

# CEMETERY STUDY FOR YOUTH

(Suggested activities for classrooms, scouts, church groups and day camps)

In an effort to promote local history and to educate our young people about their communities, cemeteries offer a wealth of information. These ideas are suggested activities that will encourage children to explore cemeteries and hopefully this experience will help to create a respect for burial grounds.

A few common sense rules to remember before you begin:

1. Please contact the cemetery owners and ask for permission to do your project. If the cemetery is abandoned you will need to contact the town clerk.
2. Select a sunny day and watch out for bees!
3. Do not litter.
4. Check with the local historian as they sometimes will have additional information that may help you.



## PROJECTS

### CLEAN UP

A good introduction to community service would be to begin with a helping hand. In late spring or early fall the cemeteries often need to have leaves raked, sticks removed, and a general "sprucing up."

Have the group wear old clothes, work gloves, and bring along a trash bag. Tools such as rakes could be provided by the instructors and parents. A few towns have annual clean up days. To find out if this project needs additional assistance please contact the town historian.

### ART

\*Grave Stone Rubbings



28

You will need to check with the cemetery owner before beginning this project. Please do not rub headstones made of marble or slate. Due to acid-rain these stones are becoming fragile and the pressure of rubbing may cause damage. Granite stones may be used to make rubbings. Also check the headstones for stability before you begin, as some stones may tip over with the slightest amount of pressure.

**Supplies:**

1. Large pieces of paper - you can purchase the end rolls of newsprint from the local newspaper office. It is usually sold on rolls.
2. Soft brush to brush off the stones.
3. Masking tape to hold your paper in place.
4. Large (fat) wax crayon - remove the wrapper so that you can use the edge.

**To Make a Rubbing:**

1. Carefully brush off the stone to remove any dirt.
2. Place your paper so that you have extra to tape to the back of the stone. (You can trim it off later).
3. Tape the paper down and make sure it is smooth over the area you wish to rub.
4. Start from the top and work down. A gentle even motion works well. Be careful not to rub too hard or the paper may tear.
5. It is helpful to demonstrate to the group before you pass out the paper.

**\* Sketches**

Have students collect various examples of designs, shapes, and symbols found on headstones. Also try sketching stones and their surroundings. Motifs found on stones will vary from different time periods. Have the group record the date of the headstones along with the carving designs and compare them.

## INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT AREAS FOR STUDY

### ENGLISH

Record the poetry, sayings, messages or epitaphs from the stones. Choose a few from each decade that are the saddest, amusing and/or most unusual. Notice the spelling of words. Use either a tape recorder or hand copy the information.

### GEOGRAPHY

Where is the cemetery located in relationship to the community? This will involve studies of old maps and community development patterns. Maps are filed with the County Clerk, Real Property Office and the County Historian.

### HISTORY

Record information off random stones. Research the names of the people through the records held by the Richmond Library and County Historian. Then check the local newspapers for what was happening in this area at that time. Note historical events such as wars, political activities, and/or natural disasters.

### MATH

Some stones will have the year a person was born, exact age when they died and the death date. Simple addition and subtraction may be practiced. Statistics using age of death and dates would be another study. For example: "How many people under age 10 died between 1840 and 1890?"

### SCIENCE

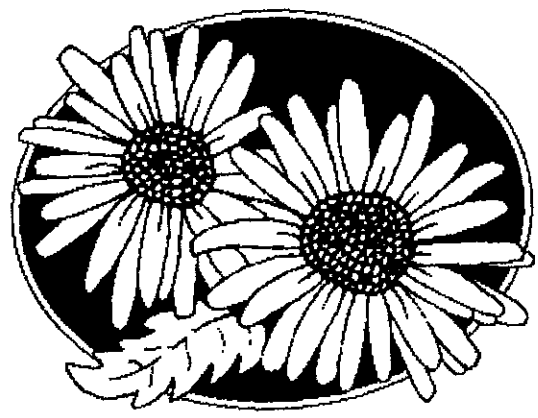
Gather information from the stones that gives causes of death. Ask questions such as "Do we have a cure for this today?", "Do you know what

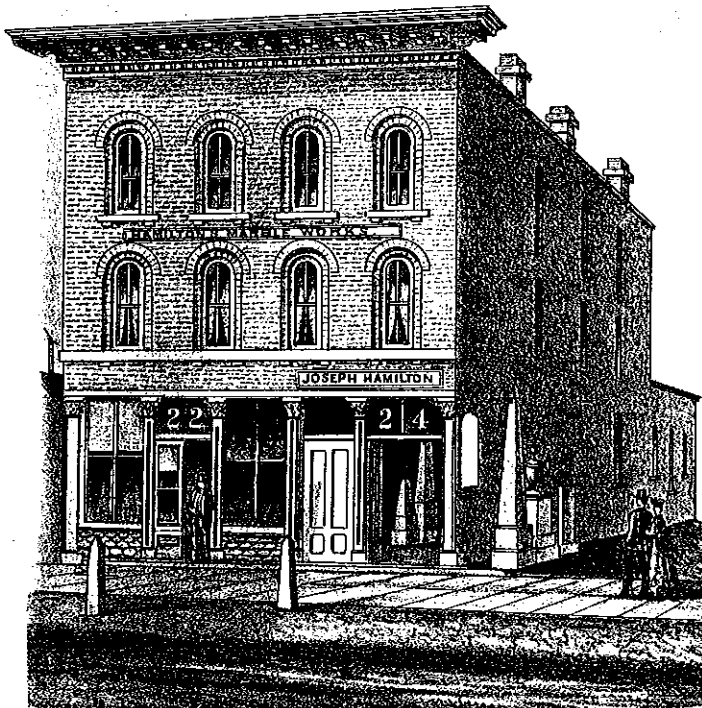
this illness was?", etc.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

Religious aspects of the area are often visible in local cemeteries. Symbolisms of organizations are sometimes carved on to stones. Note: the position of the stones, who has the largest stone, which families have a fence around their plots, soldiers graves, names we no longer use, etc.

**For additional information please contact:  
The Genesee County History Department,  
3 West Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020  
(585) 344-2550 extension 2613.**

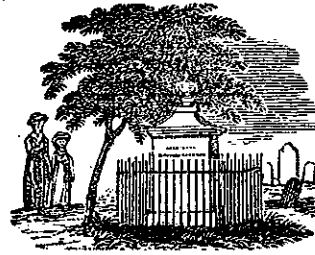




**JOSEPH HAMILTON,**  
 MANUFACTURER OF MARBLE & GRANITE MONUMENTS, TABLETS, HEAD-  
 STONES, &c. SCOTCH GRANITE MONUMENTS IMPORTED TO ORDER.  
 DESIGNS FURNISHED ON APPLICATION. Nos. 22 & 24 MAIN ST., BATAVIA, N. Y.



**HAMILTON'S  
 MARBLE  
 WORKS,  
 Batavia, N. Y.**



**I INVITE** the attention of all wishing to erect either:  
**MONUMENTS or  
 TOMBSTONES,**

to an examination of my stock of finished work from the best Italian and American Marble. My stock is selected by myself, and is finished in a superior manner.

To those who are in want of Marble Work, I should say avoid all agents who are canvassing the country, dealing in cheap got up work, at high prices, and come to my shop in Batavia, where you can select for yourselves; by so doing you will save the commission paid to agents, and get first class work at reasonable rates.

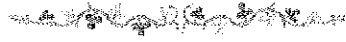
To those who wish to erect  
**GRANITE MONUMENTS**

I can furnish any size or design they want, at prices as low as can be found in the State. I manufacture to order the American Silver Granite that surpasses all others for beauty of color and durability; will not change by exposure to the elements, and is warranted free from all imperfection. I have on hand a variety of designs as good as can be found in the State which are new and very pretty. Please call before purchasing.

January 1, 1868 - JOSEPH HAMILTON

**BATAVIA**

**MARBLE WORKS**



The Largest, Best and Most Complete Assortment of

**TOMBSTONES,  
MONUMENTS  
AND TABLETS,**

**J. HAMILTON & SON**

24 Main Street, Batavia, N.Y.

We keep in stock from 50 to 100 Monuments and 350 finished Tablets of every design, and cannot but suit the purchaser.

Parties contemplating erecting any token in remembrance of their departed friends we most cheerfully ask to call and get our bottom figures and we will guarantee satisfaction in every particular. We will furnish

*Quincy, Westerly, Maine, New Hampshire, Concord, Fitzwilliam, Keene, Barre, South Reygate, Mill Stone Point, Richmond, Clark's Island,*

Which comprise all the different grades of American Granite.

**ALSO SCOTCH IRISH, ENGLISH, GERMAN AND FRENCH GRANITES**

*Statues in Marble or Granite*

**WE WILL FURNISH AT VERY LOW FIGURES**  
Cemetery Coping, Marble Vases and Iron Vases furnished cheaper than can be procured in Western New York

Call and Get Our Prices Before You Make Your Purchases.

## "Willie Lay is Dead"

They tell me he is surely dead;  
 I met him yesterday;  
 We, each, our words of greeting said,  
 And passed along our way;  
 No signs of illness did I see:  
 He walked with steady tread;  
 And now the news comes back to me,  
 That "Willie Lay is dead."

Deep in the shadows of the night  
 Death crouched with folded wing,  
 And, seeing him with hopes so bright,  
 He made an earthward spring;  
 One arrow from his dreaded bow,  
 Destroyed the hopes of years,  
 And filled a loving home with woe,  
 And loving eyes with tears.

We'll miss him, each and every one,  
 And oft his praises tell,  
 When work remaineth to be done,  
 That he could do so well;  
 Among the aged and the youth,  
 When days and years have fled,  
 Are those who still shall feel the truth,  
 That Willie Lay is dead."

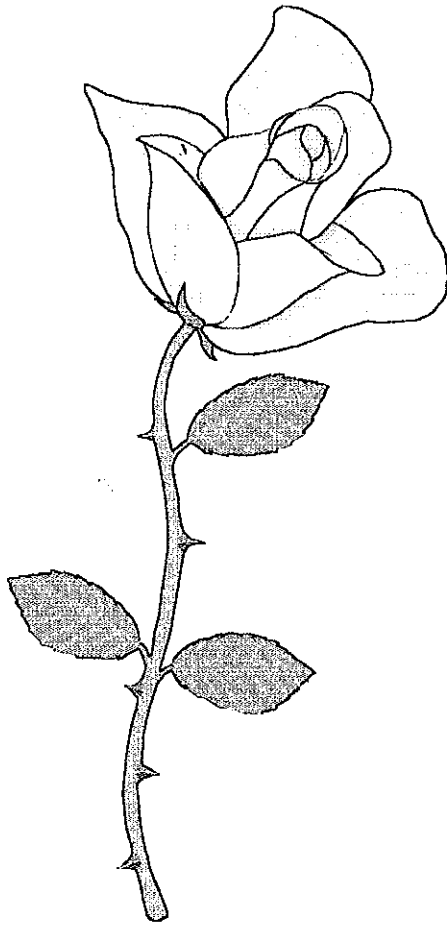


There is an after-life we know;  
 This thought shall light the gloom,  
 As we, with mournful footsteps, go  
 To visit at his tomb.  
 There, angel voices whisper, sweet,  
 Above his lowly bed,  
 "So live, that you at last may meet  
 The loved, and buried dead."

Oh, King of Terrors! Ghastly Death!  
 How swift thy sable wing;  
 We draw a feeble, fleeting breath,  
 Then bells our burial ring,  
 Oh, God! mysterious are thy ways,  
 Yet marked with matchless love;  
 Teach us to number well our days  
 And seek thy rest above.

This poem by John H. Yates was written for the family of William S. Lay, age 25 who died August 24, 1869. His obituary published in the *Progressive Batavian* was typical of someone from a prominent family of this time period. "The death of no young man in our midst could have caused so many serious countenances as his. Born and reared amongst us, his uniform courtesy unaffected politeness toward all, disarmed envy, and none of his youthful companions ever felt toward him other than kindly, and all rejoiced in his possession of well earned laurels. How mysteriously are the shafts of the insatiate archer directed. The aged the infirm, those who have lived out their usefulness are passed by. Death loves a shining mark and against such how often do his most fatal arrows hurtle. He possessed all those soft and genial traits that made him the delight of his friends."

-J. Hascall



Gather ye rosebuds while ye may,  
Old time is still a-flying;  
And this same flower that smiles today,  
Tomorrow will be dying.



**EARLY ADS FROM LOCAL NEWSPAPERS**

**NEW  
COFFIN & CASKET  
PARLORS**

Over First National Bank  
82 MAIN STREET, BATAVIA

The undersigned would respectfully announce that he has removed to the above place, (over First National Bank) with a full assortment of

**Coffins, Caskets and  
Shrouds,**

of superior make and finish, and equipments of the very best description. Having had years of experience, and being under my own personal superintendence, I feel fully confident of giving entire satisfaction to all bereaved friends that may be under the sad necessity to use such articles. I guarantee my prices as low as the lowest. Funerals promptly attended when so desired.

The Publics Humble Servant

**DIED SUDDENLY!**

How often in these days do we hear this. And this leads me to say, I will sell

**CASKETS AND  
COFFINS**

as cheap as any other man in Genesee County I will also sell

**FURNITURE!**

A general assortment, at the lowest possible living prices  
-C T. BUXTON  
Batavia, Feb. 5, 1875.

**LEROY  
MARBLE WORKS!**

ONE DOOR SOUTH OF FIRST  
NATIONAL BANK, LE ROY, NY

THE SUBSCRIBER keeps on hand and manufactures to order

**MONUMENTS, TOMBSTONES,  
WINDOW AND DOOR SILLS,  
TABLETOPS, CEMETERY  
ENCLOSURES, &c., &c.,**  
of the best kind.

**ITALIAN  
AND  
AMERICAN MARBLE**

in every variety of design, executed in the most workmanlike manner and which will be furnished at the most reasonable rates.

Having had long, practical experience in the business he feels confident of giving satisfaction to all, in appropriateness of design, superiority of workmanship, and the selection of material that is least liable to tarnish or rust

**QUINCY & SCOTCH  
GRANITES,**

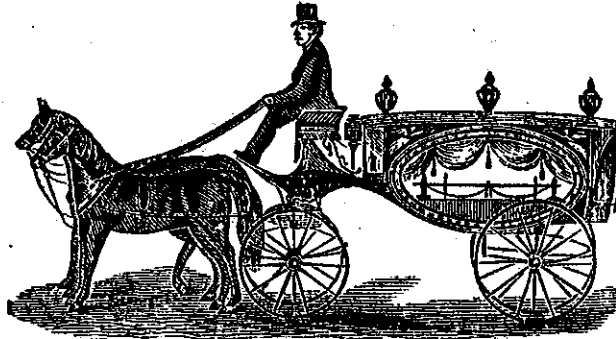
of all description furnished if desired.  
ALL WORK WARRANTED

LeRoy, January 28, 1969

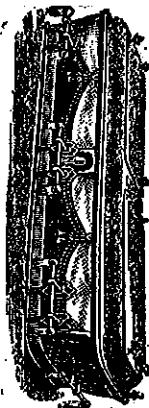
# EARLY ADS AND LETTER HEADS

## J. A. VROOM, —\*— UNDERTAKER.

—\*—  
*COFFINS, CASKETS AND SHROUDS  
of every description constantly on hand.*



*Prices as low as the lowest, and all work warranted to be first best. Terms reasonable.*



THE CELEBRATED

### GLASS CASKET

The Handsomest piece of Funeral Furniture  
Ever Seen

Is on sale only at **DAILEY'S.**

Being made of Metal and Glass it is airtight, durable, stylish and neatly trimmed. When in need of Funeral Furniture, examine the Celebrated New Style Glass Casket, at

## DAILEY'S

8 to 14 State-St., Batavia.

## W. H. BROWN, UNDERTAKER.

ROOMS IN CONCERT HALL BLOCK.

Charges reasonable. Full assortment of

### Coffins, Caskets & Shrouds ON HAND.

Residence, 14 Ellicott Street.

3

## OBITUARY HEADLINES: 1891 - 1906

Some of the headlines explain the cause of death, others provoke interest to find out more. There were numerous cases of suicide during this time period. Perhaps people couldn't stand the pain they were in or else didn't want to burden their families. These are just a few of the obituary headlines during this time period. Some causes of death remain the same others have virtually disappeared with modern medicines being discovered.

*"DIED IN HER CHAIR"*

*"ANOTHER LIFE'S ENDING"*

*"FROZEN TO DEATH"*

*"SANG A HYMN AND DIED"*

*"MET DEATH IN A WELL"*

*"TRIED IT ONCE BEFORE"*

*"WITH A ROPE AND A HALTER"*

*"HIS LIFE'S WORK ENDED"*

*"OVERDOSE OF COCAINE"*

*"PARTING FROM HIS WIFE"*

*"HANGING FROM A DOOR"*

*"WHEELED TO HIS DEATH"*

*"DEATH FROM HICCOUGHING"*

*"PERFORATED HIS BRAIN"*

*"A BOTTLE BY HIS SIDE"*

*"END OF A HOLIDAY TRIP"*

*"DEATHS SUDDEN CALL"*

*"CORPSE GNAWED BY RATS"*

*"ENDED THEIR LIFE TOGETHER"*

*"FELL ON HIS FACE AND SUFFOCATED"*

*"FOUND DEAD IN HIS DOORYARD"*

*"BREATH LEFT THE BODY"*

*"DROWNED IN THE MILL RACE"*

*"PARALYZED WITH FRIGHT"*

*"HELD DOWN BY A WAGON"*

*"AGED ODD FELLOW DEAD"*

*"TIRED OF THE WORLD"*

*"HARD CIDER KILLED HIM"*

*"SLAIN BY A FAST TRAIN"*

*"BETHANY YOUTH SCALPED"*

*"PROBABLY DIED IN HIS SLEEP"*

*"DEATH'S QUICK SUMMONS"*

*"AT THE AGE OF 97"*

*"SINGING JUST BEFORE SHE DIED"*

*"MEASLES AND WHISKEY"*

*"FIRE FRIGHTENED A WOMAN TO DEATH"*

*"GUN AND A STOVE POKER"*

*"LAY DOWN TO SLEEP ON THE RR TRACKS"*

*"AN ATTACK OF INSANITY"*

*"If you are interested in finding out more about early death in Genesee County visit the Genesee County History Department."*

*"HIS REMAINS IN A BARREL"*

## OBITUARY HEADLINES: 1891 - 1906

*"DEATH IN MURDER CREEK"*

*"HIT BY A LIGHTENING BOLT"*

*"TWO LIVES GROUND OUT"*

*"DEATH IN THE KLONKIKE"*

*"KILLED ON NEW YEAR'S"*

*"FOUND DEAD IN BED"*

*"OVERDOSE OF CHLORAL"*

*"INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION"*

*"AN OVERDOSE OF OPIUM"*

*"MRS. STUCKI LET HER LIFE BLOOD OUT"*

*"BURIED UNDER A BIG PILE OF MALT"*

*"BENEATH CRUEL WHEELS"*

*"CANCER CAUSED DEATH"*

*"ON HER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY"*

*"HURLED INTO ETERNITY"*

*"SIMPLY WANTED TO DIE"*

*"STRICKEN IN CEMETERY"*

*"NOT A CASE OF MURDER"*

*"DEATH FROM STARVATION"*

*"DEATH ON A COUCH"*

*"DEATH AT A CONVENT"*

*"WHOLE CITY MOURNING"*

*"DARIEN MAN'S RASH ACT"*

*"A CENTENARIAN'S DEATH"*

*"DRANK WASHING FLUID"*

*"LIFELESS ON THE FLOOR"*

*"RESPECTED WOMAN DIES"*

*"BECAME A VICTIM AT LAST"*  
*(Tempted Fate Too Often)*

*"VICTIMS OF COAL GAS"*

*"SUICIDE OF AN OLD MAN"*

*"PREFERRED POISON TO PRISON"*

*"PLUNGED TO HIS DEATH"*

*"BURIED IN ONE GRAVE"*

*"DIED IN THE PENITENTIARY"*

*"POLISH WOMAN'S SUDDEN DEATH"*

*"DIED AT THE SUPPER TABLE"*

*"DEAD BY THE ROADSIDE"*

*"BETWEEN THE BUMPERS"*

*"DIED IN PALMIST ROOM"*

*"END OF A PLEASURE TRIP"*

*"VICTIMS OF TYPHOID"*

*"VICTIM OF DIPHTHERIA"*

*"THE CORONER CALLED"*

*"SWALLOWED A PLUM PIT"*

*"DIED FROM LOCKJAW"*

*"NO WARNING OF DEATH"*

*"LONG AND USEFUL LIFE ENDED"*

*"DID NOT SEE THE TRAIN"*

*"FORETOLD IN A DREAM"*

EARLY ADS AND LETTER HEADS

Batavia, N. Y., Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> 1888

No. County of Genesee

*Bought at* J. HAMILTON & SON,  
-DEALERS IN-  
**MARBLE & GRANITE MONUMENTS.**  
24 MAIN STREET.

1888

Six Soldiers Head Stones	\$90 00
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Batavia, N. Y., Nov 28<sup>th</sup> 1888

No. Genesee Co. N.Y.

**Bought at DAILEY'S**  
← MAMMOTH →  
**Furniture, Upholstering AND Undertaking Emporium,**  
8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 STATE STREET.  
Interest on All Bills After 60 Days.

1887	Nov 17	1 Blk Cape Casket	Hack	2.00
		1 Hack		2.48
		Dipping Graves		35.00
		All for		

The above bill is for the  
Burial of Robert Hawthorne,  
an Old Soldier.

Genesee County, ss:  
*R. N. DeLany* being duly sworn, saith that

**INFORMATION AND LAWS AVAILABLE FROM:**

STATE OF NEW YORK  
Department of State  
Division of Cemeteries  
65 Court Street  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**CEMETERY INFORMATION BOOKLET**

A Guide to the Operation of Incorporated Cemeteries

**CEMETERY LAW**

Cemetery Law and Procedure of the State Cemetery Board

