

Zahs, Michael (1947-)

If an upward-pointing finger on a grave marker means the deceased is in heaven, does a finger pointing down mean the opposite? Does an anchor mean a connection to the sea? What about crowns, doves, arrows, lambs, roses, and the multitude of other symbols and decorations found in Midwestern cemeteries? Loren N. Horton and Michael D. Zahs are lifelong educators and dedicated cemetery explorers. They have devoted years to their studies of Iowa and its people -- living and dead. Michael and Loren have written their first book in what they hope to be a series of three: *Grave Marker Symbols: A Field Guide*. He also stars in the documentary *Saving Brinton*. The Brinton Collection is a collection of early cinematography that was used by William Franklin Brinton (1857–1919) for his traveling show in the Midwestern United States. It was preserved by Michael Zahs, in a barn in Ainsworth, Iowa. The collection includes works by Georges Méliès that were thought to have been lost: *The Wonderful Rose-Tree* and *The Triple-Headed Lady*. The collection's history was recounted in a film documentary, *Saving Brinton*, in 2018.

