

**MARKERS: ANNUAL JOURNAL OF THE
ASSOCIATION FOR GRAVESTONE STUDIES**

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Markers XIV, with articles focusing on a range of ethnic, historical, and artistic issues, with a time frame which spans three centuries, and with a geographical spread which includes four major regions of the United States, comes the closest to date towards achieving the balance in emphasis which I envisioned as the primary goal for the journal when I assumed its editorship five years ago. Individual contributors to the current issue bring a variety of disciplinary perspectives to bear on matters as far ranging as the material commemoration of Congregational ministers in early New England and the work of a folk gravestone maker in contemporary Mississippi. In these, as well as its other essays, *Markers XIV* continues its efforts to provide its readers with the best and most current examples of the type of broad-based and balanced examination of gravemarkers, their makers, and the places where they are found which define this specialized area of folk art and material culture. Finally, in its ongoing efforts to