

Monroe's Historic Woodland Cemetery Tour

**East Fourth and Jerome Streets
Monroe, Michigan**



**One of Michigan's oldest public cemeteries.
Here rests Monroe's pioneers, distinguished
citizens, politicians and veterans of
every U.S. military conflict from the
Revolutionary War to Vietnam.**

Sponsor: Genealogical Society of Monroe County, MI, Inc.



Turn of the century photo of Woodland



Custer Family Plot

The Woodland Cemetery Tour compiled by David Ingall, with special appreciation to Buck and Pat Vincent as well as Jane Sommer for sharing all their years of research on Woodland.

East Fourth Street

Trinity
Lutheran
Cemetery

38

Jerome Street

28

26 40

8

36

19

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Evergreen Ramble

43 30 31 32

42

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Magdalene Avenue

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Marindale Avenue

Noble Avenue

Woodland Cemetery

Woodland Cemetery History

Originating in the early 1800's, Woodland Cemetery is one of Michigan's oldest and historical public cemeteries. Here rests Monroe's pioneers, distinguished citizens, political/public officials and veterans of every U.S. military conflict from the Revolutionary War to Vietnam. Included are three U.S. Generals, five U.S. Colonels, one Territorial Delegate to Congress, one U.S. Senator, four U.S. Representatives, numerous mayors, Michigan State Senators and Representatives, one Michigan Secretary of State, two Chief Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court, and Custer family members.

The cemetery occupies 11 acres of land in the city of Monroe, Michigan. It has over 7,000 burials with hundreds of marble, limestone, bronze and granite markers. The cemetery is thought to have an early "Potter's Field" and has the designation of being Monroe's first cemetery to accept African Americans. It also may have been part of the American forces retreat routes during the Battle of the River Raisin on January 22, 1813. In 1988 it was listed on the State Register of Historic Sites. Trinity and Zion Lutheran Cemeteries are adjacent to the east of Woodland.

Early 1800's Frenchtown (Monroe) was primarily a Catholic French-Canadian settlement among the Pottawatomie Native Americans. The first established cemetery with burials beginning in 1794 was associated with the Catholic parish of St. Antoine on North Custer Road. The second Catholic cemetery, dedicated in 1829, is Old St. Mary's or "the Old Burial Ground", located west of North Monroe Street. Monroe founder Colonel Francois Navarre (1767-1826) is said to be buried here by descendents. The third Catholic cemetery is St. Joseph, known as the "Monastery Cemetery", on North Monroe Street. Also founded in 1829, it was rarely used until the mid 1800s.

Yankees from New York and the New England states increasingly migrated to the community creating a need for a Protestant cemetery. On March 16, 1810, the first Protestant cemetery was established at the west side of South Monroe Street, between West Front Street and West First Street in today's downtown Monroe. A quarter acre was donated by Mr. Samuel Egnew "to the Protestant Inhabitants of the District of Erie". Soldier's bones from those who perished in the Battles of the River Raisin, fought on January 18th, 22nd, and massacre on the 23rd, 1813, were originally interred here. Some were later removed to Detroit and then to Frankfort, Kentucky.

The original cemetery quickly outgrew its confines and was abandoned. Realizing a need for a new location, Mr. Egnew once again donated land along with Mr. Daniel Mulhollen at South Monroe Street, between West Sixth and West Seventh Streets. This location is known as Memorial Place. The bodies from the first Protestant cemetery were relocated to here, other graves were put in from August 11, 1820 through September 17, 1838, many resulting from the cholera epidemic of 1834. The cemetery was neglected however, and The Civic Improvement Society turned it into a park when the Kentucky Monument was dedicated on September 1, 1904, to honor the Battle of the River Raisin's fallen Kentuckians.

Woodland Military Heroes

1. **George Alford** (1761-1851) Private in the Vermont Continental Line and later a “minute man” serving as a scout under Colonel Ethan Allen during the Revolution.
2. **Stephen Downing** (1762-1843) Served two years as a private in the Connecticut Continental Line and three years as a privateer on the high seas during the Revolution. He was a captain in the 2nd Michigan Militia during the War of 1812.
3. **Jeremiah Lawrence** (1760-1833) Private, served in the Connecticut Continental Line during the Revolution. His wife, **Phebe**, is possibly Woodland’s first burial in 1821.
4. **Reuben Stoddard** (1747-1829) Corporal, served in the Vermont Militia for five years during the Revolution.
5. **Peter P. Ferry** (1768-1845) Early confidant of Napoleon Bonaparte. One of the most active officers (colonel) during the French Revolution, 1789-1799. When it became apparent that Napoleon’s ambition was to become Emperor of Europe, he left for America. A militia officer in the War of 1812.
6. **John Anderson** (1771-1840) Pioneer of Monroe. Captured by Mohawk Indians as a child. He witnessed the Battle of Fallen Timbers, near Toledo, OH. Colonel, commanding the 2nd Michigan Militia in the War of 1812. Also served as a judge. During the War of 1812, his wife, **Elizabeth Knaggs Anderson** (1772-1854), with her husband gone, ran their trading post. A group of Indians came looking to kill Mr. Anderson. Mrs. Anderson, seated on a chest of \$900 in gold and silver, remained calm as they threatened her. She said, “Shame, so many men fight one squaw”. Embarrassed, they left her alone.
7. **Lewis Bond** (1767-1851) Served in General Anthony Wayne’s Legion as a lieutenant and as a major in the War of 1812. He was the first High Sheriff of Michigan under General William Henry Harrison, Governor of the Northwest Territory.
8. **Luther Harvey** (1789-1878) Carried dispatches to Fort Meigs during the War of 1812. Eyewitness to the Battle of Lake Erie and was impressed into service by Admiral Oliver Hazard Perry to transport wounded.
9. **Isaac C. Lee** (1782-1824) Captain in the War of 1812, commanding a detachment of volunteer light dragoons. Fought in the Mississinewa Campaign, IN. His troops captured several British officers at the Battle of the Thames, ON, Canada.

- 10. Henry Smith** (1798-1847) Major, graduated from West Point in 1816. Aid-de-camp to General Winfield Scott, 1820-1826. Took an active roll in the Black Hawk War. Quartermaster in the U.S. Army during the Mexican War. Died of yellow fever on July 24, 1847. Brother of General Joseph Smith.
- 11. Joseph R. Smith** (1802-1868) Brevet Brigadier General, graduated from West Point in 1823. Served in the Seminole, Black Hawk and Mexican Wars where he was seriously wounded, later retiring. At the beginning of the Civil War, he offered his services as drill master of Co. A, 4th Michigan Infantry, known as the "Smith Guards" in his honor. In 1862 he became military commander and chief mustering officer of the state. The G.A.R. Post in Monroe was named after him. His son, **Henry W. Smith** (1836-1869) Lieutenant Colonel, 3rd U.S. Cavalry, was the commanding officer of the party that arrested the Lincoln assassination conspirators Mary Surratt and Lewis Powell at the Surratt boarding house on April 17, 1865.
- 12. Frazey M. Winans** (1813-1864) Lieutenant Colonel, 7th Michigan Infantry. Served as a captain in the Mexican War and brevetted major for "gallant and meritorious conduct". Left the army due to illness on May 21, 1862.
- 13. John A. Clark** (1841-1862) 1st Lieutenant, Co. D, 7th Michigan Infantry. Killed in action at Antietam, MD on September 17, 1862. Famous photo of fresh dug grave on the Antietam battlefield by Alexander Gardner. Grandson of Colonel John and Elizabeth Knaggs Anderson.
- 14. Sylvanus Curtis** (1831-1895) Major, 7th Michigan Infantry. Became commander of the 7th at Gettysburg after lieutenant colonel was killed. Commanded regiment from July 1863-September 1864 which included the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor and Petersburg. Wounded at Antietam and Spotsylvania.
- 15. Franklin B. Gale** (1841-1862) Corporal, Co. A, 4th Michigan Infantry. Killed in action at Malvern Hill, VA on July 1, 1862. His brother, **Henry D. Gale** (1838-1864) sergeant, Co. C, 5th Michigan Cavalry, died on May 21, 1864 of wounds received in the Battle of Yellow Tavern, VA on May 11, 1864 where Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart was killed by a 5th Michigan Trooper.
- 16. Ira R. Grosvenor** (1815-1899) Colonel who raised and organized the 7th Michigan Infantry. Led the regiment during the Peninsular Campaign. Resigned due to disease on July 8, 1862. Prominent Monroe lawyer who built "Fair Oaks", the Monroe Golf & Country Club's main building.
- 17. Frederick Knapp** (1842-1927) Private, Co. E, 6th U.S. Cavalry. Captured at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. Survived 16 months of imprisonment in Belle Isle, VA and Andersonville, GA.

- 18. Constant Luce** (1819-1903) Served in the 4th and 17th Michigan Infantry. Captain of the 4th's Company A, "Smith Guards". Promoted to colonel of the 17th, leading them in the battles of South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg and the Siege of Vicksburg.
- 19. Frederick A. Nims** (1841-1921) 1st Lieutenant, Co. C, 5th Michigan Cavalry. Served from Gettysburg to Appomattox, and post war Louisiana and Texas. Served on General Custer's staff and the Custer Monument Committee.
- 20. George W. Spalding** (1836-1915) Brevet Brigadier General, enlisted as a 1st Sergeant in Co. A, 4th Michigan Infantry. Severely wounded in the Battle of Malvern Hill, VA, July 1, 1862, and reported killed. Became Lieutenant Colonel of the 18th Michigan Infantry and Provost Marshall of Nashville, TN, then Colonel of the 12th Tennessee Cavalry. Brevetted Brigadier General in 1865 for "valuable service" in the Battle of Nashville. Also served as mayor of Monroe and a U.S. Congressman, 1895-1899.
- 21. George A. Strong** (1824-1862) Captain, Co. I, 15th Michigan Infantry. Mortally wounded at the Battle of Shiloh, TN on April 6, 1862, dying of his wounds on April 10, 1862. Father owned Strong Hotel.
- 22. Peter Sype** (1841-1923) Private, Co. B, 47th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry of action by "attempting to run the enemy's batteries with a steam tug and two barges" at Vicksburg, MS, May 3, 1863. Also severely wounded near Kennesaw Mountain, GA, June 17, 1864. Buried in Trinity Lutheran section.
- 23. Alfred E. Bates** (1840-1909) Major General, graduated from West Point in 1865. Served in the 2nd U. S. Cavalry until 1875, seeing active service in the Western Indian Wars. Appointed Paymaster-General and held commissions up to Major General. In 1898 served as military attaché at the American Embassy in London and Paris. Lifelong friend of Libbie Custer. Name listed on the Bates family plot gravestone. Also has a marker at the U.S. Military Academy Cemetery, West Point, NY.
- 24. Anthony Kopke** (1876-1971) Private, Co. M, 31st Michigan Regiment. Last Spanish-American War veteran in Monroe County. Enlisted April 26, 1898 and discharged on May 17, 1899. He went to Cuba on February 1, 1899.
- 25. Louis S. Young** (1859-1967) Born into slavery on the Younger Plantation in Pittsylvania, VA. Enlisted as a private in the 17th Ohio Regiment during the Spanish-American War. Died at age 107.

- 26. Custer Plot** - Interred here are General George A. Custer's parents, **Emanuel H. Custer** (1806-1892) and **Maria Custer** (1807-1882), his sisters, **Margaret Calhoun Maugham** (1852-1910) and **Lydia Ann Reed** (1825-1906), his brothers, **Nevin Custer** (1842-1915) and **Boston Custer** (1848-1876), also nephew, **Harry "Autie" Reed** (1858-1876). Both Harry and Boston, along with brother, Captain Tom Custer, died alongside General Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn, MT on June 25, 1876. General Custer is buried at West Point, NY and Captain Tom Custer at Fort Leavenworth, KS. Also here are **Colonel Charles A. Custer** (1910-1992) and **Colonel George A. Custer III** (1923-1991).
- 27. Lloyd J. Bodell** (1895-1918) Corporal, Co. B, 125th U.S. Infantry in World War I. Severely wounded by enemy shell fire on August 4, 1918 near Fismes, France and died later on August 6, 1918. His son, **Lloyd E. Bodell** (1918-1945) 1st Lieutenant, U.S. Army Air Corps, 489th Bombardment Squadron, was killed on his 10th bombing raid over Formosa on May 26, 1945 when his plane was shot down by enemy fire.
- 28. LaVern A. Curley** (1917-1952) Private in Battery D, 131st Field Artillery during World War II. Survived being forced into slave labor in building the 265 mile "Death Railway" through the jungles of Burma and Thailand as a P.O.W. This event was depicted in the movie "Bridge over the River Kwai".

Distinguished Citizens and Politicians

- 29. Bacon Plot** - Interred here are Elizabeth Custer's parents, **Judge Daniel S. Bacon** (1798-1866) and **Eleanor S. Bacon** (1814-1854), also her sisters, **Sophia** (2 months) and **Harriet** (6 months), and brother, **Edward** (8 years). Libbie is buried at West Point, NY next to her beloved husband, General George Armstrong Custer.
- 30. Erasmus J. Boyd** (1814-1881) Presbyterian minister who was the founder and principal of the Young Ladies' Seminary for 29 years. Boyd Seminary was once considered the finest young ladies school west of the Hudson River. Libbie Bacon Custer was a graduate. Brother of William H. Boyd.
- 31. William H. Boyd** (1811-1898) Prominent citizen engaged in the mercantile business for 62 years. Participated in the organization of the Republican Party and numerous enterprises benefiting the city.
- 32. John M. Bulkley** (1840-1914) Author of the second History of Monroe County, Michigan and close friend of General Custer. His father, **Gershom T. Bulkley** (1781-1862), was commissioned a major in the cavalry by President James Madison during the War of 1812.

- 33. Isaac P. Christiancy** (1812-1890) One of the founders of the Republican Party, state senator, 1850-1852, state supreme court justice, 1857-1875, U.S. Senator, 1875-1879, U.S. Minister to Peru, 1879-1881 and one of General Custer's closest confidants.
- 34. Dr. Harry Conant** (1790-1851) Attending physician to General Lewis Cass' command in 1826 when Cass was making treaties with numerous Indian tribes in the Northwest. Built the Monroe branch of the University of Michigan at his own expense. His son, **Harry A. Conant** (1844-1925) was Michigan Secretary of State, U.S. Council to Naples, Italy and Windsor, ON, Canada.
- 35. Benjamin Dansard** (1816-1888) French immigrant who came to Monroe in 1836. He later established the B. Dansard and Son Bank and became a very successful banker. In 1922 the Dansard State Bank built the current Monroe Bank & Trust building at Washington and Front Streets.
- 36. Dr. Eduard Dorsch** (1822-1887) Exiled to the U.S. in 1849 at the close of the German Revolution for his views. Strong anti-slavery advocate and supporter of President Abraham Lincoln, who attended his inauguration and served as a surgeon on the U.S. Pension Board. The Dorsch Memorial Library was his home.
- 37. Robert S. Duncanson** (1821-1872) Unmarked. Famous African-American artist known during the antebellum era as the "best landscape painter in the west".
- 38. John C.W. Greening** (1829-1908) Founded one of the largest nursery businesses in the U.S. starting with only an acre and a half. His son, **Charles E. Greening** (1858-1928), was President of the Greening Nursery Company, publisher of numerous horticulture books, community leader, secretary/treasurer/organizer of the Custer Memorial Association and the one most responsible for the placement of the Custer Statue in Monroe. Mausoleum in Trinity Lutheran section.
- 39. Elizabeth F. Haskell** (1818-1876) Unmarked. Author of the widely circulated Housekeeper's Encyclopedia published in 1861. She also developed a way to preserve fruits in tin cans and bottles.
- 40. Dr. George F. Heath** (1850-1908) Founder of the American Numismatic (coins) Association in 1891, physician, surgeon and four time mayor of Monroe.
- 41. Israel E. Ilgenfritz** (1824-1895) Founded one of the largest nursery businesses in the U.S. and was recognized as a leader in the industry. His father, **Jacob Ilgenfritz** (1791-1863), was a War of 1812 veteran.

- 42. Isaac Lewis** (1804-1889) Participated in the Toledo War and started one of the first foundries in Michigan. He made cannon balls, railroad car wheels, machinery for saw and grist mills, and a widely used, improved plow. Cyrus McCormick chose him to make his first mechanical reaper which was tested on a local farm west of the city.
- 43. Elizabeth Upham McWebb** (1904-2004) Locally known as “Aunt Bett”, she was a writer and teller of children’s stories. She was known for her Little Brown Bear series of children’s books. A statue of Little Brown Bear was erected in her honor in 2002 at the Dorsch Memorial Library.
- 44. Gouverneur Morris** (1809-1894) 22nd Circuit Court judge, descended from one of the most illustrious families in the U.S. His father (Lewis) was a Revolutionary War veteran who was appointed by President George Washington as the first U.S. Marshall. President James Madison credited his great uncle (Gouverneur) for helping to write the Constitution of the United States. As a youth, he saw President James Monroe and General Marquis de Lafayette. He knew Daniel Webster, Henry Clay and President Martin Van Buren.
- 45. Abner Morton** (1774-1863) and **Sarah Morton** (1783-1870) Grandparents of J. Sterling Morton, who grew up in Monroe, was Secretary of Agriculture under President Grover Cleveland and the founder of Arbor Day. His sons, Joy and Mark, founded the Morton Salt Company, Carl founded the Argo Starch Company and Paul was Secretary of the Navy under President Theodore Roosevelt.
- 46. Charles Noble** (1797-1874) Influential citizen who held many public positions including serving on the Michigan Legislative Council from 1825-1826. Also was the president of the Michigan Southern Railroad and was appointed by President Zachary Taylor surveyor-general of the Michigan, Ohio, Indiana district from 1849-1853. The iron and copper regions of the Upper Peninsula were developed under his term.
- 47. David A. Noble** (1802-1876) U.S. Congressman, 1853-1855. Also state representative, 1846-1847, mayor of Monroe and probate judge. Brother of Charles Noble.
- 48. Dr. Alfred I. Sawyer** (1828-1891) Builder and owner of the Sawyer House, mayor of Monroe, very active in the community and medical field. He served as President of the American Institute of Homoeopathy Medicine. His daughter, **Jenny Toll Sawyer** (1862-1948), was an active member of numerous local organizations. She deeded the Sawyer House to the city as a community center.

- 49. Joseph M. Sterling** (1818-1891) Prominent citizen engaged in various businesses from shipping to coal and lumber storage. Mayor and leading member in the state agricultural and pioneer societies. Uncle of J. Sterling Morton.
- 50. William C. Sterling** (1849-1924) Owner of the Sterling Cedar & Lumber Company and commodore of the Monroe Yacht Club. Family donated part of the land that became William C. Sterling State Park in his honor. Son of Joseph Sterling.
- 51. Nancy DeGraff Toll** (1797-1898) Prominent citizen who died at age 101. The local D.A.R. chapter is named after her. Her father was a Revolutionary War veteran and U.S. Congressman. Her husband **Philip R. Toll** (1793-1862) was a captain who commanded a company of horse artillery in the War of 1812.
- 52. Josephine McBride Van Miller** (1839-1921) Monroe civic leader who formed the Civic Improvement Society. Among their projects were the marking of historical sites with large granite boulders, erecting the Battle of River Raisin and Kentucky monuments, and getting the Custer equestrian monument erected in Monroe. She was with President William Howard Taft and her school classmate, Elizabeth Bacon Custer, during the monument dedication.
- 53. Edwin Willits** (1830-1896) U.S. Congressman, 1877-1883, President of the Normal School (EMU) at Ypsilanti, 1883-1885 and later the State Agriculture College (MSU) in Lansing, 1885-1889, also Assistant U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, 1889-1893.
- 54. Talcott E. Wing** (1819-1890) Served as a judge and president of the Michigan Historical Society, 1887-1888. The author of History of Monroe County, Michigan. His father, **Austin E. Wing** (1792-1849), was a personal friend of General Lewis Cass and represented Michigan Territory in Congress from 1825-1829 and 1831-1833.
- 55. David E. (Hugh) Winkworth** (1884-1976) Civic leader, residential and industrial developer, and the originator/builder of the first split-level house, considered one of the most significant concepts in modern architecture.

The citizens petitioned the Common Council to find yet another location. On November 24, 1838 the City Cemetery was founded on ground purchased from Mr. Charles Noble. It was located east of North Monroe Street, between Lemerand and Sheridan Streets, across from the Old St. Mary's Cemetery. Lots were sold up through February 1, 1842. The site chosen had proved to have very poor drainage and livestock roamed freely over the graves. Today, Grace Lutheran Church sits on this site.

A city ordinance was again created that allowed for the establishment of another public cemetery on the farm of Mr. Charles M. Humphrey. The farm contained the only known wooded hill in the city and was situated between East Fourth Street and East Seventh Street at the south end of Jerome Street. In 1842, the fourth and final location became known as Woodland Cemetery. It was formally called Grove Cemetery. The earliest marked graves date from 1821 on. These early graves may have been moved here later or actually were in the original Grove section. A 1909 newspaper article mentions lots being laid out around 1832. The actual date of the cemetery's establishment is not known. Possible founding dates are: 1821, 1832 or 1842.

In 1868, the Woodland Cemetery Association was organized and purchased the property for \$3,800 from the old Grove Cemetery Trustees. In 1871, the dead from the third (City) cemetery were relocated to Woodland. Eventually gravel paths were added and private mausoleums were constructed by the Toll, Dansard and Morris families. In 1879, fifteen families formed the Woodland Vault Association. They purchased lots 2 & 3 in the cemetery and built a mausoleum with compartments for sale. It was used from 1879 through 1897, from 1919 through 1924, and as temporary storage (today it is empty). In 1886 additional land was purchased west of Jerome Street. In 1887, the small northwest corner "Wing and Johnson Cemetery" was added. Further land additions east of the main hill area were acquired from Mr. Ira Grosvenor expanding Woodland's boundaries.

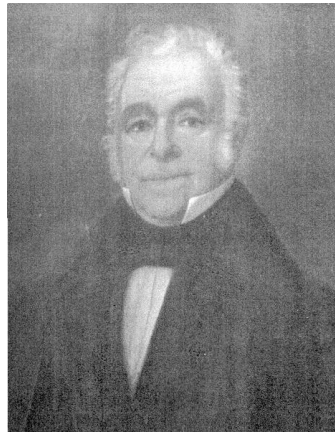
Throughout its history the cemetery has been plagued by controversy and financial problems. There are no official burial records previous to the early 1900's. It is thought that these records were lost due to carelessness, or possibly destroyed intentionally. In 1928 an examination of the association's records found that the entire plot plan of the whole cemetery was missing. In 1930, Mr. William Sterling Jr. became president of the association and established a trust for the perpetual care of the cemetery.

During the 1980's the association, caretakers and volunteers were doing all they could to maintain it. In 1991 the Board of Trustees voluntarily took over management of the cemetery. By November 2000, the association was out of options and had to put the cemetery up for sale. Two years passed before the city of Monroe opted to buy the cemetery for \$1.00 and hired Roselawn Memorial Park to operate Historic Woodland Cemetery.

Woodland Cemetery Tour Photographs



Peter Ferry



Col. John Anderson



Maj. Henry Smith



Gen. Joseph Smith



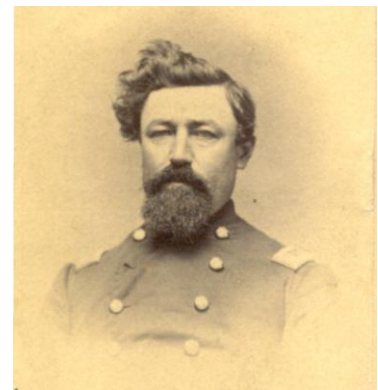
Gen. George Spalding



Col. Ira Grosvenor



Lt. Col. Frazy Winans



Maj. Sylvanus Curtis



Lt. John Clark



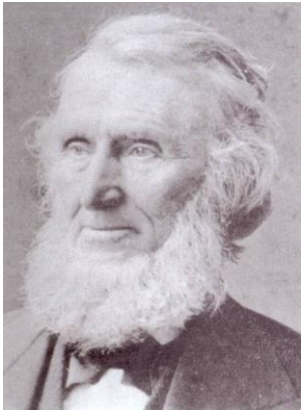
Lt. Frederick Nims



Pvt. Frederick Knapp



Pvt. Peter Sype



Emanuel Custer



Maria Custer



Nevin Custer



**Margaret Calhoun
Maugham**



Boston Custer



Harry "Autie" Reed



Col. Charles Custer



Col. George Custer III



Corp. Lloyd Bodell



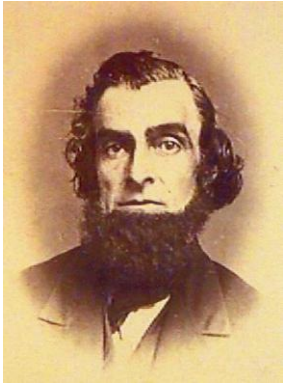
Lt. Lloyd Bodell



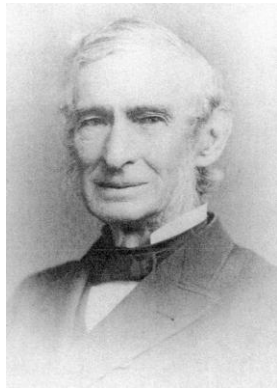
Judge Daniel Bacon



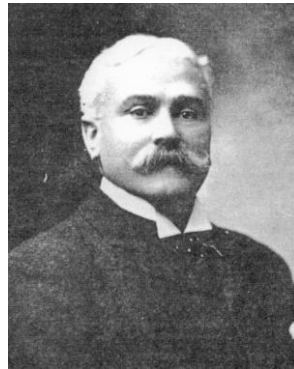
Eleanor Bacon & "Libbie"



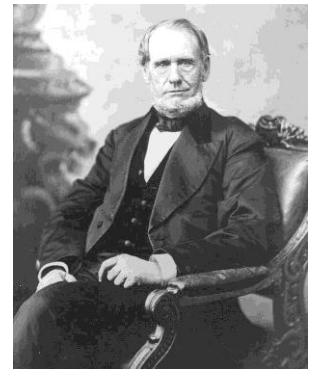
Rev. Erasmus Boyd



William Boyd



John Bulkley



Sen. Isaac Christiancy



Dr. Harry Conant



Benjamin Dansard



Dr. Eduard Dorsch



Robert Duncanson



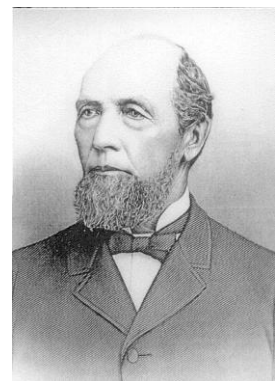
John Greening



Charles Greening



Dr. George Heath



Israel Ilgenfritz



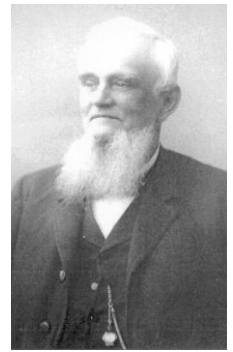
**Elizabeth Upham
McWebb**



Judge Gouverneur Morris



Sarah & Abner Morton



Joseph Sterling



Dr. Alfred Sawyer



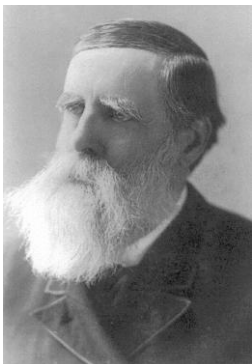
Jenny Toll Sawyer



Nancy DeGraff Toll



**Josephine McBride
Van Miller**



Rep. Edwin Willits



Rep. Austin Wing



Talcott Wing



David Winkworth