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

**Issue #76**  
**August 2009**

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AGS Membership

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We invite everyone with an interest in gravestones and cemeteries 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, or for more information, visit [www.gravestonestudies.org/join.htm](http://www.gravestonestudies.org/join.htm).

### **Earn a Free Membership!**

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Any member of the AGS who brings in five new members at the Senior level or above within a 12-month period will be given a free membership renewal at the Individual level for one year (free year begins with your next renewal date). New members that you recruit must record your name in brackets, after theirs, on the membership application form.

The AGS President's Bully Pulpit

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Each month Patricia Welch, the AGS Administrator, shares with me the membership list for our organization. This way I get to see the ups and downs of renewals, new memberships and dropouts on a regular basis. She also provides last year's figures for the month in question so that I can ascertain whether or not to cheer or cry. I've done a bit of sobbing these past few months. Considering the economy, we're not doing too

badly, although we are down in numbers from previous years. There is no cause for alarm, but for us to remain viable we really do need to get our membership roll above a thousand, which is certainly reasonable for an international organization of our status. For this to happen all of us need to court new members. Thus, I am using this month's version of the President's Bully Pulpit to encourage you to get your "Aunt Sally" to join the AGS.

Everyone has an Aunt Sally of sorts. She may not actually go by this name, but she's the one that sends you that oh-so-undesirable gift each year. Whether for your birthday, Christmas, or whatever, Aunt Sally has an incredible knack for choosing just the wrong present. She means well, but just doesn't have a clue as to what might make you happy and you have pretty much given up worrying about it. Her gift usually goes on a side table for several weeks, either to entertain friends or scare off unwanted visitors, and then it heads straight to the trash. Amusing as that sequence may be, I have another solution to the Aunt Sally phenomenon.

This year, consider beating her to the punch by requesting a specific gift. To ward off yet another chip and dip set, tell her that you would instead prefer that she become a member of the AGS for the following year. Lord knows she's never understood your strange fascination with gravestones, so this would give her an opportunity to see just what it is you're about. It would mean so much to you! She may not really comprehend your request, but if that's what you really want, then what the heck? Keep in mind that this need only be a request for one year, the hope being that Aunt Sally will enjoy the *Quarterly, Markers*, and *e-Newsletter* so much that she will renew on her own volition in the future. If we each could get one Aunt Sally in our respective families to join, our numbers would be doubled. I shall go on record here and now by saying that if ever we break 2,000 in my administration there will be free chip and dip at all annual conferences, courtesy of yours truly and an Aunt Sally or two.

--Ian W. Brown, AGS President

**Call for Nominations: Forbes Awards and Oakley Certificates**

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We are seeking candidates for Oakley Certificates and the Forbes Award. The deadline for applications is December 31, 2009.

The Oakley Certificate of Merit

The Oakley Certificate of Merit is presented periodically by the AGS Board of Trustees to individuals and groups that have helped to advance the mission of the Association. The award consists of a certificate, presented by the Board of Trustees, as well as the gift of a book to the honoree's local library, in their name on behalf of AGS. Whenever possible the award presentation will be made by a local AGS member. Each year's recipients will have their names printed in the conference program book and annual report. In addition they will be acknowledged at the Awards Reception at the annual conference.

The AGS Harriette Merrifield Forbes Award

The Forbes Award is presented annually by the AGS Board of Trustees to honor an individual, institution, or organization in recognition of exceptional service to the field of gravestone studies. The Forbes Award is the highest honor bestowed by the AGS. The presentation is usually made at the Awards Banquet during the Annual Conference. A reception precedes the banquet, at which the recipient is the guest of honor. The President makes a presentation speech indicating why the person or organization was chosen and summarizing the work accomplished. A framed certificate is presented along with a photograph of Harriette Merrifield Forbes. The recipient usually gives an

acceptance speech.

For more information and award applications, please visit [The AGS Awards page](#).

Student Scholarship Announcement

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A scholarship is being offered for a student to attend and participate in the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Gravestone Studies to be held at Denison University in Granville, Ohio, June 22-27, 2010. The scholarship will cover registration, room and board fees for the full conference. There will also be a cash prize of \$200, which will be presented at the conference. The recipient of this scholarship is expected to present a scholarly paper of twenty minutes during the Friday evening lecture session.

Requirements: The applicant must be a graduate or undergraduate student of an accredited college or university, as well as a member of the AGS.

Application: The application will consist of the title, abstract and text for a twenty-minute paper presentation. The presentation should be in the exact form that will be delivered at the conference, including visuals. Powerpoint is the preferred medium.

Deadline: By April 1, 2010, submissions should be sent as a PDF attachment to an email, a CD, or a hard copy to [ibrown@bama.ua.edu](mailto:ibrown@bama.ua.edu) or Ian W. Brown, Box 870210, Department of Anthropology, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0210.

**Call for Papers and Participation Sessions**

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Call for Papers and Participation Sessions
2010 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting

Proposals are solicited for scholarly papers, 20 minutes in length, to be presented during the evening lecture sessions. Please send your proposal and 250-word abstract by February 1, 2010 to: Program Chair: Dr. Ian Brown, ibrown@bama.ua.edu.

Proposals are solicited for Participation Sessions, classes of 50 minutes in length, to be presented Wednesday morning and afternoon, June 24. Please send your proposal and a 250-word abstract by February 1, 2010 to: Participation Sessions Co-Chairs, Robert Keeler and Judy Juntunen, robertk@clackamas.edu, or Robert Keeler, 3005 S.W. Westwood Dr., Portland, OR, 97225.

AGS Late Night Presentation: *Thinking Outside the Fence*

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AGS member John Bry gave a presentation, entitled "Thinking Outside the Fence," at our Late Night sessions at the 2009 AGS Conference in Schenectady, New York. He writes:

"What happened to the historic American Cemetery? Why are so many in a state of decline, disrepair, or in a state of abandonment? The causes for this national shame vary, but the root causes tend to be the same no matter the size of the property or its geographic location. While over the years various organizations and professionals have developed conservation techniques and produced scholarly research concerning historic

cemeteries, and their monuments, there has been a void when it comes to the question of how to sustain a historic cemetery for its long term future.

John Bry who is on retainer to the Frederick Law Olmsted designed parks in Buffalo, New York has studied the plight of historic cemeteries for years, and has brought his 20 years of experience in Historic Preservation and community revitalization to the discussion. John has developed a comprehensive cemetery revitalization model known as the Five M's that he unveiled at the AGS Conference in June. The concept is meant to assist non-profit and municipally owned cemeteries as a guide to bring about positive incremental change for their properties. Money, Marketing, Management, Maintenance, and Master Planning are the five broad headings of Bry's model, which is considered to be the first of its kind in the United States to address historic cemetery revitalization and management on a broader scale.

Bry has grown up with cemeteries, as his great, great grandfather was the owner of the local monument company in his hometown in Indiana. He has also become the manager of two historic cemetery properties. One is a community mausoleum in Indiana, and the other is a small cemetery near Philadelphia. Bry is utilizing his Five M Model at both locations and is seeing success. For example, in a year's time he was able to raise just shy of \$100,000 in commitments for the restoration of the mausoleum. The Pennsylvania location has completed a Landscape Master Plan, and is beginning to develop fundraisers and partnerships with nearby schools for marketing.

Bry is dedicating more and more of his career consulting with historic cemeteries, and hopes to create a new national dialogue on historic cemeteries that creates a National Historic Cemetery Center that is a clearing house and resource of information for all things historic cemetery related, and hopes AGS will play a central role in the creation of such a center. He has been asked to present his Five M model at the National Historic Cemetery Preservation Summit in Nashville, TN in October. The summit is being hosted by the National Center for Preservation Training and Technology.

To view a PDF file of John's powerpoint presentation, [please click here](#).

### **AGS Member Donna Walcovy's Online Cemetery Databases**

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This month we are featuring Donna Walcovy's sites. She writes: "Since 2001 I have been the driving force behind the Falmouth Genealogical Society's Cemetery Transcription Project. I organized the project to record and photograph information on the gravestones in the town of Falmouth, MA. I designed the web sites www.falgen.org and www.falgen.org/cem and have entered everything on both of them.

Since the first website went on-line in 2003 I have continued to add additional cemeteries and burying grounds in the town of Falmouth, MA. There are 19 cemeteries and I've been chasing countless burials in back yards."

Books for Sale From AGS Member

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AGS Member Sybil Crawford is selling many of her gravestone books. To view the list and pricing, [please click here](#).

**Upcoming Publication: *Once Upon a Time . . . A Cemetery Story***

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Jane White sent in this information about her soon-to-be-published book:

"Two years ago I retired as Director of the Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg, Virginia, after being there for 27 years. During the past two years I have been writing, or compiling, a coffee-table-style book on the cemetery, as I saw it during those years. Entitled *Once Upon a Time . . . A Cemetery Story*, it has 240 pages, almost 500 color photographs (many full page), twenty one chapters and costs \$60.00. It tells the stories of the before, after and in-between of how the place came to be the beautiful gravegarden it is today. The book is still at the printers, but is due out in mid-September 2009.

Please feel free to see our web site for more information on the Old City Cemetery: www.gravegarden.org. *Once Upon a Time* is available for pre-order on the site."

A review will appear in an upcoming *Quarterly*.

Exhibit: Memento Vitae: The Humanity of the Marble Headstone

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AGS Member Anne Tait will have an exhibition: "Memento Vitae: The Humanity of the Marble Headstone," September 12-October 25, 2009, at the Carving Studio and Sculpture Center Gallery in Rutland, Vermont.

"Memento Vitae" offers insight into the processes that Tait uses to approach her art making. There will be an opening reception, with an opportunity to meet the artist, on Saturday, September 12th from 4 to 6 PM.

Anne Tait executes her fine-arts work predominately in the area of printmaking, with photography research, drawing and painting serving the ultimate print. The multi-faceted approach she uses to arrive at her final product results in both scholarly accomplishments and pieces of art. Through past sources and empirical observations of memorial art, this exhibition reveals the importance of vernacular artwork in the marble headstones of the 19th century as a means to better understand our place in history. For more on Anne Tait and her work, please visit her website- [www.mementovitae.com](http://www.mementovitae.com).

For more information about the exhibit, visit [www.carvingstudio.org](http://www.carvingstudio.org).

**FREE Cemetery Preservation Workshops, Rockville Maryland**

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Peerless Rockville, the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, and Historic Takoma will be hosting two preservation workshops for cemetery owners, caretakers, and historians. The sessions will cover cemetery preservation planning, stone cleaning and repair, landscaping issues, and best practices for the conservation of historic cemeteries.

The two sessions are identical and will be held on Saturday, October 10 and Saturday, December 5 from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm at the Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Square, Rockville, Maryland with a visit to the nearby Baptist Cemetery.

Each session is FREE, but limited to 35 participants. Registration is required.

For more information or to register, contact Peerless Rockville at (301) 762-0096 or info@peerlessrockville.org.

Walking Tour of Lake View Cemetery--Cleveland, Ohio

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Lake View Cemetery Geology Walking Tour - North  
Saturday, September 19, 2009, 10 am to noon

Joe Hannibal of The Cleveland Museum of Natural History will lead us on this walk, examining the marble and other rocks and minerals that make up the monuments and buildings in the northern part of the Cemetery. The trip will include a visit to the Wade Chapel, dam, gravesites of two famous Cleveland geologists, and the Garfield Monument. Reservations and a \$6.00 fee required. To make your reservations, call Lake View Cemetery at (216) 421-2665.

Learn more about Lake View Cemetery Field Trips at:

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

**Green Mount Cemetery Walking Tours, Baltimore, Maryland**

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Four guided tours of historic Green Mount Cemetery will be held on Saturday, October 10, 17, 24 and 31. Opened in 1839, Green Mount is the final resting place of Johns Hopkins, Enoch Pratt, William and Henry Walters, Mary Elizabeth Garrett, Theodore McKeldin, John Wilkes Booth, Betsy Patterson, Walter Lord, and many other famous Marylanders. Tours begin at 9:30 a.m. from the main gate located at Greenmount Avenue and East Oliver Street. The two-hour walking tours are led by Baltimore historian and educator Wayne R. Schaumburg. The cost is \$15. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (410) 256-2180 or by e-mail at wschaumburg@earthlink.net.

To see a recent article on the Green Mount Cemetery tours, visit:
<http://gazette.jhu.edu>.

Nationwide Cemetery Preservation Summit, Nashville, Tennessee

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NCPTT and the Nashville Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission are pleased to announce a Nationwide Cemetery Preservation Summit, to be held **October 19-21, 2009 in Nashville, Tennessee**. The Summit will feature wide ranging preservation technologies to address the broad spectrum of issues found in cemeteries and other cultural heritage.

Registration is \$299 until September 6, 2009, \$399 after September 6, 2009. A limited

number of \$99 Student Registrations are available. Contact Jason Church at [jason\\_church@contractor.nps.gov](mailto:jason_church@contractor.nps.gov) for details.

Visit [the NCPTT website](#) for more information or to register for the summit.

**Rest in Peace 5K Run, Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

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Registration now open for the First Annual Rest in Peace 5K Run

Sunday, October 18, 2009
Registration Opens at 8:00am
Race Starts at 9:00am

Trick or treat...move your feet! The First Annual Rest in Peace 5K is a unique and challenging run through the grounds of Laurel Hill Cemetery, a National Historic Landmark site located in the East Falls neighborhood of Philadelphia. With over 78 acres of grand architecture, stunning statuary, rolling landscapes, and majestic views of the Schuylkill River, Laurel Hill provides an appropriately cool, albeit creepy, course for runners - or walkers - of all ages and fitness levels. Participants and spectators, alike, are encouraged to attend in Halloween attire, and prizes will be given for the best costumes!

Runners can register at www.rip5k.org. A registration fee of \$30 per person applies. T-shirts will be distributed on the day of the race.

Inquiries should be sent to info@rip5k.org.

www.thelaurehillcemetery.org/

Cemetery Symbolism Workshop, Spartanburg, South Carolina

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**Cemetery Symbolism Workshop**

Featuring AGS Member Richard Waterhouse

Hochst-Celanese Room  
Spartanburg County Public Library  
South Church Street

Spartanburg, South Carolina.  
Saturday, September 26, 2009

AGENDA:

9:00 - 9:45 Registration

9:45 - 10:00 Welcome and introduction of Speaker

10:00 - 11:00 Sacred Symbols of Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery

11:00 - 11:15 Break

11:15 - 12:15 Victorian Gravestone Symbols throughout the World

12:15 - 2:00 Lunch on your own (a list of local restaurants will be available)

2:00 - 3:00 Symbolism in Christian Art

3:00 - 4:00 Q & A

Sponsored by the Pinckney District Chapter, South Carolina Genealogical Society. The event is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

For additional information contact Linda Crissinger at [pdc\\_lindac@yahoo.com](mailto:pdc_lindac@yahoo.com) or Mike Becknell at [mbecknell@inmanmills.com](mailto:mbecknell@inmanmills.com).

**National Preservation Institute Cemetery Seminars**

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The National Preservation Institute (NPI), a nonprofit organization founded in 1980, educates those involved in the management, preservation, and stewardship of our cultural heritage.

They are sponsoring two cemetery preservation seminars in September:

Cemetery Preservation, September 15-16, 2009, South Bend, Indiana.
Learn how to begin a cemetery preservation or restoration project and how to help ensure that sound choices are made to avoid harming what you seek to protect. Discussions focus on current issues in cemetery preservation, such as recording and documenting cemeteries and graveyards, undertaking preservation efforts, and exploring conservation techniques and issues. Debi Hacker and Michael Trinkley of the Chicora Foundation will lead this seminar.

This seminar is being held in conjunction with:

Cemetery Landscapes: A Practical Guide to Care and Maintenance, September 17, 2009, South Bend, Indiana.

Learn how to protect historic cemetery landscapes, preserve integrity of design, and safeguard tombstones and monuments while pursuing a practical outlook on maintenance and budget concerns. Explore approaches to caring for softscapes, or plantings, and hardscapes, including roads, pathways, and benches. Discuss effective pruning and cutting techniques, and when chemicals and heavy equipment can be safely and productively used. Review the basics of short- and long-term preservation plans.

Agendas for these seminars, registration forms, and details are available at www.npi.org.

Note: These and other seminars are available as customized, on-site training. Please contact NPI at (703) 765-0100 or info@npi.org if you are interested in one of these seminars. Once there is a sufficient prospectives list, the seminar will be scheduled and potential attendees contacted so that they can formally register.

Cemeteryscape Photography Exhibit: Call for Entries

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**2009 CEMETERYSCAPE CALL FOR ENTRIES**

Save Our Cemeteries (SOC) in New Orleans, Louisiana is hosting its 18th Annual Cemeteryscape photography exhibit from October 29, 2009 through November 22, 2009. Cemeteryscape is designed to develop a public awareness and appreciation of the artistic and historic value of cemeteries. The exhibit will be on display at the International House Hotel in New Orleans. An opening reception will be held at this location on Thursday, October 29th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. SOC invites the public to submit photos.

For more information, please visit [saveourcemeteries.org](http://saveourcemeteries.org).

**Oldest Civil War monument in U.S. to move to a new home**

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Oldest Civil War Monument in the U.S. Will Move to a New Home
Department of Veterans Affairs to place a new monument at
Louisville national cemetery

The historic Bloedner (32nd Indiana Infantry) Monument, the oldest Civil War monument in the United States, has suffered significant cumulative and natural damage during the years that it has been located at Cave Hill National Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky. Now it is being preserved by the National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs (NCA), working with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO/KY) of the Kentucky Heritage Council, and through a contract with Heritage Preservation. The NCA seeks to place the original Bloedner Monument at a facility that is secure, climate controlled and available to the public at no cost. Plans also call for a new monument and an interpretative sign to be placed at Cave Hill National Cemetery. Public comment on these proposals is invited.

An Informational Meeting, for those wishing to learn more and comment, is scheduled for:

Date: September 23, 2009
Time: 4-7 p.m.
Location: The Clifton Center, 2117 Payne Street, Louisville, KY 40206-2011

For more information about this project, please visit:
<http://www.cem.va.gov/hist/BloednerMon.asp>

The Association of Graveyard Rabbits

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AGS Member Diane Wright recently emailed the AGS office to let us know about The Association of Graveyard Rabbits. The Association is a association of blogs dedicated to cemeteries. <http://about-gyra.blogspot.com/>

From their Welcome page: "Welcome to The Association Of Graveyard Rabbits - an association dedicated to the academic promotion of the historical importance of cemeteries, grave markers, and the family history to be learned from a study of burial customs, burying grounds, and tombstones; and the social promotion of the study of cemeteries, the preservation of cemeteries, and the transcription of genealogical/historical information written in cemeteries.

Diane's blog along with blogs and websites by some other AGSers are featured on the site: <http://travelswright.blogspot.com/>.

**Websites: Friends of Bedford Cemeteries**

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Please take a moment to check out these two Bedford Friends groups in two different countries.

Friends of Bedford's (NH) Cemeteries:
<http://www.bedfordcemeteries.org/Friends.asp>

The site features a searchable database of names, back issues of their newsletter, cemetery regulations and more.

Friends of Bedford Cemetery, U.K.,
<http://www.bedfordcemeteryfriends.org.uk/>

The Bedford Cemetery is a Victorian Cemetery on the English Heritage List. The site features a history of the cemetery, events listings and a news page.

Weird New Jersey Magazine and Website

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AGS Member Mike Bieling sent in the following information:

"I recently received a copy of the magazine *Weird N.J.: Your Travel Guide to N.J.'s Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets*, issue #32. It is a fairly substantial (94-page) publication that comes out twice a year. There are lots of stories about sightings of the Jersey Devil (not a hockey player), ghosts and hauntings, strange tourist attractions, items (rocks, scrapes, steaks, etc.) found in the shape of the state of NJ, photos of comical street signage, a report on the site of an old German-American Bund Nazi summer camp, and lots more.

The May 2009 issue contains what I take to be a regular feature of theirs, 'Cemetery Safari,' which includes a report on fireman James Bechtold's monument in Hillside Cemetery, Metuchen, NJ, which features a sculpture of the Three Stooges, and reports on several other unusual and interesting grave markers in local cemeteries.

A second cemetery-related article also appears in this issue entitled *Discoveries Above and Below the Jersey City Harsimus Cemetery*, by Mark Scurman, the publisher/editor. This reports on the efforts of a recently-constituted Board of Trustees to restore and preserve this historic (est. 1829) garden cemetery. Among their activities described in the story has been the opening and exploration of what was a receiving vault on the western side, which is locally believed to have been extended during the Underground Railroad period, with tunnels running under a nearby school to the Hudson River."

You can purchase these and other back issues and subscribe to the magazine on their website, [www.weirdnj.com/](http://www.weirdnj.com/)

They also feature a version of the cemetery safari on their site:

[http://www.weirdnj.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=section&id=4&Itemid=28](http://www.weirdnj.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=section&id=4&Itemid=28)

**Article: Johnston graves reveal family roots**

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This article, linked below, is about the Johnston County Heritage Center (North Carolina) and their efforts in updating its list of the county's graveyards.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/1631719.html>

Article: Pleasant Valley Cemetery

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This article, linked below, is about a new cemetery in Pleasant Valley, Alaska.

[www.newsminer.com](http://www.newsminer.com)

**Article: Tomb for Sale on eBay**

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This article, linked below, is about a widow who is selling her husband's burial spot directly above film legend Marilyn Monroe so that she can pay off her mortgage.

[NY Daily News](#).

The bidding has ended on this item, but you can [view the eBay listing here](#).

Contact Information

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phone: 413-772-0836

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