

Some of the Veterans' Stories

Edward Benzel enlisted in the Navy in 1943, and served on the destroyer USS Woolsey, seeing action at Salerno, Anzio Beach, and off the coast of Algeria. In August, 1945, immediately after the close of fighting in the Pacific, the ship docked in Japan and Mr. Benzel visited Nagasaki shortly after that city was destroyed by the second atomic bomb. Many years later he developed leukemia and tried to convince the federal government that the trip to Nagasaki had caused his leukemia, a disease that has afflicted many other members of the Woolsey's crew. His request for government assistance was denied.

Timothy Berran was born in Arcade and lived on the farm until the age of 18, when he enlisted as a soldier in the Civil War. After the war he became interested in the oil business. In 1880 he went as an expert with a party of oil drillers under directions from the Standard Oil Co., with necessary machinery to test the oil territory of Russia. He remained there a number of years, became familiar with their custom of living and spoke their language.

George Ebel was a member of the US Marine Corps and played a prominent role in the Battle of Belleau Wood

in World War I. The woods was covered with a thick underbrush, with visibility limited to yards. Every rocky formation held a German machine-gun nest almost impossible to reach except by bayonet. George was one of three Marines who captured a Maxim gun, 23 machine guns and 170 Germans during this 34-day summer campaign in 1918.

Ronald Ely, knowing he would be drafted, enlisted in the Army right after high school. On numerous occasions he was told to have his bags packed and to be on alert to be shipped overseas, but he never got the call. Instead, he was sent to Newport News, VA and was assigned to be a cook for his two years of service.

Willis George was the 5th of 9 children (1 sister, 7 brothers). Three of the brothers served in WWII: Leon, Willis and Nelson. Nelson flew planes, Leon and Willis were in the Army. Willis was in Germany and France during the war. Leon and Willis did meet up in France during the war. But Leon died during fighting shortly after they met up and is buried in Normandy. After Willis returned to the U.S. he guarded the USA on horseback along the Rio Grande River.

James Maher was plowing when he decided to go to war in 1862, so he hitched his team and walked to Warsaw to enlist. Between then and 1865, he was in 32 skirmishes and battles; he also never slept inside and never had a furlough.

Allan Weidmann's duty station was VAW-123 from 2001-2005, the Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 123. Deploying in August 2003 with the USS Enterprise, VAW-123 became the first carrier-based Navy squadron to operate an expeditionary detachment in support of special warfare units. Under combat conditions with hostile fire in Northern Afghanistan, the squadron provided airborne command control to coalition aircraft and time-sensitive targeting coordination to special operations forces for Operation Mountain Resolve. In that same deployment, VAW-123 supported conventional units as well as special operations forces deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

This brochure was developed for the 6th Annual Walking With Heroes, 2017. The event is proudly sponsored by the Hugh Lynch American Legion Post, the Hendershott-Manness V.F.W. Post and its Auxiliary in collaboration with research and coordination provided by the Arcade Historical Society and families of the deceased veterans.

Arcade Historical Society

Located in the Gibby House
331 West Main Street
P.O. Box 236, Arcade, NY 14009
Phone: 585-492-4466

E-mail: office@arcadehistoricalsociety.org

Hours:

Thurs. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. / Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

www.arcadehistoricalsociety.org

Walking With Heroes at St. Mary's Cemetery

May 28, 2017
2-3:30 p.m.



Spend Sunday afternoon of your Memorial Day weekend in St. Mary's Cemetery learning about our deceased veterans. On this self-guided tour, living veterans, Auxiliary, or family members will be stationed next to the graves of many of the 37 local veterans from the Civil War through Afghanistan. These representatives will tell the stories of the deceased veterans and the circumstances under which they served. The self-guided walking tour will be staffed until 3:30 p.m. and will go on rain or shine, just as our veterans always did.

List of Veterans in St. Mary's Cemetery, East Arcade / ★ indicates a Guide

PERSIAN GULF / AFGHANISTAN

★Allan M. Weidmann 1975-2009; Navy, Rank AE2, Persian Gulf (S2 Row 4 #7)

VIETNAM

★Joseph Agen 1942-1988; Navy, Rank ABH3 (S2 Row 4 #5)

★Louis G. Aman 1947-1982; Navy, Rank GSM1 (S2 Row 8 #16)

★Ronald B. Ely 1946-2012; Army, Rank Spec. 4 (S2 Row 7 #14)

★Joseph M. Flynn 1942-2005; Army, Rank Spec. 4 (S2 Row 13 #24)

Floyd Westfall 1934-1984; US Air Force; Rank Staff Sergeant (S2 Row 12 #21)

KOREAN CONFLICT

★John Bakierzynski, Jr. 1928-1978; Korean War, Army (S2 Row 5 #8)

★Chester A. Slazyk 1928-2005; Army, Rank Spec. 4 (S2 Row 6 #12)

Floyd Westfall 1934-1984; US Air Force; Rank Staff Sergeant (S2 Row 12 #21)

WORLD WAR II

★Henry A. Bakierzynski 1920-2009; Army; Rank Corporal (S2 Row 8 #17)

★Edward Benzel 1926-1981; Navy (S2 Row 6 #11)

John J. Crowley 1913-1988; Army, Rank Tech 5 (S2 Row 12 #22)

Clement J. Deteske 1926-1989; US Marine Corps; Rank Corporal (S2 Row 4 #6)

★Willis F. George 1919-2009; Army, Rank Staff Sergeant, Bronze Star (S2 Row 11 #20)

Casimir D. Granat 1907-1980; Army, Rank Private (S2 Row 9 #19)

William H. Johnson Jr. 1923-2003; Army Air Force; aviation cadet (S2 Row 5 #10)

Edward W. Wojtaszczyk 1927-2014; Navy (S2 Row 8 #15)

WORLD WAR I

★George Ebel 1896-1982; US Marine Corps (S2 Row 4 #4)

Arthur F. Hall 1889-1942; Army; Co. M, 108th Inf. (S1 Row 6 #10)

William R. Stokes Sr. 1887-1956; Army, Rank Private 1st Class, 12th Bn., 153rd Depot Brigade (S1 Row 6 #11)

CIVIL WAR

★Timothy Burns (Berran) 1845-1912; Army, Rank Private, Co. D, 81st NY Volunteer Infantry (S1 Row 3 #2)

Martin Burroughs circa 1846-1879 (S1 Row 4 #7)

★Neil Calligan 1835-1918 (S1 Row 7 #12)

Felix Gillespie 1827 (S1 Row 10 #14)

James H. Gillespie 1844-1919; Army, Co. G, 4th NY Heavy Artillery (S1 Row 5 #9)

John Hartigan c. 1844-1887; Army, Battery A, 5th US Artillery (S1 Row 2 #1)

Stephen Hickey c. 1825-1886 (S1 Row 8 #13)

Patrick Mackin 1823-1876 (S1 Row 3 #4)

★James Maher 1841-1906; GAR Marker (S1 Row 3 #6)

William Redding (Redden) 1846-1873; Army, Rank Private, 1st NY Dragoons (S1 Row 3 #3)

William Roche 1839-1868; Army, Private, 24th Ind. NY Battery (S1 Row 3 #5)

★Owen Whalen 1822-1915; Army, Rank Private, Co. H, 136th NY Infantry (S1 Row 5 #8)

PEACE TIME

★Michael E. Barnes 1938-2016; US Air Force National Guard 1953-1962 (S2 Row 8 #18)

★Michael J. Flynn 1971-2004; Army, Rank Private (S2 Row 12 #23)

★Theophil V. Jachim 1930-2004; Army, Rank Sec. 3 (S2 Row 6 #13)

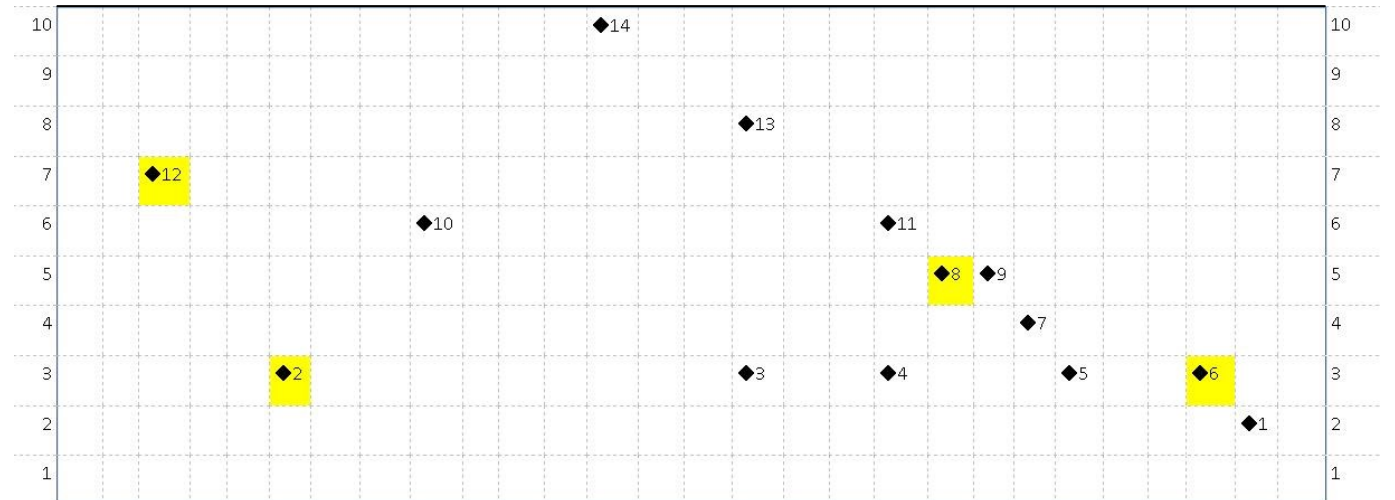
★Charles W. Mayer 1942-1991; Army (S2 Row 2 #1)

William Paul Murphy 1916-2004 (S2 Row 6 #9)

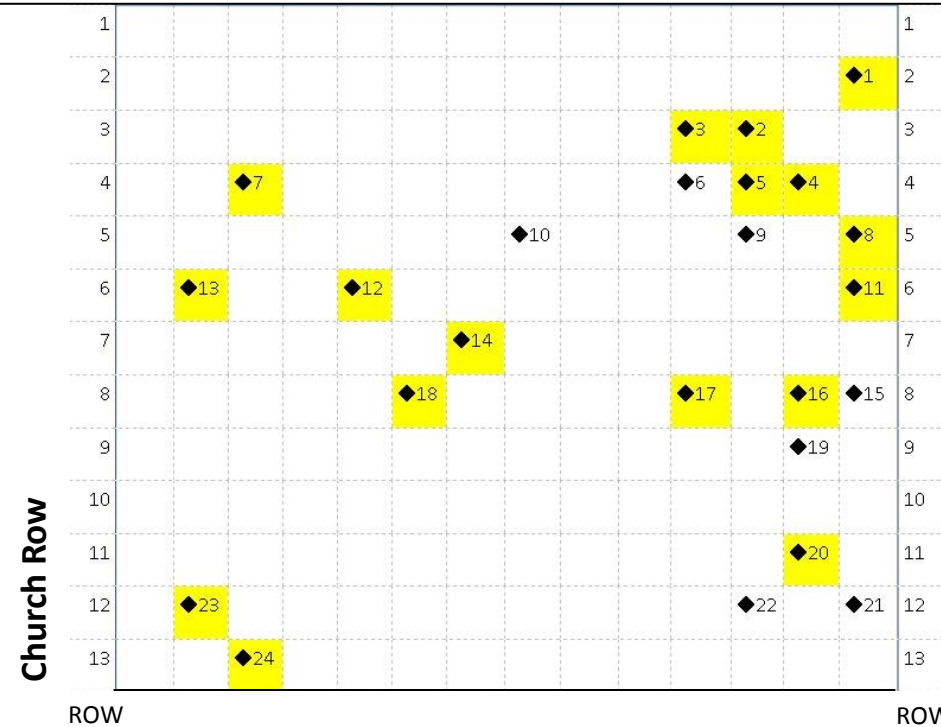
★Alfred C. Weidmann 1938-2001; US Marine Corps, Rank Corporal (S2 Row 3 #2)

★Sandra A. (McEntee) Weidmann 1940-2015; Army (WAC), served 1958-62 (S2 Row 3 #3)

St. Mary's Cemetery Map Section 1 with Veterans' Graves marked*



← Church Hall East Arcade Road → ROW



Section 2

*Guides are stationed at the highlighted graves.

Church Row

Driveway Row

ROW

ROW