

## Participation/Classroom Sessions

**Association for Gravestone Studies  
33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference and Meeting  
Denison University, Granville, Ohio**

**Coordinators: Judy Juntunen and Bob Keeler**

### Thursday - June 24, 2010

**9:00 A.M. – 9:50 A.M. – *White Bronze: The Rise and Fall of Cast Metallic Grave Markers***

Robert Young, Danbury Cemetery Association, Danbury, CT

This presentation will cover the manufacture and placement of zinc grave markers in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The primary supplier was Monumental Bronze Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The presentation is divided into five parts:

- 1) The initial idea for metal markers and patenting the process, the reasons for choosing zinc, the reasons for using the term "white bronze," and the actual process for manufacturing these markers.
- 2) Sales and marketing of white bronze, examples of catalogues utilized, and problems encountered with the granite and marble stone carvers.
- 3) Styles, shapes and markings of white bronze, and procedure for installation of markers.
- 4) Potential for damage to zinc markers, and potential for theft of zinc markers.
- 5) Basic principles of conservation and repair of zinc markers.

Robert will have some examples of white bronze for examination by attendees.

**10:00 A.M. – 10:50 A.M. – *Spring Grove Cemetery: Cincinnati, Ohio's Beautiful Rural Garden Cemetery***

Diana Brake, former docent Spring Grove Cemetery

Spring Grove Cemetery, the nation's second largest cemetery, is one of America's loveliest rural garden cemeteries. It is also a unique Cincinnati cultural resource and historic site. Its 733 acres offer the public a magnificent arboretum, open-air museum, and tranquil sanctuary just minutes away from downtown Cincinnati.

Diana Brake, who served as a docent at Spring Grove for five years, will share glimpses of the cemetery and the people who are buried there. In a Power Point presentation, Diana will show some of the art, architecture, and iconography of this beautiful cemetery. Magnificent mausoleums exhibit many architectural styles from the Neo-Gothic Dexter Mausoleum designed

by James Keys Wilson that towers 48 feet above a lake, to the marble Baroque Burnet Mausoleum carved into a hill, to the Samuel Hannaford Romanesque-Revival Norman chapel with its amazing stonework.

Iconography abounds in styles from the 1700s to the more modern. A dog, a sphinx, a pyramid, a horse head, each has a unique story that gives a glimpse of the person they commemorate. Especially interesting are the extensively ornamented Treestones.

**11:00 A.M. – 11:50 A.M. – *How and Why Do Carvers Imitate Other Carvers?***

Jim Blachowicz, Professor of Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL

A PowerPoint presentation of seven broad categories of such imitation.

- 1) *Apprentices Imitating Masters*: Often literal, but sometimes cruder imitation of both carving and lettering style.
- 2) *Employees Imitating Employers*: More polished imitation than apprentices; but lettering usually remains the employee's own; style can change if the employee moves on or becomes independent.
- 3) *Carvers Imitating more Popular Carvers*: Often occurring with multiple carvers focused on one or two major carvers whose work appears in a wide area.
- 4) *Carvers Imitating Better Styles*: Can occur even if the imitated carver is neither a master, employer, nor more popular carver.
- 5) *Carvers Matching Stones near the Deceased*: A carver can imitate a design of a neighboring stone of a family member, even if not particularly distinctive and never copied again.
- 6) *Carvers Matching Older/Destroyed Stones*: A carver can reproduce a design of a neighboring stone of a family member carved 10 to 20 years earlier or replace an older, destroyed stone.
- 7) *Carvers Matching Stone in the Style of the Geographic Area of the Deceased*: A carver can copy a design to "fit in" a geographic area in which the first carver's work is prevalent.

**1:00 P.M. – 1:50 P.M. – *Prehistoric Burial Practices of the Ohio Valley and Their Expressions on the Landscape***

Ian Brown, Professor of Anthropology, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL

For well over two millennia the prehistoric Indians of the Ohio Valley left a very visible expression of the mortuary practices on the land. The earthen constructions that were built which often contained graves, were so regular and intricate that many French and English adventurers of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries believed there must have been an earlier civilization in the area, one which was annihilated or driven out by Indian intruders. Archaeology had demonstrated that this is not the case. The prehistoric cultures that followed in succession in the Ohio Valley, known today as the Adena, Hopewell, and Fort Ancient, were most definitely the ancestors of the Indians who lived in the area historically. This session will look at the mortuary behavior of these early peoples with particular regard to how their behavior impacted the landscape.

**2:00 P.M. – 2:50 P.M. – *A Docent’s Perspective: Ideas and Tips on How Docents and Others Can Help Bring New Life to a Cemetery***

Diana Brake, former docent Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, OH

Cemeteries can be anywhere from a corner of an old churchyard to several hundred acres, and one docent program does not fit all. What is the same for cemetery organizations is the goal of bringing more interested people into their groups and “life” into their cemeteries. Diana will share her experience as a docent at Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the results of her research to learn more ways to recruit cemetery docents, and bring visitors to the cemetery. Find out about the different kinds of activities she has discovered to bring in visitors and new people. She also will provide a list of websites that can be helpful, as well as suggestions for funding possibilities for non-profit and for profit organizations.

**3:00 P.M. – 3:50 P.M. – *Unearthing Resources: Enhancing Cemetery Tours***

Nancy Adgent, Project Archivist, Rockefeller Archive Center, Sleepy Hollow, NY

Using four case studies from early settlement, Victorian, large urban, and small rural cemeteries, this session will highlight infrequently used resources that will help tour developers construct lively scripts for a variety of special interest and general tours. Topics include women, African-Americans, military, architecture, fraternal organizations, local history, and economic development. Research tools discussed will apply to markers of ordinary people as well as those of the rich and famous. Most markers showcased are in Texas, Tennessee, New York, and Massachusetts cemeteries. Resources range from manuscript repositories to websites, government records to personal narratives, and published secondary sources to primary documents.

**Friday - June 25, 2010**

**1:00 P.M. – 1:50 P.M. – *Stones and Bones: Resource Packet for Teachers and the Work of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association***

Charles E. Marchant, Secretary, Vermont Old Cemetery Association

*Stones and Bones* is a teaching resource packet put together by a group of Vermont teachers. The purpose of the packet is to demonstrate how a cemetery can be used as a teaching tool. The packet contains 80+ pages of reproducible curriculum ideas suitable for use in grades 4 and above. It can be used both in the classroom or the cemetery. First published in 1996, the packet has been republished several times, and was updated in 2008.

During the session, the presenter will explain how some of these ideas work, and participants will have an opportunity to try them.

VOCA helped community groups to cooperate with the schools in cemetery restoration projects. As Secretary of VOCA, Charles Marchant will explain the work of the organization and suggest ways to establish a similar group in the participant's area.

**2:00 P.M. – 3:50 P.M. – *You Signed Up for a Course in What? Teaching Cemetery Studies to Today's Undergraduates***

**Panel Organizer:**

**Bruce S. Elliott**

Professor of History,  
Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada  
*Gravestones & Cemeteries: Cultures of Death and Memorialization*

**Participants:**

**Leighann Neilson**

Assistant Professor  
Sprott School of Business (Marketing),  
Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada  
*Marketing in Not-for-Profit Organizations*

**June Hadden Hobbs**

Professor of English  
English Language & Literature,  
Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Spring, NC  
*Death in American Culture*

**Ian Brown**

Professor of Anthropology,  
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487  
*Marking Graves: Self and Society in Death*

**T. Emil Homerin,**

Professor of Religion,  
Religion & Classics,  
University of Rochester, Rochester, NY  
*Speaking Stones*

**James C. Garman**

Professor of Archaeology  
Cultural and Historic Preservation,  
Salve Regina University, Newport, RI  
*Issues in the Preservation of Historical Cemeteries*

If you have ever thought of a graveyard as a virtual classroom: well, so have our panelists. They teach courses on gravestones and cemeteries at the college or university level, in a variety of disciplines, at educational institutions from Ontario to Alabama. This session provides an opportunity for us to share with one another, thoughts about what, how, and who they teach.

Based in departments or schools of history, business, literature, anthropology/archaeology, religion, and historic preservation, they all conceive of their mutual subject somewhat differently, but how interdisciplinary are their respective offerings? This is a subject that lends itself to fieldtrips, fieldwork, and creative projects, essays, and assignments. They will also discuss the contacts and partnerships they have forged with various institutions, sites, and businesses. They face somewhat different constraints – the fieldwork season is more limited in Canada than it is deep in the South – but the internet is making scholarly literature and archival and pictorial resource material ever more accessible (*Markers*, for example, is now online). Following brief introductions to their respective courses, they will engage in a general discussion of best practices, and then open the floor to questions and commentary from the audience. Their course outlines and reading lists will be made available to those attending at the commencement of the session.