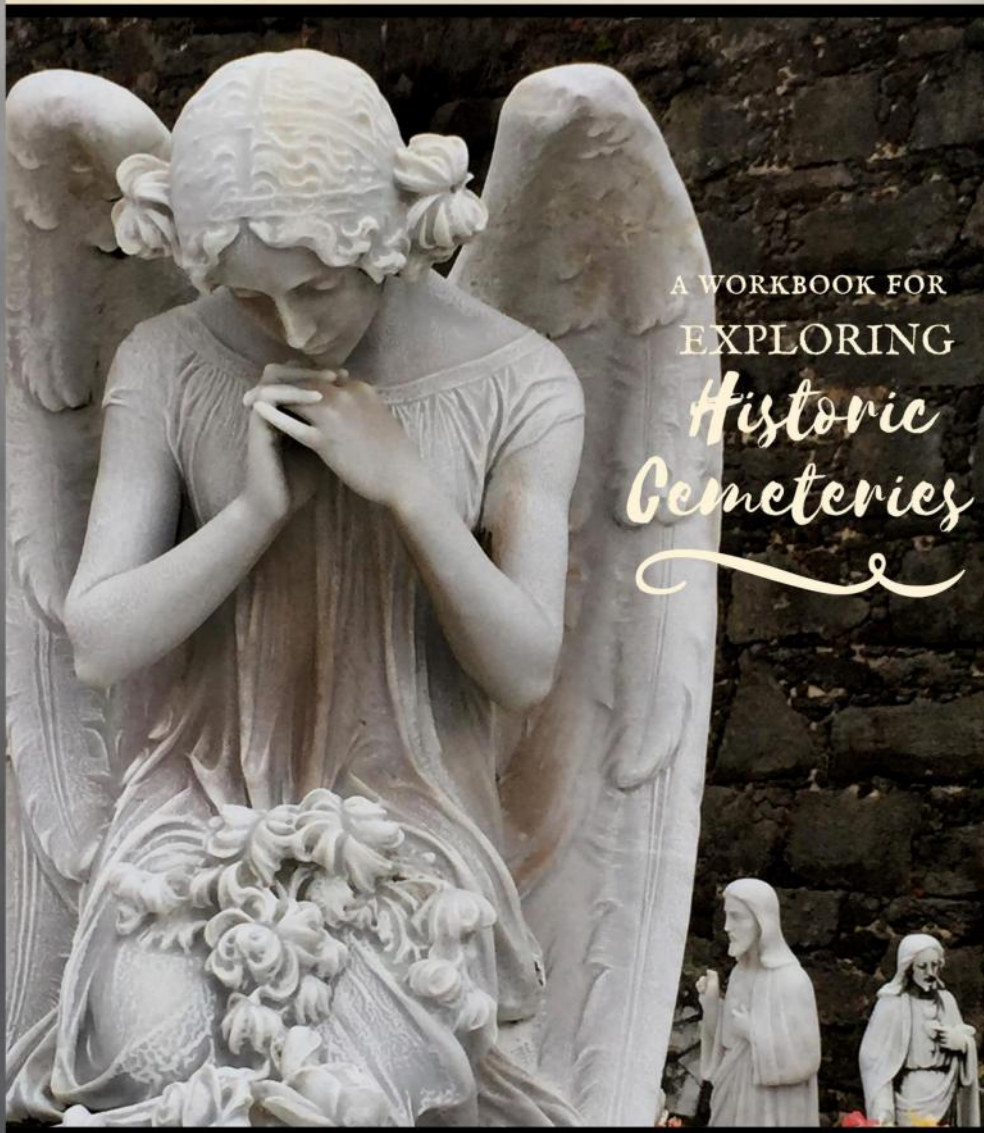


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GRAVEYARD JOURNAL



A WORKBOOK FOR
EXPLORING
*Historic
Cemeteries*

BY TUI SNIDER

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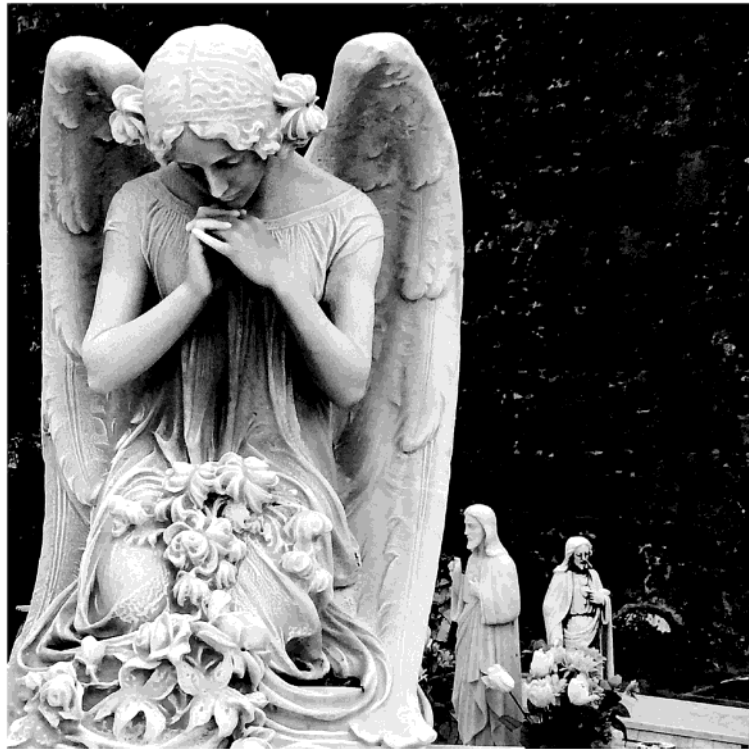
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ISBN-13: 978-1546416050

ISBN-10: 1546416056

First edition

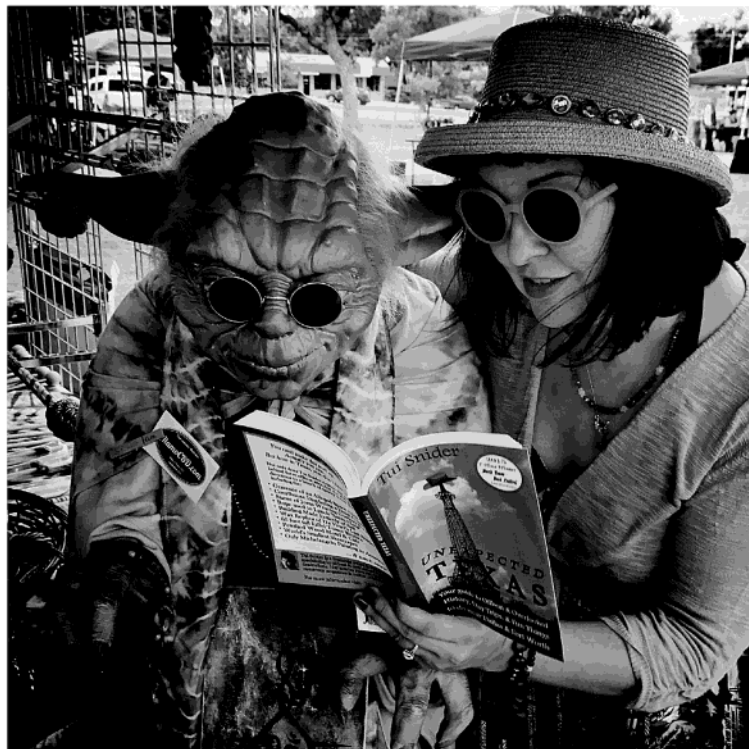
ABOUT THE COVER PHOTO



Writing research takes me to historic graveyards all over the world. I photographed this elegant praying angel in the gorgeous seaside cemetery, Santa María Magdalena de Pazzis in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

To see more of my photos and to grab your *FREE* copy of a “Quick Guide to the Many Meanings of Hands in Historic Cemeteries,” visit my website: TuiSnider.com.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Tui Snider is an award-winning author, photographer, musician, and speaker who specializes in quirky, haunted, and downright bizarre destinations. As she puts it: “I used to write fiction. But then, I moved to Texas!”

Snider's writing and photography has been featured by a

variety of publications, including *Coast to Coast AM*, *FOX Travel News*, *LifeHack*, *Sky Europe*, *easyJet*, the City of Plano and more.

Snider's award winning books inspired by the Lone Star state include *Paranormal Texas*, *The Lynching of the Santa Claus Bank Robber*, and *Unexpected Texas*.

In 2016, Tui served as the writer in residence for Tarleton State University's *Langdon Review*. She recently taught classes based on her books at Texas Christian University.

Tui has several new books in progress, including *Understanding Cemetery Symbols: A Field Guide for Exploring Historic Graveyards*, as well as another companion journal for that book called *Ghost Hunters Journal: A Workbook for Paranormal Investigators*.

Tui enjoys connecting with readers all over the world through her website: TuiSnider.com and @TuiSnider on Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest.

DEDICATION

*To my ever-loving hubby, Larry, who traipses through
historic graveyards with me all over the world. He never
loses his temper, even when I have lost our way!*

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PART ONE

INTRODUCTION

WHY USE THIS JOURNAL?

For many years, I thought my enthusiasm for exploring historic graveyards was a rarity. And while it's true that many people avoid cemeteries, in recent years I've discovered that I am not alone in my passion. As it turns out, there are a whole lot of other people out there, from genealogists to ghost hunters, who enjoy exploring historic burial grounds just as much as I do.

As you can imagine, the research involved with writing my book *Understanding Cemetery Symbols: A Field Guide to Historic Graveyards* meant that I visited a whole lot of graveyards. Field research is fun, but it's easy to get the details mixed up. I'd find myself wondering: Which cemetery had that beautiful angel? Where is the key to the graveyard gate kept? Which farm to market road do I take to find that tiny family plot?

My solution for this was quite simple. I started jotting detailed notes down on site, and transferring them to a file on my computer later. After all, as a writer, I'm constantly taking notes. But one day I realized how helpful it would be to have a notebook strictly dedicated to historic cemeteries. In fact, not only would it be helpful, but it would be a fun keepsake to look back on, and maybe even hand down to another family member some day.

I should also mention that while I created this journal as a companion to *Understanding Cemetery Symbols: A Field*

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Guide to Historic Graveyards, both books stand on their own and can be used separately. So that's how the *Graveyard Journal: A Workbook for Exploring Historic Cemeteries* was born. I hope you enjoy it!

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

In this day of high-tech everything, it seems condescending to explain how to use a regular old paperback book, right? And I must confess that when I see a “How to use this book” section in a Table of Contents, I often skip over it, or at least roll my eyes. So feel free to skip over this section, or at least roll your eyes, as I briefly explain how this particular book is set up. It’s fairly self-explanatory, but there are few things that may not make sense at first glance.

Create Your Own Table of Contents

For instance, you may have noticed that a good chunk of the Table of Contents for this book is empty. That’s intentional! This allows you to write down the name of each place you visit on the line with its page number. It’s a simple idea, but I find it incredibly helpful when keeping my own notebooks and journals.

About the Exploration Notes

CEMETERY NAME: Does the cemetery you are exploring have a name or even a nickname? What do locals call it? Is there more than one cemetery gate? Often, several smaller burial grounds merge with each other over the

years and become known by a single name.

DATE & TIME: This space is for recording the date and the time of your visit. Don't forget the year! (While it seems obvious now, after enough years pass, even this can get confusing.)

ADDRESS: Does the cemetery have an official address? Did this address actually work with your GPS? Even cemeteries within city limits may have vague addresses. Can you come up with a better address for people to use?

Country graveyards can be even trickier to find. Are there any distinguishing landmarks that can help you and your friends find your way back to this graveyard more easily next time?

HEADSTONE DIRECTIONS: Not only is this an interesting distinction to keep track of, but shutterbugs like me find this information helpful for planning. If the headstones face east, for example, then you may wish to arrive in the morning when you are less likely to have long shadows falling across them. If the headstones face west, on the other hand, you may wish to visit in the afternoon, so the headstones are well-lit.

FOLLOW UP VISITS: If you return to this same graveyard at a later date, write down the page number for that visit so you can easily flip between them and compare notes.

NOTES: This is the "meat and potatoes" of your journal entry. For maximum benefit, jot down your observations on site, and finish filling them out as soon as possible after

your visit, while all the details are fresh in your mind.

There's No Wrong Way to Use this Book!

My first draft of this journal included several other items, but I have decided to keep it simple. I didn't want to clutter the page with categories that may not be relevant for *you*. Just because we both enjoy historic graveyards, does not mean we will both focus on the same things. So rather than make the notation section too detailed, I opted to leave enough space for people to customize entries to their own specific needs.

Some folks may wish to keep track of the different vegetation they find. I like to note which cemeteries have pecan trees and bluebonnets, for example. Shutter bugs may wish to make a list of specific headstones they want to photograph during their visit. I do that all the time! Genealogists, on the other hand, may choose to focus more on family plots and the relationships they can trace to the graveyard. In other words, everyone will use this journal slightly differently - and that's OK!

So even though I just told you how to use this workbook, over time you will find your own groove. That's the whole idea! In fact, the most important step in using your *Graveyard Journal* is exactly that: to use it. If this book merely sits on your shelf looking pretty, then it's not doing you any good. Only by putting it to use will you be able to gain any benefits from it.

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Exploring historic graveyards is fun, but it's easy to get their details mixed up. As time passes, you may not be able to remember exactly which cemetery had that beautiful angel statue, where the key to the graveyard gate is kept, or which farm to market road leads to your favorite country burial ground.

Tui Snider created this "Graveyard Journal" as a way for taphophiles to keep all their cemetery information in one place. While it was originally meant as a companion workbook to "Understanding Cemetery Symbols: A Field Guide to Historic Graveyards," both books stand on their own and can be used separately. The book itself is large enough to easily write in, but small enough to fit in a glovebox or bag.

Not only is it helpful to keep a notebook strictly dedicated to the burial grounds you have visited, but your graveyard journal may also become a fun keepsake, or even something special and unique to pass along to a loved one.



Tui Snider (TuiSnider.com) is a writer, speaker & photographer specializing in offbeat sites, overlooked history, cemetery symbolism & haunted lore. Her award-winning books include: "Unexpected Texas," "Paranormal Texas," and "The Lynching of the Santa Claus Bank Robber." She is currently working on several books, including one about quirky and unusual burial sites.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION, VISIT:

TUISNIDER.COM

ISBN 9781546416050



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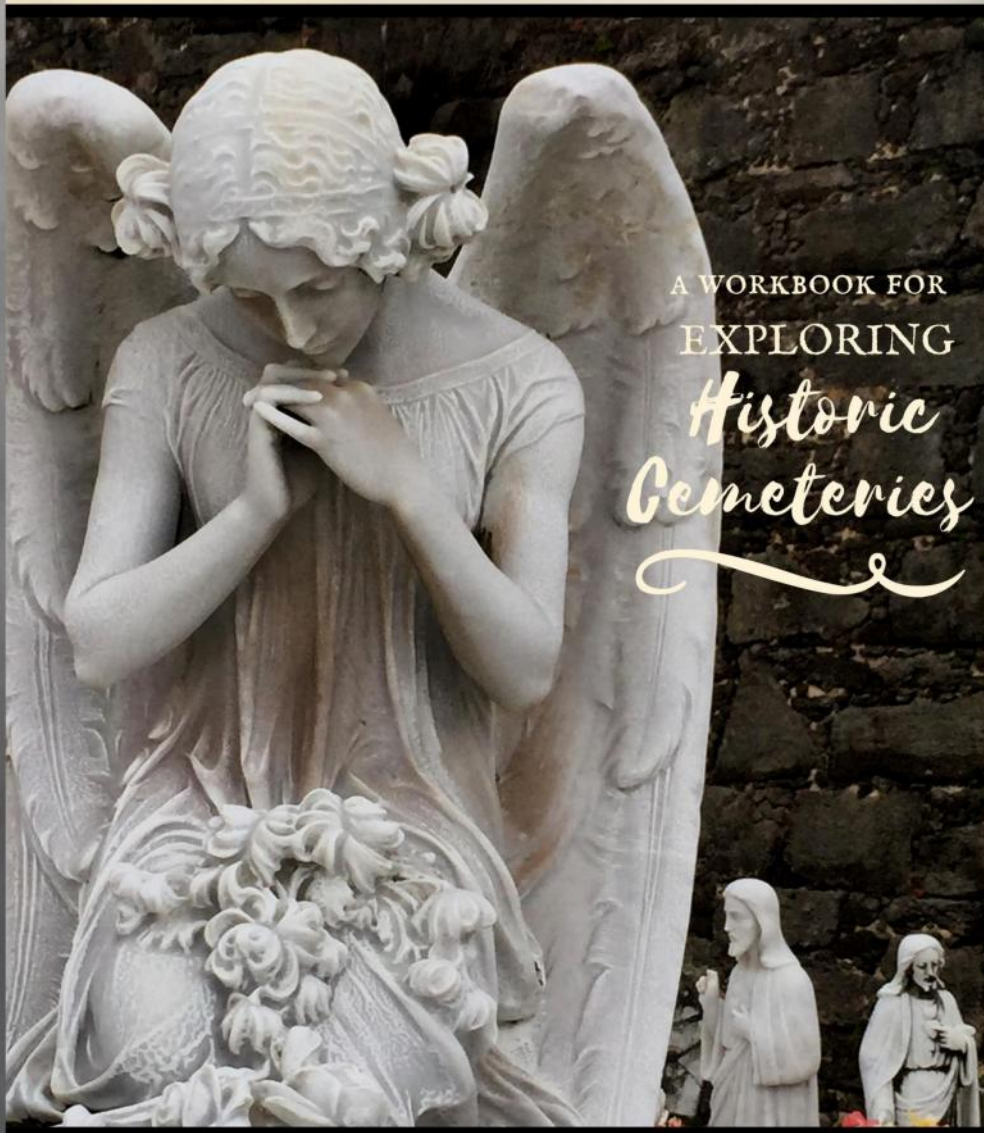


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