

Cemeteries in Franklin... there is so much to learn about our history in cemeteries. In Franklin, many of the early settlements had their own cemeteries. Some were associated with churches, some are family burial grounds. The most prominent is the Ouleout Valley Cemetery with its beautiful fountain and monuments contains the graves of many long time Franklin families and includes the graves of several past Town Supervisors and veterans going back to the War of 1812 as well as Lewis Hine, the famous photographer and child labor activist, Rev. Willard Parsons who was instrumental in establishing the Fresh Air Fund and James McCall the founder of McCall's magazine. The Croton Union Cemetery in Treadwell was originally part of the Baptist Church, which burned down in 1916. The first recorded burial was of a 5 year old child in 1822. Hezekiah Treadwell died at the age of 85 in 1826. The Ouleout Cemetery (on Rt. 28) is no longer active but has a history dating back to 1820's and contains about 200 graves including some of the area's first settlers such as the Case Family. (Remember, North Franklin used to be called Case Settlement.) There 3 very early cemeteries right in the Village. One behind the school playground, and 2 very old and interesting sites next to each other behind the fire hall and on Center Street including the monuments to early settlers Amos Douglas and the Edgerton family. The First Baptist Church in Leonta was established in 1799. It is long gone but it's cemetery is on the knoll (this is now private property) and contains the graves of early settlers including a veteran of the War of 1812. There are many other old burial grounds on private property (always ask permission before visiting) including Arabia, Cemetery Hill off Mackey Road, the 1794 grave of Roger Abell in Bartlett Hollow and many others that are now part of fields and forest. You never know when walking along an old abandoned road or path... you may see a little stone walled in area. So much of Franklin's history is in these burials grounds. The graves of very young children and astonishing old people... people who survived through the toughest of times and built our area; people who moved here in very primitive times for many of the same reasons new people are moving here now. Sadly, many of the cemeteries are neglected but these people should not be forgotten. I applaud the Rotary, the Cemetery Association, other groups and land owners who are working to try to maintain some of them as much as possible. For more information on cemeteries in Franklin, including who is buried there, check the Franklin History book and the Delaware County NY Genealogy and History site.