On the Hallowed Hill: An Analysis of the Historic Cemeteries within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

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Abstract
Though a number of authors have stressed the importance of using cemetery data to study culture change through time, most of the available studies in this regard have been general in nature and completed without statistical analysis. Few studies have concentrated specifically on small, rural cemeteries, and fewer still have concentrated on regions outside of New England. The southern Appalachian Mountains are but one of the many regions that has yet to be studied in-depth. This thesis is an attempt to bridge some of the aforementioned gaps. Historic cemetery data collected in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park will be analyzed to examine hypotheses about the way headstones differ between age groups and genders through time. It is hypothesized that stones will increase in size and possess more intricate detail through time, a result of increasing modernity and improved access to goods and services. It is also hypothesized that stones will display differences in status between genders and age groups. The data indicate that stones have become larger and more ornate through time, that there is little difference between how men and women were treated in death, that religious faith has remained more or Jess constant for the past century and a half, that stones tend to display less personalized information in recent years, and that children under the age of five often possess more personal information, including kin terms, on their stones.

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the park system. Spanning the borders of both Tennessee and North Carolina, Great Smoky Mountains National Park is also the most visited park in the system with over 10 million annual visits. Asheville blends southern history, good food, and a friendly atmosphere. These features, coupled with its close proximity to The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, make the town your perfect basecamp. If you haven’t had enough adventure by the time the next morning comes, the river of beer awaits. Why Go To Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Great Smoky Mountains National Park spans both Tennessee and North Carolina, with the border running through the center of the 522,427-acre tract. The mountains have a long history of human settlers from the prehistoric Paleo Indians to 19th-century European settlers. Learn the history of the park at the Cades Cove Visitor Center and explore the historic gristmill and Cable Mill or stop by Sugarlands Visitor Center to see wildlife exhibits, view a film on the park and pick up unique souvenirs at the gift shop. READ MORE. Find Flight and Hotel Deals. Great Smoky Mountains National Park is an American national park in the southeastern United States, with parts in Tennessee and North Carolina. The park straddles the ridgeline of the Great Smoky Mountains, part of the Blue Ridge Mountains, which are a division of the larger Appalachian Mountain chain. The park contains some of the highest mountains in eastern North America, including Clingmans Dome, Mount Guyot, and Mount Le Conte. The border between the two states runs northeast to southwest through “On the Hallowed Hill: An Analysis of Historic Cemeteries Within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.” Master’s thesis, Department of Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Google Scholar. Maples, James N., and Elizabeth A. East. 2013. “Destroying Mountains, Destroying Cemeteries: Historic Mountain Cemeteries in the Coalfields of Boone, Kanawha, and Raleigh Counties, West Virginia.” Journal of Appalachian Studies 19 (1/2): 7–26. Google Scholar. Maples, Mike. Cite this chapter as: Foster G.S., Lovekamp W.E. (2019) Cemeteries as Windows into Communities. In: Cemeteries and the Life of a Smoky Mountain Community. Palgrave Pivot, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-23295-5_4.