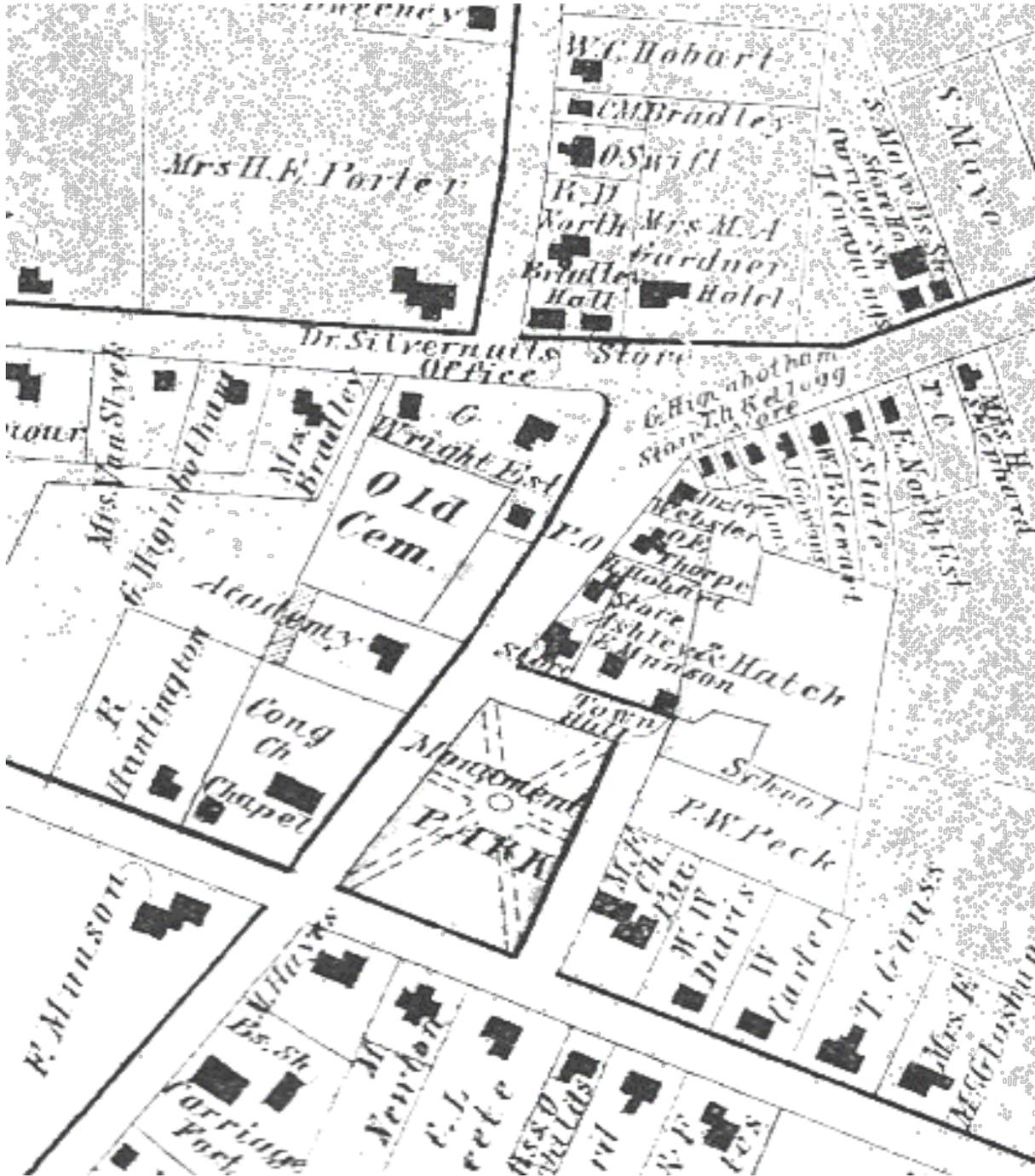


# RESTORING THE PROMISE...

## THE OLD BURYING GROUND AND THE PIONEER TRUST



EAST BLOOMFIELD 1874

## LOST AND FOUND

For more than a century, East Bloomfield's pioneer burying ground was lost to history. It was situated near the Academy building, but no one knew exactly where. Rumors even surfaced that the Academy was built atop part of the graveyard, resulting in basement ghosts. And a big question lingered: Were the settlers' bodies exhumed and moved to the "new" cemetery northeast of the Town Commons, now Elton Park?

Thanks to an investigation spearheaded by the Town Historian, we now have answers. The Old Burying Ground has been researched, rediscovered, reclaimed, and with great thanks to a local businessman, repatriated into the possession of the Historical Society and the community!

## DETECTIVE WORK



It all started with an innocent question: "Where is Deacon John Adams buried?" The town's pioneer died in 1793 in his log cabin near Mud Creek.

The future East Bloomfield village, atop a hill two miles away, was slowly being cleared and shelters built. There was only a nearby Indian trail. The Congregational meetinghouse was not yet built. Nor was the first timber house of John Keyes. Why would busy settlers haul their esteemed founder far away from his own fields to rest for eternity?



## THE ORIGINAL PROMISE

Records tell us that in 1836, the Congregational Society decided they needed to build a new meetinghouse. After doing so they voted to dismantle the old, drafty one. In its place, and very close to its spot, in 1838 they erected a large, three-story brick schoolhouse—today's Academy building.

The town and village were growing quickly; clearly a larger cemetery was called for. Townsfolk responded. Land acquired from Bani Bradley just beyond the town commons would do for the next century or two.

So, it was directed by church trustees in May 1838:

*“That this society take measures to purchase a site for a new burying ground...Resolved, that we will discontinue the use of the old burying ground...recommend removal of the monuments to the new site...that the society be authorized to lease the old ground to the trustees of the East Bloomfield academy, to be by them leveled down, surrounded with a proper fence, ornamented with trees and walks,*

*and to be used exclusively for a grove connected with the academy.”*

Notice, it was directed that only the monuments be moved, not the bodies. The bodies, 83 of them by the town historian’s reckoning, would not be disturbed. Further, a special condition was required:

*“...that the trustees of said academy cause to be erected a suitable monument commemorative of the dead, stating that this ground was the burying place of the town from its first settlement.”*

## **THE PIONEER TRUST FUND**

The Pioneer Trust Fund has been established by the Society to receive donations and contributions and provide recognition for this important legacy work. Giving levels have been established:

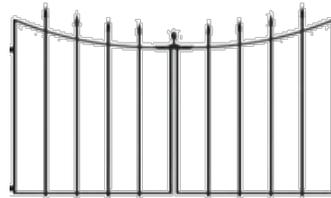
**Founder: \$2,500+**

**Proprietor: \$500-\$999**

**Squire \$1,000-\$2,499**

**Settler: \$250-\$499**

**Yeoman: up to \$249**



## **HOW DO I GIVE?**

All support, every gift is needed and appreciated. Gifts of \$1,000 or more will be recognized on a permanent plaque at the Old Burying Ground.

Pledges of up to three years are possible. Gifts of appreciated stock and 401k and IRA distributions are a potentially tax-wise method of charitable giving.

East Bloomfield Historical Society

P.O. Box 212

East Bloomfield, New York 14443

### **Old Burying Ground and Pioneer Trust Fund ~ Donation Card**

Yes, I would like to give the following pledge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Donations may be mailed to:

Treasurer, East Bloomfield Historical Society  
8 South Avenue  
P.O. Box 212  
East Bloomfield, New York 14443.

A receipt will be provided.

Thank you in advance for your support of the Society's goal to set things right with the town's founding pioneers.