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BODIES TRANSFERRED TO ARLINGTON CEMETERY – Graveyard of the Williams Family Abandoned and the Remains Moved to the New Burial Lot

By the end of this week all of the ninety bodies which have been lying in a little family grave yard on Fifty-Second Street, midway between Woodland Avenue and Chester Avenue, West Philadelphia, will have been removed to a plot in beautiful Arlington cemetery, a mile or more above Lansdowne on the old Darby Road.

The task of removing the bodies from what has been known as the Williams' family burying ground was begun on Tuesday of last week, under the direction of Dr. H.K. Leech and Isaac Glascoe of Philadelphia, who are the trustees of the old cemetery as well as descendants of William Young, who, by the terms of his will, set apart a portion of his spacious estate as a final resting place for his descendants. Young died in 1785 at the age of 72 years, and up to about a year ago the health authorities decided that the plot was unsanitary and no more bodies could be interred there. His children and children's children for many generations were laid to rest in the family plot. The old cemetery is over a century and a quarter old.

When it became known that the historic old burying ground would have to be removed to make way for the onward march of improvement, the executors of the estate decided that no more fitting place could be found than Arlington.

A plot with an area of 1200 square feet was purchased in that cemetery and carefully the bones of the dead are disinterred and placed in small boxes.

"All of the bodies are being removed with as much reverence and as carefully as though they had been dead only 24 ours," said Dr. Leech in speaking of the work.

"There is one now," he continued, that has been in the ground more than 114 years. See, the casket has entirely disappeared, but the bones have remained intact and as perfect as ever they were. That was the body of Catharine Smith. It is a rare exception, however, for some that have been dead only a few years have almost entirely disappeared, while the casket has remained intact.

"Over in Arlington Cemetery we have made arrangements to place all the bodies in a large vault so they can be arranged in families before being placed in the earth again."

A large stone monument is to be erected in the center of the plot at Arlington, and while many of the tombstones will be replaced at the graves, some of the very old style ones will be done away with.

Other members of the family who so desire, may be buried there and it is hoped that the custom will be preserved.