

Subject: Assn. for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

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## Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

**Issue 24**

**April 2005**

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**AGS Spring Cemetery Tour:** West Springfield, Massachusetts. Led by Rusty Clark. June 4, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. Rain or shine. Bring your lunch--we'll be stopping for a break. The tour is free of charge and open to the public. We'll be meeting at the gazebo on the town common (the site of the first West Springfield meeting house), and walking across the street to the Park Street Cemetery which dates from 1787. We'll see numerous sandstone gravestones by West Springfield carvers John Ely and Joseph Williston, Longmeadow carver Herman Newell, and the Stebbins family of Longmeadow. We'll also visit the Union Street Cemetery, the first burying ground on the "West Side of the Great River," which dates from ca 1702 to 1792. Numerous carvers are represented in this all-sandstone cemetery, including William Stanclift, Aaron Bliss, Solomon Brewer, John Ely, Joseph Williston, the Bartlett family, and Thomas and Joseph Johnson. Rusty's guide to the local cemeteries, West Springfield Massachusetts, *Stories Carved in Stone*, will be available for purchase at \$13.95 before and after the tours.

### **AGS 2005 Conference Update**

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**CONFERENCE UPDATE** The AGS Annual Meeting and Conference registration packets were mailed out a few weeks ago. If you haven't received your packet, please contact us at [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org). If you haven't registered yet and are thinking about attending the pre-conference bus tour, please take a look at the revised form on the website.

**Colonial/Victorian Tour**, tour leader - Patricia Townsend. We'll be visiting: **Wolville** - the old graveyard contains a marvellous selection of locally-carved sandstones from the Seaman family of carvers (see *Markers V*, pp150-166) who continued in the monument business into the late 1800s. **Kentville - Oak Grove Cemetery** is a rural cemetery that grew around an older family burial area. Typical of Victorian rural cemeteries in Nova Scotia, Oak Grove has treed pathways and terraced lots. **First Cornwallis Cemetery, Upper Canard** - a community cemetery still in use. The "Life how short , Eternity how long" stone used for the cover of Deborah Trask's 1978 book of that title on gravestone carving in Nova Scotia is in this cemetery, as well as a very representative sampling of Victorian marbles of the area.

**Colonial Tour**, tour leader - Deborah Trask. We'll be visiting: **Old Burying Ground, Halifax** - the original common burying ground for Halifax, the Old Burying Ground dates from 1749 until the Victorian rural Camp Hill Cemetery opened in 1844. Here you will

see a number of eighteenth century Boston slates from the workshops of John Homer, John Just Geyer Sr., William Codner and William Coye. You will also see local carvings from the same period by the as yet unidentified Halifax carver, by James Hay and his sons John and Peter Hay, David Kinnear and others. **Liverpool** - settled in the 1760s by people from Connecticut and Massachusetts. The Liverpool Burying Ground contains stones from: John Isham, John Homer, a signed Levy Maxcy, Samuel White Jr., Bildad Washburn, Richard Adams, William Bennet, William Coye and Alpheus Cary Jr. as well as many from local slate carver William Gates Archer. [James Blachowicz has been very generous in sharing his Boston carver research to aid in this tour; the definitive article on Maxcy is by Ted Chase & Laurel Gabel in *Gravestone Chronicles II* (NEHGS 1997); on Archer, by Deborah Trask in the NS Museum newsletter the Occasional, V9#2 1985.]

**Mahone Bay** - settled by European "foreign protestants" in 1752-3 before the deportation of the Acadians. The Mahone Bay Burying Ground, now called "Bayview Cemetery", is still in use. It contains several fascinating locally-carved slates inscribed in archaic german. Let's hope for good weather!

**Travel Information:** Getting to the Conference (attached as a PDF file) was written by Deborah Trask (Conference Chair) and AGS members Joe Edgette and Rich Sauers. Please note that the ferry from Portland ME to Yarmouth NS is not operating this summer and the CAT ferry out of Bar Harbor, Maine is filling up fast. *If you are planning on taking the CAT, make your reservations now.* The hotels in Bar Harbor are also filling up fast.

[Getting to Conference](#)

**Classes: Greenfield, Mass.**

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Every Fall and Spring, two credit-free classes taught by AGS Trustees are offered by Greenfield Community College, Greenfield, Massachusetts. *Skulls and Spirits, Willows and Urns: Early Gravestone Art in Franklin County* is led by AGS president Bob Drinkwater. The class is in two parts: an evening slide/lecture presentation and a Saturday cemetery field trip. The Spring session will be May 3, 2005 with the field trip on May 7.

The second class is *Gravestone Conservation Workshop: Experiencing and Preserving History*, led by AGS Treasurer Fred Oakley. Participants will learn recording, cleaning, and repair. The Spring session will be May 7, 2005. For more information and registration, please visit GCC's website.

[Greenfield Community College](#)

**Southold Long Island Conference**

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May 14, 2005, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church of Southold, New York (50370 Route 25). Program topics: Preservation and Conservation, including a demonstration of re-setting of a stone in the Southold cemetery, led by C.R. Jones. Richard Welch will talk about the typology of eastern Long Island gravestones. This will center on orgins, iconography and carvers. Gaynell Stone will be discussing cultural influences.

The cost is \$20, contact person is Geoff Fleming of the Southold Historical Society (shsdirec@optonline.net). A link is provided below for information about the ferry from New London, CT to Orient Point, NY. If you are planning to take the 7 a.m. ferry, please let Andrea know at info@gravestonestudies.org. An AGS member who is planning to attend would like to hook up with others.

[Long Island Ferry](#)

**Commentary: "Where Have All the Gravestones Gone" by Judy Peters**

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*Judy Peters, from Belle Mead, NJ, is an architectural conservator and historic preservation consultant specializing in cultural resource survey and documentation, database design and geographical information systems (GIS). She is an adjunct faculty member in the Graduate Program of Historic Preservation and a member of the*

Architectural Conservation Laboratory and Research Center at the University of Pennsylvania where her research is focused on the preservation of the historic American cemetery and burial ground. She has a masters degree in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from Columbia University.

The link below is a link to the text of her concluding remarks, delivered at a symposium entitled "Where Have All the Gravestones Gone," held at the AGS Conference and Annual Meeting in Danbury, Connecticut last June.

[Where Have All the Gravestones Gone](#)

**Call For Papers: FWPCA/ACA**

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CALL FOR PAPERS: CEMETERIES, GRAVEMARKERS AND MEMORIALS. Far West Popular Culture and American Culture Associations Eighteenth Annual Meeting, January 26-28 2006, Las Vegas, Nevada. Sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Registration fee is required for participation. CEMETERIES, GRAVEMARKERS, & MEMORIALS: National, international, regional and ethnic practices and trends in the design, rhetoric and iconography of gravemarkers and memorials; gender, class, race and occupation in the cemetery and memorialization.

Send inquiries; 150-word proposal abstracts and a brief CV with current mailing address for this Area no later than September 15, 2005 to: Joyce Corbett, Area Chair, PO Box 34052, San Diego, CA 92163-4052 (619) 294-8556 email: jcorbett39@yahoo.com.

**Volunteers needed: Falmouth, Mass.**

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The Falmouth Genealogy Society needs volunteers this summer to help clean cemeteries and record inscriptions. Cemeteries that they'll be working in are: East End Cemetery, Davisville Cemetery, North Falmouth Cemetery and Bay View Cemetery.

Please contact Donna Walcovy at: d.quenzel@comcast.net if you'd like to help.

**Mount Auburn Cemetery: Cambridge, Mass.**

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There will be two tours in May sponsored by the Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery.

**May 1 at 1 p.m.** *Arbor Day Celebration at Mount Auburn.* There will be a walking tour, *Mount Auburn's Magnificent Trees* and a tree-planting ceremony. The event is free.

**May 5, 12 noon.** *What's for Lunch?: A Gastronomical Tour.* Led by Jill Graboski. Learn about Mount Auburn residents who changed the way we eat. We'll visit the graves of cookbook authors, caterers, hotel and restaurant owners, candy makers and inventors. The tour is free.

[Mount Auburn Cemetery](#)

**Green-Wood Cemetery Tours: Brooklyn, NY**

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**May 7, 1 p.m.** *Battle Hill and Back.* Featuring Leonard Bernstein, Fannie the Dog, Minerva, the recently-restored Civil War Soldiers' Monument, the highest point in Brooklyn, the bronze Beard Bear, the Drummer Boy, and much more. **May 14, 1 p.m.** *President's Tour.* Green-Wood Cemetery's president, Rich Moylan, joined by cemetery historian Jeff Richman, will show you what's old, what's new and what's planned as the cemetery emerges into the 21st century. This special tour is \$15 for the public, \$10 for Historic Fund members. **May 28, 1 p.m.** *Venture to Valley Water.* Enjoy the magnificent and recently-restored historic chapel, the Receiving Tomb, Albert Anastasia, the Tiffanys, Valley and Sylvan Waters, the Soda Fountain King, gardens, and more. All tours are led by Jeff Richman, Green-Wood Cemetery's Historian. Historic Fund tours are \$10 per person (\$5 for Historic Fund members) unless otherwise indicated and will last about 2 1/2 hours. For questions, comments, to arrange organizational or group tours, or to get on the mailing list, please e-mail or call Jeff at jeffrichman@greenwood.com, (631) 549-4891.

[Green-Wood Cemetery](#)

**Article: Reno, Nevada**

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The link below is to the Reno Gazette-Journal and a recent story about Reno's Historic Hillside Cemetery and the creation of a non-profit group being created to lead preservation efforts.

[Reno Gazette-Journal](#)

**Article: Touring Hartford's Cedar Hill Cemetery**

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The link below is to WTNH in Hartford, for an article about touring Cedar Hill Cemetery, one of the stops on the pre-conference bus tour at last year's conference.

[WTNH](#)

**Website Links**

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We have three websites featured in the Quick Links section at the bottom of this newsletter.

The Monument Conservation Collaborative, LLC (MCC) is an AGS member. MCC works in all areas of graveyard conservation. The next two websites were sent in by Ed Norris. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War has just put their graves registration online, and Ed maintains a record of 9th Battery Mass. Vols. soldiers' graves.

**Quick Links**

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- [MCC](#)
- [Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Database](#)
- [9th Battery Mass. Vols. Soldiers' Graves](#)

**Contact Information**

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email: [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org)

phone: 413-772-0836

web: <http://www.gravestonestudies.org>

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