

Burying Ground Preservation Group, Inc.

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To: Mamaroneck Historical Society
From: Burying Ground Preservation Group, Inc.

Final Report: DeLancey Burying Ground, Mamaroneck, New York:
Survey, Clean, Record & Restore

Restoration of the DeLancey Burying Ground began in May and was completed in August 2019. Cleaning of all historic marble stones with water and mild detergent; initial survey work and photographic recording; and investigation of the site to identify and match dislocated fragments was undertaken first (Phases I & II). Application of an antimicrobial solution and site repairs were begun in July and the final repair of the box tomb and joint fills were completed in August (Phase III).

A total of eleven marble headstones, one box tomb consisting of a marble top supported on a brick base, and seven marble footstones were cleaned of soil and bio-growth, straightened or reassembled and reattached using structural pins and adhesives as appropriate, and reset in the ground. A tree that threatened one of the headstones was removed from the site by the Mamaroneck Historical Society. Photographs and genealogical data have been uploaded to www.BillionGraves.com, an online searchable database.

Four of the headstones and the box tomb posed the greatest challenge in terms of conservation treatment. Three headstones – Susannah DeLancey, Elizabeth Caroline DeLancey and Thomas J. DeLancey – were each broken into multiple pieces. Some of the pieces were buried below grade while others were dislocated from each other. Reattaching these multiple fragments by drilling and inserting pins prior to the application of structural adhesives was necessary to achieve long-term stability. A fourth headstone – Elizabeth DeLancey – survived only as two pieces bearing a portion of her inscription. Lacking a base, these pieces were pinned together and secured with structural adhesives prior to being reset in the ground using steel rods with welded clamps.

The box tomb of Thomas J. and Mary Jane DeLancey was in a state of total collapse. A large tree root undermined the brickwork supporting the marble tablet, which was broken into six pieces. Repair required temporary relocation of the marble fragments, removal of the tree root and reconstruction of the brick base, and reassembling and attaching of the inscribed marble tablet. Thin marble tiles were attached to one end of the base to provide support for the smaller fragments and cover the opening into the base.

In addition to these complex repairs, two of the headstones with single breaks – William H. DeLancey and Josephine Floyd DeLancey – were cleaned and repaired with structural adhesives and reset; three tilted headstones were cleaned and straightened – John Peter DeLancey, Edward Floyd DeLancey and Maria Frances DeLancey – and the two headstones embedded in trees and tree roots – William Ellison and William Heathcote DeLancey – were cleaned of soil and bio-growth. All seven footstones were cleaned, repaired as needed, and reset.

Sample treatments:



Examining the buried base of the Susannah DeLancey headstone, one of five fragments requiring cleaning and reassembly and reattaching with pins and structural adhesives.

The brick base of the box tomb of Thomas J. and Mary Jane DeLancey is shown exposed, after temporary removal of marble tablet fragments. A large tree root that caused the deterioration of the brickwork and undermined the future integrity of the tomb was removed; the bricks were recycled and the base was rebuilt; and the marble tablet was reassembled and reattached.





The headstone of William H. DeLancey, which was found on the ground broken into two pieces and dislocated from its place within the site, was cleaned of soil and bio-growth, and reset after reattaching with structural adhesives.

Only two fragments of the Elizabeth DeLancey headstone survived; fortunately, they preserve an inscription worth restoring. The pieces were attached with pins and structural adhesives and a special armature of steel rods with welded clamps was designed and fabricated in order to support the stone after resetting in the ground.

