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Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

Issue 40

August 2006

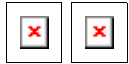
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From the AGS Office

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**Photos from the AGS Spring Tour**, Deerfield and Greenfield Massachusetts, July 8th, 2006. Photos from the Old Albany Road Cemetery in Deerfield by Dave Allen. Top: Kevin Sweeney, Below: Bob Drinkwater (with mirror).



**CALL FOR OAKLEY AWARD NOMINATIONS.** The AGS Board of Trustees is seeking nominations for Oakley Awards.

*Oakley Awards guidelines for nominations:* work can be done in any number of areas including but not limited to: gravestone carver research, conservation, art, exhibits related to gravestones, and efforts to raise community awareness of local cemeteries and burial grounds. The work may be in many forms: research, writing, photography, organizational leadership, legislation and teaching, for example. Please send a completed nomination form, photographs, personal references and newspaper articles about the person or group you feel is worthy for an award to the AGS office. You can download the nomination forms from the Awards & Scholarships section of the AGS website, or e-mail the office for a form.

## DID YOU TAKE PHOTOS AT THE AGS CONFERENCE?

If you took digital photographs at the AGS Conference held at Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, on June 21-25, 2006, that you'd like to submit for consideration for an article summarizing the conference in the next issue of the *AGS QUARTERLY*, please let me know. If you have a few images, they can be e-mailed to me at rsauers@enter.net; if you have quite a few they would be best transferred to a CD-R and mailed to me at Richard A. Sauers, P.O. Box 724, Morrisville, PA 19067-0724. In either case, please include a text file with descriptions for each image. Thanks, and let me know if you have any questions.

## Events: Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, New York

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Reminder: September 9th is Association for Gravestone Studies Day at the Woodlawn Cemetery! Members and prospective members from the New York Region are invited to AGS Day at the Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx. On Saturday, September 9th there will be a special tour of the cemetery for AGS members and those interested in learning about the organization. The program begins at 1 pm with a picnic luncheon followed by a tour of some of Woodlawn's spectacular mausoleums and notable gravesites. Reservations are required: to make a reservation contact the Friends of the Woodlawn Cemetery office at (718) 920-1469 or email Friends@thewoodlawncemetery.org.

On Sundays, The Friends of The Woodlawn Cemetery give tours of the grounds. Tours are approximately two hours long and 1.5 miles in length. Tours begin at 2 pm; check the schedule for the entry gate where the tour begins. Admission is \$10 for Adults, \$7 for Seniors (65 and up) and \$5 for Students, and is free for children six and under. Members of the Friends of the Woodlawn Cemetery are admitted free.

[The Woodlawn Cemetery](#)

September Tours: Portsmouth, New Hampshire

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 "Shadows & Stones of Portsmouth Tour" by New England Curiosities Walking Tours.  
 Dates: Saturday September 2nd at 7:00 p.m., Sunday September 17th at 3:00 p.m.,  
 and Sunday September 24th at 3:00 p.m.

"We will guide you through the shadows of the past to hear tales of witchcraft, lost souls, and mysterious happenings from local graveyards. This tour also highlights the transitions in burial and cemetery customs and traditions from Colonial times through the present.

Learn about gravestone symbolism and view some of the most amazing 17th and 18th Century stones in Northern New England.

Join us under the tall pines in the scenic Point of Graves cemetery and listen to see if you can hear the ghostly footsteps behind you. View handcarved skulls and crossbones, winged skulls, the hourglass that ran out nearly 300 years ago, and cherubs - some angelic and others startling. We will also tell amazing tales from other nearby graveyards in Portsmouth. Our spirited tour is about one hour and a half long. Make sure to bring your camera along!"

\$10 for Adults, \$8 for children under 12. Call (207) 439-8905 or visit [www.newenglandcuriosities.com](http://www.newenglandcuriosities.com)

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

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 The Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery sponsor free guided walking tours every Saturday and Sunday, May-October. Saturday tours begin at 1 p.m., Sunday tours begin at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. All tours begin in front of the gatehouse at 791 Mount Hope Avenue.

Additional September Special Events:

- September 9, Noon to 2 p.m. "To Live In Hearts that Love" with Emil Homerin. Meet at the North Gate House (opposite Robinson Drive). \$3/person, \$5/family, Members/free.
- September 16 and October 14 10:30 a.m. Play: "A Circle of Friends: An Abolitionists' Tour of Mount Hope in 1860." The play begins at the North Gate House. Tickets for each performance are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 3-18. Call (585) 697-1942 for reservations.
- September 23, noon to 2 p.m. "Geology at Mount Hope - The Really Ancient History" with Bill Chaisson. Meet at the North Gate House. \$3/person, \$5/family, Members/free.
- September 30, 10:30 a.m. Play: "Rochester's Visionaries and Inventors." The play begins at the North Gate House. Tickets for each performance are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 3-18. Call (585) 697-1942 for reservations.

[Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery](#)

Event: Hayride Tours of Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington, North Carolina

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**Hayride Tours of Oakdale Cemetery, September 17th and September 24th, 2006.**

Join your friends for a 30-minute, late afternoon trot and narrated tour of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery. The Friends of Oakdale Cemetery will conduct horse-

drawn hayride tours in the cemetery on two successive Sundays, September 17 and September 24, 2006. Narrated tours are offered at 3:00 p.m., 3:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 5:15 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. See the graves of Wilmington's famous and interesting deceased personalities.

The fee is \$12 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and younger. Members of Friends of Oakdale will receive one dollar off the regular price. Advanced payment is required; please phone the office at (910) 762-5682 for enrollment details.

### **Event: Funeral Tea and Cemetery Walk, Mount Clemens, Michigan**

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 Saturday, September 9th. Beginning at 12:30 p.m. there will be a "Funeral Tea" in the Victorian Garden at the Crocker House Museum (there are a limited amount of tickets available). This afternoon tea will feature foods associated with wakes from various cultures. The cost for the tea is \$20 The house will be dressed for an 1880s wake; outside draped, coffin in house, rooms decorated accordingly. Artifacts will also be on display, such as post-mortem photographs and memorials.

The Cemetery Walk at Clinton Grove Cemetery will begin at 2 p.m. Tickets need to be reserved and are limited. The buses leave every half hour for the Clinton Grove Cemetery. There we will feature several graves with dressed re-enactors to portray the history. Refreshments will be provided in the garden at the Crocker House. The tour is \$10 for members of the Macomb County Historical Society and \$15 for non-members.

Call (586) 465-2488 to reserve tickets or email Kim Parr at crockerdirector@sbcglobal.net.

[Crocker House Museum](#)

Events: Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York

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 Sunday, September 10, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. Debby Applegate, author of "The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher" will speak in the Historic Chapel.

Saturday, September 16, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. HISTORIC FUND TOUR - Battle Hill and Back with Jeff Richman. Featuring Leonard Bernstein, Fannie the Dog, Minerva, the restored Civil War Soldiers' Monument, the highest point in Brooklyn, the bronze Beard Bear, the Drummer Boy, new restorations, and much more.  
 For information about any of the above events, call the Cemetery at (718) 768-7300.

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

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

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 September 16, 2006 at 10 a.m. *Albany Rural Cemetery Walking Tour*. Guided walking tour through the cemetery's wooded ravines past gravesites, monuments of historic interest, and architecturally significant 19th century buildings. Reservations requested. Tour departs from the Chapel of Albany Rural Cemetery, Broadway entrance, Menands. Admission is \$5

Saturday, September 23, 2006 at 10 a.m. *Civil War Heritage Day*. Civil War tours (either walking or by horse drawn carriage) will be conducted every 20 minutes. Civil War era

soldiers will give marching and firing demonstrations with rifles and with a Civil War cannon. The 77th NY Regimental Balladeers will perform from the side porch of an historic mansion. Several other performances including "President and Mrs. Lincoln" and "A Lady in Mourning" will be presented. A Commemorative Service will be conducted at 2 pm to honor Civil War dead. This event is FREE to the public but we request a \$5 per car donation for parking to offset our expenses. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

For information, call (518) 463-7017, Albany Rural Cemetery Office, or visit [Albany Rural Cemetery's website](#).

Event: Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts

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Mount Auburn Cemetery, the nation's oldest garden cemetery and the model for our modern day parks system, is celebrating its 175th Anniversary. September 24, 2006 will mark the anniversary of its Consecration and will be celebrated with a commemoration service at the Cemetery. It will feature Reverend Peter Gomes of Harvard University, Paul Grogan of the Boston Foundation, poetry readings by Celia Gilbert, and fanfares by the New England Conservatory. The cost is free, but please call (617) 607-1995 for an invitation.

For information about upcoming programs please call (617) 607-1981.

[Mount Auburn Cemetery](#)

### **Tours: Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston, Massachusetts**

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Sunday, September 10, 4 p.m. "As the Victorians saw it...Decoding Messages from Another Era," in conjunction with Dwelling: Memory, Architecture and Place, the Forest Hills Educational Trust's 2006 outdoor exhibition of site specific contemporary art. Social historian Dee Morris leads a tour of Forest Hills, joined by artists with work at Forest Hills who will discuss how their contemporary sculpture relates to the Victorian origins of the cemetery as a domestic space and a sanctuary for lingering reflection. Admission \$8

Sunday, September 10: An Afternoon with Susan Eisenberg. Poet Susan Eisenberg will read from and sign copies of her newest poetry collection, *Blind Spot*, at Forest Hills Cemetery's Forsyth Chapel. A special reception celebrating the book's release will begin at 2:00 p.m., followed by a reading by Susan and the opportunity to purchase signed copies. Immediately following the reception and signing, Susan will be leading a brief tour of two installations she has created for an upcoming photography exhibit that includes the historic memorial sculpture of Forest Hills and related subjects. Admission: Free. Reception: 2:00 - 2:30 p.m., Reading and Signing: 2:30-3:30 p.m., Tour: 3:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 24, 2 p.m. "Stories Behind the Stones: Inventors and Industrialists." From prestigious businessmen to inventors of canned juices and frozen vegetables, Forest Hills Cemetery is home to many inventors and industrialists. Join Al Maze for a walking tour that shares the stories of these creative and hardworking minds. Admission \$8

For information: (617) 524-0128, ext. 22, or info@foresthilstrust.org.

[Forest Hills Cemetery](#)

Upcoming Events: Staten Island, New York

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Tuesday, September 26, 6:30 p.m., "Realms of History: The Cemeteries of Staten

Island" A Book Talk & Signing with Patricia M. Salmon. New Dorp Branch, New York Public Library, 309 New Dorp Lane. Admission: Free.

"Discover the burial grounds of Staten Island! Native American, Slave, homestead, and immigrant graveyards will all be discussed, as will tombstones as folk art, cemeteries as nature preserves, and historical cemetery studies. Copies of this new book will be for sale."

Sunday, October 15, 2006, 2 p.m., "Secret Staten Island Cemeteries." Moravian Cemetery, 2205 Richmond Road. \$10 donation requested.

"Believe it or not, Staten Island is home to numerous forgotten, hidden, or unknown burial grounds. Eighteenth century residents are buried under Port Richmond Avenue; an Androvette Family Homestead Graveyard exists under Cornelia Avenue in Prince's Bay; immigrant cemeteries once 'thrived' at Saint George, Prince's Bay, and Silver Lake. People really are buried at the 18th hole of the Silver Lake Golf Course! This talk will be followed by a tour of the oldest section of Moravian Cemetery with Richard L. Simpson. Some of those buried therein may even come to life!"

RSVP for both events: (718) 727-1135 x123 or psalmon@statenlandmuseum.org.

The book "Realms of History: The Cemeteries of Staten Island" can also be purchased for \$25 plus tax by calling (718) 727-1135 x101 or by contacting giftshop@statenlandmuseum.org.

[Staten Island Museum](#)

**Query: Cemetery Friends Groups in Massachusetts**

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 QUERY FROM ANDREA AT THE AGS OFFICE: I want to compile a list of active cemetery friends groups in Massachusetts with their contact information if possible. I know of a few who are AGS members, but would like to add others to the list. If you know of any, please email me at info@gravestonestudies.org. If you'd like to email me about ones in other states, please feel free to do that also—it may come in handy in the future.

Cemetery Tour: Warwick, Massachusetts

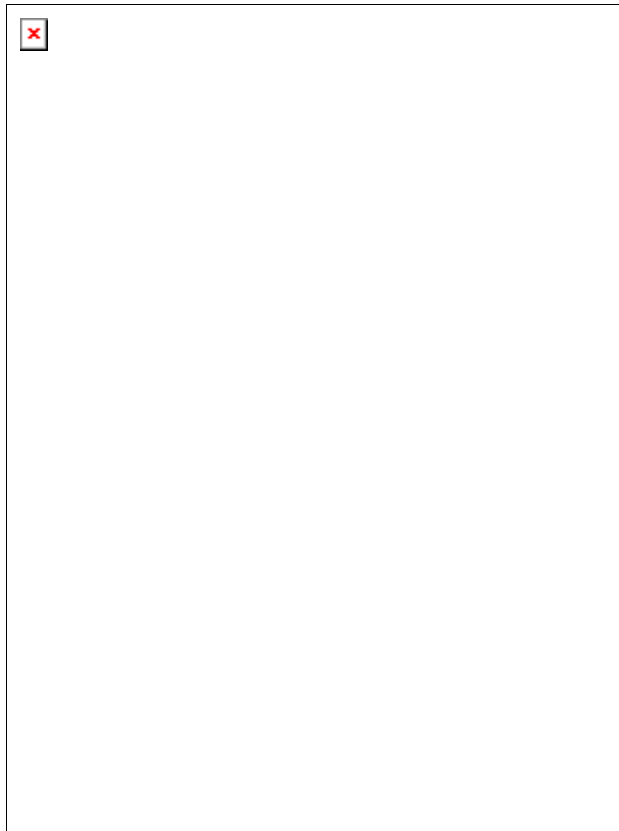
~~~~~  
 Jim Toth will lead a hike to the Moses/Kelton and Kilton cemeteries in the northeast corner of town, deep inside the state forest. Neither cemetery is on a road and the old roads that go nearest to them have not been maintained in decades. It is a leisurely half hour hike to the Moses/Kelton cemetery from the Royalston end of the Royalston Road. The trail is relatively flat with several brook crossings and other wet areas. Bring good walking shoes and bug repellent if the bugs are still bad by then. Brush cutters and saws are also welcome. Meet at Town Hall at 9 AM on Saturday, September 23. If this date and time does not work for you, feel free to call Jim at (978) 544-5620 to set up a trip on another date.

**Query: Ku Klux Klan Gravestones**

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 An AGS member sent in an obituary from Hendersonville, North Carolina dated 1926. The obituary mentions a KKK burial rite for a Klansman, but doesn't indicate if his gravestone was marked. This led us to wonder if anyone has seen any gravestones that a person who died was a Klansman which we could add to our archive for fraternal symbols. If you have, please email Andrea at the AGS office at:

info@gravestonestudies.org. (If you have photos, please send them along, too).

Query: Missing Gravestone



Jean Douillette wrote to the AGS office asking if any AGS members have information or suggestions regarding a gravestone that was stolen from Lakeville, Massachusetts (see photo to left). The slate stone reads: "In memory of / PATIENCE, / wid. of / Consider Jones; / who died / July 28. 1847, / aged 86 years." It was taken sometime between June 22, 2006 and July 17, 2006. The town does not know if it was taken by a relative with noble plans to replace it, or a thief/vandal.

Jean's email address is:
jadoui@comcast.net.

Query: Meaning of the Word "Prizes"

Ruth Shapleigh Brown sent in this item of interest. She writes: "I found this query in an old volume of *Magazine Of New England History*:

'Prizes for Digging Graves: On the records of Boston I find the following motion recorded: March 13, 1731. On a motion of several sextons – Voted; that James Williams be directed to apply himself to the Selectmen, and they be desired to state to him the prizes for digging graves and opening tombs in the two south burying places. What is meant by the word prizes? Wm Pratt asked.'

Do any AGS members know what the word prizes means in this context?" Ruth's email is: shapbrown@cox.net.

New Publication: Historic Gravestone Art of Charleston, South Carolina, 1695-1802

Historic Gravestone Art of Charleston, South Carolina, 1695-1802 is a new book by AGS members David Mould and Missy Loewe.

Focusing on pieces created between 1695 and 1802, this volume offers a detailed examination of the tombstones and grave markers from 18th century Charleston. It discusses not only the general trends and the symbolism of the period's gravestone art—

such as skulls, portraits, ascending souls and stylized vegetation—but also examines specific instances of these popular motifs. Tombstones from Charleston's oldest and most significant churches, including the Circular Congregational Church, St. Philip's Anglican Church, the French Huguenot Church and the First (Scots) Presbyterian Church, are explored in detail. The work looks at how Charleston gravestones differed from funerary art elsewhere in the American colonies and reveals them to be some of the earliest examples of American sculpture. A guide to colonial gravestone symbols and a glossary of relevant Latin terms are also included. There are 270 glossy photographs, glossary, appendices, notes, bibliography, and an index.

It is \$45 and is available from the publisher, [McFarland & Company](#).

New Publication: South Fork Cemeteries

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*South Fork Cemeteries* is a new book by AGS member Clement Healy.

*South Fork Cemeteries* offers a historical tour of the southern stretch of the East End, from Southampton to Montauk on Long Island, New York. This leisurely stroll reveals not only ancient burial grounds filled with beautifully engraved slate and sandstone markers but also onshore whaling, famous shipwrecks, and fascinating people. The stones introduce the forefathers and their followers who lie in quiet resting places; the author fills in the biographical detail of the common and the famous, including whalers such as Capt. Mercator Cooper, who visited Japan before Commodore Perry did; writers such as P. G. Wodehouse, who created the unforgettable Jeeves; and artists such as Jackson Pollock, whose medium was house paint.

It is \$19.99 and is available from the publisher, [Arcadia Publishing](#). Also available from Arcadia is Mr. Healy's earlier book, *North Fork Cemeteries*.

### **Letter from AGS Member About Vandalism in Indiana Cemetery**

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 We received a copy in the AGS office of this letter written by Cathi Taylor of Plainfield, Indiana. She sent it to the Frankfort, *Indiana Times*.

"Dear Sir:

For the past couple years, I have traveled from Plainfield, IN nearly every good weathered Saturday to the Mount Hope Cemetery, located a couple miles south of Rossville. Mr. Joe Ticen, the Owen Twp. Trustee, has granted me permission to restore this early cemetery. Restoration includes clearing out the brush, digging up the headstones, repairing the broken ones, and cleaning the biological growth off the headstones as well.

As you might surmise, cleaning involves plenty of water. Because this cemetery is surrounded by farms, there is no access to running water. So, for the past month or so, I have been bringing plastic milk jugs filled with water and leaving them at the cemetery in hopes of stockpiling enough water to begin the cleaning process.

On August 5th, I made my weekly jaunt to the cemetery and began carrying the jugs I brought with me that day to the 'storage area'. Upon reaching my destination, I realized that all eight jugs had a half inch wide slit in each of them, located approximately two inches from the bottom. Needless to say, most of the water was lost. Whoever did this also poked a hole in the large water container that was sitting with the gallon jugs. This destruction hurt the most as that container did not belong to me. A good friend of mine

from Lafayette furnished it to me as her contribution to the effort.

I have no idea who has undermined my effort to restore this cemetery. All I know is that it occurred between July 29th and August 5th. I realize this cemetery may not mean much to some, but it is the final resting place of my fourth Great Grandparents, as well as other family members. It also contains the remains of some of the earliest settlers of your county.

I do not care to know who has performed this unkind act. All I ask is that he/she show the respect this cemetery, as well as all cemeteries, so deserve. On the other hand, if this person would be so kind as to replace what was taken, then my faith in humanity will be restored.

Sincerely, Cathi M. Taylor ohio buck@sbcglobal.net."

Articles about Geology and Weathering of Stone

AGS Member Peggy Perazzo wrote in about an article reprint that she recently obtained, entitled: "Distribution in Time, Provenance, and Weathering of Gravestones in Three Northeastern Ohio Cemeteries," by Andrew Bauer, Joseph T. Hannibal, Claudia Britt Hanson, and Jesse V. Elmore. Reprinted from *The Ohio Journal of Science*, Vol. 102, No. 4, September 2002. (Cemeteries studied: Erie Street Cemetery, downtown Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio; Warrensville West Cemetery, Shaker Heights, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and Ridgeville Cemetery, in North Ridgeville, Loraine County, Ohio.)

She writes: "I'm sending you the citation and the URL on which I found a PDF version of the article in its entirety in case you have not heard of it before. There is an extensive bibliography cited at the end of the article.

Following is a list of the three cemeteries studied:

1. The Erie Street Cemetery, downtown Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio; 2. The Warrensville West Cemetery, Shaker Heights, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and 3. The Ridgeville Cemetery, in North Ridgeville, Loraine County, Ohio.)

The article is available at the following websites:

[The Knowledge Bank at Ohio State University](#)

[PDF version of the article cited.](#)

Also, she sent the AGS office a copy of the article: "Practical Geology of Monumental Stones," Part III. Chemical and Mineral Composition of Granite, by T. Nelson Dale, Author of "The Granites of Vermont," "The Granites of Maine," "The Commercial Marbles of Western Vermont," in "*The Monumental News* magazine, Allied Arts Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois, Vol. XXXIII. No. 1, January, 1921, pp, 42-44.

If you'd like a copy emailed to you, please contact Andrea Carlin at info@gravestonestudies.org.

[Stone Quarries and Beyond \(Peggy's website\)](#)

Cemetery Landscaping Tip From AGS Member Donna Walcovy

Donna Walcovy, Chair of the Falmouth (Massachusetts) Genealogy Society's Cemetery

Transcription Project wrote in recently with this news, and thought other AGS'ers who are restoring cemeteries might benefit from this tip:

Volunteers have been working on the East Falmouth Burial Ground, taking out the bramble of growth, clearing out tree saplings, and brush mowing. As part of the clean up and restoration, Donna planned to plant perennial plants. To accomplish this, she stopped by the local garden center to ask for donations. The center agreed to give all the seasons "left overs." This includes all sorts of things, including mulch. There can be a lot of perennials that will go to waste over the winter, so other garden businesses may be willing to donate them (plus, the business gets a tax write off).

News: U.S. House Passes Veterans Memorial Affairs Act of 2006

U.S. House Passes Veterans Memorial Affairs Act of 2006. Shortly before its August recess, the U.S., House of Representatives passed H.R. 3082, the Veterans Small Business and Memorial Affairs Act of 2006. Among other provisions, the bill repeals the expiration of a new burial benefit whereby the Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized to provide a government headstone or marker for a grave that has already been memorialized in private cemeteries.

In the past, the VA was not permitted to issue headstones or markers (so-called "second markers") to graves already marked. The benefit has also been extended to veterans dying on or after November 1, 1990. The previously enacted program applied only to veterans deceased on or after September 11, 2001.

Of particular interest to private cemeteries is a new benefit in H.R. 3082 permitting private cemeteries to place these second markers or headstones in an area other than the grave site itself. The provision states: "If placing the Government headstone or marker on the grave for which it is requested is impossible or impracticable, a headstone or marker may be furnished if the individual making the request for the headstone or marker certifies to the Secretary [of the VA] that the headstone or marker will be placed within the grounds of the cemetery in which the grave for which the headstone or marker is requested and as close as possible or practicable to that grave."

H.R. 3082 has been referred to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, where a companion bill, S. 3069, is also pending. Congress will return following the Labor Day holiday on September 4.

Thanks to International Cemetery and Funeral Association newsletter for this announcement.

CDs Available for Sale from the International Funeral & Cemetery Association

Seventeen of the presentations from the ICFA 2006 Convention & Exposition are now available for purchase as audio CDs. Some of the cemetery-related topics are:

Cemetery Rules and Regulations: To Regulate Or Not to Regulate? That is the Question— Tom Daly, 50 minutes. Learn how to create and enforce effective cemetery rules and regulations.

Showing Your Cemetery in a Different Light— Linda Mayo-Perez and Rick Miller, 50 minutes. Are you looking for ways to draw people into your cemetery grounds? Find out how this can be accomplished through music, art and through a self-guided journey called a "Spirit Walk."

Cemetery Design and Landscape Architecture— Blair Hines and Ron Wolfe, 50 minutes. Learn how to landscape in a way that appeals to today's demographic and how to develop structures that are representative of local materials and regional styles.

The above presentations are \$18 for ICFA members and \$28 for non-members.

Pet Funerals, Cremation & Memorialization— Steven Schaal, Coleen Ellis and Eva Shaw, 90 minutes. Steven Schaal tells cemetery and funeral service professionals, "There's a major opportunity for pet memorialization, and not everyone's heard the calling." This CD offers valuable information on market opportunities, regulations and "how to" advice for running a successful pet funeral, cremation and memorialization business.

Turfgrass Management and Weeds/What's Bugging You—M.L. Robinson and Angela O'Callaghan, 100 minutes. Hear tips from the experts for managing your land, enriching the soil, choosing quality trees, cutting branches, pruning pines and more. The above presentations are \$28 for ICFA members and \$38 for non-members.

For details or to order any of these audio CDs, call (800) 645-7700. ICFA also sells articles about cemetery management maintenance on their [website](#).

News: Patent Issued for Video Enhanced Gravemarkers

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Robert Barrows of San Mateo, California, recently received issue notification on a utility patent on an invention called The Video Enhanced Gravemarker (U.S. Patent #7089495, Issue date: August 8, 2006).

The Video Enhanced Gravemarker is a video tombstone that will be able to deliver lengthy video content, with smooth transmission, in high quality, just like your home video equipment. It is a tombstone that features a hollowed out compartment that has been designed to accommodate a wide variety of complex electronic equipment. It will be superior to other video tombstones that can only deliver brief slide show content. People will be able to go into a graveyard, get a remote control device from the cemetery office (or pick up a remote control device from a locked box at the tombstone itself), and they will be able to use the remote control device to operate the video equipment just like in their living room. Audio content can be delivered through speakers attached to the tombstone or transmitted to wireless headsets. (The headsets could also be obtained or rented from the cemetery office.) There is also a back door on the tombstone so equipment can be easily inserted, repaired and replaced. Power for the equipment can be from batteries or electricity, and it could even be connected to the internet. The tombstone can also contain a camera and microphone, so visitors to the grave can leave messages for future visitors to the grave. The tombstone can also include a pay-per-view coin operated or credit card operated activation device if the deceased wanted to charge money to help earn money for their estate or help pay for the upkeep of the tombstone.

To find out more about the Video Enhanced Gravemarker contact Robert Barrows at R.M. Barrows, Inc. Advertising and Public Relations in Burlingame, California at (650) 344-1951. To find out specific information about the patent, you may go to the U.S. Patent Office website at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov).

To read the entire press release, [please click here](#).

### **Information about Illinois Cemeteries**

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 We recently learned about two websites with information about cemeteries in Illinois, Steve Slaughter's [Cemeteries in Peoria County website](#) and [the Illinois Cemeteries page](#) on Illinois Ancestors website, maintained by Janine Crandell. Both sites feature a list of cemeteries (including directions), photos, and information on Veteran's burials, individual burials and more. There is also a page devoted to gravestone symbols on Steve's site. Others are welcome to contribute to these projects.

News from the Association of Liberian Environmental Journalists
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J. Grody Dorbor, of The Association of Liberian Environmental Journalists (ALEJ), sent in the following information.

ALEJ is a not-for-profit Association (established in 1999), grassroots media NGO (Non Governmental Organization) established, with the mission to promote sustainable management of Liberia's natural resources and national heritages through a media campaign, environmental education and public awareness programs. Its vision is to establish a sustained environmental communication and management program in Liberia that would enhance the protection and proper management of the environment.

ALEJ is working to undertake the first cemetery preservation project in Liberia. Liberia got it's independence in 1847, but has no sustainable cemetery management program. ALEJ is seeking a funding source before they start this project.

The cemetery is known as the Palm Grove Cemetery and was established in the early 60s. It occupies less then a third of an acre of land in central Monrovia. The Palm Grove Cemetery is located in a residential area and is not fenced, thus making it quite vulnerable.

If you would like to learn more about the project, please email [jgrodyi@yahoo.com](mailto:jgrodyi@yahoo.com).



**Article: Phippsburg's (Maine) Cemeteries Yield Their Secrets**  
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The article, linked below, is to *The Working Waterfront*. It is about the Phippsburg Cemetery Project--an effort to clean up and restore cemeteries in the town.

[The Working Waterfront](#)

Article: In Coal Country, Mining is Destroying Cemeteries and Faith
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The article, linked below, is to *Grist Magazine*. It is about a coal company drilling in a cemetery in Whitesville, West Virginia.

[Grist Magazine](#)

**Article: Père Lachaise: A 'Who's Who' of the Dead**  
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The article, linked below, is to *The Austin-American Statesman*. It is about the history of

Paris' Père Lachaise Cemetery and who is buried there.

Père Lachaise Cemetery's official website is www.pere-lachaise.com. There is a virtual tour and searchable database.

[The Austin-American Statesman](#)

Article: Tour of Doylestown (Pennsylvania) Cemetery

The article, linked below, is to the *Doylestown Patriot* and is about a recent cemetery tour in Doylestown, Pennsylvania--site of the 2006 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting.

[Doylestown Patriot](#)

Websites to Check Out

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

The first link is to the "Genealogy in St. Louis" website. There are many links to websites with information about cemeteries in Missouri, including a page with articles from the 1950s and 1960s about cemeteries.

The second link is to The University of South Florida Africana Heritage Project's website. There is a page devoted to cemetery preservation.

The third link is to Scottishgraveyards.org. It is an online resource that supports the recording and conservation of Scotland's historic graveyards. There are event listings, queries, information about books and news.

Quick Links

- [Genealogy in St. Louis](#)
- [USF Africana Heritage Project](#)
- [Scottish Graveyards](#)

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