Manchester's Old Burying Ground

The President’s drayman Joseph McMahon (1780-1824) was buried in 1824. His headstone was removed in 1854 to make room for a new headstone in Oak Grove Cemetery. His body was re-interred in Oak Grove.

The Vitality of the Cemetery

The Old Burying Ground is an active site for the study of human remains, and the history of the community. The remains of many early Manchester residents, including some of the town’s first settlers, are buried here. The cemetery is also a valuable resource for genealogists and historians, who use the records to trace family lines and learn about the community's past.

The History of the Cemetery

The Manchester Township Cemetery was established in 1837, the same year that the Old Burying Ground was closed. The Old Burying Ground was a small, rectangular plot of land, approximately 200 feet by 60 feet, located on Washington Street, just north of the village green. The land was donated by James Harvey Fargo, a local businessman and politician.

The cemetery was used as a burial ground until 1857, when it was closed due to the formation of Oak Grove Cemetery. Despite its closure, the cemetery remained a significant landmark in the community, and many local residents continued to visit it.

The Future of the Cemetery

The future of the Old Burying Ground is uncertain. It is currently owned by the Village of Manchester, and the cemetery is maintained by a local nonprofit organization. The village has expressed interest in preserving the site, but funding and resources are limited. The cemetery is also at risk of being developed for commercial or residential purposes, which would result in the loss of valuable historical and cultural resources.

In conclusion, the Old Burying Ground is a valuable resource for the study of human remains and the history of the community. It is important to preserve this site for future generations, and to ensure that its rich history is not lost to development and neglect.