



ANNUAL RECEPTION
SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2005
ON THE CEMETERY GROUNDS
2-4 PM

(Owners' Meeting at 3pm)
Featuring Refreshments & Distant Cousins

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

THE NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY

- The first privately-owned, nonsectarian cemetery in New York City, developed in 1830 and established in 1831.
- A New York City Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 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 26 rows of six vaults each beneath the lawn, and the north and south walls bear numbered tablets naming the original family vault owners.
- Today, each vault belongs to the descendants/heirs of its Nineteenth Century owner and all current owners have the right to burial.

GARDEN PARTIES The Cemetery grounds are available to rent for weddings, corporate events, fundraisers, and similar daytime festivities. Decisions on cost and suitability are made on a case-by-case basis. Caterers and small tents are welcome. Sorry, no loud music or dancing. Contact: tours@marblecemetery.org

THE NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY, INC.
10375 Mackall Road
St. Leonard, MD 20685-2490



www.marblecemetery.org



Christopher Neville

THE NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY RESTORATION REPORT

SECOND AVENUE
ABOVE EAST SECOND STREET

ESTABLISHED 1831

NEW YORK CITY
LANDMARK

NATIONAL REGISTER
OF HISTORIC PLACES

www.marblecemetery.org

APRIL 2005

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RESEARCH REWARDED In October 2004, the Cemetery's Trustees held a small reception to honor hard-working genealogical researcher, **William M. V. Kingsland**. The Trustees presented him with a boxed edition of George Templeton Strong's *Diary* describing old New York. The presentation was made in acknowledgment of his "energy, perseverance, and extraordinary knowledge" of old New York families, and in thanks for the many years he has spent on the Cemetery's behalf, digging through "family tree roots" and piecing together the connections between vault owners and their living descendants.



2ND AVE. SUBWAY UPDATE The final Environmental Impact Study for the proposed Second Avenue Subway was issued in April 2004, and identifies both our cemetery and the nearby New York City Marble Cemetery as potentially vulnerable historic resources along the projected route of the new line. The MTA's consulting engineers visited the NYCMC in November 2003, when a vault was being opened for structural inspection, and have visited our cemetery grounds as well. Although the impact of the subway line will potentially threaten the physical fabric of the Cemetery, it is good to see the significance and fragility of both cemeteries being considered at this stage of the planning process.

CEMETERY SUPPORTS NEW LANDMARKS LAW As the representatives of a small historic site, the Trustees and Advisors of the Cemetery understand well that historic stewardship is a complex and ongoing fight with gravity and the elements. The stewards of small historic properties need every form of regulatory incentive possible – carrots and sticks – to keep up their end of the bargain. The Cemetery is grateful for the New York State Cemetery Board's generous emergency grant, which made possible the restoration of the east wall, and for the Landmark Preservation Commission's advice and support in the restoration process.

By the same token, the Cemetery supports and commends the work of the LPC (supported by the Historic Districts Council and other City preservation groups) and the sponsorship of Councilmember Tony Avella, in the passage of *The Failure To Maintain/Demolition by Neglect* Bill (Intro 403B), which was adopted by the City Council, 47- 0, on February 15, 2005.



Left: East wall before. Right: Stonework nearly completed.

WALL CONSERVATION

The New York Marble Cemetery surprises and challenges the modern observer, as it speaks from an austere period and an architectural style that predate the rural cemetery movement that has dominated Western cemetery design since the mid-nineteenth century. The Cemetery's ordered universe is visible in the coursing of its Greek Revival ashlar wall (and was once evident in the original landscape – a rectangular lawn containing only white sand paths and shrubbery).

The cohesive order of the wall's stone grid reflects the belief of the Cemetery founders that their culture could harness the wilderness and control nature and disease with the ordered discipline inherent in architecture, science, engineering, and human perseverance, even as the New York City street grid was controlling the City's growth, and the Erie Canal and Thomas Jefferson's network of turnpikes would access and harness the American continent. As the wall was designed to protect the individuals interred in the Cemetery, physically and metaphorically, it must in turn be protected and maintained through thoughtful and appropriate restoration methods.

The wall's condition reflects 175 years of weather, gravity, and neighborhood incursion, only partially offset by a series of Trustee-led efforts to regain ground. The coping-stones fell off long ago and years of being waterlogged left the interior of the wall porous and absorbent, even after replacement of the coping-stones. Long-term water run-off through the wall created interior caverns which have left it very susceptible to damage from freeze-thaw cycles, particularly in each section where the neighbor has exposed the wall foundations in the process of excavating an areaway for access to the building's basement level. Years ago, a large section of the north wall fell into the subsurface areaway that the YMCA had excavated

WALL CONSERVATION – continued next page

when it built its building in 1910 (see photo top of p. 3). Last year the same process began to happen to the east wall at two of the many worrisome spots that the Trustees had been monitoring – the southeast corner next to the entrance gate, and a large section at the center of the wall.

The particularly harsh and changeable freeze-thaw cycles of the winter of 2003-2004 rapidly accelerated the deterioration. By February, 2004, the southeast corner was very precarious. Temporary shoring was installed to hold the deterioration for

a few months. In early March, a section of the east wall began to bulge badly and then blew out, leaving a roughly one-hundred-square-foot section gouged out of the interior side of the wall. On the application of Trustee Peter Luquer, the New York State Division of Cemeteries agreed to make a very generous grant to the Cemetery from its Monument Repair Fund, which made the restoration possible. The Trustees are very grateful for the long-term technical and professional support of Richard Fishman, Director of the Division of Cemeteries, on many occasions prior to the present restoration work.



Left: Southeast corner before. Right: Stonework done.

original stones; stainless, not mild steel for interior support; and at all times respect for the intrinsic design and construction sensibilities of the period. Joan meticulously analyzed the stone and mortar needs and supervised the work. Greg's enthusiasm was infectious as was his joy in engaging in a dialogue with those Cemetery masons who had last worked on the wall 175 years ago. He and his men, with the expert advice of Joan Berkowitz and Mike Devonshire, created stonework that not only matched, but spoke to the existing wall, and evidenced their respect for a long-gone way of thinking.

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PUBLIC OUTREACH

OPEN HOUSE NEW YORK In October 2004, the Cemetery welcomed over 1,500 visitors as part of the second annual OHNY, a weekend of public access to historic sites and places of interest (ohny.org). To publicize the Cemetery's participation in OHNY, more than 800 "Please join us" postcards were sent to Owners and supporters in a fifty-mile radius, attracting several dozen first-time visitors.

Trustees and eight volunteer OHNY greeters in red hats were assisted on-site by several Advisory Board members, including Eliot Rowlands of NYC, Bill and Joan Thomas from Bala Cynwyd, PA, and Brooks and Meg Robbins from Hingham, MA.

This coming October 8 & 9, 2005, the Cemetery will again be part of OHNY and, hopefully, will be (for the third year in a row!) one of the most visited sites.



L to R – Meg Robbins, Anne W. Brown, Brooks Robbins & Caroline S. DuBois wearing red OHNY tour guide hats.



SPECIAL EVENTS & GARDEN PARTIES

The Cemetery's fundraising efforts have reached a new level with the hosting of special events. The Greater New York Chapter of the Fulbright Alumni Association held a cocktail reception on the grounds on a warm August evening in 2004. In July 2005, a historically-minded neighborhood couple will celebrate their marriage in front of 200 guests at the Cemetery.

WALKING TOURS & FOURTH SUNDAYS

Walking tours are welcome by pre-arrangement. Prior tour sponsors include the Municipal Arts Society, Justin Ferate's New York, Street Smarts NY, Shadowcasters, the Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment, the Merchant's House for "Life and Afterlife in the 19th Century," and the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation.

The Cemetery grounds are open the fourth Sunday of every month, weather permitting (check the Web site).

THE NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY, INC.

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410-586-1321 • office@marblecemetery.org



TRUSTEES Anne W. Brown; 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



Leaning North wall braced with steel beams.

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY RESTORATION FUND

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We would like to extend the fine work done on the East wall to the other walls with the long-term goal of rebuilding the wall and enhancing the landscaping.

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

– Thank you

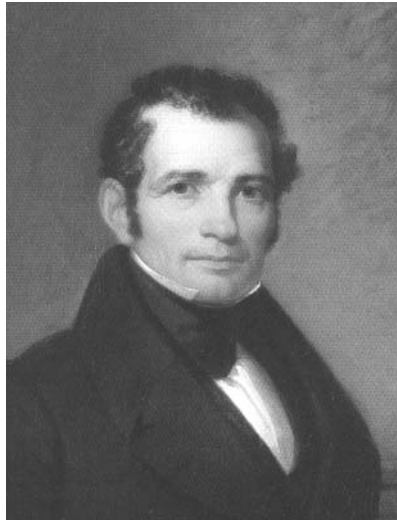
VAULT LISTINGS AVAILABLE Since 1977, the Cemetery's original burial records and minutes have been archived at the New-York Historical Society. These materials were the basis for Anne Brown's *New York Marble Cemetery Interments 1830-1937* (pub. 1999, Kinship Press, Rhinebeck, NY: www.Kinshipny.com 845-876-4200). This volume includes information on the names, dates, causes of death, and last addresses of those deceased located in the 156 vaults; the listings also include (when available) occupations, professional memberships, parents' names, and information on removals to other cemeteries. The Cemetery's working archives are kept in the Cemetery office, along with the current mailing list of approximately 3,000 descendants (out of an estimated 250,000 living descendants). As part of our on-going outreach project, every known Owner/Family has been sent an updated copy of the interment list for their particular vault. For interested researchers, the entire *Interments* document – an update of the 1999 book – can be printed and spiral bound at a cost of about \$85. Contact: office@marblecemetery.org

GIVING – THANKS TO OUR DONORS

The Trustees are extremely grateful to the many generous individuals and foundations for their support during the past year.

(Names withheld in this version for Internet privacy)

SHARED HISTORY WITH THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Durand, Asher, Luman Reed, 1835-36, New-York Historical Society



Ingham, Charles, Mary Barker Reed (1780-1869), c. 1835, Metropolitan Museum of Art (No. 1977.342.2)

LUMAN REED (1787-1836), Vault 123, was an iconoclastic and visionary nineteenth-century American art collector. Originally a wholesale dry goods merchant, he built a gallery to be open to the public in his townhouse at 13 Greenwich Street, which was designed by A. J. Davis and built by Isaac G. Pearson (Vault 80). Reed concentrated on new American artists, rather than fashionable but spurious "Old Masters," and introduced early artists of the Hudson River School (Thomas Cole, Asher Durand, William Mount, and George Flagg). In 1858 his art collection was given to the New-York Historical Society and housed there in a gallery that bears his name.



Unknown Artist, Dr. David Hosack, c. 1835, Univ. Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

DR. DAVID HOSACK (1769-1835), Vault 52, was a respected physician, surgeon, professor of medicine, and horticulturalist. An early proponent of sanitary burial practices, he was also an advocate for ground-breaking commercial developments, including the Erie Canal. He attended Alexander Hamilton in his fatal 1804 duel with Aaron Burr. Hosack and Dr. Valentine Mott (Vault 58) founded and taught at Columbia's College of Physicians & Surgeons and Rutgers Medical College (then located at 26 Duane Street). Hosack was also a founder of the New-York Historical Society, as well as the Society's fourth President.

Send your check to:

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Enclosed is my contribution:
\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Relationship to the Cemetery (descendent, neighbor, friend, etc.) _____

For more information on gifts of appreciated stock or for a financial statement, call:
410-586-1321 or write office@marblecemetery.org

Your contribution is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

THE NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY, INC. is a Sec. 501 (c) (13) registered charity.