

# Dos & Don'ts of Cemetery Preservation

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[www.chicora.org](http://www.chicora.org)

# What We Do

- Location/Identification of Graves
- Mapping Cemeteries
- Condition Assessments
- Treatment of Stone and Iron
- Historical Research
- Preservation Plans
- Education Programs

Check us out at

[www.chicora.org/cemetery\\_preservation.htm](http://www.chicora.org/cemetery_preservation.htm)

# What's in a Name?

- **“Restoration”** – to make like new, return to previous appearance
- **“Conservation”** – to help limit natural deterioration, to preserve
- **Commercial monument company** – work with new, modern stone, *not antiques*

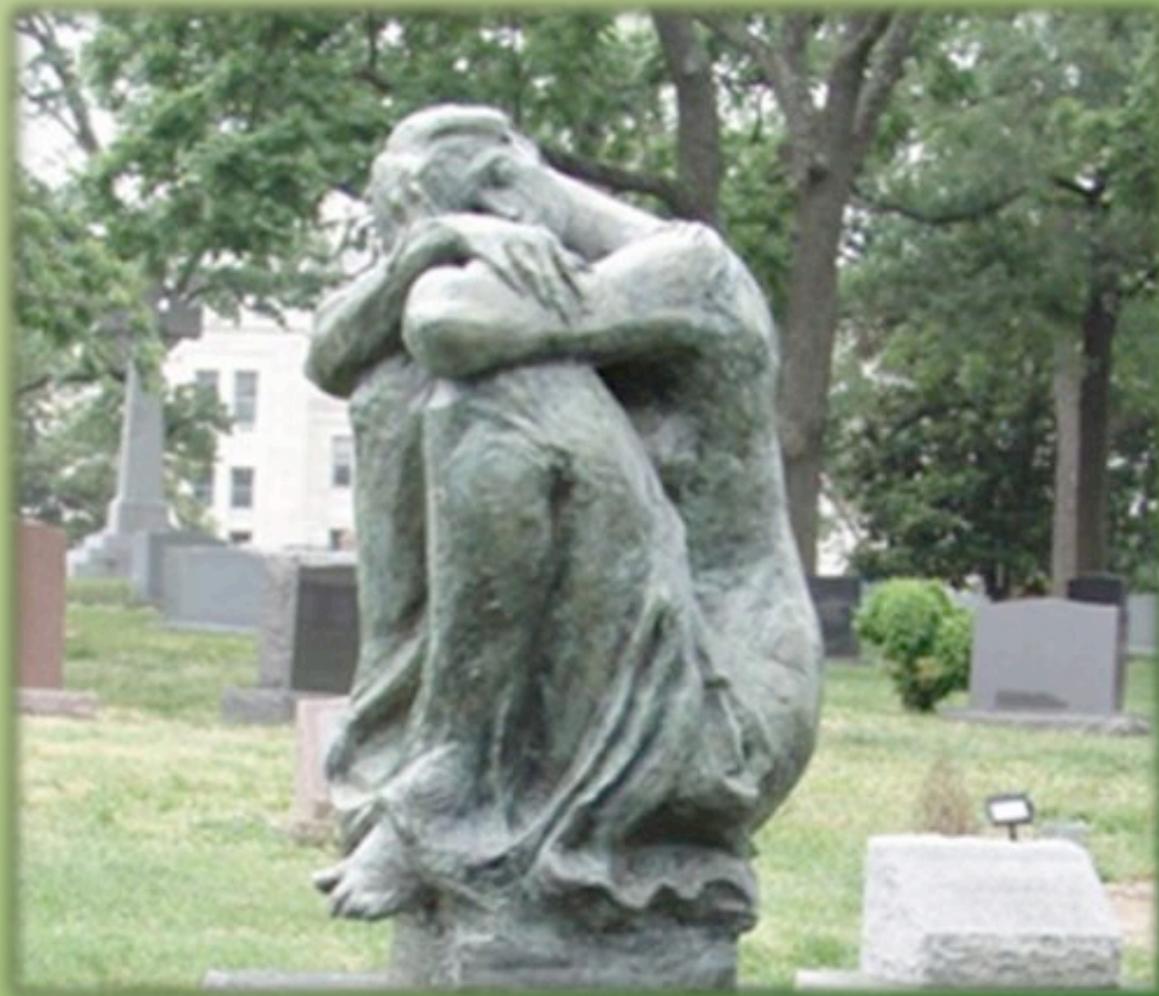
For more information:  
[www.chicora.org/conservation.htm](http://www.chicora.org/conservation.htm)

# Understand the Nature of Cemeteries



- Sacred
- Artistic
- Archives
- Scenic Landscapes

# Don't: Trust Your Memory



# DO: Document All Actions

- Forms are available on our website
  - Cleaning
  - Resetting
  - Treatments
  - Damage
  - Vandalism
  - Theft
  - Plantings
  - Recordation



# Don't: Allow Rubbings



# Do: Take Photographs



# Don't: Forget the History in the Cemetery



JAMES MABEN  
Son of  
JOHN R. & BELLE G.  
TURNER.  
Born Jan. 3, 1870.  
Died Feb 25, 1883.

# Do: Make Complete Transcriptions



(dove in flight)

JAMES MABEN  
Son of  
JOHN R. & BELLE G.  
TURNER.

Born Jan. 3, 1870.

Died Feb 25, 1883.

Child of Affliction on earth,  
Safe now in the arms of Jesus.

# Don't: Think a Disaster Can't Happen to You



Tornado

Vandalism



# Do: Make copies

- Make copies of all materials:
  - Cemetery records
  - Maps & Recordation
  - Historical research
  - Photographs
  - Conservation treatments
- Store these in a different place from the originals – Hard Copy, not just discs

# Don't: Go to the Hardware Store . . .

- Don't use anything you can buy in the store on antique stone
  - Concrete
  - Epoxy
  - Ammonia
  - Household bleach
  - Swimming pool bleach
  - Acid
- Remember: antique stone needs old ways & old materials

# Do: Keep it Simple

- General Cleaning
  - Remove inappropriate vegetation
  - Brush off leaves, berries, grass clippings
  - Brush or sweep off fertilizer/pesticides
  - Use ordinary water to rinse away bird droppings, soil, berry stains

# Don't: Sandblast or Power Wash



# Don't: Use Bleaches



# Don't: Use Acid



# Do: Use Water

- If you HAVE to wash a stone:
  - Make sure the stone is stable
  - Use lots of water and a very soft brush
  - D-2 is a biocide that is safe



# Simple Cleaning

- Is there something damaging the stone?
  - Is the cleaning only for aesthetics?
  - Is it part of a conservation treatment?
- ALWAYS ASK:
- What is the potential damage from cleaning compared to the damage from not cleaning?

# Simple Cleaning

- Supplies:
  - Tap water
  - Soft, short bristled brush
  - Time
- Completely wet the stone
- Brush gently, from bottom to top
- Rinse
- Use D-2 if there are biologicals

# D-2, available from Cathedral Stone



# D-2: Before & After



# D-2: Before & After



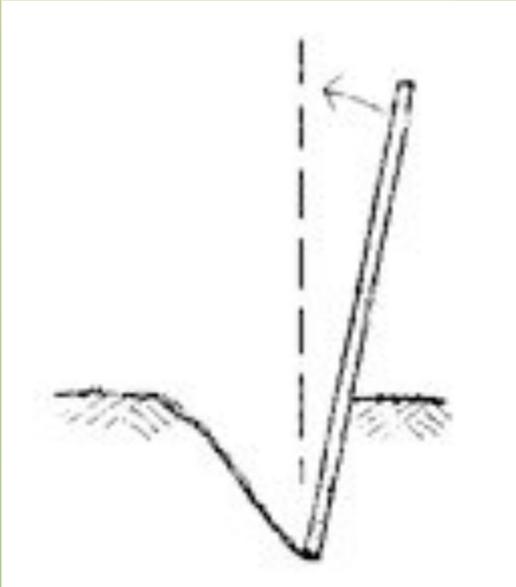
# Do: Simple Repairs

- Resetting tilted stones
- Resetting tab in socket
- Making a new socket

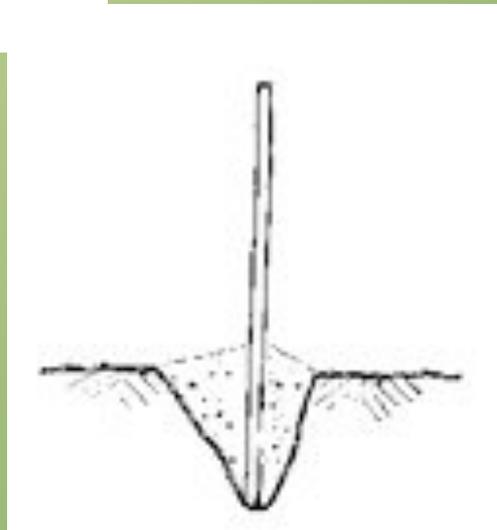
# Resetting Tilted Stones



# Resetting Tilted Stone



- Only if tilted more than 15°
- Examine first
- Metal shovels & stone don't mix
- Pea gravel



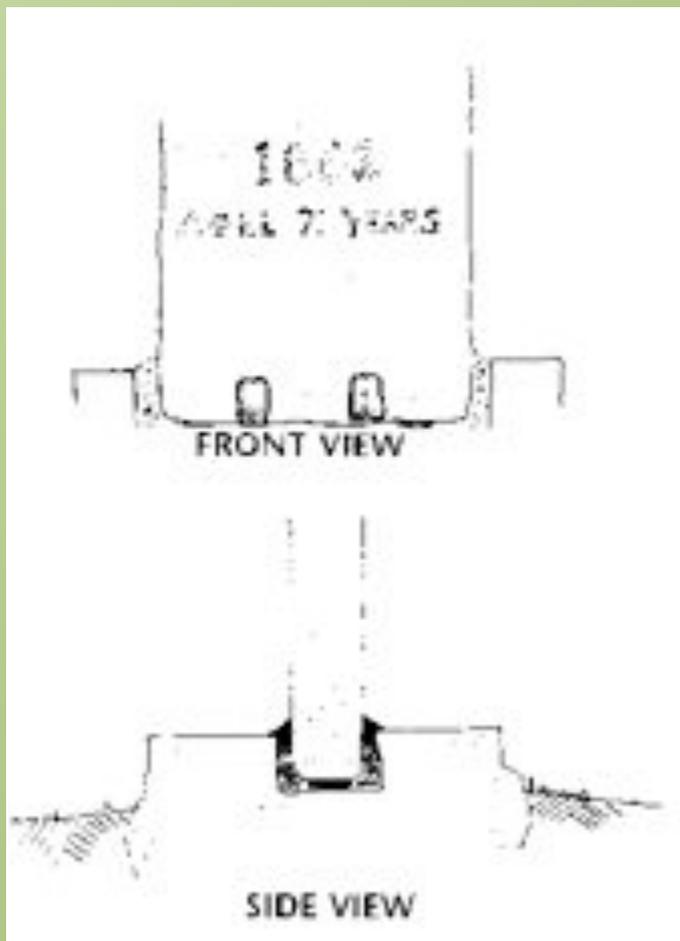
# Setting in Pea Gravel



# Make Sure Stone is Level



# Resetting Tab in Original Socket



# Setting Tab in New Socket



Remember: The new base must be DRY before inserting stone



# Don't: Forget the Litter



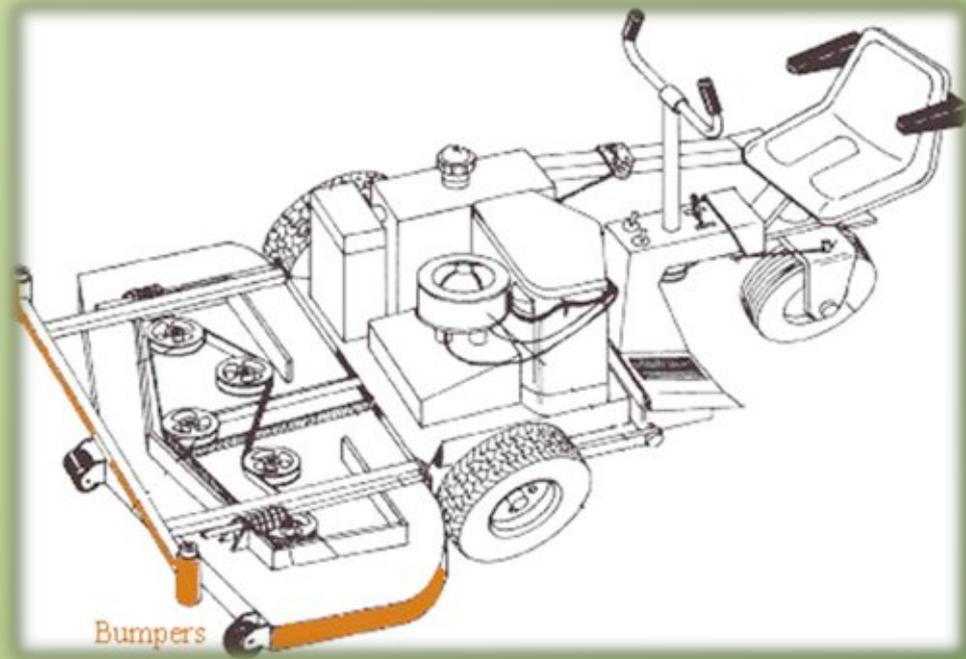
# Do: Take Out the Trash!



# Don't: Nick the stones with the Mower



# Do: Put Bumpers on Mowers



Don't: Scratch the stones with a trimmer



Do: Use the thinnest string

.065 inch

# Don't: Try to Grow Grass in the Shade



# Do: Learn to Love Mulch



# Don't: Go Plant Crazy



# Do: Plant With a Plan



# Don't: Hire Unqualified People



# Unqualified Work



# Do: Hire a Stone Conservator



# Professional Work



# Professional Work



# Don't: Forget the Fences

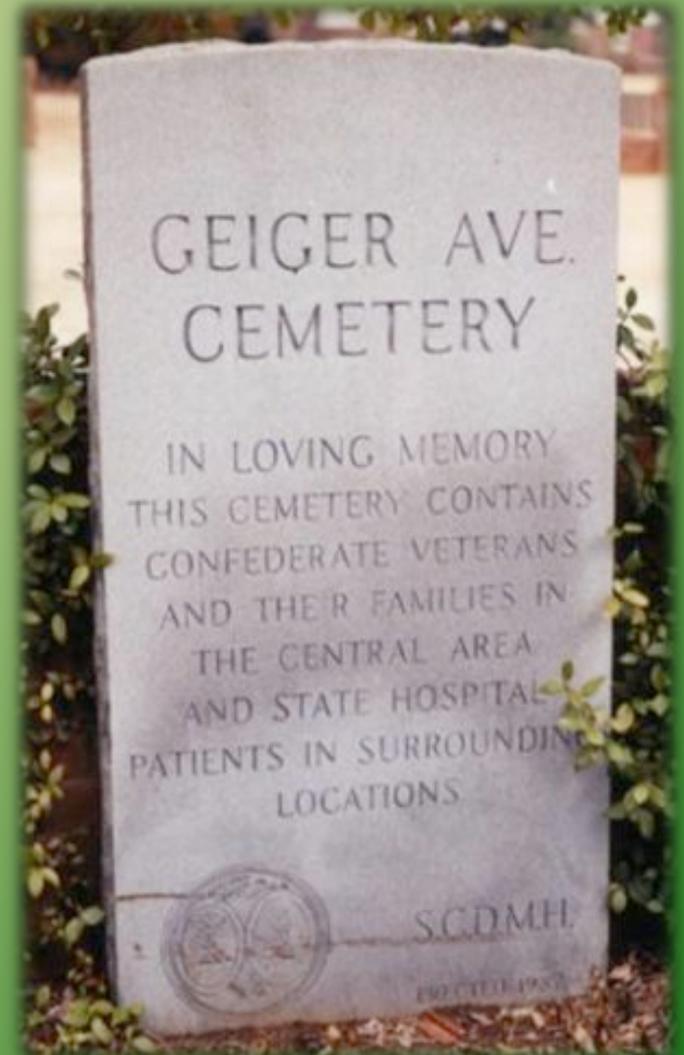
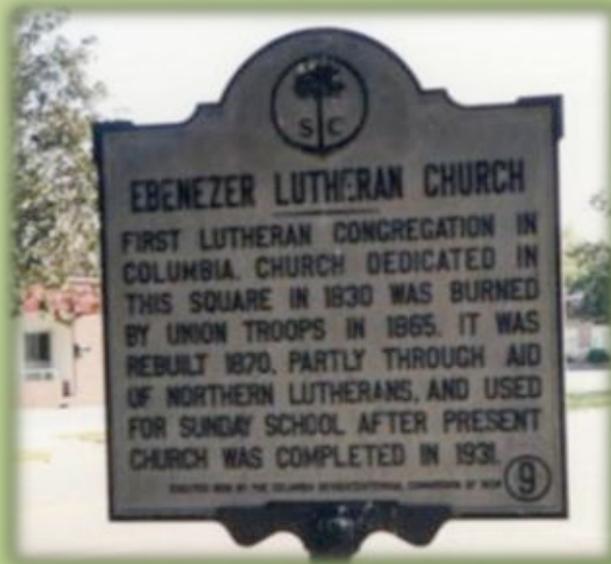


# Do: Paint & Reset

- Rust-Oleum Rust Reformer
- Flat black or Charleston green paint, oil based



# Do: Put up Signage



# Don't: Ignore the Squirrels



# Do: Remove Squirrel Trees



Don't:  
Forget About  
Thieves



# Don't: Forget the Transients



# Squirrel Plantings



# Whenever You Walk Through . . .

## – Look for Problems:

- Tilting
- Soiling
- Cracking
- Breakage

## – Document any Problems



Don't: Be Afraid to Ask



Do: Go to Our Website

**[www.chicora.org](http://www.chicora.org)**

**Please feel free to e-mail questions  
& photos to us**

Don't: Feel Badly . . .



Don't: Sit & Wait . . .



***Do:  
Go Forward  
From Here!***

