

## Mt. Ida Preservation Update

Starting May 1, 2024, Grave Stone Matters completed 15 days of monument preservation in the New Mount Ida Cemetery on Pinewoods Ave. in Troy, NY. This effort was part of the ARPA Mt. Ida Cemeteries Preservation Project.

The Google Photo album <https://photos.app.goo.gl/PbDnjQdYTi9DcfgX8> provides detailed photo documentation of the 63 monuments that were preserved. Work will resume in New Mount Ida in the fall.



*Figure 1. Work Area in New Mt. Ida, May, 2024*

The spring work session focused on the section that abuts Seymour Court on the East end of the cemetery and indicated by the red rectangle in Figure 1 . Monuments in this section have long needed work and with the recent removal of more than a dozen large pine trees from the neighboring property (seen in the satellite photo along the bottom left corner of the red box) the decision was made easier.

A gantry crane was put to work throughout the entire session. The crane is a mobile aluminum box-framed device that can be extended vertically to lift obelisks that are over 14 feet tall and weigh over 2,000 lbs. The photo below shows the gantry in use on the Dearborn obelisk. While Joe Ferrannini of Grave Stone Matters was working with the gantry on complex or large monuments, volunteers cleared dirt from smaller buried monuments and cleaned them with D2 Biological Solution. Once prepared, the smaller monuments would be erected using aluminum tripods with chain hoists.



Figure 2. Disassembling the McIntosh Obelisk with a Gantry Crane

A significant highlight, and challenge, was the preservation of the McIntosh sandstone obelisk. An album with photos of that work is here <https://photos.app.goo.gl/6xWWCPcWPerANPMe9>. After removal of the upper most block, a hard mortar in a prior repair was found. This mortar was subsequently found between all the blocks and required hours of careful chiseling to remove. Once all the lower blocks were prepared and reassembled the upper portion of the obelisk, a six foot tall column, was unearthed from the acidic soil. While some of the sandstone was missing from the top on the side that was buried, a couple sizable pieces were recovered and reattached with Akemi Akepox 5010 masonry epoxy. There was a major surprise when the two metal markers, shown in Figure 3, were found six inches deep in the dirt next to the base. The dinner plate sized marker is for the New York National Guard (read counterclockwise from the left) and the smaller, clover-shaped marker is for the Grand Army of the Republic. More

research is needed to determine the association between persons listed on the monument the markers.



*Figure 3. Metal Markers found Buried near the McInstosh Monument*