IDENTIFYING YOUR CATHOLIC ANCESTORS
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP SERIES
SESSION 5

CEMETERY RESEARCH – OCTOBER 10TH, 2020
It's time for the 5th session of a 6-week Zoom collaboration between:
- The City Archives & Special Collections at New Orleans Public Library
- Office of Archives and Records of the Archdiocese of New Orleans
- New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries (NOCC)

Today we will discuss cemetery research and care, including where to start, different tablet and tomb types and will also cover a bit about the Perpetual Care and restoration programs of NOCC.
Please make a note of any questions you have during the presentation and reserve them until we open the Chat function at the end.

- We will address the content of this presentation only. If your question pertains to a future presentation, please save it!

- We will get to as many questions as we can by 12:15.

- Recordings of each session will be made available on the "Programs and Presentations" page at archives.nolalibrary.org on the Tuesday following, so don't worry if you can't write as fast as we talk! You will be able to view the presentation again any time on our YouTube channel.
SESSION MATERIALS AND RECORDINGS

archives.nolalibrary.org:

Click this link to get to the program materials and video.
MEET OUR PRESENTERS

- **Kimberly Johnson** is the Senior Processing Archivist/Records Analyst for the Office of Archives and Records at the Archdiocese of New Orleans, where she helps manage conservation and preservation of historic and current records. She holds a Masters of Arts in History and is a Certified Archivist.

- **Heather Veneziano** is the Director of Public Engagement and Development for New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries, as well as an architectural historian and cultural heritage advisor with the preservation firm of Gambrel & Peak. She holds a Masters of Fine Art and a Masters of Preservation Studies.

- **Katie Vest** is the Research Archivist for the Office of Archives and Records at the Archdiocese of New Orleans; in addition, she researches and translates genealogy requests in French, Spanish, Italian, and German. She holds a Masters of Arts in History with an emphasis in Public History, and is a Certified Archivist.

- **Amanda Fallis** is a Librarian and Archivist in the New Orleans City Archives & Special Collections at NOPL, where she works with genealogical and municipal government records. She holds a Masters of Library and Information Science and is a Certified Archivist.
CEMETERY BOOKS
Whom to Call About Cemetery/Grave Information

Main Cemetery Office
(504) 596-3050
- St. Roch 1904-1995
- St. Vincent de Paul 1864-1964

St. Patrick No. 3 Cemetery Office
(504) 488-4989 or (504) 488-5200
- St. Patrick 1959-current
- St. Joseph 1942-current (1942-1972 overlap with Archives office)
- St. Vincent de Paul 1972-current

St. Louis No. 3 Cemetery Office
(504) 482-5065 or (504) 304-0576
- St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 March of 1973-current
- St. Louis Cemetery No. 2 November of 1956-current
- St. Louis Cemetery No. 3 June of 1917-current
- St. Roch 1996-current

Archives and Records Office
(504) 861-6241
- St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 1833-1973
- St. Louis Cemetery No. 2 1840-1956
- St. Louis Cemetery No. 3 1888-1923
- St. Patrick 1847-1958
- St. Roch 1882-1904
- St. Joseph 1855-1972 (1942-1972 overlap with Main Cemetery office)

Please Note:
St. Vincent de Paul on Soniat Street only
There are gaps in these records for various reasons
Some records do not contain location information
Minimal information vs. a plethora of information
BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PROTESTANT SECTION

"Plan of the city and suburbs of New Orleans: from an actual survey made in 1815"
-Courtesy of Library of Congress
Images from "To Glorious Immortality, the Rise and Fall of the Girod Street Cemetery"
GIROD STREET CEMETERY

Photo by Robert W. Kelley,
LIFE Magazine-1957
USING FAMILY SEARCH TO VIEW BURIAL RECORDS

https://www.familysearch.org
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St. Patrick Cemetery, 1841 - the year it opened
WHAT WAS RECORDED AND WHY

- Profession
- Age
- Sex
- Race
- Cause of Death
- Enslaved or Free
- Place of Birth
- Place of Death
- Period of Residence
- Marital Status
- Additional Remarks and Observations
TABLETS – BE OPEN TO ALTERNATE SPELLING

Matye, Matyi, Mutchy????

Rose Mutchy
in the U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

Suggested Re
- 1930 United S
  Rose Matyi
- 1920 United S
  Rosie Mattyi
- U.S. City Direc
  Rose E Matyi
- Newspapers.c
  1800s-current
TABLETS – WRITTEN IN STONE

- Missing tablets
- No tablet to begin with
- Incorrect/incomplete information on tablet
- Replacement tablets
TABLETS – WHOSE TOMB IS IT?
TABLETS – HOW TO BETTER READ TABLETS AND MARKERS

Tips for Reading Tablets
- Mirrors
- Reflective Car Shields
- Photo Editing on Phone or Computer

Detrimental Practices
- Tombstone Rubbings
- Using Shaving Cream
- Using Aluminum Foil
- Any action where you come into physical contact with the tablet
After the battle of Manassas, the War Department issued General Orders number 75, Sept. 11, 1861 that made commanders responsible for burials and marking graves.

Wooden markers were first used.

1873: the first design for stones in national cemeteries was adopted (at first furnished for members of the Union Army only).

1879: Congress authorized the furnishing of stones for the unmarked graves of veterans in private cemeteries.

1906: The Act of March 9, 1906 authorized the furnishing of headstones for the graves of Confederates who died and were buried in Federal cemeteries.

Following WWI a new design was adopted for all graves except those of veterans of the Civil and Spanish-American Wars.
Public Law 107-103, signed on Dec. 27, 2001, allows the Veteran's Administration to furnish an appropriate government marker for the grave of a veteran buried in a private cemetery regardless of whether the grave is already marked with a private marker.

To Learn More About the Application Process Visit: www.va.gov/burials-memorial-items/headstones-markers-medallions

-please note that NOCC charges a small installation fee
TABLETS – SYMBOLS

- How do symbols provide clues about the lives of the deceased?
TOMB TYPES – FAMILY TOMB

- Owned by individuals or families
- Often two-vault and single width
- Often multi-generational
TOMB TYPE - COPING

- Owned by individuals or families
- Allows for in-ground burials
- Often single-width
- Often multi-generational
TOMB TYPE - SOCIETY

- Constructed and owned by a society (fraternal, benevolent, religious, professional...)
- Often one individual or family per vault
TOMB TYPE – WALL VAULT

• Families or individuals own individual vaults within the structure
• Historically, these vaults were sometimes rented
TOMB TYPE - MAUSOLEUM

- Families or individuals own vaults within a shared larger space
CREMATION GARDENS AND COLUMBARIUM
PERPETUAL CARE

Overview

- NOCC and the property owner enter an irrevocable contract
- The owner pays a lump sum which is placed in a trust
- Interest earned is used to provide regular care and maintenance
- The tomb is cared for in perpetuity
RESTORATION PROGRAMS – ABANDONED TOMB INITIATIVE

General Info
- 13 tombs fully restored to-date
- Funded through private and corporate donations and tourism revenue
- Projects have been completed in three of our historic cemeteries

Criteria
- At least 50 years with no interments
- No known owner on file
- In poor condition and generally structurally unstable
RESTORATION PROGRAMS – CARING FOR YOUR TOMB

nolacatholliccemeteries.org/preservation-and-restoration

Free restoration quote!
Cleaning Guide
Links to Tomb Care Videos
JOIN US FOR SESSION 6

Cemetery Exploration: Identifying Burial Locations
October 17th 2020 11-12

Contact Us:
City Archives and Special Collections
New Orleans Public Library
(504) 596-2610
archivist@nolalibrary.org
archives.nolalibrary.org

Archdiocese of New Orleans
Office of Archives and Records
(504) 861-6241
archives@arch-no.org
nolacatholic.org/archives-and-records

New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries
(504) 596-3050
nolacatholicccem@arch-no.org
nolacatholicccemeteries.org