

# Tracing pasts: Grave Mappers is worth a look

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In an earlier column, I wrote about my experiment with Facebook. I had hoped I would be able to get in touch with other researchers working on my families. So far I have had some great reunions with friends I haven't seen in years, but I haven't met any other researchers.

I have, however, found Facebook is a great place to learn about organizations that genealogists can enjoy. Last week, I learned about Grave Mappers and was glad to become a member.

As explained at Grave Mappers at [www.gravemappers.blogspot.com](http://www.gravemappers.blogspot.com), "we are genealogists, researchers, historians, hobbyists and cemetery lovers who ... want to preserve the priceless records found in cemeteries. Each of us has done this in our own unique way ... and we have found a great new Web site where we can map our cemeteries - Names in Stone."

The site [www.namesinstone.com](http://www.namesinstone.com) is at a beginning stage. Cemeteries are online from 10 states: Ohio, Texas, California, Idaho, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Wisconsin and New York. Not every cemetery is included yet, but they've made a good start. They have a nice search capability, and if you find a person of interest, you can get GPS coordinates and a map. This will be great for locating and visiting any small or lost cemeteries.

There are two options for the site. With the free option, you can do most things offered, including searches. The \$39.99-a-year option lets you save search criteria and receive automatic e-mails when there are updates. It also lets you flag records of interest and receive e-mails when they're updated, and save a list of cemeteries you're interested in.

You can compare the two options at [www.namesinstone.com/MembershipComparison.aspx](http://www.namesinstone.com/MembershipComparison.aspx). At this point, the free option suits me just fine.

You also can add cemeteries to the site. They divide cemeteries into Class A (more than 200 graves) and Class B (less than 200). Class A cemeteries seem to require a fee, since a government entity usually maintains these. The smaller Class B listings are free.

Names in Stone and Grave Mappers are worth a look. This may be just the volunteer project for you, or you may finally locate an elusive burial. You might do both!