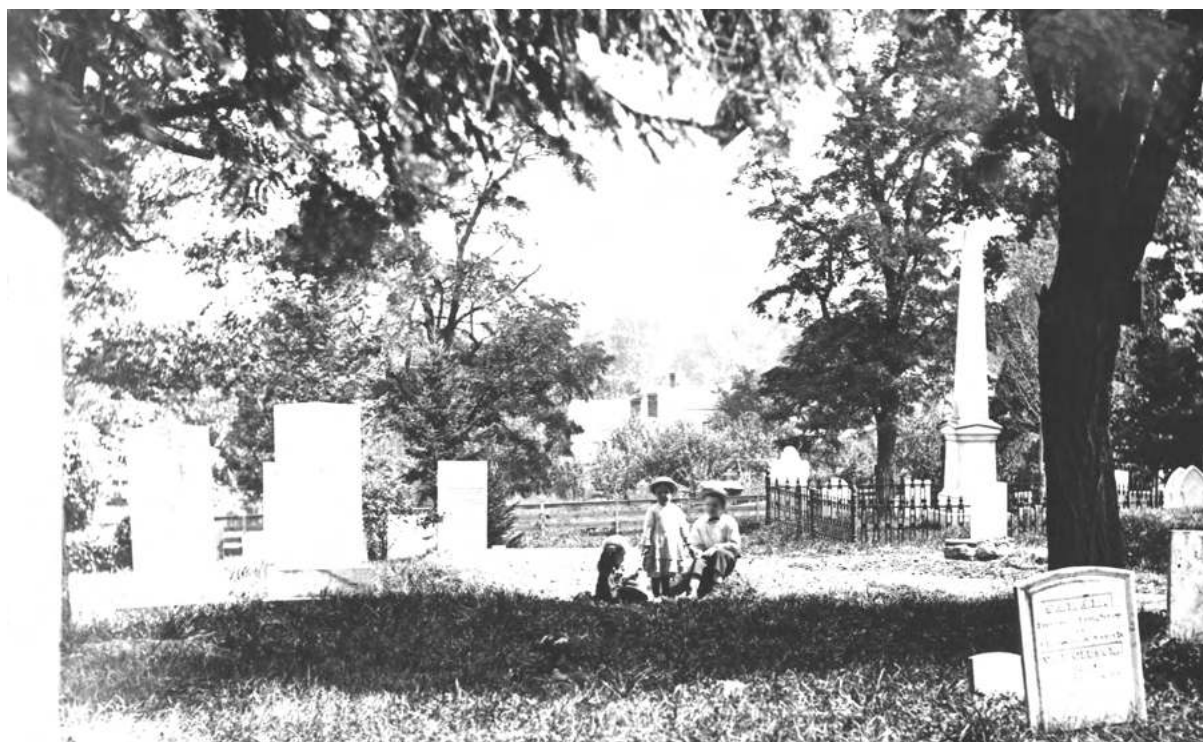


Washington Street Cemetery

Washington Street Cemetery is the third burial ground in Geneva. The earlier burial grounds were on the site of Trinity Church on South Main Street and the Pulteney Street Burial Ground. By 1832 additional space was needed and the land for Washington Street Cemetery was purchased.

The main period of activity was from 1832 to 1873 when Glenwood Cemetery began selling family plots. Family plots at Washington Street continued to be used into the 20th Century. Areas that look empty may be graves of the poor who could not afford a marker, a stone that could have deteriorated and disappeared, or could be where a person was reburied elsewhere.



Rural cemeteries, like Washington Street, were landscaped to enhance their natural beauty. Fountains and ponds were installed, trees and flowers were planted, and paths for walking and carriages were designed. Without public parks cemeteries provided a space



Washington Street Cemetery was a publicly owned cemetery near the edge of 1830s Geneva.

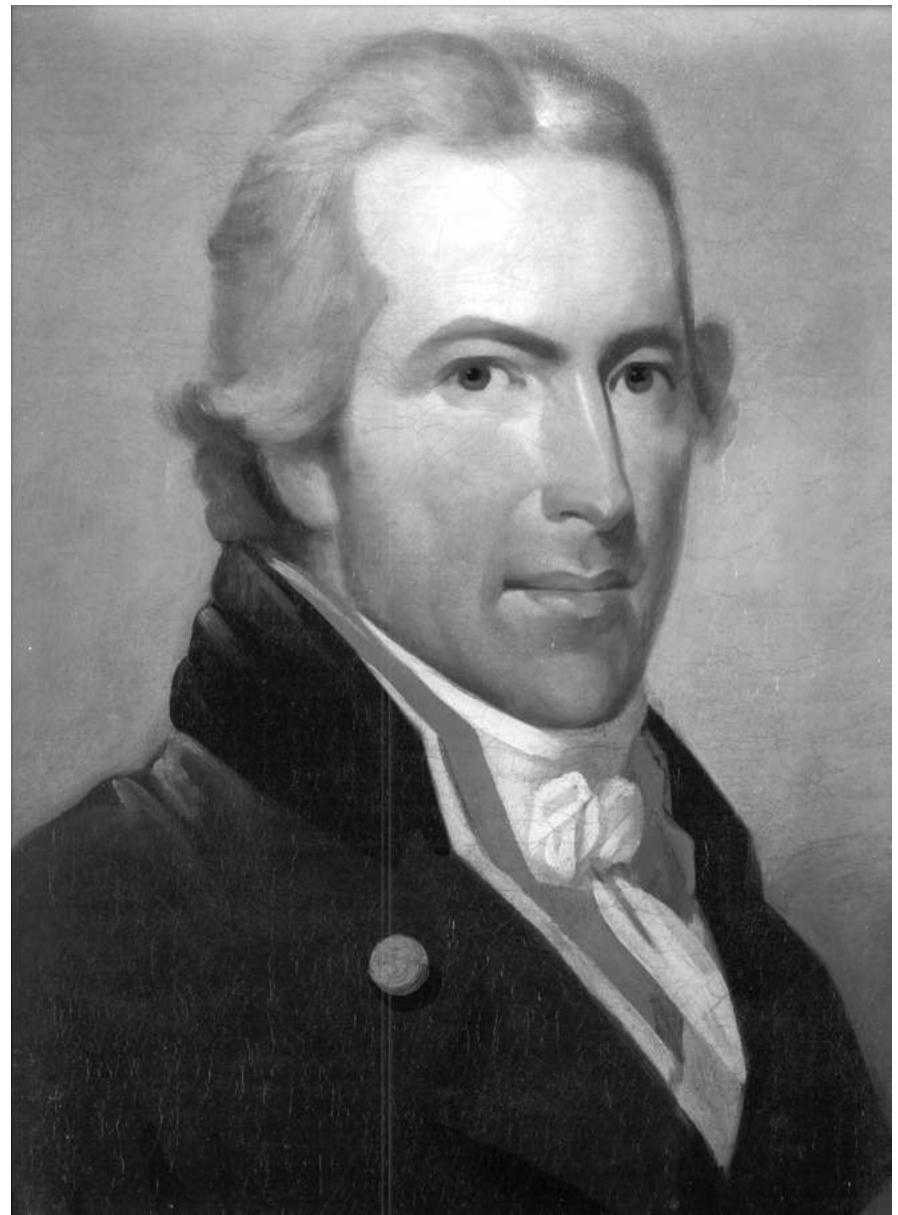


Designed in 1844, the cemetery arch has been shattered twice by trucks. Through community support, the arch was restored and re-installed in 2017.

Residents of Washington Street Cemetery

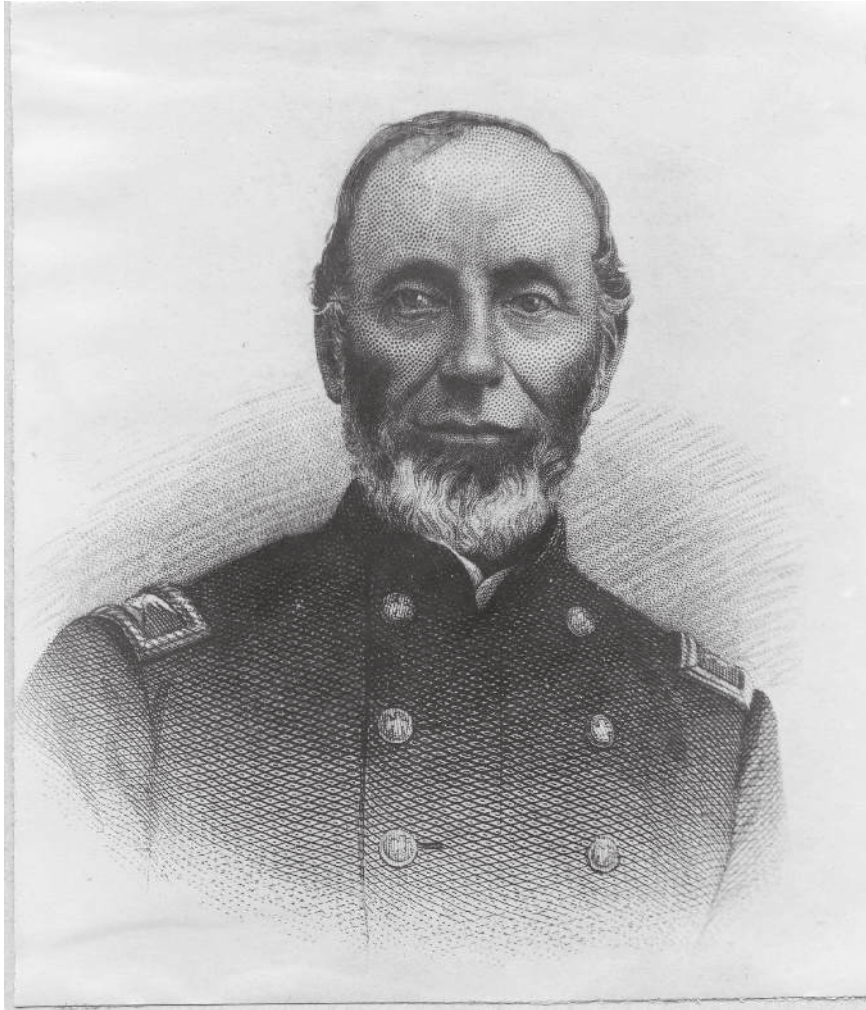
Washington Street Cemetery contains approximately 2,200 burials dating from 1832 to ca. 2000. The first person buried at Washington Street was Augusta Matilda Merrell, who died on September 28, 1832. Older death dates can be found in the cemetery but are likely reburials. Many locally and regionally prominent citizens are buried at Washington Street Cemetery including 63 Civil War veterans, 20 ministers, Revolutionary War veterans, 4 War of 1812 veterans, several politicians, and the city's first police chief.

Charles Williamson (1794-1849) and Abigail (1756-1824) were the wife and son of Charles Williamson (1757-1808). Considered Geneva's "founder," Williamson was a land agent who developed Geneva in the 1790s and laid out the street plan for South Main and Pulteney Park.



Author Sarah Bradford (1818-1912) was best known for writing the first history of Geneva, which appeared in the 1862 and 1863 village directory and the first biography of Harriet Tubman, *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman* (1869).

Residents of Washington Street Cemetery



After making his fortune with a tannery business and a political career, Eliakim Sherrill (1819-1863, pictured upper left) moved to Geneva to retire. In 1862 he organized the 126th New York Infantry. Several months after recovering from a wound received during the Battle of Harpers Ferry, he was mortally wounded during the Battle of Gettysburg.

As a leader for the fight for equality in Geneva, George Bland (1819-1886) was involved in organizing several Emancipation Celebrations held in Geneva during the 1870s. Usually held in early August to commemorate when England freed slaves in the West Indies, the celebrations included parades, speeches, music, sports competitions, and a dance. Bland also vocally protested segregation in Geneva's schools.



After serving as the Mayor of New York City (1833 -1834) and a term in the United States House of Representatives (1835-1837), Gideon Lee (1778-1841) retired to Geneva.

In 1863 the Emancipation Proclamation authorized the recruitment of African American soldiers into the Union Army.

General Joseph Gardner Swift (1783-1865, pictured lower left) was the first graduate of West Point Military Academy and its third commandant.