

October 14, 2014

FROM THE SHERIFF'S DESK



Potter's Cemetery Restoration Project

“...The sufferings of these unfortunates from whom the air and light of heaven is shut out, would form a dark chapter of human misery could it be written.”

From the Bloomville Mirror Feb. 21, 1865

Our inmate work crew routinely collects litter alongside county roadways, grooms cemeteries and paints public buildings. This spring they were asked to clear brush and debris from Delhi's Potter's Cemetery and acquired the pledge of DPW to provide clean fill to level out the sunken graves of the 377 persons recorded as experiencing eternal rest there since records began being kept in 1855.

It soon became apparent that labor and soil alone could not restore order to this all-but-forgotten tract, which is accessed by a dirt path off Arbor Hill Road, near the Golf Course maintained by SUNY Delhi.

Once faced with the enormity of our challenge, an unspoken obligation took shape to follow it through to a successful conclusion. We have enlisted the aid of a local boy scout who will design and build a kiosk (possibly displaying a listing of names) as his Eagle Scout project.

Providing a dignified setting for these grave sites is a symbolic act, designed to acknowledge their worth, express sympathy for their plight and accord them respect. The Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation recently awarded us a \$2,500.00 matching grant to be used to restore order and enhance the cemetery's overall appearance. To complete this project we would like to install a kiosk and serenity garden. Once done, this forgotten cemetery will be transformed into a dignified resting place for its inhabitants, a tranquil site for reflection and a source of pride for our community. It is never too late to make an effort to set things right.

I am soliciting your support to amass the required matching grant funds. Please make your check payable to the Delaware County Sheriff's Office. Reference "Potter's Cemetery" and mail it to 280 Phoebe Lane, Suite One, Delhi, New York 13753.

