

Sample Annotated Bibliography

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY “The Geography of American Graveyards”

by John Lerner

- 1) Jordan, Terry G. (1982). *Texas Graveyards, A Cultural Legacy*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

Jordan offers an in-depth look at the hows and whys of Texas graveyards. He divides vernacular burial sites into three categories: Mexican, German, and “Southern folk cemeteries.” His physical descriptions of cemetery layout, inscriptions, grave markers, and the like are *very* detailed.

- 2) Meyer, Richard E., ed. (1989). *Cemeteries and Gravemarkers, Voices of American Culture*. Ann Arbor: UMI Research Press.

Meyer’s book is a compilation of works concerning such topics as regional epitaphs, origins of Southern cemeteries, the Afro-American section of a Rhode Island burial ground, and the use of bronze in memorials.

- 3) Sloane, David Charles (1991). *The Last Great Necessity, Cemeteries in American History*. Baltimore: the Johns Hopkins University Press.

Sloane’s work will serve as my primary source of information. He has written a history of American cemeteries in a cultural context, concentrating on significant trends in their development. Sloane’s “Notes” section will allow for easy access to other sources.

- 4) Weed, Howard Evarts (1912). *Modern Park Cemeteries*. Chicago: R.J. Haight.

Weed was a landscape architect and his work concentrates on how a cemetery *should* look. Weed offers detailed descriptions of the physical layout of pre-20th century cemeteries.

- 5) Zelinsky, Wilbur (1994). “Gathering Places for America’s Dead,” *The Professional Geographer*. 46:1, 29-38.

Zelinsky’s article is an intriguing analysis of the spatial patterns of American cemeteries. He calculates and maps the number of cemeteries by county across the country. He then seeks answers as to why there is such a fluctuation in the number per square mile from one place to the next. Zelinsky’s bibliography led me to Sloane’s work.