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## Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

Issue #58

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**2008 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting**



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**2008 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting  
June 17-22, 2008  
Hampshire College Amherst, Massachusetts**

2008 Conference Logo-  
Detail from headstone of  
Jonathan Ingram,  
Amherst, Massachusetts

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

In just a few months, we will be meeting at Hampshire College, in the Pioneer Valley region of Western Massachusetts -- an area where one can view a considerable variety of gravestone styles and materials within a short drive of the conference site. For an historical overview of the area and a preview of the conference schedule, please go to [www.gravestonestudies.org](http://www.gravestonestudies.org) and click on AGS Conferences.

For a virtual tour of the Hampshire College campus and environs, please click on [www.hampshire.edu](http://www.hampshire.edu).

As usual, AGS will offer on-campus lodging and meals, lecture sessions and other events at college facilities. For a guide to other local attractions, and a list of off-campus lodging options, click on [www.amherstarea.com](http://www.amherstarea.com). Note: if you plan to lodge off-campus, PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY--the Amherst area is a very popular destination!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. Alan Swedlund, Professor emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst--author of the forthcoming book, *Shadow in the Valley: A Cultural History of Illness, Death and Loss in New England, 1840-1916*, to be published by the University of Massachusetts Press.

[CALL FOR PAPERS AND PARTICIPATION SESSIONS](#)

[2008 CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS](#)

[CALL FOR FORBES AND OAKLEY AWARDS](#)

**AGS 2008 Conference--Suggested Reading**

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Getting ready to attend the 2008 AGS Annual Conference? Prepare for your trip with the following books. They are all available in [the AGS Bookstore](#).

***Holyoke, Massachusetts: Stories Carved in Stone* and *West Springfield, Massachusetts: Stories Carved in Stone*, By Rusty Clark**

***Captors and Captives: The 1704 French and Indian Raid on Deerfield***

By Evan Haefeli and Kevin Sweeney (autographed by Kevin Sweeney!)

### Query: Badge-Shaped Gravestones



This query and photo comes from Roxy Bone. She writes: "I just located my ancestors, buried in North Andover, Massachusetts. Their gravestones are in the shape of badges. The superintendent at the cemetery said he assumes they were constables. They originated from Northern Ireland. Can anyone tell me more about this type of gravestone?"

### Query: Unusual Structure in a Quebec Cemetery



This query comes from Nancy Adgent. She writes: "I would like AGS members' help in identifying this structure. I saw another one in a cemetery about 200 miles southeast of this one, both in Quebec province. It appears to be a stove encased in concrete and stone with the wood "roof." It looks too small to be an early crematorium. Both were on the outer edge of the cemeteries."

### Rapid Gravestone Deterioration, Part III

In the November 2007 and January 2008 issues of the *e-Newsletter*, we posted a query and follow up responses regarding gravestone deterioration. To read the original query and responses, [please click here.](#)

We have one more follow up response from Howard Wellman:

"Thank you for the update to the query posted by Mr Luti. I have read the other responses. Ms. Curley (who I know from the ACLT) is referring to D/2, an architectural biocide. It has slight surfactant qualities, but principally it is used to kill algae, lichens, and mold. It is considered non-toxic to higher plant-forms and animals. Its active ingredient is a quaternary ammonium chloride bactericide similar to that found in anti-

bacterial hand soaps.

This product is sold by Cathedral Stone, Inc. Use by qualified & experienced personnel is recommended so as not to 'overdose' the stone by over-use. My company is happy to consult with and train volunteers on how to best apply this procedure.

Ms. Sawtelle's comments re: bleaching are also very good - I hope they reach a wide audience. Unfortunately, common chlorine bleach is something that all too many people reach for when cleaning stonework...

Sincerely,  
Howard Wellman, \_\_\_\_\_

### **Connecticut Gravestone Network Symposium**

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The 2008 Connecticut Gravestone Network symposium will be held Saturday, April 5th at the South Senior Center, 70 Canterbury St., East Hartford, Connecticut.

There will be lectures:

- Irving Slavid from the Monument Conservation Collaborative will do a session on cleaning and repair
- Robert Young will be discussing White Bronze markers
- and more!

Plus: displays, exhibits and sales tables from various historic groups.

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

### **National Preservation Institute Cemetery Preservation Seminar**

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The National Preservation Institute, a nonprofit organization founded in 1980, educates those involved in the management, preservation, and stewardship of our cultural heritage. The 2008 National Preservation Institute seminar schedule is now available online at [www.npi.org](http://www.npi.org).

#### **Cemetery Preservation**

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. This seminar will be held:

**April 7-8, 2008, Austin, Texas** - This seminar is being held in cooperation with Chicora Foundation, Inc., the National Park Service, Intermountain Region, Save Austin's Cemeteries, and the Texas Historical Commission.

**September 15-16, 2008, Jacksonville, Florida** - This seminar is being held in cooperation with Cemetery Recovery & Preservation Trust of Jacksonville, Inc. and Chicora Foundation, Inc.

Both seminars are offered in conjunction with:

### **Cemetery Landscapes: A Practical Guide to Care and Maintenance**

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. This seminar will be held: **April 9, 2008 - Austin, Texas and September 17 - Jacksonville, Florida.**

Agendas for these seminars, registration forms, and details are available at [www.npi.org](http://www.npi.org).

### **2008 Oregon Heritage Conference**

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 May 4-6, Eugene, Oregon. Sponsored by the Oregon Heritage Commission. "Go the Distance! Sustain Oregon's Heritage" is the theme of the 2008 Oregon Heritage Conference. The conference will capture that theme with workshops, walking and bicycle tours, seminars and meetings at heritage sites in and around Eugene. Topics include:

- Cemetery Care
- Strengthening Local Preservation
- New Archaeological Discoveries
- and more!

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

### **Asa Ames Exhibit at the American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY**

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**April 15 - September 14, 2008**, "Asa Ames: Occupation Sculpturing" is the first exhibition entirely devoted to three-dimensional portraits of family, neighbors, and friends carved by the artist between 1847 and his death in 1851. Usually discussed within the genre of ship and trade figure carving, the sculptures will be considered within a historical relationship to the art of memorial carvings of children and the rural cemetery movement that was burgeoning in the 1840s. Although his oeuvre was tragically small (the artist died of tuberculosis at the age of 27), this exquisite group represents some of the most beautiful and sensitive American sculptures of the nineteenth century.

For more information visit [www.folkartmuseum.org](http://www.folkartmuseum.org).

### **Lecture: "Unearthing Resources: Waking Up Cemetery Tours," Nashville, Tennessee**

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 The Southern Archivists 2008 Conference in Nashville will include this lecture by AGS Member Nancy Adgent on Thursday, March 27 at 11:20 AM. For information about the conference, please visit [the Southern Archivists Conference website](#).

### **News and Events from Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts**

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**MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY'S NEW VISITORS CENTER  
 TO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC MAY 3, 2008**

Mount Auburn Cemetery has been an outdoor museum and more for almost two centuries. Now, with the opening of its new Visitors Center on May 3rd, tourists, school children, bird watchers, historians, and many others will have a context for what they are seeing within the 175 acre garden cemetery, the thousands of monuments, statues, and artwork throughout its beautiful landscaped grounds. The Center inaugurates a new chapter in Mount Auburn's commitment to interpretation and education and will be located in Story Chapel, just beyond the Mount Auburn Street gate. It will be open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. except when there are burials on the grounds. It will be closed on Sundays between November and March.

### **February Events:**

#### **Saturday, February 2, 2:00 PM**

**"Discover Mount Auburn"** - a walking tour. This 1.5-mile walking tour will focus on stories of history, monuments, and the lives of those buried here. Admission: \$10.

#### **Tuesday, February 5, 6:00 PM**

**"Mount Auburn Cemetery and Landscapes of Memory" - a conversation at the Massachusetts Historical Society.** This discussion will be about the roles of cemeteries and other landscapes in preserving family, community and national memory. It will be led by Bill Clendaniel, President, Mount Auburn, Blanche M. G. Linden, author of *Silent City On A Hill*, and Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, President, Foundation for Landscape Studies and author of *Landscape Design: A Cultural and Architectural History*. Copies of *Silent City* will be available for purchase. Location: the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston. Admission is free, but advanced registration is required by calling the Massachusetts Historical Society at (617) 646-0560.

#### **Friday, February 8, 6:30 PM**

##### ***Silent City* Celebration in Harvard Square**

**Author Event, 6:30 - 7:30 PM.** Blanche M. G. Linden will discuss *Silent City On A Hill* and sign copies of her newly revised book at The Harvard Book Store during this special event. Admission: Free.

#### **Tuesday, February 14, 10:00 AM**

**Mount Auburn Book Club.** Would you like to combine your passion for books with your love of Mount Auburn Cemetery? You can by joining the new Mount Auburn Book Club! Each month, we will read a different book, fiction as well as non-fiction, that speaks to one of Mount Auburn's many facets - history, horticulture, nature, or the lives of those commemorated here. Admission: Free.

#### **Saturday, February 23, 10:00 AM**

##### **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Birthday Celebration: "Longfellow's Sonnets"**

Celebrate Longfellow's birthday with a dramatic presentation featuring the poet's renowned sonnets. Longfellow is credited with writing some of the best sonnets in American literature and during the presentation several of these works will be read and discussed aloud.

##### **Wreath-laying at the Longfellow Family Lot.**

After the indoor program, we will hold a short wreath-laying ceremony at Longfellow's grave on Indian Ridge Path and then return to Story Chapel for birthday cake and conversation. Admission: Free.

The Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery, Mount Auburn Cemetery, 580 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA. Call (617) 607-1981 for information.

[www.mountauburn.org](http://www.mountauburn.org)

### **March Tours: Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

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**Saturday, March 15th at 2:00 PM:** *In Heaven B'fore the Devil Knows You're Dead*, a walking tour of Laurel Hill Cemetery. Afterwards, visit the historic Gatehouse, where the beer will be plenty and the 'spirits' will be merry. We are pleased to acknowledge Yuengling Brewery as the proud sponsor of this St. Paddy's Day event! The program cost is \$25 per person. As space is limited, advance reservations are requested. Please call (215) 228-8200.

**Sunday, March 30th at 2:00 PM:** *Classy Broads and Daring Dames*, a walking tour of Laurel Hill Cemetery. This tour is in celebration of Women's History Month, and will be guided by Carol Yaster, independent researcher, archivist and certified authority on Laurel Hill Cemetery. The program cost is \$15 per person, with discounts for students and members; children are free.

Laurel Hill Cemetery: The Underground Museum is located at 3822 Ridge Avenue in Philadelphia. For more information visit [www.theundergroundmuseum.org](http://www.theundergroundmuseum.org).

### ***Epitaphs Magazine Issue #6 Now Available***

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 Now Available: The winter issue (#6) of *Epitaphs Magazine*. It features:

- The 2007 Taphophile of the Year ... Dusty Smith! Plus runner-up ... Beth Santore! Congratulations, ladies!
- An interview with photographer John Thomas Grant
- Mount Wood Cemetery, Wheeling, W.V. by Andra Edgar
- White Bronze Monuments by Dusty Smith
- Infrared photography by Catmoves
- Photography and poem by Kay Inman
- History lesson on coffins by Dusty Smith
- Cemetery in Morcote, Switzerland--photos by Heather Johnson
- Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, IN--photos by Marty Davis
- Why I'm a Taphophile by Polly Yuill
- and more!

Visit [www.TheCemeteryClub.com](http://www.TheCemeteryClub.com) to get your copy today!

### **Job Posting: Historic Congressional Cemetery, Washington DC**

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**Executive Director  
 Historic Congressional Cemetery**

The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery (APHCC) is a non-profit 501-c-3 organization located in Washington DC. The mission is to "preserve, interpret and honor" the hallowed grounds and the spirit of those buried at this National Register of Historic Places site. The vision is three fold: to serve as an active burial ground, to carry best practices forward into a Center for Cemetery Inquiry, and to serve the local community as a vibrant and environmentally friendly open space.

Current projects and priorities include building and grounds conservation, archival research, education and outreach efforts including a newly formed docent program, student environmental partnerships, and gardening and landscape programming. APHCC's board is composed of local community leaders. For more information, please visit [www.congressionalcemetery.org](http://www.congressionalcemetery.org).

In this newly created position, the Executive Director will provide overall leadership for all operations of the organization and manage Historic Congressional Cemetery, a 32 acre historic site located on Capitol Hill. The executive director should have successful management experience and have demonstrated the capacity to be engaged in institution building while providing strategic, visionary and compelling leadership. S/He will play an important role in communicating the mission, maintaining the continuous improvement of all administrative functions, promoting staff and volunteer teamwork and supervising overall budget and financial management to ensure the preservation and interpretation of the grounds, markers and monuments and the related buildings and amenities. It is expected that successful candidates will have one or more degrees in the areas that are relevant to the duties of the position and the mission of the organization and have 3-5 years of leadership/management experience.

For complete position description, please see [www.congressionalcemetery.org](http://www.congressionalcemetery.org). Send resume and cover letter to [staff@congressionalcemetery.org](mailto:staff@congressionalcemetery.org) or submit by mail: Attention: Patrick Crowley, 1801 E Street, SE, Washington, DC, 20003.

#### **Article: "Old City Cemetery sets aside place for deceased pets"**

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This article, posted on [newsadvance.com](http://newsadvance.com), is about the recent opening of a Scatter Garden for Beloved Animals on the grounds of Lynchburg, Virginia's Old City Cemetery.

#### **Article: "Tombstone Blues"**

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This article, posted on [dailyherald.com](http://dailyherald.com) is about a Chicago musician's search for the gravesite of Will Shade, the Memphis guitarist and harmonica player who died in 1966.

#### **Article: Vandalism Suspect Apprehended**

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In the January e-newsletter we included a link to an article about recent anti-Semitic vandalism in Westlawn Cemetery in Norridge, Illinois.

A suspect has been apprehended, as reported in the [examiner.com](http://examiner.com).

#### **Article: "Families join together to save aging cemetery"**

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This article, posted on [www.augustachronicle.com](http://www.augustachronicle.com), is about Cottage Cemetery in south Augusta, Georgia and the a nonprofit group that is working to save it.

#### **Article: "A Virtual Plot Twist for Forsaken Cemetery"**

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This article, posted on [boston.com](http://boston.com), is about a burial ground in Dracut, Massachusetts that has been reconstructed online.

To visit the virtual cemetery, [please click here](#).

#### **Featured Website**

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Please take a moment to check out the following website recommended by AGS member Bob Young. He writes: "Here's a great cemetery website from Prairie Home Cemetery, Waukesha, Wisconsin. It has a fully searchable database of interments and lot owners as well as grid maps of the cemetery."

<http://www.prairiehomecemetery.com/>

**Contact Information**

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

[www.gravestonestudies.org](http://www.gravestonestudies.org)

(413) 772-0836

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