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# Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

**Issue 32**  
**December 2005**

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Follow up to Query in November e-newsletter

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In the November e-newsletter we had two questions from Don Hall about a white bronze gravemarker of a praying child. He asked if any AGS members knew: 1. Where the original sculpture of the kneeling child in prayer is, and who sculpted it? 2. What is the technical term for one of these pillars-at-the-corner "temples?" The granddaddy of them all is in St. Peter's in Rome at the intersection of the cruciform building.

Don wrote in to tell about the answers he recieved: The answer to #1 is "Praying Samuel" by Luigi Pampaloni (1791 - 1847). The copy in "White Bronze" (zinc) is reversed, right to left, from the original sculpture. The answer to #2 is "baldacchino" or "ciborium." "Baldacchino" is the Italian word for brocade and was first applied to elaborate cloth canopies. --My thanks to: Beth, Hilary, Linda, Annette, Dan, Janet, The Connecticut Historical Society and Google for help in improving my mind. The photo to the right was taken by Don and is from Wooster Cemetery in Danbury, Connecticut.

## **Query: Cast Iron Gravemarker**

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This query comes from Janet Seapker: "I ran across a grave recently that I have never seen before. It is a cast iron, above-ground, coffin-like affair with the central oval element broken out or missing. I've attached a photo of it, hoping someone might have seen others and know what they are. It is from the Lexington Cemetery in Lexington, Davidson County, North Carolina."

Please respond to Janet at jseapker@ec.rr.com.

Query: Conservators in Washington State

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AGS member Darren Thompson, of the Washington State Paranormal Investigations and Research wrote in to ask: " We have several members (including myself) that would love to learn restoration processes and procedures in cemetery restoration. Do any AGS members know of any workshops or a contact within the Washington State area?" Please contact Darren at darren@wspir.com.

[WSPiR](#)

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

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Saturday, December 31, 2005, 11:30 a.m. The General Meade Society & The Friends of Laurel Hill Cemetery are sponsoring the "General Meade Birthday Celebration." Annual General Meade Birthday Celebration will mark the 190th anniversary of the birth of General George G. Meade, commander of the Union army at the Battle of Gettysburg. A parade of Civil War reenactment units, civilians in period attire, heritage groups, and participants will process to the final resting place of the Victor of Gettysburg and memorialize his services to his nation. A champagne toast and reception will follow the program. A tour of the historic cemetery will be offered following the festivities (weather permitting). This year marks the 16th anniversary of the Meade birthday celebration. The event is free.

Sunday, January 8th, 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Tour: "The Quick and The Dead:Transportation & Laurel Hill." When 30,000 people a season visited Laurel Hill in the mid 1800's, they had many different travel choices: boat, train, carriage and streetcar. This tour will introduce you to the owners, builders and inventors of all of these varied modes of transportation that made our nation unified. Philadelphia was a driving force as the industrial capital of the world, and transportation was the key. Meet the Traction Twins: Mr. Elkins and Mr. Widener, among many others who contributed and profited by transportation. \$15.00 per person.

For more information, please email tours@thelaurelhillcemetery.org or call (215) 228-8200.

[Laurel Hill Cemetery](#)

Tours and Events: Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts

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- **Saturday, January 7, 2 p.m.** "Winged Beings: Behold the Angels of Mount Auburn!" A tour with Janet Heywood, Vice President of Interpretive Programs, Mount Auburn. Admission \$10
- **Thursday, January 12, 2 p.m.** "Heritage Trees at Mount Auburn." An indoor slide lecture by Dennis Collins, Curator of Plant Collections, Mount Auburn. Admission \$10.
- **Saturday, January 28, 2 p.m.** "Mount Auburn Cemetery-A National Historic Landmark." A walking tour with Bree Harvey, Public Programming Coordinator, Mount Auburn. Admission \$10.

For information, please call (617) 607-1981.

[Mount Auburn Cemetery](#)

**New Publication by AGS Member Jack L. Bradley**

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AGS member Jack L. Bradley has self-published a new book, *The Lost Art of Our Nation's Cemeteries*. He co-authored it with Jerry Klein. The book is designed to introduce people to the art of cemeteries and create enthusiasm about all that can be found in cemeteries. There is information about many different types of art in the cemetery, such as white bronze markers, limestone markers, cast-iron fences and gates, statuary and mausoleums. Many photos of each are included.

It is available in hardcopy (\$45 plus \$4.50 for shipping) or on a CD (\$25 including

shipping). The book has 439 pages, 60 of which are full color. The CD is in full color. To order, write to: Riverbeach Publishing, 518 N. 6th Street, Chillicothe, IL, 61523 or call (309) 274-4449. The book is a limited edition.

New Publication by AGS Member Keith Rawlings

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AGS member Keith Rawlings has recently published his second book about Kirkwood Missouri's Quinette Cemetery (1866). *What a Grave Undertaking* is a historic look at Quinette Cemetery through photographs, interviews and documents. It features new pictures, stories, reflections by elementary school children, illustrations by Jean Little, and a section devoted to "The Life and Times of Bertha Spears-Evans, a hundred-year old woman who made all the difference to Quinette Cemetery." The book is a limited edition (only 3,000 copies will be printed) and a portion of the proceeds will be used to preserve Quinette Cemetery.

The book is \$16.95, plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling. To order, mail payment to: YIA/Book, 1269 Avery Ct., Kirkwood, MO 63122.

**More New Books**

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The AGS office recently received information about 3 other new books: *Cemeteries of Santa Clara, California*, by Bea Lichtenstein is part of Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series. The book covers Santa Clara Mission Cemetery and Mission City Memorial Park. Tour maps are included. It is available from the publisher, [Arcadia Publishing](#).

Judgment of the Grave by Sarah Stewart Taylor, is a mystery novel. The main character has an interest in gravestones and is researching a Revolutionary War-era ancestor who was a stonecutter and gravestone maker. Taylor is also the author of another mystery with a gravestone-related theme, *O' Artful Death*, published in 2003. *Judgment of the Grave* is available from the publisher, [St. Martin's Minotaur](#).

I Told You I Was Sick: A Grave Book of Curious Epitaphs by Nigel Rees. This book is a collection of 150 curious epitaphs from cemeteries around the world, ranging from the hilarious to the macabre. It is available from the publisher, [Orion Publishing Group, London](#).

Website by AGS Member Susan Harrington

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Please take a moment to check out the Friends of Cemeteries of middle Georgia website. It was created by AGS member Susan Harrington. This website contains searchable indices to over 41,000 graves and approximately 700 cemeteries in Baldwin, Hancock, Jones, and Washington Counties, Georgia. The site is very user friendly with excellent searching capabilities, and includes: specific directions to the cemeteries, a "recent deaths" search page (covering those not listed in the cemetery websites because they died after the cemeteries were surveyed), and the ability to search for soldiers by service and for words and names within the inscriptions. [Friends of Cemeteries of middle Georgia](#)

**Website by AGS Member Linda Lewis**

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The link below comes from Linda Lewis, who is transcribing cemeteries in Johnson County, Kansas. Linda had a query and two other links posted in the October e-newsletter. The transcriptions and photos of the stones are now posted on her website. The site also includes transcriptions from a few cemeteries in other Kansas counties and in Missouri. She has transcribed 20 cemeteries of the 41 cemeteries in Johnson County so far. [Johnson County, Kansas Cemeteries](#)

Indiana State Preservation Office Website Recently Revamped

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The Indiana State Preservation Office has just updated it's website. The site has a section devoted to cemeteries which includes information about cemetery laws in Indiana and other information about cemeteries in Indiana.

[Indiana State Preservation Office](#)

**Call for Papers: Ritual Spaces and Places: Memory and Commemoration in 19th Century America**

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Commemorative spaces and their accompanying rituals represent windows into nineteenth-century American culture. Religion, patriotism, and sentiment were integral components not just in the creation of National Parks, battlefields and landscape cemeteries, but also in contemporary movements in urban planning, interior design and architecture. Frequently, efforts to remember and perpetuate stories, persons or events resulted in competing versions of the same memories, creating contested and contentious debates that have reverberated into the present. Salve Regina's 10th Annual Conference on Cultural and Historic Preservation will focus on this intersection of memory and place as well as on the preservation of these places in the modern age. Proposals for papers that examine these issues are sought from scholars in all fields, including architecture and art history, archaeology, the decorative arts, anthropology, landscape, literature, American studies and social history. Submittals from younger scholars and graduate students are also welcome. Proposals should include 250-word abstracts and CVs. Please send proposals by January 1, 2006, to Catherine Zipf , Salve Regina University, 100 Ochre Point Ave., Newport, RI 02840, Catherine.Zipf@salve.edu.

[Ritual Spaces and Places Website](#)

Article: Cemetery Vandalized, Augusta, Georgia

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The article linked below is from the *Augusta Chronicle*. It is about another round of vandalism at the Coleman-Leigh-Warren Cemetery in Augusta, Georgia. You have to register with the Chronicle to read the article, but registration is free.

[Augusta Chronicle](#)

**Article: Cemetery Statue stolen, Yarmouth, Massachusetts**

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The article below is from ScienceDaily.com. A \$10,000 bronze statue was stolen from a Cape Cod cemetery.

[ScienceDaily.com](#)

Article: Man Pleads Guilty To Crypt Theft, Newburyport, Massachusetts

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The article below is from CBS Albany channel 6. A Salisbury, Massachusetts man received a jail sentence for theft from a crypt in Newburyport.

[CBS Albany Channel 6](#)

**Query: Looking for a Copy of an Article**

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This request came from Abby Burnett: "I'm also trying to locate a copy of Donald B. Ball's 'Observations on the Form and Function of Middle Tennessee Gravehouses,' published in 'Tennessee Anthropologist,' in 1977. There's an abstract of it, and plenty of citations to it, on the Internet but so far I've been unable to turn up the actual article. Do any AGS members have a copy, or know where to find one?"

Please contact Abby at abby@madisoncounty.net.

Query: Vermont Marble Co. Trade Books

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AGS member Kimberly Sawtelle is seeking information about and access to illustrated trade books and/or "price list[s] for monumental marble" dated between 1800 and 1900, from the Sutherland Falls Marble Co., Rutland Marble Co., Vermont Marble Co., Green

Mountain Marble Co., or any of their contemporary competitors. Anyone with information they are willing to share may contact her via email at kimberjs4@earthlink.net or by land mail at 229 Mudgett Road, Kenduskeag, ME 04450.

**Websites to check out**

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Please take a moment to check out the three websites in the "Quick Links" section at the bottom of this newsletter. They were recommended by AGS members. The first link is to a page on US GenNet.org. It is about ceramic gravemarkers and grave covers in Tennessee. There are three photos of the unusual ceramic markers at Mt. Lebanon Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Cherokee Baptist Church Cemetery and Bethesda Methodist Church Cemetery, Washington County, Tennessee. The ceramic pieces allegedly were made by Decker's Keystone Pottery.

The second link is to the Tewksbury, Massachusetts State Hospital Cemetery Project. Jodi Salerno has created a database of people who were buried on the grounds of Tewksbury State Hospital. The database currently has information through the year 1912. Jodi is working on 1914 and forward.

The third link is to Kent Archaeological Society, County Kent, United Kingdom. They have an index of Churchyard Monumental Inscriptions (some with pictures) in Kent.

Quick Links...

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- [Ceramic Gravemarkers and Grave Covers in Tennessee](#)
- [Tewksbury State Hospital Cemetery Project, Tewksbury, Massachusetts](#)
- [Kent Archaeological Society, County Kent, United Kingdom](#)

**Contact Information**

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email: info@gravestonestudies.org

phone: 413-772-0836

web: <http://www.gravestonestudies.org>

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