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## Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

**Issue 41**

**September 2006**

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**Planning for the 2007 AGS Annual Meeting and Conference is underway!**

**Association for Gravestone Studies  
Thirtieth Anniversary Conference  
Rivier College, Nashua, New Hampshire  
June 20-24, 2007**

**June 20:** Guided motor coach tour to the Lowell National Historic Park and the Lowell Cemetery. Includes a boxed lunch.

**June 21:** Conservation workshop with hands on experience at a local cemetery. Other workshops include digital and film photography, digital processing, gravestone rubbing and creating foil impressions of gravestones.

**June 22:** Three separate guided motor coach tours with boxed lunches to cemeteries in southern New Hampshire and north central Massachusetts.

**June 23:** Twelve participation sessions on various aspects of gravestone and cemetery studies.

Formal lectures are scheduled for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings and Sunday morning. The evening lectures are followed by a much more informal gathering where conference participants are encouraged to share their interests, photo images, and gravestone or cemetery-related experiences.

Details and registration information will be posted on the [conference page of the AGS website](#) after the first of the year.



Ruth Jewet, Hollis, NH  
From the Daniel and Jessie Lie Farber  
Collection of Gravestone Photographs, courtesy  
of American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA

**New Item for Sale in AGS Store**



We have a new T-shirt for sale in the AGS Gift Shop. The image on the shirt comes from the Thomas Kendel stone in Wakefield, Massachusetts. The color is orange, and it is available in sizes medium-2XL. For details and

ordering information, check out [the AGS Gift](#)

[Shop.](#)

### **Article: Gravestone Symbols – “2 ½”**

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AGS member Mike Bieling contributed the article linked below. It chronicles his quest to learn the meaning of the symbol "2-1/2," that a researcher found on a number of gravestones while visiting the Canadian province of Newfoundland.

[Article: Gravestone Symbols – “2 ½”](#)

### **Query: Information Needed for a Research Project**

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This query comes from Laurel Gabel: "Can you add information? For a research project ("Myths, Misinformation and Alternative Truths"), I am gathering data to support (or disprove) three widely held beliefs:

(1) that the public Civil War soldier monuments, found in town squares, large public cemeteries, and other highly visible community spaces, face in the direction of the opposing army. Thus, in the north such commemorative Civil War statues would face south; in the south the monuments would face north. I am seeking to document this perception. If your community or cemetery has a large commemorative statue of a Civil War soldier, in which direction (north/south/east/west) does the soldier face?

(2) that a clock face depicted on a gravemarker indicates the time of death of the deceased. For this I am looking for examples (especially from outside New England) of clocks or time pieces on gravestones. If the time of death is actually known this would be especially helpful, but I would like to document clock faces even if there is no further information. I will take it from there. (Please include name of cemetery and/or town where marker is located. Thanks.)

(3) that almost all 17th and 18th-century New England headstone inscriptions face west, with the body -- between the headstone and the footstone -- facing east (head at west; feet to east, ready to rise up facing the East). If you have an 18th-century burial ground in your area, in which direction (north/south/east/west) do the majority of stones face? (Please also record the name of the cemetery and/or town so that the same location is not counted twice.)

THANK YOU for whatever information you may be able to contribute! The more responses -- the more geographically widespread the examples -- the more accurate the findings. Every response will count! Please send questions, comments, data to: LKGabel@aol.com; or 108 Mill Lane, Yarmouth Port, MA 02675; or 508-362-7808. Thanks for your help. - -Laurel K. Gabel"

### **Query: Looking for Information and an Article**

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This query comes from Kym Pinder: "I have been trying to dig up an article I read over a decade ago in either the *Art Bulletin* or *American Art* that focused on skull and angel motifs, if I remember correctly, but I just can't find it. Does anybody know of this article

and where I could get a copy?

Also, can anyone recommend an article, catalog or book that addresses the history of the angel motif on American gravestones? Thank you, Kym Pinder, [knpinder@mindspring.com](mailto:knpinder@mindspring.com)."

### Query: Looking for "Baby-in-a-Half Shell" Headstones

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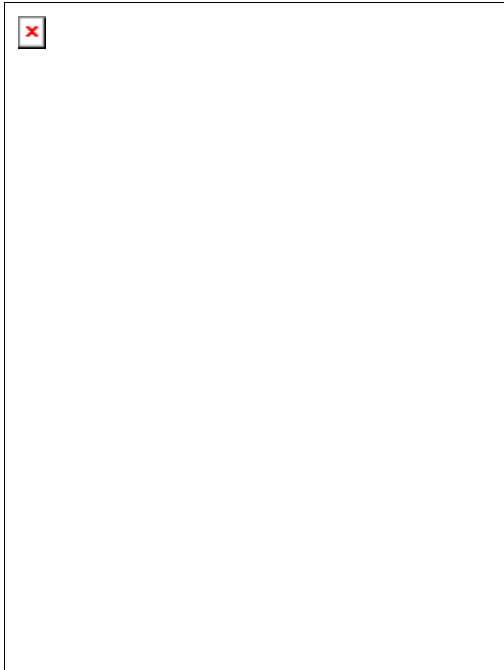
This query comes from Annette Stott. She writes: "The attached pictures are typical 'baby-in-a-half shell' headstones in different states of preservation. I am interested in hearing from AGS members who have photographed this monument type. . .where have you seen them?"

Annette's email address is [astott@du.edu](mailto:astott@du.edu).



**Follow-up to Question in the July 2006 e-newsletter**

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In the July 2006 e-newsletter Janet Seapker asked for help identifying the symbols used on a Celtic Cross (pictured at left) in Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington, NC. She sent in a summary of the information she received (linked below).

[Summary of Celtic Cross Information](#)

**AGS Member News**

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AGS Member Debra Richardson of Spring Grove, Minnesota wrote in with this news:

"I would like to alert fellow AGS members to my latest cemetery-related article, published in the current *Ancestry* magazine. It's entitled, 'From Here to Interring,' and relates the whirlwind tour I took last summer of 90-plus cemeteries in southeastern Minnesota."

Debra also has a website called "[The Tapophile Times](#)." It is devoted to cemetery studies, and includes a travelogue, pictorial gravestone catalogue, and a list of southeast Minnesota and northeast Iowa cemeteries.

**New Edition of *Federal Historic Preservation Laws* Now Available**

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The 2006 edition of the National Park Service's *Federal Historic Preservation Laws*, The Official Compilation of U.S. Cultural Heritage Statutes is now available. This fourth version of the publication contains 24 federal laws and portions of laws that pertain to the preservation of the nation's cultural heritage. Starting with the Antiquities Act of 1906, the laws trace the evolution of historic preservation philosophy and programs. The document will be sold and distributed by the Government Printing Office for \$18.00. To order, visit [the U.S. Government Bookstore](#).

**AGS Member Website**

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[The cemeteries page](#) of the Nantucket (Massachusetts) Historical Association's website details the Nantucket Cemeteries Inscription project. As tombstones are inventoried, they are being entered into an searchable online database. Maps of the cemeteries and directions are included.

## DVD "A Second Final Rest" Available for Purchase

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 In the May 2006 e-newsletter, we mentioned the documentary *A Second Final Rest: The History of San Francisco's Lost Cemeteries*, by Trina Lopez. The documentary is now available for \$22.95 from the website [Filmbaby.com](http://Filmbaby.com).

For information about the documentary, please visit [Trina's website](#).

## Tour and Query from St. Paul's Church National Historic Site, Mt. Vernon, New York

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**Candlelight tour** of historic cemetery, St. Paul's Church National Historic Site, Mt. Vernon, NY, October 13, at 7 p.m. The tour focuses on the gravestones of civilians and soldiers who lived through the period of the American Revolution, and is part of a 3-day, Revolutionary War encampment at St. Paul's. Program includes a concert of 18th century folk music in the historic church, and refreshments. Free admission and parking. For info, call (914) 667-4116 or visit [www.nps.gov/sapa](http://www.nps.gov/sapa).

**Query:** A Historic cemetery in Westchester County, NY seeks feedback/comments on a request by a family member to replace an ancestor's marble gravestone from 1795 (the inscription is completely eroded). We're considering a few options: replacing it with a contemporary, but identical in appearance, marble stone; or, adding a small granite pillow with ancestor's burial information, and leaving the existing marble marker; or, adding a plaque to the existing stone. We're interested in hearing about similar experiences and solutions from other AGS members. Please contact David Osborn, site manager, St. Paul's Church N.H.S., (914) 667-4116, [dostpaul@yahoo.com](mailto:dostpaul@yahoo.com).

## October Cemetery Tours in Connecticut and Massachusetts

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 The Connecticut Gravestone Network sent information about many Connecticut and Massachusetts tours this October. These include:

- Oct. 7th, 2006 at 1 p.m. - Yantic Cemetery, Norwich, CT. "Many, Many Millionaires Tour"
- Oct. 8th, 2006 at Noon – Nathan Hale Cemetery, Coventry, CT. "Secrets in Stone"
- Oct. 8th, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. – Yantic Cemetery, Norwich. "Graves and Heroes of Norwich"
- Oct. 14th, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. – Dudley Village Cemetery Dudley, MA. "From Cradle to Grave Stories"
- Oct. 14th, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. - Westminster Congregational Church & Burying Ground. "Revival and Revolutionaries in Canterbury, CT"
- Oct. 15th, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. – Holland Cemetery, Holland, MA. "Grave Voices, Who were these people?"

Complete details about these and more tours and events are available on [the Connecticut Gravestone Network's website](#).

## Seminar: Introduction to Chicago Cemeteries

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 The Newberry Library in Chicago is sponsoring a seminar, *Introduction to Chicago Cemeteries*, taught by AGS member Helen Sclair. The seminar will run from October 14 - October 28 on Saturdays, from 10:00 a.m. - Noon. 3 sessions, \$90 Description: "We will explore the history, symbolism, geology, and ethnicity of Chicago-area cemeteries,

both extant and lost. Mourning customs and the history of burial will also be included in our study."

[Newberry Library](#)

**Cemetery Art Lecture: Deposit, New York**

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 Wednesday October 25, 7 p.m. at the Deposit, New York Historical Society. AGS Trustee Marianne Greenfield will be giving a talk entitled "An Historic Look at Death and Dying Through Cemetery Art." Her illustrated lecture will discuss monuments, craftsmanship, and the meaning of gravestone art. The program concludes with a digital slide show synchronized to music.

The event is free and open to the public. Deposit, NY is about 30 minutes east of Binghamton, NY, on Rt. 17.

**Cemetery Walk: Lancaster, Ohio**

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 Friday, October 27, starting at 5:00, 6:30, and 8:00 p.m. History Walk sponsored by The Fairfield Heritage Association. Visit gravesites in Forest Rose Cemetery and learn about the lives of early residents, portrayed by costumed re-enactors of the Fairfield Heritage Association, sharing their amazing stories.

Location: Forest Rose Cemetery, 1238 Columbus St., Lancaster, Ohio. Cost: \$10/adult, \$5/student - must purchase in advance. Call: (740) 654-9923 for information or to order tickets.

[The Fairfield Heritage Association](#)

**Event: Maine Genealogical Society Conference, Portland, Maine**

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 The Maine Genealogical Society's 30th Anniversary Conference, October 14, 2006, Portland, Maine. There will be lectures, vendors, door prizes and a luncheon.

AGS (and Maine Old Cemetery Association) member Cheryl Willis Patten will be giving a lecture entitled "Sprucing up Grandpa: Caring for Gravestones."

More information and registration is available on the [Maine Genealogical Society's website](#).

**Event: "Tombstones and Trowels" Haverhill, Massachusetts**

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 Saturday, October 21, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. at the Haverhill Historical Society, 240 Water St., Admission: \$5 per family.

Discover archaeology at the Haverhill Historical Society, Buttonwoods Museum! Drop in with your family between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to try your hand at archaeological techniques. Then head to Pentucket burial ground for an exploration of above ground archaeology. With a scavenger hunt to guide you, explore how tombstones give vital clues about life and death long ago. Spooky treats and drinks included.

For more information, email [blangenau@haverhillhistory.org](mailto:blangenau@haverhillhistory.org), or call (978) 374-4626.

[Massachusetts Archaeology Month October 2006](#)

**Event: Fundraising Block Party, Amherst, Massachusetts**

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**Remember the 54th: First Annual Carriage Shop Harvest Festival.** The festival will honor seven Amherst members of the Massachusetts 54th Regiment October 1, 2006, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Amherst Carriage Shops, 233 N. Pleasant St., Amherst. This event is being held to raise money to buy a memorial for black Civil War Soldiers buried at West Cemetery in Amherst. As many as 10 are buried there, but only one of them, Charles A. Finnemore, is named on a gravestone. That stone is broken, lying in the grass.

There will be Military demonstrations, food, and entertainment by Rusty Bell, United, Majest, Imoje Dancers, Sounds of Life, I'shea, Reggae Visions, Fred Tillis and others. The event is free, but donations are encouraged.

**Event: Mount Auburn Cemetery's 175th Anniversary Celebration**

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 On October 18, 2006 at 6 p.m., in the Rabb Auditorium at the Boston Public Library: Henry Louis Gates, Jr., W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Humanities, Chair of African and African American Studies, and Director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research at Harvard University, will give a lecture, "W.E.B. Du Bois and Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience." The lecture is in honor of the 175th Anniversary of Mount Auburn Cemetery, the nation's oldest garden cemetery and the final resting place of many remarkable individuals.

The event is free, but please call (617) 607-1995 to RSVP.



Students of the New England Conservatory perform in front of Bigelow Chapel to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of Mount Auburn Cemetery's Consecration on Sunday, September 24, 2006. Photo by Michael Dwyer.

[Mount Auburn Cemetery](#)

**Halloween Events: Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

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Sunday, October 8th: Tour: "Sinners, Scandals and Suicides," 2:00 p.m. Cost: \$15, non-members; \$12, members; \$8, students; children, free.

Friday, October 13th: "Freaky Friday Tour," a family-friendly Halloween tour of Laurel Hill Cemetery, followed by a reception in the Cemetery Gatehouse. Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Cost: \$15, members of the Friends of Laurel Hill Cemetery (FLHC) and/or the Preservation Alliance; \$20, non-members.

Friday, October 27th: "Dining with the Dead," Halloween Dinner and Tour Package. This package will include a catered, candlelit dinner in the Cemetery Gatehouse, followed by a group Halloween tour. There will be two seatings (6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.). The dinner and tour package costs \$50.00 per person; space is limited and reservations must be made in advance.

Friday, October 27th and Saturday, October 28th: Evening Halloween Tours. Hour-long tours will depart every half-hour, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The last tour will depart at 9:30 p.m. Cost: \$15, members of FLHC; \$20, non-members

Sunday, October 29th: Afternoon Halloween Tours. Tours will depart beginning at 2:00 p.m., the last one departing at 3:00 p.m. Cost: \$12, members of FLHC; \$15, non-members.

### [The Laurel Hill Cemetery](#)

#### **Tour: Albany Rural Cemetery, Menands, New York**

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Saturday, October 7, 10:00 a.m., Albany Rural Cemetery Tour: "The Van Rensselaers of Cherry Hill - Exploring a Changing World Through One Albany Household's Eyes." Admission: \$5.00

Cherry Hill—constructed in the Town of Bethlehem in 1787—is well represented at Albany Rural Cemetery with at least a dozen family members and household servants buried there. Tour participants will hear snippets of Cherry Hill family stories, illustrating one Albany family's response to a changing world. For information, call (518) 434-0405.

### [Albany Rural Cemetery](#)

#### **Events: Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York**

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October 7, 2006. HISTORIC FUND TOUR - Part of Openhousenewyork. "Angels and Accordions," At 12:00 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. This unique event features dancers interacting with statuary to create a poignant dialogue between the past and present. For reservations or information on rain date (rain date is Sunday, October 8), call (718) 788-7850.

October 15, 2006: 10K walk to benefit the Autism Treatment Center of America, conducted in 69 cities around the world. Green-Wood Cemetery is the host for New York City. Anyone interested in walking can register by contacting Theresa LaBianca (718) 788-7850, Ext. 327 or Kit Matthews (347) 684-2989, email: kitmatthews26@yahoo.com, cmatthews@trellus.com for more information.

October 28, 2006. 1:00 p.m. - HISTORIC FUND TOUR: "Halloween at Green-Wood, Part

1" with AGS Trustee Jeff Richman. Part 2 will be October 29, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. Celebrate the holiday with tales of murder, mayhem, spirits, and ghosts. This is a very popular tour, so arrive early. This special tour is \$15; \$10 for Historic Fund members.

### [The Green-Wood Cemetery](#)

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

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- October 1, at 2 p.m. "Wall Street's Legend and Lore Tour." Historian and AGS Trustee Rich Sauers leads this tour to the memorials of some of Wall Street's best-known characters and empire builders.
- October 7 & 8, 9 a.m. Open House New York, Self guided walking tours of the interiors of ten of Woodlawn's spectacular private mausoleums.
- October 15, 2 p.m. "Italian Stone Carvers" See the memorials and final resting places of the Italian immigrants who made Woodlawn a beautiful sculpture park.
- October 22, 1 p.m. Friends of Woodlawn Annual Meeting and Author's Luncheon. Every year, articles, books and web pages feature The Woodlawn Cemetery and the individuals at rest there. Meet the authors; learn about the programs of the Friends. Reservations required.
- October 28, 29, 30, 5 p.m. "History and Mystery Tour" Twilight tour takes participants to the gravesites of some infamous characters and shares a century of Woodlawn Cemetery legends.

### [The Woodlawn Cemetery](#)

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

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- October 14 - 10:30 AM - A Circle of Friends: An Abolitionists' Tour of Mount Hope in 1860
- October 21 – Noon to 2 PM – The Back Forty Tour with Fran Coleman
- October 28 – Noon to 2 PM - Fall Foliage Tour with Ed Olinger
- October 28th & 31st, 8:30 p.m. End of the Season Spectacular: Two After-Dark Tours! Follow a historic trail illuminated with 1000 luminaria, starting at the gazebo and ending up on Indian Trail.

### [Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery](#)

#### **Walking Tour: Glenwood Cemetery, Geneva, New York**

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October 15, 2006, 2:00 p.m., Walking Tour of Glenwood Cemetery. This fall the Geneva Historical Society will offer a tour of Glenwood Cemetery, featuring interesting local stories and the laser-cut stones in the newer areas of the cemetery. This walking tour is the fourth in a series of tours of the cemetery that the Society is offering. The tour will run rain or shine and will not include areas viewed during previous tours.

For more information: (315) 789-5151 [info@genevahistoricalsociety.com](mailto:info@genevahistoricalsociety.com).

### [Geneva Historical Society](#)

#### **Article: Old cemetery at the center of controversy**

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The article, linked below, is to seacoastonline.com and is about a heated debate regarding the Lovering family cemetery in Raymond, New Hampshire.

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

**Article: Phenix City, Alabama seeks help with cemeteries**

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The article, linked below, is to the Ledger-Enquirer.com. It is about the city of Phenix City, Alabama's efforts to restore it's cemeteries.

[The Ledger-Enquirer](http://The Ledger-Enquirer)

**Websites to Check Out**

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We have three websites, recommended by AGS members featured in the Quick Links section at the end of this newsletter.

The first link is to "Cemeteries and Cemetery Symbols." The site contains information about symbolism, including religious and fraternal symbols.

The second link is to the South Africa War Graves Project. The goal of the South Africa War Graves Project is to archive photographs of every single South African & Rhodesian war grave from the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, WW1, WW2, Korea, Rand Revolt, Freedom Struggle, Angola-Border War to present day.

The third link is to the Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts. JCAM is a non-profit Jewish cemetery association that owns and manages more than 100 cemeteries in the Greater Boston area.

**Quick Links**

- ~~~~~  
• [Cemeteries and Cemetery Symbols](#)  
• [South Africa War Graves Project](#)  
• [Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts](#)

**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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