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# Community News

Fennell

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*Coverage of Bradford and Sullivan counties*

# Sayre resident finds her roots buried in Wysox cemetery

**BY JEFF LANGFORD**
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*The Daily/Sunday Review*

WYSOX — Originally, Lake Wesauking was called Allen's Pond, named after a settler named Jesse Allen. The cemetery that sets on a knoll overlooking the pond soon came to be called Pond Hill Cemetery by residents.

Among the nearly 150 people buried in Pond Hill Cemetery, a handful fought in Civil War, and one fought in the Revolutionary War.

Among those soldiers lies Stephen O. Allen, a veteran of the Revolutionary War and ancestor of Sayre resident Margaret Wood.

According to Wood, many of her ancestors on both her mother's and father's side are buried at the site. These include the Allen and Dutchers on her mother's side of the family and the Archers on her father's side.

Wood began visiting the cemetery with her grandfather George Archer, who mowed the grass and trimmed around the headstones when she was a child.

It was not until around 30 years ago that she began tracing her family roots and studying genealogy.

She said it's important for her to realize who her relatives were and where her family came from.

"I find it very interesting to go back and find these things," she said.

"If we know where our roots are, why not have a little pride in it?"

It is because of that pride that Wood is so pleased with the recent refurbishing of the cemetery by the Wysox Township Supervisors. Last fall the supervisors hired Mark McLinko's Memorials to reset broken and knocked-over headstones and to find headstones that were buried beneath and covered by thick brush.

Wood said that over time, many tombstones have been damaged by weathering and vandalism. Many had been knocked over.

"I'm very pleased with what they did with the cemetery up there," she said. "They did a beautiful job. I couldn't believe it was the same cemetery."

Wood said the first thing she did after seeing the new and improved cemetery was call Supervisor Doug McLinko to tell him how pleased she was with the job.

McLinko said the idea first came to him while bagging grass at the cemetery one day. He said that in seeing tombstones of Civil and Revolutionary War veterans he decided it was important to reset the stones that had been damaged.

"I was bagging and there in the grass was a gravestone of a man who fought in the Revolutionary War and served us at the very beginning," McLinko said. "That was a very important era in our history. They deserve more respect than having their tombstones knocked over."

Wood said she believes there many cemeteries that have been forgotten throughout the years. She said there are probably other people like her who want to trace their history but cannot because of neglected cemeteries.

"I hate to see cemeteries fall into disarray," she said. "I'd like to see the cemeteries kept up. I think it's a crime that some of them are kept the way they are."

Review Photo/JEFF LANGFORD

**Pictured is the tombstone of Stephen O. Allen in the Pond Hill Cemetery near Lake Wesauking.**