



Town and Cemetery Association dedicate bell

125-year-old Meneely Bell to ring at historic Jonesville Cemetery



Town Supervisor Phil Barrett, right, passes over the key to the fence that surrounds the Meneely Bell in Jonesville to Jonesville Cemetery Association Vice President Ed Hughes.

A number of town officials joined the Jonesville Cemetery Association in the official dedication ceremony for the 125-year-old Meneely Bell on Wednesday, Oct. 22 at 4 p.m. at the entrance of the cemetery on the corner of Ushers and Longkill Roads.

The Town Board decided earlier this year to place the bell at the Jonesville Cemetery. Supervisor Phil Barrett was joined at the dedication ceremony by Councilwoman Lynda Walowit and Councilmen Scott Hughes, Tom Paolucci and Sandy Roth.

“We’re pleased to partner with the Jonesville Cemetery to ensure that the Meneely Bell will stand forever at this important historical site in Clifton Park,” Barrett said. “This bell will be a great addition to the rich history and tradition of the cemetery.”



Top: William Flavin, left and Dan Lynch weld parts of the 4-foot fence that surrounds the Meneely Bell tower.



Right: Dan Welsh, left and Pat Gibbons drill holes prior to installing the corners of the fence.

The two-foot high bell was cast in bronze by the Clinton H. Meneely Bell Company in Troy in 1883. It rang at the Grace Episcopal Church until the church was sold in 1968. It was later purchased by the Charlton Historical Society in 1982 before it was recently donated to the town.

The Hinman Construction Company has donated the 10-foot high tower that the bell sits on, and town employees worked with the cemetery association to construct a 4-foot fence around the bell.

The bell was rung at the ceremony by 85-year-old Milton Hatlee, whose family attended the Grace Church for over 50 years before it was sold. Hatlee rang the bell four times, indicating both the 4 p.m. start time for the dedication ceremony as well as the four original founders of the Grace Episcopal Church.



Councilman Tom Paolucci, left, looks on as 85-year-old Milton Hatlee rings the Meneely Bell at the dedication ceremony on Wednesday, Oct. 22.



“Jim Ward, a friend of the minister, rang the bell each Sunday at the church,” Hatlee recalled. “It’s really something that I will be able to ring the bell just a short distance from where my mother, father and third cousin are buried in the cemetery.”

According to Town Historian John Scherer, Meneely bells were well known around the world for their excellent sound quality. The Meneely bell at the Jonesville Cemetery weighs 374 pounds and it cost \$110 in 1883.



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