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## **Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter**

**Issue #84**  
**April 2010**

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AGS Membership

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Please encourage others to join the AGS.

Membership benefits include:

- The *AGS Quarterly*: Bulletin of the Association for Gravestone Studies
- The next published issue of *Markers*
- The AGS monthly *e-Newsletter*
- Discounts on AGS publications
- Access to the AGS Research Clearing House and Lending Library
- Discounts on AGS conferences

To join, renew, or for more information, visit [www.gravestonestudies.org/join.htm](http://www.gravestonestudies.org/join.htm).

We invite everyone with an interest in gravestones and cemeteries to join the AGS. Are you attending a conference where others may be interested? Please contact the AGS office for brochures to distribute.

### **2010 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting**

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2010 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting
June 22-27, 2010 in Granville, Ohio

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

[Please click here to download the registration form.](#)

Please note:

The conference registration form will only be available on the AGS website or by request from the AGS office. It will not be printed in the *AGS Quarterly*.

There will be lectures, exhibits, sales and a silent auction, late night sessions, classroom participation sessions, guided motorcoach tours on Wednesday and Saturday and much more!

Please visit our [conference website](#) page for details.



Our 2010 Conference Logo

*from the gravestone of Mr. Byron Hayes who died March 6, 1836.
It is located in Granville's Old Colony Burying Ground, established in 1805.*

We hope to see you there!

AGS Student Scholarship Winner

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We are pleased to announce that the winner of this year's Student Scholarship competition is Dustin Bulloch of Carleton University in Ottawa. Dustin will be attending the whole conference and receive a cash prize of \$200, underwritten by donations to the AGS Scholarship Fund. He will present his paper on Thursday, June 24. Dustin's paper title and abstract are as follows:

Title: Lonite: The Unknown Canadian Alternative to Granite, Marble, and Bronze

Abstract: Lonite was a brand name used by the now defunct Lo'ns Stone Works of Winnipeg, Manitoba to describe their patented process for producing cast-stone monuments. In mixing Portland cement, marble chips, and powdered blue dye with water Lo'ns engineered a material that closely resembled granite in its shape, colour, and expected durability. The process of making a Lonite memorial was not simple; it required a precise blending of the above mentioned ingredients as well as a time sensitive forming and curing procedure that could only be achieved by experienced tradesmen. Unlike the earlier White Bronze, a patented American product that was manufactured in Canada under license, Lonite was a Canadian invention produced only by Lo'ns Stone Works in Winnipeg and by their branch plant in Belleville, Ontario. To market and sell their product they targeted rural consumers by advertising in

nationally-subscribed publications and made their product available by mail-order; it was shipped directly from the plant to the customer's home. It is not known if this product ever made its way into American markets, but future research should produce some answers. As a monument maker and dealer Lo's Stone Works was in business for the best part of sixty years from 1908 to 1965. Evidence suggests that they over-extended themselves in the sixties and could no longer remain profitable as a business. Brief mention will be made of other cast stone products to give Lonite some additional context. In concluding the presentation, examples will be shown of other little-known manufactured materials found during research for this topic. As an alternative to granite, marble, and bronze Lonite has been an unknown material in the academic world. By uncovering its existence it is hoped that scholars will be encouraged to explore other monument alternatives.

**The AGS President's Bully Pulpit**

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I don't know about you folks, but I'm about ready to burst at the seams in anticipation of going to Ohio. At this year's annual meeting at Denison University we are going to see all sorts of historic cemeteries that reveal the flavor of 19th century settlement in the Columbus area. That in itself is perhaps good enough, but the archaeologist in me cannot resist mentioning that if there's one place in the U.S. that stands out most prominently in the history of Indian archaeology, this is it-and we are going to be right in the middle of it!

About two millennia ago the ancient Indians who occupied the Ohio Valley, known as the Hopewellian Culture, built hundreds of fascinating earthworks. The early Anglo-American settlers were puzzled by the complexity of the arrangements and most people were loath to believe that the Indians were capable of building such edifices. Much of the archaeological research in the 19th century concentrated on exploring the mounds and earthworks of Ohio, with the prime focus being who built these monuments and why? Scientists from the Smithsonian Institution and Harvard's Peabody Museum did a lot of this early work and by the end of the century it was finally determined that the Indians were indeed the architects. The sites served as gathering grounds for populations that came from near and far to celebrate mortuary events, much like what we will be doing in June.

If you have any time before or after the meeting, I do recommend spending an extra day or two checking out these wonderful Hopewellian sites, easily reached from anywhere in the Columbus area. There are dozens of sites to see, but ones that you do not want to miss are Newark (we'll be seeing its Great Circle on the Wednesday tour), the Hopewell Mound Group, Mound City, and the Great Serpent Mound. The Squier and Davis volume (see below) that was first published by the Smithsonian Institution in 1848 includes dozens of wonderful survey maps of the various sites you may visit. I include several in this Bully Pulpit to give you a sense of all that is available when you come to the beautiful State of Ohio. Bully!

To read the rest of Ian's Bully Pulpit and to view the maps, [please click here](#).

Obituary: Ralph Tucker

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We are very sorry to announce the death of AGS founding member Ralph Tucker, of Georgetown, Maine. He was a frequent contributor to *Markers* and longtime Editor of

the 17th and 18th Century Column in the *Quarterly*. An obituary is posted on [the Times Record website](#).

**Events: St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands, New York**

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St. Agnes Photo Contest

The Third Annual Historic St. Agnes Cemetery Photo Contest gives photographers an opportunity to capture the unique beauty and serenity of a 19th century rural cemetery nestled among the rolling hills of Menands. Artists will compete for cash prizes in Student and Adult Categories. Become a [Facebook](#) fan of St. Agnes Cemetery for details.

Monument Conservation Workshop

Friday, May 21st, 10AM

This hands-on conservation workshop will focus on safe and proper cleaning techniques for use on aging monuments. Participants will be given an overview of the historical significance of gravestones and the importance of preserving these stone documents for as long as possible. All cleaning supplies will be provided. The cost of the workshop is \$15 and includes lunch. To register please contact Kelly Grimaldi at (518) 463-0134 or email your request for a registration form to KellyAnn.Grimaldi@rcda.org.

Information about Green Burials, Greenfield, Massachusetts

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House Party for Green Burial  
Sunday, May 16, 2-4PM  
at Green Fields Market (upstairs), 144 Main St., Greenfield, Massachusetts

- What is green or natural burial?
- Why might I want to have one?
- Where are the nearest green cemeteries?
- How can I help start a green cemetery in Massachusetts?

This event is free, refreshments will be provided.

Sponsored by the Green Burial committee of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western Mass. For more information, contact Carol at (413) 774-2320.

**Costumed Tours, Northfield, Massachusetts**

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Friends of Northfield's Old Cemeteries will be holding their second annual costumed cemetery tour on May 1st, at the First Parish Church, at 12 Noon.

It will be a musical extravaganza celebrating composer Timothy Swan. His friends and family, who lived in Northfield in the 1820s, will sing Swan's tunes.

There will be a light lunch, displays and information before the tours begin at 1 PM. Tickets are \$5.00.

For information, email esrie@crocker.com.

Call for Submissions: Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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Call for Submissions: 175 Years of Reflections

Help celebrate Laurel Hill's 175th Anniversary! In 2011, the Friends of Laurel Hill Cemetery will mark a significant milestone in its long and intriguing history and they are in the process of preparing a commemorative booklet to mark this momentous occasion. Tentatively titled *175 Years of Reflections, Laurel Hill Cemetery, 1836-2011*, this pocket-sized text will include personal recollections and artistic representations-- both historic and contemporary--of this famed National Historic Landmark site. Whether it be an original poem, photo or even a song, your artistic submissions are an important part of this project.

For guidelines and more information, visit [Laurel Hill Cemetery's website](#).

**Monument Restoration Workshop: Vale Cemetery, Schenectady, New York**

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Monument Restoration Workshop

Saturday, May 1

1:00PM

AGS members Joe Ferrannini and Bob Posson will be leading the First Annual Vale Restoration Workshop.

They will demonstrate and explain the simple steps you can take to clean and repair marble monuments. A variety of repair problems will be addressed in this hands-on field demonstration: broken monuments, buried stones, use of epoxies and mortars, bracing and the use of tri-pods. There will be handouts summarizing key issues, and time for questions.

There is no charge for this workshop.

For more information, visit [the Vale Cemetery website](#).

May Tours of Green Mount Cemetery, Baltimore City, Maryland

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Four guided tours of Green Mount Cemetery will be held during the month of May. They will be led by Baltimore historian Wayne R. Schaumburg. Reservations are required. For information, call (410) 256-2180 or e-mail [wschaumburg@earthlink.net](mailto:wschaumburg@earthlink.net).

Tour dates: May 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th. All tours begin at 9:30AM, at the main gate, located at Greenmount Avenue and East Oliver Street.

**Article: Spray-on Liquid Glass**

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This article, [posted on physorg.com](#), is about spray-on liquid glass. It was developed to protect surfaces against damage from water, UV radiation, dirt, heat, and bacterial infections. The article states that the War Graves Association in the UK (<http://www.cwgc.org/>) is investigating using the spray to treat stone monuments; technicians in Turkey are testing the product on monuments such as the Ataturk Mausoleum in Ankara.

Article about New England Cemeteries featured in *New England Review*

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The quarterly journal, *New England Review*, Vol. 20:4, features an article by William Gilson, entitled "Stone Faces." The article details his 40 years of research and reflections on New England Cemeteries. To order the issue, visit <http://www.nereview.com/index.html>.

**News from Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts**

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Mount Auburn Cemetery has expanded its cemetery services to include weddings.

2009 marked the first time that Mount Auburn has opened its chapels and spectacular grounds for wedding ceremonies. Great care was taken to minimize (if not eliminate) potential conflict between memorial and wedding services. Mount Auburn has successfully hosted four weddings and two more are scheduled this spring.

<http://www.mountauburn.org/>

Featured Website: Oakland Cemetery (Shreveport, Louisiana)

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Please take a moment to check out Oakland Cemetery's website.

There are online tours, a searchable database, news and events and a history of the cemetery.

There is information about the Oakland Cemetery Preservation Society. Back issues of their newsletter are posted.

<http://www.oaklandcemeteryla.org/Index.aspx>

### **Information about cemeteries in New Mexico**

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[Cemeteries of New Mexico](#) is an independent genealogical resource organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the cemetery history of New Mexico. The goal is to obtain cemetery histories, inscription records, directions and photographs of each cemetery and burial ground. Transcripts and photo submissions are welcome.

Publication: *Bury Me Deep: Burial Places Past and Present in and nearby Washington, DC*

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*Bury Me Deep: Burial Places Past and Present in and nearby Washington, DC, A Historical Review and Reference Manual* is a limited edition publication by AGS member Paul E. Sluby, Sr. A review will appear the Spring 2010 *AGS Quarterly*.

Since the District of Columbia was established in 1790, more than 250 burial places have existed. This publication is the first comprehensive effort to present a total perspective of this fascinating subject in a manner not only interesting to the layman but valuable to genealogists, demographers and other serious researchers. Topics range from those general in nature to items that provide in-depth information regarding the challenging aspects of the cemetery business.

Chapters 1-7 offer a look at the area during the Native American period, then present engaging data about the development of local cemeteries, the effects of segregation, destructive factors, grave robbing, noted and unique burials, and future considerations.

Appendix I contains alphabetized and cross-indexed compilations, including former locations and available historical details about all of the identified cemeteries.

Appendix II is an alphabetized list of the 55 burial sites that remain today and includes the address, date opened and type of area.

Appendix III, an alphabetized reference guide to all identified locations, includes the dates of operation, type of burial area, and whether extant, relocated or eradicated.

Appendix IV, presented in chart form, includes information excerpted from official records on the number of interments at individual cemeteries in the city from 1880-

1930. All sections are appropriately footnoted and a bibliography and an index are included. Soft cover, 242 pages.

It is \$30.00, payable by check or money order (add \$3.00 U.S.; \$5.00 Canada for shipping and handling) to Paul E. Sluby, Sr., PO Box 1049, Temple Hills, MD 20757-1049.

[http://www.paulesluby.com/PUBLICATION\\_1.html](http://www.paulesluby.com/PUBLICATION_1.html)

**Query: Gravestones for Drowning Victims**

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Do any of you have pictures or epitaphs from markers that commemorate drowning? I'm preparing a short article on the different ways that people have memorialized people who lost their lives in rivers and oceans. Thanks for any transcriptions or photos.

-Jim Freeman, jfreeman@english.umass.edu

Query: What to do about Knotweed in Cemeteries

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In our county, we are having problems with the knotweed/bamboo growing in the cemeteries and covering up stones. Many of our cemeteries are not being maintained regularly--only twice a year and they are getting smaller and smaller because of the knotweed.

Does anyone know how to handle this problem? We know about cutting it and putting it on blacktop to "cook" and then burning it. And just keep cutting it back. We don't have enough people to manage this and the cemeteries have no funds to pay for maintenance.

Any ideas?? Thank you.

Judie DV Smith  
Roscoe NY

[darbee1@juno.com](mailto:darbee1@juno.com)

**Query: Seeking Information About Carved Stone Books**

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This query comes from Ian Berke. He writes: "I collect carved stone books, which are rarely seen, almost never documented, with virtually no literature (see photos below so you see what I am talking about in case you haven't seen one). They are usually small (3x5 inches, but sometimes much larger or smaller), carved in the form of a closed book, often with beautifully done carving on the cover, back, or spine: initials, dates (rare!), religious symbols (crosses, etc), titles (Holy Bible, Album, etc), engraved motifs (animals, flowers, clasped hands, etc). They are typically of marble, but are also seen in pipestone, limestone, alabaster, and rarely, harder stone (granite, etc). The best of them clearly were done by skilled carvers, probably gravestone makers,

perhaps as whimsies or little gifts. Many were done by amateurs. The few I have that are dated, run from the 1860's to about 1920, with most from the 4th quarter of the 19th century. Typically, they are American, but I have seen a few from England and Italy.

I was able to buy two small collections (one assembled over 25 years with some fantastic examples), and now have about 95 pieces. I want to do an article about them, but cannot find any references anywhere. A few dealers buy them when they see them (which isn't often) and let me know. I can usually find two or three at Manchester (Antiques Week, August) but that's about it. I think there is a lack of information about them because they were simply too small and of insufficient value to show up in inventories. Even the Marble Museum in Proctor, Vermont has no information on them and hadn't ever seen one. Once separated from the families that owned them, all history disappears. I sent a letter to MAD asking for information. I didn't get any additional information, but did discover a few other collectors. One of them, a print dealer living a few blocks from the Met, has a terrific collection (100) that has taken him 20 years to assemble. He has similar thoughts to mine about them, and has not been able to find any references to them either. Does anyone have any thoughts about research avenues or know anyone who might be able to shed additional light on stone books? Thanks and ciao, Ian Berke (San Francisco) ianberke@earthlink.net."



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