



# NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY

SECOND AVENUE ABOVE EAST SECOND STREET

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

November 2017

©New York Marble Cemetery, Inc.

## OUR TRUSTEES - DAPHNE JAY BELL



*Daphne Jay Bell*

It is not surprising that Daphne, an energetic city explorer, would eventually discover our Cemetery. What is extraordinary are the connections revealed when she and her son Andy, now a journalist, wandered into NYMC some ten years ago during Open House New York.

They were greeted by trustee Anne Brown, former President of the Cemetery and a genealogist.

After a brief quiz on Daphne's relation to New York City history, Anne recited to them their Village family tree, showing the locations of their vaults (108: Joel Post and 125: Cyrenius Beers) and linking them to several owners.

A career teacher, Daphne grew up in New York City, attended the Brearley School and Vassar College, and received an M.A. in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Hunter College. Outside her work with preschool and other academic levels and age-groups, Daphne enjoys cultural and heritage activities, such as singing in a Scots Gaelic group, walking-tours, membership at Scandinavia House and FIAF (French Institute Alliance Française,) attending the French Church du Saint-Esprit, and supporting local sports.

Daphne's love of history stems from her personal connection to the city since her ancestors include the first Chief Justice, John Jay, Senator Rufus King, and Major General William Alexander, one of George Washington's ablest commanders.

Daphne serves on the boards of the New York Marble Cemetery, the New York Caledonian Club, and King Manor Museum. She represents the Cemetery at downtown small-business, preservation, and community-board meetings. She can be counted on as a regular host for the Cemetery Open Gate Days, greeting visitors and swapping local stories.

### NY MARBLE CEMETERY FACT BOX

- *16 Open Gate Days in 2017 between April and October*
- *2,140 Visitors in one weekend during Open House New York*
- *16 Hosts during OHNY weekend: (including Trustees, Owners, and Event Volunteers)*
- *Designated as one of 15 NYC Spaces of Respite by Open House NY*

---

*Thanks to our Donors, whose names  
have been removed for  
internet privacy*



Our landscaper, Gresham Lang with his office manager, Susan Wood.

## SPACE OF RESPITE

A young woman slapped both cheeks in surprise upon rounding the corner into the cemetery, an older man spent an hour reading every poster hanging on a coat rack, while a group of high school kids circled their chairs to enjoy the sunshine.

These were some of the 2,140 visitors to the cemetery during the weekend of October 14 & 15, 2017 for the fifteenth annual Open House New York. These visitors discovered our historic open space designated as one of OHNY's favorite "Spaces of Respite".

As their website ([ohny.org](http://ohny.org)) states: For two days each October, the annual Open House New York Weekend unlocks the doors of New York's most important buildings, offering an extraordinary opportunity to experience the city and meet the people who design, build, and preserve New



York. Through its year-round programs and the annual OHNY Weekend, Open House New York celebrates the best examples of design and planning throughout the five boroughs, from historic to contemporary, and helps foster a more informed conversation about how architecture and urban design sustain New York as a vibrant place to live, work, and learn.

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)  
[office@marblecemetery.org](mailto:office@marblecemetery.org)

### TRUSTEES

Anne Wright Brown  
Caroline S. DuBois  
Daphne Jay Bell

R. Breck Denny  
Eliot Rowlands  
Brian A. Blake

Peter C. Luquer, Emeritus  
E. Brooks Robbins, Emeritus

Newsletter Editor: Ellen Schofield

## SHAFT EXCAVATION REVEALS INTERESTING FACTS



Burial vaults are in pairs, with each pair sharing a ten-foot-deep entrance shaft large enough to allow vault doors to open outward. A few weeks before the first wedding of the season, landscapers noticed an unexpected subsidence in the northeast corner of the Cemetery.

Excavation of four feet of soil revealed the fieldstone lid covering the entrance shaft. The roots of a long-gone tree had probably

allowed some soil to slip past the lid to the shaft floor. The lid was in two pieces, likely to have cracked over 100 years ago. It must have been raised and lowered dozens of times in the 19th century for burials and removals in the two vaults, using a frame or tripod with a block and tackle.

The workmen discovered three broken headstones from other cemeteries whose names could still be read. The headstones were probably stored in the shaft for convenience when coffins were transferred from other graveyards, and one of the stones belonged to a reinterment from a nearby vault. One of the vault doors was lying in several pieces on the floor of the shaft leaving the vault, which was empty, open. The other door was intact. Vault numbers were carved over each door frame.

The perimeter vault, approximately 8' wide x 10' long x 7' high in the center, backs up to the north wall of the Cemetery. The 12' high marble wall which surrounds the Cemetery above ground continues another 10' below ground to form the back wall of all the perimeter vaults.

A descendant-owner of the open vault paid to have the doorway cleared, the floor swept clean, and the old headstones and slate door placed neatly inside the vault to respect both past and future burials. In accordance with the policy of replacing shaft lids as necessary with sturdy, modern, lightweight materials, the Trustees authorized a new lid of cement and rebar. After allowing the cement to cure for several days, the shaft was topped with earth and sod planted in the nick of time for the wedding.

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



### MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

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

Or send a check, made out to **NY Marble Cemetery**, to:  
Brian Blake, Treasurer  
New York Marble Cemetery, Inc.  
P.O. Box 315  
New York, NY 10159

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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



ANNUAL RECEPTION AND OWNER'S MEETING  
SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018, 1-4 PM

Photographer: Gresham Lang

*Our Gate received bright new paint in 2017*

---

## MAYOR AARON CLARK



*Mayor Aaron Clark (detail) by John Wesley Jarvis  
Addison Gallery, Phillips Academy, Andover MA*

The disastrous Panic of 1837, which arrived when an economic bubble burst during the Jacksonian Democrats' watch, gave quite a boost to the new Whig party, which supported big business, Eastern banks, and a more powerful central government. Although slavery differences eventually forced the Whig Party to dissolve, the philosophies of the Democrats and the Whigs were distinct enough to form the basis of the two-party system which survives to this day.

In New York City, one of the Whigs' most colorful standard-bearers was Aaron Clark. Even before being elected in 1837 to the first of two one-year terms as mayor, he was well-known as "the King of the Lotteries." It was legal to run a private lottery in New York State, and Clark had done it very successfully in the 1820s. While in office, the long-time widower received another sobriquet - "the Dancing Mayor" - after attending every society gala in town. When he ran for re-election, the Evening Post wryly commented, "Who knows but his Honor will dance into office next month?" He did. The fraud on both sides during that contest not only kept the cartoonists busy, but led to revised voter registration legislation.

Clark died in Brooklyn in 1861, aged 73, and was buried in the Marble Cemetery vault which he had purchased 30 years earlier. His wife, a daughter, and three grandchildren were already interred there.