



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE ASSOCIATION FOR GRAVESTONE STUDIES ANNOUNCES
MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY AS THE SITE OF ITS 2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Greenfield, MA, [July 20, 2011] – The Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS) is pleased to announce the site of its 2012 Annual Conference. Gravestone enthusiasts and researchers from around the nation and the world will be gathering at Monmouth University, West Long Branch, New Jersey for the 35th Annual AGS Conference, June 19 – 24. The conference will be hosted by Richard Veit, Associate Professor of History and Anthropology at Monmouth University, and Mark Nonestied, staff member with the Middlesex County, New Jersey Cultural & Heritage Commission.

The week-long conference will feature classroom sessions on gravestone rubbing, photography, and foil impressions, and lectures from scholars from diverse backgrounds including history, art history, archaeology, and anthropology. There will also be a workshop in a historic graveyard demonstrating proper gravestone conservation techniques,

The highlights of the conference are guided cemetery tours featuring New Jersey's historic cemeteries. Nearby cemeteries include those at Christ Church in Shrewsbury, whose oldest gravestone dates to 1719, and Old Tennent Church in Manalapan where the highest ranking British officer to die in battle in America is buried. Tours will include colonial, Victorian, and ethnic cemeteries in New Jersey and Philadelphia.

Monmouth University is located near the New Jersey shore not far from historic Asbury Park and Ocean Grove. Conference attendees can visit nearby historic sites including the Stephen Crane House, Sandy Hook Lighthouse, Monmouth Battlefield, and the Great Auditorium in Ocean Grove.

Evening lectures will be available to the public at no charge. Presented by international researchers and scholars, the lecture topics include stone carvers, gravestone art, cemetery history, and the cultural significance of gravestones.

Members of the public and researchers in all related fields are welcome to participate in the conference by registering in advance at <http://www.gravestonestudies.org/conferences.htm>. Members of the public may register to attend the entire conference or certain days, only. Attendance of evening lectures is free of charge. For additional information contact AGS at (413) 772-0836 or by email at info@gravestonestudies.org.

The Association for Gravestone Studies, based in Greenfield, Massachusetts, is an organization of approximately 1000 members located throughout the world. Its purpose is to further the study and preservation of gravestones. More information about the organization is available online at www.gravestonestudies.org.