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## Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

Issue #69

January 2009

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### 2009 AGS Annual Meeting and Conference

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2009 AGS Annual Meeting and Conference  
June 24-28, 2009  
Union College  
Schenectady, New York

2009 Conference Logo  
The Veeder Monument  
Vale Cemetery, Schenectady, NY

### Registration is open!

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

### CALL FOR PAPERS

Proposals are solicited for scholarly papers, 20 minutes in length, to be presented during the evening and daytime lecture sessions. Please send your proposal and 250-word abstract by February 1, 2009 to: Program Chair: Dr. Ian Brown, [ibrown@bama.ua.edu](mailto: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, 2009 to: Participation Sessions Chair: Frank Calidonna, [frankc@twcny.rr.com](mailto:frankc@twcny.rr.com).

*Please post information about the conference on your website!*

Would any AGS members who have websites be willing to include information about the AGS Conference on your site? Please email us at [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org) if you need conference information to post.

### **Attention Students-2009 Conference Scholarship Announcement**

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Any student who submits an article to the AGS *Quarterly*, which is accepted and published, will receive a \$100 scholarship to attend the AGS conference.

Article-length manuscripts can be submitted to the AGS office at any time. In the event that it is published and you decide to go to the conference, simply attach a photocopy of your student ID to the registration package when you send it in. And be sure to subtract \$100 from the total fees.

You can't beat the deal - A published article and scholarship aid for the conference!

To submit a manuscript or for more information, please contact the AGS office at [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org).

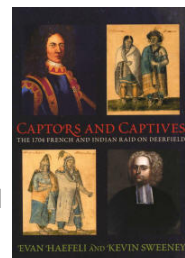
### **Items for Sale in the AGS Bookstore--While Supplies Last!**



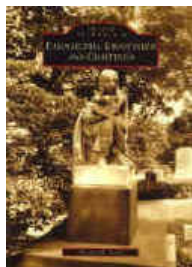
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*Boston's Copp's Hill Burying Ground Guide*

by Charles Chauncey Wells - Regularly \$16.95, [Sale Price for AGS Members: \\$15.95](#).

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



Kevin Sweeney - Regularly \$21.00, [Sale Price for AGS Members: \\$20.00.](#)



*Philadelphia Graveyards and Cemeteries* by Thomas H. Keels - Regularly \$16.95, [Sale Price for AGS Members: \\$15.00.](#)

For more information, or to order any of the above titles, please visit [the AGS Bookstore.](#)

Also on sale: *Hex Signs: Pennsylvania Dutch Barn Symbols & Their Meaning* by Don Yoder and Thomas E. Graves - Regularly \$16.75, [Sale Price for AGS Members: \\$14.50.](#) This book offers insight into various forms of hex-sign decorations (found on some Pennsylvania Dutch gravestones), their geographical spread, European origins, and evolution in Pennsylvania. The authors explore the meaning of the symbols by examining evidence from popular writers, scholars, and contemporary hex-sign painters. To order this book, please e-mail [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org).

**Query: Picture of a Zinc Angel**

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This query comes from Sue Lorraine. She writes: "I am looking for a zinc angel picture. In our Grandview Cemetery, Whitesboro, NY, there is a missing zinc angel and I would like to know what it might have looked like. I have only seen all-zinc set-ups--has anyone pictures or descriptions of zinc paired with something else? The curious thing is it was mounted on a two-step marble base, which remains standing. There is a small angel on a tall zinc tower in the next county but nothing else in our area. Would anyone send me a photo of zinc angels they have seen?

[slorraine1@roadrunner.com](mailto:slorraine1@roadrunner.com)."

**New DVD: *Photographs of Lakeville, Massachusetts Gravestones, 1711-2003***

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Urn and Willow Publishing announces the release of the new DVD, *Photographs of Lakeville, Massachusetts Gravestones 1711-2003*, a pictorial companion to the book: *Lakeville, Massachusetts*

*Gravestone Inscriptions 1711-2003*. This publication is by AGS Member Jean Douillette.

This DVD-ROM contains a master index and over six thousand photographs of the gravestones listed in the book *Lakeville, Massachusetts Gravestone Inscriptions 1711-2003*. It is a complete collection of photographs of every inscribed gravestone present in 2003 within the thirty-one cemeteries in the Town of Lakeville. Also included are close-ups of carvings, etchings, lettering, footstones, and other significant attributes, if present for each gravestone.

For more information or to order, please visit: [www.urnandwillow.com](http://www.urnandwillow.com).

**New Publication: *Cemetery Heritage in Quebec: A Handbook***

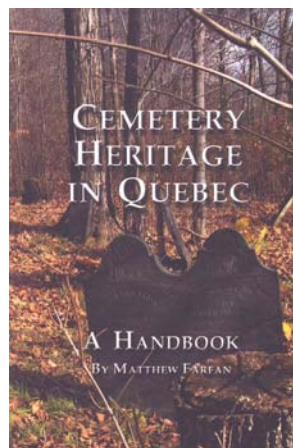
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The publication, *Cemetery Heritage in Quebec: A Handbook*, has just been released. Published by the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network, and written by Matthew Farfan, project leader of QAHN's Cemetery Heritage Inventory and Restoration Initiative (CHIRI), the book is available in softcover format.

This illustrated, 52-page handbook features a wealth of information on cemetery law in Quebec, cemetery associations, registered charities, fundraising, municipal citation of heritage sites, cemetery maintenance, gravestone repair, recruiting volunteers, and much more.

As rural populations dwindle, assuring the care of historic cemeteries is becoming increasingly challenging. This handbook regards cemeteries "not merely as repositories of the dead, but as tangible links to the past, a part of our heritage to be cherished." It is designed as a reference guide for cemetery trustees and caretakers, and as a starting point for everyone interested in the preservation of Quebec's pioneer heritage.

To order a copy of *Cemetery Heritage in Quebec: A Handbook*, send check or money order for \$16.00 (includes shipping and handling to anywhere in Canada or the U.S.A.) to QAHN, 400-257 Queen, Sherbrooke (Lennoxville), Quebec, Canada J1M 1K7.

For more information, contact QAHN at (819) 564-9595 or at: [home@qahn.org](mailto:home@qahn.org).



**New Publication: *Green Oasis in Brooklyn: The Evergreens Cemetery 1849-2008***

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*Green Oasis in Brooklyn: The Evergreens Cemetery 1849-2008* is a new book by AGS Member John Rousmaniere.

Book Description: Noted historian John Rousmaniere traces the history of the Evergreens Cemetery in Brooklyn, NY (est. 1850). Beginning with the land itself before the cemetery was founded, his engaging text shows how the forces that shaped the history of New York--population growth, immigration and growing wealth--also shaped the Evergreens. He also describes the beautiful monuments and the fascinating characters that are buried there. Ken Druse's stunning color photographs demonstrate the beauty of the site and the monuments.

To order, visit: [www.nbnbooks.com](http://www.nbnbooks.com).

Rousmaniere is also the author of *The Evergreens - The Story of a Brooklyn Cemetery, 1850-2007*, published in 2007.

[The Evergreens Cemetery Website](#)

***Epitaphs Magazine, Issue #8, Now Available***

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The new issue features articles and photography on:

- Chippiannock Cemetery's Storm of the Century (Minda Powers-Douglas)
- What Is a Chrismon Anyway? (Dusty Smith)
- The Lost Children (Colleen Loeffler)
- Digging Into Cemeteries: The Growing Popularity of Cemetery Blogging
- Salzburg's Gardens of the Dead (Michele Jankowski)
- Cameras 101 (Joshua Inayat)
- Necropolis (Ryan Coffman)
- Photos by Steven Hernandez
- Taphophiles are Multiplying Like Rabbits: The Story Behind the Association of Gravestone Rabbits (William "Terry" Thornton)
- Photos by Mike Smith
- An Interview with Buddy Phaneuf of the Internet Cremation Society
- Why Should We Care? The International Association of Cemetery Preservationists, Inc.
- The Lost Children (Colleen Loeffler)
- The Crypt Keeper (Giselle Ladoceur-Borowicz)
- Book reviews
- I "Heart" Cemeteries (photography by Alzi Clanton, Polly Yuill, Jimmy Short, Tammy Jo Fuller, Ryan Coffman, Steven Hernandez)
- Why I'm a Taphophile (Peter Denniston, New Zealand)
- Back cover photo by Polly Yuill

To learn more and to place your order, visit: [www.TheCemeteryClub.com](http://www.TheCemeteryClub.com).

**Recent Publication: *New Jersey Cemeteries and Tombstones***

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*New Jersey Cemeteries and Tombstones*, published in September 2008, is by AGS members Richard Veit and Mark Nonestied.

Book Description: In this sweeping tour of New Jersey's burial sites, from the seventeenth century through the dawn of the twenty-first, readers will discover how headstones are much more than place markers for the deceased. From the earliest memorials that were once used by Native Americans, to some of the elaborate structures of the present day, historians Richard Veit and Mark Nonestied use grave markers to tell an off-beat account of New Jersey's history that is both fascinating and unique.

For more information or to order, please visit the publisher's website:  
[http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/acatalog/nj\\_cemeteries\\_and\\_tombstones.html](http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/acatalog/nj_cemeteries_and_tombstones.html)

**Marker Dedication: Alpine Cemetery, Alpine, New Jersey**

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On October 25, 2008, the Bergen County Historical Society and the Alpine Historical Society hosted the Alpine Cemetery Marker Dedication. The marker recognizes the Cemetery's historical significance.

The Marker Program, was established to identify historic buildings, cemeteries, roads and sites in Bergen County.

[www.bergencountyhistory.org/Pages/events.html](http://www.bergencountyhistory.org/Pages/events.html)

**Grove Street Cemetery, New Haven, Connecticut**

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Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven, Connecticut now has an [online, searchable database](#) of their 14,000+ burial records.

Their website, [www.grovestreetcemetery.org](http://www.grovestreetcemetery.org), also features their tour schedule, a slideshow of images from the cemetery, an email list and downloadable versions of their print newsletter.

**News from the Gravestone Girls**

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The Worcester, Massachusetts-based group, the Gravestone Girls, create decorative artwork using the images carved on old New England gravestones, and teach gravestone rubbing classes.

They've recently created a blog, and write:

"If you are interested in receiving email updates from our blog, please sign up at the link below.

[http://www.feedburner.com/fb/a/emailverifySubmit?feedId=2853063&loc=en\\_US](http://www.feedburner.com/fb/a/emailverifySubmit?feedId=2853063&loc=en_US)

In the next few weeks we'll be updating the blog with lots of new info, products, and tales!

Keeping Our Dead Alive,

The Gravestone Girls  
Brenda, Maggie & Melissa

[www.gravestonegirls.com](http://www.gravestonegirls.com)."

**More Information about Spirit Houses**



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AGS member Dina Carson sent this photo to Mike Bieling in response to his information about a Spirit House on the Alaska Highway, noted in the December 2008 *e-Newsletter*. Dina's photo was taken in Eklutna, Alaska.

She wrote: "My understanding is that the grave houses were a mixing of cultures between the Athabaskans and the Russian Orthodox church." Mike responded with the following: "There were many converts in the 19th century in places where the

Russians had settled. You're certainly on to something when it comes to the similarity in construction between the grave houses you photographed in Alaska, and the one from inland. The ones you saw resemble more what we think of as a 'grave house' (low wood frame structures that have a profile similar to a 'sarcophagus' style stone monument), where I am located further south along the Pacific Coast: whereas the example in the Yukon looks like it was built in very much the same fashion, but is as high as a shed, almost tall enough for a man to stand inside.

I'm assuming that the Christian influence would mean that the shelters in Eklutna cover conventional interments, but do you know whether pre-contact Alaskan shelters were originally intended to protect bodies exposed on the surface, which I believe was sometimes the case around here?"

**Origins and Growth of the Granite Industry, Barre, Vermont**

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During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, Barre, Vermont was transformed from a small, relatively quiet New England town into the "Granite City". Over the past year, Paul Wood, granite industry historian at the Vermont Granite Museum, has written a number of very informative articles on the history of Barre's granite industry for the *Barre Montpelier Times Argus*. Here are links to those articles:

Barre's granite timeline, going all the way back -- April 21, 2008

<http://www.timesargus.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080421/NEWS02/804210336/1003/NEWS02>

Barre's Scottish heritage: The first Scottish granite workers came in significant numbers . . . from Aberdeen -- December 1, 2008

<http://www.timesargus.com/article/20081201/NEWS02/812010348/1003/NEWS02>

Article on Granite Shed Architecture -- November 22, 2007

<http://www.mwrrr.org/forums/viewtopic.php?t=111>

Horses, Oxen and Granite -- January 7, 2008

<http://www.timesargus.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080107/NEWS02/801070357/1003/NEWS02>

For more, Google: Paul Wood, Barre granite

Submitted by Bob Drinkwater.

**Articles: African-American Graves to be relocated, Clayton County, GA**

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These articles are from the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* website. They are about Civil rights groups and families who are calling for a grand jury to investigate the Clayton County Commission's vote to allow 311 historic African-American graves to be relocated.

<http://www.ajc.com/search/content/metro/stories/2009/01/07/claygraves.html>

<http://www.ajc.com/search/content/2009/01/09/claygraves.html>

**Articles: Lost Cemetery Found in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin**

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The two articles below are about a forgotten cemetery that has been rediscovered in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

[Chippewa County Poor Farm Gravestones Refurbished](#)

[Mower hits gravestone, finds neglected cemetery](#)

**Article: *Green Revolution Hits Dead End In Georgia Cemetery Proposal***

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This article is posted on [the Wall Street Journal's website](#).

**Event: ICCFA Annual Convention & Exposition**

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The International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association (ICCFA) will hold its 2009 Annual Convention and Exposition April 20-23, 2009 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Topics include:

- National Cemetery Administration Initiatives
- Funerals and Interment in China
- How to Value a Funeral Home or Cemetery: A Hands-on Workshop
- "The Flexible Cemetery" Today's dominant trends in cemetery design

For more information and to register, visit [www.iccfaconvention.com](http://www.iccfaconvention.com).

### **February Events: Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA**

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**'Til Death Do Us Part: The Love Stories of Laurel Hill**, Saturday, February 14th at 2:00 PM. The event will be guided by Gwen Kaminski, the cemetery's Director of Development and Programming.

The program cost is \$25 per person. As space is limited, advance reservations are requested. Please call (215) 228-8200, or email [tours@thelaurehillcemetery.org](mailto:tours@thelaurehillcemetery.org), to reserve a space for you and your beloved.

**Designing for the dead: Laurel Hill's Art and Architecture**, Sunday, February 22nd at 2:00 PM. Join us on a walking tour of Laurel Hill Cemetery, where we will see monuments created by early architects, like John Notman, William Strickland, Frank Furness, John J. McArthur, C.C. Zantzinger, Horace Trumbauer and Napoleon LeBrunas, as well as artists such as Alexander Milne Calder, his son, Alexander Stirling Calder, and sculptress Harriet Frishmuth, whose works grace many of Laurel Hill's memorials. Tour stops will also include the gravesites of portraitist Thomas Sully and watercolorist William Trost Richards.

The cost is \$15 per person, \$12 for members, \$8 for students, children's admission is free.

**Knocks, Taps & Raps: The Spirits & Spiritualists of Laurel Hill**, Saturday, February 28th at 2:00 PM. This tour 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 at 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 cost is \$15 per person, \$12 for members, \$8 for students, children's admission is free.

