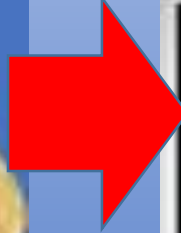


'Virtual Tour' of 1872-75 NYC Potter's Field Burial Ledger





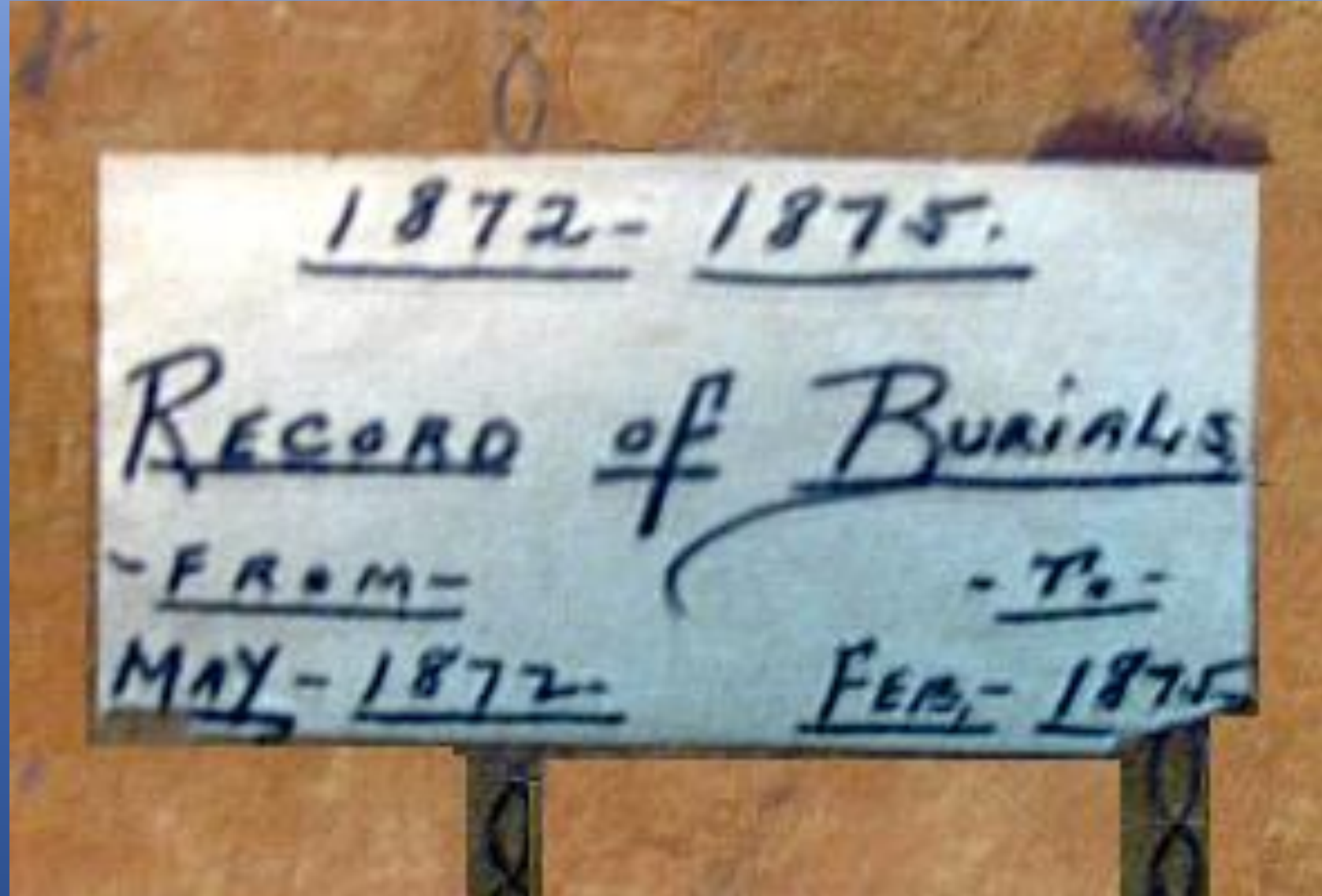
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‘Virtual Tour’ via the web envisions ledger as a key opening doors onto various lines of NYS historical inquiry.

Oldest known Potter's Field burial book.

Likely
cemetery's
2nd burial
ledger since
start of
operations
April 20,
1869.



13.5 % of NYC dead in 1873 buried on Hart Isle. Prior to 4/20/69 Potter's Field on Ward's Isle.

Total number of Burial-Permits issued for the Interment of the dead of New York City, as collected from the Records of Deaths of this Bureau.

CEMETERIES.	YEARS.			
	1867.	1868.	1869.	1873.
City *.....	2,954	3,854	3,162	3,800
.....
Total interments.....	23,443	24889	25,167	29,109

For the numerically-minded, some stats:

***Working draft features 50 images from the book.**

***Ledger measures 16x11 inches. 240 entry pages.**

***Entries cover 33 months: 4/28/1872 – Feb. 26, '75.**

***Book gives end-of-month totals & breakdown of individual institutional body count contributions.
Monthly totals combined: 8,921.**

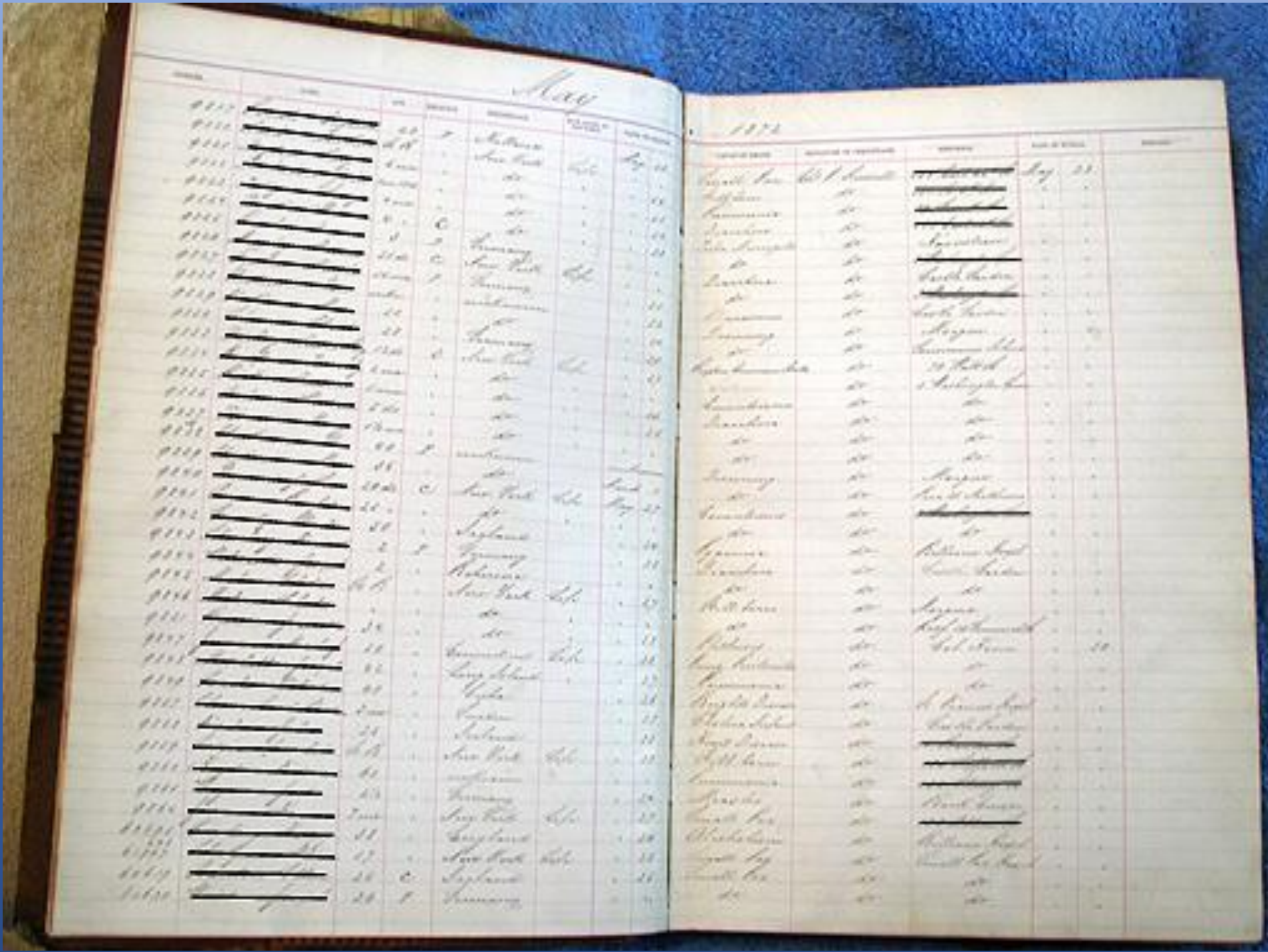
***Out-Door Poor top count nearly every month.**

Burial book
inside label
IDs maker:
Manufactur-
ing Stationers,
one of Boss
Tweed fronts
for bilking city
of million\$. At
83 – 85 Duane
St., it was short stroll from Tweed hq at 59 Duane.



THE
Manufacturing Stationers,
BLANK BOOK MANUFACTURERS,
JOBBER & DEALERS IN
PAPER, STATIONERY, ENVELOPES
83 & 85 Duane St., N.Y.
NEW YORK.
No. 1474
It will be well to mention to send the above number when another book is required.

**Digital
lines thru
names,
addresses
in image to
shield
individual
privacy
even after
140 years.**



NUMBER	NAME	AGE	RELIGION	BIRTHPLACE	HOW LONG IN COUNTRY	DATE OF DEATH
111	PE	40	Protestant	Holland		May 23

Above: 1st entry, May 1872, starts on left-hand page, woman, 40, with reverse initials PE, "religion" Protestant, "birthplace" Holland, "how long in country" blank. "Date of Death" May 23, 1872. Below: right-hand page data. "Cause of death" small pox, "date of burial" May 28. certificate signature Chares P. Russell.

CAUSE OF DEATH	SIGNATURE OF CERTIFICATE	RESIDENCE	DATE OF BURIAL
Small pox	Chares P. Russell		May 28

1873.

CAUSE OF DEATH	SIGNATURE OF CERTIFICATE
Compression of brain	Elisha Harris
Coma	do
Still born	do
Disease of heart	Geo. Kellogg
Dysentery	do
From Birth	do
do	do
Hydrocephalus	do

Charles P. Russell & Elisha Harris, NYC Bd. of Health MDs who signed so many certificates in the 1872-75 book, helped found American Public Health Assn. in 1872.

Doctors Russell and Harris' colleague, Dr. Stephen Smith, who was also commissioner of NYC's Metropolitan Health Board, has been generally credited as the one proposing in 1872 an APHA be established.



A month before this registry's first entry, Dr. Harris chaired NY meeting where first steps for an APHA were taken. Later



same year Dr. Russell was named to lead efforts for “a unified system of registration of diseases and causes of death.” This book was in delivery room at U.S. public health movement's birth.

1873.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	SIGNATURE OF CERTIFICATE.
Compression of brain	Elisha Harris
Coma	do
Still born	do
Disease of heart	Geo Kellock
Dysentery	do
From Birth	do
do	do
Hydrocephalus	do

Certificate could be signed by a non-MD official like George Kellock, Outdoor Poor Superintendent for Public Charities & Correction.

Out-Door Poor weren't homeless sleeping outside. They were non-institutionalized recipients of aid. In 1875 PC&C report, cover right, Kellock noted 48K in \$ & 4K



in tons of coal went to 17, 174 families (62,395 persons), mostly Irish, mostly women and girls.

CAUSE OF DEATH	SIGNATURE OF CERTIFICATE	RESIDENCE	DATE OF BURIAL
Small Pox	W. Russell	[REDACTED]	May 22

Returning to 'Cause of Death' in first entry: see 'Small Pox.' Nothing small about its impact. Many months Small Pox Hospital was leader among various institutions contributing bodies recorded in book of Potter's Field burials.

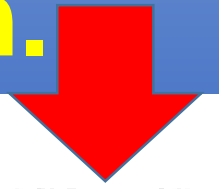


May
 1872
 body
 count by
 agency,
 hospital
 or
 asylum,
 etc. total
 510

Out Door Poor	81	Bellum Hosp	50
City Prison	1	Charity	44
Centre St. Hosp	3	Small box	115
St. Francis	7	Sever	2
St. Vincent	1	Alms house	6
German	1	Workhouse	2
Roosevelt	1	Penitentiary	2
Col. Hoare	13	Lunatic Asylum	5
St. Mary's Child Hosp	9	Insane	2
Foundling Asylum	79	Ermit Hosp	40
Castle Garden	18		810
Morgue	28		



Also with high counts:
Emigrants, Charity and
Bellevue Hospitals and
Foundling Asylum.



The web work in progress,
gives backgrounds on
these institutions. Burial
book serves to introduce
their stories to readers.

May

BIRTHPLACE

New York
do
do
Germany
New York
Ireland
Germany
Ireland
Germany
Russia
Brooklyn
Switzerland

May 1872 & Dec. 1874 sampling shows more foreign born than native born listed in burial book.

Castle Garden emigrant depot
Potter's Field
'body count' low. Ward I's hospital for emigrants took ill arrival cases.



Dec

BIRTHPLACE

New York
Germany
New York
England
Wales
Germany
do
Ireland
do
New York
Germany
Ireland

AGE	RELIGION
22	P
11	.
9	.
12	.
11	.
11	.
6	.
30	.
40	.
3	.

Column (shown here in halves) from 2d spread lists ages of 19 entries: Only 3 older than 30, and those in their 40s. Likewise in 1st spread: only 1 in 50s, 1 in 60s. Hart drew its dead from younger generations, not older. Note religious affiliation entries: mostly "P."

AGE	RELIGION
23	C
46	.
1 day	P
30	C
42	P
11	C
1	.
12	P
1	.

Burial book opens door on faiths: P or C = Protestant or Catholic. In 1872 beginning, buried separately. June 1874 law changed that but entries continued to

December 1874

RELIGION	BIRTHPLACE	COUNTRY	DATE OF DEATH	CAUSE OF DEATH
J	New York	Life	December 2	Still born
.	Germany		Nov 30	Tuberculosis
.	New York	Life	Dec 2	do
.	England		Nov 30	Pneumonia
.	Wales		21	Quarries
.	Germany		17	Measles

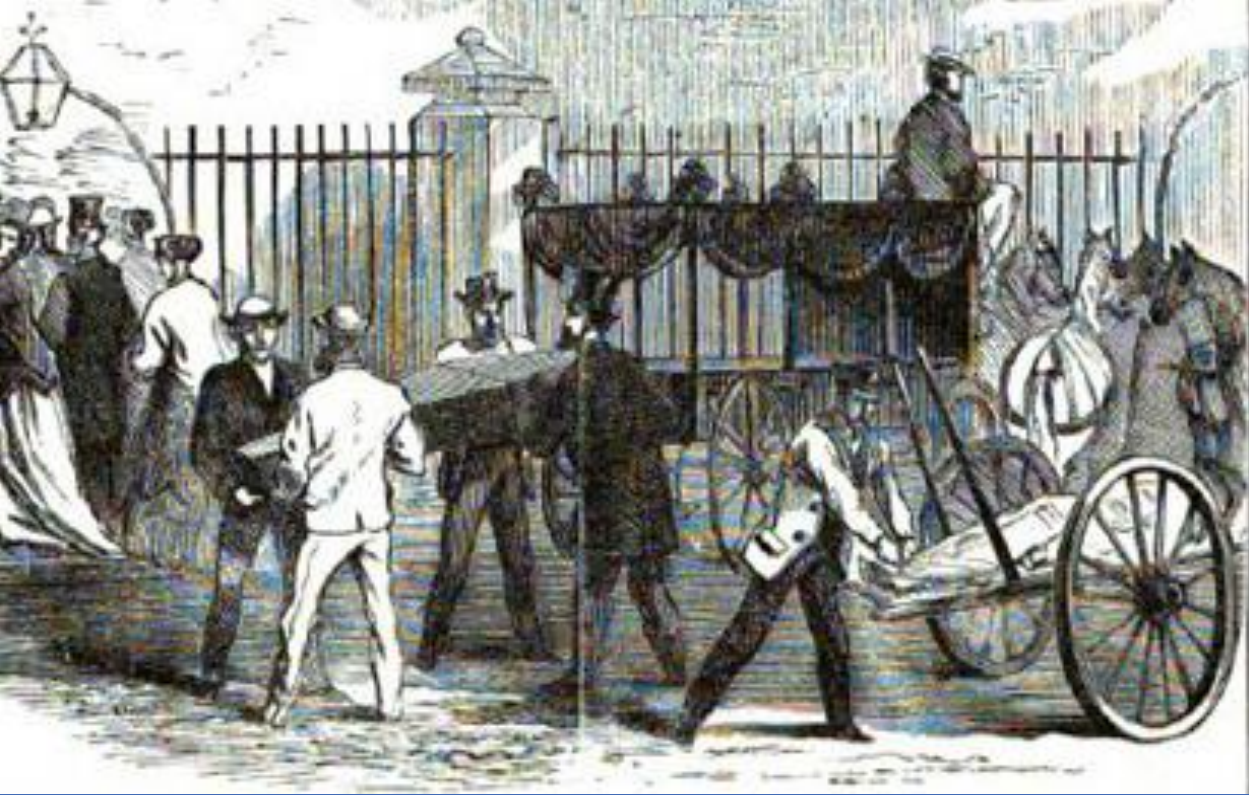
list P or C under 'Religion' as this Dec. 1874 page shows. 'J' rare because Jewish population then relatively low, plus strong tradition to claim dead.

**Claiming body
at morgue no
pleasant task in
any era. Pre-AC
conditions only
added to horror
of situation.**

**Morgue body
count in burial
book separate**

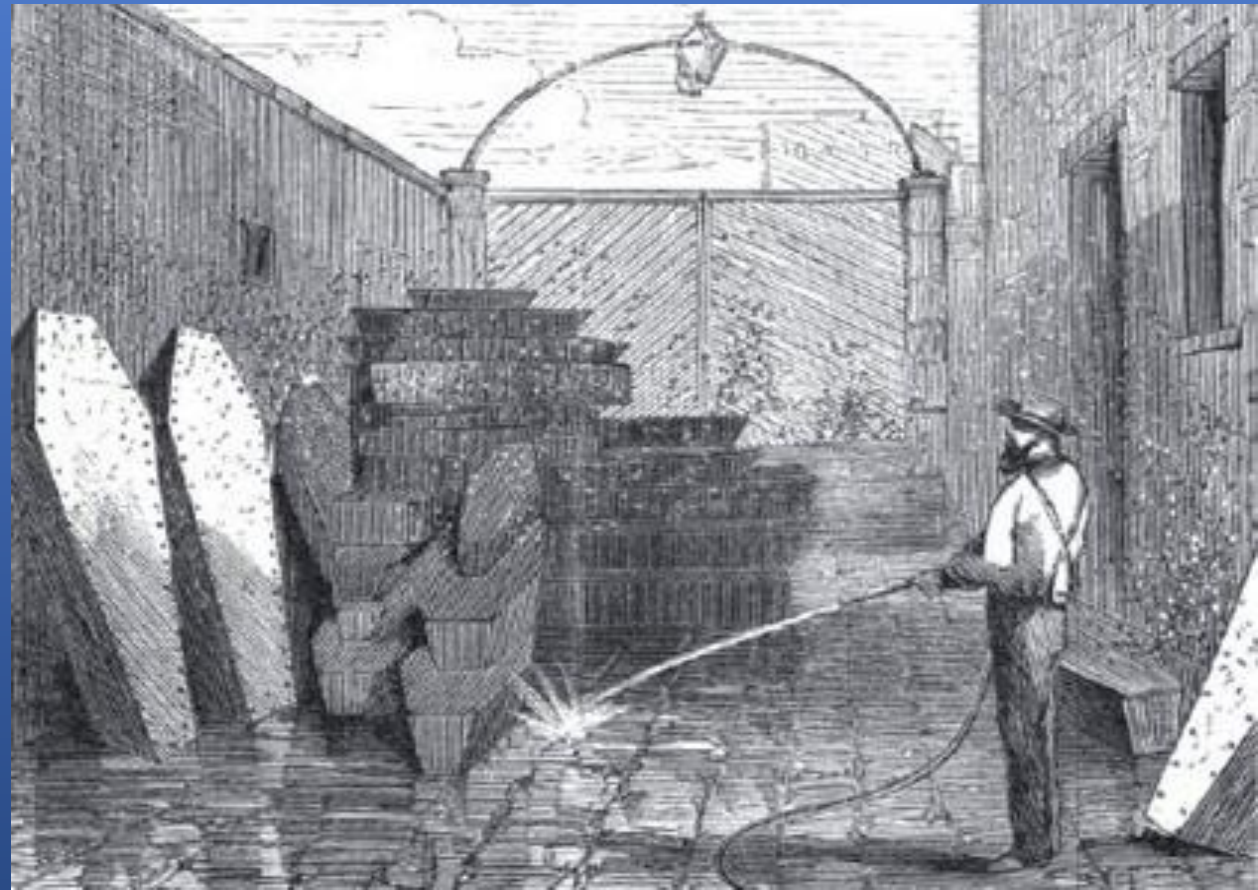
from Bellevue Hospital's patient burial count.





Bodies sent to morgue from accident, suicide, murder, sudden death on street or at work were

counted as the morgue's separate from unclaimed bodies of dead patients at Bellevue where the city morgue was housed.

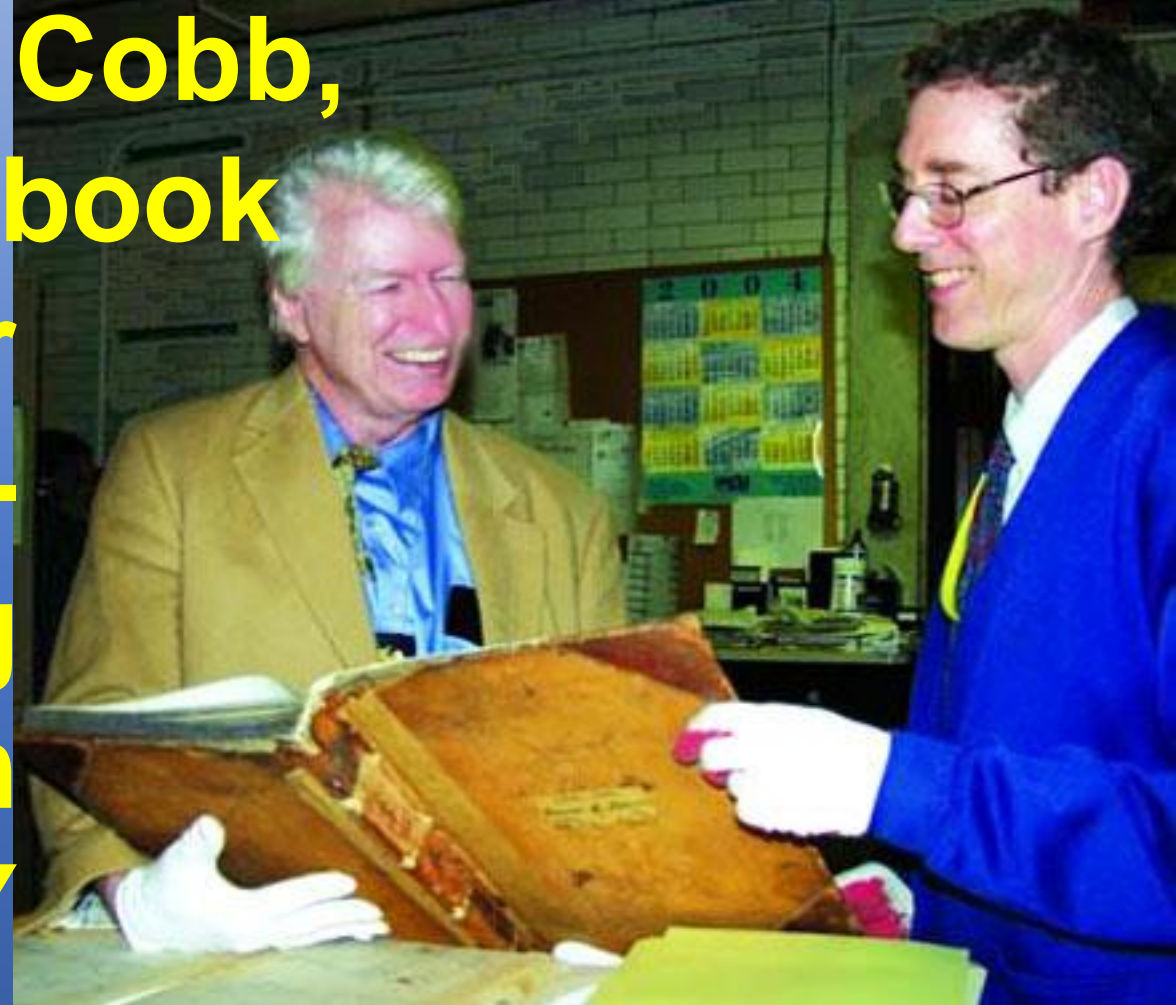
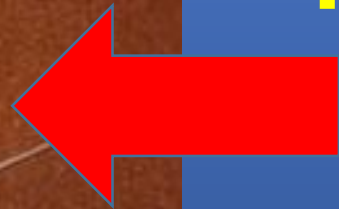


1872-75
Burial Book's
current home
away from
DOC:
Municipal
Archives in
Surrogate
Court bldg.



**Municipal Archives' Ken Cobb,
far right, receives burial book**

**for
micro-
filming
from
NY**



**Correction History
Society's webmaster & its
Facebook group admin.**

www.correctionhistory.org

The web
resource
for NY
correction
history



7000+ files
of text &
images
totaling
460+
megabytes.

NY Correction History Society