

Galt

MUSEUM
& ARCHIVES

stories unfolding...



MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY

EDUCATION PROGRAM



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TEACHER'S MANUAL

READING A CEMETERY TEACHER’S GUIDE

Contents

The Galt’s Mission.....	3
Program Overview	3
Program Length.....	4
Curriculum Connections	4
Confirmation, Cancellations, and Contact Information.....	5
Payment.....	5
Expectations for Visitors.....	6
The Role of Adult Supervisors	7
Your Arrival at the Cemetery	7
Background Information for Reading a Cemetery	8
Pre- and Post-Activities	9
Research Questions	11
Your Galt Program.....	12
Web-Sites and Other Resources	13
Glossary	14
Evaluation	14



This teacher's guide offers background information and ideas for classroom activities designed to complement a visit to the cemetery. It contains information to assist you in planning your visit, information and activities for both before and after your visit, and outlines what you can expect from your program.

The Galt's Mission

The Galt Museum & Archives engages and educates our communities in the human history of Southwestern Alberta by preserving and sharing collections, stories and memories that define our identity and guide our future.

Program Overview

History is all around us if we only know where to look. One of the places in a community where history is most evident is in the cemetery. Cemeteries are outdoor museums and archives and are the perfect place to practice the skills of a historian.

In the cemetery, students learn how to piece together an understanding of history from the fragments that remain. They must use all of the clues to develop an understanding of the stories of the people of the community and of what life was like when these people lived. Students also get the opportunity to study history outside of the history books.

Through **Reading a Cemetery** students will do field work and will examine headstones to find evidence about the lives of the people buried in the cemetery, their familial relationships, and their social standings. Students will also be introduced to the biographies of several people from southern Alberta's past.

Generally the program is done at Mountain View Cemetery (off Scenic Drive South), but this program may also be done at St. Patrick's Cemetery on 6 Avenue North.

A follow up program to the Reading a Cemetery program can be arranged as a visit to the Galt Archives where students follow up on research they have done in the cemetery.

Program Length

Reading a Cemetery runs in the spring and fall. Programs are generally 90 minutes in length, but can be lengthened or shortened based on discussions between the teacher and the Galt's Museum Educator.

Curriculum Connections

There are three distinct components to the **Reading a Cemetery** program:

- the learning of local history and of southern Alberta history as related to other parts of Canada,
- the development and practice of skills related to studying and learning history and
- the development of positive attitudes towards
 - cemeteries as places and objects of historical significance,
 - the work of historians and
 - the role of individuals and groups in the development of the community.

The program highlights the stories of people from southern Alberta and includes the multiple perspectives of the various ethnic, cultural and socio-economic members of southern Alberta society. Through the work of the program, students will practice critical and creative thinking and problem solving. It is the long term goal of the program to help students develop an increased respect and understanding for this historic place and to then apply that understanding to all places and objects of historical significance.

While this program may be done with any grade, the grades and curricula most closely linked to this program are:

Grade 4

4.2 The Stories, Histories and People of Alberta

4.3 Alberta: Celebrations and Challenges



Grade 7: 7.2 Following Confederation: Canadian Expansion

Students can study all or some of the following:

- Oral traditions and oral history
- The changing demographics of southern Alberta
- British institutions that have been and are integral to southern Alberta
- Asian immigration to and settlement in southern Alberta
- The role of the North West Mounted Police
- The changing role of women
- Immigration from eastern Europe

Confirmation, Cancellations, and Contact Information

Your program has been scheduled as per the information on your confirmation sheet. If you have any questions about your booking or the program, please contact the Museum Educator at tours@galtmuseum.com or (403) 320-4248. If you must cancel or reschedule a program, please let us know as soon as possible. We will try to fit your class in at another time as time permits.

Payment

Payments can be made in advance of the program or on the day of the program. The Galt accepts VISA, MasterCard, debit, cash, and cheques. Cheques should be made out to the Galt Museum & Archives or City of Lethbridge. If payment is made in advance, receipts will be available on the day of the program. Otherwise, receipts will be mailed out to the school. The payment amount is \$45 per class per program.

Expectations for Visitors

- There should be one adult supervisor per approximately five students as for part of the program students will be divided into groups. More adults are always welcome and there is no cost for adult supervisors. Younger siblings accompanying the class with their parents are also most welcome to attend the program.
- The cemetery is a very important and special place. In order to ensure that we show the proper respect while we're in the cemetery and to ensure that both the headstones and cemetery visitors are protected, please follow these rules. Please review these rules with your class prior to your arrival at the cemetery. Some of these rules (as well as others) are posted at the entrance to the cemetery.
 - As much as possible, try not to walk across the graves. In some places, this is hard to do as there are unmarked graves and the graves are not in a straight line. It is best to walk immediately behind the headstones.
 - Don't run through the cemetery. It is very easy to trip. The ground is uneven and grass may obscure tripping hazards.
 - Headstones in many parts of the cemetery are old and fragile. Do not lean or push on them as they may break and we will lose irreplaceable parts of our local history.
- For Mountain View Cemetery, washrooms are located east of the Cemetery Office. For St. Patrick's Cemetery, a washroom is located near the cemetery gate.
- Galt Museum staff will call the day ahead to the cemetery to discover whether or not a funeral is taking place and, if it is, what time and in which area. We will do our utmost to show respect to the funeral by staying out of that area and lowering our voices if we are in the cemetery at the same time as the funeral.

The Role of Adult Supervisors

Adult supervisors are an integral part of the Galt's programs. The following suggestions are provided to help make their role clearer and easier to manage. Some teachers find it useful to photocopy these suggestions for their adult supervisors.

- ✓ Float around and assist during the activities.
- ✓ Maintain the focus of the activities as you assist students through the activities. Remind students of what they are trying to discover and help them troubleshoot problems they may encounter.
- ✓ Depending on the activity, you may need to supply the students with answers to questions and additional information. If at all possible, though, have the students discover the answers on their own. Your program leader will answer any questions you may have. If a question cannot be answered during the program, it will be recorded and more information will be forwarded to the school.
- ✓ Assist in keeping students together.
- ✓ Ask any available staff for assistance if there is an emergency.
- ✓ Encourage the students to ask questions and get involved.
- ✓ Enjoy your visit.

Your Arrival at the Cemetery

- If you are attending Mountain View Cemetery, buses will drop students off at the Eternal Flame at the north entrance to the cemetery. Your program leader will meet you there. If you have parent drivers instead of the bus, there is some public parking located north of the cemetery office, but cars may also be parked outside of the cemetery near the Eternal Flame.
- If you are attending St. Patrick's Cemetery, buses and car parking is located at the cemetery gates at the far west end of 6 Avenue North. Your program leader will meet you there.

Background Information for Reading a Cemetery

A cemetery is often one of the first spaces a new community needs. The community of Coalbanks, founded in 1882, found itself in need of a cemetery in the fall of 1883 when 17-year-old Henry Stafford died of typhoid. Henry Stafford's grave still stands in Indian Battle Park, west and north of the Baroness Picnic Shelter. Henry's is the only marked grave in the park, but research suggests that at least three other graves rest in the park.

Shortly after Henry passed away, Britt Stephens also fell victim to typhoid and was buried near Henry Stafford. In the summer of 1886, John Henry Smith was killed working in the coal mine and Richard Thompson drowned crossing the Belly River (later Oldman River). We know from the records that all three were buried in Lethbridge. It is highly unlikely that any of the three were ever moved so they probably lie in unmarked graves in Indian Battle Park.

It soon became apparent that the river valley cemetery was not going to be sufficient and that a new cemetery was needed. A committee got together to decide on the site and in December 1886, St. Patrick's Cemetery was started. The first person to be buried there was Frank Greer, who died of Consumption. The cemetery was laid out with a Protestant section on the east and a Catholic section on the west. The Catholic section was consecrated in 1889.

The cemetery is even older than the Town of Lethbridge (1890) and was owned and, for the Protestant section, operated by the coal company. Though the cemetery was surveyed, families often chose their own locations for the burial of loved ones and record-keeping was sparse at best. The Catholic Church kept records, but an unfortunate fire destroyed many of these records. St. Patrick's records are the worst maintained of any cemetery in Lethbridge, with no records prior to 1920 and only sparse records prior to 1952.

Almost as soon as St. Patrick's Cemetery was started, calls were made for a south side cemetery. Finally, in 1901, the Anglican Church started a cemetery where Mountain View Cemetery stands today. In 1905,

Undertaker B.C. Moore started a private cemetery immediately west of the Anglican Cemetery. The city purchased more land for a cemetery east of the Anglican Cemetery in 1908 and then in 1909 chose to purchase Moore's

Cemetery was purchased by the city in 1909. In the 1920s the city took over operation of the Anglican Cemetery, officially purchasing it in the 1940s. These three cemeteries were combined in the 1940s into present day Mountain View Cemetery.

Additionally, a Hebrew Cemetery was started west of Moore's Cemetery in 1909.

The development of a south side cemetery meant that focus shifted completely from the Protestant section of St. Patrick's Cemetery. While the Catholic section was maintained, the Protestant area became overgrown and neglected. Considerable vandalism took place and weeds covered the headstones. In the 1960s a Hamilton Junior High class took it as part of their class to clean up the cemetery. They convinced City Hall that it was necessary and worked Saturdays to clean up the cemetery. Today, St. Patrick's Cemetery is well maintained, but many of its headstones are now lost forever.

Pre- and Post-Activities

These activities can be done prior to your visit to the Galt or after you have returned to your classroom.

Symbols and Icons of a Cemetery

A long time ago, many people couldn't read. Pictures were developed as a way of communicating. These symbols were used in many different ways – in stained glass windows, on flags, on family crests, on headstones and in other ways. Knowing the meaning behind the symbols may help us understand more about the person than we can learn just from the words written on the headstone. It is important to be careful when using the pictures for research – some symbols may have more than one meaning and sometimes people choose a symbol not for its meaning, but for its looks. Below are some common symbols that may be found in the cemetery.

Many of these symbols we do not use as often today as they did in the past so we are not as familiar with them as people used to be. Try to guess what you think each symbol means.

Symbol	Meaning	Hints
Book		Do you think it could be a certain book?
Broken or draped column		What colour do some people in Canada often wear to funerals? What does this colour mean?
Column		
Dove		When they release doves at the Olympics and other events, why do they do it?
Hands, clasped		When do people shake hands? What does it mean?
Lamb		
Open gates		
Tree		Fill in the blank: tree of _____
Tree stump		This relates to the one above. If you have this tree and it is cut down, what might it mean?
Tree trunk		
Urn		

Answers to symbols

Symbol	Meaning
Book	The divine word or one's accomplishments
Broken or draped column	Early death, grief
Column	Noble life
Dove	Love, purity, resurrection, the Holy Spirit
Hands, clasped	Farewell, hope of meeting in eternity
Lamb	Innocence (especially on a child's grave)
Open gates	Afterlife, the soul entering Heaven
Tree	Life, knowledge, human frailty (tree of life)
Tree stump	Life interrupted
Tree trunk	Shortness of life
Urn	Immortality, penitence

Research Questions

When historians do research, they devise a list of questions that they wish to answer. Below are some questions that might be useful for researchers in the cemetery. Go over the questions with your class prior to coming to the cemetery and then again after your visit.

1. Look at the headstones. From what are they made? Can you often tell how old a headstone is from the material used? Do you think that changes in headstones reflect changes in technology? In beliefs? Can you tell how wealthy someone was by his or her headstone? What information is often recorded on the headstone?
2. Look at the dates on the headstones. What was going on in Lethbridge at the time of the person's death?
3. Who is buried by whom? Are people buried with family members?
4. What pictures or symbols are on the headstones?
5. Why was this site chosen for the cemetery?
6. If you wanted to find out more about the people buried in the cemetery, where else could you look?

Biography

Choose one person mentioned on the tour and write a biography of that person. Where is the best place to look for information on this person? Does anything about this person surprise you? Why is this person important in Lethbridge and southern Alberta history?

Cemeteries are important because ...

Have your class fill in the rest of this statement. Students could create a poster that highlights why cemeteries are important. Or have students imagine that there has been vandalism in the cemetery and they are writing letters to the newspaper editor stating why people should respect cemeteries.

My Choice

Students can decide which person they were introduced to on the cemetery tour that they believe is the most interesting person or the person most important to Lethbridge and southern Alberta history. They then have to be able to state why they believe this is true.

Your Galt Program

Activity 1: Welcome and Introduction

Students will be welcomed to the cemetery and will review what a cemetery is and the expectations of visitors to the cemetery. An overview of the activities the class will be doing will be given.

Activity 2: Brief History of the Cemetery

A brief introduction to the history of the cemetery will be given including when the cemetery was started, who started the cemetery and why this location for the cemetery was chosen.

Activity 3: Field Work

Working in groups, students will complete a handout on a section of the cemetery. Students will need to find specific headstones in that block and answer questions based on clues such as the information on the headstones, location of headstones, dates and knowledge of historic events.

Activity 4: Tour



Students will be guided on a historic walking tour of the cemetery focusing on biographies, symbolism, local history, and other information that can be gained from cemeteries. Biographies that may be included are: William and Jane Stafford, William Henderson, Charles and Elizabeth McKillop, Eli and Alma Hodder, Paul Smith, Henry Bentley, and George Rogers.

Activity 5: Conclusion

Students will review the activities of the program and will be invited to visit the Galt Museum and Archives as well as the cemetery again. Students will be reminded that field work is only one part of a historian's job. Speculation and conjectures raised through field work need to be confirmed with research in the Archives, books, newspapers, and other sources.

Web-Sites and Other Resources

There are several web-sites that are invaluable resources for people researching in the cemetery.

<http://www.ourfutureourpast.ca>

This web-site includes a lot of material on Alberta history. If you look under the Early Alberta Newspapers, you will be able to find some of the early Lethbridge newspapers. Complete sets of the newspapers can be found at the Lethbridge Public Library, University of Lethbridge, and Galt Archives (to 1920s). These locations also have indices of the Lethbridge newspapers up to 1918. These may also be available in your school library.

One difficulty with this newspaper web-site is that it isn't searchable. As well, it is very difficult to print from the page.

<http://peeldev.library.ualberta.ca/bibliography/9021.html>

This web-site has the Alberta History magazine, a publication of the Historical Society of Alberta, on line. If you click on a volume, it will tell you what is in that volume.

<http://lethbridgeags.theboss.net/LH.htm>

The Genealogical Society has this web-site with some more obituaries but also birth announcements from some of the years.

<http://www.pioneersalberta.org/profiles/index.html>



These are pioneer profiles. They are for southern Alberta, not just Lethbridge. They are listed alphabetically. What may be useful is to open a page and then search for Lethbridge to see which ones are local. There are quite a few of them listed here.

http://dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/oralHistory.html

This web-site offers a step by step guide to doing oral history projects.

http://www.dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/index.html

Related to the site mentioned above, this site has even more information on doing historical projects including how to create time-lines and other projects.

Glossary

Field of Honour: An area of the cemetery reserved for the burial of veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces and her allies. There are four Fields of Honour in Lethbridge, all of them in Mountain View Cemetery.

Headstone: A stone marker set at the head of a grave.

In Memoriam: In memory (of); to the memory (of); as a memorial (to)

Evaluation

An evaluation form was sent out with your confirmation. Evaluation results allow us to offer the most effective and highest standard program that we can. Your feedback and suggestions are greatly appreciated. Please fax the form back to us at (403) 329-4958 or mail to Museum Educator at 910 4 Avenue South Lethbridge, AB T1J 0P6.