

Millville Cemetery chapel

BY C. W. LATTIN

This article is put forth to alert interested people to the dire need of the preservation of the Millville Cemetery Chapel.

First is a little bit about its history. Millville Cemetery in the Town of Shelby was established in March of 1871. A receiving vault of Medina Sandstone was built into the side of a hill in 1875. In May of 1893 it was resolved by the trustees to erect a chapel 26 feet square over the vault. By June of 1894, a plan shown by Joseph Caldwell was selected. He also bid \$475 to erect the chapel. The Parrish brothers also bid \$475 to build the chapel according to Joseph Caldwell's plan. The trustees then said whoever will do the job cheapest will have it. Caldwell then bid \$450 and Parrish Brothers \$448.50. Therefore the contract went to Parrish brothers. The trustees then had to pay \$8 to Caldwell for the plans he had drawn. In December of 1894 the trustees accepted the chapel as completed by the Parrish Brothers. With additional window frames for the basement the total price for the chapel came to \$459.45. What a bargain.

This extraordinary and unique structure is still true and in alignment after the forces of many mighty winds for more than a century. But the forces of nature are unrelenting. It is now imperative to replace the roofing with new shingles. The siding must be painted and missing decorative parts need restoration along with a window sash. Not vinyl siding, not new windows. This building, because of its unique character, is eligible for a National Register Nomination in its present condition. Incorporation

rect replacement parts will disqualify it. If placed on the National Register, it's possible to perhaps get some matching grant money in the future. But right now the immediate need is to replace roofing. Anyone wishing to contribute to this project is asked to send donations to:

Millville Cemetery Chapel
Preservation Fund
C/O Anita Shafer, Special
Funds Treasurer

9733 Townline Road
Middleport, NY 14105

Gifts to this project may be designated in memory of a loved one.

The Millville Cemetery

Chapel is one of the outstanding landmarks in the Town of Shelby. This is in part because it has not been muddled up. Its high pitched roof with four distinct gables in the Eastlake Style highlights Millville Cemetery as one drives along Millville East Shelby Road.

At 7 p.m. on July 13, a tour of Millville Cemetery will be conducted by the Orleans County Historian. Millville Cemetery trustees have requested this tour to bring attention to the beauty of the grounds and the necessity of immediate restoration of the chapel for future generations.



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