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How Distance Affects Funerary Culture and Values in 19th Century Virginia:
A Comparison Study

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ABSTRACT

I am studying the comparison of early 19th Century cemeteries, because I want to find out how the distance between Hamilton and Richmond affects the common cultural practices, so that I can help others understand the significance that distance had on the changes that were made between dated urban and rural cities. By using public resources and photography, I have comprised a data set that illustrates the similarities and differences between two comparison cemeteries. My research comes from the local cemetery in Hamilton, Virginia and the Shockoe Hill Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia. The iconography of the two cemeteries have common themes with a few exceptions; however, the epitaphs are different between the two, but each one has a similar theme within the respective cemeteries as well. In brief, the stone materials vary between the cemeteries, as well as the typology of headstones versus monuments. Both of the comparative cemeteries have a theme with the iconographies and the epitaphs but use different stone materials and shapes. In future, researching newspaper obituaries from the area should help to shed more insight on the familial and religious values of 1800s Virginia.