

# Powell-Wiswall Cemetery

The Powell-Wiswall Cemetery is also an active cemetery, today. It was once called the West Bloodville Cemetery, as it was a short distance from the mansion of manufacturer Isaiah Blood. The stood near the bridge which spans the Kayaderosseras near the site of the Blood scythe factory, and once connected Maple Avenue and County Farm Road. The cemetery is located on the north side of Plummer Road just west of Middle Line Road. When the cemetery association incorporated in August 1899, the local residents chose the name Powell-Wiswall, to honor the families who once owned the land.

Previously the land lying on the West side of Middle Line Road near the County Farm Road, was owned by George Kennedy, a Scotch-Irish immigrant. George had been captured in the Raid on Ballstown in 1780 but was released as he could not keep up with his captors due to an injured foot. In 1815, the Kennedy's decided to relocate to the west, and sold their sixty-four-acre property to Elisha Powell. In the sale one acre of land near the south end was reserved as a burial ground. The first burial in the cemetery was that of Martha Townsend in 1793. Martha was the wife of Jesse Townsend. Martha was born in 1726, and married Jesse in Hebron, Connecticut in 1746. Caleb Smith, who purchased the property from Powell in 1863, then sold the farm to Henry Wiswall in the following year.

Henry Wiswall came to Milton in 1867. Henry had been orphaned at eight years old and was raised by his older brothers in Troy until the age of 14. At this point, Henry went to New York City and worked on whaling ships, and later became a ship's Captain on the Erie Canal. Henry remained in the shipping business until 1853, when he bought a farm in Fort Miller in Washington County, New York, where he lived for fourteen years before relocating to Milton. He and his family operated a large dairy farm on Middle Line Road until his death in 1882. The farm was sold in 1886. Three months after the farm was sold, the cemetery was incorporated, the trustees purchased one acre north of the old cemetery from Walter and Nannie Conley. In 1939, the Conley's daughters, Lillian and Nellie, donated two more acres abutting the west side of the cemetery, expanding it to 4 acres.

As of 1998, the most represented family name in the cemetery, with forty-five, is Baker. Many were descended from William Baker who came to Milton in 1850 from England. The Thomas family has twenty-six graves, descended from Abram Thomas who came to Milton from Connecticut after the Revolution. The Armer Family has twenty-five members interred in the cemetery. The Armer family came from England and were descendants of Henry Armer and Ann Fischer, who settled in Milton in 1845.