

You are receiving this email from the Association for Gravestone Studies as part of your membership. Please [confirm](#) your interest in receiving email newsletters from us.

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



## Association for Gravestone Studies e-newsletter

Issue #48

April 2007

### In This Issue:

[From the AGS Quarterly Editorial Board](#)

[News From the AGS Archivist](#)

[AGS Spring Cemetery Tour](#)

[AGS Conference & Annual Meeting, 2007](#)

[Follow-up Query: Primary Source for Ben Franklin Quote](#)

[Locations of Whetstone Gravestones Sought](#)

[News from AGS Members Natalie Zaman and Katharine Clark](#)

[Information about Tombstones and Coffins Made of Glass](#)

[Event: Historical Cemeteries Conference, Valencia, Spain](#)

[Preservation Conference: LeRoy, New York](#)

[College of Cemetery Land Management and Grounds Operations](#)

[Events: Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts](#)

[Websites to Check Out](#)

[Article: Cleanup of State Hospital Cemetery, Kilbuck, Pennsylvania](#)

### From the AGS Quarterly Editorial Board

Do you have a short essay that would be suitable for the *AGS Quarterly*? As you probably know, the *Quarterly* prints a wide range of articles and allows you to communicate quickly with your interested colleagues.

Longer pieces (up to 2500 words), book reviews (with necessary publication data), photo essays and in-depth studies of a topic (epitaphs about logging accidents or carvings by one family of artisans) are welcome. Write in your own voice, economically and clearly, with active verbs and relevant supporting data. Electronic or paper submissions and sharp pictures may be sent to the AGS office.

Sincerely,  
The Editors

### News From the AGS Archivist

~~~~~  
The Research Clearinghouse, so ably kept by John Spaulding for many years, has come to the AGS office and is merging with the Archives.

Questions can be directed to us here by email or phone. We are learning our way around in this wealth of information will strive to address your many interests.

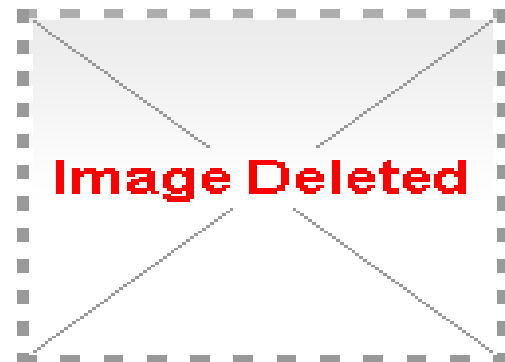
--Marie Ferre, AGS Archivist

### AGS Spring Cemetery Tour

#### Spring Tour of historic cemeteries in the Connecticut River Valley

~~~~~  
Bernardston, Massachusetts and Winchester, New Hampshire;  
Saturday, June 9, 10 AM; led by members of the Association for Gravestone Studies--we will feature the work of local slate cutters and hope to include a visit to a local slate quarry--more details in the next e-Newsletter.

### AGS Conference & Annual Meeting, 2007



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

**The last day to register is June 1st!**

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

**PLEASE NOTE** that there were a few errors in the conference registration booklet that was mailed in the Winter *AGS Quarterly*. They are:

Part B reads "from dinner on Tuesday, June 20." It should be "June 19."

Part D shows the Forbes banquet on Friday night. The banquet is on Saturday night.

Also, the form in the *Quarterly* incorrectly states that there is a digital photography workshop--we won't be holding the digital photography workshop this year.

The registration form posted on the website is correct.

For those who are planning to attend the conference, a suggested reading would be an

article in *Markers XXIII* on the carver, Moses Davis, by William Lowenthal. Moses Davis was a prolific carver in the Nashua area. His grave is marked by an impressive monument located in that city's Edgewood Cemetery.

### **CONFERENCE--GETTING THERE**

Manchester, New Hampshire, is a Southwest Air destination and is quite close to Nashua. There are some internet specials to be found on [southwest.com](http://southwest.com). Round trip from Baltimore is just under \$100!

Shuttle service from the airport to conference is available from Thomas Transportation Services. For rates, please visit [www.thomastransportation.com](http://www.thomastransportation.com).

### **NASHUA HOTELS AND MOTELS**

For those attending conference but not staying on campus, we've posted information about hotels and motels located nearby to the college on [the AGS website conference page](#).

### **THURSDAY WORKSHOPS**

Information about the Conservation, Photography, Rubbing and Foil Impression workshops is now available on the [AGS website conference page](#).

### **SELF-GUIDED TOURS**

The self-guided tours are now posted on the [AGS website conference page](#). There are four self-guided tours to cemeteries within driving distance of Rivier College. On the website you'll find information about and directions to the cemeteries.

### **LECTURES**

This year's lectures will be:

*Massachusetts' Native American Burying Grounds* Tom Malloy

*Native American Burying Grounds of Cape Cod* Brenda Malloy

*"They could not wholly pass away:" The Spread of Thorvaldsen's Sculptural Reliefs*  
*Day and Night on Icelandic Gravestones, 1870-1930* Dr. Allan E. Nash

"To Ponder upon the creations of the chisel, and dream of tombstones:" A  
*Re-Examination of the Gravestone Work of American Sculptor John Frazee, 1811-*  
*1821* Mark Nonestied

*Boston History and a Newport Mystery: The Johnson/Wilson/Newbery Gravestone,*  
*1630-1697* Laurel Gabel

*Stonecutters and Monument Makers of Old Hampshire County, Massachusetts,*  
*c. 1790-1830--An Overview of Changing Times*  
Bob Drinkwater

*Digital Memorial: Making Memorials Physical in a Digital Generation* Matt Newbold

*Louisiana's Above-Ground Concrete Burial Vaults* Gerald T. McNeill

*Statements of Power: Cemeteries on Indian Mounds* Ian W. Brown

*Ethnic Cemeteries of Manchester, New Hampshire* Stephanie Abbot Roper and Scott C. Roper

*Headstone Iconography; Documentation and Interpretation of Fraternal Emblems at Greenwood Cemetery, Orlando* Roberta Murphy

*"Happy the Babe:" On the Origin of a New England Gravestone Verse* Robert J. O'Hara

*"It Might Give Fright to the Horses:" The Egyptian Revival and the Sphinx at Mount Auburn Cemetery* Joy Giguere

*The Cemetery Art of Simas Augaitis* (Lithuanian-American artist in Waturbury CT area)  
Milda Richardson

## **PARTICIPATION WORKSHOPS**

This year's participation workshops will be:

*New Eyes, Old Landscapes - Exploring Cemeteries in the Digital Age* Janet Heywood

*The Importance of Archival Preservation of Cemetery Data* Frank Calidonna

*Reviewing 25 Years of Slate Gravestone Conservation at King's Chapel Burying Ground, Boston, MA* Kelly Thomas, Ivan Myjer and Josh Craine

*Developing Multimedia Presentations For Presenting Cemeteries to the General Public*  
Marianne Greenfield

*Development of Cemetery Tours - What If Nobody Famous Is Buried In Your Cemetery?* Rochelle Christopher

*The Application of Geographic Information Systems to Gravestone Studies*  
Dan Lynch

*The story of "Wyllie's Stone"* Karen Sprague

*Gravestone and Monument Conservation* Jonathan Appell

*Organizing the first "Great AGS Ebay Annual Auction"* Gary Collison

*The Beauty of White Bronze* Bob Young

The schedule of lectures and participation sessions will be posted on the AGS website as soon as it they are finalized.

## **Follow-up Query: Primary Source for Ben Franklin Quote**

~~~~~  
In the June 2006 e-newsletter, we ran a query from Janet Heywood asking for a source for "Show me first the graveyards of a country and I will tell you the true character of the people," a quote attributed to Benjamin Franklin.

Janet sent in this follow-up to her query:

SHOW ME THE SOURCES REDUX!

Show me first the graveyards of a country and I will tell you the true character of the people.

--Benjamin Franklin

Show me the manner in which a nation cares for its dead, and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land and their loyalty to high ideals.

--William Gladstone

Does anyone know the primary source references for either of these oft-repeated quotations? Both of these are reproduced again and again on internet sites and in books about cemeteries but I have been searching for the original statements by Franklin and Gladstone and have been unsuccessful in finding the context in which the expressions were written or spoken. When I wrote to the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary organization, a representative responded that "Unfortunately through our searches we were unable to attribute your quote to Franklin. We found no evidence that Franklin printed or said this." In response to a May 2006 query about the Franklin quote, several people replied offering the Gladstone quote as an alternative but I can not locate an original source for it. AGS member Kathryn Crabtree offered a documented quote from Mark Twain: "Somebody has said that in order to know a community, one must observe the style of its funerals and know what manner of men they bury with most ceremony." Mark Twain, *Roughing It*, ed. Harriet Elinor Smith, Edgar Marquess Branch, et al., The Mark Twain Library (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995), 308. [First sentence in chapter 47.] --Janet Heywood, Cincinnati, OH [picapica@msn.com](mailto:picapica@msn.com)

### Locations of Whetstone Gravestones Sought

~~~~~

The Indiana Geological Survey has a query posted on their website about Whetstone gravestones. They are searching for locations of these monuments. To learn more, [please check out their website](#).

They also have a page on their site devoted to [information about Whetstone gravestones](#).

### News from AGS Members Natalie Zaman and Katharine Clark

~~~~~

Natalie Zaman and Katharine Clark, creators of the Graven Images Oracle, will be giving readings May 26 and 27 at the Kindred Spirits Fair in Washington, New Jersey. They are now also offering Graven Images Oracle goods for sale at: [www.cafepress.com/gravengoods](http://www.cafepress.com/gravengoods) for posters tees and more. [www.arcanenonesuch.com](http://www.arcanenonesuch.com) for Graven Images Oracle and other fantastic jewelry.

Visit their website at [www.gravenimagesoracle.com](http://www.gravenimagesoracle.com).

### Information about Tombstones and Coffins Made of Glass

~~~~~

AGS Member Peggy Perazzo sent in this excerpt from *Stone* magazine, October 1898, Vol. 7, No. 5, pp. 342.

*Tombstones and Coffins Made of Glass*

A Pennsylvania inventor makes the rather startling proposition of introducing porcelain tombstones; but upon reflection this appears more radical than impractical. If you have

ever visited any of the old burial grounds, dating from the seventeen hundreds, you must have been struck with the perishable nature of the ubiquitous white marble. There is hardly a single specimen of such a tombstone, the inscription of which is legible after one hundred years of exposure to the elements.

The Swedes introduced slate tombstones and these, while not so striking when new, have proved themselves the best fitted for this particular use, as many of these may be found today in New England cemeteries, dating back to the early years of the past century, that are quite as readable as the day they were erected.

Porcelain can be handled on a large scale nowadays, an instance of which is the house now building for the Japanese exhibit at Paris in 1900. This house will be hexagonal in shape, each side measuring several yards, and composed entirely of porcelain.

The suggestion above referred to of using porcelain for tombstones, which, by the way, has been patented, contemplates a facing of porcelain built around a body of concrete to give stability and strength and decrease the cost. The inscription would be in bas-relief and attached to the headstone much in the manner that handles are attached to cups and dishes.

Another mortuary proposition of the same tender is that of a Pittsburg firm, which proposes to manufacture glass coffins, which are to be hermetically sealed. These, of course, will be much more durable than any wooden, or even metallic, casket, and would preserve the body from that contact with the earth that ultimately follows the disintegration of the wooden coffin.

The function of a tombstone is to mark the place of burial and to carry the customary inscription of name and date of birth and death. Viewed in this light the suggestion to use porcelain tombstones is a very practical one, as the elements would have little or no effect on a glassed porcelain surface. If the framework were built up on a metallic sheeting there would be but little danger in breaking, and the porcelain could be made of much greater strength than is possible with requirements of kitchen ware. - *Duluth Tribune*.

Check out Peggy's "Stone Quarries and Beyond" website at:  
<http://www.cagenweb.com/quarries/>

### **Event: Historical Cemeteries Conference, Valencia, Spain**

~~~~~  
The first international Conference on Historical Cemeteries is being held from May 9-11 in Valencia, Spain. The purpose of the conference is to share experiences and discuss possible solutions to problems shared by historical cemeteries worldwide. The goal is to establish a network of resources and ideas for cemetery preservation.

Countries that will be represented span the globe, from Colombia to Italy, Canada to Lithuania, and the United States to Slovenia.

Bob Young, AGS Trustee, is representing AGS and will participate in a panel discussion on May 9<sup>th</sup> entitled "The Challenge of Adding Value to Cemeteries in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Society". Bob's focus will be upon the value and need for proper maintenance of older cemeteries. He will also report on this conference at the AGS 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Nashua, New Hampshire.

For more information about the conference, please check the websites for [the](#)

[Funermostra](#) and for [the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe](#).

### **Preservation Conference: LeRoy, New York**

~~~~~  
"Maintaining Hometown Character in the 21st Century"

The Landmark Society of Western New York's 21st Annual Regional Preservation Conference, Saturday, May 5, 2007, First United Methodist Church, Trigon Park (Main Street/Route 5), LeRoy, New York

Featured at the conference will be a conservation workshop and a workshop on how to write a National Register Nomination.

For more information, [please visit the Landmark Society's website](#).

### **College of Cemetery Land Management and Grounds Operations**

~~~~~  
The International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association's (ICCFA) College of Land Management and Grounds Operations will be held July 20-25 in Memphis, Tennessee.

Courses include:

OSHA 2007: Are You Ready?

Cemetery Master Planning

Cemetery Liability Issues

There also will be a Memorial Park Cemetery Tour, giving students the opportunity to visit a local cemetery and learn firsthand many creative ideas they can take home to their properties.

For more information and registration details, [please visit ICCFA's website](#).

### **Event: Friends of Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington, North Carolina**

~~~~~  
Saturday, May 5, beginning at 7:00 AM, "Birding Basics Tour of Oakdale Cemetery." Nancy Buckingham and Stacy Schmaltz, avid birders, will conduct this two-hour birding tour.

For more information, please call the cemetery office at (910) 762-5682.

### **Events: Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts**

#### **Walking Tours:**

~~~~~  
May 4 & May 18, 7-8 AM: Early-Risers' Horticulture Club

Admission: Free

May 5, 2-3:30 PM: "Discover Mount Auburn"

\$5.00 for Friends of Mount Auburn Members, \$10.00 others.

May 13, 2-3:30 PM: "Memories of Mothers--A Mother's Day Walking Tour"

\$5.00 for Friends of Mount Auburn Members, \$10.00 others.

#### **Lecture:**

May 6, 2-3:30 PM: "The Adams Family: Exploring a love story through home, garden

and cemetery"--a presentation by Dee Morris, social historian.  
\$5.00 for Friends of Mount Auburn Members, \$10.00 others.

For more information, visit [www.mountauburn.org](http://www.mountauburn.org).

**Websites to Check Out**

~~~~~  
Please take a moment to check out the two websites below. They were recommended by AGS members.

[Cemeterydogs.org](http://Cemeterydogs.org) is a website by and about folks who walk their dogs at Historic Congressional Cemetery. Their numbers stand at about 250 registered member families and over 300 dogs.

The Jackson County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society's website has a page devoted to [the Jackson, Ohio James Cemetery Restoration Project](#).

**Article: Trustees Discuss Closing Greenfield, Massachusetts Cemetery**

~~~~~  
The article is posted on [Masslive.com](http://Masslive.com). Erosion has been threatening graves at Green River Cemetery (located less than half a mile from the AGS office!).

**Article: Cleanup of State Hospital Cemetery, Kilbuck, Pennsylvania**

~~~~~  
The article is posted on [the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's website](#). A cleanup is being planned for the cemetery on the grounds of the now-closed Dixmont State Hospital.

**Contact Information**

~~~~~  
email: [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org)  
phone: 413-772-0836  
web: <http://www.gravestonestudies.org>  
~~~~~

**[Forward email](#)**



This email was sent to [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org), by [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org)  
Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Association for Gravestone Studies | 278 Main St. | Suite 207 | Greenfield | MA | 01301