

# COWGATE CEMETERY

Barry Late

Sometimes known in the past as 'The Noble Company of Carers of Cowgate Cemetery', recent discussion amongst our noble and selfless taphophiles (person interested in things relating to graves) has centred on news by one of our number of the existence of The Association of Graveyard Rabbits. On further investigation we discover the association was founded in the USA (where else) following publication of a poem by Frank Lebby Stanton entitled 'The Graveyard

Rabbit'. Any further interest waned rapidly as discussion moved on to the far more important matter of the introduction by Deborah of ginger flavoured banana cake at the coffee break!

Feedback and opinion from our dedicated band of trimmers, mowers, pruners and general maintenance volunteers is all very positive as we continue to progress the work at a good rate and appear to be slightly ahead with all our tasks.

If you would like to come and join us or just simply see what we get up to, sessions are from 9am to 12 noon on the following future dates:-

Month	Thursdays	Saturdays
November	06 Nov 14	15 Nov 14
December	04 Dec 14	13 Dec 14
January	08 Jan 15	17 Jan 15
February	05 Feb 15	14 Feb 15
March	05 Mar 15	14 Mar 15

*For more information please contact either:*

*Barry Late: 01304 826286 Email: [barry@late697.plus.com](mailto:barry@late697.plus.com)  
or Jeremy Cope: 01304 211348 Email: [Jeremycope@willersley.plus.com](mailto:Jeremycope@willersley.plus.com)*

## The Association of Graveyard Rabbits

Researched by Alan Lee

This association is dedicated to the academic promotion of the historical importance of cemeteries, grave markers, and the family history to be learned from a study of burial customs, burying grounds, and tombstones; and the social promotion of the study of cemeteries, the preservation of cemeteries, and the transcription of genealogical/historical information written in cemeteries.



The Association of Graveyard Rabbits was founded by Terry Thornton (Mississippi) with assistance from footnoteMaven (Washington) and Bob Franks (Mississippi). The Association of Graveyard Rabbits is authored by Terry Thornton of The GYRabbit of The Hill Country. It features a weekly article with links to all of the articles written by the membership and a weekly feature devoted to the introduction of one of the members. Members are in contact

with each other through their blogs, through a frequent Graveyard Rabbit e-Letter, and through interaction at the Graveyard Rabbit Group at Facebook. Additional publications planned include an e-Quarterly and an e-Annual.

### Why the Association of Graveyard Rabbits?

The Association was named after Frank Lebby Stanton's poem, *The Graveyard*

Rabbit. Although the poem is about superstitions associated with graveyard rabbits, Stanton also establishes that such rabbits have a charmingly intimate knowledge of graveyards and a loving association with the dead. These traits are the motivation for the human beings interested in this group. The *Graveyard Rabbit* was published in *An American Anthology, 1787-1900* edited by Edmund Clarence Stedman, (1833-1908).



## THE ASSOCIATION OF GRAVEYARD RABBITS

*"Among the graves . . . in the gloom and gleam,  
Content to dwell where the dead men dream"*

Frank Lebby Stanton



## The Graveyard Rabbit

By Frank Lebby Stanton (1857 - 1927)

*In the white moonlight, where the willow waves,  
He halfway gallops among the graves—  
A tiny ghost in the gloom and gleam,  
Content to dwell where the dead men dream,*

*But wary still!  
For they plot him ill;  
For the graveyard rabbit hath a charm  
(May God defend us!) to shield from harm.*

*Over the shimmering slabs he goes—  
Every grave in the dark he knows;  
But his nest is hidden from human eye  
Where headstones broken on old graves lie.*

*Wary still!  
For they plot him ill;  
For the graveyard rabbit, though sceptics scoff,  
Charmeth the witch and the wizard off!*

*The black man creeps, when the night is dim,  
Fearful, still, on the track of him;  
Or fleetly follows the way he runs,  
For he heals the hurts of the conjured ones.*

*Wary still!  
For they plot him ill;  
The soul's bewitched that would find release, —  
To the graveyard rabbit go for peace!*

*He holds their secret—he brings a boon  
Where winds moan wild in the dark o' the moon;  
And gold shall glitter and love smile sweet  
To whoever shall sever his furry feet!*

*Wary still!  
For they plot him ill;  
For the graveyard rabbit hath a charm  
(May God defend us!) to shield from harm.*

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