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Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

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2008 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting



2008 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting
June 17-22, 2008
Hampshire College Amherst, Massachusetts

2008 Conference Logo-
Detail from headstone of
Jonathan Ingram,
Amherst, Massachusetts

CALL FOR PAPERS

Proposals are solicited for scholarly papers, twenty minutes in length, to be presented during the lecture sessions. We encourage papers on gravestone subjects from around the world as well as specific to the New England region. Presenters are encouraged to incorporate visual images in their paper through the use of slides or power point (the type of visual presentation should be stated).

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION SESSIONS

As part of the Association for Gravestone Studies Conference, we host fifty minute "Participation Sessions," programs conducted in a workshop format where cemetery scholars, preservationists and educators can exchange ideas. These programs are ideal for panels and we recommend including others in your presentation. All Participation Sessions proposals should allow time for questions and audience discussion.

Please send all proposals to: The Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS)
278 Main St., Suite 207
Greenfield, MA 01301
info@gravestonestudies.org

All lecture and participation session proposals should include the paper or session title and a 250 word description of the topic, which focuses on its value to the audience. A brief biography of the presenter should also be included. Presenters are required to register for the conference. All proposals must be received by the close of business on Friday, March 28, 2008.

2008 AGS Conference Scholarships

for Students

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Three \$250 student scholarships are available for the Thirty-first AGS Conference at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts. These are the:

Gary Collison Memorial Scholarship  
James Toolin Memorial Scholarship  
Barbara Rotundo Memorial Scholarship

Priority will be given to individuals who are presenting papers, leading participation sessions, or taking part in the Conservation Workshop. Applications can be obtained from the AGS office and returned to the office by March 28.

#### 2008 AGS Conference Preview

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In June 2008, we will be meeting at Hampshire College, in the Pioneer Valley region of Western Massachusetts, an area where one can view a considerable variety of gravestone styles and materials within a short drive of the conference site. Twenty years ago, we met at Amherst College, just a few miles up the road from Hampshire College. For a virtual tour of the Hampshire College campus and environs, please click on www.hampshire.edu.

As usual, AGS will offer on-campus lodging and meals, lecture sessions and other events at college facilities. For a guide to other local attractions, click on www.amherstarea.com.

Here is a preview of the Conference Schedule:

Wednesday, June 18th: PRE-CONFERENCE TOUR, led by Kevin Sweeney. We will visit cemeteries in Deerfield, Northfield and Bernardston, Massachusetts, and there, view the work of 18th- and early 19th-century slate cutters, including Solomon Ashley and John Locke of Deerfield, Jonathan Allen and the Chapin family of Bernardston, and Ebenezer Janes of Northfield. The tour will include a visit to the Memorial Hall Museum at Historic Deerfield (for a glimpse of the museum, click on (<http://www.old-deerfield.org/museum.htm>)).

Thursday, June 19th: WORKSHOPS (Conservation, Photography, Rubbing and Foil Impressions), KEYNOTE ADDRESS, LECTURES and LATE NIGHT SESSION

Friday, June 20: BUS TOURS (choose one of the following three), LECTURES and LATE NIGHT SESSION

EAST SIDE TOUR, led by Kevin Sweeney: 18th- and 19th-century cemeteries along the east side of the Connecticut River--Old Hadley Cemetery in Hadley, Evergreen Cemetery and the Old South Hadley Burying Ground in South Hadley and the Springfield Cemetery in Springfield, Massachusetts.

WEST SIDE TOUR, led by Bob Drinkwater, Cynthia Toolin and Rusty Clark: 18th- and 19th-century cemeteries along the west side of the Connecticut River, including Bridge Street Cemetery and St. Mary's Cemetery in Northampton, Park Street Cemetery in West Springfield, and Elmwood or Forestdale Cemetery in Holyoke, Massachusetts. (For a virtual tour of Bridge Street Cemetery, click on: www.historic-northampton.org/601081/601506/601507)

QUABBIN TOUR, led by Tom and Brenda Malloy: 18th/19th-century cemeteries in the area surrounding Quabbin Reservoir--New Salem, Templeton and Petersham, and Quabbin Park Cemetery in Ware (in the 1930s, during the construction of Quabbin Reservoir, thousands of burials, gravemarkers and monuments were moved to Quabbin Park).

Saturday, June 21st: PARTICIPATION SESSIONS, AWARDS BANQUET and ANNUAL MEETING, LECTURES and LATE NIGHT SESSION

Sunday, June 22nd: tba

Additional information on the conference will appear here, in the e-Newsletter, and on the AGS website (www.gravestonestudies.org) during the next few months. The conference registration form will be available on-line after the first of the year. A print version of the registration form will be included in the next issue of the *AGS Quarterly*.

Markers Update

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The AGS Board of Trustees has appointed June Hadden Hobbs as the editor of *Markers*. June, who has been an AGS member for the past eight years, holds a Ph.D. in English

from the University of Oklahoma. She currently chairs the English Department and is the Director of Undergraduate Research at Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, North Carolina. More about Dr. Hobbs' excellent academic credentials and her scholarly contributions to gravestone studies will be discussed in the upcoming issue of the *Quarterly*.

While trustee emeritus Richard Meyer is the interim editor for *Markers XXV*, Dr. Hobbs' responsibilities will commence with *Markers XXVI* and continue for succeeding issues. Any further queries about or submissions for *Markers* should be directed to:

June Hadden Hobbs  
 P.O. Box 1345  
 Boiling Springs, NC 28017-1345  
 e-mail: [jhobbs@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:jhobbs@gardner-webb.edu)  
 tel: 704-406-4412

Of course, we all wish the best for June in her new endeavor.

### **New Book for Sale in AGS Bookstore**

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Like Tablets of the Law Thrown Down: The Colonial Jewish Burying Ground in Newport, Rhode Island, by AGS Member David Gradwohl.

Established in 1677, Newport's Colonial Jewish Burying Ground served as the cemetery for New England's Jews throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, up into the 1840s at which time Massachusetts permitted Jews to establish cemeteries there. Gradwohl explores the gravestone forms and mortuary symbolism of these Colonial Jews as well as the linguistic traditions represented in their epitaphs. His study is the first undertaken from the perspective of historical and ethno-archaeology, and was sponsored by a Touro National Heritage Trust Fellowship.

Details and ordering information are available at the [AGS bookstore](#). It sells for \$11.00 for members, \$12.30 for others.

New Long Sleeve Shirt for Sale in AGS Gift Shop



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 Our new long sleeve t-shirt is maroon with a Celtic Cross design on the front and sleeves. It sells for \$17.00 for members, \$20.00 for others. For details and ordering information, please visit the [AGS Gift Shop](#).

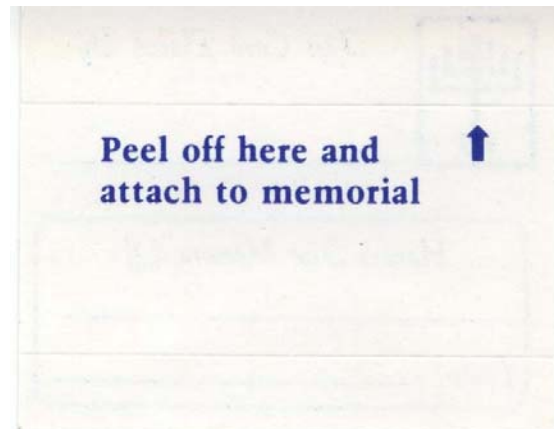
### **Graveside Memorials in Shalom Cemetery, Palatine, Illinois**

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 Helen Sclair, the "Cemetery Lady" of Chicago, Illinois, sent this card to the AGS office. In the August and September issues of the e-Newsletter we featured information about the practice of placing stones on Jewish gravemarkers. Here is a different idea from the Shalom Cemetery in Palatine, Illinois. The markers there are all set, flush markers; the stones placed on them could ruin mowers, thus the Cemetery supplies these cards to

use instead.



Front of Card



Back of Card

Photos from AGS Member Stuart Schneider

 Stuart Schneider sent in these photos and following information.

"Hi, I am a new member and author of a new book on cemeteries. The old church cemetery across from the courthouse in Hackensack, New Jersey is interesting. In addition to containing the grave of Enoch Poor, a revolutionary war general under George Washington, who died in 1780, it contains the grave of Richard Varick, Mayor of New York from 1799 to 1801 and aide de camp to General Benedict Arnold (Poor's gravestone is shown in the first photo below).

The second photo is of a very unusual gravestone where the family made up the child's favorite toy in metal and put it atop his grave. This photo was taken by moonlight."

Schneider's new book is *Ghosts In The Cemetery*. It features about 70 color photographs of cemeteries (Sleepy Hollow NY, Poughkeepsie NY, Mt. Auburn MA, Boothbay ME, Boothbay Harbor ME, Edgecomb ME, Westwood NJ, Dumont NJ, Bergenfield NJ, Hollis NH, Gettysburg PA, Parksburg PA, and a few others) taken at sunrise, sunset, and at night with ghosts in the photos. It also has an original ghost story that incorporates local history for each cemetery. It should be out in mid-2008 and will be published by Schiffer Publishing.





New Year's Eve Event: Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The General Meade Society & the Friends of Laurel Hill present General Meade's Birthday Celebration & New Year's Toast

Monday, December 31st at 11:30 AM. The annual General Meade Birthday Celebration will mark the 192nd anniversary of the birth of General George G. Meade, commander of the Union Army at the Battle of Gettysburg. A parade of Civil War re-enactors, civilians in period attire, special dignitaries, heritage groups and participants will advance to Meade's final resting place and memorialize his services to his nation. A 21-gun salute and champagne toast will cap off the program at graveside, and will be followed by a reception in the Cemetery Gatehouse. A tour of historic Laurel Hill will be offered following the festivities (weather permitting). Admission is free, and all are invited to get an early start on their New Year's Eve festivities.

Laurel Hill Cemetery: The Underground Museum is located at 3822 Ridge Avenue in Philadelphia. For information or reservations, call (215) 228-8200, or visit www.theundergroundmuseum.org.

January Events: Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts

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 Saturday, January 5, 2:00 PM

"Discover Mount Auburn" - a walking tour. Admission: \$10.

Thursday, January 10, 10:00 AM

Mount Auburn Book Club. Would you like to combine your passion for books with your love of Mount Auburn Cemetery? You can by joining the new Mount Auburn Book Club! Each month, we will read a different book, fiction as well as non-fiction, that speaks to one of Mount Auburn's many facets-history, horticulture, nature, or the lives of those commemorated here. This month we will discuss *Mansions of the Dead* by Sarah Stewart Taylor. Admission: Free.

Saturday, January 19, 1:00 PM

"Understanding Cremation" - a presentation by Walter J. Morrison, Jr., Crematory Manager, Mount Auburn. Please join us for this program that will answer any questions you may have about cremation procedures and costs. After the informative presentation, there will be an opportunity to tour the crematory. Meet at Bigelow Chapel. Admission: FREE.

Tuesday, January 22, 2:00 PM

"Conifers: Surviving our harsh winters with grace" - a walking tour with Dennis Collins, Horticultural Curator, Mount Auburn. The "flowering plants" that dominate the growing season have finally cleared the stage. It's now time to see another group of plants shine. Mount Auburn's conifer collection is notable for its diversity (nearly 80 different types) and depth (more than 1,500 plants). Join us for a walk around the Cemetery to see and learn about some of the many conifers that make up this ancient and sometimes under-appreciated group of plants. Admission: \$10.

The Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery, Mount Auburn Cemetery, 580 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA. Call 617-607-1981 for information.

[www.mountauburn.org](http://www.mountauburn.org)

### **A Tour of Louisville's Historic Cave Hill Cemetery**

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 The April 2008 National Conference on Public History meeting will include a tour of this 1848 "garden cemetery," which includes the Cave Hill National Cemetery. With over 120,000 burials, five man-made lakes and over 500 species of trees and shrubs, Cave Hill is a fascinating place.

Papers at the conference will explore the creation of online cemetery databases; "Frankfort Cemetery, the 'Westminster Abbey of Kentucky'" and cemetery regulations in Kentucky.

Consider a one-day registration for these events, or come for the whole meeting and explore NCPH! For information, see www.ncph.org.

New Magazine--*Ankou*: The Official Digest of The International Association of Cemetery Preservationists, Inc.

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 The premier issue of *Ankou*: The Official Digest of The International Association of Cemetery Preservationists, Inc. (IACP) will be available in January 2008! This quarterly digest is printed in chap book format, and comes with a sturdy full-color cover.

You can look forward to reading such regular articles as: matters pertaining to the cemetery & funeral industries, cemetery preservation & restoration projects, cemeteries in trouble, poetry, cemetery photography, notable monuments, folklore & ghost stories, new laws, genealogy, epitaphs, interviews with professionals & semi-professionals, historical articles, cultural and sociological articles, humor, book, movie & TV reviews and much, much, more!

For more information and subscription rates, please visit:

<http://hometown.aol.com/iacpcontact/Ankou.html>

The IACP, based in Florida, is strongly committed to protecting neglected burial sites from unwarranted disturbance by man, and restoring and preserving as many of these cemeteries as is possible. It has adopted several local cemeteries and tries to raise funds for them in unique, interesting and fun ways. For more information on the IACP, please visit their website: <http://hometown.aol.com/iacpcontact/IntroPageIACP.html>.

### **Article: "History's Unearthing at Cedar Hill Brings New Mystery"**

AGS Board Member Ian Brown is featured in this article about discoveries made at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

<http://www.vicksburgpost.com/articles/2007/11/19/news/news01.txt>

### **Article: "Theft from Lake-Bed Graves a Concern," Lake Marion, South Carolina**

The article is from the *Charlotte Observer* and posted on [Charlotte.com](http://Charlotte.com).

### **Article: "Christmas Flourishes, in a Trim Green Stillness"**

The article, posted on [the New York Times.com](http://theNewYorkTimes.com), is about the practice of placing holiday-related grave goods. Helen Sclair is quoted in the article.

### **Holiday Greetings**

Vicky Rosemeyer of Milan, Indiana recently sent a note to the AGS office telling us how much she enjoys being a member of The Association for Gravestone Studies.

We'd like to extend her wish for Happy Holidays to all and best wishes for the New Year.

### **Contact Information**

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