

ELMWOOD CEMETERY

In the northeast quadrant of Perinton, at the corner of Carter and Furman Roads is a neatly laid out burial ground that once was graced by towering elm trees, and thus was named Elmwood Cemetery. Farmers had first settled the area in the early nineteenth century, but settlement really boomed with the coming of the Erie Canal. Carter Road, Fellows Road and Fairport-Webster Road became the main north-south



arteries for farmers bringing their produce to market in the growing canal town of Fairport.

Unlike other populated areas in Perinton, this northeast section had no “center,” but settlement did bring additional houses, farms, a school, and the cemetery. Elmwood is a neighborhood burial ground where the settlers and farmers of the area are interred. The cemetery was laid out around 1820 when the Conklin family dedicated an acre of land on the corner of Carter and Furman Roads for the purpose. In 1843 it was expanded by a land grant of 2.62 acres from the Carter family. Elmwood was originally surrounded by a wrought-iron fence, which together with the trees and plantings, was typical of a Victorian cemetery of the period.

The Woolsey family were early residents of Carter Road. Richard moved to Perinton in 1817 or 1818. He served his community as an overseer of highways and a fenceviewer. He was one of the first to be buried in Elmwood after he was killed in 1821 by a falling log in the process of “raising” a distillery on Carter Road. He was forty years old, and left a wife, an unborn child, and several other children. The son he never knew, Richard, Jr., became a very successful farmer and built the elegant brick home at 4692 Carter Road, which today is a designated historic landmark. Richard, Jr., his mother, his wife, and several other Woolseys are buried with Richard, Sr.

The owner of “Pleasant View Farm,” George W. Esten and his family are buried in Elmwood. In his reminiscences of Carter Road, George recalled the death of Richard Woolsey and that when the distillery was torn down forty years later, that there were still visible bloodstains on the log. The Esten family built their farmhouse at 4394 Carter Road, also a Perinton designated landmark.

Both the Carter and Furman families have members in Elmwood Cemetery. Miles and Elizabeth Carter came to Perinton in 1830 and built a farm on the west side of Carter Road just south of Furman Road. The Furmans came in 1835 and began farming an eighty acre parcel on what would become known as Furman Road. In 1953 the family was honored as “Century Farmers” as they had worked the same farm for over one hundred years.

A number of Tallmans settled in Perinton in the early 1800’s. They settled along Whitney, Wakeman, and Budlong Roads, built substantial houses and ran prosperous farms. Working over 350 acres, they grew oats, barley, corn, and potatoes, and raised dairy cows and sheep. They served their community as town supervisors, school trustees, overseers of highways, and fenceviewers. They were staunch abolitionists, and it is said that Isaac Tallman ran an Underground Railway station from his farm at 2187 Whitney Road East. 2381 Whitney Road East, Darius Tallman’s beautiful farmhouse, is another one of Perinton’s designated

landmarks. Both Darius and Isaac, as well as many members of their families are buried in the local cemetery.

Elmwood is still an active cemetery with over seven hundred gravesites that are maintained by the members of its cemetery association. The setting and the familiar community names among the markers, like Knapp, Huber, Fellows, Plumb, and Warner, along with Tallman, Carter, and Esten are lasting reminders of Perinton's history and her rural past.