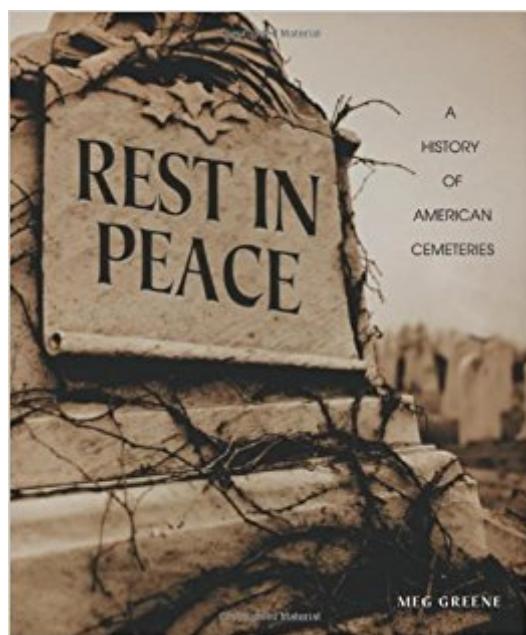


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# Rest In Peace: A History Of American Cemeteries (People's History)



## **Synopsis**

From unsanitary pits to today's "green" cemeteries, Rest in Peace explores the evolution of burial practices and how they reflect the history and culture of the United States. Interspersed with primary source quotations and fascinating photographs, the book offers an unusual window in to the expression of American cultural identity across the ages.

## **Book Information**

Series: People's History

Library Binding: 112 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #798,928 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > Death #38 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Social Science > Anthropology #567 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > United States

Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 5 - 10

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 9 Up  
From small family burial plots to the full-service corporate cemeteries of today, Americans' burial and funeral traditions have shifted over time. This detailed book traces those changes in a scholarly way, and includes traditions of Native Americans, slaves, and various ethnic communities. Sepia-toned illustrations liven up the rather serious text, but some are of poor quality and several of the captions are difficult to read. This well-documented and thorough book would be useful for someone genuinely interested in this topic, but it won't have wide appeal to average teens.

•Marcia Kochel, Olson Middle School, Bloomington, MN Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Over the last two centuries, American cemeteries have evolved from unsightly, unsanitary urban graveyards to rural park destinations to thriving, sprawling enterprises to places practicing green

burials and other environmentally conscious alternatives. This account of cemeteries in the U.S. offers a sweeping history of these trends as well as plenty of noteworthy details, illustrated throughout with black-and-white photos shaded in sepia tones. The opening chapter describes Native American burial traditions, followed up with a discussion of Spanish, New England, Southern, and slave burials in colonial times and the above-ground cemeteries of New Orleans. Another interesting chapter looks at ethnic cemeteries. The extensive back matter includes a time line, an annotated list of places to visit, source notes, a selected bibliography, and lists of recommended books and Web sites. From the concept that cemeteries "served as models for the nation's city park systems" to the development of pet cemeteries, this book from the People's History series presents many aspects of an unusual topic. Grades 8-11.  
--Carolyn Phelan

This book is a good primer for those who want to delve into the world of historical cemetery hunting. Some good information is relayed, but most is either general knowledge or readily available in other sources. I only gave the book 3 star because, well, it just kind of pissed me off! LOL Now, I don't know who the target market was, but I am truly hoping it was young teens. Numerous times the author feels the need to educate the reader in general vocabulary, it is quite insulting. Word such as: cremated on page 7, or American Revolution in which the author then explains the dates and what that war was (1775-1783 the war that established American independence) page 24, the word pauper page 25, tenement page 29, and so forth throughout the book. On page 31 we are given the definition of what a horticultural society is. It also seems the author did a lot of work in her area of the country, and mostly in the United States, but erroneously states that pre-1700's all Europeans were buried in mass graves! I urge her to read *The Hour of Our Death* by Philippe Aries. But all in all, once I got past the vocabulary lessons and a few misdemeanors in information, it was a quick and pleasant read I would recommend to someone new to the subject.

Good

I bought this book for a friend who researches grave sites - he loved the book, very informative. He said it was a good 'read'.

If you're interested in cemeteries and want a nice introductory primer, this book is perfect.

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