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Graveyard Preservation

Organizations

Association for Gravestone Studies
46 Plymouth Road
Needham, MA, 01292.

A group devoted to the study, interpretation, documentation and preservation of gravestones. Offers conferences and publications, a sample of which includes: *Markers: The Journal of the Association for Gravestone Studies*. An annual volume of papers dealing with gravestones and gravestone-related topics.

Regional Guides to 17th and 18th Century Graveyards, Francis Duval, editor. Guide 2: Long Island, New York Graveyards (including Lower Manhattan Island).

The **AGS** maintains a web site with an interesting Bulletin Board on which one can ask questions.

American Association of State and Local History
172 Second Avenue North Suite 102
Nashville, TN 37201

"Cemetery Transcribing: Preparations and Procedures," Technical Leaflet 9 (also in "History News 26", May 1971).

12pp "Photographing Tombstones: Equipment and Techniques," Mary Ellen Jones.

Technical Leaflet 92 (also in "History News 32", February 1977). 8 pages.

National Center for the Stewardship and Preservation of Religious Properties
One East Penn Square, Suite 2200
Philadelphia, PA 19107.

Publishes "Inspired", a 20 page bi-monthly publication devoted to the preservation of historic religious properties.

New York Landmarks Conservancy
141 Fifth Avenue
NY, NY 10010

Publishes "Common Bond", a 12 page quarterly newsletter on maintenance and preservation of significant religious properties.

General Guidance

A Graveyard Preservation Primer by



Evergreen Cemetery

Lynette Strangstad. Nashville, Tennessee: Owego, Tioga County
American Association of State and Local History, 1988. 126 pages.

This is the book to get first. The author is the primary graveyard restorer in the country so the information is more practical than theoretical or historical. Includes an excellent bibliography with one notable omission (see Higgins/Lynch below). Available from AASLH for \$13.95.

Landscapes of Memories: A Guide for Conserving Historic Cemeteries: Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, 77 Bloor St. W, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9. To order call Publications Ontario at 1-800-668-9938. \$10 (CDN).

A fully illustrated guide offering step-by-step instruction on the cleaning and minor repair of historic monuments. Designed for easy use in the office or in the field, this guide is ideal for cemetery trustees, monument builders, conservators and volunteers. Includes clear line drawings and several successful case studies. Boston Experience: A Manual for Historic Burying Ground Preservation: Historic Burying Ground Initiative, Boston Parks and Recreation Department, 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02118 (617) 725-4505. \$7.50 postpaid Outlines the development of preservation philosophy, master plans, gravestone and monument inventory and conservation, and landscape rehabilitation for historic graveyards and cemeteries. Illinois Preservation Series Number 9: "Caring for Your Local Cemetery." Springfield, Illinois: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 1988. 12 pages.

Presents a good overview of the problems and appropriate treatments. Not as technically detailed as Strangstad's Primer. Includes a sample "Cemetery Survey Form". Available for \$1 from the Illinois Historic preservation Agency, Division of Cultural Affairs, Old State Capitol, Springfield, IL 62701. "Preserving Historical Cemeteries", Sherene Baugher, Gina Santucci, Robert W. Venables and Gaynell Stone. New York: New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, n.d. 4 pages An introductory brochure emphasizing the importance of markers, threats to them, and basic viewpoint toward their preservation. Useful in preparing a cemetery-specific brochure.

"Preservation of Historic Burial Grounds", Lynette Strangstad. Washington, D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation. Info. Series No. 76, 1993. 24 pages Good overview of survey and conservation, including plant material. Includes bibliography and sample survey form.

Materials Repair and Conservation **STONE**

"The Maintenance and Repair of Architectural Sandstone", William J. Higgins and Michael F. Lynch. New York: New York Landmarks Conservancy, 1982. 8 pages.

Published results of a research and testing program conducted at Columbia University. Deals with identification of problems and recommended treatments for sandstone. Primarily building stone, but all techniques are applicable to gravestones.

"How to Clean and Polish Marble," Lynette Strangstad. "Old-House Journal" (October 1982) "Lichen Removal from Whitman Memorial," Ian N.M. Wainwright. "APT Bulletin" (Vol. XVIII Number 4, 1986).

Association for Preservation Technology International
P.O. Box 3511

Williamsburg, VA 23187

Analysis of removal techniques as applied to a granite monument.

METALS

(bronze memorials, doors and statues; cast zinc markers and monuments; cast and wrought iron ornamental work) *Sculptural Monuments in an Outdoor Environment*, ed. Virginia Norton Naude. Philadelphia, PA: Philadelphia Academy of the Fine Arts, 1985. 116 pages.

Published proceedings of a conference held at the Philadelphia Academy of the Fine Arts on November 2, 1983. Deals primarily with bronze, but many of the same concerns apply to cast zinc statues, markers, and plaques. Available from the Academy of the Fine arts, Broad and Cherry Streets, Philadelphia, PA, 19102. Price is \$12.25.

Metals in America's Historic Buildings: Uses and Preservation Treatments, Margot Gayle, David W. Look, AIA, and John G. Waite. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1992. 168 pages.

Focuses on architectural metals, many of which can be found in decorative use in graveyards and cemeteries. Covers lead, tin, zinc, bronze, copper, iron, nickel, steel and aluminum. Available from the GPO for \$10. Stock # is 024-005-01108-1.

Funding

Vandalism and Abandoned Cemeteries Restoration Fund. State of New York, Department of State, Division of Cemeteries. Only cemeteries which fall under the jurisdiction of the Division of Cemeteries may apply for these grants. The Division regulates not-for-profit cemeteries that are not affiliated with a religious corporation, town or municipality. Grants are only to restore damage from acts of vandalism. The qualifying cemetery must notify the Division within thirty days of the act. An application form provided by the Division must be returned with a police report and two estimates of damages. The reports are then submitted to the New York State Cemetery Board for approval. Abandoned cemeteries that were public cemeteries in the past must be given some minimal maintenance under Town Law 291. The towns may apply to the fund for a grant to defray some of the cost of maintenance.

Contact

Division of Cemeteries
162 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12231-0001
Phone:(518) 474-6226

Other Federal, State and Private Sources:

Updated December 1998 prepared by Michael F. Lynch, P.E., R.A.

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