

# North Milton Cemetery

North Milton Cemetery is an active cemetery, and the largest cemetery in the Town of Milton at 8.72 acres. This means it also has the largest number of burials and includes Veterans who served in wars since the French and Indian War. It is located on the north side of Route 29, on the east corner of North Milton Road. Over the years, this cemetery has been referred to as the Morey Burying Ground, the Boyce Cemetery, and Union Cemetery.

The land on which the cemetery lies was originally purchased by an Irish immigrant, Daniel Campbell, who became Albany's first millionaire. Daniel was a Schenectady Merchant who accumulated large tracts of land in Albany and beyond. He purchased 24,000 acres in Albany County, north of Schenectady in the 1770's. One parcel purchased from Daniel's heirs in 1816 included 103 acres of the 16th Allotment of the Kayaderosseras Patent. This parcel was purchased by Daniel Foot who made the first improvements to the land. A burial ground located at the northwest corner of the property had been in use since 1793 by the people of North Milton and Greenfield Center. Mary Bentley was the first burial in the cemetery in 1793. Mary was the wife of John Bentley, a Revolutionary War soldier from Dutchess County, serving in the 5th Regiment of Dutchess County, under his father Lieutenant Tillinghast Bentley. John and Mary came to North Milton in 1791, with their seven children, in the company of John's parents Tillinghast Bentley and Sarah Thomas. Tillinghast and Sarah Bentley are also interred in the cemetery along with John. Upon coming to the area, John had leased 150 acres on the north end of Stone Church Road.

Many of those interred in this cemetery were members of the "The Old Stone Church", or the 1st Baptist Church of Milton. In 1842, Foote sold the one-acre cemetery for \$10 to trustees of the burying grounds- Otis Bentley and Caleb Hoyt of Milton, and Joshua Wood of Greenfield. Daniel Foote, who had mortgaged the property in 1842, lost it in foreclosure in 1848. Daniel Boyce purchased the property at auction for \$1500. In 1899 the North Milton Cemetery Association was incorporated. In December of the year, the heirs of Daniel Boyce sold 5.22 acres to the cemetery association. By 1968, the Boyce farm was owned by Earl and Ruth Baker, who sold 3.5 acres for \$1, bringing it to its current size.