Mumma Cemetery Exploration-Teacher Guide

Antietam National Battlefield
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Time:	30 Minutes (On-site)
Setting:	Mumma Cemetery
Suggested Age:	5th-7th Grade
Group Size:	60 Students - Maximum
Subjects:	Social Studies, Local and Regional History, Science, Language Arts, & Art
Skills:	Observing, & Information Gathering
Method:	Students work individually or in pairs to observe the cemetery and tombstones and answer the questions on a worksheet. This activity can be done as an extension to "People and Places of Antietam" or as an activity on its own.
Objectives:	At the end of the activity, the students will be able to: Compare and contrast characteristics of various tombstones located in the Mumma Cemetery.
Materials:	Provided by Teacher – photocopies of the Mumma Cemetery Worksheet included in this lesson plan.

Background Information

The Mumma family lost almost everything due to fire. They spent the winter of 1862-63 living in the Sherrick family home near the Lower or Burnside Bridge, and were able to rebuild in 1863. The Federal Government compensated residents for battle damages. The Mummas received no compensation because the damage to their property was done by Confederates. At the time of the war, the Mummas had 13 children. This family graveyard was established before the Civil War.

Suggested Procedure:

Pre-Visit Activities

• Describe to the group what happened to the Mumma family as a result of the Battle of Antietam. Refer to the lesson plan titled "People and Places of Antietam."

• Explain to the students that they will be learning about history by examining the tombstones in the Mumma Family graveyard. Historians and other people doing genelogical research have learned a lot from doing research in graveyards.

• Go over the worksheet and discuss proper respectful behavior for use in the graveyard.

On-Site Activities

• Use the park brochure map to locate the cemetery for the activity. The Mumma Cemetery is located at Stop number 6 on the driving tour route.

• Have your students do the exercise using the worksheets. You may wish to have your students work in pairs or small groups. Please remind students not to lean or sit on grave stones.

Suggested Procedure Continued:

• Once students have completed the worksheet, gather the class together to discuss what they have learned.

Follow –Up Activities

• Discuss the effects of acid rain on tombstones.

• Analyze the materials used to make the tombstones.

• Discuss tombstone shapes and designs. Have students design an original tombstone.

• Introduce what an epitaph would include. Have students write their own epitaph.

Extensions

• Visit another cemetery, perferably one that was established during a different time period, and compare and contrast the tombstones of the two cemeteries.

• Compare modern forms of tombstone artwork with pre-1900 tombstone artwork.

Suggested Assesment Tool

• Completed Mumma Cemetey Worksheets

Answers to Mumma Cemetery Exploration Worksheet

A. Ecker; Grayson; Kennedy; Avery; Highbarger; Fisher; Ditto; Middlekaufe; Miller; Reichard; Thomas; Otto; Wyand; Hendricks; Hout

B. Sherick, Sherrick

D. "I have found the shore of the everlasting rest."
"Gone, but not forgotten."
"His kingdom now we'll enter in, For he has bid us come, Forthwith will rise and to him flee, For yet he says there's room."

E. Age given in _____years, _____months, _____days.

F. Now tombstones usually have birth date and year of death.

G. Doctor

H. Smaller headstones

I. Answers will vary

J. Familes are often more spread out and not as large. More people live in urban areas and don't have large pieces of property for family cemeteries. For public health reasons, graves must be specially prepared to protect the water table.

Antietam National Battlefield - Mumma Cemetery - Student Worksheet

The Mumma family lost almost everything due to fire. They spent the winter of 1862-63 living in the Sherrick family home near the Lower or Burnside Bridge, and were able to rebuild in 1863. The Federal Government compensated residents for battle damages.

The Mummas received no compensation because the damage to their property was done by Confederates. At the time of the war, the Mummas had 13 children. This family graveyard was established before the Civil War.

A. As you proceed through the cemetery, write down ten last names other than Mumma.

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

B. List one last name that is spelled two different ways.

_____ _____

C. Sketch four different tombstone shapes that appear more than once.

D. List two sayings that appear on the tombstones after names, birth dates and death dates.

E. If the birth date is missing on the tombstone, how do you know the age of the person?

F. How is age shown on a modern tombstone?

G. Is there any evidence of a person's profession? If so, what profession?

H. How can you tell which tombstones are for children?

I. What do you find most interesting about the Mumma Family Cemetery? Why?

J. Why do you think we don't have family cemeteries today?