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## Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

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## AGS Conference and Annual Meeting 2009

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**Save the dates: June 24-28, 2009**

The 2009 AGS conference, at Union College in Schenectady, New York, coincides with the 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's sail up the Hudson River. The city of Albany and environs are pulling out all the stops to make the Albany area THE place to be next summer.

Historic Albany Rural Cemetery and Victorian Oakwood Cemetery in Troy, NY are two of the cemeteries we'll tour next summer, plus guided, self-guided tours and several museums. A replica of Hudson's ship the "Half Moon" will be docked in Albany for the summer.

You're going to love the dorm--private bathrooms and temperature control--and all activities under one roof. One mile from Union College is beautiful Vale Cemetery in Schenectady, NY, where we'll have 2 days of conservation workshops, plus basic and advanced foil impressions and rubbing workshops. See you there!

## Wanted: Examples of Zinc Marker



David Fischer of the Southport Land & Commercial Company wrote in with this query regarding a zinc marker that his company would like to replace.

"In the 1950's or 1960's a rather large zinc grave marker from the 1870s was vandalized and all but its base was stolen from a cemetery located near Antioch, California.

We have raised \$25,000 to have a replacement cast, and the government agency in charge of the cemetery will consider allowing the marker to be re-cast if we can find exact duplicates of each component of our monument in other cemeteries. We need to find an existing marker of the same type to work off. We know of only one photo of the old monument (see photo to left) and it doesn't show enough detail.

If exact duplicates are found, we would send someone out to take measurements and photos, from which a pattern maker could make up the casting pattern.

An internet search did reveal one good prospect for our middle section, but we can't find any examples of our upper sections--an obelisk and a top "cap" piece.

Here are a few other facts:

- (1) Our monument was likely ordered out of a catalog from the Monumental Bronze Company in Bridgeport, Connecticut.
- (2) The "middle piece" of our monument appears to be the same as the Willson grave

marker in Salem Chapel Cemetery in Pleasant Township, Indiana.

(3) According to Donald S. Hall, Trustee of the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery and an expert on zinc monuments, our monument dates from 1874 to 1879--a very early example from the Monumental Bronze Company. This is consistent with our information, which indicates the monument was for miners killed in an accident in 1874 or 1876.

(4) We have also learned that the leaf design on our monument is the same as the design on the "Our Willie" marker in Rochester's Mt. Hope Cemetery (However, I don't have a photo of the "Our Willie" marker, so I can't express any opinion).

(5) Also, per Donald Hall, finding a foundry willing to cast pure (99%) zinc in a sand mold may be a problem. I am told that most zinc casting today is done with alloys of about 90% zinc.

We would appreciate any leads or photos of similar monuments--the project depends upon finding examples of the upper sections.

Sincerely,  
David Fischer"

### **Association for Preservation Technology Conference**

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Association for Preservation Technology (APT) International's 2008 Annual Conference will be held October 13-17, 2008 in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

On October 15th, from 2:15-4:15 there will be Paper Session and Panel Discussion about cemeteries. The program will include:

"Conservation at Two Urban Cemeteries: King's Chapel Burying Ground in Boston, and the Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague." Ivan Myjer, Building and Monument Conservation, Arlington, MA, USA; Joshua Craine, Daedalus, Inc., Watertown, MA, USA; and Petr Justa, GEMA ART GROUP, Prague, Czech Republic.

"Mount Auburn Cemetery: The Evolution of Preservation Thinking and Practice." David Gallagher, Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA, USA

"Comparative Study of Commercially Available Cleaners for Use on Federally-Issued Headstones." Jason Church, National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, Natchitoches, LA, USA

Register today--discounted registration rates expire on August 17.

For more information and to register, please visit APT's website: [www.apti.org](http://www.apti.org).

### **Upcoming Cemetery Monument Conservation Workshops**

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The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) will be holding two workshops this fall:

**Cemetery Landscape Preservation Workshop**, September 16-17, 2008 at the American Cemetery in Natchitoches, Louisiana. The registration deadline is August 12.

**Cemetery Monument Conservation Workshop**, October 7-9, 2008 at the Antientest Burial Ground, New London, Connecticut. Special focus on slate and brownstone. This three-day workshop will focus on hands-on techniques in a small group setting.

For more information, visit <http://www.ncptt.nps.gov/>. This site also features conservation demonstration videos. Topics include cleaning and resetting gravestones and iron fence repair.

### **Historic Texas Cemeteries Symposium**

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August 23, 2008, 8:45-3:15 PM at the Tracy Gee Community Center, Houston, Texas. Presented by the Harris County Historical Commission and the Houston History Association, in cooperation with the Texas Historical Commission.

The agenda:

*Cemetery Preservation* - Gerron Hite, THC Cemetery Preservation State Coordinator  
As Texas' economy and population expands, there is an increasing demand for the development of land for residential, agricultural, and commercial uses. Historic cemeteries are threatened in rural as well as in urban settings. Learn how individuals interested in local culture and history and committed to saving the physical remnants of their community's heritage can prevail.

*RIP Guardian Program* - Anne Shelton, THC RIP Program Coordinator  
The letters RIP are commonly found carved on gravemarkers, bidding the deceased an earthly wish for eternal rest in peace. RIP is also one of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) cemetery preservation initiatives: Record, Investigate, Protect. Learn how the RIP Guardian program assists cemetery preservation volunteers and how to get help for your project.

*Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) Designation* - Annette Bethke, HTC Program Specialist  
The THC developed the Historic Texas Cemetery designation program to address the problems of destruction, neglect and illegal removal of historic cemeteries. Official recognition of these family and community landmarks highlights their importance and hopefully will encourage further preservation. During this session, THC staff will walk you through the HTC process and application step by step.

Houston Attorney Donald Burger will discuss Texas Cemetery Law and field Q&A.

Pre-registration is required (no registrations at the door).  
Fee: \$25 if before August 8; August 9 to August 15th, \$35.

For more information, please visit the [Texas Historical Commission website](#).

### **Summer Tours: Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester, New York**

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**Free Guided Walking Tours** Every Saturday and Sunday: May-October.

Saturday tours begin at 1:00 PM

Sunday tours begin at 2:00 PM and 2:30 PM. Tours begin at the North Gate House.

**Twilight Tours** Thursdays at 7 PM, May 15 through August 7 (Fees: \$4/person, free to Friends of Mount Hope members). Visit the high points of the weekend tours and many sites never included on the public tours. Tours start at North Gate House with

free refreshments following the tour.

**Theme Tours in August** (\$4/person, free to Friends of Mount Hope members):

August 2, 2008- 1:30 PM - Civil War Tour

August 9, 2008 - 1:30 PM - Ice Cream Tour! Learn about Rochesterians involved with making and serving ice cream from the 1800s to the present. The tour concludes with ice cream for all!

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

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

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Discover Mount Auburn, August 2, 2-3:30. Admission: \$5 for Friends of Mount Auburn members, \$10 for others.

A Cambridge Discovery Days Walking Tour: The Natural Beauties of Sweet Auburn, August 9, 4-5:30 PM. Admission: free.

Birds, Butterflies and Botany, August 12, 7:30-9 AM, Admission: free.

Timeless and Still Available, August 13, 4-5:30 PM. Admission: free.

A Visit to Mount Auburn's Organic Cut-Flower Gardens, August 14, 2-3:30 PM, Admission: \$5 for Friends of Mount Auburn members, \$10 for others.

Summer Discovery Hike, August 15, 1-2:30 PM, Admission: \$5 for Friends of Mount Auburn members, \$10 for others.

Cambridge Discovery Days Walking Tour: Memories of Revolutionary Cambridge at Mount Auburn, August 16, 4-5:30 PM. Admission: free.

**Birdwalks:** Mount Auburn's Nighthawks, August 18, 19 and 25, 5:45-7:45 PM. Admission: \$5 for Friends of Mount Auburn members, \$10 for others.

For more information about Mount Auburn's Tours, please visit:

[http://www.mountauburn.org/visit\\_participate/](http://www.mountauburn.org/visit_participate/).

### **Announcement from Mount Auburn Cemetery:**

Bill Clendaniel, President of Mount Auburn Cemetery, retired on July 1, 2008 after 20 years of service. During his tenure, Bill has ensured the preservation of Mount Auburn, one of the country's most significant historic landscapes.

In honor of Bill's decades of leadership, and in recognition of the importance of preservation to the future of the Cemetery, the Trustees and Friends of Mount Auburn have established the Preservation Endowment Fund to conserve, restore, and protect the Cemetery's collections of architecture, monuments and archives.

To read more about Bill's work at Mount Auburn, please visit their website,

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

### **Connecticut Gravestone Network Updates**

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**Upcoming Tours:**

The Gilead Cemetery in Hebron, Connecticut: August 2nd, 10 AM to 4 PM.

Ancient Burying Ground in Downtown Hartford: Tours Mon. - Fri. Noon to 2 PM.

For more information, please visit the [Connecticut Gravestone Network Website](#)

### **Other Updates:**

Wintonbury Historical Society is looking to build a group of Friends of the Old Wintonbury Burying Ground

East Cemetery Meriden - again another movement is afoot to get a community effort to take back the East cemetery from encroaching woody boundaries. There is a link below, with a story and contact information.

[myrecordjournal.com](http://myrecordjournal.com)

**Article:** [Footstones to be Restored to Coventry Cemetery](#)

### **New Cemetery Friends Organization: Northfield, Massachusetts**

Friends of Northfield's Cemeteries is a new group organized by AGS Archivist Marie Ferré.

The group is conceived as an auxiliary to the town of Northfield, to provide preservation of it's unique historic heritage of early gravemarkers.

Upcoming programs are being planned.

### **Forthcoming Publication: *Green-Wood Cemetery***

Alexandra Mosca sent the following about her soon-to-be published book, *Green-Wood Cemetery*:

"My new book on the famed Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn will be published as part of Arcadia Publishing's *Images of America* series. In doing my research for the book, I came across scores of famous, not so famous and infamous New Yorkers and Americans buried in Green-Wood.

Naturally, some of the famous names - Currier and Ives, Steinway, Beecher, Newcomb, Squibb and Pfizer have been included in my book. In addition, I've included some lesser known, but no less compelling names including Eliza Burtis, sister of a famous 19th century actress, as well as poet William North, McEvers Bayard Brown, a founding member of Georgia's famed Jekyll Island Club, Auguste Renouard, the 'father of embalming' and Josephine Newcomb of Sophie Newcomb College. Each of the personalities have compelling stories, some of which I have developed in the book. The book is a photographic history of the cemetery from its beginning in 1838. The photographs are a mix of vintage shots of monuments and mausoleums, illustrious personages and cemetery scenes, along with some more recent gravestone photographs."

The publication date is September 29th, 2008. The book will be available from the publisher, [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com), or from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

### Monthly Funeral and Cemetery e-Newsletter

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 FuneralandCemeteryInfo.org, a non-profit organization that is committed to providing unbiased information about all aspects of the funeral service and cemetery industries, now has a monthly e-Newsletter featuring information about cemeteries, epitaphs, and funerary practices.

To subscribe, please visit their website, <http://www.funeralandcemeteryinfo.org/>, and click on "e-Newsletter signup."

### Website: Stone Quarries & Beyond

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 AGS Member Peggy Perazzo sent in this information about her website:

"My husband Pat and I have completed the section of our website on stone quarries, stone workers, and companies.

This section includes photographs of signed - and some unsigned - stones that I found in my search for information on California carvers and companies.

This section also includes research material provided by Leeanna M. Rossi, who researched the Gold Rush/Sacramento carvers and published the booklet, *Headstones of the Gold Rush Era: Sculpting Masterpieces in Marble*. Golden Notes, vol. 43, number 3, Fall 1997, Sacramento County Historical Society, Sacramento, California, 1997.

If you would like to see the material, you will find it at the URL below:

[California Stone Carver/Company section of Stone Quarries & Beyond website](http://www.stonequarriesandbeyond.com)

Peggy B. Perazzo  
 Stone Quarries and Beyond  
<http://quarriesandbeyond.org/index.html>."

### Website: Portsmouth, New Hampshire Graves

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 Please take a moment to check out the website [www.portsmoutholdgraves.org](http://www.portsmoutholdgraves.org). The site features information about the burial places of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, including:

- Preservation work in Portsmouth cemeteries
- Noteworthy gravestones in Portsmouth
- Information about the Portsmouth Cemetery Committee and the burial grounds they are maintaining
- Photos of individual monuments
- Links to articles about the burial grounds

### Website: Cemeteryscreenings.com

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[www.cemeteryscreenings.com](http://www.cemeteryscreenings.com) is the website for Cinespa, a film series showing movies

amid the graves of Hollywood's elite in the Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Los Angeles, California. Featured on the site is the screening schedule, press and a mailing list.

### Articles: Gravehouses

There are two articles about gravehouses in recent issues of *The Ozarks Mountaineer Magazine*. The first one is in the Jan/Feb 2008 issue, p. 49-52, and an update is in the May/June 2008 issue, p. 22. To order copies, go to this website: The Ozarks Mountaineer, [www.ozarksmountaineer.com](http://www.ozarksmountaineer.com).

The author of the article is AGS member Abby Burnett, who is at work on a book about funeral customs of the Arkansas Ozarks, 1850-1950.

Recently she also had another article "'My Soul From Out This Shadow Shall be Lifted Nevermore,' Nick Miller, Tombstone Carver, 1846-1898," published in the *Carroll County Historical Quarterly's* June 2008 issue. A second article on Miller and the carvers he trained (tentatively titled "Carroll County Carvers") is to appear in the September 2008 *Quarterly*.

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### Article and Website: Columbia Cemetery Conservation Corps

AGS Member Mary Reilly-McNellan sent in this information:

"Following is a link to a feature article about the Columbia Cemetery and the Columbia Cemetery Conservation Corps (CCCC) that appeared in the June 22, 2008 edition of the [Boulder Daily Camera](#) newspaper. The story also includes a video of some of the conservation work and an interactive map of the Cemetery.

The CCCC was established in 1999. Our gravemarker preservation work was recognized by the AGS in 2000, when we were the recipients of the Oakley Award. The CCCC is still going strong, and we have performed work on over 400 gravemarkers in this pioneer graveyard in Boulder, Colorado. I am also including a link to the Cemetery's website--it is [www.bouldercolorado.gov/columbia-cemetery](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/columbia-cemetery). The site is very cool--also interactive, with maps, biographical information, and much more."

### Article: Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia , Pennsylvania

This article is posted on the [Philadelphia Business Journal's website](#) and is about Laurel Hill's efforts to become an historic tourist destination.

### Article: *Hidden Heritage*, Scanlonville, South Carolina

This article, posted on [charlestoncitypaper.com](http://charlestoncitypaper.com), is about a recent legal battle between longtime residents and a developer regarding Scanlonville cemetery.

### Article: Smoky Mountain plots offer glimpse of the past

This article, posted on [knoxnews.com](http://knoxnews.com), is about archaeologist Erik Kreusch's work in cemeteries located in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

**Article: Preservationists and prisoners team to restore burial sites**

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This article, posted on [The Atlanta Journal-Constitution's website](#), is about volunteer members of the Douglas County Cemetery Preservation Commission who have been cleaning up abandoned and neglected cemeteries in Douglas County, Georgia.

**Article: "Cemeteries have new problem: metal theft"**

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This article, posted on [msnbc.com](#), is about increased thefts of metal ornaments from cemeteries. Connecticut Gravestone Network Executive Director Ruth Shapleigh-Brown is quoted in the article.

**Article: Shaker gravestones being given to museum**

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This article, posted on [wtnh.com](#), is about three Shaker gravemarkers that will be given to the Martha A. Parsons House Museum in Enfield, Connecticut.

**Contact Information**

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phone: 413-772-0836  
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