

A989.13

shepherd family Hist file

Eva Lee Shepherd,
Compositions
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The Head Stone.

When traveling I almost always, at the different towns and cities, visit the cemeteries and it is very interesting to examine the different head stones. There ~~are~~ never two alike unless the graves are those of little children. Three little graves I remember had head stones all alike, and carved on the marble was a broken lily. In the east I would often find a grave and it and the headstone would be all covered with moss and weeds. After scraping away the moss on the head stone I would find the grave to be that of a soldier, and over it I would sometimes shed tears for I

thought maybe the soldier
who had fought for our country
was lying far from home.
I would sometimes see in the
yard of an old church many
tombstones yellow with age.
The custom of burying people in
the church yard is dying out
I am glad to say, for Sunday
to those who would go to church
must always have been a sad
day especially if they had dear
friends lying in the church-
yard. I would often read
on the head stone that a
beloved mother, wife, or child
was there at rest, and I
imagined there must have been
many bitter tears shed by that
grave. I would sometimes
see two graves side by side -
One one would be an elegant
tombstone and ~~see~~ the other

a common board painted white
and on it in black letters
the name of the one who slept
beneath. I have seen an
Indian graveyard and for the
head stone there would be an
old tin can lying on a stick
and over the grave would be
old blankets and baskets.
It is not uncommon to find
on the headstones of little
childrens graves the words
that were last spoken by the
dead - When you read the
words you can imagine how
precious those words must
be to the father and mother