

SILENT CITIES

CEMETERIES AND CLASSROOMS

Alexia
Jones
Helsley

South Carolina
Department of
Archives and History



*Cover photograph: Old Brick Church, Fairfield County.
Photo Jack E. Boucher, Historic American Buildings Survey.*

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Frontispiece: Trinity Cathedral, Columbia, SC. Coleman Photography, Charleston.

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SO LIVE, THAT WHEN THY SUMMONS COMES
TO JOIN
THE INNUMERABLE CARAVAN, WHICH MOVES
TO THAT MYSTERIOUS REALM, WHERE EACH SHALL
TAKE
HIS CHAMBER IN THE SILENT HALLS OF DEATH,
THOU GO NOT, LIKE THE QUARRY-SLAVE AT NIGHT,
SCOURGED TO HIS DUNGEON, BUT, SUSTAINED
AND SOOTHED
BY AN UNFALTERING TRUST, APPROACH THY GRAVE,
LIKE ONE WHO WRAPS THE DRAPERY OF HIS
COUCH
ABOUT HIM, AND LIES DOWN TO PLEASANT DREAMS.

—“THANATOPSIS” BY
WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT

Dedicated

to

George Alexander and Evelyn Masden Jones
who taught me to love the past

Background

Cemeteries dot the urban and rural landscape of America. The grave markers—from the humble field stone to the ornate mausoleum—honor the dead. Cemeteries were prominent in the lives of our ancestors. They can be found on the outskirts of towns, clustered around churches, or on knolls behind rural homesteads. The word cemetery derives from the Latin word *cemeterium*, a sleeping place. Burial grounds remind us, just as they did our ancestors, of the transitory nature of life. In a cemetery, death is neither out of sight nor out of mind.

Cemetery inscriptions and symbols often echoed this theme:

AS YOU ARE NOW,
SO ONCE WAS I
AS I AM NOW,
SO YOU MUST BE.
SO PREPARE FOR DEATH
AND FOLLOW ME.

Cemeteries hold genealogical information and more. Archaeological studies have uncovered ancient burial sites that tell us much about past cultures—about the Egyptians, who mummified remains and built massive pyramids; about horsemen on the steppes of Mongolia, who buried their honored dead beneath mounds of earth; about the Greeks and Romans, who often carved representations of the deceased in marble. In Genesis, we read that Abraham buried Sarah in a cave he had purchased as a burying place.¹



*Graveyard on Brewton Plantation, Prince William Parish. Joseph Izard was buried here on 31 July 1745. John R. Todd & Francis M. Hutson. **Prince William Parish & Plantation**. Richmond: Garrett & Massie, 1935, 154.*

Richmond, Virginia. Graves of Confederate soldiers in Hollywood Cemetery with board markers. Library of Congress, LC-B8171-9031 DLC.



Early settlers here faced starvation, extreme weather, a hostile environment, high infant mortality, and disease. Studies of graveyards, their tombstones, and the inscriptions reflect the impact these factors had on those settlers and also on the way the people who came after them lived, died, and viewed life. In short, graveyards offer a distinctive insight into the life and times of those who have gone before us.²

Early graveyards

Many early burial sites are anonymous, marked sometimes with uncarved fieldstones and sometimes only with wooden planks, now destroyed by time and the elements. Later, during the Civil War, wooden boards often marked a soldier's remains, which were eventually dug up and reburied in established cemeteries.



Butler Family Cemetery, Saluda County, South Carolina. State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), National Register files, South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH).



St. Michael's churchyard, Charleston, South Carolina. Library of Congress, Detroit Publishing Co., Photograph Collection. LC-D4-5787 DLC.

The earliest cemeteries were small family plots or churchyards. Early land and probate records sometimes mention these family plots. When Isaac Porcher and his wife, Claude, deeded property to Francis Le Jan in 1712, for example, they reserved “for themselves and their Children the privilege of having their Corps after their Decease brought to the burying place already erected upon the said plantation.”³ Slate was the stone of choice for seventeenth-century tombstone engravers. It cut finely, left sharp white incisions, and was durable—it withstood the ravages of cold and water better than marble.⁴

The earliest gravestones or tombstones bore simple inscriptions. Later, pictorial representations appeared. Gravestones, therefore, fall into three categories:

1. Iconic—they carry a pictorial representation.
2. Non-iconic—they carry text only.⁵
3. A combination of icon and text—they carry both picture and text (epitaph).⁶

Mid- and late-eighteenth-century graveyards

Cultural environment and religious preferences influenced gravestone design. In the eighteenth century, New England stone cutters and British motifs influenced the design of lowcountry gravestones. One of the earliest tombstones of English origin is Anne Scott's 1740 stone in St. Philips churchyard in Charleston.⁷ Pictorial representations, however, were few in number until the late-eighteenth century. The stone of the Savage children in the Circular Churchyard in Charleston is one exception.⁸

Charleston graveyards hold most of South Carolina's surviving eighteenth-century iconic tombstones. Henry Emmes of Boston even signed his stones by way of advertisement. By 1773, stone carvers were advertising in the Charleston newspapers.⁹

Burials continued to take place in family plots and in churchyards until the nineteenth century. Many who were buried in rural and in city churchyards were placed in unmarked graves. The poor in



JOHN BULL,
 ENGRAVER OF
 TOMB and GRAVE-STONES,
 From New-Port, Rhode Island,
INFORMS the Inhabitants of this, and
 the neighbouring Provinces, that he carries on that
 Business at his Shop on Champneys's Wharf, in Charles-
 Town, in this Province, where any Person may be supplied
 with TOMB and GRAVE-STONES, finished in the neatest
 Manner, and on the shortest Notice, as he has brought with
 him a few already cut, fit for engraving. The Favours
 of any Gentlemen or Ladies will be gratefully acknow-
 ledged, and the utmost Endeavours exerted to give entire
 Satisfaction by said BULL, who if he finds proper En-
 couragement, will continue in the same Business.

Left. Portrait head from Mendon, Mass. Gillon. *Early New England Gravestone Rubbings*, plate 172. Right. John Bull advertises for customers. *South Carolina Gazette and Country Journal*, 26 January 1773.

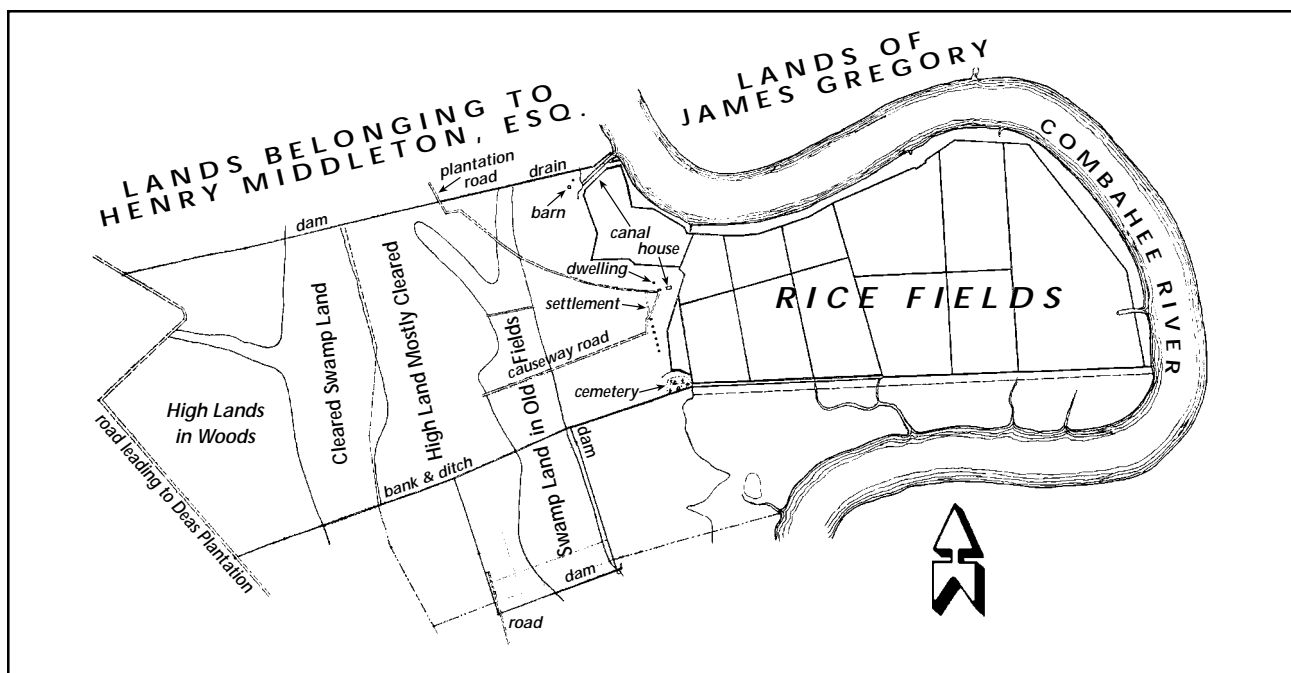
cities were buried in potters fields or in other burial sites set aside for the poor. Slaves on plantations were buried in the plantation's slave cemetery, their resting place, if noted at all, marked with a fieldstone. Families on farms and plantations normally had family plots. They contained family members of direct descent, relatives by marriage, and, occasionally, several generations. Today, these family burial sites are, perhaps, the most endangered. Land that once was cleared for farming is now forested. Overgrown cemeteries are difficult to locate. Trees and their roots damage the surviving tombstones. In addition, these sites are threatened when mature trees are logged, or when land is cleared for development.

The rural cemetery

In the nineteenth century, the idea of designing cemeteries as gardens or parks seized the public imagination. This "Rural Cemetery" movement began in America in 1831 with the establishment of



Left. Family burial ground of Captain John White Gregorie begun in 1887. Richfield Plantation, Hutson & Todd, *Prince William Parish*, 261. Right. The Ulmer family graveyard, Ulmer's or Rose Hill Plantation, Hutson & Todd, *Prince William Parish*, 174.



*Plantation plat with cemetery. Tim Belshaw's adaptation of John Wilson's 1824 plat of Green Point Plantation (Gaillard Plat Collection, South Carolina Historical Society), in Suzanne Linder, **Historical Atlas of the Rice Plantations of the ACE River Basin—1860**. Columbia, S.C. SCDH, 1995, 197.*

Mount Auburn in Boston, Massachusetts,¹⁰ and coincided with an effort to soften the stark reality of death by emphasizing the tomb as a place of refuge from the hustle and bustle of life. The shift from city cemeteries to large, park-like, rural creations came at a time when churchyards were congested and cemeteries were perceived as threats to public health. A report in 1859 to the City Council of Charleston deplored the reuse of burial plots and cited two 1825 reports to the vestry of St. Philips Church, which stated that within three years, a “body and coffin” would have decayed enough to allow another burial in the same space. The 1859 report further alleged that although there were only 275 tombs and monuments at St. Philips, the site, which had been used for burials for a hundred

years, had had “about seven thousand bodies . . . placed there.” The perceived danger to health was believed to be the result of noxious gases escaping from decaying bodies through the sandy soil.¹¹

Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston and Elmwood Cemetery in Columbia belong to the tradition of rural cemeteries. In 1849, the Magnolia Cemetery Company of Charleston established Magnolia Cemetery,



St. Philip's from the Old Church Yard, Charleston, S.C. Library of Congress, Detroit Publishing Co., Photograph Collection, LC-D4-500324 DLC.





Opposite page top: Live Oaks at Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, SC. Library of Congress, Detroit Publishing Co. Photograph Collection, LC-D4-5797 DLC; bottom: The Lake, Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, SC. Library of Congress, Detroit Publishing Co. Photograph Collection, LC-DA-72481 DLC. Above left: Gibbes Mausoleum, Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, SC. SHPO, National Register Files, SCDAH; right: Trapier-Jervey Gate, Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, SC. SHPO, National Register Files, SCDAH.

the first rural cemetery in South Carolina. Some burials there predate its 1850 dedication.¹² Elmwood Cemetery in Columbia was incorporated in 1854.¹³

The garden, or rural, cemeteries were laid out with walkways, streets, flowers, and trees. The dead lined the streets just as in life—the rich in ornate mausolea, and the poor under simple headstones. The Victorians saw the tomb as a final home—a place for the living to visit the dead. Commenting on the creation of Mount Auburn, Justice Joseph Story, in 1831, said it was built “to provide a home there with our friends.” The dead, he continued, should not “sleep their last sleep in the land of strangers.”¹⁴ It was in this century that the word cemetery, with its connotation of sleeping, came into use.¹⁵

Many older graves have both headstones and footstones. The footstone is smaller and often uncarved, though it sometimes carries initials. Between the two stones, which are closely analogous to the headboard and footboard of a bed, lay the earthly bed for the deceased—a reflection of the survivors’ belief that the deceased was “sleeping” until the final resurrection.¹⁶

Summary

Through the years, cemeteries have borne testimony to the vagaries of life and to man’s continuing struggle to manipulate the unknown frontier of death. They exist in endless variety, their stones commemorating the dead and reflecting the values of those who mourned them. They are an informative resource for classroom study.

The following pages suggest research strategies and provide additional information for interpreting and understanding cemeteries.

African American burial grounds

The first African American emigrants to South Carolina were probably buried in family plots or churchyards. Some plantation cemeteries appear on old land records. Fieldstones and other grave markings may aid in their location. Some cemeteries like the Brown Cemetery in Maryville may have evolved from earlier plantation cemeteries.¹⁷ The pattern for burials in seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries was one of segregation.

As early as 1746, the South Carolina legislature designated a two-acre tract in Charleston as an African American “burying ground.”¹⁸ To secure appropriate burial space, African Americans in the towns established churches and burial societies. In 1817, for example, a group of African American Methodists petitioned the South Carolina General Assembly to acquire two lots in Wraggborough “as a place of interment for themselves and their descendants; the present burial ground being inadequate.”¹⁹ As a result, the number of African American cemeteries in Charleston proliferated; by 1859 there were seventeen African American burial grounds there. At the same time, there were thirty burial grounds in Charleston for white inhabitants, a Strangers Cemetery for transients, and a Potters Field for the indigent of both races.²⁰

African American burial customs reflect the West and Central African origins of the early South Carolinians. Some of these customs include ringing the grave with sea shells and decorating it with



African American graves in Magnolia Cemetery, Aiken, SC. Library of Congress, Detroit Publishing Co. Photograph Collection, LC-D418-9369 DLC.

the deceased's possessions. Possessions include glassware, toys, occupational tools, and medicine. According to the Bakonga view of the world, there is a land of the living and a land of the dead separated by water. To ensure the deceased does not return for a favorite object, graves are decorated with items that the deceased may need in the next life. Some household goods—pitchers, pots, glasses and the like—may be inverted or broken to “free the spirit within the object.” The custom of including a clock face showing the time of death may blend African American and European traditions.²¹

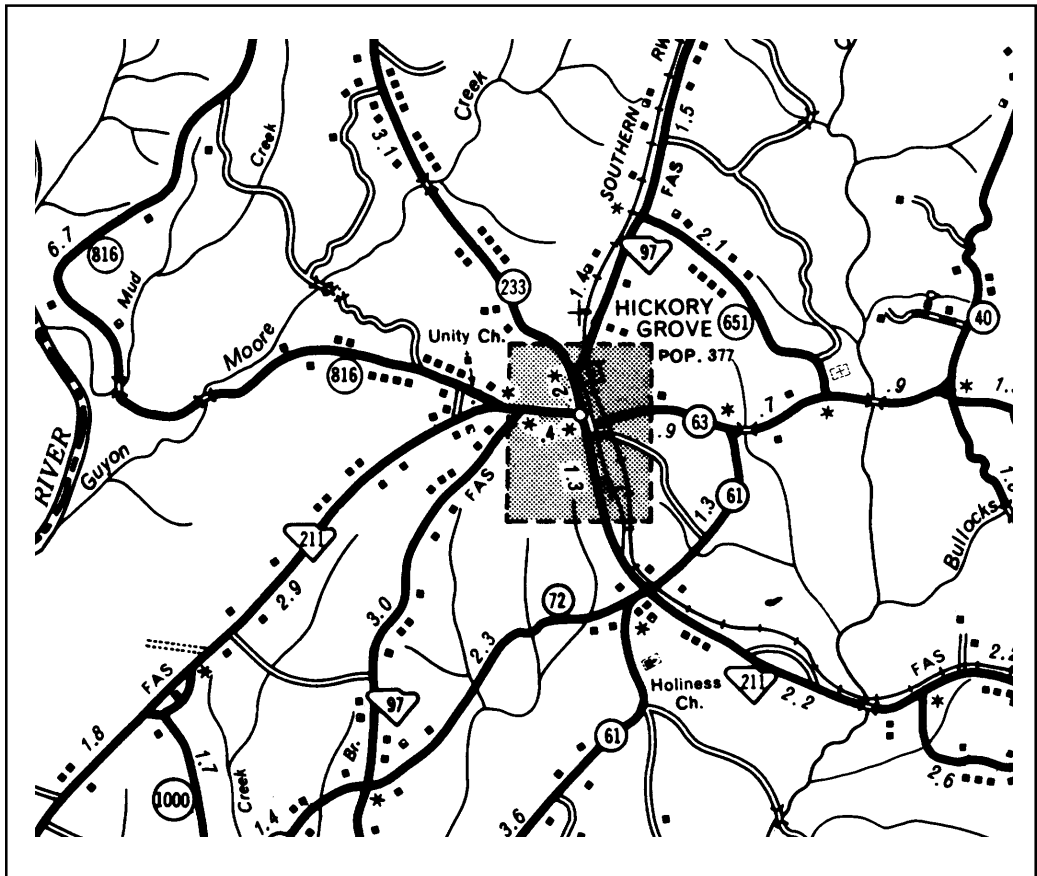
Locating and plotting cemeteries

Today, large memorial gardens or municipal cemeteries serve many communities. Churchyards are also frequent burial sites. To locate family or abandoned cemeteries, researchers use deeds, topographical and other maps and plats, and oral history.

Once you locate a family cemetery or an abandoned cemetery, plot it. Measure the length and breadth; use a compass to determine its orientation; and draw a diagram showing the bounds of the cemetery and the location of the graves. Traditionally, bodies are buried facing east. Knowing this makes it easier to orient graves. In plotting, include marked and unmarked graves and show their relationship to each other. Graveyards are changing environments. Gravestones may be broken or fall and become buried. Trees and other vegetation will cover abandoned or poorly maintained cemeteries. To obtain a more complete picture of the graveyard, students can use a metal pole to locate buried gravestones or unmarked graves.²²



Churchyard, Salem Black River Presbyterian Church, Sumter County, SC. SHPO, National Register Files, SCDAAH.



⊕ 14

Inscriptions

The word “inscription” derives from the Latin *inscriptus*, to write upon. It usually denotes something written or engraved on a solid substance. An epitaph is a particular type of inscription. Epitaphs are writings in honor of the deceased. In western culture, epitaphs date from the *Greek Anthology* of the seventh century and are an ancient form of literature. The wording of epitaphs attempts to express a sense of loss and connect the deceased to the living.²³ Inscriptions, therefore, range from the simple “here lies” to quotations from the Bible, or poems and verses especially composed for the occasion. Inscriptions may record name, birth and death dates, age at time of death, birthplace, place of death, cause of death, occupation, or family relationship. Inscriptions may be crudely cut, include only initials and a date, or be elaborately inscribed. Lettering often is Roman or Italic in style.

Brushing old stones with a soft plastic brush and water will clear it of moss, lichen and other debris and make the inscriptions more legible. While gravestone rubbing is popular, conservationists warn that it can damage the gravestones. In any case, tombstone rubbing should never be undertaken without first obtaining permission from the owners of the cemetery.



*James Shaw, d.1769, grave marker,
Waxhaw Presbyterian Church
Cemetery, Lancaster Co., S.C.
SHPO, National Register Files,
SCDAH.*



A rare example of a tombstone engraved on both sides (for back see next page). William Richardson's marker: Waxhaw Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Lancaster Co., S.C. SHPO, National Register files, SCDH.

Reverse of William Richardson's marker. Waxhaw Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Lancaster Co., S.C. SHPO, National Register files, SCDAH.



Iconography

The symbols on gravestones offer clues to the date of the burial, the carver of the stone, the national origin of the deceased, and the beliefs and world view of the deceased. Because many early settlers took the biblical admonition against graven images seriously, tombstones became a legitimate and major outlet for artistic drives.²⁴

Popular symbols and their meanings:

Angels—represent the spiritual realm—spiritual messengers or personal guardians.²⁵

Book—the book of life, symbolizes mortality. For example, Alexander Peronneau, Jr. (1747), Circular Congregational Churchyard, Charleston.²⁶

Angel writing in the Book of Life. Ellen Turner Monument, 1898, Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, SC. SHPO, National Register Files, SCDAH.



L. Celtic and other crosses, Charles Lowndes Monument, Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston. R. Vine-encrusted cross. Emma Heyward Haskell Monument, Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston. SHPO, National Register Files, SCDAH.

Cross—death and resurrection. The cross appears in different forms—Celtic, St. Andrews, and so forth. It can be a motif or the actual shape of the tombstone.

Dove—represented the Holy Spirit.²⁷

Flowers, fruits, and vegetables—flowers like mayflowers and dogwood, vegetables like ears of corn, and fruits like figs represent the seasons of life, its temporality, and, for Christians, everlasting life.²⁸ See also, rose.



*Left to right. 1. Dove representing hope for "Little Carrie." Gillon, **Early New England Gravestone Rubbings**, Plate 194. 2. Realistic calla lilies, narcissus, lilies of the valley, fern, and ivy grace the Elizabeth DeSaussure Tucker tombstone, 1889, Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston. SHPO, National Register Files, SCDAH. 3. Sheaf of wheat reflecting the temporality of life. St. Andrews Lutheran Cemetery, Richland County, SC. Alexia Jones Helsley.*

Furniture—household items like chairs, benches, and beds suggest death is a temporary absence.²⁹

Hand—either the hand of God reaching down to the departed, a hand pointing toward heaven, or two hands clasped.³⁰

Hourglass—sands of a lifetime have run out—allotted time of life.³¹

Lamb—Lamb of God, usually marks a child's grave.³²

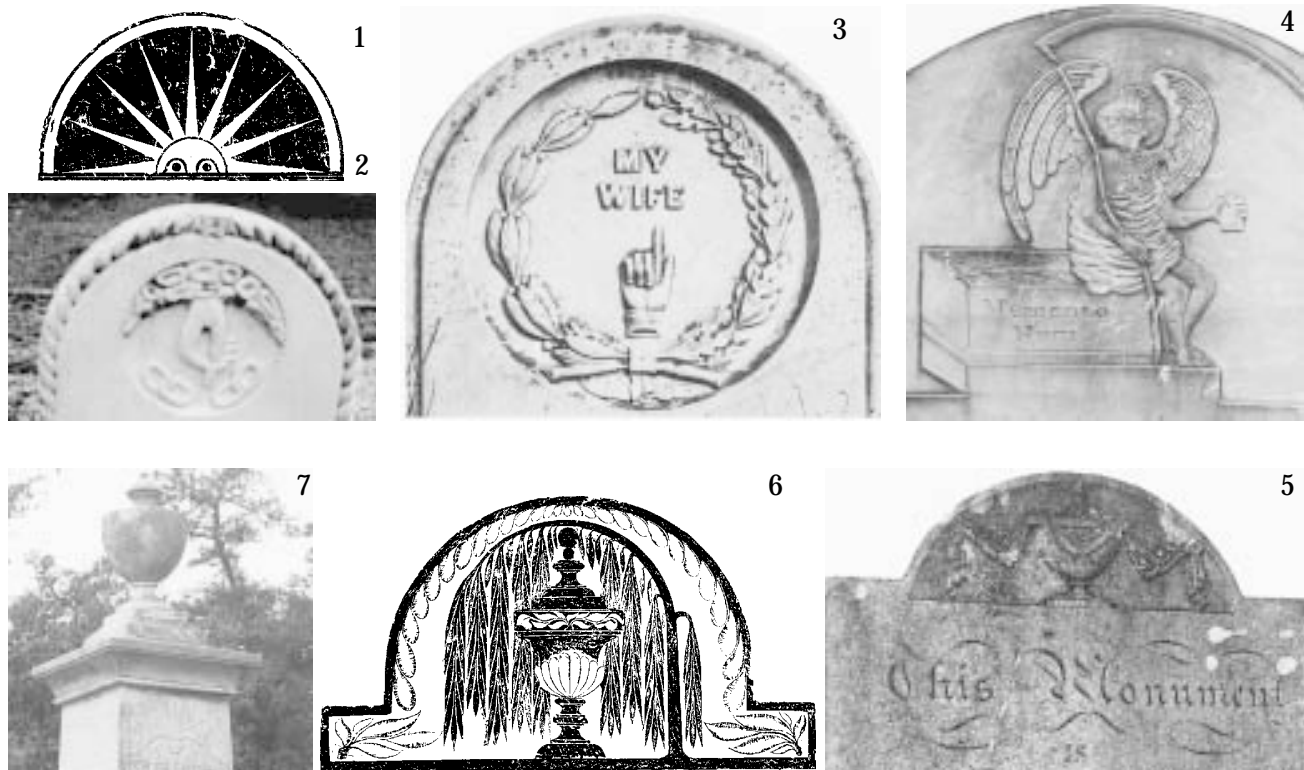
Rose—"traditionally associated with Christian love and purity" and always depicted without thorns. See for example, John Graham (1793) St. Philips Churchyard, Charleston.³³

Sickle—emblem of time.³⁴

Sun/sunburst—rising sun represents life after death; setting sun, death.³⁵

Urn and mourner—grief, loss of a loved one;³⁶ a popular memorial motif introduced into Charleston in the 1790s. The emblems can appear either separately or with the willow tree. See for example, Jacob Massis (1801) St. John's Lutheran Churchyard, Charleston.³⁷

Willow—loss of a loved one.³⁸

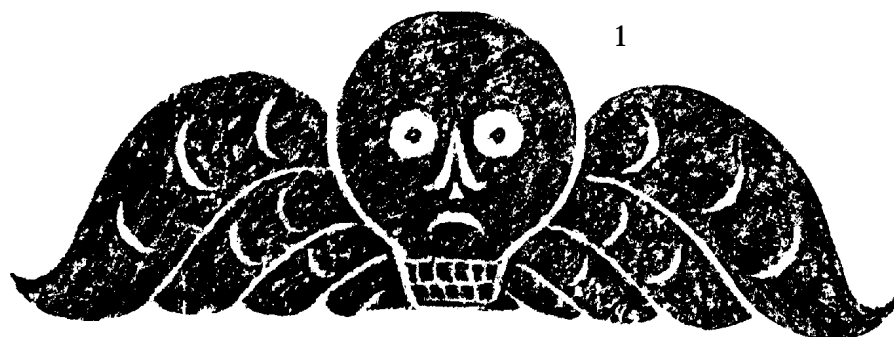


Clockwise from above, top left. 1. Sunburst motif. Gillon, *Early New England Gravestone Rubbings*, plate 149. 2. Hand of God reaching down to pluck man from earth. St. Andrews Lutheran Cemetery, Richland County, SC. Alexia Jones Helsley. 3. Hand pointing toward heaven encircled by the laurel wreath of victory. Gillon, *Early New England Gravestone Rubbings*, plate 187. 4. Father Time with sickle and hourglass. Gillon, *Early New England Gravestone Rubbings*, plate 181. 5. Urn with drapery. Major Robert Crawford, d.1801, gravestone, Waxhaw Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Lancaster County, SC. SHPO, National Register Files, SCDAH. 6. Urn and weeping willow tree. Gillon, *Early New England Gravestone Rubbings*, plate 116. 7. Solitary urn caps the monument to Governor Thomas Bennett, d.1865, Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, SC. SHPO, National Register Files, SCDAH.

Winged Cherub—an outgrowth of the earlier death's head, or winged skull, the winged cherub, popular in the late-eighteenth century, represents a heaven-bound soul.³⁹

Winged Skull or Death's Head—popular from mid-seventeenth through mid-eighteenth century, represents death with the hope of resurrection.⁴⁰

Other symbols or motifs—reflected occupation, fraternal organization (Woodmen of the World, Masonic lodge, and so forth), or military service.⁴¹



4

2



3

*Clockwise from top. 1. Winged Death's Head. Gillon, **Early New England Gravestone Rubbings**, plate 3. 2. R. Davie Coat of Arms, Gate to Davie Memorial, Waxhaw Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Lancaster County, SC. SHPO, National Register Files, SCDAH. 3. Masonic emblem on modern granite marker. Hebron Cemetery, Shepherdsville, Kentucky. Evelyn Masden Jones. 4. Masonic Gate, Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, SC. SHPO, National Register files, SCDAH.*



Clockwise from top left. 1. This imposing 1882 monument honors the Confederate dead interred in Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, SC. Library of Congress, Detroit Publishing Co. Photograph Collection, LC-D4-5799 DLC. 2. This 1868 marker is a rare example of a 19th-century stoneware gravestone. Discovered in a South Carolina cemetery, the marker was restored by the State Museum. South Carolina State Museum. 3. Modern granite tombstone. Hebron Cemetery, Shepherdsville, Kentucky. Evelyn Masden Jones.

Gravestone materials

Gravestone materials include wood, fieldstones, slate, sandstone, marble, granite, or any stone quarried nearby or available in the vicinity. Slate, the most durable, holds an inscription longest. Sandstone is easy to carve but flakes, and marble is soft and cracks easily. Metal markers, especially cast or wrought iron, were used in the 1870s and 1880s. Sandblasted zinc appeared c.1910. Other materials include ceramics and cement. Granite gained wide acceptance in the nineteenth century.⁴² In South Carolina, there are even ceramic tombstones.

Form

Gravestones may assume a variety of shapes. The earliest were fieldstones or vertical slabs. Tops of the vertical stones may be arched, rounded, squared, or otherwise shaped. In the nineteenth century, box tombs or burial slabs were common. Contrary to popular belief, the deceased is interred under ground even with box tombs. Mausolea, which resemble small houses of different architectural styles, reflect the wealth of the deceased and are often found in the park-like settings of the rural movement cemeteries. Other stones may resemble crosses, obelisks, tree trunks, or hearts. Gravestones can be square, rectangular, or other geometric shapes.⁴³



*Clockwise from top left. 1. Receiving tomb, Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, SC. SHPO, National Register files, SCDH. 2. This entwined column honors Col. William Washington, Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, SC. SHPO, National Register files. SCDH. 3. Box tomb of Mary Bull., d.1771, Sheldon Episcopal Churchyard, Prince William Parish. Todd & Hutson, **Prince William Parish & Plantations**, 134. 4. Cross monument, St. Andrews Lutheran Cemetery, Richland County, SC. Alexia Jones Helsley. 5. Heart shaped gravestone, St. Andrews Lutheran Cemetery, Richland County, SC. Alexia Jones Helsley.*

Classroom activities

These activities are planned for class field trips. They can be adapted to classroom use, however, by substituting photographs or drawings of gravestones for the field trips.

1. The 1902 Sears & Roebuck Catalog lists a variety of marble gravestones (page 25), all available through the mail. Visit cemeteries in your area to see if any of these stones were used in your community.

Compare the 1902 monument costs with costs of a gravestone today. As a follow-up, assign students to investigate the history of Sears & Roebuck and its impact upon American consumerism.

2. Ask students to research and to write a brief biographical sketch of a family, an individual, or a group of individuals. Many cemeteries and churches have records of individuals buried there. Churches may also have lists of baptisms and members. Libraries often hold newspapers, which can be checked for obituaries or news articles on epidemics and accidents. Many cities have city directories, which list inhabitants with their occupations and addresses. The 1850 and later U. S. Census schedules list members of a household, age, sex, race, and birthplace. Many libraries and archives have copies of these schedules or can borrow them through interlibrary loan.

3. List birthplaces, occupations, or causes of death if given. Several individuals with the same birthplace would suggest they are members of a family or group of families who emigrated together. What countries of origin are represented in the cemetery? Rank them in order by frequency. What does this information indicate about the ethnic composition and lifestyles of the community?

4. Prepare tables showing birth and death dates by sex and time period. Calculate the average age for men and women in the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. Evaluate the results. Answer the following questions: Did men live longer in the nineteenth century? What factors might explain your answer? What is the burial ratio of children to adults? If a number of individuals died around the same time, identify the factors that could be at work. Where could the student find additional information?

5. How many gravestones honor veterans? Which wars are represented? What percentage of the veterans actually died in military service?

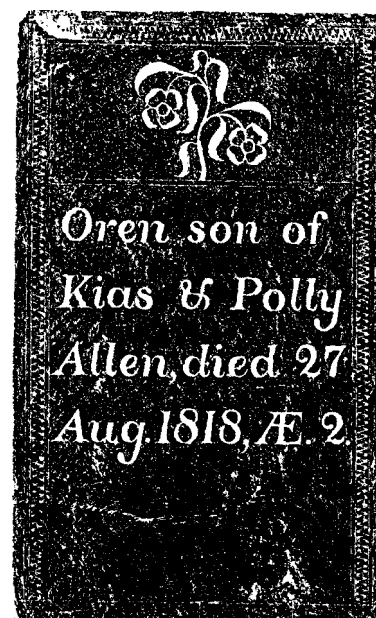
6. Analyze the inscriptions. Note various terms of interest. For example, the word *RELICT* means widow or, occasionally, widower; a *CONSORT* is a living spouse; but a *WIFE* may be living or dead. Ages may be given in years, months, and days or as a number. "Aged 57" can mean either in the 57th year or after the individual's 56th birthday. The letters *AE* are an abbreviation for the Latin *aetatis*, years of life.⁴⁴ Use a dictionary to define unfamiliar terms. Note the capitalization. Important words are often capitalized.

Notice the lettering and carving. Early inscriptions are often crudely cut. What poems, biblical verses, or phrases appear on the stones? Is the inscription simple or elaborate? Witty epitaphs were often the vogue in English or Scots Irish cemeteries. The Germans preferred simple, direct inscriptions, such as "Here lies the body of . . ." or "In memory of . . .".

7. For smaller cemeteries, students can inventory and transcribe the inscriptions. The finished product could be donated to a local library, archives, or historical society. To enhance the recordskeeping, consider photographing the inscriptions. For the best results, use slow exposure film and photograph the inscriptions from different angles, preferably at different times of the day. Mirrors or new, shiny baking sheets can be used to reflect the sun's rays and enhance the legibility of inscriptions. In recording the inscriptions, students should indicate whether the cemetery houses one or many families. Transcribe the entries carefully. Weathering, the style of cutting, and other factors will make chisel strokes age differently. As a result, students may have difficulty deciphering 3s from 5s or 8s from 3s.

If plotting the graveyard, identify the inscriptions with the burial site marked on the plat.

8. If permission is obtained, students can prepare rubbings with large crayons and sheets of newsprint. Carefully tape the paper to secure a better image, but tape it to the back *not* the front of the stone to reduce the risk of damage to the stone. Alternately, students can sketch interesting or unusual grave markers.



Left. Advertisement for gravestones by mail. *The 1902 edition of the Sears Roebuck Catalog*, Avenel, NJ: Portland House, 1993, 809. Used with permission of Random House Value Publishing, Inc. Above. The letters AE on this marker are an abbreviation for *aetatis*—years of life. Gillon, *Early New England Gravestone Rubbings*, plate 136.

9. Ask each student to design his or her own monument, reflecting personal interests, and to write an appropriate epitaph, reflecting his or her own life and how he or she wants to be remembered.
10. Using the Walhalla Cemetery register of owners and plat (pages 32 and 33), identify the owners of numbered grave plots on the plat of the cemetery. What information on ownership not found on the register does the plat contain?
11. Compare the sample Sanborn map (page 36), the topographic map and highway map (page 14) with the McCrady Plats (pages 34 and 35). How could these sources be used to locate and identify cemeteries?
12. Inscriptions are sandblasted on modern monuments. Older texts were carved with chisel and mallet. Visit a memorial garden. Note the uniformity of layout, marker design, and inscriptions. What does this cemetery development indicate about how Americans view death and the dead or indicate about twentieth-century American culture?
13. In your community, where are cemeteries located? What do these locations say about the settlement of your community? Do men lay out cemeteries on sloping ground, hill tops, or does terrain have any impact on the choice? Who owns the cemetery; who owns the land around it?
14. Collect and identify leaves from the plants and trees in the cemetery. Have any of the shrubs or trees damaged the tombstones? If so, how?

15. Identify a cemetery and assign students to inventory the gravestones, using the Cemetery Inventory Form on page 27.
16. Complete cemetery word puzzle on page 28 and define terms used.
17. Using the tombstone components on page 28, label the parts of the Dunlap gravestone on page 29.

Notes

1. Genesis 23:3–20. (KJV).
2. Diana Hume George and Malcolm A. Nelson, *Epitaph and Icon: A Field Guide to the Old Burying Grounds of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket*. Orleans, Massachusetts: Parnassus Imprints, 1983, xi.
3. Records of the Auditor General, Memorials (Copy Series), v. 2, 76–79. SCDAH.
4. David Kindersley and Lida Lopes Cardozo, *Letters Slate Cut*. New York: Taplinger Publishing Company, 1981.
5. Diana Williams Combs, *Early Gravestone Art in Georgia and South Carolina*. Athens and London: University of Georgia Press, 1986, 1.
6. George and Nelson, 2.
7. Combs, 29.
8. Ibid., 3, 6.
9. Combs, 7. *South Carolina Gazette and Country Journal*. 26 January 1773.
10. Combs, 181–82.
11. *Report of the Committee of the City Council of Charleston, upon Interments within the City, and the Memorial from Churches and Citizens*. Charleston: Walker, Evans & Co., 1859, 21–22.
12. William Alley, “Magnolia: Charleston’s Victorian Necropolis,” *Charleston* 2 (July–August 1988), 13.
13. *South Carolina Highway Historical Marker Guide*. Columbia: SC Department of Archives and History, 1992, 162.
14. Combs, 181–82, 188–90.
15. Loren N. Horton, “Cemeteries: Research Tools for the Past,” DCL The Idea Series: Practical Guides for the Historian no. 2, 1989.
16. Betty J. Bouchard, *Our Silent Neighbors* (Salem, Massachusetts: T. B. S. Enterprises, 1991), 2.
17. Michael Trinkley, *Reconnaissance of the Brown Cemetery, 38CH1619, Maryville Area, City of Charleston*. Chicora Research Contribution 185. Columbia, Chicora Foundation, Inc., 1996, 1.
18. “An Act for Preserving the Fortifications, and for Appropriating Certain Surplus Lands in Charles Town,” Cooper and McCord, *Statutes at Large of South Carolina*, VII, 77.
19. Records of the General Assembly, Petitions, ND #3997; Committee Reports, 1817, #113.
20. *Report of the Committee of the City Council of Charleston upon Interments within the City*, 26–27.
21. Elaine Nichols, ed. *The Last Miles of the Way: African-American Homegoing Traditions, 1890–Present*. Columbia, Commissioners of the South Carolina State Museum, 1989, 13, 27, 45–46, 54, 57, 58, 59.
22. John J. Newman, “Cemetery Transcribing: Preparations and Procedures,” American Association for State and Local History, Technical Leaflet no. 9, *History News*, 26 (May 1971).
23. George and Nelson, 1.
24. Ibid., xii.
25. “For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee, in all thy ways.” Psalm 91:11 (KJV).
26. Combs, 159.
27. Ibid., 205.
28. Combs, 174–76. John 12:24 (KJV).
29. Combs, 188.
30. Melanie D. Pratt, “Those Wonderful Old Cemeteries—What Do We Do With Them?” *Local History Notebook* 13 (May/June 1997), iv; Combs, 206.
31. David Weitzman, *Underfoot: An Everyday Guide to Exploring the American Past*. (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1976), 87.
32. Pratt, iv.
33. Combs, 201, 204.
34. Ibid., 203.
35. Pratt, iv.
36. Ibid.
37. Combs, 183–84.
38. Pratt, iv.
39. George and Nelson, 13.
40. Ibid., 11–12.
41. Horton, 4.
42. Pratt, iv; Horton, 3.
43. Horton, 3–4.
44. Weitzman, 89.

Cemetery Inventory Form: complete for each gravestone

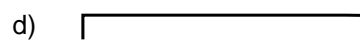
Cemetery Name _____

Location _____

Marker Inscription _____

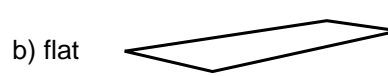
FORM (Mark one)

1. Vertical



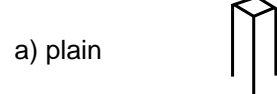
e) other (please sketch)

2. Ground



c) other (please sketch)

3. Obelisk

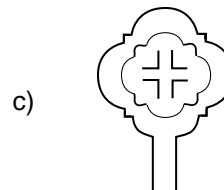
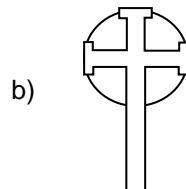
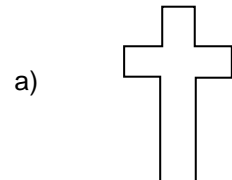


b) ornamented



c) other (please sketch)

4. Cross



d) other (please sketch)

5. Mausoleum

6. Other (please sketch)

INSCRIPTION

1. Lettering

a) Raised b) Incised c) Both

2. Style of Lettering

a) Roman b) Italic c) Other

3. Marker Orientation

a) East b) West c) North d) South

MOTIF (Circle all that apply)

a) None b) Angel c) Cross d) Hand
e) Urn f) Willow g) Bible/book h) Rose
i) Other (Please sketch and/or describe)

DIMENSIONS

Height:

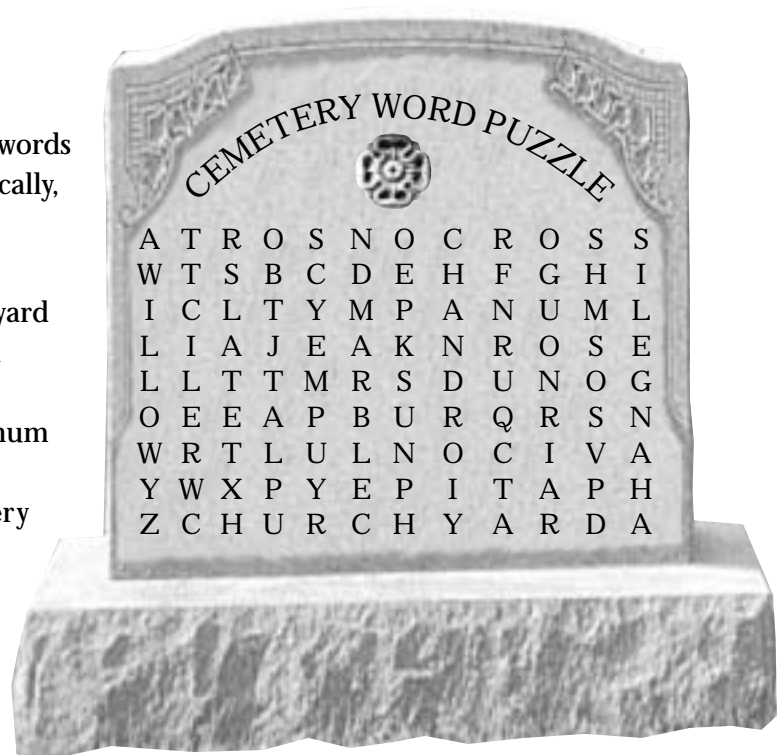
Width:

Adapted from Darrell A. Norris, "Ontario Gravestones," Markers V, ed. Theodore Chase (Lanham, Md: Univesity Press of America, Inc., 1988), 129, by Tim Belshaw.

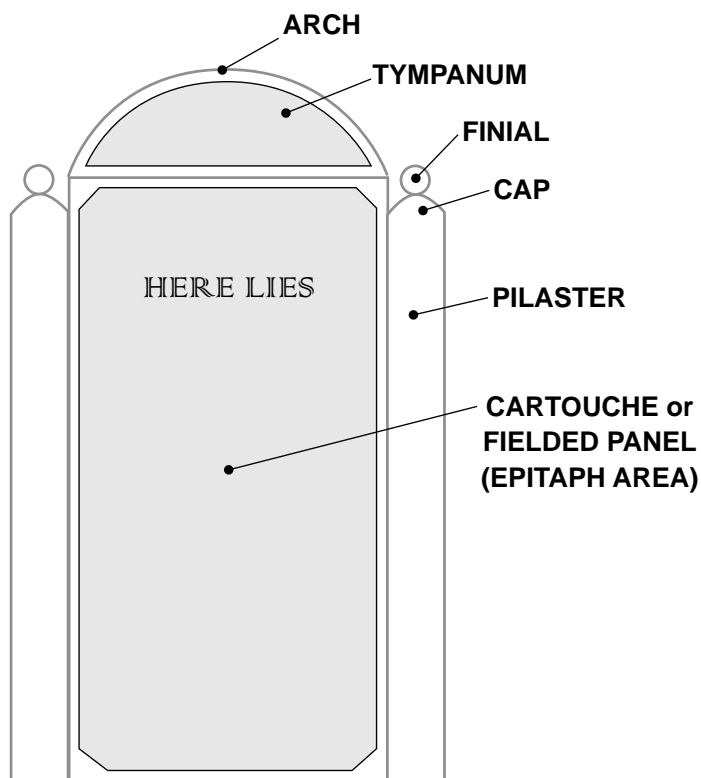
Word Search

Directions: Find and circle the eighteen words listed below. The words may appear vertically, horizontally, or diagonally.

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. plat | 2. icon | 3. churchyard |
| 4. consort | 5. cross | 6. epitaph |
| 7. rose | 8. angel | 9. urn |
| 10. slate | 11. hand | 12. tympanum |
| 13. relict | 14. willow | 15. sun |
| 16. marble | 17. mourner | 18. cemetery |



Parts of a tombstone



THREE MOST FREQUENTLY USED ARCH STYLES



Adapted by Tim Belshaw from Combs, 211-12.



Gravestone of Dr. Samuel C. Dunlap, d.1810. Waxhaw Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Lancaster County, SC. SHPO, National Register Files, SCDAH.

Documents

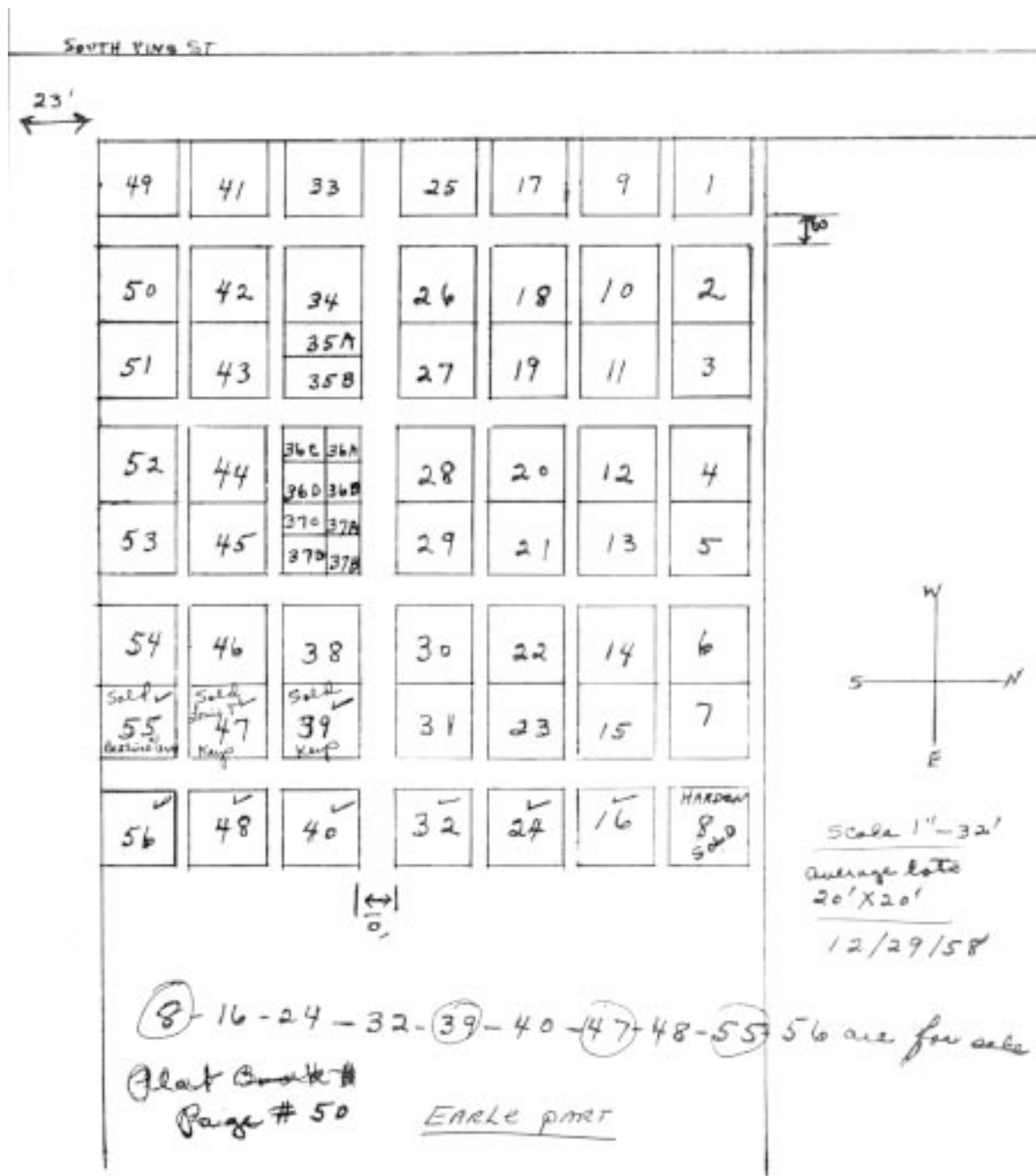
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McCrary Plat No. 2	35
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Walhalla cemetery register of owners

PINE STREET			PINE STREET			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mrs N A N DODD	Mrs F STRATHER	Mrs H	J M P	W B	Chas	Mrs M
9	9	10	11	12	13	14
Mrs Mackin	M C Lang	R L	As P	W Craig	As P	Mrs L
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Mrs K	M A	L	M	Arthur	J B	Anna
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
L B	M	J	B	M	R B	A
29	30	31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46	47	48	49
50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63
64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77
78	79	80	81	82	83	84
85	86	87	88	89	90	91
92	93	94	95	96	97	98
99	100	101	102	103	104	105

Source: Records of the City of Walhalla, SC. Walhalla Cemetery Plat, Roll D898, Frame 36, SCDAP.

Walhalla cemetery plat



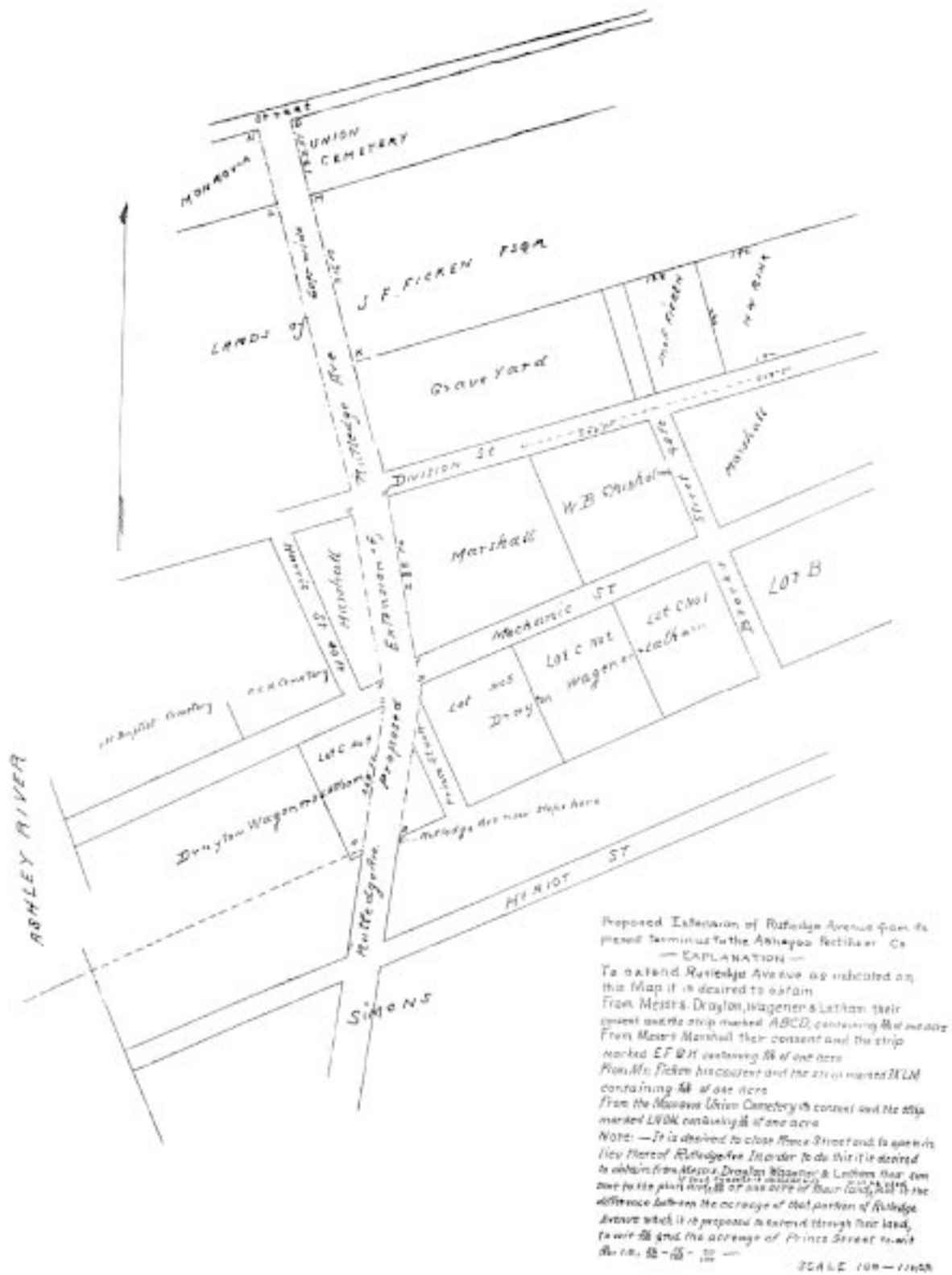
Source: Records of the City of Walhalla, Walhalla Cemetery Plat, Roll D898, Frame 31, SCDAB.

McCrady Plat No. 1



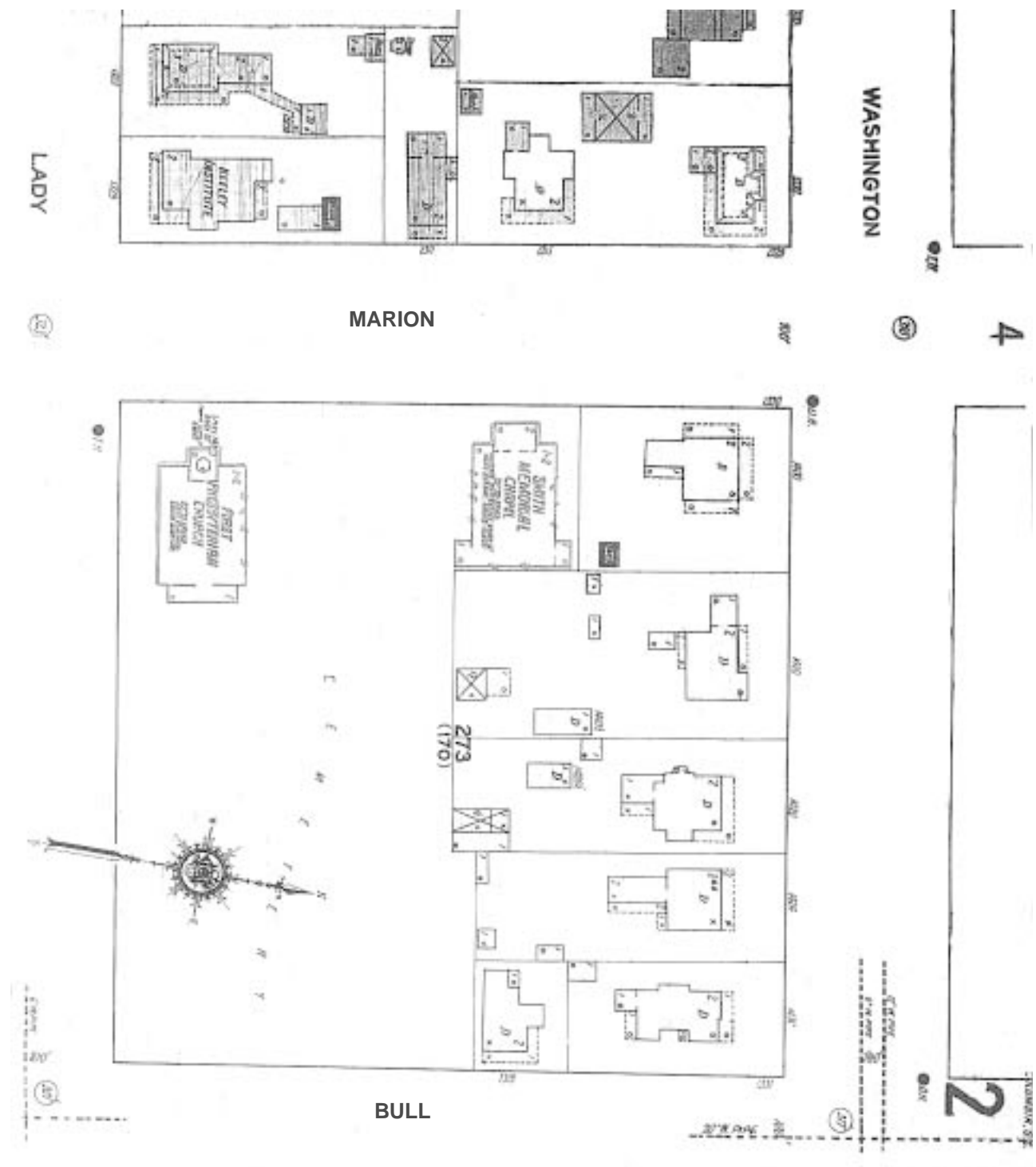
Source: Records of Charleston County, SC. McCrady Plats, No. 215, SCDAH. As early as 1768 (Act No. 966) South Carolina established a separate burying ground in Charleston for "strangers and transient persons."

McCrary Plat No. 2



Source: Records of Charleston County, SC, McCrary Plats. SCDH. Growth may threaten urban cemeteries. For a similar situation, see *Petition of the Citizens of Lancaster*, page 37.

Sanborn Map of Columbia



Columbia City Block containing First Presbyterian Church. Source: Sanborn Map Company Fire Insurance Map of Columbia, SC. Frame 7. SCDAAH.

To the Honorable, the Senate, and
House of Representatives, of the
Legislature of South Carolina-

The undersigned citizens, of the
Village of Lancaster, would respectfully
represent unto your Honorable Body, that
before the passage of the Act of the
Legislature, incorporating said Village,
the Commissioners of Roads, were required
to keep the Streets of the same, as laid off,
according to the plan of the Village, open,
and in repair, and by the charter of incor-
poration of said Village, all the powers
of the Commissioners of Roads, in relation
to the keeping open the Streets of said
Village, was vested in, and transferred, to
the Commissioners of Streets and by a
subsequent Act of Incorporation, was
vested in, and transferred, to the Intendant
and Town Council, of said Village-
your Petitioners would represent, that
the Village of Lancaster, according to
the original plan ~~of~~ thereof, was laid off,
by parallel streets, and cross streets, running
in every direction, equidistant, from the Court
House ^{that}, except, at the extreme limits of the same,
where, ~~these~~ there are no boundary, or
outside cross streets. Your Petitioners would
further represent, that for many years past,
there has been a Grave yard, in, and upon
the line of the East end of Arch Street,
beyond its intersection by Market Street,
that being the outside cross Street, of the Village,

in that direction, and between that point, and the extreme limits of the East end of Arch Street which has been kept enclosed, as a burial ground, in which, lie buried there, the Bodies, of several white Persons, and among them, two, of the Grand-Children, of our esteemed, and worthy Fellow Citizen Captain Wm McKenna - your Petitioners would further represent, that during the past year, the Grand Jury of Lancaster District (without a knowledge of a Grave yard being situated at the place above represented) presented the fence, across Arch Street, beyond its intersection, by Market Street, which encloses this Grave yard, as an obstruction, and recommended its removal, whereupon the Court (alike ignorant of the same facts) passed an order thereupon, requiring the Intendant, and Town Council, to abate the obstruction, by removing said fence, and upon failure to do so, that they do show cause, why they should not be indicted therefor when the Intendant and Town Council, in compliance with a Petition of the Citizens of the Village, showed for cause, why they had not abated said obstruction, the foregoing facts, when the Court dismissed the Rule against them - Your Petitioners feel it to be a duty, they owe to themselves, to humanity, and to the memory of the dead, who lie buried, in Arch Street, to declare, that in their opinion, the memory of the dead, should ever be held dear,

and regarded sacred, that the graves in which their bones are interred, are consecrated to their memories, and should not be ruthlessly invaded, and unfeelingly trodden under foot, by the opening out of said Street, where said Grave yard is situated; more especially, as there exist no public necessity for it, and no public or so private benefit can result from it. The land at the termination of said Street, as well as on both sides of it, being owned by Captain Wm McKenna, and all in woods, and now enclosed. Your Petitioners would therefore pray, that the 7th section, of the Act of incorporation, of the Village of Lancaster, passed the 18th day of December, 1840. be so altered and amended, by giving power, and authority, to Captain Wm McKenna, to close up the East end of Arch Street from the point where it is intersected by Market Street, to its easternmost limit, according to the original plan of the Village, so as to enclose the Grave yard, lying and being, in, and on the line of Arch Street, situate between those points - and your Petitioners will ever pray, &c. of which is respectfully submitted -

Transcription of Petition from Citizens of Lancaster

To the Honorable, the Senate, and House of Representatives, of the Legislature of South Carolina—

The undersigned Citizens, of the Village of Lancaster, would respectfully represent unto your Honorable Body, that before the passage of the Act of the Legislature, incorporating said village, the Commissioners of Roads, were required to keep the streets of the same, as laid off, according to the plan of the village, open, and in repair, and by the charter of incorporation of said village, all the powers of the Commissioners of Roads, in relation to the keeping open the streets of said village, was vested in, and transferred, to the Commissioners of Streets, and by a subsequent Act of Incorporation, was vested in, and transferred to the Intendant and Town Council, of said village—your Petitioners would represent, that the village of Lancaster, according to the original plan thereof, was laid off, by parallel streets, and cross streets, running in every direction, equidistant, from the Court House except, that at the extreme limits of the same, where, there are no boundary, or outside cross streets—your Petitioners would further represent that for many years past, there has been a Grave yard, in, and upon the line, of the East end of Arch Street, beyond, its intersection, by Market Street, that being the outside cross Street of the village, in that direction, and between that point, and the extreme limits of the East end of Arch Street, which has been kept enclosed, as a burial ground, in which lie buried there, the Bodies of several white Persons, and among them two, of the Grandchildren of our esteemed and worthy Fellow Citizen Captain Wm McKenna—your Petitioners would further represent, that during the past year, the Grand Jury of Lancaster District (without a knowledge of a Grave yard being situated at the place above represented) presented the fence across Arch Street, beyond its intersection, by Market Street, & which encloses this grave yard, as an obstruction, and recommended its removal, whereupon, the Court (alike ignorant of the same facts) passed an order thereupon, requiring the Intendant and Town Council, to abate the obstruction, by removing said fence, and upon failure to do so, that they do shew cause, why they should not be indicted therefore, when the Intendant and Town Council, in compliance with a Petition of the Citizens of the Village, shewed for cause, why they had not abated said obstruction, the foregoing facts, when the Court dismissed the Rule against them—your Petitioners feel it to be a duty, they owe to themselves, to humanity, and to the memory of the dead, who lie buried, in Arch Street, to declare, that in their opinion, the memory of the dead, should ever be held dear, and regarded sacred, that the graves in which their bones are interred, are consecrated to their memories, and should not be ruthlessly invaded, and unfeelingly trodden under foot by the opening out of said street, where said Grave yard is situated; more especialy, as there exist no public necessity for it, and no public or private benefit can result from it, the land at the termination of said street, as well, as on both sides of it, being owned by Captain Wm McKenna and all in woods, and now enclosed. Your Petitioners would therefore pray that the 7th section, of the Act of Incorporation, of the Village of Lancaster, passed, the 18th day of December, 1840, be so altered and amended, by giving power and authority to Captain Wm McKenna to close up the East end of Arch Street, from the point where it is intersected by Market Street, to its eastern most limit, according to the original plan of the Village, so as to enclose the Grave yard, lying and being, in and on the line of Arch Street, situate between those points—all of which is respectfully submitted—

Suggested Study Questions

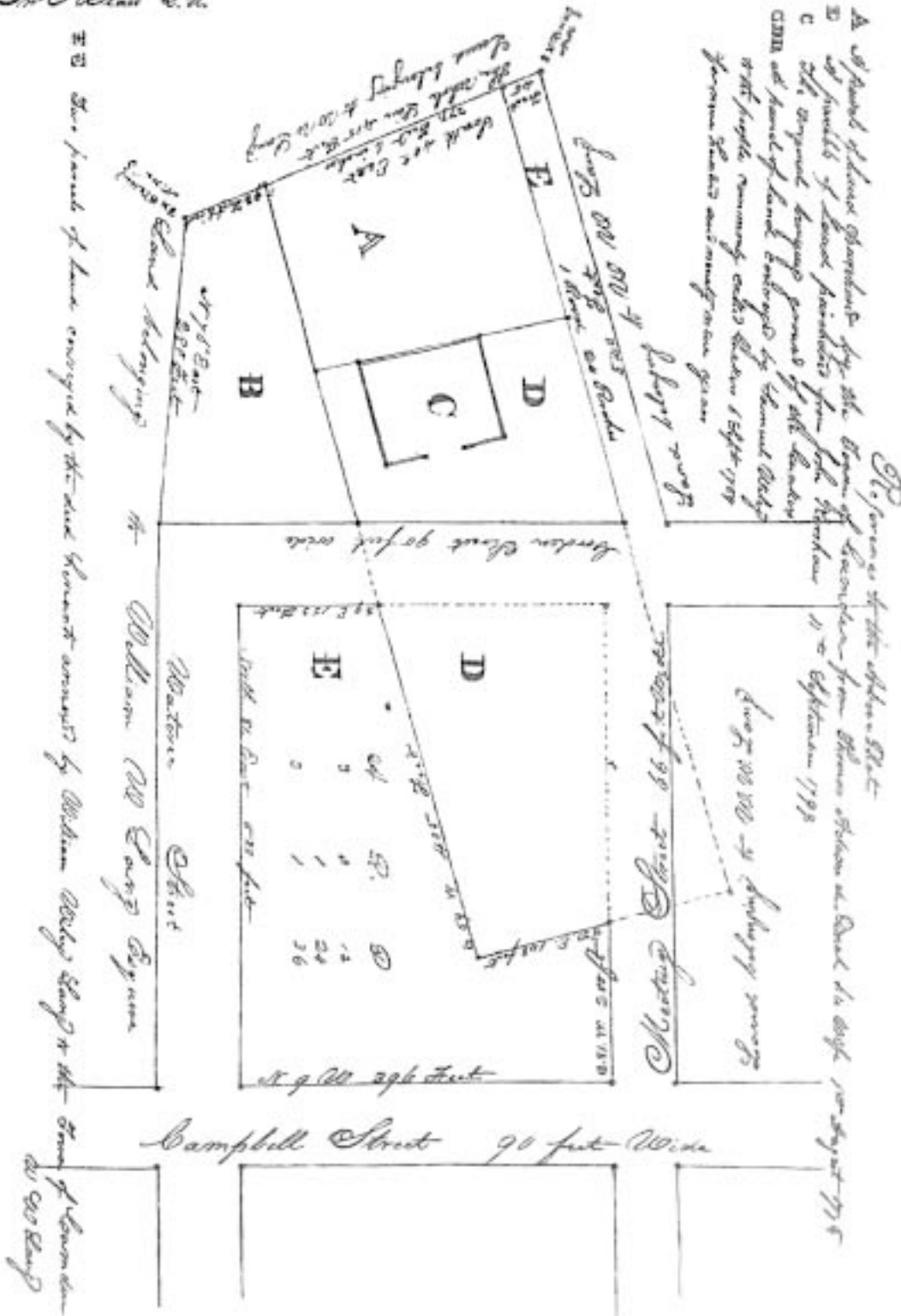
1. State the problem in your own words.
2. What action is requested?
3. What arguments are presented to support the request?
4. Do you think the petitioners were successful? Why or why not?

Chas. of South Carolina
Hudson District
That he does J. C. Warden agree with and believe the within said of his father
persons, therein mentioned, and that he with J. C. Warden in the presence of each of
testifies the due execution thereof as
Subscribed before me this 8th Feb'y 1855.
At Hudson N.Y. before me, J. C. Warden
Left for court the 8th Feb'y 1855. At Hudson N.Y.

[illegible]

Conveyance of William W. Lang, p. 2

and made oath that he saw William McEugly, aged, hale, and sober, the North
carriage for the use and purpose, therein mentioned, and that he with Thomas Talbot
promised each other to bring the same carriage to the
Court to be seen, the 25th day of January 1832. 3 Joseph Hendon
Jno. S. Blair & Co.



Source: Conveyance, William W. Lang to the Town of Camden, Kershaw County Deeds, Bk. 1, 133–34. SCDAH.

Transcription of Conveyance of William W. Lang, p. 1

W. W. Lang

To Wardens Town of Camden Conveyance

South Carolina

Kershaw District

Recorded 5th
February
1855

Know All Men By These Presents, That I William W Lang of the Town of Camden in the State aforesaid, for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and twenty two Dollars to me in hand paid by John Boykin Intendant, and John D. Winn, John S Andre, Thomas J. Wethers and William E Johnson Wardens of the Town of Camden in the State aforesaid for and in behalf of the said Town of Camden, have granted, bargained, sold and released and by these presents do grant bargain, sell, and release unto the Said Town of Camden all and singular that piece or parcel of Land, lying and being in the Town of Camden, containing three acres and twelve perches, bounded to the north by Meeting Street and a tract of land, known as the Quakers Ground, to the West by Gorden Street to the South by Wateree Street, and to the east by Campbell Street, also all that other piece or parcel of land containing one rood & twenty four Perches, bounded to the north West, and South West by land belonging to William W Lang, to the South East by land belonging to the Town of Camden, and by the Quakers Ground, the pieces or parcels of land containing together three acres and one rood and thirty six perches more or less all of which by a reference to the plat hereunto annexed will more fully and at large appear. That part of the plat coloured Green representing the two pieces or parcels of land intended to be hereby conveyed. Together With all and singular the rights members hereditaments and and appurtanances to the said premises belonging or in anywise incident or appertaining. To Have And to Hold all and singular the premises beforementioned unto the Said Town of Camden and its assigns forever. And I do hereby—myself and my heirs executors and administrators do Warrant and forever defend all and singular the aforementioned premises unto the said Town of Camden, and its assigns, against myself and my heirs, and against all persons whosoever lawfully claiming the same or to Claim any part thereof. Witness my hand and Seal, this tenth day of November in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and thirty two, and in the fifty seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America.

Signed Sealed & delivered in the presence of

Suggested Study Questions

1. Use a dictionary to define *intendant* and *warden*.
2. What are the Intendent and Wardens of Camden doing in this document? Why?
3. Describe the property involved.
4. If a rood equals $\frac{1}{4}$ acre and a perch is the square of $5\frac{1}{2}$ yards, how much land is being sold?
5. What additional information would you like to know?

To The Honorable The Senate
and House of Representatives of the
State of South Carolina.

The humble peti-
tion of William Perry, William
Thompson and ^{Columbus} ~~Christopher~~ Gage
Clerg., For themselves and others
their associates members of the
Presbyterian Church of Unionville
Union District South Carolina
Respectfully sheweth; That they have
given public notice as required
by that they would apply to your
Honorable Bodies at the present
session for the passage of an
act of Incorporation for their
Church and congregation, where said
notice properly certified is herewith
annexed

Your petitioners would further
show that many years ago an Alex-
ander Macbeth conveyed by deed of
conveyance to "The Clerg of the Presby-
terian Church of Unionville in Trust
for the congregation; one acre of land
for a House and burying ground" that
since then a great number of burials
have been allowed, as well members
as others who were strangers That

That recently the aforesaid congregation
have enclosed the House and Burial
ground with a substantial fence,
and deeming it ^{their duty} just that ^{the} representa-
tives of those whose remains
are there cared for, should bear
an equitable portion of the cost
necessary for continuing and keeping
in repair said enclosure they ask
Legislative aid for that purpose.

Therefore your petitioners
pray an act of Incorporation
with the usual rights, powers
privileges and franchises.

That a special power to assess
the representatives of those whose
remains are now, or may hereafter
be buried within their enclosure
to a reasonable extent may be granted
to your petitioners and their successors
in office for the purposes aforesaid.

And your petitioners shall
ever Pray &c.

Transcription of Petition from William Perry

To the Honorable The Senate and House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina

The humble petition of William Perry William Thompson and ~~Christopher~~ Columbus Gage Elders, for themselves and other their associate members of the Presbyterian Church of Unionville Union District South Carolina Respectfully sheweth; That they have given public notice as required by that they would apply to your Honorable Bodies at the present session for the passage of an act of Incorporation for their Church and congregation, which said notice properly certified is herewith annexed.

Your petitioners would further show that many years ago one Alexander Macbeth conveyed by deed of conveyance to "the Elders of the presbyterian church of Unionville in trust for the congregation, one acre of land for a House and burying Ground" That since then a great number of burials have been allowed, as well members as others who were strangers. That recently the aforesad congregation have enclosed the House and Burying ground with a substantial fence, and dressing it but just that the representatives of those whose remains are there cared for should bear an equitable portion of the cost necessary for continuing and keeping in repair said Inclosure they ask Legislative aid for that purpose

Therefore your petitioners pray an act of Incorporation with the usual rights, powers privileges and franchises

That a special power to assess the representatives of those whose remains are now, or may hereafter be buried within their inclosure to a reasonable extent may be granted to your petitioners and their successors in office for the purposes aforesaid

And your petitioners shall ever pray &c

Suggested Study Questions

1. Describe the document.
2. What light does it shed on the care of burial grounds?
3. What do William Perry, William Thompson, and Columbus Gage ask? Why?

To the Honorable the President and
Others members of the Senate of the State
of South Carolina -

The humble Petition of John
J. Chappell sheweth unto your honorable
Body - That in obedience to an Act of the General
Assembly of the State aforesaid passed on the
nineteenth day of December in the year
of our Lord one thousand eight hun-
dred and five intitled an act to repeal
an Act of the General Assembly of this
State intitled an act for the better regu-
lating the streets and markets of the Town
of Columbia and to incorporate the
said Town The Intendant and Wardens
of the said Town in whom that power
is vested by the said Act did contract
for and convey to your Petitioner by
Deed bearing date the 5th day of
September in the year of our Lord
one thousand eight hundred and seven
four lots of each an half acre it
being one half of the square which had
been previously to passing of the afore-
said act used as a burying ground
and bounded by Washington Ma-
rion Bull and streets in the plan
of the said Town.

That from the Assurance of the Intendant and Wardens aforesaid and in fact from the intent and meaning of the aforesaid Act your Petitioner was under a belief that the said square would no longer be used as a burying ground, but that another square which had been set apart by the Intendant and Wardens for that purpose would be the place of Intment and that under this persuasion your Petitioner purchased the aforesaid lots with a view of settling on them: But your Petitioner is sorry to find that notwithstanding the object of the legislature was to disuse the aforesaid square as a burying ground and notwithstanding it is the wish of a large majority, (your Petitioner might say of almost all the Inhabitants) of the said Town that the aforesaid square should no longer be used as a burying ground, and notwithstanding the Intendant and Wardens have passed an ordinance prohibiting its further use as aforesaid, yet from the very limited extent of their Power they cannot enforce obedience to their Ordinance, the extent of their Power in enacting Penal ordinances being but Twelve Dollars.

That unless the wishes of the Legislature
Intendants and Wardens, and of the Inha-
bitants aforesaid, and the intention of
the Legislature should be carried into
execution your Petitioners object in pur-
chasing the aforesaid Lots will be
defeated, for he would be very loth to
erect a dwelling house on a lot so con-
tiguous to a place of Interment, when
it would be impossible to have good
water - For these Reasons & because
no inconvenience can accrue to the
Inhabitants of the Town on that
account seeing the Intendant and
Wardens have already set apart
another Square in a more suitable
part of the Town for a Burying Ground
Your Petitioner begs your Honourable
Body to pass a Law imposing such
a Penalty on those who shall hereafter
attempt to bury on the aforesaid Square
as will prevent the Evil.

and your Petitioner will ever
pray

Transcription of Petition from John J. Chappell

To the Honorable the President and Other members of the Senate of the State of South Carolina—

The humble Petition of John J Chappell shewth unto your honorable Body.

That in obedience to an Act of the General Assembly of the state aforesaid passed on the nineteenth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and five entitled an act to repeal an act of the General Assembly of this State entitled an act for the better regulating the streets and markets of the Town of Columbia and to Incorporate the said Town. The Intendant and Wardens of the said Town in whom that power is vested by the said act did contract for and convey to your Petitioner by deed bearing date the 5th day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and seven four lots of each an half acre, it being one half of the square which had been previously to passing of the aforesaid act used as a burying ground and bounded by Washington Marion Bull and streets in the plan of the said Town. That from the assurance of the Intendant and Wardens aforesaid and in fact from the intent and meaning of the aforesaid Act your Petitioner was under a belief that the said Square would no longer be used as a burying ground; but that another square which had been set apart by the Intendant and Wardens for that purpose would be the place of Interment and that this persuasion your Petitioner purchased the aforesaid lots with a view of settling on them. But your Petitioner is sorry to find that notwithstanding the object of the Legislature was to disuse the aforesaid square as a burying ground and notwithstanding it is the wish of a large majority, (your Petitioner might say of almost all the Inhabitants) of the said Town that the aforesaid Square should no longer be used as a burying ground, and notwithstanding the Intendant and wardens have passed an ordinance prohibiting it's further use as aforesaid yet from the very limited extent of their Power they cannot enforce obdience to their ordinance, the extent of their Power in enacting Penal ordinances being but Twelve Dollars. That unless the wishes of the Legislature Intendant and Wardens, and of the Inhabitants aforesaid, and the intention of the Legislature should be carried into execution your Petitioners object in purchasing the aforesaid lots will be defeated, for he would be very loth to erect a dwelling House on a Lot so contiguous to a place of Interment, where it would be impossible to have good water—For these Reasons & because no inconvenience can accrue to the Inhabitants of the Town on that account seeing the intendant and wardens have already set apart another Square in a more suitable part of the Town for a Burying ground Your Petitioner begs your Honourable Body to pass a law imposing such a penalty on those who shall hereafter attempt to bury on the aforesaid square as will prevent the Evil.

And your Petitioner will ever pray

Suggested Study Questions

1. Why was Mr. Chappell upset?
2. What did he want to do?
3. Why was he opposed to living next door to a cemetery? Would that bother you?
4. Using the Sanborn map of Columbia on page 36, what currently occupies the block bounded by Washington, Marion, Bull, and Lady streets?

Petition from the Citizens of Newberry

To the Honorable the Speaker & Members of the
House of Representatives of South Carolina -

The Petition of the undersigned, citizens of Newberry, sheweth,
That a number of years since (1806) George McClellan dedicated a
lot of land, for the town of Newberry, for a public burial ground -
That, afterwards, the ground proving too small - having been completely
filled up by graves - in the year 1846, the citizens of Newberry,
by subscription, purchased from John Caldwell, Sr. two acres of
land, more or less, immediately adjoining and nearly surrounding
the first mentioned lot, the title to which was drawn to the
Town Council of Newberry, who propose to convey it to Judge John
B. O'Neill, Chancellor J. Johnston, Dr. P. B. Ruff, Simeon Fair,
Robert Stewart, N. B. Higgins, Dr. J. McMorris, Wm. H. Harrington,
Silas Johnston, Robt. B. Holman, Wm. W. McMorris, & Jas. M. Williams
in trust for the benefit of the Newberry ^{Cemetery} ~~Association~~ Association - That
the ground has been extensively occupied as a burial-ground, but owing
to the fact, that the Council, being elected annually, feel little or
no interest in the matter, and there being no person appointed to
take charge of it the ground has never been enclosed, nor in any
way improved -

Wherefore, your Petitioners pray that Judge John Bolton O'Neill, Chancellor
J. Johnston, Dr. P. B. Ruff, Simeon Fair, Robert Stewart, Francis B.
Higgins, Edward J. McMorris, William H. Harrington, Silas Johnston, Robert
B. Holman, William W. McMorris, James M. Williams, their associates, & successors,
may be incorporated as a body politic, by the name & style of the Newberry
^{Cemetery} ~~Association~~ Association, with all the rights & privileges of bodies politic, whose
duty it shall be to take charge of the above-mentioned lot of land, together
with such additional ground as they may deem it expedient to purchase.
That they may have the right to hold property (personal and real) to the
amount of twenty thousand dollars - and the power to make all
by-laws, rules, and regulations necessary for the government of their
body

And your Petitioners will pray &c.

Transcription of Petition from the Citizens of Newberry

*To the Honorable the Speaker & members of the House of
Representatives of South Carolina*

The Petition of the undersigned, citizens of Newberry, sheweth, that a number of years since (1806) George McCreless dedicated a lot of land, for the town of Newberry, for a public burial-ground that, afterwards, the ground proving too small—having been completely taken up by graves—in the year 1846, the citizens of Newberry, by subscription, purchased from John Caldwell, Sr. two acres of land, more or less, immediately adjoining and nearly surrounding the first mentioned lot, the title to which was drawn to the Town Council of Newberry, who propose to convey it to Judge John B. O'Neill, Chancellor J. Johnston, Dr. P. B. Ruff, Simeon Fair, Robert Stewart, F. B. Higgins, E. Y. McMorries, Wm. H. Harrington, Silas Johnston, Robt. B. Holman, William W. McMorries & Jas. H. Williams in trust for the benefit of the Newberry ^{Cemetery} Grave-Yard Association:—That the ground has been extensively occupied as a burial-ground, but owing to the facts, that the Council, being elected annually, feel little or no interest in the matter, and there being no person appointed to take charge of it, the ground has never been enclosed nor in any way improved—

Wherefore, your Petitioners pray that Judge John Belton O'Neill, Chancellor Job Johnston, Dr. Pressley B. Ruff, Simeon Fair, Robert Stewart, Francis B. Higgins, Edward Y. McMorries, William H. Harrington, Silas Johnston, Robert B. Holman, William W. McMorries, James H. Williams, their associates & successors may be incorporated as a body politic, by the name & style of the Newberry ^{Cemetery} Grave-Yard Association, with all the rights & privileges of bodies politic, whose duty it shall be to take charge of the above mentioned lot of land, together with such additional ground as they may deem it expedient to purchase—That they may have the right to hold property (personal and real) to the amount of twenty thousand dollars—and the power to make all by-laws, rules and regulations necessary for the government of their body

And your Petitioners will pray &c.

Suggested Study Questions

1. What does this document say about the condition of the Newberry burial ground?
2. What do the requestors (petitioners) propose?
3. Why was the Newberry Town Council not interested in the burial ground?

Petition from Andrew Wallace

To
The Honorable the President and
Members of the Senate.

The humble petition of Andrew Wallace President of the
Windsor Free Church & S. B. Cairns Geo. Fisher J. W. Radeloff H. LaBorde G. H. Redell
W. Macpherson Jr. S. B. Landry, C. Newfar W. H. Walker J. H. Parker J. Hughes W. Glaze
Jas. Scott H. Reynolds H. Wallace H. Douglas & David R. Byrnes ^{Directors} and their associates
respectfully sheweth unto your Honorable Body
that they have united themselves together
for the purpose of establishing a public Cemetery
near the town of Columbia

That the increasing population of the town,
the already crowded condition of many of the
Church yards, the generally received opinion
as to their unwholesomeness, render the estab-
lishment of a public Cemetery without
the corporate limits of the town, as a matter
highly important and necessary.

Your petitioners
therefore pray, that your Honorable Body
will pass an act making them a body
politic and corporate in law under the
name and style of the Windsor Cemetery
Company, with all the powers usually
incident to Corporations.
And your petitioners will ever pray &c

Transcription of Petition from Andrew Wallace

To

The Honorable the President and Members of the Senate—

The humble petition of Andw Wallace President J A. Crawford vice president & J B Davis John Fisher T. W. Radcliffe M LaBorde C A Bedell W Hampton Jr V S Blanding, C. Neuffer W W Walker J W Parker J V Lyles Wm Glaze Jas S Scott Wm Reynolds Wm Wallace H P Dougal H Davis R Bryce & Jno Bauskett^{Directors} and their associates respectfully sheweth unto your Honorable body that they have united themselves together for the purpose of establishing a public Cemetery near the town of Columbia

That the increasing population of the town, the already crowded condition of many of the Church yards, the generally received opinion as to their unwholesomeness, render the establishment of a public Cemetery without the corporate limits of the town, as a matter highly important and necessary—

Your petitioners therefore pray that your Honorable body will pass an act making them a body politic and corporate in Law under the name and style of the Elmwood Cemetery Company, with all the powers usually incident to Corporations- And your petitioners will ever pray &c.

Suggested Study Questions

1. Using a dictionary, define the word *cemetery*.
2. What do the petitioners request? Why?
3. Do you think the S. C. General Assembly approved this petition? Where could you go to find out?
4. Use your library and other sources to locate information on the petitioners.

Petition from Free Persons of Color

To the honorable, the Speaker and Members
of the House of Representatives of the State of
South Carolina -

The humble Petition of the subscribers
Respectfully Sheweth,

That your Petitioners, who
are free persons of color, on behalf of themselves
and others of the religious sect or denomination
called Methodists, in the city of Charleston,
are desirous of purchasing two lots of land to
be appropriated as a place of interment for
themselves and their descendants; the present
burial ground being inadequate for that
purpose - That the said lots are situated
in the Village of Wraggs-Borough in the
vicinity of Charleston, adjoining each other,
and contain each in front on Judith Street,
forty feet, and one hundred and twenty eight
feet in depth, more or less - That these lots
being beyond the limits of the city, your
Petitioners are informed, that it will be necessary to
obtain the sanction of your honorable bo-
dy to appropriate the same for the pur-
poses aforesaid - Your Petitioners, therefore,
humbly pray, that they may be autho-
rized and empowered to purchase and
use the said lots, as a place of burial
for themselves, and their descendants, un-
der such regulations and restrictions, as
your honorable body may think proper
to prescribe - And your Petitioners, as in
duty bound, will ever pray and so forth.

Source: *Petition of Free Persons of Color, Records of the General Assembly, Petitions, ND, No. 3997. SCDH. Signatures omitted.*

Transcription of Petition from Free Persons of Color

To the honorable, the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina—

The humble Petition of the subscribers

Respectfully Sheweth

That your Petitioners, who are free persons of color, on behalf of themselves and others of the religious sect or denomination called Methodists, in the City of Charleston, are desirous of purchasing two lots of land to be appropriated as a place of interment for themselves and their descendants; the present burial ground being inadequate for that purpose—That the said lots are situated in the Village of Wraggs Borough in the vicinity of Charleston, adjoining each other, and contain each in front, on Judith Street, forty feet, and one hundred and twenty eight feet in depth, more or less—That these lots being beyond the limits of the City, your Petitioners are informed, that is necessary to obtain the sanction of your honorable body to appropriate the same for the purposes aforesaid—Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray, that they may be authorized and empowered to purchase and use the said lots, as a place of burial for themselves, and their descendants, under such regulations and restrictions, as your honorable body may think proper to prescribe—And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray and so forth—

Suggested Study Questions

1. Who are the petitioners?
2. Why are they petitioning?
3. What do the petitioners want?
4. Where is the site?
5. What else would you like to know about the petitioners?

Final resting places of the great and near-great in South Carolina: a selection

Anderson

Presbyterian Cemetery, James L. Orr (governor)

Beech Island

Redcliffe, James Henry Hammond (governor and US senator)

Beaufort

St. Helena Episcopal Church, John “Tuscarora Jack” Barnwell (leader of SC forces in the Tuscarora War)

Tabernacle Baptist Church, Robert Smalls (Civil War hero and US congressman)

Camden

Knight’s Hill, Mary Boykin Chesnut (Civil War diarist)

Charleston

The Citadel, Gen. Mark Clark (World War II hero and commandant of the Citadel)

Windsor Hill Plantation, William Moultrie (Revolutionary War general and governor)

First Baptist Church, Richard Furman (Baptist leader)

Huguenot Church, Saint Julien Ravenel (scientist)

Independent (Congregational) Church, David Ramsay (physician and historian)

Magnolia, Langdon Cheves (1776–1856, Speaker of the US House of Representatives);

George A. Trenholm (secretary of the treasury, CSA); William Gregg (1800–1867, founder of Graniteville Mill); William Gilmore Simms (1806–1870, author)



Tombstone of William Gilmore Simms, noted South Carolina man of letters, Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, SC. SHPO, National Register Files, SCDAH.

Middleton Place, Arthur Middleton (signer of the Declaration of Independence)

St. Lawrence Cemetery, Francis Warrington Dawson (journalist/founder, *News & Courier*)

St. Michael's Church, John Rutledge (SC president, signer of the US Constitution, and chief justice of the US Supreme Court), Robert Young Hayne (US senator known for Hayne-Webster debates), Charles Cotesworth Pinckney (signer of the US Constitution)

St. Philips Church, John C. Calhoun (US vice-president and senator), Dubose Heyward (playwright, author of *Porgy and Bess*), Charles Pinckney (1757–1824, governor, signer of the US Constitution, US senator and congressman)) and Edward Rutledge (1749–1800, governor and signer of the US Constitution)

Columbia

Elmwood Cemetery, Narciso G. Gonzales (journalist/founder, *The State* newspaper)

First Presbyterian Church, Ann Pamela Cunningham (preserver of Mount Vernon), Jonathan Maxcy (first president, University of South Carolina)

St. Peter's Catholic Church, John R. Niernsee (architect of the South Carolina State House)

Trinity Cathedral, Wade Hampton (1818–1902, Civil War general and governor), James Francis Byrnes (governor and US Supreme Court justice), Henry Timrod (poet laureate of the Confederacy)

Denny's Crossroads (Saluda County)

?Butler Family Cemetery, Pierce M. Butler (governor and commander of the Palmetto Regiment in the Mexican War)

Edgefield

First Baptist Church, Preston S. Brooks (US congressman who caned Charles Sumner), Francis W. Pickens (governor)

Fort Mill

Unity Church, Elliot White Springs (industrialist)

Fort Motte

St. Matthews Episcopal Church, Julia Peterkin (novelist, Pulitzer Prize winner for *Scarlet Sister Mary*)

Georgetown

Baptist Church, Joseph H. Rainey (first African American to serve in the US Congress from SC)
Screven Family Cemetery, Elisha Screven (founder of Georgetown)

Honea Path

Barkers Creek Church, Olin D. Johnston (governor and US senator)

Lake City

Restlawn Cemetery, Ronald E. McNair (astronaut killed on the Challenger)

Lancaster

Waxhaw Presbyterian Church, Andrew Jackson, Sr. (father of President Andrew Jackson); Gen. William Richardson Davie (founder of the University of North Carolina), see page 21.

Moncks Corner

Trappist Monastery of Our Lady of Mepkin, Henry Laurens (Revolutionary-era leader, president of the Continental Congress), Henry R. Luce (editor of *Time*), Clare Booth Luce (US senator)

Pendleton

St. Pauls Church, Barnard Elliott Bee (Civil War general who gave Thomas J. Jackson the nickname “Stonewall”)

Pickens - Anderson County Line

Old Stone Church, Andrew Pickens (“The Wizard Owl,” Revolutionary War general)

St. Luke’s Parish

White Hall, Thomas L. Heyward (signer of the Declaration of Independence)

St. Stephen

Belle Isle, Francis Marion (“The Swamp Fox,” Revolutionary War general)

Saint Stephen’s Episcopal Church, L. Mendel Rivers (US congressman)

Sheldon

Old Sheldon Church, William Bull (Lt. governor)

Spartanburg

Magnolia Cemetery, William “Singin’ Billy” Walker (author of the *Southern Harmony*)

Stateburg

Church of the Holy Cross, Joel R. Poinsett (diplomat who introduced the poinsettia to the US)

“South Mount,” Thomas Sumter (“The Gamecock,” Revolutionary War general)

Trenton

Ebenezer Baptist Church, Benjamin R. Tillman (governor and US senator)

Walterboro

Hayne Hall, Isaac Hayne (Revolutionary War leader executed by the British)

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