



Dick Blume / The Post Standard

**KATHRYN LANIER** (left) and Sharon Sherman at Wyborn Cemetery on Salt Springs Road in Syracuse.



# MARKERS HELP BURY YEARS OF DISRESPECT

**F**inally. Finally, there's a marker on the close to 200-year-old cemetery at Salt Springs Road and Salisbury Park Drive in Syracuse. And a dandy one, at that.

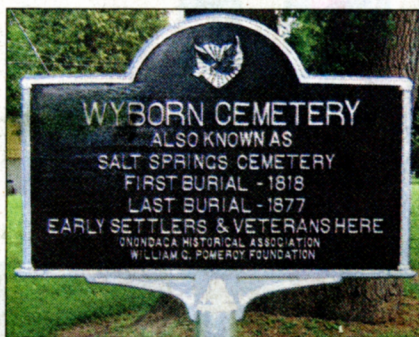
The burial place goes back to the early 1800s. Some folks call it "Wyborn Cemetery," after a man named Bevil Wyborn who owned the land back in the 1830s. Neighbors call the tiny lot simply "Salt Springs Cemetery."

There were between nine and 19 burials in the cemetery, although we're not sure if all the remains remain. The first was recorded as farmer James Bates, in 1818. His wife, Mary, also was buried there, in 1828, according to Ellie Johnson, town of DeWitt historian. The Bateses were her grandparents, four times removed.

"I'm so glad," says Paul Fuchsman, who lived at one corner of the lot for 30 years. "I finally got a sign." Paul now lives in

Chillicothe, Ohio. He got to see the redone cemetery during a visit last week.

Paul and I have been campaigning for



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that sign for 15 years. Back in 1995, this neighbor called me to say the lot, which he knew to be a cemetery, was being sold by the city for back taxes. It was listed as a delinquent property.

Hold up; you can't sell a cemetery. John Gamage, city assessment commissioner, yanked it off the tax list. The land wasn't sold, but it wasn't marked, either. That took years of dithering.

Finally, according to neighbors I've talked to, they got the job done, through the East Side Tomorrow's Neighborhoods Today (TNT), with help from Councilor Lance Denno; city Community Development; Dennis Connors, curator of history at the Onondaga Historical Association; and the Pomeroy Foundation, which helps finance historical markers.

The whole project was designed by Stefanie Noble, of Crawford and Stearns, architects. TNT spent \$3,100 from its escrow account for this, according to neighbors Sharon Sherman and Kathryn Lanier, who spearheaded the work. They plan a rededication of the cemetery at 10 a.m. Friday.

**NEW MARKERS** at Wyborn Cemetery on Salt Springs Road.

The handsome black and silver marker — actually two — was installed by city workers last week, along with a partial fence and a bench, which was occupied by two visitors when I stopped there last week. They had one comment: "It's about time."

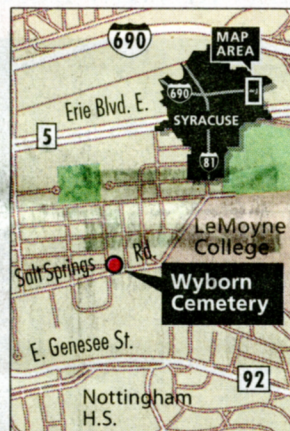
According to Dennis Connors, Lot 49, as it is known on old tax maps, was originally owned by Caleb Adams, who sold it to Bevil Wyborn. It remained an active cemetery until the last burial of Emily DeMerriitt, in 1877. Among those buried in the lot are Ahijah Adams, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, and Stephen and George Manchester, veterans of the Civil War.

Dennis says that in 1953, the city obtained permission to widen Salisbury Park Drive. At that time, the marked graves and headstones were "relocated." Many neighbors didn't know the plot with a slight hummock was a cemetery, neighbor Sharon Sherman says: "This is a good start. It's nice to see it come together."

I'll second that.

## Old cemetery

A marker has been put up at the nearly 200-year-old Wyborn Cemetery, also known as the Salt Spring Cemetery, on Syracuse's East Side.



## It's all natural

This is for the readers who wondered about the seemingly discolored boards they see on the West Street Arterial side of King & King Architects' new building at 358 West Jefferson St., on the city's Near West Side.

"There's nothing structurally wrong with it," partner Peter King said of the building's exterior. "It was meant to be that way."

He explains the exterior — of unfinished white oak boards — is similar to a 19th century barn out in the country. It will weather naturally over several years to a silver-gray color. "It's meant to change by design," according to the architect.

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