



GSSA Cemetery Recording News

Vol 11 No 3 – 2013

Welcome

Thank you for all the kind words expressed in your emails to me, some of which I have chosen to include in this Newsletter. I still stand amazed at the rate at which information is being received, both for the DVD Project and for the Photo Project. Please keep it up; we still have a long way to go – the total between the two parts of the Project is approximately 1.2m names with maybe 25% or less overlap. Maybe one of you have a contact at Home Affairs who could provide us with the total deaths recorded since the early 1900s when registration became compulsory, so that we may have something against which to measure our progress, albeit very arbitrary.

Please look at **ANNEXURE 3 – Returned Mail**. Some of the names on the list took me by surprise. If you are aware of an email address change please advise me accordingly.



Van Reenen Cemetery, Golden Gate

Contributed by John Schwartz

Country-wide Round-up (Period 01.07.2013 to 30.09.2013)

- Northern Cape, District Prieska, Prieska, Main Cemetery (1 477 names) was photographed by Dirk Bloem and transcribed by Simon du Plooy, Dirk Bloem and Poen Coetzee.

- Janine van der Merwe of N Tyl Branch has been in contact with Dirk van Niekerk of the same area and has consequently submitted the following two farm cemeteries: Northern Cape, District Prieska, , Mooidraai 36,(16 names) and Northern Cape, District Prieska, Maryvale, Zeekoebaar 9, Waterval (3 names).
- Western Cape, District Swellendam, Buffeljagdsrivier, Graves at Prison, Thornhill (2 names) was submitted by Alta Roux.
- Pieter Oosthuizen has provided information on the following cemeteries:
 - Gauteng, District Randfontein, , Brandvlei 261, Gedeelte 79. Cemcount: 1 of 4 (14 names)
 - Gauteng, District Randfontein, , Brandvlei 261, . Cemcount: 2 of 4 (9 names)
 - Gauteng, District Randfontein, , Brandvlei 261, . Cemcount: 3 of 4.(88 names)
 - Gauteng, District Randfontein, , Brandvlei 261, . Cemcount: 4 of 4 (22 names)
 - Gauteng, District Randfontein, , Witfontein 262, . Cemcount: 1 of 2.(9 names)
 - Gauteng, District Randfontein, , Witfontein 262, . Cemcount: 2 of 2 (11 names)
- Koos and Amanda Stander have recorded these cemeteries: Kwazulu-Natal, District Port Shepstone, Port Shepstone, Main Cemetery (1 717 names) as well as Kwazulu-Natal, District Port Shepstone, Port Shepstone, Marburg Cemetery – Register (1058 names)
- Photos of Mpumalanga, District Balfour, Dasville, Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk (199 names) were submitted by Bob Saunders.
- Simon du Plooy and his team have provided photos to Alta in respect of the following cemeteries which are also on the DVD:
 - North West, District Lichtenburg, Bakerville, Miner's Cemetery
 - North West, District Lichtenburg, Lichtenburg, Main Cemetery,
- Biesiesvlei, near Lichtenburg: photos of this cemetery have been forwarded to Alta by Theodorus and Karen Maree. Excel sheets were also forwarded to Peter for inclusion in the DVD Project. (550 names)
- Carol Beneke continues to keep the details of the Burial Register for Forest Hill Cemetery, Port Elizabeth up to date on the DVD; now completed up to Dec 2012 and totals 32 939.
- Free State, WINBURG, Voortrekker gedenktuin graves are now on the web.
- Free State, District Winburg, Winburg, Concentration Camp Memorial & Cemetery (539 names); Free State, District Winburg, Winburg, Old Cemetery (103 names); Free State, District Winburg, Winburg, Vaalkop Cemetery (No names – needs recording). These are now all on the DVD. (The photographs of the overviews and the GPS coordinates were obtained by Peter Moss and John Schwartz, as mentioned in the previous Newsletter.)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE REGISTERS FOR THREE CONCENTRATION CAMP CEMETERIES ARE ALSO TO BE FOUND ON THE **DVD.**

- Free State, BLOEMFONTEIN, Armor museum, memorials – photos now on eGGSA site.
- Ewan Douglas has provided 39 names from the NG Kerk Wall of Remembrance at Groot-Brakrivier, Greenhaven.
- An additional 301 names from the Panorama Cemetery in Roodepoort has been submitted by West Gauteng Branch of GSSA.
- Tian Schutte has provided a very interesting compilation of information in respect of the death of Graf van Ulrich Franick (Krugersdorp Kommando), original address: Dalmatia, Austria (today Dalmatia is part of Croatia), Battlefield Strydkraal, Wakkerstroom, died on 24-06-1900. Unfortunately it is not possible to reproduce the whole document which runs to 5Mb. Suffice it to say that Tian has done extensive research to identify the deceased and the whereabouts of his grave. It may be found at Palmietspruit, Amersfoort



GPS:S27°02'22.41" E29°45'52.75"

If you are interested in more detail in respect of Tian's research, please contact him at ts@cri.co.za

Branch News

eGGSA HEADSTONE PHOTOGRAPHS PROJECT

The Gravehunters

By Alta Griffiths

8 October 2013

Progress

As always, the photo project is doing well. The photos are coming in fast. In the last 10 days we received 6918 photo. We still have to move 28 000 photos across to the public page before the end of the year, to reach our target of 550 000 photos on the web. The volunteers are working very hard to get the photos done in time.

Cemeteries that talk to you

André van Dyk send us this photo taken at the Liebenbergstroom farm, outside Edenville in the Free State.



Lovely ...!

Photo contributions

Photo contributions received since our last report in Cemetery Newsletter V 11 No 2

AletSwanepoel	Glen Swemmer	Lynn MacLeod
Alta Roux	GGSA Free State	Magda Meyburgh
André van Dyk	GGSA North West	Margaret Truter
Ann Tiran	GGSA Northern Transvaal	Maria Victor
Ann van WykWessels	GGSA West Gauteng	Marielle Ford
Annari	Glynis Millet-Clay	Marius Strauss

Anne Marx	Gordon Campbell	Maureen Kruger
Annel Meyer	Hannes Meyburgh	Maureen Schnittker
AnnemieLourens	Hannes Theron	MéchelleBeneke
AttieDelpport	Hannes Wessels	Melt Loubser
Bernard Rudolph	Hendrik Maree	Monica Schumann
Brian Barrett	Hennie Steyn	Nantes en Rina Kruger
Brian Margetson	Henry Rudman	Nick Hinde
Carol Beneke	Ignis Jacobson	Nico Burger
Celia Fourie	Isabel Jones	PeetSchabort
Charles Wait	IzetteSoiné	Peter and Beverley Moss
Clive Osche	Jak van den Bergh	Peter and Leslie de Klerk
Colleen Gray	Jaleen de Beer	Pieter Erasmus
Connie Griessenc	Jan Coetzee	Pieter Oosthuizen
Corrie Evert	Janine van der Merwe	Pieter Taljaard
Corrie van Biljon	Johan Hefer	Riana le Roux
DaanBotes	Johan Pottas	Rob and Wendy Wood
Darryl Allwright	Johan Viktor	Rob Jones
David de Klerk	Johan Wessels	Robert McTavish
David Mayo	John Deare	Rod and Helga Beaumont
Dawie Burger	John Schwartz	Romy
De Wet Steenkamp	John Webb	RosaleenFlanegan
Derek Austin	JoostHogewoning	Rose McArthur
Derek Walker	JorriePotgieter	RuslouKoorts
Dirk van Heerden	JozefMocke	SakkieNel
Douglas Ewan	Kathy Cotterrell	Sandra Campbell
Eckhard von Fintel	Kobus de Klerk	Sarel Burger
Elorina du Plessis	Koos and Janet Lourens	SEWFHS
EmmerentiaGeldenhuys	KriekFourie	Sharon Immelman
EriaanOelofse	Len Combrinck	StoffelWillemse
EttieneWeideman	Leon Marais	Suzette de Goede
FanieBlignaut	Leon van der Westhuizen	Suzette Haines
Fleur Way-Jones	Levien Smuts	Theodorus Maree
Francois Joubert	Linda Gropp	TianSchutte
Francois Visser	Louis Botha	WietzBeukes
FreekMyburgh	LudwicBeneke	Wilfred Duckitt
Fritz Fourie	Lynette Paul	

A big thank you to all!

SOUTH EAST WITS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

This Society continues to submit between 1 000 and 2 000 photographs per month of the Brakpan Brenthurst Cemetery headstones. They have now completed this cemetery.

The final totals recorded will be reported in the next Newsletter and hopefully a photo of all the contributors will also be available.

Enquiries

Janet Melville of East Cape Branch, with the help of Hendrik Louw assisted a new member of the Society, Jenny Louw, with successfully finding the link between her husband's family and the rest of the Louws in South Africa.

New DVD

The 2013 DVD can be ordered from the GSSA at orders@genza.org.za or on-line via the eGSSA web page <http://www.eggssa.org/>

Items of Interest

The problem of vandalism and squatters in cemeteries continues unabated. John Deare of Midlands Branch dropped us the following note:

- “This morning I visited Ros and Celeste at AMAFA and submitted:
 - 1) An Affidavit concerning the Lych gate building and the squatters who are slowly destroying it.
 - 2) A full report indicating the history of the Original Committee Action Group and more recent complaints.
 - 3) A document prepared some years ago giving the full history of the site.
 - 4) A collection of press cuttings collected over the past 4 years related to vandalism, theft and the unkempt grounds.

Ros indicated that it would take AMAFA some time to process the complaint because of legal and procedural problems.

The only practical solution is to brick up the doorways to the two store-rooms the squatters are using. This I have suggested to Alan Bennet, Head of Municipal Security.

I will email the local councilor for that area a copy of my report plus a note to call their attention to a broken water pipe in the section nearest The Old Greys Hospital.

I will wait a further week to give Municipal security an opportunity to evict the squatters before submitting same to local Press.

John”

- **Lyslede,**

N.a.v. my navraag oor die herstel van Jack Hindson se kantelende grafsteen in die Middelburg - wes BP, het die erfenisstigting vir my riglyne gestuur wat persone moet doen om grafstene skoon te maak en te herstel. Estelle Pretorius het in die afwesigheid van Cecilia Kruger, Senior Bestuurder Erfenisbewaring, vir my 'n dokument gestuur wat sy gewoonlik vir persone stuur wat navraag doen oor hoe om begraafplase skoon te maak.

Die basiese riglyne vir die skoonmaak van grafte verskyn hier onder. Let asb op die volgende:

- Dit is altyd belangrik om alles wat gedoen word te dokumenteer. 'Voor' en 'Na-foto's' is baie belangrik.
- GPS koördinate is NB
- Name op grafstene
- Plan van begraafplaas

Groete

Tian Schutte (Nelspruit)

(The Legislation and International Conservation Charters have been attached for your interest as ANNEXURE 2)

- The following is an excerpt from the August 2013 newsletter of the Natal S A Military History Society forwarded to Peter Moss by Pam & Phil Beck of the Cape:

Desecration of the Winston Churchill Memorial, Frere. Fellow member Simon Blackburn of Three Tree Hill Lodge was shocked to see that the railing around the Winston Churchill Memorial near Frere in Northern KwaZulu-Natal has been stolen, leaving the memorial barren. A photograph is attached. This is where those members of the armoured train reconnaissance who were captured by the Boers on the 15th November 1899 were assembled prior to being taken to Pretoria as PoWs. The cast iron railings have been in place for over 70 years, but are now about to be recycled. Perhaps the time has arrived for scrap metal dealers to be subjected to a little more scrutiny by the authorities. As someone pointed out to me, in China theft of heritage items is classified as Treason. Those caught stealing them are automatically sentenced to death, but are then give a suspended sentence.

Letters to the Editor

- Received from Pat Frykberg:

Dear John and all SO busy with this project, I am blown away by the dedication, and care. Wish I was 50 years younger and back in SA to help.

My sincerest congratulations and may every record you have found and photographed endure to keep the memories green of those who built SA. These are the ordinary unknown people but the real history makers.

Thank you for all that
Patricia Frykberg

- Received from Hannelie Lombard:

Morning John,

Thank you for this valuable newsletter. I am surprised to see how many people have a passion of our heritage even if it is gripped in the form of a grave stone – grave stones have a story to tell.

Keep it up and thanks again.
Hanelie Lombard

- Received from Johan Janse van Rensburg:

Hi John

Thanks for another very well put together news letter.

Regards
Johann

- Received from Vic Marneweck:

Hi John, I have discovered some graves, including a military grave, at our training college close by Muldersdrift, took photographs, found the deceased's grave information on your website and compiled the attached report. One of the graves () a military grave of one Frans Van Zyl who partook in the Nooitgedacht Anglo Boer war. This triggered my attention and I subsequently went to the Nooitgedacht site where this battle occurred. I wanted to go to the memorial site on top of the said mountain but did not find the pathway to the top. However, I stood at the bottom of the mountain, the dirt road just below the mountain, took some photos. I will forward that as well with a further email.

P.S the inscriptions on these above mentioned grave stones are not clearly visible anymore and quite a challenge to take clear pictures. I was told that the family do visit those graves at times. As mentioned in my attached report, the site is based on private property i.e belongs to Nedbank.

I have done quite some family research (MARNEWECK/MARNEWICK) and will forward grave stone photos in due course. Due to the large memory size I will probably have post a CD.

- Received from Desiree Braithwaite:

Hi John, thank you for your prompt response.

The **ashes** are in my home right now .. the plan was to put them into the columbarium until a friend lost the door for it .. I cannot locate the same material so cannot put them into the columbarium as yet due to our outdoor temps. **The columbarium** for my parents and brother is in my back garden at "**Bron Heulog - Le Woof**" **54 Chapalina Park Cres SE Calgary, Alberta, T2X3S2** .. I will try and get a gps reading...is the gps reading of the position of the home ok or must it be the actual columbarium (being that they are still in the house). At my time of death should my son no longer wish them in the home, he will make provision for their burial and advise further. It will be stated in my will re the advice.

Dates : Mum born 8 September 1937 - Mara Anna LE ROUX (at death) was married to my Father as NAUDE and then shortly before her death became LE ROUX - Maiden Name SMITH.
Date of Death 26 May 1986 Addington Hospital.

Dad - Benjamin NAUDE born **14 June 1929, Death 28 January 1984.** Died Red Hill, Durban.

Brother - Stuart John NAUDE born **11 August 1960. Date of Death 4 March 1983** at home 1521 Belvedere Road, Red Hill, Durban, Natal.

My sister, **Felicity NAUDE** Is buried in **Greytown Cemetary**, Natal. **Born 16 January 1956. Died 16 January 1956**, Buried 19 January 1956. Records state "still born" but she was born, cried .. (what transpired heavily disturbed my Dad). He lifted her dress as it appeared pulled up behind her, when the Priest came to baptise her however , the reason it was pulled up was because her entire back had been burnt. Hopefully there is a picture or someone can obtain one for me. I hope this helps.

Take Care

Desiree.

Editor's Note

PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE PROBABLY SOME RECORDINGS THAT I HAVE MISSED. IF I HAVE MISSED YOUR CONTRIBUTION PLEASE FORGIVE ME. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE MADE CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOTH PROJECTS.

Ferdie van Wyk, the GSSA's erstwhile webmaster has pointed out an error in the previous Newsletter: Please note that cemphoto@ggsa.info no longer exists. The correct email address is cemphoto@genza.org.za. (See page 8 of the previous Newsletter.)

Next Issue

The next Newsletter will hopefully be issued at the end of December 2013. Any comments, criticisms, articles of interest, etc should reach the Editor by not later than 15th December 2013.

If you wish to unsubscribe, send an e-mail with the Subject "Unsubscribe" to sfred@vodamail.co.za.

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The Genealogical Society of SA

Cemetery Recording Project Outline

March 2013

Mission

To preserve the genealogical information contained in cemeteries of South African interest and make the information accessible to genealogical researchers.

Scope and objectives of the project

- The Project is an initiative of the Genealogical Society of South Africa and as such will align its goals with the goals of the GSSA.
- The aim is to preserve information by the collecting, recording, processing and safekeeping of cemetery data. This is achieved by recording the genealogical information, including birth, death and burial data plus any personal historical data (e.g. occupation, marriage or any other family relationships) contained in the cemetery data.
- The data is collected from all cemetery type sources, including headstones, burial registers, memorials and cremation plaques.
- The project covers all cemetery data of South African interest, inside and outside of South Africa.
- A prime focus of the Project is the collection of information from the very many farm cemeteries that exist throughout SA. These have no burial registers and the headstones are more subject to neglect and damage than the town cemeteries (which are also under threat).
- Credit and acknowledgement will be given to Recorders.
- The GSSA is a non-profit organisation. All recording and administrative work is done by volunteers.

The Project is organised in two parts:

1 The DVD Project

The DVD Project collects name information from various sources (headstones, memorials, registers etc) and publishes this annually as an Index in DVD form. The Index is searchable by name, cemetery etc; DVD 11 published in March 2013 contains 571,665 names from 2948 cemeteries. In addition to Cemetery Recording efforts at the various GSSA Branches, we have a large number of individuals who record data and assist with data processing.

The DVD can be ordered from the GSSA at orders@genza.org.za or on-line via the eGSSA web page <http://www.eggasa.org/>

DVD Data Coordinators: Peter and Beverley Moss:

cemadmin@genza.org.za

2 The eGSSA Photo Project

The eGSSA (the web-based Branch of the GSSA) publishes headstone photos on the internet; these photo albums are searchable by name, cemetery etc. There is no charge for access.

The albums presently contain over 482,000 photos, with some 20,000 photos still to be processed. This effort is coordinated by Alta Griffiths: cemphoto@genza.org.za

eGSSA library webpage: <http://www.eggsa.org/library/main.php>

Postal address: PO Box 1998, DURBANVILLE, 7551.

Other Project features of interest are:

- **The Cemetery Project Newsletter**

The Newsletter edited by John Schwartz covers both aspects of the Project: to subscribe please contact newsletter@genza.org.za

- **The GSSA webpage**

Please also visit the GSSA homepage www.genza.org.za for further information. Select the required tab for PROJECTS / Cemetery Project.

The DVD Project area contains various reports giving the status of the cemetery recording effort, which cemeteries have been recorded, etc. This cemetery recording status is recorded in excel files on the web page, go to Projects / Cemetery Recording / Cemetery DVD Updates and Reports. These files

are updated monthly.

- **The GSSA Google Earth Cemetery Initiative**

Explore the GSSA cemetery locations live on line! Visit the GSSA web page and click on **GSSA Google Earth Cemetery Initiative**, where we display our cemetery locations on a Google Earth platform. You will need a broadband connection and “Google Earth” preloaded on your pc to view this (free download from www.earth.google.com)

- **About the Cemetery Index**

The Cemetery Index is used to manage the recording effort and correlate data between the DVD and eGSSA projects. It contains 3 main areas:

1. **Cemetery names**, including CemID, where we use the farm name / number as found on the 1:50000 maps of SA. There can be more than 1 cemetery location on a farm (see 3.)
2. **Documents**, including DocID, which tracks recorder and submitter names, dates entered, etc. There can be many documents for a single cemetery, due to revisions, updates etc.
3. **Cemetery locations**, including GPSID, which contains the GPS coordinates, links to eGSSA photo albums, etc, and provides data for the Google Earth Cemetery Initiative.

Cemeteries	4417	Documents	5243	Cemetery Locations	5200
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- **Recording – please help**

We request that recorders send in headstone photos, or provide a transcript of the headstone information (preferably in our standard excel format which saves time at our end), and also provide GPS coordinates and a view photo of the cemetery.

If you are interested in helping with recording work, data processing or any other aspect of the

Project, please contact the Coordinators noted above for further information.

Thank you for your interest

The Cemetery Recording Team

ANNEXURE 2

Legislation and International Conservation Charters

The National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, The *ICOMOS Australia Burra Charter* and the *ICOMOS Charter* are the main guideline documents in proposed work for cemeteries and graves.

The value and significance of cemeteries

General

Cemeteries are an important part of South Africa's heritage. The burial sites of our ancestors provide a glimpse into the history of our nation's growth and insight into its development. Cemeteries may be the only place where a person's life in South Africa is recorded.

Cemetery Components and their Heritage Values

The National Heritage Act (Act 25 of 1999), the *ICOMOS Australia Burra Charter* and the *ICOMOS Charter* define a number of "values" which may contribute to the heritage significance of a place. All cemeteries have social and historic values and most have a greater or lesser degree of aesthetic and scientific values. The natural elements of a cemetery contribute some additional values, broadly referred to as existence value and life support value. Any one or a number of these values may be important in assessing the heritage significance of a cemetery, and should be considered before commencement of any work.

Historical Values

A cemetery is an historic document of South African society. Through its establishment and use, the cemetery documents settlement patterns and the development and growth of a community. Graves and Monuments in cemeteries provide important demographic data about the community. Cemeteries often contain monuments that commemorate significant events in a local community. Cemeteries can also have historical significance by virtue of the graves of important individuals who have made important contributions to the community.

Social Values

Cemeteries have an important commemorative function within the community. The community often attaches attitudes and values to the graves, such as respect or reverence. Many cemeteries hold a special significance for individuals and communities as a result of personal sentiment and/or attachment to those buried within the cemetery. Early settlers' graves and war graves are examples of graves often considered socially significant to the whole community.

Religious Values

Cemeteries reflect the religious beliefs and customs of different sections of the community. These are demonstrated in the customs and rituals associated with burial and commemoration. Religious adherence and beliefs can change over time, and this is often reflected in the monuments and layout of the cemetery. A cemetery itself may also be significant to a particular religious group or individuals.

Genealogical Information

Nearly all monuments record genealogical information. Some headstones provide further information such as personal history and cause of death. Grouping of monuments often indicates family connections and consequently grave markers should not be considered in isolation.

Artistic, Creative and Technical Elements

Many cemeteries reflect developments in architectural and artistic style and theory. Artistic values can be found in the landscape design and layout of the cemetery and in the various monument styles, grave surrounds and grave furniture.

A cemetery may be significant on account of the variety of artistic approaches represented in its monumental architecture and also in the quality of craftsmanship.

Cemeteries often contain examples of work by local artisans and manufacturers. A monumental mason often signed the monument or headstone, allowing the work of local craftsmen to be identified. As well as the monument itself, the execution of the lettering for the inscription may demonstrate fine workmanship. Iron grave surrounds may be locally produced and sometimes bear the name of the manufacturer of iron foundry. Grave markers may also show creative or technical ingenuity, through their use of materials or execution. This is particularly true in isolated rural districts where access to skilled monumental masons was not always available.

Setting

A cemetery is often significant on account of its relationship to the natural and built environment. It may be a prominent feature of the landscape or it may be located adjacent to a church or form a significant element within the townscape.

Landscape Design

The arrangement of burial areas, alignment of drives, paths, avenues of trees and massing of shrubs add significance to cemeteries as does the extent to which the design is still evident or has been changed. Overall landscape quality is determined by the combined effect of setting, landscape design and botanical elements.

Botanical Elements

Some cemeteries contain significant remnants or indications of the original natural vegetation, while early burial grounds often contain a variety of plantings which are no longer evident elsewhere. Extant evergreen trees, bulbs, roses and other original grave or landscape plantings contribute to the cemetery's visual and nostalgic quality. Plantings were often chosen for their symbolic meanings, particularly in the 19th century.

Life Support Elements

As mentioned above some cemeteries contain significant remnants or indications of the original natural vegetation. Such natural plants associations may also provide a sanctuary for animal life. Even where no rare or threatened species are identified, a cemetery may contain a rare or particularly well-preserved example of the ecosystems in an area. For this reason it is important to consider the plants as an association, not just as a collection of types.

Human Remains

The human remains in a cemetery are not generally visible but they comprise a major element of heritage significance. Reasons for their importance include archaeological and scientific potential, issues of religious belief, their meaning to relatives and general community respect for our ancestors. These issues remain relevant to unmarked graves and burial areas cleared of previous monuments, as well as marked grave sites.

Historic Cemeteries

Historic cemeteries are found in rural and urban areas across South Africa, providing rare opportunities to study and honour our ancestors and the communities they created. They are not only memorials to past generations, but are evidence of settlement patterns, family relationships, religion, lifestyle and craftsmanship. Some cemeteries are well kept and obviously important to current generations, others exist in shadows, lost in forgotten memories.

Cemetery Conservation Plan

When individuals or organisations undertake a cemetery conservation project, they often have some idea of what they want to accomplish. However, the task of preserving a cemetery can be overwhelming, making it hard to know how to begin the project. Creating a Cemetery Conservation Plan forces an individual or group to think about all the various aspects of the project and establish priorities, define involvement, and create a realistic work plan.

A cemetery conservation plan is an important step in the preservation of any historic cemetery. Before a tree is removed, before a grave marker is cleaned, before any work is done, an overall plan is an essential tool for establishing goals, prioritizing activities,

and developing an annual maintenance schedule. It also contains important records such as cemetery survey forms, photographs of grave markers and features, and a written history along with other historical data about the cemetery.

Cleaning historic grave markers

Many well intentioned cemetery cleaning projects have ended up causing more harm than good. People generally rush into these projects without ever giving any thought to researching proper preservation and conservation methods. There are techniques that can be extremely harmful to grave markers and actually speed up the natural weathering process. Before you begin any cleaning project, investigate the proper preservation and/or conservation methods to ensure that the grave markers are protected. You might consider consulting with a professional who is knowledgeable about the treatment of historic grave markers.

Masonry grave markers

The reasons for cleaning any grave marker must be considered carefully before arriving at a decision to clean.

Is it the cleaning being done to improve the appearance of the grave marker or to make it look new? The so-called “dirt” actually may be weathered masonry, not accumulated deposits; a portion of the masonry itself thus will be removed if a “clean” appearance is desired.

Is there any evidence that dirt and pollutants are having a harmful effect on the masonry. Improper cleaning can accelerate the deteriorating effect of pollutants.

These concerns may lead to the conclusion that cleaning is not desirable at least not until further study is made of the grave marker, its environment and possible cleaning methods.

Below are some general guidelines for cleaning historic grave markers.

Suggested Cleaning Methods

1. Determine the condition of the gravestone before you attempt any cleaning. Are there obvious cracks in the stone? Is it leaning? Are there signs of sugaring of the stone? If so, leave it alone. Any pressure on the stone could cause it to break or further erode the outer layer of the stone.
2. Determine why the marker needs to be cleaned. Is it covered in atmospheric pollutants and dirt, biological growth such as pollen, fungi, moss, or algae that are harming the stone? In many cases, these pollutants and growth have gotten deep into the pores of the gravestone and simply cannot be removed. Before washing the stone, try brushing off or scraping off the biological growth with Popsicle sticks, Q-tips, or any

other material that is softer than the stone.

3. It is important to soak the stone for as long as possible 24 hours is the recommended time, but often that is not practical, especially if the cemetery has no water available on site. A good time to clean is after a heavy soaking rain.
4. Clean stones using the **Gentlest Means Possible**. Most dirt can be removed by using water and a soft bristle brush (nylon, plastic, natural, toothbrushes, etc.). If the cemetery has no available water, you will need to bring a lot water with you. Begin cleaning at the bottom of the marker and work up. Once clean, be sure to rinse the stone with water to remove all the surface dirt. The purpose of cleaning is to remove harmful substances, not to make the grave markers look brand new. These are historic artefacts and should retain their historic character after cleaning.
5. Never use strong solutions such as acids, bleach or blasting to remove dirt or plant growth from the grave markers. While you might be initially impressed by the extremely white appearance that you get when you clean with acids or bleach, you have introduced chemicals into the pores of the historic gravestone that will infinitely increase the speed of deterioration. A product that is safe to use is Teepol Dishwashing Liquid (original type not the lemon one). Make a weak solution.

6.

Repairing historic grave markers

Repairing historic grave markers is perhaps the most difficult of all cemetery work. The majority of repairs will be extremely complicated and will require a professional. Just as certain cleaning techniques can prove extremely harmful to the life of the stone, insensitive repair techniques can be exceedingly more harmful to the stone. Before you begin any repair project, investigate the proper preservation and/or conservation methods to ensure that the grave markers are protected. Below are some general guidelines for repair.

Suggested Repair Methods

1. Remember it is important to leave the grave markers alone until the appropriate intervention is identified.
2. Repair masonry utilising **Like Materials** only. Always use materials that are softer than the original stone. Introducing harder materials to “glue pieces of stone together will cause great tension on the original stone causing not only new breaks, but will cause the repair to fail. Portland cement should never be used to repair stonework, to fill joints, or to adhere pieces of stone. Never place broken pieces of stone into wet concrete. Further adhesives of any sort should be avoided due to their creating a moisture barrier that contributes to breakage and deterioration of stonework. Lime

mortar is recommended for these types of repairs. Most repairs should be reserved for a professional to avoid further damage of the headstone.

3. Recreation of Walls or Building Fences: Walls or fences often surround only marked graves in a cemetery. More times than not, unmarked graves lay outside the fenced area. Therefore, it is imperative that the locations of all burials be identified before any fencing is constructed.

4. Often, historic markers were constructed of fragile materials or were held together by gravity only (obelisks, for example). It is important that these design features be respected prior to making any repairs.

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anne prince	ivy trott	reza brits
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christel august	lettie du preez	shamiel gamaldien
chuck osborne	lloyd scott	sharleen stuart
conrad steenkamp	louis chadinha	shirley black
coral ann foster	louis nell	simone van der westhuizen
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danie viljoen	martin knoetze	steve hayes
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duppie du plooy	mujun wu	trudy du bruyn
elisheva quick	neil holmes	ursula p
elizabeth teir	nigel mcferran	valerie de kock
elize pieterse	ockert fourie	vanessa verreyne
elske van rooyen	oscar sher	vic olivier
geoffrey chew	pam mienie	vickie beamish
gert claassen	pat brown	vickie slogrove
gert esterhuizen	pat longman	viv kymdell
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