to give all a chance to erect anything in the shape of Monuments and Headstones at very low prices.”⁷⁶

In the 1880s a revolutionary material was introduced – White Bronze (zinc). An 1881 advertisement by the Constableville representative for the Monumental Bronze Company of Bridgeport, CT, claimed that white bronze was “superior to marble or granite” and would not “crack, crumble or decay” nor “discolor or become moss-covered.”⁷⁷ Isaac Hall of Talcottville was listed as one of three subagents – although, for some reason,

⁷² Child, *Lewis County*, 303, 215, 270.

⁷³ Adams, 226.

⁷⁴ “The Old Forest Hill Cemetery Marble Works” [Ad], *Lewis County Democrat* (June 19, 1867), 4.

⁷⁵ Hamilton Child, *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Oneida County, N. Y. for 1869* (Syracuse, NY: Journal Office, 1869), 165. R. W. Rowland is thought to be the son or brother of S. S. Rowland.

⁷⁶ “Selling at Cost,” *Lowville Journal and Republican* (August 21, 1872), 3.

⁷⁷ “White Bronze Monuments” [Ad], *Lowville Times* (August 25, 1881), 4.

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he did not opt for this type of monument for his own burial. In 1889, F. P. Lansing, a furniture maker and undertaker in Copenhagen, placed an ad in a Lewis County Business Directory with this claim, "WHITE BRONZE" is the ONLY MATERIAL that will WITHSTAND the rigorous influence of this climate."⁷⁸ The ad included scientific testimonies and one local endorsement from Judge Henry Turner, a much decorated Civil War veteran and head of the Lowville G. A. R post. Catalogs for the Monumental Bronze Company were issued every year; a customer could either purchase an exact monument or pick a basic type and add motifs (like military or Masonic symbols) to create a unique memorial.

The two while bronze monuments in the Talcottville cemetery are each documented in a company catalog. The first – an extraordinary century plant for the Weist family – is shown in the 1882 catalog; the second, a more modest monument for Albert and Almira Talcott, appears in the 1890 catalog.⁷⁹The century plant atop a columnar obelisk signified immortality and cost \$271; the raised box was a more conventional form and cost considerably less. The Weist plot includes small zinc markers listing the names of individuals in the plot.



Figure 10. Weist Family Plot, 2017.

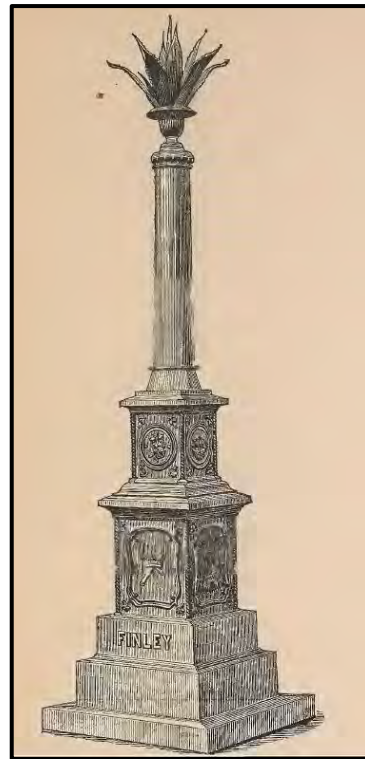


Figure 11. No. 58, Monumental Bronze Company catalog, 1882.



Figure 12. Footstone, Weist Family Plot, 2017.

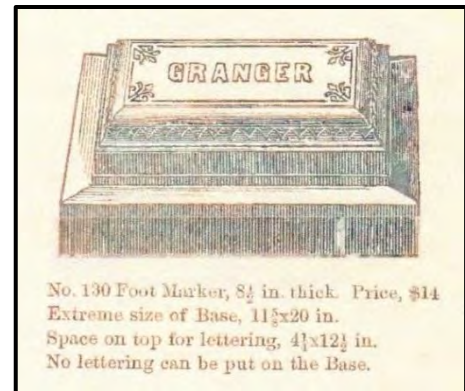


Figure 13. No. 130, Monumental Bronze Company catalog, 1882.

⁷⁸ "F. P. Lansing" [Ad]. *General and Business Directory of Lowville, Croghan, Copenhagen ... for 1888-89* (Lyons, NY: Globe Directory Publishing Company, 1888), 88-89 [Unpaged ad insert].

⁷⁹ Monumental Bronze Company, *Catalogue of the Monumental Bronze Co.* (Bridgeport, CT: October, 1882); Monumental Bronze Company, *Catalogue of the Monumental Bronze Co.* (Bridgeport, CT: 1890). The second catalog is available online at: <http://www.usgwarchives.net/pa/1pa/tscarvers/monumental-bronze/monumental-bronze/catalogue.htm>

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The monument for Albert and Almira Talcott is model No. 593 from the company's 1890 catalog.



Figure 14. Talcott Monument, 2017.



Figure 15. No. 593, Monumental Bronze Company catalog, 1890.

Additional names could be added to monuments by ordering new plaques from the manufacturer. The Weist monument has four plaques noting deaths from 1854 (Margaretta, first wife), 1882 (Henry, when the monument was erected), 1894 (Jacob), and 1912 (Eva K., second wife). The catalog illustration of the Talcott monument shows a decorative plaque of lilies of the valley that could be swapped out for a name plaque.

One last monument material is worthy of mention – a natural boulder with a bronze plaque commemorating Elizabeth Reed Furbish (1872-1903). Twenty-three years after her burial, the executor of Thomas Baker Jr.'s will came to Talcottville from Minneapolis to carry out one of the terms of Baker's will:

...the executor was requested to put upon a large rock near the grave where Elizabeth Reed Furbish is buried, in the cemetery at Talcottville, a 'suitable inscription.' In compliance with this request a beautiful bronze tablet was cast and placed upon the rock near the grave. It was Mrs. Furbish's request, when living, that she be buried near this rock. The rock at that time was not embraced in the cemetery, and had been a favorite place where Bessie Reed loved to play, as a child, when spending her summers at Talcottville. The family purchased the plot of land, including the rock, and had it included in the cemetery, and the bronze table marks the chosen resting place of Mrs. Furbish, formerly Bessie Reed.⁸⁰

The Bakers, Reeds (Elizabeth's maiden name), and Edmund Wilson were all related by marriage. Thomas Baker Jr. was related to Edmund Wilson's mother, and Elizabeth was related to him on his father's side. Elizabeth died from consumption on August 17, 1903 at the stone house, which her mother, Grace Reed,

⁸⁰ "Wishes Carried Out," *Lowville Journal and Republican* (November 18, 1926), 4.

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leased for many summers.⁸¹ Elizabeth and her three New Hampshire-born children had lived separately from husband Willard H. Furbish since at least 1900, when she was enumerated in Lewis County.⁸² The sad story of Elizabeth is covered in Edmund Wilson's *Upstate*, but she was upstaged in literature (as in life) by her sister Dorothy Reed Mendenhall, an important early twentieth-century public health specialist. Her memorial boulder is the only monument of its kind in the Talcottville Cemetery.

Types: By far, the most common type of monument found at the Talcottville Cemetery is the traditional tablet design – meant to emulate the stone tablets of the Bible. However, after the middle of the nineteenth century, there were also markers, columns, and obelisks, as well as the elaborate century plant and box monuments in zinc mentioned above.

Tablet headstones provide ample room for carvings and inscriptions, and generally mark individual burials. They tend to be three to four feet in height and three to eight inches in thickness. Most of the older tablets in the Talcottville Cemetery are buried in the ground; later tablet stones are sometimes set on a base or ground ledger.



Figure 16. Oldest stone (1812), 2012. (findagrave.com)

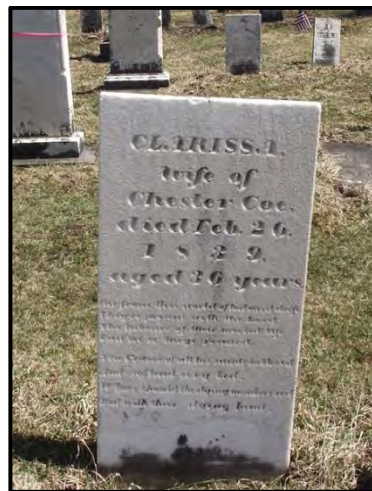


Figure 17. Simple tablet stone with epitaph (1829), 2017.



Figure 18. Oldest section of the cemetery, 2016.

Markers are a later version of the tablet headstone, thicker in dimension and lower to the ground. Most are set on a base or ground ledger and made of stone or (later) concrete. Many are rectangular, with the dimensions of an open book, employing the religious symbolism of the Bible and Word of God. Their greater width allows

⁸¹ "The Death of Mrs. Elizabeth Reed Furbish," *Lewis County Democrat* (August 26, 1903), 3. The paper says she died of consumption; Edmund Wilson says spinal meningitis. (Wilson, *Upstate*, 56.)

⁸² In 1900, the children were aged 1, 3, and 6.

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these monuments to be used for the burial of couples or parents with children. In such cases, the plot will be larger and may also contain footstones. By the 1920s, markers were the most common type of monument being added to the Talcottville Cemetery.

The largest, most expensive, and most spectacular monuments in the Talcottville cemetery are columns and obelisks, most from the second half of the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.⁸³ These shapes borrow heavily from Greek, Roman, and Egyptian architectural styles – Napoleon’s conquest of Egypt in 1799 having led to the publication of the *Description de l’Égypte* (1809-1821) and the popularization of Egypt’s ancient culture. Use of motifs from these ancient cultures illustrated the superiority and longevity of western culture and the high social status of individuals and families.⁸⁴ On a more practical side, because columns and obelisks could be twelve to fifteen feet tall, they permitted use of a wider range of symbols and drew more attention to family plots. Columns were smooth or fluted, and might incorporate a capital from one of the three Classical orders or serve as a platform for an urn or other symbol. Obelisks traditionally had a square cross-section tapering up to a pyramidal cap. The decline of tall monuments after the beginning of the twentieth century may be attributed to new laws limiting the height and width of tombstones and to their expense, coupled with changing attitudes reducing the memorialization of death and the advent of “lawn park” cemeteries.



Figure 19. Early twentieth-century marker, 2017.



Figure 20. View of section of cemetery with tall monuments, 2017.



Figure 21. 1838 Comstock monument, 2017.

One final type of monument represented at Talcottville Cemetery is the military headstone. Before 1879, veterans were buried by their families, often under stones decorated with a symbol of their service. For

⁸³ Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria, *Obelisks - Columns - Pedestals*. Available at: oldcem.bc.ca/gp_art_m3.htm

⁸⁴ In Protestant Talcottville, obelisks were probably not meant to embody the divinity of the sun god, Ra.

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example, the Edwin Higby monument includes a cannon (Figure 22) cut by Utica stone maker Lewis L. Lewis. An act of Congress passed February 3, 1879 (20 Stat. 281), extended the privilege of government-issued gravestones to soldiers buried in private cemeteries. Many are a standard “Civil War” style with a curved top; the Almon Birdsey (1851-1877) monument is one of the first in the Talcottville Cemetery. The style of government-issued stones changed several times after 1879. Twentieth-century military monuments like that of John K. McGuire are almost always marked with a religious symbol.



Figure 22. Edwin Higby, Civil War casualty (1861), 2017.



Figure 23. Almon L. Birdsey (circa 1851-1877), 2017.



Figure 24. John K. McGuire (1922-1945), 2017.

Symbolism: The range of symbols on monuments at the Talcottville Cemetery begins with one of the most traditional early nineteenth-century Protestant motifs – the weeping willow on a simple stone tablet. By mid-century, heaven-pointing hands, angels, and arches appear, reflecting a more hopeful religious orientation. After the Civil War, direct religious symbolism declines – allegorical symbols like urns and plants are used, along with fraternal symbols and military service inscriptions testifying to the individual’s earthly life. The monuments themselves become symbolic – as mentioned before, markers, box tombs, columns, and obelisks have their own meanings and followed trends. (For instance, events like the death of Lincoln led to many tombs with catafalques.) After the First World War, the use of symbolism declined. Ostentatious monuments became increasingly costly; changes in public sentiment and rules imposed by lawn-park cemeteries each played a role. In particular, the Depression influenced expenditure. Mass-manufactured stones took on simpler shapes, with standardized scrolls or floral decoration.

The earliest stone in Talcottville Cemetery – Mary Thomas Brainard (Figure. 16) – displays a weeping willow, one of the most common early nineteenth-century symbols. In ancient Greece, it was common to place willow branches in the coffins of the dead and plant young saplings on their graves, with the belief that the spirit of the

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dead would rise through the trees. As the ancient Greek republic became a model for the new American republic, Classical Greek and Roman imagery extended into all aspects of life. Carvings of weeping willows seem to have become particularly prevalent on gravestones after 1835. Supposedly, that year the French republic sent the United States two willow tree cuttings from the grave of Napoleon, and the cuttings were planted at Mount Vernon next to the grave of George Washington. The most obvious meaning of a weeping willow would seem to be the “weeping” part – mourning or grieving for a loved one. The saying “she is in her willows” implies the mourning of a female for a lost mate.⁸⁵



Figure 25. Cyrus Wetmore (circa 1799-1831).



Figure 26. Jesse Talcott (1775-1846) and Altamira Cooley Talcott (1751-1840).

Another clearly Protestant symbol is the Bible, shown on monuments as an open book. It represented strong faith, learning, and accomplishment, often commemorating the especially devout, church leaders, or ministers. In Talcottville, Hannah Bailey’s stone from 1863 shows an open Bible. The Gothic arch on the grave of Chester Coe also has a distinctly religious association.

The heaven-pointing finger shows up on several mid-century Talcottville monuments, spanning twenty years, including those of George H. Seymour (1848-1853) and Artymitia Higby (1836-1872). George Seymour’s stone includes an angel helping him rise to heaven, and Artymitia Higby’s stone includes the phrase, “Meet Me

⁸⁵ “Engraved: The Symbol of the Weeping Willow in Gravestone Art.” Available at: callmetaphy.blogspot.com/2011/07/symbol-of-weeping-willow-in-gravestone.html

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There” – both show an expectation of redemption. Other variations of the heaven-pointing finger include a hand holding a wilted flower, symbolizing the mortality of the body. Surprisingly, only one nineteenth century stone at Talcottville is inscribed with a cross – and none is in the shape of a cross. This may reflect an association of the cross with the Catholic crucifix and the burial of Catholics in separate church cemeteries until the mid-twentieth century.



Figure 27. Hannah Bailey (circa 1791-1863).



Figure 28. Chester Coe (1796-1863) and family.



Figure 29. George H. Seymour (1848-1853).



Figure 30. Artymitia Higby (1836-1872).



Figure 31. Delana Aubin (1814-1884).



Figure 32. Anna and Wallace L. Post (both children died in 1855).

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In the mid-nineteenth century, other images also begin to appear on monuments. Two infant burials – Anna (1855) and Wallace Post (1853-1855) – use flower language on a double stone (Figure 32) to express loss. The white dogwood flower stands for purity and Christianity; the rose is the universal symbol of love.

Explicitly non-religious symbols began to be applied to monuments more often after the Civil War. The growth of fraternal orders led monument makers to feature a variety of ensignia in their orderbooks and catalogs. The 1882 catalog of the Monumental Bronze company included plaques for Freemasonry, Eastern Star, Odd Fellows, Grange, Knights of Honor, American Order of United Workmen, and Knights Templar, among other “emblems and inscriptions.”⁸⁶



Figure 33. Ruler and scribe (Masons); Lieut. Alonzo Wilber Coe (1831-1864).

Inscriptions: Nineteenth and early twentieth-century monument epitaphs take on many forms and are derived from many sources. Biblical scripture was very popular, often alluding to some characteristic quality of the dead. Other epitaphs detailed accomplishments – a doctor renowned for tending the sick, a Sunday School teacher, or one who performed other community service. Some verses came from standard reference books owned by local undertakers to help families choose a fitting epitaph for their loved ones.

Most of the stones with verse epitaphs in the Talcottville Cemetery date from the first two-thirds of the nineteenth century, with later monuments containing much simpler wording. On markers with such verses, time and weather have made reading difficult. However, some of the Talcottville epitaphs seem to be standard phrases found in *A Collection of Epitaphs and Monumental Inscriptions, Ancient and Modern, with an Emblematical Frontispiece* (1821).⁸⁷

⁸⁶ Monumental Bronze Company, *Catalogue*, 1882, *passim*.

⁸⁷ William Graham, *A Collection of Epitaphs and Monumental Inscriptions, Ancient and Modern, with an Emblematical Frontispiece* (Carlisle, England: C. Thurnam, 1821), 61.

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One such epitaph, for Cynthia Coe (1797 – 1831), is found on page 61 and comes from Psalm 673:

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They died in Jesus and are blest. How soft their slumbers are, From suffering and from sin released and freed from every snare. Far from this world of toil and strife, They're present with the Lord. The labors of their mortal life end in a large reward.



Figure 34. Cynthia Coe (1797-1831).



Another verse appears on page 24 of *A Collection of Epitaphs Suitable for Monumental Inscriptions, from Approved Authors* (1865).⁸⁸ However, there must have been an earlier literary source because the inscription appears on the monument for Julia Hall, who died a decade earlier in 1853:

Oh, what is Life? 'Tis like a flower that blossoms, and is gone; It flourishes its little hour with all its beauty on. Death comes, and like a wintry day, it cuts the lovely flower away.

Figure 35. Epitaph, Julia Hall (1821-1853).

For Andrew Sherman (1829 – 1862), no source book was found, but his inscription is found on many stones throughout the eastern United States and Ontario:

One we loved has left our Number for the Dark and silent Tomb. Closed his eyes in Death's cold slumber, faded in her early bloom.

⁸⁸ Alpheus Cary, *A Collection of Epitaphs Suitable for Monumental Inscriptions, from Approved Authors* (Boston: A. Cary, 1865), 24. Cary gives the tomb of Jeremy Taylor (no dates) as his source.

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Another unsourced inscription from 1862, combining morbid but uplifting imagery, is on the stone of Ellen Jones, a 16 week-old baby:

*Our babe that is moldering in the tomb
Was beautiful from birth,
We fondly thought to see her bloom
A lovely flower on earth,
But she was born for better things,
The high degree was given,
And Holy angels stooped their wings
And wafted her to Heaven.*



Figure 36. Ellen Jones (1892).

After the Civil War, fewer – and shorter – inscriptions are found, and most of these appear on tablet headstones. The change may reflect a decrease in locally produced and customized stones and/or the movement to more elaborately cut monuments provided by makers in Utica and New England without room for verses.

Since 1967

In the 1970s, State Route 12-D was widened, causing the wrought-iron fencing and gates that were installed in 1935 to be damaged by winter road salt; both were removed in 2013. Also in the 1970s, numerous trees were taken out of the cemetery for easier maintenance. As with any older cemetery, many of the stones became broken, fell over, or lost structural integrity. In 2012, a \$32,162 grant from New York State Division of Cemeteries permitted the repair of 38 dangerous monuments. Also in 2012, the Talcottville Cemetery joined the New York State Association of Cemeteries. In 2015, funds were raised through a capital campaign to erect a Veteran's Memorial with a lighted flag pole. A second capital campaign made it possible to install a twelve-niche columbarium. Recent activities include the reburial of Civil War veteran Elisha Woodcock and his wife Mary from a nearby pasture in 2015.

The Talcottville Cemetery continues to be the only active cemetery in the Town of Leyden and continues to be governed by local residents through the Talcottville Cemetery Association.

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preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: **Lewis County Historical Society Archives**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Talcottville Cemetery
Name of Property

Lewis County, NY
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.91 acres

UTM References

1 18N 470615E 4819824N
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary reflects the current property owned by the Talcottville Cemetery Association and includes the sections acquired from the Town of Leyden in 1927 when the association incorporated.



Talcottville Cemetery (Google Maps).

Talcottville Cemetery
Name of Property

Lewis County, NY
County and State

Talcottville Cemetery
Leyden, Lewis Co., NY

2052 State Route 12-D
Boonville, NY 13309



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

Talcottville Cemetery
Name of Property

Lewis County, NY
County and State

Talcottville Cemetery
Leyden, Lewis Co., NY

2052 State Route 12-D
Boonville, NY 13309



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 Cemetery



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

Talcottville Cemetery
Name of Property

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2052 State Route 12-D
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Projection: Transverse Mercator
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Units: Meter



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

Talcottville Cemetery
Name of Property

Lewis County, NY
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jerry Perrin (edited by Emilie W. Gould, Historic Preservation Program Analyst, NY SHPO)
organization Lewis County Historical Society date August 23, 2017
street & number 7552 S State Street telephone (315) 376-8957
city or town Lowville state NY zip code 13367
e-mail lewiscountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Additional Documentation

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Figure 4. Section A, Munn family plot.
Figure 5. Section C, early twentieth-century Malcolm family monument, marking earlier graves.
Figure 6. Detail, Town of Leyden. Beers' *Atlas of Lewis County*, 1875.
Figure 7. Inset, A. Ligowsky, *A Topographical Map of Lewis Co., N.Y.* (Philadelphia: S. & R. S. Traintor Jr. & Co., 1857).
Figure 8: D. G. Beers, *Atlas of Lewis County* (Philadelphia: Pomeroy, Whitman & Co., 1875).
Figure 9. Cover of *Upstate*.
Figure 10. Weist Family Plot, 2017.
Figure 11. No. 58, Monumental Bronze Company catalog, 1882.
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Figure 14. Talcott Monument, 2017.
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Figure 16. Oldest stone (1812), 2012. (findagrave.com)
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Figure 18. Oldest section of the cemetery, 2016.
Figure 19. Early twentieth-century marker, 2017.
Figure 20. View of section of cemetery with tall monuments, 2017.
Figure 21. 1838 Comstock monument, 2017.
Figure 22. Edwin Higby, Civil War casualty (1861), 2017.
Figure 23. Almon L. Birdsey (circa 1851-1877), 2017.
Figure 24. John K. McGuire (1922-1945), 2017.
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Figure 26. Jesse Talcott (1775-1846) and Altamira Cooley Talcott (1751-1840).

Talcottville Cemetery

Lewis County, NY
County and State

Name of Property

Figure 27. Hannah Bailey (circa 1791-1863).

Figure 28. Chester Coe (1796-1863) and family.

Figure 29. George H. Seymour (1848-1853).

Figure 30. Artymitia Higby (1836-1872).

Figure 31. Delana Aubin (1814-1884).

Figure 32. Anna and Wallace L. Post (both children died in 1855).

Figure 33. Ruler and scribe (Masons); Lieut. Alonzo Wilber Coe (1831-1864).

Figure 34. Cynthia Coe (1797-1831).

Figure 35. Epitaph, Julia Hall (1821-1853).

Figure 36. Ellen Jones (1892).

Photographs:

Name of Property: Talcottville Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Talcottville, NY

County: Lewis

State: New York

Photographer: Jerry Perrin

Date Photographed: July 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

0001 Front elevation of cemetery looking at northwest corner.

0002 Center front elevation of cemetery showing entrance from Route 12-D (front looking east).

0003 Front elevation looking at southwest corner from State Route 12-D.

0004 Looking from northwest corner toward southeast.

0005 Looking toward back from driveway entrance.

0006 Looking from southwest corner to northeast. Main feature is Munn family plot with obelisk and iron fencing.

0007 Looking from southeast corner to northwest.

0008 Looking from northeast corner to southwest.

0009 Looking due south toward flag.

0010 Looking at southeast Corner from path to flag showing Columbarium.

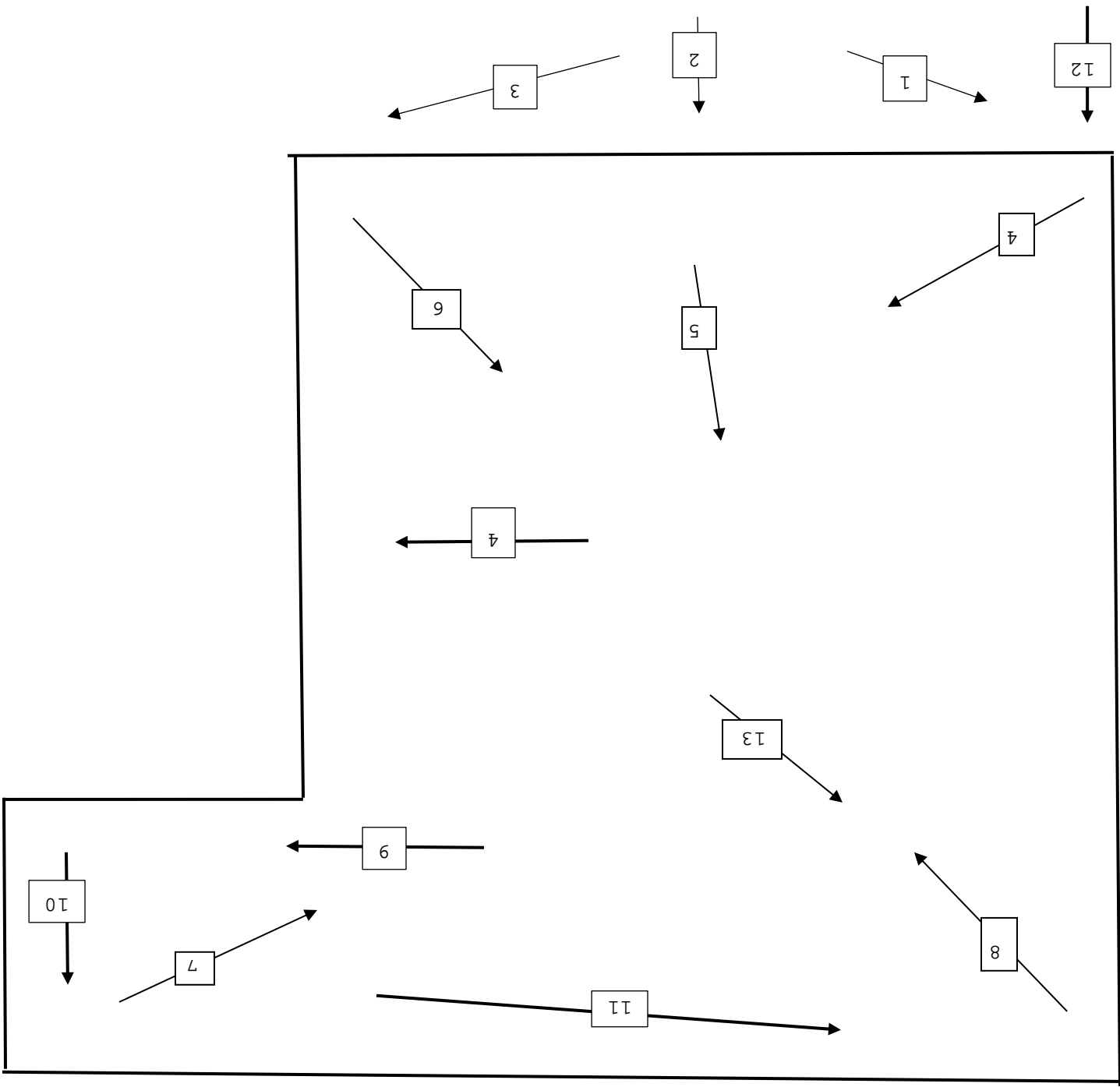
0011 Looking north along back fence of cemetery.

0012 Looking due east from sidewalk along northern boundary.

0013 Looking toward northeast corner.

Talcottville Cemetery
Name of Property

Lewis County, NY
County and State



Talcottville Cemetery
Name of Property

Lewis County, NY
County and State

Property Owner: _____

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state NY zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



SPEED
LIMIT
40

PAVE



TALGOTTVILLE
CEMETERY
ASSOCIATION





POTTER
SINCLAIR

LOSON

ANDERSON





MONUMENT

WILLIAMS

WILLIAMS
WIFE OF
WILLIAMS
DAUGHTER OF
WILLIAMS
WIFE OF
WILLIAMS













POT
SINC



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 10/27/2017 Date of Pending List: 11/14/2017 Date of 16th Day: 11/29/2017 Date of 45th Day: 12/11/2017 Date of Weekly List: 12/14/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 12/8/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

343 Vischer Ferry Road
Clifton Park, New York 12065

•M•
James Otis Munn

(802)233-6015
jomunn@yahoo.com
[linkedin.com/in/jomunn](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jomunn)

August 29th, 2017

Michael F. Lynch
Director, Division for Historic Preservation
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
PO Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Re: Talcottville Cemetery


Dear Mr. Lynch:

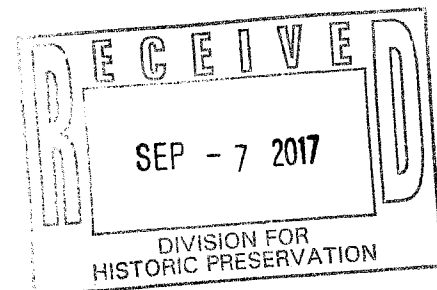
On behalf of the Munn family, I support the nomination of the Talcottville Cemetery to the National and State Registers of Historic Places. My family has resided in and around Talcottville for eight generations and I trace my direct lineage back to Otis and Permelia (Jennings) Munn who were settlers and longtime residents of Talcottville and helped to grow and develop the area during the late 1700s through the mid 1800s. My family still resides in the area today.

Several generations of the Munn family are buried in the Talcottville Cemetery, many of which were profiled in Edmund Wilson's popular book *Upstate*. Wilson was one of the most popular literary critics of the twentieth century and his family kept a summer home in Talcottville. The Munn and Wilson families are related through marriage and often spent time together during those summers when Wilson did most of his writing.

The Munn family is both supportive and proud of the Talcottville Cemetery Association's efforts to place their building on the registers. We support this nomination wholeheartedly.

Sincerely,


James O. Munn



Lewis County Historical Society

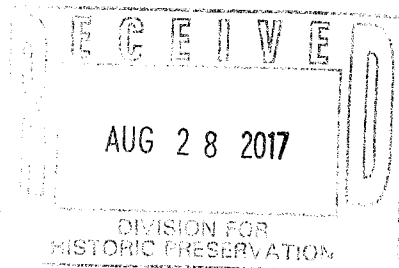
7552 South State Street

P.O. Box 446

Lowville, New York 13367

(315) 376-8957

lewiscountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com



Michael F. Lynch

Director, Division for Historic Preservation

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

PO Box 189

Waterford, NY 12188-0189

August 22, 2017

Re: Talcottville Cemetery

Dear Mr. Lynch:

On behalf of the Board of the Lewis County Historical Society I support the nomination of the Talcottville Cemetery to the National and State Registers of Historic Places. The Town of Leyden, where the cemetery is located, was one of the original five townships of the County and one the earliest areas to be settled. Talcottville is well known locally and nationally as the summer home of Edmund Wilson who was one of the most important literary critics of the mid twentieth century. One of his popular works is *Upstate* which relates his summer visits when he did much of his writing, the early settlement of the area (he was related to all the first families by descent or marriage), and his observation of the changes that America was undergoing in the 50s and 60s as reflected in the changes in Talcottville and Lewis County.

In *Upstate* Wilson gives biographical sketches of his relatives and local people who are now interred there, making it a literary cemetery. When he was in residence famous people from the literary world made a pilgrimage to Talcottville. Now that he is gone, people still are known to travel great distances to see his former home and visit the cemetery.

The Lewis County Historical Society's Preservation Committee is actively working with all townships to identify historic buildings and sites in their towns. The Board applauds the Talcottville Cemetery Association's efforts to place their building on the registers.

Sincerely,

Marian M. Opela

President

Lewis County Historical Society

ELISE M. STEFANIK
21ST DISTRICT, NEW YORK

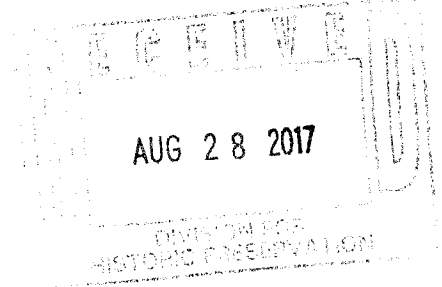
318 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4611
stefanik.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3221

**HOUSE ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE**
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS, VICE CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES
**HOUSE EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE COMMITTEE**
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER
EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE TRAINING

August 24, 2017

Mr. Michael F. Lynch
Director
Division for Historic Preservation
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
PO 189
Waterford, NY 12188



Dear Mr. Lynch,

It has been brought to my attention that the Talcottville Cemetery in Lewis County of my Congressional District (NY-21) is currently under consideration for inclusion on the New York State Register of Historic Places. I am writing to express my support for the inclusion of this important, historically significant site on this register.

The Talcottville Cemetery is located in the Sugar River Valley in Southern Lewis County, situated between the Adirondack Mountains and the Tug Hill Plateau. Dating back to the mid-1800's, this cemetery is the final resting place of many of the original settlers of Lewis County. This site is currently maintained by the Talcottville Cemetery Association, and it is imperative that all available resources are utilized to continue to preserve this location.

I ask that you please give this site your most serious consideration, and to please keep me updated throughout this process. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Madeline Donovan in my Watertown office at 315-782-3150.

Sincerely,

Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress

ES/md

GLENS FALLS
136 GLEN STREET
GLENS FALLS, NY 12801
(518) 743-0964

PLATTSBURGH
23 DURKEE STREET
SUITE C
PLATTSBURGH, NY 12901
(518) 561-2324

WATERTOWN
88 PUBLIC SQUARE
SUITE A
WATERTOWN, NY 13601
(315) 782-3150



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner

0172

20 October 2017

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places

Mail Stop 7228

1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following four nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Shea's Seneca Building, Buffalo, Erie County
Kreiner Malt House and Grain Elevator, Buffalo, Erie County
Fairport Public Library, Fairport, Monroe County
Talcottville Cemetery, Talcottville, Lewis County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office