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Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

Issue 4

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Reminder:

An e-mail survey was sent out on August 22, 2003, regarding distribution of Markers to members. We'd like remind you how important it is that we receive your response before the September 13th Board meeting. We need you to be part of this decision. If you didn't receive the survey, please e-mail Andrea Carlin at info@gravestonestudies.org. Thank you in advance for your input.

Controversy About Marking of Gravestones

This article was sent in by John Spaulding (he is quoted in the article). It is from the August 20th edition of the Charlotte Observer in Charlotte, North Carolina.

[Charlotte Observer](#)

New Book in AGS Store

Where the Bodies Are: Final Visits to the Rich, Famous & Interesting, by Patricia Brooks is now available from the AGS bookstore. The price is \$13.55 (+shipping and handling) for AGS members.

"Where the Bodies Are" is a guidebook to the burial places of famous personalities across the U.S. Also included are anecdotes, history, detailed obituaries and many photos. For more about the book and order information, please visit the AGS bookstore by clicking on the link below.

[Book & Order Information](#)

Automobile Damages Historic Cemetery

At 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 2003 an eastbound automobile was waiting to make a left turn from Spencer Street to I-384 in Manchester, Connecticut. Suddenly he was rear-ended and pushed across the westbound lanes, over the curb, through the white wooden fence and about eighty feet into West Cemetery. West Cemetery is the oldest cemetery in Manchester with the earliest recorded burial in 1741.

Ironically, the car came to a halt in the lot of John and David Spencer after mowing down eight

marble gravestones dating from 1811 to 1859. The oldest marker and the first to be hit was for Rev. Allen Olcott, the pastor of the First Church in Farmington, whose family lived near the cemetery. All of the markers were broken into three or more pieces and some were thrown as far as twenty-five feet. In order to collect the pieces and place them in their original location, John and Betty Spaulding used the 1919 cemetery map and the Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions which were recorded in November 1934. The Town of Manchester Cemetery Department is pursuing to have the markers replaced. There is a slim possibility that one or two could be repaired but replacement is the long term solution. The markers were for the Spencer, Olcott, McKee and Treet families. --submitted by John Spaulding.

Museum for Sepulchral Culture Conference: Creating Identities

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 Note to AGS members: If you plan to attend this conference, please e-mail Andrea Carlin at [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org).

Creating identities: Funeral monuments and public memorials in Europe: An international conference at the Museum for Sepulchral Culture (Kassel, Germany), 30.10. - 2.11.2003. Funeral monuments are the subject of many historical and art historical studies. However, their socio-historical meaning and their social function are still generally underestimated. Although recent research is clearly interested in the creation of personal and communal identities, little attention has yet been paid to the role of funeral monuments and public memorials in this process. This conference brings together researchers investigating the role of funeral monuments and public memorials in the creation of collective identities. Deadline for bookings: September 30th 2003. For further information please contact: Dr. Stefanie Knoell, e-mail: [knoell@sepulkralmuseum.de](mailto:knoell@sepulkralmuseum.de). For program information, please click on the link below.

[Conference Program Information](#)

### **Website by AGS Member: Gravestone Images**

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 We received a number of e-mails from members wanting to let others know about their website. We'll feature 2- 3 sites in each e-newsletter. If you'd like to have your website included in a future issue, please e-mail the web address and a short description to info@gravestonestudies.org

2 sites are featured in this issue, the first, by Terri Bertsche, includes a photo gallery, preservation information, and links to other sites.

[Gravestone Images by Terri Bertsche](#)

Website by AGS Member: Christ Church Burial Ground

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 This site is from Donald Smith, Executive Director of the Christ Church Preservation Trust in Philadelphia. He says: "I would love to have other members see the work that has been done at the Christ Church Burial Ground (founded 1719) in Philadelphia. Includes 1,400 markers including Benjamin Franklin, four other signers of the Declaration of Independence and many colonial and revolution-era people. It has been closed to the public for 25 years. Following a \$400,000 conservation program, it has re-opened to the public with professional guides. Open free to the public 7 days/week."

[Christ Church Burial Ground](#)

### **Tom and Brenda Malloy's Fall Presentation Schedule**

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 Tom and Brenda are both long-time members, Tom is Vice-President of AGS. Their Fall

presentation schedule (including topics) are posted on the AGS Website. The presentations are throughout Massachusetts. Topics include: "What was Killing the Children in Agrarian New England?" and "Murder in Massachusetts: It's Written In Stone."

The link below will take you to their complete schedule of presentations.

[Presentation Schedule](#)

Contact Information

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