

Fury at grisly coffin botch

Rosedale & Rosehill Cemetery in Linden, N.J., where body of Nequia Webb-Davidson fell out of casket as it was about to be buried.



Horrified kin sue after corpse pops out

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SHE WAS SUPPOSED to be resting in peace, but a murdered Brooklyn native's coffin ripped open instead as cemetery workers tried to cram it into a grave that was too small.

Family members say Nequia Webb-Davidson was violated anew when her casket didn't fit in the grave, popped open as horrified mourners watched and got filled with soil and rocks.

Webb-Davidson was killed in January 2014 — and her burial became another traumatic nightmare, a lawsuit alleges.

"It's like her being murdered twice," said the victim's stepmother, Chyrl Braan, 60. "It's hard because it's forever on your mind."

The funeral on Jan. 24, 2014, was botched by a too-small gravesite, court papers say.

"When they attempted to place the casket into the grave, it jammed in a cockeyed manner," family lawyer Ronald Katter told the Daily News on Tuesday. "It was like if you were trying to put



a size 13 shoe into a size 6 shoebox."

To make matters worse, "The lid was not properly closed, locked or sealed," he added. "In trying to force it into the grave, it opened. The remains were exposed to the outside and dirt and rocks got in."

Relatives filed suit in Brooklyn Supreme Court three weeks ago against J. Foster Phillips Funeral Home in Jamaica, Queens, and Rosedale & Rosehill Cemetery in Linden, N.J., asking for unspecified damages for negligence and emotional distress.

"It's not about the money, it's

about the trauma we went through," the stepmom said.

Webb-Davidson, 40, a mother of five who was also raising a niece and a nephew, was shot dead in her Virginia home by husband, Terrell Davidson, an Army vet who then turned the gun on himself.

She grew up in Flatbush and East New York, so relatives

brought her body home for burial.

"She was such a beautiful, young lady," Braan recalled. "She was always a caring, loving person from the time she was a little girl."

Calls to the funeral home and cemetery were not immediately returned.

The suit describes pathetic attempts by employees to dig a wider grave, then jam in the still-suspended coffin, which only filled it with more dirt.

Eventually, they "informed plaintiffs and the other assembled mourners that the funeral had to be postponed so that they could enlarge the grave . . . remove dirt and rocks from the casket and replace its lining," the document says.

"Some people couldn't go back the next day," Katter said. "They couldn't handle it."

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Chyrl Braan holds photo of stepdaughter Webb-Davidson, a Brooklyn native murdered last year by her husband.