The Drake Cemetery, long abandoned, is located in the village of Chemung, Town of Chemung, Chemung County, New York, and is situated on the north side of old Route #17, 6/10ths of a mile west of the center of the village or 1/10th of a mile west of the junction of old Route #17 and the Wynkoop Road (County Road #3). The land was originally a part of the Daniel McDowell farm and the burial ground is immediately adjacent to the highway. It can be easily missed as there are no standing tombstones, all remaining memorials being flat on the rough ground. A map for 1869 shows two separate cemeteries, side by side, with the Drake burial plot being one of them. The name of the other plot is unknown at this late date in time.

The Town of Chemung is responsible for the care and upkeep, but have failed shamefully. In years past during the few times the grounds were mowed by the town highway department, the tractors ran over the tombstones, breaking and destroying most of them. Now the owners of abutting property mow the site and have been doing some grading as well as relocating some of the tombstones by laying them face up in rows at the rear of the cemetery. The western portion of the grounds is cloaked in matted grass and half of the tombstones were found there, it being necessary to uncover some of them so they could be read. White chalk was used to make the data legible. The entire burial area measures about 150’ along the highway and 50’ in depth and is an open area being free of high grass and weeds.

The following record was made on November 18, 1974, by Miss Isabel Ridall and Joseph C and Doris Boyd. Some entries are from a list made by Mr and Mrs Hugh Staver in 1932. It is not unlikely that there may be as many as 30 or 40 additional unmarked graves and other tombstones may be found by probing and digging. Any data in brackets *does not appear* on the tombstones, but has been added for historical interest. In the cases of some wives, sons and/or daughters the surname has been added for the sake of clarity.

Boswort, Adaline wife of John Boswort (b 6/1/11782) d 6/220/1819, age 37y 19d (An excellent shale tombstone which was chalked for accurate reading. The surname could be Bosworth but the carver left no room on the tombstone for the letter “H”. A David Bosworth walked to Chemung in 1780 from Conn and cleared a farm on Buck’s Flats where he resided for many years before moving to Athens, Penna. where he died in 1868. Buck’s Flats was/is located immediately to the south of the old cemetery. He had a son John and Adaline was undoubtedly the son’s wife.

Burt, Thomas (b 1776 or 1777) d 5/11/1843, age 66y. (Tombstone lays on the ground.)

Burt, Morris A son of Thomas & Eunice Burt (b 1/1817) d 10/31/1838, age 21y 9m (A nice shale tombstone laying on the ground.)

Carpenter, Mary M wife of RF Carpenter (b 1823 or 1824) d 8/3/1853, age 29y (Tombstone lays on the ground.)

Drake, Jonathan 9/14/1771 – 4/14/1842, age 70y 7m (An excellent shale tombstone laying on the ground.)

Drake, Mary wife of Johnathan Drake (b 9 or 10/1771) d 4/18/1838, age 66y 6m (Tombstone not found in 1974. Data from Staver Record 1932.)

Drake, Sally dau of Jonathan & Mary Drake (b 6 or 7/1809) d 6/6/1810, age 11m (Tombstone not found in 1974. Data from Staver Record 1932.)

Durham, Elizabeth wife of Michael Durham (b/28/1810) d 2/13/1839, age 28y 10m 16d (Tombstone laying on the ground.)

Kellog, Charles (b 9 or 10/1846) d 8/20/1848, age 1y 10m (Tombstone not found in 1974. Data from Staver Record, 1932.)

Maxson, ? (b 8/6/1848) d 9/2/1849, age 1y 27d (Tombstone lays on the ground with a part of the top broken and missing. Given name missing.)

Maxson, Helen M dau of Thomas & Sally Maxson (b 8/31/1841) d 12/21/1841, age 3m 20d (Tombstone lays on the ground.)

McKinney, Timothy C (b 6/22/1786) d 7/31/1853, age 67y 1m 9d (tombstone lays on the ground.)

McKinney, Sarah Higbee wife of Timothy C McKinney (no death date), age 78y 2m 18d (Tombstone lays on the ground.)

McKinney, Jonathan son of TC & Emiline McKinney (b 12/20/1839) d 1/25/1842, age 2y 1m 5d (Tombstone lays on the ground.)

Palmer, Griffin D (b 12/12/1814) d 5/17/1841, age 26y 5m 5d (Tombstone lays on the ground.)

Pickering, Edmond G died 7/4/1845 (No other data. Tombstone lays on the ground.)

Pickering, Arlina D dau of EG Pickering (no dates) (Tombstone not found in 1974. Data from Staver Record 1932.)

Sanders, Lucy E wife of George E Sanders (b 5/30/1825) d 7/5/1846, age 21y 1m 5d

Sanders, Louisa E dau of Lucy E Sanders, died 12/6/no year. Aged 9m 24d.

Tillman, Laura Ann (1st )wife of Martin Tillman (b 8/12/1826) d 8/28/1844, age 18y 16d (She was the dau of Abner Carey, son of Absalom Carey.)