Local History Exploration Challenge

Want to leave the house while following social distancing rules? Visit the historic Manlius Village Cemetery, where it’s easy to keep a 6 foot distance from other people. Stretch your legs and explore some local history.

The Manlius Village Cemetery is located on NY Route 173, also known as East Seneca Street, near Christ Church and St. Ann’s Church. It’s on the National Register of Historic Places, and you can read the application, which is full of interesting facts about the cemetery, here: https://catalog.archives.gov/id/75320320

Throughout the cemetery, look at the different styles of gravestones. What do you notice about them? Which ones are simpler and which ones have decorations? Victorian era gravestones tended to be more ornate, with more decorations and fancier stones.

Can you find Rachel Warren?
She was the first adult to be buried here, in 1810. Can you make out the letters? Why is the headstone so hard to read?
Rachel Warren’s headstone can be found in the Section 2, Lot 6. We don’t know very much about Rachel Warren, unfortunately.

Can you find the Whitney family?
A very long time ago, where there is now a “sign at the point” and the Bank of America building, there was a beautiful Victorian house on the corner of FM Road and Fayette Street. It looked like this:
Do you recognize the house? It was moved! The whole building moved in the 1930s to the neighborhood behind CVS. The house was built by Sumner Whitney, who had a foundry on Fayette Street near the CVS parking lot. A foundry is a workshop for making things out of metal. When you look at this old picture with the house, what do you see that’s different from today? Here’s a picture of that same spot from Google Maps:
Over in Christ Church Cemetery
Here are some old pictures taken in Christ Church cemetery, near the Manlius Village Cemetery. Can you figure out where they were taken? Can you stand in the same spot the original photographer did?