



Welcome to Lakeview Cemetery!

Until very recently Lakeview was in terrible disrepair; its appearance neglected and spooky. Untended and overrun with weeds, wild sticker bushes and trees, many headstones jaggedly broken, its reputation as one of Long Island's haunted places was truly deserved.

Then in 2006, The Cemetery Restoration Committee began the long hard work of clearing, repairing and caring for this historic burial ground. Proper pathways were created and lighting installed. Later on the entry arch was beautifully replicated while many broken markers and gravestones have since been repaired or replaced.

The oldest section is West Main Street and Waverly Avenue. The cemeteries contain the graves of 24 Revolutionary War veterans, 2 veterans of the War of 1812, and 22 veterans of the Civil War. With funding from the Veterans Administration, several new Civil War headstones have been dedicated to replace those either broken or missing. 14 veterans of WWI, 5 veterans of WWII and 1 Vietnam War veteran also rest in peace here.

A new wrought iron-style fence has been newly installed to replace the old beaten down chain link fence along Waverly Avenue. The work is ongoing for the newly formed Friends of the Lakeview Cemeteries Facebook group as they continue *"Restoring the Past... for the Future!"*

Now... The grass is tidily trimmed and the cemeteries are respectably maintained. But! Are the tormented spirits rumored to haunt Lakeview now at peaceful rest, or are they still here... wandering among us?

Who's Haunting Lakeview Cemetery?

Today Lakeview seems to be one large burial ground, but it actually consists of 5 separate graveyards - Lakeview, Union, Rice, Gerard and Old Episcopal. From as far back as the late 1700s, the residents of Patchogue have been burying their dead here. Take a walk through its gates and stroll back in time to wander through Patchogue history.

Lakeview is home to an estimated 1200 souls. These are the tales of how some of them came to rest here.

1. Outside the gates to Lakeview Cemetery remains what is left of the infamous **Blood Hill**. No one is really sure how this area came by that name. But despite the efforts of some to eradicate that designation it lives on through Patchogue history to this very day.
2. Within the gates lies the **grave of sailors** who rest side by side for eternity. They died tragically over a century ago in the waters off Fire Island in two separate disasters occurring only two years apart.
3. Under the soil, set apart in a lovely yet lonely part of Lakeview, lies little **Helen Tiernan** whose young life was cruelly cut short at the hand of her own mother. Hers is a dreadful tale of betrayal and murder.
4. The four **Smith Sisters** made a fortune in the New York millinery business. Their beautiful family memorial presides, 20+ feet high, over the surrounding cemetery. They retired in Patchogue and generously spread their fortune throughout the community including here in Lakeview where they not only donated land for the cemetery but provided plots to bury the sailors - victims of the Naum Chapin and Louis V. Place disasters.
5. Laid to rest over 200 years ago were two brothers - **Lewis and Daniel Parshall** - who sadly drowned in the waters off what was then known as Fireplace (today Brookhaven). There were no eyewitnesses to the tragedy that befell the fisherman that moonlit November night. But cries for help were heard across the waters by the families of the men, and by a group of fisherman on shore.
6. Here too is the final burial ground for one of the most brilliant women of her time - poet, educator and champion of women's rights - **Elizabeth Oakes Smith** - interred forever beside her husband Seba Smith. Unfortunately, once deceased both were unable to rest in eternal peace; their graves were disturbed and relocated not once, but twice! - making them the most famous of the infamous **Traveling Dead of Patchogue**.

Do restless spirits haunt Lakeview Cemetery?
Long Island ghost hunters are convinced they most certainly do.



Some useful and interesting links:

<http://www.cemeteryrestorationcommittee.com/history.htm>
On Facebook: Friends of the Lakeview Cemeteries group
<https://www.greaterpatchoguehistoricalsociety.com>
<https://sites.google.com/site/longislandstories/the-traveling-dead-of-patchogue>

