



Beyond the Headstones

How to bring historic cemeteries to life

Thomas C. Henthorn, Ph.D.

Wyatt Endowed Professor of Public History
University of Michigan - Flint

Why Cemeteries? Bringing them to Life?

- Preservation
- Advocacy
- Programming



Why Cemeteries?

- Cemeteries are *quintessential!!!*



ROME, ITALY

Why Cemeteries?

- Cemeteries are *quintessential!!!*

History



Why Cemeteries?

- Cemeteries are *quintessential!!!*

Architecture



Why Cemeteries?

- Cemeteries are *quintessential!!!*

Public Art



Why Cemeteries?

- Cemeteries are *quintessential!!!*

Flora



Why Cemeteries?

- Cemeteries are *quintessential!!!*

Fauna



Why Cemeteries?

- Cemeteries are *quintessential!!!*

Public Spaces



A quick history of cemetery landscapes

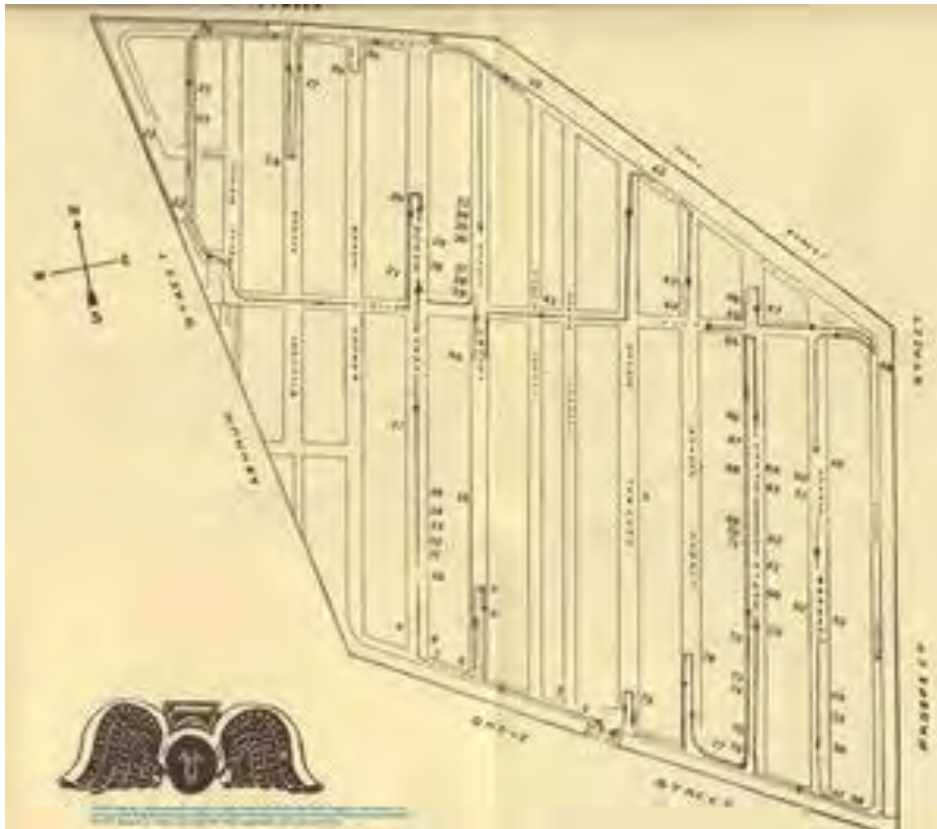
- Grave Yards & Burying Grounds



A quick history of cemetery landscapes

- The Cemetery

New Haven Burial Ground (Grove St. Cemetery)



A quick history of cemetery landscapes

- The Rural Cemetery Movement

Mt. Auburn Cemetery



A quick history of cemetery landscapes

- **The Lawn-Park Cemetery**
Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, OH



A quick history of cemetery landscapes

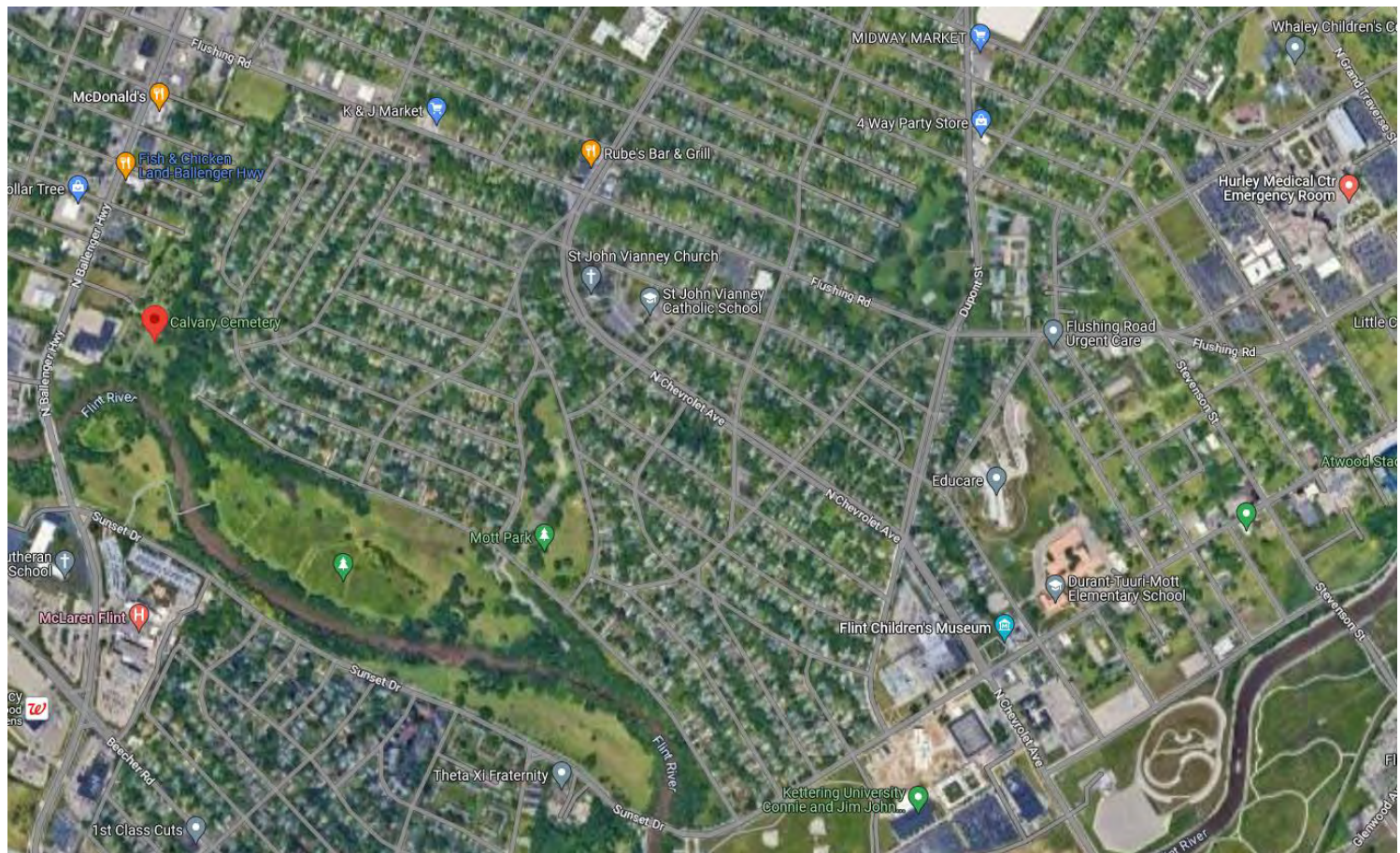
- **The Memorial Park Cemetery**

Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, CA



Local references

- Old Calvary Cemetery, Flint



Local references

- **Glenwood Cemetery, Flint**



Preserving Memorial Landscapes

- Surveying & Documenting



CEMETERY SURVEY LOCATES GRAVESITES
LANSING

Preserving Memorial Landscapes

- **Surveying & Documenting**

Common Stone Types

Marble & Limestone (CaCO_3)

Sandstone (variable porosity)

Granite (durable, crystalline)

Deterioration Causes

Environmental: freeze-thaw,
acid rain, salts

Biological: lichens, mosses,
microbes

Human-caused: lawn
equipment, poor repairs



Preserving Memorial Landscapes

- Trusted Sources



Preserving Memorial Landscapes

- The Problem of Misinformation

No credentialing/licensing
System

Rise of “wildcat”
preservationists

Unsafe YouTube/DIY methods



Preserving Memorial Landscapes

- **Cleaning – *Keep it simple***



Preserving Memorial Landscapes

- Cleaning – *Orvus*

Orvus Paste

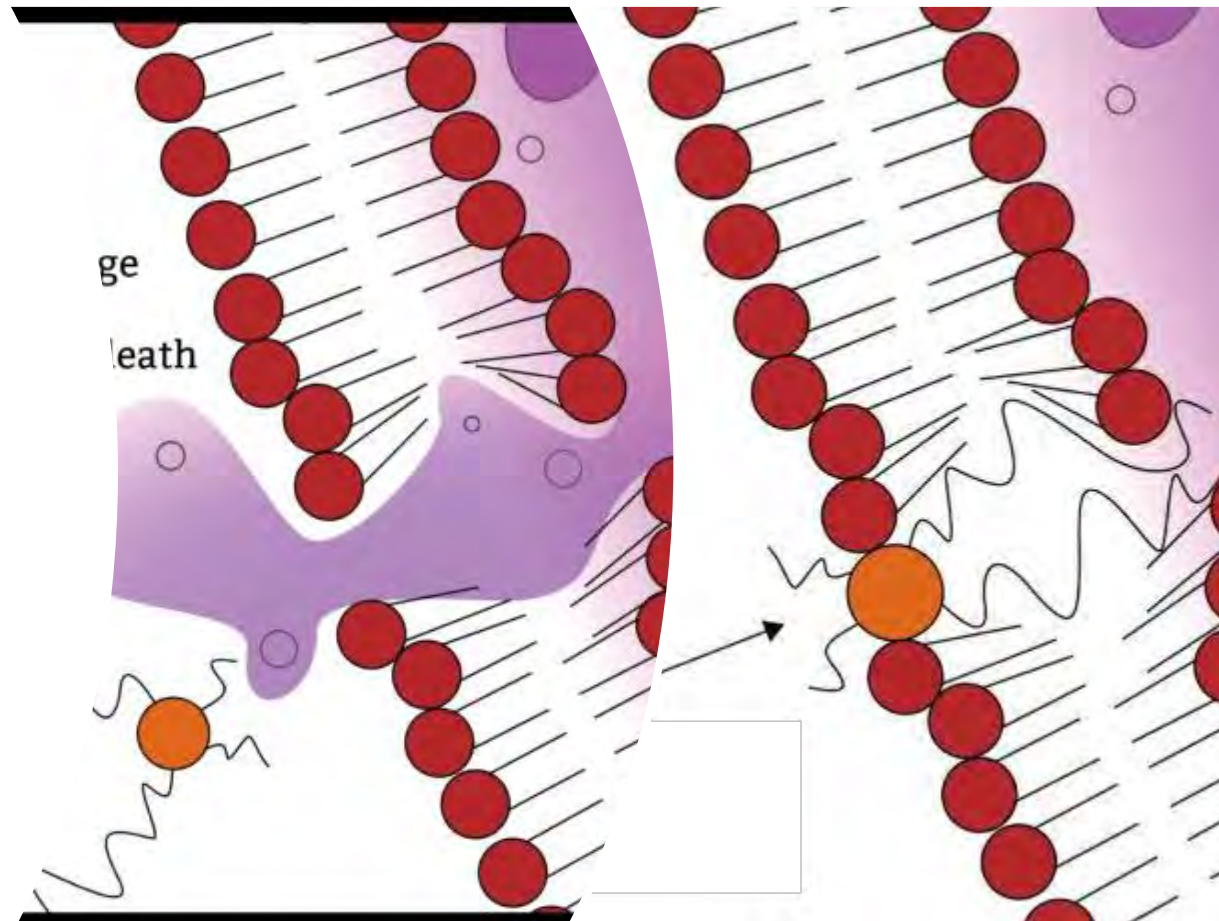
Neutral surfactant (safe detergent)
Lifts dirt without harming stone



Preserving Memorial Landscapes

- Cleaning – *What is D2 anyway?*

Quaternary ammonium
compounds
Targets biofilms, prevents
regrowth



Preserving Memorial Landscapes

- Repair – Epoxy

Bonstone Glacier
(fast set, clear)

Pratley Clear
(small, precise
repairs)

Bonstone Duramax
(slow set, strong)



Preserving Memorial Landscapes

- **Repair – Mortars**

Problems with Portland Cement

Too hard, traps moisture

Cracks softer stone

Compatible Mortars

Bonstone mortar

with latex binder

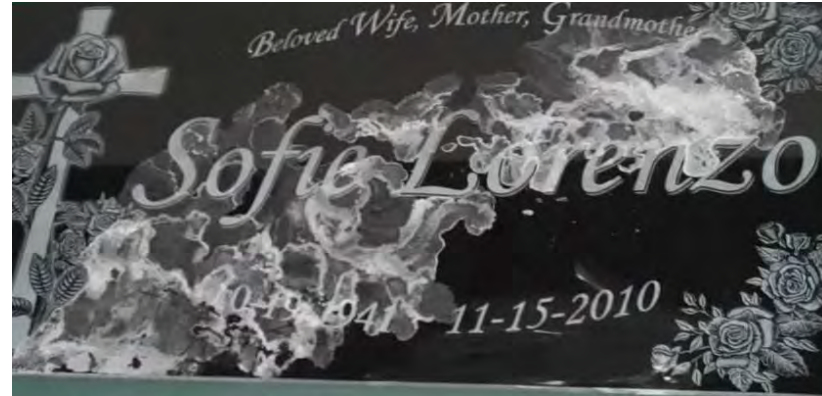
Lime-based mortars

(sacrificial, permeable)



Preserving Memorial Landscapes

- Repair & Restoration



Cemeteries as Public Places

- Victorian Mourning Traditions Tours



Cemeteries as Public Places

- Cleanups & Workshops

**Next workshop:
June 23rd
Oxford Cemetery**



Cemeteries as Public Places

- Creative Programming

All Saints' at Glenwood
Glenwood Cemetery Est. 1857

Walking Tours
1:00PM - 4:00PM

Worship Service
2:00 PM

Sunday October 30, 2022
FREE EVENT - EVERYONE WELCOME!

Logos: LUTHERAN CHURCH, ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Riverside Tabernacle, COURT STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GLENWOOD CEMETERY
2500 W COURT STREET,
FLINT MICHIGAN 48503

GOTHIC GARDEN PARTY

FREE ENTRY
FREE ENTRY
FREE ENTRY

OCTOBER 26TH, 2024
NOON-4PM

FOOD TRUCK, VENDORS,
PHOTOGRAPHY SESSIONS, POETRY
READING & MORE

GOTHIC OR VICTORIAN ATTIRE ENCOURAGED
COME DINE WITH FLINT'S FAMOUS DEPARTED

Logos: whiting FOUNDATION, MICHIGAN ARTS & CULTURE COUNCIL, WHALEY Historic House Museum, GLENWOOD CEMETERY

DONATIONS ENCOURAGED FOR PRESERVATION EFFORTS



Beyond the Headstones

Thank you!!!!

