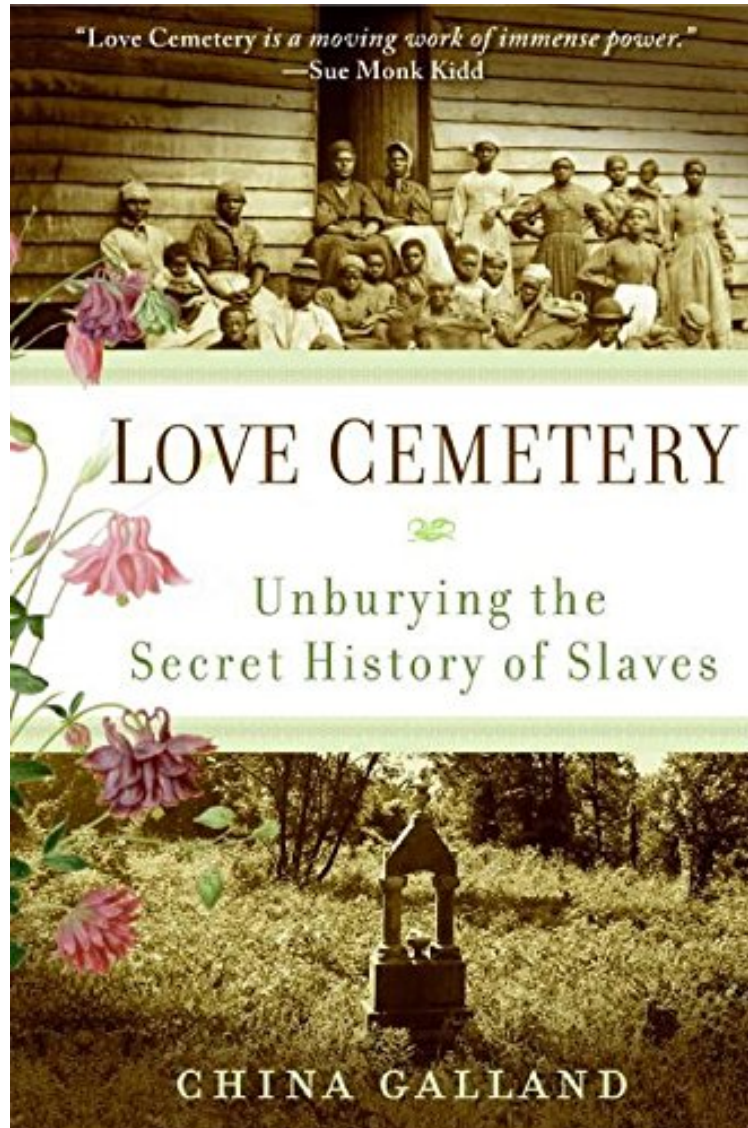


[Pdf free] Love Cemetery: Unburying the Secret History of Slaves

## Love Cemetery: Unburying the Secret History of Slaves

China Galland

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#1638807 in Books China Galland 2008-06-10 2008-06-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .65 x 5.311, .55 #File Name: 0060859555288 pages Love Cemetery Unburying the Secret History of Slaves | File size: 26.Mb

**China Galland : Love Cemetery: Unburying the Secret History of Slaves** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Love Cemetery: Unburying the Secret History of Slaves:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Love Cemetery By Fred T. I stumbled into this book seeking information on the Wiley College debate team ("The Great Debaters") as even though the material was brief, it included a great picture of The Varsity. Anyway, the book explores a rich history that is rarely documented but most people have knowledge about, and that is the plight of African-Americans transitioning from Slavery to

Reconstruction and forward. Her works weaves an exceptional perspective which makes you wander.....while the landscape is East Texas, with all of the small cities, towns, etc. scattered throughout the US, there are perhaps millions "Love Cemeteries." More good news is the work is recent, so unlike similar books on this topic, she makes history come alive in today's time zone. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A story of love, remembrance, and respect By G. Peterson As a taphophile, I certainly love stories of graveyards restored to their former state. Love Cemetery is one of these stories. Wrestling the cemetery from decades of wisteria vines, assorted trees, and years of neglect, this book tells the stories of the author coming together with the local community to save this bit of hallowed ground from neglect and logging companies. One of the most disgusting parts of the story is where they find that someone had actually been logging (cutting and removing trees) in the cemetery itself! Fighting logging companies, oil companies, century-old laws and Mother Nature, Love Cemetery is a story of a community fighting for the respect their ancestors deserve. WELL WORTH THE READ! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Terrible Wrong Was Made Right By Sue HI love history and cemeteries. This is the story of a long-abandoned slave cemetery in Texas. The family members had been locked out of it for many decades (unlawfully). The author met some of the descendants who then banded together to do the very big job of clearing the cemetery and rededicating it. I appreciated this book because I was part of a group who cleaned up a cemetery under similar circumstances; however, ours was not a slave cemetery. Regardless, every cemetery and the people buried in it are deserving of our respect.

By the eve of the Civil War, there were four million slaves in North America, and Harrison County was the largest slave-owning county in Texas. So when China Galland returned to research her family history there, it should not have surprised her to learn of unmarked cemeteries for slaves. "My daddy never let anybody plow this end of the field," a local matron told a startled Galland during a visit to her antebellum mansion. "The slaves are buried there." Galland's subsequent effort to help restore just one of these cemeteries Love Cemetery unearths a quintessential American story of prejudice, land theft, and environmental destruction, uncovering racial wounds that are slow to heal. Galland gathers an interracial group of local religious leaders and laypeople to work on restoring Love Cemetery, securing community access to it, and rededicating it to the memories of those buried there. In her attempt to help reconsecrate Love Cemetery, Galland unearths the ghosts of slavery that still haunt us today. Research into county historical records and interviews with local residents uncover two versions of history one black, one white. Galland unpacks these tangled narratives to reveal a history of shame of slavery and lynching, Jim Crow laws and land takings (the theft of land from African-Americans), and ongoing exploitation of the land surrounding the cemetery by oil and gas drilling. With dread she even discovers how her own ancestors benefited from the racial imbalance. She also encounters some remarkable, inspiring characters in local history. Surprisingly, the original deed for the cemetery's land was granted not by a white plantation owner, but by Della Love Walker, the niece of the famous African-American cowboy Deadwood Dick. Through another member of the Love Cemetery committee, Galland discovers a connection to Marshall's native son, James L. Farmer, a founder of Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and organizer of the 1961 Freedom Riders. In researching local history, Galland also learns of the Colored Farmers' Alliance, a statewide group formed in the 19th century that took up issues ranging from low wages paid to cotton pickers to emigration to Liberia. By telling this one story of ultimate interracial and intergenerational cooperation, Galland provides a model of the kind of communal remembering and reconciliation that can begin to heal the deep racial scars of an entire nation.

From Publishers Weekly Galland chronicles the restoration and reconsecration of an African-American cemetery in her East Texas childhood hometown in this inspirational first-person account. The author, who is white, uncovers a fragment of local history in the process of her participation in an interracial group of people who from 2003 to 2006 convened a series of "work parties" at the cemetery hacking at weeds, repairing gravestones and making offerings to the ancestors. Galland reports the meetings, church services and potluck suppers she joins in around the communal cleanup of Love Cemetery, which may date back to the 1830s. She portrays the Boy Scout troop, various clergy, parishioners and the community elders ("keepers of the group memory") involved in the effort, with especially nuanced portraits of two African-American women, Doris Vittatoe (a direct descendant of a man buried there) and Nuthel Britton (the unofficial cemetery caretaker). Galland (*The Bond Between Women*, 1998), who leads spiritual retreats, was acutely aware of "the dissonance between the black and white experience of life in America," but comes to her own "understanding that enormous change happens through tiny choices." Despite some slack passages, this fresh if not always coherent tale will appeal to women readers eager for an uplifting story. (June) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Visiting her hometown in East Texas, Galland learns of an unmarked cemetery for slaves. She joins a pair of elderly women whose ancestors are buried in what is called Love Cemetery to reclaim and restore the grave site. In the course of research, Galland uncovers a long history of mistreatment and exploitation of black residents after slavery, including theft of land and encroachment on the cemetery. She is personally engaged as she wonders how her own family, along with all whites, benefited from the racial imbalance. Galland recalls the collective work of an interracial committee to restore the overgrown and nearly forgotten cemetery located in the midst of mining property and the healing of the community as

it owns up to its past. A moving and inspiring account of race and history in a small town. Vanessa BushCopyright  
American Library Association. All rights reserved A moving and inspiring account of race and history in a small town.  
(Booklist)The riveting story of a remarkable effort . . . when done, you will have discovered the healing power of Love  
Cemetery. (Bill Moyers)