

# ARKANSAS CEMETERY PRESERVATION USEFUL RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

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## HOW-TO BOOKS AND REFERENCES

There are many available. Here are two useful for Arkansas:

1. *Grave Concerns: A Preservation Manual for Historic Cemeteries in Arkansas*. Prepared by Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Posted on the AHPP website, can be downloaded and printed out for free. Go to [www.arkansaspreservation.org/publications/](http://www.arkansaspreservation.org/publications/)

The digital version is also available through a link on the State Archeologist Page, Arkansas Archeological Survey Website at [www.uark.edu/campus-resources/archinfo/statearch.html](http://www.uark.edu/campus-resources/archinfo/statearch.html)

2. *Your Guide to Cemetery Research*, by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack. Paperback, Betterway Books, Cincinnati Ohio. You can buy it new or used on Amazon.com for \$12.00- 15.00.

This is a wide ranging guide to finding, recording, studying, and caring for graveyards. It also introduces the reader to funeral and burial customs, art and aesthetic values in cemetery monuments, and many other topics.

## CASE STUDIES AND GUIDES

There are hundreds of books about cemeteries from all perspectives; art, aesthetics, religion, history, landscape, cultural heritage, mortuary practices, and so forth. None so far are done about Arkansas cemeteries. Here are two good ones.

1. *Texas Graveyards: A Cultural Legacy*, by Terry G. Jordan. University of Texas Press 1984.

2. *Stories in Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography*. Gibbs Smith Publishers 2004. This one is easy to carry along to the cemetery to use.

## ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR WEBSITES

1. *The Association for Gravestone Studies* is the oldest and biggest organization devoted to the study and care of cemeteries. This website has information about the organization, publications, conferences, and other resources. The Association publishes many small booklets designed to help people study, clean up, care for, and record cemeteries. Their annual conferences feature workshops in cemetery conservation and other activities as well as presentations, discussions, and tours [www.gravestonestudies.org](http://www.gravestonestudies.org)
2. *National Center for Preservation Technology and Training*. This branch of the National Park Service offers training seminars and workshops in cemetery monument conservation. [www.ncptt.nps.gov](http://www.ncptt.nps.gov)
3. *National Trust for Historic Preservation*. Cemeteries are one category of site they are interested in. The Trust printed "Preservation of Historic Burial Grounds", available through their website/publications page. [www.preservationbooks.org/index.asp](http://www.preservationbooks.org/index.asp). Search under religious properties.
4. *Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society*, [www.aahgs.org](http://www.aahgs.org). Arkansas Chapter is AAHGS-ARK, PO Box 4294, Little Rock, AR 72214-4294. email: [ttenplewis@aol.com](mailto:ttenplewis@aol.com).
5. *Arkansas Humanities Council*. Grants made for some cemetery preservation projects. Contact the council staff Lavona Wilson or Jama Best directly at [lavonawilson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lavonawilson@sbcglobal.net) or [jamabest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jamabest@sbcglobal.net). Phone is 501-221-0093. Address is 10800 Financial Center Parkway, Suite 465, Little Rock, AR 72211.

## NATIONAL REGISTER INFORMATION

Call Ralph Wilcox, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR for more information at 501-234-9880.

## RESEARCH OR CEMETERY INFORMATION

Arkansas History Commission, 1 Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201; 501-682-6900; [www.ark-ives.com](http://www.ark-ives.com)

Local or County Library, Historical Society, Genealogical Society, or Cemetery Preservation Society.

*A Comprehensive Guide to Arkansas Links: Genealogical Research in the Natural State*, by Rhonda S. Norris (paperback) 1999. Has some information about these resources that are listed by county.