

LCHS Cemetery Workshop

Governance, Maintenance, Conservation
Typical Cemetery Issues

May 19/20, 2023



Constableville Rural Cemetery

Background

- We are a village cemetery, not connected with church.
- 220 years old, but still active
- 3 acres in size, about 1800 interments.
- It is in the Rural Style – has big trees.
- Operated by a Cemetery Association since about 1900.
- It is a NYS regulated Cemetery.



Governance Issues

- What exactly are a Cemetery Association's responsibilities?
- What is the role of the Division of Cemeteries?
- What records should we be keeping?
- What should/can we require from the lot owners?
- Practical constraints - financial considerations underpin everything. Few people are willing to step up.



Maintenance Issues

- What are the maintenance responsibilities of the Cemetery Association?
- What is perpetual care?
- What are the (typical) lot owner responsibilities? What if there are no lot owners?
- What happens when a monument tips or flops over?
- How is vandalism handled?



Conservation Issues

- How to clean a monument. Should we?
- How to repair a broken monument. When do we?
- How to straighten a tipped monument. Can we?
- How to get a monument upright that has fallen over.
- Maintenance tips of other items – iron fences, burial vault, iron lot fences, etc.

