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# Association for Gravestone Studies e-newsletter

**Issue 29**  
**September 2005**

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**Reminder:** The AGS Fall Cemetery Tour will be **October 1** in Belchertown, Massachusetts. We'll be meeting at the South Cemetery on Route 181 at 10:30 a.m. We'll be also be visiting one or more cemeteries after lunch.

## **New Publication: Kansas Cemeteries in History**

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*Kansas Cemeteries in History* is a new publication edited by AGS member Al Hamscher. Many of you met him at this year's AGS annual meeting and conference in Halifax. The contents include:

- Cherished are the Dead: Changing Social Dimensions in a Kansas Cemetery, by Jerry More, Cynthia Blaker, and Grant Smith
- A Place Not Entirely of Sadness and Gloom: Oak Hill Cemetery and the Rural Cemetery Movement, by Cathy Ambler
- Landscape Architecture on the Prairie: The Work of H.W.S. Cleveland, by Nancy J. Volkman
- "Scant Excuse for the Headstone": The Memorial- Park Cemetery in Kansas, by Albert N. Hamscher

It will be available October 1st from [KS Publishing, Inc.](#) for \$12.95 plus shipping.

## **October Presentations by Tom and Brenda Malloy**

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“Gravemarkers of the Early Congregational Ministers in North Central Worcester County.”

- **October 13**, The Gardner Museum, Gardner, Massachusetts, 6 pm.

“Epitaphs of Accidental Death in Agrarian Massachusetts.”

- **October 18**, Sutton Historical Society & Millbury Historical Society, Asa Waters Mansion, Millbury, Massachusetts, 7:30 pm.
- **October 25**, North Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society, at the American Legion, Gardner, Massachusetts, 7 pm.
- **October 19**, Ames-Moore Guild, Memorial Congregational Church, Baldwinville, Massachusetts, 7:30 pm.
- **October 21**, Storrowton Village and Museum, West Springfield, Massachusetts, 7 pm.

**A Grave Matter: Old Burial Grounds in Stonington, Connecticut**



The Stonington Historical Society’s Captain Nathaniel B. Palmer House will focus on Stonington’s and North Stonington’s more than 160 known burying places this fall with an exhibition, *A Grave Matter: Gravestones and Cemeteries in Stonington*, a lecture and two walking tours. The show will run from Saturday, September 24 to October 31, Halloween.

The guest curator for *A Grave Matter* is Frederick Burdick, treasurer of the Stonington Historical Society. Burdick is a retired engineer who has mapped and researched local cemeteries and gravestones and created an interactive program, which will be included in the show, along with rubbings, copies of epitaphs and stone-carvers’ tools. Of particular value is Burdick’s large map showing the location of the area’s graveyards. Stonington’s plots contain tributes to fishermen and farmers, artists and sea captains, editors and teachers. The show will include a rubbing of a favorite of Burdick, a black slate stone created for his ancestor Joseph Denison in 1724-25. It has an elaborate hourglass above a skull; the footstone gives the full name surrounded by a carved heart. The stone was carved by the Stevens Shop in Newport, R.I., noted for its artistry. Photographs of old Stevens tools will be on display along with actual 19th-century cutting tools lent by the Westerly Public Library.

The Historical Society will hold a reception for the show at the Captain Nathaniel B. Palmer House on Sunday, **October 2**, at 2 pm, at which Burdick will discuss his recent work and the importance of cemetery preservation. There will also be two walks, led by Burdick. The first will be held Saturday, **October 22**, at 2 pm. This will visit Wequetequock Burial Ground—the oldest in Stonington—and Stonington Cemetery, a 19th-century graveyard. The second walk, Saturday, **October 29**, at 2 pm, will visit Whitehall, from the 18th-century, along with a selection of small family burial places. Reservations for the reception and walks may be made by calling (860) 535-8445.

[Stonington Historical Society](#)

**Ancient Burying Ground Award Ceremony: Hartford, Connecticut**



On **October 5** at 5:30 pm the Ancient Burying Ground Association of Hartford will present the 2005 Thomas Hooker Awards to Marty Flanders and Kathy Marr. The Award is bestowed each year to individuals for their leadership, entrepreneurship, and work to improve the quality of life in the community. The event is sponsored by the Bank of America.

The ceremony will be held at the lobby of the Bank of America, 777 Main Street in Hartford. Reservations are required by September 30th. For reservations and information contact [abgatha2005@yahoo.com](mailto:abgatha2005@yahoo.com) or call (860) 280-3108.

## **Announcement from the VA National Cemetery Administration**

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This announcement comes from Lindee L. Lenox, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Field Programs, Veterans Administration. She writes: I work for the VA National Cemetery Administration as the Chief of Operations for Memorial Programs Service. As such, I am responsible for administering the government headstone and marker program. We provide more than 350,000 government markers each year to mark the graves of deceased veterans and family members across the country and around the world. It may be of interest to your organization to learn that we recently developed a replica of our historic markers so that we can replace, "in kind," damaged or illegible markers for veterans of the Civil War and Spanish American War. There is more information about the historic replicas on our website (link below). --Lindee Lenox, lindee.lenox@va.gov.

[VA National Cemetery Administration](#)

## **Civil War Heritage Day: Albany Rural Cemetery, Menands, New York**

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Saturday, **October 1**, 10 am - 3 pm The schedule for the day will include:

**All Day:** Regimental Camp set up by the soliders from the 125th, 61st, and 5th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiments and the 2nd Battery Vermont Light Artillery (they will bring their cannon). See how the soldiers lived. **10 am - 1 pm:** Civil War Tours will be conducted, both walking and horse drawn tours (there is a charge for horse drawn tours). **10 am - 2 pm:** The 77th NY Regimental Balladeers will perform. They are a nationally recognized music group.

A Commemorative Service will be conducted at 2 pm to honor the Civil War dead, including a wreath laying and an invocation by Chaplain Bill Nieffer of the 125th NY. There also will be exhibits on view all day, blacksmith demonstrations, and a display of mourning artifacts from the Civil War period.

The event is free to the public, but a \$5 per car donation for parking is requested. For more information, please call (518) 463-7017.

[Albany Rural Cemetery](#)

## **October Tours: Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, New York**

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- **October 1, 15, & 22:** "A Walk Through Woodlawn-General Overview" Meet at 2 pm at Jerome Gate.
- **October 2:** "Italians at Rest and the Builders of the Bronx." Visit Generoso Pope, Clemente Giglio and families who built the beautiful borough. Meet at 2 pm at Jerome Gate.
- **October 8 & 9:** Special Tours of the interiors of six of Woodlawn's spectacular structures (part of Open House New York) "Inside the Great Mausoleums" from 9 to 4.
- **October 16:** Classical Concert , Classical Musicians Tour at Woolworth Chapel, 2 pm. Graduates of the Juilliard School of Music will perform followed by visits to the graves of Fritz Kreisler, Sir Rudolph Bing and Conductor Josepf Stransky,
- **October 23:** "The Piccirilli Family and the Woodlawn Cemetery." A tour highlighting the works of the family of stone carvers who created many works of art and personal memorials for their families and friends. Meet at 2 pm at Jerome Gate.
- **October 28, 29, 30, & 31:** "History and Mystery." Learn the legends of Woodlawn on this twilight tour of the cemetery. Meet at 5 p.m. at Jerome Gate.

Walking Tour Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors (65 and over) \$7, Students \$5, children six and under are free. Children under 18 must be with an adult. Friends of the Woodlawn Cemetery are admitted free. Reservations are recommended (call 718-920-1470) as tours are limited to 30 participants. Tours are 2 hours long and about 1.5 miles in length.

[The Woodlawn Cemetery](#)

**October Tours: Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York**

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Saturday, **October 15**, 1 pm: "Baseball Legends of Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery." Peter Nash, author of the recently-published book of this title, will lead a tour of the most exciting sites relating to baseball's early history.

Saturday, **October 15**, 5:45 pm: "Saturday Night by Moonlight and Flashlight." Bring a flashlight, sign a waiver of liability, and you're all set. This special walk, which will include several surprises, is \$15 for the public, \$10 for Historic Fund members.

Sunday, **October 23**, 1 pm: "Venture to Valley Water." Enjoy the magnificent and recently- restored historic chapel, the Receiving Tomb, Albert Anastasia, the Tiffanys, Valley and Sylvan Waters, the Soda Fountain King, gardens, and more.

Saturday, **October 29**, at 1 pm: "Halloween at the cemetery, part 1" and Sunday, October 30, at 1 pm: "Halloween at the cemetery, part 2." Celebrate the holiday with tales of murder, mayhem, spirits, and ghosts. This is a very, very popular tour, so arrive early. This special tour is \$15; \$10 for Historic Fund members.

Historic Fund tours are \$10 per person (\$5 for Historic Fund members) unless otherwise indicated and will last about 2 ½ hours. Some walking up and down hills is involved. In case of bad weather, tours will be canceled; please call Jeff Richman at (631) 549-4891 if the weather is threatening. All tours meet at the main gates of The Green-Wood Cemetery, inside the 25th Street and Fifth Avenue entrance, Brooklyn.

[Green-Wood Cemetery](#)

**October Tours: Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts**

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- **October 2**, 2 pm: "Hannah Adams Birthday Celebration." Celebrate the 250th birthday of Hannah Adams, historian and writer. FREE.
- **October 7**, 7:30 am: "Chips and Chirps" A bird walk with Robert Stymeist, Brookline Bird Club statistician and Bird Observer compiler. Bring a field guide and binoculars. Preregistration required.
- **October 9**, 2 pm: "Mount Auburn: 'What spot can be more appropriate than this?'" A walking tour co-sponsored by the Historical Society of Watertown to celebrate the 375th anniversary of Watertown.
- **October 14**, 2 pm: "Heritage Trees at Mount Auburn" A walking tour with Dennis Collins, Curator of Plant Collections, Mount Auburn.
- **October 16**, 2 pm: "The Natural History of the Cambridge Region" A lecture with Christopher Leahy, a naturalist and author of The Birdwatcher's Companion to North American Birdlife.
- **October 20**, starting at 9:30 am: "Bulb Planting at Mount Auburn." A volunteer event.
- **October 23**, 2 pm: "Mount Auburn Cemetery - A National Historic Landmark" A walking tour.
- **October 27**, 2 pm: "Managing Mount Auburn's Tree Collection" A walking tour with Paul Walker, Arboriculture and Gardening Supervisor, Mount Auburn.
- **October 29**, 2 pm: "Open House at Bigelow Chapel." FREE.
- **October 30**, 2 pm: " Long Shadows- Headline News from the 19th Century" A Sunday Stroll with Janet Heywood, Vice President of Interpretive Programs, Mount Auburn.

[Mount Auburn Cemetery](#)

**October Tours: Forest Hill Cemetery, Boston, Massachusetts**

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- **October 1**, 10 am (Rain Date: Oct. 2): 8th Annual Dog Walk. The tour will

feature monuments of interest to our canine friends and stories of pets. \$10 per human.

- **October 1 and 2**, Noon-6 pm: Jamaica Plain Open Studios Juried Exhibition in Forsyth Chapel. Free.
- **October 2**, 2 pm: Free Outdoor Family Concert: Sound Play. music from Brazil, America and Africa. Free.
- **October 9**, 2 pm, Forsyth Chapel: "Kiss Me Goodnight." Writers read from Kiss Me Goodnight, a recently published and deeply moving anthology of poems and stories by women. \$5.
- **October 16**, 2 pm, Forsyth Chapel: A Tribute to E.E. Cummings.
- **October 23**, 2 pm: "Victorian Sculpture Tour" A walking tour led by AGS member and the Forest Hills Trust Trust's first Scholar-in-Residence Elise Ciregna. \$8.

[Forest Hill Cemetery](#)

**October Tour: Glenwood Cemetery, Geneva, New York**

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**October 16** at 2 pm. The Geneva Historical Society will conduct a walking tour (rain or shine) of Glenwood Cemetery. This is the second in a series of tours of the cemetery that the Society is offering. Learn more about this beautiful example of a Victorian garden cemetery, planned and designed in 1872 on 50 acres of land by H. W. S. Cleveland (1814-1900), a long-time friend of landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead. The October tour will cover sections and monuments in the cemetery not included in the previous tour.

Please call the Geneva Historical Society office at (315) 789-5151 to sign up for the tour. Reservations are not required, but are preferred in order to ensure sufficient tour guides and materials for all participants. Wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to walk over uneven ground.

[Geneva Historical Society](#)

**October Tour: Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

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Sunday, **October 9**: "Mysteries of Laurel Hill," 2 pm.

[Laurel Hill Cemetery](#)

**October Events in Connecticut and Massachusetts**

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Courtesy of the Connecticut Gravestone Network's website.

Cedar Hill Cemetery Programs and Tours, Hartford, Connecticut. Saturday, **October 22nd**, 10 am. The "Civil War Program" held under the tent on the Colt plot. This is a two-part program; first a lecture and traveling museum exhibit of Civil War soldier related items courtesy of Historian Michael McBride. Secondly, a walking tour of the gravesites of various Civil War soldiers interred at Cedar Hill. There are a total of 14 Civil War Veterans at Cedar Hill. All sites will not be visited but a list is available upon request. Friday Evening, **October 28th** Cedar Hill's new "Haunted History Lantern Tour." Starts at 7 pm. Gather by the mausoleum. Tours will done in small groups and there will be entertainment to bide the time if you have to wait. Bring a flashlight - and stroll through Cedar Hill's walkways of historic - or hysterical - spirits. For details and directions go to [www.cedarhillcemetery.org](http://www.cedarhillcemetery.org).

Prospect Cemetery & Hotchkiss House, **October 22nd & 23rd**, 2 pm. Vintage Halloween Celebration. Halloween items from vintage and contemporary will be on display; gravestone rubbings, photos, funeral, mourning items and the like. There will also be an array of wonderful items that were discovered in the Hotchkiss House attic. Mrs. Holly Cole and family will give a lecture on **October 22** at 2 pm. Holly appears as a Civil War widow and talks about the mourning process of that time. After the lecture we will tour of the Prospect Cemetery. All are invited to attend. For more information please contact Mary Carroll at (203) 753-3880 or Beltane@netscape.com.

The Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor Walking Weekend Programs will include two Old Burying Ground Tours led by Ruthie Brown (Connecticut Gravestone Network Executive Director). The first is Saturday **October 8th** at 11:30 am in Holland Massachusetts. The second, Sunday **October 16th** at 2 pm in Plainfield, Connecticut. There are 93 walks all together-good hikes, old sites and several cemetery walks. For a complete schedule, please visit [the Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor website](#).  
[CT Gravestone Network](#)

### **Cemetery Symposium: Minneapolis, Minnesota**

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A symposium that considers the contemporary significance of cemeteries, titled "Communities of Memory: The Cemetery Today," will be held on Saturday, **November 5** from noon to 5 pm at the Hennepin History Museum at 2303 Third Ave South, Minneapolis. The program is funded in part by a grant from the Minnesota Humanities Commission. The symposium will feature panel discussions on: "Responding to Sites of Memory," a discussion comprised of short presentations by creative artists in which they discuss the role that cemeteries have played in their creative processes, and "The Work of Memory," which features a roundtable discussion from amateur and professional historians working on projects at specific cemeteries. Dr. Joseph Amato, professor emeritus of History and Rural and Regional Studies at Southwest State University, will deliver the keynote address, "Memory, Place, and Placelessness." Other panels will feature landscape historian Frank Martin, essayist James Rogers and playwright Cynthia Holm discussing their use of cemetery sites in creative works. Another panel, titled "The Work of Memory," will provide a forum for activists working in the field of cemetery preservation and will be moderated by Joel Wurl, curator and assistant director at the University of Minnesota Immigration History Research Center. In addition, artist Caitlin Karolczak's exhibition of post-mortem images "A Semblance of Life" will be on display. Attendees may peruse a variety of books concerning historical and contemporary cemeteries from the personal library of collector E. Katie Holm. Registration is \$15, and space is limited. A program brochure and sign-up form can be downloaded at [www.hhmuseum.org/CommunitiesOfMemory.pdf](http://www.hhmuseum.org/CommunitiesOfMemory.pdf). For more information, please contact Todd Mahon at (612) 870-1329 or [hhmuseum@mtn.org](mailto:hhmuseum@mtn.org).

### **Gravestone Lore Workshop, Charlemont, Massachusetts**

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This 2-day workshop is sponsored by Zoar Outdoor and Hawk Mountain Lodge. Description: Join us as we linger among the headstones and monuments of Charlemont's past. We will go back in time when Charlemont was a frontier town. We will glimpse brief testimonials of the history and the people that once lived and made their homes along the Deerfield River valley. As we journey into their past the tools we take with us will help us explore cemeteries in our own local area. Robert Drinkwater of the Association for Gravestone Studies will teach us Gravestone Lore and take us on an adventure to some of Charlemont's cemeteries. Saturday, **October 22:** Classroom session, 10 am – 1 pm and Sunday, **October 23:** Field trip, 10 am – 1 pm. The workshop is \$50 per person. To make a reservation please call (413) 339-4010 or (800) 532-7483.  
[Zoar Outdoor and Hawk Mountain Lodge](#)

### **Events: Karin Sprague, Wood & Stone Carvers**

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Karin Sprague will have a display at the "Supernatural Sunday at Historic Deerfield" in Deerfield, Massachusetts on Sunday, October 30, 12 pm – 4 pm. She will be demonstrating stone carving and visitors will have an opportunity to try their hand. Come visit the Karin Sprague Wood & Stone Carving studio on Saturday, November 5, 10 am – 4 pm. The studio will be open to all as part of As part of the Rhode Island Artist Open Studios On-Site Tour. For more info on the event, [www.fosteringArts.org](http://www.fosteringArts.org). Also, Karin regularly offers stonecarving classes. Check her website: [karinsprague.com](http://karinsprague.com) for a schedule and costs.

**Publication: Mackinac Island's Post Cemetery**

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We recently learned of the leaflet *Mackinac Island's Post Cemetery* by Phil Porter. It is about the history of the picturesque graveyard behind Fort Mackinac at Mackinac Island, Michigan. This fascinating full color vignette features a plot map, color and historic photos. The leaflet reveals insight into the lives and hardships of the soldiers and their families stationed at Fort Mackinac during the 19th century.

This 16-page leaflet was published in 1999 and can be ordered from [the Mackinac State Historic Parks website](#). It costs \$2.83, plus \$3 for shipping.

**New Publication: North Fork Cemeteries, New York**

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*North Fork Cemeteries, New York* by Clement M. Healy is part of Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series. Book Description: To better appreciate the beginnings of the North Fork, the best place to start is in the ancient burial grounds that dot the East End. These beautiful sites tell the tale of northeastern Long Island's early history, preserved in stone. The names that appear—Booth, Conklyn, Corwin, Fanning, Hallock, Latham, Terry, Tuthill, Wickham, Youngs—read like a who's who of the North Fork.

*North Fork Cemeteries* is \$19.99, plus shipping and is available from [Arcadia Publishing](#).

**Article: Relocating a Cemetery**

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The following article from slate.com answers the question "How do you move a cemetery?"

[Slate.com](#)

**Recommended Web Links**

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Please take a moment to check out the following two websites recommended by AGS members.

[Australian Cemeteries](#) is part of Oz Gen Online, an Australian genealogy site. Over 200 Australian cemeteries are listed, many with internment listings and other information.

[Portsmouth Old Graves](#) features information about 17th, 18th, and 19th century gravestones in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. It includes: Special Events and Programs listings, gravestone restoration projects and noteworthy Portsmouth citizens of the past.

**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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