



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE

P.O. BOX 277, 9922 FRONT ST. (HWY M-72)
EMPIRE, MICHIGAN 49630

IN REPLY REFER TO:

June 27, 1989

L1425(SLBE)

Sleeping Bear Dunes Policy Release Number 89-3

OPERATING PROCEDURE/POLICIES NORTH AND SOUTH MANITOU ISLAND CEMETERIES

This policy is new.

I. INTRODUCTION

Interest on the part of past residents of the Manitou Islands to be buried (or to bury loved ones) in the island cemeteries became evident in the 1980s. Title to both cemeteries was checked with local township officials to determine ownership and who had jurisdiction. Glen Arbor quitclaimed ownership of the South Manitou cemetery to the National Park Service in 1986. No record of township or "association" ownership/administration was found for the North Manitou plot. The deed transferring this property to the National Park Service from the Angell Foundation is assumed to include this cemetery.

II. ELIGIBILITY

Only past residents, their descendants or heirs, may be buried in the cemeteries located on North and South Manitou Islands.

When the space within the boundaries of these cemeteries is filled, the cemeteries will become inactive and additional burial requests will be denied. No burials will be allowed outside the present boundaries.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Burials shall be in compliance with State of Michigan statutes covering the internment of deceased persons. A Transit/Burial Permit shall be obtained by the party arranging for the burial and a copy provided to the Superintendent for Lakeshore records.

B. A vault (outer burial container) will be provided by the party arranging for a body burial. A light weight, fiberglass or plastic container is required. The isolation of the Manitou Islands makes use of a light weight outer container necessary as it would be extremely difficult to transport and set in place a concrete vault.

C. All arrangements for burial or memorial services will be made 30 calendar days in advance with the Superintendent. This will allow for the planning and scheduling necessary to dig the grave and provide for the barge transportation of equipment, vault, etc.

IV. VISITS TO CEMETERIES

The intent of this policy is to provide access to the cemeteries for all descendants, including the handicapped or elderly.

On South Manitou, families may continue to visit the cemetery at their convenience via transportation provided by the National Park Service concessioner - ferry boat and motor tour vehicles.

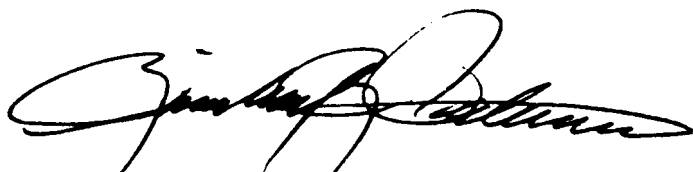
On North Manitou there is the "Wilderness" designation which requires the National Park Service to take special measures when allowing motor vehicle use. These special measures follow:

The week prior to and the week following Memorial Day will be designated for vehicle travel to and from the North Manitou Cemetery by descendants of those interred therein. During this period, the Superintendent or his designee shall be notified each time a motor vehicle trip is planned to the cemetery. At other times of the year, the Superintendent will consider special requests to visit the cemetery by vehicle. In granting this request, the disturbance to other island visitors will be given top consideration. Resident descendants on North Manitou who maintain their own vehicle on the island may use that vehicle to access the cemetery with prior approval of the Superintendent or his designee. Those non-resident descendants wishing to visit the cemetery, who need transportation, are asked to contact the Superintendent, in advance, so that their transportation needs can be met.

V. MAINTENANCE

The routine maintenance of these cemeteries is the responsibility of the National Park Service. This includes the replacing of the perimeter fences. It is assumed that where there are descendants, they will replace pickets around the family plot. Where there are no living descendants, the National Park Service will attempt to restore these fences also. In the past, volunteer labor has been used and a "trust fund" proposed by island residents which could fund maintenance work. The National Park Service will continue to work with those persons interested in this proposal.

In regards to new vegetation, only native flowers and low ground cover will be allowed to be planted to simplify maintenance and to enhance the natural beauty of the area. Existing non-native plants will not be removed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard R. Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "P".

Richard R. Peterson
Superintendent