



# NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY

SECOND AVENUE ABOVE EAST SECOND STREET

[www.marblecemetery.org](http://www.marblecemetery.org)

November 2021

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## NORTH WALL PROGRESS

Our master masons, Kutno Restoration, continue to rebuild the gap in the north wall which collapsed in a snowstorm many years ago. These gradual repairs have been slowed due to high rebuilding costs and the limited financial resources of the Cemetery.

Missing capstones and severe weather caused water to penetrate between the fragile marble blocks and the interior rubble mixture. This repeated cycle of freeze and thaw expansion was made worse by truck route vibrations on Second Avenue and untamed ivy vines bringing moisture and mold into the cracks.

The wall fell backwards into the adjacent areaway, leaving a huge pile of shattered rocks. This created a ramp for trespassers from the adjoining homeless shelter to enter our garden unobserved. The edges of the remaining, endangered wall were then supported by emergency steel girders installed in 1998 and which were removed several years later when the base wall was strong enough to hold the new construction. The Cemetery is responsible for its entire wall, both back and front, which continues down below our lawn another ten feet to form the back wall of the vaults.



*Tuckahoe marble waiting for stonemasons*

Slowly and steadily, we have been building the wall back stronger than ever, by using interior rebar tied into horizontal steel ladders, hidden supporting cinder blocks and a special mortar formula. Wherever possible the masons harvest the fallen stones and reshape them to imitate the original Greek Revival design pattern, leaving niches for the eventual replacement of family name plaques. Some plaques have been rescued and put in storage, while other shattered plaques left only fragments.

For two months this summer, two men working full time completed another 60' long x 4' high section of the north wall for \$75,000 with permits from the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission, and under the watchful eyes of our own engineer and historic preservation advisors.

Challenges are the scarcity of available Tuckahoe Marble since the quarries are long since closed, and future fabrication of capstones (likely to be made from lightweight, reinforced concrete).



*Stonemasons rebuilding north wall*



**North Wall :  
Buttoned up for the winter**

## JOIN US - VOLUNTEERS ENCOURAGED

The Trustees welcome other Vault Owners to help us greet visitors during our monthly Open Gate Days, usually held on the last Sunday of the month from Noon to 4pm from April to October.

If you live near Manhattan, enjoy learning New York City history and sharing family stories, or just want to get your hands in the soil when clipping vines and pulling weeds, we would love to see you in our garden.

Reply to [info@marblecemetery.org](mailto:info@marblecemetery.org) and we will teach you everything you need to know.



*Waiting for visitors on Open Gate Day*

## NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY, INC.

*A 501(c)(13) registered charity*

### CONTACT

For general questions, please call  
Caroline S. DuBois, President  
(516) 922-7345 (home phone)

[www.marblecemetery.org](http://www.marblecemetery.org)  
[info@marblecemetery.org](mailto:info@marblecemetery.org)

### TRUSTEES

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## VAULT ARRANGEMENT AND NUMBERING SYSTEM

The Cemetery is a grid of underground rooms, six columns by 26 rows. The two columns closest to the south wall are separated by a series of discrete access shafts, as are the two columns closest to the north wall. The two columns in the center, with their marble owners' tablets on opposing walls, also have access shafts between them. Each vault has a door opening into one of the 78 individual shafts allowing each vault to share a shaft with the vault that faces it. The shafts are not connected to each other; these are not catacombs.

At first glance, the numbered tablets on the walls appear to be placed almost randomly. The column of three which is closest to the entrance reads, top to bottom, 53-2-1; on the opposite wall is 54-105-106. Positions for the vaults in the three columns on the south side can be determined from the locations of the marble tablets on the Second Street wall; tablets for the three northern columns are on the Third Street wall.

Current owners of record, most of whom were purchasers in the 1830s, are shown on the map where their vaults are located. Relatives and business partners often purchased a vault jointly. Other closely-related persons bought adjacent vaults that share entrances or have common partition walls. The three Post [family] vaults - 56 -107-108 - lie end to end. In a few cases, some who were rivals in their professional lives chose to be neighbors for the long term.

The map on the website at [www.marblecemetery.org](http://www.marblecemetery.org) / Visit the Cemetery / Vault Arrangement may help to clarify this. (You can request a hard copy sent to you by snail mail.) The diagram is not to scale. The north and south walls that hold the tablets are longer than the east and west walls.

*Taken from Anne Brown's New York Marble Cemetery Interments, 1830-1937, 2nd edition, 2020. Available from the author, \$55, AWB@chesapeake.net.*



*Family Name Plaques on North Wall*

*If you'd prefer to receive this newsletter by email, please email us at [info@marblecemetery.org](mailto:info@marblecemetery.org) to give us your name and the preferred email address.*



### MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION A 501(c)(13) registered charity

Online via at [www.marblecemetery.org](http://www.marblecemetery.org)

Or send a check to:  
New York Marble Cemetery, Inc.  
Attn: Treasurer  
P.O. Box 315  
New York, NY 10159

ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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For information on gifts of appreciated stock or for a financial statement, please email [treasurer@marblecemetery.org](mailto:treasurer@marblecemetery.org)





**OWNERS MEETING**

**SUNDAY  
MAY 1, 2022  
1-4 PM**

**OUR TRUSTEES: LAURA A. NICHOLSON**

**Trustee/Secretary, Owner Vaults #4 Phelps & #138 Crary**

**G**rowing up in Bedford, NY, I must have been predisposed to loving the history of places.

We attended a church built in 1810. I would skip out on the walk between the church and Sunday school and go running around the cemetery. I loved its beautiful sculptures and stones, all green and quiet.

I attended high school in Newport, RI, right on the Cliff Walk during a time when my art history teacher, (and mentor) had started a program to restore the local graveyards. He would take us to do “grave rubbings” with rice paper and crayon, something we do not allow at NYMC due to the fragility of the stones. His perseverance and passion to preserve and restore left a huge impression on me.

I was contacted early in the search for descendents and began to visit this green oasis on Owners’ Days. In 2015, I began to volunteer to work in the “garden” and was gradually encouraged to become a trustee and am now its Secretary.

Today it is a privilege to open the gates during the warmer months for the benefit of visitors and neighbors, to link the Cemetery with the community.

I feel so fortunate to be connected to the history of the city and my ancestors, and be part of a family group of trustees who work hard to collaborate for the good of the Cemetery.

**Cemetery Trustees**



*Left to Right - R. Breck Denny, Laura A. Nicholson, Caroline S. DuBois, Daphne Jay Bell*