

Advisory Board Grant Report

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As a recipient of the Advisory Board Grant for the 2016-17 year, I used my award to take a course release for the Fall 2016 semester. With the reduced course load, I was able to focus my efforts on two major projects as well as design and implement a course I had not yet had the opportunity to teach (HIST/STS 124: History of Western Medicine).

During the Fall semester, I completed the research and submitted a manuscript for publication titled “‘Variety there must be’: Eclecticism, Taste, and the 19th Century Rural Cemetery Landscape.” This manuscript was accepted for publication in *Markers: The Annual Journal of the Association for Gravestone Studies*, and will appear in the 2017 issue. The subject matter examines the early development of eclecticism in cemetery monument styles beginning in the 1830s and 1840s, which by the end of the century was criticized as having an aesthetically chaotic effect.

I also completed the primary research for another manuscript project that examines the role that Kentucky cemeteries played during and immediately after the Civil War for the performance of Union and Confederate identity. Kentucky was a state with divided loyalties during this period of time – while loyal to the Union, there were thousands of Confederate sympathizers and volunteers in the Confederate army. The cemeteries in the Commonwealth thus became spaces of contested identity, especially with the emergence of Decoration Day activities. I presented my preliminary exploration of this research at the annual conference for the International Society for Landscape, Place, and Material Culture, which was held in Bowling Green, Kentucky, in September. At this point, I am in the midst of completing my historiographical research and plan to submit an article manuscript for peer review over the summer.