



*The Columbian, 30 Oct 1816, ad (partial)
run by Charles Lee & Adam Thomson,
owners of Vault 1.*

ANCESTOR ADVERTISING

Come on **May 6th** to see fascinating old newspaper advertisements run by Cemetery founders nearly 200 years ago.

Postmaster: Address service requested

NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY, INC.
P. O. Box 315 New York, NY 10159



ANNUAL RECEPTION SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2007 2-4 PM

Featuring Ancestor Advertising Display,
Refreshments & Distant Cousins

Owners' Meeting at 3pm

Look for handsome iron gates at 41½ Second Avenue
adjacent to Provenzano Lanza
Two blocks North of Houston Street in the East Village
RSVP: Caroline S. DuBois (212) 206-1106



*New York City
Landmark*

*National Register
of Historic Places*

The first privately owned, nonsectarian cemetery in New York City, established in 1831.

The half-acre Cemetery lies hidden in the interior of an East Village block; its underground vaults are concealed beneath an open lawn and enclosed within a 12-foot masonry wall and wrought-iron gates.

The Cemetery's 156 vaults have accommodated over 2000 burials in an arrangement designed, during an era of frequent epidemics, to safeguard public health from the little-understood ravages of infectious disease.

The vaults form a grid of 26 rows of six vaults each beneath the lawn, and the wall bears numbered tablets naming the original family vault owners.

Today, each vault belongs to the heirs of its 19th Century owner and all current owners have the right to burial here.

NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY

New York City
Landmark

www.marblecemetery.org
SECOND AVENUE
ABOVE EAST SECOND STREET

National Register
of Historic Places

ESTABLISHED 1831

APRIL 2007

© 2007 NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY, INC.

LAUGHTER TO TEARS

Public health and the memory of yellow fever epidemics were the impetus for creating the two Marble Cemeteries. When legislation banning earthen burials but allowing sealed family vaults was being considered by the City in 1825, six of the doctors supporting it were future Marble Cemetery vault purchasers – Drs. Hosack, Mott, Neilson, Perkins, Robson, and Stearns. Surprisingly, yellow fever is mentioned only once in the registers, and that was for a death in Venezuela.

The true scourge of life in the city was other infectious diseases, particularly contagious childhood ones and TB. The tubercle bacillus wasn't identified until 1882, so the Cemetery registers record deaths before then as *phthisis pulmonalis* or consumption. It struck more people in their 20s and 30s than did any other fatal disease, by far.

A chart display on causes of death produces amazed expressions from visitors: amusement from the quaint terms versus the reality the families themselves experienced. Diseases are now well defined by the International Classification of Diseases, but nineteenth century doctors used the medical vernacular of the time, which evolved throughout the century as knowledge grew.

Remittent fever first meant any bilious fever, but later indicated malaria; hives usually referred to *urticaria*, then became associated with croup. Some of the quainter terms, such as *defective organization*, *milk crust* (a type of eczema), and *decay of life* may make us chuckle, but each was the source of much suffering.

Germ theory was just beginning, with the recognition that microorganisms, rather than miasmas and spon-



Memorial for a Dead Child, mid-nineteenth century watercolor. (Wellcome Trust #L0043624, detail)

aneous generation, were largely the causes of contagion. Doctors do not have a single entry in our registers for *unknown*, yet that must have been the case, at times, since symptoms (indigestion, prostration) or the age of the patient (teething, old age) were noted instead.



Administering chloroform prior to surgery in the mid-nineteenth century. (Photo Researchers, Inc.)

Anesthesia allowed a surgeon to concentrate on precision rather than speed. Until the use of carbolic acid and other antiseptics, though, most patients died soon afterward from infection.

The Marble Cemetery was most heavily used in the 1830s, 40s, and 50s. This was generally a time of peace and prosperity. The only war casualty is Capt. William H. Chester, who died of wounds sustained at Gettysburg. Hospitals were more for the care of the poor, a holdover from the period of almshouses, than places of specialized medical care. This changed dramatically, but not until later in the century. Except for accidental death (including boiler explosion, drowning, cannon or gunshot, carriage, train, and wagon accidents, laudanum, poison, scalding, and warehouse casualty) most died at home, comforted by their families.

— ANNE W. BROWN

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH in decreasing order of occurrence. The first 12 diseases were responsible for half of all deaths. There are 150 other causes in Cemetery records.

Consumption or Phthisis	Convulsions	Bilious fever
Still-birth	Cancer, Tumor, Carcinoma	Typhus
Scarlet fever or Scarlatina	Old age or Decay of life	Diarrhea
Dropsy [Edema]	Inflammation of the bowels	Paralysis
Apoplexy [Stroke]	Cholera or Ch. asiatica	Remittent or Remitting fever
Dysentery	Congestion of the brain	Teething
Croup	Pneumonia	Diphtheria
Hydrocephalus	Inflammation of the brain	Peritonitis
Cholera infantum	Whooping cough or Pertussis	Typhoid
Inflammation of the lungs	Erysipelas [Skin infection]	Premature birth
Heart disease	Bronchitis	Puerperal [Endometrial] fever
Debility	Liver disease	Enteritis or Gastric enteritis
	Marasmus [Malnutrition]	Meningitis
	Measles or Rubella	Childbed or Childbirth

GLIMPSES FROM THE GARDEN

For the third year in a row, the Greater New York Chapter of the **Fulbright Association**, in partnership with **Metro International**, held their annual open air cocktail party in our garden on a warm summer evening in early September. The foreign students, scholars, and their NYC hosts enjoyed refreshments, networking and a short history lesson on their unusual surroundings.



One favorite question: "Is it an American custom to have parties in a cemetery?"

Just before Thanksgiving, the **Helois Photographic Studio** used our walls and gates as a back drop for their "two girl" photo shoot. Using beautiful old-timey dresses, smoke machines and spotlights they created dream-scape scenarios which they hope to publish in top fashion magazines. The shivering models warmed up in the neighboring Provenzano-Lanza Funeral Parlor which also supplied the electric extension cord hook up.

Trustees from NYMC presented our Portrait Collection at a day long seminar on Archive Preservation hosted by the **Lower Hudson Conference of Historical Agencies and Museums**. The presentation of our photo display boards and the detailed techniques for gathering, preserving, and displaying ancestor images was warmly received by our fellow historians.



Foreign students and Fulbright scholars enjoy a late summer day in the garden.

Save the dates for

MAKE MUSIC NEW YORK

Thursday, June 21, 2007

On the Summer Solstice, NYMC will participate in an all day city-wide music festival, hosting a series of Julliard String Quartets. For the first time in city history, free to the public, all over NYC orchestras to soloists will perform in public spaces.

OPEN HOUSE NEW YORK

October 6 & 7, 2007

Saturday and Sunday

This city-wide free event is our biggest annual crowd pleaser.



Anne Brown setting up her exhibit, "SEEING EYE TO EYE," for OHNY.

OPEN 4th SUNDAYS

April to October, NYMC is open on the 4th Sunday of the month, 11 am - 3 pm, in good weather, thanks to Sophie Truslow.

On one of the hottest days of the summer the **Peculiar Works Project**, an off-off-off Broadway theater group sponsored an afternoon series of play readings in NYMC called, appropriately, "Rites and Rituals" which explored different cultural approaches to Death, Afterlife, Embalming, and Memories. More than 20 actors circled among the audience sitting on chairs in the shade of the Mulberry Tree honoring the "Bones beneath Our Feet" with their very lively performances.



Peculiar Works Project presents an afternoon of play readings, "Rites and Rituals."

Community Relations have improved considerably due in part to some neighborhood break-ins. Trustees have met with police and Community Board #3 representatives and are working with the two adjacent shelters of Project Renewal to improve lighting, no trespassing signs and other security enhancements.

At the urging of our landscaper and historic preservation consultants, we hired **Urban Arborists** to cut down the central Mulberry Tree, which was planted accidentally by a bird many years ago. Large trees were never part of the original cemetery design. We love trees but understand the dangers posed to our vaults by tree roots. In neighboring St. Mark's cemetery last summer, wind toppled a tree leaving Peter Stuyvesant's family vault exposed to the elements.

NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY, INC.

P. O. Box 315 ♦ New York, NY ♦ 10159

www.marblecemetery.org

Local contact: Caroline S. DuBois (212) 206-1106

TRUSTEES

Anne W. Brown, office: (410) 586-1321
Peter C. Luquer; Sophia D. L. Truslow
Caroline S. DuBois; Rodman P. Neumann

ADVISORY BOARD

Includes more than 20 owners, neighbors, historians, genealogists, and preservationists

Photo courtesy Veronica Price



The South Wall of the Cemetery.

We are currently undertaking a major effort to **strengthen** and **stabilize** the base of the South Wall, repair problem areas, and erect a perimeter enclosure along our property lines where the wall needs future restoration; first along the West Wall and then along the North Wall as the City Department of Building contractors remove their scaffolding. The temporary fence will restore our historic enclosure and close gaps to prevent incursions onto the Cemetery grounds.

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY RESTORATION FUND

WE NEED YOUR HELP to maintain the site and to continue the long-term goal of rebuilding the wall, restoring the tablets, and enhancing the landscaping. To raise funds for restoration, we must: regularly open the site to visitors; practice the best historic restoration techniques and management policies; receive significant financial and operational support from owners and friends like you.

Please send your generous contribution to help restore and protect this fragile historic open space.

— Thank you

GIVING — THANKS TO OUR DONORS

The Trustees are extremely grateful to these organizations and these generous individuals for their support:

(Names withheld in this version for Internet privacy)

ANCESTOR ADVERTISING

Below are newspaper advertisements run by Cemetery founders nearly 200 years ago. (NewsBank/American Antiquarian Society)



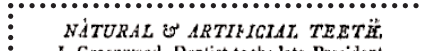
FOR SALE,
TWO yokes of working Oxen, handy and in fine order; also, a handsome Durham Bull Calf, four weeks old. Inquire in Samsondale, near Haverstraw, Rockland Co., N. Y., of
ELISHA PECK.
April 23, 1839. 27w2

Hudson River Chronicle, 23 April 1839, run by Elisha Peck, Vault 33.



DEER'S HAIR—1000 pounds Deer's Hair, just received and for sale by
PHELPS & PECK,
179 Front street.
nov 23

New-York Evening Post, 20 December 1821, run by Anson G. Phelps, Vault 4, and Elisha Peck, Vault 33



NATURAL & ARTIFICIAL TEETH.
J. Greenwood, Dentist to the late President, George Washington,
Inform the public that he continues to perform every operation incident to the Teeth and Gums. Except extracting them unless it is necessary to do it for the purpose of replacing others.
J Greenwood fixes in both natural and artificial Teeth, from a single one to a complete set. The approbation which the late illustrious Washington was pleased to bestow on him, he flatters himself, is a sufficient recommendation of his abilities as a Dentist

Extract from General Washington's letter.
January 6, 1799.
"I always prefer your services to that of any others in the line of your present profession"
N. B. His prices are very moderate, and no person as yet has exceeded him in facility and neatness of performance.

New-York Weekly Museum, 30 May 1807 (partial), run by John W. Greenwood, Vault 100.



For MARSEILLES,
The fine brig **SILKWORM,**
Rogers, Master;
Has two-thirds of her cargo on board, and will sail in a few days. For freight of the bulk of 300 bbls. apply to
G. G. & S. HOWLAND,
67 Washington-street.
mar 16

New-York Daily Advertiser, 22 March 1820, run by Gardner G. and Samuel Howland, Vault 142.



THE STEAM TOW BOATS.
INCORPORATED WITH A CAPITAL OF
100,000 DOLLARS.

SIX in number are now in successful operation, and form the regular line of Steam Tow Boats between New-York and Albany for the accommodation of Western Merchants in transportation of produce and merchandise on the Hudson River, were constructed expressly for this trade to pass the overfalls at all times.

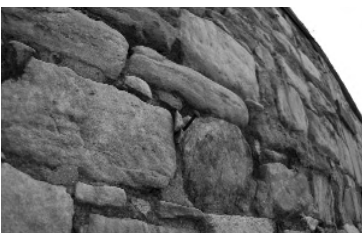
MOWATT, BROTHERS, & CO.
23w6
Ithaca Journal, 9 November 1825 (partial), run by Charles Mowatt, Vault 113.



FOUND,
ON the Turnpike Road near the meeting house, a Sum of Money. The owner may have it, by proving property and paying charges.
Abisha Smith,
Haddam, Oct. 15, 1810.

Middlesex Gazette (Middletown, CT), 8 December 1810, run by Abisha Smith, Vault 124.

Photo courtesy Dan Herzog - 07



NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY, INC.
P. O. Box 315 ♦ New York, NY ♦ 10159

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Enclosed is my contribution:
\$ _____

Your relationship to the Cemetery (descendant, neighbor, etc.) _____

For more information on gifts of appreciated stock or for a financial statement, call the office (410) 586-1321 or write treasurer@marblecemetery.org
Your contribution is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.
NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY, INC. is a Sec. 501(c)(13) registered charity.