

The Old White Church Cemetery

A brief historical guide to the North Park Street Cemetery, the 1832 "White Church," and the records still being followed today.



Old White Church Cemetery. Photograph by Mira Earls, August 10, 2021.

On North Park Street in the Village of Cambridge is a small cemetery with a long memory. County assessment records identify it as North Park Street Cemetery. A 1976 DAR marker identifies it as Old White Church Cemetery. The name preserves the memory of a Presbyterian meetinghouse erected in 1832 and known in nineteenth-century records as the "White Church."

New primary-source evidence: A contemporary *Washington County Post* clipping dated July 15, 1976 documents the July 4 dedication of the bronze DAR marker at Old White Church Cemetery and identifies local historian Kenneth Gottry Sr. among the participants.

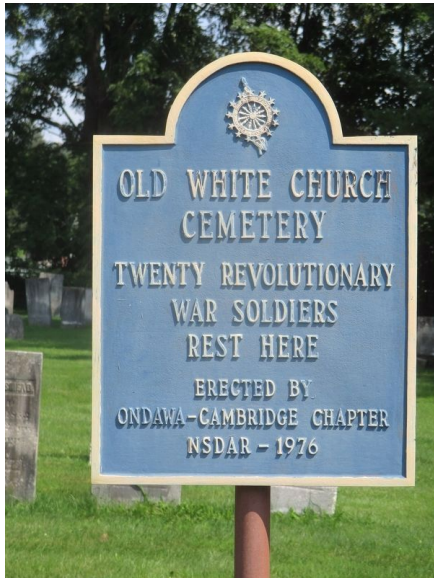
August 1793	Congregation organized. Sources agree on month and year but differ on the exact day.
1832	A second meetinghouse was erected and became known as the "White Church."
1849-1850	Allen Corey described the burying ground as public and said it did not belong to the congregation.
July 4, 1976	The Ondawa-Cambridge Chapter DAR dedicated a bronze marker at Old White Church Cemetery.

The church and the burying ground

Allen Corey's *Gazetteer of the County of Washington, N.Y.*, published in 1849-1850, was written less than twenty years after the 1832 meetinghouse was erected. Corey reported that the building was often distinguished by the name "White Church."

"The Burying Ground was given as a public Burying Ground, and does not belong to the Congregation."

Allen Corey, *Gazetteer of the County of Washington, N.Y.*, 1849-1850



The 1976 marker photographed by Mira Earls, August 10, 2021.

What the marker establishes

The marker states that twenty Revolutionary War soldiers rest in the cemetery. The marker and its wording are documented. The underlying veteran-by-veteran burial count remains a separate research question and has not yet been independently reconstructed.

Why the 1976 clipping matters

The newspaper clipping confirms the dedication event itself. It records that the Ondawa-Cambridge Chapter DAR dedicated the bronze marker on July 4, 1976, during the Bicentennial year. It also identifies Kenneth Gottry Sr., described as Historian, among the participants.

Bicentennial Dedication, July 4, 1976

This clipping was supplied in 2026 by Ken Gottry, whose father, Kenneth Gottry Sr., is identified in the caption as the historian pictured at the dedication. The clipping provides a contemporary record of the marker ceremony fifty years before the current ownership and maintenance inquiry.

14—Horicon Newspapers, Thursday, July 15, 1976



CAMBRIDGE — Dedication of a DAR Bronze Marker by Ondawa-Cambridge Chapter at Old White Church Cemetery was a July 4th highlight. Pictured l. to r. are Historian Kenneth Gottry Sr., Rev. Robert Purrington, Regent Mianda Spurr, Allison and Donald Schneider, Chaplain Abba Anton, Evelyn Weldon, American Flag chairman.

Washington County Post (Horicon Newspapers), Thursday, July 15, 1976, p. 14. Clipping supplied by Ken Gottry.

What remains open

Washington County's 2026 assessment roll identifies North Park Street Cemetery as Tax Map Parcel 256.17-1-26 and applies exemption code 13660, which New York State uses for a village-owned cemetery for assessment purposes. Local operational history, however, reports that the Town of White Creek has historically arranged maintenance. The recorded deed chain is still being reviewed, so this guide does not present the assessment classification as a final legal title determination.

Evidence status

Claim	Status	Current basis
A marker dedication occurred on July 4, 1976.	Verified	Contemporary Washington County Post clipping dated July 15, 1976.
Kenneth Gottry Sr. participated and was identified as Historian.	Verified	Contemporary newspaper caption.
The marker commemorates twenty Revolutionary War soldiers.	Verified as commemorative claim	Marker inscription and 1976 dedication record. Burial count not yet reconstructed veteran by veteran.
Present title to the cemetery parcel.	Unresolved	Assessment classification exists, but deed-chain review remains pending.

Selected sources

Washington County Post (Horicon Newspapers). Thursday, July 15, 1976, p. 14. Contemporary clipping documenting the July 4 marker dedication. Clipping supplied by Ken Gottry.

Allen Corey. *Gazetteer of the County of Washington, N.Y.*, 1849-1850. White Creek / First Presbyterian Church of Cambridge account.

William L. Stone. *Washington County, New York: Its History to the Close of the Nineteenth Century*. 1901, Cambridge section, p. 455.

Washington County, New York. 2026 Tentative Assessment Roll, Town of White Creek, parcel 256.17-1-26.

New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. Exemption Administration Manual, RPTL Section 446, code 13660.

Photo and clipping credits: Mira Earls, August 10, 2021, via Historical Marker Database materials supplied for this project. 1976 *Washington County Post* clipping supplied by Ken Gottry.

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