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Association for Gravestone Studies e-newsletter

Issue #46

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AGS Conference & Annual Meeting, 2007

The Association for Gravestone Studies Thirtieth Anniversary Conference
Rivier College, Nashua, New Hampshire
June 21-24, 2007

Registration is now open! The registration form is posted on [the conference page](#) of the AGS website.

PRE-CONFERENCE AND FRIDAY BUS TOURS

Detailed itineraries of the Wednesday pre-conference tour and Friday bus tours are posted on the AGS website conference page. Also included are photos of some of the gravemarkers we'll be seeing on these tours.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Proposals are solicited for scholarly papers, twenty minutes in length, to be presented during the lecture sessions. We encourage papers on gravestone subjects from around

the world as well as specific to the New England region. Presenters are encouraged to incorporate visual images in their paper, through the use of slides or power point, and the type of visual presentation should be stated.

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION SESSIONS

As part of the Association for Gravestone Studies Conference, we host fifty minute "Participation Sessions"--programs conducted in a workshop format where cemetery scholars, preservationists and educators can exchange ideas. These programs are ideal for panels and we recommend including others in your presentation. All Participation Sessions proposals should allow time for questions and audience discussion. We are encouraging Participation Sessions that focus on four themes:

- Cemeteries in the Digital Age
- New Resources for Cemetery Research
- Development and Promotion of Cemetery Tours
- Current Issues in Preserving Cemeteries

All proposals should include the paper or session title and a 250 word description of the topic which focuses on its value to the audience. A brief biography of the presenter should also be included. Presenters are required to register for the conference. All proposals must be received by the close of business on Friday, March 30, 2007. Please send proposals for papers or participation sessions via traditional mail or email to:

Association for Gravestone Studies, 278 Main Street, Suite 207, Greenfield, MA 01301, info@gravestonestudies.org.

Information and Question about Folk Gravemarker Survey in New Jersey

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The AGS office recently received the following information and query:

"Dear AGS,

We are involved in a project that I think might be of interest. We have undertaken a comprehensive survey of all folk grave markers in New Jersey. As far as we are aware, this is the only effort of its kind in NJ and, possibly, in the US. I have seen references to the types of markers we are studying in other works, but never anything to the extent we are doing. Of course, if there have ever been similar surveys done elsewhere, we would be interested in knowing about them.

For more information about what we mean by "folk grave markers" please visit our website: [www.commonbondhistorians.com](http://www.commonbondhistorians.com) and click on the markers page. It goes into greater detail and includes images.

We look forward to hearing from AGS members soon!

COMMON BOND HISTORIANS  
Gordon Bond & Stephanie Hoagland"

#### **Query: Symbolism on a New York Gravemarker**

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The AGS office recently received this query from MaryAnn Zaverl. She writes:

"Hello, I am hoping you would take a look at a gravestone of a relative of mine and

perhaps let me know if you have ever seen any others similar to this. He died in 1872 in Corfu, Genesee Co, NY at the age of 38. He probably belonged to the Masons (several of his brothers did, as did their children) and he may have been a civil war vet. The stone appears to be a star of some kind but instead of points, the ends are more like round circles. There seems to be a star carved inside the outside star, then some kind of wreath perhaps, and inside that is something that could be a sun. The stone is quite thick. It seems like it would have taken quite a bit of effort to have hand carved this in 1872, and have been fairly expensive.

Any help or direction you could give would be greatly appreciated. Thank you."

MaryAnn Zaverl, --MAZAVERL@aol.com



Cafépress Online Store Featuring Gravestone Artwork by AGS Member

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 Please take a moment to check out [Erik Quarry's Cafépress online store](#). The store has items such as t-shirts, mugs, bags, and pillows featuring his gravestone artwork.

**Query: Looking for People who Live Next to Cemeteries**

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 The AGS office received the following query from Malerie Yolen-Cohen. She writes:

"Hi! My name is Malerie Yolen-Cohen and I'm a freelance magazine writer. Right now, though, I'm working on a book about people who live next door to cemeteries. I have started the research via email contacts (and contacts of contacts). Stuffing mailboxes is just another way to find people like you who live next door to a cemetery. I would love to hear from you! Technology - along with the help of friends all over the country - has allowed me to reach you outside of my region - the Northeast. You can be as anonymous as you'd like (first name, made up name, your real name - anything) as long as your feedback is sincere. Please look over these questions and email me at Gapcohen@aol.com. Thank you for your help.

- 1. How long have you lived there? What state and town do you live in?
- Your family: single? Young couple? Kids? Empty nesters?
- 2. Is the cemetery next door to an old graveyard or a still used cemetery? Garden Cemetery or Memorial Park? Is it large or small? Please describe.
- 3. Is the cemetery remote or is there a lot of activity around? Explain.
- 4. What motivated you to live next to a cemetery? Was cost of home lower, was it something you were looking for?
- 5. What do your friends think about you living next to a cemetery? Did they offer any comments pro or con?
- 6. Do you feel that the graveyard next door is a quiet, peaceful, serene place? Sad? Has anything out-of-the-ordinary ever happened? Do you even give the property next door another thought?

These are just some preliminary questions. I'm in the 'proposal phase' of my book with working title: *Dead Neighbors*, and I intend to cover the topic with a sense of humor, history and travel. "

Events: Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington, North Carolina

Camellia Tour: Sunday, March 18, 2007, 2-4 PM, led by Camellia connoisseurs Bill Wilcox and Ed Powers of the Cape Fear Camellia Society. \$5.00 per person; free for members of Friends of Oakdale Cemetery.

Spring Floral Tour: Sunday, March 25, 2007, 2-4 PM. See what's blooming at Oakdale with Superintendent Eric Kozen. \$5.00 per person; free for members of Friends of Oakdale Cemetery.

For more information, please call the cemetery office at (910) 762-5682.

Events: Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Ladies of the Hill, a walking tour of Laurel Hill Cemetery. This program is all about them, from the more familiar, such as Sarah Josepha Hale, Godey's Lady's Book editor, and Elizabeth Hutter, Civil War nurse, to the less well-known but equally important, like the writer, Lucy Hamilton Hooper, the archeologist, Sarah Yorke Stevenson, and Mary Engle Pennington, whose work made it possible to transport fresh milk, and later, beer, nationwide. The tour will take place on **Sunday, March 11th at 2 PM**. The cost is \$15 per person, \$12 for members, \$8 for students; children, free.

Spirits and Spiritualists, a walking tour of Laurel Hill Cemetery. Along this tour, we will stop at the resting place of Catherine Drinkhouse Smith, whose monument proclaims her as "one of the best mediums of our time," and at the grave of Adam Seybert, whose last will and testament allocated a large sum to the University of Pennsylvania for a

study of the truths of spiritualism. We will also visit the grave of Horace H. Furness, the Shakespeare scholar who led an official inquiry into the claims of spiritualists, and the hillside tomb of Elisha Kent Kane, the famed arctic explorer who scoffed at spiritualism but who fell in love with America's most beautiful young medium. The tour will take place on **Sunday, March 11th at 2:00 PM**. The cost is \$15 per person, \$12 for members, \$8 for students; children, free.

Laurel Hill Cemetery: The Underground Museum is located at 3822 Ridge Avenue in Philadelphia. For reservations or information, please call 215-228-8200, email tours@thelaurelhillcemetery.org, or visit www.theundergroundmuseum.org.

Event: Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts

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**Facets of Mount Auburn: Art and Architecture**, presented by David Dearing. **March 1, 2007, 6:00 PM**. Dearing, *Susan Mores Hilles Curator of Paintings and Sculpture at the Boston Athenaeum*, will concentrate on American NeoClassic Sculptors and their Patrons at Mount Auburn Cemetery, 1820-1870.

This event is part of Mount Auburn Cemetery's lecture series "Facets of Mount Auburn: Celebrating 175 Years of a Boston Jewel."

For more information or to register to attend visit: [www.mountauburn.org](http://www.mountauburn.org).

### **Connecticut Gravestone Network Symposium**

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 Reminder: The 2007 Connecticut Gravestone Network symposium will be held Saturday, March 31 - 9 AM to 4 PM, at the South Senior Center, 70 Canterbury St., East Hartford, Connecticut.

There will be lectures, displays and exhibits from various historic groups. AGS will be there.

For more information, visit www.ctgravestones.com.

Article: Cemetery Discovered in Lyman, Maine

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 The article, linked below, is to *The Portland Press Herald*. A Soldier from the War of 1812 is in this recently discovered cemetery.

[The Portland Press Herald](#)

### **Article: 'Talking Tombstone' Installed in New York**

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 The article, linked below, is to STLtoday.com. It is about a recently erected tombstone that shows a video about the deceased's life.

[STLtoday.com](#)

Article: Residents Purchase Historic Cemetery in Fairhope, Alabama

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 The article, linked below, is to al.com. It is about a group of Fairhope area residents who recently purchased the historic Point Clear Confederate Rest Cemetery.

[al.com](#)

**Website to Check Out**

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The following website was recommended by an AGS member.

[www.newhavencenterchurch.org/crypt.html](http://www.newhavencenterchurch.org/crypt.html) describes the history of the New Haven Crypt in Connecticut.

**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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