

Monument Survey of Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Seattle, Washington

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ABSTRACT

As part of a volunteer project to assess the state of older monuments at Calvary Cemetery, 1,803 monuments were surveyed between October 2009 and July 2012. The survey was restricted to those monuments with burials from 1919 and earlier, or monuments of later date that showed signs of degradation. Full data (monument descriptions and demographic data) were recorded for 1,103 monuments and only basic demographic data (birth/death dates and age only) were recorded for 700 monuments; these latter, while containing burials from the specified time period, were judged to not be in a state of degradation. A total of 430 (23.8%) had some form of damage or wear that renders the monument in danger of becoming unreadable or structurally unsound in the foreseeable future. Proposed conservation procedures include cleaning, repairing, resetting, and taking rubbings to obtain currently unreadable text.

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INTRODUCTION

Cemeteries play an important role in society. Not only do they provide a segregated location for disposal of the dead (a strictly public health function), but they also provide solace for the living and a location that can serve as a mechanism for coping with the inevitability of death. Catholic cemeteries in particular form an essential part of the faith: a place to carry out the essential religious functions involved with burial of the dead and provide a suitable environment for prayer and remembrance. From private family plots of early frontier families, cemeteries in the northwest have developed into often extensive urban landscapes owned and maintained by churches, private corporations, or governmental organizations at various levels.

In addition to their social, religious, and health functions, cemeteries can also provide a wealth of information for demographers, historians, genealogists, and anthropologists. Cemeteries that have been used over generations can tell a story of the surrounding population: their social and economic structure, belief system, mortality rates, and how all of these may have changed over time. And they are at the very least a relatively permanent monument to those who have come before us.

However, even relatively recent monuments have been subjected to a variety of weathering processes, from rainwater, mold and mildew, and earth movement to acts of vandalism. These various insults to the integrity of the monuments will have differential effects based on the type of stone and the shape of the monument; some may remain in good condition for hundreds or thousands of years while others may become virtually unreadable after only a few decades of sitting outside. Thus, some form of conservation often needs to be carried out in order to preserve these markers for future generations.

The present project provides a baseline assessment specifying the state of the at-risk monuments at one such cemetery, Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Seattle, WA, USA. It was an entirely volunteer project carried out by the author over a number of years, whose goal was to record as much existing information from at-risk monuments as possible before they could be lost to time, assess the current state of repair of each monument, and provide recommendations for restoration or conservation actions. This was not a complete survey of all monuments; such an effort would require a great deal more time and resources than were allowed. But it did cover all of those monuments that are potentially at risk for severe degradation in the coming decades.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As a resident living nearby, I have had occasion to walk through Calvary Cemetery on various occasions and noticed that many of the older monuments were, in many cases, heavily degraded and barely legible. As a professional archaeologist, the thought that these monuments could eventually decay to the point that the data on them is lost forever was very troubling. As a practicing Catholic, it also behooves me to practice some form of stewardship. Hence, I decided that I could apply archaeological survey and recording techniques to, at minimum, record the existing data still legible on these monuments and record their current state in order to assess the longer-term viability of each monument.

After consulting with Richard Peterson, Director of Cemeteries, and Martin Murphy, Superintendent of Calvary Cemetery, I obtained permission to spend volunteer time surveying a subset of monuments and recording those that were at risk for degradation over the near term (the next several decades). In addition, I wanted to obtain a good set of demographic data for the burials associated with each monument in order to usefully analyze the burial population for mortality trends over time. An appropriate database was developed especially for this project and transferred to a portable electronic device for in-the-field recording; no recording was done on paper. For various reasons (see below), I chose to record all monuments with burials dating to 1919 and earlier and any later monuments that were deemed to be at risk. Beginning on October 13, 2009 a systematic survey was performed throughout nearly the entire area encompassed by the cemetery (approximately 40 acres), recording each monument that met the date or state criteria into the electronic database, ending fieldwork on July 12, 2012.

This report describes the methods of survey and type of data collected, presents the results of the survey, and provides recommendations for future conservation or restoration work to be done to stabilize monuments or record already illegible data before it is lost to history. Raw data in the form of tables and a brief listing of some of each monument's data and damage is in the appendices.

HISTORICAL AND NATURAL BACKGROUND

Calvary Cemetery sits on 40 acres in the north central portion of Seattle, WA, USA (Figure 1), in the Ravenna neighborhood. At the time of its dedication on December 1, 1889, it was on the outskirts of the city, surrounded by farmland and orchards. The property was originally owned by homesteader John J. Jordan who had purchased the land himself in 1872. It was situated along the Seattle, Lake Shore, and Eastern Railroads (now part of the Burke-Gilman Trail) and this was the primary method that caskets and mourners were transported to the cemetery before extensive road and street networks were built.

Burials from two other cemeteries were subsequently moved to Calvary. An 1884 ordinance ordered the closing of the Old Seattle cemetery located on lower Queen Anne hill, which had originally contained many early Seattle settlers and was used from approximately 1861 until its closing in 1884 (Angotti 1999). The Catholic burials were first moved to Holy Cross cemetery located on Capitol Hill in Seattle. Holy Cross was then closed in 1905 and those burials were then transferred to Calvary.

Cemeteries were generally placed on the outskirts of settlements and often on sloping surfaces that would be otherwise unsuitable for agriculture and also to protect them from floods. Such was the case with Calvary. Topographically, Calvary Cemetery lies on the southwest slope of a glacial feature known as a drumlin, created during the final phase of the Vashon stage of the Fraser glaciation approximately 17,000 years ago (Troost and Booth 2008). Part of the Seattle drumlin field, these features present as elongated hills with their long axes pointing in the direction of ice flow, in this case roughly north-south. Sediments in this area consist of silty, clayey soils over Vashon tills composed of sands and gravels with rounded cobbles and occasional boulders (Troost and Booth 2008). Consulting with Calvary staff and observing the



Figure 1: Location of Calvary Cemetery. Seattle North East, Washington, USGS 7.5' quadrangle (1979).

excavation of two graves confirmed that these are the primary sediments encountered, as well as an occasional “hardpan” layer, presumably a sand and gravel layer cemented by calcium carbonate as observed in other drumlins (Menzies and Brand 2007). These sediments are common in the area and were observed by the author in another cemetery to the north.

SURVEY DESIGN AND DATA COLLECTION

Survey Strategy

There were two main constraints on the survey design:

- 1) All at-risk monuments had to be surveyed and recorded, along with demographic data for all burials from the 1919-and-earlier period for the latter to be useful analytically;
- 2) The scope of the work had to be small enough to accomplish by a single person in a reasonable amount of time.

Since recording all 40,000+ monuments within Calvary was impractical for a single-person volunteer project, I chose to minimize the *total* number of monuments recorded (for demographic data) while still encompassing all those with at risk for significant degradation. Simply recording only at-risk monuments would provide a biased sample for demographic analysis. Consequently, a brief visual survey of several sections showed that most of the at-risk monuments were dated to earlier than 1920. From this short survey and consultations with cemetery staff on the likely number of burials with monuments for this period (1919 and earlier), I estimated the total number of monuments to be surveyed at between 1500 and 2500.

Despite efforts to record data for *all* burials from this period, there remain significant biases within the demographic data. Cemetery records indicated that there are almost 6,000 burials from this period, but not all of them have monuments at present. Many may have never had a burial marker, and others have degraded over time and have since been removed (especially many that were made of wood). Consequently, this strategy would still only record data for roughly a third of the burial population.

During the course of the work, the survey strategy underwent one major change. I quickly realized that many of the *monuments* that were associated with *burials* from 1919 and earlier actually dated to much later themselves. That is, a burial from 1919 could have a much later marker associated with it. Most of these were placed there in the 1970s and later and were either replacing missing original monuments or providing earlier burials with their first monument. Since recording the state of these monuments – generally made of wear-resistant granite – seemed superfluous and unduly time-consuming (and because there is a not insignificant number of them), I decided that after that point only those monuments that appeared to be at risk for near-term degradation would be recorded in full; the remaining monuments – later ones or original monuments made of a hard stone such as granite and showed little wear – would have only basic demographic data from their burials recorded. This allowed for a complete set of demographic data to be collected without sacrificing time spent recording non-at-risk monuments.

Data Collection

The data collection scheme was designed for three purposes: to record all demographic data for all burials associated with a given monument; to record the current state of each monument including existing repairs and damage/degradation; and to describe each monument (including inscriptions) such that it can be easily recognized from the data at some future date. From the start, the data collection scheme was designed to be all-digital; that is, to record all data in the field on a portable electronic device with no paper records at all. This was done to minimize resources used and avoid both the bulk of paper records and the time and potential errors in data entry.

The database system itself went through three iterations: two database (software) products loaded onto a Palm device, followed by the FileMaker database system loaded onto an iPad. There were no major changes to the structure of the database design between changes, although the design evolved somewhat over time as I gained more experience with the data collection routine. For a complete listing of the variables collected, See Appendix I.

Demographic data

These data recorded the names of all individuals associated with a particular monument: name, dates and places of birth and death, age data, military/veteran's status, and any titles or other data. Age was calculated as either a simple subtraction of birth year from death year, or taken directly from any age data provided on the monument itself.

Sex/gender was rarely specified in the monument's data, although it was often directly implied (e.g., 'Beloved Wife/Daughter'). Since sex is an important variable in demographic analyses, an effort was made to provide each name with a sex assignment. In the absence of a specific implied gender, this was done purely based on the name of the individual. I found that in most cases it was rather straightforward since many of the names are common and tightly associated with different genders today and in the recent past. Others were more problematic; often these were foreign names (though I was able to look many up on the Internet and determine the most likely gender for that name) or those that can be used for either gender (e.g., Frances/Francis). In cases where the sex was not reasonably clear, this variable was assigned an "Unknown" value.

State data

In many ways, these data are the heart of this survey: an assessment of the state of degradation of the monument. Since there are myriad ways that a piece of stone can be damaged, I chose state variables that were relevant to the structural integrity of the monument and the legibility of its inscriptions. These include deep scratches that may obscure text and invite water and harmful organisms deeper into the stone, cracks that threaten to undermine the structural stability of the stone, molds and lichens that retain moisture, and pronounced leaning of the structure. Also included were any repairs previously carried out, such as resetting with modern adhesives and the use of iron pins or bars that could cause further damage. Of particular note is the setting of some originally upright monuments into the ground which, while making the monument less prone to vandalism, tends to expose it to far more moisture and pooling of water on its surface.

The values of these variables drove a set of recommendations for disposition of the monument: doing nothing to it at present, taking a rubbing to recover what text is still available, resetting to correct dangerous leaning, or cleaning the stone of (largely organic) debris (e.g., mold and lichens). Of these, rubbing is the least intrusive and does little for the long-term management of the stone but does record the data on the stone for posterity.

Descriptive data

The original intent of the descriptive variables was to create a classification scheme to categorize the monuments' overall shape and design features such that some sort of stylistic analysis could be performed (e.g., change through time) on a quantitative basis, or perhaps some correlative studies of the effect of shape on the type of wear. This proved extremely difficult as the variety of shapes and decorative elements did not lend itself to easy classification on a few variables. In the end, I decided on a few variables that would, at minimum, allow future researchers to identify each monument described in the database. Consequently, the descriptive variables include such items as material type(s), overall shape (e.g., block, tablet, etc.), presence of a base or foundation, etc. In addition, a text field allowed for a free-form description of any decorative elements present, such as incised crosses, floral designs, etc.

Basic data collection

As noted earlier, shortly after beginning, I found that a number of pre-1920 burials (almost 40%) had more modern monuments associated with them. Most of these were flat-lying "lawn type" monuments made of granite set in concrete and presented no immediate concern for their long-term viability. Calvary staff indicated that most of these had been placed there in the 1970s. Consequently, full recording of these and other non-at-risk monuments (i.e., original monuments made of durable materials, such as granite) was deemed counterproductive and full recording was thereafter only carried out on at-risk monuments. For the remainder, only basic demographic data was collected: sex/gender, birth and death years, and age, either calculated or present on the monument.

Database design

Without going into intimate details of the database structure and functioning, a brief discussion of the database design is useful. The overall design was relational in nature, including three separate tables that were all linked together by a single unique ID number for each monument. A main or primary table recorded all of the descriptive and state variables; another table recorded the inscriptions (apart from simple demographic data; e.g., "Rest In Peace") with one record for the inscriptions on each face of the monument; and a third table that recorded the demographic data for each name present on the monument. A relational structure allows for a single monument record (in the main table) to link to multiple records from other tables, such as several names on each monument.

This design limited the kind of database products that could be used, as the database software had to support relational tables. The Palm Zire 71 that I started using had two products available, HanDBase from DDH Software (<http://www.ddhsoftware.com/>) and Pendragon Forms from

Pendragon Software (<http://pendragonsoftware.com/>); the latter is based on Microsoft's Access database product. The former was inexpensive, but proved too limiting, and I soon switched to the Pendragon product. When the older Palm device began showing its age, I acquired an Apple iPad (first generation) and, although Pendragon's product was available on that platform, I decided to utilize a different database product, FileMaker (<http://www.filemaker.com/>) with its portable app, FileMaker Go. This application was used for approximately the final one third of the data collection while the Palm/Pendragon combination was used for the bulk of data collection.

The main data storage for all collected data was an MS Access database into which all of the field-collected data was copied, although this migrated to FileMaker when that product was used for data collection.

Data collection procedures

The cemetery was surveyed systematically, generally by section, although for the most part groups of similarly aligned monuments were done together. Graves were generally laid out in rows so it was possible to traverse each row from end to end, examining each monument in turn. Work was performed from the older sections at the western and southern boundary sections first and moving uphill to more recent sections.

Each monument was first examined to determine if it met the criteria for inclusion: having any pre-1920 burial associated with it or appearing to be at risk for severe degradation. A new record was started for each monument and the basic descriptive and state data were entered. For those monuments that were fully recorded, all demographic data were recorded for *every* burial, even if the date of death of an individual occurred after 1919; for the basic data collection, only pre-1920 deaths were recorded. After all relevant data were entered, at least one photograph was taken for each monument and the photo number recorded in a database field. Multiple photos were taken when necessary to capture certain features. The photographs often proved invaluable when the data was cleaned and examined later as they could be referenced for any data entry errors, such as mistyped years. Also, close-up photos of certain faded inscriptions were digitally enhanced later to use in deciphering the text.

At the end of every recording session, the data was immediately transferred to the main PC/Mac for safekeeping, either MS Access or FileMaker, respectively.

RESULTS

A total of 1,803 monuments were examined; 1,103 monuments were surveyed with full data collection and an additional 700 received only basic data collection. These accounted for a total of 2,043 individual burials. Counting only those burials before 1920 gives 1,797 burials for which some demographic data is available. The following sections provide results based on the three types of information collected – descriptive data, state data, and demographic data – and also an analysis of some of the inscriptions.

Descriptive results

Material type

Material type is difficult to present in summary format since it is a composite variable: a single monument can incorporate more than one material in its structure. Many monuments, for example, had a main body made of marble, but were resting on a sandstone foundation. Consequently, the following paragraph presents general observations of the frequency of certain materials. Percentages, unless otherwise stated, are of the 1,103 completely surveyed monuments.

Granite was the most common material, present in 684 (62.0%) monuments, the majority of which (N=371, 54.2%) were in more modern Lawn Type monuments followed by Block shapes (250, 36.5%) where this material was the major component. The second most common material was marble, represented in 370 (33.5%) monuments. These are by far the most abundant at-risk material owing to marble's relatively softness and organic composition that makes it susceptible to chemical, mechanical, and biological weathering processes. Marble was present in a variety of shapes, although the most common were some form of Block or Tablet shape (N=205, 55.4%) followed by Columnar of either rectilinear or round shape (N=133, 35.9%). A typical form of the latter are shown in Figure 2. Sandstone was also present in 128 (11.6%) monuments, largely occurring in conjunction with marble and used as a base or foundation (see Figure 2).

Minor materials include basalt (N=3, 0.3%), bronze (N=10, 0.9%), limestone (N=2, 0.2%), and slate (N=1, 0.1%) and a single example of a pewter monument. Concrete was present in at least 466 (42.2%) monuments, but this material was generally a foundation material or made up the setting for modern lawn type monuments; in some cases (N=26) marble monuments were set in the ground in a base material of concrete.

Shape

Shape was difficult to develop into a set of mutually exclusive and exhaustive categories, owing to the wide variety of shapes available and also because a single monument can encompass more than one shape (see Appendix I for the complete list of types). Generally, if a monument was composed of more than one basic shape, it was assigned to the one that made up the bulk of the structure. Still, a degree of judgment was involved and I most often used whatever shape value seemed most intuitive in terms of identification. Note that because not all monuments were recorded these numbers are not necessarily representative of the period in question; Block and Lawn Type monuments made up the bulk of those not recorded and are subsequently under-represented here.

Table 1 shows the distribution of shapes present in this study. Many of the Lawn Types were recently installed, most in the 1970s as replacements for earlier (lost) monuments or as new ones and were most often of granite set in concrete (N=371, 88.3%). Block types were also predominantly granite (N=250, 70.4%) and marble (N=87, 24.5%). The bulk of columnar monuments were of marble (N=128, 92.8%) with the remainder primarily made of granite.



Figure 2: Rectilinear column type, marble, with a sandstone base.

Tablets, as one might expect, were predominantly made of marble (N=118, 86.1%), a common form for marble monuments during this period.

Of the remaining shapes, the Cross type deserves special note. These were sometimes difficult to classify as the cross portion did not always make up a clear majority of the monument. These were most often made of marble but also had other materials as well. The majority (N=13, 68.4%) were set in the ground, presumably to prevent breakage (four were, in fact, broken and also set in the ground). The most typical form these took is shown in Figure 3, an example that was set in the ground. As the photo suggests, while the cross makes up a large part of the structure, it could reasonably be considered a Block or even Tablet shape with a cross as a capping object.

Table 1: Distribution of Shape variable

Shape	N	%
Lawn Type	420	38.1%
Block	355	32.2%
Columnar	143	13.0%
Tablet	137	12.4%
Cross	19	1.7%
Pulpit	15	1.4%
Scroll	6	0.5%
Obelisk	5	0.5%
Other	3	0.3%
Total	1103	100.0%



Figure 3: Example of a Cross type monument set in the ground.

Decoration

Decoration was judged to be too complex to be captured in a set of fixed-value variables so a single free-form descriptive field was used. Most monuments had some form of decoration; that is, some non-textual decorative element. Only 350 (31.7%) had no discernible decoration. Not surprisingly, 525 (69.7%) of those with decoration had some form of cross or crucifix involved, not counting those that were capped by a cross. Foliage and flowers, either as a main decorative element or occurring as framing devices or in bands circling the monument, was also a popular motif, occurring on 117 (15.5%) of the decorated monuments.

Another common element was the lamb, occurring on 32 (4.3%) monuments. Most often the lamb symbol was associated with children; in only three instances was the age of the decedent over the age of 18. Generally recumbent, earlier (marble) monuments tended to have the lamb as a sculpted component atop the main body of the stone (Figure 4) though these tended to break and wear easily. In later examples, usually in granite, the lamb was incised into the surface and the design was standardized.



Figure 4: Recumbent lamb decoration as a sculptured element, usually associated with children.

Other elements appearing sporadically emphasized other Christian/Catholic symbols: doves, sunrises, the letters 'HIS' (usually within a cross; this symbol may represent the first three Greek

letters of Jesus' name, *iota-eta-sigma*, or the Latin *Iesus Hominium Salvator* “Jesus, Savior of Men”), clasping or praying hands, the *fleur de lis*, various arches and gates, shield or plaque symbols containing the text, and a number of decorative lines and bands bordering the text or circumventing columnar monuments.

One special set of decoration deserves special note: the Woodmen of the World and Women of Woodcraft motifs. The Woodmen of the World is a fraternal organization begun by Joseph Cullen Root in the late 19th century in Omaha, Nebraska. One of the benefits of membership, practiced until at least 1930, was the supply of a grave marker for members. While the monuments are often shaped like trees or tree stumps, most of those at Calvary were standard Block or Columnar shapes, though the tree-shaped variety did occur (Figure 5); one typical columnar monument had the tree design as part of the foundation stone with four stumps carved into the four corners of the (sandstone) foundation. Most contained a seal with the text “Dum Tacet Clamat” (‘Though silent, he speaks’) and symbols of the woodmen’s or lumberjack’s trade: usually a dove flying over a log with a hammer, wedge, and axe (Figure 6). The Women of Woodcraft seals were similar in symbolism but the text instead read (in English) “Courage Hope Remembrance”.

State variables

Several variables describe the current state of the monument. Table 2 shows the number of instances of each type of damage, wear, or potential damaging factor. Note that the totals do not add up to 1,103 and 100%, since more than one condition can apply to a single monument.

Table 2: Distribution of state variables. Percentages reflect that of total monuments (1,103)

State	N	%
Normal	673	61.0%
Mold/Lichens	239	21.7%
Surface degradation	156	14.1%
Moss	53	4.8%
Broken	42	3.8%
Deeply scratched	22	2.0%
Incomplete	10	0.9%
Cracked	8	0.7%

Marble monuments were most affected by surface degradation (defined as wear of any sort that has degraded the legibility of any text or decorative elements) impacting to some extent fully one third of those monuments (N=124, 33.5%); the majority of these monuments were rated as having Poor (N=45, 36.3%) or Fair (N=61, 49.2%) legibility of text¹. Interestingly, even granite monuments exhibited a fairly high amount of surface degradation (N=156, 22.8%) showing that

¹ Legibility was defined as follows: Good = nearly all text was easily read; Fair = Some text difficult to read; Poor = Most or all text difficult or impossible to read.



Figure 5: Women of Woodcraft monument shaped as a tree stump.



Figure 6: Woodman Of the World seal showing the symbols of the group the phrase 'Dum Tacet Clamat' translates to "Though silent, he speaks".

even in very hard stones text is at risk in a number of cases after only a few decades of exposure to the elements.

Broken monuments were often the result of vandalism. Many were repaired over the years (recorded as separate variables), but in some cases the damage was too extensive to fully repair and many were simply set in the ground in pieces (Figure 7), and sometimes set in concrete as well (Figure 8).

Those that were marked as Incomplete had one or more pieces missing. Unfortunately, this number is undoubtedly far too small; due to an error in coding within the database, I failed to include an option for 'missing' capping objects and did not record these as Incomplete in most cases. Many of the columnar marble monuments originally had some form of structure on the top that had since disappeared – noted by either an obviously broken surface or in some cases an iron pin sticking out of the top.



Figure 7: Example of a broken monument set in the ground.



Figure 8: Broken monument set in the ground in concrete.

The Inscriptions

In many ways, the inscriptions were the most interesting, informative, and often touching aspects of this project. Some 384 (34.8%) monuments had some form of inscription other than basic name and birth/death date information. Often, these missives can be thought of as the last will and testament of the deceased, or as that by which their family wished them to be remembered. Since cemetery records do not contain these inscriptions, ensuring that these ‘last words’ of the departed were recorded and was a prime motivating factor for this project.

In many cases, the text was a fairly standard phrase such as ‘Rest in Peace’ and its variations (‘RIP’ or the Latin ‘Requiescat in Pace’, or ‘May His/Her Soul Rest In Peace’), ‘Gone But Not Forgotten’, ‘Sacred to the Memory Of’, or simply ‘At Rest’. The Woodmen of the World monuments often contained the phrase ‘Here Rests a Woodman of the World’, although the Women of Woodcraft did not contain a similar phrase.

Several monuments recorded the donor of the monument. Surviving spouses often indicated this as “Erected by His/Her Beloved Wife/Husband” or in some cases by children. Several were erected by the Austrian American Benevolent Society for presumably recent immigrants too poor

to afford a monument; The Women of Woodcraft monuments similarly denoted that group as the donor organization.

Others were more creative, although most seem to be fairly common for use as epitaphs. This latter fact was particularly helpful: in many cases where not all of the text was legible, I was able to search the Internet for those portions that were legible and reconstruct the entire text (though with obvious caution). Simpler phrases include:

- The Lovely Flower Faded
- Gone To Be An Angel;
- In Loving Memory of a Dear Friend;
- Weep Not, She Sleepeth;
- Budded on Earth To Bloom in Heaven;
- A True Wife, A Fond Mother;
- Those who knew her best loved her most

Many longer texts were present; however, probably due to the length of the text these seemed to be less deeply incised than other text and were very often difficult to impossible to read, save for a few letters or words here and there. Among the longer decipherable texts:

- Beneath this season changing sod, Lies one who with pure heart and calloused hands,
Has gone to meet her God;
- Rest, Mother, rest, in quiet sleep, While friends in sorrow o'er thee weep;
- May his soul rest in peace, Farewell my wife and children dear, I am not dead but
sleeping here, And after me no sorrow take, But love each other for my sake;
- He has the soldier's recompense, His is a patriot's grave, Where calm in death reposes,
Our noble comrade brave;
- Lonely the house and sad the hours since our dear ones have gone, But in a brighter
home than ours in heaven is now their own, Weep not for me, my parents dear, I am not
dead but sleeping here;
- Sleep on beloved, sleep and take. . . Lay down thy head upon thy Savior's breast, We
loved thee well but Jesus loves thee best, good night, good night, good night;
- It is not the tear at this moment shed, When the cold turf has just been laid o'r't.

Some of the most endearingly touching memorial texts were reserved for children. Though not usually lengthy, they tended to be eloquently simple, reflecting the grief of the unfortunately all-too-common event of a parent burying a young child:

- My Darling Son, May His Soul Rest in Peace;
- Little Brother/Sister;
- Our Baby or Our Boy/Girl;
- Our Beloved Little Joan;
- Sleep on sweet babe, And take thy rest, God called thee home, He thought it best;

And perhaps the most honest:

-- This breaks our hearts, In remembrance of our beloved boy

Several non-English inscriptions were present as well. This often made transcribing the text difficult when the text was not entirely clear to begin with. Some of the languages were familiar, others required more research (and assistance from Internet volunteers). Below is a sample with the possible translation in italics and the probable language after:

-- Ovdje Posiva Umiru (*Here lies peacefully*), Laka Mu Ova Zemlja Bila (*The world was good to him*), presumably a Slavic language, perhaps Croatian or Serbian;

-- Requiem aeternam, Dona eis Domini (*Grant them eternal rest, Oh Lord*), Et lux perpetua Luceat eis (*And let perpetual light shine upon them*), Latin

-- Lasciando I suoi amici con grande dolore (*Leaving his friends in great grief*), Italian

-- Ruht in diesem Garten Tuht auf Vater und Muller warten (*Resting in this garden, Does for Father and Mother wait*), German

-- La moglie in perene ricordo depose (*The wife in everlasting memory rests*), Italian

Demographics

As indicated earlier, although the main purpose of this project was focused on the conservation of monuments, I early on decided to obtain as much good demographic data as possible. Demographic data derived from burial markers can provide a useful complement to other studies using either skeletal or vital statistics and census data (Sattenspiel and Stoops 2010).

To briefly recapitulate, demographic data were collected on each burial. Names and other personal data were collected early on for every monument, but the data collection scheme was altered midstream to collect full data on only at-risk monuments. Basic data – sex/gender, and age – were recorded for non-at-risk monuments. Thus, at least in terms of basic demographics, all of the data are comparable.

The following results contain only those burials from prior to 1920 and that have a calculable age. For those infants less than a year old age was computed using the number of months they were alive divided by twelve (i.e., age_mos/12). For those less than a month old at death age was set to 0.08 years or 1/12.

Figure 9 shows the overall distribution of burials by year of death. Note that there is one burial for a death dated to 1800; the text for this marker was fairly well preserved and does not appear to be in error (Figure 10). The deceased is James Condon, son of J.S. and C. Condon, and was aged two months and 21 days when he died on March 23, 1800. Calvary burial records contain a “James Condon” and a burial date of 1901. I suspect that, since this was right at the turn of the last century, it is probably a mistake by the stonecutter.

Otherwise, a trend of increasing burials over time is clear. A similar trend is observed in the burial records (not shown), but one can expect the present data to contain fewer early burials due to missing monuments in many earlier graves. Also note the pronounced spike in 1918, which will be discussed further below.

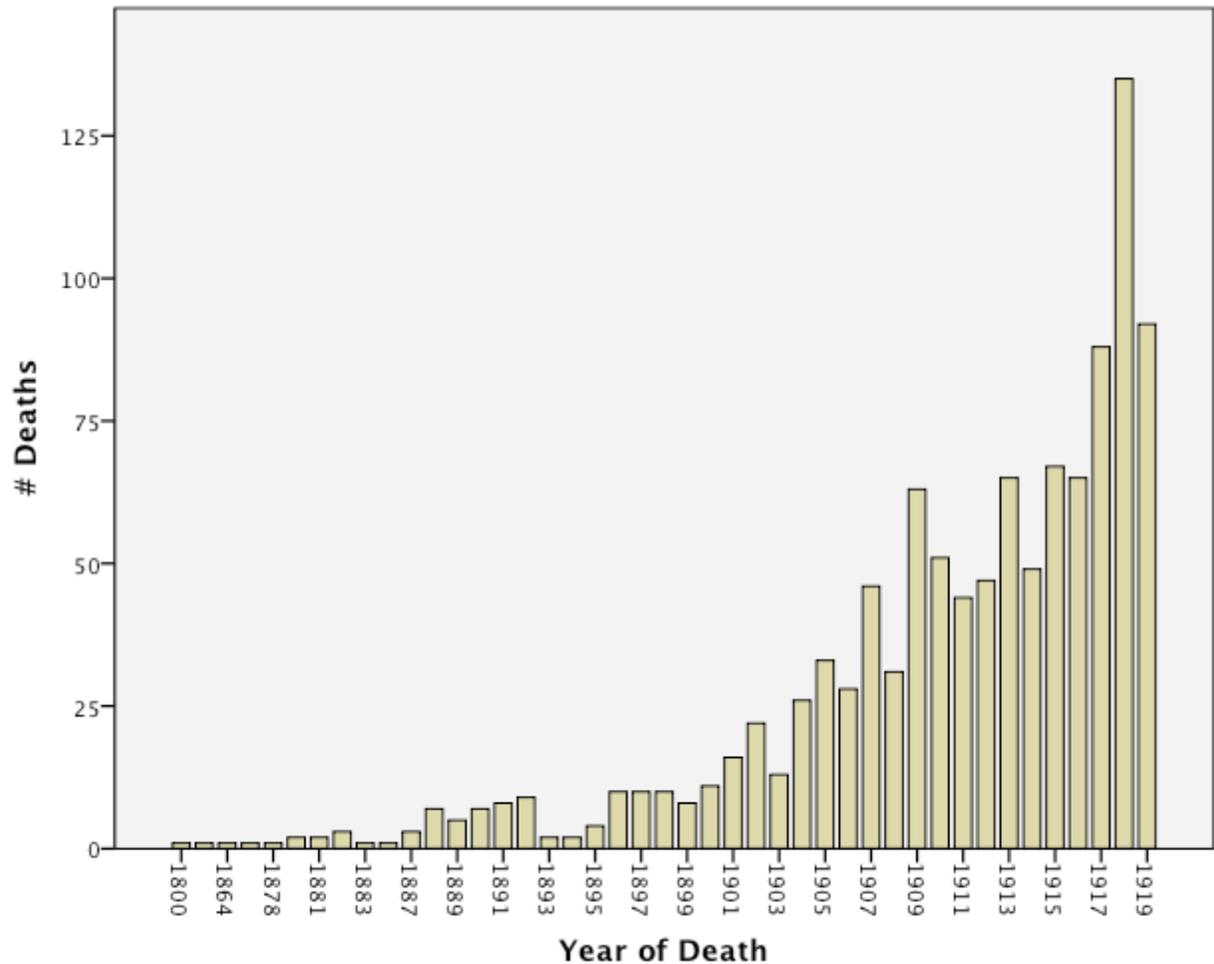


Figure 9: Distribution of burials by year of death (N=1,060).

The age distribution of these burials is shown in Figure 11, divided into classes (note that the total number of burials is different; only those with a good age calculation are included). The U-shaped trend is similar to that observed in other pre-modern death populations: a spike in infant deaths followed by decreasing deaths into late adolescence and increasing into adulthood, then tailing off again into old age. The mean age at death is 40.6 (± 23.2). The oldest person was aged 102 when he died in 1910, although only his presumed age was given rather than the year of birth. A total of 84 (7.9%) were below the age of two at death and 76 (7.2%) made it to the ripe old age of at least 75.



Figure 10: Marker for James Condon with death date of March 23, 1800.

For those burials for which sex was determined (N=904), 489 (54.1%) were male and 415 (45.9%) were female. The average age at death for males is 42.4 (± 1.1) and that for females is 39.9 (± 1.1). That for those of unknown sex (N=149) is lower at 36.7 ± 1.8 (probably due to several of these being unnamed infant burials). Figure 12 shows the age distribution by sex, not including Unknowns. Apart from a slight overabundance of infant male deaths, the number of deaths is fairly even throughout childhood and into the late teen years.

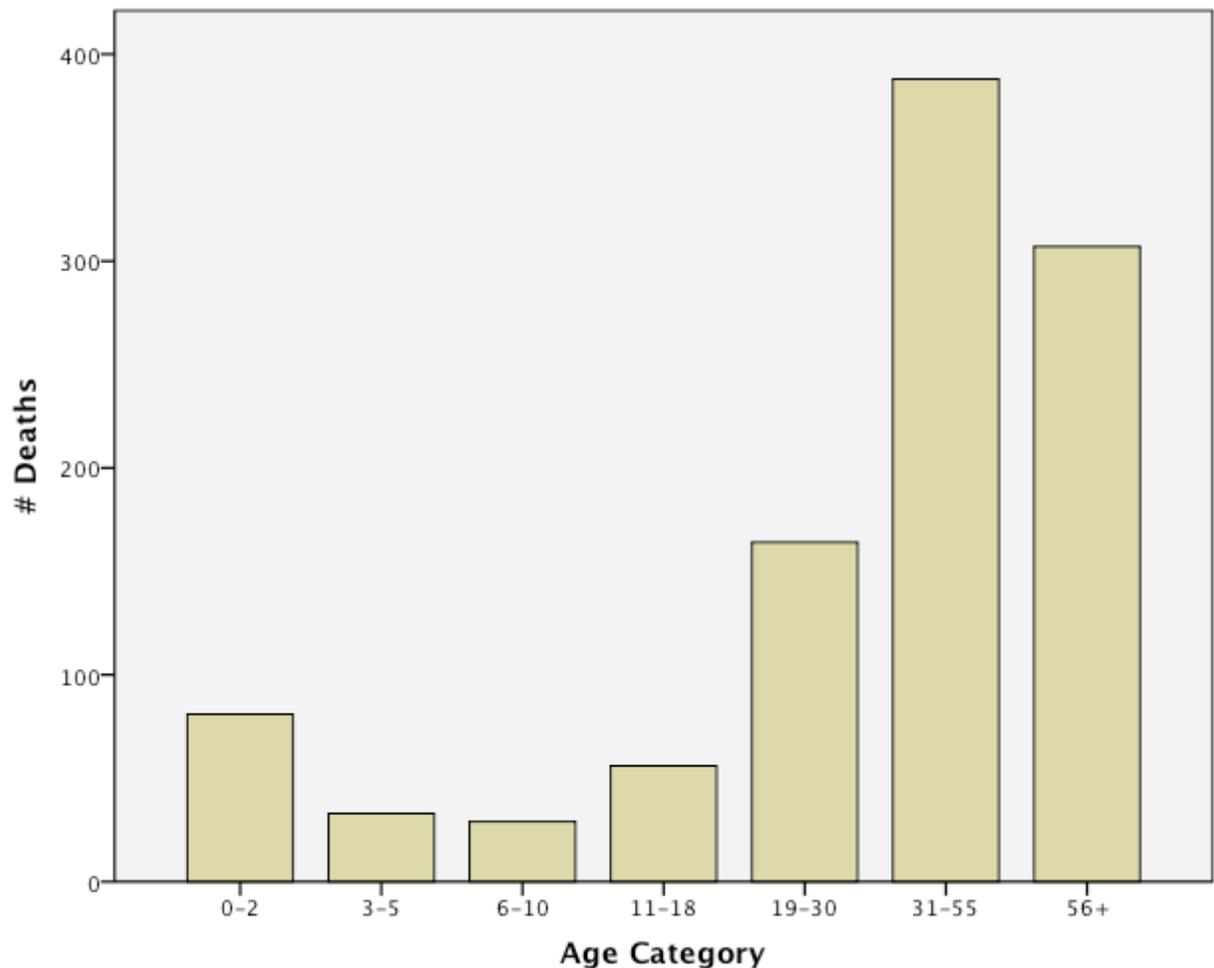


Figure 11: Age distribution of pre-1920 Calvary burials (N=1,059).

Female deaths increase over males in the young adult group (19-30 years), presumably due to complications in childbirth, but male deaths increase in the next two age categories.

As noted earlier, one interesting trend in these data is the apparent increased number of deaths in 1918, coincident with the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic. The pandemic, whose ultimate origin is still debated, began in the spring of 1918 although its effects lingered on into 1919, though to a much lesser extent in North America. It was noteworthy for several reasons including its worldwide nature and exceptional lethality and that it also tended to strike most lethally among the usually most disease-resistant group, young adults between the ages of about 20 to 35 years old. In the US the virus first appeared in Kansas in the spring of 1918 and was early on associated with military camps, making its way to the Puget Sound region in September. Some 1600 Seattle resident were to die as a direct result of the pandemic (Wilma 2000).

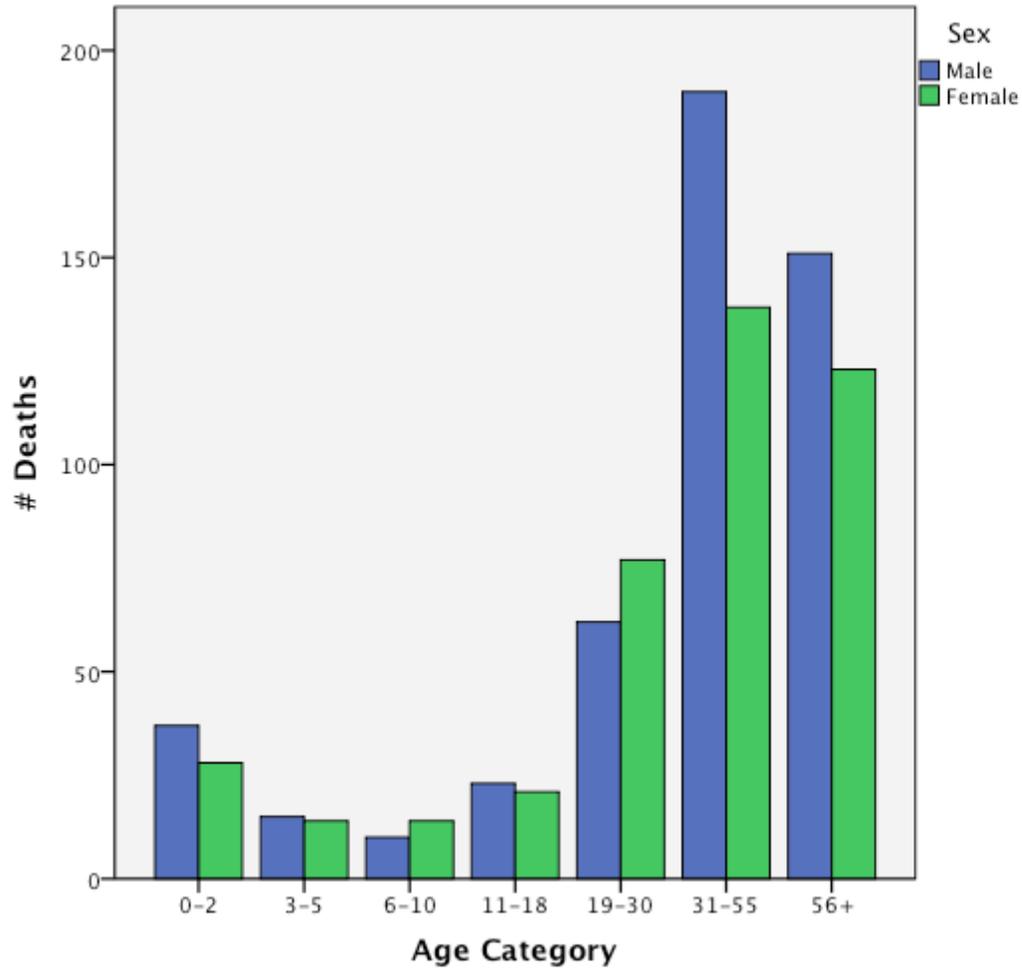


Figure 12: Age distribution by sex.

Figure 13 shows the percentage of deaths per age category for 1918 and all other years combined and suggests an overabundance of deaths among adults between the ages of 19 and 39 which is characteristic of that pandemic (Noymer and Garenne 2000). The average age at death for 1918 is 35.5 (± 21.9) compared with 42.2 (± 23.4) for all other years, which is a significant difference ($p < 0.003$). In addition, comparing the percentage of deaths that occur in each month between 1918 and all other years combined (Figure 14) shows that the majority of deaths in 1918 occurred between the months of October and December (especially the latter). This December peak in the death rate – representing almost a quarter of all burials for the year – also coincides with the apparent peak month in deaths due to the influenza outbreak (Wilma 2000). A similar analysis using the full burial data kept by Calvary shows a very similar trend. It remains possible that this pattern is the result of other factors, such as deaths from World War I or perhaps an artifact of sampling, although the same pattern in the full burial data argues against this. Nevertheless, it suggests that cemetery data such as this can be used to identify the effects of large-scale epidemics and also contribute to discussions of differential seasonality of mortality (e.g., Cagle and Hubbard 2005).

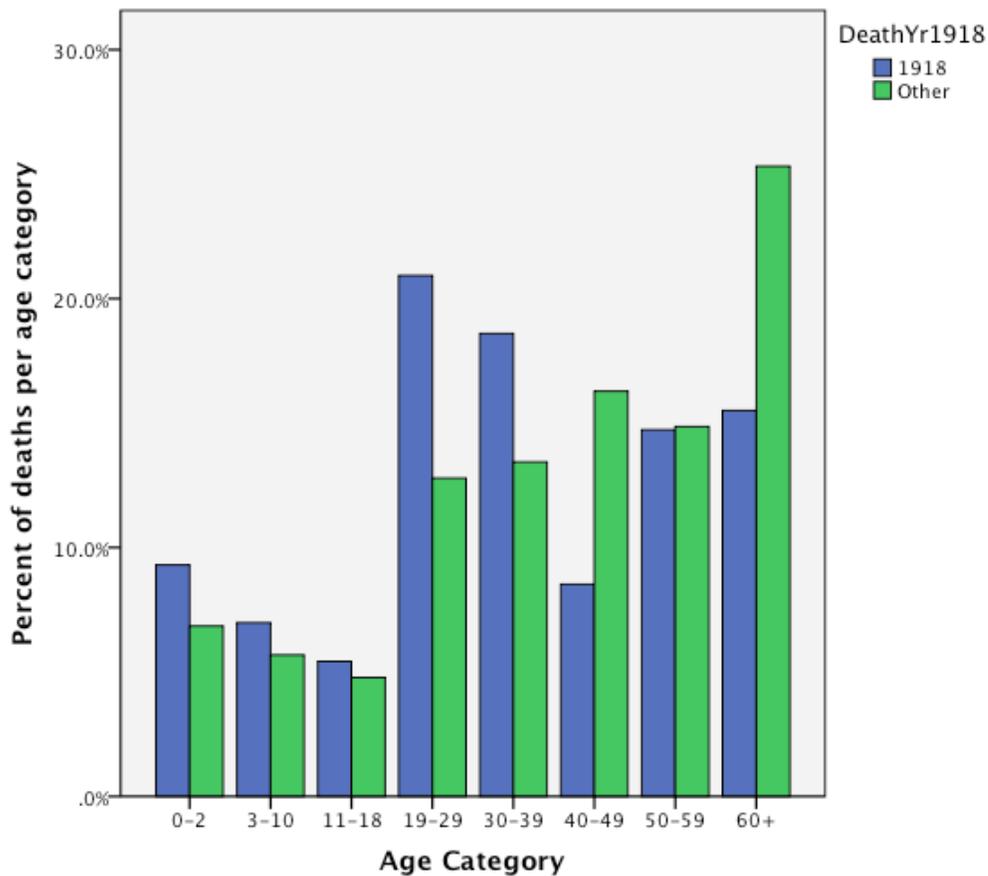


Figure 13: Percent of deaths per age category in 1918 and all other years combined.

In sum, the demography of the pre-1920 Calvary burials corresponds well to the age and mortality profiles of other recent historic burial populations. Infant mortality tends to be high compared to recent times, with mortality reaching a trough in the later teen years. The average age at death compares favorably with life expectancies of around 47 years during that period of time, with women having a slightly younger age at death, probably due to childbirth complications – several monuments of young women and newborns with the same death dates were noted. There is some indication that the 1918 influenza epidemic is represented as an increased number of burials from the latter three months of that year as well, and shows that data such as this can supplement information on mortality causes from other sources such as vital statistics and census data.

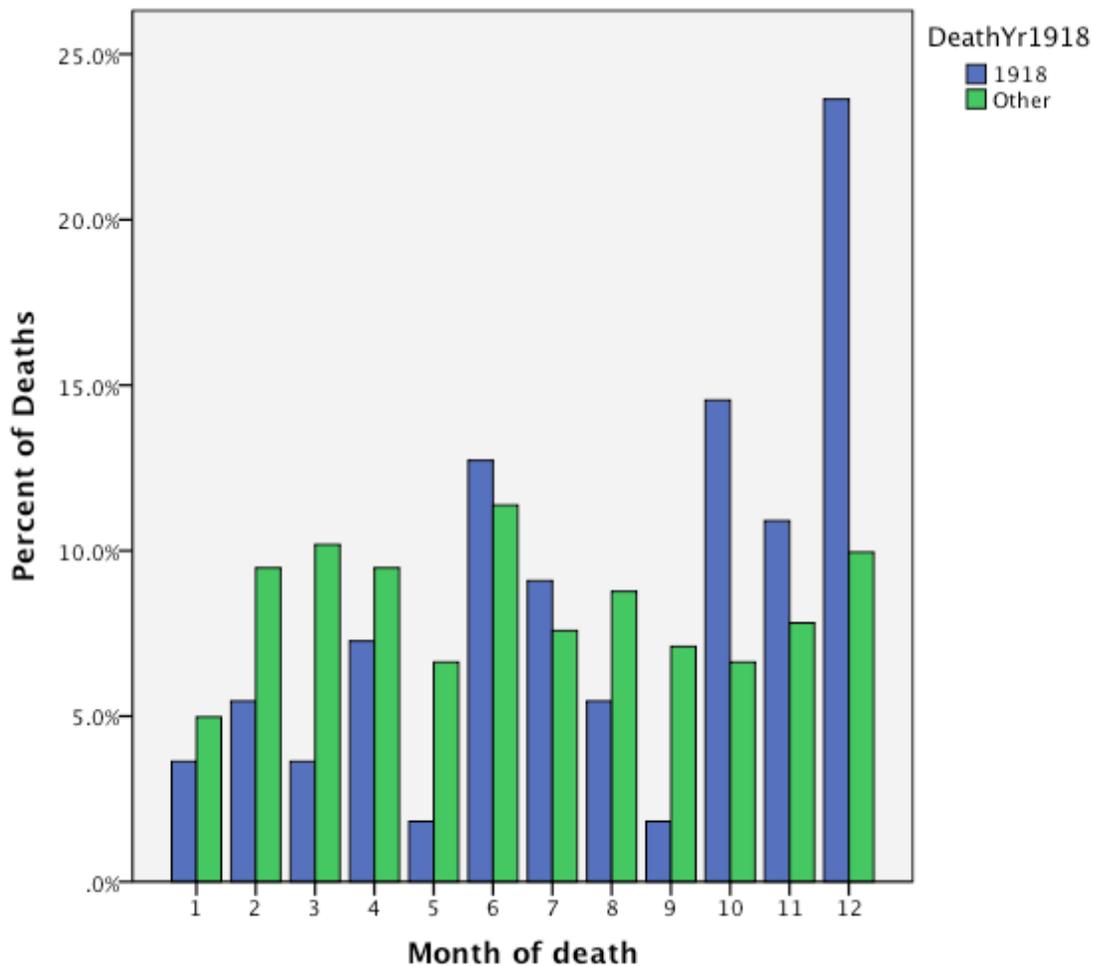


Figure 14: Percent of deaths by month for 1918 and all other years combined.

RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

This section summarizes those actions that are recommended to be taken to clean, stabilize, or record the information on the surveyed monuments. Table 3 breaks down the number of monuments that are recommended to receive each treatment; again, since multiple actions are possible on a single monument, the total percentage does not add up to 100%.

The majority do not need any immediate attention, but 252 (22.9%) require some form of action. Most of those requiring attention need only be cleaned of accumulated mold or moss, a process that can be very non-destructive to the underlying stone. An additional number need to have a

Table 3: Summary of recommended actions to be taken on damaged or degraded Calvary monuments

Disposition	N	%
Nothing	851	77.1%
Clean	163	14.8%
Rubbing	127	11.5%
Reset	28	2.5%
Repair	5	0.5%

rubbing taken of at least one surface in order to record whatever data or inscriptions are currently too obscured to fully transcribe. Since there are no other records of these data and inscriptions and because this technique is very safe for the monuments, this is probably the easiest and also most crucial form of care that can be taken at this time.

The remaining recommended actions are difficult to address from a curation standpoint since the Calvary staff have limited authority and resources to carry out repairs. Many of those needing to be reset are leaning at a dangerous angle and the justification for taking action is as much for the safety of cemetery staff and visitors as it is to prevent damage to the monument. Nevertheless, both repairing and resetting monuments can be time consuming and potentially destructive to the monument and decisions in this regard must balance the safety of the public and long-term viability of each monument against the time, expense, and legality of attempting a restoration.

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

This study has shown that nearly a quarter of the pre-1920 monuments at Calvary Cemetery are in need of some form of restoration or conservation in order to record now-visually illegible textual information or to prevent further deterioration that may impact either the text or the structural integrity of the monuments. As one might expect, most of the observed problems pertain to marble monuments: this soft, porous, and organic material is amenable to mechanical, chemical, and biological weathering processes and are in the most danger of becoming entirely illegible over time. Losing this information would be a shame from both a scientific and historical standpoint, and would also do a disservice to the memory of those whose passing was memorialized so carefully.

Many of the recommended actions can be accomplished with little or no danger to the monuments (e.g., taking a rubbing to recover illegible text) and can be easily accomplished by volunteers with a minimum of training. More extensive and intrusive actions (i.e., repairing or resetting) would require more time and effort expended by cemetery staff and may require contacting plot owners for permission. Some actions may even be justified on the basis of public safety, notably those monuments which are in immediate danger of falling over.

Calvary Cemetery represents a unique resource of cultural, historical, social, demographic, and archaeological data. Its location in an urban setting means it is a much-visited oasis of peace and contemplation amidst the hustle and bustle of a major American city. Even in a well-maintained

cemetery such as Calvary, a significant number of monuments have some form of degradation or wear that may negatively affect the readability of the text or structural soundness of the monuments in the foreseeable future. Through volunteer efforts such as this, Calvary, as well as other community cemeteries, can be assessed and maintained for future generations to enjoy and study.

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APPENDIX I: VARIABLE DEFINITIONS

Table: Main

1. ID

Unique ID assigned to each monument. Used to link to Names and Inscriptions tables

2. Lastname

The last name on the monument. I added this in later only as a quick way to identify the monuments in the field by having the last name displayed on this main form.

3. MonumentType

General description of the type of monument.

Values:

Headstone: Sits at the head of the grave

Footstone: Sits at the foot of the grave

Family marker: Marker with only the family name marking a family plot. May have individual names; if so and no other individual grave markers for those names are present, it is a head/footstone.

Statue: Any kind of non-geometric form

Notes: This proved to be of limited utility except to differentiate between family markers (that had no actual graves *directly* associated with them) and it was not particularly necessary for my purposes.

4. NumGraves

The number of graves directly associated with the monument. May be >1 if a single monument serves more than one burial. Does not apply to family markers

5. CapType (Capping Type)

Type of structure that tops a monument.

Values:

Cross

Vault: the top forms the shape of a vaulted ceiling

Sphere

Statue

Other

Missing: Apparent that a cap was present but is no longer

6. Cap_Other

Written description of 'Other' type of cap

7. Shape

Used to provide a general shape description for identification rather than a complete typology proper. Composite shapes may be described by choosing more than one shape. Based on Francavilla 1971

Values:

Block

Rectilinear in cross section, thicker than a tablet or Gothic, and whose height is less than or equal to its maximum other dimension.

Column – Rectilinear

Non-tapering column of rectilinear cross-section. Differentiated from a tablet or a block by being at least twice as high as either other dimension.

Column – Round

Non-tapering column of round cross-section.

Cross

The main structure is cruciform.

Gothic (pointed)

Upright tablet-type with a pointed top

Lawn type

A plate whose surface is close to level with the ground surface.

Obelisk

Tapering column with a pyramidal top

Pulpit

Rectilinear in cross section, thicker than a tablet or Gothic, and whose height is less than or equal to its maximum other dimension. Similar to a Block but the upper, usually slanting surface contains the majority of the inscription.

Raised-top

Similar to a Lawn type but more than a couple of inches above the ground surface. Also similar to the Pulpit but the upper surface is horizontal or nearly so and much shorter.

Scroll

Resembling rounded or partially open scrolls.

Statuary

Any other complex shape, usually of people, angels, trees, etc.

Tablet

Similar to the gothic but with a rounded or flat top

Other

Any shape not covered in the other values (specify)

8. Shape_Other

This was not included although it should have been. A description of what the 'Other' shape is from the Shape variable.

9. Base

The base is usually of the same material as the rest of the monument.

Values: Yes (present), No (Absent)

10. Foundation

Usually of a different material from the rest of the monument (e.g., concrete, sandstone); the Base rests on this

11. Material

Check all that apply, if Other than specify. These can be created as either a single variable in the database (as Pendragon does) or separate variables (which is what most other databases need to use, such as Mat_Granite, Mat_Marble, etc.)

Values:

Basalt
Bronze
Concrete
Granite
Limestone
Marble
Sandstone
Slate
Other

12. Mat_Other

Description of what the Other material is

13. Direction of main face (N, S, E, W and 1/4s)

Cardinal direction (N, NE, E, etc.) of the main inscribed face. Marked in 45-degree increments.

14. Position

Describes the position the monument is in currently

Values:

Standing: In upright or *original* position.
Fallen: Lying on the ground, as opposed to intentionally set in or on the ground
Set in Ground: Intentionally set in the ground. Examples are tablet types that have been placed horizontally in the ground similar lawn types.
Visibly Leaning: Mark if the monument seems to be significantly leaning. All will no doubt be somewhat off of vertical.

15. LeanAngle

Used if clearly leaning at what appears to be a dangerous angle, measured in degrees from vertical.

Notes: I used a semi-circular protractor with a weighted string to determine the angle of lean. It turned out to be a not terribly useful variable and I eventually stopped using it for the very simple reason that cemetery staff are not allowed to reset monuments unless they actually fall over or they themselves believe it is in imminent danger of falling.

16. LeanDir

Direction that the monument is leaning toward. Cardinal directions (N, NE, E, etc.) in 45-degree increments

17. State

Used to describe the overall condition of the monument and whether it is in need of immediate repair, check all that apply

Values:

Normal

Monument is in a stable condition and position. A previously repaired monument that is otherwise sound with no other issues (below) is considered Normal.

Broken (separate pieces)

Monument is in more than one piece and was not repaired.

Cracked

Visible cracks are present

Deep scratches

Self-explanatory

Moss

Presence of moss

Mold/Lichen

Presence of lichens or mold

Surface degradation

Refers to visible weathering such as obviously worn inscriptions, rounded edges (originally sharp), and spalling.

Incomplete

Monument is missing some component, such as a cross on the top. Description, if possible.

Notes: I ended up not using Incomplete very much, as there was not much that could be done about that condition (e.g., if the Cap was missing, it was missing).

18. Repairs

Any types of repairs that were done in the past.

Values:

Encased in concrete

Usually for upright monuments that have been laid flat in concrete.

- Cement/Mortar
 - Repair of cracks or put back together using cement or mortar (i.e., a mineral-based binder)
- Iron pins/braces
 - Self-explanatory
- Adhesives
 - Synthetic adhesive, such as epoxy

19. Decoration
A text description of whatever decoration is present.

20. Legibility
The overall readability of text
Values:

- Good
 - Reads easily without abnormal lighting
- Fair
 - Reads with difficulty, with or without abnormal lighting
- Poor
 - Cannot be read at all or only portions

Notes: This is somewhat subjective. Those marked as ‘Good’ should be read easily and should not appear to be in immediate danger of becoming unreadable. ‘Fair’ indicates that the text is deteriorating, while ‘Poor’ indicates that it is in immediate need of recording in full, such as by performing a rubbing.

21. Disposition
Recommendation on restoration or additional recording, all that apply
Values:

- Nothing
 - The monument is in a good state of repair and all inscriptions are readable (i.e., do not require a rubbing)
- Clean
 - Requires cleaning off of moss, lichens/mold, graffiti, etc.
- Repair
 - Requires structural repair such as filling in major cracks
- Reset (leaning, fallen)
 - Pronounced leaning that may lead to imminent collapse or resetting of a fallen monument.
- Take rubbing
 - Required when inscriptions are difficult to read and may be illegible in the near future

22. Faces_Inscr
The number of faces with any inscription at all.

Notes: At this point I designed the database to jump to the Inscriptions form where any inscriptions were entered.

23. Photos

A text field where the numbers of photos taken are listed.

24. Related

A text field that lists the ID numbers of monuments that seem directly related to the current one. For example, a husband and wife with separate headstones would each have the ID number of the other listed here.

25. Comments

Use for any additional comments not covered in the other fields.

26-28. Section, Lot and GraveNum

These can be used to locate each grave by the cemetery's coding system. For this project, I am attempting to link my records to their database and fill them in later.

Table: Names

1. ID

Same ID# as in the Main table and used to link it to the appropriate monument

2. Face

The face on which the name appears relative to the front while facing it. I use this because often names are inscribed on different sides.

Values: Front, Back, Left, Right, Top

3. Sex

I added this one late, due to the need for additional demographic data.

Values: Male, Female, Unknown

Notes: These were generally easy to assign, although some foreign names were problematic as well as those not terribly gender-specific (e.g., Francis). Often there are other clues that can be used, such as labeling one as "Mother".

4. Lastname

5. FirstName

6. MiddleName

7. MaidenName

Notes: This was often tricky to determine which name was the maiden and which was the married name (usually the first one). Occasionally it was difficult to tell a middle name from a maiden name. This was not terribly useful for my purposes, but for genealogical work it is very important.

8. Title

Any sort of formal title present such as “Dr.”

9. Relationship

Mother, Father, Wife, etc. Again, this was not very useful for me so I stopped recording it, but may be important for others.

10-12: Month, Day, and Year of birth

I used separate fields for each as opposed to a “Date of Birth” as often one or more are missing, e.g., many times only the Year is provided.

13. PlaceOB

Place of Birth.

14-16 Month, Day, and Year of Death

Same as for birth.

17. PlaceOD

Place of Death. Usually locally, but some were, for example, “Lost at Sea” or died elsewhere.

18-20. Age in Years, Months, Days

Some monuments only record the age at death rather than the date. Age at death is very important for demographic studies.

21. AgeCalc

Calculation of Age. I calculated this later using a query in the database. It’s usually either the Age variables or a computation based on the Birth and Death dates. It is in decimal form to account for those who only lived for a few months.

22. Veteran

Is veterans status noted on the monument, Yes/No

23. War

Self-explanatory

Values: WWI, Civil War, Spanish American

Notes: I restricted it to these three as there were no others within this time frame.

24. Country

Country that the veteran served with. Usually US, but not always.

25. State

Usually listed as a state’s militia unit from the Civil War (e.g., 5th Wisconsin)

26. Unit_Branch

Often states either the branch of the military (Army, Navy, etc.) or the unit (1 Engr., 1 Infantry, etc.)

27. Rank
Self-explanatory

Table: Inscriptions

1. ID
Same ID# as in the Main table and used to link it to the appropriate monument
2. Face
The face on which the inscription appears relative to the front while facing it. I use this because often inscriptions occur on different sides.
Values: Front, Back, Left, Right, Top
3. Transcription
A text field. Literally what is visible as the inscription.

Notes: This can be somewhat subjective to determine. For example, I did not record a simple “Mother” as an inscription. Also, longer inscriptions were often part of the name data: e.g., “Jane Doe, Beloved Wife of John Doe” (these I recorded as such). There were also some seals with inscriptions in them, such as those for Woodmen Of the World (“Dum Tacet Clamat”). I recorded many of these as inscriptions, but eventually just noted a Woodman seal was present. Many were also in foreign languages. For these, I recorded exactly what was written – often the spelling/grammar was wrong – and then attempted a translation later, and added this to the record in parentheses.

Table: BasicData

1. UnitID
A unique identifier. This does not link with anything, but I included it anyway.
2. Sex.
I added this one late, due to the need for additional demographic data.
Values: Male, Female, Unknown
Notes: These were generally easy to assign, although some foreign names were problematic as well as those not terribly gender-specific (e.g., Francis). Often there are other clues that can be used, such as labeling one as “Mother”.
3. YOB
Year of birth

Notes: I was only interested in obtaining the age of the deceased and the year provided enough data to determine that.

4. YOD

Year of death.

Notes: Same as for above.

5. AgeYrs

Age in years, usually given on the monument. I later added a similar AgeCalc field for analysis.

6. AgeMos

Age in months.