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Honoring Mt. Hope Cemetery's Chinese Burial Grounds: Asian American Studies Program with the Coalition for Asian Pacific American Youth (CAPAY) and the Chinese Historical Society of New England (CHSNE)

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Chinese Historical Society of New England

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Honoring Mt. Hope Cemetery's Chinese Burial Grounds

Asian American Studies Program with the Coalition for Asian Pacific American Youth (CAPAY) and the Chinese Historical Society of New England (CHSNE)

Summary/Abstract

Honoring the Chinese burial grounds of Boston's Mt. Hope Cemetery has been the signature focus of the Chinese Historical Society of New England (CHSNE) for two decades. Throughout that time, students from the Asian American Studies Program and the Coalition for Asian Pacific American Youth (CAPAY) at UMass Boston have been deeply involved with service-learning, documentation, and education projects to connect younger generations with the site's historical importance and contemporary meaning.

Results/Impacts

In Fall 2007, students in AsAmSt 423 (Boston's Asian American Communities) compiled an initial listing of 1,500 English and Chinese names with accompanying digital photographs that were matched with official cemetery paper records.



In 2010-2011, Laura Ng, a UMB graduate student in Historical Archaeology created a searchable, relational, digital database of the records for easier community access.

Conclusion/Next Steps

Boston's Asian American communities need to work collectively in preserving history. The cemetery cannot be maintained just by the older generations; we need to work on educating and training the younger generations to pay attention to their history.

— Janet Vo, AsAmSt major, 2007



Goals and Objectives



Mt. Hope

A deserted ground that no one wants
A waste of land
Some spirits haunt

Forgotten corner
There lays the dead of many Chinese
Unwanted, unfed

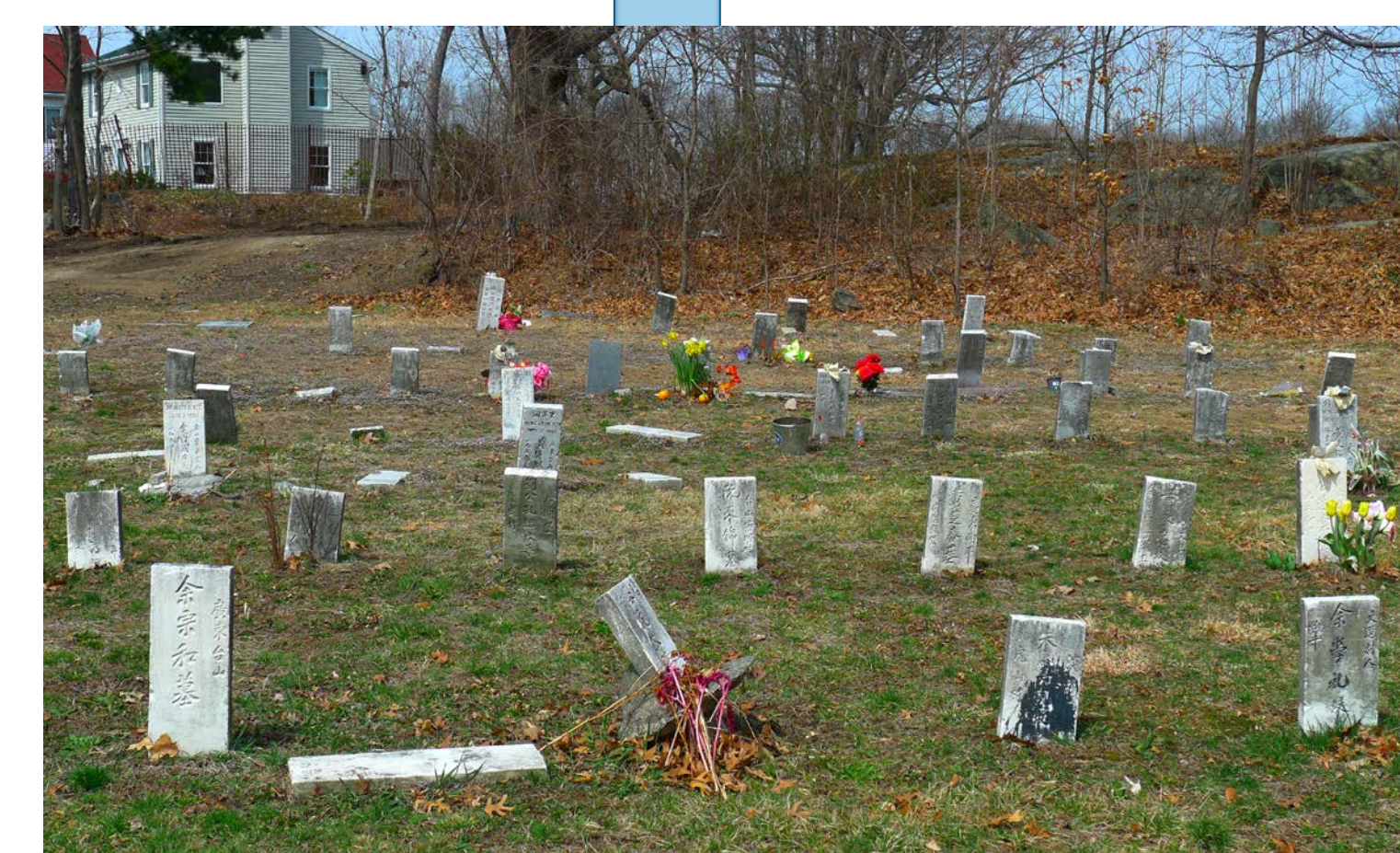
Plants are growing everywhere
A resting place
In need of care

— Lily Chan, CAPAY
August 2000

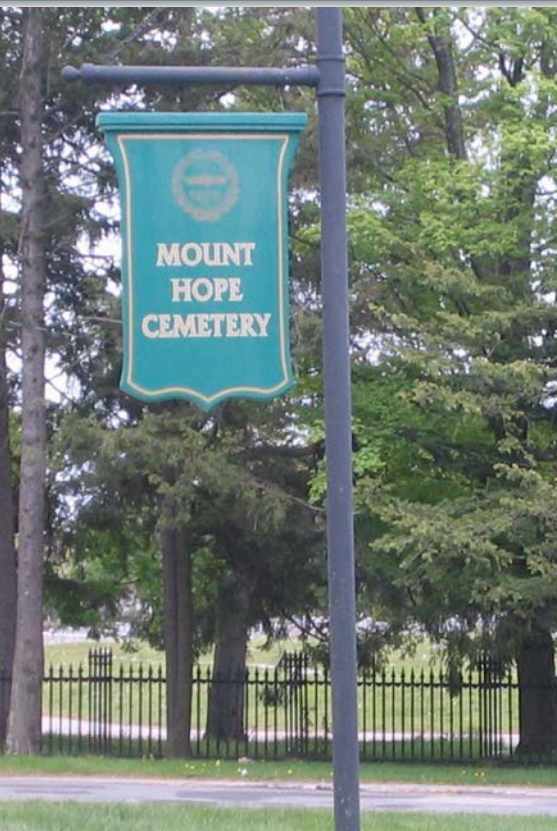


Approaches and Methods

In 2007-2008 CHSNE, CAPAY, and the AsAmSt Program were awarded a prestigious *Save our History* grant from The History Channel, and produced a curriculum resource guide for educators based on Mt Hope's Chinese Burial Grounds, along with three original digital stories reflecting youth, family, and community perspectives.



References and Resources



Additional Partnerships, Interests, Information and/or Contacts

UMass Boston Asian American Studies Program
Wheatley Building, 2nd floor, Room 97
www.umb.edu/asamst

Chinese Historical Society of New England:
www.chsne.org

Mt. Hope Cemetery: 355 Walk Hill St
Mattapan, MA 02126