

# NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY, INC.



SECOND AVENUE ABOVE SECOND STREET  
ESTABLISHED 1830

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## STEPPING OUT

APRIL 2003

More and more people are discovering the Marble Cemetery. On sunny days when Caroline DuBois opens the gates to visitors, our East Village neighbors stream in, never having dreamed that so much tranquility was right on their doorsteps. Whether young or old, they are awed and appreciative.



Photo: Caroline S. DuBois

### *Relaxed neighbors*

Word is spreading rapidly throughout the preservation community, as well. Dozens of the area's leading researchers, historians, architects, and journalists have come to see for themselves that there really is something unique hidden inside our block. Also this past year, several prominent cultural organizations asked for tours or presentations. After Chris Neville's and Sophie Truslow's professional explanations, they left excited about the site and its importance.

And you, the owners, are coming back in ever greater numbers, not just from curiosity but from genuine interest. Count on visiting again on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, for the annual meeting. Bring along at least one cousin; plan on joining some others. Make it a family reunion.

Despite the mortar's inexorable decline, Gresham Lang has miraculously made the grounds look better than they have in many years. He is carefully storing fallen family tablets and is sorting through the detritus of over one and one-half centuries of life in Manhattan. Work is currently concentrated along the western boundary, where both modern mementos and snow-white portions of the old marble Index Stone are coming to the surface.



Photo: Sophia L. Truslow

### *Tense north wall*

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“WE SHALL PUT OUR HANDS IN OUR POCKETS AND SUBSCRIBE...”

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For the best-established charities, the last two years have been humbling. For newer organizations, the challenge has been even greater. Kinny Post, David Oliphant, Brooks Robbins, Polly Merrill, George Frelinghuysen, Ham Kean, and others have worked hard to present the Cemetery’s case to potential benefactors. Led by the Dillon family, several generous donors have responded, enabling us to weather fundraising’s perfect storm. We now need to receive financial support from *each* of you to match the encouraging moral support that so many of you have been providing all along.

Peter Luquer, President & Treasurer, summarizes the Cemetery’s year-end financial position: The cash balance stands at \$286,000, of which \$100,000 is for a mandatory maintenance fund which cannot be spent. Annual operating expenses average \$10,000. Of the \$400,000 of emergency work which was done two years ago, \$100,000 is still unpaid and is our most immediate obligation. Restoration of the walls will cost about \$2,000,000. It is an enormous amount until one realizes that no machinery can be brought in on top of the vaults; absolutely everything must be done by hand.

The good news is that the number of living owners finally surpasses the number of burials. You are among the 2,200 adult heirs that William Kingsland and Anne Brown have unearthed so far. If all will pitch in – liberally – the Cemetery can have a future as well as a past. A similar appeal went out 100 years ago, when Mssrs. Parish, Hone, and Newcomb wrote:

*This cemetery was incorporated nearly 75 years ago. The people who bought the vaults are almost all of them and many of their descendants buried there. As their descendants, the question is now presented ... whether we shall put our hands in our pockets and subscribe to a fund (which divided among so many, should not be a heavy tax upon any one individual) in order to carry out the wishes of our ancestors.*

Our great grandparents’ enthusiastic response to this plea made it possible for the Cemetery to survive until today. It is now our turn to be its stewards and restore the crumbling walls and family plaques. The dynamism that spurred the growth of 19<sup>th</sup> century New York – exemplified by the accomplishments of the Marble Cemetery’s founders - swept away almost all the physical remains of the early city. Our amazing legacy deserves to be saved for all of New York to enjoy.

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Please send your contribution to: New York Marble Cemetery, Inc.  
10375 Mackall Road ❖ St. Leonard, MD ❖ 20685-2490  
410-586-1321 ❖ office@marblecemetery.org



The Cemetery is a Sec. 501 (c)(13) registered charity. Please enquire about gifts of appreciated stock.

**MONDAY, MAY 5, 2003**

# **OWNERS' MEETING**

The grounds, at 41 ½ Second Avenue, will open at 11:00. A brief business meeting will be held on the lawn at 1:00. Our sister cemetery around the corner, the New York City Marble Cemetery, will be gathering later the same afternoon. We are all invited to visit back and forth.



*Mourning for William IV*

*"World of Fashion," 1837*

The Cemetery entrance is adjacent to Provenzano-Lanza, 43 Second Avenue. Look for the restored iron gates, erected in 1854 and 1908. The closest subway stops are Second Avenue-Houston Street for the F and V trains (exit from the north or west end of the train) and Bleecker Street for the No 6. There is limited metered parking on the street. Please bring an umbrella as insurance. No vaults will be open.

*For those who would like to see the Cemetery but cannot visit in person, the office would be glad to send a short videotape.*



*Collection of the Museum of the City of New York*

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## PATER FAMILIAS

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John Hone, 1764-1831, was extraordinarily successful in the days when an auctioneer was almost an investment banker. He purchased entire shiploads of exports - thereby assuming the risk of total loss during the ocean crossings - and then sold the safely-arrived goods at auction. Mr. Hone was the first president of the Cemetery, and would certainly have been pleased that he had more descendants attending last year's Owners' Meeting than did any of his friends. Can one of them surpass him in 2003?

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

*Postmaster:  
Address correction requested*