

**Landscapes of Death:  
The Cemeteries of Warren County, Illinois  
1830-1995**

A Thesis Towards A Masters' Degree  
In Geography

by  
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February 1996

LANDSCAPES OF DEATH:  
THE CEMETERIES OF WARREN COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
1830-1995

An Abstract of  
A Thesis  
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Master of Arts

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## ABSTRACT OF

### “Landscapes of Death: The Cemeteries of Warren County, Illinois 1830-1995”

There have been 54 sites used for the burial of the deceased in Warren County, Illinois, since 1830. Many of these cemeteries have fallen into disuse over the years but are still a visible part of the landscape. The purpose of this study was to examine the county's cemeteries to determine the evolutionary stages and their distinguishing characteristics that account for the contemporary landscape expression of cemeteries of Warren County, Illinois.

This study is based on a combination of library and field research. The initial field work involved visiting each of the county's existing cemeteries where I examined and photographed cultural features on the site, with tombstones being the main emphasis. I then selected 12 cemeteries to represent the variety of burial grounds in the county and conducted a tombstone by tombstone investigation. I categorized the tombstones according to types and decade of placement.

Upon completing the survey of the 12 cemeteries I compiled the data and was able to determine that the cemeteries of Warren County, Illinois, have undergone four distinctive phases since 1830: Pioneer, Victorian, Conservative, and Modern. The Pioneer Stage in Warren County cemeteries covers the years 1830 to 1870. The Victorian Stage was from 1870 to 1900. The Conservative Stage ran from 1900 to 1950 and the Modern Stage is from 1950 to the present (1995).

Cemeteries continue to evolve as part of the cultural landscape of Warren County, Illinois and subsequent decades may witness the formation of additional stages.