

Headlines



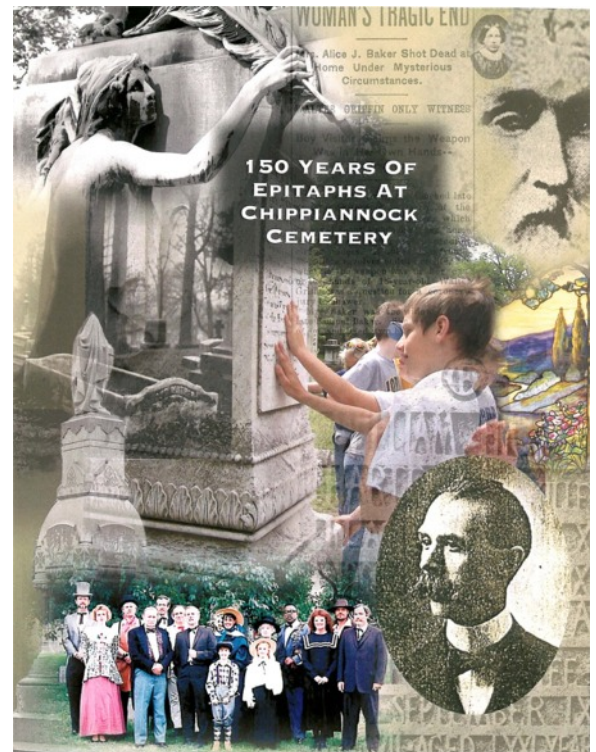
BOOK HONORING CHIPPIANNOCK CEMETERY'S SETTING AND PEOPLE NOW AVAILABLE

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Stories of the people, plots and past of Chippiannock Cemetery are now available in a new book co-published by the Rock Island Preservation Commission and the Chippiannock Cemetery Heritage Foundation. This 284-page paperback features biographies, scripts, historical photographs and monuments pertaining to the 114 people featured in the popular "Chippiannock Cemetery: Epitaphs Brought to Life" tour series. Special sections of the book enlighten readers about the rural cemetery movement, Chippiannock's role in that movement, and interpret the monumental and symbolic art and landscape and botanical significance of the cemetery.

Two pages out of the book are dedicated to each historic person, including a biography, their script from the "Epitaphs Brought to Life" event, monument photographs and associated historic images. A special 15-page section portrays a brief history of burial places and customs, and concludes with the unique features of Chippiannock Cemetery and why it was the first cemetery in Illinois listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its landscape, architecture and art. The book also includes an illustrated examination of Victorian symbolism used on monuments and markers. A full-color section portrays a working cemetery that has a deep tradition in public education and heritage tourism. *150 Years of Epitaphs at Chippiannock Cemetery* concludes with an extensive, five-page index that will be useful to historical researchers and genealogists. Because many of the people featured in the book were "movers and shakers" of their times, there is considerable local history told through the activities of individuals.

Contributing authors include architectural historian Alice E. Novak, local writer Terri Wiebenga, retired teacher and writer Charles Oestreich, historian Loren Horton and Cemetery Superintendent Gregory Vogele. Dennis Fretty, who contributed his services to the project, photographed the monuments and markers. Midwest Graphics Management designed the book and Jill Doak, staff person for the Rock Island Preservation Commission, served as editor.



The Rock Island Preservation Commission received an \$11,076 grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency to research and create the book and publish 50 copies to be donated to area libraries and schools. Look for *150 Years of Epitaphs at Chippiannock Cemetery* to be listed in the collections of local libraries by mid-October.

"While the Preservation Commission's primary role is to save and preserve our architectural heritage in Rock Island, education is also an important mission," said Daryl Empen, Rock Island Preservation Commission chairman. "Many of our landmarks and important buildings are tied closely with those citizens buried in Chippiannock and featured in this book. In telling their stories, we're telling the story of Rock Island. The Commission has also been an important sponsor for 'Epitaphs Brought to Life' over the years. Sponsoring this book ensures that their stories will now be in print for generations to read and learn about our history."

Chippiannock Cemetery Heritage Foundation (CCHF), a non-profit organization, sponsored a separate printing of the book in order to make copies available to the public for purchase. "The book is a tangible example of why the Chippiannock Cemetery Heritage Foundation exists," said Greg Vogele, Chippiannock Cemetery Superintendent. "The book is a tribute to those who have made our community and the importance of preserving our past."

You can get your copy of *150 Years of Epitaphs at Chippiannock Cemetery* by contacting CCHF at (309)788-6622 or dropping by the office at 2901 12th Street, Rock Island. Books are \$35 each. Proceeds from the book will benefit monument restoration and future educational activities at the cemetery.